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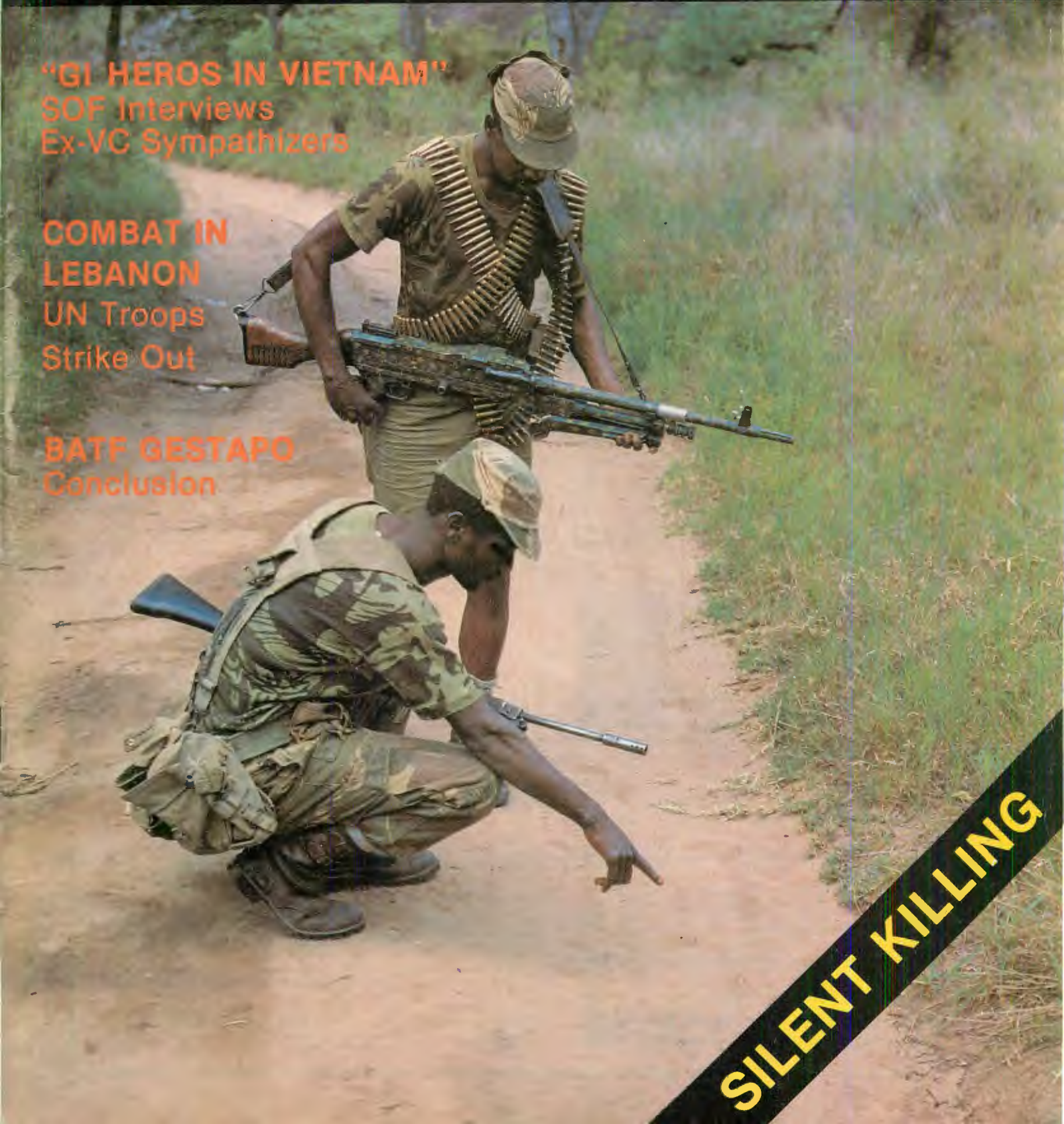
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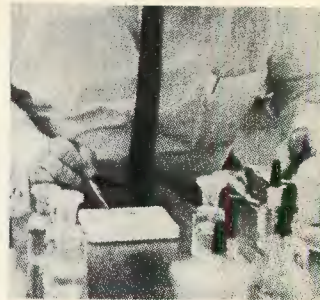


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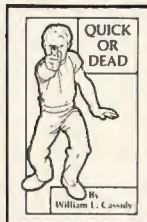


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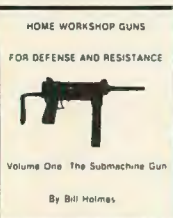
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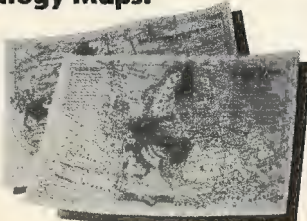
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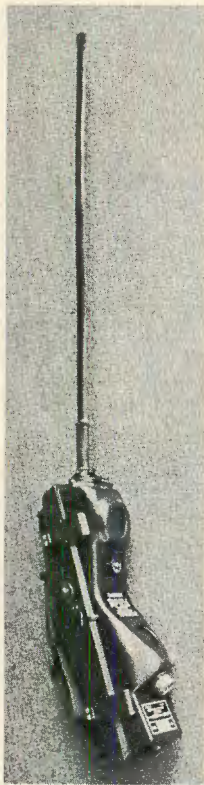


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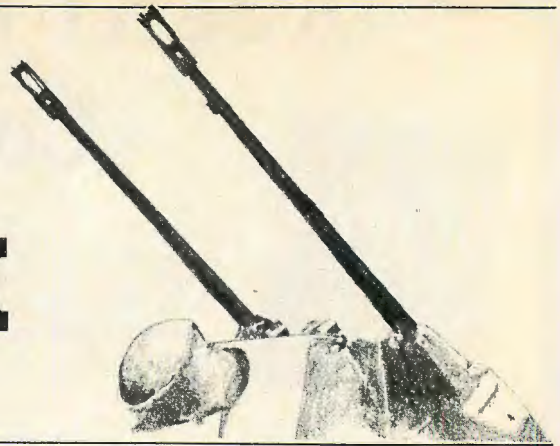
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Sirs:

... Your magazine gives credence to the word "professional" which is exemplified in people such as yourselves and the late Michael Echanis. I've always tried to live by the standard that "to be an optimist or a pessimist is to be a fool, but to be a realist is to be truly enlightened," and your magazine gives a hard-hitting realism that shows what is really going on in this world of ours and helps those who understand it to be survivors rather than sheep heading headlong into wolves....

Respectfully,

Lance S. Edwards
Newburgh, Indiana

POLICEMAN SPEAKS OUT ...

Sirs:

Hot damn, finally a good, straight-forward evaluation of a weapon. I refer to Chuck Taylor's article covering the "LES P18" (SOF, Apr. '79). Taylor, unlike some other gun writers, calls an ace an ace, and a piece of junk just that.

As a police officer, and an avid handgunner, I think it's high time we see more honest handgun evaluations. In my profession, the weapon I carry is a matter of life and death — cut and dried. Your expert field tests with no snow jobs and no technical B.S. come right to the point. You don't need a slide rule and an engineer's dictionary to comprehend and digest the information....

Sincerely,
M.D. Addison
Garland, Texas

RHODESIA CARRIES ON ...

Sirs:

During March, I visited Victoria Falls (an armed enclosure), Salisbury, and Umtali. In each city, I was impressed by the tenacity and ingenuity of the Rhodesian people! They are definitely struggling to maintain a pleasant lifestyle in the face of adversity.

Victoria Falls is very slowly being choked by lack of tourists. The hotels are almost empty and the casinos deserted on any given night. On arrival at the airport, troops convoy everyone into town to the

hotels. The residents are holding up well despite the obvious tension. Sitting on the veranda of the "Vic Falls" Hotel and watching the trains pass to/from Zambia was an obvious example of the failure of international sanctions! Flying out of Vic Falls in a Viscount was exciting as we circled the airport to gain height to avoid SA-7s.

Salisbury continues to operate well although it's dead after 2200. The place for local Americans and foreign mercs to stay now is the WVS Forces Canteen (\$1.25 per day and three squares). Also, a British ex-RLI veteran states that unit is now half foreigners. He recommended not joining that unit but freelancing or riding shotgun for convoys as the Rhodesian officers treated "us foreigners like dirt."

Umtali, on the Mozambique border, continues to be a hot spot! The favorite T-shirt is a beer bottle with fins (mortar) saying "Come to Umtali and get bombed." The troopie barracks is the old Cecil hotel and they can be found at the Stirrup and Cup Pub or the bar at the Wise Owl hotel. I was able to visit a Rhodesian Wattle Co. coffee plantation which adjoined the border. The manager's house took small arms fire the

As all reserves are called up to prevent "gook" (shades of 'Nam) attacks preceding the April elections, employment opportunities for foreigners are increasing. Anglo-American is offering R\$1,000 per month for riding shotgun on the Umtali-Melsetter logging convoys. This doesn't include bonuses each time all vehicles make it through. The convoy boss is an ex-Marine, by the way.

Overall, I was impressed with the country and the people. They feel abandoned by the West and intensely dislike President Carter and hate Dr. Owen almost as much as the British are embarrassed by him. They are eager to welcome tourists and foreigners to assist them in their struggle. All race laws have been eliminated and I feel they are on their way to a relatively efficient turnover to majority rule. This may be thwarted by U.S./U.K. lack of support for the April elections.

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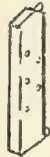
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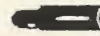
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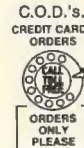


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CUT OUT AND WRAP AROUND

GUEST EDITORIAL
FROM
THE WALL ST. JOURNAL

SYMBOLS OF IRRESOLUTION

SO Mr. Carter lost an embassy. Oh, perhaps you shouldn't fault him. After all he had another 69 Marines on alert in the Azores only 4,000 miles away.

And while the American Embassy in Iran was being overrun, the American Ambassador in Afghanistan was being assassinated by Moslems demanding that the Afghan regime release imprisoned mullahs.

The Marines were stuck in the Azores because Turkey would not accept them; it has become too dangerous to take risks on behalf of the United States. And while Afghanistan is the Soviets' newest puppet, rebels there do not kidnap Russians; it is much safer to pick on Americans.

None of this should be particularly surprising. It might be called the vindication of the domino theory. In the world of geopolitics, if you lose in one place you will be tested in another. If you lose successively you will be tested in more and more ways. If you start not even to put up a fight, everyone will start to bully you. Any normal kid in a schoolyard learns this; we keep wondering where the members of this administration grew up.

To be fair, of course, the erosion of American power and standing in the world started long before the Carter administration. In our view, it started in the Kennedy administration, with the colossal blunder of sanctioning a coup in Vietnam against Ngo Dinh Diem. This sealed a heavy American commitment to the place, and within a month Lyndon Johnson, who had opposed the coup, was the President dealing with its aftermath.

Many subsequent mistakes were also made in Vietnam, of course, but as strategic analyst Albert Wohlsteter has remarked, the worst thing about the war was bound to be the lessons we drew from it. So in its wake, public discussion centered on the arrogance of American power, the irrelevance of military force, and so on. These attitudes in the public and the Congress

served to hamstring the Nixon-Kissinger-Ford approach to foreign policy.

The great tragedy of the current administration is that just as the public and Congress started to regain their sense of proportion on these matters, Mr. Carter stuffed the key second and third levels of the State Department, National Security Council and even the Pentagon with people upon whom the wrong lessons had been indelibly stamped. So now that the public is ready to do something to strengthen the American posture in the world — indeed forcing the administration to do more against its own instincts — we have policymakers adept at designing symbols of irresolution.

In the midst of the Iranian crisis, the administration starts the aircraft carrier Constitution out of Subic Bay and heads it toward the Persian Gulf, where it might have come in handy yesterday. But it changes its mind, and leaves the carrier circling aimlessly off the straits of Malacca. To firm up the Saudis in the wake of the shah's collapse, it sends a flight of F-15s, but announces that they are unarmed. It plays the China card and gets nervous when the Russians are upset. For that matter, we learn that it does not even bother to ask Peking to renounce the use of force against Taiwan; you can rest assured the strategic arms treaty with the Soviet Union has been negotiated the same way.

WE are paying the price for this kind of policy, and are simply lucky that the episode at the Tehran embassy did not turn out even bloodier than the episode in Kabul. Unless the administration starts to show some backbone somewhere, the ultimate price is likely to be far higher than either.

(Ed. Note: This editorial is reprinted with permission from the 15 February 1979 Wall Street Journal. Copyright © Dow Jones.)

TERRAIN & SITUATION

Jerry Ahern

OUTRIDER used to be a gunshop name down Atlanta way. The store is now called Southern Gun Exchange, but the name "Outrider" has stuck at least in part — as the name of some of the finest hand-made stag and ivory grips this writer has seen. Outrider brand, I'd known for some time, was making custom ivory grips for the little North American Mini revolvers. But then one day in talking with Donnie Donaldson, I learned that under the Outrider brand they offered genuine Indian Sanbar stag grips for most commonly encountered pistols and revolvers, hand-crafted ivory grips for numerous guns and almost any other gun on a custom basis; and even scrimshawed ivory grips.

A drive down from Commerce, Georgia, to Atlanta and one look at the grip display at the Southern Gun Exchange facility proved that anything Donnie could have said about the grips would have been too modest. A pair of the stag grips now adorns — and take the word literally — my Government Model and a pair of scrimshawed grips will be borrowed for some upcoming color photos on a Colt revolver we're slated to test. Already,

several friends I've described the grips to have ordered a pair.

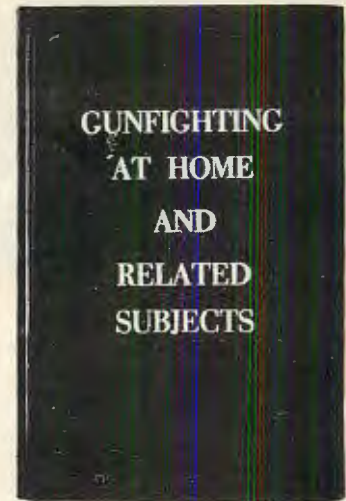
Stag is one of the generally most durable handle materials available. Ivory — especially if you use tea to antique it — just looks pretty. The delicacy of the scrimshaw artwork on some of the ivory grips is museum quality. Although the ivory and scrimshawed ivory are quite a bit more expensive, considering the quality, the cost is really a bargain. A pair of the stag grips like those on my Government Model retails for about \$23. That is a steal. For more information or to order, write Southern Gun Exchange, 4311 N.E. Expressway, Atlanta, GA 30340, U.S.A.

FOR all the complicated and sophisticated weaponry there is, sometimes what's simplest is what's best. A case in point is the Marlin Model 1894. With 10-round magazine, the old level action .44 Magnum makes one of the handiest and most reliable game getters around. And in a pinch when loaded with something like the Smith & Wesson 240-grain .44 Mag JHPs, it'd be no slouch for personal defense in a survival situation. Among people in the firearms community

Continued on page 84



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SOF FIGHTS ANTI-GUN REGULATIONS ...

SOF readers may recall that in March and April, 1978, SOF staffers volunteered their time to help form the Ad Hoc Committee Against Gun Registration. The Committee was formed virtually overnight after staffers read the March 21, 1978, *Federal Register*, in which the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms published proposed regulations designed to establish nation-wide computerized firearms registration. With only 60 days to comment on the regs before they took effect, progun groups such as NRA were caught unprepared. The regs would have the effect of law in U.S. courts but would not have to go through Congress, which in the recent past had already defeated similar proposals twice by resounding majorities.

Within two days of its formation, the Ad Hoc Committee, using the services of over 50 volunteers from SOF, the Boulder Rifle Club, and "just plain citizens," had mailed 20,000 letters to SOF subscribers and local gun clubs, warning readers of the pending regulations. The mailings were copied and reproduced in the thousands by unions and some chapters of the Libertarian Party (whose political philosophy reflects the Jeffersonian tradition of less government involvement in its citizens lives). Other groups, such as Gun Owners of America, NRA, and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, followed with their own mailings to members some weeks later.

Congress, led by Second Amendment supporters such as Rep. John Ashbrook (R-Ohio), demanded hearings on the regulations. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Richard Davis and BATF Director Rex Davis appeared before a House Judiciary Subcommittee to inform Congress under oath that the intent of the regulations was to fight crime without restricting the right of citizens to own or possess firearms. The regs, they said, would not lead to full registration. After hearing the testimony, Congressmen produced "leaked" memos from Treasury, some signed by those officials, which directly contradicted their testimony. It was further revealed that an anti-gun lob-

by had written parts of the proposed regs. Upon hearing that Rep. Ashbrook was preparing to forward charges of perjury to the Justice Department, Director Rex Davis announced his resignation from BATF less than 24 hours later.

BATF, buried under an avalanche of anti-reg mail, announced a 30-day deadline extension, while the Carter administration lined up anti-gun groups and anti-gun media to drum up mail support for the regs. Despite this formidable opposition, faced by gun owners every day when we read our daily papers or watch our daily news on TV, the mail ran 337,000 to 7,800 against the regs. When administration officials hinted that BATF might accede to the regs anyway, Congress voted 315 to 80 to condemn this violation of the public will and previous Congressional votes on the matter.

Furthermore, Congress deleted \$4.2 million from the budget — the sum quoted by BATF to start its computerization program. Carter administration officials indicated in private that, if necessary, they can and will "find" the necessary funds from other Treasury Department budgets to support the program. But administration officials were plainly startled by the massive response both of Congress and the public to their high-handed tactics and public-be-damned attitude. BATF has withdrawn the regs, but the present administration can be expected to initiate such action again in the future.

The public's feelings on gun control have been illustrated by their massive mail response, but a new scientific poll conducted by the respected Decision Making Information (DMI) of Santa Ana, California, sheds additional light on the subject. Released by four senators and congressmen and published in the March 12, 1979 *Weekly Bulletin*, the results show that: 88% of registered voters believe they have a right to keep and bear arms, 47% of voters' households own guns (this translates into roughly 45 million homes with guns), 23% own at least one handgun, 83% oppose a ban on handguns, 88% feel that "registration of handguns will not prevent criminals from acquiring or using them for illegal purposes," and 93% of voters want strict mandatory penalties for

criminal use of firearms in commission of crime.

SOF staffers found *The Weekly Bullet* newsletter contains the most factual, informative and timely news on gun control issues available from any source. To all readers who want to support their Second Amendment rights, we heartily recommend it. At \$25 per year, it's cheap insurance to protect against anti-gun moves before it's too late. *The Weekly Bullet* is available by subscription from High Caliber Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 1682, Bellevue, Washington 98009.

NEW PERSONNEL ...

SOF announces the addition of two new staff members.

Assistant Managing Editor Robin Heid comes to SOF after working in the nation's capital as managing editor of *Parachutist* magazine. Prior to that, he worked on the staff of *The Auraria Times* while working on a degree in journalism at Metro State College in Denver, Colorado. Heid spent four years in the Army, as a member of the 82nd Airborne and 4th Mechanized divisions. While with the 4th, he represented the unit for two years in .45 and .22 caliber pistol competition. A 17-year resident of Colorado, he is glad to be back in the land of blue sky and big ski slopes.

SOF's new Art Director, Craig R. Nunn, hails from Iowa. Nunn has a Bachelor's degree from American Academy of Art and worked as a house detective for the Sheraton Chicago to help put himself through school. He spent six years (reserve) with the 12th Special Forces where he headed Psy. Ops and concurrently did graphics for a nearby advertising agency. At 31, Nunn remains unmarried, which vouches for his common sense, according to N.E. MacDougald.

AIG DELAY ...

The AIG .45 Military-Combat handgun, announced in June 1978 by Mossberg & Sons, slated for delivery in summer 1979, has run into production snags, and will not be available for delivery until January 1980. The firm wishes to extend an apology to all those inconvenienced by the delay.

THANKS U.S.N. O.I. ...

SOF Aviation Editor Dana Drenkowski would like to thank the U.S. Navy Office of Information for its photos and its assistance in completing his article "The U.S. Navy SEALs" published in the March and April '79 SOF. Photo credits were inadvertently left off the captions.



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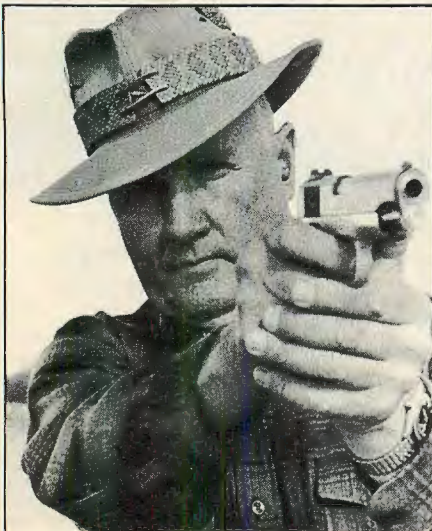
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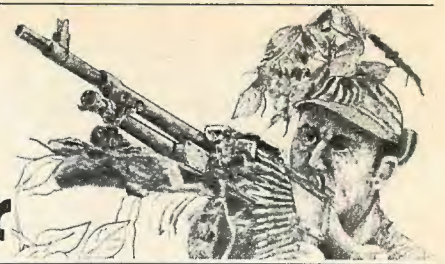
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LET'S GET OUR ARMS TERMINOLOGIES STRAIGHT!

Of late, a great many individuals who pride themselves in their arms expertise seem to be confused in the use of various terms intended to describe a number of different types of military small arms. Particularly confusing is the term, "assault rifle."

Well, what exactly is an "assault rifle"? By definition, the true assault rifle, a la Sturmgewehr MP-44 (the first of the type), was a light, short-barrelled carbine of select-fire capability, utilizing an intermediate-powered cartridge that was *between* the power of the rifle and pistol cartridge. So, this being the case, how is it that so many are now describing the standard M-14, AR-10, G-3, CETME, and FN-FAL, *all of which are full-sized, full-powered* infantry battle rifles as *assault* rifles?

The problem appears to be rampant among typical trade-journal "experts" in the gun magazines, and more recently among several rather well-known and extolled "survival experts" who paraphrase the verbal and written opinions of a few true experts as though it were their own. Tsk, tsk! Your facade is cracked, gentlemen!

Next we have the term, "machine pistol." To clarify this term we must realize that international ramifications and diversities must prevail. Simply stated, what we Americans call "submachine guns" are the same weapons the Europeans address as "machine pistols." The term "machine pistol" itself technically indicates a handgun of the self-loading type (pistol rather than revolver, both of which are *hand-guns*) with the capability for automatic fire via the use of a selector switch. Examples of the true machine pistol are the Broomhandle Mauser and Star Model M, but, as occurs with many things these days, things sometimes get lost or mutated over the years.

What about the "automatic rifle"? Here is a tough one to define correctly. The first *real* automatic rifle was the M1918 BAR, and, if the features of the BAR are used in the definitive sense, there is no way the M-16 can be termed an "automatic rifle." Why? The BAR was a full-caliber (.30-06), robustly designed and manufactured, select-fire rifle. The M-16, on the other hand, is *sort of* an assault rifle (since the 5.56mm/.223 can hardly be considered full-powered) and

sort of an automatic rifle, because it isn't a SMG or handgun and possesses full-automatic capability through its selector switch feature — and anyone who knows about M-16s can hardly describe the weapon as being robust, although I'm not certain it matters in reality.

The XM-177E2/CAR-15 is a real dilly — a chopped-down M-16 that is called a "submachine gun," presumably because it has a short barrel, I guess, and a retractable buttstock. But it fires the .223, which is unquestionably above the power of a pistol cartridge. It obviously isn't a SMG, but it certainly isn't a battle rifle either. Perhaps the quaint British term, "machine-carbine," best describes it, but I'm not totally certain *what* to call this particular monstrosity!

I don't mean to get picky, really, but sometimes it's a good idea to be certain what we are talking about or we run the distinct risk of losing the true meaning of the terms which we use daily in the gun business. Lately, it's getting hard to communicate with some people!

T TIRED OF CHASING EXPENDED CARTRIDGES FROM YOUR M-16/AR-15?

Sentinel Arms, 17 Olmstead Plaza, Middletown, PA 17057, is marketing the dream of the auto-weapons buff who reloads his own ammunition: the brass-catcher. Available for the venerable M-16 (and the Armalite AR-180), the unit easily clamps onto the receiver of your AR-15/M-16 and features a handy, easily removable bag to allow you to recover your expended cartridges with minimum muss and fuss. The unit is constructed of tough plastic and should be a welcome addition to any M-16/AR-15 buff's bag of accessories. I, for one, dislike the brass recovery part of shooting auto arms and have found the device handy and certainly useful for the purpose for which it was intended. I'm also advised that a model for the Ingram (MAC) M10 is in the making and will be available within the next two months or so. What a good idea! One more thing: the price of the unit is \$37.50. Not too much in these days of over-inflated dollars.

"E EDUCATED TRIGGER FINGER" OR BURST CONTROL: WHAT IS IT?

For some nebulous reason, it has come to pass (in a galaxy far, far away . . .) that the art of effective trigger control of the

Continued on page 88

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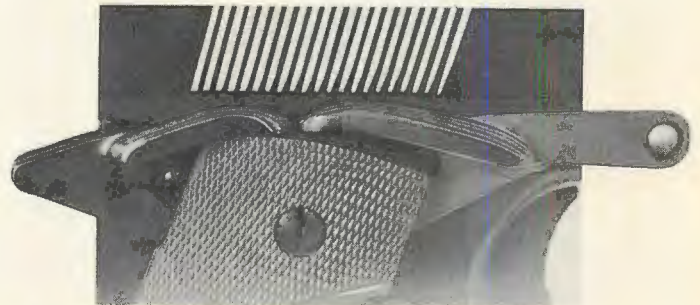
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STEELE ON POLICE WEAPONRY

David E. Steele

In the last issue of SOF, David Steele analyzed handcuffing and other techniques useful in restraining adult prisoners. He also began an evaluation of successful techniques for handling juvenile offenders, those which would give the officer a "heavyweight" reputation with other staff as well as inmates, without offending the sensibilities of juvenile court judges or liberal administrators.

LIMITATIONS OF THE MARTIAL ARTS

Every martial artist feels that his expertise is automatically applicable to police work. The fact is that officers are prohibited from using certain techniques, and also most officers do not have the time to gain expertise in any martial art. For example, juvenile officers may be forbidden to punch or kick, which would make

savate, karate, taekwon do, and other "striking arts" of little value. The most useful arts would be those which emphasize grappling. For example, the *ju-jitsu* locks taught in Kodokan judo would have a direct application in restraint procedures. The throws, however, could only be used in circumstances where the danger to the person thrown is not excessive: a full force fall on cement by an untrained person can easily result in serious injury. Two simple throws, *ogoshi* (hip throw) and *osotogari* (backward leg throw), can be useful in such circumstances.

In general, blows should be used only as a last resort, either to soften up a subject for a control technique or as a last-ditch defense against multiple assailants. For example, an edge-of-the-hand blow to the bicep, forearm, or inside-elbow can

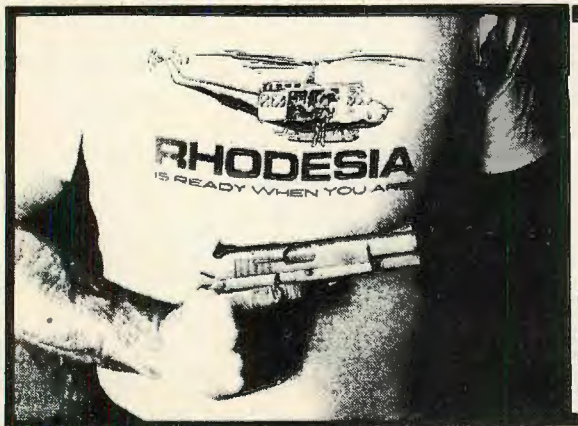
loosen up the arm for a simple behind-the-back armlock. The problem of what to do when a subject tenses his arm can be solved in this way, although other methods will be mentioned later. Also, a kick to the shins can be used to distract a subject from a restraint about to be placed on his arm. Usually only one or two blows are required and then only as a preparation for a control technique.

The only exceptions to this rule are if the officer is attacked with a weapon or if he is attacked by several juveniles at once: in these cases, blows can and should be used to provide quick defense while retreating to safety. A blow in itself will not provide *control* of a subject, but neither will it cause the officer to lose time or become tangled up with one juvenile while others are still closing in. No officer should be disciplined for using blows in such circumstances, or when a minor is known to be proficient in the martial arts (the moral equivalent of using a weapon). Simply because a minor is in custody does not mean that he is "under control"; a juvenile offender can pose as great a danger inside an institution as out on the street.

The problem with allowing semi-trained or untrained officers to use blows as a first resort is that they may not use blows in a professional manner, i.e., as a necessary defense or as a preparation for a restraint. Subjects may be damaged in a way that leads the court to believe that excessive force has been used. Likewise, a juvenile who has been punched is likely to remember that with resentment long after an ordinary restraint has been forgotten, and it is easier for him to find sympathetic ears when he says, "Mr. Smith punched



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me in the face," than if he said, "Mr. Smith twisted my arm."

HANDCUFFING AGAINST PASSIVE RESISTANCE

Several techniques can be used if a subject interlaces his fingers or tenses his arms so that they cannot be bent up behind him for cuffing. It is best if an officer can anticipate when there will be resistance and with resolution and speed put on an armlock before the subject knows what is happening. If the subject does tense up he can be struck in the arm in the manner described in the last section. A less violent way of loosening him up is by distraction. With the left hand reach up and press with the thumb against the mastoid, or press the middle finger against the base of the throat, or push the nose back, or knead the muscles at the back of the neck.

Any of these actions will distract the subject long enough that a quick pull with the right hand will bring his arm around behind his back. The simple armlock should not be used, however, on a subject that is conspicuously larger than the officer. Also, the left hand should grab the front of the collar so that the subject will have greater difficulty twisting out of the hold. Likewise, this move can best be accomplished when the subject is facing a wall, giving him less room to maneuver.

The armlock, with hand around subject's wrist, is a common restraint used around the world. It can be employed in a

variety of circumstances without causing censure from onlookers. Even small juveniles may require this kind of control, though in this case the officer is advised to keep a smile on his face as if he were playing a game, for the sake of public relations.

The amount of force applied to a subject's arm varies according to the strength of the officer and how much the subject struggles. If the subject is small or unresisting, this hold can be made virtually painless, while still retaining good control. If the subject tries to twist forward and away from the officer, he can be stop-

ped by swinging the right leg around in front of him, tripping him to the ground.

PRISONER REFUSES TO BE SEARCHED

Although only one officer is required for a normal search another officer should always be close at hand. In case of trouble, the officers should "bracket" the prisoner, with one at his front and one at his back. At the first sign of an adamant refusal to be searched, the officer in the rear should put on an armlock, while the officer in front works on his other arm. The officer in front can trip him, if

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necessary, to bring him to the ground. The cuffs can be applied by either officer (all detention facility officers should carry handcuffs and be trained in their use). Once cuffed, the subject should be carefully searched, taken to his room or to a punishment cell, and, once quiet, his cuffs can be removed. Incidentally, during a normal one-man search the officer should always search from behind the subject; to search from the front is to ask for a punch or kick.

TAKING CONTRABAND FROM A RESISTING SUBJECT

Sometimes, particularly in a juvenile facility, a subject will hide something in his hand, refusing to open it for inspection. A minor usually knows that an officer could not justify to his superiors

breaking the fingers of the resisting hand. The answer is to ignore the clenched fist: this is what the subject will have *his* attention focussed on. Instead, place both thumbs against the back of his other hand, grasping the inside of his hand with the fingers (this technique will work as well on a balled fist), twist the hand up and back so that the subject is forced backwards to the ground. He can then be controlled with one hand or two. Ask him to give you the contraband or have him toss it a safe distance away; the pressure on his wrist will make him comply.

ASSISTING ANOTHER OFFICER MAKING A RESTRAINT

If the first officer has succeeded in controlling one of the subject's arms, the second officer's job is to control the other

one. If the first officer has not yet gained any control over the subject, for example if he is an untrained officer who has instinctively gotten a headlock on the subject (like trying to bulldog a steer), the second officer should use his legs or hands to trip the subject, since he will be far more controllable on the ground.

ANTICIPATING AN ATTACK

When working with violent juveniles an experienced officer can usually tell when a boy is about to "go off" on him or another officer. The boy may be clenching his fists, shouting obscenities, his face set, perhaps tears of frustration and rage coursing down his cheeks. In these circumstances the officer should rush him against a wall or trip him onto the deck before it becomes necessary to duck punches. If done quickly the restraint and cuffing can be done with much greater safety than waiting for the boy to make the first move. Of course, this move should be reserved for juveniles who are large enough to represent a real threat if allowed to continue their course of action.

