

KOEVOET: EXPERIENCING SOUTH AFRICA'S DEADLY BUSH WAR BY JIM HOOPER



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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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15 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Combat Journalist & the Crowbar

By T.A.L. Dozer

Combat Journalist & the Crowbar

This book "Koevoet: Experiencing South Africa's Deadly Bush War" by Jim Hooper an American journalist/combat correspondent given access to cover Koevoets combat operations in the bushveld of the northern portion of the then South West Africa (now Namibia) and Angola. This unit is officially known as the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Unit, which operated predominantly in South-West Africa. This outfit was the most effective paramilitary unit deployed against South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) fighters, during the South African Border War and is accredited with more SWAPO kills than the South African Defense Force. This book does an excellent and unbiased job at describing the horrors of this guerrilla war, with a particular interest toward the savage tactics used against each other by both sides of the conflict. These graphic details compounded with the human side of the story intertwining patriotism, heroism, brotherhood, honor and the dedication of these men in combat make this book an all-around great military read for all. Additionally, there are many lessons to be learned from this text on counterinsurgency tactics, techniques and procedures that are just as relevant today in the current global war on terrorism that military personnel will find enlightenment. I will also state that if you have read the first edition South African release "Koevoet!" and/or the United States released edition (2nd edition) "Beneath the Visiting Moon: Images of Combat in Southern Africa" that this current title truly is an updated and expanded edition. I personally have all three editions, and went back and looked at them side-by-side and there is significant changes to this edition. I also found this edition has much more personal information on many of the topics discussed in the book, as well as extensive background information on Jim Hooper. Overall, anyone interested in the South African bush wars, counterinsurgency and military history in general on this book of interest.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Had to experience it first hand to write this deadly bush war of S. Africa

By Edgar D. Clement

Never knew much about the Bush War's of South Africa but Jim Hooper brought it all too vivid and exciting. You can tell from his writing that it was first hand experience that keep's you in the loop the whole book. Jim's professionalism had alot to do with fitting in with the Koevoet and staying with them for months at a time in the bush and experience what they experience that brought him accepted into their tight group of the best Bush Fighting experts in Africa. He tells the story thru his and their eye that only they could tell by interwoven the words of the Koevoet Bush Fighter's and their quote's all thru the book, an excellent job! Buy the book and be informed of what went on in that part of South Africa history it is an eye opener!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Koevoet! A testament of courage and survival during the SA Bush War

By Amazon Customer

Jim Hooper's "Koevoet" is a gritty and honest portrayal of the crucible of combat. The book places the reader directly on the ground and into the heavy emotional trial of men living and fighting in a deadly complex war. Page after page the reader will be thrown into the the unpredictable confusion of uncensored combat and then witness how these men decompressed and prepared for the next "CONTACT!" The books pictures taken by Jim Hooper add all the images needed to complete this vivid canvas. The fact that Jim Hooper embedded with "Koevoet" for such an extended time enables this book to transcend from historic record to becoming a priceless first person narrative of the true humanity found in individuals who serve in times of war. Being a combat vet the book continually struck up my own memories of OEF and OIF. In my opinion no matter the war or the time the experiences found in war are the same for those that fight. This book captures this sentiment by illustrating the lifetime bond forged among brothers in arms, and the devotion they

have towards each other. In the 2010 UK revised edition the addition of present day Koevoet veteran reflections about the unit and the author adds an incredible insight and tempers the story. "Koevoet" is a must read for anyone trying to understand and gain a first person perspective of the men who fought day after day in South Africa's Bush War.

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Investing the downtime by checking out **Koevoet: Experiencing South Africa's Deadly Bush War By Jim Hooper** can offer such fantastic experience even you are just sitting on your chair in the workplace or in your bed. It will not curse your time. This Koevoet: Experiencing South Africa's Deadly Bush War By Jim Hooper will guide you to have more valuable time while taking remainder. It is really pleasurable when at the midday, with a mug of coffee or tea as well as a publication Koevoet: Experiencing South Africa's Deadly Bush War By Jim Hooper in your kitchen appliance or computer system monitor. By delighting in the views around, here you can start checking out.

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