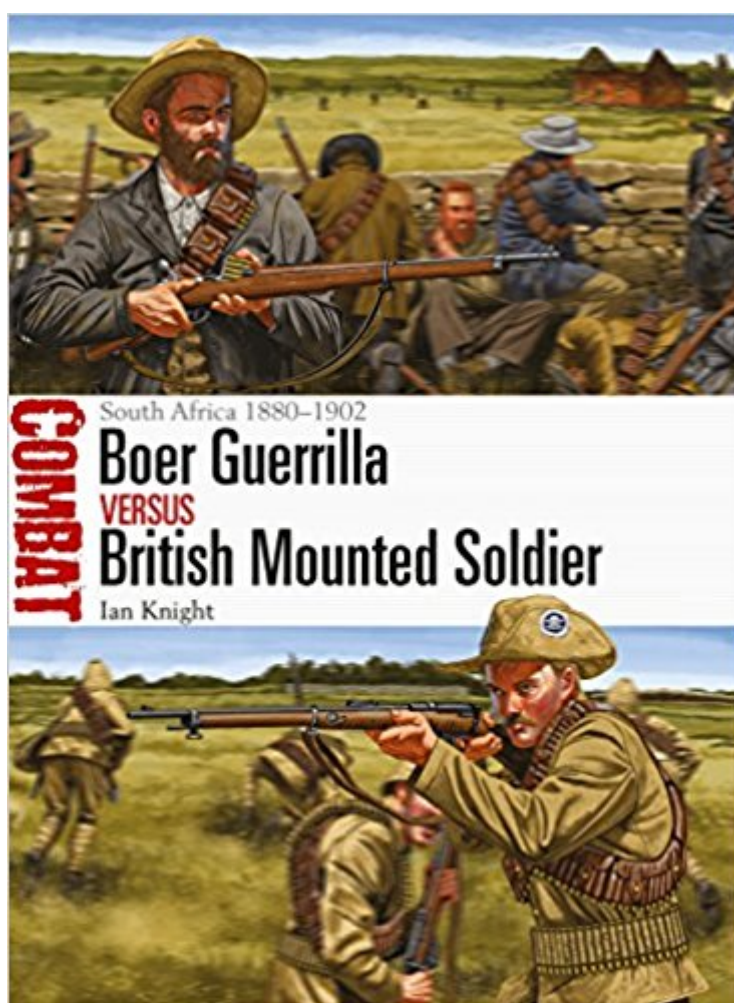


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# Boer Guerrilla Vs British Mounted Soldier: South Africa 1880-1902 (Combat)



## Synopsis

Waged across an inhospitable terrain which varied from open African savannah to broken mountain country and arid semi-desert, the Anglo-Boer wars of 1880–1881 and 1899–1902 pitted the British Army and its allies against the Boers' commandos. The nature of warfare across these campaigns was shaped by the realities of the terrain and by Boer fighting techniques. Independent and individualistic, the Boers were not professional soldiers but a civilian militia who were bound by the terms of the 'Commando system' to come together to protect their community against an outside threat. By contrast the British Army was a full-time professional body with an established military ethos, but its over-dependence on conventional infantry tactics led to a string of Boer victories. This fully illustrated study examines the evolving nature of Boer military techniques, and contrasts them with the British experience, charting the development of effective British mounted tactics from the first faltering steps of 1881 through to the final successes of 1902.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ian Knight is a leading international expert on warfare in Southern Africa in the Victorian era. He has written, co-written or edited over 30 books, including several in the Osprey Men-at-Arms, Elite, Warrior and Campaign series. Johnny Shumate works as a freelance illustrator living in Nashville, Tennessee. He began his career in 1987 after graduating from Austin Peay State University. Most of his work is rendered in Adobe Photoshop using a Cintiq monitor. His greatest influences are Angus McBride, Don Troiani and Édouard Detaille.

The British Army that so confidently went to war with the Boer Republics of South Africa in 1880 was in for a rude awakening. An Army that had won a global empire would in this time and in this place face tough Boer guerillas who were masters of the terrain and of their own tactics. By the time of the Second Boer War in 1899, the British Army had learnt at least some of their lessons; they were better prepared for a close contest. "Boer Guerilla Versus British Mounted Soldier" is an Osprey Combat Series book by Ian Knight, with illustrations by Johnny Shumate. The introduction captures the respective fighting styles of the two armies. The narrative describes in some detail three different combats over the course of the two wars. The narrative is nicely supported by maps, diagrams, period photographs, and modern illustrations. The battle descriptions are especially clear and easy to follow. The author's analysis of the conflict centers on the marriage of lethal modern multi-shot rifles to the mobility conferred by horses in the terrain of South Africa. One side understood the utility of such a military marriage at the start of the conflict, and never forgot it. The other side took awhile to grasp the essential nature of the conflict, and longer to work out a winning strategy. Strongly recommended as a highly readable introduction to a tough war. It should be of interest to the general reader and to the student of the conflict.

Have only skim thru the book, but looks very good and I look forward to reading it.

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