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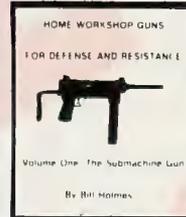
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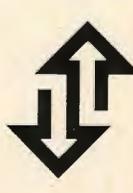
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Rhodesia - Hypocrisy & Terrorism

by Robert K. Brown

The clock is running out for Rhodesia. On 1 January 1979, the reins of government, hopefully, will be assumed by black moderate leaders to be chosen in elections in December 1978. Rhodesia, henceforth, will be known as Zimbabwe.

There is no doubt that the country's name will change; there is, however, considerable doubt as to whether black moderates will be able to maintain themselves in power—if elections are held. Especially in face of the determined effort on the part of Carter and Young and the muddled minds in the State Department to force the present black/white transitional leaders to accept the communist-supported terrorists into the government, ostensibly "to eliminate the possibility of a civil war."

That sounds remarkably similar to the fawning garbage used to justify the appeasement of the fascist powers in the 1930s. Would Young and Carter be equally enthusiastic about "preventing war" if they were dealing with a 1978 version of Adolph Hitler?

But then the world's attitude, and especially that of the U.S. and the rest of the western democracies, toward Rhodesia has been characterized by blatant hypocrisy, double standards, and moral selectivity, ever since Rhodesia had the audacity to tell the English to "stick it" in 1965 when they declared independence unilaterally from the English government.

England, under the leadership of Harold Wilson, decided to bring Rhodesia to her knees "in a few weeks" for refusing to immediately implement a "one man, one vote" majority-rule form of government.

To do so, the U.N. and the U.S., led by England, imposed a trade embargo on Rhodesia.

Of course, neither Young nor Carter can explain why we should have refused to trade with Rhodesia for failing to implement majority rule when we have no qualms about trading with some of the most oppressive, totalitarian countries in the history of the world.

And what about majority rule in black Africa? Where does it exist? How many viable, functional democracies exist on the dark continent? One, maybe two? Why do we fail to embargo Uganda and the other black satrapies run by ruthless minorities and savage dictators? Because of Carter and Young's hypocritical, split-level ethics.

The Ian Smith regime was condemned not because it represented an ethnic minority but only because its base was predominantly white in an overwhelmingly black country. And no matter that the blacks in Rhodesia have a higher standard of living and more freedom than any other country in Africa.

And now even more thinking people are having difficulty in understanding why the Carter-Young cabal continues to insist that the terrorists, who would seize power by the gun and brutal intimidation, must

be taken into the new government when a democratic, orderly transition to majority rule is already underway in Rhodesia.

It appears the reason, as illogical and irrational as it is, is that these sanctimonious, double-standard liberals believe that the color of a man's skin has some intrinsic relationship to basic human rights and the ability to operate a responsible, modern government.

They ignore the fact that blacks are just as capable of perpetrating atrocities as were the Viet Cong or the Adolph Eichmans. And so, we have Young suggesting that the terrorists are not responsible for the brutalities that have been inflicted on both black and white Rhodesians but in fact have been carried out by members of Smith's elite security forces. Young and Carter raise no protest on behalf of the victims of terrorism, but let the Rhodesian government execute a terrorist duly convicted of murder and the ostrichlike liberals scream in protest.

And now a few remarks on terrorism. The trendy remark, bantered about by self-styled specialists on terrorism, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter," is a quaint, glib phrase that needs further definition. And it's relatively simple. Anyone resorting to indiscriminate terror to include arson, rape, murder, and mutilation targeted against unarmed men, women, and children is a terrorist no matter what his skin color is, no matter what his political objectives are. The opponents to Ian Smith and the black moderates have used such indiscriminate terror for over six years—mostly against their fellow blacks. They are not "freedom fighters" (How can anyone that supports a Marxist type regime call himself a "freedom fighter"?), nor do they even deserve being labeled "guerrillas."

Have Young and Carter considered precisely why the Russians and Communist-bloc nations are so enthusiastic in their support of the Rhodesian terrorists? Do they believe the Russians and their allies are working to establish a one-man, one-vote majority rule government in Rhodesia? When they themselves rule by an oppressive tyranny? Hardly. Their motives are clear; to deny the west strategic raw materials; to completely surround Zaire and Zambia with pro-Russian Marxist dictatorships in their effort to expand their control throughout the world.

What to do? Some of the valiant have gone to fight terrorists in Rhodesia with bullets and guns. Others can fight here by writing their Congressmen and Senators, asking them to explain their support of this hypocrisy; by questioning these same legislators in public and exposing their duplicity. It might even help defeat some of them at the polls. Though it may be too late, a strong fight for a good cause is always worthwhile.

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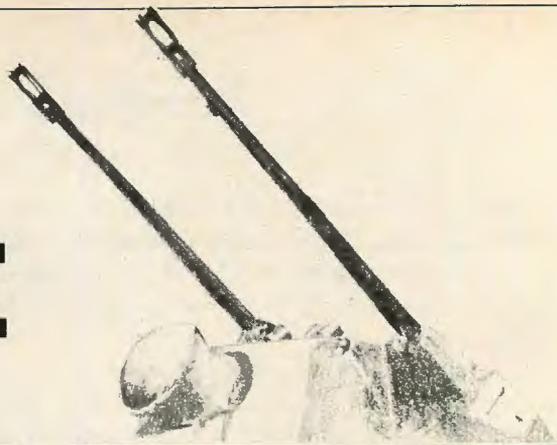
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Dear Sirs:

With reference to your article, "SOF Interviews Robin Moore" (September 1978), you state in a caption beneath a photograph that the interviewee is with "American Major Mike Williams, deputy commander of famed, mounted Grey Scouts." If, however, one looks closely at the photograph, one can see that the cap badge is that of the Selous Scouts and that the shoulder insignia is that of a "Lt. Col." To be precise, the person in question is Lt. Col. Reid-Daly, commanding officer of the Selous Scouts and former member of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment.

You further state that all the "soldiers in the background" are American, whereas in fact the only common denominator among the men there is that they are all foreigners: Germans, members of the Commonwealth, and Americans. . . .

Sincerely yours,
David Xavier
United Kingdom

You're absolutely right—thanks for catching our error.—The Eds.

WANTS TO FIND . . .

Dear Colonel Brown:

I wish to contact Spec. 5 Ruben Bustamante or Spec. 4 Dennis Spock, who served with the U.S. Army's 37 Signal Battalion at Danang, South Vietnam, APO SF 96337, in 1967-8. These fellows' civilian addresses were last known as Redondo Beach, Lawndale (Torrance) or Oxnard, California. . . . Keep up the good work and keep your magazine tops in the field.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas F. Mayer
452 Arthur
Pontiac, MI 48053

SOF AND THE NEWS . . .

Dear Colonel Brown:

It's time for me to write SOF. . . . On the ABC evening news at 5:30 Texas time, Frank Reynolds informed us of a case of colossal gall. The news stated that a group of Americans has set up a

network to expose CIA operatives worldwide and undoubtedly this will assist in their demise. Secondly, they seek to force Carter to drop the trade embargo on Cuba, and thirdly to show justification for Uncle Fidel's colonizing in Africa. They are headed by former CIA case officer turned author commie, Philip Agee.

I'd like to point out that a few years ago a group of Americans exposed a few operatives in Greece which ultimately caused their deaths.

In closing, I would like to suggest that all SOFers send in articles to you, Col. Brown, as it has been my experience since Vietnam that America's newspapers are not uniform in their reporting, thereby depriving some of us of news about Africa and the world that we feel is important. . . .

Sincerely,
Jack Conley
San Antonio, Texas

AK-47 vs. M-16 . . .

Dear Sir:

As a hospital corpsman and surgical technician I am, at best, a semi-combat veteran, but I have seen a tremendous number of combat casualties. I have probably seen more combat wounds than 90 percent of the combat veterans around, and I have seen these wounds in a much more intimate manner than any combat veteran. In Vietnam I saw thousands of our troops shot with the 7.62x39mm AK round and thousands of their troops wounded by 5.56mm M-16 rounds. There is hardly any comparison between wounds delivered by these rounds. Under all circumstances I encountered in 'Nam, the AK round inflicted much more significant injuries than the M-16 round. I had the job of taking medical histories from most of the injured men I worked on, so I also gained a great deal of background information on how they got wounded. Over 50 percent of the U.S. troops that I treated had received their wounds from a Cong or NVA who had already been shot one or more times by an M-16.

David Bartlett's comment in the September SOF FLAK really set me off. He

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commented, "Those 20 rounds delivered approximately 25,000 ft. pounds of force to the enemy's chest."

Bull! That much force may have been generated at the muzzle, but it was not delivered. At ranges over 100 yards, significant amounts of energy have been used just getting the bullet that far, and the longer the range, the worse it gets. At ranges under 100 yards, where most (not all but most) of the fighting was done while I was in 'Nam, the 5.56 bullet has too much penetration. It usually goes straight through the target body, delivering only a small fraction of its energy on the target and the rest is spent carrying the round uselessly down range. The 7.62 round has a much superior percentage of delivered force at all ranges and especially at close range. Chuck Taylor is entirely correct that the nervous system tends to shut down after the trauma of the first hit. Of the 25,000 foot-pounds of energy generated by those 20 rounds, the enemy likely only felt the effect of 300 or less, about the same as a .38 Special pistol.

Ask any policeman for a horror story about someone who has continued to fight after being hit with a .38. If his grasp of elementary ballistics is any indication, Bartlett has less claim on the title of combat vet than I do. The M-16 is a useless pipsqueak. The Marines I knew called it the "Mighty Mattell"

because it is about as effective as a cap gun. My business is patching people up, not blowing them away, but I consider it a part of preventative medicine to send the troops on my side out armed with a weapon that will get the job done. The M-16 doesn't measure up. Send my troops out with a 7.62 NATO caliber weapon and I'll have fewer troops to patch up! . . .

F. G. Tedford
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

TOMMY GUN CONVERT . . .

Gentlemen:

In support of Chuck Taylor's reply to Dave Bartlett about impact power (Sept. '78, p. 8), let me relate a similar incident. In 'Nam-'68 while supporting a 105 unit, we were surprised by a group of approximately 20 Satchell Zappers. As this was a suicidal mission, it became apparent they were after the big guns. In my squad was a gunsmith's son who had procured a grease gun and we had spent many idle hours, agreeing and disagreeing on the value of that weapon. When the fire fight began, I stood next to him and witnessed the difference between the '16 and 45. The 105s were in pits and we had managed to come between them and the howitzers.

Now any 'Nam vet knows that the Cong hyped themselves before combat and

these reeked of hash. When the Cong had gotten through the three strands of barbed wire and traps, we were on top of them. I shot one VC three times at less than 10 feet full in the chest. The effects were nil, and he managed to slash me with a knife (thank God, they weren't carrying guns). He staggered 10 more feet before Evans and his grease gun cut him literally in two. Then Evans stood over me and mopped house with that weapon. Before a week had passed, I had obtained a Thompson 45. Don't let anyone B.S. you, Chuck; give me a .45 SMG any day.

Steve Myers
San Antonio, Texas

MORE ON BATF, SAN JOSE . . .

Dear SOF:

Regarding SOF, Nov. '78, p. 88, "America's Gestapo in Action," a friend of mine was there and said not only BATF and county cops but also armed National Guards in the parking lot and San Jose city cops—Federales, state, county and city—the whole damn family: get it?

Hope we get them first,
Art Cooper
Mountain View, California

Continued on page 78

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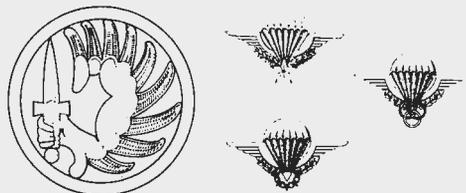


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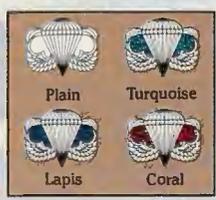
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CAMBODIAN ABOUTFACE . . .

As if the recent recommendation by Senator George McGovern that an international military force should invade Cambodia to topple the sadists in power was not enough, Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden, of all people, have also leaped on the Cambodian human rights bandwagon.

They have urged President Carter (that is, Carter) to diplomatically intervene to stop the gross injustices in the new "Democratic" Kampuchea. Messers. Fonda and Hayden have rejected McGovern's idea of armed intervention and have, predictably, chosen the non-violent approach which benefits no one but the Cambodian rulers.

Tied to the option of diplomatic maneuvering was that the U.S. should urge Communist China from further supporting the Cambodian government and that in return the U.S. would improve Chinese relations and discontinue our trade embargo against Vietnam. (How the lifting of the embargo would please China, I've yet to figure out.)

Given Tom's and Jane's past advocacy of the Vietnamese brand of oppression, it seems reasonably likely that they are attempting to use the suffering of the Cambodian people as an excuse for a back door approach for U.S. aid to Vietnam.

The verbal crap that many construe as being morally-inspired can be analyzed for what it really is if people would simply look at its sources.

MORE AMIN THREATS . . .

Uganda President Idi Amin has threatened to put together an invasion force from several nonaligned countries to attack the Comoros, a tiny group of Indian Ocean islands, and overthrow its "mercenary government," according to a recent report in the Toronto Sun.

About 50 European mercenaries, headed by Belgian soldier of fortune Bob Denard, reportedly spearheaded a successful 13 May 1978 invasion that toppled the regime of Ali Soilih. Although Soilih reportedly had instituted a reign of terror among the islands' 300,000 population, the O.A.U. has denounced the coup.

Independent military experts have dismissed Amin's statement as one more of his "fantasies," noting that he has neither the aircraft nor disciplined troops to launch such an attack.

"POP" BUELL . . .

SOF staffer Tom Reisinger recently met with Edgar "Pop" Buell, the legendary American who has devoted almost two decades of his life to Meo tribespeople in Laos through service with U.S. A.I.D. and independently, and who passed through Denver to renew old friendships with area refugees. Contrary to some of the other groups, the Meos have readily assimilated themselves into American culture through a thorough willingness to accept whatever work is available.

During his several-month-long stay in the U.S., "Pop" reports that the Meos and other Laotians have adapted extremely well to their adopted country and are experiencing few, if any, problems. As he put it, "These people want a handshake, not a handout." The rest of us can learn a lesson from these determined people.

Buell will soon be back in Bangkok, ready again to assist the stream of Laotian refugees lucky enough to make it to safety in Thailand.

SANCTIONS RECONSIDERED . . .

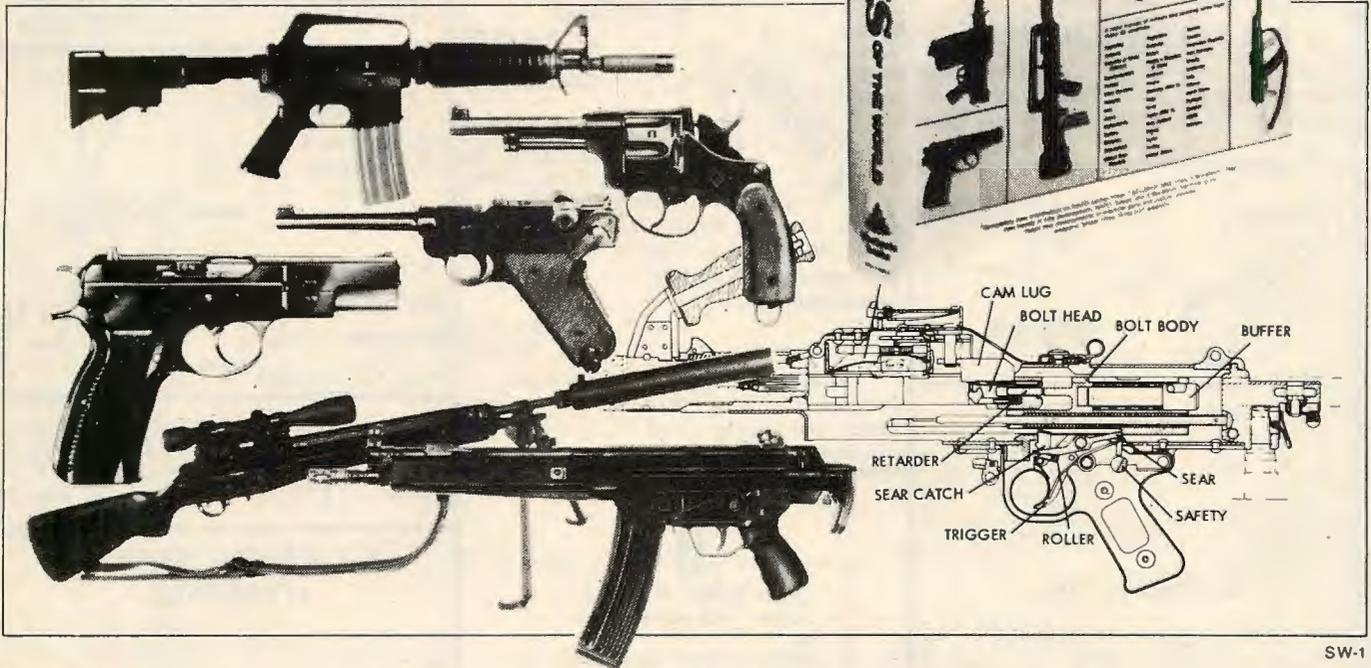
The U.S. House of Representatives, in an apparent setback for President Carter, voted a conditional end to U.S. economic sanctions against Rhodesia. It accepted 229 to 180 a proposal by Rep. Richard Ichord (D-MS) that sanctions end automatically 1 January 1979 unless President Carter finds that Rhodesia hasn't chosen a new government by currently planned free elections.

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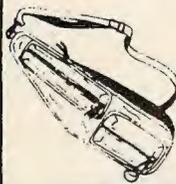
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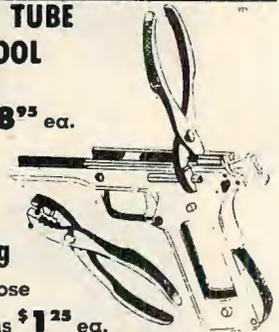
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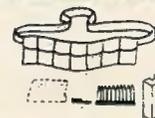


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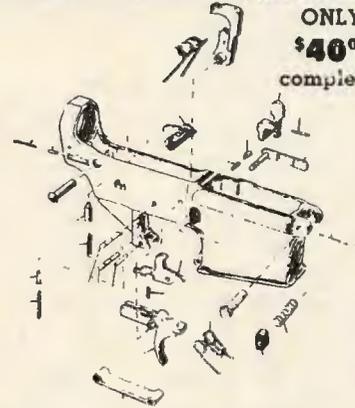
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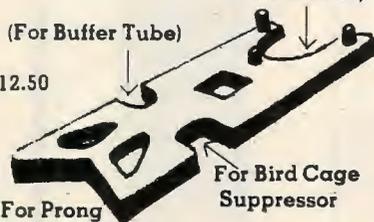
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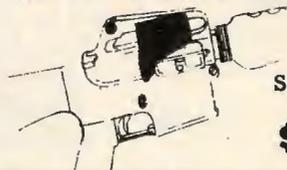


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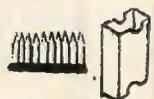
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BATTLE OF BULGE REUNION . . .

Allied and German veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will hold a reunion and tour of the Ardennes battle area, 11-18 December 1978. A number of high ranking officers who participated in the battle will attend.

For further info, write: Patrick Henry, Dept. S. Midway International Travel Service, Midway National Bank Building, Suite 302, Grand Prairie, TX 75051. Phone: 214-263-3196.

CARTER = CHAMBERLAIN? . . .

Europeans are reportedly appalled at the Carter sellout of Africa to the Soviets. The Sunday *Times* of London, one of Western Europe's most respected newspapers, blasted Carter's African policy, calling him a "dangerous leader," and comparing him to "history's greatest appeaser—Neville Chamberlain."

The *Times* called Carter's Southern African policy insane and the result of "incorrigible bungling," going on to declare that the President's "knowledge of Rhodesia or anywhere outside of Georgia" was comparable to Chamberlain's knowledge of Eastern Europe.

"The two men are horribly similar, with the same willingness to dogmatize on a basis of ignorance and the same kind of single-mindedly ignorant proneness to appeasement," was the *Times'* scathing conclusion.

SOF NEEDS HELP . . .

SOF is seeking for its library any and all SWAT and military manuals, pamphlets, books, and materials related to urban warfare. Xerox copies would be fine. Any assistance will be deeply appreciated.

MILITANT MISSIONS . . .

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and three black members of Rhodesia's interim government attended a 29 July 1978 missionary conference at a suburban church near Chicago, Illinois, to discuss the future of Christian missions in Rhodesia.

Accompanying Smith were Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabaning Sithole, and Sen. Chief Jeremiah Chirau, chief of the Malawabu tribe.

Rev. Paul Lindstrom, pastor of the Church of Christian Liberty in Prospect Heights where the conference was held, said the church's Rhodesian executive committee had voted unanimously to reopen the Emmanuel Mission in Rhodesia's Vumbu mountains, following a terrorist raid earlier last year.

He added that armed Vietnam veterans will be sent to the mission to protect missionaries and medical teams.

REUNION OF MILITARY ELITE . . .

The Society of Vietnamese Rangers is hosting the Reunion of Military Elite at

Ft. Benning, Georgia, 3-5 November 1978.

Headquarters will be located at Ranger Joe's, Victory Drive, Columbus, Georgia. All present and past members of Airborne, Ranger, Special Forces, CDO, MACVSOG, SEAL, Gurkha, and Sikh units are invited.

Room reservations must be made by individuals, and R.S.V.P. sent to Biet Dong Quan, Box 29965, Atlanta, GA 30359.

SOF has attended these reunions in the past and has found that it is an excellent opportunity to meet the "Professionals."

RHODESIAN RECRUITING UPDATE . . .

While in Salisbury, Rhodesia, Editor Brown interviewed Captain E. A. Lee, Recruiting Officer for the Rhodesian Army, who provided the following information:

"Preference is given to Rhodesians over foreign volunteers because of the transportation costs involved.

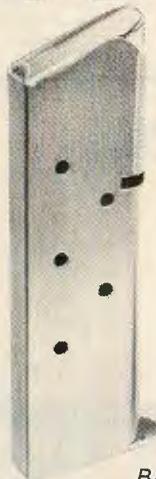
"We did temporarily stop recruiting foreign volunteers on 6 December 1977 as we had no vacancies. Our new fiscal year began in July and we are once again accepting applications from foreign volunteers.

"We are primarily interested in obtaining school-trained specialists for the

Continued on page 79

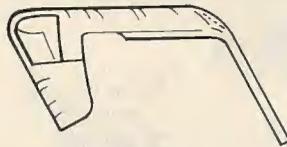
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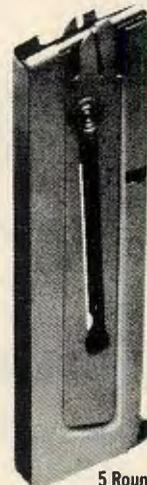
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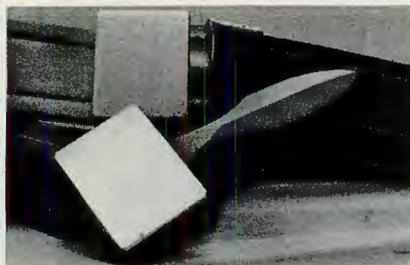


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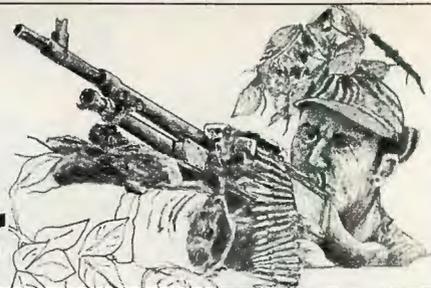
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FULL AUTO Chuck Taylor



In his last column, Chuck Taylor showed that the three main categories yielding effective use of the automatic rifle are aiming, the need for a bipod when possible to stabilize the weapon while in full automatic mode, and those factors that result in such a hold. These factors are: 1. Grip of the left hand so that the firer's arm is as straight as possible. 2. Holding the rifle butt in the pocket of the shoulder to reduce recoil. 3. Holding the right elbow so as to provide balance to the firer's position. 4. Achieving proper stock weld so that the firer's cheek is placed on the rifle stock for consistent, correct eye relationship with the sights, enabling weapon and firer's head to recoil as a unit. 5. Proper breathing for correct sight alignment and sight picture. 6. Grip of the right hand for proper placement of the buttstock. 7. Muscular tension for proper control of the weapon. 8. Trigger control for optimum burst control and ammo economy.

Five basic positions facilitate effective use of the automatic rifle, the first two of which, the Prone-Bipod-Supported

Position and the Bipod-Supported Fox-hole Position, were analyzed in depth in our last issue. The three remaining positions are covered below.

The next position, and one that finds particular credence for use in urban and/or built-up areas is the **Kneeling Supported Position**. It allows concealment as well as stability to the firer while providing him with better battlefield observation than from the prone or foxhole positions. In order to assume this particular position, one merely faces the target, with the left leg slightly ahead of the right, and drops to one knee, shifting his weight forward to allow contact of his left shoulder, arm, and leg on the supporting object. **The weapon should not touch or rest on or against the supporting object.**

Position number four is the **Underarm**. It is, obviously, the least accurate of the five positions discussed herein and is intended only for use in an emergency or in the final stages of the assault where multiple targets appear at close range very quickly. Basically, the position



Underarm, although least accurate of all positions, is frequently used for close range and final stages of assault. Right arm of firer should hold buttstock of weapon firmly against body, left hand grip handguard firmly, far enough forward to control muzzle of weapon.



Standing position is assumed in same manner as normal semi-auto standing position. Ranges should be kept to 100 meters or less, when used in full-auto mode.



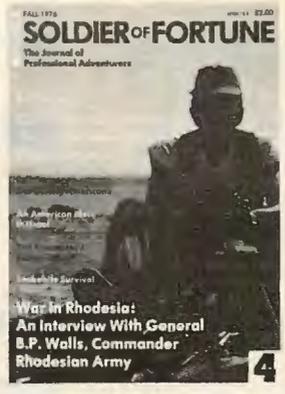
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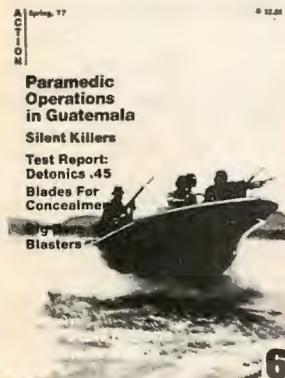
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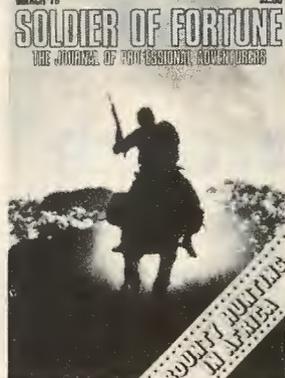
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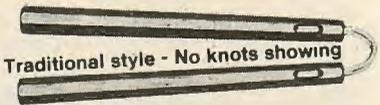


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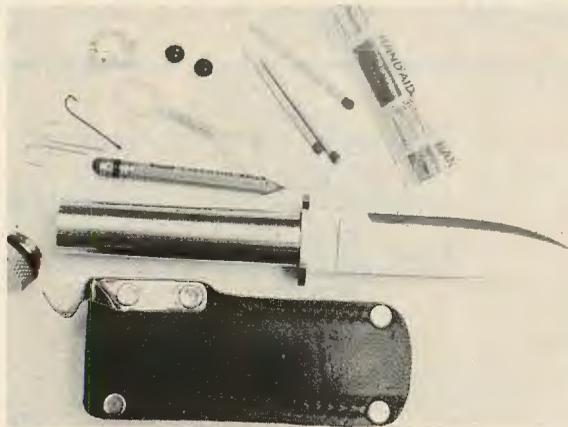
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encompasses the firer facing the target with his feet about a shoulder's width apart, the left foot about a half-step forward of the right. The firer's weight should be kept on both feet, to maintain balance, with both knees slightly flexed, similar to the boxer's stance. The butt of the weapon should be positioned as far up into the armpit as possible to allow maximum control. The right arm of the firer should hold the stock of the weapon tightly to the side of the body. His left hand should grip the front handguard of the weapon firmly and be placed far enough forward to facilitate easy guidance of the weapon's muzzle. The muzzle itself should be slightly depressed to make the most of potential ricochets and to adjust fire by observation of bullet impact(s) on the ground. As with all of the positions, the right hand grasps the pistol grip/small of the stock firmly, exerting downward, rearward pressure.

The last position is the basic **Standing Position**. It is assumed in exactly the same manner as the classic semi-automatic technique dictates. It should be used, if terrain and obstacles allow, in preference to the underarm, due to its superior accuracy potential. As with the underarm, however, ranges should be kept to a minimum, in this case, 100 meters or less.

As the potential arms philosopher/student begins to study and learn these positions, he finds that, for the most part, the techniques of automatic fire are completely different in many ways from the conventional semi-automatic type. He also finds out immediately that any attempt to employ conventional techniques on weapons used in the fully-automatic mode results in miserable failure which, on the battlefield, can easily mean death!

The problem becomes quite clear at this point, and one wonders why the military communities of the world allowed it to happen in the first place! I don't know the answer, but I do know that the world's armies must either properly train their troops in the use of auto-weapons or not issue them any! The reasoning for this is blatantly obvious: They're better off with semi-only weapons since they can't hit anything in the auto-mode anyway! All they do is create an immense logistics problem with excessive ammunition expenditure.

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Continued on page 66

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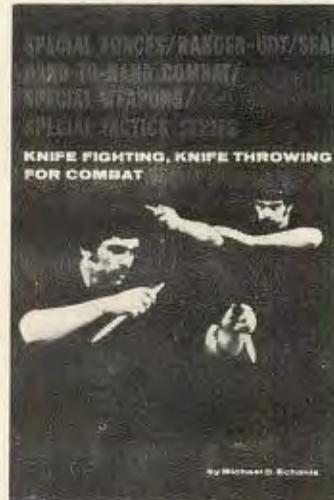
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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Jerry Ahern

Although people like them, myself included, two-inch barreled revolvers are not the ultimate combination of power and concealability they're cracked up to be. More and more, the switch is to .380 automatics loaded with high velocity hollow point ammunition. Firepower surpasses the usual five or six shots in a revolver, reloading is appreciably faster, and the old saw about reliability in an automatic is beginning to fade. Several excellent .380s are on the market, but one in particular is clearly very much responsible for the excellent reputation of the .380. That gun, enjoying a sort-of 50th anniversary this year, is the Walther PPK/S.

Before arms historians scream, the 50-year-old gun is actually the Walther PP, originally introduced in 1928. In 1932, the PPK was born. After the 1968 Gun Control Act, Walther combined the PPK barrel and slide with the PP frame and produced the PPK/S, or Polizei Pistole Kriminal/Special. The PPK/S is the most popular of the Walther mid-frames in America and one of the finest guns available.

Made in .22 Long Rifle, .32 ACP and .380, the latter is the obvious best choice for defense, although some special protective units use PP series guns in the rimfire caliber. James Bond always carried his PPK in .32, but that is simply due to a European preference for lower calibers.

In .380, the PPK/S, like the PP, features a seven-round single column box-type magazine with convenient witness holes. Two magazines are provided, one with standard floorplate and the other with a plastic finger-rest extension.

When the pistol is carried concealed, the finger-rest magazine should be used as the spare since the standard magazine provides a flatter profile under clothing. Finish on the PPK/S is a dark blue-black and relatively durable. An excellent addition to a PPK/S is an Armoloy hard chrome finish which gives the gun the appearance of stainless steel and even greater resistance to rust and corrosion.

The PP was the first commercially successful double action semi-auto. Single action trigger pull is excellent and the DA pull on all specimens examined in this series has been quite satisfactory. PP series guns are noted for their extraordinarily high out-of-the-box accuracy. The PPK/S is no exception.

The PP series guns feature one of the most positive safety systems of any gun, perhaps the best ever devised. To lower the hammer, simply depress the slide-mounted thumb safety. This automatically interposes a solid steel block between the hammer and the firing pin. The hammer drops safely. On World War II vintage guns, due to the haste of wartime production, it is wise to check the safety system carefully before using. There is no reason to expect a problem with a PP series gun, but a little caution never hurts.

The pistol can be carried safely with hammer down and the safety off, since the only way to allow the hammer to contact the firing pin is by pulling the trigger.

Centerfire PP series guns feature a loaded chamber indicator which can easily be felt in the dark. Sometimes a fatigued spring will cause the indicator to malfunction. This is rare and not usually experienced in a new pistol. It is, however, something to check periodically throughout the pistol's service life.

Sights on the PPK/S are perfectly adequate. An easy-to-pick-up square notch rear sight with white base leads to a white dotted blade front. The sighting plane is a full-length matte rib.

After firing the last shot, the slide automatically remains open. Magazine replacement is fast via the push-button release. Some French-manufactured specimens of the PPK feature a slower base-of-the-butt magazine release, as do Turkish copies of the PP.

Of all-steel construction, the PP series guns are suitable for use with all name brand commercial .380 ammo, standard solids or high speed hollow points. Not of locked breech design, handloading to extremely high chamber pressures should be approached cautiously.

Standard factory grips with the PPK/S are black checkered plastic and are quite durable. Interarms, exclusive importer of Walther pistols in the U.S., also offers checkered walnut replacement stocks. Style Manufacturing markets well-fitting checkered Zebrawood stocks. Best of all seem to be the black checkered rubber Pachmayr grips with wrap-around design to cover even the backstrap. I've owned two PPK models and currently I'm on my third PPK/S. All shot marvelously and performed flawlessly. Most

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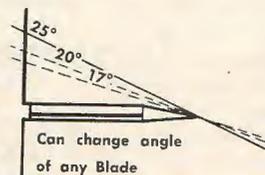
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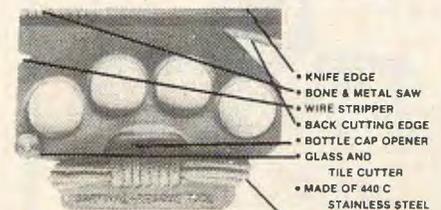
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For more information see your local dealer or contact Interarms, 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, Va. 22313.

