

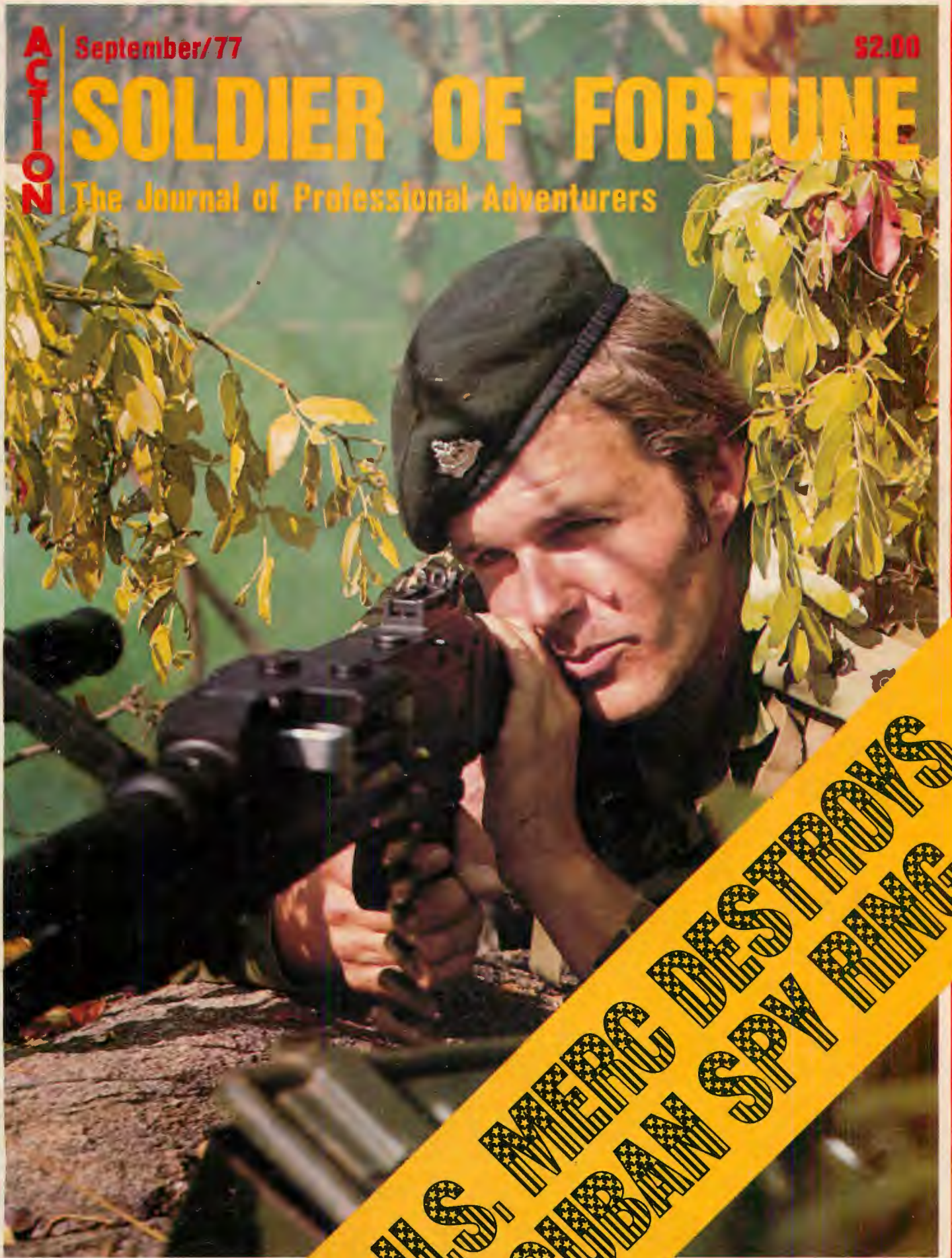
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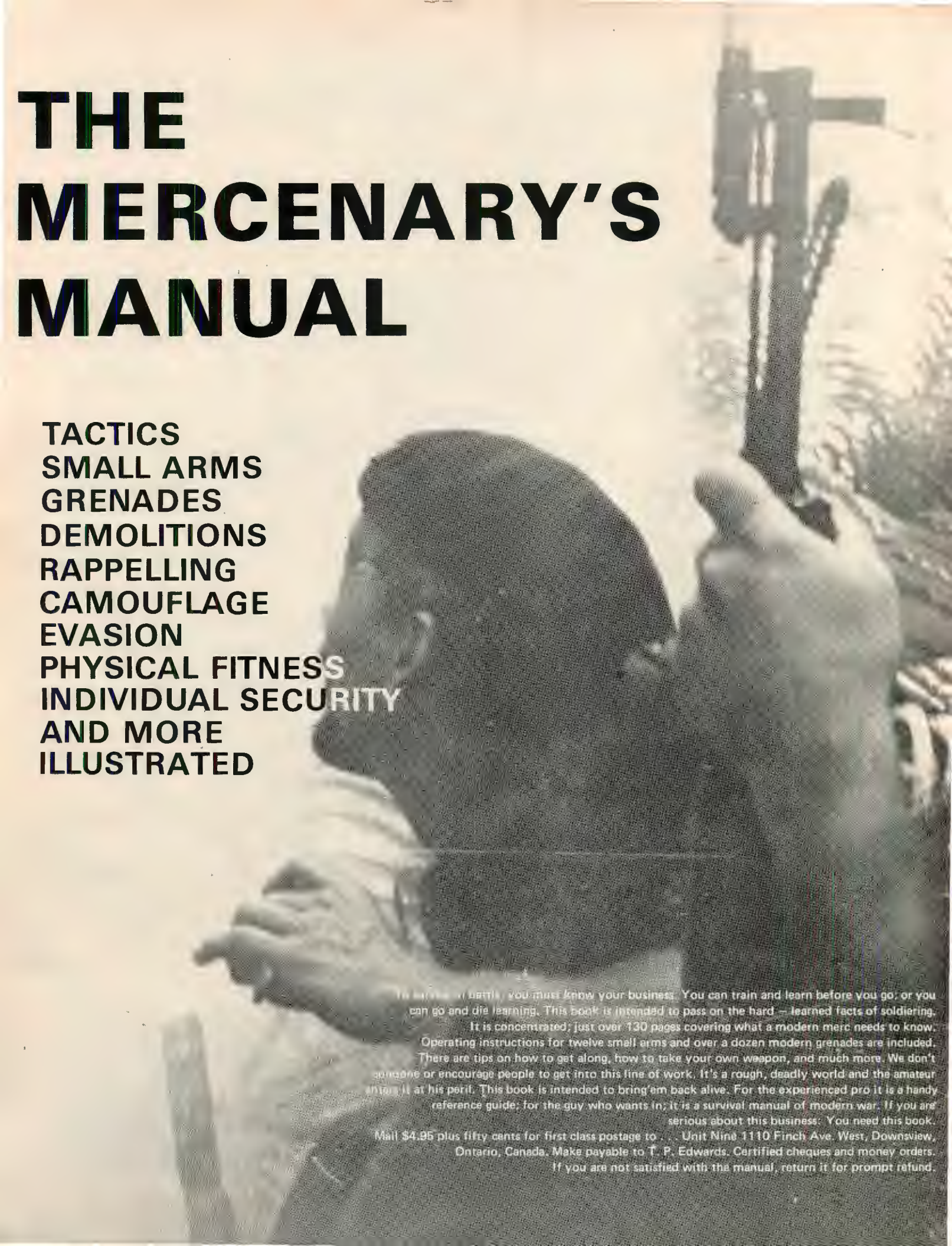
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SOLDIER of FORTUNE

The Journal of Professional Adventurers



Table of Contents

Full Auto	Chuck Taylor	6
Flak		9
Steele On Knives	David Steele	12
In Review		14
Bulletin Board		16
Terrain & Situation	Jerry Ahern	20
Betrayal in Vietnam	Review by David Harris	23
American Merc Destroys Cuban Espionage Ring	LTC Robert K. Brown	25
Rhodesia—"Castle Keep"	Thomas MacGregor	28
Operation Linebacker II - Part I	Dana Drankowski	32
SOF Exposes International Rip-Off	N.E. Mac Dougald	38
Tigers of Korea	Hampton Brady, Jr.	40
R-76 Submachine Gun	LTC Robert K. Brown	42
M-16: Terror or Toy	Chuck Taylor	46
U.S. Gun Ban	Gene Crum	50
Mike Echanis — A Modern Master of Ancient Skills	Art Gitlin	51
Sentry Removal	Mike Echanis & Art Gitlin	52
SOF, Special Forces & Goretex	N.E. MacDougald	54



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FULL AUTO

By Chuck Taylor

Automatic Weapons, one of the most fascinating of all firearm fields, still remains the most misunderstood. Indeed, the technical and practical expert of conventional weaponry often shakes his head helplessly when intelligently questioned about machine guns. Moreover, even the average soldier/adventurer entertains some ideas about "squirt guns," that reflect fuzzy or erroneous thinking. I find the latter to be most evident in the categories of concept/mismission, and practical employment of machine guns, no matter what their type.

While it is true that automatic weapons marksmanship is totally different from conventional small arms techniques, the fact is that effective use of auto arms is the result of the same careful synthesis of weapons' requirements and the simplest, most efficient method of meeting those requirements, as is found with *any* other weapon. In other words, voodoo and alchemy have nothing to do with the subject.

Most adventurers, whether they be mercs or regular soldiers, do not understand the mission that specific automatic weapons are designed to fulfill. Here the unfortunate and too-often-fatal problem of "using the wrong tool for the job" arises. There cannot be a more nightmarish feeling than to realize the inadequacy of one's weapon in combat.

I am frequently asked about the effort required to attain and subsequently retain adequate skill with an automatic weapon. Many express amazement and some even complete disbelief when I advise them that many auto weapons, the submachine gun for example, are easier to learn to handle efficiently than most handguns.

Recently, after receiving several disbelieving responses to this last statement, I illustrated my point with the assistance of a young woman present at one of my SMG-firing demonstrations. She had never used a firearm in her life, but after a 30 minute instructional session, was able to place 17 of 20 shots on a B-27 silhouette target at 25 meters with an M1928 Thompson!

My experience with machine guns has always been in a practical vein. We all know "technical experts," who can tell you how many screws there are in an M1919A6 Browning, but are at a total



loss when asked how the weapon is employed, the best methods of handling, and most important, its effectiveness against an enemy under combat conditions.

Realistically, only a combat veteran, with practical experience in the field can tell you which weapons system of a given category is the most suitable, because he has used and observed the use of many such weapons systems in life-and-death situations, and is qualified to evaluate the results. It is to this concept that my column is dedicated, because the machine gun, in its varied forms, is the backbone of the soldier/adventurer's armament and is the very means of his survival.

It is also my intention that the information given to SOF readers here will enhance their practical knowledge of this highly specialized and diversified field of small arms and, perhaps, because of their resultant choice of arms, enhance their chances of survival in a combat situation. At the same time, the experiences, opinions, and observations of readers are solicited, since no individual is so knowledgeable on any subject that he cannot learn something from others.

**Beware of Phony M-2
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For some time now, a number of companies have been advertising, usually at a cost of between \$8-\$10, muzzle brakes for use on the caliber .30M1, M1A1, and M-2 carbines. These are not original GI muzzle brakes; rather, they are foreign-made reproductions that are completely unsatisfactory for use on the ubiquitous carbine.

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continued on page 67

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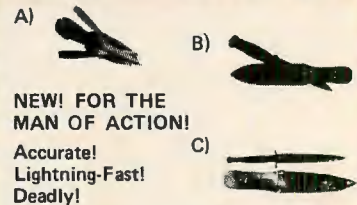
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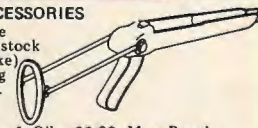
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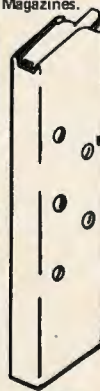
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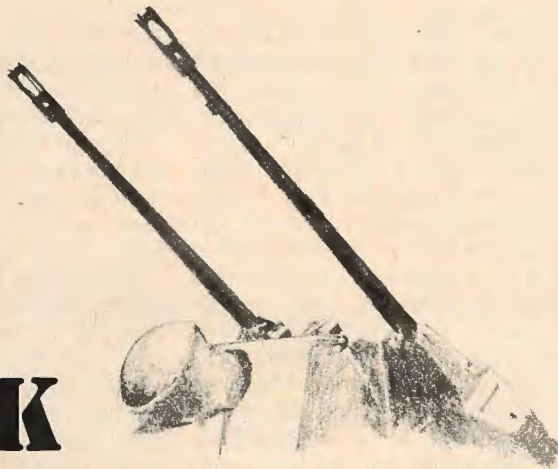
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FLAK



Dear Mr. Brown:

I have received your letter and your money order international last week. Thank you very much for this thing. I have a great emotion to know you and to see that you have good heart to save us in this story. In this time, the poverty and destitution of our people are the greatest in the world. I can't escape alone and find happiness in front of the barbarity of the Indochina communists who kill without pity. Please. I ask you to save Khmer people. Your words in your letter please me a lot.

I have sent some documents to Mr. Reisinger. There is some information I have gotten from a cameraman who worked for the Communists, but now he has escaped to Thailand. These documents are in Khmer language. I have already given a copy to Mr. Reisinger to look for someone who can translate it to the English language and to give you a series. I also send you a photograph of mine for our friendship. This photograph was taken during the birthday of the "Journey of the Childhood" in camp Lumphak, Prasat, Surin, Thailand.

Would you accept my safety salute with all my thanks for you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Chhing Nam Yeang
Camp Lumphak Prasat
Surin, Thailand

Dear Sir:

Your magazine continues to improve, and I found the last issue entertaining in its entirety. I particularly found Jerry Ahern's article on the MAC Stinger interesting and accurate, because I bought the last 516 at the bankruptcy auction, and have them for sale to police departments and licensed class 3 (machine gun) or class 6 ("any other weapon") dealers. There is only one green one, and about a half dozen gold ones, and I would like to keep these for souvenirs, but the black anodized ones are for sale as I advertised in the Sept. and Oct. Shotgun News. I also have 408 MAC 10/45 SMGs, 175 matching suppressors and about 418 suppressors for MAC 10/9 mm. guns. Perhaps Jerry Ahern would be interested in doing an article on these handy little weapons. The four that I have tried have

functioned flawlessly. Incidentally, a friend said that Uziel Gal told him on the telephone that the Israelis had taken MAC 10s into Entebbe rather than his Uzis. It would seem to have been a good choice. The MAC 10 is much more compact for transport in the aircraft, and with matching suppressors they seem to have kept the noise level down so that people in town were not alerted in time to interfere with the work at the airport. It is a shame that the bureaucrats were able to force the dismantling of Military Armament Corp. The time just might come when this country will have need of such weapons, and find precious few available since I have been told that most have already been exported.

I was happy that WerBell was able to defend himself against the bureaucrats, and thoroughly enjoyed your account of the trial. Unfortunately, not many of us could afford the legal expenses of defending ourselves against such charges, particularly when combined with the withholding of evidence and intimidation of witnesses.

Keep up the good work. I am looking forward to the next issue.

L.A. Erbele, M.D.
P.O. Box 4648
Macon, Georgia
31208

Dear Sirs:

I would like to take this opportunity to **WARN** all S.O.F. readers and other pilots of the **Aviator Magazine** rip-off. Their ad appeared in the Winter '77 issue, pg. 76. I mailed them a subscription 12-13-76 and have never received a publication. They have also failed to answer my inquiry.

You guys at S.O.F. are doing a great job. I've just recently submitted my second year's subscription to **Soldier of Fortune**. Keep up the excellent work.

Terry Wells
Middletown, OH

We were contacted by a representative of Aviator Magazine, requesting permission to reprint an SOF article and agreed to trade advertising space. We published their ad; they apparently never went to press. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused our readers.

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Dear Sir:

Thanks for your letter of Dec. 28 implying denial that SOF is a CIA tool. If it is not, why not say so outright?

Since I received it, I read a reliable report that says that the polygraph is not very reliable nor used legally: that its only real use is as a tool to obtain confessions, to guide inquisitors.

Your publication looks extraordinarily healthy for its audience, and appeared to spring full-blown, slick, and robust as a major national weekly from the brow, as in that Greek myth — as if you'd had long experience in that field — you and your staff!

I'd like to see you say in print: (and signed) "Neither I, nor SOF, nor anyone now or ever connected with SOF, has ever received monies originating with the CIA, or dispensed at the CIA's original direction, for the purpose of financing any part or all of SOF." *R. K. Brown*

J.C.F.
Hampton, N.H.

O.K., you win. Note my signature above. However, now is the time to admit all—the CIA has two subscriptions to SOF! Of course, if we were a CIA cover, we never could admit it, could we? (heh, heh, heh)

Dear Col. Brown:

I read with interest the winter issue of Soldier of Fortune as I do all the issues of your magazine. I would like to point out a

very blatant error on page # 71 at the end of Mr. Mike Schiff's article, "Terror in Beirut". It appears that as the editor and publisher of an internationally known and respected magazine, you printed information furnished to you that is not true.

On Sunday Jan. 4, 1976, Mr. Schiff contacted our communications center, identified himself, and stated that he had found fresh footprints in the snow next to his car, a 1974 Mustang. He stated that he feared that a bomb may have been put in the car because of the Anti-Arab articles he had written. Two Bomb Technicians were sent to his home, where his car was thoroughly searched. There was no dynamite found in, on or around his car. The only crime that had been committed and was very evident, was that Mr. Schiff's Citizen's Band radio had been stolen from his car, and that apparently accounts for the fresh footprints in the snow. The reason that I have written to Soldier of Fortune is the exact same reason that Mr. Schiff gave; "Soldier of Fortune is factual and has the guts to print the truth."

Sgt. S. R.
Cook County Police
Bomb Squad Supervisor
Chicago, Ill

Dear Colonel Brown:

Sheila A. Gearhart, widow of Daniel F. Gearhart, was in my office this morning and the subject of the article which your magazine published some months ago

was discussed. I am happy to state that the appeal that the magazine made has resulted in her receiving from various subscribers to your publication somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000.

This has been a big help to her since her husband left her little in the way of funds and with four children it has been extremely difficult to make ends meet.

There is an expectation that certain insurance funds will be payable to her, but as of this date these have not been paid.

She indicates, also, that for some reason she is still receiving requests from individuals who believe that her late husband was some sort of recruiting officer for or on behalf of countries who are looking for mercenaries. She is returning them unopened and has asked me if at all possible there could be some mention made in your magazine that individuals who are interested in this kind of thing should contact someone else.

Many thanks.
John J. Toomey
Attorney At Law
513 State National Bank Bldg.
10400 Conn. Ave.
Kensington, MD 20795

Thanks to all our subscribers for their generous assistance to Gearhart's widow. Anyone who wishes to donate can forward a check to Sheila Gearhart at the above address.

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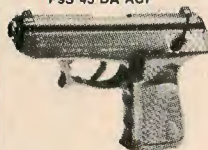
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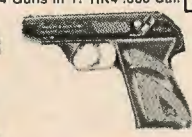
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Dear Sir:

Some time ago, I heard of **Soldier of Fortune** in **Newsweek**. I have always had an interest in mercenary soldiering, so I sent off for a sample issue. I was so impressed that I signed up for a subscription. I have read the past few issues with much interest.

I have noticed that you have mentioned several organizations that have tried to recruit for mercenary-type work, some of which have turned out to be phonies. I am presently a tank platoon leader in an Armor battalion in Germany, and after my commitment to the Army is over, in a bit over two years, I might like to be a mercenary. I think that it is never too early to begin investigating the field. I would appreciate any advice that you could give me, as well as anyone I could contact. Over the next two years, I would like to build up a network of contacts and information in the mercenary field. Thanks very much for your help and advice.

J.M.J.
APO NY

As mentioned in an earlier issue, opportunities for mercs are few and far between. The Rhodesian Security Forces are seeking qualified personnel, but this is not typical merc work. An American joining the Rhodesian forces would be treated much the same as a Rhodesian joining the U.S. Army - same pay allowances, equipment, chow and weapons.

Dear Editor:

Do you know what I'm going to do with the nice Rhodesian Army recruiting poster I just received for renewing? I work near the University of Chicago (a hotbed of "anti-racists"), so I'm going to post it on campus with the following typed addition: "NOTE: Mr. Harrison Phelps will be at the Administration Building to answer your questions on 15 February, 1977, 2 P.M."

R. Kjarval
Chicago, IL

Other readers have indicated they have engaged in similar "pot-stirring." Let's give a few ulcers to the hypocrites in the U.N. and the State Department.

Gentlemen:

Regarding an article in your Fall 1976 edition of SOF on snakebite; this is an article which should be of interest to most of your readers, but one which should be corrected on some points.

- 1) NO snake will attack without provocation, as was indicated in the article.
- 2) Tourniquets, ligatures, and constriction bands are all ineffective. They have never been proven to have saved even one human life; they have been proven to INCREASE the amount of local tissue destruction; and to release a tight tourniquet, instead of saving a bleeding limb from

death, will most likely produce shock, and death may occur.

- 3) Cryotherapy is probably the leading cause of amputation following snakebite. Cold itself has never been shown to reduce damage from snakebite, and if this treatment is carried too far, frostbite and gangrene may result.
- 4) Cutting of any form is to be avoided. Most snake venoms thin the blood, hence cutting increases blood loss. Cutting also increases chances of infection, and chances of damage to nerves, muscles, tendons, veins, and arteries. Lastly, cutting is ineffective, as most authorities feel that only from 4% to 30% of the venom may be removed.
- 5) When the layman is treating a snakebite, the question of degree arises. The point is that in a situation of stress, a snakebite victim might become carried away in his treatment, and do untold damage.
- 6) Since snake venom is one of the most complex poisons known to man, it is ridiculous to assume that a snake bite may be effectively treated with a piece of cord, a rubber suction cup, and a razor blade, which is really all a snakebite kit consists of.
- 7) Antivenin is the only true cure for snakebite. Mr. Kohler correctly

continued on page 59

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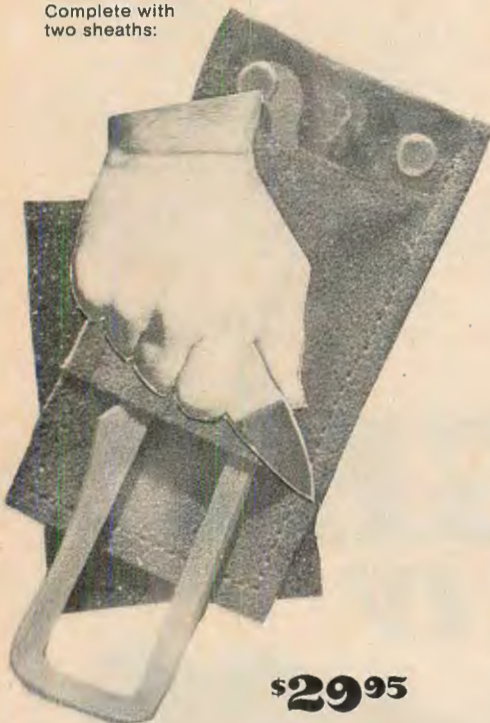
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STEELE ON KNIVES



Q. Like many Americans these days, I use a boot knife. Since weapons of this type usually have a small, thin handle, I'm sure that many users, including myself, are concerned about having the hand slip over the guard onto the blade when a thrust has been made. My question is this: how much resistance to a blade can be expected from the human body — excluding contact with a bone.

At present, I use a Bone Model N. The blade is well designed, but the handle is wholly inadequate. Perhaps an epoxy-coated fishing line grip will solve the problem; I don't know yet. I do know, however, that it's a great comfort even as it is.

C. N., LaPuente, C.

A. The cardinal rule in knife fighting is *Murphy's Law*: If something can possibly go wrong, it will. Assume that to thrust into your opponent, you will have to penetrate boot, belt, pack strap, heavy clothes, or any of a number of other obstructions. Back in 1865, when one of the Booth conspirators tried to cut the throat of Secretary of State Seward, he was prevented from doing so by a neck brace Seward was wearing from an earlier injury.

In addition to clothing resistance, there is also some provided by the skin (tissue) itself, which may prevent the blade from severing an artery or from reaching a vital organ. Semi-scientific tests could be conducted on pork rind gelatin or sides of beef to measure this kind of resistance, as tests have been conducted on pistol bullets; but so far I know of no such tests having been conducted. In any case, it is common knowledge that for thrusting, the best knife design has a sharp, strong point and usually a quillon. Double-edged stilettoes have very sharp points, but they often do not have enough support behind the point to keep it from breaking or bending on bone, heavy clothing or gear. The triangular blade, as used on the M-1917 and M-1918 trench knives as well as boot knives by Anselmo and Dennehy, is an excellent thrusting design with a sharp point and good support, although it does have the drawbacks of being hard to sharpen and not

having a "working" edge. A quillon is useful for protecting the hand from running onto the blade, although finger grooves or a nonslip handle finish can serve the same purpose. The best way to check if your knife is good for thrusting is to see if it will penetrate the sidewall of a tire, quickly and without danger to the hand.

The Bone Model N is basically a throwing knife, most of which have small, unbreakable (usually solid) handles. The Bone Model B stiletto with 5-inch blade makes a better boot knife. The fact is, many boot knives are easier to conceal than they are to grab or hold onto when your hands are sweaty and nervous. In addition to the Bone Model B, you might check out the boot knives made by Randall, Gerber, Lile, Crawford, or Cooper.

Q. I have just ordered your book and know it will be informative, but it may not contain part of the information I want. I have just ordered the new Gerber Mark I knife to be used as a boot knife. I work law enforcement patrols alone most of the time out in the desert. Do you feel this new knife is a good useful fighting tool? Do you know anyone that makes an under-the-shirt back sheath?

I feel that a knife is a good defense weapon for close-in work. Your book may cover the topic, but where are the best places to strike a knife (4 ⅞-inch blade) in order to do the job quickly, quietly, efficiently?

R.B., Lake Havasu, Ariz.

A. The Gerber Mark I is an excellent boot knife, the best made by a factory (my opinion). It was not out when I wrote *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting*. Its blade is double-edged and the right length (4-5 inches) for a boot knife. Its sheath is the best design I've come across lately, with a Bianchi-style fast draw thumb snap, slick interior, and strong boot clip. I also like its nonslip aluminum handle, not too big to conceal and not too small to hold onto, with a good double quillon.

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If you are facing your opponent, and he is defending himself, you will probably have to cut his hands before you can go for a vital target. Once you are inside his defenses, the best places to go for are the throat and the stomach. If you are behind your opponent or you have caught him unawares, the best choice of targets in terms of quickness of death are: heart, subclavian artery (hard to reach, below collar bone), or carotid artery, followed by the other major arteries. However, practically speaking, you will probably thrust into the stomach, neck, or kidney (from the rear) before going for the other targets. When coming from the rear, Applegate recommends going for the kidney first, while Fairbairn recommends thrusting into the side of the neck. I knew one fellow who dispatched a sentry by reaching around from behind and thrusting into the heart, but he chipped his knife point on bone going in and had to jam his blunted knife in the hard way.

Q. In regards to the letter in Winter 1976 SOF, regarding use of large bowies and schools in New York that teach knife fighting, there is a man named Charles Nelson who operates a small school on the upper west side of Manhattan. He is quite remarkable, in that his course is geared to self-defense not sport martial arts. No less remarkable is Charles Nelson's background. He joined the Marine Corps in 1934 and studied under a certain Major Biddle. He landed on Guadalcanal in 1942 and afterward was bayonet combat instructor for the corps.

As for schools that teach knife work, I suggest the Philippine arts of Kali and Escrima. Sticks, blades, or empty hand are all taught. At present, there is at least one of these school in California around Stockton.

Knives of various types are also taught in some Chinese fighting styles. However, they tend to be more flowery than practical.

C.R.R., Illinois

A. The question of where to go for knife training is one that we will return to again and again. If a person is fortunate enough to be located near a school of Kali, by all means he should join. Cali-

continued on page 63

Under Arm Protection



Don't laugh! This is Under Arm Protection that does not wear off. It lasts as long as you wear it, in fact. It's discreet, ready in the clutch and reliable. The knife is light, has a 3½" stainless blade which is shaped for light cleaning and skinning as well as for defensive purposes. Rubber-coated handle has skeleton construction and is stipled for extra sure grip. Finger cutouts on blade and handle permit you to hold the knife firmly just the way you need to.

