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Storm Front



Synopsis

In early 1970, the Commanding Officer of 22 SAS flew into the strategically critical Sultanate of Oman on a covert intelligence mission to monitor a Communist rebellion threatening the Arabian Peninsula. Within six months, the Regiment arrived in theatre to lead a fierce, secret war against the rebels, reinforced by an elite band of RAF pilots flying out of a remote airbase in the desert. But for the British soldiers and airmen, it was to be no easy victory. And despite confronting the largest assault force ever deployed by the SAS, many months later the enemy were still far from beaten. Something had to give. Then at dawn on July 19th, 1972, and without warning, a force of nearly 300 heavily armed, well-trained guerrillas attacked the little fishing port of Mirbat. Between them and glory stood a team of just nine SAS men, aided only by the skill of the fighter pilots overhead. It was to be an epic encounter; a modern day Rorke's Drift. Their heroism that day would become SAS legend.

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Customer Reviews

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 known 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 book

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 (Vulcan 607 by White, Rowland (2007) Paperback), 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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