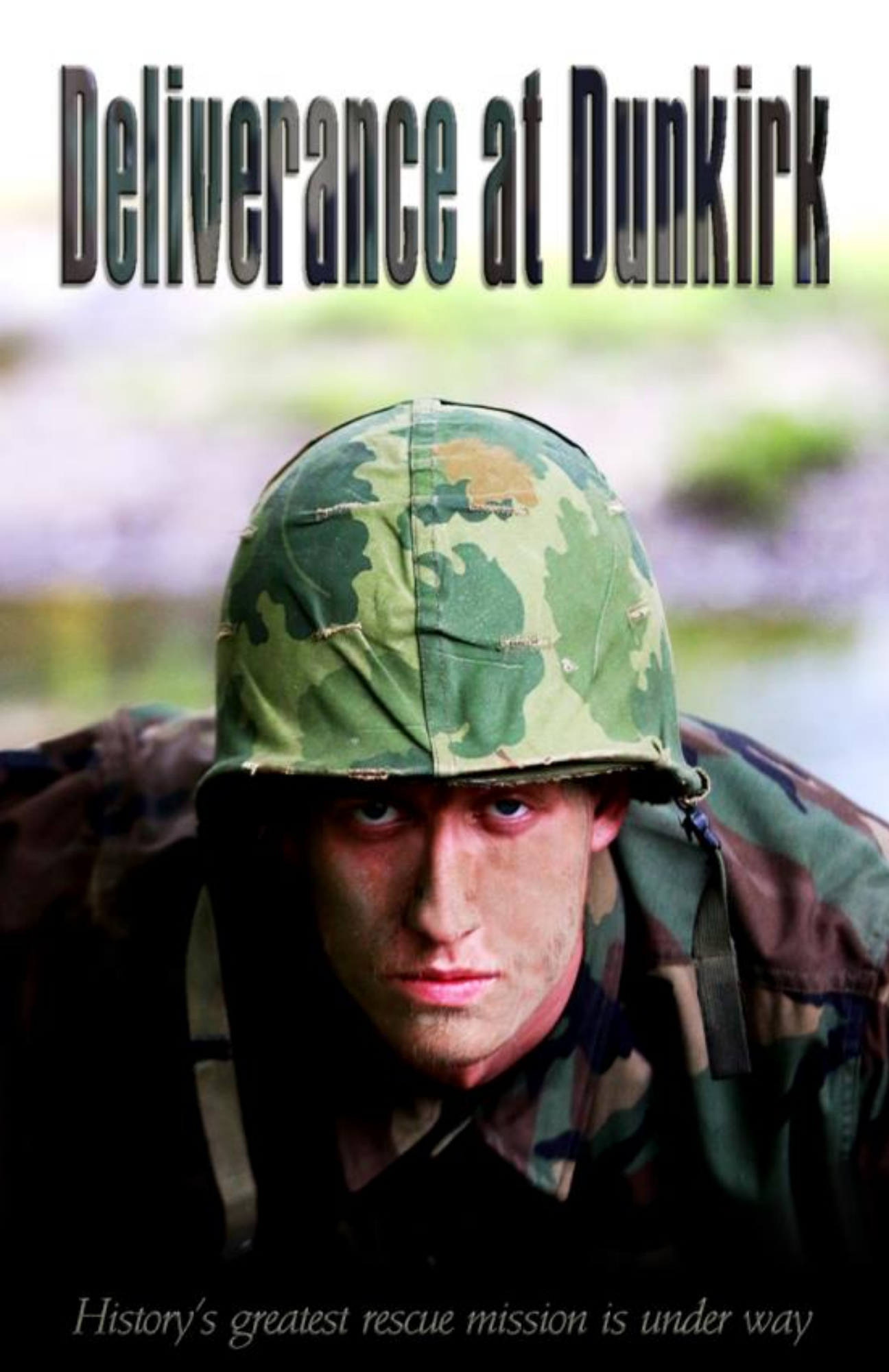
Deliverance at Dunkirk



History's greatest rescue mission is under way

Death on Every Side

It was September of 1939 when the Germans invaded Poland, igniting war with the British Empire. By May 21 of 1940, the German troops had driven and trapped nearly 400,000 soldiers in Dunkirk, along the coast of France. With the German army approaching, there was no escape in sight. The soldiers had nothing to do but wait. In those dark hours it looked like death on every side. Trapped along the coast and running out of food, water, and ammunition, the soldiers continued to await their inevitable death, capture, or imprisonment. Perhaps you know the feeling.

