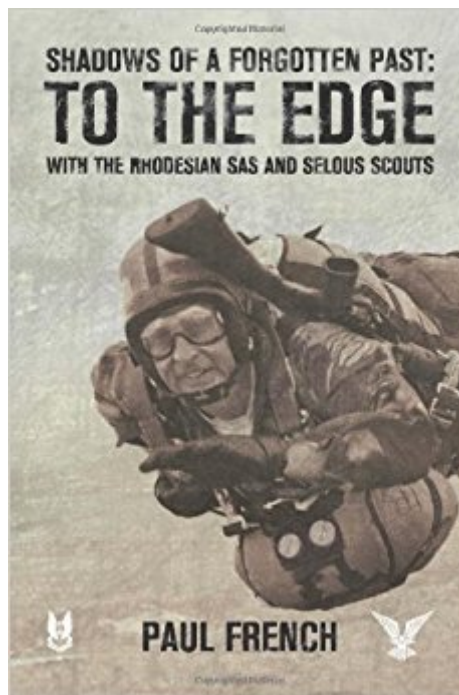


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Shadows Of A Forgotten Past: To The Edge With The Rhodesian SAS And Selous Scouts



Synopsis

This all-new work chronicles the experiences of Paul French who, upon leaving the British Army's 21 SAS (V), sought adventure and excitement in C Squadron of the Rhodesian SAS. Upon passing the arduous Rhodesian SAS selection course, Paul was thrown into the maelstrom that was the Rhodesian Bush War. Here he participated in the SAS's infamous raid on Joshua Nkomo and numerous other operations against insurgent / liberation forces. Passing selection for Ron Reid-Daly's elite counterinsurgency specialists, the Selous Scouts, the author took part in 'externals' against FRELIMO and 'attachments' with the Mozambique National Resistance. Paul continued to serve on operations with the Rhodesian SAS until the end of the 'Chimurenga' in 1980. Paul then went on to join the South African Defense Force's elite 6 Reconnaissance Commando. A career in private security followed, with a series of assignments in Angola, Iraq and Somalia. This impressive book pulls no punches. It gives a unique and purposefully opinionated insight into the workings of the Rhodesian SAS and the Selous Scouts. It tells of the missions that succeeded and of the many that failed. It notes simply and succinctly the sheer stress and danger of special forces operations - all of which were deep in enemy-held territory with the threat of capture and death. Attempts to blow rail lines, helicopter assaults, pseudo-operations, the laying of deadly ambushes and risky parachute inserts are candidly related, accompanied by an unparalleled selection of photographs, most of which have never been published before. Born in West London, Paul French first sought military adventure in the County of London Yeomanry and then 21 SAS (V). Here, Paul discovered a yearning for hard work and arduous duty. A subsequent defence contract took him to Abu Dhabi where he learnt of Rhodesia and its attractions. Holidaying in Rhodesia, Paul took the opportunity to join the Rhodesian Army, serving with the renowned Rhodesian SAS and Selous Scouts. In 1980, Paul moved to the South African Defence Force, joining its elite 6 Reconnaissance Commando. Upon leaving the SADF a career in private security followed. An accomplished skydiver, Paul has thousands of jumps to his credit, and still jumps today. Married to Petah, Paul has three children. He continues to work in the security industry and now lives in the South-west of England. *Shadows of A Forgotten Past* is his first book.

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Customer Reviews

Shadows of a Forgotten Past is a thrilling, rollercoaster ride; it goes right to the heart of Special Forces soldiering." (Peter McAleese, author of the classic No Mean Soldier and the forthcoming Beyond No Mean Soldier)

Born in West London, Paul French first sought military adventure in the County of London Yeomanry and then 21 SAS (V). Here, Paul discovered a yearning for hard work and arduous duty. A subsequent defence contract took him to Abu Dhabi where he learnt of Rhodesia and its attractions. Holidaying in Rhodesia, Paul took the opportunity to join the Rhodesian Army, serving with the renowned Rhodesian SAS and Selous Scouts. In 1980, Paul moved to the South African Defence Force, joining its elite 6 Reconnaissance Commando. Upon leaving the SADF a career in private security followed. An accomplished skydiver, Paul has thousands of jumps to his credit, and still jumps today. Married to Petah, Paul has three children. He continues to work in the security industry and now lives in the South-west of England. Shadows of A Forgotten Past is his first book.

