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The Journal Of Professional Adventurers

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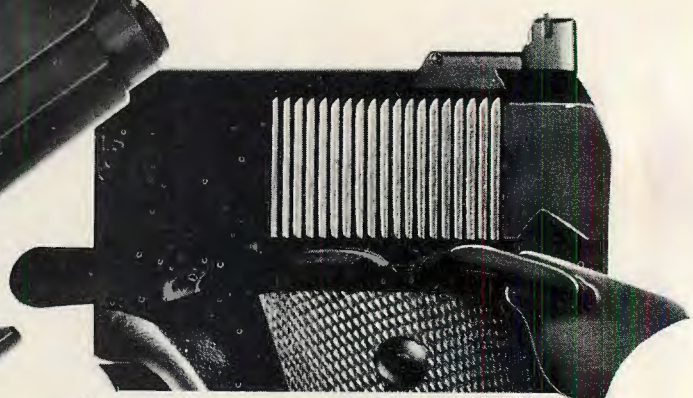
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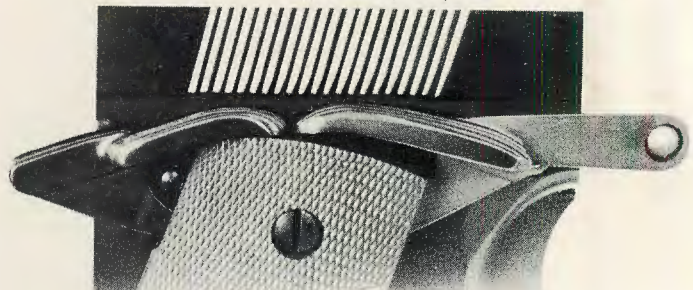
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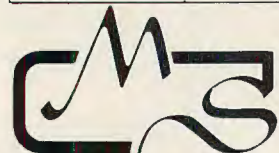
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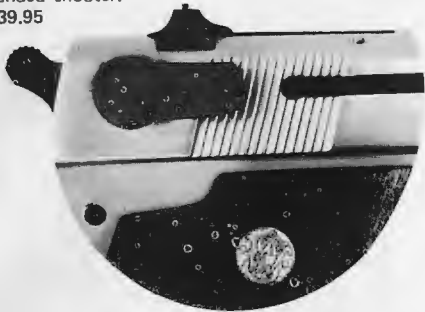
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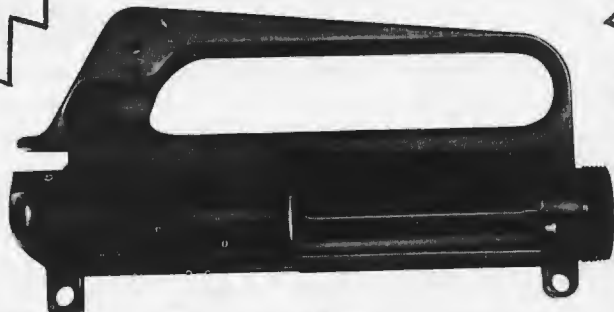
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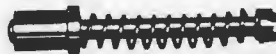
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SOF SHARPSHOOTERS



SOF staffers don't just write and report on action, adventure, shooting and the martial arts. They go out and do it. And they do it well.

The latest example of this is SOF Business Manager Jim Schultz. Schultz contributes occasional articles to SOF and also serves as a technical adviser to the writing staff on rifle shooting — something on which he is particularly qualified to advise.

You see, Schultz won his class in High Power Rifle Competition this year at the National Rifle and Pistol Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. And that is the pinnacle of success in bullseye target shooting in this country. Furthermore, Schultz has been shooting competitively for less than two years. It takes many years of competition before most shooters can attain such a triumph.

Schultz's scores were high enough to place seventh in the Civilian/Service Rifle Category, regardless of classification.

That's very nearly incredible for someone who has been shooting competitively for so short a time. Besides, Schultz, who is currently classified as a Sharpshooter, will soon be vaulted into the Master class because of his victories in several local Boulder, Colo., matches besides those in three regional and three state championships.

Schultz won a Distinguished Rifleman award in one of the shortest times on record. It took him just 27 days this year to pick up his three gold legs to achieve that distinction. The award has been won by only 403 civilian shooters since 1884. It is the most coveted award in the U.S. for bullseye match shooters.

Schultz practices only during the actual matches themselves or perhaps for one day only beforehand and says, "I consider myself more than a little lucky in winning these awards. A lot of it was the bad weather evident during most of my more recent shoots.

"I wobble all over the target in either wind or calm weather. The better shooters aren't used to heavy wobble and it bothers them more than me in 20- to 30-mile-an-hour winds."

Schultz's average at the Nationals and in some subsequent matches has been 94 of a possible 100. He plans to improve on that but some SOF staffers who fancied themselves fairly decent shots, including one who fired Expert four times for record in the Marine Corps, envy his ability.

And Schultz is not the only SOF staffer who has distinguished himself in shooting this year. Chuck Taylor and Ken Hackathorn, for example, placed respectively seventh and 14th in the IPSC national championship at Park City, Utah, this year and Taylor was one of the five shooters representing the U.S. at the international match in South Africa.

SOF itself contributed the massive trophy which went to first place IPSC shooter Mickey Fowler and also sponsored the full expenses for one of the five shooters in the internationals.

Other recent examples of SOF staffers doing as well as telling are the work of Associate Editor N.E. MacDougald and Editor/Publisher Bob Brown in their work with the 10th Special Forces Group while out in the Boulder, Colo., area on summer mountain climbing training. MacDougald, an expert rock climber and a qualified instructor in that art, served as an instructor to the 10th Group detachment and Brown led them on a 15-mile hike through mountain terrain. He was accompanied by SOF Contributing Editor John Early who happened to be in town on business at the time. Both of them were 5th Group SF men in 'Nam and are living testimony to the fact that if you keep in shape you can hump along with the best of them. Some of the troopers on that hike were 19 and 20 years old but had a tough time keeping up with Brown and Early.

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



THE COVER: U.S. Army units train in Korea. During a simulated gas attack they carry a patient on a stretcher to a helicopter. U.S. Army Photograph.

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AMERICAN MERC 86

The Hail Organ put to use in Rhodesia by American Merc Early. Excerpted from recently published book by R.K. Brown and Jay Mallin.

SOF readers will notice two things about the December issue. The magazine has been expanded from 96 to 112 pages and the cover price increased by 25 cents. For some time now the number of articles of potential interest to our readers has been growing and their quality improving. So we at SOF decided that the best way to bring you this material in a timely fashion was to publish a larger magazine at only slightly higher cost. We hope you continue to read and enjoy a bigger and better SOF.

—Robert K. Brown, Editor and Publisher

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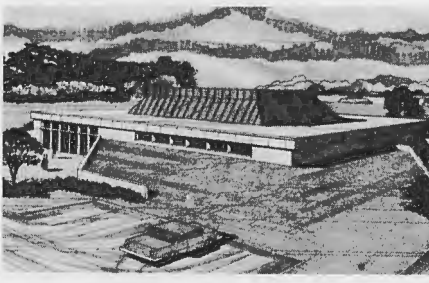
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BULL SIMONS MEMORIAL . . .

The John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Memorial and Museum Association at Ft. Bragg, N.C., has been granted tax-exempt status as a publicly supported organization by the Internal Revenue Service to enable persons donating funds for the construction of the museum's permanent home to deduct donations from their Federal income taxes.

The museum building will be named the "Colonel Arthur D. Simons Memorial Museum Building." Col. Simons, who died in May (see SOF, November '79), was the Special Forces officer who led the raid on the Son Tay prison camp in North Vietnam in 1970.

The Simons Museum, now housed in building D-2502 at the corner of Reilly and Ardennes Sts., will be constructed just west of Kennedy Hall on Smoke Bomb Hill at Fort Bragg.



Artist's representation of proposed museum.

WHAT ELSE IS NEWS? . . .

Senator George McGovern said he could not think of a single African country to hold up as a model of democracy in a press conference during his December 1978 visit to Rhodesia.

RUSSIAN MODELS NOW IN STYLE . . .

Dr. Phyliss Schefley, author of *A Choice Not An Echo*, cites 11 ways to win acceptance by the Carter administration and the UN:

1. Build a "Gulag archipelago" and install a network of slave camps with torture chambers. Send intelligent political opponents to psychiatric clinics for political and mental treatment.

2. Suppress all opposition to government policies by killing opposition leaders and relocating ethnic minorities.

3. Confiscate private property and collectivize farms.

4. Reduce workers' wages and force women to do the heaviest, dirtiest manual labor.

5. Manipulate currency exchange to bring it under minority government control. Confiscate personal savings accounts.

6. Prohibit religious education of all children, 6-18. Close down 92 percent of all churches.

7. Deny exit permits to all who wish to emigrate. Institute internal visas so special permits become necessary to travel even short distances within the country.

8. Impose radical censorship of the press, ban importation of most foreign books, stage plays and art, and severely punish listening to foreign radio.

9. Ban public possession of telephone books.

10. Enforce discipline by rigid discrimination in distribution of food, basic medicines and other essentials.

11. Send troops to occupy and take over neighboring territories.

By copying such Russian techniques, Shafley declared, other countries can win UN and Carter approval.

She also said of South Africa: "It is strange liberal double standard that apartheid excites student demonstrations, while accounts of the millions in Soviet slave camps produce only yawns."

VISA DENIAL CITED . . .

Safari Club International has reported denial of visa processing by Visa Services of Washington, D.C., to two of its club members and urged support of alternate visa service companies for all overseas travel.

When club members Dick Manning and Dick Manning, Jr., of Visalia, Calif., applied for visas to Zambia, an employee of Visa Services replied:

"This is to advise you we will not be able to process your requested visa as I am opposed to the unnecessary slaughter of wild animals."

Safari Club International is located at 5151 East Broadway, Suite 1680, Tucson, AZ 85711, phone (602) 747-0260.

FIGHTING CORRECTION . . .

In our October 1979 issue, we goofed badly in Rafael Lima's Fighting for Keeps column. Change Step No. 2 and its ac-

Continued on page 12

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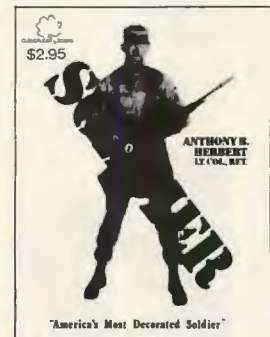
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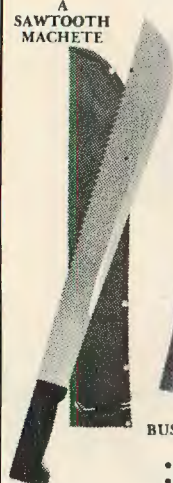
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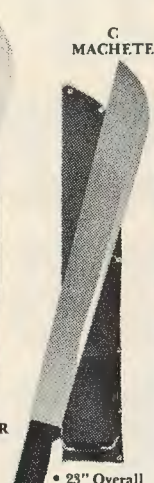
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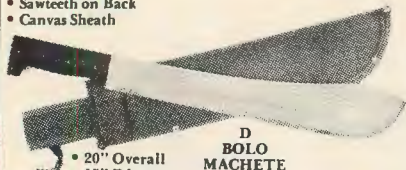
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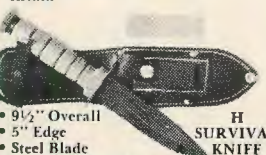


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by Chuck Taylor

BOLT HOLD-OPEN DEVICES

For decades, various schools of thought have expressed theories concerning small arms and one of the items that surfaces from time to time is the bolt hold-open device. If you follow the American school, the hold-open is the greatest thing since iced tea. But various Europeans regard it as an unnecessary, expensive way to accomplish little. Who's telling the truth?

No-one is really lying, but all too often military thinkers — a curious breed — fail to heed ideas from sources other than their own. Military annals are crammed with examples of this failing. It would be less than realistic to assume only the U.S. military is at fault here.

Bolt hold-open devices, yes — first, let's define the unit itself. Obviously, it is intended to do what its title implies: hold the bolt of the weapon open when activated. How can it be actuated? Either by manual dexterity or mechanical means, usually the magazine follower of an empty magazine. Why would one want to hold the bolt of his weapon open? Well, for a number of reasons, most notably to facilitate the safe, simple inspection of weapons in the hands of troops in formation or en masse by officers and NCOs.

Another, perhaps more to-the-point, reason for such a device is to signal to the shooter that his weapon is empty. Those who have experienced the slightly different feeling of recoil when the last shot is fired from a rifle equipped with a hold-open unit will remember they knew the gun was dry because they felt it and also heard it, since the bolt staying open produced a change in muzzle-report sound.

Nifty idea, eh? Yes, but perhaps unnecessary. The West Germans told Heckler & Koch, for example, when specifying G-3 rifle requirements, that the weapon should not have a hold-open device. Ask-

ed why, they replied that it is SOP in the German army to use a tracer as the last round in the magazine, thereby signaling the soldier that his weapon is empty. This being the case, a mechanical gadget to do the same thing was unnecessary and overly expensive, not to mention an additional potential breakage problem. This, also, sounds logical, doesn't it?

We've briefly discussed the hold-open device's assets from the view of its proponents. Let's now talk about some of its drawbacks. While the idea of signaling a soldier that his weapon is empty is a good one, to utilize a mechanical device to accomplish this is also to run the risk of mechanical breakdown. Firearms are complex mechanisms, and come with enough mechanical problems without adding yet another, less essential, service in exchange for a potentially more serious liability, opponents of the idea say.

They also say, the thing doesn't work very well anyway. Remember what happened whenever you used to "come to attention" while under arms with the M-14, BM-59 or a similar weapon? Clack! The hold-open unit slipped and allowed the bolt to slam home, the instant the butt of the rifle touched ground. This, in turn, told anyone who was interested, that you either had intentionally abused the weapon by instituting the incident to close the bolt mechanism of the rifle, a practice frowned upon in the military, or had forgotten that the bolt of the rifle is supposed to be closed when one snaps to attention. Either way, wrath descended upon the hapless GI involved.

From a logistician's standpoint, such a device means at least an additional four to seven parts for the weapon. This means that the weapon will cost more, an important consideration in these days of sagging economies.

Continued on page 92

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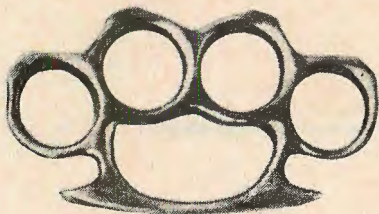
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FLAK

QUESTIONS POW SURVIVAL ...

Sirs:

I hope you can answer a question that has been bothering me. Why were so few of our returned POWs from Vietnam enlisted men? During the long Vietnam War years, enlisted men from the Army and Marine Corps had ground combat engagements with the communists almost exclusively. Yet the released American POWs were almost all Navy and Air Force pilots.

I think a policy of genocide was carried out against our Army and Marine enlisted combatants who were captured by the communists. The Viet Cong viewpoint must have been that American enlisted personnel were not important enough to be kept alive as bargaining levers with American politicians.

Recently, I read a book, *The Killing Zone* by Frederick Downs, a U.S. Army lieutenant disabled in Vietnam. He said one of the greatest fears American soldiers had was being captured by the VC. The fate of these unfortunate ones was almost certain torture and execution, yet these communist war crimes and genocidal policies were never exposed to the American public. Instead, TV networks and newspapers told us about the so-called My Lai massacre and heavy U.S. bombing.

I know I can never get an honest answer from the liberal media. Can you give me the real facts?

Sincerely,
Jack Roland
Norfolk, Virginia

The reason that a relatively small number of enlisted personnel from the U.S. Army and Marine Corps were taken prisoner in Vietnam as compared to the larger numbers of Navy, Marine and Air Force pilots is actually a testimony to the discipline and courage of the grunts who fought in 'Nam. Quite simply, regular forces of platoon size and larger were never defeated to the extent that any of them surrendered en masse. Most enlisted men taken prisoner in 'Nam were Special Forces personnel in 12-man A team camps that were overwhelmed by sheer masses and firepower and most of them were either unconscious or wounded so badly they could no longer fight.

On the other hand, Air Force, Navy and Marine fliers spent much of their time

flying over North Vietnam. When shot down they were usually injured or unconscious and were quickly overwhelmed by large numbers of North Vietnamese before they could react.

Basically, it's just the fact that more fliers were exposed to potential capture than were the infantry troops in South Vietnam.

As far as the failure of the American news media to expose communist atrocities in Vietnam while at the same time exploiting My Lai — the single American lapse in discipline discovered during the entire Vietnam War — well, SOF agrees 100 percent with your views. — The Eds.

MORE STAMPS NEEDED ...

Sirs:

I would like to express my sincere thanks to your magazine and the concerned individuals across North America who contributed postage stamps, etc., toward the funding for the Rhodesian airborne wounded. Those who gave will have the satisfaction of knowing their donations have been forwarded on to the Airborne and Parachute Association of Rhodesia.

As a usually liberal and reluctant news service begins more and more to finally acknowledge the bestial, cowardly conduct of Marxist-supported terrorists attempting to destroy Rhodesia, it becomes all the more important for Americans to consider exactly what is going on. Historical parallels in the past 50 years are shockingly similar to what is happening today in Africa. The Cubans, Chinese, and Soviets certainly know what is at stake — and North Americans are only just beginning to partially grasp the situation.

As many of your readers are ex-Airborne men, I would hope these fellows would "hook up" into our effort and help those who are, in fact, our allies (whether Andrew Young acknowledges this reference or not).

Stamps may be sent to me for forwarding or direct by mailing to:

Pete Kelly
The Parachute & Airborne Regt.'s
Assoc. of Rhodesia
Centenary Park House,
7th Street,
Bulawayo, Rhodesia



THE VIETNAM WAR:

An Illustrated History of the Conflict in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General William Westmoreland

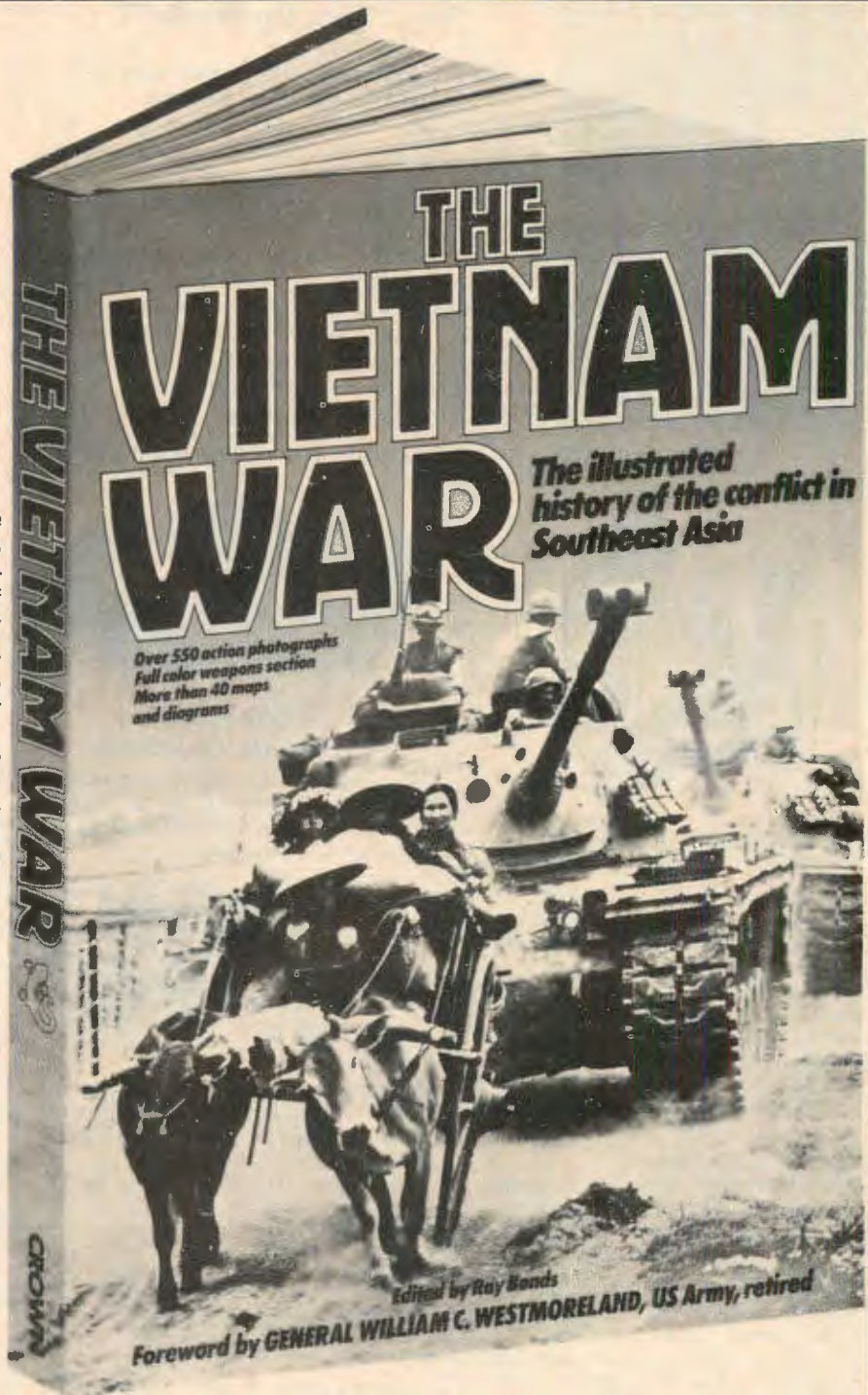
This extensive and impressive volume provides an objective analysis of the conflict in Southeast Asia. It offers a vivid battle-by-battle analysis of tactics and strategies and a directory of the military equipment employed. Dramatic, heavy-impact photographs, many never before published, document the text throughout.

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Continued from page 6

companying photograph to Step No. 3; No. 3, both photo and caption, should be No. 2.

A ADDRESS CHANGE NOTED ...

M-S Safari Arms' new address is P.O. Box 28355, Tempe, AZ 85282. Phone: (602) 269-7283.

A AIR COMMANDOS SOUGHT ...

SOF reader Dennis L. Kennedy, a former AF S.P./K-9 trooper, wants to contact former members of the Air Force Air Commandos or Safeside Rangers of the Vietnam era. Now a reserve police officer, Kennedy is also interested in corresponding with any military policeman — all services and countries. To contact him write:

5152 Heil Ave., No. 19
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

or call (714) 840-3290.

N MI ASSOCIATION COLORADO BRANCH ...

In May 1979 the National Military Association added a Denver, Colo., chapter to the organization. For more information about the association and membership write to Geoff Demarest, 1080 Sherman 206, Denver, CO 80203.

S SOUTH LEBANON NEEDS HELP ...

If you've had enough of Arab oil price increases, then help the Christian Arabs fighting Palestinian terrorism in South Lebanon. A bad winter is forecast and these people need blankets, heavy coats, sweaters and Red Cross parcels for adults and children.

This is a community caught in a vortex of fire between the Israelis and Arab radicals, and they need help. Send parcels — marked "Free Gifts" — to Major Sa'ad Hadat, Metulla, North Israel. Cash donations should be sent to Acct. No. 119-49, Bank Leumi, Israel.

I IPSC CORRECTION ...

Jeff Cooper has called our attention to an error in our article on the IPSC championship matches (Nov. '79 issue). On p. 55, "The Shooting Machine," far right column, we compare the Bianchi and Laramie matches to IPSC matches.

Cooper declares, "Bianchi and Laramie are not 'IPSC style matches.' The 'P' stands for 'practical,' not 'play.' This is a major point of contention and cannot be left unclear."

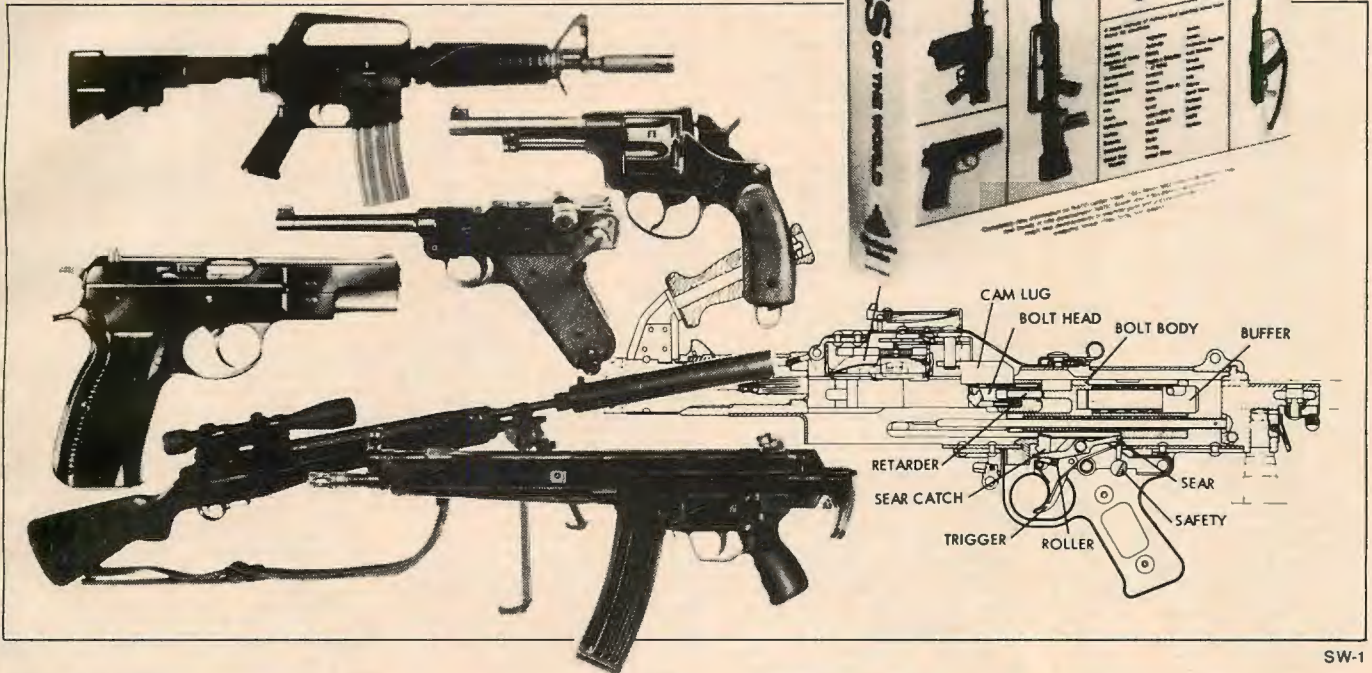
2 ND AMENDMENT ADDRESS ...

Readers who wish to order *BATF's War on Civil Liberties* should write the Second Amendment Foundation at Bellefield Office Park, Dept. SOF, 1601-114 SE, Suite 157, Belleville, WA 98004.

Continued on page 105

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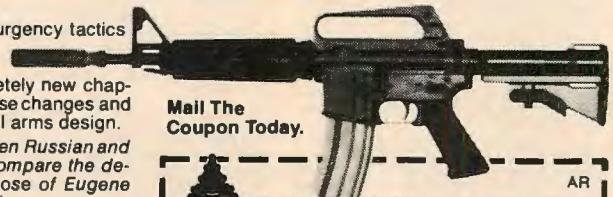
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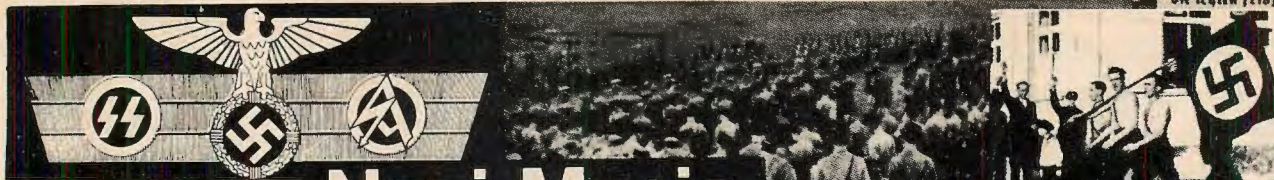
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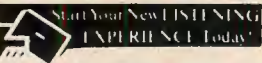
The originals of these recordings are from 40 to 50 years old and their quality is sometimes reduced by the sound reproduction equipment of the time or by shortwave interference. For this reason we have indicated the quality of each recording with asterisks: * = very good; ** = good; and *** = satisfactory.

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12. ADOLF HITLER SPEAKS I (C120***). On the 26th of September, 1938, Adolf Hitler spoke to one of the world's biggest rallies at the Berlin Sportpalast. Speech by Hitler on the Gzech event. Rally opened by Dr. Joseph Goebbels. Side 2 Conclusion. Singing, marches, etc. PLUS 'Deutschland Erwache', extract from radio broadcast of the ceremony in the Potsdam Garrison Church, 21st March, 1933. Das Horst Wessel Lied.
13. ADOLF HITLER SPEAKS 2 (C120***). Side 1 Adolf Hitler Speech in the German Reichstag, 20th February, 1938. Side 2. Adolf Hitler Part of speech in the Berlin Sportpalast, 30th January, 1941. (2) Adolf Hitler. Complete last broadcast from Führer Hauptquartier, 30th January, 1945. (3) Songs of the S.A. Der Führer Ruft. S.A. Voran. Erben Mit Speck. Flamme Empor. Hymne der Arbeit. Ein Mann — Ein Wort. Es Gahl ums Vaterland. Was Uns're Väter Schufen. Kraft Durch Freude. S.A. Sieg Heil.

14. ADOLF HITLER SPEAKS 3 (C120***). A real gem of a recording for content. Side 1: Adolf Hitler addresses a mass rally at the Berlin Sportpalast on the 10th February, 1933. Side 2: Hitler's speech to the German Reichstag, 23rd March, 1933. (Note: Hitler's speech is preceded by a speech by the leader of the Social Democratic Party (2) Full recording of the ceremony at the funeral of President Von Hindenburg. (3) An excellent selection of Nazi songs and marches.
15. THE TRUTH ABOUT GERMANY (C120***). Jack Briggs, a young Londoner first visited Germany as part of the forces of occupation in 1919. After demobilisation became a frequent visitor to Germany and he settled between the two countries, Britain and Germany, throughout the period of Hitler's rise to power and noted its effects on Germany immediately after World War 2 ended, he visited Germany again and for two extremely interesting hours, he gives his impressions of the REAL GERMANY that the British people have never been told about. Here is an unjudged account that will do more than explode a myth or two... for the listener with an open mind.
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18. SONGS OF THE BROWNSHIRTS 2 (C60***). Deutschland Erwache. Horst Wessel Lied. Flieg. Deutsche Fahne Flieg. S.A. Marschier. Wir Kämpfen für Ehre. Es Zittern die Morschen Knochen. Die Deutsche Arbeitsfront Marschier. Es Pfeilt von Allen Dächern. Bruder in Zechen und Gruben. Deutschland Voran. Ich Halt' Einen Kameraden. Das Regiment von Hitler. Volk ans Gewehr. Lisa-Lisa. Anemarie wo geht die Reise hin? Die S. Kompanie. Lore-Lore. Markische Helde. Deutschland Lied.
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28. BEAUTIFUL NAZI MARCHES AND SONGS No. 1 (C90***). Side 1 Badenweiler Marsch Musikkorps S.S. Standarte 42 Flensburg Deutschland Erwache. S.A. Standarte XII. Sturm Horst Wessel 67/5 with choir. In dem Kampfe um die Heimat. S.A. Standarte XI Sturm Horst Wessel 67/5 with choir. Durch Gross Berlin Marschieren wir S.S. Sturmabb XI Untergruppe Ost Berlin Markische Helde. Wir Sind das Heer vom Hakenkreuz. S.A. Standarte 1 Maiokwenz.
29. EXCEPTIONAL NAZI SONGS AND MARCHES. (C90***). Side 1. Vom Barrette Schwang die Feder. Wir Sind des Geysers. Jungvolk Musikzug u. choir. Klein Monika. Rosemarie. Reichsmusikzug des R.A.D. Argonnenwald. Musikkorps 3 Battl. 9. Infanterie Regts. With choir. Liek. Berden Lied einer Kriegesbrüchler Kompanie.
30. DR. GOEBBELS AND THE THIRD REICH (C60***). Side 1: Wir Tragen den Silbemen Adler am Rock. 2. Dr. Goebbels. His last tragic broadcast to the German people before the fall of the Third Reich to the allies. 19th April, 1945. Deutschland Erwache. Aus Tiefster Not (From Deepest Distress). Sieg Heil du Deutsches Vaterland. Das Ostmark Lied. Egerländer Marschlied. Side 2. Dr. Goebbels opens the huge 1932 Rally in the Berlin Sportpalast. 2. Volk ans Gewehr. (S.S. Standarte 42). Horst Wessel Lied.
31. HITLER AND GOEBBELS SPEAK (C90***). Side 1. 1. Stormtrooper songs. Brüder in Zechen und Gruben (Brothers in Factories and Mines). Flieg, deutsche Fahne, Flieg (Fly German banner, fly). Deutschland Voran (Germany Forward). 2. Day of National Labor (30th April - 1st May 1933). Day night of Hitler Youth and League of German Girls in the Rosttrappe and Hexenanplatz, Harz. Speech by the Hitler Youth Leader, Baldur von Schirach. Songs include. Die Jugend Marschier, Flamme Empor, Vom Barrette schwang die Feder Song of the Panzer Korps). Wir sind das Heer vom Hakenkreuz (We are the Army of the Swastika).
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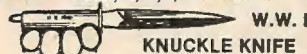


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U.S. RIGHT IN VIETNAM WAR

by Robert Nielsen

IT'S time to refight the Vietnam war — on paper. Also on television and in movies, if film producers can ever bring themselves to dramatize the now-obvious truth about that conflict instead of the 1960s' propaganda version.

The truth, confirmed daily by the refugee tragedy and earlier by the stupendous cruelties of the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia, is that the United States was right to oppose the communist takeover of Indo-China.

Who can honestly doubt now that the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos would be better off, or less badly off, if the Americans and their local allies had won?

The Diems and Thieus and Lon Nols whom the Americans propped up were, admittedly, poor specimens of political leadership by the standards of Western democracy. But in retrospect they stand out as humane moderates compared to the merciless tyrants who displaced them. None of them ever drove masses of people into the ocean.

THERE'S a lesson for present and future guidance in why and how the "right side" (or at worst, the lesser of contending evils) lost the war even though it pitted a superpower directly against a small, backward state.

Military and political blundering by the Americans and their clients was significant cause, and so were the superior tenacity and fortitude of the communist-led troops. But the decisive thing was a ceaseless, world-wide campaign of protest against U.S. participation. Once this had turned American domestic opinion against the war, it was only a matter of time until the U.S. pulled out its forces, assuring the complete triumph of the communists.

