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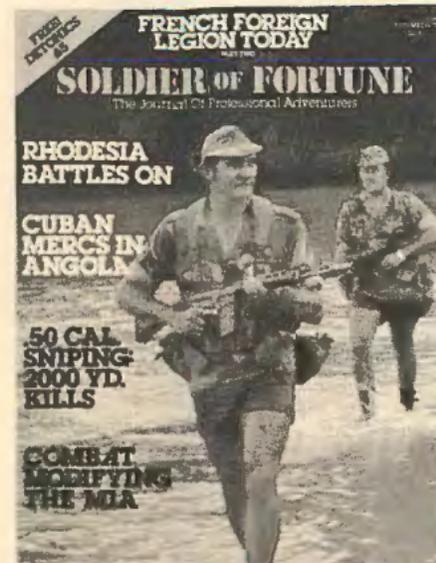
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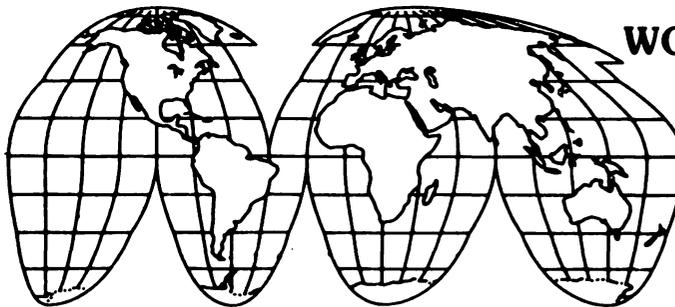
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Ecuador	FN-FAL	7.62mm NATO	700
Indonesia	FN-FAL	7.62mm NATO	700
Ireland	FN-FAL	7.62mm NATO	700
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Netherlands	FN-FAL	7.62mm NATO	700
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FULL AUTO

BY CHUCK TAYLOR



The Great Cyclic Rate Controversy

Ever since the fully automatic firearm was invented, various individuals and factions have been arguing voraciously about how fast it should function to obtain maximum efficiency. Over the last 60 years, each country has independently determined to its own satisfaction, sometimes from rather nebulous concepts and information, what the ideal cyclic rate of fire should be for its weapons.

The mess is complicated by the fact that cyclic rates tend to vary from weapons system to weapons system, *even within the same country!* A comparative example of this phenomenon is the German MP-40 SMG, with its very low cyclic rate of 400 rpm, and the MG-42 LMG, which spits 'em out at 1200 rpm, so fast that one cannot distinguish individual shots as the weapon is fired. Both MGs were the product of Nazi Germany, and were designed, developed, manufactured, and used during World War II. Yet they are almost totally opposite in theory in spite of their common ancestry, an interesting illustration of two paradoxical extremes.

The theory behind the slow cyclic rate is well known: maximum accuracy and control while minimizing ammunition consumption, all valid ideas but, almost in the same breath, the German military extolled the virtues of the MG-42 with its **Need for lower cyclic-rate for ground-mounted LMG** is illustrated by above photo of U.S. Army M60 gunner in Vietnam. Extremely heavy loads carried by individual prohibit large quantities of ammo due to excess weight.

exceptionally high rate of fire, claiming maximum beaten zone, excellent long range accuracy, controllability, and even efficient ammunition expenditure! Obviously, all of these features cannot be true, since they are irreconcilable opposites.

In spite of the above, personnel responsible for such matters continue to astound us with more of the same. During World War II, the U.S. Army Ordnance Board pushed hard for the M3 "Greasegun" to replace the M1A1 Thompson SMG. One of the more vaunted reasons for this was that its 350 rpm cyclic rate allowed it superior controllability. Yet at the same time, the Board was busy copying the German MG-42 LMG with the specific intent of its adoption! In fact, it's no secret that, were it not for some unknown draftsman's infamous 1/2-inch error, which caused the U.S.-made '42 not to function, we'd probably *still* be using it as our issue LMG! It has always amazed and puzzled me that two completely opposite philosophies can be claimed to accomplish the same objective. What puzzles me even more is how anyone can keep a straight face while expounding such bullshit!

As all who know me are aware, I have some rather strong opinions about such things, but, in my own defense, let me say that the formulation of those opinions was a long time in creation and based upon an objective appraisal of the facts, along with my own experiences in combat.

Personally, I feel that cyclic rates should vary categorically, since all automatic weapons are not intended to accomplish the same mission. For example, I classify MGs into four basic categories: 1. SMGs, 2. assault rifles/automatic rifles, 3. LMGs, and 4. HMGs. No two of these categories fulfill the same role; therefore, the particular weapons found within each different category pose a separate and different problem to the arms philosopher and designer.

For the SMG, it is my opinion that, generally speaking, the weapon should cycle at about 550-650 rpm for optimum efficiency. I have personally tested the M3 "Greasegun" extensively and feel that it is more controllable at 550 rpm than at its issued 350 rpm, and accuracy is still good while ammunition consumption not excessive.

For assault rifle/automatic rifles, used in the full-auto mode, 700-750 rpm is ideal, since full-auto should not be used



SMGs			
Country	Weapon	Caliber	Cyclic Rate (rpm)
Canada	C1 (Sterling)	9mm P	550
U.S.	Thompson 1921	.45 ACP	800
U.S.	Thompson 1928	.45 ACP	550
U.S.	Thompson M1	.45 ACP	550
U.S.	Reising M50	.45 ACP	550
U.S.	M3/M3A1	.45 ACP	350
Argentina	PAM-1	9mm P	450
Brazil	INA M35	.45 ACP	650
Austria	M1930 Steyr	9mm Steyr	500
Belgium	M1934	9mm P	500
Belgium	UZI	9mm P	600
Czechoslovakia	ZK 383	9mm P	700
Czechoslovakia	ZK 466	9mm P	650
Czechoslovakia	ZK 476	9mm P	600
France	MAT 49	9mm P	600
U.S.	Ingram M10	9mm P	1200
U.S.	Ingram M11	9mm Kurz	1100
U.S.	MP40	9mm P	450
Germany	MP18	9mm P	350
Italy	M38/44	9mm P	550
Italy	Frauchi LF 57	9mm P	500
Spain	Stet Z45	9mm P	400
Britain	Lanchester Mk1	9mm P	600
Britain	Sten MkII	9mm P	500
Britain	L2A1 Sterling	9mm P	550
Denmark	Madsen M52	9mm P	550
Finland	Suomden M1931	9mm P	900
Sweden	M45	9mm P	600
U.S.	S&W M76	9mm P	550
USSR	PPSH41	7.62mmT	900
USSR	PPS45	7.62mmT	700
Australia	AUSTENMKII	9mm P	500
Australia	Owen	9mm P	600

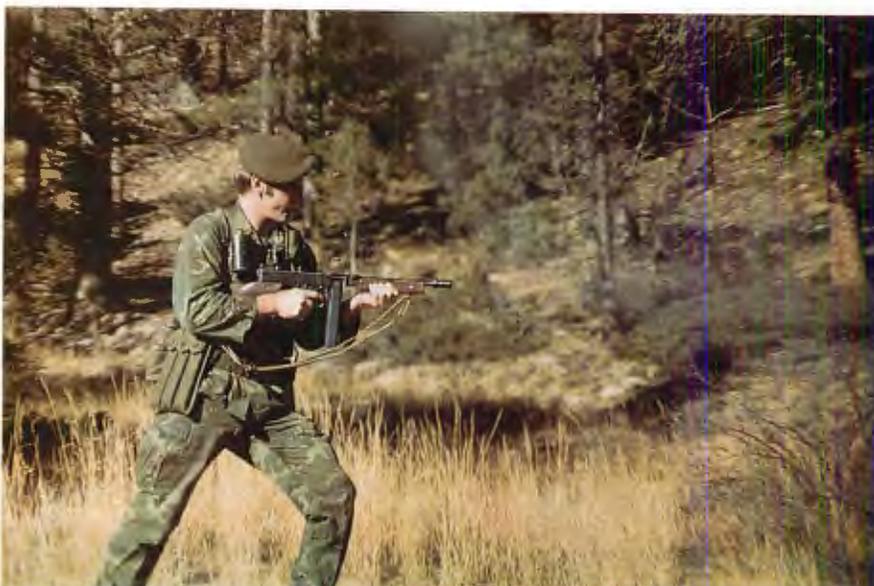
LMGs			
Country	Weapon	Caliber	Cyclic Rate (rpm)
Australia	U.S. M60	7.62mm NATO	550
U.S.	U.S. M60	7.62mm NATO	550
Britain	MAG 58	7.62mm NATO	700-1000
Belgium	MAG 58	7.62mm NATO	700-1000
Britain	Lewis	.303	500
Britain	BREN	.303 (MKI)	500
Britain	BREN LA42	7.62mm NATO	500
Canada	C2 (FNHB)	7.62mm NATO	700
USSR	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Comm. China	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Poland	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Yugoslavia	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Czechoslovakia	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Hungary	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Rumania	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
N. Korea	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Vietnam	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Cuba	RPD/RPK	7.62x39mm	700
Czechoslovakia	M59L	7.62mm Rimmed	800
Finland	M60	7.62x39mm	1050
France	MAS 1950	8mm	750
France	M52	7.5mm French	700
W. Germany	MG3	7.62mm NATO	750
Germany	MG34	8x57mm Mauser	750
Germany	MG42	8x57mm Mauser	1200
U.S.	HBZ	cal. .50	500
Spain	FAO M59	7.62mm NATO	650
Spain	ALFA M44	8x57mm Mauser	780
Spain	ALFA M55	7.62mm NATO	780
Sweden	M42B	6.5x55mm	600
U.S.	M1919A1/A6	cal. .30	500-600
U.S.	M1917A1	cal. .30	550
U.S.	Stoner 63A	5.56mm	750

by non-automatic rifleman troops until the final stages of the assault. At such a time, one encounters multiple targets quickly and at close range, and semi-automatic fire is simply not acceptable to effectively engage such targets because of the time frames involved. The average trooper just doesn't have time to assume the classic sight-picture and squeeze rounds off! On the other hand, a cyclic rate of 700-750 rpm is not so rapid as to expend the ammunition of the individual soldier so fast as to place him in a difficult logistical situation. Ammo supply people are all too familiar with the problems of resupplying troops in the assault with ammunition. Simply stated, it just can't be done at that point in time.

In the LMG category, I split my feelings both ways. LMGs, as used in the ground-mounted role where troops must carry all MG ammo, should possess a rate of fire in the vicinity of 550 rpm, an excellent example being the U.S. M-60. This allows maximum control and accuracy but does not use up that critical ammo as fast. When used in a fixed mount, the LMG is more effective with a higher cyclic rate of 700-900 rpm, since the fixed mount eliminates any controllability problems created by the higher cyclic rate. Maximum firepower is most important in this configuration and needs only be tempered by concern for ammunition expenditure and the resultant need for resupply as the situation and conditions dictate.

Included below is a chart of the most commonly encountered SMGs, assault rifles/automatic rifles, and LMGs in the world today. The reader should note the wide disparity between cyclic rates and evaluate them as to the best rate of fire for a particular type of weapon in relation to its tactical role. You will immediately find that the entire matter is very arbitrary, with personal opinions contributing the strongest weight to one's final decision, regardless of other, more concrete factors such as controllability, economy, accuracy *et al*. The acceptability of one's opinion should be measured by his arms background, expertise, and combat experience in order to arrive at a realistic decision. Armchair experts are not welcome in this field where life and death hang in the balance on such decisions, as far as I'm concerned.

It seems, therefore, that the answer to the question is that military entities, in spite of their vast resources, are subject to the same gremlins that plague other endeavors: the opinions of individual human beings. Hopefully, their decisions are based on combat, arms experience, and good judgment, rather than personal glory and politics. God help the soldier if they are not!



U.S. recognition of low cyclic-rate theory was demonstrated by requirement of U.S. Marine Corps. when they specified the M1921 Thompson SMG be slowed down from 800 rpm to 550-650 rpm, resulting in the now-famous M1928 model.



WWII German MP40 SMG is classic example of the low cyclic-rate/control theory. Also controls expenditure of critical ammunition more efficiently.



Soviet AK47/AKM Assault Rifle is excellent example of attempt at compromise in cyclic rates between SMGs and LMGs, with cyclic rate of 600 rpm.



COMBAT SHOOTER

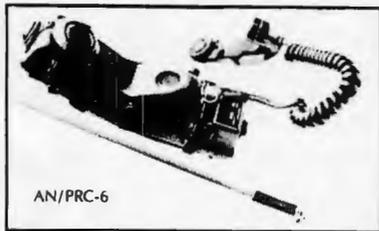


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COMBAT PISTOL CRAFT

Dan Predovich



If you have a good idea, a relevant comment, or a practical gadget pertaining to combat pistolcraft that you would like to share with other readers, then pay close attention.

In future combat pistolcraft columns, I'm going to reserve space for reader comments. *Soldier of Fortune* will pay \$15 for each piece that we publish and give the writer credit, unless he or she specifically requests that the name be withheld. Of course, all letters, photographs, diagrams, or other materials that are published become the property of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine. We cannot be held responsible for returning any materials sent to SOF unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed with your submission.

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Bad magazines are probably the greatest nemesis to the .45 auto aficionado. The tendency of the novice combat shooter is to hit the gun show circuit or the military surplus ads with the intention of picking up a handful of cheap .45 magazines. Don't do it! A three-dollar magazine can cost you as little as a trophy or as much as your life.

Most malfunctions with good ammunition can be traced directly to the magazine. Bent lips, a misformed follower or a bad spring can all cause problems. Recently, a talented competitor completed a smooth reload after a fast, accurate string of fire only to find that the floor plate of his magazine had popped out, leaving the follower spring hanging from the grip of his silent .45 auto. After giving due recognition to the situation (about five seconds), he came back to his senses and reloaded a second time. He was lucky that his only loss was a trophy and a little pride. Such a faux pas during a serious social encounter would have been more than embarrassing. Later, after a generous dose of jeering and laughter, he unceremoniously dropped his two-dollar-special magazines into the trash.

While on assignment in Los Angeles, I picked up half a dozen AMT "Hardballer" magazines from B & B Sales to test under competition conditions. This

magazine was manufactured to mate with the AMT "Hardballer" stainless steel .45 auto and is completely interchangeable with any of the Colt manufactured .45 semi-automatic pistols and others of similar design.

The "Hardballer" magazine is constructed of matte-finish stainless steel with a floor plate that is solidly welded in place. The follower is rounded for smooth feeding and the magazine lips are shaped and squared like the Colt Gold Cup magazines.

Each of my three combat .45s function flawlessly with these magazines. As a matter of course, to test reliability in my guns, I seat an empty .45 case in the magazine, shove the magazine into the weapon and manually operate the slide to chamber the empty hull. If the case feeds smoothly without hang-up or sticking, then I feel confident that the weapon and magazine are properly tuned. This type of test will usually prove successful only with a custom-tuned weapon. (I will discuss this custom work in a future column.) All AMT magazines passed this test in my guns. For more information write to B & B Sales, 11100 Cumpston St., No. Hollywood, California, 91601 or phone (213) 985-2329.

Another magazine that has proven itself in competition is the Laka Model 77 stainless steel magazine. All of the qualifications cited above apply equally to the Laka brand with a few exceptions. The magazine follower is not rounded, the stainless steel has a smooth, shiny finish and the magazine lips are more of the traditional tapered shape as opposed to the squared shape of the AMT brand. The Laka Model 77 passed the empty cartridge case test with flying colors. See your local dealer for Laka magazines or write to Laka Industries, Inc., 62 Kinkel St., Westbury, Long Island, N.Y., 11590.

Both the AMT and the Laka will slide in and out of my Colt autos with ease. Too many of the bargain basement, two-for-five-dollars magazines stick in the magazine well during the reload.

When you lay your hard-earned dollars out on the counter for the inflated price of a .45 auto, don't make the mistake of cutting corners on accessories, particularly magazines. Such a mistake will cost you more in the long run than the little you will save initially.

I first read "... *Officer Down, Code Three*" by Pierce Brooks about two years ago. Our police department, like many in the United States, adopted the book as a training manual on the "required reading" list for our officers. Recently, I reread—no, studied—this book with fascination. "*Officer Down, Code Three*" is specific and detailed. It pulls no punches and reveals in an embarrassing fashion those errors that all too frequently result in the death of a cop.

Chapters entitled "The Deadly Errors," "Dark Nights, Dark Deeds," "The Gun That Wouldn't Shoot," and "Tombstone Courage" are a few of the self-explanatory subjects that are dissected and examined by Brooks.

After I initially read Brooks' book, I talked with him about it. Brooks has the experience of many years with the Los Angeles Police Department. He began compiling the information for this book while assigned to the Homicide Division of L.A.P.D. The book was completed and released while Brooks was Chief of Police in Lakewood, Colorado. He has lectured for several years on police survival and the man knows whereof he speaks.

Motorola Teleprograms, Inc., the publisher of Brooks' book, is also the producer of a companion training film with the same title. Few publications have had the impact on the police community as "... *Officer Down, Code Three*."

Whether you are a police officer, military person, private investigator, or security guard, you must read this; everyone else will find it merely fascinating.

Austin Behlert of Union, New Jersey, has been modifying and customizing pistols for many years. His reputation among those whose lives depend upon their weapons is legendary. Attention to detail and utility of design have built his reputation. In the next issue I will report on the results of a field test involving a combat accurized Colt .45 auto fresh off the bench of Behlert's Custom Gunshop. The weapon belongs to S.O.F. publisher and editor, Robert Brown, and is in full combat dress, sporting a hard chrome finish, squared and checkered trigger guard, action work, ambidextrous safety and crowned with Smith and Wesson adjustable sights.

But as I said, that comes up in the next issue. Right now I want to address the issue of workmanship in the combat weapon. For the last few years I have seen the numbers of fine pistolsmiths grow by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, however, I have seen the numbers of "gun butchers" increase at the same rate. These inexperienced, undertalented and sometimes well-meaning "unsmiths" attract the dollar-pinched shooter and take advantage of the shooter's lack of gun savvy. There are a few

common-sense precautions to take before you commission a pistolsmith to begin work on your weapon.

(1) Obtain a list of customers from the 'smith and contact them. Ask them what modifications were done and if they are happy with the work.

(2) Ask the top competitive shooters in your area for their recommendations.

(3) Look at the completed work of the pistolsmith. Handle the pistol. Don't rush. Take your time. Examine the fit of the sight installation. Is it perfectly centered and straight on the slide? Are there any flaws in the plating? Is the front sight perfectly straight and square? Are there any tool marks showing sloppy

workmanship? Be picky. Now, how well does the gun work? Will it feed empty cartridge cases? Is the gun safe?

(4) Find out the total cost or estimate for the work. If you are operating on a tight budget (who isn't?), spend your cash with the best pistolsmith you can find for appropriately fewer modifications. A fully modified piece of junk is worthless and possibly dangerous. Fine work such as Austin Behlert's is expensive and time consuming, but, when it comes to firearms, fine work is the only real alternative to disaster.

(continued on page 84)

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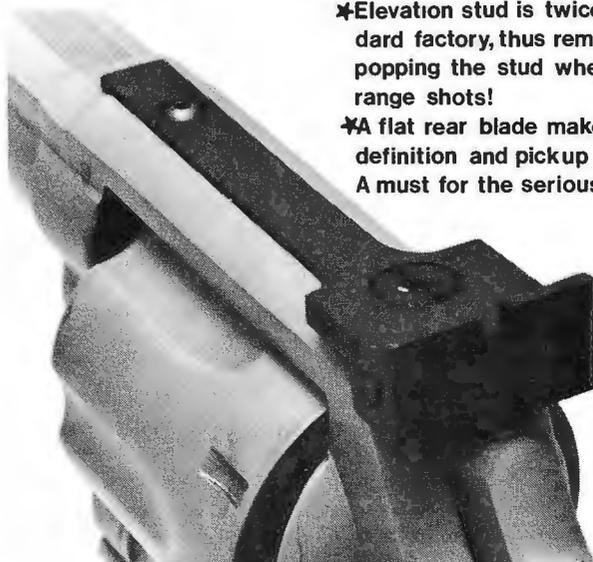
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FLAK



SIDEWINDER ERROR

Dear Sirs:

While reading the January/78 issue of SOF I came upon an error in the article on the Sidewinder SMG . . . Under a picture of the Sidewinder the statement is made that the Sidewinder is the only SMG to fire pistol cartridges.

This statement is simply not true. The M3A1 (grease gun) and the Thompson both fire pistol cartridges. They both fire the same round as the pistol cal. .45 M1911A1. In 20 years in the Marine Corps I have fired all three weapons (two in Vietnam) and all three will chamber the same round and fire it.

The M3A1 and the pistol (.45) were standard weapons for tankers during the war.

I like your magazine and most of the articles.

Sincerely,
Art Allen

You're absolutely right. One of our editors must have been sleeping when he wrote this cutline. SMGs are SMGs because they fire pistol cartridges rather than full-powered rifle cartridges. Thanks for correcting our error!—The Eds.

READER REQUEST

Dear Sirs:

Just writing to say how much I enjoy your magazine and its articles on the South African situation. First of all, when everyone from Andrew Young to the *New York Times* and *Time* magazine have tried and found guilty the countries of Rhodesia and South Africa and are now calling for the death sentence, it's most refreshing to read "the other side," thanks to Mr. Venter and others. It is this "attitude" that is making me ashamed to call myself an American. I wonder if once this thing is done and the blood of free and hard-working people has spilled out of South Africa, our "good" president will make like Pontius Pilate and wash his hands of the whole affair.

Changing the subject, I would also like to encourage you on your weapons articles. Enjoyed the one on Sid McQueen's Sidewinder (Jan. '78), although it would seem a little awkward to get used to. I think an item like this could be very handy in fortified and built-up areas, along with situations such as mountain

climbing work where you couldn't use both hands.

I would also like to see an article on the Army's new developmental "Rodman" gun, that chopped-down M-60. While visiting the Rock Island Arsenal museum last summer, I talked briefly with one of the people who were working on the project. From what he told me, it should be a very interesting weapon, and hopefully will eliminate some of the problems with squad LMGs.

Jerome Price
Cassopolis, MI

PRAISE AND SUGGESTIONS

Dear Sirs:

Having missed three issues of SOF, I wasn't sure what to expect when I picked up the January/78 issue. I wasn't disappointed. The "Full Auto" column was excellent, as was David Steele's column. "Terrain and Situation," in my opinion, would be better if Mr. Ahern would adopt the format which was used in the G&A Survival column, but focusing on a variety of subjects. I haven't seen the Quartermaster section which was mentioned in an earlier issue, but Mr. Ahern's column seems to be covering the very fields I would have expected it to.

"Silent Death in Vietnam" was one of your best articles and an excellent complement to the earlier article dealing with the M1A/ART pairing. The article on the Sidewinder was very good, as was the evaluation of the AR-10. The weapon evaluations have been among my favorites since the first issue. How about one on the Stoner 63 weapons system?

I found the article on drying foods interesting and was glad to see the direction that the previous Urban Street Survival column has taken. Offensive silent techniques are difficult to receive instruction in. "FLAK" and "Bulletin Board" were and are excellent parts of the magazine. Though I live in the Toledo area, I know of no way to contact the Police Officer who wrote you. I would like to say that I completely agree with him. Remember that winning the people is the mission of that elite group called "Special Forces."

Al Lock
Sylvania, Ohio



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By
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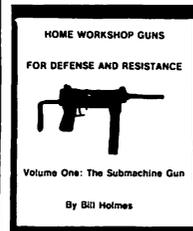
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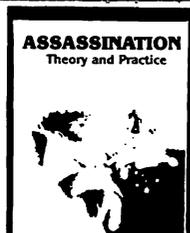
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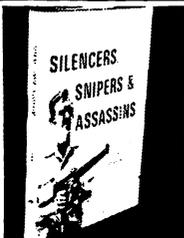
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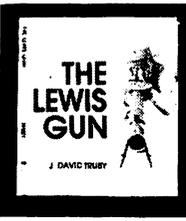
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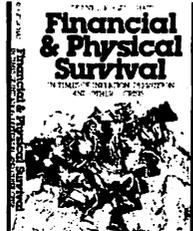
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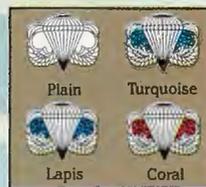
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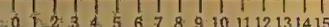
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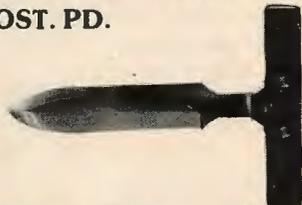
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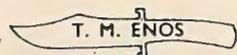
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Send letters meant for this column to author at Soldier of Fortune, Box 693, Boulder, Colo. 80306. If you desire a personal quick reply, send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Because of the sensitive nature of the subject matter, initials, rather than names of writers, will be used in print, unless requested otherwise.

Q. First off, thank you very much for your columns in SOF.

I'd always used a Buck Special for hunting and camping until lately. I spent some time in the Philippines and had the fortune to learn the use of a *barong* and machete as both a tool and a weapon. I now have two 18-inch blade machetes, one with a Parkerized blade and mounted on my backpack frame. I was introduced to the boot knife and tomahawk by a gentleman from Texas. I like my Gerber Mark I for military boots but find it too heavy and rides too high for western style boots. A tomahawk is an excellent fighting weapon but good for little else. I do find the Skatchet I keep in my backpack handy though.

I learned to use a nightstick and riot club from being a rent-a-cop and Naval Police training, but when I learned from a martial artist it greatly helped my use of blades also. Some Army friends of mine taught me a little of knife throwing which was easy since I could throw tomahawks. They also taught me a little of a combat knife. I can think of few times that would justify carrying throwing knives, but I continue the practicing. For a combination survival/fighting knife I've ordered a Gerber Mark II with sharpening steel, which will be mounted on a web belt with a machete and Browning Hi-Power.

I've a leather belt with a Colt Python and 12-inch blade Bowie which I use for hiking, hunting, and backpacking. My question is this: what would be the advantages and disadvantages of sharpening the false edge of the Bowie? I have strong wrists so have little difficulty with control. Even though shorter than a machete, the weight at the end of the Bowie makes it just as effective.

R.C.W., Key West, Fla.

A. Let me comment on a few things in your letter. First, all rent-a-cops (special officers, guards, watchmen)

should receive stick training. Many security companies do not train their guards because training cost cuts into profits. California now requires pistol training for guards, but, as with public law enforcement officers, the baton or blackjack is much more likely to be used than the pistol. In the United States there are now more private policemen than public. They perform an important service and should be better paid and trained than they are. At one time public police officers were equally untrained, but efforts at professionalization have vastly improved their training, status, and morale.

Second, in the Philippine styles the stick and knife are taught the same way. They are both "weapons with handles" and the techniques are complementary.

Third, sharpening the false edge is unnecessary if a Bowie is to be used strictly as a brush knife. For making backcuts it has some utility, especially if it is flat like on the Randall Model #1 rather than concave (the chisel edge found on most Bowies). In my opinion, the best reason for a sharpened false edge is for quickness of penetration in stabbing. I used a Case V-44 Bowie once to stab into the neck of a wild boar, and its broad tip (with unsharpened swage) would not penetrate until I used both hands (fortunately by that time two of us had knocked the boar off its feet, and I was able to use both hands while keeping a knee on the animal's shoulder as the other guy held its back legs).

Q. In reading the Nov. '77 SOF, I came up against a thing that stumped me. It was a reference to the Sykes-Fairbairn commando knife.

In an answer to a reader, you mentioned the "... drawbacks of which (the Sykes-Fairbairn knife) are well known."

Well, I don't know what these drawbacks are. Would you please shed some light?

I am planning a knife purchase in the near future. I have just about decided on a Gerber MK II. The uses to which this knife will (actually, I hope not, but then . . .) be put are personal defense and, most likely, as a letter opener.

There is a problem here, of which I'm sure that you're aware. The problem is

that of educating those who (like me) are attracted to the magazine for one reason or another. To merely take the attitude that "If'n ya gotta ask, baby, y'ain't ever gonna know . . ." may be personally gratifying, but it leaves a bunch of folk who have an honest desire to increase their reality about the subject out inna cold.

J.B., Los Angeles, CA.

A. The Sykes-Fairbairn knife has a brittle blade, prone to snap at tip or just in front of the guard, when given hard usage. The handle is too small for a really secure grip. The V-shaped blade is not very good for field utility, and the lack of a ricasso makes it impossible to "choke up" on the blade.

The Gerber Mark II makes a good fighting knife and a fair letter opener (I used to keep an early thin-blade Mark II on my desk for this purpose).

I try to make my writing as clear as possible, without getting involved in any martial arts or arms industry obscurantism. When I worked in Washington I even taught my secretary something about weapons, though I recall she was mystified when I sent her out one day when I tested a silenced pistol on some body armor samples in my office.

Q. Your column is the first thing I turn to when I get SOF. There are a few questions I would like to ask you.

1. When will your updated book on knife fighting be released? How much different is new vs. old? Should I wait for new?

2. I have a Gerber Mk. I and am wondering if you know of anyone making a shoulder rig for same. Reading your column convinced me that I had made the right choice in boot knives.

B.N., Rockwood, Mich.

A. I am not updating my knife book; the techniques and historical material in it are still valid. What I am doing is mentioning other techniques in my SOF articles, and when Phoenix gets around to publishing my book on street combat (mostly on stick fighting for police) it will have a chapter on fighting with concealable knives.

A good saddlemaker can construct a shoulder harness to your design. Right now I am experimenting with a forearm/bicep/ankle sheath I had made up for a custom sleeve knife made by Jody Samson (Box 1423, Burbank, Ca.). It has fewer straps and harness than a shoulder rig — the main problem seems to be how to keep f/b/a sheath from cutting off circulation while being tight enough for a fast draw.

Q. Regarding "Odin's Claw" folding fighting knife mentioned awhile back in *Soldier of Fortune*, we wanted to remind you of some of the details. There is no brass in the Claw; side plates and bolsters are 303; main hinge pin and spring back are tempered 440C. Last Christmas Wayne Goddard was able to complete the

first major design change resulting in Odin's Claw No. II. Naturally they look a great deal alike but there are some significant and functional differences which make it a distinct improvement over No. 1. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight just in case any of this gets into print. The credit for the bolster design (single hooked quillon) and the subtle improvements in Model II belong to Wayne Goddard; all other ideas including the overall aesthetic pattern are mine. As it stands now there won't be Mod. No. III, and the Thor series which we planned to work on together will not become a reality. The Thor concept was going to incorporate a curved blade. Perhaps a company like Gerber will pick up on the idea of a strong folding knife which can be relied on for limited application in combat and survival situations.

E.G. Brooker, Cincinnati, Ohio

A Thanks for your letter. Probably by now many of our readers have seen my article in the Sep/Oct '77 issue of American Blade which illustrates and describes the Odin's Claw in detail. I believe it is the first original rocker-locked fighter to come along since the "folding dirk" of the 1860s.

Q. Regarding the history of the Gerber Mark II: I've come to classify them as follows.

Mark II A. Original knife, shape unknown.

Mark II B. Angled, slim blade.

Mark II C. Straight, slim blade.

Mark II D. Wide blade w/o "teeth."

Mark II E. Wide blade with teeth.

Mark II F. Wide blade with teeth, stainless, diver's.

Mark II G. Wide blade w/o teeth, presentation model.

I have a Mark II B, which I purchased at the Ft. Bragg PX in 1967. The knife came with a brochure which mentioned the angled blade as a change and "improvement." I don't know whether Gerber meant a change and improvement in general design terms or in the Mark II specifically. I assume that they meant the Mark II.

Gerber's system of designation seems to be rather elastic, e.g., the Mark I boot knife follows the Mark II fighting dagger, and the Folding Sportsman I follows the FSII.

Gerber seems to have stolen a march (as usual) on everyone else, with their Mark I and II. No one else appears to want to compete with them in the rapidly growing field of defense knives. I sometimes wish that Case would see fit to re-introduce their "pig sticker" dagger or the First Special Service Force V-42 stiletto.

