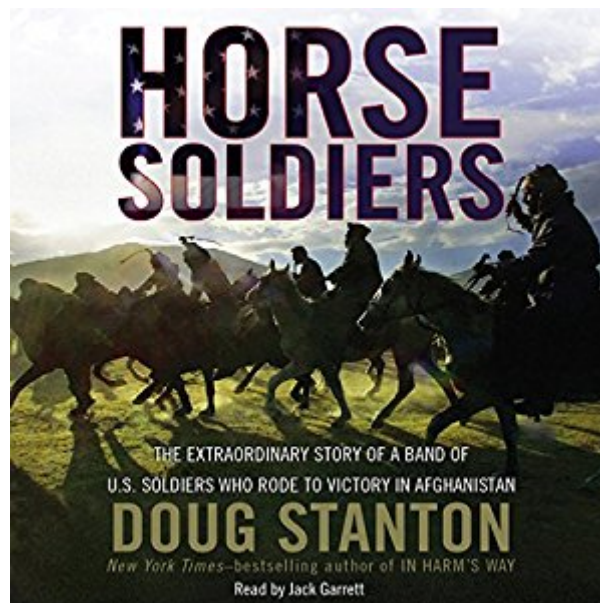




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Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story Of A Band Of US Soldiers Who Rode To Victory In Afghanistan



Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *In Harm's Way* comes a true-life story of American soldiers overcoming great odds to achieve a stunning military victory. *Horse Soldiers* is the dramatic account of a small band of Special Forces soldiers who secretly entered Afghanistan following 9/11 and rode to war against the Taliban on horses. Outnumbered 40 to 1, they pursued the enemy army across the mountainous Afghanistan terrain and, after a series of intense battles, captured the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, which was strategically essential to defeat their opponent throughout the country. The bone-weary American soldiers were welcomed as liberators as they rode into the city, and the streets thronged with Afghans overjoyed that the Taliban regime had been overthrown. Then the action took a wholly unexpected turn. During a surrender of 600 Taliban troops, the Horse Soldiers were ambushed by the would-be POWs. Dangerously overpowered, they fought for their lives in the city's immense fortress, Qala-i-Janghi, or the House of War. At risk were the military gains of the entire campaign: If the soldiers perished or were captured, the entire effort to outmaneuver the Taliban was likely doomed. Deeply researched and beautifully written, Stanton's account of the Americans' quest to liberate an oppressed people touches the mythic. The soldiers on horses combined ancient strategies of cavalry warfare with 21st-century aerial bombardment technology to perform a seemingly impossible feat. Moreover, their careful effort to win the hearts of local townspeople proved a valuable lesson for America's ongoing efforts in Afghanistan.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours 40 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 7, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B00AKKHJS6

Best Sellers Rank: #21 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Middle East #64

in Books > History > Military > Afghan War #168 in Books > History > Middle East

Customer Reviews

The fascinating and accurate blow-by-blow accounting of the action and the relentless combat and harsh conditions surrounding the leadership and support of a handful of American Special Forces

warriors who were sent to Afghanistan within a few days after the 9-11 attack on the twin towers and the Pentagon. Secretary Rumsfeld wanted an immediate response to the Bin Laden training camps and supported Taliban oppression in Afghanistan. With no US Defense Department action plans drawn up and no established lines of communication, it was up to the CIA and a few highly trained Special Forces with air support to guide and assist the Northern Coalition warlords, who were under equipped and had been consistently defeated, but who were still the only organized forces against the Taliban in the country. What these few tough and talented Americans and their relentless and selfless actions secured within a few weeks is remarkable, and a testament to the potential of special operations units to defeat enemies and create friends. It is also a testament to the fallacy of trying to bully the indigenous population and leadership out of the way as was done in Iraq. An outstandingly researched work and well worth the time.

When most people think of war, they think high technology warfare and big scenic battles. They envision gargantuan chopper helicopters, top of the line fighter jets, and cutting edge weapons. Horse Soldiers is yet another book about war, but it stands out from the rest. Horse Soldiers tells the story of a group of soldiers that came together when they were needed in combat in Afghanistan. After the attacks on 9/11, they were mobilized. They barely scrapped their equipment together, and were ready to go to war. What they didn't know was that they would be carrying out their duties on horseback. Horse Soldiers steers away from the norm, examining a much more personal story of the group of soldiers, and how they went through the war on horses. Horse Soldiers displays a story not for the audience that enjoys big scale epic battles, but rather the intimacy of the soldiers that go to war. It tells the story of a closely knit group of soldiers that were highly specialized and answered the call of duty when their country needed them the most. Horse Soldiers truly displays a unique look at modern warfare and the lives of the patriots that fight for their country. Horse Soldiers is a must read for all audiences, as it opens up new perspectives never seen before, and makes people appreciate those who fight for them.

An amazing story of sacrifice and bravery. And unbelievable perseverance. Men such as these make me proud to be an American. I highly recommend reading this extraordinary story to understand more about the American response to 9/11 and the new fighting style of the American soldier. And what America did to help the Afghan Northern Alliance soldiers to free themselves from the Taliban. And all done on horseback as they had to go to places where there were no roads and no vehicles could travel.

I'll admit that I was a little confused during the first chapter or two but I'm so glad that I kept reading. Not only is this one of the most intense, most gripping military operations I've ever read (and I've read about a hundred), this book will make you proud to be an American.

I never knew that the CIA in late 2001 sent a small force of military advisors and a few special forces soldiers into Afghanistan. Their mission was to link up with the Northern Alliance, learn their culture and language, learn to ride horses like the Afghanistan soldiers, and unite warring factions against the Taliban. To my knowledge little has ever been written about these early months of our interaction with Afghanistan. In my opinion I think they did a great job against overwhelming odds. I got to know the main characters really well and was so moved by the loss of one of these brave men toward the end of the book. In fact, the last part of this book was so fascinating describing the monumental battle against the Taliban that I was moved to do more research on this event and was so surprised that there is an actual live camera and narration coverage of this last battle. It was fascinating to watch and to see in person some of the characters actually described in the book. A fascinating read and I have no hesitation to recommend it to anyone. The author did a phenomenal amount of research in order to write this book and it took him years to wade through all the material that was available, both public and classified.

This is a good book. The hardships these brave operators endured is a shame. Lack of funding and equipment was a way of life until the S.H.T.F. At that point, money was no object but the people holding the purse strings wanted instant results. Read this book.

I loved this book. Met a veterinarian in CA once who had just returned from the Sierras where he was training soldiers on how to care for horses. The book told me "the rest of the story".

Horse Soldiers: The extraordinary story of a band of U.S. soldiers who rode to victory in Afghanistan. When you hear of modern special operations forces, you usually don't think of men riding on horses, using ancient strategies of cavalry warfare with 21st century technology to conquer a country. But, the first Americans in Afghanistan on the ground, just after 9/11 did just that. The book gives accounts of the men who crushed the Taliban in areas that military "experts" said would take at least 2 years, they did it in 2 months. That was at a time when any dead American would bring a reward of \$100,000. Most of the men had never ridden horses before this time, one of them even

got a herniated disc in his back from riding a horse. It also gives an account of Johnny "Mike" Spann, the first person to be Killed in Action (KIA) in the post 9/11 war on terror. It is a book worth a read.

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