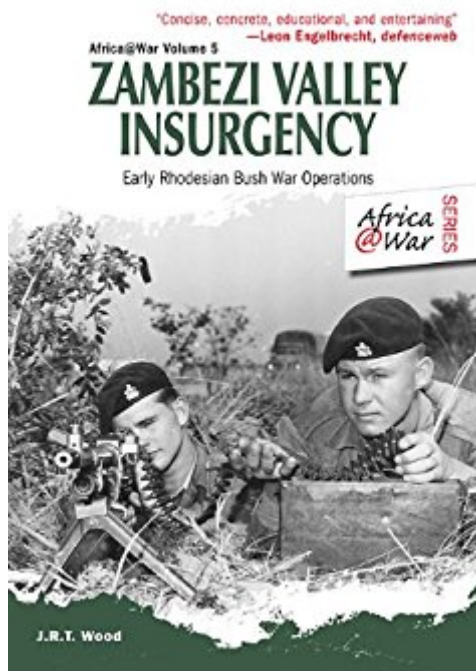




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Zambezi Valley Insurgency: Early Rhodesian Bush War Operations (Africa@war)



Synopsis

Across Africa in the post-1956 era, the aspirations of African nationalists to secure power were boosted and quickly realized by the British, French and Belgian hasty retreat from empire. The Portuguese, Southern Rhodesian and South African governments, however, stood firm and would be challenged by their African nationalists. Influenced by the Communist bloc, these nationalists adopted the 'Armed Struggle'. In the case of Rhodesia, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), led by Joshua Nkomo, took this step in 1962 after their effort to foment rebellion in Rhodesia's urban areas in 1961-62 had been frustrated by police action and stiffened security legislation. Rhodesia's small, undermanned security forces, however, remained wary as Zambia and Tanganyika had given sanctuary to communist-supplied ZAPU and Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) guerrillas. The Rhodesians had foreseen that the northeastern frontier with Mozambique would be the most vulnerable to incursions because the African population living along it offered an immediate target for succor and subversion. The Portuguese were not seen as a bulwark as they were clearly making little progress in their counter-insurgency effort against their FRELIMO nationalist opponents. The Rhodesians were fortunate, however, that ZAPU and ZANU chose to probe across the Zambezi River from Zambia into the harsh, sparsely populated bush of the Zambezi Valley. The consequence was that the Rhodesian security forces conducted a number of successful operations in the period 1966-1972 which dented insurgent ambitions. This book describes and examines the first phase of the 'bush war' during which the Rhodesian forces honed their individual and joint skills, emerging as a formidable albeit lean fighting force.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Bush War Heats Up!! "Zambezi Valley Insurgency: Early Rhodesian Bush War Operations" by J.R.T. Wood, who is considered one of the world's leading historians on Rhodesian and Zimbabwean political and military history. This book is the fifth volume in the "Africa@War" series. This book focuses on early counter-insurgency operations in the Zambezi Valley area of operation between 1966 through 1970. The book delves in to the first phase of the Bush War were the Rhodesian Security Forces cut their teeth in combat operations while honing their individual and joint tactics, techniques and procedures, emerging as a formidable counter-insurgency fighting force. Each operation during this period is covered in pretty good detail considering the overall page count. As well, the supporting diagrams, maps and photos are excellent, with many I have never seen published before. The format of the book reminds me kind of like the Osprey line of books but with a whole lot more detail. The book is also physically larger at approximately 13.5"x 10.5" which is not a standard size print, but it works well with the format. Named operations covered,* Pagoda I* Yokel* Cantata* Pagoda II* Grampus* Yodel* Vermin* Cantata II* Glamour* Pantehcon* Husk* Isotope I* Nickel* Isotope II* Bonfire* Breeze* Sculpture* Cauldron* Cosmic* Flotilla* Glove* Griffin* Mansion* Excess* Gravel* Tripper* Oyster* Lurcher* Horizon* Birch* Teak* Chestnut* Pluto* Granite

Excellent, Excellent ,Excellent. Dr. J.R.T. Woods has written an outstanding booklet on the early days of the Rhodesian Bush War. This small compact booklet gives tons of information and is chock full of maps and photo's. I wont give you details other then the price of the book is worht very penny! A must buy!

Great factual representation

This was a really interesting book to read. I think anyone interested in this will enjoy it. It is definitely a keeper.

This book was Zambezi was a great book about war in Rhodesia. It is best books. Did read the book just one day and did like the book.

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