R.W.L., Harlem, Ga.

A. Only the custom makers really compete with Gerber when it comes to fighting knives. The Gerber Mark II and

(continued on page 75)

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Bulletin Board

DOMINIQUE DE ROUX

Not subscribing to pinky liberal views where the black African is concerned does have dangers. **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE** has just learned of the death of the leading French intellectual author and political figure, Dr. Dominique de Roux. De Roux, who strongly supported the UNITA movement in Angola, and was for the past three years Dr. Jonas Savimbi's political advisor in Europe, was killed under mysterious circumstances in Paris recently.

While the official reason for his death is given as a "motor accident," details are sketchy as to how exactly this happened, and efforts by an SOF staffer to obtain clarification have been stonewalled by the French authorities. A **Right Wing** source close to the French Security Service (SDECE) has indicated that Angola's Marxist MPLA movement appeared to have a hand in this "liquidation."

The lesson here is that with Moscow's hand in Africa becoming more obtrusive, those who play with fire are not only likely to be burnt but may also die. It is significant that Dr. de Roux's very powerful pro-South African stand might also have been a factor towards his demise. He went into Angola's southern war region at least a dozen times in the past two years, usually entering via Lusaka, Zambia.

PMRS NEEDS MEDICS . . .

Parachute Medical Rescue Service (PMRS) is researching the feasibility of sponsoring a dispensary, staffed by one or two ex-SF medics, in one of the refugee camps in Thailand. Access to sufficient funding and cooperation from the bureaucracy will determine viability of project. In meantime, any ex-SF medics and 12B4s interested in this project send resume to PMRS, c/o **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE**, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

COUNT CARL GUSTAV VON ROSEN

Another sad death for the African corps is the news of the murder of Count Carl Gustav von Rosen who, towards the end of the 60s came to the aid of beleaguered Biafra with a small number of SAAB MFI-9 light plane "fighters" from his native Sweden. Von Rosen, who always championed the role of the underdog, was killed in a guerrilla (ELF) attack in Ethiopia last July. He headed the Ethiopian Air Force between 1946 and 1956.

Soldier of Fortune staffer Al Venter, who covered both sides of the Nigerian war in 1969, towards the end, in January 1970, had the "distinction" of coming under attack from von Rosen's "minicons" while travelling as a passenger in a Scandinavian packet-boat in November 1969. The ship was lying anchored in Warri Harbor in the Nigerian delta at the time, just aft of an American Farrell Lines freighter. Venter's ship was hit several times by rockets fired by the small aircraft and the American ship took several more hits. Seven were killed and a couple of dozen injured in the onslaught which lasted about 20 minutes.

Federal Nigerian MIGs flown by South African and British mercenary pilots could do little to counter the activities of the hedge-hopping and much slower minicons.

Bryan R. Haas of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania wrote us that . . . "Vietnam vets will be interested to know that the November 1977 issue of the *Retired Officers magazine* reports a 'Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel' is being formed. Interested people should contact the chapel at P.O. Box 166, Eagle Nest, NM 87718."

DATELINE: TOGO

A new merc opportunity appears to be developing in West Africa with a movement calling itself the **NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF TOGOLAND**. The French language-based acronym for the movement is **TOLIMO**. Apparently the movement is dedicated to getting back territory which was originally incorporated into East Ghana. At least one Ghanaian minister has regarded the threat as "seriously subversive" and a "threat to the peace of West Africa." **TOLIMO** aims to liberate all Ghana's territory to the east of the Volta River and already recruits are being trained in karate, sabotage, and assassination to effect a reverse in the UN plebescite of 1956 which favored integration of the British trusteeship territory in West Togoland into the territory of the then Gold Coast colony (today Ghana). **TOLIMO** was formed in 1972 and the movement has political and financial backing from "an unknown African state." **TOLIMO**'s headquarters are in Lome, capital of Togo. Africa hands could do well to scratch around Hotel Le Benin for the latest dope on the movement.

SOG REUNION . . .

The first annual SOG reunion held in Las Vegas, 10 December to 18 December, 1977 proved to be a great success as a good time was had by all. Special thanks go to Jim Bulter for organizing the show. It was decided by those attending to form a SOG Association; more information to follow.

The SOF Bug Bites Early!



Mommy, can I go to Rhodesia?



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FROM THE DROP . . .

Edmund W. Sprague, U.S. Sinai Field Mission, Box 10, FPO, New York 09527, writes that the Sinai Mission may be looking for a couple of para-medics. Contact E-Systems, Greenville, TX. Salary around \$25,000 per year plus other bennies. SF medics may use Ed's name for reference.

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TERRAINE & SITUATION - NO. 8

BY JERRY AHERN

Bianchi Leather Products is well known as one of the largest makers and one of the best for holsters and leather accessories. But another product marketed by this well-respected firm is the Bianchi Speed Strip, the only thing of its kind on the market. Most speed loading devices are shaped like a revolver cylinder and are as bulky. For a police officer in uniform, such speed loaders may be just the thing, but for an undercover man or the armed civilian who chooses a revolver, speed loaders are bulky and betraying.

The Bianchi Speed Strip is totally different. To visualize it, picture the cartridge clips on the old Broomhandle Mauser pistols, inserted from the top of the weapon and the cartridges stripped into the magazine. This is basically how the Speed Strip looks. Fabricated of neoprene rubber, featuring a stainless steel spring insert for rigidity, it holds six .38 Special or .357 cartridges in straight line, allowing conventional single loading and loading two rounds at a time.

It is not as fast as a cylinder shaped speed loader, but is flatter than an auto pistol magazine, keeps the cartridges together rather than loose in a pocket, and is invaluable for organizing loads. For example, right now I use Remington 125-grain SJHP +P .38 Specials in my stainless Chief's. Ultra hot, I do not recommend the load by the way in such a small gun. But, with ease, I can carry an extra Speed Strip with six more of these cartridges in the breast pocket of my sportcoat. Another Speed Strip could carry three KTW Armor Piercing rounds and three Glaser Safety Slugs, or shot cartridges or the multi-projectile Quad loads.

The Speed Strip can be used in most cartridge dump boxes or pouches without difficulty. And, they last. The Speed Strips I use have been with me for well over two years and still function perfectly. The specially formulated neoprene adapts well to climate extremes and, with the current vogue for shoulder holster ammo dumps, where fumbling and dropping the loose rounds is even more possible, the Speed Strip is a virtual necessity. Priced at about \$3.00 per pair, the Bian-

chi Speed Strip is a sensational value. You can find them at most gunshops or write directly to Bianchi, 100 Calle Cortez, Temecula, California 92390 U.S.A. These are an item I wouldn't be without.

For a good number of years now, Gutmann Cutlery has been importing a knife with which I am immensely satisfied. Eight years ago, when I started carrying mine, it was known as the Puma 970 Plainsman. Now, it is called the Game Warden. But the knife is still the same. A four-inch blade lockback folder with an English Bowie pattern featuring a "nearly" sharp false edge, it is wicked looking. Of stainless steel, it has been pocket carried in rain and sweat-drenching heat, left in snow, washed, and just about everything else. Over the years, it has been used as an impromptu hatchet and to chop saplings. With one slice it has been whacked through 1/4-inch and 1/2-inch diameter rope. It has been clogged with sand, mud, ice and, a few years back at an office birthday party for someone at *Guns Magazine*, even with cake and frosting when no other knife was available. Try getting butter cream frosting out of the inside of a folding knife sometime!

Aside from less than a half dozen times on the coarse side of the carborundum, all that has been necessary is the periodic touch-up on the fine side.

The big Puma — not the biggest since the largest of the lockbacks has a five-inch blade — features solid brass bolsters and body, stainless back and jacaranda wood handle panels. The butt of the knife back by the lock is drilled through for a thong which I never use.

The Puma runs 5 1/2 ounces on the postage scale and has a good feel to it. One-hand opening is easily accomplished. My method starts butt towards the body, back down and thumb and first finger gripping the blade. As I tighten the grip of these two fingers, the body of the knife pushes away from the blade. As I snap the knife forward and up in an arc to about belt level, the second finger pushes out steadily on the body of the knife and

the weight of the body carries the rest of the way to lock. I merely roll the knife over my first finger and into my hand and it's ready to go. After countless one-hand openings, there is no shimmy to the blade.

Because of the world monetary situation, it is impossible to keep track of the current price, but it is in the neighborhood of \$50. 90% handmade, the Puma is worth it. Eight years of doing virtually everything with it has proven that. For more information, contact Gutmann Cutlery, 900 S. Columbus Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10550 U.S.A.

Few characters of recent fiction have so excited imaginations as Clint Eastwood's portrayals of Dirty Harry. Though my personal opinion of the superlative S&W M-29 does not include viewing the gun as appropriate police ordnance, many officers use it. And, in the game fields, it is the most potent of production handgun cartridges — note that the ammo for Auto Mags is hand or custom load only. Apparently, Dirty Harry fans not only loved the M-29 but also liked the shoulder rig utilized by Clint Eastwood as well. Though the Model 29 is still the hardest to get of all handguns, now at least, if you have the gun, you can buy the right holster. Jerry Ardolino, head honcho of Lawman Leathergoods, has commissioned Bucheimer-Clark, one of the oldest and most respected holster makers, to fabricate *exact* duplicates of the holster used by Eastwood in the films. All that has been deleted is a tension screw for the spring retainer in the snap draw holster. The tension screw was essentially useless and only served to scratch the gun. But, the holster is the same, the harness is the same, and the

quality is excellent. Lawman Leathergoods is the exclusive distributor, the holsters made on Jerry Ardolino's order.

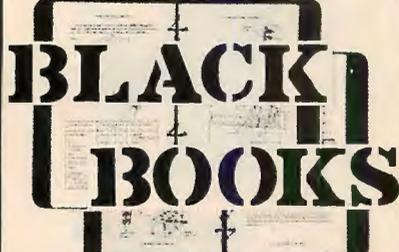
Logically enough, it is called the "Dirty Harry Shoulder Holster." A police officer himself, Ardolino uses the rig with his M-29 with 6½-inch barrel as a backup and for off-duty. Under a loose coat or jacket, the rig is concealable to anyone but a professional gunman. However, in all honesty, a professional will spot it and, with a normally cut sportcoat, the comparatively huge gun would be reasonably well advertised to most observers.

Constructed by the same folks who made the movie holster, it was designed specifically for the 6½-inch Model 29, but because of the cylinder cutout featured in the holster, will accommodate 6 or 6½-inch N-Frame revolvers in .41 Magnum, like the M-57; in .357 Magnum, like the 27; and, in .45, like the Model 25. When the High Standard Crusader finally comes out, the holster will be suited to it as well. Made of premium grade leather (exact weight not available) and fully suede lined, the holster is expensive to fabricate. Retail is \$59.95. For the man carrying a large N-Frame revolver under casual concealment or for field use, who likes a holster anchored securely to the belt with a straight-up-and-down carry and a harness crossing the shoulders and anchoring to the belt on the off-gun side, it is a fine rig. One suggestion is that after the holster is adjusted to fit and worn, the thongs securing the harness adjustments should be done away with and the rig taken to someone competent at sewing leather. To order or for more information, write Jerry Ardolino at Lawman Leathergoods, P.O. Box 48773, Chicago, Illinois 60648 U.S.A.

Whether World War I buff or chair-borne aviator, few experiences seem as breathtakingly alive as piloting a bi-plane in combat during the dawn of aerial warfare. Though I don't usually plug a book here — and probably won't again for some time — Frank Baumann, author of *The Head of a Banjo*, is a good friend and the book deserves mention. A first novel, it is not *War and Peace*, and in his subsequent writings some stylistic changes for the better have taken place. But *The Head of a Banjo* is a damned good story. And Frank Baumann knows warfare. A 31-month veteran of the Pacific Theater, Frank enlisted in the USMC in his mid-teens in 1942 and was discharged in 1945. He served as a merc for four years, then joined Elgin (Illinois) P.D., retiring as a Lieutenant. His story follows a couple of seat-of-the-pants stunt pilots signing up to fly for France and closes at the end of World War II — aerial combat from its accidental beginnings to the modern age. The story moves a little too fast and the dialogue is on the short side, but the facts are straight and the yarn is a good one (Carlton Press, Inc., 84 5th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011 U.S.A. At \$5.95 plus forty cents shipping and handling).



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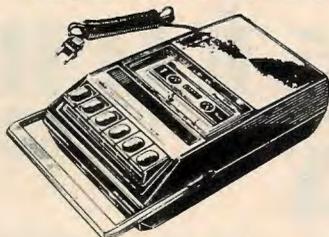
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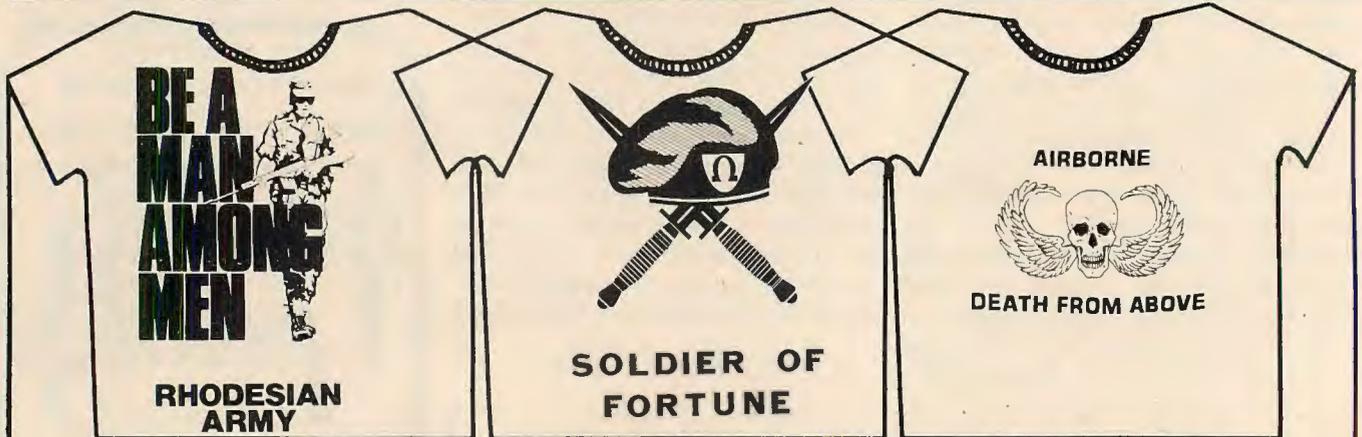
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A MIRACLE IN KENSINGTON

BY ALEXANDER M.S. MCCOLL

Kensington, Maryland, is one of those places where you would least expect to witness a miracle. It is a very ordinary, very middle-class suburb somewhere in the vast urban sprawl surrounding Washington, D.C.; one has to remind himself that miracles are not reserved for exotic deserts in the Middle East or misty isles off the west coast of Ireland, or for events in the remote past which are really not subject to proof before the self-satisfied arrogance of the "scientific method." They also happen, of course, even in the twentieth century, and in places like Kensington, Maryland.

Let me tell you the story, and "if you find it wondrous short, it cannot hold you long." There was a man, and his name was Daniel Gearhart. There was another man once, another Daniel, who professed the Lord God in the lions' den and the fiery furnace; perhaps something also of his spirit went with Danny Gearhart. Anyway, Danny was a soldier who believed in defending his country, who believed in light and truth and justice as he saw them, and who believed that a man's work is to stand up for what he believes in, even in his country's uniform, even under the guns of the enemy . . . even in the face of certain death.

Well, he wore the uniform with honor in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division; later he was a sergeant in the Special Forces of the Maryland National Guard. Early in 1976 the word went round, as it does, that men were needed — good men and true, and well trained — to help with the war against the enemy in Angola — the same enemy we had fought in Korea and Vietnam and a few other places one doesn't talk about. Perhaps it was a matter of needing a job, but I think it was also a matter of heeding the Call; the footnote here is to Godefroi de Bouillon and King Richard I of England and Saint Louis of France — the ancient Call, the Holy Crusade, the military defense of Western Civilization. And let the comfortable television viewers scoff, in the security bought for them by the life-blood of the Danny Gearharts of this world, but please not in my presence — unless you feel like losing some teeth.

He went, of course, and, as the world knows, he died under the guns of the enemy, not in honorable battle, but in what can only be defined as a parajudicial murder of prisoners of war. I was at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, at the time. Be it recorded that I, and another Special Forces Officer named Bill Rawls, and an Airborne Infantry type, a Lt. Col. Camper (who was the last American out of Camp Carroll), and a bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey had our own little private wake for Danny Gearhart. But it was sort of a bad scene: a widow, four kids, no job, and a report that the Maryland National Guard had discharged Danny so as to avoid paying the lawful benefits to the widow.

But not altogether bad. All sorts of people, coming from all sorts of places, closed ranks, rallied around, and the job got done. Bob Brown, the Editor of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, located one of the lawyers to send to Luanda to try the case (and ran a blistering article afterwards). Robert Cessner and Bill Willson, the lawyers, didn't take a brass farthing by way of fee for trying the case; as a lawyer I can't think of a less rewarding professional experience than trying the predeterminedly losing side of a Marxist show trial, and in a foreign language, and in Africa. But they went, and they tried the case, and presented all the defenses under the Law of War . . . And Danny Gearhart died, under the guns of the enemy. But before he died, he spoke up like a man and a soldier in that kangaroo courtroom in Luanda. May God give each of us, should we come to such a dark passage, the same courage and eloquence. And may God also receive Danny Gearhart, and all His crusaders, saints and martyrs, as of old, into the Holy City. But this is just the beginning of the story.

There was a modest fund-raising pitch in *Soldier of Fortune* magazine which was able to raise only a thousand dollars, and I began to wonder about what remained of the immemorial tradition of taking care of the widows and orphans of "those of us" who went out and laid it on the line and didn't come home. It was about a year later, on July 29, 1977, that I found

the answer. Please forgive so much of the vertical pronoun, but miracles are somewhat subjective things, and are better chronicled from the view-point of the eyewitness. En route from Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, I stopped off and looked in on Shiela Gearhart, Danny's widow. Let me tell you what I found.

Shiela is doing well. The various bureaucracies — the Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration, and, contrary to the early rumors, even the Maryland National Guard — have done all things lawfully compassionate. The Holy Redeemer parish of Kensington, Maryland, contributed the money to bring the body back from Africa and to provide a proper funeral, and did many other things besides. At least in this instance, the Holy Church, the household of faith, the seamless Garment, looks after its own. And all sorts of other folk, coming from all sorts of directions, have turned up to help. John the Carpenter, for example. When I met him, he was drinking beer, spouting simplistic theology, and building, for practically nothing, a much-needed addition on the back of Shiela's otherwise minute house. A West Virginia red-neck with the bark on, who reminds one of another Carpenter from a small town in northern Palestine whom we read about in the Book.

And what of Shiela? I took her out to dinner, and we had a long talk. She is a very brave woman, without fanfare, strong in faith, loyal to God and the Church, a good practical mother and a very fine dinner companion. She makes me proud that I, also, can claim ancestors from the Emerald Isle. She is not broken, but, by Faith and Grace and Love, is stronger than she was before. Here, very obviously, the Holy Spirit, the Archangel Michael, and the Power of Our Risen Lord have been effectively at work.

You may not call that a miracle. I do. *Editorial Note: contributions to Gearhart's family are still needed. They can be sent to Mrs. Shiela Gearhart c/o John J. Toomey, 504 State National Bank Bldg., Kensington, MD 20795.*



MERCS' TOGO MISSION — ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT!

In the middle of October 1977, reports of a merc operation in Togo, a small impoverished country on the west coast of Africa, reached SOF's offices. Stories carried by the news media were vague, primarily because no one had been able to locate and interview any of the participants.

We contacted a number of sources in the merc world and let it be known we were interested in locating and interviewing one of the mercs.

Terry Edwards, author and publisher of the *Mercenary's Manual*, informed us he was in contact with one of the merc team; that he could vouch for his credibility. Initially, Edwards' contact refused to talk, as there was a possibility some of his team members were still in Togo.

After several weeks, Edwards' contact, whom we will call "John," determined all merc personnel had been extracted. Consequently, he agreed to talk so we sent SOF Associate Editor Tom MacGregor to conduct the interview. MacGregor questioned "John" for seven hours and left with the impression that the merc was telling the truth without embellishment. As we go to press we have no corroborating evidence to substantiate the details of his story. However, the general theme of this particular operation has been confirmed by reports appearing in the Canadian and British press. Specific dates, some locations and nationalities of some of the participants cannot be mentioned at this time as it is believed the Togolese, Canadian and British governments are continuing to investigate this incident.

The story of this curious and intrigue-ridden story follows:

"John" was approached in the early spring of 1977 by a retired Canadian Army officer Lt. Col. W. T. E. "Tom" Finan of Toronto. Finan, now 56, had a distinguished career with the Canadian forces.

Known to the mercs as "Colonel," Tom Finan began his military career in WWII. He was CO of a tank unit that fought in Italy and Europe. Subsequently, he served as a major with the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Gaza strip and as an instructor to Ghana's army. From 1965 to 1967 he commanded the Royal Canadian Dragoons and was discharged in 1979.

In 1971 he entered the arms trade, specializing in locating obsolete weapons and parts for third world nations, primarily in Africa. He also supplied weapons to Lebanon during the civil war.

Finan, who had known John as a personal friend for several years, made the initial approach.

"I was simply asked if I would be interested in a merc operation," John recounts. "The general operation was outlined but I was not told the name of the country or how the plan would be executed."

John was offered a position with the group because of his expertise with small arms. He agreed due to the "upfront" money and the promise of participation in fringe benefits after the operation was successful. The participating mercs were to receive exclusive security contracts for both the new Togo government and in-country industry, control and management of gambling casinos and other economic concessions. "John" noted, "The fringe

benefits is where the real money was."

Merc wages consisted of several thousand dollars in advance, plus a 100% bonus upon successful completion of the mission. All expenses were paid. Payment of the initial advance and expenses came from a Swiss bank in currency of the individual's choice.

In late spring, John was ordered to Paris. During the early stages of the operation members of the eight-man team were scattered throughout Europe and did not meet each other prior to insertion in Africa. Contact was maintained by telex and telephone.

John and other team members made several trips to other European countries, primarily Germany and Switzerland, to handle money matters, gather intelligence and procure weapons.

John felt that the whole operation was supported by a shadowy but efficient support organization that operated independently of the merc team. He substantiated this observation by pointing to the fact that the team leader, British ex-SAS (the SAS is the British counterpart to the U.S. Army's Special Forces) sergeant, David "Darkie" Davidson, had ripped off the IRA for 80 Browning 12-gauge riot guns.

"This could not have been done unless Davidson had access to excellent intelligence as well as assistance in transporting the guns out of Ireland," John observed. "Davidson probably had assistance from individuals in some government agency in effecting this theft. It's logical that you have to have assistance in transporting 80 shotguns; get them out of one country and into another."

John noted that the support organization was effectively compartmentalized from the action elements; that rumor has it that the IRA has put a contract out on Davidson for the theft.

During the summer the merc team was ordered to Togo. All were in place, arriving independently and on a staggered schedule within two weeks. They checked into separate hotels under different covers.

Their mission was to assassinate Togo's President, Lt. Col. Gnassingbe Eyadema on behalf of the "Togalese Liberation Army" (TLA) and the exile government of Togo. The mission concept of execution provided for assassinating the president at the airport by a single AR-15 armed sniper. The hit would be carried out at "close range." Contingency plans called for ambushing the President as he left the airport and if this failed, an attack on the palace.

The vehicle ambush was to be executed as follows: The sniper team would follow the President, who rode in a limousine, escorted by four motorcyclists. At a road junction four teams would initiate a T-shaped ambush. The sniper team would serve as a blocking element once the ambush was initiated or compromised.

The ambush teams were to consist of two white mercs and approximately 12 TLA members. The mercs were to be armed with AR-15s or Italian manufactured AP-74 carbines in .32 ACP caliber. The TLA would carry the Browning shotguns.

If, for some reason the ambush was not executed, the merc team would storm the Presidential Palace and eliminate the President. Upon completion of the mission the team would exfiltrate to Ghana 2½ kilometers away.

The storming of the palace was to be completed in seven

minutes. When questioned as to how this could be accomplished in the time allocated, especially with no rehearsals, John stated that the Army and security units would be neutralized; that little or no resistance was expected.

John stated the operation was planned by Col. Finan, Sgt. Davidson and members of the TLA.

The new "President" would then be escorted to the Togo capital by a second merc team made up of British SAS regulars who were in Ghana on leave from active duty. John stated the plan was subject to continuous change as the SAS personnel were on active duty in Northern Ireland and were having difficulty in getting leave. These SAS personnel also were paid \$8000 according to John.

The weapons, AR-15s, AP-74s and shotguns, had been smuggled into Togo prior to the arrival of the mercs and, much to the consternation of the team members, did not include automatic weapons as they had been promised by Finan or Davidson. They were not happy but determined to make do with what they had.

A quantity of explosives was also smuggled into Togo and was to be used with the vehicle ambush. If the ambush was not executed the demolition would be used to blow a bridge outside the capital and thus isolate part of the Togo Presidential guard during the attack on the palace.

The weapons, explosives, and other "sensitive" equipment was hidden in a government building and actually guarded by Togolese troops. John stated these guards had no knowledge of what they were actually guarding. In fact, he even checked out the weapons, disassembling and assembling them while the guards remained by the door.

The opposition was poorly trained, equipped, and few in number. The 800-man presidential guard were armed only with out-dated French MAT 49 SMGs. They were all members of the same tribe as the President. The Togo army has a small number of Panhard armored cars whose guns do not fire.

As the Togo President has little faith in the regular Army, those troops that carry old MAS 36 bolt action rifles are not issued ammo. Those troops without rifles are issued five rounds each.

Merc intelligence determined that there were also between 30 and 40 North Korean advisors in Togo.

"We were well briefed on all military aspects of the situation," John said. "Most of our intell came from unnamed resistance elements within the country. We verified the info we had received concerning the morale of the army, equipment state of maintenance and readiness, location and strength of garrisons as well as loyalty of individuals in the military hierarchy."

"While in Togo, we also conducted area and route reconnaissance on mission targets and exfiltration routes. We also contacted elements of the TLA who were to provide local logistical support, intelligence and combat support for the hit team."

The hit was scheduled for early fall when the President would return from a seven-day vacation in August.

While the President was on vacation and the mercs finalized their plans, the mission was suddenly aborted. All team personnel were instructed to depart Togo in 24 hours; to return to initial staging areas. The mercs were told "the President has extended his vacation." Nothing more.

"The mission was totally cancelled at this point and I returned home. I never received any further clarification as to why the mission was aborted. Several weeks later, I was contacted regarding participation in a second attempt. I couldn't go due to prior commitments," John continued.

"I later found out only four of the original eight (four of the eight were North Americans; four were Europeans) turned out for attempt number two. The second attempt was staged out of Ghana. I don't know the exact concept of the operation but the team was going to infiltrate across the border from Ghana to Togo."

This second attempt was aborted when the merc team approached the border and found it was heavily patrolled by Togolese

security units. The mission was again cancelled and to the best of any knowledge everyone was successfully exfiltrated.

According to the Canadian and British press this attempt (Canadian and British papers had no knowledge of the first attempt in August which John describes) was aborted through the efforts of the British Foreign Office who informed President Eyadema.

Apparently Col. Finan had assembled his team in the sleepy market town of Hereford, England. According to the press, he and his team each received \$9000 in advance and were to receive another \$9000 when Eyadema was zapped.

Well connected sources state the British Foreign Office became aware of number two after one of the ex-SAS members had checked with an active duty SAS officer for an informed clearance for participation in the operation.

The warning was transmitted to Eyadema through diplomatic channels and on 15 October Eyadema announced that a tip-off from friendly powers had saved him.

John is still uncertain as to why the first mission was aborted.

He speculated that their efforts might have been compromised by a team of French mercs who were in Togo at the same time with the same mission; that the French informed on them to allow them time to implement their own plan for overthrowing Eyadema. Merc intelligence reports indicated the French mercs were representing the interests of the French government. John stated the French plan had been delayed as their candidate to replace Eyadema - his brother in law - had been executed on Eyadema's orders. "Another possibility," according to "John", is that we were betrayed by a Togolese who had knowledge of the plot."

"One of our problems was that the team personnel had conventional military backgrounds, that none of the hit team members were chosen for specific expertise other than myself and Davidson. The primary criterion for selection was trustworthiness. Individuals were recruited by the 'the old boy' system of referrals."

"Another problem was that while all the team members were in Togo including Davidson, we had no team training; no rehearsals. There also was no opportunity to train the indigenous personnel who were to assist us."

"When we met in Togo, we did so through coded instructions received by Telex. However, control by Telex proved to be inefficient because of the unreliability of the Togo electronic communication system.

John refused to detail the codes used or the methods of identifying team members. He only knew one other team member prior to arriving in Togo. Though he met all other team members at one time or another in Togo they never met as a unit. Their cover was such that they were able to meet one another "sociably."

Though disappointed because of the failure of the August attempt, John did not feel his time was wasted.

"During the several weeks we were in Togo, we lived our cover to the fullest. In other words, I had a hell of a good time. In fact, it was the best vacation I ever had! We lead the life of playboys—drinking, screwing and sun bathing. After all, all expenses were paid." (John also noted that while in Paris he stayed in a \$1000 a week hotel suite.)

When queried as to why white mercs were chosen for the operation he stated that anti-Eyadema Togolese were considered unreliable.

"Eyadema had survived a plane crash in which everyone else had been killed and consequently, the natives feared him as they would a God. They were afraid of taking direct action themselves."

Apparently there was a third attempt to recruit SAS personnel which was aborted when the Special Branch of Scotland Yard "talked to" the recruits in December 1977.

Speculation still runs rampant regarding the funding of the Togo operation.

One theory has it that Col. Muammar Quaddafi, radical leader of Libya, gave \$3 million to the Togolese government which was siphoned off into the pockets of Eyadema and his ministers; that he was miffed and funded the merc operation.

The other theory, supported by John, is that the effort was funded by members of the tribe and relatives of former president Sylvanus Olympio who was shot to death by Eyadema in 1963.

THAILAND: The Front Line Against Communism

by General Saiyud Kerdphol

In an effort to keep SOF readers informed about current policy considerations in the continuing struggle against Communist aggression in Southeast Asia, we are pleased to reproduce the following speech by Royal Thai Army General Saiyud Kerdphol. The speech was delivered to the Association of Far East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Senior Officials Seminar in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24 November 1977. (ASEAN is a regional consultative organization which includes Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines.)

General Kerdphol is widely respected, both in Thailand and abroad, as an expert on the Communist insurgency problem in Thailand. The General, now 55 years old, has devoted a major part of his military career to directing Thailand's Communist Suppression Operations Center (now known as the Internal Security Operations Center) and is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Supreme Command Headquarters of the Thai Ministry of Defense. His previous assignments have included Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Infantry Center, Director of Operations of the Royal Thai Army, and Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel of the Army.



projections of previously defined policies. Indeed, they were adjustments or reactions to the unexpected or the unfulfilled.

Similarly, the international organizations—the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Afro-Asian grouping, and ASEAN itself—have found that new names do not dissolve old realities, that the flavor of the wine remains unaltered, whatever its container. Thus, the scene is set for mutual concessions and mutually beneficial compromises of interests. Leadership is at a discount; and a new generation of leaders capable of achieving an institutional and pragmatic fulfillment of previous promise has yet to emerge.

Since the end of the most revolutionary of all wars—the World War of 1939-1945, we have misjudged or misdefined the essence and extent of its explosive effect, and, therefore, the complexity and magnitude of the postwar task of building a new basis, a new structure, and a new balance for today's newest of worlds.

At the end of that war, America confidently took over the responsibility for the effective use of the power she had

just gained in super-abundance; and the Allied Powers, having won the greatest of wars by any standards, not least those of the mobilization of men and materiel on a colossal scale, felt that man was at last in control of his destiny, and could surely achieve the greatest, the longest, and the best peace. The situation in the world today, 30-odd years later, does not, alas, fit this picture.