The knife comes with a lanyard and a sheath designed by Blackie Collins. The sheath has a rectangular back, so it won't slide around inside your coat or in your back pocket. It fits over the belt for customary wear or, for a quick draw, in the upside-down position (retaining strap keeps the knife from falling out, of course). With the extra velcro that we supply you this knife becomes a boot knife, too.

The best place to wear this knife, like the name suggests, is under your arm by using our newly designed shoulder rig. The cotton and leather harness is secured comfortably around the shoulders which keeps it out of sight. The knife hangs upside down which makes for a quick retort to attack. It's good protection. Under your arm and out of sight! ORDER No. UAP-1. \$12.95 each.

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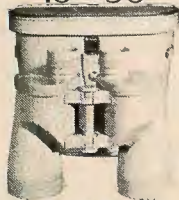
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IN REVIEW



The Gun Owner's Political Action Manual, by Alan M. Gottlieb, paperback, \$1.95 each; 3 copies \$5.00; 10 copies \$12.50. Green Hill Publishers, P.O. Box 738, Ottawa, IL 61350.

One of the legacies of over 40 years of Liberal control of the American schools is a citizenry nearly incapable of constructive involvement in the nation's political life. Gun owners are at least as flaccid toward these duties as any other portion of the national majority. As a result, the United States is now at the point of change—change from a free nation to an enslaved society, disarmed, economically dislocated, and very likely destined to toil merely to fulfill the ambitions of a Godless elite.

Alan M. Gottlieb, Executive Director of the potent "Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms"—part of the so-called "gun lobby"—has done his duty by producing an inexpensive paperback book intended to guide patriots just beginning their civic duties. Gottlieb's book, called: **The Gun Owner's Political Action Manual**, is an elementary text on how to get involved—and how to be effective.

The **Manual** covers such basics as how to make your opinion felt both through your vote and through contact with public officials, how to team with others and put some real muscle into the fight, how to deal with media, how to testify before a legislative body, and how to work in the political process with pro-gun organizations.

Gottlieb also has included a reference section which lists pro-gun organizations (including state groups), pro-gun publications, columnists and writers, and also, books, pamphlets and articles covering the pro-gun viewpoint, the voting records of congressmen on the gun bills, a list of major anti-gun groups, and various historic U. S. documents.

Gottlieb regards his book as unfinished, and in a sense, he is correct. However, a 40-mile forced march is also not finished until all 40 miles are covered. Gottlieb has given us a free ride for the first several miles. That makes his book worth buying. Do it, and fight.

The Hit Team by David B. Binnin with Dag Christensen; published by Little, Brown and Co., 240 pages, \$9.95, hardback.

There is no totally satisfactory way of defining 'terror.' However there are many ways to categorize terrorism by types, either terror against a state, aimed at toppling it or its government, or terrorism conducted in defense of a government.

The Hit Team begins with a detailed and attention-riveting account of the kidnapping of a portion of the Israeli Olympic team by Palestinian (specifically Black September) terrorists during the 1972 Munich games. This rescue attempt (an example of the latter type of terrorism) made at a German airport, failed and nine hostages, four guerrillas, one police officer, and one helicopter pilot died in the onslaught.

To discourage, in a definitive manner, further terrorist efforts by its foes, the government of Israel authorized its highly efficient intelligence service (the Mossad) to set up killer teams for the purpose of tracking down and murdering the surviving perpetrators of the Munich kidnapping. One by one, in Europe and the Mideast, twelve persons were hunted and killed. A secret war of the spooks was on; Palestinian terrorists also did their hunting, and a number of Israelis died, including the air attache in Washington.

The man the Israelis wanted most, however, continued to elude them. He was Ali Hassan Saleme, a top planner in Black September. The search for Saleme was given the operational name, "The Chase for the Red Prince."

The Hit Team describes, step-by-step, how the Mossad followed a trail to the little Norwegian town of Lillehammer. What happened there would become a significant milestone in the history of terrorism. Some readers recall what occurred there, but for those who don't, this reviewer will not give the end away.

Fictional accounts of police and espionage adventures in books and on TV today frequently follow documentary styles. **The Hit Team**, an actual documentary, is as fascinating as most fictional adventures. For someone who couldn't

continued on page 72



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Bulletin Board

BUDDHIST SUICIDES . . .

The Melbourne News Weekly of Sept. 22, 1976 reported the immolations of several Buddhists.

Three Buddhist monks and nine nuns immolated themselves in Vietnam, in protest against Communist persecution, the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam has reported.

The Church's delegation in Paris released the news, together with a letter sent by the President of the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam, Thich Thi Thu, to the Communist authorities in Saigon.

Thu said the 12 Buddhists had decided to commit suicide after receiving orders from local officials to stop displaying Buddhist flags, praying for war victims, and observing "religious silence."

The party cadres had ordered the Buddhists to "eat and talk normally so as to learn the ways of the revolution," to expound the great, glorious and historic victory of the revolution, and to participate in the political activities of revolutionary organizations.

A spokesman for the Buddhist mission in Paris told journalists that, since news of the deaths came to their attention, the mission had made several attempts to contact the Vietnamese Embassy in Paris.

However, they were turned away.

The mission purposely refrained from publicizing the mass suicide, in the hope that there would be a change of attitude by the Communists.

"It does not seem that such a change has come about," a spokesman said, "and we have no alternative but to draw public attention to this tragedy."

BROWN AND CASTRO . . .

Several readers have requested a clarification of the editor/publisher involvement with Fidel Castro's 26th of July Movement. Brown helped organize an "anti-Batista" movement at the University of Colorado in the spring of 1958. He visited Cuba in '58, '59, and '60. Upon his return, having been convinced that the Castro regime was taking a pro-communist line, he began working with anti-Castro elements in a variety of ways.

SAIGON SCENE . . .

The power of rumor — even the most insubstantial kind — can never be underrated in present-day Vietnam. The Saigon press continues to devote a considerable amount of space to denying rumors and, in a rather curious way, this reveals something of the pre-occupations of the new regime. Among the most frequently denied rumors are the following:

— Rice stocks have been depleted and the country is on the verge of famine.

— The new currency which replaced the South Vietnamese piaster notes is valueless because it is not backed by gold.

— Conditions in the new "economic zones" are appallingly harsh and painful.

— Former Air Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky has returned from America and presently heads the anti-communist resistance being carried on in South Vietnam.

The Marshal Ky rumor is interesting as an example of communist propaganda techniques. A widely-believed rumor in South Vietnam is that General Ngo Quang Truong has returned to lead the armed resistance. General Truong, a longtime critic of ex-President Thieu, is widely respected for his ability, personal courage and honesty, which makes it very difficult for the Communists to attack him on personal grounds. Instead, they have chosen to modify this rumor and to attack the more vulnerable Nguyen Cao Ky. Moreover, they can easily prove their own rumor to be inaccurate because Ky makes frequent public appearances in the U.S. which are usually widely reported in the American press.

BRIT. MERCS . . .

Relatives of British mercs imprisoned in Angola report, "Our Letters and food parcels are not reaching the boys and they are very depressed." The British government promised to put pressure on the Angolan government but has not done anything.

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HELP RHODESIA . . .

How can funds be sent to Rhodesia? Contributions to assist Rhodesia in her struggle against Communist terrorists can be sent to: The Border Fund, c/o Lady Graham, Private Bay 309B, Salisbury, Rhodesia; or to: The Terrorist Victims' Relief Fund, P.O. Box 3897, Salisbury, Rhodesia. Let's give Rhodesia a hand. Send whatever you can spare—and then some!

ACCURACY IN MEDIA . . .

One of the most significant newsletters to come across our desks is the AIM Report published by Accuracy in Media (AIM), 777 14th St., N.W., Suite 427, Washington, D.C. 20005. The purpose of AIM is to serve as a watchdog on the news media—to explore the news media when it willfully slants the news and information programming. Should a publication refuse to present the whole truth after a correction request, AIM selects an appropriate publicity vehicle to assure that the public is informed. For instance, AIM purchased ad space in the NY News World because the NY Times and the Washington Post refused to carry an AIM—placed ad criticizing the Post's failure to reveal that an ex-Chilean foreign minister received \$5000 from Communist Cuba to support his propaganda activities in the U.S.

SPECIAL FORCES CONVENTION . . .

All Special Forces members, past and present, and all units officially listed on the 1st SF lineage are invited. Convention will be held 1 July to 4 July 1977 at Atlantis Beach Lodge, 900 N. Atlantis Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Fl. Call 1-305-783-9430 for reservations. Cost is \$30 per person for all drinks for two nights and dinner at Inaugural Ball. Tickets may be purchased by sending check or money order to: Special Forces Association, Box 35173, Fayetteville, NC 28303.

RHODESIAN CONTACT . . .

Write to Inspector A. J. Crossley, British South Africa Police (BSAP), General Headquarters, P.O. Box 8007, Causeway, Rhodesia, for information on BSAP. Inspector Crossley, in a recent letter to one of our subscribers, notes, "I must point out that the role of the policeman in this country is not quite the same as that of the policeman in the U.S. We all have a commitment to the security of the country, and as such we are all trained in . . . counterinsurgency. Not every policeman is called upon for anti-terrorist duties, but at the same time, I can give no guarantee that, should you join us, you would not be called upon to perform such duties."

CAMBODIAN INFO . . .

ANGOR WAT, A Cambodian—English Newsletter published by the Cambodian Religious Cultural Association can be obtained from Lek Sam Owen, 5100 8th Street South, #201, Arlington, VA 22204. Our first issue points that, "If a purpose of the U.N. is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms—charges have been made that these rights . . . have been presently violated by Cambodia, a U.N. member—then is the world body to remain silent over the violations of the principles, the purposed and the Charter of the U.N.?"

MERC OP . . .

On 16 January, 80 to 100 mercs invaded the Marxist-Leninist country of Benin, formerly known as Dahomey, in a four-engine prop-driven transport. After a wild, three-hour battle to seize the presidential palace, the invaders casually retreated, holding their rifles by the barrels, and stopped by an office building for drinks. Captured documents indicated that operation was financed by more than \$1,000,000 U.S., not including cost of weapons.

AMIN AND YOUNG . . .

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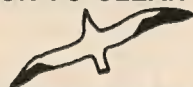
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NEW HIDEOUT KNIFE. . .

Knives are a subject that ought to be placed in the same category as religion and politics. Don't try to discuss them with your friends, IF you wish to keep them as friends. It seems that every man, woman or child who has ever owned or used a good knife is an expert, and doesn't mind letting you know about it. If you don't believe that, just ask around at any gathering, "Say, do you know anything about knives?"

Well, expert or not, here's some information on a spiffy new knife, which goes under the unlikely name of Skin-Doo. Like so many other knives on the market, it is designed for one use, but has some compromise built into it. The Skin-Doo, intended as a backup fighting knife, looks like a short-bladed, drop-point skinner. The blade and cutout handle are of one piece. A finger notch in the sand-blast-finished handle helps in maintaining a good grip.

Overall length of the Skin-Doo is 5 inches. At the base of the handle, the blade is 15/16 inch wide and 1 7/8 inches long. Hollow-ground, the blade holds a good edge and is not difficult to re-sharpen. The back of the blade and the handle, are approximately 3/16 inch thick. That is pretty hefty for a knife that is only 5 inches overall. Made of 440-C stainless steel, the Skin-Doo shows a surprising amount of hand-work, and is more than strong enough for its intended uses, and then some.

Usefulness is the key when talking about a mass-produced knife, and this is where the Skin-Doo shines. It performs well when used in place of a pocketknife or small belt knife. Reducing a piece of whittling wood into kindling is easy with this knife, as it is easily controlled. As a defensive weapon, the Skin-Doo makes a fine palm dagger. Of course, the short blade length means it is best employed as a slashing weapon, as opposed to a stabbing dirk. The wedge-shaped blade can leave a very nasty wound, a few of which would suffice for the intended job.

Like a pistol or a parachute, if you don't have your knife when you need it, you may never need it again. Skin-Doo's answer to this problem is effective. Two separate sheaths are provided with the knife at no extra cost. One is designed to be worn around the upper calf or upper arm, with the knife held handle down. A 6-inch long and 2-inch wide strip of Velcro matches up with a 5-by-1 inch strip of its other half, to provide a completely adjustable fit. Made of soft suede with a flat brass tip plate to protect the wearer from the knife's sharp point, the sheath is quite comfortable. It is easy to develop a habit of putting on the sheath along with your socks. In fact, it's also very easy to forget you have it on, just as the Skin-Doo ad states. A narrow strip of Velcro-covered suede runs from the back of the sheath and through the cutout handle, to

hold the knife securely in the sheath. A short pull on this strip breaks the Velcro hold, and the knife is in your hand. One would not do well to wear tight-legged, non-stretch pants while wearing the Skin-Doo for defense. It does require some room to quickly remove the knife from under the pant leg. Worn this way, it is the best boot knife for people who don't wear boots.



Skin-Doo hasn't forgotten all you boot wearers. The second sheath is, again, made of soft suede and has the brass tip. However, instead of a leather strip to go around the leg or arm, it is faced with a 3-by-2-inch Velcro strip. Half of the Velcro is meant to be sewn into the boot, hat, pocket, or just about anywhere else you would like to carry or conceal the Skin-Doo. The wide-surface Velcro holds the sheath in place very well. There is no retaining strap on this sheath, and none is needed. The knife fits snugly under the brass tip. There is little bulge created by this flat, soft sheath. It hides well.

SOF staffer, Art Gitlin, has worn his Skin-Doo every day for about two months, in the "around the calf" sheath. Skin-Doo is fairly difficult to detect, unless you know just what to look for. Students in Gitlin's Police Self-Defense course often missed the knife in practice frisks, especially when the knife was worn toward the rear of the leg. If searching suspects is part of your job, remember to check carefully around the upper calf and

continued on page 58

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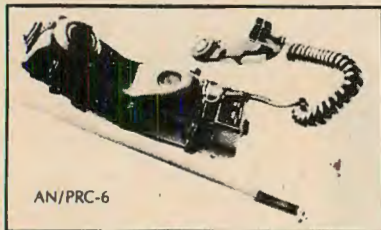
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TERRAIN AND SITUATION NO.4

BY JERRY AHERN

Throughout previous issues, we've profiled a variety of edged weapons, most of them special purpose. This time, we would like to introduce a knife that serves a multitude of special purposes and is, in my opinion, one of the best all-around knives to be found. This is the Smith & Wesson model 6030 Survival Knife, featuring a double quillon, work-hardened brass guard and a 5 1/2 inch stainless steel blade with a sharpened false edge. The handle's material is what S&W labels "Wessonwood" — an attractive natural wood that is pressure-impregnated with phenolic resin for hardness, water-resistance and durability. Each handle is bonded to the tang with an epoxy adhesive. The Survival Knife features Uni-Handle construction, where the tang, the handle, and the brass survival equipment cavity are of one piece. The waterproof cavity is approximately two inches deep and is sealed with a brass screw-on end cap that will safely hold matches, water purification tablets or other small items of survival gear made as available as the knife itself.

The Survival Knife, as well as other knives in its line, were designed by Blackie Collins, whose name is a household word in custom knife circles. The blade of the Survival Knife is 440 stainless, and undergoes 47 separate operations from forging, to induce desired grain structure, to hand polishing.

The S&W Survival knife is truly an all-purpose blade. It would serve admirably as a fighting knife and is equally suited for camp chores. Retail price is about \$50, including an ambidextrous safety strap lockstitched cowhide sheath, with a one-way lock-snap belt loop.

I needed another knife like I needed a hole in the head, but saw the S&W as a functional, almost indestructible knife which filled a gap in my equipment. It is also one of the prettiest knives I've ever seen. You can find one at any gun shop, or write the factory at: 2100 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA 01101.

one piece of outdoor equipment that is always needed but frequently left behind. Some of the reasons binoculars are either thrown away, traded off or sold in the military context or left at home when it comes to hitting the trail for a hunt, is that they are fragile, prone to break or fog up when they're most needed, usually require a heavy, awkward case, cannot be belt-carried and cost a fortune - if they are any good.

With these and other objections in mind, Mike Rogak at L.E.S. (Dept. S, 3640 West Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076) brought out the L.E.S. Professionals, which are like no other glasses on the market. While other armored binoculars sell for as much as \$500, or more, the L.E.S. Professionals go for a shade under \$90. They are 8 X 30s, meaning eight power magnification with a 30mm objective lens. They employ a B7 prism, have a 7.5 degree angle of view and a 393-foot field of view at 1000 yards.

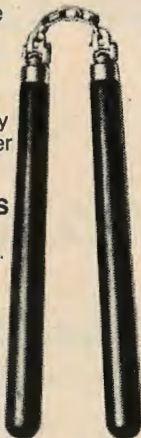
The glasses weigh 21.2 ounces, are compact, waterproof, fog-proof, readily adjustable and completely encased in neoprene rubber. Since they are olive drab in color, they camouflage well. The heavy duty duck case is quick-opening, has solid locking fasteners and features a triple carry feature. In addition to the binocular's own neck strap, the case is fitted with a neck strap, a carrying handle and belt loops. In all fairness, they would look out of place at the track or the opera, but from a functional standpoint they can't be beat. To top it off, all L.E.S. optical products carry a Lifetime Guarantee to the original owner against any defects in parts or workmanship. The L.E.S. Professionals are an indispensable tool in a survival or combat situation and something no serious person living, working, or fighting in the out of doors should be without.

Accurate information, unvarnished by either news editors or government public information officers, can well mean the difference between life and death. Whatever the circumstance, knowing what's

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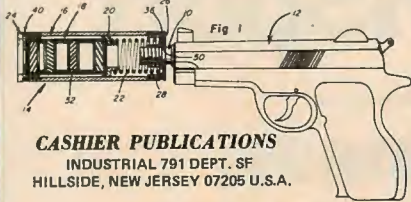
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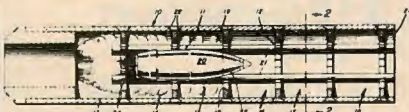
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going on as it's happening is the best way to intelligently plot a course of action for personal survival.

For years, people have been listening to police calls. More recently, scanning monitors that sweep four, eight, twelve or even sixteen channels have been marketed. Still, all scanning monitors had one common failing. For each frequency you wanted to hear, you had to buy a separate crystal, assuming that a crystal was available to you for even the more interesting ones. Then, along came computer-like scanners that could be programmed. However, these did not employ crystals and had an absence of memory, so, that when they were unplugged or transferred from a car to house current, they had to be reprogrammed.

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It may not be the perfect scanning monitor, but the Bearcat 101 is close to perfection. It is manufactured by Electra Company, Dept. S, 300 East County Line Road, South, Cumberland, IN 46229, and is not cheap. Retail is about \$350; yet, considering the saving on crystals, the cost difference almost makes the 101 pay for itself. For a few dollars more, you can have the mobile inverter for 12V DC or 117V AC. If you want information, the Bearcat 101 is the way to get it—all of it.

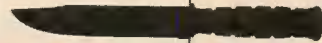
Several months back, a rather interesting event hit the front pages in many areas including Chicago. A Doberman attacked a little girl. Her ten-year-old brother took his dad's .22 pistol, killed the dog and saved the girl's life. If the gun control people had gotten their way, that little girl would have been chewed to pieces, dead along with all the other people whose lives are saved daily with a handgun. Handguns are rather like hypodermic needles, used to save lives with a vaccination or take lives with some deadly drug. In both cases, it all depends on who's shooting.



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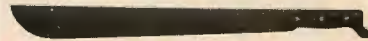
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BETRAYAL IN VIETNAM

Review by DAVID HARRIS

Betrayal In Vietnam by Louis A. Fanning. Arlington House Publishers, New Rochelle, NY, 1976: 247 pages with appendices; hardcover, \$8.95.

Betrayal is a highly readable account of the events surrounding America's ill-fated involvement in the Vietnam War. Its author is a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst and currently professor of history at the State University of New York at Farmingdale. The book's stated purpose is to demonstrate that, "Hidden in a bewildering maze of foreign aid bills, supplemental appropriations, Defense Department legislation, and Foreign Service allocations lies the singular fact that a Democratic caucus of the Congress of the United States, aided and abetted by a few liberal Republicans, cast the South Vietnamese people into communist slavery."

Prof. Fanning offers us only a cursory glance at the history of the war prior to the election of President Nixon in 1968, preferring to focus instead on the intense political infighting that marked U.S. foreign policy during the Nixon era. Nevertheless, he weaves into his portrayal of the early years of U.S. involvement, various quotations from key liberal American politicians, gleaned mainly from the **Congressional Record**, which make fascinating reading in light of subsequent events and alone are worth the cost of the book.

Let me cite a few choice examples: Senator Fred Harris, the Oklahoma Democrat who was to become the darling of the extreme left wing of his party, observed in 1965 that the Vietnam conflict "... is not a civil war. The security of the United States is in jeopardy there. If we do not live up to our commitment in South Vietnam to help them keep their country free, we shall have to draw the line elsewhere, in Thailand, or Malaysia, or Hawaii, or Seattle and San Francisco. The line must be drawn somewhere ... It has been said that we should dishonor commitments made by three presidents of the United States and withdraw from South Vietnam and abandon the people of South Vietnam, who have been struggling for national security and independence. There is no question that this is not the proper course for this country."

Only a few years after the senator had uttered these stirring words, he would be

BETRAYAL In Vietnam



telling his constituents that the United States had made no commitment whatever to the South Vietnamese and demanded that U.S. forces be withdrawn from their struggle against the Communists, regardless of the outcome.

Senator Edward Kennedy, who might well be our president today had it not been for that accident at Chappaquiddic, stated in a speech to a college audience in 1965: "The fundamental moral question facing the United States is; are we going to say to the 17 million people of South Vietnam that because you have not been able to establish a national identity that you are going to be taken over by a strong aggressive force? Because you are still struggling, are we going to let you go down the drain, so to speak? Are we concerned at all about people in a far and distant land? Do we want to defend freedom? We do, because this is our commitment, our heritage, our destiny."

A few years later, with a Republican in the White House, the Senator would come to see the "moral question" of Vietnam in quite a different light as he, too, called for an end to U.S. military involvement in the Indochina conflict, regardless of the consequences for the people of that region.

Senator Eugene McCarthy, another leading Democratic presidential contender in recent years, called upon Americans in 1966 to "Stand firm against any compromise that would mean accepting

other than an honorable peace and would not establish the condition that would permit South Vietnam to choose its own government and determine its own policy." But a few years later, the Senator would be placing a great deal more emphasis on compromise than on honor, as he joined in the demand for an immediate end to U.S. involvement in Indochina.

The greatest anti-warrior of them all, Senator George McGovern was quoted as saying in 1965 that "... North Vietnam cannot benefit any more than South Vietnam from a prolonged conflict. I would hope that we would be prepared to wage such a conflict rather than surrender the area to Communism." In a letter issued that same year, the Senator explained to his constituents that "... mistaken or not, we cannot now abruptly withdraw and leave our South Vietnamese ally at the mercy of guerrilla forces."

Less than three years later, while campaigning for the presidency, the Senator would offer to get down on his knees in Hanoi to beg for the release of U.S. prisoners and an end to the war. By then, he had apparently come to see great value in having U.S. forces "abruptly withdraw" and leave our friends in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos at the mercy of North Vietnamese regulars.

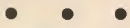
In his discussion of the controversy over Indo-China policy during the Nixon years, Fanning outlines the major historical landmarks of the period and views them within the context of the bitter struggle that was ranging between the President and the Democratic-controlled Congress. He points out, for example, that in 1967, during the Johnson administration, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee considered forwarding a recommendation to the Senate which would require prior congressional approval of the use of any future U.S. economic or military resources in Indochina, but the Committee Democrats finally decided not to do so out of fear that such a move would be viewed as a rebuke to Johnson's war policy. Only a few years later, however, with a Republican as president, Senator Fulbright, the chairman of the Committee, succeeded in pushing through the Senate just such a

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measure, called the "National Commitments Resolution."

In order to counter the growing opposition to the war, President Nixon announced soon after his election in 1968, that it would henceforth be U.S. policy to help Asian allies shoulder the primary burden of their own defense so that American troops would never again be directly involved in conflicts such as that in Vietnam. This led to the so-called "Vietnamization" campaign in which the South Vietnamese were trained and equipped to assume the major role in combat operations.

The rapid implementation of Vietnamization caused the North Vietnamese to reassess their tactics. Fanning describes how the Communists carefully orchestrated their logistical and combat operations in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos with their diplomatic maneuvers at the negotiations in Paris and their propaganda operations in the United States, operations which received the enthusiastic support of American-anti-war protestors.

Fanning also outlines the pattern of increasing congressional restrictions on the president's conduct of the war following each successful U.S. initiative to blunt offensive operations by the North Vietnamese from their "sanctuary" areas in Cambodia and Laos. He points out that when U.S. and ARVN troops succeeded in destroying the North Vietnamese bases in eastern Cambodia in April and May 1970, the Senate responded with the Cooper-Church amendment to the foreign military sales bill, which not only forbade the re-introduction of U.S. troops into Cambodia, but also prohibited U.S. training and support for the Cambodian army which had been opposing North Vietnamese forces on Cambodian territory since the ouster of Prince Sihanouk.

Even though the Cambodian incursion resulted in the destruction of the major Communist bases near the South Vietnamese frontier, it was seized upon by anti-war protestors as a pretext for widespread demonstrations, such as the one that resulted in the tragic shooting of four students at Kent State. The demonstrators claimed that the President had widened the scope of the war by violating Cambodia's neutrality. To this contention, Fanning replies, quite rightly, that had such logic prevailed in 1945, France would still be under Nazi occupation today!

Fanning is no less critical of the American news media's coverage of the war. He observes that when ARVN troops, deprived of U.S. military support by congressional fiat, succeeded in disrupting the North Vietnamese supply and infiltration network in Laos in February 1971, 18 out of the 22 battalions participating in the raid were praised by the U.S. commander in Vietnam, General Abrams, as having fought "extremely

well." American media reporting, however, concentrated almost exclusively on those four battalions that performed poorly.

As South Vietnamese troops became increasingly capable and confident owing to the Vietnamization program, the North Vietnamese changed their tactics and launched a "conventional" invasion in late March 1972. Countermeasures by President Nixon, including the resumption of bombing North Vietnam, were condemned by the anti-warriors as an "escalation" of the war.

When, in the face of continued North Vietnamese intransigence at the Paris negotiations, the President finally ordered the mining of North Vietnam's rivers and harbors; some House Democrats responded by calling for his impeachment and 25 House and Senate Democrats brought suit against him for conducting and expanding an "illegal" war. (The validity of that suit may be assessed by the fact that, of the more than 120 foreign military operations in which U.S. troops had been engaged since the founding of the Republic, only six were sanctioned by a formal congressional declaration of war.)

Nor has Fanning neglected mention of the role played by anti-war celebrities in undermining public support for U.S. policies in Indochina. He asserts, for example, that the sole reason why Jane Fonda was not prosecuted for her anti-American broadcasts on Radio Hanoi was because the U.S. Constitution requires two witnesses to confirm a treasonable act and government prosecutors were unable to produce two people who actually saw her make the broadcasts.

Another well-known anti-war agitator, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, also visited Hanoi and in an interview with Communist newsmen condemned U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and praised the North Vietnamese for their care of American prisoners of war. Of course, the truth about the prisoners' mistreatment was revealed when some of them were eventually released. Fanning cites an interview with one of the former prisoners, Air Force Colonel James H. Kasler, in which the Colonel stated he was tortured when he refused to meet visiting American anti-war activists. The Colonel also charged that war protestors had prolonged the war by aiding the enemy.

When the Paris negotiations resumed in July 1972, President Nixon, under relentless attack by the anti-warriors in an election year, began to bring pressure on President Thieu to accept a cease-fire agreement that would permit the North Vietnamese invaders to remain on South Vietnamese territory. Secretary of State Kissinger reportedly assured the South Vietnamese leader that an "under-

continued on page 78



DAVID BUFKIN:

AMERICAN MERC DESTROYS CUBAN ESPIONAGE RING

BY LTC. R. K. BROWN

Cuban spy, double agent, CIA informant, self-styled merc recruiter for Angola and Zaire - who is the real David Bufkin? After three months of extensive investigations, including numerous conversations with Bufkin, SOF has uncovered as many questions as answers regarding the recent activities of this controversial 40-year old ex-crop duster from Kerman, California.

But no matter what he has or has not done in the past, no matter what his motives - whether he be con man, patriot or opportunist, Bufkin pulled an intelligence coup. He sold himself to the Castro/Cuban Intelligence system, became a double agent, subsequently exposing a Cuban spy ring in Zaire, and identified Cuban-sponsored spies entering Rhodesia. Upon revealing his escapades to the press, he was responsible for five Cuban spy/diplomats being expelled from Canada. And as we go to press, it appears that the Canadian government's attempt to cover up the most important spy case in recent Canadian history may turn into a mini-Watergate.

