



0. MOGADISHU - Story Preface

1. SOMALIA IN TROUBLE

2. OPERATION RESTORE HOPE

3. MISSION OBJECTIVE

4. BLACK HAWKS IN SOMALIA

5. MOGADISHU

6. THE RAID

7. BLACK HAWK GOING DOWN!

8. DEATH

9. A HORNET'S NEST

10. MISGUIDED POLICIES?

11. OUTNUMBERED!

12. RESCUE

13. THE FIRST BIN LADEN BATTLE

14. THE REAL HEROES

This photograph of Mogadishu, in 1993, was taken by one of the Rangers assigned to the city during *Operation Restore Hope*. Image online via the Library of Congress.

When elite U.S. troops arrived in Somalia during the summer of 1993, as part of *Operation Continued Hope*, the country's civil war had worsened. Mogadishu was a battleground between warring militia groups. Although Mohamed Farrah Aidid and his supporters held the balance of power there, nothing seemed to last forever in "Mog".

Many of the American soldiers were young, with an average age of nineteen. Some of them had just graduated from high school. Most of them lived in tents when they were in Somalia. Keeping their weapons clean was a constant struggle due to the blowing sand and salty air.

On October 3, the U.S. command received reliable intelligence that two of Aidid's top lieutenants planned to attend a meeting in the ravaged city, about a block or so from the Olympic Hotel. If those men (Omar Salad and Mohamed Hassan Awale) were captured, Aidid's hold on power might be threatened.

(This link takes you to the target area and interviews with Rangers who were involved with the mission. Beyond learning what happened, from the men who were there, see the house where Salad and Awale were meeting. It is across the street from the large white buildings.)

The mission seemed fairly straightforward: Delta Force would capture Salad and Awale and a Ranger Task Force would secure the four corners of the target block. Everyone expected the commandos and rangers to be back at the base within an hour.

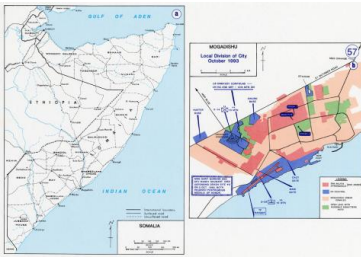
It didn't work out that way.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MOGADISHU-Black-Hawk-Down>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MOGADISHU-Black-Hawk-Down>



Battle Map of Mogadishu, U.S. Military Academy

Map, courtesy U.S. Military Academy.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-Map-of-Mogadishu-U.S.-Military-Academy>



"Mog," in 1993

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/-Mog-in-1993>



Location of Olympic Hotel and Target House

Image online, courtesy the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, via the Campbell University website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Location-of-Olympic-Hotel-and-Target-House>