Since Vietnam, “. . . Americans have . . . abandoned their Galahad role for that of the more cautious policeman between the Communist monoliths of Russia and China.”

America under Roosevelt orchestrated the downfall of the old colonial empires, and then ironically found herself forced by the Cold War and consequent international strategic realities to fill the vacuum she had so lightheartedly created. In the process she became invested with a neo-colonialist mantle of her own, one which by virtue of their origins and experience the Americans proved fundamentally uneasy with and were never really willing to wear.

The watershed of this imperialist adventure came, of course, in Vietnam, and this could prove as crucial in the development of the United States as a great power as the Boer War was for Britain at the turn of this century. America has certainly learned the price of the responsibility of power: in the use of its economic resources, in the impossibility of winning world-wide popularity, and in the need to choose between internal and external priorities. On the other hand, caught between two oceans, America must have a two-ocean outlook and a two-ocean policy. She can safely withdraw from neither, despite her historical and cultural affinities towards Europe. So, licking their wounds, the Americans have now abandoned their Galahad role for that of the more cautious policeman between the Communist monoliths of Russia and China.

The subject of my talk today is the Communist Threat in South-East Asia, with emphasis on the current Communist threat and the likely trends of subversive tactics and activities in this region. But, before going into regional particulars, I would like first to try to sketch an overall perspective, a backdrop, against which South-East Asia fits into the political, economic, and strategic realities of this globe.

Problems loom larger in the world today than the power or the policies to solve them. And, as populations inexorably burgeon, and science and technology dramatically advance, the impotence of both men and governments in controlling their own destinies is increasingly underlined. The American decision to stop military involvement in Indo-China, the British decision to withdraw east of Suez, and the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia—these were not confident or controlled decisions, foreseen or foreseeable as planned

Russia, too, is inevitably involved, not only through her objective of world domination through the Communist International but also as China becomes the focus of the problem of the Balance of Power in Asia. In this regard, the U.S.S.R. owns more Asian real estate than any purely Asian power, including China, and depends increasingly on Asian seas for her own marine transport from the Black Sea to Vladivostok, for trading her surpluses, for widening the range of consumer purchases and for food from the two Asian oceans. In addition, the Russians are increasingly involved in a bid for naval supremacy in the Indian Ocean.

“Thailand, as the virtual ‘eye’ of the Peninsula and the only available land-line to Cambodia . . . is . . . critical to China’s politico-military strategy.”

In her campaign for world hegemony and in the bitter struggle with China, Russia has no wish to see the Straits of Malacca under the control of China, or of any other great power that could deny their use to her. Indeed, as a great power herself, Russia seeks to be wherever the Americans can be, and in so doing she is learning that it is the essence or greatness of power itself which causes the fear in others, that it is an expensive and hazardous role to play, and that she cannot win universal friendship in a world of national interests. And Soviet power in the world, especially the Communist world, also requires the containment, voluntary or otherwise, of China.

As for the Chinese, there is little doubt that they view the Communist takeover in Vietnam and Laos as yet another success for Russian imperialism and its policy of strategic encirclement of China for the past 10 years or so. A glance at the map quickly shows the landmass of China from Sinkiang in the west to Harbin in the northeast, to be surrounded by Russia; and across this border something like a million armed men have confronted each other in open hostility for several years.

Southern China, from opposite the southernmost Soviet Socialist Republic of Tadzhik across to the South China Sea, is bounded by Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Burma, Laos and North Vietnam. From Afghanistan through India, the great massif of the Himalayas provides an almost impermeable barrier — either way. On the southeastern periphery of China, most of Laos and North Vietnam is firmly in the Russian fold, whilst Soviet submarines actively patrol and can interdict the East and South China Seas. Indeed, save for part of Burma, China is entirely surrounded by Russia itself, strongly Soviet-influenced countries, a

Russian-infested sea, or impregnable mountains.

Thus, throughout the whole of its 10,000-kilometer land border — the longest in the world — it is only for a stretch of some 1,000 kilometers in highly volatile and unstable Burma that China has external access by land through a neutral or friendly country. Is it any wonder, then, that the Chinese should feel themselves hemmed in by their arch-enemy’s iron curtain, both by land and in the sea where he maintains a proliferating nuclear submarine fleet?

This strategic encirclement (which is what national and international conflicts and groupings have been all about throughout history, including contemporarily the Axis, the Allies, the Japanese Co-Prosperity Sphere, NATO, CENTO, ANZUS, SEATO, The Warsaw Pact, and so on), and the consequent Chinese requirement to break the ring, are clearly the crux of the life-and-death issue between Russia and China.

China, then, has somehow to maintain her foothold in northeastern Burma and northwestern Laos for two major reasons: (1) to prevent a complete Soviet encirclement, and (2) to protect her interests in friendly Cambodia, thus weakening Russo-Vietnamese hegemony in Indo-China, and also providing an outlet to the rest of South-East Asia. In both cases, Thailand, as the virtual “eye” of the Peninsula and the only available land-line to Cambodia (both air and sea communications between that country and China being easily interdictable in a crisis), is therefore critical to China’s politico-military strategy.

Thus, the internecine posture of these two super powers, in which Thailand — now the vanguard of South-East Asia against encroaching Communism — is an important strategic factor, far transcends this country’s relatively puny internal security problems. And it is likely that this advantageous position will continue into the foreseeable future, so long as both these powers remain in contention. Heaven forbid, though, that there should ever be a genuine Sino-Soviet rapprochement — what a Pandora’s Box that would open!

“Vietnam . . . is probably prepared to commit herself to . . . a step-up in support . . . that will invigorate and accelerate the somewhat sluggish Thai insurgency. . . .”

So far, so good; but what of Vietnam? It is unlikely that Vietnamese leaders will ever forget that Thailand provided the bases from which most of the bombing missions and tactical air support was flown against them, and neither country

can ignore the centuries-old hostility over which will be the paramount power in the Peninsula. Active Vietnamese logistics and training support for Thai insurgents was established in the early 1960s under the 35 (Pathet Lao)/95 (NVA) Combined Command, and these activities (and the Vietnamese influence in the Thai insurgency) have increased steadily over the years. Now that the extreme rightist Thai government has been overthrown, and with it, ironically, the possibility of developing the classic Marxist “disposing conditions” for revolution from the social contradictions implicit in such regimes, it may be expected that the Vietnamese will redouble their subversive support, and this might quite well extend to trouble-making in the ultra-sensitive and long-established Vietnamese refugee enclaves along or near the Mekong border.

On the purely military side, Vietnam continues to maintain, and according to some quarters to increase, its relatively huge and well-experienced standing army of some 20 divisions, up to six of which are reported to be in Laos. But this army does not necessarily constitute any immediate sinister threat against Thailand. Indeed, there is evidence that Vietnamese soldiers are physically employed in reconstruction programs within Vietnam, whereas their presence in Laos is explainable by their need to maintain a firm hold over (and in some areas to pacify) a country that has virtually become a Vietnamese fiefdom. In addition, it would be no easy matter to demobilize such vast soldiery into the fragile Vietnamese economy.

There is also the possibility that the Soviet-supported Vietnamese Army is an important part of a Russian strategic plan, as a potent dagger aimed directly at China’s “soft under-belly” (to adopt Winston Churchill’s wartime phrase from its European context). If this were the case, one would expect a quick preemptive strike against north and northeast Thailand in the event of a major Sino-Soviet war, in order both to neutralize the Thai Army and to block any southward movement by the Chinese. There is no likelihood, however, that Vietnam would undertake such an adventure on her own because, even if completely successful, she (1) would become embroiled in vast and continuing pacification problems which any occupation of Thailand would inevitably create; (2) would consume an enormous amount of the financial resources, badly needed and already committed for the vital reconstruction programs within Vietnam over the next several years, without any guarantee of commensurate compensation from a conquered Thailand; and (3) would evoke international hostility from those very nations — Japan and the

(continued on page 69)

'YANK' LEVY: PRINCE AMONG PALADINS

BY J. DAVID TRUBY

An East Texas ranch 'n' red-neck bar isn't where you expect to meet a tough, experienced professional soldier to discuss Rhodesia. But that bar was the kid's choice. When I saw him, I thought someone had been bullshitting me about the kid's combat record.

He was much too young to be such a professional soldier. He looked like Mickey Rooney did about 40 years ago. Am I getting that old? Nonsense.

Anyway, the kid said he'd read some of my articles and wanted to talk about freelance soldiering.

"You're a journalist, where's the

action? I'm skilled and experienced with commando skills for sale," he said.

I looked up at the word "commando," and asked, "Oh, you're a commando . . . from the old Bert Levy School of Commando Tactics, eh?"

"Who's Bert Levy?"

Oh boy, I thought, how long does fame last? Here's a kid calling himself a commando and he doesn't know about Bert Levy. Some education!

So, I sat us down over quite a few more flagons of ale and told him about Bert Levy—perhaps the greatest commando and soldier of fortune of them all.

Although guerrilla warfare is as old as

man fighting man, the United States never officially got into the business until 1942. When we did, though, we got the best teacher in the business, a legendary soldier of fortune known as Bert "Yank" Levy.

"We asked the British, the Canadians, and our own 'secret mission' people to name the best guerrilla warfare expert in the world. They told us to get Yank Levy," said General Sherman Miles, the first commandant of America's first guerrilla war schools, way back in '42.

"His credentials were the best," General Miles announced. "He fought in five wars and dozens of armed, rough skirmishes all over the world. He is the author of the only guerrilla warfare textbook in existence."

Known among historians and military men as one of the world's leading experts on guerrilla tactics, Levy was the man Washington wanted to train its own commandos and OSS men who would work with resistance fighters in Europe and Asia. Although he was an American, Levy often claimed the whole world as his citizenship base. In 1942, he was in England, working with British commandos.

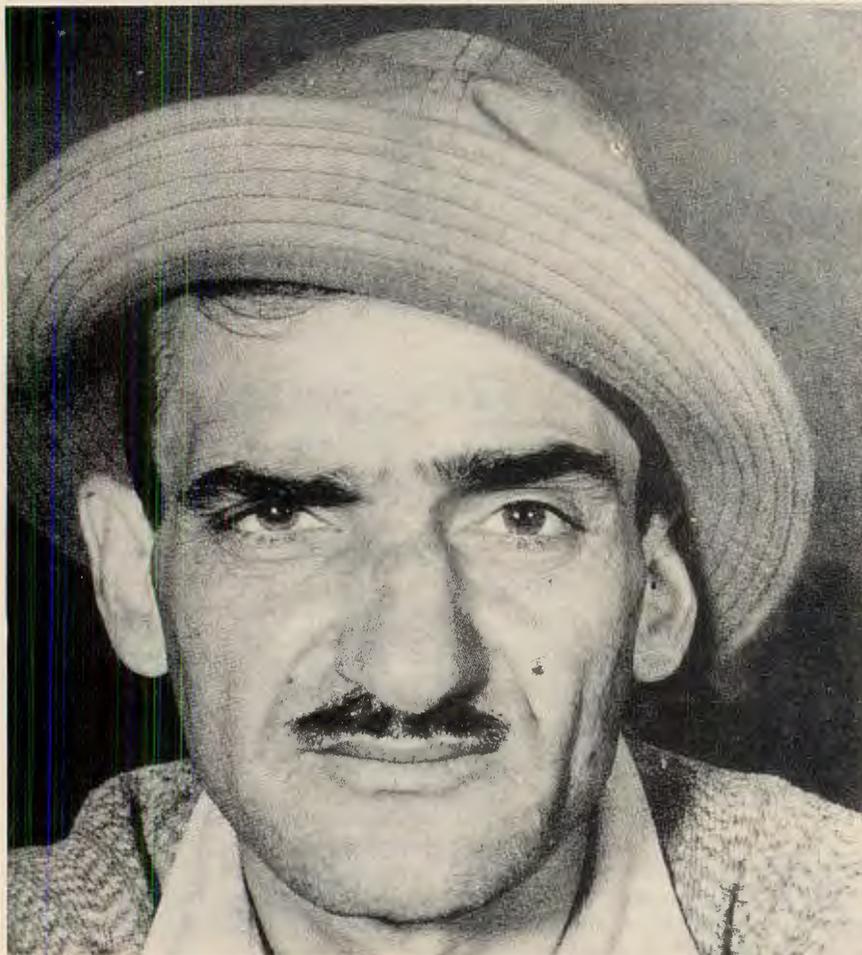
"The only way we could get this man back to America was on loan from the British who wanted him badly for their own training," General Miles wrote.

In the reverse of normal Lend/Lease flow, the 45-year old Levy was imported back to the United States from his secret base in England early in 1942. His mission—to develop a cadre of American guerrilla war experts to spread his gospel of nasty battle.

The site for the American base was near Concord, Massachusetts. As Levy himself explained, "The area had something to do with early guerrilla warfare by Colonial Minutemen. Fitting, I'd say, for our Mission."

His mission was to teach the men his concepts and tactics of guerrilla war . . . how to kill quickly and silently . . . how to burn and blow up things . . . how to sabotage and disrupt . . . how to teach and lead others to do the same things.

"Obviously, our tactics are way out-



Intelligent as well as tough, Levy said the only job he didn't really excel in was his brief career as a pro boxer. His broken nose, he always added, was proof of that.



Demonstrating how to take out a sentry quietly and quickly, Levy taught his deadly skills to U.S. commandos early in World War II.

side the Marquis of Queensberry rules," Levy said. "Some of my weapons and methods bend the Geneva Convention, too. But war is not pleasant nor easy. It is deadly and for keeps."

Levy explained his specialty to the military men, "Guerrilla warfare is all the impromptu and irregular methods of fighting a war by people whose country is occupied by enemy troops.

"Tactics involve all the irritating, harassing, hit 'n' run and murderous methods that will work to hurt that enemy," the small, thin man with the sharp, tough face told his recruits.

One of Levy's first lectures opened with a quote by Joseph Stalin, then leading a nation with its back literally against the wall of Nazi occupation.

"I'm no Communist. But, this man Stalin has the right idea about guerrilla war." Quoting Stalin, he told his people, "In areas occupied by the Nazis, guerrilla units must be formed . . . to blow up bridges and roads, to damage telegraph and telephone lines, to set fire to forests, shops, and transport."

"Our irregulars recruit, train and lead native nationals against the Nazis, fighting all the time behind the enemy lines. Or, we lead small unit commando raids from our lines into theirs. Hit often. Hit hard. And, always keep moving. Never stop. Never stay in one place. Always hit and move," he preached again and again.

Quoting Stalin again, "Guerrillas must make conditions unbearable for the enemy. They must be hounded and annihilated at every step and all their measures frustrated."

Yank Levy continued, "Guerrilla warfare is more exhausting—mentally, physically and nervously—than any other form of combat. To survive, a guerrilla uses his three best weapons—caution, invisibility, and surprise."

Seeing the propaganda value of the guerrilla school and its worldly chief instructor, military officials allowed publication of training photos and brief stories to newspapers and magazines.

Journalists made much of Levy's American background and exciting life as

a soldier of fortune. He made the cover of *Life* magazine in August of 1942. Reaction to the *Life* story was immediate. One man wrote, "This Yank Levy is sure a mean-looking monkey . . . sure am glad he's on our side."

So were the other Yanks — the American brass. But, with the school established and a cadre of graduates ready to teach others, Levy considered his task completed. He was flown directly back to his guerrilla warfare base in the British Isles.

Although Levy was back across the Atlantic again, he left our government his textbook, an unpublished manuscript he called *Guerrilla Warfare*. The book was quickly published in the *Infantry Journal* (now *Army* magazine) for distribution to the public.

"Ads in *Infantry Journal* showed they sold copies for a quarter. There were people concerned about an invasion of the United States even in 1942," says Peder Lund, publisher of Paladin Press which brought out a reissue of Levy's book in 1966.

"Our company republished the Levy book because of the renewed interest in guerrilla warfare and because of the historic aspect of what he wrote. Vietnam is surely a testimony to his wisdom."

The man who edited Paladin's reissue, SOF's own Robert Brown, says of Levy, "As an author of a guerrilla warfare text, Yank Levy used his firsthand experiences through participation in various wars, revolutions, and other 'shoot em ups' over a period of three decades. Irregular warfare was his career."

Yank Levy was born Bert Levy in Hamilton, Ontario, on October 5, 1897, of American/Canadian parents. The family moved to Cleveland when Bert was three months old. He grew up in that city.

"When World War I came along, I knew I had to fight. I was working in a factory, which was boring as hell," Levy said.

He didn't wait for his country to get into the war, but went to Europe and enlisted. He took to arms training and became a Lewis gunner, serving with honor and distinction with the 39th Royal Fusiliers, campaigning through the Middle East—Palestine and what was then Transjordan.

"We fought beside Lawrence of Arabia's desert scouts in Syria. They were some soldiers," Levy said.

He picked up his nickname "Yank" at this time, explaining, "It was no big deal. I was a Yank and that's what the boys always called me. It just stuck."

Returning home to Cleveland after the war, Levy took up pro boxing as a career.

"I'd been bantam weight boxing champ in my regiment and I thought I was good. Hell . . . 23 pro fights, a lot of black eyes and a busted nose later, I 'retired' from the prize ring. It made my

family very happy when I went back to the factory.”

Bored in Cleveland, Yank Levy missed the excitement of combat. Learning of fighting in Mexico, he took a train to Texas and slipped across the border as a paid, mercenary soldier.

“The Mexican government was cruel and corrupt, serving only the rich. So, I signed on with some revolutionaries as a machine gun officer. What luck. We ‘found’ a few reliable old Lewis guns which I explained to the boys.

“I got out of there after about six months, when my boys started using their prisoners as targets for Lewis gun practice. I don’t hold with that,” he said.

Back in the States again, Bert Levy became a taxi driver, and, over the objections of his family, took up prizefighting again.

“I fought the tank town circuit all over Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York for three years,” he said.

In 1925, agents for General Augusto Sandino, the popular Nicaraguan revolutionary, contacted Levy through a Mexican friend. They offered him a job as a machine gun instructor.

“I shipped for Latin America and fought with them for awhile. They were good people with a good cause. I had them using those good old Lewis guns real well. I terminated my work there, though, when the United States sent our Marines in on the government’s side. Too damn bad about that.”

Levy says his next few years were spent getting “a lot of hard knocks” as a crewman on freighters working the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. But, again, there was not enough action.

Again feeling the call of combat, the 39-year-old Yank Levy joined the International Brigade in Spain in 1936. He was commissioned and given command of the Machine Gun Company of the Shklat Valli Battalion, made up of British, Canadian, and American volunteers.

Levy’s battalion commander was the Britisher Thomas Wintringham, later to become a commando leader in wartime England.

Levy said, “I was captured after the battle at Jarami, which is south of Madrid, in 1937. I spent about six months in one of Franco’s prisons — a real hell-hole. Finally, I was exchanged for two Italian officers the Loyalists had. I guess it was a fair deal—maybe.”

Part of his release was his word as an officer that he would return to America and not fight anymore. Angry, but true to his word, Levy came home. He promptly went on a recruiting tour for the Brigade, traveling through the United States and Canada. He sent about 1200 volunteers to the fighting in Spain.

After the Spanish Civil War ended, the wanderlusting Levy went back to sea, serving as a stoker on transatlantic tramp steamers in 1939 and early into 1940.



Bert Levy (seated, left) as a machine gunner in World War I. This photo was taken prior to his shipping out for the Middle East.

That summer, Captain Tom Wintringham finally located his ex-machine gun officer on a steamer tied up in Liverpool. He recruited Yank Levy on the spot to train British commandos and Special Operations agents in guerrilla warfare.

Proudly, Levy recalled, “I taught guerrilla tactics to our bunch that the Nazi propagandists called ‘gangsters and cutthroats.’ I guess my boys were doing their job.”

Queried by American officers hunting an instructor, Tom Wintringham said, “Yank Levy is without question the best lecturer—the most convincing, most detailed and most practical teacher—on guerrilla warfare.”

Secretary of State Cordell Hull personally asked Yank Levy, an American citizen, to come home to teach American soldiers his tactics and methods. He agreed to start the program, then return to finish his work in England, before coming home to the States for good after World War II.

The sly Levy told friends, “I knew if I went back to guerrilla school in England I’d have a better chance at getting into combat.”

Although considered valuable property because his old enemies, the Germans, had a price on his head, Levy, the teacher, did wangle his way on more than a few commando missions across the Channel.

Levy never talked about the details, saying in 1944, “The orders were that I was not to go on combat missions and I don’t want to get my friends who made it possible to ignore those orders into trouble.”

Levy returned to the western shore of

the Atlantic late in 1943, teaching his specialty to home guard units and civil defense people in both the United States and Canada. He served as a special consultant to both Canadian and American military commands during those last two years of World War II, and again during the Korean conflict.

After that war, Levy worked at a variety of jobs, finally going into retirement, living with his wife in Los Angeles. His early retirement was caused by painful, crippling arthritis—a sad affair for this tough, active soldier of fortune who brought guerrilla warfare to the American military arsenal for World War II.

Bent, twisted, and in great pain the last years of his life, Bert Levy suffered from the wounds, exposures, and neglects of soldiering in the causes of the world’s armies.

Idiot politicians create the little dung-hill wars that real people have to fight. The elderly and ambitious leaders say, “Let’s you and him fight.” Then, they ask for a dollar-covered call-up of the paladins of mercenary fame whom history has created as heroes among the chaos, blood, gore, and stench.

Bert Levy is to soldiers of fortune as Thomas Jefferson is to statesmen.

I smiled at the kid sitting across a tabletop full of empties and said, “Who knows, I may be talking to history’s next Yank Levy.”

He didn’t answer. I’d like to think it was because he was awed. But, as we parted a couple hours and some mercenary information later, he said to me in closing, “Hey, I’ll let you write my story when I make it big.”

Ed Arthur ~ Soldier of Fortune

PART ONE

THE HAITIAN CONNECTION

by John M. Lesar



The whirlwind events of 1963 cast an ever-tightening net around the Cuban exile army entrenched in south Florida. In the midst of that net, entangled by politics and changing policy, was Ed Arthur, an American adventurer and former soldier deeply involved in the exile cause.

The Cuban missile crisis in October 1962 had prompted a major change in U.S. policy toward Cuba, President John F. Kennedy's "get-tough" stand on the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba was not so tough as it outwardly appeared.

Negotiations between the Kennedy administration and the Soviets produced an agreement under which the Soviets were to withdraw the missiles in exchange for U.S. recognition of the territorial integrity of Fidel Castro's Cuba.

To keep its part of the bargain, the U.S. had to curb U.S.-based operations against Cuba. That entailed the massive job of neutralizing the large, CIA-trained exile paramilitary force as well as dissolving CIA-crime syndicate pacts aimed at Castro's assassination or deposition.

Logistically, the task of containing the anti-Castro movement in the U.S. bordered on the impossible. Politically, it was a veritable bombshell.

Kennedy's get-tough stand during the Cuban missile crisis had bolstered his public image. But any heavy-handed move to bottle up the Cuban exile movement could be interpreted as knuckling under to Communist pressure. And Kennedy could not afford to be labeled "soft on communism." Such a label could cost him heavily in the 1964 elections.

Whatever approach the President took toward quelling U.S.-based exile operations against Cuba would have to be both low-key and effective. Kennedy could no more afford another potentially explosive U.S.-Soviet confrontation — the probable result of any major U.S.-based exile raid on the island — than he could afford to be labeled soft on communism.

The CIA was tagged to contain Cuban exile operations.

Robert Kennedy, a key figure in the negotiations surrounding the Cuban missile crisis, was placed in charge of the

CIA with orders to "shape it up." His shape-up program amounted to controlling the exile army the CIA had trained.

While CIA backing of exile operations was not completely dropped, emphasis was placed on moving operations out of the country, wherever possible. Domestic operations were planned with extra care to obscure CIA involvement with the exiles, and orders were issued to exile groups to clear all U.S.-based missions through their CIA liaison officers.

Unauthorized exile missions from the U.S. mainland were targets of a massive crackdown.

CIA contacts in the Cuban exile underground were used to tip other Federal agencies of unauthorized exile operations. Raids by Customs agents, agents of the Treasury's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division, the FBI and the Coast Guard quickly dried up exile arms supplies and curtailed operations of the exile army.

RFK's next target was organized crime. He was livid when he learned



Ed Arthur served as Undersheriff, Teller County, Colorado, in 1971 after his discharge from the Army. While awaiting separation from the service at Ft. Carson, Colorado, Arthur was offered a bribe to furnish information that would embarrass Nixon during the 1972 election. The bribe was offered by Rick Townley, presently with the news department of WCMH-TV, Columbus, Ohio.

CIA-mob plots to assassinate Fidel Castro were still in the offing and angrily ordered CIA agent William Harvey to see that they were stopped.

Word was hastily sent out that all mob plans for Castro's elimination should be halted. That order also filtered down to Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana.

But Giancana was at odds with the CIA. He had learned that he had been eliminated from a number of mob-CIA plots against Castro because he was believed responsible for a security leak that had scuttled a Castro assassination attempt intended to coincide with the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. So Giancana had his own plan in the works for Castro's demise. He paid no heed to the CIA's call for a halt to Castro assassination plans.

Giancana's plan called for a bomber attack on Castro's presidential palace in Havana. The plane, bombs, and a crew of Cuban exiles were to be provided through an old Giancana ally — New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello.

Marcello long had been using money and arms to buy influence with the exiles.

Sam Benton, a Miami private detective and mob bag man, was charged with peddling mob influence among the exiles and coordinating mob-exile activities.

A center of the mob-exile operations was an exile training camp at Lake Pontchartrain, La. The property on which the camp was located belonged to William McLaney — brother of one-time Havana casino operator Michael McLaney, who now owns the only casino in Port au Prince, Haiti.

Federal sources have indicated it was Michael McLaney, apparently hoping to ingratiate himself with Federal authorities and the CIA, who provided authorities with tips that halted a planned bombing raid on a Cuban oil refinery and uncovered an exile explosives cache in Louisiana.

And U.S. authorities weren't the only ones getting tips on exile plans.

Marcello also was buying influence with Castro by providing information. The New Orleans mob boss believed that if efforts to depose Castro failed, the Cuban chief of state would eventually have to reopen the casinos for economic reasons. And he hoped that, by remaining on good terms with Castro, the mob might be able to get back into the Cuban casino business.

The influence-peddling with Castro was handled by one of Marcello's minor functionaries — Jack Ruby. Several sources have indicated that in early 1963, Ruby met personally with Castro in Havana to inform the bearded chief of state of an impending assassination attempt — the attempt being planned under Giancana's auspices.

Ruby also had connections with the Lake Pontchartrain operation and,

A Professional Exposes A Corrupt Journalist

Adventure and politics often make strange bedfellows. Soldiers of fortune often deal with the scum of the world—phonies, revolutionaries, gun runners, con men, unscrupulous journalists and media executives. While dirty tricks are common in American politics, most don't come to light. One notable exception was directed against Nixon's regime some two years before Watergate became a household word. This plot was foiled by Ed Arthur, professional soldier, soldier of fortune, and intelligence agent, who refused a bribe offered by Richard Townley, a now-prominent TV executive. This attempt by an unscrupulous power-monger fell on its face because of Arthur's integrity. The soldier of fortune as well as the crusading journalist can come across and expose the unscrupulous elements of American society.

On Sunday, 21 August 1977, in the *Columbus Dispatch* TV and radio section, columnist Bud Wilkinson reported in an article entitled "Executive Details Ch. 4 Growth":

"Last November Outlet [the broadcasting company that owns WCMH-TV, Ch. 4, in Columbus, Ohio] brought Ch. 4 news director Rick Townley from Syracuse, N.Y., to Columbus as the company upped its commitment in the news area.

"Townley is considered the fair-haired guy at Ch. 4, with much support from Outlet management.

"Rick has done a super job of organizing that department," said Henderson [David Henderson, president of Outlet Broadcasting], allowing that Townley may be [sic] line for a promotion sometime soon.

"I'll keep Rick Townley as long as he wants to stay," stated Henderson. But, when asked specifically if Townley's departure is on the horizon, Henderson replied, "That's probable."

"Under Henderson and Townley, the Ch. 4 news department has grown in both equipment and manpower."

The recent article in the *Columbus Dispatch* prompted Arthur to expose WCMH-TV's Rick Townley: "It galls me, thinking that a major TV station's management could be duped by a person like Townley. The thought of a parasite like Townley being promoted to a powerful position with a respected network forces me to disclose his background."

But the story started in January, 1971. Arthur, while being mustered out of the army because of battle wounds, was assigned to Recondo (Reconnaissance and Commando) School at Fort Carson, Colo. Townley approached Arthur and offered him \$5,000 front money if Arthur would furnish him documentation regarding Russian missile sites in Cuba. Townley also told Arthur, "Muskie needs something to embarrass the Nixon Administration to bounce him out of the limelight—he's not getting enough attention."

At the time, Muskie's people denied knowing either Townley or Arthur. But Townley did not deny making the offer to

Arthur. Indeed, it would have been difficult because journalist Mike Wales was present when Townley made his pitch.

Arthur recalls, "Townley said I'd get \$25,000—\$5,000 down, the rest in escrow when I came up with the information. The offer was well timed 'cause I had about a buck and a half between me and bankruptcy. But money doesn't buy everything." Arthur later went bankrupt.

Townley had done his homework. He'd researched Arthur's background and had found that he was a key man in the anti-Castro underground in Miami. But if Townley had researched further, he might have found that Arthur was ideologically motivated. He wasn't a mercenary or a thrill seeker. Arthur turned down Townley's blood money, then did exactly what he thought proper: went to his commanding officer and told him what had happened. His CO told him the matter would be investigated shortly.

Conscience clean, Arthur put the affair on a back burner and waited for the powers that be to ferret out the truth. He knew from experience that an investigation might take some time. Shortly thereafter, his CO was transferred. Arthur thought it strange that he was not questioned about Townley's offer by Federal agents; after all, he was a Federal employee at the time. Apparently, his CO sat on the story; he probably thought it too fantastic or perhaps didn't want to get involved in something not covered explicitly by Army regulations.

In 1972, Townley told Wales, then editor of the *Colorado Sun*, that he was representing "a man in Florida who is worth a hell of a lot of money." Wales said that when Townley arrived in Colorado he was using a telephone credit card belonging to Louis Wolfson, a multimillionaire who had just done time in a Federal slammer for a Securities and Exchange Commission felony rap. In October 1973, both Wales and Arthur were subpoenaed by the Senate Select (Watergate) Committee. The puzzle began fitting together when Arthur obtained the following letter written by Townley to Wolfson:

I am enclosing a memorandum of my findings as a result of my trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado this past weekend.

As I indicated when I talked to you Wednesday evening I was told by a usually-reliable newspaper friend of mine that he had gotten acquainted with an Army Sergeant whose intelligence background held promise of revealing how our government has engaged in deceit, deals with gangsters, and betrayal of democratic forces.

The attached memorandum shows the extent of provable information available. On the basis of what is presently documented, I don't think you should invest any money in the enterprise. The Sergeant's story would make a very good magazine article. But the key item, the suspected presence of Russian missile sites in Cuba, is the part that would cost money to prove. It would involve equipment and people to film these installations if they exist.

I have told these people that if they can put together the whole package in documented form, I could probably arrange for a good payment for the information. But the problem is one that is common in the investigative field: They will need money to operate with while putting the documentation together, and nobody is going to give them that kind of money without concrete evidence.

Obviously, if they do produce what they claim they can, they will open the bidding to anyone interested, and the price will go up. But that's always the gamble in these things.

Let me say that, in several years of dealing with informants, Sergeant A. is the most legitimate I have run across. His service record backs up much of what he has to say. He knows the right people and places. But I still fear that putting up "front money" would be a high-risk venture. One thing that makes him different is that he is willing to testify before a Congressional committee or other body.

I believe that there is much that Sgt. A has not told me yet. He is an intelligence

***** through them, passed along other tips of operations against Castro.

With both the mob and the government chipping away at their operations, exile movement leaders had only a handful of choices — join with the mob or seek a new base of operations.