Colt Firearms has the interesting habit of periodically discontinuing very popular handguns. They did this for a time with the Single Action Army, then brought it back. They did this with the Colt Service Ace. Now it is back as well. The Service Ace is a Government Model .45 auto frame with Conversion Unit-style .22 Long Rifle slide, barrel, barrel bushing, and recoil spring. The magazine holds 10 .22 LR rounds in single line and of course an 11th round can be chamber carried. Safety systems are the same as in the .45 auto version. The rear sight is windage and elevation adjustable. The front sight is a blade.

One might ask who would want such a gun? Many people. The reason is pure economics. In blue finish, you can get away with the gun for under \$300, the same as a new commercial Government Model. Fire 30 boxes of .45 ACP at a low-end cost of \$10 per box and you are out the cost of a Service Ace.

The Service Ace is designed with a floating chamber. Aside from insuring proper functioning with the lesser energy of the rimfire round, the floating chamber helps to simulate the feel of the larger centerfire round for practice shooting.

Few can afford to pump tons of hardball through a handgun to keep sharp when the chips are down. But .22 LR ammo is so much less expensive that economical practice can be had with meaningful results.

In preliminary testing of the recently acquired Ace, functioning and general shooting qualities are perfectly satisfactory. And this is the main idea.

The Colt Service Ace will pay for itself over the years or months, depending on how rapidly you might shoot 1500 rounds of .45 ACP. Like all Colt firearms, it is solidly constructed of the best materials.

Colts are expensive these days, but for the serious .45 auto shooter, the Service Ace is an almost necessary investment.

Why the Service Ace instead of the less expensive Conversion Unit? Again, a simple answer. The gun is fitted at the factory whereas the Conversion Unit, however good, is an add-on. There is no need to have the serious ordnance in non-working condition while practice shooting. For some situations, either social or sporting, .22 rimfire might well be a good choice of caliber in itself.

Continued on page 77

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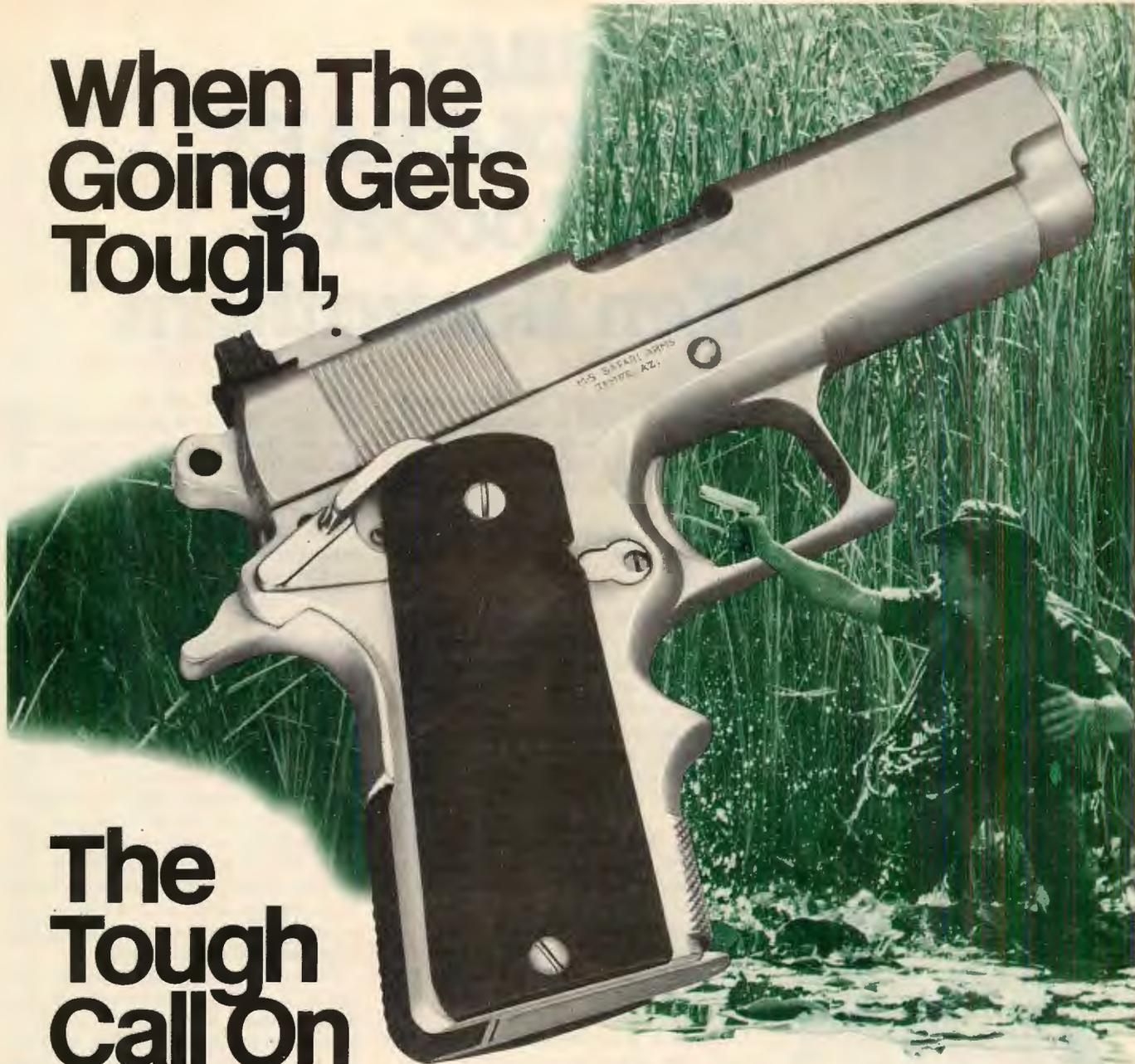
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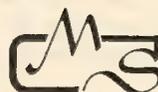
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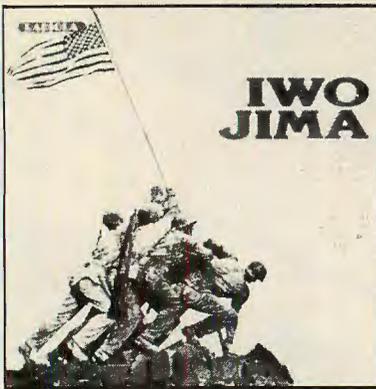
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

While Jeff Cooper is vacationing in Europe, Ken Hackathorn, guest editor in last issue's Combat Pistolcraft, will stand in for him. On his return, Cooper will continue his question-and-answer column. Send letters to Jeff Cooper, care of Soldier of Fortune Magazine, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

Those of us who participate in the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) matches realized some time ago that the ranks are divided into two basic groups of shooters. The first group is made up of the "Sport Shooter," who engages in the activity strictly as a game. The second group is made up of those that consider practical shooting as a martial art. Each following has definite ideas as to how free style practical shooting should be conducted. This difference of thought has existed since the early days of free style combat shooting.

Sport shooters look at the matches simply as a contest to be won. They give little consideration to the realistic or practical solution. They work harder than anyone else to win a match, and they have thus become the best shots in this business. It is important to note that the gamesmen have shown the rest of us how to do it; they have pioneered the techniques that we now use as the groundwork for becoming practical shooters. Their experiments with guns, leather, and firing techniques have served to solve the question of what works best and why.

Unfortunately, many of the gamesmen have allowed their desire to win overshadow the logic of remaining practical. Any time we allow a contestant to do something in a match that he would not do in a real encounter, then "Combat Logic" is lost. The "Martial Arts" advocates serve as a stabilizing factor in this area. Their desire to keep the matches practical is what we must always insure. Combat logic is a simple term for doing what is realistic in a combative encounter. The key point to remember is that what you do in practice is exactly what you do in the real thing. We must not waver in the requirement that a man's weapon be of the same type and

caliber that he would use in an armed situation. The ammo should be of a type that would suffice for serious social work. Holsters should meet this criterion. To wear a holster that is only good for matches is unacceptable to the martial arts group. The gamesman, however, considers it just the thing to give him a winning edge.

The question was put to me recently concerning the legal status of changing holster position during various stages of a match. The shooters in question simply stated that since there was nothing in the rules forbidding it, they should be allowed to complete this switch. It has been understood for ages that the way you start is the way you go through the entire match. Combat logic is simply, in this case, you don't call for a cease fire while you relocate your pistol rig in a gunfight. So, the gamesmen should be disqualified and the lesson is well learned. This concept must be understood, especially for those just now starting new clubs and IPSC organizations.

Practical shooting must remain realistic. If it does not, the example of NRA National Match or ISU style target shooting is what we can expect IPSC to evolve to. The ISU and NRA pistol shooting games developed from the earliest form of "combat pistol shooting" known to all as dueling. It has become formal and artificial due to the limitations imposed by the game shooters.

A more recent example is the classical PPC course used in Police training programs. For decades it was the standard for learning to use a sidearm in defensive shooting situations. Now with its absurdly long time limits, squib loads, and bull barreled .38s that recoil like .22s, it has degenerated into irrelevance. We must not let this happen in the realm of IPSC.

* * * * *

Each month I see new shooters with pistols that they have recently purchased entering our Combat Matches. Quite often it is a real sad sight to see the weapons that these people have spent their hard earned money on. We know what the good guns are by now. They are

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written up repeatedly for all to see. However, some poor souls are misled by either the gunshop commandos or the experts in the gun rags giving everything that crosses their desk a clean bill of health. The truth is that even the best brands and models of handguns are rarely worth what you pay for them. For those that are still wondering what not to buy in the area of service type handguns, here are my recommendations of what not to buy:

Spanish auto pistols and revolvers. Llama autos have given very poor performances in our matches. Parts breakages are very high with just moderate amounts of shooting. The Llama Comanche and Martial revolvers are an attempt to market a gun that looks like the S&W for less money. Everyone who started with one soon got tired of mechanical problems and replaced it with the real thing.

The Star brand auto pistols seem to suffer from low quality metal construction. My PD had to be replaced by the importer after only 400 to 500 rounds. I have a Star Model Super in .38 Super that has been a great pistol. However, the record of their overall performance is of concern. Many police and military organizations use the Model B in 9mmP. with much satisfaction. Nonetheless, you should inspect the one you intend to purchase closely.

A large selection of other non-U.S.-made service grade autos are available. These guns do not make it very big in the serious ranks. The exception would have to be the P-35 Browning. It is one of the greatest fighting handguns ever built. The double action autos such as the P-38, Sig Sauer 220, H&K P9 just don't work out when they are used under conditions of practical application. Note that the top European pistolmen choose the Colt, P-35, and Sig 210 when they have a choice.

The American made guns to avoid are:

The Ruger Security Six—This well-made revolver suffers from a poor grip design and the unforgivable sin of being designed with a short extractor stroke that will not dump the empties all the way out of the gun.

The Smith & Wesson M59 9mmP. auto is regarded as the greatest thing since sex to many of the gunshop commandos. However, we have yet to have anyone enter a match with one that made it all the way through without a malfunction. Even the factory has admitted their mistake and announced a recall of all pieces for modification. My experience with the M59 is so sour that I doubt that I would ever feel armed with one.

The AMT Hardballer has not proven out to be what we had hoped for. People keep telling me that theirs works fine, but I'm still waiting to see one that does for me.

Continued on page 76

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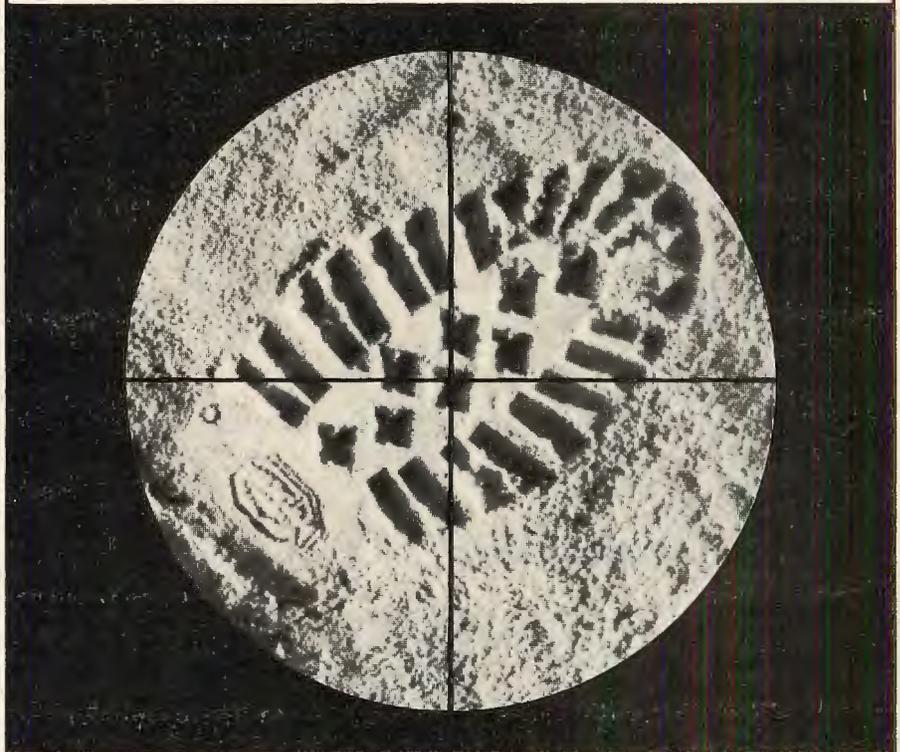
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STEELE ON KNIVES & KNIFE FIGHTING David E. Steele



Letters meant for this column should be sent to the author at Soldier of Fortune, Box 693, Boulder, Colorado 80306. For a quick, personal reply include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q. I wish to thank you for mentioning me in *Soldier of Fortune*. Four people came in to take lessons from me because of it.

What I learned I learned originally from Sgt. Kelly in my company, USMC 1934. He had taken it up in Shanghai, China, while he was attached to the International Police. Also in 1934 at Quantico Styers (John Styers, *Cold Steel* - Ed.) had a bunk next to me. We were just out of boot camp, Parris Island.

I opened my first school in 1951. I probably am the oldest school in the country.

One of my students who bought your book left it with me, along with some other current books on the subject. When I showed my students all of the books they preferred yours as being the best.

Charles Nelson, New York City

A. Thanks for the information and kind words. There should be more schools as practical-oriented as yours.

Q. My wife and I plan to tour Europe, Scandinavia, and the Near East this summer and next fall. We will be backpacking and attempting to "\$10-a-day" it.

Although I have practiced karate and other martial arts for eight years and am an instructor in unarmed self-defense for local police and military personnel, I am always interested in new and different means of protecting oneself. I feel there is no such thing as being overprotected when it comes to personal safety.

For this reason I am interested in additional protection during my trip, especially since my wife will be accompanying me. Having had training in *nunchaku*, *bo*, and *sai* only, all impractical to carry in backpack or pocket, I have been doing a good deal of reading on the subject of knife fighting and have ordered your book, *Secrets of Modern*

Knife Fighting. I plan to study it and incorporate your techniques into the system of unarmed combat with which I am familiar.

I would appreciate greatly any advice you could give me on:

1. The best suited fighting knives for my specific need.
2. Any local complications I may run into (Europe, Scandinavia, North Africa, and the Near East).
3. Any additional fighting tips.
4. Suggestions for buying edged souvenirs abroad.

J. W. L., Enid, Oklahoma

A. As you point out, the traditional karate weapons are not very convenient in a modern setting. They were inconspicuous and common in Okinawa a hundred years ago, but such would hardly be the case in a developed country today.

Since there is always the risk of loss while travelling (I have lost knives in Israel, Hong Kong, and elsewhere), I would not suggest that you take along any expensive custom knives. To minimize the risk of confiscation I would also suggest that you not take along anything that is obviously a fighting knife, such as a stiletto or large Bowie. I would suggest that you carry a good, light folding hunter in your pocket at all times, such as the Gerber FS II. In your pack you can carry a good hunting knife (single edge, single quillon) with a four to six-inch blade (Gerber and Puma have several good models in this category). Both of these types of knives will make excellent tools, as well as emergency defense knives, while attracting little attention from the authorities in most countries.

Since most fights begin while you are unarmed, you can use your best unarmed techniques to block or strike your opponent, while putting enough distance between you that you can draw your knife.

Germany would probably be the best place to acquire high quality edged souvenirs abroad (mail the most dangerous looking ones home to avoid problems in your travels). Most countries have

Continued on page 74

Under the clash of MACHINE GUNS

You have heard about GUN RUNS with planes, you have read tales of danger and excitement, and possibly been involved in some yourself . . . but now read FLYING TO BE FREE, "one of the most daring and exciting TRUE air adventure stories ever written." 2½ years in process, this long-awaited gripping saga of a man's crave for flying and the challenges he faced to fulfill it, is finally in print. Perils and humor combine as boyhood dreams turn into an aviator's nightmare and make this incredible, so vividly described episode in the author's life one that will always be remembered. You will laugh and cry, you will be shocked and delighted for days of unexcelled reading.

The smoke and gunfire which shook Europe during the Second World War had barely settled when Hans J. Schneider took off for destination "unknown" in Africa. With him was Klaus, another daredevil. The small overloaded, rickety and underpowered 65-HP Aeronca Chief groaned in its seams when the adventurous team pulled back the elevator controls on the ground run, while departing from Ghent, Belgium. With Klaus's special "shooting laboratory" on board, the crew scarcely managed to get airborne.

Soon the Laon Sentinel of the strategic U.S. Leon Air Base in France blazed, "The base Air Police Sabotage Alert Team got an unexpected opportunity to test their effectiveness when an unidentified aircraft landed here. . . before its pilot could cut his engine, the APSAT had completely surrounded the craft. Heavily armed with the necessary weapons they swooped down on the pilot and co-pilot. The French Liaison Officer, Commandant Major Claude Faure, who had also been called to the scene, arrived with base-assigned French Gendarmes and an immediate search of the plane was instigated. Klaus Ruegge, of Hamburg, and Hans J. Schneider, of Bielefeld, Germany . . . were escorted to the base Provost Marshal's office for interrogation."

It all began years ago when, trained by famous air aces, Hans became one of the first pilots licensed in Germany after World War II. Soon this champion of flying roamed the sky alone. The wind and clouds, the sun and stars were his only companions as he tasted the exhilaration of doing that which is different and difficult. Pitted against the untamed elements in search of a meaningful existence and challenge, he risked his life many times. This spirit of exploration brought forth a virtually matchless aviation tragicomedy: The story of two daredevils you will never forget . . . the day when a deafening roar of an engine charged the atmosphere with suspense as one of history's most incomparable and breathtaking air dramas began.

With no radio on board, the airman took to the sky, 4000 treacherous air miles lay ahead, covered only by grossly outdated, faulty and insufficiently scaled aeronautical charts. The plane's low service ceiling and short range endangered their undertaking yet further.

Veteran pilots flight engineers and other

pros all solemnly warned, "It can't be done—you will not return!" Little did they realize that Hans had never known fear until . . . There he was, young, determined, high-spirited and driven by a bold dream that couldn't be stopped—which frequently brought him and Klaus face to face with death.

Read how the first leg of the journey ends with an emergency landing at a French military field after a panic-stricken, fog-trapped flight 180 feet over Paris searching for an airport. Undauntedly, they fly past the wind-laden Pyrenees to Spain, a land of unequalled gaiety and color where they find hospitality unlimited and adventure galore . . .

Terrorizing hours follow on their flight around dreaded Cape Finisterre, the northwest corner of Spain. With a damaged plane they struggle on, hoping for the best . . .

Then catch your breath as you read stories of love and romance with an American "knockout" in Lisbon and a captivating señorita at the world-renowned Feria in Seville. Learn how the unfortunate caballeros had to break up the party . . .

Read about their experience at Gibraltar when red rockets and signal flares forced them to abort their landing and head for Africa. Soon, while nearing the middle of the Strait of Gibraltar, the gas gauges registered "Empty!" With nearly 200 fathoms of shark-infested waters forming a death trap below, certain doom lay before them. Unable to file an international flight plan, in the absence of any communication equipment aboard, fighter interception was inevitable . . . (Read FLYING TO BE FREE to discover how they reached Africa.)

There, in the land of the Berbers, Arabs and Moors, where the natives still fight on horseback, Hans also encountered the spirit of the unforgettable field marshal Erwin Rommel, the renowned "Desert Fox," who left his footprints here on the sands of time.

Airborne from Africa only after a late, high-risk takeoff, the adventurers race the sun and the relentless gas gauge to reach an elusive airport. Following a 45-minute fruitless search, emergency landing procedures are initiated . . .

You will be spellbound when you discover how Hans and Klaus were saved by a squadron of old German World War II Junker Ju-52 Transporters in Generalissimo Francisco Franco's Spain.

Eventually, the airborne troop even conquers a strategic, off-limits U.S. Air Force Base in France until they are ushered away under the clash of machine guns . . .

Thus FLYING TO BE FREE, spans continents as it details the most fascinating aviation endeavor of its kind in this century . . . the spine-chilling exploits of two daring skyrotters who made Europe vibrate and set young and old aflame with enthusiasm for unlimited adventure. Rarely did anything so galvanize the subconscious yearning of a generation and serve as a harbinger for decades to come.

With a spirit of contest, Hans threw himself against the abject commonness of a cynic society. But, to many he was a messenger of hope and idealism as with much confidence he bounded forward to touch the extraordinary. Already the aspirations of visionaries the world over were fired by the almost legendary tales of this barnstormer. Like a beacon light on a misty sea, he became a symbol of courage and originality from the very moment his mission began. As an emblem of liberty and self-determination, by bringing man closer to the simple freedoms of the past, he demonstrated a reality for the rugged individualist of today.

Don't miss this account of a bold and daring man who was committed to find fulfillment and excitement in his passionate love for flying even though it might mean death.

Also included are "Under the Cross Fire" and some highlights from his extensive international ventures, like "Detained in Caracas," "Agonies in Rio," "Imprisoned in Baghdad," and others.

And those are just a FEW of the many dangerous and highly interesting episodes, you will find in FLYING TO BE FREE.



© 1978 WWPC

* "Schneider . . . and a companion, on a flying mission across Europe and Africa, 'died almost 20 times.'" —Evening Tribune, San Diego, CA.

As an added feature, Hans J. Schneider, who has visited nearly 100 countries and lived in several of them, reveals some of his secrets of "How to Travel on Pennies a Day and Enjoy It." In this chapter, he explains different ways to see the world with a limited budget.

But that is not all yet. Besides describing what it was like to fly in war-torn Europe, he also gives an exciting, comprehensive history of aviation from man's earliest dreams to the UFOs, claimed by some to be of German origin. Since Hans grew up under Hitler, particular attention was paid to the Zeppelins, the Wehrmacht's V-1 and V-2 guided missiles (the supersonic V-2, for instance, had a top speed of more than 3,600 mph, an electronic brain and 30,000 parts) as well as the Luftwaffe's first jet-propelled fighters (produced as early as 1939 and 1940), the Messerschmitt Me-262 and others.

FLYING TO BE FREE is "dynamite," treasured by those who enjoy challenge, taking risks and going beyond the limits. This book by the well-known author-adventurer and pilot Hans J. Schneider contains almost 110,000 action-packed words, is well illustrated with over 100 photos and drawings and has a full-color cover. It can be yours for only \$9.95 plus 75¢ postage and handling.

To cap it all off and to celebrate the publication of FLYING TO BE FREE, here is our spectacular offer. Now for the first time and in one power package, you can get all of the following 3 books by Hans J. Schneider for just \$17.95 (and that includes postage and handling) rather than \$20.60 (you save \$2.65!):

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SOF Interviews

General John K. Singlaub

When Major General John K. Singlaub resigned from the U.S. Army as a result of his criticism of Carter's decision to withdraw U.S. ground forces from Korea and his disapproval of Administration reluctance to develop the neutron bomb, SOF felt that here was a man after our own hearts.

A native of California and a graduate of UCLA, Singlaub began his distinguished military career in January 1943 when he was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry. He volunteered immediately for parachute duty and following graduation from jump school was assigned to a parachute regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. In October 1943, he volunteered for overseas duty with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

In December 1943, he joined a group of allied officers in northern Scotland for several months of British Commando training. Shortly before the invasion of southern France in 1944, Singlaub led a three-man team which parachuted into France's Massif Central region to organize, train, and lead a French resistance unit to assist Allied invasion forces soon to land on the Mediterranean coast of France.

In December 1944, Singlaub left Europe enroute to the Far East for another unconventional warfare assignment as the leader of a team which trained and led Chinese guerrillas for operations against the Japanese on the border between China and Indo-China. Immediately before the conclusion of World War II, he led a rescue mission which parachuted into a Japanese prisoner of war camp on Hainan Island, off the coast of China, to liberate some 400 allied prisoners of war.

In early 1946, Singlaub was assigned to Mukden, Manchuria, where he served as chief of a U.S. military liaison mission

until forced out by the Chinese Communists at the end of 1948. From December 1948 until August 1949 he was a China desk officer in CIA headquarters in Washington, DC.

In October 1950, Singlaub helped to set up the Ranger Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, remaining as an instructor until the end of 1951, when he was assigned to Korea as the deputy chief of the CIA mission there.

In May 1966, Singlaub was assigned to Vietnam where he served as Chief, Studies and Observation Group, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, until August 1968.

In October 1969, General Singlaub was ordered to Fort Hood, Texas, to help establish the new, high-priority test and evaluation facility known as Project MASSTER (Modern Army Selected Systems Test, Evaluation and Review). He served as chief of staff of that project until June 1971, when he was assigned briefly as Director of Plans, Studies and Budget, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army, Washington, DC.

On 1 July 1976, General Singlaub became Chief of Staff, United Nations Command, U.S. Forces Korea, and 8th U.S. Army in Seoul, Korea, serving concomitantly as the UN Command senior military member of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom. In June 1977, the general, whose many medals include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters and the Silver Star, was returned to the United States where in July he was reassigned as chief of staff, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), a position which he held until his resignation in June, 1978.

SOF Editor Robert K. Brown met General Singlaub at Mitchell WerBell's home in Power Springs, Georgia, in the

early summer, 1978, and decided that the general's comments would interest SOF readers. Subsequently, General Singlaub was interviewed in the SOF offices, by SOF staffers Dana Drenkowski and Thomas MacGregor. Their interview follows:

SOF: General Singlaub, could you tell us what you're doing now that you've retired from the Army?

SINGLAUB: I've affiliated myself with the American Security Council Education Foundation, and the primary project we're working on at the present time is to form a Coalition for Peace Through Strength.

SOF: What is the membership of the Coalition for Peace Through Strength? Who are its main supporters?

SINGLAUB: This coalition is looping together not only organizations that have expressed concern about our national security, but also some very important citizens; former chiefs-of-staff of the Army, former chief of Naval operations, former chairman of the joint chiefs, former ambassadors, college presidents, and distinguished scholars. We have about 42 or 43—I'm not certain of the exact number of organizations that have joined—and this month [August, 1978] there are several of the veterans' organizations that are holding their national conventions that will join us.

We have at last count about 125 members of Congress most of whom are members of the House, but we also are starting to invite some of the Senate to join.

SOF: Why? Why is there a need for this type of organization?

SINGLAUB: This I think is very important, because basically conservatives and veterans' organizations are sort of independent people. They tend to want to do

"Basically conservatives and veterans' organizations are independent people. They tend to want to do their thing by themselves."

"The problem is we've been defeated in detail by a strong coalition of the Left. These peaceniks, anti-war activists, are still active in the anti-defense lobby."

"It's important that we get together those that we believe are thinking correctly and have some cohesiveness in our operations."



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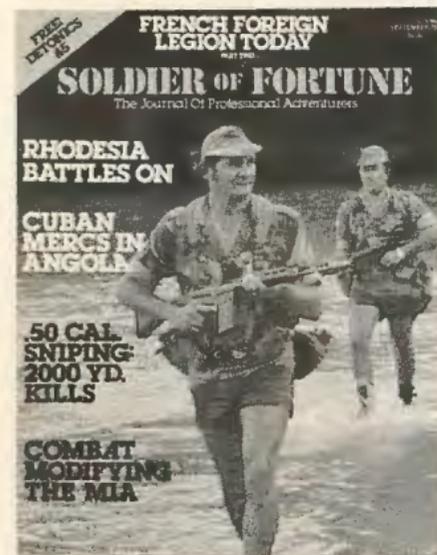
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their thing by themselves and the problem is we've been defeated in detail by a strong coalition of the Left. These peaceniks, anti-war activists, are still very active in an anti-defense lobby. They take credit for having killed the B-1 bomber and for delaying the production of the neutron warhead. They are taking credit for reducing defensive expenditures, slashing the size of the Navy. So it's important that we get together those that we believe are thinking correctly and have some cohesiveness in our operations. That's generally what I'm concentrating on now. To help do that, I'm going around the country and giving a lot of talks. Speaking to veterans' organizations, to service organizations like Rotary, Kiwanis, to manufacturers' associations at their national conventions, the Reserve Officers' Association, World Affairs Councils, and that type of thing. As I travel around and speak to these groups, I'm also encountering a lot of press interviews, television shows, a lot of talk shows.

I think the country is ripe for this type of action now. The idea is sound and the time seems to be now. So that's what I'm programmed for the next three months; I have speaking engagements practically every day through August, September, and October.

SOF: Do you have any plans beyond the next three months?

SINGLAUB: I'm just saying that the next three months are full, that I can't take any more speaking engagements. It's pretty intensive now until the big dove shoot in November. That's what we hope to have, as a matter of fact.

SOF: I like that! A dove shoot.

SINGLAUB: Get rid of some of those doves. I think if we don't knock all of them down, those that escape are going to think twice about voting so consistently against the will of the people.

SOF: What in your opinion is the single most important issue facing the U.S. military establishment today? In other words, if you had one thing to work on, what would you do in the U.S. military establishment?

SINGLAUB: I think that the most serious problem affecting the military establishment is not the problem of the military establishment, but is the way in which the Administration is trying to politicize the military. The reason our nation is great is because we have had an apolitical professional military that could be counted upon to provide not only good advice, but also a high level of professionalism in executing the decisions coming out of the Executive Branch, or out of the national command authority.

In this Administration, for reasons that are not fully clear to everyone, several things have happened. First of all, as illustrated by my case, the Administration is so sensitive to any criticism or to any ideas that don't coincide precisely

with their own that they are almost paranoid on it and they, of course, in my case overreacted to see to it that I was removed from an assignment. I had violated no regulations or any standards of conduct, no code of ethics. I was participating in a decision-making process by providing a background briefing, as requested, for a reporter who was there to cover what was to be a consultation between the Republic of Korea and the United States on the subject of the withdrawal. The decision as far as we were informed officially had not been made. And yet because I participated in that and spoke out against what was a proposal of the President, I was removed very suddenly or abruptly, subjected to a great deal of ridicule, and reassigned.

SOF: Do you feel that it was proper for the general officer to openly criticize an Administration policy decision?

SINGLAUB: It seems to me that we not only have a right, but we have an obliga-

"... So I Told Him, 'It's a Good Thing You're Not a Major General!'"



This cartoon is reprinted with permission from "Army Times."

tion to speak on those subjects about which we have the best knowledge of anyone in the decision-making process. Those of us who were in Korea, dealing on a daily basis with the intelligence from North Korea, dealing on a daily basis with the military forces that were going to be used to defend the Republic—we had some knowledge not available in Washington, and we should have been consulted. The fact that they did not want to hear from us is a bad thing.

Another serious indication of this politicization of the armed forces is the fact that the decision was apparently made by the President to withdraw these troops without consulting with the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff. Now, the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff are prescribed by law as the military advisers to the President and to the Nation. Yet, they were never consulted. They were only told to comment on three unsatisfactory courses of action

for withdrawal. In later testimony they all admitted before the Congress that they had not been consulted in advance.

It's one thing to disregard the advice of the professional military, because it is possible that there are other factors that are more important than military factors. But to not even ask for their advice is denying the American people one of their principal rights, and that is that the Government be run in the most efficient manner and in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of this Nation. When the President chooses to resort or to consult with non-military people or former military people or just some of the beatniks and the peaceniks that are now on his staff without consulting the professional military on a purely military subject, that is dangerous for the country.

SOF: Do you believe the Executive is obligated to follow the advice of the Joint Chiefs, or are there other considerations?

SINGLAUB: Now, I don't say that he has to follow that advice, but he should at least consult them and then make a decision. When he doesn't consult them, that's wrong!

Following that, after he has made a decision, by whatever means, and it is contrary to the best advice of the military, to force the military, specifically the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff, to go around the country and tell what a great idea it is, is prostituting the military and I object to that.

It's setting a dangerous precedent to try to add a note of credibility to a decision by forcing the military officers to say yes, they support it. It is the type of danger that I look back on in Hitler's Germany—where the military was, in fact, politicized to a large extent. And I think our nation cannot afford that, that we must have professional, apolitical senior military officers, subordinate to the civilian authority.

SOF: What is your personal feeling and philosophy on the role of the officer in our society and what are his responsibilities in speaking on policies?

SINGLAUB: I strenuously support the whole concept of civilian control of the military. And as a part of that, if an officer cannot accept the decision made by the civilian authorities after he has been given a chance to express his point of view, then he has only one thing left to do and that is retire or resign.

SOF: Authors Richard A. Gabriel and Paul L. Savage recently wrote a book entitled Crisis in Command: Mismanagement in the Army. Have you read it?

SINGLAUB: No.

SOF: They feel that the Army's officer corps is too involved in the management or managerial concept of leadership, that is, the business management concept of leadership, the same as corporate management, and that traditional values

Continued on page 81

American Pistol Institute Jeff Cooper's 'Gunsite'

Most Advanced Sidearm Training Center In The World

by Chuck Taylor

In spite of the several hundred years that have transpired since the invention of the handgun, it is a sad, and somewhat remarkable fact that the vast majority of those who should know how to effectively use their sidearms . . . *don't!*

Most people practice, if they practice at all, on tin cans, NRA-type bullseye targets, rocks, and, in the case of police departments, the "Practical Pistol Course or PPC" as is it inappropriately named.

The results of these efforts usually lead the participant to one of two conclusions: a) I shoot well enough to stay alive in a gunfight, or b) I need more practice!

These conclusions are quite normal. The problem arises when the would-be pistolero, using a) above as an example, feels that his performance (on the PPC, or tin cans, or whatever) is good enough to warrant confidence in his ability to handle a combat situation involving handguns. Coincidentally, the person who fits into category b) (needs more practice) tends to continue to practice on those same tin cans, NRA bullseye targets, etc., or the PPC until he is satisfied with himself.