SEPARATING TWO FIGHTERS

If two juveniles are fighting they will probably be trading roundhouse blows or one will attempt a headlock on the other. Even in this relatively low-danger example, it is poor practice to get between the fighters. Instead, each officer should choose one boy and put a lock on one of his arms while the boy's attention is still



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focused on his rival. Rarely will this circumstance occur when there are not at least two officers nearby: one can pull off each boy. If there are three or four officers available, the restraint is even simpler. Usually it will not be necessary to handcuff either offender since their anger is directed at each other and not at the staff; they should be kept separate until the grievance is settled.

Before moving in, however, the officer should also check the area for any poten-

tial weapons or obstructions. I have known two officers who sustained serious back injuries when they fell back against an object (in one case a table, in the other a set of stairs) pulling one inmate off another. Also, all prisoners should be warned from time to time that anytime two get into a fight the others should stay out of it or they will receive the same penalty as the offenders.

If one or more of the fighters are armed, it is even more advisable not to get be-

tween them. Officer manpower, and perhaps "firepower" (most likely tear gas and batons), will need to be allocated to each of these circumstances as conditions warrant. Weapons, if the staff have been competent in their everyday searches and inspections, will probably be limited to blunt instruments, though occasionally a kitchen knife or fork will turn up. In adult prisons where there is an inmate metal shop the weapon problem is far more serious. Even if the fighters are unarmed, remember that a large and/or crazy inmate can do quite a bit of damage, as any officer recovering from a broken nose or jaw can tell you.

ESCORTING A HANDCUFFED SUBJECT

For transporting a single prisoner, unless a restraining belt is available, handcuff his hands behind him, palms out. Guide him along with a hand on his bicep; this way he can be kept from tripping or falling, but if he tries to pull away a restraint can be quickly made. It is never a good idea to let go completely until a subject has arrived at his destination. Even when a subject seems to be under control he can suddenly decide to "take a walk" or kick at the officer with no warning. Also, if he is to be transported by automobile make sure his door is locked, even if the destination is only a few blocks away. Especially in the case of pre-trial or pre-hearing detention facilities, the subject may live only a short distance from the facility, making escape an ever-present temptation.

If a subject has shown violent resistance in his cuffing, and he continues to struggle after his hands are behind his back, grasp one of his hands and push it up toward his wrist, while holding that arm with the other hand at the elbow. This simple wristlock will usually stop his struggling, and it is less noticeable to bystanders than the sometimes used technique of pulling his cuffed arms back up above his head.

THE TWISTLOCK AND THE WRISTLOCK

The twistlock, developed by Koga, is the basic restraint technique used by the Los Angeles Police Department. Like most restraint techniques, it works best if

Continued on page 79

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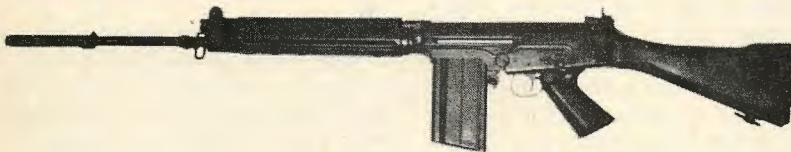
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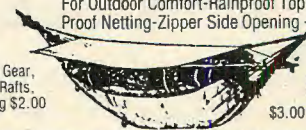
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

SOF's Combat Pistolcraft column welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a good question or contribution, send it in to Jeff Cooper, care of Soldier of Fortune Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q. I do not know much about guns. I have owned a .22, .380, and .357 magnum which I brought for family protection. As of now, I have no gun. I am thinking of buying another pistol. I have a small hand and the medium frame S&W pistol fits good.

Now for my questions: What kind of pistol do you suggest I use? Should I stick to the .357 or go to a .45? Should I go to automatic or cylinder type? Also I am thinking of buying a police riot shotgun. What do you think of them?

R.E.P.

Westminster, Colorado

A. *The first requirement in the personal defense of one's house and person is skill at arms. Especially, no pistol will suffice if the shooter is not familiar with it and its expert use. In the hands of a trained and practiced marksman, either a police-type revolver or a service automatic will do. We find, however, that students learn to master the auto noticeably quicker than they do a revolver. In addition, the heavy duty auto cartridge tends to be somewhat more dependable as a fight stopper than the revolver, unless major calibers are used, in which case the revolver tends to be very bulky.*

The social shotgun, or "rehabilitator," is an extremely efficient weapon for house defense. It is not only intimidating, but quite easy to use. For one who thinks he has a real problem with lethal intrusion into his domicile, a shotgun is probably the first choice. At present, I tend to think that the best buy is the SKB.

Q. Have any of the "night-sight" devices proved of value in your observation? Would they be a substitute for learning to shoot with a flashlight? A flashlight is not always handy.

I'm having trouble achieving fine accuracy from the prone position. With concentration, I can often shoot a two-inch group at 25 yards with two hands standing; however, on the same day, the groups may open up to six inches from prone. In addition, I cannot "call" the fliers: the sight picture looks steadier than from standing. I am careful not to let the butt touch the ground. What else might I be doing wrong? Is there an optical compromise inherent in this position?

I appreciated Ken Hackathorn's recent evaluation of currently available service pistols — I couldn't get my AMT Hardballer to work either. I think that it is the exception when a gun writer can work with a new pistol long enough to assess reliability. Any auto pistol may malfunction when new, or with ammunition not tailored to it. In view of this, can you endorse either the Detonics or Star PD .45s? Are they reliable or can they be made so? I am slight of frame and can use any reduction that can be obtained over the service pistol.

J.A.

Granada Hills, California

A. *I have experimented slightly with the night-sight devices for pistols but they do very little for me. The technique of firing in dim light is one of those we emphasize here at the school. The success we have has been gratifying, with perfectly standard equipment. A flashlight is only necessary in complete darkness such as inside a closed room. Under such conditions the identification of your target is fully as important as your ability to hit.*

The matter of correcting your prone firing technique is something that I cannot handle by mail because I can't see what you are doing. Certainly your experience indicates that something is wrong, but I can't say what. Sorry.

I am not particularly impressed with the non-Colts. The Detonics is very expensive and too heavy for its bulk. The PD is a nice design but somewhat fragile.

Q. I have just purchased a revolver, a Ruger Security Six, in .357 magnum. I've had a lot of practical experience with

Ruger rifles and I've been very pleased with their performance. My past experiences with Ruger rifles and the price of the Security Six are what sold me on the weapon. The salesman in the gun shop told me the Ruger was a good weapon, not as good as a Colt, but in his opinion better than a Smith & Wesson, and a lot cheaper than either. The rangemaster where I shoot also told me I got a good weapon, not as nicely finished as a Smith or Colt, but a good reliable weapon.

The problem is that some of my good friends are police officers, and they tell me that the Ruger is a very poor weapon, that it is very inaccurate. My question is: Did I get taken? How good is the Security Six and what loads do you recommend in it? If I was taken, I want to know about it. The thought of going into a potentially dangerous situation with an unreliable weapon does not appeal to me.

J.K.
St. Paul, Minnesota

A. I do not feel that you have made any sort of a mistake in selecting a Ruger revolver as a service weapon. All firearms are subject to variations in quality control and there are good and bad examples of most models. However, to say that a Ruger is "very inaccurate" is to betray serious unfamiliarity with the subject. There may have been a Ruger or two which was misaligned and threw its bullets crosswise. This is not impossible in any make or model.

If, on the other hand, a Ruger is assembled correctly, there is no difference in accuracy from that of any other make. I am often wryly amused at this discussion

of accuracy by people who do not really understand the subject. I wonder, for example, if any of your police officer friends can shoot well enough to know whether or not a pistol is accurate. It takes a good and experienced marksman to print a representative group at 50 yards. Most people I know should not even try it, and yet unless they can they are in no position to assess accuracy. With few conspicuous exceptions most quality handguns are far more accurate than any shooter will ever be able to determine.

I have no suggestions as to loading your .357. The general policy for this piece is to use factory standard or about 10 percent higher for social work and to use service ammunition (.38 Special) for practice, since the cartridge is essentially over-pressure and will wear a weapon out if used constantly. (I do not generally recommend practice with light loads, but in the case of the .357 cartridge it seems to be a good idea.)

THIS month top-ranked combat pistol shooter Ken Hackathorn tests and evaluates the star P.D., Detonics, and Thomas .45s, and evaluates custom handgrips for combat autos. Hackathorn is a graduate of Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute at Gunsite, Arizona, and a competitor in both national and international combat pistol meets.

Continued on page 82



Fuzzy Farrant Combat Grips on S&W Military and Police .38 Special. Holster and belt (Hackathorn Special) by Milt Sparks, Box 7, Idaho City, Idaho 83631.

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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

by N.E. MacDougald

A REMINDER

SEEMS time has gotten away from us again, so just for the record: Adventure Quatermaster is a new products column; no recommendation is stated or implied. During the past few months, this simple notion has not been restated, so please don't infer that products or processes listed here are endorsed by SOF. Unless a product has been tested and evaluated by an SOF staff member or a reputable third party, no endorsement will be made.



NEW SCOPE MOUNT

CHARTER ARMS, 430 Sniffens Lane, Dept. SOF, Stratford, CT 06497, (203) 377-8080, now markets a scope mount for their AR-7 survival rifle. The black anodized aluminum mount screws into the receiver sideplate on the left side of the rifle. Simple. Construction is one-piece and that means no moving parts.

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JOHN L. DONOVAN DEMOLITIONS EDITOR

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frame Smiths with 6½-inch barrels and High Standard Crusader with 6-inch barrel. Holster is suede lined and retails for \$59.95. And yes, they accept credit cards.



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ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK

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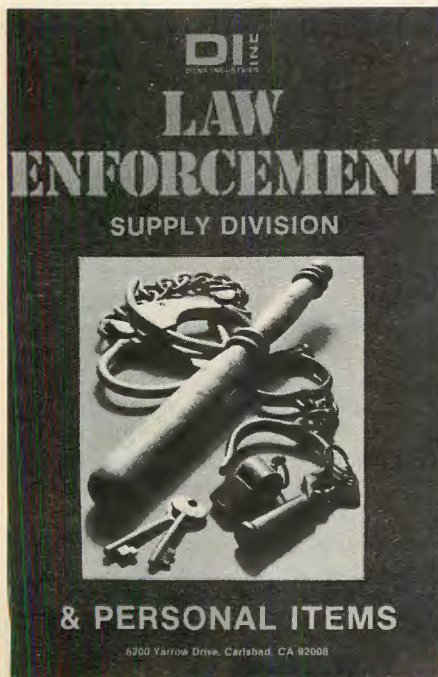
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by Capt. Jerry Lee
William L. Cassidy

IN REVIEW



PIERCING THE REICH: The Penetration of Nazi Germany by American Secret Agents during World War II. By Joseph E. Persico. New York: The Viking Press, 1979. 376 pages, illustrations, \$14.95. Review by William L. Cassidy.

Were the author of this work a better scholar than he is a propagandist (the dust-jacket proclaims him a speechwriter for the late Nelson A. Rockefeller, and an executive with USIA), one could without reservation recommend his *Piercing the Reich* as a basic work of U.S. intelligence history. It is something one wishes wholeheartedly to do, but as it stands, his scholastic shortcomings cast an unhealthy pallor over even his choicest bits of information; his sins of omission are so great as to make even his soundest hypotheses seem suspect.

The principal difference between a scholar and a plagiarist, as we are so fond of repeating, is a simple footnote. We shall be kind to Persico and believe that he desperately wanted to include references in his work, but was prevented from doing so by his editor.

A pity it is, for Persico's tale, and the characters who populate it, are certainly deserving of better treatment. His story, quite simply, is of the Office of Strategic Services and its attempts, during the period from 1944 to 1945, to infiltrate special intelligence personnel — spies and saboteurs — into Nazi Germany, a denied area if ever there was one. Along the way, the basic demands of this history have apparently been subverted by the present day intelligence community's great whacking need for good press. *Piercing the Reich*, instead of sticking to the logical progression of events as they were, jumps round and about with vignettes as calculated as they are heroic, each designed to portray events as they should be.

A case in point is Persico's Chapter IV, "Back Door to the Reich," which stands in places as one long paean to Allen Dulles. Said chapter purports to be an accurate record of the activities of

OSS/Switzerland, activities which have already been made to serve many masters, Dulles' own book *Secret Surrender* being a prime example. Instead of shedding light in dark places, however, the author is content to repeat shopworn spy talk, and the chestnuts of retired case officers in their anecdote. Much is made of Mary Bancroft's handling of Hans Bernd Gisevius — not so much a penetration as a marriage of convenience — and her worship of Carl Jung (how the author loves to name-drop), while little if anything is made of the not inconsiderable contributions of Gero von Gaevernitz. Perhaps this is because Persico found time to pour through Ms. Bancroft's yellowing scrapbook, but could not browbeat his editor into advancing him the plane fare to Stanford, so that he might examine the von Gaevernitz papers, now lying in state at the Hoover Institution. It is a small thing, perhaps, but when one sets off to tell the tale of a station, one ought to prefer the primary to the secondary source.

A second example of the author's sloppiness is in his description of events at Area F. According to Persico, at Area F students could enjoy the attentions of W.E. Fairbairn, or "Delicate Dan" (the proper nickname was "Bloody Dan," but it is a small point). Not so. Fairbairn taught OSS personnel in the United States, at Area B-5 or RTU-11, and never, to my knowledge, at Area F. OSS personnel who trained with Fairbairn in Great Britain did so prior to April 1942, when he was loaned to the United States via BSC. Persico follows with a quote attributed to an Area F graduate, and it is here that we get a cold, sober look at the author's methods.

The quote in question is from a 1959 work entitled *The Masks of War* (first published in Great Britain as *Knights of the Floating Silk*), which records the experiences of an American working with SOE. As the American in question never so much as saw Area F — he got his close-combat at the Scottish schools — and as his book appears nowhere in Persico's bibliography, we can only conclude that

his remarks are a bad steal from M.R.D. Foot's impeccable *S.O.E. in France*, which *does* appear in the bibliography. We know Professor Foot and we know how he regards this sort of thing, and no doubt he is every bit as disgusted as this reviewer.

One could go on and on, but it is hardly worth it. One finds one's self drifting into the never-never land of how marvelous the book could have been. Here for example, is the first look we have at the artistry of Carl Strahle, Cover and Documents London, and BACH Section, complete with photographs. All the raw material which tradecraft history cries out for, buried in a maze of the author's own making. We wish to believe him; we crave to use him as a reference, but how can we when he makes the mistakes he does?

In his preface, the author makes much of his access to newly declassified OSS records, obtained courtesy of the CIA's overworked Information and Privacy Coordinator, Gene Wilson (lately transferred to a new assignment and replaced by a Mr. George W. Owens). It is in his gloating that the author reveals the flaw which led to his downfall: a flaw not so much a part of him, as he is a part of it.

The flaw in question is the peculiarly American notion that one can take a few secret papers piecemeal and whip up a passable history, and that the task can be entrusted to journalists in the first place. It would seem that the British, who taught us how to sneak and spy and burn and blow will also have to teach us how to tell all about it years later. Contrast the likes of *S.O.E. in France* with *Piercing the Reich* and you will see what we mean. The British remember their agents who suffered and died, and feel compelled to tell their story accurately. We just cock an eye at the front page, and work the old boy net for something saleable at least and passable at best. The folks who helped Persico — CIA and AFIO among them — might want to invest their assistance in a scholar next time out. The truth of U.S. intelligence is not so awful that it has to be concealed by a shoddy workman.

HOUR OF REDEMPTION: The Ranger Raid on Cabanatuan. By Forrest Bryant Johnson. Manor Books, Inc., 432 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. 395 pp. Illustrated with photos, maps and diagrams. \$2.50. Reviewed by Capt. Jerry Lee.

This book tells in incredible detail the story of an almost forgotten military operation which was the most successful of its type in American military history, the raid by the 6th Ranger Battalion on the Japanese POW camp at Cabanatuan in the Philippines. One hundred twenty-two Rangers, assisted by several hundred Filipino guerrillas and 14 Alamo Scouts (an elite recon unit) penetrated 30 miles behind Japanese lines, engaged superior Japanese forces, killing more than a thousand, and returned 516 POWs to American lines, while suffering only two KIAs from the raiding force.

The author tells the story of this raid by weaving together the individual stories of many of the participants (he interviewed over half of them in six years of research) and adding details gleaned from official U.S. Army records, many only recently declassified, and Japanese war records. The result is an absorbing story, well documented with maps, diagrams, and photos.

The story of the raid on Cabanatuan is the terminus of many separate stories, all of which the author covers in considerable depth: the story of the POWs, from the Bataan Death March to their liberation; the rise of the guerrilla movement in the Philippines; the formation of the 6th Ranger Battalion from a Field Artillery battalion; the development of the Alamo Scouts; the organization and missions of the Japanese forces engaged during the raid. All of these background stories give the reader a much better understanding of the events which took place during the raid.

With remarkable attention to detail, the author describes as fully and accurately as possible the training, organization, uniforms, and equipment of the 6th Rangers. Members of this unit were given considerable latitude in their choice of weapons, and one Ranger, for example, carried three .45 cal. pistols in addition to his M1 rifle, grenades, and trench knife.

Within the framework of the overall story are told many individual stories of humor, heartbreak, and heroism. In the midst of the raid, one Alamo Scout carves a piece of shrapnel from a friend's buttock with a trench knife. A few yards away, a POW dies of a heart attack as a Ranger carries him toward the gate of the camp where he has been held prisoner for three years. And there is the somewhat humorous story of a British civilian internee who stayed in the latrine during the entire raid, was left behind, and subsequently walked to freedom on his own.

One interesting aspect of the raid was the lack of formal planning and preparation, which is usually considered essential for such a dangerous, complex operation. The Rangers departed on the raid less than 24 hours after being alerted for the mission. The actual plan of attack was not finalized until the Alamo Scouts returned from the POW camp with their reconnaissance report, only hours before the attack. There was no time for rehearsals or elaborate briefings. Instead the Rangers had to rely on quick flag orders and the thorough training they had been through. Yet the attack was carried out with smooth precision, and was more successful than any of them had dared to hope.

The author draws some interesting parallels between the Cabanatuan raid and the Special Forces raid on the North Vietnamese POW camp at Son Tay in 1970. Brigadier General Donald Blackburn, who helped organize the Son Tay raid, was a guerrilla leader on Luzon, not far from Cabanatuan, during World War II. Colonel Arthur Simons, who trained and led the Son Tay raiding force, commanded B Company, 6th Rangers, in the Philippines in World War II. (See "Who Dares Wins," SOF, June '79.) And Master Sergeant Galen Kittleson, who was a helicopter door gunner on the Son Tay raid, had been with the Alamo Scouts on the Cabanatuan raid. It is obvious that the lessons learned at Cabanatuan had not been lost on these three soldiers. Now, with the publishing of **Hour of Redemption**, all students of special operations will have an opportunity to learn those lessons.



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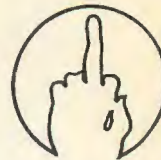
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"GIs in Vietnam Were Heroes" SOF INTERVIEWS EX-VC SYMPATHIZERS

We Dedicate This Interview to Jane Fonda,
George McGovern & Eugene McCarthy

by John Howard



DOAN van Toai first came to the United States 10 years ago as a member of the National Liberation Front (NLF) to speak out against what the U.S. was trying to do in Vietnam. He told the world that we were imperialists; that we were not wanted in Vietnam; and that human rights were being violated by the Thieu government. But Toai has learned much since the North Vietnamese conquest of the South. Now he has returned after learning what most thinking people knew 10 years ago: life under communism is much worse than under Thieu's regime, and in Vietnam today, there are no "human rights."

Toai has returned to America to influence public opinion that the Vietnamese communist regime must be overthrown. But unlike his last visit, he has found it much more difficult to gather an audience. When Toai was here in 1969-70, he spoke to thousands of enthusiastic, outraged, anguished defenders of human rights, who could scarcely contain their rage at mention of the slightest human rights violations by anti-communist forces. Things are different now; Toai finds that no one wants to hear about atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed daily against the Vietnamese.

"There was a lot of criticism when the Americans entered the Vietnam war," Toai told SOF, "but why is there no public outcry when people are being

treated worse than animals under the communist regime?"

Toai, 33, had been a member of the NLF since his mid-teens. He was elected Vice-President of the Saigon Student Union while attending the University of Saigon. Toai, as head of the Student Committee Against Thieu Government Oppression, attended several international student conferences representing the large pro-NLF South Vietnamese student movement. He also became President of the Vietnamese Youth for the Self-Determination of South Vietnam and was invited to come to the U.S. by anti-war groups here in the late '60s. The purpose of his visit was to arrange a lecture tour denouncing the U.S. and Thieu governments and to encourage support for the NLF. Toai was imprisoned twice by Thieu's secret police for his activities.

Toai had firmly established his credentials as an NLF supporter and activist. When the communists took over, he was invited to become a member of the Finance Committee of the National Liberation Front but while working with the communists, he became disenchanted with their goals and methods. His protests caused his arrest and imprisonment for 28 months without charge or trial. In 1978, he succeeded in getting to France where he publicly denounced the communists for brutal imprisonment and torture of at least 800,000 people. Many thousands, he

asserts, were executed.

ACCOMPANYING Toai is Nguyen huu Hieu, former South Vietnamese religious leader and scholar. Hieu, 35, well known among Asian intellectual circles for his translations of German, Russian, and American literature, holds a B.A. in Western and Indian Comparative Philosophy from Saigon University. He was rector of the Van Hanh Buddhist University and head of Van Hanh University Press. His last position in South Vietnam was as deputy abbot of Hung Quoc Tu (the National Restoration Temple). After Saigon's fall, Hieu was forcibly defrocked and thrown into prison. In May 1978, he escaped by boat, landing in Japan.

While in San Francisco, both Toai and Hieu were interviewed by SOF.

SOF: How did you first become an NLF member?

TOAI: I contacted them in 1964 when I was a student because at that time there was in Saigon a corrupt government, led by leaders who had been the soldiers of the French. And the other side was the National Liberation Front. We didn't know many things about the NLF but we did know many things about the corrupt government and we hated them. So I joined the NLF because at that time, I believed in their politics because they promised



"If we had an opportunity to speak to veterans, we Vietnamese would wish they receive a worthy reward from their country, because they are heroes."



"The Vietnamese communists want to use the American prisoners to blackmail their families, to place the problem of their release as a precondition to normalization of relations."



"All Vietnamese people now feel sorry about their behavior towards the American troops before, because ... they came as freedom fighters."



"I would like to express my thanks to the relatives of American soldiers who died in Vietnam, because they died for its freedom . . . the United States government has almost destroyed the value of their death . . . by becoming close friends of the communists in Vietnam."



"Although under capitalist society there exists inequality — that means there are the rich and the poor — in the communist system, there are only poor. That's the so-called 'equality' of the communists."



"The communists were right when they told us they won, not in Vietnam but in Washington, in Paris, in Tokyo. They won with mass media."

freedom for the country, equality of the people, and national reconciliation of the country.

SOF: Did you want to see North and South Vietnam united into one country?

TOAI: Yes, we supported the reunification of Vietnam but by elections, not by force. At that time the NLF affirmed that they were a force not belonging to North Vietnam but only a friend of the North.

SOF: What was worst about Theiu's government that made you sympathetic to the NLF?

TOAI: Corruption. And lack of policies. The only policy at that time was to think up ways to take money from the people and to work only for the rich. They didn't want to do anything for the people, for themselves only.

SOF: What did you think about Americans back then?

TOAI: I opposed the policies of the Americans at that time. As you know, everywhere the Americans give aid, they are opposed. Americans made mistakes because everywhere they went they didn't understand the psychology of the country. And Americans do things according to the way they think.

SOF: What did you personally think of American soldiers back then?

TOAI: I thought American soldiers, when they were in Vietnam, didn't believe that they were serving a just cause. Because they were forced to be soldiers and sent to Vietnam. I think they were innocent but if the Americans had had good propaganda and good policies, that could have made American soldiers in Vietnam heroes.

SOF: How did you feel towards American soldiers in your country, Mr. Hieu?

HIEU: I hated them. Because the Americans came to Vietnam and disrupted the traditional framework of our society. They brought with them many material things and a materialistic way of life. This was very harmful.

SOF: But how did you feel personally towards them?

HIEU: I didn't hate each soldier as a per-

son because I think the American people are lovely. I had some American friends. But I hated the army uniform because of the memory of many, many foreign soldiers in our country. The Vietnamese people are afraid of that, because in our history we have been under the domination of 1000 years of China, 100 years of the French. So we fear the presence of foreign troops in Vietnam.

SOF: Is that the way most of the people felt then?

HIEU: Yes, I think so.

TOAI: But now when we come to America, we feel very sorry at the unworthy reward given to American soldiers when they came back home. Because they are really heroes.

SOF: You now call them heroes?

TOAI: Yes, because they were fighters for freedom. They lost many friends in Vietnam and the sad thing is they came to Vietnam as crusaders without a cause.

SOF: What did you think were the true American motives for being in Vietnam back then? Did you believe it was because of "imperialism," that America wanted to own Vietnam?

TOAI: At that time, I never did think the Americans had invaded Vietnam, but because we didn't like foreign soldiers in our country, we didn't believe what the United States government said, that they were there for our protection.

SOF: Were you afraid of the North Vietnamese?

TOAI: I wasn't afraid of the North Vietnamese at *that* time. Because we thought that at least they — although communists — were Vietnamese. They were our people so I didn't fear them more than I feared Americans or other foreigners. But now it is quite different.

HIEU: I believe the Americans should have strongly supported Vietnam but not by sending troops there. Because with the presence of American troops in Vietnam, the communists had "proof" to show the world that Americans were invading Vietnam. And then America is Goliath and they, the communists, are David. But now

it is quite different, because the Vietnamese communists are staunchly supported by the whole communist bloc, and they are the real Goliath and America is David.

TOAI: It is clear that the Vietnamese communist party is a Russian tool. The communist parties of eastern Europe are Russian tools too, but you don't see thousands of Russian soldiers in Vietnam like you do in eastern Europe so it is not so clear. In Vietnam, they had Russian soldiers and advisors but not so many as American troops so it was not clear for everyone to see. And the second thing is that when America brought troops to Vietnam, they made declarations for everyone to know. But when Russians bring troops to communist countries, nobody knows it.

SOF: Are there many Russians in Vietnam?

TOAI: Yes, there are many. It is very difficult to estimate but in the street I saw many, many Russians there. Some higher cadres told me once that there were at least 20,000.

SOF: What happened to you in Saigon when the communists took over? How did you feel?

TOAI: Before we had contact with the northern communists, we thought they had the support of the people. They were heroes of the Vietnamese people. But when they came in, the first feeling was not happiness. After contact with them, I lost my faith in them especially when I met many friends who had been Viet Cong cadres before and they told me — they had had much contact with North Vietnamese cadres by then — so when we met they disclosed to me many, many things. They lost their faith too.

The first thing they (the NVA) asked me was, "Why haven't you fled the country? Why are you still here?" It was very strange to me. I asked them why they asked that.

I said, "I worked here to wait for you. Why would I flee the country?" But later I was invited to work for the new regime's

finance committee and after a short time working with them, I knew *everything!* I felt much deceived because they asked me to draw up a plan to confiscate all property and money of the people. All kinds of people — even the poor. So I refused to cooperate and seven days later was arrested.

SOF: How did you feel when the communists took over, Mr. Hieu?

HIEU: I felt confused because I didn't believe that the Vietnamese communists could take over Saigon. When they came south I felt angry because we met only very young soldiers — under 17 years old. That means that the Vietnamese communists have *roasted* — have burned — two generations for war. One in the resistance against France and then the second generation in the war against the U.S. And they were very, very pitiful. They were ignorant about almost everything. It means that under the communist regime they have received almost no education. And I knew after the war that these young boys would have much preferred to lead water buffaloes to the field than to carry AKs to liberate the world.

And you know, after 30 years of communist domination in the north, the degree of education is very bad. When they told them that the Americans went to the moon, they didn't believe it. They said that Russia, only Russia could go to the moon. Because they never hear foreign radio, only government radio, so they don't know anything except what the communist regime teaches them.

SOF: Mr. Hieu, what happened to you on the day the communists took Saigon?

HIEU: As I said, I was very confused. I returned to my monastery because I was the deputy abbot there. And I waited for them. Three days later I received a letter telling me to pay taxes on the land on which my pagoda was situated. These taxes the communists asked us for were for three years, from 1972 to 1975.

SOF: Did you have to pay taxes to the Thieu government?

HIEU: No, we paid no taxes because we were a non-profit organization but now three days after the communists come in they force us to pay taxes for three years. So I had to offer them my monastery because we had no money to pay. And they ordered all the young priests to return home. They said that young priests must perform "economic development" work. They said we had no reason to continue to practice religion. Then they forced me to disrobe.

They said, "You Buddhist monk, you priest; you are a parasite of society. You must work now." Later they threw me in jail because I was an intellectual and a Buddhist monk.

SOF: Are most monks now in jail?

HIEU: Yes. Most religious leaders are in the jail.

SOF: How is life for the Vietnamese under the northern communists?

TOAI: I think the life of the people is worse now than under Thieu's government. Because even under the corrupt government, the workers, the peasants, could work and earn money. They could take a part of it and the people could keep the rest of their money. But under the communist regime, they confiscate *all*. So the workers and the peasants don't want to work much because whether they work much or they work lazy, their income is the same. So they don't like to work more than they must. So you see, in any communist regime the economic situation is bad if you compare with others. Although under the capitalist society there exists inequality — that means there are the rich and the poor. But in the communist system, there are the poor only. That's the so-called "equality" of the communists.

SOF: What about basic freedoms in Vietnam now?

TOAI: In Vietnam now there is no freedom. No freedom of any type. Vietnam is like a lead box; the communists can pick up anyone they wish, can kill anybody they wish, and nobody outside knows about it. The law school is the first thing the communists prohibit. There is *no* law in Vietnam. The secret police govern the country. The secret police can arrest anyone they wish.

I think the communist's prison system is very savage. And barbaric. More than under *any* dictatorship, more than the Nazis in Germany. In the whole history of Vietnam, it has never happened that the Vietnamese people fled the country. Even under French domination or under Japanese occupation. They *never* fled the country to go abroad. But three years after the communists rule, they are risking not only their own lives but also the lives of their children and their relatives too. And now when they flee the country they don't know if they will make it or not. They may sink in the sea, but they leave because they cannot live under the barbaric communist government.

SOF: Is there a Viet Cong presence in the ruling body of South Vietnam?

TOAI: I think the South Vietnamese NLF feels deceived. A large number of them have been arrested and are in jail. The rest have joined the resistance against the new regime. The communists now use a few southern Viet Cong in the government as puppets to deceive the people. The former NLF chairman is the second vice-president of the nation. But he is not a member of the Communist Party Executive Committee so he does not have the right to do much.

SOF: Would you say that, at best, former Viet Cong are now second-class citizens?

TOAI: Yes. I think the North Vietnamese communists hate them — hate them more than they hated the Americans and the corrupt government's supporters, because the Viet Cong have prestige and respect of

the people and so the North Vietnamese are afraid of them. They are afraid they might make a *coup d'etat* against them and destroy their government. And so they arrested many famous people and use only a few as puppets.

SOF: You mentioned the resistance movement. How much resistance is there against the communists?

TOAI: I don't know much about that but in communist party journals, the chief of the secret police confirmed that there exists an armed resistance force in Vietnam and they are strong.

SOF: Do you have any idea how large the resistance forces are?

HIEU: In my prison in Saigon, there were 2,000 prisoners, among whom were 500 who belonged to the resistance, the National Restoration Movement. When I was released I had a chance to contact some leaders of the resistance and they do not want to develop now . . . because they know that all the young people are dissatisfied and if there were a resistance now they would join them. But they have no means, no weapons to provide them.

SOF: Mr. Toai, you came to the U.S. in the late '60s to help the anti-war movement here. Who were your prominent friends then?

TOAI: At that time I was the vice-president of the Saigon Student Union and I was invited by several campuses here to speak about the violation of human rights there and about the anti-war movement in Vietnam. At that time Don Luce, a prominent American anti-war, "peace," and "human-rights" activist, was my friend because when he was in Vietnam I often hid in his apartment to avoid arrest by Thieu's secret police. While here in the U.S. this time, I contacted him in New York and asked him about the realities in Vietnam. He said that human rights in Vietnam now are better than human rights in the United States.

