

# 90 minutes at entebbe

## Ebook Description: 90 Minutes at Entebbe

90 Minutes at Entebbe delves into the dramatic and pivotal 90-minute period during the 1976 Entebbe raid, offering a gripping account of the daring Israeli rescue mission. This ebook goes beyond the widely known narrative, exploring the meticulous planning, the tense on-the-ground execution, and the immediate aftermath of this iconic event. The significance lies not only in the daring rescue of over 100 hostages but also in its geopolitical implications, its impact on counter-terrorism strategies, and its lasting legacy on Israeli military prowess and international relations. The relevance today stems from the continuing struggle against terrorism and the enduring questions surrounding hostage negotiations, the use of force, and the delicate balance between national security and international law. This ebook will appeal to readers interested in military history, political science, international relations, and dramatic true-life stories of courage and resilience.

## Ebook Outline: Operation Thunderbolt – Reclaiming Entebbe

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed (Fictional Author)

Contents:

Introduction: Setting the stage – The hijacking, the political climate, and the initial response.

Chapter 1: The Planning Phase: Detailed account of the meticulous planning, intelligence gathering, and logistical challenges faced by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

Chapter 2: The Raid Itself: Minute-by-minute account of the raid, focusing on the soldiers' actions, the challenges encountered, and the casualties.

Chapter 3: Hostage Experiences: First-hand accounts (where available) from the hostages, showcasing their experiences during the ordeal and their reactions to the rescue.

Chapter 4: Aftermath and Analysis: Immediate consequences, the international reactions, the long-term effects on counter-terrorism strategies, and lessons learned.

Conclusion: A reflection on the legacy of Entebbe, its impact on the world stage, and its continuing relevance today.

## Article: Operation Thunderbolt – Reclaiming Entebbe

### Introduction: Setting the Scene for a Miraculous Rescue

The year was 1976. The world was a different place, still reeling from the Cold War and grappling with the rise of international terrorism. On June 27th, a seemingly ordinary Air France flight 139, traveling from Tel Aviv to Paris, was hijacked by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the German Revolutionary Cells. Their destination? Entebbe Airport in Uganda, then under the dictatorial rule of Idi Amin. This act of terrorism, which involved the hijacking of a plane full of passengers, many of them Israeli citizens, set the stage for one of the most audacious and successful rescue missions in modern history: Operation Thunderbolt. This operation, a testament to military precision and daring, would redefine the landscape of counter-terrorism and cement its place in history.

## **Chapter 1: The Planning Phase: A Race Against Time and a Labyrinth of Challenges**

The Israeli government, facing the terrifying prospect of losing many of its citizens, reacted swiftly. The decision to launch a rescue mission was not taken lightly. It was a high-stakes gamble, fraught with peril. The planning phase was a whirlwind of activity, a race against time. Intelligence gathering was paramount, requiring collaboration with various agencies, including Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency. The team needed to learn the layout of Entebbe Airport, the location of the hostages, the number and disposition of the hijackers, and the potential presence of Ugandan security forces. This involved painstaking reconnaissance, likely involving aerial surveillance and human intelligence.

Logistical challenges were immense. The distance from Israel to Uganda was considerable, requiring meticulously planned airlifts, fuel stops, and contingency plans. The planes needed to be equipped for a rapid assault, carrying soldiers, weapons, and medical supplies. Communication was also critical, requiring the establishment of secure lines to coordinate the operation across continents. The planning phase wasn't merely about military strategy; it was about navigating political sensitivities and securing diplomatic channels to avoid jeopardizing the operation or escalating regional tensions. The risk of failure was immense; the consequences of a botched operation were catastrophic to contemplate.

## **Chapter 2: The Raid Itself: A Symphony of Precision and Courage**

The raid itself was a marvel of precision and courage. The Israeli commandos, drawn from elite units, executed a daring nighttime assault. The operation unfolded with remarkable speed and accuracy. The soldiers navigated the airport's unfamiliar terrain, overcoming obstacles and neutralizing the guards. The precision of their strikes is a testament to their extensive training and planning. Despite the inherent dangers and the possibility of a clash with Ugandan forces, they demonstrated exceptional composure and professionalism. The raid, though swift, was not without its share of casualties, both on the side of the rescuers and among the hijackers. The successful rescue of the hostages was the ultimate goal, and this was achieved through careful planning and courageous execution. Their actions remain a remarkable display of military prowess and bravery.

## **Chapter 3: Hostage Experiences: Stories of Resilience and Survival**

The experiences of the hostages during the ordeal remain central to the story of Entebbe. Their accounts offer a poignant counterpoint to the military strategy and planning. While the focus is often on the military operation, the human cost and the emotional toll on the hostages cannot be ignored. Their stories paint a vivid picture of fear, uncertainty, and resilience. The descriptions of their confinement, their interactions with the hijackers, and their eventual liberation provide crucial context to the narrative, humanizing an event often depicted solely through a military lens. The psychological impact of such an experience lingered for many survivors, demonstrating the enduring effects of terrorism. Accessing these accounts is vital to understanding the full scope of the Entebbe raid and giving voice to those who lived through the harrowing event.

## **Chapter 4: Aftermath and Analysis: A Legacy of Courage and Strategy**

The aftermath of the Entebbe raid sent shockwaves across the globe. The successful rescue was a significant victory for Israel and a major blow to the PFLP and Idi Amin. It demonstrated Israel's resolve to combat terrorism and its capacity to launch daring and effective operations far beyond its borders. The raid's impact on international counter-terrorism strategies was profound. It demonstrated the efficacy of direct action against terrorist groups, showcasing the viability of swift and decisive military intervention, rather than purely diplomatic negotiations, in hostage situations.

However, the operation also raised complex ethical and legal questions. The violation of Ugandan sovereignty was a contentious issue, fueling further tensions in the region. The raid served as both a source of inspiration and a warning for future counter-terrorism operations. The analysis of Entebbe continues to inform modern counter-terrorism strategies, including planning, intelligence gathering, and risk assessment. The legacy of Entebbe transcends its immediate context, serving as a case study in military operations, international diplomacy, and the enduring challenge of combating terrorism.

## **Conclusion: Enduring Lessons from Entebbe**

The Entebbe raid stands as a testament to human courage, military prowess, and the intricate complexities of international relations. Its legacy endures, shaping counter-terrorism strategies and reminding us of the ongoing struggle against global terrorism. It serves as a poignant reminder of the human cost of terrorism, highlighting both the resilience of hostages and the bravery of those who risked their lives to secure their freedom. The story of Entebbe is more than just a military operation; it is a complex narrative reflecting geopolitical tensions, ethical dilemmas, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity. It continues to resonate today, offering valuable lessons for policymakers, military strategists, and anyone grappling with the ongoing challenge of global security.

## FAQs:

1. What was the primary objective of Operation Thunderbolt? To rescue the hostages held at Entebbe Airport.
2. Which Israeli units participated in the raid? Elite units like Sayeret Matkal and other special forces units.
3. What was the role of Mossad in the Entebbe raid? Providing crucial intelligence and logistical support.
4. How many hostages were rescued? Over 100.
5. Were there any casualties during the raid? Yes, among both rescuers and hijackers.
6. What was Idi Amin's role in the events at Entebbe? He initially supported the hijackers and allowed them to hold the hostages.
7. What were the immediate international reactions to the raid? Mixed reactions ranging from condemnation to admiration.
8. How did the Entebbe raid impact counter-terrorism strategies? It demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of preemptive military action.
9. What long-term effects did the raid have on Israeli-Ugandan relations? Severely strained relations, leading to a complete breakdown of diplomatic ties.

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## Additional Resources

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