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BOBBY GARWOOD—TRAITOR OR VICTIM?

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The Journal Of Professional Adventurers

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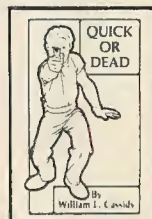
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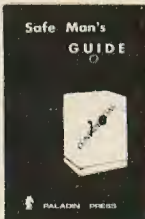
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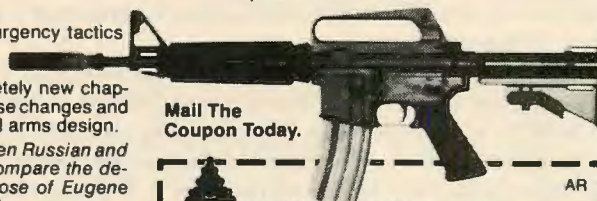
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A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

IN keeping with our slogan of a magazine by professionals, for professionals, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Poos as Managing Editor.

Bob Poos is a former Marine, riverboat and deep-sea deckhand, sandhog, railroad section hand and underground coal miner. He is also a prize-winning journalist who spent four years in Asia as a war and foreign correspondent, most of it in Vietnam, Laos and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

Poos served from 1948 to 1952 in the Marines as a rifleman and EOD specialist. As sergeant, he declined a field commission and took advantage of the Korean War GI Bill, entering Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Ill., near his hometown of Hillsboro, graduating three years later with a degree in English-Journalism and a minor in Far Eastern history and affairs.

Bob joined the staff of the *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper in Carbondale as a reporter-photographer where he won the Illinois State Press Association's first place award for spot news photography in 1956.

In 1957, Poos joined the Associated Press St. Louis bureau, where he specialized in police and crime reporting. Six years later, he won a Heywood Broun Memorial award for a lengthy series of stories he wrote about a man named Richard Honeck who had spent 64 years in Menard, Ill., State Penitentiary — the longest known time any person has ever served a prison sentence in this country.

The AP assigned Poos to its Saigon Bureau in mid-1965 where he covered infantry ground operations from the Mekong Delta to inside the DMZ. During the next year and a half, he was twice wounded, once by a grenade blast and once by a punji stake in the right ankle.

Named SIU's Outstanding Journalism Graduate of the year in 1966, Poos got another award the same year he treasures just as much — he was named an Honorary Trooper in the Seventh Cavalry, one of only three men so recognized in the Vietnam war. AP photographer Henri Huet, later killed in action, and UPI Correspondent Joe Galloway, currently UPI bureau chief in Moscow, were the other two.

At the end of 1966, Poos was named AP Chief Correspondent in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a roving assignment in which he covered the Malaysian-Indonesian conflict, the Communist guerrilla action in Malaysia and the U.S. "secret war" in Laos.

In 1968, Poos was named News Editor of the Tokyo AP Bureau and during a year there covered the North Korean Communist attack on South Korea's Blue House presidential mansion, capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo and clashes between UN and North Korean Communist forces along the western front of Korea.

Following a brief return to Vietnam after the Tet Offensive in 1968, Poos was assigned to the Washington Bureau of the AP, where he stayed until 1970, when he left the AP to join the staff of the old House Committee on Internal Security. He remained there until shortly before the Committee was dissolved, then began working as a Washington public relations man and freelance magazine writer. During that time, Poos went to Africa and wrote a lengthy series of stories on the South African armed forces and the general military-political situation in southern Africa for another military magazine.

Married and the father of two teen-age daughters, Poos likes shooting, hunting and fishing, and dislikes many things about the CIA, most (though not all) generals, and virtually all politicians. Robert Poos will bring a variety of field experiences and years of journalistic excellence to *Soldier of Fortune*, so it is with great pride and pleasure I say "Welcome aboard, Bob!"

Robert K. Brown
Publisher

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



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Al J. Venter

Idi Amin was a fugitive, but violence continued through May as Tanzanian troops ran down the remnants of Amin's army. SOF's African correspondent provides a first-hand account of the country near the end of the Tanzanian invasion.

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Vasily Zaitsev

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NEW H&K PSP 9 mm 44

Chuck Taylor

An SOF exclusive report on Heckler and Koch's newest 9mm semi-auto pistol. Innovative design and precision manufacture insure this gun will be a winner.

HELL ON WHEELS 46

Al J. Venter

Mean, fast and efficient, the motorcycle troops of South Africa have proven a dangerous enemy for SWAPO terrorists in Southwest Africa. Likened to hungry lions by captured terrors, this group of highly-trained soldiers is making its mark as an effective counterinsurgency unit.

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Beards on Special Forces soldiers, incorrect unit patches, and endless games of Russian roulette mar the 'best film' of 1978. Nevertheless, it is a compelling film and in some areas, worthy of its Academy Award.

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In typical British fashion, Her Majesty's troops, fighting the Zulus of southern Africa, experienced terrible defeat and inspiring victory — all in less than a week!



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WORLD PRACTICAL PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIPS 60

Victor de la Porte

A first-class range and some tough competition will greet contestants this month in South Africa as shooters from around the globe vie for individual and team honors.

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Jake Jatras

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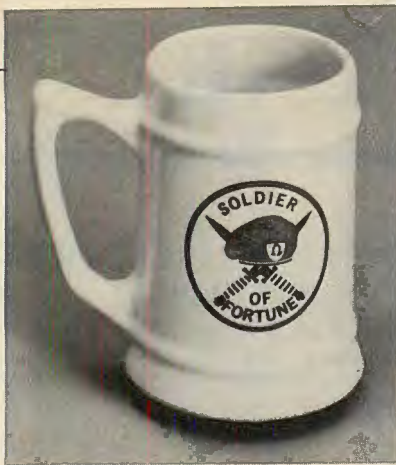
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Dear Sirs:

As co-author — with Chris Dempster and Dave Tomkins — of *Fire Power*, I was surprised to see (in your June '79 issue) an ad for someone offering copies of the book at 5 pounds Sterling (\$10) a copy. We'd hate for any of our SOF friends to get ripped off in this way so I would like to remind your readers that copies of *Fire Power* can still be obtained for only \$5.00 postpaid from:

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I enjoyed John Howard's interview with Chris Dempster in the same issue — his questions were a lot more perceptive and intelligent than most TV and newspaper interviews with Dempster that I've seen, where the questions are usually the "how do you sleep at night?" variety.

Sincerely,
Michel Parry
Brentford, Middlesex,
England

WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER? ...

Sirs:

This letter is in response to the interview conducted with two former NLF members who now regret their opposition to the abortive U.S. assistance to South Vietnam (SOF, July, 1979). At the interview's conclusion, the interrogator, John Howard, appended his thoughts on the attitudes of the two Vietnamese, which in essence were, "they should have known better."

Howard has overlooked the very successful communist appeal to young intellectuals of a country that, in their lifetime, had experienced a Japanese occupation, followed by French colonial rule, in turn followed by the openly corrupt regimes of Diem and others in addition to the Thieu government referred to in the article. Living only in their country, they had no real experience of life in either truly free Western democracies or totali-

tarian communist countries. Thus, they were susceptible to clever manipulation.

Lacking any real basis of comparison, and believing clever communist propaganda about U.S. motives, it is altogether realistic and expected that these two intellectuals would follow the course of action that they did. After all, it is a basic communist tactic to appeal openly to nationalist sentiments, and to ethnic and racial sentiments, as well. A careful reading of the interview demonstrates the success of this approach with Toai and Hieu.

Their anti-American bias in the late '60s is understandable on a number of points. Not understanding U.S. commitment to try to protect nominally "free" societies from communist incursions, they would have found it hard to justify the presence of American troops in their country. Thus, they would be easy prey to the propaganda that the United States had some "imperialistic" design on South Vietnam in order to benefit in some mysterious way from its natural resources, such as tin and tungsten. It would not occur to them that the U.S. could purchase several lifetimes of supplies of these commodities on the open market for what it cost to fight that war.

In the post-World War II era, the United States has been consistently faced with unhappy choices of either corrupt, repressive governments, or communist regimes, with their repression, as the only foreseeable alternative. Of necessity, this country has supported the corrupt "democracies," not paying sufficient attention to their young intellectuals who see only corruption and U.S. involvement. A succession of U.S. leaders over the past 34 years has yet to come up with a satisfactory answer to this dilemma. And the understandable U.S. insistence on a voice in how its aid money was spent would be abhorrent to young nationalists, who would view it as "imperialism."

Thus, it is wholly understandable that these two young men would have acted as they did, with limited experience of the true nature of communism. What is not acceptable to this writer is Americans' holding these same views — they should know better. The arguments about U.S. "imperialistic" actions in South Vietnam advanced above were recently stated to me by a number of well-educated university graduates in their mid-30s, all of whom had free access to information about the true nature of communism and to the reasons and costs of U.S. involvement in South Vietnam.

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It is truly sad to think that a whole generation of U.S. college graduates accept as truth blatant communist propaganda, but it is so. These young people *do* have free access to the material listed by John Howard, but have chosen the easy way out by swallowing whole the pronouncements of Hanoi Jane and ultra left-wing politicians in *this* country. If young people in the United States, with easy access to the truth, do not choose to find it or believe it, why blame two South Vietnamese who were subverted emotionally and did not have full access to the facts? It is chilling to think of American young people who still believe in the "moral bankruptcy" and other communist catch phrases about what happened in South Vietnam, and to whom desertion and draft evading have become thoroughly respectable. Perhaps John Howard might address himself to this melancholy fact.

Sincerely,
Eugene A. Barron
Denver, Colorado

"BATFAG" PREFERRED ...

Sirs:

After examining your recent BATF articles, it seems to me that SOF is searching for an appropriate way to refer to this bureau and its denizens. "BATF Gestapo" is awkward, a poor parallel, and gives the BATF far too much credit for efficiency.

It must be remembered that these "agents" could not get an application from the CIA or FBI, would be laughed out by Treasury or Customs, and would be widely rejected by even the DEA. Thus, these creeps find themselves in the federal basement — the BATF.

The BATF steers a wide berth around the Mob and well-armed terror subgroups (as they're too difficult to find, and besides, a fellow could get *hurt*). Instead, these stalwarts prefer to roust some old geezer in their inimitable Keystone-SWAT style after shadily selling him an 1896 Mauser pistol. That is, when they can find his house and not some schoolteacher's.

So I suggest for these federally sanctioned jerk-offs the term "BATFag." An "agent of the BATF" would be more precisely referred to as a "BATFag," and the bureau itself as the "BATFags." The term, pronounced "bat-fag," sounds great, looks fine in print, and hits these overarmed wimps right between the eyes.

Yours,
Matt Bracken
Charlottesville, Virginia

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Sirs:

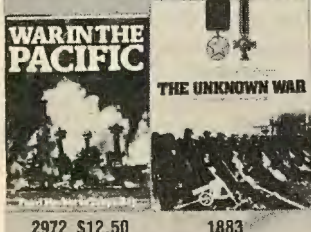
Regarding William McDermott's letter (SOF, April '79) concerning the T-shirt ripoff, there are four things one should do when he/she thinks they have been ripped

Continued on page 19

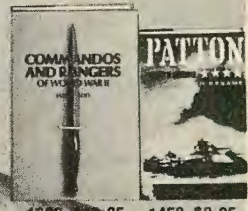
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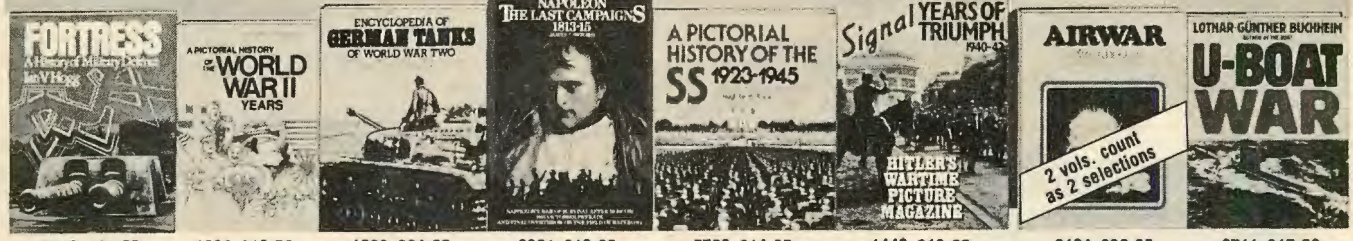
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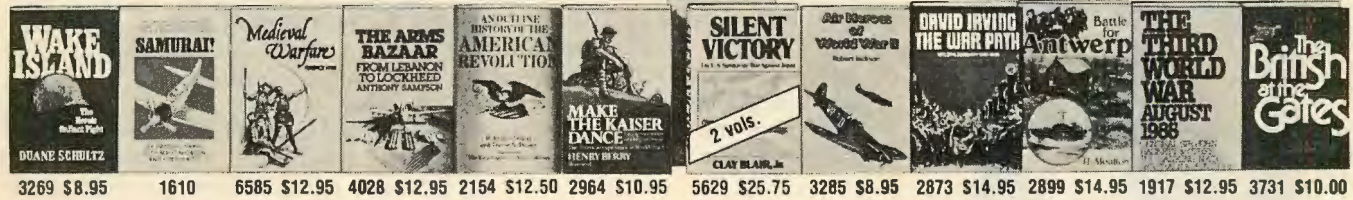
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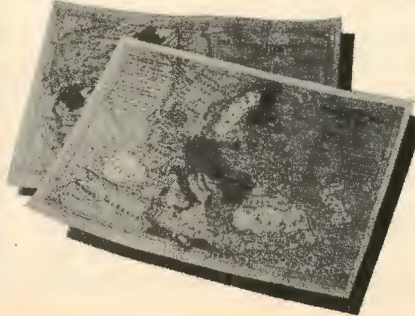
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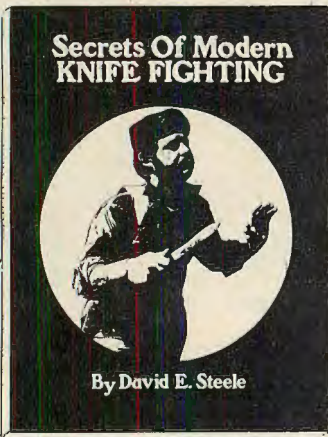
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BULLETIN BOARD

THE BULL IS DEAD ...

Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons, ex-Special Forces officer and engineer of the biggest jailbreak in history ("Who Dares Wins," SOF, June 1979), died in May of heart failure at a Dallas hospital.

Simons, best known for leading a raid on the Son Tay POW camp in North Vietnam in 1970, and more recently for rescuing two of billionaire H. Ross Perot's employees from an Iranian prison in February, had been ill since suffering a heart attack in March.

Perot, who brought him to Dallas for treatment, said of his close friend, "No one could be stronger in adversity or more gentle with children ..."

In a future issue, *Soldier of Fortune* will present a fitting farewell to this exceptional warrior.

KENNEDY FOUND GUILTY ...

Early in April, the Senate ethics committee ruled 3 to 0 that Senator Ted Kennedy acted improperly when he wrote fund raising letters for two national gun control groups on his official stationery.

The letters, written for the National Coalition to Ban Handguns and Handgun Control, Inc., violated an advisory opinion that "prohibits donation by Senators of stationery which includes the words 'United States Senate.'" However, the decision does not subject Kennedy to disciplinary action.

SALT II SEMINARS ...

The American Security Council Education Foundation, the educational branch of the Coalition for Peace Through Strength, is conducting monthly seminars to provide information to counter the massive pro-SALT II campaign currently being waged by the Carter administration.

Speakers include many distinguished experts in the defense field, including General John Singlaub, recently "retired" from the U.S. Army (see January 1979 SOF).

The ASCEF is looking for community leaders across the nation who can aid them in their fight to inform the American people of the forces currently working to tear down the nation's defenses and leave the U.S. vulnerable to Soviet domination. For further information contact: John Fisher, President, American Security Council Education Foundation, Boston, VA 22713.

NEW BOLT SPRING ...

SSK Industries announced the introduction of a heavy duty bolt spring for the Thompson/Center Contender recently.

SSK claims their bolt spring exerts 50%+ more pressure than the original T/C spring, assuring a tight lock up, increased accuracy and a substantial reduction in "flyers." Placement of these springs in Thompson/Center's Contender results in greatly improved scores in Metallic Silhouette competition.

The firm's heavy duty hammer spring (\$6.65); 10-30 ounce trigger return spring (\$5.65) and bolt spring are available as a kit at \$16.00. The bolt spring retails individually for \$6.65.

OPFOR ERRORS ...

Apologies to Lt. Col. Richard S. Bond, mistakenly identified as James Bond in OPFOR: The Friendly Enemy (SOF, June 1979).

Additionally, the photo on page 58 refers to a PKM as an AKM. And on page 83, paragraph five, the RPK has the heavy barrel and 40-round magazine — the AKM does not.

NATO 90mm GUNS TO GO TO USSR? ...

Several European and American military sources indicate that Engessa, a Brazilian defense company, has sold either technology or munitions for a current state-of-the-art 90mm cannon to the Soviet Union. The cannon, in use throughout NATO on armored force vehicles, is manufactured under license from a Belgian defense corporation.

If true, the sale raises serious questions about violations of NATO defense agreements concerning the dissemination of current weapons systems to Warsaw Pact powers. It also raises questions about the state of affairs between Brazil and the U.S., which have been at a low ebb ever since President Carter's ill-planned visit to Brazil last year, where he excoriated his host country's record on human rights and met with communist opposition leaders to show his support for their cause. Rubbing salt in public wounds, Carter then flew directly to Nigeria, where he publicly praised the Nigerian leaders (instigators of the massacre of over 1,000,000 Biafrans by starvation and execution) for their stand on "human rights," recommending their example for the world to emulate.

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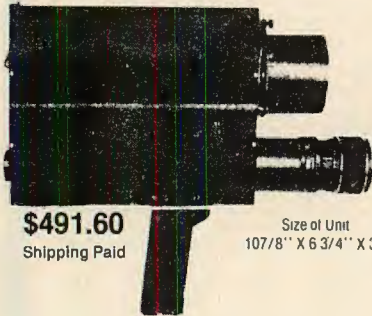
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Enraged, the Brazilian government canceled all military defense agreements with the U.S., which has always counted on Brazilian help to secure its South Atlantic shipping routes through active military assistance and the use of Brazilian bases.

The Soviets reportedly expressed interest in the gun and its munitions after Engessa supplied Russian-advised Libya with AFVs mounting the cannon. Speculation is rife that the Russian military is not overjoyed with the results of their low velocity 76mm cannon used on their new BMP troop carrier and may be looking at NATO's 90mm gun for a replacement.

CARTER TORPEDOES AFRICAN SUBS ...

The South African navy recently received a severe setback in its expansion and modernization plans, when President Carter applied diplomatic pressure that forced France to cancel South African orders for two frigates and two submarines.

South Africa recently ordered two Type A 69 Aviso Class frigates of approximately 1000 tons each to replace its President Class frigates, which have been in service for almost 20 years, and two Agosta Class submarines from Direction Techniques des Constructions Navales (D.T.C.N.) in Paris, and six Reshef Class fast attack craft from Israel. Although Carter's peanut policy of interference forced cancellation of the French order, Israel still plans to fulfill its South African commitment.

Since South Africa received delivery of three Daphne Class submarines in 1968-69, its loss of the Agosta subs is not so serious as the loss of the Aviso frigates.

Alternatives available to South Africa include ordering more Reshef attack vessels from Israel, while continuing to rely on its President Kruger Class frigates for its larger vessels, or ordering frigates from Argentina or Brazil, countries with which it has good diplomatic relations. Whatever its decision, South Africa will prevail, thanks to its continuing resources of imagination and ingenuity.

WANT TO JOIN THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION? ...

Tips for those interested in joining the Legion: Try to get some French language background before you go. Recent returnees from France indicate difficulties with finding English-speaking types at the Legion recruiting center. If you go to France, make sure you have money for a return ticket to the U.S. — some Yanks were rejected for enlistment and had to borrow money from friends to make it back home.

MINI GI BILL ...

Northwestern University sociologist Charles Moskos Jr. has been advocating a proposal for some time which calls on Continued on page 82

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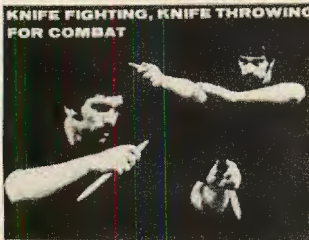
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Terrain & SITUATION

by Jerry Ahern

FOR all their faults, two-inch barreled .38 Specials are still a popular commodity, and despite the comparatively ineffectual .38 Special round — especially the standard 158-grain round-nosed lead service cartridge — the revolvers are decidedly more potent than a .25 or .22 long rifle. The problem today is that Smith & Wesson J-frames — like the Chief's Special — are almost impossible to find. Colt Detective Specials — the only two-incher in Colt's lineup besides the Lawman — are in terrifically short supply. That leaves only Charter Arms' two-inch Undercover .38. Although this gun can be found in most places, its availability occasionally offers a challenge.

When one buys the Charter, what should he expect? For openers, it is the smallest, lightest, all-steel .38 Special to be had, an asset in concealment; however, caution must be used in ammo selection. Most .38 snubbies should not be fed Plus P rounds, certainly not with any regularity. If a low-pressure, reverse-seated, wad-cutter-type load cannot be concocted and commercial ammo is all that is available, then standard wad-cutter rounds or the old police duty round — the 158-grainer referred to above — is probably the best choice. Although some readers might be upset with this fact, using high performance loads in these small guns is asking for trouble — everything from screw loosening to possible accident.

If the low-end ammo is thought sufficient, then the Charter can indeed be a fine little carry-gun. A five-shotter with round-butt design, the Undercover has a flat profile. This compact, portable gun weighs an even pound empty and measures 6¼ inches long and just over four inches tall.

Because Charters generally shoot well and are reliable in field use, they are carried by many relatively knowledgeable shooters for personal defense use.

To develop the Undercover's full potential as a hideout arm, install the Barami Corporation's Hip-Grip device. Spoken of in this column before, the Hip Grip allows relatively safe carrying without a holster. It makes the Charter or similar guns ride low, a bit slow on the draw but vastly easier to conceal — under a light sport shirt or even a T-shirt.

If you can't carry serious ordnance and your choice is a small gun or nothing at all, the Charter bears serious looking into. Retail price with two-inch barrel and blue finish is well under \$150, a bargain considering today's gun prices. For more information or a color catalogue of Charter

products, write Charter Arms Corporation, Dept. SOF, 430 Sniffens Lane, Stratford, CT 06497, U.S.A.

SHOULDER holsters with diagonal or upside-down carry are usually easiest to conceal and fastest on the draw, but some guns lend themselves poorly to this sort of carry. Despite rigs like Bianchi's superb upside-down revolver rig, the 9R, or the Jackass Shoulder Systems, sometimes an old fashioned, right-side-up shoulder rig must be used. Bianchi, Bucheimer-Clark and George Lawrence, as well as other firms, make excellent models. One I've been using lately is the Safariland Model 100, carrying a Browning P-35 or High Power.

The Model 100 is a well-thought-out rig. For openers, it features the patented Safariland Sight-Track, a Lexan piece placed between the two side pieces of the holster body. The front sight rides in the track rather than rubbing against the holster itself, saving the front sight and the leather. Available suede-lined, this is also an asset with a gun like the High Power. Even though the Browning has a durable finish, why take chances with a firearm wearing a price tag over \$300?

One especially good feature of the Safariland Model 100, in this writer's opinion, is the elastic retainer in the lower front portion of the holster as well as the standard, open-front snapdraw. This retainer gives extra security for the gun and in no way impedes the draw or gun replacement.

Concealability with the 100 is adequate for casual use, the butt of the gun being nicely turned in towards the torso. Comfort is good and the Safariland harness-design features several slots for readjustment of the crossover strap. Safariland's leather quality is always excellent, and if a right-side-up holster for a good-sized handgun is needed, Safariland's Model 100 bears a good looking at. For more information, write Safariland at Dept. SOF, 1941 S. Walker Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, U.S.A.

AS this is written, the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster is just — apparently — winding down. By the time this is read, it will be ancient history. But it might also be future history. For openers, the actual effects of radiation exposure to persons in affected areas might not be felt for decades. Hopefully, they will not be felt at all. But, especially to SOF readers, the implications of the disaster should be Continued on page 91

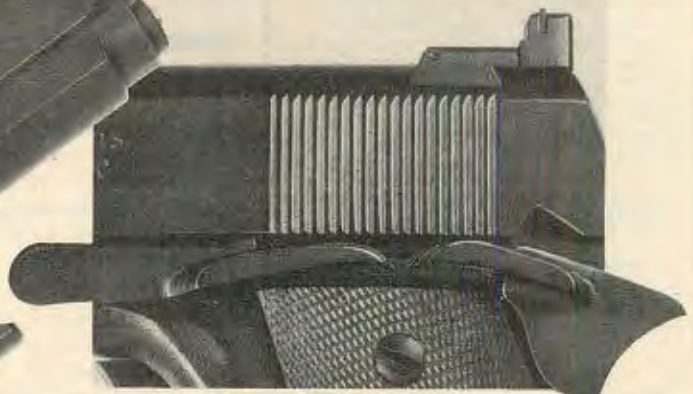
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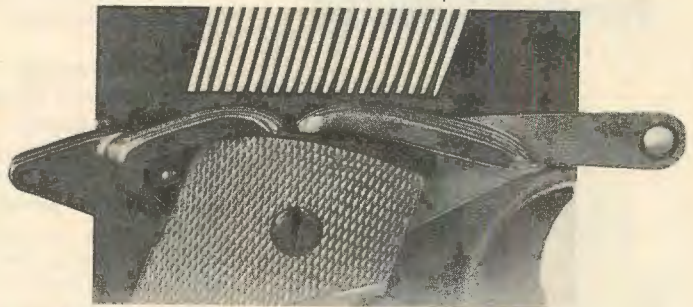
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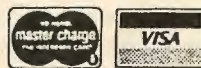
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by Chuck Taylor

IN the last issue of *SOF*, Chuck Taylor described the various rifles tested by the U.S. Army after World War II to replace the .30 M1 (Garand) service rifle. Now he tells the rest of the story.

**REMEMBER
THE M15? ...**

After 12 years and several million dollars, the T44s were officially adopted as standard service for the U.S. Army. The T44E4 was designated the "rifle, cal. 7.62mm NATO, M14," and the T44E5 as the "rifle, cal. 7.62mm NATO, M15."

In their as-adopted versions, the weapons were described by *Special Text*, 7-179, U.S. Army Infantry School publication, Ft. Benning, Georgia, December 1958:

"a. The M14 and M15 are two slightly different models of the same basic weapon. Both are 7.62mm, magazine-fed, gas-operated, shoulder-type weapons. The M14 has a light barrel and is *designed primarily for semiautomatic fire* (emphasis mine), but can be converted for automatic fire by inserting a selector. The M15 has a heavier barrel, stock, and handguard, and is equipped with a bipod, a hinged butt-plate, and a selector. It can fire both semi- and fully-automatic fire.

"b. Both models have the same sight system. The rear sight is identical to the M1 rifle rear sight and is graduated in minutes of angles. The front sight is smaller than the M1 front sight and is mounted on the flash suppressor. There is a wide flange on the bottom of the flash suppressor which reduces the amount of dust blown up from the muzzle blast, and there is a stud on the rear of the flash suppressor to accommodate a bayonet and a grenade launcher.

"c. The M14 action (receiver, bolt, and trigger housing group) is basically the same as that of the M1. The differences, in nearly all instances, were required to accommodate the shorter cartridge and 20-

round box magazine. The receiver, bolt, and firing pin are also shorter. The bolt stud has a roller (to reduce friction) which contacts the camming surfaces in the hump of the operating rod. The bolt lock is mounted on the left side of the receiver. The trigger housing group has a new housing, new trigger guard, and a longer sear. On the new rifles, the counterpart of the M1's clip ejector is shorter and functions as a safety spring only. The trigger housing floor plate has been cut back so the magazine can be inserted, but an adequate area has been retained to allow the trigger housing group to be clamped to the stock. The magazine latch is in a recess in the vertical face of the trigger housing.

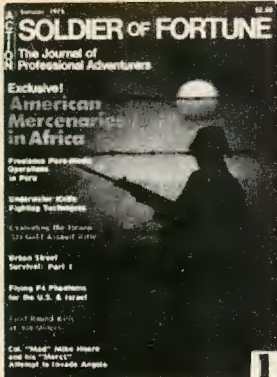
"d. The sear release, selector shaft, and connector assembly, mounted on the right side of the receiver and positioned by the selector lock, are inoperative during semi-automatic fire."

Shortly after the adoption of the M14 and M15, it was decided the M15 was not sufficiently superior to the BAR in the weight category. As a result, the M14 was subjected to an additional R&D program to allow for its effective use as a replacement to the BAR, cal. .30 M1918A2. The findings resulted in the adoption of the M14E2 (later termed the M14A2) rifle.

The M14E2 featured a light barrel (since it was itself an M14) with a special muzzle brake/flash suppressor assembly mounted over the conventional suppressor, a straight line stock with fold-up pistol grip (to keep the piece under control while firing from the prone-bipod position), and a special hinged, rubber padded buttplate assembly.

The M14A2, once sufficient paraphernalia was mounted on it to allow reasonable controllability, ended up weighing 14.5 pounds, a mere ½ pound lighter than the heavy-barrelled M15.

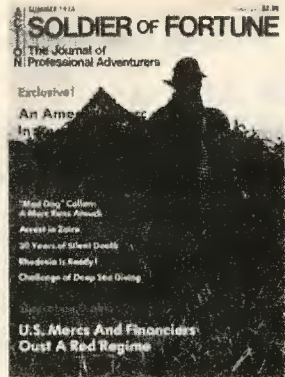
I briefly fired the M15 many years ago and found that although it was not as con-



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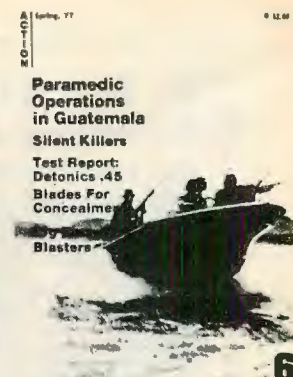
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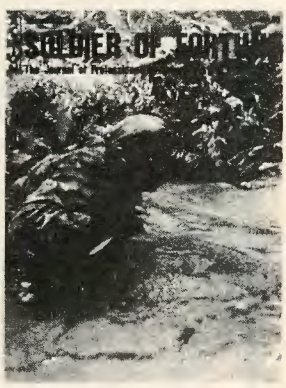
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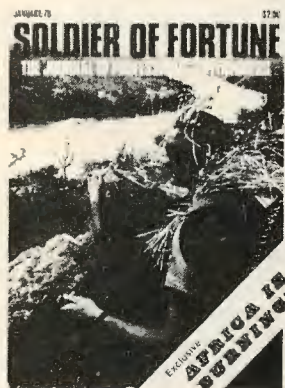
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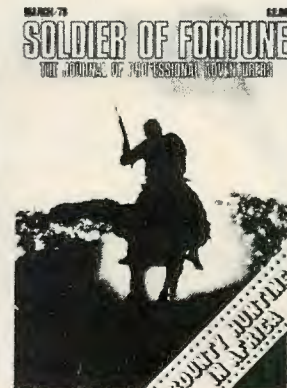
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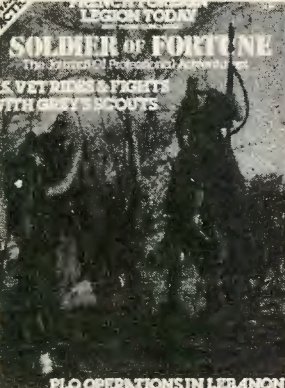
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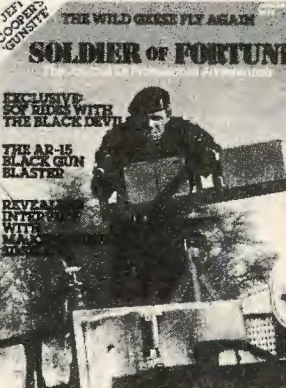
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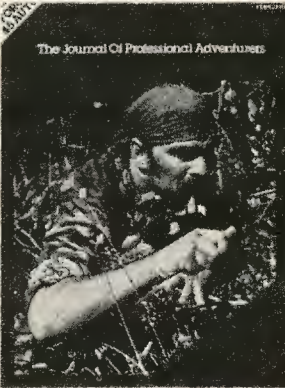
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By Special Arrangement SOF Africa Correspondent brings readers a piece of the Action from the War Fronts of Southern Africa



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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trollable as the BAR (it weighs three pounds less) it was definitely more controllable than the later M14E2. One must keep things in their proper perspective; at the point in history we are discussing, the Kennedy administration "whiz kids" began to take over. Enough said?

Well, there you have it. Another page in the glowing annals of U.S. military SNAFUs, a relatively minor one in scale, however, when compared to the later M16 fiasco (see SOF, Sept. '77, "M16: Terror or Toy?").

Now when your grandchildren ask you about things in the "old days" — you can tell them that they were just as fouled-up then as they are now!

OFFICIAL NOMENCLATURE OF M14, M15

(Special Text 7-179, December 1958)

GENERAL DATA

Weights in Pounds (Approx.)	M14	M15
Rifle w/mag less sling	8.7	13.78
Empty magazine	1/4	1/2
Full magazine	1 1/2	1 3/4
Firing Weight	10	15
Lengths in Inches (Approx.)	M14	M15
Rifle, overall w/flash suppr.	44.14	45.00
Barrel	22.00	22.00

Mechanical Features

Rifling	four grooves, right hand twist.
Sight	Graduated in minutes
Sight radius	26.75 inches
Trigger pull:	
Max	7.5 lb.
Min	5.5 lb.
Loading devices	20-rd. magazine 5-rd. stripper clip
Method of Operation	Gas
Type of Mechanism	rotating bolt
Method of feeding	magazine, 20-rd. cap.
Chamber pressure	50,000 psi
Cooling	Air

Ammunition

Caliber	7.62mm
Type	Ball, M59 Armor piercing, M61 Tracer, M62 Crimp M64 Dummy, M63

Firing Characteristics

Muzzle Velocity	2,800 fps
Cyclic rate	700-750 rpm
Maximum rate of fire	M14 M15
Semi-automatic	40-60 40-60
Automatic	120-150 120-150
Sustained rate of fire	8-10 15-20
Maximum effective rate of fire	20-30 20-30
Maximum range	3,200m 3,200m
Max. effective range	450m 450m

Definitions

Cyclic rate: the rate at which the weapon fires automatically.

