

cornelius ryan a bridge too far

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: An In-Depth Look at the Epic WWII Battle and the Renowned Author Behind It

Introduction

The phrase "a bridge too far" has become synonymous with overambition and strategic miscalculations in military history. It originates from the dramatic WWII operation known as Operation Market Garden, a daring yet ultimately flawed Allied plan to secure key bridges in the Netherlands and hasten the end of the war. At the heart of this historical narrative is Cornelius Ryan, a celebrated journalist and author whose detailed account of the operation immortalized the event in both literature and popular culture. His book, *A Bridge Too Far*, provides a comprehensive and compelling analysis of one of the most ambitious airborne assaults in history, highlighting the heroism, mistakes, and lessons learned from the campaign.

In this article, we will explore the historical context of Operation Market Garden, delve into Cornelius Ryan's biography and his contribution to WWII literature, analyze the key elements of his book, and examine its enduring legacy in military history and popular culture.

Historical Context of Operation Market Garden

The End of WWII in Europe

By late 1944, the Allied forces were making significant progress on the Western Front, pushing back German defenses after the D-Day landings in Normandy. However, the Germans still held strategic positions in Western Europe, including the Netherlands, which was crucial for controlling access to the Allied supply routes through the Rhine River.

The Strategic Objective

The Allies aimed to accelerate the end of the war by creating a rapid advance into Germany's industrial heartland. To achieve this, British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery proposed a bold plan: to seize a series of bridges over the Rhine and its tributaries using airborne forces, followed by advancing ground troops.

The operation, code-named Operation Market Garden, involved two main components:

- Market: The airborne assault, involving thousands of paratroopers and glider troops dropped behind enemy lines.
- Garden: The ground offensive to link up with the airborne forces and push into northern Germany.

The Plan and Its Ambitions

The plan was ambitious: capturing a series of bridges from Eindhoven in the south to Arnhem in the north within nine days. The key objective was the bridge at Arnhem, which, if secured, would allow the Allies to bypass the heavily fortified Siegfried Line and advance directly into the German interior.

Cornelius Ryan and His Contribution to WWII Literature

Biography of Cornelius Ryan

Cornelius Ryan was an Irish-American journalist and author renowned for his meticulous research and compelling narrative style. Born in 1920 in Ireland, Ryan's career spanned several decades during which he became one of the most respected writers on WWII history.

His works include:

- The Longest Day (1959): An account of D-Day.
- A Bridge Too Far (1974): Focused on Operation Market Garden.
- The Last Battle (1966): Covering the Battle of Berlin.

Ryan's books are characterized by their detailed storytelling, personal interviews, and balanced perspectives, making complex military operations accessible to a broad audience.

The Significance of A Bridge Too Far

Published in 1974, A Bridge Too Far is regarded as a definitive account of Operation Market Garden. Ryan's research drew upon extensive interviews with surviving participants, official documents, and firsthand accounts, allowing him to craft a narrative that is both comprehensive and engaging.

The book's meticulous detail and storytelling prowess helped elevate military history to a wider readership, inspiring adaptations and further scholarly

interest.

Analysis of A Bridge Too Far: Key Themes and Elements

Structure and Narrative Style

Cornelius Ryan structured *A Bridge Too Far* to follow the chronological sequence of events, interweaving personal stories with strategic analysis. His narrative style combines journalistic immediacy with historical depth, bringing to life the experiences of soldiers, commanders, and civilians caught in the operation.

Major Themes Explored

- **Overambition and Strategic Miscalculations:** The book highlights how the planners underestimated German resistance and logistical challenges, leading to the operation's failure.
- **Heroism and Sacrifice:** Ryan emphasizes the bravery of the airborne troops and ground forces, many of whom faced overwhelming odds.
- **Communication and Intelligence Failures:** The narrative reveals how miscommunications and faulty intelligence contributed to setbacks.
- **The Human Cost of War:** Personal stories and testimonies underscore the tragedy and human suffering involved.

