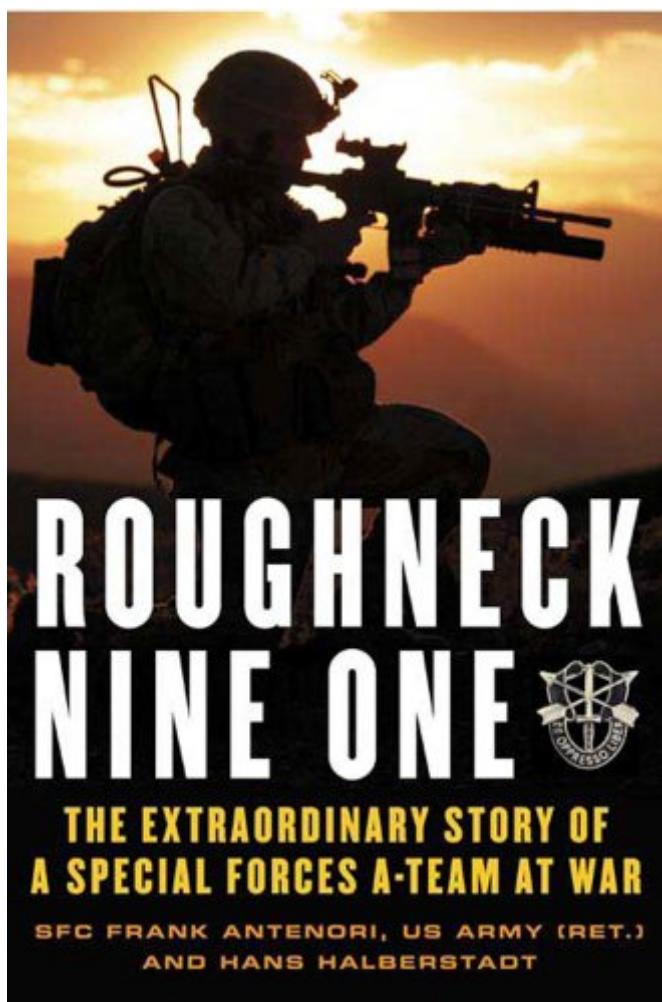


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# Roughneck Nine-One: The Extraordinary Story Of A Special Forces A-team At War



## **Synopsis**

On April 6th, 2003, twenty-six Green Berets, including those of Sergeant 1st Class Frank Antenori's Special Forces A-team (call sign Roughneck Nine-One), confronted a vastly superior force— one that included battle tanks and more than 150 well-trained, well-equipped, and well-commanded soldiers—at a remote crossroads near the small village of Debecka, Iraq. The rest is history—Along the way, they endured a U.S .Navy F-14 dropping a 500-pound bomb on supporting Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, the ever-present threat of WMDs, and countless other deadly obstacles. This is the never-before-told, unsanitized story of how one Special Forces A-team recruited and organized, trained and eventually fought—and won—a legendary conflict that will influence American military doctrine for years to come.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 691 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press; Reprint edition (July 24, 2007)

Publication Date: July 24, 2007

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B005J56AKU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #134,941 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #48

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History > Iraq

War #95 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Special Forces #97

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Intelligence & Espionage

## **Customer Reviews**

Since U.S. Army Special Forces members are a secretive lot, it's probably not surprising that the story of an A team taking out a large Iraqi force with armor has received limited attention in the news media. The author is also critical of the media people his force encountered in the early days of the

Iraq war in 2003: Reporters either got in the way when the Green Berets were in the middle of a battle or misreported possible encounters with Iraqi chemical weapons--which may also be a factor in the lack of coverage. Accounts of the battle with a large Iraqi armored force and its supporting infantry and artillery units are detailed and remarkable. The potency of the U.S. weapons and the skill of the Green Berets who used them is put on display. The role of the anti-Saddam Kurdish forces is also revealing: The Kurds were brave and enthusiastic, but had much to learn in how to fight a well-armed enemy. The accounts of the Kurds demonstrates their combativeness that is still seen against Isis today. "Roughneck Nine-One" is a thrilling, first-hand case study of how effective special operators and their local, indigenous allies can be.