Maximum rate of fire: the fastest rate at which a trained gunner can fire.

Sustained rate of fire: The rate at which a weapon can indefinitely fire without seriously overheating.

Maximum effective rate of fire: the maximum number of rounds the average soldier can fire and still get a reasonable number of hits on the target.

Maximum range: the greatest distance the weapon can fire.

Maximum effective range: the greatest distance at which a weapon may be expected to fire accurately to inflict casualties or damage.



off by some mail order company.

1. Contact the magazine/paper immediately so they may take the proper actions as far as cancelling any future runs of the ad and/or advise said company of the problem and follow up on the response.

2. Contact your local postal inspectors and give them the details. You can find the number in your phone book under U.S. government listing. If any mail fraud is involved they'll want to know.

3. Contact your local Federal Trade Commission and do the same thing. Phone number also under U.S. government. The FTC has a whole bunch of rules and regs that apply to mail order companies.

4. Contact your local Better Business Bureau and tell them you want to make a complaint. They'll give you a special form to fill out. You get one copy, they get one copy, and the others go to the BBB office closest to the company in question. They in turn will try to solve the problem.

Whenever buying anything through the mail, one should be aware of the following:

1. When buying surplus related merchandise beware of the words *type* and *style*. Example: Genuine Marine *type* combat knife. Or U.S. Army *style* mummy sleeping bags. The items are *genuine fakes!* Read ads carefully and don't be fooled!

2. Never send *cash!* The best way to send payment is by *postal money order*, for the following reasons: A. Most mail order companies will hold your order on personal checks until it clears your bank—anywhere from two weeks to a month. B. Most companies consider a postal money order as good as cash and will send your order immediately. C. If you have trouble getting your order, the postal department will help you out and if the MO gets lost, they'll issue a replacement. D. Each postal MO comes with a customer's receipt copy for your records.

3. Always keep the *ad* with your receipt for future reference. Let's say you send for a product to a company advertising in a magazine you read at a friend's house. Three months later, no order and you have since forgotten the company's name and address. How do you write them???

4. *Beware* of business opportunity ads that read "stuff envelopes" or "clip newspaper articles and make \$500 per week working at home"! Most of these ads advertise free information. After you write them, they send you the "for \$5 we'll send you the the work-kit, etc." bullshit.

5. Generally speaking, a mail order advertisement that has been running in a magazine for a given length of time of say eight months, or a company that advertises products regularly, is safe. If the company is flaky the magazine will hear from readers and will stop future advertis-

ing from that company and/or investigate to protect their readers. You figure if an ad runs eight months with no problems, it should be straight.

6. When you see something advertised at some unbelievable price, be cautious and don't buy on impulse. Write to the company and confirm the exact product, model number, brand, and find out why it's so cheap. Is it a second, blemished, discontinued model, damaged merchandise, etc.? Or is it some ripoff?

7. A good way to test a company or advertiser is to write a letter or note requesting information. This will give you some idea of what kind of service to expect. If the company's a flake or outright ripoff, don't expect an answer.

If you ever feel you've been had or you get an order that is nowhere close to what was advertised, *complain!!!* Don't just throw the junk away and vow never to purchase anything through the mail. Complain to the proper authorities. If you paid good money for something worthless, *send it back* and get your money back. Most people are simply too lazy to return orders.

Don't forget, if you don't get your order, it is possible they never got your letter. Don't jump to conclusions prematurely. Keep a record of everything you send. If you send letters requesting a refund, or inquiring about your order,

Continued on page 85



IF KENNEDY TAKES THE PLUNGE . . .

Quietly, the Far Left—dissatisfied with the Prince of Peanuts—is pushing Prince Charming of Chappaquiddick. This 2x3 black-and-yellow poster graphically reminds people of those long-ago events surrounding the senior Senator from Massachusetts, who panicked in his car, but who now would like to have his finger on the buttons in the White House. Destined to be a collector's item, this poster is ideal for display between now and the 1980 elections—especially wherever voters congregate (offices, gas stations, stores, meeting halls, lodges, truck stops, your own den or family room . . . or near the deep end of your swimming pool).

YES, I'd like to help the voters remember. Please rush me _____ poster(s) at the rate of 1 for \$2.75; 5 for \$9.75 (save \$4); 10 for \$16.75 (save \$10.75), PLUS \$2.25 PER ORDER to cover handling, special mailing tube and postage. (Orders for more than 10 posters MUST be in multiples of 10, i.e., 20, 30, 40, etc.; cost of each multiple is \$16.75 PLUS the \$2.25 handling, tube and postage charge.) Delivery 2 weeks. Enclosed is check or money order, payable to Florida Conservative Union, in amount of: \$ _____

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Price List for 1979

STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele

Send letters for this column to author at Soldier of Fortune, Box 693, Boulder, Colorado 80306. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope for personal reply.

Q. I read your article in SOF ("Poke Da Pig Hawaiian Style," May, 1978) about your trip to the islands. Some friends and I tried "poking da pig" once and personally I would rather have more distance from a pig. That's why I carry a shotgun when I go hunting (like every five years or so).

R.T., Honolulu, Hawaii

A. Hunting wild boar with edged weapons has an ancient history, most of which is written in German. Two books are of special interest: Der Hirschfaenger by Gerhard Seifert, and Die Jaegerpruefung: Ein Handbuch fuer Jaeger by Dr. Richard Blase, D.V.M., the latter being the 550-page volume one must study to get a hunting license in Germany. Since my twin brother, Donald, studied in Germany, I asked him to translate the relevant passages on the hunting knife, hunting sword, and boar spear.

Documents and artwork as well as the weapons themselves go back at least to the 15th century in Germany. In no other country is the information on this sport so complete. The classical German hunter used a spear with a crosspiece just behind the blade so the spear would not get stuck in the animal. He also carried a boar sword, a heavy duty version of the Hirschfaenger (literally "stag bagger," a weapon for finishing off wounded deer). In addition he might carry a Genickfaenger, an eight-inch bladed knife for cutting the boar's throat.

There are several other weapons the German hunters used, but the spear and the sword were the most common. The sword became the most treasured and most decorated, with decadent specimens even being distributed by the Nazi regime to officials in its sporting organizations. As guns became more prevalent for hunting the sword became smaller and more ornamental. Using extant specimens for comparison purposes, my brother deter-

mined that the blade length for 17th-century swords averaged 27.6-29.5 inches, 18th-century swords averaged about 21.5 inches, while by the 19th century the average length was down to 13.8 inches. Those made in the 20th century are even shorter, often unsharpened, and highly decorated.

The typical Hirschfaenger had a stag handle, a mussel-shell-shaped guard, a spear-point blade, and a leather-covered sheath suspended by a frog. The blade was designed to pass by bones, penetrating easily from the front or from behind the foreleg into the "heart package."

The boar spear is called a Saufeder. It is defined as "a lanceolate, double-edged blade with crossbar (Parierstange) on a two-meter-long oak shaft." It is customarily used for the dispatching of a boar (Schwarzwild), which has been taken down by dogs. It should penetrate behind the shoulder (Blatt) up to the crossbar in the body of the game. Puma sells the metal tip under the name "Saufeder," available from Puma-Werk, 565 Solingen, Postfach 100 406, Federal Republic of Germany, or from a shop in Hamburg called Emil Jeand'heur Nachf, 2000 Hamburg 36, Jungfernstieg 38, F.R.G.

Die Jaegerpruefung also gives detailed instructions for splitting the pelvis of a downed boar with strong hunting knife (Waidmesser or Waidblatt). In fact, the instructions are so detailed it is obvious the book was written by a veterinarian. As should be apparent, it is no easy task to pass the test for a hunting license in Germany. Needless to say, vandalism, poaching, disregard for bag limits, and disrespect for private property by hunters are practically unheard of there.

Q. One of my students showed me the Jan '78 and the Mar '78 issue of Soldier of Fortune. I found your column and your "Blackjacks and Billies" very interesting, particularly that portion which mentioned escrima and Kali. I gather that you had studied escrima (and kali).

In your article you mentioned that there are few escrima schools outside Hawaii

and California. It might interest you to know that a Filipino is teaching *escrima* in London. There is a retired priest who teaches *escrima* in Seattle, Washington. There are other teachers in Detroit, Michigan, and in Oklahoma.

In New York City there are two teachers of *arnis*, myself and a good friend of mine. We preferred to call Philippine stick fighting and knife fighting *arnis de mano* even before the establishment of the National *Arnis* Association of the Philippines, an organization sponsored by the government there.

I have provided the above background with the thought that perhaps it would give more meaning to what I am going to say: I cannot help but be impressed with your column and with the article that you wrote. Thank you for your attention and more power to your column.

A.P.M., Elmhurst, N.Y.

A. Thank you, guro. As I mentioned sometime back, we will keep returning to this question of where our readers can go to study these arts. The thing that I liked best in studying *escrima* was the open-mindedness of the instructors. Most have studied other arts, such as karate, aikido, Chinese kickboxing, Western boxing, Western fencing, and they seem to be able to learn from everything without becoming slaves to style or ancient traditions. Hopefully the National *Arnis* Association will not try to make *escrima* into a sport like judo or a stylized dance like Tai Chi Chuan. *Escrima* is the fastest way I know of to become proficient with a stick or knife. It is a warrior's art, and in that regard it should not be diluted into an intramural sport or an exercise in spiritual navel-gazing.

P.S. Speaking of adapting old martial arts to modern problems, Kuzan Oda (Box 2472, Estes Park, Colo.) has recently designed a fighting knife based on a thousand-year-old Japanese idea. The blade is adapted from the medieval armor-piercing tanto, while the handle is of the most modern tapered-tang design. The six-inch blade has a reinforced point with two long lightening cuts made behind it. The double guard and pins are brass. The scales are ivory micarta, shaped around a tapered full tang with red fiber liner. The belt sheath is friction fit with no retaining strap. The object of this exercise in knifemaking virtuosity is to produce a knife that is beautiful, very light, and that possesses a very strong, sharp point.



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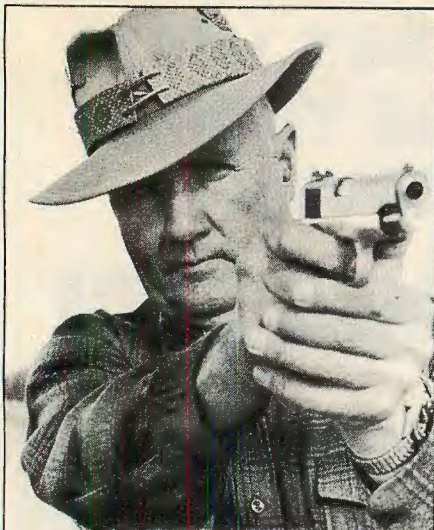
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

by Jeff Cooper Ken Hackathorn

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

Q. Will High Standard ever get the Crusader revolver off the ground? And if so, when?

How come someone doesn't talk Ruger into making the Security Six revolver into a larger frame configuration in .44 or .45 caliber? I own one in .357 magnum and think it is better than comparable Smiths or Colts.

A. *I don't know if High Standard is going to produce the "Crusader." They don't tell me things like that.*

Suggestion: Why don't you talk to Bill Ruger? You are very persuasive.

Q. There was a super interesting, though not totally enlightening, article in the 61st issue of *Rifle* magazine on West German studies of wound ballistics and their theory of hemispherical shock. After reading this report I thought, well, now there is at least one argument for paired shots on combat target courses!

If you're jumped by three or more armed antagonists, as is often suggested in popular IPSC tournes, is it wise to expend the time and ammo for an extra anchoring shot?

J.K.
Portland, Oregon

A. *The advisability of firing twice in any lethal confrontation is beyond question. There are possibilities in which the need for the engagement of a second antagonist might supersede the demand for two shots, but such circumstances would always be of a peculiar sort and would place the burden of proof upon the man who elected to fire once.*

No one in the world is good enough to be sure of his shot every time under pressure. This is demonstrated very clearly in our simulated combat situations in the Fun House. Even experts occasionally place only one hit and if the other one gets away then the power of the round has very little to do with results.

The second shot in trained hands comes

so quickly that there is really no time to observe the effect of the first strike. The rule remains: "Normally two. The risk of a miss is up to you."

Q. The .45 Colt semi-auto is the only real choice when personal defense is the issue. But what about the men who don't feel comfortable with an auto?

My five-inch Smith & Wesson M29 is like an extension of my fist. The magnum loads I use for hunting and long-range plinking. I do my limited combat shooting with midrange loads of SWC bullets.

Can I become a competent combat shot using my revolver through attendance, say at Jeff Cooper's Gunsite School? Will I be completely outclassed by semi-auto users? Everything in print lately is pro-auto! One wonders.

I notice that in the combat matches, two shots are fired at each target. Why is this practical with the powerful one-shot capability of the .45 ACP cartridge? Is my combat load of 1000-feet-per-second with a 250-grain SWC sufficient for one-shot stops with body hits?

W.E.
Chicago, Illinois

A. *A man who is, as you put it, "uncomfortable" with an auto can get very good service out of a heavy caliber DA revolver such as your M29. We have revolver shooters continually here at Gunsite and they often do very well. The revolver is a little harder to use than the auto, but with work all sorts of obstacles can be overcome.*

The reason we teach two shots on a target is that one of them may miss. That may not apply to you, but it does to the rest of us.

Q. Early this year, one of my fellow officers was participating in a narcotics arrest and was attacked by the suspect's large Doberman. He was carrying a S&W Model No. 60 and failed to kill the dog with his first shot, which demonstrates to me the inadequate stopping ability of this round.

As a result, I now always carry at least a .357 magnum weapon off duty. For on-duty use, we are issued S&W Model No. 66 with a four-inch barrel. My personal choice is a S&W Model No. 65. For any



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officer who must carry a .38 Special weapon, his choice of loads should be the Glaser safety slug. This round has very impressive stopping ability and no chances for ricochet. The cost is high, but well worth it. I carry these rounds in both .38 Special and .357 magnum.

C.L.B., Jr.
Lecompton, Kansas

A. Thank you for your comments on your tactical experience with the .38 Special.

I would not normally expect a .38 Special to stop a large angry dog unless the round were very well placed. You don't tell me where the animal was hit so I have no opinion. Stopping power is a peculiar thing, and isolated incidents can be very exceptional. (I have at present several examples of Glaser failures so I guess we can't put our complete faith in anything.)

Q. I'd like to check out a World War II Colt .45, government issue, of the 1930s or 1940s. I'd like to know if it is legal to own this piece, or if it is listed as stolen. Perhaps you can give me the name and address of the proper agency where I can inquire about its status, as I have its serial number.

I want to buy it as a relic, but I want to be sure I legally can, as I have to register it with our local sheriff, by way of a permit.

J.R.
Houston, Missouri

A. My advice is not to check into the antecedents of the revolver you mention. This piece is perfectly legal in concept, and if you start looking up the files you may run into some bureaucrat or other who is not your friend. Go ahead and purchase it and be assured that its previous history is no legal concern of yours.

Q. I've heard that when Smith & Wesson first introduced their stainless steel line they discovered the alloy they were using was so hard that it was creating a problem by wearing down their tooling at such a rate that they had to go to a "softer" alloy to cut down on expense.

If this is so, it explains why Smith & Wesson's stainless steel .357 magnum line (in particular the Model 66) starts shaking apart after extensive use, especially if "full-house" magnum loads are used extensively. Having owned several Smith magnums, including a 6½-inch Model 29, I realize that extensive use of magnums in any of them is not recommended; however, owners of such stainless Smith magnums (in particular the Model 66) have told me that they seem to shake apart quicker than a standard Model 19 does.

If this story and the personal accounts related to me are true, then I am concerned over Smith & Wesson's new baby: a stainless steel Model 29.

Continued on page 79

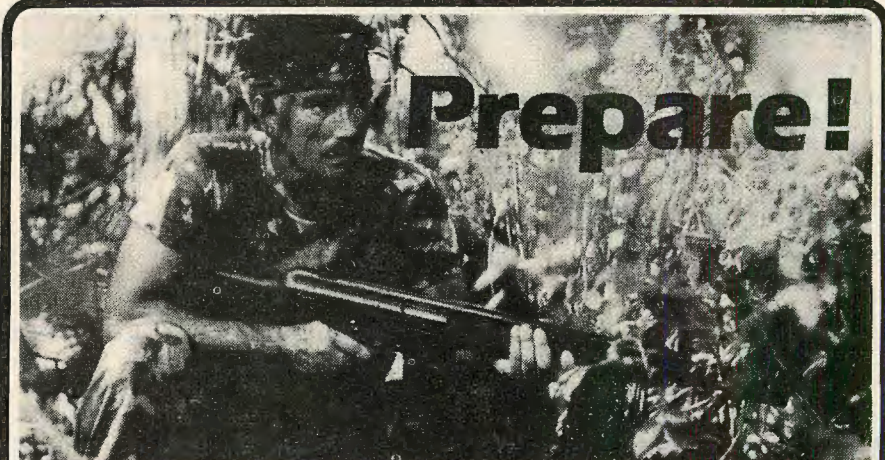
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in Review

QUICK OR DEAD. By William L. Cassidy. 178 pages, illustrated. Paladin Enterprises: P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, Colorado 80306. \$10.95. Review by Ken Hackathorn.

Cassidy's book should be required reading for those that consider themselves serious students of weaponcraft. Because the history of practical pistol shooting is not well-known to the bulk of the shooting fraternity, **Quick or Dead** has filled a particular void. Although it is not the definitive answer that many might hope it to be, it is an important step towards overall coverage of defensive shooting with the one-hand gun.

The evolution of defensive pistol shooting skills is the result of survival in times when men could not put faith in mere chance. The American gun enthusiast tends to give credit to the gunfighter of the 1880s when discussing techniques of firing. Cassidy puts this idea in its proper perspective. His detailed account of the change in social attitudes that gave rise to formal target shooting is well taken and can be applied to some degree even today. The book's most detailed study gives the historical facts about the shooting discipline developed and taught by William Ewart Fairbairn. This recognition of Fairbairn and his work is long over-due. The circumstances that caused Fairbairn to develop his radical training methods in the early 1920s provide interesting reading. Cassidy is to be commended on his research of Fairbairn and his dedication to the subject matter.

The author's insight to the changes of theory and practice between the World Wars gives the reader a broad picture of the role of defensive pistol shooting in peacetime. It is indeed proper that Rex Applegate have his role in the development of defensive pistolcraft told. Applegate took Fairbairn's teachings and implemented them with his own research to set up the most advanced school of pistolcraft ever developed at that point in time. The excellent files and documents that were made available to Cassidy by Applegate for use in this book must surely be an interesting study in themselves. **Quick or Dead** also traces the early stages of the British SOE and later American OSS, showing how they provided an ideal platform for teaching defensive pistol techniques.

In Chapter Four, Cassidy discusses the postwar approach to pistolcraft. While his

recording of this period is accurate, he barely mentions the rise of the police practical pistol course (PPC). Since the early '50s, it has become the medium of pistol training in law enforcement circles. Because of its dominance during the past 25 years, it is a shame that Cassidy failed to dwell more on its origin and application. Whether or not Cassidy agrees with the PPC approach to pistol training, his skipping over it so briefly is a mistake in an historical treatise of this nature.

Once he reaches the 1970s, William Cassidy falls flat on his face. It is indeed sad that he stopped his detailed research after Applegate and failed to bring the state of the art up to date. He is less than accurate with the details of the "New Technique" as it is now known and Jeff Cooper's continued development of defensive pistol shooting from where the others left off. Cassidy seems satisfied that one-hand point shooting from a crouch is the only way to go. His failure to research the facts about the "Cooper School of Thought" leaves one in the dark about the development of pistolcraft in modern times.

The author allows one to conclude that Jeff Cooper has taken already proven, established techniques and claimed them as his own. In fact, Cooper points out rather strongly in his classes that he merely took techniques that others had developed and combined the ones that work best. The result is easy to measure if one wants to meet the challenge.

While the reader of **Quick or Dead** is reminded of what is "quick" or instinctive, only hits count in real encounters. You must hit and hit hard in a well-placed mark to stop your opponent. How you go about it is of little importance. Success is the goal.

To neglect the idea that future developments in shooting styles or techniques as not relative is a shortcoming that few can afford. William Cassidy can be congratulated on giving us a look at the evolution of fighting skills with the handgun. To decide that the "New Technique" is worthless for anything but games is testimony to a lack of subject insight. In *How-to-Shoot* (Chapter One, Shooting), Cassidy points out that the student should not use the Weaver stance since it is only suitable for slow-fire or competition shooting, a statement which makes it clear that he knows little of the subject matter involving the current state of the art, and

which leads to my conclusion that Cassidy has only minor experience in pistolcraft.

Quick, well-placed shots are keys to success in a fighting role. One-hand point shooting rarely gives precise shot placement, and only well-placed hits can be counted on to put your opponent out of action. It is also important to note that the gunman's crouch has not been proven to be the answer that it was once thought to be. Man responds directly to his training. The system designed by Fairbairn and later enlarged by Applegate worked extremely well. With the levels of training available to the police and military of their period, the results were gratifying. Fortunately, modern advances have given the student of pistolcraft a much higher level of success. Overall, the final chapter of **Quick or Dead** has yet to be written.

LEGIONNAIRE: My Five Years in the French Foreign Legion. By Simon Murray. 314 pp. New York: Times Books. 1978. \$9.95. Review by William Brooks.

At last we have a book about the modern French Foreign Legion written by a real English legionnaire who actually served his entire five-year hitch, although he never mentions his Legion *nom de guerre*. Simon Murray pulls no punches; he describes the Legion exactly as he saw it; not as treacherous cut-throats and thieves, nor as the spit-and-polish *troupes d'elite*, but as a far more uniquely complex organization lying somewhere between the two.

Readers can follow this modern-day Beau Geste into a world as remote from contemporary American life as living on the dark side of the moon. **Legionnaire** is written in diary form and recorded as the author witnessed the events. The enlistment in Paris, the wait in Marseilles, the trip to Algeria, basic training, parachute instruction, jump school and assignment to the elite 2eme REP (*Régiment Etrangere de Parachutistes*.) The frightful account of the war against the fellahin of the FLN (National Liberation Front). The countless marches across the Algerian mountains, the relief and excitement of combat, the hardships, death, and solitude of an often senseless existence. Brutal discipline, filthy living conditions, meaningless destruction, blind drunkenness, as well as pride, courage

and self-sacrifice, hallmark this true-life adventure.

Much has been written about the Legion but never as evenhandedly and descriptively as in *Legionnaire*. Very little has reached the public concerning the modern Foreign Legion; most of the old Legion books are fiction, or worse yet, written by deserters.

Simon Murray has gathered together his story with scholarship and humor. His many descriptions bring back memories for anyone who has heard like experiences and nothing but respect from those that have not:

"Coldness is enemy number one — hunger and heat are tolerable but cold kills morale. The misery of crawling into a sleeping-bag which is wet and sodden in total blackness on top of a mountain with the rain pissing down and the wind howling and people in great galumphing mud-choked boots wandering around tripping over each other, with boxes and poles and equipment lying everywhere in total chaos, is [misery] without parallel. And when on top of that somebody tells you that you are on guard duty from 0300 until 0400, well then you throw."

The Legion wins the battles in the mountains and the maquis, but the battles on the battlefield are not the ones that count: the betrayal by General DeGaulle, forever condemned by the Legion, the abortion of the *Generals Putsch* and the last hope of keeping Algeria French, the rumors of certain disbandment, the desertions to the O.A.S. (*Organisation de l'armee secrete*) and the search for a *raison d'etre*, are all vividly recorded.

Peace! The Legion is suffocating! No purpose! Murray hangs on — Corporal's school; more Legion discipline, more conflicts, courage, humor and a triumph of the spirit, the same spirit which has brought the Legion through its crisis and back into its own.

Legionnaire is well written and vibrantly characterized, and Murray's accounts are often spiced with English dry wit and a haunting sense of helplessness.

As a former legionnaire, I found this book brought back many vivid memories. Any of you, who have ever let the thought of being a modern day Beau Geste cross the path of your dreams, must read this book.

BLUE STEEL & GUNLEATHER. By John Bianchi. Published by Beinfeld Publishing, Inc., North Hollywood, California; printed by Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, 1978. \$9.95. 213 pages. Foreword by Colonel Charles Askins. Glossary and Bibliography. Profusely illustrated. Review by Eugene Barron.

This is a uniformly excellent book covering the subject of holsters and gunbelts in meticulous detail, certainly the best recent book on the subject this reviewer has read. However, there are several omissions in the area of other designers of "fighting leather" and a generally self-congratulatory tone to the publication that some readers will find detracts from its overall worth.

For example, there is no mention of Chick Gaylord. Gaylord was one of the pioneers of modern holster design more than 20 years ago in New York City. His book on the subject (*Handgunners Guide*, Hastings, 1960) was an excellent reflection of the state of the art at that time. This reviewer possessed several Gaylord holsters, which could well have been mistaken for current designs of the Bianchi-Safariland genre.

Bianchi starts his book with an explanation of the nearly 150-year background of the belt holster. He emphasizes the impact made on practical designs as the result of Hollywood westerns and gives a long-overdue debunking to current gun-slinging myths. He analyzes modern combat rigs and touches in passing on the fine designs by Berns-Martin (inventors of the front-break holster), of which the reviewer has owned two, and the infamous "clamshell" of the early 1960s.

Bianchi's evaluation of modern working scabbards includes the influence of the Threeperson's design and its evolution by Sam Myers into the popular FBI right-hip draw. Kudos are also properly passed out to Colonel Charles Askins and Bill Jordan of Border Patrol fame for their influence on military and police rigs.

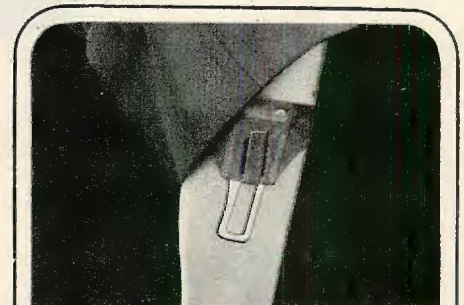
The book's best sections deal with the current state of the art in various usage categories: military and police, concealment (hip and shoulder, as well as the much less-used leg and ankle), combat and competition (with appropriate references to Jeff Cooper), and sportsmen. Included are discussions of Bianchi's Law (concentration on one-gun and one-holster type), rake angle (Bianchi is at variance with Jordan on speed differentials), and the importance of adequate width and strength of gunbelts. Information and evaluations are objective and valuable, and the superior illustrations with detailed captions alone are worth the cost of the book.

Other sections include quick-draw, pistol-handling safety (including pistol mutilations), and an excellent chapter on wear and care of leather. Of equal value is an appendix on the construction of holsters, together with glossaries of holster and leather terminology and a bibliography.

A second notable omission in the book is reference to Seventrees holster designs, of which the reviewer has also owned two. These superb concealment rigs, made of molded thin-shell horsehide for inside

right-hip waistband carry, complete with belt-snaps, bear a striking resemblance to Bianchi's "design of the future"; they have been made for New York City detectives for about 10 years.

For those wanting a "state-of-the-art" publication on store-available top quality holsters, together with excellent advice relating to all aspects of carrying handguns, **Blue Steel & Gunleather** is the definitive publication. It probably would be expecting too much to ask a man of Bianchi's substantial accomplishments to be more modest his first time in print. Those particularly interested in military, police, concealment, or combat competition gunleather can do no better at present than this publication.

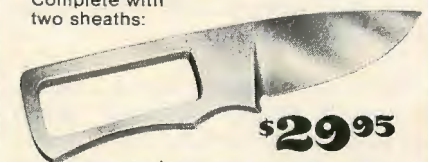


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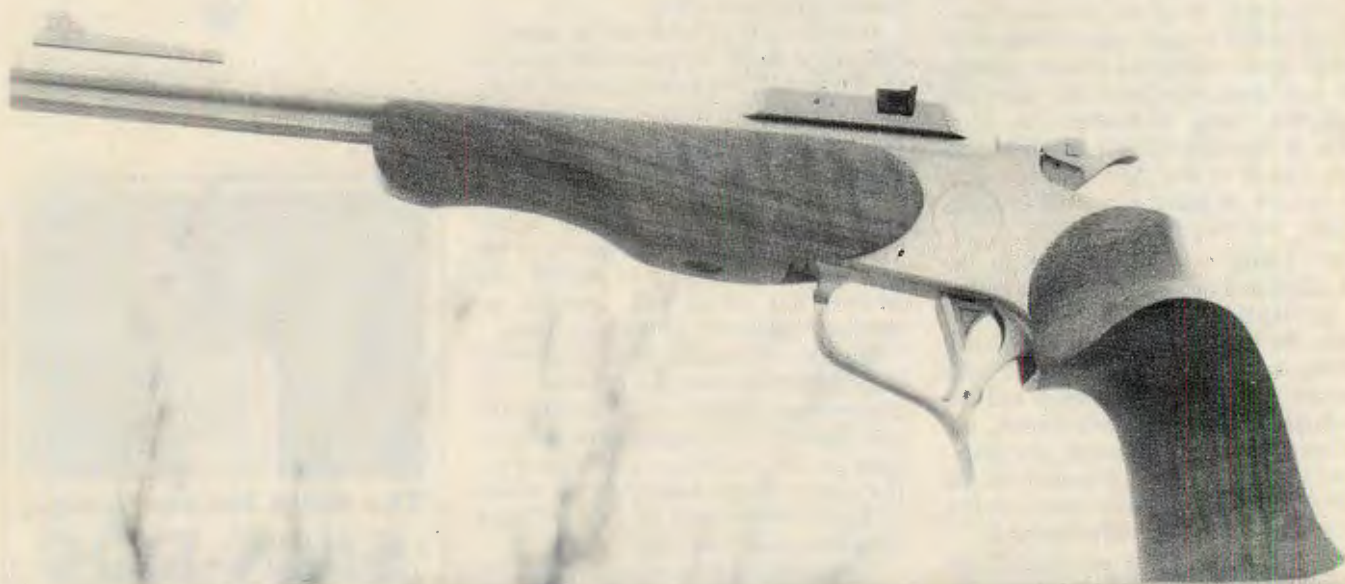
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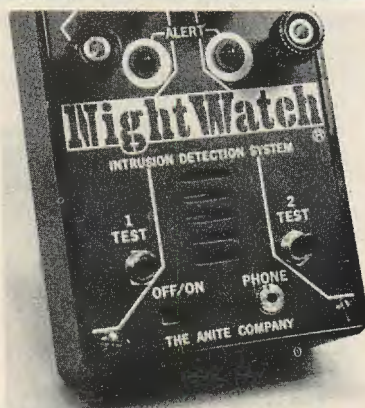
by N.E. MacDougald



WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL HANDGUN?

J & G Sales, Inc., Dept. SOF, 442 Miller Valley Road, Prescott, AZ 86301, (602) 445-9650, markets ordnance specialist Lee Jurras' latest effort at the ultimate hunting handgun: the Howdah. Offered in five unique chamberings, the Howdah ranges from .375 to .500 caliber.

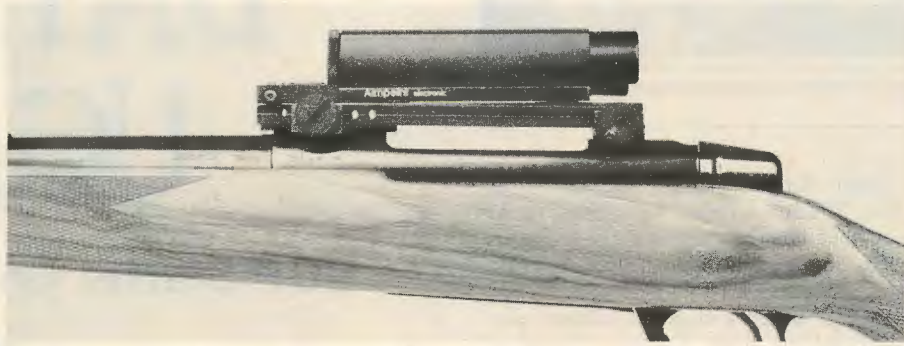
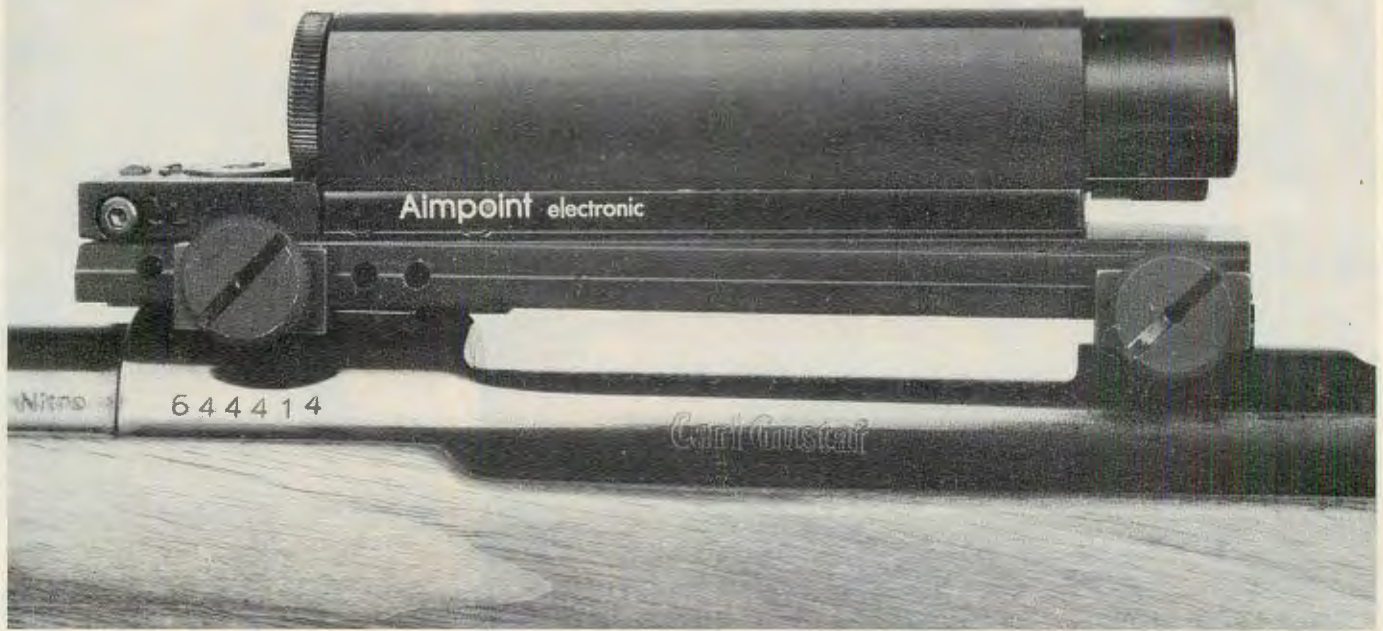
The Howdah incorporates a specially heat-treated Thompson/Center action with individually fitted barrels 12 inches long. These barrels are turned from match-grade blanks and taper to .810 inches at the muzzle. Stocks are select walnut, designed by Jurras. All models are finished in satin nickel and weigh an average of 55 ounces. The custom weapons sell for \$700 plus.



