

Apache

by Ed Macy

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Warrant Officer Class 1 Ed Macy served two tours in Afghanistan in Helmand province, as an Apache helicopter pilot in No. 656 Squadron in the British Army Air Corps. He returned to Helmand province for his second tour in November 2006. *Apache* is an account of Ed Macy's experiences when fighting the Taliban.

After a severe accident forced Ed Macy out of the Paratroopers, it was through dint of perseverance and determination that he was accepted for the demanding Apache helicopter training program. Successfully completing two tours of duty in Afghanistan, he left the British Army in January 2008 after twenty-three years service. By then, he had flown 3930 hours on helicopters, 645 of them on Apaches. *Apache* is the first of six books by Ed Macy.

Apache is written in the first person, describing Macy's combat experience, routine operations and the conditions in which they operated. While focussed on his experiences during his second tour, the opening chapter immediately captures the reader's attention with a description of an operation to retrieve the bodies of two Special Boat Service soldiers killed while capturing four Taliban leaders.

The author provides vivid and detailed accounts of fighting the Taliban, including operational procedures,

tactical support for ground forces and a good description of the Apache and its capabilities.

He provides a graphic description of the battle at Jugroom fort which involved the recovery of a member of Zulu Company, 45 Commando, Royal Marines on 15th January 2007. The mission started out to briefly capture the fort and draw the Taliban into combat. Repulsed by extremely heavy fire, the Marines were forced to withdraw and during the process inadvertently left a soldier behind. Macy flew one of the two Apaches assigned to assist in the recovery of the soldier. His account is vivid, detailed and riveting.

For his part in the operation, Macy was awarded the Military Cross – one of the first in Army Air Corps' history.

Apache is well indexed and has an excellent glossary of terms to explain the jargon used by the military. There is a map of Helmand province and a series of diagrams that enable the reader to understand the layout of the battlefield.

The reader finishes the book with a much better understanding of the way the war was fought from the point of view of the Army Air Corps.

Bob Treloar

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