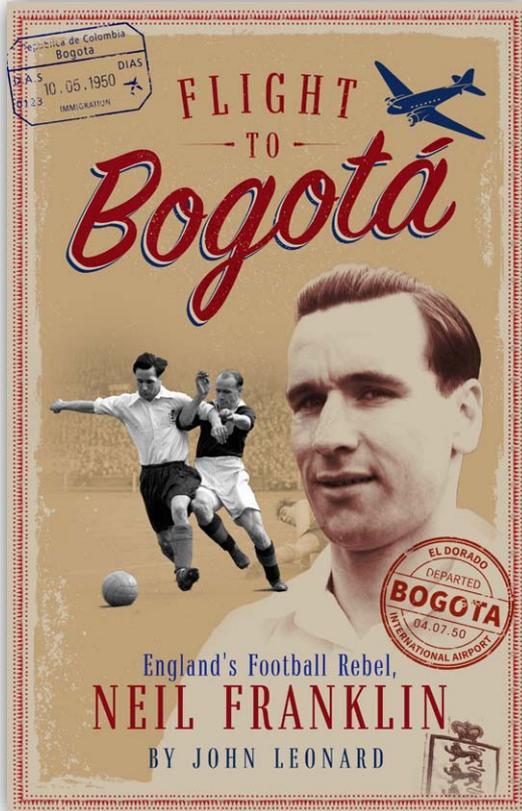




# Title information



## Flight to Bogotá

England's Football Rebel, Neil Franklin

By John Leonard

### Key features

- Fascinating account of one of the most infamous episodes in English sporting history
- Tells how Stoke City office boy Neil Franklin became feted as England's greatest defender, only for career to end in tatters
- An expectant nation was left in shock when Franklin turned his back on England on the eve of their first World Cup
- Reveals how the 'rebel' players struggled to adapt to their new life, and provides details of a secret government inquiry sourced from the UK National Archive
- John Leonard is a news and sports journalist of more than 30 years' experience, spending most of his career at ITN
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites and magazines

### Description

*Flight to Bogotá* tells the incredible story of one of the most infamous episodes in English sporting history, when a group of British footballers turned their backs on club and country before the 1950 World Cup for a sporting El Dorado in Colombia. It was a rebellion led by first-choice England centre-half Neil Franklin. The book charts how the players were secretly lured away from Britain, amid Franklin's strident complaints of 'serfdom' in English football, their brief struggles to adapt to Colombian life and the fallout once they humiliatingly returned home to face the wrath of club and country. This escapade was a personal failure for Franklin and left his career in tatters. But the players' vociferous defence of their behaviour enlightened a shocked nation about how clubs mistreated footballers. Ultimately, it led to reforms that would financially benefit future footballing generations, but these financial rewards were never enjoyed by Franklin and his fellow 'football bandits' who embarked on that fateful 'Flight to Bogotá'.

### Details

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