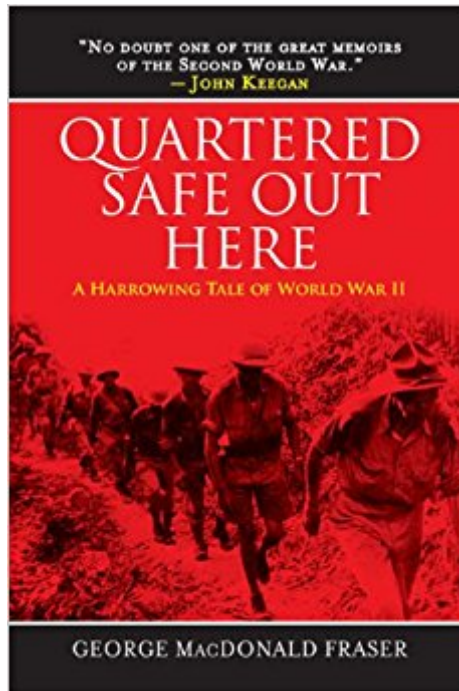




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Quartered Safe Out Here: A Harrowing Tale Of World War II



Synopsis

George MacDonald Fraser's beloved for his series of Flashman historical novels offers an action-packed memoir of his experiences in Burma during World War II. Fraser offers a firsthand glimpse at the camaraderie, danger, and satisfactions of service. A substantial epilogue, occasioned by the fiftieth anniversary of V-J Day in 1995, adds poignancy to a volume that eminent military historian John Keegan described as "one of the great personal memoirs of the Second World War." In this rattling-good memoir, novelist, historian, and screenwriter Fraser vividly recounts the nerve-racking frontline action he saw while serving as a nineteen-year-old soldier during what turned out to be the last great land campaign of World War II; the British army's ferocious campaign against the Japanese in Burma. The realism of his story, combined with the skills of a talented novelist, create a book of sentiment and excitement. This is unforgettable reading, both for fans of Fraser's novels and for anyone interested in one of the great battles of World War II. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Customer Reviews

"No doubt one of the great memoirs of the Second World War." —John Keegan"Fraser is an excellent popular historian." —Time Magazine"Quartered Safe Out Here, an account of his experiences as a soldier in the Burma Campaign, is as vivid, compassionate, and courageous a picture of small-scale fighting as any the Second World War produced." —National Review"George MacDonald Fraser writes superbly." —Washington Post

"A Brilliantly entertaining read, with all the narrative power, gift for dialogue and surprising twists and turns that would be expected of flashman's creator...Fraser is unrivalled at the storyteller's essential crafts..." - Gary Mead, Financial Times "This is a book as good as anything Fraser has written...decorated with the beautifully-observed dialogue of which he is a master...A moving and penetrating contribution to the literature of the Burma campaign" - Max Hastings, Daily Telegraph "His new book deserves to reach out to an even larger audience...The sense of front-line danger is palpable and the smell of action is remarkable. His descriptions of the sudden violent actions are breathtaking. This is battle as it is done" - Melvyn Bragg, Evening Standard "Fraser's is quite the most vividly realistic account of the sharp end of the war in Burma that i have read...If you have enjoyed Fraser's 'Flashman' books you will enjoy the racy, pacy, utterly authentic account of far away long ago soldiering" - John Mellors, London Magazine "A great writer has raised a memorial to a lost generation" - John Colvin --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

To learn about the inhabitants of antebellum Missouri, read HUCKLEBERRY FINN, where Twain's use of idioms and the vernacular brings his rural American characters to life. To learn about the men from Cumberland (the Northwest corner of England) who fought in Burma during World War II, read the brilliant QUARTERED SAFE OUT HERE, where G.M. Fraser uses idioms and the vernacular to preserve the character and values of the Cumberland British infantrymen. Here's a taste: "Ey, Grandarse" "oo d'ye spell Iredell?" "Oo the hell dae Ah know? W'ee" "Iredell?" "Liberal candidate in Caryl. Ah" "writin' yam tae see w'at e' on aboot." "Weel, Ah doan't belang bloody Caryl. Ah belang Peerith, an' Ah doan't ken w'at constituency it's in, an' Ah doan't care 'cos Ah's nut votin', neether." "Ye ought to vote, man." "W'at for? The Labour man doesn't stand a fookin' chance, an' Ah'm boogered if Ah'm