SOF: What do you think about him now?

TOAI: I think he's wrong, but because he's ashamed he doesn't want to change his mind. And maybe in the United States he is nothing but when he is a pro-Vietnam communist, each time he comes to Vietnam he is hero. He is invited by the prime minister and is welcomed. I asked him why if he opposed American troops in Vietnam, why don't you oppose Vietnamese troops in Laos and Cambodia? And he answered that because he does not see the Vietnamese troops in Laos and Cambodia, he does not oppose it. I think he is not an honest man.

SOF: Did you know Jane Fonda?

TOAI: No, but I tried to contact her to tell her about the realities in Vietnam. I hope that if she is an honest person she will change her mind.

SOF: Jane Fonda has proven to be a disgusting example of moral and intellectual dishonesty. I'm not surprised you were unable to contact her. You don't

hear much from her now about human rights violations in Vietnam.

TOAI: You know, I think the communists were right when they told us they won, not in Vietnam but in Washington, in Paris, in Tokyo. They won with mass media. And all the international opinion in the world, they oppose only human rights violations in non-communist countries. They are not opposed to the human rights violations in the communist countries.

SOF: On behalf of the Vietnamese people, what would you like to say now to the relatives of the 50,000 American soldiers who died in Vietnam and the thousands who were wounded over there?

TOAI: First, I would like to express to them my thanks, and to the relatives of the American soldiers who died in Vietnam because they died for its freedom. And I think now that all, like me, who hated American soldiers, now change their point of view. We must make propaganda so that international opinion knows their deaths were as heroes. Because they died for the freedom of our country. And I think that after their deaths in Vietnam, the United States government has almost destroyed the value of their death; it made contempt of their death by becoming close friends of the communists in Vietnam.

SOF: There is a movement in this country that believes that before relations are established with Vietnam, those who are responsible for the gross torture and murder of American POWs must be tried as war criminals. What do you think?

TOAI: I think that the communists can do anything they wish. So, they tortured American soldiers and pilots — they killed them. I think the most important thing now is that the American government must make clear about that by force. They must put pressure on the Vietnamese government because this is a question of American honor.

HIEU: It is sad because the Vietnamese communists want to use the American prisoners to blackmail their families, to place the problem of their release of the prisoners as a precondition to normalization of relations.

SOF: Do you think there are still American prisoners in Vietnam?

HIEU: I met a friend of mine here, a Vietnamese official who was sent to a prison in North Vietnam after Saigon's fall. In Lao Cai he met four foreign prisoners, whom he believed were Americans.

SOF: What year was this?

HIEU: It was just before he was released early in 1978. And if normalization cannot happen, the Vietnamese communists surely will use them — these prisoners — to make a bargain.

SOF: Mr. Taoi, do you have any information about American POWs still in Vietnam?

TOAI: When I was in prison I saw four foreigners — western foreigners in prison — but I did not have any opportunity to

contact them so I don't know their nationality, but I guess they were Americans.

SOF: What can be done now to help your country?

TOAI: I think mostly we need moral support. Americans supported our struggle in the past, they had many anti-war movements, they had many movements for improvement of the prison system in Vietnam. That is what we need from the American people. If the government of the United States is strong enough, it can put pressure on the Vietnamese government to release prisoners and to improve human rights there . . .

The American government always considers that the communist government is a friend and I think that the American government has lost its will to confront the communists. So as you can see from history, communists always attack the United States. And the United States always goes back, it takes a step back.

SOF: What do you think of Americans here who worked very hard in the so-called anti-war movement while really working for the North Vietnamese communist conquest of the South? What about these people who claimed to be for "human rights" but who will now say nothing about the brutal, repressive communist regime?

HIEU: I think they do so because they are ashamed of their activities. And now if they are honest they *must* accuse the Vietnamese communists of violating human rights there.

SOF: Do you feel guilty for what you have done to assist the communists in their victory?

TOAI: I feel deceived about the communists. So I must do much to compensate for what I have done. Especially to educate the public about realities in Vietnam. In the past when I read books about the situation in Russia and China, I didn't believe it. I thought it was the anti-communist propaganda. But after a long time of living under the communists, I know more. I am writing a book about Vietnam's Gulag.

SOF: Do you feel guilt that you helped to create the situation — even in a small way?

TOAI: Yeah, I think so. Now I go around to try and make them understand about the realities in Vietnam. It is quite different than what I had been believing before.

SOF: How would you feel now about the U.S. sending troops to liberate Vietnam?

TOAI: No, I don't like foreign troops to come to my country. But I need moral support.

SOF: What about American aid in the form of weapons to the resistance movement?

TOAI: I think we need any help we can get to liberate my country.

HIEU: I think it is improper for America to send troops to Vietnam but they could

help the resistance by sending weapons. But I think that this too is a little improper because you can let the Chinese communists do it for you.

SOF: What would you like to say to the many American veterans who fought for your country?

HIEU: I would like to send them a message from the Vietnamese people. That all Vietnamese people now feel sorry about their behavior towards the American troops before. Because in the past when American troops came to Vietnam, we didn't think they came as freedom fighters but now we know that they were.

SOF: If American troops landed in Vietnam today, how would they be received by the people?

HIEU: They would be received as angels! Angels from heaven. Because we Vietnamese now live in desperation. And if we had an opportunity to speak to the veterans, we Vietnamese wish they would receive a worthy reward from their country because they are heroes.

SOF: But nobody knows that.

HIEU: Yes, nobody knows that. It is a very sad thing. And if they came to Vietnam now, they would be received, they would be welcomed as angels.

THESE two men are sincere. They have suffered. And they are doing their best to help their people. But after the interview was over, I felt a strong urge to stick my finger in their faces and tell them that they are responsible for what happened to their country. I wanted to tell them that it isn't good enough simply to say, "I was deceived." Not when they are both educated, intelligent men, not when tens of thousands of good men died, not when overwhelming, readily available historical evidence should have told them what their "liberators" would be like, not when there exist living examples of cold, cruel regimes of eastern Europe — and North Vietnam right next door. I wanted to tell them that it's just not good enough to say, "I was deceived," because they — as men with brains and senses — should have known better.

Who next will be doggy-paddling to the United States to beg for help because they too were "deceived"? Iranians? Italians? Rhodesian blacks? The lessons are all there for the learning. But, to be fair, how can we blame them when the top people in our country — people who should indeed know better — have done much to help maintain the deception. I wonder how long it will be before there is no one left to deceive.



EXCLUSIVE: THE HAWK

New South African 9mm Semi-Auto Pistol

by Bill Buys

United Nations arms embargoes against South Africa have led to a couple of interesting developments: smuggling and initiative.

In the case of the former, a variety of agents made themselves a lot of money by spiriting American arms to South Africa by devious routes, but, at the same time, guns from behind the Iron Curtain apparently come and go directly, and with impunity.

Imported or smuggled U.S. handguns fetch a goodly price in the selective South African gun market. A Colt Detective Special sells for around \$500 in the Republic of South Africa, compared with about \$170 in the U.S.

But embargoes also have the effect of stirring the natives to do their own thing if the banned product becomes absolutely unobtainable, or obtainable at exorbitant costs.

So, since the UN embargo, which is strictly adhered to by the U.S. (but not by the Reds), a handful of local guns are shaping to make their appearance in Africa's southernmost country.

There's the Lynx — a stainless steel revolver in .38 Special/.357 caliber, which is being further developed to consume all sorts of ammo in the .38 "family," including 9mm Parabellum, .380, .38 S&W

and .357 Magnum — the Sanna 77 (see SOF, June 1979), which is really a hand machine carbine spitting out 9mm bullets, and the Mamba, another stainless steel handgun, this time in 9mm parabellum, which seems to be stuck on the production line, despite a national advertising campaign of some months ago proclaiming it to be "simply the best."

There are also some others in the offing. But the latest prototype is from gun dealer and practical pistol shooter Mervyn Ullman.

It is a veritable classic in automatics, and it's called the Hawk.

The compact, multi-shot 9mm parabellum semi-auto incorporates all the best features of four of the world's top pistols, and has a lot of local ingenuity thrown in for good measure.

The Hawk is as South African as bilton, but in it you'll find traces of Colt, Smith & Wesson, Browning, and Star, all blended together in what is probably the finest handgun of its kind in the world.

The prototype has had more than 8,000 rounds fired through it, without any indication of wear, and so successful were the original design and manufacture that only the smallest modifications were found necessary during the development stages.

Merv Ullman, who was recently awarded his Springbok colors for practical pistol shooting, plus two Springbok target shooting colleagues, Des Horn and Brian Geyer, took some 12 months to design and build the first Hawk.

"It might well be the most compact 14-shot auto in the business," says Ullman. "Concealability was important. Competitive parabellums are outsize by comparison, and unless you're built like King Kong, they're almost impossible to carry on your person without some awkward bulges showing."

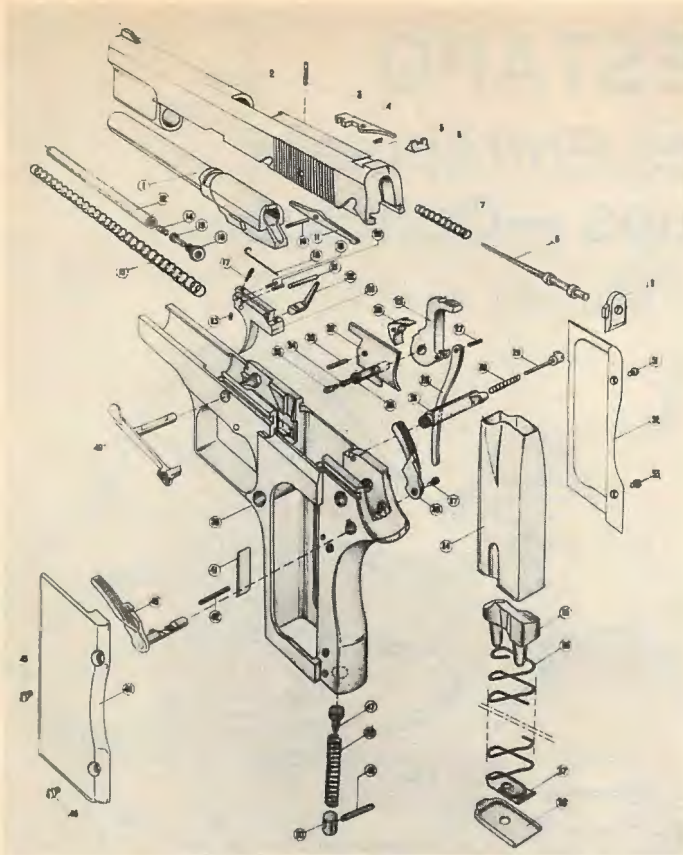
The Hawk uses a South African-made 14-shot magazine that also fits the Browning Hi-Power. A 20-shot mag is also available, effectively converting the Hawk to a machine pistol.

Other features include a lock-up system similar to the Smith and Wesson Model 52 — generally accepted as the world's most accurate semi-auto — and a trigger to hammer system like that of the Browning. "But without the disconnecter which, in my opinion, is an unnecessary complication to the action," says Ullman.

The firing pin and extractor are also Browning-type, while the safety is a development of the Star system, which has been improved and made ambidextrous.



The Hawk. Designed and developed to meet needs of South African armed forces.



Exploded view of Hawk



Hawk and Colt Commander. Weapon is designed compactly, for ease of concealment.



Field stripping weapon is similar to .45 Colt.



Springbok shooter Mervyn Ullman with 9mm Parabellum Hawk and combat target, center of which reflects 15 shots fired from 12 meters. Ullman and colleagues Des Horn and Brian Geyer designed and built first model over 12 month period.

This system cams the hammer off the sear, making it impossible to fire the Hawk with the safety on. In addition, it allows the hammer to be locked down, as well as in the cocked position.

The sights, large high profile and fixed, are the best I've ever seen and the quickest to align. Accuracy is something else. At 12 meters, 15 shots went through a three centimeter by four centimeter area, and at 22 meters, a further 12 shots covered an area no bigger than a box of matches.

The square trigger guard gives a secure two-handed practical shooting grip, allowing excellent control in rapid fire.

"The Hawk is a handgun built round practical shooting experience. We're rather proud of it," says Ullman.

And he has reason to be proud.

He expects the Hawk to sell for around \$350 — which compares favorably with the lesser Spanish autos, and is roughly on a price par with the highly rated Czechoslovakian CZ 75.

It's also about \$200 cheaper than a Colt or Smith & Wesson auto, and, says Ullman, it's better than the lot of them.

Born of necessity due to arms embargoes, the Hawk seems destined to soar to great heights. In South Africa, at least.



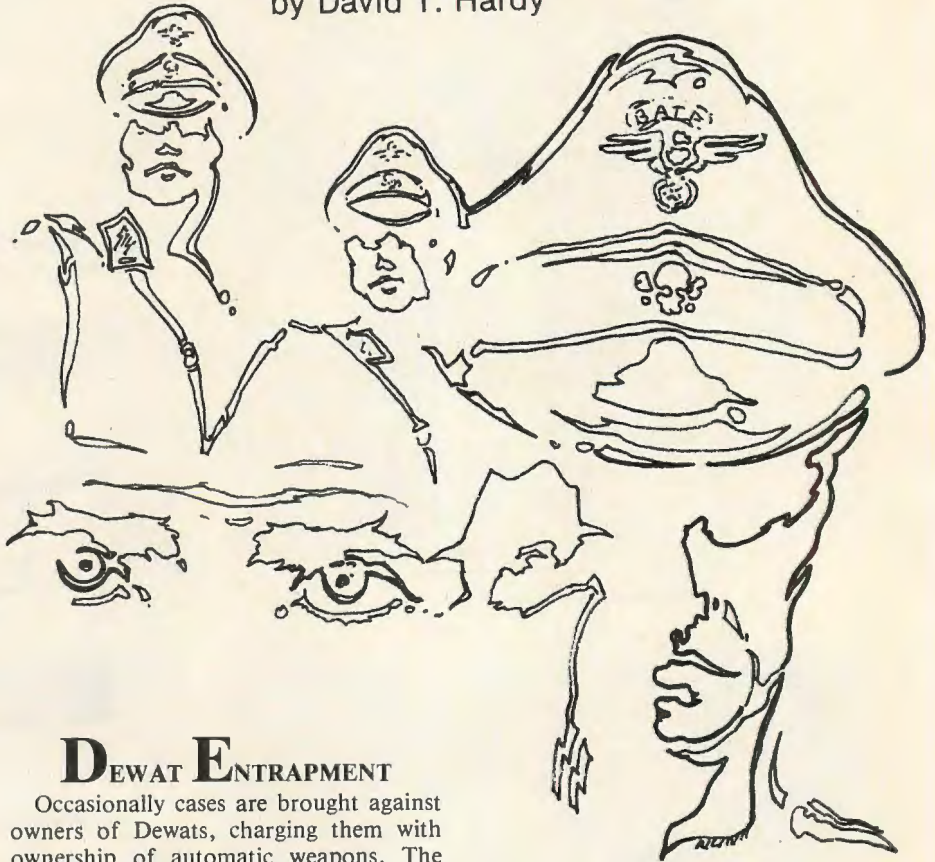
BATF GESTAPO

Lawyer Exposes Entrapment Tactics & Techniques — Conclusion

by David T. Hardy

In *SOF*, June '79, attorney David T. Hardy described BATF's "straw man" and "implied dealership" entrapment techniques, the first of which is used against gun dealers, the latter against collectors and those displaying at gun shows. Hardy, a partner in Sando and Hardy, of Tucson, Arizona, has worked on gun control issues with the Second Amendment Foundation and the National Rifle Association.

As task force director of the Task Force to Investigate BATF Enforcement Activities, sponsored by the Second Amendment Foundation, he learned to recognize BATF's entrapment techniques, and his article outlines several countermoves against BATF agents. The Second Amendment Foundation is now compiling a book-length report on BATF's enforcement techniques, which will be published soon. A previous draft of Hardy's article appeared in *Arms Gazette*, March 1979.



DEALER'S PRIVATE COLLECTION ENTRAPMENT

A third form of entrapment, which is used far less frequently than the first two but has become increasingly popular of late, is directed at FFLs, and has been especially popular in the Ohio region. The basic idea is for agents to approach a dealer, generally work themselves into his confidence, and then propose that he sell to them some of his privately owned guns. If the dealer consents, and figures that since these are his private guns rather than his inventory, he does not have to file a 4473, he may be prosecuted for failure to file the same. Once again, the agents may attempt to get the dealer to talk about avoiding "paperwork" in order to pre-empt the jury and judge. Under what conditions a dealer's private collection is part of his inventory is unclear at this point, since these cases have not reached the Appellate level very frequently. Until this becomes more clear, dealers would be advised at a minimum to keep their private collections carefully separate from their dealership inventory, and to be reluctant to sell from their private collection to any individual who seems unduly concerned about "paperwork" and meets them in their capacity as a dealer.

DEWAT ENTRAPMENT

Occasionally cases are brought against owners of Dewats, charging them with ownership of automatic weapons. The special licensing provisions (\$200 fee, registration and fingerprints, etc.) apply not only to fully automatic firearms, but also to devices "readily convertible" to automatic fire. The applications of that concept, by courts not familiar with firearms, are often frightening. One federal Appeals Court has unanimously upheld conviction of a shooter who sold a Dewat Thompson — with the barrel's breech welded, and the barrel welded onto the receiver.

The language of the court in its published opinion is so astonishing that no additional comment is necessary:

"We affirm the judgment of conviction. The firearm in question is an unserviceable Thompson submachine gun He bases his appeal from conviction on two points: first that the welded receiver of the gun was not a firearm within the meaning of the National Firearms Act, and was therefore not required to be registered, and secondly, that the government did not prove that Smith had knowledge that the inoperative gun had to be registered.

"... The barrel of the gun was welded closed at the breech and also welded to the receiver on the outside under the hand-guard. Scroggie [BATF agent] testified that there are two possible ways by which the firearm could be made to function as such. The most feasible method would be to cut the barrel off, drill a hole into the forward end of the receiver, and then rethread the hole so that the same or another barrel could be inserted. To do so would take about an eight-hour working day in a properly equipped machine shop. Another method which would be more difficult because of the possibility of bending or breaking the barrel would be to drill the weld out of the breech of the barrel. . . .

"In view of the object of the statute and the context of the legislation as a whole, we find as a fact that the gun in question is capable of being 'readily' restored to shoot automatically even though the process of restoration would require a working day for that purpose. . . .

"Smith's second allegation relating to the necessity of alleging and proving knowledge that Smith knew the gun had to be registered is likewise without merit. The Supreme Court has specifically held that the Act 'requires no specific intent or knowledge that hand grenades were unregistered The only knowledge required to be proved was knowledge that the instrument possessed was a firearm.'" *United States v. Smith*, 477 F.2d 399 (8th Cir.1973)

In related areas, agents have sometimes arrested persons for possession of "practice grenades," of the type with thick walls, a small black powder smoke charge, and a hole in the bottom to permit the same to escape.

One court has rejected such claims — refusing to permit the confiscation of a truck based on the claim that three practice grenade fuses were found inside it. The court noted that "in use, the practice grenade is thrown by the trainee some 30-40 yards, a period of four to five seconds elapses, then a loud 'pop' is heard and white smoke may be seen coming from the grenade body where the cork has been blown away. No fragmentation of the grenade body occurs and no fragment other than the small cork separates." *United States v. One 1972 Chevrolet*, 369 F.Supp. 755 (D.Neb.1973).

Others have not been so lucky. In *United States v. Kiliyan*, 456 F.2d 555 (8th Cir.1972), the court upheld a conviction and sentence to two eight-year terms based on possession of practice grenades which, when tested, not only failed to explode, but even failed to give off smoke. The BATF merely produced an "expert" who testified that the grenades contained "approximately 21 grains of black powder — that the amount of such powder in each grenade was about the same as that used in combat grenades . . . and that if the grenade had functioned, it would have exploded and fragmented." (Since the agent testifying was a former commanding officer of an ordnance detachment of the United States Army, his sworn testimony that the load of a combat grenade is 21 grains of black powder does seem a bit strange).

In *United States v. Shafer*, 445 F.2d 579 (7th Cir. 1971) a conviction and sentence of 10 years was upheld on allegations that the defendant possessed practice grenades and 4831 rifle powder and that, if the rifle powder were placed inside the grenade shells, they would have detonated (once again, experts were custom-produced for such testimony; since the conviction occurred in a neighboring state and the expert was described as "an Army ordnance officer," it would appear to be the same expert).

It should be noted that in that case the government admitted having destroyed all of the fuses and most of the 4831 powder

on two occasions, one of them "after the court had granted the defendant's motion to inspect the evidence," on the alleged grounds that each "destruction was necessary in order to protect public buildings" where they had been stored, which made defense testing a little difficult: moreover, when the defense attorneys offered to test such grenades, in their own hands if need be, the court rejected such "because of the possibility of damage, the District Court was entitled to refuse the live demonstration proffered by defense counsel."

SOMETIMES Bureau informants go beyond their orders in an attempt to figure out even more imaginative schemes. In one case recently reported, the Bureau hired a person whom the trial judge described as "a totally amoral individual, completely without any scruples whatsoever" and paid him in proportion to the number of arrests he came up with. He convinced another person that he was interested in selling someone some fake pipe bombs, and offered that person \$50 if he would help out in the scheme by going up to the potential buyer and explaining that the pipe bombs were at his house.

The victim fell for it and did so, letting the informant leave the "fake" pipe bombs at his apartment. The buyer to whom he delivered the informant's sales pitch was, of course, a BATF agent. Convinced by the story (in which the defendant claimed the bombs were real) they raided the man's apartment, found the bombs which the informant had left there (and which were not fake) and charged him with felonies. The informant, of course, pocketed \$500. Fortunately, the trial judge dismissed the case.

Numerous cases have also been reported of agents attempting to convince people that they were interested in purchasing guns or arranging for shipments to be made to other nations, chiefly Rhodesia. In one such case, the agents convinced the defendants that the firearms were in fact located in Canada and would be shipped without entering the United States — presumably, no violation of American law. Only after the agents had effectively swindled the victims out of a large down-payment did they reveal that the guns were in fact in the United States. When their intended victims went to pick up the guns, they simply sprang the trap and netted not only convictions but also sizeable newspaper publicity about what fine people the agents were and how they had so brilliantly prevented an illegal shipment (the agents did not, of course, bother to inform the newspapers that the government agents had in fact created the illegality).



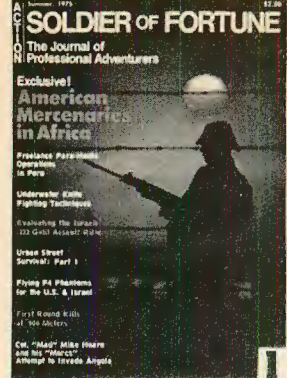
CONCLUSION

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is faced with the possibility of bureaucratic extinction unless it can convince the public and the Congress to permit it to rapidly expand in the field of firearms enforcement. In order to gain support for this move, it has and will continue to engage in extensive entrapment operations aimed at producing a maximum number of arrests with minimal work and risk to the agents.

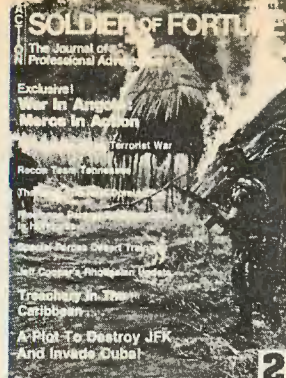
As a practical matter, it will therefore focus upon legal dealers, collectors, and gun enthusiasts, rather than the criminal element. Whether activities of this type will be halted by Congress or other government bodies remains to be seen.

In the meantime, a gun enthusiast's best protection against an unjust conviction (with consequent loss of all rights to possess firearms) is a thorough knowledge of the form which entrapment activities take, and to decline any approach by anyone (friend or stranger, for a friend may have been quietly arrested last month and offered a dismissal if he brought in two more convictions) which could put an enthusiast in the place of being a dealer, selling on a straw man arrangement, or possessing what could be argued to be a destructive device.

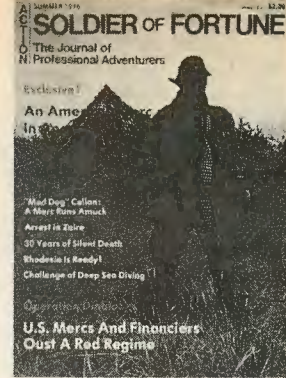




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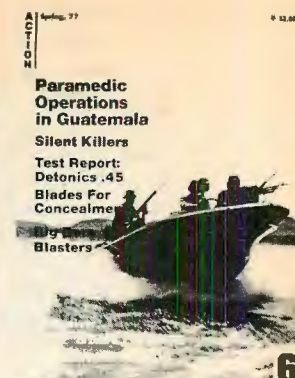
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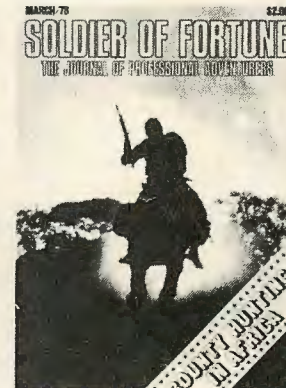
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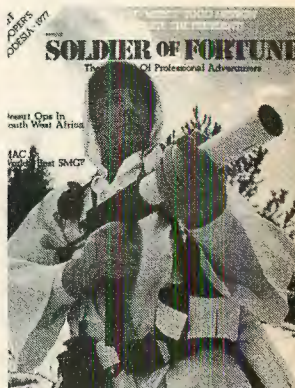
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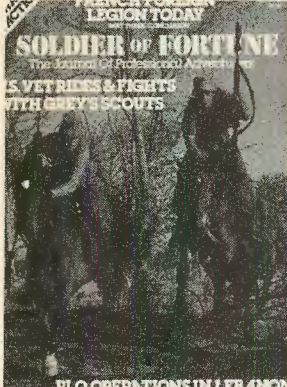
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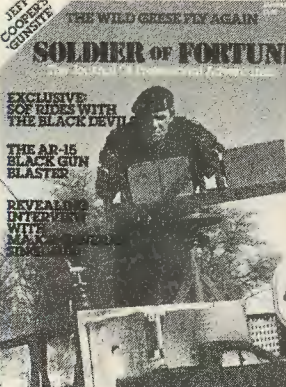
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THE ART OF SILENT KILLING

WW II British Commando-Style

by William L. Cassidy

The history of British unconventional warfare training, in the period from 1938 to 1945, is an epic which, when written, will require several volumes, and still the story will not be told in its fullness. So vast were the British programs, so painstakingly detailed and so secret, that historians now find they must of necessity console themselves with mere sketches, as the greater tale has been lost.

With this in mind, we now direct our attention to a brief sketch of one unconventional warfare program, conducted at the Special Training Center, Lochailort, Invernesshire, Scotland, from 1940 to 1942. The program in question is the legendary Silent Killing course, devised by W.E. Fairbairn and E.A. Sykes, for presentation to British and American secret agencies, and the British Commandos.

For those interested in bureaucratic histories, we recommend F. Spencer Chapman's book, *The Jungle Is Neutral*, which gives a basic account of the founding of STS Lochailort in the spring of 1940.¹ One may also find reference to the school in the author's own volume, *Quick Or Dead*, where particular note is made of the school's program of instruction in close-quarter combat use of the one-hand gun.²

For the purposes of the following work, however, we are less concerned with the who and why of STS Lochailort (it was founded by the Stirling brothers, "Mad Mike" Calvert and some others, with the blessings of the Military Intelligence Directorate) than we are with the specifics of the Silent Killing course.

According to the Silent Killing Instructors' Guide, the course itself was, "...designed to teach how to fight and kill without the use of firearms. Since the course includes the use of the knife, the term 'unarmed combat' would not be technically correct. 'Silent killing' has been chosen, therefore, as a more accurate description."³

After an initial toughening up period, in which potential students were exposed to the most difficult physical tests imaginable, those who survived were treated to a brief lecture delivered by battle-scarred veterans of the Shanghai Municipal Police, especially drafted by Fairbairn and Sykes for use as instructors. Fortunately, the text of this first lecture has survived to the present day, and it is worth



Photo courtesy of CSR London

In cadence, execute! Sentry killing with the Fairbairn-Sykes fighting knife was high point of Lochailort course.



Photo courtesy of Imperial War Museum

"Come right at me, son," said instructors to largest member of each class. Follow up to invitation usually resulted in unceremonial trip to ground for student.

reprinting here in full, if only to convey something of the spirit of its time:

This system of combat is designed for use when you have lost your firearms, which is something you should not do, or when the use of firearms is undesirable for fear of raising an alarm.

At some time or other, most of you, probably, have been taught at least the rudiments of boxing, under the Queensberry rules. That training was useful because it taught you to think and move quickly and how to hit hard. The Queensberry rules enumerate, under the heading of "fouls," some good targets which the boxer is not trained to defend.

This, however, is WAR, not sport. Your aim is to kill your opponent as quickly as possible. A prisoner is generally a handicap and a source of danger, particularly if you are without weapons. So

forget the Queensberry rules; forget the term "foul methods." That may sound cruel but it is still more cruel to take longer than necessary to kill your opponent. "Foul methods" so-called, help you to kill quickly. Attack your opponent's weakest points, therefore. He will attack yours if he gets a chance.⁴

At this point, the lecturer would pause dramatically, and look about the class, searching every face. In some he would observe the smirk of the man "who knew better." In others, the pale smile and perspiring brow of the man who knew nothing. In his closing remarks, he would try to appease both.

There have been many famous boxers and wrestlers who time after time have won their contests with their favourite blows or holds. The reason is that they had so perfected those particular blows

and holds that few could withstand them. The same applies to you. If you will take the trouble to perfect one method of attack, you will be far more formidable than if you only become fairly good at all the methods which you will be shown.

Since this course of instruction is designed to teach you to kill, it will be plain to you that its methods are dangerous. Your object here is to learn, not to damage, and you will get no credit if you break your sparring partner's neck, for example. In learning and practising, you will avoid, therefore, taking any risks of that kind. The submission signal (the two taps, on your own body or your partner's or on the floor) must never be disregarded. It is the signal to stop instantly, and that is a rule which must never be broken.⁵

Typically, in the silence after this lecture was delivered, a glint of mischief would come into the instructor's eye, and he would put the class on its feet, in a rough semi-circle before him. Sizing up the largest, hardest looking lad in the group, he would issue a challenge that by war's end had reached the status of a cliché: "Come right at me, son!" A second later, the class would be breaking up in gales of laughter, and the challenger would be ruefully rubbing his hindquarters from a most undignified position on the floor. Fairbairn made it a standard practice for instructors to immediately throw, throttle, and kick the largest member of every class. Students who were obviously out to "teach the teachers" were singled out for special treatment. In later days, one inventive Silent Killing instructor, a former sergeant on the Shanghai Riot Squad, would greet his students while hanging by his heels from the limb of a tree. "Can't say you look so tough from here!" he would jibe, and then level one of the grinning on-lookers with a kick and a punch as he jumped down from his perch.⁶

The basic Silent Killing course, as presented circa July 1942, was divided into six progressive sections. Section 1 dealt with blows delivered with the side of the hand. It was explained that the effect of such blows is determined by the speed with which they are delivered, as distinct from the weight behind them. Students were cautioned to strike with the palm down, the thumb up and the whole hand tensed. The object of this method is to concentrate the force of the blow in one small area, approximately half-way between the base of the little finger and the wrist.

Practice was made upon dummies, specially packed to simulate the resistance of a human body. Six targets were singled out for attention:

1. On the back of the neck, immediately on either side of the spine.
2. From the bridge of the nose to the base of the throat.
3. On either side of the head and throat, from base of the throat to the temple area.

4. On the upper arm.

5. On the fore arm.

6. The kidney region.⁷

Instructors were careful to point out that with such blows, it is possible to kill, paralyze, break bones, or otherwise badly injure one's opponent.

Section 1 having been mastered, students were initiated into the mysteries of Section 2, which presented kicks, open-hand chin jabs, use of the knee, head and elbows, and finger-tip jabs. At the conclusion of this block of instruction, students were lined up and told most emphatically:

... That they should never go to the ground if they can help it. If they have to, they should get up again as soon as they can. While a man is killing his opponent on the ground, the opponent's friends could walk up and kick his brains out...

... That if their knowledge of the subject is confined to the contents of Sections 1 and 2, they will have made themselves extremely dangerous, even to highly trained adversaries, if only they will attack first and keep on attacking. (Original emphasis.)⁸

Section 3 dealt with releases from holds. Instructors demonstrated how to escape from one- and two-hand wrist and throat holds, hair holds, front and rear body holds, and police or "come-along" holds. The essence of good release work was said to be instinctive, lightning speed, deft footwork, and instant attack.