Key Chapters and Highlights

1. **The Planning and Preparation:** Detailing the strategic debates and logistical arrangements.
2. **D-Day for the Airborne:** The initial drops and the chaos of landing behind enemy lines.
3. **The Battle for Arnhem:** The fierce fighting to seize the bridge and the eventual withdrawal.
4. **Aftermath and Lessons Learned:** Analyzing why the operation failed and its impact on subsequent military strategies.

Legacy and Cultural Impact of A Bridge Too Far

Influence on Military Strategy and Historical Scholarship

Ryan's detailed account has become a fundamental resource for military historians and strategists. It underscores the importance of accurate intelligence, logistical planning, and realistic objectives in complex operations.

Film Adaptation

In 1977, the book was adapted into a critically acclaimed film directed by Richard Attenborough, starring notable actors such as Dirk Bogarde, Sean Connery, and Anthony Hopkins. The film visually depicted the events described by Ryan, bringing the story to a global audience and cementing the phrase "a bridge too far" in popular culture.

Enduring Popularity and Relevance

The themes explored in Ryan's book—overreach, misjudgment, heroism—remain relevant in military and strategic discussions today. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of overambition in warfare.

Conclusion

Cornelius Ryan's *A Bridge Too Far* stands as a monumental achievement in WWII literature, blending meticulous research with compelling storytelling to portray one of the most ambitious and tragic operations of the Second World War. Through his work, readers gain insights not only into the tactical details of Operation Market Garden but also into the human experiences and strategic lessons that continue to resonate.

Whether viewed as a cautionary tale or a tribute to bravery, Ryan's narrative underscores the complexities of war and the importance of humility, planning, and understanding in military endeavors. As the phrase "a bridge too far" continues to symbolize overambition, Ryan's book remains a vital reference point for historians, military professionals, and anyone interested in the profound costs of war.

Keywords: Cornelius Ryan, *A Bridge Too Far*, Operation Market Garden, WWII, military history, Arnhem, WWII literature, military strategy, Richard Attenborough film, WWII casualties, strategic miscalculations, heroic stories
WWII

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Cornelius Ryan, the author of 'A Bridge Too Far'?

Cornelius Ryan was an Irish-American journalist and author known for his detailed accounts of major World War II battles, including 'A Bridge Too Far'.

What is the main focus of 'A Bridge Too Far'?

'A Bridge Too Far' chronicles the failed Allied Operation Market Garden during World War II, specifically the ambitious attempt to secure bridges in the Netherlands in 1944.

How has 'A Bridge Too Far' influenced popular understanding of Operation Market Garden?

The book provides an in-depth, detailed account of the operation, highlighting the strategic mistakes and challenges, thereby shaping much of the modern interpretation of this significant WWII event.

Was 'A Bridge Too Far' adapted into a film?

Yes, the book was adapted into a critically acclaimed film in 1977 directed by Richard Attenborough, which dramatizes the events of Operation Market Garden.

What are some key themes explored in 'A Bridge Too Far'?

The book explores themes like military strategy, leadership, the unpredictability of war, and the human cost of ambitious military operations.

How accurate is Cornelius Ryan's account in 'A Bridge Too Far' considered by historians?

Ryan's account is regarded as detailed and well-researched, drawing on interviews and extensive sources, though some critics note minor biases and the challenges of reconstructing complex events.

Why is 'A Bridge Too Far' still relevant today?

It offers valuable insights into military planning, decision-making, and the importance of intelligence, making it a significant work for historians, military strategists, and general readers interested in WWII history.

Additional Resources

Cornelius Ryan's "A Bridge Too Far" is a compelling and meticulously detailed account of one of the most ambitious and ultimately tragic military operations of World War II—the Battle of Arnhem, part of Operation Market Garden. Renowned journalist and author Cornelius Ryan masterfully weaves together firsthand accounts, strategic analyses, and vivid narrative storytelling to present a comprehensive picture of this daring but flawed Allied campaign. This guide aims to provide an in-depth exploration of Ryan's "A Bridge Too Far," examining its historical context, narrative structure, key themes, and enduring significance in military literature.

Introduction to "A Bridge Too Far"

The Significance of the Book

Published in 1974, "A Bridge Too Far" stands as one of the most authoritative and engaging accounts of Operation Market Garden. Its title, derived from a quote attributed to British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, encapsulates the central theme: the overreach and miscalculations that led to the operation's failure. Ryan's work is celebrated for its detailed research, compelling storytelling, and balanced perspective, making complex military strategies accessible to both scholars and general readers.