The American propaganda protest succeeded, in large part, because only one side of the war was reported: the anti-communist side. It was brought to the home folks with a realism and force never approached in previous wars, via the television screen. The people looked and saw that war was cruel and destructive. And enough of them eventually proved naive enough to be persuaded that the opposite side — the side that hid its war from the world's gaze — must be the good guys.

At the same time, millions of American college students were looking for an idealistic excuse to avoid military service to the country that had made

them the freest and most comfortable generation in history. Television's one-eyed war assisted their purpose. There were also plenty of professors and publicists around to assure them that it was a far, far better thing to take to the streets against their government than to the jungle against the Viet Cong. Safer, too.

A favorite theme of professors at 1960s' "teach-ins" was that the U.S. was interfering in a civil war for reasons that were at best misguided and at worst imperialistic. They described the Viet Cong as a genuine, grass-roots coalition of South Vietnam's progressive elements, and by no means a communist front or fifth column for North Vietnam.

They were 100 percent wrong, and the official U.S. analysis of the time was 100 percent right; it held that what the war was about, essentially, was an attempt by North Vietnam to conquer South Vietnam. Hanoi demonstrated the truth of this, tearing up the Paris peace treaty as its armies advanced, within weeks of the last American troop withdrawals in 1975.

Today Hanoi undisguisedly rules South Vietnam, and rules it with such harsh oppressiveness that the more honorable of the 1960s' war resisters are trying to rally a new international protest, against their former heroes this time.

A tardy recognition of the truth about the Vietnam war won't save the boat people who have drowned or perished of thirst or hunger or exposure. It won't restore to life the estimated one million Cambodians killed by their own rulers since 1975.

BUT it might make the anti-American critics and protesters a little more humble and a little less reckless the next time a stand is taken against totalitarian expansion. If there is a next time. That would require some stiffening of the spine of American foreign policy, turned to jelly by the slogan "No more Vietnams" and the ministrations of a bewildered president.

Immediately, of course, the best way the erstwhile protesters can atone for their historic error is help the refugees settle in their countries. They can thus relieve some of the vast human misery they helped Hanoi to perpetrate, while acquiring new fellow-citizens who have already shown their courage, and have much talent and industry to offer.

Robert Nielsen, 57, a prominent Canadian journalist, served 33 years with the Toronto Star as parliamentary journalist, editorial-page editor, and foreign correspondent in London and Washington, specializing in politics and foreign affairs. Kudos include a Neiman Fellowship to Harvard and a 1974 Canadian National Newspaper award for enterprise reporting. Nielsen retired early to a modest wood lot of 300 acres in New Brunswick, Canada. He is a contented, but, he claims, over-worked free-lancer. However, he managed to find time to build a private dock over the St. John River for canoeing and, he hopes, a good salmon run.

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STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele

Letters meant for this column should be addressed to the author at Soldier of Fortune, Box 693, Boulder, Colo. 80306. If you want a personal, quick reply send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Q. In your book on knife fighting, in the chapter on folding knives, you make reference to an appendix that deals with switchblade statutes. My copy of your book does not have that appendix.

I'm writing to inquire about these statutes. I'd like to know if there are any exceptions to their illegality, e.g., for collectors, or with a federal tax (such as they have on silencers), or in certain states. I've heard references to several states where switchblades are legal.

Second, are any manufactured legally in the U.S. at this time? Who enforces these laws? (Which law enforcement agency?)

Several weeks ago I wrote to a man who was selling these and other knives by mail. I had visions of this guy being arrested and his orders being confiscated as evidence. Was I correct in my understanding that he was simply ignoring the laws?

M.W., Fairview, Pennsylvania

A. The switchblade statutes were accidentally omitted from the Appendices to my book. However, you should be able to find them at your local public library or law school library. Look for 15 USC 1241-1244 or Public Law 85-623.

These laws forbid the manufacture, importation, or interstate transportation of switchblades. They are enforced by the FBI, Customs (as in the case of bringing them in from Italy, Germany, or Mexico, for example), and the Postal Inspectors. The fellow who accepts mail orders for such devices from other states may find himself being questioned by the Postal Inspectors. Contrary to popular opinion, BATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) has no direct jurisdiction in this area, although no peace officer can ignore a clear violation committed in his presence.

Most switchblade laws are regional and local, particularly those laws having to do with simple possession, and are enforced by local law enforcement officers. Collectors may or may not be exempt from prosecution or harassment (as, for example, at gun shows). Check your local laws.

Major manufacturers in the U.S. have discontinued switchblade production as a

result of the federal laws. A few custom makers still experiment with them, although their prices are outrageous. Considering their low functional utility, switchblades are more trouble than they are worth. For example, statutes in California make the penalty for carrying one greater than the penalty for carrying a loaded .45.

Q. Thank you for an informative and exciting book, *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting*. I have read and re-read each chapter.

On page 20 of Chapter 3 I am continually drawn to admire the Stone Mexican Bowie (11-inch blade). I can no longer stand it, I must have one. Could you please direct me to the source of and price for this knife?

T.A., Redding, California

A. The knife was made by G.W. Stone; the last address I have for him is 703 Floyd Rd., Richardson, Texas 75080. The knife shown in the book was part of L.A. Fire Chief Ray Hill's collection. Stone no longer uses the semi-flat grind used on that knife. That knife is not in Stone's catalog; it must be special ordered. Stone was charging \$300 for it the last time I heard from him.

Q. Noted your favorable comments on Gerber FS II on pp. 14 and 74 of Jan. '78 SOF and agree, but are you aware that FS IID (drop point) is available and much easier to open one-handed due to greater blade extension? While drop point has less combat efficiency it is still far ahead of a closed folder when needed.

R.B., Warwick, New York

A. I am sure Pete Gerber will be happy whichever Folding Sportsman you buy. If you feel more comfortable and confident with the FS IID, then that is the one you should use. The difference between these two models is hardly significant in a tactical sense.

Q. I hope you will do a piece on the Gerber Mk. II, in its several variations. A reader expressed interest in such an article in the May '78 issue, and I would like to know the whole story too. I have seen one example of this knife with a yellow handle and a blade of about six inches, that the owner said was limited production. About 100 were made for SEAL evaluation, but

the design was not adopted. (Or so he said. This chap, whose name I did not get, said he rotated four Gerbers in SE Asia, and claimed that he dispatched several Marxists with each of them. If I am any judge of character, I am inclined to believe him.)

J.W., Dallas, Texas

A. *What you saw was the Gerber "Neptune," a limited-run diver's version of the Mark II. Concerning the general history of the Mark II, I have recently received the following data from Pete Gerber, president of Gerber Legendary Blades. The idea for the Mark II came from a retired Army captain named Bud Holzmann. His input was to have the blade at a 5° offset to the handle which conformed to the natural curvature of the hip or calf. The Mark II was designed by a local industrial firm, Rosen-Sirois. The first Mark II was produced in November 1966, starting with the Serial Number 001001. The 5° offset was dropped in October 1967; Serial Number 003747 was the last knife produced with the offset blade.*

Serrations became standard on the blade in 1974. In 1978 the handle was changed to all black from the previous gray and black, and the scabbard was simultaneously changed from green to black. The steel for the Mark II has remained L6 tool steel since its inception, chosen for its strength, toughness, and edge-holding qualities.



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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

by Jeff Cooper Ken Hackathorn

SOF's *Combat Pistolcraft* column welcomes letters from our readers. Send your questions to Jeff Cooper, care of Soldier of Fortune Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q. I wish to camouflage some firearms: Colt .45 Auto 1911A-1, M-1 Carbine, M-1 Garand, etc. Is there something that goes on both wood and metal in nonreflective pastel browns and greens that is either tape or some kind of paint?

2. Is there a 9mm parabellum conversion unit available for a .45 Colt Govt. 1911A-1 (similar to the .22 cal. conversion unit)?

3. Where can I purchase a longer-than-average barrel in 7½ to 8½-inch size Colt .45 1911A-1 that is heavier at the end, Magna-Ported, stainless steel and has a polygon bore? I have written Pachmayr and some other places, asking these specific questions, and all I get back is catalogs which do not mention "longer" barrels.

4. I used to have a Star Spanish auto that was made to use either 9mm or .38 Super in the same clip. How come the U.S. companies don't do that?

D.M.
Merrill, Wisconsin

A. I have considered the matter of camouflage on weapons to some extent and I do not see that it is necessary to break up the outline of a pistol since a pistol is too small to occupy the eye at any distance great enough to be important.

Rifle barrels which appear in the shadows as straight black lines are indeed sometimes noticeable even before the man carrying the rifle can be picked out. For this reason, it is my belief that rifle barrels should be camouflaged. This is easily done by a variety of paints but it destroys the esthetic appearance of the weapon. Green or brown tape wrapped around the barrel in about six-inch intervals does just fine and it comes off readily when desired.

There is no commercially available conversion from .45 to 9mm.

You can get all sorts of special barrels for a .45 ACP. If you want one in stainless steel, get it from Bar-Sto Precision Machine, 633 South Victory Boulevard, Burbank, CA 91502.

The "general-purpose" .38 autos made in Spain are compromises which don't serve any particular purpose especially well. Obviously any weapon which will take various types of ammunition is not going to chamber any one of those rounds the way it should be chambered.

Q. I am looking for a compact .22 but don't know much about them. I have been looking through books and I like the following: Llama 22LR auto; .22 auto Nine by FTL Marketing Corp.; .22 auto C.O.P. (compact off-duty police) by M&N Sales in California.

I would like to know which is best. If none of the above, what would you recommend? If it is the C.O.P., please send me the address of the company. The dealers I have talked to never heard of it.

F.V.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A. My first choice in a compact .22 auto has been, and remains, the Walther PPK. Since, because of the foolish '68 gun law, the PPK is not importable, my next choice is the PPKS, which is modified in order to be legal in this country.

The other examples you mention are not in my opinion up to the quality standards of the Walther Company — the Walther importer for the U.S. is Interarms, Ltd., 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Q. I don't know what your political philosophy is nor do I care, but I would like an honest workable answer to the following problem. In the event of a major economic and/or social upheaval or other catastrophe that would throw this country into a state of anarchy for an indeterminate period, what weapons would you recommend a family unit have on hand? I would like this answer in detail as to a working system for hunting (food, garden pests) and a defense system for

stopping two-legged intruders. Intruders could range from one to a mob, trained and well organized, or a group of starving, desperate people.

I would also like the answer in detail as to age of individuals in a family, i.e., adult, teenager, and children above the age of 7. For example, a 15-year-old girl of small frame couldn't be expected to carry around a BAR nor would an adult want to use a pellet gun against a well-armed attacker.

I'd also like you to keep in mind that all weapons must a. be currently available; b. be legally obtainable; c. ammo easily available; d. spare parts available; e. easily field-stripped; f. not be priced out of reach.

R.K.
Maple Grove, Minnesota

A. *If you don't care what my political philosophy is, you should. I care about yours. We do not live in a world in which we can ignore each other, and the great issues of the time are going to be decided by the political philosophy of the majority. That issue is a great deal more important than selecting firearms.*

It so happens that the subject you raise is covered in considerable detail in Mel Tappan's book, Survival Guns. He answers all the questions you raise in sufficient length to give detailed considerations and solutions. Tappan and I do not agree on all points but any answer I could give you would be necessarily superficial, considering the length of your inquiry.

—Jeff Cooper

WHILE at the U.S. National IPSC Matches in Park City, Utah, an observer asked me why so many competitors used .45 Colt auto pistols with two-tone finish (hard chrome frames and blued steel slides). My flip answer was that most people like the looks of this black and white pistol. The real reasons are somewhat more complex than that, however.

First of all, certain touches make each sidearm readily recognizable to each shooting discipline. NRA Bullseye guns commonly come with high, sharp, adjustable sights that permit easy setting changes for the various target distances. Police PPC revolvers are commonly equipped with a high, full-length rib on heavy bull barrels, a suitable sight profile for the added weight that PPC competitors prefer to reduce muzzle flip during rapid fire. And hard chrome-finish receivers and blued slides are common with the IPSC crowd.

First of all, hard chrome is a hard and wear-resistant material. Doing the bottom half of the pistol reduces wear of the rails on the frame; lubrication of the pistol is less critical; and most important, the part of the pistol that is handled most is protected from finger-perspiration-caused

rust. The slide and barrel should not be hard chromed, however, unless protection from moisture or weather is required. The blued slide is better suited for competition shooting where sight black or carbon black is used.

If the pistol is to be tightened up after much heavy shooting, the blued slide can be refitted, and then refinished. In many areas, a standard blued pistol is fine. If you live in the dry Southwest, guns can be carried for years with little fear of rust and damage to their finish from moisture. For those folks, a blued pistol may be just fine.

Unfortunately, for many of us, the climate can spell doom for those nice, fancy, blued handguns. In my area, for example, an unprotected piece will rust overnight and most police service sidearms sport an original hand-rusted finish that would look fine on an antique muzzleloading rifle.

Stainless steel revolvers would be the logical choice, but the brass is reluctant to sacrifice tradition. Even those who hoped for a breakthrough with the stainless steel Hardballer from AMT have given up because of the poor track record these .45 autos have established.

Available finishes for your favorite blaster are rather limited. Dupont's Teflon-S effectively combats rust and should be ideal for those who live in a high humidity region or coastal area where high salt-content moisture is common.

But it does wear off and is unattractive.

Parkerizing is the military's favorite. It is rugged and rust-resistant. Once ordnance steel has been treated with this phosphate finish, it wears much better than blued surfaces and does not give off reflection due to its matte surface.

Nickel plating is fairly reliable as a utilitarian gun finish. Electrolytic nickel is applied over a layer of copper and sometimes the bonding is less than ideal. Older handguns that have been nickel-plated in this manner usually show signs of chipping and peeling. Colt some years ago offered their Combat Commander in satin nickel. This was done by sand blasting the surface with glass beads, then electroplating the metal with a nickel process. This finish is quite pleasing.

Many friends of mine, however, complained of the finish becoming dark and discolored. Nickel is a precious metal and tarnishes easily. Skin acids are transferred to the nickel when one handles the gun. Because people felt the nickel was rust-free, they rarely wiped their guns off after handling them with sweaty hands. All that is needed is silver polish, applied lightly over the nickel pistol, to keep it clean and shiny.

There is yet another nickel finish ideal for use on handguns — Electroless Nickel. Since it is bonded directly to the steel in a

Continued on page 101

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.44 COMBAT MAGNUM— A CORRECTION

In the October 1979 Adventure Quartermaster column, I mistakenly attributed a much-customized S&W Model 29 to Behlert Custom Guns. The father of the .44 *Combat Magnum* is actually Grant Stapleton of Sentinel Arms, Dept. SOF, 17 Olmstead Plaza, Middletown, PA 17057, (717) 944-1614. Stapleton conceived the idea of a snubnose .44 about 1½ years ago and asked Behlert to do some of the machining.

Initially, a limited-edition production run of 450 .44 *Combat Magnums* is planned. The guns will include action jobs, a shortened barrel, Mag-na-porting, Metalife process, cutting the 'N' frame down to a round butt 'K' frame, Pachmayr grips (round butt), special serial numbers, and will be packaged in a locking presentation-leather gun rig. The .44 *Combat Magnum* will retail for \$945. And a holster will be forthcoming from Bianchi, available only from Sentinel Arms.

After the first production run, Sentinel will accept customers' Model 29s for similar customizing at a cost of approximately \$400. —N.E.M.



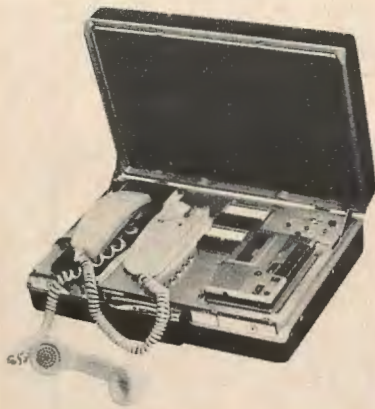


UPPER RIGHT: Publisher Brown in Rhodesia with Remington Model 870 and Choate accessories.

LONG GUN ACCESSORIES

Choate Machine & Tool Co., Dept. SOF, Box 218, Bald Knob, AR 72010, (501) 724-3138, manufactures police military accessories for long guns. Their folding stock for Remington 870 and Winchester 1200 and 1400 models costs \$68 and has a shipping weight of three pounds. Choate's shotgun-magazine-extension kit offers seven-round, eight-round, or 10-round capacity for Remington's 870, Winchester's 1200 and SX-1, Browning's 5-A and Marlin's 120. Seven- and eight-round extensions cost \$20; 10-round extension costs \$36.

Choate also makes flash suppresor/light units for Ruger Mini-14s, flashlight mounts, rifle slings, etc. Publisher Brown carried a Choate-equipped shotgun in Rhodesia and liked the compactness for vehicle patrols and for working in the bush.



JAMES BOND WOULD HAVE OWNED ONE ...

CC Systems, Dept. SOF, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10016, (212) 682-4637, manufactures the CC 600, a pair of briefcase-size communications centers. The CC 600 scrambles and unscrambles messages, and defeats wiretaps. The units weigh 18 pounds apiece and cost \$6,000 for the pair.

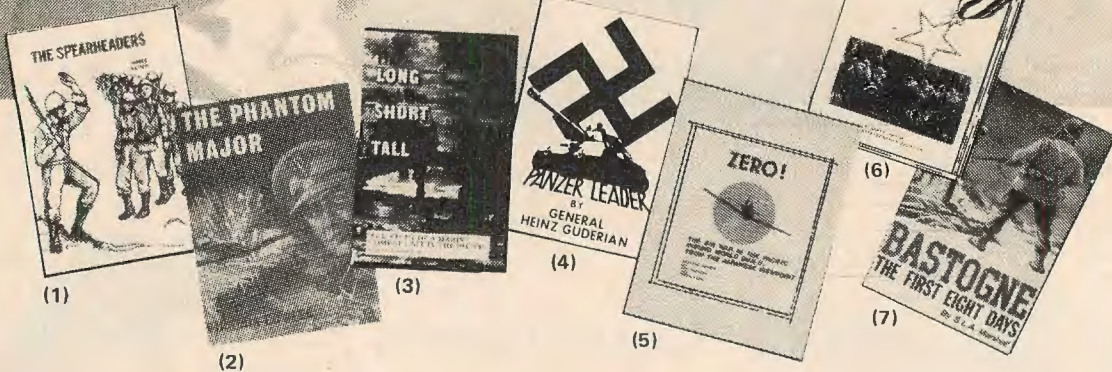


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in Review

U-BOAT WAR. By Lothar-Guenther Buchheim. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1978. Translated from German by Gudie Lawaetz with an essay by Michael Salewski. Approximately 350 pages; 205 photographs and one diagram. \$17.50. Review by William M. Brooks.

U-BOAT War is magnificent. Like most European war classics from *All Quiet on the Western Front* to *The Forgotten Soldier*, *U-Boat War* is anti-war in tone but much more than an account. It is written from the inside out. The smell of oil, diesel fuel and sweat; the tension of the attack; the anxious anticipation of death during a depth-charge attack, the repugnant stench of one's own body after weeks of waterless existence. The reader finds himself crammed between a confusion of pipes, cables, vents, weapons, and intricate machinery and filled with super-human nerve. Buchheim makes you a crew member of U-96!

This book is so well done it is almost like watching a movie. Buchheim's camera captures the moment-by-moment life of German World War II submarine warfare. The book includes 205 of the more than 5,000 photos the author took as an official German Navy artist during World War II; he became caught up in what he saw and photographed constantly, inside and outside the submarine, above and below the surface. Buchheim's photos are pure art.

The crew of U-96, a VII-C class submarine launched in September 1940 and sunk in March 1945, is the author's main character. Buchheim also describes the escape from Brest, France, aboard U-309 in July 1944. *U-Boat War* is also a photo history of fighting men, in all manners and moods: the early human-interest photographs of young sailors as they sail off to war and the marked contrasts when they return; the almost obstinate tranquility of the U-Boat commander calmly leaning against the periscope during a tooth-jarring depth-charge attack. Buchheim captures it all. The most riveting photos, however, are those taken from U-309 off the coast of La Pallice, France, when a sister submarine, U-981, was sunk by mines and air bombardment. The sailors at the guns down a British

Mosquito, men scramble to pull survivors from the sea, the surviving crewmen huddle on the deck of U-309, placing it in greater jeopardy because it can no longer submerge. All the emotion is right before your eyes with a narrative as colorful as the sea itself.

Of special interest was the German policy concerning ship-wrecked victims of German U-Boat attacks. Survivors were to be ignored. There was no room on a U-Boat for prisoners and the shooting of disaster victims was forbidden, not so much on moral but on morale grounds. U-Boat attack victims had enough to worry about and matters were not to be complicated by the thought that one was about to be shot while bobbing around in the ocean; besides, every member of a U-Boat crew was haunted by the idea that someday, he would more than likely be in the very same predicament.

Michael Salewski, a distinguished German historian, ends the book with his own essay on the German naval war. A diagram of a VII-C type U-Boat is also helpfully included.

Just why the pages are not numbered is beyond me; but it will make little difference to the reader. This book is enough to lift the most cynical armchair adventurer into the conning tower. *U-Boat War* is an underseas classic.

William M. Brooks spent five years in the French Foreign Legion (see his three-part story, "The French Foreign Legion Today," SOF, July-Nov. '78 and his review of Simon Murray's Legionnaire, SOF, Sept. '79). He is now working as a research librarian in North Carolina.



R.A. Friedlander

TERRORISM: Documents of International and Local Control (Vol. 1). By Robert A. Friedlander. Oceana Publications. 1979. \$75 (for both volumes). Review by Jay Mallin.

AS terrorism has spread during the '70s, replacing guerrilla warfare of the

'60s, a growing number of books on terrorism have been published. Some of these books treat the subject historically; others look at the situation currently — and are often outdated by the time they are published because of the amorphousness of the myriad terror organizations.

This book must be counted among the more valuable contributions to the literature on the subject. Dr. Robert Friedlander is one of the foremost experts on one of the most difficult and least understood aspects of local and international terrorism: the exceedingly complicated legal ramifications of trying to control terrorism and of responding to terrorist acts once committed. Every country has its own laws, and in addition there is a growing body of international agreements.

But the questions are countless. To cite a few: If an employee of a company is kidnapped in a country which prohibits ransom payments, what does the firm do when presented with a pay-or-he-dies ransom demand? If a citizen of country A hijacks a plane of country B which has taken off from country C and is flying over country D and forces the pilot to fly to country E, who has jurisdiction? If a Palestinian terror team heading for Mexico lands in Canada and starts driving across the United States and is picked up by Kansas City police but has violated no law, who can do what about this?

Because a great deal of political terrorism today operates transnationally — across national boundaries — the legal problems are immensely difficult. Dr. Friedlander is particularly well-equipped to address these. Professor of international law at Ohio Northern University and a member of the Committee on International Terrorism of the World Association of Lawyers, he has studied the problem for years, lectured on it, attended academic seminars and presented papers. He has written on the subject for a variety of publications, ranging from the *Duquesne Law Review* to the *Naval War College Review* and he has contributed to several books.

The book under review, *Terrorism*, consists of two basic sections. The first is a "Commentary" in which Dr. Friedland-

er provides historical background and then discusses legal aspects of terrorism. "Transnational v. International Terrorism," "Problems of Interference with Air Transport" and "International and Local Control" are among the topics he reviews and comments upon.

Dr. Friedlander warns: "Terrorism throughout the world is going out of control. If not restrained in time, the end result may leave humanity a Hobson's choice — either a global Orwellian future, or none at all."

The second section of the book consists of the full texts of relevant documents. These include resolutions and other data by the United Nations as well as the 1934 League of Nations Council resolutions on international terrorism, the 1937 Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, the 1972 Statute for an International Court, and so on.

(The second volume, to be published later, will include documents related to such subjects as "Interference with Air Transport," "U.S. Government Approaches — National and International," "European Attempts to Control Terror-Violence" and "Inter-American Attempts at Transnational and Local Control of Terrorism.")

For the person studying or doing research on means to control terrorism, or actively involved in combatting terrorism, or just interested in the subject, Dr. Friedlander has performed a valuable service in collecting the documents that set forth just what can be done legally to block or respond to terrorist activities.

Jay Mallin, the author of Terror in Viet Nam and Terror and Urban Guerrillas, is a contributor to Terrorism: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. He has written articles on terrorism for military and other publications and has lectured on the subject at the Pentagon and at military schools, as well as at civilian seminars. He and SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown are co-authoring a book on mercenaries, soon to be published by Macmillan.

GUN DIGEST. 1980 Deluxe Edition. Edited by Ken Warner. Northfield, Illinois: DBI Books, Inc. 1979. 466 pages, profusely illustrated. \$9.95. Review by Eugene A. Barron.

THIS 34th edition of the *Gun Digest* remains the same comprehensive "bible" for those interested in firearms as its predecessors. Like them, it will be found in every home or store frequented by those seriously interested in any aspect of the subject. However, there are some differences in this issue from its antecedents.

For one thing, it is no longer edited by John T. Amber, who in 1949 took what was essentially a catalog and turned it into the interesting, informative annual publication it has become. The influence of the new editor, Ken Warner, is already

noticeable in the absence of some regular features and the addition of some new elements. For example, for the first time in many years, the highly-regarded Test-fire article is missing. This is a most unfortunate omission, as many readers — including this reviewer — have come to depend upon the hard-hitting, objective evaluations of new firearms. If this treasured feature is not restored in the 1981 edition, it will be a sad oversight.

The back one-third of the book, as usual, contains a relatively complete listing of all types of civilian cartridges, with bullet and shot weights and types, velocities, energies, mid-range heights and prices; handguns, rifles, shotguns, black-powder guns, and air guns, all classified by type of action, with information as to caliber or gauge, barrel lengths, overall lengths and weights, stock or grip types, special features (including iron sights), and prices; as well as sections on shotgun chokes and brakes, iron sights, telescopic sights and mounts, and spotting scopes. The last 36 pages contain a valuable and growing section on periodicals, booklets and pamphlets, an arms library by subject, and a directory of firms and individuals that make up the arms trade in this country. This part of the book has proved to be of great use to those who wish to make contact with the experts in the firearms world. There is also a listing of arms associations in the U.S. and abroad, particularly useful to international travelers who would like to target-shoot or hunt abroad.

The forward two-thirds of the issue contains the expected potpourri of articles on a wide variety of topics. Included are the annual updates on happenings with the manufacturers of handguns, long guns, and telescopic sights. There are two picture-filled articles on custom long guns and knives, as well as short items on decorations of individual weapons, including handguns. In addition to an update on handloading, there can be found an exhaustive evaluation of the M1911 Colt ACP. There are articles for hunters, with a special rundown on the situation in Africa, as well as several fascinating historical pieces. Those interested in the history of military weapons will find an intriguing account of the early days of the Lee-Metford .303 service rifle as introduced in 1888, and the resulting problems with bullet types, including the famous Dum-Dum.

Several articles still cover John Amber's particular area of interest: beautifully-made, expensively-engraved and inlaid rifles and shotguns. But the major article of the book is a 17-page survey, complete with color plates, of the career of Bill Ruger, and his emergence as a major force in weapons design in this country. This lavish article is a fitting tribute to a man who did what many thought could not be done: create a modern firearms giant in

competition with industry leaders. Starting with a .22 caliber target pistol, the Ruger Company now competes in every aspect of civilian weaponry, and sells its mini-14 to many police and military organizations.

There seems to be more than the usual content of pieces on "nostalgia guns" than in prior issues. Readers can now learn about the Winchester 94, Sharps rifles, the 1912 straight-pull Ross of English design (much maligned in its day), the 100-plus-year-old Halford, and the venerable .45-70, as well as articles on gun collecting. Two further features cover muzzle-loaders. One gets the impression that current writers cannot find enough to say on modern weapons. Among the all-too-rare technical articles are those on barrel weight and accuracy and an absorbing review of the many different steels used in the manufacture of firearms, and the resulting trade-offs of desirable and undesirable characteristics. It is hoped that the editors realize the interest of most serious readers in well-written information of this type that explains formerly exotic, complex subjects in language the layman can understand.

Readers of this publication are warned that prices shown are probably out-of-date in the present rapidly changing market. This reviewer received his copy on July 21 and found an item to be ordered increased by 15 percent over the just published price. There are the usual minor errors and omissions: for example, the interesting C.O.P. "back-up" "pepper-box" four-barrel .357 magnum pistol is not listed, but is now available. However, given the breadth of the subject matter the *Gun Digest* attempts to cover, readers will find it a thorough, valuable, and even necessary annual adjunct to their gun libraries.

Eugene A. Barron, a life member of the NRA, has read Gun Digest since its first issue in 1949. A longtime weapons collector and shooter, his review of Blue Steel and Gunleather appeared in SOF, September '79.

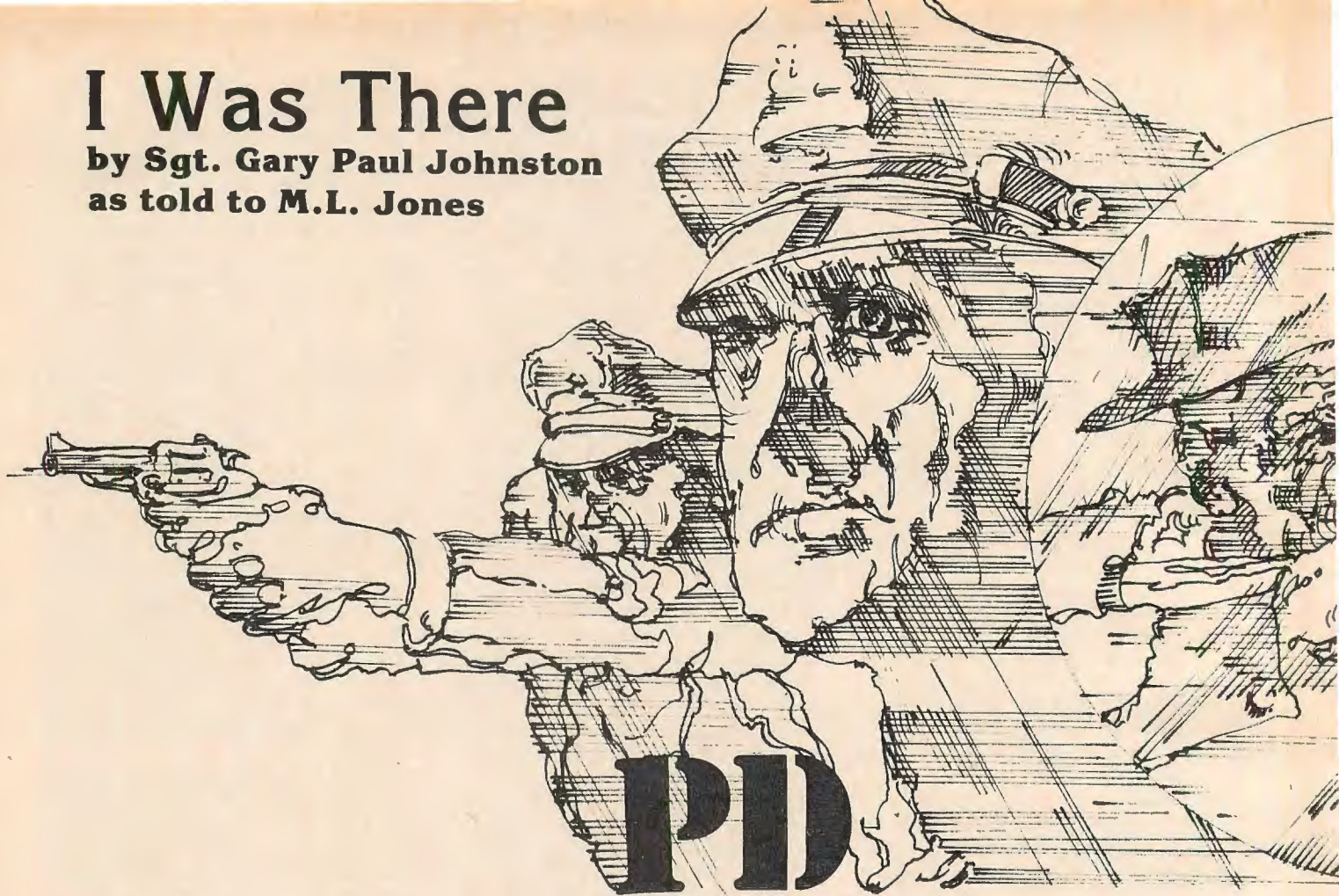


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I Was There

by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston
as told to M.L. Jones



SGT. Gary Paul Johnston, a policeman in the Shaker Heights, Ohio, Police Department since 1966, has had experience with all line and most staff police functions. His story comes from hard-earned experience during his 1963-66 service with the Los Angeles Police Department.

As he tells it:

Early in 1965, I was working out of University Division, so named for the University of Southern California which was located within it just south of downtown L.A. I had been assigned to the mid-watch, an overlapping platoon running from 6:15 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. to boost manpower during the high crime time of the day, and I enjoyed it.

We had recently received a new bunch of recruits to break in. I had worked with a few of them and they seemed OK. I was starting to feel like an oldtimer even though I was only 24. I was going to feel much older.

One of the new men stood out from the rest. His name was Gary McDonald. His dad had been a policeman, and we were both interested in guns and shooting. I knew he was going to be good. After I got to know him we often worked together.

The night of October 7, 1965, Joe Petticrew and I were working together in 3A21. Gary McDonald was with Jose Alcantara. Jose was about 25 and had been in the department a couple of years longer than I had.

As Joe and I were getting into our car we heard Gary and Jose get assigned a "459 silent" over on Menlo along with a unit from the earlier platoon we were supplementing.

Suddenly the girl on our frequency called, "All University units, officer needs help — shots fired — Menlo and 41st Place!"

"Let's go!" I yelled at Joe. "3A21 will handle code 3 from the station," I told communications. "Hit your lights and siren." Joe flicked on the reds and activated the siren full blast.

"I've got the shotgun."

"OK, I'll take the front," Joe said as we arrived at the small warehouse on the corner.

We turned the corner and skidded to a stop near the other unit at the back. I ran past Jose, glancing into the dimly lit area behind the building to see the body of the other suspect on the concrete. I did not see the dark blue form lying behind it.

I ran southwest as Alcantara had indicated and into the rear yards of the next street. It was dark and all I could see were the lighted windows of the houses and I could hear dogs barking at something. I waited, hoping the suspect was sitting it out, and that he would try to make a run for it. He didn't.

Other policemen started walking through, making a search. One of their lights hit me. "See anything?"

"No," I replied. "Who got shot?"

"Alcantara got one through the hand, but it doesn't look too bad," I replied.

"I heard McDonald got it pretty bad," another voice remarked. "Somebody said he got hit in the stomach."

The next thing I knew I was running back to the scene. Gary was lying there still conscious. "It hurts," Gary said, his face strained. Joe and I fumbled with his Sam Browne belt in an attempt to feel useful. We got it off, noticing the small trickle of blood where his shirt buttoned, and more coming from his leg.

