

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1944.

CRASH KILLS JUNGLE GENIUS ORDE WINGATE

London, March 31 (AP).—Maj-Gen. Orde Charles Wingate, the adventurous and spectacular leader of Allied jungle fighters in Burma, was killed recently in a plane crash, it was announced here today.

A brief announcement from the War Office said Wingate was killed in Burma March 24 and gave no details of how death overtook the 41-year-old soldier who early last year captured the world's imagination by leading a "ghost army" on a four-months' expedition deep inside Japanese lines in Burma.

Himself a relative of the late Col. T. E. Lawrence, the famed "Lawrence of Arabia," and a nephew of Sir Reginald Wingate, who was associated with Lawrence, Orde Wingate was called "The New Lawrence," "The Man of Legends," "A Cromwellian Captain" as a result of his exploit.

A Profitable Exploit.

His force covered more than 1,000 miles through the deepest Burma jungle, fought countless skirmishes with enemy patrols and finally returned to India, after suffering great hardship, with vital information for the Allied Command.

Bobbing up here, there and everywhere to the consternation of the Japanese, Wingate's raiders destroyed 100 miles of railway at 70 different places along the Irrawaddy from Mandalay to Myitkyina, and finally came out of the bush after eating their own mules and subsisting for weeks on supplies dropped by plane.

A strict believer in the unorthodox, Wingate hammered at the theory that Allied troops—British storekeepers as well as colonials—could be quickly conditioned to fight in the jungle better than the Japanese.

Influenced Allied Strategy.

His recommendations were reported to have played a part in the decisions on strategy reached at the Cairo conference of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Gen. Chiang Kai-shek last December, and the decision at the earlier Quebec conference of the British and American leaders to organize an air commando force in India.

This latter force of British and Indians was suddenly set down near Myitkyina, 150 miles behind the Japanese lines, by glider, March 8.

In a despatch from New Delhi dated March 26—two days after his death—he was quoted as saying the "first stage of the airborne operation was completely successful. Everything we set out to do has been done."

The despatches at that time were not permitted to disclose that he was dead.

Held D.S.O., Two Bars.

A holder of the Distinguished Service Order and two bars, Wingate first won recognition as a brilliant leader of guerrilla fighters in 1936 when he built British and Palestinian Jews into an unorthodox band that beat marauding Arabs at their own type of night fighting and broke up a threat to the Haifa-Mosul pipeline.

Later, in Ethiopia, he led 3,000 Sudanese and Ethiopian warriors against the Italians and captured or destroyed 40,000 of them.

His romance was as unorthodox as his warfare. His wife-to-be was 15 and he was 30 when they met aboard a ship bringing him back from Libyan explorations. She said last year that "I marched up to him and said: 'You're the man I'm going to marry.' We both felt the same way about it."

She returned to school but left it two years later to marry him.

149
WAR
PACIFIC
1941
BURMA