Bufkin's entry into the murky world of espionage began in mid-76. His explanation of this entry is equally murky.

Bufkin claims he contacted a former business associate in Mexico City, who had contacts with the Cuban Embassy. He asked his contact to inquire as to the status of Gary Acker and Gus Grillo, American mercs recruited by Bufkin who are presently serving long prison terms in Angola. Whether or not an offer was made to the Cubans at this time, for Bufkin to play spy, is unclear.

The Cubans were interested in Bufkin's proposition, whatever it may have been, and invited him to Mexico City. Because he had had some "problems" in Mexico, he refused. The Cubans then suggested a meeting in Montreal.



Bufkin subsequently received a phone call from a Mr. Rodriguez, Cuban Consul General in Montreal, setting up a meeting that took place on 6 September, 1976, at the Cuban Consulate, which was closed to the public because of a Canadian holiday.

On 8 September, 1976, Consul General Rodriguez called Bufkin at his home in Kerman, California, from Montreal. The following day, Bufkin called SOF. We taped the conversation, as had both the CIA and FBI.

In this conversation, Rodriguez stated that his superiors in Havana were interested in discussing Bufkin's proposition, and Rodriguez agreed to pay his expenses and air fare for a second meeting in Montreal.

Bufkin then returned to Montreal, where he received his briefing and a short course in espionage techniques.

Meanwhile, prior to the first meeting with the Cubans, Bufkin had married up with a TV team from ABC's Heraldo Rivera Show. They wired Bufkin with a miniature transmitter; the transmission was then recorded by two ABC employees in a nearby car. The tapes of this first meeting in the consulate were subsequently turned over to the CIA, according to Bufkin.

Initially, the Cubans wanted Bufkin to blow up the FNLA's ordnance warehouse in Kinshasa, Zaire. When queried as to how he could do this, Bufkin replies, "I had bunked in the warehouse (which adjoins the mansion of Holden Roberto, leader of the FNLA) and I had connections with the top leadership of the FNLA."

According to Bufkin, the warehouse was filled with small arms, "... including hundreds of M-2 carbines, Uzi SMGs, as well as millions of rounds of ammo, hand grenades and LAWS." When queried as to how he was going to blow it up, he replied, "I was going to use the material, including the detonators, in the warehouse. You could blow that ware-

house sky high, if you put the right stuff together."

Bufkin claims that he asked the Cubans in Montreal for an undisclosed amount of money, as well as the release of Acker and Grillo. Bufkin quoted prices on what this mission would cost and the Cubans said they would have to obtain clearance from Havana, and that they would contact him in 48 hours. At some point in time, the Cubans claimed they could not effect the release of Grillo and Acker and Bufkin's mission was changed to one of simply gathering intelligence.

His microfilm instructions, which follow, might well have come from 'Mission Impossible:'

"Kinshasa, Zaire: The Place: Central post office, 30th of June Ave. You must be standing in the sidewalk at the entrance of the second row of post office boxes from right to left. Time: 1200 hours local time. You should hold a canvas painting of the type usually sold in the Kinshasa market in your right hand. Our representative will be near you in the third row or corridor of post office boxes. He will have a red book under his left arm and will be smoking a cigar. You should not approach him. Once visual contact has been established, follow him. He will drop an empty cigarette box. Pick it up and follow the instructions you will find inside. The date of this meeting: last Saturday in October. The reserve dates: first Saturday in November and the second Saturday in November. Information requested: name of CIA personnel involved, frequency used in ground and air communications, the codes, type of transmitter, infiltration plans in Angola, military operations with details: number of men, type of weapons, names of Americans serving with the FNLA, operational zones, agents inside Angola, sources of support in Angola, points of infiltration, arms deposits in Angola held by the FNLA, sources of income, information on CIA air operations from Lusaka, recruitment procedures, number of nationalities, salaries, morale, morale of the black troops, acceptance among the black FNLA or do you need to have white mercenaries, relations between FNLA and UNITA at its top level, discrepancies of joint military operations."

Bufkin flew to Kinshasa, was picked up by an FNLA representative who had been alerted regarding his arrival, and driven to Holden Roberto's residence, which is located next to that of President Mobutu.

"I made my contact with the Cuban agent in the post office. The CIA covered the meeting. I passed fake infiltration plans and told them about a small FNLA arms cache in Angola, consisting of some M-2 carbines, and a few thousand rounds of ammo. This established my credibility."

Bufkin returned to Montreal, where he reestablished contact with the Cubans and was debriefed. The Cubans were

pleased. His instructions, for establishing a meeting in Canada were contained in the microfilm quoted from earlier, read as follows:

"Place: Canada, Montreal. Mont Royal Station beside telephone at main exit. Time: 1400 hours. Visible signals for ID: Newsweek magazine in left hand. Watchword: Are you *Pose Marie's* husband? My watchword: Yes, I am. To call a meeting, send a wire to our office with the following text: 'I am planning a trip to Cuba. Please send information on visa requirements.' Use code name 'Cinch.' The meeting will take place on the third day after the date of the wire. Sign it with your code name and code address. There will be two consecutive days reserved for the contact."

At the meeting, Bufkin, once again needing money, suggested he perform additional services for the Cubans, this



time in Rhodesia. The Cubans were interested but wanted proof from Bufkin that he could acquire significant intelligence information.

Bufkin claims he contacted someone in the Rhodesian Special Branch, explaining the situation with the Cubans. Two days later, Bufkin alleged he was called by his Special Branch contact, who stated he would be forwarded a letter stating that Bufkin had been appointed a Flight Lt. in the Rhodesian Air Force. This document was used by Bufkin to convince Cuban intelligence agents that he, in fact, could gain access to classified information.

Bufkin spent a week and a half in Montreal, receiving additional instructions. Eight other individuals were also being trained or briefed by the Cuban apparatus.

Bufkin: None of us stayed together. Our classes were separate. We weren't allowed to socialize. The reason for this was that if I did know them and I got picked up, and had my fingernails pulled out, why, I'm going to tell who the rest of the tribe is. So, that's one reason why we weren't allowed to get to know each other. The second reason is that one of us could be a phoney, which in this case, there was.

SOF: That being you?

Bufkin: Right.

Bufkin's primary mission in Rhodesia was to obtain intelligence information:

"My mission in Rhodesia was to find out the names and addresses of all U.S. ex-military personnel, as many as possible, serving with the Rhodesian forces. It was going to be used as propaganda - mercenaries being hired out of the U.S., to serve with Rhodesian forces. They wanted to know the type of air-ground communication that the Rhodesians were using and how many and what type of aircraft were available. They also wanted an estimate of the morale of the black troopers in the Rhodesian African Rifles."

Apparently, Bufkin inadvertently obtained a visual ID on two of the espionage students scheduled to go to Rhodesia. He recounted:

"Rodriguez took a liking to me. I don't know why - maybe because I'd listen to his scuttlebutt. He liked to show off his spy equipment. For one thing, he carried his documents around in a small, heavy metal case. It was about six inches wide, an inch thick and probably seven inches long. The entire top came off and it had a locking device at the top. The inside of this case was wired up to a small battery and the wires went to solid oxygen or something. I'm not sure what it was, but he could take the top of this case and just twist it, and everything inside the case would burn and disintegrate without oxygen. I don't know how it worked. He also showed me a Berreta automatic that he carried, and some microfilm that he was carrying for some other individuals—stuff like that. I just happened to listen to him and I guess that's the reason he took a liking to me. We talked about the other pilot who was flying on the Cuban side in Angola. He and I confronted each other a couple of times. The Cuban pilot was 50-some years old. We had quite a talk about that. The other pilot wanted to meet me and I told him that I wasn't about to fly to Havana to have a reunion.

While we were having dinner, Rodriguez said, 'Dave, I guess you know you're not the only one involved in this program.' I said, 'No, I'm sure I'm not.' He said, 'You see those two over there? They are going into Salisbury.' This was on the second trip to Montreal, at the end of the program. I said, 'Well, I'll be darned. That's really great.' Then, I called Salisbury from Montreal and said

there were two agents on their way, heading into Salisbury. I gave them complete descriptions. I told them that one guy was left-handed. I described the kinds of watches they were wearing. So, Rhodesian Intelligence spotted them as they got off the aircraft."

What Bufkin did during his three weeks in Rhodesia is unclear. However, according to Bufkin himself, the Rhodesian Special Branch directed him to go to Botswana to identify two deserters from the Rhodesian Light Infantry. Once in Botswana, Bufkin could not locate his Rhodesian contact and returned to the U.S.

Bufkin, in an interview with SOF, on or about 17 February, 1977, implied that these two deserters were the same two individuals whom he had seen in Montreal and whom had been labeled espionage agents by the Cuban Consul General in Montreal. Bufkin further states that these two persons had been put under surveillance since their arrival in Salisbury, and that they had deserted the day before they were arrested.

In subsequent interviews, Bufkin has hedged about identifying the RLI deserters as the Cuban agents he saw in Montreal. Perhaps for good reason as Bufkin may have been the target of a Cuban-sponsored assassination attempt.

The Fresno Bee reported the shooting incident as follows:

"He (Bufkin) told officials that a Cuban he had known in Mexico a few years ago telephoned and requested a meeting with him. Bufkin said that the two met late on the afternoon of 3 March.

"Bufkin said after talking for a short time, that the other man pulled a 'Browning automatic' weapon and fired shots, as Bufkin tried to wrestle the gun away. Bufkin was wounded in the upper left arm, investigative reports say. Bufkin claims that he pulled a .25 caliber automatic pistol from his right boot and shot his assailant in the chest.

"The man, Bufkin told detectives, clutched his chest and staggered to his brown Mustang automobile and drove off.

"Bufkin drove to the Kerman Police Department, where he reported the incident. Bufkin subsequently was treated in Valley Medical Center and released.

"Investigators said that he refused to surrender his weapon and did not file any charges.

"Three days after Bufkin reported the shooting, a Fresno man with a gunshot wound inflicted some time earlier in his left shoulder, was taken to VMC for treatment."

On Sunday, 9 January, 1976, the basic nature of the Bufkin caper was described in an article in the Salisbury Sunday Mail.

On Monday, the Canadian government ordered four Cubans to leave the country, and that an additional Cuban would not be allowed to return, following a Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation of

Bufkin's charges that Cuba's Montreal Consulate operated a spy school. Three were banned for "conduct incompatible with their status in Canada," the other two were deported under Section 18 of Canada's Immigration Act, for subversive activity detrimental to the country's security.

The Canadian government refused comment on the situation.

In the second week of February, a two-part series on Bufkin's adventures appeared on ABV-TV's Good Morning, America Show. This time, Bufkin's claims were documented on film, which showed him entering the consulate, his microfilmed instructions, money orders, etc.

Even more incredible is that the Canadian government continued to stone wall the situation after the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa actually **admitted** to conducting spy activities from Canada.



On 13 January, 1977, the **Montreal Gazette**, printed the headline: Havana Defends School of Spies at Consulate.

"The Cuban government yesterday defended using Montreal as a recruiting base to groom spies and four Cubans were expelled from Canada under heavy security for their part in the operation. In an official statement issued through an embassy in Ottawa, the Castro regime, for the first time, admitted the existence of the spy training school here, but stressed the activities of the Montreal consulates had only been directed against the revolutionary National Fronts of the liberation of Angola."

One Canadian newsman told SOF that the Bufkin affair "was one of the largest cover-ups of an important spy case in the history of Canada. Ottawa has clamped a lid on the whole thing.

Canadian officials refuse to confirm or deny Bufkin's charges but it was no coincidence that the Cubans were expelled the day after Bufkin was published in the Salisbury press.

"The Cubans have been getting away with murder for years. They are untouchable. They are allowed to use Gander Air Base to transport their troops to Angola; they run guns out of Montreal.

"I wasn't even allowed pictures of the Cubans. I finally obtained pictures from other sources. I had to fly to bloody California to interview Bufkin, so Canadians can find out what is going on."

"Five years ago, the Cuban Trade Commission was blown sky high. When the police arrived to investigate, they found boxes of machine guns and a lot of other illegal arms. They were held at gun point by the Cuban diplomats. A policeman was jabbed in the ribs with an AK47 while he was trying to save a Cuban guard from bleeding to death.

"The investigation that was promised by the government never got anywhere. Castro charged the Montreal Police were using brutality against their diplomats, when they investigated the explosion, and it turned into an investigation of the Montreal Police."

One school of thought is that the CIA used Bufkin to bring heat on the Cubans in Canada, since the Canadian government would do nothing to circumscribe their activities. It appears the CIA fed the RCMP information concerning Bufkin and the Cuban spy school. There is no way that the Canadians, nor any bureaucracy would have reacted so rapidly, (within 24 hours,) on such a touchy matter, if they had not been previously aware of what was happening, especially when the information comes from such a controversial figure as Bufkin.

In any case, Bufkin was instrumental in destroying three Communist Cuban espionage rings in Canada, Zaire and Rhodesia. We can also surmise that the careers of Cuban Intelligence officials who were suckered in by Bufkin, may be in jeopardy.

What is the future for Bufkin? Word has been floating around the merc community for some time that there are a number of people who are looking to settle old scores. Now Cuban intelligence can be added to this list. Apparently, he has been the target of one assassination attempt. When the likelihood of additional attempts being made on Bufkin's life was mentioned to an ex-CIA agent, he simply commented, "He's a walking dead man!"

(Part II of the David Bufkin caper, including a description of his efforts to recruit mercenaries for Zaire, will be carried in the next issue.)





RHODESIAN CASTLE~ KEEP

***Drums Along
The Pungwa***

BY THOMAS MACGREGOR

As Southern Africa remains the only area where communism is being opposed with bullets instead of appeasement, SOF decided that another look at the dark continent was in order. We chose SOF staff member and Assistant to the Editor, MacGregor, who received his baptism of fire while with Special Forces and SOG in Nam. In Johannesburg, he linked up with SOF's Africa correspondent, A. J. Venter, who also writes for the South African magazine SCOPE. SCOPE photo-journalist Val King, a native Rhodesian now living in South Africa, made up the third member of the party. Their mission was to conduct an extensive recon of the hot operational areas of Rhodesia bordering Mozambique.

The tone of my first trip into the sub-continent of Southern Africa was firmly established during my first day in Johannesburg, South Africa. A young black South African walked into the restaurant at the Johannesburg Carlton Center. Without a moment's hesitation, he went over to one of the tables occupied by four whites who had just sat down to order their lunch. Bending over, as if to speak to one of the men, he slammed his fist down on the table. Immediately, there was a brilliant flash of light, followed by a violent concussion-type explosion. Shards of window glass peppered the crowded streets.

This could have been Saigon 1966, but it wasn't. It was late 1976, and the place was Johannesburg. A different continent, a different place, the same story - almost.

When the dust from the explosion cleared, four very frightened, amazed, but alive diners sat staring down upon the now disfigured young black who lay in his own blood on the floor. Later identified as Issac Sigho, his hand amputated by the explosion, this young black was the only victim of his own terrorist attack.

Before rushing Sigho to the Johannesburg General Hospital for emergency treatment, police searched and found several sticks of explosives in his coat pocket, unattached to any firing device. The exact explosive detonated by Sigho when he slammed his fist onto the table was tentatively identified by the South African Police (SAP) authorities as a "Fire-Stick," a type of explosive simulator used throughout Southern Africa for training purposes, which is comparable to artillery simulators used by the U.S. Army.

Shortly after receiving the necessary emergency treatment, Sigho was transferred to a local prison hospital for detainment under guard until he was fit to face the charge of terrorism.

Within days of his transfer, the S.A.P. arrested a second man, Wellington Tzhazibane, in connection with the Carlton Center explosion. Wellington Tzhazibane was identified by authorities as the only known engineer for SOWAPO (South-West People's Organization), an

organization determined to end white rule in South Africa. It was later reported that Tzhazibane hanged himself with a blanket strip within hours of his arrest.

Shortly after this incident, we left Johannesburg for Salisbury, Rhodesia, where we were scheduled to begin our trip into the eastern operational zones around Umtali and Chipinga. We knew this would not be an easy trip as travel throughout Rhodesia holds many dangers and restrictions. Fuel rationing, civil authorities, military operations or terrorist ambush could bring our operation to an immediate halt.

Once in Salisbury, we picked up a Land Rover that was to be our chariot

cards caused unexpected delays and more than a few headaches. It seems that it doesn't matter whether you are in Washington, Saigon or Salisbury, bureaucrats have to be bureaucratic.

Late one morning, we finally left Salisbury for Umtali, which would serve as the hub for our excursion into the Honde Valley. About 20 miles west of Umtali, in an area with known terrorist presence, our carefree attitude was dampened as our trusted Land Rover rolled to an unexpected stop. Our driver, in a clever attempt to get our attention, deliberately ran the main tanks dry and put on an act to convince us that we had run out of gas. We were convinced, everyone's "pucker-factor" was appropriately tightened. Night was only hours away.

With a smile, our driver informed us of the auxiliary fuel tanks that were located under the seat and with a flick of a switch, the gas guage went from "empty" to "full." Having played the practical joke to its limit, our driver attempted to move the manual level that would bring the auxiliary system into line: Cranking on the starter, trouble was immediately apparent as the fuel lever was jammed from lack of use. After several minutes of well-motivated superhuman effort, the lever moved, locking the secondary fuel system into place.

Relieved, we climbed back into our Land Rover, looking forward to the tall cool beers we knew would be waiting for us in Umtali, and settled back, relaxed. Our driver cranked over the starter and we were off. Well, that is how it should have been but what happened was NOTHING. Real trouble this time. The vehicle would not start. It seems that in "running out of gas," an air bubble had clogged the fuel line. Now we had to deal with a partial vapor lock. The luck of the Irish stayed with us and before too long we managed to get the engine started. Underpowered but moving we limped our way to Umtali. Several times this "practical joke" would haunt us along the way. It would be many days

**SHAKESPEARE'S:
KING HENRY V**

"He which hath no stomach to this fight, Let him depart. . . But we in it shall be remembered; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother. . ."

into the unknown. This vehicle had been extensively modified with the additions of a rally-type roll bar, 2200 lbs of steel-armored plating and a small block Chevy V-8 for power. If all else failed, the powerful V-8 engine would be able to provide the necessary muscle to get us out of any trouble in a hurry.

Completing the final administrative requirements for our trip and receiving the proper authorization and fuel ration

SOF staff member and Assistant to the Editor, MacGregor, in the Eastern operational area outside Chipinga near Mt. Selinda.





Four "Bright Lights" (BSAP members primarily from urban centers) on operations in the Honde Valley.

later, when we finally reached Mt. Selinda outside of Chipinga, that we would find time and equipment to properly service and repair the fuel system.

After an uneventful evening in Umtali, we left the next morning to rendezvous with the convoy that would take us into the Honde Valley, northeast of Umtali. We were scheduled to join this convoy with its military escort, about 40 miles north on the Umtali-Inyanga Road by mid-morning. If we missed them, we would be faced with two choices: first, to continue on into the valley, rushing blindly after the convoy, in the hope of catching up with them before we were blown off the road, either by an ambush or from land mines that may have been laid into the packed dirt roadbed, secondly, a wiser choice: return to Umtali before dark and wait several days until another convoy was formed.

The seriousness of our problem was not lost on any of us, for we had been briefed by the Security Forces as to the dangers of our journey. The last convoy into the valley, a couple of days before, had come under attack. The terrorists,

waiting in ambush, had allowed most of the column to pass by. Then, they hit the last two government Land Rovers in the convoy with RPG rounds. (While travel in the mine-protected, V-8 powered Land Rover offered certain advantages, it also had the uncomfortable disadvantage of presenting a very official-looking, yet "soft" target for any terrorist sitting in the bush.)

As if this information was not enough to speed us on our way and increase our collective pucker-factor, just a few miles north of Umtali, we happened to pass the still-smoldering remains of what, until recently, had been a modern sedan. We were tempted to stop and investigate this accident but the pressures of time and the presence of several very stern-looking members of the B.S.A.P. combined to convince us to keep "moving on."

We arrived at the rendezvous point as the convoy was forming for departure. The operations officer quickly gave us a briefing by explaining the "immediate action drills" we were to follow. We were assigned a position within the convoy. The operations officer explained that they had been worried about us arriving on

Rhodesian Panhard armored cars, with 90mm main guns, accompany convoys. South African panhards proved effective against Russian tanks in Angola.



time since the last civilian vehicle to try the trip down the road alone had been ambushed five separate times in less than a mile. Luckily, the two passengers had escaped without serious injury. The last of the scheduled vehicles joined the convoy and we received the signal to move out. The lead vehicles pulled onto the road and raced by us. We then quickly pulled into the column and started off on the next leg of our journey that would take us deeper into one of the more active operational areas in Rhodesia, our immediate objective being the tea estate at the eastern end of the valley, and eventually the border of Rhodesia and Mozambique. This was where the action was.

Our journey that day down into the valley proved uneventful. However, we did pass with increasing frequency, many signs of the war. The roadbed was gutted in numerous places where some unlucky souls had triggered Russian-made land mines used by the terrorists. In a couple of places, the convoy was forced to take short detours from the main road because of minor damage to several bridges. From a distance, this damage seemed to be recent but most superficial and work crews were busily restoring the bridges. In spite of the terrorists' attempts to cut this vital roadway and isolate the valley, traffic continued to flow quickly and smoothly.

The roadway was not the only terrorist target, however. In several of the larger villages along the route, this was evident from the burned-out skeletons of several stores and homes. While the actual number of destroyed buildings was few, it was apparent that they had been carefully chosen by the terrorists as object lessons to the local civilian populace and as a method of increasing the burden upon Rhodesia's security forces.

Late that afternoon, after traveling over 150 miles, we arrived at our destination - the tea estate at the far eastern end of the Honde Valley. The main guest house of the estate is situated on a slight rise overlooking the Pungwa River, with a view into neighboring Mozambique. Not too long ago, this guest house would have offered the visitor the most comfortable and luxurious accommodations. Today it has been turned into a mini-fortress. Several of the estate employees and their families have moved, leaving their homes, close to the border, for better security.

A couple of weeks before our arrival at the tea estate, the terrorists, supported by Frelimo troops and Soviet rockets, conducted a raid from their base across the border in Mozambique. This attack had been preceded for three days by the constant beating of drums that had echoed throughout the estate. On the night of the third day, using drums to fill them with courage and to cover their movement, the terrorists came across the Pungwa. The exact objective of the



The "Rhodesian Fighting Priest" at his mission near the Mozambican border northeast of Chipinga. The dogs and Uzi provide protection for the mission.

exercise was unclear but it is generally believed that the terrorists, supported by their allies, were attempting to gain a land base for their operations within Rhodesia and from which they could establish a quasi-legal government.

By establishing such a "government" and controlling a definite land base within Rhodesia, the terrorists would then be in a favorable position to seek recognition as the "legal" government of Rhodesia. The Rhodesian Security Forces reacted decisively and quickly drove the invaders back across the Pungwa into Mozambique.

Little serious or lasting damage was done. Yet, a week or so later, the terrorists tried a new tactic, and launched a surprise rocket attack against the tea factory. Driving a "Stalin Organ" into a clearing on the Mozambique side of the Pungwa, the terrorists fired a salvo of 40 122 mm rockets. So hasty was their attack and withdrawal that the Rhodesians were unable to counterattack. The terrorists were also unable to take proper aim (the closest rocket landed more than 100 meters from the factory) so the tea factory escaped damage.

Even though this attack was unsuccessful, it was the cause of much concern among the Rhodesians in the area, since this was the first known use of the weapon, which had gained fame in the hands of the Russian-supported, Cuban-lead MPLA.

During this period, most of the white Rhodesian estate employees had moved up into the guest house and efforts had been increased to move local black Rhodesians into a protected village. The local populace had not been in a great hurry to occupy the protected village and its "keep," as it has been rocketed at least six times in the past three months.

Again, the terrorists' rocket attacks caused little physical damage but were effective in keeping the tension high throughout the area.

As some of the tea estate employees had taken up permanent "temporary" residence at the guest house, we looked elsewhere for our lodging. We were fortunate to be invited into the home of one of the employees who had recently moved back to his house next to the border. This family opened their door to us, and received us with warmest and most generous hospitality. This house had been built during more peaceful times and was within 150 meters of the Pungwa River. Sitting in the front yard sipping an ice cold Lions beer, it became easy to forget . . . for a moment . . . that this was a war zone. Rhodesia is a beautiful country full of sharp contrasts that can reach out and touch your soul. For a moment you know what is meant by "Paradise Lost." Yes, easy to forget, to dream of what once was and what could be.

A quick look around was all it took to bring one back to the reality that is today. On the opposite side of the valley, less than five kilometers away, we could see a rather large Frelimo/Terrorist base camp, and directly across from us was a well-camouflaged mortar pit. Seated next to me, clad in camies with his FN/FAL close by, was one of the bodyguards (dubbed as "Bright Lights," since they had come from urban areas), who had been assigned the task of providing this family with bodyguard-like protection. On either side of the one-story house, hidden from view by the many flower gardens that surrounded the building, were two bunkers. The whole complex was surrounded with cyclone fencing topped with barbed wire, spotlights, and patrolling dogs.

Our host was employed as the construction supervisor for the tea estate and



Two Internal Security Unit Members on guard at one of entrances to a protected village near the Mozambique border. The standard weapon of issue in this unit is the British .303 Enfield.

was in charge of construction, planning and development. With determined optimism, he explained his three, five and ten-year plans for the estate. Listening to his enthusiasm, one could not help but believe it would happen and he would be there to see it.

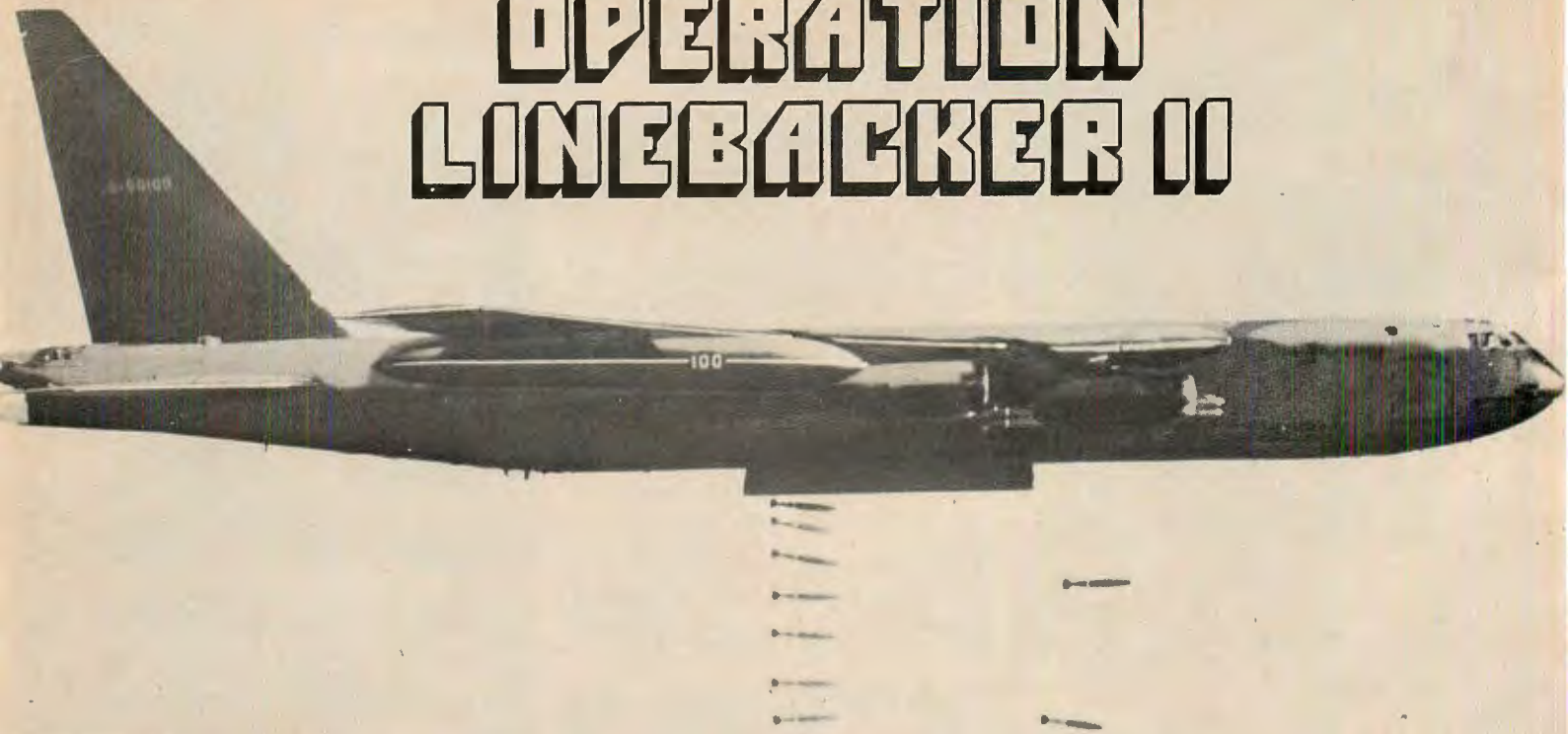
While in the Honde, we heard mention of another American working nearby. By chance, on the second day, we met the young man, just as he was about to leave the "keep" at the protected village with his work crew. Steve Hunt had come to Rhodesia several months before on vacation. He had become attracted to the lush gambling casinos around Victory Falls. Unfortunately, Steve's luck at the Wheel of Fortune was not what it should have

continued on page 64

Our host, at the tea estate in the Honde Valley. Ever on guard against terrorist attack, he carries an Uzi even when milking one of his few cows.



