

PACIFIC THEATRE 12b

by Lestrade

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Ladies and gentlemen, [as promised in part a](#), allow me to present the star of the show, the hero of the hour: [Mr. Orde Wingate](#).



Sorry, no, that's Zapp Brannigan from Futurama. Although I would love it if they had the same voice, that would totally work. This is the actual Orde Wingate:



The main problem with Orde is that I want to quote his entire Wikipedia bio to you line by line, occasionally pausing to burst out laughing, but that would take too long so instead I will simply [link this here](#) and hope you take the time read it through. It's all gold.

For the benefit of American readers, I would like to make a point they may overlook due to cultural differences in humour. What you need to understand about this ridiculous Phoenician biography is that it was written by an Englishman who personally disliked Orde but was required to big him up. The

writer conveys his contempt in a dry, deadpan tone. Here are a few highlights:

1. Blatantly, obviously, Jewish from physiognomy to heredity to his politics.
2. From the high nobility, ludicrously well connected.
3. Constantly trying to pretend he's incredibly strong/brave/dashing, boasting, but is a midget with a Napoleon complex.
4. Completely mental, incompetent, kills most of the men under his command.
5. Fake plane crash death to run away from the consequences of it all.
6. That anecdote where one time he intimidated all the bigger boys at the Officer's training school:

*“Wingate left Charterhouse and in 1921 he was accepted at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, the Royal Artillery's officers' training school. For committing a minor offence against the rules, a first-year student would be subjected to a ragging ritual named "running". **This ritual consisted of the first-year being stripped and forced to run a gauntlet of senior students, all of whom wielded a knotted towel which was used to hit the accused on his journey along the line.** On reaching the end, the first-year would then be thrown into an icy-cold cistern of water.*

When it came time for Wingate to run the gauntlet, for allegedly having returned a horse to the stables too late, he walked up to the senior student at the head of the gauntlet, stared at him and dared him to strike. The senior refused. Wingate moved to the next senior and did the same; he too refused. In turn, each senior declined to strike; coming to the end of the line, Wingate walked to the cistern and dived straight into the icy-cold water”

1. *“It was difficult for a 1920s army officer to live on his pay and Wingate, living life to the full, also gained a reputation as a late payer of his bills.”*
2. Once got 85/100 in an exam on foreign languages, which he was so proud of he wanted it included in his future biography.
3. Travelled from England to Sudan via bicycle and boat.
4. Led an expedition to the fabled “Lost Oasis of Zarzuza”. Didn't find it.
5. Had this exceptionally fake picture “taken”:



What is this? A waxwork mannequin? Original [here](#).

6. Gestapo-esque torturer of Palestinians, using collective punishment on Arab villagers.
7. Rampant Zionist.
8. [Another great photo](#) that (unless my eyes deceive me) is a collage of a military parade with Wingate on a horse cropped in (i.e. the horse and its rider are inserted, everything else is normal).



9. One time he led 1,700 troops in Ethiopia and captured 20,000 Italians, who surrendered en masse to a massively inferior force because Orde was just that amazing.
10. Note that throughout his bio his military rank fluctuates wildly, and he is always arguing with everyone and being annoying, but is somehow irreplaceable. Like Patton, Montgomery, Stilwell, MacArthur, and everyone else we can think of.

Orde is sent to Burma (after a failed suicide attempt where he stabbed himself in the neck with a pen while depressed... but didn't die) and is placed in charge of the "Chindits", which is the British answer to the Japanese in Burma, essentially a special forces style group that goes out into the bush and harasses the enemy in between hiding.

Here he is looking chipper:



Definite manlet vibes. Does not lift. Would beat in a fight. 35 inch chest. Woody Allen would beat him in a fight.

His first act was to incapacitate the bulk of the men assigned to him during training:

“Wavell was intrigued by Wingate's theories and gave him the (Indian 77th Infantry Brigade), from which he created a jungle long-range penetration unit. 77 Brigade was eventually named the Chindits, a corrupted version of a mythical Burmese lion called the chinthe. By August 1942, he had set up a training centre at Dhana near Saugor district in Madhya Pradesh and attempted to toughen up the men by having them camp in the Indian jungle during the rainy season. This proved disastrous, as the result was a very high sickness rate among the men. In one battalion, 70 percent of the men went absent from duty due to illness, while a Gurkha battalion was reduced from 750 men to 500. Many of the men were replaced in September 1942 by new drafts of personnel from elsewhere in the army.”

He was in fact absolutely barking mad:

“Meanwhile, he won few friends among the officer corps with his direct manner of dealing with fellow officers and superiors, along with eccentric personal habits. He would eat raw onions because he thought that they were healthy, scrub himself with a rubber brush instead of bathing, and greet visitors to his tent while completely naked. Wavell's political connections and patronage protected him from closer scrutiny, for he admired Wingate's work in the Abyssinian campaign, but Wingate remained the regimental gadfly always ready to flout the King's regulations; he grew a beard in the jungle and allowed his men to do the same.”

[See also:](#)

“Wingate was known for various eccentricities. For instance, he often wore an alarm clock around

his wrist, which would go off at times, and had raw onions and garlic on a string around his neck, which he would occasionally bite into as a snack (the reason he used to give for this was to ward off mosquitoes). He often went about without clothing. In Palestine, recruits were used to having him come out of the shower to give them orders, wearing nothing but a shower cap, and continuing to scrub himself with a shower brush. Sometimes Wingate would eat only grapes and onions. So, gay, like most other officers.