Upheavals in Haiti provided them with an opportunity. It was Ed Arthur who was tagged to grab for that opportunity.

A street-wise product of the tough West Side of Columbus, Ohio, Ed Arthur was drawn, almost instinctively, toward military life. He had joined the National Guard at the age of 13 and the Army Airborne at the age of 15. He was discharged when the Army learned he was under age.

operative, and that makes him naturally reticent. Beyond that, he has had a bad experience with a reporter who took information from him, pledging to pay for it, and renegged on the deal. But the chicken-and-egg problem is that I can't recommend giving the money to gain his confidence until he produces something more concrete than he has already.

If, after you read the enclosed memorandum, you feel it is worth gambling \$5,000 or so (that's the kind of "front money" the Sgt. and his reporter friend would require to start the ball rolling) we can talk about it further.

Meanwhile, I have been giving some considerable thought to the possibility of working for Muskie in the upcoming Presidential campaign. . . .

I have given some thought to what I could do best for Muskie. I think there are three major areas:

1) I have a pretty good grasp of Southern politics, and have good entree to the Governor's offices of Florida and Louisiana. . . . [Florida] State Senator Eddie Gong, is my lawyer and close friend, and he will have a key role in re-districting the state on the basis of the new census. . . . In Louisiana, the man considered most likely to win the Governor's election in 1972 is former U.S. Representative Gillis Long. . . ., whose campaign I managed in 1963. . . .

Obviously, if Nixon and Wallace fight each other for the Southern racist vote, a moderate-appearing Democrat can win at least two, possibly three, Deep South states. I think I could be of value in that effort.

2) My background as an investigative reporter, and my friendship with people like Les Whitten of Jack Anderson's staff, reporters all over the country, and members of the investigative community, could be invaluable in developing hard-line political material. This stuff, which can be planted with columnists and reporters, can erode the opposition candidate without putting the candidate in the position of being a hatchet man.

Discharge from the Army left Ed Arthur a soldier without an army, an adventurer in search of adventure.

That search took him to Cuba, where he lived for several months and nearly joined the revolutionary forces of Fidel Castro fighting in the Escambray.

That same search, combined with anger over Castro's turn toward communist totalitarianism, led Ed Arthur into the Cuban exile movement, where he won a reputation as a top operative who would do whatever was necessary to complete an assignment.

Ed Arthur squinted, his eyes nearly tearing from the glare that emanated from the sun-baked concrete runway.

He scouted the brush and palm trees that lined one end of the Nassau airfield.

3) I have extensive experience as a speech-writer, idea man, legislative aide and press secretary as a result of my association with Long during his term as a Congressman. When he was defeated in his re-election bid by a blatant racist, Long became Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. As his assistant, I helped him in the Task Force that developed the original anti-poverty program under Sargent Shriver. Long's influence with Shriver could also be a valuable asset in drawing some of the Kennedy voters into Muskie's camp.

If you decide to back Muskie, I would be interested in joining his staff at a pretty high level. There I feel I could represent your interests and the interests of improved government. I would be interested in hearing your views on this, as well as your evaluation of Sgt. A.

I am not trying to pressure you for a decision, but there is a fairly good chance I will have to make a decision in about three weeks about a Managing Editor's job in a mid-west TV station.

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
(SIGNED)

Richard Townley.

Townley's letter clearly illustrates the machinations of a shrewd, name-dropping political animal. His hypocrisy was highlighted during the Watergate imbroglio when he denounced the accused for their complicity, while two years prior, during the Vietnam era, he belittled the efforts of men like the one he later tried to subvert.

Townley's greedy plot was undone by one ethical man. That there are other Townleys and other behind-the-scenes megalomaniacs is as menacing as it is likely. Perhaps in this enlightened post-Watergate era, other honest men will step forward and denounce arrogant, amoral opportunists.



Ed swallowed hard, trying to ease the tightness in his throat, and scanned the brush one more time.

A Pan Am 707 sat, like a stranded condor, in the midst of the runway, its engines whining as a work crew prepared to remove the entry ramp.

"Let's go," he said.

Ed strode from the air terminal, followed closely by his charge, former Haitian Consul General Clement Benoit. A man and woman — newspaper reporters who had befriended Ed — followed as he quickly paced off the 100 yards between the terminal and the waiting jet, scanning the brush for snipers as he walked.

The little group stopped briefly at the foot of the ramp to say their goodbyes.

Ed scanned the area one more time, then nodded to Benoit. The black man headed up the stairs and Ed followed — still keeping watch on the vast, open spaces that surrounded the plane.

They had barely reached their seats when the stewardess bolted the hatch and the pilot began easing the throttle forward.

"We have made it," Benoit sighed.

"So far," said Ed.

The plane screamed down the runway. In a moment the two could see the islands stretching out like gems against the bright blue waters of the Gulfstream.

Clement Benoit stared out the window, gazing over the retreating islands.

"It is a sad departure in many ways."

Ed nodded in understanding.

"But it is also a beginning. When the American people learn how Francois Duvalier is using their money to kill our people, they will stop it."

"Maybe." Ed Arthur's voice was less than encouraging.

He was lost in his own thoughts. In a few minutes, his two-day assignment would be over. But it was not over yet.

He'd been warned that a bomb might have been planted aboard the plane. And, though he'd been told the report had been checked and everything was in order, he couldn't know for sure. Ed gripped the armrests. His throat and mouth were still dry. Just a half hour to safety. A tough half hour.

The majority of his assignment had been completed.

HAITIAN-CUBAN EXILES SIGN INVASION PACT

Shortly before they had left the tumble-down, white frame house that had been Benoit's Nassau home, Ed had mailed a letter. In it was an agreement that hopefully would change the course of the Cuban freedom movement — an alliance between Benoit and Arthur, between the Haitian and the Cuban exiles.

The document — signed by Benoit and Arthur — called for a joint invasion of Haiti. Under the agreement, Benoit would be installed to head the Haitian government, then would grant the Cuban exiles a base for the long-awaited assault on Castro's Cuba.

The alliance was Jim Buchanan's brainchild. Buchanan — an erstwhile newspaper reporter deeply involved in CIA and Cuban exile activities — had summoned Ed to the Deerfield Beach branch of the *Pompano Beach Sun Sentinel* two days earlier to outline the operation — to bring Benoit out of the Bahamas.

BENOIT A MARKED MAN

Benoit was a marked man.

While serving as consul general to the Bahamas, Benoit had renounced the Haitian government and taken over leadership of the Bahamas' burgeoning

Haitian exile community. He had denounced Haitian dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier as a mad butcher. Duvalier had sworn vengeance.

"PAPA DOC'S" THREATS

Duvalier had demanded that the Bahaman government return Benoit — and all Haitian exiles. The demand carried an implicit threat that if Benoit was not returned to Haiti, Duvalier's secret police would be sent to Nassau to bring him back.

The Haitian expatriates, who had accepted Benoit as their leader, countered with another threat: If Benoit was harmed or deported to Haiti, "Blood will flow in the streets of Nassau."

So arrangements were made for Benoit to be taken to the United States with the promise that his fellow expatriates could follow later. Plans for Benoit's move to the United States were made through Charles Ashmann, Miami attorney with close ties to the government and to the Cuban exile movement.

Ashmann and Buchanan had agreed Ed Arthur should handle security for Benoit and Buchanan was told to make the arrangements.

But Buchanan decided to take it a step further.

HAITI PERFECT BASE FOR CUBAN ASSAULT

During their meeting at his storefront office at Deerfield Beach, he had told Arthur how the assignment could be a godsend for the Cubans. He noted that the exiles needed a new base of operations and that Haiti would be perfect. An alliance between Haitian and Cuban exiles would provide the Haitians with the force needed to depose Duvalier and give Cubans a logistically perfect base for an all-out assault on Cuba.

Buchanan and Arthur had stopped briefly at Ashmann's office, where Ed was given expense money and plane tickets for himself and Benoit. Ashmann had moved quickly to cut through red tape and get a visa for Benoit. But he had not moved quickly enough.

ONE STEP AHEAD OF TON TON MACOUTES

Ed had left Miami the day after his meetings with Buchanan and Ashmann. Upon his arrival in Nassau, he was greeted with the news that the Ton Ton Macoutes — Duvalier's secret police — already had landed on the island. Their empty boat had been found on a remote area of the coast.

Ed worked quickly.

Benoit was immediately responsive to the idea of an alliance between the Cuban and Haitian exiles. They had discussed a basic plan for an invasion of Haiti. Benoit noted Duvalier's troops were hardly more than bullies and were so disorganized a

token force could take the country within a few days.

But Ed's immediate concern was to keep Benoit alive so the invasion plans could be realized. And if the plane didn't blow up, he would have accomplished it.

DREAM

During the flight, Benoit spoke fervently of his hope that the U.S. would cut off aid to Duvalier once American taxpayers learned how their money was being used and the nature of the despot their dollars supported.

The two discussed how things would be changed when Duvalier was deposed — stressing "when," never saying "if."

It was late afternoon when the plane touched down at Miami International Airport. Clement Benoit stared anxiously out the window.

"SO, THIS IS WHERE WE BEGAN ANEW"

"So, this is where we begin anew."

"This is it," said Ed.

The two waited while the rest of the passengers disembarked, then strolled to the exit, with Ed in the lead.

Flash bulbs exploded from all directions.

Ed instinctively jumped in front of Benoit but stepped quickly aside as reporters moved in. Police lined the area between the plane and the terminal.

Ed fell back, mixing with reporters who flocked around the Haitian expatriate during the walk to an airport VIP room.

Jim Buchanan, among the press corps, took Ed aside briefly.

"Ashmann thought you deserved a party."

Ed smiled.

"We deserve it."

Buchanan grinned.

"Damn right."

Buchanan wandered away to join the rest of the press corps and Ed retreated into a corner, where his friend Eddie Lombardo stood alone.

Ed slapped Lombardo's shoulder.

"You were wrong, sucker!"

Lombardo shrugged.

"You can't win 'em all."

"Wanna bet!"

Eddie Lombardo ran his hand through his thick, sandy blond hair.

"Just glad you made it. Sometimes it's good to be wrong."

"You weren't far wrong. They were damn close."

Ed told the story of the Ton Ton Macoutes landing.

Eddie Lombardo scratched his head.

"Maybe I wasn't so far off."

The day before Ed had left for Nassau, Eddie Lombardo had warned him against the mission, saying Benoit was marked and that the thugs on Benoit's trail would waste anyone in their way.

BENOIT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

The two old friends chatted while Benoit stood at the podium describing the atrocities committed by the Duvalier regime and the plight of the Haitian refugees in the Bahamas, awaiting permission to enter the United States.

By the time the news conference was over, Ed had recruited Eddie Lombardo to join him in tending Benoit.

As the conference broke up, Charles Ashmann and two companions approached the two friends. Ashmann put out his hand to Ed Arthur.

The two shook hands and Ashmann introduced his companions, Sam Benton, a private detective, and Dr. Nathaniel C. Ostroff, a physician assigned by the government as Benoit's official agent in the U.S.

Buchanan joined the group and they split up for the trip to Benoit's hotel.

Ed Arthur and Eddie Lombardo were reunited in the hotel lobby and made a routine security check of the hotel before joining Benoit and the others in his room.

While Benoit and the others talked, Arthur and Lombardo worked out security arrangements. They would remain in the room with Benoit — with one of them on duty at all times. Arrangements were made for the two "bodyguards" to sleep on the floor.

SECURITY MEASURES

Ed Arthur drew the first shift.

After Benton, Ashmann, Buchanan, and Ostroff left, Ed Arthur settled down in an easy chair near the door, cradling a Walther P-38. Eddie Lombardo curled up on the floor at the foot of Benoit's bed, a .45 automatic tucked in his belt.

The Ton Ton Macoutes were known to be operating in the Miami area, and Ed spent a tense night, half expecting to see one of Duvalier's people pushing open the door or even smashing through the window.

But the evening passed quietly.

Ed wakened Eddie Lombardo at dawn for the changing of the guard.

Eddie Lombardo stretched, scratched himself and looked about the semi-darkened room.

"Where the hell's the food," he demanded.

Ed looked around the bathroom door-jam.

"I'm fixin' some leftovers."

"Up yours," Lombardo growled.

"No way."

Ed closed the door. He could hear Eddie Lombardo yawn.

Benoit awakened early and for a few hours, the three companions exchanged small talk.

Around 8:30 a.m., Ed left Benoit in Eddie Lombardo's charge and headed down to the lobby, posting himself near the door.

Benoit busied himself with his morning routine and Eddie Lombardo, holding the fort near the door, concentrated on getting his mind off his growling stomach and onto the matters at hand.

A half hour passed. Eddie Lombardo had settled comfortably in his chair near the door when the door swung open.

Eddie Lombardo wheeled around, drawing his .45 and pushing it into the face of a young Cuban.

DON'T SHOOT!

The Cuban dove to the floor, hurling food trays around the room and spattering Lombardo with the breakfast trays he had carried.

Benoit, his face covered with shaving cream, burst out of the bathroom to investigate the commotion.

He apologized to the bellman and to Lombardo, explaining he had ordered breakfast from room service and forgotten to tell Lombardo.

The bellman cleared away the trays and left, still pale and obviously shaken.

The first week of Benoit's stay was otherwise uneventful.

Lombardo and Arthur were almost constantly at the hotel. At least one of them remained with Benoit whenever he was at home. Benoit was shuttled back and forth to the airport by Ashmann for meetings with state department officials — meetings he hoped would speed the process of getting his exile followers into the United States.

SAM BENTON DROPS IN

Sam Benton was a frequent visitor at Benoit's room and frequently huddled with Ed Arthur on security matters. He expressed particular interest in Ed's activities with the Cuban exile group Commandos L, which was carrying on guerrilla warfare against Castro's Cuba.

The two often theorized how to conquer Castro's island fortress.

Benton would occasionally drop by at Benoit's room when the Haitian leader was away for talks with government officials, and he and Arthur would talk of the war against Castro.

During one of those sessions Benton suggested that he had some "friends" who might be able to implement the strategies Arthur felt could succeed in Cuba.

Benton suggested Ed might meet with these "friends" to see if some arrangements could be worked out. Ed, though apprehensive, eagerly agreed. He informed Jim Buchanan and Eddie Lombardo of the planned parlay.

The day it was set, Ed huddled with Eddie Lombardo.

"He's being damned mysterious about it all," Ed told him. "Just says he wants me to go and talk to these friends of his. If I don't come back, do what you've got to do."

"I'll do a good job."

"I'm sure you will."

ED ARTHUR'S RIDE

Benton picked Ed up at the hotel during the early afternoon and drove him across town to Miami Beach.

Benton pulled into a sweeping driveway across from the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach and pulled up beside a sprawling, half-block mansion surrounded by well-trimmed shrubs and vast expanses of lush, green lawn.

An attractive but quite pregnant blonde answered the door and ushered the two men into a huge sunken living room.

A husky, balding man sat enthroned in a plush easy chair across the room. He was flanked by two nattily dressed men who surveyed the newcomers closely.

The husky man stared at Ed Arthur.

"So you're Arthur."

"Yea."

The balding man inclined his head to indicate the seat across from him. Ed sat down.

"We've got a little proposition for you." He grinned, the skin around his mouth wrinkling slightly.

Ed was silent.

THE 90G DEAL

"How'd you like to have 90 Gs?"

Ed shrugged.

"What's the deal?" he asked.

The big man blinked.

"We're hoping to get invited to a state funeral in Havana."

Ed's eyes bored into the big man.

"I'd like to know who I'll be working for if I take the job."

"Let's just say I represent some people who lost a lot of money in Havana. Hotels. Casinos. We want our money back. And we'll pay good money to get it."

"That doesn't tell me a helluva lot."

"Too tough for you?" the big man sneered.

"Look," Ed growled. "Just forget it. I'm not your kind of people."

The big man smiled again.

"Just take it easy. Don't jump to conclusions." He eyed his two cohorts. "As a matter of fact, don't jump at all. It makes some people nervous."

"Now," the big man continued. "All I want to know is how you would handle the job — if we gave you \$90,000 to coordinate it."

"An airborne attack. Pure and simple."

"We have planes. And bombs."

"That's not exactly what I had in mind."

AIRBORNE ATTACK

Ed outlined his plan. A small squad of paratroopers could be dropped outside

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One Man's View: RHODESIA UNBOWED

By Jeff Cooper

"Sweet are the uses of adversity," it is said. A difficult life tends to produce a strong character, and a strong character shows best under stress. As it is with the individual, so with the group. So with the pioneers—all pioneers. So with the Pilgrims, the Bandeirantes, the Mormons, the Voortrekkers. And so, now, with the Rhodesians. Where is the spirit of Bunker Hill? Of the Alamo or Antietam or the Alcazar or Bastogne or the embattled Britain of 1940? Some may say it is dead, but that is not so. I know it lives, and I know where, because I am just back from there.

In a far, lost corner of the world, a small band of the best people on earth stands almost alone against the benighted barbarism of the World Enemy. These people are not homogeneous, but a mixture of the best strains of many groups. They are Scots and Shonas, English and Ndebele, Huguenots and Hollanders, Portuguese and Pomeranians, Boer and Bantu. Not a few are Americans. Fear, as the basis of national policy, has become commonplace in the "century of the common man." These people, these Rhodesians, are the best because they are **not** afraid. They know that while sheer might may decide the course of history, that does not make it right. In the long run it is not power that counts, it is honor. Win or lose, live or die, it is honor, not expediency, that is remembered.

The Rhodesians are not "colonists"—temporary settlers who aim to make good and go home. They have built a charming, highly sophisticated, modern nation out of savagery—by their own efforts. ("Foreign aid" is for those who cannot cope.) They believe in equality of opportunity, free enterprise, and the rewards of merit. Any man who can cut it is welcome to rise to the top. The institutionalized sneer that is the "quota system" is not tolerated.

The Rhodesians are now under attack from three sides by invaders who seek to impose racist socialism upon them by force. The revolutionary goal appears to be, "One man, one vote, **once**," as has been achieved in the nations to the north. In Rhodesia today the franchise is limited to those who have an education (free), those who produce, and those who own land. You do not vote just because

you are warm. In "Zimbabwe," as the aggressors wish to call the country, there will be no democracy, no plebescites, no "public opinion" except that of the oligarchs. This is not just my personal guess, it is the published policy of the terrorist leadership. There is no question of "majority rule," and there never has been. What the invaders propose is simply the substitution of an oligarchy for an aristocracy—**minority** rule in either case. If those terms puzzle you, Aristotle defined "aristocracy" as the good rule of a few, and "oligarchy" as the bad rule of a few. The race issue is incidental. Most of Rhodesia's leaders (there are no "rulers") are white. All of Zimbabwe's rulers will be black.

To settle this talk of "racial oppression," consider this: In the summer of 1977 Sheba Farm, Wedza, was bought from a "white" Rhodesian by George

Tawengwa, a "black" Rhodesian, for 100,000 Rhodesian dollars (about \$160,000)—cash. Mr. Tawengwa already owns a block of shops, a bus company, a hotel, and another farm where he grows corn and runs about 1000 head of cattle.

He began with one small store to which he brought corn from outlying farms by donkey. He now has 14 sons and hopes to have them running his various enterprises in due course.

The marxists would not approve of George Tawengwa. He would not seem to have a future in Zimbabwe.

Rhodesia is named for Cecil John Rhodes, the Victorian *magnifico* whose greatness has been fashionably derided by a number of scruffy populist historians. He created the country, screened the immigrants, and initiated its traditions. (He also found time to endow the Rhodes Scholarships.) In the words of F.R. Burnham, the famous Afro-American scout who was there at the time, "Under the administration of Rhodes, there were the fewest laws, the widest freedom, the least crime, and the truest justice that I have ever seen in any part of the world." This is the finest tribute I have ever heard paid to a leader. It is this man's name that the terrorists propose to erase.

It seems that a negro racist cannot abide the notion that the successful aristocratic system evolved by the Rhodesians actually works. It infuriates him to know that the superb little Rhodesian army is integrated. Highest on his list of "war criminals" are the famed Selous Scouts—60% black. In the view of the socialist black demagogues, the white man must go (**where** they do not say), and woe to the honest, industrious, and courageous black man who raises a hand to thwart the new, black, and totalitarian order!

If only the voting majority of Americans could be made aware of this appalling situation there is every reason to suppose that it would require its elected representatives to implement one or all three of the following courses of action, in descending order of merit:

First, immediately cease participation in the embargo of arms to the Rhodesians. They don't need troops, but ammunition they could use.



Cooper and crew mount up for hunt after IPSC championships. Are prepared to engage both four and two-legged targets.



Left to Right: Raul Walters, highest placed American in IPSC Championships; Euclides da Cura, former Portuguese

officer; and Dick Thomas with friend look for targets of opportunity in Rhodesian bush.

Second, recognize the country diplomatically, and lift economic sanctions.

Third, get our diplomatic nose out of other peoples' business, and cease telling them how to solve their social problems until we have solved our own.

Such action **might** serve a bit to stem the takeover of Southern Africa by the World Enemy, and thus forestall our own loss of measureless mineral treasure plus irretrievable lines of communication. It may already be too late, but that is no reason simply to give up.

Meanwhile—and not holding our breath waiting for U.S. foreign policy to shape up—many concerned Americans lend moral support to their Rhodesian friends. We are forbidden to do more, under penalty of the law, by our masters in Washington. Be that as it may, a lot of Yanks are now serving in the Rhodesian army—and not for money. Rhodesia does not employ “mercenaries.” If you want to do your part you go there and join the army. Your pay and allowances are standard—adequate but not high. The Americans I talked to intend to stay in the country, to settle if it wins and to die fighting if it is destroyed. There were six when I first visited the country. There are between 4- and 600 now. That's not much

compared to the millions that the enemy can field, but the most a man can offer is his life, and one good man is worth a hundred stumblebums.

Dick Thomas, attorney and IPSC member, from Columbia, Mo., dropped this water buffalo. Rhodesian safaris are priced right; game is plentiful.



For example, during our wanderings I met Captain John McDonald (I do not give his real name), one of the more senior Americans. He is a very distinguished soldier, with a chest full of “fruit salad” from Vietnam. He sports a scoped M-16, with which he is said to be highly efficient. I am no advocate of the 223 cartridge but I do admire an expert fighting man, and it was a pleasure to make his acquaintance, however briefly.

Up to now, happily, the quality of the invaders has not been high. In a recent road ambush, 203 empty cases were counted on the abandoned firing position. The attacked car had been hit twice. Near Mukuti I saw a concrete bridge that the terrorists had tried to blow. There was a 20-inch hole right in the middle of the span, which traffic simply straddled.

The generality of British and American media men refer to the enemy in Rhodesia as “black nationalist guerrillas,” and sometimes as “freedom fighters.” The latter term can be dismissed as foolishness (Freedom from what? Progress?), but the former, while not as silly, is still a demonstrable semantic error. A “guerrilla” is correctly defined

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Rhodesian base camp commander had provided his only stars and stripes for United States' Ambassador Andy

Young's visit to Salisbury. He felt the stars and bars would serve as a satisfactory substitute under the circumstances.

Paul Cotzee, left, and Dr. Albert Pauckner of Ansbach, West Germany, hunted with Cooper on northern frontier of Rhodesia

between Kariba and Chirundu. War has shut down hunting in this area for most part.



Now It Can Be Told... CUBANS TORTURE U.S. POW'S IN VIETNAM

By J. David Truby

© J David Truby, 1977

The Carter Administration has indicated its concern with violations of human rights, particularly in such countries as Chile, the Republic of South Africa, and Rhodesia. However, the Administration seems to suffer myopia when it comes to dealing with violations of human rights in left-leaning countries such as Communist China, Vietnam, and Cuba, where electoral disenfranchisement, lack of civil rights, terrorism, and torture are institutionalized by their respective governments.

Returning American POWs from North Vietnam found themselves urged by U.S. officials to "low key" their stories of continuous torture by Vietnamese in the 1960s. These POWs had survived in part through their ability to band together and follow orders, so they kept quiet.

But for the past several years, a number of these POWs have become increasingly disturbed. They have watched the U.S. government condemn right-leaning governments, most of whose violations of human rights are small compared to those of the longer lasting, more firmly entrenched left in Cuba, North Vietnam, and Communist China. Watching the Administration's efforts to gain new relationships with the People's Republic of Cuba, some ex-POWs have had enough.

Disgusted with impending Washington/Havana detente, two Vietnam-era American officers charged that Cubans



POW photo of Jack Bomar smuggled out of prison camp.

tortured them while they were held as POWs in North Vietnam.

Col. Jack Bomar, a retired Air Force officer, says the men who viciously tortured him and 11 other American POWs in a prison camp near Hanoi a decade ago were Cubans, one of whom was "obviously a high ranking official."

Another retired Air Force officer, Col. Leo Thorsness, echoed Col. Bomar's charges of Cuban torture of American POWs in Vietnam. Both men said that the torture resulted in the death of at least one American prisoner.

"It was mean and vicious," Col. Bomar related. "The one Cuban broke a couple of my teeth during one of his torture sessions. He was fond of breaking eardrums and dislocating shoulders, always while he had your arms and legs manacled."

Asked why he had not made his charges public earlier, Col. Bomar

explained that U.S. government officials told the returning POWs to "keep totally quiet about the torture."

Col. Bomar's plane was shot down in February of 1967, when he was captured, then imprisoned by the North Vietnamese. He was returned to the U.S. with other POWs under terms of the peace agreements on March 4, 1973.

"When we came home, we were told not to discuss any of the horrible torture that we suffered because of the fate of the POWs still back there, behind us. That made sense . . . then."

The Carter Administration's overtures to Cuba changed all that for the two former POWs.

"Everytime I think of the U.S. and Cuba normalizing relations it makes my blood boil. When Church and McGovern try to convince the American people of the 'progress' made there under Castro, it is a horrible lie," Col. Bomar charged.

Asked if he felt the government order not to discuss the torture was more political than humanitarian, Col. Bomar chuckled ironically and commented, "I didn't say that."

"But, I'll tell you, when I got back in '73, after all those years, it was a total shock to see Nixon wandering all around China. All of a sudden, the leaders of our country can't do enough to get on the good side of the Communists."

Col. Thorsness, who is a Medal of Honor winner, said he chose to expose the Cuban torture in Vietnam especially because of Carter's moves to normalize relations with Cuba.

In staunch protest of the American rapprochement, Col. Thorsness made a formal written protest to Rep. Bruce Caputo (R-NY), his home district congressman. Rep. Caputo has made a formal inquiry to both Sec. of Defense Harold Brown and Sec. of State Cyrus Vance.

Agreeing, Col. Bomar added, "I can no longer be silent, even though we were asked to remain so by the government."

Col. Bomar described the detente with Cuba, China, and the Soviet Union as "totally unbelievable," saying, "You can count me squarely against this."

"I get sick everytime I hear or think of normalization of relations with Cuba. I saw on the news tonight they opened their embassy for a party and all those American government creeps are down there. I could just throw up," he said bitterly.

Cuban male and female advisers confer with Vietnamese Political Officers about American POWs. Former POWs say this particular Cuban is not their "Fidel."



"After what we went through with those people I just can't believe this is happening. Cubans tortured American prisoners of war. One man was so badly hurt from their cruel torture that he died."

The American who was tortured to death by the two Cubans was identified as U.S. Air Force Col. Earl Cobiell.

Col. Bomar identified the other American victims of the Cubans as Lt. Tom Barrett, Lt. Allen Carpenter, Capt. Norlan Daughtry, Maj. David Duarte, Lt. Edward Hubbard, Col. Jim Kassler, Capt. Glenn Perkins, Lt. Chuck Rice, Lt. Larry Spencer, and Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Voden.

"We were all victims of these Cuban sadists," Col. Bomar said.

The American officers nicknamed the Cuban chief "Fidel" after Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. "Fidel" was often accompanied by a junior officer whom they nicknamed "Chico."

The two Cubans tortured the Americans at a small prison camp near Hanoi. The prisoners called the camp "The Zoo." Jack Bomar had been flying as a navigator aboard EB-66s out of Tahli, Thailand.

"We were shot down north of Hanoi on 4 Feb. 1967. I was injured during ejection and landing," Col. Bomar relates.

His modest use of the word "injured" hardly seems to cover the specific damages he suffered during the action, e.g., multiple burns, compression fracture of the spine, shrapnel wounds, and a broken ankle.

Instead of medical aid, Col. Bomar was severely tortured by his North Vietnamese captors for 17 straight days. He was on "home-built" crutches until the summer from his wounds and subsequent torture.

"My first introduction to 'Fidel' was in September 1967, when I was forced to 'surrender' to this Cuban by my Vietnamese captors. A guard tried to crush my windpipe when I refused and that sort of speeded up my capitulation."

Col. Bomar added, "I believe without any doubt that 'Fidel' was trained professionally in the United States, probably by our people prior to 1956.

"He was smart, had a sense of humor, but also a very nasty temper which cost us all dearly. He knew American manners, slang, plus all our ways and values. He possessed a strong, violent hatred for the United States.

"The torture was awesome and painful. 'Fidel' used the fanbelt of a truck or a piece of rubber cut from a tire to beat prisoners all over the body. He loved direct hits to the face.

"His beatings inflicted unbelievable pain and damage to us," Col. Bomar related.

Pointing out that physical torture was also combined with psychological pressure, Col. Bomar said that "Fidel's"



Meeting between North Vietnamese officers and Cubans involved in POW re-education program. Photo is a snapshot later captured by intelligence agents.

assignment was "obviously to break the spirit of the American prisoners in the camp."

The 51-year-old American recalled that "Fidel" also instituted "educational" programs like raising fish and baking bread for food, and introduced chess for "relaxation." Then, as always, the savage beatings were used to keep the prisoners off track and unsure of themselves and their future.

The two Cuban advisers at a POW camp near Hanoi (probably the "Zoo"). Snapshot made originally by a Vietnamese

"This 'Fidel' must have had some real power," Col. Bomar said. "He rode all around in a big Russian-made staff car with a Vietnamese officer, no less, as his driver. In the meanwhile, the local North Vietnamese camp commander rode a battered old bicycle to the base. That gives you some idea of the power order we faced. The Cuban called the shots.

"It's nothing I can prove conclusively, but 'Fidel' must have been a big man in officer was later captured by an American agent.



the structure. I'd say a top boy directly out of their Embassy in Hanoi. This Cuban had 12 of us in his hand, with life or death power over us. He was the one man who controlled our lives, our pain or hope for relief."

Asked if our government had identified or explained what it knew of "Fidel" and other Cuban advisors who tortured Americans, Col. Bomar replied negatively.

"That Cubans were in Vietnam helping the North Vietnamese was no big secret, even back then. Without Communist help they were nothing.

"Their cigarettes were made in Bulgaria, the guns, ammo and food came from China and the Soviets, who also gave them aircraft and training. Cubans worked as engineers, medics, and, of course, in POW camps, as I well know," Col. Bomar said.

Cuban officials have acknowledged that a number of military "volunteers" had gone to Vietnam to "help fight the colonial imperialists."

Further evidence supporting the two American officers' story of torture came from at least one high ranking North Vietnamese political defector, Dang Tan. In debriefings with U.S. intelligence people, he related that the Cubans not only advised local Communist troops, but led them in fighting and also took part in prisoner programs.

Dang Tan, a command-level Communist political leader who defected to the South Vietnamese in 1971, told U.S. officials, "There are Cuban advisers in the North, some active on missions. Several I know of worked in prisoner 're-education' programs in camps around Hanoi. . . . There was some torture of American prisoners. There was always torture. . . . Some torture involved the Cubans."

Col. Bomar doesn't begrudge the Cuban presence in Vietnam.

"We were there as outsiders too. They had the same right to be there. But, the point is, Cubans and Americans were there as hostile enemies, not allies. Remember that.

"Why couldn't Cubans be there? The British sent ships, I saw films of them being unloaded. I saw supplies given by the American Quakers to the North. Jane Fonda was there. Ramsey Clark was there. Why the hell not the Cubans?

"The best import the Cubans have is not sugar—it's Communistic revolution and terror. They are experts. Old 'Fidel' taught a bunch of us that, personally. I'm just glad to be back alive."