In Section 4, the niceties of crowd fighting were discussed, after which students were treated to a rigorous practice session in a specially rigged boxing ring. Six dummies were suspended in the center of the ring, situated at all sides around the student. On command, the student engaged the dummies at random, employing every sort of blow with hand, foot, knee, elbow and head, from any necessary position. The student would then exit the ring at full speed, exactly as if he were being pursued. "It must always be remembered," states the Silent Killing guide, "that the aim is to get out of the place and not to fight any longer than necessary."⁹

Section 5 was devoted to Fairbairn's famous course of instruction in use of the Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife.¹⁰ Students were taught how to hold the knife, how to pass it from one hand to another, how to thrust, and how to use the free hand to feint and parry. After practice in these rudiments, the correct method of slashing was taught, and a brief lecture was delivered on the subject of knife carry and concealment. Knife instruction was the high point of the entire course, and students were, from the very beginning, taught to appreciate the unique character of the Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife:

The knife is a silent and deadly weapon that is easily concealed and against which in the hands of an expert there is no sure

*defence, except fire-arms or by running like hell.*¹¹

Section 6 discussed, "Useful aids, for special needs and occasions." Under this heading instructors combined material on unarmed sentry killing; sentry killing with a knife; a pleasant little kink known as the spinal dislocator; the varieties of disarming technique; prisoner searching; moving a prisoner; securing a prisoner; the basic method of breaking an arm, and the bent-arm hold.

At the conclusion of Sections 1 through 6, if time remained and the students were apt, or if the intended assignment of specialist personnel so demanded, an advanced course was presented, detailing arcane blows and holds perfected in Shanghai; methods of strangulation; the precise way to crush a man's testicles; and the use

of such aids as the spring cosh, the safety-razor blade, and the simple matchbox.

The Silent Killing course, both basic and advanced, as we have here outlined, began in the early summer of 1940, and enjoyed the personal attentions of both W.E. Fairbairn and E.A. Sykes on and off until approximately February 1942. In February 1942, the Commando Depot, later the Commando Basic Training Center, was established by Major-General J.C. Haydon at Achnacarry, some few miles away from Lochailort, and placed under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles E. Vaughan.¹² Shortly thereafter, with training under way at Achnacarry, Fairbairn turned his attentions to the needs of the Special Operations Executive's Camp X, in Canada, and later, the Office of Strategic Services' Area B-5,



Physical conditioning was important part of commando training. Here, Thompson SMG-armed student scales rock face.

Photo courtesy of CSR London



Sequence of photos shows technique for relieving opponent of rifle (left), then smashing in his head with it

in Maryland, U.S.A.¹³ Sykes, for his part, devoted his efforts to service as the resident pistol instructor at STS XXI, or Arisaig House, a SOE training center a few miles west of Lochailort.¹⁴

The Lochailort course nevertheless served as the model for every course which followed; both those of the Commando Basic Training Center, and of the SOE Special Training Schools. It was, in one form or another presented (though not necessarily at Lochailort), to personnel from British Independent Companies numbers 1 through 11; British Commandos numbers 1 through 11; 30 Commando, later the 30th Assault or Admiralty Intelligence Unit; 62 Commando; the 1 Small Scale Raiding Force; the Special Boat Section; elements of the Australian Independent Companies; elements of SOE, OSS, and a host of other British and American special forces units. Indeed, it may be said that between them, Fairbairn and Sykes trained the whole of the instructor cadre of Anglo-American special forces in the World War of 1939 to 1945.¹⁵

The progression of the Lochailort material from Britain to America is particularly interesting. In early 1942, the OSS assigned then-Lieutenant Rex Applegate to STS Lochailort, where he received the course at the hands of E.A.

Sykes. Thereafter, Applegate returned to the United States where, in liaison with Fairbairn, he established the course of instruction in Silent Killing at OSS's Area B-5, America's first specialized intelligence school. A comparison between the British and American courses shows very little difference, proof that America's first secret servants were taught on the British model.¹⁶

It is also worth noting that a good portion of the original Lochailort course was incorporated in Rex Applegate's immortal *Kill Or Get Killed*, something which has helped the book earn its well-deserved reputation as the most complete study of close-combat ever written.¹⁷

Through the vehicle of *Kill Or Get Killed*, the Lochailort doctrine, as tailored by Applegate, has thus reached a wide audience. Indeed, something of its methods are included in most if not all of the programs presented by the armed forces, and all federal intelligence and investigative agencies. The same might also be said for a considerable number of state and local police departments, and a number of foreign agencies which have enjoyed the benefits of either U.S. or British training.

For in spite of its somewhat bloodthirsty designation, the original Silent Killing course, unique as it may have been

in its day, reveals itself to us now as nothing more than a skillful, intelligent presentation of proven techniques. This is not to in any fashion minimize the course. On the contrary, this knowledge serves to



Special Training Center at Lochailort, Scotland



(center). Versatility was stressed—if weapon was not available, helmet served as effective throat crusher (right). Imperial War Museum Photos



highlight the course's most appealing feature.

The feature of which we speak is summarized under the heading of "tradition." One finds it such a simple matter to

confine one's thinking regarding close-combat to the traditions of Asia. But in so doing, one misses the fact that there is a Western tradition every bit as valid as its Eastern counterpart.

The techniques presented in the original Silent Killing course, and, ultimately, presented in our own time, owe their creation to the early work of W.E. Fairbairn in the streets of Shanghai. They were, from the very beginning, designed as a peculiarly Western martial art, a means whereby the English-speaking world could come to grips with and win over Oriental systems. These techniques were refined in the bitter laboratory that was the Second World War, and reach the present day more or less intact. Whether we call them the simple techniques of hand-to-hand, or whether we award them the dramatic title "silent killing," we still need to recognize them for what they are. And they are, if nothing else, an expression of how we have come to perceive personal combat: the first Anglo-American preserve of martial tradition.

END NOTES

¹F. Spencer Chapman, *The Jungle Is Neutral*. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1949).

²William L. Cassidy, *Quick Or Dead: The Rise and Development of Close-Quarter Combat Firing of the Self-Loading Pistol and Other One-Hand Guns &c.* (Boulder: Paladin Press, 1978).

³Special Operations Executive, *Silent Killing: For the Use of Instructors*. Revised 30 June 1942 (Most Secret) n.p., p. 1.

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶The anecdote appears in George Langellan's *The Masks of War*, originally published as *Knights of the Floating Silk* (London: Hutchinson, 1959), and is quoted here from memory.

⁷Special Operations Executive, *op. cit.*, p. 2.

⁸*Op. cit.*, p. 3.

⁹*Op. cit.*, p. 4.

¹⁰The essentials of this course are set forth in William L. Cassidy, *Basic Manual of Knife Fighting*. (Boulder: Paladin Press, 1978).

¹¹Special Operations Executive, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

¹²James Ladd, *Commandos and Rangers of World War II*. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1978). A notoriously inaccurate source, yet accurate in this instance. See p. 168.

¹³Personal information.

¹⁴Personal information.

¹⁵Personal information.

¹⁶The British course in question was compared with Office of Strategic Services, *Close-Combat: Area B-5 Course*. (Top Secret) 1942.

¹⁷Rex Applegate, *Kill Or Get Killed*. 1969 edition. Reprint (Boulder: Paladin Press, 1977).

NB: Those desiring background information on Fairbairn and Sykes are directed to William L. Cassidy, "Quick Or Dead In Shanghai: Combat Pistolcraft with the Shanghai Municipal Police." *Soldier of Fortune* Vol. 4, No. 3, March 1979, pp. 30-35. See also William L. Cassidy, "Shanghai Experiments." *Soldier of Fortune*, Vol. 4, No. 4, April 1979, pp. 44-47, reprinted from *The Police Journal*, Vol. 111, No. 1, January-February 1978.



Photo courtesy of William L. Cassidy

—more tranquil today than in its 1938-1945 heyday.



COMBAT IN LEBANON

UN Troops Strike Out

by Al J. Venter



Above: Christian soldiers, atop U.S.-made Sherman tank, man observation post overlooking PLO positions near Marj'Uyun. Left: American M-113 personnel carriers, supplied by Israelis, are important part of Christian defenses.



Roadside checkpoint on road north. Furniture comes from nearby house. Fire bears witness to frigid temperatures common to area in winter months.

Flinty and sparse, South Lebanon leaves only one immediate impression in the minds of those who are prepared to visit this domain of seemingly endless conflict: it's a hard land — the kind that only its sons could love.

Another thought nags constantly: Why the persistent preoccupation with warfare in a region almost as barren as the Mojave and little more productive?

There are other images — some vivid, a few subdued — as the visitor makes first contact with the remnants of a tiny embattled Christian community caught in the vortex of war between two of the behemoths of the Middle East. On the one hand, there is Islam in its new aggressive and intransigent guise; on the other, a protective Israel as carnage swings this way and that and only anarchy prevails.

Impressions of the children, all of them wide-eyed and bewildered, as fear creates that first incredible sensation of disbelief.

I had seen it only once before in Biafra, although in all of Lebanon — including the more populous north around Beirut — very few people are starving.

That and the pockmarked buildings and the occasional wounded soldier or civilian being casevaced to the rear, in this case, to the Israeli frontier at Metulla.

Or the pregnant Lebanese woman, still clutching her worry beads, being lifted gently on to the flat top of an armored personnel carrier that had once been American while the rest of her shelled village looked on in shocked disbelief. As if it had never happened before...

She was very pregnant and very dead, killed the previous evening in an artillery barrage that had been initiated from mountaintop positions in Fatahland across the way.

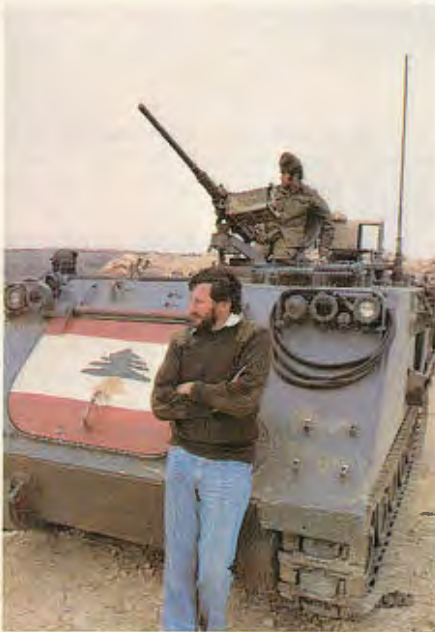
It remains an irony of this conflict that the role of United Nations troops in the area is to prevent or isolate such incidents which are an almost nightly occurrence; as usual, they had done nothing at all to still the attack although it had continued for an hour or more within sight of their own fortifications.

So hostilities in South Lebanon go on, sporadic, unhurried, very rarely intense in the conventional military sense. It's largely a sneaky, often devious campaign that involves as much hitting at the rear as from the front. At first hand, it gives an impression of being unlike anything yet seen in recent or older film clips from Southeast Asia, or even Africa to date, but then Arabs regard themselves in a class of their own, even in the way they fight their wars.

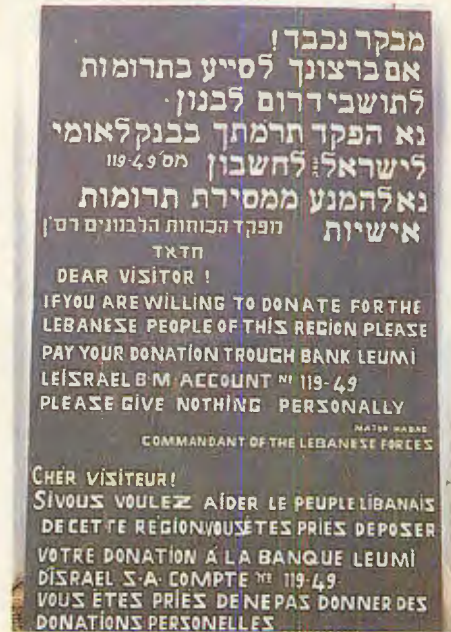
In some ways, the scenario is almost like something taken out of context from some World War II east European sequence, for there, too — as in Lebanon early in the struggle — members of the same village slaughtered each other because of religious differences.



In addition to American-made arms, Israelis supply Christians with many Soviet weapons captured from Arab armies in past actions. From left to right, American .50 caliber Browning AN-M3 aircraft MG, modified for ground use, Soviet 85mm D48 anti-tank/field gun, Soviet 12.7mm M-1939 DSHK.



Left: author on patrol with Christian militiamen. He saw no direct evidence of foreign volunteers in southern Lebanon.



Right: Prospective volunteers, take note. With barely enough money to keep population clothed and fed, South Lebanon is not the place for improving the health of your bank account.



Photo courtesy of Emile Abi Khalil

Christian Arab armored column passing through friendly town south of Litani River. Israeli-supplied vehicles are usually of American make, but captured Soviet armor is also utilized.

Curiously enough, both times it has taken an age for the world community to do something about it.

Reporting on the war is another kind of experience altogether and here only previously-made contacts count.

It is difficult enough getting through Israeli lines into that part of Lebanon south of the Litani River that is controlled by the Christian Arab forces. The army in this region is headed by Major Sa'ad Hadat, a Christian and formerly a member of the integrated regular Lebanese Army. Once through the heavily defended frontier, the experience can, on occasion, fringe on fantasy.

Security, for instance, is tight. Border guards were not at all interested in my passport; only passwords and the kind of faces among those that accompanied me that fitted previously-given descriptions.

We drove with almost suicidal intent along a route that had probably seen the last repair team five or six years before.

"Snipers," my South Lebanese Christian Army guide explained. "So we go like hell and we hope they no shoot at us." He smiled across his shoulder long enough to force him to take drastic evading action as

we almost careened into a crudely camouflaged Sherman tank, its Israeli markings still faintly visible under a fresh coat of dark gray paint.

With hooter blaring, we traversed a land speckled with tank traps, flattened buildings, blown-up bridges and hastily erected defenses.

We passed a dozen villages in the first hour, every one of them abandoned by their former Shi'ite Muslim residents last year when Israel launched an operation towards the Litani River: a recurring theme, for these are the same Shi'ite religious zealots who have been responsible for toppling the Shah in not-too-distant Iran.

An Islamic resurgence? The Southern Christian Lebanese certainly believe so.

Now these villages, none of them bigger than an average-sized mid-western American rural settlement, play host to occasional Christian Arab security patrols or roving bands of Palestinian terrorists intent on making the Israeli frontier before dawn.



Photo courtesy of I.D.F. Spokesman

"Florence Nightingale" of Christian Lebanese forces — during recent Palestinian strikes, she attended dozens of casualties.

Once there were dogs and cats and kids and cars along our meandering route. Now there are only goats and occasional flocks of the fat-tailed sheep that one finds throughout the Middle East. Shepherds in this region very rarely wander far from known Christian Forces security positions.

Towns that were still inhabited by their former Christian or right-wing Muslim inhabitants — among them Marj'Uyun, Qlaiaa, and one or two others — could hardly be regarded as settlements in any economic or societally viable sense. Most of their inhabitants lived in shored-up isolation behind bunkers and sand-bagged gun emplacements, ever conscious of Palestinian or rebel Lebanese Arab Army (LAA) artillery bombardments or infantry probes.

The little work that there was to be had was available only in Israel. Each day convoys of cars would speed past our position before dawn, heading for the "Good Fence" at Metulla. There the lucky ones that had some form of employment — most of it manual — would disperse for eight hours and then return long before dark for the hazardous route back.

These were the fortunate ones, for they brought with them food and clothing as well as news of the outside world.

But some kind of infrastructure does remain within the embattled zones.

Occasionally in a village we would pass small make-shift work houses but most of this output was geared to the war effort: steel shuttering for a building facing exposed artillery positions or perhaps some form of improvised armor plating for one of the cars that ferried passengers to the border and back each day.

Once we stopped for lunch at a tiny structure that had once been a cafe. Its entire rear had been blown out by a Soviet-supplied Katyusha rocket, but still it functioned relatively effectively. There was no coffee or conventional tea; a mint variety was passed around in a jug that had lost all its enamelling together with the Lebanese variety of *falafel*, [bread], hot and pungent like they make it in this corner of the Mediterranean.

Then came the strongpoints, all of them — like the Palestinian and LAA positions — on mountain and hill tops and each one bearing the scars of previous artillery and mortar barrages from Fatahland.

I was able to visit six of these positions in all. Each time we would halt our vehicle at the bottom of the only access track and wait the 30 minutes or so that it took to move the barbed wire and pre-set anti-personnel and anti-mine landmine emplacements from the tracks before we walked into the fortifications.

Constantly I was reminded by my driver-guide (who I knew only as Yussuf) to beware of where I walked. "You step on a mine and you finish ... Poof!" he ex-

claimed, using his hands for effect.

And he meant it, as I was later to see when a young Lebanese soldier had one of his legs blown off. Twice, while photographing in the vicinity of a camp, he brusquely stopped me from moving off the road. Eyes wide, he shook his head but said nothing more except to point at a few bare craters further along the track we had used. There had been others, clearly not so lucky.

There is some confusion as to the exact use and deployment of landmines in much of the region south of the Litani River. The majority were laid by the Christians, but there are also minefields that were laid by the Palestinians in anticipation of an Israeli invasion. In this respect there is only one cardinal rule — do not step off the road, for it is usually in the vicinity of the main routes that they are most prevalent.

Strongpoints themselves are about as austere and spartan as any defensive position I've visited. Conditions were not helped last December by one of the coldest winters the Northern Hemisphere has experienced for decades; those not doing a watch would huddle about improvised jerry-can heaters or hide themselves behind barriers of sackcloth in little structures that passed for observation posts when the weather was good.

The accent was clearly on preparedness. Half tracks, tanks, artillery and armored personnel carriers faced all likely approach points on every vantage position, their troops ready to take action the moment the alarm was sounded. Most action took place at night with the result that daytime provided the kind of leisure the



Photo courtesy of I.D.F. Spokesman

Lebanese Christians in Israeli jeep. Without Israeli support, Christian forces would quickly succumb to Soviet-supplied PLO.

men needed to prepare themselves for 14 hours of winter darkness.

"We have many problems with infiltrators," said one of the commanders. "The Palestinians try to come through the valleys below at night and we try to stop them. Occasionally the landmines do the work for us."

He explained that the pattern was the same for most of the strongpoints. If an enemy presence was detected it would be engaged, and this invariably resulted in some form of artillery reaction from any one of a dozen Arab positions to the north.

"But we're ready for them," stated the officer. "We know their deployment and our gunnery is usually more accurate."

There was a tendency, the officer stated, for the Arab forces to start some kind of diversionary action by shelling one or more of the civilian settlements. "Then their terrorists try to slip through."

Official reaction, Major Hadat explained later, would be to immediately signal the UN commander in the region. "But they're either all drunk or asleep — or too terrified to do anything in case the shells start falling on them," said another Christian Arab officer whose bearing and use of English reflected the two years he had spent on a study tour at an American military establishment.

Throughout the operational area that I visited, one factor quickly became salient. Every weapon, every cartridge used by the defending Christian forces has come from Israeli sources. Artillery — much of it



Photo courtesy of I.D.F. Spokesman

Major Sa'ad Hadat, commander of Christian Lebanese forces south of Litani River. While he made it clear Christian Arabs were not interested in mercenaries, unit has "accepted volunteers in the past, and will do so when it suits our purposes in the future."

Soviet equipment captured in earlier frays — tanks, personnel carriers and other vehicles of war, all carry some partially obliterated Israeli mark of identification.

Without liberal handouts of this kind of hardware it is obvious that the Christians would collapse in a week.

"But we're not too proud to accept aid. Why not? The Syrians give the best they have to the Palestinians and the LAA. So do the Iraqis and everyone else who has a stake in the war," said Major Sa'ad Hadat.

Now there was a new development, he said with undisguised disdain. "They're now starting to steal weapons from the UN forces and although the local UN Commander, Major General Erskine — a Ghanaian career officer — makes a lot of noise, nothing is done about the matter."

Major Hadat explained that a new trend in the war was for the United Nations forces to try to "arrest" probing PLO units for three days and then release them back to their side of the frontline with their weapons and equipment intact.

"But the PLO is reacting. Last week [early December] the Irish battalion arrested three PLO infiltrators. So the PLO went one better, stole into the Irish camp at night when just about the whole unit was drunk and took half a dozen Irish soldiers hostage until their own buddies were released," declared Major Hadat without humor.

A more recent development while I was in South Lebanon occurred shortly afterwards. A Senegalese detachment apparently arrested six PLO terrorists who were making their way southwards towards Israel through the Senegalese UN sector. The local PLO commander reacted with alacrity. The following night he captured an entire 30-man Senegalese patrol, stripped them of uniforms and weapons, and sent them back to their own lines naked in spite of temperatures in the mountains plummeting to 23 degrees Fahrenheit.

"General Erskine complained volubly, but nothing was done about the incident," I was told later. Apparently President Senghor of Senegal wanted to pull out his troops after seven of them had contracted pneumonia but he was restrained from doing so by the Ghanaian ambassador in Dakar. Bad for the African image, it was argued.

One of the interesting features of every one of the southern Lebanese strong-points I was able to visit was the extensive use of an Israeli-patented portable bomb shelter, a functional, highly-effective life saver.

Capable of being towed by a heavy vehicle, these reinforced steel structures are built to take a direct hit from a mortar or artillery shell without harming those who have taken cover inside. Apart from burst eardrums, most survivors come out intact.

The shelters are found everywhere that the Israelis have established their in-



Christian M-113 disabled by Soviet TM-46 landmine. PLO and Christian minefields are so abundant, such occurrences are frequent.

fluence and the consensus is general; there would be many more people dead without them. In most camps they have been adapted as bunkers in terrain as rocky and hard to dig in as it is bare.

The system of southern Lebanese defense is complex; it has to be since there are almost 100,000 people facing annihilation at the hands of radical Arab armies who take their cue from Moscow. Of these perhaps only a third are Christians.

The balance is made up largely of right-wing Muslims who have thrown in their lot with Major Hadat, the Christian commander. His position, as a consequence of developments around Beirut, is now completely autonomous of any other Lebanese faction — if only for the sake of survival.

About 10 percent of the total figure south of the Litani River are Druze Arabs who owe their fealty to no one. At present their allegiance is with the controlling Christian force, but should Hadat and his followers be driven into exile into Israel, it could switch overnight.

Militarily there is no doubt that Major Hadat's command is in firm control of a tiny region not many times bigger than Manhattan Island. This stretches 120 kilometers from the Mediterranean coast south of the Arab stronghold of Tyre to the Syrian border. At its narrowest point it is only four kilometers wide, where the Litani River swings closest to the Israeli frontier not far from Metulla. This area has seen huge PLO infiltration since the Israelis withdrew and left the United Nations to "guard the peace."

These United Nations forces — they

call themselves UNIFIL or United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon — are strung out at irregular intervals between the two opposing armies.

Yet, in spite of difficulties and a largely ineffectual UN peace-keeping force, Major Hadat's forces are both well organized and disciplined. They have taken heavy losses in the past year but these have evened out over a period with PLO forces invariably getting short shrift during any contact.

In the words of an Israeli advisor attached to the staff of Major Hadat, the Lebanese forces caught in a pincer movement in the south have no real alternative than to "give better than they receive."

He explained: "To put it simply, the Christians and their friends are fighting a rearguard action with their rear secure." He went on: "The Israeli role can be regarded as that of a watchdog on a chain. But only we know how long is that chain.

"Syrians would love to join with Palestinians and radical Arab elements in decimating this community in an Islamic *Jihad* or holy war for most are passionately anti-Christian in whatever form it is encountered. But they know that we, the Jews, will not allow such an action and so they probe and provoke and hit at the defenseless. At the same time they are aware that they cannot go *too* far before definite Israeli reaction follows.



Wounded Arab is rushed through Good Fence at Metulla, enroute to Israeli hospital. This close working relationship, both military and economic, is overlooked by world media.



Above: Israeli medical personnel attend to landmine victim, who lost right leg below knee to mishap. Right: casualty is carried to Israeli UH-1 chopper for evacuation to rear area hospital.

“So they settle for hitting at civilian homes, burning and maiming women and children. Brave soldiers those. . . .”

Israel’s role among the Christian forces is not defined. At present it is based largely on securing the northern Israeli border with patrols, fences, and some of the most imaginative booby traps yet devised. And still the PLO terrorists get through!

Mr. Begin’s government also makes no secret of the fact that many Christian Arabs have been trained by his forces and this program continues, if only for the sake of preparing the southern Lebanese for survival should Israeli attention be distracted by something more dramatic elsewhere.

The question of volunteers was raised. Ever cautious, the Israeli officers I spoke to were not enthusiastic, but then the average Israeli with some military service behind him is among the most xenophobic of people where security is concerned.

Major Hadat was more positive. “Of course we can use volunteers; anyone with the Christian cause at heart who has something positive to offer in this terrible struggle will be welcome,” he told me.

What money or incentive could he offer? “Nothing at all. There is not enough to keep the community properly fed and clothed, never mind still pay for volunteers,” said the enigmatic Major, although he hinted that individual churches in the United States could help.

He made it clear that Christian Arabs were not interested in mercenaries. “We have accepted volunteers in the past and will do so when it suits our purposes in the future. But that prerogative remains with us.” He suggested they write to him care



“Run the Bastards Down!”

C.A.T.U. TRACKS TERRORISTS

Rhodesia's Civilian Tracking Unit

by Jack Lott

Oscar Wilde was right: “Nothing is so dangerous as being too modern. One is apt to become old-fashioned quite suddenly!” Nowhere is this aphorism truer than with modern armies' emphasis on advanced technology, making the planned obsolescence of Detroit sedate in comparison. Today's sophisticated weaponry is often as dead as a canned lobster before it gets into production, due to new “breakthroughs.” Overdependence on technology is the Achilles heel of the modern military organization, now being successfully exploited by Marxist guerrilla forces throughout the “Third World.”

Not only do armies of older industrialized nations suffer from over-mechanization and over-formalization, but so have such prestigious establishments as the South African Defense Force (*Wermag*) and the Rhodesian Army and the British South African Police of Rhodesia. It has taken nearly 10 years of a savage terrorist war to transform the Rhodesian Army from its former conventional British pattern to a superbly trained COIN force customized for fighting the terrorist cadres of Joshua Nkomo's ZIPRA and Robert Mugabe's ZANLA forces. This change involved an agonizing reappraisal of priorities in armament, techniques, and tactics, affecting all units, including Rhodesia's small but superbly effective air force.

Rhodesia is still prepared to deal with conventional forces such as Cubans or East Germans, but all her Security Forces are trained to fight the terrorist-guerrilla on his chosen ground. This adaptation of some of the world's most civilized people to the primitive approaches demanded by the enemy, the black *magandanga* (terrorist), is Rhodesia's military answer to the threat.

Rhodesia had to adapt or go under, and unlike the dinosaur she chose survival. Fortunately, Rhodesia has a remarkable history of both frontier and conventional warfare, beginning not with the 1893 Matabele War against Lobengula, chief of the Matabele conquest state established by his father, the great Mziligazi, but with the 1879 Zulu War and the 1880 First Anglo-Boer War, both in South Africa. Many of the principals of 1893, such as the great but ill-fated Major Allan Wilson and Commandant Pieter Raaf, were he-

roes of those wars who brought their experience to Rhodesia between 1890 and 1893. Among these frontiersmen were a small but outstanding contingent of Americans, such as the great scout, Frederick Russell Burnham, who had learned his scouting while fighting Geronimo in Arizona. (See “First Yank SOF in Rhodesia,” SOF, May '79.)

In the 1893 war the Maxim machine gun made history at the battle of Imbembezi by breaking the charge of the Royal Imbezu and Ingubo regiments of Lobengula. In 1896, the second Matabele rebellion caught the Rhodesians almost totally unprepared since their entire police force's white effectives had been captured, killed, or wounded by Paul Kruger's Transvaal commandos, led by Gen. Piet Cronje at Doornkop, the result of the reckless gambling on a lightning victory by Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, Rhodesia's administrator, when he attacked the Transvaal late in 1895. When the Matabele learned of this defeat, a rising was planned. Ten percent of Matabeleland's white population was murdered before a rapidly mustered volunteer force of mounted infantry, mostly consisting of farmer-miner-hunter types, could be raised to crush the rebellion.



Warrant Officer Mark Sparrow, initiator of Civilian African Tracker Unit concept, wears beret of Selous Scouts. No longer an active Scout, Sparrow devotes his time to management of the Tracker Unit.

Within a few months of this disaster, the fledgling nation reeled again from the rising of the Mashonas north and east of Matabeleland, and this too was met by these superb pioneers with a blend of regular and guerrilla tactics, establishing for the first time a Rhodesian tradition of military methods that saved Rhodesia then and is saving her today.

Today, though the enemy fields Soviet SAM-7 (Strela) surface-to-air missiles, machine guns, RPG rocket launchers, mortars, assault rifles, and mines of the latest Soviet manufacture, Rhodesia survives, bloodied but unbowed, through the use of “super-guerrillas” such as the Selous Scouts, who combine the white hunter's bushcraft with traditional African tracking techniques, as well as the modern version of the 1896 mounted infantry-scouting unit, Grey's Scouts. Contrary to the comments of certain uninformed journalists, Grey's Scouts are not Rhodesia's “cavalry” intended to sub for mechanized units due to a shortage of armored cars, thanks to sanctions.

Rhodesia is well-equipped with mechanized units but mounted scouts are best to overtake terrorist guerrillas in rough terrain; they also carry more food, ammo, and equipment and are able to avoid roads with their not-infrequent mines.

Since terrorists are mainly concentrated bush-veldt areas in Tribal Trust Lands, national parks, and game reserves, their pursuit requires abundant use of man's oldest skill: tracking. Man was first a hunter, gatherer, and tracker having to approach game closely enough to kill it or to follow it when wounded, despite its superior speed and senses of sight, smell, and hearing.

Fortunately, Rhodesia has an abundant supply of superb trackers among the African population, to whom game hunting is still important as a means of sustenance, though illegal. Rhodesian whites include some of the finest hunters and trackers in the world, but their numbers are small, so the skills of native poachers have now become a national resource employed to combat Marxist terrorism.

It was soon realized that the number of trackers available to units of the army, the BSAP Support Unit, and PATU (Police Anti-Terrorist Unit) was inadequate.

Many operations failed due simply to insufficient or poor tracking. Most trackers come from the most primitive tribes and their skill is often proportionate to their lack of education and dependence on subsistence agriculture.

In Rhodesia, the members of the Shangaan tribe, a hunting and one-time fighting tribe whose main population is in Mozambique's Gazaland, Rhodesia's southeast low veldt and South Africa's northeast Transvaal, have such tracking skills. The founder of the tribe, SoShangaan, gave it his name. He was a top Zulu general under Tshaka, founder of the Zulu kingdom. SoShangaan escaped the wrath of the terrible Tshaka by moving north into southern Mozambique, where other tribes, such as the Ndaus, were absorbed. Ever since, the Shangaan people have been famous for their hunting skills, especially with bow and arrow. Shangaan trackers and hunters are in great demand by whites who enjoy hunting and by professional hunters. They are often employed as farm labor solely to have their skills available when hunting season rolls around. Shangaans are also popular in the military and the police, because of their stalwart martial tradition and almost arrogant martial spirit.

However, the supply of Shangaan and other tribal trackers available to the army and police could not equal the demand, because most of those possessing such skills were illiterate, and therefore unqualified for recruitment. Some were too "old" at 50 although lean as panthers and in the prime of their physical and mental faculties. Sooner or later such a valuable, if primitive, resource had to be tapped.

It all began in Rhodesia's southeast low veldt, near the Mozambique border, a land of big game and huge cattle ranches. One of these hunter-ranchers, Mark Sparrow, himself a Selous Scout and professional hunter and rancher, conceived the idea of a civilian African tracker unit after numerous anti-terrorist actions in which he had participated. Sparrow had done his National Service between 1965 and 1975, originally as a member of the 10th Battalion of the Rhodesia Regiment of Territorials. The 30-year-old Sparrow, born in the low veldt, grew up among the Shangaans as did his brothers, Laurie and Norman, who, like their father Ray, are hunters as well as experts on Shangaan customs and fluent in their language.

The raising of the Civilian African Tracker Unit was mounted early in 1977 with the backing of Lt. Col. Henry Dunn, commanding officer of the 8th Battalion, Rhodesia Regiment, who put the concept to Lt. Gen. Peter Walls, commander, Combined Operations. Walls bought it. Due to normal military selection criteria, this treasure trove of skills had previously been denied to the army. Sparrow personally knew enough Shangaan trackers to form a unit nucleus.