The man who excels on the PPC, tin cans, bullseye targets, or any other type of similar medium is well-prepared only to effectively engage those types of mediums. That means the following:

1. Targets situated only to the firer's direct front.
2. Targets only at known distances.
3. Targets of a known size and shape.
4. Stationary targets only.
5. No meaningful time limits.
6. Weapon drawn from unsecured holster or not drawn at all.
7. Alibies in case of weapon malfunction.
8. Target-type wadcutter or other sub-powered ammunition.
9. Controlled, known, practiced-in-advance courses of fire.
10. Single targets.
11. Types of weapons ill-suited for serious combat use.
12. Controlled light conditions.

The sad fact is that combat conditions rarely, if ever, present the participant with such luxuries! Let's face it. *If the situation were under control, the weapon would never be used in the first place!* That is why the protagonist is carrying

and using the weapons: *To get his immediate environment under control.*

Therefore, the man who shoots a 576 on the PPC can realistically feel only that he can shoot the PPC well. He cannot, if he is really paying attention, consider himself "combatworthy." Why? The answer is obvious: because, in normal combat situations involving a sidearm:

1. Targets can be found anywhere on the field.
 - a. Front
 - b. Either side
 - c. Rear.

Also consider this:

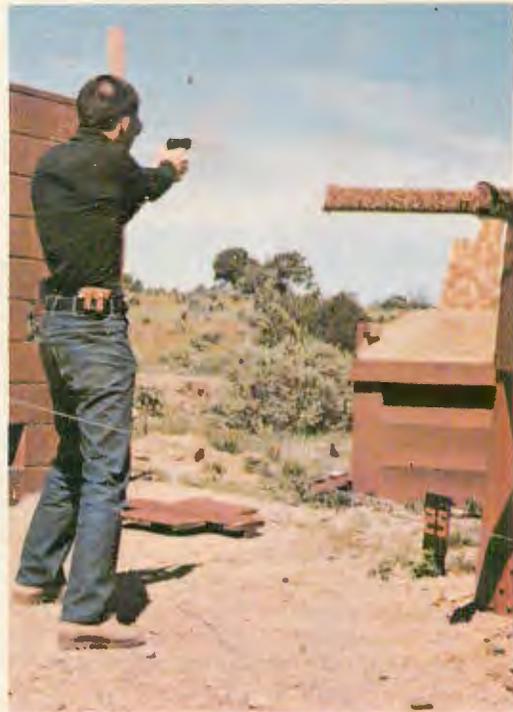
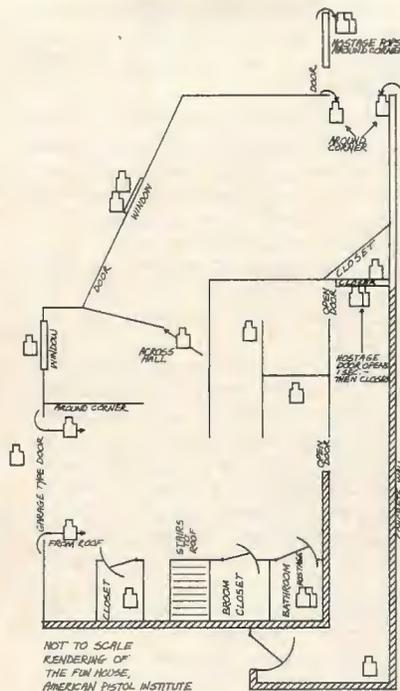
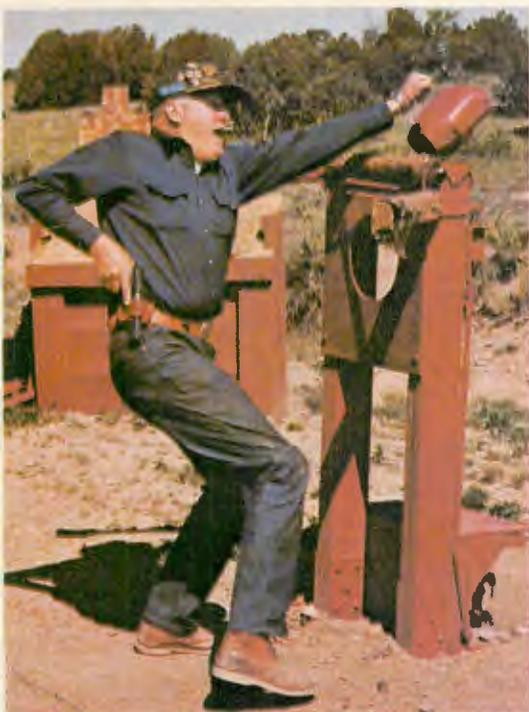
1. There are often multiple targets.
2. There are often bystanders, who must be protected.
3. There are often hostages being used as shields by felons or the enemy.
4. Light conditions are not always ideal. In fact, pistol altercations normally take place in poor light, according to the *FBI Uniform Crime Report*.
5. Human targets do not look like tin cans, bullseye targets, or giant B29 all-black silhouettes with improperly placed scoring rings.

Action is fast, furious in Funhouse, where proper tactical "clearing" of buildings is object of exercise. Here student fires at "felon" located in yard behind structure after successfully engaging "felon" standing in garage door. Note bullet holes in target: a job well done!

Here student engages "hostage situation" of felon using policewoman as shield as he emerges from rear of building. Panel opens, exposing target for 2 seconds.

Many surprises await unwary in Funhouse. Here student looks around corner after successfully engaging shotgun-armed silhouette that has popped around corner at him at point-blank range.





"Mick-lick" simulates close-range human attacker with outstretched arms. Jeff demonstrates how to strike head of this unique dummy with weak hand, while stepping back out of reach, drawing and firing his .45. Advanced students soon learn that if they don't strike hard enough, "Mick-lick's" arms will spring shut, drag them in.

Layout of Funhouse as author experienced it in night exercise. Extreme versatility of building allows scenarios to be continually modified per goals of each specific problem. In fact, Funhouse is completely different each time student experiences it. "Hostages," "felons," "good guys" can be and are located in any bathroom, closet, around corners, on stairs, etc. Stress factor is extreme, benefits from exercise excellent.

Solving of complex tactical problems is part of Advanced curriculum at Gunsite. Here student has just successfully engaged "Mick-lick" dummy, which includes firing two rounds through target, is attempting to place two additional rounds in fast-disappearing silhouette. Total time for exercise is 3 seconds!

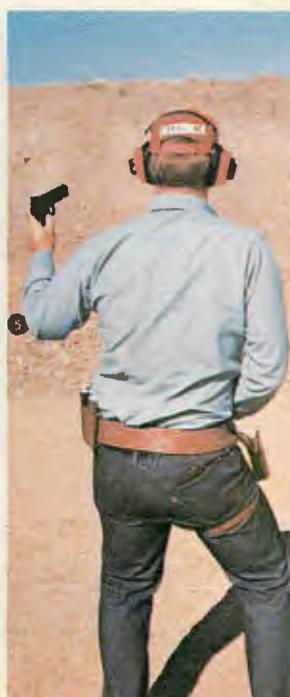
Technique for drawing weapon with weak hand, in case strong hand is incapacitated, is one of many taught at API in Advanced course. Here author begins exercise.

Weak hand reaches around behind firer, obtaining solid grip on weapon.

Weapon is withdrawn and brought from rear of firer in narrow arc.

As gun is brought forward, thumb safety is disengaged with index finger of weak hand in rolling motion.

Weapon is then brought into action and fired as it completes arc. Competent pistolero can accomplish entire sequence in less than three seconds.



6. Human targets are often camouflaged.

7. Ranges are not always known.

8. Service ammunition is used, not target wadcutters or squib loads. Such ammo shoots to a different point of aim than target loads, feels different, and produces considerably more muzzle blast, recoil, flash, and noise than target ammo.

9. Only certain types of handgun calibers and action-types are suitable for serious use in defensive situations. .22 pistols, single-action revolvers, and muzzle-loaders have no place on the fighting field, unless the participants have nothing else with which to fight.

It should be obvious at this point that personnel who train, using such methods as plinking, PPC, or target shooting, are not prepared at all for an honest-to-god fight. Such a person will almost always be killed when placed in a critical situation . . . sometimes because of his lack of abilities, and sometimes because his false confidence has placed him in a situation which he thinks he understands and can control but, in reality, can't.

The point of all of this is that, people, like animals, react in *conditioned responses* to visual, audible, or other sensory stimuli in stress situations. Therefore, apart from the mechanics of shooting (technique), which can be learned with little difficulty, it is critical that one who wishes to prepare himself to effectively defend himself with a side-arm learn the *proper conditioned responses to as wide a variety of potential combat situations as possible.*

There is only one place in the entire world where all of this is taught: *The American Pistol Institute*, also affectionately known to many of us as simply: *Gunsite.*

The instructor? Jeff Cooper, of course—the man who wrote the book on combat handgunning, and hasn't stopped writing it yet!

The stated goal of API is simple, logical, and to the point, as is its creator:

To equip the student with such a level of skill, confidence, and mental conditioning as to enable him to discourage violence before it starts, where at all possible. But when a life or death encounter is unavoidable, to stop it immediately, with minimum risk to bystanders.

It is the inadequately trained individual who, under threat of violence, will panic, or brandish a weapon, or otherwise react hastily or in desperation. It may seem odd to assert that *knowing* one is competent to handle violence helps avert violence, but, preparedness and confidence *show* and have, in actual confrontations, been sufficient to shut off an attack before it started.

Properly motivated students, with reasonable coordination and mental abilities, achieve this level of competence on completion of the basic API course.

After seven years of teaching and observing the results of API's system of training, I am convinced that the majority of police and security personnel killed in action could have survived had they learned the defensive concepts taught by API.

Interesting isn't it? And, more importantly, *it's true.* Why does it work? Again, let's return to Jeff Cooper for the answer:

Technique of successful target engagement from moving vehicle is important, but usually overlooked facet of combat pistol shooting. Here student engages targets from vehicle moving at 25 mph, two shots on each silhouette. Much more difficult than it looks, successful execution of techniques requires intense concentration on basics of pistol shooting and cool head.

API offers you the best and most quickly absorbed defensive pistol training in the world. It is not the intent of API to discredit or embarrass any other training organization, its personnel, or its methods. API's only mission is to help save more lives in the increasingly hazardous field of police and security work, as well as to mitigate the growing jeopardy faced by private citizens in their homes and businesses, by making available the now-proven techniques and teaching methods painstakingly developed for more than 20 years.

The API teaching method, conducted throughout the free world for the past seven years, has been perfected and tested to the point that results are demonstrably superior to any other course available. The reasons for this are three-fold:

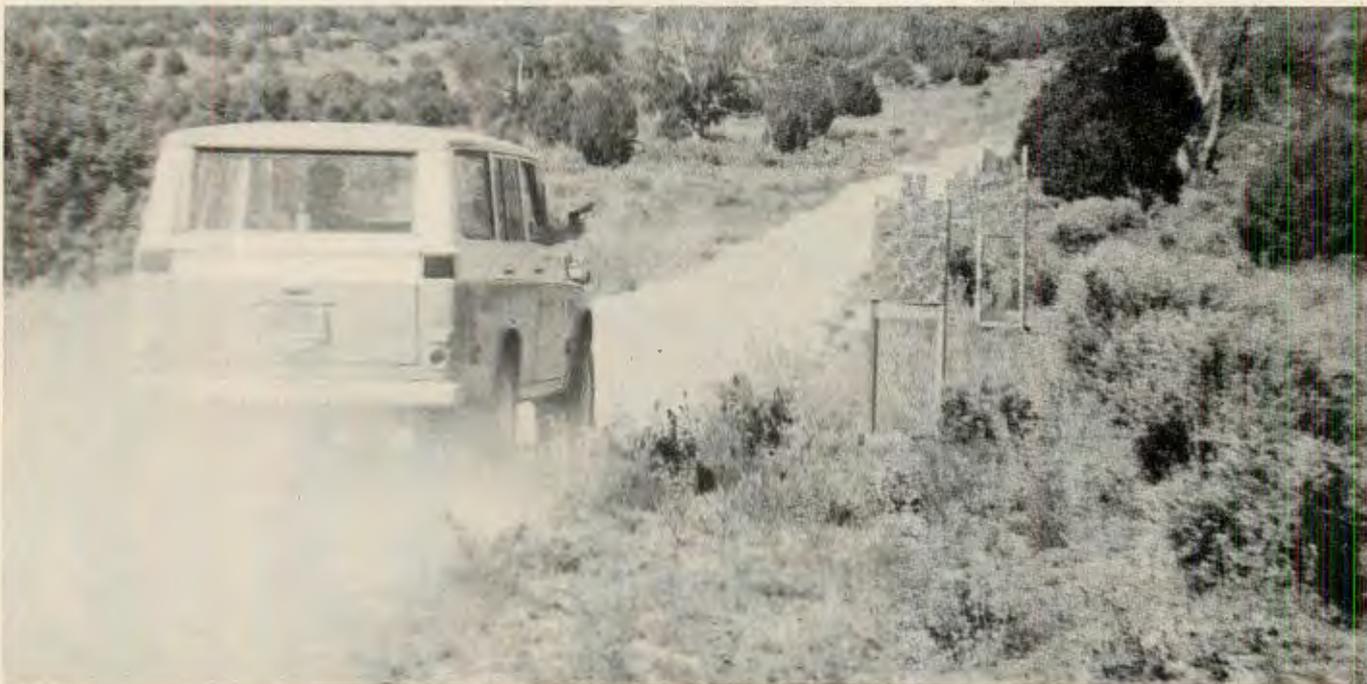
1. The *techniques* are superior—no defensive pistolcraft techniques afford the speed, accuracy, and degree of control over a violent encounter.

2. The *Method of Teaching* is superior—no other method so quickly imparts this ability to dominate a violent encounter.

3. The *Average Achievement Level* of API students is superior—nearly all students, given average reflexes and reasonable motivation, are fully capable of achieving complete control of their immediate environment.

API is located 22 miles north of Prescott, Arizona, near the town of Paulden. At the present time, its 170-acre complex includes four pistol ranges of varying types, two rifle ranges, and an indoor reaction range known as the "funhouse." (I can vouch for the title. I got myself "killed" three times in that place during my stay at Gunsite!) In addition, expansion plans are on the drawing board for several more ranges.

Courses of instruction being offered include three levels of pistol training: API 250 (Basic), API 499 (Intermediate),



and API 599 (Advanced). Practical rifle and shotgun instruction is also available.

How should you choose which course is right for you? The following guidelines from Jeff will assist you:

API 250 (Basic)—This course is intended for those who have little or no understanding of the modern technique of the pistol, as well as for those who do understand it but wish to observe API's teaching methods. There are no prerequisites, but full knowledge of the construction and operation of your weapon is very desirable. Prior military or police experience may or may not be helpful, as it is highly variable. Target shooting experience is useful but it is not a substitute for this course. API 250 takes the student up to the point where he effectively dominates

2. Reload his piece on the run with his eyes off the weapon.

3. Swing 90 degrees and pivot 180 degrees.

We do not insist on completion of API 250 as a prerequisite, but we strongly recommend it. API 499 includes three night sessions, emphasizes moving targets and footwork, and utilizes a variety of standard competitive courses of fire. It covers casualty drills, requiring the management of the weapon with one arm disabled, shooting from cramped and confining positions, and fairly elaborate decision problems. Four hours of class time are devoted to tactical and legal seminars. The certified graduate of API 499 is not only adept at advanced pistolcraft, but is also ready to do very well in organized practical competition. 600 rounds of ammunition are required.

opportunity to attend API. Classes are given in a relaxed, personal atmosphere, and conducted by Jeff Cooper himself.

Yet, in spite of this, Jeff is *all business*. He regards the responsibilities of the possession, carrying, and use of the firearm very seriously, as is appropriate for a man of his stature in the field. He does not "browbeat," but will not tolerate unsafe gun-handling under any circumstances. This, too, is as it should be. The rules of conduct at Gunsite are simple, logical, and impressive. They are quite in keeping with the subject matter being taught and are worth printing here for reader perusal:

SAFETY WITH FIREARMS

No mechanical device has a will of its own, and guns never "go off," unless somebody causes them to do so. Guns are safe. It is people who are dangerous.

The wound delivered by a bullet can easily be fatal. This means that you should not expect the luxury of learning by experience. Your first mistake may well be your last. *But you need not make it.* If you memorize the three basic principles of firearm safety, treat them with absolute seriousness, and burn them into your consciousness, you will never have a mishap with a gun.

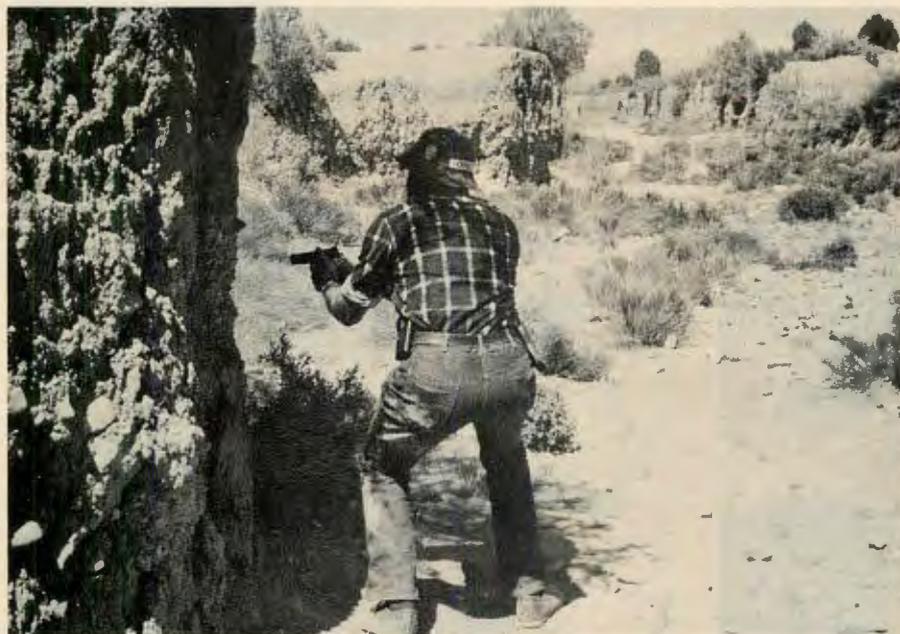
1. ALL GUNS ARE ALWAYS LOADED. No exceptions. Don't "pretend" that this is true, be deadly serious about it. Keep your "ready piece," really ready, and we'll never again hear that sheeplike bleat, "But I didn't know it was loaded."

2. NEVER LET THE MUZZLE COVER ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO DESTROY. This one is conspicuously violated—especially with pistols—and excused because, "It's not loaded." (See item 1 above.)

3. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET. Know what it is, what is in line with it, and what is behind it. Never shoot at anything you have not positively identified.

Equally appropriate and interesting are the "Gunsite Ground Rules," to control gun-handling and behavior of students on the ranges during training. These, too, exhibit a to-the-point, businesslike approach, but provide the student with the measure of respect he deserves:

1. Keep your pistol holstered except when on the firing line. We don't care what condition it is in as long as you *don't touch it!* (A holstered gun is safe.)
2. Stand firm on the line. Plant your feet and do not fidget.
3. Do not turn around with a pistol in your hand. Holster first, *then* turn around.
4. Do not let the pistol "dangle," in your hand.
5. Keep the muzzle downrange when loading. Load magazines with the pistol holstered.
6. Keep the trigger finger outside the trigger guard when in motion.
7. If you need to work with your piece, off the line, use the safety table and keep the muzzle pointed to the north.



Tactical movement, use of cover and concealment, and target-detection techniques are also taught at API in advanced course. Here student cautiously peers around corner in ravine during first of three "jungle lane" exercises, seeking silhouettes.

his immediate environment. Emphasis is placed on controlled repetition of fundamentals until any departure from correct form feels unnatural to the shooter. Night shooting is introduced as well as auxiliary position shooting. Basic tactical drills are conducted. Safe handling and mental conditioning are emphasized. The certified graduate can handle his pistol quickly, safely, accurately, and easily under stress conditions. The course requires 500 rounds of ammunition.

API 499 (Intermediate)—This course is designed for graduates of API 250 and starts where 250 leaves off. It will not benefit a student to enter API 499 unless he can consistently:

1. Draw and hit a 10-inch circle at:
 - a. 7 meters in 1 second.
 - b. 10 meters in 1½ seconds.
 - c. 25 meters in 2½ seconds.

API 599 (Advanced)—This course is for experts who wish to utilize API's facilities to polish an already outstanding repertoire of pistol skills. Accordingly, not much class instruction is given, but rather tutorial counseling and remedial experiment. The mental clock that balances speed against precision is tuned and reset. Much of the program of API 499 is repeated, but with reduced time limits. The student also works at long range, and from moving vehicles. No one who has not been certified a graduate from API 499, or who has not established a distinguished record in practical pistol competition, should apply for API 599. 600 rounds of ammunition are required.

It certainly sounds wild, doesn't it? Well, it is, and the serious student of practical handgunning is doing himself a gross injustice if he passes up an

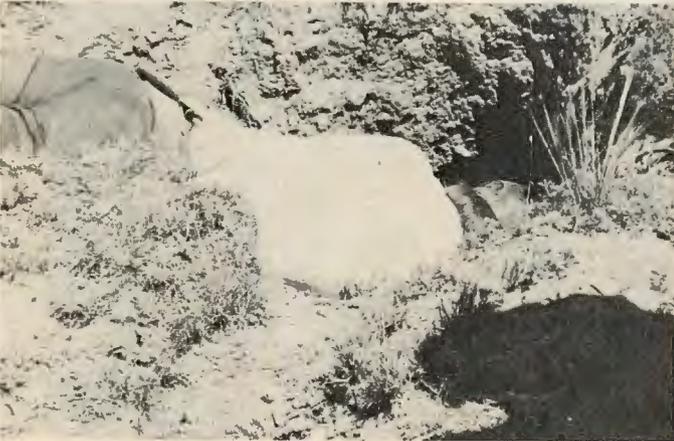
Tunnel-Rat Exercise



"Tunnel-rat" exercise is unique to Gunsite Advanced Course. Here author views entrance to tunnel, deciding upon appropriate tactical approach.



Author begins somewhat precarious descent into 6-foot-deep tunnel entrance.



With .45 ready in hand, author descends into hole. Although uncomfortable, head-first approach is tactically sound, since it allows immediate engagement of any targets inside, an impossibility with feet-first approach.



With feet in air, author completes entrance into tunnel. 5-foot diameter chamber is located at bottom of entrance hole, allowing student to orient himself, proceed to negotiate tunnel itself.



Here author has entered hole and regained his feet, is preparing to enter tunnel which begins from 5-foot diameter chamber at bottom of hole.



In cloud of dust from shots fired inside tunnel, author emerges from tunnel into ravine, seeking additional targets. Several targets are actually fired upon inside the tunnel itself. Since tunnel is only 40 inches in diameter, concussion caused by shots fired stirs up incredible amount of dirt, dust. It is worth noting that .45 autos tend to perform best on this type exercise because of extreme reliability. No malfunctions were experienced by students with .45s.



Shooting from cramped, uncomfortable positions is integral to Gunsite Advanced program. Under watchful eye of ever-present Jeff Cooper, student executes low-prone technique of shooting through 6x10-inch hole in the wall at silhouette 20 meters away.

8. Keep rifle and shotgun actions open except when on target or during a tactical drill.

By now, you will be getting the idea that Gunsite is a *very* professional, efficient, highly motivating facility, with the best instruction available on a nonsense, businesslike basis. *It is!*

The instructor/student relationships of Jeff Cooper are extraordinary and motivation runs almost fever high. This man not only teaches you how to shoot, but *when* to shoot, when *not* to shoot, how to handle hostage situations, use a flashlight, shoot at night without a flashlight, speed load, reload on the run, engage targets from moving vehicles (both sides and even while driving), engage multiple targets, and tactical movement. The list goes on and on.

Jeff takes time with students to insure that they fully understand every point he wishes to impart to them. His criticisms, while timely, and correct, are delivered gently, logically, and cause no embarrassment to the student in front of his peers.

The program of instruction is comprehensive, imaginatively written, and mas-

terfully executed, and the results show it so graphically that one wonders why in hell no one ever thought of this before!

As might be suspected by this point, each level of API instruction is progressively more diverse and difficult, since the student, as he moves up through the levels of instruction gains skill and "savvy." On the other hand, the many techniques that the student learns at each level of instruction make it quite difficult to move directly from one level of instruction to the other. Jeff strongly recommends that the student take approximately nine months between each course to fully develop and master the techniques he has learned in one course before returning to Gunsite for the next higher level.

I recently attended the Advanced course, which, as Jeff put it, "shows you just how wild things with pistols can get!" He wasn't kidding a bit!

Since the student who is accepted in the Advanced course is considered to be an expert already, Jeff is able to concentrate entirely on those ultra-refinements of technique, both mental and physical, that are so deadly important in split-second pistol-fights. The time limits on basic exercises are reduced to the point that there is virtually no margin for error, to place maximum stress on the student. One finds out very quickly where his strong and weak points lie under such circumstances.

Continued on page 68



Always expect the unexpected at Gunsite! Here author hastily engages silhouette that has been popped on him while negotiating 8-foot-high wall.

Rhodesia's Elite Armored Corps

The Black Devils

by Robert K. Brown

Sooner or later it had to happen. SOF finally obtained clearance from Combined Operations Headquarters of the Rhodesian security forces to accompany units to the field. Though it took numerous attempts over a two-year period, it was worth the energy and time expended.

SOF Editor Robert K. Brown and a SOF photographer were the first journalists to be allowed access to the Rhodesian Armored Corps, now nicknamed the "Black Devils" by the terrorists. They toured the main armor base near Salisbury and spent hours interviewing the Officer Commanding, other officers, and NCOs.

Other firsts included travelling in convoy to observe training operations at the Black Devils' secret training base, firing all weapons in the unit's inventory, and obtaining the first pictures of two new prototype vehicles.

After returning from the training mission, we joined the "Friday Afternoon Club" in the officers' mess where war stories flowed as freely as the fine Rhodesian beer.

The following, then, is the story of the Black Devils and their American CO.

"Black Devils" have invaded our liberated territory," screamed the Voice of Free Zimbabwe, over Radio Maputo, the capital of Marxist Mozambique.

And thus the Rhodesian Armored Corps received its unofficial official nickname from the enemy.

Why "Black Devils"? Because the commanding officer of the Armored Corps, Major Darrell Winkler, had authorized his unit, which had swept through the terr base camps, to wear black jump suits to give them a unique identity.

Winkler, a field grade officer in the U.S. Army upon his discharge, who served three terms in Vietnam and three tours in Germany, refuses to allow me to go into any further details regarding his military background, schooling, or combat experience.

"I resigned from the U.S. Army because I was tired of it," he said. "I was embittered by our desertion of the South

Vietnamese. Though I came out alive, many of my buddies did not. We all made a tremendous sacrifice for nothing, exactly nothing. The politicians in Washington and Paris allowed 50,000 Americans to die in vain."

After his resignation from the U.S. Army, Winkler travelled all over the world and ended up in South Africa where he became interested in the Communist-sponsored terrorist war in Rhodesia. He flew to Salisbury, contacted the Rhodesian Army, and was subsequently interviewed by a board of officers. The Rhodesians took to Winkler and gave him a tour of their military installations. Impressed with their discipline, organization, and professionalism as well as their officers and enlisted personnel, Winkler signed on.

"The Rhodesians wanted someone to reorganize their armored unit who was highly qualified—school trained—and had a considerable amount of combat experience as well as command and staff experience with U.S. armored units in Germany and the U.S.," Winkler stated. "Furthermore, I would have an opportunity to get in a few more licks against the Communists."

Members of the Rhodesian Armored Corps observe trainees firing main guns on armored vehicles at secret training base somewhere in Rhodesia.





This vehicle has been mine-proofed; armored. Built on a commercial chassis. Used to transport patrols in bush.

Winkler was commissioned in the Rhodesian Army on 12 August 1977 and was initially assigned to a military studies course which is the equivalent to the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. Subsequently, he was appointed an instructor in the same school and lectured on mechanized infantry and armor operations. He returned to Colorado in December to arrange for his wife's passage to Rhodesia and visited SOF's offices in Boulder. Shortly after his return to Rhodesia, he was given the command of the Rhodesian armored corps.

"It was a great opportunity," Winkler recalls. "I was given a tremendous amount of responsibility—the authority to reorganize the table of organization as well as select personnel."

Winkler refuses to detail the Black Devils' table of organization and the precise numbers and types of vehicles in the armored corps because of security restrictions. He did say that the total number of vehicles is comparable to that in a western armored regiment; that there is one regiment in the armored corps which consists of four operational squadrons which in turn have four troops. Three of the four squadrons are staffed by a cadre of regular army NCOs and fleshed out with reservists, called "territorials."

An entire territorial squadron comes in on active duty for eight weeks. They have been doing this for so long the transition from civilian life to active duty

takes only two days! This includes transfer of stores, ammo, etc. The squadron is operational at the end of the second day. The territorials serve two eight-week tours per year. Last year, however, due to escalation of the war, they served up to a total of six months.

Winkler also commands the 4th Squadron which is made up entirely of regulars and which has more personnel and vehicles than the three territorial squadrons. A fifth headquarters squadron is non-operational and is comparable to a headquarters company.

Also under Winkler's command is a depot which conducts all armored training and which could be compared to the U.S. Army Armored School. Located at the same facility on the outskirts of Salisbury is a maintenance section which performs all first, second, third, and fourth class echelon maintenance and repair.

The latter facility built two new prototype vehicles which will go into production shortly and become part and parcel of the Armored Corps. The first is the Bullet, a wheeled, infantry fighting vehicle, nicknamed after a Sandhurst graduate who designed and developed it and who received his nickname while playing rugby. SOF was the first publication that has had an opportunity to observe and photograph this vehicle. In fact, SOF staff members journeyed in convoy with the Bullet to the Black Devil's secret training area in the Rhodesian bush.

Before the Bullet goes into production, it will be driven 10,000 kilometers cross-country, day and night. Upon termination of the durability test, it will be blown up by a command-detonated Russian landmine to determine the effectiveness of the anti-blast configuration.

"Endurance and reliability tests," Winkler pointed out, "will be much the same as those conducted with a similar type vehicle in the U.S. Army." Winkler refused to let us publish the actual cost of the Bullet. I can, however, attest to the fact that the prototype production cost is so low that it would boggle the minds of U.S. Army procurement officers.

In fact, we could undoubtedly save hundreds of millions of dollars by having a team of Rhodesian efficiency and economy experts come over and give guidance on how not to waste money.

I can reveal that the vehicle carries a 10-man crew; that the vehicle commander is also the section (squad) leader when the crew dismounts and assumes an infantry role. The Bullet will be armed with a yet undetermined caliber machine gun or some type of 20mm cannon. Winkler and his staff are in the process of developing the means for tactical employment of the Bullet, even though it has not completed its trial runs.

The second prototype vehicle that is to be integrated into the Black Devils' inventory of sudden death is a dune-buggy-type, high-speed, cross-country reconnaissance vehicle that will depend on speed and maneuverability for survival. It has been nicknamed the "Vaporizer" by the Rhodesian troopers, as if it hits a landmine it will be "vaporized." The Vaporizer is another example of Rhodesian—and in this case, American—ability to produce a functional operational vehicle in minimum time with minimum assets. Winkler simply told his superiors what he wanted and they gave

Major Winkler briefs author on function and employment of twin Browning .30 caliber Browning machine guns mounted on 4 x 4. "Black Devils" developed concept and had it in production within a short time.





Left: Crocodile, another Rhodesian designed and manufactured troop carrier, is armored, mine-proofed. Specifications are classified.

Below: Members of armored unit plink with Uzi and FN. All troopers qualify with small arms every 10 days, zero weapons preceding every operation.



Above: Dune-buggylike reconnaissance vehicle developed in less than two months for less than \$1500 by Major Winkler and his "Black Devils." Rhodesian troopers nicknamed it "Vaporizer," since if it hits landmine it will be "vaporized."



Above: "Vaporizer" will mount .30 cal or .50 cal MG, will be in production before end of year.





Above: Front view of Bullet, prototype armored infantry fighting vehicle, built by Rhodesian Armored Corps. After 10,000-kilometer road test, Bullet will be blown up by captured Russian landmine to determine its resistance to blast and heat.



Above: Major Darrell Winkler, native of Ohio, cuts loose with twin .30 cal Brownings mounted on 4x4. Gun mounts, ammo boxes were developed in Rhodesian Armored Corps R&D facility near Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Left: outdated by western standards, Ferret armored cars have proved effective against terrorist infantry. Presently, Rhodesians are developing new turret with heavier armament. Rhodesians have number of heavier armored vehicles in inventory which author viewed but cannot describe for security reasons.



Above: Side view of Bullet. Note firing ports. Carries crew of 10. Vehicle commander leads squad when they dismount. Production version will mount .30 or .50 cal MGs or 20mm cannon.

Below: Rhodesian Armored Corps troopers are issued black jump suits after completing training. Nicknamed "Black Devils" by terrorist radio station in Maputo, Mozambique, after number of highly successful raids. Major Winkler is behind twin .30 cal Brownings, Editor Brown in camouflage jump suit.



Above: Rear view of Bullet. Cost of vehicle is classified but Winkler stated low cost would give western armies apoplexy. Author was first journalist to photograph Bullet; to journey with Black Devils to secret training base in Rhodesian bush.

him the equivalent of \$1500 and told him to "go to it." No staff studies and more staff studies; no committee meetings and no buck passing. In only a month, Winkler had his prototype, which is now undergoing its final tests. A contract will be signed with a commercial firm for the production run.

Other vehicles that can be mentioned without compromising security, according to Winkler, are Ferret armored cars, Rovers, which are four-wheel-drive vehicles armed with 50 calibers, twin Brownings, or 20mms, as well as an armored transport vehicle called a Crocodile which has a commercial chassis and engine and has been mineproofed.

There are a number of other armored vehicles in the Black Devils' TO & E which have a main gun capable of defeating any Communist-bloc tanks in either Mozambique or Angola.

When I questioned Winkler as to why the armored units machine guns did not have shields as did the convoy vehicles manned by the police, he replied that there was more fear of an RPG round detonating on the shield, which of course would kill the gunner and destroy the gun, than of the gunner taking a round from an AK or RPD.