OPERATION LINEBACKER II



BY DANA DRENKOWSKI

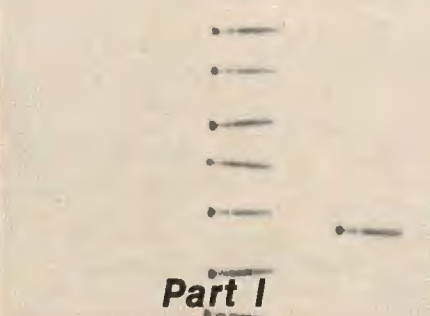
Few operations in the Vietnam war were as dramatic or produced such rapid results as the 11-day bombing campaign against the Hanoi-Haiphong region of North Vietnam in December 1972. Within days after the termination of the operation, spearheaded for the first time by heavy B-52 bombers, the North Vietnamese signed the Paris Peace Accords with U.S. representatives. American POW's were returned within 60 days and the American air forces ceased bombing operations against North Vietnam. However, the campaign, planned almost entirely by the staff of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) of the U.S. Air Force, was nearly a failure.

As a former B-52 pilot with 50 missions in South East Asia, I returned there to fly fighters and serve as a staff officer at the Wing level. I was uniquely placed as an observer familiar with both bomber and fighter operations and as a participant in the staffing and flying of the campaign.

Due to the incompetence of high-ranking SAC staff officers and their failure to communicate with air crews concerning tactics used or to learn the lessons available from previous bombing operations, this campaign could have ended in an incredible disaster. As it was, Linebacker II resulted in large numbers of B-52's being unnecessarily shot down and their crews crippled, killed or captured.

The unanticipated high losses of B-52s finally forced the SAC staff to change tactics. However, the SAC staff never understood that a significant portion of this debacle was due to a lack of communications with the aircrews who flew the missions and who risked their lives.

On 30 March 1972, the North Vietnamese government added a new dimen-



Part I

Dana K. Drenkowski, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, flew over 200 combat missions over S.E. Asia in B-52s and F-4s. His many decorations include two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He has an M.A. in Psychology, is an Aviation Editor at SOF and a member of the SOF Combat Pistol Team.

sion to the Vietnam war by invading South Vietnam with a full-scale conventional invasion force, spearheaded by Russian tanks and backed with heavy artillery and surface-to-air missiles (SAMs). The force penetrated the weak South Vietnamese 3rd Division and gained ground that was never recovered by South Vietnamese forces. The American ground forces, excluding two brigades (whose commanders received emphatic orders not to engage in combat for fear of losing more American lives), had by this time been withdrawn, and only American air power remained to conduct full-scale combat operations.

In April 1972, President Nixon authorized resumption of the bombing of North Vietnam. This bombing campaign was titled "Operation Linebacker," in deference to the President's well-known love for football. Operation Linebacker lasted from April-October, 1972. The 11

day bombing campaign that began in December 1972 was titled "Operation Linebacker II," and was seen as a resumption of the previous Operation Linebacker, which was then sometimes referred to in U.S. Air Force or Navy publications as Operation Linebacker I.

The main targets were to be North Vietnamese communications centers, road networks, railroads and rolling stock, bridges, military barracks and POL¹ stocks. The effort was intended to cut off the movement of supplies to the large army in the South, and to destroy or severely limit North Vietnam's ability to conduct the war.

Once again, as in the 1965-68 bombing operation against North Vietnam, the offensive brunt would be borne by U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy fighters and fighter-bombers. The heavy B-52 bombers, used since 1966, would continue tactical bombing operations in South Vietnam and against Ho Chi Minh Trail supply routes (which had by now been upgraded to a series of roads, highways and river-barge routes, capable of carrying heavy equipment, such as trucks and the tanks mentioned earlier). Up until the time of Operation Linebacker II, the B-52, as the United States' main nuclear weapons delivery system with its sophisticated electronic counter-measures devices (ECM), was considered far too valuable to risk possible loss and consequent study of its equipment by allies of the Soviet Union, against whom it might be used later during an all-out nuclear war.

On one rare occasion in April, the B-52s did attack a target near the port of Haiphong, coming in from the sea and releasing their bombs from as far as seven miles out (the distance the bombs

SAC Staff Incompetence Costs Lives and Planes Over Hanoi.

would fall taking into account the altitude and speed they were released at) and turning away from the mainland before entering the thickest defensive network. A similar attack was made on the North Vietnamese port city of Vinh, 140 miles south of Hanoi. In both cases, the results were negligible,² but their effects were far-reaching. As later events developed, it became apparent that the absence of losses in these minor operations misled the Strategic Air Command (SAC) generals and their staff into believing that the outdated tactics being used in the relatively secure areas of South Vietnam for six years were also effective in high-threat, heavily defended regions with sophisticated systems of air defense.

B-52 TACTICS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The B-52, or BUF (Big Ugly Fucker), as it is semi-affectionately known throughout the Air Force, was never really intended to be a conventional weapons delivery system. Instead, it was designed to deliver massive nuclear bombs with pinpoint accuracy from extremely high altitudes, usually above 40,000 feet.

The situation changed after 1956, the time of its full-scale introduction into America's defensive/offensive arsenal, to such an extent that by 1966, the BUF crews were being trained more in low-level nuclear weapons deliveries to avoid the highly effective Surface to Air Missile (SAM) radar network established throughout the Soviet Union. Aircrews never received training in mass deliveries, each BUF being treated as an entity in a nuclear war scenario. However, in conventional bombing, masses of bombs (and masses of airplanes to deliver the ordnance) are needed to ensure the destruction of large targets. Thus, for operations in Vietnam, the aircrews trained to fly BUFs were at a distinct disadvantage, having little of the formation flying training or experience necessary for mass bomber operations, such as those used in World War II or Korea. These deficiencies came quickly to the fore in the first large-scale operation conducted in South Vietnam in 1966.

A 60-plane force raided a suitable target in South Vietnam, flying from Anderson Air Force Base, Guam. There was no tactical necessity for this mass raid; it was apparently undertaken to dramatize the entry of America's heavy bombers into the South East Asian war. Two 30-plane waves were to strike the target, each arriving within a few minutes of the other. Each wave had ten elements of three aircraft, with two of the three flying a visual position to the right or left of the third. Since it was a dramatic political operation, a SAC major-general

rode in the "jump seat" in the cockpit of the lead aircraft. This seat, called the "instructor pilot position" by SAC, is placed slightly behind and between the two pilot's seats in a B-52.

Everything went as planned on the 10-hour flight to the target. However, SAC genius had decided that each bomber would turn 180 degrees (reverse direction) after releasing its bombs and return on the reciprocal of the heading they had attacked on. Putting 60 massive eight-engined jet bombers in formations with pilots having little formation experience was courting disaster. Having them fly on the same routes, with one group of 30 preceding the other and then turning back on the same route they went in on ensured the disaster. The first wave of 30 planes hit the target and, as each element released its bombs (within 20-30 seconds of the preceding element), the pilots attempted to turn.

Because it is difficult to reverse direction with three aircraft trying to maintain formation, particularly with untrained pilots, the first wave began to break down into a gaggle of maneuvering bombers, some still trying to strike the target while their preceding wave mates were filling up their radars in front of them. For a few moments it was touch-and-go, as the bomber pilots sorted their elements out and found the outbound course. Things might have worked themselves out, but the first waves' radar sets filled with a new threat: the second wave heading directly at them!

On the radar sets of the second wave, the mass of bombers coming at them from the first wave must have looked like

Aft portion of B-52 bomb bay, loaded with 750 lb. bombs. Could be released simultaneously or in ripple mode, with intervals set in flight by navigator.



Genghis Khan's hordes about to descend upon them, while to the first wave, the tight, well-ordered elements of the second wave looked like the determined approach of the Light Brigade. What the radar navigators saw on their radar sets in either force spelled disaster. Over each plane's intercom came the screeched commands from navigators to pilots to turn to this or that heading, usually followed with angry curses or agonized (and demoralized) prayers. Their comments were soon chorused by pilots as they actually witnessed what radar navigators were seeing electronically.

In the melee that followed, only two B-52s collided. Unfortunately, one of these was the lead bomber with the major general aboard. He was, of course, decorated posthumously for his courage in sitting in the jump seat with nothing to do but watch, while 60 pairs of pilots and co-pilots tried to outguess each other. In the general's plane and one other, they guessed wrong, which was not a bad percentage, all things considered.

As a result of that accident and several other accidents or "near misses," investigation boards were hard pressed to find any weapon as deadly to a B-52 as another B-52. Therefore, tactics in the South East Asian theatre for the B-52 were developed to reflect a concern for safety from mid-air collisions in what was virtually a no-threat (from the enemy) environment. Visual formation was eliminated as the BUFs now flew in trail (one behind the other), at least 1500 yards apart with number two 1500 yards behind number one and offset to the right, and number three 1500 yards behind two, offset to the left of lead's track, so that their bombs would not impact on top of lead's. Number two would delay release a certain number of seconds and his bombs would land alongside of lead's and number three would delay a few seconds more so



F-4's refueling with a KC-135 tanker enroute to a Migcap mission over Hanoi. The two F-4s in the foreground are E models with 20mm Vulcan cannon in the nose; two in background are D models.

his bombs would land on the other side of lead's bomb train. In this way, a target "box" 3000 meters long and 1000 meters wide could be covered.

Several bomber elements, each flying in trail, would be called a "wave" of Bombers, and several waves following the same invisible track in the sky would be a "stream." Formation was maintained by the giant radar in the nose of each bomber. The lead bomber would be using his radar for navigation or bombing. The bombers behind lead had the option of dropping their bombs using timing after lead's bombs were released, or if they were out of formation or had reason to believe that lead navigator was mistaken, they could use their radar to pick their own release point.

If the radar in one airplane failed, the tail gunner in the preceding airplane would use his smaller, defensive radar to vector the malfunctioning bomber directly behind his bomber (moving in from the offset), and that bomber had no choice but to time his drop on the preceding bomber's release. Since he was no longer offset from the preceding bomber, his bombs would land directly on top of the other plane's bombs, thus reducing the area covered. Other rules were developed, such as driving straight to the target from an initial point (IP) for several miles. (Although the equipment on board did allow for attacking a point from different angles, the "rules" said the B-52s would all drive in to the target on the same line, from the same IP, etc., and open the bomb bay doors one minute prior to release, which increased the size of the aircraft's radar picture to enemy SAM sites, making it easier to track and "lock on" for a launch).

Other tactics, such as the turning on and testing of ECM a certain number of minutes prior to bomb release and the test dropping of chaff bundles (bundles of

aluminum strips cut to certain wave lengths to confuse enemy radar) all served to announce to an enemy that a bomb drop would be conducted in "X" minutes and, if the enemy were familiar with the bombers' tactics, he would be able to predict exactly where the target would be. After watching American B-52 operations in South Vietnam and on the Ho Chi Minh Trail for six years, it may be assumed that the North Vietnamese became very familiar with American bomber operations.

OPERATION LINEBACKER I

At the direction of President Nixon, the harbors of Haiphong and several lesser ports were mined in May 1972 to eliminate shipping as a source of supply for the North Vietnamese operations in South Vietnam. As a result of that decision, the North Vietnamese government was forced to rely on their rail and road con-

nections with the Peoples Republic of China, in order to maintain their re-supply efforts. The two rail networks leading into Hanoi from China carried the heaviest traffic and became the focal point for U.S. Navy and Air Force fighter-bombers during the period of May-October 1972 (Operation Linebacker I).

The Russian-organized defense network included approximately 180 Mig aircraft (including the Mig-17, Mig-19 and the highly respected Mig-21), scattered throughout 10-12 permanent air bases and some 30 dispersal fields. Thousands of Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) pieces (from 23mm rapid-firing guns on up to 100mm behemoths that could reach accurately above 45,000 feet) were available, and approximately 2,300 SAMs were scattered on some 200 sites (although not all of those SAMs were operational at the same time). All of these weapons were in the Red River Valley, stretching some 120 miles from Yen Bai in the northwest to Haiphong and the Gulf of Tonkin in the East, and approximately 80 miles across, North to South. The vast majority of the defense was concentrated in a 60 mile long by 40 mile wide section of the valley, with the capitol city of Hanoi as the hub of this defense. The defense system was well-organized, using an extensive net of radar sites to provide information of incoming American attacks. The attacks of Migs, SAMs, and AAA were coordinated by the North Vietnamese to provide optimum coverage for the three types of weapons against the American war planes without shooting down their own Migs or interfering with each other's areas of responsibility.

Against this defense system, the U.S. Air Force and Navy had arrayed some 400-500 fighter planes (the figure varied according to losses and arrival of replacements) scattered on six air bases in

Air America Huey chopper landing at Udorn, Thailand in 1972. After losing several pilots due to red tape involving USAF Search and Rescue forces, many flight commanders briefed their crews to call for Air America support. USAF SAR forces were to be called in only as last resort.



Thailand and South Vietnam (the one fighter base left in DaNang, South Vietnam was evacuated by American fighter planes in July during Operation Linebacker I, as part of the "Vietnamization" of the South East Asia war) and two to five aircraft carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin. Approximately 150-200 B-52s were available, stationed at Anderson Air Force Base in Guam and at U-Tapao Royal Thai Air Base in Southern Thailand.

From May until August, the fighters carried the war to North Vietnam in a long, costly battle of attrition. The exact cost is subject to debate, but during a 90-day period, I counted over 165 jet fighters lost in North and South Vietnam, the majority being lost in battles around Hanoi. The defenses of the Red River Valley were gradually worn down and the Northeast and Northwest railroads were shut down, as were the major roads to and from China. Supply depots were destroyed, as were military barracks, command centers, oil storage facilities, barracks, bridges, and major railyards.

The North Vietnamese mounted an effective propaganda campaign against the bombing, claiming that hospitals, dikes and schools were deliberately bombed. To their discredit, a number of noted American newspapers and magazines seemed to accept the charges as fact, creating feelings of bitterness among U.S. aircrews who were giving all we could in the campaign. I do not claim to know every target that was scheduled to be hit in South East Asia, but I did frequently check the targets for most missions, since any targets missed on a day I did not fly might be on my schedule the next day. I can say with some certainty that neither the dike system of North Vietnam nor any hospital or school were ever targeted. However, North Vietnamese propaganda was very effective because additional restrictions were levied on aircrews. They now knew that every time they went on a mission, not only was there the possibility that they might die, but even if they survived, their careers might be over in the military, due to failure to follow specific directives — directives created to avoid giving the North Vietnamese any possible propaganda advantages.

In addition, we were aware that a substantial percentage of the aircrews who were known to be alive after bailing out over enemy territory were unaccounted for and presumed executed by their captors. Despite these handicaps, morale remained quite high, even to the extent that units suffering 50% or greater losses (such as the 4th and 421st fighter squadrons from DaNang during the period April-June) during Linebacker operations continued to fight on without letting up, by launching every plane left to fly against North Vietnam.

By late August, defenses around Hanoi were broken, allowing fighters to operate anywhere in the Red River Valley with

relative impunity. The supply lines were cut and re-cut, and the lack of supplies was noticeable in the even lower levels of defensive efforts sent up to oppose the raids. The SAM sites were not being re-equipped, and a raid that saw more than two or three SAMs launched against it was rare, as contrasted to the hundreds that would be fired during the early days of Operation Linebacker I.

Mig activity was reduced to two or three sorties a day by August. In the early months of Linebacker I, the Mig pilots, spurred on by the example of their hottest pilot, Col. Tomb, were very aggressive, rising to meet our forces with dozens of Migs and turning the skies into confused melee's between F-4s, A-7s, F-105s, and Migs. Colonel Tomb was known to us as the "Red Baron," and was said to have shot down 13 to 15 American fighter planes since 1966. Unlike most Mig pilots, Colonel Tomb knew how to fly his Mig-17 and Mig-21 air-

from the wingmen of their prey, hammered their single target out of the sky with determination and the sheer weight of numbers. After a few experiences like that, any American pilots who started a string of Mig victories were assigned code names on the daily flying schedules, instead of their real names. The efforts by North Vietnamese pilots to pick out and shoot down our single best fighter pilots ceased. Obviously, they were reading our schedules, which were posted publically throughout the base.

On 10 May 1972, an event occurred which contributed to the demoralization of the North Vietnamese fighter pilots. Colonel Tomb, North Vietnamese Air Force, met Lieutenant Randy Cunningham, U.S. Navy. Randy had just egressed from a massive dogfight in the Red River Valley where he had shot down two Mig-17s, making his score four for the war. As his F-4 exited the battle area, he saw a Mig-17 alone. Both aircraft turned



Author on left with Captain Tony Marshall at Udorn who had just returned from a POW camp. The car is the "official" 13th Squadron staff car owned by Cpt. Ed Young. Captain's flag is on the left fender; 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron flag on right.

craft, using their superior maneuvering capabilities to outfight his American opponents.

American pilots, having the benefit of more intensive training, were usually successful in their engagements against the Mig pilots. Although the U.S. pilots were fighting at a disadvantage over the Mig pilots' home territory and against more maneuverable aircraft, they were able to minimize their weaknesses and exploit their strengths. But as long as Colonel Tomb continued to down the American war planes, he served to encourage the other less-experienced North Vietnamese pilots.

It was a highly personal war for the fighter pilots, with both sides aware of the names and experience of the opposite sides' leading men. On several occasions, our leading Mig killer pilots were jumped by large numbers of Migs, who, disregarding the losses they were taking

simultaneously to meet head-on. The Mig's 23mm and 37mm cannons were spouting flame and shells as they approached.³

As the aircraft passed each other, Randy snapped the nose of his F-4 straight up to begin maneuvering in the vertical plane. As he climbed, Randy realized the Mig-17 had done the same maneuver and that their canopies were approximately 30 feet apart as the two aircraft flew straight up. At that time, Randy realized he was up against a pilot who knew his business. Most Vietnamese pilots weren't trained well enough to think and fight vertically using gravity and energy to gain advantage. Thus began the hardest fight of Randy's career. The planes rolled simultaneously, as each pilot fought to get in the other pilot's six o'clock.⁴

As the planes reached stall speed, they both kicked rudders, dropping their noses

earthward to continue the same vertical rolling scissors straight down. Back and forth the advantage went through several up-and-down maneuvers as each pilot initiated a new maneuver or successfully countered the opponent's. Then Randy suddenly extended his speed brakes and chopped his throttle, while heading straight up. Col. Tomb shot ahead of him, quickly reversed direction, and headed straight down, while Randy frantically tried to turn his stalling F-4 around. Randy fired his Sidewinder missile straight down at Tomb's tail, connecting a few seconds later. Tomb's Mig-17 continued its downward dive straight into the ground, exploding upon impact.

Thinking the Mig pilot was dead, Randy headed for the Gulf of Tonkin and the safety of his aircraft carrier. He never made it. His F-4 was hit by a SAM on the

Nixon, while negotiations were being conducted. Bombing continued below the 20th Parallel, but the Red River Valley was in the cease-fire area and Operation Linebacker I was over. For the next two and one-half months, fighter pilots flew escort missions with the reconnaissance planes over the Red River, watching helplessly as bridges, roads and railroads were repaired. Over 2,000 SAMs were photographed coming down the rails to replace those used in the previous offensive. Spare parts for aircraft were delivered and losses in Migs were replaced with additional aircraft.

Meanwhile, B-52s working with fighters bombed up to the 20th Parallel on a regular basis. This was the farthest north they had gone with any frequency. For the first time, B-52s were taking losses from SAMs based around Vinh and the Cease-Fire Line, a fact lost on the

unit. Messages had normally been delivered by telephone. In addition, we were warned not to mention that such a message was ever delivered. We were to act naturally (as naturally as possible without drinking, which seemed "unnatural" to most of us), yet remain where we could be reached rapidly. As far as content was concerned, the message was unusual, since in previous missions crewmembers selected were notified beforehand so that they could be rested for the mission. For 24 hours we remained tense, not knowing when the mission would occur or who would be going on obviously one of the "big ones." How big was not known until the first crews, notified individually (again contrary to normal procedure in which the crewmembers' names were posted on certain bulletin boards around the base), arrived to meet in the "Top Secret" briefing rooms. No

F-4D taking off from UDorn during Linebacker operation. It carries 12 Mk-82 500-lb. bombs, one ECM pod and three AIM-7 Sparrow air-to-air missiles. The outside stations are holding jettisonable fuel tanks.



Part II will describe Linebacker II and the gross errors committed by the Strategic Air Command Staff.

way out and, with most of his controls locked, he skillfully maneuvered his crippled F-4 to the Gulf in an erratic pattern which resembled an ever-descending sine wave. Over the Gulf, Randy and his radar officer, Willie Duncan, ejected from the mortally stricken F-4 and were rescued a few hours later by U.S. Navy choppers.

Intelligence later notified Randy that his fifth Mig, making him an ace, was Colonel Tomb, the triple ace. Colonel Tomb was too seriously injured to fly until eight months later and his absence had a severe effect on the morale of the remaining Mig pilots. Their attacks were fewer and less successful as Operation Linebacker progressed through August, although they did manage to get airborne as late as early October.

Late October 1972 saw bombing operations halted north of the 20th Parallel, again at the direction of President

generals directing operations from SAC Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. Requests for tactical changes from pilots and crewmembers flying B-52s and some fighter pilots escorting heavy bombers into SAM-defended areas were ignored. This lack of response to aircrew suggestions had a bad effect on SAC aircrew morale and later affected Linebacker II operations.

OPERATION LINEBACKER II

On the evening of 17 December 1973, word went around to all fighter and bomber crewmembers in Southeast Asia to "stand by." All off-base privileges were revoked, including partying and drinking, until further notice. In short, all crew members were to consider themselves "on alert." This message was unorthodox both in delivery and content. The message was delivered to each unit and then to each crewmember in the

other operation to date had been conducted with such secrecy, which was supposed to benefit the first strike forces attacking the targets.

When the drapes were drawn on the maps of most operations at the fighter and bomber bases, the response from the aircrews had usually been an explosion of cheers and whistles. They were firm advocates of the theory "do it or get off the can." To many of us, all-out operations against Hanoi seemed the only way to end the war and to get friends and comrades out of the "Hanoi Hilton," the nickname for POW camps in North Vietnam.

For seven years, the U.S. Air Force and Navy had been throwing only a small fraction of their weight into the Southeast Asian war, in what was recognized by nearly all strategists and tacticians as a gross misuse of air power. Now, for the

first time, aircrews saw themselves as part of major operations that they felt could finish the war. However, once the initial reaction wore off, aircrews grew more serious as they saw the plan of operations unfold.

The bomber tactics were the same as those which had proven ineffective against the few SAMs located around Vinh and the 20th Parallel. Now, against the thousands of SAMs available in the Red River Valley, they were going to fly into the target in a single line, one plane at a time with 30 to 60 seconds between each airplane in the cells, and up to four minutes between each cell, giving every airplane individual exposure to the entire defense net. Additionally, the 100-130 bombers flying on the first day would not fly down the stream together, but would be in waves, some an hour apart, but all using the same path. To the North Vietnamese defenders, the route of attack would be obvious after the second wave attacked the same route as the first. Additionally, the separation of waves, with up to an hour between assaults, going on from 8 PM (Hanoi time) until 6 AM the next morning, would give them an ample chance to deal with up to 18 to 21 bombers at a time, instead of all at once.

Two basic tenets of warfare were violated here as attacks were made both in piecemeal and originating from the same point. Once these two factors became obvious to the North Vietnamese and their Russian advisors, they could concentrate their entire defense net at one point in the sky. All AAA fuses could be adjusted to a set altitude, the entire SAM system could be faced in one direction, with mobile sites moving directly along the attack course, and the Mig forces could be dispersed to fields most effective against the expected route of attack.

Such a plan obviously gave maximum advantage to the defending forces. It really could not have been better for the North Vietnamese had they had an advisor sitting on the staff meeting that came up with the plan. Fighter pilots were disappointed because half of them would be assigned to fly close escort with the bombers, where they would share losses due to poor tactics. The other half would be orbiting over Mig bases to shoot down the Migs before they could ascend to the bombers' altitude, or they would provide cover for the back door as the bombers left the target area.

Putting the bombers in a long line and sending them into the target area also complicated the fighters' protection by stretching the force out many miles. Needless to say, bomber crews grew apprehensive as they began to appreciate the fact that they were going to be like individual ducks lined up in an amusement park shooting gallery, only there were going to be a lot more shooters.

To make matters worse, B-52 crews had been trained to dodge SAMs using minimal maneuvers, while seven years

of fighter-bomber experience had indicated that larger, more rapid maneuvers were needed to outfly the Mach 3.5 (3½ times the speed of sound) SAM-2s. In addition, fighter crews had reported seeing missiles very similar in shape and maneuvering abilities to the SAM-3 series, as well as an unknown type that was pictured in the 1972 Jane's **ALL the World's Aircraft** book, called "Gainful" (no numerical designation was given for it, but it would be in the SAM-4 or SAM-6 range).⁶

The bombers were not defenseless, as they had powerful ECM on board that was designed to jam or confuse enemy radar and radio-controlled weapons. One of the six persons on a B-52 crew had the exclusive job of operating the ECM gear to protect his bomber. He was well-versed in all the frequencies of Soviet-built radar and missile systems. In addition, BUFs were to be escorted by F-105 fighter bombers, specially equipped with ECM gear. These F-105's were armed with two different types of anti-radar missiles designed to follow a SAM radar beam to its source and destroy the radar and guidance control center of a SAM launch site. All SAMS there would be rendered ineffective by such a blow, because they received all of their guidance and control from that single source. However, only 16 F-105s, called "Wild Weasels," were available for such anti-SAM activities, and the single-line, multi-wave attack tactics of the B-52s stretched the capabilities of the Wild Weasels beyond their limits. Later, they were accompanied by F-4 fighter-bombers armed with cluster bombs (CBU-58s), which could scatter hundreds of small grapefruit-sized bomblets over a large area. After the F-105 released its anti-radar missile, the F-4 would follow the smoke trail to the SAM site and drop the CBUs there, guaranteeing destruction of the soft-skinned radar equipment, SAM missiles, and personnel occupying the site. The CBUs were also extremely effective against AAA sites, which had to be above ground, leaving crews particularly vulnerable to scattered bomblets. U.S. Air Force RB-66 bombers and Navy EA-6 fighter-bombers, both equipped with ECM gear designed to intercept and jam enemy radar and radio frequencies, were orbiting near the battle area. In addition, hundreds of F-4 aircraft, armed with radar-guided and heat-seeking air-to-air missiles were thrown into the fray to destroy airborne Mig fighters and to increase the number of blips on enemy radar screens to confuse the controllers.

In spite of their objections to the B-52 tactics, which were as usual ignored, the fighter and bomber crews prepared for the big mission, the first of a series to be known as "Operation Linebacker II." Many felt elated, knowing that they were involved in an operation that could

continued on page 60

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Dear Applicant,

It is with pleasure to advise you, that your name has been included in the "Short List" from many inquirers, to the advertisement for Overseas Security Personnel, and we are informing you as indicated, of the relevant details concerning these positions.

The Company: *PETROGUARD LIMITED*, is an internationally staffed company with limited liability, incorporated in the United Kingdom, in 1969, and has been fully reorganised and reactivated in early 1974, due to the "Energy crisis".

It is operating mainly under American-British management, contracted to international oil companies, as well as to some members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, (OPEC).

