

Wingate, Orde

Wingate, Orde (1903-1944), maverick British army major-general and pioneer of guerrilla warfare techniques involving infantry attacks on the enemy's rear. Wingate was born in India to British parents who belonged to the Plymouth Brethren, and he remained deeply religious throughout his life. He was educated at Charterhouse and the Royal Military Academy, and in 1923 was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. Wingate's interest in Oriental and Arabic studies led him to serve in the Sudan Defence Force between 1928 and 1933, after which he returned to Britain. From 1936 to 1939 he worked as a British intelligence officer in Palestine, became an ardent Zionist, organized Jewish guerrilla groups called "night squads", and successfully defended the Mosul Haifa oil pipeline from Arab attacks. During World War II, he served under the command of Wavell, organizing a Sudanese-Ethiopian guerrilla group called "Gideon Force", which took Addis Ababa from the Italians in May 1941. In 1943 his most famous guerrilla group, "the Chindits", made daring and successful attacks against allied enemies in Burma. A great favourite of Winston Churchill and as famous in his day as [Lawrence of Arabia](#), Wingate died in an air crash in March 1944.

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