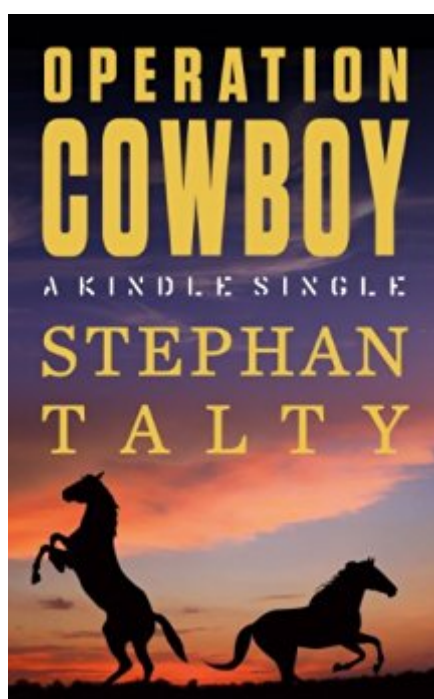


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Operation Cowboy: The Secret American Mission To Save The World's Most Beautiful Horses In The Last Days Of World War II (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

A thrilling account of one of the strangest and most daring missions in American history. In the final days of World War II, with the ravenous Red Army marching across Czechoslovakia, a band of American soldiers did something unusual. They went behind enemy lines and teamed up with a group of Nazi officers to save one of the world's rarest and most beautiful horses. The breeding mares of the white Lippizaner, whose bloodlines date back centuries, were in imminent danger of extinction. After witnessing scenes of death and destruction while fighting across France and Germany, the Americans decided "to do something beautiful" and rescue this fragile piece of world culture. Based on personal interviews and new archival research, NY Times bestselling author Stephan Talty recreates the rescue mission in vivid detail. ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Stephan Talty is the author of six acclaimed works of narrative nonfiction, as well as the Single "The Secret Agent." His book "A Captain's Duty" (with Richard Philips) was turned into the film "Captain Philips." Cover design by Adil Dara Kim.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this short nonfiction book, with a couple of exceptions. Mr. Talty is not a horseman.

He does not understand the difference between Thoroughbred and purebred. The two terms are not interchangeable. Purebred is purebred, plain and simple, and Thoroughbred is a breed. He also does not understand their gaits, using one sentence to announce that the horses galloped and trotted simultaneously as they departed on the road for Germany. (The horses were in Hostau, Czechoslovakia, and needed to make the transit into German territory in order to clarify any possible claims of ownership in the future, as the Russians would have gladly taken them, for dinner as well as for use.). He was not describing a mixed group of horses doing different gaits, but wrote the sentence as though it were possible for a horse to both gallop and trot simultaneously, and while some wretchedly-gaited horses can do a variation of this, it does not occur in classically schooled horses, or unbroken horses. Other than the occasional equestrian clanger, the story is very well researched and written. Two American GIs lost their lives in the military action that retrieved the horses, and are recognized for their heroism. Alois Podhajsky, director of the Spanish Riding School, told the story a little differently in his book, "My Dancing White Horses," and Walt Disney scrambled it almost beyond belief in the movie, "Miracle of the White Stallions." Both of them ignored the Czech refugees and the British POWs that were freed during this operation and escorted back to American lines. The Brits went back to their army, and the Czechs began rebuilding their lives.

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