

ARNHEM

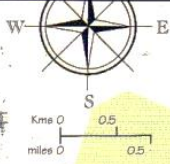
Operation MARKET GARDEN

17-26 September 1944

**Dropping Zone
4th Para Bde
(18 Sept)**

Ginkelse Heide

The Germans were aware of Allied plans so airborne troops landed at Ginkel Heath into an inferno of ground and anti-aircraft fire



**Landing Zone
1st Ldg Bde
(17 Sept)**

On 17 Sept part of a reconnaissance group was ambushed and killed at the railway culvert while making for the Arnhem bridge



The Culvert

**Landing Zone
Polish Para Bde
(19 Sept)**

Every year local children lay flowers on the graves of over 1700 soldiers, mainly British and Polish

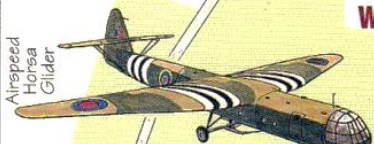


Arnhem Oosterbeek Cemetery



St Elisabeth Hospital

From 17 Sept the hospital was at the heart of the fighting. Allied wounded were brought here and casualties from both sides treated after occupation by German troops on 18th until retreat on 19th



**Dropping/Landing Zone
1st & 4th Para Bde
(17/18 Sept)**

WOLFHEZE



Despite the formation of a defensive perimeter round Urquhart's Div HQ in the Hartenstein Hotel his troops were almost overwhelmed and the order was given to withdraw across the Rhine

The Hartenstein Airborne Museum

Ter Horst House



The church was one of the last strongholds of 1st AB Div before many men escaped across the then formidable, untamed river on the night of 25/26 Sept

The RAMC, with the legendary owner Mrs Kate Ter Horst, treated many wounded in the Old Rectory

OOSTERBEEK

Oosterbeek Church

**British and Polish
Withdrawal
(25/26 Sept)**

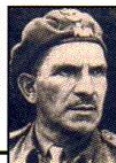
Baskefield VC
L/Sgt Baskefield, badly wounded, continued firing anti-tank guns, destroying German armour until killed

The rail bridge was blown up by German troops on 17 Sept just before the British reached it

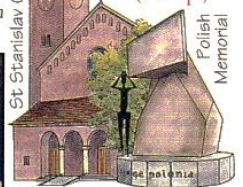


Polish parachutists **DRIEL** dropped here under heavy fire intending to cross the river to support 1st AB but only a few succeeded and casualties were high

Maj Gen S Sosabowski



**Dropping Zone
Polish Para Bde
(21 Sept)**



Polish Memorial

On 18 Sept Urquhart and 2 officers became separated from 3rd Battn trying to move forward under fire. They took refuge in an attic of no 14 overnight with a German gun crew outside before escaping back to HQ

Zwarteweg

St Elisabeth Hospital

Airborne House

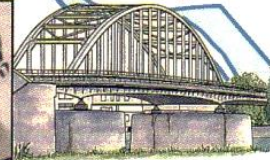
Eusebius Church

Airborne Plein

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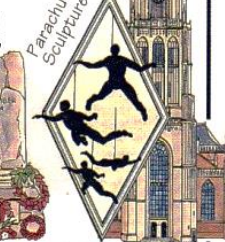
John Frost Bridge

740 men commanded by Frost captured the north end of this vital bridge on Day 1 and held out against Panzer and artillery assaults for 4 days waiting for reinforcements which never arrived. Frost and survivors became POWs. The bridge was rebuilt by the Dutch in 1950



The house was the nearest 1st AB got, attacking towards the bridge, on 19 Sept

The church, reduced to a shell by firebombs, was rebuilt. The whole Arnhem battlefield can be viewed from the tower



