

90 minutes entebbe raid

Ebook Description: 90 Minutes Entebbe Raid

This ebook, "90 Minutes Entebbe Raid," delves into the daring and meticulously planned 1976 Israeli hostage rescue operation at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. It explores the high-stakes drama, the intricate tactical planning, and the profound geopolitical implications of this audacious military operation. The raid, a seemingly impossible feat, remains a pivotal moment in military history, showcasing innovative strategies, exceptional courage, and the complex political landscape of the Cold War era. The book examines the events leading up to the hijacking, the tense negotiations, the daring raid itself, and the aftermath, including its impact on international relations and counter-terrorism strategies. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, the human stories behind the operation, and the lasting legacy of Entebbe. The significance lies in its demonstration of decisive action against terrorism, its impact on Israeli military strategy, and its continuing relevance in the ongoing global fight against terrorism.

Ebook Title: Operation Thunderbolt: Reclaiming Entebbe

Outline:

Introduction: Setting the stage – the political climate of the 1970s, the rise of Palestinian terrorism, and the context of the Air France Flight 139 hijacking.

Chapter 1: The Hijacking: A detailed account of the hijacking, the hostages' ordeal, and the initial negotiations with Idi Amin's regime.

Chapter 2: Planning the Raid: The Israeli government's decision to act, the intricate planning process, the selection of commandos, and the logistical challenges involved.

Chapter 3: Operation Thunderbolt: A minute-by-minute account of the raid itself, focusing on the tactics, the challenges faced, and the bravery of the Israeli forces.

Chapter 4: Aftermath and Legacy: The immediate consequences of the raid, the international reaction, the long-term impact on counter-terrorism strategies, and the lasting legacy of Entebbe.

Conclusion: A reflection on the heroism, the risks, and the lasting significance of Operation Thunderbolt in the history of counter-terrorism.

Article: Operation Thunderbolt: Reclaiming Entebbe

Introduction: A Legacy of Daring and Determination

The Entebbe raid, officially known as Operation Thunderbolt, stands as a testament to human courage, meticulous planning, and decisive action against terrorism. Occurring on

July 4, 1976, this daring operation saw Israeli commandos infiltrate Uganda, rescue 105 hostages from hijacked Air France Flight 139, and return to Israel within a breathtaking 90 minutes. This article will delve into each aspect of this pivotal event, examining the context, the planning, the execution, and the lasting impact of this audacious military undertaking.

Chapter 1: The Hijacking – A Catalyst for Action

The hijacking of Air France Flight 139, originating from Tel Aviv and destined for Paris, began on June 27, 1976. The hijackers, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the German Revolutionary Cells, demanded the release of 53 Palestinian and other political prisoners held in Israeli, Kenyan, and French jails. Their demands initially included a considerable sum of money and the release of political prisoners. The hijackers were ruthless and highly organized; they separated the Jewish passengers from the non-Jewish passengers. This separation underlined the politically charged nature of the hijacking, directly targeting Israeli citizens. The plane eventually landed in Entebbe, Uganda, under the protection of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, who offered his support to the hijackers, reflecting the complicated political alliances during the Cold War. The hostages' ordeal began, fraught with uncertainty and fear. The 90 hour wait would be etched in the annals of hostage crisis history.

Chapter 2: Planning the Raid – Precision and Secrecy

Faced with the escalating crisis and the clear unwillingness of the Ugandan regime to intervene on behalf of the hostages, the Israeli government, under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, initiated a covert operation – Operation Thunderbolt. The planning was clandestine and intricate, involving top-level security officials, intelligence agencies (Mossad and Aman), and the elite Israeli special forces unit, Sayeret Matkal. The operation faced numerous challenges: the distance to Entebbe (thousands of kilometers), the need for absolute secrecy, the hostile environment in Uganda under Idi Amin's dictatorship, and the potential for catastrophic failure. Detailed maps were created, flight paths were meticulously planned to account for potential threats, and the commandos underwent rigorous training simulating the conditions they would face. The meticulous nature of this planning would be essential to their success. This was not a spur-of-the-moment decision but an operation built on intelligence gathering, precise calculations, and a commitment to seeing it through.

Chapter 3: Operation Thunderbolt – The Execution

The raid itself was a textbook example of military precision. On July 4, 1976, four Boeing 707 aircraft carrying Israeli commandos, medical personnel, and support staff landed at Entebbe Airport under the cover of darkness. The initial attack was swift and decisive. They used a combination of methods: a surprise attack, precise firing with minimal collateral damage, and rapid hostage extraction, proving the capability of the Sayeret Matkal unit. The element of surprise was critical in achieving a swift and successful outcome. The commandos moved with lightning speed, neutralizing airport security and gaining access to the terminal where the hostages were held. The operation was characterized by minimal civilian casualties. The raid was meticulously planned down to the minute, demonstrating the importance of preparedness in such a situation. The commandos faced unexpected challenges, including a firefight with Ugandan soldiers, but they overcame them with

exceptional skill and courage. The operation was not without casualties, highlighting the inherent risks of such a daring mission.

Chapter 4: Aftermath and Legacy – A Turning Point

Operation Thunderbolt was a resounding success. Most of the hostages were freed, proving that a successful hostage rescue operation was possible even in a hostile environment. However, three hostages were killed during the raid, and one Israeli commando was killed, along with several Ugandan soldiers and civilians. The international reaction was mixed. While some praised Israel's courage and determination, others condemned the violation of Ugandan sovereignty. The raid underscored the strength and determination of the Israeli military, and also raised concerns regarding the legitimacy of military intervention in another country's sovereignty. The raid strengthened Israel's reputation for decisively counteracting terrorism, and it impacted global counter-terrorism strategies by demonstrating the effectiveness of surgical military operations in hostage rescue. The Entebbe raid remains a significant event in the history of counterterrorism, serving as a case study in military planning, and execution under immense pressure.

Conclusion: A Bold Stroke in the Fight Against Terrorism

The Entebbe raid was more than just a daring military operation; it was a defining moment in the fight against terrorism. It demonstrated the effectiveness of decisive action, meticulous planning, and unwavering courage in confronting terror. The legacy of Entebbe continues to resonate today, shaping counter-terrorism strategies and inspiring awe at the bravery of those involved. The success of Operation Thunderbolt is not only a testament to the Israeli military's capabilities but a powerful reminder of the potential for human resilience and decisive action in the face of adversity.

FAQs

1. How many hostages were rescued in the Entebbe raid? 105 hostages were rescued.
2. Which Israeli special forces unit carried out the raid? Sayeret Matkal.
3. Who was the Ugandan dictator during the Entebbe raid? Idi Amin.
4. What was the primary goal of the hijackers? The release of Palestinian and other political prisoners.
5. How long did the raid last? Approximately 90 minutes.
6. Were there any casualties during the raid? Yes, three hostages and one Israeli commando were killed.
7. What was the international reaction to the raid? Mixed; some praised the operation, while others condemned it.
8. What impact did the raid have on counter-terrorism strategies? It demonstrated the potential for successful hostage rescue operations.

9. What is the lasting significance of the Entebbe raid? It remains a pivotal moment in military and counter-terrorism history.

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