SILENT SENTRY

Anite Company, P.O. Box 375, Dept. SOF, Pinole, CA 94564, (415) 758-0640 (toll free (800) 824-5136 Operator 83), manufactures NightWatch, an electronic intrusion detection system. NightWatch comes with several thousand feet of special thread-like trip-wire. The user stakes out the perimeter with this trip-wire

and attaches the wire to the terminals on the box. Two perimeters can be monitored at once and can be tested separately. Each circuit signals visually and audibly. Anite claims NightWatch is built ruggedly and uses standard battery. NightWatch sells for \$44 postpaid and is fully guaranteed for six months. Anite claims NightWatch is now in use by two foreign military forces.



ELECTRONIC SIGHT

Aimpoint, a Swedish dot-sight, is distributed by *M & N Distributors*, Dept. SOF, 3040 West Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505, (213) 530-9000. The battery-powered, non-magnifying sight superimposes a red dot over the target. Unlike a telescopic sight, there are no cross-hairs nor any reticle, for that matter. Brightness of the dot is adjustable and, according to the manufacturer, is (subjectively) about three inches in diameter at 100 yards. Unlike a laser, the dot does not appear on the target.

The light source, a light-emitting diode, has a working life of more than 500,000 hours, according to the manufacturer. Polarizing filters can be added easily. Aimpoint weighs about 11 ounces and retails for \$149.95.

NEW S&W .45 WHEELGUN

Smith & Wesson, P.O. Box 2208, Dept. SOF, Springfield, MA 01101, announces their new Model 25-5. This .45 Colt (often called .45 Long Colt) will be available after July 1979. The new Model 25-5 has a longer cylinder than the venerable Model 25 chambered for .45 ACP and will be offered in 4-inch, 6-inch, and 8-3/8-inch barrel lengths. Finished in bright blue, the 25-5 will retail for \$354.50; in nickel finish, it will retail for \$366.



Ugandan prisoner guarded by AK and SKS-wielding Tanzanians. After questioning, he was executed.



Tanzanian troops on road from Kampala to Jinja.

Salim Onwu, Tanzanian commander of Entebbe Region, explained, with a huge smile, "The Libyans had no chance at all. There were roughly 150 Libyans in the convoy. We killed 79 of them in the strike. There were 79 bodies in the final count.

"The rest, many of them wounded, disappeared into the Ugandan jungle. But we will get them too."

The incident occurred shortly before the combined Tanzanian and Ugandan mechanized force entered Kampala. A Libyan contingent, trapped in the Ugandan capital, decided to move southward toward Entebbe, where, hopefully, they would be airlifted home. Already some of the 3,000 Libyans who had supported Idi Amin's government had been flown out of Jinja to the east.

Major Onwu continued: "We knew they would try to break. One of the men we captured earlier had told us that much. So we waited along one of the two hills that dot the road. Our men lay on both sides of the route."

He told me: "Within an hour we could hear a convoy approach. I gave the order and then my men prepared themselves."

The convoy consisted of several large buses accompanied by Soviet-built armored personnel carriers with heavy machine guns mounted on turrets. Troop carriers and jeeps were interspersed. The entire column was preceded by a jeep and an APC, traveling about two kilometers ahead of the main group.

Major Onwu again: "We knew the trick. The recce group was checking the road ahead before the rest of the group arrived. So we let it through. Sure enough, the main group arrived soon after."

Several other Tanzanian soldiers corroborated the story. Sergeant Kibaki of the Tanzanian Seven Battalion said the entire action could not have lasted three minutes.

In broken English laced with Swahili, he explained that his men first pummeled the area with RPG-7 rockets and then followed up by raking anything that moved with machine-gun fire. He was surprised that so many of the "hated Libyans" were still able to escape into the bush.

This incident is one of many which have come out of Uganda's war. Altogether it is reckoned that about 600 Libyans have died, maybe more. Another 40 are being held as prisoners of war. Their liberty will be bought by the Libyan head of state, Colonel Gadaffi, at a price not yet agreed at this writing, but which could range as high as \$1 million apiece.

As Major Onwu explained, "Someone has to pay for this war, and it might as well be Gadaffi."

The war has been expensive. A Kampala estimate has quoted a figure of about \$1 million a day for Tanzania to keep her men active in the field in Uganda, a crippling sum for so poor a country.

Meanwhile, united Tanzanian and Ugandan forces continued their north-

DATE UGA

SOF Staffer On the

by Al J



Several troops loyal to Idi Amin died when Tanzanian



Weapon is Russian ZPU-4, 14.5mm anti-aircraft gun.



Ugandans view body of Libyan soldier killed by Tanzanian troops. Libyans gave sorry account of themselves in fighting.

LINE: NDA

Spot in Uganda

Venter



soldiers fired up truck on road from Tororo to Busia.

ward thrust: all 25,000 of them, of whom only 5,000 are part of the Free Uganda Movement (FUM) which has its roots inside the country. Wherever they go, there is evidence of harsh brutality meted out by the retreating might of Idi Amin Dada. In Seroti, a small town in the north, toward Gulu, Amin's soldiers massacred nearly 50 local inhabitants who tried to flee southward to safety. We came on their bodies days later. They had been eaten by dogs abandoned by their owners because of the vagaries of war.

In Kampala itself, adequate evidence survives of grim retribution handed out by fleeing Amin soldiers. In several areas I drove through, the stench of decaying flesh obliterated all else. In the State Research Center, dreaded headquarters of Amin's secret police, the smell of death remains. Several locals have suggested that the building with its cells and underground torture chambers be dynamited and leveled.

One Ugandan maintained: "The injustices of all of black Africa are encompassed by those walls."

I visited the place twice. Both times I almost threw up. In 20 years of covering the African military beat, I have seen nothing like it. Not even in Biafra.

Yet even in Kampala, there is much evidence of the continuing struggle. Shots fired at night are so commonplace that no one at the Kampala International Hotel even lifts his head when a salvo of automatic fire rips through the darkness

less than a kilometer away. Occasionally, we saw evidence of old scores being settled: civilians being frogmarched to the nearest army camp, identified by former victims as members of the State Research Center. Two civilians were hauled out of the hotel and shot while I was there. They were fingered as members of the former Amin regime. I found a body spread-eagled on the sidewalk barely a minute's walk from the hotel. The man had been stabbed in the ear. It looked like a professional job for there was very little blood spilt and all identification had been removed.

No one really asks questions. Whatever happens in Kampala these days is just another price people are paying for the war.

Cash is also a problem in a country that has been thoroughly looted twice — once by Amin's departing troops and shortly thereafter by the invading Tanzanian force. I was asked for \$5 U.S. for every beer I ordered. At one stage, journalists were paying \$50 U.S. for a gallon of gas and 15 times that figure (\$750 U.S.) for a day's car hire. Cigarettes, when they're available, cost \$3 or \$4 a packet, depending on whether they have been looted or not.

One of the hallmarks of every center we passed through as we made our way from Kampala northward were the number of blown safes that littered the roads. There are dozens in Kampala alone, almost

Continued on page 80

IS THE U.S. EMBARRASSED BY DEMOCRACY?

Guest Editorial by George F. Will

IMMEDIATELY after the election in Rhodesia, Andrew Young said on television that the elections were "stolen" before they occurred, "when the Constitution was drawn up." Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, said this in the presence of Bayard Rustin, a black civil rights leader who had been in Rhodesia to observe the elections.

Rustin saw in Young's remark the implication (which is the position of the terrorist "Patriotic Front") that the black leaders who participated in the election are, at best, Uncle Toms, or, at worst, collaborators. Rustin pounced on Young, denouncing the "supreme arrogance" of assuming that the black leaders, "many of whom have served up to 10 to 12 years in prison," cannot be trusted to judge their people's interests.

It is true that the constitutional formula for allocating power today gives whites disproportionate advantages. But the formula is explicitly transitional. And complaints about deviations from "one man, one vote" should not issue from the United States where, under permanent constitutional provisions, 14 states with 4.7 percent of today's population have 28 percent of the Senate seats. Rhodesia has done what the American Founding Fathers did when they resolved the dispute between the big and little states at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. That is, Rhodesia has accommodated constitutional arrangements to powerful interests.

And the United States should not be snuffy about nations that expand democracy step-by-step through constitutional evolution. In 1790, suffrage in America was, primarily, the right of wealthy white males; and not until 1964 did all blacks have an effective right to vote.

THERE was pressure on all Rhodesians to participate in the elections. But the terrorists used bombings and killings to discourage voting, which they called a "war crime." About 60 percent of the eligible electorate voted anyway. (In 1978, in Andrew Young's Georgia, the figure was 18.6 percent).

Rustin was struck by the "fantastic enthusiasm" of the voters. As for one loser's charge of election irregularities (a charge made the day the votes were counted, after five days of voting), Rustin says:

"I'll give you the timing. At 11 o'clock in the morning he said the elections were perfectly fair. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon it appeared that he had lost. At 4 o'clock he called a press conference to denounce it."

In 1978, Congress stipulated that, in order to decide whether to lift sanctions against Rhodesia, the president must decide whether a government has been chosen by free elections. So, having eschewed the "arrogance of power" that (allegedly) made the United States the "policeman of the world," the United States seems prepared to become the "pollwatcher of the world." But in Rhodesia the administration refused to watch.

It refused to send observers, and, as the *Washington Star* says, it seems to regard as an "embarrassment" the modest victory for democracy in Rhodesia. This is not only because the administration underestimated the potential for a peaceful transfer of power to the black majority. It also is because evidence of that potential is, the *Star* says, "inconvenient."

The administration seems to regard as moral equals the black leaders within Rhodesia who have helped to plant the seedling of majority rule, and the terrorists based outside Rhodesia who vow to uproot it. That, at any rate, is the logic of Young's position, and the Secretary of State either cannot or will not control his propagandizing subordinate.

THE "Front Line" African countries attacking Rhodesia's internal settlement are not famous for civil liberties. Regarding those and other critics of the settlement, *The Washington Post* says, there is something "unattractive in this spectacle of people playing at concern for free elections. And this is especially true when it is inconceivable that the United States would expect the Patriotic Front, if it won the war, to hold elections of any kind. By any intentional standard of democratic practice you care to invoke, the Rhodesians did pretty well."

The grand fact is that Rhodesia now has an elected black prime minister. But critics like Young judge every Rhodesian development by the standard of whether it will "end the war." That standard eventually will dictate surrender to those who will settle for nothing less than surrender. There are people in Washington who favor essentially that, lest the Russians send in the Cubans, thereby souring "detente."

But there is an alternative to pre-emptive surrender as a way of ending a war: *Win it.*

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SHOOTING FOR FREE

by Robert Sundance

While at the National Rifle and Pistol Championships last year at Camp Perry, Ohio, it was hard not to notice the dozens of Army personnel, Marines, National Guardsmen, Navy personnel and Reservists present. They were everywhere in great numbers. How do they get to these matches? What are the odds of getting on a military shooting team? Just what is it all worth?

Having served as both a coach and shooter on an Army team years ago, I can tell you it's fantastic. Once you are on a team of any kind, you are usually supplied with National Match weapons, scopes, mats, shooting jackets, gloves, shooting stools and, of course, National Match ammo. The ability to consistently bang into an X-Ring at 600 yards will prepare any shooter for that prized trophy animal or first-round hit on a battlefield. And, of course, the ability to impress friends by blasting a beer can away at 200 yards offhand with iron sights is a big kick.

Since SOF obviously supports the military, we want to motivate more of you "watchers" to look into the Reserve and National Guard shooting programs and to get in on the action. Naturally you must join up to qualify for team tryouts. Most of the services have special "try-out" programs; however, the one-year "Try One Program" the N.G. has is excellent.

To quote the N.G. marksmanship brochure, "The Guard is willing to foot the bill for its members for three important reasons . . . to develop instructor potential, to promote general interest in marksmanship and to raise the prestige of the Guard through excellence in competition." Believe me, the last reason means business. At most matches, the various guard and reserve teams are more than a match for the regulars — right up through the national championships. The competition is fierce. Each unit or command has various patches and levels of support — check this out with your recruiter.

The level of support given to these teams by their states and National Guard H.Q. extends from .22 pistol and rifle through .45 competition up to National Match high-power-rifle matches. An individual who shows interest could expect to fire rifle and pistol in practice and in NRA matches year round. In addition to these conventional weapons, there are various M-16, M-60, and combat .45 matches one can compete in.

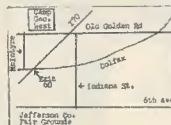


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ABOVE: Two female members of Marine team on the line.

Guard and Reserve shooting programs extend into many areas such as this fund raiser for the junior program.

BELOW: Members of All Guard team keep score for Army, shooters on the line. Note competitive spirit!



As a competitor, you can expect to advance as far as your ability allows. Guardsmen fire in local high-power matches, state and regional matches, special command matches, FORSCOM matches, All-Guard championships, All-Army matches, all-service matches and the Nationals.

Where else can you get all this material support and expert gunsmithing, improve on a vital skill, have fun with fellow shooters, and best of all, be paid your military pay? That's right, you get paid to fire in matches. After all, you are wearing the uniform on a weekend.

The Guard and Reserve are required to have 50 percent new shooters on a team each year. That means you are more than welcome, but will compete to hold that position next year — but that's what it is all about — competition.

As I said earlier, we support the military and especially the Guard and Reserve programs. We encourage you, our readers, to check out these great shooting programs. Don't miss out on a hell of a deal and the opportunity to serve your country.



**FROM LEFT, MILITARY AFFAIRS EDITOR ALEX MCCOLL,
MIKE EDWARDS, PUBLISHER BROWN, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS EDITOR JOHN EARLY DISCUSSING OLD
BATTLES AT CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE HQ.**



A Hungarian Freed

AIR COMBAT IN THE REVOLUTION OF 1956

by N.E. MacDougald

FIGHTER pilot Mike Edwards turned to the beautiful woman on his couch and poured her another drink, anticipating the rest of the evening. On leave from the Hungarian Air Force, Edwards and his date had just come from attending *Carmen*, dining, dancing, and were now listening to music in his apartment. Young Edwards had met his date the previous winter, ice-skating in Budapest. This evening he was looking forward to the main event. But it was Tuesday, 23 October 1956, and fate had other plans for him.

At 4 a.m., Edwards' aunt phoned to inform him that all military men had been activated. So much for his big evening. "I lived near the Budapest version of Red Square. We went to the windows and saw

KODAK SAFETY FILM 5035



Tommy's Story

Stalin's statue being pulled down by ropes. . . . I drove the girl home on my motorcycle," Edwards said in accented English.

His life would not be the same after this night.

"The basis of the revolution was not to change the government . . . but to get the Russians out."

After dropping off his date, Edwards drove toward his base. He saw army trucks driving by with flags out the windows. He grabbed coffee in a railroad station and caught snatches from the radio, still in communist hands: "Fascist paratroopers have invaded. . . ." Edwards will had not grasped what was going on.

SEPTEMBER/79

When he reached his base, Edwards learned that a revolution was in progress, not an invasion. The base commander had fled; leadership was spotty and uncertain. "We pilots told the crew chiefs to get the planes armed and ready. We had no real plans; we were waiting for news. The communist government was still functioning and they told us not to do anything. By then it was misty morning and rumors were rampant. Some radio stations broadcast that every one should rise against the communists.

"A fellow officer suggested we fly recon over Budapest to see what was really happening. We flew low — 300-400 meters — due to the weather. We saw smoke and we saw tanks fighting, but nothing that resembled an outside invasion. We returned to base. During the next few days, we flew several recon flights and kept track of military move-

ments. We listened to Radio Free Europe and tried to piece together what was happening.

"Provisional revolutionary military leader Paul Malater ordered the military to stand by because the new government was negotiating with the Russians," Edwards explained. "The basis of the revolution was not to change the government radically, but to get the Russians out. We wanted liberal socialism, something like Yugoslavia's.

"Three or four days later, the provisional government told us to fly escort for fleeing Russian military and their families. The provisional government assumed the Russians were acting in good faith. I thought they were leaving too. I had nothing against the Russians, but I didn't like their government.

"The government was turned over to Prime Minister Nagy's provisional regi-

after about a week of fighting. By that time, a large percentage of Russian troops had departed via the northeast town of Debrecen."

Edwards explained the situation in Hungary was not cut and dry because many Russian troopers had lived in Hungary since the communist takeover in August of 1947. Thus their loyalties were mixed.

"Nagy's provisional government had been negotiating with the Russians throughout the first few days of the revolution." On 4 November [1956], a meeting between Hungarian and Russian general staffs to establish details of the final [Russian] pullout was planned, but true to form, the communists went back on their word and captured the Hungarian general staff and the entire provisional government.

"Word of this got out and we pilots were instructed by radio to try to stop the new Russian troops arriving from south-east Hungary, near Rumania."

"As we returned to base, my engine was overheating....I didn't know my plane was hit."

Edwards jumped in his Czech-built Messerschmidt Avia S-199 fighter and, with three other pilots, obliterated half of a 35- to 40-vehicle column of Russian armored cars and trucks.

"As we returned to base, my engine was overheating and I was losing oil pressure fast. I didn't know my plane was hit. I set the plane down in a cut-down cornfield.

"I had a terrible fear of parachutes. To me, a parachute was for an extreme emergency. Like when the plane is on fire and both wings fall off. I got out of the craft and hiked, then got a ride back to base on an army truck. We flew several similar missions the following two days. We used 12cm rockets [anti-armor shaped charges] and four 20mm cannons and 250kg bombs [similar to U.S. skip-bombs] with 10-second fuses."

Two days later, in the same farm area, Edwards was hit a second time. "Ceiling was about 200 or 300 meters when we finished our mission. There were three of us out. One of the guys got lost in the crowd. He got on the radio and warned us to watch out, there were Russian MiG 15s in the area and to stay below the clouds, so they couldn't see us. We were still separated from him. He was always lost — always behind us. Anyway, I was low on ammo. I had no more rockets left and no bombs. But we were going back to base. I don't think we were higher than 200 meters. Real low. My wing man was flying in a cloud and I was flying right under it.



ABOUT MIKE EDWARDS

Born in Budapest in 1937, Mike Edwards (a pseudonym) grew up in Lake Balaton, about 130 kilometers from his birthplace. Coming from a family of aviators, young Edwards attended the University of Budapest, studying aeronautical engineering and military

history. After becoming an American citizen, Edwards attended the University of Michigan. Married, with three boys, he lives in the Northwest where he works for an aircraft manufacturer and also runs a hobby shop specializing in militaria. Edwards is a colonel in the Confederate Air Force. — N.E.M.

"Four of my cannons fired and he exploded."

"All of a sudden, I see this airplane rush out in front of me. Out of the clouds. I didn't identify it. I was sure we were going to collide! I dumped full throttle and

yanked back on the stick to get over him. But I still had my arming switch on and all four of my cannons fired and he exploded. I had oil and crap all over my airplane, all over my canopy. I couldn't see a thing.

"We had a little sliding window out the side. I opened it. Tried to wipe the wind-

shield clear with my handkerchief. I was still climbing. I was really shook up. I came out of a cloud. And was still wiping away when my plane was hit three times.

"I knew I was hit because it was a 37mm cannon. One round came in underneath the armor plate and nearly cut my finger off. It knocked my hand into the throttle and threw me into emergency power. It smashed the instruments and started a fire there. My legs got burned from hydraulic fluid. I looked out and saw a hole in my wing big enough to jump through and the plane was smoking.

"I'd seen the MiG 15 that hit me circle back. I knew he'd finish what he started."

"I dove back through the cloud and saw a field under me. I went for that field. I was bleeding pretty badly. I thought I was dead. I jerked to a stop in this field. According to the farmer, who saw me crash-land, I was out of the airplane before it stopped. I'd seen the MiG 15 that hit me circle back. I knew he'd finish what he'd started, so I didn't waste time getting away from my plane. I think he was the wing man of the MiG I shot down. Anyway, I ran through a hayfield and hid under a haystack in a barn. And heard more cannon fire.

"A little later, the farmer came by and said, 'You can come out now, the planes are gone.' He took me into the house and bandaged my hand and leg. He told me that the MiG had indeed come back for my plane. He'd hit it and set it on fire. As we walked outside, the farmer showed me a fence I'd cleared on the way to the barn. The damned thing was a couple of feet taller than I was. The farmer said I didn't even touch it: I just stepped over it and kept on going. You can do all kinds of interesting things when you're scared."

Edwards hitched a ride back to the base and filed an after-action report before heading for the sickbay to get his hand and leg looked at. But when he sat down in a chair in Operations and leaned back, he passed out. His friends carried him to sick bay where medics removed over 20 aircraft rivets from his back.

"What happened, apparently, was one of the 37mm shells hit the one-inch armor plate behind my seat. It must have buckled the armorplate and sent all the rivets in the seat into my back. I didn't feel a thing, till I sat down."

The revolution was almost over by then. There was still fighting, but it was isolated and weak. Edwards' colleagues would not let him fly with his wounds.

"I joined my grandfather.... We did some fighting in the streets."

"So I went back home. The next day the 10th [of November], I wasn't feeling too hot. The shots, the anesthetic they gave me, wore off, so I stayed put. I joined my grandfather on the 12th and 13th. We did some fighting in the streets. My grandfather knocked out a couple of tanks — T-34s mostly — with a captured Russian anti-tank gun."

Hungarian revolutionaries were resourceful in their anti-tank tactics. They would put dinner plates across a street. Tank commanders would usually stop, thinking the discs were mines. Hungarians would then hurl Molotov cocktails at the tanks or drop live power lines on them. As can be imagined, both were effective.

After his brief bout of street fighting, Edwards returned home. About a week later, the Russians regained control.

They began looking for those who had fought against them.

"Some soldiers had been to my place. Luckily I wasn't home. My grandfather told them he didn't know where I was... that I'd been missing since the beginning of the revolution. He then called me at a friend's and told me not to return home; they were looking for me. I stayed with friends for about a month.

"I probably should have left, but I didn't. I couldn't make up my mind what the hell I was going to do. I didn't know what was happening. My mother was alive then; she was working and I wanted to let her know I was okay. But things got very hot. I left Budapest on 14 December."

"I made my way through a minefield..."

Edwards' method of escape was thoughtful and effective. You'd hardly expect a pilot to shoot his way out or to dig a tunnel. "All branches of service have the same uniform in Hungary. The only difference is the epaulet's color. A friend of mine knew a guy who was pretty handy with a pen and he forged some orders for me. I changed the tabs on my epaulets to those of a border patrolman and jumped on a train. It wasn't really too bad on the train. I played poker with several Russian officers.

"When we got to the border, I ran to a farm. I knew the border area pretty well from vacations I'd spent there. I used to go with the farmer's girl. I stayed at his farm until nightfall. I made my way through a minefield (about one kilometer wide) using my hunting knife to probe through the snow. I ended up in Austria on 15 December."

In Edwards' typically modest fashion, he ended his tale: "And that's about it. Not much to the story, really."

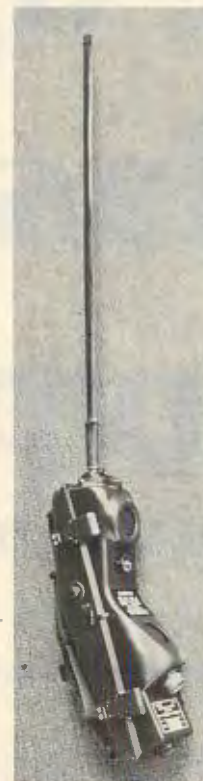


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Duel of the Master Snipers

DEADLY GAME AT STALINGRAD

by Vasily Zaitsev



THIS article is reprinted from the October 1972 Soviet Military Review, published by the Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) Publishing House of the Soviet Defense Ministry. Vasily Zaitsev was the USSR's leading World War II sniper, credited with some 300 kills at the Battle of Stalingrad. In his article, Zaitsev describes his duel with Major Konings, chief of a German snipers' school in Berlin, during that battle.

Today, the Soviet Defense Ministry is conducting a crash marksmanship training program in preparation for the 22nd Summer Olympic Games to be held in Moscow in 1980. Marksmanship and sniping have always been emphasized by the Soviet Army. During the 21st Summer Olympic Games, held in Montreal from 17 July to 31 July 1976, Soviet Army marksman Alexander Gazov established a new world record by scoring 597 points, and winning a gold medal, in running boar shooting. Gazov will be competing again in 1980.

The technical description of Soviet sniper methodology contained in Zaitsev's article should give SOF readers valuable insights into current as well as past Soviet sniping tactics and techniques. Since these methods are currently being taught to Soviet proxy forces in Africa and else-

where, knowledge of their patterns may mean the difference between life and death.

AT night recon men dragged up an identification prisoner in a sack. During the interrogation he said the the Nazi Command was seriously concerned with the actions of our snipers. Major Konings, chief of a school for snipers, was flown from Berlin with the assignment, as the prisoner put it, to kill the "chief hare" (Zaitsev, Russian surname, derived from *zayats* — hare).

Colonel Batyuk, the divisional commander, was in high spirits.

"A major is small fry for our boys," he said jokingly. "The Fuhrer himself should have come. It would be much more interesting to hunt that bird. Right, Zaitsev?"

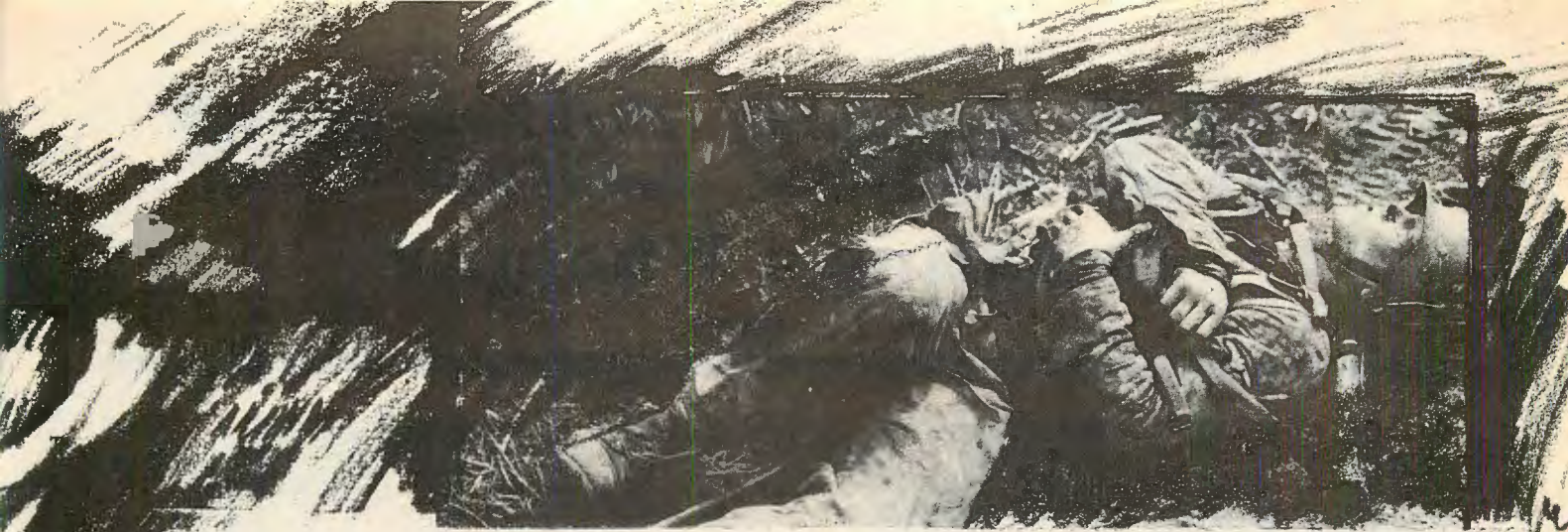
"Quite right, Comrade Colonel," I said, but in my mind's eye I thought: "It's easier said than done — after all he's the chief of a school and, in all probability, an experienced beast."

"Well, this super-sniper must be done away with," the divisional commander said, this time in a strict voice. "But be cautious and use your brains."

I had already learned to guess quickly the Nazi snipers' "hand" and distinguish-

ed without any particular difficulty, by the character of fire and camouflage, more experienced riflemen from novices, cowards from those who were obstinate and determined. But the character of the chief of their school was an enigma for me for a long time. Our observations carried out from day to day produced no definite results. It was even hard to say on what sector of the front the Nazi was operating. Most likely he frequently changed positions and was seeking me just as cautiously as I him.

Without discontinuing the search for the Berlin super-sniper, I tried to analyze my personal experience and the experience of my comrades in order to find the most correct decision. And experience told me that I could not count on success without the aid of my friends in the trenches — riflemen, machine gunners, sappers, and signalmen. Usually after a Nazi sniper had been discovered and his location determined, I called, let's say, a machine gunner, gave him a spy-glass, myself took a trench periscope, indicated the most noticeable object and started to lead the machine gunner's eyes from one reference point to another. And when the machine gunner saw the Nazi sniper and realized how craftily he had camouflaged himself, he became my competent assistant.



Moreover, when preparing sham positions, installing and camouflaging a dummy, I managed to study each soldier, to see what he was capable of. Sometimes a man may have initiative and be bold in action, but he will not make an assistant for you: he is too hasty, he'll flare up and then cool off. Such a man cannot be relied on in a prolonged struggle.

THE characters of enemy snipers were more difficult to see through. It was clear to me that they were all stubborn men. And I found my own method for them: I prepared a good dummy, erected it unnoticeably and started to move it. A dummy, like a man, must change its poses. Beside the dummy is your well-camouflaged position. The enemy sniper fires at the dummy, but it remains "alive," and then the show of stubbornness begins. The sniper fires a second shot, prepares for a third but, as a rule, he himself is caught in your sights before he can fire it.

Experienced enemy snipers come to their positions under cover of fire, accompanied by two or three assistants. Before such a "wolf," I usually pretended to be a novice or rather an ordinary soldier and thus lulled his vigilance, or simply began to make fun of him: after each shot I showed him the results of fire by conventional signs as is done at a firing range during practice firing. The Nazi sniper would quickly get used to this trick and pay no attention to my target. And as soon as he switched his attention to other targets, I instantly took the place of the target. For this I needed only a few seconds. I would throw the target away and catch the Nazi's head in the crosshairs of my telescopic sight.

I had subdivided detection of a target in the enemy camp into two stages. The first stage started with studying the enemy defenses. Then I learned where, when and under what circumstances our fighting men had been wounded. The medical orderlies helped me a lot in this. They said where a wounded man had been picked up. So I went there, found eye-witnesses, learned from them all the details of the wound and in this way I discovered the

enemy's scheme of fire. This I include in the first stage of determining where to look for the target. The second stage I call search for the target. In order not to get caught in the sights of a Nazi sniper, I reconnoitered the terrain by means of a trench periscope or a battery commander's telescope. The optical sights of a sniper's rifle or field glasses are no good for this purpose. Experience shows that where previously the enemy showed animation, and now you cannot notice a single useless movement, there must be an experienced hunter. That was why I kept telling my colleagues: unless you have studied the situation and talked to the men, don't kick against the goad. In sniping one has to live according to the popular saying: look before you leap. And indeed, to prepare an accurate shot, one has to put in much effort and ingenuity, study the enemy's character and strength, find his weak points and only after this set about solving the mission by one shot.

THE success of observation is achieved only by practical training directly on the terrain. It is far from easy to acquire this skill in a combat situation. Taking up a position must be secured by strict camouflage. A sniper who cannot observe from hiding is not a sniper but a mere target for the enemy. As soon as you come to the forward edge, conceal yourself, lie like a stone and observe, study the terrain, compile a chart and plot distinctive marks on it. Remember that if in the process of observation you have revealed yourself by some careless movement of the head, betrayed your presence to the enemy and not managed to hide in time, you made a blunder and you will receive a bullet through your head for it. Such is the life of a sniper. That is why in training snipers, I personally gave top priority to concealment and camouflage.