"Is that any better?" I asked. Gary nodded.

"Did I get him?" Gary asked.

"Yeah, you got him good."

Gary's head drifted back and his eyes blinked. His face was pale.

One ambulance took Gary away and another came for the suspect. They had shot each other. The suspect died on the way to the hospital. Petticrew and I went back to the station. The girl on the radio broadcast again.

"All units on all frequencies, the suspect wanted in the 217 on a police officer is now wanted for 187 P.C." 187 is the California Penal Code section for murder.

Gary's funeral was a few days later. It seemed like every police officer in California was there. The suspect was never apprehended.



It Happened To Me

by Kirk Kirkham as told to M.L. Jones



KIRK Kirkham of Phoenix, Ariz., a top U.S. combat shooter who in 1977 won the IPSC match at Denver and shot in the international match in Salisbury, Rhodesia, may be the only — he is certainly one of the very few — men to have been stabbed by a North Vietnamese bayonet in combat.

As Kirkham tells it:

I was a sniper attached to the Seventh Marine Regiment and they put us down in an LZ that hadn't been cleared yet. Jesus, I wish they wouldn't do things like that. Ruins your whole day.

Well, you know that every time a sniper fires one of those .308 rounds he's got to do about three pages of paper work, so if you fire one, you just as well fire a whole lot of them. So I was on my knees really cranking out rounds from that bolt action.

Then I felt someone shove me from behind and I fell on my face. At first I figured it was one of the guys shoving me down for my own good — to keep out of the line of fire. Didn't think much about it but I wanted to see who it was, so I turned around. There was this goddamned North Vietnamese grinning at me. Grinning? Shit, I don't know why he was grinning. People do funny stuff in combat.

Well, hell, I grabbed for my .38 Special and started blazing away. Group? Did I get a good group in him? Hell, no, I hit him once in the ankle, once in the knee and once in the

mouth, I think, and then I guess I got him in the chest. Missed a couple of times too, 'cause I was trying like hell to reload when he finally fell down.

So I started reloading the pistol and the .308 and got down to work again. A few minutes later the company corpsman crawled up and said, "Hey, sarge, you got a big splotch of blood on your back." I'd noticed my back was wet but just figured it was sweat. Hell, I was scared shitless and sweating like a pig. Corpsman says, "Take off your cartridge belt and I'll see what's wrong with the back." So I did. Then he says, "Hey, you got a hole in your back." So I bent over at the waist. Sheeet. When I did that, I opened it up and it hurt so fucking bad I passed out and on top of that I shot a stream of blood all over the corpsman's face. I fainted and he threw up.

Next thing I knew I was on a chopper heading for Charley Med (Navy hospital in Danang). They told me there I'd been stabbed in the back with a knife and then I remembered being "pushed" from behind. That rotten fucker had poked me with a bayonet. Went in about three inches, too, but didn't hit a single vital organ. Lucky. Later on they brought me the rifle and the bayonet had bloodstains on it to the hilt.

Now why the hell would a guy want to stab you with a bayonet when he had a perfectly good SKS with plenty of rounds handy? And why the hell was he grinning at

me? I guess there's just no accounting for slopes.

But the ironic part of this whole fucking thing is that I never even got a Purple Heart. I was only in Charley Med for 24 hours — that time — and you had to be there for 48 hours to get a Heart. And goddamn it, a butter-bar lieutenant who was on that same operation cut his hand on a C ration can while he was opening it with a P38 and he made sure he was in Charley Med for 48 hours. Got his Heart, too.

There just ain't no justice for an enlisted man.



If you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Att.: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their context and theme will not be changed. Photos are also helpful. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return of your story. Article payment is \$50. All entrants will receive an SOF patch.

BATF

On The Hot Seat

Senate Hearings
Reveal ATF Abuses

by Morgan Norval
and David T. Hardy

MORGAN Norval, national director of the Firearms Lobby of America, volunteered to cover the Senate's recent investigation of BATF's activities for SOF. Here is his report:

ON July 11 and 12, Sen. Denis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) held oversight hearings before his Senate subcommittee on BATF, the agency described by leadoff witness Neal Knox, Executive Director, NRA-ILA, as "a rogue agency, one which has gone completely outside the limitations of statute, regulations, or lawful authority."

"BATF is a rogue agency which has gone outside statute limitations."

The parade of witnesses following Knox quickly confirmed his assertion. Dealers victimized by BATF's tactics, their testimony shocked even a skeptical Sen. DeConcini.

In his opening statement, DeConcini expressed confidence and support for BATF's integrity based on his relations with it while a county prosecutor. He soon became more skeptical.

Why were the hearings called in the first place? The generally accepted reason among most pro-gun spokesmen is that Sen. DeConcini needed an event to add lustre to a badly tarnished political image.

DeConcini cast his vote for giving away the Panama Canal, a move not well received by many of his Arizona constituents. In fact, a movement was started in Arizona to recall him.

While the recall movement was underway, Sen. DeConcini tried to restore most



"Yeah, I'm an ATF field agent... what gave me away?"

of the money the House of Representatives had deleted from the budget BATF requested to implement its backdoor registration scheme.

Sen. DeConcini's attempt to help BATF convinced most pro-gun organizations that he doesn't have the best interests of law-abiding, gun-owning Americans in mind.

In fact, one pro-gun organization, Gun Owners of America, took a full page ad in the newspaper *Arizona Republic* blasting DeConcini's support of BATF.

Coming on the heels of the recall attempt, this ad caused DeConcini more political headaches.

So the Senator decided to hold these hearings to mend his Arizona political fences.

After Knox left the witness stand, the parade of victimized dealers testified.

Leading off was David Moorhead of Winthrop, N.H., a disabled Vietnam war veteran whose injury is so severe he is considered a partial paraplegic by the Veterans' Administration.

The VA's rehabilitation program for Moorhead consisted of training him to be a gunsmith. He got a loan from the Small Business Administration and set up shop in New Hampshire.

After the VA trained Moorhead as a gunsmith, BATF raided his shop, handcuffed him and charged him.

Moorhead so respected the law that he reported to BATF, whose people were trying to get him to make illegal gun deals through their own informants. BATF raided his shop, handcuffed him and charged him with possession of an unregistered automatic weapon.

The weapon in question was incapable of automatic fire. In fact, its automatic-fire mechanism had been removed and the opening where it would have fitted welded shut.

This made no difference to BATF. It tried to slap Moorhead in prison for 10 years. However, the Federal judge who

tried the case not only directed a verdict of acquittal but apologized to Moorehead for the actions of BATF agents.

Another witness, A.W. Phillips, a dealer from Parksley, Va., also got a directed verdict of acquittal on an illegal sales charge. Yet BATF revoked his federal firearms license despite the Federal judge's ruling it didn't have a case.

Yet another witness, Curtis Earl, Phoenix, Ariz., a federally licensed firearms dealer specializing in automatic weapons sales, was charged by BATF with possessing illegal, unregistered machine guns.

BATF made much of this case, playing to the media. Agents flew their master file of guns allegedly owned and registered by Earl from BATF's Washington headquarters. As Earl proved, these "master lists" contained gross errors. As a result, he voluntarily went before a grand jury to testify. The grand jury refused to return an indictment against him.

Yet BATF suspended Earl's license even though he was not charged with any crime. His case is currently in the appeals stage within BATF.

A pattern of BATF harassment and entrapment emerged.

By the end of the first day's testimony a pattern of BATF harassment and entrapment emerged that caused even Sen. DeConcini to become concerned.

Since questioning of the victimized witnesses became more involved than originally planned, a second day of hearings was scheduled to give BATF a chance to respond to charges raised by the witnesses.

The second day was mostly devoted — after hearing John Snyder, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, call for repeal of the Gun Control Act of 1968 — to BATF's side of the story. BATF was represented by Asst. Secretary of the Treasury Richard J. Davis. He is the one who pushed BATF's backdoor registration scheme in 1978. The new director of BATF, G.R. Dickerson, also appeared. They were accompanied by 22 staff aides.

BATF's attitude was to declare it had not done anything grossly wrong in the past, despite isolated individual incidents based on overzealous actions on the part of a few agents. They sought to convince the Senators that similar incidents will not occur in the future.

"Any criminal investigation is bound to produce negative reaction."

Typical of the BATF attitude was Secretary Davis' statement, "Criminal investigations and enforcement are by nature conflict-oriented. Inevitably, any criminal investigation situation is bound

to produce negative reaction from the subjects of investigations. This is often the case, regardless of guilt or innocence."

Davis went on to say that good management policies and a strong internal affairs division will solve any future problems between BATF and the public.

BATF Director G.R. Dickerson echoed this, saying: "I feel that any actions we take must be subject to public scrutiny, believe that all law enforcement agencies must have a strong internal security system to ensure proper conduct of its activities. We currently have an office of inspection which includes 24 inspectors and 23 internal auditors who are responsible for ensuring compliance with *headquarters' policy* [author's emphasis], operations reviews, internal audits, and for investigating alleged wrongdoing."

"All law enforcement agencies must have a strong internal security system."

Questioning by Sen. DeConcini and other members of the panel indicated BATF has not taken any disciplinary action against agents involved in harassing witnesses who testified at the July 11 hearings.

Nor has BATF ceased its attempt to revoke licenses against dealers who had their day in court and beat BATF.

"These most sacred civil liberties must at all costs be protected."

Sen. James A. McClure (R-Idaho) stated during the hearings: "The charges leveled at BATF, many of which are extremely serious, have mounted to the point that Congress can no longer avoid the issue. It is of dire importance that we once and for all wade deeply into the matter and sort out the facts, and, where necessary, take swift and meaningful measures to remedy the situation. It is not likely we will get all the answers today or tomorrow, and I for one intend to keep digging until the whole truth is exposed for all to see.

"As I mentioned earlier, we are dealing with the most sacred of civil liberties granted by our Constitution. These *must* — at all costs — be protected."



"Sigh, President Carter ordered me to surrender my frisbee to the Bureaucracy of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Frisbees, and Etc."

BATF SHOTS

We decided to use these four photo-cartoons by J. David Truby to accompany our report on the 11-12 July Senate hearings on BATF practices because of their comic reinforcement of the serious charges against BATF. Truby, like Alfred Hitchcock, sometimes steps on camera — look for the plaid shirt. —M.L. Jones.

by J. David Truby

DAVID T. Hardy, director of the Second Amendment Foundation's Task Force to Investigate BATF Enforcement Activities, and editor of its damning collection of evidence, *BATF's War on Civil Liberties* (available from the Second Amendment Foundation, Bellefield Office Park, 1601-114 SE, Suite 157, Belleville, WA 98004), attended the July 11-12 Senate hearings on BATF activities. His analysis of their significance and report of the two-day session supplements Morgan Norval's account, also printed in this issue of SOF.

For the better part of 16 years, and certainly since the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968, lawful gun owners in this nation have been on the defensive, interested primarily in preventing further encroachments upon their right to own firearms with minimal harassment. In 1969, 1972, and again in 1975, measures aimed at drastic encroachments upon this right were repelled, often by the slimmest of margins. 1977 and 1978 saw legislative pressures relax, only to have administrative and regulatory agencies take up the attack on firearm ownership.

The smashing defeat of the proposed "BATF regulations" last year marked a solid victory against this latest form of attack, particularly after the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms resigned following accusations of perjury in his testimony to the House Subcommittee on Crime. Yet even this victory was purely defensive: it prevented the enactment of further oppressive measures, but did little to attack the sources of existing ones.

The tide turns

July 11, 1979, marked the turning of this tide. On that date American gun owners commenced their first counterattack against existing harassment in the form of oversight hearings before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations. For the first time, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was called to account for their actions; for the first time,



"Look citizen, we at the ATF are your friends. We're here to save you from violent crime. Do you understand that or do we have to beat it into you?"

evidence of the abuses perpetrated under existing law were placed into the formal record of the United States Senate.

Background of hearings

The six hours of hearing-record in fact marks the culmination of many months of labor. The hearings had originally been called for by Neal Knox, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association Institute For Legislative Action, in letters which were sent to more than 400 Senators and members of the House of Representatives on January 9, 1979. These letters outlined the nature of BATF abuses which the NRA and its members felt they could document to any Congressional committee interested.

Prior to that time, the NRA/ILA had established a "fed-watch" program to obtain accounts of BATF abuses. Richard Gardiner of the NRA legal division, and Jim Norell of NRA communications, had already been in touch with many victims. In February, Knox and Harland Carter of the NRA requested that I serve with them as consultant, to organize the information which had been obtained. Witnesses were interviewed — over 170 cases were investigated — and a series of Freedom of Information Act requests were used to obtain information on Bureau manuals, operating procedures and instructions to agents.

After several months of work a series of dossiers — dealing with BATF abuses and examining their nature, Bureau manuals

or documents which encouraged them, the legal fallacies, and enumerating every possible witness on each — were compiled. Then NRA/ILA Federal Affairs Division, chiefly through Director Bill Pickins and lobbyist Randy Bowman, began to contact Senators and Representatives, presenting the dossiers, discussing probable options, and assessing plans.

Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona proved interested. He cleared such hearings with the appropriate chairmen and secured authorization to chair the hearings himself. Well-known pro-gun Senator James McClure of Idaho, although not a member of the subcommittee, decided to forego two other sets of hearings scheduled for the same day in order to attend and participate. Since only two days of hearings, each of only three hours, could be worked into the subcommittee schedule, time was at a premium. Moreover, only the first three hours could be given to accusations against the Bureau, the second three hours being reserved for its defense, so the question became how much injustice could be exposed and how much damage done to the Bureau's improper activities within those three hours.

BATF'S reactions

In anticipation of the limited schedule, the BATF had reportedly been informing friends in government that they expected only a "few, isolated" cases to be brought out. Their strategy was to portray these as isolated acts of individual agents, acting without any special authority. They would

then claim that the Bureau, under its new director G.R. Dickerson, repudiated such misconduct of the past, and would presumably escape with minimal damage.

In the first few moments of the hearings it became apparent that the Bureau's defensive strategy was being overwhelmed. By the end of the day the Bureau was in full rout.

Acree's testimony

The testimony of Vernon ("Mike") Acree, who accompanied Knox and NRA general counsel Jim Featherstone, was especially damaging. Acree had spent 40 years in federal law enforcement, including many as head of internal affairs for the Internal Revenue Service at the time when BATF was an IRS unit. At retirement as commissioner of customs, he had been called the "dean of Treasury law enforcement."

Since retirement, as a vice-president of Guardsmark, one of the country's larger corporate security and private investigation firms, he had been retained by the NRA/ILA to investigate every single BATF prosecution filed in the Maryland and Virginia federal districts over a two-year period.

Acree testified that 75 to 80 percent of those cases were individuals who had "been enticed, enveigled, encouraged to violate some provision of the law," with which he believed, "they were totally unfamiliar."

He stated BATF had used multiple-count indictments to pressure these individuals into pleading guilty, and that the majority of the cases which refused to so plead resulted in acquittals. He stressed that this impartial study was executed by investigators who themselves had exten-

sive experience in federal law enforcement. Acree's objective study — which the BATF did not even attempt to refute — shattered any hopes that BATF could claim the abuses were "isolated cases."

Before the shock of hearing such testimony from so experienced a witness wore off, the victims of BATF abuses came forward to testify.

At the end of the first day of hearings, BATF reportedly began a panicked evening session to prepare for what was obviously going to be a most unpleasant second day. Their game plan of passing over abuses as "isolated incidents" had been shattered.

Second-day damage

Still more serious damage was done during the second day by testimony from John Snyder of the Citizen's Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and by Senatorial questioning of BATF officials. Snyder outlined the failings of the 1968 Gun Control Act which permitted so many of the abuses to occur and introduced into the record a full copy of the Second Amendment Foundation's book, *The BATF's War on Civil Liberties*.

Before BATF officials began to testify they received yet another shock. Senator DeConcini stressed his shock at the July 11 testimony, declaring, "The problem appears much greater in scope and more acute in intensity than I had ever imagined. It is a sobering experience to listen to average law-abiding citizens presenting evidence of conduct by an official law enforcement agency of the federal government which borders on criminality," and BATF activity "paints the picture of a law enforcement agency that has for all practical purposes abandoned its obligation to

protect the rights of American citizens."

BATF'S response

The opening statements of both G.R. Dickerson, new director of BATF, and Richard J. Davis, assistant secretary of the Treasury, avoided the abuses of the preceding day. Their essential theme was that BATF was pulling its manpower out of firearm law enforcement and transferring it into enforcement of arson laws.

Under Senatorial questioning, Dickerson admitted there was no disciplinary action taken toward any of the agents involved in the David Moorhead case and "new guidelines had since been promulgated which would probably prevent such things occurring in the future."

Senatorial questioning then shifted to "dealing-without-a-license" entrapment. DeConcini introduced into the record a BATF memorandum obtained by the NRA in which it claimed, "A single sale or act may constitute engaging in the business." Despite Dickerson's acknowledgement of the problem and promise to review it, DeConcini accused the director of contradicting his own definition by the actual orders going to agents. Dickerson answered, "Yes."

At the close of the hearing, Senator DeConcini noted he intended to review the record carefully with the chairman of the committee to check the feasibility of additional hearings and he intended to monitor the promises of reforms.



"That's the ATF tooting its own horn after busting a gang of preschoolers for possession of unregistered waterguns."

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SOF SUPERSTAR

VS

Dragon Throne



The Dwarf Who Roused The Giant, Part 2

by Robert Roman

HOMER Lea, Stanford dropout and self-styled military genius, came far from 1897 to 1905. Meeting Allen Chung and Lou Hoy, two Chinese students, he converted them to true believers and they introduced him to the conspiracy being conducted by the Po Wung Ho, a San Francisco Chinatown secret society, to overthrow China's murderous old Empress Tsu-Hsi.

Lea also converted wealthy San Francisco Chinese, who gave him the money for his first trip to China. In Peking he met Kang Yu-wei, China's official prime minister, who commissioned him as an officer in "the army of the emperor." Lea traveled to Shansi and took command of a unit loyal to Kang, whereupon the empress outlawed the prime minister, who fled for his life to Hong Kong.

The two conspirators met in Hong Kong where Lea was introduced to Sun Yat-sen, leader of a small but growing faction of the Chinese exile movement dedicated to the establishment of a Chinese republic. Sun accepted the American as his chief military advisor.

Lea returned to the U.S. to raise an exile army, converting the Po Wung Wu society into a veritable money machine to finance his plans. He promoted himself to lieutenant general in his Chinese "army" and enlisted the service of ex-cavalry Sgt. Ansel O'Bannion as his chief of staff. Together they organized the first 40-man unit of their army in 1903.

Lea had friends in high places, including Maj. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, who helped him form the Pentagon of the Chinese revolution: the Western Military Academy. American mercenaries also signed up to organize training units of

local Chinese in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, Seattle, Denver, and other cities.

By 1905, 2,100 Chinese were under training. U.S. Secret Service and press investigations turned Lea into a national and international figure. Publicity reached Kang, Lea's supposed commander in chief, in the Far East, and he headed to Los Angeles where Lea's organization received him with full honors and \$400,000. When the money disappeared into Kang's private coffers, relations between him and his hosts cooled.

KANG was still top honcho of the revolutionary movement. He and Lea needed each other, for the present. They began a tour of cities with Imperial Reform Army units, ending up in Washington, D.C. Lea's high-placed friends arranged a meeting with President Theodore Roosevelt. Lea and Kang had the balls to tell the President that they were organizing an armed, secret revolutionary army in this country. Teddy Roosevelt, being Teddy Roosevelt, cried, "Bully!" The remark and the details of the meeting were printed in *The New York Times* of 27 June 1905. The Peking government protested violently.

"You want a shipping line on the Yangtze?"

You and I, of course, would have been busted long since for what Homer Lea did for years. It wasn't just that someone up there liked him and his "piercing blue eyes"; the fact was that a lot of very important people were keeping the Feds and

even the local fuzz, like the LAPD, off Lea's back. They thought they had good reason — the wealth of China. Greed.

It never did come out in the open at the time but our hero — in time-honored soldier-of-fortune tradition — was peddling "concessions" in return for political protection, influence and money. "You want a shipping line on the Yangtze? It's yours, as soon as I put my man in Peking. Meanwhile, I need a little help..." Coal mines, banking, railroads, exclusive mineral concessions, oil for the lamps of China — these were the economic goodies that Homer Lea was dangling before the most powerful people in America.

Sun Yat-sen became Lea's new Chinese front man.

For Homer Lea, the "concessions" paid off handsomely in that he did indeed change history. But Lea's patrons never got so much as a fortune cookie out of the whole thing.

Kang also got greedy. He wanted the Homer Lea operation for himself, that money machine, that army — and he didn't want Lea. He sent veteran officer, General R.A. Falkenburg, professional soldier of fortune, to Los Angeles to replace Lea. Falkenburg marched briskly into the Western Military Academy to take command but was marched even more briskly back out again. Much hassling ensued but Lea hung in and kept control. The break with Kang was now complete. Lea had to find himself another Chinese front man in a hell of a hurry. He thought of that chap he had briefly met in Hong Kong — Sun Yat-sen.

From Lea's point of view, the only thing that Sun seemingly had going for him was that he was a bitter enemy of Kang. Sun himself had been a lifelong loser. He was not a member of the powerful Po Wung Wu. Years previously, Sun had founded a small secret society in Honolulu, Hsing Chung Wei (Revive China Society), but it eventually disintegrated. Sun later organized another tong, Tien Ming Wu Chang (Divine Right Does Not Last Forever) but it barely managed to cover his traveling expenses — and Sun

did love to travel. He was in almost perpetual motion in an endless search for support from the foreign ministries of Europe and America. Sun got tea and sympathy but little else. And he never stopped globe-trotting long enough to get his act together — to develop a real political organization in exile and an underground affiliate inside China.

Or perhaps it was because Sun was such a turkey that Homer Lea overnight transformed his monarchist Chinese into stout republicans with Sun Yat-sen up front. He didn't need another Kang and with Sun there would be no hassle.

Well, almost no hassle. The two held a series of conferences in Los Angeles and it was agreed that Lea's army was almost ready to be infiltrated into China. Sun, however, wanted to concentrate on South China. He was a southerner, Cantonese, and for a thousand years or more, Chinese civil wars had been north-south affairs. Northerners, the Manchus, now held the Dragon Throne; it was the South's turn to rise again. We're going to change all that, said Lea, the target is to be one area: the central Hankow-Nanking-Shanghai triangle, China's heartland. And that was that.

Chinese soldiers on battle front in Manchuria.

Photo Credit: UPI

Lea did, however, observe another ancient and honorable Chinese custom: bribery. O'Bannion himself slipped into China to supervise wholesale bribery of two groups. One was composed of guerrilla bandit chiefs who infested the boondocks on the periphery of the triangle. The other was the local commanders of imperial units within the triangle. The bribes were fairly small — some as little as \$500, others no more than \$1,000. The question was whether the recipients would be honest and stay bought.

Training began in the Malibu Mountains near Santa Monica.

Meanwhile, back on a ranch in the Malibu Mountains near Santa Monica, Lea's army began field training. Trainees from imperial reform units in Chinatowns around the country began trooping in. The training itself was oddly conventional for an underground army — close order drill, bayonet practice, rifle range, followed by field maneuvers. There was some training, minimal, in demolitions; however, Lea's ex-cavalrymen instructors were almost as inept at demo as their eager students. This may have had important consequences later.

Early in 1908, the vital phase of the operation began: the infiltration of the Chinatown troops back into China.

Somewhat unexpectedly, it was a piece of cake. The young Chinese boarding liners in San Francisco merely claimed they were returning to China to seek brides, a cover more realistic than romantic since it was common practice at the time. As a matter of fact, many of the infiltrators did get married on their return and may or may not have lived happily ever after. What is certain is that they obeyed orders and joined regional troop units in the target triangle. To keep them honest, Lea's agents were by now bribing local commanders on a reasonably regular basis.

In December, 1908, Sun paused long enough in his ship-and-train routine to check with Lea at the Western Military Academy. How's our revolution going? Great, said Lea, and dutifully provided a full report. Again, Generals Chaffee and Story were present. Sun was impressed — but, said he, he had his own important contacts in China. Some of them were sons of important mandarins. They were gung ho but untrained. Could Lea bring them over for training? Lea could.

It was here that the whole operation was almost blown. Sun's only contribution was to supply a list of some 60 names. The rest was up to Homer Lea; he had to get them out of China as well as provide training. But what was really hairy was that Lea's people had to smuggle them *into* the States — no visas, no nothing.





What followed was a tortuously involved operation whereby Chinese were transported across the Pacific to Mexico, then smuggled into California, hidden in San Francisco's Chinatown, then sent to a camp.

This was at a time when the "yellow peril" seemed very real and one just didn't smuggle Orientals into the United States as casually as Lea usually operated. The whole thing was badly bungled and no-nonsense Federal agents swooped in. O'Bannon took the fall and was eventually a guest of the U.S. Government for several years. But Homer Lea, as always, emerged unscathed.

By that time, 1909, Homer Lea had become almost untouchable. He had published a book, *The Valor of Ignorance*, which was being hailed worldwide as just about the greatest military work since Caesar's *Commentaries*. With a forward by General Chaffee — who else? — the book predicted and projected a Pacific war between the United States and Japan.

It is particularly eerie to go over the book's musty pages, detailing a successful future campaign to conquer the Philippines — and then compare it with what actually happened 32 years later. Lea obviously had a substantial readership in Japan, at least in certain circles, because in 1941-42 the Japanese army commanders must have landed in the Philippines with the book in their hip pockets. It was that accurate.

But take another look at that book. Homer Lea was an amateur — a brilliantly gifted military amateur, maybe even a genius, as he would be the first to admit — but *The Valor of Ignorance* reeks of staff and command professionalism and polish. It's simply not Homer Lea. The man who gift-wrapped the strategy for the successful conquest of the Philippines for the Japanese was, almost certainly, none other than U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Chaffee.

As Lea's fame fast developed into a virtual mystique, the nuts and bolts of overthrowing the Dragon Throne were also falling into place. Training and infiltration were moving smoothly. Systematic bribery of imperial troop commanders continued. Only one major obstacle remained: Kang Yu-wei. As the former legal prime minister of the Chinese empire, Kang had a legitimacy and influence that Sun Yat-sen lacked and desperately needed. A summit meeting was arranged.

Lea drew his sword . . . Kang signed and fled.

Sun joined Lea in Los Angeles and the two travelled to New York City to meet with Kang at his lavish Waldorf Astoria suite. Their purpose was nothing less than

Empress Dowager Tsu-Hsi firmly controlled China from 1862 until her death in 1908.

to have Kang, the powerful monarchist, abdicate his political ambitions in favor of Sun. It was a mini-Camp David affair. For three days, Sun rather ineffectually stated and restated his case. Kang was not responding. Lea tramped impatiently around the suite in his splendid uniform.

Suddenly, Lea drew his sword and began swinging it at the conference table. Kang, who always kept a leery eye on the little hunchback, went crashing backward in his chair. Lea carved up the furniture, then dictated a statement to Kang acknowledging Sun as El Supremo of the Chinese revolution. Kang signed and fled.

This was Homer Lea's real hour of triumph. Throughout this whole freaked-out, decade-long drama, only one character had found Homer Lea completely resistable: Kang. Now he, too, was a puppydog. For China, and the world, it also meant the end of the Dragon Throne. The final coup was set for 1912.

Lea was now a military strategist on a global stage.

For the next two years, Homer Lea was in a state of exaltation, a euphoria so sweeping that even China seemed less important. He was now a military strategist on a global stage. Field Marshall Lord Roberts, chief of the British General Staff, invited Lea to London to discuss the British Empire's future security. A similar invitation came from Imperial Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm. Lea accepted both. He set sail for Europe accompanied by a single loyal follower, Kang Yu-wei.

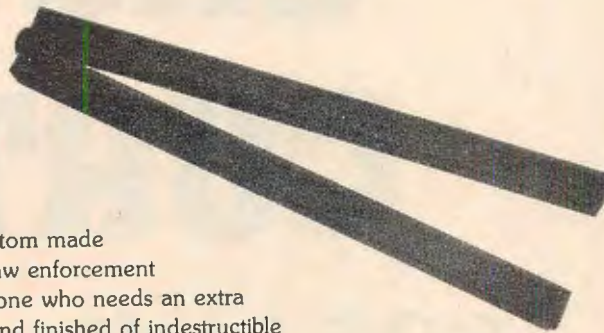
Even while Lea revelled in the flattery of the Kaiser and his cohorts, his health steadily declined. He watched German army maneuvers as a semi-invalid in the Kaiser's carriage. In London, Lea's health continued to deteriorate and he was attended by Lord Roberts' own physician. Nevertheless, it was in London that he managed to produce his second book, *Day of the Saxon*, which produced as much excitement as the first. A more apt title would have been *End of the Saxon*, since Lea flatly predicted the decline and fall of the British Empire. He also warned of a coming confrontation between China and Russia.

On 10 November 1911, Homer Lea was still capering rather feebly on the world scene in London and Sun was still railroading furiously across the United States, when a cable reached Sun in Denver. It said, in effect, the revolution is on. Lea's men had been fooling around with explosives at a secret cache in Hankow and they had accidentally exploded. Imperial officials had ordered mass arrests. The Lea-infiltrated garrison had no choice but to make their move, ahead of schedule. They seized the city. Hankow was now in the hands of the Revolution and other garrisons in the triangle were rising.

Continued on page 89

DECEMBER/79

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CACTUS CURTAIN

SOF Staffer Rides With U.S. Border Patrol

1st of a Series

by Bob Poos

BORDER Patrol Agent Curt Hobbs stood hatless in the blazing 116-degree Arizona heat, right hand resting lightly on his Smith and Wesson Model 66 .357 magnum revolver. "Damn, that's good sign," he said and repeated, "Damn, that's *really* good sign. They can't be more than an hour or two ahead of us. Throw open the cattle gates and maybe we'll catch us some wets."

Hobbs vaulted into the cab of his Dodge Ramcharger, shot through the gate, skidded to a halt and raced the engine impatiently as the SOF staffer riding with him fumbled with a sagging woven-wire cattle fence that had for a latch only a circle of rusty barbed wire.

The passenger aboard, Hobbs crashed the truck through mesquite trees, one eye watching ahead, the other studying the ground. Occasionally he stopped, peered closely at skuff marks in the dust below and from time to time, leaped out, bent on one knee and peered closely at the tracks, for that was what they were.

He said to himself, "Damn, we're really close. They can't be more than an hour ahead of us. One guy's wearing sandals, no treads, another guy's got 'sidewalls,' sandals made from an old tire, and the third's wearin' sneakers."

Hobbs grew visibly excited as the slow tracking process continued. "I think we're going to get them," he muttered. The truck came to another cattle gate, the passenger leaped out, struggled with it, got it open and then dragged it shut again. Hobbs was out of the vehicle now, bent, studying.

"Let's go," he shouted, "just up ahead."

The Dodge shot off, making good time now on a dirt road which intersected with a narrow, paved highway. They roared onto the highway. Hobbs floorboarded the van for about 500 yards, slammed to a stop and leaped out. The SOF staffer followed and they sprinted for the roadside.

Hobbs snapped, "You grab those two. I'm going after the one who's running." There was movement in the thick mesquite and Hobbs' passenger blurted the only Spanish words he could think of: "*Buenos tardes, mi amigos,*" and then, "Come outa there and sit the hell down."

The bushes parted and two brown faces peered out. The passenger beckoned to them and placed one hand on the Browning 9mm High Power pistol he carried. And although one of the emerging figures had a face that looked like he'd do well playing the bad guy in Pancho Villa movies, both docilely crawled through a barbed-wire fence and sat down on the side of a drainage ditch.

"*Buenos tardes,*" said the older, less ugly man. He was greyhaired with a neat mustache.

Hobbs disappeared into the mesquite and the passenger, who never in his life had laid eyes on a Mexican wetback, wondered just how dangerous they might be. He had heard other Border Patrol agents speaking of Chula Vista, California, where agents are sniped at daily by illegal aliens, some of them running dope across the border.

It was nice to have the Browning along because the writer had carried one as a war correspondent in Vietnam and he knew how to use it. It was most unlikely that only two men, who were visibly unarmed, could overpower one with a weapon — unless he grew careless. (One of the pair turned out to have a knife on him, which was confiscated.) Hobbs did not return for what seemed to be hours but in reality was less than 10 minutes. But ultimately the bushes again parted and Hobbs appeared, clutching a scrawny youth by one arm.

"Bastard tried to hide in the bush," he observed, "but you're not likely to get away with that with old Curt Hobbs."

He directed the three to sit down and display the soles of their footgear.

"What did I tell you," he grinned. One of the men wore sneakers, one sandals and one had on sandals made from the side of an old truck tire.

The writer, who had been very much impressed with Hobbs' tracking ability was more so now because that was exactly what the agent had forecast an hour ago at the beginning of the pursuit.

And Hobbs, as he will frankly acknowledge, is by no means the best tracker in the Border Patrol. But he'll do.

Hobbs grinned at the reporter accompanying him. "Well, we finally managed to show you a little action. I was getting a little afraid that it was just going to be a long hot day in the desert. We have a lot of them."



Patrolman Hobbs points to fresh track of illegal alien in Arizona desert near Mexican border.

FAR RIGHT: Tracks show more than 20 illegal aliens crossed creek bed night before. **RIGHT:** Editor Poos armed with Browning 9mm.



Up to then, that was precisely what it had been, a long, hot, boring (for Hobbs) day in the desert. It had not been boring for the reporter, for his only previous experience with the Mexican border had been quick trips to and from Tijuana while stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. The visits were to various cultural centers in the Mexican city.

The day started at 0700 in the Border Patrol headquarters in Tucson, Arizona, a concrete-block structure that resembles a square pillbox. The squadroom could have been in a police station anywhere in America. Cops stood and sat around smoking cigarettes, talking about guns and their current assignments. Curt Hobbs' was the area of Arizona around the Papago Indian Reservation. It is quite

an assignment. Half a dozen border patrolmen are responsible for guarding an area larger than the state of Connecticut.

Coffee and cigarettes finished, Hobbs filled a two-quart western-style canteen, inspected the Ramcharger filled it with gas, and he and the reporter swung aboard. Ahead was an hour-and-an-half drive on to Arizona Route 86 to the reservation and the adjacent Mexican border.

On the way, Hobbs discussed some of the problems the Patrol faces and some possible solutions, mostly answering questions the reporter had gathered in talking to other Patrol agents earlier.

For example: illegal immigration from Mexico is so heavy that Los Angeles contains the second largest concentration of Mexican nationals in the world — the

largest being Mexico City. Third largest is Chicago.

Some 100,000 illegal aliens successfully enter this country from Mexico each month. The Border Patrol intercepts and turns back another 30,000 each month — and most of them simply try again a few days later.

