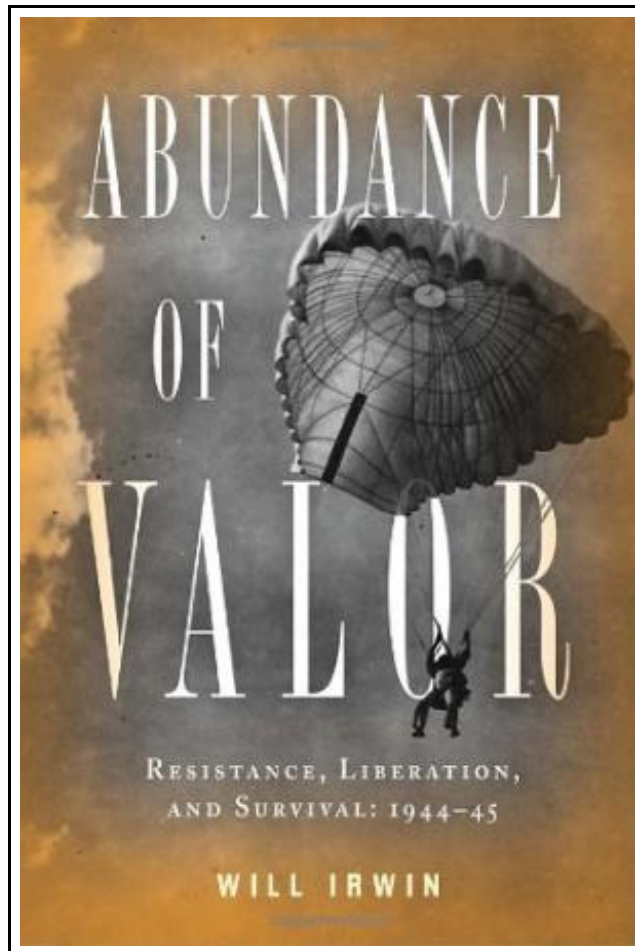


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Ballantine. 1 Cloth(s), 2010. hard. Book Condition: New. The World War II operation known as Market Garden made famous in the book and film *A Bridge Too Far* was the largest airborne assault in history up to that time, a high-risk Allied invasion of enemy territory that has become legendary, even as it still invites criticism from historians. Special Forces veteran Will Irwin evokes the heat and stench of fuel, oil, and sweat in the troop carriers going over, the remarkable (and misleading) initial success of the daylight parachute landings, and the deadly, brutally effective German response, particularly by crack SS armored units in the blood-soaked town of Arnhem. With piercing criticism of the mission's ultimate failure from faulty use of intelligence and Field Marshall Montgomery's distrust of the Dutch underground, *Abundance of Valor* is an honest and gripping account of fighting men who did their jobs with extraordinary honor and courage. "A thoroughly enthralling book for serious students of World War II, this is the labor of love of a Special Forces veteran with a rare talent for writing and research. He tells the story of the handful of small Jedburgh Teams dropped into the Netherlands to lead local resistance groups in offensive action. They immediately got sucked into the disastrous failure of Operation Market Garden. After that mismanaged affair crumbled, they faced survival against long odds in the ranks of the hard-pressed Dutch Resistance, death at the hands of the still resilient German occupation troops, and in one case, survival by a hair's breadth as a POW who endured not only confinement but also grueling marches from east to west ahead of the advancing Russians. For exhaustive studies of little-known episodes that add much to general WWII knowledge as well as provide enthralling reading, this book is hard to beat." *Booklist* 379.



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