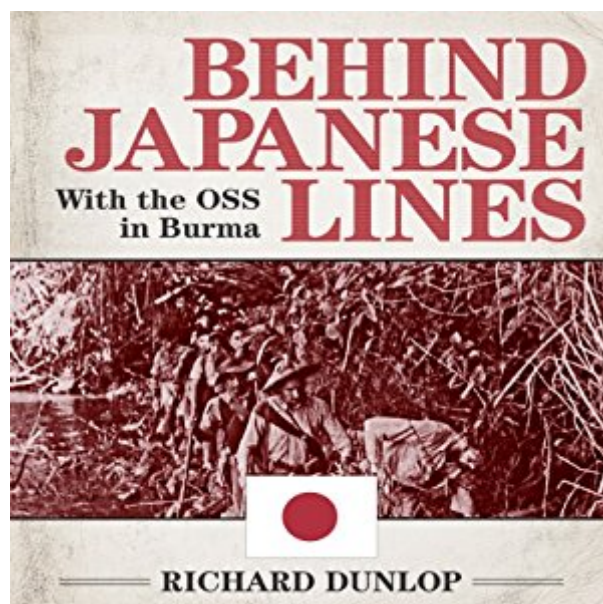


The book was found

Behind Japanese Lines: With The OSS In Burma



Synopsis

The extraordinary firsthand account of an American special forces unit in the jungles of southeast Asia and their guerilla operations against the Japanese during World War II! In early 1942, with World War II going badly, President Roosevelt turned to General William "Wild Bill" Donovan, now known historically as the Father of Central Intelligence," with orders to form a special unit whose primary mission was to prepare for the eventual reopening of the Burma Road linking Burma and China by performing guerilla operations behind the Japanese lines. Thus was born OSS Detachment 101, the first clandestine special force formed by Donovan and one that would play a highly dangerous but vital role in the reconquest of Burma by the Allies. Behind Japanese Lines, originally published in 1979, is the exciting story of the men of Detachment 101, who, with their loyal native allies the Kachin headhunters fought a guerilla war for almost three years. It was a war not only against a tough and unyielding enemy, but against the jungle itself, one of the most difficult and dangerous patches of terrain in the world. Exposed to blistering heat and threatened by loathsome tropical diseases, the Western-raised OSS men also found themselves beset by unfriendly tribesmen and surrounded by the jungle's unique perils giant leeches, cobras, and rogue tigers. Not merely a war narrative, Behind Japanese Lines is an adventure story, the story of unconventional men with an almost impossible mission fighting an irregular war in supremely hostile territory. Drawing upon the author's own experiences as a member of Detachment 101, interviews with surviving 101 members, and classified documents, Dunlop's tale unfolds with cinematic intensity, detailing the danger, tension, and drama of secret warfare. Never before have the activities of the OSS been recorded in such authentic firsthand detail.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Other reviewers gave this book high marks and I too do also. However I am writing about the book itself and not the heroic actions of Detachment 101. First of all the book. Dunlop wrote the book from daily journals and other books written by the principles. The book reads as a 'daily journal' itself in extreme detail and in this right is boring and repetitive... 'The 101 and Kachins ambushed another Japanese patrol and wiped them out', etc., etc. I think to appreciate what went on in the CBI during WWII, you have to have been in war in the jungle environment yourself and so I qualify in this respect, as jungle warfare is different than any other type of warfare. So let's look at the individual realizations one at a time. *Most US servicemen in the Pacific Theater during WWII (Marines and Army) fought the Japanese from Pacific island to island. Ship heavy-guns 'softened' the island and the Marines attacked from the beaches fighting with hand weapons and some air cover. Fighting was close-combat and often hand-to-hand and the fatality numbers speak volumes of how horrific this was for US soldiers. *To talk about this book we must look at another aspect. Most historians don't emphasize the following and I think that is a mistake. The Japanese military was VERY well trained and functioned at 'top performance' in jungle and island environments. What this means is that they were a 'formidable' enemy! Although Japan is at 35 deg. N. lat., so is the U.S. However the Japanese ranged all around the Asian sphere and were comfortable at equatorial latitudes. Only the extreme southern tip of the US can be considered tropical, so US soldiers were not acclimatized. Burma (now Myanmar) was situated at 20 deg N. Lat and considered tropical.

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