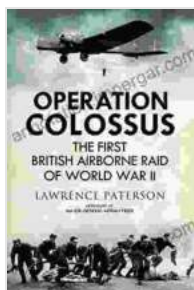


# The First British Airborne Raid Of World War II: A Daring Mission That Changed The Course Of The War

In the early hours of September 19, 1940, a small force of British paratroopers embarked on a daring mission that would change the course of World War II. The objective was to attack and destroy the German radar station at Bruneval, France, which was providing vital information to the Luftwaffe and enabling it to inflict heavy losses on British shipping in the English Channel.



## Operation Colossus: The First British Airborne Raid of World War II by Lawrence Paterson

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 31099 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 254 pages
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The raid was meticulously planned and executed. The paratroopers were flown to France in Whitley bombers and dropped near the radar station. They quickly overwhelmed the German guards and destroyed the radar equipment. The mission was a complete success, and it demonstrated the potential of airborne operations.

The Bruneval Raid had a number of important consequences. It showed that the British were willing to take risks and that they could mount successful airborne operations. It also boosted the morale of the British people, who had been suffering heavy losses in the Battle of Britain. The raid also convinced the Germans that they needed to improve their air defenses, and it led to the development of new radar technology.

The Bruneval Raid was a turning point in World War II. It showed that the Allies could take the fight to the enemy and that they were capable of winning. The raid also paved the way for future airborne operations, which would play a vital role in the Allied victory.

## **The Planning**

The planning for the Bruneval Raid began in the summer of 1940. The British had been suffering heavy losses in the Battle of Britain, and they were looking for ways to strike back at the Germans. The radar station at Bruneval was a key target, as it was providing vital information to the Luftwaffe and enabling it to inflict heavy losses on British shipping in the English Channel.

The raid was planned by a team of officers from the British Army, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy. The plan was to fly a small force of paratroopers to France in Whitley bombers and drop them near the radar station. The paratroopers would then overwhelm the German guards and destroy the radar equipment.

The plan was carefully rehearsed, and the paratroopers were trained to work as a team. They were also equipped with the latest weapons and equipment, including silenced weapons and explosive charges.

## **The Execution**

The Bruneval Raid was launched on the night of September 18, 1940. A force of 120 paratroopers, led by Major John Frost, took off from RAF Thrupton in Whitley bombers. The bombers flew low over the English Channel and dropped the paratroopers near the radar station.

The paratroopers landed without incident and quickly overwhelmed the German guards. They then destroyed the radar equipment and set fire to the buildings. The raid was a complete success, and the paratroopers returned to England without suffering any casualties.

## **The Aftermath**

The Bruneval Raid had a number of important consequences. It showed that the British were willing to take risks and that they could mount successful airborne operations. It also boosted the morale of the British people, who had been suffering heavy losses in the Battle of Britain. The raid also convinced the Germans that they needed to improve their air defenses, and it led to the development of new radar technology.

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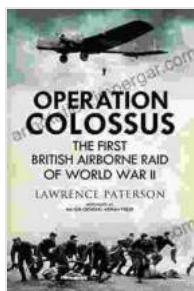
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turning point in World War II, and it paved the way for future airborne operations that would play a vital role in the Allied victory.

**\*\*Alt attributes for images:\*\***

\* **\*\*Image of paratroopers landing in France:\*\*** Paratroopers of the British 1st Parachute Brigade landing in France during the Bruneval Raid. \*

**\*\*Image of radar station at Bruneval:\*\*** The radar station at Bruneval, France, which was the target of the British airborne raid. \* **\*\*Image of Major John Frost:\*\*** Major John Frost, the commander of the British paratroopers who carried out the Bruneval Raid.



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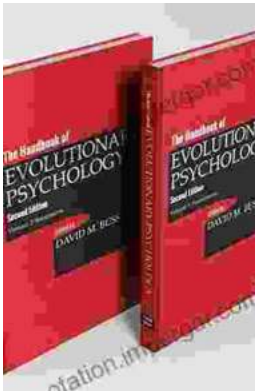
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