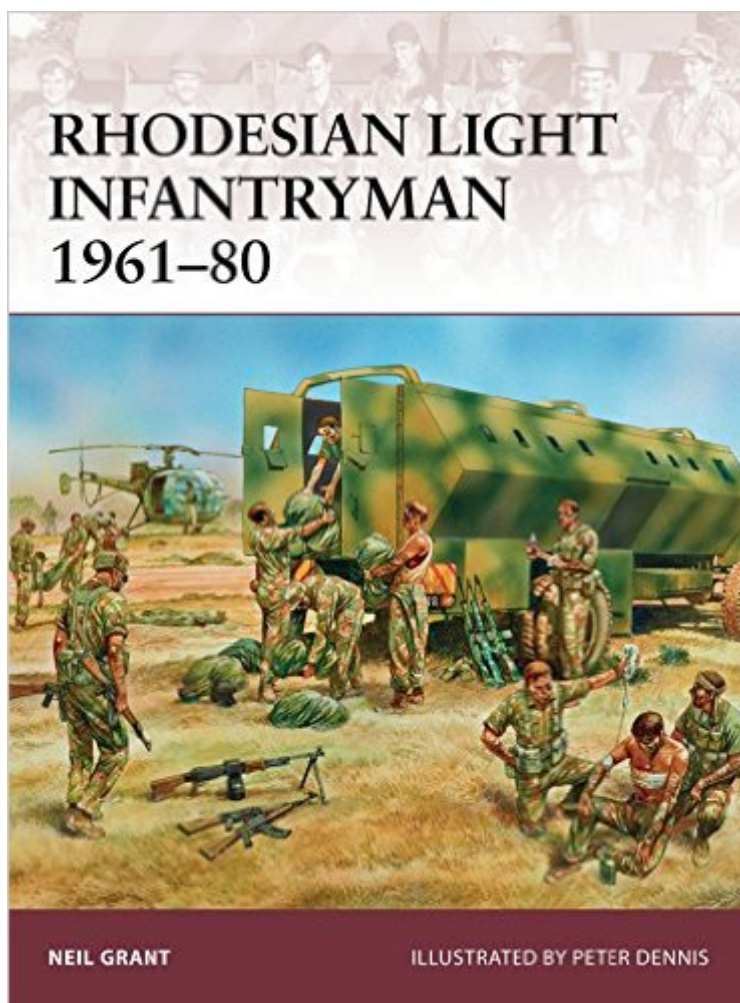


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# Rhodesian Light Infantryman 1961-80 (Warrior)



## Synopsis

The 1st Battalion, The Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI), was one of the most innovative and successful counter-insurgency units in modern history, developing and perfecting a range of tactics and operational concepts that have since become standard practise in modern military forces. Formed in 1961 and then re-formed in 1964 as a commando battalion after the dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the RLI was an all-white unit that incorporated foreign soldiers from South Africa, The UK, USA, Canada and Europe into its ranks. It was a key weapon in independent Rhodesia's struggle against the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) and Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) during the bloody Rhodesian Bush War. This comprehensive study explores the unit's dramatic history, revealing the RLI's fearsome airborne and combat capacity, which gave the unit, at times, near total tactical superiority against its opponents.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The short, embattled life of the minority-white led Republic of Rhodesia spawned a number of highly capable counter-insurgency units, including the Rhodesian Light Infantry, later styled a commando unit and then an airborne unit. The RLI had a remarkable combat record in the bush wars against various guerilla groups, despite its small numbers and lack of access to the most modern equipment. Osprey's Warrior Series offers a well-written summary of the unit in "Rhodesian Light Infantry 1961-1980." Author Neil Grant offers a short introduction to the conflict in Rhodesia before getting directly into the history of the RLI. The author has clearly done his homework, with lots of details on the organization, training, and equipment of the unit. The narrative includes accounts of a

variety of RLI missions, notably including cross-border operations into Mozambique against guerilla base areas. Of particular interest to the modern military reader should be the combined arms "fireforce" tactics employed by the RLI, which made the most of the RLI's limited numbers and equipment in difficult terrain under hazardous conditions. The author does not shy away from the origins of the Rhodesian War, nor from the RLI's reputation as a ruthless fighting unit and its often rowdy off-duty behavior. This is a surprising wide-ranging account, backed by lots of period photographs, maps, diagrams, and modern illustrations. Recommended for its insights into the concept and practice of "fireforce" operations.

I really enjoyed this book. It does a great job of covering the RLI from start to finish, and has some things not mentioned in any of my other books. It's an impressive amount of information crammed in here, though the drawings could be a notch better.

An excellent profile book on the RLI. If you have no idea about the Rhodesian Bush War 1965-1980 and the use of the Rhodesian Light Infantry (in the US Army the Rangers would be of some Equal). This book give you a great cross refence of the Troopers, equipment and operations. With some of the political back round. Love It!

Few sources books of this nature are as well rounded. The book gives a quick overview of the recruitment training and organization, as well as its evolutionary changes. It includes the units tactics and a brief glimpse at its history.

Minor criticism with the illustrations of some of the Infantryman's kit, where the artist seems to confusing it with the very similar, but different issue items used by the Zimbabwe National Army (particularly the flap-cap).

This book (given the small page count) packed a lot of interesting information in it. A good brief history of the conflict and a small area for the aftermath. I would have liked a little more information on the front and back end and maybe a few more eye witness testimony but still a good read. The art was just okay, I prefer some of Ospreys other artist more but it was adequate.

Good overview of the conflict, but not the in depth history I was looking for. Great if you want the wave tops.

A good read about the finest troops ever fighting a losing battle against an ignorant world

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