Lord Moran, Winston Churchill's personal physician, wrote in his diaries that "[Wingate] seemed to me hardly sane – in medical jargon a borderline case." Likewise, referring to Churchill's meeting with Wingate in Quebec, Max Hastings wrote that, "Wingate proved a short-lived protégé: closer acquaintance caused Churchill to realise that he was too mad for high command."

Field Marshal Montgomery told Moshe Dayan in 1966 that he considered Wingate to have "been mentally unbalanced and that the best thing he ever did was to get killed in a plane crash in 1944."

Orde proceeds to lead his lucky, lucky men of the Chindit brigade on long walks around Burma and in the process have large swathes of them shot by the Japanese, one third of them dying in the first few months alone.

"As a propaganda tool, the Chindit operation was used to prove to the army and those at home that the Japanese could be beaten and that British/Indian troops could successfully operate in the jungle against experienced Japanese forces. On his return, Wingate wrote an operations report in which he was again highly critical of the army and even some of his own officers and men. He also promoted more unorthodox ideas such as the idea that British soldiers had become weak by having too easy access to doctors in civilian life. The report was again passed through back channels by Wingate's political friends in London directly to Churchill. The Prime Minister then invited Wingate to London for talks."

So we see that Wingate has direct routes to the Prime Minister. He then gets a promotion:

"Soon after Wingate arrived, Churchill decided to take him and his wife along to the Quebec Conference. There, Wingate explained his ideas of deep penetration warfare to the Combined Chiefs of Staff meeting on 17 August. Air power, radio, and recent developments in warfare would allow units to establish bases deep in enemy territory, breaching the outer defences, and extend the range of conventional forces. The leaders were impressed, and larger scale deep-penetration attacks were approved. By now, a war-substantive lieutenant-colonel and temporary brigadier, Wingate was promoted to the rank of acting major general on 18 September 1943."

Is it really that revolutionary an idea to lead some soldiers into enemy territory and harass them? Surely this has been considered before, somewhere on Earth, in history? Anyway, of course Orde is a fraud and they couldn't bring him back to oversee the next wave of the Chindit operations so they decided to take him out of the action and write the dumbest excuse I've ever read:

"After his meeting with Allied leaders, Wingate contracted typhoid by drinking water from a flower vase in a Cairo hotel while on his way back to India. Doctors were shocked as it was drummed into every serviceman that they should never use such a source as drinking water. His illness prevented him from taking a more active role in training of the new long-range jungle forces."

This is what I mean. Every line is gold. The best biography.

Later in the Burma Campaign Orde (after recuperating from flower vase water) decides to invade Burma using gliders. [No really.](#) His second choice was unicycles.

Eventually we reach the (predictable, fake) death:

“On 24 March 1944, Wingate flew to assess the situations in three Chindit-held bases in Burma. On his return, he agreed to allow two British war correspondents' request for a lift even though the pilot protested that the plane was overloaded. Flying from Imphal to Lalaghat, the USAAF B-25 Mitchell bomber of the 1st Air Commando Group in which he was flying crashed into jungle-covered hills in the present-day state of Manipur in north-east India, killing all ten passengers aboard, including Wingate, who died an acting major general.”

This next bit is glorious, no comment needed:

“Wingate and the nine other crash victims were initially buried in a common grave close to the crash site near the village of Bishnupur in the present-day state of Manipur in India. The bodies were charred beyond recognition, hence individuals could not be identified under medical practices of the day, as identification from dental records was not possible.

Since five of the ten crash victims, including both pilots, were Americans, all ten bodies were exhumed in 1947 and reburied in Imphal, India and yet again exhumed in 1950 and flown to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia for reburial. The exhumation was possible due to a three-way agreement among the governments of India, United Kingdom and the United States, and in accordance with the families' wishes.”

Because of course if an English major general, two English journalists and two presumably Indian personnel die in a plane crash in India you obviously repeatedly dig them up and bury them at various locations and eventually deposit them in Arlington cemetery in the US.

[Wingate's mother was a Stanley, of course](#), explaining everything. She was also an Orde-Browne, linking us to the Orde-Powlett Barons as well as the Dukes of Bolton. They were originally Paulets, Marquesses of Winchester, linking us straight to the [Cecils, Howards, Bourkes, and Walsinghams](#). Yes, those are the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, first cousins of the Tudors, and Walsinghams, secret service to the Tudors. Wingate's mother was also a Villiers, Russell, and Montagu. So Wingate was a close cousin of Bertrand Russell and Winston Churchill, all of them being from the lines of many dukes.

But let us move on. We will start with this lovely little annotation 11 found on the main Wikipedia page for the [Japanese Invasion of Burma](#). It reads “includes 15,000 missing”, in reference to the point of the British having 30,000 casualties. So you can immediately halve the number of actual dead in this campaign. As for the Chinese 40,000 I don't think anyone will have seriously fact-checked that and we've seen before the Chinese casually throwing around crazy casualty numbers (refer to the paper I did on Unit 731). Also you're looking at what, only 4,500 Japanese killed over three years? The Battle of Mount Song (which we'll get to later) is 1,300 Japanese dead by itself. My point is these numbers are extremely low, again contradicting the plot they're trying to tell.

