



The Sabre's Edge

Allan Mallinson

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1824. The Sixth Light Dragoons are still stationed in India and the talk in the officer's mess is of war. The Burmese are encroaching on Company land and skirmishes are common on India's borders. Meanwhile, across the country in Bhurtpoor the succession to the Raj has been usurped. The rightful claimant Balwant Sing has been forced from the throne by the war-mongering Durjan Sal. The conflict looks set to flare up into bloody conflict, taking the surrounding provinces with it. With the threat of war on two fronts the British troops must intercede. The trial ahead will test Hervey and his newly blooded troop to their very limits, for Durjan Sal has taken refuge in the infamous Bhurtpoor—a fortress surrounded by a deep moat almost five miles in perimeter, with thirty-five turreted bastions and the Tower of Victory built with the skulls of Lord Lakes' defeated men. Hervey can be sure of one thing: the siege of Bhurtpoor will be hot and bloody work. Once again, the fortunes of Matthew Hervey and his courageous troop will be decided by the sabre's edge.

The Sabre's Edge Details

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Author : Allan Mallinson

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From Reader Review The Sabre's Edge for online ebook

Veronica says

I found the writing style difficult to read as Mallinson uses the English of the period with military terminology. I was more entertained with the secondary characters than with the protagonist, Capt. Hervey. Lots of history and good description of the military events.

Aaron Bright says

I like that Hervey is starting to get a mean streak about him.

Chris says

Another great story

Jerry Haigh says

All of the Mathew Hervey adventures are gripping stories - as good a series of reads as the Patrick O'Brian Aubrey/Maturin seafaring adventures. Great for lovers of horses. I have read, and re-read, the lot.

Ahw says

Some people might like this book. I didn't. The first problem was that it was the *5th* in a series. I didn't know that when I picked it up. It was confusing with references to characters and events from previous books. I assumed eventually I would understand ... It didn't get better. There didn't seem to be a point to the book. Events happened. Time progressed. Things that seemed important had no overall impact. I couldn't keep the characters straight nor did I really care.

The military descriptions seemed accurate and detailed. If you love British cavalry from the early 1800's this just might be your book. But in addition to not knowing previous characters and events I didn't know the current references to British cavalry terms NOR did I know all the Indian sub-continent terms. There was far too much British "stiff upper lip" going on too. I couldn't tell if there were romantic subtext in some of the situations. It seemed like there might be but I couldn't tell from the conversations and the author didn't give me any insight in to the characters thoughts.

Again, I didn't like it but others might. Some of the episodes of battle and soldiering were well done. This is the *5th* book after all. I imagine it had to be good to get to 5 books. If I see the first one (which was about Waterloo and must have had some actual emotional development for the characters) I might pick it up. My advice. Don't pick up the 5th one as your first.

Sue Law says

A bit aimless at first, Matthew Hervey gets assigned to the attack on Burma as a sort of aide-de-camp, but is injured before much happens and so is back in Calcutta with his regiment when they are assigned to the attack on Bhurtpore. Once Bhurtpore becomes the focus the novel settles down to a good pace with lots of historical detail.

Tony says

The truth is that I am beginning to tire of the precious Mr Hervey. He's a bit too self-important for my taste. Perhaps he reminds me of me!

Mike Penlington says

A good action read, following fictional Dragoon Captain, Matthew Hervey, through the beginning of the battle of Rangoon campaign (1824) and then the siege of Bharatpur (1826).

It provides a very good overview of the history and I suspect portrays life in this part of the military extremely well.

Wasn't quite as action-packed, page turning as I thought it was going to be.

Having said that, the main character was very likable and believable and it's all well written, so I will keenly read more.

One criticism, I felt it could have done with an Appendix with military Terminology (and ranks) and explanation of non-english words/terms, as not being at all knowledgeable about those aspects I felt I wish missing a bit of understanding. Wished I'd been reading on my Kindle instead!

Dean David says

Good

John says

continued the series good

Al says

Mallinson's novels in the Matthew Hervey series are primarily a loving depiction of early 19th century

British cavalry keeping order in India. A good part of his books are given over to military politics and organization, Indian details, and cavalry minutia, reflecting his cavalry knowledge and experience. For the casual reader, though, all this can be confusing and get in the way of the plot. In this book, Hervey is now a 35 year old captain deeply devoted to the Indian service, as evidenced by his willingness to remain in India for more than 10 years while his young daughter is raised by relatives in England. The late-developing action concerns the siege and reduction of a hitherto impregnable Indian fortress. I found this part very interesting, particularly in view of the fact that one of Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe books, Sharpe's Company, has as its major plot point a similar situation. Both are well done, but I think it's fair to say that Cornwell's series is generally more readable and action-oriented than Mallinson's.
