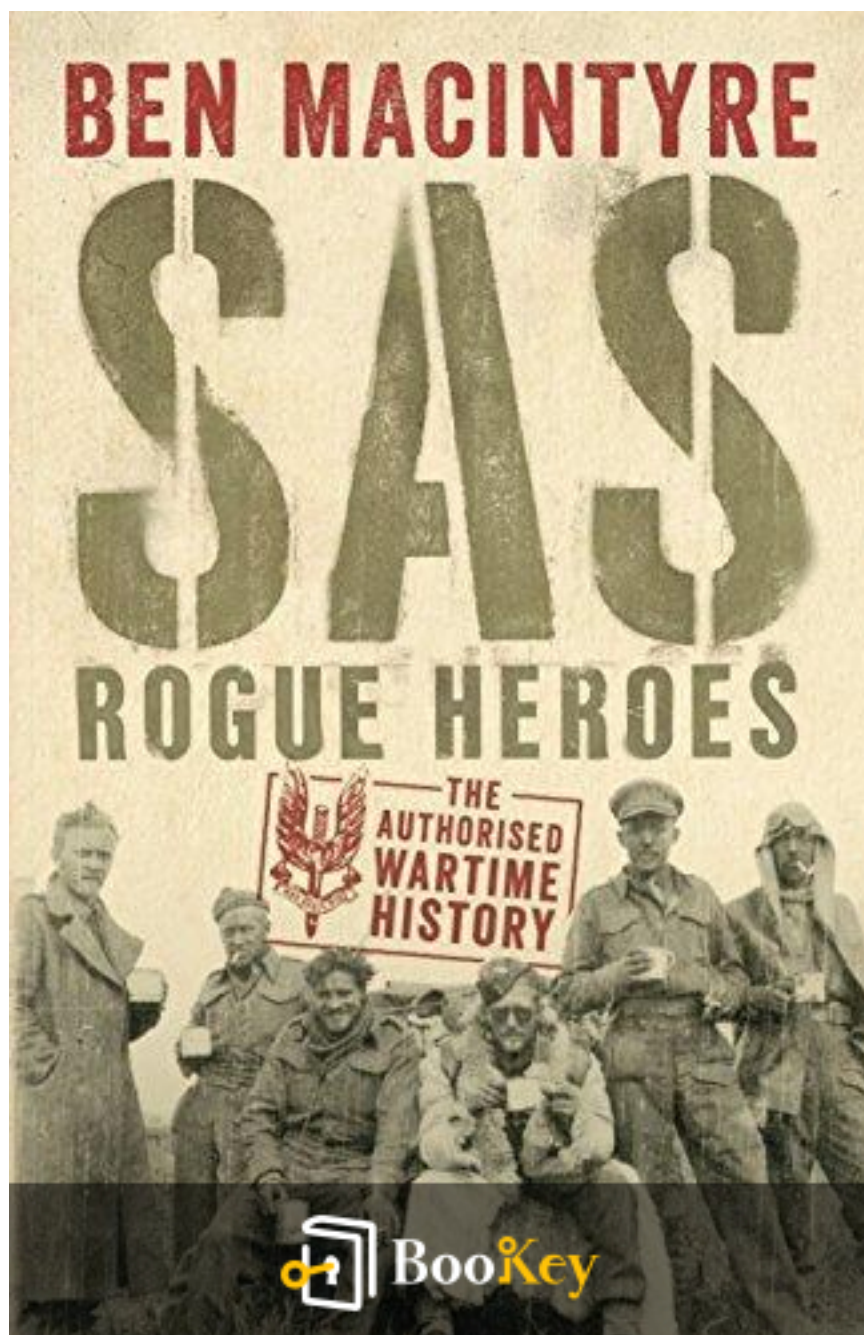


# Sas PDF (Limited Copy)

Ben Macintyre



More Free Book



Scan to Download

## **Sas Summary**

Unveiling 75 Years of Courage and Conspiracy in the SAS

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## About the book

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Special Air Service (SAS), the first authoritative chronicle reveals the origins and legendary status of this elite military unit. The journey begins in the summer of 1941 during the intense Western Desert campaign of World War II, a critical time when the Allied forces faced significant threats from Axis powers in North Africa.

Amidst this chaos, David Stirling, a young and unconventional officer, conceived a daring plan to form a covert unit aimed at disrupting enemy operations from within their ranks. This idea was revolutionary, as traditional military strategies were often rigid and direct. Stirling's vision involved creating a team of highly skilled and resourceful soldiers who could execute guerrilla tactics, striking swiftly and then vanishing before the enemy could retaliate.

Stirling's initiative faced considerable resistance from higher military command, skeptics who doubted the feasibility and effectiveness of such an unconventional force. However, his determination ultimately led him to seek and gain direct approval from Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, who recognized the potential impact of Stirling's plan. This pivotal moment set in motion the recruitment of a handpicked group of the most daring and tenacious soldiers, marking the official birth of the SAS.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

The narrative unfolds to recount not only the valiant actions of these brave individuals but also the tragic losses they endured along the way. Their stories, filled with acts of gallantry and moments of vulnerability, paint a portrait of the extraordinary men who stepped up to face perilous challenges, forging a legacy that would redefine special operations in warfare. Through this chronicle, the SAS emerges not just as a military unit, but as a symbol of courage and resilience against the odds, forever changing the landscape of modern combat.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## About the author

Sure, please provide the chapters you would like summarized.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download



# Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

## Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

# Summary Content List

Chapter 1: Cowboy Soldier

Chapter 2: L Detachment

Chapter 3: Recruits

Chapter 4: Into the Desert

Chapter 5: The Long Range Desert Group

Chapter 6: Devil Country

Chapter 7: A Party of Ghosts

Chapter 8: Blitz Buggy

Chapter 9: Benghazi Bed and Breakfast

Chapter 10: Seven Airfields

Chapter 11: Mass Sabotage at Sidi Haneish

Chapter 12: Desert Doctors

Chapter 13: Quite, Quite Mad

Chapter 14: Alamein

Chapter 15: Italy

Chapter 16: Bulbasket

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Chapter 17: Houndsworth

Chapter 18: An Eye for an Eye

Chapter 19: Paddy McGinty's Goat

Chapter 20: A Predilection for Risk

Chapter 21: Battaglione Alleata

Chapter 22: Into the Reich

Chapter 23: Liberation

Chapter 24: Who Dares Survives

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 1 Summary: Cowboy Soldier

## Part I: WAR IN THE DESERT

### 1. Cowboy Soldier

Five months before the pivotal Operation Squatter, Lieutenant David Stirling, a 25-year-old officer, found himself confined to a Cairo hospital, paralyzed from the waist down following a parachuting accident. This incident was mistakenly reported to the War Office as enemy action, further complicating Stirling's reputation, which already suffered from his reckless behavior and lapses in military discipline. Known for his charm yet often criticized for incompetence, he had been under scrutiny for malingering before the fateful crash.

As he recovered, Stirling contemplated the commando forces' ineffectiveness in North Africa, where they often languished in wait for orders that rarely materialized. During this convalescence, he conceived a radical tactical shift: Instead of launching traditional sea-based assaults, he suggested deploying small, mobile teams to infiltrate the enemy from the vast, often overlooked desert—an idea which, while groundbreaking, stemmed from his lack of experience in desert warfare.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Stirling's background was marked by privilege but also a series of failures in ventures before the war, leaving him searching for purpose. His family had a strong military lineage, balancing his immense confidence with bouts of insecurity. The combination of his erratic military career and a desire for adventure propelled him toward an innovative approach to combat, leading to the birth of the Special Air Service (SAS).

Transitioning from a soldier uncertain of his fate to a visionary leader, Stirling was captivated by the potential of commandos—specialized units designed for targeted raids. His military experiences, often marred by setbacks, illustrated his frustrations with traditional tactics. As he revelled in a lifestyle of gambling and socializing, his desire to leave a meaningful mark on the war intensified. Thus, Stirling was poised to reshape warfare through his pioneering ideas, driven by an insatiable thirst for action and validation in a chaotic world.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 2 Summary: L Detachment

## Summary of Chapter 2 from "SAS" by Ben Macintyre

In this chapter, we are introduced to Lieutenant Jock Lewes and David Stirling, two pivotal figures in the formation of the Special Air Service (SAS).

### Introduction to Lieutenant Jock Lewes and Stirling

Lieutenant Jock Lewes, a disciplined officer, demonstrates his resourcefulness by misappropriating a supply of parachutes intended for a paratroop unit stationed in India. After obtaining permission from Colonel Laycock, he sets out to conduct an experimental desert parachute jump. Stirling, drawn to both action and practicality, eagerly joins him, paving the way for their unlikely partnership.

### Background on Jock Lewes

Lewes, born in India, exemplifies military discipline and personal austerity, with aspirations for a political career. His past as a regimental training officer earned him a reputation for hard work and rigidity. While he initially harbored admiration for Nazi Germany, this perspective dramatically shifted

More Free Book



Scan to Download

after the harrowing events of Kristallnacht, leading him to become a staunch adversary of the Nazis and fueled by a deep desire for justice.

