

The Burma Bridge Busters

By Howard Bell



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The men of the 490th Bombardment Squadron, the 'Skull & Wings', were thrust by chance into conflict in an obscure area of World War II, the China-Burma-India theater, sometimes referred to as 'the forgotten theater.' The 490th's primary mission was to keep the Chinese in the war, thereby tying down nearly one million Japanese troops, keeping them from being used elsewhere. The results of their highly successful 'Glip' bombing of bridges led to their being christened 'Bridge Busters' by General Howard C. Davidson, Commander of the 10th Army Air Force. Often operating alone, the men of the 490th developed a 'brotherhood' attitude which exists to this day. Follow them through their WWII experiences in the forgotten China-Burma-India Theater.



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