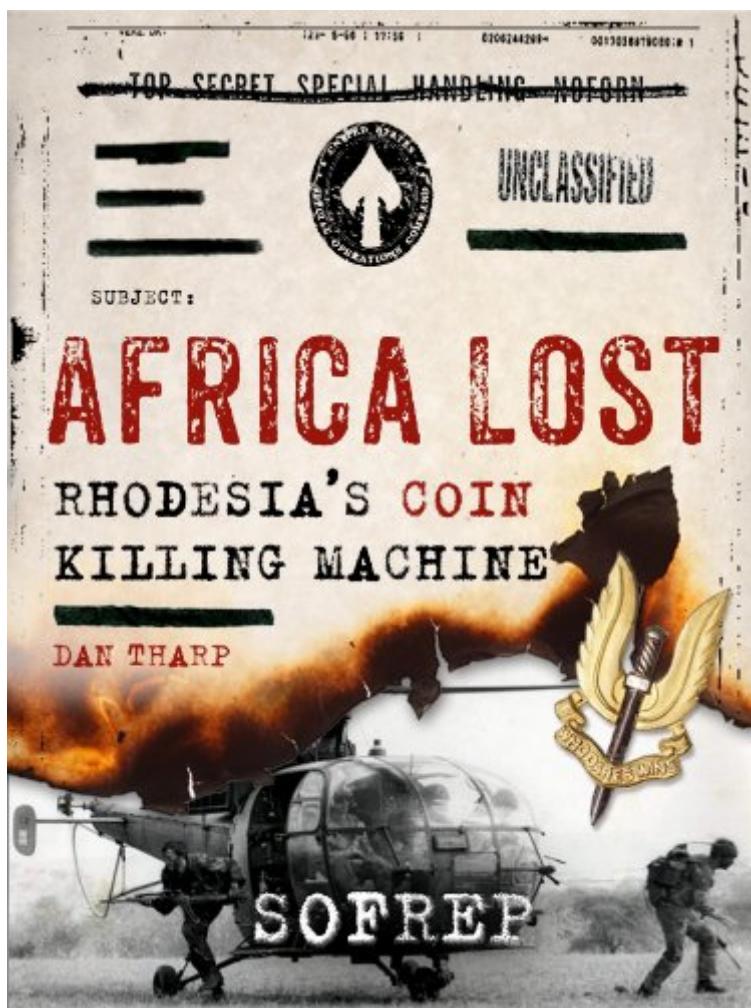


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# Africa Lost: Rhodesia's COIN Killing Machine (SOFREP)



## 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

Review - Africa Lost: Rhodesia's COIN Killing Machine Dan Tharp  
Africa Lost: Rhodesia's COIN Killing Machine by military historian Dan Tharp is a fascinating, but brief history of the Rhodesian Special Air Service and the Selous Scouts from the inception of the Rhodesian Special Air Service (SAS) to 1980 when the Nationalist won the war. The story is

well told. The book reads well. The history is fascinating. There are several forays of the Selous Scouts told in quick detail. There are several forays of the Rhodesian SAS told in quick detail. Only 5 or 6 men are named by name. For those wanting an introduction to the Rhodesian SAS and this portion of the war to end colonialism told from the Colonists military point of view, this is excellent. The detail is far too sparse to offer the specialist or generally knowledgeable military historian much more than a brief outline. I wish Dan Tharp, with his excellent knowledge and background, would have added a bibliography for those of us wanting more. He does suggest a few books, from the many published on the African Wars Independence. But Dan does not give a decent bibliography to help us sort the wheat from the chaff in the morass of books out there.

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.

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.

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.

This book gives the reader an overview of how the small nation of Rhodesia dealt with terrorists during the insurgency 40-50 years ago. I wonder why many of these tactics are not used against the terrorists in the Global War on Terror today.

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

I didn't know anything about Rhodesia and what went on in the 50's and 60's and the gorilla war that was fought. It is amazing what he south Rhodesian small force was able to do with very little resources and men.Very 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.

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