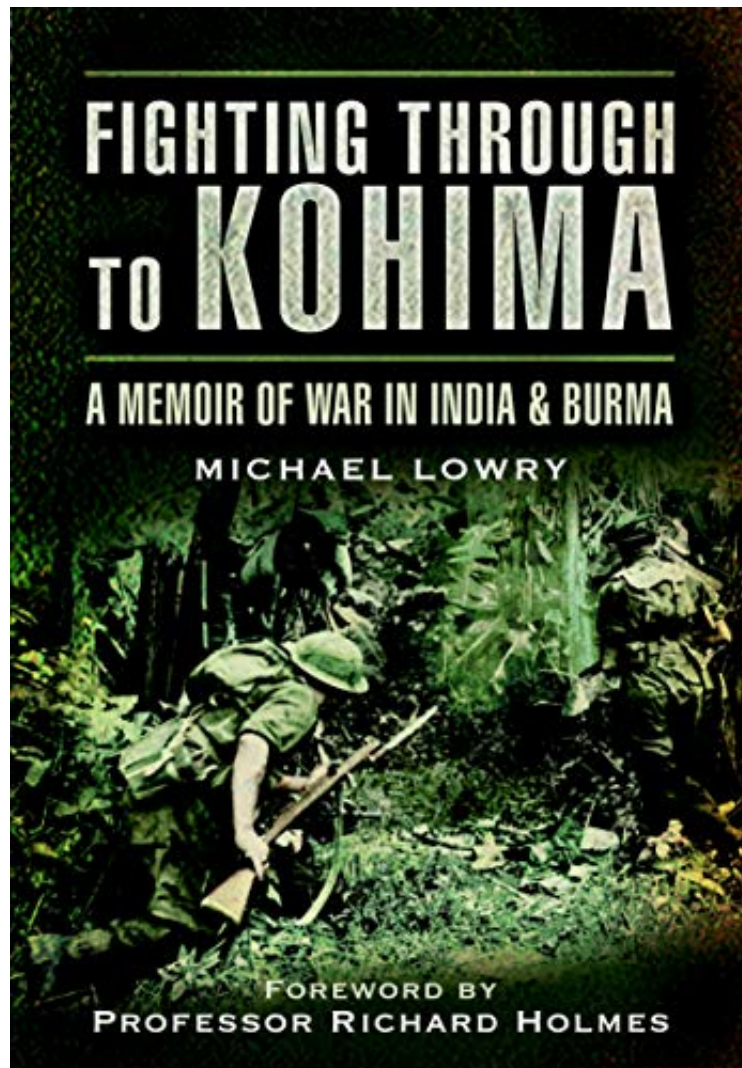


Fighting Through to Kohima: A Memoir of War in India and Burma



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Synopsis

Lt. Col. Michael Lowry MC MBE, was awarded the Military Cross for his role in the desperate defensive action at Kohima, rated the worst of the campaign in Burma. After joining up in 1939 with the Queen's Royal Regiment, the Author was posted to the North West Frontier of India where he cut his teeth chasing gangs of Pathan bandits for two years. As the Japanese advanced into Burma, Lowry found himself fighting in the Arakan region, where his battalion was cut off by the Japanese for three weeks. Having survived that, next came the action at Kohima where during one week Lowry's battalion lost 173 members. Lowry was seriously wounded in the conflict but fortunately lived to tell the tale. This is a fascinating and inspiring book, one of the most action-packed memoirs of the war in Burma ever published.

Sort review

About the Author Lt Col Michael Lowry MC MBE pursued a successful military career until his retirement when he became a sheep farmer. He lives near Shaftesbury, Dorset. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to the paperback edition.

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What people say about this book

Limey Smokejumper, "Inspirational memoir. The harrowing ordeals that these men fought through in Burma, and write about with no exaggerations - even when probably deserved - sorely deserve our praise. While a compelling and enjoyable read, and, in my case, read for research, the primary appreciation I gained was one of inspiration. In that how any of these men survived at all is astounding, and survived to return to a normal life is downright astonishing. How times have changed. My uncle did not so return, however, but the thought of him alongside men such as these instils a deep sense of selfish pride, and the hope that he at least understood the values these men would pass on to the world. It is up to us not to forget that, which is the least we can do. It is memoirs such as these that we should read so as not to make those mistakes again. But, even though those mistakes will be remade, countless times, no doubt, it is history at its best; firsthand, unadulterated, pure in its brutality and yet spirited in the darkness of its humour."

Jim, "Does a good job of telling the story of the fighting in Does a good job of telling the story of the fighting in the Jungles of Burma from a British junior officers point of view. This was some of the hardest hand to hand combat of the war because of the thickness of the jungle. The other interesting thing is the first part of the book which covers the units time in the North West frontier of India and the Border with Afghanistan. You could take those chapters and change the date to 2005 to 2014 and it would be the same story. Some things never change."

Mike in Metairie, "This book is very informative and interesting. It puts This book is very informative and interesting. It puts readers right there with those who fought. Well written. It's not about generals; it's about men and what they went through on the firing line."

Ebook Library Reader., "AA++ book. Compelling book ,thoroughly enjoyed it"

Robert, "... much that you haven't already read but still a good read.. Not much that you haven't already read but still a good read."

George Sedlak, "Five Stars. One of the more interesting memoirs."

