Liv Ullmann had not met the woman she was to play, Kate ter Horst, the "angel of Oosterbeek" fame until a Dutch photographer brought them together on the set. Liv's resemblance to Kate in 1944 is uncanny.

"Connie Ryan was his name and he was my friend. And, now, he was dying. For years, Connie Ryan had been working on a book called A Bridge Too Far. For years, he had been telling me about places called Arnhem and Nijmegen and about all the blood and waste and futility of this one small piece of war. Now, at 50, Connie Ryan was lying there in a hospital bed. He was lying there, his book not yet finished and his doctors telling him that he had cancer. 'I'm going to finish this book before I die, Joe,' he told me that day. 'I'm going to write the goddamned thing. And you're going to make a movie out of it.' I can still see the intensity and determination in his face. He pulled himself up in the bed, stuck a fist out toward the sky and half yelled at heaven: 'Goddamn it God...I'm not going to die yet.' Connie Ryan lived to write that book and lived to see it on

The filming of the book had to go on without Connie Ryan but with the help of his wife, Kathryn. Done in the same manner as "The Longest Day" with huge panoramas and cameos by many famous actors, "A Bridge Too Far" was an instant hit. The world

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The filming of the book had to go on without Connie Ryan but with the help of his wife, Kathryn. Done in the same manner as "The Longest Day" with huge panoramas and cameos by many famous actors, "A Bridge Too Far" was an instant hit. The world premiere was in Columbus, Ohio.
Liv Ullmann had not met the woman she was to play, Kate Ter Horst the "angel of Oosterbeek" fame until a Dutch photographer brought them together on the set. Liv's resemblance to Kate in 1944 is uncanny. That Dutch photographer was Adrie Nab, now the vice president for university relations at Ohio University.
Kathryn Ryan's heavy involvement in the research for *A Bridge Too Far* is evident in this letter on continuity and costume to co-producer Michael Stanley-Evans.
Liv Ullmann had not met the woman she was to play Kate ter Horst, the "angel of Arnhem" until a Dutch photographer brought them together on the set. Liv's resemblance to Kate in 1944 is uncanny. That Dutch photographer, Adrie Nab, is now the vice president for university relations at Ohio University.
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Joseph E. Levine

from *A Bridge Too Far: Notes from A Film Maker*
(New York: Joseph E. Levine Presents, Inc., 1977)
A BRIDGE TOO FAR
June 11, 1976

Mr. Michael Stanley-Evans
P. O. Box 596
42 Pikeursbaan
Deventer, Holland

Dear Michael:

The hospitality and kindness you and Dickie showed me during the ten days I spent in Holland was tremendously appreciated, and I look forward to our working together again.

There are one or two points resulting from my visit to the Wardrobe Department which I did not have time to go over with you in Holland. They concern the Ryan O’Neal wardrobe. On the wardrobe sheet for General Gavin it describes under a heading Below In One Line the campaign ribbons worn by the General. Although he owns it, General Gavin has never worn the Legion of Merit and at the Browning conference - which did not seem so essential to the telling of Operation Market-Garden as to include in the book - Gavin appeared at the pre-Holland briefing by General Browning wearing only his ordinary dress coat uniform with the silver star insignia on the tab of each shoulder.

Since I have told you a great deal about General Gavin you will be amused at the reason he was dressed less casually than wardrobe has listed. Quite simply he had gone to London and had been called back to the conference on 16th September. He had no time to change and thus attended just as he had been dressed for London.

He did not nor did the officers and men of the 82nd wear the traditional Garrison hat, also described on the Gavin wardrobe sheet. As you know from your Geo American-British education we can be a somewhat eccentric, albeit lovable lot. Gavin had always had a thing about headgear and he had had a London tailor make an airborne cap which I believe shows up in one or two of the photographs of him - if not I will send them to you - which was stiffened at both ends and the 82nd insignia went into the peaked middle. As a matter of record he got two caps made for every man of the 82nd exactly as he had designed the one for himself.

In the post-landing wardrobe description, there is something referred to as an M 43 jacket which had puzzled me at the time
so I made a note about it. The 82nd and 101st wore the traditional and original parachute jackets and in all of my research I cannot find that they were c 43's.

