

BOOK REVIEW

I Was a Stranger

Hackett JW. *I Was a Stranger*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company; 1978. ISBN: 0-395-27087-1 and ISBN-13: 978-0395270875. 220 pages, hardback.

Review by COL (Ret) Warner "Rocky" D. Farr, MD, MPH

When I found this volume, I realized that I had previously read a book by this author. Long after this World War II paratroop survival, escape, resistance, and evasion personal narrative, the author wrote *The Third World War: The Untold Story* in the 1980s while he was the vice commander at NATO (ISBN-13: 978-0553236378 and ISBN-10: 0553236377). It was a first-class effort to portray a fictionalized account of NATO versus the Warsaw Pact in World War III in the middle Europe Fulda Gap scenario. It was popular reading in the American Army as we contemplated what such a war would be like.

General Sir John Hackett was a regular soldier for nearly 40 years and went on to have a successful writing and teaching career after his retirement from the British army. All those strengths are evident in this, an account of his actions as the 4th Parachute Brigade commander at Arnhem. As a paratroop brigadier in 1944 in World War II's Market Garden operation, he

has to be one of the higher ranking officers to be captured and then successfully escape.



The Dutch underground was made aware of his capture, and a German Army surgeon saved his life with surgical treatment in a Dutch hospital controlled by the German army where Hackett was taken. Although not fit for movement, the Dutch resistance managed to move him and care for him en route to a family in a neighboring town where he was secreted. After several months of recuperation and as the Germans tightened their grip on occupied Holland, he again joined the Dutch resistance and eventually escaped into allied hands through a complicated route involving

rivers and canoes.

This account shows a picture of courage of both General Hackett and the brave Dutch citizens of the underground who both cared for, hid, moved, and ultimately liberated him into allied hands.

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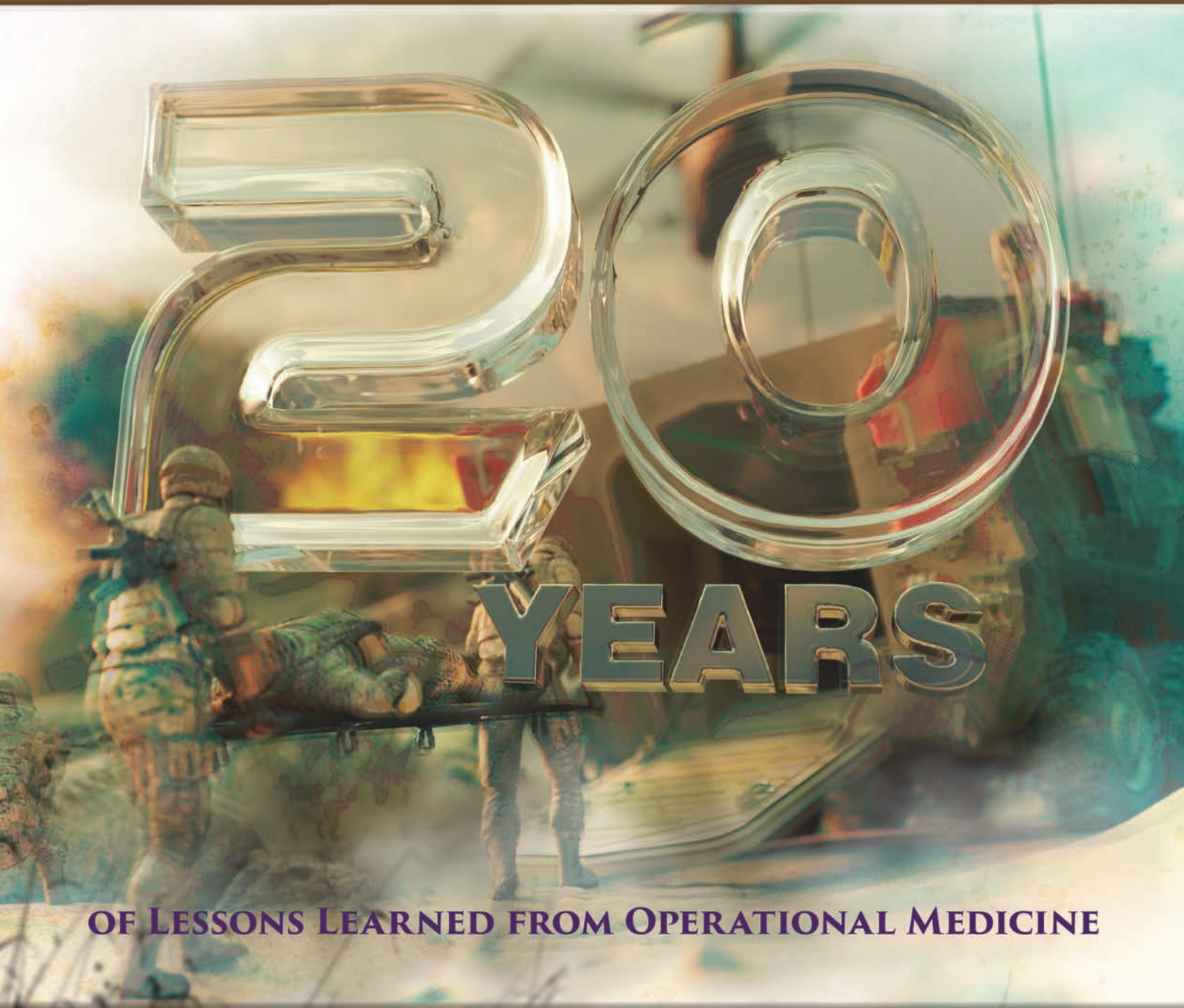
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