



We Were One: Shoulder to Shoulder with the Marines Who Took Fallujah

By Patrick K. O'Donnell

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Five months after being deployed to Iraq, Lima Company's 1st Platoon, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, found itself in Fallujah, embroiled in some of the most intense house-to-house, hand-to-hand urban combat since World War II. In the city's bloody streets, they came face-to-face with the enemy-radical insurgents high on adrenaline, fighting to a martyr's death, and suicide bombers approaching from every corner. Award-winning author and historian Patrick O'Donnell stood shoulder to shoulder with this modern band of brothers as they marched and fought through the streets of Fallujah, and he stayed with them as the casualties mounted.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Military historian O'Donnell (*Into the Rising Sun*) embedded himself in the 1st Platoon of Lima Company, 1st Marine Regiment. His book describes its training and deployment to Iraq in 2004, where the platoon patrolled, fended off guerrilla attacks and finally "fought bravely and died in the Iraq War's fiercest battle" in Fallujah. Most of the book is a detailed, blow-by-blow description of the brutal street fighting, during which nearly the entire unit became casualties. As the author portrays them, these Marines were heroes and warriors with only macho flaws, such as heavy drinking or practical joking, while their enemies are simply terrorists. Maintaining that our troops fight because they love America and their buddies, but their opponents fight because they are drug-addled, suicidal maniacs, the author forgets what every military buff knows: one cannot be a great warrior without a worthy opponent. Like many embedded reporters, O'Donnell appears to have fallen in love with his subjects, adding to the growing genre of worshipful, jingoistic battle narratives about Iraq. Though these Marines fought with great courage and the details of their battle make gripping reading, the author's uncritical cheerleading reduces their accomplishment to fantasy heroics. (Nov.)

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Review

Lieutenant Jeff Sommers

“*We Were One* captures every action, every thought, but most importantly every emotion that goes with victory, and the loss of friends in battle.”

Sergeant James Conner

“*We Were One* describes the hardships that our band of warriors endured as a family, and the sacrifices we were willing to make for each other when put to the ultimate test.”

Corporal Bill Sojda

“*We Were One* is a perfect, no-shit, first-hand story about a group of brave young boys, strangers to each other, molded into Marines, and the war that made us men. A unique bond made us brothers—we fought for each other to stay alive. Feel the heartache, the glory, and the agonizing pain of each Marine as we tell our story of the brutal bloody battle for Fallujah. It is war at its worst fought by young men at their finest.”

New York Post

“A real-time, eyewitness history The author's most important accomplishment among many is to put a human face on the troops who are fighting against some of the fiercest enemies America has ever encountered Read O'Donnell's excellent book and you will know that they are indeed, as were each preceding generation, “The Greatest.”

Marine Corps Times, Air Force Times, Navy Times, and

From the Publisher

“Here in these gripping pages is the Iraq War's fiercest battle, seen from the adrenaline-charged vantage of a few Marine buddies who are part of the next “Greatest Generation.” *We Were One* is feelingly narrated by an intrepid war historian who risked his own life to capture every raw minute of their story.”--Hampton Sides,

author of *Blood and Thunder* and *Ghost Soldiers*

"A magnificent tale of combat--mixing valor, grit, love, blood and sacrifice. This book defines what it means to be a Marine grunt."--Bing West, author of *The March Up* and *No True Glory*

"*We Were One* is a dramatic tale of courage, hardship and the extraordinarily difficult challenges faced by a gallant Marine unit in one of the world's most deadly places. Patrick O'Donnell brilliantly and compassionately recounts the story of our American sons called upon to fight, bleed, die, and survive in a hostile land."--Carlo D'Este, author of *Patton: A Genius For War*

"Pat O'Donnell was with us on the ground in Fallujah--house to house. His story is historically accurate and describes the greatest personal and professional test of our lives. *We Were One* is destined to be a classic of urban close combat, and honors the memory of all who made the ultimate sacrifice for their brother Marines. I am deeply thankful that Pat kept his oath to Lima Company."--LtCol Willy Buhl, CO Task Force 3/1, Operation AL FAJR

"As an embedded journalist in an Infantry Platoon, O'Donnell paints an authentic picture of our Nation's most precious assets--the Marine Riflemen--engaged in one of their fiercest fights. *We Were One* is a gritty, boots-on-the-ground account that enables readers to witness the overwhelming will and courage of Marines as they move against the enemy."--J.N. Mattis, Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Hunnicutt:

Precisely why? Because this *We Were One: Shoulder to Shoulder with the Marines Who Took Fallujah* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Joseph Ortiz:

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Deborah Wilkerson:

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