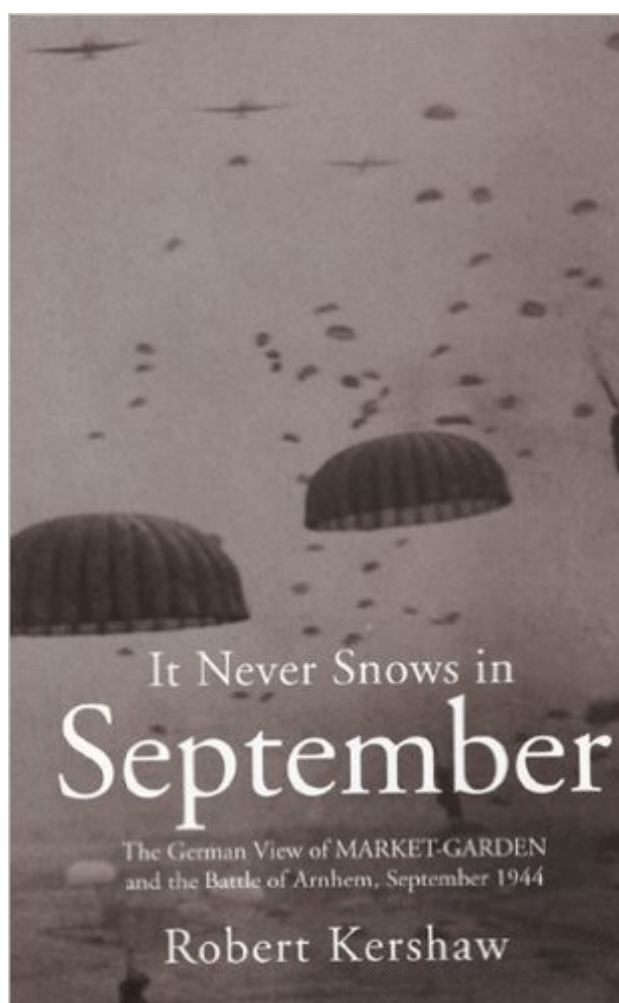


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# IT NEVER SNOWS IN SEPTEMBER: The German View Of Market-Garden And The Battle Of Arnhem, September 1944



## Synopsis

On the afternoon of 17 September 1944, Lieutenant Joseph Enthammer, a Wehrmacht artillery officer based in Arnhem, gazed up to the clear skies, hardly believing what he saw. White 'snowflakes' appeared to hang in the air. 'That cannot be' he thought. 'It never snows in September! They must be parachutists!' They were. He was witnessing the first wave of the British parachute assault on Arnhem. The war had reached the Reich. The blow moreover had come as a total surprise. The Allies had expected operation Market-Garden to bring the collapse of the Wehrmacht in the West and shorten World War II. But the Germans resolved to fight. This groundbreaking military study uniquely chronicles this period of the war through the eyes of the ordinary German soldier and analyses the reasons for the eventual outcome. A major work of military history, this new paperback edition is certain to stimulate renewed debate about one of the most controversial operations of World War II.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The critical difference employed in this book about Operation Market Garden is its use of the German perspective regarding the fabled and fatefully miscalculated Allied assault in the fall of 1944 in an vainglorious attempt to grab and hold several bridges leading into Germany. This book by British author Robert J. Kershaw retelling the oft-told tale of the momentous Allied miscalculation of potential German resistance and the speed with which the Allied armored forces could proceed up the one road needed to support and sustain the airdropped forces is a riveting tale. Like the most famous book yet published (a new book on the subject is due out this fall) it graphically describes

the total cost in terms of human life and unnecessary destruction. This is a story told at every level, but concentrating on the faithful recollections of the German participants in the action. Thus, the reader is swept into the action to get a voyeur's view of the moment-to-moment development of the story as it unfolds to the Wehrmacht's amazement in all its horrific detail. The title refers to a German soldier's observation of the white parachutes suddenly filling the morning sky over Arnhem; since it never snows in September, the soldier instantly realized it must mean an invasion. As mentioned above, the preponderance of attention is paid to the recollections and experiences of the German armed forces, although these are balanced with liberal sprinklings of noncombatants and Allied observations.

Although there are many books on the famous Operation Market-Garden in September 1944, *It Never Snows in September* is the best account in English that covers the German perspective on the battle. The author, a serving British army officer, delivers an excellent account that offers valuable insights from the enemy viewpoint as well as sound military analysis. Furthermore, the well-written narrative is enriched by excellent photographs (many from German collections) and detailed tactical maps. This book is a feast for military historians and deserves a place in any military library. The book is divided into 27 short chapters that cover the period from 2 September to 4 October 1944. Three interesting appendices cover the German orders to 2nd SS Panzer Corps on 17 September 1944, a detailed German order of battle for the entire campaign and a casualty estimate broken down by sub-units. Kershaw's research into German sources is extensive and while it does have gaps, it provides far more detail than standard sources on the battle than journalistic accounts like *A Bridge Too Far*. For example, Kampfgruppen Spindler, the vital blocking force that prevented the British 1st Airborne from reaching its objectives in strength on the first day, is not even mentioned in Ryan's classic account. Kershaw's view of the battle differs from most of the Allied accounts of the operation. In his view, "Allied historians have tended to blame mistakes rather than effective countermeasures in order to account for the failure." It was, "improvisation and rapid build-up of [German] force [that] blunted the attacks...German reaction times were astonishing.

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