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First In, Last Out: The South African Artillery in Action: 1975–1988

Clive Wilsworth

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Clive Wilsworth : First In, Last Out: The South African Artillery in Action: 1975–1988 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First In, Last Out: The South African Artillery in Action: 1975–1988:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I am former Field Artillery and love reading about it By Douglas L. Bestel I am former Field Artillery and love reading about it. I am very fascinated about the SA Army (very similar to the

US army in Vietnam) and the border war. This goes in depth in all the operations, the way units were set up, rotated through and what went right and wrong. It is written in the British officer style (lots of detail and a set pace speed) but it doesn't hurt it too much. Lots of technical data and great info on Armscor weapons. Lots of maps but some are hard to read. Lots and lots of photos. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not necessarily a cover-to-cover read but certainly interesting to anyone who was deployed in a SADF Artillery unit. By Skilly. Covers the end-to-end engagement of SA artillery in Angola, from their first engagement to their last. An interesting account for anyone who was there. I believe a largely accurate and dispassionate account of the engagements that occurred. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This book is mainly about battles and gunners themselves. By Dalton C. Rocha. Here in Brazil, I read this regular book. When I bought this book, I wanted to read about the South African artillery. When I began to read it, then becomes clear early on that the book is definitely a work about battles, operations, and gunners themselves. It is not about artillery pieces, even having some space about the artillery pieces. As a typical example, on page 307, there's less than half a page about the GV5 howitzer, but on wikipedia, I found more than 10 times information, about this howitzer, than in this book. In fact, this book really had what I was waiting for, on chapter 12, between pages 368 and 401. Too little pages for what I was waiting for.

From the 25 pounder to the devastating G5 and G6 guns to the Valkirie 127mm multiple-rocket launcher and M5 mortar. This work covers all operations of the Border War in which the South African gunners took part, starting in early 1975 when a young second lieutenant was seconded to train UNITA troops in Angola on US 4.2-inch mortars through Operation Savannah, the first operation, to the last rounds that were fired in June 1988 against the Cuban 80th Division in southern Angola. During this period, the artillery grew from an under-strength troop of 17 men and two medium guns to an artillery brigade supporting a mechanized division. It is a story of heroism, of fear, of well-planned, successful operations and of losses to own forces by ill-timed and inaccurate fire. It tells the story of the 8,500 South African gunners who took part in operations during that time. Personal accounts are merged with historical fact organized in chronological order, highlighting the shortage of modern equipment and the efforts to combat a well-equipped, numerically superior enemy through innovation, application of the principles of war and sheer pluckiness. Clive Wilsworth was called up for national service in 1969 to the School of Artillery, Potchefstroom, and then posted to 4th Field Regiment as an assistant OP officer. After a six-year stint with the Natal Field Artillery and as a territorial captain with the Regiment Port Natal, he signed on as a regular with 14th Field Regiment, South African Artillery. From 1978 to 1988, as a battery commander and Intelligence Staff Officer, he saw action in several major operations during the Border War. He was involved in the development of new weapon systems, leading the first 127mm multiple-rocket launcher and G6 courses. His last posting was to Army HQ, Pretoria as Project Officer for the development of the Artillery Target Engagement System—the digitization of the artillery. He retired in 1994 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Clive is now a business consultant living in Johannesburg.

This book will interest former Gunners and military historians. --Msasa Mail. First In, Last Out: The South African Artillery in Action 1975-1988 is a must-have. It is a lucid account of South African Army artillery operations during the Namibian/Angolan Border War and in doing so gives that war and the equipment, tactics and techniques employed a thorough treatment in much the same way as Brigadier General (Retd) Dick Lord did for the South African Air Force in his equally important 'From Fledgling to Eagle' in 2008. --Defence Web. About the Author. CLIVE WILSWORTH was called up for national service in 1969 to the School of Artillery, Potchefstroom, and then posted to 4th Field Regiment as an assistant OP officer. After a six-year stint with the Natal Field Artillery and as a territorial captain with the Regiment Port Natal, he signed on as a regular with 14th Field Regiment, South African Artillery. From 1978 to 1988, as a battery commander and Intelligence Staff Officer, he saw action in several major operations during the Border War. He was involved in the development of new weapon systems, leading the first 127mm multiple-rocket launcher and G6 courses. His last posting was to Army HQ, Pretoria as Project Officer for the development of the Artillery Target Engagement System—the digitization of the artillery. He retired in 1994 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Clive is now a business consultant living in Johannesburg.