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## Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who He

By Croke, Vicki Constantine.

Random House. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New.

(One of the New York Times's 100 Notable Books of 2014)

Having served in Britain's Camel Corps in World War I, James Howard "Billy" Williams went to colonial Burma in 1920 for a British teak-logging company, ready to work with elephants. Amazed by their intelligence, character, and even humor, he became a gifted handler, treated their illnesses and injuries, and championed more humane treatment for them yet always insisted that he gained far more from the elephants in return. When Imperial Japanese forces invaded Burma in 1942, "Elephant Bill" joined Force 136, the British dirty tricks department, operating behind enemy lines. His elephants would help carry supplies, build bridges, and transport the sick and elderly over treacherous mountain terrain, including a desperate escape ahead of advancing enemy forces over the border to India, with a bedraggled group of refugees in tow. A longtime columnist on animal issues winning an Edward R. Murrow Award as "The Animalist" on NPR's WBUR-Boston website as well as the author of *The Lady and the Panda* and *The Modern Ark*, Vicki Croke offers an inspirational narrative that is part biography, part war epic, and part wildlife adventure. "I have...



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