



Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988

By Douw Steyn, Arné Söderlund

Download now

Read Online ➔

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arné Söderlund

This seminal work documents the clandestine sea borne operations undertaken by South Africa's 4 Reconnaissance Commando Regiment. It breathtakingly reveals the versatility and effectiveness of this elite unit which worked with a range of other South African and Rhodesian forces, including the Rhodesian SAS, to engage in a range of raiding and war fighting activities. These operations saw the clandestine reconnaissance of harbors, the sinking of enemy shipping and the destruction of shore installations in Angola and Mozambique. Just some of the tasks undertaken by this extraordinary maritime capability which totaled no more than 45 operators, both black and white!

With unparalleled access to previously secret material, the authors, both of whom worked to develop 4 Recce's operating capabilities, trace the origins of the Regiment back to the 1970's when the South African's determined the need for a maritime force projection capability. They relate how maritime doctrine was developed within South Africa's wider Special Forces capability and how joint operational approaches were configured with the South African Navy. This saw the development of a range of swimmer, reconnaissance, diving and boat operator training courses, along with the design of specialist raiding craft and amphibious assault platforms, which were originated to operate from the Navy's existing shipping and submarines. All of which demonstrated the immense potential of this newly emergent force and the resourcefulness of its individual operators. Required to successfully complete a grueling selection process, the operators of 4 Recce were relentlessly tested to prove their physical and mental mettle, not to mention their leadership skills and initiative.

Steyn and Söderlund's chronological analysis of the operations undertaken by 4 Recce and the South African Navy is stunning to behold. They impartially detail the secret and specialized actions which saw both success and failure. From Cabinda on the West Coast to Tanzania on the East, 4 Recce, and whose existence and capability was largely kept secret even within the South African Defence Force, conducted numerous clandestine raids. They attacked shipping and strategic targets such as oil facilities, transport infrastructure and even ANC offices. And sometimes the raids did go wrong, spectacularly so in one instance

when two operators were killed and Captain Wynand Du Toit was captured. He was later paraded in front of the world's media, much to the embarrassment of the South African government.

This is a fascinating work and one that will enthrall anyone with an interest in Special Forces operations. Profusely illustrated with many previously unpublished photographs, it stands as a testament to the author's endeavors as, respectively, the former Operations Commander of 4 Recce and the former Commander Task Group of the SA Navy - as well as the incredible operators of 4 Recce.

Explosive and compulsive, Iron Fist from the Sea takes you right to the raging surf; to the adrenaline and fear that is sea borne raiding...

 [Download Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seabor ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seab ...pdf](#)

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988

By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund

This seminal work documents the clandestine sea borne operations undertaken by South Africa's 4 Reconnaissance Commando Regiment. It breathtakingly reveals the versatility and effectiveness of this elite unit which worked with a range of other South African and Rhodesian forces, including the Rhodesian SAS, to engage in a range of raiding and war fighting activities. These operations saw the clandestine reconnaissance of harbors, the sinking of enemy shipping and the destruction of shore installations in Angola and Mozambique. Just some of the tasks undertaken by this extraordinary maritime capability which totaled no more than 45 operators, both black and white!

With unparalleled access to previously secret material, the authors, both of whom worked to develop 4 Recce's operating capabilities, trace the origins of the Regiment back to the 1970's when the South African's determined the need for a maritime force projection capability. They relate how maritime doctrine was developed within South Africa's wider Special Forces capability and how joint operational approaches were configured with the South African Navy. This saw the development of a range of swimmer, reconnaissance, diving and boat operator training courses, along with the design of specialist raiding craft and amphibious assault platforms, which were originated to operate from the Navy's existing shipping and submarines. All of which demonstrated the immense potential of this newly emergent force and the resourcefulness of its individual operators. Required to successfully complete a grueling selection process, the operators of 4 Recce were relentlessly tested to prove their physical and mental mettle, not to mention their leadership skills and initiative.

Steyn and Söderlund's chronological analysis of the operations undertaken by 4 Recce and the South African Navy is stunning to behold. They impartially detail the secret and specialized actions which saw both success and failure. From Cabinda on the West Coast to Tanzania on the East, 4 Recce, and whose existence and capability was largely kept secret even within the South African Defence Force, conducted numerous clandestine raids. They attacked shipping and strategic targets such as oil facilities, transport infrastructure and even ANC offices. And sometimes the raids did go wrong, spectacularly so in one instance when two operators were killed and Captain Wynand Du Toit was captured. He was later paraded in front of the world's media, much to the embarrassment of the South African government.

This is a fascinating work and one that will enthrall anyone with an interest in Special Forces operations. Profusely illustrated with many previously unpublished photographs, it stands as a testament to the author's endeavors as, respectively, the former Operations Commander of 4 Recce and the former Commander Task Group of the SA Navy - as well as the incredible operators of 4 Recce.

Explosive and compulsive, Iron Fist from the Sea takes you right to the raging surf; to the adrenaline and fear that is sea borne raiding...

