

The OSS in Burma, 1942-1945

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Note sur le contenu : Before the storm The fall of Burma Laying the groundwork: 1941-January 1943 Creating the detachment out of an undefined problem Deconfliction OSS and SOE Finding a location Detachment 101 sets up the Jungle School Communications Moving toward the first operations Long-range penetration operations A Group B Group W Group BALLS, BALL's #1, and REX The evaluations Short-range penetrations meet success The first short-range effort, Operation FORWARD Group KNOTHEAD Rethinking operations: the detachment evolves, February 1943-January 1944 The detachment reevaluates its personnel situation Finances Communications and coding Developing liaison Supplies remain a problem New additions to Detachment 101 Peers takes over: Detachment 101 comes of age, January-May 1944 Existing force structure New OSS branches arrive Detachment 101 and the campaign for Myitkyina : February-August 1944 Postscript Peers continues his reforms: June-August 1944 Existing force structure New OSS branches arrive Reorganizing after Myitkyina: September-December 1944 Existing force structure A new organization of sorts The last OSS branches arrive : January-March 1945 Existing force structure New branches arrive The Shan states: August 1944-March 1945 The push after Myitkyina The Arakan field unit : February-June 1945 The Arakan field unit (AFU) Rangoon The last months : April-July 1945 Field operations The detachment Detachment 101 disbands

Résumé ou extrait : La jaquette indique : "'One could not choose a worse place for fighting the Japanese,'

said Winston Churchill of North Burma, deeming it "the most forbidding fighting country imaginable." But it was here that the fledgling Office of Strategic Services conducted its most successful combat operations of World War II. Troy Sacquety takes readers into Burma's steaming jungles in the first book to fully cover the exploits and contributions of the OSS's Detachment 101 against the Japanese Imperial Army. Functioning independently of both the U.S. Army and OSS headquarters--and with no operational or organizational model to follow--Detachment 101 was given enormous latitude in terms of developing its mission and methods. It grew from an inexperienced and poorly supported group of 21 agents training on the job in a lethal environment to a powerful force encompassing 10,000 guerrillas (spread across as many as 8 battalions), 60 long-range agents, and 400 short-range agents. By April 1945, it remained the only American ground force in North Burma while simultaneously conducting daring amphibious operations that contributed to the liberation of Rangoon. With unrivalled access to OSS archives, Sacquety vividly recounts the 101's story with a depth of detail that makes the disease-plagued and monsoon-drenched Burmese theater come unnervingly alive. He describes the organizational evolution of Detachment 101 and shows how the unit's flexibility allowed it to evolve to meet the changing battlefield environment. He depicts the Detachment's two sharply contrasting field commanders: headstrong Colonel Carl Eifler, who pushed the unit beyond its capabilities, and the more measured Colonel William Peers, who molded it into a model special operations force. He also highlights the heroic Kachin tribesmen, fierce fighters defending their tribal homeland and instrumental in acclimating the Americans to terrain, weather, and cultures in ways that were vital to the success of the Detachment's operations. While veterans' memoirs have discussed OSS activities in Burma, this is the first book to describe in detail how it achieved its success--portraying an operational unit that can be seen as a prototype for today's Special Forces. Featuring dozens of illustrations, *The OSS in Burma* rescues from oblivion the daring exploits of a key intelligence and military unit in Japan's defeat in World War II and tells a gripping story that will satisfy scholars and buffs alike."

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