About Cornelius Ryan

Before delving into the book's content, understanding Cornelius Ryan's background is essential. An acclaimed journalist and author, Ryan specialized in war history and was known for his ability to humanize military events. His previous works, including "The Longest Day" (about D-Day) and "The Last Battle," established his reputation for thorough research and narrative flair. With "A Bridge Too Far," Ryan continued this legacy, offering a definitive account of a pivotal moment in WWII.

Historical Context of Operation Market Garden

The Strategic Goals

Operation Market Garden was conceived as an audacious plan to rapidly end the war by securing a series of bridges across the Rhine River in the Netherlands. The goal was to facilitate a swift Allied advance into northern Germany, potentially shortening the conflict by months.

The Planning and Key Players

- Allied Forces Involved:
- British 1st Airborne Division

- American 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions
- Polish Paratroopers
- XXX Corps (British and Canadian ground forces)
- Commanders:
 - Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery (overall strategic planning)
 - Major General Roy Urquhart (British 1st Airborne)
 - Lieutenant General Browning (Airborne operations)
 - Lieutenant General Horrocks (XXX Corps)

The Geography

The operation targeted several key bridges:

- Eindhoven
- Nijmegen
- Arnhem

The success depended heavily on airborne troops capturing and holding these bridges until ground forces could link up.

The Narrative Structure of "A Bridge Too Far"

A Multi-Perspective Approach

Ryan's narrative is distinguished by its multi-layered perspective, incorporating:

- Personal accounts from soldiers, officers, and civilians
- Strategic and operational analyses
- Political considerations and intelligence assessments

This approach allows readers to understand both the macro-level planning and the micro-level human experiences.

Chronological and Thematic Organization

While primarily chronological, Ryan interlaces thematic chapters that explore:

- The planning and deception strategies
- The airborne landings and combat
- The logistical challenges
- The aftermath and lessons learned

This structure provides clarity amidst the complex series of events.

Key Themes in "A Bridge Too Far"

Overconfidence and Underestimation

One of the central themes is how Allied leaders, particularly Montgomery, underestimated the resilience of German defenses and overestimated the speed of the operation. The phrase "a bridge too far" symbolizes the hubris and overreach that contributed to the campaign's failure.

The Human Cost of War

Ryan emphasizes the bravery, fear, and suffering of soldiers, vividly illustrating the brutal realities of airborne combat, urban warfare, and logistical hardships.

Intelligence and Miscommunication

The book details how intelligence failures, miscommunications, and flawed assumptions led to strategic miscalculations, such as underestimating German strength and overestimating the feasibility of rapid advances.

The Importance of Leadership and Morale

Leadership decisions, morale, and the resilience of soldiers are recurring themes. Ryan explores how individual acts of heroism and leadership impacted the outcome.

Critical Analysis of "A Bridge Too Far"

Strengths

- Thorough Research: Ryan's extensive interviews and archival research lend credibility and detail.
- Engaging Narrative: The storytelling makes complex military operations accessible and compelling.
- Balanced Perspective: The book offers insights into both Allied and German viewpoints, avoiding simplistic heroes-and-villains narratives.
- Historical Significance: It underscores the importance of strategic planning, intelligence, and the unpredictability of war.

Limitations

- Complexity for Casual Readers: The detailed military minutiae may challenge some readers.
- Focus on Certain Perspectives: While broad, the narrative primarily centers on high-level commanders and combat units, occasionally overlooking civilian experiences.
- Retrospective Bias: As with any historical account, the perspective is shaped by available sources and the passage of time.

Major Battles and Moments in "A Bridge Too Far"

The Airborne Landings

Ryan vividly depicts the initial success of the parachute drops and the fierce fighting to secure key bridges, especially at Arnhem, which became iconic for its heroic but ultimately tragic defense.

The Battle of Arnhem

- The ten-day siege of the British 1st Airborne at Arnhem is a focal point.
- The heroism and suffering of the paratroopers are highlighted.
- The failure to reinforce the besieged troops underscores the logistical and strategic shortcomings.

