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FOR CONSTIPATION

ARMY ECCENTRIC No. 1 With "Wingate's Mob" On Raid Into Burma

IT was announced the other day that Major-General Orde Charles Wingate had been killed in an air-crash in Burma. Since Wingate had become in this war almost as romantic a figure as his kinsman Lawrence was in the war of 1914-18, we reprint an impression of him condensed from English and American magazines. We begin with an "Atlantic Monthly" account of his expedition into Burma last year.



MAJOR-GENERAL WINGATE
Successor of Clive, Gordon, Lawrence

EIGHT British columns secretly crossed from India through the Japanese lines into Burma last year, and for three months spread confusion and panic. The Japanese buzzed about like bees out of an overturned hive, but never caught up with the raiders. Wingate's expedition wiped out Jap outposts, exploded ammunition dumps, wrecked airfields, put highways out of commission, blew up bridges and dynamited the railway.

The raiders—Wingate named them the Chindits, after the dragons which guard Burmese temples—penetrated 300 miles into Japanese-held territory, then made a heroic march back to India. Casualties were fewer than anyone had dared predict. It is one of the great romantic tales of this war.

The expedition accomplished important aims. It relieved pressure on the Chinese; it gathered information which enabled the R.A.F. to make devastating raids; it tied up the Japs and probably staved off an invasion of India. Above all, it set a pattern of training and tactics for the reconquest of Burma. Gurkhas, Burmese, and a regiment of city-bred Englishmen showed the Jap he no longer was master of the jungle.

Wingate's British Chindits were second-line troops—nearly all of them married men from the North of England aged 28 to 35. Wingate told them: "We have to imitate Tarzan." For six sweltering months in the Indian jungles he trained them in river crossing, infiltration tactics, and long forced marches with heavy packs, until they were the toughest of shock troops. On returning from the raid one private remarked: "The whole job was a piece of cake compared to the training."

Field-Marshal Wavell inspected the Chindits when they were about to leave India, and as a gesture of respect, saluted them before they could salute him.

Wingate mostly kept clear of beaten trails, hacking his own path through the jungle. He sent out "deception groups" to lay false trails, but mainly relied on

(continued on next page)



PACKING rubber dinghies and other supplies at a base in Assam for transport by air to the raiders in Burma.