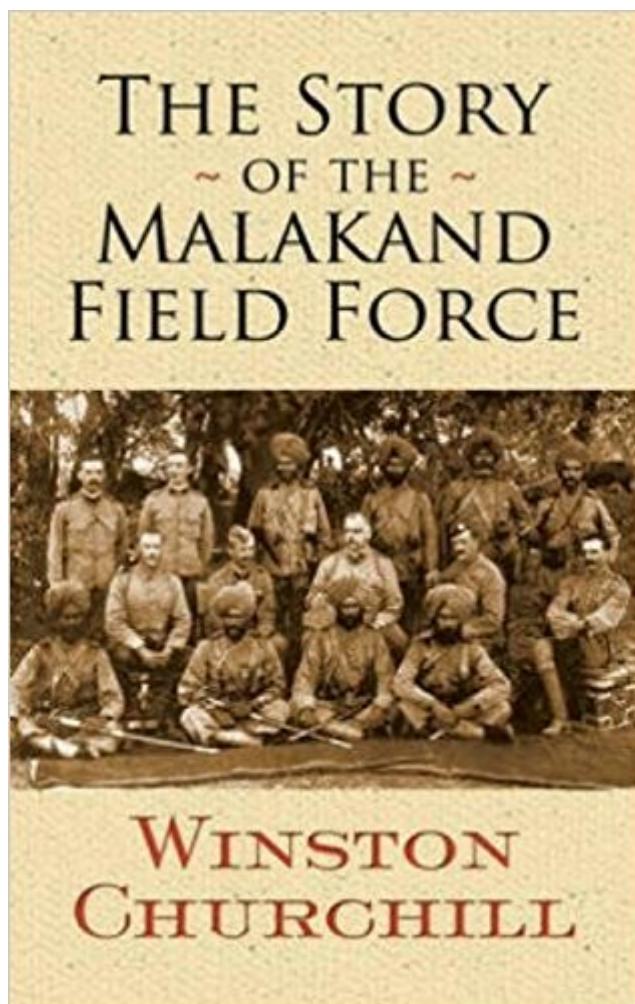


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The Story Of The Malakand Field Force (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor)



Synopsis

In his first book, the renowned statesman and historian chronicles an 1897 British military campaign on the Northwest Frontier, in the vicinity of modern Pakistan and Afghanistan. Churchill served as a correspondent and cavalry officer in the conflict, and his incisive reportage reflects the energy and vision that re-emerged in his leadership during World War II. At the time of the clash, Churchill was serving as a subaltern in the 4th Hussars. Weary of regimental life, the young soldier drew upon family connections to find a place among the brigades headed for the frontier. There he participated in his first combat in the Mamund Valley, where British troops suppressed a revolt among the region's Pathan tribes. Churchill's series of letters to the London Daily Telegraph formed the basis for this book, which he declared "the most noteworthy act of my life," reflecting "the chances of my possible success in the world." A century later, the towering historical figure's account of military action in this still-volatile region remains powerfully relevant.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of the most famous political figures of the twentieth century, Sir Winston S. Churchill (1874-1965) was also a well-known historian, biographer, and writer. Among his many books are "A History of the English-Speaking Peoples" (in four volumes), "The World Crisis, 1916-1918" (two volumes), and "The Second World War" (six volumes).

"The Story of the Malakand Field Force" is an interesting read for a number of reasons. Churchill's

story of the Malakand campaign provide an interesting case study of a military operation with limited objectives (even if not quite a COIN operation) in circumstances of significant interest today by a technologically advanced but relatively inflexible, immobile and significantly outnumbered western force. It is also an introduction to the young Winston Churchill, and readers expecting to read the views of a bigoted, blinkered reactionary may be somewhat surprised to find that even as a 22-year old Lieutenant Churchill was able draw some complex and nuanced conclusions from his experience - even if some of these conclusions (eg his advocacy of the usefulness of cavalry or the desirability of a policy of forward defence in the North-West Frontier) can be considered ill-founded. While his viewpoint is very much that of a junior officer embedded in a force for which he has much sympathy, and as a consequence could not be considered objective or even-handed, I must admit that his writing and powers of both observation and analysis are a damn sight better than mine ever was at the same age and rank! Anyone with an interest in colonial warfare (particularly in the India/Pakistan/Afghanistan part of the world) or the young Winston Churchill will find this of interest and for this audience it is certainly good value. The lack of maps is however an irritant, and with the probably inaccurate translations and the passage of time Google Maps wasn't of much help in filling in the blanks ...

Excellent book detailing some of the British campaign into the FATA of what is now Pakistan. Churchill imparts a brief but stirring account of the campaign to subjugate members of several Pathan/Pashtun tribes. At the very beginning of his tale he points out some rather sentient facts that just maybe would have helped our intelligence bureaus in dealings with this war like tribe of peoples. Easy read, interesting facts, paints a good picture of the area and people.

Class, genius.....Winston Churchill. Some people are born to greatness. He wrote as the world was to him in a specific time and place and unless you are the type who likes to re-write history to make it suit your views, you should love it---in my estimation.

I recently read "The River War." Churchill is a good author. The style in "The River War" is a complete view of events from a "fly on the wall" perspective. Easy to read, easy to see the flow of real events and to understand what happened and what it was about. "The River War" explains about why Africa is the way it is now. A good look at the history of events that are mostly unknown in America that affect the entire planet. I am looking forward to reading Churchill's look at Afghanistan in "The Story of the Malakand Field Force." I hope will present an offering of Winston

Churchill's books about WW-2.

Anything by Winston Churchill is great. This book tells very well the life of British soldiers in the long-ago Afghanistan. Too bad this history is repeating itself right now with American troops. You will recognize tactical mistakes.

Things change, but they really remain the same. Churchill's wonderful language and ability as a young story teller convey the conditions of 19th century war in the mountains of Asia, war that world fights to this day, among many of the same combatants. These are compelling stories of strategy, mission, and individual bravery, on both sides. The time and place was overtly racist and occasional comments related to the nature of native peoples, for good or ill, are found throughout. These would never pass the editor today, but probably reflect the thinking that informed military strategies in place at the time. The book offers a wonderful glimpse into the remote reaches of the Asian mountains at the edge of the British empire at the time of its greatest imperial extent. I found it deeply engaging and enlightening. - 5 stars.

I love reading this book by the young Churchill. If you have ever served in the Afghanistan war this is a must read for you. I highly recommend for service men and women who are Afghanistan veterans.

I loved this account by Winston Churchill. He was only 23 years old and serving under General Bindon Blood in NW India in 1897. So cool!

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