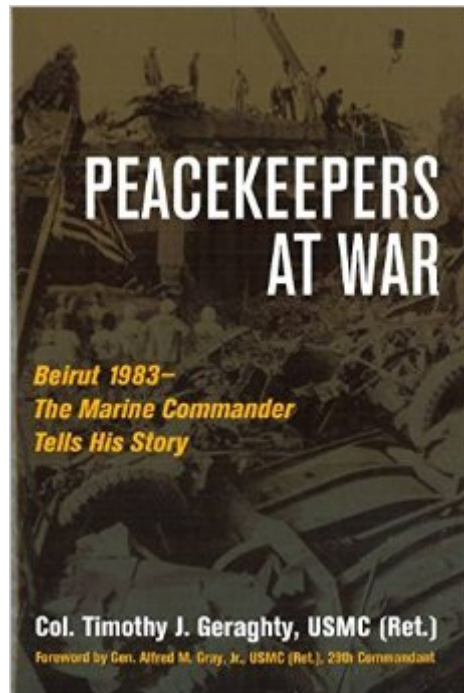# Peacekeepers At War: Beirut 1983— – The Marine Commander Tells His Story

Synopsis

On October 23, 1983, nearly simultaneous suicide truck bombings killed 241 U.S. peacekeepers in their barracks at the Beirut International Airport (BIA) and 58 French paratroopers at their headquarters two miles north of BIA. In this long-awaited book, the Marine Corps commander of the U.S. Multi-National Peacekeeping Force that was destroyed by terrorists in Lebanon tells his story for the first time. Together, these suicide bombings comprised the largest nonnuclear explosion ever recorded and are now recognized as a seminal event leading to the current war on terrorism. Such acts of war revealed a new, highly effective tactic, which complemented the terroristâ ™s strategic goalsâ "the withdrawal of the peacekeepers and Western influence from Lebanon and a change in U.S. policy. Peacekeepers at War lays out, in detail, a sequence of events leading up to the suicide truck bombings from which one can extrapolate the rationale, motives, and perpetrators behind it. Geraghty argues that the absence of any retribution against the perpetrators emboldened the terrorists to assume they could attack Americans and Western interests with impunity. This led to kidnappings, torture, and the murders of Americans and other Westerners. Peacekeepers at War will be of interest to general readers who want to learn more about this seminal event and its effects on the current global war on terrorism.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Potomac Books (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597974250

ISBN-13: 978-1597974257

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #107,502 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #5 inÂ Books > History > Middle East > Lebanon   #97 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Middle East   #119 inÂ Books > History > Middle East > Israel & Palestine

Customer Reviews

The 1983 experience of the U.S. Marines in Beirut brings to mind an 1852 experience of the Royal Marines aboard HMS Birkenhead when that ship was sinking and lacked adequate lifeboats for all aboard. In an effort to assure the safe debarkation of other passengers, the contingent of Royal

Marines gave up their own claims to life preserving equipment and, instead, stood at attention on the topmost deck as the passengers were saved and the ship went down. It was a well-known story in the mid-19th century and is memorialized in Rudyard Kiplings' words, "To stand and be still to the Birkenhead drill is a damn tough bullet to chew." In 1983, the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit was placed by the department of state in an indefensible position at the Beirut Airport in the hope that their presence would somehow help bring to an end the brutal warfare that was tearing Lebanon to pieces. The plan blew up in their faces.Colonel Timothy J. Geraghty was the commanding officer of the Marine Amphibious Unit. His story is well written and highly readable. It is written in a summary fashion that avoids getting bogged down in detail. The book contains 214 pages of text, plus appendices. The first two-thirds of the book cover the bombing and the investigative hearings that followed it. Thereafter, Colonel Geraghty discusses what he believes are the lessons learned from the tragedy; and he presents a primer of the individuals, groups and political activists in the Middle East.This book is significant in that it adds another level to the story of the Beirut suicide bombing. Previous accounts did not present the commander's assessment of the situation, nor did they cover the communications between the field commander, the pentagon, the state department, and the president.

Peacekeepers at War: Beirut 1983— - The Marine Commander Tells His Story Peacekeepers at War: Beirut 1983-The Marine Commander Tells His Story Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery What Stays in Vegas: The World of Personal Data—Lifeblood of Big Business—and the End of Privacy as We Know It Diabetes de la A a la Z (Diabetes A to Z): Lo que necesita saber sobre la diabetes — en terminos simples (What You Need to Know about Diabetes — Simply Put) (Spanish Edition) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Submarine Commander: A Story of World War II and Korea Sharing the Front Line and the Back Hills: International Protectors and Providers - Peacekeepers, Humanitarian Aid Workers and the Media in the Midst of Crisis The Vietnam War: Soldier Stories: Untold Tales of Soldiers on the Battlefields of the Vietnam War (Vietnam war, soldier stories, Gunship Pilot, Marine Corp, Vietnam History, Vietnam memoirs) The Insecure City: Space, Power, and Mobility in Beirut Queer Beirut Bye Bye Babylon: Beirut 1975-1979 Beirut The Life and Times of General John Graves Simcoe, Commander

of the "Queen's Rangers" During the Revolutionary War (1890) Every Man A Tiger (Revised): The Gulf War Air Campaign (Commander Series) Company Commander: The Classic Infantry Memoir of World War II World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4)