## **First Parachute Jump**

The chapter recounts their inaugural desert parachute jump, fraught with challenges and minimal preparation. Lewes successfully lands, but Stirling sustains an injury during his descent. As Stirling recuperates, he starts formulating strategies for sabotage operations targeting the Germans, recognizing their vulnerabilities.

## **Stirling's Proposal for Airborne Raids**

Stirling's innovative mind leads him to propose a daring initiative: using parachute attacks to undermine German supply lines and disrupt airfields. This plan aimed to achieve tactical advantages without engaging in conventional warfare, showcasing a shift in military strategy.

## **Challenges and Reception of the Proposal**

However, Stirling's unorthodox ideas face skepticism from traditional military officials, who view his approaches as a threat to established practices. In light of this, he resolves to bypass bureaucratic hurdles and present his vision directly to high-ranking commanders.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## **Accessing the High Command**

Utilizing his connections, Stirling successfully gains access to Generals Auchinleck and Ritchie, who are eager for innovative solutions to regain momentum in the North African campaign against the Germans. Their understanding of the complexities of war primes them to consider Stirling's radical ideas.

## **Formation of the New Unit**

As a result, Stirling is authorized to create a new military unit, resurrecting elements of Layforce and establishing what would become the Special Air Service (SAS). This title reflects a commitment to innovative warfare and strategic deception, inspired by the insights of Colonel Dudley Wrangel Clarke.

## **Conclusion**

Chapter 2 highlights the contrasting yet complementary characters of Lewes and Stirling, illustrating how their collaboration ignited a transformation in military tactics during World War II. As they lay the foundation for the SAS, it is clear that their pioneering spirit will challenge conventional warfare practices and redefine the nature of special operations.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## Chapter 3 Summary: Recruits

### Summary of Chapter 3 - SAS by Ben Macintyre

In Chapter 3, titled \*Deception and Formation of the SAS\*, the groundwork is laid for the creation of the Special Air Service (SAS), a unit born from innovative deception and strategic foresight. Clarke implemented a series of disinformation tactics in Egypt to obscure the movements of British paratroopers from the enemy. This included creating fake photographs and planting misleading documents. To bolster this ruse, Clarke persuaded David Stirling to name his newly formed team as 'L Detachment, Special Air Service Brigade,' thereby cultivating the illusion of a larger operational force gearing up for a crucial mission. This clever play led to the official birth of the SAS, an extraordinary military unit marked by both randomness and intentional strategy.

As the unit began to take shape, one of the notable recruits was Jock Lewes, a determined officer from the Welsh Guards whose raiding strategies resonated with Stirling's revolutionary vision for the unit. Initially hesitant, Lewes accepted the role of chief instructor and brought along talented soldiers like Sergeant Pat Riley, a steady and imposing figure known for his calm demeanor, and Jim Almonds, whose intelligence and sensitivity complemented the team's dynamic. Together, they formed the backbone of

More Free Book



Scan to Download

this burgeoning elite unit.

Stirling aimed to build a team composed of individuals defined by courage, discipline, and the ability to think independently. He turned away many applicants who sought enlistment for the thrill of adventure rather than genuine commitment. Under Lewes's direction, the training regimen was brutal, focusing on survival skills, physical endurance, and nocturnal operations. Included in their training were arduous desert marches and innovative, albeit risky, parachute techniques designed to refine their skills.

As the recruits worked together, a complex web of relationships developed within the group, creating both camaraderie and competition. Notably, tensions simmered between the exuberant Paddy Mayne and the other officers, reflecting the varied backgrounds and personalities involved. Despite these differences, a cohesive identity began to crystallize among the members of this elite fighting unit.

After months of rigorous training, the team was poised to embark on its inaugural mission as part of Operation Crusader. Armed with novel explosives created by Lewes, such as the innovative 'Lewes bomb,' the SAS was primed for daring raids against enemy aircraft. This chapter vividly illustrates how the SAS evolved into a unique and formidable fighting force, laying the foundations for its future operations and tactical innovations in warfare.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 4: Into the Desert

## ### Chapter 4 Summary

### Operation Overview

L Detachment embarked on a crucial mission aimed at crippling enemy air power by targeting five airfields near Timimi and Gazala. The ambitious plan involved deploying Lewes bombs, which were designed to destroy aircraft on the ground. The team anticipated they could potentially neutralize about 300 enemy planes and planned to rendezvous with the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) afterward to enhance their operational effectiveness.

### Departure Preparations

Prior to their departure, the men were treated to an elaborate farewell dinner organized by the RAF, a gesture meant to bolster morale. However, ominous weather forecasts predicting high winds and rain cast a shadow over the event. Brigadier Galloway suggested canceling the operation due to these conditions, emphasizing safety concerns. Nevertheless, Stirling, the leader of L Detachment, opted to proceed with the mission, driven by a pressing need to maintain morale and avoid disbandment.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

## **Dramatic Landings**

As the team parachuted into the drop zone, they encountered catastrophic conditions. Stirling lost consciousness upon landing, creating chaos as his team struggled to regroup amidst injuries and the loss of vital equipment. Paddy Mayne's unit also faced severe challenges; they endured broken limbs and supplies scattered by the harsh elements yet resolutely forged ahead to fulfill their mission objectives, undeterred by the danger.

## **Mission Challenges**

The only group that landed with relative order was Jock Lewes's team. Unfortunately, their equipment suffered significant damage due to the relentless rain, forcing them to reconsider their operational viability. Adding to the turmoil, Mayne's team faced similar weather-related challenges, resulting in the loss of crucial supplies to flooding.

## **Rendezvous and Outcomes**

As the beleaguered teams struggled to reach their designated rendezvous point, they faced numerous hardships, including injuries and the threat of capture. In the end, out of 55 men who parachuted into the operation, only 21 managed to return. This marked a significant blow to L Detachment, as the mission failed to achieve its objectives and left the team severely

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

weakened. The primary reason for this failure was the disastrous weather conditions rather than a lack of military capability. Ironically, this setback prompted the enemy to fortify their defenses against future operations, making any subsequent missions even more perilous.

## **Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio**

**Free Trial with Bookey**





# Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



## 30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



## Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



## Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



## And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



# Chapter 5 Summary: The Long Range Desert Group

## Summary of Chapter 5: The Long Range Desert Group

### Introduction to Struggles

The chapter opens with a somber tone as the aftermath of a failed mission leads to the capture of several SAS members. The loss of comrades, particularly Jock Cheyne and Eoin McGonigal, weighs heavily on Paddy Mayne and the rest of the team, leaving them demoralized. SAS leader David Stirling contemplates the mission's failure and the significant reduction in talent and morale it has caused.

### Inspiration for Change

Amidst this despair, Stirling finds inspiration on the return journey and proposes the establishment of the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) to facilitate safer transport for SAS units. Though it seems like an obvious solution in hindsight, this idea had previously escaped others. The LRDG, founded by Ralph Bagnold, was crafted specifically for reconnaissance missions in the harsh environments behind enemy lines, predicated on Bagnold's vast experience and expertise in desert navigation.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

## **Characteristics and Purpose of the LRDG**

Bagnold's recognition of the Libyan desert's navigability, combined with strategic traversal methods, led to the formation of the LRDG. This unit, comprising volunteers adept at desert survival, was tasked with conducting reconnaissance and raids under difficult conditions. The group adopted a unique, audacious appearance that matched their covert operational style and helped to establish their reputation in the theatre of war.

## **Collaboration with SAS**

The collaboration between the LRDG and the SAS revolutionized the latter's operational capabilities, allowing for more effective execution of missions. Nicknamed the 'Libyan Taxi Service' by the SAS, the LRDG became an indispensable asset, addressing previously encountered logistical challenges that had hindered mission success.

## **Strategic Importance of Jalo Oasis**

The chapter also underscores the strategic importance of Jalo Oasis, a crucial water source in the arid desert, which would serve as a forward base for SAS operations. Despite the treacherous conditions surrounding it, Jalo Oasis became an essential launch point for assaults on Axis supply lines, epitomizing the continuing struggle and determination against German

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

forces in North Africa.

## **Conclusion**

Ultimately, this chapter highlights the resilience and adaptability of British forces, showcasing their ability to emerge from adversity through innovative partnerships and strategic planning. The establishment of the LRDG not only provided logistical support but also laid the groundwork for future successful operations in the challenging landscape of desert warfare.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 6 Summary: Devil Country

## Chapter 6 Summary: SAS Operations in the Gulf of Sirte

### Background and Setup

In December 1941, the Special Air Service (SAS) prepared for crucial raids on enemy airfields in the Gulf of Sirte—specifically targeting Sirte, Agheila, and Agedabia. These locations housed Axis planes that posed a significant threat to the advancing forces of Brigadier Reid. Guy Prendergast, a key figure in this operation, proposed employing L Detachment for the raids. Stirling, the commander, organized the remainder of the unit and their resources for a series of synchronized attacks that would align with the ground advance led by Reid.

