



Brotherhood of Warriors: Behind Enemy Lines with a Commando in One of the World's Most Elite Counterterrorism Units

Aaron Cohen , Douglas Century

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At the age of eighteen, Aaron Cohen left Beverly Hills to prove himself in the crucible of the armed forces. He was determined to be a part of Israel's most elite security cadre, akin to the American Green Berets and Navy SEALs. After fifteen months of grueling training designed to break down each individual man and to rebuild him as a warrior, Cohen was offered the only post a non-Israeli can hold in the special forces. In 1996 he joined a top-secret, highly controversial unit that dispatches operatives disguised as Arabs into the Palestinian-controlled West Bank to abduct terrorist leaders and bring them to Israel for interrogation and trial.

Between 1996 and 1998, Aaron Cohen would learn Hebrew and Arabic; become an expert in urban counterterror warfare, the martial art of Krav Maga, and undercover operations; and participate in dozens of life-or-death missions. He would infiltrate a Hamas wedding to seize a wanted terrorist and pose as an American journalist to set a trap for one of the financiers behind the Dizengoff Massacre, taking him down in a brutal, hand-to-hand struggle. A propulsive, gripping read, Cohen's story is a rare, fly-on-the-wall view into the shadowy world of "black ops" that redefines invincible strength, true danger, and inviolable security.

Brotherhood of Warriors: Behind Enemy Lines with a Commando in One of the World's Most Elite Counterterrorism Units Details

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Author : Aaron Cohen , Douglas Century

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From Reader Review Brotherhood of Warriors: Behind Enemy Lines with a Commando in One of the World's Most Elite Counterterrorism Units for online ebook

Jason says

"Israeli-style tactics are the only proven method to successfully deal with terrorists on a tactical level." I couldn't put this book down the minute I started reading. The book is written from a pragmatist's point of view so there's no propaganda here (or I didn't perceive any). The author's life seems exciting and romantic at first, but ultimately he shows how the career of a warrior is de-humanizing and becomes an almost touching anti-war story. You don't have to worry if you don't know the complicated politics of the Middle East because the author just recounts his life in the military and its effect on him and how we all should try to perceive the world.

Chuck says

Aaron Cohen's "A Brotherhood of Warriors" is a memoir of Cohen's service in the Israeli Special Forces. in the 1990's Cohen served in the Israeli Army's Syaret Duvdevan unit.

The Syaret Duvdevan is a counter-insurgency unit which operates in the occupied territories and targets Palestinian insurgents/terrorists. Unlike most United States Special forces, who are generalists, it is a unit with a very specialized area of expertise. The unit carries out operations, but is not responsible for gathering or analyzing information, nor for determining which operations to carry out. Consistent with targeting paramilitaries in a civilian environment, it generally attempts to capture rather than kill its targets and to minimize collateral damage and injuries. In this respect, it occupies an operational space bordering on that of swat teams.

Due to Israeli military restrictions, Cohen was clearly limited in regard to what he could write. Despite this, he manages to give the reader a good understanding of the process of personnel selection, training, and operations associated with the unit. Much of his experience is similar to what happens across most special forces. However the amount of physical fighting against members of his own team that was portrayed in the book seemed a very Russian trait rather than American.

"A Brotherhood of Warriors" is a well written and easy read. I would recommend it for anyone interested in Special Forces, the Israeli Military, or Counter-Insurgency and Counter Terrorism.

Terri says

Do not be baulked by this book's unattractive cover, because it doesn't do justice to the story within. This is the memoir of an American/Canadian/Jew (a mouthful I know) who leaves a silver spoon existence in Beverley Hills as a teen to join the Israeli Defence Force. He knows what he wants long before he arrives in Israel. He wants to be a Special Forces soldier in one of Israel's leading counter terrorism units. The *Duvdevan*.

After some unforeseen hurdles, he makes it through one of the toughest elite forces training in the world and becomes a fully fledged Special Forces soldier in the most elite counter terrorism branch of the IDF. When he completes his service he returns to America and starts his own security firm which not only offers security to Hollywood, but also offers counter terrorism training to the U.S military and police, including SWAT and local state departments.

This is not the story of battles and getting shots off and calling for medics, it's the story of the brutal training program of IDF's various Special Forces programs, and it's a story of terrorism in Israel, and how the Israeli's became the leaders in urban counter terrorism methods.

I should also mention that there was one negative for me with this book. There are few pages in the closing of this book where Cohen remarks on how the U.S could be doing things differently. Doing things like Israel does them. Half of what he says would never work in the U.S, I believe. He doesn't take in the difference in culture and lifestyle, and the differing management and implementation issues that would be required if the U.S were to introduce similar military and police presence within cities. But this is only my opinion of his opinion. I wasn't going to drop a star based on a differing opinion.

This book has gone straight to my favourites folder!

Mike says

Really, really interesting read. I thought I knew a good bit about the Israeli military philosophy, not even close. This book takes a deep dive on how and why the Israel military operates the way it does, with no excuses. Very polarizing. No matter what you think of Israel tactics in the territories, it's an incredibly eye-opening read.

John Bishop says

Interesting view of Israeli preparation

A moving tale of how Israel defends itself from Arab terrorism. Told by an American Jew with an insight few will ever experience. Well written.

Lalitha says

I recall watching the horror of the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 unfolding on live TV. The bloodbath lasted for several hours and while I along with the entire nation was shocked at what had occurred, I recall a news clip of an Israeli defence member saying that had India contacted Israel, they could have flushed out the terrorists in a matter of a couple of hours.

