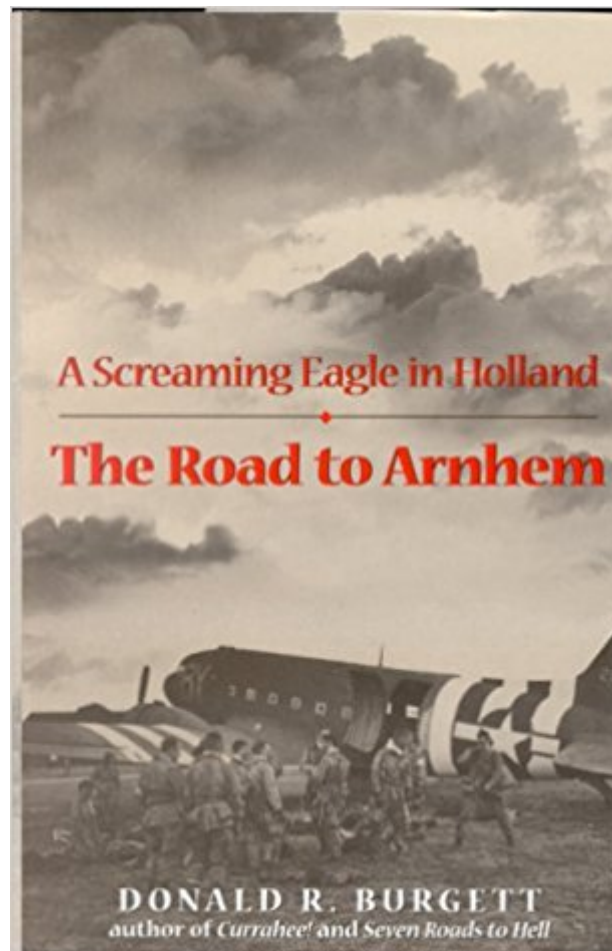




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The Road To Arnhem: A Screaming Eagle In Holland



Synopsis

Author Donald R. Burgett presents the reader with a vivid account of his experiences as a Screaming Eagle fighting the Nazis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"As good as Currahee! and Seven Roads to Hell ... Burgett's natural storytelling ability makes this book hard to put down."-- Booklist
Also by Donald R. Burgett: Currahee!: A Screaming Eagle at Normandy
"I have read a lot of books on the experience of combat from both World Wars, and this is by a long shot the best. Without qualification."-- Stephen E. Ambrose, author of The Greatest Generation
Seven Roads to Hell: A Screaming Eagle at Bastogne
"A stirring combat memoir." -- Kirkus Reviews
Available from Dell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a daring plan to end the war, the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne jumped into the heart of Nazi-held Europe -- and began a journey into hell....In September 1944 -- sixteen weeks after the D-Day invasion -- British Field Marshal Montgomery unleashed a daring attack aimed at the heart of Nazi Germany. For the men of the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne, including nineteen-year-old Donald Burgett, the plan meant parachuting in broad daylight into Holland, securing the road to the Rhine River, and helping the British cross into Germany. It was a mission that sent thousands of young men to their deaths. In this electrifying memoir, Donald Burgett takes us into seventy-two days of close-quarter combat in foxholes and towns against brutal Panzer

counterattacks and into the face of the feared German 88mm artillery as the Screaming Eagles push straight into the might of the German Army. Capturing the horror and confusion of war, as ally and enemy move within yards of each other, Burgett tells the story of a legendary fighting unit's bloody victory -- in an epic battle for "a bridge too far." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the second volume of Burgett's ETO experience, dealing with of course his combat jump into Holland for operation 'Market Garden'. After his Normandy and Bulge accounts, this is the third of Burgett's books that I have read. Much of what I have written about those other efforts apply again here. Again, there are a lot of battles! Though, Burgett is not quite as personally deadly as he is in the other two. This said the battles are still bloody and there are quite a variety of differing situations too. It is interesting that despite their heavy equipment and prepared positions the Germans mostly seem to suffer more than the airborne. Indeed, given the professionalism we read about so much, it is surprising how many Germans make 'rookie' mistakes, notably tank crews. No doubt this says a lot about the training and daring of the airborne soldiers but also a little about the state of the German army after Normandy. Burgett's previous strengths are again evident. His descriptions of things he is involved in are excellent and there is his great eye for detail - the impact of projectiles on bodies for instance. Again, the reader is left in no doubt what combat is all about. There do seem to be a few more prisoners taken though, which was a bit of a relief. There are a few passages which are a bit hyperbolic but it is his style and really these are not too bad. All three of Burgett's books that I have read so far are very engrossing and it is difficult to nominate which is the best. There is a wider range of combat experiences here but the other two seem a little more intense and slightly more hard hitting. It's a close call but 'Road to Arnhem' is by itself a very good account of combat indeed. Very Highly Recommended.

Don Burgett is an American hero, not only for his service but also in recording for posterity the trials and tribulations of paratroopers in World War II. The Road To Arnhem continues the simple literary style of Currahee and Seven Roads to Hell. It is a hard-hitting, pulls no punches, detailed account of combat at its fiercest and most bloodthirsty. Under British command for Operation Market Garden, both the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions were committed to this battle to capture bridges behind German lines to allow a rapid advance of British armor to flank the Siegfried Line and sneak into Germany through the "back door". While initially surprised, the Germans reacted quickly and fought desperately to close the single highway (dubbed Hell's Highway by the paratroopers) leading to

Arnhem. In addition, the Germans sealed off Arnhem and surrounded the British 1st Airborne Division. Even though the American objectives were captured, the British armored spearhead was neither rapid nor aggressive. As a result, the operation was a strategic failure but the bloody fighting continued for 2 more months. Still under British command, the paratroopers suffered untold indignities by being committed to the defensive and drained piecemeal through trench warfare type attrition. The most egregious indignity, according to the airborne warriors, being the infamous British rations. Like his other works, the maps and photos are good. However, some paratrooper veterans I have spoken to take exception to Burgett's tendency to exaggerate and embellish his own personal valor. Having said that, he should still be commended for documenting his observations and recollections into these classic historical memoirs. John E Nevola Author of The Last Jump - A Novel of World War II

Another of Don Burgett's personal memoirs of his experience as a member of the 101st Airborne Division. You will get a better picture of how things were in the division's participation in the ill-conceived Operation Market Garden. You see the day to day experience of one combat soldier struggling to survive in terrible conditions. How the men who endured all of this physical and mental stress is a tribute to the men who came along to answer our country's call to arms and we see how they truly are the Greatest Generation.

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