



# A BRIDGE TOO FAR





# THE HEFTY TOLL ON THE BRIDGE AT ARNHEM

35,000 men, 300 miles, nine days and six bridges. Operation Market Garden included the largest airborne assault in military history ...and became one of the costliest battles of World War II. And to film Cornelius Ryan's best-selling account of the Allied Forces' failed attempt to capture six crucial German bridges, producer Joseph E. Levine was willing to spare no expense. In fact, so determined was Levine to see the film brought to the screen – and brought to the screen well – that he financed much of the movie's budget from his own funds!

"I really believe in this picture," Levine said at the film's launch. "In the past, I've often claimed I would never risk my own money in the hazardous film world. But I feel differently about this one. It's the best damn story I've ever read!"

With the lofty ambition of translating the heartrending and harrowing story into an equally powerful film, Levine selected the esteemed Richard Attenborough to direct. Shortly thereafter, Levine commissioned Attenborough to bring together an unparalleled, all-star cast – no matter what the cost! Assembling a list of names like Bogarde, Caan, Caine, Connery, Fox, Gould, Hackman, Hopkins, Kruger,

Olivier, O'Neal, Redford, Schell and Ullmann was not only an incredible scheduling coup – but a precarious financial one as well. Had the shooting of *A Bridge Too Far* gone beyond its schedule due to rain or other unforeseen problems, the cost of retaining those actors could have sent the already burgeoning budget of \$25 million into the stratosphere!

Attenborough, however, agreed with Levine that the then-exorbitant \$9 million that went to combined star salaries was money well-spent: "Many of the real people this film is about have star charisma," he said. "Such men have massive persona, they should be played by stars...Also, in a film such as this, with so much happening," he continued, "the character has to knock you over in the first five or ten seconds. So you need bloody good actors with star quality to make for understanding."

Critics seemed to agree with the producer and director's vision and execution, hailing *A Bridge Too Far* as "monumental and surprising" (*Los Angeles Times*), "spectacular and stunning" (*The Hollywood Reporter*) and "the definitive world war II movie" (Judith Crist, *Saturday Review*)



# MARKET GARDEN





# STARS ACROSS THE BRIDGE

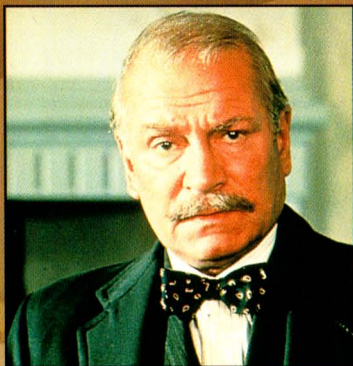
- Sean Connery turned down his role twice before reading the script and agreeing to take on Urquhart. "I didn't like the idea of resurrecting it all," he says. "It was a real reminder of a real tragedy. When I read the script, I did a complete change-around. William Goldman, in fact, wrote a very anti-war film."<sup>3</sup>
- Dirk Bogarde has the distinction of being the only cast member who was actually at Arnhem during the battle. "I was 24, working in intelligence headquarters," he says. "Monty [Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery] chose me personally and nine others out of thousands because we happened to be brighter than the rest. If I'd known the facts, I would have gone home, I think."<sup>3</sup>
- Gene Hackman enjoyed being a member of such a huge ensemble cast. "Nobody has been here long enough to establish any territory," he says. "You do your turn and you're off...it's nice and refreshing for a change. Everyone is treated equally and everyone is a professional."<sup>3</sup> "I like sharing the glory," agrees Ryan O'Neal. "It means you're not responsible for carrying the movie. I feel very little pressure on this set."<sup>3</sup>
- James Caan agreed to do the film because of a scene in which he forces a reticent army surgeon to operate on one of his buddies at gunpoint (see Scene Selection 18). "When Attenborough came to see me in Los Angeles," Caan says, "he offered me the choice of several roles. I chose the sergeant chiefly for that one scene."<sup>1</sup>
- When the real Lt. Col. John Frost visited the set, the actor portraying him (Anthony Hopkins) found meeting with him to be "a bit unnerving, because he expected the whole thing to be a document, as exact as it actually happened... 'Now listen,' he'd say, 'you wouldn't run the cross fires that fast...You'd show the enemy contempt for danger by crossing the road slowly.' Me, using my actor's imagination," Hopkins continued, "I took the road at the speed of light!"<sup>3</sup>
- Robert Redford's uncle, an interpreter with Patton's troops, was killed in Luxemburg during the war. Redford says that the loss "creates a link with the part I play."<sup>4</sup>





