

Victory Point: Operations Red Wings and Whalers - the Marine Corps' Battle for Freedom in Afghanistan

By Ed Darack

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In late June 2005, media sources recounted the tragic story of nineteen U.S. special operations personnel who died at the hands of insurgent / terrorist leader Ahmad Shah- and the lone survivor of Shah's ambush-deep in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Afghanistan. The harrowing events of Operation Red Wings marked an important-yet widely misreported-chapter in the Global War on Terror, the full details of which the public burned to learn.

Victory Point reveals the complete, as-yet untold, story of Operation Red Wings (often mis-referenced as "Operation Redwing"), and the follow-on mission, Operation Whalers. Together, these two U.S. Marine Corps operations (that in the case of Red Wings utilized Navy SEALs for its opening phase) unfurl not as a mission gone terribly wrong, but of a complex and difficult campaign that ultimately saw the demise of Ahmad Shan and his small army of barbarous fighters.

Due to the valor, courage, and commitment of the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment in the summer of 2005, Afghanistan was able to hold free elections that Fall. Here is the inspiring true account of heroism, duty, and brotherhood between Marines fighting the War on Terror.

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Editorial Review

Review

About the Author
Writer / Photographer Ed Darack has covered the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment since their pre-Afghan mountain warfare training in the spring of 2005 and has stayed with them through their subsequent deployment to Afghanistan and tour in Iraq’s Anbar province. He is the author of numerous articles on military issues for such publications as *Smithsonian Air and Space*, the *Marine Corps Gazette*, and *Proceedings of the Naval Institute Press*, among others. Darack continues to write articles on a broad spectrum of subjects and is the author of three previous books. His photography has been used by *National Geographic*, *Outside Magazine*, *The Sunday London Times*, the *BBC*, *Time*, ABC, NBC, IBM, Volkswagen, and Bank of America, among many other editorial and corporate clients.

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Ethel Davidson:

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