



# **Bare Feet and Bandoliers: Wingate, Sandford, the Patriots and the Liberation of Ethiopia**

*David Shireff*

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This is the story of two remarkable 'firsts'. It is the story of the first successful attempt by Allied forces during the Second World War to support and sustain a local resistance movement with regular forces in enemy-held territory. It is also the story of how Ethiopia became the first nation conquered by the Axis to be freed.

The campaign in Ethiopia might appear small in relation to the war in the whole of East Africa, but it had great military importance. In 1941 the British Commonwealth, the Indian and Sudanese forces, with the Patriots - local chiefs and their followers who resisted the Italian occupation - advanced into Italian East Africa and defeated the Italian armies. David Shireff, who himself served in the campaign, gives an evocative and impressive account of how Colonel Orde Wingate with his Gideon Force was able through bold and imaginative command to force the surrender of a large part of the Italian forces. Shireff also explores the role of Brigadier Daniel Sandford, now an almost forgotten commander, in organizing his Mission 101 and the sustained rebellion of the Patriots.

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