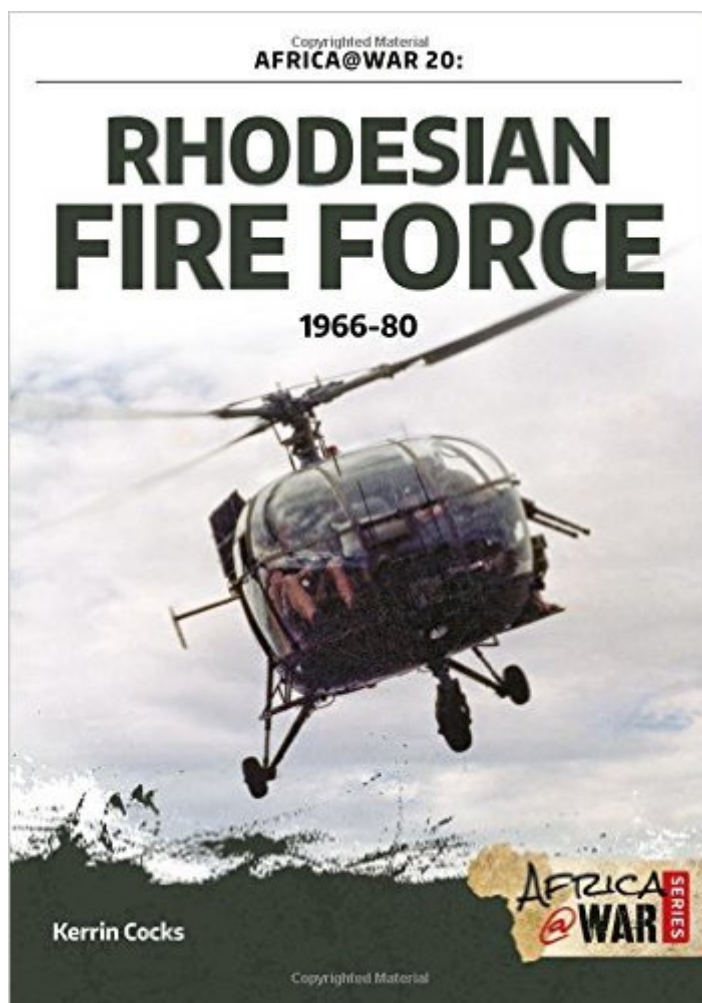


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Rhodesian Fire Force 1966-80 (Africa @ War Series)



Synopsis

On 11 November 1965, Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith unilaterally declared his country independent of Britain. International sanctions were immediately instituted against the minority white regime as Robert Mugabe's ZANLA and Joshua Nkomo's ZIPRA armies commenced their armed struggle, the Chimurenga, the war of liberation. As Communist-trained guerrillas flooded the country, the beleaguered Rhodesians, hard-pressed for manpower and military resources, were forced to devise new and innovative methods to combat the insurgency. Fire Force was their answer. Fire Force as a military concept dates from 1974 when the Rhodesian Air Force (RhAF) acquired the French MG151 20mm cannon from the Portuguese. Visionary RhAF and Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI) officers expanded on the idea of a 'vertical envelopment' of the enemy, with the 20mm cannon being the principal weapon of attack, mounted in an Alouette III K-Car ('Killer car'), supported by ground troops deployed from G-Cars (Alouette III troop-carrying gunships and latterly Bell 'Hueys') and parachuted from DC-3 Dakotas. In support would be a propeller-driven ground-attack aircraft armed with front guns, pods of napalm, white phosphorus rockets and a variety of Rhodesian-designed bombs; on call would be Canberra bombers, Hawker Hunter and Vampire jets. In spite of the overwhelming number of enemy pitted against them, Rhodesian Fire Forces accounted for thousands of enemy guerrillas, with a kill ratio exceeding 80:1. At the end of the war, ZANLA generals admitted their army could not have survived another year in the field-in no small part due to the ruthless efficiency of the Fire Forces, described by Charles D. Melson, the Chief Historian of the U.S. Marine Corps, as the ultimate "killing machine".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent Booklet on the Rhodesian Fire Force. A great indept look into there short awesome career as the elite of the elite. They are the defention of what a qucik reaction unit is all about!

Fantastic book, it gave the 'big picture' as well as the intimate, hair-raising engagements, a fine record of the terrorist bush war and highly recommended as a page-turner. Our Rhodesian men were heroes in my mind and always will be, regrdless of power struggle agendas, fighting to protect the vulnerable farm families and civilians by risking their own lives with limited weaponry and ammunition due to the bully countries' global economic sanctions. American Major General Smedley-Butler's classic little book "WAR IS A RACKET" is also highly recommended to open minds, and to go deeper down the rabbit hole as to the true source of these global frictions throughout history, read DR JOHN COLEMAN'S "THE COMMITTEE OF 300". Nothing is as we, the people are told. All is rewritten in a false image by the 'Money Power'.

Thoroughly enjoyed the books each had its own interpretation of the events that had occurred in Rhodesia at that period.

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