### Plans for Attack

Recognizing the strategic importance of these airfields, which had transitioned from quiet fishing villages to vital military installations, Stirling formulated a detailed attack plan. The operation was designed as a three-pronged assault to occur on specific dates in December, aiming for operational successes that would facilitate Reid's ground movements against Axis positions.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

## **Journey to the Target**

Stirling's team, including notable members Reg Seekings and Johnny Cooper, faced numerous challenges during their truck journey through the harsh desert terrain. Mechanical failures and hostile enemy aircraft hindered their progress. Despite a strained relationship marked by tension, Seekings and Cooper realized the necessity of working together to reach their targets.

## **Raid on Sirte**

As they approached the Sirte airfield, intelligence reports indicated a heightened alert among Axis forces, prompting Stirling to adjust his attack strategy. A preliminary reconnaissance revealed the complexity of the operation, highlighted by a confrontation with Italian soldiers.

Unexpectedly, the evacuation of aircraft from Sirte diminished the anticipated impact of their planned assault.

## **Raid on Tamet**

Simultaneously, another SAS team led by Paddy Mayne launched an audacious attack on the Tamet airfield. Their infiltration into an officers' mess resulted in significant success, yet it also raised moral concerns as they inflicted casualties on unprepared enemy personnel, blurring the lines

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

between sabotage and assassination, a theme reflective of the harshness of wartime ethics.

## **Raids on Agheila and Agedabia**

While Jock Lewes's raid on Agheila yielded minimal results, Bill Fraser's assault on Agedabia proved vital in disrupting enemy air support for Reid's advancing forces. Fraser's team successfully destroyed several enemy planes, affirming the operational effectiveness of the SAS and showcasing how a small, well-coordinated group could create substantial chaos within enemy ranks.

## **Aftermath and Reflection**

Over the course of a week, the SAS managed to destroy over sixty enemy aircraft without suffering any fatalities, a remarkable achievement that underscored the success of their guerrilla warfare tactics. This operation validated the SAS's unconventional strategy in warfare, especially as Axis forces increasingly depended on air support. Stirling, recognizing the changing dynamics of the battlefield with Rommel's forces in retreat, prepared for further operations, signaling that additional attacks would be essential to capitalize on their growing momentum.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 7 Summary: A Party of Ghosts

## Chapter 7: A Party of Ghosts

In this chapter, Fraser is spurred back into action by Stirling, who frames a new mission not as a directive, but as an exhilarating opportunity: an audacious raid on the Arco dei Fileni, a monument embodying Italian colonization. Stirling organizes two teams for simultaneous strikes, and on Christmas Eve, they embark on their perilous journey through challenging terrain. Their progress is thwarted when a German convoy blocks their route, and after enduring hours of anticipation, the teams must abandon the attack due to the enemy's fortified defenses.

Despite this disappointment, Fraser's team manages a drive-by shooting attack on German supply trucks. Although they create considerable chaos, their efforts yield minimal damage. Meanwhile, another team led by Mayne enjoys success, destroying several enemy aircraft at Tamet, which temporarily lifts morale among the SAS forces.

The next day, Lewes leads his team towards the Nofilia airfield, fueled by a spirit of bravery. However, upon arrival, they discover the facility deserted, a missed strategic opportunity. The grueling trek back becomes increasingly taxing as their water supply dwindles, and makeshift solutions for finding

More Free Book



Scan to Download

water prove ineffective.

Fraser's beleaguered team, lost and critically low on supplies, faces severe hardship, yet they manage to stage an ambush against Italian engineers to secure water and food. To make their escape, they commandeer a German vehicle, but it soon becomes stuck, forcing them to navigate the perilous landscape on foot. After enduring numerous dangers, they finally encounter a unit of British troops, who are taken aback by the ragged state of Fraser's team.

Upon their return to SAS headquarters, the tenacity of the group is acknowledged, with their survival deemed almost miraculous. However, the chapter closes on a poignant note as it reveals Lewes's tragic death, leaving a profound impact on his comrades and a somber reminder of the sacrifices involved in their campaign.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 8: Blitz Buggy

## Chapter 8 Summary: Blitz Buggy

In this chapter, we delve into the harrowing experiences of Bill Fraser, who escapes captivity and endures a grueling 150-mile trek across the desert, battling extreme hunger and exhaustion. His arduous journey culminates in a poignant reunion with his loyal dog, providing a brief respite before he discovers that his previously occupied space has been taken over by Fitzroy Hew Royle Maclean. Maclean, a new recruit in the Special Air Service (SAS), is characterized by his intelligence, linguistic prowess, and unconventional military entry, having secured a parliamentary seat before resigning from the Foreign Office to join the armed forces.

As the SAS begins to form its distinct identity, it moves beyond its original designation of L Detachment. Under the leadership of David Stirling, the unit adopts new insignia and the motto "Who Dares Wins," symbolizing their audacity and the commitment to its members' elite training, particularly in parachuting. Stirling's unorthodox tactics receive praise as he proves the effectiveness of his methods to skeptical military leaders, solidifying the SAS's reputation.

With an eye toward expansion, Stirling plans an ambitious amphibious raid

More Free Book



Scan to Download

on Bouerat aimed at disrupting Axis supply ships. However, communication breakdowns and chaotic preparations complicate the operation. Despite these setbacks, Stirling leads the raid, which, while failing to achieve its main objective, results in significant acts of sabotage.

As the SAS grows in size and capability, it welcomes French paratroopers into their ranks under the leadership of Colonel Georges Bergé. Initial tensions between the two groups arise but ultimately give way to a functional and cooperative working relationship. Training intensifies, supervised by Paddy Mayne, who harbors some resentment due to being sidelined in prior combat action.

The narrative further explores the difficulties the SAS faces during missions, particularly in an assault on Benghazi aimed at disrupting Axis supplies. Equipment failures challenge their efforts, yet Mayne's team demonstrates grit and bravery by successfully destroying enemy aircraft at Berka. This chapter contrasts the leadership styles of Stirling and Mayne, showcasing Stirling's boldness alongside Mayne's relentless determination. Despite Stirling's mixed mission outcomes, the chapter concludes with a celebratory night following their reconnaissance efforts, highlighting a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.

Overall, this chapter illustrates the evolution and consolidation of the SAS amidst adversities, spotlighting themes of strategic planning, collaboration

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

across nationalities, and the defining spirits of Stirling and Mayne, paving the way for more ambitious military endeavors in the future.

## **Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio**

**Free Trial with Bookey**





★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
22k 5 star review

## Positive feedback

Sara Scholz

...tes after each book summary  
...erstanding but also make the  
...and engaging. Bookey has  
...ling for me.

**Fantastic!!!**



I'm amazed by the variety of books and languages Bookey supports. It's not just an app, it's a gateway to global knowledge. Plus, earning points for charity is a big plus!

Masood El Toure

**Fi**



Ab  
bo  
to  
my

José Botín

...ding habit  
...o's design  
...ual growth

**Love it!**



Bookey offers me time to go through the important parts of a book. It also gives me enough idea whether or not I should purchase the whole book version or not! It is easy to use!

Wonnie Tappkx

**Time saver!**



Bookey is my go-to app for summaries are concise, ins curated. It's like having acc right at my fingertips!

**Awesome app!**



I love audiobooks but don't always have time to listen to the entire book! bookey allows me to get a summary of the highlights of the book I'm interested in!!! What a great concept !!!highly recommended!

Rahul Malviya

**Beautiful App**



This app is a lifesaver for book lovers with busy schedules. The summaries are spot on, and the mind maps help reinforce wh I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

Free Trial with Bookey

# Chapter 9 Summary: Benghazi Bed and Breakfast

## Chapter 9: Benghazi Bed and Breakfast

### Overview of the Mission

On the night of May 21, 1942, a critical World War II operation unfolds as German officers ambush Italian soldiers at a Benghazi roadblock.

Unbeknownst to the Italians, the unexpected arrival of a staff car carrying two inflatable boats, explosives, and Captain Randolph Churchill, son of Winston Churchill, sets off a chain of chaotic events that lays bare the perilous nature of wartime missions.

### Key Personnel Involved

Fitzroy Maclean and David Stirling spearhead this audacious mission, driven by the aim to cripple the Axis supply lines by mining Benghazi's harbor. Despite doubts regarding Churchill's suitability for desert warfare—given his lack of combat experience—his political connections secure his role as an observer on this high-stakes operation.

### Planning the Operation

More Free Book



Scan to Download

The plan is to deploy explosives against enemy ships in the harbor to disrupt supplies. Stirling devises a strategy involving a diversionary RAF bombing raid to create chaos prior to their strike. However, the team faces setbacks with unreliable rubber dinghies, reflecting the myriad challenges besetting their preparations.

## **Journey to Benghazi**

The team embarks on a grueling five-day journey through rugged terrain, surviving multiple close encounters that nearly expose them to enemy forces. Their approach is marred by vehicle breakdowns and heightened scrutiny, adding to the tension as they near their target.

