

# **Chindit versus Japanese Infantryman 1943-44**

Osprey Combat series No. 10 (2015)

By Jon Diamond; illustrated by Peter Dennis

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The Opposing Sides

Nankan Station 6 March 1943

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Chindit Corporal 1943

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The Fight at Pagoda Hill ó battle scene

Assaulting the Bridge (Mogaung) ó split screen battle scene showing the action from the viewpoint of the Chindits and the Japanese

## **Comments:**

I've reviewed two volumes in the Osprey Combat series and I was not impressed with either of them. This one, however, is very good. After a short introduction on the strategic situation, we have 20 pages of very interesting material on the training, equipment, logistics, organisation and tactical doctrine of both sides.

Then we have descriptions of three battles ó these vignettes are handled better than in the previous volumes that I've read. In each case, we start with a map of the action with notes and then a prose description. In all cases, these descriptions are well-written, easy to follow and interesting. The biggest quibble I have is that while Chindit numbers are easy to ascertain, Japanese numbers are pretty vague and remain so even in the orders of battle section at the end of the book. Nevertheless, it would be easy to work around this for wargaming purposes and the actions themselves would be easy to wargame ó at company strength for the most part and with little in the way of heavy equipment.

A brief description of the actions: Nankan Station is a holding action/ambush by Chindits on Japanese infantry rushing to the scene where the British are busy blowing up bridges. Pagoda Hill is the (successful) attempt to set up a defended point astride Japanese lines of communication and the Chindits' initial assault to oust the Japanese in order to achieve this. Mogaung is an assault on a Japanese-defended town which sees the Chindits used in the role of traditional infantry.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book which in my view is well-written, interesting and well-illustrated. I could imagine gaming the individual battles and I got a good idea of the

tactical doctrines of the Chindits which changed over time ó something I hadn't realised before. Recommended.

--Paul Le Long

