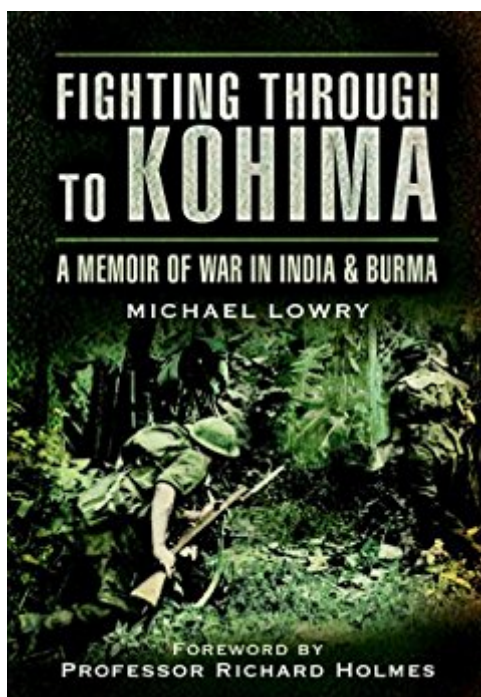


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Fighting Through To Kohima: A Memoir Of War In India And Burma



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born of a decorated WW1 veteran, Lowry led an idyllic inter-war life. He was fortunate to attend good quality schools and live in some wonderful English settings. He played cricket and tennis and holidayed with his family in France. As was often the British way, in time of war he repaid his life of privilege by becoming an officer in the army. By the Declaration he had been posted to serve with

2nd Queens Battalion in India on the Northwest Frontier. I hadn't realized that this was still, even in 1939, a dangerous posting. The tribes frequently caused trouble and the army had only tenuous control of this vast area. In addition German and Italian agents promoted further trouble and Lowry sees a number of skirmishes. It is a remarkable part of his story altogether. By the time his unit is transferred to Arakan (33rd Bde, 7th Indian Div), Lowry is a company commander and serves in this role in action against the Japanese. One of the standout elements of this book is the revelation of what it meant to conduct patrols in the jungle. The extensive planning is incredible. It is also fascinating to read of the author's thoughts as he positions his men for battle. Several times his unit is cut off by major Japanese offensives and has to survive as best it can. There are both lengthy offensive and defensive phases and as such this book offers something different to the many US accounts (post-Guadalcanal at least) of the Pacific War. One thing that also stood out was the remarkable quality of the British regular army. It seems the Queens were a particularly impressive regiment too and Lowry reveals what made it so.

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