## **Entering the City**

Once in Benghazi, the group narrowly avoids detection, thanks in part to Stirling's bold demeanor, which, coupled with quick thinking, helps them maintain their cover as they navigate the enemy-occupied city. This mix of luck and tactical acumen underscores the slim margins of survival in wartime operations.

## **Confrontation with Obstacles**

Despite their bold intent to sabotage Axis vessels, plans unravel due to

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

issues with their inflatable boats and increased vigilance from enemy sentries. Stirling's leadership shines through his ability to adapt, but the mission devolves into a test of endurance amid mounting frustrations.

## **Nightmares of War**

The chapter poignantly reflects on the futility of their efforts, as despite thrills and narrow escapes, no significant damage is inflicted on the Axis forces. The return journey ultimately foreshadows tragedy, culminating in a fatal car crash that serves as a grim reminder of war's unpredictable toll, raising questions about the true cost of their adventurous endeavors.

## **Reflections on Leadership**

Stirling stands out for his unconventional approach to leadership, blending audacity with strategic improvisation. His methods deviate from traditional military doctrine; rather than prioritizing elimination of enemies, he focuses on undermining their morale and capabilities.

## **Outcomes and Aftermath**

While the Benghazi mission yields gripping tales and highlights the bravery of the SAS, it fails to produce the intended military effects. Nonetheless, the episode elevates Stirling's standing and fortifies the SAS ethos, instilling a

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

resilient spirit for future operations.

## **Conclusion**

Throughout the chapter, the arbitrary nature of war is starkly illustrated, challenging the notion of success against the backdrop of profound human cost. The narrative resonates with the understanding that acts of valor, while celebrated, often lead to deeper losses and unforeseen tragedies, leaving a bittersweet legacy in their wake.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## Chapter 10 Summary: Seven Airfields

In Chapter 10 of "SAS" by Ben Macintyre, the narrative unfolds against the backdrop of World War II, highlighting the critical role of the Special Air Service (SAS) and its operations in the Western Desert.

### **Influence of Winston Churchill:**

Winston Churchill emerges as a pivotal figure, shaping SAS's early direction through his writings and intense advocacy for military action. His concern about the dire situation in Malta prompts him to pressure General Auchinleck for an offensive to uplift Allied forces in the area, emphasizing the strategic importance of the island.

### **Strategic Planning:**

In response to these directives, David Stirling is tasked with architecting a series of raids on six key enemy airfields, aiming to severely disrupt Axis air capabilities. Stirling's health issues complicate his role, yet he is supported by loyal members, Cooper and Seekings, who handle essential logistical aspects, showcasing the collaborative spirit within the SAS.

### **Arrival of Dr. Malcolm Pleydell:**

More Free Book



Scan to Download

The team welcomes Dr. Malcolm Pleydell, a Royal Army Medical Corps officer new to the raw, unorthodox world of the SAS. His initial naivety about the inherent dangers reflects the camaraderie within the unit, which is characterized by a vibrant esprit de corps that starkly contrasts with conventional military environments.

### **Launch of Raids:**

On the evening of June 13, 1942, the SAS launches its bold, coordinated assaults. Teams navigate through hazardous territory, executing strategic operations aimed at dismantling enemy air power, crucial for ensuring vital supplies to Malta. Notably, this effort includes collaboration with French leaders, which enhances the multinational character of their operations.

### **Challenges Encountered:**

However, the raids are fraught with peril. Internal betrayals lead to unfortunate captures of SAS personnel, adding layers of complexity to their mission. Stirling's leadership during these turbulent events is marked by both audacity and personal strife, especially when he must issue orders leading to lethal confrontations with enemy forces.

### **Outcomes and Reflections:**

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

Despite significant challenges, the offensives yield notable destruction of Axis assets, albeit at a heavy cost in terms of SAS casualties. As the chapter concludes, Stirling grapples with a profound mix of pride and sorrow, reflecting the often stark moral ambiguities of wartime decisions. This internal conflict encapsulates the broader themes of bravery and ethical dilemmas faced by those engaged in the chaotic theatre of war.

Chapter 10 intricately portrays the strategic, personal, and emotional dimensions of the SAS's wartime endeavors, illustrating a pivotal moment in their legacy and the broader conflict of WWII.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 11 Summary: Mass Sabotage at Sidi Haneish

## Summary of Chapter 11 from "SAS" by Ben Macintyre

### Operation Success and Shifting Tides of War

Chapter 11 opens with Captain David Stirling reflecting on the success of the Special Air Service (SAS) in disrupting Axis supply lines, an achievement he believes played a crucial role in saving Malta from impending invasion. However, upon returning to the Siwa Oasis, he is confronted with disheartening news from the North African front: Tobruk has fallen back into German control, and the Afrika Korps is advancing toward Egypt. In a tense atmosphere, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stresses the imperative of holding Egypt at all costs, highlighting the escalating stakes of the conflict.

### Planning New Raids

Among Stirling's group is Malcolm Pleydell, who captures the uncertainty and tension building around their next mission. Stirling proposes a shift from small, opportunistic strikes to a bold, sustained campaign against the Afrika Korps, launching from a forward base in the desert. This new strategy reflects a growing confidence in the SAS's capabilities and an understanding

More Free Book



Scan to Download

of the need for more aggressive action.

## **Innovations in Tactics**

To facilitate their ambitious plans, Stirling secures specially modified jeeps designed for desert warfare. Equipped with heavy machine guns and enhanced for speed and mobility, these vehicles fundamentally transform their operational approach. Over subsequent raids, the SAS targets German and Italian airfields, achieving significant successes and establishing themselves as a formidable force in the region.

## **Adapting to the Desert Environment**

The harsh desert landscape presents both physical and psychological challenges for the SAS operatives. Despite the grueling conditions, camp life fosters a sense of camaraderie, with soldiers bonding over shared experiences and music amid the chaos of war. However, as their effectiveness increases, so do enemy countermeasures, intensifying the threats faced during their operations.

## **The Impact of the Fights**

As the SAS's reputation grows, the risks associated with their daring raids escalate accordingly. The narrative details various operations, including a

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

particularly impactful raid at Sidi Haneish, where the SAS deals a severe blow to German air capabilities. Yet the toll of their engagements is striking; losses among comrades are felt deeply, instilling a somber tone within the ranks and emphasizing the emotional weight of their actions.

## **Reflection on Warfare**

The omnipresent danger prompts deeper reflections on the nature of warfare. In the midst of brutal confrontations, moments of humanity emerge, particularly during somber rituals that honor fallen comrades. The chapter concludes with a heavy sense of introspection, highlighting the complexities and moral ambiguities of the SAS's role in the brutal realities of the conflict, leaving readers to ponder the cost of their daring exploits.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 12: Desert Doctors

## Summary of Chapter 12 - SAS

In this chapter, the narrative weaves together the personal and strategic dimensions of World War II, highlighting the challenges faced by individuals and military units amidst the chaos of war.

The chapter opens with the **Paratroopers' Prayer**, a moving poem discovered among the belongings of André Zirnheld. This prayer encapsulates the sentiments of humility and the quest for courage that resonate deeply within the French airborne forces, setting a reflective tone for the challenges faced by soldiers in combat.

Next, we meet **Surgeon Captain Markus Lutterotti**, an aristocratic doctor navigating the grim realities of wartime medicine while stationed in North Africa. As he treats German troops, Lutterotti contemplates the dual nature of war—its horrors and its stark banality. This tension is palpable when he embarks on a seemingly innocent joyride in a reconnaissance plane, only to be embroiled in enemy fire and subsequently captured by British forces.

In captivity, Lutterotti forms an unexpected bond with **Malcolm Pleydell**, a

More Free Book



Scan to Download

British doctor. Their discussions reveal contrasting perspectives on the war, as they share personal stories and philosophies, providing a rare glimpse of friendship amid the strife. This companionship offers a moment of respite for Lutterotti, underscoring the humanity that persists, even in dire circumstances.

Capitalizing on the chaos surrounding his imprisonment, Lutterotti devises a daring escape plan. He skillfully navigates the desert, using the stars as his guide while combating the harsh conditions and his own heat exhaustion. His ordeal ultimately culminates in a return to German lines, where he recounts his experiences—including positive remarks about his captors—during interrogation. This twist highlights both the absurdities and the resilience of the human spirit during wartime.

Meanwhile, on the broader military front, **Stirling**, a key character in the Special Air Service (SAS), grapples with the pressures of wartime leadership. Tasked with orchestrating a large-scale raid on Benghazi, this marks a pivotal evolution from his usual covert operations. Engaging with high-ranking officials, Stirling advocates for a more expansive role for his unit, reflecting the shifting dynamics of military strategy during the war.

The chapter culminates with Stirling attending a dinner hosted by **Prime Minister Winston Churchill**. Here, he seizes the opportunity to charm Churchill with tales of L Detachment's exploits, successfully garnering the

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Prime Minister's interest in their innovative tactics. Inspired by the conversations of the evening, Stirling drafts a strategic proposal aimed at consolidating special forces under L Detachment's command, advocating for greater autonomy in military operations.

