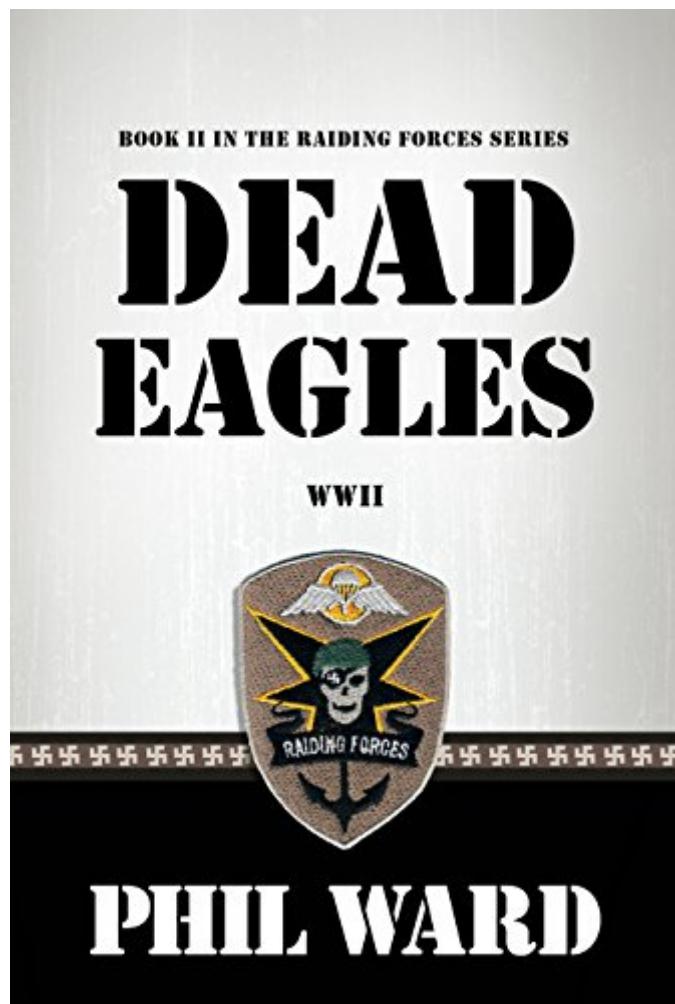


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Dead Eagles (Raiding Forces Book 2)



Synopsis

In this sequel to Those Who Dare, U.S. Major John Randal, Commander of Strategic Raiding Forces is back, leading a crew of British Commandos, Royal Marines and Royal Navy raiders on bigger and bolder missions to foil Hitler's Third Reich. Off the Gold Coast colony in Africa, the Germans are operating a naval intelligence ring that gathers information about British convoys in the southern sea-lane. Couriers carry the data to nearby Rio Bonita, a tiny Portuguese island protectorate, whence they are broadcast to Nazi U-boats and surface raiders from a clandestine radio station onboard one of three interned enemy ships. As a result, British convoys vital to the war effort are ravaged. Major Randal and the Raiding Forces mission is to invade neutral Rio Bonita and spirit away the three ships. Failure means either imprisonment or hanging for piracy-and that Portugal will declare war on its oldest ally. Peopling Dead Eagles are colorful characters new and old. There is Wild West showman Captain "Geronimo Joe" McKoy, the stunning Special Operations Executive operator Lady Jane Seaborn, who adopts the Raiding Forces as her own pet project; and Lady Jane's bombshell of a driver, Pamala Plum-Martin. Even Commander Ian Fleming puts in an appearance, submitting a plan for "Operation Ruthless", the goal of which is to board a Luftwaffe bomber and crash it into the English Channel in order to capture an Enigma coding device from a Nazi air-sea rescue craft. This action packed adventure story features Lovat Scout Snipers, the take down of the Vichy French fleet in English ports, daring Commando raids, an epic sea battle, beautiful spies and culminates in a deadly shoot-out in a crowded bar in Occupied France.

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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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