

Roberts Ridge

By Malcolm MacPherson

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Afghanistan, March 2002. In the early morning darkness on a frigid mountaintop, a U.S. soldier is stranded, alone, surrounded by fanatical al Qaeda fighters. For the man's fellow Navy SEALs, and for waiting teams of Army Rangers, there was only one rule now: leave no one behind. In this gripping you-are-there account–based on stunning eyewitness testimony and painstaking research–journalist Malcolm MacPherson thrusts us into a drama of rescue, tragedy, and valor in a place that would be known as...

ROBERTS RIDGE

For an elite team of SEALs, the mission seemed straightforward enough: take control of a towering 10,240-foot mountain peak called Takur Ghar. Launched as part of Operation Anaconda–a hammer-and-anvil plan to smash Taliban al Qaeda in eastern Afghanistan –the taking of Takur Ghar would offer U.S. forces a key strategic observation post. But the enemy was waiting, hidden in a series of camouflaged trenches and bunkers–and when the Special Forces chopper flared on the peak to land, it was shredded by a hail of machine-gun, small arms, and RPG rounds. A red-haired SEAL named Neil Roberts was thrown from the aircraft. And by the time the shattered helicopter crash-landed on the valley floor seven miles away, Roberts's fellow SEALs were determined to return to the mountain peak and bring him out–no matter what the cost.

Drawing on the words of the men who were there–SEALs, Rangers, medics, combat air controllers, and pilots–this harrowing true account, the first book of its kind to chronicle the battle for Takur Ghar, captures in dramatic detail a seventeen-hour pitched battle fought at the highest elevation Americans have ever waged war. At once an hour-by-hour, bullet-by-bullet chronicle of a landmark battle and a sobering look at the capabilities and limitations of America's high-tech army, Roberts Ridge is the unforgettable story of a few dozen warriors who faced a single fate: to live or die for their comrades in the face of near-impossible odds.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
On March 2, 2002, U.S. intelligence launched Operation Anaconda; having noted a concentration of al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in the Shah-i-Kot Valley, they dispatched MAKO-30, a seven-man navy SEAL reconnaissance team, attempted a helicopter landing on Takur Ghar, the highest overlooking peak. Tasked with calling in air strikes, MAKO-30 found its landing zone to be a well-concealed al-Qaeda camp; the team's Chinook helicopter was driven off by withering ground fire. When SEAL Neil Roberts fell out of the chopper, the others insisted on going back for him. With the team pinned down by enemy fire and facing annihilation, commanders dispatched a quick reaction force of army Rangers to rescue them. Thus began a harrowing 17-hour drama every bit as perilous and courageous as the Rangers' ill-fated Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia; novelist (*Deadlock*) and journalist (*The Black Box*) MacPherson eloquently captures this gripping tale, based on interviews with many of the survivors and access to the army's after-action report. And while the battle "played no part in the success of Anaconda," and was in fact a distraction for decision makers, the army after-action report cites the troops' "conspicuous bravery" and "countless acts of heroism"—all of which MacPherson captures with aplomb. *(Sept. 6)*
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From Booklist
This is a real-life thriller with not quite the triumphant ending that fiction often provides, to be sure, but relating a great many hard-won lessons. In March 2002 a team of U.S. Navy SEALs attempted the capture of Takur Ghar, a 10,000-foot-high mountain whose seizure would give the American forces in Afghanistan a key observation post. But the mountain was defended, and when the special forces helicopter reached the peak, it was shredded by enemy fire, and Petty Officer First Class Neil Roberts was thrown from the aircraft. His fellow SEALs were determined to bring him out. This is the story of that attempt. Well told and frightening as well as true, this is a book that bridges the breach between the increasingly professional American military and a civilian culture possessing little knowledge or experience of the military. Though not the only such book, one of the best recent ones. *Frieda Murray*
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Review
“A true story of courage that captures–over the course of seventeen hours–all the drama and sacrifice of war. Impossible to put down. Highly recommended.”—James Bradley, author of **Flags of Our Fathers** and **Flyboys**

“At once a terrifying and compelling narrative, **Roberts Ridge** strikes awe for its unflinching and honest portrayal of the courage, determination, and capability of American fighting men. This true tale resonates with vitally important lessons of success and failure on the field of battle.”—Eric Haney, author of **Inside Delta Force**

"In the tradition of *Black Hawk Down*, Malcolm MacPherson vividly brings to life this harrowing story of courage, pathos, and war at its grittiest. For military history buffs, or those interested in the front lines of the war on terror, **Roberts Ridge** is a must read."—Jay Winik, author of *April 1865: The Month That Saved America*

"[MacPherson] is at his best when he uses his access to the special-forces fighters and spills details, such as the smell of a bullet-shredded pine tree and the slow icing of the sweat and blood that soaked the men's

clothing.... a story with a strong heart."—*The Hartford Courant*

"**Roberts Ridge** is a reminder that combat, despite America's huge technological advantages, always boils down to the basics: Men, machinery, maps and mojo.... Like *Black Hawk Down*, there is no happy ending .... Ultimately, **Roberts Ridge** is a study in courage and comradeship. How some of America's finest young men, in the crucible of combat, refuse to surrender their buddies in the face of gut-clenching firepower, grinding cold and the bewildering fog and friction of war."—*The Flint Journal*

“An impressively detailed account of one heart-wrenching battle in the invasion of Afghanistan. MacPhe...

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Anderson:

Roberts Ridge can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Roberts Ridge yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

Sammy Cheney:

Does one one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Try to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't judge book by its deal with may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer might be Roberts Ridge why because the fantastic cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

Lawrence Wilson:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you personally is Roberts Ridge this reserve consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some analysis when he makes this book. This is why this book appropriate all of you.

Rosemary Robinson:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is definitely Roberts Ridge. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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