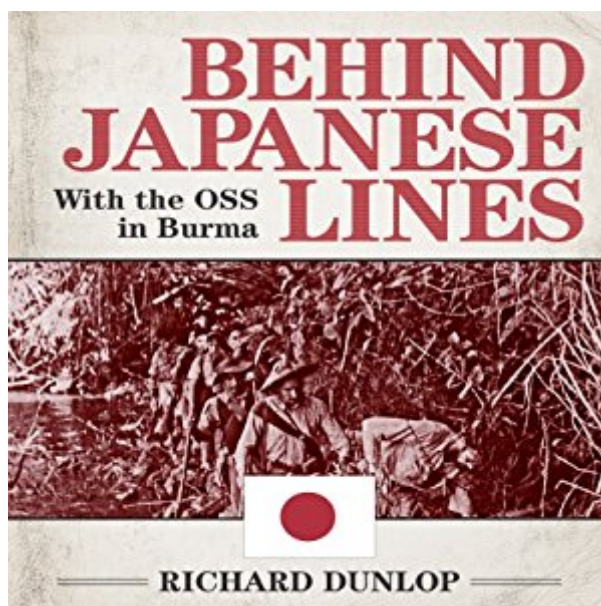


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Behind Japanese Lines: With The OSS In Burma



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

I rarely review books on . To do so, need to feel strongly about the work one way or the other. Most of my life, Military History has been first preference for non-fiction reading. Only recently re-discovered, in a substantive way, the war with Japan. Richard Dunlop's book "Behind Japanese Lines" is a masterwork. A precise and highly readable balance between overall campaign and up close ground action. In addition, the book paints a terrific portrait of our Kachin Allies, giving them the full credit they deserve. We in the USA have been very fortunate to have friends this steadfast and brave. Behind Japanese Lines stands with Goodbye Darkness, Helmet For My Pillow, and other truly great and illuminating memoirs of a challenging, mostly forgotten part of World War Two.

I only gave it three stars because I felt the author went a little overboard with some of his stories about the early days of Det. 101..The parts of the book where the author is describing what he saw and he participated in I thought were excellent. But some of the stories about Eifler I found a little bit hard to swallow. As in the story where Eifler and another man shot cigarets off each others heads with a Model 1911 .45 pistol. If the real story was that they fired well over each others heads for the fun of it, I could believe that. But to seriously try to shoot a cigarette off another man's head is silly. Someone would have died, notwithstanding that the Lord protects drunks and fools. It sort of makes Eifler out to look a fool and I believe he deserves better. The accomplishments of the unit were truly outstanding and much of it was new to me. Anyone interested in WW II history, and particularly the CBI should find this book well worth reading.

I read this before the OSS in Burma by Sacquety. Both are great references. My copy of Behind Japanese Line is now so ragged from coffee stain, yellow highlighting and underling that it look like a homeless mans bible. Good book, well written, good read, good reference.

A first hand account of a war we don't often hear about, the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater. While many of us have relatively good knowledge of the European theater, as well as many movies and books in popular culture, the CBI is one we only recently have come to appreciate thanks to declassification of many OSS documents. Simultaneously helped and hindered by the British SOE, which felt the fledgling OSS was too green to have a major role in Europe, the CBI was open to the OSS by virtue of Eisenhower's support and need for better intelligence and behind the scene

support from the people living in the countryside. This detailed account of the grueling work and sacrifices of the men of the 101 will live on in your heart. Highly recommend to any serious student of WWII and the OSS.

I don't usually read biographies, but this book will capture your senses immediately. You can feel the fear of being in death's shadow throughout the book. Yet, you can feel the love of the families native to the island. If you are into military genre you will love it! If you are into adventure and excitement, you will also finish it before putting it down. Enjoy

Excellent writing with lots of anecdotes and fascinating details. Gives you a feeling for the men, the jungle, and the natives; not to mention the Japanese. My only problem is the story about Eric Severeid who had to bailout over Burma; the account in this book is completely different from other books on the subject. Great read, but check the facts (if you can find them).

This is a particularly interesting book covering the start of the Office of Strategic Services and the war in China, Burma and India. It is not a first person account of an individual's actions but a first person account of the collected actions of the OSS. There were a lot of interesting aspects to this conflict. Among the most interesting items the OSS had to deal with was unknown land, geologic features that were mindboggling, local headhunters, various indigenous tribes and even tigers. It turns into a rather fascinating read. In particular, two Catholic priests who defended their flocks and eventually became commissioned men in arms fascinated me. This was something out of the Middle Ages when bishops were often military men as well as priests. Clearly, these men of conviction were no men to confront. Either were their soldiers. There is also one very interesting moment in the book where an OSS man is delivered to the front by way of helicopters. This is something most readers may not know, but this theater was the first to use helicopters. In many ways, the book foretells the future of the imbedded Special Forces man who raises his own army of locals upset with being oppressed by North Vietnamese Army. The entire concept is very much reminiscent of the American experience in Vietnam only on a different scale and location. Over all I enjoyed the book a great deal. It does have a unique literary feel and style to it. If you are interested in more information regarding the OSS, in general, I would suggest reading, *Dead on Time* by Jean Claude Guet, who was an OSS man in Europe.

Very interesting and personal accounting of a part of WWII that I had not been familiar with. I was

expecting stories about the men who reported on Japanese ships from the island mountains, but this was about the special forces activities in Burma. I found it interesting that the men were assigned to a new "activity," so secret that when they would go where they were supposed to go, no one knew about their "activity." They really had to be resourceful. Wonderful achievements by all.

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