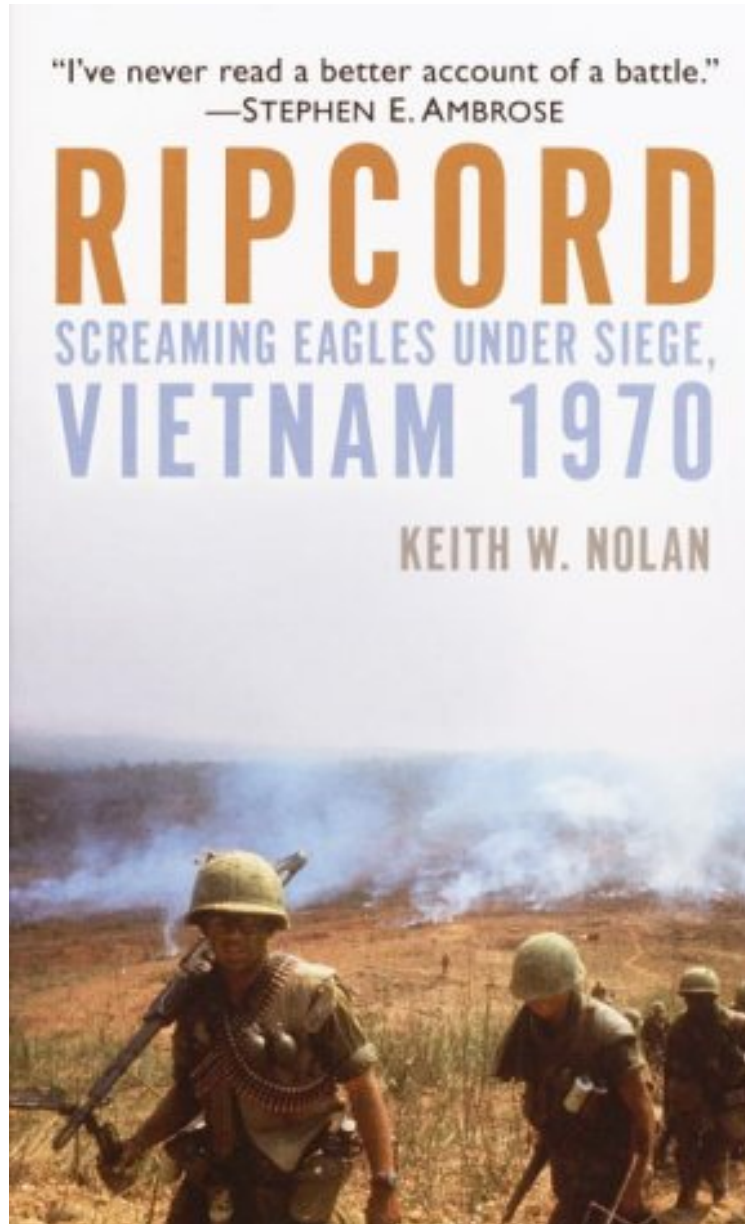


(Mobile book) Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970

Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970

Von Keith Nolan

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Von Keith Nolan : Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Heroism

