



Führ. v. d. Bendte

FREIHERR (Baron) von DER HEYDTE

paratroop leader at

Arnhem (Holland)

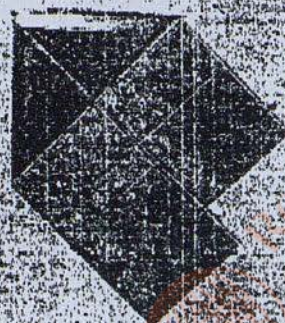
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DR. FRIEDRICH-AUGUST VON DER HEYDTE

61+



HEYDTE, Friedrich August, Baron von der (1907-). Colonel von der Heydte, who before the war had been a professor of international law, was in early December 1944 the commandant of the German Parachute Army Combat School. This veteran of the Crete campaign, a cousin of Count Klaus von STAUFFENBERG and an early member of the July 20 conspiracy against Adolf Hitler, was on December 8 ordered to form a unit for a special mission in connection with the ARDENNES offensive (the BULGE). He was to drop at night into the rough area north of Malmédy, open roads in the vicinity for the leading German units and block enemy attempts to reinforce. His operation would be called Hohes Venn. It was to be a difficult one, and the available forces were inexperienced. It did not in fact accomplish many of its purposes, and von der Heydte was taken prisoner on December 23. Even so, Hohes Venn had contributed to the confusion that initially was widespread behind the Allied lines.



Fritz v.d. Pencke

BARON FRIEDRICH AUGUST VON DER HEYDTE £75

Richard Davie
Sept 1995