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Location: All vacancies advertised at present, are for positions in the Arab (Persian) Gulf area.

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Provided free: Single accomodation, Mess, Uniforms, Arms, Medical & Hospital care and Air Fare.

Canteen facilities: Similar to NAAFI or PX basis.

Directive: 1). Please answer all questions truthfully on the enclosed application form, even if uncertain of the exact reply, insert the words eg: "Not sure" or "Approx." etc...


2). Please enclose U.S. for administrative, airmail and visa expenses. Money Orders or Bankcheques are to be maue payable to *PETROGUARD LIMITED*. 610.00

Notice: Please follow all instructions of the above Directive carefully in every detail, as any omission will result in disqualification for final selection.

Prompt and precise response will bring fast and favourable results.

Hoping to have the opportunity of meeting you soon personally,
with best wishes

Yours truly
PETROGUARD LIMITED


D.C. Dungan, Col. (Ret.)
Vice President,
Intl. Personnel.

P.S. a) Regretfully it is not advisable for followers of the Jewish Faith to apply, as all present vacancies exist in Arab Countries. b) Final advices of selection should reach all applicants within 60 days of posting back your applications. D.C.D.

SOF EXPOSES INTERNATIONAL RIP-OFF

By N.E. MacDougald

'Too nervous to steal and too lazy to work, but still want to make a fast buck? Buy a ream of impressive stationery and some official-looking rubber stamps, place a few newspaper ads and wait for the money to start rolling in. The formula is simple enough: prey on sincere persons' desires to obtain fair wages for honest work.

As its name implies, Petroguard appears to be an international job placement service, providing security personnel for oil-producing countries. This much needed service enticed thousands of individuals to write Petroguard inquiring about such positions. What they received for their \$10 application fee was nothing. That's right - Petroguard offers nothing for something.

Because of numerous merc recruiting scams, SOF decided to expose Petroguard beyond any doubt. A staff member was assigned to rigorously investigate the bogus firm.

SOF first heard of Petroguard through one of Publisher Brown's friends. On 27 April 1976, Brown wrote Petroguard's Colonel D.C. Dungan, Vice President of Personnel, requesting employment details for use in a subsequent SOF issue:

We are interested to know if you are still accepting applications as well as any details about what qualifications and/or experience you are looking for in your applicants.

We intend to use this information in a subsequent issue of Soldier of Fortune, as we feel that it would be of great interest to our readers (most of whom are veterans or police).

Hope to hear from you in the near future on this matter. Thanks for your attention. (SIGNED) Lt. Robert K. Brown.

Petroguard replied on 11 June:

I am taking the liberty to reply to your letter of April 27, as Col. Dungan is on an extended tour in the Middle East, Ethiopia and Southern Africa. Since the delay, please accept our appologies (sic).

To your inquiry, yes, we do recruit security personnell continuously (sic), more so than before, as many installations and pipelines have been completed, and new ones are under construction, mainly by ex-RMK-BRJ crews from South Korea.

You may be interested (sic) that 67% of our Security Personnell (sic), recruited in 1974-75, have renewed their contracts for a further 12 months.

Due to the sharp increases of visa fees and administrative expenses, we regret that we have been forced to

increase our fees to U.S. \$10.00 per application for all areas irrespectively (sic).

Enclosed please find job description and application form, which are self-explanatory.

Col. Dungan will be back by the end of this month and should you have any further inquiry, please direct it to him.

With best wishes and regards. (SIGNED) Harry S. Durant, Lt. Gen. (Ret.), Executive Vice President, General Manager, Operations.

SOF (Fall 1976) donated a couple of paragraphs to Petroguard in **Bulletin Board**. This good faith gesture precipitated a string of calls and letters from angry readers who had sent Petroguard money, filled out detailed application forms and heard nothing since.

One irate reader, conned by Petroguard, stated he had sent money in response to an ad in **The Houston Chronicle** in 1974, and was still waiting! We began calling the firm "Pettyfraud" around the office.

In October 1976, SOF received a letter from an enterprising reader who had been burned by Petroguard and had written the authorities. The Hong Kong Police replied as follows:

Petroguard Limited is not registered in Hong Kong either as a business or as an incorporated company. No such company carries on business at 20 Printing House, 6 Duddell Street, Hong Kong. "Col. D.C. Dungan" is not known in Hong Kong. Cheques remitted to Hong Kong in response to advertising have been negotiated in Hong Kong by unidentified (as yet) persons. (SIGNED) P.J.B. Wassell, Commercial Crime Office.

The Fat was in the fire.

SOF (Winter 1977) gave Petroguard another paragraph in **Bulletin Board**, but the message was different:

Petroguard Ltd., c/o North American Placement and Visa Services Ltd., 20, Printing House, C., Duddell St., Hong Kong, joins the list of phonies . . . A phone call to Petroguard "offices" was answered by a telephone answering service. Apparently, the Petroguard address is simply a mail drop; no one has been placed by Petroguard; and the Hong Kong police are seeking the mysterious "Col." Dungan.

Letters confirming Petroguard's mail theft continued to fatten SOF's file. In January 1977, an SOF staff member wrote letters inquiring about Petroguard to various government agencies. Included in the letter were the other names under which Petroguard masqueraded: North American Placement

and Visa Services, Ltd.; Anathon Computer and Educational Systems, Inc., and Pope, and Evans & Robbins International, Ltd.

SOF staffers wanted to believe in Petroguard's sincerity because of the free blurb in last Fall's issue. But the growing file of correspondence from Petroguard's victims could not be ignored.

In February, agency replies began arriving. The Special Investigations Division of the U.S. Postal Service wrote SOF:

Reference is made to your inquiry of January 25, 1977, concerning the above-shown subject.

Our office has had several complaints against this firm Petroguard in the past, which have been forwarded to Hong Kong authorities for their review and appropriate attention. Attached is a copy of their response indicating that this firm had ceased their operations several years ago. This response was dated December 16, 1975.

However, according to the literature you have enclosed in your inquiry from the subject firm, it would seem to indicate that they are "back in business," due to the more current date of the letter.

Therefore, I am requesting that the Hong Kong authorities review this situation with respect to the recent literature and advise this office of their findings.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated. (SIGNED) A.R. Dockus, Postal Inspector.

cc: Commerce and Industry Department, Trade Investigation Branch, Tung Ying Building, 5th Floor, 100, Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

On 26 February, the Hong Kong Police wrote to SOF:

I refer to your letter dated 20th January, 1977 concerning Petroguard Ltd., and North American Placement Services.

Petroguard Limited is not registered in Hong Kong either as a business or an incorporated company. N.A.P. & V.S. is registered in Hong Kong as a private company, but inquiries reveal that the company has not done business for some considerable time. The company named Armonint is untraceable. The directors of N.A.P. & V.S. are not at this time in Hong Kong, and the registered address of the company, Room 20 Printing House, 7 Duddell St., Hong Kong is no longer being used. All mail is redirected to the address of a Mr. Erwin Panos, who is the holder of P.O. Box number 5663, Hong Kong, which is an address used by

continued on page 74

ROK Special Forces

THE TIGERS of KOREA

By Hampton L.W. Brady Jr.

Their berets are black, and their intentions toward the communists who lurk across the uneasy border are the same hue.

Occasionally, you see these men on the streets of Seoul, but only on the weekends and comparatively few at any one time.

These men are easily the most distinctive troops in all of Korea's military forces, dressed in their camouflaged jump suits with the para wings worn proudly on the left breast. These are the ROK Army Special Forces, and when "the balloon goes up," they will be the first to carry the message of miscalculation to the doorstep of Kim Il-sung, the commie king of North Korea.

It is not easy for the average American to realize the import of the tactical situation that faces Korea 24 hours a day, year in and year out. As the years roll past since the cease-fire was called 24 years ago, the situation has intensified. The North Koreans have steadily added to the muscle of their massive war machine, which has put that country some two billion dollars in debt to all of the nations rash enough to trade with them. 550 tanks, nearly a thousand planes, and in the Kaesong area (just over the DMZ) alone, 23 Y-shaped long-range gun bunkers, each 80 meters long, with 42-inch thick reinforced concrete walls and twenty feet of earth fill, point at the heart of Seoul like an assassin's dagger, leaving no doubt of comrade Kim's long-range intent.

I had occasion to visit the "Black Berets" to do a story on the martial arts in Korea, and after many clearances with various ministries, was picked up in a ROK Army staff car to visit this airborne camp.

Major Lee was my guide, interpreter and photographic conscience during the time that I was on the base. He hovered over my shoulder, monitoring every exposure to make sure that I was recording nothing to jeopardize security.

Koreans, in general, tend to be very security-conscious, and the Special Forces carry out this policy to the nth degree.

"You must limit your coverage to Taekwondo (Korean Karate) and nothing else," was the admonition, and every other mention of the troopers' training was very firmly omitted.

Taekwondo was what I had come for, and a full measure of the demonstration of that effective art was what I received! This was definitely **not** the molly-coddled fatuous choreography so prevalent in the paper mill dojos that fill the yellow pages in many parts of the United States. This was the unvarnished killing art in its rawest state, used as a fighting tool by these troops who are some of the toughest and most highly-trained in the world.

The bodily physics and lightning-fast movements of really good Taekwondoists are beautiful to watch, and these men were not just good, they were experts who stake their lives on their art.

Punches and kicks that can tear off half

a skull or cause massive internal rupture is what these men are capable of, and table stakes for this outfit **start** with a first degree black belt.

Taekwondo, to these men, is almost a religion, and certainly one of the most important physical elements of their training. Four-and-a-half hours a day is the unbending rule, and that means barefoot workouts in any weather from the searing heat of the summer to the brutal cold of the Korean winter.

Great impetus was given to the formation and strengthening of this airborne unit when the North Korean commando raid on Chong Wa Dae, or "Blue House," the presidential residence, came so chillingly close to succeeding some ten years ago.

Terrorism such as this emphasizes the need for counterinsurgency forces at the very steps of the seat of government.

I was quite surprised to notice the seeming lack of sophisticated training equipment on the workout field. The kicking bags were regular duffel bags filled with sand (packed down to the consistency of a slag heap and felt like kicking a bag full of boiler plate) and a row of "Tallyon Chu," "Forging" posts, 2x4's planted in the ground and wrapped tightly round the top with rice-straw rope, used to harden the striking surfaces of the hands and feet.

Several members of the troop demonstrated various attacks and knife disarming techniques, and then, two six-foot-plus soldiers trotted out to the front with

that steel-spring, bouncy stride of the almost overtrained. One was wearing the traditional "Tobok," the Taekwondo uniform and the other was wearing his tiger suit battle dress, black beret and carried an M-16.

They squared off and the trooper with the rifle moved in with the speed of a pissed off cobra, letting loose with a slashing, horizontal butt stroke.

The tobok wearer parried and blocked the stroke, grabbed the butt of the rifle and delivered a sizzling roundhouse kick that he stopped, with perfect control, just brushing the top of his opponent's beret.

What had just been demonstrated was not the flashy, aerial acrobatics that have no basis in the hard fact of combat, but the techniques that are coldly efficient and directly to the point.

The war clouds gather and provocations escalate, such as the recent hacking to death of two American officers at Panmunjom in the now famous tree trimming incident.

The tree in question was cut down the next day by a platoon of fully-armed American troops, accompanied by 59 Black Berets, who were unarmed . . . except for hands, feet and guts!

The bass notes that accompanied the high-pitched whine of the chain saw, came from the 17 Cobra gunships that constantly circled overhead.

The DMZ border that runs across the Korean peninsula from East to West is guarded by thousands of troops, barbed wire, mine fields and radar, and is fairly secure, although two infiltration tunnels have been intercepted 120 feet under the solid granite of the border, and the presence of 10 more tunnels is known and duly marked on the "I" Corps commander's battle map.

The really great problem where communist infiltration is concerned, is the long and convoluted coastline of Korea where agents of the North can be dropped in by boat or sub, making an "end run" around the heavily-guarded DMZ.

This is where the mission of the Special Forces gains importance. Teams of tiger suited troopers are trained to pursue the intruders with the instincts of hunting cats, and God help their prey when contact is made!

Continued provocation has become a way of life for the tough-minded Koreans, and as long as the ROK Special Forces keep themselves honed to their usual razor sharpness, snuffing out terrorist incursion will be just another exercise.



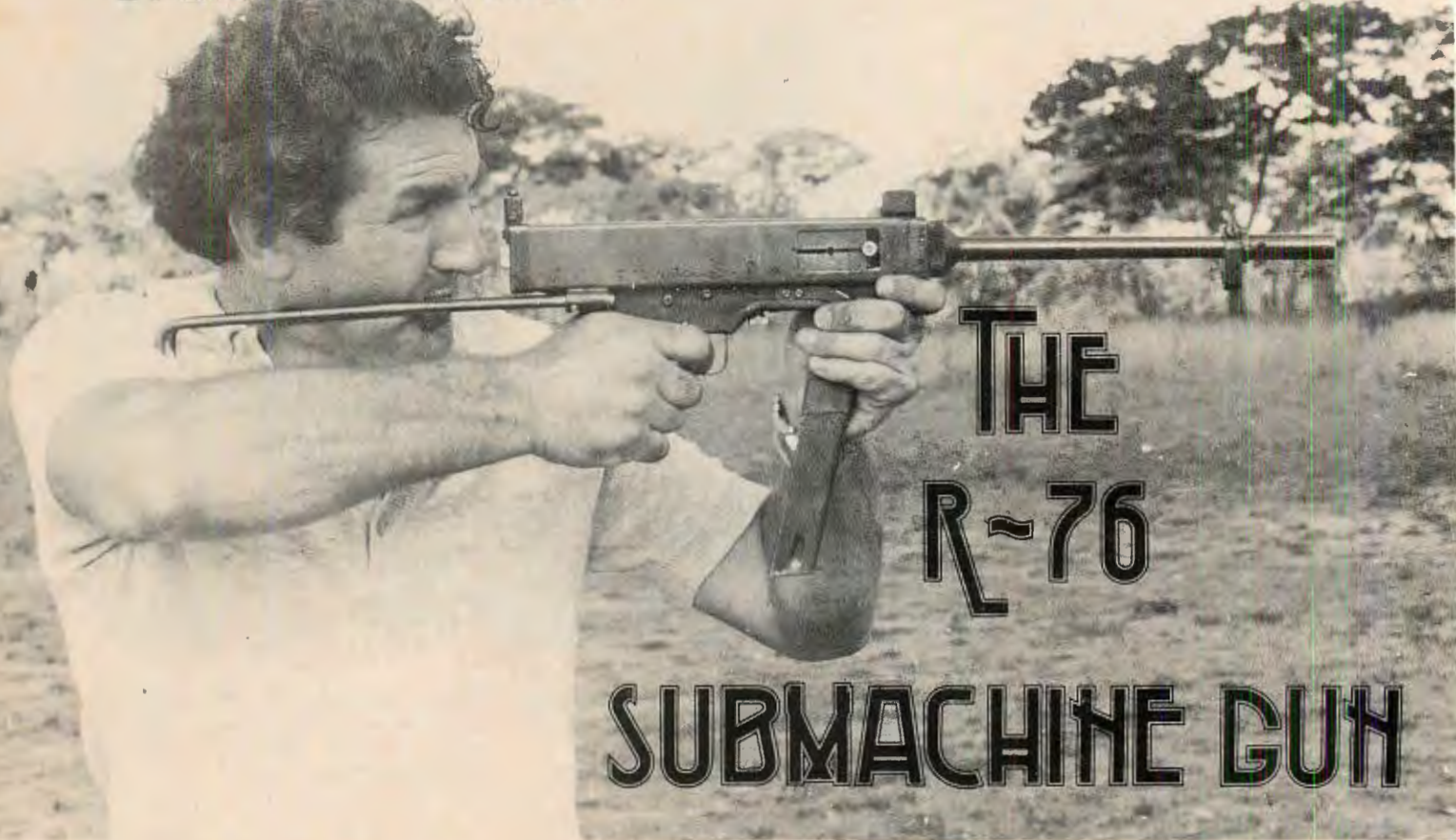
Above: "Tallyon Chu," forging posts give the trooper's fists a good work out.

Below: A trooper's high sidé kick and timely block prove mightier then a "butt stroke," from his work out partner.



RHODESIA ROLLS HER OWN

BY LT. COL. ROBT. K. BROWN



In 1966, the United Nations, with U.S. support, imposed an embargo on Rhodesia because it failed to recognize the concept of "one man, one vote" majority rule. No matter that over 120 other countries do not implement this concept, including over 40 other African nations. So much for the double standard leading diplomats, including the State Department's tooth-fairy liberals.

Over the years the resourceful Rhodesians successfully managed to blunt the embargo's impact using a variety of methods, including self-dependence.

Until recently, Rhodesians have depended upon South Africa for their small arms. Now, several weapons are being produced in Rhodesia and others are in the prototype stage.

While in Rhodesia late last year, I had the opportunity to examine and fire one of these home-grown guns—an ugly but deadly 6½ pounds of submachine gun dubbed the "R-76."

The R-76 was designed by 38-year old Roger Mansfield, a consulting engineer who emigrated from Great Britain two and a half years ago. Mansfield, who spent five years in the British Air Force as an aircraft engineer, was dissatisfied with the quality of life in the UK and

"decided to go to a country that had a fight and was winning."

Mansfield embarked upon the R-76 project after noting there was a shortage of pistols and submachine guns for the civilian populace. True, farmers, ranchers, and civilians living in outlying areas were issued FN/FAL's manufactured in South Africa. However, while more than adequate for operations in the bush and repelling terrorist stand-off attacks from farm buildings, the FN/FAL was almost impossible to use from the front seat of a car when ambushed.

Terrorists prefer to attack civilians rather than slug it out with Rhodesian security forces. When fire is returned, even from a single, lightly-armed civilian, the terrorists usually disengage and beat a hasty retreat.

For example, some months back when I was in Rhodesia, a story was making the rounds of how a farmer driving a Citroen was ambushed on a lonely dirt road by four terrorists armed with a RPD light machine gun and three AK47s. Upon taking fire, the farmer wheeled his vehicle into a skid, picked up his 9mm Browning Hi-Power and emptied the magazine in the general direction of the terrorists' ambush. The terrorists fled.

"I became seriously interested in

developing a weapons system based on a submachine gun in February 1976, and started design in mid-March," Mansfield said.

Factors considered in the design of the weapons were balance, rate of fire, selective fire capability and ease of manufacture. The 9mm cartridge was selected because of availability. Due to the difficulty in obtaining sophisticated steels in Rhodesia, materials selected were those readily available.

"Sixty percent of the parts of the R-76 are manufactured out of locally-produced material. We import sheet steel; the stock, guide rods and sear are constructed out of imported material but of a standard, easy-to-obtain specification," Mansfield continued. "We even manufacture our own magazine springs."

The R-76's conventional design incorporates a square-shaped receiver. The trigger mechanism and sights were designed to be produced by the simplest means possible, in order to keep tooling costs low and minimize manufacturing processes.

With a cyclic rate of fire of 480 rounds per minute, the four-part trigger mechanism allows the shooter to tap off single shots, even when the selector switch is on automatic.



Prototype R-76 appears crude and ugly but is easy to manufacture. Note reversed wire stock that can serve as fore-grip.

Configuration of the bolt, guide rods and the method of attaching the barrel resemble that of the U.S. Army's .45 cal. M-3 submachine gun. The prototype tested was fitted with a post-front sight, protected by wings and a peep-type rear sight. Production models, however, have a simple V-notched rear sight.

One of the unique features of this blow-back operated SMG is its 24 micro-groove barrel. Mansfield claims that "The microgroove rifling completely envelops the bullet, which prevents the loss of gas. Previously, it had been thought that the grooves would be rapidly choked with powder residue." However, Mansfield ran 1500 rounds through a

barrel and had no fouling problems. Cleaning requirements are minimal as the barrel is corrosion-resistant due to the treatment given to the barrel. It is only necessary to wipe the chamber lightly after firing. However, Mansfield does recommend field-stripping the gun once a week to clean and oil the guide rods.

Only the barrel is blued. All other parts are simply plated with zinc and then treated with molybdenum salt, which provides a dull, rustproof finish.

Mansfield has purposely omitted sling swivels on the R-76, thus forcing individuals to carry the weapon, making it constantly available for use. If a customer is insistent, sling swivels can be installed.

"I liked the idea of having the bolt run

Editor R. K. Brown tests a R-76 with 10" barrel that accepts bipod. R-76 has aroused interest in Rhodesia and overseas.



on twin guide rods, as the many SMG's that have their bolt guided by the receiver are prone to jam due to external damage or foreign matter in the action.

The bolt-retracting handle, located on the left side, is spring-loaded, and after the first round of a burst is fired, remains in a forward position. The ejection system, which spits out cases to the side and parallel to the ground, was designed to preclude a stream of hot cases raining down on a nearby companion.

Mansfield decided to use the Stoner concept of designing a basic weapons system that had the capability of being used in vehicles or in assault situations. Therefore, his firm produces 6,8,9, and 10-inch barrels, allowing the purchaser buyer to choose his own poison. The 9 and 10-inch barrels can be fitted with flash hider and mounts that will accept either a bayonet or bipod.

Weight of the R-76 with 6-inch barrel is 6½ pounds; with 9 inch barrel, 6¾ pounds. "A choice of 13, 20 and 30-round magazines is available. To increase versatility, the R-76 accepts the Browning Hi-Power magazine."

Presently, Mansfield is turning out only 35 SMGs per week, but expects to increase production to 100 per week by mid-year. The R-76, which sells for \$230 Rhodesian (\$345 U.S.), obviously has been accepted by the Rhodesians, since 1000 back orders are on the books.

Before going to press, I called Mansfield to check out some minor points and he informed me he has orders for over 15,000 units for overseas sales and that six countries outside of Africa have indicated interest in the R-76. Interested parties should direct their inquiries to Northwood Development, Box 1871, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Perhaps spurred-on by Mansfield's resourcefulness, a number of other Rhodesian weapons are in various stages of production. These include a four-



Above: Mansfield, center, discusses R-76 with members of combat pistol club.



pound SMG named the "Cobra" that fires from a closed bolt; a 12 ga. shotgun; another 9mm SMG similiar to the Czech model 25 that is produced for the Rhodesian Army.

I also saw a 9mm machine pistol called the L.D.P., and nicknamed the "Rhuzi." It weighs about 4½ pounds, carries a 25 round magazine and, in the selective fire version, reportedly cranks out 1200 rounds-per-minute. Cost is \$160 Rhodesian (\$240 U.S.). Additional information can be obtained from L.D.P., Box 1268, Salisbury, Rhodesia. We will carry reports on these new weapons in future issues.

I fired the R-76 at a range near Salisbury in November of last year. Unfortunately, the tests were inconclusive, as the weapon repeatedly malfunctioned in the automatic mode due to a defective bolt-retraction spring. Mansfield explained that the prototype had been run through a series of tests by some local law enforcement types who had bent said spring. However, I did manage to empty a few magazines in semi-automatic fire. The R-76 handled well and had good balance. Hopefully, we will run it through more extensive tests on our next trip to Rhodesia.

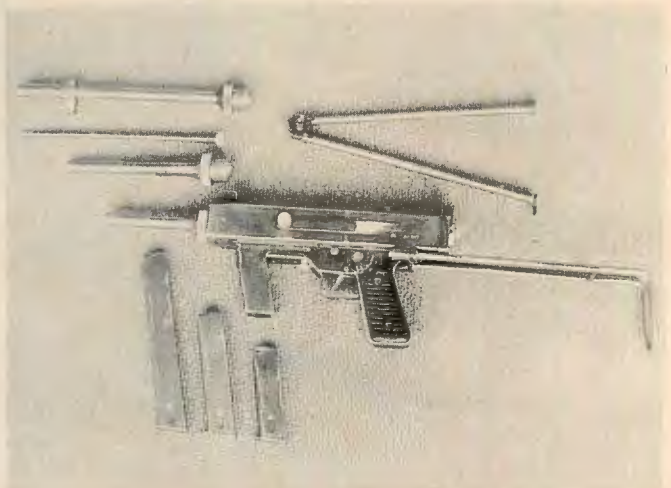


Far left: Damaged spring on prototype hindered test and evaluation.

Left: Example of simplicity of R-76 is indicated by magazine release made of spring steel.

R-76 disassembled.

R-76 offers selection of barrels, magazines. Note bayonet to left of bipod.



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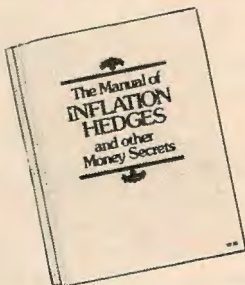
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THE M-16: TERROR OR TOY?

BY CHUCK TAYLOR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuck Taylor is a former U.S. Infantry Officer and served in 1968-69 in the DMZ Corps of Vietnam.

He is an OCS graduate and is an expert

in all areas of small arms both military and civilian.

Decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.



Over the last decade or so, an interesting, if disheartening, phenomenon has taken place in U.S. military circles. This *faux pas* is the wholesale adoption of the 5.56 mm/.223 cartridge as the standard for all U.S. Armed Forces.

Originally designed as a survival-rifle cartridge for the crews of Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) bombers, the 5.56 mm has blossomed from its intended role to the status of being an international celebrity. The AR-15 rifle, and its descendant the M-16, have had a sensational impact on the arms industry in general, and the military communities of the world in particular.

What caused this sudden, radical switch to such small-caliber weapon, after the United States literally forced NATO to accept the 7.62 mm T-65 (.308) cartridge instead of the 7-mm in the late 1950's?

Since the turn of the century, the U.S. military establishment had clung tenaciously to the .30 caliber cartridge, in one guise or another for reasons of hard fact—it worked! The .30 caliber, first in .30-40 Krag, later in .30-06 and 7.6 mm NATO (.308) performed admirably in each of the many conflicts in which it was used. It was extremely accurate even at long range, worked well in heavy cover, bucked the wind well, and demonstrated very good penetration. Indeed, I have personally witnessed astonishing feats of accuracy at ranges exceeding 800 meters by army snipers in the northern I Corps of Vietnam, using the M-118 7.62 mm NATO cartridge and specially prepared Remington 700 rifles.

Another, perhaps the most important, attribute of the .30 caliber is its power. When a man took a solid hit from the good old "caliber .30," he went down, and that was that!

Why then, in view of all of its strong points and excellent 70 year combat record, was the .30 caliber dumped for, of all things, the 5.56 mm/.223? The most obvious reason, of course, is politics. The early 1960's were the years of the Kennedy Administration, and a Cabinet of Presidential Advisors known as the "whiz kids," by those on the inside. A number of unfortunate events ensued under their influence, such as the Bay of Pigs fiasco, but the adoption of the 5.56 mm/.223 can be counted among their greatest screw-



Taylor's sniper, armed with M-21 (accurized M-14) and Starlight scope, before night operations in DMZ.

ately, the mission of a combat infantryman is as different from an aircrewman or dog handler as night is from day, and so, therefore, are their respective weapons, but this glaring fact was also either ignored or overlooked.

The decision to go with the M-16/5.56 mm (.223) was rationalized by loudly proclaiming that the soldier could carry three times as much 5.56 mm ammo as he could .30 caliber, and carry and shoot the M-16 easier because it was smaller, lighter, and recoiled less than the then-standard issue M-14.

The M-16/5.56 mm received its trial by fire in the jungles of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, where all of those who were knowledgeable in battle weaponry dumped it immediately for something better!

There was no question that the M-16/5.56 mm was lighter than the M-14, or that it was an easy rifle to shoot, or that it carried easily. All of these things were true. There was also no question that one could carry more 5.56 mm ammo than .30 caliber. The problem was that one couldn't reliably stop an attacking VC/NVA soldier with it, even with multiple torso hits in some cases! With its 50 grain FMJ bullet at 3250 fps muzzle velocity, the M-193 5.56 mm ball round proved to be worthless in heavy, or even light, cover since its light, high-velocity bullet would deflect or disintegrate easily. It also proved to be overly susceptible to wind, erratic in terminal impact behavior, and demonstrated lousy penetration!

While, after several modifications, the M-16 proved to be a reliable weapon system, the 5.56 mm demonstrated repeatedly that it was clearly incapable of the performance required of a battle cartridge.

ups.

The Air Force had been courting Armalite and their prototype AR-15 rifle for some time, so the "whiz kids" decided that it might, for reasons of economics, be a good idea to equip all of our armed forces with the same rifle. They reasoned that it would be much cheaper to manufacture rifles, parts, and ammunition in quantity for one basic rifle than for several different ones. This, of course, was an excellent idea, and had been developed to its maximum potential by the U.S. Army already, but the "whiz kids" based their choice of rifles on all of the wrong things.