“We’ve got nothing against them.”

As one of the Border Patrolmen said: “We’ve got nothing against those people. I like most of them I catch. But, Jesus, look at the unemployment rate in this country now. And these wets eventually get on one welfare program or another, adding further to the burden you and I

bear in taxes. If something isn't done, illegal aliens will soon be far and away the biggest minority in this country."

Solutions? There could be some. The Patrolmen know them and so do most of the bureaucrats in Washington who are supposed to be responsible for immigration control. But nothing is done other than by lonely Border Patrolmen risking their lives and enduring endless frustrations along the Mexican border in California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

A senior officer of the Patrol said: "The quickest solution would be to impose strict control on employment of 'wets.' If there were no jobs, there wouldn't be any reason for them to come here. California did that a few years back and our business fell off by 30-35 percent almost immediately.

"But people who employ 'wets' have political influence and they use it and I don't foresee any strict sanctions on employment of illegals being imposed upon those people."

Improved economic conditions in Mexico could alleviate the problem some day, he said, but "even with their oil discoveries, significant economic improvement in Mexico is a long way off. Right now unemployment in Mexico is at 50 percent.

"The 'Bracero' program worked well until Cesare Chavez stopped it."

"A few years ago the 'Bracero' program worked very well. That was when Mexican nationals could legally enter this country, do the farm labor most of them come here for, earn for them what was handsome pay and return home honorably. It served both Mexico and America well.

"But Cesare Chavez doesn't like that because they can't join his farm workers' union. And Cesare Chavez has a lot of political clout and he uses it successfully. So no Bracero program anymore."

Hobbs is a taciturn young man and had little comment on complaints made by his colleagues the day before except to agree with most of them.

Abruptly he turned left onto an asphalt road where a cluster of dusty buildings was heralded by a sign as Sells, Arizona. Most imposing building in town is an Indian trading post. Hobbs rumbled past it and turned left onto a rougher blacktop, remarking, "We'll go down and check out the VA trail first. Good place to cut sign (locate foot tracks of wetbacks). Then we'll go over by the border gate."

"Where are we?"

"We're right at the foot of the Baboquivari Mountains. The gate's right below Horse Peak."

Hobbs turned the vehicle onto a dirt road. The VA road. He crept along in low gear, studying the dust ahead, paying no

attention to the road otherwise but somehow not driving off into the ditch. Suddenly he stopped and hopped out. He squatted down and studied some scuff marks.

"Those are Indian tracks by the foot gear they've got on," he said and added, "also by the size of the feet. Papagos generally have much larger feet than the Mexicans."

Hobbs and his visitor returned to the vehicle and patrolled the road further, eventually finding another set of tracks. "Those are wets," he said, "but they came across here a day or so ago. No use in following them."

Then over the radio came the voice of a Border Patrol agent flying in a light single-engine plane nearby. "Curt. There's a bunch of them came across that draw just up ahead of you. Can't tell how long ago from up here but they look pretty fresh." Much to the reporter's amazement, the agent was tracking from an airplane. It didn't surprise Hobbs. That's routine on the Border Patrol.

Hobbs pushed the Dodge up to the arroyo, got out and studied a multitude of tracks, clear in the loose sand even to the reporter. "About 20 of 'em. Fairly fresh. Let's go trail 'em for awhile." He pulled the keys out of the Ramcharger, loosened his pistol and set off across the burning desert, trailed by the reporter.

"Take care not to bump into that La Cholla [pronounced Choya] cactus," he said. "The spines are just like porcupine quills, only they're harder to get out. And they'll work their way into you. People sometimes go into immediate shock when they get a bunch of Choya spines in 'em. Don't worry about that prickly pear. You can step right on it if you've got good boots on. And watch out for rattlers. Plenty of 'em around."

The two hiked across about two miles of desert, Hobbs spotting tiny indentations and scuff marks as he paced swiftly along, pausing briefly now and then. They came to a "tank," a natural water hole, usually dry but now full of foul-looking water because of recent rains.

Hobbs examined tracks around it. "Stopped here for a drink. Probably broke up into smaller groups after this, some headed for the mountains, others straight for Tucson. Long walk. But then they've been walkin' a long way anyhow."

The reporter remarked, "Damn if I'd want to drink any of that water. I drank some pretty bad water in 'Nam, but it never looked that bad. And I had the iodine pills, too."

"They drink it. And it doesn't seem to do 'em any harm. But I'm with you. I don't want to drink it either."

Just as the reporter began to wonder how far into the desert they were going to march, Hobbs said, "These tracks are older than I first thought. No use going

any further. These guys probably came through here yesterday."

Returning to the vehicle, Hobbs gave his visitor some lessons in tracking, one of which was: "There's a desert mouse that comes out only at night. If you see tracks know the sign's at least a day old."

They retraced their route back over the main road and Hobbs angled off on another dirt road. "Going to show you the border gate and the fence," he said.

It's not much of a barrier, just a woven wire fence with a revolving barred gate that revolves only into Mexico, not the other way. "You ought to be here on a Saturday night," Hobbs said. "The Indians trade in their government food stamps, get food and bring it over here to swap to the Mexicans for Tequila and Mexican beer. On a Sunday morning this place looks like a battlefield with sleeping Indians sprawled all over the ground."

Hobbs eased the vehicle back onto Rt. 86 and said, "Let's take a run down to Tracy. Place there I want to show you."

Tracy, Arizona, is not much. A tall tower. An Indian trading post and a roadside rest stop. But, as Hobbs explained, that makes it an ideal location for wetbacks and dope smugglers to cross the nearby border. The water tower serves as a reference point that can be seen for miles across the flat, barren desert.

The wetbacks and smugglers usually have a few American dollars on them which they can use to buy food and soft drinks at the trading post — "We know that guy who owns this place deals with them all the time, but there's not a hell of a lot we can do about it." And the roadside rest stop serves as a handy pickup point for professional wetback smugglers who drive up in rented vans or trucks, stop briefly and pick up a load of illegals, who come swarming out of the mesquite brush. Then it's a fast ride to Tucson, where the illegals vanish into the local Mexican population.

Two apprehended wetbacks sit on dusty Arizona road after capture.





Border Patrolman Curt Hobbs interrogates one of three illegal aliens he and SOF staffer intercepted on tracking mission along Mexican-American border.

“Smuggling wetbacks — a profitable growth industry.”

And smuggling wetbacks into the U.S. is a profitable growth industry these days. Border Patrol officers estimate that in the Tucson area alone smugglers earn some \$16 million a year at their trade. The smugglers are a modern-day version of slave traders. They make arrangements with their “clients” in Mexico, receive a written promise of a certain amount of money earned in the U.S., and if the money is not paid, they simply turn their clients in to the immigration service. The Mexicans are literally in bondage to the smugglers until they repay. And they often use violence to collect rather than the more sophisticated approach of turning in their victims to immigration.

Hobbs pulled off into the desert near Tracy and sent the Ram Charger crashing through the mesquite again. Presently he stopped and explained: “There’s a dry creek bed here they use as an approach. It gives good cover and furnishes some shade. They camp in it at night. You’ll see.”

The two pushed their way through the mesquite, branches whipping exposed skin and leaving welts. Just as Hobbs said, several campsites were evident with discarded water bottles, food wrappers and worn-out sandals among other paraphernalia. But no wetbacks, smugglers or dope runners.

After negotiating the half-mile-long gully, they returned to the vehicle and headed back on Rt. 86 toward Tucson. On the way, Hobbs described his background. It was evident that joining the Border Patrol came as naturally to Curt

Hobbs as breathing and screwing. His older brother had been in the Patrol for several years before he joined. And he was raised a cowboy in West Texas, learning to ride a horse shortly after learning to walk.

Bored with classes at a small Texas college, he went to work for the Department of Agriculture as a federal livestock inspector. That was a lot like working at home popping brush on his dad’s ranch, pushing cattle out of the mesquite and cactus: “It was a lot like what I’m doing now. Only the cattle were harder to catch and you got shot at more. The cattle, most of them carrying some disease or the other, wandered across the Rio Grande where the feed is better. Sometimes the Mexican ranchers herded them over. When we caught them and rounded them up, it was into quarantine for them and then they would be sold at auction if not destroyed. Naturally, the ranchers didn’t like to see us rounding ’em up, so they might take a crack at you with a Winchester. I think most of them were more trying to scare us than they were trying to kill us. But still some of those rounds snapped pretty close.

“I really loved that kind of work. I like horses and cattle and working outside on the desert. But you couldn’t go anywhere at the job. There’s more of a future with the Patrol and then too the work isn’t all that different.”

Hobbs grinned at the reporter who was gulping down about half the canteen’s contents. “How’d you like that hikin’ out in the desert?” The salt-caked writer — you do not sweat noticeably in the desert when it’s 116 degrees in the shade with no shade around; it dries as fast as it leaves the pores, leaving a film of salt on the

body — replied, “I didn’t mind it, but seems to me you could use more mobility than these vans offer.”

“I’d like to use horses or trail bikes.”

Hobbs said “Yep, I’d like to see ’em bring back horses, but they got rid of them years ago. For awhile we were using our own trail bikes — they’re great. But the people in Washington not only won’t buy any for us, they’ve forbidden us from riding our own. Why? Oh hell, I don’t know. I guess they’re afraid someone will get hurt. Or maybe they think it’s taking unfair advantage of the wets in this game we play all the time.

“Sure am sorry we haven’t caught anybody for you. You must be bored. Going to head over to the Avra Valley on the way back. Might bump into something there.”

And that is where Hobbs and the reporter caught Florentino Barrazo Garcia, 27; Julian Valenzuelo Jiminez, 48; and Jose Rodriguez Ruelas, 42, all of the Los Mochis area of Sinaloa State in Mexico — more than 300 miles from the border.

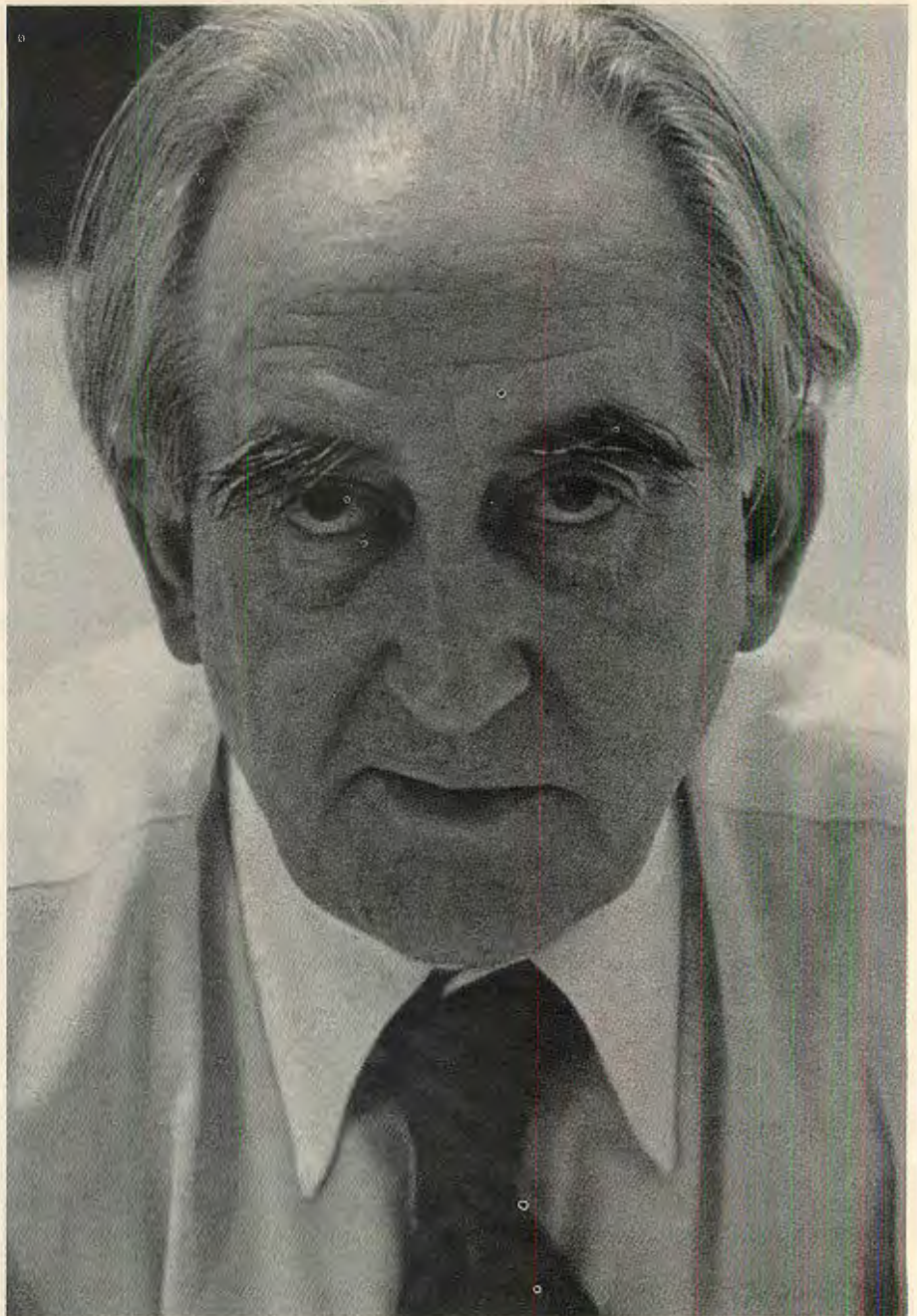
Hobbs, who like all his colleagues is fluent in Spanish, questioned the three about where and when they crossed the line. He remarked, “They made 60 miles across the desert in three days. That kind of walking would kill me. That’s some hiking.”

Packed into the back of the van, which has heavy mesh separating the prisoner compartment from the front seat, the three indicated they were thirsty. One had a U.S. \$5 bill on him and Hobbs stopped at a supermarket to buy them soft drinks and cookies.

Continued on page 100

SOF Interviews Brian Crozier

by Robin Heid



INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIST FORECASTS FUTURE

BRIAN R. Crozier, 61, is a man for all seasons and SOF is proud to have him aboard this issue. Crozier, born in Australia, educated in France and England, became a music and art critic after graduation from Trinity Music College, London. He soon expanded his horizon to become a Reuters foreign correspondent, staff member of the Economist, BBC broadcaster, and author of everything from newspaper articles to text books. His latest publication is Strategy of

Survival, Arlington House, (165 Huguenot St., New Rochelle, NY 10801), 1978.

His travels brought him into direct contact with communism. He is an expert on Third World problems, especially revolutionary tactics, subversion, and guerrilla warfare.

In 1970 he became director and co-founder of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, London. He came to the University of Colorado, Boulder, for a three-

week seminar on comparative politics earlier this year and spoke to free-lance journalist Robin Heid.

SOF: What led you to the establishment of the Institute for the Study of Conflict in 1970?

CROZIER: I became interested in problems of conflict when I was a foreign correspondent in Southeast Asia in the 1950s.

I covered situations in Indonesia, in Malaya during the emergency, and in Vietnam during the first Indo-China war when the French were involved, and I became interested in the problem of revolutionary violence. Later for the *Economist* and other publications I covered the Algerian War. I covered situations in Cyprus. I was in the former Belgian Congo at the height of the troubles there in 1960. I covered subversions in Latin America.

I started reflecting on all these things and I wrote a book called *The Rebels* which was the first study on post-war insurgencies all over the world. It was later used as a textbook; the first U.S. Special Forces counter-insurgency course at Ft. Bragg was based entirely on the book. I wrote a whole series of books on related themes, including *Strategy of Survival*, which had quite an impact, published in Britain and America in 1978. It is the first attempt to hold together all that is known about what I call the Third World War, which essentially is the unilateral war of aggression which the Soviet Union has been waging against the rest of the world since 1945.

SOF: When did you come up with the concept of a Third World War?

CROZIER: I did not invent that concept. The phrase was first used by Professor James Burnham, a famous American writer, whom I consider my mentor. He wrote a book called *The Struggle For The World* which came out in 1948. He was the first man to see what is threatening the world and what the Soviets are up to. Everybody else is in his debt. He really understood, but I have taken the concept much further than Burnham did in some respects.

SOF: Did he come up with the concept in his book in 1948?

CROZIER: That's right — he called it the Third World War. In fact, he started his book by saying the Third World War began in — I think — April, 1944. There is some dispute about when it really began. It began either as soon as the Second World War ended or just before.

SOF: Did he deal with the possibility that Patton was assassinated for his rabble-rousing views along those same lines?

CROZIER: I don't think he did deal with that. Burnham, of course, was very interesting because he was a Trotskyist and a member of the Fourth International. He himself was deeply involved in subversive activities in the United States. He made his name with another book called *The Managerial Revolution* which became a world best-seller. But then he broke with the left completely. He has been one of the foremost conservative thinkers ever since.

SOF: Why did he break with the left?

CROZIER: He realized it was dishonest and their methods were reprehensible. He decided that although there were some in-

teresting things in Marx and Marx's thought which he still thought important he was not going to be involved. He broke completely.

SOF: What is the concept of the Third World War?

CROZIER: I define it in my book as the war that is without precedent in human history. It is the first world war of which we have any record which has entirely, until now, been a unilateral war of aggression waged from the Soviet land mass against the whole of the Western world. What is happening really started in 1919 with Lenin and never stopped. I call the rest of the world the Target Area which is neutral and also is descriptive of what it really is. Now, the Russians are pushing against the Target Area the whole time; they never stop.

It is like a wave that comes over with the tide and then it recedes a bit because they have had a lot of setbacks. Then there is another wave and it comes a bit further. And it seems to be advancing the whole time. All the setbacks that the Russians have had — and there have been very many at certain times — are always tactical, but strategically the advance always goes on. There's where the danger is.

Now, in this book I deal with things that have caused a lot of confusion to people, and a lot of intelligent people who ought to know better got them wrong. The cold war ticks on. But everybody tells you that the cold war is over. Now, if you say the cold war is over that means you accept the Soviet definition of cold war.

The cold war as it was originally, as we understood it in the West, was the sum of all hostile words and deeds on either side of the Iron Curtain, each against the other. The Soviet definition of the cold war was always hostile words and deeds against the Soviet Union, against the Soviet bloc. Now, what they do to other people they call peaceful co-existence.

This has caused more confusion than anything else. It's what I call politic semantics.

SOF: What is the basic Soviet strategy for WW III?

CROZIER: It's come in phases. The first phase ran from 1945 to 1950, when they established the East European Empire. They established communist governments in all the countries of eastern Europe under the protection of the Soviet Union. During that same period, China became a communist country and initially was a Soviet satellite. The Chinese communist victory was made possible by the Russian invasion of China in Manchuria during the last seven days of World War II. Later under the "Potsdam Agreement" the Russians moved into North Korea and they got there before the Americans and consolidated their positions set up by the communist government. In 1950, when the Korean War broke out, Soviet control

over China was such that Stalin didn't even bother to tell Mao Tse-tung that he was invading North Korea.

The second phase really began before the first phase had ended, let us say in 1948, when the Soviets sponsored a series of insurrections all over Southeast Asia, India, Burma, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaya. All these rebellions broke out at the same time. Some were put down in a matter of weeks, such as the one in Indonesia. Others went on for years. In Malaya, the emergency lasted between 1948 and 1960 — 12 years. And the Philippines went on for a long time too. All these insurgencies were unsuccessful in one way.

Much more recently, the Russians got involved in movements in Africa. For example, they put a lot of money and advice at the disposal of Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana who, of course, was overthrown and later died in Guinea. They got involved in the Congo. They got involved in Algeria. In the Congo, now Zaire, the entire Soviet Embassy was expelled in 1960 and again in 1963.

Later, the Russians developed a new technique for what I call "Remote Control Satellization." They developed this technique in Cuba where they set up the Cuban DGI which was equivalent to the KGB. This was set up, in fact, by nine KGB offices in Havana from 1959 onwards. Fidel Castro initially wanted to assert his independence of the Russians. The Russians brought him under complete control in a period of about five years ending in 1970. They did it by blockading Cuba and cutting off all supplies of oil in a period of one month in 1968.

The Russians attempted the same or a similar technique in Egypt, under Nasser, and succeeded up to a point. They had 18,000 men, who had infiltrated all levels of the civil service and the armed services, expelled by Sadat in 1972. They tried the same thing in Somalia.

SOF: Why did they fail in Egypt? Were they among the other people who miscalculated Sadat's abilities?

CROZIER: Yes, that's exactly it. In all these satellite situations, you must understand one important thing. If the country concerned retains what I call residual sovereignty then there is nothing to stop them from saying to the Russians, "Get out." If there is a lot of space between the Soviet armed forces and that particular country, they can get away with it. But Cuba was completely dependent on the Soviets economically and they couldn't do anything about it.

The Russians have attempted to repeat this satellization process in different places. It's usually marked by the signing of a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation. So you now have Soviet satellites in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, in Afghanistan, in South Yeman, and the latest and the best, really

the most important, in what I call greater Vietnam. The Vietnamese communists always wanted to dominate the former French Indo-China empire.

The first of these final steps came in April 1975 when South Vietnam collapsed. And, of course, more recently, they have taken over Laos and also Cambodia. So that's a complete mass of Soviet satellites in the Far East.

SOF: Their basic strategy is to hit all over the world with destabilizing influences.

CROZIER: Yes, their techniques have become much more sophisticated. I have mentioned one, the creation of a secret service controlled by themselves. That is the important development in recent history. They've also supported terrorist groups all over the world.

SOF: What are some more prominent terrorist groups completely sponsored by the Soviet Union?

CROZIER: I would like to put it differently. For many years, the Soviets have conducted courses in terrorism in the Soviet Union. They fall into two streams; one I call the orthodox stream. These are young men and women recruited from world communist parties that follow the Moscow line. They're taken to Moscow and they follow their Lenin Institute's courses in Moscow. It is a six-month course which involves making bombs and learning how to throw them — target practice, assassination, street fighting, assault on buildings, all that kind of thing. And agitation and propaganda.

They have a second stream which I call the national liberation stream. These people are recruited, let us say, in black academic courses, through the Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow. The Russians named the university after Patrice Lumumba, first president of independent Congo. He later lost his life and became a kind of martyr and symbol. The university's full title is the Patrice Lumumba People's Friendship University.

The Russians observe the students there and if they like them they send them to training camps or similar courses in terrorism. These training camps are situated in Moscow, Baku, Simferopol, Tashkent, Odessa, and other parts of the Soviet Union. These training courses have been in existence for something like 20 years. They're all quite important and they're all concealed training camps.

I can give you some examples of what happened. For example, the most notorious terrorist in the world today is usually known as Carlos, sometimes called The Jackal. He is a young Venezuelan, his followers are communist and they call him Ilyich after Lenin's second name. He was recruited in Venezuela by the KGB in the early '60s and he was sent to a training camp in Cuba and then to the Patrice

Lumumba University. Then they expelled him ostensibly because he behaved badly, was too fond of girls, and played the guitar too much — that kind of thing.

This was a blind. Later it was learned he was still completely under Moscow's control. He was under Moscow's control when he kidnapped all the OPEC oil ministers in Vienna. He's a killer trained by the Russians.

SOF: Where is he now?

CROZIER: He's lying low. After his famous exploit, Col. Gaddafi of Libya gave him two million dollars.

Gaddafi is in receipt of the biggest arms deal in history. In 1976 the Soviets sent gigantic quantities of arms to Libya, far more than Libya could absorb. These arms threaten the rest of Africa and they are available for terrorists all over the world because the Russians like to act through proxies.

Now they are involved in terrorism in Latin America. You have probably heard of the Tupamoros who did what they liked for a period of about five years. It was learned after the event that the Soviets were involved in that. They were involved in the creation of the so-called Baader-Meinhoff Gang in Germany, originally financed through a magazine called *Konkret*.

SOF: What do the Soviets hope to achieve through the use of terrorist and guerrilla organizations? Do they have a specific goal?

CROZIER: It's a more generalized goal. They've worked things out so they can hardly lose in this game. On the one hand, terrorism, wherever it occurs, is a destabilizing factor. It drives governments to take unpopular measures. All that is a plus as far as the Soviets are concerned.

It has another advantage in that local communist parties usually, but not invariably, can take an anti-terrorist line and appear to be sober citizens worthy of being trusted with the responsibilities of government.

For example, during the entire Tupamoro period in Uruguay the terrorists were regularly denounced by the Uruguayan communist party. We learned later they were involved in it as well. Same thing happens in Italy. When the Italian communist party is supposed to be respectable, it denounces the Red Brigades. The Red Brigades are breakaways from the Italian communist party. I am absolutely convinced that these little groups in Italy could not operate without communist party tolerance.

SOF: Would this same theory hold true in the Palestinian area where there are a number of Palestinian organizations, some of which are incredibly radical and often denounced by the PLO?

CROZIER: The Palestinian situation is very interesting because the Russians always — and this is an invariable rule — try and bring radical groups under their

control whether they're violent or not. They do it in a variety of ways — by offering them money, or by getting money to them so they later learn they are dependent on Soviet funds, or by offering training, or buying them arms, or whatever. This goes on all the time all over the world.

In the case of the PLO, it is a mistake to think there are moderates and extremists in the PLO. This mistake was very much current some years ago when the Black September group was active, the group involved in the murder of the Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich in 1972. It was discovered through intelligence that the PLO, as an organization and in particular Yassar Arafat's PLO group, had an interlocking leadership with the Black September group. Same people in both organizations. The PLO was the peaceful, moderate front, but it was involved up to the hilt in Black September organization.

There are one or two groups such as the PFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habasha's group, which is not really controlled by the Russians and, of course, they pay their own way.

SOF: Do the Soviets control the PLO?

CROZIER: The PLO must be regarded as practically an arm of the Soviet's KGB and International Department even if they don't themselves realize it. There is one very important indicator in these things.

The Viet Cong in South Vietnam during the Second Indo-China War had a political organization known as the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, NFLSV, and they had offices in Congjin in North Korea, in Djakarta, Cairo, East Berlin, and Havana. But they didn't have an office in Moscow until Khrushchev was overthrown in October 1964. Then in November 1964, they were invited to open an office in Moscow and that was the sign the Russians were about to give all-out support to the Vietnamese communists. This is one of many reasons why Khrushchev was overthrown — he wanted to go slow on this kind of thing.

In February 1965, Soviet Premier Kosygin went to Hanoi and offered vast quantities of arms to the Vietnamese communists. In the last phases of the war, 90 percent of the communist equipment came from the Soviet Union. The same thing has happened with the PLO. For a long time they had offices in different countries. A couple of years ago they were invited to open an office in Moscow — a sign that the Soviets were involved up to their necks.

SOF: Is there any direct proof of Russian communist involvement in any of the disruptive strikes that take place in the powerful unions in the United States and Britain?

CROZIER: In Britain, the answer is yes. They are deeply involved in the following ways: they've got the trade union organi-

zation of the Soviet state which is not a trade union organization in our sense of the word because it simply is controlled by the communist party. It's called the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the AUCCTU, and it has an International Department which should not be confused with the international department of the Central Committee of the communist party. The international department of the Central Committee is a direct descendent of Lenin's Komintern, the driving force in subversion all over the world.

The International Department of the Trade Union Organization has two special tasks. One is to promote strikes and coordinate them, if possible, in different countries and to recruit agents of influence inside western trade unions. A number of big unions in Britain are under considerable communist influence and it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that these people are basically Soviet agents. I'm not familiar with the situation in the United States.

SOF: What about the Weathermen?

CROZIER: I'm familiar with the Weathermen and the Symbionese Liberation movement. I have not seen any evidence to connect these organizations directly with the Soviet Union, although I have no doubt whatever that some of their members must be communist.

SOF: Why doesn't the West respond to Soviet insurrections with agitation of its own within, say, Eastern Europe?

CROZIER: That's a very good question and one of the messages of my book. My argument is that you cannot win a war by just sitting back and allowing things to happen, which is what the West has been doing for some years now. However, every now and then, in boxing, for example, you have a phenomenon like Mohammed Ali who appears to be taking a lot of punishment, then he turns around and knocks the guy out. But that's an analogy.

There is no evidence that the West is going to turn around and deliver a knock-out punch. It's not going to happen that way. You've got to decide that a decision is going to be taken, that the Russians are going to have a dose of destabilization. It's a mistake to think the Soviet Union is indestructible. The Soviets have built up, with our help, the greatest military machine in the history of the world which is now superior to the military machine of the United States. Most of this development has taken place in the last 10 years, since they overthrew Khrushchev. They have built up the biggest navy in the world. When I say with our help, I mean literally with our help because of transfers of technology.

SOF: Particularly in the computer area.

CROZIER: Yes. And credit on easy terms. The Russians would not be capable of building up their armed forces; they would have to reduce them if they did not get these technical transfers from us. If

you give easy credit terms, very often repayable not in cash but in products of factories that have been set up or pipelines or whatever, and easy terms at a time of inflation, it amounts to an aid program. Under the credits of the past few years, the Soviets have had more help than went to all of western Europe under the Marshall Plan after the war. It's up to us. If we want to commit suicide, we're going about it the right way.

There are other weaknesses in the Soviet Union. Agriculture is particularly backward and the Soviets could not survive without American grain and there is a five-year grain deal in progress at the moment. Technology is very backward. Again, we could stop help.

There are ethnic problems within the USSR itself. A lot of regions don't really like the Russians, who dominate things. In the Islamic Republics of the Soviet Union the population grows much faster than elsewhere. Within a few years 25 percent of the Soviet armed forces will be Islamic and possibly anti-Russian. There is anti-Russian feeling and certainly anti-communist feelings throughout Eastern Europe. The recent visit of the Pope to Poland shows that this is true. We don't have to guess any more.

Then they are vulnerable to the truth and that is why, of course, it's a top-secret state and they are trying to keep out any alternative sources of information. So, instead of cutting down on the budgets of Radio-Free Europe and the Radio of Liberty, we should be doubling, tripling them.

SOF: Should we also be sponsoring revolutions and insurgent-type activities in the communist areas?

CROZIER: Only if we are prepared to follow through. In 1956 when the Hungarians revolted against communist rule, there had been quite a lot of incitement from Radio-Free Europe and, of course, we let them down because we didn't do anything to help them. We have to make a policy decision but to my mind the area that we must destabilize is the Soviet Union itself.

That's where the vulnerability is. There is no point in destabilizing Poland or other areas and have the Russians simply march in with their tanks and have a lot of people get killed. We should be studying methods of beaming television programs onto Soviet screens. We should be doing all that kind of thing.

SOF: In your estimation, is the most effective method of destabilization the Soviets' own method of limiting warfare to the barest minimum and achieving victory through economic or media means?

CROZIER: We should immediately stop all transfers of technology. A firm policy decision to that end should be taken, instead of leaving it to individual countries. We should make deliveries of grain conditional upon Soviet or Cuban withdrawal

from parts of Africa. We should systematically expel any identified KGB offices. Something like three-quarters of the staff in the Soviet Embassies abroad are KGB people. They should be kicked out. The British kicked out 105 of them in 1971, but no other country has done that.

SOF: It all seems so simple. Why hasn't the West done it?

CROZIER: One reason is that immediately after the Second World War when the so-called Cold War began — I call it the Third World War — President Truman and the United States had various options. They could see what was happening. They didn't want another war. The United States demobilized very rapidly. Within a few months, they had no army. And you didn't want outright appeasement, so the policy of containment was devised.

Now just one of the great things about James Burnham is that he saw even in those distant days that containment was going to turn into appeasement. Containment appeared to work all right under Truman, a great president, and under Dean Acheson, a great Secretary of State. But, the rules were too limited. In effect the rules were — we won't allow the Russians to come any further but we won't do anything about their territory, that's their business. James Burnham was absolutely right. Gradually this turned into a policy of keeping the Russians happy and hoping everything would be all right. The rules of the game really became something like this, from the Soviets' point of view: what we have we hold, what you have is negotiable. So we have given way all along the line.

Another reason is the way party political systems work. Political parties compete with each other and make promises which they then feel they have a right to keep or ignore. Either way is not very good. It's not a way to conduct a foreign policy. The Soviets had the same team in power for decades. The political bureau of the Vietnamese communist party, the Workers' Party of Vietnam, has been together in some cases for 40 years, long before these wars began. They have continuity of policy; we don't.

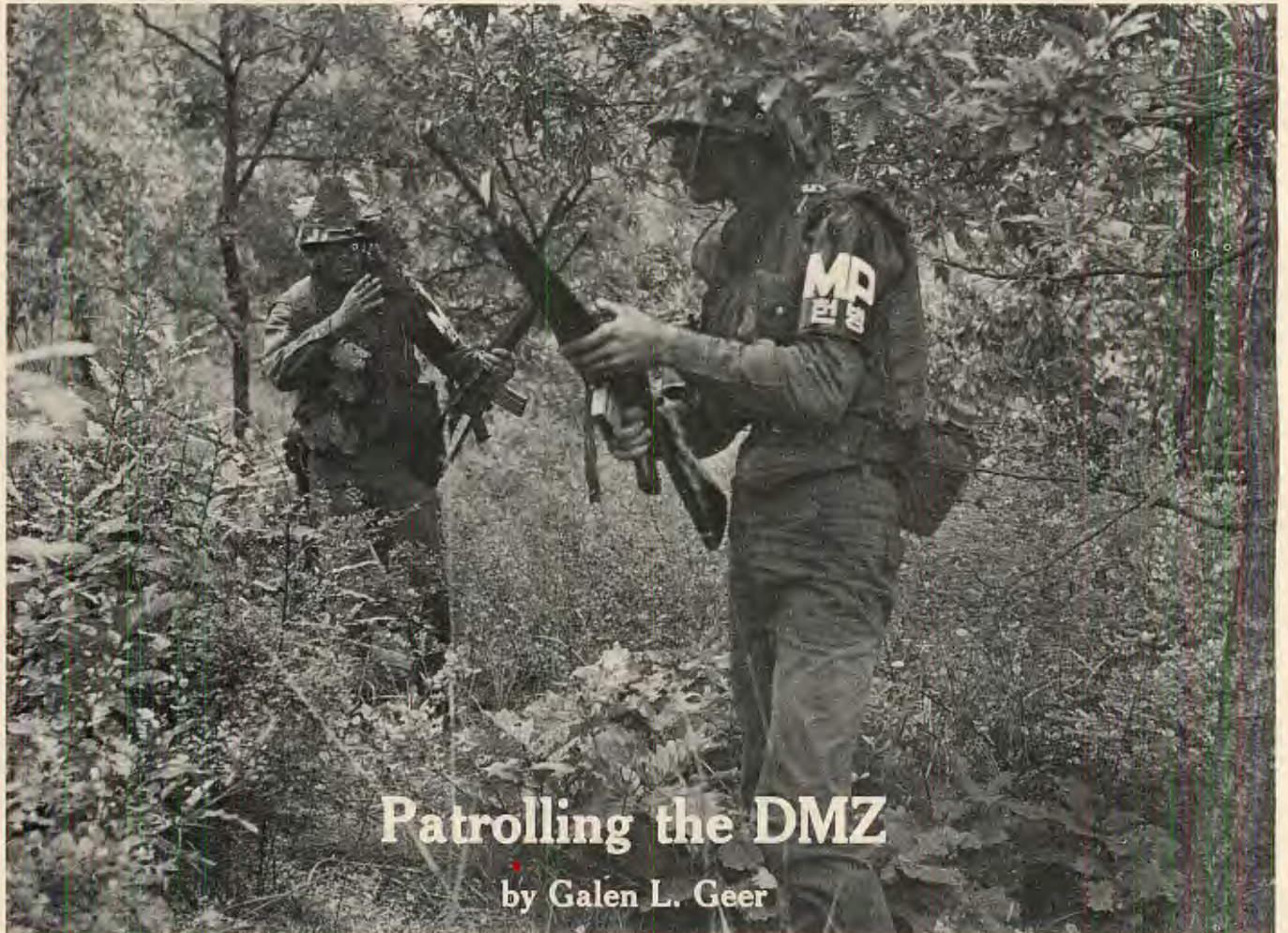
SOF: Is there any direct proof of Soviet influence and intervention in the fall of Richard Nixon?