In essence, Chapter 12 intricately explores the interplay between individual experiences of war and the larger strategic movements shaping World War II. It deftly contrasts personal resilience and camaraderie against the backdrop of shifting military tactics, laying the groundwork for the SAS's evolving role in the conflict.

## **Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio**

**Free Trial with Bookey**

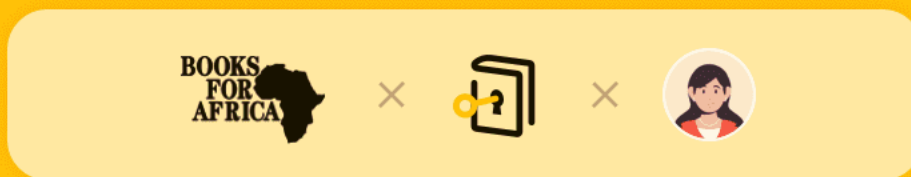




# Read, Share, Empower

Finish Your Reading Challenge, Donate Books to African Children.

## The Concept



This book donation activity is rolling out together with Books For Africa. We release this project because we share the same belief as BFA: For many children in Africa, the gift of books truly is a gift of hope.

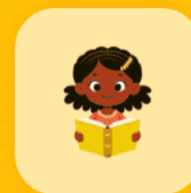
## The Rule



Earn 100 points



Redeem a book



Donate to Africa

Your learning not only brings knowledge but also allows you to earn points for charitable causes! For every 100 points you earn, a book will be donated to Africa.

Free Trial with Bookey

# Chapter 13 Summary: Quite, Quite Mad

## Summary of Chapter 13 from "SAS" by Ben Macintyre

In this chapter, titled “**Power Struggle at Headquarters,**” the tensions and dynamics within the military hierarchy unfold, revealing both the challenges and opportunities faced by David Stirling, a pioneering figure in unconventional warfare. Stirling, often dismissive of the bureaucratic elements in the military whom he viewed as incompetent gossipers, maneuvered through the power struggles to his advantage. His daring approach to warfare caught the attention of Winston Churchill, who likened Stirling’s audacious style to that of the legendary 'Scarlet Pimpernel,' emphasizing his romantic and heroic image as a leader.

As Stirling navigates the shifting currents of military politics, he is joined by **Bob Melot**, a Belgian spy fluent in Arabic. Melot’s background and expertise in tribal dynamics provide crucial insights that would later play a pivotal role in SAS operations. Despite his modest appearance, Melot showcases remarkable resilience and adaptability in high-stakes situations, solidifying his value to the team.

The chapter progresses into **Operation Bigamy**, a planned strike aimed at Benghazi. This operation faces immediate complications, with reports

More Free Book



Scan to Download

suggesting that they had been compromised. However, headquarters dismissed these concerns, leading to a chaotic execution that placed the soldiers in grave danger.

As the mission unfolds, the SAS incurs significant casualties. Melot, alongside his comrades, endures severe injuries, while medic **Pleydell** confronts the heart-wrenching decisions of triaging the wounded amidst a collapsing mission. The toll of Operation Bigamy is staggering, with over 25% of the unit either killed, wounded, or captured. In the wake of this disaster, Stirling experiences an unexpected promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, marking a significant turning point as the SAS is finally granted formal regimental status, reflecting the unpredictable nature of military recognition and reputation.

Upon returning to Cairo, Stirling encounters further challenges, particularly with **General Montgomery**, who remains resistant to the reassignment of seasoned soldiers to support Stirling's unconventional methodologies. Montgomery's rigid stance forces Stirling to recruit less experienced troops, complicating his ambitious plans for the SAS and highlighting the rift between traditional military command and innovative warfare strategies.

This chapter encapsulates the tension that exists between the established military practices and the need for adaptive, creative tactics in warfare. Stirling's unyielding spirit in the face of adversity is vividly portrayed,

More Free Book



Scan to Download

setting the stage for future endeavors of the SAS as they continue to navigate the complexities of modern warfare.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 14 Summary: Alamein

## Chapter 14 Summary: Alamein

In the tumultuous landscape of World War II, British forces were ramping up their efforts in North Africa. The chapter begins with a focus on B Squadron, led by Stirling, which consisted primarily of new recruits undergoing training in Kabrit. Unbeknownst to Stirling, his innovative and audacious strategies were catching the eye of General Montgomery, the commander of the Eighth Army. Though known for his stern demeanor, Montgomery recognized the potential for Stirling's unconventional tactics to yield significant advantages in battle.

Meanwhile, A Squadron, under the leadership of Paddy Mayne, was engaging in audacious nighttime raids reminiscent of piracy. They executed a series of bold operations that disrupted enemy railways, ambushed supply convoys, and compromised communications. Over the span of twenty days, these efforts culminated in severing the crucial railway to Tobruk repeatedly, forcing enemy convoys into daylight vulnerability and chaos.

The SAS (Special Air Service) thrived on unorthodox warfare, employing asymmetrical tactics that emphasized surprise and stealth. Corporal John William Sillito's harrowing solo trek across the desert is a testament to this

More Free Book



Scan to Download

spirit of survival. After becoming separated from his unit, Sillito demonstrated extraordinary resilience and resourcefulness, managing to reach his base camp after eight grueling days in hostile terrain.

As the SAS continued its covert operations, the Allied offensive at Alamein commenced on 23 October 1942. This operation proved pivotal, as Montgomery's forces successfully engaged Rommel's troops, substantially boosting Allied morale. The prior disruptions caused by the SAS played an essential role in undermining the German forces' readiness for this crucial battle.

However, B Squadron was not without its challenges. Faced with high casualties, the squadron's inexperience was compounded by an espionage operation led by Captain John Richards, also known as Theodore John William Schurch. Schurch had infiltrated British POW camps, gathering intelligence from captured SAS members, which exposed the vulnerabilities within the ranks.

Amidst these struggles, Stirling's vision for the SAS was unyielding. He began planning future operations aimed at penetrating enemy lines and acquiring intelligence while continuing their disruptive raids against retreating German forces. Despite his declining health, Stirling pushed for the expansion of the SAS into a second regiment, recognizing the necessity for a larger, more robust presence.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

The chapter takes a dramatic turn when Stirling is captured. During his imprisonment, he attempts to escape but fails, while three SAS members manage to conceal themselves from German searchers. They eventually encounter French soldiers, signifying a reunion with Allied forces. However, in a moment of vulnerability, Stirling inadvertently divulges information to Schurch, leading to a profound betrayal.

As the chapter draws to a close, it reflects on the evolution of the SAS during the desert campaign. The transition from small, independent groups to a more structured formation marks a significant development, laying the groundwork for future operations in Europe. The experiences and skills learned in North Africa forged a legacy of resilience and adaptability in the men of the SAS, shaping their contribution to the broader war effort.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 15 Summary: Italy

## ### WAR IN EUROPE

In Chapter 15, titled "Italy," the uncertain future of the Special Air Service (SAS) looms large following the capture of its founding leader, David Stirling. In his absence, Paddy Mayne emerges as a prominent figure, but his leadership is marked by volatility and a disregard for administrative protocols. His personal turmoil deepens when he is denied leave to attend his father's funeral, resulting in a public outburst that prompts significant changes within the SAS structure. This leads to the division of the unit into two distinct branches: the Special Boat Squadron (SBS) and the Special Raiding Squadron (SRS).

As military operations ramp up for the invasion of Sicily, the SRS prepares for its mission, boarding the Ulster Monarch. Their objective is to disable enemy artillery positions at Capo Murro di Porco, a critical move to safeguard the Allied landing forces. Despite facing tumultuous seas, the SRS launches an assault that achieves remarkable success with minimal resistance, capturing or destroying key artillery pieces.

However, subsequent operations reveal the severe realities of war. While securing the coastal town of Augusta, the SRS encounters tenacious German

More Free Book



Scan to Download

resistance during the Battle of Termoli, where combat becomes merciless and civilians tragically caught in the crossfire amplify the horrors of battle. These experiences starkly contrast the earlier engagements in the North African desert, emphasizing the war's increasingly brutal nature.

As the chaos unfolds, the psychological struggles of the soldiers come to the fore. No longer engaged in heroic maneuvers, they find themselves facing morally ambiguous situations and the harsh consequences of war. The advancing Allies encounter stiffening German resistance, which employs new tactics, leading to more severe repercussions for captured commandos due to Hitler's direct orders for their execution.

In this context, the newly formed 2SAS grapples with traditional commando operations, presenting challenges in operational efficacy and the melding of combat philosophies. The different fighting principles of the SBS and SRS create an ongoing tension as they collectively navigate the escalating brutality of war. This chapter starkly illustrates the sacrifices and psychological tolls of warfare, setting the stage for further developments in the European theater.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 16: Bulbasket

## Summary of Chapter 16: Bulbasket

The chapter begins with Greville-Bell and his comrades who evaded capture for an impressive seventy-three days, ultimately reaching the safety of the British advance line after enduring significant hardship. In stark contrast, Sergeant Bill Foster and Corporal James Shortall from the 2nd Special Air Service (2SAS), while on a railway sabotage mission in Italy, unfortunately fell into enemy hands. Despite enduring brutal interrogations, they maintained their silence against their German captors, leading to a fateful execution by a firing squad. Their deaths marked a grim escalation in the ongoing conflict involving the SAS.