Why the 5.56 mm was chosen over the superb 7.62 mm M-14 is shrouded in dark mystery, especially since the M-14 was already available in quantities and was the end result of years of research and development by the U.S. Army. This fact was apparently ignored or unrealized by those concerned.

The Air Force had long recognized the need for a survival rifle for their SAC bomber crews that could also be used for defensive purposes by relatively unskilled personnel. The AR-15/5.56 mm was easy to shoot, accurate, and definitely more potent than the .22 Hornet which was in service at the time. They also realized, for the same reasons, that it was superior to the M-1/M-2 carbines issued at the time to sentries and dog handlers at SAC bases.

The "whiz kids" somehow decided that the same weapon selection criteria must apply to the army as to the air force, and, after a number of additional SNAFU's, the M-16 was born. Unfortun-

I illustrate the preceding by recounting to you two of the many instances in which I was personally involved where the 5.56 mm/.223 was used and failed.

My unit was on a Search & Destroy Mission in the Ba Long Valley in the Northern I Corps of Vietnam, about nine kilometers south of Ke Sanh. We had penetrated deeply into the jungle, following the network of well-used trails that permeated the area. The terrain was mountainous, and laced with heavy undergrowth.

At a bend in one of the trails, we literally walked into the arms of a squad of NVA soldiers. Neither element had been aware of the others presence prior to actual contact. In the ensuing action, the two lead NVA were killed instantly in a full-automatic fusillade by my point man. Everyone then took cover and began to deploy.

I ordered three of my squads to deploy and sweep the area, hoping to engage the remaining NVA troops, and advised the squad leader of my remaining squad to spread out and maintain flank and rear security while I developed the situation.

The squad with which I was moving came upon an NVA trooper hiding in a clump of undergrowth, apparently uninjured. We immediately opened fire on him, and incredibly, after approximately 100 rounds of M-193 5.56 mm ball ammo had been fired into the clump, he remained uninjured! *Not one of the 5.56 mm bullets had made it far enough into the undergrowth to reach him!* The problem was solved when I ordered one of my machinegunners to hose down the clump with his M-60 LMG. (The M-60, is chambered for the 7.62 mm NATO cartridge.)

The second occasion demonstrating the 5.56 mm's unreliability nearly cost me my life. In the mountains west of Con

Taylor looks for results after firing at VC in bush outside LZ Hardcore.





Author with crew-served .50 cal. Browning HMG and Starlight at LZ Mohican.

Thien in northern I Corps of Vietnam on a recon operation, we received permission from HQ to ambush a small NVA unit whom we had managed to discover while remaining undetected ourselves. I set up an L shaped ambush for them on a bend in the creekbed they were using as a trail, with an M-60 LMG at the apex of the "L." We let them walk well into the K-zone before engaging them and our initial burst of fire killed all but two of the seven members of the squad, who somehow managed to escape the hail of bullets and climb out of the creekbed into the jungle. I ordered one of my team leaders to establish a perimeter around the area, and dispatched my remaining men to comb the area for the two survivors, utilizing the two-man team method.

After moving a short distance into the bush on the other side of the creekbed, my RTO and I spotted an NVA with an AK-47 rising up out of some undergrowth with an obvious intent of fighting to the finish. I opened fire on him at point-blank range with my M-16, putting 20 rounds of 5.56 mm tracer into his chest, one shot at a time, semi-automatic, from the underarm position. His only visible reaction to being repeatedly hit was a slight twitch with each successive bullet impact.

When my M-16 ran dry, *he was still standing with his weapon in hand!* My eyes never left the muzzle of his AK as I dug desperately for another magazine for my M-16. I could see that I wasn't going to get my rifle reloaded and back into action before he fired, so I tossed the M-16 and went for my .45 pistol. In that slow-motion way that only a life and death situation can produce, I watched a 7.62 mm slug impact in his chest, slamming him to the ground, and simultaneously heard the

shot, followed by another which bounced him a foot off the grass. He then lay still.

I kept my .45 trained on the NVA lying in the grass until I was certain he was dead, and then began to look around for the soldier who had just saved my life. My sniper stood about 30 meters away, with a grin on his face, and a 7.62 mm M-21 sniper rifle in his hands. In this particular case, two solid hits from the .30 caliber weapon did better work than an entire 20 round magazine of well-placed 5.56 mm. I must ask—what good does it do to carry three times as much 5.56 mm ammo when it doesn't do the job?

I carefully considered the events of that day on the chopper ride back to base camp after we had been extracted from the area. I decided that I had definitely had enough of the M-16/5.56 mm and vowed to search until I came up with a better weapon for my needs. I also made a mental note to remember that reliable stopping power was of paramount importance in my ultimate choice of weapon.

I turned in my M-16 and some combat zone "wheeling and dealing" left me with a nice M1A1 Thompson SMG, with all accessories, obtained from the armorer of a nearby marine tank outfit. Obsolete or not, I carried that gun all over I Corps from that day on and it never failed to do the job in direct proportion to the way I did mine in the marksmanship department. Strangely enough, I rarely used it in the full-auto mode, preferring to fire rapid semi-auto shots, using .45 ACP tracer ammunition. Since the vast majority of my encounters with the enemy were at ranges of less than 30 meters, and usually in the bush, this system was eminently satisfactory.

A large percentage of my troops pre-

ferred to carry M-14's due to the fact that they were chambered for the 7.62 mm NATO cartridge. All of those whom I asked, told me that they felt more secure with the M-14 because they knew that it would put their enemy down with one solid hit, and the M-16/5.56 mm would not. A significant number of them also objected to the fact that the M-16 was worthless for close-in situations where the rifle often doubled as a club, or for bayonet work, due to its fragility and design.

An additional point of discussion on the 5.56 mm is its poor penetration potential. As discussed previously, I have witnessed many failures to penetrate light cover, such as a set of GI field gear or vegetation, and, on several occasions, seen poor or erratic penetration on completely unprotected targets! The 7.62 mm NATO cartridge, on the other hand, demonstrates superb penetration on even more heavily protected targets. The fact that the "whiz kids" did not have enough faith in the 5.56 mm to chamber all of the U.S. machineguns and sniper rifles for it pretty much confirms what I've said thus far, and is definitely food for thought.

The recent trend on the part of the military towards firepower instead of efficient marksmanship is the main reason that the 5.56 mm's deficiencies have not been brought to light sooner or and more vocally. Most of the men whom it failed are not alive to present their case!

Modern troops are trained to saturate individual areas of responsibility with automatic fire to the point that they are almost incapable of precise, aimed fire at point-type targets. As a result, after the initial confusion of battle is past, they have no idea of "who shot whom with

continued on page 75

VC zapped in ambush near Quan Tri. M-16 hit but did not kill as well as M-14 or Thompson SMG.





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SOF Special Report

THE UNITED STATES

GUN BAN:

The Massachusetts Battle

by Gene Crum

As reported in the Summer, 1976 issue of *Soldier of Fortune*, the United States is involved in an internal political war currently being fought in legislative chambers and at the polls: will there be a ban, either conditional or complete, on gun ownership by private citizens? So far, the answer remains in doubt.

Gun owners have been credited with a major victory in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, where a voter referendum was staged November, 1976 in conjunction with the regular elections, asking voters to approve a ban on handguns. The voters rejected the ban by a vote ratio of 69% to 31%.

The ban would have called for the surrender of modern handguns to police, during a six-month grace period. The ban also provided for payment for the handguns "at a rate to be determined by the Commissioner of Public Safety." The ban would not have applied to the police and military, gun makers and wholesalers, shipping firms, and "historical societies and museums." It also would have exempted certain "antiques and replicas", rifles and shotguns.

The ban would have linked criminal prosecution to mandatory jail terms for violators.

Although the rejection of the handgun ban has been hailed as a major victory for gun owners — and correctly so — close study of the "building blocks" which composed voter thinking in that Liberal-orientated State suggests that the victory was more marginal than the percentages show:

In July, 1976, the Santa Ana, California firm of Decision Making Research (DMI), a highly respected survey company, polled a random sample of 600 Massachusetts voters and determined a probable ban-rejection vote percentage almost identical to that generated at the polls. Pro-gun fighters held a more pessimistic view, expecting a narrow margin in which the question could go either way. This view was encouraged by "propaganda polls" carried out by anti-gun forces, and



by a realistic view of the Massachusetts political climate, which is strongly leftist.

Following the referendum, pro-gun forces polled Massachusetts voters and determined that about 63% felt they had a constitutional right to own a handgun, but that about 46% of those polled felt that prohibition of private handgun ownership would significantly reduce violence.

Both this poll and a December, 1976 poll carried out by anti-gun elements indicated that the pivotal element of the gun-ban referendum was the financial question: conservatively expressed, there are an estimated 700,000 to one million handguns privately held in Massachusetts. Of these, a minimum of 370,000 have been purchased since 1968. Assuming a minimum compensation of \$125 per gun, the compensation necessary in carrying out the ban (exclusive of administrative costs) would be around \$125,000,000 minimum. The cost was held by the voters to be excessive, even at a 100-million-dollar level. A pro-gun poll indicated a rejection of this by about 67%, with an additional 23% being of the opinion that the spending would be "somewhat justified". Only 10% felt the spending would be "very justified." However, in other polls, the voters supported heavy spending to finance an expansion of state pris-

on facilities and the number of judges in Massachusetts.

These views were the result of a strong public information campaign mounted by a coalition of 22 pro-gun groups, backed by the support of 22,000 members of the National Rifle Association (USA). Adding muscle to this force was the Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, the Farm Bureau, National Guard units, the Western Massachusetts Central Labor Council, and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute. The work was coordinated by Mrs. Tanya K. Metaksa (of the National Rifle Association's "Institute for Legislative Action") an unusually capable woman who worked primarily through the Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) of Massachusetts.

Pro-gun efforts to provide voters with a true choice on the referendum were dashed shortly before the elections when a court ruled an alternative, pro-gun question off the referendum. Much time, money and labor was lost with this biased decision. However, the pro-gun fighters quickly adapted to the new situation and hammered on the practicalities of the issue, making the most progress on the financial question. However, during this campaign it proved nearly impossible to mount a more sophisticated drive which would have linked the gun issue and the ban proposition to long-standing anti-gun political figures. So, although the ban was defeated, most of these figures won reelection.

According to the anti-gunners, reporting in the newsletter "Targeting In On Handgun Control", issued in January, 1977 (as published by the U.S. Conference of Mayors Handgun Control Project, which is funded lavishly by foundations such as the George Gund Foundation, which alone this year donated \$212,076), other pro-gun goals also were not met: the anti-gun survey of a representative sample of 500 voters indicated that 67% of the respondents felt that an effective gun ban would have to be imposed from the Federal level. In addition, 52% sup-

continued on page 62

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

Ex-SFer Mike Echanis A MODERN MASTER OF ANCIENT SKILLS

Special Forces SEALs and Rangers
Adapt Ancient Assassination
Techniques for Modern Warfare



A flying side kick sets up an Echanis student for a double knife technique.

Armed with a sharp fighting knife and a cold look of determination, the Special Forces soldier charged the black-garbed man who waited calmly for the attack. The man in black seemed to move imperceptibly, suddenly the S.F.'er was lying in the dust, his arm bent strangely under him, his neck throbbing from a powerful blow. A black tennis shoe rested lightly on the downed soldier's throat. He looked up and said sheepishly, "Thanks, Mike, that was great. And please remind me never to try that again," as he rubbed a new bruise just below his ribs.

"Mike" is Michael D. Echanis, a 26-year-old former Special Forces trooper with eight years service behind him. Echanis began studying Judo and boxing at the age of four. Through the years, Echanis also studied Tae Kwon Do, a Korean form of karate. Tae Kwon Do is the same style of fighting that the elite ROK Tiger Division and Special Forces practice. Five years ago Echanis began to study the art of Hwa Rang Do.

Hwa Rang Do gets its name from the most famed and feared warriors in Korean history—the Hwa Rang.

Hwa Rang Do remained largely hidden until 1960, when instructors Joo Bang Lee and Joo Sang Lee opened a Hwa Rang Do school in Seoul.

The western world got its first look at this fighting art in 1968, when Joo Sang Lee came to the U.S., to open a school in California. In 1972, he was joined by his brother, Joo Bang Lee, the newly appointed Grand Master of Hwa Rang Do.

Shortly after Joo Bang Lee's arrival in the U.S., he accepted a student who was already well-versed in the martial arts. He recognized in this man the potential and the desire to become one of the Hwa Rang Do elite, a "Sul Sa." This man was, of course, Mike Echanis.

Five years later, Echanis is the Chief Instructor of approximately 200 teachers who train Special Forces Rangers, UDT, Seal Teams, Marine Force Recon Units and "some others." They have demonstrated that the art of killing is timeless, that a technique which worked well 2000 years ago can still be applied effectively today. The techniques taught by Echanis have been modified to fulfill directly the needs of the modern warrior.

During a visit to SOF offices in Boulder, Colorado, Echanis told us about his training program designed for the military. "We stress the mental aspects of combat as well as the techniques and physical side. The warrior needs a diverse knowledge of his profession: combat. In order to effectively utilize his knowledge, the warrior must be able to attain the proper state of mind on demand.

"In the short amount of time that I usually have to train a group of men, I push them really hard. They must find out that they can do a hell of a lot more than they thought they could. Some of the guys who start in the program don't make it." In fact, around 35% of them drop out in the first two days of the three week program. The attrition rate comes as no surprise in light of what he makes them do. A normal day's workout will include 500 knuckle push-ups, 100 back-of-the-wrist push-ups, several hundred sit-ups in addition to the training itself. "After showing them the techniques a few times, we let them practice it slowly, but only six to eight times. Then we go after it for real," Echanis said. "It's not uncommon for us to see a broken arm or two or a broken leg. Black eyes, bruises and aches are common." *Black Belt* magazine calls Echanis and his people, "Competitors in an arena where the only trophy is survival."

Knife fighting, sentry stalking and removal are just a few of the exotic areas of study Echanis' students explore. Use



In a test of his ability to control pain, Echanis supports a full bucket of water from a bicycle spoke driven through the skin of his neck.

of the garrote, throwing-knife, chains, nunchaku, quarter staff and ice axes are only a few of the weapons used in this unique program. When asked why he taught modern fighting men such "bizarre" methods, Echanis replied, "You don't always have your choice of tools. I try to teach them to improvise, adapting to the situation. Adaptability is the main quality that makes Special Forces, Seals, or Rangers elite. When they run into something unexpected, they can handle it. It doesn't throw them. Behind enemy lines at night with a few team members, close to an enemy camp, you don't want to start a shooting spree. I can cut a man's throat, crush his larynx and break his neck before he hits the ground ten feet away from you without a sound."

We asked Mike to demonstrate some of his sentry removal techniques for us. Being a professional who dearly loves his work, he complied willingly. At a training area in the mountains west of Boulder, Colorado, Echanis allowed us to photograph the step-by-step method he teaches the military. On the next two pages is the first of a three part series on Sentry Removal.



Silently approaching a sentry's post, the attacker watched the movements of his prey carefully. Picking up the sentry's timing and rhythm of movement, the "night stalker" prepares to take him out.



With his left hand in the proper position, should it become necessary to charge his prey, the attacker moves in. Keeping the body low and making no sound, movements smooth is most important. Matching his movements and timing to the sentry's makes him almost invisible.



Attacker's left hand snakes out to grab the sentry's chin and pulls it toward the left, while the attacker's weight is driving high and to the right. Spinning a man and throwing a heavy weight on his back will disorient him momentarily, giving the attacker a big advantage.

~ SENTRY

Stradling the victim, the "night stalker" makes his second cut—this time across the larynx (voice-box). The time span between the first and second cuts is approximately one second, so the order of targets is not quintessential.



The follow-through is a key element of a successful cut and allows for set-up for the next technique.





Wrapping both legs around his victim to immobilize his arms, "night stalker" keeps turning pressure on the victim's head, moving to the left so that the neck is exposed for the knife strikes. (Notice that his hand has spread to cover the sentry's nose and mouth.)



Here's a closer view of the knife grip and strike target. The stroke draws the blade across the neck (directly above the carotid artery) toward the sentry's left shoulder. Forcing his head hard to the left gives easier access to the target and leverage for the strike.



Continuing to pull his weakened victim around, attacker rides him toward the ground. Unwrapping his legs, the attacker prepares to gently guide the slumping sentry to the ground.


REMOVAL

Turning his hips sharply, the attacker sets up for his final strike. Notice that his left leg keeps pressure across the downed sentry's back. Never take anything for granted.



The final strike, an overhand "ice pick" type, has the full weight of the attacker behind it. To insure that there are no living enemies behind you, strike placement should be at the juncture of neck and shoulder so as to catch the collarbone as a guide. The next time you stand sentry duty, SOF warns you to: WATCH OUT FOR THE "BAD ANGELS."





SOF SPECIAL FORCES & GORE-TEX

PRODUCT EVALUATION OF NEW WATERPROOF GEAR BY

N. E. MAC DOUGALD

THE PROBLEM

Until Gore-Tex[®], the same technology that wiped out smallpox, harnessed the atom, and put a man on the moon could not make raingear that kept outside moisture out but not inside moisture in. This problem was thought, like the rain itself, unchangeable—a problem to be stoically endured, not solved.

THE ANSWER

But, in 1969, former duPont researcher, Robert Gore, solved the problem. He stretched a Teflon[®] molecule to create a film-like substance with two invaluable waterproofing qualities; it blocks out water, and yet allows water vapor to escape.

The process, called Gore-Tex[®], is not as farfetched as it may sound. After all, your skin works in much the same way. At a recent conference in England, Gore executive, Joseph Tanner, explained, "Gore-Tex[®] is a microporous polymeric film of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). Specific films .001 inch thick have pore volumes of 82% and a maximum pore size of .2 micrometers. This pore size and volume produces about nine billion pores per square inch and is hydrophobic, i.e., water will bead up and not wet its polymer surface, and requires very high water pressures for liquid water penetration. At the same time, the large

number of pores and thinness of the film readily allows diffusion of gases such as moisture vapor."

What all this jargon means to the consumer is that wearers of Gore-Tex[®] garments will not simmer in their own juices. Sweat will evaporate through a Gore-Tex[®] garment while keeping out the heaviest rains.

WHAT IS WATERPROOF?

The U. S. Army defines as waterproof any garment capable of withstanding water pressure of 25 pounds per square inch. This figure is far too high for normal usage, but serves as a conservative guideline for comparison. Even wind-whipped rain rarely approaches 25 pounds PSI. A glance at Tables One and Two shows that Gore-Tex[®] treated fabrics exceed even the Army's stringent specifications by a factor of two.

THE PROCESS

Put simply, since a water molecule's diameter is larger than the maximum pore size of Gore-Tex[®], Gore-Tex[®] acts as a microsieve. Its fluorocarbon sandwich, which gives Gore-Tex[®] fabrics their characteristic rustle, allows vapors to pass through freely by osmosis.

IMPLICATIONS

The less weight you carry in a pack, the more energy you'll have retained when your destination is reached. What matters is not how much strength you have, but how much you save. Certain essential items determine minimum pack load weight. Gore-Tex[®] dramatically reduces this minimum weight by replacing many single purpose articles with one multipurpose item. Thus ten or more pounds can be lopped off an average pack load. For example, most uncoated nylon tents have a rainfly. A Gore-Tex[®] tent has no separate rainfly and needs no extra rainfly tent pegs. A new two-person

Gore-Tex[®] tent called the Light Ultimate, made in Seattle by Early Winters, weighs only three and one-half pounds. Likewise, use of other Gore-Tex[®] treated materials can result in weight savings that mean either additional endurance or the capability of carrying more ammo, food, etc.

Because comfort is related to endurance, ten hours spent in a temperate climate is probably less wearing than five hours spent in climatic extremes. Thus, in survival situations, a Gore-Tex[®] garment is desirable because the wearer stays more comfortable. Gore-Tex[®] products are more expensive, but when you are fighting for your life in the wilderness, money may be the last thing on your mind.

THE FIELD TEST

Granpappy once defined "luck" as the point where opportunity and preparation meet. I was planning a field test of three Gore-Tex[®] products when Publisher Brown asked offhandedly if I'd accompany a Special Forces (SF) unit on a nearby winter Field Training Exercise (FTX). As he grinned, I was mentally packing my



gear.

A day later, I met Major Lars (Mike) Hedstrom, Jr., Commanding Officer, "A" Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th SF Group, based in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He brought along one of his Operations Sergeants, Ted R. Goebel, Team Sergeant of SF Operational Detachment "A" 745, who had served with Brown in Vietnam. Major Hedstrom explained that his unit had jumped into Colorado on 7 February at the Strasburg Drop Zone (DZ), Buckley Air National Guard Base, in Denver. Sergeant Goebel added that their stint in Colorado was part of an SF training program, and that "A" Company would fly out 25 February and jump into Sicily DZ, Ft. Bragg, for a week's pre-deployment training before jumping into a classified location in the Republic of Korea.

"Moderate" was the adjective used to describe the forthcoming FTX. The Sergeant dismissed the exercise as, "Just a few clicks up and a few clicks down. Nothing really."

My fears of inadequacy partially assuaged, I asked for details. "We start off with ski-touring equipment near the East Portal of Moffat Tunnel near Lake Eldora ski area," he explained, "then follow South Boulder Creek Trail up to Heart Lake, where we bivouac. Next morning, we pack our skis over the (Continental) Divide via Roger's Pass and then ski down to the West Portal near Winter Park. Whole thing isn't more than eight or ten miles." He neglected to state that 2,500 feet of elevation had to be negotiated on both sides of the 11,860 feet pass, or that they were forced to abort crossing last year because of 70 knot winds. I knew the Divide could be hellish, but the mild winter eased my mind. Besides, my goal was testing equipment, not picnicking. Little did I know how far from a picnic that exercise would be.

Code name for the FTX was Orbit Divide III. Four split teams of five Green Berets were participating. Commo support came from mobile units near Lake Eldora and Winter Park. The armory in Boulder had commo with the mobile units and with HQ, Ft. Bragg. The FTX was a test of the teams' direct action capability after crossing the Divide. Each team had tunnels or bridges as mock objectives, and an Army cinematographer was on hand to shoot training films. My rendezvous at the armory was 0600 hours the following day.

Dawn broke clear and bright. I found the Sergeant nursing a hangover, bitching about the weight of his pack and skis. I empathized and observed that government issue hadn't changed much since I'd been in the Army over ten years ago. Looking around the undivided barracks, I noticed that no two troopers wore identical gear. Field uniform was camouflage fatigues, but each soldier sported a different kind of hat or pack or knife. This



Above: Ramer ascending moderate slope on ski system he developed.

Lower Left: Early Winters bivouac sack in stuff bag.

Below: Systems approach is evident in the integral boot, binding, gaiter combination from Alpine Research. Note unique heel spacers.



Tables 1 and 2 show hydrostatic water entry pressures for various outerwear materials.

Table 1. Water Pressure, Moisture Vapor Transmission Rates, and Material Weights as Determined by United States Army Development Center, Natick, Mass.

Material	Water Entry* Pressure PSI	Moisture Vapor** Transmission Gm/M ² /24 hours	Overall Weight oz/yd ²
Nylon, Thermo- plastic Polyure- thane Coated	36	268	3.08
Nylon, Silicone Rubber Coated	58	152	2.39
Cotton, Micro- porous Polyure- thane Coated	26	375	5.59
Polyester/Cotton Poplin, Quarpel Treated	1	773	5.70
Nylon, Thermo- set, Polyurethane Coated	250	82	5.70
Nylon/GORE- TEX/Nylon, 3 layer laminate	55	779	2.85

*Fed. Std. 191, Method 5512 (Figure 3).

**Fed. Std. 406, Method 7302-B (Upright Cup, Figure 4).

Table 2. Water Entry Pressure, Moisture Vapor Transmission and Weights of Materials as Determined by W. L. Gore and Associates, Inc.

Material	Water Entry* Pressure PSI	Moisture Vapor** Transmission Gm/M ² /24 hours	Overall Weight oz/yd ²
Nylon, Thermo- plastic Polyure- thane Coated	30	497	3.08
Nylon, Silicone Rubber Coated	50	216	2.39
Cotton, Micro- porous Polyure- thane Coated	20	1002	5.59
Polyester/Cotton Poplin, Quarpel Treated	1	5843	5.70
Nylon, Thermo- set, Polyurethane Coated	> 60	74	5.70
Nylon/GORE-TEX/ Nylon, 3 layer laminate	55	4806	2.85
Nylon Taffeta/ GORE-TEX, 2 layer laminate	55	5080	2.54
Nylon Taffeta/ GORE-TEX/non- woven, 3 layer laminate	60	4560	3.70
"Ventile" (English)	2	4371	7.2
"Ventile" (Howe and Bainbridge)	2	4987	6.04
"Reeveair"†	12	154	3.33
"Airweave"††	> 60	241	5.29
"Bukflex"†††	> 60	93	5.89
GORE-TEX Film	61	11,072	0.5

*High Pressure Water Entry Pressure (Similar to Figure 3).

**Gore modified ASTM 96-66BW (Inverted Cup, See Fig. 5).

†Product of Reeves Brothers

††Product of Industrial Products Co.

†††Product of Peter Storm Ltd.

kind of individualism was tolerated in Vietnam when I was there, but I thought a peacetime army would be more standardized. Perhaps the SF's elite status permits it to overlook such irregularities. Green berets predominated, but watch caps, baseball caps, and balaclavas were making inroads.

Issue skis were Hart 606s. I wondered why downhill skis were doing double duty as touring skis. In reply, Goebel shot me a frustrated look, shouldered his pack and strode toward the waiting bus. Onboard he was not shy about his distaste for most army equipment. He said that the average soldier had 50 pounds on his back and 15 pounds of skis and bindings on his feet, and that this was too much weight in mountainous terrain. We agreed that modern, lightweight gear could shave one quarter to one third off those figures. I briefed him on the Gore-Tex® process and he was clearly interested in the Early Winters bivouac sack and parka that I carried.

Clear, dry weather at the East Portal lent a holiday spirit to the exercise. Troopers joked with each other and seemed eager to move out. As we waited for deployment orders, one of many unofficial mottos of "A" Company was recited. "The Greatest Happiness is to scatter your enemy and drive him before you, to see those who love him shrouded in tears, and to gather to your bosom his wives and daughters." Genghis Khan reputedly said this in 1226.

We carried our skis over a small bridge and frozen pond and donned them in dirty snow. The mild winter weather

Below: Vented armpit helps adjust internal temperature.



seemed more irritating when one trooper noted wryly there was more snow at Ft. Bragg. The alpine day exhilarated us as we struck West. The first kilometer's travel was interrupted by frequent stops to adjust bindings or change wax. (A trail-wise skier carries a variety of waxes to adapt to different snow conditions.) The best wax combination that day was green base with blue over and red on the kicker.

We broke for lunch near a couple of tumbledown cabins by the trail. Most SF types ate long-range reconnaissance patrol rations, in contrast to my cold meal of cheese and bread, fruit and nuts. The team's saying of the week was reverently intoned, "If chickens had lips, buzzards would apologize." I nodded solemnly at this wisdom and we moved out again.

An alien being greeted us around the next turn. Clad in a metallic green jumpsuit and spaceboots, the stranger commanded attention. The creature's boot/binding combination intrigued us all. We found ourselves looking at the man's futuristic footwear instead of his face. Apparently, he was used to people ogling; he graciously introduced himself as Paul Ramer, founder of Alpine Research in Denver. He explained that several army units were testing 2,000 of his unique downhill/touring ski systems.

His system employs multi-functional elements for utmost versatility. For example: ski poles, adjustable for length, can be fastened together to form an avalanche probe. The ski construction compromises nicely between downhill and cross-country designs. Bindings feature heel spacers that keep the skier's feet near horizontal, while climbing steep hills. Boots, as can be seen from photos, are elaborate.

Ramer agreed to let SOF field-test this system and review it in a forthcoming issue. He skied away quickly and silently, and was lost from view as we resumed our assault on the mountain.

The trail became steeper and we were forced to herringbone or side-step in places. Since most troopers were sweating heavily, we stopped to readjust clothing. Winter camouflage—white parkas and overpants—were removed. "Now we don't look like cooks anymore," remarked one medic as he stuffed his whites into his bulging pack. My lighter skis and Lowe Expedition pack made me a pacesetter.