CROZIER: Well, yes and no. At the beginning of his presidency there is no doubt that no president since Truman had a greater grasp of foreign policy or a greater understanding of the uses of power. But somewhere along the line things started going wrong. There was Watergate and President Nixon began to accept Soviet overtures in the field of what was, in my view, falsely called "detente."

I approved of the Nixon-Kissinger visit to Peking in February 1972 because I

Continued on page 94

KOREAN COMBAT OF NERVES



Patrolling the DMZ

by Galen L. Geer

I gunned the olive-drab CJ-5 as I neared the north end of the bridge over the ImJim River. The Red Cross compound flashed past on my left. A minute later the last U.S. Army battalion-sized compound, Camp Greaves, home of the First of the Ninth Infantry (Manchu), flew past. I was in a hurry and the other compounds, Four-Pappa-One North, the last active fire base in the U.S. Army, and Warrior Base, a battalion staging area, were blurred by the speed of the jeep.

Past Warrior Base the black, asphalt road turned sharply left, back towards the DMZ, and the lone ROK sentry on duty waved as I passed, his frag grenades worn like badges of honor. Finally I topped a small hill and could see the buildings of Camp Kitty Hawk, the UN Command's home for the military police of Panmunjom, and the gate to Camp Liberty Bell, the northernmost American compound in Korea, was across the road. I turned right

and waved to the guard as I drove into Liberty Bell. I had a half hour to spare.

I was on assignment to accompany a civilian journalist on patrol in the DMZ.

As a military journalist with the U.S. Army's Second Infantry Division (Indian-head Division) in Korea I had visited the area of Liberty Bell, the guard posts inside the DMZ and Panmunjom, on several occasions. This time was different; I was on assignment to accompany a civilian journalist on a combat patrol inside the DMZ, between the two Koreas.

Camp Liberty Bell is the home of Company A, 1/9th Infantry, which normally has the mission of patrolling the DMZ and guarding the short stretch of the fence along the southern boundary still in American hands. During the spring and

summer months, while the 1/9th is off in other parts of Korea training, other Second Division battalions move north from their camps along the classic invasion routes to Seoul, and establish their headquarters at Camp Liberty Bell. The main body of the battalion lives at Warrior Base in tents built by the Division's 44th Engineers.

The camp is only a few hundred meters south of the DMZ and portions of it are ringed with mine fields. In addition, throughout the area, are reminders of the grim reality that is looking at them from nearby hilltops — North Korea. At one end of the camp are bunkers and the ammo dump, ringed with mortar positions. Oddly, a volleyball court is set up between the positions.

I parked my jeep across from the Battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC) for the 1/31st Infantry (Mechanized) who were on the mission at that time. Walking

towards the sentry on duty outside the TOC I carried my flak jacket, .45, helmet and other gear slung across one shoulder and my camera bag over the other. As he stepped out to stop me I handed him my press ID and stood back to light a cigarette while he called one of the battalion officers to let them know "another reporter" had arrived. Seconds later a burly, mustached major appeared from the maze of tents, sweat rolling down his face.

"Glad you made it," he said, extending his hand. We had worked together during other operations in Korea.

He gave me my admission badge to the TOC and walked past the sentry. As we walked he explained that the patrol members had been briefed and the reporter was waiting inside the briefing tent. Neither the major nor the men were thrilled about having the press along on a patrol. In the months following President Carter's announced plans to pull the ground forces out of Korea, the DMZ and the American troops have become popular stopping places for reporters. Many of them whom the public affairs office in Seoul, Headquarters of Eighth Army, sent up to go on patrol or see what it's like, had proven themselves to be naive men and women with little understanding of the military or the Korean situation. Some even believed the war was completely over.

"I don't know if this guy is going to be able to keep up with the patrol."

"This guy's a little pudgy," the major continued. "I don't know if he is going to be able to keep up with the patrol. I've told them to keep it routine — no fancy stuff. But I don't want them out there after dark, so I hope he can keep up."

I agreed, then added, "My job is to keep him out of trouble and get him out of there if there is trouble."

Inside the briefing tent a 3-D sand mock-up of the DMZ area controlled by Second Division soldiers sat on the wooden tent floor. The major quickly introduced us and I caught the name "Jim" and Reuters News Service, the rest of it slipping past me. After the quick briefing, two sets of equipment were brought in, including two M-16s. I declined the weapon and the equipment, preferring my own and the .45 as it allowed me to keep my hands free to use my cameras.

After Jim was fitted with a flak jacket, pistol belt, canteen of water and first aid kit, the major dug out the camouflage sticks and we went to work painting our faces and all exposed skin. When we had finished the job the major handed Jim the M-16 and asked if he knew how to use it.

"Oh, I think so," he answered, then quickly broke it down into its major groups and reassembled it, while keeping



a running conversation going on various small arms from around the world. I smiled at the major; our pudgy reporter was a pro — I wondered who was taking care of whom.

A half hour later we climbed in three jeeps for a ride to our jump-off point a few hundred meters inside the DMZ. (The ride, I believe, was for our convenience.) Our patrol would wind through swamps, woods, rice paddies, over hills and through creeks, looking for infiltrators and routes they might be using. The patrol would move up a hill towards one of the two American guard posts, 116, and end at the fence-line of the post.

The squad eyed both Jim and me suspiciously — my cameras and Jim's beard making us both feel conspicuous. Jim and

Cold comfort for weary GIs. Bunkers along the Korea DMZ.

I were treated as if we were intruders into an illegal cock-fight. The entire squad chose to ride together in two jeeps while Jim and I were left with one to ourselves and the driver.

At the fence, weapons were checked and loaded and our IDs cleared with the TOC. Then we were waved through and an eerie silence settled over us. The quiet inside the DMZ is nerve-shattering after experiencing the noise of Seoul and other Korean cities. As we rode I pointed out the signs along the road warning of mine fields. There was no doubt where we were.



LEFT: Lonely duty along the DMZ. ABOVE: Home away from home, Korea 1973.



RIGHT: Soldiers from the 4th Bn, 7th Cav, and D Troop man an M60 machine gun during a live fire exercise.

US Army Photograph.



As we rode past a field of rice paddies Jim pointed out the birds (cranes and white egrets) that had found a refuge inside the DMZ and said he planned to write an article about it, explaining that it was ironic that the combat zone between two countries still legally at war was a wildlife refuge where leading naturalists came to study endangered birds.

The lead jeep turned off the paved road onto a narrow, rut-torn, abandoned road that wound through several stands of trees. Near a bridge still bearing the scars of war we stopped and piled out. After the jeeps had turned around and left, the patrol members quickly fell into position, with Jim and me near the center of the patrol, and moved out.

Both the U.S. and South Korean military maintain day and night patrols in the southern half of the DMZ. The patrols are important intelligence-gathering efforts for the Second Division and UN Command as well as the South Koreans. The patrols often discover new signs of infiltration by the North and periodically night ambush patrols become involved in quick fire fights. Day patrols are usually

for recon only, to gather information, while night patrols are sent out to ambush infiltrators trying to work their way through the fence or observe our own guards on the guard posts and along the fence.

Patrolling in the DMZ is a deadly game of nerves. Although the fighting technically ended on 27 July 1953, incidents since then number in the thousands. (After the announced pull-out the number of incidents has dropped, believed by some to be an effort by the North to prove they are "good guys" to get the American forces out of Korea. The latest development to "delay action" in the face of the North's buildup may be a double-edged sword. It could force the NKs to back off, or, as some fear, may force them to a showdown as their support in China and the Soviet Union ebbs.) The knowledge that the North is an unpredictable enemy and the number of dead *since the truce* numbers in the hundreds keeps the Indianhead soldiers on their toes — alert and ready. Sloppy patrolling and soldiering is answered with a quick

transfer out of the company and into a dead-end job.

"We're going to work our way to this ridge and check on what they've been doing."

After we had walked through several tree-lines and along a series of rice paddies to a wooded hill we stopped to camouflage ourselves with branches and foliage while the patrol leader, a young lieutenant, called the Battalion TOC. Patrol plans are often changed once inside the "D" via code over the radio. "It keeps everyone on their toes," one S-3 officer explained.

After decoding the instructions from battalion, the P-L called his men around him, spread a map out on the ground, and in a half-whisper outlined the new route.

"We're going to work our way to this ridge here," he said, pointing to the map, "and check on what they've been doing on this small hill just across the MDL [military demarcation line]. After that we'll work our way back off this ridge and



go around this hill to a creek. We'll follow the creek to this point where a dried-up creek bed runs into it. We think they are using that ravine to sneak past our boys on 116 since we can't see into it at night. After that we'll go back to the original route, finishing up the patrol along 116's hill."

He folded up the map and nodded to the crew. We moved forward carefully — we weren't sure if the North Koreans knew we were in the area and wanted to get to the first ridge and catch them working. (It is not unusual for patrols to move in the open, just to let the North know they are inside the DMZ working.) The Indianhead soldiers, well aware the North didn't want anyone spying on their activities, were extra careful and moved through the woods quietly, using hand signals only.

An hour later the lieutenant and an NCO crawled forward to take a look at the suspicious hill while the rest of the patrol formed a hasty defense near the top of the ridge. They returned a few minutes later and offered to take Jim and me for-

ward. We quickly agreed and followed them to a well-hidden position where we could look down on the smaller hill. A small patch of cleared ground could be seen but no movement. Either they just weren't working that day or had seen us and melted into the surrounding trees. In either case they were up to something. We moved back to the patrol and sat down.

"It looks like an outpost to me."

"Looks to me like an O-P or L-P," the lieutenant said, looking at Jim and me.

"Kind of close to the MDL, isn't it?" Jim asked.

"Yeah, but not unusual — they keep doing all kinds of weird things to keep us under pressure."

The first part of our mission completed, we moved off the hill toward our second objective. To keep northern eyes from seeing us we circled a hill and crossed a small swamp, then followed the woods up and over a second hill, down into the thickly wood-lined creek. After sloshing

through what was supposed to be a dry creek bed for half an hour, we reached an open area and were only a few meters from the creek bed we wanted to check. While the rest of the patrol hid in the woods, the P-L, one other soldier, Jim and I moved into the open and followed the ravine up to the fence and MDL. A well-worn path along one side of the ravine confirmed that it was being used, and on a regular basis. We made a few notes, I took some pictures, and we went back to the patrol, waiting until we were well hidden from prying eyes before sitting down to talk over what we had found. Everyone agreed the thing to do was bring in some engineers and fill the creek bed with barbed wire as close to the MDL as possible, forcing the infiltrators to cross the line where they could be seen — cutting them off.

The last of our patrol would be a sweep along the woods at the bottom of 116, then working our way up the hill in a giant "S." Again we would be looking for any signs of infiltrators trying to get close to our own positions. As we walked along

the hill we had to pick our way past rolls of rusting barbed wire. On top of a small knoll we found the shattered remains of what had been a fortified defensive position during the war.

“This must have been a platoon defensive area — they got hit, hard.”

The patrol took a break and began looking around the hillside; finally the lieutenant sat down beside Jim and me.

“Way it looks to me,” he said quietly, “this must have been a platoon defensive area. Part of the company holding this hill in the last days of the war. They got hit, hard. There’s still a lot of brass around plus other junk, trip flares wired to trees, grenade handles and other stuff. One other thing,” he looked around, “they must have thrown some pretty heavy stuff in here the way those old trees are chewed up.”

Jim and I looked around. The junk of war littered the ground. When the patrol moved again, toward the guard post, the ghost of the long-dead battle cast a grim reminder over us. There had been a shooting war there. It wasn’t really over, only the shooting was called off. Yet this was still a combat zone, the shooting was only the pull of a trigger away. As we neared

the guard post and walked into the open fire zone surrounding it, I felt my muscles relax. I hadn’t realized how tense I had been for the past few hours.

At the guard post, as we waited for the jeeps to pick us up, Jim talked with some of the soldiers. We now shared a common ground, our first animosity having disappeared somewhere in the DMZ. On the way back, two men rode with us and Jim asked one how he felt about patrolling between the two Koreas.

“It ain’t over yet — the shooting has stopped, but not the war.”

“Like it ain’t over yet,” the soldier said thoughtfully. “The shooting has stopped, but not the war.”

There was, I noticed, tension in his voice and his youthful face didn’t have the glow so many young soldiers have. He never said how many patrols he had been on, or how long he had been in Korea. A year in Korea is a nerve-racking experience for American soldiers. There’s no shooting combat — just a combat of nerves along the DMZ.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

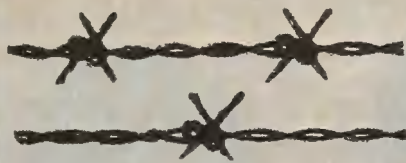
GALEN L. Geer is uniquely qualified to write about the Korean military situation since he spent 17 months attached to the Second Division in Korea as a military journalist assigned to the Division Public Affairs Office. He worked as editor for the Division newspaper, *The Indianhead*, which was named outstanding newspaper in Korea during his tour of duty in 1978. Geer knows the territory well: he made more than a dozen trips to the DMZ from his headquarters in Dong du-Chon.

Geer studied journalism in Los Altos, California, and the Defense Information School of Journalism. He spent eight years in the Marine Corps — two years as a drill instructor — and then served in the Army from 1977-1979.

When not writing about his military experiences, Geer, now a professional writer/photographer, publishes articles on his hobbies: fly-tying, lure designing and building, rod construction, backpacking, archery, carpentry, fishing, hunting, and gardening. How does he have time for all these enviable activities? Well, he’s not married—’nuff said? —S. Nielsen

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THE FENCE

SUMMER or winter, a night of guard duty along Korea's DMZ is a nerve-wracking experience. While fighting off swarms of bugs in summer and penetrating cold in winter, the men of the U.S. Army Second Infantry Division stand guard along the last combat line of the U.S. Army — the Korean DMZ.

The fence is more of a psychological barrier than actual obstruction to the north. It is a storm-fence topped with multiple strands of concertina. Spot lights line the fence and bunkers spaced along its length are manned by Republic of Korea soldiers, except for the 300-meter section bordering the road to Panmunjom. Its only real function is to stop infiltrators. Along its entire length is a strip of soft sand, kept neatly raked by patrolling soldiers. Should any infiltrators cross the boundary their crossing would be visible in the disturbed sand.

The soldiers who pull DMZ duty are confident nothing will happen during their tour on the fence. They are, however, fatalistic about their chances for survival should a new shooting war start.

"We're dead, that's all there is to it. We don't have enough ammo to fire up a small patrol. All we can do is yell 'bang' and let the world know they're coming."

That is the job of the American soldier along the fence. Equipped with a PRC-77 radio, flares and a dozen rounds of small arms ammunition, they wait and watch.

"I've tried to write my wife about the fence," one friendly sergeant said, "but what do I say? 'Sweetheart, this is where I'll die if these crazy people ever start shooting again?'"

Each man who pulls duty on the fence learns to deal with it in his own way. A few can't and request transfers, although most believe it is the only time in their Army careers they are soldiers being soldiers and not soldiers playing boy scout.

During the day fence duty is little more than traffic cop work: checking passes, raising and lowering the guard rail across the road. At night, however, the fence and the duty change dramatically. After dark the DMZ is a free-fire zone, meaning anything that moves can be shot. Ambush patrols

which go into the no man's land at night are free to open fire on targets and frequently do.

The fence itself is schizophrenic. During the day, nothing but rusting steel and wire, at night lights transform it into a snakelike creature glowing across distant hills. To soldiers looking into the pitch black beyond the lights, it is a thin wall separating them from the unseen enemy.

Every night patrols move through the gate after a short meeting between the patrol leader and the NCO on the fence. An exact count is made of the men going into the DMZ and locations where the patrol will be during the night. Every soldier on the fence knows where the patrol is supposed to be and at what time. As the night drags on, the war of nerves begins.

A bush crackling in the dark brings everyone back from his half-sleep to begin the long wait to find out who or what is on the other side of the fence. Sometimes, too often for some men, a distinctly human sound is heard and all talking stops. The only question in everyone's mind becomes, "Who is it? Ours or theirs?"

Loaded magazines are tapped in M-16s and the sergeant explains the

patrol is not supposed to be there. Along the fence the half-dozen American soldiers wait, knowing all they would be able to do is give an alarm before they died. After nearly an hour without another sound, the men begin to relax. "They" would have done something — thrown a rock, shouted, anything to shatter nerves.

The hours pass slowly after any incident along the fence. When the patrol returns and is counted back through the gate (one man at a time to be sure everyone is there and there are no hitch-hikers) the sergeant asks where they were, accusing them of being lost.

"We weren't lost," the patrol leader explains. "We double checked our position so we could watch that old bridge."

I asked a patrol member once what kind of night it was.

"Routine," he answered, then stretched out to sleep, ignoring the bouncing truck.

"Routine," flashed in my mind. Routine to the Second Infantry Division soldier along Korea's DMZ is a 300-meter front line, where no shots are fired and nerves are shattered.

—G.L.G.



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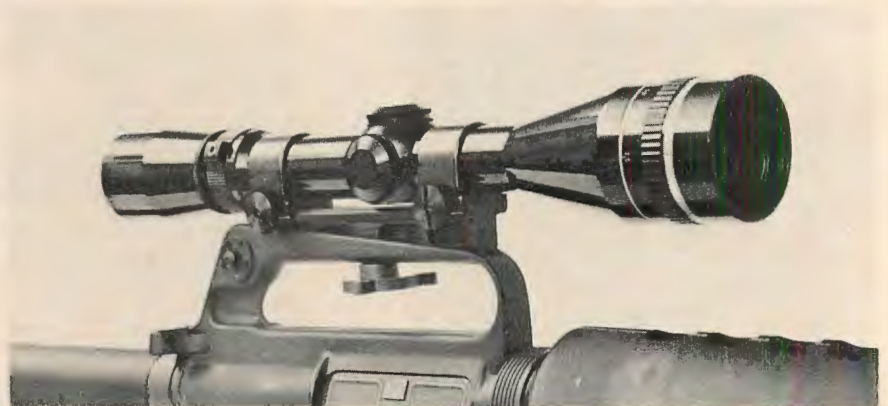
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 53



Zimbabwe-Rhodesia's new Prime Minister, Bishop Abel Muzorawa celebrates with a Chinese stick grenade in one hand and an AK in the other. Darquennes.

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia: State of the Nation

Analysis by SOF African Correspondent

Al J. Venter

EVERY war spawns anecdote. Rhodesia — with black rule now a fait accompli and grudgingly referred to as Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, but still clinging tenaciously to the old name — is no exception.

The most recently reported incident concerns an American volunteer serving with one of the country's elite units along Mozambique's embattled border with this hapless land.

A squad of soldiers had almost completed a sweep of a particularly rugged region following a Fire Force strike in the area. Suddenly two terrorists popped out of thick undergrowth barely a meter from the Rhodesian troopie. With one shot from his FN assault rifle the soldier killed the man in his immediate firing line. Then the rifle jammed.

The other terr, now standing directly in front of the troopie, dropped his weapon and, grabbing the American's throat in both hands, proceeded to strangle him. All the youngster could do was haul out his side arm — a Smith & Wesson Model 39 9mm auto — and start pumping holes into his assailant. Recounting the event afterwards, the American referred to the man as a "gook," as do most Rhodesians these days — terminology more reminiscent of Southeast Asia than Africa.

By the time the soldier had emptied his first magazine — nine shots in all — the grip on his neck was still firm. So, as the American phrased it: "There was no alternative but to change magazines and keep ventilating the bastard." The insurgent dropped dead on the 15th shot. (*This may or may not be the gospel truth, but it's a good story anyhow — Ed.*)

Difficult to Kill

Other terrorists have proved equally difficult to kill.

One of them took three 9mm parabelum pistol shots in the head and was still able to walk to the casevac chopper when it arrived. He was taken back to base for interrogation.

Other groups of infiltrators haven't been so lucky. One squad of about a dozen tried to cross the Zambezi in the vicinity of Victoria Falls in the northwest of the country a couple of months back. They landed their rubber boats neatly between two rows of barbed wire fence enclosing the minefield that surrounds this beautiful town.

The mines started popping immediately. Late that night there were still occasional explosions as survivors tried to extricate themselves from an impossible situation. Only a couple survived. They

were grateful to be taken POW.

Significant Intensification

Rhodesia's continuing struggle has seen a significant intensification in recent months, dating from the period immediately before and after this year's April elections, in which Bishop Abel Muzorewa was named Zimbabwe-Rhodesia's first black prime minister. During this time there have been more contacts with the enemy than in any previous quarter in the conflict's history.

Nor does this grim war show any signs of abating; even though "talks about talks" among politicians and the major Western powers continue, Rhodesia *still* has to achieve diplomatic recognition by the West.

Also grim is the fact that while the Rhodesians have achieved more kills as a result of this increased activity, there have also been more losses among government forces during this period.

Take one example, provided by an observer who spent time with one of the country's crack strike forces, the Rhodesian Light Infantry. This unit, which consists of four commandos, is known to have an "operational strength" at any one time of about 400 men. During the three months following April (when the

elections started) the RLI had an estimated 20 men killed and almost 80 wounded, many of them seriously.

In contrast, these tough young soldiers who are regarded as among the best fighting troops in any Western army — and some of them don't even shave yet — have achieved the distinction of notching up 1,000 terrorist kills during one month, the first time a four-figure kill rate has been achieved by any unit in the 13-year war.

There have been some bizarre developments in this continuing conflict of South Africa's nearest northern neighbor.

PLO SAM-7s

The first is a disclosure by Israeli intelligence sources that members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) supplied Joshua Nkomo's terrorist army with the SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles used to bring down two Rhodesian passenger aircraft. Another disclosure, this time from an East African contact, has indicated that these missiles may have come to Zambia from Uganda where deposed dictator Idi Amin played host to several groups of Palestinian terrorists prior to his overthrow by a Tanzanian-backed invasion force.

Other events in the continuing Rhodesian conflict include the appearance —

also for the first time — of several American blacks within the ranks of the Mozambique-based terrorist army. I am assured by Rhodesian colleagues that they were not highly rated and that all these former U.S. servicemen have since been killed in action against the Rhodesians. That United States nationals — black or white — were prepared to back an insurgent army in Africa at all, is significant. It could well presage a trend for the future in other theaters of southern African military activity, Angola included.

American Black and East European Terrorists

There are also several instances of whites — all of them East European — having been killed while attached to terrorist units, usually during external operations inside Mozambique.

It is interesting that all whites killed were dressed in camouflage uniforms identical to those used by the Ethiopian army, indicating the presence of a new and more militant element in the war. The only distinguishing insignia found on the bodies were Soviet-type collar tabs — usually red — and some of East German origin. Czech, Bulgarian, Polish and other East European nations have also been identified as having a stake in this struggle's outcome.

Foreign influences continue to manifest themselves. Rhodesian security authorities are aware that several nations are playing a concerted role in trying to elevate the level of preparedness, not only of the terrorists but also of Frelimo forces — deprecatingly referred to by Rhodesian troops as "Fred."

Cuban and Chinese Presence

Cubans are known to be in the process of "rebuilding" both Frelimo and terrorist armies, including training and what is termed "direction." East Germany is now solely responsible for all aspects of security in Mozambique, while the Chinese are accountable for refurbishing civilian programs interrupted or damaged by the war.

China also controls Mozambique's shipping lanes, much of it directed through a sophisticated computer complex in Maputo, the capital, and linked to a similar installation in Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania. It is Peking's job to monitor the logistical situation and to see that the communist wherewithal to fight the war reaches the front.

Russian Equipment

For their part, the Russians — making odd bedfellows with the Chinese — continue to provide the bulk of all military

A unique shot showing two members of the crack Selous Scout unit with captured gook weapons. Unit berets are a distinctive dusty brown. Darquennes.





The Bicycle Brigade: another aspect of security control in the interior. Darquennes.

equipment used in the war. This materiel ranges from assault rifles to tanks and several squadrons of MiG-21s, the majority of them flown by expatriates, probably of East European satellite origin.

From the Rhodesian point of view, the most interesting development for a long time is the formation — by Frelimo — of a relatively high-powered “Reaction Force” which has been deployed southward from Nyamapanda on Rhodesia’s northeast border with Mozambique, all the way down to the South African frontier. This force operates along a 10-kilometer-wide strip adjacent to the war zone, much of it territory infiltrated in the past by Rhodesian strike units in bids at hitting terrorist bases.

Frelimo Reaction Force

The Reaction Force is good. On that most Rhodesian operational men agree.

Backed by about 200 Cuban-crewed tanks — mostly T-34s but including some T-54s and a handful of T-55s — “Fred” also has on call dozens of Stalin organs with 122mm rockets, MiG-21 air cover and excellent electronic communications.

As one Rhodesian troopie put it: “You don’t tangle with ‘Fred’s’ Reaction Force. They work in groups of 100 men at a time and can be reinforced at short notice. When they’re after you, you get the hell out of there.”

Nor is “Fred” intimidated by Rhodesian spotting planes. “When they use RPG-7 rockets against our planes, it’s like something out of a World War II movie with air bursts exploding in the sky by the dozen,” the man said.

Raids into Zambia and Mozambique

There is one big difference between crossborder raids into Mozambique compared to similar excursions into Zambia.

In Zambia, most local tribesmen have little interest in the struggle between two opposing forces with whom they have nothing in common. Nkomo’s ZIPRA army is as alien — and often as frightening — to the average Zambian as is the Rhodesian. In Mozambique, in contrast, it’s something else. There, children have been taught to watch for the enemy; if alien tracks are spotted, they are reported immediately to the local Frelimo commissar. A Reaction Force follow-up results as a matter of course.

There have been some subtle changes within Rhodesia during the past half year.

Rhodesian troops admit that since a black government has come to power their commanders now have far more *laissez faire* to do with the enemy what they please than before. No longer are they constricted by “rules of the game,” previously the case under white rule. If a commander believes it’s in the interest of the war to wipe out an entire enemy unit, the final decision rests with him.



Auxiliary and SF Units

The formation of Group Five — headquarters of all auxiliary and special forces — under the command of Major Harvey, a former Rhodesian Special Air Services officer, is another new development. This comprises most of the so-called auxiliaries — former terrs — now fighting for the Salisbury government. Many auxiliaries stem from the “private armies” formed by black leaders, Prime Minister Muzorewa, the Rev. Sithole and Chief Chirau, prior to elections.

The elite of Group Five are constituted in Rhodesia’s newly formed Special Forces, rated by some as the successor to the Selous Scouts, now largely black, with only eight white officers commanding a large body of African troops. Even SAS personnel talk highly of Special Forces which counts within its ranks many of the hard-core terrorists who have defected from terrorist armies.

Ops are usually conducted on the basis of one white with four or five former terrs

to a stick. The results are effective enough to have Group Five acquire a good reputation in the short time it has been active. Ground recce work and intelligence are first rate.

One of the big attractions of the Special Forces is the money. Those selected to join this body receive between U.S. \$900 and \$1,000 a month, all allowances included, compared to the \$300 basic earned by the average Rhodesian troopie.

One of the most valued members of Special Forces is a former hard-core terrorist who fought against government forces for five years. He was never wounded or caught. In subsequent orientation lectures given to Rhodesian soldiers he disclosed that he even came to know some Fire Force call signs and knew a few of the more active officers in the field by their names.

On one occasion, he said, he lay within a meter of several men talking to their base by radio. He was not spotted.

Grey’s Scouts

Grey’s Scouts continue their security role, though their task these days is largely to patrol the length of the minefield, internal patrols and to protect the railway line stretching through Rhodesia from South Africa to Zambia and Zaire. Their tracking ability is acknowledged as first class.

The Greys were involved recently on the periphery of one of the best strikes yet. An RLI Fire Force was called in after Greys had spotted almost 100 terrs moving through a region. It was coincidental that an armored unit was also in the vicinity at the time which helped with the softening-up process.

Altogether there were 70 kills that day and some captures — for no security force losses.

Black Battalions

Rhodesia’s crack black battalions have also expanded. As planned, there are now 10 battalions “on paper,” with two or three still waiting to be formed. Of these

only the 1st and 2nd Battalion have retained their original elan; their ranks contain many of the oldtimers who saw action in Malaya and former Nyassaland (Malawi).

More recent intakes now receive six weeks' intensive training at the RAR barracks at Balla Balla; after that it's into the bush against ZIPRA or ZANLA with a hope and a prayer. It's these rookie units that have been taking casualties of late.

Rhodesia does now have its first batch of black officers, all of them drawn from the two elite RAR battalions and all of them fully commissioned lieutenants. Every one is highly rated by whites under their command. Bishop Muzorewa has made the point that his fellow countrymen will become leaders after they have been put through the same routine that has been followed by other Rhodesian officers for decades.

"I don't need to go to Russia to find my generals," he told a press conference in the United States.

Terrorist Activity

Terrorist efficiency, in the meantime, has improved marginally, though it is clear that the Mozambique-based ZANLA army — in particular — has suffered acutely from losses. Many of their best cadres have been decimated.

They did manage to bring down a chopper from 500 feet with ground fire recently, an incident which was unique in the war considering the height and one in which two young troopies who had seen their first action only the week before were killed.

ZIPRA, meanwhile, maintains a discreet profile, entering Zimbabwe-Rhodesia only occasionally and then with more intent to seek out ZANLA gangs than to do combat with security forces.

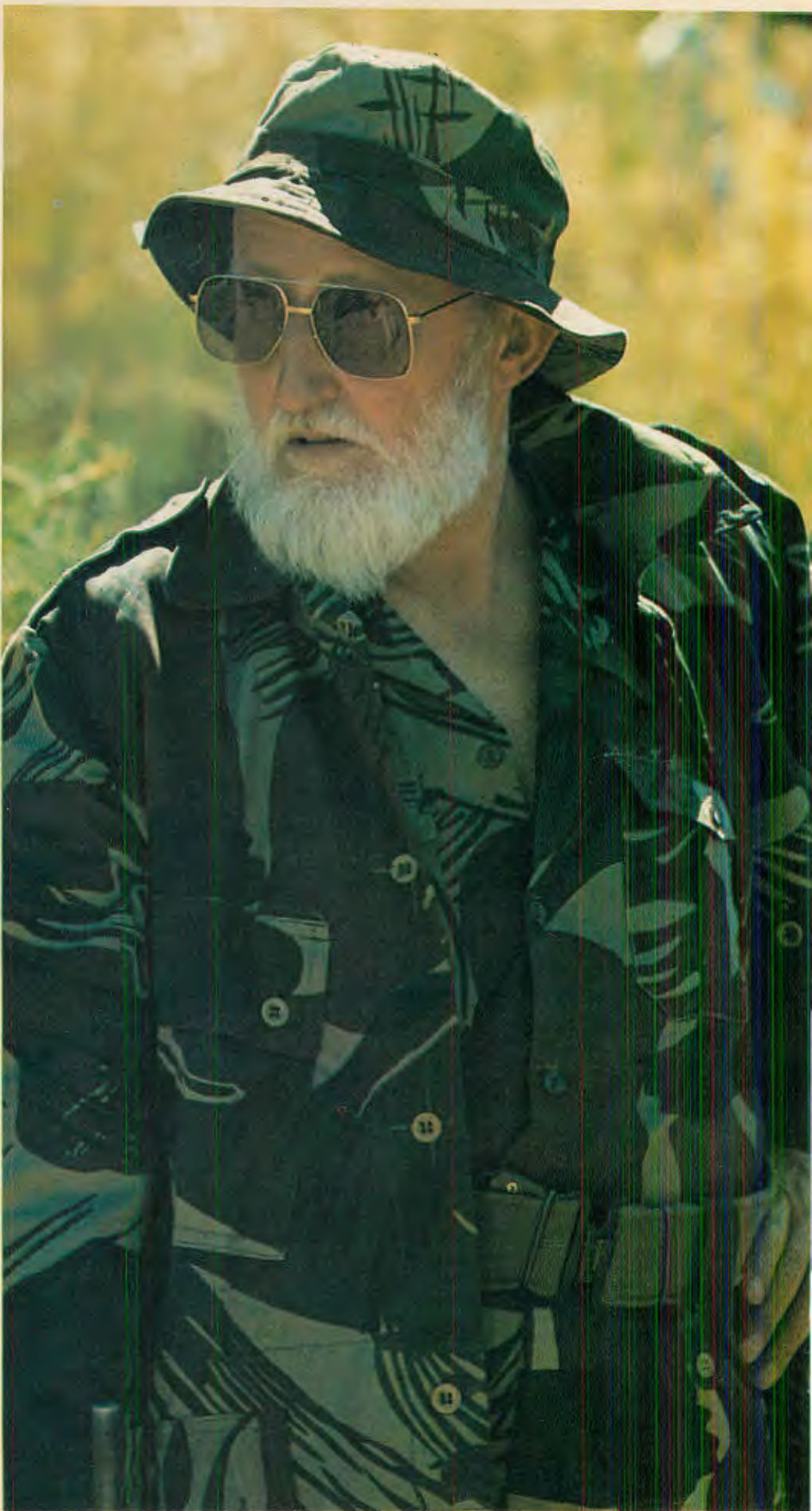
Named "Killer Groups," some of these units are more than 100-strong and have been formed specifically for the purpose of annihilating "opposition" terr units. Nkomo's units have been tasked with the additional chore of trying to kill members of the Salisbury government, black or white. Some have already infiltrated into the Salisbury residential area and "taken out" selected targets.

The largest terrorist unit encountered on Rhodesian soil to date numbered more than 150 men. It, too, was chased back to Mozambique.

There have also been a few subtle advancements in terr strategy. Their booby traps and landmine technology, for example, have improved considerably.