Warrant Officer Sparrow briefs some of his trackers. Because of the primitive, voluntary nature of their service, strict military regimentation is not part of tracker training or operations.

Although tracking is not taught to any Africans recruited, if the candidate is a natural tracker, his tracking skills are joined to military tactics, and basic military training is given to assist his military service environment when attached to regular units of the army and Territorials. Each qualified tracker is selected from applicants by putting him through various tests by master trackers, who use every subterfuge to foil his best efforts by clever anti-tracking methods. First he tracks game and then humans, first with, and then without, boots on his "prey." The pseudo-"terr" employs such anti-tracking devices as walking backwards or walking on stones, both on land and across streams. Walking on stones in a river bed and crossing some distance from

one's original arrival point foils all but the top trackers — but not the African unit tracker recruited. Although top trackers may be temporarily slowed by such methods, they will eventually pick up the spoor.

The preamble to the Tracker Unit precis is worth repeating:

"Civilian African Tracker Unit is a Territorial Force Unit which has been formed primarily to promote and utilize more of the inherent tracking potential so abundant in our many Tribal Trust Lands. These men are unsophisticated and would normally not avail themselves for Army conscription, but they are quite prepared to offer their services on a professional territorial force basis if along uncomplicated lines.



Speaking in their Ndaus language, Sparrow discusses plans for follow-up exercise near Mozambique border with Shangaan tracker stick.

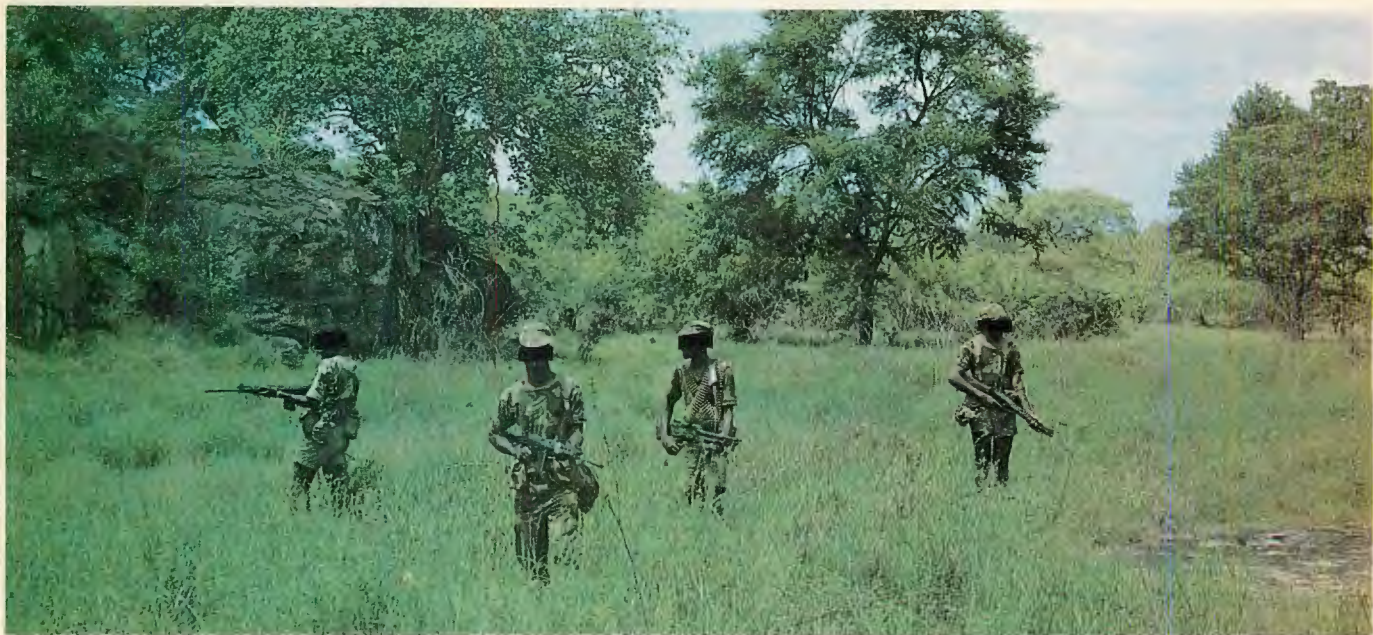
“Run the Bastards Down!”



A C.A.T.U. reaction stick and their Shangaan trackers await briefing prior to 360 degree sweep of area where *mujibas* (suspected terrorists or sympathizers) were sighted. Second trooper from left carries cut-down RPD.

Warrant Officer Mark Sparrow, right, briefs tracker stick while his father Ray looks on with a pair of Irish Wolfhounds, part of his personal security force.





Armed with FNs and MAG machine gun, a Shangaan tracker stick prepares to follow terr spoor near Mozambique border.



Though Tracker Unit personnel are drawn from several tribes, sticks are composed of men from the same tribal stock to avoid possible friction.



Order is maintained within residential compounds by a single military policeman. Though armed with only a nightstick, he is an effective peace officer — main breaches of camp discipline usually stem from brewing and drinking of native beer.

“Generally speaking, the primitive African has a natural instinct for tracking and is either a born hunter or has spent most of his life herding and tracking down livestock. This instinct has, however, got to be motivated and then married to common military tactics, and it is with this aim in mind that this unit has carefully formulated ways and means of promoting this important auxiliary of the Security Forces. Having said this, it cannot be emphasized enough that we should both understand and appreciate the primitive, voluntary nature of his service when dealing with him, and it is essential that we do not overwhelm him with sophisticated military regimentation.

“The tracker retains civilian status during service but is required to complete terms of service unless found unsuitable when he is returned to base. Trackers are under full Army regulations while on duty and carry an identity card which has a column on back for cash advances which are held to \$2 per week. Trackers do not expect special food on service but if available his traditional diet is utilized. The men are drawn from various tribes, and full sticks (six men) are made up of one tribal stock to avoid friction. Such sticks are employed only in areas of different tribal stock than their own to insure their affiliation doesn't dampen their zeal. Such trackers work harder to insure defeat of terrorists of other tribal affiliation and will be more difficult to compromise by identification. At any stage extreme care must be maintained to avoid compromising identity since this would cause removal from duty and risk that the supreme price of being termed a 'sell-out' would be a fatal consequence.”

Incentive bonuses are offered in addition to their normal high pay which must remain confidential. Bonuses are paid for confirmed terrorist (Charley Tangos) kills as a direct result of tracker's follow-up and for outstanding performance, e.g. exceptional follow-up, in which, despite the tracker's skill, the exercise resulted in no C.T. kills, contact or discovery of arms caches. Reports are filled out by the controller who assesses the tracker's performance at end of camp. These are analyzed by the Unit Commander and a payout is made on this basis according to government scale.

Tracker sticks number from six at full strength, to four with a stick leader, and under him a second in command. No rank structure exists in unit but the stick leader and his No. 2 are given corporal stripes. Trackers are normally used on three-day patrols to insure that one section of the team is at base at all times, rested, ready, and alert, so as to react instantly in emergencies. Since their main function is to follow and locate spoor, these men are not strongly trained or depended upon for combat or general soldiering, and once their efforts result in a contact they nor-



Top: Nearly completed dugout constructed in Tracker Unit residential compound for protection from mortar attacks. Bottom: Final touches are put on the dugout. When finished, structure will protect against all but heaviest direct hits.



mally fade into the background. However, these men, during their service, have become outstanding fighting men in many cases, with outstanding successes during contacts with Charley Tangos.

Two sections of three trackers each can be used with one European (white) serviceman as controller attached to each section. In this case, one tracker follows spoor and the others flank him for his protection and to cut for lost spoor. Three groups of two trackers each can be used with two European servicemen attached to each section. In such cases, one white is controller and the other assists in a flank-

ing role. These European controllers are men with close knowledge of both the bush and the African, his language, and customs. This vitally necessary close communication keeps efficiency from being lost. In addition, the controller must stay with his team so the trackers get to know, respect, and understand him. Trackers are also not employed for guard duty or "shotgun riding" except in extreme emergencies. Trackers are sometimes used in the role of interrogator after capture of suspected *mujibas* (terrorist sympathizers or collaborators) or terts, but controllers must keep a good grip on them to prevent cruelty or heavy-handedness caused by

tribal instincts. Trackers can also be used for clandestine purposes in tribal lands other than their own, if they volunteer and are given adequate protection from compromise and retribution.

Controllers must have the trackers' full confidence and feel free to discuss problems with them, whether personal or military in nature, to preclude an information gap. Likewise the controller should be aware of the primitive nature of his men and have their security and welfare first in his mind. He must insure that backup is available when contact is made and that trackers must not be used as "feelers" nor be allowed to wander off alone without support when a large 360 degrees is called for. Trackers quickly detect any falling back of protection units and this causes them to lose momentum on follow-ups. After a patrol, contact, or stand-down, the controller checks all weapons for safety to avoid accidents or compromises.

During a contact, the controller keeps a close check on his men so as to fade them out of the scene quickly. He insures that trackers are not used as general fire and movement forces since their training is not intense in this area and it subjects them to more risks than necessary, both of which could cost valuable trackers or lost Charley Tangos.

Endurance tracking, consisting of as much as 50 Ks in two days, brings bonuses, as does a foray into enemy territory or base camps. The tracker has an eye for camouflaged base camps, arms caches, etc., plus ability to detect abnormal demeanor of locals, which may indicate tension due to terr presence.

The following examples show the quality of Tracker Unit performance and the consequences of ignoring it. After a store in a Tribal Trust Land had been burnt by terts, the tracker stick took the trail at first light. It led into a wild bush area where a stolen grain bag was seen. The trackers warned a white trooper that it was suspicious, but the trooper failed to heed the warning and was blown to bits when he lifted the bag which was booby trapped.

A single tracker in the Northeast Operational area (Operation Hurricane) followed spoor from a recently planted TM 46 land mine 46 Ks to the Mozambique border which the terts crossed. Although the terts escaped, the tracker's ability resulted in the discovery of an arms cache with data and other materials.

In another case, a European male was abducted by terts, who also broke into a store and robbed a native beer hall. The European was stopped on a bush road in his car with his wife and child, who were released. The terts then took the trail, perhaps hoping to gain security by use of a hostage. At dawn a large reaction force, including helicopters and two trackers, took the trail towards Mozambique. When the spoor finally petered out

around 4 p.m., the terrorists had split into two groups, and the trackers had to decide which was the correct trail. At last light, they made contact, killing one Charley Tango. They continued the pursuit along a natural line of flight in the dark, spending several hours in the vicinity and finally hearing conversation, confirming the presence of terts. One tracker in the forefront confronted a group of terts and fired his FN, killing two *magandanga*. This hero was William, a cheery, confident Shangaan who regards his work more as sport than anything else. Although most of this terr group was rounded up in a series of follow-ups, tragically the hostage was murdered.

These Shangaan, Mashona, and Matabele trackers all live in a protected compound surrounded by high wire security fencing topped by barbed wire. Their village's layout is traditional with good-quality, beehive-thatched huts and such amenities as a recreation hall, toilet and bathing facilities. Their families live with the trackers, enjoying a pleasant traditional environment, the only way they can relate to military life. A military policeman (*Mporovoro*) keeps order with a stern demeanor and a night stick.

In late 1978, I twice took part in a small way with follow-up operations in which elements of the Tracker Unit were used near Mozambique. One was on the trail of a group of two *mujibas* who had approached native women and asked questions about white strength in the area and certain directions to a river. Both were unarmed, in their late teens and carried plastic sacks of food: typical *mujibas* or terrorist scouts, there to gather intelligence prior to an incursion. The women reported that they liaised with a hidden group of some 20 nearby, but the follow-up failed to support this and the spoor of the *mujibas* led into a nearby Tribal Trust Land where it was obliterated by cattle spoor.

A second operation involved the theft of white-owned cattle driven through a national park towards Mozambique. We followed through the park, a howling wilderness of elephants, buffalo, lion, and antelope of all species. The terts had a 12-hour head start and after retrieving 30 head out of 50 cattle, we left the final tracking to a stick of four who reported the trail led through a T.T.L., then crossed into Mozambique. The cattle would help stave off Mozambique's widespread food shortage, caused by a return of Tsetse fly and wholesale destruction of private agriculture since the departure of the Portuguese — this despite more than 80 percent of all Mozambique's privately owned land being black-owned since 1974.

I have seen enough to convince me that the Civilian African Tracker Unit is superior to anything the terts possess, and

indeed is one of Rhodesia's most effective "secret weapons."



Dwellings within the compound are constructed and arranged along traditional lines, in order to provide pleasant, familiar surroundings for trackers and their families.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

By M.L. Jones

Jack Lott has been a student of African affairs since the late 1950s when, as a hunter in Mozambique, he first became involved in Africa's decolonization upheavals. Since then he has served in the irregular military throughout tropical Africa. During the brief time of Moise Tshombe's Katanga presidency, he became involved in African right-wing politics and the anti-Marxist struggle in Katanga and the former Portuguese possessions, Mozambique and Angola, an involvement which later extended to Rhodesia and South Africa.

In 1978, Lott spent eight months in Rhodesia where he met W/O Mark Sparrow and his Civilian African Trackers Unit. During this time, he participated in two of the unit's operations, one of which included a sweep through the Gona-re-Zhou (Home of the Elephant) National Park, following the spoor of terrorist rustlers who were escaping toward Mozambique with 50 head of cattle.

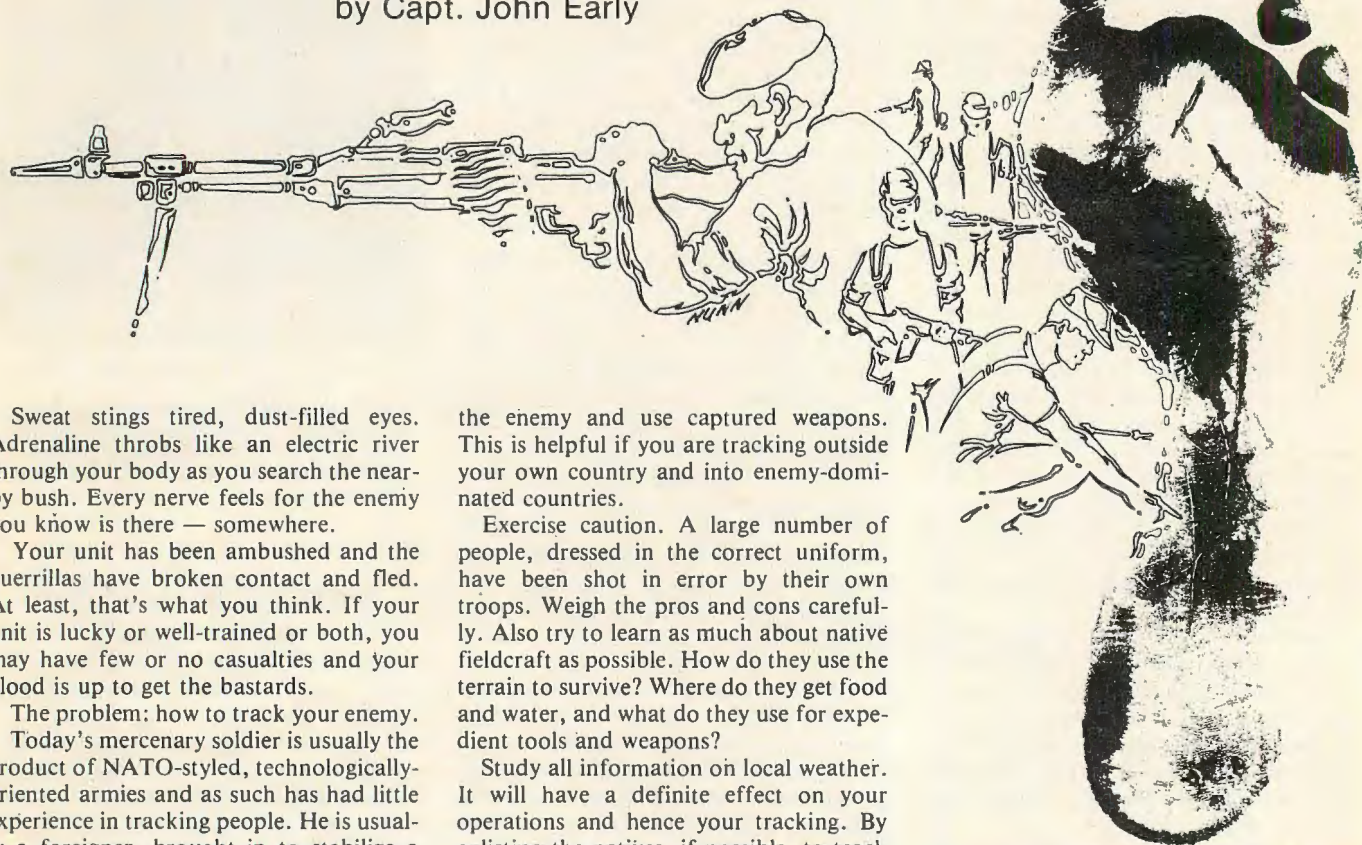
When not adventuring, Lott is a firearms writer and gunsmith. He has published in the *American Rifleman*, *Guns and Ammo*, *Guns, Hunting and Fishing*, and other national and international magazines. His interest in Africa incorporates history as well as current events, and his library includes many first editions of African texts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



COMBAT TRACKING TECHNIQUES

How To Track Your Enemy

by Capt. John Early



Sweat stings tired, dust-filled eyes. Adrenaline throbs like an electric river through your body as you search the near-by bush. Every nerve feels for the enemy you know is there — somewhere.

Your unit has been ambushed and the guerrillas have broken contact and fled. At least, that's what you think. If your unit is lucky or well-trained or both, you may have few or no casualties and your blood is up to get the bastards.

The problem: how to track your enemy.

Today's mercenary soldier is usually the product of NATO-styled, technologically-oriented armies and as such has had little experience in tracking people. He is usually a foreigner, brought in to stabilize a desperate situation or to bail out some well-heeled bigwig, and is operating on strange terrain, under difficult conditions with marginal troops.

Perhaps you should think back to a few months earlier when you first began this operation and let's assume you are operating on a fairly long-term contract.

Your first concern is the terrain. You can't track in it, if you don't have a rudimentary knowledge of the lay of the land. Prior to operating in the area, you should, ideally, have spent a few days acclimating your troops, if they are not local boys. During this period, thorough map studies with available maps, air photos, and even touring guides can be helpful. Extract detailed briefings from the local police, military officials, and population. Talk to local farmers, natives, anyone who has been in the area in which you will be operating.

Your equipment should be organized during this period as well, and any remedial training necessary conducted. Pay special attention to camouflage. Secure all your gear, discard the inessentials, and inspect the troops for the same. Carry food, water, and ammunition and go as light as possible. Some trackers dress like

the enemy and use captured weapons. This is helpful if you are tracking outside your own country and into enemy-dominated countries.

Exercise caution. A large number of people, dressed in the correct uniform, have been shot in error by their own troops. Weigh the pros and cons carefully. Also try to learn as much about native fieldcraft as possible. How do they use the terrain to survive? Where do they get food and water, and what do they use for expedient tools and weapons?

Study all information on local weather. It will have a definite effect on your operations and hence your tracking. By enlisting the natives, if possible, to teach you about local vegetation, you will gain excellent survival information which may help you make decisions as to enemy movements. If he is far from his supply bases, he will attempt to live off the land to sustain or even expand his operations, especially if native assistance is denied him.

However, do not assume that the enemy is an excellent bushman just because he is indigenous to that continent. In Rhodesia, Angola, and Mozambique, terrorists have been found wandering, lost and starving, because they were also strangers.

My tracking instructor in Selous Scouts once related that he could track and live most anywhere but that his effectiveness would be greatly reduced outside his native area and consequently his confidence in his ability would suffer. And he was considered to be the best tracker in Rhodesia. If you know the ground and are comfortable in it, you already have a 30 percent edge on the enemy.

Also, during your terrain study, note native customs and attempt to learn some of the language and folklore. This takes time and effort and on short-term jobs will be nearly impossible, but if you have the time, it will pay big dividends. It may

give you the necessary edge to come out of the next contact as the "champ" rather than the "chump."

Glean as much information as possible about animal wildlife in the area. It will be invaluable in tracking and if your next supply column is ambushed or the quartermaster sells it and retires to the south of France you can still feed your troops.

KNOW THE ENEMY

Secondly, know your enemy. The better you understand him, his motives, aspirations, traits, habits, tactics, and attitudes, the greater your tactical edge on him. As a result, you will be able to run him to ground sooner. Once you understand the enemy, your task will become much easier.

If possible, keep notes on tactics employed against your unit and other police and para-military groups. Look for patterns of the enemy in general and specific commanders in particular. Watch his standard operating procedures and record his responses to your tactics. Intelligence is usually extremely limited to a mercenary, so be your own S-2. Absorb every piece of information available to you.

Now that you have some idea as to the enemy and the situation, you may investigate the feasibility of using native trackers. Seek out local authorities as to who the headman, local chief or *Kraal* head is and his location. Then with one of the officials, who is known to the chief, approach him for the assistance of the most reliable, efficient trackers in the area. You may have difficulty since he may be in sympathy with the guerrillas or just plain scared. Allay his fears if possible, and be prepared to offer top wages and protection for the trackers and their families. This is the only way to assure some semblance of loyalty. Investigate any native male of military age who might be seeking revenge against the terrorists. Use this to your advantage.

When dealing with native troops, be firm, fair, and honest. Be friendly but not familiar and treat them with respect and accord them the dignity due their station in the tribe. Treat them well but not lavishly. Make sure they understand exactly what is expected of them and guide them adequately in the field. Never assume anything and always be decisive. Never promise them anything unless you can deliver immediately and never lie to them. In many situations only mutual trust and respect will keep them loyal to you.

Once you have employed your trackers, you may be puzzled as to how to gauge their effectiveness. Probably the most positive way is to see how often they track into contact. If they are constantly being fired on first, then your troops are only marginal types. Good trackers will be able to tell how far ahead the enemy is and alert you to this fact so you can request air cover or more follow-up troops to reinforce your patrol.

One of the premier trackers in Rhodesia, an African NCO in Selous Scouts, has personally tracked into and killed 80-plus terrorists since the war began. What is even more remarkable and clearly demonstrates his prowess is the fact that he has tracked and located twice that number of terrorists without the enemy realizing his presence until the follow-up troops attacked. He is so valuable that he is now responsible for training tracking personnel for the entire Rhodesian Army and is only called out when specific terrorist commanders are suspected of operating in the area.

This article has been written to help you if you wish to become a better tracker or to know enough to properly employ and command tracking teams. This knowledge will not make you a tracker: Only practice, practice, and more practice, under expert supervision, will do that.

HOW TO TRACK

Now, for the most important aspect: How to track. First, psychologically and physically prepare for the hunt. You

should be in good physical condition with excellent reserves of stamina, alert, reasonably well fed and above all confident in yourself and your men. You may be forced to travel for days under adverse conditions, without food and with little water, at a fast pace and under tremendous mental stress. Tracking requires intense concentration, stamina and an eye for detail.

Secondly, you must know what to look for when reading spoor (tracks). When you begin tracking, try sporing large groups in easy terrain for short distances. Usually soft ground with knee-high grass is best. Send out three or four people with instructions to walk for about five to 10 minutes, depending on the bush growth, and then rest until you find them. Your attention span at first will be short and you will tend to discourage quickly. You will lose the spoor often, but don't worry. No one is a born bushman. Be patient and concentrate on the spoor. As you become more aware of what to look for, the legs of spoor can be lengthened until your spoor layers are given a 30-minute head start. This can be extended to hours until they are laying spoor in the morning and you are tracking later in the day.

As you are tracking, look for evidence of disturbed grass; bent blades will reveal the direction of travel. The top of the grass will point in the direction the person is walking. If the enemy has passed through after sunrise the dew will be disturbed and a faint darkened area will reveal his trail. Watch for broken spider webs or cobwebs. When examining spoor always keep your head slightly up and look 15 to 20 yards ahead of you. It will enable you to see the spoor better, determine the direction of movement, and keep alert for likely ambush areas. If the terrorist knows or suspects he is being followed, he will try to set you up.

Be alert, patient, and careful. Watch for rocks that have been overturned. The dark side will be up or you will see the impression on the ground where it once rested. Although mid-day heat will dry the rock quickly, it tells you the terrorist is only hours ahead of you. If you find it in the morning, then he has been moving prior to sunrise. The darker and wetter the rock, the closer your quarry.

Much of tracking means noting what is out of context in nature and realizing the cause. Move from sign to sign and always be sure of your last confirmed sign before you move on to the next. There are, of course, the obvious: footprints in the mud near streams and water holes and along sandy rivers; leaves on plants that have been broken, knocked off, or turned so that the light underside contrasts with the surroundings; scuffed tree bark or mud scraped from passing boots and the impression of rifle butts being used as crutches or canes up steep slopes. Of course, there is the old favorite, blood on the

vegetation and trail.

Watch for discarded ration packages, food tins, and even dropped or discarded documents. U.S. troops in Vietnam were easily tracked, not by recently cut jungle foliage but by their inevitable trail of Kool-Aid packages. Once you have identified the spoor, try to identify the type of foot gear. Often different guerrilla groups wear different type boots. Terrorists in Rhodesia have been killed and captured carrying two or three types of shoes and wearing two or three shirts and pants, at the same time! Make sure the print is not one of your own people or security forces and keep a record of the different type prints you encounter. Plaster impressions, drawings, photos or even a copy of the soles themselves should be on record with local intelligence people. The Rhodesians and South Africans make copies of all terrorist footwear and distribute these drawings to the local population. Village police, hunters, and farmers walking in the bush have often discovered the trail of terrorist gangs who have crossed from Zambia or Mozambique and have alerted the security forces.

The depth and space of the tracks will also tell you something about your foe. Women take smaller steps, as do heavily laden men. People running will leave more space between tracks and men walking in each other's tracks will make deeper impressions. Also, they will cause the edges of the tracks to be less distinct. Drag marks could indicate wounded. Once you have identified your particular track, follow it even if the group splits. Sometimes guerrillas will split up or bombshell, until you are left following one set of tracks.

TRACKING TEAMS

If you have the personnel, you can assign tracking teams to each set of tracks. If not, pick one and run him to ground, then pick another. Try to stay with the main body, if possible. You may get lucky and nail the commander or political officer or you may end up following the spoor to the RV point where you can ambush the entire gang.

Sunlight will also have some effect on reading spoor. If you are tracking into the sun and are experiencing difficulty in seeing the sign, look back over your shoulder every few yards to confirm your spoor. Never walk on your spoor and caution the follow-up troops behind you also to walk to one side of the tracks.

If you lose the spoor, it is imperative that you go back to the last positive sign, confirm it, and then begin a search pattern to relocate the tracks. Watch for the absence of insects or wildlife. Most wild creatures are shy of man and will seek shelter if he has been in the area. Birds are great indicators of men as are baboon, impala, and many types of deer. Listen for animals snorting or running and note the

direction. Something is there.

If you lose the trail, there are a number of search patterns used to relocate spoor. The most common are the cross grain, the box search and the 360-degree sweep. Go back to the last positive spoor and mark it. Then look up to about 25 to 30 meters in front of you and sweep from center to left out about to 45 degrees and then sweep back to center. Repeat the process to the right, each time coming back to your feet and the last confirmed spoor. Look carefully and slowly and most times you will pick up the spoor again.

If not, brief the troop commander to alert his men to the fact that your trackers will be circling to the front and flanks and possibly to the rear.

CROSS GRAIN METHOD

To use the cross grain method the tracker moves laterally from the spoor either left or right about 100 meters and then doubles back toward his original line of march. Each time he turns, the tracker should advance about 50 to 75 meters forward before doubling back. (See the accompanying diagram.)

If you have moved approximately 500 meters ahead of the last spoor and still cannot find the tracks, resort to the 360-degree method, gradually expanding your circle until you find your spoor.

360-DEGREE METHOD

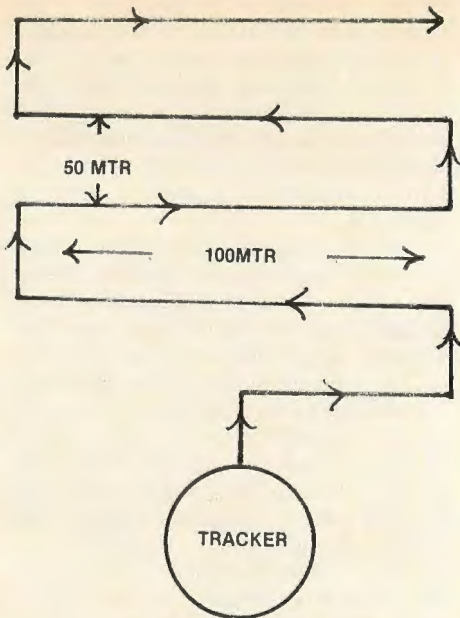
In the 360-degree method, the tracker makes ever increasing circles from his last confirmed tracks back to his point of origin. When you lose spoor, be patient and keep looking. Some trackers have been known to circle as far as five kilometers from the last confirmed spoor until they cut the trail of their prey. (See accompanying diagram.)

BOX METHOD

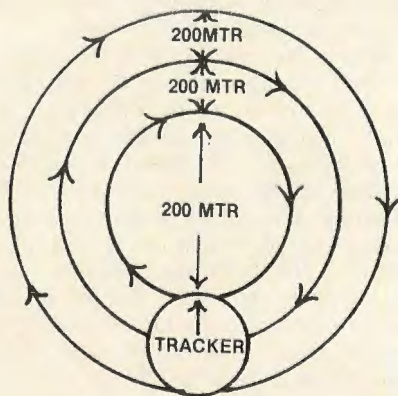
Sometimes used is the box method of search in which each half of the area is boxed off and examined on the two sides of the spoor. This time-consuming method is confusing and is not frequently used today. (See accompanying diagram.)

Another important point is to determine the age of the spoor and the number of personnel involved. To determine age, note the way in which vegetation is disturbed. Grass blades will remain green for about a day after being broken. Prints in mud will usually take about an hour to fill with water, depending on the amount of moisture in the earth. Disturbed dew drops on grass and plants will indicate passage of something within the last few hours. Dew usually stays on for about four hours after sunrise. Overturned rocks take a couple of hours to dry in direct sun. Cobwebs and spider webs usually take about an hour to be replaced by the insects.

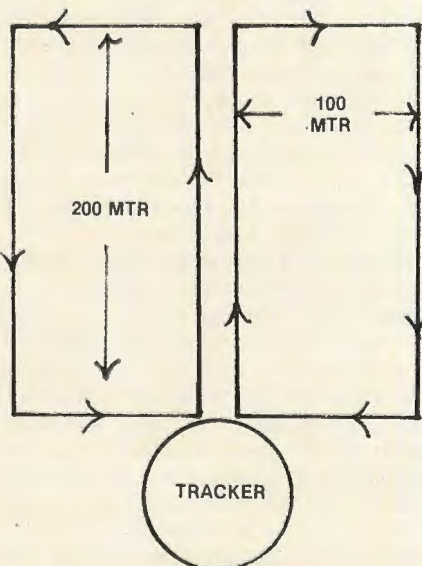
Rain can also be used to your advantage to indicate age of spoor. If you know the last time it rained in the area, you can tell how old tracks are. Animal prints super-



CROSS GRAIN METHOD



360 DEGREE METHOD



BOX METHOD

imposed on the spoor will tell you that the spoor was made prior to nightfall, since most animals move at night. The reverse is applicable. If you see the spoor on the animal prints, the spoor was made sometime after sunrise.

Broken twigs and vines are also good gauges of time since it requires about 10 hours for the pulp inside to begin to turn brown. If you discover a resting area, check the campfire's heat. Look for cigarette butts, ration tins, documents, letters, or diaries. If your terrorist is communist oriented, he will usually be carrying a diary. Look for human feces near the camp. Interrogate all the locals you meet. They may be hiding the guerrillas, feeding them, or know where they are camped. The trail itself can be used to tell age. If it is erratic or circuitous, your enemy may be walking in the dark.

U.S. RANGER AND AFRICAN COUNTS

The second most important factor is the number of people you are tracking. There are two methods I have seen used. The first is taught to Special Forces and Ranger graduates and is used by the U.S. Army; the other is popular with Rhodesian and South African Defense Forces. In the U.S. method, take the length of an average pace and measure it on the ground next to the tracks. Now lay out a space about 18 inches wide across the tracks so that the prints are enclosed in a box that is 36 inches by 18 inches. Count all the whole and partial prints in this box and then divide by a constant of two. If you count 10 prints inside the box, your answer is five people.

