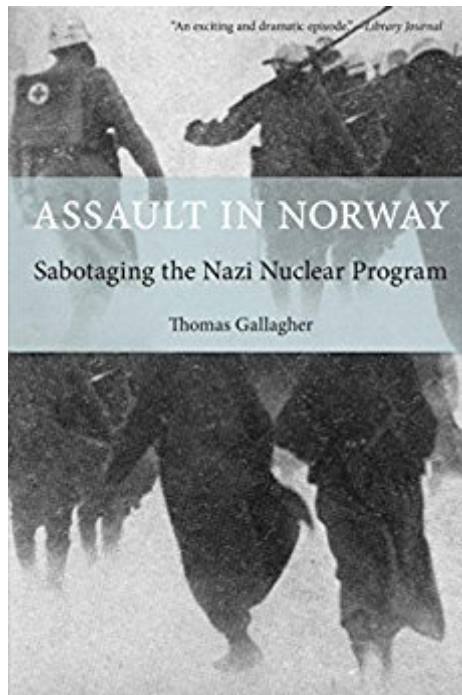


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Assault In Norway: Sabotaging The Nazi Nuclear Program



Synopsis

An exciting and dramatic episode. "Library Journal" "Cliff-hanging suspense." "Christian Science Monitor" Assault in Norway is the classic account of a legendary raid on the Nazi war program. By 1942 Germany had a seemingly insurmountable lead over the Allies in developing an atomic bomb. Contributing to this situation was its access to a crucial ingredient: heavy water, found in great abundance at a fortresslike factory in occupied Norway. Allied hopes of stalling the Nazi nuclear program soon focused on sabotaging the cliffside plant—a suicidal mission. But a team of brave Norwegian exiles, trained in Britain, infiltrated their homeland and, hiding in the wilds, awaited the opportunity to launch one of the war's most daring commando raids. Basing his gripping narrative in large part on interviews with the commandos themselves, Thomas Gallagher recounts in vivid detail the planning and execution of Operation Gunnerside. Assault in Norway recalls the intrigue found in such wartime classics as David Howarth's *We Die Alone* and *The Sledge Patrol*, and the mission it recounts inspired the 1965 Hollywood film *The Heroes of Telemark*.

Book Information

File Size: 1093 KB

Print Length: 252 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1585747505

Publisher: Lyons Press; Reprint edition (June 1, 2010)

Publication Date: June 1, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00V9QVEMM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #373,187 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #35

in Books > History > Europe > Scandinavia > Norway #60 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Nuclear #81 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History

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Customer Reviews

A genuinely interesting work of history which tells the true story of amazing heroism of the Norwegian resistance in World War II. The Nazi government made many mistakes in their attempt to develop a nuclear program in general and atom bomb in particular. They miscalculated their calculation of the efficacy of graphite as a reaction modifier and concentrated all their efforts on deuterium oxide known commonly as 'heavy water.' Prior to the start of World War II the only facility for heavy water production was the Norsk Hydro plant in the Telemark region Norway. Germany invaded Norway in 1940 and immediately demanded production of heavy water be increased dramatically, exclusively for German use. British SOE attempted to land two teams of combat engineers for the purpose of destroying the hydrogen plant in late 1942, but both teams crashed and several dozen British Army soldiers in uniform either died in the crashes or were summarily murdered by the Nazi under normal protocols. In February 1943 a small team of Norwegian Resistance fighters trained in England parachuted into the region and succeeded in destroying the final critical stage of deuterium production equipment. Later, following the bombing of the plant by the U S 8th Air Force, the Germans decided to send all accumulated heavy water to Germany. The train-ferry carrying the entire stock of heavy water was sunk by a 3-man Norwegian team, effectively ending the Nazi atomic program. Gallagher tells this fascinating story in detail, yet the book is suspenseful and fast-paced. Norwegians are a people to be admired, now and then. An excellent book, highly recommended.

"Assault in Norway" is suspenseful, engaging, well written and well researched. The author spent time with some of the actual participants who sabotaged the Nazi Nuclear Program in Norway, as well as in researching the pertinent archival material. The story is little known, and was much disfigured by the 1966 movie entitled "Heroes of Telemark." Should you have an interest in the most successful, best planned, and most well-executed commando raid of WWII that may well have "saved the world", read this book! My books about money:[...]

A+A+A+A+

thanks!

A spell binding history based plot that needed no literary license in the intriguing telling of the story.

Outstanding story about brave patriots performing impossible acts. They couldn't fully comprehend why at the time. They accomplished the impossible because they loved their country.

A great book, and a remarkable true story.

Excellent account of a series of missions to destroy the heavy water plant in south central (Rjukan) Norway. The plant is absolutely essential to the continued development of a sustained fission reaction leading to a possible nuclear bomb by the Germans. Two attempts were by the British (a tragic series of mishaps for the commandos, second by inaccurate attack by heavy bombers) which were far less than successful. Two were by Norwegian agents who were very successful. Many eyewitness accounts are invaluable to the development of the story. Unfortunately, several lengthy segments involve only peripheral understanding for the missions. Four Norwegians survived for 5 months (typical winter) on only caribou and lichens causing approaching starvation. Additional destructive acts were performed by plant employees as well. The heroism of all involved is carefully developed and understandable. Four stars? Only account I have read but remove the sections not really relevant and the book is far shorter than the 186 pages provided.

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