- When Laurence Olivier arrived in Amsterdam, he was told by his escort that wardrobe was anxious to pick up his costume in order to age it. "No need for that, replied the distinguished actor, "this is it. I've been wearing it for weeks to make sure it looks right." Olivier, who even wore the suit during rehearsals for a TV version of "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," said, "I always do it...it's the only way to make clothes look lived-in."<sup>1</sup>

- If you watch closely in Scene Selections 23 and 24, you can see John Ratzenberger ("Cheers" mailman Cliff Claven) in a uniform of a different sort: that of a U.S. Army Lieutenant under the command of Robert Redford's Major Julian Cook.



## FAR FACTS

- A total of 500,000 feet of footage was shot for *A Bridge Too Far*, and edited down to the finished film's 17,000.
- Trying to locate vehicles and weapons from the 32-year-previous war, filmmakers found only a handful, which they borrowed from museums, veterans organizations and private collections. One tank was actually pulled from its pins atop a war memorial and, with some tinkering, made to run again! But in order to fill out the arsenal, fiberglass replicas had to be built to stand next to the existing tanks, jeeps, transporters, anti-tank guns and half-tracks.
- Of all the vehicles recreated for *A Bridge Too Far*, the Horsa gliders were particularly problematic: There were none in existence – not even in illustration! Production designer Terence Marsh created 12 gliders at a cost of \$35,000 each from the few references and photos he could dredge up.
- Costume designer Anthony Mendleson scoured every European costume shop he could find in order to supply the film's requirement of 6,000 complete uniforms – for American, English, Dutch, German and Polish troops.



- The bridge that was ultimately captured by American Major Julian Cook (Robert Redford) in the film, was in reality stormed first by British grenadiers. Although the film is largely an accurate portrayal of the operation, having Redford win the battle, according to Levine, was simply better box office.
- *A Bridge Too Far's* British technical advisor, Col. John Waddy, notes the necessity of some inaccuracies in the film. "For instance," he says, "when the tanks approach the bridge, we filmed them, oh, 30 or 40 yards apart. In real life, tanks never travel so close to one another, they keep a distance of at least 200 yards. But it would take hours to get the scene on film."<sup>5</sup>
- Some of the still photography for the film was shot by David Douglas Duncan – who had covered the real World War II, as well as battles in Korea, Palestine, Greece, India and Indochina. Duncan calls the filming of *A Bridge Too Far*, "completely real, everything grindingly, crushingly normal...everything except the bullets." Duncan says his assignment was "the greatest, because after the day's work, the dead and wounded got up, hosed themselves off and went home. Beautiful!"<sup>6</sup>
- Since too many of the older edifices in the city of Arnhem had been destroyed, filmmakers had to look elsewhere to stage their on-location shoot – and found their preferred location just a few miles away in the town of Deventer. Permission for filming in Deventer, Holland was granted by both the Dutch government and the denizens of the town, 90% of whom voted in favor of allowing filming. This was a crucial coup for filmmakers, since the Deventer bridge so closely resembles the one at Arnhem – and Levine and Attenborough flew in months in advance of the shoot to throw an appreciative reception – for the entire population of 25,000!



- Richard Attenborough, who went on to win an Oscar® for directing *Gandhi*<sup>7</sup>, was knighted Sir Richard Attenborough during the course of preproduction for this film.

