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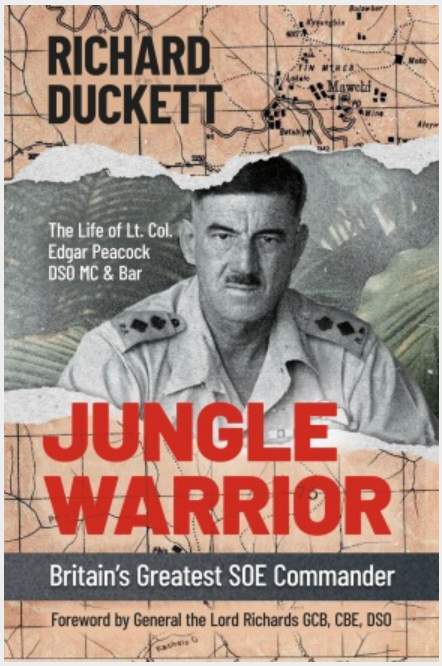
Advance Information

Jungle Warrior
Britain's Greatest SOE Commander

Richard Duckett



Description

"Jungle Warrior is a splendid book about a very brave and determined man who, literally, gave his all for King and Country" **Field Marshal the Lord Richards**

The Special Operations Executive (SOE) was created by Winston Churchill in 1940 to "set Europe ablaze," but its most significant success occurred in the jungles of Burma, where its guerrilla operations were vital to the reconquest of the country. SOE's greatest commander was Lieutenant Colonel Edgar Peacock.

Born in India in 1893, Edgar Peacock missed WWI due to his employment in Burma's Jungles. In 1940, aged 46, he lied about his age and enlisted as a Private, ending the war as a highly decorated special forces Lieutenant Colonel, who had conceived, planned and led the most successful guerrilla operation of WW2. Approximately 130 British officers and NCOs parachuted in, raised about 12,000 indigenous guerrillas and prevented the Japanese from halting General Slim's advance on Rangoon. Over eight months of intense, continuous, combat in enemy territory, Operation Character accounted for 11,874 Japanese casualties for the loss of 22 British troops. For a period they outperformed the entire British 14th Army!

Monsoon rains, scarce supplies, dense mountainous jungle, tigers, snakes, leeches and a determined enemy, all combined to make this an operation like no other. Eminent historian, Richard Duckett, given exclusive access to private family files, has produced an extraordinary biography of an exceptional man, exploring Edgar's truly fascinating life 'warts and all'.

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Thema

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Keywords

Burma; SOE; Guerilla warfare; colonial life; Force 136; General Slim

Biography

Dr Richard Duckett is an historian, author and teacher. He has taught History and Politics for over twenty years in both the Further Education and the independent sector. Richard read History at the University of Essex before moving on to the University of Reading to complete a Masters degree. After starting his teaching career, Richard studied for a doctorate on a part time basis with the Open University while continuing to teach full time.

Since finishing his PhD, Richard continues to research and write, and also maintains a website where he publishes original archival research.

In his spare time, Richard can often be found enjoying a mountain or two somewhere in Wales.

Endorsements

'The incredible untold story of a foremost warrior of the shadows, operating in the toughest theatre of war during WWII. Trenchant, gripping, revelatory - I am so glad Lt. Col Peacock's story has finally been told. Having spent considerable time in the Burmese jungles, I can feel his every breathtaking exploit in my soul and my bones. Bravo.' **Damien Lewis**, author of *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*

Review

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