Each sniper has his own tactics, his own technique, inventions and ingenuity. But both beginners and experienced snipers always remember that they face a tactically mature, resourceful, industrious, and very accurate shooter. He must be outwitted, drawn into a difficult struggle and

thus tied up to the chosen position. What is the way to achieve this? You have to think up sham moves, distract the enemy's attention, annoy him by some intricate movements, tire his eyesight, get him muddled up. I am against organizing a permanent sniping post even in sustained defense. A sniper is a rover; he appears suddenly where the enemy does not expect him. Fire initiative must be fought for and won. Merely solving the enemy's riddles will yield no results unless you have confidence in your ability to pay back these ruses by accurate fire, quickly and resolutely.

Thus, reappraising and analyzing my experience, I sought with my comrades the way to the decisive duel with the super-sniper from Berlin, who had so far outmatched us. But one day the sniper broke the telescopic sight of my friend Morozov and wounded Shaikin. Both Morozov and Shaikin were experienced snipers and quite frequently won the most complex and difficult engagements. Now there was no longer any doubt — they had come across the Nazi super-sniper I was looking for.

AT dawn I went with Nikolai Kulikov to the positions where our comrades had been the day before. The enemy's forward line of defense was well known to me, for I had studied it for days on end. I saw nothing new. The day was ending. But suddenly a helmet rose up over the enemy trench and slowly moved along the trench. Should I shoot? No, that was a ruse: the helmet swung unnaturally. It was evidently carried by the sniper's assistant while the sniper himself was waiting for me to betray myself by a shot. We waited in vain till darkness.

"Where can the bastard be hiding?" Kulikov asked as we left the ambush under the cover of the night.

"That's the point," I snapped back.

"And if he is not here? Maybe he went away long ago?" Kulikov doubted.

But by the patience which our enemy showed by not revealing himself the whole day, I realized that the Berlin sniper was

Continued on page 78

SSK'S HAND CANNONS

Handling a Whopper

by J.D. Jones



Handgun ammunition made the transition from lead to jacketed high-performance ammo beginning in the mid-'60s. Unfortunately, handgun bullet development for hunting seems to be suffering from a severe case of arrested development that began in the early '70s. In a 10-year period, fairly decent progress was made — since then everyone seems to be sitting on their laurels waiting for something to happen.

TWO CARTRIDGES

Well, it's happened! SSK Industries, Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910 (614) 264-0176, has put some real power in a pistol. The Thompson Center Arms Contender (T/C) has a strong, proven action. SSK has developed two cartridges for use in their custom T/C barrels, each of which easily exceeds a ton of muzzle energy per shot.

The .45-70 has been around since 1873 and has been highly developed as a rifle cartridge. Its reputation as a killer is well deserved. The other is new — the .375 JDJ. It's a full-length .444 Marlin case necked to .375 with a 25-degree shoulder and one caliber neck.

No other conventional handgun — excluding bolt-action handguns — can approach the power that can be packed into a T/C.

IMPORTANT FIRST SHOT

As far as I'm concerned, the first shot in any hunting situation is the most important one. Screw it up with a lousy hit and it might be necessary to shoot an animal to pieces to stop him. In addition, the harder that first shot hits, the more likely an instantaneous, humane kill. Personally, I think it is desirable and necessary to blow a big hole all the way through an animal. This in itself won't insure a "drop-dead-in-his-tracks" performance from any hit — but it will go a long way toward it.

Little guns, like the .357 magnum, just won't cut it in the field. They suffer from a startling lack of power. Penetration with properly expanding bullets is marginal. It will kill deer on those picture-book shots that occur mostly in picture books. I consider the .357 marginal for white-tail deer with any load. It's simply not enough gun to choose for hunting anything weighing over 100 pounds or so.

THE .44 MAGNUM

The .44 magnum is a vastly more effective killer than the .357. .44 wound cavities will generally be four to five times larger than those of a .357. The .44 will kill anything that walks or crawls. That doesn't necessarily mean it is enough gun to do the job properly. When you get to animals larger than deer, even the .44 magnum must be used carefully. Shots must not be attempted that will not penetrate an animal's vitals with certainty. A .44 just isn't certain on a "raking" shot from the side or rear or a shot that must penetrate heavy muscle and bone found in

the shoulders of large animals. Needless to say, it's best to leave large bears alone with a .44 unless you have a back-up armed with a heavy rifle. Furthermore, the high ideals of true sportsmanship dictate the clean kill.

DYNAMIC DUO

The .375 JDJ and .45-70 custom premium-grade barrels on the T/Cs provide the accuracy and power to blow that big hole all the way through any animal found in this country and under the right circumstances either is capable of killing elephant.

You obviously don't need elephant loads for everything nor would they be suitable for deer. The .375 JDJ operates with bullets weighing from 220 to 300 grains. Velocity maximums from a 14-inch barrel are 2100 fps-220 grain and 1900 fps-300 grain. I haven't taken the 300-grain .45-70 over 1800 fps as yet or the 550-grain over 1450 fps. Power, penetration, bullet expansion and accuracy are astounding.

Both cartridges are big and mean looking. They dwarf a lot of highly respected rifle cartridges in size and killing power. They perform just as mean as they look. Either will penetrate lengthwise through concrete blocks with the right bullet and load. Either will expand bullets to double diameter in meat with the right ammo. Both provide totally new experiences in handgun power. The .45-70 kicks like hell with heavy loads.

HANDLING RECOIL

With the right attitude any 115-pound, reasonably strong individual can learn to shoot either gun with max loads. Just jumping into the .45-70 with no brake on it and pushing 500-550 grains of jacket and lead at 1400+ fps is a good way to eat

a T/C — you could easily end up catching it in the face.

Stiff-arming the heavy recoiling loads isn't the right way to handle recoil of this intensity either. A hard grip, locked wrist, elbow and shoulder could possibly result in broken bones in the wrist and/or hand.

The proper method of firing heavily recoiling handguns — and if all you've shot is .44 magnums and the like, you haven't yet shot a heavily recoiling handgun — is to grasp it firmly, using a two-hand grip. The wrist, elbow and shoulder joints should be extended firmly, but not locked. At the onset of recoil, the proper hold will result in the muzzle tipping up, the wrists, then elbow, then shoulder joint flexing as the gun comes up and backward in recoil. With the .45-70 it's sometimes helpful to take a step backward with recoil until you become accustomed to it. I've experimented with loosening the hold until I had to move my head to the left to get out of the way of the .45-70 coming back and not lose the gun.

The .45-70, with heavy handloads, is obviously the worse kicker of the two, although the .375 will hold its own. With factory loads, the SSK 14-inch bull-barrel .45-70 kicks about like a 10-inch skinny-barrel .44 magnum T/C with factory 240s. All of the factory loads are effective "deer" loads up to about 100 yards. Personally, I like the 300-grain Federal Hollow Point at 1475 fps. The WW and Remington 405-grain loads clock around 1200 fps from the 14-incher. Any of these loads is adequate for deer. Certainly for larger game, I would opt for heavy handloads capable of considerably more tissue and bone destruction than factory ammo, although in black-powder days, rifles of this power level killed almost every animal in the world.



SSK firebreathers require specialized firing techniques — high-powered rounds can propel weapon into face if improperly fired.



Allan Bateman busts gallon of gas with 220 grain .375 JDJ. He can take any handgun recoil — in or out of wheelchair. Bateman had mortar round drop between his legs two weeks before his year in Vietnam was up. Round was “friendly,” called for by new and excited lieutenant. He now has two kids, very active in church and gun club, Triple A Silhouette shooter and runs welding shop.

AMMO FOR THE .375

The .375 JDJ is simply a necked-down .444 Marlin. One pass through the die forms the case. Case capacity is .30-06 size to allow large charges of rifle powder to produce acceptable velocities at relatively low pressures. Obtaining satisfactory velocities with pistol powders would require pressures too high to be acceptable in the T/C action. The principal is simply this — use a lot of powder to produce a large volume of gas at relatively low pressure instead of a small amount of powder utilizing a small amount of gas at very high pressures.

The .375 JDJ is a wildcat — no factory ammo available. RCBS dies are available through SSK. Forming the case is simple. All unfired brass should be neck-sized before loading. Simply neck-size the .444 brass to .375. That's all there is to it. The .444 case is strong. Even in the T/C I've used, some cases, 15 times neck-sized only, still fall out of the gun after firing. Low-pressure loadings allow this.

UNBELIEVABLE PENETRATION

In general, 220-grain bullets are most useful in medium and big-game hunting. Hornady makes one for the new Winchester 94 .375 Big Bore rifle. Ballistically, the 14-inch .375 JDJ slightly exceeds the .375 Big Bore in a rifle. The 220 Hornady is a soft bullet, giving excellent expansion at moderate ranges of around 150 yards and holding together well at shorter ranges. Speer's 235-grain .375 is tougher. It would be my "light" bullet choice for game larger than deer. The 270-grain Hornady spire-point and round-nose bullets open slower and give deep penetration.

The 300-grain round-nose behaves about the same as the 270 round-nose. The Sierra 300-grain soft-point boat-tail is very accurate; velocity retention is better than any other .375 bullet. So far, the jacket and core have separated from every one I've recovered. I don't know how it behaves in rifles. Higher velocity may be needed to expand it properly or, then again, things could get worse. For penetration only, the 300-grain Hornady FMJ is unbeatable. Even at only 1800 fps it walks right on through concrete blocks lengthways. Wood penetration is unbelievable. I don't yet know how to compare it with rifle penetration in wood. In a block of a hard-lead alloy, the .375 and the .45-70 will exceed both the crater depth and diameter of a 180-grain .308 factory load.

Accuracy seems best in the .375 with the 270-300-grain bullets. On metallic silhouette chicken targets set at 250 yards, I can shoot about 50 percent with the .375 with either 270- or 300-grain bullets. So far I haven't shot at many of them with the 220-235 grain, but hits have only been on the order of one-third, all shooting done with iron sights.



Carol about to turn one loose from highly customized .375 JDJ. With proper training, anyone can fire weapon competently.



The .375 JDJ is the smallest handgun cartridge to provide adequate killing power on large animals.

MUZZLE BRAKE

With the Vern Juenke muzzle brake installed, Carol (5'7", 120 lbs. — see photograph) doesn't have any recoil trouble with 300-grain bullets at 1800-1900 fps. Her attitude is good (not afraid of a little noise and recoil) and she shames the mental pussies with her ability to handle recoil. The Juenke brake is a worthwhile addition to either the .375 or .45-70. But for hunting, I can't see the expense. Recoil is cut drastically by the brake and it may be removed for hunting to save 7/8s of an inch in overall length. The brake uses the expansion-chamber principle and is more effective than Mag-na-porting in reducing recoil. Mag-na-porting, however, does reduce recoil and muzzle jump without adding to the overall barrel length.

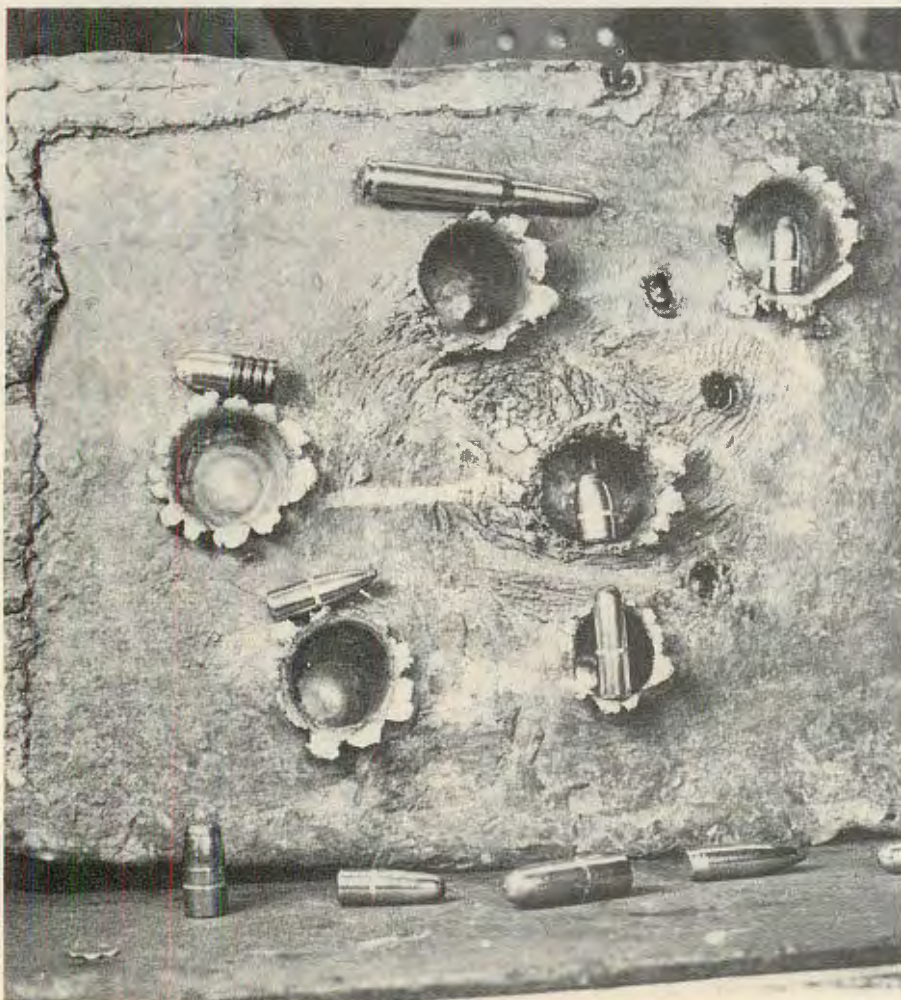
The .45-70 can be either a tomcat or a tiger. With the 300-grain Federals it's a tomcat. Noisy, mean and fulla fight. Take the 300-grain bullets up to 1800, 400 to 1600, 500 to 1450 or 550 to 1400-1450 fps and it turns into a tiger. That's a hell of a big, mean, noisy tomcat. Like the .375, it can be downloaded to practically nothing.

Factory loads or their equivalent handloads designed for "73" Springfield rifles are all comfortable to shoot and would be good deer killers. For the most part, if they are sighted in three inches high at 50 meters, they will be just about dead on at 100. As velocity goes up, trajectory flattens. The Federal factory load pushes a 300-grain bullet at approximately 1465 fps from the 14-inch SSK barrel. The 300-grain Hornady H.P. and Sierra flat-nose S.P. both perform well at around 1500 fps for plinking. At 1500 fps, the 500-grain Hornady FMJ designed for the .458 is a handful and hits with 2500 foot-



.375 JDJ and .45-70 bullets—definitely whoppers.

Effects of Hand Cannon on lead blocks (and big game) is awesome.



pounds energy to slightly exceed the 300-grain .375 at 1900 fps for 2400 fpe. The .44 magnum 240-grain usually does around 1300 fps for 900 fpe from six-inch revolvers. The .357 mag turns up around 600 fpe from most 160-grain loads. A .243-80-3420 fps manages 2180 fpe. A 7mm Mauser 175-grain manages about 2400 fpe. The new Winchester .375 Big Bore shows 2005 fpe from its 250-grain bullet. A .30-30 170-grain barely breaks 1850 fpe.

While I'm not too keen on using energy figures to compare or determine killing power, the above are given as examples. Either the 80-grain .243, 220-.375 or 300-.45 will kill a deer like lightning with a broadside chest hit. The .375 JDJ and .45-70 will kill like adequate big game rifles from any angle.

PENETRATION

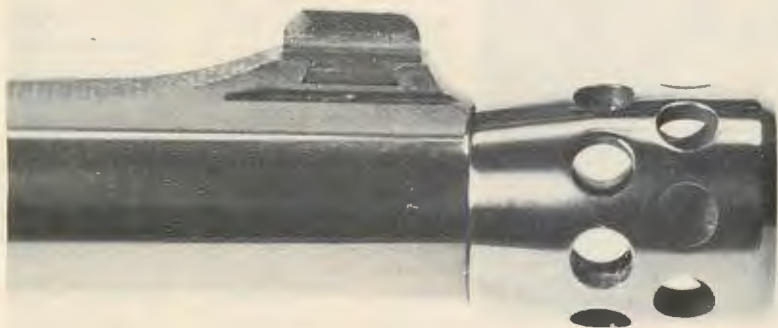
Precise bullet placement will enable a gun of marginal power to kill very effectively. Under hunting conditions though, the conditions necessary to place a bullet with such precision seldom exist. It is not at all unusual for a bullet to strike a fair distance from its intended spot. That's when power comes in handy. No doubt about it, the bigger the hole, the quicker the kill. A large hole all the way through seems to kill fastest of all on most shots. In addition, exit wounds usually bleed a lot more than entrance wounds.

Both of these calibers have the ability to drive through heavy shoulder muscle and bone to get into and through vital areas.

Obviously, not every shot on big game penetrates completely. No bullet has yet been designed for optimum performance for all conditions. A 300-grain .45 bullet that will double its diameter while penetrating the chest of a 150-pound whitetail is not going to perform well hitting the shoulder of a moose at the same velocity. A heavier, more strongly constructed bullet is needed for the latter job. The safe choice in bullet selection is to choose the bullet that will do the toughest job likely to be encountered.

The .375 JDJ attains higher velocities than the .45-70. It shoots flatter than the .45-70 and usually creates more hydrostatic shock inside an animal. Conversely, the .45-70 handles larger diameter, heavier bullets than the .375. The .375 bullet has to achieve .082-inch expansion to equal the unexpanded .45 bullet diameter — and the .45s will frequently open up to one inch in diameter.

In penetration, through most mediums, the 300-grain .375 FMJ (Hornady) at 1900 fps is a slightly better penetrator than the 500-grain Hornady FMJ at 1500 fps. What little difference there is is inconsequential. It hasn't as yet been proven but I think either is capable of complete penetration of an elephant's head from the side or through the shoulder and spine of a buff. The 500-grain FMJ .45-70, at 1500



Muzzle brake for SSK T/C tames beast — a little.

fps is capable of handling any game found on the North American continent. The original .45-70 rifle loading of a 405 grain bullet at 1320 fps accounted for game ranging from plains bison to Alaskan brown bear very efficiently.

Both the .375 with a wide variety of bullets and the .45-70 operate in velocity ranges that are appropriate for the bullet designs available. The 220-.375 and 300-.458 diameter bullets are quick openers — suitable for game weighing up to 300 pounds. As animal weight goes up, bullet weight should also increase to provide the additional penetration generally necessary. The heavy .375 bullets will open up adequately on truly big game from the .375 at short (100 yards or under) range. The 350- and 500-grain .458 bullets are generally designed for the .458 Winchester magnum and will not expand reliably at velocities possible from the .45-70 handgun.

Firing into hard-lead-alloy blocks with a .308-180, and a variety of .45-70 and .375 JDJ loads reveals an overlapping of crater sizes from all three. The .45-70 and .375 are both able to penetrate deeper or blow a wider crater in the lead. Some loads will blow a wider, deeper crater than the .308-180 load.

SSK offers premium barrels (\$125 without sights) to drop into your T/C frame in lengths of from 10 to 15 inches in a wide variety of calibers suitable for both hunting and competition. Barrels only may be shipped directly to you. Complete guns tightly fitted for competition or hunting

are also available but must be shipped to your dealer. Several sight configurations are available and barrels are set up to your specifications. SSK offers quite a few accessories such as spring kits to reduce trigger pull in several single- and double-action revolvers as well as white outline and peep-sight blades.

TABLE

.375 JDJ 14-INCH

GRAINS		FPS	FT. LBS.
220	at	2100	2156
270	at	1900	2202
300	at	1900	2403

.45-70 14-INCH

GRAINS		FPS	FT. LBS.
300	at	1400	1305
300	at	1600	1704
300	at	1800	2157
400	at	1300	1500
400	at	1500	2000
500	at	1400	2175
550	at	1450	2563

CALIBER	GRAINS		FPS	FT. LBS.
.357 Mag.	160	at	1300	600
.44 Mag.	240	at	1300	900
.30-30	170	at	2220	1860
.25-06	120	at	3120	2590
.308	150	at	2820	2730



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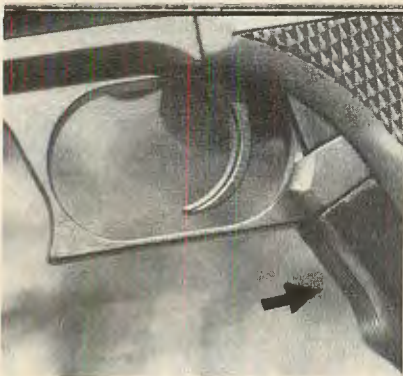
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NEW H&K PSP 9mm

SOF Reviews New German Handgun



Now and again in the course of things, an item comes along that is really "worth its salt." Such was the case with the M1873 Colt SAA (peacemaker), the M1896 "Broomhandle" Mauser pistol, the M1911 .45 Colt (Browning) auto, the P-35 Browning 9mm auto, and Czech CZ-75 9mm pistol, to name but a few.

There is one quality that makes weapons like these stand out from the myriad of "also rans." Certainly each of these guns possesses fine qualities, such as reliability, simplicity, good design, or some other appealing feature, but though they are of different designs, times of manufacture and calibers, they all have one major thing in common.

That "thing" is the fulfillment of a need — an intelligent, viable answer to a *real* need, not just an attempt to "jump on someone's bandwagon," or to make a few quick bucks. No, the really great guns are great because they fill a niche, a purpose, a *need*.

For this reason, there are not, understandably, a large number of "greats," but the Heckler & Koch PSP is, in my opinion, destined to become a member in the arms hall of fame.

by Chuck Taylor

I say this because it does indeed fulfill a need. Designed especially for the West German Federal Police, the PSP is an ingenious package. It answers the question, "Can a pistol be made that is reasonably powerful, light, accurate, small, and reliable?"

The PSP — roughly the size of the Walther PP, of all-steel quality construction, highly accurate, weighing only a bit more than the Colt LW Commander, and it *works all of the time* — answers the question nicely, I think!

Not that I've suddenly been converted into a 9mm buff, you understand, but the fact that the West German Police previously carried .380s places the matter in its proper perspective — the 9mm parabelum *is* a good deal more potent than the .380 ACP (9mm Kurz/Corto), even if it is a long way short of the .45 ACP.

Here in the United States, many have felt (and I include myself in this category) the answer to the police sidearm "problem" is, and always has been, the Colt .45 auto, carried Condition One (cocked and locked) in an appropriate holster for the mission of its wearer. I haven't changed my mind. But the fact of the matter is that police administrators are deathly afraid of what they consider to be "adverse public relations" if a citizen asks why officers are carrying sidearms in a *cocked* condition. Ridiculous, you say! Well, maybe it is — to you and me who understand such things — but it is *not* ridiculous to the average citizen or police administrator who doesn't understand firearms. In fact, newspaper people have been known to get quite "carried away" in print about such things, *haven't they?*

The PSP solves that problem, since it has no external hammer, cocks only when it is gripped, and automatically uncocks the instant pressure (grip pressure) is released. This means no visible "menace"

to anyone who happens to notice, intentionally or otherwise.

It also adds a measure of relief to those who just can't bring themselves to trust the machinery of the M1911-type pistol. I know many gun-handlers, even experienced ones, who invariably *lower the hammer* of their .45 auto into Condition Two when they carry their piece, even though they know (or claim that they know) the piece is as safe as any piece of machinery can be. Such an act reduces the efficiency of the gun and actually causes it to lose one of its major advantages over the revolver: speed. Those who carry a weapon do so because they realize the need for protection. The fact that one does get involved in a fight with only a pistol in his possession means that he is already in big trouble. Think about it! *If you were expecting trouble, you wouldn't be using the pistol.* Instead, you'd be utilizing a rifle, shotgun, or SMG, wouldn't you? So, *any reduction in the efficiency of the pistol is unquestionably not what you want.*

There is also no "trick" gadgetry on the PSP, in spite of what impression you may have so far. The cocking indicator is located at the rear of the slide and rises as the grip pressure is increased, showing the firer that the gun is cocked. Likewise, as pressure is lessened, it slides back into its recess. A PSP, loaded with a round in its chamber and a full magazine, is not ready to be fired until the grip pressure reaches sufficient levels to cock the gun. Thus, it can be dropped and roughly handled with no danger of breakage to parts resulting in discharge of the cartridge in the chamber.

The reliability of this piece is superb, due to the simplicity and quality of its construction and design. It has few moving parts and a fixed barrel, thereby eliminating the need for bushings, link, pins, etc. Accuracy is also of match quality "right out of the box," and the trigger on the test piece was outstanding. When I questioned the H&K tech expert about this, he swore it had not been modified in any way — that was the way it came. Okay with me, because it felt like a custom-tuned trigger, which, as we all know, will cost you a goodly chunk of bread to obtain on most guns.

Another nifty feature of the PSP is the lack of normal slide lock and safety found in conventional designs. It is, therefore, more amenable to use by left-handers and requires no special work for this purpose. Undoubtedly, this is of great value to the guardians of the budget, of both individual and departmental type.

My observations of this pistol, upon handling and firing, were most favorable. It had an aura of strength, accuracy, and quality as I held it in my hand. It gives the feeling of reliability and quality that only a pistol of consequence gives. It just plain feels great!

It has nothing to tear up your hands or clothes if you carry it concealed and it points quite nicely. The "squared" trigger

guard is a nice feature and, considering the popularity of the "finger-forward," two-handed technique made famous by Ray Chapman, the dean of competitive combat shooters, it illustrates attention to detail by the innovative Heckler & Koch designers.

The sights are also a new idea. For poor light, we have seen an endless number of light colors, patterns, shapes, and even mechanical gadgets — some of which were effective — others not so effective. The PSP has a horizontal "dot" pattern, consisting of a single white dot, centered in the appropriate spot on the front sight, and two additional dots — one to either side of the rear sight notch. To obtain an accurate sight picture, in poor or even good light, one has merely to line up the dots horizontally, with proportionate spacing between them, and press the trigger.

I found this combination to be *very* effective and, surprisingly, easier to work with than any other type of sight or pattern I had ever tried. For some reason, the *horizontal* dot pattern is faster for the eye to line up than a vertical pattern or a pattern of dots, squares, colors, etc. — a really innovative and *effective* idea.

The sights are fixed, but highly visible — not "pocket pistol" sights at all, but comparable to the best fixed sights available for service pistols.

At first I was a bit disturbed that the PSP retained that curious European device — the butt-located magazine release — and questioned the H&K officials about it at length. They felt it was a better idea since one of the best features of the PSP "system" is the ease of use by either right- or left-handed personnel. They added, however, that the catch was activated by placing the index finger of the supporting hand on the magazine lip, and pressing *forward* instead of *backward* (the way it normally is on such designs), thereby allowing a more natural movement, thus decreasing the time it takes for the movement to be accomplished. This is as good an answer as any and, realistically, pistol fights are almost always concluded before either participant is in need of a reload, except possibly in the military sense, but if the reload is required, the butt-mounted magazine release as designed by H&K *isn't* slow, even though it may not be as quick as the conventional Colt/Browning button on the frame of the gun.

The locking system of the PSP is also innovative. There is a tiny hole in the chamber of the gun which allows a small portion of gas to escape, deflect off an inclined surface (changing the angle of travel about 90 degrees) and come to bear against the face of a piston mounted directly to the front (inside) of the slide, in turn *locking the piston and slide from rearward movement*. This is the opposite of the conventional "gas piston" idea in which gas is utilized against a piston to *UNLOCK* the action. When the gas pres-

sure falls below the level required to keep the action locked, the piston allows the slide to move. Neat, eh? Again, it *works!*

Do I like it? You bet I do, and, *if a PSP ever appears in a caliber over .40 (10mm) I'll seriously consider replacing my combat-customized .45 auto with it!* That's how much I like it.

The PSP is a really serviceable design, and, as I said earlier, I predict great success for it, for it is unquestionably a milestone in handgun design. As usual, the boys from H&K have put together what may turn out to be the epitome of handgun design, at least until laser beams replace projectiles! They will be available in the United States in about a year, due to current manufacturing requirements for the West German government, but something this good is worth waiting for.

HECKLER & KOCH PSP 9mm x 19 PARABELLUM PISTOL SPECIFICATIONS

Operating Principle: Recoil
Action: Retarded inertia bolt
Feed: . Straight magazine, 8 rds. capacity
Caliber: . . . 9x19mm parabellum (Luger)
Muzzle Velocity: 1150-1450 fps
(350-425 m/sec) depending upon ammunition
Muzzle Energy: 340-405 ft. lbs.,
depending upon ammunition
Mode of Fire: single fire

Dimensions

Overall Length 6.54 in. (166mm)
Height of Pistol 4.92 in. (125mm)
Width across Stocks . . . 1.10 in. (28mm)
Length of Barrel 4.13 in. (105mm)
Sight Radius 5.79 in. (147mm)

Weights

Pistol w/full Magazine . 34.6 oz. (980 g)
Pistol w/o Magazine . . . 28.9 oz. (820 g)
Magazine, filled w/8 rds. . 5.6 oz. (160 g)



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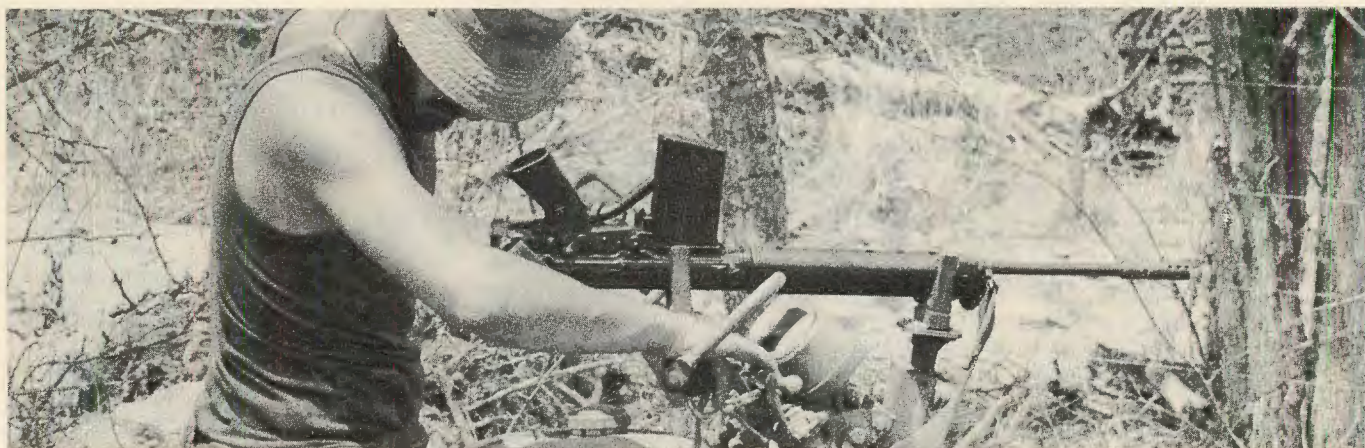


Dealer Inquiries Are Invited

HELL ON WHEELS

BIKES IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA'S WAR

by Al J. Venter



"We heard them coming before we saw them, snaking their way through the long grass and growling like demons. Then they were on us. A man next to me was hit.

"Then I saw another comrade drop. After that, nothing. I dropped my gun and ran for my life."

The man spoke quietly, his black skin glistening under the hot Ovambo sun as he recalled the contact that separated him from his SWAPO colleagues. He was picked up by a South African security force patrol a few hours later.

"They were like lions at a kill."

"They were like lions at a kill. They were everywhere." The man whom I knew only as "Timoteo" gesticulated with one hand, passing it quickly across his chest.

"I knew they were motorcycles. I had seen them in Windhoek before I was recruited and went north into Angola. But this time it was different because these were soldiers riding them and they were shooting at us." Timoteo's eyes narrowed as he spoke.

The contact referred to by this SWAPO militant — he spoke with surprising erudition for one who had received only a rudimentary education — took place earlier this year during an extended counter-insurgency operation to the east of Oshikati, the region's capital. A group of about 20 terrorists had been on the run

for four days; on their tracks were elements of South West Africa's crack specialist unit, more colloquially known as SWA Specialist Unit (Spes Ops).

First, horses had followed the insurgents' tracks after members of the gang had murdered a local headman. It was claimed in leaflets left behind at the scene of the crime that the dead man had close ties with the "racist Boer regime." What SWAPO did not say was that the headman had visited Oshikati a month before to inquire about getting his son into the local high school next year.

However, the trail disappeared after cattle and goats had been used to obliterate tracks — local tribesmen had apparently been coerced at gunpoint to follow instructions.

Once it was picked up again about 35 kilometers to the north of the original position, South West Africa Command lost no time in bringing another element of the Specialist Unit into play — the recently formed motorcycle detachment.

When the unit set out on the new trail with a tracker support-unit shortly after breakfast, the spoor was already 12 hours old. Before the sun had reached its apogee, they had narrowed that gap to less than 90 minutes. At this stage the fleeing terrorists bumped into security forces which were deployed previously.

The terrorists turned and doubled back the way they had come; specially-adapted 350cc motorcycles were on them before

they were able to prepare themselves against this new threat.

While actual casualties suffered by this SWAPO strike force is unknown, SWA Specialist Unit members were satisfied with their own results. They were also happy that not one of their own had been injured in the fire-fight which followed. Nor, touch wood, has the unit suffered any other casualties in action with the enemy since that incident; there have been more contacts and more kills.

South Africa's Boys On Bikes

Southern Africa's latest contribution to the war — the boys on their bikes — is a totally new concept in this African terrorist campaign being fought along its northernmost frontiers.

It is not the first time that two-wheelers have been used in modern conflicts, but the Specialist Unit has revolutionized their combat role.

Motorcycles were seen on the battlefronts of both World War I and II. During the Great War, both Germans and their adversaries allocated more than 300 machines to each division at the front. This figure was cut by 90 percent during World War II.

On both occasions — and during Korea — these vehicles were used primarily in communications and control roles, deliv-

ering messages between various units or assisting in traffic movement, especially on the West European front. There were also motorcycles with Soviet fighting units.

In contrast, however, South Africa is the first nation to use motorcycles in a fully combatant role.