Today there is a similar war going on and we have been trapped and stranded in the midst of this war. The Bible says the age old war that began in heaven has come to earth and now "the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). While some try to deny this, there are many who have had Satanic experiences who know that the devil is alive and well on planet earth. Supernatural things occur all around us and yet many bury their head in the sand, denying the existence of Satan while they remain trapped in sin without any way of escape.

Like the soldiers in Dunkirk, we are trapped in a helpless condition and all that awaits us is spiritual prison and eventual death. Even those who deny the

existence of Satan cannot deny that humans are full of flaws and imperfections, which the Bible refers to as sin. All of us have been diagnosed with this deadly disease, "for all have sinned," and we are told that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). All of us have fallen to certain sins and like the soldiers on Dunkirk, we are awaiting our impending death. No matter how hard we try to escape it, since sin entered into the world, death is our inevitable end.

Perhaps you are trapped in the prison cell of some sin. Alcohol. Drugs. Sex. Pornography. Overeating. Perhaps there is a sin in your life keeping you from God, but you don't know how to escape. The addiction is too powerful. You don't know how to quit. Your attempts to break the chains of sin have consistently failed and all you see before you is inevitable death, but if you will cry out to God, He can still deliver you.

Rescue Mission Underway

On May 22, 1940 Hitler issued a halt order, temporarily stopping the progression of German soldiers, but only delaying the inevitable, yet as the stranded troops waited in their hopeless condition, plans were being prepared for the greatest rescue mission ever. On May 26, British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, laid out plans for the rescue under the title 'Operation

Dynamo,' which called for rescue boats to be sent across the English Channel.

In the same way, your condition may at times appear hopeless. Perhaps you have suffered some broken dreams. Many spend their years indulging in certain sinful pleasures only to grow up and wonder how their life ended up like it did. Things looked so hopeful when you were still young. Now you have been plagued by financial difficulties, scarred by broken relationships, destroyed by disease, overcome by feelings of anger and bitterness and your condition appears hopeless with no way out. The good news is, hope is on the way if you will just cry out.

While the troops were stranded on the shore awaiting their demise, a halt order delayed their impending death. Similarly, while God has bought us time, it appears as if we are like prisoners on death row, only biding time awaiting our inevitable doom and yet what you may not realize is that God has not only temporarily halted the devil from destroying you, but He has also set in motion a plan for your rescue.

Trapped in sin, with death on every side, Christ is preparing to save you. Through His death on the cross, Jesus has made a way to rescue you, but like the soldiers on the shores of Dunkirk, you must be willing to leave everything behind. In the Christian life this

is called "surrender." Just as the soldiers were forced to leave all their tanks and equipment, in order to be rescued, you must leave all your worldly hopes and dreams behind. In order to be rescued you must be willing to surrender your life to Christ. As you do this, you will find that help is on the way.

Just as the soldiers were crying out to God for deliverance, we too must pray for God's deliverance from our life of sin. While giving up sin is impossible on our own, Christ can give us the power and rescue us from the chains of our prison. No matter how strong the chains of your addiction, your deliverance will not come through your efforts, but through dependence on Christ. In the rescue of Dunkirk, deliverance did not come through their efforts to escape, but through faith and dependence on help from outside themselves. Similarly, our hope of escaping sin does not come from within, but without.

The Great Rescue

As the evacuation was prepared, the Archbishop of Canterbury appealed for Divine protection "for our soldiers in dire peril in France." The great tragedy is that most people today do not realize that they are in spiritual "peril." Most people are lost. The enemy is leading masses to eternal death and yet most are not even