Casualties and losses	
 40,000 casualties ^{[6][1][7]} 95 aircraft (AVG) ^[8]	 4,597 casualties ^[6] 117 aircraft ^[13]
 30,000 casualties 1,499 killed ^[9] 11,964 wounded ^{[9][10][11]} 116 aircraft (RAF) ^[6] ~100 tanks ^[12]	
More than 10,000–50,000 civilians killed	

Anyway, Wingate's Chindit forces were involved in the abortive [Siege of Myitkyina](#) in which we immediately spy Funny Numbers:

Commanders and leaders	
 Wei Li-huang	 Genzo Mizukami † ^[1]
 Joseph Stilwell	
Strength	
Chinese Expeditionary Force Northern Combat Area Command	Garrison from 56th division (3,000)
Casualties and losses	
Chinese ^[2] 972 killed 3,184 wounded 188 invalid	790 killed 1,180 wounded 182 captured ^[3]
U.S. 272 killed 955 wounded 980 invalid	

*“Stilwell gave the Chinese 22nd Division orders to advance against the bridges held by the Japanese on March 15. After two months of fighting, Myitkyina was now in reach. With the arrival of the rainy season, the incessant rain didn't stop until May 17. On that day, at 10:00p.m., the Chinese Expeditionary Force launched an attack with the U.S. Army's 'Merrill's Marauders' unit against the Japanese airstrip at Myitkyina, supported by artillery. Eight Japanese planes were quickly destroyed as the battle escalated. The Japanese **were caught by surprise, and, not knowing where their enemies were, poured gasoline onto the airfield in an attempt to disable it** and retreated into Myitkyina proper, intending to fight the Chinese and Americans on more favourable terms there. The Chinese and the Americans quickly overran the field relatively intact, whereupon U.S. Army Air Forces and Royal Air Force C-47 transport aircraft moved the Chinese 89th Regiment of the 30th Division to the battlefield to supplement the exhausted C.E.F. and Marauder units already at Myitkyina.*

Afterward, some Chinese units attacked the town itself, but the attack was soon called off when two

Chinese battalions, in the confusion and excitement of the battle, mistakenly engaged each other in a fierce firefight, and when two other battalions were moved in, they too repeated the mistake.”

I love the slapstick of the Japanese running around in a panic pouring petrol on their own runway to try and stop the airfield being captured. Or the idea that the Chinese army managed to get confused and fight itself not just once but twice in the same village. Utterly ridiculous.

[Stilwell assumed command of the Chindits](#) and was a complete dick to them, sending them into situations where they got chewed up and spat out by the Japanese, dying in large numbers.

*“During his time in India, Stilwell became increasingly disenchanted with British forces and did not hesitate to voice criticisms of what he viewed as hesitant or cowardly behaviour. **Of the Chindit casualties, 90% were incurred in the last phase of the campaign from 17 May, while they were under Stilwell's direct command.**”*

And:

*“The **111th** Brigade, after it rested, had orders to capture a hill known as Point 2171. That occurred, but the men were now utterly exhausted. **Most of them were suffering from malaria, dysentery, and malnutrition. On 8 July, at the insistence of Mounbatten, doctors examined the brigade. Of the 2,200 men present from four-and-a-half battalions, only 119 were declared fit. The brigade was evacuated. John Masters kept the fit men, sarcastically named "111 Company," in the field until **1 August.**”***

And:

*“By 14 July, Morris Force was down to three platoons. **A week later, it had only 25 men fit for duty. Morris Force was evacuated about the same time as 77th Brigade.**”*

We read on and it talks about how Stilwell managed the Chindit remnants by the time it got to April of '44 and the Siege of Myitkyina. Now, on the one hand I've demonstrated quite reasonably that nothing is happening in Burma and everything presented so far has been nonsense. This is good because if there was a genuine war it would have been awful and disgusting how Stilwell proceeded to treat the men:

*“**In April 1944, Stilwell launched his final offensive to capture the Burmese city of Myitkyina. In support of that objective, the Marauders were ordered to undertake a long flanking manoeuvre towards the town that involved a gruelling 65-mile jungle march. Having been deployed since February in combat operations in the jungles of Burma, the Marauders were seriously depleted, suffered from both combat losses and disease, and lost additional men en route to the objective. A particularly devastating scourge was a severe outbreak of amoebic dysentery, which erupted shortly after the Marauders linked up with the Chinese Army in India, called X Force.***

*By then, the men of the Marauders had openly begun to suspect Stilwell's commitment to their welfare and made no effort to hide their displeasure with their hard-driving commander. Despite their sacrifices, **Stilwell appeared unconcerned about their losses and had rejected repeated requests for medals for individual acts of heroism. Initial promises of a rest and rotation were ignored, and the Marauders were not even air-dropped replacement uniforms or mail until late April.***

On May 17, the 1,310 remaining Marauders attacked Myitkyina airfield in concert with elements of

*two Chinese infantry regiments and a small artillery contingent. The airfield was quickly taken, but the town, which Stilwell's intelligence staff had believed to be lightly defended, was garrisoned by significant numbers of well-equipped Japanese troops, who were steadily being reinforced. A preliminary attack on the town by two Chinese regiments was thrown back with heavy losses. **The Marauders did not have the manpower to overwhelm Myitkyina and its defences immediately. When additional Chinese forces had arrived in a position to attack, the Japanese forces totalled some 4,600 fanatical Japanese defenders.***

Myitkyina was the one where the Chinese got confused and shoot each other. Also Funny Numbers. So what are we getting here? Some kind of post-war write-up that hates on Stilwell? Obviously no real war means no real battle. I guess... what? . . . British Intelligence is writing slander about an American...? Then it gets gross:

“During the siege, which took place during the height of the monsoon season, the Marauders' second-in-command, Colonel Hunter, and the unit's regimental and battalion level surgeons, had urgently recommended for the entire 5307th to be relieved of duty and returned to rear areas for rest and recovery. By then, most of the men had fevers and continual dysentery, forcing the men to cut the seats out of their uniform trousers to fire their weapons and relieve themselves simultaneously.”

