



A Paratroopers Panoramic View: Training with the 464th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion for Operation Varsity's Rhine Jump with the 17th Airborne Division

By Philip Wilson

Authorhouse. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 244 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.9in. x 0.6in. At 10: 00 AM on March 24, 1945, a literal sky train of two and one-half hours in length flew in 226 C-47 and 72 C-46 transport planes carrying 17, 122 paratroopers together with 906 gliders being pulled by 610 C-47 tow planes. Paratrooper Robert L. Wilson jumped from the lead serial of planes in this largest airborne assault in military history. He landed in the designated drop zone near Wesel. There, with others in Branigans Bastard Battalion, - the 464th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion - he made history as part of the first artillery airborne outfit to land, reassemble, and fire their howitzers east of the Rhine River. Field Marshall Montgomery, who had elaborately orchestrated this airborne assault, gathered Prime Minister Churchill together with Generals Eisenhower, Ridgway, and Brereton on the western bank of the Rhine to watch the air spectacle unfold. The objectives of this airborne assault - Operation Varsity - were achieved predominantly through the efforts of the U. S. 17th and British 6th Airborne Divisions. These troopers closed in along the Rhine all along its length to prevent any German stronghold from being...



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