But only just. It is significant that a month after the first motorcycle evaluation tests were started in the Republic, United States Military Command began its own two-wheeled program. Tests were conducted by the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, supported by CDC Infantry Agency at the famous Special Forces training establishment at Fort Benning, North Carolina.

Like the South Africans, the Americans are reported to be happy with preliminary results of their tests; the Vietnam War ended before they were able to deploy their military motorcycle combat elements for real.

Instructors attached to the South West African specialist units maintain that while they favor applicants who have experience in motocross or off-road motorcycle riding, this is not an essential aspect of a man's ability.

"We can train a man from scratch, but obviously, if a fellow has been spending every weekend for the past year racing at Saringa Spa, he is going to have an edge on anyone who prefers to spend his free time on the golf course. It's as simple as that," says a unit NCO who has been with the unit on all its operational ventures to date.

"We want aggression — a man has got to be aggressive..."

The one characteristic he and others in charge looked for in drivers was perseverance. "We also want aggression — a man has got to be aggressive if he's going to survive in this game."

"Put it this way," the NCO said. "This is about the toughest course of this type there is. We had 400 applicants enter the unit last year, but only 40 were successful. Most aspiring bike riders fell out because the going was too tough. They just weren't up to it."

Those who have survived the course come from all corners of South Africa. Cpl. Pieter Olivier was born and brought up on a Kalahari farm; Rfn. Bruce Allen comes from Cape Town, as does his friend and associate Peter Holt of Fish Hoek. Another of their buddies, Ian Grant, is an Empangeni resident, while Cpl. Hans Duvenhage is from Krugersdorp. The men are about equally divided between English and Afrikaans speakers.

Conditions to which the motorcycle unit is subjected can be awesome to the uninitiated.

A three-day bike ride across some of the most difficult bush country in Africa, on the move from sunrise to sunset, is the



Bikers are intimately familiar with their machines, capable of feats world-class moto riders would admire.





TOP RIGHT: "Boys on their bikes" on patrol. High mobility strikes fear into SWAPO terrs. **BOT-TOM LEFT:** Troops react instantly to hostile fire. Like horse cavalry of bygone days, soldiers use mounts for cover. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Maintenance is critical part of bike ops. Riders are responsible for own bike's upkeep.





ABOVE: South African forces rely on locals for information and their bikes for cover when operating in SWAPO areas. BELOW: South African bike soldier, armed with FN-launched white-phosphorous rifle grenade, watches for enemy movement.

norm while on full operations. And the men are expected to move! Just before I arrived at the Specialist Unit HQ, a detachment had covered 760 kilometers in less than three days, most of it across the sandy, thorn-tree-speckled Ovamboland terrain.

"The bush can get thick," recalls the sergeant. "It's nothing to have a man pulled off his machine by a thorn tree branch."

"Minor injuries are part of the game."

Luckily most injuries are not serious — mainly broken and dislocated collar bones — and some head injuries now and again that require a few stitches. "But that's all part of the game," says this little man with the kind of military moustache that intimidates most novices.

The sergeant admits one of the biggest problems in any extended operation is exhaustion among his men.



"The body takes tremendous punishment and it has not been unusual to find fellows arriving at a temporary base and simply collapsing next to their bikes the moment they've dismounted. I usually leave them to sleep — they'll eat when they need to," he says.

Training follows a specific pattern after basics have been completed.

Riders are first put through a platoon weapons-training course with emphasis on conventional warfare. They are then taught motorcycle driving and maintenance care, after which each candidate is expected to cope with essential maintenance of his machine.

Training in counter-insurgency warfare follows — first back at base and then in the operational area — under simulated battle conditions, using live ammunition, a month on foot as normal infantry, then a fortnight on the machine.

"Take it from me they're good — only the toughest survive the course."

The sergeant says, "By the time that lot is finished, you've produced an accomplished motorized fighter. You can take it from me they're good, because only the toughest survive the entire course!"

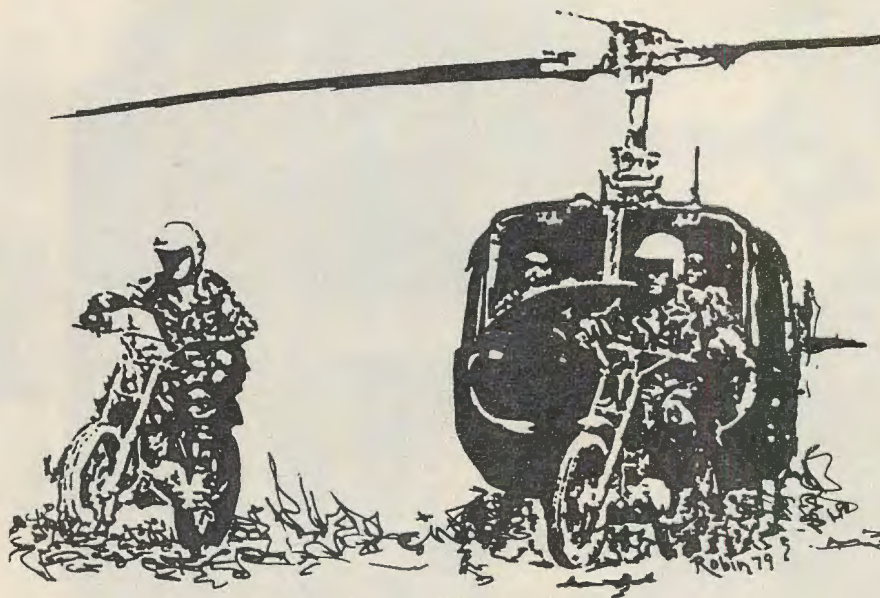
Most of the Specialist Unit motorcyclists to whom I spoke admitted that one of the attractions of the unit was that no two days were ever quite the same.

"There is always something different, whether it is getting ourselves involved in follow-up operations, being deployed as a cut-off group, or even a reaction force, or perhaps being leapfrogged into a forward tracking position," said Cpl. Lonnie Leschger of Randburg.

Sometimes the men also work as contact patrols, and here their role can be delivering anything from a set of operational maps or a new set of batteries to a forward commander hot on the track of a terrorist gang. Most times, though, the unit works closely with specialized trackers attached to SWA Specialist Unit whose job it is to find a trail and keep on it to the point where a contact is made.

The sergeant is pleased at one recent development. "We've learned to work very closely with the air force. And that's important when some of the boys have come under direct fire.

"It's comforting to know that if a man is hit, it takes only seven minutes from the time he is wounded to lift-off by chopper."



THE AMERICAN VERSION

Rapid deployment versatility marks the U.S. Army's approach to motorcycle combat.

The 4th Squadron, 9th Cav, at Ft. Hood, Texas, usually employs its bikes in two-man reconnaissance teams, supported by helicopters. The bikes are strapped to racks mounted on the sides of UH-1H Hueys and ferried to a location near the recon area, where the team unloads its machines (a 30-second operation) and embarks on patrol. Armed with M-16s and equipped with PRC-77 radios mounted on the front forks, the bikers report on enemy presence and movements, secure landing zones, and direct unit attack choppers to their targets. When the mission is completed, the team returns to the insertion helicopter, and flies back to the main unit area.

Recon platoon sergeant Greg Fitzhugh explained, "We use the bikes because they are an asset to us in an air combat unit. The bikes are quick, quiet, maneuverable and adaptable to terrain and weather."

Indeed, the motorcycle teams give the 4/9th Cav an all-weather reconnaissance capability, for the bikes can operate in weather conditions that prevent aerial observation or keep aircraft on the ground. In addition to their primary mission of reconnaissance, the versatile teams are also used as convoy scout escorts, messengers, and forward observers.

Training for the unit is tough. Like their South African counterparts, riders go through rigorous cross-country riding to familiarize themselves with their machines and the terrain they'll be operating

in. That completed, training centers on recon technique and other missions useful to the unit.

There are support personnel who assist the riders in caring for their machines, but the primary responsibility for maintenance falls on the bikers themselves.

"We are very picky about who we choose to ride. We want a biker who is already experienced in riding and repairing," says Fitzhugh. For that reason, the unit is short of riders, but the platoon sergeant doesn't see any lowering of standards to ease the shortage.

"We don't want any wild men on these bikes," he says.

The motorcycle unit has other problems. The stock Suzuki TS 185s used by the recon teams are nearly 10 years old, and they break a lot these days. They're also underpowered — as a result, some kinds of terrain are difficult to operate in effectively.

Another problem is parts availability. In typical fashion, the Army has neglected to include motorcycle parts in its inventory, so the unit must purchase its parts from a local motorcycle shop.

The total picture is promising, though. Motorcycle patrols have proven to be a valuable asset to the cav units they operate with. The bikes have been very effective in reconnaissance and other missions during training exercises. However, unlike their South African brethren, the ultimate test of effectiveness still awaits them.

— Robin Heid





101st Airborne Division unit patch and a green beret! Sure, it can be overlooked, but when Michael returns from Vietnam we see the same uniform — 101st unit patch with a green beret.

The only explanation, other than plain ignorance, is the use of the eagle as a symbol of America. It is the Eagle Supermarket where Nick's girlfriend works, it is an eagle embossed on the sling of Michael's hunting rifle and an eagle on the back of the group's bowling shirts.

While Steven goes off with his bride, the other four friends head to the mountains to hunt deer. On the way, they drink beer and sing the 11th Airborne Division's song, "Down From Heaven." During the hunt, Michael emerges as the leader, showing the traits that will later help Nick and Steven escape from a prisoner-of-war camp.

Michael insists that a deer should be taken with one shot (two's pussy). He sticks by his code and takes his deer as religious hymns play in the background, reinforcing the sanctity of hunting in American life. The hunt is supposed to take place in the Allegheny hills. But these are no Appalachian Mountains — the scene was actually filmed on Mt. Baker, Washington.

The successful hunters return to the gin mill and a moment of introspection. The last fling is over, tomorrow the three leave for the Army.

The scene now shifts to Vietnam. It is two years later. A Special Forces patrol in a Viet village is being reinforced by chopper with a unit of the 101st Airborne. Gunships blast the village. Michael, with the SF patrol, is reunited with Nick and Steven from the 101st.

There are some good touches here . . . a North Vietnamese officer drops a Chicom grenade into a bunker filled with villagers before he is seared by a flame thrower . . . pigs root through chunks of burned flesh.

The NVA counterattacks. The friends are captured and taken to a riverside POW camp. From their cage in the water beneath the hut they watch other prisoners blowing their own brains out in a forced game of Russian roulette. Fear builds as they await their turn. Steven cracks first; Michael tries to hold him together.

The scenes are grisly. Blood spurts from head wounds and rains down into the water beside them. Rats gnaw on a pile of bodies lying in the water near the hut.

The guards place their bets on who will be the first to die as they surround the players with AK-47s and drink "liberated" Miller's beer. A pile of wristwatches and other valuables builds on the table; one guard wears two watches. The head torturer, apparently a Viet Cong in a force of NVA, yells "Mau, Mau!" for the roulette players to hurry and put the pistol to their heads. He later takes a round between the eyes when the three escape.

It would have been hardly imaginable

just a few years ago for an American film to depict the Vietnamese communists as torturers. But these scenes do this very powerfully.

One reason is the contribution of Richard Dioguardi, the film's military advisor, who joined the film crew in Thailand for the final shooting. Dioguardi is an ex-Special Forces trooper, who tells of being captured on a sterile operation in Laos. He later escaped to Thailand. Dioguardi helped set up the torture and escape scenes and he says it was a heavy experience to relive. "It was like my release, with all my emotions coming out. I wanted to bring these feelings out at a gut level," he says.

There is no doubt that he did. Even a liberal New York City audience started murmuring, "Bastards!" And it was these scenes that caused the Soviet Union, followed by Cuba, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany to withdraw from the West Berlin Film Festival last February. The head of the Soviet delegation called the scenes an "insult to the heroic people of Vietnam."

The prisoner-of-war and escape scenes were shot on the River Kwai in north-central Thailand, while Thai military police guarded the film crew from guerrilla attack. Thai pilots also flew the choppers, and Thais, who of course don't look much like Viets, played most of the Vietnamese parts.

During the escape Nick is pulled aboard a rescue chopper as both Michael and a badly injured Steven fall from the skids into the river. Both De Niro and Savage made their own jumps — 15 in two days — until the scene was right.

Nick, scarred mentally from his ordeal, is released from the psychiatric ward of the Saigon hospital. For effect, and without regard for reality, Hollywood conveniently placed full body bags and stacks of metal transfer caskets on the front lawn in full view of the patients.

After a scene on Tu Do Street — actually filmed on Patpong Road, Bangkok's "Street of a Thousand Pleasures" — Nick runs into another Russian roulette game, only this time complete with a decadent Frenchman and Chinese gamblers.

Michael returns home alone from Vietnam believing his friends are dead. When he sees a welcome home party waiting for him, he orders the cab driver to keep going down the road to a motel. Here he squats Vietnamese style in his room and thinks. There is no joy in his return. If anything there is a sense of loss, a let-down, a feeling of not belonging to the life he once left behind. Though sane, unlike Nick, and physically whole, unlike Steven, the bemedaled Michael has changed also:

"I feel a lot of distance," he says. "I feel far away." It was a return that was familiar.

Continued on page 79

DISASTER

TO GLORY

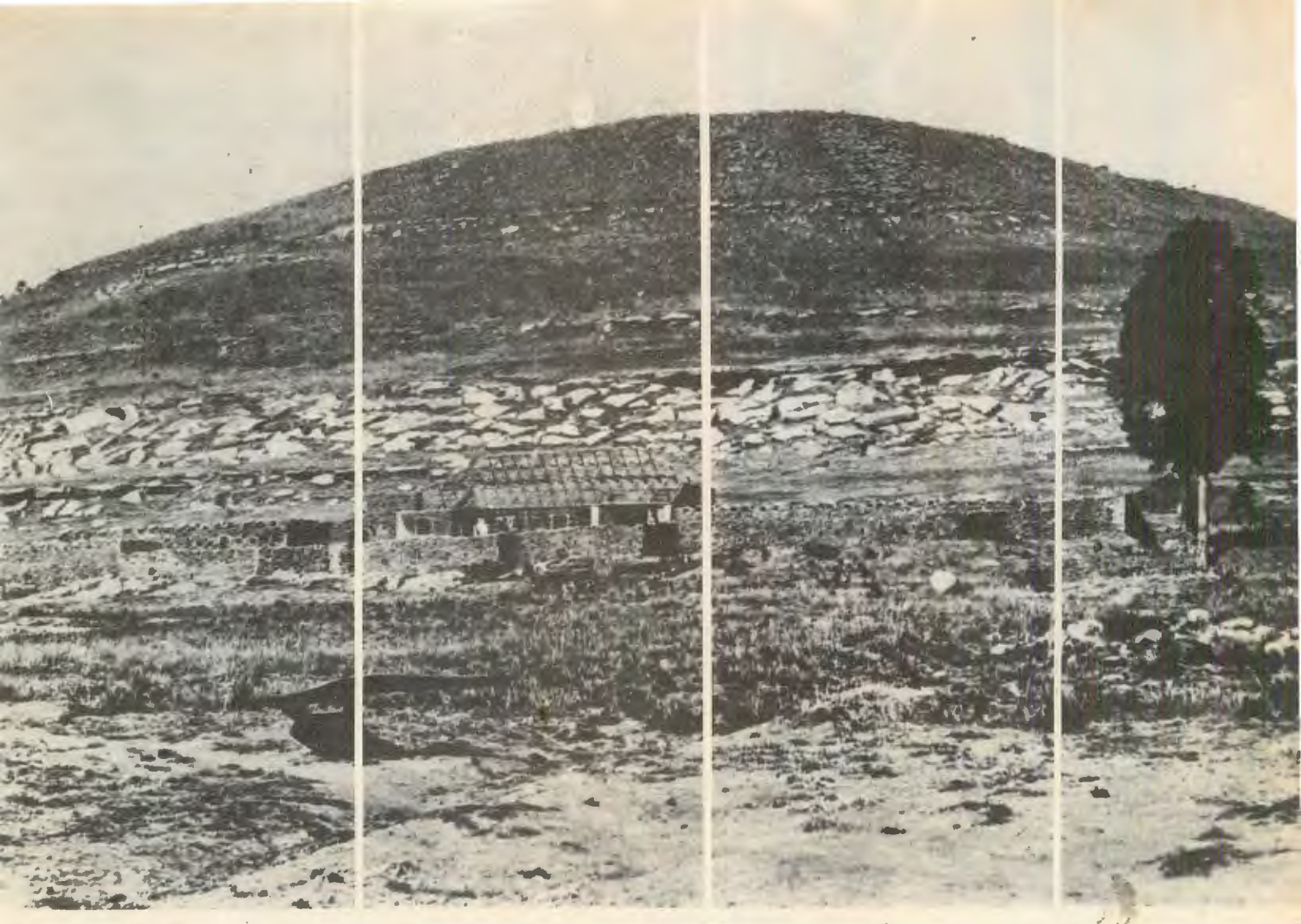
BRITISH ZULU WAR

by Bob Poos



British survivors of Rorke's Drift. Inset: 1947 photo of 97-year-old Zulu veteran of Isandhiwana battle.





Hospital at Rorke's Drift, scene of heavy hand-to-hand combat. Oscarberg Terraces rise behind building.

Of all those that have marched through the pages of history, only the British colonial army could have suffered one of its greatest defeats and perhaps its most inspiring victory in the same week and only three miles apart.

But that was how the British did it in the 19th century, with flair and splendor, whether it was stunning tragedy or splendid triumph. A major reason for this was the fact that the skill and courage of the British Tommy and his junior officers (subalterns as they were called) were frequently matched only by the arrogance and stupidity of their senior leaders.

Magnificent illustrations of both were the battles of Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift fought 100 years ago in January of 1879 on the grassy, sun-drenched plains of Natal Province, British South Africa. The former remains one of the glorious disasters and the latter among the most shining examples of courage, discipline, and determination in the face of overwhelming odds ever recorded in the annals of the British army of the colonial era.

Those were the days when Britannia ruled the seas — and a good bit of the

land — in an empire that reached from the Arctic to the equator.

As Rudyard Kipling warned:
 "Walk Wide 'O the Widow of Windsor [Queen Victoria]

For 'aff 'O Creation She Owns
 We 'ave Bought Her the Same
 With the Sword and the Flame
 And We've Salted it Down

With Our Bones
 Poor Beggars, It's Blue With Our
 Bones."

What the British proposed to buy with the sword in 1879 around a rocky crag named Isandhlwana was a large chunk of southeastern Africa known as Zululand after its inhabitants, the most warlike tribe in all Africa. The British thought the existence of a 40,000-strong Zulu army posed a serious threat to English interests in the area. And so it did, because the Zulus were every bit as interested in extending their influence and obtaining land as were the British. If the Zulu chief, Cetshwayo (pronounced Kesh-wya), had ever met British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, they would have understood one another perfectly.

In this case, Disraeli moved first. He instructed British High Commissioner Sir Bartle Frere in Capetown to create an incident, capitalize on it and subdue Cetshwayo's legions. British diplomats were cast from much the same mold as British generals and there was one thing at which both excelled — initiating colonial wars. Frere upheld the tradition. It all had to be done with dispatch, during the summer, because the British forces were dependent on fresh veldt grass for their cavalry and artillery horses and draft animals.

Frere immediately demanded that the Zulu chief disband his army and institute a number of revisions in the Zulu way of life — and he gave Cetshwayo just 30 days in which to obey. Cetshwayo ignored the unrealistic demand, as Frere knew he would, and one day after the ultimatum expired on 10 January 1879, an English expeditionary force set out for Zululand.

It was commanded by Lt. Gen. Frederick A. Thesiger, the second Baron of Chelmsford (British nobles dropped their given names and called themselves after their titles, so he was addressed as Sir Chelmsford). Chelmsford headed a



Front and back of medal issued to commemorate Zulu war.

three-pronged invasion, leading the main central column of 1,800 British Redcoats and 2,600 black troops of the Natal Native Infantry. The latter thirsted for revenge on the fierce Zulus who had long terrorized them and generations of their ancestors.

Had Chelmsford maintained this formation, all might have gone well for the British army that fine, warm January (summer in that part of Africa). But he didn't. Chelmsford did something many another military commander has lived — or died — to regret. He split his force in the face of a determined, skillful enemy. And unseen eyes of this enemy observed him closely.

On the morning of 22 January, Chelmsford decided to establish a base camp of somewhat less than half his column and move out with the larger body in search, he thought, of the Zulus. By this time he had small columns, reconnaissance parties, and detachments scattered over a large section of Zululand, in violation of all military doctrine. But Chelmsford, like many of his peers, was contemptuous of native armies. He shouldn't have been of the Zulus. For they had something that few native forces of the era did: iron discipline and the ability to move troops in maneuver formation just as smartly as a parade of the Coldstream Guards at Buckingham Palace.



Sphinx-shaped butte Isandhlwana, scene of first battle. Monuments to fallen mark foreground.

The Zulu army and its tactics had been molded years before by the first great Zulu warrior chief, Shaka. How he came to realize the value of discipline and maneuver, no one knows. But he did, and so well that African historians call him the "Black Napoleon." The Zulus were disciplined with a ferocity that would have been envied by a Marine DI of the 1940s and copied by a Foreign Legion adjutant of the 1920s, had he known of it.

Shaka employed some novel training techniques. For example, it is recorded that in order to test the dedication of his troops, he would march a unit smartly to the edge of a cliff before giving a halt or rear-march command. And from time to time, he would not issue that order. The troops obediently marched over the side to their deaths because they were aware that a far more painful fate awaited them than crashing to the earth below had they balked.

Cetshwayo was two generations removed from Shaka but Zulu military quality had not eroded. And Shaka's successors had honed to fine precision his "Buffalo Horn" formation. It had crushed every previous foe and the British soon were to become painfully aware of it.

All this awaited Chelmsford but still he marched confidently off. It's easy to imagine him, ruddy cheeked, flaring moustache and spade beard, muttering, "Hrumph, hrumph, no bloody lot of savages is going to intimidate Her Majesty's Forces."

Supreme in his ignorance, Chelmsford marched directly away from the enemy. Behind, he left the 24th Regiment of Foot (Welsh) less a detached company at a little mission station called Rorke's Drift, three miles away across the nearby Buffalo River. About half of the Natal Native Infantry also remained, as did a few auxilliary units of regulars attached to the 24th.

Up to this point, Chelmsford had committed almost every military blunder possible (not even many American generals have been able to equal his ineptitude). But perhaps worst was ignoring advice pressed on him by a number of experienced Zulu fighters accompanying the column. These were civilian Boer or Afrikaner scouts, men of German, Dutch, and French descent whose families had lived in southern Africa for generations.

Among them was Paul Krueger, later to lead his people in the Boer War. Krueger first tried to convince Chelmsford of the folly of dividing his force and, failing in that, sought to persuade him to leave the remaining body of troops in *Laager*, protected by a ring of their wagons, much like American settlers warding off Indian attacks at the same time half a world away.



ABOVE: Bodies of Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill, killed trying to save Queen's colors, discovered after battle. Painting is slightly inaccurate, as bodies were found three months after fighting. BELOW: Relics of battle — musket ball and portions of metal straps which prevented Brits from opening ammo cases.

But Chelmsford chose to ignore the advice and marched off at 0400 hours on the 22nd. The rest of the central column rested in the lee of Isandhlwana, which has been variously described as resembling a sphinx or a male lion drowsing in the sun. There was the usual stir of troops in the field, readying for another day of campaigning. Men checked weapons, grumbled as they burnt their lips on hot metal coffee cups; horses snorted in the pre-dawn chill. Officers murmured commands and sergeants bellowed them.

Lieutenant Colonels H.B. Pulleine and A.W. Durnford were in command.

Two miles away, 22,000 Zulu warriors in full battle plumage squatted patiently on their haunches, waiting for the



following dawn because their witch doctors had advised against battle on this day, saying the signs were not right. Shamans had anticipated a total eclipse of the sun which did occur later in the day and cast an eerie pall over the scene.

At midday, a British horseman, out on routine patrol, trotted his mount over to the edge of a wide ravine. Peering over the rim, he was astounded to see the silent Zulu host staring back at him. The cavalry trooper wheeled his animal and galloped off to warn his comrades.

Zulu officers knew perfectly well they had been compromised and there was no question now of waiting for a better day to fight. Overruling the witch doctors, they barked harsh, guttural commands and the mass of Zulu warriors rose and poured over the gully's rim. Out on the plateau, they paused just long enough to assemble into their "Buffalo Horn" formation, main body of men in the center but with strong, curving right and left wings to outflank the enemy. Forming took only a matter of minutes for these practiced troops and then they came pouring across the plain with a thunderous roar of voices and pounding of bare feet on the grassy plain.

Alerted in time, the British regiment and attached forces moved into a British Square — the formation which had imposed their will upon virtually every enemy encountered, just as had the Zulus with their Buffalo Horn.

These men from Wales of the 24th Regiment had left the grimy coal mines of their valleys and the wretched slums of Cardiff and Swansea to find a better life in the army. And to a certain extent, they had — it was a harsh and demanding life, but an honest one. Queen Victoria fed them and clothed them and paid them enough to enjoy a few beers on payday. Now it had come time to stand up to their end of the bargain. And they did so, without flinching. They were tough and experienced, having only recently been transferred to Natal from the eastern border of Cape Colony upon conclusion of the ninth (and last) border war. Hordes of savages were not likely to frighten them as they stood rank upon rank, Martini-Henry single-shot rifles at the ready, awaiting the command: "Present Arms" and fire.

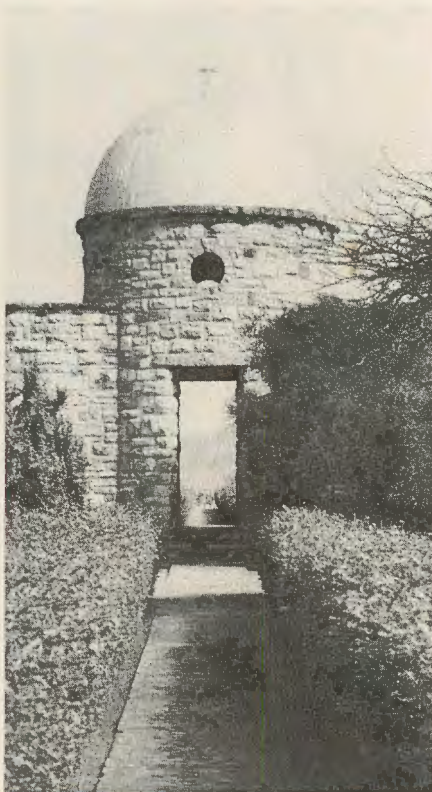
Indeed, so accurate and devastating were volleys from the .455 caliber weapons, that briefly the Zulu onslaught wavered and might possibly have broken, but British ammunition pouches had been emptied, and then came the turning point of the Battle of Isandhlwana.

The British army had recently begun packing its ammunition in new cases which required a special screwdriver to open. These screwdrivers were in short supply and as men pried with bayonets at metal straps clasp the cases, Zulu

spears called assegais began falling among the ranks, inflicting casualties.

Some quartermaster sergeants, upholding the finest traditions of bone-headedness peculiar to that calling, refused to open the cases and distribute ammunition without a signed chit from an officer. Ultimately they paid for this folly with their lives, but so did most of their colleagues. And then 22,000 assegais collided with 2,000 bayonets. As a survivor wrote later:

"And now, from end to end of the long Zulu line, rose a hoarse, ferocious cry like the roar of savage animals pouncing on their prey. At that dreadful sound, the native levies blanched and fled. After them sprang the Zulus."



Monument on site of British square at Battle of Ulundi.

The troops of the Natal Native Infantry were not cowards and they had had a taste of British training. But generations of living in fear of the Zulus had ingrained in them an indefinable dread. In a flash, the Zulus poured through the open gap and quickly outflanked the British companies on either side. Some 10,000 warriors burst into the square and the battle deteriorated into a chaotic melee. English soldiers reformed into small squares and fought on, their thinning ranks filled by drummer boys, buglers, cooks, clerks, and Boer civilians, many of them picking up rifles of the dead.

The individual squares constantly reformed, growing smaller as they did. When the last bullet was fired, the soldiers defended themselves so well with the bayonet that the Zulus abandoned hand-to-hand tactics and hurled their assegais like javelins although they preferred using them as pikes.

Colonel Pulleine rallied a group of men and died with them near the camp center — a monument marks the spot now. Colonel Durnford and a small party fought their last stand on a small knoll — when found months later, their skeletons were surrounded by hundreds of dead Zulus.

Lieutenant T. Melvill made a gallant effort to snatch the Queen's colors from the Zulus and briefly succeeded but was surrounded by others. A friend, Lieutenant N.J. Coghill, tried to cut his way in to help Melvill but both were killed.

A huge Welsh sergeant major wielding a saber killed more than 20 Zulus before himself going down, pierced by an assegai. A captain named Younghusband was the last officer to die with a handful of men from the 24th on a rocky shelf of Isandhlwana.

The carnage lasted only an hour and a half and at the end of it, 858 British officers and men, 471 soldiers of the Natal Native Infantry, 37 civilians — and more than 3,000 Zulus lay dead on the ground. The 24th Regiment alone lost 21 officers and 581 men.

Only 55 white men and about 200 native troops survived Isandhlwana, hiding in the bush or fleeing successfully across the Buffalo River. A few of them reached Rorke's Drift where they alerted the garrison of eight officers and 133 men commanded by Lieutenant John Chard. The company should have been stronger but 36 men were on the sick list in a small building of the mission station that had been converted into a hospital.

Soon it would be Rorke's Drift's turn to confront hordes of brave black warriors. And young John Chard proved he was as able an officer as his general was incompetent. Unlike Chelmsford, Chard had enormous respect for the Zulu's fighting capacity and set his men to building defensive breastworks of meal sacks and metal-lined biscuit boxes.

Zulu generals, elated by their triumph at Isandhlwana, dispatched a 4,000-man *Impi*, or regiment, to deal with what remained of the 24th Regiment of Foot at Rorke's Drift. They were not long in arriving and before the British were quite finished throwing up their breastworks, scouts came running from the hills shouting a warning still part of British army legend: "Here they come, black as hell and thick as grass."

The Zulu mass poured over the rolling hills with the same guttural roar that

preceded the disaster at Isandhlwana. The British in their white tropical pith helmets and red coats met them with volleys delivered alternately from one rank standing and one kneeling. Chard had long since opened all his ammunition boxes and distributed extra cartridges to his troopers.

It was 4:30 p.m. and clouds of rifle smoke billowed, choking trooper and warrior alike and blotting out the sun overhead.

Lieutenant Chard well knew that purely defensive tactics would never serve to keep his command alive, so the British launched brief but powerful bayonet charges, pushing the Zulus away with thrust, parry, and buttstroke.

Then, at a sharp command, the attacking British party halted. One rank delivered covering fire while another fell back through it and then that rank, reloading on the move, turned about and fired another volley as the front file drifted back. Then it was quick march back behind the barricades.

The British repeated this tactic several times throughout the day and much as the Welshmen must have hated to leave the protection of their meal sacks and biscuit boxes, they marched out each time without hesitation. It kept the Zulus out of the mission complex for several hours.

Nevertheless, the Zulus finally penetrated one of the station buildings — the hospital. They forced their way through windows and swarmed over the thatched roof, tearing off the thatching and dropping to the floor below as a doctor and medical aid men treated sick and wounded.

Hand-to-hand fighting erupted inside the building but British training and weaponry prevailed. The soldiers fought by the book, just as they had endlessly practiced on the drill field: thrust, parry, buttstroke; load, fire; again and again. The intruding Zulus perished to the last man. Even while the fighting went on, medical personnel dragged sick and wounded from room to room, away from the combat. The penetration was crushed but the British now fell back to a final, last-stand defensive square and the battle closed on them — Zulus shield-to-shield, their short, sharp assegais thrusting, some dripping with blood. Troopers delivered fire in all directions from four tightly packed ranks and made bayonet counter-charges of a few feet.

And suddenly the Zulu commander decided his men had done enough. At a command, the warriors receded and the battle sputtered out. It had raged for 12 hours when the Zulus pulled away about daybreak. Weary troopers fell asleep as they drank from canteens. The sergeant major held roll call.

Legend has it that before the Zulus left, they ranged themselves atop a commanding hill and sang a war chant, not a dirge of defeat but song of praise for the bravery of their adversaries. By full daylight, the Zulus had vanished as though never there, except for heaps of dead left behind. The British did not make a complete count, but possibly half the attacking force perished.

The British lost 17 men.

The Zulu victory at Isandhlwana turned out to be Pyrrhic and the British triumph at Rorke's Drift prophetic. Five months later, Chelmsford returned to the area, brought Cetshwayo to bay at the Zulu capital of Ulundi and crushed them.

If nothing else, Chelmsford had learned caution. This time he employed 30,000 soldiers and he kept them all together and in square. That was more British fighting men than Wellington had at Waterloo.

The Zulu War has a number of footnotes, most of them beautifully appropriate. The British army bestowed 11 Victoria Crosses, highest military award for heroism in the Empire, upon the Tommys, noncoms and subalterns at Rorke's Drift — the most VCs ever given for a single engagement of the British army. Only two went to the men at Isandhlwana; Lieutenants Mellville and Coghill got them for their effort to retrieve the Queen's colors (which were later found and are now in the Welsh regiment's museum). The medals came

posthumously, 28 years after. The British army neither punished nor even censured Chelmsford for his blunders but at least he was never again permitted to command troops in the field, which may have saved the British further disasters.

The 24th Regiment of Foot later became the South Wales Borderers and recently was again renamed: the Royal Welsh Regiment. It remains one of the most respected in the British army.

And the British did one more thing which was so like them in their great days of empire. Stupidity. Arrogance. Bravery. Honor. Discipline. All those traits they bore in abundance and threw them around as though pennies to beggars. But they had one more which they did not hesitate to bestow when appropriate: magnanimity. For when they dedicated the Zulu War battlefields at Isandhlwana, Rorke's Drift and Ulundi, they erected a tablet exactly on the spot where the huge British square stood at Ulundi.

