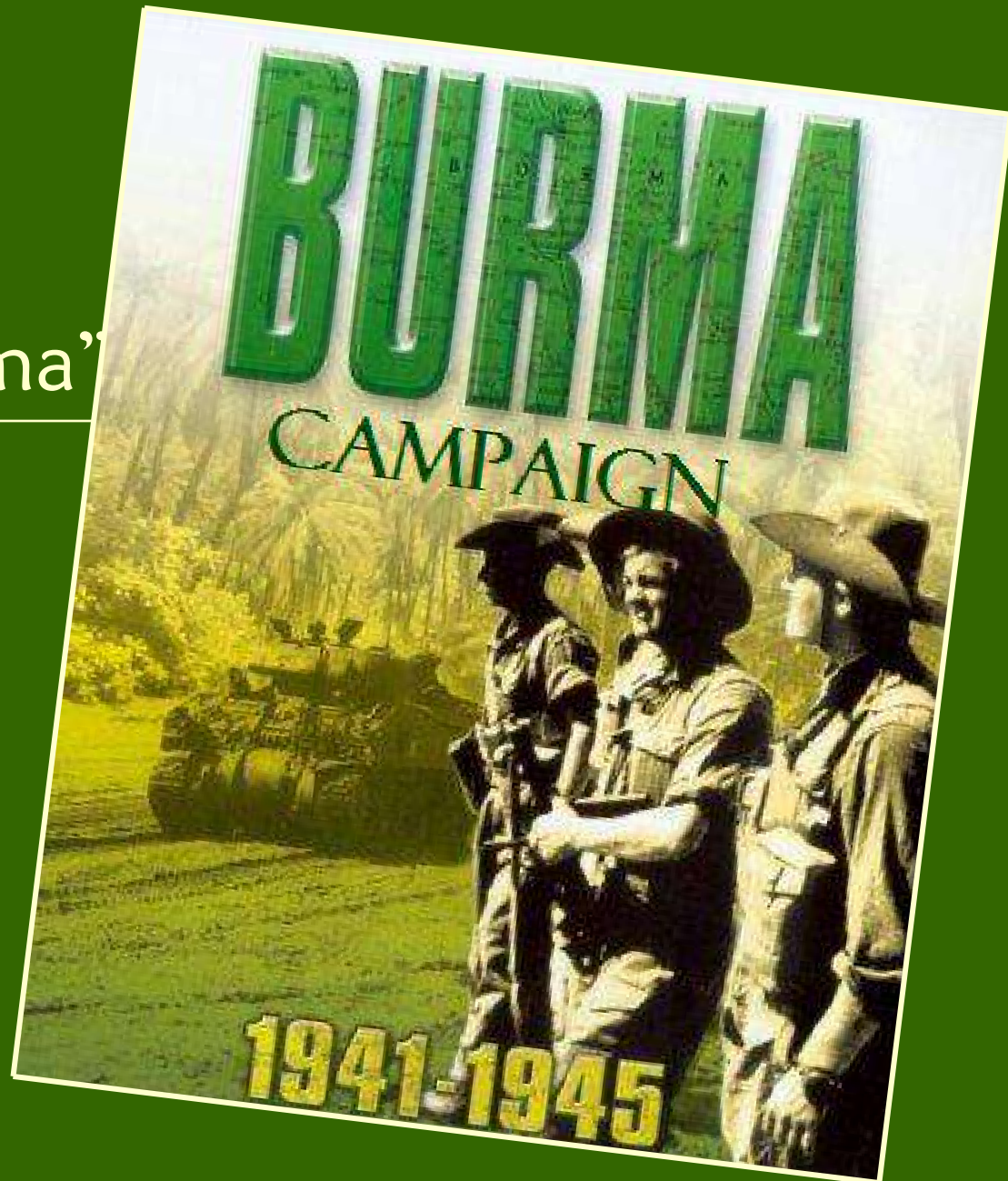


“The Battle of Burma”

Kristie Breitwiser



Background History

"1940"

- German invasion of France
- Japan takes advantage
- Cuts China's supply line

In June.....

- Japan's threat of war against Britain
- Japan & British Agreement
- Close Burma Road to War material temporarily

Japanese Aims

- Japanese Aims
- Cut access to China from Burma
- Place Japanese at the gate of India
- Supervise their interest in South Asia
- Attain raw materials
- Rid British control in Asia (India)
- Quick access to China



British & American Aims

- British Aims
 - Keep Burma & India as Colonies
 - Supply China
 - Munitions
 - Food
 - Give China strength to continue fighting against the Japanese
- American Aims
 - Allow Burma & India to become Independent
 - Also Supply China
 - A friendly partnership with China
 - Keep Japanese busy and out of their way in the Pacific





Strategic Goals American & Britain

- Strategic Goals Together
- Defeating Japan
- Defending Burma
- British

Barrier between India and China

- American
 - China could “throw off the shackles” of Japan
 - China could become a member of the international community
- 

Merrill Marauders

- Known as 5307th Unit
- Nicknamed the Merrill Marauders after their commanding leader Frank Merrill
- Reason for Creation
- Needed a special unit for “dangerous & hazardous” mission
- Missions were to operate behind the lines of the Japanese
- Create havoc with their supply and communication lines
- 3,000 Men
- Mostly of battle hardened veterans
- Training
- Jungles of India
- Traveling
- Traveled light
- Without the support of Artillery, tanks, etc.
- Tactics
- Hit and Runs
- Air Drops





Players

- Allies
- General William Slim
- 14th Army
- General Geoffrey Scoones
- 4th Corps
- General Phillips Christison
- 15th Corps
- Major-General JG Smith
- 17th Indian Division
- Others
- 7th Armoured Brigade
- 3rd Indian Division (Chindits)
- 70th Division

- Japan
- Lt.-General S Iida
- 15th Army
- General Sakurai
- 28th Army
- General Honda
- 33rd Division

ROAD TO RANGOON



The Battle of Burma



Ending Facts of "Battle of Burma"

- Winners of the battle
- Allies
- Importance of the Outcome
- Ended Japanese threat to India
- Paved the way for allies to supply China through Burma
- Last battle the British Army was involved in during World War II



Final Opinion

- American Aims Lost
- American leaders lost the ideal of a major Chinese contribution to the defeat of Japan
- American hopes of China becoming a democratic power dashed by Communist win after Chinese revolution later on
- Reopening Burma & Burma Road.
- Little strategic importance for completing the triumph over Japan
- Little effect on the outcome of the war
- But the Battle for Burma holds it's own special place with all other battles for the human endurance of soldiers during the worst type of conditions

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