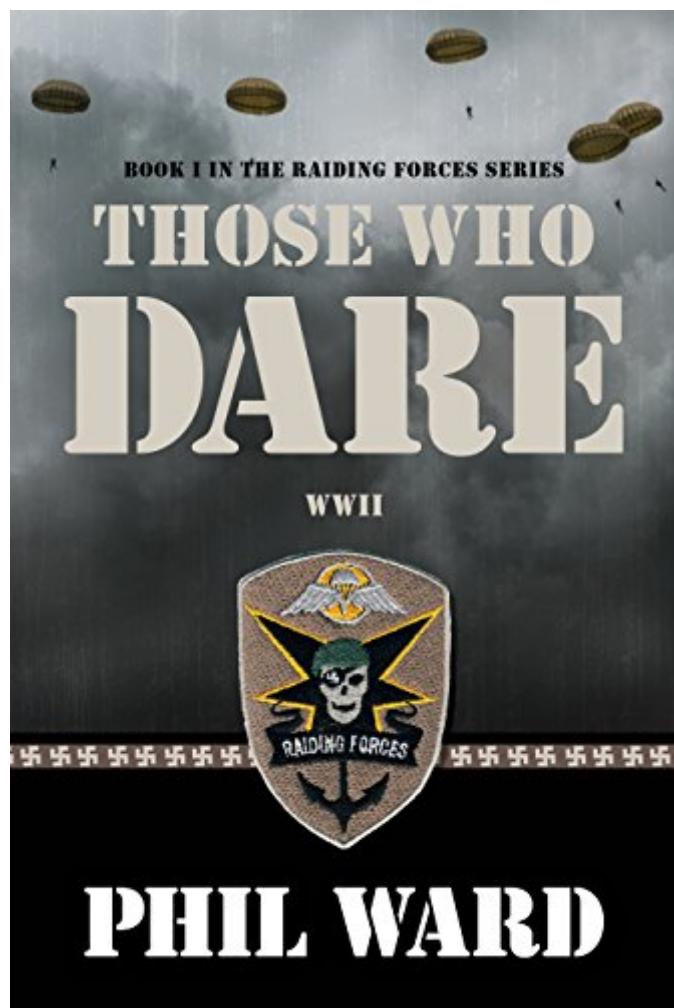


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Those Who Dare (Raiding Forces Book 1)



Synopsis

The first in a series of meticulously researched World War II novels about hit-and-run raids against Hitler's war machine by British forces - under the command of a U.S. soldier - "Those Who Dare" is sure to appeal to avid military fiction fans. By May 1940, panzer divisions had decimated Belgium and reached Calais. Lieutenant John Randal of the U.S. 26th Cavalry Regiment volunteers his expertise to help slow their advance. What unfolds is a blend of military guerrilla tactics, suspense, humour, cultural and social commentary, and war buddy camaraderie - plus a little romance between the American GI and the widowed Lady Jane Seaborn. Along the way readers meet such colourful characters as Captain David Niven in MO-9 and Captain 'Geronimo Joe' McKoy with his Travelling Wild West Show and Shooting Emporium. The author - a decorated combat veteran - covers the details of war extensively, from the five points of contact of a parachute landing fall to descriptions of a British raider's A-5 flinging ferries before the first 12-gauge shell casing hits the floor. As the novel ends, Major Randal's men, fresh from Operation Tomcat in France, learn they will deploy via sea transport within 48 hours on their next mission. The second book, which is already written, tells that tale.