The Rhodesian method uses the length of the FN rifle or G-3 rifle and the same 18 inch width. Using this method, count only the *whole* prints you see inside the box. If the answer is four or less, that is what you report to the team leader or headquarters. If the answer is five prints, then add two to the number and report that number. If you read six, add two and report eight. This is a safety factor that seems to be right most of the time.

Should you discover a resting place, count the places on the ground and no matter what the number, add two and report that number. Should you be operating more conventionally, call in periodic tracking reports to your headquarters. These can be plotted on a map and a general pattern determined. It will also allow different terrorist groups to be plotted together to determine if this is some sort of coordinated action. It will also establish what routes are being used to funnel enemy troops into and out of the area.

A sample of a tracking report might follow the following format. Use the code word NDAT. First give your location using the standard military grid system. The "N" is the *number* you believe to be in the

enemy unit as determined by your print count. "D" is the general direction of spoor expressed by magnetic bearing. "A" is age of spoor, if possible. And "T" equals type of spoor followed, boots, shoes, bare feet, etc.

TRACKING TEAMS

Next, let's discuss tracking team assignments and duties. First, the team leader: He is responsible for the control of the team and all follow-up troops until the time of contact, when control of the follow-up units reverts to the ground commander. Once the trackers have found the enemy, conventional tactics can be used to close with and kill him. The team leader relays information to the CO follow-up troops and the next higher headquarters. He is responsible for briefing the troops in the team operation and what duties he will expect of the ground follow-up unit. On contact, he extracts the team, if possible, and allows the infantry to engage the enemy. Trackers are too valuable to risk in a fire fight and should not engage unless there is a serious manpower shortage. He is also the tail gunner, if the team is working alone.

The tracker: He is responsible for reading the spoor and interpreting it to the team leader.

The flankers: These two men, who are also trained trackers, are responsible for the forward and flank security of the tracker. As the tracker becomes fatigued, they rotate duties with him so that all the trackers remain fresh and alert. The team leader does not pull tracker or flanker duty. The flanker's function is most important; he will probably see and engage the enemy first. He must be alert and ready for instant action.

Follow-up troops: These men are under the control of the team leader until contact is made or the enemy pointed out to the CO of the follow-up unit. Follow-up troops should be in close proximity to the trackers, although reinforcements can be vehicle or airborne and on call.

RULES

Now for general rules concerning tracking teams:

1. All members of the tracking team should be trained, experienced trackers.
2. Four men seems to be the best number for team size.
3. If possible, never separate a team once formed. Teamwork saves lives and gets results.
4. Get the trackers on the spoor as soon as possible.
5. Once the tracking team commander is on the ground, be he private, lance corporal or general, he is in charge. More tracking scenes have been blown by operations-room signal officers and helicopter pilots with Napoleon complexes than I can count. Until contact with the enemy is made or

spoor is lost, the team leader is *boss!* If this rule cannot be adhered to, have no qualms about packing up and going home.

6. Rotate tracker and flanker often. Tracking requires exacting concentration and the pressure is terrific. The team leader should watch for these signs always.

7. When operating, use hand signals at all times. If you must confer, take cover and whisper. You can devise your own signals but use the same ones consistently.

8. Rest your teams as often as possible. Once on the spoor, they may be forced to travel for days. Tired people make mistakes.

9. If a general pattern is discernible by the intel chaps, you may wish to try to leap-frog to get ahead of the guerrillas. While one team is tracking, have another check a few kilometers ahead for the same spoor. If found, up-lift your team and continue the trail there. Use this technique carefully and don't try to hurry.

10. If you have the teams, you can saturate the area being tracked. This requires very careful coordination.

Just about all standard infantry tactics apply to tracking teams with the exception of the crossing of obstacles such as rivers, streams, roads, trails, or rail lines. Instead of the flankers crossing to recon the other

side and then calling the rest of the unit over, the team, after carefully observing the far side, crosses together under the cover of the follow-up troops. This is done to keep any spoor on the other side intact and undisturbed. The risk imposed upon the team by use of this tactic is less important than staying on the tracks of what could prove to be an important guerrilla leader.

FORMATIONS

The standard tracking formation is Y shaped, with the flankers forming the open legs of the Y and the tracker at the junction, with the team leader directly behind him. The team leader remains about five meters behind the tracker, and the flankers remain forward of the tracker and to the side as much as terrain and vegetation will allow. (See diagram 4.)

Continued on page 78

Diagram 5

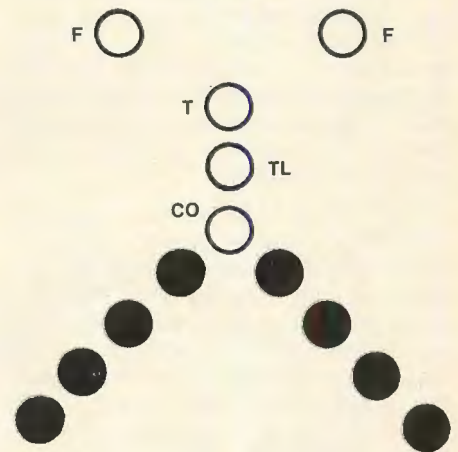
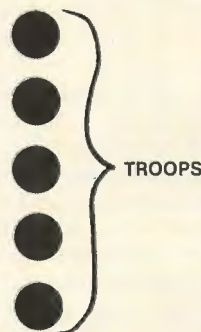
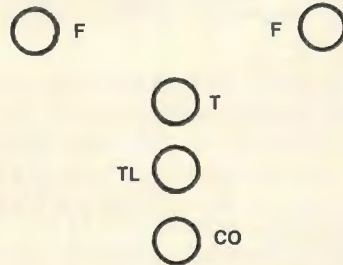
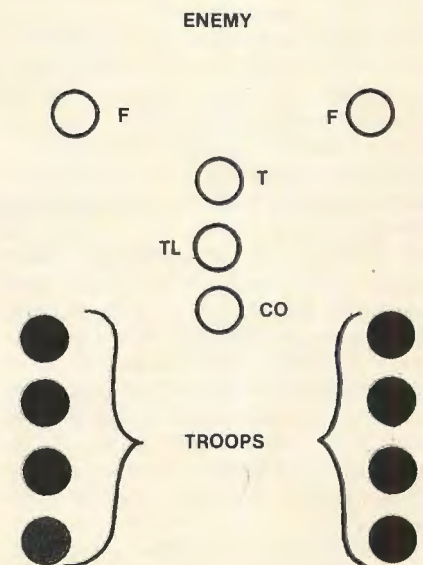


Diagram 4



F — Flanker
T — Tracker
TL — Team Leader
CO — Commander

Diagram 6



TURN A FEW GOOD BOYS INTO A FEW GOOD MEN

SOF Staff Visits Marine Military Academy

by N.E. MacDougald

Cleanheaded strag young men in starched and parched utilities march by in tight formation. A cadet in the rear breaks rank; is scolded by an ever-present D.I. and given 15 pushups, which the youth counts out loud and clear. It's difficult to tell whether the lads are all closely shaved or are too young for whiskers. As someone who attended a military school over 20 years ago, I viewed the scene with special interest. I was impressed. Impressed enough to find out more about this small private school located next to Confederate Air Force HQ, Harlingen, Texas (see March '79 SOF).

Public affairs director Tom Segel, retired Marine master gunnery sergeant, loves his job. He never came right out and said it: he didn't have to. Most PR types can be spotted from a distance by their energetic hype, but Segel didn't try to *sell* MMA, he was simply so damn proud of it that he bragged like a new father.

Conceived in 1962 by a group of former and retired Marines, MMA was founded in September 1965. From that first class of 58 young men (not boys), MMA has burgeoned to a present class of 327. Its founders wanted MMA to be "a living memorial to the U.S. Marine Corps and to the Marines who have fought and died in its service." I think they accomplished their mission, and then some.

MMA's philosophy emphasizes fundamental education: a no-frills approach. Trendy subjects that prevail in some public schools, such as science fiction 1A or sex education, are scoffed at by MMA. Leadership, discipline, honesty, honor, enterprise, and patriotism are taught and rewarded daily.

Discipline, a by-word, abounds. While walking about the 142-acre campus, one can almost always find a cadet shouting out pushups. Although corporal punishment is forbidden, a drill instructor (all of whom are retired Marine DIs) barking two inches from a cadet's face usually gets the point across. And if the cadet can't or won't adjust, he won't be invited back the following term. But that is rare; 83 percent re-enroll.

Cadets are formed into five companies. "Life within these companies not only prepares the cadet for manhood, but also becomes the cornerstone for academic



Cadets run MMA obstacle course. Rigorous physical training is continuous. Cadets are not juvenile delinquents or problem children, in fact, MMA has a waiting list.

achievements," states an MMA brochure. In fact, academic and military discipline are so interwoven as to be inseparable.

In 1966, the Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program was formally established. MMA has since been designated a Naval Honor School, with the privilege of nominating candidates for service academy appointment, and has been selected by the Naval Academy Foundation as a school where Annapolis candidates may be sent for postgraduate work. MMA grads have earned 80 appointments to U.S. service academies. And 98 percent of those in the postgraduate program have completed the academy academic program and received appointments to service academies. Fully 95 percent of the graduates have been admitted to the college or university of their choice. And 100 percent of the seniors who applied received college scholarships. An enviable record for any college prep school, let alone one that most people have not heard of.

Part of the Marine JROTC program includes a detailed annual inspection from active duty Marine Inspector General staff members. These I.G. staffers have con-

sistently rated MMA "noteworthy" in performance of drill, leadership, drill team, band, knowledge of weapons, community relations, morale, discipline, courtesy, and parades. "Noteworthy" rating is I.G. staff's highest rating.

These outstanding accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. The *Wall Street Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times* have featured MMA. But MMA's best public relations comes from the oldest advertising firm in the world: W.O.M. That's right, word of mouth. Cadets impress most people as polite, patriotic, courteous young men. And that, after all, is where judgment should be made, by the cadets' behavior.

As the enthusiastic Segel relighted his briar for the umpteenth time, our growling stomachs postponed MMA's string of accolades. We dined in the cadet mess, where I must admit the chow was tastier than expected. The cadets knew who we SOF types were, but never stared nor approached us, although we found out later they would have loved to have met SOF's Publisher.



All cadets have opportunity to develop equestrian skills. MMA Mounted Detachment's patterned after the Horse Marines which were disbanded shortly before WWII.



Marine Lieutenant General George S. Bowman (Ret.) inspects 7th and 8th grade cadets.

We then toured the palm-bordered campus and thought its planners had done an excellent job converting the former air base to a military school. The Olympic outdoor pool seemed particularly inviting on this torpid day. As we walked, it occurred to me that MMA's retired Marines still wore their uniforms. I was informed that MMA staff had a special dispensation from the Corps for such an irregularity.

When we returned to Segel's office, we were given copies of *The MMA Journal*, a surprisingly slick four-color school magazine. Articles were well-written and creatively laid out. Content centered round the varied backgrounds of MMA's staff, teachers, and cadets. Cadets' hobbies were showcased; a four-day orientation visit to Quantico was chronicled; plans were discussed of a weapons collection for the future MMA museum; and one article featured two MMA staff members written up in *Who's Who*. Advertising was mostly local fare.

These ads led me to thinking about who funded the school. I asked Segel and he began by saying flat out that MMA receives no federal or state funds because, "Once you accept their money, they begin telling you how to run your business." Most funding is private and scholarships are common. Tuition runs about \$3,700 a year, but total cost usually hovers round \$4,200. MMA is accredited by the Texas Education Agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest.

Courses stress the three Rs, but one course made me wish I was a lad again. MMA's aerospace program allows a cadet to earn a private pilot's license in the school's two-seater Cessna. Many science courses use standard college texts and reference works. No wonder the cadets rarely get into trouble; they don't have time.



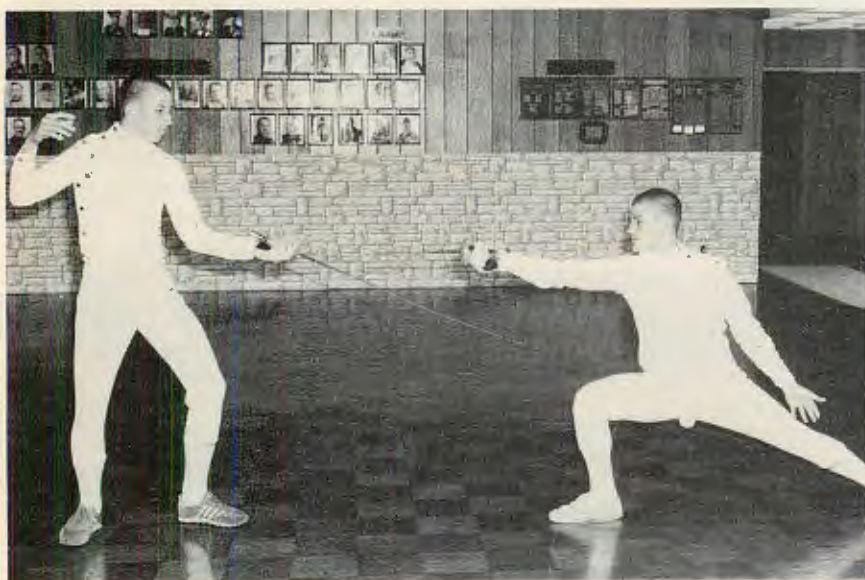
Physical contact sports are popular and encouraged. MMA teams have won numerous state championships during the past few years, are always contenders.



Cadet Battalion formation in Class "A" blues. Cost of uniforms and accessories cost is \$345. Tuition runs \$3750; per year; includes board and room, medical service, laundry and haircuts.



Shoot *that* commie. Small-bore rifle team gets individual instruction.



Out to lunge. MMA's fencing team practices.



Airborne Garrands highlight complex drill routine.

I asked Segel about the possibility of female cadets in the future. He said the logistics problems made it economically unsound. And besides it really didn't fit in with the program. The IRS had apparently hinted that MMA might lose their tax-exempt status if they didn't attempt to recruit women, so Segel had "*We support the Equal Opportunity Program*" printed on all outgoing forms. Fact is, students come from 42 states and 14 countries.

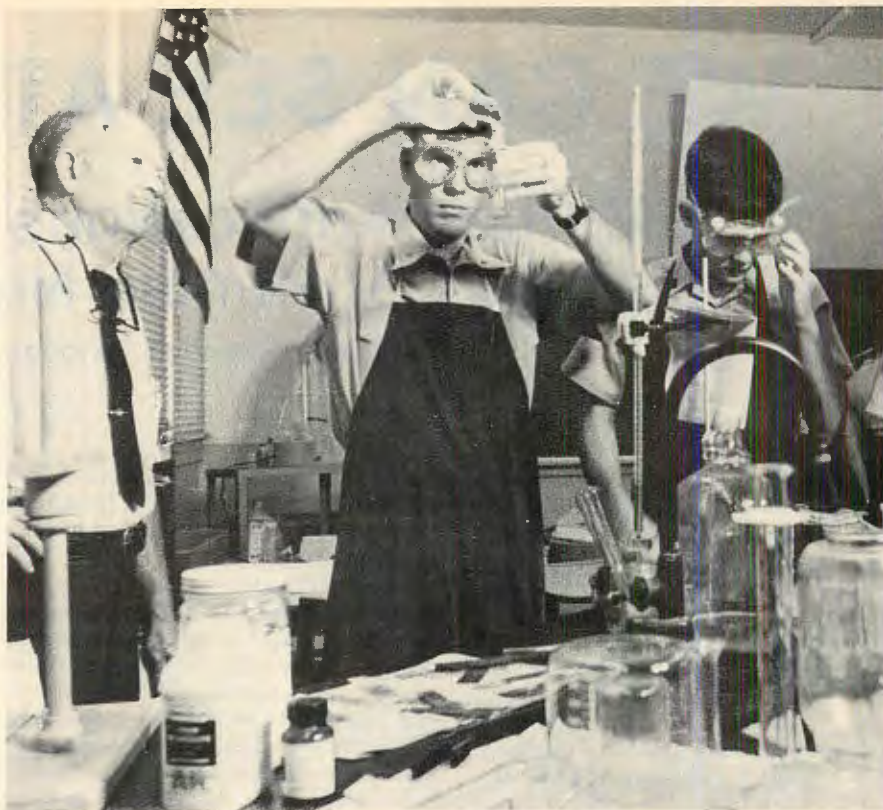
By now I was impressed with MMA's approach to education. I asked for the secret to success and Segel responded, "Our school works. Our kids test 28 points higher on the Scholastic Aptitude Test; they're physically fit, polite, and attend church as part of their training. In 1946, there were approximately 400 military schools in the U.S.; in 1979 there are less than 50."

"Apparently the '60s took their toll of military schools. The Vietnam war and its opposition scared a great many people into pulling their kids out of these schools. The schools, worried about attrition, began loosening discipline: uniforms were worn only during the day, hair could be worn longer — in short, the very essence of a military school was watered down. These schools were then too harsh to be prep schools and too permissive to be effective military schools. They went belly-up.

At this point, I feel compelled to ask and to answer a difficult question: if I had a son, would I want him to attend MMA? Assuming he wanted to attend (MMA won't accept a student who does not), I would have to say yes. Notwithstanding the military aspect, MMA is a damn fine educational institution. And what impressed me most was the consistency of the environment. Most parents' discipline changes with their moods. Some parents use a child as a buffer, some children play parent against parent: the dysfunctional games parents and children play are well known. And that is one reason MMA is a fine place for a young man. A cadet knows that if he does well, he will be commensurately rewarded, if he misbehaves, those rewards will be withheld. Nothing more, nothing less.

Those familiar with learning theory know what I'm getting at. Whatever else a parent is, he or she must be consistent. To act otherwise is to raise a confused or damaged child.

So consider MMA if you are looking for an alternative to public school, where, as editor McColl puts it, "They teach treason." MMA now has a type of get-acquainted-offer: Summer Military Training Camp. Designed for boys 13 to 16, this summer camp lasts two weeks and gives school and young man a chance to look at each other. Write Thomas Segel, MMA, 320 Iwo Jima Blvd., Harlingen, TX 78550.



Scholastic excellence, as much a part of MMA as military discipline, is superb — cadets score 28 points higher on Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) than national average.



Graduation 1978. Maj. General George S. Bowman, Jr. (Ret.), joins cadets in flying saucer formation because he was retiring as superintendent that year.

WE CAN SEE AT NIGHT

Military Applications of the Physiology of Human Night Vision

by Capt. Donald C. Skipper

This article is reprinted, with permission, from the November-December 1978 issue of Infantry, The Professional Magazine for Infantrymen. The author is assigned to the Office of Armor Force Management at the U.S. Army Armor Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

If our soldiers are to operate effectively at night, they must be able to see at night. In the past we have relied on active white or infrared (IR) light sources to illuminate the battlefield. But if we do so on today's battlefield we will only present good targets to an enemy, an action that could lead to our destruction. There is little question that an enemy force can pick up an active light source, however small, and can bring fires to bear on that source and

on the positions around and about it. Recent and comprehensive night firing tests at Fort Knox, Kentucky, conclusively demonstrated that fact.

And while modern technology has provided an answer to this problem by developing such image intensification devices as the AN/PVS-5 night vision goggles, which provide excellent night vision capabilities without an active light source, the high cost of those devices will probably keep them from being issued to every infantryman. Accordingly, most of our soldiers will have to live and fight at night without the benefits of modern technology. In short, they will have to depend on their eyes alone to get about in darkness.

Unfortunately, most soldiers, because they are unfamiliar with operating in darkness, experience fear when they are required to conduct such operations without any kind of external aid. Many of them do not know how to properly adjust their eyes for night vision, and this, coupled with the soldiers' innate fear of night operations, makes them wary of going on after it is dark.

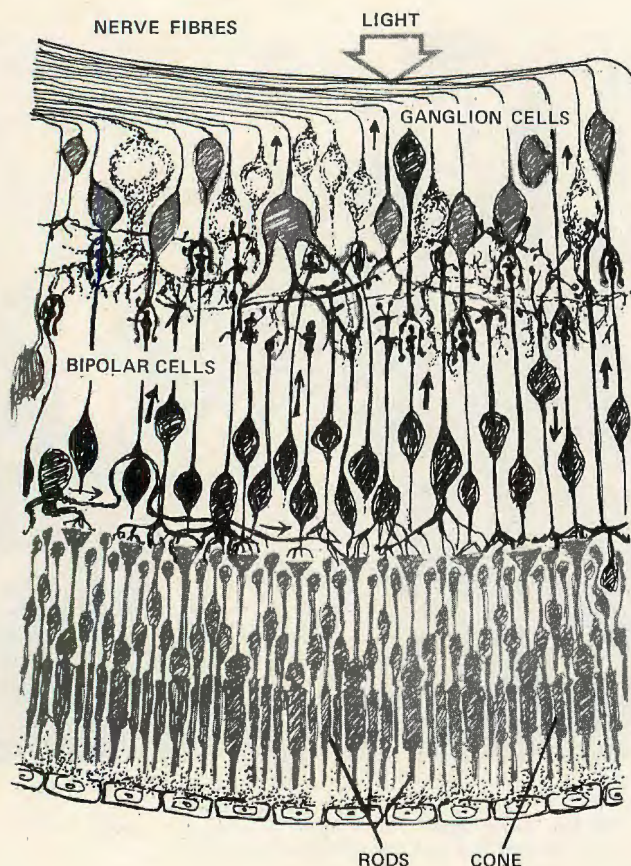
There are a number of physiological differences between day and night vision. For example, there are two different kinds of light sensitive nerve endings in our eyes — cones and rods.

Millions of cones can be found concentrated in the center of the back of each eye. The rods, of which there are also millions in each eye, can be found in rings around the concentrations of cones. Generally speaking, the cones are used for daytime vision, the rods for night vision. As the sun sets and the sky gets darker, the cones do less and less "seeing" until, finally, the rods do all the work. Once working at their peak efficiency the rods can detect light that is only 1/5,000 as intense as the light level at the point where the cones cease to function.

ADAPTATION

The best way soldiers can adapt their eyes for night vision is to wear goggles with red-tinted lenses for at least 30 minutes before darkness. This activates the rods so that when darkness sets in their eyes will be ready for the real thing. Once adapted, though, any exposure to white light — as little as the flare of a match or the shine of a flashlight — can seriously interfere with their night vision and require them to repeat the adaptation process.

If they cannot avoid exposure to white light, soldiers can take certain precautionary measures to preserve their night vision. Because the eyes when they are being adapted for night vision work independently of each other, if a soldier must look at a bright light after his eyes have been adapted, he should use only one eye to look and should keep the other one shut or covered to preserve its adaptation to darkness. Thus, if he is subjected to such light sources as flares, searchlights, or muzzle flashes, he can maintain at least



Night vision technique must incorporate off-center gazing to utilize highly light-sensitive rods, which encircle less sensitive cones located in center area at back of eye.

some of his night vision by closing one eye. When that eye is reopened in darkness, he will be able to see with it while his other eye readapts to the darkness.

Darkness adaptation is just the beginning. To see an object at night the soldier must learn to look to one side of the suspected location of an object. If he looks directly at an object at night, chances are that he will not see it. Night vision is impossible at the center of the eye simply because a central blind spot of 5 to 10 degrees exists for each eye.

To compensate for this blind spot, the soldier must practice a technique known as "off-center vision." To see an object, he must look at least 10 degrees above, below, or to the left or right of the object. This allows the field of vision of one eye to compensate for the blind spot of the other and lets him see the object.

Once he acquires the object through the use of off-center vision, however, if he views it for more than two or three seconds the image will probably tend to fade out into a solid background. This fade-out occurs because the rods tire quickly and are efficient for only short periods of time. Thus, the soldier should shift his eyes from one off-center point to another, a scanning technique that should allow him to keep the acquired object in his peripheral field of vision at all times.

OTHER FACTORS

Several other factors influence a soldier's ability to see at night and he must consider them before he takes part in night operations. Both smoking and alcohol, for example, are detrimental to his visual acuity at night. Smoking reduces it and slows the darkness adaptation process dramatically, while even small amounts of alcohol can cause a marked reduction in his visual sensitivity and can cause his scanning techniques to become more disorganized.

Fatigue also impairs night vision and, as the degree of fatigue increases, a soldier's ability to apply proper scanning techniques decreases. Consequently, his night vision capability also decreases. The only way a soldier can combat fatigue is to be physically fit. Daily physical training, therefore, will help him build his physical endurance and this can assist him in combating fatigue.

Another thing that can influence night vision is food. A proper diet is essential in achieving and maintaining good night vision. Old tales to the contrary, lots of carrots will not give a soldier the night vision of an owl. But a balanced diet that provides him an adequate amount of vitamin A can improve his night vision capability.

There is, of course, no magic potion for seeing in the dark. Until image intensification devices can be made available to every soldier, the application of the techniques discussed above can help overcome the soldier's fear of the unknown and his sense of helplessness in the dark. This will make him a better night fighter.

By Special Arrangement SOF Africa Correspondent brings readers a piece of the Action from the War Fronts of Southern Africa



Al J. Venter, Africa and Military correspondent for *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* has reached an accord with one of the best known distributors of militaria in the United States; *Lancer Militaria* to supply specialist items from Southern African operational areas for American collectors.

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There are only 200 complete sets of these plaques in all of the United States but they can be bought singly for \$19.95 each.

The girl is not part of the deal!

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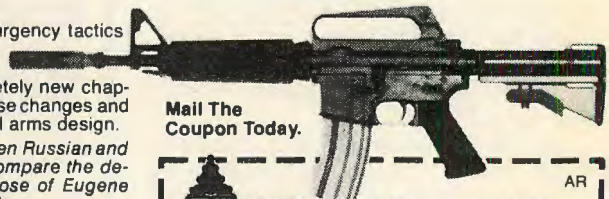
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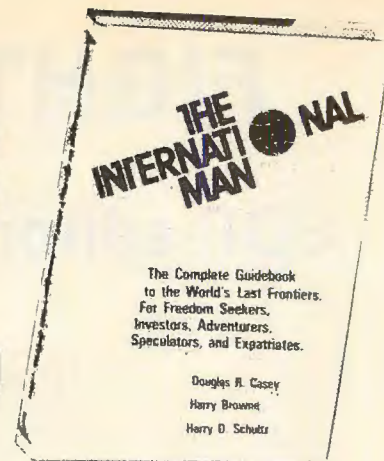
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FIGHTING FOR KEEPS

SOF editor stresses realism in training

by M.L. Jones

Rafael Lima, SOF's new martial arts editor, holds a black belt in *Shito Ryu* karate and was Florida's Golden Gloves middleweight champion in the open division from 1976 to 1978. Lima has developed a new style of combat fighting that combines boxing with karate. He calls it composite martial arts or total combat.

Lima's style uses elements of karate, kung fu, kick boxing, wrestling, judo, and *Aikido* — in short, anything that is logical, effective, and practical for use in total combat.

"My style," he says, "does not eliminate techniques arbitrarily. If something works it works. Whether it's a hooking punch or a jab or a knee, I'll use it if it is effective. That is the theory of total combat. It is as realistic as a street fight."

Lima began his martial arts training with Floridans Mike Foster and Mel Wise. Wise taught *Shorey*, an Okinawan style of karate that included, as Lima says, "sparring sessions where the man had to be knocked out before he was stopped. Full contact." Wise also taught Lima bow staff (stick) fighting and weapons such as *nunchaka* and *shuriken* (throwing stars).

A black belt since 1976, Lima is currently working on his *Shodan* in judo.

Full contact, Lima declares, includes "hooking punches, chokes, elbows, jabs," unlike traditional karate moves, as well as fighting on the ground, since "many times in real combat a big man simply drags you to the ground with his body weight and beats shit out of you." His training stresses realism.

In his classes, students wear full protective padding when they spar, as well as head gear, 14-ounce gloves, and chest protectors.

"When we spar in class," he says, "we try to achieve a real life situation. Students are encouraged to use unconventional attacks, whether they be punching, kicking, picking up an object to strike with, anything that would happen in a real situation."

Lima's students do not pull punches when they fight.



Lima, a Golden Gloves champion for three years, incorporates many boxing techniques into his fighting style.



Simplicity and economy of motion are marks of good martial artists. In photo sequence, Lima demonstrates this philosophy. When assailant takes front choke hold, many karate styles advocate upward or downward strike of forearms to break hold. However, technique is ineffective if attacker is strong or determined. Instead, counterattack!

As he says, "Anything but eye jabs and direct hits to the more vital areas like the temple or the trachea is delivered *full force*. When students fall to the ground, they fight from there. When the bigger man has them on the ground they fight him there. We teach them to fight from corners, doorways, bar stools, any conceivable place and position."

Lima, a student of anatomy, stresses the pathological and medical implications of striking all vital areas of the body. He trains his students in which weapons to use against each target and shows them what force must be applied to effectively destroy each point.

For instance, he says, "you can punch a man just underneath the heart and stop it. EMTs (emergency medical technicians) do that in reverse. They apply pressure in the same area for CPR. You can crush the temple with the elbow and kill the man from a subdural hemorrhage. You can do the same to the sinuses. There are ways to kick and punch a man in the spleen and the liver so that he will die days or even weeks later.

"The human body is very complex and very fragile and vulnerable to various attacks when you know where and how to hit."

In order to research his theories, Lima has performed dissection and autopsies on human cadavers, victims of "violent trauma," at a Miami morgue.

He says, "Just like a demolitions expert would study floor plans and architectural drawings of a building so as to place his charges at the most destructive points, so must the martial artist determine and examine his targets. I plan to do articles on those targets and the medical implications."



Eyes are most vulnerable target. Grab hair or ears (to prevent head shake to fend you off) and bury thumbs in eyes — quickly, ruthlessly, without hesitation.



Follow up gouge by maintaining hair/ear hold and thrust head down toward upcoming knee. Power is doubled by driving force of head and knee coming together in opposition. Sinus area is good target — if fractured, death can occur. If head can be turned on way down, temple can be exposed — also potentially fatal. Each technique opens way for other — each logically follows last.



Our man in action.



'Commandos L' in March 1963, prior to mission in which they sank Soviet freighter BAKU in Cuban port. WWII semi-auto antitank gun on bow was secured to plywood disk, which was bolted through tire to deck. Tire absorbed heavy recoil of weapon.

MY FIGHT AGAINST FIDEL

Tony Cuesta's Story

Part I

by Tony Cuesta

PROLOGUE

By Tom Dunkin

Hair tinged white, the sightless eyes and disfigured face concealed by sunglasses, the man's missing lower left arm was not noticeable in the warm abrazo at a reunion after 15 years with one of Fidel Castro's deadliest enemies.

Antonio Cuesta Valle, better known as Tony Cuesta, was honored by the local press in Miami as Castro's "prize" among the first group of political prisoners released in October 1978, from Cuban prisons.

Cuesta, a former combatant for Castro, went into exile shortly after Castro's revolution went sour, and became one of his former leader's most implacable opponents.

Cuesta's Comandos L raiders sweated out the October Missile Crisis of 1962,
JULY/79

shipwrecked off the Cuban coast, but evaded capture and almost miraculously survived. On another mission, Cuesta and his group bombed the Russian freighter Baku off Cabarien on Cuba's north coast, as she lay at anchor loading a cargo of sugar. That caused considerable unhappiness in the Kennedy Administration. It also brought seizure of much of Cuesta's equipment, including assault boats and a mother ship, and considerable quantities of arms. It also brought close surveillance by U.S. authorities.

Cuesta kept active, however, until May 1966, when his small crew, ambushed off Havana's coast, left four killed and the survivors, including Cuesta, severely wounded.

Originally condemned to die by Castro, Cuesta's death sentence was later reduced

to 30 years in prison. How he endured those years, in enemy hands, blind and almost helpless, and how his prison mates coped with their adversity, is being compiled in a book entitled Once Before the Last Time, by Cuesta.

Because of mutual respect engendered from our three weeks' association on the Baku mission, it has been my privilege to read Cuesta's account of his capture, and to be invited to write an introduction to the completed book. The meaning behind his book title, the high cost of patriotism to Cuesta and to his associates in their opposition to former comrade Fidel Castro, can best be told in Cuesta's own vivid words.

FOR God's sake, bring him in! The boat's about to explode!"

"I can't, he weighs too much!"

I heard voices as if from a distance, even though I knew they were next to me. My burst ear drums still allowed me to hear some sounds.

