



Save the Last Bullet for Yourself: A Soldier of Fortune in the Balkans and Somalia

Rob Krott

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The down-to-earth memoir of a modern mercenary via Harvard . . . This is the tale of Rob Krott, a U.S. Army officer who after leaving active duty found adventure in the early days of the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Somalia. Stripped of the glamour and mystique surrounding the mercenary profession, *Save the Last Bullet for Yourself* is a no-holds-barred look at private soldiering in the 1990's, pulling no punches in chronicling the role of modern day soldiers of fortune in the most violent, bloody, ethnic conflicts of the past decade. Krott recounts soldiering with a mixed bag of humanity's flotsam: the has-beens, wannabes, gutter-trash, homicidal psychotics, criminals, and the occasional professional soldier for hire. In the middle of all this is the author?an idealistic, Harvard-educated ex-Army captain who just wants to follow his true calling: leading troops in combat. Krott, travels to Croatia in early 1992 and joins the fledgling Croatian Army as a volunteer in the war against Serbia, which is backed by the former Yugoslav Army. Commissioned as an officer in a Croatian Commando unit, he leads combat patrols along the free-fire-zone border. He then sets up a training program for the Commandos, leads forays against Serb positions, snipes enemy soldiers, becomes involved in intrigue, and leaves Croatia just as the Bosnian conflict starts. He then undertakes a mission in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope as a contracted consultant to the U.S. Army, supervising 100 Somali speakers recruited in Washington. Krott then returns to the Balkans, this time to Bosnia, commanding a unit of multinational "volunteers" and serving as a brigade staff major with the Bosnian-Croat Defense Force. It was there that a foreign mercenary attempted to kill him. With humor, insight, and a keen eye for the often-absurd world of ad hoc warfare, Krott's account provides the reader an inside look at the shadowy world of professional soldiers for hire, for all its hardship and excitement.

REVIEWS

"One thing that Krott makes clear quickly is that the glamorous Hollywood portrayal of high-paid international mercenaries is sheer fiction. . . . [He] ends with an epilogue that recounts the sad and often dismal fate of many of the mercenaries he served with." ?David Isenberg, United Press International "...puts you in the combat boots of a former US Army officer turned mercenary in two of the world's hotspots: Bosnia/ Croatia and Somalia.... Provides frank descriptions and analysis of the troops...a boots on the ground in your face memoir..." Magweb.com, 10/2008 "...well-written...Rob's great writing skills show his true feelings about the conflicts he finds himself in. This book shows a scary insight into a world most of the population will never know." Raider, 11/2008 "...you know the writer has been there, done that and knows the firearms from personal, hands on experience...details the exciting, real and all very true stories of ... modern soldier of fortune." Small Arms Review, 06/2009 "... very good you are there on the ground memoir of a hired grunt toting his rifle to two of the 1990s hotspots." Kepler's Military History Reviews, 02/2010 "...eloquent, convincing, compelling... an unapologetic tale of adventure." History of War.Org, 03/2010 "...a breath of fresh air amongst the poser PMC books-this book was written by someone that actually did what he wrote about." Death Valley Magazine, 04/15/2010 "In the late 1980s Rob Krott quit the US army to find adventure. Within a few years the Harvard graduate was fighting alongside a ragged collection of international misfits in Croatia as the country struggled for independence from post-Communist Yugoslavia. Krott discovered fast that mercenaries don't make much money but he found himself hooked on the adrenaline rush that comes from toting an AK-47 around a warzone where the bullets fly low...a good honest read" The Bright Review "...an adventure story. An entertaining book." Books are For Squares Blogspot

“...a hard edged and well written look at what it takes to be a professional soldier for hire in several of the world’s most troubles areas...Highly educated and very good at what he does, Rob Krott takes you inside this deadly profession and if anything, will make you appreciate your own comfortable, or reasonably comfortable life.” Tactical Tracking Journal

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