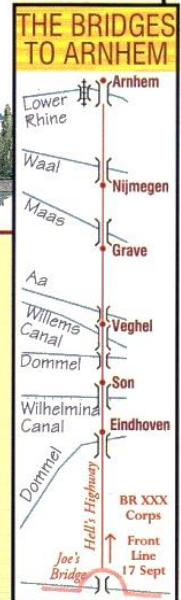
Parachutists Sculpture

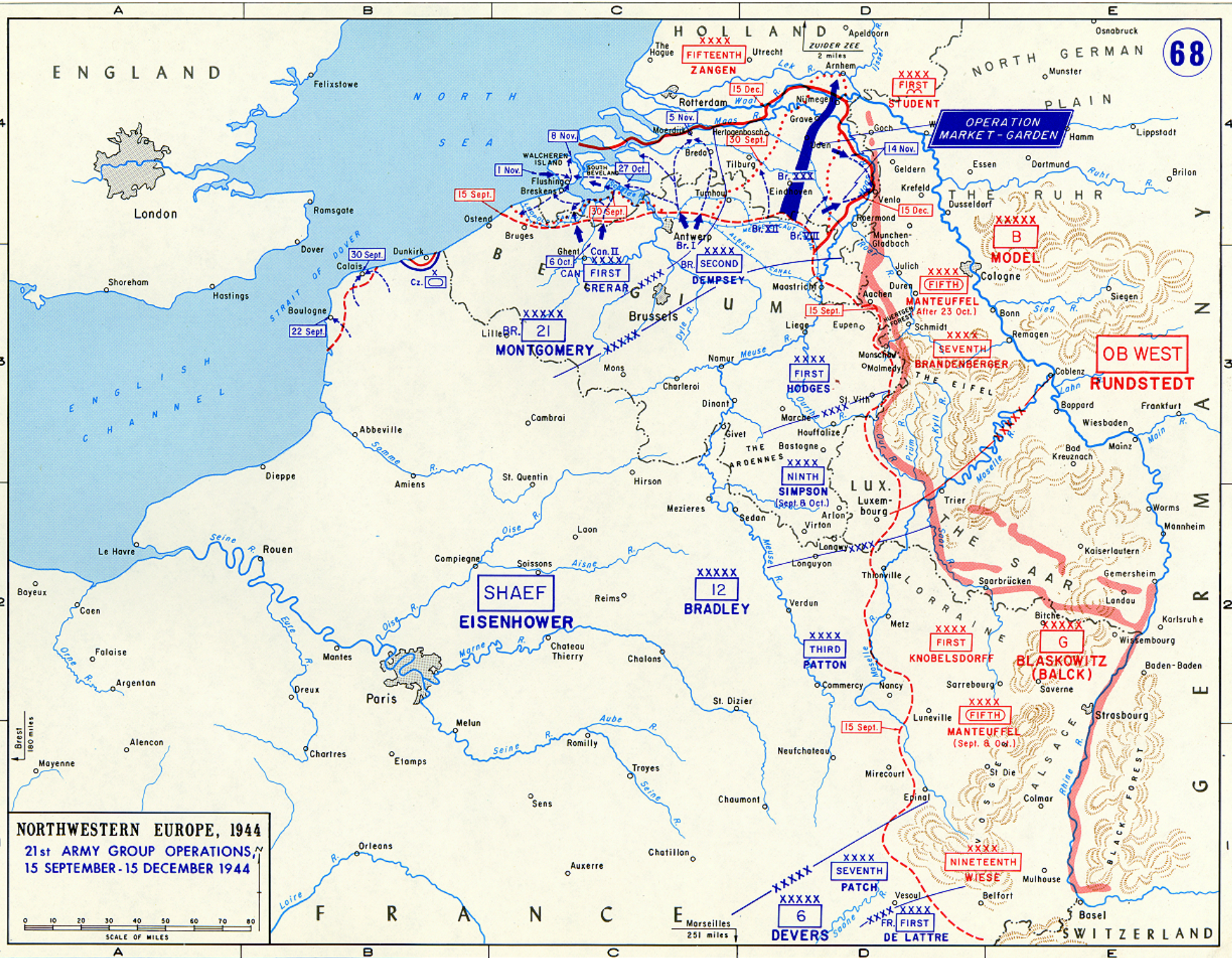
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'WE MIGHT BE GOING A BRIDGE TOO FAR'

After the Allies had broken out of Normandy and Paris had been liberated, their speedy advance stretched the supply lines. FM Montgomery proposed a 'lightning strike' through occupied Holland. Reluctantly approved by Gen Eisenhower, Market Garden was one of the boldest plans of the Second World War. Market was the capture intact of key bridges between Eindhoven and Arnhem by American, British and Polish airborne troops. Garden was the simultaneous advance of British XXX Corps along the 100km highway to Arnhem. From 17 September 34,000 troops commanded by Gen (Boy) Browning were dropped behind enemy lines. Most of the bridges south of the Rhine fell to US 82nd and 101st Airborne Divs but some had been destroyed

by the Germans, slowing the progress of ground forces. The British 1st Airborne Div and Polish paratroopers were dropped west of Arnhem to capture and hold the road bridge but the assault, spread over two days, allowed the stronger than expected German defenders to mobilise. In Arnhem and Oosterbeek fighting was fierce and casualties among troops and civilians heavy. A small British force captured the northern end of the bridge and courageously held out for four days waiting in vain for XXX Corps until overwhelmed. After nine days of bitter fighting more than 2,000 of the severely battered remaining troops escaped to the south bank of the Rhine. The Arnhem and Oosterbeek area was finally liberated in April 1945.





NORTHWESTERN EUROPE, 1944
21st ARMY GROUP OPERATIONS,
15 SEPTEMBER - 15 DECEMBER 1944

