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The Boer War



The Boer War
WINSTON CHURCHILL



Synopsis

As a young, ambitious soldier, Winston Churchill managed to get himself posted to the 21st Lancers in 1899 as a war correspondent for the Morning Post - and joined them in fighting the rebel Boer settlers in South Africa. In this conflict, rebel forces in the Transvaal and Orange Free State had proclaimed their own statehood, calling it the Boer Republic. Perhaps the most riveting personal account is found in London to Ladysmith via Pretoria, where Churchill is captured in Pretoria not long after he arrives to join the British forces - and is frustrated not by the conditions in the prison but by the fact that he was missing the action. Churchill tells the story of how he escaped and made a daring overland crossing, travelling only at night to avoid detection. Over a 64-year span, Churchill published over 40 books, many multivolume definitive accounts of historical events to which he was a witness and participant. All are beautifully written and as accessible and relevant today as when first published. During his 50-year political career, Churchill served twice as Prime Minister in addition to other prominent positions - including President of the Board of Trade, First Lord of the Admiralty, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Home Secretary. In the 1930s, Churchill was one of the first to recognise the danger of the rising Nazi power in Germany and to campaign for rearmament in Britain. His leadership and inspired broadcasts and speeches during World War II helped strengthen British resistance to Adolf Hitler - and played an important part in the Allies' eventual triumph. One of the most inspiring wartime leaders of modern history, Churchill was also an orator, a historian, a journalist, and an artist. All of these aspects of Churchill are fully represented in this collection of his works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Winston Churchill, in my estimation, is one of premier masters of the English language. Yes, his reporting is biased but he takes great pains to let his reading audience know this. Many times in the account of his participation in the Boer War he gives credence to the activities and courage of his adversaries. An enlightening and rewarding read.

This is a highly detailed account by Winston Churchill of his participation in the last year of the Boer War from the end of 1899 to mid 1900. His magnificent writing style overcomes the minimal discussion of the political and economic factors of the war. Ideal book for those who enjoy reading about the tactics of individual battles and who enjoy learning about the emotions of Churchill during the period. Excellent book for researchers and for those who enjoy the perfect turn-of-phrase.

Excellent account from the British aspect of the Boer War. I loved the clear detail on tactics and descriptions of the ground and region. The book clarified the history in several ways and especially highlighted the Martial Spirit that allowed the Crown to achieve so much. We could use the type of real unit spirit described here these days.

A nice day to day history of the war, but book is not for everyone. Have to enjoy history and war exploits. He has an entertaining writing style and seems to truly love war strategy (as evidenced by WW2 much later in his life). Overall a good read on the history of South Africa.

A great read, getting Churchill's dispatches from South Africa during the Boer War was super. The writing was obviously stilted as done 120 years ago, but getting his view on the conflict and seeing how he was in the action, but still seemingly living the life of the English upper class was very interesting. I found it a good read and would have liked more, but it consisted of the two packets of dispatches he'd made during the few months he was in South Africa and is limited to that, now a full coverage of the conflict. I found it fascinating.

Easy, interesting reading. Churchill's writing style entertaining as well as informative. On scene evaluations and analysis written as it happened. Hindsight historians may provide a broader, more comprehensive analysis but this book has a place on any military book collectors shelf. S.R.

Berkheiser, BGEN. USMC (Ret.)

This is a fascinating book by the young Winston. He was fearless, if not reckless. On the other hand, his experiences in South Africa helped to shape his world view. This is a must read for those who want to understand the foundation of the South African embrace of apartheid.

It describes a few comparatively less involved battles in a situation of a rather private misunderstanding between countries of unequal might and warring capability. There is some military action associated with the rail transport of POWs which carries some intrigue and then the situational description of W. Churchill in transit to Pretoria makes for good reading. There is also some good lines describing his escape phase and there is some demonstration of tactical action by both the POW transport guards troops as well as the South African antagonist element as the latter maintains strategic vigil over the POW transport to Pretoria. By and large, the book is not much exciting nor historically enlarging upon the subject of the BOER war as it were, yet it offers good readings on a military saga which is not well known about in our society.

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