



One Shot One Kill

Charles W. Sasser, Craig Roberts

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They are the lone wolves of the battlefield. Tracking the enemy, lying in wait for the target to appear -- then they shoot to kill. Armed with an unerring eye, infinite patience and a mastery of camouflage, combat snipers stalk the enemy with only one goal...

In World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Beirut, American snipers honed the art of delivering a single deadly shot from nowhere -- and devastating enemy morale. They met the enemy on his own turf, picking off officers, unwary soldiers, and even other snipers from extraordinary distances of up to 1 ½ miles. Now, these uncommon men tell their stories: of the emotions felt when a man's face came into their crosshairs and they pulled the trigger, of the nerve-wracking hours and days of waiting, motionless, for the enemy, of the primal savagery of a sniper duel.

Often trained haphazardly in wartime, and forgotten in times of peace, combat snipers were officially recognized after the Vietnam War, when the Marine Corps became the first military branch to start a full-time sniper school. *One Shot-One Kill* is their powerful record of desperate trials and proud victories.

A MAIN SELECTION OF THE MILITARY BOOK CLUB

One Shot One Kill Details

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From Reader Review One Shot One Kill for online ebook

Tony Poerio says

I read this book growing up and it made me want to join the army, for a time. The stories are absolutely engaging, exciting, page turning, death-defying. I'm a little surprised the book isn't more popular, but I guess the appeal is limited, and some people will just never give a chance to this kind of storytelling. War is certainly hell, and this book doesn't sugarcoat or glorify it. It's about the difficulties, the struggle of what each man went through, and how he somehow survived it to tell the tale.

Dustin says

Pretty cool. It chronicles sniper stories from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Beirut. The details are pretty vivid for the short length. And it's definitely not PC. No one is trying to win hearts and minds in this book. It's about men that stay out in the ether, waiting days sometimes to pop off a single shot to bring their target down. If you're into that kind of thing, you'll probably enjoy this.

Marley Mascarenas says

Lone-wolf, cold-blooded, murderer, unsportsmanlike, all of these words have been used to describe the most infamous armed service men in history, the sniper. Even though now snipers are regarded as a normally part of war they were looked down upon by the other soldiers as cowards, this book, "One Shot-One Kill", tells the story and the hardships that the scout snipers of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Beirut. The authors, Charles W. Sasser and Craig Roberts, tell the history of the modern day sniper with many thrilling stories from true snipers. The book follows the stories of six different very unique snipers through the four wars they were put in. I read this book because I wanted to learn more about snipers after I read "American Sniper".

The book starts with a foreword that describes the mentality of the sniper throughout history. It is followed by short stories about each of the wars going in time order between World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Beirut. After each story, or before, there is a chapter that helps to elaborate on what the soldier in the story did, or will do. When it begins describing a new war it describes how sniping was different in each war, for example long range sniping was more effective in Beirut than it was in Korea because of the terrain. The book attempts to have soldiers that have multiple stories but for the most part every story is about a new man.

The end of the book is just a synopsis of the major points the book makes, in a few sentences. It adds how one group of snipers eventually create the "perfect" sniper by combining different guns and parts. The gun could outdistance the popularly used Dragunov and was eventually named the M-24 and is now the standard weapon for a sniper. I enjoyed the stories toward the end that emphasized that a sniper can not have a hot head, and that most snipers are very reliant on luck. The last sentence restates the title by saying "one shot-one kill".

I enjoyed this book, but I sometimes got lost with the story since I do not understand all of the military language. This book is definitely for someone who understands military and has a strong stomach. It does not center around a single story but instead many interesting short stories that all revolve around a similar subject. This book is very similar to many other books about war, especially "American Sniper".

Steve says

In the novel One Shot One Kill by Charles W. Sasser many important events in modern day warfare and the tactics of concealed combat are dissected and explained by trained combat veterans placed in the situations many today couldn't have made it through. This book takes the advanced, complex tools used in the shadowy works by all snipers and explains it to the average civilian. One Shot One Kill explains the early day of sniping, before long range scopes and the advantages of modern day tools, like GPS and range finders. It goes back to the days of soldiers with nothing more than high boot camp shooting scores gaining a special rifle and being sent forth to wreak havoc upon the German lines. It recounts how the use of one refined tool can stop an army. During the intense combat of Vietnam deep in the impenetrable foliage of thick canopy, veterans of the long range kills start the training to get snipers to survive and actually be an effective weapon of war. Most interestingly enough the book tells of how quickly governments wanted to sweep their terrifying tool under the rug. During the 1900s nipping was seen as a cowardly act no matter what the casualty rate or combat effect told the higher ups in charge. After the conflict was over many wanted the faces to be forgotten, their existence as the deadliest and scariest weapon held from public eye. Also the book begins to touch on the psychology of being a sniper. The average infantryman engaged targets at roughly 300 to 400 yards, or closer. Snipers engaged closer to 500 to, in the earlier times to 900, but in today up to over 1,000 yards. Now this seems easier than what the infantry deals with but snipers get to see their faces, the way the eye blinks, and they see it in crystal clarity. Being a sniper is a deadly and masterful art that only a select few can use to their advantage through weeks of study and years of mental and physical training. The sniper is a tool of war and a raises fear with each body dropped by an invisible round.

Zachary says

This is one of military novel pertaining to snipers I have ever read. The way it's written, the words used, and the stories told it makes you feel as if your there in battle with them. Some parts are rather slow and repeat a lot but it's a nothing big. The authors use very good imagery, symbolism, and personification. Imagery in one scene from the book a Sioux sniper is hunting Nazis and he shoots him and he flails about for about ten seconds and he says, "He flayed around like a deer after you done shotem in the neck." He also uses imagery by saying that a thicket of brush in Germany as a thicket of unbrushed cat hair." And personification by at one point saying that the scope becomes like a person after you pull the trigger. The intense and graphic scenes are the thing that mainly drew me to read this book, and it definitely delivers.