One black insurgent who defected from the Rhodesian Engineers to the terrorists, recently laid a landmine near Umtali using a piece of paper on the open tarmac to disguise his triggering device. His activating spring had been cut from an ordinary metal ammunition box and folded, to provide leverage.

Another sapper detonated landmines which were placed face-on — claymore



All Rhodesian men from 18 to 59 are mobilized as a matter of course. Here, an "old boy" in the police reserve is put through the paces. Darquennes.

fashion — to the road, along an embankment.

Two other terr engineers are known as Black Moses and Black September. Rhodesian engineers have come to appreciate the quality of their handiwork in much the same way as one good safecracker recognizes the professional traits of another.

There is evidence that terrorist units are still having trouble handling some items of Soviet weaponry. It is known, for instance, that terrorist anti-aircraft gunners cannot master the intricacies of the Russian 14.5mm sighting system, a vastly superior weapon to the more basic 12.7mm gun also used against aircraft in the Rhodesian sphere of operations.

The result is that the majority of terrs are deadly with the lighter weapon which is only half as effective as the 14.5mm gun — much to the relief of Rhodesian air force chopper and spotter pilots.

Security Problems

Security remains a problem in this war. Rhodesian security forces are compelled to change their codes by the day; and codes are signed out and the old ones checked in as a matter of routine. Still, there is the occasional security lapse such as when a major strike into Zambia not so long ago found only abandoned camps populated by women, children and old men.

In another incident which occurred in Umtali, personal letters belonging to one troopie — which disappeared while he was on Fire Force from a forward base guarded by black troops — were found intact several weeks later on the body of a terr killed in Mozambique.

Salisbury today boasts an array of the most sophisticated security systems in Africa.

The Rhodesian Special Branch has evolved into a huge organization devoted almost solely to military matters. There's some criticism among troops that it also involves itself in such activities as finding out which troopie has kept an AK magazine for a souvenir or which man should be placed under surveillance for commenting on poor leadership. There is also the Rhodesian Intelligence Corps which devotes its time to obtaining military intelligence and sifting through that which has come in.

By far the most effective elements in this field are the SIB or Special Intelligence Bureau and Counter-intelligence, both bodies highly regarded by those in the know. Much of the planning for external operations falls within their domain.

War Lessons

Many lessons applicable to South Africa's efforts further to the west along the Angolan border are being taught by this continuing war.

Rhodesian forces, for instance, have developed an incredibly efficient field

medical service, rated by experts to be as good as Israel's. Considering minimum evacuation time after a man has been hit and on-the-spot treatment of wounds, the average troopie has a good chance of survival even if the odds are long.

One reason for this pattern is because there is a higher than usual number of medically trained soldiers taking part in day-to-day operations. Every four- or five-man stick going out has a medical pack and someone along who knows how to use it. A rule of thumb is to keep the victim out of shock until he has been casevaced, and in this respect the ordinary IV is more important than drugs or pain killers.

One man explained: "If a wounded soldier loses consciousness, he loses the will to live. It's as simple as that. So keep him awake."

It was stressed that in every single casualty an IV was more important than first looking for wounds or stopping bleeding. More important, a man should be good enough to do at night by match-light what he can do in the day. "It's murder looking for a vein in the dark when the man's heart threatens to collapse. Sometimes we have to cut down to the vein with a scalpel," I was told.

Conscription Discontent

One of the biggest remaining friction points in Rhodesian society is the fact that whites from all strata of society are still called upon to spend six months of their year in the bush while their black counterparts do little or nothing as part of the war effort. There have been instances in the past year where blacks have been given jobs in Salisbury in preference to whites because it was known they would not be called out for military service.

This state of affairs breeds bitter discontent. It is not helped by a selective system of conscription which has recently been imposed on some black city dwellers.

The vast majority of black Rhodesians remain on the fence, contributing little to one side or the other.

Tribal Conflict?

Of the future, there is no telling. Opinions are as divided as the number of incidents in each day's operations. That ZIPRA and ZANLA are increasingly at each other's throats is a hopeful sign. In another sense it also bodes ill for the future since the one movement is largely Shona-orientated while the other, ZIPRA, receives much of its succor from the more militant though less populous Matabele tribe.

This conflict was described by one observer as a microcosm of the whole.

"Remove the fetters," he said candidly, "and you will have these two tribes slaughtering each other within a week. If that happens, the Rhodesian debacle promises to become one of the most dreadful civil wars Africa has yet seen. It'll make the Ugandan invasion seem like a preliminary bout by comparison."

Tanzanian Involvement?

There is also a parallel to be drawn with the Ugandan invasion involving Tanzanian troops.

It is known that President Nyerere was pleased at his army's performance in ousting the tyrant Amin. That done, it is said he is now turning his attention southward. And there are some who maintain he might try a similar tactic in Rhodesia, via Mozambique, where many of his units have been deployed in the past to help "Fred."

Should he initiate such a bold move, there might just be a surprise in store for Tanzanian forces the moment they cross the border.

There could also be a positive South African reaction on the part of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.



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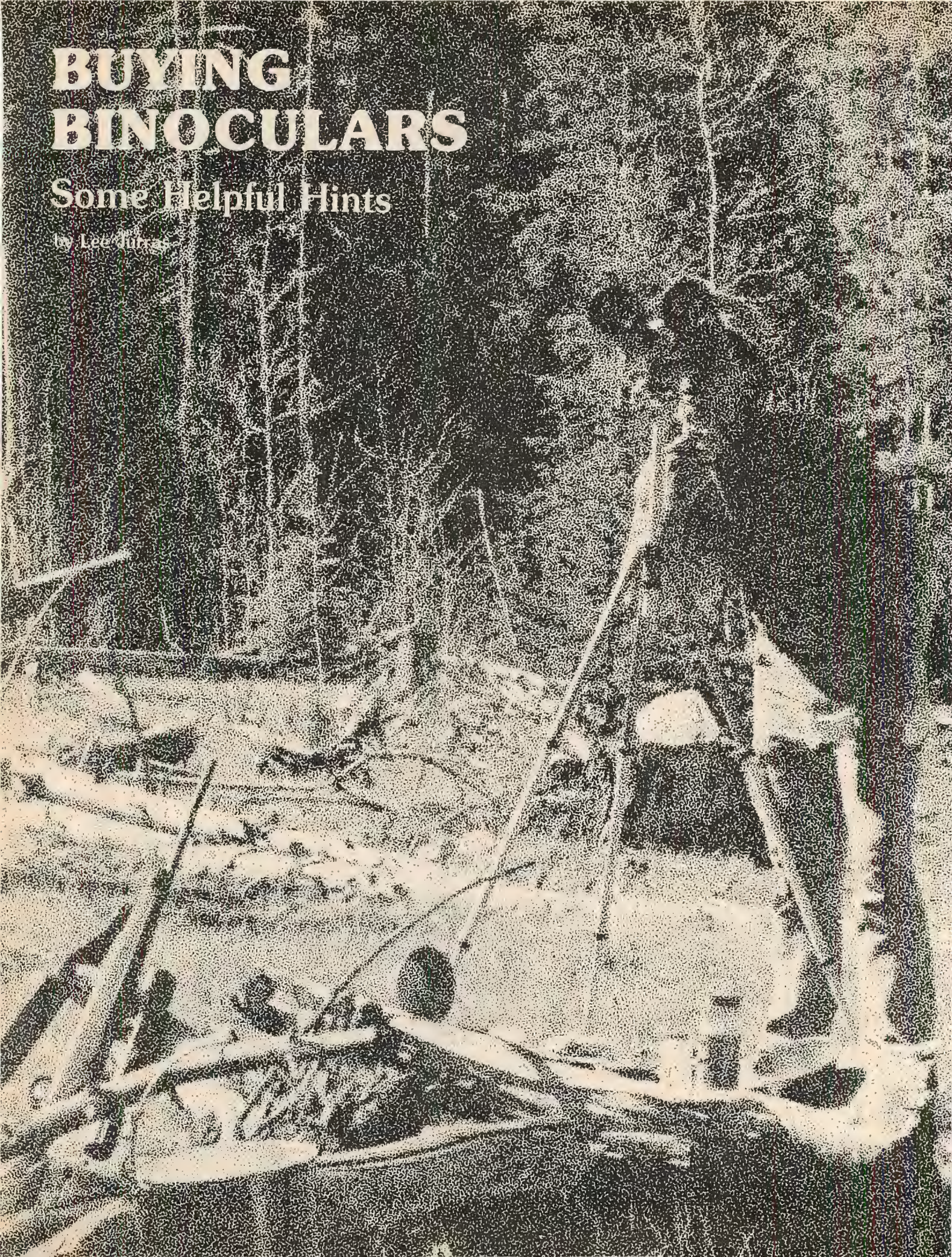


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BUYING BINOCULARS

Some Helpful Hints

by Lee J. Jones





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FOR the international sportsman/adventurer, buying a good pair of binoculars should be a once-in-a-lifetime event. Naturally, there are those who, because of their particular activities, can use two good pair: a lightweight all-around type and a "specialty" pair for unique situations. As with choosing a car, one finds vast differences between binoculars: size, weight, quality of optics, magnification, and last but not least, price. Depending on circumstances, some of these qualifications can be less important than others. In recent years, high-quality binoculars have generally become smaller and lighter. In some instances "shirt-pocket" size binoculars may give a clearer, sharper image than full-size jobs weighing a couple of pounds. Here are points to consider for potential purchasers to get the most from their binoculars:

MAGNIFICATION

A very obvious criterion. Let's rule out the general observer and birdwatcher and assume our potential user is a trained observer. With a little practice, anyone who seriously uses a pair of binoculars can learn to handle a minimum of eight-power and 10-power is better. While high magnification means great detail, it is not necessarily an indication of quality. Many models of questionable quality have 10X magnification.

OBJECTIVE LENS DIAMETER

This determines how much light enters the binocular. For serious low-light or possible night-time viewing, forget anything under 40mm diameter. The objective lens diameter usually has a significant bearing on the overall size of the binocular and must be taken into consideration. For strictly daylight use, an objective lens of 50mm diameter will probably let in more light than the eye can use. For daylight viewing only, an objective lens of 500mm diameter would be a case of overkill.

EXIT PUPILS

The exit pupil will be equal in size to the diameter of the objective lens divided by the binocular magnification. For example, on a 7x50 binocular the exit pupil is 7.14mm. There are two main advantages of large exit pupils; they fill your eyes with more light in dimly lit conditions as your pupils dilate, and in situations where it is impossible to keep binoculars steady, where motion causes binoculars to move up, down and sideways, small exit pupils can cause momentary blackouts. However, like large objective lenses, large exit pupils usually mean large size and weight.

To follow rapid motion, one of the lower magnifications is best: 6X to 7X, allowing one to hold the binocular steady while panning.

For long distance viewing, one needs high magnification for detail: a 10X is a must. But bracing is also a must for binoculars of this power when viewing for any length of time.

For dim light, good optics with top quality coatings and large objective lenses are a must. For the best, one must sacrifice weight and size.

WATERPROOF

Most good binoculars are "water-tight," for an occasional sprinkle. "Waterproof" binoculars can take a downpour, or getting dropped into a lake or stream. Most manufacturers provide charts showing the particular use for which each of their models is best suited.

I have carried the same pair of 8x30 Leitz "Trinovid" for the past decade, from the Alaskan peninsula to the Kalahari desert. This particular pair of binoculars embodies some of the best all-around qualities available while retaining mini-size and weight. Consequently, they have become the standard by which I compare all other binoculars I test.



"CELESTRON" GIANT BINOCULARS

RMS Inc., P.O. Box 4489, Boulder, CO 80306, carries under one roof a wide range of both standard and specialty optical equipment and much of it meets the rigid requirements of the SOF reader.

During the past couple of months I've been evaluating a very "specialized" pair of binoculars distributed by RMS. Manufactured under the trade name "Celestron," they are billed as 11x80 "Giant," Border Patrol, night-vision binoculars. At five pounds and 11 3/4 inches long, with 11-power magnification, massive 80mm objective lens, and exit pupils of 7.3mm, they embody the finest of night-vision qualities. For convenience of extended viewing, they come equipped with a tripod adapter bracket. For clandestine or night-time surveillance, none of the minis or larger 7x50s are in the same ball park. In fact, I found Celestrons far superior to most spotting scopes having 20X magnification in low-light-level conditions. If circumstances warrant their bulk and additional weight, anybody needing superior night or low-light-level vision should consider a pair of the 11x80 Giants. In all fairness to their size and weight, I found that with back support and by resting my elbows on knees or car door, these binoculars prove highly serviceable in 98 percent of all hand-held situations.

—L.J.

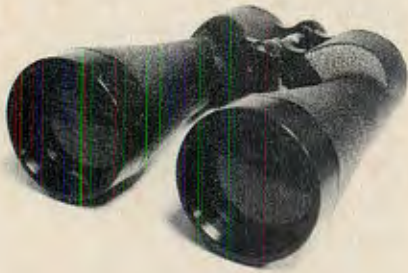
PERFORMANCE IN DIM LIGHT

The two accepted measurements for computing binocular performance in dim light are the "brightness index" and the

CELESTRON Binocular Specifications

	7x35	7x50	11x80
Magnification	7X	7X	11X
Objective Diameter	35mm	50mm	80mm
Angular Field	11°	7.5°	4.5°
Linear Field (at 1,000 yds.)	576 ft.	393 ft.	235 ft.
Near Focus (approx.)	13 ft.	19 ft.	30 ft.
Interpupillary Range	52-78mm	52-78mm	52-75mm
Exit Pupil	5.0mm	7.1mm	7.3mm
Relative Brightness	25.0	51.0	52.9
Twilight Factor	15.7	18.7	29.7
Relative Light Efficiency	41.3	84.2	79.4
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third, simple way multiplies the magnification times the diameter of the objective lens. Thus a 7x35 equals 245; the larger the number the more detail you'll see. As a rule of thumb, use the following to rate low-light-level conditions:

100-150—Suitable in full daylight only.

150-200—Dark shade and dim forest.

200-250—Adequate for dusk and dawn.

250-300—Good for dusk and dawn.

300-400—Good for bright moonlight.

400 & over—Good for night use.

FIELD OF VIEW

To my way of thinking, in a good pair of binoculars this is an over-used specification, usually stated in feet at 1,000 yards. The advantage of wide field of view comes from needing to move the binocular less, a useless option if the image is not sharp from edge to edge. Full field sharpness is a difficult and costly feature to achieve. Beware of low-price binoculars boasting a large field of view. They might only be sharp in the center.

IMAGE QUALITY AND SHARPNESS

The magnification, objective lens diameter, and relative brightness mean little without image quality and sharpness. This is where the price comes in. There are three separate optical assemblies inside a binocular: objective lens, prisms and eyepiece. These can be made of as many as 10 glass components or as few as five; a high quality binocular may use up to six different kinds of glass for them. Each binocular has inherent limitations, which can be corrected to varying degrees. As in all precision optical instruments, the degree of correction determines the quality, and is reflected in the final cost. Some of the things to look for are "lack of distortion" (lines at the top or edges of the lens that have a pronounced curve); "flatness of field" (no blurring of images at the edge of the lens); "color fringing" (most noticeable as a halo when viewing subjects against a bright background).

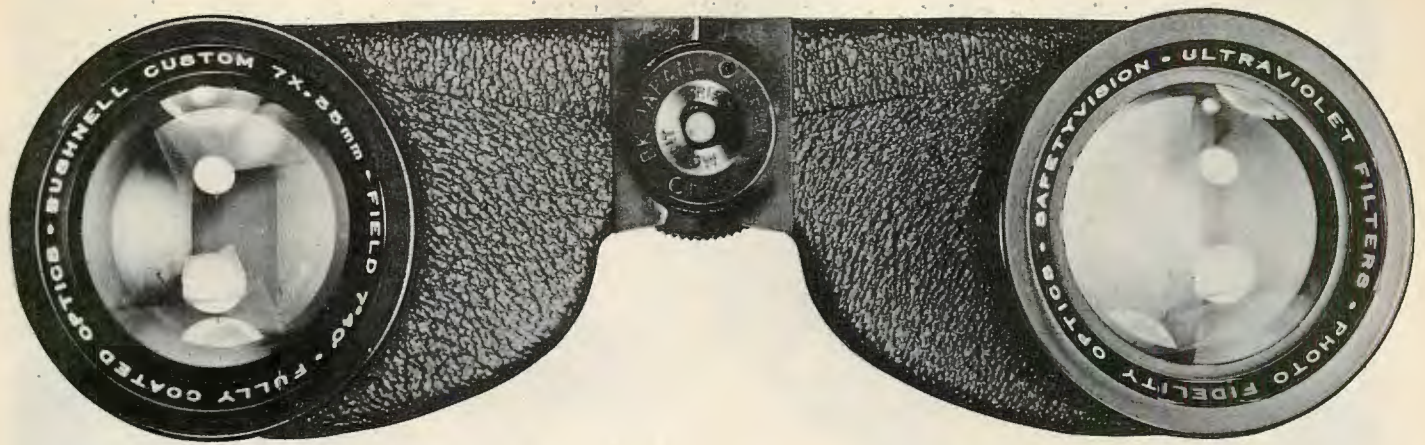


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A Close Look at What to Look For

J. Kenneth Brown

BINOCULARS can do three things: make things closer, make things brighter, and look good hanging around your neck.

There is no one firearm that is best for all situations, and the same is true for binoculars. No matter what you choose, it will be a compromise of all your needs. However, by following some simple guidelines, you can reach the best compromise for your individual situation.

POWER = MAGNIFICATION

Power is another way of saying magnification. It is also the most abused of the criteria used to sell glasses.

Binoculars are referred to as 6x35, 7x50, 8x40, etc. 7X, 8X, and 10X refer to the power of the glass — the magnification. 7X glasses will make an object appear seven times larger than a naked-eye

view. Consequently it will appear seven times closer.

The higher the power the better the binocular. Not true.

The higher the power the smaller the field of view. True.

The higher the power the lower the brilliance. True.

The higher the power the greater the shakes. True.

As binoculars increase in power, they not only magnify the object being viewed, they also magnify the motion of the hand holding them. Compound this by an unsteady viewing platform, and the use of binoculars above seven power can be difficult, if not impossible. Generally, 7X is best for use aboard land vehicles, small boats, and planes. 8X to 10X is good for

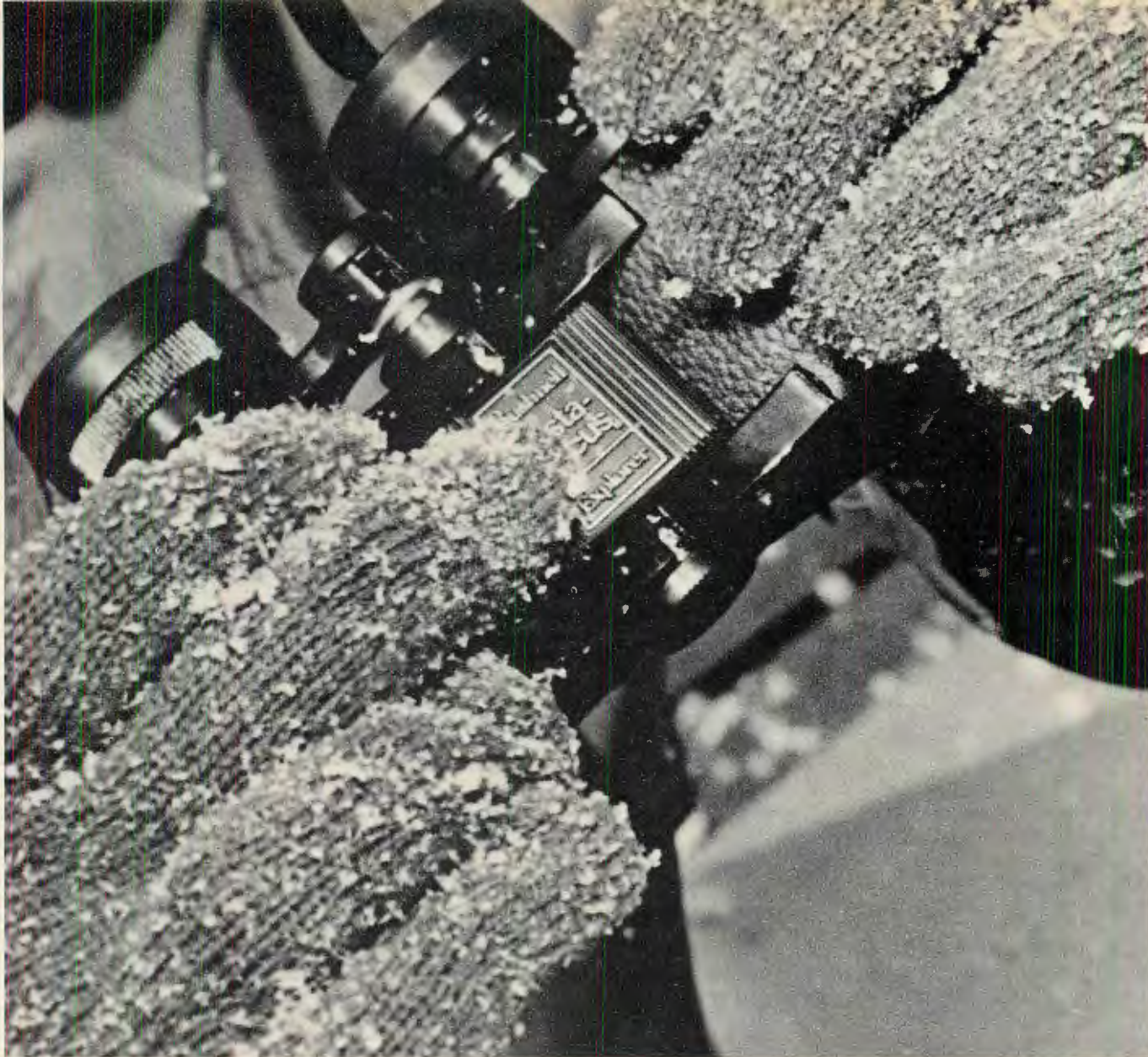
daytime surveillance from fixed positions, scouting distant areas, and for use in viewing brightly lighted night areas. It will also require a tripod or rest of some kind when used for periods exceeding about five minutes.

FIELD OF VIEW

Field of view (FOV) refers to the width seen through the glasses. It is important to realize that the higher the magnification the more narrow the FOV. It is also important to realize that the lower the magnification the wider the FOV. You can see a lot of one particular thing or a lot of different things at once but never both at the same time.

Line-up of Pentax roof-prism binoculars. Prices range from about \$200 to \$950.





Slide or rocker focusing is faster than knobs, easier to use with gloves. Takes getting used to, but worth it.

Field of view refers to the amount seen through the binoculars. It varies tremendously with the binocular's quality, design, and power. Just as you lose clarity and light with increased magnification, you also lose FOV.

FOV is measured either in degree angles or the diameter of the viewing area at 1,000 yards. This last measurement is being adopted as the industry's standard and is the easiest to understand and compare. Test yourself — which means most to you — $7^{\circ} 16'$ or 381 feet at 1,000 yards?

FOV is directly related to the design of the eyepiece. It's also directly related to viewing comfort and price. It's much more expensive to make good wide-angle glasses, and you still don't get the same picture you get with "standard" glasses.

What's "standard" and "W.A."? There's no set rule but 375 feet at 1,000 yards would be standard, 475 feet would be W.A., 575 feet would be classified Ex-

tra W.A. A good test of W.A. glasses is to look square-on at a brick wall and without moving the glasses examine the picture. Look for bent bricks at 10, 2, 4, and 8 o'clock.

The numbers game is easy to play. Just as .30-06 has a meaning (caliber .30 adopted in 1906) so does 7x50, RLE 50.4 angular field $7^{\circ} 16'$, linear field 381', exit pupil 7.1mm. Power (7X), angular field, and linear field have already been discussed. Let's take the rest in order.

Objectives are the front lenses. They have one function: to collect light. Essentially optical devices are light funnels. The bigger the objective the more light it collects. Objectives are measured in millimeters of diameter. It is the second number in designating binoculars. E.g., 7x35 means seven power with a 35mm objective.

Under daylight conditions on a steady surface 35mm objectives are all anyone would want or need. One manufacturer claims you can see an apple on a tree at $\frac{3}{4}$ mile with their top of the line. 7x50s in daylight? Hang on, we'll get there.

EXIT PUPILS & RELATIVE BRIGHTNESS

Relative brightness and exit pupil are probably the most important factors in buying binoculars. They are determined mathematically and generally overlooked or misunderstood. The term relative brightness is an excellent tool with which to compare binoculars.

The exit pupil is the cylinder of light that comes out of the eyepiece and is visible when the binoculars are held at arm's length. The diameter of the exit pupil is used to compute relative brightness. To do this you square the exit pupil, i.e., multiply the exit pupil times itself.

The 7mm exit pupil corresponds to the dark-adapted pupil. This makes the 7x50s good night glasses. You can actually see more with the 7x50s than with the naked eye. The only way to improve this is to go with light amplification (Starlight scopes), infra-red (Snooperscopes), or astronomy-type telescopes with giant light collectors.

An eye with a 4mm pupil will let in a cone of light 4mm wide. A pair of binoculars with an EP of about 4mm will give

no brighter image than the naked eye. Since a 7x35 has an exit pupil of 5mm (35 ÷ 7), it is all you need for daylight. 7x50s won't give a brighter picture in daylight but will be extremely valuable on moving platforms. The 7mm exit pupils give a wider cylinder of light. As the boat pitches or vehicle bounces the smaller pupil size can move around inside the 7mm circle and get full illumination. Weight is seldom a factor in using glasses on a vehicle.

Relative Light Efficiency (RLE) describes the increased light transmission by coated-optics roof prisms, and other new advances. 8x40 Trinovid binoculars are rated to give the same light transmission that conventional 8x50s would give. Some authorities believe that they do.

Light transmission has been improved up to 50 percent over earlier lenses by the use of lens coatings. If your lens has a bluish or yellowish blush don't rub it off — it's a special coating. Don't blow on lenses either — you'll deposit minute particles of saliva on the lens, which dry and leave traces of minerals that are impossible to remove. They cause an over-all graying of the image. Use a camel's hair brush sold for photographers.

PROPER MAINTENANCE

Probably half of binoculars' problems come from misuse. I can't understand how some of my friends can spend hours tuning rifles, practice shooting for months, and then expect to get top performance out of their glasses which they haven't touched since they threw them on the shelf last season.

Match shooters depend on at least two things for a steady sight picture: mass (weight) and a spot hold. The same is true for getting a good binocular picture.

Heavy binoculars will bounce less than light ones, just a heavy barrel will shoot better than a light one. The "old timers" remember when 1200-yard shots were SOP with the BAR at 10 kg. It was also SOP to get someone else to carry it.

The same holds true for glasses. I've seen more with my 7x18, 7-oz. binoculars than with the 7x50 at 84 ounces. The biggies stay with the boat.

A spotweld between your glass and headbone is necessary for clear, prolonged viewing. Use trigger fingers between the eyebrow and glasses or thumbs on the bone underneath the eyes. Develop your own techniques to best adjust to the glass-terrain-face situation.

Focusing is important. It also is enhanced with the new rocker or slide focusing which speeds up the process. One must still know how to focus properly.

FOCUSING

Binoculars have two types of focusing: central or individual-eye focusing.

Central has a knob between the barrels. It is the fastest, most common, and most liable to damage. Individual-eye focusing

is slower, more robust, more waterproof, and least likely to be changed when taped in place. If you are the major user and are watching at a given distance, a piece of tape around each eyepiece will make sure they're right-on, instantly.

Slide or rocker focusing is faster than knobs and easier to use with mittens. Bushnell calls theirs "Insta-Focus," and Swift, not surprisingly, "Swift-Focus."

Focusing is as important as windage and elevation on the range. In fact, as I was writing this article I got a call from a member of the local constabulary who kept getting headaches on a stake-out — a combination of improper focusing and holding of his glasses giving him eye strain.

As you look through your glasses, usually the left eyepiece is solid. The only way to focus it is to turn the focusing knob. Close the right eye while doing this or the right lens cap over the right objective. Focus on a distant object.

Move the lens cap to the left side and focus the right side by twisting the eyepiece. Remove the lens cap and fine adjust. Note where the right eyepiece is set. There is a scale of zero, plus, and minus. This reading stays the same no matter what the range and is about the same among different models. Adjustment is necessary about once a year.

Want the fine edge between a good and excellent picture? Take a tip from astronomers. As you focus, turn the focusing wheel a little beyond what you need and then focus back to put pressure against the focuser and take up any slack.

Focusing Leitz Trinovid binoculars is similar but their individual eye adjustment is located between the barrels, as is the over-all focuser. If you get a set of them, practice — it's confusing until you can remember which is the overall focuser.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

Eyeglass wearers have been unable to get a good picture until recently. The new binoculars have rubber fold-down eyecups so glass wearers see the same pictures as those without glasses.

If you have only one-eye vision or difficulty carrying a heavy or bulky object, try a monocular. With the new roof-prism monoculars an 8X glass can be carried in a shirt pocket. The 10X fits into briefcases nicely. Many are sold to cops and construction superintendents for this reason.

With reasonable care — putting the glasses in a case, use of lens caps, and correct cleaning of the lenses — your investment should last a lifetime.

Don't be bashful. Try other glasses. Compare them. Take them out of the store unless you plan to do your hunting inside.

Astronomers have a saying about eyepieces: You'll be satisfied with what you've got — until you look through a better one.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

OPTICS have been Ken Brown's hobby for decades, an interest he's turned into an after-school business. Now an Illinois phys. ed. and science teacher, Brown designs, builds and uses optical equipment to scan both sky and earth. His firm, Brown Telescopes of Elgin, Ill., manufactures specialized optical equipment. Brown has also worked as a consultant to local law enforcement agencies, explaining proper use of optical equipment for specific assignments.

A long-time shooter, Brown competes in local pistol matches. As a Marine in 1957, he qualified as expert with the M1. He is presently working on a spotting scope capable of picking up .223 caliber holes at 300 yards.

Brown declares, "My knowledge of the availability, limitations and problems of optical wares and their use by shooters and adventurers gives me a unique chance to help the out-of-doors public."
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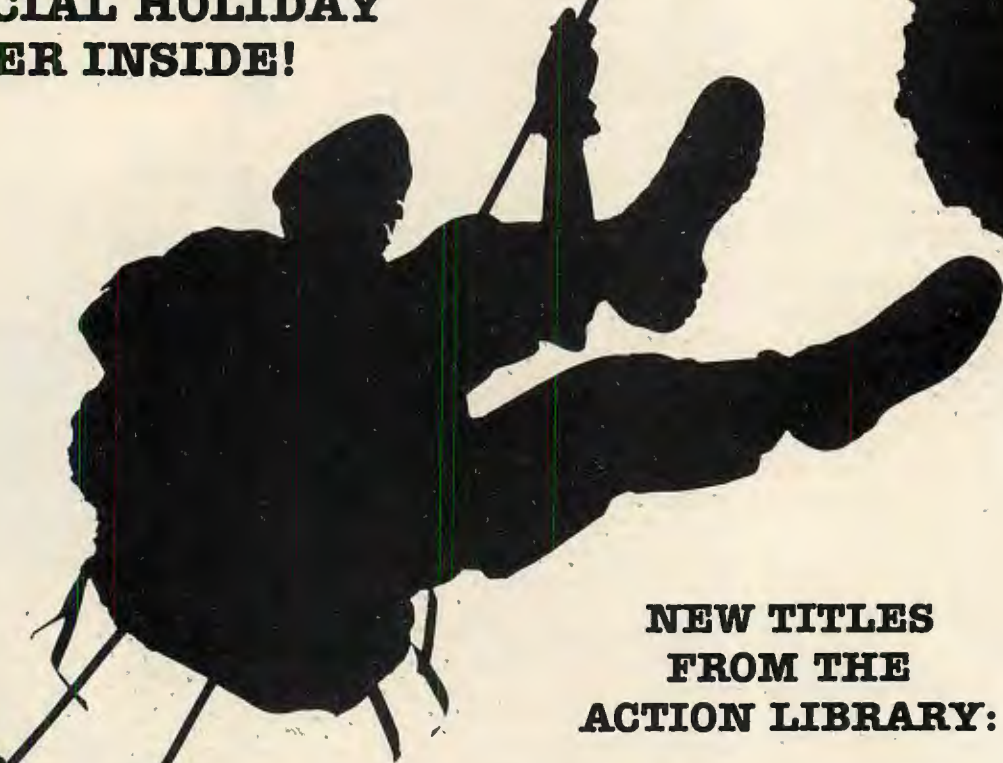
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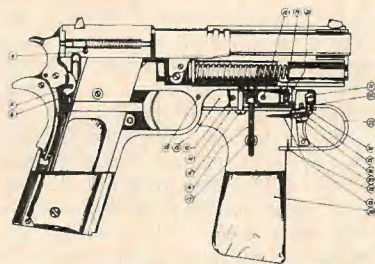
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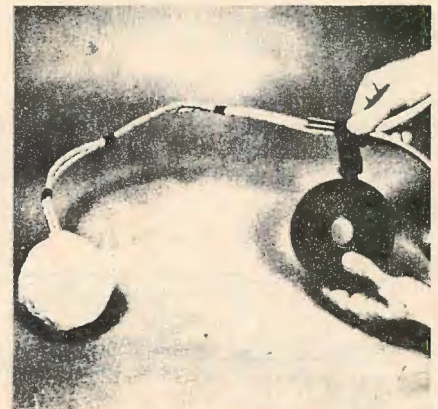
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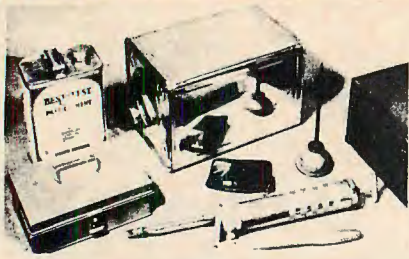
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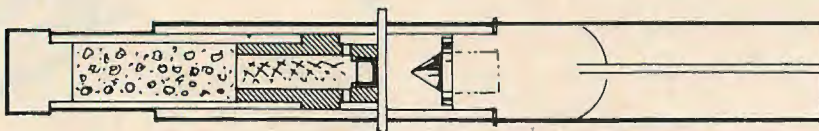
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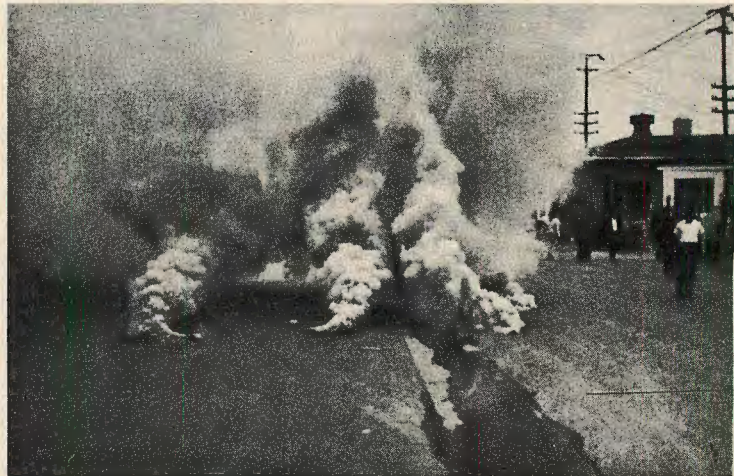


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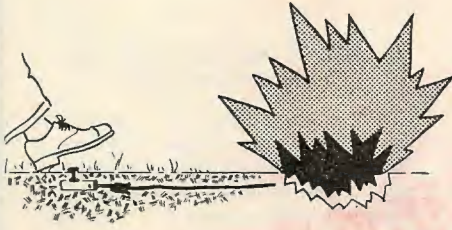
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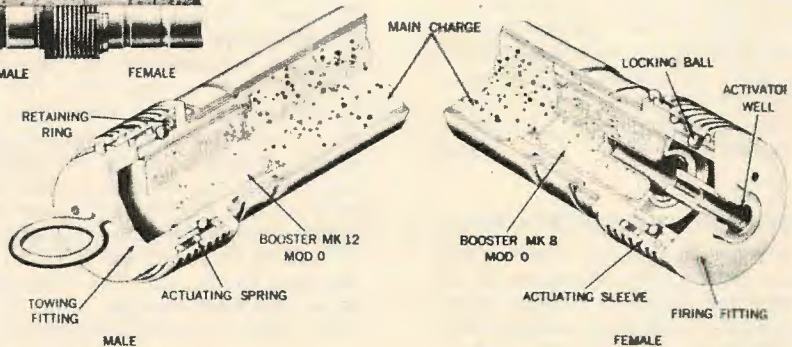
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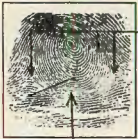
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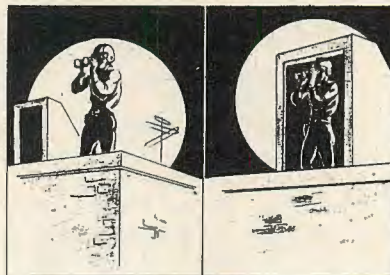
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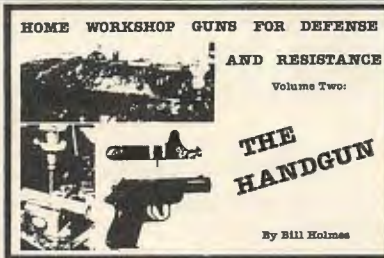


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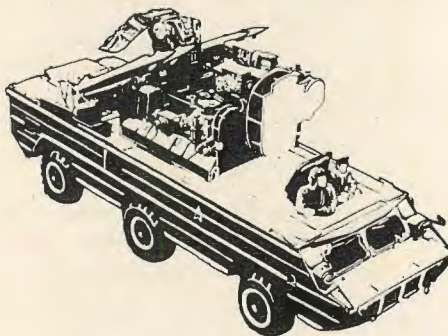
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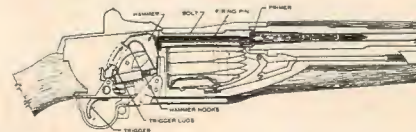
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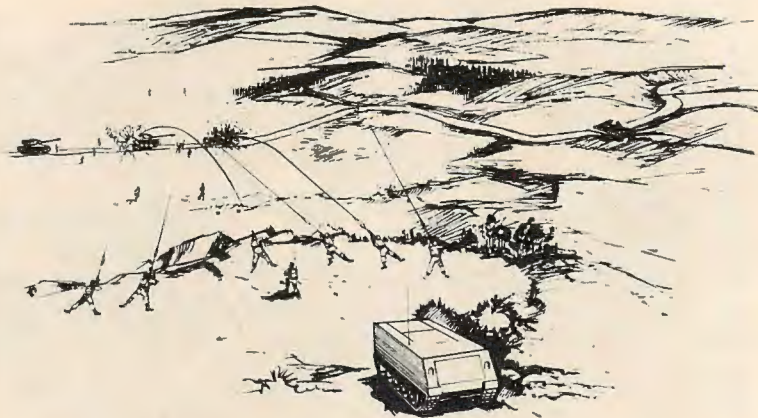
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SNATCHED FROM DEATH'S JAWS

Chopper Rescue in Vietnam

by Nick Uhernik

GODDAMN traitor oughta be shot!" yelled one of the squad sergeants at the small group of soldiers clustered around the pool table. I had just entered the barracks, but it was obvious whom he was talking about. One of the privates turned the page and resumed reading out loud about Jane Fonda's latest trip to Hanoi, but the sergeant grabbed the newspaper from his hands and tossed it out the window.