The Ground Advance

- The slow progress of XXX Corps, hampered by German resistance and difficult terrain.
- The missed opportunity to quickly link up with airborne forces.

The Aftermath and Lessons Learned

Strategic Failures

Ryan critiques the overambition, flawed intelligence, and underestimation of German strength that led to the operation's failure.

Tactical Lessons

- The importance of flexible planning
- The need for better intelligence and reconnaissance
- The dangers of overconfidence in rapid warfare

Legacy

Despite its failure, Operation Market Garden influenced future military planning, emphasizing the importance of realistic objectives and comprehensive intelligence.

Impact and Legacy of "A Bridge Too Far"

Cultural Influence

The book inspired the acclaimed 1977 film adaptation, directed by Richard Attenborough, which dramatized the events with dramatic fidelity and emotional depth.

Military and Historical Relevance

- Used as a case study in military academies
- Continues to spark debate about strategic overreach vs. bold innovation
- Serves as a reminder of the human cost of war and the importance of strategic humility

Final Thoughts

Cornelius Ryan's "A Bridge Too Far" remains a seminal work in military history, blending detailed research with compelling storytelling. It offers vital lessons about the perils of overconfidence, the unpredictability of war, and the heroism of soldiers faced with impossible odds. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a military strategist, or a casual reader seeking insight into one of WWII's most ambitious campaigns, Ryan's book provides a comprehensive, engaging, and thought-provoking exploration of Operation Market Garden.

Recommendations for Further Reading

- "The Longest Day" by Cornelius Ryan
- "Arnhem: The Battle for the Bridges, 1944" by Peter Hofschröer
- "The Market Garden Deception" by Robert Kershaw
- Official military reports and declassified documents on Operation Market Garden

In summary, "A Bridge Too Far" by Cornelius Ryan stands as a masterful blend of detailed research and engaging storytelling, capturing the grandeur and tragedy of one of WWII's most daring operations. Its lessons remain relevant today, reminding us of the thin line between daring innovation and strategic hubris.

[Cornelius Ryan A Bridge Too Far](#)

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: A Bridge Too Far Cornelius Ryan, 2007 War historian Cornelius Ryan chronicles in detailed, readable prose the battle of Arnhem, one of the most important -- and bloodiest -- campaigns in World War II.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Making A Bridge Too Far Simon Lewis, 2024-05-07 A Bridge Too Far, released in 1977, proved to be the last epic WWII movie made in the Hollywood studio system. Its ambitious goal: to recreate the doomed Allied plan called Operation Market-Garden in September 1944. Market-Garden's goal was to surprise the Germans with a mammoth parachute drop behind their lines and bring a quick end to the war, but the plan became a disaster for the Allies, with the battle for the Arnhem bridge vicious as the "Red Devils" of British First Airborne held out against overwhelming odds. Producer Joseph E. Levine packed his cast with