Col. Bomar believes that "Fidel" failed in his mission to break the will of the American POWs because, "those whom he tried to coerce and torture to do his bidding were really tough, dedicated and loyal Americans."



Another POW Remembers...

by Kevin W. Gallagher

Perhaps it was a case of not wanting to stir up bad memories or relive old nightmares but when first approached, MSG James E. Jackson, Jr. seemed reluctant to talk about his experiences as a POW. As his story unfolded, pain showed on his face.

"It was July 5, 1966, our unit was supposed to make contact with a unit of Viet Cong. When we did we were outnumbered and surrounded," Jackson began. "Two Americans were killed, one was shot and left for dead, and I was taken prisoner. The other people in the unit were of Chinese extraction employed by the South Vietnamese. I don't know what happened to them.

"I was taken to a prison camp in the U-Minh forest in South Vietnam. There were places there no American had ever been. The Vietnamese were superstitious about it, called it the 'Forest of Darkness' and wouldn't go in. There were a series of POW camps in the forest and we were constantly being shuffled from one to another.

"After I arrived, the biggest problem facing me was survival. Prisoners were held in cages. We were forced to build our own shelters, hunt for our own food and cook it. Naturally, we weren't allowed any sort of weapon, so we could only eat what we could catch or pick with our hands, primarily boiled leaves and an occasional fish. When I was captured I weighed 175 pounds. When I was released, I was down to 99. They definitely were not humane. They didn't care whether we lived or died.

"The entire time I was a prisoner my main concern was staying alive and to do that, I had to stay one step ahead of the Viet Cong. Most of the things I'd learned in the survival classes they teach in basic were useless. It was just a matter of using your common sense."

Jackson was freed in November 1967, a result of negotiations between the American and Vietnamese governments and the aid of a group which included Martin Luther King, Jr., and Joan Baez.

"There was a lot of politics involved in the release," Jackson said grimly. "The North Vietnamese were trying to show the world that they could act humanely—but in actuality, there's no truth to that. They couldn't."

Does Jackson think the volunteer Army is capable of fighting a war?

He referred to the Special Forces, units he knows well. "We've always been volunteers and right now we have some of the best units we've ever had. Special Forces has always been quite successful. Some of our best successes we can't talk about," he added with a little smile.

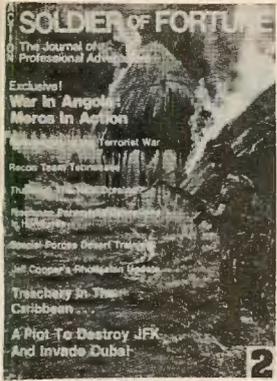
Asked if he still would have gone had he known the war was going to end as it did, he said sadly, "You win some. You lose some." Then with another smile he added, "In the Special Forces we won. Yes, I'd still have gone."

Today Jackson is the NCOIC of the John F. Kennedy Special Forces Medical School at Ft. Bragg, N.C. An accomplished musician, sculptor, and lecturer, his first book, *The Forest of Darkness*, is being published.

MSG James E. Jackson, poses with some of his sculptures.

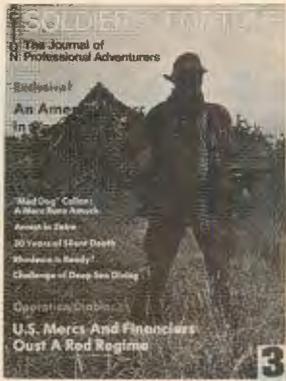


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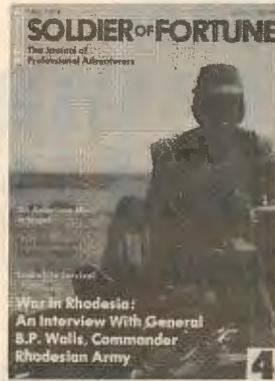
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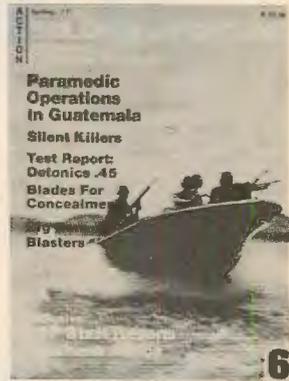
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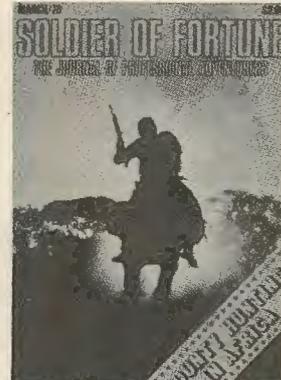
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SOF-3/3

MAC 10 SMG:

THE WORLD'S BEST SUBMACHINEGUN?

By Chuck Taylor



One hot afternoon, while on a special operation along the Laotian border in Northwestern I Corps of Vietnam, I saw my first Ingram SMG. It was in the hands of a Special Forces officer who commanded an "A-Team" which we had, somewhat frighteningly, encountered unexpectedly in the bush.

The "A-Team" was returning from an unsuccessful attempt to get a NVA prisoner while we, on the other hand, were embarking to capture one. We laughed about the apparent SNAFU back at HQ and since it was getting late anyway, decided to set up our NDPs together.

Once the perimeter was set up, I questioned the SF Captain about the strange looking firearm he carried. He told me about the weapon and said that his unit frequently carried them on "quiet infiltrations."

Examination of the piece disclosed that it was a "caliber .45 ACP Ingram M10 SMG," with issued sound-suppressor (silencer). At that time, Ingrams were not prolific and I, being more conventional then, mentally dismissed it as a "Plumber's Kitchen" gun, for use by super spooks on covert operations.

I had been impressed, though, by what I had seen during my brief examination of the

gun, and by the sound-suppressor which simply screwed onto its muzzle. I was primarily impressed with the simplicity of the weapon itself, allowing it to be more easily field-stripped than a .45 auto pistol, cheaply and quickly produced, and, above all . . . **reliable!**

Several years went by, and I was not to see an Ingram again until 1973, when a leading gun magazine ran a feature story on an organization known as Military Armament Corporation, in Marietta, Georgia. The article showed the Ingram M10 SMG, in the same trim as I had seen it in Vietnam, thereby rekindling my curiosity about the weapon.

One thing led to another and I found myself the owner of an M10, complete with issue sound-suppressor and Nomex cover, and have since been quite thankful that I had decided to obtain a specimen of this highly advanced SMG weapons-system when I did, since the U.S. State Department was shortly to assist in the demise of MAC by shortstopping its weapons export licenses, on which it depended critically for its business.

Essentially, the M10 and its baby brother, the M11, are an ultra-refinement of the unique telescoping bolt principle made famous by Uziel Gal in the late 1940s with his

UZI. This concept enabled Gordon Ingram to design the smallest, simplest, most advanced SMG in the world today, and after much thought and discussion on the subject, I can honestly say that I fail to see how it could be developed any further. To me, at least, it appears that the Ingram gun is nearly the end of the line in development of the modern SMG.

The M10 and M11 are, simply stated, straight-undelayed-blowback SMGs, with a fixed firing pin and conventional extractor. They feed in exactly the same manner as a normal self-loading pistol, from a box-type magazine which is inserted through the grip of the weapon, a la UZI. The .45 caliber M10 utilizes the same magazine as the M3/M3A1 "greasegun" SMG, with three **very** minor modifications which can be accomplished in a matter of seconds on a milling machine, drill-press, or lacking that, a file and a little elbow grease! The 9mm Parabellum M10 and M11 .380 (9mm Kurz/Corto) versions require magazines designed for them specifically and are basically identical in functioning and design to the .45 ACP gun.

All original MAC Ingrams were delivered from the factory with the barrel already threaded for the famous WerBell sound-suppressor, an interesting feature which is much appreciated by those who understand what SMGs are all about. Many do not understand that a suppressor does much more than muffle the report of a weapon, particularly an automatic weapon. The extremely small size of the Ingram greatly alarms the novice when he realizes just how close to that muzzle his supporting hand is positioned! With the suppressor attached, the supporting hand grasps it, rather than the gun or carrying strap, virtually eliminating the possibility of injury to the firer by his supporting hand slipping into the muzzle blast of the weapon while it is being fired.

Although the suppressor functions in a fairly conventional manner, via bleedoff into expansion chambers, an often unrealized benefit is that when the weapon is fired, the same gases that cause flash and recoil, in addition to noise, are being bled off, thereby allowing the gun to be easily controlled.

The suppressor itself is designed to give many thousands of rounds of service before it requires rebuilding. Actually, the only thing that "wears out," in the conventional sense, is the end-wipe cap,



Gordon Ingram, regarded as one of the best SMG designers of the 20th century, with his MAC 10 and Sionics suppressor. Ingram has also to his credit several light machine gun and assault rifle designs.



M11, baby-brother to the M10 in .380 caliber, shown in complete kit form, including cleaning rod, suppressor, mag-loader, 5-cell mag pouch, and 16 32 rd. mags. It is the first individual automatic weapon specifically designed for use with suppressor.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

OPERATION	Blowback operated, firing from open bolt
GUN DIMENSIONS (without suppressor)	
Length, without stock	267 millimeters (10.50 inches)
Length, stock telescoped	295 millimeters (10.60 inches)
Length, stock extended	548 millimeters (21.57 inches)
Barrel Length	148 millimeters (5.75 inches)
SUPPRESSOR (SILENCER) DIMENSIONS	
Length	291 millimeters (11.44 inches)
Diameter	54 millimeters (2.13 inches)
WEIGHT	
Gun, without magazine	2.81 kilograms (8.25 pounds)
Suppressor	0.54 kilograms (1.28 pounds)
Magazine, loaded with 32 rounds (9mm only)	0.61 kilograms (1.37 pounds)
Magazine, loaded with 30 rounds (.45 ACP only)	0.87 kilograms (2.15 pounds)
CAPACITY	
	32 round magazines (9 mm)
	30 round magazines (.45 ACP)
TYPE OF FIRE	
	Semi-automatic or full automatic
CYCLIC RATE OF FIRE	
	1090 rounds per minute (9mm)
	1145 rounds per minute (.45 ACP)
SIGHTS	
Front	Protected peep
Rear	Fixed aperture for 100 meters
SAFETIES	
	Manually operated safeties locking bolt in open or closed position.

Thai officer fires suppressed M10 under watchful eye of Mitchell WerBell III who was deeply involved with the development and marketing of the Ingram systems in the late '60's and early '70's. WerBell also developed the Sionics suppressor which is considered by many ordnance experts to be the best in the world.

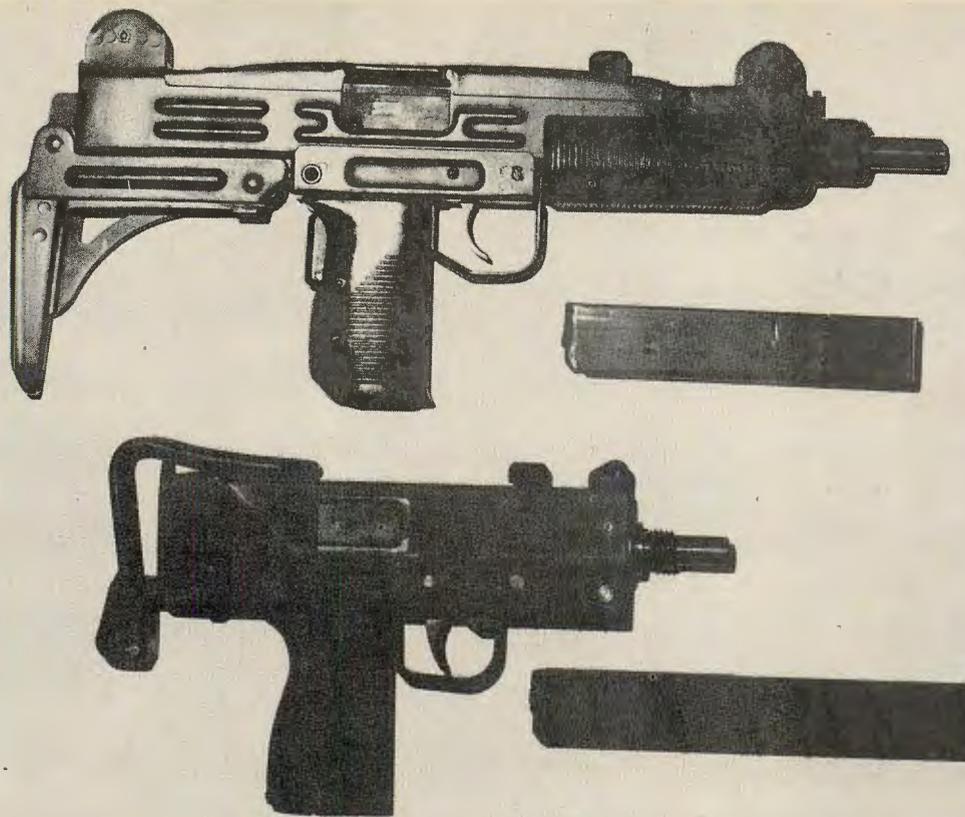
WerBell demonstrates the M10 for U.S. Army officers in Vietnam. M10 was produced in both .45 and 9mm caliber; is considered ideal weapon for clandestine operations in urban environment; POW snatches, etc.



MAC 10 SMIG: WORLD'S BEST SUBMACHINE GUN?







Tremendous compactness of M10 is illustrated by comparison with typical modern SMG, such as the UZI.

through which bullets must pass as they exit the suppressor. Naturally, these caps eventually wear out from common friction; however, one can reasonably expect to fire in excess of 5000 rds. before replacement becomes necessary.

As residue builds up in the bleed-off holes and expansion chambers of the suppressor, the weapon will become increasingly louder, but many, many rounds will be fired before this will occur. To clean the suppressor, one may either pull the end-wipe caps and utilize a spanner to unscrew the expansion chambers from the interior of the suppressor jacket for cleaning or parts replacement as necessary or, lacking time, tools, or inclination, simply soak the entire suppressor for a half-hour or so in a commercial degreasing compound such as DuPont Zylin, and obtain surprisingly good results!

Field-stripping the Ingram is so simple that I would have to say that anyone who has trouble with the procedure definitely should not be issued a firearm! Upon retraction of the upper-receiver retainer pin latch, the pin may be pushed from the weapon, allowing the entire upper receiver to be withdrawn. The bolt assembly is then drawn to the rear, the actuator extracted from the bolt, and the entire assembly simply dropped through the rear of the receiver into the hand! All parts are now exposed for cleaning/inspection/lubrication. As I said—simplicity in its purest form.

I recently tested the M10, with suppressor, on a four-day evaluation under typical military field conditions and found that, without exception, it performed exactly as it is supposed to. I fired the M10 in temperature ranges from below freezing to above 90 degrees, in altitudes from 6000 to 11,000 feet, in the rain, the snow, and in the dust and rocks, I carried it on a sling and in my hand. I dragged it in the pine needles of the forest floor and even dropped it into a creek. The end result was always the same: The damned thing fired when I pulled the trigger!

Overall, I put more than 2500 rds. of various types of ammunition through the test gun during the four-day test and experienced no failures with ball ammunition, save some old Frankfurt Arsenal 1928 stuff, the primers of which had long died . . . definitely not the fault of the gun. As a result of the test, I can honestly say that the M10 is as reliable as a machine can possibly be, and worth betting one's life on in a fight.

Many find it hard to accept that something so small and so simple can also be accurate. The M10, like most SMGs, fires from an open bolt, so considerable movement is experienced when the trigger is pressed and the bolt slams home. Once this rather abrupt event is no longer a surprise, it is easily compensated for, and surprising accuracy can be obtained. For example, utilizing the selector switch found on the left side of

the lower-receiver, I placed the test gun on "SEMI" and was able to place 90 rds. (3 magazines) on an IPSC "Item" silhouette at 100 meters with little difficulty. When the selector switch is turned to "Rock'n'Roll," however, one should confine his aggressive activities to ranges well under that, unless he has ample time to assume classic auto-arms firing positions!

The 1100 rpm cyclic rate of my M10 awed most who observed it, with an entire 30 rd. magazine being emptied in less than 1½ seconds! When this immense power is coupled with a skillful operator, the little Ingram assumes terrifying proportions as both an offensive and defensive weapon. In fact, I cannot think of a better firearm for specialized offensive use, such as by commando teams, airborne raiding parties, pathfinders, etc., or for routine use by leadership personnel such as medics, engineers, etc., who do not require a battle rifle by mission. The small size of the Ingram allows it to take up minimum space, while offering terrific firepower, reliable operation, and light weight. Almost perfect . . .

I say **almost** because, typically, **nothing** is perfect. I feel that the cyclic rate of the M10 should be reduced to around 650-700 rpm from its present rate of 1000-1100 rpm for optimum efficiency. The average operator cannot effectively utilize a high cyclic rate to its fullest potential and will



1. Fast, simple disassembly procedure
Depress upper-receiver retaining pin latch.



2. Push through upper-receiver into hand.



3. Separate upper-receiver from lower-receiver.



4. Remove actuator from bolt.



5. Withdraw bolt group from rear of upper-receiver.



6. M10, field-stripped, including magazine and sound-suppressor.

accomplish no more than he could with a much slower rate of fire, while expending **much** more ammunition. Tests conducted with firers of different skill levels indicated that only those who were really quite proficient with auto-arms could make the M10 live up to its possibilities as the weapon stands in its present form. A reduction in cyclic rate would change this picture drastically. Since a cyclic rate reduction is a minor task, the M10 or M11 could easily be slowed down for military use, thereby eliminating the only real objection I can think of to its adoption by any military entity.

Strangely enough, there are those who feel that the high cyclic rate of the Ingram is an asset rather than a liability. SOF sources have indicated that Israeli commandos carried and quite efficiently used 9mm Ingram M10s rather than UZIs on their famous Entebbe raid, with suppressors, of course! Since the operation was unquestionably a smashing success, the point does seem to have a great deal of credence!

In spite of the fact that MAC is now defunct, there is a quantity of M10s and M11s remaining in the United States, and all of these weapons are available for sale to military/police agencies and qualified individuals. Anyone interested



7. Easy attachment/detachment of sound-suppressor (silencer) to M10 allows weapon to fulfill many roles.

in this beautifully engineered weapons-system should contact his nearest Federally Licensed Class 3 Firearms Dealer for information on availability and current prices on the Ingram guns and MAC suppressors. As of this writing, the M10 in .45 ACP can be obtained for about \$150.00, while the 9mm parabellum version is selling for about \$175.00. Suppressors for either are available, although not in great quantities, for about \$150.00.

The M11, however, is another matter entirely. There were far fewer M11s manufactured than M10s, and, as a result, they command higher prices than the M10. An original MAC M11 will cost you in the vicinity of \$375.00, with the original MAC suppressor going for about \$200.00. Naturally, as with any item that is now out of production, the prices increase as supplies dwindle.

After the closure of MAC, another firm, RPB Industries, took up manufacture of the Ingram guns. They, due to their greater availability, are significantly cheaper to purchase than the original MAC guns.

So in summary, I think the Ingram M10 and M11 are winners. They are very compact, immensely robust and reliable, powerful, accurate, cheaply and easily manufactured, and generally easy to use. They function flawlessly with all types of military ball ammunition and most cast-bullet roundnose handloads. They are the simplest weapons in the world to field-strip, clean, and maintain, often requiring only a quick disassembly, a dunk in some solvent or hot water, a reassembly, and a fresh magazine! If you're carrying one into a fight . . . you are in damned good shape.



POKE DA PIG ~ HAWAIIAN STYLE

BY DAVID E. STEELE

The morning loomed rainy. It was my first day in Hilo, and I was worried that the rain would kill the scent for the dogs. In hunting black bear in California I had seen days on end when the dogs could sniff no sign because of rain.

Calvin Pacheco met me in his orange pickup. We drove out to his Uncle Mike's place. Mike is a legendary Portuguese-Hawaiian who has hunted the rain forests of the Big Island for fifty years. We loaded "Police," the lead dog into the back of Mike's 4WD. Police is a half German Shepherd with one floppy ear. We also loaded three other dogs, boy dogs and wahine dogs. None of them were very big. All were mongrels: purebred dogs would make expensive casualties. The dogs are chosen for heart and trained for a year. They are taught to be "grabbers," not just nippers and barkers. They must catch the boar and hold him for the hunter. This is the only way a boar can be taken in the traditional Polynesian way — with a knife.

Calvin (called "Cawini" in pidgin by his friends) said that I was the first *haole* to want to "poke da pig." Virtually all mainlanders, and most Big Islanders, use rifles for hunting wild pigs. Thirty years ago no firearms were used, but times change. Handguns are still not allowed for hunting, a legacy of wartime regulations; this is bad news for those mainlanders who are used to hunting with magnum revolvers (I have found my .44 Ruger to be perfectly adequate for taking black bear when hunting with dogs). As far as I am concerned, hunting with a rifle is too sure, too tame, when the animal is already cornered by dogs, not to mention its unnecessary bulk when slogging through dense brush.

Hawaiians say there is an upper limit for pigs that can be poked. The original pig, a black and heavily haired specimen averaging 125 pounds, arrived with the Polynesian voyagers 900 years ago, but other strains brought by later settlers have mated with them in the wild, and some wild pigs now reach 400 pounds. A rifle goes along on every hunt because if a boar is too big or has large tusks the dogs will not be able to grab him or will be killed if they try; either way a hunter could not get in to poke. Pig poking is not the way to get a trophy head. However, even medium size pigs can be dangerous if taken in this fashion. Uncle Mike once had to have skin grafts on one hand after he tried to poke a boar with his "spear" (tapered cane knife). He was lucky though: the boar was going for his face when he put up a hand to fend it off. Calvin once saw a boar catch a man in

deep water. The man lost his nerve and started slashing at the animal instead of stabbing it; he paid with the loss of his hand.

In case you are wondering, hunting with a knife is both legal and sanctioned by old custom in Hawaii. Its origins may go back as far as in Germany, where the use of spear, sword, and knife on wild boar is well documented from at least the 15th century. These are about the only places I can think of where dogs were trained to actually grab the pig, not just circle it (as in most U.S. mainland hunting).

We packed the machete and cane knife into the truck along with the burlap game bags and pack frame. I borrowed a pair of heavy duty, slip-on rubber boots from Mike, since my own light hunting boots would not stand up to the terrain. We finally set out at about 9 a.m., not too late for hunting with dogs on a weekday. Pigs do most of their moving at night, and they will not do much walking in the daytime unless there are too many people in the forest, as sometimes happens on weekends.

We drove up the saddle road between Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea volcanoes. Uncle Mike drove, Calvin looked out the right side for tracks, and, since I was the smallest, I sat in the middle. This was not so bad till we got to the Tree Planting road, with its numerous potholes caused by the recent rains. Mike took Police out of the back so he could walk in front of the truck. This way Police could find any pig that had crossed the road recently.

Finally we pulled the truck into a clearing and got out. Uncle Mike put on a game bag and took up his cane knife. Calvin put on the wooden pack frame and carried his M-1 carbine. I took the machete. We walked past the road onto a brush-covered lava trail. We climbed this trail of broken, ropy lava for over an hour, slipping often on the wet rock. We came to a heavily forested area, and Uncle Mike cut the brush more often, marking some trees for a trail with his "spear." Calvin gave me the carbine to carry, taking the machete to help Mike. The rain was still coming down, but Mike and I stowed our rain gear because the sweat could not evaporate through it.

The four dogs with us had still sniffed nothing. To alleviate my frustration I took the machete from Calvin and helped chop the palm brush and creepers. I gave Calvin the carbine; I was happy to be rid of it for awhile. Besides being cumbersome I could never decide whether to carry it muzzle-down to keep out the rain or muzzle-up to keep the barrel from

being rammed in the mud in case of a fall.

Finally we came to a swampy area. Mike was sure this was where the pigs were hiding. The forest here looked like Saipan or Guadalcanal. We slogged into the muck, thankful that the mud and water were only about 10 inches deep in most places. The wet mossy logs were even more treacherous underfoot than the wet lava had been. I lost count of how many times I fell, but each time I got up with no bones broken or limbs twisted. I was thankful I had my brush gloves, so I didn't have to worry about what I grabbed onto to prevent or break a fall.

We had been walking, climbing, watching every step for close to four hours. Suddenly Police sniffed something on the air and took off with the other dogs. Uncle Mike signalled to be quiet and listen. Soon we could hear the barking. We ran, slid, stumbled toward the sound, not stopping to hack away the clinging brush. Just around the side of a hill we could see them. They had cornered a good size boar (150 pounds or more) under an overhanging, cavelike ledge.

Calvin said it looked too big to poke. He gave me the carbine, but all I could see through the sights was a fast swirling mass of dogs and boar. Calvin was afraid that a stray bullet might endanger the dogs more than the boar's tusks. He asked Uncle Mike to take a closer look, to see if a knife might be possible. Mike climbed closer and said it could be done.

I moved up, drawing my six-inch Randall fighting knife. I hooked my first finger around the ricasso so the boar's tossing head could not bounce the knife from my hand. I knew my custom Randall was strong enough for the job, but I would have appreciated a couple more inches of blade right then.

I advanced, crouching and cautious. At no time were the dogs able to completely immobilize the animal, such as I had seen in old German hunting prints. I waited till it was broadside, with its attention focussed on the dog in front. I thrust hilt-deep into its neck and ripped down two inches before the knife pulled free. Blood gushed over my glove, and the animal screamed. He whipped his head around to tusk me, but I pushed his face away with my left hand. I was going in a second time when my boot slipped in the mud; I found myself sitting, facing a very angry animal. The dogs seemed to have disappeared. I had reached the "moment of truth," known to few outside the bullring. I put up my knife and off-hand, ready to take the charge from



The moment of impact. The two dogs are distracting the boar while the hunter stabs into its neck. The action takes place under a cavelike ledge, as mentioned in the text. Sorry, but none of the participants could hold still for a better picture.

either side. But the charge never came: the *puka* I had made in his neck was wider than an arrow, more devastating than a bullet; the boar stood where he was. I scooted back a little and waited for the dogs to get a grip. I finished him with a thrust up under the foreleg, angling into the heart. He slid to the earth without a sound.

We pulled the boar out into the light for pictures. Then I sat down to clean my knife and shake the jungle out of my boots. I let Calvin and Uncle Mike clean and quarter the pig since the meat would be theirs. I kept only the tusks. Then we packed up for the long hike back to the truck.

I hunted several more days on the Big Island, and I poked two more boars, but none approached the classic experience of the first. For example, on my second day Calvin, his cousin Roland Pacheco (who is a Hilo police sergeant), and I hunted all day, and the dogs sniffed nothing until 4:30 p.m. The rain was really coming down. We practically broke our necks clambering through dense lowland brush until we reached the dogs. Incidentally, this is called the "answer-back" stage of the hunt: when the dogs bark the hunter must answer back, i.e., get there as fast as he can before any of the dogs are killed. This time all we could see was a dense mat of stag-horn fern with a terrible noise of barking and squealing coming from under it. Calvin and I chopped away at the fern until we could tell pig from dog. But it was only a 50-pound pig (respectable in javelina terms, though), the kind that is occasionally roasted whole at *luaus*. We dragged it out, and I dispatched it with my Bone dagger. Later I lopped off its head with my Case bush knife, so the carcass would be easier to carry. Meat is

Steele with 150 pound boar taken with 6-inch Randall Model 1 fighting knife. This is the Steele/Randall custom knife recommended as an all-around survival knife by the author in his book, *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting*.



The coup de grace. In spite of heavy bleeding from neck wound the boar is still on its feet. Note that the hunter is alone with the animal; the only dog visible is a couple feet in front. The final thrust is made up under the foreleg into the heart.

meat, and the dogs choose by scent not by size, but I would have been happier if that heart-pounding run had resulted in a larger animal. The story of the third hunt, which resulted in a second 150-pound boar, I will save for another time.

For more information on Hawaii hunting write to:

Division of Fish and Game
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

They will send you all the regulations on hunting in the various islands, though actually most pig hunting is conducted today on the Big Island. You might also obtain a useful little book by R.J. Kramer called *Hunting in Hawaii*, put out in 1967 by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. You can obtain your hunting license from any sporting goods store when you get to Hawaii.

Concerning transportation, I recommend a straight economy, excursion ticket to Hilo. I investigated charters, but most of them go to Honolulu, which means an air taxi to the Big Island, and several charter outfits are disreputable

(playing games with deposits and seasonal fares, etc.). I also checked out various guides and hunting programs, but the only one I can really recommend is Calvin Pacheco, P.O. 206 Pepekeo, Hilo, Hawaii.

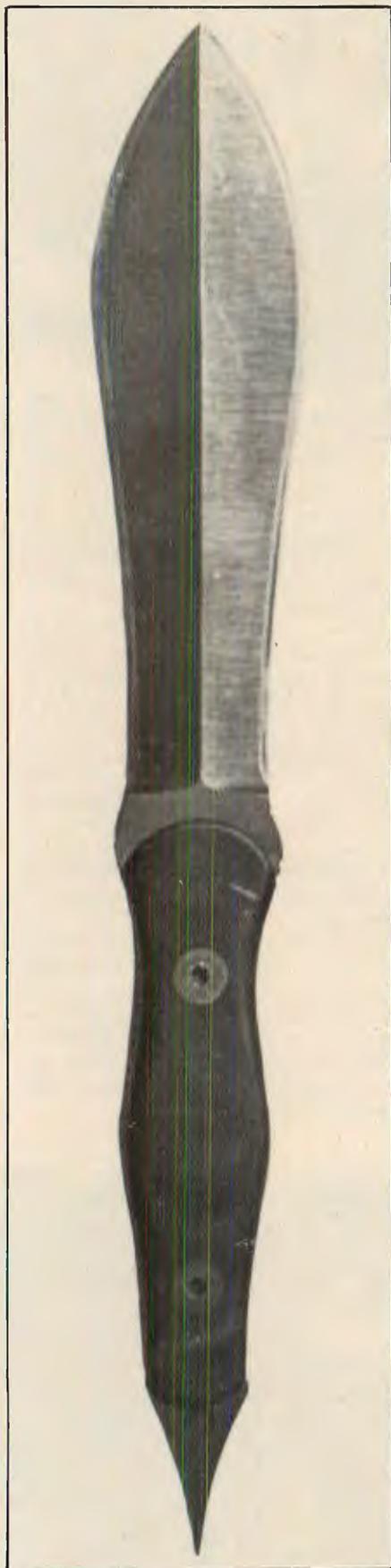
Let me close with a note of caution. Any rigorous hunting involves the danger of heart attack or accident (particularly falls). Hunting wild boar with only a knife adds some unique dangers of its own. I am comparatively young, in rather good condition, and I am a long time practitioner of fencing and the Filipino art of *escrima* (stick-and-knife fighting). If you are not in good condition or you do not feel you could stab without hesitation, I suggest you use a rifle. In addition to being safer, the rifle provides an emotional distance between the hunter and his quarry. He does not have to smell him, feel the rippling power of his neck muscles, hear his snorts and screams, or evade his slashing tusks. The knife is a weapon of the ancient hunter, a man who was close to animals without being sentimental toward them.



THE MERCENARY

A TRUE FIGHTING KNIFE

BY THOMAS MACGREGOR



"The Mercenary" fighting knife, designed by SOF staffer and built by Jerry Price

The "Mercenary," is a new fighting knife designed by an SOF staff member, and refined and built by custom knifemaker, Jerry L. Price. It is the result of a serious uncompromising effort to design a single purpose knife. It is not a hunting, camping, or survival knife. It has only one purpose: it is designed for close quarter combat. Did we achieve our goal? We think so, but judge for yourself.

One of the oldest types of fighting knives and the one found to be most effective for close quarter combat is the double edge knife, generally known as the dagger, stiletto, or dirk. No other design has been found to be more effective for dispatching one's opponent. The design concept for the "Mercenary" is based on the fact that it is a composite design, drawing on a variety of features found in well-known and respected fighting knives, i.e., the Sykes-Fairbairn Commando Knife of WW II fame, the V-42 Fighting Stiletto, used by many Vietnam veterans, the world famous John Ek Ranger Combat Style 2, and the new "Merc Dagger" by Manley Blade. Additional fighting knives evaluated were designed by Randall, Bone, Enos, Dan-D, and Morseth. All of the knives mentioned are excellent fighting knives in their own right but have their design limitations or drawbacks.