Winkler pointed out that the Rovers fight amongst the armored vehicles and have been shot up on occasion.

Winkler evaluated his Rhodesian troops as follows:

LEADERSHIP. "Excellent. This includes both officers and NCOs. It extends down from my squadron commanders right down to the vehicle commanders. We don't believe in command and control by radio. When there is a 'punch out' I'm there and so are my officers and NCOs."

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS. "Our senior NCOs are true professionals. They're the best I've ever seen. Experienced, dedicated, capable, and aggressive."

PROMOTION. "We don't believe in 'instant' NCOs. They cost lives. Enlisted men and junior NCOs are promoted based on performance and competence, not efficiency reports or time-in-grade. Often it takes three or four years for a 'troopie' to make the equivalent of E-5. Some territorial servicemen (reservists) have spent six years in the same grade.

"A section leader will tell his troop leader, 'I've got a man in my section that is working out well.' We'll observe him closely for six months; then make him a temporary E-5. If he is recommended by his immediate superiors, I promote him. I have the authority to promote up to the grade of warrant officer."

MORALE. "It's high, damn high. Because our men are fighting to save their country, their families, their livelihood. As I mentioned earlier, we have good leadership; we are aggressive and

we win! If the officers and NCOs are aggressive, the troops are aggressive."

INGENUITY. "We have to use ingenuity, as we don't have millions of dollars for R&D like western or Communist-bloc countries. For instance, we wanted to develop a mount for twin Brownings .30 cal. machine guns. We informally discussed the concept, drew a sketch on scrap paper, gave it to our R & D committee, which consists of two sergeant majors and a squadron CO. They went out and designed one in a couple of weeks. To build a similar system in the U.S. would cost a fortune and take months if not years before it was accepted. (Remember how long it took the U.S. Army to adopt subdued patches for Vietnam?) Our R & D costs are almost nothing. If we need something we make it."

DISCIPLINE. There is no nonsense in the Rhodesian Armored Corps. Discipline is strict and uncompromising. You do not find an enlisted man say, "No, I don't want to," or "I do it later, maybe." Anyone that gives anything less than his very best is immediately transferred.

I had an opportunity to witness a troop of students conduct their first firing exercises with some of the heavier Rhodesian armored vehicles at their secret training base. And it was a pleasure to watch.

The Black Devil NCOs had done their job well. Though the students did not meet Winkler's demanding requirements for laying and firing their main guns with their first few practice rounds, it was obvious that they soon would.

Winkler insists that *all* his men maintain their proficiency with small arms. They qualify on the range every 10 days. All small arms are zeroed before every operation. Marksmanship competition between the troops and squadrons is

Major Darrell Winkler, CO of the "Black Devils," insists all his personnel qualify with small arms every 10 days. Here, Winkler tries his hand with a 12 guage pump.



emphasized to build morale and make the training more interesting.

TRAINING: "Officers assigned to the Armored Corps complete a 12-week basic armor course. Then each of them is assigned to a troop where he is evaluated by the current troop leader during a number of combat operations before he is given a command. Draftees or National Service personnel serve 18 months if they enter the service after high school; two years if they receive a deferment to go to college. The length of courses of formal instruction depends on the individual's military occupation specialty. The training in general is rigorous and demanding. Black jump suits are issued after a trooper successfully completes his training."

Development of new tactics is a continuing process with Major Winkler and his Black Devils.

"The formal military schooling I received in the States has helped me tremendously," Winkler said. "I have been developing our own tactics with a degree of freedom that you do not have in the U.S. Army."

The tactics employed are a blend of British, German, South African, French, and American. Israeli tactics are not utilized, according to Winkler, because the terrain is not similar to that in Israel, but instead resembles the terrain in Germany where you have rolling countryside, mountains, etc.

Tactics employed fall into two major categories: those used against enemy infantry that has a strong anti-armor capability and tactics to be employed against a conventional type armor thrust which would utilize Russian tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Once again, Winkler was reluctant to get into specific details. He did say that his armor always moved with supporting mechanized infantry, that depending on the situation combined arms—artillery and air assets—were utilized.

Air support is committed only after a unit commander feels it is absolutely



A "Black Devil" cuts loose with a .50 cal Browning mounted on a 4 x 4. This particular vehicle took 41 hits in a major contact, including two in the back of the driver's seat.

necessary. What it boils down to is, "Is the situation developing so that it is worth spending the money to call in air support?" Winkler stated that nine times out of ten the armored unit in contact is able to handle the problem.

"The terrorist infantry is scared of us, even when they outnumber us by a large number," Winkler commented. "Normally, when we engage them they will take the gap. They won't stay and fight."

"We have developed and are continually refining our armor tactics for use in COIN operations." Winkler emphasized, "We survive because we keep moving. The keystones of our tactical doctrine are speed, mobility, and aggressive action."

Because of cost factors and economy of force, the Black Devils are normally committed only when Rhodesian intelligence has pinpointed significant concentrations of terrorists.

"Before the armor units had to look for a job. Now we are efficiently and effectively employed," Winkler said. "Normally, Rhodesian armor operations are conducted by a single squadron and very seldom with less than a squadron."

"The tactics developed here are now being analyzed and, in some cases, utilized by other countries. A number of western and Latin American countries

have sent representatives unofficially to observe our tactics due to the success that we have had in employing armor with a heavy anti-armor capability," Winkler said. "We are continually revising and improving our tactics. When an idea is put forth it is tested immediately and if it is successful it is adopted immediately. We don't go through months of paper work and committee meetings. It simply works or it doesn't."

Over the past year more attention has been devoted to increasing the Black Devils' anti-armor capability and emphasis placed on conventional armor tactics in case of a terrorist armor thrust from Mozambique. Large numbers of RPG-7 launchers and ammunition have been captured in daring strikes at terrorist bases in Mozambique. These have been integrated into the armor TO & E and, of course, have been issued to units throughout the entire Rhodesian army.

Additional armor vehicles, of which the number and type are still classified, have the capability of fighting and defeating the Russian T-34s and T-54s now in the hands of terrorist forces.

Winkler, once again, refused to be specific about how much is known about the terrorist armor capability. However, press reports have stated that the terrorists have a total of about 200 T-34s and T-54s as well as armored personnel carriers; that Cuban instructors are training terrorists in their operation and tactics. There have also been reports of a few T-62s in Mozambique.

Early last summer, the press carried reports that there were 3500 Russian tanks in Mozambique. SOF staffers raised their eyebrows at this figure, which was more tanks than the Russians had at the battle of Kursk! I queried Winkler regarding this report.

He laughed and said, "A reporter from one of the major U.S. TV networks apparently was hard up for a story and either made it up or failed to check the credibility of his source. Obviously, he had no military background." He chuckled again. "Can you imagine the training program you would have to organize to train tank crews for 3500 tanks much less maintain and supply them!"

A terrorist-manned, Russian-equipped and sponsored armored thrust is, however, considered by Winkler to be a possibility.

"Why? Because the Russians have committed a tremendous amount of money, materiel, and ordnance to insure a Marxist, anti-U.S. government takes control of Rhodesia, thus isolating Zambia and Zaire, as well as denying the West our natural resources," Winkler said. "And their prestige is at stake. Therefore, the Russians want to disrupt the democratic elections scheduled for December. If the elections take place and the United States lifts the embargo, the Russians will have lost."

Since the Armored Corps is used only when intelligence can pinpoint large concentrations of enemy troops, they make contact on 90 percent of their operations.

Some of their firefights have lasted the best part of a day. During one recent contact, Winkler's squadron followed a platoon-size unit of terrorists into their base camp.

"As we roared into the camp, which was laid out along a narrow dirt road bordered by heavy bush, we opened fire simultaneously," Winkler said. "Due to the impenetrable bush there was no room to maneuver our wheeled vehicles.

"Our infantry dismounted, deployed, and began firing. Enemy tracer rounds started fires behind us. Our tracers started a fire behind the enemy. In a short while, flames were blazing 15 to 20 feet high. It was so hot the infantry's web gear smoldered and plastic canteens melted in their covers. Within an hour, smoke from the fires was rising a thousand feet in the air."

"The terrors mortared us but they still haven't learned to adjust fire and consequently dropped more rounds on their own troops than they did on us. They had even more problems with their 122mm rockets, some of which landed six clicks from us.

"After five hours, the wind dispersed the smoke; I called in tac air and the terrors withdrew—what was left of them. We estimated we killed 106 out of about 150."

Though the Black Devils are not called out to react to terrorist atrocities, they as everyone else in this dirty war witness examples of the terrorist barbarism. Winkler remembers entering one *kraal* where a 15-year-old boy had been tied to a tree by a terr band who had taped a white phosphorus grenade to the inside of his thigh, laughed, pulled the pin, and left. They told the other villagers he was an "informer."

Another time Winkler's squadron encountered a burnt-out police Land Rover. The vehicle, which was giving a lift to a number of villagers, had been ambushed. The terrorists poured gasoline on the wounded Africans and set it alight.

When asked how long he plans on remaining in Rhodesia, which will be known as "Zimbabwe" after 1 January 1979, Winkler replied, "I have two more years left to finish out my contract.

"I have no concern about the government being taken over by blacks. I don't care if the government is black or white as long as it is not Communist. I am not here to fight simply to fight but to fight Communism."



The AR-15

Black Gun Blaster

by Robert Sundance



The M-16/AR-15 “black gun,” which is our main battlefield small arm, is not known for its accuracy or tons of energy. It’s not even legal for hunting in most states since it is so underpowered—some battlefield weapon, huh? To be very honest, I personally don’t like the rifle—in fact, I hate it; it’s worthless—or is it?

There is a gunsmith in Boulder, Colorado, named Mark Chanlynn, who shoots as an N.R.A. expert in high power competition with an AR-15! Although this may not impress you, it should. One phase of these matches is fired with iron sights at 600 yards. Mark won the Colorado State 600-Yard phase with this rifle in 1977.

Mark takes an AR-15, goes through it, and produces a rifle capable of three-inch groups at 600 yards. Now that I have your attention, let’s go into some detail on this 11½-pound, semi-automatic, super-accurate terror.

This is obviously an excellent target rifle since it shoots in bolt action rifle matches (it is not in the service rifle class). This gives it an excellent advantage in rapid fire competition: low recoil

and excellent accuracy. The potential for special unit or SWAT application is fantastic. As a counter-sniper weapon, it can shoot with pinpoint accuracy and yet allows for rapid follow-up shots. Most SWAT teams deploy with a bolt gun sniper and an AR-15 or M-16 backup. Now the same job can be done by one man if the situation allows, or you could have two semi-auto “accurate” snipers.

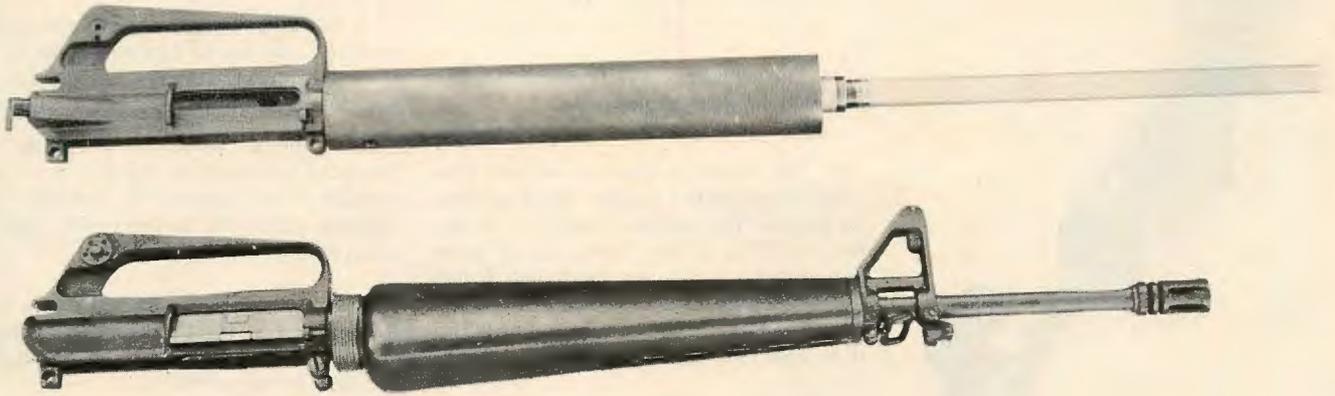
I’m not advocating that this be a door-buster close-in gun; that is a job for shot-guns or full-automatic weapons. SWAT teams like the 5.56mm and 6mm cartridges, since they are common, fairly accurate to very accurate, and have low accidental penetration so bystanders can’t be blasted by a wild .308 round that went through four walls.

What then is Mark’s AR-15 all about and what are its advantages? First, it is sold with the customer’s choice of barrel, whether by Hart, Douglass, or whomever. The rifle weighs up to 11½ pounds, due to the heavy 24-inch barrel and steel forearm. About 1½ pounds can be cut off by using an aluminum forearm. The 10 to 11-pound weight allows for more shooting

stability and lower recoil. Mark can’t report on any malfunctions in 1700 rounds of firing—so it appears not to be temperamental.

The M-16 straight line stock design with a pistol grip further reduces recoil and adds to a more natural point of aim. This stock also allows for both right or left-hand use—a definite advantage over most bolt rifles. It has the lowered-training-time advantage for SWAT units, since they usually train with AR-15s or M-16s.

One very huge advantage to 6mm bolt guns over the 5.56mm autos is that they use an inherently more accurate round and they hit harder. Mark can rechamber the AR-15 blaster for a 6 x 45mm wildcat. He takes the 5.56mm case, necks it up to 6mm and bingo: a 6mm round that looks exactly like a baby .308. In fact, when loaded with Sierra 85-grain hollow-point boattail bullets in front of 25 grains of Hodgden powder, it has nearly identical flight characteristics as the .308. This is a 2700-foot-per-second load, by the way.



This rifle can be built using the customer's choice of 6mm or 5.56mm government ammo. Or you can have it set up in both. The barrel, forearm, and receiver come off as a group and can be replaced with the alternate setup or even the original M-16 barrel and forearm in less time than it takes to clean a .45.

This gives obvious advantages of training with easy-to-get 5.56 ammo, or even using the .22 LR conversion kit, and yet when the need arises, 6mm handloads can be used.

Needless to say, this setup, using a match grade 5.56mm barrel and ammo, results in a vastly superior AR-15. I shot one, using the 5.56 barrel and it was just great. But that 6mm is absolutely

Difference between upper receiver groups is evident in this photo.

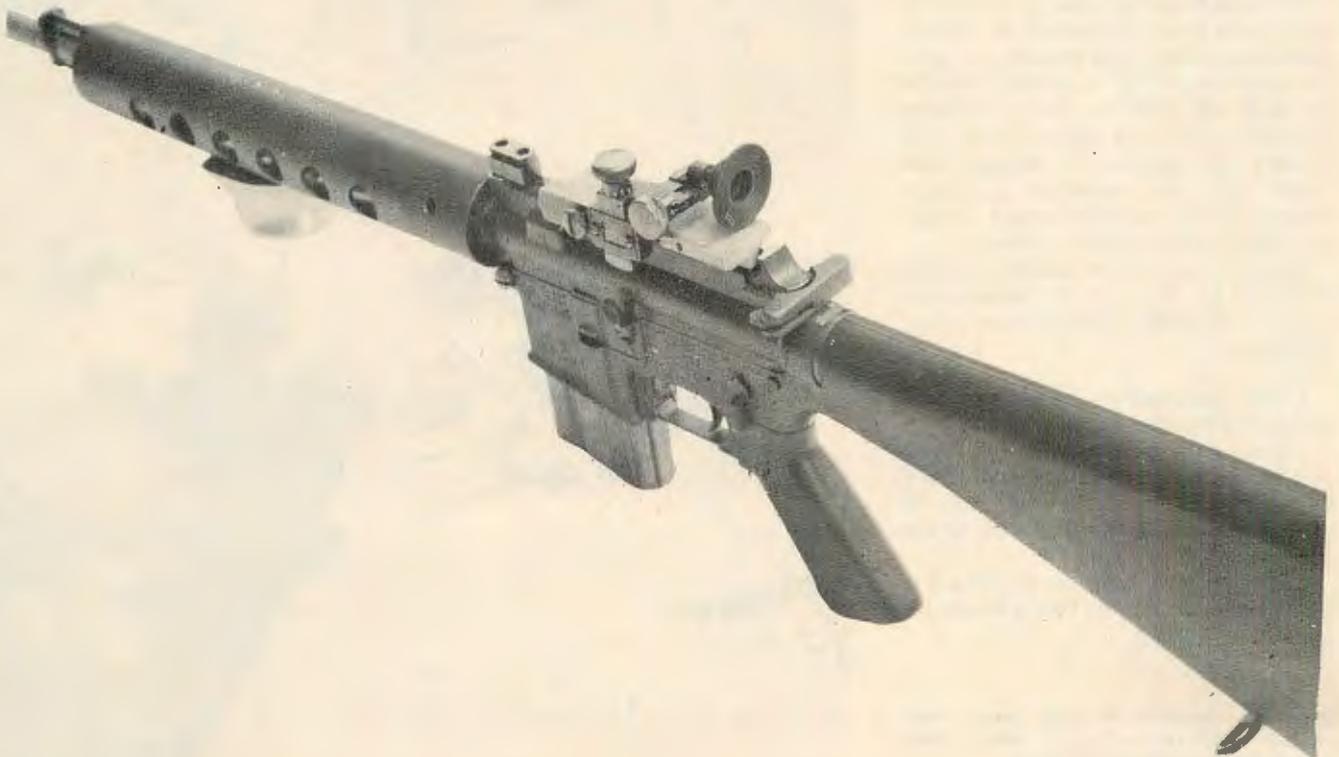
fantastic—accurate as hell and almost no recoil. I'm not recoil shy; however, the reduction of recoil permits rapid recovery for an accurate follow-up shot.

I had the opportunity to testfire Mark's 6mm at the International Sportsman's Range in Broomfield, Colorado. A set of scope blocks had been installed and a scope was mounted for the first time. The

Removal of carrying handle permits use of custom rear sights—Note special sight blocks.

rifle held an awful set of 1½ to two-inch groups at 100 yards. At 300 yards they went to five inches. We jerked the scope off and proceeded to fire 300-yard three-inch groups with iron sights, using the incorrect aperture for 300 yards. The bullseye looked like a BB in a box car through that sight. Somehow I held a fairly tight reference point and the rifle did the rest. Mark fired several rapid-fire ten-shot groups in 60 seconds in the sitting position at 200 yards and got 1½ to two inch groups. Now that's good shooting, especially if you figure in the human error.

The scope problem is still a mystery; however, it appears that it isn't good to mount scope blocks on the tube forearm.





Note front sight blocks and no-contact, free-floating barrel.

4. The chamber is then cut in the barrel to very close tolerances.

5. The barrel is then cut to the customer's requested length. Mark prefers 24 inches. The crown is then cut in the muzzle. This is the final contact point between the barrel and the bullet. It has a tremendous effect on any rifle's accuracy. Mark uses a stepdown crown and then laps it for perfect concentricity.

6. He then installs the barrel and receiver group and test fires it to determine

the exact chamber dimensions by measuring the difference between the unfired round and a fired case.

7. The rifle is then disassembled. The steel or aluminum forearm tube is cut from 2.0 inch O.D. tube having a 0.125 wall thickness; air holes are optional.

8. A special barrel nut is made and threaded internally to match the receiver threads. The tolerances between the threads (class fit) is extremely tight to prevent slop and movement.

9. A 0.25-inch diameter hole is then drilled in the forearm tube to provide access for a spanner wrench to tighten the tube on the receiver.

10. He next locates and drills a gas tube hole through the barrel nut—to

The scope apparently belongs on the receiver, whether the carrying handle is utilized for a mount (a poor practice) or if special blocks are made by Mark for your scope. The carrying handle is poor as a mount if the quick detachable scope mount is used—it just doesn't stay zeroed, due to movement. The handle could be utilized if permanent screws and bases were used to mount a scope. You should be aware that if the handle is retained, good iron sights cannot be used—a small matter to SWAT, a big consideration for target shooters. The use of the longer 24-inch barrel gives a much greater sight radius for the iron sight shooters, a nice advantage.

The round steel forearm is totally free from contact with the barrel. It doesn't matter how much sling pressure is used, the barrel won't flex as it does with the standard AR-15/M-16. This eliminates poor shot groups or missed shots. The forearm also spreads the mirage from barrel heat (an advantage to target shooters). One can also mount a hand stop like that which Mark's rifle has.

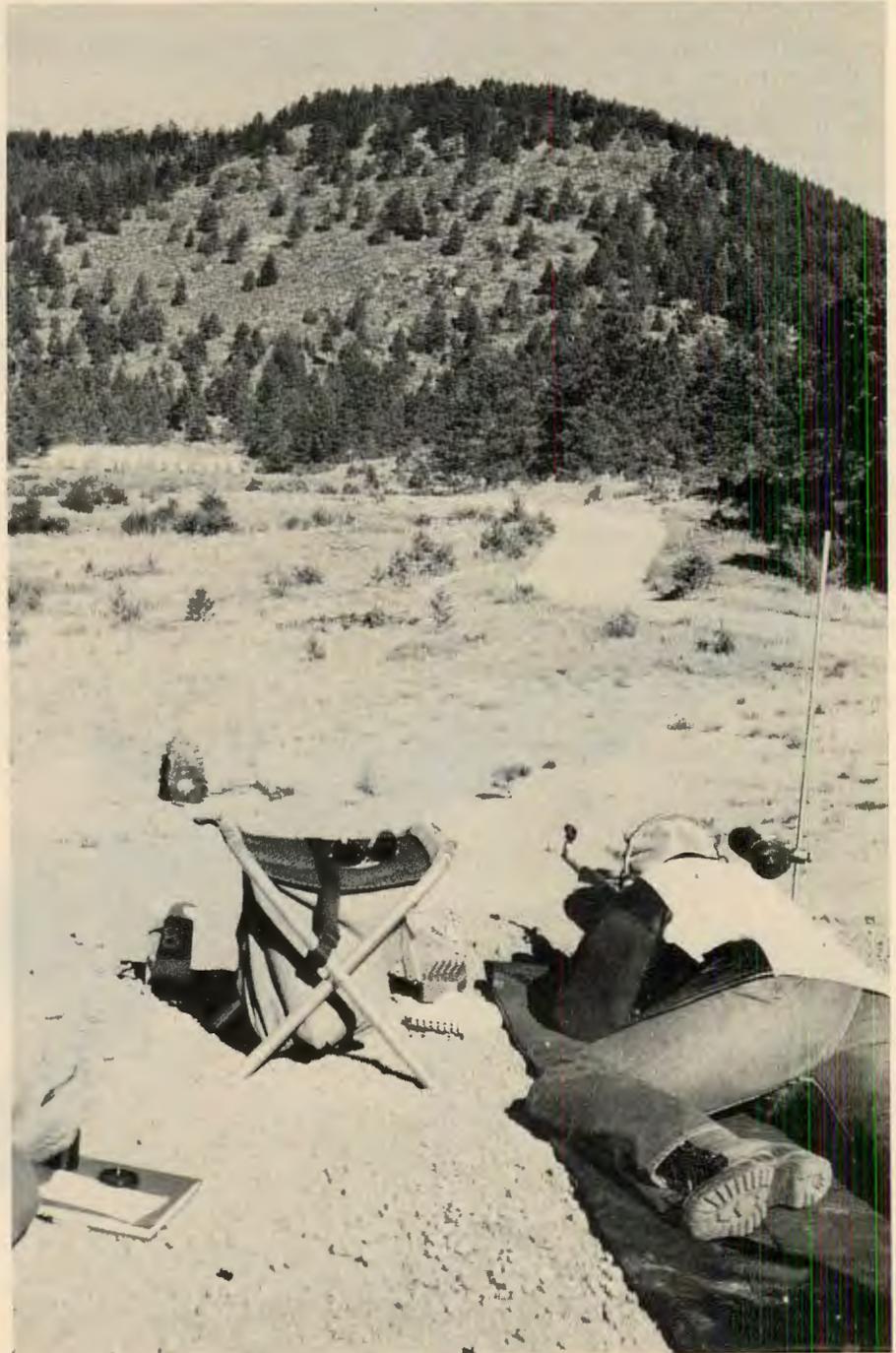
Mark has obliged me and the readers of S.O.F. by giving us his modification steps in the order that he does them. Here goes:

1. He disassembles the original rifle as supplied by the customer.

2. Taking the steel barrel blank (Mark prefers stainless steel—less corrosion), he recontours it to a 1.0 inch diameter at the breech end and 0.75 inch at the muzzle.

3. He then cuts in the shank threads to fit the barrel extension. This is where the bolt fits.

Blaster is excellent at long range. Here rapid-fire, 300-yard group is being fired. Rifle is equally at home at 600 yards.



Low recoil permits rifle to be held in any position—here note high position on shoulder.

allow for the gas tube. Upon firing, the gas passes through this tube to work the action. This alignment must be perfect to insure functioning of the action during firing.

11. He then locates the gas port hole position in the barrel and drills and reams it out. Burrs are eliminated inside the barrel by wire brushing and rereaming many times.

12. He reams the gas fixture to 0.375 inch and fastens it to the barrel. At this point, the bayonet, sight, and other junk on the gas tube may be removed if desired. This is a must if competition sights are used. I would recommend this to take advantage of the 24-inch sight radius of the longer barrel.

13. Mark manufactures new trigger pins from hardened drill rod. These are tightly fitted to eliminate side play in the trigger assembly, which is essential for a target trigger in the AR-15.

14. He drills and taps the receiver for external engagement and screws on the trigger (allen head). This allows for trigger adjustment.

15. The angles on both engagement sears (hammer and trigger) are changed. The normal M-16/AR-15 trigger when pulled has a slight camming effect on the hammer—this modification eliminates this problem. It also allows for an adjustment down to 3½-pounds pull. The resulting trigger is so crisp that it feels much lighter.

16. The disconnecter is reworked to prevent accidental full-auto fire on any of the rifles AR-15 or M-16. This might be optional on an M-16 for police use.

17. The rifle is then reassembled and fired 20 to 30 rounds to test the gas system and trigger function.

18. Any special sight work is completed at this point. Mark makes his own iron sight bases, since none are commercially available. He will also install the hand stop or sling swivels or both at this time.

19. He then polishes the barrel and glass beads it, using a sand blaster. Then all requested parts are blued.

20. The rifle is boxed up with all left-over parts and returned to its owner.

In order to have an AR-15 or M-16 converted, it is not necessary to send the whole rifle to Mark—just the upper and lower receiver. When the rifle is finished, you can use the old barrel, forearm, etc., on it when you want, provided you keep your old gas system parts—a nice feature!

Well, that's about it, an AR-15 or M-16 that even I love. However, if you like the wildcat 6mm or 5.56 cartridge or you have



a preference for the black gun—this is a great way to go. I, as I said before, feel this is a super sniper/counter-sniper rifle for police or special use in urban areas. As a battlefield weapon I still like the 7.62 since it can penetrate vehicles or buildings much better. For SWAT use, the Blaster is a natural, provided heavy caliber guns are available for backup and heavy duty use. The target shooter and special unit rifleman will appreciate its accuracy, firepower, and great reliability.

Mark can be reached at the Bighorn Trading Co., 1707 14th, Boulder, Colo-

rado 80302. His prices vary between \$275.00 and \$350.00, depending on your specifications. Don't be in a hurry to get your rifle back: you know how gunsmiths are.

In parting, let me pass along my own unoriginal shooting philosophy: "only hits count"—and hits you can count on with this rifle.





Left: South African troopers are adept at turning hostile bush into livable area. Note "sidewalk" constructed from beer and soft drink cans.

Right: Ovambo store owner and interpreter for South African Army poses by his pickup, blown up by terrorists landmine night before. SWAPO terrorist who planted mine was apprehended following day with indirect assist from SOF editor.

Below: typical view of the terrain in S.W. Africa. Flat land as far as you can see, covered with sparse bush and spotted with native "kraals." Area is difficult to seal off as avenues of approach are many kilometers wide. Contact by ambush is mostly by luck.



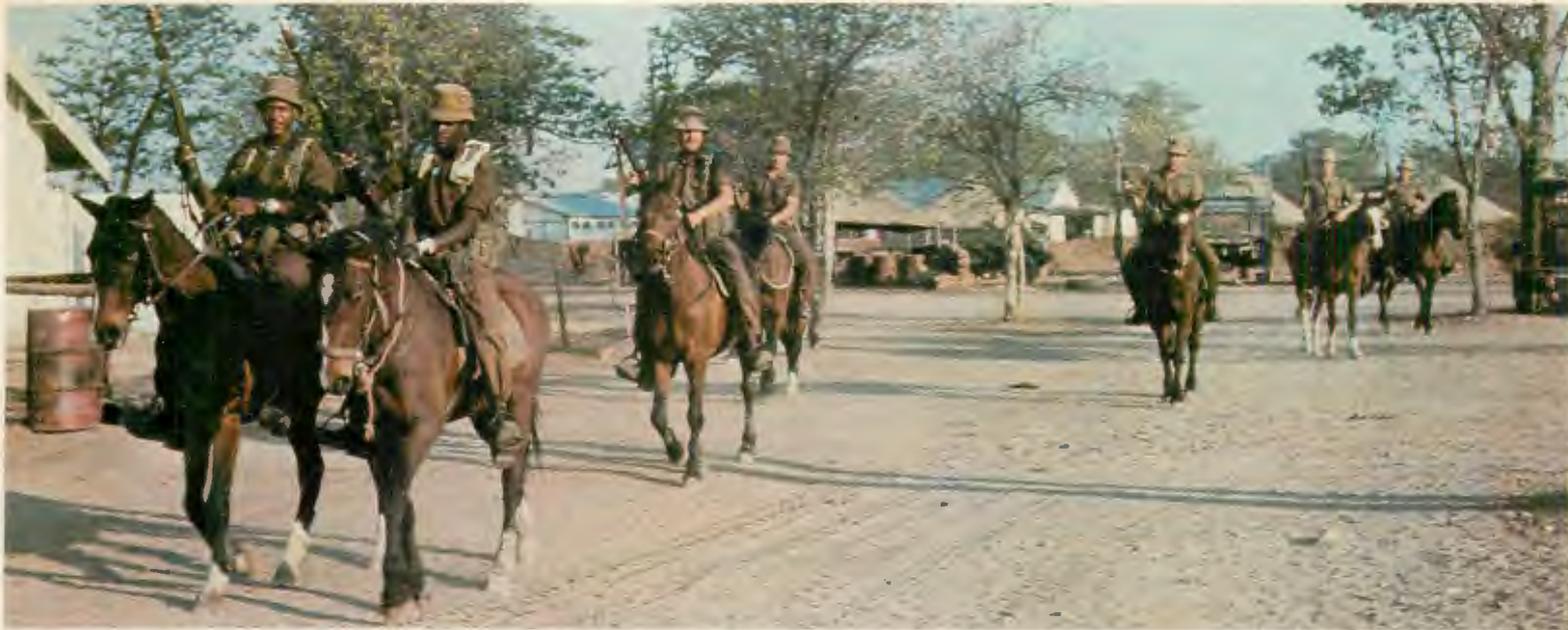
Tactics & Techniques

SouthWest Africa Update

by Robert K. Brown

Below: Members of a S.A. parachute battalion on their way to rifle range. Note unique silhouette targets.





Above: Ovambo tribesman and white South Africans function as well-knit team in this mounted infantry unit. Ovambos are used as trackers, carry rifle grenades to break contact in case of ambush.



Below: In this terrain, high tree is all one can hope for for observation point.

Above: Ovambo troops participate in platoon attack exercise. Author found these troops to be aggressive; employed fire and movement techniques effectively.



Left and below: Author is assaulted by camp mascot in South African Army base near Angolan border in South West Africa; solves problem in typical SOF fashion.



SOF staffer Al J. Venter, veteran correspondent of Africa's wars, revolutions, and coups, arranged through the South African Army's Public Relations Office for a tour of the South West Africa operational area for SOF Editor Brown.

The date of the flight from Pretoria to S.W.A. was pushed up one day. The schedule forced Brown to hitchhike several hundred kilometers from a large ranch in south eastern Rhodesia where he was visiting Vietnam veterans who are working as security guards.

The following day, he flew on a C-130 with his escort to SWA, where he was briefed at a main base camp. Subsequently, he journeyed by Alouette and Puma helicopters to various forward operational bases near the Angolan border where he interviewed numerous troopers and assessed the terrorist war—techniques, tactics, and equipment.

Brown saw no action, though his presence indirectly assisted in the capture of one terrorist. The night before arriving in one forward base camp, a civilian vehicle owned by an Ovambo store keeper and interpreter for the S.A. Defense Force hit a land mine, killing the driver and seriously wounding the other

occupants. The young terrorist had stood in the road with his bicycle near the mine he had planted, detouring several vehicles around him. When the vehicle he wanted to destroy came into view, he simply moved his bicycle off into the bush. And boom!

The following day Brown's chopper arrived in camp. Concurrently, the base intelligence officer rushed up to the CO and told him that informants had just identified and located the terr. And could he borrow the chopper to apprehend him, as the terr might move at any time. Since a chopper was there, it was made available and in less than an hour the terr was apprehended and transported back to base camp for interrogation.

Brown's notes and observations follow:

TERRAIN AND SITUATION

The border between Angola and South West Africa in the military area I visited

"Ratel," South Africa's new APC, has been described by western military experts as one of best infantry fighting vehicles available. Note firing ports; smoke grenade launchers on turret.

runs for about 450 kilometers. The terrain, stark, flat, and featureless, is covered with 20-foot-high bush.

When questioned as to how the South Africans secured such a long porous border, (the whole border is essentially one big "avenue of approach") one SWA base commander replied, "I concentrate most of my operations in and around the more densely populated areas. Of course, we also run ops along the border on an irregular basis to preclude establishing any definite pattern. I also deploy my units in depth."

The border area is broken down into two "Military Areas," which have a troop strength the equivalent of a U.S. Army reinforced brigade. The number of companies in each battalion is determined by that particular battalion's mission and the number of square kilometers in its particular area of operations. The same criteria are used to determine the number of armored vehicles assigned to each battalion, which in turn are attached to the battalion's companies.

A permanent mobile reserve of paratroopers are stationed at the Military Area Headquarters. Normally, they are inserted by helicopter.