Hell of a mental image there. Standing in the monsoon rain, violently pooping while shooting Japanese with a rifle. Implausible on the face of it, nobody will be fit to fight like that. Can this really be British Intelligence writing this fiction? Since it makes the British troops seem ridiculous it must be the Americans. Americans who also don't like Stilwell.

“Stilwell rejected the evacuation recommendation but made a front line inspection of the Myitkyina lines. He then ordered all medical staff to stop returning combat troops suffering from disease or illness but to return them to combat status by using medications to keep down fevers. The feelings of many Marauders towards Stilwell were summed up by one soldier, who stated, "I had him [Stilwell] in my sights. I coulda' squeezed one off and no one woulda' known it wasn't a Jap who got that son of a bitch.”

Stilwell also ordered that all Marauders evacuated from combat from wounds or fever first submit to a special medical "examination" by doctors appointed by his headquarters staff. These examinations passed many ailing soldiers as fit for duty; Stilwell's staff roamed hospital hallways in search of any Marauder with a temperature lower than 103 degrees Fahrenheit. Some of the men who were passed and sent back into combat were immediately re-evacuated as unfit at the insistence of forward medical personnel. Later, Stilwell's staff placed blame on Army medical personnel for over-zealously interpreting his return-to-duty order.”

So again, the idea of these “special forces” having to yomp around for months on end, getting proper jungle dysentery and 103 degree plus fevers and still able to fight is crazy. That's over 39 degrees Celsius, you're going to be delirious and needing water and rest, you're not going to be combat ready.

The Japanese resist “to the last man” of course, so no perspective from them. The Chindits are then ground to dust by Stilwell, in ongoing operations as the “point of the spear” to fight the Japanese. Rather a blunt tip by this point you'd think. Stilwell never got in trouble for this and we learn the Chindits were almost entirely killed off:

“Only a week after the fall of Myitkyina in Burma, the 5307th Marauder force, down to only 130

combat-effective men of the original 2,997, was disbanded.”

Ah. There we go. Thank you, Phoenician Intel, for putting in the Funny Numbers so I can decode this. You work it backwards: there are (essentially) no survivors of the Chindits. You have 130 men. It is very easy to control the narrative or testimony of 130 soldiers, as opposed to the thousands and thousands it would have been originally. The entire “British fightback in Burma” plot arc involves the Chindits (and the alien, anonymous, X-Force of Chinese troops but nobody bothers to speak to them so they’re irrelevant). By having the Chindits wiped out in this manner you have a pirate-style “no one lives to tell the tale” ending.

This is also why Stilwell is messing around with the [Ledo Road plan](#) – a plan already redundant due to the Flying Tiger airlift operations. It’s all a time wasting exercise. There’s probably more I could dig up on Stilwell but I’ll note that it is interesting how the Official History™ paints him as a complete bastard and then, shortly after the wars end he drops dead and is cremated. Did Stilwell have enough of it all and go into retirement?

*“Stilwell died after surgery for **stomach cancer** on **October 12, 1946** at the Presidio of San Francisco. **He was still on active duty and five months short of reaching the army's mandatory retirement age of 64.** He was **cremated**, his ashes were scattered on the Pacific Ocean, and a cenotaph was placed at the West Point Cemetery. Among his military decorations are the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit degree of Commander, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge; **the last award was given to him as he was dying.**”*

If it turned out that Stilwell relocated to the Bahamas and retired peacefully, fed up with Intel lies, I wouldn’t be surprised.

On a different note, I won’t make the article any longer by going through every single battle of the Chinese X-Force troops but they were involved in a particularly comical battle you should know about. This is the [Battle of Mount Song](#), as always beginning with the Funny Numbers:

Date	June 4, 1944 – September 7, 1944
Location	Mount Song (Chinese), Matsuyama/Ramou (Japanese) Yunnan
Result	Allied victory
Belligerents	
 China	 Japan
 United States ^[1]	
Commanders and leaders	
 Song Xilian	 Yuzo Matsuyama
 Li Mi	
Strength	
20,000	1,300-strong detachment from 56th division ^[2] (including 300 wounded soldiers).
Casualties and losses	
7,763 casualties including 4,000 killed	1,290 killed ^[3] 7 captured

The idea was the Japanese occupied a mountain top in Yunnan province, China. They sat on the mountain playing cards and drinking sake for a couple years and used artillery cannon to pester any nearby Chinese forces. The Americans and the Chinese tried attacking them but despite having 20,000 men to attack 1,300 the Japanese were impregnable (as usual) due to... eh... oriental magic or something so it took ages.

I like how the explanation for how the Chinese eventually captured the fortress:

“After three months of battle, the Chinese forces finally retook Mount Song through the use of extended bombardment and an overabundance of US aid and training, as well as several tons of U.S. TNT placed in tunnels beneath the fortifications.”

They're trying to say they dug under the mountain and blew up the mountain with TNT. The mountain is still there, obviously.

*“The Japanese listed **only one survivor**, Captain Kinoshita, an artillery officer and **one other soldier** ordered out to communicate to the Japanese high command the night before the fall of the outpost, with apparently one other soldier. Chinese sources say 7 soldiers were captured out of the total garrison, **Japanese sources do not mention prisoners.**”*

Can't even agree on the numbers, to this day. Why? As always in this Pacific war we have extremely small numbers of survivors making it very easy to control the narrative.

You can read more about Mount Song from the Japanese perspective [here](#).

