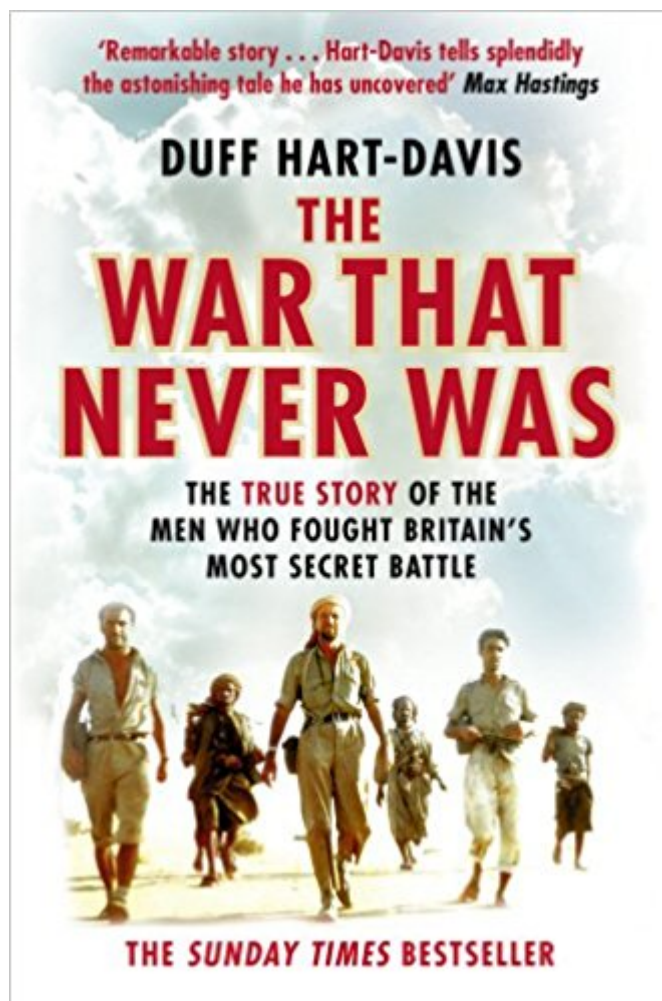




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The War That Never Was



Synopsis

For the very first time, "The War That Never Was" tells the fascinating story of a secret war fought by British mercenaries in the Yemen in the early 1960s. In a covert operation organised over whisky and sodas in the clubs of Chelsea and Mayfair, a group of former SAS officers - led by the irrepressible Colonel Jim Johnson - arranged for a squadron of British mercenaries to travel to the remote mountain regions of the Yemen, to arm, train and lead Yemeni tribesmen in their fight against a 60,000-strong contingent of Egyptian soldiers. It was one of the most uneven running battles ever waged; the Egyptians fielded a huge, professionally-trained army. The British fought back at the head of a ragtag force of tribal warriors and, ultimately, won. Egypt's President Nasser described the battle in the Yemen as 'my Vietnam'. It's a fascinating, forgotten, and rip-roaringly entertaining pocket of British military history, much in the spirit of Ben MvIntyre's bestselling "Agent Zigzag" and "Operation Mincemeat". --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Arrow Books Ltd (2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0099553295

ISBN-13: 978-0099553298

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,572,754 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > History > Middle East > Yemen](#)

Customer Reviews

Duff Hart-Davis has written and edited fifty books on a wide variety of subjects, including eight adventure novels and biographies of Peter Fleming, the traveller and author, J.J.Audubon, the American bird artist, and most recently Philip de Laszlo, the portrait painter. A deep interest in natural history led to Monarchs of the Glen, a history of the Highland deer forests, and to the much-praised illustrated encyclopaedia Fauna Britannica. He worked on the Sunday Telegraph as Literary Editor and feature writer, reporting from many parts of the world, and from 1986 to 2001 he contributed the weekly Country Matters column on rural affairs to the Independent. Together with his wife Phyllida he now lives in a 17th-century farmhouse on the Cotswold escarpment. --This text

refers to the Digital edition.

There is a lot that can be learned from this book that pertains to the goings on of today. Small groups of special operators can go into an environment and join a rebel group and make it more efficient and lethal. A much better option than to invade a country and then try to deal with the societal and cultural issues. Imagine if small teams of private military contractors went into Syria at the very beginning and gave the people the tools to free themselves and head off the scourge of ISIS? And the big take away is whether you are Egypt in the case of this book or America today in Afghanistan, never go into these types of terrain and expect to win. The terrain will always favor the defender. This book made me think of Lawrence of Arabia and his great adventures. These men did a fine job and followed in that tradition.

In light of the American withdrawal from the Middle East and now Yemen, this book is a timely reminder of the unsettled nature of the region. This story is UK and French mercenaries [without official government visible support] aided the tribes and sheiks and Prince of Yemen in thwarting Nassar's attempted control of Yemen on the way to enlarging his influence in the Middle East. Nassar, a client of the Soviet Union, wanted to oust the West and then control the flow of oil to Europe and the U.S. Operating on a shoe-string and with periodic Egyptian gold, the mercenaries held on for almost a decade. The military leadership kept the tribes in line and also to protect the tribal interests. The story line is engrossing and the account well researched and written. End notes often illuminate a passage. Truly an amazing story and one worth a reader's time.

This is a real and interesting account of how the world powers acted in the cold war area - war by proxy and plausible deniability!

Extremely long winded--

Fascinating history!

What happened in Yemen about 50 years ago mirrors what is happening in the middle east TODAY. For ALL THOSE WHO CARE AND THOSE HAVING ANY MEASURE OF CONTROL this book is essential reading.

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