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## The First Allied Airborne Army in Operation Varsity: Applying the Lessons of Arnhem.

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**Abstract :** This extended essay describes the Allied planning and preparation for the final and most successful large-scale airborne operation of World War Two: Operation VARSITY. Often overlooked by military historians, this operation was critical to the success of Montgomery's

Rhine crossing offensive in March 1945. Operation VARSITY is especially interesting because the First Allied Airborne Army, the responsible headquarters for this assault, made a determined effort to avoid the errors committed during Operation MARKET-GARDEN. The underlying theme of this essay is that Allied planners applied the painful lessons of Arnhem to almost every stage of planning for Operation VARSITY. Haunted by the decimation of the British 1st Airborne Division near Arnhem Bridge, First Allied Airborne Army commanders instituted changes in organization, command and tactics which secured the success of this final operation.

**Descriptors :** \*JOINT MILITARY ACTIVITIES , \*ARMY OPERATIONS , MILITARY HISTORY , COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS , LESSONS LEARNED , MILITARY DOCTRINE , ASSAULT , AIRBORNE , POLITICAL ALLIANCES , THESESES , COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS , AIR DROP OPERATIONS , STRATEGIC WARFARE , MILITARY COMMANDERS , ARMY PLANNING , TACTICAL WARFARE , COOPERATION , MILITARY ART.

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