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Always marked out for high rank,
Robert Laycock came into his own
when selected to raise 8 Commando,
a new 'crack' unit early in the Second
World War. After training, 7, 8 and 11

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Life Of Major were sent to the Middle East in early 1941 and all became Layforce under Laycock's command. Layforce was disbanded after Crete fell. Laycock took part in the abortive raid on Rommel's HQ.

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Richard Mead's excellent biography
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Laycock's story from his time as a
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tenure as Governor of Malta in the
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The Life of Major General Sir Robert
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Barnsley, UK, Pen and Sword, 2016.
ISBN:978-1-4738-5408-6

Book review of "Commando General:
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Synopsis This is the story of Brigadier Peter Young (1915-1988), a highly decorated soldier who was one of the founding members of 3 Commando, rising during WWII from 2 Lt to Brigadier in the space of 6 years. His battle honours include Vaagso, Dieppe, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and

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decorated soldier who was one of the founding members of 3 Commando, rising during World War II from 2 Lt to Brigadier in the space of six years

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after clearing minefields in Iraq and tracking drug traffickers in the jungles of Belize, embarked on a radically different career when he trained as a...

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Always marked out for high rank, Robert Laycock came into his own when selected to raise 8 Commando, a new 'crack' unit early in the Second World War. After training, 7, 8 and 11 Commandos were sent to the Middle East in early 1941 and all became Layforce under Laycock's

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command. Layforce was disbanded after Crete fell. Laycock took part in the abortive raid on Rommel ' s HQ. As commander of the Special Service Brigade Laycock played an important role in the Sicily landings and at Salerno. In October 1943 he succeeded Mountbatten as Chief of

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Combined Operations, coordinating
combined services operations and
training and attending Allied
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conferences. In later life Laycock
became Governor of Malta and
Colonel of the SAS. In this long
overdue biography, the author
reveals the detail of this fine

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soldier's character and superb
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This is the story of Brigadier Peter
Young (1915-1988), a highly
decorated soldier who was one of the
founding members of 3 Commando,
rising during WWII from 2 Lt to

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Brigadier in the space of 6 years. His battle honours include Vaagso, Dieppe, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Burma. A career soldier, he returned to his parent regiment, the Beds and Herts, after the war and subsequently spent time in Palestine where he commanded the 9th Regiment of the

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Arab Legion under Glubb Pasha. After
Suez he returned to England, retiring
from the Army in 1959. He founded
the War Studies Department at RMA
Sandhurst during the 60s, intending
to create there a intellectual centre
along the lines of a university faculty
for the study of military history and to

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that end gathered around him some
of the finest military historians of the
day including Richard Holmes, David
Chandler and John Adair amongst
others. He was instrumental in the
forming of The Sealed Knot and is
reverred in re-enactment circles. To
publicise a book he had written about

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the English Civil War he organised a
publicity stunt which evolved rapidly
into the first re-enactment society:

The Sealed Knot. An avid war-gamer,
his name is legendary in war-gaming
circles. 'The Brig' is still a well-known
personality even among those too
young ever to have met him.

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On 22 June 2013, Corporal Cameron Baird was a 2nd Commando Regiment Special Forces soldier when he led his platoon into a known Taliban stronghold to back-up another Australian unit under heavy fire. In the prolonged firefight,

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Cameron was mortally wounded. In 2014, Cameron's bravery and courage under fire saw him posthumously awarded the 100th Victoria Cross, our highest award possible for bravery in the presence of the enemy. Cameron Baird died how he lived - at the front, giving it his all, without any

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COMMANDO reveals Cameron's life,

from young boy and aspiring AFL

player, who only missed out on being

drafted because of injury, to

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exemplary soldier and leader. Sir
Cameron's story and that of 4RAR and
2nd Commando personifies the
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courage and character of the men
and women who go to war and will
show us the good man we have lost.

This is the first biography of Boy

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Browning, whose name is inextricably
linked with the creation and
employment of Britains airborne
forces in the Second World War.

Commissioned into the Grenadier
Guards, Browning served on the
Western Front, earning a DSO during
the Battle of Cambrai. As Adjutant at

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Sandhurst, he began the tradition of riding a horse up the steps at the end of the commissioning parade.

Browning represented England and Great Britain as a hurdler at the 1928 Winter Olympics. In 1932 Browning married Daphne du Maurier, who was ten years younger and became one of

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the 20th century's most enduring and popular novelists with titles such as Jamaica Inn and Rebecca. Browning commanded two brigades before being appointed to command 1 Airborne Division in 1941, later acting as Eisenhower's advisor on airborne warfare in the Mediterranean. In 1944

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he commanded 1st Airborne Corps, which he took to Holland for Operation MARKET GARDEN that September. Allegedly coining the phrase a bridge too far, he has received much of the blame for the operations failure. In late 1944, Browning became Chief of Staff to

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Mountbatten. In 1948 he became
Comptroller and Treasurer to Princess
Elizabeth and Prince Philip and then
Treasurer to the latter following the
Queens accession. He was a close
adviser to the Royal couple, who
respected and valued his
judgment. By this time, Boy and

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Daphne lived separate lives with Boy working at the Palace in London and Daphne reluctant to leave her beloved Cornwall although the marriage remained intact. Questions exist as to Daphnes sexuality and Boy had a succession of discrete mistresses. After a nervous

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breakdown probably due to marriage problems, he resigned in 1959 and retired to Cornwall. Browning died in March 1965.