Book Information

File Size: 2483 KB

Print Length: 400 pages

Publisher: Greenleaf Book Group Press; 1 edition (August 1, 2010)

Publication Date: August 1, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008H75OPY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #71,439 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #56 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military #784 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction

Customer Reviews

I read the "story squib" and thought, 'Well, it -might- be interesting. The author is supposed to be a Ranger-qualified officer -with- combat experience, so .. maybe things will be pretty close to correct and not be hyped like most "Hollywood" stories (and movies)." This is important to me since I, also, am a veteran and =really= don't like 'rah-rah BS' .. unless I know it's specifically written as a "comicbook" type of thing. What the heck, it's only a few bucks -- I can take a gamble to check it out. Well, =Daaaamn=!! A few pages into it and I -knew- I had a winner! Yes, there were places that seemed to have a "'deja vu' all over, again" feel, but they were -good- to read! And the author -does- know what he's talking about: the =second= jump -is- the scariest..... ((BTDT)) As for the actually writing, the characters seem real, some of the 'cultural oddities' -I- knew about were spot on (sometimes 'unfortunately'), and I didn't detect any typos. The -only- thing that annoys the hell out of me is the authors habit of using the characters' -full- name, -with- titles & decorations!, almost every damn time he or she is mentioned .. for the whole blinking book!! Once in a while, weeell, okay, but (almost) -every- -single- -time-?!! >>grump

Those Who Dare featured an interesting cast of characters about clandestine raiding during WW2. However, the writing was a bit uneven, with the intro of a different tone or style from the rest of the book. Lt. John Randal of US 26th Cavalry Regiment was "volunteered" to the British Army, just as the British Expeditionary Forces were forced to retreat from the Germans at Calais and Dunkirk. With a ragtag unit he was able to buy four days for the forces at Dunkirk to retreat to British Isles, and came to the attention of Churchill and others each to establish a raiding force to take the war to the Germans any way they can... But in his way, are tons of bureaucracy, intra-branch politics, wartime shortages, and more. But assisting him would be formidable allies, including a lady of nobility who wasn't above getting her hands dirty, a lot of officers intending some payback against the Nazi regime, and officers intending to cut through the red tape, including Churchill himself... The intro was really abbreviated. We get a description of him arriving at the assembly of the ragtag unit at Calais, and suddenly taking command. It wasn't quite explained that why did any one treat him seriously, since he's a Yank among British soldiers. Once he took command and explained to his soldiers they will become guerilla fighters and he does not intend to lose any soldiers to buy time, THEN he got his unit made. But we got no actual fighting. Instead, we jump to 4 days later, when they were finally evacuated to British Isles in the dark of night, having been told they really assisted

in the Dunkirk evacuation effort, even though most people wouldn't remember they were there. Once we get to the main story, where they had to relearn raiding across the channel, and the typical FUBAR scenarios and Murphy's Law (i.e. whatever can go wrong, will go wrong) applies especially in war, the story really picks up pace, as we finally get to enjoy the forces in close contact with the enemy and defeating them in detail, as well as a whole lot of luck (read the story about how they captured the Nazi general). All in all, good historical fiction about WW2 behind-the-lines raiding.

... for those of us with a sweet tooth for the vintage WEB Griffin "Corps" and "Brotherhood of War" series, the new "Eagles" series by Phil Ward fits the bill nicely. Griffin was the master at writing compelling "war" fiction ... with virtually no action or battle scenes. Could never figure out how he did it. According to Griffin, WWII and Korea were both won through the efforts of dedicated, no-nonsense warrior types who spent as much time downing scotch and bedding babes than they did bagging bad guys overseas. But that's OK: Griffins work was readable, fun and strategically and historically accurate for the most part. It was high grade crack for military fiction fans. Phil Ward's approach is similar in "Eagles" - we get up close and personal with a group of hard-drinking, resolute and patriotic commandos as they work their way through off-the-books raids and behind the lines shootouts with the Germans. Here the setting is Great Britain during the early days of WWII when much was in doubt. The women are lusty, beautiful, well-connected and veddy, veddy English. They can also handle a Colt. 45 and jump out of planes. Brilliant! The men drink like fish, train like Tarzan and get the girls. And they are really good at offing Hitlers best in well-planned covert raids. We follow the group through training, planning and -YES - actual commando and battle action. There's also plenty of meetings with fusty upper-crust British intelligence and high level officer types in sprawling English mansions: you almost smell the dust, the Indian rugs and the whiskey. In sum, an interesting and entertaining series from a guy who obviously knows the commando business. I'll keep reading.

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