W.W. II's Sykes-Fairbairn Commando knife designed by E.A. Sykes and W.E. Fairbairn, while often described by many experts as "the ultimate killing weapon," suffers from both material weakness and design defect in its mass-produced version. The production models generally available since W.W. II do not have long enough tangs, which can cause these knives to crack at the guard under stress. The original Gerber Mk II Combat Knife, a lethal combat weapon of excellent design, is no longer available. It has been replaced by Gerber with the Mk II Survival Knife, a good design; however, the addition of the saw teeth at the base of the blade makes it an obvious compromise.

John Ek's Ranger Combat Knife Style 2, another fine design, sells for approximately \$70. Due to the death of John Ek last year, however, one may experience a wait of up to 12 months before receiving the finished product. Luckily for us, John Ek's son, Gary, is now carrying on the family tradition which should make these knives more readily available. Manley Blade's "Merc Dagger" is

a finely-made knife with a 9" blade (perhaps too long to be practical), and costs \$195 without a sheath. Using modern materials and techniques, while taking an uncompromising approach, these and various other objections and weaknesses in design were overcome in the new "Mercenary" by Jerry Price.

The "Mercenary" is a strong, durable fighting weapon designed by and for the professional. The knife is 13" long, weighing approximately one ounce per inch—the accepted weight/length ratio for a well-balanced knife. Following the recommendations of Jerry Price, it is made from 154 cm steel, and is of .275 inch stock, hardened to Rockwell 60-61. This process produces a knife that is strong, durable, easy to sharpen, and has excellent edge-holding characteristics without being brittle. You may not be able to cut through a steel bolt with this knife, but then you won't have to spend hours of work trying to sharpen the blade after each use either. The blade, of a tapered wedge design, measures 7 inches in length and ranges from a maximum width of 2 inches to 1 1/4 inches at its narrowest. The wide spear-point blade design can produce up to 2 1/2 times the

From left to right: Tom Enos' boot knife, The Shrike by Samson available from Cooper Knives, Randall #2 Stiletto, EK #1 Commando, British Fairbourn/



hemorrhage and shock effect of the "normal" stiletto design, in the tradition of the Sykes-Fairbairn.

There is no guard to interfere with silent withdrawal of the knife when worn concealed. The handle incorporates a notched full-tang with removable green micarta slabs for a truly non-slip grip. As this unique positive grip handle design is of critical importance to the overall usefulness of the "Mercenary," the staff felt it was necessary to thoroughly test the non-slip feature. In order to do so, the designer of the knife greased the palm of his hand, grabbed the knife in an overhand "ice-pick" grip and slammed it into the top of a solid oak desk. After several tries, this insanity was called to a halt. Happily for all involved, there was no slippage!

The butt has been drilled for a thong and shaped into a "skull crusher" pommel. This pommel is most effective when used as a "Yawara stick" against an opponent's muscles or nerve centers. All metal parts have been blued for a non-reflective finish. In the hands of a properly trained fighter, this is one deadly blade.

Of almost equal importance to the knife, is the sheath that must secure and protect the knife from loss, the user from injury, and still allow for quick silent accessibility. The sheath for the "Mercenary" is constructed of black, non-reflective Kydex, an acrylic-PNC thermoplastic. Kydex was chosen because of its noncorrosiveness and high durability. By using this sheath material, it becomes

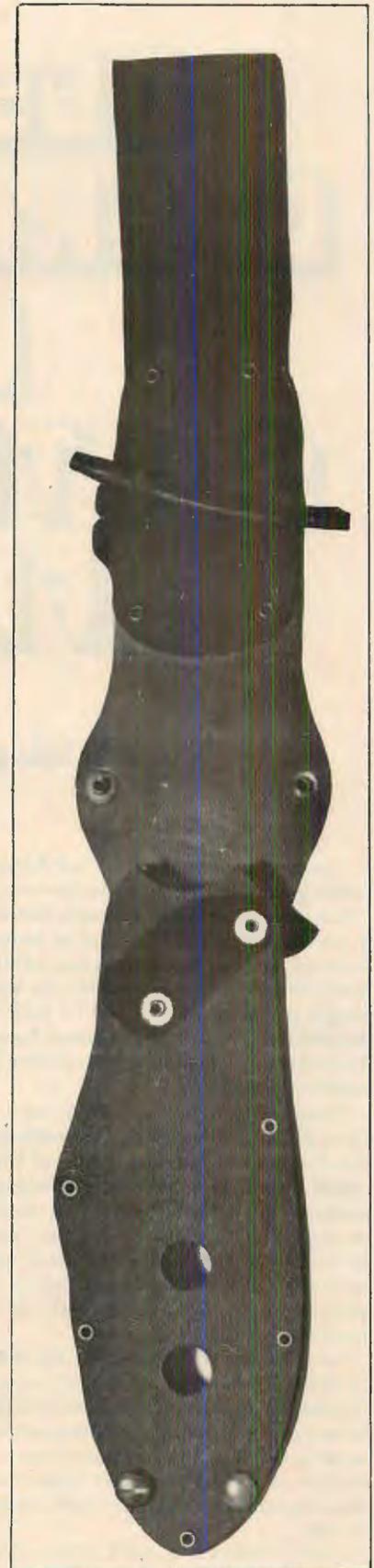
Sykes pattern stiletto, Gerber Mk II Survival Knife, Gerber Mk II Presentation Combat. Bottom row: "The Mercenary" by Price, "last Friend" by Price.



possible to own one sheath for environments that range from saltwater diving to arctic operational areas. This sheath design allows for wide variations in wearing the weapon, and can be adjusted according to preference and mission requirements, i.e., attached upside down to the Pete Mason SWAT Combat Shoulder Holster System, to a specially designed shoulder harness for concealment, or carried on current issue combat suspenders. It also can be fitted to a variety of belts from 1 to 3 inches wide, including military web belts. By using the removable tie-down straps, the sheath can be strapped to the person's body free from any other suspension system. The sheath also provides for a rapid, silent draw from all positions, through the use of a unique swivel-welt locking cam designed by Jerry Price. Black latex tubing provides hilt restraint tension for securing the knife. When wearing the sheath on a shoulder harness, or when parachuting, its nylon webbing can be tucked under this hilt restraint to shorten the length, while providing added protection to the wearer from the chisel-like point of the pommel.

It is extremely difficult to find a custom knifemaker who is willing to work to a customer's design and to do so for a reasonable price in an acceptable period of time. Jerry Price, who began making knives in 1973, as a step toward acquiring some measure of personal independence, is one of the few who will work with his customers to produce a truly *one of a kind* custom knife. Having worked with Jerry Price on another custom knife project, it was only natural for the staff to return to his expertise for the "Mercenary" combat fighting knife. We were not disappointed and look forward to having Jerry Price work on similar projects with *Soldier of Fortune*.

Jerry Price, as well as producing one of a kind special-ordered knives, makes a standard line of high quality handcrafted knives. One such knife of interest to our readers, is his "Last Friend" palm dagger. The "Last Friend" is constructed of 440C, 1/8 inch stock steel and is specifically designed as a hideaway special purpose weapon—a contoured dagger with a hollow ground blade on one side, reverse flat on the other, designed to avoid detection even if one is searched or frisked. The contoured design allows the knife to be secured between the waistband and and wearer's belt for comfortable carry and ease of use. The same quality of workmanship and attention to detail that went into the "Mercenary" is found in this small, but lethal, palm dagger. The "Last Friend," is now available to SOF readers for \$35 (plus \$1.00 postage and handling) from Phoenix Associates P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. When ordering, please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of this custom handcrafted knife.



"The Mercenary" fighting knife's specially designed multi-purpose sheath.



DESERT OPERATIONS IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

BY AL J. VENTER

Discussions about South West Africa's future go on, despite much controversy.

But few people either in South Africa or in the disputed former League of Nations territory are prepared to concede that South West Africa—or Namibia, as some people prefer to call it—will be fully independent in the not-too-distant future. This transition could take place before the end of the decade.

Meanwhile, there is, within the confines of South West Africa's frontiers, a tiny enclave which has been part of South Africa for all the past century. Originally annexed by Britain (in spite of furious protests from Imperial Germany) territorial title to Walvis Bay has never been seriously questioned. Walvis Bay is the only strategic, deep-water port on the west coast of Southern Africa.

Now, with developments for the future in South West Africa uncertain, a South African military presence in Walvis Bay is taken for granted. Unlike other military units in the Republic, this one trains for warfare in the isolated and often lovely desert wastes fringing the South Atlantic Ocean.

Kalie Sanders is a South African Army lieutenant who does not mind mixing his Afrikaans and English metaphors to make a point when addressing his men. And considering his age—he celebrated his 21st birthday about the time he was fighting Cubans in Angola—Second Lieutenant Sanders uses a rather dry,

laconic turn of phrase to astonishingly good effect when he has need to.

Much of what happened in Angola took place a good two years ago, but the eyes of this young military man still take on a distant look whenever he talks about his first war. Second Lieutenant Sanders makes no secret about the fact that he thoroughly enjoyed the action in Angola. In fact, the only regret he has is that the war ended before it really got going.

"I'd go back tomorrow if I could," he maintains with a professional elan that is not found too often around Africa these days. For the moment, however, he is based at Walvis Bay, where he is responsible for training batches of youngsters not very much younger than himself. Kalie reckons his present home rates poorly by comparison. "The desert can never compare with bush country," he says.

But together with 40 other instructor officers and NCOs attached to 2 South African Infantry Battalion (2SAI) at Walvis Bay, Lt. Sanders did bring something substantial out of Angola: experience. Putting the latest batch of almost 1000 "rookies" through their paces, these young officers draw on their own combat experiences when explaining basic military principles to those who are being taught the art of war. Few tactical examples are given without the addition of a real-life parallel from the battlefields of Angola.



This is one of the reasons why, after only eight months of intensive training, 2 SAI's intake from earlier this year already has the makings of a crack fighting force.

While most of the 30,000 young men called up for military service each year in South Africa are billeted at bases throughout the Republic and South West Africa, 2 SAI rates the distinction of training newcomers in the esoterics of desert warfare. All of this takes place in the isolated wastes around the seaport town of Walvis Bay.

Life at Walvis Bay is tough. The weather and terrain are unmercifully hard on man and machine. A brutally cold



night will often follow a day of searing heat, and comparison to conditions experienced by the predecessors of these youngsters in the North African Desert during World War II is not altogether out of place.

Major Johan Jordaan, second-in-command of 2 SAI at Walvis Bay, explained it this way: "The desert has its own peculiar problems and we have to provide the answers, often by trial and error.

"Navigation, for instance, is a serious matter in terrain where there are very few landmarks. And when these youngsters do not have the experience to find their way home again, then we have to go and look for them."

The Major, another Angola veteran, added that most of the trainees had been well schooled. They assimilated information and instruction easily.

Camouflage can also be something of a problem in the open desert. All vehicles, armored cars and artillery are painted a light sand color in contrast to the dark green used by all other elements of the South African Defense force. The lighter color is obviously better suited to desert warfare. During maneuvers near Rooikop and Dune Seven—said to be the seventh highest sand dune in the world—half a squadron of armored cars blended perfectly with the desert terrain.

From the air the camouflage is even more successful. There have been occasions when a vehicle has run out of petrol among the dunes and it has taken an air patrol all day to find it.

Basic training systems provided by 2 SAI are all adapted to the desert environment. Most trainees undergo a three-month basic course which incorporates drill, field craft, weapons training, regimental duties and various other military functions. After this initial period, individuals are assigned to specialist training groups, usually of their own choosing. Some might opt for artillery; others prefer the armored car squadron com-



Young South African recruits receive patrol briefing before night operation. Note blackened hands and faces.

Below: Part of an armored car squadron based at Walvis Bay during desert maneuvers; the squadron is led by flamboyant Angola strike-force veteran Captain P. W. Botha, a relative of the South African Minister of Defense of the same name.





S.A armored cars on patrol. Browning .30 cal. light machine guns and 90mm main guns are kept covered until put into action.



Above: "Troopies" take a break during patrol in hot, dusty Namib Desert near Walvis Bay.

Below: Gunnery practice in the Namib desert. Guns are 25 pounders; have a range of up to 12 miles.





LANDMINE LIFTING SEQUENCE

A. A landmine placed by SWAPO terrorists is discovered in the desert road. Engineers are brought in to neutralize it. First step is to uncover the mine.

B. Because the mine might be booby trapped, a cable is used to lift it from its embedded position.

C. An Engineer lays a plastic charge around the lifted mine; it will be blown in situ.

manded by Captain P.W. de Lange, who was involved in the armored car strike northwards into Angola.

Still more will learn to lay and fire mortars, others machine gun and small arms tactics.

An interesting feature of 2 SAI Battalion is that a fair proportion of conscripts are German-speaking South West Africans, and there again cognizance has to be taken of language and cultural needs.

Major Jordaan remarked: "Locals actually cause us very few problems. By and large they think and act like any average South African youngster. Most of them assimilate well; the desert is home to many of them."

Training sessions in the desert can be exhausting. Specialist crews often spend weeks away from home base on a rotary system. The majority remain in the desert working, eating, sleeping, and training with few of life's comforts for relief.

D. Moment of blast; the mine goes up and the desert reverberates for miles around.

The day starts early, usually before six, when the first call is sounded. Breakfast is followed by a daily session of PT, all of it coordinated to build strength and stamina—vital requisites of desert operations.

For troops in the field, the Walvis area is small enough for all food to be brought by truck three times a day.

"This insures a regular diet that we regard as balanced," the Major said.

Leave is one of the biggest problems facing 2 SAI's Command. June this year saw the first brief spell of home leave in six months—all seven days of it—and senior officers had to insure that conscripts whose families lived, for instance, in Johannesburg (1500 miles away) enjoyed as much time "at home" as those whose homes were in Swakopmund, a mere hour's drive distant from Walvis Bay.



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National Shooter's League "Money Match" HAVE GUN-WILL TRAVEL FOR \$13,000

by Dan Predovich

Imagine this scene. Hundreds of spectators sitting anxiously in the bleachers and on the rail fence surrounding an arena on a warm September morning. Most have telescopes or binoculars to watch the action. The athletes enter, one at a time, accepting the challenge of a particularly difficult test of skill. \$5,000 cash first-place prize money and a chance at a brand new Chevy Caprice have some of the not-so-hardened competitors shaking in their boots. Some fiddle nervously with their equipment. Others look calm outwardly. The crowd waits for the next competitor.

Professional tennis or golf? No. It's professional pistol shooting on a uniquely fascinating action course.

Saturday, September 3, 1977, in Laramie, Wyoming, brought competitors — professional shooters — from all over the **Robert Sullivent from Las Vegas, Nevada shot a 117-4x with this highly modified Colt revolver to take ninth place. Specially modified guns were numerous, but were not enough to guarantee the shooter a piece of the cash prize.**



nation to the National Shooter's League "Money Match." Qualifications for the 40 finalists had taken place from June until the Friday before the match. Friday evening, after the last qualification run, when the list of the top 40 finalists was posted, some potential competitors suddenly became spectators.

The equipment worn by the top 40 showed that none of them took this event lightly. The tools of the sport — weapon, ammunition, speed loaders, and leather gear — were all chosen with great care. Like a warrior preparing for action, each professional marksman checked and rechecked each piece of equipment and mentally prepared himself "to do battle." The prize at stake wasn't a certificate, or a badge or a shiny trophy — it was money.

Dr. Burgess, founder of the Laramie Match and head honcho of the National Shooter's League, has definite ideas about the shooting game. He approaches shooting constructively, promoting it as a bona fide sport. He feels that shooters, instead of being defensive, need to deal from a position of strength, derived from the promotion of shooting as a spectator sport for professional marksmen-athletes with substantial purses (a \$13,700 pot is pretty substantial) to draw press coverage and credibility. With these premises and a lot of work, the Laramie match was born.

This "Shoot for Loot" has been the object of more than 200 newspaper, radio, and TV releases. Over 70 minutes of television time has been devoted to the coverage of the Laramie Match.

As Burgess has said, "We need press coverage outside the gun media. We need to reach the occasional shooter and nonshooter who don't read the publications." Burgess has gotten that total media coverage and is pushing for more.

Spectator appeal, according to Burgess, was the foundation in the development of this demanding course of fire. Aside from the competitor's family and friends, the shooting sports are usually not visually appealing to a non-partici-

pant. In the last few years, however, combat shooting and the Laramie Match have brought action and excitement to the sport, as was evidenced by the large turnout of spectators on Saturday morning and the excitement and enthusiasm shown by the crowd. The Laramie Match is definitely a spectator sport.

The course consists of 10 targets spaced at varying distances from a 216-yard trail over rolling terrain. Each firing position is marked by a concrete pad from which the competitor must fire at the appropriate target.

The targets are of two sizes. The smaller is 2½ inches tall and three inches wide, the larger five inches tall and four inches wide. Both are marked with nine, 10 and X-rings and are flat on the bottom, rounded at the top. The seven smaller targets are fired at from 15 to 33 yards. The three larger targets are placed at 50, 56, and 60 yards from their respective firing pads. The competitor must fire two shots, no more and no less, at each target. Time allowed is three minutes and 30 seconds. Overtime means disqualification. Three of the positions are fired weak handed with a barricade support. The remaining seven positions are fired with a two-hand hold, standing unsupported. In short, the course requires marksmanship, physical ability and nerve.

When smoke had cleared and the guns were holstered, Norman, Oklahoma, police lieutenant, Royce Weddle, was the 1977 winner with a record-breaking score of 159 out of 200 possible points. Royce, 1975 Police Combat National Champion, became the instant center of attention. Royce said he was a little weary, but he did not seem too tired to bear the extra weight of 50 \$100 bills, a Powers Custom Revolver, and a Barry Custom Knife.

Royce used a bull-barreled custom Model 10 Smith & Wesson .38 Special to take first place. This revolver, which Royce modified himself, is the weapon he shoots in police combat competition. It sports a Bo-Mar sight rib and a super slick Weddle custom action.



Above: Ad Clark would like a longer barrel on his .44 Magnum, but he might not be able to holster it.

Below: Frank Green of Montrose, Colorado, fires away with his Colt .45 accurized by Bob Day. Green, holding \$1200 2nd place prize was NSL champion in 1976. NSL honcho "Doc" Burgess is on Green's right.



Above: Match Winner Royce Weddle collects \$5000 cash, a Powers Custom Smith and Wesson revolver and a Scott Barry Custom Knife. Royce has plenty of competition experience including the distinction of winning the 1975 National Police Combat Championship.

In contrast, Frank Green, 1976's winner, shot the match with his Bob Day accurized .45 Colt auto. Frank is a gunsmith in his own right, but he says that Day has done all of his .45 work in the past, and Frank sees no reason to change a good thing. Frank did wear a cross draw holster of his own design.

Third place was taken by Jefferson County, Colorado, Sheriff's officer, Don Jandro. Don, like many other top shooters, is his own gunsmith. His "Jandro Custom" Smith & Wesson .38 Special is a Police combat modification, with a six-inch heavy barrel and Bo-Mar sight rib.

Ad Clark has been dubbed "Mr. Consistency," because of the constantly excellent scores produced by him and his .44 Magnum. When Ad steps on the starting pad, draws his 8 3/4-inch S&W .44 magnum and touches off a round, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that something has happened.

Ad shoots his Davis custom .44 with the heaviest loads of anyone participating in the Laramie Match. He says that the massive Smith & Wesson, topped by a specially built sight rib, soaks up most of the recoil of his heavy reloads. The weapon is, without doubt, extremely accurate, but it takes a special talent to wield such a piece with Ad Clark's proficiency.

Bill Belt is a veteran police combat pistol master and a lieutenant with Englewood, Colorado, Police Department. Bill is one of the many competitors who used a Powers Custom Smith & Wesson. Bill's S&W .38 Special is a six-inch heavy barreled police combat competition weapon wearing a Bo-Mar sight rib.

That beautiful Chevy Caprice is safe for this year, since a competitor must shoot a 190 or better in order to drive it away. The car, the Powers custom revolver, the cash and the many other prizes are all significant of the support of merchants, craftsmen, and manufacturers who are willing to back a growing sport which will in turn create a larger market for them. The result will be a bigger and better match each year with growing participation by sponsors and shooters alike.

A number of topnotch shooters have been conspicuous by their absence at past Laramie Matches.

To them Dr. Burgess extends this challenge: "There are a lot of shooters who say they're good. Let them come here and shoot with us. I've got a few thousand dollars to give them if they make the grade."

In the first three matches (1975-77), a total of \$41,000 in cash and merchandise has been awarded. To get information about 1978's match, write to National Shooter's League, 504 Lyons, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

Who knows? Someday you may hear, "Today, from Laramie, Wyoming, the Wide World of Sports brings you the Fifth Annual National Shooter's League Professional Pistol Match. But first a word from . . ."





SPECIAL WEAPONS IN RHODESIA

by Dana Drenkowski



Above: Drenkowski test fires Austrian-designed Voere "American 180" while in the field in Rhodesia. This version of the 1800-rpm .22 caliber machine gun is equipped with a Weaver Qwik-Point sight, which the owner was attempting to modify into a night sight. Rotary magazine holds 177 rounds. The owner carried it on night ambushes with Drenkowski, who used Jumbo shotgun.

Left: 14th ranked International Practical Pistol Shooter Andy Langley from Rhodesia with Drenkowski in the field. Drenkowski's Jumbo shotgun, loaded with alternate rounds of #4 Buck and 0 Buck, was always available for use in case of terrorist attack. Langley carries 9mm Browning Hi-Power, Drenkowski his modified Colt Gold Cup. The Kudu was downed by the author with a Czech .308 Brno rifle.

A Wide Variety Of Unique Weapons Are Used In Rhodesia's Fight Against Terrorism

While participating in the World Practical Pistol Championships in Rhodesia, SOF Aviation Editor Dana Drenkowski had the opportunity to examine and test-fire a number of unusual weapons currently available in Rhodesia.

The first weapon was a Rhodesian semi-auto shotgun called the Jumbo. Although it resembles the High Standard Model 10B externally, its designer stated the Jumbo was actually an improved design, employing far fewer moving parts. The weapon has an operating rod projection on both sides, with the left starting at the fore-grip and the right just over the pistol grip. This feature enables the shooter to stroke the operating rod to clear jams or chamber a round, using either hand, with minimum wasted motion. He can hold the fore-grip with his left hand while clearing the piece with his right in the conventional fashion, or he has the option of holding the weapon ready to fire with his right hand, while clearing it with his left. Due to bullpup-type placement of automatic ejection directly over the pistol grip, left-handed shoulder firing is impossible.

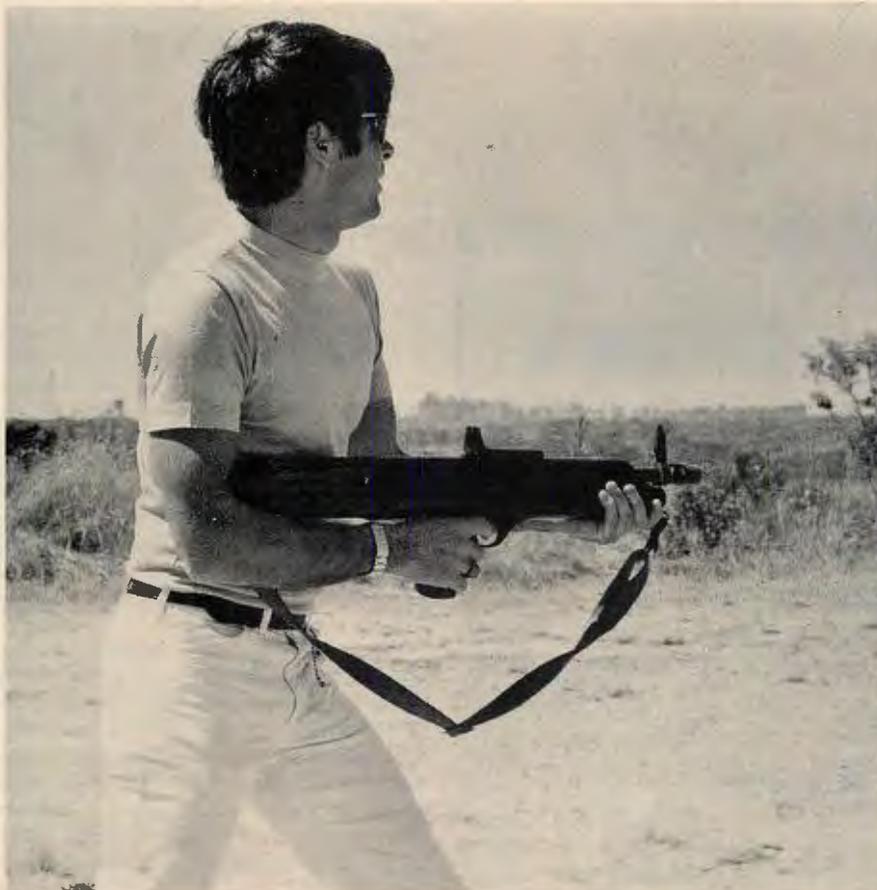
The Jumbo carries six rounds in its tubular magazine and, with one in the chamber, provides its user with seven ready shots. It has high, rugged battle sights, the front of which folds to the

rear for travelling. The sights are superfluous, since the weapon was designed to be fired at waist level from the crook of the right arm.

Standard equipment for each Jumbo is a compensator-diverter. The figure-eight diverter spreads the shot pattern horizontally so that, at 40 meters, a No. 4 buckshot pattern spreads evenly six to eight feet horizontally but less than two feet vertically. After testfiring it against a wall and examining the pattern, the author observed that a man standing within three to four feet of the aiming point would have been hit with a minimum of three and probably more pellets. The Jumbo's minimal recoil was noted by several women, who were invited to fire it. These women spectators, some of whom had never fired a weapon before, were handling the Jumbo like experts within a half dozen shots.

The Jumbo was adapted and designed to meet the special needs of Rhodesians. It is handy for civilian home defense and is particularly effective when used from inside a car. Autos are favorite terrorist ambush targets and the Jumbo's short length and wide horizontal dispersion make it easy to bring into operation with high hit probability. The author liked it so much that he carried it for protection on all his auto and hunting trips in Rhodesia.

SOF aviation editor test fires Rhodesian manufactured Jumbo shotgun. The weapon, equipped with high, rugged combat sights (the front one folds back)



and compensator-diverter, which spreads pattern out horizontally, was designed to be fired while braced in the crook of right arm or against right shoulder.



Rhodesian soldier poses with silenced Colt .45, M-14 with Sionics-type suppressor, and 7.62 caliber AR-10 assault rifle.

Several silencer/suppressor-equipped weapons were tested, including an M-14 with a Sionics-type suppressor. The device was custom-made for special use by an expatriate American armorer. Since the M-14 used full-power 7.62mm loads, its bullet's supersonic crack was unsilenced. The intent of the suppressor was to conceal the location of the weapon. Used as a sniper rifle or concealed automatic weapon in ambush, the suppressor did its job quite effectively. The author placed himself behind a protective earth mound while the M-14 was fired at his position from undisclosed locations. Only the "crack" of the bullet going by could be heard — the weapon's location could not be determined. The suppressor also makes an effective flash hider for night work. It is detachable and can be broken down for ease in cleaning.

The M-14 itself was unusual. Its barrel was made from a turned-down 7.62 coaxial machine gun barrel, which barely fit inside the hollow fiberglass foregrip. It then tapered down to the visible portion shown in the photograph. Due to the thick barrel, the weapon weighed over 25 pounds, making it quite steady for long bursts of full-auto fire.

Silenced or suppressor-equipped weapons are custom-made in Rhodesia for military or civilian use by a number of civilian armorers from the U.S. and United Kingdom.

IPSC President Jeff Cooper and the author had an opportunity to testfire the AKM, the follow-on weapon to the famous — or infamous, depending on your point of view — AK-47. First introduced in the Soviet Union in 1959, the AKM was actually an improved version of the AK-47 and is now finding its way into the hands of various revolutionary and insurgent groups around the world. This particular AKM was captured from



IPSC President Jeff Cooper tries his hand with suppressor-equipped M-14. Cooper is using special prone position for bipod-mounted weapons.

terrorists who crossed the border from Mozambique, where they had received training and supplies from the Russians and Cubans.

The AKM differs from the AK-47 in that it is lighter, has a straight stock for improved full-auto control, and is said to be more reliable. We found it easy to control on full-auto and were able to keep all the rounds fired, usually in eight to 12-round bursts, in a human-sized area at 100 yards. We noted no jams or misfires, and magazine changes were quick and positive. It had an unusual yet simple night-sighting device, consisting of a luminescent vertical line

painted on the rear sight and a front sight addition which included a small steel peg that slid on curved rails from the top of the barrel to the top of the "day" front sight. The back of the peg, facing the shooter, was also luminescent, creating a dot to line up on top of the vertical line on the rear sight.

Although the front sight peg popped up to cover the day front sight several times during firing, a little bending of the wire guides would have solved that particular problem. We were impressed with the cheap — about \$1.25 worth of materials — yet efficient night aiming device, which elicited a number of "Why

didn't I think of that?" comments. Not a few of us can testify to the need for simple night-aiming devices, having found ourselves firing blind during operations in pitch-dark conditions.

Although the U.S.S.R. is accused of producing simple, crude weaponry, the Russians frequently come up with cheap solutions to problems that more advanced Western armies choose to ignore.

U.S. shooter Tom Campbell appeared at the South African and Rhodesian matches with a holster designed in the Smith & Wesson factory for use in combat pistol matches and for general military and civilian use. The photos show that it is situated for quick access, yet out of the way of a slung rifle, backpack, or a hip-carried, hip-fired weapon. In addition, its location on the individual's lower chest is excellent for vehicular use.

Tom, an employee in Smith & Wesson's Research and Development Department, is a member of the Army National Guard, for which he does combat pistol training and engages in combat pistol competition. Combining the Army's need for an effective yet out-of-the-way pistol rig with his own interest in practical pistol competition, he came up with this unusually designed holster. The safety strap, shown attached in the photo, is optional. Thanks to a molded fiberglass trigger guard retainer backed by a metal plate, also shown in the photo, the firearm is securely held without the safety strap, as Tom demonstrated throughout the matches. The holster passed all the IPSC tests for function without the safety strap.

Using this rig, Tom captured fourth place in the South African National Championships, and he finished fifth in the World Championships, undoubtedly pleasing his sponsor, the Army National Guard. Since Smith & Wesson hasn't decided whether or not to market the rig, interested readers should write S&W, 2100 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA 01101.

Rhodesian trooper fires heavy barreled, suppressed M-14 on full auto. Note fired cases in air, lack of barrel rise.





Cooper test fires Eastern European AKM captured from terrorists coming into Rhodesia from Mozambique. Cooper liked the weapon's simplicity and ease of maintenance but was heard to complain that it wasn't offered in .45 ACP.



S&W rep Tom Campbell designed this rig for combat shooters and military personnel. Effective in a vehicle, while wearing a backpack or while carrying a rifle, it is still in the prototype stage.



Photo shows form-fit, optional safety strap on Campbell's holster. Safety strap is not needed, since tight fit and special fiberglass trigger guard hold weapon during violent maneuvers. Tom used this rig without safety strap during entire South African and Rhodesian pistol matches.



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Refugee Update: THEY NEED YOUR HELP

It has been more than two years since the fall of Indochina to the Communists and news about the people of the area has tended to recede from the American news media. We hear little about the concentration camps in Vietnam where over 100,000 people who were foolish enough to believe in America's commitment to a free Indochina are still being "re-educated." Nor is there much interest in recounting the evidence of the genocidal policies which the Khmer Rouge are still pursuing in Cambodia. So we should not be surprised that there has been little or no mention of the fact that since last October North Vietnamese troops in support of the Pathet Lao have been massacring the hill tribespeople of Laos, causing thousands to flee for their lives into Thailand.

