



Soldier a - Behind Iraqi Lines

Shaun Clarke

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A novel based upon the exploits of the SAS during the Gulf war. As specialists in desert warfare, the SAS were plunged into a maelstrom of dangerous, covert operations. Their activities included espionage, sabotage, the capture of prisoners and the infiltration of Iraqi towns.

Soldier a - Behind Iraqi Lines Details

Date : Published April 25th 1995 by Little Brown and Co. (UK) (first published January 1st 1993)

ISBN : 9781898125006

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Format : Unknown Binding

Genre : War, Military Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, World War II

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Hilmi Isa says

Ini adalah ulasan buku dwi-bahasa/This is a bilingual book review

Mengisahkan sebuah pasukan atau skuadron mengikut klasifikasi *Special Air Services* (SAS) di bawah pimpinan Mejar Mike Hailsham. Kumpulan tentera ini diaturgerakkan di Arab Saudi untuk menyertai Operasi *Desert Storm* pada awal tahun 1991. Mereka pada awalnya terlibat di dalam misi mensabotaj sistem komunikasi ketenteraan Iraq, dengan merosakkan sistem fiber optik bawah tanah. Seterusnya, mereka ditugaskan di dalam operasi khas dan rahsia memusnahkan sistem peluru berpandu SCUD, pangkalan komunikasi dan radar tentera Iraq, misi pengintipan dan lain-lain misi berkaitan. Namun, misi mereka sangat berbahaya dan menuntut pengorbanan nyawa sebahagian anggota elit pasukan khas SAS ini di medan tempur!

Membaca kisah novel ini, ternyata terdapat pengaruh yang sangat kuat dari dua buah buku bukan fiksi ini iaitu *Bravo Two Zero* dan *The One That Got Away: My SAS Mission Behind Enemy Lines*. Terdapat beberapa babak di dalam novel ini adalah berdasarkan kisah pengalaman yang terdapat di dalam kedua-dua buah buku tersebut. Ini tidak bermakna penulis buku ini, Shaun Clarke meniru bulat-bulat apa yang terkandung di dalamnya. Cuma, terdapat pengaruh inspirasi yang kuat dari dua buah buku di atas di dalam plot dan jalan cerita utama novel tulisannya ini.

Terdapat beberapa perkara penting yang perlu saya nyatakan mengenai novel ini. Pertama, novel ini mengandungi slanga dan istilah yang unik di dalam dunia ketenteraan. Ketidadaan glosari khusus menyukarkan pemahaman pembaca memahaminya. Dialognya, pada pendapat saya, agak membosankan dan kadang-kala disaluti dengan unsur lucu. Kedua, terdapat beberapa kesilapan fakta. Contohnya, penulis menyatakan pesawat F-15E Strike Eagle merupakan pesawat tempur satu tempat duduk. Realitinya, pesawat tersebut sebenarnya sememangnya direka untuk mempunyai dua tempat duduk. Ketiga, kebanyakan babak pertempuran di dalam novel ini adalah berdasarkan kisah benar. Sebagai contoh, penggunaan kenderaan pacuan empat roda Land Rover oleh SAS untuk melakukan serangan hendap di garisan belakang tentera Iraq sememangnya benar-benar berlaku di dunia nyata atau realiti sewaktu Perang Teluk 1991. Keempat, ini sebuah novel perang sejati! Jadi, jangan harapkan elemen-elemen seperti cinta terdapat di dalam novel ini. Malah, novel ini sarat dengan data-data teknikal peralatan-peralatan tentera. Terdapat juga unsur-unsur aksi ala-Rambo di dalam sebahagian babak pertempuran yang dinyatakan di dalam novel ini.

Well, to start with, if you already have read *The One That Got Away: My SAS Mission Behind Enemy Lines* and *Bravo Two Zero*, I guess you can ditch out or leave this novel alone. The plot and storyline is heavily influenced by these two books. Other than those books, this action novel is also using other Special Air Service's (SAS) real exploits/operations accounts/stories of the 1991 Gulf War.

Interesting note, there is a parody character of Andy McNab called Andrew Winston. Andrew=Andy, get the similarity? Plus, Andrew Winston is characterized as a poet and published several books, another similarity with Andy McNab which became a successful novelist, publishing a lot of books based on his experience as ex-soldier.

Andrew says

Quick and easy read. Knocked this over in a day.

A straightforward story of an SAS patrol working behind Iraqi lines - as the title would suggest! - during the First Gulf War. Nothing extraordinary, but a bit of fun for those who enjoy military fiction, purely from a boots-on-the-ground perspective. Clarke knows what he's writing about, that's for sure. Not bad, all up. I'll read some more in the series.

Huw Rhys says

Pretty predictable stuff - and not written brilliantly either. Lots of shooting, lots of bombing, lots of killing with little or no reflection or moralising in between. Every now and again it becomes a little bit of an arms dealer's sales brochure- but the technical specification bit rather than anything that discusses the efficacy or the ethicacy of what's being used to kill people.

Although there are some characters in this novel, very little serious attempt is made to develop them- apart from the slightly off cue poet soldier, who doesn't resound of authenticity. Some of the expressions are very cumbersome, and some of the narrative confusing at best- soldiers are apparently killed, but re appear live and kicking in later chapters, and others apparently survive until we read later of their deaths.

Fairly brutal, I wonder if it's been ever so slightly notched up to attract a certain type of reader?

Not a contender for the Booker Prize this one, I'm afraid.....

RUSSELL GILSTN says

Good exciting read

Very good read. Good information and facts of the first Iraq war and the s.a.s role in that battle. Honest realisation that war is brutal and not everyone gets to go home.