It does not celebrate the British victory. It reads:

In Memory of the Brave
Warriors Who Fell Here
In 1879 In Defense Of
The Old Zulu Order



BRAVERY'S REWARDS

The Victoria Cross — Britain's most coveted order — was created in 1856 by Queen Victoria shortly after one of the most famous confrontations in military history, the decisive battle of the Crimean War at Sevastopol. The Crimean War (1853-56), historically one of the bloodiest encounters ever, also gave us the legend of British bravery (Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade"), modern military medicine (Florence Nightingale), several articles of new clothing — raglan sleeves (after Lord Raglan, one-armed commander of the British Crimean forces), the cardigan sweater (Earl of Cardigan, leader of the ill-fated Light Brigade), and the balaclava (knit headgear named after the site of the charge).

Indeed, the first bronze V.C.s were made from Russian cannon captured after the British victory at Sevastopol in September 1855. When bronze supplies ran out, the Royal Mint substituted gun metal. The center of the medal, which has the form of a Maltese cross, contains a royal crown surmounted by the British heraldic lion. The scroll below is inscribed FOR VALOUR. The reverse side carries name and rank of the recipient and name and date of the action in which the honor was won.

The V.C. is similar to this country's highest honor, the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor. The C.M.H. was first awarded in 1861 during America's bloodiest confrontation, the Civil War. Both medals are given for heroism in combat, i.e., bravery above and beyond the call of duty, in the presence of the enemy, but more than 50 percent are posthumous. For the British, the V.C. brings with it a tax-free annuity of approximately \$200. Americans get \$200 a month, starting with receipt of the award.

The differences between the two medals are quite interesting. The U.S. M.O.H. has three designs: one each for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. There is only one Victoria Cross. Indeed, anyone receiving the Victoria Cross may distinguish his name by writing V.C. after it. The C.M.H. can only be awarded to persons serving in the U.S. armed forces. The V.C. goes to military, civilians, men or women, although no woman has received it. V.C.s are few and far between: since 1856 only 1,351 have been awarded, only nine since WW II. The C.M.H. lists 3,435 holders.

The V.C. is held in such high esteem that a single medal has brought between \$15,000 and \$20,000 on the London auction blocks.

— S. Nielsen

WORLD PRACTICAL PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A PREVIEW

BY Victor de la Porte



THE World Practical Pistol Championships will be held in South Africa in September 1979, at Roodepoort near Johannesburg. Teams from countries throughout the world — including Belgium, Canada, Holland, Brazil, Sweden, the Philippines, Finland, U.S.A., South Africa, Norway, Great Britain, Australia, Austria and France — will be gathering to see if they can beat the Rhodesians, the current world champions. Some 200 competitors will be on the line vying for individual and team honors.

The range is magnificent. South Africa's Department of Sport is standing behind the South African Association. Nearly \$200,000 is earmarked for improvements and courses. There is even an old ghost town that will be used for a sort of "Hogan's Alley."

Two new South African shooters, Jimmy van Zorgenfrei and Gavin Carson, will be hard to beat in September. Van Zorgenfrei is a man of steel and speed. Drawing and shooting in 1½ seconds at seven meters, he has put a whole magazine (seven shots) in the target. His strength in hands and arms makes the Colt .45 appear recoilless. Gavin Carson is another fish altogether. A graduate of the ISU disciplines to combat, he is the man of precision. In a recent league shoot, he scored

252 out of a possible 260, and some of these standard exercises contained shooting with weak hand at 20 meters and shooting a string of six at 40 meters standing.

Why have the South Africans improved so much? First, the sport has never been so popular. In the Transvaal (the province where Johannesburg is the main population center) there are more than 300 competitors in a league which shoots once a month. So 11 times a year (no league match in December), at least 300 people shoot an identical course at their own clubs. The results are fed into a computer and each month, clubs receive a print-out. This scheme has created the enthusiasm that makes folks practice and practice. It is divided into sections A, B, C, D and open, and prizes are given at the end of the year. Each club shoots every weekend and it is not uncommon for an ambitious shooter to shoot more than 1,000 rounds a month. Interprovincial competitions are also held and shoots between various clubs are common. All this makes for a healthy combat scene and the results show.

Interest is also maintained by the wide variety of courses shot. The average club has turning targets, running men, barricades and the equipment to vary

courses. Although standard exercises are always there, most people prefer the assault courses, jungle lanes and speed shoots.

A South African magazine asked Jeff Cooper if the strength of southern African shooters was because of the political and terrorist situation and he replied that he didn't think so. If fear and danger drove a man to become proficient with a handgun, then surely the best shooters would come from New York and Ireland. He thought that the history of fine marksmanship was the more likely reason for the Rhodesians' success.

The South Africans have as good a record as the Rhodesians in marksmanship and the country is steeped in tales of marksmanship from Boer War days. South Africa has been a nation of shooters since 1652 and it shows. Most people own guns and know how to use them. In spite of the embargo against supplying weapons to South Africa, most guns are available — albeit at highly inflated prices. A Colt Government Mk IV sells for around \$650 and a Gold Cup for \$800. Caliber .45 primed brass is \$25 a hundred and primers \$25 a thousand. Despite this, the sport is flourishing.

Johannesburg and its satellite towns, Randburg and Sandton, boast more than 10 clubs and any South African town of a decent size has a range. The South African police, who approve gun license applications, are behind the clubs and prefer gun owners to join a club where they will learn to use their weapons correctly and safely. With all this, it is natural that the public is armed and capable.

The South African arms industry is alive and well but South African-made handguns are conspicuous by their absence. The Mamba, a huge stainless-steel 9mm semi-auto, has still not appeared although it was announced 18 months ago, the only Mambas for sale being gold-plated presentation models. (See SOF, July '78.)

What has happened to the gun that was labeled "Simply the Best"?

Rumor has it that the whole project has simply been "deep-sixed." After more than a million dollars were poured into the project less than 100 production guns were produced. It is said a local South African magazine chose two by random choice and took them to a range. These simply didn't work and after this the whole project was scrapped.

Perhaps it was just as well, as a pre-production model showed that it was inaccurate to boot. Again, rumor has it that in tests against a Browning and a Czech CZ 75, the Mamba managed 24-inch groups at 50 meters, the Browning eight-inch groups and the CZ 2½-inch groups. The same rumor mongers have it that investment casting of the barrel was a major stumbling block. Frankly, I think the producers simply chose not the "best" but the "worst." Any questions about the fate of the Mamba are met with stony silence and so the South Africans may never be able to buy the largest 9mm in the world.

The Lynx, a .357 magnum revolver, has been tested and should be on sale soon. The Republican, a .38 Special revolver similar to the S&W Model 36, is also due shortly. One other gun that has caused a lot of interest is a 9mm 14-shot semi-auto dubbed the "Hawk" (see SOF, July '79), developed by top shooter Mervyn Ullman. With a 3½-inch barrel and Browning-size magazine, it is the nicest looking and shooting weapon that this scribe has had the pleasure to point at a target. The prototype, after 18 months of hand work, is perhaps the finest 9mm in the world. It was considered by the makers of the Mamba but the charisma of stainless steel, new technology and the choice of .45 and 9mm won. As it looks like the Mamba won't see the light of day, perhaps the manufacturer is scared off handguns for good.



Edith Almeida, leading woman in South African combat scene is also Springbok (having represented South Africa) ISU shooter. Her best score (553/600) in free pistol event might well be best ever by a woman. Here she shoots her way to 12th overall in Transvaal Championship, beating over 180 men in process.

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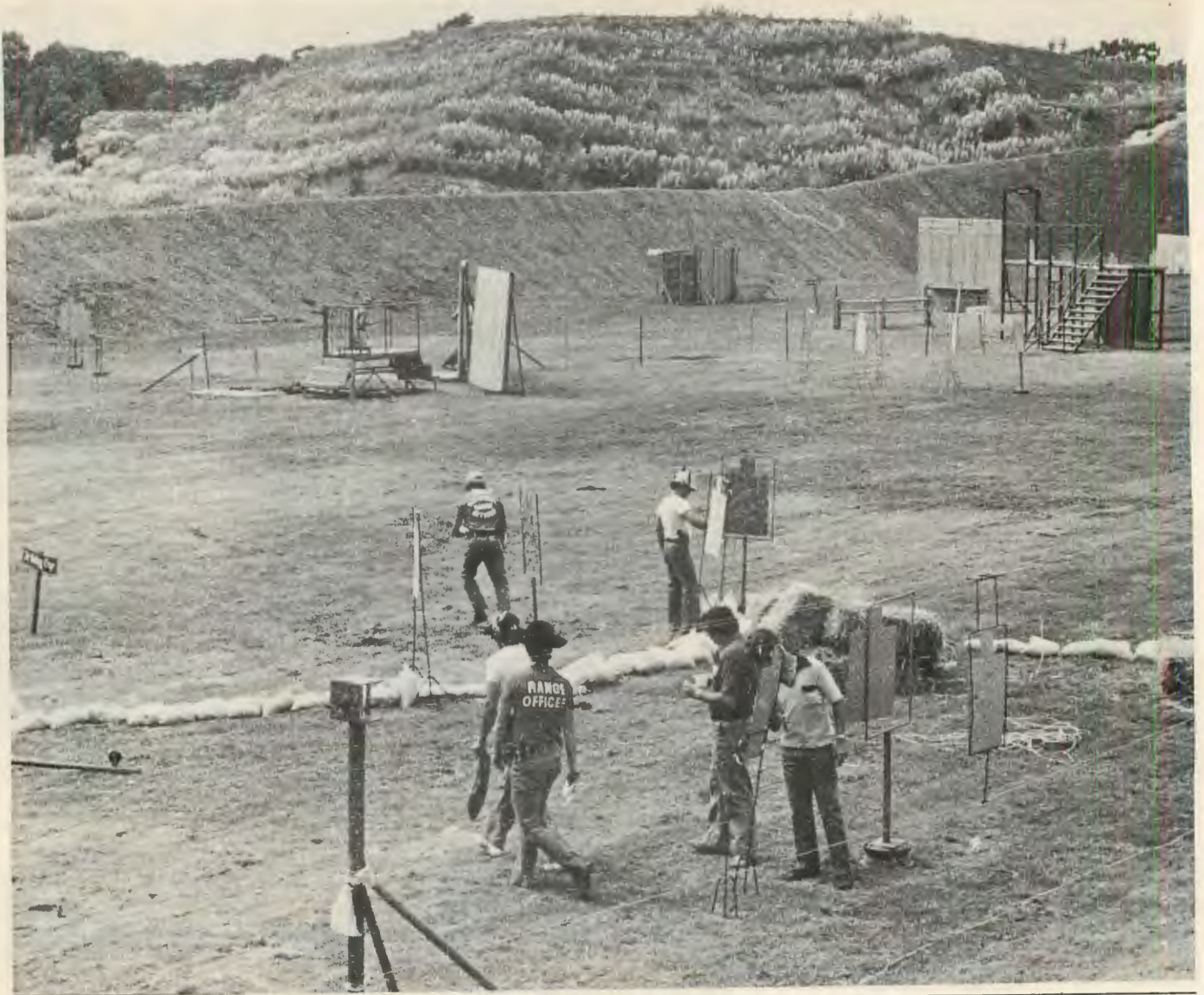
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Someone is missing out on a good thing because Mervyn Ullman's 9mm is a world beater. Imagine a Browning HP with thinner grips, 1½-inch-less barrel length and neater lines with good sights and ambidextrous safeties, and you have an idea of the Hawk. Ullman, who is a member of the South African team that beat Rhodesia, knows his guns and the Hawk shows it.

Incidentally, Mervyn Ullman's Combat Gun Shop is a leading Johannesburg gun shop where combat is talked all the time. He has a resident gunsmith who can help those whose favorite guns have given up the ghost. Coffee in the shop is mediocre, deserving a one-star rating at best. But it is a good place to do business.

Ullman figures he needs \$250,000 to go into production on the Hawk. Anyone interested in contacting him on this project can write care of Combat Gunshop, Shop 4L Lister Building, Small Street between Jeppe and Bree Streets, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa.

Here are some hints for those of you planning to attend the World Practical Pistol Championships this month:

Remember, your Hoag, Swenson or Pachmayr combat special is much in demand. Perhaps selling it in South Africa may be a way to help ease the costs of the trip. On arrival at Jan Smuts Airport, you will request to have a temporary import permit for all your guns filled in. On departure, this form will be checked against your guns that you take out. However, if you take no guns out of South Africa you will have no permit to show — like any other tourist. Any guns sold in South Africa will have to have duty of 40 percent paid against those values that are shown on your permit, as shown as you depart from the airport. If you don't show a permit, who knows?

A standard unmodified Colt Government is worth about \$600 retail, \$400 to a dealer. All a dealer needs is sight of your import permit and he can hand over the cash. To sell to a private individual requires a wait of about four weeks while his license is granted. A new Pachmayr Signature model was offered recently at \$3,000 in one of Johannesburg's shops. Much in demand these days are military type .308 and .223 rifles and all .45s. A Colt AR-15 is worth about \$550 to a dealer.

I won't second-guess the match results, although South Africa at this moment could make up two teams that may beat the world — September should sort the men from the boys. All we know at this end is that South Africa will host what the Association hopes will be remembered as the best World Championships ever held. South African hospitality is world famous and we are sure that those that come will remember their stay with pleasure.



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A LITTLE THING THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Magazine Maintenance for Handguns

by James E. Fender

Semi-automatic pistols customized by Behlert, Clark, Hoag, Pachmayr, or any of the other excellent pistolsmiths now plying their craft in America can cost the owner anything from 100 to 1,500 dollars, depending on whether the owner furnishes the basic firearm and the features he wishes. Yet, despite such features as adjustable sights, finger grooves, double-action alterations, squared trigger guards, etc., any pistol can be disabled by a malfunctioning magazine which represents only a minuscule fraction of the firearm's cost.

The modern pistol magazine is a simple metal housing which contains a spring. The term "clip," which once referred exclusively to the slender metal strip from which cartridges are stripped into a magazine well, is now used interchangeably with magazine. The magazine does its job remarkably well, but a misfitted or malfunctioning magazine can render a thousand-dollar customized handgun completely useless. Yet, the pistol owner can cure 99 percent of his magazine-related problems and dramatically increase the reliability of his pistol-magazine combination.

A pistol from a major manufacturer, just out of the box, can be expected to feed at least one type of ammunition reliably. Normally this will be a full metal-jacketed bullet with a well-rounded ogive. Wadcutter ammunition or ammunition loaded with sharply truncated bullets may or may not function. If a shooter is flush enough to have a pistol customized by a reputable pistolsmith he should specify the type of ammunition he will be using so that the feed ramp inside the frame and, if need be, the lower end of the barrel's breech can be properly shaped. The proper "throating" of a feed ramp is a subject in itself and beyond the scope of this article. Suffice it to say, though, that a pistol "throated" for a full metal-jacketed bullet will seldom reliably feed wadcutter ammunition and vice versa.

However, the shooter who specifies a full house "combat gun" is unlikely to use his pistol in conventional competition, and the conventional pistol shooter with a .45 Colt Government Model properly set up for wadcutter ammunition probably will not use his target firearm for Interna-

tional Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) courses of fire. Both shooters will probably use only the ammunition for which their particular pistol was designed. But what happens when a shooter buys a new magazine, or finds that his hitherto reliable semi-automatic has suddenly developed inexplicable failures to feed or mysteriously jams? The magazine should be the first item suspected of causing the malfunction.

Ideally, when purchasing replacement magazines, the shooter should try the magazines in his pistol and insure proper functioning before purchase. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, so if



Three magazines illustrating proper angles of presentation for their respective cartridges; wadcutter, hardball and popular jacketed hollow-point ammunition.



Another view of magazines and cartridges.

ordering a magazine from an advertisement, make sure that the magazine, in unaltered form, of course, can be returned for a refund if it proves unsatisfactory.

Reject any magazines with excessively thin magazine walls, brittle and easily sprung lips, or base plates which are too easily detached from the magazine body. If a base plate *can* come loose at an inopportune time it *will* come loose! Magazines which are excessively pitted or rusted, even though a gift, should be discarded.

Okay, you've got a decent, sturdily constructed magazine, but it does not slide easily into the magazine well. I have noted that slightly oversize magazines are frequently found in those made of stainless steel. Other factors such as a burred hole drilled in the body or a small patch of rust may cause difficulty in getting the magazine to fit properly.

First of all, don't force the magazine into the magazine well. If a constriction is encountered as the magazine is pushed in with slight pressure on the base plate, stop there! A magazine which has seized in its well can be very difficult to remove. Smoke the body of the magazine in a candle flame or coat it with ink from a magic marker. Now insert the magazine *slowly* until it meets resistance. Remove the smoked or inked magazine and scratches in the soot or ink will show you where the magazine is bearing unnecessarily against the inside of the magazine well.

Two methods are commonly used to reduce the outside diameter of a magazine: 1. tapping with a hammer, or 2. removing excess metal with a file. I prefer the judicious use of a file to remove high spots. While a hammer *can* be used to reduce swelling in the magazine body, I have seen too many magazines ruined by imtemperate pounding which indents the magazine body and prevents free movement of the magazine spring. Properly used, either way is satisfactory.

Once the magazine will slide into position, latch, and then fall free of its own weight when the magazine release is pressed, the entire magazine should be polished with crocus cloth and steel wool. Loose paint, scale or rust, and any file marks left on the magazine should be removed. You will be pleasantly surprised at how easily a polished magazine will snap into position.

In magazines which have a latch-cut on the magazine body, the position and shape of the latch-cut can materially affect proper feeding. Frequently a maga-

will not lock properly because of an undersized latch cut. This condition is easily noted since the latch mechanism opposite the release button will protrude from the side of the frame instead of snapping back into place. Careful comparison of the latch cut of a properly fitting magazine with the one which refuses to latch and then careful use of a file to enlarge the cut will correct the problem. If no comparison magazine is available, then smoking or inking the area around the latch cut, as described above, will show where metal must be removed.

Sometimes the latch cut will position the magazine too high in its well for the slide to move forward into complete battery. This condition is caused by protrusion of the magazine lips to the point that they exert excessive pressure against the underside of the slide. Using a fine cut file, and taking care to maintain the same contour to the lips, small amounts of metal should be removed until the slide will travel freely over the magazine. Finish this task by polishing out any file marks with crocus cloth.

The lips of the magazine are easily distorted and they cause the majority of improper feeding problems. The purpose of the lips, working in conjunction with the magazine follower, is the holding of the cartridge at a specific angle of presentation for proper introduction into the chamber. If the lips hold the cartridge at too shallow an angle the nose of the bullet will be driven into the feed ramp. If held too high the cartridge may be caught in the middle by the slide with a jam resulting, or if stripped from the magazine the cartridge may be propelled out the ejection port or the bullet nose rammed against the top of the chamber.

These conditions can easily be corrected by bending the lips of the magazine with a pair of needle-nose pliers, either inward to correct a situation where the cartridge is presented at too high an angle, or outward in the situation where the cartridge is presented at too shallow an angle. Again, one must proceed slowly. Most magazine lips are tempered to have a certain amount of flexibility and excessive bending can destroy this resilience.

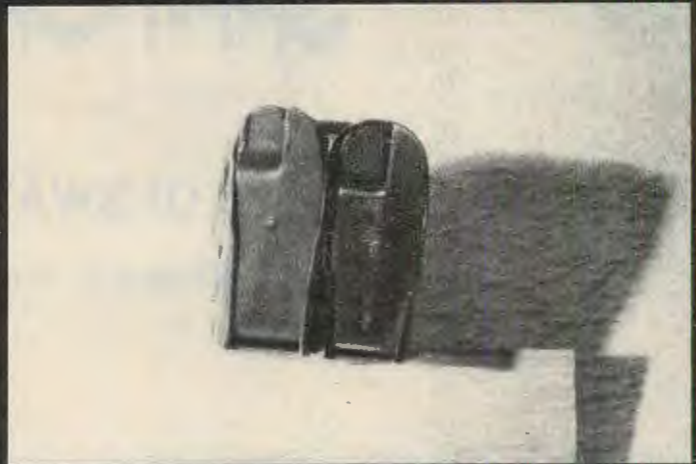
The magazine should be loaded with dummy cartridges and the cartridges cycled through the pistol. The accompanying illustration shows some inert cartridges assembled at the U.S. Air Force Advanced Marksmanship Training Unit, Lackland AFB, Texas, to test mechanical functioning of .45 hardball guns. The primers have been drilled and the cases dropped in a vat of bluing solution to give them a distinctive color. Anyone who shoots semi-automatic pistols extensively should make up at least enough dummy cartridges to equal the normal capacity of one magazine in order to test functioning. The inert rounds should be assembled

Continued on page 90

Stainless-steel magazine smoked in candle flame, then gently inserted into magazine well. Note scratches just below lip; indicates undue friction and tightness which should be relieved by any of methods discussed in text.



Top view of two .45 ACP magazines. Even though wall thickness and shape of magazine lips differ, magazines can be made to function in virtually any .45 1911.



Browning P-35 Hi-Power magazines; from left to right, unaltered magazine, magazine with finished buffer pad; magazine with pad material finished as far as removing scale or finish from base and glueing material to base, but not sanded down to proper contour.



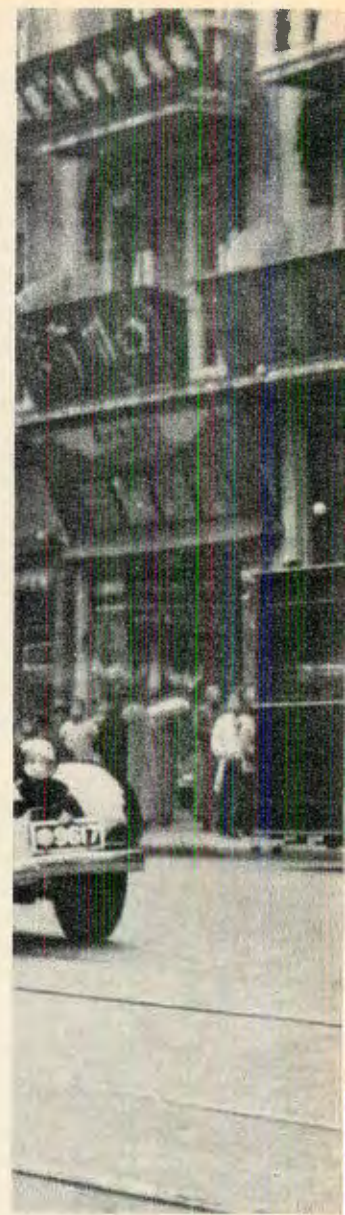
Base view of magazines. Note finish of base must be roughened and scale or finish removed before glueing so proper bond between buffer material and base is made.



FAIRBAIRN IN SHANGHAI

Profile Of SWAT Pioneer

by William L. Cassidy



Readers of SOF require no introduction to William L. Cassidy, nor to the subject of much of his research, the legendary W.E. Fairbairn. For the past four years, Cassidy has been working upon an authorized biography of Fairbairn, and along the way, has shared a few insights regarding this most remarkable man. In past issues of SOF we have learned how Fairbairn virtually founded combat pistol craft as we know it today; how he founded S.W.A.T., and established the basic concepts of silent killing for British and American secret services. Cassidy's articles have served to develop quite an interest in Fairbairn, and to serve this interest, the editors of SOF have persuaded Cassidy to give us all a glimpse at his fascinating work-in-progress, Fairbairn of Shanghai: The Biography of William Ewart Fairbairn.

LONDON, 1901

W.E. Fairbairn, aged 15 years, apprenticed as a leather worker, as his father before him, stops to admire a recruiting poster while walking in a London street. His elder brother is in South Africa, the poster depicts a South African scene, and this, Fairbairn later writes, is what attracts his attention.

His thoughts are interrupted by a sergeant-major of the Royal Marines, who, with that subtle combination of flattery and menace known to recruiting sergeants the world over, cheerfully inquires, "Well, son! How about taking the Queen's shilling?"

Young Fairbairn looks up in awe. "I am not old enough," he answers, and is fixed with a dubious stare by the sergeant.

"How old are you, son?"

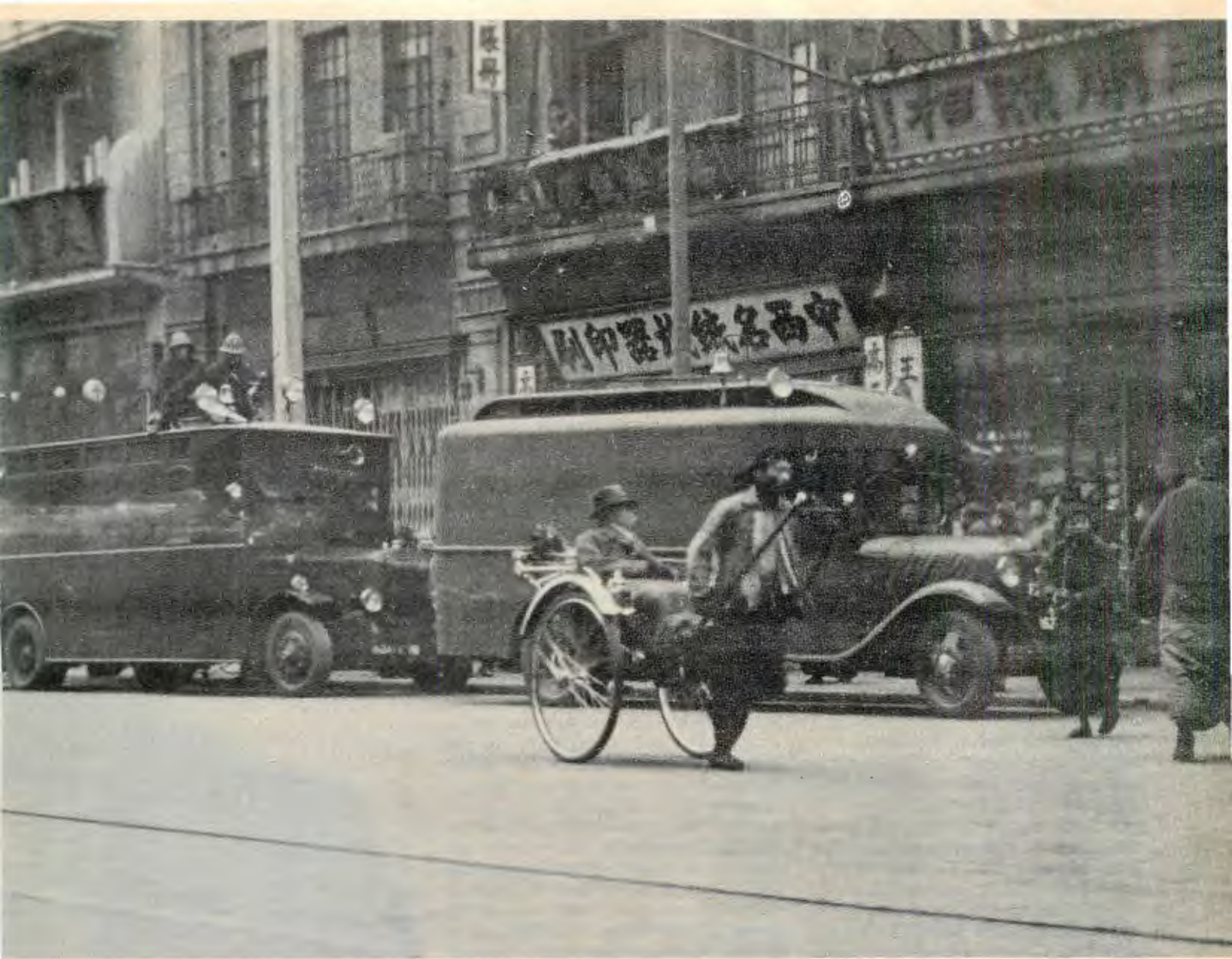
"Fifteen and 10 months," Fairbairn answers truthfully.

"You lie!" bellows the sergeant, and for a moment the boy is frozen with fear. "Why, anyone can see you are over 18!"

Fear gives way to relief, and relief to pride. One of 14 children, apprenticed in a saddlery, with an elder brother in South Africa and two others in the Navy, is short work for a sergeant-major with shining buttons and a practiced eye.

HE was born on the 28th day of February 1885, in Surrey, England, the youngest son of George and Laura Fairbairn. As a lad, what he knew of the world he learned from newspapers he read to a blind man, in the park. In London, in 1901, a recruiter adjusted records to give him the age of 18, and on the cold January day Queen Victoria died, William Ewart Fairbairn — named for the statesman William Ewart Gladstone — signed on for a 12-year enlistment with the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Two years later and several inches taller, he volunteered for duty with the



Fairbairn atop Shanghai Municipal Police "Red Maria," seen here checking roof-mounted Thompson SMG circa 1935. Photo copyright © 1979 William L. Cassidy. Used by permission.

British Legation Guard, at Seoul, Korea. In October 1903, he sailed from England on the H.M.S. Centurion, bound for China. It was the beginning of a long love affair with the East, and the beginning of Bill Fairbairn's career in the world of close-combat.

The way in which Fairbairn came to study the martial arts tells us a good deal about his character. He arrived in Korea in January 1904, a few days before the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War. At the time, Japan and Britain were allied, and celebrations, to which a detachment from the Legation Guard was invited as a matter of course, were held on the occasions of every Japanese advance.

In time, these celebrations became an excuse to launch competitions in jiu-jitsu, fencing, wrestling, and bayonet. According to Fairbairn, the Royal Marine Light Infantry was particularly proud of its Bayonet Fighting Team, and took great pleasure in accepting an invitation to meet for a test of skill against the Japanese.

The result was a thoroughgoing rout of the British team, of which Fairbairn was a

devoted member. "For the first time," he wrote, "we had been hit with the butt of the rifle, tripped and thrown and what was worse SHOUTED at by our opponents. This was not 'cricket.'"

THE lesson was not lost on Fairbairn and his team-mates. Within a month, they had devised a complete method of counter-attack, and returned to the scene of their defeat for a rematch. Fairbairn writes that they, "...used the Japanese methods with a 'plus' — with the result that we were never invited again." These bayonet fighting innovations were later adopted as standard by all the British armed forces.

In spite of such diversions at Seoul, time lay heavy while the brighter lights of Asia beckoned. Fairbairn turned to tailoring, to earn himself a bit of private capital, and after serving almost seven years, he obtained his discharge from the Royal Marines upon payment of 12 pounds Sterling he earned by altering uniforms for his mates.

SHANGHAI, 1907

Making his way to Shanghai, and evidently bearing considerable distaste for the needle and thread, Fairbairn sought a more suitable means for a man to make a living. In 1907, he found his calling, and signed on as a constable with the Shanghai Municipal Police. With the Royal Marines behind him, and a reputation as a good man in a fight, he was quickly given the tough assignments. He wrote of the period:

Merchant Sailors frequently jumped ship and had to be rounded up. Sailors from the various Men-of-War frequently had a free-for-all, which called for interference on the part of the foreign (white) police. Knives and broken furniture were common weapons. . . . Many a policeman was brought in on the floor of a Rickshaw, having been knocked out for fun.

Then, in 1908, an incident happened in which Fairbairn again demonstrated the traits first seen in Seoul. While serving in a particularly violent section of the city, he

found himself on the losing end of a battle in which he was badly beaten by a number of criminals and left for dead. It was a fight that changed the history of close-combat, as Fairbairn tells us in his own words:

Having awakened in the Hospital from a tour of duty in the Brothel District, I was very interested with a sign—

*Professor OKADA
Jiu-jitsu Instructor
and*

BONE SETTER

This university was situated in a very dirty alley down which I passed (from that day) for every day for the next 3½ years.

Fairbairn emerged from his first experiences with Asian martial art as a particularly gifted practitioner. His zeal knew no limits, and his job furnished ample opportunity to put his skills to the immediate test. His tactful command of violent situations came to the attention of his superiors, earning him his first promotion and a new assignment. In 1910, newly-promoted Sergeant Fairbairn was appointed Musketry and Drill Instructor. In this position he would eventually become responsible for all training of SMP recruits: foreign, Japanese, Sikhs, and Chinese.

He set out to serve his new position by learning all he could of the various fighting systems his men were likely to encounter. In the years that followed he studied and became proficient in Chinese systems under the direction of Tsai Ching Tung, martial arts instructor to the bodyguard of the Empress of China. In 1918 Fairbairn applied for entrance to and was accepted by the Kodokan Jui-jitsu University of Tokyo. He pursued his jiu-jitsu studies with professor Okada, pupil of the Emperor of Japan's personal instructor, Tamehachi Ogushi, officer-in-charge of the Japanese Branch of the SMP, and Professor Yamashita, a Kodokan instructor. Fairbairn received a 3rd Degree Brown Belt in January 1919, a 1st Degree Black Belt in December 1926 and a 2nd Degree Black Belt in February 1931. He was the first Caucasian to earn the Black Belt, and his certificates are signed by the great Jigoro Kano, president of the Kodokan.

By 1925, Shanghai was afflicted with an ever-increasing incidence of mob violence. The situation culminated in the now infamous Shanghai Incident of May 1925, when police were forced to fire on an advancing mob. This escalated the violence: all business was stopped for three months of daily rioting, and losses were enormous. There was a shake-up at the higher levels of the SMP and three officials were forced to resign. In one of the darkest moments of Shanghai's history, Fairbairn was called for and given an unprecedented assignment: restore order to the city by any means necessary.

SHANGHAI RIOT SQUAD

The means Fairbairn selected was his legendary Reserve Unit, better known as the Shanghai Riot Squad. Entirely original to Fairbairn, the Riot Squad led the way in advanced methods of riot and crowd control as we understand them today. So well-organized and well conceived was the Riot Squad that it was thereafter able to deal with 14 years of extensive civil disturbance without ever once having to fire a shot. The Riot Squad, a specially-trained and specially-equipped mobile unit, was the first expression of the now well-known Special Weapons and Tactics concept, and a milestone in police strategy. It dealt not only with riots, but with armed robberies, besieged criminals, and sniper situations.