“Unsupplied and abandoned by their hard-pressed and retreating comrades further to the south they firmly blocked the Burma road denying its use to the western allies in a knock-down, no quarter battle over three months. This “Gyokusai” battle did not take place on an isolated island in the Pacific, but atop 2000 metre mountains surrounded by passes, deep gorges, rivers and evergreens with snow where the temperature could fall below freezing at nights.

The campaign in South Yunnan is largely forgotten in both Japan and China. It is completely unknown in western histories of the war in Burma. A most recent compendium on the war released does not mention it. Louis Allen's wonderful opus major on the war (Burma: The Longest War) borrowing heavily on Japanese translations does not mention it beyond vague reference to the Chinese attacking from the north, detail increasing as the Chinese Yunnan Army approaches British forces.

*Historical events of the last days of the mountain-top fortress **are at times obscure – history can cease or change into something inscrutable when one side in a battle is physically erased.** It remains clear however this garrison, **unlike their brothers on remote Pacific Islands** had the opportunity to withdraw and did not. Major Kanemitsu Keijirou, commander of the Ramou garrison was ordered to stand and fight, and that he did. The order was given to prepare a “sacrifice garrison” of **less than 1,400 men.** This included an incredible 300 wounded. They had no hope of being relieved or supported. The order to stay and hold was a slow death sentence taking an incredible six months from the time of encirclement to the time when the hills stopped shaking and the Chinese army emerged into the fire-swept hilltop to find no more Japanese to kill.”*

From the same article we have a photograph of the Japanese commander:



Completely normal level of quality for a photograph in the 1940s. I mean 1840s. Remember the photo of Stilwell with Kai-Shek and his wife for a comparison of fine detail.

From [part 2](#) of the article:

*“The word “Ramou” and the Chinese characters “拉孟” do not appear on any regional maps in Chinese for a village name. The village was reported nameless 無名 when the Japanese arrived comprising no more than ten huts of various sorts. A short distance away was a peak naturally dominating the Salween crossing and blocking the Burma Road. This was “Songshan” in Chinese, “Matsuyama” in Japanese. Both languages use the same Chinese characters meaning “Pine Mountain.” This feature and other surrounding hills made the best of the steep ground by building terraced paddies up from the river and into the hills. Nationalist Chinese forces had abandoned their short squat buildings originally used to billet soldiers, but these and some other huts formed an abandoned village. **It was not called Ramou before or since by the Chinese.**”*

And:

*“Japanese objectives were to hold the line in Northern Burma, keep the Burma/ Ledo Road shut and all land supply blocked into China. Outside of aggressive patrolling the garrison at Ramou had a mostly uneventful, and at times what could be described as idyllic existence. Chinese forces nominally controlled the east bank of the Salween River and did have patrols on the west side of the river moving up and down the mountain ranges. Clashes occurred with Japanese patrols but for two years Ramou was relatively at peace. To the Japanese soldier stationed in Ramou there were certainly harder postings. At the furthest extremity of the Japanese advance into Yunnan Ramou was described as “tranquil.” All felt there would be a price to pay for their relative sanctuary. **Two years of intensive fortification building had proceeded without interruption.** Though everyone was prepared to die in battle it was felt that one day the inevitable attack would come and it was better to “pay with sweat and good fortifications than pay in blood for lack of them.”*

Mount Song was simultaneously a remote base for over a thousand troops to operate and receive medical attention with heavy fortifications, but also a quiet place with not much going on:

*“A preference for log bunker construction developed utilising the Red Pine found almost everywhere in the mountains. **Fortifications were dug deep and earth piled on top covered firing positions almost totally. During two years of Japanese fortification grass had grown over the freshly dug earth concealing the positions. Fields of fire were built with numerous interlocking defences. Small hillocks meshed with other positions on higher hills and swept all approaches with deadly fire.***

*Occasional patrolling from both sides kept some the edge on the life at Ramou, but for two years there was no fighting. Patrolling from the Chinese sides appears to have been almost minimal with the east bank of the Salween almost deserted in places. Given limited Japanese resources there was no desire to move beyond their defences. **Ramou was regarded as a place where moderately wounded troops could recuperate and serve at the same time relatively safely with little prospect of immediate battle. Long periods of inactivity allowed the Japanese to build defences and accounts for the large number of wounded at the garrison when the attack started.**”*

To supplement their diet the Japanese became farmers:

*“**They planted squash (kabocha) patches directly over their positions. This had the added benefit of camouflage and a wonderful source of food. Persimmons at this elevation were readily available and Japanese soldiers, no doubt reminded of their homeland far away, gathered as many as they could and strung them in garlands around their positions to dry as preserved food. Owing to their astringent nature the only way they could be enjoyed was after drying.**”*

Despite being highly remote and surrounded by Chinese/Allied forces the mountain was able to receive honoured guests:

*“In November 1943, **Field Marshall Terauchi, Commander of all Japanese land forces in South-east Asia paid a visit to the far-flung garrison and commented on the persimmons.** “This is extremely amazing, my mother used to dry persimmons and drape them from the eaves.”*

They developed their skill in pottery:

*“**The soldiers also had time to construct large ovens to make pottery from local clay. Some of the most beautiful ceramics are made in Japan, many produced in Kyushu. The Kyushu warriors were quick to make fine representations of china tea cups and presented one to Terauchi during his visit who commented, “the men of Kyushu have the martial spirit in their bones, they can turn their hand and do just about anything.”** Regimental commander Colonel Matsui was pleased indeed when Marshal Terauchi took the offered cup as a gift.”*

The pottery of the Mount Song garrison was of such quality and able to be produced in such quantities that they began widespread shipping and distribution to other Japanese garrisons:

“The men eventually shipped out very many of their works mainly to army hospitals as presents to wounded Japanese personnel.”

