

# An Indian Story of the Second World War: An Unforgettable Journey



## Farthest Field: An Indian Story of the Second World

**War** by Raghu Karnad

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5578 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 321 pages



In the annals of history, the Second World War stands as a towering event that shaped the destinies of nations and peoples. Its impact was felt far and wide, including in the distant land of India, then a British colony. As the conflict erupted, Indian soldiers found themselves thrust into the heart of the global struggle, fighting alongside and against an array of powers on multiple fronts.

In *An Indian Story of the Second World War*, acclaimed historian Srinath Raghavan brings to life the forgotten stories of these brave men and women. Drawing on extensive archival research and personal accounts, Raghavan weaves a compelling narrative that transports readers to the battlefields, hospitals, and POW camps where Indian soldiers served with distinction.

## The Forgotten Army

One of the most remarkable chapters in India's WWII story is the saga of the Indian National Army (INA), also known as the "Forgotten Army."

Founded by Subhas Chandra Bose, a charismatic Indian nationalist, the INA fought alongside the Japanese against British rule. Though ultimately defeated, the INA became a symbol of Indian nationalism and inspired the country's eventual independence movement.



Raghavan delves into the complex motivations of INA soldiers, exploring their hopes, fears, and dreams. He sheds light on the political and ideological currents that led some Indians to collaborate with the Axis powers, while others remained loyal to the British Empire.

## The Burma Campaign

The Burma campaign was one of the most grueling and challenging theaters of operation in WWII. Indian soldiers fought tenaciously alongside British and American forces against a determined Japanese enemy. Raghavan follows the Indian troops through the treacherous jungles and mountains of Burma, capturing their resilience, camaraderie, and unwavering spirit.



Indian soldiers in the Burma campaign

In vivid detail, Raghavan describes the horrific conditions endured by Indian soldiers, from disease and starvation to brutal enemy attacks. He also highlights the important role played by Indian medical personnel, who

tirelessly cared for the wounded and sick under the most difficult circumstances.

### **Indian Women in the War Effort**

While the focus of the book is on the experiences of Indian soldiers, Raghavan also recognizes the significant contributions made by Indian women during the war. From working in factories and shipyards to serving as nurses and administrators, women played a vital role in supporting the war effort from home and abroad.



Raghavan sheds light on the challenges and opportunities faced by Indian women during this transformative period. He explores their changing social roles, their aspirations, and their experiences in the aftermath of the war.

## Legacy and Remembrance

As the war drew to a close, Indian soldiers returned home to a country that was forever changed. The sacrifices they had made during the conflict played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence. *An Indian Story of the Second World War* concludes by reflecting on the legacy of these valiant men and women and the importance of remembering their contributions.

Srinath Raghavan's *An Indian Story of the Second World War* is a masterful work of historical scholarship that brings to life a forgotten chapter in India's past. Through its vivid storytelling and meticulous research, this book provides a deeper understanding of the complexities of war and the resilience of the human spirit. It is a must-read for anyone interested in India's history, World War II, or the experiences of soldiers in battle.

## Further Reading

- [An Indian Story of the Second World War on Our Book Library](#)
- [An Indian Story of the Second World War on Goodreads](#)
- [New York Times Review of An Indian Story of the Second World War](#)

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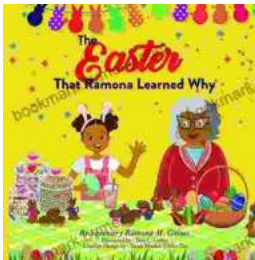
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