At 1530 hours, we were about two clicks from Heart Lake, but because of their poor acclimatization, some team members began straggling. I elected to continue with another team rather than wait for stragglers. MGS Ed Trout, SF advisor to Readiness Group, Denver, and I joined a team that was just moving out. The trail angle was steep and sustained, and the going was slower. I hoped my team was close behind, as the Lowe tent we were sharing was with Sergeant Goebel. But after an hour at Heart Lake, Goebel's team was not in sight. I split wood until after dusk to keep warm, then I realized no team would be moving around that terrain in near-darkness.

After sharing soup and stories with some gnarled noncoms, I tossed my sleeping bag near Trout's shelter-half. I stuffed my bag in the bivouac sack, more for warmth than protection from the weather. At 11,000 feet, the night sky was incredibly clear. I fell asleep.

Hours later, I awoke covered with snow. I shook it off the sack, pulled the hood over my head and tried again to sleep. But the wind increased and the temperature dropped. My down bag couldn't insulate me from the howling blizzard. I dozed fitfully only to find conditions worse when awakened. I dreamed of huge, silent avalanches covering everything. I spent most of the night turning to keep from getting colder.

Dawn was dark, and blowing snow cut visibility to less than 100 meters. Wind was buffeting from several directions I

opted to stay in my bag as long as possible. Others were up trying to make breakfast in the 50 or 60 knot winds. SGT Jim Rundberg, a Colorado native, asked if I were alive and well. Without moving, I grunted that I was alive, but not very happy. The weather prevailed and finally, I was forced out of my cocoon by a full bladder. I hastily broke camp and wondered if we would attempt the crossing. In answer to my question, an SF recon party appeared out of the storm with horror stories of worse winds and even less visibility near the pass. The Officer in Charge decided to abort and descend the way we'd come. Few personnel familiar with mountain weather complained.

Morale was low as we put cold feet into colder bindings and retraced our steps. The intense cold made our movements clumsy and even accomplished skiers fell. Short-radius turns and heavy packs slowed us to a bureaucrat's pace.

We expected conditions to improve as we descended, but they didn't. As we recrossed the frozen pond, we had to lean against a 50 knot wind to keep upright. The wind-chill factor was about ten degrees below zero.

Field testing completed, I can safely say that the Early Winters bivouac sack and parka made of Gore-Tex® laminate are well worth their high price. The sack kept me dry, which kept me warm, which kept me alive. The parka breathed as claimed and the underarm zipper vents allowed temperature adjustments without removal. The hood kept the ferocious wind from blowing through my ears and the integral visor cut glare. The hand-warmer pockets were great, but could be reinforced, as I managed to rip stitches with my oversized paws. Thank God that the zipper pulls are large enough to permit use with mittens on. Amen.



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continued from page 19

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MACV SOG REUNION . . .

CCC, CCN and CCS "Survivors" will hold a reunion, 16-18 December 1977 in Las Vegas, NV. Cost \$10 each. Payable by 1 August 1977. Send money to any of the following: Tom Cook, 10416 Georgetown Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670; Ed Lesesne, Box 272, Ft. Gulick, APO 09837; Gary Robb, Box 93, Pocono Pines, PA 18350; Jim Wheeler, 1515 Circle Court, Candlewood, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464; Jim Butler, Suite 1000, Tower II, 1999 S. Bascom Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008; Mike Taylor, 112 Ski Lodge Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209; R.E. McKenny, 400 W. Orange Thorpe, Apt. 116D, Fullerton, CA 92632.

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International Pistol Shooting Confederation World Championships will be held in Salisbury, Rhodesia, 25-31 August. Jeff Cooper hopes to be able to send ten participants—two teams, and is seeking additional sponsors. All SOF'ers interested in sponsoring a U.S. team member should contact Jeff Cooper, The American Pistol Institute, Box 401, Pdaulden, AZ 86334.

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RHODESIAN INFO . . .

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points out that it should be used only by someone trained in its use, and preferably in a hospital.

In short, when one is bitten by a venomous snake, any form of field first-aid will probably worsen the bite. Getting to the nearest medical facility as soon as possible is really the only form of "treatment" the layman is capable of.

Sincerely yours,
Ira La Rivers III
Curator, Herpetology
University of Nevada
Reno, NV

Dear Sir:

Would you read my letter carefully because my English is still poor. My name is Phanprason (Som) Thammavong. I am a refugee from Laos. I have a wife, no kids. I came in this country on November 3, 1975. I was a former 1st Lieutenant of Royal Laos Air Force. In Laos, I flew the T-28 for Fighter and Bomber. Also, I flew the O1-F (L-19) for Forward Air Control. I speak English, French, Vietnamese, Thai (Thailand) and Laos. Now, I am under the sponsorship of Captain Jim Sentzkow, who was my former aviation instructor in Udorn (Thailand).

I am interesting your Soldier of Fortune about the world news. Now, I am looking [for] a job, like the mercenary or any kind of job that it will fit me.

Above is a brief description of my past experience. If it would be possible, I am hopeful it would be useful in considering me for employment with your company or elsewhere. I do not expect to be employed as a first class.

I hate the Communist(s) deeply. As the past we didn't get the first prize, but watch our smoke in the nearly future. Once again, excuse for my English. Looking forward to seeing to answer.
Som Thammavong
Joliet, Illinois

SOF's Aviation Editor has reviewed the training certificates and documents submitted with his letter. Mr. Phanprason completed several training courses in the Air Force and was a qualified T-28 fighter-bomber pilot and a Forward Air Controller in Laos for a number of years. He is probably very qualified for such jobs as STOL, fire-bombing (slurry) operations or general aviation. Anyone wishing further information or with knowledge of an appropriate employment opportunity for Mr. Phanparsom, please write in care of: SOF, Department 2Lt, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.



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continued from page 37

spell the end of the American part of the Vietnam war, and perhaps the end of the entire war. Others felt awed by the thought of being part of one of the largest air operations undertaken since World War II by one of the world's largest and best-trained air forces.

Most of us had some feelings of apprehension, knowing that the entire North Vietnamese air defense system had been re-equipped during the two month cease-fire north of the 20th parallel. Feelings of excitement permeated all the briefings, from Anderson Air Force Base on Guam to the carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin, to the bases in Thailand, as aircrews prepared themselves and their airplanes for the coming air battle. No

one doubted that it would be rough, but few thought that it would fail.

The mood in the fighter squadrons, whose crews had many missions in the Hanoi area and knew what to expect, was one of jubilation. Here, at last, was a chance to free their POW buddies, some lost as recently as two weeks before (captured below the 20th Parallel). Others had almost become legends by now, having existed up to nine years in conditions, which until 1970 (when pressure fomented by POW/MIA associations awakened world opinion) included indescribable physical torture, mental anguish, some executions, and inhuman living conditions.⁷

With our experience, we fighter pilots knew that we could evade most SAMs and usually dispatch the Migs easily. Our chances of being hit by one of thousands of radar-directed, rapid-firing Anti-Aircraft Artillery cannons were a matter of odds, which we had been flying with as long as we had been in Southeast Asia.

Bomber pilots came out of the briefings more subdued than fighter pilots, but still intent on doing the job. Their experiences with SAMs near the 20th Parallel in the past two months indicated that the tactics dictated to them by Headquarters, SAC, remained ineffective against SAMs. There was little communication from the operational crews to the staffs, and the further up the chain of command one went, the less were one's chances of hearing critical information. SAC crewmembers were not encouraged to comment on or make recommendations concerning tactics or operations. This attitude of higher echelons of SAC command was the outgrowth of a system created for nuclear war, which only allowed for decisions, however inflexible they might be, to be made at the top. Therefore, nuclear war and tactics were considered to be subjects not open for discussion by crewmembers, most of whom looked upon as persons who did not have access to "the big picture."

While this kind of attitude may have had its benefits in a 24-72 hour nuclear war, in which targeting and operational decisions are made or approved solely by the Commander-in-Chief (the President) and his designated representatives, it has no place in a protracted war, where technology and new ideas result in changes that require an almost daily response by one side or the other. In short, the SAC developed a one-way communications network, in which orders were given by the higher echelons to the operational crews, but no information concerning their effectiveness was allowed to filter back. Policy and tactics are virtually inseparable in nuclear war, so any dissent concerning tactics was considered as a deviation from policy and the "deviant" individual was punished, usually to the extent that his career was severely damaged or terminated.

Against this background, the aircrew members began pre-combat preparations, which had by now become a religious ritual to most. A description can best be illustrated through an interview with a fighter pilot who participated. (His name and the names of some others quoted in this article have been changed or withheld to protect their identities, since most are still in the U.S. Air Force.)

Captain Nino Baldachi, a member of my unit, the 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron "Panther Pack" from Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in North Central Thailand recalls:

"We filed into the briefing room, tense with nervous expectation. The fact that all of us going into that briefing were River Rats⁸ told me that the Red River Valley was going to be our target. Since the moratorium on bombing above the 20th Parallel had been put into effect two and one half months ago, almost half the River Rats in the Udorn squadrons had rotated back to the States or were on TDY assignments to other parts of Asia. Most of us still with the squadrons had moved into full-time staff duties in squadron or wing headquarters. Pulling us out of our staff duties altogether, while excluding the full-time pilots in the squadrons, most of whom were new and hadn't yet faced the intensive anti-aircraft defenses around Hanoi, told us old heads all we needed to know: that this wasn't going to be the type of mission we could afford to 'break-in' the newer guys with. The April through October bombing offensive showed us that men needed to be introduced gradually to the hottest combat zones, letting them develop their skills and build their confidence before being sent out as shark-bait over Hanoi. So this was going to be an all-out mission, or some of the more experienced new guys would be with us.

"Even though I'd been on dozens of the 'heavies' before, I always got tense when I figured I was going back to Pack VI,⁹ only this time it was worse. I guess the secrecy made me even more tense.

"The briefer waited until we were all seated, then slid one of the 20 charts in the wall out. When we saw the route leading directly to Hanoi, there seemed to be a momentary pause. Then there was some applause, a few 'All Right's!' and someone shouted 'Shit Hot!!' When we were told we were going in with the BUFs, I was even more excited.

"But I can remember the comments made when we realized that the BUFs were going to attack in successive waves, using the same route all night. Fighter pilots are not quiet, and they let their feelings about SAC come out during the briefing, especially the guys who were going to fly close escort with the BUFs.

"The rest of the briefing was anticlimactic: the numbers of SAMs, the guns, where each of the Migs were located and so on. We left the briefing

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room to regroup into our assigned flights and study and brief our roles in the coming battle. I don't know what the others said, but I told my flight that if anyone was shot down, we were to come up on Air America frequency if inland, and the Navy's Big Mother frequency if over the Gulf of Tonkin. We would call up the Air Force S.A.R. frequency only as a last resort. The gung ho Air America helicopter pilots and the Navy's Big Mother chopper pilots would come to get us ASAP.

The Air Force SAR team was so wrapped up in red tape that it would frequently take them more than eight hours to try a rescue. By then, it was usually too late. The helicopter crews themselves were brave enough — it was just that the higher echelons had tied themselves up with so much red tape that they rendered USAF's once-proud SAR forces ineffective. Most of the flight leads at Udorn briefed calling Air America first.

"We made maps, wrote out code names and call signs, and waited. About 10 minutes prior to the departure of the crew truck to the airplanes, I went into the personal equipment room to suit up for the flight, replacing my light cotton flight suit with a closely woven one made of fire-retardant Nomex.

Once in the personal equipment room, I pulled up both legs of the suit and attached a Gerber Mark II knife upside down on one leg, and a Walther PPK .380 auto pistol in a special ankle holster on the other, securing both with Velcro straps. I wiggled into the custom-fitted G-suit, zipping the legs tight. Around my waist went a GI web belt, with a 9mm Browning Hi-Power auto pistol in a military flap holster (Bianchi M-66) and six extra loaded magazines spread around my belly (nothing could be carried on my back for fear of injuring it during ejection). Then, I put on a loosely woven 'survival vest,' which had several pockets on the front. A small pocket next to my right collarbone contained 30 loose rounds of ammo. A similar pocket near my left collarbone had a tourniquet, with loop and adjusting clip ready to be applied with one free hand to an affected limb, if necessary. Beneath those small pockets were two large pockets, each holding a three point, two-way radio, to

be used for directing rescue helicopters to my position after a shoot-down. Under those pockets were two more, which held a medical kit, several hand-held flares and a pen-gun rocket flare kit, extra batteries for the radios and the strange Blood Chit, an effective printed device developed originally by the Flying Tigers of World War II in China.

"The Blood Chit, written in several languages and pictographs, stated that the man carrying it was an American pilot working with the Thai, Cambodian, South Vietnamese and Laotian governments, and was in need of aid. If aid was provided, the American government would give the person assisting the airman a large reward. The reward varied, according to the type of assistance given, and to the locale and living conditions of the assisting person. At any rate, it was usually enough to make the native assister rich beyond his dreams. (According to some survivors, this reward was very effective with the natives.)

"Finally, in the lower leg pockets of the G-suit went a couple of one-pint plastic water bottles. Over the vest went the parachute harness. The weight of all this gear, without the heavy helmet and oxygen mask, added from 45-60 lbs. to the airman (the weight varied depending on extra personal survival kits, or the amount of weaponry carried.)

"There were three schools of thought on weapons. Some pilots carried only the issue .38 special, loaded with the under-powered military ball ammunition, and they announced their intentions to put their hands in the air when anyone approached, in order to surrender. It was their feeling that their jobs as military soldiers were over when they left their airplanes. They ignored the fact that the vast majority of men shot down outside the Red River Valley were never heard from again. Other pilots armed themselves with more effective weaponry, such as .45 automatics, .357 magnums, or 9mm pistols, and announced their intentions to 'remember the Alamo' and fight to the last bullet. Still others, myself included, armed ourselves, planning to evade capture as much as possible, and shooting only if it became necessary. We accepted the fact that aircrew members

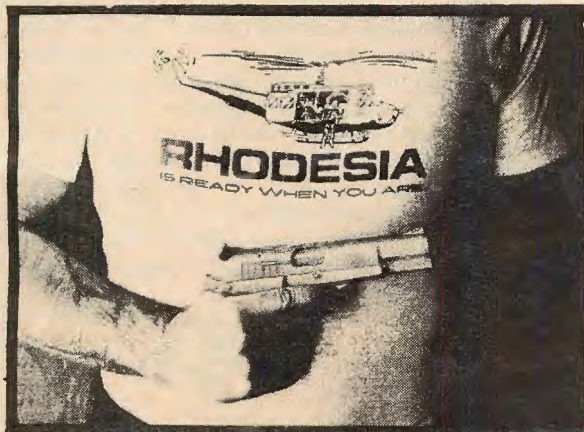
had little chance of surviving a shoot-out in the densely-populated Red River Valley, so it was best to surrender and take our chances if discovered there. On the other hand, chances of surviving capture were remote outside of the Red River Valley, so we decided to shoot it out if discovered, even if there seemed to be no way of surviving the fighting. We felt it was far better to die fighting, than to be tortured to death or executed in some out-of-the-way forest in Laos.

"Preparations completed, I went to the building-sized cyclone cage adjoining the 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron's Operations building and clucked my tongue gently a few times. Out of the darkest corner, invisible at night, bounded Eldridge, the 13th's mascot, a full-grown 75 pound leopard. I spent the remaining minutes stroking his sleek, black coat, scratching him behind the ears while he rested his head in my lap. He was our luck.¹⁰

"The crew truck was ready to go, and reluctantly, I left Eldridge to go to my Phantom."

(CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

1. Petroleum, oil and lubricants.
2. The story told to me by several of the bomber pilots and confirmed by fighter pilots who went on the Vinh mission, was that the bombers missed the target due to navigation error on the part of the lead bomber, but the bombs destroyed another vital target quite by accident. The SAC high command sent out a communique several days later that indicated the latter point was the target and was successfully destroyed by the unerring B-52s. The participating crews had a big laugh over that news release.
3. Randy's F-4 was made during the period in which Secretary MacNamara had decided cannons on aircraft were obsolete. Thus, until the USAF F-4E was introduced in mid-1972, our chief air-to-air fighter plane was armed only with missiles, which were ineffective in close range maneuvering dogfights.
4. Dead astern for a cannon (MiG) or a heat-seeking missile attack (F-4).
5. Dates used are based on Southeast Asian time, which was one day ahead of U.S. time.
6. Surface-to-Air Missile types of the Soviet Union are designated by Western observers in the order they appear in the Russian inventory. Thus, the SAM-2 was the second model of anti-air missile to be adopted by the USSR.
7. Despite the changes brought about after 1970, some were still living in solitary confinement and were being tortured.
8. Men who had flown missions into the Red River Valley became members of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, nicknamed the "River Rats."
9. Route Pack VI- the military's code name for the Red River Valley Region.
10. He now resides in the Phoenix Zoo in a spacious, "natural" environment, with a female leopard to keep him company.



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continued from page 50

ported a ban on "concealable hand-
guns", a view which was supported, re-
portedly, by 37% of those who voted
against the referendum bari. A waiting
period prior to handgun delivery in sales
was favored by 90% (there is wide sup-
port for this approach among gun own-
ers), while 54% favored limiting the
number of handguns manufactured, and
52% favored reducing the number of
gun dealers licensed. Only 3% favored no
gun laws.

Those who voted in favor of the ban
gave "crime reduction" as their major
reason, followed by dislike of violence
and concern over firearm accidents.
Supporters of the ban were determined
by the anti-gunners to be Democrats,
blacks, women, upper-income, Jewish,
voters between 56 and 65, and residents
of the North, the Western suburbs, and
the city of Boston. Few of the voters, in
any case, felt that a handgun was of much
value to them as a means of self-protec-
tion, and 75% of those polled claimed to
not own a gun.

The radio and TV campaign against the
ban was considered particularly effective,
with the most frequently remembered ad
being the slogan: "If guns were outlaw-
ed, only outlaws will have guns."

In assessing the Massachusetts gun
battle, *Soldier of Fortune* notes that the
impact has been substantial in the na-
tional political community: a number of
political figures — particularly those who
would prefer to not have to deal with the
gun issue — are now pointing to the
Massachusetts referendum as essentially
"laying to rest" the issue. Anti-gunners
however, are tending to look more than
ever at driving hard for a Federally-
imposed anti-gun law, made as severe as
politically possible, preferably with some
sort of registration or licensing scheme, if
not also a ban of various gun types. The
value of the registration and licensing
schemes rests in making possible later
access to arms lawfully held in private
hands.

Soldier of Fortune notes that the real
focal point of the Massachusetts refer-
endum is less that 69% of the voters
rejected the proposal, than that nearly
31% of those voting are hard-core
individuals who refuse to acknowledge
arms ownership as a Constitutional
Right, and who are willing to support
a powerful and expensive police state in
order to deny that liberty to a significant
portion of society. These voters comprise
nearly a third of the Massachusetts
electorate, totalling 733,418; they need
only a fifth more, 479,127, to raise the
vote to 1,212,545 — which is 51% —
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continued from page 13

ifornia has been the focal point of Philippine immigration to the United States, with many of the early settlers heading for Stockton where they could practice their farming skills. Recent immigrants, mostly educated professionals, have tended toward the bigger cities. One Kali instructor in San Diego is named Narrie Babao. One Kali school in Los Angeles is the Filipino Academy, in Torrance.

Basically, Kali is a general purpose word for knife fighting systems. Escrima refers to traditional fencing. The exact distinctions between these words and the arts referred to as arnis, can be found in the last chapter of Donn Draeger's excellent book, Asian Fighting Arts.

A number of knife fighting styles originated in the Phillipine province of Batangas, including several making use of the balisong, the so-called "Batangas butterfly knife." Many knife fighting styles were for the long bolo-type knives used by the peasants, which are of little practical value for people living in cities. But the balisong is an excellent folding knife that can be carried easily and opened with one hand. Until the Martial Law, practically everyone in Batangas carried one of these knives. Even my wife, who is herself a Batanguena, carried one when she would walk to school. She told me how the poor girls in Batangas would sell mosquito nets in the village market to help support their families, and they would carry a balisong to protect themselves from men who thought that poverty meant easy virtue.

If you are not located near a school that teaches edged weapons you might consider the new Super 8mm B&W training film by Harold Brosious called "Survive All With A Knife." This excellent little film can be obtained for \$26.50 from Prof. Brosious at 290 Verde Vista Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360. Sometimes it is difficult to get a "sense of flow" from techniques when they are illustrated in a book; it is easier to see the whole sequence in a film. Brosious also has films on baton training and other police techniques.

Q. I really liked your book on knife fighting. It is the only one that I know of which talks about fighting with knives other than the long military models. For civilian use, do you prefer a boot knife, belt buckle knife, or folding knife?

J. B., Dallas, Texas

A. As you point out, the typical military style fighting knife, such as the M-7 bayonet, Gerber Mark II, or Randall Model #1, is too long to conceal easily. For civilian use, a five-inch blade is about maximum. If you wear boots as an everyday habit, by all means choose a boot knife, since this type of knife is the best concealment blade for serious fighting. Among my favorite boot knives are

those made by Crawford, Lile, Randall, and Gerber.

The only belt buckle knife that I can recommend from personal experience is the Bowen. I prefer the single edge model, since it is more practical as a field knife, easier to explain to onlookers, and has a stronger point than the double edge stiletto model. It is much stronger than a folding knife of comparable blade length; in fact, it is equivalent to having a three-inch hunting knife on your belt with no added bulk.

When all is said and done, the knife you are most likely to have with you at all times is a folding knife. If it is to be used as an emergency fighting knife, it should lock open. The best ones are actually folding hunting knives. Among standard knives, I prefer the Barry Wood model (especially his sgian dubh) and the Gerber FS II. The most exciting new idea I've seen in folding fighting knives is a custom model designed by E.G. Brooker and made by Wayne Goddard. Called the "Odin's Claw," this rocker-locked knife has a tapered V-point 4-inch blade. The micarta slab handle has brass mounts, including an effective single quillon. I will be talking more about this unique knife in my next book.

For those of you who are Donald Hamilton fans, you will recall that the hero of his books, Matt Helm, always carries a 2-inch Smith & Wesson and a 4-inch folding hunter. This is not a bad combination for those who work undercover. Neither weapon requires a scabbard, so they could be ditched easily in an emergency. The butt of the folding hunter can be used as a blackjack, and the blade can be used for more serious "quiet work." The revolver would serve when nothing less will do (in cases where the opponent is similarly armed, or there is more than one of them, or when he is standing too far away to reach with a knife). Of course, for carrying in the pocket, the Smith & Wesson should be the airweight "Bodyguard" model, and the folding hunter should be lightweight and capable of one-hand opening (see my Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting for how to do this with the Barry Wood, as well as more conventional rocker-locked folders).



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continued from page 31

been and he soon learned that here, as in Vegas, the House is the final winner.

Broke and having no way to finance his return to the States, Steve was fortunate in that he was able to utilize his MIT education in Civil Engineering to obtain employment as a general supervisor for road construction in the Honde Valley. His primary responsibility was to oversee the rapid paving of the many back-country dirt roads that service the tea estates.

This project is of extreme importance to all who must travel into the areas, as the interdiction of the transportation network is currently one of the major objectives of the terrorists. The prime method of disruption available to the terrorist is through the use of Russian-made mines imbedded in the road. Paving the roads has proved to be a very effective countermeasure to this type of terrorist attack.

Because of the success of this project, Steve and his crew had become prime terrorist targets. Since he had begun work on the project three months before, seven members of the construction crew had been killed by the terrorists. In one incident, five of his workers were abducted by the terrorists, bound and executed, and laid along the section of road as a warning to others. When his black Rhodesian foreman attempted to return one of the murdered men to his village for burial, he too was ambushed and killed by the terrorists. Despite this clear and constant threat, work continued to progress and there always was willing

labor to replace those murdered by the terrorists. The need for this project and its effectiveness was clearly demonstrated during our stay. One morning, during the routine sweep of the road, the Security Forces removed seven mines, planted the night before, from the unpaved sections. They found none where the road had been paved!

During the night of our third day in the valley, we were rudely awakened by the steady beating of distant African drums. Security was increased, while the rest of us returned to a state of restless sleep. At day-break, the drums stopped as suddenly as they had begun. We breathed a collective sigh of relief as the tension diminished. The day was quite pleasant, despite the occasional speculation as to the meaning of the drums from the night before. That evening, as the lights went out on our side of the border, the drums again began. As this closely resembled the pattern established when the Frelimo-supported terrorists last attacked in force, the security force was on full alert. It began to look like we might get a chance for a firsthand view of the terrorists. Perhaps we were in the right place, at the right time, which gave rise to several mixed emotions. Each of us laid there listening to his own private thoughts and waited, occasionally reaching to see that our weapons were readily available.

Morning came and still the drums beat on, but by mid-afternoon they had stopped and no movement was visible from the Mozambique side of the border. Relieved, but with a certain amount of



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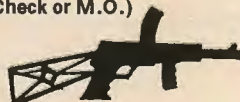
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disappointment, we stood-down.

We stayed on in the valley for a few more days hoping that something would develop, after all we were "journalists" and were looking for a story. During our last day at the estate, intelligence reports indicated a suspected terrorist presence in one of the abandoned and burned-out villages along the border, not far from the tea factory. Security Force Units were dispatched but their efforts went unrewarded. However, they were able to determine that someone had indeed been into the village during the night but the trail was cold and they returned to base.

The following day, we joined a departing B.S.A.P. detachment for the return trip to Umtali. As this was a military convoy, we found ourselves in the unique position of being the only civilian vehicle in the column. We felt very secure since the terrorists rarely attack such formations, preferring to prey on lone civilian vehicles or mixed convoys which tend to lack either discipline or concentration of firepower. True to our expectations, the journey out of the Honde Valley was without incident and we arrived at Umtali safely and, for once, on schedule.

As there was still plenty of daylight left, we took a quick trip down to Forbes Border Post due east of Umtali. For one member of our party, SCOPE photo-journalist, Val King, the sights at Forbes Border Post brought the effects of the war home with full force.

Val remembers how it was to drive through Forbes on his way to "making merry" over the holidays in Mozambique not too many years ago. Now such pleasantries are only memories. It is a dismal scene now, with little holiday spirit. Looking across the border, we saw signs of recent destruction and violence. The opposing Mozambican Border Post is pocked with bullet holes and the Forbes looks much the same. Bunkers have taken the place of the queues of cars that normally would be passing through the Border Post. Sandbags and tank traps are seen everywhere.

Like most soldiers, the Rhodesian Security Forces at Forbes Border Post, have developed ways to relieve the tension of guard duty with high daily risks but little action. In typical G.I. fashion, the C.P. bunker has been decorated with the latest pin-ups from "Playboy" and the South African "SCOPE." They are always ready for a good laugh, especially if at the expense of their opposite number just two to three hundred meters away.

After several weeks of careful observation of the Frelimo troops manning the Mozambican Border Post, it became apparent to the Rhodesians that the Frelimo had the habit of copying their ceremonies. Whenever the Rhodesian Security Forces rose or lowered their flag, the Frelimo would follow their example. Recently, after having lowered the



MASSACRE

Terrorists massacred 27 unarmed African tea estate workers, in the Honde Valley, in Eastern Rhodesia, whilst their wives and children were forced to watch. Meaningless mass killing must rank as one of the most callous acts of the terror war.

The terrorists, estimated to number between 20 and 30 strong, entered the compound and rounded up all the men, women and children they could find. They stripped them of all personal possessions, including clothing and radios, then marched them one kilometre to a lighted factory building.

They then herded the 35 women and children into a separate group, and the men were forced to lie on the ground. For three or four minutes the terrorists fired at the helpless victims.

Nine Mozambique nationals, eight Malawian nationals and ten Rhodesians were killed. Eleven others, including some Zambians, were injured.

Said BSA Police Superintendent Brian Thomas: "This was nothing less than the massacre of innocent civilians. It is the worst instance I have experienced in 21 years of police work."

Father Arthur Lewis, of the Rhodesia Christian Group, and Mr. John Deary, of the Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, joined local and international newsmen at the scene of the massacre.

Rhodesian flag for the day, and watching the Frelimo copy their actions, the Rhodesians rushed back out to the parade ground and with great ceremony, raised the Rhodesian flag and then stood at attention. The startled Frelimo troops, not to be outdone, started to raise their flag again. As the Mozambican flag reached half staff, the Rhodesians quickly lowered their own flag and rushed into their O.P. to watch the reaction. The Frelimo troops hesitated, unsure whether to

Said Father Lewis: "I feel sick. This is true evidence of marxism—what we are fighting against. We either go on fighting or we give in to this sort of thing."

Mr. Deary said he felt "shock and horror." He continued: "This is sheer brutality, an act lacking any feeling."

Security Forces found a tremendous amount of communist manufactured ammunition at the scene, and survivors reported that the assassins addressed one another as "comrade."

