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Storm Front: The Epic True Story Of A Secret War, The SAS's Greatest Battle, And The British Pilots Who Saved Them



Synopsis

The thrilling new military history title from the bestselling author of *Vulcan 607* and *Phoenix Squadron*. In early 1970, the Commanding Officer of 22 SAS flew into the strategically critical Sultanate of Oman on a covert intelligence mission. A Communist rebellion in the South threatened not only the stability of the Arabian Peninsula but more importantly the vital oil routes through the Persian Gulf. Within six months, the Regiment arrived in theatre to lead a fierce, secret war against the rebels. While from a remote RAF airbase in the desert, an elite band of British pilots, flying difficult, dangerous missions in Strikemaster jets and Vietnam-era Huey helicopters, were scrambled alongside them. For the British soldiers and airmen, it was to be no easy victory. The enemy were well supplied with weaponry and training from China and the Soviet Union, and despite confronting the largest assault force ever deployed by the SAS, many months later the rebels were still fighting back. And at dawn on July 19th, 1972, a force of nearly 300 heavily armed, well-trained guerillas attacked the little fishing port of Mirbat without warning. Between them and glory stood a team of just nine SAS men. And the skill of the British fighter pilots. The scene was set for an epic encounter; a modern day Rorke's Drift. Their heroism would become SAS legend. Drawing on extensive interviews with participants from the SAS, the RAF and the Sultan's Armed Forces, most of whom have never spoken about their involvement before, as well as previously classified documents from both the UK and Oman, *Storm Front* weaves an unputdownable tale of intrigue, action, daring and astonishing bravery in the face of overwhelming odds.

Book Information

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Corgi (May 14, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0552160210

ISBN-13: 978-0552160216

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.3 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,057,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > History >

Middle East > Oman #4888 in Books > History > Military > Aviation #74051 in Books >

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Customer Reviews

"Catapulting us from the cockpits of heavily armed, low-level attack jets to the beating heart of elite Special Forces soldiers under siege, Storm Front tells this epic story as only the author of Vulcan 607 can. It's as vivid and compelling as the best adventure thriller, and a fitting tribute to a small band of men who became heroes" -- Andy McNab "Gripping, revealing and extraordinarily well-researched, Storm Front is a riveting new account of a little known, but crucial war. Combining page-turning military action in the air and on the ground with a clear-sighted understanding of the big picture it brings to life the campaign in Oman more vividly than any other book I've read" -- Sir Ranulph Fiennes "The best account I've ever read of this legendary battle. Takes you right to the heart of the action" -- Sgt Dan Mills, author of "Sniper One" "This is a rare insight into the battle that defined the modern SAS. Storm Front is the best book you will read this year" -- Tim Collins "I loved Storm Front. A period of history - and more particularly a single shining moment - that has been obscured by myth and legend. Here is the truth of it all at last in all its spine-tingling, spine-straightening glory" -- Neil Oliver

ROWLAND WHITE lives in London with his wife and three children, and works in publishing.

A well written history of a forgotten little war (c 1960 - 74) in a place of strategic importance, Sultanate of Oman, in keeping the Strait of Hormuz open. There is intrigue and war where a small band British SAS help win the war and the hearts and minds of the Oman citizens. Today the Sultan, Qaboos bin Said al Said, has grown old and his replacement is in doubt again.

Great story about little know or covered topic. Highly Recommend!

While the Battle of Mirbat may be well known this story really builds up the background and setting of the SAS battle at Mirbat. Great insight into a little known and oft forgotten unofficial war by the SAS and RAF.

thanks great bok

I found this an extremely well researched story details of names of officers and their actions interesting A little mundane and not my usual type of story really interesting historical accuracy

About time the public realised what lengths loyal men (and women) in our time have done to protect them from the NOW obvious real threat to our Standards and our way of Life

Excellent recounting of SAS, etc. in a military action plus surrounding history. Good for those with a mil background or those that like to locate the 'missing puzzle pieces' of what transpired in an area of operations over time.

Having first read the author's book on the Vulcan raid on Port Stanley during the Falkland War (Ã Â Vulcan 607 by White, Rowland (2007) PaperbackÃ Â), I was expecting another engaging history book that keeps you awake at night as you cannot put it down. In that book, Mr. White successfully set the overall historical background first and then went into describing the intense preparations of the raid, followed by the superb execution. Unfortunately, with Storm Front the author seems to be lost from page one between the many (rather insignificant) events and people surrounding the slow move of "independence" from British protection of Oman and the struggle with the Arabic and communist guerilla in the 1960s and 70s. Please make no mistake, there is no "epic true story of a secret war" nor the "greatest SAS battle", but rather a long-winded 15 years of small scale incursions and British "advisors" to the Omani Sultan in his quest to consolidate his ruling over the country. Even being very generous, and of course taking into account the great service these soldiers did for their country, calling the "Battle" of Mirbat anything but a skirmish is just way over the top; 9 British soldiers defending their lives against 300 guerilla fighters (yes, that was the tally) for 4 hours is just a long way from a "battle", even for a modern post-WWII world. And all of this is presented in a rather disjointed format, with no apparent main plot and jumping between characters and settings along those years. I am not sure there ever was enough material for a book in this story, but for sure not for a book I would be interested in reading and not for a book of such length. At least reading about the operations of the Strikemasters and the other aircraft (and helicopters) of the Royal Omani Air Force was interesting. Overall, unless you are very interested in the subject of the development of Oman during those years (90% of the book does not deal with Mirbat), this book will quickly become a rather tedious affair to read.

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