Above: Brown listens to analysis of South African political situation by I. Kathrada and G. Munsook, members of Executive Council of South African Indian Council, who were on an orientation tour.



Left: Typical machine gun bunker at Forward operational base near Angolan border. SWAPO units have yet to attempt to overrun such bases; prefer to avoid security forces and intimidate populace.

Below left: Author and escort prepare to enter French-made Puma chopper. Helicopters provide only reliable method of transportation during three-month rainy season, due to lack of tarred roads.



TERRORIST MODUS OPERANDI

SWAPO's base camps are located between 30 to 100 kilometers north of the Angolan border. These bases serve as SWAPO's section headquarters. Africans who are kidnapped or recruited or lured to SWAPO's standards under false pretenses rendezvous at these bases where they are evaluated. The most qualified are sent overseas for specialist or advanced training. The remainder are trained at these bases for three to six months.

As one South African Army colonel pointed out, "This is not a thorough training cycle when you consider that all instruction must be conducted with interpreters."

After completing training, the SWAPO recruit moves to an operational base which normally is close by a logistical base. Subsequently, they are sent to operational bases six to 10 kilometers inside Angola, which are temporary and which are moved on a weekly or even daily basis.

From these bases they infiltrate into South West Africa. Within 10 clicks of the border SWAPO units tend to be

The importance of choppers in this nasty terrorist war is as great as in Vietnam. All untarred roads must be carefully swept for mines, which makes it impossible to reinforce quickly by land. Furthermore, these roads become impassible during the three-month rainy season.

The battalion and company bases are fairly permanent and can be compared to our fire bases in Vietnam. Twenty to 25 percent of the combat troops remain at the bases; the remainder are out on ops.

aggressive. They will pick the time and place if they wish to engage. Normally, they rely on a short but heavy volume of fire and then break contact. In this type of contact the MGs will fire a belt of ammo, the riflemen a couple of magazines of AK ammo and the RPG team will fire one or two rounds during a one or two minute contact.

However, as SWAPO units move further south into South West Africa or Namibia, as it will be called in the near future, they avoid contact with the security forces. In fact, the only contacts are by accident, unless the security forces are successful in tracking them down.

TERRORIST INTIMIDATION

The terrorists' main objective is to intimidate the Ovambo population in South West Africa in order to win the elections and take total control. The type of intimidation differs from the areas near the SWA - Angola border and further south. Along the border murder and

atrocities are common practice, while further south threats are more common. The terrs will tell tribesmen, "Either you do as we say or the same thing will happen to you that happened to 'Mr. X' up near the border."

The main terrorist objective is to weaken the influence of the local tribal authorities. SWAPO labels the present Ovambo leadership as puppets of the South Africans, calling them "black Boers."

SWAPO's policy of intimidation got into full swing in 1976. It was and is targeted against tribal authorities, the Ovambo government, and those supporting the government. All churches and missionaries are also targeted, with the exception of the Lutheran church, which is well disposed toward and aids SWAPO.

Major Hans Stempfle, who was my escort during my tour of the SWA operational area, explained why mutilation was a far more effective intimidation tool than murder. "The Ovambo tribesman is very stoic and fatalistic. Simple killing does not have the impact on tribal members as does, say, cutting off

arms and legs or noses and ears and then forcing the victim's wife to fry and eat the flesh."

INTELLIGENCE

Developing intelligence is difficult. One S.A. Sergeant Major stated, "Who ever gives the last political speech or shows a presence in a *kraal* is the party who has current influence in the area. If a SWAPO representative speaks, the tribesman will appear to be an ardent SWAPO supporter and vice-versa when we appear. The natives volunteer information like children. If they feel safe, they are just as likely to provide us with intelligence as they are to SWAPO. If we follow spoor into a *kraal* and there is a terrorist presence, the people will say they have been asleep and have seen nothing."

Another factor affecting the situation is the "strongman concept" amongst the tribes. They are far more impressed with "strength" than they are political ideologies. For instance, after South



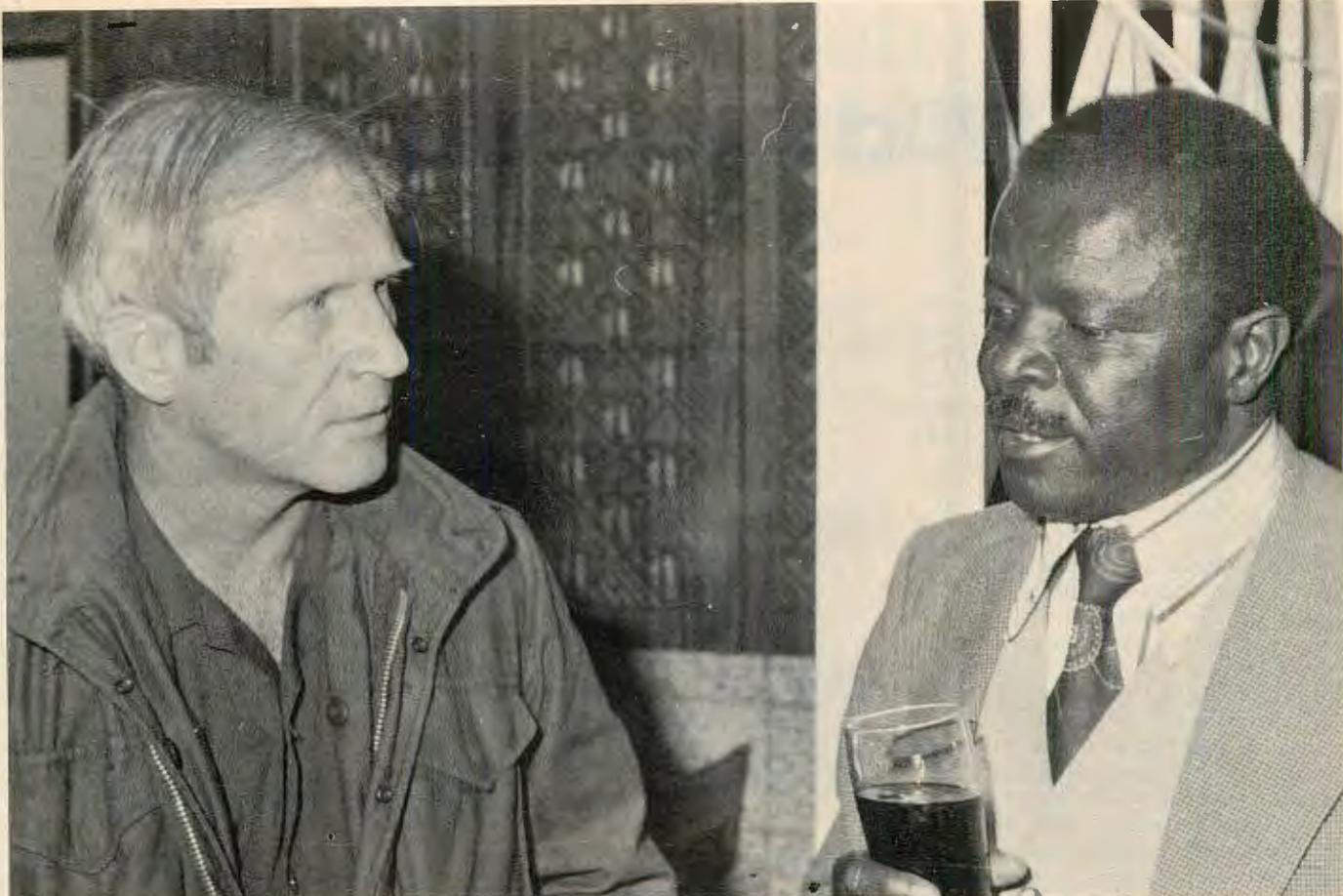
Above left: As in forward operational bases in most combat zones, "field expedient" devices help provide minimum of creature comforts. Here, S.W. African troopers use shower made out of surplus pipes and faucets.

Above right: This towed cook stove has sufficient burners and ovens to prepare food for 250 men. It accompanies troops to semi-permanent bases.

Left: This water tower constructed out of corrugated iron provides gravity flow water for outside shower. Hot water device, to right of water tower, is constructed out of 55-gallon drums.

Right: Author examines field-expedient washing machine. Steel 30-gal. drum has been placed on frame. Clothes, water, and soap are inserted; top locked in place. Power to turn handle is provided by whoever owns clothes.





African forces struck SWAPO bases in Angola on 31 May 1978, the "Jungle Telegraph" quickly passed the word throughout the tribes. For almost two months, the tribesmen were far more cooperative and friendly to the South African forces and provided a great deal more intelligence than normal.

POPULATION AND RESOURCES CONTROL

As in any insurgency situation, countermeasures, to be effective, must be tailored to the particular culture threatened by the insurgents. A case in point is the concept of "Protected Villages" as they are known in Rhodesia or "Strategic Hamlets" as they were known in Vietnam.

The South African authorities considered this option but decided that due to the Ovambo tribal culture and traditions, such a program would cause more trouble than it would be worth; that the hostility such a program would engender would outweigh the benefits of separating the bulk of the tribesmen from the terrorists.

"We try to separate the terrorists from the local population," commented a South African Army colonel, "but it is extremely difficult as the terrorists are members of the same tribe and often have family in the *kraals* they enter. The terrorists wear civilian clothes underneath their camouflage uniforms and

Author discusses future of South West Africa with Ovambo Minister of Education Peter Colin Kalangula at brigade base camp in South West Africa. SWAPO terrorists have members of Ovambo government and tribal authorities on their hit list.

simply strip them off and blend in with the populace when necessary."

SAFE AREAS

As has been the case in past counter-insurgent programs, the individual South African soldier feels he could be more effective if the South African forces could follow one of the cardinal principles of counter-insurgency—strike the enemy in his base camps or safe areas.

"We can't do it as regularly as we would like," pointed out one South African officer who had spent two years in the operational area, "due to the political and international situation. You saw what happened when we went in and hit the SWAPO bases in Angola." Shades of Vietnam!

S.A. ARMOR

The South Africans, like the Rhodesians, have developed a number of unique, mine-proofed wheeled armored vehicles that operate effectively in the flat, sandy, bush-covered terrain.

One of the most impressive of this generation of infantry fighting vehicles is the "Ratel," named after a South African mammal similar to our badger. Development of the Ratel began three years ago and the first one rolled off the production line only a year later. It appears there is a lesson here that could be learned by foot-dragging boondogglers in our own U.S. Army procurement system, who are still diddling around (and have been for several years) trying to develop and manufacture a replacement for the now obsolescent M-113 armored personnel carrier.

The Ratel carries a 20mm main gun (type is classified) and a 7.62mm coaxially mounted machine gun; weighs 3500 pounds and has a maximum speed of 65 mph. Range, type of suspension, armor and engine are classified. It carries a crew of 10. The crew commander is also the driver, operates the 20mm gun, and leads the crew when they dismount. According to the 1978 edition of *Defense and Foreign Affairs Handbook*, the South Africans have 500 Ratels available.

The South Africans have a number of more recently developed armored troop carriers in their inventory in South West Africa, which are operational though also classified. These armored troop carriers have been specifically designed to provide protection from the most powerful of Russian-made landmines.

Continued on page 68

This Time On Film

The Wild Geese Fly Again

by Al J. Venter

It's taken the second Katangese invasion of Zaire (formerly the old Congo Republic) to rekindle memories about an episode in the middle-60s, when a band of white mercenaries under the legendary Col. Mike Hoare battled rebel Simba forces on their own ground and won.

Hoare's 5 Commando gained kudos on several fronts. We now also know that the merc operation was partially CIA financed, supported and directed. Unlike the abortive Angola debacle of a few years ago it was successful.

It was during this Congo operation which had its share of ups and several dismal downs that an unmarked plane—known to contain dead and dying mercs—landed in Rhodesia in the middle of the night. At the time—and this little incident is *not* fiction—there were numerous mysterious telephone calls from the Kariba control tower to unlisted numbers; a few paragraphs in the morning papers noting the activity at the airfield late at night and then—complete silence thereafter on the incident.

The perfect ingredients for a novel. From these facts Daniel Carney, author of the book *The Wild Geese* has woven the most exciting story about mercenaries to come out of Africa.



Above: Old merc "war horse" colonel Mike Hoare of Congo 5 Commando fame was technical and military advisor on set of *Wild Geese*.

In 1968 a Dakota aircraft—which is still in Rhodesia today—*did* land at Kariba under mysterious circumstances. Carney believes that the precious cargo carried by the plane was the former Katangese leader Moise Tshombe.

The Wild Geese is not just an ordinary adventure story. Carney's characters are real people who did exist; he polishes each individual like a piece of old silver until they glow with life. Carney's descriptions—more than adequately brought to life on film—are totally believable; his descriptions of jungle training in Mozambique, a paratroop raid, and the mercenaries' subsequent betrayal are enthralling and accurate.

It's not altogether surprising that the emotions of men under fire are grippingly described. Daniel Carney himself lives and works in Rhodesia where he is at present writing a new novel, while serving with Rhodesian security forces for six weeks out of every 12.

He knows only too well the agonies of guerrilla warfare and the loneliness of keeping night watch in the bush country around Kariba. This is tough stuff.

The Wild Geese is the first motion picture to present an authentic, explosive no-punches-pulled portrayal of modern merc soldiers; their recruitment, train-

Below: Jack (Ronald Frazer) and Rafer (Richard Harris) run with other mercs for safety of Dakota airplane, near climax of movie.





Above: On location with *Wild Geese* in Africa —Enemy Simba troops rush over dead body of Rafer (Richard Harris) in pursuit of escaping Dakota aircraft.

ing, comradeship, and way of life. It includes glimpses of their terrors and their triumphs, their sweat and sorrows, their living and their dying, as well as the kind of camaraderie that goes with the personality of these dogs of war.

The story tells of a band of 50 steel-hard mercs who undertake a terrifying mission in which they go into dangerous, sweltering Central Africa—very much like the old Congo—to rescue and bring out a deposed and imprisoned black President. Tshombe and CIA overtones are manifest.

The Wild Geese is as topical and as dramatic as yesterday's newspapers' headlines. It is probably the biggest and most star-studded (and most expensive) British action picture since the days of *Lawrence of Arabia* and *The Guns of Navarone*.

Below: Enemy plane napalms one of trucks commandeered by mercs in their attempt to reach safety after being doublecrossed by their employer. SOF staffers previewed *The Wild Geese* in Jo'burg. Will have to see it second time to count how many get greased.



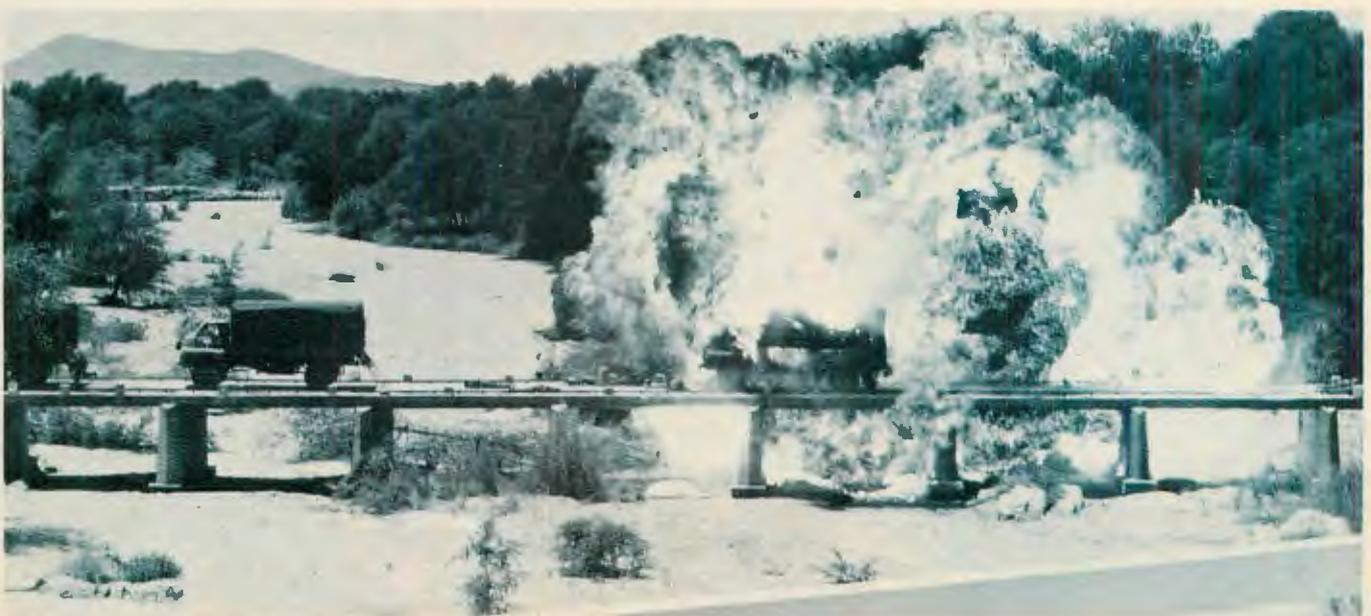
Left: Cameras roll on set of *Wild Geese*, as mercs defend themselves against attacking Simbas.

The cast is as remarkable. It includes Richard Burton, Roger Moore, Richard Harris, and Hardy Kruger, who left his farm on the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro to travel to South Africa to make the film.

Other notables include Frank Finlay, Kenneth Griffith, Stewart Granger, Ronald Fraser, Jack Watson and Ian Yule.

It is interesting to note that Yule was one of Mike Hoare's original mercs in the Congo. He served with distinction in 5 Commando and took part in several battles similar to those depicted in the film.

In the film Richard Burton plays the role of Colonel Allen Faulkner, a tough, rugged, hard-living, hard-drinking soldier of fortune who loves to fight for





Col. Allen Faulkner, played by Richard Burton, is CO of mercs. In this scene he kills close friend who has been wounded and is about to be captured by pursuing enemy. Casting was well done. All actors are convincing in their parts.

Above: Richard Harris portrays Rafer Janders, iron-hand merc and brilliant tactician, who writes op order for mission and who here "buys the farm."

Below: Wild Geese merc unit on parade ground on location in Northern Transvaal, Republic of South Africa. British film producer Evan Lloyd considered several other black African nations but refused to pay necessary bribes for cooperation.



Right: German actor Hardy Krueger plays Peter Coetzee, South African policeman familiar with area in which action takes place. Here Krueger prepares to silently dispatch sentry with crossbow.

Center right: Roger Moore, Richard Harris, Ian Yule, and Jack Watson in stolen jeep on way out of enemy territory.



Above: Special effects are impressive visually but exaggerated from technical standpoint in several instances. Here enemy trooper flies into air with assistance of hidden trampoline.

Right: John Kani cuts loose with his Uzi as mercs attempt to evade pursuing enemy. Wild Geese is accurate—from weaponry to uniforms.



Continued on page 75

Riding & Fighting With Grey's Scouts

The Cavalry Rides Again...

by Major L. H. "Mike" Williams

Part 2 - Umtali

At the end of 1975, L. H. "Mike" Williams, a former U.S. Army officer with the 10th Special Forces, 77th Special Forces Group, and 101st Airborne, who had fought with Michael Hoare's mercs in the Congo in the 1960s, returned to Africa, looking for that "one last war." After checking out Zaire and Zambia, Williams headed for Salisbury, Rhodesia, where at Army headquarters he accepted a commission as captain in the Rhodesian Army.

His first duty was to command "unusual troops" of colored and Asian soldiers, briefly at 3 Protection Company, Mt. Darwin, a small Rhodesian town northeast of Salisbury, and one month later, at 5 Protection Company. 5 Company was responsible for guarding a vital rail link and bridge at Rutenga in the southeastern operational area.

The railway line segment linking the Ingazi bridge with Rutenga is 80 kms long and runs through the middle of two Tribal Trust Lands, Matibi No. 1 on the northeast and Belingwe on the southwest directly across the railroad tracks. The latter TTL was a noncurfew area with total freedom of movement, while Matibi 1, a curfew area, was a hotbed for terrorists, who would zap trains as they passed, then simply run across the tracks and disappear.

The countryside to be guarded was equally difficult. The railway snaked and twisted through cuts whose embankments rose almost vertically from either side of the tracks. Further south to Rutenga open areas stretched for 500 to 600 meters broken by kopjes or hills of rock with heavy bush providing excellent fields of fire, cover, and concealment.

Williams believed that the answer to the problems of terrain was to combine mounted patrols by day with foot patrols at night, giving the infantry time during the day to rest, with those awake OPing the railroad tracks with binoculars. On his arrival at Rutenga, he went to Bob Van der Sande, a local rancher, for horses and tack and to the JOC Rutenga commander for permission to carry out his plans. Having received horses and tentative approval from headquarters, Williams set out to train his troops.

As a second-class ride was better than a first-class walk, he had no problem getting volunteers. There were no formal classes in equitation. The drill was to bring out the horse, introduce the



"rider" to the horse and get him mounted, point the horse in the required direction, urging the rider to hang on, and finally, if necessary, pick up the rider and take him to the medics. Casualties were surprisingly few, however, after one trooper landed headfirst in a thorn bush. People stayed on.

Williams next set up a field expedient range to condition the horses to automatic weapons and grenade fire and the troopers to firing while running the course. Firing was done at the walk, trot, and canter. They were also trained to execute standard infantry formations while mounted: echelon right, echelon left, line of skirmishers, etc.

The remainder of instruction was on the job training. Williams found that, in addition to the tremendous increase in mobility, the horses were an added bonus since they terrified the Africans.

His first headquarters was at Rutenga, the southern terminus of his area of responsibility, with platoon headquarters spaced at intervals between Rutenga and Ingezi, but Sarahuru, located roughly midway along the line segment with water, unloading facilities, grazing and a house for a C.P., proved better from a command and control standpoint.

Suddenly the terrors came alive when two trains, northbound from Rutenga, passed through Sarahuru. The first got through; the second was derailed by Russian TNT detonated electrically. When Williams and his troops reached the scene, there was a lot of movement in a kraal on the Matibi side of the track. When Williams put up a flare, people started running into the bush. The platoon sergeant got his people in a line of skirmishers and began firing at the running figures as the troops swept through the kraal. This had been no spontaneous bugout but a planned evacuation.

Three nights later, on 4 July 1976, the line was blown again in the same place. Williams and his men arrived at the scene at 2230 hours, where they were met by two guides. Horses would be brought up at first light for a follow-up. The troops started off on an approach march toward a kraal, which the guides had pointed out, about 300 meters away. The wedge formation moved into a line of skirmishers, and Williams took four men, leaving the platoon sergeant with the formation, and scouted out the nearest huts. After their return, an AK opened up from some food huts on the side of the hill.

Putting up flares, Williams and his men began firing. Tracers were hitting the huts, ricocheting over the ridge line to the rear of the food huts, until the whole kraal was afire. The troops got up and assaulted, using marching fire. Two bodies and AK brass were found later near the food huts.

At first light, choppers with fire force came in but were unable to track the terrors, since the locals had deliberately obliterated their traces by milling their cattle, whose hooves crushed all signs of terr boots.

After this action there were no further terr operations against the railroad until four months later in November, by which time Williams had been transferred to 6 Protection Company at Umtali.

I received a signal from Hq. Protection Companies to report to Cranborne. During his last visit to Sarahuru, the commanding officer had stated he was going to transfer me, as the problem with the rail line had been contained for a while.

When I reported to Cranborne, I was briefed and told that 6 Protection Company based outside Umtali needed a temporary commanding officer.

The horses and 5 Company would have to get along without me for a while.

The stay at 6 Company was a busy one, as its troops were scattered from hell to breakfast all over the place with various security commitments. I got to see a large chunk of Rhodesian real estate, however, but the only unit seeing any action, at the time, was a platoon near Mt. Selinda on the border with Mozambique. They were immediately across from Frelimo troops and were rotated about two or three times a week for a short period until the Freddie's quieted down.

During one of my trips to Mt. Selinda to check on the troops, I ran into Capt. Tony Stephens, O.C. of Grey's Scouts. He invited me to a funeral which, at that time, was something of a novelty. Our kill ratio then was roughly 11 gooks to one of our troops. This was to change!

I agreed and went to services held for Trooper Castleman, a Grey's Scout killed during a big contact in Gona-re-Zhou Game Reserve. The Grey's had flushed a large group of terts and recruits heading for Mozambique. The chase lasted all day and when the smoke had cleared somewhere around 47 terts had been wasted. Trooper Castleman had been shot in the head by a tert hiding in tall grass.

After the services were completed, an old fashioned Irish-style wake was held at the Chipinga Hotel. It lasted 'til 0300. Death in Rhodesia is a constant companion for combat troops but has, I think, a deeper impact because almost everyone has kin of some type serving in the bush.

When I returned to Umtali, I was asked by the Brigade Commander if I could scout out an area near the border for him in reference to defensive installations. He wanted to know if the horses were capable of operating in particularly rugged terrain. I got on to 5 Company and requested Sergeant Major Richardson to lead the horses on to a cattle car and get to Umtali ASAP.

When the horses, Richardson, and the troops arrived in Umtali, the chances of moving them covertly were nil. The bush telegraph operates about as fast as its 20th Century counterpart. Unloading, saddling, and moving out took us through a portion of Umtali and the Houts went bananas. Women and children jumped up and ran pelting down the back alleys. Every gook in Mozambique probably knew we were there an hour after we saddled up. We kept the horses at the local fairgrounds where stables, fodder, and water were available. The next morning I reported to the Brigade Commander for briefing. When he had said "rugged terrain" he wasn't exaggerating. Security prevents any details of a tactical nature but the terrain chosen for the recon was damned near vertical and high.

I had managed to get some Uzi SMGs while we were at Sarahuru and the prospect of climbing with them was a helluva lot better than trying to lug an FN or SLR with eight magazines up the side of a mountain.

The Brigadier told his quartermaster to give me what I needed. Supplies in Rhodesia, of any kind, are carefully conserved, thanks to sanctions imposed by the UN who, in their wisdom (?) consider little Rhodesia "a threat to international peace." At any rate, I got what we needed, mixing up ration packs to give us a tasty mixture of African and European food. Against Sergeant Major Richardson's advice I succeeded in getting us three additional mounts. Two little bay mares and a sorrel gelding gave us more muscle. I was later to regret not listening to S/M Richardson.



Two Grey's discuss a "Sit-Rep" at Enkomo Barracks near Salisbury before moving out to operational zones. Good intelligence and proper prior planning are two keys to their successful operations.

By this time, the troops I had brought up from Sarahuru realized they were now out of the Protection Company role of glorified security guards and would have a better opportunity to engage in a strictly offensive type operation. Their morale was noticeably higher than it had been in Sarahuru. Relatively low morale there was a result of long periods of inactivity.

After the action of 4 July 1976, the terrorists had left the area around Sarahuru and Ngungubane, pulling back southwards toward Chikombedze, where they smashed in the door to an African schoolteacher's house, dragged him into the school playground and held him while students were marched into the square. Once assembled, they were forced to watch while the self-styled "Freedom

Fighters" poured petrol over the teacher and threw a match on him.

Following a day's rest for the horses, we saddled up and moved out from Umtali, heading for the "rugged terrain" we were assigned to reconnoiter. Climbing through scattered bush, the views from the mountains were really impressive. It was October and the air was clear and cold. Late that evening we rode into an artillery bivouac heavily dug in and camouflaged.

At the appearance of the horses, the artillery men stopped their volleyball game and watched pop-eyed as we dismounted and started looking for a place to picket the animals for the night. The young lieutenant who was in command walked over and introduced himself.

"Sir, if we have to fire, what will the horses do? Have they spent any time around artillery before?" he asked, eyeing Bossikopf, my big stallion, nervously.

I looked at the guns, their long barrels pointing toward Frelimo positions. "In answer to your question, lieutenant, the horses will do precisely what you think they are going to do, and no, they haven't spent any time around artillery before." I lit a cigar and looked at Bossikopf who was looking at the guns. "Furthermore, when you fire, they will spend about 1/2 a second before they vacate the premises." I pointed toward a thick clump of trees some one hundred meters to the rear of the gun positions. "How about that area?" I asked.

"Yes, sir, that's fine." He watched while S/M Richardson led the horses into the trees and then invited me over to the bunker where he broke out a cold Lion ale.

Among the horses we had was a 10-year-old buckskin gelding named, appropriately, Fruitcake. A gift from a Salisbury riding school, Fruitcake had quite a "combat" record. In my first encounter with him, I had enlisted the aid of a Grey's Scout's farrier to shoe Fruitcake before we took him to Sarahuru. It took us three hours to put four shoes on the crazy bastard. During the melee, I was kicked, the farrier bitten, two African stable boys kicked, one African stable boy hospitalized with a ruptured kidney as a result of Fruitcake's final parting shot with his two new rear shoes. In Sarahuru, Fruitcake announced his arrival by running head-on into a thorn bush, putting his rider in the hospital.

I was fervently hoping that the first burst of RPD fire I was sure we were going to get would turn this horse into lion bait.

A word here to the horse lovers among you. I have been around these animals, intermittently, most of my life. They will do things no self-respecting mule could think of doing. Regardless of the relative stability of their temperament, they are hard animals. One crazy horse can, and will, set off a docile group into

a wild stampede like a bunch of spotted-ass apes. I have been bitten, kicked, stamped, and hit in the face with the top of one's hammer head. To the outraged equestrian enthusiast who decries these harsh words and happily canters in horse shows, immaculately garbed, once a week, let me point out this—having a love affair with a pampered jumper and riding a cranky, spooky bush pony day in and day out are two completely different things.

The Sunday rider doesn't live with his animal round the clock. He doesn't ride through and over terrain a billy goat would balk at, knowing that the first burst of automatic fire may result in his mount bolting, making it momentarily impossible to return fire, and turning the rider into a choice target. I do not believe in mistreating horses. I do believe in utilizing them militarily to their fullest capability. They are, as is a T-10 parachute, a means of transport that is designed to get a soldier from Point A to Point B with the specific purpose of killing the enemy on arrival.

Fruitcake was duly picketed to a sturdy log formed by the dead trunk of a small tree. S/Major Richardson and I unrolled our sleeping bags and tried to get some sleep, fully realizing that come tomorrow things could get very unpleasant indeed.

At 0400 all hell broke loose. Bossikopf bit and kicked Fruitcake, who reacted by rearing and pulling the stump out of the ground. Whirling, he ran several steps to escape the stallion's teeth. The log, trailing from the picket rope jabbed him suddenly in the ass. The stampede was on. The two little mares started whinnying in fear at the apparition pounding down the road past them. Bossikopf, thinking Fruitcake was trying to mount his harem, started kicking, putting dents in the door of a vehicle parked behind him.

Outside the artillery perimeter there were trip flares and anti-personnel mines. As S/Maj. Richardson and I staggered out of our sleeping bags, Fruitcake's log set off a flare and the gelding turned and came galloping back up the road that led into the camp. Richardson grabbed the picket rope when the log wedged itself between two trees, halting the wild dash.

Needless to say, the camp was in a Stand-To condition as a result of the chaos. The MAG gunner saved the day by exercising rare fire discipline and not hosing the sector Fruitcake's flare had illuminated.

At first light, under the baleful glares of the artillery men, a sheepish formation of horse cavalry trotted out of the camp. We felt we'd have a better chance with Frelimo than with the bleary-eyed survivors of "Fruitcake's Last Charge."

As I trotted Bossikopf past the lieutenant, the Rhodesian looked up and begged, "Sir if you're coming back this way, could you give us a miss and keep going?" Bossikopf answered his plea with an ignominious fart. I booted him into a canter.

The trail we were following narrowed and the bush became progressively thicker. I halted the column and sent two of our people ahead on foot, giving their horses to the last rider in the formation. I had deliberately put the two mares at the rear of the column, leading out with Bossikopf, to try and keep him upwind and away from them. So far, he had behaved himself very well with no hassles.

The objective area towered over us and I studied it carefully through the binos. No sign of life. That didn't mean there wasn't any. I didn't see any sunlight reflecting off AK barrels . . . yet.

We kept climbing. The horses were now being led, as the ground underfoot had turned into an intermittent series of roots that could cause an animal to fall and break a leg.

"Sergeant Major, how are you keeping?" I looked carefully at Richardson. He was 60 if he was a day. White hair, now soaked with sweat. His face had a pasty sheen to it and his camo shirt was soaked.

"Fine, sir." No hint of strain, but I knew he was hurting.

"Prepare to Mount!" Patrols vary from one to six days with patrol members carrying all their own gear plus feed for their horses. The Grey's can follow tracks for hours yet still go into action fresh with speed and surprise on their side.

"Alamo one, this is two." It was the scout detail ahead. I pressed the handset on the A-76.

"Two, this is Alamo One, go."

"No sign of tracers but we heard voices just now."

"Roger, keep me advised, out."

We moved slowly now, conscious of the stillness in the trees. No birds, no sounds.

I stopped at the edge of the treeline. Ahead, perhaps 50 meters, the ground started a sharp drop steepening into a ravine some 300 feet in depth, the far side climbing toward the objective area itself.

Corporal Muhammed, the scout detail NCO, crawled back to me, face mottled where sweat had stained the patches of dirt. "Sir, we heard voices but no sign of Freddies."

"O.K., we'll wait awhile. They might be doing the same thing we are."

We waited and listened. Nothing.

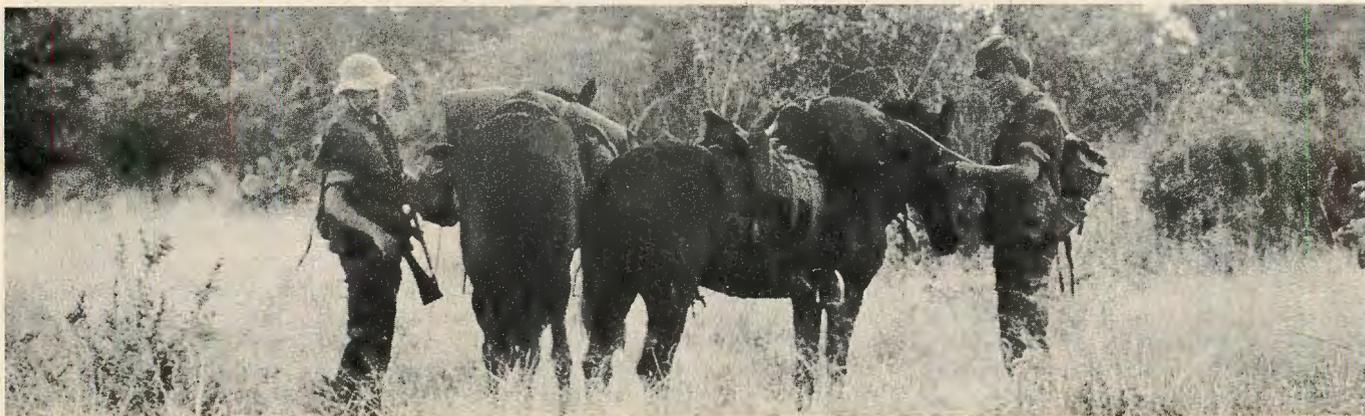
I motioned Richardson forward and we both looked up, up, then up some more.

