

2. Burma

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The New York Times has featured a despatch from a British base on the Indo-Burmese frontier representing the value of Brigadier Wingate's three-month campaign in Burma in the following terms:

It was a successful super-raid on a 300-mile front - begun in mid-February and terminated at the beginning of the monsoon season in mid-May - in which a seven-fold task was accomplished:

- a. It relieved Japanese pressure on Chinese forces fighting from Yunnan against enemy concentrations on the Salween River along the eastern frontier of Burma;
- b. By drawing off a Japanese punitive expedition it saved a band of approximately 5,000 loyal tribesmen threatened with annihilation in northern Burma;
- c. It destroyed the Japanese sense of immunity from invasion in Burma;
- d. It delayed a Japanese attack on the Chindwin River defences near the Burmese-Indian border;
- e. It destroyed 100 miles of railway in 75 different localities;
- f. It blew up the Bonchaung Gorge bridge, along with several others, rendering a key line useless to the Japanese;
- g. It proved Brigadier Wingate's theory that quick training is sufficient to prepare Allied troops for jungle warfare and for dealing with the Japanese.

Nothing was said in this article of the failure of Wingate's forces to take Akyab or to prevent the Japanese from establishing themselves astride the British line of communications on the Buthedaung-Mungdaw road (the immediate cause of the British retreat). The impression left with the reader was one of general satisfaction with the whole undertaking.