"Well, I'd give a month's pay to punch her lights out," added the sergeant. "And another month's pay for the privilege of stretching her scrawny neck with a rope!" He spat on the floor to emphasize his point.

I piled my gear on the floor next to the pool table and dropped heavily into a dusty leather chair next to the old shrapnel-riddled TV set that no longer worked. "Sooner or later the commies will be done

with her, and they'll kick her out," I said. "She's just another puppet."

The sergeant tried to appear calm as he concentrated on the pool game. He shouldn't lose his cool in front of the men, but his emotions soon won out, and he swung his pool stick against the TV. Glass and splinters flew across the room. Then he stormed out the door, muttering, "Fuck this place and Jane Fonda anyway!"



One of many side trails along plantation district, patrolled here by MPs of 18th MP Brigade.



MP patrols plantation area northeast of Saigon with 12-gauge Ithaca shotgun.

I opened a can of beer and settled back to watch two more sergeants as they racked up balls for another game. The other men sat in private groups discussing favorite topics, as if nothing had happened.

Things were always that way in Saigon. It was usually too hot outside to get upset about current events, especially since the cease-fire had been signed and we would all be home soon. It was mid-February, and the heavy rains of 1973 had yet to appear.

One of the privates began discussing the problems he was encountering trying to get together a dowry for his Vietnamese girlfriend when the lieutenant walked in.

"Okay, everybody clear out except the following personnel..." He read off four names, including mine, and the others slowly filed out of the room, some of them cracking jokes about our "mysterious" mission and shaky future. As members of the 18th Military Police Brigade, we knew that our leader could have just about anything up his sleeve.

The lieutenant walked over to the door as the last man left, and locked it. Four QCs (ARVN MPs) appeared through the rear door and leaned against the pool table. I exchanged quizzical looks with the others, wondering if we were in some kind of trouble. All I could think of was the big bar fight two weeks earlier when we had torn the place up during a brawl with some South Korean soldiers.

"Gentlemen," the lieutenant started, "I know you're all wondering why you're here. Well, first off, you're not in any kind of trouble, so loosen up." He tacked a map of MR-2 up on the bulletin board and lit a Vietnamese cigarette. One of the QCs turned our way and made a disgusted face at the lieutenant's gesture toward easing culture-shock, and I had to laugh.

"I know you'd rather be downtown screwing your girlfriends and I know it's your day off. Well, that's why you're

here. It seems everybody else is out screwing their girlfriends, and those not off are manning the static posts or on patrol."

We forced a laugh.

"We've got a mission for you," he continued. "A very important one." He looked us in the eye like we were his own kids and he was sorry he was leaving mommy.

"South Vietnamese infantrymen, covered by U.S. warplanes, stalled a major communist push into the Saigon area last night and this morning in the Michelin rubber plantation."

We knew the place.

"Fighting is continuing this evening," he said. "You can hear it right now." He was right. Artillery kept blasting away every second and now and then the barracks walls shuddered slightly.

"Luckily for us, it seems the two NVA regiments involved are pulling back deeper into the rubber tree groves to escape air and artillery strikes." The lieutenant turned away and walked toward the map on the wall.

"But sir, what can the four of us do?" asked one man.

"We've got an American officer trapped in there and the Viets want us to get him out."

"Okay, I'll lay it on the line. This battle is between the Vietnamese. The only American involvement is in the air — except for one small detail." He frowned. "We've got an American officer trapped in there. He's under advisor status now that the war is supposedly over, but he's still being shot at, and the Viets want us to go in there and get him out."

"Shit," came a sarcastic whisper from the back of the room.

"He's a young butter-bar who fucked up by trying to be a hero before his time. Now he's up on that hill all by himself — probably cold meat by now — and Charlie's amusing himself by taking pot shots at the poor guy. Your job is simple—"

"*Bullshit!*" The lieutenant's eyes remained on the map, as he ignored the remarks and continued.

"We're going to give you two of our best gun jeeps and send you out to rescue that asshole." He paused to let the words sink in.

"In other words, we're expendable because we're the company hotdogs," said Ray Rodgers, who was up for sergeant.

"In other words, if you make it back we'll probably give you a Bronze Star, and if you don't, we'll send a purple heart home to mommy and daddy." He smiled, but nobody was laughing. "Like I said, this guy was in charge of 20 ARVNs, but he is one of us, so we're going to do our best to get him out. Or I should say that *you* are going to do *your* best to get him out of that mess."

"Whatta you mean he was one of us?" grinned Rodgers. "He was an officer." He smiled, and a couple of the guys forced another laugh.

"Is an officer," corrected the lieutenant. "Anyway, I want you to meet somebody," he said, motioning one of the QCs to stand up. A smile creased our faces. We knew the young man.

"This is Hoang Khoa," he said. "He'll be in charge of the Vietnamese MPs." But the young ARVN needed no introduction as far as Rogers and I were concerned. We had worked many long nights out on static posts and town patrol with him, and he was one of our closest friends.

"Hello Khoa," I said, and we shook hands warmly.

"Okay, cut the reunion," said the lieutenant. "We've got a tough job ahead of us, and time is running out. Everybody outside!"

On the way down to the motorpool, he continued the briefing. "Khoa here has been drafted as your guide. I know you've all been down on Plantation Road many times, but he knows the exact position of our man, and he can also serve as translator should you get bogged down at a roadblock."

None of us had any objections.

"I wish I could go with you," said the lieutenant as our jeeps arrived from TMP and we piled into them. I slid behind the wheel and Rodgers loaded the M-60 machine gun mounted in the rear. Khoa slid a fresh magazine into his carbine and hopped in the front seat, while a second QC assisted Rodgers. My M-16 was on my left, and I had my .45 locked and fully loaded.

"Move it, MP! Code 3 all the way!"

"Good luck, men!" the lieutenant yelled as I started the souped-up jeep.

The big engine rumbled, and as we drove by some of the guys who were outside the arms room cleaning their weapons, the first sergeant bawled, "Move it, MP! Code 3 all the way!"

I hit the lights and traffic moved aside as we barreled down Sill Street.

"Watch this," said Khoa, and he flipped on the siren as we zipped through one of the check-points. An old papa-san, his feet propped up on an oil drum, shotgun balanced across his lap, was so rudely awakened that his chair tipped over backwards and he went crashing to the ground. Khoa let out a roar of laughter and the MPs assigned to the outpost gave a thumbs-up farewell as we left MACV through the Knox Street gate.

I was sweating even with the cool breeze whipping past us, and I knew I shouldn't have been. There were MPs up north who did this sort of thing every day. I kept telling myself that, but it didn't help much.

A few minutes later I killed the siren, for traffic congestion eased as we drove farther and farther from the main city. The rotating red lights moved people over fast enough.

I soon turned even those off as Saigon's lights faded behind us. I didn't want to attract any attention to our speeding jeep. The headlights were painted yellow, and that helped. Soon only a few roadside huts boasted a flickering lantern, and they were so sparse that the darkness seemed to be swallowing us.

Explosions ahead of us grew louder and louder, and we could see the horizon light up now and then. A helicopter passed overhead, its giant spotlights throwing wide beams back and forth across the fields below. Three flares popped high above us, and one broke free from its chute and plummeted to the ground like a big, smoky, falling star.

"We have them stopped," said Khoa, competing with the engine noise. "But the fighting is close, very close."

We passed a group of Popular Forces, sitting around a campfire and smoking cigarettes with no labels. Their rifles lay stacked in front of them or slung over their backs. Only one returned my wave.

"About 1,600 North Vietnamese of the 7th Division's 209th and 141st regiments were moving into the Saigon corridor under jungle cover when discovered by our men," Khoa explained, sounding like a news correspondent. His fluent English was heavily accented. I half expected him to pull out a wall map and point at our objective with a polished swagger stick.

"Captured documents indicate the communists were under orders to avoid contact and work close into the capital area prior to the cease-fire. At least two battalions of our soldiers are engaged in the plantation fighting, and another five battalions of ground troops and armored units are moving up as reinforcements."

The explosions ahead suddenly stopped, and for a few minutes we rode in silence. We left Highway 1 and proceeded northeast along 117. Small-arms fire erupted in the distance, the horizon lit up; and the artillery started booming away again.

"We're almost there," Khoa said, anticipation in his eyes.

I could see Rodgers' hands tightening on the M-60, the knuckles white with pressure. He had been standing the whole trip so far — he was ready. I kept telling myself I was also.

Hot-pink tracers knocked a sniper from a tree.

Something smacked the side of the jeep, but we weren't sure if it was a VC bullet or just a rock thrown up from our spinning tires. We were on a gravel road now, heading up a steep hill. I slowed the jeep to a comfortable 40 m.p.h.

And then we were there.

On the other side of the hill, a group of ARVNs were pushing back a line of Viet Cong. Before Khoa directed me down a side trail, I watched as hot-pink tracers knocked a sniper from a tree 100 feet up.

This new trail plummeted deep into the mangroves, and we were constantly hit and whipped by vines and branches. We had received no fire yet, and Khoa told me to coast down under a thatch of rubber trees and wait while he and Rodgers tried to contact the lieutenant by radio.

After a few minutes, they gave up. It was impossible to raise him, or anybody else for that matter. Even with the squelch completely off, all we could hear was static.

"He's probably dead," said Rodgers, stating what all of us were afraid to think. "We'll make a quick grid search and then

beat feet back to the city. Lead the way, Khoa!"

We wandered through an unfamiliar trail for about 400 yards, then came back out on the main road. We crossed a hill and climbed a grassy plateau, and it was just beginning to seem like we were leaving all the fighting behind when a flare popped overhead and sporadic rifle fire erupted ahead of us.

As we reached the edge of the plateau, four more flares were launched, and the scene before us took on a haunting glow. A vast valley lay below us, and the road dropped in a straight line to the bottom, then climbed the distant hills and disappeared in the dark perimeter outside the flare-lit canyon. About 300 yards down that road was our lieutenant.

"Yep," whispered Rodgers as he focused his binoculars on a raised bunker, "that must be him — at least I'm pretty sure it's an American."

"We race right down there and scoop him up."

It was now or never.

"Okay," I said. "Let's hear how you wanna do it."

"Easy," said Rodgers, not looking very confident. "We race right down there, scoop him up, and race right out again." Khoa and I exchanged doubtful looks. We were both wondering if this guy was crazy after all.

"Yah, well, I just hope that dude doesn't open up on us!" said one of the other MPs, and we all nodded our heads in agreement.

The lieutenant was holed up inside a circle of sandbags piled up on top of an old Conex bunker. Once or twice a flash in the surrounding jungle would show where a sniper was planted. The lieutenant rarely shot back. He was probably low on ammunition.

"Okay, GI," smiled Khoa. "It's now or never!"

"If this is successful, we better get a week off when we return to Charlie Company," muttered Rodgers. I knew what he was referring to. Our lieutenant had graduated from the same class as the officer down in the bunker. This mission had not received the captain's approval. In fact, he probably was not even aware of it. We were pawns in an old game of friendship, but it didn't matter.

"You don't want to go out like some candle in the wind, do you?" I asked, quoting Dylan Thomas. "Rage against the dying of the light!" And I raised my clenched fist in the air and suddenly wished I had a bottle of beer to blame my foolishness on. I settled back into the seat and watched as a young panther leapt across the trail and disappeared within the tangled brush. A flare hanging low in the sky finally fizzled out, and as the shadows

returned to the land, you could see her green eyes glowing softly behind the reeds as she moved cautiously in search of prey. She ignored us and seemed oblivious of the exploding mortars that fell within 100 yards of her hunting grounds.

"Stupid cat has just got to be shell-shocked," whispered Rodgers, but I barely heard him.

I was thinking back to what Sgt. Mills, one of my old drill sergeants back at the MP Academy, had once told me. He was always telling stories about Vietnam and giving me advice. He knew I was the only one in the battalion going over to 'Nam — the last MP to be sent from Ft. Gordon, Ga., straight into a combat zone. Once he had been in a similar situation: a half mile of straight road lay ahead of him, and he decided that the fastest way to go from point A to point B was simply to "duck and go like hell!" The gunner on his jeep had ducked too, not firing a shot, and the VC had let them go right by without any trouble.

I doubted if it would work for us, but we'd try it too. I killed the headlights and started down the hill.

I remember it clearly. My eyes were glued to the speedometer, and just as it hit 50 m.p.h. a bullet came crashing through our windshield. Rodgers went wild with the M-60. The roar was deafening. We were going too fast for him to take aim effectively on a hidden target, and as the resistance we met increased, my inner doubts began to multiply rapidly and I wanted to turn back. I wanted to race back to Saigon and get smashed at Mimi's Bar and watch a French movie with Chinese dubbing, but my hands were frozen to the steering wheel and my foot was glued to the floorboard.

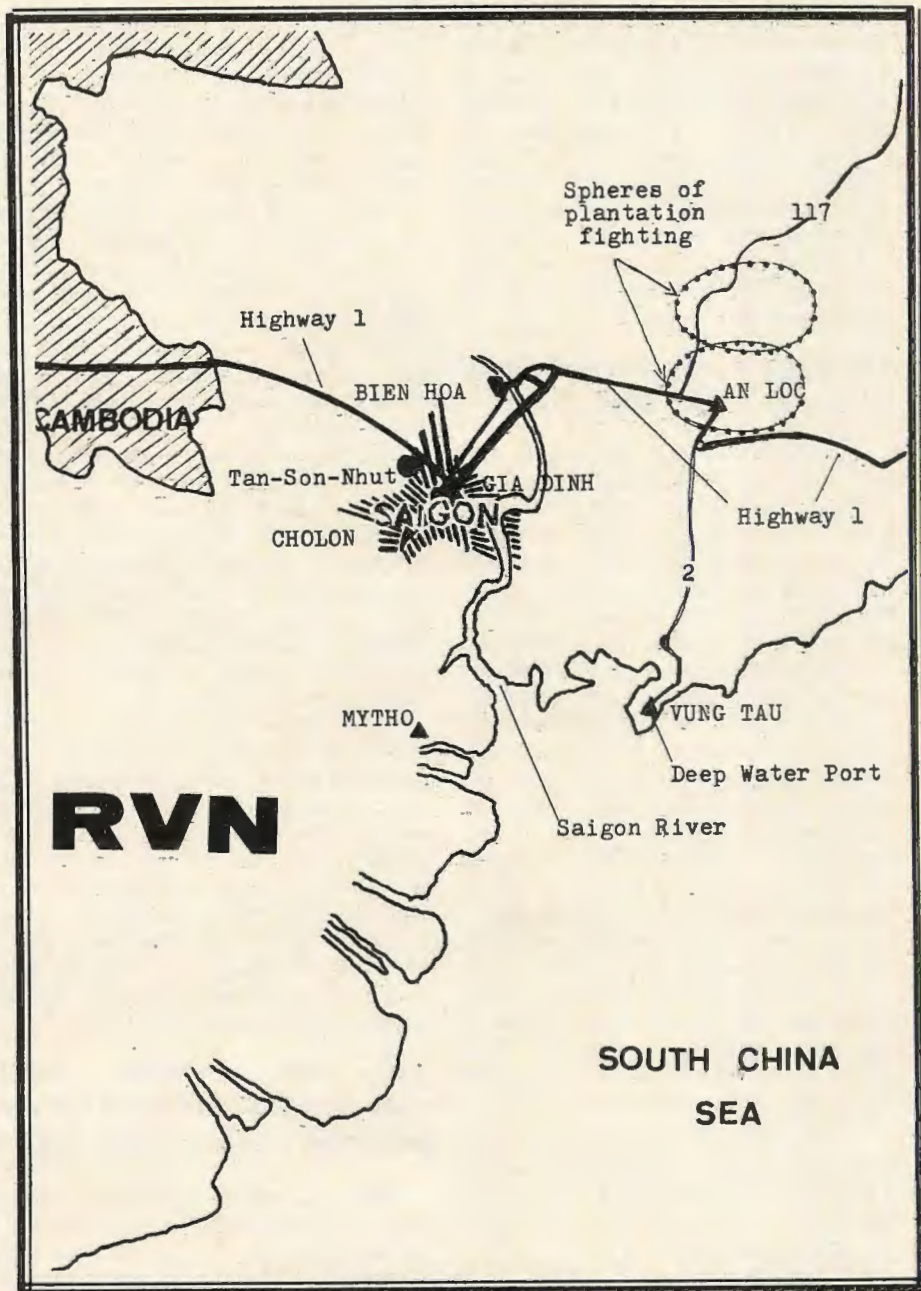
Almost immediately a dozen flares exploded overhead, and I cursed my platoon commander who had said the enemy never shot flares at night. The bunker ahead was suddenly growing bigger and coming closer and closer far too quickly, and I had to smash down onto the brake to avoid hitting it. The skid alone took us 50 feet past the Conex. I threw the gears into reverse. Dirt flew as tires spun and the jeep growled angrily, moving backwards toward the bunker.

Suddenly the night was a whirlwind of dust. Leaves and twigs and branches rose in a giant deafening gust, and for a long 10 seconds I couldn't see two feet in front of me because of the funnel.

A helicopter!

The chopper was coming right down on top of us.

It was impossible, but a chopper was coming right down on top of us. It was one of ours, but suddenly a machine gun burst came showering down on the hood of our jeep, and we all scrambled for



Army MPs were used to all sorts of excitement in the Saigon environs but large-scale fighting in the jungle near An Loc was something else again.

cover. I couldn't believe it: one of our own gunships was shooting at us! One of the QCs hit the red lights and siren, but the electrical power faded and Rodgers was yelling over the loudspeaker, "Military police! Military police! You are firing on friendly forces! You are firing on..."

The rain of lead stopped and the nose of the Huey dropped as its power increased. The rotors began slapping at the air and reeds were flying about and cutting through our thin uniforms like long green swords. And then it was gone.

"Well, how do you like that shit!" I was saying. "I don't believe what I just saw!"

The helicopter returned in a few seconds and buzzed back and forth over our

location, then hovered directly over the bunker and began to lower a rope ladder.

"Oh hell! yelled Rodgers behind me. "Khoa! Khoa!" I turned to find Khoa lying in the back of one of the jeeps in a pool of blood. Whether he had taken a bullet from the American gunship, or the Viet Cong snipers, we didn't know. The QCs were running from cover and crowding over his limp figure, and then Rodgers was stuffing his T-shirt into the open chest wound and yelling, "He's alive! He's still alive! Let's move it outta here!" And we were carrying Khoa over to the other jeep and throwing out all kinds of gear to make room for everybody. The bullets from the door gunner's M-60 had rendered our jeep useless.

One of the QCs jumped behind the wheel and threw the vehicle into gear, and

then we were racing back up the hillside, trying to hold onto our helmets and Khoa. I looked back just long enough to see the lieutenant scrambling up the rope ladder. When he got to the halfway point, the chopper began receiving intense sniper fire, and as sparks flashed off the bottoms of the metal skids and the bullets pounded the thin belly of the big bird, the officer lost his balance and fell back into the raging jungle. The Huey banked sharply and disappeared into the night.

The engine screamed and pulled us out of the dark valley.

The Vietnamese MP fired madly with his pistol as he steered with the other hand and thus was unable to shift out of first gear. Nevertheless, our speed was soon a roaring 30 m.p.h. as the engine screamed and pulled us up out of the dark valley. We were all firing our M-16s into the trees and bush and anything that looked hostile, and then our tires were only rims and the jeep was smoking heavily. Somehow we made it to the top of the hill, and like memories of some past school-yard king, Rodgers jumped to the ground and began waving his rifle in the air and jumping up and down. He released a volley of profanity at the enemy and their mothers, and then he fired the remainder of his banana mag, but we were out of range.

One of the QCs attempted to raise a medical evacuation helicopter on the radio, but the ARVN choppers were not answering, and the Americans refused to land for a wounded Vietnamese. "You realize we're going to have to try again in the morning," I advised Rodgers.

"Are you crazy?" he asked, looking up from Khoa. "You wanna end up looking like this?" He pointed at the blood gushing from the soaked T-shirt. "Ain't no officer worth that much."

We both realized there wasn't much choice. Neither the jeep nor Khoa would make it back to Saigon. "If that fall didn't kill him, then I will when I get my hands on him." Rodgers smiled. We both knew that he was just a victim of circumstances, but it felt good to direct our anger at an unknown officer instead of each other.

We rolled the jeep under a thatch of leaning fronds and then dug in for the night.

Dawn broke and one of the QCs began going from man to man, waking him with a gentle tug on the shoulders. A light rain was tapping at my poncho, and I peered out to find heavy clouds moving along the horizon. The sun could not break the heavy cover, and a thick mist hung along the crest of the hill, completely hiding the valley below us.

Somehow I felt as though I were camping next to that sparkling river in southern Colorado, and I was expecting to hear a coyote or a mountain lion any second, but

then the air was one solid chopping vibration as a group of helicopters flew past at treetop level, like giant grasshoppers, and I remembered I was in the 'Nam. My boyhood habits told me to pull the pillows over my head, but I forced my body out of the mud hole and grabbed my rifle.

"Try to raise them on the net," I told the radio operator, and he made a feeble, unsuccessful attempt. Soon the helicopters disappeared beyond the clouds, and only the whirring of their rotors remained.

"We've got to get some professional help for Khoa," said Rodgers as he replaced the makeshift bandages. "He's lost a lot of blood."

The QCs at the radio began to speak in excited tones, and I ran over to see whom they had raised. The voice in the static became stronger just as a second wave of helicopters appeared to the west. Rodgers came over and grabbed the mike and began requesting a medevac. "We have a full-bird colonel with a head wound!" he was yelling against the static. "Advise when you want smoke!"

Within minutes the choppers were circling our position, and one of the QCs exploded a yellow smoke bomb, the only color we had, to signal that the LZ was secured. One of the Hueys quickly dove down through the treetops and even before its tail dropped to slow its speed, I and two other MPs were running toward its narrow skids, our pistols drawn. Three QCs helped surround the craft and had their rifles at the American pilot's throat before he could pull out his revolver.

"If you assholes don't cooperate, me and Mr. Colt are gonna do a job on your face!"

"Now, we got us a wounded 'gook' that needs help bad!" Rodgers yelled sarcastically, pulling back his .45's hammer with his thumb for special effect. "And if you assholes don't cooperate and get him back to Saigon, me and Mr. Colt are gonna do such a job on your face that your mother won't even recognize what's left over!" The warrant officer shrugged and motioned the QCs to haul the wounded soldier aboard, and before we knew it the chopper was airborne again.

"They'll probably throw him out over Bao Loc," whispered Rodgers as his eyes squinted to follow the speck I could no longer see. One of the QCs walked over to us and asked in broken English if we thought Khoa would make it. We couldn't give him an answer, but I knew his chances would have been better if he'd been choppered out the night before.

Rodgers picked up a branch and smoothed out the clay before him. "Okay," he said, making two large Xs on the dirt map. "We're here, and the butterbar is over here, and if we—"

Just then the roar of two monstrous CH-53 helicopters descended from the

treetops and hovered above the Conex bunker, throwing up a storm of dust and twigs. Four ropes dropped to the ground and within seconds two American soldiers rappelled to the ground from the "hell hole" in the bottom of the giant craft. Door gunners on either side blasted away at the quiet jungle, while the second chopper flew small circles around the area, peppering the trees with a thousand bullets.

"Jesus H. Chhhhrst!" said one of the QCs in awe as Americans reappeared on top of the bunker with the lieutenant and a second soldier. One of the troopers waved his hand in the air, and with a burst of power that sent a handful of birds shrieking and flapping away in fright, the helicopter slowly rose. The 100 feet of rope between the craft and the men soon tautened and they were jerked off their feet into the air.

The four men rose through the air, spinning around in circles.

"Well, will you look at that bullshit." Rodgers laughed as the small huddle of bodies, looking like an upside-down parachute suspended from silver wires, slowly grew smaller and smaller.

"You'd think they were making a movie or something," one of the other MPs mused. With their arms around each other's shoulders, the group spun around in circles and was soon hoisted up into the low clouds. And then the only sign that remained of the daring rescue was the faint sound of unseen rotors pounding the air high above the falling rain.

TO get back to Saigon, we had to bargain for some motorscooters. Rodgers and I had even taken off our watches and allowed the three "Honda Honeys" to examine them carefully, along with Johnson's camera and high school graduation ring. The QCs smiled, then finally explained to the girls that their vehicles were being commandeered in the name of Uncle Sam, and we were soon on the road back to Saigon. MACV would later receive an itemized bill from the "province chief" at Long Khanh explaining that, due to inflation, the price of three motorscooters had risen to approximately \$30,000 U.S.

Khoa would have a big scar to show his grandchildren, but would survive. He might not walk for six months, but he was alive. Our report did not mention the U.S. assault on Plantation Road, and Khoa would eventually be awarded the lowly Bronze Star — the highest award the U.S. government could bestow upon a Vietnamese soldier. It was a pity. He deserved so much more.

We sputtered back into camp just as the night shift was holding briefing. We pulled up to the company barracks and dragged our gear through the dirt and dust and

up the stairs, stopping outside the door to the orderly room. Inside, the captain was reading off the scorecard:

"Meanwhile our forces stepped up air activity over the Republic to its highest level in three months. Nearly 450 war-planes were up during the 24 hours ending 0800 hours this date. There were 353 single plane sorties by fighter bombers, the highest since 6 November. Thirty waves of B-52s, which fly in three-plane formations, were reported by Command during that period. Ninety-four bombing missions were in the Saigon area alone, with planes pasting the Michelin area for a week in an effort to stop a supply buildup in that long-time communist stronghold...."

Rodgers faked a sneeze, catching the captain's attention. Everyone in the briefing room turned and stared at us.

If only they had been there.

We learned the next day that 325 communist soldiers were killed in the Michelin battle, as were 46 South Vietnamese troopers, with 116 ARVNs wounded. It was one of the biggest battles since the 1972 Easter offensive.

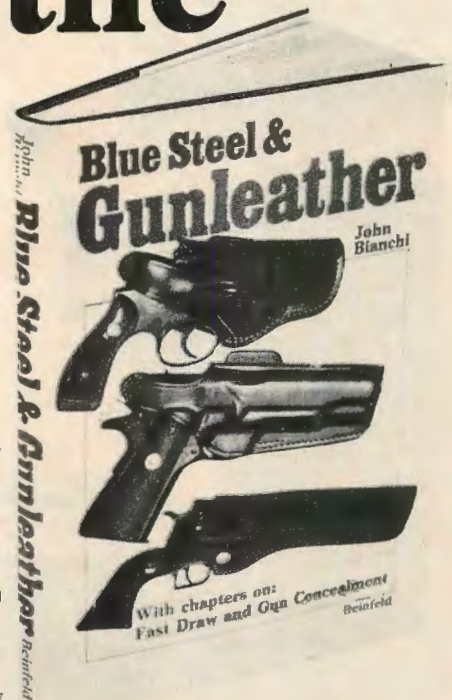
I spent that night on a quiet static post known as Tower E, perched high above the compound in a swaying steel bird's nest. The city seemed peaceful as midnight passed. Only a few flares obscured the stars, and the silence was broken only by an occasional airliner as it touched down at Tan Son Nhut. The pilots seemed to delight in revving the engines to full blast as they approached the runway, the sound as commonplace at night as Saigon traffic by day.

A new order had come down: You couldn't play with the spotlight anymore. They were expensive, and only for emergencies, so there wasn't much to do. I read over *Stars & Stripes* twice and traded insults with other checkpoints over the field-phones. But soon I found myself reflecting on the afternoon's hospital visit with Khoa. We spent hours talking about our adventure at Michelin and before I left, he gave me a small Vietnamese flag. The three red stripes ran across a yellow field marred by a single bullet hole. It was the flag we had attached to our jeep's radio antenna.

"I want to thank you for leaving your beloved country to come to my Vietnam to help my people and my land. You are truly a good friend," he whispered softly, fighting the pain in his chest. We clasped hands and he strained to keep his eyes locked on mine. "Someday you will return to U.S.A., but I will always remember your kindness, and I will tell my children about you. It will not mean anything to them, but I will tell them anyway, and I will enjoy telling them...."



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THE HOLLAND HAIL ORGAN

PLAY THE WINNING TUNE IN ANY ANTI-AMBUSH SITUATION

by Robert K. Brown

AK-47 rounds were once again rattling off the old-timer's mine-proofed and armored Landrover. It was not the first time. Automatically, he jammed the accelerator to the floor and roared through the kill zone. Once through the ambush after the initial rush of adrenalin had subsided, he remembered: he had just installed on his modified Landrover, now called a Leopard, a new anti-ambush device called the Holland Hail Organ.

"No better time to try it out than right now," he mused, wheeling his vehicle around back toward the ambush area.

By this time the terrorists were looking in amazement at this foolhardy farmer. They did not look long. As soon as he had reversed the vehicle and pointed it in the direction of the terrorists, he hit a switch on his dash. Smoke and flame and a total of 750 rectangular steel projectiles from three "organs" installed on the front of his vehicle screamed through, into and around the surprised terrorists. Two of the ambush party were killed immediately.

When he returned to his farm, he called the police and told them, "I have two things to report. There are two dead terrorists on the road. Write me a check for \$2,000." (The government of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia pays a bounty to non-military personnel who kill or capture terrorists and/or terrorist equipment.) The check paid for the new weapons system and a vacation for the intrepid farmer.

The device that had effectively wrought death and destruction in the course of eliminating the ambush party is known as the Holland Hail Organ, one of the more effective of numerous home-grown anti-ambush systems that the beleaguered Rhodesians have invented during their seven-year war with communist-sponsored terrorists.

The prime mover behind the development and sales of this particular system is Andre Holland, member of parliament and successful farmer.

Holland started conceptualizing and designing his system in the spring of 1978.

He knew something had to be done to counter the ambush threat which was interfering with commerce and transportation in the country.

"I wanted 100% kills within 50 feet."

"I first analyzed hundreds of ambushes and fed the information into a computer. I determined that the average ambush on vehicles occurred from 40 to 50 feet. Therefore, I determined it was necessary to develop a weapons system that would insure 100-percent kills in that particular range," Holland said. In only four months his system had been perfected and was available for sale.