One survivor, a Malawian with five children, said he escaped because he was covered by dead bodies.

"The terrorists have been here before telling us not to work for the white man," he said. "When they came last night they told us we had disobeyed their instructions."

On his return to Salisbury, Father Lewis said: "This was an act of sickening, cold-blooded barbarity which would be unbelievable if one had not seen the shot and bayoneted bodies of the terrorists' victims."

"It shows marxism in action—the deadly enemy, not only of Christianity, but of humanity. This is the fate of the black people in Rhodesia if order and civilized standards are not maintained. The defeat of this evil thing, marxism, must be the aim of every man and woman of every race in this country. This is not politics. It is sanity and survival."

continue with their own ceremony or not. Slowly, realization as to what had happened spread through their ranks and with embarrassment, they lowered their own flag and returned to their bunkers. A great cheer went up from the Rhodesians and international sign language was exchanged.

Another more famous, or perhaps infamous, episode occurred last December, after Frelimo troops, together with forces of the Zimbabwe People Army (ZIPA),

had launched a cross-border invasion near Umtali. Part of this force attempted to cross near the Forbes Border Post. The attackers were easily beaten back by the Rhodesians, but not before the Mozambicans and their allies had caused some damage.

The Rhodesians invited members of the International Press into the area to view the damage caused by the intrusion. In due course, a small corps of correspondents, arrived at the Forbes Border Post, were invited to take pictures and received an army briefing before proceeding elsewhere to witness the destruction caused by the invasion.

All this activity attracted the attention of officials on the other side of the border. The Mozambicans decided to send their own representatives to the news conference. Shortly after the journalists had left the Border Post, a jet black Mercedes, complete with armed outriders on motorcycles pulled up from the Mozambique side. Without formality, the local Frelimo commissar stepped from the car and marched up to the fence that now divided the two countries and demanded to speak to members of the International Press.

The Rhodesians were momentarily taken aback but relayed the demand to the section leader in charge. Only a few minutes passed as the commissar stood waiting for the reply. One of the camouflage-clad Rhodesian "troopies," hearing

of the demand, took the incentive. With solemn formality, in full view of the commissar, he turned his back to the Frelimo official, dropped his pants and bending over, provided the commissar with his first Rhodesian "brown-eyed" salute. Suddenly, a cheer emanated from the roof of the Forbes Border Post where several other "troopies" had been standing, ready with their weapons.

For several seconds, the Frelimo commissar stood in awkward amazement. This spell was broken by the ill-concealed laughter of nearby Frelimo troops. The commissar, totally aghast by the situation, without a word, turned on his heels, and hastened to his limousine. Once safely in the confines of the Mercedes, his arrogant confidence returned and with an authoritative flick of his wrist he ordered his driver to speed away.

From Umtali, we traveled southeast through Chipinga to Mt. Selinda, where we had been invited to spend some time with a Rhodesian farmer. Because of increasing terrorist activity, our host had sent his wife and children to Salisbury and was more than happy to welcome guests, in order to relieve the boredom and pressures of his work.

The war is less active here than up in the Honde, and only rarely does one find a land mine on this side of the mountain. Six months ago, this was not the case and our friendly farmer still remembers well the mine that went off in his driveway.

Luckily, no one was seriously injured. Now the main war effort has passed out of this area, and while the local populace show the strains of the past few months, all are determined to stay, convinced that Rhodesia will win in the end.

Our host had just received his call-up papers for reserve force duty so we cut our visit short and traveled to the home of an American missionary in the Musetter area. Here we hoped to spend several days. We arrived at the mission late in the afternoon in time to listen to the daily sit-report on the ARG Alert network. From the radio, we learned of a terrorist attack against a local farm we had passed just an hour before. For security reasons, the Rhodesian use split band transmission and we were only able to listen to the central station. It was a very interesting experience. Security Forces had been dispatched to the scene and the terrorists were running for the border.

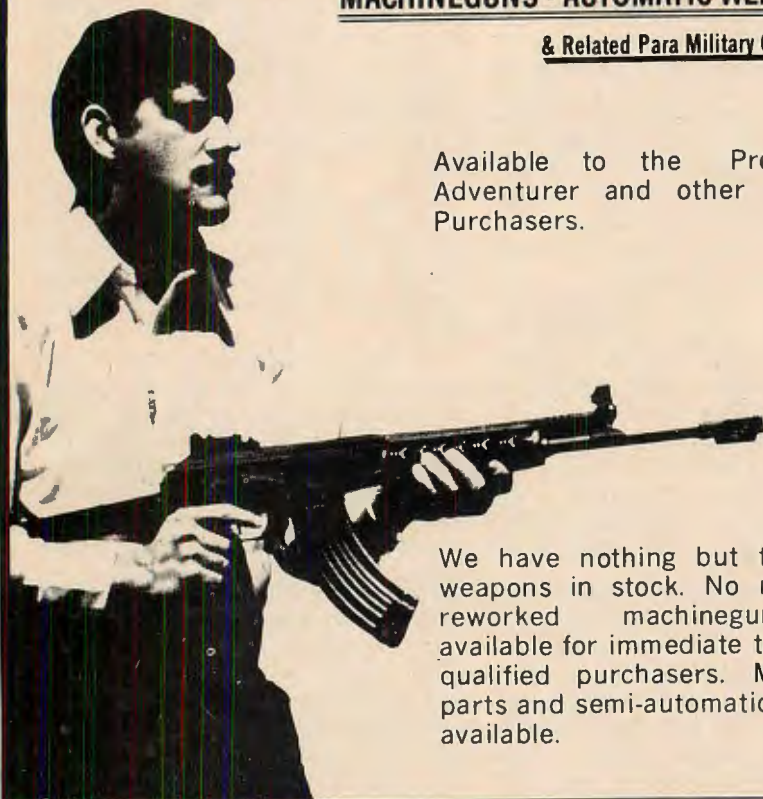
Our friend, the American missionary, could be termed an old African hand, having lived in various African countries for more than 20 years. Because of his willingness to confront personal danger to accomplish his missionary work, he had earned the nickname "the Fighting Priest." He is a priest in the tradition of the American Wild West - a Bible in one hand, a six-gun in the other. Only in his case, the six-gun had been updated with an Uzi.

After several more days visiting with friends in the eastern operational areas we returned to Salisbury via Fort Victoria. There, we were met with some unsettling news. Shortly after we had left the tea estate in the Honde Valley, a large group of terrorists crossed the border and raided one of the small villages in the valley. Numbering between 20 and 30, they entered the village compound at 8:30 p.m. and rounded up all the men, women and children they could find. After stripping them of all their personal possessions, including clothing and radios, the terrorists marched them for one kilometer to the nearby tea factory building, where they herded the 35 women and children into a separate group and forced the men to lay on the ground. For the next three or four minutes, while the helpless women and children watched, the terrorists fired into the bodies of the men before them. When they stopped, 27 unarmed black African workers had been massacred.

The day after the government sources released the details of this terrorist attack against defenseless villagers, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, charged that "mercenaries" hired by the Rhodesian government were responsible for this massacre of innocent civilians. However, an executive member of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, after careful investigation, determined that the government charges were correct and that terrorists were responsible. *continued on page 68*

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continued from page 6
 weapon, firer, and bystander is real, not to mention the waste of money on such an item.

The muzzle brake system was originally intended for the M2, and works exactly as it is supposed to. For this reason, it is worth having, but one would be well-advised to insure that he is buying the real thing before parting with his money. Cost for the original GI muzzle brake is generally in the neighborhood of \$18-\$20.

New LMG Being Developed for U.S. Army

A new LMG, dubbed the XM-235, is presently under development at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, and may well be destined to replace the M16A1 in the automatic rifle role. The weapon appears similar to the old Johnson M1941 LMG. It is, however, scaled down to handle the 5.56mm/.223 cartridge.

Years ago, while a platoon leader in I Corps of Vietnam, I modified the T,O, & E of my platoon to eliminate the M16 from the automatic rifle role completely, substituting an M60 LMG team, under the direct control of the squad-leader. This system provided the two fire-teams within the rifle squad with a completely mobile base of fire on which to maneuver, while eliminating the waste of ammunition prevalent with the M16 used in the full-auto mode. The system worked quite well, and the idea of a squad-lightweight weapon (SAW) is long overdue on an

official basis.

The only potential problem, other than the 5.56mm/.223 cartridge, could be increased logistics headaches from the addition of another weapon to the Army inventory . . . i.e., parts, second-echelon

maintenance, etc. Any problems created in these areas, however, should be outweighed by the terrific increase in effective, useable firepower derived from the SAW. SOF will have more on the XM-235 as it becomes available.



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continued from page 66
 sponsible for the murders of the 27 tea estate workers in eastern Rhodesia. The Justice and Peace Commission has, in the past, produced at least two major dossiers detailing Security Forces' atrocities on tribal folks. The Commission has gained a reputation for being opposed to Smith's Rhodesian government.

Spokesmen for the Rhodesian government have said it would welcome an immediate and on the spot investigation by the British or U.S. governments. At this time, there has been no positive response from either governments to this invitation. However, this is to be expected, as neither country recognizes the legitimacy of the present Rhodesian government.

Militarily, the Rhodesians have been coping astonishingly well. As a result of U.N. - imposed sanctions, they have been denied any form of official outside support or aid with the exception of South Africa. Many of their arms and weapons are being made in-country or captured from the enemy.

In a succession of cross-border raids into Mozambique, the Rhodesians have captured enough Soviet RPG-2s and RPG-7s to supply several battalions of their troops with an effective counter-punch capability should the Cubans or Russians decide to lend increased support to an invasion from one of the "Front Line Nations."

A new in-country arms manufacturing industry has developed and three new versions of fully automatic weapons are now in production. One of these new weapons designed for civilian use in the operational zones, resembles the British Sten, but in 12ga. provides devastating fire power.

Because of the withdrawal of South African helicopter pilots, attached to the Rhodesians, it has become necessary to develop alternative means of inserting their counter-guerrilla/terrorist teams. Troops are now being airlifted to trouble spots by aging DC-3s. It is reported that they jump into blocking positions from 100 meters A.G.L. (that's 328 feet . . . AIRBORNE!). An extra 30 meters are added for night operations.

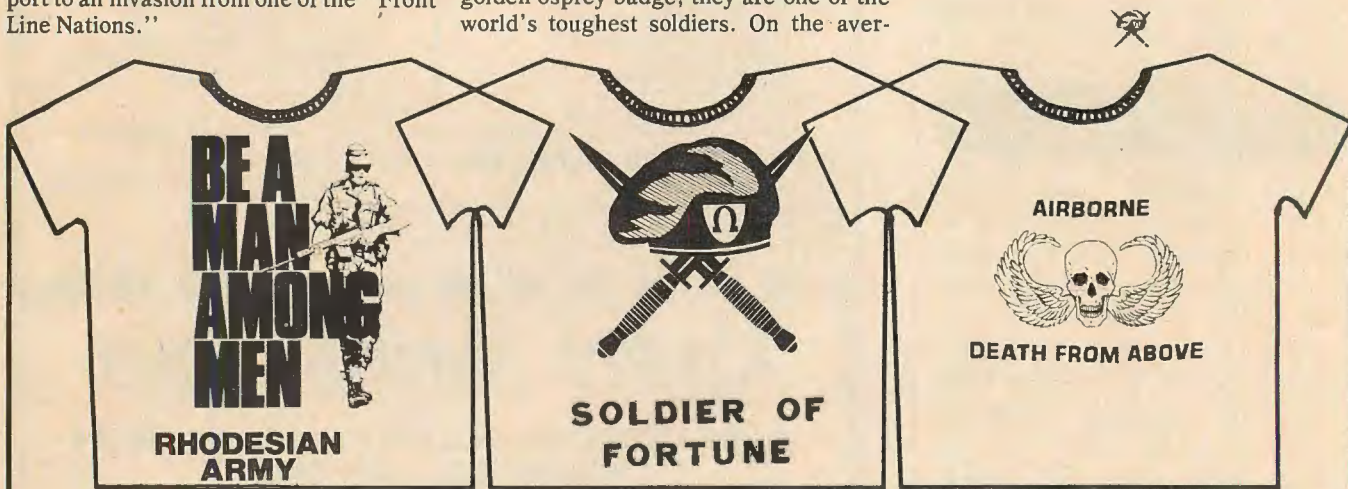
The finest counterinsurgency unit of the Rhodesian Security Force (and perhaps in the world) are the Selous Scouts. Their unit has collected more battle ribbons and decorations than any other in the Rhodesian Army. One of their leaders said they have been responsible — directly or indirectly — for almost 50% (1,200 of the 2,600-plus) guerrillas slain in the four-year-old war, with a loss of only ten of their own.

The deadly Selous Scouts learn tracking, horseback riding, snorkling, skydiving and demolition. When they pass their final test, and win the right to wear the golden osprey badge, they are one of the world's toughest soldiers. On the aver-

age, only 25% of the volunteers who embark on the Selous Scout selection course can expect to complete it.

The Selous Unit was created in 1974, when the Army decided it needed a corps of bush trackers to fight the terrorists infiltrating into Rhodesia in increasing numbers. Since its creation by Major Ron Reid-Daily, the unit has become the most exacting in the armed forces. The Scouts operate under a veil of secrecy and the mystery surrounding their operations have given rise to blood-curdling legends of bravado above and beyond the call.

We came away from Rhodesia, impressed by the high morale and optimism of the civilian populace in the eastern operational zones. The Rhodesians' military efficiency has not as yet been fully tested by the well-equipped but basically untrained terrorists infiltrating into the area from Mozambique. With the addition of Cuban advisors or better trained units from the other front-line countries, this situation could be rapidly altered. The Rhodesians foresee this possibility but are not overly concerned, confident that they can handle anything the enemy throws their way. However, a word of caution is in order, for the Rhodesians should become aware that they cannot afford to allow the terrorists too many more years to practice. After all, practice does make perfect.



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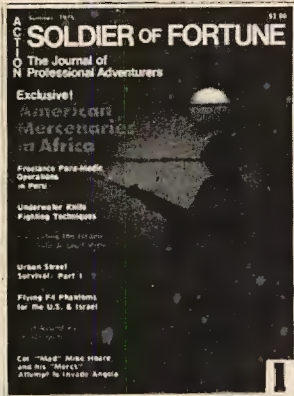
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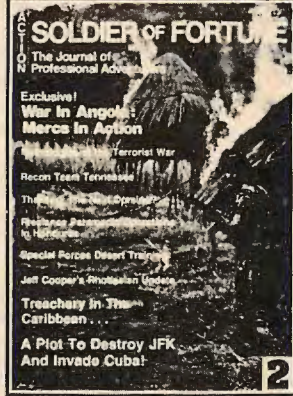
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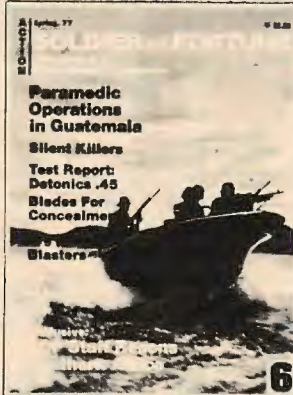
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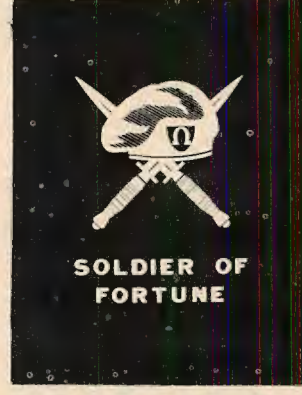
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continued from page 14
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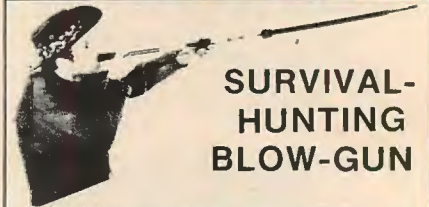
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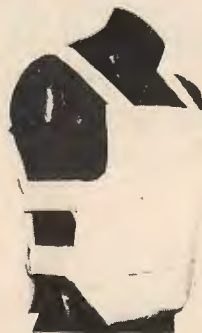
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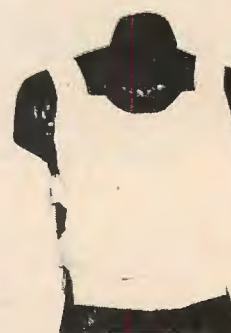
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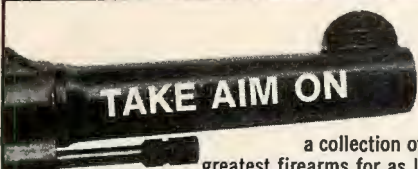
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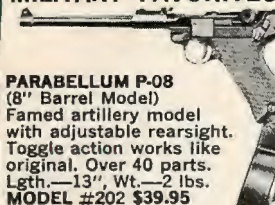
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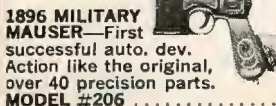


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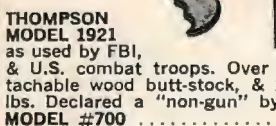
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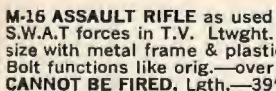
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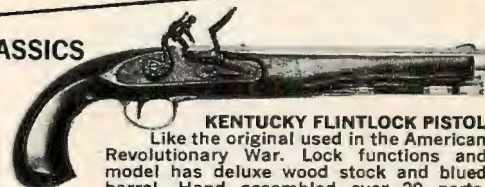
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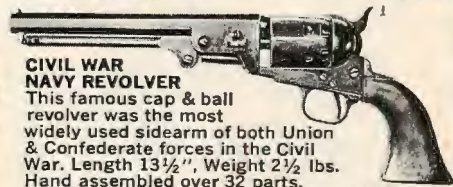
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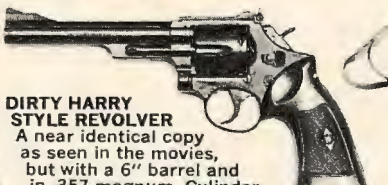


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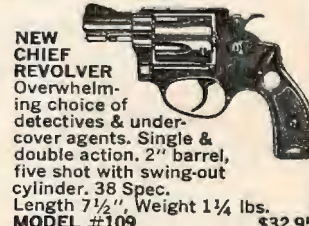
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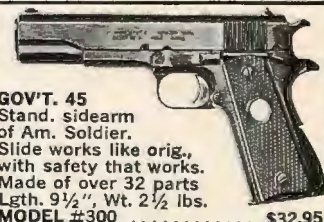
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continued from page 39

N.A.P. & V.S. Mr. Panos has been interviewed and states that he is acting as a caretaker (a pimp by any other name . . . Ed.) for D.C. Dungan who is at this time in the Middle East. Mr. Panos states that he is paid a small sum of money each month to collect mail for Petroguard, pass on cheques and money orders to a friend of Dungan (who we have been unable to find), and make initial replies to applicants who have seen the advertisement in yours and other periodicals. Mr. Panos states that the last time he saw Dungan was in December 1976 when he visited Hong Kong for a short time. Enquiries have been made with the Hong Kong Immigration department but there is no trace of a D.C. Dungan having visited or resided in Hong Kong.

I am of the opinion the Mr. Panos is involved in this matter to a greater extent than he is prepared to admit, but at present there is no way of proving this. The question of the legality of his conduct is difficult to answer; however, for the present I suggest that you take action to warn potential applicants to Petroguard/N.A.P. & V.S. and Armoncont that they are likely to be disappointed.

Investigations into this matter are continuing and I shall keep you informed of developments. (SIGNED) R.J. IRVINE, for Commissioner of Police.

England's Officers Documentation Office, Ministry of Defense, responded to SOF's query letter as follows:

It is regretted that we are unable to trace in our records either Colonel D.C. Dungan (Retired) or Lt. General Harry S. Durant (Retired) as having been commissioned in the British Army. (SIGNED) N.J. Price, Director of Manning (Army).

P.A. Stickler of England's Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, replied to an SOF inquiry tersely:

I regret that we have no information on the firms (Petroguard/NAPVS) mentioned, and can find no trace of them being registered in England.

On 2 March 1977, a short-tempered SOF staff member sent the following letter to Petroguard:

Mr. Peters, someone is lying. Our magazine would like to believe that your organization is what it purports to be because we have printed information about you in the Bulletin Board section of our Fall 1976 issue. However, our investigation has not supported any of your claims.

To help us clear your name, please supply the addresses of your offices in New York, San Francisco, Toronto, Jamaica, London, Manila, and provide us with the names and addresses of three (3) persons you have successfully obtained jobs for.

How do you explain the enclosed letter from the Hong Kong Police dated 6 October, 1976?

How do you explain the fact that our staff contacted the Military Attache at the British Embassy, Washington, and that he had no record of a D.C. Dungan, Col. (Ret.)?

If we do not receive substantiation of your claims by return mail, we will print the enclosed investigative findings, plus other supportive information.

In the face of this mountain of contrary evidence, Petroguard's Ed Peters (yes, the initials are those of Erwin Panos) had the balls to try to bluff SOF. He sent a letter bulging with trumped-up job placement figures and self-righteous phrases, and continued:

We were shocked therefore, to read in your Winter issue your sly statement saying that Petroguard Ltd. has yet to place an applicant and that the Hong Kong Police are seeking Colonel Dungan, who is a permanent resident here, well-known and respected.

We have no doubt that you will see your way clear to correct this groundless accusation derived, no doubt, by some unchecked, malignant information of some deranged, rejected applicant. We suggest to you a public apology (sic) to Colonel D.C. Dungan, as well as correcting your statement that petroguard (sic) has not placed any applicants in the past. We are certain that this would be preferable to a liable (sic) suit for defamation of character.

Awaiting your reply in this matter and your Spring copy containing the above, we remain, Yours sincerely (sic), (SIGNED) Ed Peters, Director of Administration.

What colossal bullshit!

Holed up somewhere, a seedy con artist with many aliases enjoys the ill-gotten proceeds of Petroguard. Perhaps a Petroguard victim will meet Mr. Panos in a dark alley. Now that's a story SOF would love to print.



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continued from page 48

what and how!" They have not really observed the 5.56 mm's effect on an enemy because they were shooting at an area rather at him specifically.

I am convinced that, at least as far as individual small arms are concerned, it is only the *hits* that count and the use of an inadequately powered cartridge, coupled with current saturation-fire tactics, will only cause excessive expenditures of ammunition, which, in turn, causes a critical resupply problem and accomplishes less than fewer accurately-placed shots fired with an adequately-powered cartridge.

The mission of infantry leadership personnel such as non-commissioned or company-grade officers does not include engaging the enemy personally unless absolutely necessary. Their job is one of recon, assessing and developing the situation, communications, map-reading, and directing troops, not becoming involved in the shooting unless they must to save their own or their people's lives, or because shortages of personnel require it. An adequate battle-rifle and cartridge are not critical for them because their individual weapons are defensive rather than offensive in nature. As a result, they can be reasonably armed with SMG'S or pistols.

Conversely, the combat rifleman must be armed with a weapon and cartridge that are capable of effective offensive employment as well as defensive use, and which will enable him to accomplish his mission of neutralizing the enemy with minimum rounds fired. This is obviously out of the question with the M-16/5.56 mm.

In addition, the rifleman's weapon should be robust and rugged, and should inspire the soldier's confidence in its effectiveness. The many combat veterans whom I know tell me without hesitation that they did not have such confidence in the M-16/5.56 mm. I know that I certainly did not.

I have administered and experienced small-arms training programs on the entire current inventory of U.S. infantry weapons, as well as past inventory weapons and weapons of other countries. It is my opinion, based on these qualifications, as well as the use of and the observance of the use of, these weapons in combat, that the M-14, for example, is almost as easy to shoot as the M-16 and is a hell of a lot more robust, not to mention the fact that the 7.62 mm NATO cartridge is unquestionably more effective than the 5.56 mm in battle.

In summary, the M-16/5.56 mm is not appreciably easier to shoot accurately than the M-14 series of battle rifle. It is incapable of longer-range work or work against targets which are lightly armored or behind cover. Moreover, the 5.56 mm cartridge lacks the necessary stopping power for reliable combat use. I cannot

help but point out that all of the non-U.S. NATO countries have insisted upon the retention of the 7.62 mm (.308) cartridge as their standard service round for their FAL's, CETMES's, and G-3's. They still recognize something that the U.S. military establishment has forgotten — if the weapon and cartridge do not do the job, they are worthless, regardless of how advanced their engineering may be.

It is my sincere hope that we wake up before we must use the 5.56 mm again, to the detriment of our troops' welfare in combat.



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continued from page 24

standing" had been reached with the Soviet Union and China that, once an in-place cease-fire had been agreed upon, they would reduce their arms supplies to the North Vietnamese and thereby set a limit on the scope of North Vietnamese military operations in South Vietnam.

After securing an unprecedented landslide electoral victory over Senator McGovern, who had promised voters an immediate pullout of all U.S. troops from Indochina, President Nixon resumed pressure on the South Vietnamese to accept an in-place cease-fire. In late December 1972, he also responded to renewed Communist intransigence at the Paris talks by subjecting North Vietnam to 12 days of the most intensive bombing of the war; this brought the Communists back to the bargaining table.

When a cease-fire agreement was finally agreed upon in late January 1973, President Nixon wrote to President Thieu that: "You have my assurance of continued assistance in the post-settlement period and that we will respond with full force should the settlement be violated by North Vietnam."

Even as the North Vietnamese persisted in increasing their forces in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in flagrant violation of the cease-fire agreement, congressional Democrats succeeded in prohibiting the President from re-introducing U.S. forces anywhere in Southeast Asia. As Nixon was being driven out of office in the wake of the Watergate scandal, they also steadily reduced military and economic aid to South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Even when the Communists resumed large-scale offensive operations in Cambodia and South Vietnam, leading Democrats in both houses of Congress stoutly denied that the United States had ever made any commitment to ensure compliance with the Paris agreement and maintained that if President Nixon had ever given such assurances, they were invalid and, in any case, not binding on his successor.

Even after the Nixon resignation, congressional sentiment regarding the Indochina conflict remained so jaded that when President Ford requested supplemental aid for Cambodia and South Vietnam in January 1975, to help counter blatant Communist violations of the cease-fire, his request was flatly denied. Whether or not one believes that the South Vietnamese and Cambodians could have withstood the North Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge had they received additional aid in time, it is difficult not to agree with Fanning that the refusal of Congress to grant such aid in the midst of a Communist offensive and a disastrous effect on their morale.

Betrayal In Vietnam closes with a sad commentary on U.S. foreign policy by

Republican Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii, who, when he heard the news of Saigon's fall remarked: "There is no question but what we have betrayed the Cambodians, and we have betrayed the South Vietnamese. There is no question about it . . . We have not lived up to our commitments."

The most obvious shortcoming of this book is that its author has made no serious attempt to explain **why** so many distinguished American leaders who enthusiastically supported U.S. intervention in Indochina in the early 60's, turned so vehemently against that policy in less than a decade. Was it merely a matter of partisan party politics, as the author suggests? Or did they come to believe that the people and land of South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were simply not worth the expenditure of more American blood and treasure? Did they delude themselves with the notion that the forces armed, financed and unleashed in Indochina by the Soviet Union and China would for some reason stop at the frontiers of Thailand? Or were they simply swept up by the mob psychosis induced by the lies and distortions of the anti-war protestors?

Unfortunately, Fanning leaves such questions for other historians to answer. Nevertheless, **Betrayal In Vietnam** offers an interesting, concise, fast-moving account of the events surrounding America's involvement in Indochina during the past decade. Whether or not the reader accepts the author's severe indictment of some of the men who were and remain today America's most important political leaders, this book should be of great value to anyone who seeks to gain a better understanding of the political machinations which marked one of the most troubled periods of American history since the Civil War.

The Vietnam conflict gave the American public their first TV-eye's view of the true horror and depravity of war. It is sobering to reflect that with the passing of time, they became so weary of the very mention of Vietnam that even today — two years after experiencing what must be regarded as the first major military/diplomatic defeat in their history — they still have not demanded an accounting from the Democratic majority in Congress as to why the interventionist policy in Indochina, which seemed so noble and worthwhile under two Democratic presidents, had become untenable under a Republican. Let us hope that scholars like Prof. Fanning will succeed in inducing the American electorate to rectify this omission in the near future.

(David W. Harris served as a program and reports officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development in South Vietnam during 1969-74. He is currently studying for a Ph.D. in international relations at Syracuse University.)



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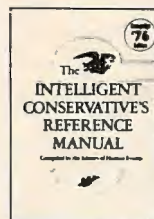
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