vote Tory. Them boogers 'es bin in ower lang. 'Weel, vote Liberal, then. 'Git hired! Ah doan 't know booger-all about politics, but Ah know the Liberal's ca' Roberts, an' 'is family's temperance, so knackers till them. They 'ed a cellar oot a Naworth, boorstin' wid the best drink in the coonty, and the teetotal boogers poured the lot on 't doon drain! Think Ah 'd vote for them?...In this wonderful memoir, Fraser works outward from his section's 10 men and the smallest unit in the British army 'to examine the perils and rewards of the infantryman's life in war. Here, the perils of the Burma campaign are obvious 'leeches, swarms of mosquitos, huge and bizarre insects, friendly fire, and deadly skirmishes with fanatical Japanese soldiers. But the infantry has its rewards as well, including the satisfactions of teamwork, mutual respect, shows of bravery within the section, and the banter of funny sensible men who use raillery to preserve their sanity. When Fraser mustered in Burma, he was nineteen and not studying in a pre-med program, as his family wished, because he didn't do well enough on his tests. Immediately, this young Fraser has hair-raising experiences protecting the perimeter of his section's camp, encounters the fog of war as Japanese soldiers break through the camp's barbed wire, participates in a divisional attack at Temple Wood, where he sees men from his section killed, and is amazed as his kleptomaniacal section flouts the strictures of a suspicious warrant officer. Then he experiences one final skirmish, in which Fraser, the only person that knows how to fire a bazooka, reports to an officer 'sort of a mix between Kurtz and an eccentric uncle 'who plans and executes a brilliant riparian ambush. It's all superb. In his epilogue, Fraser addresses the American use of atomic bombs to end World War II. Here, his perspective is that of the British infantryman in Burma, who expected next to attack the dug-in Japanese in Malaysia and, one day, to invade Japan. He makes a compelling case that, from this ranker's perspective, the bombs saved the lives of Allied soldiers. An excellent memoir and highly recommended.

I absolutely loved this book. Fraser writes beautifully and his use of the dialect of his company was excellent. As an American, I had to read it out loud to get the meaning right away but there was a glossary of definitions for it. This book was moving and funny in parts but very serious. I loved that it showed the stiff upper lip and courage of that generation. The values it portrays are the values we need in today's world. I cannot stress to readers what a wonderful read this is. We need more books like this! Thanks to George MacDonald Fraser! Hip, hip Hooray!

I thought this book was a very unusual and awesome look at what it is like to be a grunt in Burma. Loved that part. For me I would not have bought the book had I know there was so much 'dialect' writing of which I could hardly understand. Perhaps if you were Scottish, Irish or English it would be easier but for me (an American) it was very difficult to get through and understand what they were saying. In general I thought the author had a great sense of humor & I liked his plain spokenness. No apologies and good insights. I would have given it more stars but it was just too hard for me to make out the dialects. Bless these men, they really were great!

"Quartered Safe Out Here", by George MacDonald Fraser, is Mr Fraser's memoirs of his service as a 19 year old Scottish Private (and Corporal) toward the tail end of the Burma Campaign in World War II. Written over 50 years after the war, this book is not meant to be an exhaustive study of the campaign, but covers what he remembers of the battles he fought and gives a delightful depiction of the men he fought alongside ... and with ... in Burma against the Japanese. Early on in the book, Mr Fraser describes his memories as a long line of grey where he remembers generally what was happening but with few specifics alongside occasional bursts of vivid color where he can remember a tremendous amount of detail - and not all of it relevant. Nearly 50 years old myself, I find that's a pretty accurate portrayal of how my older memories are, too, such as my days in college or when I was in the Service. He fits his recollections in with a broader description of the fighting in Burma during the time he served, in a generally chronological, generally episodic manner in line with his memories. Where this book really shines is in its day-to-day depiction of the life of an infantryman in this theater. He covers everything from the challenges of the jungle ... heat, monsoons, poisonous critters ... to what he wears and eats, and to his impressions of the many different nationalities/cultural subdivisions that fought in the 14th Army (British, Indians, Sikhs, Gurkhas, Africans, and so on). But best of all is his descriptions of his section-mates, a much more experienced, battle-hardened, and humorously sarcastic bunch, that fought and beat the Japanese. There are also battle scenes both large and small, although as the author points out, what makes an action slight or deadly dangerous depends pretty much on your perspective; what higher headquarters may barely notice could be the most dramatic fighting of the war for the people involved. The book is refreshingly politically incorrect, which is to say honest to the era and to what the men involved truly felt and believed. While in my experience, most veterans of the Western Front in World War II have forgiven and are reconciled to the Germans, the veterans of the Pacific front, virtually to a man, still hate the Japanese and will until their dying breath. I highly recommend this book.

Very different memoir, partly because it was told by a Scot, and because it tells of the Burma campaign, it makes it a fresh perspective. The writing is great dry humor yet totally serious. Well written too. It's intriguing that their campaign put me more in mind of Viet Nam than what I normally think of as the Pacific War. It was a fairly slow read for me because of the phonetic reproductions of the speech mannerisms of the company. I'm not saying that's bad, I actually liked a memoir that took more than a day to get through. Definitely recommend it.

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