



Jump Into Hell: German Paratroopers in World War II

By Franz Kurowski



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Editorial ReviewFrom the Author

Franz Kurowski, who served as a journalist in World War II, has written numerous books and lives in Germany. From the Inside Flap

In this action-packed account--appearing for the first time in English--Franz Kurowski straps readers into the harness with German paratroopers, the elite *Fallschirmjäger*, as they jump into the inferno of combat in World War II.

When the war erupted, airborne troops joined nose-diving Stukas and thundering panzers as a crucial--and fearsome--part of the Nazi juggernaut that swept across Europe. In April 1940, the *Fallschirmjäger* cascaded into Denmark and Norway, where they seized important air bases. A month later, in one of the war's most daring assaults, gliders landed paratroopers at Eben Emael and captured the Belgian fortress.

The most famous German airborne offensive came in May 1941 with Operation Mercury, the invasion of Crete. The *Fallschirmjäger* encountered difficulties right after jumping but ultimately drove the British from the island, though they suffered such high casualties that Hitler would not allow another large-scale drop.

After Crete, the paratroopers served mainly as motorized infantry for ground attacks. In this role, they fought on Sicily; at Monte Cassino and elsewhere in Italy; in Normandy, where they defended against the Allied invasion starting on D-Day in June 1944; and on the Eastern Front.

A master of reconstructing small-unit actions, Kurowski captures all the drama, excitement, and terror experienced by German paratroopers, from the nervous anticipation inside a darkened airplane to do-or-die assaults under heavy fire and the deep comradeship that bound the *Fallschirmjäger* for life. About the Author

Franz Kurowski served as a reporter in the German Army during World War II and has since written over one hundred books. He lives in Germany. Users Review**From reader reviews:**

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