With decades of research to draw from, Philip Jowett explores this extraordinary David-and-Goliath conflict, where the rag-tag Igbo tribal army of secessionist Biafra faced off against the Nigerian Federal forces. It was an African war that captured the attention of the western media, with individual commanders such as Biafran leader Colonel Ojukwu and Federal Colonel Adekunle becoming familiar figures across the globe. The Nigerian forces easily outnumbered their opponents, and benefitted from British and Soviet equipment, yet against all the odds the Biafrans held out for two and a half years, inflicting many setbacks on the Federal forces before their eventual surrender in 1970. Specially commissioned artwork and historical photos, including some from respected Italian war photographer Romano Ganoni, reflect the diverse array of uniforms and equipment on both sides, with images ranging from Sandhurst-educated officers in immaculate uniform to ragged militiamen armed with World War II kit.

**Book Information**

Series: Men-at-Arms  
Paperback: 48 pages  
Publisher: Osprey Publishing (September 20, 2016)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 1472816099  
Product Dimensions:  7.3 x 0.2 x 9.8 inches  
Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review:  5.0 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #31,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
Nigeria  
#742 in Books > History > Military  
#897 in Books > History > World

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