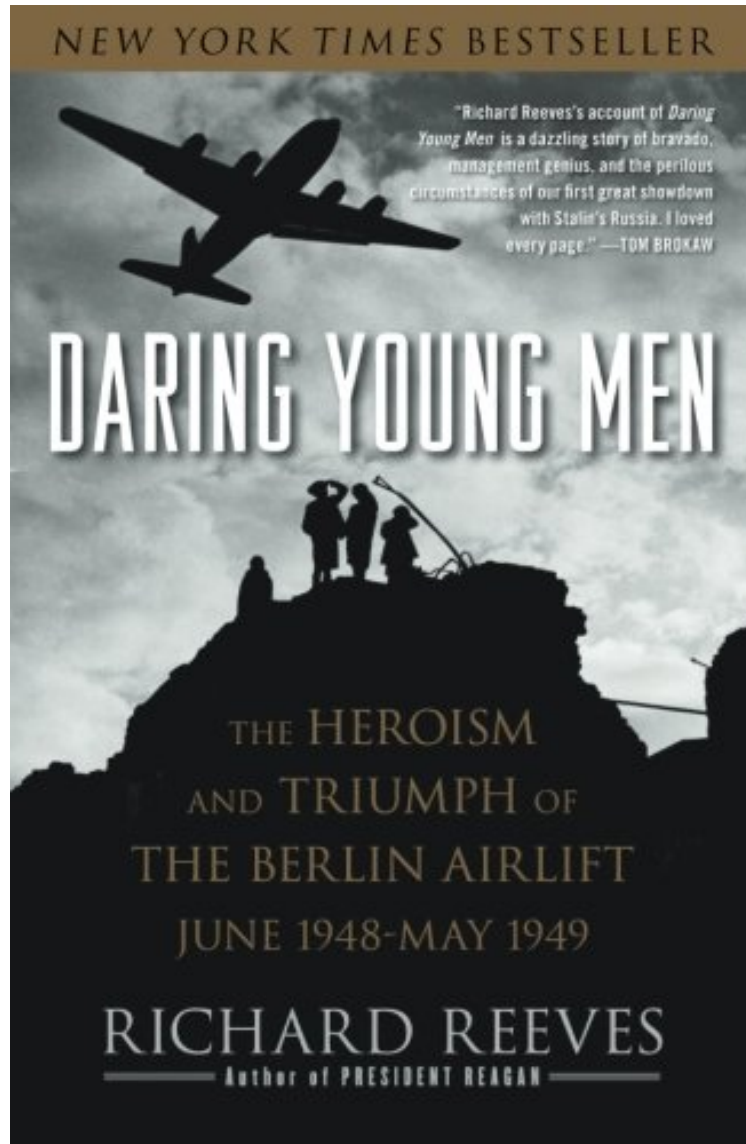


(Mobile pdf) Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of The Berlin Airlift-June 1948-May 1949

Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of The Berlin Airlift-June 1948-May 1949

Richard Reeves

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Richard Reeves : Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of The Berlin Airlift-June 1948-May 1949 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of The Berlin Airlift-June 1948-May 1949:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The amazing allies and their flying machines By Leonard R.

BlackThis book to me is one of the best I have ever read, I have learned a lot from it. I knew that the airlift happened but didn't know that it took so long to complete, and with the russians trying their best to discourage the allies and drive them out of Berlin so that they could have all of Berlin for themselves. The russians stopped them from using the railroads and also the streets through their sector so the allies had to procede with air transport of all the goods that the west Berliners needed, weather it was food, material, coal to cook with or to heat with,equipment to build runways or shelters for every one.In the process of the airlift the allies lost 75 airmen to crashes but that did not stop them from their mission. This is a book once you start to read it it is hard to put down and it also makes you feel that you are part of the airlift and the struggles that they had to feed, evacuate,and preserve the lives of the Germans and their families , yes the same ones that we were trying to kill us in the previous few years.Yes this is a must read and it is very informative and at times very heart felt, you begin to love the germans as if they were not you enemy previously2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. DARING YOUNG MENBy Rufus MacGillicuttyAs an American intelligence officer, I've spent over ten years in Berlin off and on between the years 1958 through 1985. I personally knew Colonel Gail Halversen (The Candy Bomber); in later years a fellow trainee for the German Sports Medal, who is mentioned a dozen times in the book. I have known many Germans (most now deceased) who lived through the airlift and expressed sincere gratitude for the efforts that the Americans and British made (with minor support from the French). (By the way, President Clinton, Gail is a male, and not the woman you described in the 50th anniversary of the airlift.)I rate this book as outstanding for both historical accuracy (as I know it) and the extensive research done to make it a comprehensive, first rate account directly contributing to the formation of Germany as the country we know today.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. John from WynocteBy J. CliffordExtremely enjoyable book It is so well written I felt as if those young men were there talking to me. The book contrasts mightily with the problems our country faces today. I hope they make a movie, the title,"Angels in Uniform", because that is what they were. The can do attitude, answering the call within hours enlightens us to our possibilities as human beings. At least one, and maybe two of the participants I met over the years, and I regret not engaging them in conversation about the airlift. It fits in well with the Right Stuff and Apollo 13, the one difference is that most of the players were not national heroes, just guys that were called back to active duty, and on their way to Berlin within hours. One issue I found very interesting is how it might not have made sense to participate in the airlift, but the guy at the top, Truman, said go, when almost all his top advisers in Washington advised against it, including Bradley. On many levels this book will appeal to a large audience, including people that aren't interested in history, or the military.

In the early hours of June 26, 1948, phones began ringing across America, waking up the airmen of World War II—pilots, navigators, and mechanics—who were finally beginning normal lives with new houses, new jobs, new wives, and new babies. Some were given just forty-eight hours to report to local military bases. The president, Harry S. Truman, was recalling them to active duty to try to save the desperate people of the western sectors of Berlin, the enemy capital many of them had bombed to rubble only three years before. Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin had ordered a blockade of the city, isolating the people of West Berlin, using hundreds of thousands of Red Army soldiers to close off all land and water access to the city. He was gambling that he could drive out the small detachments of American, British, and French occupation troops, because their only option was to stay and watch Berliners starve—or retaliate by starting World War III. The situation was impossible, Truman was told by his national security advisers, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His answer: "We stay in Berlin. Period." That was when the phones started ringing and local police began banging on doors to deliver telegrams to the vets. Drawing on service records and hundreds of interviews in the United States, Germany, and Great Britain, Reeves tells the stories of these civilian airmen, the successors to Stephen Ambrose's "Citizen Soldiers," ordinary Americans again called to extraordinary tasks. They did the impossible, living in barns and muddy tents, flying over Soviet-occupied territory day and night, trying to stay awake, making it up as they went along and ignoring Russian fighters and occasional anti-aircraft fire trying to drive them to hostile ground. The Berlin Airlift changed the world. It ended when Stalin backed down and lifted the blockade, but only after the bravery and sense of duty of those young heroes had bought the Allies enough time to create a new West Germany and sign the mutual defense agreement that created NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And then they went home again. Some of them forgot where they had parked their cars after they got the call.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Re-evaluating what has been called the first battle of the cold war, noted presidential biographer and syndicated columnist Reeves (President Kennedy) takes a closer look at the courageous young American and British pilots who, in order to bring food, fuel, and medicine to a Berlin blockaded by Russia, flew aging cargo planes into Soviet airspace in the fragile post-WWII years. Vying with the West for control of Berlin and Germany , Stalin choked off the defeated German capital with 400,000 Red Army soldiers, and the Washington hawks called for war with Moscow. But Truman, whom Reeves calls a hero for persevering against skeptics, pursued the airlift instead. Using diaries, letters, and government documents, Reeves shows the suffering of the vanquished German people, the calculated coldness of Soviet officials, and the individual pilots who risked their lives to save their former enemies. This probing book reveals the intricate talks that led to the unraveling of Stalin's demands, the

partitioning of Germany, and the creation of NATO. Reeves gives us a mesmerizing portrait of America at its best when challenged by Russia's tyranny. 16 pages of bw photos. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Richard Reeves's journalistic instincts shine in the hundreds of interviews he conducted with key players in the Berlin Airlift, as well as in his extensive digging in Allied and Russian archives to uncover previously unpublished documents. The author's goal in *Daring Young Men* is to highlight the sacrifices and courage of a country already stretched to the breaking point by World War II and to bring back into our history the effort's potent (and ironic) humanitarian message: "This time [the soldiers] were supposed to free the people they had been trying to kill, and who had been trying to kill them, only three years earlier." If Reeves focuses more on the individual stories than the larger political and historical context, he nonetheless succeeds admirably, relating important history well and with passion. From Booklist With the cold war receding into history, Reeves laments that Americans today know little about the Berlin Airlift of 1948–49. They tend to confuse it with the Berlin Wall or are unaware of how grateful the Germans were because the airlift warded off a Communist takeover. Thus motivated to write this account, Reeves frames his narrative of the operation's day-to-day conduct with the political struggle between the Allies and the Soviet Union over Germany. Noting Harry Truman's rejection of nearly unanimous advice to evacuate Berlin, Reeves closely tracks the activities of military officers carrying out the president's resolve, from the commander of the airlift down to pilots of the transports. Reeves describes reservists summoned from civilian life from around the world and thrust into a situation of toilsome and hazardous flying. There were many crashes, and Reeves memorializes the names of those killed. Excerpting Berliners' diaries and including the British and French contributions to the airlift, Reeves delivers a comprehensive work that achieves his goal of reviving the memory of this consequential cold war confrontation. --Gilbert Taylor