The squash-farming pottery-manufacturing hospital-running garrison then had the press show up:

*“Morale could also be boosted in other ways. **Travelling bands and troupes of performers rotated through Ramou garrison over the two-year period performing traditional Japanese plays. Japan’s***

national broadcaster, NHK showed up with a recording truck to make reports and then take them off to the regional centre in Baoshi (芒市 or Mangshi) for editing and shipment back to Japan or broadcast by the local subsidiary. In the summer of 1943 the garrison hosted the Japanese female screenplay writer, Mizuki Youko. Later to become famous as a left-wing screen writer she was drafted into the war effort and was in the right place for learning more about the front, gathering as much as she could from the men for news reports. Few places could boast the importance of meriting this act of class. With Ramou's first Japanese female the soldiers pulled out all stops and made special rice cakes (mochi) with ground sesame seed on top to offer her. She stayed for three nights and no one was disappointed. Feted and toured they dressed her in army uniforms and showed her the Salween and the remains of the bridge."

Tour guides, bakers, potters, squash-farmers, soldiers... truly these are Renaissance men. They got a brothel set up as well, obviously:

*"The comfort station consisted of two buildings. It was purpose built over two weeks by army tradesmen of the Ramou garrison. In the beginning of 1944 approximately 20 girls arrived, **just in time to fight and die alongside the rest of the garrison.**"*

Bless. They didn't spot the... (checks notes)... Americans digging tunnels under their mountain to place TNT... or something. Then they got killed. When the mountain blew up. The guy who wrote the previous two articles on Mount Song visited the place recently and took photos. You can see this [here](#). Have a look and get back to me when you see the interlocking pillbox defences and the mountaintop facility big enough to comfortably house 1,300 men. Vanished into mist as usual.

To summarise what we've looked at so far, there is no solid evidence to indicate any actual warfare in the Burma campaign, or it's spillover with Sri Lanka or Yunnan province. If anything, the whole thing comes across as an absurd fiction and an excuse to ship thousands of tonnes of freight into China in enormous quantities via the Flying Tigers, I assume for some sort of black market trade.

After several years of standing around thinking about building motorways and fake special forces operations the Allies finally come under attack from the Japanese at the [Battle of Imphal](#). This is part of the grand "last gasp" of the Japanese in Burma: the [U-Go Plan](#).

*"The U Go offensive, or Operation C (ウ号作戦 U Gō sakusen), was the Japanese offensive launched in March 1944 against forces of the British Empire in the north-east Indian regions of Manipur and the Naga Hills (then administered as part of Assam). Aimed at the Brahmaputra Valley, **through the two towns of Imphal and Kohima, the offensive along with the overlapping Ha Go offensive was one of the last major Japanese offensives during the Second World War.** The offensive culminated in the Battles of Imphal and Kohima, where the Japanese and their allies were first held and then pushed back."*

Because U-Go goes badly, the Japanese end up losing Burma and getting rolled back all the way to Singapore. It's a kind of "beginning of the end" for them. So what happened?

Funny numbers? Check.

Casualties and losses	
16,987–21,500 ^{[1][2]}	15th, 31st, and 33rd
	Divisions:
	12,443 killed
	1,652 missing in action
	8,407 dead from disease
	Misc. Army Troops:
	8,000 dead from all causes
	Total:
	30,502 dead,
	23,003 hospitalized ^[3]

Spot the 8's and 33's. Gotta love that MIA count also. So helpful for bulking numbers.

I like how the article on U-Go doesn't bother to explain why it takes two years for the Japanese to attack, other than a hand waving that "Some guy thought it might be tricky".

*"The Japanese commander in Burma, Lieutenant General Shōjirō Iida, was asked for his opinion on whether a renewed advance should be made into India after the rains ended. After conferring with his divisional commanders, Iida reported that it would be unwise to do so, because of the **difficult terrain and supply problems.**"*

Note that. They're aware of the concept of supply lines. This attitude changes with the arrival of a new character.

*"In mid-1943, the Japanese command in Burma had been reorganised. **General Iida was posted back to Japan and a new headquarters, Burma Area Army, was created** under Lieutenant-General Masakazu Kawabe. One of its subordinate formations, responsible for the central part of the front facing Imphal and Assam, was the Fifteenth Army, whose new commander was **Lieutenant-General Renya Mutaguchi.**"*

*From the moment he took command, **Mutaguchi forcefully advocated an invasion of India.** Rather than seeking a mere tactical victory, **he planned to exploit the capture of Imphal by advancing to the Brahmaputra Valley,** thereby cutting the Allied supply lines to their front in northern Burma, and to the airfields supplying the Nationalist Chinese. **His motives for doing so appear to be complex.**"*

It's not complex. You win the war by defeating your enemy, which involves attacking their command centres, capturing or killing their troops and seizing resources needed to maintain the conflict. Allowing the Allies to fly supplies into China was a big deal. I've shown you the google map screenshots, this stuff is very straightforward.

So we have Mutaguchi come up with the U-Go plan. He pushes for it, for some time, then apparently Tōjō signs off on it while having a bath.

"After another map exercise in Singapore on 23 December 1943, Field Marshal Hisaichi Terauchi (Commander in Chief of Southern Expeditionary Army Group) approved the plan. Inada's replacement, Lieutenant General Kitsuju Ayabe, was despatched to Imperial Army HQ to gain

approval. Prime Minister Hideki Tōjō gave final sanction after questioning a staff officer over aspects of the plan from his bath.”

