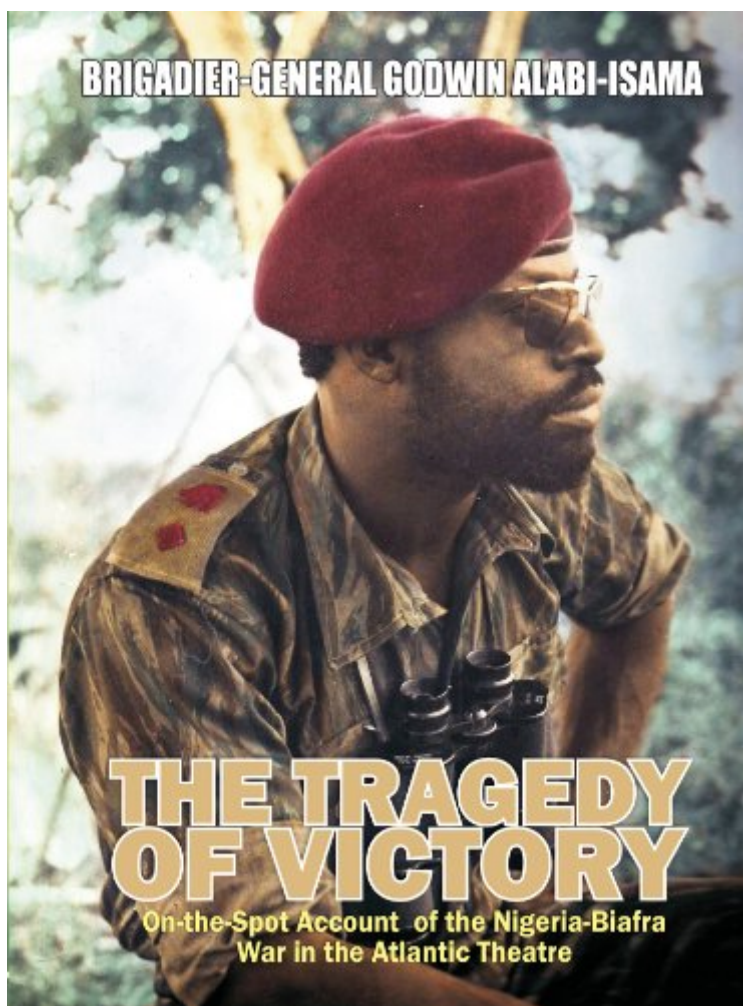


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The Tragedy Of Victory: On-the-spot Account Of The Nigeria-Biafra War In The Atlantic Theatre



Synopsis

The Tragedy of Victory: On-the-Spot Account of the Nigeria-Biafra War in the Atlantic Theatre is a chronological narrative of the war that lasted from July 6, 1967 to January 15, 1970. With about 500 photographs and maps and facts, told with accuracy, the well-organised and efficient Third Marine Commandos, earlier commanded by Col. Benjamin Adekunle (with Lt. Col. G. Alabi-Isama, as the Chief of Staff) had already controlled the Atlantic coast from Bonny to Calabar before Col. Olusegun Obasanjo's arrival as the new commander. This most revealing book is in three parts. The first part is an account of the author's early life and his first encounter with the army. Under the watchful eyes of a mother who gave the best in moral education to a son of promise, Alabi-Isama's life got shaped by a pre-destined career where the cap really fitted. The second part is about the real combat. It outlines, in detail, the strategies and tactics the commandos employed during the historic 480km trek from Calabar to Port Harcourt and narrates the hostile climate, terrain environment, health and survival hazards they had to surmount on the 30-day march. The think-tank, the mapping out of operations and disciplined control of men and materials by Alabi-Isama, the chief of staff, as well as the officers of 3 Marine Commando Division of the Nigerian army, sustained the Nigerian side of the conflict. This section concludes with the final successful push by the commandos into Uli-Ihiala, Biafra's 'centre of gravity,' a move that ended the war following the surrender of Biafra. The third part is an expose on Obasanjo's book, My Command. The author contests Obasanjo's claims about the war as being inconsistent with the truth and maintains that it is a tragedy that the real fighters of the war for the unity of Nigeria had not been acknowledged to date. Rather, they wallow in poverty and are discredited by their military leaders who assumed political offices with all the accompanying largesse. The book is a rich manual, a repository of invaluable information, a document that gives a precise and veritable first-person account of the Nigerian civil war, in the Atlantic theatre. It is a must for every serving and retired member of the armed forces to own. Other Nigerians and international bodies will find it particularly useful in reconstructing the events of Nigeria's civil war.

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Customer Reviews

Brigadier-General Alabi-Isama's book carries you through the jungles, the trenches, the puddles and the rivers in a captivating story that gives you a 3D-movie like perspective to the events of the Nigeria civil war from the South of the Country. This book also exposes a well too known character in Nigerian politics, in the unfolding events just before the war ended and after it ended, that will validate the title of the book 'Tragedy Of Victory', at least from the author's personal angle... It is a pity that one who has given so much to his country, along with so many of his colleagues at the war theatre, and arguably was the brains behind Nigeria emerging from the civil war intact as one country, has hardly been known for such feat, nor ever rewarded accordingly. It is also quite pathetic and unfortunate that Alabi-Isama a true veteran would be framed and vilified in the same country he fought so hard to keep intact and undivided...ofcourse by the same opportunity gamers who ensured he was never part of the glory from the Civil war story. Godwin Alabi-Isama, granted the accounts in your book is the truth about events during the Nigerian civil war, at least from the 3MCDO perspective, where you were a front-line Commander and Commando In, I raise my foot to a 105 degree angle, and stamp that foot with such thud the effect is felt on my spine. I sharply raise my right hand to my brow, in a most curtly salute and I salute you great veteran, true son of Nigeria. Posterity will ever smile on you...I strongly recommend this book especially to the generation born after the Nigerian civil war, who wish to obtain first class information on the matters giving rise to the war and how the war was fought and won.

Brig. Isama has written for posterity. His addition to the already considerable body of literature on the Nigerian civil war is needed and welcomed as it adds a perspective of an officer from the front

lines. I wish his editors did a better job of reducing the multiple repetitions in narratives and photographs. That this is a very intelligent and brave officer is not to be doubted. However like a lot of people born to wealth and privilege his mentality and cockiness equals that of Segun Awolowo and Ojukwu himself. How about a mother sending garri and chicken daily to grown up son in officer school in England? Reminds you of Ojukwu getting tutorials in his Rolls Royce while at Oxford and Mrs Awo flying food for Segun's birthday party in England from Lagos. And what a waste to force a brilliant man like this into retirement before he even turned 40! The nation then missed his service in what would have been his prime years. A sad situation repeated too many times with the rapid turnover of leadership in the Nigerian armed forces. A must read for all serious students of Nigerian history.

this book gave inch perfect details of what transpired at the war front. The general's understanding of the infantry tactics and technical know how is of the highest order. I enjoyed every bit of it. It is a great pointer to where Nigeria started from and how we got to where we are, our military leaders cum political leaders have failed us.

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