Additionally, I had questioned the gentleman who showed me the wardrobe requirements and had looked at the combat boots which are in bine, as you know, in the wardrobe room. Combat boots were, of course, worn by the infantry, not by paratroopers and you may recall that the book makes mention of the fact that new boots with snaps and buckles had been issued to the 82nd who took an immediate dislike to them for a quite simple reason: they were afraid that shroud lines might catch on the buckles. Consequently, almost every paratrooper who could get away with it wore the regular paratroops with the high laced tops.

Now to put to rest the suggestion that the Royal Engineers assisted at the Waal River crossing. Let me add something I had forgotten. The 307th's commanding officer, now a general, went on a research trip some years back and reminisced quite vividly about the crossing and about the fact that in his particular boat one of the 504th men, shot through the throat, fell against him almost knocking him out of the boat and forcing him to recover his wits rather speedily. You would not need separate patch insignia for the 307th, although might be interested in knowing that their motto is: "Maintain the right." This is my way of saying that I feel we must get straight the fact that it was the 307th Engineers of the 82nd Airborne Division who rowed their own 504th men across the River Waal. They would simply be wearing the same uniforms as the rest of the 82nd.

I did not mention it at the last screening of rushes which Dickie, you and I viewed on May 27th because I felt I had bored you plenty with my objections to the Cohun-Glass initial sequences but, in point of fact, James Caan is wearing an infantry man's jacket and at times appears with a wool helmet liner which was not used in the Holland operation. I would hope that the infantry jackets can somehow be made to look more like the paratrooper jackets. I inspected them rather carefully at wardrobe and then asked to see what source they had been made from. I was shown a book with color plates which was, I believe, printed in England but I am certain that you have photographs of the Americans' parachute jacket. If not, I can send them to you so that wardrobe could make the minor but rather important changes.

I did not get to see the arsenal while in Holland but in my talks with John Waddy we discussed both the carbine and the M 1 rifle. I am sure John knows, but this is only to alert you, that the Americans did not carry carbines into Holland. Only the M 1 or a BAR, plus the regulation .45 pistol were used.

I have only one more headache to give you today, Michael. There is a very famous quote which made the rounds in World War II.
June 11, 1976

and to paraphrase, it goes something like this: "The British walk into a town like they own it. The Americans walk into a town like they don't give a goddamn who owns it." This goes to the heart of my discussion with you and with John Waddy that the Americans are going to have to look, act and behave altogether differently from their airborne brothers to the north.

I hate to bring this up but I am wondering if the budget might allow for a World War II airborne officer to be with me for a week or two when the American sequences are filmed - which according to our conversations will begin around August 1st and continue through September. There is a strong possibility that a) we can get such a man from NATO, b) that Fort Bragg might send us an American expert which, with my present good offices with the airborne veterans, would put the budget back only for travelling expenses and per diem for the time the officer would be there, or c) I could probably persuade my friend Lt. Col. William Tucker to come over at practically no cost, but since he is now a legal counsel it might be difficult to find a time when he is free of court.

I toss this last suggestion in since, as you know, my concern is that the Americans, despite who plays them, come across as real Americans just as the British should come across as real British airborne.

In regard to questions you had about General Bittrich - he is 82 and while I have both his address and phone number I will of course give it to you if you so desire it but I do feel that from the experience of two years ago when the participants all met together and General Bittrich was the subject of controversy because the Dutch simply did not want him there, that we would be raising the same problems again and quite frankly I don't think the old gentleman needs that kind of heartache at this stage in his life. I think you will find the Dutch antagonism very strong and I would hesitate to take the responsibility if I were of inviting him there simply because I believe he might require some protection and I think it is simply not a thing perhaps for the production company to be involved in.

Please give my best regards to all in the office, my love to Joe and Dickie and certainly to you, Michael, for your friendship and all of the time you gave me while on location.

I shall be hoping to hear from you soon and I will be available at whatever date I am expected back.

Fondly,

Mrs. Cornelius Ryan

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