All very normal. Now I'll save us some time as the U-Go is a whole thing and involves multiple long articles. I'll summarise like this: it's a very straightforward plan, the Japanese were going to do a feint down south-west near Chittagong to trick the Allies, then march several divisions into Assam and Manipur to encircle the Allied positions. The prime target was Imphal. This journey into India would be over rough terrain and obviously would take some time to pull off, so you'd expect them to be prepared for the duration.

But no.

The Japanese... I can't really explain this in a way that sounds sensible because it's absurd so I'll just say it: the Japanese don't organise any supply lines. They essentially fill their rucksacks with sushi rolls and bullets and walk to Imphal. The British simply hold the line for a week or two, at which point the Japanese are now starving to death as they have no supplies for food, water, medicine or ammunition. No, really. This is supposed to be what happened. As such the entire Burma campaign ends in a complete farce:

*“The Japanese defeats at Kohima and Imphal were the largest up until that time. **The British and Indian forces had lost around 16,987 men, dead, missing and wounded. The Japanese suffered 60,643 casualties, including 13,376 dead. Most of these losses were the result of starvation, disease and exhaustion.**”*

They lose 60,000 men due to starvation / jungle illness. Because they had no supplies to last past the initial month of the conflict. Make sense of that if you will. Take a long beat to consider how everywhere else in the Pacific campaign the Japanese are able to live off rock pool water and ash, in underground lairs and tiny little caves up the side of a mountain, for months, with no issue. They're supposed to be amazing at storing up supplies and outlasting the Allies. Now, suddenly, they need bread and water just like the white man and they don't factor that in to a military engagement.

It's ridiculous to think that the Japanese have not considered supply lines. I shouldn't even dignify it with analysis, but as one rebuttal note that if you read about Imphal the Allies make a big deal out of how, previously, the Japanese had a tactic of trying to isolate their enemies and cut off their supply lines to weaken them. This was supposed to have been very effective in the early part of the war. The British reversed this principle at Imphal (and the [Battle of the Admin Box](#)) by using aircraft to parachute in supply crates directly into their bases, preventing starvation/running out of ammo/water. The point being: the Japanese literally had a notorious strategy of undermining enemy supply lines because they knew that supply lines were important, but suddenly they forget to have their own supplies.

From [the page on Mutaguchi](#):

*“Mutaguchi was then made commander of the Fifteenth Army from March 1943, and strongly pushed forward his own plan to advance into Assam, leading to the Battle of Imphal. After the failure of the Imphal offensive in May 1944, Mutaguchi refused to allow his divisional commanders to retreat, and instead dismissed all three of them. He eventually called off the attack on 3 July. **Some 55,000 of Mutaguchi's 85,000-man force ended up as casualties, many dying from starvation or disease. This was the worst defeat suffered by the Japanese army at that time.** With the complete collapse of the*

offensive, Mutaguchi was relieved of command on 30 August and recalled to Tokyo. He was forced into retirement in December 1944.

And:

*“British historian Frank McLynn characterized Mutaguchi as "eccentric," "reckless," and a "fanatic," citing his **decision to provide his soldiers with only twenty days of food for the nearly four month-long Battle of Imphal**. This led to catastrophic loss of life for the Imperial Japanese Army prior to the battle, losing 55,000 out of his 90,000 men to starvation. **In the end only 12,000 of his soldiers returned to Japan alive, a staggering 87% casualty rate.**”*

What happened to Lieutenant General Renya Mutaguchi in the end? Well:

*“After the end of the war, **he was arrested by the American occupation authorities and extradited to Singapore**, where he faced a military tribunal which convicted him of **war crimes**. **Released from prison in March 1948, he returned to Japan**. Mutaguchi died in Tokyo on 2 August 1966.”*

So... extradited to Singapore... then released within three years. For war crimes. OK.

Photographic evidence? Of the [Admin Box](#) (should be a field with several thousand Japanese dead) we have this:



Original [here](#). No real photos otherwise. Google yourself, see if you can find anything.

[Imphal](#) photos? Nothing useful from the wiki article. Image search?



Focus is all over the place in this shot. Churned up earth, some people standing around. Is that guy in the foreground right cropped in or are my eyes playing tricks?



Again, some churned up earth and trees. And what do I spy but a giant figure, on the left, next to the left-most tree. What on earth is that? A super-soldier? Some tiny little figures on the ridge and otherwise nothing, no planes, no tanks, no fires. What looks like a corpse (except we have no clear detail and it appears to have no features on its face so... mannequin?) sprawled out on the dark dirt ridge lower left corner. The scale of objects is all over the place.



Troops marching near Imphal. I suspect a paste-up: grey-white sky, the dust clouds in the centre, this is like three “bands” of the image collage (lower: grass, upper: mountain/sky, middle: white with tanks/men inserted in, especially looking at those two guys on the far left).

[Battle of Kohima](#)? No useful photos on the Wiki page, again. Image search?



Again, partially repainted and fogged out to cover it. Man and cow are barely discernible as such. Man is on his back, but the face makes no sense.

We get a bunch of drawings and paintings of these battles of course. And landscape shots of a military encampment after a party. Also the obligatory long-winded fan-fiction testimony. Still a bullshit plot with faked photographs though.

Apologies if you wanted me to do a blow-by-blow of the U-Go battles, I think I've demonstrated sufficiently it's absurd but if you think I need to account for myself on a particular aspect of Burma or the Pacific Campaign in general just let Miles know and he'll let me know so I can respond.

With U-Go, I guess they needed a reason for why the Japanese didn't just take India. Or why the Japanese then vanish from Burma.