Was Commonplace Von Charles F. Hawkins I've read most of Keith William Nolan's books, provided source information on two of them, and was a key participant in the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord. This obvious bias aside, "Ripcord" is Nolan's best and most comprehensive Vietnam battle history. Nolan is a master at telling the soldier's part in the 23-day siege of this remote rain forest mountain redoubt near the A Shau Valley. But it's not just a story about the hardship and heroism of combat soldiers. He unravels and clearly presents the challenges (and frustrations) of command from the division level down to leadership at the squad and platoon level. The Battle of FSB Ripcord was a complex and deadly affair. One of two book-end battles of the Vietnam War--the other was the airmobile action by the 1st Cavalry Division at Ia Drang Valley in 1965--Ripcord pitted airmobile troopers of the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division against North Vietnamese regulars that had surrounded the fire base in division strength. Nolan pulls no punches in describing the action. Quoting 1st Lt. Fred Edwards of the 326th Engineer Battalion, Nolan writes: "I was returning to Ripcord when I realized that the firebase was no longer an earthy brown, but almost black. Mortar rounds had exploded on virtually every square foot of the hill, charring it into a gray-black heap. It looked evil, malevolent. When the helicopter landed, it was like being dropped into an absolute hellhole." Ripcord was more costly than the division action at Dong Ap Bia (Hamburger Hill) the year prior. Because the Screaming Eagle withdrawal from the base succeeded magnificently and did not turn into a rout, the action went largely unreported at the time. Thus, many participants in the battle had little idea of the depth or scope of the overall combat in which they were so intimately involved. Nolan's book does a great service to all these men by clarifying what went on and the contributions they made individually and collectively to the division's efforts. Like most American military historians Nolan is more qualitative than quantitative, more gut-level than analytical in his recounting of events. Analytical comparisons can help with perspective. At the start of the siege the average bomb tonnage from air strikes against enemy positions was less than 5 tons per day; but on the last three days the bomb tonnage climbed from 104 tons to 154 tons. Eighty-four fighter-bomber sorties engaged the enemy in a 12-hour period on the final day. In the midst of this cauldron of fire soldiers from both sides fought, died and struggled for their very survival. Few came away unscathed. This book is a must for any serious student of the Vietnam War, and will be a worthy addition to the bookshelves of military history buffs everywhere. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Surpasses Black Hawk Down Von William B. Case Because of its graphic and amazingly detailed description of combat, Keith William Nolan's Ripcord: Screaming Eagles Under Siege, 1970, is destined for comparison with Mark Bowden's Black Hawk Down, which it equals in narrative quality but surpasses in drama and scope. Both were costly misadventures in doomed endeavors, but the Rangers and Delta Force troopers who died on the streets of Mogadishu, unlike those who died at Firebase Ripcord, hadn't seen the handwriting on the wall. By the time North Vietnamese regiments surrounded Firebase Ripcord in the spring of 1970, U.S. policy-makers, having written Vietnam off as a lost cause, had announced the American troop withdrawal schedule. As the acting artillery liaison officer for the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), I marveled, from the relative safety of a command and control ship, at the heroism displayed by American soldiers who could not have been blamed for feeling abandoned by their country and their higher command. What drove them up the embattled hills surrounding Ripcord in the face of withering fire or sent them scrambling to crew their howitzers in a downpour of incoming mortar rounds? The search for answers to such questions will likely make Nolan's book required reading at the U.S. Army Infantry and Artillery School, but it deserves a broader audience just as the soldiers who defended Ripcord deserved a better war. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Historic Account of Besieged Firebase Von Charles Reilly As a former member of the 101st Airborne stationed in the northern province of Vietnam (I Corps) in 1970-1971, I read Mr. Nolan's account with extreme interest. The July 1970 siege at Firebase Ripcord was indeed the last great battle of the Vietnam War for American forces and one of the bloodiest of the entire conflict. The author spares no one in his quest for the truth concerning this event, but lets the reader ultimately decide as to who was truly responsible for this full-fledged military disaster. Yet even through the manic chaos of this bitter struggle, Nolan goes out of his way to recognize the astounding bravery and heroism demonstrated by the "Screaming Eagles" under the most dire circumstances. The Vietnam War is usually glossed over in little more than half a page in today's high school and college history books. For anyone who desires further knowledge of the war, Mr. Nolan's well-researched work would be a great place to start. His eyewitness resources not only gives readers a thorough understanding of the horrors of war, but nearly places them in the line of fire. Hopefully, this book will also put to rest the common view that nothing of any consequence happened in Vietnam after 1969. Because of Mr. Nolan's efforts, the epic and memorable battle that was "Ripcord" will be remembered.

Kurzbeschreibung On April 10, 1970, Hill 927 was occupied by troopers of the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division. By July, the activities of the artillery and infantry of Ripcord had caught the attention of the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) and a long and deadly siege ensued. Ripcord was the Screaming Eagles last chance to do significant damage to the NVA in the A Shau Valley before the division was withdrawn from Vietnam and returned to

the United States. At Ripcord, the enemy counterattacked with ferocity, using mortar and anti-aircraft fire to inflict heavy casualties on the units operating there. The battle lasted four and a half months and exemplified the ultimate frustration of the Vietnam War: the inability of the American military to bring to bear its enormous resources to win on the battlefield. In the end, the 101st evacuated Ripcord, leaving the NVA in control of the battlefield. Contrary to the mantra We won every battle but lost the war, the United States was defeated at Ripcord. Now, at last, the full story of this terrible battle can be told.

From the Paperback edition.

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AN ABSOLUTELY SUPERB ACCOUNT OF WAR AT THE LEVEL OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER . . . This is a major contribution to Vietnam War literature, particularly of action at the small-unit level.

Military Keith Nolan's research, his comprehension of the political as well as the military actions, his careful concern for those who were there, and, most of all, his writing, are superb. I recommend Ripcord without stint or reservation.

STEPHEN AMBROSE

With Ripcord, Keith Nolan has added another significant battle history to his impressive list of works on the Vietnam War.

JOHN DEL VECCHIO

Author of *The 13th Valley*

From the Paperback edition.

Kurzbeschreibung

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