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Koevoet: Experiencing South Africa's Deadly Bush War



Synopsis

Koevoet! has been an global bestseller since its release over 20 years ago. This new edition goes far beyond the original in capturing the courage, fear and intensity of South Africa's deadly bush war. Never before had an outsider been given unrestricted access to Koevoet, the elite South West African Police counterinsurgency unit - also known as Operation K and officially as the South West Africa Police Counter Insurgency Unit (SWAPOL-COIN). Author Jim Hooper spent a total of five months embedded with the semi-secret and predominantly black 'Ops K', which climaxed with one of the most vicious and determined infiltrations ever mounted by the communist-backed South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). Crossing regularly into Angola in pursuit of the insurgents, he saw friends die next to him and was twice wounded himself. This updated edition, drawing on the recollections and diaries of the men he rode with, will fascinate yet another generation of readers. In assembling this work, Jim Hooper had the opportunity to re-connect with so many of the men who allowed this outsider to ride with them. All of which brought a new intensity and poignancy. It also reminded Jim Hooper how privileged he was to have been witness to Koevoet's war. This stunning work is a tribute to Koevoet and the legend they created."Hooper is a careful reporter, but also a born writer; his vivid word-pictures drag you in and hold you. He skillfully conveys his initially unwelcoming reception by an operational unit; the long, frustrating grind of search operations in punishing terrain and climate; the extraordinary bush skills of the Ovambo policemen; the shock of sudden contact, and its aftermath." Martin Windrow "Jim Hooper's account of South Africa's successful "Ops K" in Namibia against South West Africa's People's Organization guerrillas should be required reading. The classic narrative is as timely today as it was twenty years ago." Charles D. Melson, Chief Historian, U.S. Marine Corps University."This expanded edition is a skillfully woven mosaic of personal accounts from those involved and what he experienced during combat with Koevoet. The use of new material from those he rode with lays bare the realities of war, the fears and emotions that ebb and flow in the heat of combat, and the courage one finds to bring the battle to the enemy" Piet Nortje, Author of 32 Battalion"Koevoet describes in great detail the men, both black and white, and their mine-protected cross-country vehicles which were years ahead of anything in use by other western forces, the dedicated helicopter support units and the tactics used to bring an elusive guerrilla force to battle." Paul French, Author of Shadows of a Forgotten Past: To the Edge with the Rhodesian SAS and Selous Scouts.

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Customer Reviews

Outstanding details of the counterinsurgency in Africa fought by the South African and Rhodesian Forces. Detailed description of the tactics and methods used to hunt down and destroy the guerrillas.

Although this war ended almost twenty seven years ago, reading Jim Hooper's KOEVOET never ceases to bring back the memories, sights, sounds, smell and emotions vividly and also, sadly, some lost friends back to life. Although they had never seen the end of the war, they live on eternally in a great military masterpiece. The book is written in a superb narrative style that not only sets a standard rarely equalled in the military writing genre but the story is told in the first person. So personal that the writer was wounded not just once, but twice in this epic journey into a war almost hidden from the world's eye. A collectible classic, especially for those interested in pursuing historical reading in combating insurgency and waging bush warfare.

Excellent read! Jim Hooper's story of Koevoet and his experiences with the operators (police) was most excellent. The man had a big set to stay and win the confidence of the people he was

embedded with! No problem recommending this as an excellent read!

The author is honest with himself about his reasons for going to Namibia and putting himself in harm's way. But the best thing is the story of the South African Police fighting the communist insurgents from Angola. This book sheds light on a little known war.

Well written, you think you know the truth about the early wars involving South Africa and SWAPO? Guess again...this book brings to life the war and it's tragedies.

An interesting perspective of the South West African/Union of South Africa police response to SWAPO terrorist infiltration and activity in what is now known as Namibia. Several assumptions that I, an American, had held at a considerable distance, are not supported by the author's report. His first hand, on-the-ground tale is engaging. I highly recommend it!

This is the story of the men that sought the war. Very seldom does their story get told. It is scary, dangerous, funny and very sad. We that fight the wars and do the dirty work that others will not do are the real casualties. Vietnam and newer American war veterans will be glad they read this book. War veterans are those infantry troops that did the real work. The book brought back memories, a few laughs, a tear to the eye, and covers the reasons I have no faith in the country. Two tours in Vietnam, silver star, bronze star, Purple Heart, three navy commendation medals, and hatred for those that ran out on us.

This is one exceptional book about the South African bush wars well written and presented in a well written book

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