When next I regained consciousness, my first feeling was an excruciating headache, and then tremendous heat. Someone was trying to drag me out of the water, trying to lift my six-foot-four 220-pound frame by my hair.

"Pull him in, grab his belt!"

Arms gradually pulled me into the boat. I was jolted by the knowledge that I had fallen into enemy hands. Captured alive!

Instinctively my left hand searched for the 9mm Browning pistol that I carried. Something strange — where my hip should have been, I only felt empty space — did the grenade blow it off? My right hand went for the spot: the pistol wasn't there; my military belt was gone also. Why didn't my left hand tell me this? Then my right hand felt the wet stump. The grenade — I was helpless, unarmed, and a prisoner.

I was thrown on deck. My captors were fighting for possession of my boots. My right hand, also wounded, almost lost a finger when they pulled off my gold ring. A chain around my neck with a Virgin medallion was also torn from me. Someone dug into my pockets and pulled out \$900, and I could only think that at least they didn't get my boat.

Close by, Eugenio was being similarly stripped. Without regard to my condition, I was tied from head to toe with thick rope. I felt sleepy again. The diesel

pistons' hammering shook the entire boat. I hated that Russian garbage. The Russian-trained Cuban crewmen had not been hard to fight. We had destroyed their formation with a few maneuvers, and tricked them into shooting at each other. And we accomplished it in a 25-foot boat built with our own hands.

The torpedo boat started on its way. Someone who was holding me so that I would not fall into the water said, "I'll bet anything these *cabrones* are from the CIA. Did you notice their boat?"

Maybe because of that mistake they picked us up from the water, and maybe because of the same mistake we were allowed to live.

I regained consciousness with the feeling I really must be dead. I was shaking with cold. The surface on which I was lying was cold as marble. I was naked. Dead men always are naked.

"Are you allergic to penicillin?"

"No." I felt life again.

"Have you had tetanus shots?"

"Yes."

"You have shrapnel lodged inside your abdomen. Do you give us permission to operate?"

Under those circumstances my authorization seemed ludicrous.

"Do whatever the hell you want." I felt the gas mask...

"Eugenio, where is Eugenio?"

"There is no Eugenio here. You are alone." The voice was my nurse.

I don't know how long I was unconscious, I suppose several days. Later I discovered that the enormous incision in

my abdomen had been sutured only skin-deep, the muscles left severed. They thought I would not live through it.

I felt terrible pain in the stump of my left arm, in my abdomen, and in my chest. But my eyes hurt more intensely, as if someone had mixed sand and salt and poured it into the sockets. But I was aware of where I was and could not complain before my captors.

As days went by, I slowly recovered. Doctors, nurses and orderlies treated me well. My ears still hurt, but I could hear better. I found I was in the naval hospital, in a private room. No one was allowed to enter or to leave without authorization by armed guards who stood at the door.

And I still didn't know whether Eugenio was dead or alive.

Then one day, an unknown voice asked me, "Are you in any condition to give a statement?"

I answered him, "Who are you?"

"I am an investigative officer with National Security."

"I'll give you a statement. My name is Antonio Cuesta, head of Comandos L."

"Tony Cuesta? No! Impossible! Why would the leader join a combat mission?"

"I'm not a homebody. This isn't the only mission that I have led; in fact, I've been at the front of my men in all the missions that we accomplished."

The voice said, "You're exhausted. It's better we finish some other day."

I insisted upon continuing the interrogation but he courteously refused. He still needed more background information in order to conduct a full-scale in-



Refueling from 55 gallon drums hidden in Key Largo area of Florida Keys. Commandos L personnel are in good spirits while boat owner (left) appears distressed—he has just learned craft will be used in raid against Castro!



Ramon Font, Cuesta's deputy, mans anti-tank gun. He led raid on BAKU. "L" strike force zipped into Cuban harbor at over 50mph, peppering freighter deck and hull with FN and 20mm cannon fire. Commandos then placed 52 lb Pentolite bomb against hull and departed rapidly. Ensuing blast blew 8x10 foot hole in BAKU, which sank in harbor. Cannon fire pierced hull and destroyed turbines.

vestigation. Before he left, I was tempted to ask him about Eugenio, but held myself.

The idea that I was the only survivor took over my thoughts. Not having blown myself to bits along with my boat hurt more than the shrapnel in my eyes. The seat and my heavy, loose, storm jacket must have shielded me from part of the explosion's force.

I couldn't leave the bed. My hand was seriously wounded and I had to be fed. I tried to ease my mind by thinking about my children. I thought about the organization. What could it be doing? And I was in enemy hands. Why not finish what the grenade had started?

I contemplated suicide, but suicide is for cowards. The grenade was different, that was combat. Now it would be cowardice. Even if I wanted it, should I? They watched me day and night, even though I could barely move my body.

Oh, if I could only kill one of the guards. That wouldn't be suicide, that would be fighting. If I only knew how many stories high my room was, and where the balcony was — I'll soon regain my strength. I'll find the balcony. I only have to grab one of these monkeys by the neck and if we are high enough, that will end everything.

That thought obsessed me at all hours. One night while I was evaluating the possibilities of achieving my obsession, I prayed to God for the first time since that terrible morning "Oh, God, help me, what should I do?" The voice of my nurse interrupted my prayer.

"Antonio, would you mind if I were to read aloud? I want Lola to hear this novel, since she can't read."

Lola was the clean-up girl. I answered that it wouldn't bother me at all. The nurse had always treated me kindly.

As expected, it was a Russian novel about the life of a Communist hero. I was so bored and so eager to find distraction that I began to listen. The nurse read two to three hours every night. The last chapter had a surprise for me: the hero is wounded by a bullet, paralyzed and gradually starts to lose his sight. In spite of all these mishaps, sitting in his wheelchair, he attains more victories than he did sitting on his warhorse. At the end, completely blind, he dictates the book that earned him the highest laurels awarded in the Communist world.

Without knowing it, that nurse had opened up a new horizon for me: light, true light, the kind not perceived through the eyes but through understanding, reached me. I remembered that it was while I was asking God for guidance that the nurse had asked my permission to read the book. I thanked God for showing me the way through this woman's mouthing of enemy words. The word, "enemy," triggered something inside me, and interrupted my thoughts of God.

I thought to myself, "Sure, but the blind man in the novel lived among friends. He had sympathy. Everyone did everything possible to gladden his last days. But I am mutilated, blind, sick and among my worst enemies."

Almost instantly, a voice spoke within me, "That's right, but don't forget, the Communists didn't have God."

When I regained strength and knew where the balcony was, I didn't want to follow my earlier plan. I was ready for the longer and more difficult battle of life ahead. I understood the truth that it is more difficult to live for your country than to die for it. Later, I had the great happiness of learning that Eugenio was recuperating not far from me, on another floor.

Foolishness, if successful, is called courage. If unsuccessful, it remains foolishness. A thought kept nagging me: I must have made a mistake that night. If, instead of minutely exploring the landing site, and then remaining there to cover those who had debarked to go inland, I had left immediately, they never would have intercepted me.

An analysis of our previous successful expeditions led to the following conclusion: in that unequal fight it was not the Comandos L who were defeated, but that hesitating super power that denied us sanctuary and forced us to use remote and inadequate training bases. It was this power that used all its strength to prevent us from using weapons bought with patriotic effort, and forced us to fight almost barehanded a common enemy. All with the purpose of avoiding complications. At peace with myself after that realization, I began recalling the details of that last expedition.

OUR 25-foot boat rocked gently under the northwest breeze. A short distance from the bow our sea anchor's gray cone was visible in the crystal clear waters. We had to drift as little as possible and keep Bimini latitude, 20 miles from shore, well into international waters and there rendezvous with the "innocent" fishing boat due to arrive from the east. Our twin 210-horsepower Chrysler engines were still. I looked at the marine goniometer, [a radio receiver used to determine the angular direction of incoming radio signals.] It was 7:30 a.m. Earlier that morning we had left Miami and had crossed the Gulf Stream without incident. And now we waited.

Of all aboard, I alone was awake. Soft swaying waves and Cuban music from the portable radio acted as an hypnotic. We were not listening to the Cuban radio station for our enjoyment. Or to gratify our nostalgia; it served a more practical purpose: the radio waves were retransmitted by our own radio equipment, using a Canadian frequency. Our signal, upon being scanned by the fishing boat speeding toward us, would act as an electronic beacon, enabling the boat's radio goniometer to pinpoint our location.

My crew was three men and one woman. Caridad was an attractive brunette and mother of two. She was young, a seasoned veteran in the art of making our expeditions look like any other pleasure cruise. She had been with our organization several years. Her pretty silk scarf and tailored pants would not be with us much longer.

In the forecabin were Roberto and Guillermo. I watched Roberto yawn, scratch his belly, then get up and step out onto the deck area. He approached me with a worried look.

"Listen, Tony," he said in a low voice so as not to awaken Caridad, "I'm about to shit my pants. What do I do?"

"You shouldn't have stuffed yourself so much last night before leaving," I smiled. In our boats, we couldn't afford the luxury of a head. "Take the mask, jump overboard and feed the fish. If Cari wakes up, I'll tell her that I sent you down to check the bottom and the propellers."

Roberto Anta had just turned 19 years old. He had already taken part in several missions. His military training started while he was a student and continued later in our secret and remote bases. He had been born in Ciego de Avila and in 1960 went into exile. A few months after his arrival in Florida, his father died and Roberto found himself the head of a family composed of his mother and his sister, two years younger. In spite of numerous difficulties, he managed to work, to receive military training, and to continue his studies. He worked tirelessly as a truck driver and saved his money with admirable self-denial in order to leave his family

some support during the upcoming campaign that would last several months.

Roberto climbed back aboard, smiling as usual.

I called out to him, "Roberto, wake up Eugenio and tell him to start inflating the raft. You take care of breakfast. Our meeting will take place soon."

Eugenio Zaldivar Cardenas was 20 years old and from a very prominent family in the province of Camaguey. His family had come to Miami early in 1960. Like Roberto, Eugenio joined the student segment of the organization. His behavior had always been excellent, even under enemy fire.

Roberto finished preparing breakfast: orange juice, evaporated milk, instant coffee and sandwiches. At the prospect of breakfast the small crew came alive. We all had good appetites, but Guillermo ate like a famished animal. His 17-year-old body, at six feet and 180 pounds, required an exorbitant amount of fuel.

Guillermo Alvarez Sanchez, from Oriente Province, was our youngest crew member. Like the others, he became an exile in 1960 when his family sought asylum in the United States. His exceptional physical condition, discipline, and attitude earned him highest honors during basic training. Even though he was only 15 when he joined, we had no choice but to accept him in our ranks, and use him in rearguard operations. Guillermo had not failed at any task, and now he looked forward to his first action. Unforeseen circumstances left me no choice but to include him in this mission.

It had all started several days before. Our only War of Independence exile, General Generoso Campos Marquetti, had recently died in Washington, where he had traveled to celebrate with Congress the anniversary of Cuban Independence and the end of the Spanish-American War. General Marquetti was the only one among us alive at the time of that historic event and he had been asked to give a speech at the celebration. The invitation had arrived when freedom fighter Marquetti, affectionately known as "Mambi," was near his 100th birthday, and suffering from cancer, which kept him in severe pain bordering on coma. He had insisted on personally answering the invitation. Drawing from his iron will, the dying general proudly carried himself through the functions. In homage, the American government authorized his burial at Arlington. But someone proposed that our general would have preferred inaugurating a cemetery for Cuban exiles in the Miami area.

Cuban exiles may never witness another May 20th like the one we celebrated that year. Thousands of Cubans living in Miami and many from distant places came to pay their last respects to General Marquetti, and we were among his friends who acted as the honor guard. Guillermo

had been with us. As we left the funeral home, I observed his emotional reaction.

I put my arm around his shoulders, and asked him, "What's wrong with you? Did the old man impress you?"

"Yes," he answered. "He impressed me so much that I swore to him that I would never give up the fight and that I would become a general, too. Do you think I'll make it?"

I was deeply moved but managed to conceal it. "Don't worry. You are young and we have many years of struggle ahead of us. Of course you'll be a general!"

"But, Tony, why don't you let me go with you on the next trip? You say it's not a very important mission and —"

I stopped him, "I told you I already have a full crew. Forget it this time; in a few months you'll be asking me to give you a break from all the fighting." I took him to a soda shop.

The departure date had to be at the end of the month; we had no alternative. On that trip, we wouldn't carry artillery, nor search for any engagement. Our mission was to infiltrate two men somewhere along the Havana coast. We had already established the coast's vulnerability in previous missions. This mission was in coordination with the Cuban Representation in Exile (RECE). The infiltration had been attempted twice before but without my having taken part because of other duties.

My more experienced men were on bases in foreign countries. My second-in-command, Ramon Font, was directing the general repair work of our mother ship in a remote shipyard in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, more than 1,000 miles from Miami. Because of that, our fastest boats, explosives, and heavy artillery were not available to us in that fatal month of May.

Immediately after their earlier aborted attempts, the two infiltrators, Herminio and Armando, used every kind of argument to talk me into taking them next time. I had good reason to refuse. My own obligations and responsibilities were numerous. In addition, the only available boat in Miami was waiting for two more powerful engines that would allow us to outrun the fast Cuban gunboats. The few available men, though young, were brave and experienced. I was counting on having with me Eduardo Baez, a few years my senior, who had been a brilliant swimmer. We had swum together at the Olympic Games, and had nurtured a friendship through the years. This time we would again compete, shoulder to shoulder, but under very different circumstances. If we won, there would be no medals, and losing could not be contemplated.

Herminio Diaz had been involved in politics all his life. He fought with Castro against the Batista regime and Castro had named him security chief of the Havana Riviera Hotel. Herminio left Cuba in 1963. Our relationship was young lived,

but full of understanding. Although he was over 40 years old, he was slender and in excellent condition; he ran more than one hour every morning, and had quit smoking in order to invest the money in ammunition to maintain his aim. His plans were extremely risky, but his mind was made up.

The existence of a definite date was complicating matters. The moon was going to be full, and it had been announced that the Communist troops were about to be mobilized. We were not excessively worried about the latter, since we had successfully accomplished missions in previous locations under similar circumstances. Herminio demanded that I help him, and I could not refuse.

It was essential to the operation for the infiltrators to go to one of our bases outside U.S. territory. There they would be supplied with weapons and with necessary equipment. This way the U.S. would not violate its neutrality, and would continue to welcome Cubans who would help us.

On May 28, 1966, the last preparations were made for the voyage. Then something happened out of our control, which affected our destiny. Eduardo's mother-in-law died. The fact he lived with his wife and daughter eliminated him as a member. I had difficulty convincing him that it was impossible to wait 48 hours to take care of funeral arrangements.

I substituted Raul Manduley for Eduardo. Raul was 24 years old but, despite his youth, was the founder of the bases that trained men for the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. Although Raul had recently been married, we were sure he would abandon his honeymoon to go on the expedition. When Guillermo heard of my intentions, he argued that it wasn't necessary to bother Raul, as he could take Raul's place. I had to exercise my authority to get him to look for the newlyweds. I asked Eugenio to accompany him. I was afraid Guillermo's bellicose ardor would prevent him from finding Raul.

After several hours, Eugenio and Guillermo returned and told me they had been unable to locate Raul. He was nowhere to be found.

I needed four men for the mission, not counting the infiltrators. Guillermo also knew this and pressured me, assuring me that if I did not take him, he would leave our organization and go to Cuba with the first group who tried to infiltrate the island to establish guerrilla fronts. I knew that there were plenty of demigods in exile who would gladly furnish him with a rifle and an armband. The youngster used such firm, determined language that I had to accept his efficient, mature character. And, after all, this would be an evasive maneuver and a simple infiltration mission.

"Tony, I think that's Chencho's boat," said Eugenio, handing me the binoculars. I recognized the black patch at the top of

the sail which helped us identify him at great distance. My watch said 9:30 a.m.

They had arrived at the agreed hour. I gave orders to pull the storm anchor and move the boat to shorten the distance between us. In a few minutes we were alongside the other vessel.

Herminio and Armando, still inside the fishing boat, handed us a beach bag and helped Caridad board the other boat before jumping into our boat. We exchanged remarks with Chencho and his crew, and separated. Someone had left a long box heavily wrapped in nylon in the aft-cabin.

Herminio and Armando made themselves comfortable while I synchronized the engines at 2,300 rpm, the equivalent of 30 knots. I set course and handed over the controls to Eugenio.

"Wake me up an hour after we pass Orange Key." A calm sea enabled me to sleep comfortably in the forecabin.

At 2 p.m., I heard Guillermo's voice, "Eugenio says that we have passed Orange. He wants to know what to do now."

"We'll eat lunch."

Later I took over the controls. The wind changed from south to southwest. Until that moment, only Herminio and I knew our destination. When I changed course, the men asked me almost in chorus where the hell we were going:

"We're going to take a stroll along the Malecon." By changing our course so radically, we accomplished two objectives: first, we confused the Communist agents in Miami and U.S. vigilance; second, we would arrive in Havana from the east, not from the north, as usually expected. This would confuse their radar operators. By the time they learned of our stratagem, we would be gone.

A short time later, we took down the vinyl top to increase our field of vision. At



An Intent Cuesta supervises filtering of fuel on attack craft prior to BAKU raid. Commandos L was most famous of militant anti-Castro groups. Author Dunkin accompanied operation to point where attack boat left mother ship.

dusk, I stopped the engines and ordered the last checks and preparations. We scrutinized the engines, changed the enormous gas filters, tested our batteries and alternators, and checked our fuel reserve. Our powerful bailing pumps were in perfect condition. We were proud of our vessel, almost totally built by us. The performance that we required could not be expected from a conventional boat.

Armando opened his innocent-looking beach bag and checked its contents: 12 hand grenades, two 9mm Brownings and a submachine gun with magazines. There were two silenced Berettas. The rest of the space was taken up with plastic explosives and time fuses.

At the same time, Roberto was checking our meager arsenal. It included one FAL automatic rifle with 25 magazines, a shortened M1 carbine with 3300 rounds. I had my Browning pistol, a 12-gauge shotgun, and we had eight fragmentation grenades and two rockets with launchers.

After checking weapons, we devoured the rest of the food and drank huge quantities of coffee. From there on, we would have to keep our eyes open and be alert.

I was forced to drop our speed down to 25 knots in order not to arrive too early. I adjusted course to due west. When we had traveled a short while, Armando approached me. I could tell he wanted to talk, so I gave the controls to Eugenio.

Armando and I went aft. He spoke over the roar of our engines. "Tony, I don't want to sound melodramatic, but maybe later we won't have time to talk. When you go back, I want you to tell Sonia that my last thought before setting foot on Cuban soil was about her. Tell her I will do everything I can to return quickly." He stopped momentarily. "Tell her that if I have bad luck, I want her to forget me. I don't want her to suffer for me." I promised to deliver his message.

I had always thought that a full moon was the most beautiful sight anyone could behold. But when I found myself turned overnight into a commando, I learned to despise it for its potential for exposure. Bright moonlight hampered our best weapon, surprise. The bright, almost full moon rising over the stern filled me with misgivings.

Instinctively, I adjusted our course a bit south. I knew we were nearing our target area and I was expecting to see the Morro Lighthouse any minute. As I had calculated, we didn't wait long. The lighthouse came into sight over port. Its familiar radiance warmed me.

No further use for the compass. I knew exactly where we were and an infinite number of fishing vessels all around us forced us to change course continuously in order not to be discovered.

I raised our speed to 30 knots and ordered the men battle ready. Minutes counted; what we had to do had to be done efficiently and without hesitation. At eight miles from the Morro, I aimed

the bow towards Jaimanitas Beach, where we would attempt to drop our men. The coastline highway that skirts Havana was a dark and eerie sight. Most of the mercury lamps were out, and though it was only 10 p.m., there were hardly any automobiles at a time when they had been numerous in years past. The great hotels rose ghostlike with, at most, one lit window in each floor. Havana was so dark you almost had to run into it to see it. It was as if its citizens wanted to hide their misery and sadness from visitors.

Now we were very close to shore and I turned on my navigational lights in hope of being confused with a local vessel. I slowed down and began searching for a drop site. Our initial decision had been the area between Biriato and the Club Nautico. Our nonchalance, slowly cruising along the shore, allowed us to observe several patrol vehicles. We discarded any further consideration of that area and turned to find the first spot where we could safely drop our men. They needed only to telephone fast. The rest was up to their luck. In case they should run into a patrol, they had the silenced M3.

We decided that the infiltration would be easier in a populated area, where the risk would be concentrated for only a few minutes around the debarking process, and where land transportation could be secured more easily. We scanned the Nautico neighborhood but didn't like what we saw. We cruised in front of the famous Barrilito Bar, but its water was too shallow for our draft. We agreed to try the wide, sparsely populated area of Monte Barreto.

Then I saw a clear, favorable spot in the middle of the mangroves. I shut off one engine and restarted it, then repeated the process with the other. Satisfied with their responsiveness, I stopped them 150 yards from shore. We cast our anchor on the rocky bottom.

The soft northern breeze soon stretched our anchor line as we drifted closer to land. Our bow pointed north with our stern closest to shore to facilitate debarking. We said very little. Every one knew his part by heart, from long preparation. Eugenio and Roberto silently launched the rubber raft, then stripped down to black tank suits.

Guillermo would stay with me where I could best protect him. He held our automatic rifle. In contrast to the rest of us, Herminio and Armando were dressed in fashionable sports clothes. They wore baseball caps because someone had mentioned that it would be easy to believe that the handbag they carried contained baseball equipment. I asked them to sit down while we checked the final details.

My watch said 10:02 p.m. I wanted to explore for 15 minutes. Our hearing, dulled by the constant roar of the boat's engines, was regaining sensitivity. No noises came from shore. Through binoculars, I searched every rock or bush that

could have hidden the enemy, but found nothing. To our right was the ancient black shadow of the Comodorro Hotel. Far ahead we could see the dome of Jesus de Miramar.

I looked around and wondered at the water's crystalline beauty under bright moonlight. I could see the rocky bottom's every detail. Then fear came. Although our boat was painted dull grey-blue and all its chrome covered with black tape, we were clearly visible in the bright moonlight. But we had no alternative course of action; we had to follow through. I decided to take extreme precautions.

Before a man could join our commandos, he had to submit to rigorous training as a frogman at marine demolition.

I whispered to Roberto, "Kick up and down that beach and go inland at least one block." Roberto went into the water and swam toward shore. He paralleled the coastline for a considerable distance. Later, through my binoculars, I saw him climb the reef and get lost in the undergrowth.

He came back as quietly as he left and whispered to me, "I went in over a block and didn't see a soul. Everything is quiet."

The moment of truth had arrived. I took a nylon envelope with precise instructions for the return trip, should anything happen to me, out of a waterproof compartment. I handed the envelope to Eugenio, and gave 10,000 Cuban pesos to Herminio. Herminio and I embraced, and he said, "Not to worry. We're going to hit them hard. Make sure it's you who's going to come back to pick us up."

The original plan had been to drop the two men off and to return immediately to Miami. As I saw them prepare to leave, I decided I would wait until they were safely ashore. If those men were willing to walk into the lion's mouth, the least I could do would be to wait in order to afford them an opportunity to escape, should any complications arise ashore.

We synchronized our watches. "Listen to me, Herminio, and don't argue. I will wait here 30 minutes after you have gone: to be precise, until 11 o'clock. Eugenio has a walkie-talkie. Use it only in case of emergency."

I helped Herminio and Armando aboard the raft and watched them slowly move toward shore. The raft was connected to our boat by a heavy nylon rope that fed from a spool anchored in the aft deck. This was a precautionary umbilical cord.

As Eugenio and Roberto were about to start pushing the raft ashore, I gave them their last-minute instructions. Set the time fuse of the rockets for 11 o'clock, in case of difficulties. The rockets had two detonating systems; one was immediate and the other gave a one-hour delay. The former was for combat because of its



From left to right: Ramon Font, Tony Cuesta and wife Carmen. Font was second in command of famous, non-CIA anti-Castro organization, Commandos L. Was in Puerto Rico establishing new operational base when Cuesta was captured. All three now reside in Miami.

directional use; the latter method allowed us to use them as a diversionary tactic.

The time was 10:32. We settled down for the longest half-hour of our lives, our only activity an anguished wait. Suddenly, as if the show had been prearranged for 11 p.m., as the minute hand approached the hour, the night turned into blinding daylight, under illuminating flares. As tiny parachutes held the sputtering lights high above, we stopped counting time by minutes or seconds and measured it by the beating of our hearts. Many more flares followed the first group, turning night into brightest day. We heard the burst of automatic weapons, and the thunder of grenades, but still we could not distinguish what was happening ashore.

Then our situation offshore became serious. To our left, from behind the seawall of Chateau Miramar, tracers from a four-barrel 50-caliber machine gun flew scarcely one foot over my head. I knew the end had come. With the engines off, and anchored, we could do nothing to avoid being blown out of the water when, in a few seconds, the machine-gunner depressed the elevation of his fire.

(End of Part One)

ABOUT TOM DUNKIN

By M.L. Jones

Tom Dunkin, a free-lance writer-photographer, has covered Cuba and Cuban exiles for various Florida and Georgia newspapers since 1957.

His first assignment in Cuba covered the 1959 kidnapping by Raul Castro of 51 Americans and Canadians. On this trip, Dunkin met Andrew St. George, on assignment for NBC. Dunkin met Tony Cuesta through St. George when they covered *Comando L's* bombing of the Russian freighter *Baku* at Cabarien, Cuba.

Other Dunkin-St. George assignments included coverage of Cuban exile leader Manolo Ray's abortive attempt to infiltrate Cuba. The infiltrators were apprehended by the British navy. The two men also worked for CBS in 1966, covering the network's Haitian invasion documentary.

From 1942 to 1946, Dunkin served in the U.S. Marine Corps. During World

War II's Okinawan campaign, he was an automatic rifleman on an artillery forward observer team.

Following his discharge, Dunkin began his successful newspaper career. He has been a writer and photographer ever since. In 1971, he received the Associated Press of Georgia award for best spot news coverage of the year for his reporting of the court martial of Lt. William L. Calley, Jr., at Fort Benning.

At present Dunkin is working on his second book with retired Florida Supreme Court Justice Alto Adams of Fort Pierce. In 1976, he and Adams published Adams' memoirs, *The Fourth Quarter*. The two are now researching *The Law of the Land*, a book dealing with the Constitution of the United States.

Since Cuesta's prison release in 1978, Dunkin has actively supported the blinded Cuban's literary career. He was instrumental in having Cuesta's two-part story translated from Spanish for SOF.





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COMBAT IN LEBANON

Continued from page 45

of the Military Command, Matulla, Israel.

During my visit to the front I saw no direct evidence of foreign volunteers fighting with the Christian Arabs, although more recent reports out of the United States have indicated that European volunteers have been seen in action with this embattled group.

In spite of difficulties and odds that appeared almost insurmountable at first glance, elan among the Christian forces was good whether in the strongholds or doing guard duty among the settlements. There was always a smile and a wisecrack that usually involved some form of translation.

If a Palestinian terrorist was killed near a Christian position, the men would level blows to gain possession of the dead insurgent's Kalashnikov, probably the most highly prized souvenir of the war. Most of the weapons used by the Christian forces include the full gambit issued by NATO countries, including FN-7s, 62s, G-3s, MAGs, M-16s, and a variety of automatic equipment from Britain, France, Belgium, Spain, the United States, and elsewhere.

At the same time I found the level of bitterness ran deep. Many Arab forces facing them across the way in Fatahland were regarded as blood brothers until

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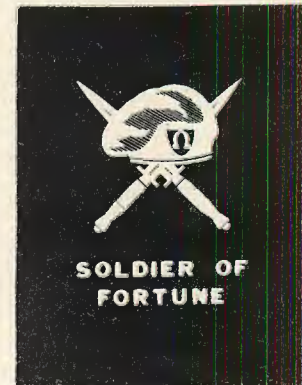


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hostilities began; Christians and Arabs had grown up together, shared the same hopes and fears, often married into the same families. Islam destroyed all that and now these combatants are bitter and their sense of vengeance for friends lost is boundless.

It is a fact that without Israeli intervention very few prisoners are taken except for the purpose of extracting information.

So the war — often laced with bitter, resentful acrimony — continues.

Relations between the United Nations forces on the one hand and Israelis and Christians on the other, hardly reflect the impartial view that this so-called "uncommitted" world body is supposed to hold. Some Israeli sources are openly critical of the pro-Arab stance taken by many of the UN contingents. Here the French, Nigerians, Ghanaians, Senegalese, Irish, Norwegians, and Swedes have been singled out as bending over backwards to appease the Palestinians; perhaps, it is said in some quarters, because they are scared of them!

Because there is soon likely to be a second UN peace-keeping force in operation in southern Africa in 1979 (South West Africa/Namibia) the role of this organization bears scrutiny in the period that they have been operational, almost a year by the time this article appears in print.

There is no doubt that most Israelis regard the majority of UN troops with

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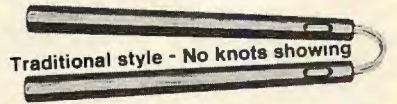


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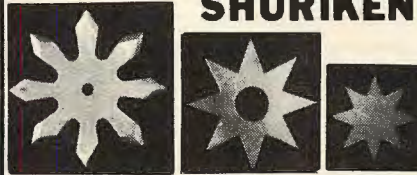
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contempt, for their record in the Middle East, to date, has been dismal. As one of them phrased it: "Where you have United Nations forces you have Arab terrorism."

Part of the problem is compounded by the fact that all leave taken by United Nations armies in the Middle East is spent in Israel. A weekend's R and R will encompass a day in Jerusalem and perhaps a day along the coast north of Haifa. There have been many instances where UN soldiers have made a point of mixing only with Israeli Arabs in a bid to show solidarity with the anti-Israeli cause.

On the forthcoming United Nations role in South West Africa/Namibia, one Israeli colonel said:

"Beware of the embrace of this UN beast. It could be fatal." Asked to elaborate he answered: "Have a good look about you in South Lebanon. That will answer your question."

During my tour through southern Lebanese UNIFIL positions, many of the observations were disturbing. A few of the stories to come out of this region in the past eight or 10 months are already legendary.

The first contact made by the Swedish contingent — since moved to the "softer" military zone in Sinai, adjoining the Canal — was a total disaster that raised questions in the Swedish Parliament. It goes like this:

Shortly after the Israeli Litani operation, the first batch of UN troops was taken into South Lebanon to separate the opposing forces. One of the tasks assigned the Swedes was to establish themselves on the Litani River in the shadow of the historic Crusader ruin, Fort Beaufort, now in Palestinian hands. The Israeli commander of the region argued with his Swedish counterpart, a colonel, that this could not be done without the men coming under PLO fire.

The Swede was adamant. He would go in with five truckloads of Swedish soldiers and 12 UN flags, about 60 men in all. All he asked for was six Israeli sappers to clear the landmines. This was granted. For good measure the Israeli commander accompanied the colonel; the southern Lebanese had already been instructed to fire on the fort with artillery the moment they opened up on the column.

The colonel and his men got to within a few hundred meters of Fort Beaufort before the Palestinians let fly. Within a minute every Swedish soldier with the exception of the colonel had dropped his equipment and taken for the hills. Many had also left their weapons behind on the trucks. All that was left in the approach area were the two officers — the Swede and the Israeli — as well as the six Israeli sappers who promptly returned fire.

At a press conference at Metulla later in the day the Swedish colonel wept openly when the story was recounted.

During my visit, there was an incident involving Norwegian troops that is also

likely to go down in the annals of Middle East military history.

Ensclosed in a rocky position near the Litani River, a Norwegian detachment was attacked one evening by a large force of Palestinian irregulars. Had they not retaliated, it is likely that the Norwegian position would have been overrun.

As it happened, several of the attacking Palestinians were killed but the Norwegians suffered only light casualties; at least their position remained intact.

The highlight of this incident came the following morning. Five Norwegian soldiers were casevaced out of the area as a result of mental breakdowns. Two were later flown back to Norway in strait-jackets, screaming they had "killed children." The Norwegian commander of the area, in answer to a question on the event, replied that the result was inevitable: "My boys are not accustomed to the sight of blood."

Questions were also raised in the Norwegian Parliament about this little episode.

As far as South West Africa is concerned, it is interesting that the entire UN contingent in Lebanon numbers roughly 8,000 men. Of these, however, only 2,000 are fully operational in a combatant sense. The rest are all involved in supply, logistics, administration, medics, etc. In contrast, the Israelis used almost 25,000 men in their Litani operation; one of the results of their withdrawal and inadequate UN forces on the ground is that the area formerly cleared of Palestinians has now been thoroughly infiltrated by the enemy once again.

