



Soldier 'I': The story of an SAS Hero

Michael Paul Kennedy , Andy McNab (Foreword) , Pete Winner

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No publicity, no media. We move in silently, do our job, and melt away into the background. If you have the stamina, the willpower and the guts, we'll welcome you with open arms and you one of us. And if you haven't, then it's been very nice knowing you.

Eighteen years in the SAS saw Pete Winner, codenamed Soldier 'I', survive the savage battle of Mirbat, parachute into the icy depths of the South Atlantic at the height of the Falklands War, and storm the Iranian Embassy during the most famous hostage crisis in the modern world.

For the first time Pete also details his close-protection work around the world, from the lawless streets of Moscow to escorting aid convoys into war-torn Bosnia. He also unveils the problems of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder faced by many Special Forces veterans, and how he battled his own demons to continue his roller-coaster career. This is his story, written with a breathtaking take-no-prisoners attitude that brings each death-defying episode vividly to life.

Soldier 'I': The story of an SAS Hero Details

Date : Published April 20th 2010 by Osprey Publishing (first published January 1st 1989)

ISBN : 9781846039959

Author : Michael Paul Kennedy , Andy McNab (Foreword) , Pete Winner

Format : Paperback 408 pages

Genre : History, War, Military Fiction, Biography, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Soldier 'I': The story of an SAS Hero for online ebook

Martin says

OK. So its full of cliches. OK, so we know most of the salient points of regimental history from before. Its still great to get the memoirs of one of the guys who made that history. This is probably a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the SAS.

Nicole says

this book was pretty interesting. however, some of the battles were a bit boring, and the end was kind of boring too. but i still think it's a good book.

Andrew Giles says

Fantastic insight into a man's experiences during and after the SAS.

Peter Roach says

A well written book, that covers the career of a long time member of the SAS (22nd Regiment), and what happened to him after he left the service. This book fits in well with other books written by his mates in the regiment, Andy McNabb and others.

If you had read these other books, you will recognize the style of writing and it is of interest in how it all seems to fit together when you read the accounts of battle scenes from these different perspectives.

Pete Winner-Soldier 'I' is presented in raw form, not especially likable, though a guy you want around when trouble develops. The only thing is, he may be part of the trouble. A fact that Pete recognizes, but does have excuses for, and no regrets. Can't blame him though, just that he does ask whether it was worth it?

Andrew Horsfield says

Thoroughly entertaining.

Boozy says

Great book, excellent forward by Andy McNab. The authors take on PTSD is worth reading in itself.

TC says

The SAS has a reputation as a discrete, elite fighting force which, despite a few books over the years from those who have served among it's number, has retained much of it's mystique and cachet. I've read a few military memoirs in the past so when I stumbled upon Pete Winner at an airshow selling this book, with a donation to a military charity with each sale I was never going to walk on past. This book details Pete's amazing 18 years in the SAS plus the new demands placed on him as he adjusted to life on civvy street and his later work.

For me the best known part of Pete's career was his role in the team that stormed the Iranian Embassy in London during the infamous siege. I was young when it happened but I remember seeing dramatic photos of the assault and was keen to read more about what actually happened. The title of the book comes from Pete's pseudonym when he was called to testify about the event in court. The book includes a number of photos and an illustration of the embassy to help explain how events unfolded which I found a great addition. Other missions recounted in the book include the battle of Mirbat and his time in the Falklands. Once he left the army he moved on to various close protection roles which gave him a taste of a champagne lifestyle but also took him to conflict-hit Bosnia.

I found that it took me a while to get into the book, which may have been partly my fault for having to read the beginning in short snatches, but once I did I was drawn in by the pace, the writing with some great imagery as well as some brutal detail and the more emotional side of his story. There were some very moving parts when Pete reflected on the loss of so many colleagues, and also while he was dealing with the massive impact of leaving the regiment and considering the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The little anecdotes about minor details served to add real colour to the stories recounted, and the reading about what it takes to join the regiment only served to further increase my admiration for Pete and his colleagues.

This book recounts a roller-coaster career with adrenaline filled highs matched only by lows that could have changed the entire course of Pete's life. His career has seen him present at pivotal moments in history, some of which I had been virtually ignorant of until now. This was a fascinating read, and despite the largely serious subject matter it was a really enjoyable read.

Nicole says

Only half the book was about his time in the SAS; the other half was about what he did after...not really what I thought the book would be about. I thought it would only talk about his time in the military. But oh well. It was still an interesting book.

Brandon Lamm says

A little slow. I'm having a hard time finishing it.

Faith6120 says

If you're looking for the story of a real hero, then look no further!

Soldier I is the true account of one man's awesome career in the UK's elite fighting force - The Special Air Service - and an insight into the challenges he faced when he left the Regiment behind.

The SAS came to the attention of the nation as the fearsome black-clad figures who stormed the Iranian Embassy in 1980 and successfully rescued over 20 hostages. Soldier I was there, at the heart of the action, and in his book recounts the drama from build-up to completion.

But several years before this Soldier I was involved in the most astounding battle I have heard of; the Battle of Mirbat. 9 SAS soldiers faced seemingly impossible odds when they were attacked by hundreds of Communist insurgents during a secret war in Oman. For this awe-inspiring account alone the book is worth every penny.

I read Soldier I in a matter of days - the sign of a truly gripping read. Thrilling, frightening, humorous, heartrending, inspiring...

Incidentally I was fortunate to meet Mr Winner (aka Soldier I - www.soldieri.com) earlier this year when he gave a passionate and absorbing guest lecture at the National Army Museum. It was a real pleasure to meet him and he was kind enough to talk to everyone and sign copies of his book. If you ever get a chance to attend one of his presentations I'd highly recommend it.

Ellie Vickery says

This book was very entertaining and enlightening, which is precisely why I chose to read it. I wanted to learn the ins and outs of the daily life of my friend who is an SAS soldier without having to ask, so I could avoid the always uncomfortable answer of "sorry, I can't tell you". The enlightening portion of it was also the worst part, because it seems as though the author has gleefully betrayed a secret oath found among the SAS brotherhood. I was very torn between being angry at the author's actions and being happily informed.
