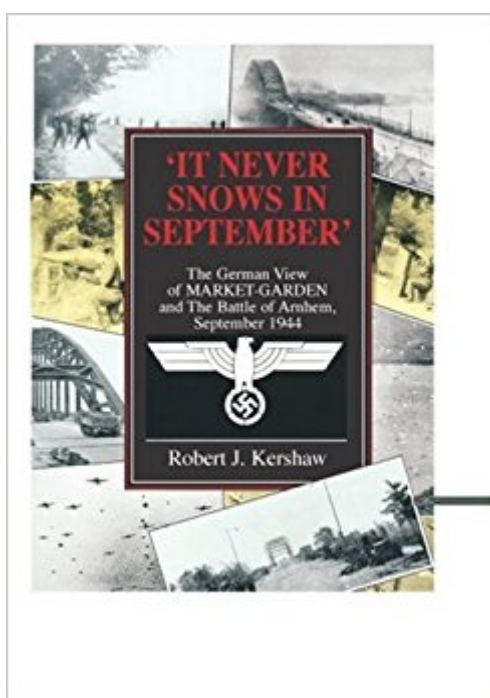


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It Never Snows In September: The German View Of Market-Garden And The Battle Of Arnhem, September 1944



Synopsis

Once more reprinted, this excellent work records the German view of Operation 'Market Garden' and the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944. Based on extensive research and containing new material it uniquely chronicles that struggle through the eyes of the German soldier and analyses the reasons for the eventual outcome.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Kershaw joined the Parachute Regiment in 1972 after graduating in History at Reading University, reaching the rank of Colonel. In between Regimental service he attended the Führungsakademie - the German Staff College - at Hamburg and later spent a number of years with NATO and the Bundeswehr. He has seen active service during a number of tours of Northern Ireland, with the US VII Corps during the Gulf War and in Bosnia. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This one great book for learning the German side of this series of battles, culminating in the Germans securing the Arnhem bridge and subduing Lieutenant Colonel John Frost and the British 2nd Parachute Battalion. This book describes missed opportunities on both sides to take advantage of the other tactically. Also, the book details the German's ability to improvise and pull together a defense in a short period of time to meet the allied airborne troops dropped unexpectedly upon them. This book also gives the reader a feel for the ferocious nature of the battle the Germans were tangled in with the allies and the Germans well done attempt to meet the threats with the limited

resources at their disposal. Another thing I liked about the book was it is told largely from the level of the common soldier. I highly recommend "It never Snows in September", because it is one of those books that is so interesting in telling its story that you can't put it down!

Really good look at this massive screw up from the German point of view. It was not a matter of bad Intel, just bad luck regarding geography and proximity of opposing forces. No matter how small, ill trained or insignificant the German forces were. They had enough fire power to keep the British from reaching their objective. So many factors played into this plan that it could not possibly be successful. All the chips were stacked against the Allies from the beginning to the end. Lightly armed forces, single road, unrealistic time tables - all for naught because of the simple fact that there were just too many Germans in the area for the British Airborne to deal with - not even counting the SS panzer units in the area. Arrogance I'm sure played a part in the operation. Read the book and you will see that pure dumb luck played much more of a part of this SNAFU than anything else.

I have two remarks on the book. One for the writer and one for Kindle. Being Dutch it annoyed me a bit that a lot of the Dutch names in the book are not correctly spelled. Names are easy to look up. When reading this book I thought it could do with some maps and use a detailed map of The Netherlands. Just to find out that there are maps, only at the end of the book. With a Kindle I find it harder to jump up and down between parts of the book, so the maps could have been attached to the chapter concerned. On the other hand the contents of the book is great. A lot of books focus only on the Arnhem part of Market Garden. This book gives a great overview of the whole operation. It gives a lot of interesting details too. Things I never knew before and show how complex and chaotic the situation actually was. I really liked the thoughts in the post script.

Often the second world war is presented by the victors with little thought to the human side of what can happen in war. The Germans tend to tell the war in a different perspective which makes you realise just how futile war can be. This book will give you an idea of how soldiers are just people that have to suffer all that is horrible about having to kill or be killed, but who given the chance would rather not kill each other but sit down and enjoy a beer together. I am amused by some peoples comments on this book; I believe one has to understand that this book is not trying to re-establish the history of the battle or glorify the achievements of the SS or Wehrmacht in battle plan detail. There are already many articles, books and documentaries that provide this. This book portrays

more so the unwritten experience of war,

This is a great book covering operation Market-Garden from the Germans perspective. The author has gone to great lengths to verify the story through soldiers' diaries and official documents. Rarely heard soldiers stories bring you into the action of the battle. Given this rating for it would have been helpful to have a map or two to determine the overall perspective of the German forces.

loved the book and all the info that I had not read before. The only thing I did not like was the way that instead of the words running across the page, they are broken into 2 columns. This makes it where to read where the pages come together, you must open the book as wide as possible. I was almost afraid that I would split the binding. That is the only reason I did not give it 5 stars. I always love to read books "from the other side".

Great read**

A fine addition to the literature about the doomed MARKET-GARDEN campaign. Kershaw does a fantastic job of gathering together information that no other MARKET-GARDEN historian has been able to do --- a knock by knock account from the German side. The photographs that Kershaw has put in the book are amazing. Most of the photographs I have never seen before. The combat photographs are fantastic. It is rare that photographs and history blend together so well in a serious scholarly text. The book will delight any student of the MARKET-GARDEN operation. A few words of warning. First, the book does not examine the Allied point of view at all. In fact, the book basically assumes that the reader will be familiar with the major Allied players and their objectives (ex. the book often refers to Col. John Frost's men at Arnhem bridge -- however, the book never really explains who Frost is). Given that book is probably written for people interested in the subject-matter, this criticism is minor. Also, Kershaw's prose is not like Stephen Ambrose for Citizen Soldiers fame. Kershaw is not a writer by trade. Nevertheless, Kershaw's personalized treatment of events will keep the reader captivated from page 1 until the epilogue. When I picked up IT NEVER SNOWS IN SEPTEMBER it had been a while since I read a MARKET-GARDEN book. Therefore, I read Kershaw's book and Cornelius Ryan's A BRIDGE TOO FAR back to back. Wow. What a double-header that was! Bottom line: highly recommended.

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