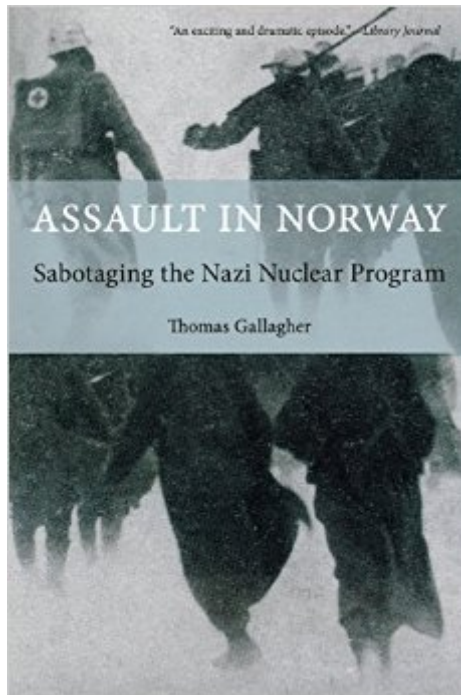


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# Assault In Norway: Sabotaging The Nazi Nuclear Program



## Synopsis

An exciting and dramatic episode. •Library Journal •Cliff-hanging suspense. •Christian Science Monitor Assault in Norway is the classic account of a legendary raid on the Nazi war program. By 1942 Germany had a seemingly insurmountable lead over the Allies in developing an atomic bomb. Contributing to this situation was its access to a crucial ingredient: heavy water, found in great abundance at a fortresslike factory in occupied Norway. Allied hopes of stalling the Nazi nuclear program soon focused on sabotaging the cliffside plant—a suicidal mission. But a team of brave Norwegian exiles, trained in Britain, infiltrated their homeland and, hiding in the wilds, awaited the opportunity to launch one of the war's most daring commando raids. Basing his gripping narrative in large part on interviews with the commandos themselves, Thomas Gallagher recounts in vivid detail the planning and execution of Operation Gunnerside. Assault in Norway recalls the intrigue found in such wartime classics as David Howarth's *We Die Alone* and *The Sledge Patrol*, and the mission it recounts inspired the 1965 Hollywood film *The Heroes of Telemark*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While teaching chemistry this year, I came across the word deuterium, which stands for what is called 'heavy water.' I was browsing around looking for more information on the difference between regular hydrogen, deuterium, and tritium, for my class...as I have found that the more history given in chemistry classes, the more the students are likely to remember technical information if they understand what it was used for. During WWII there was a perceived race between the Allies and

Germany to be the first to come up with an atomic bomb. The Allies were right to be worried because most of the work on nuclear energy had been done in Germany prior to the war, by people like Einstein and Fermi. These men were quickly moved out of Germany, and into Britain and the U.S., as their minds were worth their weight in gold. One of the ways to cause a nuclear reaction is to use heavy water. Hydrogen under normal conditions has a proton and an electron, but no neutron within its nucleus. In order to start a nuclear reaction, a nucleus has to bombard uranium or plutonium, and regular water cannot supply that neutron. Deuterium is an isotope of hydrogen that has a neutron in its nucleus, and so can start a reaction. The Germans did not have access to heavy water, and this was part of the reason that they invaded Norway early, as Norway had an outstanding heavy water facility. Those involved in the production of the atomic bomb in this country were very concerned that the Nazis were about 2 years ahead of us in creating a bomb. This threat was enough to be of importance to Franklin Deleanor Roosevelt and winston Churchill, and to General Groves who was the military arm of the Los Alamos group creating the bomb in the U.S.

This is the first time I've felt compelled to write an review. I'm a high school teacher and I happened to pull "Assault in Norway" off of a shelf in the school library while my class was being lectured by the librarians. Who knew an act of casual boredom would lead to such an enthralling literary experience? Tom Gallagher's writing is excellent, and it takes effort to remind yourself that you aren't reading a spy novel but about a true-life event. Also importantly, this book brings to life, more than any movie or video game or text book ever has, the urgency and importance in fighting World War II and fighting against the Nazis. If you've ever taken for granted the idea of ordinary men doing extraordinary things, you never will again after reading about the extraordinary things the men who attempted to sabotage the Vemork plant and the Nazi atomic effort had to do. I have now realized for the first time that in the case of this war, the rhetoric and hyperbole is true. This was a war fought against evil men trying to take over the world, and it called for all good men to do what was right, and to do what in ordinary times they would never imagine doing, and to do so with the quiet desperation of men willing to sacrifice everything short of their humanity to achieve their goal... I salute these men and what they did, and all those who laid down their lives and identities in order to keep the world a place safe for freedom and individuality. You know these men... they are your fathers and your brothers and uncles and friends and neighbors, and they are willing to do what is asked of them for honor and country. I ask myself, could I do what they have done?

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