"Major, you're not thinking of climbing that, by any chance." The Sergeant-Major looked at me, the horses, then the peak.

"Not with the horses, but we didn't come this far to turn around and go back without a look." I didn't feel as confident as I might have sounded. We had no climbing equipment of any kind, although this didn't call for pitons, carabiners, and rock hammers. Looking at the peak looming over us, I thought back to Fort Carson, Colorado, and the Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command. Together with other people from the 77th Special Forces Gp, I'd spent a year at Carson and Camp Hale. Skiing in the winter, climbing in the summer. I'd discovered something at Fort Carson. I hated rock climbing.

Parachuting never bothered me but the graduation party climb in Cheyenne Canyon, Colorado Springs, left me drenched in sweat. The instructors got a big laugh, but to most of us a 300 foot climb on an exposed face took all we had!

This was going to be one hell of a lot higher than any 300 feet. One consolation was that this was earth, with large rock formations toward the top.





I took the two scouts and Richardson. The remainder of the stick was left with the horses under the command of Sgt. Khalid to cover our flanks and rear. Once we got on that damned mountain, those horses weren't going to do us any good.

We started up. Pop Sorenson, a Norwegian ski instructor at Camp Hale, would say, "In the mountains, you go as slow as you can, then go a little bit slower." Starting a traverse across the face of the mountain's base and looking up, I didn't need to force myself to adjust to his advice.

After the first 400 feet, the trees started to thin out and the slope began to steepen. Already it was difficult to avoid using hands to assist the ascent. I wanted to keep the ridge line between us and the direction the scouts had heard the voices earlier.

"Alamo one . . . this is Alamo three. Radio check, over." At this height comms should prove no problem.

I leaned back against a rock and answered. "Alamo three, this is One. Got your fives, how me?"

"Alamo One. Three. Fives." Sgt. Khalid's radio worked fine.

"Alamo Two, Alamo One—do you read?" Cpl. Grey, the lead scout, was several hundred feet above and to my right, searching the far side of the ridge for movement.

The angle of the mountain's rough slope had now increased to the point I

Hurry up and wait: It's the same in every army. Mounted infantry, the Grey's prepare carefully before each patrol. This stick awaits transport to operational zone for themselves and mounts.

was using my hands continually to climb. The distance we were covering, in long traverses, kept getting smaller. Underfoot, the grass had become wet and slippery from the mist. Above a large formation of boulders, was the summit. Lying behind one of them, SMG pointing downwards, was Cpl. Grey.

"Alamo Two, Alamo One—have you got Charles Tangos?" Grey turned to me, held up five fingers and then pointed downslope. When I reached him, and crawled to his left to see below, I noticed several cigarette butts lying in the dirt next to a nearby boulder. Far below us, out of SMG range, five green-clad figures walked single-file into the trees.

Sunlight glinted from AK barrels. They were now out of Rhodesia and back in Mozambique. I reported the presence back to relay for further transmission to Brigade.

Regulations governing cross-border firing on enemy troops are very strict. The Rhodesian government is scrupulously correct in observing them and unless provocation is involved, or hot pursuit is necessary, no firing is allowed.

The next time the CTs decided to have a smoke in Rhodesia, there would be a

welcoming committee waiting for them.

As any mountaineer will tell you, going down is harder than going up. It was for us. Half way down, we stopped and S/Major Richardson pointed out a tree to us. During the ascent, he'd started to pass out and had tied himself to the tree to keep from falling to his death. I felt like he looked, and the two of us started down. Pop Sorenson would have approved of our pace.

Ants passed us at lightning speed. When we reached the bottom, time was running out, and I wanted to reach the faint cut-line marking the direction back to the artillery.

From the summit, through the bins, I'd selected an alternate route of return. We didn't need any ambushes from taking the same trail back we'd used outbound.

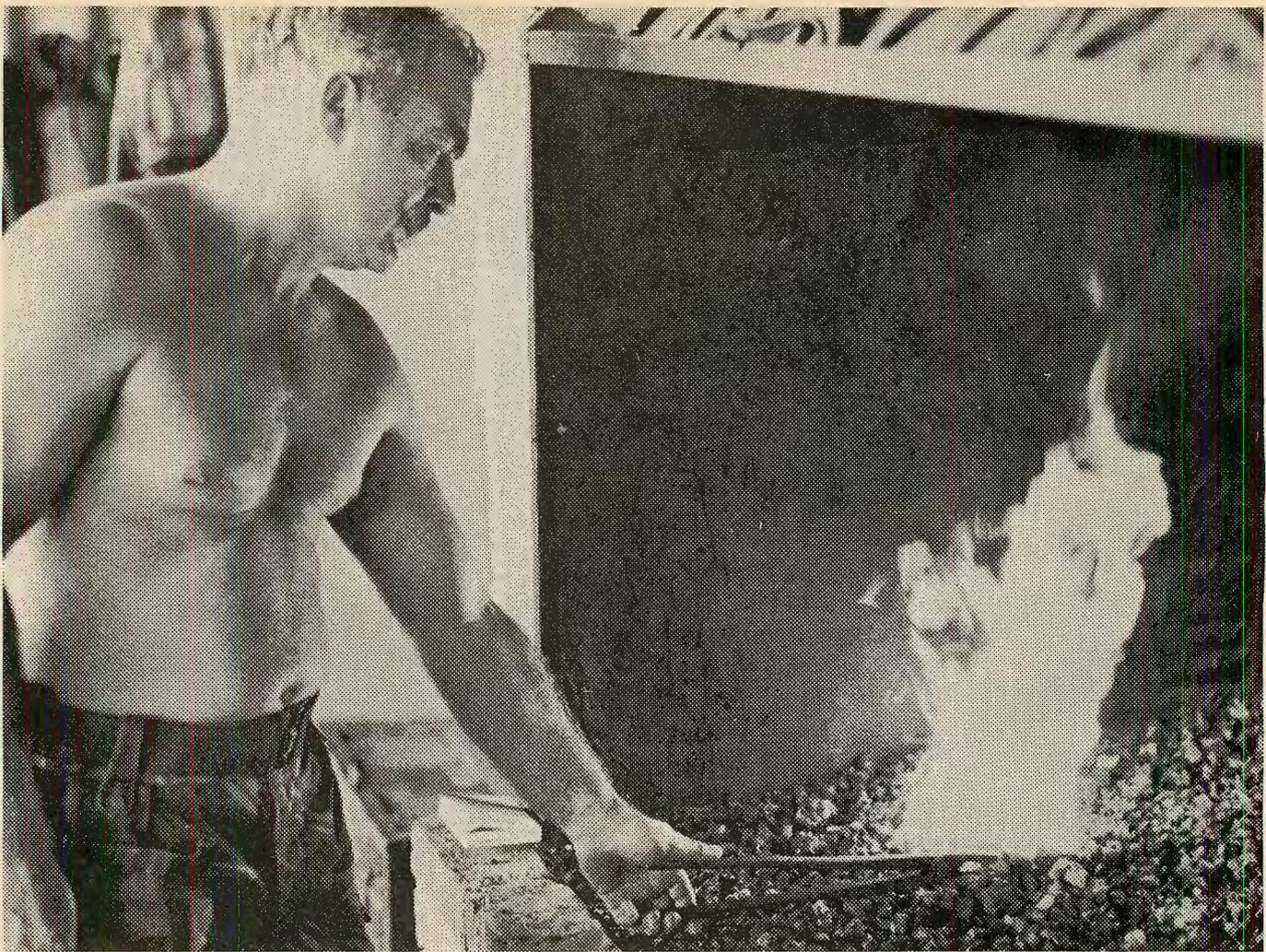
I got the artillery channel and gave them our ETA, requesting a guide to meet us and escort the formation around the flares and AP mines.

Horses and men were tired. I changed scouts going back, putting Sgt. Khalid's people on point and flank.

"Alamo One, this is Three." I stopped Bassikopf. The small radio weighed three times as much going back.

"Roger, Three, this is One—Go."

"One, this is Three—Come on in." Apparently, all was forgiven and the artillery lieutenant served us a hot meal before we bedded down for the night.



The horses were so tired, there wasn't a peep out of them.

The next morning we started back to Umtali. We'd established one thing; horses can negotiate damned near any type of terrain within reason, but most important of all, they can deliver combat troops to an objective fresh and ready to fight. This, over ground that would seriously tire infantry. Rather than move the troop through Umtali's downtown area, startle the locals, and fertilize the streets, I dismounted and handed Bossikopf's reins to S/Major Richardson.

"Take 'em back to the bivouac, Sergeant-Major." His face was dust-covered but full of pride. At 60 he was doing a young man's job.

Before he rode off, he grinned. "Sir, if you don't mind my saying this, I think you're quite mad. We follow you, so that makes us as bonkers as well." I couldn't help but agree with him. "You know what the people at Brigade call us, don't you?" he said, gathering up his reins.

"No, what?"

"Mad Mike and the galloping goffles." They clattered away, scattering pican-nins.

I hitched a ride to Brigade Headquarters and reported to the commander. He'd been informed of the incidents occurring during the patrol.

For today's Rhodesian farrier, as with his counterpart of the old wild west, it is still a tough, dirty job. No glory theirs, just the personal satisfaction of a job well done.

"Mike, I'm sending you to Rusape. There's a sub-JOC there and I need a Deputy Commander."

"Yes, sir. What about the horses?" I asked, sure we were going to be disbanded.

"Take them with you. This sub-JOC will be able to use them."

Over dinner that night, I briefed Richardson and told him to get the horses ready for the rail movement from Umtali to Rusape some 93 kms to the northwest, on the Salisbury road.

Rusape is a small farming community with a good airstrip, a BASN Headquarters, and a hotel that served a huge meal of beef curry for 60 cents Rhodesian, about a dollar U.S. It's on the main road to Salisbury and traffic is pretty brisk during the day but thins out somewhat at night.

This was December 1976 and the BSAP was, to all intents and purposes, running the "war." The Rhodesian government had not then, nor since, declared war against either Zambia, Mozambique or Botswana, although terrorists were

being organized, trained and equipped in the first two countries and harbored and protected in the last.

Zambia had declared war against Rhodesia, Mozambique had closed her border, and Botswana couldn't make up their collective "minds" as to what to do, although in January 1978, a South African soldier in uniform, enroute to join the Rhodesian Army after his release from SADF, was hauled off the train in Francistown, beaten by a mob, and thrown into jail. His crime? Passing through Botswana in a South African Army uniform. Some threat to Botswana!

So at the time of my arrival in Rusape, the Joint Operations Center, comprised of several elements of the Rhodesian security forces, was being run by the fuzz. Under Rhodesian law, at that time, terrorists, those who fed them, and anyone aiding and abetting them were subject to punishment in the courts. Hanging was common for terrors captured in a contact and lengthy prison terms meted out to others. This bizarre system of fighting a brutal counter-insurgency war was to change later, in 1977, when the army took over.

The JOC Army representative was a Major Johnson (some names have been purposely changed here). An excellent soldier and a long time professional. He performed a tight-rope act with the

fuzz, Internal Affairs and a half-a-dozen other agency representatives, all trying to fight the war in their own fashion.

I spent a month at Rusape and on Christmas Day moved out with S/Major Richardson and the same troops I'd had at Umtali.

Once again, farmers in the area contributed horses, tack, and assistance of all kinds. The spirit of these people is fantastic.

Prior to deploying from Rusape to Weya TTL, there had been a massacre of laborers and their families at the Tea Estates in Katiyo, Eastern Highlands. Major Pearson wanted us to go up and "show the flag." I convinced him that deploying the horses to that specific area would be a tactical mistake due to some specific terrain problems. Not impossible, but most probably non-productive. It wouldn't have exploited the combat capability of the unit. Good commander that he was, the major accepted my recommendation and sent us off to Weya TTL, north of the little town of Macheke.

I received an excellent briefing from the police at Macheke. Terrain in Weya was really good horse country. Rolling hills, plenty of water, good grazing, and an active bunch of terrors who thought nothing of holding a fire power demonstration for the locals at high noon using AKs, RPDs, and RPG7s.

I've played strong hunches most of my life. Usually they were correct. Oddly enough, from the first moment I knew we were going to Weya, I felt like I was carrying an ice cube in my stomach. Brushing aside the feeling didn't work and by the time we were loading the horses for the move, I knew something was going to happen to me.

Reconnaissance into the area provided us an abandoned farmhouse to use as a CP. A short distance away there was a large dam that solved the water problem.

Some six k's down the road to our south lay Royal Visit Ranch. The Van Aard family had been attacked by terrors who'd climbed over the security fence surrounding the Royal Visit house and raked the building with automatic fire.

One hout had climbed the tree nearest the house and fired into one of the bedroom windows. Fortunately, for the Van Aards, no one was in the room.

After setting up the CP, comms and security, I got the people together and gave them maps of the area to study. In the event of an ambush I didn't want individuals wandering in circles not knowing which direction home was.

This would be a different situation than Sarahuru. We were the only troops in the area and couldn't expect any back up unless we ran into something really big. I'd planned to initiate patrols and sweeps through suspect areas, pushing hard and covering as much ground as possible. I felt if we slowed and concen-

trated on any one area, we would be hit when we moved away.

In the briefing I'd had, St. Benedict's Mission was covered in detail. In the preceding year, the Mission had furnished over 350 recruits to Robert Mugabe's group. Moving into St. Benedict's for a chat with the priest would be tantamount to calling Mugabe and telling him we'd arrived.

We started patrolling. The borders of Weya TTL were contiguous with European farmlands, and although the Africans in the Weya could cross over into the farming area, the farmers were forbidden to go into the TTL. This situation was perfect for cattle rustling. Add an African butcher who was a terr sym-



pathizer and the ranchers were going broke, losing valuable stock daily to thieves, who were driving the cattle into the Weya where they were butchered, the meat given to the terrors.

For two weeks, we combed the Weya, searching kraals, interrogating locals, and trying to work a little "hearts and minds" program with the Africans. The medic riding with us treated the children for coughs, eye infections, whatever. I tried to give candy to the herd boys but they refused, turning their backs on us.

Weya was almost totally subverted and the hostility of the locals was intense.

On the morning of January 4, 1977, we rode into St. Benedict's Mission. Our patrols and ambushes had turned up nothing. The only positive result was

the fact that the Africans were now rigidly observing the curfew. Before our arrival they had come and gone as they pleased.

I led the troop into St. Benedict's from the rear of the compound past empty buildings. African nuns in robes stared at us as we passed. There was no friendliness here.

"Where is the Father?" I asked one nun. She pointed to the red brick building next to the chapel. Dismounting, I left my horse with one of the troops.

The priest was talking with a nun and motioned me to sit down while he finished. The talk over, he ushered her out and introduced himself. Before the conversation had progressed any further he broke out a bottle of Bushmills. "Would you stay for lunch, Major?"

The condemned man ate a hearty meal, I thought. "Sure, let me attend to my troops." I went outside and made sure Sgt. White kept his eyes open. I sent him to the kitchen to watch the African cook prepare the meal.

The conversation during lunch touched on everything but the war. Nothing was ventured about terrorist recruiting but the air was very tense. After lunch I moved the troop north away from the Mission. We rode for two hours, then using the terrain as cover from the Mission, swung in a wide circle bearing southeast towards a trail that ran between the Mission and a clinic.

It looked like a good ambush site to intercept movement from the Mission recruits to the clinic at night. At the foot of a draw we stopped to water the horses. Bossikopf was acting spooky and had I not been so tired, I would have realized what he was reacting to. Mounting, I led the column up the far side of the draw. The moon was coming out and I wanted to be in an ambush position quickly.

The shots sounded like they were five feet behind me. A burst of fire then a long burst of RPD. The horses bolted, Bossikopf's head jerking to the left. When I pushed with my right boot to turn and fire there was no stirrup leather and off I went, the stallion shying to the left when he was hit.

I hit the ground, landing on my right side, with two FN magazines crunching into my ribs.

The troops behind me had scattered and started returning fire. I counted muzzle flashes from five terr weapons. Another long burst from the RPD, rounds snapping overhead. I could see two figures run into a kraal on the other side of a plowed field to my left. Dogs started barking and I could follow their movements from the noise.

Sgt. White had gathered our people in a scattered clump of rocks, giving me covering fire as I crawled over to them.

The moon was bright enough to read a newspaper. "Sir, nobody's down but

Continued on page 70

1978 Second Chance Pistol Shoot

by Chuck Taylor

As could be expected, the 1978 Second Chance Annual Shoot was an interesting mixture of marksmanship, good food and company, and the traditional camaraderie of shooters found at any large competition.

Also, as could be expected, the host of the affair, Richard Davis, president of Second Chance, Inc., was his usual congenial, absolutely terrific self! It has never ceased to amaze me how this man, particularly after shooting himself over 100 times in Second Chance bullet-proof vest demonstrations, can maintain a sense of humor of such a high magnitude. But he unquestionably does, and this fact is probably the reason why the Annual Shoot draws people from all over the United States.

Although the main event consisted of the usual bowling pin stage wherein the



Practice makes money! Here 1st place winner Wayne Umberger receives Magnaport trophy and check for \$1000.00 from Larry Kelley, President of Magnaport, Inc.

shooter must clear the table of five pins at 25 feet in the shortest possible elapsed time, other events demonstrated that they, too, had great popularity. John Farnum, of Defense Training, Inc., hosted the 2-Gun shoot, in which two S&W M60 revolvers are used simultaneously by the shooter at seven yards. This particular event, although not really practical from a combat logic standpoint, proved to be quite entertaining and drew a very large number of shooters. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention—you've got to empty *both* guns into the target in 2.5 seconds! If you think this is easy, I urge you to try it sometime!

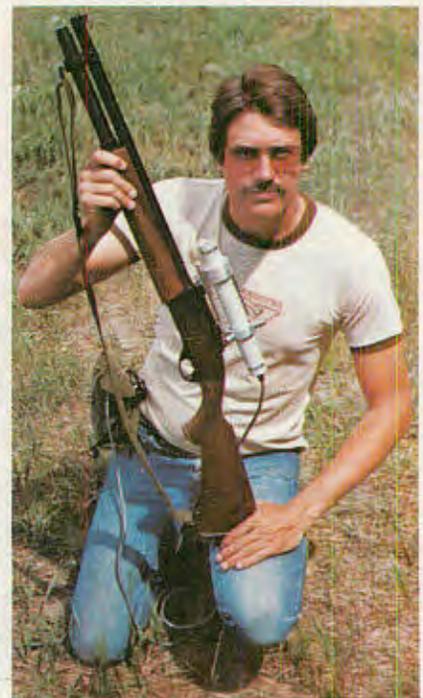
The two-man team event proved to be particularly popular this year, and I personally feel that it may well overshadow the five-pin individual event in the near future. Big money was offered as the \$10



Left: 265 contestants competed for honors in 5-pin individual event. Not as easy as it looks, shooter must clear table of 5 pins at 25 feet in shortest possible time.

Below left: 2-gun event was spectacular, if not particularly relevant. Here, contestant tries his hand at putting 10 shots in 2½ seconds into ATS silhouette target with two S&W M60 "Chief's Special" .38s.

Below: Innovative inventions and designs were in profusion at shoot. Here John Toppenberg of "Gun Week" magazine models Remington M1100 riot shotgun with laser sighting system, produced by Accuracy Systems, Inc., of Tempe, AZ.



SECOND CHANCE 1979 COMBAT SHOOT

Date: 6-10 June 1979
Place: Second Chance Range, Central Lake, MI
Entry Fee: \$60 for Police Officers, prepaid
 \$80 for all others, prepaid
 \$100 for anyone post entry
Rules: Weight of revolvers limited to 4 lbs, 2 oz.
 Heavy slides on autos allowed but no extended sights or added weights.
Prizes: 20 Ruger Mini-14s
 20 Mossberg Riot shotguns, 12 ga.
 10 guns from Richard Davis' personal collection

SECOND CHANCE 1978 COMBAT SHOOT Main Event

5-Pin Match (5 Strings of 5 Pins Each)

NAME	CITY/STATE	TIME
1. W. Umberger	Memphis, TN	33.5
2. J. Robbins	Freeport, FL	33.7
3. B. Wilson	Berryville, AR	34.2
4. M. Ayoob	Concord, NH	35.8
5. J. Shaw	Memphis, TN	36.2
6. D. Early	Pleasant Gap, PA	36.5
7. A. Billings	Pax River, MD	37.6
8. C. Taylor	Boulder, CO	38.1
9. N. Sieloff	Detroit, MI	38.1
10. D. Sundemeyer	Detroit, MI	38.7

Two-Gun Event

(10 Shots, 2½ Seconds
2 S&W M60 2" bbl, .38 Spl)

NAME	SCORE
1. W. Umberger	20-1X
2. R. Higbee	20-0X
3. Jerry Duran	18-2X
4. J. Blackard	18-2X
5. Hank Snows	17-4X

Unlimited Event

(8 Pins, 25 Ft.)

NAME	TIME
1. Blackard	4.1
2. Patterson	4.5
3. Jay	5.0
4. Shaw	5.0
5. Sharp	5.0



Automatic weapons demonstrations were popular with spectators. Here SOF auto-arms editor Chuck Taylor goes to work on pins with cal. .45 Thompson SMG.

entry fees began piling up. The winners of the event took home 40 percent of the pot, which came to \$1,352.00! The two-man event consists of two shooters clearing a table of eight pins in the shortest possible time. The winning time was 3.7 seconds.

Another event which proved to be of interest to all was the Unlimited, meaning exactly what it says. The shooter may use anything he wishes! (There is a 10-second penalty for destroying the table!) In reality, the Unlimited, as it now stands, is ideally suited for the long-barrelled shotgun rather than the SMG or semi-auto carbine. I'd like to see this one moved out to perhaps 50 feet to give it more versatility and present a more diverse challenge.

As is typical with any big event, innovative products and modifications were in profusion and were most interesting. It is worth mentioning, however, that the top eight places were taken by contestants using conventional .45 auto's. So, refinement and complication do not guarantee success!

To me, the highlight of the entire shoot was a side event conceived and operated by John Farnum, of Defense Training, Inc., utilizing the Duelatron computer target system. John came up with a dandy of a "combat logic" problem that tested the shooter to extreme limits in the areas not only of marksmanship, but judgment and speed as well.

The course consisted of the shooter running about 50 yards to get his metabolism "going," as John put it, then entering the course of fire at a dead run with his weapon loaded and holstered. As the contestant approached the first situation,

a silhouette popped from behind a barricade and was exposed for one second, which, obviously, necessitated the shooter's firing from the dead run. The contestant then had to move around the barricade and move, again, at a run, up a trail into the woods, weapon held at the ready.

In the woods were four targets, which John popped all at once. The near targets were 7 to 15 meters away, while the far ones were 20 meters. The near ones remained exposed for two seconds and the far ones three seconds! Remember, all of the targets became exposed at the same time and, therefore, the time limits all went into effect on each target simultaneously. Just for fun, John threw in a "good guy" silhouette to test one's judgment under stress. That "good guy" was pocked with bullet holes by the end of the shoot!

The shooter then had to reload and holster his piece and return to the starting line to stop the clock. As you probably suspected, the men were separated from the boys in a hurry by this one! Being a believer in combat logic and an adequate shot, I managed to earn high score of 328 with Chuck Byers, of Accuracy Systems, Inc., in second place with a 279. Next year, this type of course will be a standard event, with prizes, and should add the needed evaluation of true combat-worthiness that the bowling pins cannot.

All in all, the Second Chance 1978 Shoot was good fun, and it promises to be even better in the future. Pertinent information on the 1979 Shoot is given in the attached box.



M16A1 In Automatic Rifle Role

This article is reprinted, with permission, from the March-April 1978 issue of *Infantry*, the Professional Magazine for Infantrymen.

During the latter part of 1976, the automatic rifle marksmanship instructors assigned to the Weapons Committee of the 1st Advanced Individual Training

Brigade at Fort Benning noted that approximately 50 percent of the soldiers undergoing training in the use of the M16A1 rifle in the automatic rifle role



Top left: Modified M60 machine gun firing position with hinged shoulder rest. (Photo credit: Infantry Magazine.)



Bottom left: Modified M60 machine gun firing position with bipod standoff device. (Photo credit: Infantry Magazine.)



Below: Modified M60 machine gun firing position with bipod standoff device and hinged shoulder rest combination. (Photo credit: Infantry Magazine.)

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were failing to qualify. As part of their continuing effort to improve training, the instructors investigated this phenomenon and concluded that the current automatic rifle firing position, and the fact that the M3 bipod attaches directly to the barrel of the M16A1 rifle, could be causing the problem.

In the current automatic rifle firing position, for instance, the shooter exerts a firm pressure down and to the rear on a loop formed with the rifle's sling. Because the bipod is attached directly to the rifle barrel forward of the sling, it was felt that the firer's pressure was causing the barrel to flex or bend.

The committee instructors, accordingly, suggested that other firing positions be used, and that the M16A1 rifle be modified to add a bipod standoff attaching device and a hinged shoulder rest. The Board was asked to conduct a concept evaluation of this modified rifle in the automatic rifle role.

The Board tested three firing positions as well as the M16A1 rifle modifications, and found that a modified M60 machine-gun firing position provided significant improvement for both automatic rifle qualification and for hit probability. The Board also found that the bipod standoff device experienced a high frequency of failure.



Jeff Cooper's 'Gunsite'

On the first day, after a brief classroom session, we adjourned to one of the several ranges to participate in Basic exercises, to allow Jeff to obtain some idea of the various skill levels of his students. Among these exercises were:

1. Draw, fire, and obtain a center hit in one second on an IPSC "Option" target at five to seven meters.

2. Draw, fire, and obtain a center hit in 1½ seconds on an IPSC "Option" target at 10-15 meters.

3. Draw, fire, and obtain a center hit in two seconds on an IPSC "Option" target at 20 meters.

4. Draw, fire, and obtain a center hit in 2½ seconds on an IPSC "Option" target at 25 meters.

5. Draw, fire, and obtain a center hit in four seconds on an IPSC "Option" target at 50 meters.

6. "Clean" (shoot a possible) an "El Presidente" in a maximum of 10 seconds. (The El Presidente involves the firer standing, facing away from three targets, 10 meters downrange and three meters apart. Upon the command to fire, he executes a 180-degree turn, draws his weapon, fires two shots at each of the three targets, reloads, and places two more shots on each of the silhouettes. The center hit area, or K-zone of the silhouette is approximately 10 inches in diameter. The scoring rings are not visible to the firer, necessitating a center-hold on the target based on his own judgment of where the center area should be.)

Each student executes the basic exercises under the watchful eye of Cooper, who notes the results for his own use during the course to come. I, for example, discovered that I had the tendency to remain standing at 50 meters and "take my chances" on getting a center-hit rather than going prone and almost certainly getting one! The four-second time limit presents no more problem from the prone position than it does from the standing, since the proper sight alignment procedure is much easier to execute from the more solid prone position.

From there we proceeded to learn other highly refined techniques and tactics, such as the weak-handed draw, shooting in poor light and at night, shooting with a flashlight, the proper technique of "clearing" a house, both in daylight and at night with a flashlight, shooting from a moving vehicle with both strong and weak hand and while driving as well as riding (!), shooting from phenomenally cramped positions, use of cover and concealment, tactical movement, how to negotiate obstacles (such as eight-foot-high walls and windows, target-detection, and how to further our speed-reloading skills, particularly while on the run. Yes, you're

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quite correct. It was demanding, to say the least! In fact, I felt like I was back in Ranger School except for the fact that the ever-present "harassment" during Ranger School was absent.

To provide you with an example of the stress I experienced, I cite to you my experience in the "Funhouse" during a house-clearing exercise at night.

The basic funhouse entails the student entering a structure, weapon loaded and at the ready, and systematically "clearing" the building armed only with his pistol. In order to do this, he must search the dwelling, every closet, nook and cranny, and eliminate the "felons" that may be present. Hostages and "no-shoot" or "good-guy" targets are also in profusion.

I entered the house, immediately finding the life-like picture silhouette of a Russian soldier six feet inside the door, holding what could have been a movie camera or an RPG! In the light of my flashlight it was impossible to tell for sure, but I could clearly make out the red star on his cap. So . . . I shot him! (He must have been taking propaganda movies, or something!) From there I negotiated a hostage target, taking out the felon from 10-foot range in one second that was popped on me from the end of the hallway I was just leaving, "killed" another felon holding a hostage in the bathroom, shot two more felons, one which swung down on me from the window at the far end of the room and the other that jumped out from around the corner of the hallway, "killed" two more felons peeking at me from the windows, shot another felon that "ran" across the hallway to the rear of the house, encountered several "good-guys" in the next two rooms (one of whom was carrying a baby and the other a 25-pound box of nitroglycerin!), engaged another felon in a closet, a felon that jumped around a corner from me (at point blank range), and ended up the exercise firing my *last* round of ammunition at a felon holding a policewoman as a hostage as I walked out the back door!

Interesting isn't it? Oh, one more thing . . . when I entered the building I had a fully loaded .45 auto, and six additional magazines of ammo! "How wild things can get," indeed! I was soaking wet with perspiration and weak with fatigue as I concluded that one!

Things did not let up one bit as the course continued, with the student negotiating three field assault courses known as "jungle lanes," where Jeff actually hid targets for the student to (hopefully) find and engage during his "walk" down the trail. The camouflaged silhouette that I put two .45 rounds into

at 45 meters had only the corner of his head exposed! I was further amazed when I found another fully camouflaged silhouette in the tree that I chose to take cover under after a 10-meter sprint across an open clearing! I never shot so fast in my life, even in real combat. Jesus, things never got this wild, even in Vietnam.

I found the techniques for shooting from moving vehicles totally fascinating as well as completely logical and amazingly effective. I had little experience in this particular type of pistol-shooting previously, and, if my performance after instruction is any example, a guy can really make things miserable for assailants while trying to get away from them in a vehicle!

One more thing: if you don't think a pistol, particularly a .45 auto, can take a man out at 80 meters, under field conditions . . . come to Gunsite and watch! I witnessed several successful attempts at this, including my own, during the "jungle lane" exercises. Interested? Come to Gunsite and see it yourself.

The courses of instruction at Gunsite are continually observed, evaluated, and improved by Jeff Cooper and the Gunsite staff, resulting in the best possible instruction in any given technique at all times. Jeff isn't a wall-flower by any means, and he not only welcomes, but solicits better ways to accomplish an objective. Students' input on these matters is the best way to attain such a level of high competence and is the cornerstone of the success of API instruction and the reason for its continued growth and success.

To sum it all up, Gunsite is truly "The Most Advanced Sidearm Training Center in the World." Hell, no other place even comes close! Its creator/operator, Jeff Cooper, is unquestionably the Master that we expect him to be in this highly specialized, nebulous, relative field where life and death hang in the balance, based on man's skill-at-arms. Everyone who possesses or carries a sidearm for its intended purpose owes it to himself to spend the time and money to attend all three of API's courses. I guarantee it will be the best investment you can ever make and will increase your chances of survival in a fight 1000 percent. Go to Gunsite and learn. You'll live to appreciate it.



SouthWest Africa Update

Continued from page 53

The bottoms of the bodies or hulls of these vehicles are V-shaped, with the bottom of the "V" facing the ground. This type of configuration deflects blast and heat effects from an exploding landmine. A compartment in the bottom of the V-shaped hull is filled with water—also to absorb blast and to serve as a blast coolant. All seats are fitted with helicopter-type seat belts. Passengers who have not "buckled up" have been thrown 30 yards when their vehicle has hit a landmine.

The South Africans have also developed a number of Star-Trek-looking mine-clearing vehicles with such colorful nicknames as the "Praying Mantis" and the "Grasshopper." I had a chance to observe these vehicles but they also are classified and so no photographs or specifications.

Since the introduction of these new mine-proofed vehicles, six of them have hit landmines but there have been no casualties.

MOUNTED INFANTRY IN A COIN ROLE

I had hoped to ride with the South African mounted infantry. Unfortunately, by the time we choppered into their base, they had been called out on an operation. This war, like all others, waits for no one, not even SOF.

As dusk began to fall, the small troop of horsemen returned. After grooming, feeding and watering their horses, 2nd Lieutenant Pieter Alberts, CO of the mounted infantry section assigned to this particular operational base, joined myself and other S.A. troopers for a barbeque where we discussed the merits of horses in combat.

Lt. Alberts entered the army in January 1977 and after completing the "Junior Officer's Course" was commissioned. As he had an equestrian background—his parents manage a resort and stable—he was assigned to the SA Army's Equestrian Center, for a six month course. After completing said course, he spent several weeks receiving intensive CI training at a forward training base in South West Africa before moving to his present assignment.

All equestrian trainees receive the same basic training with horses no matter what their background has been or what their skill level is.

And basic means just that. A trainee first learns to bridle, saddle, mount, and groom his horse. Concurrently, he learns how to "maintain" or care for his horse

in the field and how to get the most out of the animal. Each man also learns the rudiments of bush medicine, as it is seldom that the troop is within call of a vet when on ops.

"The advantages of horses are they are mobile and fast. Also, you have better visibility from the back of a horse." Alberts continued, "As the old saying goes, 'The infantry fights upward, the cavalry downward.'"

As the trainee becomes accustomed to riding, he is taught PT while mounted and learns to jump a variety of obstacles—ditches, fences, brush, etc. He learns to control and direct his horse with his thighs, leaving his hands free to operate his sidearm. I tried riding on a ranch in Rhodesia with a FN in one hand and reins in the other. It's difficult at best. At a trot or gallop, well . . .

"Every horse has different characteristics and responds differently in various situations," Alberts commented. "To obtain maximum efficiency when on operations, all trainees keep the same mount through the six months' training period and during their tour in the operational area. In other words, the trooper and horse remain as a team up to 15 months, assuming neither are injured.