After innumerable 18-hour days, Holland came up with a series of modernized muzzle-loading cannons that are electrically detonated. They are placed in banks of three or nine on the sides, front and rear of a vehicle, providing virtually

360-degree protection.

"We spent approximately \$150,000 U.S. on the research and development of the organ, and blew up over 500 barrels before we found the type of steel that would withstand the pressure but was also inexpensive — a prime factor to consider when you develop anything in Rhodesia," Holland pointed out.

"Adapt or die."

I suggested this was another example of Rhodesian survival — adaptability. Holland chuckled, "It is either adapt or die."

Holland noted it was necessary to fire the organs in ripple mode, or sequentially, rather than simultaneously, as the recoil — 10 tons per organ — would either upend or tip the vehicle on its side.

Each bank of cannon has a detonation switch mounted on the dashboard, so one can select which bank he wants to engage the enemy with. Each cartridge costs \$7.50 U.S.

Tactical employment of a vehicle armed with the Holland Hail Organ is basic.

If one takes fire from the side, detonate the side organs, back up, point the front of the vehicle at the ambush site, detonate the front bank of organs and then mop up or pursue the remaining terrorists with sidearms.

"If a RPG-7 armed terrorist appears in front — they like to kneel in the middle of the road as you come around a sharp turn — you hit the switch," Holland continued. "In situations like this, the organ is far better than a machine gun as you

have 2250 projectiles in the air instantaneously, engaging the enemy."

To digress a bit, what we have here is essentially a mobile Claymore. And Holland is right. No matter how good you are with an automatic weapon, you cannot match this type of fire power with a dozen SMGs. Furthermore, assuming the driver of a vehicle must engage the terrorists, it takes too many precious seconds to pick up his weapon and fire on them. In a situation like the one Holland describes, he probably would have bought the farm before he could bring his sidearm into play.

"To date, thousands of these systems have been sold," Holland claimed, "and have saved innumerable lives. When terrorists see vehicles fitted with the organs they will not attack as they know what will happen."

Holland pointed out that his organs can also be used in a static defense role. He has mounted a number of them around his farm house. In a test, projectiles from the organ mounted on one of his walls hit a cement backstop 100 meters away.

The nine-barrel system for the front, back and both sides of a vehicle (total of 36 barrels) costs \$2,617 U.S. and installation \$859 U.S. The three-barrel system for all four sides of the vehicle (total 12 barrels) sells for \$1,167 U.S. plus \$603 U.S. for installation.

Simpler System

Another similar but less sophisticated, less expensive system consists of barrels

mounted on the vehicle, activated by a manual device in the vehicle's cab. By pulling a wire, the barrels fall from a vertical to a horizontal position. The back of the barrels have a cap which is detonated when they strike a strip of iron, detonating them.

Holland has mounted this system on a Cougar, a mine-and-ambush-proof vehicle manufactured in Rhodesia, using basic components of the customer's Landrover. The passenger compartment, designed to carry four or six persons, is protected with small-arms-proof armor and bullet-proof glass. The engine and gearbox are also armored and encased in a separate armored compartment. The fuel tank is frangibly suspended and removed from the cab. As the wheels are the most likely points of contact with land mines, they are remote from the passenger cab. Furthermore, the suspension subassemblies are designed to shear off in the event of a detonating mine. Unfortunately, this cannot be done with arms and legs. The suspension subassemblies are economical and may be rapidly replaced without sophisticated equipment.

Further information can be obtained from Cochrane Sons & Co. (PUT) Ltd., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box ST 361, Southerton, Salisbury, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. Phone 63701 or Andre Holland, phone: 790505.

These systems — though crude and simplistic in this day of electronic wizardry — have proven themselves and will be a welcome addition to the worldwide anti-terrorist arsenal.



Awesome results from the Hail Organ. Notice smiling victims.



Photo: The Herald

AMERICAN MERC

Capt. John Early in Rhodesia

THE following description of the employment of the Holland Hail Organ in combat is extracted from a chapter of *Merc: American Soldiers of Fortune* by SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown and Jay Mallin. SOF Military Affairs Editor John Early, who served with the famed Selous Scouts in Rhodesia, details the effectiveness of the Organ in a clandestine role.

One occasion we decided to target our efforts against the terrors who were robbing civilian buses. I took a six-month period, graphed all the bus robberies — time of day, location, bus line that was hit, day of the week that the robbery occurred, amount of money taken, and the number of people assaulted, killed, or abducted. The Rhodesians wanted to know why I was graphing it. I said, "Well, if you graph it, a pattern will emerge. People are predictable. They do the same things over and over again, even terrorists. So if you graph it out, you can visually see what they're doing and when."

What we found was quite interesting. There were two bus lines out of 80 being hit consistently. One line was hit 135 times in a month. The next closest was hit only 17 to 18 times, and the latter had their buses burned — the former didn't.

We made further inquiries and found out the chap who owned the bus line hit most often was colored — the bus line being burned was owned by a European. The rest of the bus lines were owned by blacks. I checked with the police and found out whenever a bus was robbed, the government compensated the bus company for the amount of money stolen. I became curious: here is a man constantly being robbed, yet still buying more buses and expanding his operation.

So with a couple of friends, I went out to see this guy. We posed as reporters and photographers from a U.S. magazine called *American Modelers*. I said that in the United States there were a lot of people who built model airplanes, model boats and trains, and model buses. And I said we were interested in taking pictures of his buses and learning about his operation, to write an article for this magazine. This guy thought, "This is wonderful! These guys came all the way from the United States to do an article on me and my com-

pany." He opened up his entire operation to us.

I needed to obtain the paint color schemes of his vehicles, because I was going to drive down the road in a bus disguised like one of his, to fire up the terrorists the next time they robbed the thing. I didn't want to tip the guy off, but I was suspicious of his operation.

I said, "You are getting hit a lot."

He replied, "Yeah, we're being robbed all the time, but it's not too bad. I'm doing OK. This is really a great bus line. You should tell people when they come over here for safari, they ought to use my buses, 'cause I've got these brand new ones right here in the warehouse."

We held up two buses.

Then I disguised 10 of my African scouts as terrorists and we held up two buses. The bus drivers thought we were a new gang, confessed, and implicated the owner.

So I talked to Special Branch, Rhodesia's combination CIA and FBI, and asked them about this guy. They told me when he was robbed, he received compensation. We determined this guy had made a deal with the terrorists. Also, they were using his buses as a clandestine transportation system to move in the area. They would hold him up periodically, giving the bus driver a cut of the holdup money, kicking back a certain percent to the bus owner, and keeping the rest. The bus line, of course, was being compensated for the whole shooting match. So the guy is making twice the amount of money carrying people just to get robbed. The cops never saw it.

Once we saw what the guy was doing, the police arrested him and he confessed. In the meantime, we had painted his color scheme on our "Q" bus. We'd obtained the bus schedules when we were working in the bus line office. We just went in and looked at his books when he wasn't there — his employees thought we were welcome.

We had an armored, mine-proofed bus.

Our bus was armored and totally mine-proofed. It had a little trap door in the floor so you could drop people through it

and engage the enemy from beneath the bus. It had 15 little trap-doors on the side at floor level, all the way down the side of the bus. They could be opened from the inside so you could shoot out.

I took 20 black soldiers with RPDs and MAGs and stuck them in the bus, dressed up as women and kids, put chickens in the thing and suitcases on top. At first we mounted a .50 caliber machine gun on top, but we couldn't get the phony suitcases to flip down so we could engage the terrorists. We had nine 40mm rockets attached to the front grill of the bus in a fan spread, and identical systems on both sides. If you extend all the fingers on your hand, that's what the device looked like. The rocket devices were electronically actuated by the driver. When actuated the rockets started firing from both sides and the front, one after another.

We found out the typical procedure was to have the terr commander stand in the middle of the road with his AK held in the air. When the bus stopped, the terrors would approach the front and both sides of the bus from the bush. The terr detachment commander, security officer, and political commissar would then board the bus and order everybody off. Once all passengers were off, the terrors would take what they wanted, then allow the passengers and bus to continue on their way.

If it was a bus from the United States Line, though, which is government-owned, or one owned by a white man, they would burn it.

We loaded the bus by 20s — people, MGs and rockets.

We loaded the bus with 20 people, with 20 machine guns and 27 rockets, and drove around the roads on the bus schedule. We passed a lot of Africans standing by bus stops, so we had one trooper, playing the part of the conductor, standing in the door and saying, "We're full, there's another bus coming along behind us."

We had four dry runs. The fifth run was a near disaster. It had rained and the ground turned to quicksand in spots. The bus hit a soft place and sank in up to its axles.

Here we were with this damn bus in the middle of Tribal Trust Land, with all these weapons on it. We didn't want the Africans to get too close to it, and we were in a real panic. We got on the radio and called up the Rhodesian army reaction force which was about 10 kilometers away, held in reserve, to save us if things got bad. They came and pretended to be an army convoy who out of the goodness of their hearts pulled us out of the mud.

Our driver detonated the rockets.

The sixth time we drove down the road — at last — there were our terrors, standing

in the middle of the road.

The bus driver started yelling, "Captain Early, Captain Early, look! There they are, right in the middle of the road."

So I told him to take it easy and not get upset. We drove up to this guy and stopped, whereupon the bus driver punched the detonating button for the rockets. They went off and it felt and looked like the whole bus blew up. Everybody inside just held their heads because of the terrific concussion. There was dirt and smoke and all kinds of stuff all over the place — we had never test-fired this thing with anybody inside it. There were 20 stunned people inside, with all these machine guns going — we wondered if we'd hit a land mine! Outside there was nobody in sight, just pieces of people, weapons, and all kinds of things dangling from trees and hanging in the bushes.

The terr detachment commander was lying at a 45-degree angle from the door. He'd started walking around the bus when the thing went off. One of the rockets had caught him in the leg and blew it off. He was in bad shape — he had lost a leg, had shrapnel in the other leg, a couple of chest wounds, shrapnel in the head, and one hand all messed up. But he was the only one in any kind of condition to talk — the rest were dead. We had zapped 19 terrs! Nobody got away.

We took the detachment commander to the hospital. Two weeks later, we brought him back to the area with the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI) and used him to track down the other detachments. They carried him around on a stretcher for a week or so while they hunted down the rest of the gangs in that area. After what had happened to him, it was impossible to shut him up. The RLI eventually ended up getting about 40 or 50 terrs out of that area and totally paralyzed the terr organization in that whole Tribal Trust Land.

We had to drive this thing back through the Tribal Trust land to get back out to the main road. And here was our bus with all the sides buckled and warped and the windows out. This was a one-time operation — we had blown our cover — literally! Everybody was sitting there with their machine guns sticking out the windows, and the people standing by the bus stop watched us go by again.

The word goes through a Tribal Trust Land in nothing flat whenever anything strange happens, and I'm sure they probably figured it out real fast. But the rainy season was starting anyway, and the roads got too bad for us to work back in that area anymore.



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ABOVE: Hail, the organ in all its glory.

RIGHT: Cardboard cannisters protect rockets.

BELOW: Publisher Brown front view. Rear view of organ.



MERC: AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE

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JAY MALLIN is a former *Time* correspondent and author of seven books on unconventional warfare and terrorism. ROBERT K. BROWN was a Special Forces team leader in Vietnam; he is presently the editor/publisher of the controversial magazine *Soldier of Fortune*.

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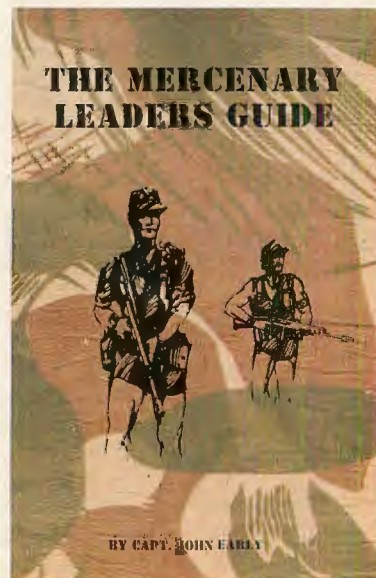
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That's what the cable said, but Sun didn't know that for several days. It was in code and he had left the code book in San Francisco. That was Sun Yat-sen: George Washington of China, yes, but also the Mortimer Snerd of the Far East. When he had pulled himself together, Sun headed straight for London and Homer Lea.

Sun and Lea boarded a British liner at Marseilles and headed for China where the entire central triangle had fallen to the rebels and the revolution was fast sweeping both north and south. They reached Shanghai on 24 December 1911. A week later, Sun Yat-sen was proclaimed provisional president of the Republic of China.

It was the beginning of the beginning for the New China. It was the beginning of the end for Homer Lea. In May 1912 he suffered a stroke in Nanking that left him partially paralyzed. He returned home to California to die.

Homer Lea died 1 November 1912 at his home in Ocean Park, a Los Angeles suburb. He was two weeks short of his 36th birthday. The new Chinese government ignored his funeral. The foreigner was stricken from the roles of China's history. Forever after, no Chinese government, Nationalist or Communist, has recognized that there once was a *bok goy* named Homer Lea.



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by Rafael Lima



AN attacking weapon can follow only two basic geometric trajectories — a straight line or a circle. Knife thrusts can be delivered as stabs or slashes, i.e. linear or circular movements. In a stab, the weapon follows a line, in a slash an arc. The two movements may also be combined. Once your opponent has committed himself to one trajectory — a stab or a slash — you can disarm him by intersecting that trajectory.

This technique must be accomplished in one fluid, forceful motion — without hesitation. The elbow must be kept locked, and the basic steps of moving out of line of the weapon, redirecting the weapon, and neutralizing weapon and assailant must be followed.



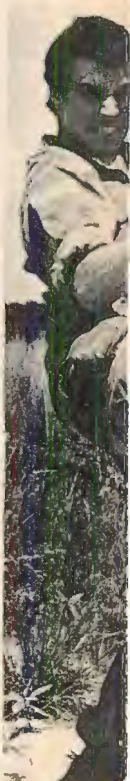
LEFT: Straight-line Attack. Step 1: Once your opponent commits himself through body movement you can predict where the follow-through of his attack will end. By sidestepping that trajectory, you can not only avoid but counter the attack. **RIGHT:** Step 2: Evade the knife by sidestepping to assailant's inside while simultaneously redirecting the weapon to the outside.



Step 3: Continue redirecting knife hand and wrist-breaking technique. Bring arm back in opposite direction as you break the wrist.



Step 4: Forcefully jerk assailant's wrist upward while maintaining arm in locked position. Arm must be kept straight to accomplish this technique.





Step 5: Direct front-thrusting snap kick to assailant's face, still maintaining grasp of knife hand.

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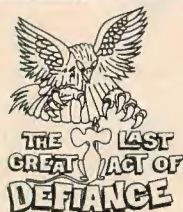
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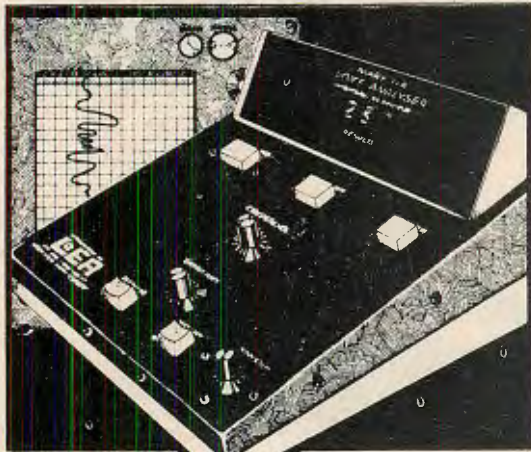
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BRIAN CROZIER

Continued from page 45

thought it would present the Russians with a new problem: a hostile China possibly supported by the United States. So I approved of it.

However, in the last two years of his presidency, Nixon — Kissinger was involved in this all the way — made one concession after another to the Soviets in the name of detente.

SOF: Is it true that Kissinger has said the West is now in decline, there is nothing that we can do about it, and we can merely make the best deal possible?

CROZIER: There are two Kissingers. There's Kissinger in power and Kissinger out of power. When Kissinger was in power he said these things. In fact, his favorite reading is allegedly a famous work of the 1920s by the German writer, Oswald Spengler, called the *Decline of the West*. He even presented a copy to President Ford. His argument started from a position of philosophical pessimism. We are going to lose so let's cushion the defeat as well as we can. That was his at-

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titude while he was in power. Since he has been out of power, he has been absolutely splendid. He's said all the right things.

SOF: Is there any direct proof of Soviet action in the CIA problems that the United States had awhile ago?

CROZIER: I would say yes. A recent issue of *Readers Digest* has an absolutely fascinating story which comes pretty close to demonstrating that the Russians had planted an agent in higher echelons of the CIA. This has been said before and it may well be true.

SOF: Did we beat the communists in Chile?

CROZIER: In Chile the Allende regime was heading for a complete communist take-over, but in a very untidy way. The communist party of Chile is a highly disciplined organization and they wrote up what I call the Santiago Model, as distinct from say the Prague Model. They gained control of the economic ministries, such as the Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Employment, and the labor unions. They were able to bring pressure to bear on firms, to harass them, to drive them out of business, and they were also able to organize strikes. That was the communist technique; they wanted to destroy the economy so that the state could take over.

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In the meantime, there were the extreme left-wingers in Allende's own party, the socialist party, and further to the left still, the so-called Miristads, the movement of the revolutionary left. And they were the ones indulging in all this violence. This wasn't the communist way. The thing got completely out of control.

Incidentally, the Russians and the North Koreans were involved during that period in the extreme south of Chile, training terrorists. That's what they were doing at one time or another and they really supported what the communists were doing, which would have been a more sensible way to take over. So the thing got out of hand with the help of the CIA.

SOF: What did we do right in Chile that we haven't done elsewhere?

CROZIER: I think Chile was a kind of American masterpiece. I think you did splendidly in Chile, mainly in the provision of funds for the right kind of people so they would do the right kind of job because people who fight against a regime like that are in trouble.

SOF: How did the Soviets change their tactics in Iran? What did they learn from Chile that was applied in Iran?

CROZIER: The Russians and, indeed, communist parties all over the world, had a tremendous post-mortem about Chile. The grand master of Soviet subversion,

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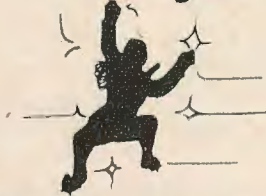
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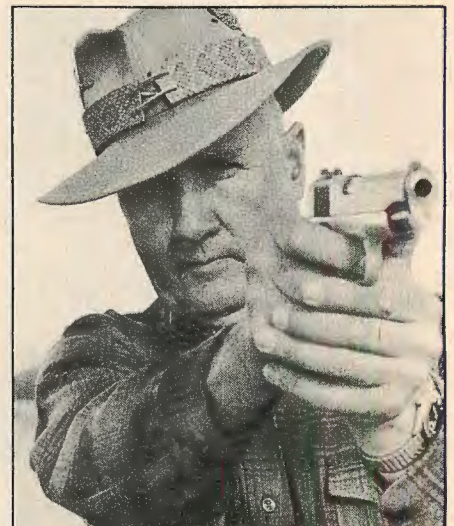
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In Iran, the Russians are deeply involved. They printed all the propaganda used even by the religious groups. The communist party — known as the Tudeh, which means masses — controls the workers in the oil field. And then there were various Marxist groups. The PLO was involved and acted on behalf of the Russians. So, they were deeply involved. The real failure was that the CIA had been destroyed as an operational agency.

SOF: So, when we were in Chile, the CIA knew what was going on and could anticipate Russian maneuvers and react to them appropriately; in Iran they could not.

CROZIER: Yes. It's very interesting to contrast what happened in Iran in 1953 and what happened in 1978-1979. In 1953, the same combination of forces drove the Shah into exile in Rome. That is, in effect, an overthrow. Now, British Intelligence, M16 and the CIA joined operations and

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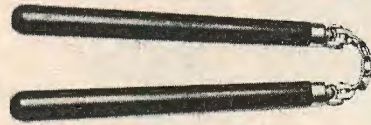
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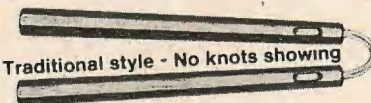


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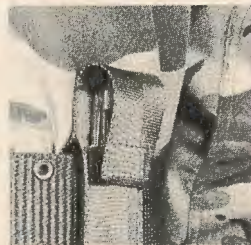
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got the Shah back on his throne but in 1978 nothing happened because the capability wasn't there anymore.

SOF: Are there any areas in the West that the West has won recently?

CROZIER: Not in a concerted sense. All you can say is that in the two recent elections — in France in March 1978 and in England in May 1979 — the trend towards the extreme left was halted.

In France, the situation was very dangerous because there is a common program between the French socialists and the communists. This program was decisively defeated in March 1978.

In Britain, the danger from the Marxist left was acute, far more acute than people realized. The big unions were controlled by the Marxist left. The National Executive Committee of the Labor Party which used to be an anti-communist organization, has 23 members — 17 are Marxist. The hidden communist party inside the House of Commons, the so-called Tribune group, includes 83. It looked as though they were simply members of the Labor Party.

SOF: Is it, perhaps, part of the communist strategy to avoid Hitler's mistake and neutralize England before they get together with the European communists?

CROZIER: Yes.

SOF: Is the current African policy of the West, the United States, in particular,

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playing into the hands of the Russians at this time?

CROZIER: Yes. American policy has been disastrous in South Africa from the moment that the Senate turned down Kissinger's request for the funds to defeat the Marxist guerrillas in Angola. The policy has gone from bad to worse. So you have 15,000 Cuban surrogates who air-lifted into Angola and defeated anti-Marxist guerrillas — still active, but they were defeated. The MPLA in Angola and the Frelimo in Mozambique have been trained in Soviet camps for years. They were planted there and took over when the time came. The Soviet Union gives massive support to the so-called Patriotic Front of Rhodesia.

Thus, the policy pursued by President Carter and former British Prime Minister Callahan amounts to aiding Marxist revolutionaries, in my view.

SOF: What are the next target areas?

CROZIER: I think one of the major areas under threat is South Africa through Namibia and, again, a lot depends on what happens in Rhodesia. If the Muzorewa government is recognized, as I hope it will be before the end of the year, and the sanctions lifted, then the Patriotic Front can be defeated and the pressure will be considerably reduced. In my view the entire Cuban operation in Africa

Continued on page 102

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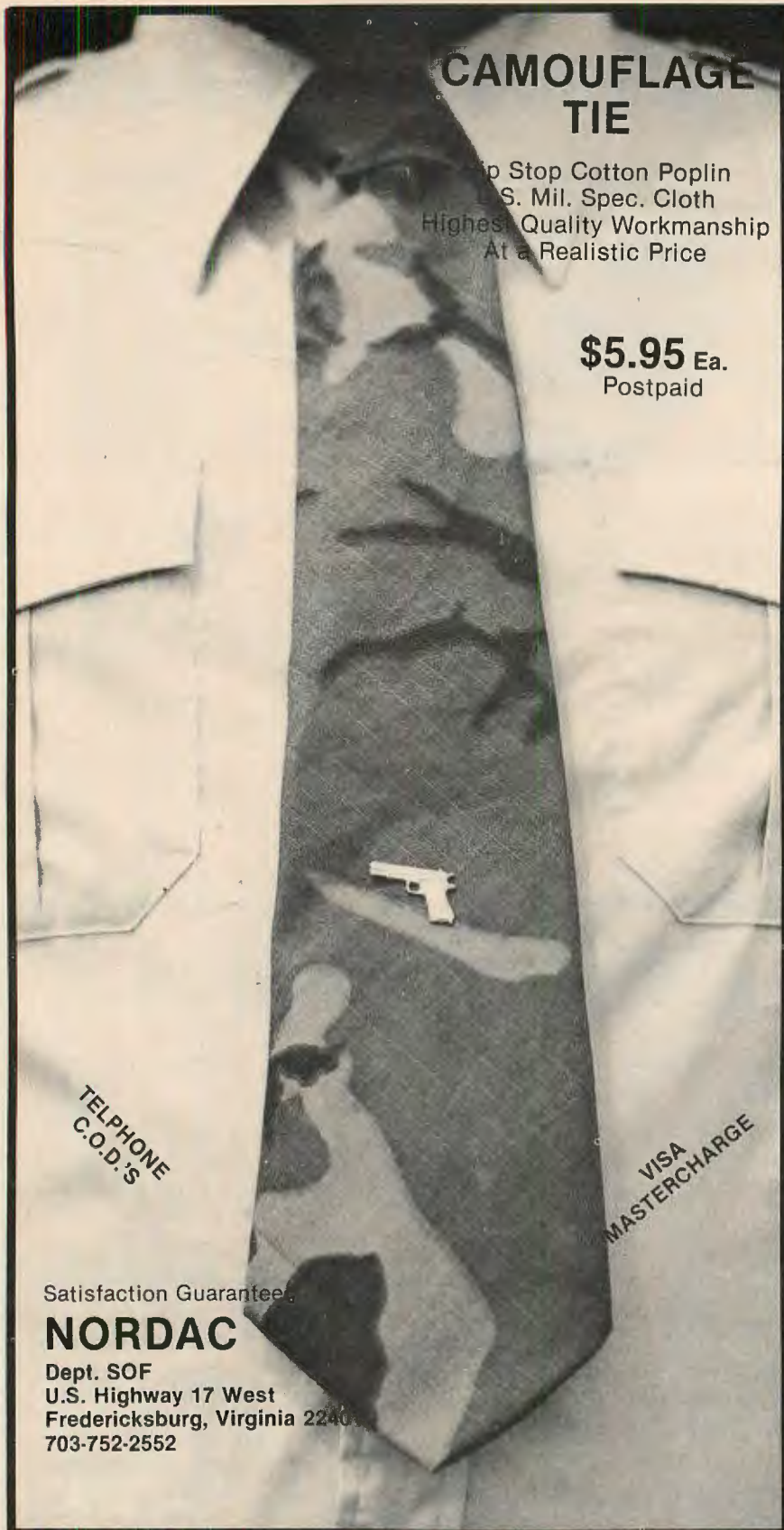
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Continued from page 41

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chemical bath, it is often referred to as "Hard Nickel." I have used it on many guns and find it ideal. It is also good for application to magazines since it makes them nearly self-lubricating, easy to clean and makes the magazines easy to see for recovery after dropping them.

HARD industrial chrome has become the top choice for combat pistols. Armand Swenson was the first to popularize it in combat pistol circles. Swenson prefers to plate the entire pistol except for the barrel, rear sight, and springs. It thus protects a gun well for the rest of its years. There are numerous trade-name forms of industrial hard-chrome plating. Some forms are better suited for certain jobs. For revolvers that must conform with close tolerances, special applications — such as the Armoloy process — are recommended. On autoloading pistols, a much thicker layer is recommended. The common thickness used is .0004 to .0005.

Gunsmiths, such as Austin Behlert, can have your auto hard-chromed properly but it is difficult to do and costly. The price is more than double that of having a pistol reblued. It is, however, a one-time deal and will last for the pistol's life. Since it is such a permanent finish, one is wise to insure that all modifications are complete before having a pistol hard-chromed. It is important that the plater doing the work stress-relieves the parts for hydrogen embrittlement, and this is the reason that plating of the barrel should be avoided.

Many firms advertise hard-chroming the inside of the bore. Unless you are loaded down with tons of corrosive ammo and too lazy to clean the piece, I suggest you not have the inside of the barrel plated. You can take a perfect shooting barrel, hard-chrome its inside, then watch accuracy go to hell. The hard-chrome-lined barrels will last much longer, but they won't group worth a damn.

 — Ken Hackathorn



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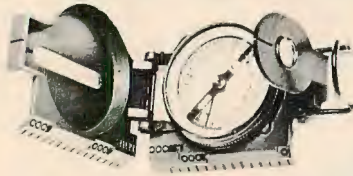
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BRIAN CROZIER
 Continued from page 99

could be destabilized if we had the will to do it.

SOF: Do mercenaries and other anti-communist soldiers of fortune play any significant role in the current game?

CROZIER: I don't believe they do very much. They have at times, of course, in Katanga and in other areas. They attempted to play a role in Angola and it misfired. I think they could, again, play a role but they would need some, let us say, discreet help from governments.

SOF: How can Americans and the West combat the Soviets best?

CROZIER: The first factor is will. You have to realize that there is a problem and then have the will to do something about it. I'm sorry to say I don't see that will in the present administration in Washington. It is not incumbent upon me as a visiting foreigner to tell you how to run your country and I don't proposed to do that. If there is an energetic president in the White House with an administration committed to doing something about the Soviet danger, then it can certainly be done. The whole world situation could be transformed in a matter of months, in my view.

SOF: Do you see re-emergence of this will in Britain?

CROZIER: I do. And I see it as possible in France and Germany as well.

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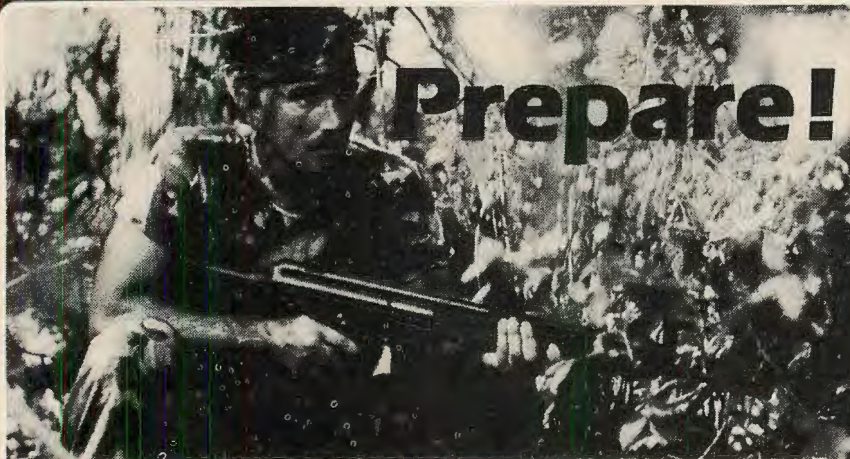
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SOF: If Warsaw Pact tanks rolled into Germany tomorrow, how would NATO countries and the U.S. react?

CROZIER: I think they would react in the correct way. They would try and repel the invaders and I think that the United States would live up to its treaty obligations. But I don't think that's the way it's going to happen.

SOF: In your opinion, what is the most likely scenario to occur the way things are going right now?

CROZIER: I don't think the Russians want a nuclear exchange — which is what I would call World War Four. But if they feel that they are so much stronger than the West that they can take the risk because the will of the West is so feeble, then they may do it. Now, one of the many reasons why I dislike SALT II is

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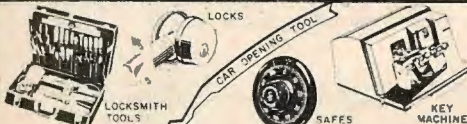


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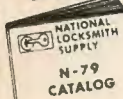
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that it is disastrous to European security. It takes no account of the SS20 missiles on Soviet soil, defined as a non-strategic missile because it cannot reach the United States. The SS20 missiles on Soviet soil could destroy all NATO's installations in half an hour. This being so, why should the Russians send their tanks to invade Western Europe and risk all kinds of complications? If they want to destroy Western Europe, they can do it any time they like. I don't think they will because they are getting what they want without running that risk.

SOF: How long will it take them to get what they want without war?

CROZIER: I think we're living through the most dangerous years since World War II ended. I think this year and next year are crucial. A lot depends on whether Mr. Brezhnev lives or who succeeds him. The average age of the members of the Politbureau in Moscow is 79. These are old men. We don't know what the new men would be like. If we can just hold on until the next U.S. presidential election and the next German elections, then we may start rolling back the tide.



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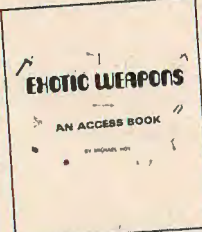
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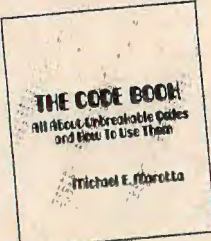
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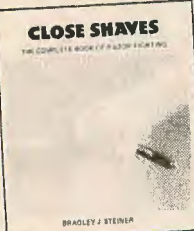
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Continued from page 12

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There may be a light at the end of this tunnel, though. Senator Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), has introduced a new bill which, if passed, will give the Secretary of the Treasury authority to waive regulations unnecessary to the production of alcohol for energy use.

Don't bet on it, though. The Batfags have already shown their contempt for laws of the land that interfere with the furtherance of their bureaucracy.



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10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION

	Average No. Copies each Issue during Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total no. copies printed (Net Press Run)	159,817	178,000
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	67,598	94,945
2. Mail subscriptions	21,990	26,011
C. Total paid circulation	89,588	120,956
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, samples,		

complimentary, and other free copies	206	176
E. Total distribution	89,794	121,132
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	8,263	1,832
2. Returns from news agents	61,760	55,036
G. Total	159,817	178,000

I1. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. R.K. Brown, Publisher.

Publisher's note: The above numbers in the right-hand column are for the May 1979 cover date, the latest issue for which *Soldier of Fortune* has complete returns. The November 1979 issue had a print run of 202,000. As of the December 1979 issue of SOF, annual subscription price is \$20.00.

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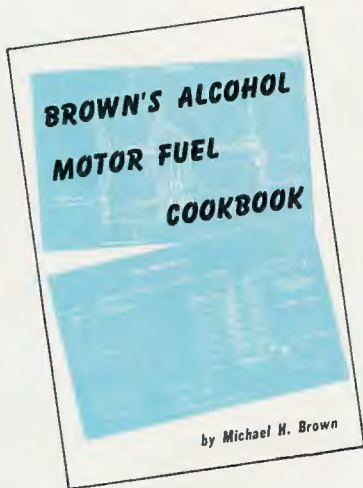



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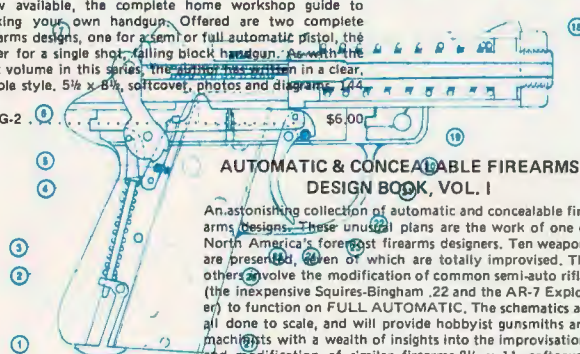
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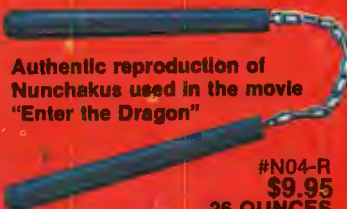
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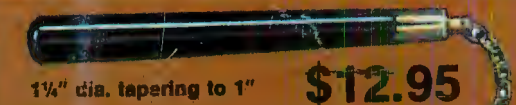
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