In 1925 Fairbairn also embarked on a career as a writer, with the publication of a small book treating the Colt Model 1911 .45 caliber automatic pistol. This was followed, in 1926, by the publication of *Defendu: Scientific Self-Defence*, his first major work on unarmed combat.

Defendu represented the synthesis of Fairbairn's long study of unarmed combat, and included his first published observations on knife fighting. It was an immediate success, and was adopted at once as the official textbook for the Shanghai Municipal Police, the Hong-kong Police, and the Singapore Police.

Fairbairn, by now a Chief Inspector, was fast becoming known as the world's foremost authority on close-combat and police tactics. Inquiries began to pour into SMP HQ from all over the world, seeking Fairbairn's advice on every facet of his specialized knowledge. His exploits were quickly becoming legend, and the men who owed their lives to his research and skill were ready, willing, and able to testify to the truth behind that legend.

IN January 1932, Sino-Japanese hostilities erupted, and in the ensuing conflict, the Shanghai Municipal Council declared a formal state of emergency. Open warfare was halted in March, but armed confrontation continued. On the 13th of June the SMC declared the emergency at an end. But it was a smoldering fire; in 1937, Japanese and Chinese forces turned the city of Shanghai into a nightmare of full-scale urban warfare. Fairbairn, Assistant Commissioner of the SMP since 1935, was now operating in a state of siege, and emerged as the man who, more than any other, was responsible for the ultimate safety of the city's population.

We can try to picture, in our mind's eye, the terrible urgency of Fairbairn's days during this period. We can read the official accounts and the press reports, but will still only be able to grasp a fragment of a fleeting picture. Fairbairn, leading his men with guns drawn down an alley to an uncertain reception. Fairbairn



Lt.-Col. William Ewart Fairbairn, originator of 20th bat firing of small arms, riot control, and the justly William L. Cassidy. All rights reserved.



alone, fighting from room to room until, his ammunition gone, he draws his fighting knife from its special shoulder scabbard, Fairbairn, a machine gun in his hands, speeding through the narrow streets in the Riot Squad's special van, its siren wailing, while overhead, Japanese aircraft ruthlessly gun down helpless civilians. It is all the stuff we laugh at self-consciously; the stuff of our cinema and our fiction, but to Bill Fairbairn it was real.

He was a superior man in an extraordinary place and time. One incident, in particular, tells us the sort of man he was. Early one evening in 1932, he was returning, exhausted, with his Riot Squad after hours of continuous fighting, when he passed a Japanese officer standing at the entrance to one of the Shanghai wharves. It was a man Fairbairn had practiced judo with in 1908, and as a courtesy between judo-players, he stopped to acknowledge the officer's greetings.

The officer was now commander of a Japanese naval vessel, and invited Fairbairn to visit him aboard ship. In the tradition of Asia, Fairbairn was forced to accept, so he accompanied the officer down to the wharf. He was now on Japanese property, without authority to interfere, at a time when Japan and China were in the midst of war.

Arriving near the ship, the first sight to greet him was the spectacle of Japanese plainclothesmen shooting down two bound Chinese they had placed against a wall. By means of Oriental courtesy, Fairbairn was now in the midst of the most dangerous situation of his entire career.

Fairbairn clenched his teeth at the sight of the atrocity, yet continued to exchange pleasantries with the Japanese commander. The two boarded ship, and tea was poured into delicate cups. Outside, the sound of shots continued and Fairbairn knew more lives were being sacrificed. Inside, the two men pretended to notice nothing out of the ordinary, yet the nerves of each were drawn tight. Still more shots rang out, and Fairbairn felt himself compelled to act.

Thanking the commander, Fairbairn strolled down the gangplank and purposefully walked in the direction of the gunfire. It was a dark night, filled with mists, and the only light was provided by shaded bulbs hanging beneath the sheds. Mixed in with cries and gunfire were the creak of Chinese sea-going junks and river sampans, and the water slapping on the sides of the Japanese Man-of-War.

There on the wharf Fairbairn saw over 150 Chinese men, women and children, aged 15 to 50, arms tied and blindfolded, huddled together beneath a shed at the mercy of the Japanese.

A man concerned with his own safety would have turned and walked away. A

man with worries for his career would not have given a thought to intervention. An ordinary man would have done nothing. Fairbairn merely smiled calmly, and turned to the officer with whom he had tested his strength so many years before.

"What's to become of them?" Fairbairn asked quietly, as he fixed the officer with a steady gaze.

For a moment the Japanese hesitated, but then he replied firmly. "They will be shot," he said.

Fairbairn stood alone on the wharf, with no sanction and beyond the immediate aid of his men, but this did not deter him in the slightest. He looked deep into the eyes of the naval officer, and when he finally spoke, there could be no mistaking what lay behind his words.

"Are you certain?" said Fairbairn slowly. "Why not let me take them?"

Now the lines were clearly drawn, and the Oriental concept of "face" had entered the picture. The officer stepped back and repeated his intention.

"No! They are bad! Very bad! They will be shot!"

Fairbairn looked deeply at the man once more, and when he spoke this time, it was with the skillful means that only few possess.

"If you change your mind," said Fairbairn through his teeth, "you know where to find me." There was a pause. "And I certainly know where to find you."

With this advice and the quiet menace that lay behind it, Fairbairn had in one stroke mastered the situation. Either the innocents would be set free, or the Japanese commander would meet a very nasty death in a very lonely alley, far from the safety of his gleaming battleship. No threatening words were needed and none were spoken. Fairbairn turned on his heel and walked off.

"No! They are bad! Will be shot!" the officer screamed impotently, but Fairbairn did not acknowledge. He returned directly to his quarters at the police station and upon his arrival was greeted with the news that there was a Japanese commander waiting to speak with him on the telephone.

The message was, "Come at once. You can take them."

Without a harsh word, and in the face of extreme danger, Fairbairn had saved the lives of 153 Chinese, among them 40 women, several of them pregnant. The condition of these unfortunates paid eloquent testimony to their treatment at the hands of the Japanese. One woman had more than 80 bayonet wounds, none more than an inch in depth; others suffered from knife or gunshot wounds, and most of them had lost the use of their hands, having been tightly bound for more than four days, during which time they had been continuously blindfolded.

century's most practical system of unarmed combat, famous Fairbairn-Sykes fighting knife. Copyright © 1977



Famed director John Ford produced, directed secret wartime training film "starring" Fairbairn. At war's end, film was destroyed by security personnel at Camp X, Oshawa, Canada. This still photo is all that survived. Photo copyright © 1979 William L. Cassidy. Used by permission.

In February 1940, on his 55th birthday, Fairbairn reached the mandatory age for retirement from the SMP. He left with full honors, as Assistant Commissioner, and the local press reported farewell and testimonial dinners for several days thereafter. He was a well respected man, and even the disputing Chinese and Japanese factions were, for the moment, moved to cease contending and honor W.E. Fairbairn.

ENGLAND, 1940

He sailed home to an England already beset with the greatest test in its history, and within weeks of his arrival, Fairbairn embarked on what may rightfully be called his third career. His fame had spread to the darkest corners of His Majesty's Government, and Bill Fairbairn was therefore taken on as a captain in secret service.

His first assignment was with the Special Training Center at Lochailort,

Scotland; a creation of MIR (Military Intelligence Research), one of the founding bodies of the British Special Operations Executive; M19, the fabled escape service, and the guiding genius behind the modern concept of special warfare. He became the principal instructor's instructor to the British Commandos and other specialized units, and in mid-1940, when SOE was officially chartered, he became that organization's resident expert on silent death. From mid-1940 to 1942, Fairbairn's days were spent in a constant round of travel from northwestern Scotland to just north of London and back again. The list of his early pupils reads like a Who's Who of unorthodox warfare: Spencer Chapman, Mike Calvert, Lord Lovat, the Stirlings of S.A.S., Earl Jellicoe, Randolph Churchill, Ian Fleming and countless others.

Men trained by Fairbairn were landed on rock-strewn beaches in the dead of

night, parachuted in civilian dress far behind enemy lines, or put ashore in black rubber rafts launched from a waiting submarine. They entered a hell of violence far worse than anything Shanghai could produce, and they faced a brutal, cold-blooded force who killed for pleasure. Fairbairn-trained agents fought their way out of Gestapo ambushes and concentration camps; they fought like cornered rats in the sewers of Europe and in war-bleached forests. They fought and they won, and lived to fight again.

WHEN America entered the war, Fairbairn was raised to Major and loaned, via the British Security Coordination (BSC) in New York, from SOE to the newly created Coordinator of Information (COI), America's first intelligence agency. There, in liaison with his American counterpart, Rex Applegate, he set about to train the first generation of

American secret servants in his not-so-gentle arts of survival. COI became the Office of Strategic Services, and Fairbairn became OSS's chief instructor.

His war years in North America were busy ones. He was loaned to the Canadian Army in September 1942, and the Tank Corps in October. He was officially seconded to the OSS on 1 October 1943, and thus became one of a mere handful of men to serve as officers in both the British and American secret services. In 1944 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and by April 1945, when the war ended for him, had been awarded the Legion of Destroyer Command and the U.S. Marine Merit (U.S.), at the personal recommendation of William Donovan, founder of American intelligence.

As the war ended, he was 60 years of age. In the mid-1950s, he found himself in Singapore, employed by the Singapore Police to create a riot squad. In 1956, at the age of 71, he was employed in Cyprus, by the Cyprus Police, teaching riot work, close-combat, and combat firing of the one-hand gun. He died 20 June 1960, quietly, at his home in England, a legend in his own time.

TO put it simply, Fairbairn's methods worked. Stripped of all the unnecessary trappings, his system of unarmed combat made it possible for a person of average strength and skills to meet and win against an opponent trained in the martial arts. His unparalleled experience with knife attacks and attacks with blunt instruments—unlikely to be duplicated in this day and age—provided a sound basis for instruction in the use of or defense against edged weapons, batons and clubs. His theories of close-quarter use of the gun represent the first systematic approach to combat shooting ever devised, and remain valid to the present day. The same may be said for his riot work, his concepts of countersniping, and his development of the police role in urban combat.

He was a quiet man, with the manners of a priest. His students knew him by the nickname, "Deacon."

He never swore, he never drank, he never boasted. His entire life was dedicated to teaching men how to survive violence, and he went to great lengths to insure that his teaching was reliable. He was never able to place his own welfare before the welfare of others, and for that reason, as we look back at the man and his works, we can find no fault with the life of William Ewart Fairbairn.

(The foregoing work was based on Fairbairn of Shanghai: The Biography of William Ewart Fairbairn. Copyright (C) 1979 by William L. Cassidy. All rights reserved.)



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BOBBY GARWOOD

TRAITOR OR VICTIM?

by Chris Doyle



Marine PFC Robert Garwood, left, 33, flashes smile as he arrives at Great Lakes Naval Training Station north of Chicago March 25th. Garwood, who disappeared in Vietnam 13½ years ago, faces charges of desertion during war, unlawful intercourse with enemy, misbehavior as a POW, urging U.S. troops to refuse to fight and trying to sow insubordination among POWs. UPI

Nearly 14 years after he disappeared under mysterious circumstances on a road outside Danang, PFC Robert R. Garwood of the Marine Corps finally left Vietnam last March, bound for the "Land of the Big PX."

But his homecoming was different than those of most returning 'Nam vets. Garwood stands accused of collaborating with the enemy and encouraging American fighting men to lay down their arms.

He has not yet been formally charged with this, but as the Marine Corps puts it, "a complaint has been filed against him. To be specific, the complainant is Lt. Col. David Brahms of the Judge Advocate General's office."

This is a routine procedure and what it means is that Garwood has been accused of violating Article 82 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: "Soliciting

American combat forces to throw down their weapons and refuse to fight" and some related specifics. The case was referred to the Naval Investigative Service and as of this writing was under active investigation. If the NIS feels that evidence warrants, it will hand over its findings to the "proper courts-martial convening authority at Camp Lejeune" which was Garwood's next assignment after concluding leave May 14.

Should Garwood be brought to court-martial and convicted, his punishment could range from loss of all pay and allowances and reduction in rank to private E1, to the ultimate penalty — death.

It should be noted, that no person in the U.S. Naval Service has suffered the death penalty in this century, the last having probably been in the Civil War. Naval

records are not clear on exactly who that person was or when it occurred. Executions were not uncommon in the Civil War.

While Garwood vehemently denies the accusations and claims to have risked death to return to the U.S., former American POWs tell a different tale. They accuse him of being known as Huynh Chien Dao, a lieutenant in the Viet Cong National Liberation Front.

Soldier of Fortune has pieced together Garwood's background from various sources, including recently declassified DOD reports. The picture that emerges is not favorable to Garwood.

One of the most damning pieces of evidence against him is a book entitled *Survivors*, written in 1975 by Zalin Grant, former executive officer in the Army's Special Counterintelligence Organization

in Danang, who later returned to Vietnam as a correspondent for *Time* and *The New Republic*. In the book, Frank Anton, a pilot who was captured near "Happy Valley" in January, 1968, claims that while he was a POW he saw Garwood promoted to the rank of "cadre" — roughly equivalent to lieutenant — in the National Liberation Front. Garwood was given the name Huynh Chien Dao, Vietnamese for "Brave Liberation Fighter."

"We were ordered to call him 'Mr. Dao' [Huynh Chien Dao — Brave Liberation Fighter]."

"We were ordered to call him 'Mr. Dao,'" said Anton, a native Philadelphian who now lives in New Jersey.

He also noted that Garwood sat in on "political courses" that were force-fed the POWs by a Mr. HO, whom Garwood "looked up to . . . as a father." Ho was described by another POW as a "VC honcho" who also allegedly taught Garwood to speak fluent Vietnamese.

During the course of one of these political indoctrination sessions, Anton said, Garwood singled out a POW identified as Williams and began to harangue him. "He spoke in biting tones," said Anton, claiming that Garwood told the POW, "You have come here to kill innocent Vietnamese people, Williams. Now you have sabotaged this course. You think you know more than anybody else. I've always hated you. I spit on you, Williams." Other POWs said Garwood told them he "crossed over" to the Viet Cong side because they promised to release him.

"In front of the VC, however, he told us they had released him in 1967 but that he couldn't see going home while Vietnamese children were suffering and dying. He said he'd decided to stay and help do something to bring the war to an end," noted James Daly, another POW.

David N. Harker, who was in the same jungle prison as Garwood, said recently the VC used Garwood as an example to the other POWs and would frequently say, "Look at Bobby, look at Garwood. Try to be more like him." Harker, who today is a probation officer living in Forest, Virginia, contends Garwood was an armed guard at the jungle POW camp in Que Son Valley and informed on American prisoners. Garwood once struck him, Harker noted, after POWs killed the camp's pet cat to supplement their meager rations.

Another prisoner, Tom Davis, a mortarman captured by Viet Cong in March 1968, recalled, "Garwood wouldn't look you straight in the eye when he talked. He kept shifting his glance. I think he was ashamed of what he'd done. I thought he was a mixed-up guy, but I had to accept him as a Viet Cong."



Garwood in 1964 photo prior to being shipped to Vietnam.



Robert Garwood leans away from newsmen's microphones on his arrival in Bangkok, Thailand, March 27, from Ho Chi Minh City. He spent 13½ years in Vietnam, faces allegations he collaborated with Communists against U.S. armed forces. UPI

Davis went on to describe how Garwood, armed with an automatic carbine, once escorted the POWs on a food run. The Viet Cong guard stopped off in a montagnard village and left Garwood to take the POWs to the field. "Garwood talked casually with us while we picked (manioc)," Davis said. "Still, he was standing there with a weapon in his hands. Whether he would've shot us had we tried to escape, I can't say. Who wanted to try him to find out?"

Former POW Isaiah (Ike) McMillan alleges that when asked about his activities by the other POWs, Garwood replied, "I go down to the coast now and then to take pictures of military installations. Or sometimes I talk to the troops with a bull-horn to try to get them to stop fighting."

In his last letter to his family, just before he disappeared in September 1965, Garwood wrote, "I have not told you anything about Vietnam as it's still in about the same situation as when you had heard from me; a little hotter is about all. How much do you hear about Vietnam back in the States, I'll bet they really build the Marine Corps up, don't they? Believe me, none of it is peaches and cream although I wish some of it were."

"Garwood's a defector, pure and simple."

Other sources tend to corroborate the allegations made by POWs in *Survivors*. A Marine intelligence officer with two tours in I ("Eye") Corps recently told this writer, "There's no question about it. Garwood's a defector, pure and simple." He went on to relate that in mid-July 1968, a patrol from the 1st Force Recon Company was conducting surveillance operations near Hill 273 when they encountered two individuals — one a Caucasian — about 20 meters away. Both carried AK-47s and wore green utilities and cartridge belts. The Caucasian was later described as having close-cropped brown hair, age 20 to 25, about five feet, nine inches and weighing about 150 pounds. The Marines opened fire and both men fell. The patrol reported that as the Caucasian went down he shouted, in distinct English, "Help me."

The Marines began taking heavy fire from an estimated 25 VC/NVA in the area shortly afterwards and were forced to leave without searching for the Caucasian's body.

In their after-action report, the Marines indicated they had killed the Caucasian as well as his Vietnamese companion. Four members of the recon patrol identified Garwood from intelligence photos of missing Americans as the Caucasian they had encountered and believed to have killed.

Obviously, Garwood was not killed by the Marine patrol; whether he was the

Caucasian the Marines fired on may never be known for sure.

In *Survivors*, ex-POW Jim Strickland of Dunn, North Carolina, notes that Garwood left the POW camp in July, and was gone three or four weeks. Although he was said to have been in a hospital during this time, when he returned there was nothing to indicate he had been wounded.

“He told us... he had a portable loud-speaker and would ... talk to American GIs about crossing over to the Viet Cong.”

“He told us he’d been down to the coastal plains,” said Strickland. “He had a portable loud-speaker and would go down to talk to American GIs about crossing over to the Viet Cong. He said while he was gone he got fired on and a VC saved his life by jumping in front of him.”

An average student from a troubled family, Robert Russell Garwood dropped out of high school and ran away to live with his girlfriend. His father, opposed to the move, forced him to leave the girl’s house and had him placed in a juvenile home. While there, Garwood requested and got permission from his father to join the Marine Corps. He enlisted on Oct. 11, 1963, and after training at Camp Pendleton, California, became a driver for Marine officers. After a short stint on Okinawa, he was sent to Vietnam. While he wrote his family infrequently, there was never any indication he was in any trouble or having problems. Then, on September 28, 1965, he mysteriously disappeared.

A telegram sent to his father by the Marine Corps in early October stated: “Regret to confirm that your son ... has been reported missing ... in the vicinity of Headquarters Battalion Motor Pool where he departed in a Mighty Mite vehicle to report to the Division G-2 section. He was discovered missing during bed check and further investigation reveals that he failed to report to the G-2 section. Extensive search operations are in progress and every effort is being made to locate him.”

Marine intelligence also asked their colleagues in the Army to be on the lookout for Garwood, but were somewhat reluctant to go into detail concerning the circumstances of his disappearance. Zalın Grant, author of *Survivors*, was on duty in Danang at the time, and noted, “it was clear that his [Garwood’s] was no ordinary case.”

Marine units operating in the Danang area picked up Viet Cong propaganda leaflets allegedly signed by Garwood shortly after his disappearance. Then, in

GIs WHO FOUGHT FOR VIET REDS

By Chris Doyle

A previously classified intelligence report, made available in January 1979, supports a contention that Robert Garwood was not the only American to switch sides and work for the communists in Vietnam.

“Garwood is probably the best known of the defectors,” said one DOD official who asked to remain anonymous, “but he certainly wasn’t alone. There are at least five other ex-American servicemen who fall in the same category.”

Four other defectors are best known by the nicknames — “Salt,” “Pepper,” “Pork Chop,” and “Tex” — bestowed on them by GIs who hunted them during the war.

“Salt” and “Pepper,” a Caucasian and a black, were legendary figures among GIs in the northern provinces from about 1969 on. They worked together in Quang Ngai with Viet Cong forces and had a number of narrow escapes from American and South Vietnamese troops. Intelligence reports indicate that, at least until the summer of 1974, their activities were “limited to non-battle situations, such as propaganda and transporting of supplies.”

In August of that year, however, a platoon leader from a South Vietnamese Popular Force unit told officials that during an attack on an outpost east of Quang Ngai City manned by his troops,

“control of a Caucasian and a Negro American.”

“Pork Chop,” described by officials as a blond six-footer, worked an area to the south of Quang Ngai, in Binh Dinh Province. He reportedly wore bushy sideburns — hence his nickname — to obscure bad burn scars on his face. Army investigators say he was probably the most active of all the collaborators. Several times he flagged down South Vietnamese military vehicles and then highjacked them at gunpoint. In his most spectacular exploit, he is credited with stealing two American-made armored personnel carriers from a vehicle pool, hitching one to the other and driving away.

Both “Salt” and “Pepper” as well as “Pork Chop” reportedly spent short “R&Rs” in Danang, entering under the very noses of U.S. and Vietnamese military police on the lookout for them. During the 1970 Christmas season, two of them were reportedly spotted riding around Danang on a motorbike.

Another defector, dubbed “Tex” because of his distinct Texas twang, was active in the III and IV Corps areas. He would amble into a U.S. compound and strike up a conversation with unsuspecting GIs. His departure was usually followed in short order by an explosion in a supply or munitions depot.

In the Central Highlands, another black was rumored to be actively working with the communists around the Cambodian border. Later, however, intelligence was received indicating he had

Army Warrant Officer Frank G. Anton (right) was captured in January 1968 after his UH-1C gunship was downed over Que Son Valley. POW for 5 years, he saw Garwood frequently and said, “There was no question in our minds whose side he was on.”



May of 1967, Liberation Radio announced that Garwood had been freed. He never turned up, however, and no explanation came from the Viet Cong. Nothing more was heard for over a year, until July, 1968, when the encounter with the recon patrol occurred and Garwood was identified from intelligence photos by patrol members. Garwood’s father was alerted by the Marine Corps that his son might be a defector. The rumor mill “in-country” also began to buzz with tales of the “American Viet Cong,” and the story was picked up by the wire services.

Three American POWs, released by the VC in October 1969, provided the next hard information on Garwood and his whereabouts. This information was passed on to Garwood’s father in a letter dated 11 December 1969. The letter said the recently released POWs had seen Garwood “in the prisoner-of-war compound frequently and that he appeared in good health.”

Robert Garwood disappeared from view late in 1969 after telling the POWs at the camp that he was going to Hanoi. U.S. intelligence later received information — since confirmed — that Garwood

married a Vietnamese and settled down to raise a family.

In the case of the defectors working in I Corps, villagers told South Vietnamese intelligence the VC displayed the Americans in remote villages and told the people, "Look at these American comrades. We offer them only a life of hardship and struggle and yet they choose to fight on our side. They are living proof that our cause is just and will soon triumph."

In 1971-72 a small U.S. military intelligence team based at Danang tried to track down "Salt" and "Pepper." The team had a chopper at its disposal to move quickly when sightings were reported. Several times, according to a retired warrant officer who served on the team, "Salt" and "Pepper" were almost nabbed, but he added, "almost isn't good enough."

After the cease fire in 1973, reports of American deserters were passed to the Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Thailand. The JCRC, which also had some officers on duty in South Vietnam, was charged with keeping track of American servicemen listed as MIA.

Bob Poos, who was an Associated Press war correspondent in Vietnam during 1965-67, recalls frequent rumors about an American serving with the NLF in I Corps in '65-'66.

"Out on operations with the Marines, you'd hear riflemen saying things like 'I hope we get that guy who went over,' or 'I hear we're in the area where that American VC is operating,'" Poos recalls.

had indeed reached Hanoi, and new rumors surfaced that he had been sent to Russia to study. Reliable sources indicate that DOD is currently investigating the possibility of Garwood's alleged trip to the USSR.

Very little is known of Garwood's activities from 1973 to 1979. A recently declassified report on American collaborators and deserters in South Vietnam after "Operation Homecoming" in 1973 gives details of a "Caucasian operating with enemy forces in eastern Quang Nam and Quang Ngai Provinces." The name of the suspect has been deleted by DOD. But one segment of the report reads, "An escaped South Vietnamese POW reported observing a caucasian serving with an enemy unit in northeastern Quang Ngai Province in early August 1973. According to the escapee, the Caucasian was an American who had been captured in 1965. When offered his release, the American chose to cross over to the communist forces."

In February 1979, Garwood passed a note containing his name and serial number to an anonymous Western traveler — since identified as a Finnish diplomat — in Hanoi. "I want to come home," he

"Marine PIOs were reluctant to discuss these reports and unit commanders would not talk about them. Looking back, I should have been more thorough in checking out the rumor but there was a lot of action going on in I and II Corps then and combat correspondents kept busy out in the field," he said.

A number of American deserters were known to be hiding in Saigon during the war, some heavily involved in the drug trade. Unofficial estimates place their number between 100 and 150. Although none turned themselves in during the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975, State Department personnel concede that some may have managed to slip aboard aircraft during the confusion and return to the States. Personnel in this category are considered deserters rather than defectors or collaborators, but it is possible that some may have worked with the communists as a matter of expediency.

Several military intelligence personnel interviewed for this article strongly believe there are still American turncoats in Vietnam. "Hell," mused one former MACV S-2 type, "give them time and I'm sure they'll get homesick just like Garwood. And when they get back to the States, Uncle Sam should burn their ass."

Another commented, "Since 1973, DOD and the State Department have been saying that there are no more Americans in Vietnam. That's bullshit. Garwood is living proof of that."

Garwood, shown with father, Jack, in hometown of Adams, IN. Elder Garwood has been telling media reps there was "no way" his son was guilty of desertion. But several years ago, he told author Zalin Grant, "It really wouldn't surprise me to find he [Bobby] was helping the VC. He was weak. He'd do whatever anyone wanted if they stuck a gun to his head."



told the man, adding, "I am in a forced labor camp and know about 15 others." U.S. intelligence sources say the reference to "15 others" may have been simply to attract attention. DOD officials continue to insist no U.S. POWs are still being held in Vietnam, although they privately concede that additional deserters (see box) may still be living there. Once they received his note, the U.S. State Department set things in motion, and through the offices of the International Red Cross arranged for Garwood to come home.

Following stops at Bangkok and Okinawa, Garwood and his Marine escort reached the U.S. on March 25. After checking into the Great Lakes Naval Hospital for a few days, Garwood was permitted to go on leave with his family.

Shortly after Garwood left Vietnam, Radio Hanoi made its first comment on the affair, noting that Garwood had "changed sides to the Viet Nam Liberation Army in 1965." While Garwood and his family continue to protest his innocence, it appears the Vietnamese communists — ironically — may prove to be his undoing. High Vietnamese communist officials have recently informed the State Department Garwood switched sides "as a matter of conscience" and remained behind voluntarily after the cease fire in 1973.



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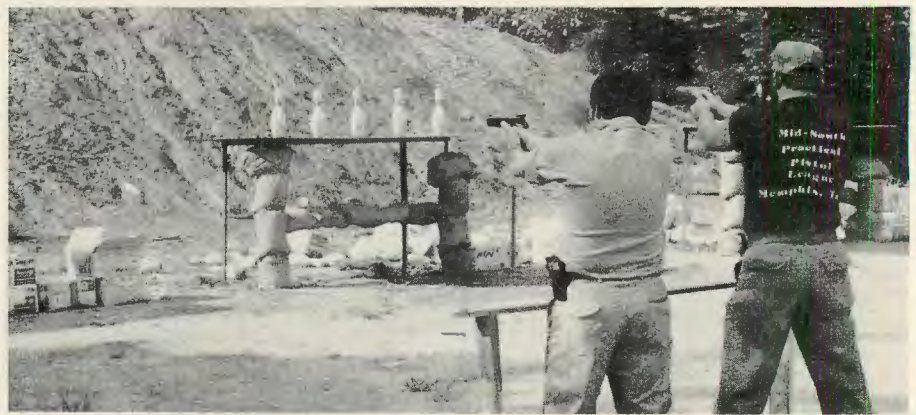
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TOP: Tom Givens, right, and Bill Byrd, Oxford, Mississippi, teamed up for 2nd place in two-man competition after Givens had won individual match. BOTTOM: The winners at Texarkana were, from left to right, Tom Givens, 1st; John Nowlin, 2nd; Chuck Wise, 3rd; Mike Plaxco, 4th; and Dennis Shirk, 5th.



Fifty-three combat handgunners gathered in Texarkana, Arkansas, April 28, 1979, for the first bowling pin match to be held in that city. When the gunsmoke had cleared away, Tom Givens of Memphis, Tennessee, had the best total time for the three five-pin strings — 26.8 seconds.

At the conclusion of the one-day shoot, Givens was awarded the handsome first-place trophy donated by *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine. Treading on Givens' heels was John Nowlin of Tulsa, Oklahoma, with a time of 27.2 seconds, who was presented with a second-place trophy donated by Charter Arms Co.

Third through fifth-place finishers in individual competition were Chuck Wise, Texarkana, Arkansas, 28.3; Mike Plaxco, Little Rock, Arkansas, 28.6; and Dennis Shirk, Texarkana, Texas, 28.9.

In two-man team competition, which consisted of one eight-pin string, Nowlin shot with Ron Talley of Little Rock to earn first-place honors with a time of 3.9

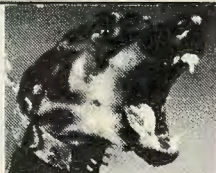
seconds. Givens and Bill Byrd of Oxford, Mississippi, with 4.2 seconds took second place. Third-place winners were Plaxco and Jim Blanchard of Claremore, Oklahoma, with 4.3 seconds.

The bowling pin competition required shooters to completely clear the pins from a table measuring four feet by eight feet in the shortest possible time. The table top was an even four feet off the ground, and the pins were placed one foot back from the table's front edge. All firing was conducted at a range of 25 feet from the front of the table.

Down isn't out in this competition, as the stop watches keep running until the last pin has fallen from the table. Two timers were assigned to each shooter, and an average was taken from the two times clocked.

Bill Moore, who ramrodded the event for the sponsoring Texarkana, Arkansas, Policemen's Club, stated that his organization was extremely pleased with the

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results of their initial shoot, and the event seems to be assured of becoming an annual affair.

Several shooters, including some who didn't finish in the winners' circle, commented on the hospitality demonstrated by the hosts, and most contestants indicated that they would be back for the 1980 shoot.

Hands-down choice of most of the shooters was the .45 ACP cartridge, with most competitors using either a Colt Mark IV or Combat Commander. Givens shot an A.M.T. Hardballer .45 while collecting his first-place trophy. Two of the contestants' favored loads were jacketed hollow-point factory fodder, and handloads featuring cast semi-wadcutters.

In addition to trophies, merchandise valued at more than \$2,000 was awarded, including a 12-gauge Remington 870 pump to Givens and a .357 Thompson/Center Arms Contender to Nowlin.

Texarkana, a city of approximately 55,000, is located on the state line separating Arkansas and Texas; it is the home of Ross Perot, wealthy Dallas businessman (see "Who Dares Wins," SOF, June 1979, an account of his intervention to release some of his employees jailed during the Iranian revolution).

Readers desiring information on the 1980 Texarkana, Arkansas, Policemen's Combat Shoot should direct their inquiries to Club Match, P.O. Box 1885, Texarkana, Arkansas 75502.

"We are extremely indebted to Colonel Robert Brown, publisher of *Soldier of Fortune*, for his generosity in making our first-place trophy available," commented Moore. "By any standard I think our 1979 shoot would have to be considered a success, and much of this credit must go to SOF for its support. We're expecting at least twice as many shooters next year, and I know our first shoot has stirred up quite a bit of interest in combat shooting in the Texarkana area."



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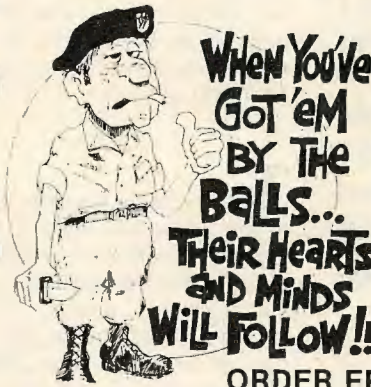
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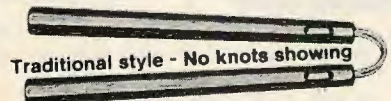


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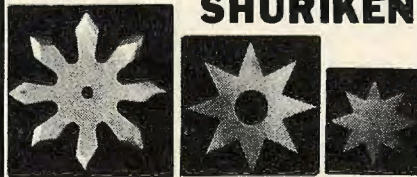
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Continued from page 37

there. This called for special vigilance. Another day passed. Whose nerves would prove stronger? Who would outwit whom? Nikolai Kulikov, my true front-line friend, was also carried away by this duel. Now he did not doubt that the enemy was in front of us, and was firmly confident of success.

THE morning began as usual: the dark of the night was melting away and the enemy positions were becoming more and more visible with each passing minute. A battle started nearby, shells whistled through the air but we, our eyes glued to our optical instruments, uninterruptedly observed what was happening in front.

"There he is, I'll show him to you with my finger," suddenly shouted a political instructor who came to the position with us. He rose above the breastwork for a split second, but that was enough. Fortunately, the bullet only wounded the political instructor.

Of course, only an experienced sniper could fire like this. I scrutinized the enemy positions for a long time, but could not find his lair. During many days I had studied the enemy's forward edge so well that I immediately noticed every new shell crater and every new breastwork that appeared. Now I could see nothing new or suspicious. But by the speed with which the shot had been fired, I concluded that the sniper must be somewhere in front of us. I continued observation. To the right was a disabled tank and to the left a pill-box. Was the Nazi in the tank? No, an experienced sniper would not take cover in that. Then in the pill-box? Again no — the gun-port was sealed tightly.