An example of the use of the speed of the horse was demonstrated when one mounted unit cut tracks of a band of terrors at dawn that was already 24 hours old. Before nightfall, the mounted infantry had caught up with and engaged the fleeing terrorists, inflicting several casualties.

"Normally," Alberts continued, "we do everything an infantry man does, only on horseback. Teamwork is imperative. You must be able to anticipate what your mates are going to do.

"The section leader is supposed to make the decision regarding counter ambush response, but many times we react instinctively. Once dismounted the well trained horse will move out of the danger area and wait for his rider. We normally only use semi-auto fire from our FNs on horseback."

The major disadvantage of using horses is that they are living creatures; they do get sick. And it takes five or six months for a horse/rider team to obtain maximum efficiency.

As SOF staffer Venter mentioned in a previous article describing ops in S.W.A., motorbikes have been success-

fully incorporated in the COIN operations. The 250 cc scrambler type bikes are used to pursue terrors when they are on the run and/or have a long lead. They are also used for reconnaissance. Trackers, who follow terror spoor, can read spoor while riding their bikes. One exceptional tracker can read a very plain set of tracks while zipping along at nearly 40 mph!

When chasing down terrors, the bikers will move ahead to establish contact. Riders and saddled horses, ready for immediate deployment, follow in vans pulled by four-wheel drive trucks.

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MUST SEE TO BELIEVE

The Cavalry Rides Again...

Continued from page 63

the pinto was hit in the arm." We waited—no fire came from the draw. We couldn't lie here all night and I felt the chance now of flanking fire was minimal . . . we'd see!

"Get 'em on their feet, and let's go."

The line of troops on either side of me advanced toward the kraal ahead by alternate bounds. Green tracers from an AK ripped through the roof of one hut, setting the thatch on fire. The terr was firing from the base of a hill, to the rear of the village. SLRs from the left flank of our skirmish line answered, their orange streaks mingling with the green from the Kalashnikov.

Cpl. Grey kicked open the door to a hut and started to throw in a grenade, but checked when an African, his three wives and four children started howling.

"Get them outside and down," I yelled.

The Catholic Peace and Justice Commission would love an excuse to scream about so-called "atrocities." The only "atrocities" I'd seen were the ones the terrs were committing daily against Rhodesians, both black and white.

Grey motioned the waiting mob outside the hut and got them down in the prone. In the glare of the flames from the huts, several figures ran into the bush.

Grey yelled, "Mirah! (the Shona word for halt)." They kept running.

I fired double tap automatic, eight rounds. One figure dropped.

Behind the kraal was high ground I wanted to get on.

The troops were moved up the hill overlooking the village that was now burning. When the adrenaline wore off and first light came, fatigue really set in. We swept the area at first light. Empties and loose AK rounds were lying in the draw.

Tracks indicated the terrs had bomb-shelled. All led into the rocks. I didn't feel like five terrs warranted calling in Fire Force, especially since the possibility of tracking was so remote. We started walking back to St. Benedict's.

I waited outside the priest's office. The young African girl who operated the switchboard asked in a shaky voice, "Was that your people firing last night?" "Yes, we had some problems."

When the priest came out he was all smiles. "How about some breakfast, Major?" Ham and eggs, coffee, toast and Bushmills' later but absolutely no questions about the firing.

At no time did he even mention the ambush. I found out that the sounds of the firing and grenades were heard as far as Royal Visit Ranch. St. Benedict's was only three ks from the ambush.



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S/Major Richardson showed up with transport and took us all back to Royal Visit.

The next day I went into JOC Rusape to report. After speaking with the Commander, I went to the hospital to get my people treated. I was told I had a "cracked rib."

When we returned to Royal Visit I requested an aircraft to do a fly-over to see if the horses could be spotted. No luck. We would continue operating as infantry until the horses showed up.

The local African bus service ran from Mtoko, northwest of us near the border, to Salisbury. Intelligence stated terms were moving on these buses. I received permission to initiate spot checks on the buses and set up road blocks.

Several days after the ambush, we stopped a bus north of a farm called Three Rivers. A thorough search turned up nothing, but I noticed two children at the side of the road turn and dart off into the bush in the direction of the beer hall, only a click south of us. The bus was released and we drove to the beer hall in Mr. Van Aard's truck.

A cordon was thrown around the beer hall and the Africans inside were moved

outside for an I.D. check, women on one side, men on the other. I walked around the back of the building behind trooper P. Green who was called, naturally, Greenpea.

Suddenly, four teenagers burst from a hut next to the beer hall. They sprinted for the bush about 20 yards to our front.

Greenpea yelled, "Mir-ah," but they didn't pause in mid-stride.

Over the sights of the 9mm Star, I could see the sweaty back of the tallest youth, as he reached the bush. The law says, "shoot." They were running from troops during a search operation, ignoring a challenge to halt. Greenpea beat me to it, ripping the bushes with SLR fire, my 9 mm rounds following his. We ran to the bushes but instead of bodies, we found a steep drop down to the meadow eight feet below. The fire had riddled branches waist high, but the Africans were running like deer for the woods, a hundred meters away.

Two other troops ran up and opened fire on the Africans. I had holstered the 9mm and unslung my SLR. A moment before both youths reached the trees I squeezed off one round from a kneeling position. With four of us firing, it was

hard to tell. One youth went down, rolled over, and plunged into the bush. The second went down, pitched forward, and disappeared into heavy undergrowth.

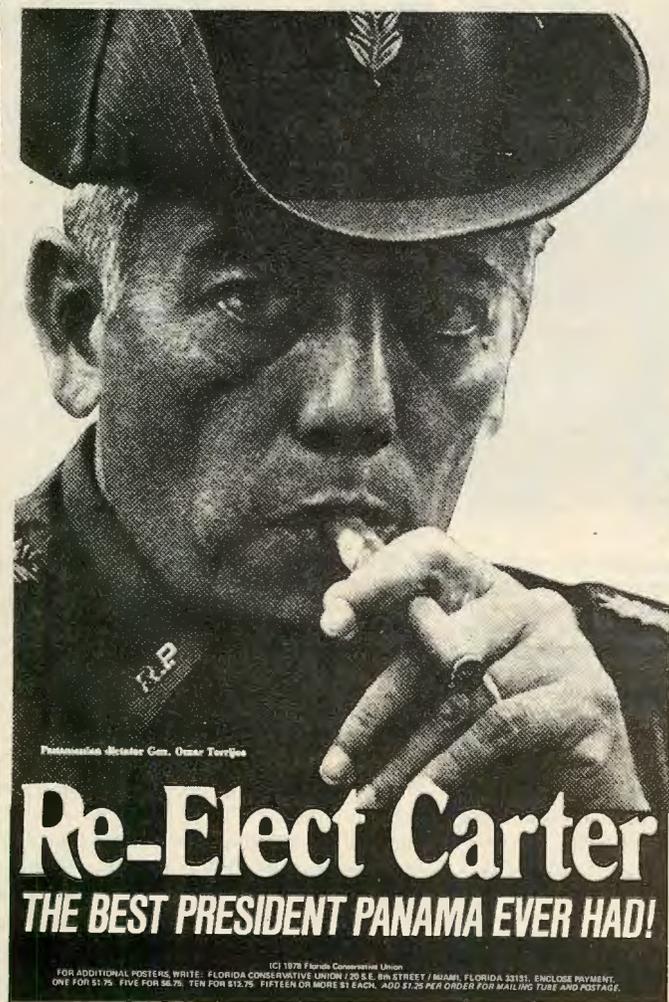
I tried to get up and couldn't. I felt something grating in my right side and breathing became a real job.

Going to the hospital in the farmer's truck, I couldn't find any position I could comfortably sit in. There was no need for an X-Ray. I had three broken ribs.

The JOC Rusape Commander came to see me. He'd had a conversation with my C.O. in Salisbury, requesting I be given sick leave and on my return, to give me additional troops and horses in order that St. Benedict's and Weya TTL could be given the attention they both deserved.

Walking like a 90 year old, I left the hospital and boarded a South African Airways jet for Jo'burg and the States.

In the next issue of SOF, "Mike" Williams will write of his service in Rhodesia's famed Grey's Scouts.



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Triflon

by Chuck Taylor

As long as men have made, possessed, and used machines, they have faced the problems of lubrication and cleaning. Not unexpectedly, advances of the state-of-the-art in both areas have been repeatedly made, but, still, much remained to be accomplished.

Some of the big problems have been the nasty habit of protective lubricants either evaporating from exposure to heat, friction, or the elements, or mixing with a contaminant agent, such as with carbon or dirt, and forming an egregious compound of sludge that is the bane of anyone who works with machinery.

When the problems of protection, cleaning, and lubrication are applied to the field of combat weaponry, they assume critical proportions, since the very salvation of the user of the weapon depends on not only his ability to effici-

Probably the most notable advance of the past 20 years was the coming of the military lubricant/cleaner known as LSA. Those of you either in current military service or recent past service are quite familiar with it. LSA is a good substance. It lubricates well, and, up until now, was the only thing that could keep an M-16 functioning reliably, particularly in tropical or abusive environments.

Six months ago, a cleaner/lubricant known as Tri-flon was provided to me for testing and evaluation. I was assured by the Tri-flon people that it was the best product of its type ever created. Naturally, I thought that those were pretty large assurances, the kind that have a habit of going sour when the going gets rough. For this reason, I have mercilessly tested Tri-flon for a rather long period to determine how effective it really is.

German MG42 cal. 7.92mm LMG and treated it with Tri-flon. The '42 has a cyclic rate of over 1200 rpm, and generates a *bunch* of motion of moving parts and friction of metal bearing surfaces.

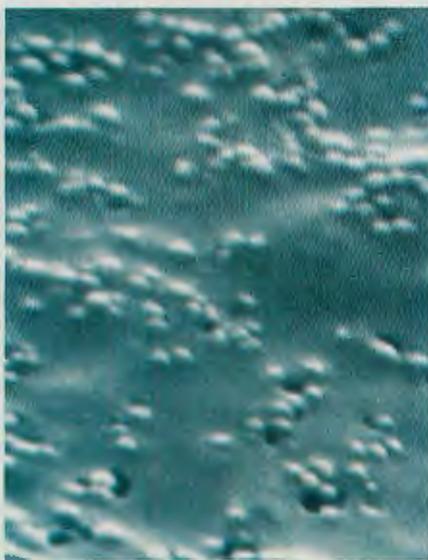
Upon the initial firing of the gun, *the cyclic rate was noticeably higher, due to the reduced friction and increased lubrication of bearing surfaces and moving parts.*

Similar results had previously been noted with the Ingram SMGs and the Thompson. Functioning of the handguns was improved, and it was found that, after thoroughly treating the weapon with Tri-flon, it was, subsequently, much easier to clean . . . an added and much welcomed bonus, as far as I'm concerned!

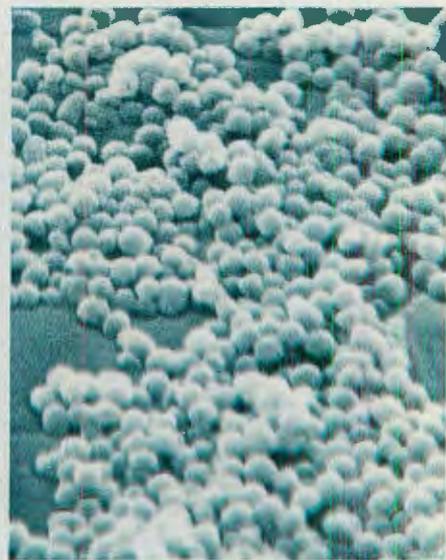
Tri-Flon exceeds even the toughest U.S. military weapons specs. For ex-



Typical metal surface enlarged 20,000 times to reveal "hill and valley" irregularities of surface. Conventional lubricants fail to effectively fill and permanently occupy these microscopic depressions, thus allowing scarring to occur when surface is subjected to friction.



Tri-Flon Teflon® with boundary film is 20,000 times actual size, demonstrating evening-out effect Tri-Flon gives all metal surfaces it occupies. Boundary fluid displaces moisture. Teflon® particles displace microscopic space. Combination provides as smooth a non-abrasive surface as is possible to achieve.



Tri-Flon Teflon® particles, without fluid boundary film, are enlarged 20,000 times to show "bearing-type" filling effect of sub-micron size particles. Millions of these particles are suspended in each milliliter of Tri-Flon.

ently utilize his weapon, but also the *reliable functioning* of that weapon. This, of course, is why we clean guns in the first place: *to maximize the inherent reliability of the weapons system.*

Over the past several decades, significant advances have been made in this vein, but, unfortunately, although the advances were unquestionably improvements, they left a great deal to be desired.

Well, my conclusion is that it is *dynamite!* My original test vehicles were an Ingram M10 cal. .45 SMG, a S&W M76 cal. 9mm SMG, an Ingram M11 cal. .380 SMG, an M1 Thompson SMG, two custom Colt .45 autos, a Browning BSS 12-gauge shotgun, and a S&W M60 cal. .38 Special "Chief's Special" revolver. Tri-flon worked so well on the above guns that I decided to give it the acid test. I thoroughly cleaned and dried my

ample, it has an operating range of -50 degrees F. to +475 degrees F., and will even operate for a short period in the 750 degrees to 800 degrees F. range long after other lubes have evaporated down to hard films. In terms of lubricity, the military specifications call for friction surfaces to be loaded to 250 lbs. psi running for four minutes without any galling. Under those conditions, Tri-Flon has performed at upwards of



Author found Tri-Flon to be best cleaner/lubricant he'd ever used. Now uses it exclusively on all guns, from pistols to LMGs.

1200 lbs. psi for 20 minutes. The ability for a lubricant to protect a metal surface against rust or corrosion is generally tested in a 5% salt spray chamber. Accordingly, military specifications of 100 hours is an extremely difficult test. Tri-Flon is rated at a phenomenal 168 hours on the low end. Other military specs include a minimum resistance to galling under 1250 pounds of pressure for four minutes, with a 1mm scar.

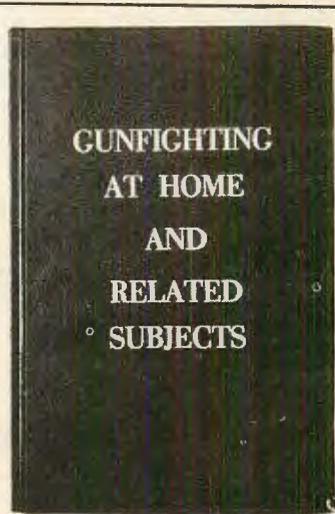
Tri-flon lasted 22 minutes and only left a .64mm scar! For corrosion resistance, the military prescribes that it must last 30 hours in a five percent salt water solution. Tri-flon lasted 165 hours! As a cleaner, Tri-flon removes 100 percent of all unburned varnish (found in modern gun powders) and primer salts, so it can be readily utilized for most all tasks the gun owner can create, and perform in a superior manner to all known products.

What makes this stuff tick? Teflon® , suspended in a liquid solution. In fact, one millimeter of Tri-flon contains several million particles of Teflon® . Putting the statement into perspective, a micron is 1/1,000,000 of an inch . . . and a red blood cell is about 10 microns in diameter. Well, that red blood cell is 30 times larger than one Teflon® particle, as used in Tri-flon.

The accompanying photos tell the story of why Tri-flon is a superior lubricant. It has the ability to *fill in* the microscopic "hills and valleys" in the host metal which are caused by its being worked by machines. This, in turn, allows bearing surfaces to move with greatly reduced friction, which, naturally, increases the life of the weapon or machine, and allows it to function many times more smoothly than it could otherwise.

This same ability to *fill in* also enables Tri-flon to preclude corrosive elements and common grit from penetrating into the metal, and causing not only functioning and machine-life problems, but also cleaning and maintenance hassles. Once a gun is treated with Tri-flon, it is much easier to clean because of this fact.

I admit that I'm impressed with this stuff. It doesn't wash away in the rain, as do conventional oils and LSA, it doesn't have the bulk that LSA has, or the resultant mess of application, and it cleans and lubricates better than either! As far as I'm concerned, it's the best product of its type now in existence. When you try it, you'll agree. This is a product that you can bet your life on.



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STEELE ON KNIVES

Continued from page 28

something distinctive in the way of native knives, but most are not of great collector's interest in this country.

Q. A federal officer recently had occasion to use a standard push dagger with a spiked tri-corner blade for a skull penetration and ended up shattering four bones in his hand. I mentioned this to Wayne Goddard, and he has worked out a handle design which would distribute impact force more evenly and in accordance with natural contours.

E. G. Brooker, Cincinnati, Ohio

A. *Thanks for the information on Wayne Goddard's push dagger with the orthopedic handle. I don't recommend that anyone stab into the skull, which is the hardest bone in the body, but it's nice to know that one could do so without disintegrating his hand.*

Q. I am writing to tell you about boar hunting as practiced in Australia. I am not talking about the guys who just shoot them with high powered rifles, 12-bore solids, etc. I am talking about killing them with a knife. I go out regularly, and I admit I carry a gun in the vehicle, as do my fellow hunters, but you do not need a firearm if you have good working dogs. The dogs, usually Bull Terriers, Grey Hounds, Stag Hounds, etc., grab the pig by the ears. It may take three to

six dogs to hold a really big pig; then the hunter cautiously approaches and stabs the pig in the heart behind the front leg or cuts its throat. The dogs are a sight here: they armor them up to protect the chest against the boar's tusks. Even so, we had a dog the other day that got hit in the main neck vein, died in five minutes. G. R. Angel, N.S.W., Australia

A. *Thanks for the information. This is essentially the way we hunt boar in Hawaii, although the Hawaiian dogs are not nearly so big and are not armored. I understand the Maori in New Zealand also stab wild boar, although they provoke them to charge onto their blade, much like the Germans did in the 15th century. The German knight used to brace his boar sword against one knee to meet the charge. However, this technique was practiced only on smaller boars or sows, since a large boar could easily rip the sword from his hands. It is always best to approach a boar from the side or back, especially when using a small weapon like the six-inch Randall Model 1 I used in Hawaii. Using a boar sword Hirschfanger or boar spear like most Germans did is much safer because of the added distance from the target. British officers in India used to lance them from horseback, which is safer still, except for the danger of falling off one's horse.*



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The Wild Geese Fly Again

Continued from page 57

a good cause—and a high fee. But his prime motive is that of success. His loyalty and devotion to his men know no bounds.

A point made by more than one observer on the set is that Burton's characterization is almost a take-off of former Merc leader Mike Hoare. Both men maintain that the similarity is incidental; those of us who remember the Congo from the old days maintain that the similarity is *more* than co-incidental. The two men even look alike!

Hoare's imprint on the film comes through forcibly. The choice of the old merc veteran as a technical advisor by Producer Evan Lloyd was indeed a wise one, for Hoare, more than most other merc veterans, knows what it is all about; *The Wild Geese* leaves the viewer in no doubt of that!

Hoare had a few comments of his own while on the set. Says he of mercs:

"There is an old saying that one volunteer is worth ten draftees. And this is particularly true of soldiering. In my own British Army career I always had in my unit a large proportion of grumblers and grouse who just didn't want to be there anyway.

"But in a good mercenary outfit, they're all there because they *want* to be. All right, the motive is probably the high money they earn, but they all *want* to do it. They're all volunteers. So you can train them at tremendous speed.

"Another big incentive for them, of course, is when you tell them with perfect truth, 'Right lads, you've got six weeks to train, then we go into action. So if you don't get it right by then the chances are you'll be killed stone dead!' So they make sure they *do* get it right!"

Hoare even had an opportunity to compliment one of the hired "mercs"; this time Ian Yule who served with "Mad" Mike in the Congo.

Yule's contribution was spectacular. With Bren gun blazing, he rushed into action "killing" half-a-dozen enemy soldiers. Then, running out of ammo he threw down the Bren, picked up a Thompson, and blazed away, finally throwing a couple of grenades with his free hand.

He then picked up and fired a bazooka, eventually rushing forward again, picking his way across the now piled-up "bodies" of the enemy force. Director Andrew McLaglen shouted "Cut," adding, "That was great, Ian."

Colonel Hoare walked across to Yule on the set, stared him in the eye, and said: "I don't know whether to court-

martial you or give you a ruddy medal for that exhibition, Yule . . ." Both men then broke into laughter. Now wags who were on the unit are calling the actor Ian "To Hell and Back" Yule.

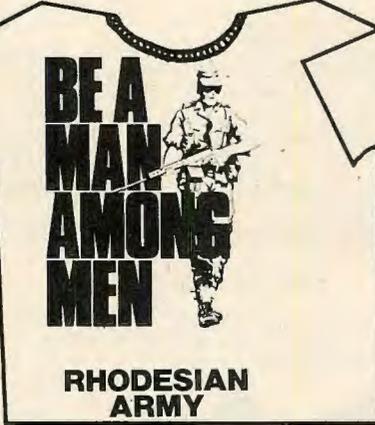
Then there was the time that black star John Kani (who jointly won Broadway's coveted "Tony" Award with Winston Ntshona a couple of years back) was stealthily advancing towards an enemy soldier. He lifted his knife to slit the man's throat. "Cut," called director McLaglen again.

An interesting piece of current news did emerge from the set of the film, concerning Colonel Mike Hoare.

Hoare, formerly commander of 5 Commado, is considering forming a private anti-hijacker squad. His "rat catching" force would be non-political and would comprise contracted mercs who would be hired by airline companies or countries.

The former merc officer considers it essential that such a mercenary team should be completely non-political to negate the terrorists' political activism. Hoare is making no further comment at this stage on this fascinating project since secrecy is obviously of paramount importance.





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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 26

The argument still goes on as to whether the Colt Gold Cup is a good choice for practical shooting. The current models now have full weight slides like the standard Government model and handle much more easily than the old lightweight slide models. If you purchase a Cup, I seriously recommend that you get a spare rear sight retaining pin or two. They will drift out or break while firing full power loads. The front sight has a nasty habit of shooting off after extended firing. The best way to go is to send your Cup to Jim Hoag, 8523 Canoga Ave., Canoga Park, Calif. 91304, for his Low mount Bo-Mar sight installation. His replacement ramp front sight is silver soldered in place and does not shoot loose.

Terry Hudson, Crown City Arms, P.O. Box 1126, Cortland, New York 13045, offers a very good line of .45 auto pistol parts. For those needing Colt parts, Commander hammers, recoil buffers, speed safeties, those hard-to-get high fixed Micros, he stocks extra power recoil springs for the .45 and frame and slide kits. I recently installed one of his

lightweight frames under my Colt .22-.45 conversion kit. This gives me a full time practice arm that is ideal for basement practice or training sessions with beginners that must first get the feel of the big gun without the fear of .45 recoil. Also the .22-.45 conversion kit is nice for practice during the winter months when brass recovery is hampered by deep snow. Some people may regard the .22-.45 kit as a nonsense item, but watching John Davis of Illinois demonstrate his gives one new faith in the low cost .22 practice ammo.

Bill Ives of Pachmayr Gun Works gave me a new set of the improved .45 Signature grips for the M1911 Colt that they now offer. This final version seems ideal with the toe of the front strap now removed, the magazine catch area relieved, and the front panel reinforced to prevent stretching that was so common on the early model. Pachmayr now offers an arched version of their neoprene mainspring housing that really provides a good gripping surface. It is gratifying to see the people at Pachmayr make the needed changes that were required for the Signature grip to become the better product that it now is.



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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 22

The Service Ace is new to the market place and in short supply. Yet, in view of the advantages it offers, this .22 version of the Government Model might be well worth the wait. For more information, write Colt Firearms, 150 Huyshope Avenue, Hartford, Ct. 06102 USA.

Penetrating a barricade is one of the most difficult shooting situations. The KTW Armor Piercing ammunition to a large extent obviates this problem. KTW ammo is not only distinctive in performance, but distinctive in appearance as well. The truncated cone-shaped bullets are green—the color of pea soup. Their effect on various types of barricades is impressive.

It is irresponsible to advocate shooting at people through walls and doors except under the most controlled situations. Otherwise, liability to innocent parties can easily result. Per force a high velocity load, armor-piercing rounds fired indiscriminately can miss the mark and travel relatively great distances and still effect lethality. For this and a number of other reasons, except under extra-

ordinary circumstances, KTW Armor Piercing ammo should not be carried except as auxiliary loads.

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In conjunction with Hal Butz and his Gunroom Police Weapons Instructional Team, we tested several of these KTW loads on a ¼-inch armor plate at 21 feet. This is one of the most severe tests for armor piercing ammo since even the manufacturer recommends its use through spaced thickness of metal or wood or other material.

9mm Parabellum loads fired from a double action Beretta auto incurred very pronounced dimpling of the metal surface. .38 Special loads had relatively similar effect. .45 ACP loads did little dimpling, rather leaving the distinct impression that a ballpeen hammer had been wielded against the surface by some giant. When the magnums were trotted out, the results were most dramatic. Using a four-inch Python, complete penetration was achieved.

Contrary to popular mythology, armor-piercing loads will not in most instances stop a car when fired into the engine

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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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If anyone asked me what my favorite television show is, I'd easily answer, "The Prisoner." A decade ago, ITC, the British producing and distributing giant, first released the strange blending of science fiction and secret agent fare.

Over the ensuing years, the 17 episodes, starring Patrick McGoochan, have been shown at colleges and universities, run and re-run on various commercial stations everywhere, and are now enjoying a resurgence of popularity on Public Television stations throughout the country. McGoochan plays a secret agent who resigns. He is kidnapped and taken to a Utopian Village where everyone is known by a number rather than a name—his is Number 6. The Village systematically invades privacy, depersonalizes day-to-day life, attempts to bend minds, break human wills and substitute Big Brother paternalism for freedom.

"The Prisoner" has a definite message. Ten years ago, today, years into the future—it discusses the personal freedom of man in the most basic of terms: the struggle to be a free individual in a society where individualism is stamped out like a disease. One reason the show is a cult object and a continual subject for discussion and interpretation is that it fulfills a criterion we normally associate with art—it mirrors life. Lest we are quite careful, as social legislation proliferates and government more boldly invades our personal lives, the plight of Number 6—"The Prisoner"—might soon mirror our own lives all too well.



FLAK

Continued from page 8

SNIPING FACTS . . .

The Editor, SOF Magazine:

The article on sniping and the use of larger calibers for long range is good (SOF, Sept. '78), the first solid stuff I've seen on it though most ordnance people in Korea had heard of Capt. Brophy's .50 gun experiments. When I was with 700th Ordnance (45th Div.), the armament shop had a hybrid .50 MG barrel/PTRD rifle, but no one then with the unit knew much of its use. There was a tank in the division burned out by use of a 14.5 rifle, though. It could hurt at close range.

The German Patr.318 AT cartridge wasn't exactly a 13mm, though it did almost match our .50 MG round. It may have been developed from experiments following the T.u.F. machine gun of 1918, but the only rounds near the .50 in German use were the aircraft 13mm, a smaller cased job, and the 15mm, a near .60 caliber with high velocity, used in the MG151s.

Capt. Brophy's observations on the care of sniping gear sound like 1916 over again. Our attention to sniping is after the fact, usually. . . .

The seemingly permanent lock-in to the Mousegun and the varmint calibered 5.56mm means that sniping in future is not a Nice To Know but a Goddamn Must for the U.S. Our kindly foes have buckets of M1891 bolt actions (sniper rifles, natch), and it is claimed they have at least one sniper in the Soviet army to each platoon, and since he carries a Dragunov SVD, he is in position to hurt us badly. Study of our ammunition allowances shows the brilliant fact that sniping allowances are *optional during peacetime, mandatory in mobilization*. This is a crock. It is during peacetime that we have the time to learn and the instructors to do it. We should have permanent sniper training schools and they should be backed up to the hilt. . . .

We cover the same ground, making the same mistakes, due to lack of continuity. Back in W.W. II we made up sniper rifles hastily from war production arms. The M1C and D did not have glass bedding and the maintenance of accuracy in the M1 was not understood. After 1945, we forgot. In 1950 we dragged our 1945 arms out in haste. In the 1960s Springfield Armory went down the drain, shot down by the slide rulers, and in the haste to scrap all the useless things, the developments on M14 sniping rifles seem to have gone with SA. An ordnance machinist in 'Nam got a Bronze Star for developing M14 scope mounts in the field, doing work already done by Springfield

before the VN War! He deserved his medal, but someone higher up deserved the Purple Shaft for total failure in office.

I think if someone dragged LTC Brophy off the retired list and assigned him to work out a good sniper weapon with available means of today, he'd be able to do much better with the M21 sniper and the M700 and similar rifles to work on. Glass bedding was not in use on the M1 in 1954, and some of the scope sights now in use were not even thought of then. It is possible that someone could develop a long range sniping round, using not the .50 BMG round, but the shorter .50 used in the M8 spotting rifles. This case with proper slugs, such as some makers provide today, would give a useful round with a better range than the .30 and less kick than the BMG. Use of Hydra Coil stock units could make it less damaging to shoot. LTC Brophy back in his Korean days was a fairly husky type, but I expect after a few rounds he needed to visit a Japanese masseuse and have his sore shoulder walked on for an hour or two. . . .

In time of peace, prepare for war— which we never do.

Sincerely,
John P. Conlon
CW3 OARNG (Retd.)
Newark, Ohio

ON GUN CONTROL . . .

Gentlemen:

I have just read the November '78 issue of SOF and was appalled when I read "America's Gestapo in Action." Up until now I have been an inactive member in the war against gun control. But when I read what had happened at the San Jose Gun, Coin, and Antique Collectors' Show, it was the final straw necessary to get me motivated. I am going to do everything within my power to see that all forms of gun control are permanently removed. My effort alone will make little difference, but if we all get off our dead asses, just maybe we can make a miracle happen.

Thankfully,
PFC Douglas M. Walker, Jr.
Fort Riley, Kansas

SOF "REAL AMERICANA" . . .

Gentlemen:

I wish to express my profound appreciation for your fine, unique magazine. It's "Real Americana"!

Soldier of Fortune represents a very real American minority (albeit an endangered species)—Patriotic Americans with a fighting spirit. Your magazine is the standard bearer for those noble qualities Patriotic Americans cherish most: duty, honor, courage, loyalty, and the will to win.

Continued on page 91

BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 14

simple reason that it is more economical to enlist individuals who are already trained and experienced in their specialty."

Captain Lee stated that the Rhodesian Army would accept regular infantry men; that they would consider anyone with previous experience, depending on their needs at any specific time.

"There's always a problem in recruiting by mail," Lee stated. "Therefore, we require an individual to pay his own transportation costs if he is accepted. We reimburse the volunteer three months after he enters the service. We have had instances where we have paid an individual's airfare from the U.S., only to have him decide he didn't like us and turn around and return. There is no exception to this policy at present."

Lee suggested that interested parties include documentation of previous service (DD 214) with their request for an application; that the material forwarded should be certified true copies instead of original documents. "We also require a copy of the individual's birth certificate or a photostatic copy of the personal data that appears in his passport. Upon receipt of this, we will forward an application and medical form."

"It is our policy to answer correspondence within 48 hours. However, on occasion I have received letters from individuals stating they had written us three times but had received no reply. I would assume this is because there is unsatisfactory mail service between the U.S. and Rhodesia." (SOF assumes that there are individuals in the U.S. Postal Service who purposely destroy mail going to or coming from Rhodesia.)

Lee recommends that instead of writing to the Rhodesian Recruiting Officer that one should write "The Secretary, Private Bag 7720, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia. The people at headquarters will forward any mail so addressed to us."

LEGION UPDATE DELAY . . .

Because our comprehensive coverage of the current situation in Southern Africa has pre-empted the editorial space slotted for Major John S. Arvidson's analysis of the French Foreign Legion, this Legion article will appear in the next issue of SOF.

HOLOCAUST AGAIN . . .

Although the media continue their policy of non-speak on genocide in Cambodia, concerned individuals and organizations are beginning to speak out in the United States.

The Cambodian Association of America, whose headquarters are at 2226 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, California 90804, is the most prominent of these

groups. Protesting the Khmer Rouge's systematic extermination of nearly 3,000,000 Cambodian men, women and children, over 1/3 of Cambodia's population, and Cambodia's having been turned into a gigantic slave labor camp, the organization declares, "Inaction, silence, indifference, and complacency were contributing factors to the deaths of 6,000,000 Jews in Germany. History is now repeating itself. We are a non-partisan group made up of individuals who share the common feeling that we cannot, in our own conscience, remain silent on this issue. We seek only to address ourselves to the present and continuing holocaust."

Despite such grassroots concern, the major media are still suspiciously silent about Cambodia's tragedy, leaving reporting to smaller groups, such as *The Washington Press*, a publication of Accuracy in Media, Inc., 777 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, which recently pointed out national media non-coverage of a 12 June 1978 Cambodian rally in the nation's capital.

The rally was held by Cambodians from all over the United States, who gathered on the steps of the Capitol in Washington to appeal to Congress and the American people to help save Cambodia from Communist genocide.

Members of Congress who addressed the group, expressing their outrage at what is taking place in Cambodia, included Senator Robert Dole (R-KS), Republican vice-presidential nominee in 1976, and Congressman Robert Dornan (R-CA), who criticized Senator George McGovern and former Congresswoman Bella Abzug. Dornan also challenged other members of Congress to come out of their offices and hear the cries of the Cambodian people on the Capitol steps.

Although the protest meeting had been well advertised in advance by press releases sent to the media in Washington, DC, and both NBC and ABC had camera crews there, no footage was shown on the air. (Ed. note: perhaps NBC stands for "News Blackout Corporation.")

Last July 9th, SOF staffers Tom Reisinger and Tom McGregor were guests at a picnic sponsored by the Cambodian Association of America at Long Beach, California. Honored at the gathering was Cambodian Marshal President-In-Exile Lon Nol who held a news conference attended by reporters from the Los Angeles Times and other large area newspapers and television stations.

During the conference the President thanked the United States government for its help to Cambodian refugees and regretted that the Congress of the United States and President Carter, who had publically stated on 21 April 1978, "America cannot avoid the responsibility to speak out in condemnation of the Cambodian Government, the worst violator of human rights in the world today," had

not seen fit to deploy any efforts to stop the killing in Cambodia.

SOF is joining individuals concerned with Cambodia's fate and is organizing a fundraising campaign to assist Cambodian resistance forces operating inside that Southeast Asian nation. Readers are invited to contribute financial donations to this most worthy cause. Even as little as \$1.00 would be of help. Please give whatever you can as soon as you can. Contributions will not be channeled through any bureaucratic organization. Your money will reach the destination where it will do the most good. Think it over: any help begins with you.

