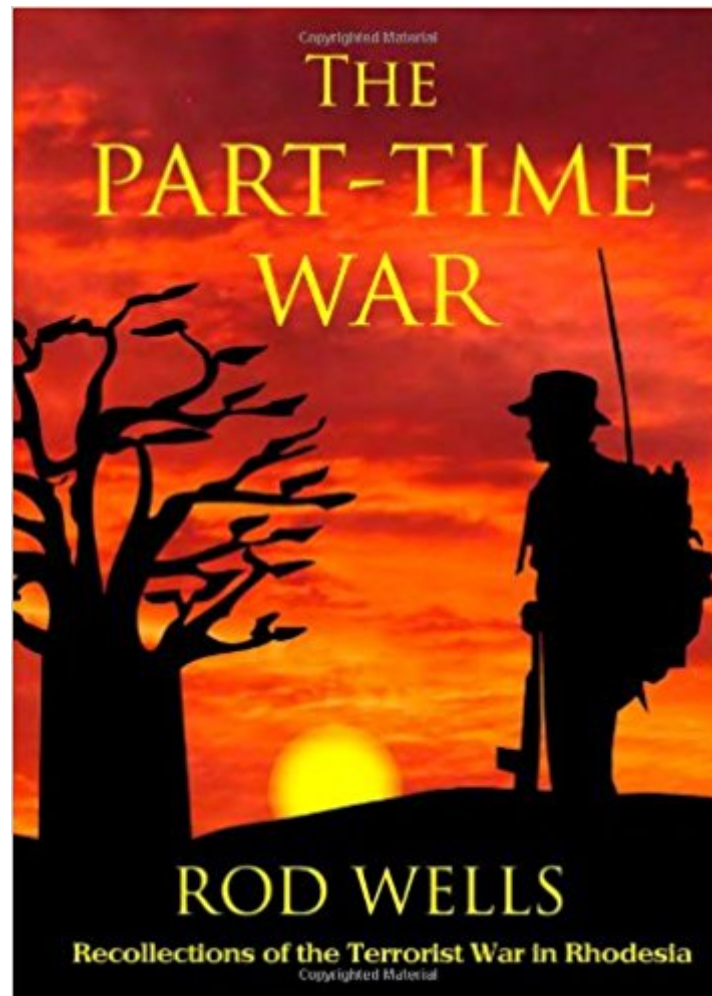




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The Part-Time War: Recollections Of The Terrorist War In Rhodesia



Synopsis

The Part Time War is a book that reminisces on life in 1970 Rhodesia, fighting a full blown terrorist war on a part time basis. The highs, the lows, the camaraderie and humour are all included. It gives an insight into the life of an ordinary civilian removed from the comforts and security of everyday life and thrust into the dangers and stresses of a war situation. If one was deemed reasonably fit, every male up to the age of fifty was required to serve in one of the security units for blocks of time during the year. Training was minimal and disruption to work and family life was inevitable. It made life for adult males in Rhodesia during the conflict very strange to say the least. Rod Wells was born in Warwick, England and emigrated as a child, in 1955, to Southern Rhodesia where he was brought up and, after leaving Ellis Robins High School, trained as a motor mechanic. In 1967 he met his future wife, Vi, whilst working for a motor racing firm in England. After returning to Rhodesia in 1968 they set up their own garage business with great expectations for the future. Unfortunately, events within the country were to change with the onset of the terrorist war and, after three years of military commitment with the British South Africa Police, and the conflict escalating, the decision was made to close the business. After this, with their two young children's futures in mind, the decision was made to leave the country.

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Customer Reviews

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I really enjoyed reading this book. That may sound a bit strange when its about war, however the author has a lot of amusing stories throughout that had me laughing out loud, and I also enjoyed his easygoing, intimate style of writing. The decent nature of this gentle giant part-time soldier (he's 6'6" tall) also shines through. It is a rare book as it highlights that much-maligned yet crucial element of the war defence machine, the territorial, part-time soldier with the unique conflicts that lifestyle entails. Wells' story also enlightened me as to that necessary cog in the war wheel, those that transport the soldiers to point of conflict and return to retrieve them. It made me realize that job too is highly dangerous with the ever present threat of landmines and also, ambush, and the necessity to be driving down lonely isolated bush tracks at all hours of the night. The second half of the book was hard to put down. I collect the personal accounts of the Rhodesian bush war and have a sense of pride in reading in them of the courage and strength of our Rhodesian men, completely untouched by the onslaught of the 'sissification' of the Western male through politically correct White Guilt media mind control.

I read most of what I can find on the history of Rhodesia. What a great country destroyed by liberalism and the constant anti-white nonsense in the media. Rhodesia was the breadbasket of Africa. Highest per-capita income on the continent, best living conditions, great economy. Ian Smith fought valiantly against the pro-communist forces to keep his country viable but in the end the Lancaster House accords, the UK and the USA sold him out. Disgraceful. Think life is better there

now for anyone? Bollocks! The inflation rate is the worst in the world, whites are slaughtered and their farms taken over by blacks who then lay the land to waste. The country is a virtual prison with Mugabe slaughtering the dissidents. And the press? Not a word of the atrocities or the failed experiment in liberal thought and policies. This book tells of the struggles of the common citizen in the effort to keep the country together. It was a valiant fight but a fight that was in vain. Somewhat sad to see this happen in front of you and this account describes it well.

I enjoyed it , good read and a lucky bloke to survive.

I read memoirs with a lot of trepidation as they are often either a huge ego trip or saccharine sweet love-ins. This is neither. It is as honest a book as you could wish to find with no political agenda but filled with the hopes, fears and laughter of a young civilian thrown into a war theatre with precious little training. It is a simply told story that tells of the trials and tribulations of being arbitrarily thrown into contact with people both pleasaant and unpleasant but where life-long friends are made, as can only happen in the life-threatening arena of conflict. Any person who has done military service will identify with this. It does not shy away from the horrible details of death and injury but does not go into unnecessary gory detail either. All in all, a worth-while addition for anyone who is interested in the Bush War of the 1970's and 80's in what is now Zimbabwe.

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