During the past two months, there have been almost daily accounts in the Thai press, concerning the killing of Meo, Yao, and other tribespeople by Vietnamese and Laotian Communist forces. In an article appearing in the *Bangkok Post* (December 7), for example, it was reported that "high-ranking Thai intelligence sources" had confirmed that "Lao and Vietnamese troops have already captured seven Meo strongholds and are advancing on the remnants in a powerful pincer movement." Refugees were re-

ported to have stated that more than 5,000 Meo soldiers had been killed in the recent Communist offensive and that 60,000 Meo tribesmen and 40,000 people from other tribes have been surrounded by enemy forces.

Under the constant pounding of Communist artillery, air strikes and tank fire, and assaults by an estimated 30,000 Communist infantry, the Meo command structure has reportedly disintegrated. Several eye witness accounts of atrocities have been reported: one refugee was quoted as saying that "Whenever Meos are captured, all males over 12 are killed and the rest taken away . . ."

Beginning in the early 1960s, the Meo tribesmen were heavily supplied by the American CIA as part of U.S. military strategy in the area, but, with the ending of covert U.S. support in 1975, they have been fighting a valiant but losing battle to stave off domination by the Pathet Lao and the Vietnamese Communists. While remnants of the once-proud Meo and other tribal people of Laos have been streaming into Thailand as refugees, there have been persistent but as yet unconfirmed reports that Vietnamese civilians have been brought in to settle on their tribal lands.

The response of the U.S. government to these developments has been a deafen-

ing silence. The Carter Administration which has been so forthright in expressing its concern for "human rights" in South Africa has so far not seen fit to make an issue over the violation of human rights in Indochina: To date there has been no public outcry by President Carter or his ambassador to the United Nations, concerning the genocidal policies which the Khmer Rouge have been following in Cambodia for more than two years. Nor has there been any public complaint about the genocidal policies which the Vietnamese and Laotian Communists have initiated against the Meo and other tribespeople of Laos.

The United States has not had diplomatic relations with Cambodia since the Communists took over that country in 1975, but it has managed to maintain relations with the Communist regime in Laos. At the same time that the Laotian government and its Vietnamese allies have launched their murderous campaign against the hilltribes of northern Laos, the United States finds itself in the ludicrous position of helping to finance a U.N. program to assist displaced Laos return to their homes in other parts of the country!

Approximately 6,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian "boat people" have found at least a temporary safe haven in the ports of Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and the Phillipines, but because of its proximity to Indochina, Thailand has been the initial destination of by far the greatest number of refugees, particularly those from Laos. Though more than 50,000 refugees have been taken out of Thailand and resettled in third countries since 1975, the refugee influx has been so great that Thailand still has more than 97,000 refugees in 15 camps within its territory. This includes over 80,000 refugees from Laos (approximately 30,000 Laos and 50,000 tribespeople who are predominantly Meo), about 15,000 from Cambodia, and some 2,000 from Vietnam. A breakdown of refugee statistics as of 30 November 1977, released by the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, accompanies this article. UNHCR has assumed responsibility for the Indochinese refugees in Thailand and other countries, providing them a "temporary" refuge.

SOF correspondent David Harris interviews "boat people" refugees from Cambodia at the Lam Sing camp in southern Chanthaburi, Thailand.



During the past 2½ years, the United States has welcomed more than 165,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. This is far more than the number of Indochinese received by any other country (France, the second most important place of refuge, has taken only about 30,000); and it marks the greatest influx of war refugees in American history.

According to a recent report in the *Christian Science Monitor*:

Fully 86 percent of the [Indochinese] refugee households [in the U.S.A.] receive some wage or salary income while 34 percent of the families collect supplemental cash assistance, chiefly because of underemployment in low-paying jobs. Only 17 percent are totally dependent on welfare.

While Americans can take justifiable pride in their reception of these victims of Communist tyranny and in the remarkably smooth absorption of the refugees into American life, it must be noted that the U.S. government has been moving very slowly in helping the Thais resolve their growing refugee problem. Not only does the Carter Administration want other nations to shoulder a great deal more of the refugee burden, but it also appears to hold the view that a larger U.S. refugee immigration quota might itself encourage Indochinese to leave their homelands who otherwise might not do so.

It was announced that any person entering Thailand after November 15 would be prosecuted as an "illegal immigrant" unless he could prove he was truly a refugee and had not fled his country merely for "economic reasons" or "other reasons of personal convenience." Several hundred of the thousands of people who entered the country after the cut-off date have been placed in "detention centers" where their lot is even more miserable than it would have been in the crowded camps for "displaced persons" (the term the Thais use to describe bona fide refugees).



Cambodian refugees who recently arrived at the Aranyaprathet Refugee Camp in Thailand. Their expressions belie the trauma they have suffered.

In a move which may or may not have been related to the Thai displeasure with the rate of refugee departures, the Ministry of Interior announced on December 2 that it was revoking the Thai nationality of some 4,000 children born out of wedlock to Thai mothers and American G.I. fathers. In the wake of strong representations from the U.S. Embassy and private American agencies such as the Pearl S. Buck Foundation which provides care for many such children, the Ministry reversed its decision a week later.

In a recent White Paper on the refugee situation, the Thai government has recognized the possibility of permitting "some" of the refugees to settle permanently in Thailand after "the number of displaced persons is substantially reduced." The UNHCR has also been discussing with the Thais a proposal to gain international support for an "integrated rural development program" in selected areas of Thailand where large numbers of refugees might be settled not only to their own benefit, but to the benefit of local Thais and Thailand's economy as well. Such a program would be far more likely to attract international financial aid than the current policy of keeping the refugees on a dole.

By law the U.S. government can allow entry through normal immigration channels to only 10,200 immigrants from the

eastern hemisphere each year. Last summer, the Carter Administration requested and received from Congress authorization for a special emergency quota of 15,000 which was used for the benefit of some 7,000 Vietnamese "boat people" and 8,000 other refugees, mostly Laos in Thailand. Owing to the delay in finding private American sponsors, several hundred of these refugees are still languishing in two "transit centers" which have been established in Bangkok.

Alarmed by the rapidly increasing flow of "boat people" from Vietnam, the U.S. State Department in November requested Attorney General Bell to use his "parole authority" as an emergency measure to permit entry for an additional 10,000 refugees. The request was later reduced to 7,000 because the Administration reportedly only had funds to handle the admission of that number and was reluctant to ask Congress for more money. A State Department spokesman indicated, however, that "We are going to be talking to the Congress in January about a long-term policy on refugees and we hope that we will get an agreement on solving the problem of these people who are fleeing their countries..."

The slow pace of the resettlement of refugees from Thailand in the United States and other countries is revealed by UNHCR statistics of refugee de-

Receiving Country	Vietnamese	Cambodians	Laotians (including tribes-people)	TOTAL
France	3,166	8,012	12,138	23,316
U.S.A.	5,706	4,947	10,686	21,339
Australia	643	306	597	1,546
Malaysia		1,400 ¹		1,400
Canada	300	240	3	543
West Germany	399		10	409
Norway	209		1	210
New Zealand	181	16		197
Belgium	52	34	63	150
Austria	29	104	5	138
U.K.	56	3	45	104
Other	200	25	7	232
TOTAL	10,942	15,077	23,555	49,574

1. Muslim Chams

- "Boat people"
- Vietnamese residents of Laos
- Predominantly Meo (Hmong), Yao and other tribespeople
- Ethnic Laos
- Includes 15,955 Laos, 5,640 Meos, 880 Thai Dan and 747 Thai Nung refugees
- Does not include 76 Vietnamese "boat people" in other camps or the Viet namese from Laos at Sikew

INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

DISTRICT	PROVINCE	FROM VIETNAM	FROM CAMBODIA	FROM LAOS
Songkla	Songkla	797 ¹	15 ¹	
Lam Sing	Chanthaburi	937 ¹	228 ¹	
Sikew	Nakhon Rajchasisima			1,990 ²
Prasart	Surin		4,998	
Aranyaprathet	Prachinburi		7,036	
Kum Put	Chanthaburi		2,120	
Klong Yai	Trat		560	
Chieng Khong	Chieng Rai			5,237 ³
Chieng Kham	Chieng Rai			2,890
Nam Yao	Nan			13,700 ³
Sob-Tuang	Nan			9,370
Fak-Tha	Uttaradit			1,650 ³
Park-Chom	Loei			12,155 ³
Ubonratch Athani				9,991 ⁴
Nong Khai				23,222 ⁵
		1,734⁶	14,957	80,205

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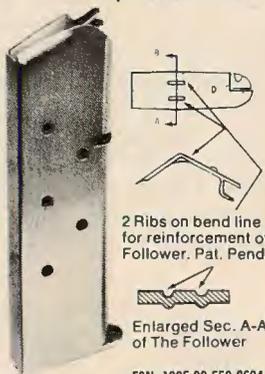
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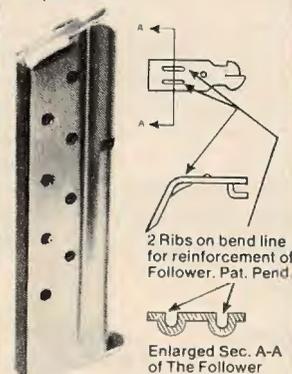
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No: 7 Clip Steel body, Black Finish, with Patent Pending Follower, made from Stainless Steel and hardened to R/C 42.	= 7-.45	\$ 6.00	= 7-.38	\$ 8.00
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partures from Thailand since 1975—up to 30 November 1977 (see box).

While various purchases of goods and materials made on behalf of the refugees by the UNHCR and private relief agencies, as well as the purchases made by the refugees themselves, have undoubtedly had a beneficial effect on the economies of remote rural areas of Thailand, Thai officials tend to speak of the overall refugee problem as causing an intolerable drain of their country's resources. In addition, the current attempt by the North Vietnamese to consolidate their control over northern Laos has awakened ancient fears and enmity among the Thais; the continued presence of Vietnamese refugees in Thailand, including some 50,000 who fled from the Indochina War in 1945, has been regarded by many Thais as posing a serious threat to their country's internal security.

Rightly or wrongly, the Thais accuse the United States of renegeing on what they regard as a "commitment" to take a significant number of the refugees—especially the Vietnamese—out of Thailand as rapidly as possible. Since October when the Thais stopped at least five incoming boats from Vietnam, provided them with fuel and food, and towed them back to sea, the Thais have engaged in a not-too-subtle campaign to restrict the influx of refugees and put pressure on the United States and other countries to take the refugees at a much faster rate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Write to President Carter and urge him to speak out against the Communists' violations of the human rights of the people of Indochina, particularly the Cambodians and the hilltribes of Laos.

2. Write your U.S. Senator and Representative and share your views as to what can be done to alleviate the suffering of the Indochinese refugees in Thailand and other countries.

3. Encourage civic and religious organizations to sponsor a refugee family. For information on how a sponsorship can be arranged, contact the American Council for Nationality Services, 20 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018 (telephone: 1-212-279-2715). For other information concerning the refugees, telephone the toll-free HEW Refugee Task Force "hot line": 1-800-424-0212.

4. Encourage your friends to join you in sending donations to any of the highly reputable private voluntary agencies which are currently providing humanitarian assistance to the Indochinese refugees in Thailand and other countries. A current listing of the agencies operating in Thailand, along with the addresses of their international headquarters and a brief description of their activities follows:

Christian & Missionary Alliance, P.O. Box C, Nyack, N.Y. 10960 U.S.A. (Provides food, medicine and other relief assistance primarily to the Lao, Meo

and Yao refugees in the camps in Nan, Loei, Nong Khai and Cambodian refugees in Praesert. Also sponsors a hilltribe refugee handicraft sales project.)

Catholic Council of Thailand, 2 Soi Saensuk, Prachasongkroh Rd., Bangkok, Thailand. (Provides food and other emergency relief assistance and sponsors educational and self-help projects mainly to the refugees in Nong Khai, Nan, Kum Put, Klong-yai, Lam Sing, Praesert Sikew, Songkla and Bangkok.)

Finnish Free Foreign Mission, FFFM, Kaunokkitie 28 Vantaa 30, Finland. (Provides clothing, blankets, medical supplies and other emergency relief and sponsors agricultural and vocational training primarily to the Meo and Yao refugees in Loei.)

Food for the Hungry, Inc., 1109 S. Central, Glendale, California 90041 U.S.A. (Provides food and sponsors self-help projects mainly for the Lao refugees in Ubonratch Athani.)

International Rescue Committee, 386 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., U.S.A. (Provides emergency medical services for refugees in Nong Khai, Nam Yao and Aranyaprathet; plans to sponsor training programs in public health and paramedical skills.)

Norwegian Refugee Council / Church Relief Prof. Dahls gate 1, N-Oslo 3, Norway or Underhaugsveien

15, N-Oslo 3, Norway. (Provides medical equipment and supplies primarily for the refugees in Klong-Yai, Kum Put, Lam Sing, Aranyaprathet, Loei, and Nong Khai.)

Overseas Missionary Fellowship, 2 Cluny Road, Singapore 10. (Provides clothing to refugees in transit to third countries and supplies clothing, rice and medical supplies to the Meo and Yao refugees in the northern camps.)

Project Vietnam Orphans, 62 Busbridge Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QQ, Great Britain. (Provides clothing and medical supplies and sponsors child feeding and recreational programs and English language instruction for the Cambodian refugees in Aranyaprathet.)

Scandinavian Pentecostal Mission, Filadelfiafor-samlingen, Rorstransgatan, 5-7, S-100, 31 Stockholm, Sweden. (Provides food, clothing and shelter primarily for Vietnamese refugees in Songkla.)

Thailand Baptist Mission, 3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23230 U.S.A. (Sponsors child feeding and agricultural projects and provides counseling primarily for the Cambodian refugees in Kum Put and Klong-Yai and for the Vietnamese refugees at Lam Sing.)

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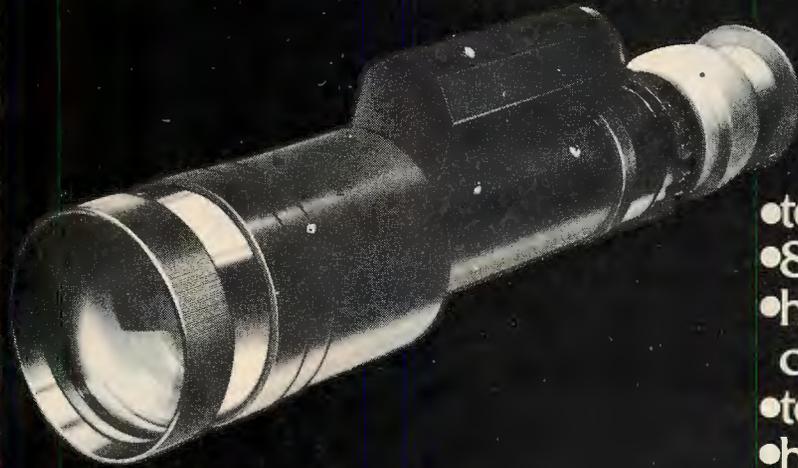
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Save the Children Fund, 157 Clapham Road, London SW 9 OPT, Great Britain. (Provides food, clothing, medical supplies and services for the Laotian hilltribe refugees in Chiang-Khong, Chiang-Kham, Loei, and Nong Khai and for the Cambodian refugees in Praesert and Ubonratch Athani.)

Tom Dooley Heritage, Inc. P.O. Box 1907, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. U.S.A. (Provides medical services and sponsors self-help agricultural and handicraft projects primarily for the Laotian hilltribe refugees in Nam Yao.)

World Vision Foundation, 919 West Huntington Drive, Monrovia, California 91016 U.S.A. (Provides emergency relief, clothing and educational, recreational and public health facilities; and sponsors agricultural and handicraft self-help projects primarily for the Laotian hilltribe and Lao refugees in Nam Yao, Chiang-Khong, Chiang-Kham, Mae Jarim and Nong Khai.)

Y.M.C.A. Bangkok, 37 Quai Wilson, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland or 27 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand. (Provides emergency relief, medical and agricultural services to various camps. Also serves as the secretariate of the Council of Voluntary Agencies in Thailand.)

Y.W.C.A. Bangkok, 37 Quai Wilson, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland or 13 Sathorn Tai Road, Bangkok, Thailand. (Sponsors vocational and handicraft training projects, recreational activities and Thai language instruction in various camps.)

Medecins Sans Frontieres, 11 rue Crozatier, 75012 Paris, France or Kanikar Court, 128 Soi Saladeng, Bangkok, Thailand. (Sponsors 6 French doctors and one nurse which provide medical services primarily for the refugees in Songkla, Aranyaprathet and Nam Yao.)

Friends for All Children, 445 South 68th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303 U.S.A. (Sponsors an orphanage and day care center in Bangkok; processes inter-country adoptions; and is currently considering implementation of a child welfare assistance program which would include refugee children.)

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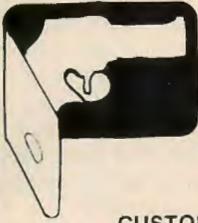
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Steele holds a master's degree in Police Science. He served as rifle and pistol instructor for the National Rifle Assoc., and as supervisor for the Police Weapons Center Project at the International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police. Steele, an accomplished fencer, has written several books on small arms.

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THAILAND

(continued from page 25)

U.S. — from whom Vietnam seeks to gain her most substantial financial loans and aid in the future.

What Vietnam probably does want, and what she is probably prepared to commit herself to, is a step-up in support, perhaps including a mixed bag of "volunteers" that will invigorate and accelerate the somewhat sluggish Thai insurgency to the extent of controlling or completely neutralizing the Thai government influence over its peripheral regions, particularly as much of the Mekong River basin as is possible. Other regional revolts may also be encouraged with the object of secession from the central Thai kingdom: the North where tribal tendencies are rampant; the Far South where Muslim rebels seek to set up on their own or merge with Malaysia; and the Mid-South where the most energetic and ferocious Thai insurgents threaten to sever the Kra Isthmus and cut the road and rail links to the South and to Malaysia and Singapore.

"... there is no reason why Thailand either unilaterally or in concert with ASEAN, should not make a reasonable accommodation with the Indo-China countries . . . in the not very likely event that they can be persuaded genuinely to cease or substantially reduce their active and material support for the Thai insurgents."

This is all very much a best-case scenario for Vietnam, and a worst-case one for Thailand, but it is unlikely now that the Thais will just sit around and allow it to happen. The lessons of Laos and Cambodia are still hard upon us and with the right sort of national leadership — which is now feasible — stronger national unity based upon voluntary popular participation is more than capable of keeping Communist insurgency in check. As for external threats, the military forces will have to be overhauled and reorganized, and steps are already underway to produce a limited defense capability; and here it must be emphasized that Thailand cannot be expected to stand on its own against an all-out invasion.

But matters should never come to this sorry pass, so long as the Thais can arrange a more equitable distribution of the national income, improved social mobility and, above all, learn once again

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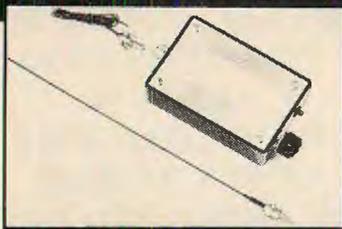
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their traditional diplomatic skills for which many interesting options and trade-offs are now available. By this, I do not mean that Thailand should play Vietnam off against ASEAN as King Mongkut did so successfully with the French and the British a hundred-odd years ago. But ASEAN nations would be prudent to accept the fact that Thailand is in the front line — the firing line — against the Communists, and that it would behoove them and consolidate their own security to render whatever economic and material assistance may be required from time to time to ensure that this line does not collapse. Moreover, there is no reason why Thailand, either unilaterally or in concert with ASEAN, should not make a reasonable accommodation with the Indo-China countries — even to the extent of providing economic aid and technical assistance — in the not very likely event that they can be persuaded genuinely to cease or substantially reduce their active and material support for the Thai insurgents. There are also the interesting possibilities of Chinese/Cambodian/Thai outflanking diplomatic maneuvers against the Russia/Vietnam/Laos axis, some of the groundwork for which has apparently already been laid in Peking.

In such diplomatic accommodations and maneuvers, niceties and preferences must often be laid aside for the pragmatic results to be obtained, but this does not mean that Thailand cannot become a full and loyal member of ASEAN. What it does mean, however, is that she must be allowed a greater degree of diplomatic flexibility than is afforded to other members of this association, by virtue of her much more dangerous position and unenviable role as ASEAN's security umbrella. It is unlikely that anyone will grudge this dispensation either.

I have spent a long time, I know, on the background and complexities of regional Communist power politics and the focus on Thailand, because this is where the major action currently lies. In turning to South-East Asia, my first proposition is that we are still generally embroiled in the struggle between the forces of Com-

munist and Nationalism. It is an area of new problems which past books or old diplomatic files have neither defined nor wrestled with; and these problems are faced by new leaders with new administrative organizations, and acting in the name of indigenous peoples who are actively and consciously involved in these problems for the first time. This is not a new dimension of an old world; it is a new world with a new focus.

Strategically, and using Stalin's classic definition of states as land and sea animals, Asian states are sea animals; and both Asia and Africa are as vulnerable to foreign naval power today as when Vasco da Gama found the "soft under-belly" of Asia nearly five centuries ago and outflanked Asia's land defenses, which only Alexander the Great had previously penetrated. Whether for peace or war, the last dimension of indigenous Asian power — the sea — is beginning to be developed.

Its focal position in Asia forms the global aspect of the problems of South-East Asia, 60 percent of whose total area is sea, 60 percent of whose population lives on islands, all of whose capital cities except Vientiane are accessible from the sea, and whose basic pattern of communications — to realize the wealth of its islands and peninsulas — must be by sea. It is thus literally the Gateway to Asia and, lying astride both the Indian and Pacific Oceans, no major Asian power can be disinterested in South-East Asia's control of Asia's major arterial highway running through the Straits of Malacca. It also constitutes a vital element in the global balance of power, and is a major flank in the struggle to fill the strategic vacuum created after the British withdrawal from the Indian Ocean in the early '70s.

In the face of these strategic problems and threats, and learning from the indigenous and imperial traditions of division, South-East Asia has graduated to regionalism both in membership and in the purposes of its regional organizations. This has been an empirical process — ranging through and around SEATO, the Association of South-East

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Asia States (ASA), the Asian Collective Security System sponsored by Russia, the Asian Pacific Council, Maphilindo, and ASEAN — and it is only over the past two years that ASEAN has really taken off, which owed not a little to the frightening effects of the Communist takeover of Indo-China in mid-1975.

Learning from European experience, South-East Asia does not want to be Balkanized, when its combined population of over 250,000,000 could give it the weight of a great power. Nor, after watching 30 years of war-clouds over Vietnam, does it wish to become the "Cockpit of Asia." Indeed, ASEAN has become the only hope in a world of dog-eat-dog. It already possesses considerable latent social, political, and economic advantages, quite apart from the threat to its collective security; but, to achieve a viable and lasting community, there must be obvious advantages for member states, in order for them to agree to joint sovereignty and to forgo national freedom of action. There must also be fair shares all round in industry and trade, and equitable customs agreements. Above all, an effective ASEAN must have forceful and dynamic direction, requiring someone of the caliber of Guy Monnet of the early European Community, with the freedom of action and the qualified staff to weld the association firmly together.

"Let us be sure of one thing . . . the Communists will never give up in their ceaseless struggle to gain world power."

Coming to the specific Communist threat to South-East Asia, looking back over the past generation one can divide the dialectical approaches and reverses into reasonably discrete five-year cycles, as follows.

1945 to 1949 — Post War Confusion and Rehabilitation. This was the period of the old colonial powers trying to re-assume their sovereignty, most of them

unsuccessfully. The Communists came to power in China and armed insurgency in the colonial territories became the Soviet-controlled Cominform (the re-named Comintern) policy at the end of this period.

1950 to 1954 — Armed Insurgency. This was the era of a general Communist military offensive in Asia. The insurgencies in Burma, Indonesia, Malaya, and the Philippines met with failure, however, and the Korean War ended in a stalemate. Only in North Vietnam was there a Communist victory (against the French), but this left Indo-China divided and unstable.

1955 to 1959 — Peaceful Co-existence. Their militant efforts having failed, the Communists produced the "Peace Dove" at Bandung in 1955, with the assistance of President Sukarno. But the spirit of "Panch Shila" (the Five Principles of Co-existence) agreed upon then did not last very long. This period also marked the end of the Russian-sponsored Cominform, regional Communist subversion becoming (temporarily until the Sino-Soviet split in the mid-60s) very much a Chinese prerogative.

1960 to 1964 — Indo-China Insurgency. The armed offensive was resumed in Vietnam and Laos during this period. It was marked by the failure of SEATO to deal with Communist aggression in Laos, and by the subsequent growth of the American involvement in both South Vietnam and Laos.

1965 to 1969 — The Vietnam War. This was the period of a determined but unsuccessful U.S. effort to pacify Vietnam, although it did not end in military victory or defeat for either side. The psychological effects of the 1968 Tet offensive on American public opinion and the consequent weakening of political will, however, did presage the eventual Communist triumph. The end of this period was also marked by resurgence of armed guerrilla activity in Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, with Russia re-entering the subversive field often in competition with the Chinese. In Indonesia, they miscalculated

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1970 to 1974 — American Disengagement. The Nixon Doctrine of 1969 (the Guam announcement) made it clear that the U.S. was to withdraw physically from the South-East Asian Peninsula. Despite the 1973 Paris Accords on cease-fire, the Communists took every advantage of a demoralized adversary to consolidate their position in both South Vietnam and Laos; and the end of this period saw them poised for takeover.

1975 Onwards — Communist Victory and the Post-Colonial Era. 1975 was a hectic year marked by Communist conquests throughout Indo-China, although these successes intrinsically were only a rationalization of a political and military reality which had been artificially denied for 20 or more years through external support. In the flush of victory, however, the Communists allowed themselves considerable excesses, including perhaps the worst genocide of history in Cambodia, causing a continuing refugee exodus, which brought revulsion throughout the civilized world and considerable fear, and led to positive collective security efforts in the rest of South-East Asia. U.S. forces were compelled to leave Thailand, ostensibly as a result of left-wing agitation, but the Americans were clearly relieved to vacate this troublesome part of the Asian mainland which they had entered against all their previous political precepts and strategic priorities.

Thus, South-East Asia was freed militarily from foreign, colonial, or imperialist influence for the first time in nearly 600 years, and it now remains to be seen if Professor Toynbee's dictum of the early '50s that "South-East Asia would be better off left alone" (by which he was referring to the physical withdrawal of external forces) will be valid or not.

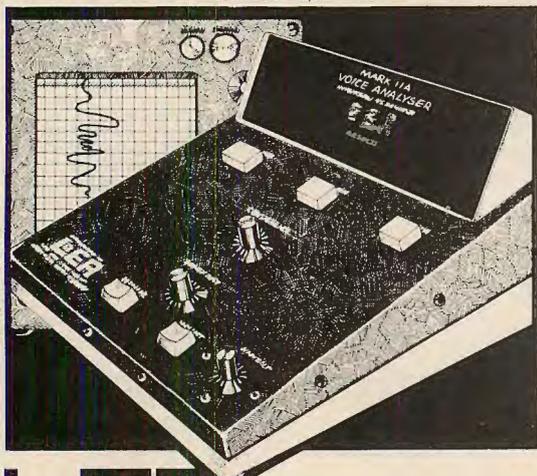
"... the basic trend of the Communist threat in this region will be focused on the competition between Indo-Chinese Communist countries on the one hand and the ASEAN countries on the other, with Russia and China supporting either side as it suits them."

Let us be sure of one thing, however — that the Communists will never give up in their ceaseless struggle to gain world power. They already have a strong foothold in this Peninsula and will seek in every way possible to extend it. Their activities in the near future will probably center around subversion and United Front tactics — since early October we

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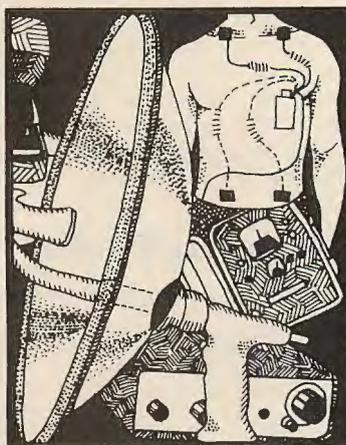
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have had a new one in Thailand called The Committee for the Coordination of Patriotic and Democracy-Loving Forces — and armed insurgency is likely to be carried out in this country only, unless the Communists achieve rapid and unexpected successes in their political campaigns elsewhere in South-East Asia. And also I believe that the basic trend of the Communist threat in this region will be focused on the competition between Indo-Chinese Communist countries on the one hand and the ASEAN countries on the other, with Russia and China supporting either side as it suits them. In this competition, I have no doubt whatsoever that Communist infiltration and subversion from Indo-China will be actively pursued in an attempt to undermine ASEAN. To combat them successfully, one first has to understand the complexity of their tactics, and it will require all the intellectual, moral, and physical resources that the ASEAN nations can muster — both individually and collectively — in a continuing requirement that will probably stretch beyond the lifetimes of all of us here today.

In Thailand, I believe that the major emphasis should be placed on two major socio-economic, political, and social programs. The first is a village voluntary self-development and protection system, called Aw Paw Paw for short, which has now been successfully launched after several years of trial and error. The second program, which has yet to start, is what I call a People/Civil/Police/Military, of P/CPM system, which is to integrate the efforts of the people with those of government forces and agencies. Overall, I am convinced that these two programs constitute a winning strategy against Communist insurgents, which is to beat them at their own game by uniting and solidifying the people behind the country and the Government. To this end, we must involve the rural people in their own village government, village defense, and village development, within a framework of local security provided by paramilitary forces, and backed up by the regular forces of the country when necessary. In this way, we can prevent any question of a successful "People's War," and can then add "Government Victory" to "The Post-Colonial Era" when describing the current five-year cycle of the Communist International in South-East Asia. How nice that would be!

In conclusion, the process of solving the problems of nation-building, collective security, and regional cooperation would be long and difficult enough, even if South-East Asia were left alone. But, with the continental and ocean pressures of the great powers converging on this area, the difficulties are increased. International, regional, and national problems overlap. Here the world is on trial.



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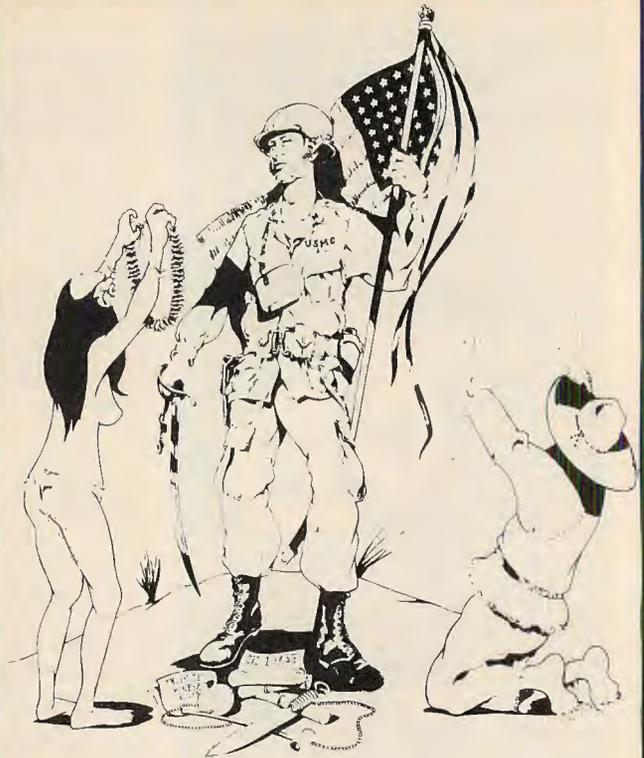
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STEELE ON KNIVES

(continued from page 15)

the Randall Model 18 were probably the two most admired knives in Vietnam. Recently Al Mar, Gerber's chief designer, used his Mark II to bag a trophy boar on a "hawg wrasslin" trip with Clyde Fisher in Texas. When it comes to sticking, any of the Mark II models you mention will do the job.