THIS IS THE STORY OF PAUL FRENCH A BRAVE AND VALIANT BRITISH SAS OFFICERWHO WENT TO RHODESIA IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES TO JOIN WITH THE RHODESIAN SAS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE MARXIST REBELS, THEN HE JOINED WITH THE SELOUS SCOUT UNIT AND WHEN HE WENT TO MOZAMBIQUE TO FIGHT WITH RENAMO, AN ANTI-MARXIST FREEDOMFIGHTER GUERRILLA, AGAINST THE TOTALITARIAN COMMUNIST REGIME OF THE FRELIMO BACKED BY THE SOVIET BLOC ; UNFORTUNATELY IN 1980 RHODESIA WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE BLACK MARXISTS AND IT BECAME ZIMBABWE AS A RESULT THE AUTHOR WENT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND JOINED THE SADF. JUDGING FROM THE CHAOS AND DISASTER THAT HAS BEEN POST-COLONIAL AFRICA AND THIS INCLUDES POST-1974 PORTUGUESE AFRICA, POST-1980 RHODESIA AND POST-1994 SOUTH AFRICA I STRONGLY

AGREE THAT FREEDOM FIGHTERS LIKE PAUL FRENCH WERE COMPLETELY RIGHT AND THEY DESERVE AN HOMAGE, ON THE OTHER HAND THE LIBERALS WHO HAVE DOMINATED THE WEST HAVE BEEN WRONG, WRONG AND WRONG.

Paul French's Book is a great look at a Special Forces NCO during the Rhodesian Bush War. He not only tells of the exploits of the Selous Scouts and C Squadron SAS, He also tells of things not going right. With a base started by Soldering in 21 SAS he compares the Selections he went through in the Various Elite Units he served with. That was something I was always curious about. There is a fair amount of Humor as well. Several Former Soldiers in the Scouts and SAS told me Paul was a great guy and his book reflects on time that a lot of folks don't remember of a small colonial war. There are loads of Pictures in his book and If you are interested in reading about the Rhodesian Army then I put this Book up there with Chris Cock's Fireforce.

It is a good story about a man who has been in all the hot spots of the world starting in Africa in the 1960's. The historical contexts in which he lived his professional life give you the insider look at these histories. The only problem with the book is that some of the stories are recounted in a sterile manner consistent with a professional soldier's recollections. This adds to the authenticity but can make for some dry reading.

To The EDGE and BACK! Paul French has provided historians another significant addition to the Rhodesian Bush War literary collection with his title "Shadows of a Forgotten Past: To the Edge With the Rhodesian SAS and Selous Scouts". This memoir is an in-depth look at a professional non-commissioned officer that served at the tip of the spear during the Bush War period. The book covers a broad range of tactical and operational matters and the day-to-day life soldiers operating within the elite ranks of the British and Rhodesian Special Air Service, Selous Scouts and the South African Recces. The book provides a no-holds barred look into this shadow world; to include the political and in-service fighting and shenanigans. The author's writing style is straightforward and entertaining with some humorous tongue-in-cheek discussions. For me the highlight of the book was the coverage of tactical matters and field operations. In particular the coverage of the elite unit selection process in comparison to other similar programs was enlightening. Throughout the book there is a lot of tidbits coverage of tactical tracking and a significant amount of information on pseudo operations from the training and application of pseudo operators. Additionally, the book covers some of the most prominent external and internal special operations conducted by the

Rhodesians. Overall, I highly recommend this book to anybody interested in Rhodesian military matters.

Excellent overview by a rare individual who successfully completed 3 SF Selection Courses:UK SASRhodie SASSelous ScoutsIt's an excellent glimpse of an underreported conflict as well as little known special forces organizations.And it also offers a brief slice of Mozambique's RENAMO created and nurtured to counter FRELIMO once they gained control of bordering Mozambique to take the pressure off of Rhodesia and South Africa.Highly recommended

The tale of a true soldier and his journey thru numerous battles across the South African nations of Rhodesia and SA. Few men alive can speak of the level of commitment and sacrifice required to serve with the elite units that Mr. French volunteered for. Never slow, his chronicle is a quick but satisfying read and I recommend it for those interested into insight the mind of a special operations soldier

Good book

If war in the colonies is something you have an interest in then this is a good read. Mr French destroys the stereotypes about what it takes to be a real soldier! They are a special breed and Mr French is right up there. Anyone who has been though selection in Brit SAS , Rhodesian SAS and the Salou Scouts is a machine in my book. If you can put yourself in situe when he tell the story's you will be griped.

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