Judging by what one sees in the operational area, it is not entirely certain whether some UN commanders are aware of the task facing them. The Ghanaian unit, for instance, arrived in the Sinai desert last year, at the height of a Mediterranean summer dressed in trench coats and Wellington boots. The Iranian troops were disarmed by their officer following disturbances in the ranks; they were later replaced by Nigerians.

The Irish, a sorry, drunken lot at the best of times, are said to have more cases of whiskey in their supply trucks than cases of ammunition.

Most African forces are ill-prepared for as sophisticated an operation as the one launched in South Lebanon. This has been proved by recent actions taken by the PLO who play jungle noises on powerful stereo sets to the Nigerians at night to keep them cowering in their tents while they try to infiltrate Israeli border positions.

The severe winter had also brought problems in its wake. Not content to sleep in tents provided by their respective governments, several UN forces — notably the French and the Irish — have taken to turning Lebanese civilians out of their homes for the purpose of providing the men with additional comfort.

General Erskine was heard to comment after some of the Lebanese complained: "Those poor fellows cannot sleep in tents in winter."

Then there was the incident — also reported in the press — where an Irish major was "assaulted" at the UN South Lebanon Headquarters base at Nakura by a 10-year-old boy. A formal complaint was lodged by the Ghanaian commander-in-chief to Major Hadat. It appears (details not given) that the youngster bit the major on the breast, causing a wound that needed 10 stitches. It is said that the Arab boy was in the major's tent at the time.

What is significant about the UN operation to date are the casualties suffered by the peace-keeping force. During my visit, UN forces had taken several dozen casualties including 14 killed, all of them in operations in the Litani area. It was pointed out by an Israeli liaison officer that the UN forces had not suffered a single casualty at the hands of either Christian Lebanese or Israelis.

"Every drop of blood that has been spilt among UN troops comes as a result of Palestinian action, which is probably one of the reasons why the UN soldiers are so scared of the PLO and their allies."

The role of the French force has been particularly disturbing to some observers. Those who remember the crack French *Les Paras* who played sterling roles in a string of minor wars in Africa and Southeast Asia, will hardly be impressed when first contact is made with the Elysses military representative in South Lebanon.

In the words of one correspondent "they're as pro-PLO as they are anti-Israeli . . . so much so that it almost looks like it's part of official policy."

It has been reported officially on several occasions that French troops avoid contact with the PLO wherever possible, which is one of the reasons why the French sector is regarded by the insurgents as a preferred infiltration area en route to Israel.

Ma'alot in Israel's Upper Galilee, twice attacked by PLO terrorists in recent months, is directly opposite the French sector in southern Lebanon.

In contrast, there are several UN contingents who are doing a fine job in separating the warring factions. Among these is a Gurkha airborne battalion that was originally trained in high altitude warfare by Israeli instructors. Their role and that of the Fijians (half of their entire defense force is in the Middle East) has been professional and correct.

While conditions in the disputed zone of South Lebanon can be difficult, UN troops are more than adequately recompensed for their efforts. The average Norwegian soldier earns more than \$1,200 (U.S.) a month as a private with the scale spiraling upwards once commissioned rank is achieved. An additional amount of \$50 a day is paid for "danger money"

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COMBAT TRACKING TECHNIQUES

Continued from page 51

Usually the follow-up troops will be in file behind the team; however, 4 Battalion, The Rhodesia Regiment, has developed a unique formation that seems to work well in African bush. (See diagram 5.)

Once contact is imminent, troops can move to a skirmish line behind and to the flanks of the tracking team. This allows the troops to move forward at once and leaves the trackers a gap to fall back through. If you are short of men, the trackers can maintain their place in the sweep line and reinforce the infantry (the trackers seem to prefer this idea so they can get a few shots off as well).

I have also seen an "off-set" formation used as well. On contact, the troops swing out and up on the flanks until you have a complete sweep line and then all move forward together. (See diagram 6.)

ANTI-TRACKING

The techniques for anti-tracking are as varied as your imagination. You may be the one being tracked some day, so give some thought to covering your trail. Here are some possibilities:

1. Wear the same boots as the enemy, if you are operating in his territory. If he goes barefoot you could be in for some tough going.
2. Use animals or cattle to cover your tracks.
3. Move in the rain if possible.
4. Use streams and rivers, roads and railways to cover your spoor.
5. Walk on rocky or hard ground.
6. Move through villages to get lost in the tracks. (Note: If you are desperate enough to try to penetrate a village, do so very carefully at night and only as a last resort.)
7. Split up or bombshell and circle back and RV (rendezvous).
8. Brush out your tracks with bushes, hats, or neck scarves.
9. If dogs are after you, try using CS or tear gas powder or pepper laced with ammonia on your tracks.
10. If you can, booby trap and ambush your trail.

SCOUT DOG TEAMS

Finally, we come to an aspect of tracking that has been used extensively by NATO-style armies in Europe and Asia: scout dog teams.

If you have the use of scout dog teams, by all means, employ them. They are there to support the ground troops in locating the enemy and to provide silent warning. They may also be used as listening and observation posts. Once you know you are going to use dogs, have them assigned to the unit as far ahead of the mission as possible. This gives the team and the dogs time to adjust to each other. The handler

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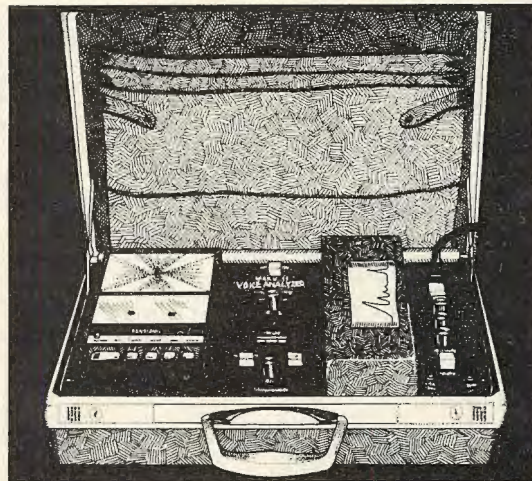
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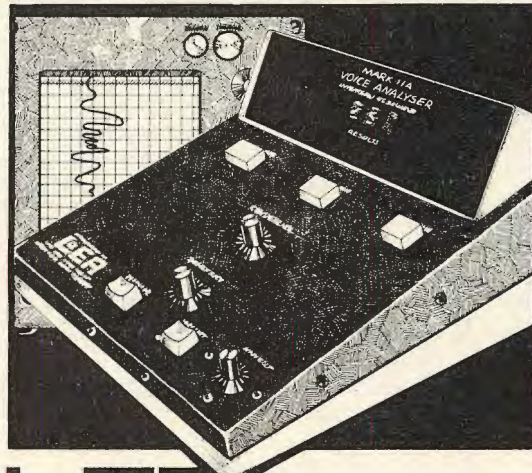
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should let each member of the patrol touch the dog to eliminate fears the men might have.

Scout dogs have limitations which should be borne in mind. Dogs have acute senses of smell, good hearing, and are attracted quickly to movement. Dogs are subject to periodic retraining and are as sensitive to the elements as humans.

The best position for the dog team is directly in front of the patrol. Wind conditions may require that the team move to windward to take advantage of the dog's sense of smell. Some dogs can, depending on weather and wind, sense the enemy 200 meters away.

The dog can be used to locate sentries and determine the extent of positions and emplacements and may assist the patrol leader in setting up his men without being detected by the enemy.

The following are some general rules for dog teams:

1. If the handler is killed, leave the dog with him and report it to your HQ.
2. If the handler is a casualty, try to lure the dog away so you can treat him. If you must evacuate one, send the other as well.
3. Treat the team as one of the unit. Support them and keep the handler informed of all tactical moves.
4. Let the handler select the dog's position in the line of march.
5. Seek the handler's advice in employing the team.
6. Do not expect the team to perform miracles and do not relax your alertness because they are with you.
7. Do not feed or play with the dog.

Although the information in this article will not make you an "ace" tracker, it will give you a better awareness of tracking and the tactics employed by tracking teams.

The only way to become a competent, reliable tracker is to use the method of the natives: practice, practice, practice. It is a skill that can stand you in good stead on your next operation, enhance your combat effectiveness, and perhaps save your life.

SOURCE MATERIAL

Texts which complement the material covered in this article include:

FM 20-20: Military Dog Training and Employment.

FM 21-75: Combat Training of the Individual Soldier and Patrolling.

"Mantracking," *Search and Rescue Magazine*.

Mercenary's Manual, Part II, by Terry P. Edwards.

The Boy Scout Field Manual.

Tracking was among the skills that Capt. John Early, SOF contributing editor for military affairs, learned in his 12 years with the U.S. Army and three years with the Rhodesian air force and army. In the Army, Early spent 4½ years in Vietnam as a Special Forces NCO and officer with the 5th and 10th SFGA. His Rhodesian tour included service with the elite Selous Scouts.

Early has a BA and MA in communications from Southern Illinois University and is currently writing a novel about the Special Forces in Vietnam.



FULL AUTO

auto arm has apparently been lost, or, at least, damn well hidden.

Time after time, I find myself confronted with aspiring MGers who labor under the misconception that the SMG, LMG, HMG, and automatic rifle are to be used in a manner similar to the common garden hose. That is, pointed in the general direction of the target and "sprayed" until something happens. Naturally, the usual result is that nothing at all happens — other than noise, smoke, motion, and the expenditure of ammunition.

It appears that the movies and TV have had a great deal to do with this phenomenon over the years, dating back to the '20s when newsreels and cinema depicted gangsters dumping an entire 100-round drum from their M1921 Thompson in one burst. Indeed! Well, I guess ammo was a lot cheaper then, eh?

Seriously (but not hopelessly), even the military seem to have this problem. Even though superb training has been provided to automatic riflemen and machine-gunners for at least 40 years, the stresses of actual combat seem to cause many to forget everything they have been taught and revert to their "put-it-on-rock-'n'-roll-and-let-'er-rip" fantasies. The natural result is that ammo, critical on the battlefield, gets expended with no commensurate casualties inflicted upon the enemy received in return. This is a damned serious problem and should be immediately, and strongly, addressed and corrected, as empty MGs are worthless in a fight.

Simple trigger control, a la the two-to-five-round burst, is the simple answer to the control/ammo consumption problem faced by those utilizing an auto-weapon in combat, particularly by the squad automatic rifleman, since he normally uses a magazine-fed weapon rather than a true MG with its belt-fed method of feed.

Short bursts allow maximum probability of hitting the target while minimizing

STEEL ON POLICE WEAPONS

Continued from page 19

applied before the subject has his defenses up. The twistlock should be applied from the "Position of Advantage."

For example, if approaching the subject from the left side place your right hand on his upper left arm and your left hand on his wrist. If the subject is going to resist he will pull away; if he tries to punch he will be off balance against this position. Make sure that your grip is firm, strong enough that he cannot easily pull away, but light enough that he does not react to pain. If it appears that he will resist pull his arm into your chest (which keeps his elbow straight), move your right hand down to the back of his hand, fingers around the heel of his hand, thumb around the web. Immediately grasp his fingers with your left hand, so that his little finger is bent behind the others. Twist his hand clockwise up into his armpit, so that he is forced up on his tiptoes.

If he struggles, lower his hand slightly, then jerk it up again, playing him like a fish on a flyrod. If he makes a fist before your left hand can grasp his fingers put your left hand around the other side of his fist: the tendons will be stretched as well as if the fingers were held. If the subject manages to twist away before the twistlock can be applied, usually an alternative wristlock or armlock can be applied as long as the grasp on his arm has been retained. Incidentally, the twistlock can be applied to the subject's right arm: merely reverse the hand positions to mirror those described for use on the left side.

The wristlock can be applied in a number of ways. It has been mentioned that the officer can, on occasion, take the subject's hand with both his thumbs on the back, fingers over palm, to turn the hand up and over his upper arm for an improvised backward throw. The hand could also be pulled downward with the fingers over the back of the subject's hand, with the elbow pulled into the pit of the stomach for a useful comealong. The wristlock can also be used as a preparatory move for a behind-the-back armlock, and once the subject's arm is behind him the wristlock can add persuasive force to the armlock or once the subject is handcuffed.

ALERTNESS AND TIMING

In conclusion, let me say that any good academy or martial arts course can supply the officer with an extremely valuable repertoire of self defense moves. But only years of experience dealing with his criminal clientele can teach him "who the players are," when to talk, and when to fight.



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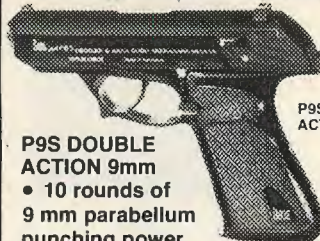
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COMBAT IN LEBANON

Continued from page 76

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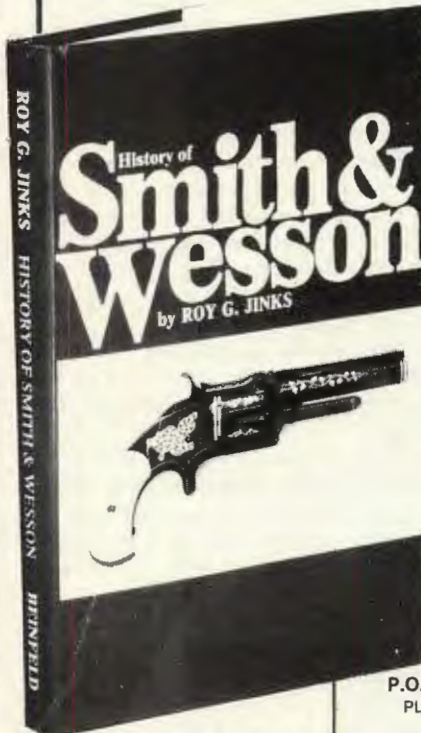
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 21

RECENTLY I had an opportunity to test fire and evaluate three of the newest .45 auto pistols designed primarily for concealed carry. The Star P.D., Detonics, and Thomas .45 were tested for ease of use and performance. Each gun was an over-the-counter pistol and not a demonstrator provided by the distributor. This is the only way to get a realistic impression of production-line quality, since manufacturers or importers commonly supply select-grade guns for testing and evaluation to gun writers. Each pistol was also chronograph tested and fired on the IPSC ballistic pendulum, and then fired for practical accuracy and used on some basic combat pistol drills.

THE first-tested Star P.D. is a compact pistol with some excellent features. The well-known P.D. has become available to most shooters since its introduction a few years back. It is the least expensive of the three guns tested at a suggested retail of \$239. The gun has good sights and a very acceptable trigger. In fact, every P.D. I have examined has had a very good trigger for the type of work that this piece is intended for. The well-thought-out Star offers a touches such as beveled magazine well and a safety that is excellent from the box.

My gun shot better than I had hoped for and would out-perform many full-size Colts. It was reliable and handled all loads as long as short-nose bullets were avoided.

But all of these good points are lost in the poor quality materials that the Spanish use in their guns. Spanish steels have been of concern for years. Sadly, the P.D. has an aluminum alloy frame. My first P.D. came apart after only 400 rounds. The replacement gun was used in the test. After firing only 30 rounds of factory hardball, peening could be detected on the alloy frame.

The Man [Jeff Cooper] has stated that the P.D. is a pistol that you carry a lot and shoot very little. He must shoot his very, very little.

The frame's magazine catch lock recess was slowly pounding itself right out of the gun. I quit firing it for fear that selling it in pieces would be more difficult than I desired to be bothered with. I have it no longer.

Anyone that carries such a piece should be able to shoot it a few times each year to insure that it works and that he can handle it confidently. If the piece is not well enough made to stand a fighting gun's occasional familiarization firing, it must be considered a cruel joke. Sadly the P.D. seems a loss. Its fine design, if executed properly, would make it an excellent sidearm.

THE Thomas .45 auto pistol, a well-built, solid-feeling gun, gives renewed

faith in the concept of firearm investment castings. The final machine work gives the cast parts a look of quality workmanship. The pistol is rather robust for easy concealment. It handles well and feels comfortable in the hand. Its sights are not high profile but are sharp and pick up well for fast work. The magazine release is located correctly, as in the 1911, and reloading is quick and easy.

What appears to be the grip safety is in fact a form of hesitation lock to retard blow-back action. While it seems to work fine, the process of clearing the chamber or chambering a round is very awkward. It is so bad that one could get cold feet about owning a Thomas on this point alone.

But the really bad news is the trigger system. The Thomas .45 is designed to have a double-action pull for each shot, but the trigger retracts a striker and then releases it to fire the weapon, resulting in horrible trigger action, the worst one can imagine. The effort required to fire well-aimed shots was so bad that you might as well forget it and save wasted ammo. What a shame — an otherwise well-built pistol is destroyed because of poor trigger design. It was difficult to hit the ballistic pendulum at 10 meters as a result of this atrocious trigger pull. I wonder if there are people who really buy such a weapon.

THE Detonics was the last pocket-size .45 tested. Basically, this chopped-down 1911, with minor design changes, is a solid little gun with the aesthetics of a brick. Since it is indeed functional, this hardly matters. It is a heavy piece, so fully loaded one would find it heavy for actual pocket carry.

Other owners have told me that the Detonics doesn't kick, or that it recoils less than the full-size gun. That is real crap. It does recoil and anyone that feels it doesn't, has some real lessons to learn. To expect this piece to be easier to shoot and control than a full-size government model is hard to swallow unless you are just another gunshop commando.

The back of the slide is profiled to allow easy thumb cocking, a shame, since sight radius is compromised as a result. Many may say that sights aren't important on a close-range combat gun. They are fooling themselves if they feel that the flash sight picture is unimportant. The shortened butt gives only minimal grip purchase during the firing stroke. The effort to make the piece more concealable has resulted in a compromise of firing comfort. I find it to be a real problem. The little finger has no proper position to gain maximum control of this sharply recoiling pistol. If the grip had been left a mere 3/8 inch longer, the gun would have been improved greatly. Although the designer may consider this a small point, when you fire it in a few basic practical pistol drills, you will learn how important proper hand position is in the realm of getting good hits.

CHRONOGRAPH testing was conducted with 230-grain Federal Match Hard Ball, Remington 185-grain JHP, and 190-grain Super Vel JHP. Velocity loss with the shorter barrels, on the average, was only 40 to 50 feet per second with the P.D. and Thomas. The Detonic's velocity seemed slightly lower than the other two, due to its short barrel. If you are a fan of light bullet, high velocity, then these short tube .45 autos' performance will not impress you.

The real eye opener came in the practical firing tests. Single draws from concealment at 10 meters in 1.5 seconds showed the Star P.D. to be the best of the lot. Likewise, the "El Presidente" really opened up shot placement groups on the three IPSC silhouettes. The Thomas was worst in relation to good hits. Its trigger made effective shooting nearly impossible at any thing but belly-button range. The Star had better handling with superior hits on each drill. Yet, considering that it is a pistol that won't stand up to novice-level practice sessions, it would be a poor choice even at its low retail price of \$239. The Detonics shot just well enough over the "El Presidente" to pass, not a confident performance in this kind of test. Its magazine is not top quality. For its cost (\$395) you would expect one or two good quality magazines. The test piece was much easier to shoot when a standard GI-issue magazine was used in the last half of the speed load stage. With the full-length magazine, gripping the weapon was much easier.

AFTER testing these three pistols, I could recommend only the Detonics. It did work and appears to be able to stand up under the pounding that .45 ACP ammo hands out. My own personal choice for a good concealment .45 auto is still the lightweight Colt Commander. The LW Commander has proven itself for over 20 years in the hands of the shooting fraternity, and it sells for a price that all can afford. My recommendation for a serious pistol packer, demanding the power and punch of the .45 ACP, is to buy the Colt Commander and stick with success.

FOR years serious wheelgun shooters have relied on custom grips to make their double-action grip more uniform. The big names in combat revolver stocks have been Herrett, Guy Hogue, and Fuzzy Farrant. I have Farrant combat grips on many of my revolvers and have found them not only functional but works of art. Farrant uses top-quality exotic hard woods that distinguish pistols sporting his grips.

Each pair of stocks is custom made to fit the shooter's hand. Finger grooves are standard, and palm swells give proper grip index for quick drawing and rapid double-action firing. I really appreciate the rosewood used in these beautiful Farrant

stocks. His design allows proper finger placement on trigger. These grips also work nicely for concealment wear, since they don't have the factory stock trumpet flair.

Many new combat revolver grips on the market, such as Pachmayr, Hoge Mono-grip, and Rogers Combat grips, use synthetic materials to lower cost and ease production time. However, if you desire old-world craftsmanship and functional combat revolver grips of natural materials, contact E.M. Fuzzy Farrant, 1235 West Vine Ave., West Covina, CA 91790. When he sends you his price list and ordering details you won't be disappointed.



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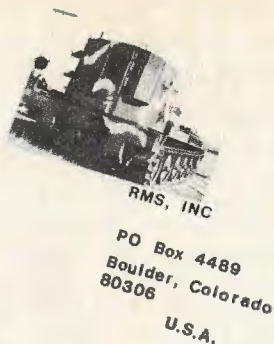
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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 11

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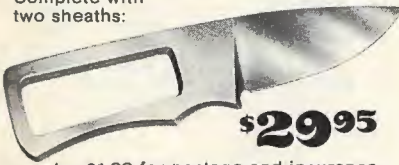
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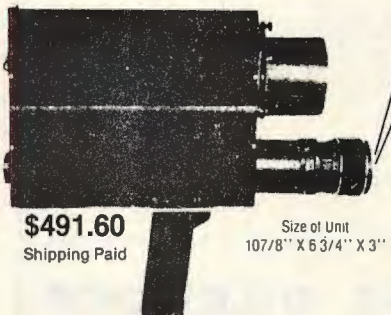
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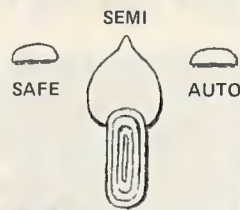
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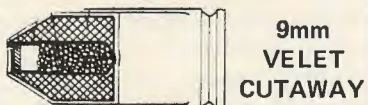
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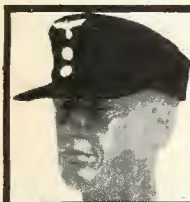
TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 84

was originally made in both blue and nickel finishes in .22 long rifle or .22 magnum. The long rifle version has now gone by the boards, as have the white plastic grips earlier furnished with the blue models. The little High Standard derringier has become more businesslike.

An over/under of the Remington type, it lacks the Remington's exposed hammer. It is, in a way, a double action. Firing-pin operation is selective. A long DA-style In blue or nickel, the grips are black now and .22 magnum is the only offering. pull fires the first shot and sets up the action for firing the second barrel. The only way to know which barrel will fire first is to remember which one was triggered last or dry snap the gun into the desired firing order.

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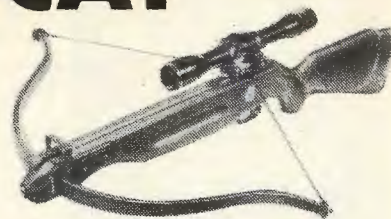
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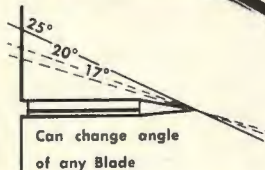
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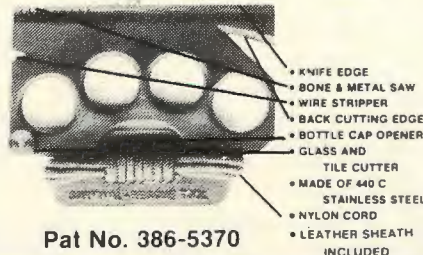
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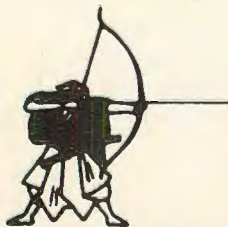
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FULL AUTO

Continued from page 14

the degree of loss of control experienced by the gunner. Usually, the first two rounds fired are the most accurate anyway, and each successive round from that point on further aggravates the problem, plus not hitting the target.

The method used is the simple "press—release" idea that allows the rapid volume of fire so necessary on today's battlefields but does not escalate the already serious ammunition consumption problem. The idea is simple and easy to use. Just remember to "press—release" for each burst, correcting your aim as required between bursts, and you'll find that you'll hit the target just as fast, if not faster, and not burn precious ammunition unnecessarily.

Movie and TV actors don't die when they do stupid things with weapons on the "tube" — however, you just *might* if you emulate them. So, keep the bursts down to two to five rounds to increase your chances of survival — they're bad enough already without making them worse!



TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 87

But some tips are in order for its use. One good friend carries his High Standard derringer with the grips removed. It makes a flatter silhouette and is, after all, just a hideout gun. Another tip regarding the High Standard is shooting it with the second finger, trigger finger laid carefully upside the barrels — long-fingered folks beware! With a gun like this, practice range should be progressive and seven feet is not a bad place to start. The highest speed, hollowpoint bullets safe to shoot should be loaded into the High Standard in order to make a hit anywhere do as much as it can. A hollow point .22 magnum is far more serious than even a high speed Long Rifle round, but the problem with the High Standard is connecting, and that shouldn't be forgotten. This implies no inherent inaccuracy with the gun, just that size — in human terms — mitigates towards poor shooting.

Safariland and Jackass offer excellent pocket holsters for the High Standard derringer, similar to those made for automatics like the Bauer and Sterling. The holster is available with optional cartridge loops providing a spare load for the little two-shooter. In addition to this, the wallet-type "shoot-through" holsters are also offered to aid concealed carrying.

For those who want a more potent cartridge in a gun the size — roughly — of a small frame auto, the High Standard is an obvious choice. And yes, High Standard is in production. As this is written all is well with the company and the derringers themselves are in production. Demand, however, far outstrips supply at this point. For more information, write High Standard, 31 Prestige Park Circle, East

Hartford, CT 06108, USA. Current retail for the blue High Standard derringer is \$89.95, more than competitive.

A Marlin makes a good choice for going out in rough country after medium-sized game. It's small enough and light enough to be carried comfortably all day long. Because of the handy size it's easy to use without a sling when climbing a tree or navigating obstacles. Because of the simplicity of the lever action and the ruggedness of the Marlin construction, the 1894 can be banged and bumped and still work like a charm.

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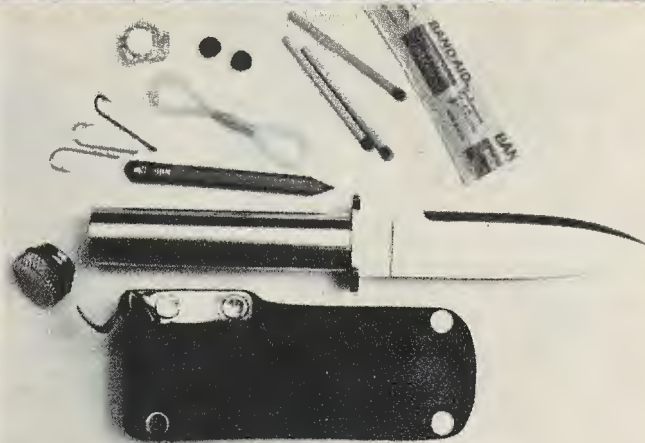
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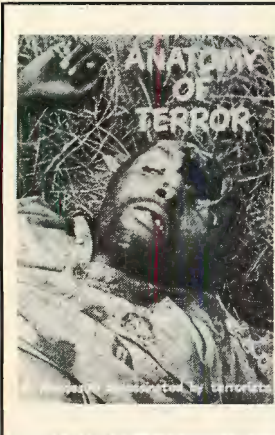
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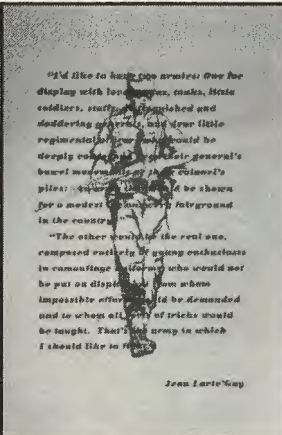
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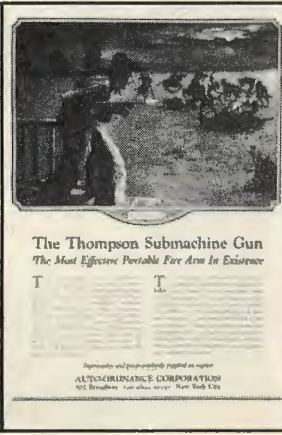


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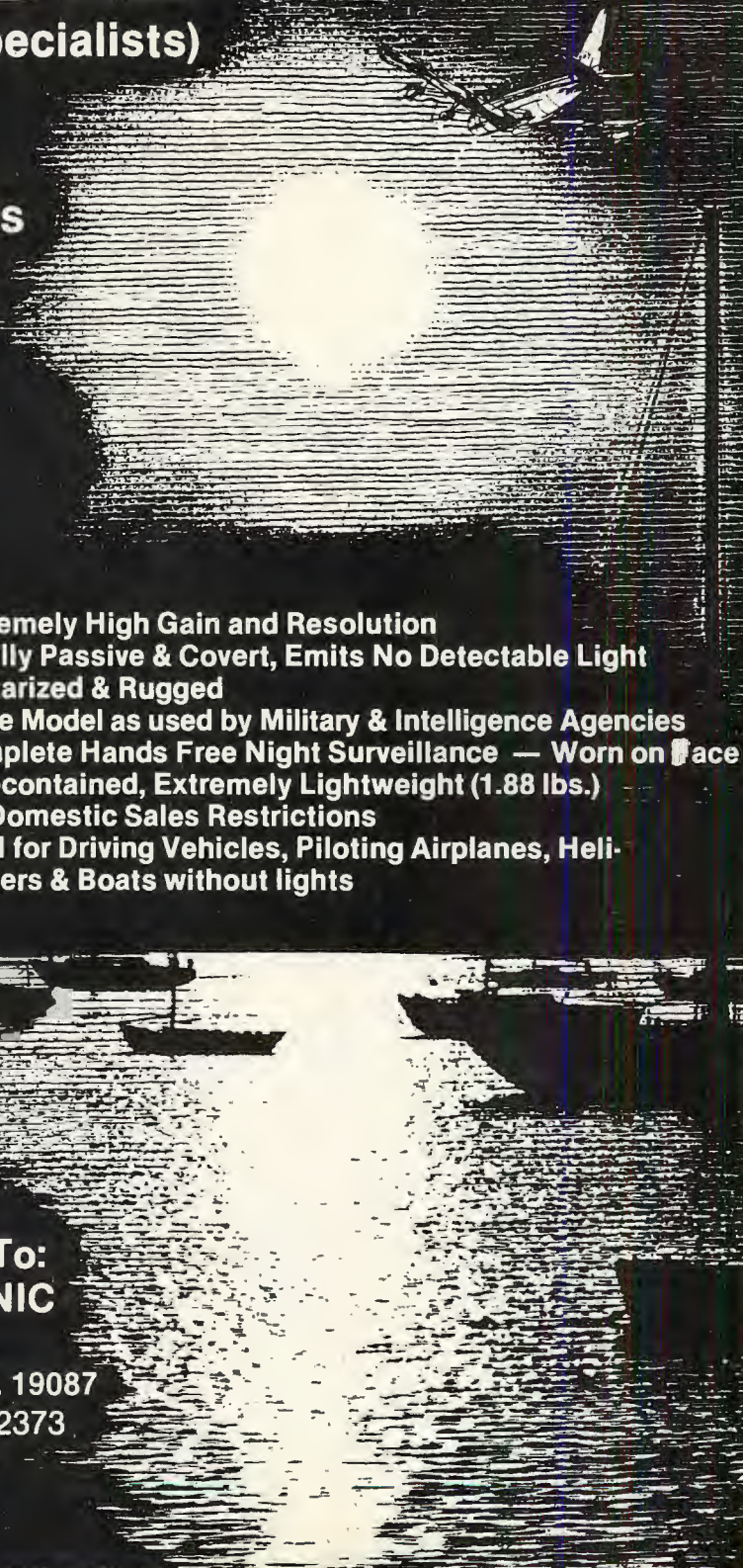


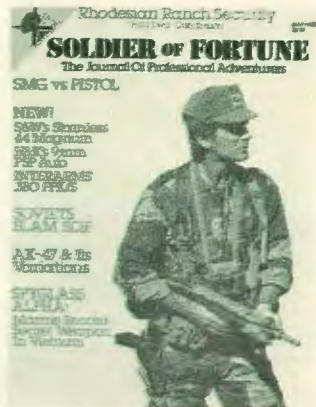
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