PS. It is important to have the right weapon at the right time. This calls for advance planning. For example, the other day I was driving through East Los Angeles. I saw a young Mexican knock a girl into the street, her purse falling beside her. I pulled off and searched my car for a weapon. All I found was a Bianchi sap. I got out and walked up to the guy, but as I did so I realized that the girl knew him, that this was what might be termed a "domestic quarrel." In such situations the girl will rarely press charges or even testify, and whoever interferes can get

left in the cold. My priority changed to simply keeping the guy under control until the girl had a chance to get away (any solution in such a situation can be only temporary). I got in front of him, held him back with my left hand. I held the blackjack in my right hand behind me in such a way that he could see it and know that if he pushed past my left hand he would get the sap from above or below. I told the girl to pick up her purse and go home. I kept him talking until she had a chance to get away, then I let him go.

As it turned out, the blackjack was the perfect weapon under the circumstances (inconspicuous to bystanders, conspicuous to the subject, and appropriate for use on an unarmed assailant), but if the Mexican had turned out to be armed or if a crowd had gathered the sap would have hardly been enough. It is good to have a gun in reserve if you are forced to make an arrest in such a situation.

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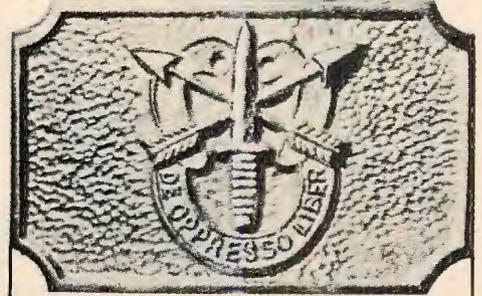
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HAITIAN CONNECTION...

(continued from page 34)

Havana. Low-level flying would preclude detection. They could hole up in the hotel across from the presidential palace, smuggling in high-powered rifles with night scopes. When Castro came or left, they'd have their chance.

"What about a bombing mission?" the big man asked.

Ed thought for a moment.

"You never know when Castro's there. Men can wait. Planes can't."

The big man nodded.

"And you've got the problem of getting the planes out. The government's coming down heavy on just our boats. It'd be a miracle to get bombers outta the country."

"It won't be a problem," the big man said confidently.

"Then use 'em. Bomb the hell out of the place if you want to. That'd be fine. But make sure you've got a couple guys there to handle the situation. Get a couple of good marksmen in there. Let them take care of Castro. They've got the best chance."

"Can you handle the whole show?"

"I've got some contacts. It might be arranged."

A telephone rang and one of the big man's associates strode across the room to answer it.

THE MOB CALLS IN

"It's Chicago." The big man excused himself and went to the telephone.

"Yes," he said into the receiver.

"Yes. \$90,000. Yes. It's taken care of. That's no problem."

He returned to his chair across from Ed Arthur.

"Then we have a deal."

Ed's mind was racing. Something didn't fit. Chicago. \$90,000. It bothered him. He was anxious to leave.

"Agreed?" the big man asked. He was pressing.

Ed looked up.

"I'll have to check some things out. I'll think it over. I'll get back to you."

The big man stood, shook hands with Ed Arthur and Sam Benton, then drew Benton aside. They talked briefly, in muted voices, and Benton joined Arthur in the foyer.

The two left together in Benton's car.

Eddie Lombardo was sitting in the hotel room when Ed entered.

"Glad to see you made it. What went down?"

Ed recounted his meeting.

"So, you don't want to kill Castro,"

"Not for the fuckin' mob!" Ed belatedly. "Jeezuz K-ris!"

"Not even for Sammy Benton?"

"Not even for Sammy Benton," Ed mimicked.

"You know something? I never trusted that bastard." Eddie wore a satisfied grin.

"You think I did?" Ed asked.

"So who's the big boss?"

"He wasn't big on introductions."

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Ed would not identify the man who tried to recruit him for the Castro hit until nearly 14 years later. In April 1977, he identified Michael McLaney from a photograph as the man Benton had taken him to meet. The photo was shown to Ed by Dan Christensen, a free-lance investigative reporter for a Miami magazine, who was doing in-depth research on the subject.

McLaney owns the only casino in Haiti and once operated a casino in Havana.

Ed put the Castro hit offer out of his mind and concentrated on his duties as chief of security for Benoit and intelligence officer for Commandos L.

There were increasing reports of Ton Ton Macoute activities in the Miami area. Oscar DeTuya, director of Commandos L, had also reported a security breach might have allowed Castro's agents to learn of the Benoit-Arthur alliance. DeTuya warned that Castro's intelligence agents could also be on Benoit's trail.

Benoit was moved from his downtown Miami hotel to the Mount Vernon Hotel, a ramshackle hostelry on Miami Beach. Ed Arthur and Eddie Lombardo remained as his security guards.

PROBLEMS OF SECURITY

But Benoit was becoming hot to handle.

In early October 1963, a crime syndicate contract was placed on Clement Benoit's life. Crime syndicate sources have indicated the contract was in the amount of \$10,000 but could not say who had ordered it. Or why.

Ed Arthur and Eddie Lombardo kept Benoit under wraps — scrounging for food when funding for the security operation was cut off.

The days dragged on, with Ed Arthur and Eddie Lombardo sticking closely to Benoit.

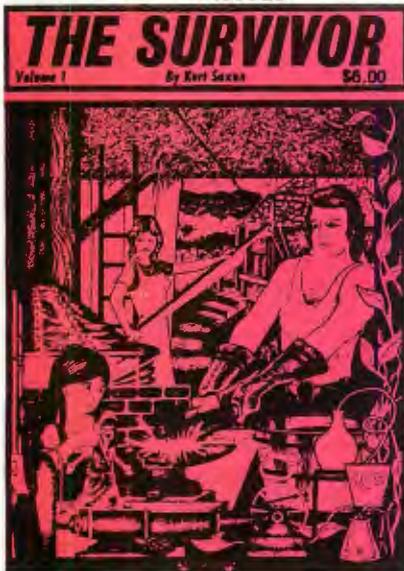
Ed Arthur and the Haitian expatriate spent many long evenings plotting the invasion of Haiti.

Under their plan, a force of about 200 highly trained men — deployed in a pincer movement from perpendicular landing sites and armed with light and heavy weapons — could secure the country in 90 days. The plan called for a swift, mobile force and limited air support. It also counted on an internal uprising against Duvalier.

Landing sites were discussed at length. The final plan called for one unit to land on the north coast of Haiti at a large, sandy beach. The second force would be

(continued on page 78)

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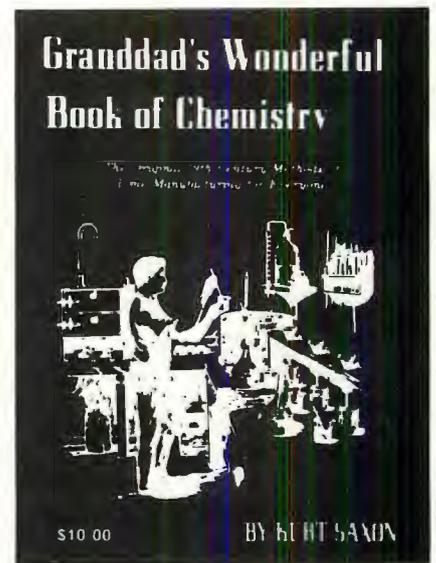


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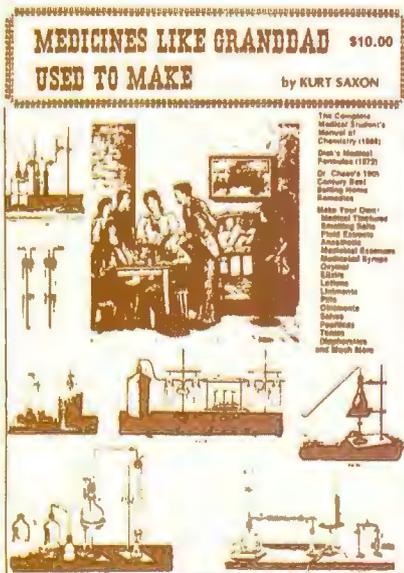
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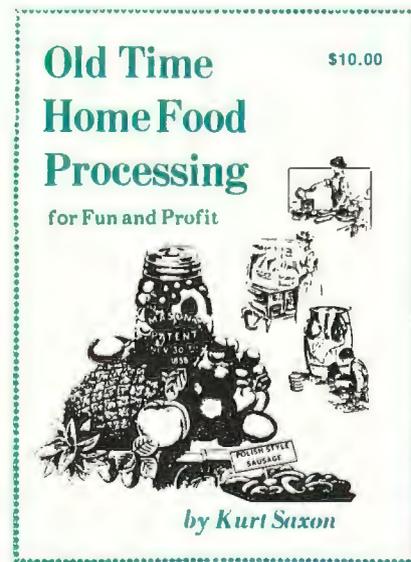
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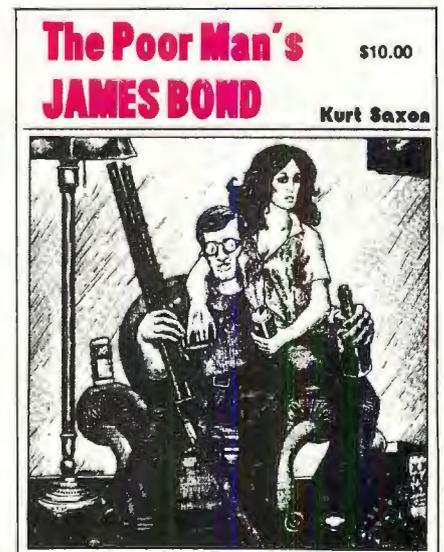
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(continued from page 76)

pinpointed for a similar, unprotected beachhead at a peninsula on the windward passage.

The prospects of a Haitian alliance had brought new momentum to the Cuban exile cause — faltering under the heavy burden of government surveillance and restriction.

But that momentum was lost in late November.

Ed Arthur had been attending a movie on the afternoon of November 22. He stopped at a nearby bar for a beer and learned John F. Kennedy had been assassinated.

His thoughts immediately went to the effect it would have on the exile movement. He reflected for only a few seconds. Whatever the effect, he concluded, it couldn't be good.

He telephoned Oscar DeTuya immediately.

"Sonafabitch! Some fucker killed the goddamn president!"

There was shock still evident in Ed's voice.

"I heard. I wasn't surprised."

"What the fuck do you mean. I'm talkin' about the fuckin' President of the fuckin' United States. The whole fuckin' ball of wax. The fucker bought the farm, man."

"Castro finally got 'im."

"Whatta hella you mean."

Oscar's voice was calm.

He said a Cuban army captain who had served as an aide de camp to Castro's headquarters had defected about a month earlier and was interrogated by Comandos L in Miami.

"He told us Castro would get Kennedy," Oscar said. "He said he heard Castro say he'd live to see the day he'd piss on Kennedy's grave!"

They discussed the possible effects of the assassination on the movement. Both felt that if Castro did have something to do with it and the American people learned of his role, they would "demand Castro's head on a platter" and that the U.S. government would have to make a move.

There was little immediate effect on the movement, though Ed thought he noted some cooling of activity — as if time were being allowed to feel out the policies of the new administration of Lyndon B. Johnson.

But Ed Arthur didn't have much time for administration-watching.

In early December, he received a telephone call from an informant who said he wanted to discuss an urgent matter. They met in a restaurant in Little Havana a few hours later.

CASTRO MAKES A MOVE

The informant seemed anxious. "Castro has sent someone for you," he told Ed. "For you and Benoit."
"When?"

"It's been at least a day. He asked for you at the old hotel."

The informant could not identify the would-be assassin. Nor could he give any details as to his movements.

Ed returned to the hotel and discussed the matter with Benoit and Eddie Lombardo. It was decided Benoit should be taken out of the area — to Columbus, Ohio.

Ed made arrangements with Napoleon Bell, a Columbus attorney and NAACP leader, for Benoit's stay in Columbus.

The following afternoon — December 5, 1963 — Ed and Benoit left Miami for Columbus, leaving Eddie Lombardo at the airport.

Ed wired ahead to Columbus police to confirm arrangements for police protection for Benoit. The initial arrangements had been made by Napoleon Bell.

Arthur and Benoit were greeted by a detail of detectives at the airport and escorted to the Deshler-Hilton, where they were met by Bell.

In Miami, things were heating up.

On December 6, a Cuban had shown up in the lobby of the Mount Vernon Hotel, asking for Ed Arthur. He was directed by a Cuban underground agent to a cafe in Little Havana.

A few hours later, the Cuban was at the cafe, meeting with a member of the exiles' intelligence unit.

The newcomer explained he had a small band of guerrilla fighters — already armed — interested in joining forces in the Haiti invasion and had extra weapons for Arthur's troops.

He was told Arthur and Benoit were in the Florida Keys training their invasion forces. Arrangements were made to take him to the island the next night to meet Arthur.

He arrived at a small marina outside Miami at the appointed time the following night — bringing along a good faith offering of half a dozen machine pistols — a veritable treasure for the ill-equipped exiles.

His two guides loaded their visitor and his welcome guns aboard the small, inboard boat and cast off.

The boat quietly moved out to sea, bobbing over the chops.

They were about three miles out to sea when one of the guides headed aft to check out a strange noise in the motor. As soon as he passed their passenger, he pulled a small-but-heavy bag of sand from beside the engine housing and swung it mightily. The blow fell squarely across the base of their passenger's skull.

CASTRO'S MAN SINKS

The two exile soldiers lifted the limp body and heaved it over the side, then turned the boat in a wide arc, one of them steering while the other ladled chum from the stern.

They returned to the empty marina — alone — at around midnight.

Ed Arthur's plan had been to keep Benoit in Columbus for several weeks, but Benoit balked. He wanted to return to Miami immediately.

On December 8, Arthur phoned Oscar DeTuya and was told it was safe. He and Clement Benoit returned the following day and again set up housekeeping at the Mount Vernon.

A short time later newspaper reports began to surface about the fate of Benoit's Haitians. After his departure from Nassau, his followers had been rounded up like cattle and loaded in boats bound for Port au Prince. Now Duvalier was having his revenge.

BENOIT'S ANGUISH

Though Benoit had suspected — even sensed — that some of his followers would meet death, he said he had never even considered that Duvalier's vengeance could be so all-encompassing. Hundreds had been slain. More were being tortured and killed every day. Benoit was in tears.

The exile army he had envisioned as the saving force of his people had been decimated before it could ever fight.

Despondent, Benoit decided to leave Miami for New York, hoping, half-heartedly, to work out new plans for the liberation of Haiti.

Ed Arthur saw him to the airport, reassuring him that Commandos L would fight to free his country and that the Cuban exiles would not desert Haiti — that it was important to them as a base of operations.

But Benoit did not seem convinced.

Even Ed Arthur was less than convinced.

In early January he received a new assignment — to seek out new bases of operations for the exiles.

Ed traveled to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, meeting with government and civilian leaders in hopes of finding a base for the still-burgeoning exile army — an army being hunted in the United States.

SUCCESS IN COSTA RICA?

He met with limited success in Costa Rica. Officials had told him they would condone — even welcome — such a base if he could find someone to provide the exiles with land on which to build it.

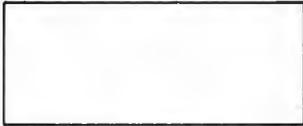
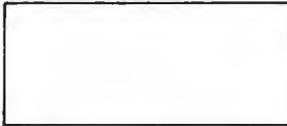
But Ed was having trouble finding land.

He set up a code system for further communications between the exile army in Florida and his Costa Rican contacts, then left the country for home.

His report to Oscar DeTuya was not encouraging. The permission was there — but he could not find the land. He wondered out loud whether the Costa Ricans

(continued on page 80)

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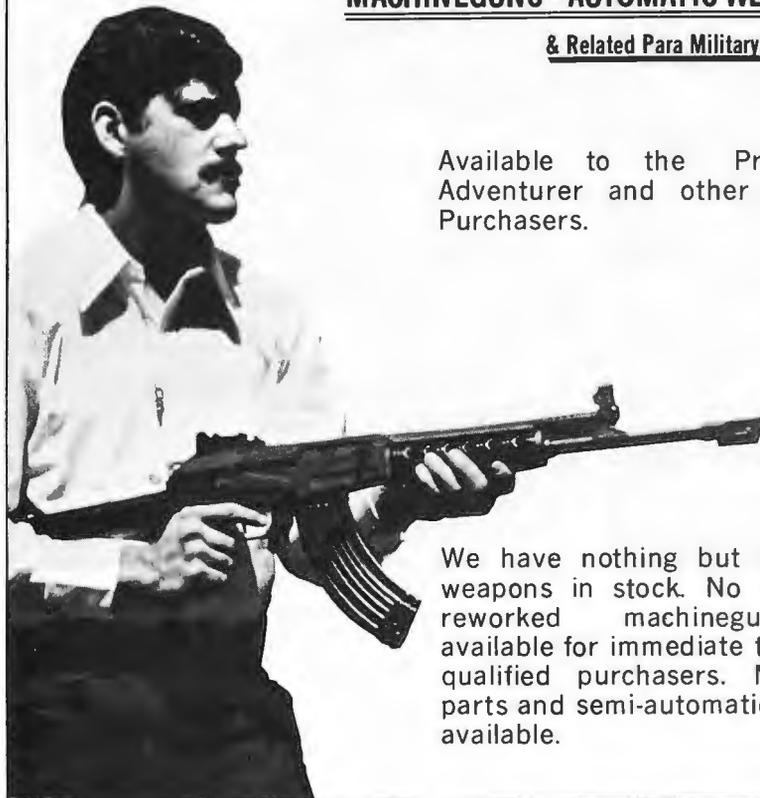
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(continued from page 79)

would have been so receptive to the idea if they had had an inkling he might be able to get land for the project. He rather doubted it.

With constant dogging by U.S. officials and the apparent waning of popular American support for the exile movement, exile operations were cooling.

Ed hit the trail in a desperate effort to drum up money and weapons. His gun-running missions took him to California and Missouri and netted tons of weapons and explosives. But constant raids by customs and ATF dried up exile supplies as fast as they could be procured.

FRIENDS FALL OUT

Tempers were getting short. There were fallings out among friends as all

tried to salvage their own sacred-cow projects.

At least three plans for an invasion of Haiti had been scuttled in the planning stages. Two other plans had gotten as far as troop training, but one was regarded as a fraud intended to make money for former Cuban senator Rolando Masferrer. Another was broken up by ATF almost unknowingly when a small but important cache of arms was confiscated while en route to the Florida Keys.

One other plan — in late 1966 — was right out of the movie *Network*. CBS had made arrangements to televise the invasion and had assigned production and camera crews to cover the whole thing — from training to the beachhead and as far as it went. The Cubans involved finally quit, claiming the operation banked on obsolete or substandard weapons and air support that didn't exist. But it wasn't the last that was heard.

CBS INVASION

One of the Cubans involved in the so-called CBS invasion made headlines when he sued CBS for \$1 million, charging CBS camera crews prevented medics from getting to him when he was shot in the foot during maneuvers. He saw cameramen insisting on filming him lying, in pain, on the ground.

By 1966, Ed had tired of the infighting and the fantastically conceived missions impossible.

In April 1966, he joined the Army again. In September 1966, he began the first of two tours in Vietnam. He was discharged from the Army in 1971, and was awarded disability compensation from the VA for wounds suffered in Vietnam. During that time he had won the Bronze Star, five air medals for valor and two purple hearts.

Some of his wartime activities were chronicled in the book *Nam* by Ulf Goebel.

Shortly after his discharge, Ed served as a deputy sheriff and undersheriff in Teller County, Colorado.

He returned to the Columbus, Ohio, area in 1972 and began working undercover on drug investigations for federal and local agencies.

His undercover work would eventually lead him into surveillance of recruiting of mercenaries for Angola.

UNDERCOVER AGENT

Ed's work with the FBI would eventually transform him into a sort of inter-agency counterspy — keeping the FBI abreast of what the CIA was doing.

But he learned too late that the FBI had little intention of action on the information. Time after time, he came up with information that could have closed down Angolan recruiting operations. Time after time, the FBI ignored it.

Had the FBI treated the information with anything more than total indifference, Danny Gearhart would not have been executed. He would not have been in Angola in the first place.

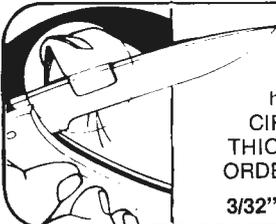
The second and final article in this series will deal with Angolan mercenary recruitment, the CIA's role in it and the FBI's efforts to help cover up the intelligence agency's illicit domestic operations.

It will track the mercenary recruitment from California to Luanda — from the enlistments to trial, sentencing, and execution.



The author is overnight editor of United Press International, midwest division, with headquarters in Chicago and encompassing 9 states. He joined UPI in 1970, after a year with the Chicago Tribune. He attended St. Joseph's College in East Chicago, Indiana.

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RHODESIA

(continued from page 37)

as an irregular soldier. His proper and acceptable target is his enemy's army. A "terrorist," on the other hand, is not a soldier but a murderer. He avoids the strong and kills the weak. His targets are chosen because they are unable to fight back. Those who commit the atrocities in Rhodesia are not guerrillas, they are terrorists. One can sometimes respect a guerrilla, ugly as his actions may be, but an honorable man can only despise a terrorist.

Awhile back the regular convoy between Fort Victoria and Beitbridge was attacked, and reported in U.S. newspapers as evidence that the *terrs* were taking over the countryside. I talked to a man who had been there. He said that when the group formed up—farmers, schoolteachers, tourists, etc.—the security chief explained that in the event of a contact all cars should maintain course and speed and that the machine guns in the guard cars would lay down suppressive fire. Well, the contact *did* occur. The bad guys opened up with AK-47s, RPDs, and rockets, which made the motorists very cross. To a car they stopped, dismounted, and sallied forth, brandishing such lethal weapons as .25 caliber auto pistols, fowling pieces, and screwdrivers. As the charge was pressed home, the machine gunners had to check fire in frustration as their targets became obscured by the backs of "little old ladies in tennis shoes." Happily no innocent party was killed or badly hurt. On the other hand, the would-be murderers got off more lightly than usual due to their inadvertent screening.

On another occasion the Zamboons (as Zambian soldiers are affectionately called in Rhodesia) opened fire with Soviet 122mm rockets from just north of the Caprivi Strip. It's narrow at that point and the missiles flew clear across into Botswana, filling the Botswanans with wild surmise. The fire was returned with enthusiasm while the men at the small Rhodesian post in between cheered and kept score.

These Russian rockets are pointed testimony to the loathsome nature of Soviet foreign policy. They are cheap, easy to use and transport, and entail slight risk of counter-battery since they are usually fired from trucks which depart hastily from the scene. They serve practically no military purpose, except in certain kinds of set-piece battles, yet they carry a large bursting charge and can kill a lot of people if they happen to land in the wrong place. Their use across borders manifests a sort of blind, hateful, inefficient cowardice that leads one to despair of the human race.

Evidently there is little or no discipline amongst the Zamboons. One gets the impression that they booze it up a good

deal, "screw their courage to the sticking point," and just let go across the river. This is how the two Canadian girls were killed a couple of years ago at Victoria Falls. This is why commercial and private aircraft sometimes land with holes in their wings. This accounts for the wildly inaccurate shelling of the resort town of Kariba while we were there—first flatly denied by the Zambian president, and then suddenly acclaimed by him as a great military achievement.

The scene would be rather comical if it were not so disgusting. People are killed to no conceivable purpose, and their killers are hailed in the U.N., supplied by the Russians, "trained" by the Chinese,



Ray Chapman, former IPSC World Champion, with camp mascot.

financed by the World Council of Churches, and encouraged by the U.S. State Department.

The kindest thing that one can say about the current U.S. policy on Rhodesia is that "we know not what we do." From another viewpoint, however, it is more suspect. Andrew Young cannot help being what he is, but he is a presidential appointee and may be removed at will by the president. To quote C.N. Bovee, "It is only an error of judgment to make a mistake, but it is a weakness of character to persist in it, once discovered."

The death toll stands, after five years, approximately thus: Uninvolved native tribesmen, 1600; Rhodesian soldiers (black and white), 400; Terrorists (ex-

cluding those who got away wounded to die later), 3900; and Miscellaneous, 100. This last category includes farmers, housewives, tourists, missionaries, and a pathetic number of children—mostly unarmed, non-combative, and defenseless. They died, if one can believe those responsible, for the cause of lowering the franchise from those with a high school education to those with no education at all. That would seem to stretch democratic fervor beyond its elastic limit.

It is tiresome to be asked, as I frequently am, if it is not "dangerous" to visit Rhodesia. One must be patient, of course, for most of what appears in the U.S. press does its best to "accentuate the negative." Certainly it is dangerous in Rhodesia. Not as dangerous as downtown Washington, D.C. after dark, nor the South Bronx in broad daylight, but there is a war on and wars are dangerous. Salisbury, the capital, is quite safe at any time of day—"mugging" is unknown—but out toward the frontier the terrorists will shoot if they think they can get away with it. One's personal feeling about such hazard, however, is totally different from what it is in East Los Angeles or South Boston. If one is attacked in a rural byway in Rhodesia, and one has the wit and skill to kill his attacker, the occasion is one for congratulations and drinks on the house. Contrarily, if one kills his assailant in Central Park he will wind up in handcuffs. Insecurity is much easier to accept if you are sure who is on what side. In Rhodesia you are sure. If he's got a curved magazine (AK-47), deck him!

It was amusing to read a small feature about our activities that appeared in the *L.A. Times* and some other papers. The writer said that many of us (participants in the World Practical Pistol Championships) planned to go hunting after the tournament in areas that we "hoped were free of terrorists." This puts it just backwards. There are no hunting areas that are free of terrorists. There is, however, a reward for terrorists. Currency restrictions being what they are, about the only way we could repay our hosts for their princely hospitality was to claim a reward and hand it back.

The area we played around in for two weeks lies between Kariba and Chirundu, on the northern frontier. The war has pretty well shut down hunting in those parts but the Game Department was kind enough to let us have a go.

Hunting in a combat zone is an odd experience, but it has a definite charm. "The Most Dangerous Game" and all that. You wear a pistol (if you know how to use it) and you sleep behind wire. You watch for mines—the ultimate dishonorable weapon—and you maintain contact with your support.

One thing you don't do is leave your weapons lying around unattended. A good many people find this injunction irk-

some, and even some who live there don't quite get it. On my first visit to the Kariba depot club I was asked to leave my weapons outside the bar—old British tradition—and, as a guest, I did so. I am always somewhat uneasy when I am not armed but one must not be rude. When we mentioned this episode to Brian, the chief of our escort, he flew into a fine, field-grade rage. "You keep your bleedin' rifle in your bleedin' hand! Don't let **anybody** tell you otherwise! Anybody, from God on down! Never put it down! Never! Etc. Etc. Etc.!" Good boy, Brian. Man after my own heart.

Our party made no visual contacts, though we saw a good deal of sign. We did run across two detachments of Selous Scouts—very excellent people. Only one recruit in 10 completes training in the Scouts, and those who do show the fierce pride that marks the cream of the profession of arms. They sing a good deal—I heard only Bantu songs—and though a very new organization they are forging a noble military tradition of racial brotherhood. Frederick Courteney Selous, the mighty hunter who prowled this land in the days of Stanley and Livingstone, would be very proud of them.

Hunting in the Zambezi Valley in 1977 is a yarn all its own, which I will not treat here. We very nearly filled our shopping list, but various pernicious U.S. regulations prevented any special interest in trophies. You can bring home a trophy taken in Botswana, but not one you bagged in Rhodesia. Makes one wonder what has happened to the world. It was certainly a happier and more sensible place when Hemingway wrote about it.

Suffice to say that I didn't shoot very much nor did I shoot anything very special, but every shot went exactly where intended—a point of satisfaction for a professional marksman.

At Chirundu Bridge I proposed that I go down amongst the shrubbery and wait for some specimen across the way to show his head. I was using a borrowed Remington BDL, in .308, that shot very well indeed. The proposal was rejected. Might cause an "incident." Evidently a 122 rocket from the north is **not** an incident, but a 200-grain Silvertip from the south might be. Well, it's their war, and I guess they know best how to run it.

You don't see much country in two weeks, but you do gather impressions.

One senses no slackening of will in Rhodesia, but there is a definite weariness after 12 years of sanctions, capped by the collapse of the Portuguese. In my opinion, the Rhodesian position is morally unassailable. They have developed a political system in which people of all races can live without oppression. Such injustices (i.e. segregated housing) as still exist are acknowledged and could be steadily reduced if only outsiders would quit trying to jam barefaced black supremacy down Rhodesian throats at the point of an AK-47.

The Rhodesians are tired of the war, tired of the boycott, and increasingly short of money, **but they will not bend to the lash.** They heed the words of Churchill, at Harrow, in 1941: "Never give in. Never, never, never, never! Never yield in any way, great or small, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force and the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. Never!"

If you wonder where the great spirit of the English has gone, it may have gone to Rhodesia.

Rhodesians can't travel anywhere now except to South Africa, since a Rhodesian passport will not get one past any other border control. This is why the next World Practical Shooting Championship will be held in South Africa. As David Westhought, reigning champion of the world, put it, "If we lose, our passports will be good anywhere. But if we lose, we will have no guns with which to compete." Naturally, private ownership of firearms would be forbidden in Zimbabwe. Nor, shortly, would there be any more game to hunt, if the other nations to the north can serve as examples.

On our way in from the northern frontier we stopped at the Armed Forces Canteen in Sinoia, where men in uniform are fed free by the ladies of the town. We hunters had been directed to wear camouflaged fatigue uniforms in the bush, and we were all armed, so we were naturally taken for soldiers. The experience was truly touching, reminiscent of "The Big Two" when I was a young officer and we all knew what side we were on. I thoughtlessly asked for a beer—Rhodesians are big beer drinkers—and was handed a glass of milk instead. (First glass of milk I have drunk since nineteen-ought-four. Not bad!) The hostess patted me on the shoulder and murmured, "Milk is good for fighting men." I got all choked up. I remembered the lines of Henley's "Invictus," memorized in the high schools of a better age:

"In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried
aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but **unbowed.**"



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(continued from page 9)

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COMMENT — THE RELOAD

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It is amazing that so many excellent marksmen lose matches because they fumble the reloading stage. They expend ammunition at an impressive rate, but relegate reloading practice to the status of a warm-up exercise before a combat match.

The mechanics of reloading should be practiced diligently. On those days when the weather keeps even the most ambitious shooter indoors, spend a couple of hours developing a smooth, quick reload. The key is economy of motion. With an automatic, you can save time by pushing the magazine release with your shooting hand while, at the same time, you reach for a fresh magazine with the other. Seat the magazine heel to toe and shove it home firmly with the heel of your left hand. With a revolver using speed loaders, positive motion and a delicate touch are of primary importance. I transfer the weapon to my left hand, hitting the cylinder latch with my right thumb and pushing the cylinder out with the middle two fingers of my left hand. I dump the empty rounds with the left hand while, at the same time, I reach for the speed loader with my right. A delicate touch will guide the cartridges into the cylinder quickly. Close the cylinder and you're ready to fire.

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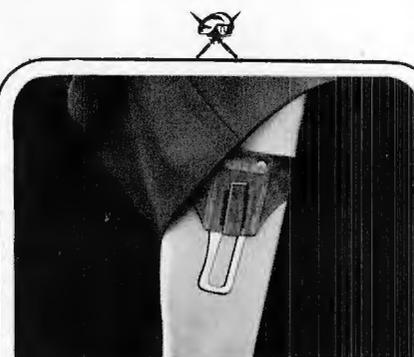
Eliminate all extraneous movements. Watch yourself reload in a full-length mirror to bring fumbles and nonessential movements to your attention. Your hands and arms should be the only body parts that move. Have your shooting partner critique your reload. Work on eliminating the fumbles while he watches. Increase

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