the top stars of the 1970s, including Anthony Hopkins, Robert Redford, Sean Connery, James Caan, Michael Caine, Elliott Gould, Dirk Bogarde, and Laurence Olivier and shot the film on location in and around Arnhem. Making & 'A Bridge Too Far' answers all the questions WWII buffs have had about the production, as author Simon Lewis interviewed many in the cast and crew and uncovered a genuinely entertaining story about bringing WWII to life in sleepy 1976 Holland with vintage tanks and aircraft, legions of stunt men and paratroopers, all led by determined director Sir Richard Attenborough. Making & 'A Bridge Too Far' will prove a delight for armchair generals and lovers of old Hollywood. Fun facts: Dutch survivors of the war had no patience for actors dressed as German soldiers; Dirk Bogarde was a British war veteran who had participated in Market-Garden and bore the mental scars to prove it.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Cornelius Ryan: The Longest Day (D-Day June 6, 1944), A Bridge Too Far (LOA #318) Cornelius Ryan, 2019-05-07 For the 75th anniversary of D-Day, a deluxe collector's edition gathering two gripping masterpieces of military history. Library of America presents two of the best books ever written about World War II in a deluxe collector's edition featuring 88 pages of photographs, full-color endpaper maps, rare archival material revealing how the books were written, and a new introduction by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and historian Rick Atkinson (The Liberation Trilogy). The Longest Day tells the story of the Allies' greatest success, the Normandy invasions of June 6, 1944, Operation Overlord; A Bridge Too Far recounts perhaps their greatest failure, the catastrophic airborne invasion of Holland in September 1944, known as Operation Market Garden. Together, they reveal not only the twisting fortunes of war and the grand sweep and scale of the largest amphibious and airborne invasions ever mounted, but also the very real human experience of combat, the small but momentous individual acts that can change the course of history. No one has told these stories more powerfully than Cornelius Ryan. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: A Bridge Too Far Cornelius Ryan, 2010-02-16 The classic account of one of the most dramatic battles of World War II. A Bridge Too Far is Cornelius Ryan's masterly chronicle of the Battle of Arnhem, which marshalled the greatest armada of troop-carrying aircraft ever assembled and cost the Allies nearly twice as many casualties as D-Day. In this compelling work of history, Ryan narrates the Allied effort to end the war in Europe in 1944 by dropping the combined airborne forces of the American and British armies behind German lines to capture the crucial bridge across the Rhine at Arnhem. Focusing on a vast cast of characters—from Dutch civilians to British and American strategists to common soldiers and commanders—Ryan brings to life one of the most daring and ill-fated operations of the war. A Bridge Too Far superbly recreates the terror and suspense, the heroism and tragedy of this epic operation, which ended in bitter defeat for the Allies.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: A Bridge Too Far? Martin W. Bowman, 2013-09-24 This final entry in a series on the Allied Operation Market Garden examines the final days of the Battle of Arnhem with eyewitness accounts. This, the fourth and final volume of the series on Market-Garden in September 1944 reveals the final fate of the troops at Oosterbeek and the decision to evacuate all able-bodied men in Operation 'Berlin' as well as the subsequent Operation 'Pegasus' when the Allies tried to return as many beleaguered troops back to Allied lines as possible. Was Arnhem indeed 'a bridge Too Far'? While 'Market-Garden' certainly was a heroic failure conducted at great cost it is debatable whether it contributed materially to the ultimate victory or was a foolish sacrifice of thousands of troops, aircrew and Dutch civilians in an ill-conceived assault on the German-held bridges across the Lower Rhine. There is no doubting the gritty, gallant and valorous contribution on the part of the British, Dominion, American and Polish paratroopers, the RAF and USAAF aircrews and their German opponents and Dutch civilians. Their incredible, illuminating and often

under-stated accounts of extraordinary courage, camaraderie, shared terror and encounters with the enemy offer a more personalized view of 'Market-Garden' through the words of those who were there at the heart of the action. These tales are complemented by the author's background information supplemented by the inclusion of daily timelines that give an overall picture of each battle and air operation.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Learning With Professionals: Selected Works from the Joint Military Intelligence College Joint Military Intelligence College, 2010-04-19 Learning With Professionals: Selected Works from the Joint Military Intelligence College is a collection of writings by present or former faculty and students at the Joint Military Intelligence College. The purpose of the book is to provide an academic resource for students, teachers, and practitioners of intelligence. The growth of the field as an academic discipline has been accompanied by a growth in its body of literature, and some of the most significant writings have come from a center of excellence in the field, the Joint Military Intelligence College. Those presented here represent a cross section of subdisciplines, some with a very timely element, some timeless. This product has been reviewed by senior experts from academia and government, and has been approved for unrestricted distribution by the Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review, Washington Headquarters Services, Department of Defense.