Steve says

An excellent book on the American snipers from World War II to Beirut in 1983. Probably the most famous that was mentioned was Marine sniper Carlos Hathcock who fought in Vietnam. Not only does it have the stories of the individual snipers mentioned, But also tells the history of the sniper and the type of rifles they used as well as camouflage used as well such as the guillie suits and the training they received to become snipers.

Charles says

Awesome, quick, intense read. Loved ever second of it. Story of Carlos Hathcock the greatest recognized sniper in U.S. history.

Brian says

Collected stories of American snipers in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. It includes legendary sniper Carlos Hathcock among others and tells their bloody stories to insure freedom for the folks back home and survival of their brothers in arms. An excellent book.

Ben A says

One Shot One Kill by Charles W. Sasser is an action book containing great stories of experiences of snipers in American Wars. The stories are full of action and twists, which is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. I say stories because One Shot One Kill has a different story every chapter. Some people may not like this, but personally I enjoyed it because the writers didn't miss a beat when it came to filling their book with action. If you like books that contain multiple stories, and action books, I strongly recommend you read One Shot One Kill by Charles W. Sasser.

Mike Negley says

Excellent first person account of the journey of an American Sniper during the Vietnam War. Not just any Sniper, Carlos Hathcock was America's Best!

Jw423 says

This book is an excellent collection of real life Snipers. These guys are amazing! One guy spent three days crawling through an open field to get to the shot on an enemy general. The book has information on the evolution of the modern day sniper too.

There are a few disturbing images portrayed in the book but well worth the heroic stories.

Ben says

This is a great no nonsense book. The stories inside of it are what Hollywood writers use to make their movies with; They are unbelievable but they are true, especially Carlos Hatchcock's 3 day stalk of a Vietnamese general. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in long range precision shooting and to big game hunters who are interested in improving their stalking fieldcraft. These guys know their stuff.

Les Wolf says

An extraordinary chronicle describing the activities and motivations of the military sniper from the period of the American Revolution to the war in Beirut, Lebanon. The authors describe the men, the missions, the weapons and the tactics that turn the battlefield into a contest of skill, raw nerve, stamina and strategy. The first-person narratives are surprisingly candid and remarkably detailed.

No says

"There survives one lone wolf of the battlefield. He hunts not with the pack. Single-handed, or accompanied by one companion, he seeks cover near the fighting." -General George O. Van Orden

"the most deadly weapon on any battlefield is the single, well-aimed shot."

"His bullets must come from nowhere."

"Stones launched by slingshots were replaced by spears launched by throwing sticks. The bow and arrow replaced these and was in turn replaced by the crossbow and then by gunpowder. Each technological advancement in weaponry increased the range from which a marksman could hit a target and the accuracy with which he could hit it."

"No-where is the enemy safe from the snipers eye. The enemys life is cheap. It takes only one bullet to kill him. One shot - one kill."

"The harder they hunt me, the harder I get." -Hathcock

"He never fired more than one shot a day and never from the same location twice. He was good."

"The sniper had sprinkled rice to attract birds as an early warning signal"

"a rifle bullet fired past a tree or building or rock made a sonic crack in passing that confused the enemy by sounding as though it came from that location instead of from the snipers true hide."

"I forced myself to take a deep silent breath and let it out slowly to settle my nerves, like they taught in sniper school."

"When you go into combat you revert to the most vicious kind of animal that ever walked the earth. You become a predator. I got to where it hurt me more to kill a good dog than a human being."

* Indian snipers scalping German soldiers and killing Italian female scouts

"Hunting animals gives you the patience to hunt man."

"The snipers used flashless gunpowder. That made it hard to spot them."

"Snipers can save a country."

"What can be seen can be hit."

"During a fight you could see them wandering around trying to find dead Americans so they could pick up their weapons and use them against us."

"Spine-shattering screaming and hollering came from the flames. It was hard to tell the difference between people and live pigs cooking."

Pg.125 prego gook gunned

*Splibs = the marine word for blacks

"The marksmanship ability of the average soldier has deteriorated so badly that we would be hard pressed to win a conventional war," -Lones Wigger Jr

"One accurate shot fired with deliberate precision is worth more than a hundred fired without control." - Major Foster

"if I wanted to shoot a gook at a range of 500 meters, I had to aim at his balls in order to get him in the chest."

"Killing so easily also made you aware of how easy it was to die."

"I was nineteen years old, lean, with blond hair and blue eyes. But looks, I proved, could be deceiving. I was ready to kill. Primed for it. I was ready to get even."

"The mind finds ways of adapting when sane men are thrown into insane conditions."

*Carlos Hathcock / Long Trang / White Feather / 90 confirmed kills / 200 kills / wiped out 80 man company in Vietnam / shot through other snipers scope into eye / blown up in truck via land mine, severe burns all over body / became instructor

"Hes not firing from the window. He's back in the shadows."

"Fiberglass stocks are impervious to heat, cold, and moisture."

"And one thirty-six cent bullet would take care of their beloved leader,"

*Remington 700 with Unertl Scope

Ann Schaffer says

This is a good introduction to marine and army snipers. I bought this book for my husband, but read it upon his recommendation. I didn't know anything about snipers, so all the names in the book were new to me. I liked that the book didn't focus on one time period or war because it gave a good history about how snipers have been trained and used over time. I especially liked the chapters based on interviews with specific snipers. Their stories are amazing! This book was written in 1990, so I'm curious about the advances in weaponry and training since that time.
