

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

You've heard of these men before. Their origin goes back to the late Colonel Wingate....Their history has captured the imagination of the allied world. Here they are in close-up for the first time in newsreels....the Chindits. Take a good look at them. Not that it will help you to recognise any of them - their own mother couldn't. Approaching a village, they prepare for action. They look casual. It's the Japs who are worried.

Meanwhile, Chinese units under General Stilwell had moved up. Well, if you can take a good look at him, why shouldn't he take a good look at you? Incredibly mobile, they bring up their equipment by mules over the difficult terrain at a pace that dazed even the agile Japs. The Chinese took the railway station and joined the Chindits.

Supplies arrive by air. Dakotas sweep in over the dropping-zone to deliver food, arms and ammunition. The sky route cuts the communication problem by weeks.

With machetes they cut bamboo canes to ford a stream swollen by monsoonal rains. No unusual hazard in this dark green jungle underworld.

The current was so strong that the cameraman was swept away and nearly drowned when trying to cross unaided.

Chinese forces held the North of the Town. Chindits in the centre sent out patrols to link up, and with them went the camera to record a brush with Japs on the Mogaung River. The Japs pulled out. Mogaung had fallen! They were outmanoeuvred just when they thought they were safe. This is the price of their mistake. Chindits....that's the name for the guardian statues that flank the steps of Burmese Pagodas - a name, from legend, that's become flesh and blood - Living guardians of Burma's safety.

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