Pvt. Bernard M. Nakle from the 101st Airborne gives gum to a little Dutch girl after landing behind German lines in the Netherlands. – 9/18/44

82d Airborne Division drop near Grave in the Netherlands during Operation Market-Garden. (National Archives)

This German Shepherd dog—shown with its owner, U.S. Army paratrooper Lt. Peter Barenowski—is the only dog to jump into combat with American airborne forces. – 10/17/44

This Market Garden Map Brochure is published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.
Operation Market Garden

Market Garden was truly a daring proposition, with success hinging on three critical assumptions. First, the 21 Army Group planners believed that the German defenses in the Eindhoven-Arnhem corridor were held by disorganized formations of “low category” soldiers who would offer little resistance to the lightly armed airborne troops, much less to the rapid advance of the 30 Corps armed forces. Second, the British presumed that the single narrow route suitable for armored vehicles could support the rapid advance of some 20,000 vehicles of the 30 Corps from their jumping-off point to Arnhem. Third, the plan depended on reinforcing and resupplying the airborne units by airdrops during a season when the weather in northeastern Europe rarely afforded good flying conditions. Nevertheless, the stakes of gaining a foothold over the Rhine and outflanking the Siegfried Line seemed to justify the risk. On 17 September, the roaring of thousands of engines from the airplanes of the vast Allied aerial armada supporting Operation Market Garden shattered the calm of the clear skies over the Netherlands.

All photos courtesy of National Archives.
Cover photo – U.S. Army Airborne Soldiers all set to jump in the invasion of Holland. – 9/17/44.