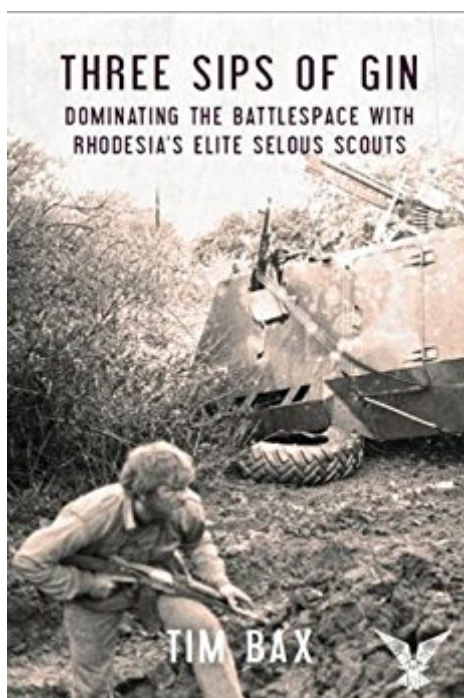


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# Three Sips Of Gin: Dominating The Battlespace With Rhodesia's Famed Selous Scouts



## Synopsis

There is nothing that terrorized Russian and Chinese-backed guerillas fighting Rhodesia's bush war in the 1970s more than the famed Selous Scouts. The very name of the unit struck fear into the very heart and soul of even the most battle-hardened guerillas. Too afraid to even whisper the name amongst themselves, they referred to soldiers of the unit simply as Skuzapu, or pickpockets. It was not for nothing that history has recorded the Selous Scouts Regiment as being one of the deadliest and most effective killing machines in modern counter-insurgency warfare. The Selous Scouts comprised specially selected black and white soldiers of the Rhodesian army, supplemented with the inclusion of hardcore terrorists captured on the battlefield. Dressed and equipped as communist guerrillas and with faces and arms blackened, members of this elite Special Forces unit would slip silently into the shadows of the night to seek and destroy real terrorist gangs. It became a deadly game of hide-and-seek played out between gangs and counter-gangs in the harsh and unforgiving landscape of the African bush. So successful were the Selous Scouts at being able to locate and destroy terrorist in their lairs that by the mid-1970s, they had begun to dominate Rhodesia's battle space. Working in close conjunction with the elite airborne assault troops of the Rhodesian Light Infantry, the Selous Scouts accounted for an extraordinary high proportion of terrorist killed in Rhodesia's bush war. Not content with restricting themselves to hunting guerrillas inside Rhodesia, the Selous Scouts began conducting external vehicle-borne assaults against terrorist camps situated deep inside neighboring countries with devastating loss to the terrorists. Survival in this cauldron of battle was never guaranteed. In this special 'deluxe' edition of author Tim Bax's hugely acclaimed *Three Sips of Gin*, we follow Tim on his missions into the silence of the shadows. As his story unfolds, we begin to understand how he managed to survive and it is here you will find the significance of 'three sips of gin' revealed. Readers of the earlier edition of the book will not want to miss reading this 'deluxe' edition, which, for the first time, is illustrated with dozens of photographs of every facet of Tim's amazing journey, including stark, never before seen images of the war. *Three Sips of Gin* is not just a book about war. It is a remarkable book about a remarkable man's life journey. Tim tells his story with the wit, candor and self-deprecating humor for which he has become so well known. His amazing journey is one, which few could ever have experienced.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Three Sips of Gin" is a great read. I found myself laughing and chuckling to myself on every other page. Mr. Bax along with his Father, Mom, his sisters and wife, Carol have led quite an adventurous life. Some of his adventures with his sister reminded me of those with mine which remain timeless to this day. The book takes on a more serious note although with still amazingly funny and harrowing adventures once Mr. Bax joins the Rhodesian Light Infantry and then the Selous Scouts. The stories of his training and his deployments are quite amazing. I was very happy that I had read his "Who will teach the Wisdom" first. It gave me an interesting insight when reading "Three Sips of Gin" and filled in some of his missions, which made them feel that more real and brought home the dangers of the one-on-one meeting with terrorists. The impact of both books made me realize how important other people and events play a role in one's development and how one would have been a different person if they had not met those individuals or experienced the events one did in the order they occurred. I especially related to the inner question of what happened during a certain point in Mr. Bax's life. Somethings just cannot be explained by the physical world. The politics of the world and the ego-play of those who move nations like they are pawns was very intriguing. A