SOF CONTEST WINNER . . .

John M. DuPont, Jr., of Picayune, Mississippi, is the winner of SOF's September Detonics .45 contest. Congratulations!

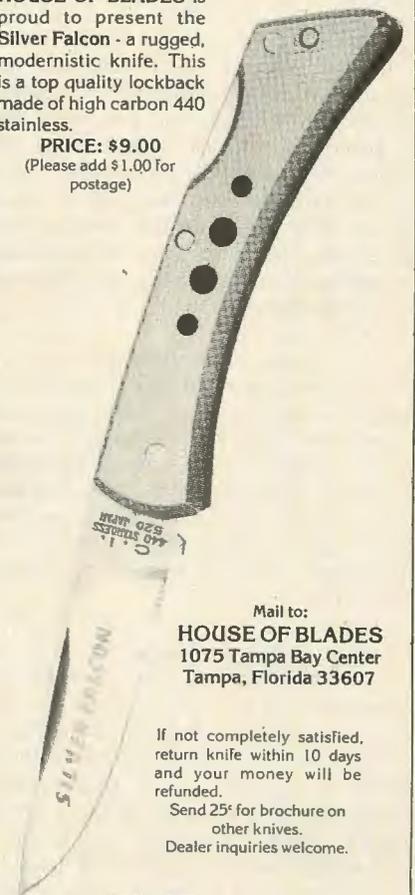
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ACTUAL SIZE

Overdrink For Survival

by Major D. L. Price

The following article is reprinted, by permission, from the June 1978 issue of the Marine Corps Gazette.

Marines participating in PALM TREE exercises at MCAGCTC (Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center) use the Israeli system of "overdrink" to prevent heat casualties. During four MAU-sized live-fire support coordination exercises conducted last summer, only minimum heat casualties were sustained. The exercises involved combat-equipped Marines engaged in vigorous tactical maneuver during the day in heat often ranging to Heat Condition IV.

The "overdrink" system overhydrates a Marine's body to prevent dehydration. The system requires Marines to drink water every 30 minutes when engaged in physical activity during hot weather. The system makes it mandatory that Marines drink water at least every hour. Ample water supplies must be made easily available. Drinking water thus becomes a command responsibility and must be encouraged or directed by small unit leaders.

In years past it was erroneously believed that troops could be conditioned to operate with reduced water supplies in desert and tropical regions. The old system of water discipline was often strictly enforced with the goal of water conservation based on the premise that water supplies would not be available in combat. Water rationing was practiced to toughen the troops.

Commanders from the past will remember that water discipline and rationing did conserve water. They may also remember that heat casualties were frequent and often numerous. Thus, the casualties suffered from lack of water were actually self-inflicted. Enemy firepower did not cause the casualties. An uninformed and unrealistic command policy did.

Today the documented research of the Israelis and others to include the pioneering work of E. F. Adolph and his associates in 1947 proves that men cannot be conditioned to operate effectively with reduced water intake. This research further reveals that in the desert a man's natural thirst will compel him to drink only about 1/3 of the amount of water he actually requires to be alert and active.

Man cannot store water. When working in heat, the 2 1/2 million sweat glands of man's skin secrete perspiration. Man draws moisture from his blood. In contrast, the camel draws moisture from its tissues. The loss of moisture from man's blood results in dehydration and an upset in the body's electrolyte balance. Heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke soon follow.

Once man commences to sweat, his total body fluid content begins to deplete. About 2/3 of the human body consists of fluid. As fluid loss increases, mental alertness and physical response decrease. Researchers agree that the approximate losses in body fluid (shown in the accompanying box) will cause the listed minimum effects.

EFFECTS OF LOSS OF BODY FLUID

% OF LOSS	EFFECT
2 1/2 %	Dehydration commences.
5 %	Nausea.
6-10 %	Giddiness, headaches, limbs itch.
15 %	Death imminent in 90 degree weather.
25 %	Death even in cool climates.

Finally, research points out that acclimatization and physical conditioning are not significant factors in whether or not a man will become a heat casualty if he lacks an adequate water intake. Regardless of whether a Marine can score 300 on the PFT, if he loses much over 10 percent of his total body fluid, he will certainly become a heat casualty and will be ineffective as a combatant.

How much water does a Marine require when operating in the desert during summer months? Most survival manuals, military field manuals, and U.S. Park Service literature cite the figure of three gallons per man per day. But consider the Marine infantryman in a MCAGCTC exercise carrying full field gear, including helmet, armored vest, and gas mask, who is practicing overdrink. Experience at MCAGCTC shows that under Heat Condition IV Marines

consistently consume between five and six gallons a day in the summer. This figure is not unusual. Adolph's research indicates that in the early '30s construction workers on the Hoover Dam located on the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona consumed up to 6 1/2 gallons of water a day.

Based on these statistics, the MCAGCTC staff believes that no heat casualties is a realistic goal that can be achieved via the overdrink method. Commanders who strive for this goal, however, must be aware of two major factors: water weight and man load. For example, a gallon of water weighs a little over eight pounds. Thus five gallons weigh over 40 pounds. There are four quarts or canteens per gallon. Five gallons equates, therefore, to 20 canteens of water. A Marine cannot be expected to carry 40 pounds of water during an exercise. (S.L.A. Marshall points out in his *The Soldier's Load and the Mobility of a Nation* that the total weight of a fighting man's clothing, equipment, ammunition, weapon, water, and rations must not exceed 40 pounds.)

Prior to leaving for the field, a Marine can consume two quarts of water without great discomfort. He can carry four full canteens with his web equipment, if required. Where the additional 16 canteens or four gallons will come from can only be answered by the G-4. We can only say that the water must be provided.

In summary, the three major factors that affect Marines in the desert are: climatic temperatures, physical exertion, and body water. A commander cannot control the weather, and his mission often dictates the amount of physical exertion required of his troops. Of the three factors, the commander has the most influence and control over the replenishment of body water in his troops. In the end, a sensible command policy which emphasizes the proven overdrink method and is supported by an aggressive logistics system that will move water forward can result in zero heat casualties in any clime and place where Marines operate.



SOF Interviews
General John K. Singlaub

Continued from page 31

that make a good leader in the military are at times irreconcilable with corporation or management ethics. That officers have been taught to consider themselves and self-promotion before the integrity of the unit, the Army as a whole or of the country. In a sense, they see the Army's modern leadership as being the same as in corporations, aggressive, nonethical, and concerned with the buck rather than the country or their manpower. "In an effort to learn modern business logistical management techniques, we have also picked up the ethics or lack of same in the military."

How do you feel about the officer corps today, and do you agree with their assessment?

SINGLAUB: I think there's certainly an element of truth in that. I have expressed concern through the years that this great emphasis on management that came about with the McNamara era, the idea that we could manage an armed force applying the techniques of big business, just doesn't hold up in the execution. In my view, the ideas of system analysis have some benefits, but the trouble is that the people that are making the decisions on whether it is cost effective

enough don't understand that the effectiveness we should be measuring is wartime effectiveness, not peacetime effectiveness. And if these are civilian appointees without any military background, I question whether they are able to make a valid decision on the effectiveness of the system. They tend to think of it only in terms of today's activity or tomorrow in a non-wartime situation.



SOF: And you feel that this permeates the officer corps too?

SINGLAUB: Yes, because we've been teaching systems analysis, because we've placed such great stress on numbers; if you can't reduce it to numbers, it obviously isn't true. That it doesn't make any difference whether you have fought a

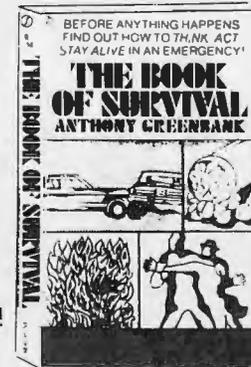
hundred battles and you know how men react, and how the enemy will react when applying certain pressure on him. That's the military mind and it's denigrated by these managers, these super managers that McNamara introduced. They write out the people part of the whole equation because it can't be quantified. But in fact, the Army is people, and managing people under stress in battle is what makes a good officer. It doesn't make any difference whether or not he can compute the cost versus effectiveness of a given system; when you get into battle you have to have good weapons, but the most important thing is that you have good people and that they are well led. So I think there is an element there, and I have participated in some seminars at Fort Leavenworth a few years ago on several occasions in which I had the opportunity to talk directly with some of the younger officers, captains and majors, and I have to say that in the first case I was startled, shocked by the perception some of these officers had of the senior leadership and what it takes to get ahead. They had in their minds the idea that integrity had been eliminated from the qualities needed to be a good officer.

SOF: That goes back to the business management scheme.

SINGLAUB: That's right and that's a

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very alarming thing to me. I found that these officers had the idea that the amounts of integrity were inversely proportional to the rank. I had to establish or perhaps re-establish the idea that the first and most important quality of an armed forces officer is integrity and compassion for your subordinates.

SOF: What do you think about the new all-volunteer action army?

SINGLAUB: There is this problem we're having with many of our young soldiers coming into the armed forces; they're coming in being sold on the idea that they're going to a job, the goal of which is to learn a skill for use later. Well, if they go in with that idea, that they aren't joining the Army to do things the Army needs them to do, to make the Army better and make it capable of fighting wars and winning them, we're going to have less than fully motivated soldiers.

Many of the senior leaders of the Army today complain to us at Forces Command that the quality of the enlisted soldier is less now than in any previous period, less than when we had the draft. But when you look at the statistics, and of course the civilians in Washington are looking at these statistics, you can say, 'oh, no, this is a much better group because we have fewer category four people. We have more high school graduates than ever before.' Of course

we don't have that good leavening of college graduates that we had under the draft, but, nevertheless, when you measure by normal statistics it appears that the Army is better than it ever was. But when it gets down to performance you find that they lack motivation and that's a function perhaps of the recruiting sell that they've had. It's also a



"There isn't any question that their tanks are superior to the M-60 tank, which is the only one we have. We have a good tank on the drawing board but it hasn't been produced."

function of the high schools or the whole educational system in the U.S. today.

I'll challenge you to find anybody in any of the schools in this area who's ever failed a grade. You can't fail 'em now. Teachers tell me that. We are graduating young men and women who are illiterate. Today the Army has had to

change the writing in our field manuals. We had them at the eighth grade level and it's too high. We're now having to go to the fifth grade level to take care of all these high school graduates. That's not a problem of the Army, it's a problem for the Army.

SOF: How do you feel about the rotation of individuals to and from overseas assignments and/or war versus the concept of unit reassignment? Should a man stay with the unit he is trained in? Why or why not?

SINGLAUB: In terms of the efficiency of the unit and probably in terms of winning battles, it would be best if an individual came into a unit and stayed with that unit his whole life. The Indian Army does that; the guy's recruited into one company and stays in that same company for the term of his service. It increases the efficiency, I think it improves the morale, the esprit, but it certainly limits the opportunities for the individual because he's stuck with the promotion opportunities of that specific unit rather than the total force.

SOF: How about during war?

SINGLAUB: Well, in time of war, there is a desire on the part of the personnel managers to give relief to those who are in battle. Now, you could rotate units back into the reserve as we did in World War II. A guy would join a unit and gen-

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erally speaking he would stay with that unit unless he was wounded or there was a requirement for his skills in some other activity and he was transferred out. Many, many enlisted as well as officers spent the whole war with the same unit and the units were more efficient.

When we went to the Korean War we had a female named Rosenberg, I think that was her name, as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. It was her idea that we should not draft these people and keep them in for the duration plus, that there would be a rotation system. So we developed a point system and once a person achieved 36 points he could be rotated back to the States. Under this system the turnover was just horrendous.

It was just as bad in Vietnam only we didn't make any distinction between a guy who was being shot at daily and a guy who was serving in a rear area as we had in Korea. You know there was some reason for this, as you could get shot in one of these rear areas, too. But the rotation that that produced through a unit—in the time that I was there, almost 2½ years, I would see units get ambushed at the same place time after time because their institutional memory disappeared under this type of rotation plan. All the leaders had gone, and they didn't know about that particular village and what

could happen if you went into it the way they went into it, and so the units weren't very efficient with such a rapid rotation. I think that units turned over completely in much less than a year.

So I believe that unit rotation in time of war is the best. I would like to see a unit stay together.

SOF: One writer says the U.S.S.R. leads the U.S. in the critical fields of quality



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and quantity of electronic warfare. We have traditionally given the Soviets the lead in quantity, claiming that we make up for it in quality. How do you feel about this?

SINGLAUB: I would have to agree with that assessment that they have achieved both quantitative and qualitative superiori-

ty in those areas. The capture of the Pueblo in 1968 undoubtedly gave a great boost to the Soviet electronic warfare activities and I'm sure they gained a lot from that. They have for a long time had a policy in the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact, and the Far East and North Korean forces of relying less on radio communications and more on land lines that we do, because they learned that we had done such a good job in the electronic eavesdropping in World War II, and the Korean War, and they saw it clearly in the Vietnam War. They really went ahead and have developed a capability there. In terms of the numbers of troops that they have committed to their electronic warfare, it is many, many times what we have committed, so they believe in it. They rely less heavily on radios so that they can resort to jamming. I do not know if they have any operational anti-radiation missiles, called an arm missile, which homes in on radios, but in my mind, it's logical to assume that they have. We're vulnerable because of the VHF relay stations we have in Europe and the Far East. We also rely heavily on satellites, but the Soviets have the capability to knock down these satellites. I'm confident that they do have this qualitative as well as quantitative superiority to us in the electronic area.

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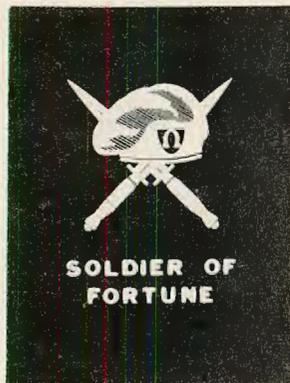
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SOF: Do you feel this is critical?

SINGLAUB: I do.

SOF: They hold the edge in this area. Why?

SINGLAUB: The system analysis people have come in and prevented us from building a communications network that



"I think the most serious problem affecting the military . . . is the way in which the Administration is trying to politicize the military."

would function in time of war. I think in Korea we have a perfect example of that. We have a very, very efficient communications network to enable us to communicate from our units on the line to Seoul and from Seoul down what is called the backbone communications network over to Japan and then it goes into satellites or onto cables and so forth. That's vulnerable not only because it's not encrypted right now, they can monitor it, but also because it's a shot—a VHF shot across the Straits of Tushima between Korea and Japan. Soviet ships monitor that. They sit right in there and read everything we talk about. None of it encrypted, it's too costly. They say it's too costly.

More important, it's all above ground. All the communication centers with great elaborate computers that are so efficient in speeding up the traffic and so forth, they're all sitting on top of the ground to be knocked out with a .45 caliber pistol, a subject that I've taken up with the people from OSD and the Army Communications Agency and the Defense Communications Agency. It is so damn dumb that any simple-minded person ought to be able to figure out those critical communications relay stations should be underground, inside a mountain, or at least protected in such a way that a guy with a grenade or a .45 pistol can't go up and put us out of business. It really is a weakness and the fact that we rely on that, we don't have land lines to resort to, I think makes us very, very vulnerable in a real war. But I'll tell you, in peacetime it's a beautiful system. Can't beat it. Only trouble with it—it enables the President to speak to division commanders or lower, and I don't think that's particularly good.

SOF: It should go through the chain of command?

SINGLAUB: That's right, even in the Vietnam War, it was not uncommon at all for General Johnson, I mean President

Johnson, to call and talk directly to a division commander. And in the instance that we had in 1976 in Korea, the people at the National Command Center, some of those appointed officials, not in the military chain of command, not even military trained were calling out and demanding that they be able to speak to the people in the joint security area. Well, I just told our communications officer that I would see that he was thrown out of the Army if he allowed one single call to pass through headquarters. When they would call up from Washington, he would use some technical reason for why he wasn't allowing them to go through. But if I'd allowed it as Chief-of-Staff, we'd have lost control and somebody who had no responsibility would have been issuing instructions in the Pentagon directly up to the guy who's eyeball-to-eyeball with the enemy. And that's the way to lose wars.

SOF: McNamara started that in the '62 missile crisis, didn't he?

SINGLAUB: He did. He did it again in '65 in the Dominican Republic situation. He and his subordinates way down the



"Many of the senior leaders of the Army today complain . . . that the quality of the enlisted soldier is less now than in any previous period, less than when we had the draft."

chain were insisting on talking to platoon leaders in Santo Domingo, the guy out on an outpost. And, of course, the meddling by these same people in the Mayaguez incident were some of these faceless, nonelected appointees in the National Military Command Center. One because he was a civilian appointee and an Assistant or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense came in and was ordering the pilot—he was actually talking to the pilot who was flying a mission over the Mayaguez, and he says, "Now, make another pass at that ship and see if you can identify whether the individuals standing on the bow are caucasians or orientals." You know that's the type of thing the pilot would have reported anyway—but here a civilian in the Pentagon, without regard to the whole chain of command, was issuing instructions to a pilot and, of course, you know, the Mayaguez situation was just—it was a great thing for the nation because we needed some kind of victory after the Vietnam surrender to boost morale, but the way it was handled by the civilian

hauled them off to Israel and we didn't even have F-4s that had the proper ECM to go to war if we needed to when the alert came through. But again with Israel, the Soviets with superior anti-air weapons formed a "bubble" over their armored units. Allied aircraft could not penetrate until tanks and artillery knocked out the anti-air weapons. A NATO scenario calls for Army to fire at radars and jam them, making a corridor through which Allied aircraft flying at less than 200 feet could penetrate to hit enemy tanks and get out. The Army and the Air Force have not coordinated this activity. There is very little training along these lines.

SINGLAUB: If you're talking about air defense rather than control of the air, I will give the Soviets superiority. They have more missile systems than we have. Their SA-2, SA-3, SA-6, 8 and so forth, these are complementary systems. Unfortunately, with our systems analysis, we have to select one system and—and go all for that. We don't have any overlapping systems, you see, so that if a means can be devised of spoofing or evading our Hawk missile system, then they're through us, you see, because we don't have anything that is on a little different technology to fill the gap.

SOF: The author of that piece went through what he calls the "Rain Dance."

He says that every time they came up with some of the subjects, the answer was, "Well, in three to five years we'll have this system or that system," and he says they're always planning wars three to five years in advance but not using today's technology and today's systems.

SINGLAUB: That's right, the present



"The system analysis people have come in and prevented us from building a communications network that would function in time of war."

civilian leadership in the Department of Defense, you know, is largely a product of McNamara. Secretary Brown is Secretary of Defense now and was one of McNamara's fairheaded boys and worked not only in DDR&E but also then became Secretary of the Air Force, so he is really well trained in some of these McNamara

techniques. They tend to count weapon systems that are on the drawing board rather than systems in the hands of troops. As far as I'm concerned it's simply not an argument to talk about our XM-1 tank opposed to the T-72 because by the time we have the XM-1 tank out on the field I don't know what tank they're going to have. But it's probably going to be a better one. Is the M-60, which is what is in the hands of our troops, equal to or better than the T-72? And the answer to that question is no, it isn't.

SOF: In fact, keeping along those lines, just for your information, the joke going around NATO that these men reported was that the U.S. plans to fight a war in Europe by flying imaginary troops in nonexistent airplanes to airbases already destroyed at the command of headquarters that no longer exist.

SINGLAUB: Well, there is sufficient truth in that to remove the humor from it, I'm afraid.

SOF: What action should the U.S. take in regards to Africa, specifically in Rhodesia, South Africa, South West Africa and Walvis Bay? What is the significance of Africa?

SINGLAUB: The significance of Africa is the natural resources that they possess that the western world needs. The Soviets are anxious to get this, not in all cases

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because they need those resources, but because they know if they can deny them to us, they can achieve some of their aims.

About 50 percent of free-world petroleum moves through the Gulf of Aden and now the Gulf of Aden is under the control of the Soviets. They occupy both Yemens, and they have Babel Imendeb, which is the strait between Ethiopia and the Arabian Peninsula. It's a very narrow strait, very easy to control, and both sides of that are now controlled by the Soviets.

I think that the Soviets and their surrogates are playing a very interesting game. I think that the disinformation which is being disseminated about Southern Africa, placing all emphasis on an emotional black-white basis, is very clever on their part, because it's easy to sell that type of emotionalism. Our Ambassador to the United Nations has been a great participant in this disinformation program. For him to say that the Cuban troops are adding stability to Africa and to support the Marxist regimes in Mozambique and some other places and to try to blame some of the assassinations that took place in Rhodesia on Ian Smith is shocking.

SOF: He was running around killing his own missionaries?

SINGLAUB: That's just what the world thinks now, because our Ambassador has said it publicly and it's going to take a long time before the real truth of what's going on in that part of Africa comes out. I'm not an expert in that part of the world, but it doesn't take a great genius to know that the tack that our U.N. Ambassador has taken is wrong and it certainly doesn't take any great genius to know that the resources in that part of the world are so essential to the western world that we have to get serious about it and solve some of the problems there.

We can't use as the motivation for our policies in Africa the emotions of fear and guilt. Those are not appropriate in dealing in international relations. They're not even appropriate for an individual. The United States needs to work with the British, and others to come up with a solution that takes into account the aspirations of the blacks in Africa and at the same time doesn't allow the emotionalism that the Soviets are advocating to take over. We have to recognize that because a leader is black does not mean that he is preserving human rights. We only have to look at a few of the leaders in Africa now to see that the suppression of human rights is greater under those black leaders than it ever was under the more compassionate colonial administration.



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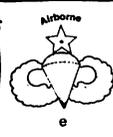
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Ralph Shamlian: Adventurer To Inventor

The Man Behind Tekna

by N.E. Moir Dougald

In this 'throwaway' era, quality has taken a backseat to marketing: everything from nosewipes to engine blocks can be discarded with impunity. Where then does one find old fashioned craftsmanship coupled with reliable technology? The answer seems to be in small concerned companies, usually proprietorships, dealing in specialty items. They can be located with a little patience. Because most professional adventurers would rather have a state-of-the-art product than an also-ran, we like to share knowledge of products or processes that qualify as excellent value for money.

If you have bought "bargain" whiskey, clothes, guns or cars, then you already know you usually get what you pay for.

At 1977's NSGA (National Sporting Goods Association) Show, I encountered a small, dedicated company called Tekna. Tekna makes underwater specialty products of such excellent quality and design, that I made a mental note to research them more thoroughly.

On a recent swing through northern California, I called Ralph Shamlian, Tekna's founder and president, and asked if I could inspect his plant. He agreed.

Located in Menlo Park, the factory was pretty much what I expected. It, like the products it produces, is compact and functional. After getting the deluxe tour, I asked Shamlian how he became an inventor. Shamlian is many things, but he ain't shy. He gave me a giant mug of Lap Sang Su Chong tea, explaining that Winston Churchill liked it because it was the only kind he could taste over his famous stogies. And led me away from production noise into his overstuffed office. Not overstuffed furniture, mind you, simply brimful of artifacts from a creative mind. Prototypes and pre-production models abounded. Artist's conceptions of future projects dominated one wall, a workbench the other.

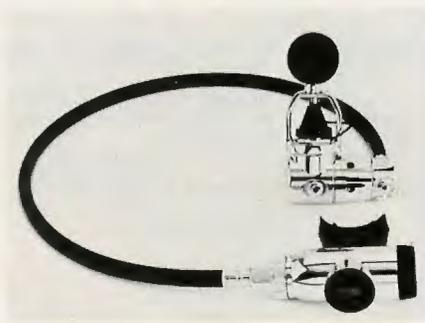
Shamlian's background typifies that of the professional adventurer. Born in Seattle and raised in Santa Cruz, he became interested in martial arts as a high school senior and received his judo brown belt in just seven months. He wasn't good at and didn't like team sports. After high school, he studied Kung Fu and Shoto Kan karate for about a year and a half and earned a brown belt



Above: Shamlian in shorinryugi (uniform). He now teaches other instructors subtler points of his art.

in the latter during that brief time. He began competing in tournaments, but they were poorly disciplined in those days; thus he returned to judo until late 1968. He quit martial arts in 1969 when his instructor died. In 1975, he returned to martial arts, reviewed several schools, and settled on one that emphasized fighting. His instructor was former Middleweight National Champion,

Below: Tekna's new regulator. Compactness and reliability are strongpoints, claims inventor.



Shorin-Ryu fourth dan (degree) Tony Reyes.

Shamlian, who has the energy of an ocean-going tug, devoted himself entirely to the discipline and became a Sho Dan (first degree) black belt in a mere 23 months. He is working toward Ni Dan (second degree) and is teaching unarmed knife and gun defense to karate students and teachers.

Shamlian attended San Jose State College, studying business and philosophy, and graduated in 1969. He had thoughts of law school, but got inordinately drunk with a Navy buddy one night and decided instead to build a small submarine. Asked if either had experience in sub building, Shamlian smiled. They did some intense research and six months later constructed a working sub in an egg-warming shed in the middle of a pasture.

Some big money boys heard of the venture and bankrolled the inventors. Within five years, Farallon, as it came to be called, was grossing \$2 million a year and was awarded six patents. Shamlian and associates developed five types of diver propulsion vehicles (DPV) currently in use by 14 military forces, including our own.

Tekna, founded in 1976, is doubling every year. Tekna's philosophy? Simplify and miniaturize all gear without reducing strength or reliability. "We prefer no moving parts," explained Shamlian, "failing that, we settle for one moving part."

Tekna produces a small but growing line of specialty underwater gear. Two compact flashlights, Tekna-Lite™ and Tekna-Lite II™ are of most interest to the general buying public. The former's small size belies its power. It contains four ni-cad rechargeable penlight batteries and the on/off "switch" is nothing more complicated than rotating the lens assembly 1/4 turn.

The Tekna-Lite II™ houses two standard penlight batteries. A flashing bulb, supplied with the flashlight, serves as an emergency beacon. In all other ways it resembles its big brother.

At the factory, I was allowed to try and break either flashlight. I began by throwing both models against the nearest wall. Nothing broke. Next I tried to stomp one



Above: Head-on view of manned DPV.

into submission. Nothing broke. I finally took a hammer and managed to put a hairline crack in the body of the smaller flashlight. I was not able to shatter the Lexan™ lens. I was given a sample of each to test over time and will report further on them about six months down the road.

Next most interesting to the general buyer is a small, stainless sheath knife. The knife (as yet unnamed) reflects Shamlian's many hundreds of hours spent underwater. Its compactness is evidenced by an overall length just shy of eight inches, with the blade about 3½ inches. Classic dirk (dagger) design was chosen for all round utility. A thong can be attached in one of the lightening holes. Stainless stock approximately 7/32 inch thick makes the knife sturdy, but not bulky. The sheath, still in the pre-production stage is made of exotic plastic and will have a quick-release feature. The sheath will have spring-loaded keepers for its velcro straps. The spring loading is intended to accommodate pressure changes.

Tekna makes two types of diving masks, two types of snorkels, some unique fins, and has just developed a new and compact pressure regulator, which can be field stripped in a couple of minutes. Also, claims Shamlian, the spring can cycle half a million times with-

out failure. Since these devices are too specific for most readers, you are urged to write directly to the factory for specifications, etc.

But the newest and perhaps most interesting happening at Tekna is still on the drawing boards. A full line of unbreakable flashlights for law enforcement and sophisticated sportsmen will be available soon. If these flashlights are as well made as Shamlian's other products, he will have to build a larger plant.

Below: Working model of Diver Propulsion Vehicle used by ours, other armed forces.



Shamlian, at the request of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, trained tactical groups (equivalent to our SEAL teams) in 1972 on use of DPVs and specialized anti-personnel weapons for underwater recon/transport and also taught individual armed combat. He then went to Taiwan, again at government behest, to train their troops. Shamlian shoots small arms when time permits and gunsmiths as a hobby. He is on the Board of Advisors, National Association of Underwater Instructors, and is Chairman, National Scuba Advisory Committee. Not too shabby for a man just into his 30s. **TEKNA**, Dept. SF, 3549 Haven Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.



Test &
Evaluation

The Ninja

by Mike Grau von Trytek

Ninja: the undisputed masters of unarmed and armed combat. *Ninja*: the very name synonymous with invisibility, stealth, and blackgarbed silent death! A title not easily lived up to!

A joint design of Blackie Collins and Chris McLoughlin, Armament Systems/Product, Unltd., produce the Ninja. The Ninja weighs 4½ ounces. The blade is four inches long and one inch wide. Overall length is eight inches. The blade is hand hollow ground and constructed from 440-C steel. The handle is injection moulded, using "Lexan," which is utilized in bullet proofing systems.

It is supplied with an extremely interesting sheath and free size shoulder harness. The sheath is constructed of black leather and has a slip-over belt loop, which is retained on the sheath by a buckle. The buckle is also utilized in the free size shoulder harness mounting system.

The shoulder harness system is of the back "X" type and may be worn left or right. It is simple to put on or remove. Once in position, a sliding keeper is centered between the shoulders and the free end of the harness strap passed through a loop on the opposite harness end strap. The two meet just forward of the arm pit of your choice.

One simply unbuckles the belt loop retaining strap from the sheath. Holding the sheath in a vertical position, you pass the free end of the harness strap through the buckle to the desired height and the Ninja is secured.

Being slightly forward and having the tip of the scabbard just level with the pit, in an inverted carry position, results in an extremely fast withdrawal.

Aside from the unique, versatile shoulder harness and sheath, its most intriguing aspect is the retention system. A leather-covered metal tab extends approximately 1½ inches from the mouth of the sheath. Approximately ⅞ of an inch from what one would consider the leading edge of the quillion shoulder is a steel sleeved hole moulded into the handle. Projecting from the tab is a steel pin which, when the Ninja is sheathed, indexes into the handle hole perfectly.

Drawing is performed by grasping the handle and simply pressing the tab away from the handle, simultaneously withdrawing the Ninja. When the knife is reinserted into the sheath, the edge of the guard or quillion area will contact the locking stud. At this moment, the thumb again presses the tab away



from the handle, and the blade slides to rest with the stud again perfectly indexed in the stud hole.

A few repetitive draws and one in no time feels comfortable. As the Ninja instructions state: "Practice makes perfect."

In weight, dimension, and availability, Gerber Mk I and Morseth #8 boot knives will probably come to mind first in comparison with the Ninja with most readers. The Morseth #8 is a well-constructed knife. The Morseth laminated blade is well known; the #8 has a 64 Rockwell hardness and is available with red, green, or black micarta handle. 8¼ inches overall, one inch wide with a 4¼-inch blade, it weighs 4.5 ounces, but it involves a one-year waiting period and an outlay of around \$85.00. With the economy being what it is, need I say more! Also, the #8's sheath is inadequate, requiring owner ingenuity and thought.

Before the Ninja was produced, the Gerber Mk I filled a gap that had been around for a long time. 8¼ inches overall, ⅞ inch wide, 4¼-inch blade length in the stiletto fashion, the Mk I comes with a good sheath, with a thumb-break release, which features a clip that readily attaches to boot or belt. I have a medium hand span, and find its handle too small. I usually wrap mine with "550" cord—or for the non-jumpers—parachute suspension line.

At currently around \$38.00, it is undoubtedly closest to the Ninja in size, weight, and price. I've owned five, given most away as gifts overseas, the last to a young veteran of the Entebbe Raid. A Gerber Mk I did me excellent service, incapacitating two muggers on a rainy night two years ago. I'm sure the Ninja would have served me equally well if it had been available.

One note on the Gerber Mk I sheaths. Beware of English bulldogs residing in Missouri! While visiting Dan Snyder, Civil War historian and knife buff, formerly of Roswell, NM, his bulldog, Lady, totally consumed my Mk I sheath with the exception of the retaining clip and thumbbreak reinforcement tab. At last report, Lady was wagging about in search of more casually laid down Gerbers.

The Ninja is new, radical in concept, and at \$44.95, including the shoulder harness, deserves more than a cursory look. It's good, fills the hand well, and likewise should fill your needs adequately.

The Ninja is available from Armament Systems/Products, Unltd., P.O. Box 18595, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, and from Phoenix Associates, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, Colorado 80306.



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Continued from page 79

I believe most of your readers will agree that America must put her own house in order. Communists, traitors and their stooges must be rounded up and banished from our shores. Then and only then can the U.S.A. give her friends in Rhodesia, South Africa and elsewhere the full military and financial support they so desperately need.

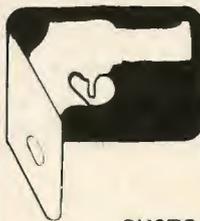
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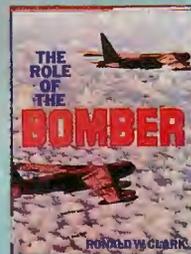
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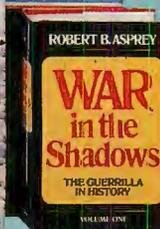
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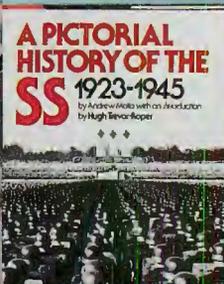


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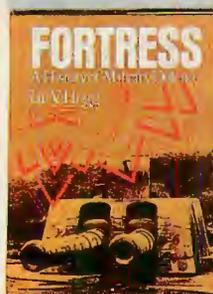
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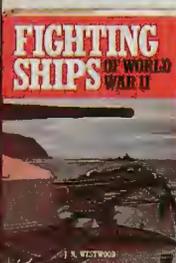
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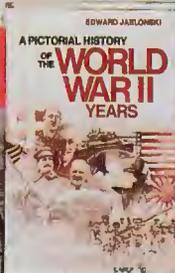
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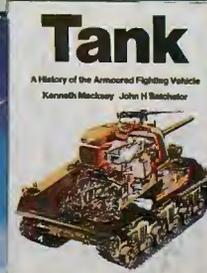
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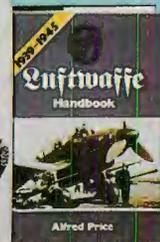
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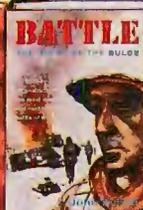
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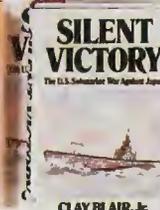
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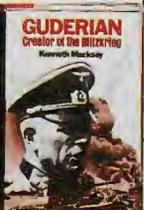
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