

PRESS RELEASE



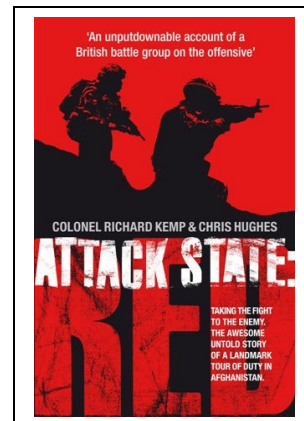
Attack State Red

by Colonel Richard Kemp
and Chris Hughes

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**Taking the fight to the enemy:
the awesome untold story of a landmark tour of duty in Afghanistan.**

Many books claim to give the reader a taste of combat. 'Attack State Red' really does. The danger, the fear, the blood, the exhilaration, the heat, the dust, the confusion, the exhaustion and of course the ever-present humour of infantry warfare emerge from 300 interviews with troops who battled in Helmand. It places the reader firmly into the boots of the British fighting soldier.

What happened in Helmand's Sangin Valley in the spring of 2007 was nothing short of extraordinary. After the last gasp defence of the platoon houses by the Paras and Marines that preceded them in theatre, the soldiers of the Royal Anglian Regiment arrived in Afghanistan to take the fight to the enemy.

Over the six month period, the Royal Anglian Battle Group unleashed hell in heavy, relentless fighting that saw teenage soldiers battle toe to toe against hardcore Taliban fighters at unprecedented levels of ferocity. The stories that emerged, defined by bravery, comradeship, endurance, and, above all, aggression, are remarkable: **a 21st Century Band of Brothers**. But the fight was far from one-sided. In May 2007 the British Army suffered the highest number of military casualties in any one month since the end of World War II. Those that did return home came back changed by the intensity of the experience.

Col. Richard Kemp is the most senior member of the armed forces to write an account of the conflict in Afghanistan. He is a former Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and later commanded all British Forces in Afghanistan.

Attack State Red tells the story of the Royal Anglians' combat tour for the first time. Combining the strategic insight of *3 Para* with the adrenaline charge of *Sniper One*, the authors have produced the most dynamic, substantial and visceral account of the war in Afghanistan that's ever been written.

Colonel Richard Kemp is a former Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and later commanded all British forces in Afghanistan. He was a member of COBRA, and worked on international terrorism, Iraq and Afghanistan for the UK Government's Joint Intelligence Committee, for which he was awarded the CBE. Although an infantryman, he invaded Iraq in a Challenger tank in 1991 with British forces in the US 3rd Army, and has spent much time in that country since the 2003 invasion. He has served extensively in command of troops in most other campaigns the British have fought in recent years, including Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Macedonia.

Chris Hughes is Security Correspondent for the *Daily Mirror* and has spent considerable time with British forces on the Afghan frontline. He was embedded with the Royal Anglians for several weeks at the height of the tour described in this book. He covered the aftermath of 9/11 in New York and has for the past five years reported on the ensuing wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon.