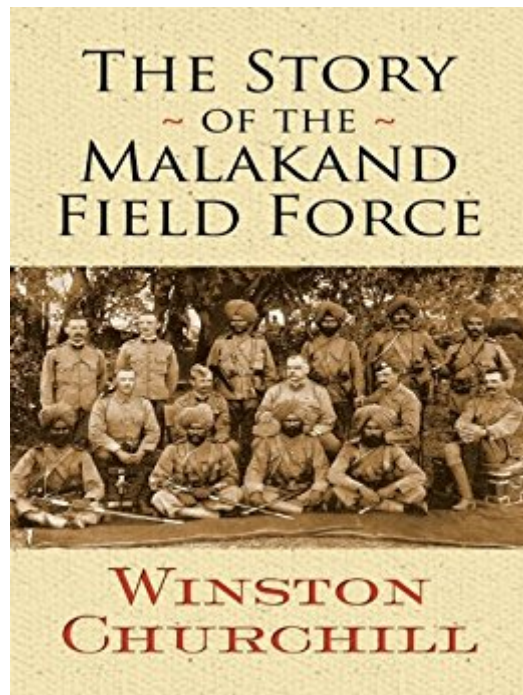


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# The Story Of The Malakand Field Force (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor)



## 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

Battling Afridi tribesmen over 100 years ago sounds like today, except the 15 rupee Jezrail has been replaced by a \$20 Kalishnakov. IMAO we the USA could learn a great deal from the Imperial British handling of these tribes during the Raj, all told by WLS Churchill in one of his first of many

books that all English speakers should read.

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.

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.

A must read for current understanding of Afghanistan. The parallels between late 19th century and early 21st century Afghanistan are amazing. The first and last chapters (British foreign policy on the Indian frontier) are worth the price of the whole book. The middle of the book gets a bit bogged down, but probably familiar to those who currently serve there. Churchill's style is always a treat.

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.

The first ten pages of this book will tell you why our strategy in Afghanistan was doomed from the start. Its description of the Afghan people is as insightful today as it was a century ago.

Here is young Winston Churchill unleashed! It is interesting to look at one's land and people from the outsiders' perspective. Retrospectively, the bias, inaccuracies and what in this day and age would be deemed down right bigotry, becomes quite amusing to read. The painfully lame rationalizations for invading another nation, vilifying and holding the invaded in utter contempt, calling them barbarians and justifying ones' action on the basis of supremacy of european race, culture and civilization, reveals much about the times and people. If Churchill were a politician today and had written this book, it would have just about totaled his career and at the very least he would have been called a xenophobe. Nonetheless, it is a good account of the times. One cannot help but smile, when Churchill writes of the fast pace of life, 'modern' devices like "heliographs", the

technological advancements etc., and compares it all to 'ancient' times. He also comes across as someone who does not hesitate in expressing his personal opinions and cares very much for the plight of British soldiers. However, reading this book there is scant a hint of the greatness Churchill would go on to achieve. More than superlative qualities, perhaps greatness comes by being the right person at the right place and time.

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 man and women who are Afghanistan veterans.

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