

THEODORE ROOSEVELT DEDICATED his famous book, *African Game Trails* (1910), “To Kermit Roosevelt, my side partner in our great adventure.” Kermit, then 20 years old, was a Harvard student who took a year off from his studies to accompany his father on the African safari that attracted world attention.

Kermit later accompanied his father on his expedition down the River of Doubt, chronicled in the book *Through The Brazilian Wilderness* (1914). On this trip the former president nearly died of illness and Kermit suffered some of the malaria attacks that plagued him throughout his life. Kermit took many of the photographs used to illustrate both the African and Brazilian

books. The closeness of his relationship with his father is detailed in *Letters to Kermit from Theodore Roosevelt*, published in 1946.

Explorer, author, officer under two flags in two wars, linguist, big game hunter—all of these describe Major Kermit Roosevelt who died in Alaska in 1943 while serving in the American army during World War II. Weakened by chronic ailments related to his lifetime of adventure, he died in his sleep at the age of 53.

Kermit, in typical Roosevelt fashion, couldn’t wait to get into action in World War I. He served with the British in Mesopotamia and was awarded the British Military Cross for gallantry. He later served as a captain with the American 1st Division in the latter part of the Meuse-Argonne struggle. In World War II, he served with the British and participated in the capture of Narvik during their campaign in Norway in the early part of the war. Discharged and sent home because of illness, he used his strong political connections to get back into the American army despite his advancing age and poor health.

Between the wars, Kermit and his brother, Theodore, embarked on major expeditions, hunting and seeking scientific specimens, in the Pamirs and in western China. These are described in two co-authored books about which I wrote in my Fall, 1999 *Fair Chase* article about Theodore Roosevelt.

Kermit Roosevelt was Secretary of the Boone and Crockett Club during 1917-18 and from 1920 through 1937. He was President during 1937-1940. While away at war he was named Honorary President for Life. Unfortunately, like his brother, Theodore, also a war hero, illness claimed his life at an early age. ▲▲▲



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BOOKS BY KERMIT ROOSEVELT
War in the Garden of Eden (1919)
The Happy Hunting Grounds (1920)
Quentin Roosevelt, A Sketch with Letters (1921)
The Long Trail (1921)
Cleared for Strange Ports (1927) by Kermit and other family members.
American Backlogs (1928) by Kermit and his mother, Edith.
BOOKS BY KERMIT & THEODORE ROOSEVELT
East of the Sun and West of Moon (1926)
Trailing the Giant Panda (1929)

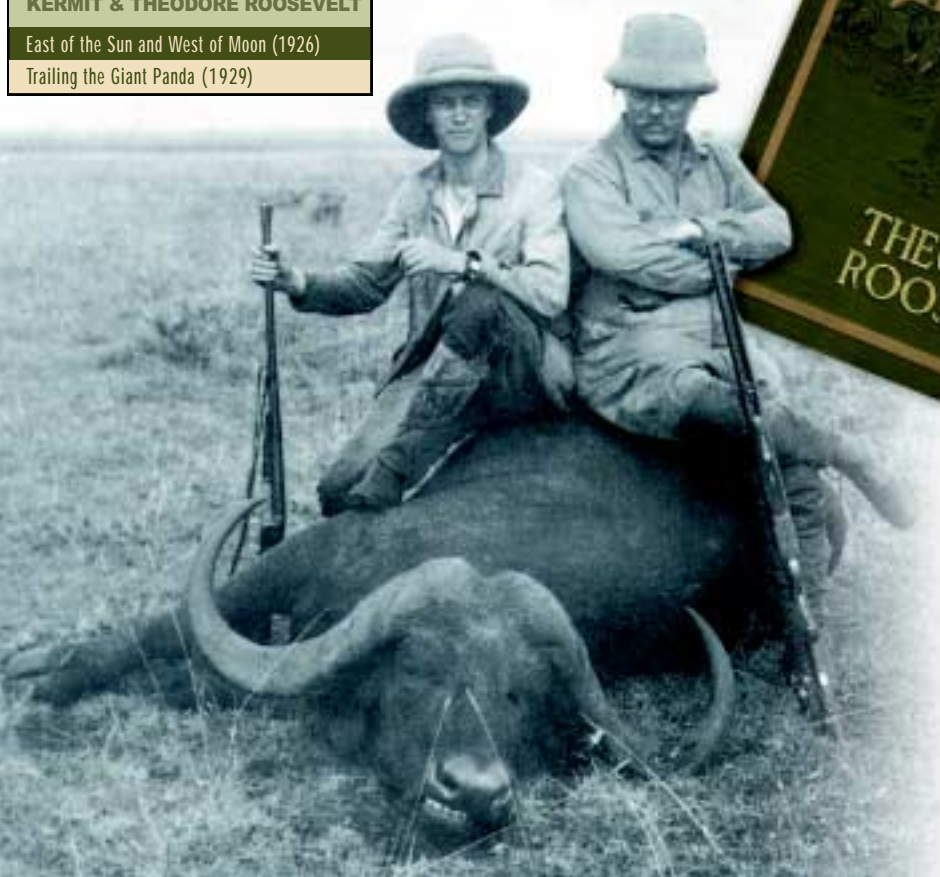


Image of Mr. Roosevelt and Kermit with the first buffalo, taken from the pages of *African Game Trails*.