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Red Platoon



Synopsis

Isolated Command Post Keating - one of the most vulnerable US army bases in Afghanistan. Located at the bottom of a deep valley, soldiers are exposed. The Taliban can see every move and attack is imminent. Outnumbered Just before sunrise on 3 October 2009, hundreds of Taliban insurgents open fire from all angles. Red Platoon and the Black Knight Troop are pinned down. They hear the message over the radio: Enemy in the Wire. The Taliban are inside the camp. But never outgunned. This is the heart-stopping, awe-inspiring true story of the platoon's brutal struggle for survival, told by the man who fought to defend his men, and who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary bravery.

Book Information

File Size: 13971 KB

Print Length: 402 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1848094647

Publisher: Preface Digital (May 5, 2016)

Publication Date: May 5, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B019CGY2S8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #156,164 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20

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Customer Reviews

Clinton Romesha's *Red Platoon* is a compelling and engrossing story of a true event: the attack on his platoon's position at an outpost in Afghanistan, a fight that resulted in his own award of the Medal of Honor. In the spirit of *Lone Survivor*, *Black Hawk Down* and *American Sniper*, this true story is masterfully

written and compelling, keeping this reader fully engaged from first page to last. Combat Outpost Keating was a disaster waiting to happen. It was poorly situated, being near the bottom of a valley dominated by looming escarpments, and very close to a small village that provided potential staging points for the opposition. It was at the end of a very difficult supply route, and in a position that didn't allow for dependable air or artillery support. Some of the base security was provided by undependable indigenous personnel, primarily Afghani police forces. When Black Knight Troop, the outfit which included Romesha's Red Platoon, rotated in the decision had been made to dismantle the outpost and shut it down. But before this mission could be carried out the Taliban staged an attack in force. As the outpost was already partially dismantled, its defenders found themselves hampered not only by their position's innate vulnerabilities, but also by virtue of the position no longer being at full capability, making their situation even more dire. Their battle against seemingly insurmountable odds and overwhelming force will keep you turning the pages until the last chopper flies out. I'd also like to extend my respect to Romesha, as well as those other Keating defenders mentioned in the book who performed so nobly and bravely. Outstanding.

Red Platoon, like all such books of the USA's recent conflicts, was a tough read. I expect the prior generation had much the same feeling regarding books about the Vietnam War. Perhaps I simply know too many men and women who've fought in these conflicts. Either way, the book is fantastic. Red Platoon first introduces the NCOs and officers of the platoon. Most of them were veterans of either Iraq or Afghanistan already, though few had been assigned to the same unit prior to being sent to COP Keating. COP Keating is accurately described as a wretched folly, mainly because of its completely indefensible position. When the members of Red Platoon arrive, ostensibly to shut down the base, they immediately realize their predicament. Constant harassing by the Taliban confirmed the platoon's worst fears. They were literally vulnerable from every angle, and being at the bottom of the valley allowed the insurgents to target them with almost no risk of harm to themselves. Red Platoon, along with White and Blue Platoons, settled into a sort of rhythm. They came to regard the steady attacks as just part of the routine of COP Keating. However, when a determined, large Taliban force some 300-strong decided to assault the outpost directly, it came as a terrible surprise. The men of Keating were outnumbered nearly 5:1, and the enemy applied the lessons they'd learned from all their minor attacks to focus on the defensive positions. The sudden attack put even these professional soldiers on their heels. The immediate collapse of the allied Afghan forces aided the enemy greatly. Once the insurgents penetrated the base itself, the men of

Keating had to fall back to the Alamo. This is not an easy read in terms of the subject matter. The almost clinical recounting pulls no punches. There is proper scorn heaped on those who established the outpost in the first place, especially for the reasons noted by the author. The situation regarding support and supply for the remote outpost makes it clear that the men of Keating were all but on their own. The thought is rather chilling, and one can hardly imagine that feeling. The author relates the last moments of many of those who were killed, some by snipers, some by heavy firepower concentrated by large numbers of Taliban. The book is a fast read, but it's one to slow down intentionally while reading to absorb the impact of each stage of the battle. As an account of the events that culminated in the author receiving the Medal of Honor, this is a wonderful book for military supporters and those with loved ones in the military.

One of the most intense books I have ever read. I couldn't put it down. The author put me right in the middle of the most intensive fire fight ever put into print. A most unforgettable and well written book. Ranks right up there with Sympathy for the Devil as far as writing goes. A book that must be read to truly understand what really what happens in combat under fire and gives new meaning to the phrase "fog of war". For those who have never faced a firefight or combat will come away with new understanding of our men in action against overwhelming odds and never give up. Remarkable. I sent a copy of this to my Son, a decorated Marine..

A powerful moving well written accounting of not just one mans heroics but a group of men stuck in a no win situation. I cried while I read this. I cried for the moms of the men who survived and for the dads of the men who were lost and for the brothers and sisters who will never be able to comprehend the service and sacrifice these service men and women come home with. It was a particular honor to see a high school friend recognized as one of the support personnel that made a difference in the battle. Thank you to Angel Montes and all of the men and women Clinton was able to mention and those who weren't for serving your country and each other.

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