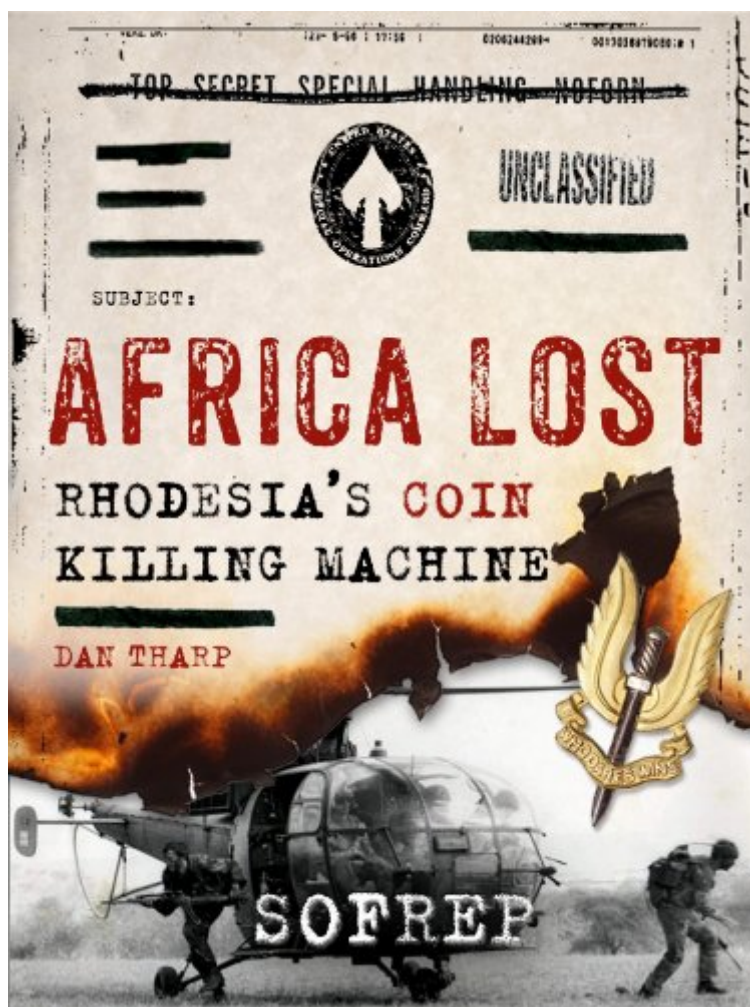


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Africa Lost: Rhodesia's COIN Killing Machine (SOFREP)



Synopsis

The Lost Chapter of Special Operations History: Rhodesia. Some of the most explosive combat in Special Operations history is almost completely unknown to the Western World. Everyone knows about Navy SEALs and Green Berets but nobody knows about the deep recce, sabotage, and direct action missions conducted by the Rhodesian SAS. The Rhodesian Light Infantry was a killing machine, participating in combat jumps every night during the heat of the Bush War. The Selous Scouts were perhaps the most innovative and daring unconventional warfare unit in history which would pair white soldiers with turncoat black "former" terrorists who would then infiltrate enemy camps. US military veteran and historian Dan Tharp covers each of these three units in depth in Africa Lost. (18,000 words)

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Customer Reviews

I want to state up front that I'm the one who encouraged the author to put this book together so I may have some sentimental attachment to this e-book, but I'll let you make that determination. This book is a long time coming and needs to get out to the US military community as soon as possible. Right now Special Operations is enjoying terrific popularity in America but at the same time we've had some dismal tactical and strategic failures in regards to Counter-Insurgency in Iraq,

Afghanistan, and...other places. The Rhodesian example is worth studying because of their tactical successes and the foresight of some of their officers, despite their strategic defeat. There are case studies and Counter-Insurgency success stories here that have been glossed over in Western military cannon, mostly for reasons of political correctness due to erroneous beliefs that Rhodesia's war on terror was a racial war. Not true, nearly 80% of the Rhodesian military was composed of black Africans and they were volunteers, not conscripts. This e-book is a great run down on Rhodesia's three "Special Operations" units, the Rhodesian Light Infantry which put the enemy through the meat grinder and conducted dozens upon dozens of combat parachute jumps during the war. The Rhodesian Special Air Service struck deep behind enemy lines, blowing up rail road tracks, bridges, and assaulted enemy camps. The Selous Scouts took unconventional warfare to a new level, one not seen before or since in my opinion. While this book may not have anything new to say to the Rhodesian diaspora who lived it, Dan's work is critical reading for Western audiences who study military science.

For those who did not follow the Rhodesian war this is a broad overview of our special forces. Being an officer in the Rhodesian army this was a reminder of what our forces achieved - not that one can really forget. Those interested should read other books on the war which will give them further insight and realize how efficient and effective our special forces were.

The author covers all the military organisations involved in the Rhodesian bush war, overt as well as covert. Interesting summaries on why the overt sections were so successful in opposing infiltration by the CT's. Going over the border and attacking terrorist bases before they got into Rhodesia is completely absorbing. Tactics are still being studied today by the military around the globe. Could have included more detail on counter-insurgency to make it more satisfying. A good read however.

A distilled version of the history of Rhodesian warfare told from a settler/European viewpoint. The author has collected some very interesting accounts by the members of elite forces operating in the Southern Africa region.

A great collection of anecdotes and personal experiences. Takes you inside the RLI and Scout units, an obscure war that has been largely forgotten in the decades since. Touches on problems of supply due to sanctions, the method of tracking and resupply in the field, and gets you inside some skirmishes and raids. It was a little short and in some sections the author's preferences showed

through. But one gets the feeling it is a subject dear to the author from personal experience and that of many friends, and it was his book to write after all.

Enjoy the book. It's a quick read that goes well with other books about Rhodesia. The men of the their military were amazing in spite of the odds. The feats they performed! In spite of how Great Britain and other countries threw under the bus for their favorite Marxists at the time. A good read!

This book is a good (though brief) overview on the Rhodesian forces during the Rhodesian Bush War. For anyone interested in or looking for a base knowledge on Rhodesian tactics during the war, this book is a great start. If you already are familiar with the war and looking for more in depth detail - look elsewhere. The contents of this book are largely collected from other sources and not original, though still presented well for beginners to the war. My biggest complaint would be the overuse of some abbreviations that a beginner would not think of right away or have to go back (or google search) to see what the author is talking about.

This was a great little general history book! First saw the review and endorsement for it on SOFREP.com by Jack Murphy who encouraged the author Dan Tharp, who studied the history of conflicts in parts of Africa, to write a general history piece on what happened to Rhodesian Special Operations Forces during the height of the Bush Wars . Now that African Special Operations are starting to appear in the spotlight, the kindle covers the groups involved in the Rhodesian Bush Wars including the Rhodesian Light Infantry, the Rhodesian SAS, and the Selous Scouts. The book is short but it made more sense putting it in kindle form instead of going through the trouble to print an actual book so don't get your hopes up hoping for a long novel. The author does cite many larger books that cover more in-depth reading on specific topics. Took an hour or two from start to finish, but well worth it.

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