As the Allied forces prepared for D-Day on June 1, 1944, Captain John Tonkin was briefed on "Operation Bulbasket," a crucial mission designed to delay German troop reinforcements during the forthcoming invasion. This operation was part of a broader restructuring of the SAS, which had become integrated into a larger brigade led by Brigadier Roderick McLeod. As new recruits joined their ranks, Tonkin geared up to collaborate closely with the French Resistance and the Special Operations Executive (SOE), crucial allies in their endeavor.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

On June 6, just before the D-Day invasion, Tonkin and his SAS squadron parachuted into France, tasked with gathering intelligence, disrupting German movements, and forging alliances with local resistance fighters known as the "maquis." However, the challenges posed by maintaining operational security were substantial, particularly as Tonkin's communications with the local partisans carried inherent risks.

The SAS unit swiftly commenced raids that inflicted significant damage on German logistics, including an airstrike that annihilated essential petrol reserves vital for German armored divisions. However, as their actions provoked a fierce response, the pressure mounted on Tonkin's forces, which were fast becoming targets for aggressive German search operations.

The situation deteriorated dramatically on June 27 when their SAS camp was overrun by 400 German soldiers. Many members of the unit were captured, including Tonkin, while others miraculously evaded capture only to face increasingly perilous conditions as German troops swarmed the area.

For those captured, the ordeal continued as they endured harrowing interrogations. However, the implementation of Hitler's Commando Order—mandating the execution of captured special forces—added a layer of complexity to their fate. Responsibility for executing the orders often fell to lower-ranking officers, creating a tense and chaotic environment within German command.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

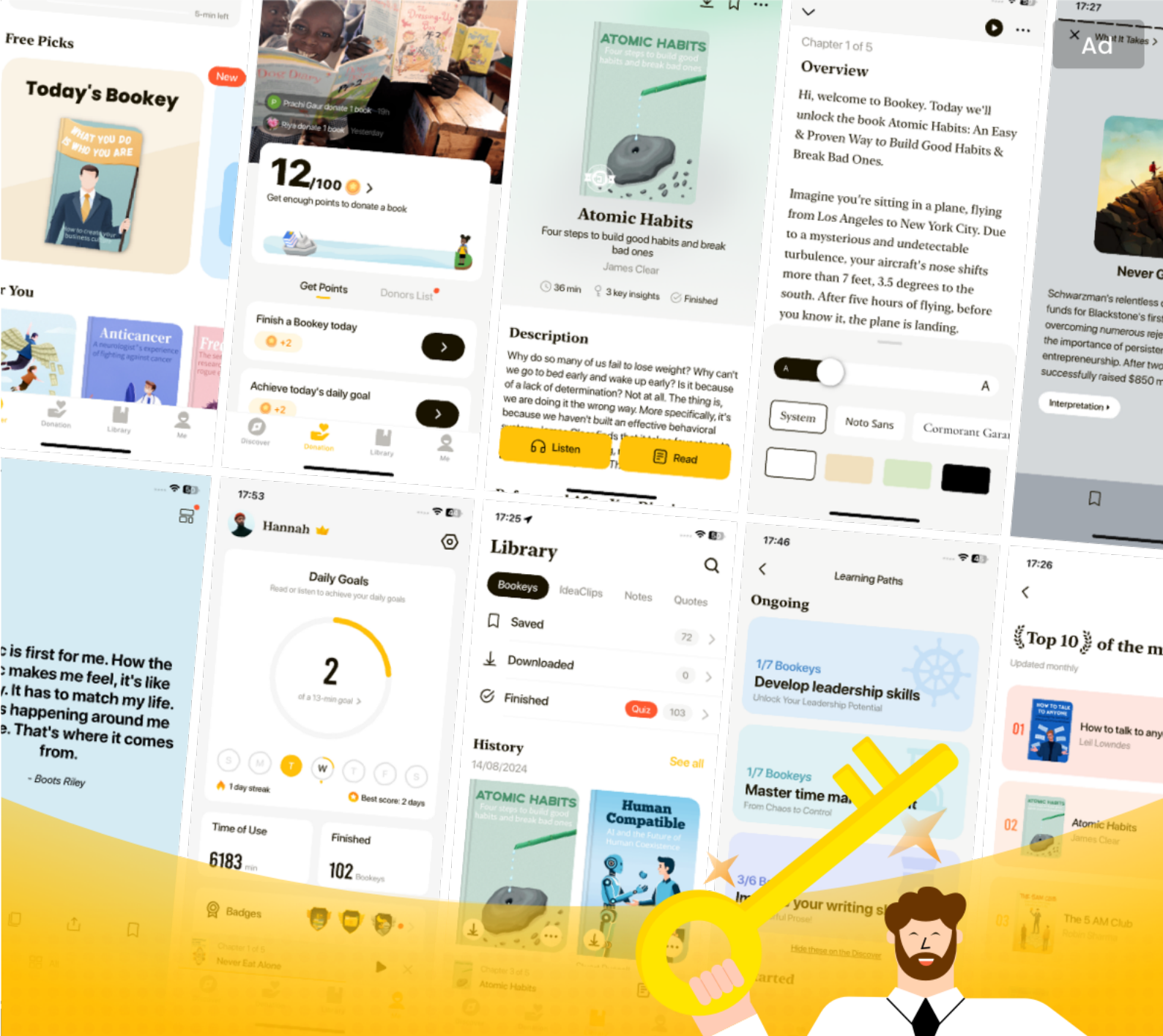
Tragically, on July 7, the captured soldiers faced a brutal execution in the Saint Sauvant forest, intended to serve as a grim warning against further SAS operations. This mass execution represented a dark and harrowing chapter in the SAS's struggle against Nazi Germany, epitomizing their courage amidst the brutality of war.

Overall, this chapter poignantly captures the harrowing experiences of SAS soldiers, detailing their bravery and resilience in the face of overwhelming adversity while underscoring the severe consequences of their operations during this critical period of World War II.

## **Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio**

**Free Trial with Bookey**





# World' best ideas unlock your potential

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to download



# Chapter 17 Summary: Houndsworth

## Chapter 17 Summary: Operation Houndsworth

### Lethal Outcomes and Initial Successes

The chapter begins in the aftermath of a disastrous military operation, leaving soldiers like Lincoln Bundy missing in action. As news of a series of murders in the nearby forest spreads, the brutality of war becomes palpable. Meanwhile, SAS Operation Bulbasket brings temporary success against the advancing German armored units, causing significant damage to their infrastructure but resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. This prepares the groundwork for future accountability focused on war crimes.

### The Setting: The Massif de Morvan

The rugged and forested terrain of the Morvan region serves as the backdrop for SAS missions. On June 6, 1944, a group of soldiers, tasked as advance scouts for Operation Houndsworth, parachute into this hostile environment. The mission is led by the astute Major Bill Fraser and Lieutenant Johnny Cooper, accompanied by the resourceful staff sergeant Reg Seekings. However, their night insertion is fraught with complications due to inclement weather and navigation errors, challenging their early tactical

More Free Book



Scan to Download

approach.

## **Challenges of Insertion**

Upon landing, the soldiers face treacherous conditions, leading to injuries and lost supplies. Cooper and Seekings manage to regroup with their unit, bolstered by the assistance of local resistance fighters, the French Maquis. The narrative shines a light on the Maquis's efforts to navigate internal politics and deal with issues of betrayal, showcasing their bravery in the fight against German occupiers.

## **Tensions and Tactical Operations**

The SAS finds itself engaged in guerrilla warfare, targeting German supply lines under Fraser's command. Their execution of ambushes inflicts considerable casualties on enemy forces but also provokes severe reprisals against local villages, highlighting the conflict's civil war dynamics and the devastating impacts on civilian life.

## **Emergence of Religion in Battle**

Amidst the turmoil, Reverend Fraser McLuskey, the SAS chaplain, emerges as a crucial figure, uplifting the troops' spirits. His reflections delve into the soldiers' struggles with faith amid the violence and uncertainty of war,

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

providing a moral anchor during dark times.

## **Significant Ambush Strategies**

On June 24, a coordinated ambush between SAS operatives and local maquisards leads to substantial German losses. While this victory bolsters the SAS morale, it also triggers brutal retaliation against towns, prompting the SAS to launch further retaliatory strikes, illustrating the cycle of violence that defines this era.

## **Strategic Intelligence and Coordination**

The logistics of the mission reveals the SAS's need for reinforcements and resources, such as jeeps. Their strategic use of overwhelming firepower targets significant assets, including an oil factory, while intelligence efforts focus on high-ranking German officials like Field Marshal Rommel, underscoring the importance of information in warfare.

## **Challenges of Local Collaboration**

Despite close cooperation with the French resistance, the SAS faces challenges marked by mistrust and peril. Encounters with the Milice, the Vichy government's paramilitary group, lead to miscommunications and chaotic confrontations. This aspect highlights the complexity and

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

unpredictability of resistance efforts during the war.

## **Conclusion**

In closing, the chapter encapsulates the grim realities of war and the intricate tapestry of resistance movements. Through the intertwining narratives of personal struggles, strategic military operations, and the profound consequences of conflict, it portrays a vivid picture of the trials and tribulations faced by both soldiers and civilians during this turbulent period in history.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 18 Summary: An Eye for an Eye

## ### Summary of Chapter 18: An Eye for an Eye

### #### Fickle Allies and Internal Conflicts

The chapter opens by examining the turbulent landscape of the French Resistance during World War II, where internal disagreements and violent confrontations often undermined collaboration efforts with the Special Air Service (SAS). Instances of mob justice against suspected collaborators reveal a chaotic atmosphere in which trust and loyalty are regularly questioned, complicating SAS missions.

### #### Commander's Visit and Operations Overview

On August 8, 1944, Fraser McLuskey, an SAS officer, meets with Paddy Mayne, the commanding officer of the 1st SAS Regiment. After months of administrative tasks, Mayne is eager to return to direct combat. His visit serves to prepare for a planned offensive that ultimately falls through due to shifting war dynamics, highlighting the uncertainty faced by the SAS.

### #### Operation Gain Challenges

The chapter outlines the challenges of Operation Gain, aimed at disrupting German railway lines in Normandy. The mission proves disastrous when Captain Pat Garstin's team is ambushed, leading to significant losses,

More Free Book



Scan to Download

including the death of Major Ian Fenwick during a subsequent counterattack. Despite the harsh setbacks, the SAS remains committed to their objectives.

#### #### Notable SAS Engagements

Despite the severe casualties, the SAS successfully executes several sabotage missions that not only undermine German military operations but also boost the morale of French civilians. However, these operations reveal a complex situation on the battlefield, with declining morale among German troops contrasted against the persistence and resilience of the SS forces.

#### #### Emergence of Brutality

As the conflict escalates, the distinction between military justice and revenge blurs. Paddy Mayne reaffirms guidelines on the treatment of prisoners, advocating for a strategy rooted in fear rather than needless cruelty. Nevertheless, as the war approaches its conclusion, the intensity of SAS operations increasingly adopts a barbaric edge, reflecting the brutal realities of warfare.

#### #### Psychological Toll of War

The relentless demands of combat take a significant psychological toll on SAS members, particularly Bill Fraser and Johnny Wiseman, who exhibit signs of mental fatigue. This highlights the emotional strain that even the most hardened soldiers endure during the relentless fight against the enemy, shedding light on the often-overlooked internal battles of war.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

#### #### The Liberation of Paris and Stirling's Captivity

On August 25, 1944, Paris is liberated by Allied forces, igniting celebrations among the SAS. However, this momentous occasion is overshadowed by the situation of David Stirling, the SAS's founder, who remains imprisoned in Colditz Castle. In captivity, he reflects on the challenges faced by his unit and secretly hopes for their continued pursuit against the enemy.

This chapter effectively illustrates the precarious nature of wartime alliances, the profound emotional impact of combat, and the complex moral terrain navigated by the SAS, where military discipline often gives way to the chaotic impulses of vengeance.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## Chapter 19 Summary: Paddy McGinty's Goat

### ### Chapter 19: Paddy McGinty's Goat

This chapter delves into the life and experiences of Roy Farran, a remarkable figure in the history of the British Special Air Service (SAS), known both for his extraordinary bravery and insubordination in the face of orders he found impractical. Born in India to Irish parents and a devout Catholic, Farran's military journey began as a tank commander during the North African campaigns of World War II, where he quickly earned a stellar reputation for his unconventional tactics. Notably, he once chose to immolate an Italian tank instead of performing a traditional burial for its crew, reflecting his ruthless commitment to the war effort.

Farran's career took a perilous turn when he was captured during the Battle of Crete. However, his escape, assisted by the Greek resistance, was a pivotal moment, leading him to adopt the moniker "Paddy McGinty," which symbolized his rebellious spirit. This shift propelled him into the ranks of the SAS, a unit that had begun to garner mythic status due to their daring operations in the desert. Eager to capitalize on the SAS's distinctive approach to warfare, Farran took part in various missions in Italy, favoring chaotic engagements over conventional infantry tactics. His audacity earned him multiple commendations, culminating in a prestigious Military Cross.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Farran's most significant challenge came during the crucial D-Day landings in Normandy. The SAS units, under pressure from premature Allied advances and a lack of actionable intelligence, struggled initially. However, Farran's moment to shine arrived with Operation Wallace, which focused on attacking German forces deep behind enemy lines. Here, he displayed his flair for sabotage and ambush tactics, successfully inflicting significant losses on German troops and disrupting their logistics.

His leadership during battles, particularly in commanding jeep units that executed surprise attacks and captured enemy supplies, was instrumental in delaying German retreats. Establishing a camp at Châtillon, Farran led a sustained offensive that culminated in heavy German casualties, showcasing the efficacy of small, agile forces in modern warfare. His approach epitomized the SAS's philosophy of maximizing battlefield impact through cunning and speed.

Following Operation Wallace, Farran's achievements were recognized with a Distinguished Service Order (DSO), marking a prestigious acknowledgment of his contributions. As the SAS transitioned to more comfortable headquarters in the UK, it was a stark contrast to the demanding conditions they had previously endured in the field.

In essence, Roy Farran's narrative serves as a compelling illustration of the

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

SAS's resourcefulness and tenacity during World War II, spotlighting crucial operations, personal valor, and the evolution of the unit amid the war's relentless challenges.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## Chapter 20: A Predilection for Risk

### Chapter 20: A Predilection for Risk

As summer 1944 unfolded in central France, the Allied forces, capitalizing on a German retreat, anticipated a straightforward march into Alsace-Lorraine. The Special Air Service (SAS) played a crucial role in this strategy, employing guerrilla tactics to disrupt enemy supply lines and create chaos behind enemy lines. However, military commanders misjudged the resolve of the German troops, who quickly mobilized to strengthen their defenses in the Vosges mountains.

Amidst these swift alterations in the battle landscape, Captain Henry Carey Druce of the 2nd SAS descended into the tumultuous Vosges to set up a critical drop zone for reinforcements. With his spirited personality and prior intelligence experience, Druce hoped to collaborate with local French resistance fighters, led by Colonel Maximum. Yet, his lofty aspirations soon collided with reality; the anticipated German retreat turned into a fierce counter-offensive that caught Druce and his team off guard.

Facing immediate danger, Druce's unit found themselves pursued relentlessly by German forces. Their situation grew increasingly dire, compounded by dwindling supplies and escalating tensions with the French

More Free Book



Scan to Download

resistance, who struggled to understand the SAS's preference for stealth and evasion over direct engagement with the enemy.

Weeks dragged on in a harrowing game of cat and mouse, and Druce finally established a drop zone after navigating local turmoil and risks. However, the much-needed reinforcements came with chaos; logistical mishaps led to confusion, looting, and, tragically, fatalities among the French resistance fighters.

As the SAS continued their operations, harassing German forces in the village of Moussey, the broader operational context shifted. American troops found themselves stalled, resulting in mounting losses and supply shortages for the SAS. Ultimately, Colonel Franks of the 2nd SAS faced a difficult decision, abandoning Operation Loyton and pushing toward the safety of American lines.

In a grim twist of fate, Sergeant Kenneth Seymour, who had sustained injuries, was left behind and subsequently captured by German forces. During his interrogation, his claims of resistance were dismissed with skepticism, leading to damaging questions regarding his loyalty. After the war, Seymour's account painted him as a hero, yet rumors circulated about his potential betrayal, suggesting that he may have leaked critical intelligence to the enemy. This further complicated his standing among his peers, many of whom began to view him as a traitor.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

Despite these controversies, the SAS emerged from this tumultuous period with a starlit reputation, capturing public attention for their audacious tactics and unconventional warfare strategies. The fluctuating perceptions of bravery and betrayal served as a stark reminder of the moral complexities of war, where choices become clouded under the pressure of survival and duty. This chapter ultimately reveals that the true challenges of war extend beyond mere combat, delving deep into the fragile fabric of human character under strain.

## **Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio**

**Free Trial with Bookey**





# Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics  
New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

## Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey

## Chapter 21 Summary: Battaglione Alleata

### Summary of Chapter 21 from "SAS" by Ben Macintyre

Chapter 21 delves into the remarkable operations of the Special Air Service (SAS) during World War II, particularly highlighting their audacious actions in Italy as the war neared its end. The chapter begins by illustrating the heightened interest in the SAS's legendary exploits, especially their famous missions in France. General Dwight Eisenhower publicly acknowledged the pivotal role the SAS played in aiding the Allied forces, emphasizing their effectiveness against the formidable German military.