During his exile in Madagascar, Boer soldier Deneys Reitz wrote about his experience of the Second Boer War

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(1899-1902). When it was eventually edited and published in 1929 as *Commando: A Boer Journal of the Boer War*, it still had the freshness and detail of an account written soon after the war. Reitz ' descriptions of the tumult through the eyes of a warrior in the saddle form not only a

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succinct narrative and important
source for the Second Boer War, but
his family connections (his father
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Francis William Reitz was State
Secretary of the Transvaal), sheer
luck, and participation at virtually
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leader you first have to be a good

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follower, but to be a great leader you have to remember that being a good follower wasn't easy. Imagine having access to the planning, training and motivational secrets of Australia's most elite military operators; then imagine being able to adapt what they know to your own everyday life.

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This is what Bram Connolly gives us in this smart, surprising, optimistic and autobiographical manual for resilience, personal leadership and success. In sharing the tedium of training as a raw recruit and taking us into the pitch of battle during some of the toughest fighting in

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Afghanistan, Bram Connolly reminds us among other things that it is okay to be bored, that laziness can quickly become a habit, that there are advantages in being scared and that it's fine to let go. Clear-headed, honest and self-deprecating, The Commando Way offers powerful

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Unexpectedly selected by Churchill to
command 8th Army in 1942 in place
of the sacked Auchinleck, 'Strafer'
Gott was targeted by German
intelligence as he flew to Cairo to take

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up his new post. Six ME109s
intercepted his aircraft and, after
shooting it down, deliberately
machine-gunned the crash scene.

Gott became the only Allied general
to be successfully targeted by the
Germans and, as a result,

Montgomery was given command

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and the rest is history. But as this long
overdue and well researched
biography reveals, 'Strafer' deserves
to be remembered for his
exceptional talents, meteoric career
and record of gallantry. As a young
officer in The Great War he won the
Military Cross (many thought a VC

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would have been more appropriate) and he repeatedly attempted to escape. In 1939 he was commanding his Battalion as a Lieutenant Colonel and two years later he became a Lieutenant General. He was recognised as a superb Desert General whose aggression, originality

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and leadership qualities were
supported by charm, warmth and
compassion. While it is fascinating, if
unproductive, to surmise what would
have happened had Gott and not
Monty fought Rommel, it can be
confidently said that relations with
our allies would have

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benefitted. Drawing on primary source material, this first biography of an outstanding soldier and commander is not only a rewarding and revealing read but an important addition to the bibliography of the Second World War. As featured in the Dover Express, Ashford Herald and

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"First biography of the last 8th Army
Commander, McCreery's record in
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North Africa and Italy. He
commanded the 8th Army from
September 1944 onwards, was an

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outstanding horseman of his era and
pioneer of armoured
tactics"--Publisher's description.
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This is the first biography of 'Boy'
Browning, whose name is inextricably
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employment of Britain's airborne

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Commissioned into the Grenadier
Guards, Browning served on the

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of the commissioning parade.

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Browning represented England as a hurdler and Great Britain at the 1928 Winter Olympics. In 1932 Browning married Daphne du Maurier, who was ten years younger and became one of the 20th century's most enduring and popular novelists with titles such as Jamaica Inn and Rebecca. Browning

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Eisenhower's advisor on airborne
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September. Allegedly coining the phrase "a bridge too far", he has received much of the blame for the operation's failure. In late 1944, Browning became Chief of Staff to Mountbatten. In 1948 he became Comptroller and Treasurer to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip and then

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Treasurer to the latter following the Queen's accession. He was a close adviser to the Royal couple who respected his judgment. By this time Boy and Daphne lived separate lives with Boy working at the Palace in London and Daphne reluctant to leave her beloved Cornwall although

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the marriage remained intact. Questions exist as to Daphne's sexuality and Boy had a succession of discreet mistresses. After a nervous breakdown probably due to marriage problems, he resigned in 1959 and retired to Cornwall. Browning died in March 1965. AUTHOR: Educated at

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Cambridge University, Richard Mead is a chartered accountant with wide commercial experience. As a military historian he specializes in the Second World War. SELLING POINTS: -The first biography of this distinguished WW2 general who was a pioneer of airborne forces and commander of

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Arnhem MARKET GARDEN operation
should fall -Throws light on
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Daphne du Maurier , the celebrated
novelist -Strong by HRH the Duke of
Edinburgh ILLUSTRATIONS 16 pages

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Browning, whose name is inextricably
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