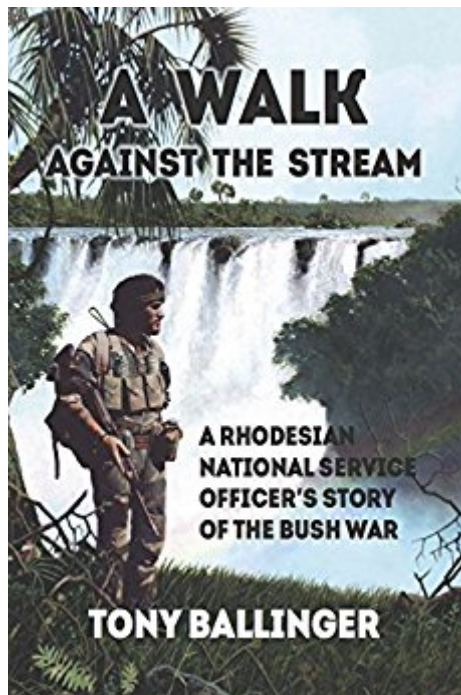


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# A Walk Against The Stream: A Rhodesian National Service Officer's Story Of The Bush War



## Synopsis

A Walk Against The Stream takes a look at the experiences of a young national service officer in the Rhodesian army. This is a true story, encompassing all eighteen months the author spent at Victoria Falls, Rhodesia, facing enemy territory just across the Zambezi river in Zambia. Initially allocated to 4th platoon, 4 Independent company Rhodesia Regiment (RR) as a subaltern and later on as a 1st Lieutenant in support company 2RR, the story starts with the author's training and subsequent deployment to the operational area. The events that unfold contain interesting military encounters, with battles against the Zambian army and local terrorists clearly depicted. The style of writing flows easily and graphically, drawing the reader into a half forgotten world. But there is also another aspect to the story: the human side of it. It is an examination of the author's love of a country falling apart and the relationship that he forms with a local woman in the village; their love, hope and dreams snatched away by unfolding events. This is a riveting personal tale, interspersed with interesting facts and dozens of photographs. All the names and places are real, including the battle scenes with ZIPRA and the Zambian army.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having served briefly with the author, as a cook, I can say that this story is an accurate depiction of

the trials and tribulations, of love, war, politics, camaraderie and a life shared by many young men, some barely out of school having to front up to protect their country and all they held dear. The author is able to pull and hold the reader into the story and, certainly for anyone who served at the time, to evoke memories, some good and some bad, and take one back to relive the time. A truly well written book worthy of a place in a collection of Rhodesiana

This is one of the finest, best narratives I have ever read. The author speaks from the heart and does not hide behind political correctness, nor does he worry about what others think. This book is filled with bravery, passion, romance, and gives an amazing glimpse into life inside the Rhodesia Regiment during the Bush War. I highly recommend this book not only to the Rhodesian historian, but also anyone who has ever served (in any military). I place this book alongside Chris Cocks' classic 'Fireforce'.

An excellent rendition of a period of history in a particular part of Rhodesia during the worse of the war years. The ebb and flow of the terrorist's outages in the beautiful border town of Vic Falls, alongside the fantastic frontage of the Zambesi; the response of the small but highly efficient security forces and the sad neglect of the Western world. A testament to the same neglect so readily adopted time after time by the same Western power since those days. Look what that capitulation got them and ask the same question of most recent escapades around the world. Never put trust in those that have only their self righteousness at heart.

I've just finished reading "A Walk Against the Stream" by Tony Ballinger. This is a well written true story about Tony's experiences as a National Service officer mostly based at Victoria Falls. The book gives an insight into the lives of ordinary national service troopies as opposed to the usual stories of the elite SAS, RLI, and Selous Scouts soldiers. It also gives a good account of the war actions around Victoria Falls village, most of which were never reported in the Rhodesian news services of the time, and which I had no knowledge of, despite living in the country. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book.

This is a well-written book about the authors time as an officer in the Rhodesian Army, first as a National Service officer and then as a Territorial Officer. The accounts of contacts between the author's units and ZIPRA, ZANLA forces and Zambian army units make for a great read. For those who lived in these halcyon times, this book will bring back many memories as it did for me. For

students of history, and particularly military history the book will provide a window into a time that was part of the Winds of Change in southern Africa, and how it affected the lives of those who lived it.

Could not put down. I grew up in Zambia and Botswana during this time. We went to both sides of the Vic Falls and even took the Kazungula ferry. I cannot remember if we went into Wimpy's but do remember walking by it. Even remember cracking up to a band doing a very bad job of ELO's Confusion

This is a fantastic read from the Rhodesian Bush War genre. What makes this book so different, is it infuses a love story into a war story. It is the best book of its kind that I have read, and I would recommend it to anybody. It may be a forgotten time, but the author is so descriptive, that one can truly imagine being in the front line with him. The fact that I have been to some of the places mentioned, makes it a very nostalgic read for me.

A fantastic read. Certainly one of the best books that I have read about the Rhodesian bush war, once started, it was hard to put down! Highly recommended.

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