Between the tank and the pill-box, on a flat surface just before the Nazis' line of defense, lay a sheet of iron with a small heap of broken bricks. It had been there for a long time, and I had got used to it. I placed myself in the enemy's shoes and asked myself: where is the best place for a sniping post? Why not dig a foxhole under the iron sheet? Then dig communication trenches to it at night. . . . Most likely he was there, under the sheet of iron in no man's land.

I decided to check this. I put my mitten on a small plank and raised it. The Nazi swallowed the bait! Very well. I cautiously lowered the plank into the trench in the same position in which I had raised it, then examined the bullet-hole. There was no slant, the hit was dead straight! This meant I was right — the Nazi was under

the sheet. Now the job was to lure him out. I had to see at least the edge of his head. It was pointless to try to do this right away. But he was unlikely to abandon this convenient position — I knew his character well enough now.

At night we equipped a post and took up positions there before dawn. The Nazis were firing sporadically. Enemy mortars were firing at the crossing over the Volga. Flares were soaring into the air. Then our artillery opened up and the Nazi mortars were silenced. German bombers appeared. The sun rose. Kulikov fired a random shot to draw the sniper's attention. We decided to lie in waiting during the first half of the day, for the brilliance of the optical instruments could betray us.

In the afternoon our rifles were in the shadow, while direct rays of the sun were falling on the Nazi's position. Something glistened near the edge of the sheet. Was it an accidental splinter of glass or a telescopic sight? Kulikov started to raise a helmet as cautiously as only the most expert of snipers can do. The Nazi fired, Kulikov rose for an instant, gave a loud shout and fell

THE German must have thought that at last the Soviet sniper, the "chief hare" he had been hunting for four days, was killed, and he protruded half of his head from under the sheet. I fired. The Nazi's head sank, but the optical sight of his rifle continued to glisten in the sun. As soon as it grew dark, our forces launched an offensive on this sector. At the peak of the fighting Kulikov and I dragged the killed Nazi major from under the iron sheet, took his documents and delivered them to the divisional commander.



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Continued from page 53

His stay-behind friends propose a hunting trip that will be "just like old times." But of course it isn't and can never be again. The hunt is a disaster complete with a return to roulette.

With the fall of Saigon approaching, Michael returns to look for the AWOL and incredibly lucky Nick who has been playing high-stakes Russian roulette in Saigon. Against the background of the collapse of Saigon in 1975 the final game of roulette is played between Michael and Nick.

The continual repetition of Russian roulette in *The Deer Hunter* becomes tedious and more unbelievable each time it crops up. Why roulette instead of the numbing, dehumanizing and often traumatic effects of prolonged combat?

One reason, according to Dioguardi, is because roulette was actually "low key." As all combat vets know, there are many more terrifying possibilities. Yet Russian roulette had shock value and was relatively clean. "The American public couldn't handle anything more," says Dioguardi.

Perhaps he is right. But still, the film suffers from a lack of reality.

The Deer Hunter ends on a note of hope — hope that damaged lives will be reconstructed — a hope that many vets must search for.

For all *The Deer Hunter's* shortcomings, it is worth seeing even if, at the very least, it makes you put out the empty glass again.

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Continued from page 23

Even though the M29 has more "meat" than the M66, the caliber went up also. If Smith & Wesson hasn't raised their alloy's strength, without reaching the brittle stage, of course, then this lovely concept is destined to the same reputation as the M66.

Even the regular steel Model 29 I owned had enough problems with trying to shake apart, and it was a 1972 production, before quality in Smiths really took a dip.

With the ever-increasing number of people I've met who seem to have more money than sense and who undoubtedly learned pistol handling from an episode of

Kojak or *Starsky and Hutch* (slapping the cylinder in and out, dry firing on empty chambers, etc.), then I'm afraid these people will only serve to compound the bad reputation that Smith & Wesson will receive if their new baby tests out like I'm afraid it will.

I only hope I'm wrong.

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A. *Your analysis of the situation at Smith & Wesson is more or less in accord with my own. The metallurgical problem is obviously one which I cannot analyze without a laboratory, and about which Smith & Wesson would be unwilling to make pronouncements. If you put yourself in their position, you will understand why this matter is difficult to explore.*

I have nothing to add to your commentary except that I personally prefer the auto pistol — for a number of reasons, among which are those you mention.



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Continued from page 29

every one of them looted by some of the smartest explosives experts in the game — in this case attached to the Tanzanian army.

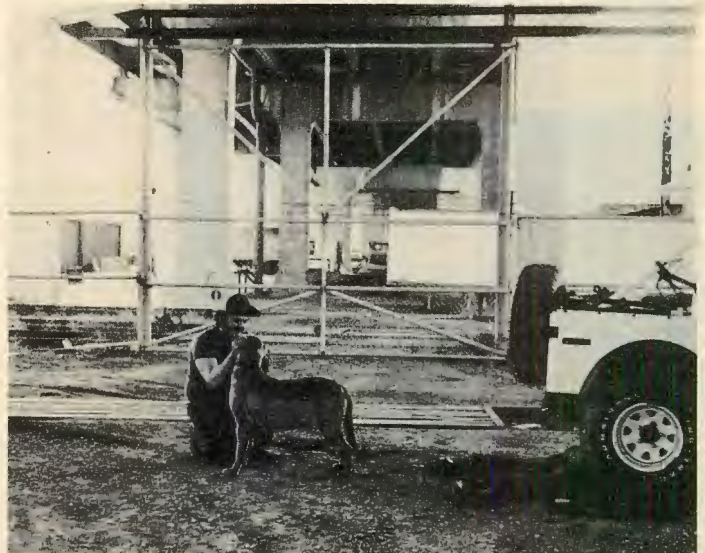
As Mohammed Amin, one of the TV cameramen in our party, put it: “The Ugandan soldiers tried for three weeks to open these safes and they were unsuccessful. It took the Tanzanian engineers only three hours and all the safes were blown.”

Several Tanzanian army officers are regarded as Ugandan “shilling millionaires.” One of the men who helped liberate Entebbe, a half colonel, took the equivalent of almost \$55,000 U.S. from the Entebbe airport safe. He spent the next week exchanging it among journalists on the black market. The going rate for Kenyan shillings was 10 to one.

Only the outcome is assured. Amin is out and the new regime of President Lule has been recognized by most of the free and communist world. The tyrant has fled and it's only a question of time before his straggler force is driven into exile or killed by those who have put up resistance.

The strike northward has been slow. It took the Tanzanian army six days to cover the 80 kilometers from Kampala to Jinja. Following that, they spent 10 days in Seroti waiting for supplies. Mopping up is difficult in a country which is 90 percent covered by bush and jungle.

There are also political problems. While President Lule is regarded as the new head



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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Guarding a rear gate to a secret nuclear fuel depot, sentry (Mark Solheim) stands ever alert, his HK91 ready for action. Aided by his faithful companion, Thorval, this is a formidable duo. Mighty Thorval's keen senses detect an intruder. He turns just in time to spot a vehicle approaching, but before he can bark a warning it is upon them. Evil Greg Cormany has struck again. Thorval stares in awe, lone survivor of the depraved attack. Cormany stands to toast his gallant, but fallen foe. Thorval at last submits to the inexpugnable Cormany's will. Both sentries now neutralized, Cormany is free to plunder the cache of nuclear goods.

of state, there is a powerful lobby in Tanzania (and now a Tanzania-sponsored lobby in Kampala) that wishes to see former Ugandan President Obote back in power. Obote is Nyerere's man, and Nyerere wants him in.

The Ugandans have other ideas. They remember Obote as a tyrant, perhaps not in the mold of Idi Amin Dada, but a brutal oppressor nonetheless. It was Obote who conceived the idea of the State Research Center. He built the original structure complete with underground cells. Amin only refined its barbaric purpose.

As one Ugandan businessman phrased it: "We've fought this war for liberty. Now that we've got it, we are not going to help another dictator to power. Yes, a dictator — how else would you describe a man who ruled by decree and terminated any opposition by violence and repression?"

One thing is certain. Should Tanzania help Obote to power by ousting Lule, Uganda will be assured of another war, many times as intense as the current struggle. Only, the next one will be a guerrilla conflict.



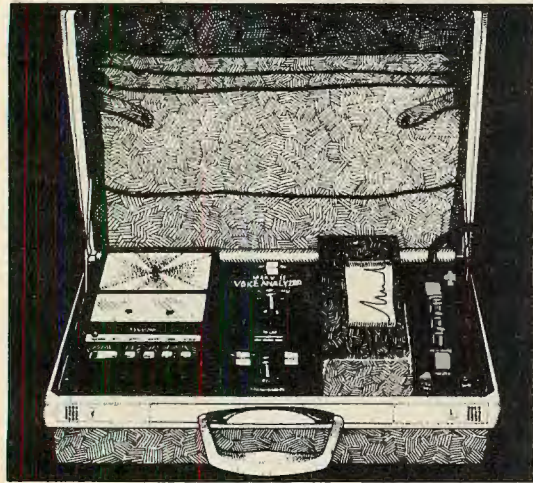
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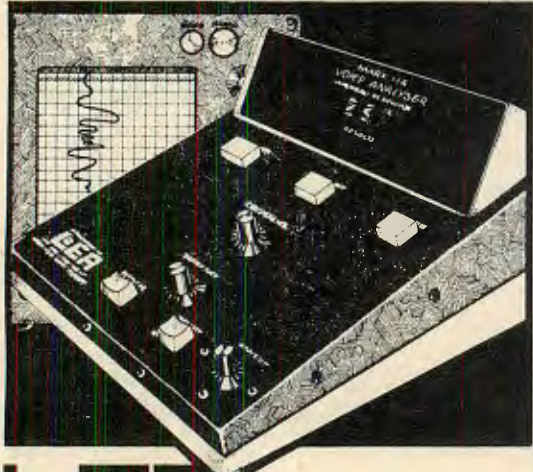
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Continued from page 12

the Army to offer a free college education in return for a two-year combat arms enlistment (in peacetime). *Army Times* reports that, under the option, people lured by the education grant could be paid at a lower rate than present first-term soldiers.

The proposal now appears to have caught the fancy of members of the House Armed Services Committee, who hint they may ask the Army to "test" the idea. Moskos' plan also envisions, in a larger context, a voluntary national service program with participation a requirement for later government employment.

FRANCE TO RECOGNIZE RHODESIA? ...

Defense and Foreign Affairs Weekly Intelligence Report indicates the French government may soon recognize Rhodesia and lift sanctions against that nation. The French government is said to be awaiting British recognition, as a "courtesy to the former colonial power," but will go ahead if Britain does not hurry up. Claims and counter-claims about the veracity of the Rhodesian elections notwithstanding, France has been interested in Rhodesian chrome.

Western allies, with their sanctions against Rhodesia, have refused to purchase that country's chrome, buying it instead from the Russians at triple the going rate. The Russians buy the same chrome directly from Rhodesia. France has finally figured out that particularly good deal and wants to cut itself in on those lucrative mineral rights. It would seem the Soviet Union is teaching the Western allies some lessons about capitalism.

CARTER STATUE COMMITTEE ...

The following crossed the editor's desk at SOF a while ago, and we wanted to share it with the rest of our readers.

Dear Friend:

We have the distinguished honor of being on a committee for raising five million dollars for placing a statue of Jimmy Carter in the Hall of Fame in Washington, DC.

This committee was in a quandry where to place the statue. It was not wise to place it beside the statue of George Washington, who never told a lie, nor beside Franklin D. Roosevelt, who never told the truth, since Jimmy Carter could never tell the difference.

We finally decided to place it beside Christopher Columbus, the greatest Democrat of them all. He left not knowing where he was going, and upon arriving did not know where he was. He returned not knowing where he had been, and did it all on borrowed money.

Over 5,000 years ago, Moses said to the Children of Israel, "Pick up your shovels, mount your asses and camels, and I will lead you to the Promised Land." Nearly 5,000 years later, Roosevelt said, "Lay



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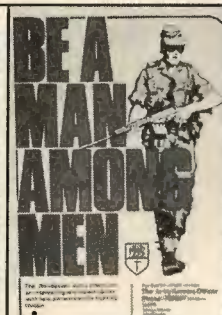
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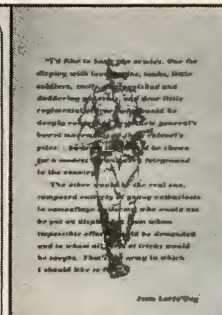
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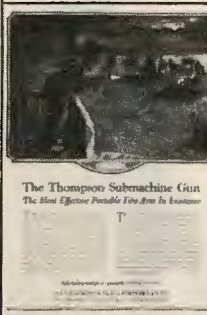
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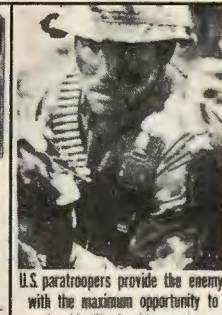
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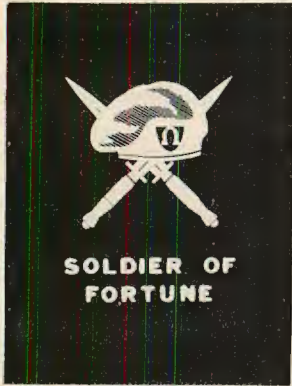
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KIDS LEARNING COMMUNISM? ...

If your teenage son or daughter tells you some night at dinner that Fidel Castro was a social reformer, don't be surprised — they probably learned it in school.

In a study requested by the Ethics and Public Policy Center of Georgetown University, a veteran diplomat has discovered some disturbing information after examining the six best-selling high school history books.

Martin F. Herz concluded, "None of the textbooks can be said to present an overly favorable view of U.S. foreign policy. On the contrary, there is a tendency of several to give the Soviet Union greater benefit of the doubt than is given to the United States."

In a 76-page report, *How the Cold War is Taught*, Herz cites many examples of leftist thought in our school books. In one example, discussion of America's involvement in Vietnam paints the Diem regime as "repressive," while ignoring Hanoi's totalitarian government and atrocities practiced by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops — two books even failed to mention that Ho Chi Minh was a communist.

Do your kids (and yourself) a favor and check out their history books some time — they may be carrying around Mao's little red book — American version.

How the Cold War is Taught is available for \$3 from the Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1211 Connecticut

Public Policy Center, 1211 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

ACTION IN OMAN ...

A year ago, this column reported Oman's government was said to be hiring American military types to work in its armed forces as advisors. A recent returnee from the area has confirmed that report and indicated that qualified military personnel are still being sought. Only those with military skills in technical fields — training, missiles, aircraft, armor, pilots — need apply. Information might be available *in person* from the Oman Embassy in London, or a trip to Oman itself might be in order. As in all similar jobs, letters or phone calls will elicit a negative response. And if you don't know what that last sentence meant, don't bother to apply.

NKOMO THREATENS "OUTSIDE INTERVENTION" IN RHODESIA ...

Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the terrorist Patriotic Front now fighting for control of Rhodesia, recently announced at a news conference that the Front may invite unnamed "outside forces" to assist in his takeover bid, after free elections were held in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. The April 1979 elections were open to the Patriotic Front, which refused to participate. Observers on the scene believe the Patriotic Front does not command enough support to win elections, hence its decision not to run. President Carter has used the Front's refusal as an indication the elections were "not open to all," a spurious claim used to deny Rhodesian recognition by the U.S.

As of early 1979, intelligence sources claim over 400 Cuban and Russian tanks are in Mozambique. It is believed these would spearhead any Cuban-Russian drive into Rhodesia, as was done in Angola and Ethiopia.

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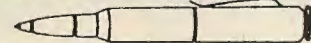
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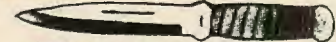
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Continued from page 19

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We hope this information helps your readers. Being in the mail order business ourselves, we are fully aware of just how easy it is to mislead customers when selling merchandise sight unseen. Mail order is based on trust. Unfortunately for the buyers, not all advertisers are trustworthy.

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Gary Anzai, owner
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Pearl City, Hawaii

AXEMEN
AWAKE ...

Sirs:

In reference to P.D. Hendrickson's letter (FLAK, June '79), concerning Jeff

Cooper's article on axe fighting (SOF, Apr. '79), both men seem unaware that the Society for Creative Anachronism (of which I have been a member for seven years) of which Kirby Wise (maker of the axe in question) is also a member, has since 1965 been fighting with broadsword, axe, mace, chain mace (morningstar/blackrose), pike, and other assorted items of medieval mayhem. The organization, hotbedded in Berkeley, California, has members throughout the U.S. and Canada, actively participating in tournaments, wars, etc.

Everything that Hendrickson mentioned came to pass several years ago, and knighthood (the white belt) has come to mean an unsurpassed level of proficiency among men in both combat and the gentle arts of speech, manners, courtliness, and courtesy.

Any interested persons may reach me at the below address by mail, and I will do my best to put them in contact with whatever group is in their area, or send them information on how to form their own unit (barony).

Sincerely,
H.W. Safford
PO1 U.S. Navy
Staff
Commander Service Group One
FPO, San Francisco, CA 96601

Central Intelligence Agency warns: TERRORISTS MAY STRIKE U.S. Are you prepared?

"The CIA expects an epidemic of European-style political violence to break out soon in the United States," the Congressional Record recently reported.

"A confidential Central Intelligence Agency memorandum predicts that the United States will experience terrorist attacks beginning within the next 18 months," the article stated.

Because acts of terror and violence around the world had increased dramatically, terrorism constitutes a potential danger to virtually every person and organization in the world today.

Experts say the most effective way to combat the terrorist threat is to be informed about terrorist groups, their activities, methods and whereabouts.

Current and accurate intelligence on world terrorism is now available from the International Terrorist Research Center in its biweekly newsletter, *Intersearch*.

Every two weeks, *Intersearch* provides the latest data available, including:

- A day-by-day summary of terrorist activity
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- Articles by experts in the field of counter-terrorism
- News about the latest security products and terrorist countermeasures
- Comments about new books and films dealing with terrorist subject matter.

Founded during the summer of 1978, the International Terrorist Research Center is a privately funded, independent research organization whose purpose is to conduct research on the sociological, economic, political and psychological aspects of terrorist violence.

It is felt the center's information services would be beneficial to anyone in business, industry or government responsible for and concerned about people and property.

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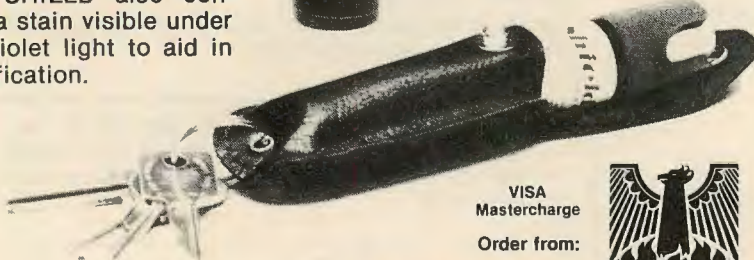
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Jeff Cooper replies: I know about the Society for Creative Anachronism and that Kirby, who built the axe, is one of the big wheels in that group. I may, however, retain some doubts as to how qualified a man may be with an axe who uses the harmless sort specified in S.C.A. competition. Take him somewhere where the atmosphere is correct and go to it with steel. The world is troubled with places of this sort. If I may, I'll go along and take notes — armed as usual with a modern firearm.

A THANK YOU FROM A LADY ...

I am a Rhodesian, and a friend of mine, Rocky Kemp, very kindly lent me some *Soldier of Fortune* Magazines. I was delighted to find the truth about my country printed in various articles and letters. So before going any further ... thank you.

However, it seems to me such a shame that all these people are in favor of Rhodesia, and yet, as individuals are really quite helpless. So, as one of these helpless people, I would like to appeal through your magazine that we all join forces, and do something for Rhodesia.

I have done as much as I can, for my country, whilst over here, yet as one person ... I'm like a "puff" in a thunder storm.

At this point however, perhaps I should mention something that just might cause a few snickers ... I'm a woman. But a Rhodesian woman! So basically, I know a little about guns, bravery, and the agony and frustrations that most men feel during times of war.

I met Aviation Editor Rocky Kemp whilst I was in Mozambique, and I was there until three months after the communist takeover ... so I can quite honestly say I have had a first-hand taste of communism and all its horrors, enough that I really want to do everything in my power, to prevent communism in Rhodesia. We can, you know. Even with a black prime minister... So let's get together and show the world what we're really made of... Let's not allow the U.S. government to give the country to the reds.

I look forward to hearing from all of the pro-Rhodesia people, and I know you'll come up with a solution.

Yours sincerely,
Evelyn Forbes
Anaheim, CA

RHODESIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL ...

Sirs:

I represent a company called Sectra (Pvt.) Ltd. One of our functions is security personnel placement.

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We recruit for tasks varying from permanent to temporary, either guarding in a static role or leading, training, operating, or administering units of trained or semi-trained Africans or Europeans. These are armed tasks, in operational areas. They are, however, defensive in that the patrolling is to look after the interests and safety of a particular area.

We cannot guarantee employment on arrival in Rhodesia, as the final choice is always the employer's. However, during the spring months of 1979 there will be a definite demand for manpower for protective duties.

We do not have any registration fee, and are willing to give personal advice and help to find a suitable position to any person arriving in Rhodesia.

However, we warn any person who ventures into Rhodesia for this type of work — ability to lead and communicate with African members of his team is very important. Also, there is a lack of available sophisticated weapons for tasks that are

financed by private enterprise and not by the government.

Yours sincerely,
A.J. Goodchild (RGSM)
Director, Sectra (Pvt.) Ltd.
P.O. Box 510
Salisbury, Rhodesia
Telephone: 791801 and 704700

TI-59 QUERIES ...

Sirs:

In your March '79 issue, you had an article titled "The Bush League Gunnery," which told about FDC with a TI-59 or a HP-67. Could you send me the programs you used for computing given data with these two hand-held calculators?

Son Kole
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

See the below letter for some sources for your inquiries. We've had so much response concerning the accuracy of our data in "Bush League Gunnery" that we hope to run a special letter-and-answer section in a future issue of SOF to settle the controversy. — The Eds.

Sirs:

This is to clarify several misleading points in your feature article on the Colorado National Guard's use of the pocket programmable calculator (March '79 SOF).

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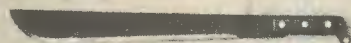
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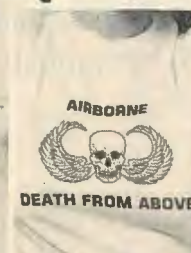


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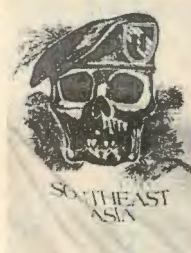


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In the cost analysis of the calculator, you have disregarded the cost of procurement of the programs. Considerable effort is required to develop a good program, and a continuing effort is needed to modify it after field experience is acquired. The TI library modules can't be modified, and therefore are not suitable for a project in its initial stages. After experience is gained, the calculator program could be "frozen" into a library module in order to gain reliability by minimizing field handling of magnetic cards.

I would not recommend that users of programmable calculators procure their programs from the calculator manufacturer because manufacturer-provided programs are sometimes of poor quality or are awkward to use in the field. The best source of programming is bright programmers who happen to be in the National Guard. Commanding officers know who these people are.

Your readers should know about report "Hand Calculator Programs for Staff Officers," R-2280-RC, available to the public from Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California. Contained therein is the "Four Deuces Firing Table," as well as other programs of military interest.

There are two calculator user clubs that support the machines independently of manufacturers or other bureaucracies. For TI machines write to SR 52 User's Club, 9459 Taylorsville Road, Dayton, Ohio 45424; for HP machines it is PPC, 2541 W. Camden Place, Santa Ana, California 92704.

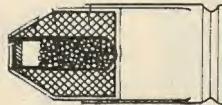
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Again, thanks for the fine story.

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Continued from page 65

with the bullet type the shooter intends to use with a particular pistol. Under no circumstances should live cartridges be used to test cycling or chambering.

Sometimes in the case of the .45 Colt Government Model, even bending the magazine lips will not be sufficient and some slight bending of the magazine follower may be necessary. Needle-nose pliers can be used to bend the follower up or down as necessary to obtain the proper angle of presentation. However, if you must resort to bending the magazine follower, care must be taken to insure that the slide locking-step on the follower is not disabled so that the slide will not lock back when the last round is fired.

Comparison of inert rounds loaded into a properly functioning magazine with dummy cartridges loaded into a malfunctioning magazine is the best way to shape the magazine lips for correct presentation. However, if no reliable magazine is available for comparison, on pistols which have barrels separate from their slides, such as the .45 Colt Government and the 9mm Browning Hi-Power, the pistol can be disassembled and then the barrel pinned to the frame by the slide latch. A magazine loaded with dummy ammo can then be inserted in the magazine well and the relationship of the top cartridge to the chamber carefully studied, with bending modifications made until the cartridge lies roughly parallel to the axis of the barrel.

The Browning Hi-Power incorporates a magazine disconnect feature which is alternately cursed and praised. Many shooters have removed the disconnect, a piece of flat metal which bears against the front of the magazine body when the magazine is inserted in the grip. This disconnect, whatever its merits, does cause a heavy and creepy trigger pull as the disconnect plate moves against the magazine when the trigger is being squeezed. This creepiness can be substantially reduced by carefully stoning and smooth-

ing the front of the magazine body where it contacts the disconnecter plate. Polishing the disconnecter plate to a glassy smoothness will further improve the trigger pull.

Ever since IPSC shooting became popular, a lot of shooters have added pads or buffers to the bottoms of their magazines. Frankly, this feature has limited utility to the conventional pistol shooter or the plinker. In 15 years of participation in conventional pistol shooting in all parts of this country, I have never seen a competitor who had outfitted his magazines with such pads.

The rigors of IPSC shooting do result in severe battering of magazines, however. The need to cushion the empty magazine as it falls free from the frame when a loaded magazine was substituted in the time-critical phases of IPSC shooting brought about the experiments with buffer pads.

Make no mistake, the magazine which has been bounced off a rock or other hard surface can be so deformed as to be rendered useless. A rubber or leather pad affixed to the magazine base was the logical way to reduce such damage.

Some shooters have carried the thickness of such pads to extremes. A pad between 1/8 to 1/4 inch in thickness is sufficient to absorb the shock transmitted by dropping a magazine from a height of five to six feet. However, with custom pistolsmiths charging \$6 and upward for adding a pad to just one magazine, the semi-automatic pistol shooter is well advised to perform this task himself.

After experimenting with a variety of materials, I believe the best material for making a buffer is vinyl. Vinyl offers the best trade-off between composition, non-hygroscopic qualities and ability to achieve a lasting bond between the magazine base and buffer using cyanoacrylate glues. These glues can be pur-

chased under a variety of trade names at most hardware or building supply stores. These stores are also the source of the vinyl baseboard material which I have found makes the best buffer material. A four-foot length of vinyl baseboard costs less than \$1.50 in most building supply houses and will provide enough material to make pads for dozens of magazines. However, the shooter can use any material readily and cheaply available to him.

Use a sharp blade to cut a rectangular piece of vinyl slightly larger than the base of the magazine. Sandpaper the finish from the bottom of the magazine so that the glue can bond to bare metal. Coat the base of the magazine with glue, then press the magazine base against the shiny surface of the vinyl material long enough for the glue to set, a matter which normally takes only a few seconds. After the glue has dried, use any sharp blade to trim the excess material from the magazine's bottom and then finesse the material to the same contour as the magazine base with fine grit sandpaper.

Lastly, the cleanliness of a magazine is vitally important. Whether from being dropped in the dirt or accumulation of residue from prolonged firing, debris will collect in the magazine body. Rust and scale can also form. Such debris can drastically alter the tension of the spring within the magazine body, lowering its upward force and perhaps causing it to bind within the body. Frequently this binding will be sufficient to delay the rise of a cartridge from the magazine so that the slide does not strip the cartridge into the chamber as the slide moves forward. Dents in the magazine body can have the same effect. Little can be done about dents, but grit and fouling can be removed.

I prefer to agitate magazines in a pan of kerosene (in most parts of the country,



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what we buy as kerosene is actually number one heating oil) for this petroleum product is not nearly as flammable as gasoline, which should never be used. Many top conventional pistol shooters never disassemble their pistols since this causes unnecessary wear and battering, but simply slosh their pistols, minus grips of course, in a can of kerosene to remove accumulated fouling.

Compressed air can be used to blow grit and heavy debris out of the magazine body, though it will not remove caked powder fouling. If the magazine has holes in the body, my alternate method of cleaning the interior of a magazine is to depress the follower with something non-deforming such as a plastic toothbrush handle, then thrust a nail through two holes above the depressed follower. The body can then be swabbed out with a cleaning patch saturated with solvent.

Magazines are integral parts of semi-automatic pistols. Given proper care they will repay the shooter with flawless performance. No shooter, whether casual plinker or police officer, should ever settle for less than 100 percent reliability from his pistol-magazine combination. The above comments and techniques will help the shooter maintain his magazines in top condition. Good shooting!



Continued from page 14

obvious. Regardless of the basic conflict between those for and against nuclear fission as a power source, all should realize the United States is sitting on over 70 potential Three Mile Island disasters. I don't imply negligence on the part of the operators of these plants, nor any necessarily inherent danger — hopefully, the Pennsylvania mishap was a fluke. However, the potential for terrorist activity involving these plants cannot be ignored. Although security at these plants is always, purportedly, tight, we should now ask ourselves, "Is it tight enough?"

I wouldn't write this if I thought I might possibly be giving the idea to terrorists by mentioning it, but I feel sure it has already crossed some of their minds, probably before the Pennsylvania affair. The Three Mile Island disaster proved how confused things can become in the event of a possible meltdown at one plant. The potentialities for foreign or domestic terrorists should be obvious.

Any sort of power implies responsibility — especially nuclear power. Regardless of the basic controversy over other safety factors and environmental concerns involved, let us please learn what could be in the cards for America if the technical, environmental and — most important — security safeguards are improved because of the incident at Three Mile Island. We may profit from it more than we can ever realize.



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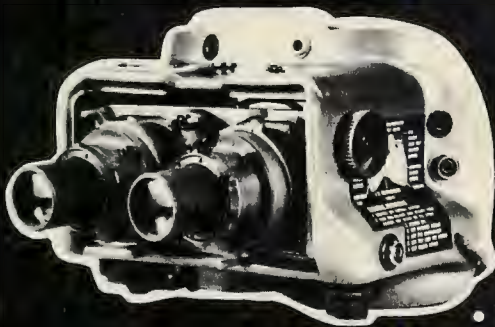
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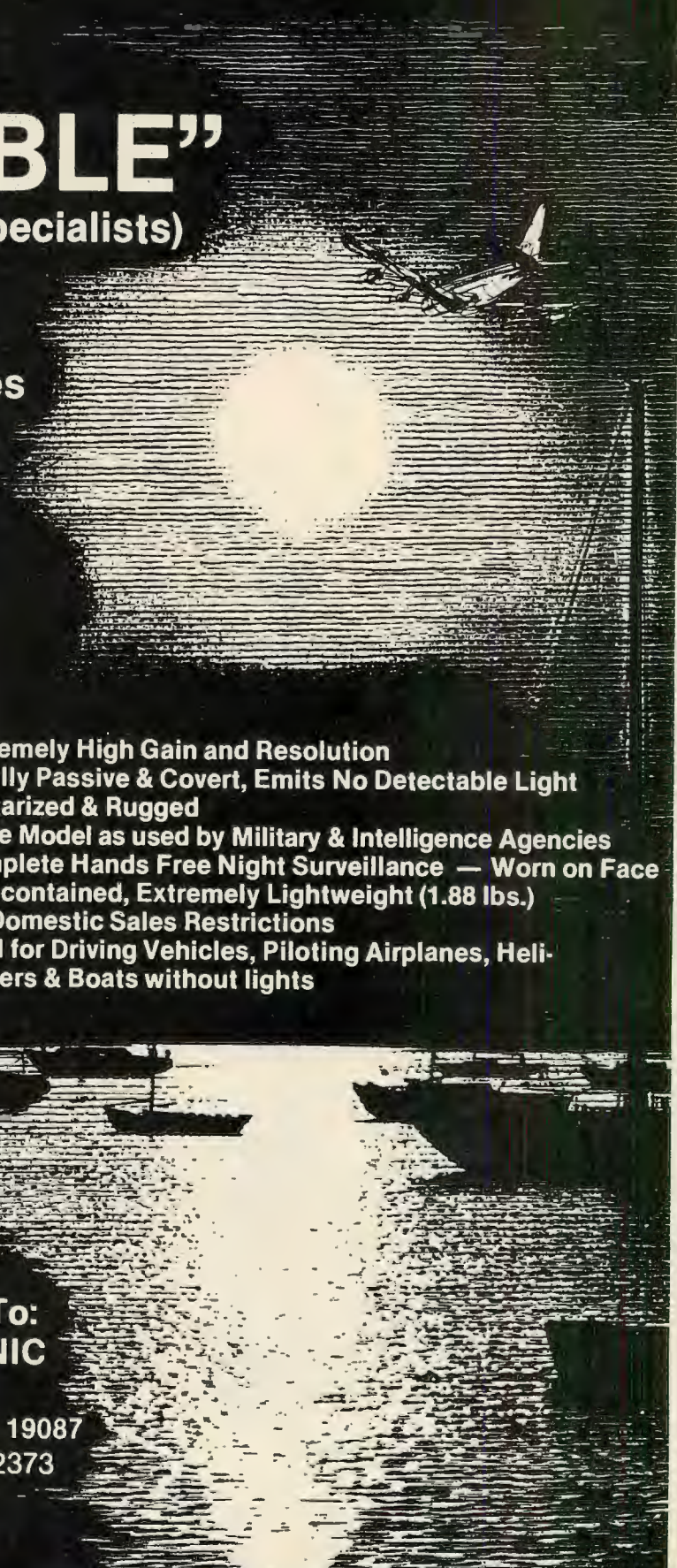


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