very eye-opening account of the games of nation and world politics played on a grand level. Reading them both created a beautiful sandwich. Due to the order that I read them (I read *Who Will Teach the Wisdom* again after I read *Three Sips of Gin*). It felt like I had created a Wisdom-Gin-Wisdom lunch. No matter what order you read them, I would recommend reading both. Both books complement one another very well and when meshed together give an excellent story of insights to an incredible life of one man those around him. I will also say, I found that the women in Mr. Bax's life, his Mom, his sisters, his wife Carol, her nurse relative and his numerous very Monty Pylon-ish teachers, probably added a little flavor to his overall personality. In some cases, saved his life! Not to mention the men that he served with and met during his time in Rhodesia. An amazing group of warriors. A big shout out to all of them, past and present. Great reads both books. I highly recommend them both.

Having read most of what has been published on the Rhodesian Bush War, this book captures not only the gritty details of a war that was fought on every front by a small band of men who were warriors who made what little they had work extremely well, but it gives an insight into the lives of those hardy fighters who lived as the enemy for weeks at a time and were then catapulted back into 'normal' life overnight. A warming story of one man's war showing the human side of a shadow fighter. It's worth your money....

I really enjoyed Tim Bax's book, *Three Sips Of Gin*. I purchased it because I thought it was going to be about his experience with the Selous Scouts. It is much more and as such, Bax makes it autobiographical. There are some hilarious anecdotes about his experience before, during, and after his service to Rhodesia. I have never met Bax, that I can remember, but had met his mentor, Ron Reid-Daly. All references, by Bax are accurate as to time, place, etc. It makes for a very entertaining read as well as being historically accurate. Bax doesn't bore one with the politics, of the time, or the continued interference with Rhodesia's internal operation by MI-6 and the C.I.A. (and interfere, they did). I served in Rhodesia, in the early 70's, so the stories brought back fond memories of the country of my grandparents. I liked this book so much, I purchased Bax's book, *Who Will Teach The Wisdom*. He tells a great story, and the book is an easy read that holds your attention. Welgedaan broer Bax .....

Review *Three Sips of Gin* is

Tim Bax's autobiography. He takes us from his childhood, through his training in the RLI and then the Selous Scouts, into his work after Selous Scouts. There is plenty of raw, personal material on the Selous Scouts to please the military historians. There is plenty on his training in the English and Rhodesian armies. The book is well and entertainingly written. The style is upbeat and brisk. Tim's story is told in a series of escapades and adventures. This should be considered a primary source on the Selous Scouts of the Rhodesian Civil War. The events and escapades narrated are fascinating and a pleasure to read. It makes for a good read. Recognizing that this is Tim's autobiography, and that he had a sizable role in the Selous Scouts, this is a good addition to the material on the Selous Scouts. He gives many personal anecdotes and stories about the people and activities of the Selous Scouts. Tim gives us his personal opinion of many of the individuals in the Selous Scouts from Ron Reid-Daly, who he considers a close friend, down.

An educational biography of a man who lived on the edge. Who fought and seen comrades die to soon. Sad at times when you realize that their sacrifices are largely forgotten by history, and the toll the war took on the good men and women of Rhodesia. Sad that Russian and Chinese backed terrorists were left unanswered by the Brits or the US. Is what Rhodesia became really a better place under the tyrants that run the country now?

Very good autobio of Tim Bax's time in the Selous Scouts, a elite unit adapt at finding, catching, and killing Commie thugs in Rhodesia's Civil War in the 1970's. Mr. Bax had more lives than a cat, wounded several times and almost killed. The book starts with the author's youth in growing up in Africa. His move to England then Canada. He had Africa in his blood so, upon adulthood, returned to Africa. Then on a lark to Rhodesia and enlisting in the Army then transfer to the Selous Scouts. I recommend this book highly.

I have not finished the book, but so far the author's story and story-telling ability make this book worth every penny!

I like his story and his adventures concerning his time in Africa... It was a tad to long but a decent read.

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