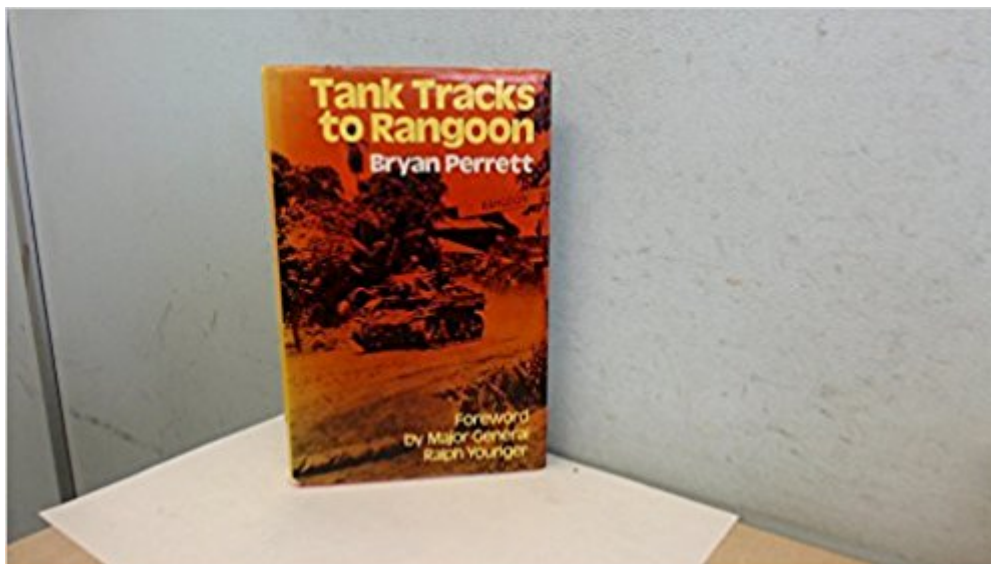


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Tank Tracks To Rangoon



Synopsis

Fighting in a somewhat forgotten corner of Empire during the Second World War, the British and Indian armored regiments called upon to harness the power of tank warfare to extreme new levels did so in an effort to outwit an army until that point considered invincible - the Imperial Japanese Army. Their collective efforts were heroic and massively effective, giving the Japanese a taste of mechanized warfare from which they never recovered. Bryan Perrett describes the full course of the armored units' efforts, illustrating the importance of the mighty 7th Armored Brigade; a 'magnificent formation' in General Slim's estimation. In a conflict that saw much development in the field of tank design and production, Perrett illustrates the practical repercussions of such advances in this most extreme of wartime environments. Detailed research has produced hard evidence of the Japanese use of gas against British tanks, and countless instances of Japan's human-bomb antitank technique. Above all, this book shows to what extent the tank can prove a decisive weapon in the unlikeliest areas. REVIEWS "...includes a number of personal accounts from those who were there, offering an excellent account of tank warfare in Burma" Military Machines International --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bryan Perrett was educated at Liverpool College. He served in the Royal Tank Regiment and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. During the Falklands and Gulf Wars Bryan Perrett served as Defense Correspondent to the Liverpool Echo. A professional military historian for many years, his books for Pen and Sword include; North Sea Battlefield: The War at Sea 1914-1918 (2011), The

Hunters and the Hunted: The Elimination of German Surface Warships Around the World 1914-1915 (2012), The Real Hornblower: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir James Gordon (2013), and Why the Germans Lost: The Rise and Fall of the Black Eagle (2013). --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Interesting history of the use of tanks in Burma during WW2. After reading books like Marine Tank Battles in the Pacific and Rolling Thunder Against the Rising Sun, I did not expect much more insight into tank combat against the Japanese. However, the book proved me wrong on several accounts. First, unlike the Americans, the British used many Lee/Grant tanks in their campaigns. Second, their campaigns were longer and maintainability was a bigger concern. Terrain was more restrictive. I could go on but the net effect was that the combat was not quite the same. The book describes both the campaigns and small action combat, generally infantry support operations. Overall, an interesting read.

This is an interesting account of this little emphasized but important campaign. The nature of some of the battles took me by surprise and the performance of the armored units, allied and Japanese, was an eye opener. It makes me want to learn more about the struggle for Burma, but now from a perspective outside the tankers'.

There was a lot of detail that humanizes the fighting of the armored units in Burma. Fighting for a lot of the war with outmoded tanks, the British were able to drive the Japanese out. It is an excellent retelling of the armored campaign to aid in retaking Burma.

The book is a little bit too "history" book. It does not utilize the ey-witness stories. The topic itself is interesting and not very often visible in other books.

I good insight into the work of the Armoured regiments in Burma but the entire book is marred by misspellings and even incorrect words, presumably from the transition to computer file. Whatever happened to proof reading?

If any theatre needed the legendary winged tanks, this was the one. If one looks at the map of Burma, the mountain ranges all run north and south and the steep slopes and jungly river bottoms all run cross wise to the main line of advance from India. Dividing Burma from India is the Arakan

region, with a mountainous ridge running out into the ocean forming a peninsula. The Japanese and the British 14th Army contested this area for 3 years before the British finally broke through in 1945. If anyone could think up a set of topographic conditions worse for armored forces than the route from the Arakan to Rangoon they would have a large task. The British also invaded further north along the route of the Burma Road and dropped airborne as well but the main thrust had to come from the south because the northern infrastructure was at capacity, sending supplies to China, and could not support the main effort while in the south one flank was on the sea and supposedly could be reinforced that way. This book covers the advance into Burma and the crossing of innumerable streams, bogs, ridges, and major rivers. Once out into the lowland plains the pursuit could be eased somewhat but necessity to keep supplies up often slowed the advance. Good narrative history.

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