This is one of those books that is so compelling, you can't put down for fear of losing that feeling of being in the moment. The author's enthusiasm gets your blood flowing and is one of the more realistic portrayals, in my opinion, of the war on the ground and what is going through the minds of the guys who are, normally, the first "boots on the ground"...The Green Berets. Literally the first in and last out of most any modern conflict zone, the embodiment of the gentlemen warrior, forging relationships with the local populace and tackling seemingly impossible missions that many times more resemble those of the Peace Corps than military operations...until provoked. It takes a certain type of person to fill this role and I especially enjoyed reading the instances where the differences between the mindset of Special Forces and the regular, conventional Army are laid bare. There is an undeniable difference in the way the chain of command and rank are viewed, along with differences in the way teams operate in the field and in how "out-of-the-box thinking" is applied in a way that would NEVER work, in the Regular Army. They are, after all, masters of unconventional warfare and, by the author's admission, "odd ducks" when compared to the usual image of the conventional soldier. Absolutely unapologetic in tone, this was a group of guys who were there to win and clear their objectives with whatever lethal means was at their disposal. And believe me, they made sure bring enough with them. I've read other material and watched documentaries about the Battle of Debecka Pass, but now I feel like I understand it. It was easy to feel the tense nature of this very fluid engagement, against overwhelming odds, that produced America's first Javelin missile "Ace". I appreciate and salute the men of ODA-391...you definitely "piled them up"!

I have read almost every recent book about OIF/OEF/OND, from Roberts Ridge, which I read while deployed to Bagram...2006 to date. In my humble opinion this is what I consider best offering of what The Greatest Generations struggle is in Iraq and Afghanistan. An all volunteer force that signs

up knowing the horror of a relentless enemy without a code of honor toward their people or our combatants ..no uniforms to identify them as the merciless killers they are. This is crisp..clear, honest and detailed account of detailed of a brotherhood of American patriots who chose to serve and did it unflinchingly with compassion and empathy for the locals and love for their fellow soldiers. It has the accurate details about the diversity of relations critically developed with regular Army, the ANA and interpreters that are a must for success. I could feel what they experienced..incredible writing and word smithing that completely encompass a very real and human endeavor/success despite less than properly postured (leaning forward) and backwards oriented midlevel management...vice what should have been leadership. And to all the heroes depicted in this book and thousands of others who's stories will never be told...thank you for your selfless service and sacrifice!

I got this book for two reasons. One, I like military history and wanted to know more about the early fighting in northern Iraq (around the northern No-Fly Zone) and the role of Spec Ops in the war. The second reason is Sgt. Antenori was my state representative here in southern Arizona and is a no-B.S. politician and I wanted a little more insight into his personality and background. The book is a good read, reads quickly and doesn't have any boring parts that drag on. It starts shortly before the invasion of Iraq and gives an overview of the preparation and training that ODA-391 underwent in anticipation of going to war. It describes a lot of the equipment and technology the SF ODA's use, such as GMV's and the new (at the time) Javelin missile. The book then goes on to describe the frustration that Sgt. Antenori and his team felt because of their underutilization in the early stages of the ground war in northern Iraq, a part of the war that I feel didn't get the attention it deserved because the media was more concerned with the drive to Baghdad from the south. The climax of the story is when the team gets into a big fight near the Iraqi town of Debecka, facing Iraqi mechanized infantry, artillery and tanks. Greatly outnumbered and outgunned, Sgt. Antenori's team ODA-391 (radio call sign "Roughneck Nine-One") thinks on their feet and positions themselves to stand and fight, using the new Javelin missiles as a force multiplier to destroy several trucks, tanks and armored troop carriers. Confusion during the fight leads to a Navy F-14 dropping a 500 pound bomb on supporting Kurdish fighters, which puts ODA-391 into the difficult situation of saving lives while trying to halt the enemy advance. Overall, a really good read and an interesting story.

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