

*About the author of this book:*

**RICHARD TREGASKIS**, as an International News Service correspondent in the South Pacific, landed with the 5th Marine Regiment on Guadalcanal. His book about this experience, entitled *Guadalcanal Diary*, became a best-selling chronicle of the first American offensive of World War II. It has since proved equally popular in the special adaptation prepared for young readers as a Landmark Book.

Born in New Jersey, Mr. Tregaskis started his newspaper career at the age of 15, reporting on his school's sports events for New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia papers. Like the principal subject of this book, he attended Harvard University. While there, Tregaskis and Kennedy competed to see who would fill a vacant post on the 1938 championship Harvard swimming team. Tregaskis won the spot as second backstroke, but young Kennedy's skill in swimming was to prove more critically important to him, and to the nation, when he participated in the events recorded in this book.

In the years following World War II, Richard Tregaskis traveled throughout the world—to China, Siam, Australia, Egypt, India and many other colorful places. Returning to the United States in 1951, he gathered his impressions into a book, *Seven Leagues to Paradise*, an account of seven lesser wars including the Korean conflict. Currently Mr. Tregaskis lives with his wife in Hawaii, but he frequently travels to far-off places, covering a timely news story or working on a magazine assignment.

*The jacket photograph of John F. Kennedy is from United Press International Newspictures.*