Desmond J. Keenan, "Life on the front line in Burma in World War II. I have read various books on the war in Burma since reading an account of the Chindits when at school. But this book is different. It is the story of an officer, based on his own diaries, who fought in India and Burma as a front-line soldier, the cutting edge, from wars on the North West Frontier, through the Arakan campaign, and up to the relief of Kohima, in which battle his battalion, the Queens West Surrey 1st battalion, had 40% casualties. It was brigaded with two Indian battalions. A British brigade had three battalions, and usually fought as a unit. After the Japanese defeat at Kohima, the

turning point of the British and Imperial war in the East, the author was evacuated for persistent malaria, and took no further part in the war. He was first posted to the North West Frontier where the duty of the army was to keep the roads open and deal with raids from the unsubdued local tribes who were always anxious to obtain new rifles and ammunition and to blood new warriors. One is impressed at the sheer professionalism of the pre-War British and Indian armies. Unless you were good you did not survive. Victorian solar topees were replaced by slouch hats! The battalion was moved to the Arakan peninsula where it met an army equal to that of the frontier tribes, but much larger and better equipped. The battalion had to switch from desert warfare where you could see everything to jungle warfare where you could see almost nothing. The troops were issued with packets of green dye to turn their khaki uniforms to green. Military supplies went mostly to North Africa, so the Imperial forces made do with what they had. Mules remained the primary means of transport. When the pots and pans of the battalion cooks were loaded onto mules they could be heard miles off. The Japanese were noisy, and the battalion learned the value of talking in whispers, and no smoking after dark. The Japanese never learned the value of this, and nightly patrols easily identified their positions. The book is full of interesting details of what life was like on the front line. Noise, light and the smell of cigarette smoke gave away a position. Winkling them out of their positions was a different matter, but it helped if you knew where they were. The story of the Arakan battles has often been told, and how the forward battalions were surrounded and cut off. But they were supplied from the air. The pilots of the American Dakotas flew low over the besieged, while in the backs of the planes, helpers pushed out the crates with parachutes out the side door. It is these every day details that make the book so interesting”

Groggnard, “A genuine insight..... A personal account by the author of his experiences as an infantry subaltern on the Indian North West frontier against the Pathans followed by action against the Japanese in Arakan and Kohima. This is a story worth reading. Whilst it is not in the same literary class as "Quartered safe out here" and "Bugles and a Tiger", it offers a similar perspective of what it was like to participate in some of the bitterest fighting on the Burma front. The author frames his account around diary entries written at the time and this gives an valuable insight into what was important to him. What comes over very strongly are the personal attributes that go towards making an effective platoon and company leader... The need to set an example, the care for his men, the need to do a job effectively without wasting lives, and finally his pride in his men and his regiment. I found the company commander perspective of the fighting in Arakan and Kohima to be very effectively conveyed and I felt I gained a genuine insight into what it must have been like to experience life as a junior infantry commander in Burma at that time. For that reason I would have no hesitation in recommending this book to those who have a similar interest. Like others I have found the "translation" of accompanying maps into Kindle format highly exasperating. There is no technical reason why maps have to be displayed in such a small format. Less than a quarter of the display page (and with the wrong

page orientation!) is very simply sloppy technical adaptation. If I had paid the same price as for a physical book I would have been very aggrieved. I hope publishers take note for the future.”

Ebook Library Reader, “A very human account of supreme endurance. This memoir gives us the infantryman's view of the famous campaigns at Arakan and Kohima. More than this it does so from the perspective of a company commander who never fails to acknowledge his feeling for the men around him, be they more senior, his fellow officers or those he leads. This combines with his day by day accounts of battles from literally ground level, with the air full of metal, to produce a very moving story. Though he never set out to do so, Lowry' s book portrays the extraordinary endurance and discipline that he himself displayed through horrific experiences and under increasing sickness until involuntarily invalidated out. In doing so he also holds up a mirror to the many of all ranks who demonstrated the same attributes. My score of four stars is only due to the rather poor quality of the maps and the poor editing which in places leads to confusion of past and present tense as we move between memoir and direct quotes from his diary. But these are churlish criticisms compared with the great vision the book gives us, and not least with the reality of the story it tells and the spirit of the men who lived and died in it.”

DMcA, “A very English Officer. This is a highly personable account of a front line officers war. The narrative is in an understated style which is typical of the era. I would recommend this book to any aspiring or junior officer, who should be interested in the history of the events and the leadership lessons which remain relevant to the young officers of today. Some things truly never change.”

Scott McPherson, “War in India and Burma. This is a fantastic account of war in the Far East during the Second World War. Michael Lowry served in the Queen's Royal Regiment in the frontier of India, and later Burma. The author spent the outbreak of the war fighting bandits on the Indian border with Afghanistan, and then shifted into full-on-war with the Imperial Japanese Army in 1942. The book deals with his experiences in India and Burma, until a medical issue takes him out of the war. Lowry describes everything in detail, all the horror and humour of war that seem to go strangely hand in hand, as well as detailing the tactics and equipment used by the British and Indian troops. My only issue with the book is that I wish it could be longer (which is the opposite of my common complaints with books!)”

The book has a rating of 5 out of 4.4. 211 people have provided feedback.

Book Information

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Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

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Lending: Enabled

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