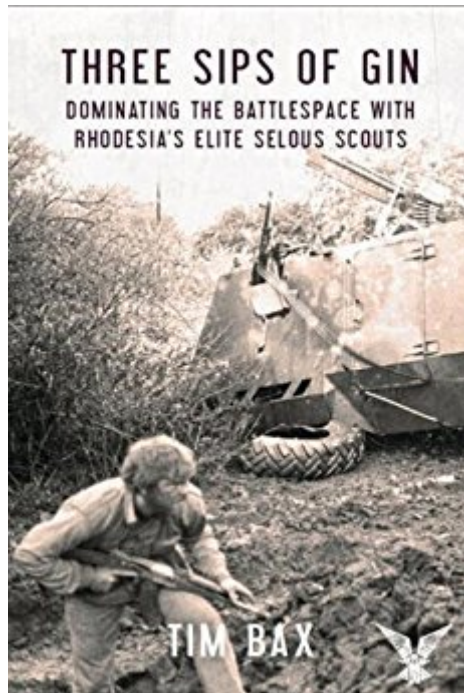


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# Three Sips Of Gin: Dominating The Battlespace With Rhodesia's Famed Selous Scouts



## Synopsis

There is nothing that terrorized Russian and Chinese-backed guerillas fighting Rhodesia's bush war in the 1970s more than the famed Selous Scouts. The very name of the unit struck fear into the very heart and soul of even the most battle-hardened guerillas. Too afraid to even whisper the name amongst themselves, they referred to soldiers of the unit simply as Skuzapu, or pickpockets. It was not for nothing that history has recorded the Selous Scouts Regiment as being one of the deadliest and most effective killing machines in modern counter-insurgency warfare. The Selous Scouts comprised specially selected black and white soldiers of the Rhodesian army, supplemented with the inclusion of hardcore terrorists captured on the battlefield. Dressed and equipped as communist guerrillas and with faces and arms blackened, members of this elite Special Forces unit would slip silently into the shadows of the night to seek and destroy real terrorist gangs. It became a deadly game of hide-and-seek played out between gangs and counter-gangs in the harsh and unforgiving landscape of the African bush. So successful were the Selous Scouts at being able to locate and destroy terrorist in their lairs that by the mid-1970s, they had begun to dominate Rhodesia's battle space. Working in close conjunction with the elite airborne assault troops of the Rhodesian Light Infantry, the Selous Scouts accounted for an extraordinary high proportion of terrorist killed in Rhodesia's bush war. Not content with restricting themselves to hunting guerrillas inside Rhodesia, the Selous Scouts began conducting external vehicle-borne assaults against terrorist camps situated deep inside neighboring countries with devastating loss to the terrorists. Survival in this cauldron of battle was never guaranteed. In this special 'deluxe' edition of author Tim Bax's hugely acclaimed *Three Sips of Gin*, we follow Tim on his missions into the silence of the shadows. As his story unfolds, we begin to understand how he managed to survive and it is here you will find the significance of 'three sips of gin' revealed. Readers of the earlier edition of the book will not want to miss reading this 'deluxe' edition, which, for the first time, is illustrated with dozens of photographs of every facet of Tim's amazing journey, including stark, never before seen images of the war. *Three Sips of Gin* is not just a book about war. It is a remarkable book about a remarkable man's life journey. Tim tells his story with the wit, candor and self-deprecating humor for which he has become so well known. His amazing journey is one, which few could ever have experienced.

## Book Information

File Size: 73684 KB

Print Length: 448 pages

Publisher: Helion and Company (August 19, 2013)

Publication Date: March 3, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00IRHB1FQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #293,586 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #38

in Books > History > Africa > Zimbabwe #105 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction >

Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Communism &

Socialism #124 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military &

Wars > Branches > Army

## Customer Reviews

Having read most of what has been published on the Rhodesian Bush War, this book captures not only the gritty details of a war that was fought on every front by a small band of men who were warriors who made what little they had work extremely well, but it gives an insight into the lives of those hardy fighters who lived as the enemy for weeks at a time and were then catapulted back into 'normal' life overnight. A warming story of one man's war showing the human side of a shadow fighter. It's worth your money....

Review " Three Sips of Gin • Three Sips of Gin • is Tim Bax's autobiography. He takes us from his childhood, through his training in the RLI and then the Selous Scouts, into his work after Selous Scouts. There is plenty of raw, personal material on the Selous Scouts to please the military historians. There is plenty on his training in the English and Rhodesian armies. The book is well and entertainingly written. The style is upbeat and brisk. Tim's story is told in a series of escapades and adventures. This should be considered a primary source on the Selous Scouts of the Rhodesian Civil War. The events and escapades narrated are fascinating and a pleasure to read. It makes for a good read. Recognizing that this is Tim's autobiography, and that he had a sizable role in the Selous Scouts, this is a good addition to the material on the Selous Scouts. He gives many personal anecdotes and stories about the people and activities of the Selous Scouts. Tim gives us his

personal opinion of many of the individuals in the Selous Scouts from Ron Reid-Daly , who he considers a close friend, down.

An autobiography that includes the authors service in the Rhodesian bush war as well as other facets of his life in Africa. As a Rhodesian, I found it both factual and entertaining, as Tim told it as it was and did not embellish it by taking "poetic license" or blow his own trumpet. If you want more action, yet with a very human description of the people intimately involved in the war, read his second book "who will teach the wisdom"

really a great read. I found his non-military life as interesting as the latter. very much a recommend if you have an interest in Africa.

I really enjoyed Tim Bax's book, Three Sips Of Gin. I purchased it because I thought it was going to be about his experience with the Selous Scouts. It is much more and as such, Bax makes it autobiographical. There are some hilarious anecdotes about his experience before, during, and after his service to Rhodesia. I have never met Bax, that I can remember, but had met his mentor, Ron Reid-Daly. All references, by Bax are accurate as to time, place, etc. It makes for a very entertaining read as well as being historically accurate. Bax doesn't bore one with the politics, of the time, or the continued interference with Rhodesia's internal operation by MI-6 and the C.I.A. (and interfere, they did). I served in Rhodesia, in the early 70's, so the stories brought back fond memories of the country of my grandparents. I liked this book so much, I purchased Bax's book, "Who Will Teach The Wisdom". He tells a great story, and the book is an easy read that holds your attention. Welgedaan broer Bax .....

Very good autobio of Tim Bax's time in the Selous Scouts, a elite unit adapt at finding, catching, and killing Commie thugs in Rhodesia's Civil War in the 1970's. Mr. Bax had more lives than a cat, wounded several times and almost killed. The book starts with the author's youth in growing up in Africa. His move to England then Canada. He had Africa in his blood so, upon adulthood, returned to Africa. Then on a lark to Rhodesia and enlisting in the Army then transfer to the Selous Scouts. I recommend this book highly.

Who could believe that war could be so funny sometimes? The title put me off buying this in the beginning but having read Tim's "Who will teach the wisdom, I bought this. Really good read, well

written and lacks the histrionics and political posturing of some in this class. Thoroughly recommend it. Just don't read it on a plane, everyone gets nervous when you start laughing out loud!

This is a must read for anyone interested in the evolution of COIN in Southern Africa. For previous readers on the subject familiar names keep popping up in new environments. Mr. Bax hit a home run with this book, and it should be in everyone's military library.

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