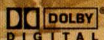


# CAST

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Lieutenant General Frederick "Boy" Browning..... | DIRK BOGARDE      |
| Staff Sergeant Eddie Dohun.....                  | JAMES CAAN        |
| Lieutenant Colonel "Joe" Vandeleur.....          | MICHAEL CAINE     |
| Major General Robert Urquhart.....               | SEAN CONNERY      |
| Lieutenant General Brian Horrocks.....           | EDWARD FOX        |
| Colonel Bobby Stout.....                         | ELLIOTT GOULD     |
| Major General Stanislaw Sosabowski.....          | GENE HACKMAN      |
| Lieutenant Colonel John Frost.....               | ANTHONY HOPKINS   |
| General Karl Ludwig.....                         | HARDY KRUGER      |
| Doctor Spaander.....                             | LAURENCE OLIVIER  |
| Brigadier General James M. Gavin.....            | RYAN O'NEAL       |
| Major Julian Cook.....                           | ROBERT REDFORD    |
| Lieutenant General Wilhelm Bittrich.....         | MAXIMILIAN SCHELL |
| Kate Ter Horst.....                              | LIV ULLMANN       |

- 1 Los Angeles Times, 9/19/76
- 2 Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, 8/20/76
- 3 Women's Wear Daily, 9/1/76
- 4 The Hollywood Reporter, 10/5/76
- 5 Playboy Magazine, 8/76
- 6 Time Magazine, 10/11/76
- 7 1982: Best Director

This MGM DVD has been encoded with one or more Dolby Digital soundtracks. Dolby Digital is the sound system featured in state-of-the-art movie theatres, and when used with a Dolby Digital receiver, is capable of delivering up to 5.1 separate channels of sound into the home environment, creating a theatre-like, fully enveloping sound experience.



A BRIDGE TOO FAR is offered in the widescreen format, enabling you to experience the picture exactly as it was originally shown in theatres. Depending on how the film was shot, the widescreen format presents up to 50% more image to the left and right of the screen than the standard "pan & scan" process, thus preserving the director's vision of each scene. Black bars at the top and bottom of the screen are normal for this format.



The widescreen version of this MGM DVD has been encoded to take full advantage of high-resolution "widescreen" television sets. When viewed on this type of television, the film's picture resolution will be significantly increased.



# OPERATION: MARKET GARDEN

## SCENE SELECTIONS

1. Logo/Prologue/Title
2. German Army H.Q.
3. Browning's H.Q.
4. 8 Miles From Arnhem
5. Poor Projection
6. "The Cavalry"
7. Guarantees
8. Airborne
9. Road To Success?
10. The Drop
11. First Shots/Lunatics
12. Further Frustrations
13. The Son Bridge
14. The Bridge At Arnhem
15. Another Try At Dark
16. Enemy Reinforcements
17. Urquhart's Risk
18. Fulfilling A Promise
19. Bridge Building
20. Battle At Arnhem
21. The Supply Drop
22. Kate/The Un-Surrender
23. Julian Cook
24. Rough Crossing
25. Bridge Warfare
26. Frost's Last Stand
27. Germans On The Bridge
28. Kate's Kindness
29. Rubber Raft Brigade
30. The Decision Made
31. "A Bridge Too Far"
32. End Credits

JOSEPH E. LEVINE Presents "A BRIDGE TOO FAR"

(starring in alphabetical order) DIRK BOGARDE • JAMES CAAN • MICHAEL CAINE

SEAN CONNERY • EDWARD FOX • ELLIOTT GOULD • GENE HACKMAN

ANTHONY HOPKINS • HARDY KRUGER • LAURENCE OLIVIER • RYAN O'NEAL

ROBERT REDFORD • MAXIMILIAN SCHELL • LIV ULLMANN

From the Book by CORNELIUS RYAN Music by JOHN ADDISON

Screenplay by WILLIAM GOLDMAN Produced by JOSEPH E. LEVINE and RICHARD P. LEVINE

Directed by RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH  
PANAVISION®