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund
Bibliography

- Rank: #1162502 in Books
- Published on: 2015-01-19
- Released on: 2015-02-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.10" h x 1.00" w x 6.10" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 496 pages



[Download Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seabor ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seab ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

“ ... a truly fascinating piece of work ... I was really impressed by the quality of this volume ...” Miniature (*Miniature Wargames*)

“ ... This seminal work documents the clandestine seaborne operations undertaken by South Africa's 4 Reconnaissance Commando Regiment ... This is a fascinating work and one that will enthrall anyone with an interest in Special Forces operations ... Explosive and compulsive, Iron Fist from the Sea takes you right to the raging surf; to the adrenalin and fear that is seaborne raiding ...” (*Scientia Militaria*)

About the Author

Lt Col Daniel Steyn, HC, SM, MMM, PSN Daniel (Douw) Steyn joined the Army in 1974 after completing high school, and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers in 1975. His first operational deployment came later that year during Operation SAVANNAH, the South African incursion into Angola. His actions in clearing mines under fire during the fighting at 'Bridge 14' earned him the award of the Honoris Crux decoration for gallantry. He was later mentioned in dispatches for other actions during that operation. Steyn then applied to join the Special Forces, qualifying as an operator in 1977 and served 15 years as a Special Forces operator, specializing in advanced demolitions and sabotage techniques. Joining 1 Reconnaissance Commando in Durban, he led the operational Bravo Group for the next four years. The unit's most important operations during this period were Operation AMAZON, the attack on the oil facilities in Lobito, for which he was awarded the Medal for Military Merit, and Operation KERSLIG which targeted the oil refinery in Luanda, for which he was awarded the Southern Cross Medal. He was also instrumental in training the anti-communist resistance movements in Angola (UNITA) and Mozambique (RENAMO) in the use of explosives, mines and in sabotage operations. In 1981 he was appointed as the operational commander of the Raiding Group of 4 Reconnaissance Commando, the seaborne Special Forces unit based in Langebaan in the Cape Province. There he qualifying as an attack diver and saboteur and lead a number of seaborne operations to destroy strategic military targets in Angola and Mozambique. After ten years in this demanding role, he was transferred to Special Forces HQ in Pretoria as the Research and Development Officer, assisting with the development of operational tactics and of specialised equipment research. In 1995 he was appointed as the Chief of Staff of 71 Brigade in Pretoria. He retired from the Defence Force in 1996 as a Lieutenant Colonel, and joined a major South African security company as part of their senior management in Durban. Working in the private sector has given him more quality time to spend with his family. Rear Admiral (JG) Arne Soderlund, PS, SM, MMM*, SANR Born and educated in Kimberley, South Africa, where he matriculated from Christian Brothers College, he joined the SA Navy in 1966 and has served both at sea and ashore with postings to a number of other countries during his 40 years service. In 1969 he was attached to the Argentine Navy for training aboard the Sail Training Vessel ARA Libertad and on his return serviced aboard mine sweepers as First Lieutenant and Type 12 frigates as Communications and later Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. In late 1975 after a period in command of the diving support and torpedo recovery vessel, SAS Fleur, he was appointed to the strike craft project in Israel where he commissioned the second strike craft P1562 (SAS P.W. Botha and later Shaka) as First Lieutenant and Operations Officer. In early 1980 he was appointed as the first Captain of SAS Oswald Pirow (later Rene Sethren). After serving as a DS at the Naval Staff College and later the SA Defence College as well as a four year appointment to Chief of Staff Intelligence, he was appointed Naval and Military Attache (later Adviser) in London from 1994 to 1997. Promoted Commodore (later R Adm (JG)) in the post of standing CTG in the SAN in 1997, he took part in the transformation process, becoming Director Fleet Force Preparation on the formation of Fleet Command.

Married to Lyn for 43 years with three daughters and three granddaughters, he retired from full-time service in May 2006 and joined the SA Naval Reserves where he still serves. He has edited a number of naval and maritime publications including SA Navy News and was co-author of a definitive book on South Africa's Navy. He currently runs the Naval Museum Submarine SAS Assegaai (ex Johanna van der Merwe).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Colburn:

The book Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like available and read a guide Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Paul Weston:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Peter Barba:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 reserve written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still doubt Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 as good book not only by the cover but also through the content. This is one book that can break don't ascertain book by its include, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Christopher Wilkerson:

You will get this Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 by go to the bookstore or Mall. Simply viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties for ones knowledge. Kinds of this book are various. Not only by means of written or printed and also can you enjoy

this book through e-book. In the modern era like now, you just looking of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your publication. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still upgrade. Let's try to choose appropriate ways for you.

**Download and Read Online Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's
Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund
#5ZQB0MPR134**

Read Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund for online ebook

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund books to read online.

Online Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund ebook PDF download

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund Doc

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund Mobipocket

Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund EPub

5ZQB0MPR134: Iron Fist From The Sea: South Africa's Seaborne Raiders 1978-1988 By Douw Steyn, Arnè Söderlund