Those poor military intel drones. I can see it now, reader: after drinking too much rum and getting too many goth girl lap-dances the night before they woke up to the alarm with dry mouth and the horrible realisation they had an important presentation that day. They rush in to work, chug coffee and frantically leaf through their notebook to find drunken scrawl:

Reasons We Won

- 1. It was raining. Note: Like a LOT of rain. VERY wet. This gave us TIME.**
- 2. The Japs ran out of food and died so we won.**
- 3. ???**
- 4. Re-take Rangoon easily somehow... note to self remember to get tickets to watch Dracula with Suzie this Friday.**



“Really? That’s the best I could come up with? Man, that’s going to be a tough one to sell.”

After U-Go falls apart the British are able to return to Burma, walk back into Rangoon and go on to re-take the country.

I'll leave you with a great closing quote [from Wikipedia](#):

“Generally, the recovery of Burma is reckoned as a triumph for the British Indian Army and resulted in the greatest defeat the Japanese armies had suffered to that date.

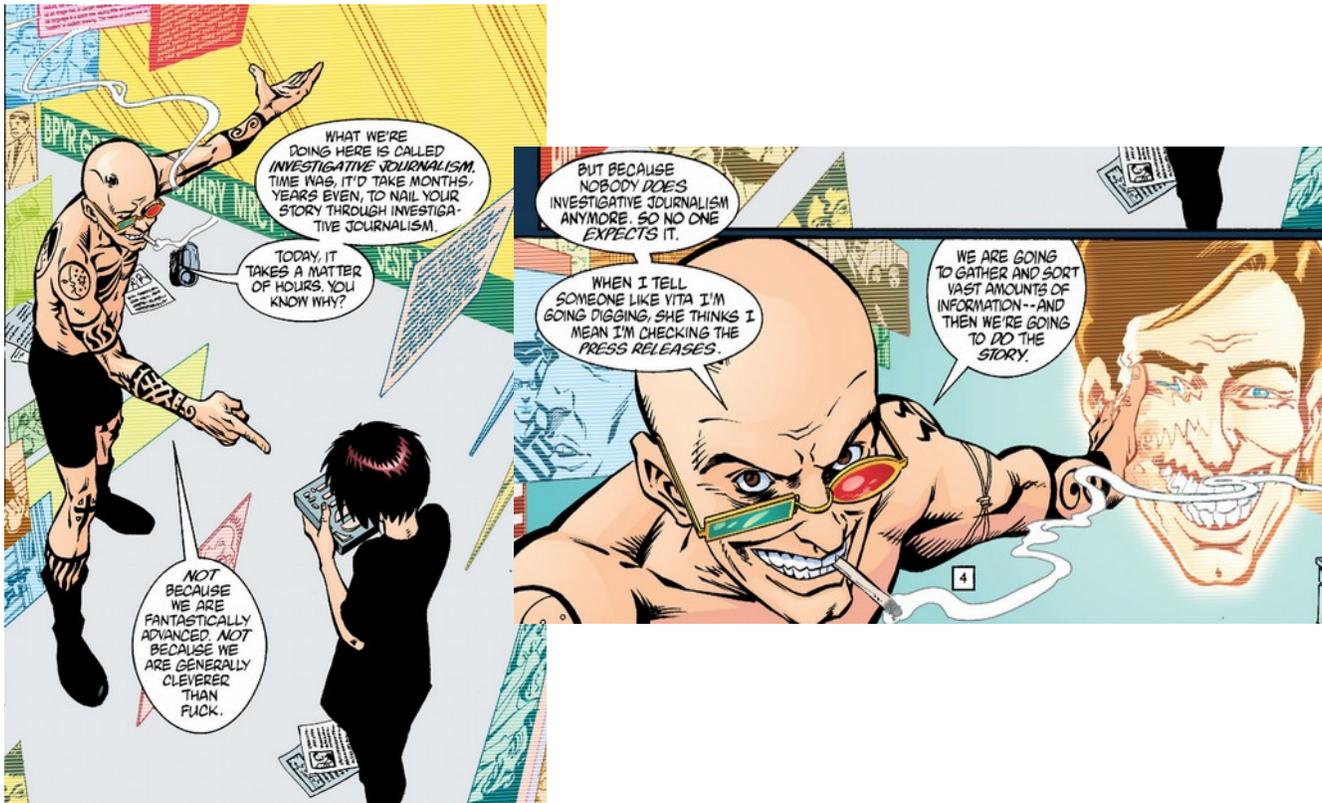
The attempted Japanese invasion of India in 1944 was launched on unrealistic premises as after the Singapore debacle and the loss of Burma in 1942, the British were bound to defend India at all costs. A successful invasion by Japanese Imperial forces would have been disastrous. The defence operations at Kohima and Imphal in 1944 have since taken on huge symbolic value as the turning of the tide in British fortunes in the war in the East.

The American historian Raymond Callahan concluded "Slim's great victory... helped the British, unlike the French, Dutch or, later, the Americans, to leave Asia with some dignity."

After the war ended a combination of the pre-war agitation among the Bamar population for independence and the economic ruin of Burma during the four years' campaign made it impossible for the former regime to be resumed. Within three years both Burma and India were independent.

American goals in Burma had been to aid the Nationalist Chinese regime. Apart from the "Hump" airlift, these bore no fruit until so near the end of the war that they made little contribution to the defeat of Japan. These efforts have also been criticised as fruitless because of the self-interest and corruption of Chiang Kai-Shek's regime.”

I could go on, but you get the picture.



More to come...

(Happy New Year to anyone still reading me after all these months!) [Outro Music](#)