Regardless of one's political viewpoints, it just makes for brilliant reading- what guts some people have. I have always seen myself as a phenomenally risk averse person. Reading about persons and personalities so different from mine is fascinating, but reading about elite warriors such as this, cannot be fathomed. They are just very different from 'normal' civilians. It is a rigorous training of the mind and body.

The book is about an American boy who decides to cut it into the elite counter terrorism units of Israel. The book is his journey of his transformation into an elite warrior. A riveting account of a brave man.

Stan Lebahn says

Lebahns@comcast.net

Fairly good story line with a lot of detail about life in the Israel Defense Forces. Example of what true friendship is.

Joel B Champagne says

Educational

You may wonder why the Israelis have the reputation as the best, this book defines it. I was impressed by the comparison of US versus Israeli security measures. We US citizens have so much yet to learn. Great book!

Helen says

An American take on what it is like to be an Israeli commando.

This is a great read for anyone wanting to know what goes into the making of a warrior. The kind of guys who seek to become special forces are not like the rest of us; they're smart, tough, fearless, tightly controlled yet highly aggressive, seeking action, tremendously competitive.

Aaron Cohen is a troubled American rich kid who learns to love the discipline of the military. From the book's gut-wrenching opening at the scene of the horrific 1996 Dizengoff Mall suicide bombing (comparable to a terrorist setting off a bomb stuffed with nails in the middle of Times Square on New Years Eve) he takes us into the world of the commando, with simple, direct prose, vivid descriptions of training methods, exercises, and missions, and wonderful sketches of the people he meets who also choose to pursue this scary, stressful life.

I wanted to meet everyone he wrote about. Mr. Cohen writes about his fellow soldiers and superiors in a compassionate and affectionate way, making these warriors both understandable and human.

Jack says

Brotherhood of Warriors - Aaron Cohen - Book Review - Jack Paul

This book is amazing. It gives you the insight of what being in an Israeli counter-terrorism unit is like. This

book shows you the physical and mental stress this job can cause you. The book is written by someone who was in one of the counter-terrorism units. Israel has one of the most elite counter-terrorism units in the world and this book shows you what it is like to be in one of these units.

The book talks about Aaron Cohen's life when he was a kid. He had divorced parents and his mom married a rich film producer. He lived with his mom, but one year he went to live with his dad because his dad would give him a Bar Mitzvah and his mom would not (And every Jewish boy needs a Bar Mitzvah). He never got attention at home when he was with his mom and was always bad and acting out, so his mom sent him to military school. At military school he learned about the Israeli military and their special force units and he decided that is what he will do. When he turned 18 he moved to Israel and every person in Israel when they turn 18 has to join the military. When he got there he worked hard and then he did not make the special force team he wanted to because he was not born in Israel, but he gets an offer from a counter-terrorism unit and accepts. He works hard for over a year and then makes it on the team and goes on really cool missions to make Israel a safer place.

This book is AWESOME! The book is a true story. This book is an autobiography. This book really shows how hard it is to be in a counter-terrorism unit in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force). It shows how hard you have to train your body and mind for this book. I recommend reading this book as soon as you can. This book is for people who want to learn more about Israeli Special force units or the military in general. I loved this book!

Elliott Bagg says

A lot of this book is similar to books I've read by Navy SEALs and their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, following the author's upbringing, the grueling training, the conflict the soldier participates in and the after effects of living this type of life. But this is set in Israel, and has a flavor you will not find among titles written by US soldiers. We may live in fear from 9/11, they live with terrorism as an every day reality that we cannot imagine. This book does a great job in describing what that reality is like, if you're interested in military history and/or current events in the Middle East, this is a great book!

Andreas J. Bendzin says

Anyone who is interested in how Israeli counter terrorism groups operate will enjoy this book. Not only does the training of the Navy SEALs pale in comparison (Israelis do not have to worry about political correctness and legality as long as it prepares the contestants for the job ahead of them), but it shows how completely inadequate the training of American police and security personal is when it comes to combating terrorists, whether they are jihadis or not. If the rating would allow for 0.5 I would have given it a 3.5 only because of wide spread use of bad language. But then, it is to be expected in this kind of environment.

Gage McNally says

I decided to read this book after hearing Arnon on an interview over the radio. The book *Brotherhood of Warriors* by Aaron Cohen is an inspiring nonfiction memoir about Aaron joining one of the most elite Israel armed forces, the commandos. The book not only shows you the life they live on the battlefield but what they

deal with in there time off. The book immediately starts off with a normal day and a huge attack on a local mall. This book also doesn't just show the rough tough times but the times they have fun. The military unit does a exercise where they go around following their men when they are not working and without them knowing try and kid nap them. It keeps them on there toes and shows you that in the military, you do take your work home. He also does not just tell you the things he enjoyed about the military but what was bad as well. I decided to read this book after joker one because i enjoyed it so much. The author does a great job depicting the thoughts that go through your head as your working. I can imagine if i was serving it would be so hard to block out thoughts of my family and friends. Both in this book and in Joker one they stress that you cant think about anything but focusing on the enemy. I would recommend this book to someone who enjoys nonfiction war stories.

Vanessa says

A very unique true story about an American Jew, who heads to Israel voluntarily to join the Israeli army. Focuses a lot of the mental side of the training but very interesting

Avi Eisenman says

I was disappointed with the writing. The book describes events in a matter-of-fact manner. At no point did I feel like I was immersed in the author's story from his perspective.

That said, the book was worth reading for the interesting inside information on how Israeli special forces are trained and how they run their missions. It also contained some interesting tidbits of Israeli history.
