## **Operation Medusa: The Canadian Forces' Role in Afghanistan's Landmark Battle**

Operation Medusa was a defining moment in the history of Canada's involvement in the War in Afghanistan. The battle, which took place in September 2006, was a joint operation involving the Canadian Forces, Afghan National Security Forces, and other Coalition forces. Medusa saw some of the heaviest fighting the Canadian Forces had faced since the Korean War, but it also marked a turning point in the conflict, proving the combat capabilities of the Canadian Forces and the resolve of the Afghan people.



#### **Operation Medusa (Castle Federation Book 6)**

by alythi otowalt			
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by Glynn Stewart



#### Background

The War in Afghanistan began in 2001, following the 9/11 attacks. The United States-led invasion of Afghanistan toppled the Taliban government, which had been harboring al-Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the

attacks. In the years that followed, the Taliban and other insurgent groups launched a persistent insurgency against the Afghan government and its international allies.

The Canadian Forces first deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Canada's initial contribution to ISAF was limited to a small number of personnel, but the Canadian commitment grew over time. By 2006, Canada had become one of the largest contributors to ISAF, with over 2,500 personnel deployed to Afghanistan.

In the summer of 2006, the Taliban launched a major offensive in southern Afghanistan. The Taliban's goal was to seize control of Kandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city. The Canadian Forces were tasked with leading the response to the Taliban offensive.

#### **Operation Medusa**

Operation Medusa was launched on September 2, 2006. The operation involved over 3,000 Canadian Forces personnel, as well as Afghan National Security Forces and other Coalition forces. The goal of Operation Medusa was to clear the Taliban from the Panjwayi district, a strategically important area located just west of Kandahar.

The fighting in Operation Medusa was intense. The Taliban were wellentrenched in the Panjwayi district and they fought fiercely. The Canadian Forces and their allies faced heavy casualties, including 12 Canadian soldiers who were killed in action. Despite the heavy fighting, the Canadian Forces and their allies were able to achieve their objectives. By the end of Operation Medusa, the Taliban had been cleared from the Panjwayi district. The operation was a major victory for the Canadian Forces and it marked a turning point in the War in Afghanistan.

#### Aftermath

Operation Medusa was a significant victory for the Canadian Forces and their allies. The battle proved the combat capabilities of the Canadian Forces and it demonstrated the resolve of the Afghan people. Operation Medusa also marked a turning point in the War in Afghanistan. After Medusa, the Taliban were no longer able to launch major offensives and the Afghan government began to gain the upper hand in the conflict.

The Canadian Forces continued to serve in Afghanistan until 2014. The Canadian mission in Afghanistan was successful in many ways. The Canadian Forces helped to train the Afghan National Security Forces, they helped to build schools and hospitals, and they helped to improve the lives of ordinary Afghans. The Canadian Forces played a key role in the War in Afghanistan and they helped to make the world a safer place.

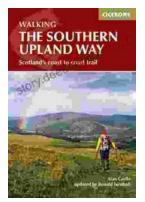
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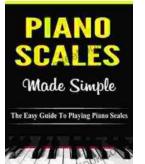
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