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cornelius ryan a bridge too far: World War II Battles Reconsidered Mark Thompson, 2025-04-03 Written by a former Harvard professor of decision science and game theory, this book presents original insights on the strategies and tactics undertaken in four major battles of the Second World War. That the fighting at Gazala in Libya in the late spring of 1942 constituted what has been called probably the most spectacular series of victories ever gained over a British army was in part due to its having violated the game-theoretic Zero-Sum Maxim of Napoleon: Do not do what your enemy wishes you to. The sensational British reversal of that disaster later that year at El Alamein in Egypt derived largely from heeding the millennia-old military priority of command unity, which has been analyzed and re-endorsed by modern decision science. This discipline has also judged the somewhat disappointing victory of the Allies at Falaise in France in August of 1944 to have resulted from excessive risk aversion--possibly induced by three different types of fatigue. One month later, the Allied setback at Arnhem in the Netherlands called into question, from the perspective of game theory, the value of battlefield surprise. These decisions, approached from an expert perspective on game theory and presented with high-quality maps, are presented in this pioneering application of decision science to the battles of World War II.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Arnhem Iain Ballantyne, 2023-02-13 The account of the fateful bridge too far... 'It was a bridge too far and perhaps the whole plan was doomed to failure from the start, but we had to try, didn't we?' 17 September 1944: 30,000 airborne soldiers prepare to drop 64 miles behind enemy lines into Nazi-occupied Holland; tens of thousands of ground troops race down Hell's Highway in tanks and armoured cars, trucks and half-tracks to link up with them. The goal - to secure eight bridges across the Rhine and end the war by Christmas. Ten days later, over 15,000 of these soldiers have died, 6,000 have been taken prisoner. Operation Market Garden was the daring plan to stage a coup de main in occupied territory, gain control of those bridges, and obtain a direct route into Hitler's Germany. But the operation failed and the allied forces suffered a brutal military defeat. In the 75 years since, tactics have been analysed and blame has been placed, but the heart of Arnhem's story lies in the selflessness and bravery of those troops that fought, the courage and resilience of the civilians caught up in confrontation, and the pure determination to fight for their lives and their freedom. This is the story of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary

events. In Ballantyne's Arnhem, we go into battle with not only the famous commanders in the thick of the action, but also with all those whose fates were determined by their decisions. Based on first-hand interviews, military records, and diaries, we witness the confusion and mayhem of war – from the horrific and devastating to the surreal and mundane. But most of all, we witness the self-sacrifice and valour of the men who gave their lives to liberate strangers in a foreign country. Praise for Arnhem: Ten Days in the Cauldron 'Reminiscent of Stephen Ambrose at his best... some remarkable stories, which Ballantyne neatly dovetails into a rolling epic' Dr Harry Bennett, University of Plymouth 'Breath-taking... I thoroughly enjoyed reading this account of Arnhem, adding, if you like, a trench-level perspective to those other accounts written from more senior, and sometimes more detached, points of view. Thoroughly recommended' British Journal for Military History

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Monty's Men John Buckley, 2013-11-26 Historian John Buckley offers a radical reappraisal of Great Britain's fighting forces during World War Two, challenging the common belief that the British Army was no match for the forces of Hitler's Germany. Following Britain's military commanders and troops across the battlefields of Europe, from D-Day to VE-Day, from the Normandy beaches to Arnhem and the Rhine, and, ultimately, to the Baltic, Buckley's provocative history demonstrates that the British Army was more than a match for the vaunted Nazi war machine. This fascinating revisionist study of the campaign to liberate Northern Europe in the war's final years features a large cast of colorful unknowns and grand historical personages alike, including Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery and the prime minister, Sir Winston Churchill. By integrating detailed military history with personal accounts, it evokes the vivid reality of men at war while putting long-held misconceptions finally to rest.

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cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Green Light! Martin Wolfe, 2016-11-11 In Green Light! Martin Wolfe gives us the big picture of World War II airborne warfare in Europe through the lens of one unit, a squadron typical of some sixty others. Troop carrier squadrons delivered paratroopers behind enemy lines, tugged gliders into battle zones, and, between combat operations, freighted up to the front everything from food to artillery shells and carried back wounded infantrymen and newly freed slave laborers. Wolfe's firsthand account is an engaging and informative narrative that goes beyond the facts to investigate the feelings of the tightly knit unit. He also describes the management and training techniques that prepared the squadron for its role in four of the five main invasions of Nazi Europe. In all the literature about World War II, this is the first account to show how all levels of a squadron functioned—clerks as well as pilots, maintenance mechanics as well as flying crew chiefs, the mess hall as well as headquarters. In addition, Wolfe's is the first book to show the interplay between unit experience and high command theory—what units like the 81st Troop Carrier Squadron could actually accomplish and how concepts of airborne warfare changed at Supreme Headquarters. He explains why and how it was not until the last airborne invasion, in March 1945, that the full potential of the troop carrier was reached. Wolfe melds the recollections of ninety veterans of this squadron with a general history of Allied airborne forces in World War II. Through their words, Green Light! paints vivid portraits of the real men of the war, not the Rambos or Sad Sacks of popular culture. And through the retelling of their experiences, the book shows that the truism war is hell does not hold for all soldiers all the time.

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Market Garden was Major Digby Tatham Warter's first action. As the OC of 'A' Company, 2 Para, he led the advance to the Arnhem road bridge, brushing aside German resistance to reach the objective. Over the course of the next four days, Digby - a well-known eccentric - enhanced his reputation further by displaying solid leadership and a fearlessness that left everyone who witnesses it in awe. Picking up an umbrella and bowler hat from one of the houses, Tatham Warter strolled around the perimeter oblivious to shot and shell, instilling confidence in his men and inspiring them to battle on in the face of overwhelming odds. Wounded and captured at the battle's end, Digby escaped and linked up with the Dutch Resistance. For weeks he strutted around the area disguised as a deaf and dumb Dutchman to fool the Germans. He collected over hundred paratroopers ('evaders') and forged a plan to lead them through enemy lines to safety. His post-war years are just as exciting. This is his story.

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cornelius ryan a bridge too far: **Robert Redford** Michael Feeney Callan, 2011-06-09 A national symbol of romance since the 1970s, Redford's stardom has often eclipsed the life and trials of the man himself. In this biography -- written with Redford's personal papers, journals, script notes, correspondence, and hundreds of hours of taped interviews -- Michael Feeney Callan strips away the Hollywood façade, exposing the complicated, surprising man beneath. The life of Robert Redford is a series of contradictions: descended from impoverished East Coast barbers on his father's side and once-wealthy Texans on his mother's side, the young Redford suffered from aimlessness and semi-poverty, dropping out of college and briefly spending time in jail before launching a career in theatre. Redford has contributed more -- and more widely -- to entertainment than most stars of his calibre. As an actor, he's appeared on Broadway and film, with an Oscar-nominated performance in 1973's *The Sting*. As a director, he's earned Oscar nominations for Best Picture and Best Director and has received three Golden Globe nominations for Best Director. He won the Academy Award for Best Director in 1980 for *Ordinary People*. And as a producer of independent films -- including the patronage of his Sundance Institute -- he's worked on films including *All the President's Men* and 2004's *The Motorcycle Diaries*. This is a fascinating exploration of one of our most celebrated and least understood public figures, and an essential read for anyone interested in the rocky road to Hollywood.

cornelius ryan a bridge too far: Sean Connery Andrew Spicer, 2022-06-21 Sean Connery was one of cinema's most iconic stars. Born to a working-class family in Edinburgh, he held jobs as a milkman and an artist's model before making the move into acting. The role of James Bond earned him global fame, but threatened to eclipse his identity as an actor. This book offers a new perspective on Connery's career. It pays special attention to his star status, while arguing that he was a risk-taking actor who fashioned an impressive body of work. Beginning with Connery's early appearances on stage and television, including well-received performances in Shakespeare and Tolstoy, the book goes on to explore the Bond phenomenon and Connery's long struggle to reinvent himself. An Oscar-winning performance in *The Untouchables* marked the beginning of a second period of stardom, during which Connery successfully developed the character of the father-mentor. Ten years after his retirement from acting, he was still rated as the most popular British star among American audiences. Exploring how Connery's performances combine to form an all-encompassing screen legend, the book also considers how the actor embodied national identity, both on screen and through his public role as an activist campaigning for Scottish independence.

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memoir of T. Moffatt Burriss shows his extraordinary role as a platoon leader and company commander with the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Europe and North Africa during World War II. He saw a great deal of combat on Sicily, at Salerno, on Anzio Beach, in Holland during Operation Market Garden, and during the drive into Germany. This book portrays World War II as seen vividly through the eyes of the young American citizen-soldier.

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