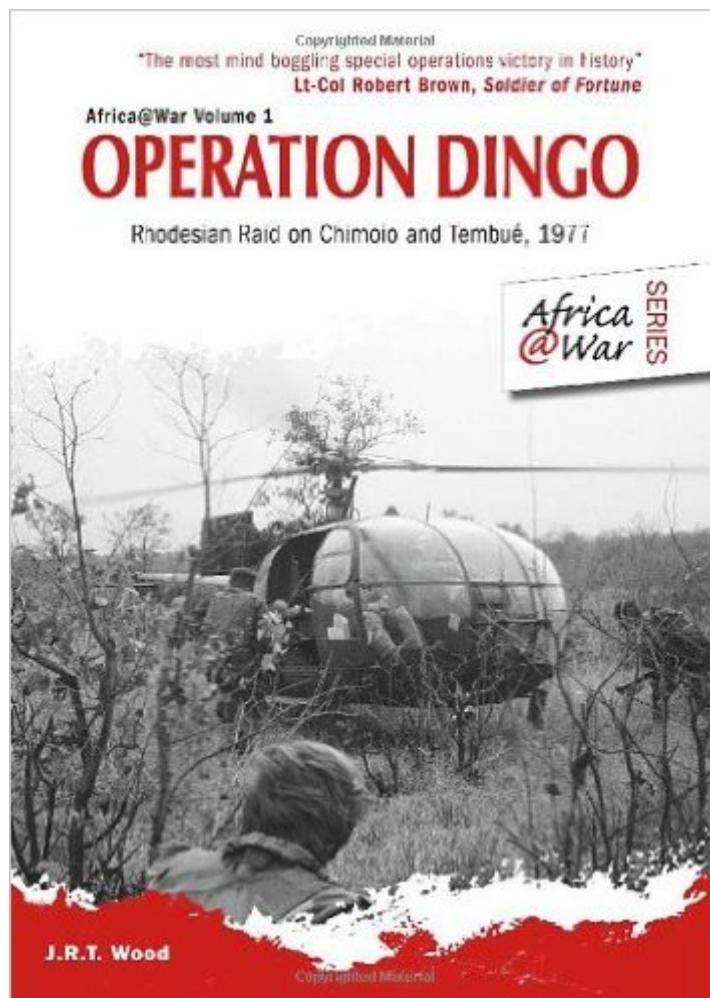


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# Operation Dingo: Rhodesian Raid On Chimoio And Tembu© 1977 (Africa @ War Series)



## Synopsis

Fireforce 'Writ Large' - Airborne Assault in Mozambique. Startling in its innovation and daringly suicidal, Operation Dingo was not only the Fireforce concept writ large but the prototype for all the major Rhodesian airborne attacks on the external bases of Rhodesian African nationalist insurgents in the neighboring territories of Mozambique and Zambia until such operations ceased in late 1979. Fireforce as a military concept is a 'vertical envelopment' of the enemy (first practiced by SAS paratroopers in Mozambique in 1973), with the 20mm cannon being the principle weapon of attack, mounted in an Alouette III K-Car ('Killer car'), flown by the air force commander, with the army commander on board directing his ground troops deployed from G-Cars (Alouette III troop-carrying gun ships and latterly Bell 'Hueys' in 1979) and parachuted from DC-3 Dakotas. In support would be propeller-driven ground-attack aircraft and on call would be Canberra bombers, Hawker Hunter and Vampire jets. On 23 November 1977, the Rhodesian Air Force and 184 SAS and RLI paratroopers attacked 10,000 ZANLA cadres based at 'New Farm', Chimoio, 90 kilometers inside Mozambique. Two days later, the same force attacked 4,000 guerrillas at Tembu, another ZANLA base, over 200 kilometers inside Mozambique, north of Tete on the Zambezi River. Estimates of ZANLA losses vary wildly; however, a figure exceeding 6,000 casualties is realistic. The Rhodesians suffered two dead, eight wounded and lost one aircraft. It would produce the biggest SAS-led external battle of the Rhodesian bush war.

REVIEWS are well documented and researched and provides a comprehensive overview of the regional environment and international climate (Rhodesia was operating under an international embargo) in order to provide context for the reader and gives the reader insight into the high pressure environment of the special ops world where the ramifications of failure are dramatic and far reaching. A must for those wishing to understand the intricacies and challenges of this style of operation. Major Chris Buckman, Logistics Officer, Royal Canadian Air Force

"Africa@War is a ground-breaking series concept, studying Africa's conflicts and military players in an informative and entertaining manner, examining some of the lesser-known campaigns and shedding new light on some of the better-known operations ... Both titles are great models of what the combination of authors and publishers can produce by way of useable case studies for the market place in a concise illustrated format. They are recommended as professional military education references."

Charles D. Melson, Chief Historian, U.S. Marine Corps

"Each of the books in this series is a well-documented and researched synopsis of the events that they are focused upon. Their layouts and presentation are logical and of a very high quality ... As an introduction to this field of operation, this series is outstanding. A definite asset for those wishing to improve their knowledge and understanding of the development of successful, multi-faceted doctrine in the fight against

insurgent/assymetric war."Major Chris Buckham, Royal Canadian Air Force Journal

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is look at the innovation of one of the world's most renowned country, Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe); considered by most in their time to have been the best military at counter-insurgency warfare. In the American military Airmobile/Air Assault units are designed and trained for air insertion and vertical envelopment, a tactical maneuver in which troops, are generally air-landed into key positions to attack the rear and flanks of an enemy force, in effect cutting off or encircling the enemy force to decimate it. The Rhodesian Fireforce is a variant of the same tactic; a vertical envelopment of a target by helicopter-borne and parachute infantry, supported by close air support; this combined arms aerial Blitzkrieg was developed by the Rhodesian Security Forces during the Rhodesian Bush War. Fireforce counter-insurgency missions were designed to trap and eliminate ZANLA and ZIPRA insurgents before they could flee by reacting to enemy ambushes, farm attacks, or Observation Post sightings, and could also be called in by trackers or patrols who made contact with the enemy and called for reinforcements. It was first deployed in January 1974, but would be made famous in the audacious raid in to Mozambique known as Operation Dingo in 1977. This book covers this raid in minute detail coving every aspect from all the involved personalities, the units, planning, execution, results, lessons learned, complete timelines and the ultimate consequences of the operation. This book is lavishly illustrated with excellent maps, graphics and line drawings, as well as load of black & white photography, some very graphic. The

format of the book reminds kind of the Osprey line of books but with a whole lot more detail. The book is also physically larger at approximately 13.5"x 10.

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