

FLIERS AGAIN HELP LOYANG CHECK FOE

Japanese Tanks Said to Have
Been Repulsed—Tengfeng
Is Lost by Chinese

CHUNGKING, China, May 9 (UP)—Pounded relentlessly by Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's Fourteenth United States Air Force, Japanese troops have been hurled back from the immediate approaches to Loyang, their key objective in Honan Province, the Chinese High Command announced tonight.

[The British radio, heard by The United Press in New York, quoted "some messages" as saying that Loyang had fallen to the Japanese.]

The communiqué said enemy troops who had crossed to the west bank of the Yi River, a tributary of the Yellow River, at a point about nine miles south of Loyang had been "completely repulsed."

Japanese concentrations on the east bank of the Yi suffered heavy damage from the fierce Chinese attacks. At least ten enemy tanks were destroyed, and the Japanese dead included the commander of a tank regiment.

The Chinese acknowledged the capture of Tengfeng, important road junction, thirty-five miles southeast of Loyang, and also said that enemy armored columns had pushed westward from Linju to Iyang, thirty-five miles south of Loyang, where fighting is still in progress.

The communiqué reported no changes on other sectors of the Honan front, indicating that the enemy drive to clear the twenty-mile gap still held by the Chinese along the Peiping-Hankow railroad had been at least temporarily checked.

Throwing their support to the Chinese defenders for the third consecutive day, fliers of the Fourteenth Air Force swept over the battle area on Sunday, centering their attacks on Japanese troop and motor vehicle concentrations. Lieut. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's headquarters announced that fighter-bombers of the Chinese-American composite wing bombed enemy installations and other targets on highways below Loyang.

Bombers escorted by fighters attacked the airdrome and other military installations at Hankow on Saturday.