The narrative shifts to the village of Albinea on March 26, 1945, where the German LI Corps headquarters was heavily fortified. Two Italian women partisans, displaying immense courage and resourcefulness, managed to gather crucial intelligence on the composition and strength of the German troops stationed there. They relayed this information to Major Roy Farran, who led an eclectic group known as the 'Battaglione Alleata.' This unit comprised British soldiers, Italian partisans, and Russian deserters, though many of its members lacked formal military training.

In a bold move that defied higher command's orders, Farran orchestrated a night attack on the German headquarters. His strategy aimed to sow chaos

More Free Book



Scan to Download

among the enemy forces by leveraging the diverse skills of his unconventional unit. On the night of the assault, the SAS implemented surprise tactics and overwhelming force, significantly complemented by the unexpected addition of a piper playing traditional Scottish tunes, which invigorated the attackers.

The ensuing combat was fierce, characterized by intense close-quarters fighting that resulted in considerable casualties on both sides. Nevertheless, the SAS successfully dismantled key structures of the German command and dealt a severe blow to their morale. After accomplishing their mission, the raiders made their retreat, leaving behind a trail of destruction and psychological distress among the German troops.

Despite the risk of facing court martial for disobeying direct orders, Farran's successful raid greatly bolstered the SAS's esteemed reputation and paved the way for ongoing guerrilla operations against retreating German forces. As the chapter concludes, it reflects on the broader implications of this operation, illustrating how by May 2, the Allied forces celebrated a decisive victory in Italy, marking a crucial turning point in the war. The leadership transition to Brigadier Mike Calvert of the SAS Brigade symbolizes the evolving nature of the SAS's role and sets the stage for the next phase in their storied history within the context of World War II.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 22 Summary: Into the Reich

## Chapter 22: Into the Reich - Summary

As World War II neared its conclusion, the Special Air Service (SAS) transitioned from its role as a forceful liberator to an occupying power in Germany. On March 25, 1945, the unit crossed the Rhine, thrust into a new phase characterized by fierce confrontations with both determined German military forces and civilians. The resistance included not only veteran soldiers but also fanatical SS troops and young boys hastily drafted into the fight, indicating the desperate situation in Germany.

The combat conditions the SAS faced were marked by ambushes and guerrilla warfare, evoking memories of their earlier operations where they had once fought alongside resistance forces. The reactions of civilians varied; while some surrendered, others fought back with tenacity, complicating the SAS's mission and leading to chaotic engagements across the conflict zones.

Amidst this turmoil, the SAS formed **Frankforce**, a specialized unit consisting of two squadrons heavily armed with weaponry to assist airborne divisions and armor during their advances into German territory. Their missions shifted to close-quarters combat in dense woods, presenting new

More Free Book



Scan to Download

challenges and increasing the risk of casualties.

Key engagements were chaotic, with SAS soldiers often encountering high casualties from hidden German positions. Encountering very young fighters prompted a deeper reflection on the harsh realities of war, taking a toll on the veterans who had already witnessed the brutalities of battle.

Under the capable leadership of Major Dick Bond and Paddy Mayne, the SAS undertook complex operations in these tough conditions. Mayne, in particular, distinguished himself with extraordinary bravery during critical moments, leading rescues under heavy fire against an enemy well-prepared to defend their territory.

Despite their courageous efforts, particularly Mayne's pivotal actions, controversy arose regarding military recognition. Although his contributions were significant enough to merit the Victoria Cross, it was denied; instead, he received a bar to his Distinguished Service Order. This decision underscored an ongoing debate surrounding military commendations, especially for operations conducted by special forces, where documentation often fell short.

This chapter delves into the profound transformations within the SAS as they adapted to their new roles in an occupied territory, confronting the harsh realities of warfare and the moral ambiguities of their engagements

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

with both enemy forces and civilians alike.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 23 Summary: Liberation

## Summary of Chapter 23: Liberation

### Major Lassen's Valor

Major Lassen demonstrated exceptional courage during a pivotal assault, leading his troops with a selfless spirit that ultimately cost him his life. His heroic actions resulted in the destruction of critical enemy strongholds and the successful capture of numerous prisoners. For his bravery, Lassen was awarded the Victoria Cross, making him the only non-Commonwealth soldier to receive this prestigious honor during World War II.

### The Awakening at Bergen-Belsen

On April 15, 1945, members of the Special Air Service (SAS) were horrified to discover the atrocities at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. As they approached through the woods, they were struck by a horrific stench and witnessed emaciated prisoners desperately seeking aid amid a scene of death and despair. Lieutenant Randall and his squad were the first Allied soldiers to enter the camp, confronting the unimaginable brutality that had unfolded within its walls.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

## **The Despair of Liberation**

The SAS soldiers were met with appalling conditions at the camp, where survivors scavenged for clothing among the dead. The indifference of the guards, who continued their brutal actions even in the presence of the liberating soldiers, highlighted the depths of depravity within the camp. Hauptsturmführer Josef Kramer, the camp commandant, exemplified this detachment, attempting to shift blame for the inmates' suffering.

## **A Moral Dilemma**

Faced with the ongoing violence and injustices, SAS member Seekings felt a surge of righteous anger, confronting a guard to protect a vulnerable prisoner. In assuming control of the camp, the SAS aimed to restore a sense of humanity, prioritizing the welfare of the surviving inmates and arresting those responsible for the camp's horrific conditions.

## **Stunning Revelations**

Richard Dimbleby's poignant BBC report brought the harrowing experiences of Bergen-Belsen to global attention, illustrating the profound horrors of the Holocaust. The SAS members, deeply affected by what they had witnessed, were left to grapple with haunting memories and the overwhelming reality of human suffering that they had uncovered.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

## **The Call for Sanity**

Meanwhile, David Stirling was reflecting on the end of the war from Colditz Castle, where he was liberated and began planning future SAS missions in the Far East. However, his ambitions were derailed by Japan's sudden surrender following the atomic bombings, leading to significant shifts in military focus.

## **The End of an Era**

As World War II drew to a close, the SAS faced a transition to new roles that felt disjointed after their intense combat experiences. The regiment's disbandment was framed by bureaucratic decisions rather than a recognition of their unique contributions to the war effort. This shift reflected a broader military strategy focusing on conventional forces and nuclear capabilities, often overlooking the complexities and necessities of special operations in the evolving global landscape.

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

# Chapter 24: Who Dares Survives

## Summary of Chapter 24: Who Dares Survives

In September 1945, the landscape of the SAS (Special Air Service) underwent a significant transformation as it merged with the Belgian army and French SAS units were incorporated into the French military. Following a ceremonial parade at Hylands House in October of that year, the SAS was officially disbanded, marking the end of David Stirling's revolutionary military initiative. Yet, despite this formal dissolution, remnants of the SAS continued to operate discreetly in the shadows.

The narrative shifts focus to the troubling aftermath of World War II, particularly the fate of missing soldiers from Operation Loyton, aimed at countering the German retreat. Brian Franks, the commander of 2SAS, was deeply troubled by reports of casualties, which pointed to only one survivor, Sergeant Kenneth Seymour. Determined to uncover the truth behind the losses, Franks initiated an investigation into several soldiers feared murdered. This led to the discovery of a mass grave connected to a concentration camp, pushing the inquiry into graver territory.

Major Eric 'Bill' Barkworth spearheaded a War Crimes Investigation Team designed to gather evidence against the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

More Free Book



Scan to Download

Operating without formal authority, the team, with support from Captain Prince Yuri Galitzine, pursued their mission driven by a moral obligation for justice rather than vengeance. They faced an uphill battle with unreliable witnesses and the chaotic remnants of war, yet they pressed on with unwavering resolve.

The subsequent trials of German officers implicated in the executions highlighted a complicated narrative of shifting blame and dependency on superior orders. As key figures were tried, varying sentences were handed down, with some convicted individuals receiving leniency due to mitigating factors, such as the infamous Commando Order, which had initially directed troops to disregard the rules of engagement for POWs.

By 1948, the exhaustive investigation reached closure, and the SAS reemerged in a redefined capacity, aligning with the military's evolving needs in the post-war landscape. The formation of the 21st SAS Regiment and its offshoot units marked a new chapter, as they became crucial players in counter-terrorism and international military operations. The legacy of the SAS was further solidified as its operational model inspired the development of various international special forces, demonstrating its long-lasting influence on contemporary military tactics.

The chapter also reflects on the personal journeys of key founders post-war. David Stirling transitioned into various business ventures, while Paddy

**More Free Book**



Scan to Download

Mayne faced profound challenges in civilian life, culminating tragically. Other SAS veterans navigated distinct paths, from engaging in politics to continuing military service, illustrating the diverse fates of those who had once donned the SAS insignia.

As the chapter concludes, it offers a contemplative perspective on the evolution and enduring ethos of the SAS, accentuating their pivotal role in modern warfare and their strategic response to the brutal realities of World War II. This legacy of specialized military operations resonates well beyond the confines of history, shaping the practices of contemporary elite forces around the globe.

## **Install Bookey App to Unlock Full Text and Audio**

**Free Trial with Bookey**





# Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



## 30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



## Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



## Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



## And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey

