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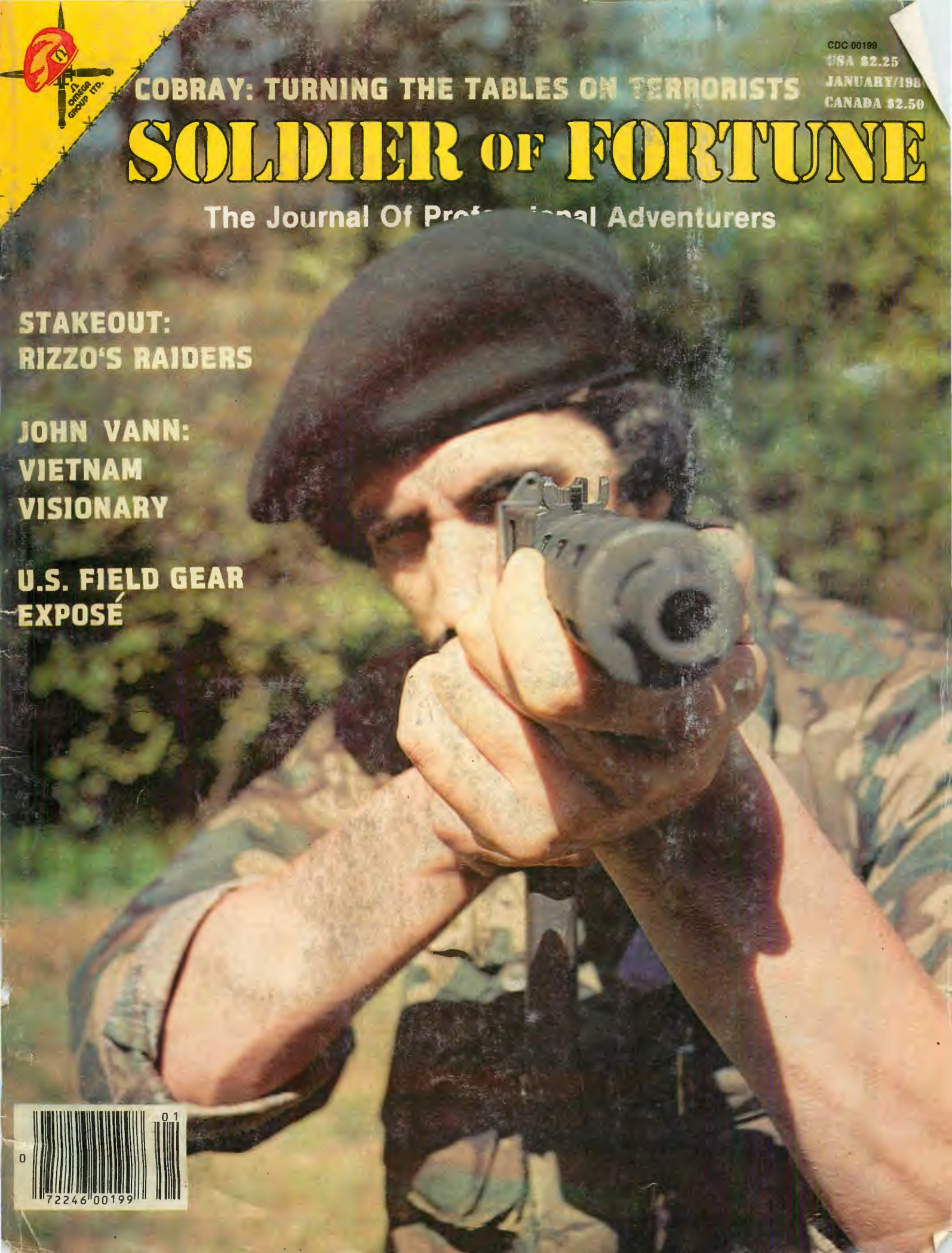
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The Journal Of Professional Adventurers

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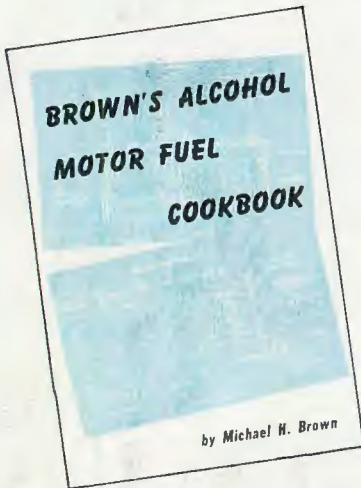


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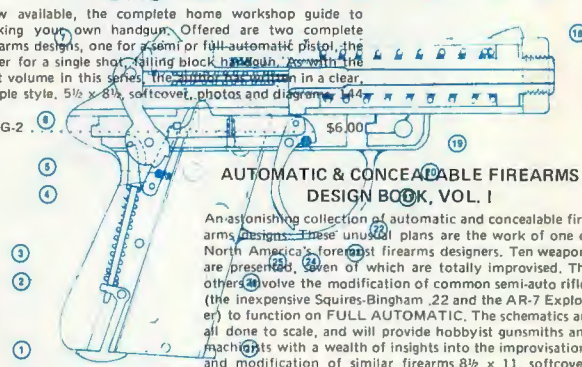
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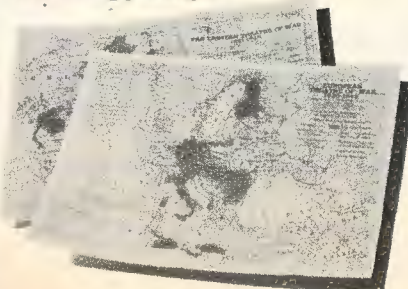
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SOF STAFFERS AID STORM-TORN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SOF staffers have again been going and doing as well as telling about the adventures of others in the pages of our magazine. For example, Editor/Publisher Brown recently led an SOF Parachute Medical Rescue Service (PMRS) team to the hurricane-stricken Dominican Republic.

Brown was accompanied by two other PMRS volunteers, Dr. John Peters, SOFs Contributing Editor for Paramedic Operations, and Alex McColl, Contributing Editor for Military Affairs. Miami Bureau Staffer Marty Casey also accompanied them briefly before returning to Miami to coordinate rescue efforts.

Brown and Dr. Peters stayed in Nizoa, a village in the DR's interior for a week, giving inoculations for typhoid and other diseases that follow on the heels of such disasters, tending the injured, instructing the local population to either purify or boil the water, supervising cleanup and sanitary operations and handing out food and other supplies as long as they lasted.

This was the fourth time PMRS personnel have been in action, their other missions having been to help hurricane or earthquake victims in Peru, Honduras and Guatemala. A report on their operation is forthcoming.

So this writer and Associate Editor N.E. MacDougald joined Brown in Miami and before he had time to catch his breath and recover from the effects of bad food and even worse water, Brown and the others were at a military installation.

WILL U.S. ARMED FORCES ABANDON .38 & .45 FOR NEW 9mm NATO PISTOL?

For years rumor has had it that one or all of our armed services were going to adopt a new caliber service pistol. And for years it has remained a rumor.

Now SOF has discovered that the services are considering a new 9mm. A federal test facility has been evaluating them. This facility's directors are about to recommend that U.S. military personnel be rearmed with a new 9mm. Our staffers will report in depth in the February 1980 issue.

Why are we switching? When are we switching? Where is the research and development taking place? Who ramrods the project? How did it originate? All these specifics will be answered.

And you'll see the first color photographs of the pre-production contenders. You'll see the weapons stripped for inspection. You'll see schematics of the guns and read interviews of the men who test and evaluate them.

SOF staffers have fired each of these unique pistols. These pre-production guns among the contenders are the only examples of their kind in the world. It was a rather strange situation. None of the test participants could discuss with the others their opinions on the weapons or even whether they thought that the 9mm caliber should indeed be substituted for the .45 and .38 special.

Nor can we do so now, although each did have a preference and we did not necessarily agree.

Whether your interests lie in civilian or military self-stuffers, our scoop on this new generation of handguns will make you question some of your beliefs. We came back from the tests scratching our collective heads.

So put all rumormongers on hold, until you read our exclusive story next month.

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



COVER

Zap, you're dead, terrorist. Television reporter Collin Seidor enrolled in Mitch WerBell's Cobray school to do a documentary. A pacifist when he entered the course, Seidor soon got with the program and became an outstanding student. Here he blasts away with an Ingram M-10 during training. Seidor now appreciates the value of being able to defend one's self with either bare hands or weapons.

C. CASE

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A reader tracks a merc employer in old London town.

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ALICE shouldn't live here any more.



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Duane Tigges

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Highest ranking American to die in 'Nam... J.P. Vann did it his way.

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"Shep remembered the good things about life."

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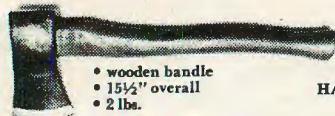
- 19" overall
- 15" edge
- steel blade
- canvas sheath

B MACHETE

- 23" overall
- 18" edge
- steel blade
- canvas sheath

C BOLO MACHETE

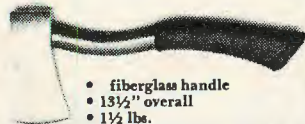
- 20" overall
- 18" edge
- steel blade
- canvas sheath



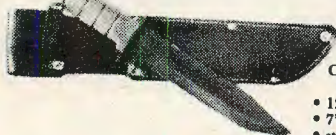
D HATCHET

- wooden handle
- 15½" overall
- 2 lbs.

E CAMP AXE



- fiberglass handle
- 13½" overall
- 1½ lbs.



F COMBAT KNIFE

- 12" overall
- 7" edge
- steel blade
- sheath

G MARINE KNIFE

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- sawteeth on back
- steel blade
- sheath



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SOVIET BLACKMAIL WARNING ...

The U.S. and other non-communist powers have allowed their naval strength to slump so low they will soon be vulnerable to Soviet military blackmail, Capt. John E. Moore, editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships* and a former deputy chief of British naval intelligence, warned in the foreword to the 1979-80 edition of the journal.

Moore declared Soviet blackmail could mean deprivation of raw materials and markets and the loss of freedom by nations unable to defend themselves.

According to *Jane's*:

The Soviets now have two aircraft carriers operating east of Suez, with at least two more expected within the next three years.

They have begun building a giant 32,000-ton "Sovietsky Soyuz" class warship, the first of 12 reportedly planned by the 1990s.

They are building two more classes of warship capable of long-range operations — the 13,000-ton "Ivan Rogov"-class of landing platform docks built to carry a battalion of naval infantry, helicopters, hovercraft and supporting armor; and four "Berezina"-class supporting ships of 36,000 tons with surface gun armaments, SAM missiles and anti-submarine launchers.

In contrast, *Jane's* said, the U.S. Navy has only 535 active combatant ships and will have only 528 by September 1980.

NERD OF MONTH AWARD ...

To Joel H. Cook, chairman of the National Human Rights Committee for POW/MIAs, for admitting accused collaborator Robert R. Garwood to membership in the committee. We at SOF feel Cook should have put personal considerations aside and at least waited until Garwood is brought to trial and either convicted or acquitted. Garwood's admission to membership in the committee in his present questionable status is a slap in the face to those who served honorably when called.

AFRICAN HELICOPTER TACTICS ...

The South African air force has developed a unique method of high-speed troop insertion from helicopters to counter guerrilla operations in remote areas, according to an informed observer.

The method involves rapid disembarkation of four-man fire teams from French-built Alouette III helicopters. Aerospatiale Pumas are used in support of individual operations by the smaller Alouettes.

Other countries using helicopters for tactical support are studying the SAAF tactic of keeping choppers in the immediate combat zone as briefly as possible. Designed with the Soviet-made SA-7 Strela SAM missile in mind, the SAF method requires close cooperation between air crew and combat team.

Pilots are trained in low-level flying at SAAF's Advanced Flying School at Bloemfontein for bush, desert and mountain insertions. Their skill in landing a helicopter on top of a rock pillar, sometimes thousands of feet up and in gusty cross winds, is one, according to military sources, that is unique to the SAAF helicopter force.

AIRBORNE PEN PALS ...

Sidney Allinson is doing research for a book on air gunnery and invites any ex-air gunners to write him about their experiences in training, weaponry or combat at 25 Ravenscliff Cresc., Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

Continued on page 21

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FULL AUTO



by Chuck Taylor

MACHINE PISTOLS

Forever, it seems, people have been arguing incessantly about the relative merits and drawbacks of machine-pistols. Some say they are light, small, and in full automatic deliver immense firepower. Others say they are not designed to be used thus and, as a result, will fall apart in short order, and one cannot hit much with them in the first place.

It should be obvious to all — but apparently isn't — that by definition, the purpose of the pistol is defensive. Why in the world would a person use a handgun when he could use a shotgun, rifle or SMG? The methods of instruction at API/Gunsite for the last five years, and Jeff Cooper's personal efforts for at least a decade previous to Gunsite's inception, prove, without doubt, that anyone of normal physical and mental dexterity can be taught the efficient use of the handgun in about 5½ days and 500 rounds of ammunition. This being so, it would seem that a fully-automatic handgun would be superfluous. After all, the full-automatic feature really isn't required for efficient self-defense, since an automatic-fire option creates additional technique problems for the student.

The primary use of the fully-automatic feature is offensive, however, and since the pistol isn't well suited for offensive use, owing to its limited range and difficulty of use for the unskilled, it would seem the machine-pistol is, in reality, a bit of an orphan.

Early examples of the breed were break-age-prone and generally fired fully automatic (via a selector switch) even if a buttstock were not attached. Newer examples pay more attention to the fact that the weapon cannot hit much without a buttstock and therefore feature modifications precluding use of the weapon in full auto-

matic unless a buttstock is attached. Better, but still an orphan.

Personally, I find them to be fun to shoot but worthless as a serious fighting arm, and for this reason, do not include any in my arsenal.

I don't usually answer letters in my column but I've been getting quite a few recently and have chosen three that are representative of the kinds of questions I've been asked. My answers should make my position on the issues concerned clear.

Q. I'm having trouble carrying on my fight against the .223 caliber cartridge as an effective military cartridge. I've run into a little flak from a military person who's an SOF reader. He said, "Deep down inside Chuck Taylor must like the .223 caliber because he shows some photos in his January '79 Full Auto column of an Armalite AR-18 to demonstrate the use of a full-auto rifle and its positions rather than showing an Armalite AR-10."

Did we mess up? After looking closely at the photos — at the magazines and ammo pouches — I couldn't come back with a good answer other than you probably didn't have any other photos to use at the time.

Then he said, "That's very unlikely, considering the amount of photos a magazine like SOF must have on hand."

Also, I've been considering adding a civilian-version Armalite AR-10 to my small survival collection. A recent survival article suggests buying only three rifles: the HK-91 (which I have), the M-1A (M-14) and an M-1 Garand converted to .308 NATO. I don't like any of them except the HK-91. I would like the M-1A
Continued on page 20

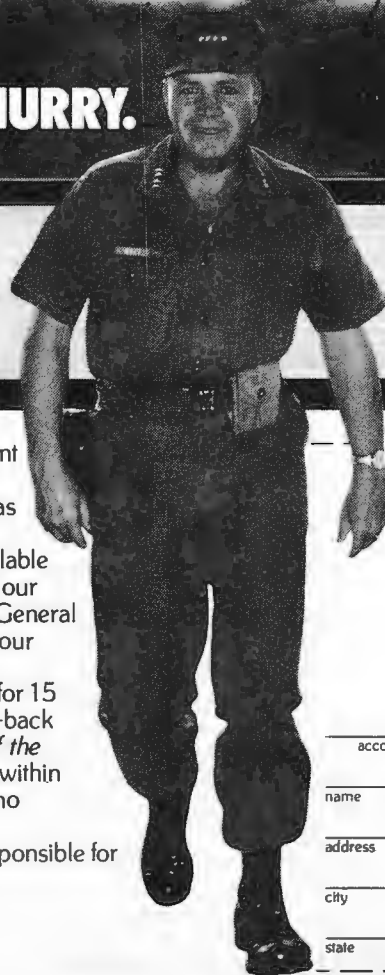
A distinguished four-star general speaks out:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY FROM NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION.

General
Lewis W. Walt
USMC (Ret.)

The Eleventh Hour

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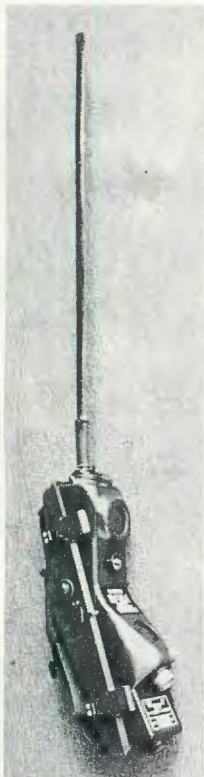
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MAU MAU CARBINE CORRECTION ...

Sirs:

I read with great interest Jack Lott's superb article, "Mau Mau" (SOF, August '79). I noticed one small mistake in your opening photograph. You stated the troops in this picture are carrying .303 Lee Enfield No. 4, Mark I jungle carbines, when in fact they are carrying .303 Lee Enfield No. 5, Mark I jungle carbines, (The No. 4, mark I, was the workhorse of World War II and had a totally different design).

Respectfully,
Capt. Ray C. Mitchell
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Thanks for the correction. — The Eds.

MORE MEDAL OF HONOR BOOKS ...

Sirs:

Just a line to follow up N.E. MacDougald's review of *Heroes* (August '79). While that book may be excellent, your readers should be aware of two publications for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402.

1. *Vietnam Era Medal of Honor Recipients, 1964-1972*. Although this book is not as complete as *Heroes* (having 207 of the total 230 Medal Of Honor (MOH) winners in Southeast Asia) due to its 1973 printing, it contains more than just the citations. It contains 16 pages of historical data on the MOH, a breakdown of recipients by state, and 60 pages of documentary background. Price is \$1.85 postpaid, \$1.50 GPO bookstore. Softcover, 236 pages.

2. *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1973*. Although this book (dated 22 October 1973) does not contain some of the later Vietnam era MOH winners, it is probably the most comprehensive volume on the subject, giving the awardees from the Civil War to Vietnam. It does not list the 911 individuals stricken from the Honor Roll in 1917 for lack of merit. It also has a breakdown of winners by state, documentary background, historical background, alphabetical index, and a comprehensive bibliography. This volume will thrill the military buff as well as the historian. It answers such questions as: What unknown soldier of which Warsaw Pact country has the U.S. MOH? What generals were awarded the MOH by special legislation? Where did the lone Coast Guard winner of World War II earn

his? Cost is \$8.50. Softbound, 1,281 pages.

Sincerely,
SFC Martin J. Jordan
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

MARINE WEBS ...

Sirs:

In "Toughest Beat in the World" (August '79) you had an article on some doggie MP having to shoot a beserk Marine, yet the picture showed a man with a black web belt (Marines don't ever have that type buckle, much less a black web belt).

You start off with an almost believable article and blow it by trying to sound so "John Wayne" or by some bum dope. So knock off the shit and give the story straight from the facts.

Sincerely,
R.L. Derrick
S/SGT (1958-66), USMC
Stockton, California

Sirs:

While browsing through SOF, August '79, I came across a mistake in "The Toughest Beat in the World." I am a NCO in the Marine Corps. The mistake's on page 43 in the picture. Notice the web belt. This poor guy had to be either in the Air Force or the Army, because the buckle and the tip of the belt are shiny. No Marine I know of wears a belt of that kind, much less a shiny one (with utilities). It's unfortunate somebody let this error slip in.

Thank you,
Cpl. John L. Oakes
Verona, North Carolina

Nick Uhernik replies:

If I had a nickel for every Marine I caught out of uniform in Vietnam, I'd have enough bucks for a new AR-15. Also, anyone contemplating homicide is not going to worry about a uniform code violation, even if he is a Marine. The photo itself is of poor quality, and I would hesitate to make any kind of texture judgment about the belt buckle without the negative. Any police lab technician can tell you that a black-and-white crime-scene photo can be deceptive when it comes to shiny objects.

I have no desire to make the Marines look bad. In fact, after the Mayaguez incident near Cambodia, my respect for the Marines shot up considerably. However, the jarhead depicted in the photo was a Marine, and I stand behind every word of my story. It can be verified by MACV-

Continued on page 78

THE VIETNAM WAR:

An Illustrated History of the Conflict in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General Williams Westmoreland

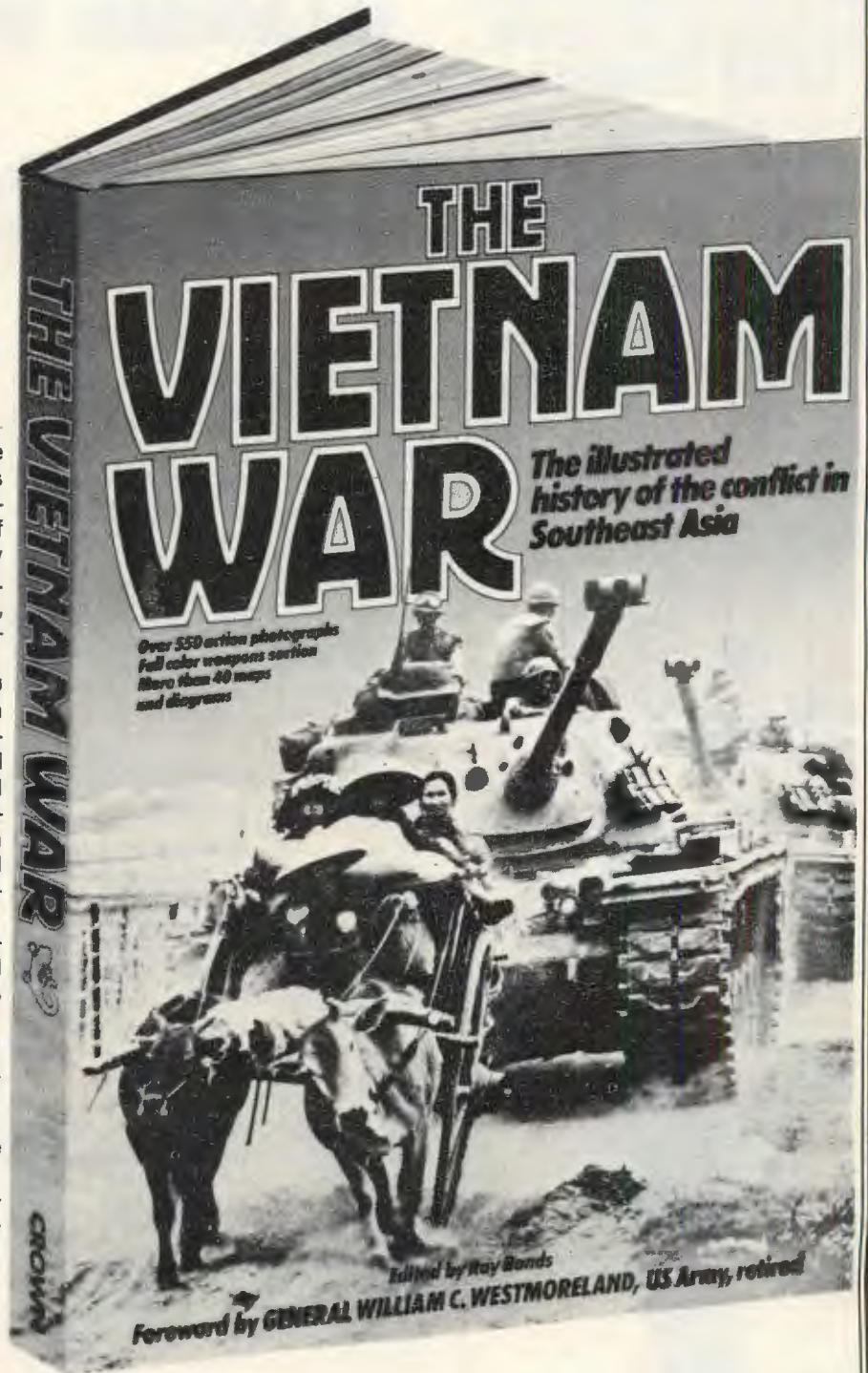
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STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele

THE undercover deputy finished scotch-taping the boot knife upside down to his calf. There was no need for a sheath, he explained, since under normal conditions the point would not dig into the skin. To draw it all he had to do was reach under his pants cuff and twist the handle so that the edge cut through the tape. A few hours later he was to need that knife when a drug buy went sour. He didn't have time to reach the .25 automatic concealed in his crotch, and it was only the knife that kept him from being overpowered. He held his assailants at bay till his backup arrived to take them into custody.

Most police departments do not have a policy on knives. Generally speaking, knives are permitted since they are essential to a variety of utilitarian functions. SWAT teams carry them, usually pilot survival knives, in order to cut rope, wire, or other materials. Patrolmen and detectives use knives to cut through screens, cut down suicides, collect paint samples and other evidence, etc. Used as weapons they would be appropriate in the same circumstances as firearms or other deadly weapons.

Bo Randall (Dept. SOF, Box 1988, Orlando, FL 32802) is now producing a special undercover knife called the "Guardian." It has a four-inch, double-edge 440C stainless blade. The last inch toward the guard is unsharpened and provided with thumb notches. The micarta handle has a flange at the butt to assist in drawing. Instead of a quillon there is a small nickel-silver guard, so the knife will not catch on clothing at the draw. Also, knives without quillons are more compact, easier to conceal. The sheath is designed to be worn around the neck or concealed in boot or sleeve. This is a minimum-size hideout knife, made strictly for last-ditch self-defense.

Another fine new concealment blade is the "B-2" 5¼-inch fighting knife made by Harold Corby (Dept. SOF, 1714 Brandonwood Dr., Johnson City, TN 37601). This clip-point knife has a hollow-ground 440C blade, double-edged. The micarta handle has a double guard and sub-hilt made of brass or nickel silver. The sheath has a clip for use in the boot or inside the

waistband. The knife is retained in the sheath by a special tab of leather that is pushed aside by the thumb during the draw.



Crawford's brass-handled push dagger.

Pat Crawford (Dept. SOF, 205 N. Center, West Memphis, AR 72301) makes a variety of tiny hideout knives. Two examples are his brass-handled push dagger and his Model 12 toothpick. Both have three-inch 440C blades and form-fit sheaths that can be clipped into a boot or pinned into a jacket lining.

Mike Franklin (Dept. SOF, Rt. 41, Box 88, Aberdeen, OH 45101) has just brought out three new boot knives, smaller than his past versions. All have three- to four-inch blades made of 440C, 154CM, or Stellite 6K. His favorite handle material is Dall sheep horn, though he provides many other materials at customer choice. Handle mounts are brass.



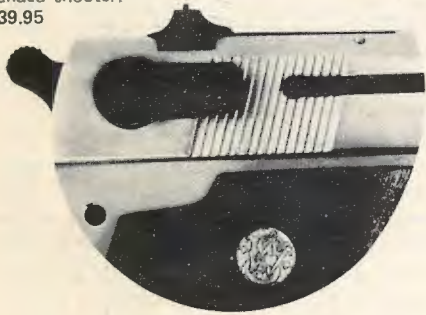
Viele's "Demon's Claw."

Howard Viele (Dept. SOF, 88 Lexington Ave., Westwood, NJ 07675) has just put out a minimum-size boot knife

Continued on page 17

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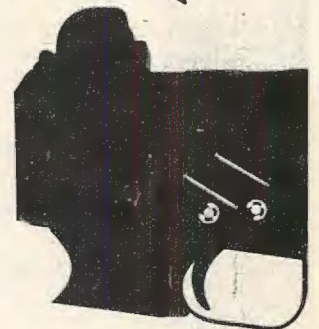
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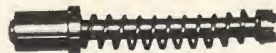
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

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

Q. Just a short note to lend more weight to the pro-.45 case.

In a Fire Force contact a few weeks back, one of my stick leaders, moving forward in a sweep line, nailed a terrorist a few feet in front of him. His FN hung up (lousy South African ammo) and whilst clearing it, he was jumped by Terr No. 2, who started strangling him.

This guy — an American incidentally — hauled out his S&W M39 and after a whole mag of hollow-point ammo (the first round through the front teeth) was still being screamed at and strangled.

Rather embarrassing, as by now some of us were in stitches with laughter. He threw away the M39, threw the terr to the ground and one of the working FNs finished him. Every shot was a hit, between mouth and lower chest area.

Anyone wanna buy a Mod 39?

M.R.

Salisbury, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

A. This latest case study (also reported by Al Venter: see "The State of the Nation, SOF, December '79) is just too good to file away. The contributor is the originator of the "Mozambique Drill," which we use at Gunsite. The fault in this case is not with the M39 but with the 9mm parabellum cartridge.

Q. What do you think about gas-operated autos, such as Husqvarna or Wildey? I've not had any experience with either of them, but in .45 Winchester magnum they should really be manstoppers. Are they reliable and easy to field strip? How about recoil as compared to other .45s? Also, what about "combat accuracy jobs" — on gas-operated autos?

P.Y.

San Diego, California

A. I have examined the Husqvarna gas-action at some length, though I have not evaluated the Wildey. The question here is whether one can put much larger than normal pressures to practical use in a

sidearm and still maintain the kind of control necessary for proper defensive work. There is no reason to build a gas-operated piece for the parabellum.

As to Wildey, I am not sure. It seems to me that the direction to take here is that of the investigation of a very small caliber, ultra-high-velocity pistol cartridge suitable for penetration of armor. The need to maintain controllability would necessarily keep the size of the bullets small. I'm thinking of perhaps a 25-grain bullet at 4,500 feet. With ballistics of this sort it would naturally be necessary to use a positively locked action such as the Husqvarna.

There is naturally no need to improve the accuracy of a weapon if it is accurate enough to begin with. Most pistols shoot more accurately than most shooters as they come over the counter.

Q. I am currently contemplating the purchase of a pistol and am in a quandary as to precisely what would best suit my needs. My experience with pistols consists of very limited use of a .22 target pistol. I am looking for something that would serve for target practice right now with possible defensive service in the future. Would you recommend an automatic or a revolver? In what caliber? Would a .45 ACP be too much for a beginner? If you consider it too powerful, would you suggest another caliber? What about the new 9mm magnum and .45 magnum? I know your preference for .45s — would you recommend something like a Colt Gold Cup for a beginner?

D.P.O.

Dallas, Texas

A. There is a tendency for many people to make too much of recoil. The recoil of a pistol is for the most part negligible. I can teach young children and small girls to shoot the .45 without difficulty. If you need a pistol at all, you need one which can be depended upon to save your life. I put scant faith in small calibers.

Q. In both editions of Cooper on Handguns you state your preference in duplicating GI recoil is the Adams bullet and five grains of Bullseye. Where can I find the Adams 230?

C.B.

Las Vegas, Nevada

A. You can obtain molds for the Adams bullet from Hensley & Gibbs, Box 10, Murrey, OR 97533.

Q. I am a captain in an Army Reserve transportation brigade, and under our TOE only field-grade officers are issued sidearms. As I fully intend to have a sidearm with me if we are mobilized, I will have to take my own .45 Colt Commander. I recently had a Bo-Mar fast-draw rib installed on my satin-nickel Commander because I wanted an adjustable sight and a means of minimizing glare when sighting. Some literature I have subsequently received from Bo-Mar, however, states that hardball is not recommended for a ribbed .45. Is there really a good chance that hardball will cause the rib to eventually fly off? If so, can the rib be sweated or soldered on for a permanent installation?

Also, I have been considering purchase of a "UC" type Maxi-Compensator. It would appear that if this muzzle brake does indeed achieve a 40-percent reduction in felt recoil, the combination of the brake and a rib should make for one controllable Combat Commander! Of course, the gun must above all be reliable: being hit with a flying rib while shooting at the enemy could be quite disconcerting, perhaps even fatally so.

Do you think I could continue shooting hardball without any modifications — or should I just get another slide for the Commander? I would probably order a blued-steel slide which would help with the glare problem and provide a nice contrast to the satin-nickel frame.

J.R.R.
Augusta, Georgia

A. In general, the closer to stock you can keep your personal sidearms the better off you will be. Most accessories of the type being pushed today carry their own drawbacks with them. The recoil of the steel Commander is negligible and there is no need to try to reduce it further. The best "recoil reducer" so far discovered is a proper grip on the weapon.

I cannot tell whether full loads will pop the Bo-Mar rib off your pistol because I don't use one and I have no evaluation of its durability. We use only full loads at Gunsite and feel that reduced loads in the .45 ACP cartridge are a contradiction of terms.

I think your best bet would be to sell the steel, nickel-plated Bo-Mar-ribbed Commander to someone who wants it more than you do and obtain a normal (aluminum-frame) blue Commander. If you fit that with good sights and a good trigger, you will have nothing further to worry about.

—Jeff Cooper

Continued on page 74

PHOENIX



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STEELE

Continued from page 12

called the "Wellington," with a 3-3/8-inch blade of 440C. The stag handle has stippled nickel-silver bolsters. Perhaps his most interesting new knife is the "Demon's Claw." This knife was adapted from an Asian "tiger claw" fighting knife shown in my book, *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting* (Phoenix Press, Dept. SOF, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306). This Viele knife has a curved 3 1/2-inch blade sharpened on the inside edge. Integral with the 440C blade is a round blackwood handle, 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Included is a unique snap-on belt sheath.

Kuzan Oda (Dept. SOF, 205 Chaucer Ct., Colorado Springs, CO 80916) has a couple of new concealment knives based on the medieval Japanese *tanto*. As weapons buffs and martial artists know, the *tanto* was the last-ditch defense weapon of the *samurai* class, both for the warrior and his wife. If all defense failed they could still be used for *seppuku* (ritual suicide) so that honor would be preserved in death if not in life. The warrior would use the knife to cut his abdomen while a wife would cut her carotid artery (after binding her legs to prevent an immodest display in death). Oda makes a standard *tanto* boot knife with five-inch 154CM blade and micarta handle. His other knife is based on an armor-piercing *tanto* with reinforced point. This knife has a six-inch 154CM blade, with an ivory micarta han-

Continued on page 83

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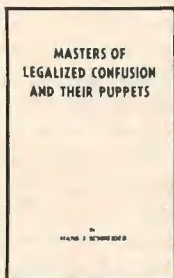
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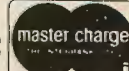
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in Review

THE WORLD'S FIGHTING SHOTGUNS. By Thomas F. Swarengen. 504 pages, illustrated. T.B.N. Enterprises, P.O. Box 55, Alexandria, Virginia 22313. \$24.95. Review by John C. McPherson.

MLITARY and law enforcement professionals have long known that shotguns are more than a useful tool for the hunting of migratory wild fowl. Despite the popularity as the weapon of choice in many situations, available literature on the subject has been scarce. That problem has been eliminated with the publication of *The World's Fighting Shotguns* by Thomas F. Swarengen.

Swarengen traces the shotgun's violent history from the European blunderbuss to the American frontier and recent combat in Indochina. The shotgun is a venerable — and legitimate — weapon of war for the American fighting man. One prominent proponent of the shotgun was General John J. Pershing. Having personally witnessed the destructive capabilities of the fighting shotgun during service in the American West and the Philippines, Pershing was quick to see it as the ideal weapon for World War I's trench warfare. It worked so well that the Imperial German government formally protested its use as a weapon in September 1918. It seems the German army preferred to face machine guns rather than the buckshot-loaded, slide-action shotguns of the American Expeditionary Force. The protest was duly rejected. The Hague Convention of 1907 does not prohibit the shotgun as a weapon of war, despite rumors to the contrary.

The bulk of the book studies shotguns themselves, organized by type such as single shot, lever action, or autoloading. The considerable research involved in this book is apparent and the reader will find no shortage of novel guns and systems. The extensive photos are of uniformly high quality throughout. Some of the guns illustrated include Clyde Barrow's first shotgun, the multi-barrel Hillberg Insurgency Weapons and the Atchisson 12-gauge selective-fire assault shotgun — quite a smorgasbord!

The final chapters cover standard and unusual accessories and ammunition. Some of the accessories, such as magazine extensions and folding stocks, have become commonplace. Others, including launchers for Energa HEAT grenades and

the like, remain in the province of the exotic. The reader may be surprised at the variety of shotgun ammunition developed in recent years. Military researchers have gone beyond buckshot and slugs to flechettes, darts, incendiaries, flares, explosives and even a silent shell.

Like its subject matter, *The World's Fighting Shotguns* is a sure bet to hit the mark.

John C. McPherson is also a marksman in both long gun and handgun. His competitive shooting began in college where he was rifle team captain in 1968-69. In the Army he was a member of the 3rd Infantry Division pistol team (1971) and 80th Division rifle team (1972-1974). An API graduate (basic and intermediate courses), he serves as firearms instructor for Houston's Delta Orion Corporation and is a reserve deputy for the Harris County Sheriff's Department (Houston).

During his active Army service (1969-72), he served in 'Nam with the 1st Bn/20th Infantry and MACV Advisory Team 68 (Vinh Long). As a partner in Lancer Militaria he tracks down books as well as other military memorabilia. His SOF reviews include Robin Moore's Rhodesia (April '79) and Terrorism: An Executive's Guide to Survival (August '79).

TRACKING: A Blueprint for Learning How. By Jack Kearney. Pathways Press, 525 Jeffree St., El Cajon, CA 92020. 150 pages, illustrated. \$8.95. Review by John Early.

FOR the serious practitioner of outdoor survival skills or the practicing mercenary, Jack Kearney has some sage words, a few helpful hints and some good ideas between the covers of his book.

Kearney is a supervisory Border Patrol agent of the El Cajon, Calif., Border Patrol Station and has been tracking people for over 17 years. His expertise in this field has resulted in thousands of illegal aliens being apprehended and several dozens of lost hikers, hunters, fishermen and children recovered.

The author's technique for teaching tracking is laid out in easy step-by-step exercises that attempt to train the novice in the art of tracking.

His technique contains ideas essential for the beginning tracker and establishes a foundation for developing the trainee's

skills as he continues through the exercises and the pages of the book. More advanced techniques for the already practicing tracker are outlined similarly.

Kearney's work includes tips on determining the age of tracks and sign, methods for tracking from vehicles and tips on following one's prey in low light and night conditions. He also discusses difficulties of tracking in various terrains and climates. His tips on tracking in desert areas as well as snow are interesting and well presented, as is the rest of the book in clear, concise and readable fashion.

He has written *Tracking* primarily from experiences gleaned from years of working in the southwest United States. Consequently, it is a regional tracking guide as well as a beginner's primer. The book covers the subject quite well, including examination of feces to determine who "they" are as well as where "they" went.

Although his book is not oriented toward military operations, its ideas can be adapted for the soldier's use in combat. Because the book is law-enforcement oriented, no mention is made of anti-tracking techniques nor is there any information on determining the number of people one is tracking, a crucial omission to the mercenary hunting his enemy.

He discusses how to determine whom one is tracking by examining abandoned personal belongings, a psychological approach to tracking people that has received little attention in the printed page. Kearney explains the nature of "track traps" as an aid to finding one's man and discusses various man-made and natural areas that quickly give evidence of passage by animals and people.

The book's construction leaves a bit to be desired. The copy I had was poorly bound and did not stand up to much thumbing. After several trips through the volume, the pages began to fall out. If you are intending to use *Tracking* as a reference work — and you should — I would recommend punching holes in the pages and putting the whole shootin' match in a loose-leaf binder. Possibly the author should track down the publisher and beat him over the head with a copy, but not too hard. The pages will fall out! This is the only flaw in an otherwise well-done work.

I suppose if one could learn to track only from a book, which one can't, this would be the book to start with. There is

no last word on any subject but Kearney's book goes a long way toward laying a good foundation for the beginning tracker. **Tracking** contains useful information that can be used by the wilderness adventurer, the rural law enforcement officer and the practicing mercenary soldier. Its message is important and well told. It is equally well illustrated.

Although not intended for the military, **Tracking** has several military or paramilitary applications for those working in terrain favorable to following people with a view to their eventual ambush and demise.

As I said before, this isn't the last word but it is a collection of a lot of good words.

Tracking was among the skills that John Early, SOF contributing editor for military affairs, learned in his 12 years with the U.S. Army and three years with the Rhodesian air force and army. In the Army, Early spent 4½ years in Vietnam as a SF NCO (see "Armor in the Wire," SOF, November '79) and officer with the 5th and 10th SFGA. His Rhodesian tour included service with the elite Selous Scouts. As a writer on combat tracking techniques (see SOF, July '79), Early is well qualified to evaluate another expert tracker's handbook.

THE WAR THAT NEVER WAS. By Bradley Earl Ayers. Canoga Park, California: Major Books. 1979. 320 pp. Paperback. \$2.50. Review by M.L. Jones.

IN 1978 SOF published two chapters from **The War That Never Was**, Capt. Bradley E. Ayers' book on CIA involvement in Cuban exile operations (see "And They Were The Pros?" - SOF, Jan., Mar. '78). The book was subsequently published by Bobbs-Merrill and has just been reissued in paperback by Major Books (Dept. SOF, 21335 Roscoe Blvd., Canoga Park, CA 91304).

In the spring of 1963, Ayers was ordered by the Pentagon to "volunteer" for an undercover assignment with the CIA. He was subsequently placed on loan to the Agency and assigned to JM-WAVE, the Miami CIA station, as part of the CIA's intense covert paramilitary war against Fidel Castro.

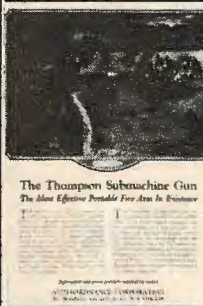
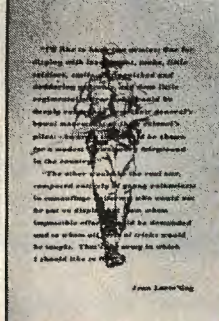
This war against Castro was not limited to clandestine paramilitary activity. Code named "Operation Mongoose," the Agency attempted to infiltrate every aspect of Cuban communist life. Their efforts included international economic and trade boycotts, penetration and subversion of Latin American political and labor organizations, and infiltration and coercion of cultural and academic circles in order to destroy Castro's hold on Cuba.

Ayers and another U.S. Army officer, Major "Wes" Westrum, an engineer officer and demolitions expert, were assign-

Continued on page 84

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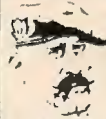


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FULL AUTO
Continued from page 8

Springfield Armory rifle but it has no civilian ammo.

How does the Armalite AR-10 stack up when compared to the HK-91 in terms of cost, durability under combat conditions and accuracy?

D.F.P.

Gulfport, Mississippi

A. *The reason an AR-18 was used in the series of photographs of which you speak was purely coincidental. In other words, it was the first AR someone grabbed when he stuck his arm into the gun rack — and off we went! I can assure you I have no latent desire to like the 5.56x45mm but I do freely acknowledge its existence — for obvious reasons. Intellectually at least I can assure you the 5.56x45/.223 ranks higher only than the cal. .30 USC on my list.*

I do not concur with current "survival experts" in their choices of weapons because I do not believe them to be competent in that field. Any .30 caliber rifle, even a bolt-action one, is perfectly good for survival use. The military weapon is designed intentionally to take abuse that would ruin a sporting weapon in short order. An M1903 Springfield would do just fine.

Most "expert" recommendations are based on the opinions of other people. Each such recommendation must be weighed on its own individual merit — or lack of merit. You're the one who's going to be betting your life on that choice, not the "expert." The most common "expert" error, in my opinion, is the idea one must have an HK-91, M1A or BM-59 to survive. H&K weapon reliability is excellent but why must someone who's running around the countryside trying to stay alive be armed with a weapon designed for military teamwork missions? Make your own choice, based on your particular needs and anticipated actions.

Q. Please explain the following: 1. MAC 10-Uzi style of SMG: sear-trigger arrangement for holding the bolt open; 2. FN-FAL gas and bolt-delay system; 3. CETME gas and bolt-delay systems; 4. MG-3 belt-feed system; 5. LMG, MMG, HMG bolt-locking systems.

M.M.

Westfield, New Brunswick,
Canada

A. *I'm astonished at your request for complete explanations of most of the concepts of every major automatic weapon in use for the last 40 years. While I sincerely appreciate the respect and credibility you obviously give me by making such a request, please understand that such an explanation would constitute a rather*

Continued on page 76

RAPID DEPLOYMENT
FORCE NEEDED ...

A new rapid deployment military force is needed "to compete with the Soviets assertively in those parts of the world wherever the Soviets impose on us such a competition either directly or indirectly," Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Jimmy Carter's national security advisor, told newsmen shortly before the discovery of Soviet combat troops in Cuba.

The Pentagon plans to have a force of about three divisions that can sustain itself without reinforcement for 60 days in remote areas in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia by the early 1980s.

Hindsight doesn't help much, does it?

SOVIETS KILLED
IN MOZAMBIQUE ...

Anti-government guerrillas shot and killed five Soviet "senior officers" in a fire fight near Nampula in northern Mozambique in late July 1979, according to a South African newspaper report.

Well-informed diplomatic sources later confirmed the report.

According to *The Citizen*, intelligence reports indicate that more than 50 percent of Mozambique's population now supports anti-Frelimo (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) movements.

NO SHOCKS
FOR SKINHEADS ...

Army recruits "will be treated as soldiers and as adult individuals, with the same respect and dignity accorded to all soldiers," according to a 1979 order issued from the Army's Training and Doctrine Command to all recruit-reception stations and basic training centers.

The command specifically ruled out "shock" tactics used in the past on recruits as they reported to reception stations to enter the Army, banning "such practices as making receptees stand at a brace, run on and off buses with luggage and other forms of harassment."

"Skinhead" haircuts are also out, according to the order, for regular Army haircut standards. "Trainees will be allowed to wear mustaches in accordance with current Army regulations," the order said.

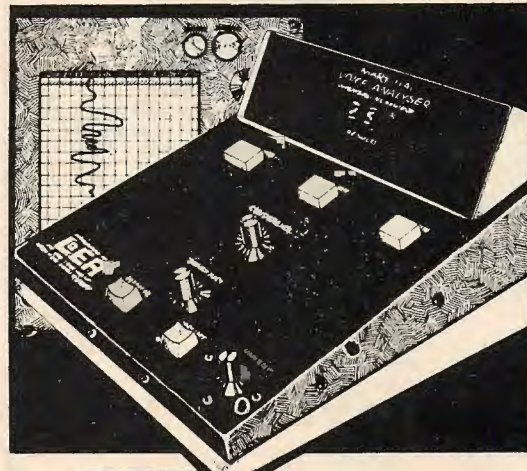
Drill sergeants will be required to address new enlistees "as soldier, private or by last name," according to the new order.

Continued on page 79

ELECTRONIC SECURITY AND COUNTERMEASURES EQUIPMENT



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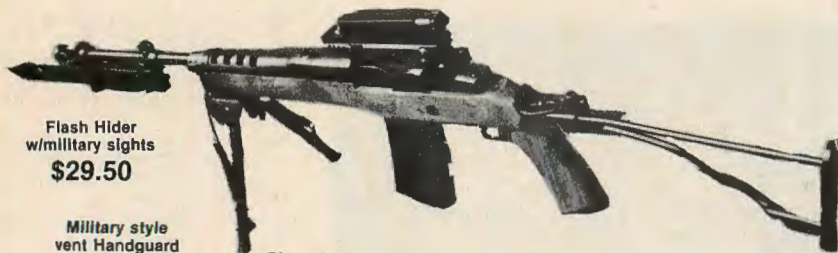
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NOTE: Orders now being taken for Sentinel Arms'
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Oct., 1979. Production is limited to 450, so reserve
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Terrain & Situation

by Jerry Ahern

ALTHOUGH the crossdraw holster is pretty much vanishing from the scene for undercover use, it is more alive than ever in sporting holsters. Yet, regardless of trends — and the inherent problems of the crossdraw — some police and undercover types cling to it. One of the fastest and lightest of the concealable crossdraw rigs in current production is the "Sheriff" from J.M. Bucheimer. Spring-steel-reinforced for fast front opening, the holster minimizes bulk with a highly effective cylinder recess — also providing added insurance for the gun staying put until needed. Using a Colt Dick Special .38 and a belly-roll draw, the 1930s technique worked well — and was fast.

Drawbacks to the crossdraw come mostly from the standpoint of gun security, although some safety problems can arise. As with a shoulder rig of any type, the muzzle is sometimes pointed to the side during the draw. An untimely shot could injure an innocent bystander or the gunman himself. But the biggest handicap — and why crossdraws generally are sometimes nicknamed "the widowmaker" — is gun-snatching.

This nasty vice accounts for many peace officer deaths — far too many police shot and killed with their own guns. And any kind of crossdraw is the easiest holster for a gun to be snatched from.

As you lean forward, the butt of the gun presents itself to the would-be snatcher. He grabs the gun. Normal reaction is to draw back as you reach for his hand. Your recoiling from the attack simply aids the gun-snatcher to speed up his draw of your gun from your holster.

Many holsters are easy for an opponent to draw from — hence the popularity of breakfront duty holsters like those from John Bianchi.

Yet, if regulations or just unbreakable habit dictate using a crossdraw concealment holster, the J.M. Bucheimer "Sheriff" is well-made, sturdy and fast to use. The construction helps to hug the gunbutt to the body for added concealability and the quality of the leather means it'll be a good investment for years to come. For more information on the complete line of J.M. Bucheimer/Bucheimer-Clark Holsters write: Dept. SOF, Box 280, Airport Rd., Frederick, MD 21701, U.S.A.

A few issues back, I talked here about the Beretta .25 Jetfire as recently re-introduced in this country by J.L. Galef. At the time, the Minx .22 Short version was not yet available. As this is written, we've been testing the Minx for several weeks — with fine results. I say "we." My wife and photographer, Sharon Ahern, to my consternation, is one of those people who is naturally a good shot, as women often tend to be. Yet, carrying an automatic has always been a problem for her, since manually cycling the slide was often beyond the reach of her strength — this with guns like the Walther PPK/S, the Browning High Power, etc. For this reason, she always preferred a revolver.

The 10-ounce Minx, like its two-course lighter cousin, features the convenient tip-up barrel for first-shot loading, or emptying the chamber before lowering the hammer. And, because of this, under most circumstances manual slide manipulation is completely unnecessary. When the Minx arrived, I was eager to try it because results with the .25 Jetfire had been so uniformly excellent. I set up some informal targets. The Minx racked up one malfunction — for which I still cannot discern the cause — then performed flawlessly, right out of the box, without even a casual cleaning (whenever doing this, always check for bore obstructions).

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Accuracy was on a par with the .25 — superb for the size of the gun — and the feel was perfect. The Jetfire tested and frequently carried nowadays had a heavy trigger pull. The Minx trigger pull was considerably lighter, yet still quite crisp.

Holding six shots in the magazine, the magazine itself looks to be half follower and spring. With a button assist, loading the tiny .22 Short cartridges is easy for anyone. And, because of the ridiculously low price of Shorts as compared to .25



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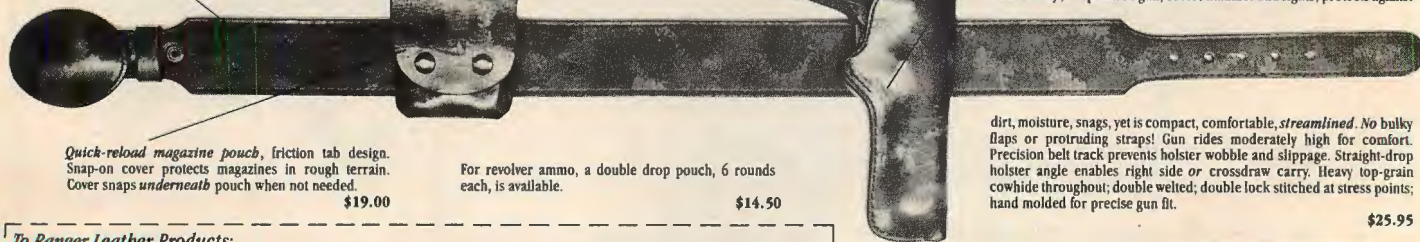
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JANUARY/80

ACP rounds, practice shooting is hardly a financial burden to anyone. With the Minx, you can afford to become a literal deadeye.

To be sure, no .22 Short or .25 should be taken seriously for defense except under the most extraordinary circumstances. But, if a small gun is all that can or will be carried, either the Minx or the Jetfire is an incomparable choice.

I've always preferred the weaker cartridge of the .25 autos over the less reliably feeding, yet more powerful .22 Rimfires. Yet, in determining who carries which Beretta auto at the Ahern house, my choice is purely subjective, since both function with seemingly total reliability. As this is written, retail price for either gun is about \$125, and supply is still scarce because demand is so high. If I sound like a stockholder, I'm not. But I do consider the new little Beretta Jetfire and Minx two of the best-made guns on the market. For more information, write J.L. Galey & Sons, Dept. SOF, 85 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007, U.S.A.

MY father-in-law, George Dreyer, 81 and tough as nails in a pinch, stands just about five feet two, and I'm probably being generous. Armament Systems Products' popular "knife," dubbed "The Deadly Dwarf," kind of reminds me of him. Neither one is really a dwarf, but both are kind of on the small side, yet neither one would be too healthy to mess with. The Deadly Dwarf — not my father-in-law, but the knife — measures just seven inches long overall with a 3½-inch blade. The blade is shaped like a spike, three edges tapering to a central point. The wood-handled little sticker rides in a good-looking black suede sheath, the knife held in the leather by friction. Designed to be strapped to the calf with dual elastic bands, it could be carried on the forearm if needed, though probably not as safely. Weight with the sheath is just two ounces, so comfort with the little rig is excellent.

Like a lot of items on the market today, the Dwarf is designed as a last-ditch, close-quarters defense weapon. Threat value would be minimal. However, if the situation deteriorated to where the Dwarf had to be used, the effect would be like an icepick. No more needs to be said. Reasonably well-made, the Deadly Dwarf is available from Armament Systems Products, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 18595, Atlanta, GA 30326, U.S.A. Current retail is just under \$30 for the A.S.P. Deadly Dwarf. The other deadly dwarf isn't for sale....



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By Special Arrangement SOF Africa Correspondent Al J. Venter brings readers a piece of the action from this vicious ongoing conflict which threatens to envelop all of Southern Africa.



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RUNNING DOWN AN SOF NOTICE

Penetrating a London Fog

by Edmond Lamb

A recent SOF Bulletin Board notice took this reporter's eye. As I would be in London, England, the latter part of July, I could check it out.

After arrival, I contacted the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, 64 Ennismore Gardens SW7, London. I asked for the recruitment office at the doorway and was told to go down a flight of stairs and ring the bell. After stating my business, I was led into a small, dingy office where two women were answering calls on telephones. They seemed uninterested but asked me to state the reason for the visit.

I inquired if they were recruiting former Air Force pilots and flight engineers for Oman, as I had read an ad in the States that a personal visit might bring results. They told me that all hiring, civilian and military, is handled by Charles Kendall & Partners, Limited, 7 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road, London SW 7, telephone number 015891256.

After leaving the embassy, I took a taxi to that address, about 10 blocks away. On arriving at Charles Kendall & Partners, I walked down a long, red-carpeted foyer and looked for number 7, which is up on the first floor. A receptionist at a switchboard asked me whom I wished to see. I stated I was looking for employment in Oman and had been sent there to see Mr. Charles Kendall. I was told that he was not in. I got confidential with the girl and she told me to call back around 1530 and maybe someone could help me. I left my calling card and asked them to send me an application as I would be leaving the next day and would appreciate anything that they could do to help.

I returned to the London Tara Hotel and at 1530 called back to see if Kendall's secretary had returned. She had, and when she asked me if it were a military or civilian job I wished to apply for, I told her military. She said all military jobs were handled by Airworks Services, Ltd., phone number 020162271.

I next called the number she gave me and a man, who knew little about what was going on, answered. He excused himself and said, "I will ask one of the fellows here about your request."

After a bit, he got back on the line and said, "The gentleman who handles that is not in." I asked him some

general questions about employment and got the following information from him:

They are hiring only English air force pilots. He didn't think the U.S. government would allow U.S. citizens to join the Sultanate of Oman's air force. I now realized one would have to join the air force of Oman at its rate of pay, such as we see in Rhodesian hiring practices, precluding any big money to be made as a mercenary pilot or soldier of fortune. I told this fellow I had left a card at Kendall's. It would be sent to Airworks Services, Ltd. and would they send me the proper forms to apply for any position open to those interested in employment.

I suspect one could get on with the Sultanate's forces, and there may be a possibility of civilian work also through Charles Kendall & Partners, Ltd., if one wished to pursue that avenue.

I suggest to anyone wishing to get involved with these people, not to fly over to London, as prices there are way out of proportion to U.S. prices. In the five days I was in London, I spent over \$500 for food and transportation and phone calls, not counting the hotel room which was part of the TWA tour my wife and I were on.

Do not, repeat, do not, eat at hotels as they have gone completely out of line in their pricing structure. There is an additional tax called VAT and gratuities are not in the bill. I paid \$6 for four eggs plain without additional toast and coffee.

You can eat at pubs and fast-food chains a lot less expensively, but you always take the chance of getting food not up to American standards.

Why did I spend the time to look into this blind ad? I wanted to better inform those of you looking for a job, so you would not blow your hard-earned money making a special trip to a foreign country without at least some of the facts of employment and what is required. If Airwork Services or Charles Kendall & Partners, Ltd. do send me an application form, I will pass it on to SOF and they in turn will inform you, their readers, what has transpired.

Edmond L. Lamb, a commercial pilot, became interested in African affairs in the late '60s during the Ibos' unsuccessful war with Nigeria. He joined the Biafran airlift to Uli, helping to deliver food, medicine and fuel to Biafra's starving citizens. Lamb, who now lives in California, has been a staunch advocate for Rhodesia in its continuing terrorist war.



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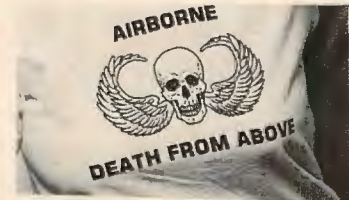
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I Was There

Paul W. Settle as told to M.L. Jones

Paul W. Settle, 37, is a U.S. Navy chief hospital corpsman and senior medical department representative at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He's been a sailor for 15 years. Last August he became a participant as well as an observer at a 2nd Recon Battalion, 2nd Marine Division "Surf and Sand" training exercise at Camp Lejeune. As he tells it:

THERE comes a time in a man's life when he must take the bull by the horns and do something to prove to himself he still has it and never lost it. I got my chance at the Surf and Sand three-day ex-

ercise with assault boats and seven-man crews. We flexed our muscles on the beach and made it through the surf without drowning. But what separated the Marines from the boys was the rappelling.

We practiced first on a 30-foot wall with a walk-down, then a bound-down. A piece of cake. The Recon Marines showed us how to hold our brake hand just right — we couldn't slip and fall.

The 90-foot tower was next. By my count, there were more than 100 steps up it. Once up, it looked a mile down. Hooking our Swiss seats up to the double 3/8-inch nylon rope, we sat down at the

five-foot square hatch. The hardest part was to get the left cheek off the edge, and hanging there, to get my heart started again. Then it was a matter of coordination to get to the bottom in three bounds. After my initial fright and tight gut, it was also a piece of cake and so sweet, I could hardly wait to get back up. I was such a hot dog my belay man had to do some fancy footwork to keep me from becoming part of the beach below. Not bad for a beginner.

Next day brought heart-stopper number two. At 0800 a CH-46 Sea Knight whumped overhead and settled down. The Recon leaders went out to secure the rappelling ropes. Ten of us went up. The chopper hovered at about 100 feet.

The jump master motioned to me, hooked the rope around my buckle and gave me about 10 feet of slack so I wouldn't crash into the chopper on my way down. I had to stand with my heels off the chopper gate. Then he gave me the high sign and I just stood there.

But I didn't have time to be scared. I gave the Recon jump master a high-pitched, "Hoo-rah!" He let go of my line and out I went — I hope gracefully. I didn't have to jump as the prop wash pulling on the rope was enough to pull me out. It seemed like an eternity before I reached the end of my rope's slack. I hung there, getting my heart started again, and then proceeded to rappel down with the greatest of ease.

The belay man smiled, "Well done," and gave me a pat on the back.

Jubilant, I made a reservation to go out again. This time I was going to be really good — I was so good my hands slipped on the ropes and I wound up upside down at the end of my slack, and wouldn't you know it, someone took a picture.

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A BLAST FROM THE PAST

U.S. Border Patrol

by Dana Drenkowski

Drenkowski's "Blast from the Past" is the second of a series of articles on the U.S. Border Patrol. (See "Cactus Curtain," SOF, December '79.)

THE swarthy horsemen kept the long train of mules moving single file in the canyon, trying to keep close to the shadows whenever possible to escape the blazing afternoon sun. The Mexican mule-train leader, an old hand at smuggling goods across the unguarded American border, tensed when he saw a gringo cowboy riding toward him. Encounters on this trail were scarce but not unknown. Cowboy and Mexican smuggler exchanged a few pleasantries in Spanish, then continued on their journeys, the cowboy riding the length of the long mule train.

ATROL

After he passed the last of 20 Mexican riders, he quickly turned in the saddle, a six-shooter in each hand. Firing two quick shots, he emptied two saddles. Simultaneously, shots rang out from the brush and rocks lining the canyon, blasting down half the Mexicans before they had a chance to draw their weapons. Their leader, Don Miguel Garcia, was lifted out of his saddle by a heavy Winchester rifle bullet. Mortally wounded, but game to the end, he struggled to his knees, trying to raise his revolver. His shot went off harmlessly as bullets slammed him back to the ground.

Other smugglers tried to escape or fight back, but against hidden targets, they had little chance. One young man got away, leaving his three older brothers dead on the ground, as gringos moved out from hiding places to shoot those wounded Mexicans still alive.

Nineteen men died that day, for \$75,000 in smuggled Mexican silver. Never buried, their bones gave the canyon its name.

The killers were never brought to justice for that July 1881 crime in Skeleton Canyon, which stretches from the Mexican border through what is now New Mexico and Arizona.

No U.S. law enforcement agency existed then to patrol the American side. Dictator Porfiro Diaz was battling outlaws with the hard fighting, feared *Rurales Federales*, a mounted paramilitary police force comprised in many cases of former bandits.

The cowboy leader of the attack on the smugglers was Curly Bill Brocius, and his cohorts were said to be Old Man Clanton, his sons Ike and Billy Clanton, Tom and Frank McLowery, John Ringo, Joe Hill, and five others. Some of them figured later in the famous gun battle at Tombstone, Ariz., with U.S. Deputy Marshal Wyatt Earp, his brothers Morgan and Virgil and their friend, Doc Holliday. The border was wide open, and on both sides laws and customs revenues went ignored. Justice, when it came, was dealt with outside the confines of law. Old Man Clanton died with four of his men in an ambush engineered by the 16-year-old Mexican who escaped his brothers' fate in Skeleton Canyon.

Billy Clanton and Tom and Frank McLowery met their violent end in the gun battle with Wyatt Earp. When his brother Morgan was later assassinated, Earp went on a vendetta that did for the U.S. side of the border what the *Rurales* were doing to the south. Searching for his brother's killers, Earp flushed every known outlaw camp in Arizona, killing some and chasing the rest off. He squelched banditry and smuggling for a while.

But the border was still wild and woolly when Congress, after having passed a law preventing Chinese immigration in the 1880s, finally appointed a mounted customs inspector specifically for the purpose

Border Patrol Inspectors (now Agents) ham it up during traffic check operations near El Centro, California, 1928.



ABOVE: Border Patrol Inspectors of 1948 on parade during Charro Days, Brownsville, Texas, 1948. RIGHT: That noon-day siesta, 1928 style.





Check point on old Interstate 101, Oceanside, California, 1955.

of halting illegal immigration in 1904, the first step taken toward formation of a Border Patrol.

This first mounted "Chinese Inspector," as he was called, Jefferson D. Milton, was a former Texas Ranger, Arizona Territorial Ranger, and an experienced guard or security officer for private companies. He was intelligent, hard-riding and quick with a gun, all assets in that region. He was famed throughout the border for his exploits against outlaws, one of which in 1900 very nearly ended his gun-handling days, when an attack by five bandits on a train he was guarding resulted in his gun arm being shattered.

The action took place near Tombstone, where one of the best bullet-wound surgeons in the world practiced, a recognized authority for repairing shattered bodies. Milton's arm was saved and in a year or so, he was as good as ever with a gun. Milton populated his share of Boot Hill with bad men who tried to best him. When asked about that aspect of his life, he reportedly said, "I never killed a man who didn't deserve it."

"I never killed a man who didn't deserve it."

Milton, upon being named immigration inspector for Chinese, saddled up and rode to a particular smuggling haunt in Mexico known to harbor professional alien smugglers. He confronted some of the better known ones and let it be known it was his job to stop smuggling in any way possible. Taking note of his previous accomplishments in populating Boot Hill, Chinese smuggling dropped off noticeably as some smugglers took the hint and chose safer occupations.

Milton patrolled alone at first, but within a few years he was joined by several other inspectors. By 1911, immigrants were primarily Europeans, and mounted customs inspectors aimed their efforts at that group. In Mexico, the iron-handed reign of Porfiro Diaz ended as major parties of Mexican revolutionaries and bandits swarmed back and forth across the border.

In 1916, the inspectors became known as river guards or river riders, then were called mounted guards. Numbering around 75, they each provided their own horses, guns and clothing. They dressed like border cowboys and ranchers — their own background.

As violence mounted, they became more involved in fighting than trying to stop illegal immigration. During this period, a national single-issue group, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, succeeded in passing legislation and later an amendment to the Constitution banning the use or distillation of drinking alcohol. Prohibition began and, on the border, so did the Volstead War, so named because of the Act banning alcohol.



Border Patrol Inspector Jesse Perez (hat) and apprehended aliens near Rio Grande City, Texas, in the early 1940s.

Being one of the only available law enforcement agencies along the border, the mounted guards were directed to concentrate on anti-booze smuggling. Prior to this period, they had lost no one to action on the border. Within six months, two patrolmen were dead, and the war was on in earnest. Gun fights became commonplace and casualties rose on both sides. Their opponents, both Mexican and American smugglers, were well-acquainted with weapons, the former being veterans of the nine-year Mexican civil war, and the latter being members of various organized crime syndicates.

But the mounted guards were really created to fight illegal immigration, which Congress, taking note of high immigration rates now coming from Europe, began to look at. Immigration quotas were introduced on the influx of Europeans, matching those already in effect against Asians. Untouched, however, were the numbers of Latin Americans allowed. Fighting both Prohibition smugglers and illegal immigrants, the mounted guards were stretched thin. Congress wanted a special law enforcement unit, larger than the mounted guards, and directly responsible for intercepting illegal activities on the border. The Labor Department Appropriations Act of May 8, 1924, created a special United States Immigration Border Patrol with a \$1,000,000 budget.

With El Paso as its recruitment point, the nascent Border Patrol was composed of 450 men. Most were former Texas Rangers, mounted guards or law enforcement veterans from other Western organizations. However, a number were sent from the Civil Service Register of qualified railway mail clerks — a typical bureaucratic error. Required to take on the mail clerks who passed a Civil Service test designed for them, the senior members of the Patrol (usually former mounted guards) established rigorous mounted patrols of remote border areas for those suspected of having little or no riding and fighting experience.

The majority of the mail clerks, usually from Eastern cities, resigned after a few days on the job. There was a war on, and there was not time to teach mail clerks to ride, “cut sign,” or fight.

For the first nine years, the Border Patrol had no time to deal with illegal immigrants not carrying whisky. Battles were brief and vicious, sometimes taking place in border towns, as reported in the May 11, 1926, edition of the *El Paso Times*:

“Ysodor Lopez, 20, was fatally wounded by officers John G. Gillis and C.C. Mattox of the Border Patrol, in a gun battle at 9 o'clock last night at Fourth and Canal steets. . . . According to the story of the officers, Lopez was one of four men who were challenged by them after they

had crossed the canal bridge with four sacks of liquor. Two of the men dropped the sacks and fled, but Lopez and another man stopped and opened fire.”

Another account told of 12 gunmen providing covering fire for two men from across the river in Ciudad Juarez who tried to run the line one afternoon. Frequently, such covering fire was provided by Mexican customs officers, working with the smugglers to make a little cash on the side. When American Border Patrol officers returned the fire, they later had to defend themselves against diplomatic protests from crooked Mexican diplomats. The frequent open fighting in downtown El Paso led to changes in architecture of buildings facing the Mexican border. All border-facing walls were windowless and doorless, to protect from all-too-frequent stray shots.

Lest the reader think the Border Patrol was full of trigger-happy gunmen, it should be noted orders were to shoot only if lives were in danger. Patrol agents were not to shoot first, a rule which sometimes caused tragedy in the force. They were proud of their restraint in shooting situations and as a result their casualties were almost as many as those of the smugglers.

Border Patrol legends

During the Prohibition period of the '20s and '30s, men such as Col. Charles

Askins and Bill Jordan created Border Patrol legends. These men were forced by events to find better ways to train men to use their weapons in tight situations to survive. The more highly trained the Patrolmen were, the more likely they were to holster their guns until actual hostilities began, which earned them much respect on the border. Their reputation for fairness with non-violent criminals created an atmosphere of trust amongst border inhabitants, who returned good treatment with respect and sometimes assistance.

"I'd shoot the son-of-a-bitch!"

Patrolling remote border areas, most Patrolmen, as ex-cowboys, frequently rounded up loose cattle or other stock wandering out of bounds and returned them to their owners' lands on either side of the border. One officer recalled being told he had been transferred to another area a week or so earlier, but no one could find him to deliver the orders. He was busy working the border and punching cows, and no one could find him until he reported to headquarters.

In 1933, Prohibition was repealed, and the role of the Border Patrol was seriously questioned. Attitudes of Easterners, sent by the new Roosevelt administration to eliminate as many "trigger-happy" Patrolmen as possible, were based on misunderstandings of newspaper reports they had read about the Patrol.

Roosevelt's appointees assumed the large number of shootings were caused by the Patrol. They were unaware of the nature of life on America's southern border and of the determination of smugglers to bring their goods illegally into the U.S. This East Coast attitude about the nature of smuggling and violence on the border would manifest itself again during the narcotics smuggling epidemic of the 1960s and '70s, in which profits in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars led smugglers to prefer killing law enforcement officers to arrest and loss of profits.

The reformers' attitude is one of unilateral disarmament, a theory constantly discredited in practice, but still advocated by those who choose not to read history. The opinion was that if our side (the law enforcers) disarm themselves, the criminals will too. The number of dead officers with guns still in their holsters should lay that theory to rest, but there are those who prefer criminals to police.

A board interviewed Border Patrol officers, asking, "What would you do if your partner were killed by an illegally crossing individual who escaped back across the border, and who you later saw coming across the border again?"

Those who answered honestly — "I'd arrest or shoot the son-of-a-bitch!" — were dismissed from the force. They quickly spread the word — the approved

answer was: "I'd warn him he would be subject to arrest if he did not turn back."

To Border Patrolmen, whose partners lost their lives while giving a hostile smuggler every break before shooting, and who prided themselves on their restraint, the pannel and its questions were the ultimate morale-breaking insult.

Fortunately for law enforcement in general, Prohibition was repealed and the Border Patrol, now under the recently combined Immigration and Naturalization Service, was able to concentrate on enforcement of the laws it was originally created for: immigration.

Illegal immigration was a time bomb that had begun ticking on the southern U.S. border in the 1860s, when a far-seeing pioneer first noticed faint remnants of irrigation canals crisscrossing the Arizona desert near what is now Phoenix. Realizing that former Indian inhabitants had made the desert bloom 800 or 900 years before, he and others set about reconstructing and expanding the canal system.

Within 40 years, the area north of the U.S. Mexican border was blooming, producing far more than the area south of the border. Whereas before the economies of the two areas had been equal, now the American side had more money and more jobs. At first, traffic back and forth across the border was relatively unrestricted, as Mexicans came to work for Americans and returned to their homeland.

The earliest immigration-law-enforcement bills were written to limit massive waves of Chinese and European immigrants trying to enter the U.S. in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Mexican immigration was not a factor then — in fact, individuals from the Western Hemisphere were specifically excluded from immigration quotas.

The Roosevelt administration, supported by labor movements in the U.S. and faced with a major depression, sought to protect unions and reserve jobs for needy Americans. The Border Patrol was ordered to step up its interception of illegal immigrants and return as many as possible across the border.

Wetback raids

The Patrol, no stranger to controversy in its short history, entered into still more controversy. In addition to stemming the flow of immigrants across the border, Patrolmen knew where immigrants were most likely to be hired. They raided migrant labor camps, orchards and ranches to round up "wetbacks," as illegal immigrants came to be known — due to their wading or swimming across the Rio Grande River.

The practice of hitting the farms, ranches and factories made powerful enemies for the Border Patrol, since many politicians and bureaucrats owed their

positions to the operations' owners and managers. Wetbacks could be hired for less than U.S. minimum wages and exploited more due to their tenuous position in the U.S. To many ranchers and manufacturers, they were vital to making a profit. In many cases, only the immigrants would work in menial jobs, U.S. citizens preferring to collect welfare or unemployment.

By the mid-1930s, Mexico provided the majority of illegal immigrants. The Mexican Civil War ended in 1920, leaving a destitute, starving nation. Upheavals and minor insurrections continued through the '20s, further retarding development south of the border. To find jobs and money for survival, Mexicans began moving north to the comparatively wealthy United States. Recently, Mexico's population has grown from under 10 million at the end of the Mexican Civil War to around 60 million at the end of 1979.

Tracking German POWs

Border Patrol activities still include anti-smuggling enforcement, but with the end of Prohibition, smuggling dropped off, not to rise again until the drug activities of the 1960s and '70s. Modern technology has brought changes, but the basic requirements of tracking, self-defense, desert survival and common sense are still emphasized in new Patrolmen's training programs.

Today Patrolmen use trucks and automobiles for border patrolling, but they used horses until the 1950s. Two-way radios lessen Patrolmen's isolation in remote areas, leading to less delays for reinforcement or medical aid.

During World War II, the Border Patrol was instrumental in intercepting enemy agents and tracking down escaped German prisoners of war, a role still talked about with amusement in Border Patrol circles.

Border Patrolmen usually have desert backgrounds where hunting and tracking are ways of life. They have some of the best trackers in the U.S., but when German POWs escaped, government officials went to nearby Apache and Pima Indian reservations to hire Indian trackers.

After all, they reasoned, Indians can track better than any other people in the world. Unfortunately, these Indians were the sons and grandsons of great trackers but, reservation-born and raised, were like other U.S. citizens, who got their meat from the butcher shop and worked in towns.

Officials discovered tracking is not an inherited ability, as the Indians hired lost the sign — or themselves in the desert. Border Patrolmen, anticipating prisoners' moves as they did illegal immigrants', moved north to certain terrain "choke points" to pick up the trails of groups of POWs and round them up.

Border Patrolmen were also asked to find groups of Indian trackers who had gotten lost. After that, Border Patrolmen were called first for assistance in tracking missing prisoners.

WWII changes

The war added to Patrol casualties, as several agents were killed by border crossers — the first deaths since the end of Prohibition seven years before. The Patrol picked up its first jeeps, beginning the process that would eventually replace horses in the 1950s, and the first airplane appeared on desert patrols.

Mexican immigration was not enforced during the war years, as the government saw immigrants as a cheap labor force to replace manpower drafted to fight the war. But when the war ended, Americans returned home to the Southwest to discover their jobs taken by illegal immigrants.

Particularly affected were Americans of Hispanic descent, who found that thanks to their hard-working illegal brethren, they were expected to take jobs below U.S. minimum wages, being expected also to work in menial positions.

When the Border Patrol, sometimes at the request of American-born Mexicans, attempted to once again enforce the immigration laws, powerful Southwestern Congressmen, including most notably Texas Senators John Connally and Lyndon B. Johnson, opposed the move. From the end of the war through 1952, President Truman's Democratic administration was unwilling to offend such Democratic powerhouses as Johnson and Connally, and the Patrol was effectively hamstrung by lack of funds and personnel.

Several studies by government-appointed task forces recommended strong measures to stop illegal immigration. All were ignored by a Democratic administration unprepared to lose its congressional support. But word of dissatisfaction on the border was leaking out. The American G.I. Forum of Texas, many of whose members were Latin Americans, published an illustrated pamphlet, "What Price Wetbacks?" It clearly indicated the price paid by America for a few industrialists' and farmers' cheap labor.

Besides jobs lost for Americans, the Mexicans' pay went across the border to families still in Mexico. They were exploited by 12-16 hour days for miniscule wages. Those families in migrant camps lived in absolute squalor. Infectious diseases were epidemic in the Southwest due to immigrants' lack of standard immunizations and inoculations. They were preyed upon by bandits from both countries who found them easy targets — unable to report crime to law enforcement authorities who would then have to deport them. And their living conditions were unacceptable to a nation that prides itself on its concern for social justice.

The pamphlet showed photographs of children living and sleeping in filth, working for pennies, and photos and names of canals and irrigation ditches, serving as both latrine and drinking-water source. Its writers pointed out that illegal immigrants lived in perpetual peonage to their employers, who could tell the Border Patrol about them and have them back to Mexico. In short, the pamphlet claimed, farmers and industrialists were maintaining a "vicious nuisance" to the country.

The document added fuel to a slowly burning fire of awareness about the problems of illegal immigration in the U.S. With the Eisenhower administration, the first real steps were taken to combat the massive immigration tide, as the Border Patrol received more money and manpower. But the problem could not be resolved with Border Patrol manpower and money alone. It was one that two governments, Mexico and America, needed to solve at a higher level.

The Border Patrol found itself in a political football game trying to enforce the laws Congress passed. First the Administration wanted the Patrol to crack down on illegal immigration. Then a radical political group decided the Patrol was "racist," since most immigrants were Mexican or Latin American, and lobbied to make the Patrol stop enforcement of particular laws.

Then the Administration decided anti-drug smuggling should have priority. Then labor groups exerted pressure to push the Border Patrol back into illegal immigration, fearing immigrants would take away American jobs.

As one Patrol agent said, following a week-long roundup of over 10,000 aliens, "That's 10,000 more jobs for American citizens."

The problem of illegal immigration reaches beyond the capabilities of the Border Patrol, due to the vast population time-bomb across the border. The Mexican government, unwilling or unable to institute strong birth control measures in a largely Catholic nation, prefers to use the U.S. as a pressure relief valve to prevent a revolutionary blowup in Mexico.

Although Mexico now has major oil resources and the potential ability to employ its own citizens, it will be years before this happens. Meanwhile its government would rather encourage its unemployed to go to the U.S. while it experiments with forms of socialism, unable to date to resolve its difficulties.

All these problems harm morale as Border Patrolmen try to hold the line in what is obviously a losing battle. Though Patrolmen are remarkably restrained, given increasing violence on the border, they are excoriated every time one of them must resort to force. The drug smugglers they encounter and more of the aliens are heavily armed, and conditions on the border are not unlike those of the early Prohibition years. As a result, the once

proud Border Patrol finds qualified members quitting to work elsewhere for more pay and less hassle.

Editor's Note: The author is greatly indebted to John M. Myers' The Border Wardens (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1971) for background information.



LET'S SHOOT TOGETHER

FOR some time I have noticed how various shooters tend to bad mouth the other guy's game. Combat pistol shooters say PPC is silly. Trap shooters say combat shooters are savages. Small bore shooters regard high power rifles as imprecise and it goes on and on.

I would like to take issue with my fellow shooters and try to set the record straight. "One man's music is another man's noise." The constant squawking, usually friendly, leads to incorrect assumptions and declarations from competent shooters who forget what competition is really about. I don't care if a match is designed where competitors must run the course naked wearing high-heeled shoes, shooting .22 shorts. If you are the best in that type of shooting, who cares if a combat shooter thinks it's not practical or a high-power shooter thinks it's too easy.

Competition of all kinds is valid as long as it is fair and each competitor has an equal opportunity. I don't feel a damn bit sorry for the guy who doesn't have a shooting jacket in high-power rifle (I'll loan him mine). He knows or should know what to expect. I also think that competitors who bitch about shooters who bend — but do *not* break — the rules, are just sour-grapes crybabies. The object of competition is to enjoy the game and win if possible.

We as shooters, whether international, small bore, pistol, PPC, combat pistol, trap, hunter, skeet, high-power or whatever, should quit knocking the other guy's game. This is destructive to the shooting sport and there is no room for that except in the anti-gun lobby.

Wake up, fellow shooters: it's time to organize and fight the anti-gun, anti-freedom lobby instead of squabbling among ourselves. Any individual who reads this and who isn't a member of the National Rifle Association, deserves what the anti-gun people have in mind. This country was won by the gun, kept free by the gun and now the anti-gun lobby wants control. Friends, let's quit bitching at each other and get our act together, because registration, confiscation and incarceration may be just around the corner.



—Robert Sundance

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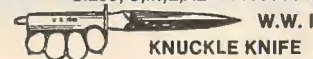
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STAKEOUT: RIZZO'S RAIDERS

AMERICA'S 1st SWAT TEAM

by
N.E. MacDougald

WHILE Philadelphia eats dinner, Stakeout officers patrol its seamier sections. The City of Brotherly Love it ain't. It's a sprawling city where crime increases with population and inflation. And July's humidity doesn't make it any nicer.

All units stand by...Attention, all units in Sector Three. Respond to a silent alarm at food market corner of 18th and High. All units stand by...

Lieutenant Marandola accelerates toward the market. My watch says 1822 hours. Traffic increases, flashing lights and siren smooth our way. We're moving now, running stop signs and red lights. Just as we approach the scene, Dispatch crackles through to tell us to disregard. Dominic Marandola says that happens often.

Unit one-nine, please acknowledge... Attention, all units Sector Four. Respond to Ivy School, report of unauthorized persons...Attention, all units...

North Central Philly is poor. People do anything to get by. At 1840 hours, we arrive at the school, just after another cruiser. The school looks like it's under siege. Heavy-gauge wire bars the windows. Reinforced doors show scars of attempted entry. Broken glass defines the playground. Spraypainted attempts at immortality are the school's only visible art. A forced window points the way in. The officers debate strategy. Finally, dogs are

thought to be best. The canine unit is summoned and Marandola and I resume cruising.

All units stand by...Attention, all units Section Two, respond to Highway and 19th. Fight on highway. Stand by...

At 2004 hours, three minutes after the call is initiated, the mission is scrubbed. An unsettling anticlimax. Perhaps this accounts for Marandola's apparent calm. Maybe he has learned after all these years to relax until he's sure something is going to happen. Otherwise he'd pump enough adrenalin in one shift to keep him tired for days.

Attention, all units Sector Seven...report of a shooting, 16th and Ohio...Attention, all...

Marandola reassures me as we race toward the scene: "This is just the kind of situation where shooting does occur." At 2007 hours we arrive on scene behind six police cars parked helter-skelter in the street. A dozen officers stand ready. A lone black woman screams oaths while about 100 black neighbors look on. My armored vest is hot and uncomfortable, but I don't mind right now. The situation's tense, but there's no weapon and no body, so we leave the scene to the conventional cops. Our blue-and-white four-door sedan slips back into the torpid night.

Stakeout personnel do not respond to petty crimes, such as jay walking and parking tickets, but instead cruise the high crime areas where they'll be most useful should something more serious go down (hostage situation, barricaded man, officer needs help). Not that a Stakeout cruiser would bypass a minor offense or fail to assist a conventional officer should the need arise.

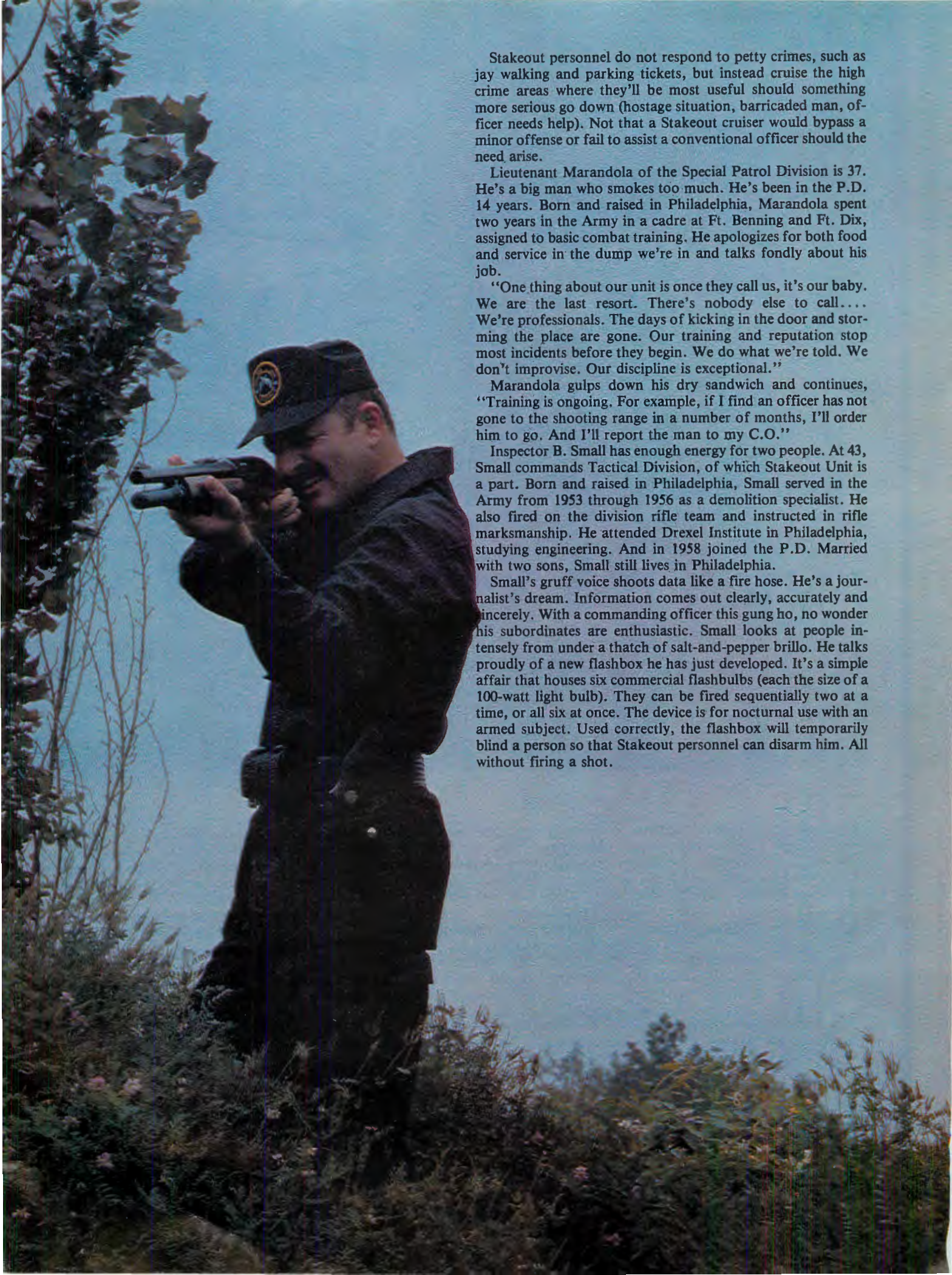
Lieutenant Marandola of the Special Patrol Division is 37. He's a big man who smokes too much. He's been in the P.D. 14 years. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Marandola spent two years in the Army in a cadre at Ft. Benning and Ft. Dix, assigned to basic combat training. He apologizes for both food and service in the dump we're in and talks fondly about his job.

"One thing about our unit is once they call us, it's our baby. We are the last resort. There's nobody else to call... We're professionals. The days of kicking in the door and storming the place are gone. Our training and reputation stop most incidents before they begin. We do what we're told. We don't improvise. Our discipline is exceptional."

Marandola gulps down his dry sandwich and continues, "Training is ongoing. For example, if I find an officer has not gone to the shooting range in a number of months, I'll order him to go. And I'll report the man to my C.O."

Inspector B. Small has enough energy for two people. At 43, Small commands Tactical Division, of which Stakeout Unit is a part. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Small served in the Army from 1953 through 1956 as a demolition specialist. He also fired on the division rifle team and instructed in rifle marksmanship. He attended Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, studying engineering. And in 1958 joined the P.D. Married with two sons, Small still lives in Philadelphia.

Small's gruff voice shoots data like a fire hose. He's a journalist's dream. Information comes out clearly, accurately and sincerely. With a commanding officer this gung ho, no wonder his subordinates are enthusiastic. Small looks at people intensely from under a thatch of salt-and-pepper brillo. He talks proudly of a new flashbox he has just developed. It's a simple affair that houses six commercial flashbulbs (each the size of a 100-watt light bulb). They can be fired sequentially two at a time, or all six at once. The device is for nocturnal use with an armed subject. Used correctly, the flashbox will temporarily blind a person so that Stakeout personnel can disarm him. All without firing a shot.





Small adores the 12-gauge shotgun. And with good reason: it is doubtless one of the most effective close-range weapons available. Loaded with slugs, a scattergun has roughly the same energy at 100 meters as a .45 ACP at muzzle. And the tranquilizing ability of a 12-gauge is undeniable. Thus it came as no surprise that Small developed a stress shotgun course.

Small, Captain Taylor, six Stakeout officers and I meet at the Philadelphia Police Academy early one morning to participate in Small's new training course. What impresses me most about the course is that Small's men are there on their own time.

Small explains his course: "In my training, nothing is left to chance. Nothing's haphazard. In the street, when an officer encounters some adversaries, they're not all lined up in perfect order, they're not all the same size." And Small's course reflects this randomness: Targets are at various distances and heights; commands are given at random intervals; when a

rainstorm strikes, the men are instructed to continue firing. In short, the course simulates reality as nearly as possible and that, after all, is the best one can do. Moving targets are not available or Small would use them too.

Students are friendly, professional and, unlike most police officers, they are good shots. Most of them have been in fire-fights on duty and profess their love for the venerable 12-gauge. I come away impressed.

Stakeout Captain Ralph J. Taylor could be a TV cop. He has the looks, the build and most important, an air of serene authority. He doesn't look his 50 years.

"I try to stay in shape," he says modestly. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he attended Temple University, studying police science and administration. From 1947 through 1952, Taylor served with the Army Corps of Engineers. He joined the Philadelphia P.D. in 1957. Married with two children, Taylor lives in Philadelphia.

Taylor's calm, articulate manner is reassuring. His dedication sparkles as he talks about Stakeout: "Morale is exceptionally high because the men depend on each other so much. They stake their lives on their partners so they respect each other. Our unit has a waiting list so I can be choosy in who I select. Those that are eligible go through such an elaborate screening process that the best are there for the choosing. They're all volunteers ... so they know that if they don't measure up, they'll be sent back to the districts.

"One incident that shows our men's restraint involved a barricade situation. Late in 1977, a guy in his mid-30s, a Vietnam vet, dressed up in fatigues and boots. Then he set fire to his car in front of his house. When firemen came to the scene, the man ordered them away and fired a few shots at them. Just after this, the man's wife and kids fled the house. When Stakeout personnel arrived on scene, the man fired several shots at the officers, but



LEFT:
Stakeout Officer Dominic Folino trains with 12-gauge. Note spent case has flipped end-for-end.

RIGHT:
Stakeout Officer Dominic Folino prepares to fire CAR-15 from cover. Navy blue SWAT coveralls are fire-retardant.

they did not return fire due to their extensive training and discipline. Further, they were under standing orders not to shoot — in a hostage or barricade situation — unless ordered to by a supervisor.

“We decided to talk the man out — to wait him out. But this didn’t work and the man fired at us again. Then he came out and waved a revolver at many of us, including me. He ran back inside, firing several more shots at us. We tried to smoke him out, but smoke cannisters didn’t budge him. Next we used tear gas cannisters. But they didn’t work either. So myself and three other officers put on masks and vests and went up to get him on the second floor. We tried to force the barricade by pushing the door, but the man answered with three shots. We retreated and decided to flood the house with tear gas. Just as we were about to be-

JANUARY/80





Bomb Squad Technician Mark Hughes working with picric acid. If picric acid crystals form under bottle cap, unscrewing it could cause fatal explosion.

STAKEOUT'S BOMB DISPOSAL UNIT

BBUILT like a beer truck, Mark Hughes looks more like a bouncer than a bomb technician. His nine years with the Philadelphia P.D. have cost him a marriage and a few grey hairs. Born and raised in Mahanoy City, Pa., Hughes served in Vietnam with the Marines' 3rd Force Recon from 1964 to 1969, specializing in demolition and small arms. He is single and says he loves it. He discusses his work:

"Bomb Disposal has 15 technicians and two sergeants. We are trained at Redstone Arsenal near Huntsville, Ala., by the Army. The basic course lasts three weeks and is very comprehensive — you learn something every minute you're there. We also receive refresher courses there. We get ongoing training from Fort Dix, N.J., EOD [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] personnel. And training from Indian Town Gap [an Army base near Harrisburg] EOD personnel. We also receive FBI training on current trends in terrorism and bombing."

From his years with the Bomb Disposal Unit, Hughes recalls some of his saltier experiences: "A couple of years ago, we received information at about 1600 that an informant in northwest Philly had some [explosive] devices for us. These devices were supposed to be inert and

non-booby-trapped. Around 1730, we talked with federal agents at the scene and met the informant. He said he would show us where the devices were located in various cars. I asked the informant if there were booby traps. He said no. But just to be safe, I handcuffed the informant to myself.

"When we got to one of the vehicles, he decided that perhaps there was some danger of a booby trap. In fact, he made some adjustments to the car that made me think there were booby traps. When we opened the trunk, it was brimming with explosives and timing devices. Myself and an EOD man from New Jersey began dismantling the devices in the car. The first few went smoothly enough. But one of the timed devices was ticking when we picked it up.

"One of the first rules in dismantling devices is when cutting wires, know where they go. But when the EOD man said, 'That motherfucker is *ticking*,' the rules went out the window. We saw immediately that the second hand was the contact point. We started cutting every fuckin' wire we saw. That stopped the clock.

"Later, after dismantling the device, we found we had between 28 and 32 seconds left. The explosive was comparable to four sticks of 60 percent [dynamite]."

When asked what kind of damage that much explosive could cause, Hughes quipped, "It would have ruined the weekend."

Hughes recalled another incident: "A couple of years ago we worked in Chester, about 10 miles south of Philadelphia. We were summoned to assist federal, state and local authorities on the scene. We found several booby-trapped devices and dismantled them. One of the lessons learned — now SOP — is that when you find a civilian non-cast explosive, if at all possible, cut into it to look for a secondary fusing mechanism.

"Later, we found a booby-trapped brief case. The circuitry was very simple and we thought we had defeated the device. After dismantling it in a confined area, we decided to burn the dynamite, rather than set it off. We put the dynamite in a remote area, set a burn trail and placed the dynamite on it. But when the burn trail reached the dynamite and briefcase, there was a high-order explosion. After investigating the scene we found that one of the three sticks of dynamite had been double-booby-trapped."

How close was he to the explosion? "I was about 50 meters away from it."

What did that feel like? "The overblast just about blew my socks off. People were picking twigs out of my face and ears. The concussion went by my knees rather than my ears, so I wasn't deafened. We were lucky."

Lucky indeed. And I can't think of anyone who needs luck more than a bomb technician in one of America's grittier cities. — N.E.M.

gin, the man walked out with his hands up.

"In all, he must have fired 25 or 30 rounds, but Stakeout did not return fire."

Dr. John Fraunces has straight silver hair, a forthright manner, and a reeking briar pipe. He also has the task of pre-selecting Stakeout candidates. At 40, Fraunces has led a fulfilling life. Born and reared in Montgomery County, Pa., he served four years in the Air Force as an Air Police officer. From 1969 through 1973 he was an administrator with the Philadelphia P.D. Fraunces then earned a doctorate in educational psychology at Temple University and rejoined the department in 1975.

Fraunces reflects pride in his work and in his department. Operating out of a small, austere office in the Philadelphia Police Academy, he explains: "We look for certain characteristics in Stakeout officers. We hope that all police officers have these characteristics, but we insist they be more prevalent in Stakeout candidates. The nature of their work demands a great deal from the men. We want a person who is relaxed, who has low anxiety. Someone who is controlled and self-assured. We want practical, conscientious people."

Stakeout's peer group is impressive. In fact, the psychological tests given to all Stakeout personnel have been turned into a group profile. "If an individual applicant's profile differs from that of the group, I notify the commander that the individual should not be assigned to the unit . . . By the time an applicant reaches this stage, he has been screened by his supervisors so most become Stakeout officers. We get the cream of the crop."

Of the more than 8,800 sworn personnel in Philadelphia's P.D., only 115 qualify for Stakeout. Officer Joseph Fiordaliso, a Stakeout volunteer from the beginning, recalls its founding: "In February 1964, Stakeout began as a surveillance unit of 30 two-man teams to combat a rash of bank and drug store robberies. Personnel were pulled from existing units. Those selected were experts with handguns and had a stable temperament. That is, they were able to spend hours — sometimes days — watching a place without going goofy."

"After selection," Fiordaliso continues, "the men were assembled and told what would be expected of them. It was made clear that we could back out if we wanted. But most, if not all, volunteered for Stakeout. We were then given extensive small arms training, including the Winchester Model 12, 12-gauge shotgun, the Thompson submachine gun, the .30-06, etc. We were also trained with riot control agents. We called it tear gas back then.

"We did such a good job stopping bank robberies those first two or three years that bank jobs almost stopped. One year the FBI predicted 35 bank hold-ups for



ABOVE: Stakeout Officer Charles "Bucky" Robinson, left, and Officer Joseph Durooss operating in undercover garb.

BELOW: Stakeout officer apprehending bank robber. Revolver in officer's right hand is partially obscured by holdup man. Note officer's partner approaching from right.



Philadelphia; instead there were only three. Not too bad a record.

"We were weapons experts and Stakeout was the original SWAT team."

Author's Note: This article is dedicated to the memory of Stakeout Officer James Ramp who died as a result of gunshot wounds on Tuesday, 8 August 1978, while assigned to the MOVE detail. And to the

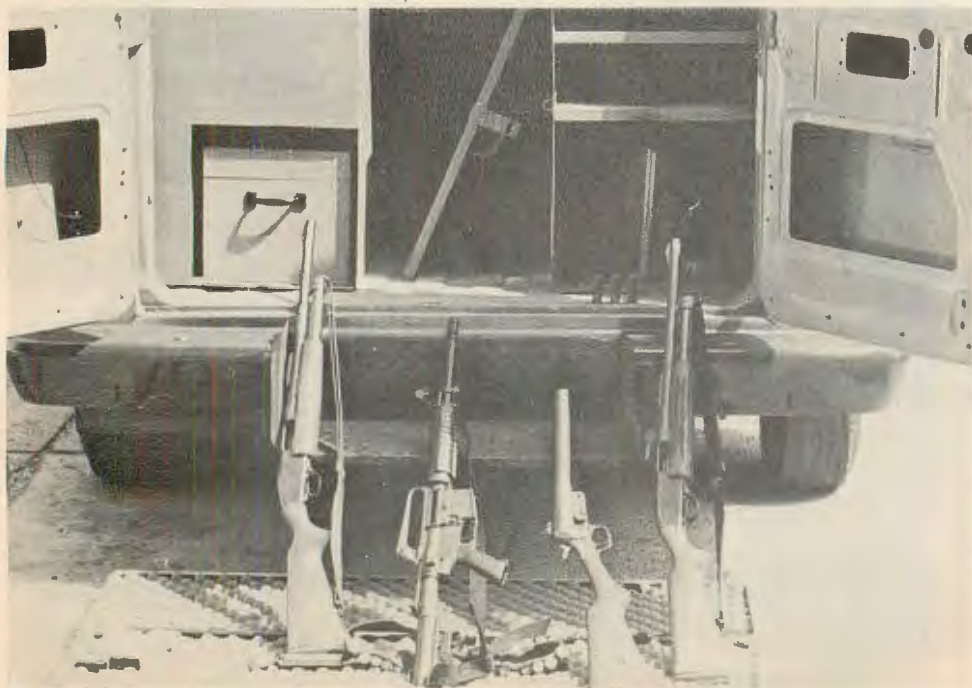
four other officers wounded during that confrontation.

MOVE, a black militant organization, led by Delbert Africa, fortified a large house in Philadelphia. They refused to vacate when served notice by the board of health. Since the MOVE case is still in the courts, no police official will talk about it. Perhaps when adjudication takes place, SOF will have more to say about MOVE.



ABOVE: Stakeout officers in protective gear pose in front of Stakeout van. Officer on left armed with Winchester 12-gauge, officer on right armed with CAR-15.

BELOW: Winchester Model 1200s with rifle sights flank a CAR-15, left, and a single-shot tear gas grenade gun. Stakeout has other, more exotic, weaponry on hand.



STAKEOUT VAN EQUIPMENT LIST

Equipment in Front of Van

- 1 Winchester Model No. 1200 shotgun
- 1 Bandolier of 12-gauge shotgun shells — 10 rifle slugs — 15 double 00 buck
- 2 Flak vests
- 1 Half mile light

Equipment in Rear of Van

- 1 Winchester Model No. 1200 shotgun
- 1 Bandolier of 12-gauge shotgun shells — 10 rifle slugs — 15 double 00 buck
- 1 M-16A1 Colt Rifle
- 2 30-round magazines and 2 15-round magazines
- 1 Winchester Model No. 70-22-250 W/scope rifle, 1 box ammunition
- 1 Lake Erie tear gas gun
- 1 High intensity light, extension cord, adapter plug
- 1 Gas generator w/funnel and sprinkler head
- 1 Resuscitator
- 1 Mob disperser
- 2 Scott air packs, Vaseline
- 2 Ceramic vests
- 0 Lake Erie gas masks
- 5 Smoke grenades No. 108
- 5 Tear gas grenades No. 112
- 5 Flite rite tear gas projectiles No. 230
- 5 Long range tear gas shells (12-Gauge)
- 1 Metal ammunition box containing:
 - 5 Boxes .38 caliber ammo. (250 rounds)
 - 1 Box of 22-250 ammo. (20 rds.)
 - 1 Box of 12-gauge shells — rifle slugs — (25 rds.)
 - 1 Box of 12-gauge shells — double 00 buck — (25 rds.)
 - 3 30 round magazines containing .223 caliber ammo. (90 rds.)
 - 3 15 round M-16 magazines containing .223 caliber ammo. (45 rds.)
 - 1 Uzi machine gun W/magazines ammo.
 - 1 Pair binoculars
- 2 Plastic riot helmets W/face shields
- 2 Metal riot helmets
- 1 Megaphone
- 1 Box containing:
 - 50 Flex cuffs
 - 1 Metal bucket
 - 1 Rescue rope
 - 1 First Aid Kit
 - 2 Plastic shields
 - 1 Thermos jug
 - 1 Hydrant wrench
 - 1 Fire extinguisher
 - 2 Blue nylon vests
 - 1 Pry axe
 - 1 Set tire chains

T-118 CRUISER EQUIPMENT LIST

- 2 Black & white helmets (carried in cab)
Equipment Carried In Rear of Vehicle
 2 Steel window shields
 2 Half-mile lights
 4 Packs of Flex-cuffs (10 in each pack)
 6 Ear protectors 6 Blue nylon vests
 1 Large crow-bar 2 Scott air packs
 1 Small crow-bar 1 Fire extinguisher
 1 Pry-axe 2 Carbonium vests
 2 Aero-trol mob dispersers
 1 Sledge hammer
 1 Rope — 100 ft.
 4 CN-X5 crowd dispersers
 10 Model No. 34, single-blast visible CN tear gas grenades
 16 CN Tru-flites
 6 CN-109 tear gas
 8 Smoke grenades
 6 CN-112 tear gas
 10 CN continuous discharge grenades
 18 Gas masks
 1 50 Caliber rifle with scope, tripod, cleaning kit. With 10 rds. 50 cal. ammo, 10 rds, M-2, exploding head ammo.
 1 22-250 rifle with scope, 30 rds. ammo & bandolier.
 1 22-250 rifle, Startron scope, 30 rds. ammo & bandolier.
 2 M-1 carbines with eight magazines
 1 Winchester 30-06 rifle with scope, 30 rds. ammo & bandolier.
 1 Steady eye.
 1 Winchester model 1200 shotgun, bandolier containing 10 rifle slugs and 15 double 00 buck.
 2 Green suitcases with gas kit, tear gas gun, Mace.

Ammunition

- 120 Rounds of 30.06
 140 Rounds of 22-250
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 800 Rounds of .38 caliber
 35 Rounds of .50 caliber
 1000 Rounds of .223 caliber



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TERRORISTS BEWARE !

SOME call it a school for killers. The founder, Mitchell L. WerBell III, says it's a school for survival.

"What we're trying to do is keep people alive, and that ain't easy." WerBell speaks from experience. He's dealt with war, revolution and domestic as well as foreign intrigue and violence for almost four decades.

EXECUTIVE SECURITY

WerBell's curriculum is designed to provide "executive security" for business and political leaders whose prominence makes them prime targets for kidnapping and/or assassination. His students are taught to protect such leaders, to prevent their getting into tight spots if possible, and to get them out safely, with deadly force if necessary, if unable to prevent jeopardy.

Called Cobray International, Inc., the school is arousing considerable interest. It isn't the only school offering to teach bodyguards to be effective — as the advertising sections of SOF will attest — but it has certain important distinctions. That includes founder WerBell and his staff, and their track records.

WerBell's experience with violence and surviving it dates back to World War II service with the Office of Strategic Services. Most of his staff are retired military men, or young law enforcement officers and civilians who have proved their ability, including one private detective who is a genius at surreptitious photography.

Newly appointed acting president is retired Air Force Col. Barney Cochran, whose lengthy military service included heading up the Air Commando training

program during the Vietnam War. Cochran also teaches the unconventional weapons course for Cobray.

Although just now coming into public view, the Cobray concept had a brief start some 10 years ago. That led to WerBell organizing a company known as Security Arms Training Affiliates, Inc. President of SATA was retiring Col. John S. Wood Jr., who failed to lead SATA to the prominence envisioned. SATA offered specialized weapons and tactics training to law enforcement officers. The effort fell flat, even though one of its specialties, SWAT training, was a big thing then, in the aftermath of the mid-'60s Watts riots and the Texas tower sniper. The latter involved the 1966 University of Texas incident in which student Charles Whitman killed 12 persons and wounded 31, from



WERBELL'S COBRAY SCHOOL

by Tom Dunkin

an observation tower 280 feet above the campus. Whitman's reign of terror ended only after police got above him and gunned him down.

TERRORISM CHECKMATE

Cobray evolved about a year ago from the exigencies of politics. In 1977 the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency released a report forecasting a spread of terrorism in the U.S. similar to that in Europe and other parts of the world. Meanwhile WerBell, aside from the earlier abortive SATA effort, had made a visit to Argentina in the mid-'70s. WerBell appraised the security measures in force for Coca-Cola Company executives abroad, and made two positive recommendations. Coca-Cola denies it. WerBell doesn't dwell on the subject, nor debate it; he merely notes,

"Coca-Cola hasn't had anybody kidnaped lately."

Regardless of whether the feared spread of politically-inspired terrorism materializes, Cobray seems to have attracted the attention of a number of persons interested in personal emergency preparedness. Several Atlanta area physicians have taken the Cobray course, and negotiations are going on with Army officials on the possibility of Cobray training for military policemen from Atlanta's Fort McPherson, which among other things is headquarters for the U.S. Army Forces Command.

Cobray's courses began with 11 subjects taught over a six-day period of 10-hour days. This provided 50½ hours of classroom lectures, shooting and hand-

to-hand combat training, with another two days optional which was devoted to evasive driving maneuvers.

With the shakedown period past, Cobray now has added five more optional courses. They are Convoy Procedures, a four-hour course; Shotgun Techniques, four hours; Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation, six hours, with certification by the American Heart Association; Crisis Intervention-Hostage Negotiation, four hours; and Medical Trauma-First Aid, four hours.

COURSE OUTLINE

The original course of study offered, in addition to the optional two-day evasive driving class, is:

.38 Caliber Revolver
Marksmanship.....12 hours

.45 Caliber Pistol	
Marksmanship	12 hours
Martial Arts	12½ hours
Situation Awareness	2 hours
Photography	5 hours
Counter-terrorist	
Procedures	3 hours
Rifles-'Scopes	5 hours
Electronic	
Countermeasures	5 hours
Unconventional Weapons	3 hours

Another innovation since Cobray began operations is the offering of separate courses in combat pistolcraft and a sniper rifle course, both at a minimum of six hours each, at a cost of \$35 an hour.

Basic cost of Cobray training is \$1,200 for the six-day course, with another \$200 a day for evasive driving. The student also must provide his meals and lodging except for lunch.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Cobray students are screened before enrollment. "You don't just walk in off the street," WerBell stresses. Among the desirable attributes are a life membership in the National Rifle Association; being an active-duty or retired member of the military forces of the United States; or active service with a public law enforcement agency. The personal recommendation of a Cobray staff member is also helpful. A notarized statement of a good character from the senior law enforcement officer or magistrate from the student's place of residence is required.

Also required are a personal history, and a "need for attendance" statement, for each enrollee. Cobray offers a 15 percent discount to law enforcement officers and a discount is offered to them for sniper rifle and combat pistol courses.

The school is conducted at WerBell's baronial estate at Powder Springs, an Atlanta, Ga., suburb. There are some, including some of his neighbors, who feel it should be renamed Gunpowder Springs, in WerBell's honor.

WerBell's association with weapons and their uses has been long and constant. Following his World War II service, which primarily was in the CBI Theater, WerBell tried a brief fling at advertising. This included heading the advertising department for Rich's, a major Atlanta department store. He then became a partner in an advertising agency, which later folded, and his activities then became hazy.

WerBell surfaced with a bang in 1965 in the Dominican Republic. He maintains he was there growing bananas. He was photographed, however, with top Dominican brass, including Gen. Antonio Imbert. The late Paul Bethel, in his book, *The Losers*, says WerBell occupied the lead tank — as a civilian — as Imbert's forces, loyal to President Joaquin Balaguer, drove to the Ozama River.

Bethel gave no other information on WerBell's reasons for being in the area. WerBell highlighted his presence even



This 28-year-old housewife became proficient with unconventional weapons such as a screwdriver, hatchet, and knife. She fired a better handgun score than her husband. Both made expert.



TOP: Martial arts instructor Chris McLoughlin (beard) limbers up class before instruction period. ABOVE: Mitchell L. WerBell III in his booklined "gun room" office, which sports a variety of firearms and cutlery.

more dramatically in a spectacular dash on foot, under fire, to pull Miami *Herald* reporter Al Burt and a photographer, the late Doug Kennedy, from a burning taxi cab. The vehicle, whose Dominican driver was killed, came under fire from U.S. Marines who were suspicious of its presence and occupants.

Burt and Kennedy were seriously wounded. (Kennedy died several years later, of cancer.) WerBell escaped with minor burns on his hands. Questioned as to WerBell's presence and purpose, Burt would only say, "He was working with some Cubans."

"SPOOK" WERBELL

The aura of mystery which has surrounded WerBell's activities in recent years is beginning to diminish, although he stoutly maintains he's never been asso-

ciated with the CIA. The label, "Spook," however, has been hung on WerBell by a number of his associates. Among them is Andrew St. George, a freelance journalist who, several years ago, published an article in which he stated the United States was responsible for assassination of the late Dominican Republic dictator, Rafael Trujillo. St. George also said WerBell arrived on the scene shortly before Trujillo's demise, as the CIA's specialist in assassination weapons.

Mike Acoca, a former *Life* magazine reporter based in Miami, says WerBell was a CIA contract employee at the time of the 1965 rebellion. A similar position is taken by author Jim Hougan in his book, *Spooks* (William Morrow & Co., Inc., New York, 1978). Hougan says WerBell "worked under contract to the CIA in the 1960s, organizing amphibious landings against Cuba from a base in the Dominican Republic..."

Spooks is an interesting bit of literature. It appeared a couple of years after the industrious St. George, whose distinction includes being scooped by the late *Ramparts* magazine in acquiring and publishing Che Guevara's diary, began laboring mightily on a roman a clef magnum opus about WerBell. The portly St. George has yet to produce his biography of WerBell.

VIETNAM TRAVELS

Hougan also says WerBell's travels in Vietnam during the late '60s and early '70s involved huddling with CIA officials, "Siamese princes and Asian intelligence czars on the subject of programmatic liquidations."

WerBell's ostensible purpose for his flying the friendly skies of Vietnam during that time was as head of research and development for his weapons manufacturing firm. In a unique application of cottage industry, WerBell had, fiddling around in the basement of his palatial home, developed the efficient Sionics firearms silencer. After testing it on several visits to Fort Benning — including an unscheduled and undetected impromptu demonstration, emptying a .22 caliber pistol skyward from a fourth floor downtown Columbus motel balcony — WerBell took his silencer to Vietnam for the acid test.

From one of those jaunts WerBell returned with Gordon Ingram, a reclusive aeronautical engineer responsible for the Ingram submachine gun. It has been rumored WerBell kept Ingram locked in a dungeonlike area of his basement at Powder Springs until Ingram perfected the gun. There are those who feel the Ingram surpasses the Thompson.

Also during this time, WerBell, working with the Army Marksmanship Training Unit at Benning, helped to produce the M21 sniper rifle system — which features the Sionics silencer.

That weapon helped establish the record for WerBell's chief marksmanship instructor at Cobray, Bert Waldron, of 113 confirmed sniper kills in Vietnam. Waldron earned two Distinguished Service Crosses, the code name "Daniel Boone" and an uncollected Viet Cong bounty of \$50,000 on his head.

COBRAY REORGANIZATION

In a recent reorganizational shuffle, brought on by Cobray's actual and an-

ticipated growth, Waldron was named director of the newly formed Cobray Training Center, which has evolved as the school formerly known as Cobray International, Inc. The latter designation has been elevated to the overall corporate umbrella which covers WerBell's entire operations. This includes Defense Systems International, an arms brokerage firm — that also can provide the men to use them.

Acting president of Cobray International, Inc., is Barney Cochran, who recently retired after 28 years of command service in the Air Force. This was preceded by two years of W.W. II Navy duty.

Cochran, 53, and WerBell have crossed paths in many parts of the world, such as the Dominican Republic and Vietnam.

COCHRAN'S CREDENTIALS

A brief review of Cochran's credentials shows half of his 30 years active duty was spent in unconventional warfare and special operations for the Air Force. He was a squadron commander in the 1st Air Commando Wing, and a detachment commander of a T28 unit in Vietnam in 1963. He also headed a classified detachment in northern Thailand in the '60s.

Cochran also served as area adviser to a Special Forces group in the Dominican Republic during the period the DR appeared likely to become another Cuba. Later he served as deputy commander for the Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force Europe (SOTFE), during 1970-74. Earlier, from '65 to '70, Cochran had been Chief of Unconventional Warfare Branch and special assistant for counterinsurgency and special activities organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that job he was responsible for development of "hardware" for global special operations and unconventional warfare.

Cochran is a rated parachutist and command pilot and has a Master's degree in anthropology. Cochran considers his most important billet at Cobray to be teaching use of unconventional weapons.

Those weapons include files, screwdrivers, knives and hatchets, thrown at short range, and ballpoint pens at close quarters.

TOTAL FORCE

Cochran teaches that "when you commit force; commit it totally." He warns that when opponents "are going to pull a kidnap, they're going to take out the security forces first."

Cochran also teaches, "It is as important to know when to throw a knife as to know how to throw it." To learn how to throw it takes "one hour a day, five days a week, for three weeks," according to him. He adds that one of his former comrades in Air Commandoes "gets two or three deer each hunting season, using a throwing knife." Cochran favors the Randall and Blackie Sewell knives, and the Paris Theodore holster, which he says, "provides concealment and comfort."

Cobray's martial arts classes are taught by civilian Chris McLoughlin, who is a

veteran of some 12 years study and teaching. McLoughlin is co-author, with Blackie Collins, of *Personal Defense*, a book published in 1977 (see SOF, Nov. '77). McLoughlin holds a Black Belt in American Karate and serves as a consultant to several law enforcement agencies.

OTHER INSTRUCTORS

Among the handgun instructors is Barry Worrell, a young investigator for a Georgia sheriff's department, who is a phenomenal marksman. After watching Worrell fire several magazines of .45 caliber at three different targets, one student said, "His upper body has become a gun turret."

Worrell and his fellow instructors teach the two-handed Weaver combat stance of handgun use. Worrell is assisted by Larry Cooper, formerly a law enforcement officer for 15 years. An associate instructor is Bill Krilling, retired recently from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit at Fort Benning. Krilling also serves as a consultant to several foreign governments on small arms weaponry and their uses and in coaching military marksmanship teams at shooting matches.

The Georgia State Patrol's driving instructor, civilian Terry Earwood, handles the evasive driving course. Earwood's class is rough on automobiles. It includes the classic 180-degree "bootlegger" turn to thwart roadblocks. Most kidnappings occur at blockades or roadblocks, according to Earwood.

Van Keller, a Georgia State Patrol trooper who specializes in detection and de-fanging of automobile bombs teaches this countermeasure to Cobray students.

Communications security is taught by a civilian, Ed Lowery, who is a staff

member of an Atlanta-based company with a worldwide clientele in electronics. Lowery cautions his students as to the legal complexities of "bugging," and he advises them to learn what Public Law 9351 says on this subject. Lowery is an expert on radio frequency-shielded rooms for business security. He tells his students that in a pinch, "An old electric fan generates so much electrical disturbance that it breaks up radio frequencies. A room air conditioner and box-type window fans also are good." But, says Lowery, "if a bug is court-ordered, legal and installed by the telephone company, forget it — you won't find it." One of his textbooks is *The Electronic Invasion* by Robert M. Brown (revised second edition. Hayden Book Co., Inc., Rochelle Park, NJ, \$5.45).

COBRAY'S PURPOSE

Cobray's purpose, says WerBell, is "to equip the student with a knowledge of martial arts, small arms, personal defense weapons and techniques, and to promote efficiency in the use of such arms and combat skills to a level of confidence and mental awareness which will enable him to engage an adversary with quick response and accurate fire," when a "kill-or-be-killed" encounter is unavoidable.

In today's society, "the clock is running out for the inadequately trained police officer and the private individual who, when faced with a situation of stress, will panic or pull a weapon, reacting blindly and in desperation because they lack skill, knowledge, and mental preparation. Knowing one is competent to handle violence helps avert violence. The presence of a highly trained individual in a confrontation can act to deter violence before it begins."

FINAL FIGHT

The clock also is running out for WerBell, who, like so many other figures in history that lived by the gun and sword — such as George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston and Simon Bolivar — seems destined to die in bed with his boots off. For the last 18 months he has been under treatment for prostate cancer. He's been admitted twice to the controversial Ra-Mar Clinic of Dr. Ray Evers in Montgomery, Ala., for Evers' "chelation" vitamin and laetrile treatment, upon which the American Medical Association frowns.

But WerBell at this time is still considerably active, although following a rigid medical regimen. How long he can maintain the pace is unknown. His doctors, at last report, declined to give him a prognosis more specific than, "maybe two years ... maybe less ..."



Instructor Waldron mans spotting 'scope while teaching Seidor on .223 sniper weapon.



SCOURGE OF FAMINE IN CAMBODIA

This is the outcome of "Peace With Honor" in Southeast Asia

SOF recently received the following letter from the Federation of Cambodian Associations, P.O. Box 242, Alexandria, VA 22314. We reprint it in full as a public service.

ACCORDING to news reaching us from Cambodian refugees at the Cambodian-Thai border areas, the people of Cambodia are now enduring famine. In just one location in Cambodia's north-western zone, approximately 100,000 people are starving. Having lived on roots and leaves, many have died. Others have succumbed to disease and suffering is widespread.

Our information confirms various news reports warning of expected famine in Cambodia. Rev. Robert L. Charlebois of the Catholic Relief Services, who was involved with the humanitarian operation which has lately provided rice, milk, medicine and emergency supplies to Cambodian refugees, made an estimate of 2.25 million Cambodians who may perish because of this famine. This estimate was given by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Red Cross team which recently visited Cambodia. The Cambodian population which totaled 6.9 million in 1970 has been subjected to five years of war (1970-75) under the Cambodian republican regime; three years of genocidal rule (1975-78) under the Khmer Rouge regime which butchered hundreds of thousands; and today (1979), under the Vietnamese-backed communist regime of Heng Samrin, the less than 4.9 million remaining Cambodian people are not only caught between the Pol Pot and Vietnamese-Heng Samrin antagonist forces but also millions are victims of disease and starvation.

Beginning with the invasion of Cambodia by Vietnamese armed forces in late December 1978, which led to the collapse of one of the most brutal dictatorships in the world in early January 1979, the continued fighting between the Chinese-backed Pol Pot and the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin has virtually ended the planting and the cultivating of rice in Cambodia.

In some sectors of the country, not a single grain of rice is available to the people.

From Prey Veng Province in the east to Battambang Province in the west, and from Kompong Cham Province in the north to Kompong Som Pro-

vince in the south, Cambodia's rice fields stand empty.

In general, of the 40 percent of Cambodia that is arable, no more than five percent of the total area dedicated to wet rice cultivation has been planted this year. Land mines have been planted by both factions and there is a competition of terror between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnamese conquerors; doctors and physicians have been systematically eliminated by Pol Pot; the sick and the dying are left to their fate. An estimated 900,000 to 1,000,000 tons of grain is needed to keep the Cambodian people from starvation. If the estimate of 2.25 million fatalities from this famine is correct, Cambodia will see her population decrease to 2.7 million or less in a matter of months.

The long-feared possibility of extinction of the Cambodian people as a race and of Cambodia as a nation is more real now than ever before. In fact, the process has already begun unless the international community is moved to act quickly. As long as the international community considers humanitarian actions secondary to political considerations, millions may be dead before rescue arrives. The Cambodian people are uprooted and miserable; their death seems imminent. How many more must succumb?

The Federation of Cambodian Associations in the United States and Canada views the calamity which has befallen the Cambodian people with horror, shock and anxiety. While our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wives, children and friends may have already perished, the prospect of death and the present suffering of our people tears at our hearts and preoccupies our minds. How much longer is the suffering to continue? How many more must die? What will be the end?

The Federation is convinced that, like the Khmer Rouge who earlier "reacted" to the world outcry against their genocidal practices, neither the Vietnamese nor the Chinese are immune to world pressure. We thus appeal to all people and all nations and their governments — particularly the United States — to make concerted efforts and to bring pressure to bear on Hanoi and Peking so that a large-scale United Nations rescue/food operation can be conducted to save the Cambodian people from famine.

In the name of God and Humanity, we ask for help.

FIGHTING FOR KEEPS

by Rafael Lima



Stalking. Step 1: Using foliage for cover, Lima observes sentry. Timing his movements and breathing to coincide with target, looks for next location with best cover.

STALKING

IN small-scale wars, the foot soldier will sometimes need to close his distance to an enemy without being detected and eliminate him soundlessly, so as to gain entry to an installation or exfiltrate from a guarded area after sabotage, intelligence or recon ops. Most silent weapons are close range, since longer range weapons such as silenced pistols, automatics and rifles may not always be on hand. They include the knife, the garrote — which can be improvised from the risers and steering toggles of a parachute — the sap — which can be improvised from a sand-filled sock — and the club — which can be wrapped in padding to minimize noise.

To utilize these close-range weapons the ancient techniques of stalking, concealment and invisibility become necessary. The Ninja, assassins and warriors-for-hire of feudal Japan, were said to have been invisible. In fact, they were normal men who were highly disciplined in the arts of camouflage, subterfuge, deception, disguise, soundless stalking and the martial arts.

Their principles of concealment apply to the modern foot soldier, especially Special Forces troopers, snipers, escaped prisoners making their way through hostile areas, recon teams and individual soldiers separated from their units who must exfiltrate to friendly areas.

When stalking, remember the principles of camouflage, silence and concealed movement.

CAMOUFLAGE

For jungle and rural ops, pick the camouflage pattern according to the vegetation (colors vary too). For night ops wear black clothing. Cover or blacken face and hands — any exposed skin can be spotted easily. For arctic or snow-covered areas wear white.

SILENCE

To insure silent movement, tape, pad and distort so as not to be heard or seen by the enemy. Tape or secure all equipment so it won't slide or rattle. Pad equipment wherever possible. Be sure padding does not interfere with weapon operation when carrying a silenced weapon. Baggy clothing snags on bush — tie off thighs and forearms and blouse the pants. Use headgear that distorts the outline of the human head. Tape all shiny portions of gear.

MOVEMENT

Try to work downwind of the enemy. Daniel Roxo (see "White Devil of Mozambique, SOF, October '79) could detect the enemy by smell. Keep lower than the enemy's line of sight. However, at times in urban fighting, one may stalk by staying *higher* than the line of sight on roofs or other man-made structures.

Study the target's movements — time your movements to his. Study the timing of his breathing and pattern your own after his. Make good use of cover — move along shadows, overhanging vegetation,

and foliage. Avoid silhouetting yourself against the horizon. Move only when you must to close the distance.

To step without being heard: 1. gently place the ball of the foot; 2. place the heel — if the sentry paces, time your steps to his — retaining your center of gravity over the supporting leg. 3. Do not allow body weight to fall forward until you have ascertained the ground you're stepping on is free of snapping twigs, alarms, trip wires, flares or booby traps.

Practice stepping so you can move and hold your foot one-half inch off the ground before placing it. It may be necessary to stop movement in mid-stride and freeze. Movement, even if camouflaged, can be detected. Mines (or booby traps) if detonated can be nasty.

Look for the next spot to which you will move before leaving your cover. Observe carefully for enemy activity. Select the best, most covered route to your next location. Take advantage of fog, smoke, haze and diversions to assist concealment.

Change direction when moving through tall grass. Moving in a straight line causes the grass to wave unnaturally. The best time to move is when wind moves the grass.

If you alarm birds or animals remain in position to assure concealment.

Take advantage of distractions.

Avoid cleared areas to prevent being silhouetted.





Step 2: Moving silently, he closes distance, nearing final moment of contact.



Step 3: Lima rises from below sentry's line of sight, muffles scream with palm of hand.



Step 4: Lima bares sentry's throat for edged-weapon attack by bending head back. If no point of fulcrum can be used, knee in small of back will serve.



Step 5: Lima finishes target with cut from artery to artery across windpipe.

Ex-Green Beret's System

LOCO Pack

by Capt. Jerry Lee





WHEN a friend told me about a new pack with a built-in climbing and rappelling harness, my immediate reaction was that it would only be desirable to those who like to surround themselves with "James Bond" type gimmicks. But when I read a brochure describing the features of this new pack, I was interested enough to visit the offices of International Equipment Manufacturing, the maker, and came away with a sample of the new pack system for testing.

The LOCO Pack and Harness System is the first attempt by anyone to apply the technology of modern backpacking equipment to the specific needs of the military. The U.S. Army's current issue ALICE (all-purpose lightweight individual carrying equipment), by comparison, offers little design improvement over the Army rucksack issued in 1942. The LOCO system consists of a large, waterproof pack bag, two detachable accessory pockets and a padded hip belt with a built-in climbing/ extraction harness. An optional jumpbag is also offered for airborne operations.

LOCO's system gets its name from the designers, Mike Lowe and Tom Cook. Lowe spent six years in Special Forces, has been a climber, mountain guide and climbing instructor for most of his life, and is the owner of Lowe Alpine Systems,

RIGHT: LOCO system consists of pack, two accessory pockets, and padded hip belt with climbing/ extraction harness. Pack measures 8x14x28. **ABOVE:** Author on rappel with LOCO pack. The system works well, is more comfortable than rope Swiss seat.



Inc. His well-known L.A.S. Expedition Pack was used as the basis for the LOCO system (see SOF, Spring '77).

Tom Cook spent 12 years in Special Forces, much of that time in Southeast Asia. He is now the president of International Equipment Manufacturing.

The olive drab (yes, finally there's an OD pack on the market) nylon pack is double urethane coated and has a double bottom for extra strength. The top flap, secured by two straps attached to quick-release buckles, has a large zipper-closed pocket on top. Another pocket inside the pack's top holds a radio or other frequently needed equipment high up and close to the back for better load stability and easy access. This arrangement also keeps the radio protected from dirt and damage and conceals it (radios tend to draw fire in combat). There are three compression straps on each side of the pack that keep a partially loaded bag taut and prevent cargo shifting. These straps can also be used to attach equipment to the pack, such as a rifle, skis — or a fishing pole if one is on a peaceful mission. Open pockets on the sides of the

pack hold the butt end of the equipment so attached as to prevent it sliding through the compression straps.

I tried the climbing/ extraction harness for rappelling and, lacking a helicopter, a "tree extraction." The harness worked well for these simple tasks. The weight of the pack pulls the wearer back to an unusual angle during extraction, but this is a minor discomfort. The harness is made of two continuous lengths of two-inch nylon webbing with metal buckles, and the manufacturer claims a 12,000-pound tensile strength for the system. This is probably strong enough for any use, but I would like to know just what tests the harness has been subjected to.

Overall construction of the LOCO system is impressive. Tough 7.5 oz. nylon pack cloth is used, as well as YKK coil zippers and durable Delrin® plastic buckles. All the nylon is hot-cut to prevent fraying, and heavy nylon thread is used for stitching. During a winter training exercise a snap broke off one of the accessory pockets, but the failure may have been caused by extreme low temperatures (-25° F.). We were surprised to find that even

the hole for the snap had been hot-cut. The LOCO system is unquestionably as durable as any pack on the market.

The pack has an internal frame consisting of two removable aluminum stays, which can be bent to conform to the shape of the wearer's back. This allows the pack to ride closer to the back with greater comfort than an external frame. Also, the internal frame is virtually unbreakable, while all external frame packs, including the ALICE, are easily bent or broken.

Thickly padded shoulder straps are fitted with quick-release buckles. The straps attach to the back of the pack with an adjustable ladder system that will accommodate persons from 5'2" to 6'5". Below the ladder system is a foam pad which protects the wearer's back and provides some stand-off between the pack and the body to allow circulation.

Two stabilization straps run from the top of the pack to the shoulder straps. These can be adjusted in conjunction with the shoulder straps to shift the pack's weight onto different parts of the body — very useful on a long march.

The sternum or chest strap is one of the newer ideas in backpack designs to be incorporated in the LOCO pack (actually, it was used extensively in military packs of the 19th century, but has only recently been revived). This strap takes some of the load off the shoulders and puts it on the chest. It also eliminates the possibility of the wearer slipping out of the harness during extraction, which is especially important if the wearer is unconscious. This strap also has a quick-release buckle.

The padded hip belt attaches to the pack with two sturdy pins. By releasing the buckles on the shoulder and chest straps and pulling out the two pins, the pack can be dropped rapidly, leaving the hip belt on the wearer. The belt has a wide strap attached along its length that can be used to attach holster, knife, ammo

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"I've tested every pack issued by the U.S. Army since the Spanish-American war," says Capt. Jerry Lee, "and found them all lacking."

Lee, an avid backpacker for the last 18 years, goes on, "Most of my trips are made alone so reliable equipment is essential. I'm always experimenting with new ideas and testing new equipment."

Most of his trips have been in the Sierra Nevadas and the coastal mountains of California but during this past year he climbed Mauna Loa in Hawaii and descended to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Lee joined the U.S. Army in 1969. He is now adjutant at Camp Roberts, Calif., an Army Reserve National Guard training site. M.L. Jones

LOCO Is A Loser Says Green Beret

ON a recent swing through the grits and gravy belt, SOF got to jawing with Tom Wilkinson about the LOCO pack. He was so vehement about his experiences with the LOCO that we thought our readers would like to share them.

Just shy of two meters tall, Wilkinson is hard to miss. His 38 years don't show. Born in Frisco City, Ala., Wilkinson grew up in the southwest. He enlisted in the Army after high school and spent four years in nuclear missile artillery. He then joined the Special Forces and has been with them, either active or reserve, for the last 12 years. During that time Wilkinson was also a contract civilian for DOD in Southeast Asia. After returning stateside, he worked as a security guard and strike breaker for U.S. Borax in Boron, Calif. Then, after a long vacation, Wilkinson went to Africa. He wouldn't say where and he wouldn't say what he did, but we got the feeling he wasn't a missionary.

About two years ago, Wilkinson opened the Delta Gun Shop in Montgomery. He sells guns, spins yarns, provides security and does anything else that suits him.

Wilkinson doesn't like the LOCO. He explained, "The pack seemed to be hinged vertically down your spine. If you shifted left to right, with the pack heavily loaded, it seemed to pivot on that damned hinge. That was the prime thing that we noticed and I bitched about. It's just not comfortable with a heavy load, say 70 to 80 pounds. I prefer the ALICE for a heavy load. The ALICE is the best military rucksack to come out."

N.E.M.

pouches or any equipment with either a belt loop or U.S.-type belt clips. Accessory pockets can also be carried on the hip belt, using the snap-on belt loops on the pockets. The belt has the most convenient quick-release buckle I have seen, and the buckle is attached by keepers, not sewn on, so it can be replaced easily should it be broken.

The climbing/extraction harness is an integral part of the hip belt. It consists of two leg straps and buckles, with one end of each strap extended above the belt in a large loop. A carabiner joins the two loops, and the rope is attached to the carabiner. When not in use, the leg straps are stowed in two utility pouches permanently sewn to the belt. These pouches are oversize, and will also hold three 20-round M-16 magazines — or two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Accessory pockets add versatility to the system, as they can be carried either on the pack or on the hip belt. All essential items of a fighting/survival load can be carried in the pouches, while the existence load is carried in the pack. If the pack must be dropped for combat or other emergency, the hip belt and accessory pockets can carry enough gear to continue the mission.

I took my LOCO pack on a weekend backpacking trip to get some idea of how it feels on a long march. Although I only carried 25 pounds, I believe it was an adequate test. The LOCO proved to be the most comfortable pack I have tried. The adjustable yoke suspension system works as intended, allowing the wearer to distribute the weight of the pack on his hips, shoulders and chest, and to vary the distribution of weight while walking to prevent fatigue.

I.E.M. President Tom Cook says the LOCO system is undergoing constant re-evaluation and improvement. At the same time, he is involved in the development of a complete line of outdoor equipment designed for military use which utilizes current technology. These will include a Polarguard® sleeping bag with Gore-tex® shell, Gore-tex® clothing, and much more. Cook hopes to have a catalog of this equipment ready soon.

LOCO is used by a number of special units in this country, including the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, Navy SEALs, and Air Force pararescue units. A number of foreign orders have also been received. The system is also available for sale to individuals for \$145 plus shipping from International Equipment Manufacturing, Dept. SOF, P.O. Drawer B, Lafayette, CO 80026. Delivery may be slow due to the number of large quantity orders that must be filled, but anyone who really needs this type of equipment will find it well worth the wait.

THIS LOCO SENSIBLE

Loco's pack system works partly because it was based on Lowe's expedition pack (see SOF, Spring '77). And also because it was designed to anticipate contingencies. The pack system is strong, flexible and well-made. Perhaps, by the turn of the century, our leaders will look into it.

N. E. MacDougald
Survival Ed.





FIELD GEAR NEEDS FACE LIFT

Marine Sniper Speaks Out

by
1st Lt.
Steven J. Lynn

Marine Corps Gazette

THE Marines have done so much with so little for so long that now they can do anything with nothing forever" is an ageless quote from an unknown source. The words are tempered with the sarcastic wit of an ill-equipped Marine infantryman. If we can do so much with nothing just think what we could do with something.

Marines have no need to suffer nor be at the mercy of the elements everytime they go to the field. Why are they asked to fight using much the same gear that John Wayne wore in *The Sands of Iwo Jima*? The few changes in field gear over the years have not been much of an improvement.

It always rains when Marines go to the field, and without a doubt Marines are always miserable. There is nothing more pathetic than seeing a platoon of Marines suffering from hypothermia. We take pride in our ability to meet the elements — but why is it necessary to fight the climate as well as the enemy?

Every item used by field Marines needs to be redesigned.

The normal gear that a Marine takes to the field with him is: a pack, a folding "E" tool, a poncho with liner, a shelter half (if he is particularly unlucky), a flak jacket, a helmet, extra socks, a field jacket, chow, a cartridge belt with two canteens, a canteen cup, two ammo pouches, and a first aid kit. He is wearing camo-utilities, cotton skivvies, socks, and boots. With all this gear he is not really carrying anything worth the weight as far as practicality and warmth goes. Let's briefly consider each item.

Packs: The old 1941 pack lasted a long time, but it had insufficient load capacity and was very uncomfortable because it pulled back on the shoulders when any kind of weight was inside it. The ALICE pack is made of shabby materials, including cheap nylon, is poorly designed, and hurts the lower back. Even under

admin-bivouac conditions packs have disintegrated in a little over a year.

Cartridge belt system: The entire system is outdated, especially the system for attaching additional gear. It bites into the hip bones and interferes with anything else worn on the back. The magazine pouches, first-aid pouch, and canteen pouches are all made of cheap nylon and disintegrate under normal use. The magazine pouches with the plastic liners and the plastic container of the first aid kit always break, sometimes melt, and usually promote extreme pain during fire and movement.

"E" tools: The new compact folding "E" tools in their plastic containers never fail to pinch the user's hand and are broken during normal use.

Holsters and magazine pouches: The .45 holsters are cumbersome, slow, and outdated. Our present magazine pouches are very slow to use in normal conditions, and impossible to use when wet.

Field jacket: Our field jacket is cumbersome, especially when coupled with the liner, gives little warmth for its weight, and is useless and twice as heavy when wet.

Boots: Our boots are not warm nor waterproof; they are hard and slow to lace when cold or wet, and give very little traction on steep, wet, or slick terrain.

Body armor: The flak jacket makes the wearer as slow and awkward as an armadillo; it is hot, heavy, and for its weight, gives very little protection.

Shelter halves: Useless in the rain, extremely heavy, and offer little protection.

Rain gear/sleeping gear: The poncho and poncho liner are the "grunt's" main sleeping gear. The poncho is too heavy, too bulky, usually stinks and normally is full of holes. The only way you can sleep warmly is on a warm summer night, which always seems to occur the day before you go into the field. When it rains, with our present rain gear, the "03" is always wet, cold and miserable. If you are lucky enough to have a bulky rubber rain suit, you will find yourself hot and unable to move. The poncho and rain suit both make too much noise when worn tactically on the move.

Cold weather gear: This gear is hoarded in supply depots and is the same stuff our fathers froze in during the Korean War. It probably keeps the rats in supply real cozy.

"C" rations: The chow package is too heavy, too bulky, too noisy, too hard to carry, and usually the food is eaten cold while the "grunt" lights his heat tabs and eats peanut butter under his poncho to keep warm during the rainstorms. A lot of Marines find it far from delicious.

Clothes: The socks are too light, easily worn out, and promote cold, wet, and blistered feet when combined with the boots. The cotton skivvies provide neither warmth nor insulation in cold or wet weather. The green, cotton skivvy shirt is great when it is very hot and you can talk someone into letting you take off the utility shirt. Long underwear is also useless when wet and provides little warmth for its bulk.

Troops in Okinawa buy their own gear from the Okinawan surplus stores, rather than use what is issued. Here are a few proposals to improve Marine Corps gear.
Pack system: Irish I

As far as Marine Corps pack design is concerned, we are still in the Dark Ages. Here's how Colin Fletcher describes the pack in *The New Complete Walker*:

"Old-type packs put most of the load on your shoulders and imposed fierce vertical pressure on the easily damaged spine. They also put a heavy strain on the muscles of shoulders, neck, and back, hastening fatigue. A waistbelt removes this pressure and strain and transfers the weight to the simple, strong, and well-muscled structure of hips and legs. It also lowers your center of gravity — often a material help."

The waistbelt is the key to the whole suspension system and will transfer most of the pack's weight from the shoulders to the hips. Here's how according to Fletcher:

"For a decade the waistbelt evolved slowly toward bigger and mostly better things: from a simple two-inch-wide belt of cotton or nylon webbing, through broader Ensolite-padded affairs covered with nylon fabric, to sumptuous foam creations, four inches deep or more at the back. If you carried heavy loads you welcomed each advance: the broader and better padded the belt, the less sting to the load...."

NOW NOT LATER

Steve Lynn has his head screwed on. He has obviously done his homework and most of his recommendations could be adopted tomorrow by all branches of service. Trouble is, Lynn's ideas are logical. By the time a "committee of experts" evaluates his suggestions, they too will be obsolete. Using up existing field gear is not only "penny wise" but might prove fatal under certain circumstances. Let us hope that our enemy carries field gear as antiquated as our own.

N.E. MacDougald,
Survival Ed.

"A waistbelt, no matter what its width, should encircle you: there now seems to be fairly general — though not total — agreement that sidestraps from the base of the frame fail to do a satisfactory job."

To wear a well-designed pack system properly you: 1) loosen the shoulder straps and put the pack on, then 2) hunch the shoulders and fasten the waist belt very tightly around the outward sloping portion of the hips below the joints, and finally 3) tighten the shoulder straps. The percentage of weight borne between shoulders and hips is controlled by adjusting the shoulder straps. The main weight of the load inside the pack should be carried high and close to the back.

The aluminum frame pack is probably the ultimate design for carrying efficiency and the best design for the heaviest loads, Fletcher says:

"The tubular aluminum structure is rigid and extremely light. Contrary to appearances, it is remarkably strong. At least, it is in the best (and most expensive) models. The two uprights curve in a very gentle 'S' that echoes the contours of your waist, back, shoulders, and neck. The frame therefore sits close to your body throughout its length and holds the load far forward, where it exerts the least possible leverage against your muscles. But the construction leaves plenty of air space between load and back for ventilation. And the outward-curving lower ends never

bear on your rump in the uncomfortable way that a straight frame can."

Another alternative for the "Irish I" system would be an internal frame rucksack. This type of pack has internal, removable, aluminum stays that can be bent to fit the contours of the back. The back of the pack is padded to prevent objects inside from jabbing the wearer in the back. The maximum load with this type of pack is around 40 pounds. A frame pack would handle heavier loads.

A third alternative would be a combination of the two aforementioned packs.

The pack system must be bid on, perfected, and manufactured by quality backpacking and mountaineering specialists, of which there are many.

A frame pack such as the "Serac" by Gerry (capacity 5,327 cubic inches), or the "Pack Bag 72" by Trailwise (capacity 6,539 cubic inches), an internal frame rucksack design such as the "Great Sac" by Jansport (capacity 3,554 cubic inches), or the "Expedition Pack" by Lowe (capacity 4,500 cubic inches), or a combination of designs such as the "Scrambler" by Camp Trails (capacity 2,777 cubic inches) are prime examples of the various classifications of packs for consideration.

The harness system would fulfill a double purpose: 1) as a suspension system for the new pack and 2) as a replacement for the cartridge belt/shoulder harness system presently used. The removable harness system, like the pack bag, would be made of brown-toned, camouflage, abrasive resistant, 12-oz. nylon Cordura. The waistbelt and shoulder straps would be thickly padded and the belt would have a quick release feature. The entire system would be designed for ease of attachment and detachment to and from the pack frame. When worn by itself, without the pack, the harness/suspension system would have the capability of adding:

- An ass-pack, such as the one made by the "ASPAC" corporation in Estes Park, Colorado, which would clip on the back of the hip belt and hold one day's rations, ammo, poncho liner, rain gear, and the proposed survival kit (the ass-pack would clip on the bottom of the pack bag when the suspension system is worn attached to the pack).

- A first aid kit, which could also be attached to the pack bag.

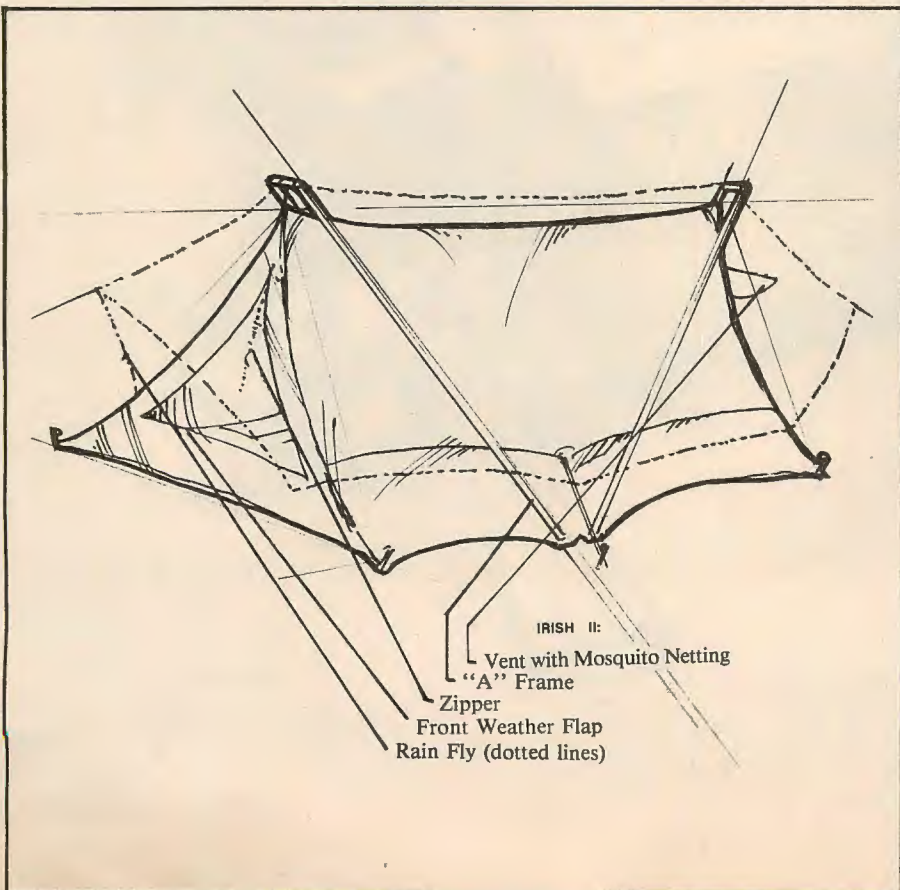
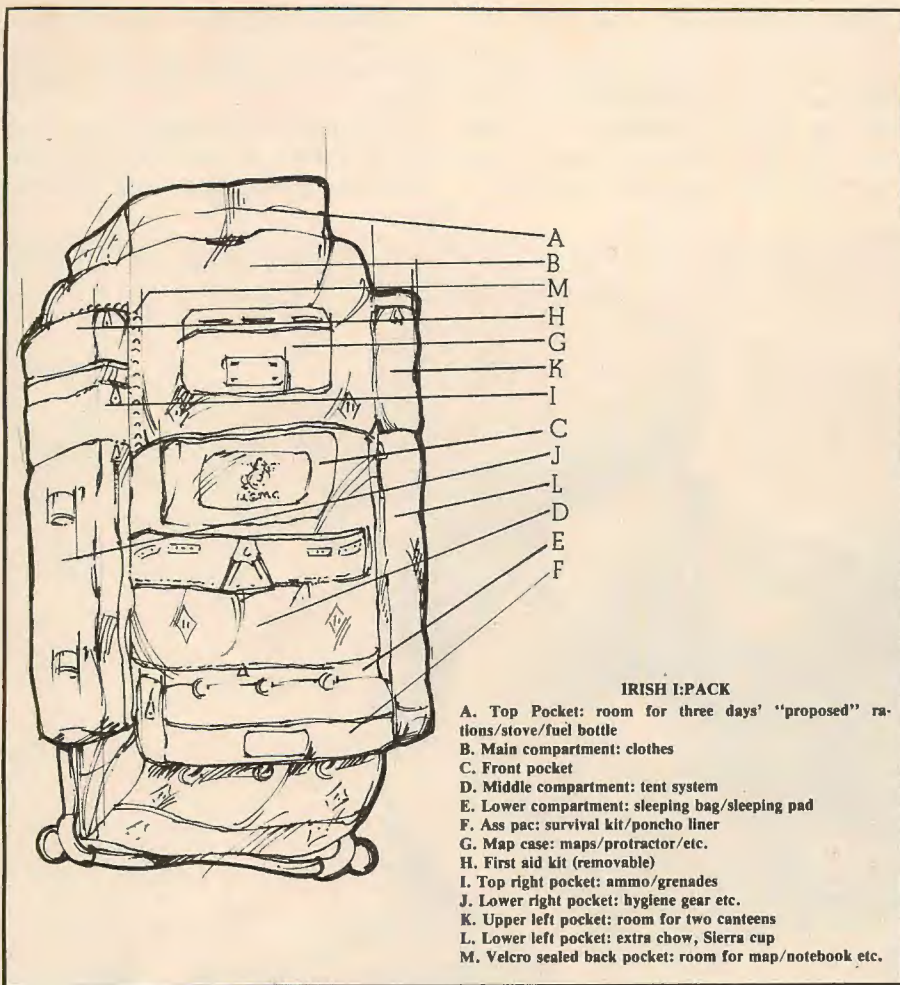
- Two canteens.

- Fighting knife and scabbard.

- And either two magazine pouches or a holster and magazine pouch.

When worn attached to the pack, the hip belt would hold one canteen, fighting knife and scabbard, and either two magazine pouches or a holster and magazine pouch.

The pouches for the first aid kit, canteens, and rifle magazines would also be made of heavy camouflage cordura reinforced with leather. The flaps would be sealed with Velcro closures. The .45 holster and magazine pouch would be



made of leather and be designed by one of our "expert" manufacturers and designers, such as Bianchi, Safariland, Lawrence, or Andy Anderson, just to name a few. Cross-draw holsters would probably work best with the pack system. The holster and magazine pouch would be like those used in civilian combat pistol matches.

Tent: Irish II

The proposed tent could be used four ways: 1) set up without the rainfly in good weather with the mosquito netting giving protection from insects, 2) set up with the rainfly in inclement weather, 3) not set up, in good weather, but used in a "bivy bag" configuration with the sleeping bag or poncho liner inside. The breathable top would give wind protection and the waterproof bottom would give protection from ground dampness and dew, and 4) not set up, but with the bag inside and the entire unit wrapped up with the rainfly during inclement weather, when the user is unable to set up the entire tent.

The proposed tent would be a one-man, camouflage shelter with room for one man, his weapon, and his pack. The bottom of the tent would be waterproofed nylon taffeta; the top of breathable ripstop nylon construction, and the rainfly of coated, waterproofed nylon. Stronger coated materials for the bottom could be experimented with such as 60/40 or 65/35 material for more abrasive resistance. The entire lightweight unit would fit into a small stuff sack with its two sectionalized poles joined by shock cord; six high impact, green, plastic stakes; and green nylon guy lines. The rainfly would be anchored to the tent with shock cord. The tent would have mosquito netting and waterproofed weather flaps for the opening which would be sealed with Velcro strips. When used in the "bivy bag" configuration (inspired by the "North Face" design) the netting and flaps would be held out of the way with additional Velcro strips. No partner or ditching would be required. The rainfly would be reversible, camouflage on one side and sand color on the other (for jungle, desert, and snow use). Removable frost liners would be kept in battalion supply to be used in temperatures of 10 degrees or lower.

The principle behind modern tent design is that the tub-shaped, waterproofed bottom protects from ground moisture. Water vapor from the sleeping body rises out of the breathable fabric of the "roof" and rolls down the inside of the waterproofed, taut rainfly, and the rain rolls down the outside of the rainfly. The result is dry, comfortable sleeping. The removable cotton frost liner keeps body moisture, which freezes in extreme cold, from falling on the occupant.

The sleeping bag

Goose down is by far the best insulation, in relation to weight and warmth, in dry, cold environments. Down is springy and can be stuffed into a very small space.

However, when down gets wet it loses its ability to loft, and clumps together, losing most of its insulating qualities. The present bag used by the Corps is bulky, and incorporates an outdated, warmth-sacrificing design.

There are two new polyester fillers,

Celanese's Polarguard® and DuPont's Hollofil II®, that are gaining rapid acceptance in wet/cold environments. These fillers are slightly heavier than and do not stuff as compactly as down, but retain much of their insulating abilities even when wet. They have a low rate of water

absorption, and retain their warmth-determining loft with a simple wringing out. They are non-allergenic and *mildew-proof*.

The proposed "mummy" bag would probably have an outer shell of camouflaged, ripstop nylon. The bag would



utilize either Polarguard® or Hollofil II® for insulation. "North Face" makes a couple of fine example bags with both types of insulation. "Trail Tech" makes a bag (the Logan Expedition) made with Polarguard®, rated to 30 degrees below zero. The proposed bag would be issued with a small waterproofed stuff bag.

For insulation against cold ground, most backpackers use a 3/8-inch "Ensolite" hip-length pad made of watertight, closed-cell, foam synthetic. For cushioning they use open cell, urethane pads with covers that have waterproofed nylon bottoms and breathable cotton and dacron tops to prevent the sleeping bag from slipping off. A good compromise for the Corps would be a hip-length, covered pad with 3/8-inch Ensolite for insulation on the bottom, and laminated to a one-inch urethane foam pad for cushioning on top. The unit would be rolled up and stored inside the pack or tied on top.

This sleeping system would promote warm, comfortable sleeping in all conditions, and prevent "Marine Corps back" in the morning.

The poncho liner would be kept to: 1) wrap up in when forced to sit in a foxhole, 2) add more warmth to the sleeping bag in extreme cold weather, 3) be used in the "bivy bag" instead of the sleeping bag in extremely warm weather, and to 4) be carried in the ass-pack for emergency situations.

Boots and clothing

The new proposed boots could be a toss-up between two designs by the makers of "Herman Survivors." The regular Herman Survivor is made of dark green leather, is fully lined, has a Goodyear storm welt, a Vibram Montagna sole (the lugged sole used by mountaineers for traction), and has speed lacing. The Herman "Waterproof Survivor" has a lifetime warranty against leakage, is fully lined, and all seams are triple coated with a latex sealer. Both boots are very comfortable and rugged. The boots would be treated with the appropriate protection for waterproofness such as "Sno-Seal," a silicone-base wax for chrome tanned leather, in the case of the Waterproof Survivors; or treated with something like Huberd's "Shoe Grease" in the case of the regular Survivor. The welts would be protected by a product such as "Leath-R-Seal."

Heavy, outer socks, 90 percent wool, 10 percent nylon for strength, for the field would be issued each Marine for better protection against blisters and frostbite. Wool has the capability of insulating even when wet. Light wool socks would be issued and worn as inner socks for additional insulation and protection.

All field clothing would be designed and worn according to the *layering principle*, which states simply that a number of lighter layers of clothing is warmer than a couple of bulky items. The proposed

clothing system would protect against cold, wind, and rain. All clothing must offer a compromise between insulation and ventilation, as normal body moisture must be allowed to escape to prevent getting wet and cold from the inside out. This can be just as bad as getting wet and cold from the elements. For this reason, completely waterproofed clothing is definitely out. The field clothing system must be durable and versatile, and the wearer must be willing to add or take off layers as the weather and temperature change.

Green, wool, fishnet long underwear; camouflage wool balaclavas to cover the head, face, and neck and to muffle the breath while patrolling; five-finger heavy wool inner gloves with leather outer gloves; green wool shirts (like the shirt issued during the Korean War); and heavy wool field sweaters with the natural oils retained, such as the "Peter Storm" models (the Wooly-pulley is really too light for field wear), should be part of the standard clothing issue along with two pairs of camouflage utilities. A floppy, leaf-patterned, camouflaged, jungle cover (which is more practical for field use, rain, and sun protection than our present covers — plus it can be easily stuffed in a pocket) should be our field cover.

Natural wool with the lanolin left in, that insulates even when wet, has a distinct advantage over other materials. A small percentage of nylon would be added for strength. The utility shirt would be kept in the pack during wet weather.

Field jacket: Irish III

The field jacket replacement would be made of one of the following materials and would incorporate either Polarguard® or Hollofil II® for insulation. The material would be either: 1) Ventile cloth (a poplin developed to keep downed RAF pilots from freezing in the North Sea), or 2) 60/40 cloth in a weave of nylon and cotton, or 3) 65/35 cloth which is a blend of dacron polyester and cotton. The fabrics are extremely durable, breathable, temporarily water repellent, and give excellent wind protection. The field jacket would also have an insulated hood. "Sierra Designs" Polarguard® 60/40 would be a possible alternative.

Rain gear

The main problem with rain gear in the past has been that the condensation from the body could not escape through the coated fabric. Manufacturers combated this with vents and linings. Now a couple of manufacturers have come up with waterproofed fabrics that still breathe to an extent. W.L. Gore and Associates have their entry called "Gore-Tex" laminates, and "Peter Storm" has its entry called "Buk-flex." The proposed rain jacket and rain chaps (which would pull on over the boots, and snap onto a belt loop) would be made of one of these lightweight, breathable, durable fabrics and issued to each man. The camouflaged, ¾-length rain shell with hood, and chaps

could be stuffed into a small stuff sack out of the way, yet readily accessible inside the pack.

Winter mount-out gear

Ventile cloth outer trousers with suspenders insulated with either Polarguard® or Hollofil II® (or heavy wool outer trousers); Polarguard® or Hollofil II® insulated, coated mittens with flap-protected slits to get the fingers out (Eddie Bauer would be a possible manufacturer); Polarguard® or Hollofil II® sleeping socks (for use inside the sleeping bag or when socks and boots are drying in the camp); and special winter boots like the "Trapper Pacs" made by Sorel, with removable wool-felt liners (the uppers are chrome tanned leather and the lowers are rubber with lugged soles) would all be kept in battalion supply and issued when needed in sub-zero snow or ice conditions. A possible solution to the boots would be to issue one pair of Herman Survivors and one pair of Sorels to each man.

Miscellaneous gear

Each Marine should be issued the following miscellaneous gear:

- A small compact flashlight such as a Mallory, or a sturdier light such as the Kel-Light.
- A candle lantern with candles for use inside the tent.
- A stainless steel Sierra-type cup (to replace the canteen cup).
- A collapsible, five-quart, combination water container/flotation bladder/pillow (to be carried inside the pack or lashed on the outside).
- Two narrow, one-quart polyethylene Oasis-type canteens (a narrow design would work better on the harness/suspension system).
- Old, wooden-handled "E" tools (the old type was much sturdier and made a hell of a weapon).
- First aid kits with some useful self-care gear inside (moleskin for blisters, scissors, halozone tablets, salt pills, eyedrops, cold pills, wind screen, sun screen, frost guard, chap stick, aspirin, dressings, antiseptic, bandana, cough and throat lozenges, bug juice, anti-fog preparation for glasses, and band-aids).

Body armor should be the lightweight vest type worn by police officers, which would protect the vital areas of the back, front, and sides and be worn over the green skivvy shirt. These units are bullet-proof against small-arms fire, and would provide as much or more protection from fragmentation than our present flak jackets do. And they would not get in the way of the other gear and clothes.

Survival kits should be issued to each man (for use during escape, evasion, or emergencies) and be kept in the ass-pack. The self-locking, waterproof plastic bag (which can double as a water container) would include such items as: a waterproof match container, cotton balls for tinder, a candle, a combination survival tool (such as the "Life Tool" by Allison Forge Cor-

MARINE SNIPER SPEAKS OUT

"It's not hard to get interested in the personal gear problem when you're freezing to death in current gear," says 1st Lt. Steven J. Lynn, currently OIC (officer in charge) of the Marine Corps scout sniper instructor school Quantico, Va.

Lynn, an experienced backpacker, hunter and fisherman, was commissioned in 1975 and was honorman of his basic training company. During his Marine Corps service, he has commanded an infantry platoon and served as a series commander at the Marines' San Diego research and development (RD) center.

In the latter position, he became interested in the problem of personal gear and his article, reprinted with permission from the July 1979 issue of the *Marine Corps Gazette*, is the result of his research into the problem.

We are happy to print two of his detailed sketches of Irish 1 (pack) and 2 (bivvy bag) for the first time.

--M.L. Jones



poration), a folding cup, a tube tent with nylon line (which can be set up or used in a "bivy bag" configuration for complete protection from the elements), a space emergency blanket, a small compass, fish line and hooks, aspirin, packets of honey, soup, tea, sugar, and salt, and an instruction manual. An example unit which fits into a parka pocket is made by Safety Survival Rescue Equipment Company in Seattle, Washington.

Rations and stove

Marine Corps chow should be completely rehabilitated along the lines of the Australian daily meal packs. The Australian meal pack is comprised of a plastic bag which contains three main courses in cans, snacks to include short-bread, candy bars, and cheese and crackers, accessories to include a combination spoon and opener, a margarine tube and a milk tube, and drink mixes to include Kool-Aid and tea bags. The whole thing weighs about as much as *one meal* of our "C" rations. We could replace the three cans with freeze-dried foods by such quality manufacturers as Oregon Freeze Dry Foods, of Albany, Oregon. Their freeze-dried meals come as small, compressed discs, and include such delicacies as shrimp creole, beef stroganoff, chili and beans, Mexican omelets, and ice cream shakes — a far cry from our present beef with spice sauce. The freeze-dried food cooks in its own

pouch with the addition of hot water — but in a pinch it could be eaten dry. The snacks should include, in addition to the Australian items, hi-protein bars, peanut butter, a meat bar, freeze-dried fruits, pudding, or ice cream, and a soup cube. The drink mixes would include instant chocolate protein drink and two instant coffee mixes. The accessories would include, in addition to the Australian items, salt, pepper, honey, *real* toilet paper, a packet of "strike anywhere" matches, a multiple natural vitamin, cigarettes for our many smokers (and a small plug for chewers), a dental stimulator, and gum.

To heat the food (and to provide extra warmth in a pinch) a small stove and fuel should be issued to each man. The stove could be one of the following types:

- A small butane cartridge stove which folds into a unit small enough to fit into your back pocket. The butane cartridges are disposable and would heat a lot of meals.

- A white gas stove such as the SVEA 123R which contains both a windscreen and a small pot with handle, which double as a container for the stove. The white gas would be carried in a ½-pint aluminum fuel bottle with additional fuel pour spout, such as those made by Sigg.

- The small compact stove made by

Mountain Safety Research, with models that burn either kerosene or white gas. All stoves are light, compact, heat very fast, and consume little fuel.

Combination knife/bayonet

The combination fighting knife and bayonet (possible makers: Randall, Buck or Gerber) would resemble a modified Randall Model No. 14 "Attack" knife. The Bowie-type blade, with top edge sharpened, is Solingen stainless steel. It is 7½ inches long. The wax-impregnated sheath could be worn on the harness/suspension system or tied down almost anywhere with its leather tie-down thongs. The sheath should have a hone pocket on the front with a soft Washita stone for sharpening. Honing oil would be issued with the knife.

Summary

Each Marine would sign for every piece of his initial issue and pay for all losses over-the-counter. Battalion supply should have the capability and the raw materials to repair all gear, and each company should have the capability of performing minor repairs on its own gear. Each company supply should have its own sewing machine, awl, repair and patch gear; and the people trained to use them. Each individual should be issued his own patch and minor repair kit (pack parts, ripstop patch tape, seam sealer, etc.) Troops should learn to care for their gear.

Essential subjects training should include care and cleaning of all new gear, repair and proper use. Self-pride in gear should be stressed. There should be a specific place in the pack for each piece of gear.

The emphasis should be on quality gear, designed and manufactured for us by the experts. We should give the contracts to the best firms with the best gear. We should advertise in backpacking magazines for new gear ideas, contact all backpacking and mountaineering gear manufacturers, and encourage and give recognition for the development of gear by private citizens. We should let the manufacturers advertise that they make quality gear to protect the Marines who protect America. The staff of *Backpacker* magazine would probably be willing to *help* with independent testing and evaluation of the proposed gear made by the various firms.

Planners may argue that our gear is perfectly good and that every unit has new gear. Such thinking misses the whole picture. IG inspectors see only one or two platoons per battalion that have borrowed and adopted gear from the other units. The rest of the platoons would have to go to the field practically naked. Supply may have some new stuff, but the only way you can get it is to steal it.

What should we do with our present gear? Easy. Give it to the reserves or sell it to the surplus stores. If you think some of the proposed gear is too expensive, go check the replacement cost of the ALICE pack. We now spend too much of our time and money developing gear to be worn with our dress uniforms. The field Marine is the backbone of the Marine Corps. Most of our funding should be directed in his direction.

An experimental rifle company should be set up at Quantico to *field test* all gear, under all conditions and situations, to insure that it is *Marine-proof*. This select unit could replace and fill the function of the Enlisted Instructors Company at The Basic School and serve as aggressors at TBS while testing the gear under combat conditions. This experimental company could test all ideas to include tactics and garrison operations. As soon as the gear has passed comfort and Marine-proofness testing, we should get it to the FMF. Our R&D process is too slow. By the time the Marine in the field gets gear, it is often out of date.

Let's move now, first by recognizing the shortcomings of much of the personal gear with which we currently equip our Marines, and then by having the courage to ask for the money needed to buy better equipment. That young Marine whom we ask to put his life on the line in combat deserves nothing short of the best personal equipment available.



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National Guard in Norway

by Duane Tigges

ONLY one U.S. Army division has a "cold" mission — training specifically for warfare in cold climates. That division, the 47th — Viking, National Guard of Minn., Ill. and Iowa — is one in which I have served for the past three years and the one which gave me an opportunity to train with members of the Norwegian army at their winter school at Torpomoen.

I first learned of this school's existence a couple of years before I was assigned to my present position as platoon sergeant for Det. 2, Co. B, 2nd Bn. 133 Inf. (Mech.), where I am a staff sergeant.

I got the assignment on 16 December 1978 and left on 22 March 1979 from Minneapolis aboard a C-130, bound for Gaardermoen, Norway, via Goose Bay, Labrador, and Keflavik, Iceland, a noisy, uncomfortable, 15-hour flight that left us all dead tired, followed by a five-hour bus ride to Torpomoen, a winter wonderland in the Hallingdal valley 150 miles northeast of Oslo.

After a good night's sleep in a comfortable barracks, we assembled to check out the Norwegian army equipment we would be using, including uniforms, sans in-

signia, skis and rucksacks.

The first day was spent in shaking down equipment for fit, etc., and on the short ski run next to the barracks. Since the next day was Sunday, we toured local points of interest the Norwegians lined up for us.

Monday found us up early and in buses which took us up out of the Hallingdal Valley to Synigen, in the mountains above tree line. Both Monday and Tuesday were spent in infantry exercises and ski touring — being pulled behind an ancient World War II Weasel, the pullees holding onto a rope — like water skiers.



Chowtime in snow cave after day on trail. Caves hold five men and their equipment, heat up to 25-28 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tuesday night we slept in the field in snow caves which we spent part of the afternoon constructing. The Norwegian method, we found, is superior to ours — one does not get as wet (or as cold) from snow. Our snow cave held five men and equipment with plenty of room. Once we got inside and got a shelter half hung over the entrance to keep out the draft, it warmed up enough so we could take off our field jackets. I think between our body heat and the four candles we used both for light and heat, the temperature rose to the high 20s, about as warm as you want it to get — if the temperature goes above 32 degrees Fahrenheit your house melts.

We slept in the field in snow caves.

Our rations, however, were not so good, bland and almost tasteless. When questioned that night, visiting Norwegian officers explained:

"After World War II, we Norwegians inherited tons of German army equipment left over from the half million or so troops stationed here during the war, including field rations. Not wanting to throw them away, we decided to eat them up. When they were gone, we merely copied the old ones instead of trying to produce something new."

Basically much like our old K ration — one ration designed for three meals — it leans heavily on bars of highly energized food that swell up in the stomach to satisfy one's hunger. There is only one hot meal, a can of corned beef so notorious



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DUANE Tigges's eight years of military service began in November 1965 when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served 1½ years (July '66-Nov. '67) with a mixed U.S. Marine and South Vietnamese army unit at Hoa Khanh. Their unit, the Combined Action Company No. 2, carried out operations similar to the French GMAC (Composite Airborne Commando Group). After his return to the U.S., Tigges became interested in Vietnamese history in general and U.S. and French involvement in the Vietnam War in particular. His research led to his writing "Unsung Warriors" (see SOF, October '79).

Now a staff sergeant for the "Viking" (47th) National Guard Division, Tigges is also an NCO instructor for the Iowa Military Academy at Camp Dodge near Des Moines. In civilian life, he is proprietor of Tigges Jewelry Store in Sibley, Ia., specializing in watchmaking and the creation of gold and silver jewelry. —M.L. Jones.

for its bad taste that the Norwegians call it "dead man."

"I've been eating dead man for 12 years," one old veteran sighed.

Luckily, we were able to wash down the dead man with Jack Daniels one enterprising trooper brought along in a *bota*, which he wore next to his body, an important warming tactic, since, at -30 degrees, the drink will match the temperature because of its lower freezing point. If a man took an unwarmed swig, he would freeze his insides.

At bedtime we got ready by putting on the long, grey-wool underwear Norwegian soldiers call "Anna."

"Sleep with Anna tonight and she will keep you warm."

"Sleep with Anna tonight and she will keep you warm," they said. And sleep warm we did. I never heard anyone complain of cold while we were there, a good tribute to Norwegian equipment designers.

Wednesday consisted of further ski training, and Thursday we started a 40-kilometer ski march through the forest, which eventually brought us back to Torpomoen late Friday afternoon. Thursday night we slept in a standard squad tent, similar to ours but with a better heating system.

In our tents, the stove is placed by the entrance, an inefficient heating method in winter. The Norwegians place theirs in the center where stove heat is evenly distributed throughout the interior. Also, our stoves rely on gas for fuel and have

been known to explode. The Norwegians use wood.

We had no training over the middle weekend, U.S. troops being billeted with Norwegian families in the area, all of whom were kind and generous to their guests. What a relief for a GI to find himself in a place in the world where he was looked upon not as a uniformed nuisance but an ally in a common cause. The Norwegians are staunch believers in liberty and the rights of man, and because of their sufferings under the Nazis, know how valuable well-trained soldiers are to the preservation of those liberties.

The weekend over, we went back into training, checking out the Norwegian army's AG-3 rifle. The familiarization process started with a lecture on nomenclature and capabilities and then we went to the range to sight in.

The AG-3 cal. 7.62mm rifle is a recoil-operated, magazine-fed weapon, standard in most European armies. Like the M-16, it can be fired in either semi-automatic or automatic by flipping a switch. Its cyclic rate of fire is 600 rounds per minute with a range of 400-450 meters, although a sniper scope will extend its range to about 700 meters.

The mine exploded, blowing dummy and bits of skis high in the air.

It is accurate and no one experienced problems in learning to fire it. In fact, Lt. Volden, our instructor, was astonished at how quickly the Americans picked up on it.

It does have disadvantages, one of the more serious being its weight. At 9½ pounds it drags like our old M-14, and since it fires the 7.62mm NATO cartridge, familiar to all who trained in the U.S. forces with the M-14, there is a limit on how much fodder one can pack for it. Somewhat bulkier than the M-16, it is not the best weapon to haul around, especially when loaded down with winter gear.

However, to try to make up for this, the Norwegians have come up with an unusual system with the weapon carried across the chest, the sling hooked into a special attachment near the front of the stock to allow for a quick release — simple and efficient.

After sighting in our weapons, we rotated to another class where the Norwegians demonstrated an anti-personnel mine they developed for use against ski troops. It is simplicity itself, consisting merely of a wooden box five by seven inches, a one-pound block of C-4 and a detonator. The soldier laying the mine simply buried it in his ski track in the snow. A pursuing enemy would detonate it.

We assembled on the edge of a forest clearing to watch two Norwegian soldiers ski across the far side, halting midway to



plant the mine. Then from the other side, they pulled a dummy on skis with a rope across the clearing. When the dummy hit the mine it exploded, blowing dummy and bits of skis several feet into the air. We then practiced laying them ourselves. In a followup lecture we learned the mine was first used by the Finns in their 1939-40 war with the Russians. The Norwegians picked up the idea because their resistance forces could make them by hand with little effort and limited funds.

Next, Lt. Volstad gave a class on avalanche survival and rescue techniques, a subject of vital concern to Norwegian

We learned to use avalanche cord in slide-prone areas.

Home Guard units as they are often called on to find people who have been buried in the frequent snowslides that occur in Norway's sheer mountain ranges. The winter of '78-'79 had already claimed 12 lives when we arrived, and we were told there were sure to be more slides by spring.

Various methods are used: probes, long iron rods inserted into the snow; dogs, usually quite effective; and an interesting new development making use of short steel wires, like clothes-hanger wire, with a 90 degree bend, the long end being slightly over a foot long. The user takes one wire loosely in each hand by the short end and, with the wires pointed straight ahead, walks along until — in theory at least — the wires cross when he walks over the buried victim.

"Oh no!" We all groaned when Lt. Volstad first trotted out this apparatus

and began explaining its use. "A water witcher. Just what we need."

But to our surprise, the apparatus actually did work, the wires crossing, apparently of their own will, at the exact moment when we walked across a buried water line.

"It works just the same way on people," he said.

We also learned when operating in avalanche-prone areas, Norwegian soldiers use avalanche cord, a hundred-foot length of brightly colored cord attached to the body and allowed to drag behind while traveling. If they are buried, the chances are good that some of the cord will remain visible.

That evening, Lt. Volden, an acknowledged authority on the history of the war in Norway, gave a slide show and talk on Norwegian resistance activities. Over the years he has interviewed people from the king to commoners active in the resistance, including former C.I.A. director William Colby, who was in charge of OSS operations in Norway.

Tuesday of the second week concluded our training. We traveled the by now well-known road to Synigen where we ran the Biathlon course, organized much as at the Olympics, where the skier travels cross country, halting at intervals to fire at targets. It sounds easy until you've tried it but it is no mean feat to arrive out of breath at a shooting post, stop, unslung the rifle, and with heaving chest and trembling hands, concentrate on a sight picture long enough to squeeze off a decent shot.

Wednesday morning we turned in gear and regretfully left Torpomoen and our



Ski joring — Weasel pulls ski troops cross-country. Principle is same as water skiing, is fast way to move troops.

new friends for HV Post Lutvan on the outskirts of Oslo, where we attended a banquet held in a stone, medieval-looking officer's club built by the Germans during the war. It was attended by Norwegian army and air force officials as well as the U.S. ambassador and military attache to Norway. Following an excellent meal, we danced and had drinks from the adjoining bar.

Norway's weather still had one more surprise for us.

Thursday morning we took a tour of Oslo and met the mayor, then visited Akershus, a castle on a fjord and the ancient home of Norway's kings. It dates back to the 11th century. Other tours took us to the Maritime Museum, where we saw an old viking ship and the balsa raft, Kon Tiki, which Thor Heyerdahl, famous Norwegian archeologist, sailed across the Pacific in the late '40s, and the Ra, a reed ship he navigated across the Atlantic several years ago.

Although buses took us up to the air-base at Gaardmoen Friday morning after an early breakfast, our departure was delayed by a snowstorm. I couldn't have been more pleased. The longer I got to stay in Norway the better! From both a personal and military standpoint the trip proved a valuable learning experience.



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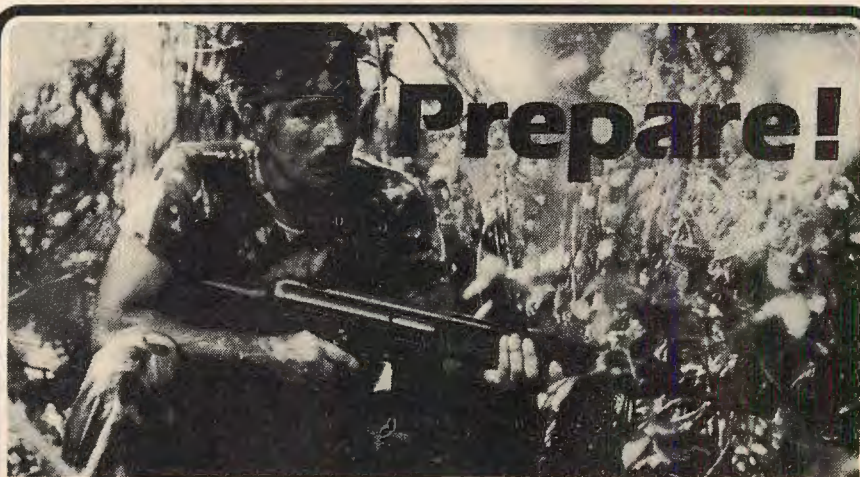
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VIETNAM VISIONARY

Lt. Col. John Paul Vann in Vietnam

Part 1

by J. David Truby

WHEN American gunfire died away in Southeast Asia the names of men assured places in history were already being documented by historians and writers. That John Paul Vann is not on their list is a personal tragedy; that he is dead and forgotten is a national tragedy.

His friend Neil Sheehan of the *New York Times* said bitterly, "Johnny hadn't been dead a year before his name was as forgotten as last week's news."

John Paul Vann, a former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, quit in protest of the way the Vietnam War was being conducted in 1963. He came back to Vietnam in 1965 as a senior civilian advisor and tried to run the war his way. He died in the field in June of 1972, his civilian rank equal to that of a major general. John Vann was the highest ranked American to die in the war.

Officially, he was number three man in the American hierarchy, behind Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and Gen. Creighton Abrams. Unofficially, Vann was number one to most people who mattered. His was the one strong, guiding hand that tried to bring reason and sanity to a situation he personally deplored as "unreasonable, unproductive and highly unjust."

The man gave terminally 10 of his 47 years of life to a just resolution in Vietnam. He said of his efforts, "I might as well be here doing what I can. One thing is for damn sure, I'll never be able to get a job doing anything else."

"I got tired of bullshit."

Vann's language, tactics, thoughts and actions upset his more politically sensitive superiors, a major reason for the abrupt walkaway from his military career. He told journalist Tom Mason, "I got tired of the lying, the politicking and the bullshit used to further careers at the expense of the kids out in the boonies.

"A hell of a lot of fat pensions will come out of here, paid for with the blood

of a lot of kids who didn't have much say in the stupidity of how they died."

Ultra-critical of the politically motivated war strategy from Washington and the avariciously motivated strategy from Saigon, Vann was not the usual Big American. Physically closer in size to the Vietnamese, he was an active, wiry man whose complexion never took to Asia's searing sun — he burned. Yet he was always in the field, turning over the desk-bound duties to his trusted administrative deputies, men chosen for their abilities to handle the diplomatic tasks he disliked. John Vann was a professional man of action.

He arrived in Vietnam in 1962, one of our first military advisors. Lt. Col. Vann was assigned to the 7th ARVN Division, and soon gained a reputation as the finest advisor in Vietnam, despite the 7th ARVN Division and the Saigon/Washington follies.

A native of Roanoke, Va., where he was born in 1924, Vann enlisted in the Army Air Corps at 18, gained a commission, then served as a navigator in a B-29. After the war he transferred to the paratroops for more action. Not sporting a West Point ring, he fought his way up on skill and can-do verve. Capt. Vann went to Korea in 1950, commanding the first Airborne Ranger company sent into combat.

"Most of our missions and action were behind enemy lines and this is where I really got into counterinsurgency and guerrilla warfare," he explained. He was very good at it. After the fighting, the bright young officer was assigned to the ROTC program at Rutgers University. Besides teaching, he earned a B.S. degree and later an M.A. in business administration from Syracuse.

The VC aren't supermen.

In 1962, now a lieutenant colonel, Vann volunteered for Vietnam. There he learned the frustration of trying to personally lead his Vietnamese soldiers into combat.



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Vann, in early 1963, advises VN troops in running down a VC unit that had ambushed a 50-member Catholic volunteer paramilitary force only 12 miles from Saigon. Vann, far left, during this tour, was senior advisor to the RVN 7th Infantry Division. **FAR RIGHT:** Vann, left, watches Mitchell WerBell III adjust a Wellrod OSS-type silenced pistol during an arms demonstration organized by Robert Brown in RVN in 1968. **RIGHT:** John Paul Vann testifies before Senate Foreign Relations Committee, February 1970, on pacification program in Mekong Delta. Vann was one of few American officials who told it as it was.

Retired M. Sgt. Edward Morgan remembers, "We were in the Mekong, and he would swear like hell at the Vietnamese for not wanting to fight. Once he took a bunch of clerks, cooks and some CIA mercenaries out and chopped up a VC unit so he could personally bring back some prisoners. He wanted to show the ARVN that the VC weren't supermen, they were scared kids and ignorant peasants just like themselves.



"I hate to say this, but back then, I think the VC were a helluva lot braver and more dedicated than the ARVN. That's how Lt. Col. Vann thought, too, at least back then."

John Vann and his people did their best, but the 7th ARVN grew no better than to serve as a presidential guard unit — which meant they were somewhat loyal to the Saigon government.

He recalled his experiences with some cynicism: "Before I got there, the 7th was a pretty good fighting outfit, according to Col. Frank Clay, the man I replaced. But he told me that prior to my coming in, his Vietnamese counterpart was called to the palace in Saigon and told to 'cool it' in the field, stay in static protection positions near Saigon and he'd get promoted to brigadier general.

"[President] Diem wanted the 7th to guard his palace against an insurrection from his own people. He was justified in his paranoia, I guess, but can you imagine that? He got this fighting outfit to become a bunch of pussy guards. By the time I got there they were no damned good and proved it every time I wanted to go out on a real mission.

"Diem turned them into pussy guards."

"The whole time I was with them the 7th never went anywhere they were likely to encounter hostiles. Geezus, was that frustrating."

One of John Vann's stumbling blocks was Gen. Paul Harkins, head of the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam, who did not want Vann doing his Cowboy-and-Indian version of guerrilla warfare. The general, of course, had to remain sensitive to the political situation between Saigon and Washington.

"We were not allowed to order any of the Vietnamese to do anything," Vann recalled. "We could beg, plead, and argue nicely, but that's all. I raised royal hell about this with the general after the battle of communist regulars walk right out of an encircled position. We could have dealt them a crushing blow in the Mekong Delta. But the ARVN refused to do anything.

"Our Vietnamese counterparts would deploy their troops in the areas which were already safely under government control, content to let the VC own the rest of the country. That's no damn way to win any war, especially a guerrilla war. I complained like hell about this. Gen. Harkins agreed with my theory, but he also told me there was nothing we could do and to keep my mouth shut. But, damn it, this was costing American lives."

Vann explained that he had great respect for the Vietnamese soldier and for the junior officers, adding, "I've been in the field with these people and they are very good and very anxious to do right, despite their inexperience. All they need is training and leadership, neither of which they get from the fat-cat senior officers

who are concerned only with their careers and their financial fortunes to be made from the war.

"The corruption is so bad upstairs in Saigon that it smothers the sincere effort out here to fight the war. That's a crime, a true crime."

Continuing, Vann told reporters in 1963, "The biggest problem we face here is that the top government politicians and their officers are afraid to come to grips with the enemy. For whatever reason they are afraid to fight and that transforms right down to the men in the ranks, of course."

He predicted in 1963, "If the South Vietnamese would go out and fight, the combat phase of this war would be over in a year. True pacification of the countryside would require 10 years, plus a total change of governmental philosophy in Saigon. But don't look for any of this to happen. I don't."

Asked to explain why the Saigon government would not fight, Vann suggested, "I think Diem is afraid that if his army beats back the VC, they'll realize just how corrupt he is and they'll toss him out too.

"Diem is a ruthless dictator of the worst sort. I'm sure if the VC weren't

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J. David Truby first met John Paul Vann in 1961. Truby was guiding a group of Cubans who had just switched from Comrade Fidel to Uncle Sam. Vann was making a brief speech to a group of foreign officers training with the U.S. Army. During a lull in the oratory, he ambled back to where Truby was standing alone, well to the rear of flying rhetoric.

Squinting at Truby's nametag, Vann said, "Well, Truby, you seem bored. Don't you believe all this bullshit?"

Before Truby could reply, Vann added, "Naw, you're a nonbeliever, too, I can see that. I tell you what, when saluting some brass asshole who comes off pompous, always project that middle finger just a bit beyond the others."

An intelligence NCO during his Army service, Truby is now a National News Service editor, specializing in political, military and intelligence topics. He has nine books to his credit and has co-authored three others.

As a free-lancer Truby is no stranger to our pages, writing on weapons ("Demise of the S&W M-76 SMG," Summer '76, "Whispering Death," April '79), American adventurers ("Yank Levy: Prince among Paladins," May '78, and this two-part article on Vann), and POWs ("Cubans Torture U.S. POWs in Vietnam").

His humor ranges from ribald to wry as his new photo-cartoon series shows (see *BATF Shots*, December '79).

—M.L. Jones

around, the people would rise up and toss the Diem regime off their backs."

"Vann drove his jeep through enemy country with two grenades in his lap and a carbine between the seats."

Peter Arnett of Associated Press said, "John used to embarrass his Vietnamese officers and the American brass by going places they had already given in to the enemy. He drove his jeep over those rutted ox paths with two grenades nestled in his lap and his carbine between the seats. There he was all alone, doing what the South Viets wouldn't do in their own country."

On one such mission a VC patrol tried to capture Vann with a roadblock. He blew it up with one of his grenades, then chased after them in his jeep, throwing the other grenade and firing his carbine. He brought in two prisoners.

But Vann shot off his mouth as much as his carbine. He openly criticized decisions which were made in Washington and Langley, then passed along to Saigon. He told the press how intelligence reports were written in the U.S., then datelined from Vietnam. He was honest, blunt-spoken, crude and profane, but always good copy.

"I got some great stories from Johnny, Neil Sheehan recalled. 'He'd get pissed, come in and mutter, 'Do you know what those Pentagon assholes want now....' and away we'd go."

But, as Sheehan noted, "As history unfolded, John Vann grew more and more correct. His criticisms had been on target all along."

"Send men who know what the hell is going on to the Pentagon!"

One of the things Vann advocated was sending regular delegations of bright company-grade officers and NCOs directly to the Pentagon for eyewitness briefings. He'd shout, "Let's send captains, lieutenants, sergeants, the men from the field who know what in hell is really going on over here. Let's give the politicians the truth instead of this goddamned white-wash coverup."

During his third month in-country, Vann filed a report peppered with unpolitical and blunt terms, such as, "This Saigon government lacks the popular support to win the war... plus the intrinsic worth to conduct it successfully... Unless things change 180 degrees, the United States is backing a corrupt loser... and will end up the loser too." His prophetic words were written 13 years before the U.S. did lose the Vietnam war — in Paris.

Naturally, all this public static from John Vann kept him at loggerheads with his superiors. Finally, Vann tangled openly with Gen. Harkins when the outspoken colonel's feeling were volunteered to AP's Peter Arnett.

Vann told Arnett, *on the record*, "The Vietnamese military is failing miserably here. And anyone who believes those of-

ficial reports to the contrary is a fool, a victim of liars.”

Vann went on to charge that some of his fellow American officers were turning in false after-action and other reports that concluded wrongly that the war was being won by the South Vietnamese. The brass hit the fan and Vann was the target.

According to John Wheeler of AP, Vann was told unofficially by Gen. Harkins that the outspoken officer's army career was essentially finished for his being so outspoken to his journalistic friends.

Vann, who favored plain truth over the bureaucracy of careers and politics, continued to speak his mind. As other officers, fearful of career disfavor, shunned him, Vann's closest friends became those reporters who daily faced death in the field with him — Arnett, Sheehan, Wheeler, Horst Faas and the other regulars.

These men agreed that the war was not being handled very vigorously or very professionally. It was, as Arnett wrote, a ‘politicians’ war, only it is the young men and women who are dying.”

Vann's comments were a bit more pithy: “Not only were the Vietnamese not fighting, but our own people are directing a half-hearted war in a half-assed manner. I can't do that. We either win or we get out.”

During that era of team players and “get-with-the-program” mentality, John Vann was not a popular man with the commissioned khaki fraternity and its politically ambitious sycophants. Discouraged, yet determined to keep his mind on straight, he resigned his commission in 1963. Quitting the Army cold, he said quietly, “I found my greatest enemies were not the Viet Cong. So I come home to be with my family now.”

“My greatest enemies were not the VC.”

The story of his resignation tells you something of how the Big Boys treat one of their kind who is honest enough to be candid to the press and to the people. When his year's tour was up in April of 1963, he returned to the Pentagon, expecting to give briefings as did all returning advisors. But no briefings were scheduled for John Vann, for, as one friend whispered, his reputation had traveled ahead — by a year. John Vann offered his own briefings, open to friends, the press and anyone else who cared to attend — even staff officers.

His doomsday prophecy made Vann very unpopular with the Pentagon team that was assuring the White House and the public that the war was going well. Back home, the team charmed news media executives, who ordered their reporters to “get with the program... be on the team.” That was not the way Vann saw things and that was not the way the reporters in the field saw things.

Vann warned against increased, large-scale U.S. involvement in the traditional military concept. He told whoever would listen that we would lose the Vietnam war if we continued to mismanage it the way he had seen.

John Vann's evaluations totally turned off the lights Defense Secretary Robert McNamara saw at the end of the Vietnamese tunnel. Words were spoken from very high up in the Pentagon and Lt. Col. Vann was told to “get with the program, now!” Not noted for his even temper, he resigned on the spot.

Neil Sheehan said, “John Vann was a staunch, rightwing anti-communist but he was not an anti-humanist like so many of the others. He really cared about little people and their destiny. His only problem was that he was honestly outspoken.”

“We gave Vietnam American lives.”

In 1964, now a civilian, Vann said of the war's conduct, “We spoiled the Vietnamese with our technology. The VC fought with what weapons they could beg, borrow or make. They wore sandals made from old tires we threw away. We gave the ARVN our frontline automatic weapons and all the ammo they could waste. We gave them our combat boots and taught them to shine them. That kept them out of the paddies. We gave them trucks, so they wouldn't walk out on patrol. Artillery meant they could stay back from combat, and our bombing kept them out of the field altogether. Finally, with Lyndon Johnson's escalation, we gave them American lives to replace their own bodies.”

A curious thing happened. As Vann's Cassandra-like statements began to become fact instead of just opinion and as history began to vindicate the man's vision, the Pentagon powers began to listen. Vann was invited to share his socio-political and military views at West Point, the Air Force Academy, the War College, with the Joint Chiefs, at the State Department and with even President Lyndon Johnson.

John Vann was no longer officially a heretic; he was now a genius.

(To be concluded next month.)
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Bitter Sweet Memories

by Pulitzer Prize Winner
Malcom W. Browne

Malcolm W. Browne, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his Vietnam War coverage, knew John Paul Vann from the start. Browne went to Saigon for the Associated Press in 1961 and spent the next seven years there. During that time he developed an enormous respect for Vann both as a news source of impeccable accuracy and as a man who understood the war in Southeast Asia as few others did. Browne interviewed Vann shortly before the latter was killed. The correspondent was covering the North Vietnamese invasion of the South and Vann was desperately trying to stop it. Browne, a colleague and personal friend of SOF Managing Editor Bob Poos in the Saigon AP bureau during the '60s, has also been a New York Times foreign correspondent in Latin America and Eastern Europe. He shared the 1964 Pulitzer with the Times' David Halberstam for reporting on Vietnam and won numerous prizes for his photo of a Buddhist monk immolating himself. Browne is currently a science writer for the Times in New York.

SOME said that for John Paul Vann the Vietnam war was a narcotic, a stimulant so powerful that life for him would have been impossible without it. Some saw the close of the Vietnam war as spelling the end for men like Vann, reckoning that things had worked out for the best when a helicopter crash on a hillside north of Pleiku ended Vann's life in 1972.

During the decade I knew him, Vann's life was dominated by that war, and he came to be thought of as a symbol of America's role in Vietnam, both good and bad. He was no war-loving fanatic, but rather an intelligent craftsman whose craft happened to be war. In a way, of course, his eccentricities and quick temper made him unsuited to traditional military ways, but these same qualities gave him a special value in Vietnam.

He was a short man with a ramrod military bearing, whose commanding voice somehow endowed him with an authority far beyond his rank or titles. His love life in Saigon and elsewhere was complicated and in continual disarray, but in other ways there was nothing confused or sloppy about Vann. As a lieutenant colonel advising the Vietnamese army in the Mekong River delta starting in 1962, Vann seemed always to be dressed in pressed fatigues and clean boots, even in the mud of the rainy season.

Ten years later, as senior civilian ad-

visor to the Vietnamese forces in the Central Highlands, Vann still seemed a careful dresser, sporting striped blue shirts and matching blue ties.

But in other ways Vann changed as the war changed, and the night he died he was at the edge of exhaustion, his nerves frayed almost to the point of breakdown.

Nothing in Vann's army career had particularly distinguished him from his fellow field-grade officers until he arrived in Vietnam and began to perceive truth where others saw merely frustrating confusion. Among his early battles was the fiasco at Ap Bac, where a large, well-

equipped South Vietnamese force mounted in the latest helicopters and assisted with American advisors was roundly beaten by a much smaller but fast-moving and combat-wise Viet Cong outfit. Vann had his first major brush with U.S. Army officialdom after that battle, partly because of his flagrant violation of the rule in effect in the early 1960s barring Americans from active combat. With Vietnamese government forces at Ap Bac defeated and licking their wounds, Vann and a few fellow American officers, cooks and mechanics had taken out on their own after the Viet Cong, actually inflicting some losses on the enemy.

With each new engagement Vann became more embittered with the conventional approach to an unconventional war that America had adopted in molding Saigon's army. The experience of two world wars and Korea had convinced most of America's military establishment that victory goes to the side with the biggest firepower, the best air, sea and land mobility and the most sophisticated gadgets.

Under American tutelage, South Vietnamese commanders came to insist on good transport for their troops and heavy air and artillery bombardment of objectives before every infantry assault, and the Saigon side soon began losing the war.

"The damned air support and artillery preparations do more harm than good," Vann used to grumble. "Fighting the Viet Cong that way is like trying to sink a floating cork with a sledgehammer."

Vann preached a doctrine of counter-guerrilla warfare, of fighting the enemy on his own terms, and of "destroying the myth that the VC are 10 feet tall." Inevitably, his criticism of U.S. military tactics so soured his relations with superiors that his military career was doomed. Quick to realize his position, Vann retired from the army but rejoined the government as a civilian employee of the Agency for International Development to implement some of his ideas about Vietnam. In his final job, he was a civilian who virtually ruled the war in the Central Highlands, and whose real authority exceeded that even of generals.

1972 was a bad year for Saigon forces and the Americans in Vietnam. The North Vietnamese entered the war as full-scale units that spring, and their invasion included tanks and personnel carriers, as well as heavy artillery, missiles and other advanced firepower. It looked for a while as if the whole central region of Vietnam under Vann's advisory authority would succumb, and there were signs of panic among the government troops.

The indefatigable Vann personally went among the Vietnamese troops preaching his sermon: Any determined infantryman armed with a LAW (light anti-tank weapon, a kind of disposable anti-tank bazooka rocket launcher) can kill a tank,

provided he doesn't lose his nerve.

At Vann's insistence, each trooper in his region was issued two LAWs along with an injunction to stand and fight. And when the time came, the troops in fact stopped the North Vietnamese tanks and halted the enemy offensive.

By then, Vann had come to realize that the war was no longer a guerrilla campaign, although it still resembled one in many respects. It was a war of regiments and divisions now, and firepower seemed essential. By the time Nixon ordered the mining of Haiphong Harbor, Vann, the one-time arch-critic of carpet bombing, had become a staunch believer in the B-52, and spent part of each day deciding where B-52 "Arclight" raids should be planted on his Second Military Region.

Some of his friends began to believe at that point that Vann had forgotten not only his canny instincts and experience as a guerrilla fighter, but that the pressure of the war had burned away some of his basic humanity. He seemed to relish those "Arclights" a little too much, particularly considering that they probably never had any decisive effect on the enemy.

Many of the "old soldiers" with whom Vann had first campaigned in Vietnam were now dead, and the young were dying fast, too, as one outpost after another was bowled over by the North Vietnamese. The loss of his American comrades-in-arms weighed on Vann increasingly with the passing weeks, and he began taking increasing personal risks trying to rescue surrounded or captured Americans.

He would rise at dawn, check status reports at his Pleiku headquarters, and spend a full working day making military decisions, planning for contingencies, battling Vietnamese government corruption and shoring up friendly morale. For many hours each day, he shuttled between outposts and the sites of clashes. His two-place LOACH helicopter seemed to be charmed; often hit, it was never brought down.

At night, there was little rest for Vann. Even in his quarters over a leisurely drink, he was constantly on the phone making "Blue Arrow" priority calls to various commanders, getting in a few calls to one or another of the women in his life along the way. Many felt that Vann's existence, which allowed time for little more than two hours' sleep a night, finally impaired his judgment.

He was a fool, some said, to go out by helicopter at night, dodging among hills bristling with enemy gun and rocket emplacements, in the forlorn hope of rescuing a captured American. Fool or not, Vann made the try, and he and his helicopter finally ran out of luck. His war was over, and a year later, Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho signed the agreement that brought both men a Nobel peace prize.



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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 14

This month Ken Hackathorn discusses American IPSC contenders' custom gear and Austin Behler's .45 combat sights. Hackathorn placed 14 at the 1979 IPSC championships in Park City, Utah (see SOF, "The Big One," November '79).

SINCE combat shooters are often colorful figures, their display of gun belts, sidearms and related gear is near pageantry in some areas. The choice of beautiful customized handguns, custom-made holster rigs and individual shooting styles has by now established some common images of the IPSC shooter. This year's U.S. National IPSC Champion, Mickey Fowler of the Southwest Pistol League, used a Jim Hoag Master Class .45 Colt in the now popular hard-chrome/blue-steel two-tone finish. His holster and belt rig, a Gordon Davis "Usher International" belt, holster, and magazine-pouch combination, was by far the favorite of the top shooters at Park City. Last year's winner and '79 second-place man, Ross Seyfried of Colorado, used his Pachmayr Combat Special (standard in black and white finish) and a Milt Sparks Hackathorn Special with FBI cant. Both men are champion shooters regardless of their

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gear's fancy touches. But pride of possession is a strong passion with most of us. And many feel that a two-tone is a must.

AUSTIN Behlert of The Custom Gunshop, Dept. SOF, 725 Lehigh Ave., Union, NJ 07083, is offering a new design of high fixed combat sights for the .45 auto. They offer excellent visibility and have the correct contours for quick holster work. The rear sight blade has rounded corners to avoid tearing clothing. The front ramp sight is of the improved design and works well under varied light conditions.

Behlert offers these sights with a contrasting colored dot set-up. The pair I have come with an orange dot on the front sight and a white dot on each side of the rear sight notch. They are excellent in limited-light shooting and offer very fast flash sight index for speed shooting.

You can send your slide to Behlert for installation of these sights or order a set for installment by your local gunsmith.

Price for the plain blued sights is \$18. With contrasting colored dots, the cost is \$25. They are ideal for use on a duty .45 auto.

In the future Behlert may offer his excellent adjustable sight in a dovetail version similar to the Bomar design. This would be excellent news since the current Bomar sights are difficult to obtain and due to production demands Bomar sights seem to be made of over-soft steel. It is common to see Bomar sights break down with only moderate use. The Behlert sight for replacement on S&W revolvers is an outstanding design. It can be installed on the .45 auto, but like the S&W K sight, it is not designed to stand the .45 slide's rugged pounding. M-S Safari Arms used quite a few on their Enforcer .45 conversions. Due to these pistols' high front sight, the rear sight has to be elevated to the maximum. With S&W K sights or the Behlert at the elevated position, the strain is too great and the sights tend to break off. The only reliable way to get a rear sight to stay on a .45 that uses full-power loads is the use of a dovetail mounting. If Austin Behlert brings out this new-style adjustable sight and markets it, combat shooters will find it ideal for low mounting onto the slides of their favorite blaster.

—Ken Hackathorn



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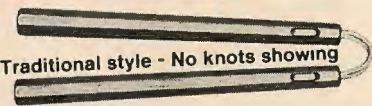


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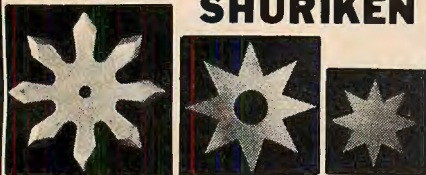
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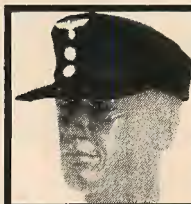
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FULL AUTO
Continued from page 20

lengthy book — several of which have already been written by people with far greater technical knowledge than I.

I suggest you read *Smith & Smith's Small Arms of the World*, *Nelson's The World's SMGs*, *Nelson & Musgrave's The World's Assault Rifles* and *Chinn's The Machine Gun*.

Q. I would like your opinion of the AR-15, AR-180, H&K-93 and the Bushmaster paratrooper rifle — which weapon is the most practical and effective? Is the H&K-91 a better arm than the Springfield Armory M1A?

Are any of the currently available blueprints for submachine guns, such as the Sidewinder and M-10 types, of sufficient detail, accuracy and quality to enable a good machinist to build a weapon?

Why do you despise the M1 carbine so much? Granted there are greatly superior weapons and it would not be my first choice for serious work, but it is fairly effective under 100 meters and is a handy little gun.

R.S.

A. I personally abhor any 5.56x45mm (.223) for serious use because the cartridge itself is unsatisfactory. However, I feel the best overall semi-auto rifle in .223 is the

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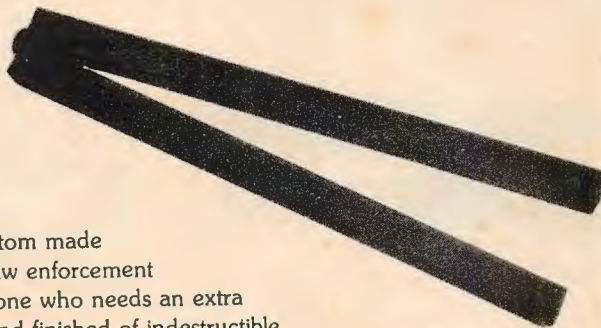
original (Costa Mesa) Armalite AR-18/180 rifle, since it reflects a nice mixture of ruggedness, simplicity, accuracy and common-sense design. I also like the Heckler & Koch HK-21, HK-33 and HK-53 — the basic H&K concept is valid and works brilliantly. My only complaint about H&K weapons is their awful trigger, which hurts weapon effectiveness. The AR-15 is okay and the other rifles mentioned are "also-rans" in my book.

I don't bother much with blueprints for weapons since I am not an arms designer and therefore do not feel I can make a definitive statement on the subject. However, I do get the impression most of these prints seem to be intended to make money off the "survivalist" rather than to contribute to the state of the art of weaponry.

I despise the cal. .30 U.S. carbine because it is a bastard gun that cannot accomplish its intended mission. Designed as a replacement for the pistol, it lacks basic functioning reliability, range and — most important — stopping power. Even the 9mm parabellum is a better stopper. Its lightness, handiness and good looks mean little if it cannot reliably keep its operator alive in a fight. The full-automatic option results in an even more unreliable weapon, because it was not designed to be used in the fully automatic mode in the first place.



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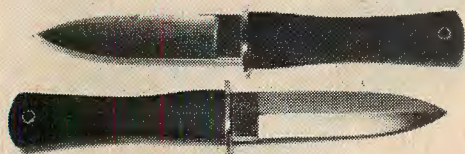
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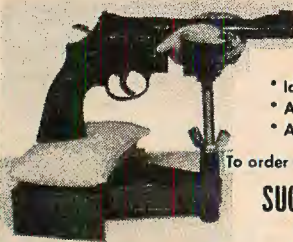


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FLAK

Continued from page 10

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For a foreign magazine you really are zoomed in on happenings in Southern Africa and it is heartwarming to read about one's own Defense Force in a magazine like yours. I am a regular in our permanent force (army) and do my best to stay up-to-date on terrorist affairs at home and abroad. As an officer in the infantry, I have done border duty in Ovamboland (South West Africa) with black and white troops. I think we waste blood and equipment in the armed struggle against SWAPO because of political obstacles.

Yours sincerely,
 Lt. J.A. van Tonder
 Grahamstown, South Africa



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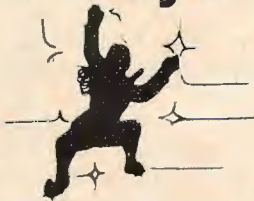


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"SPY" SUES CIA ...

Hamza Simrick, 50, has filed a \$219,000 suit against the Central Intelligence Agency, charging he was hired as a spy but never paid. The suit, filed in late August 1979, asked for back salary, moving costs, expenses and losses from Simrick's "cover" business.

Simrick, a native of the resort island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar, said he was asked in June 1975 to set up a necktie business on the island as a CIA cover while he provided information to the Agency.

The CIA has refused to comment on the charges.

GRENADA OVERTHROW PLOT FOILED ...

A federal grand jury in Washington indicted two men on charges of conspiracy to overthrow the government of Grenada in the Caribbean late last summer.

Chester Humphrey, Jr., a Grenada exchange student, and James Wardally, a Grenada-born, naturalized American citizen, were charged with con-

Continued on page 82

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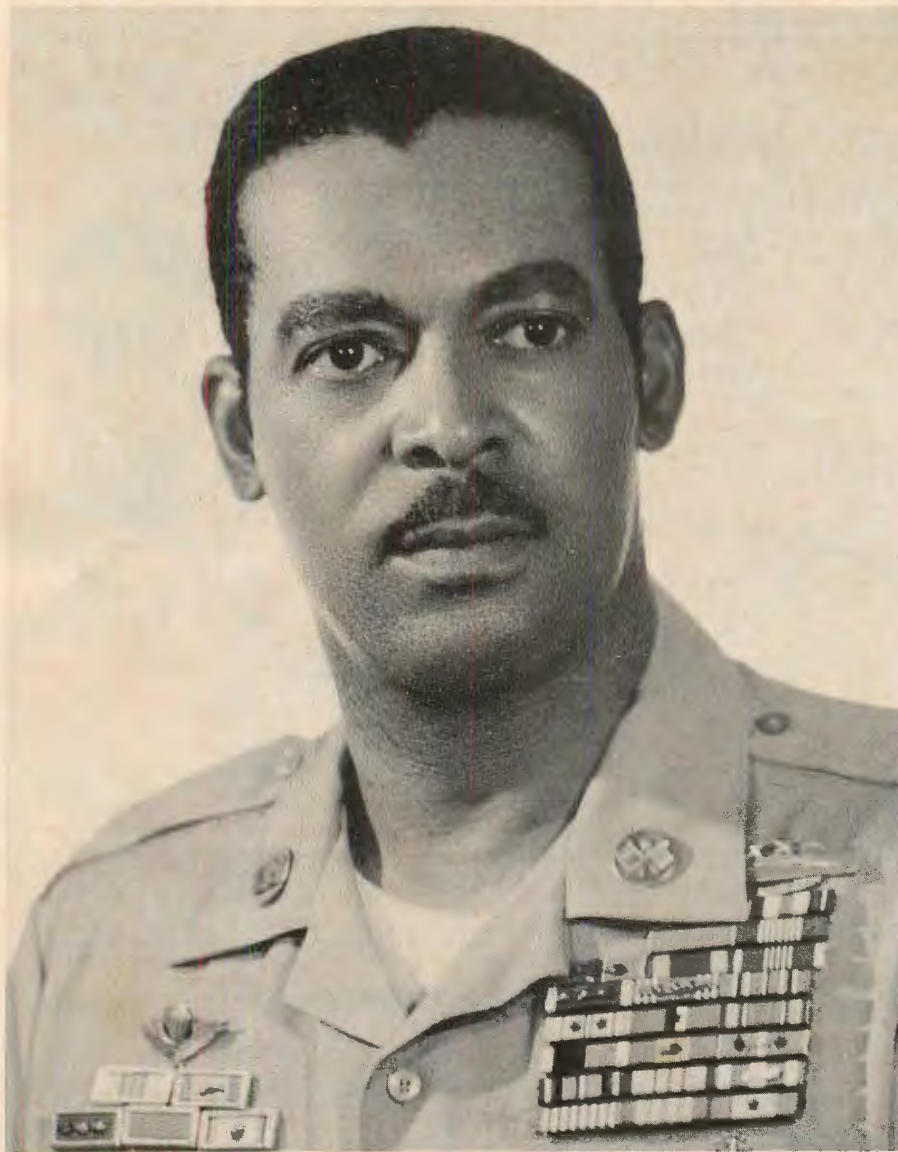
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TAPS FOR A TROOPER

Big Al Shepard

by Bob Poos

WHAT at first was apparently a minor kidney ailment has done to Al Shepard what countless bullets, shells, hand grenades and communist soldiers in Korea and Vietnam could not do. Killed him prematurely.

Big Shep, SFC Albert N. Shepard, Jr., when he retired from the Army in 1971 on full disability, was only 50 years old when he died last August and he bore the scars of more than a dozen wounds and the distinction of being nominated for the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. But the kidney failure did him in despite an organ transplant from a sister which delayed but

did not prevent the inevitable.

By anyone's standards, Al Shepard, who was 6'5" and 200 pounds plus in his prime, was quite a man. He was black and he joined the old brown shoe Army in 1946 when it was segregated. He did not like that status and he never forgot it, but as his widow Edythe told an SOF staffer during an interview: "He was not bitter about it. He understood that was the way things were then and he was proud to serve his country despite it. Shep tended to remember the good things about life and forget the bad."

Shepard felt that he and his race had

something to prove: that they were just as tough and competent — and maybe more so — as anyone else, no matter what the color of the skin.

SHEPARD'S FIRSTS

So Al Shepard became one of the very first blacks to become a paratrooper. He was in either the first or second class — records are not clear — to be integrated. And he was one of the first blacks in Special Forces even before they began wearing Green Berets, something of which he was enormously proud until the day he died, according to Ede Shepard.

Despite the fact that he was already a paratrooper, Al Shepard saw his first combat in a straightleg outfit, the Seventh Infantry Division, which he was in when the Korean War broke out on 25 June 1950. And it was very nearly his last. During heavy fighting for Seoul after the Inchon landing, Shepard's platoon was blown away and the trooper found himself among its four living and un-wounded men. That's when Shepard temporarily found himself in the Marine Corps because a Marine company absorbed them for a few days and Shepard was in Seoul, clearing the streets of snipers in house-to-house fighting amidst the Marines.

"And he didn't like it one bit," his widow recalled his telling her. "He was all Army."

Shepard was reassigned to the 187th Airborne Brigade, where he first met William C. Westmoreland under whom he was to later serve when Westmoreland commanded all U.S. forces in Vietnam.

FIRST PURPLE HEART

Al Shepard picked up the first of his several Purple Hearts, during the fight for one of those rocky Korean hilltops. He saw a buddy fall, picked him up and was dragging the wounded man down the hill when a North Korean or Chinese machine gunner caught them in his sights and fired a burst. Shepard was hit with 11 bullets that very nearly killed him and did kill his comrade.

"The other man was dead in his arms when the medics got to them," Mrs. Shepard said. "He has told me the story many, many times."

Shepard left the Army for a time after Korea and played pro football briefly but decided that it was not for him and re-enlisted.

In between wars he met a Wac at Fort Ritchie named Edythe Lieber; they fell in love and got married. They never had any children but they maintained a 14-year love affair and Mrs. Shepard still finds it difficult to discuss her late husband without breaking down. One of the happiest years in their lives, she recalls, was their tour together in Southeast Asia in Thailand, where Sgt. Shepard was acting first sergeant of something called the Army's Strategic Command and Control Center, which was headquarters for some military and civilian operations in Viet-

nam.

"We always had a houseful of kids," she recalls, "and they would bring their problems to Shep and me. We felt like they were our own and I sure mothered a lot of them.

"Those were happy, happy days, until he became ill in Bangkok."

Shepard's other tour in Southeast Asia was another matter. That was in Vietnam with the First Infantry Division, the Big Red One, and he ran Long Range Reconnaissance (LURP) missions.

One day while working with A Co., First Btn., 2nd Infantry, his outfit came into heavy contact and got pinned down. Like in Korea, Shepard felt that one of his prime responsibilities was aiding the wounded. He crawled to a badly hit youngster, dragged him several hundred yards to safety and to where he could be medivacked. He repeated this twice more and then dropped of exhaustion. Nominated for the MOH, he was awarded the Silver Star to accompany his Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, three Bronze Stars with Combat V and the Purple Hearts along with the battle-starred campaign ribbons.

Later on, Shepard took a bullet through one knee and that ended his combat career in 'Nam. A few years later, he retired on disability, partly because of his wounds and partly because of the illness which was beginning to weaken him.

POLICE WORK

But, as Mrs. Shepard says, "although he was on 100-percent disability, he wouldn't let that slow him down and went to work in a field he loved, law enforcement. One of the many MOSs he held in the Army was MP — he used to like to say he had been everything in the Army except a cook and a Wac."

Shepard went to work as a detention officer in the Pima County Jail in Tucson, Ariz. Once more he was to be injured in the line of duty, suffering a cut, dislocated knuckle and a broken foot while helping thwart an escape attempt in 1978.

Although the Shepards had no children, other than the hundreds of young GIs to whom they served as a combination surrogate mom and dad and older brother and sister, they did develop a great affection for dogs after Shepard's retirement. Ede Shepard still has a yard full of them, animals ranging from two blooded German Shepherds to happy-go-lucky mutts. Their names reflect Shepard's military career and interests: "Squad," "Little Bits," "Ranger," "Trooper," "Cadet," "Recruit," and "Buffalo Soldier." If that last name puzzles anyone, that is what the plains Indians called the all-black 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments during the Indian Wars. The name came from heavy buffalo coats the troopers wore while campaigning in the winter and from their bushy hair. Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of U.S. troops in World War I, got his nickname, "Black Jack," when

he commanded a troop of the 10th Cavalry during the Spanish-American War.

LAST CHALLENGE

Shepard had one more challenge to surmount before his death. After being a hero in the jail-break try, he was fired for allegedly mistreating a prisoner. Shepard appealed the dismissal and after reviewing the case, the Pima County Merit Board reinstated him with full back pay.

But time ran out on Al Shepard and he died in August. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., an historic old Army post from which U.S. cavalrymen used to ride in pursuit of raiding Apaches. It was one of many places where he had been stationed.

Shepard, because of his size and because of his excellence in soldiering, was a very visible man. The walls of his home are plastered with letters of appreciation from those he served under. They include Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Gen. William DePuy, when he commanded the Big Red One, and others of high rank.

On one wall of the Shepard home is an anonymous poem entitled "Soldier."

One stanza pretty well sums up Al Shepard's life. It reads:

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and for those who
fight for it, life has a
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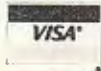
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Continued from page 79

spiracy to smuggle guns and ammunition to leftists seeking to overthrow the government of Premier Sir Eric Gairy. A month after the last shipment arrived, Gairy's government was ousted from power.

The six-count indictment, returned in U.S. District Court, D.C., charged the two men with gun running from June 1978 until February 1979. Humphrey and Wardally bought guns from half a dozen sporting good stores, according to the indictment. The first shipment on 3 August 1978 contained 10 M-1 carbines.

A second shipment on 2 February 1979 contained 38 rifles, 4 revolvers, a shotgun and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. The arms were shipped in 55-gallon barrels, officially listed as containing grease.

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STEELE

Continued from page 17

dle and brass mounts. On request, Oda will also make his earlier American-style boot knife with double hollow-ground clip-point blade. With ebony handle and stainless steel mounts this is an exceptionally beautiful knife.

Bob Lofgreen (Dept. SOF, Box LOF, Lakeside, AZ 85929) makes a boot knife called the "Defender" with five-inch 440C stiletto blade. He also makes a larger "Beavertail" dagger with a seven-inch blade, but this requires more effort to conceal.

Bob Lum (Dept. SOF, 602 E. Micheltorena, Santa Barbara, CA 93103) has a conventional clip-point boot knife. He also makes a "Utility Boot" with a "Gaucho knife" Mediterranean style blade with a 154CM blade and stainless bolster. The handle is stag, wood, or micarta.

Dan Stranahan (Dept. SOF, Box 2812, Oxnard, CA) has a guardless boot knife similar to the "nonfolding folder" made by Jess Horn. Like the other knives mentioned that have no quillons this one is fast on the draw, and since parrying another man's blade is not really possible with a small knife a full quillon is not required.

All of the custom knives described make excellent hideout knives for the police officer or protection-minded citizen.



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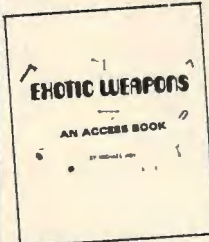
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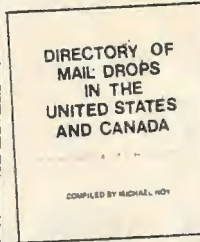
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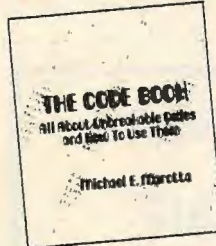
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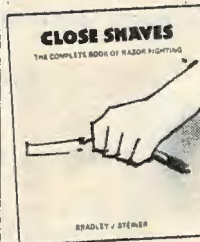
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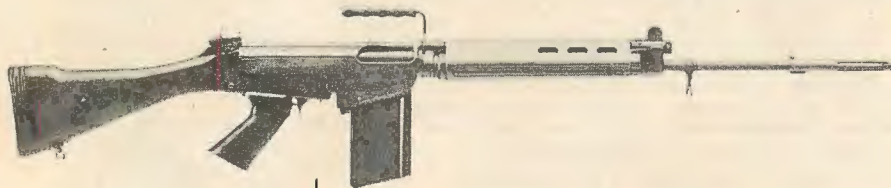
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IN REVIEW

Continued from page 19

ed to the Agency to strengthen its paramilitary capability in offensive combat operations.

Ayers' assignment: to train anti-Castro guerrilla fighters at hidden bases and lead them on raids into Cuba. In *The War That Never Was* Ayers describes the chaotic setup of the CIA's paramilitary training effort. Cuban freedom fighters, although highly dedicated, were totally inexperienced. Physical conditions were barely tolerable, equipment was inadequate and weapons inferior. *The War That Never Was* describes raids they conducted against Cuban targets, working from secret bases in the Florida Everglades and the Bahamas. The book lists the code names, secret money caches, "safehouses," and clandestine rendezvous on the high seas and in Cuban jungles.

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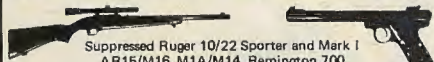
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This new edition of *The War That Never Was* adds an important footnote to CIA operations in the Kennedy era. In his prologue and epilogue, Ayers raises questions as to what aftershocks may have been generated by the Agency's involvement in the Cuban exile movement, including possible tie-ins with the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy. All students of the CIA and the Cuban exile movement should be aware of Ayers' book and its paperback publication.

M.L. Jones has been an associate editor at SOF since 1977 and senior editor since spring of 1979. One of her first assignments was to edit "And They Were The Pros?," checking its background with Capt. Ayers.

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JANUARY/80



ONE of the highlights of the 1979 World Practical Shooting Championships held at Roodepoort, South Africa, in September last year was that the individual title was not decided until the second last round in the last 10 minutes of this nine-day event.

Until then it could have gone either way, with Raul Walters breathing down everyone's neck. A crowd of almost 2,000 watched every move. When the final crunch came everyone was on their feet.

Credit must go to South Africa's Gavin Carson — already well known to American pistol shooters — for beating Walters in the penultimate event. He outgunned the American four rounds to two. Had Walters won that particular shoot he would have achieved overall victory; he had already clinched the highest individual score in all events prior to the man-to-man shootout, which brought him the impressive *Soldier of Fortune* trophy.

But he lost, and under the complicated scoring system, supervised by Jeff Cooper himself, Jimmy von Sorgenfrei took the world crown.

There was incredible shooting throughout the championships with Ross Seyfried

excelling in most departments. Watch that name — we're all going to hear more of him. I predict he is destined to become one of the world's all time greats.

And they don't come in nicer packages. You just don't find a more pleasant, unassuming, forthright guy than Seyfried. He never complained, never hassled the organizers or disputed a decision, unlike a few others. Good show, Ross.

In the individual event, Americans took exactly half of the first 16 positions and South Africans took first, fourth, 11th, 14th and 16th places.

Full individual placings for the world championships are as follows (the final tallies have been rounded off to three figures for easy comparison):

- 485 Jimmy von Sorgenfrei (South Africa)
- 480 Raul Walters (United States)
- 470 Ross Seyfried (United States)
- 454 Gavin Carson (South Africa)
- 453 Bill Wilson (United States)
- 446 Mike Dalton (United States)
- 425 Vidar Nakling (Norway)
- 424 Craig Gifford (United States)
- 423 Bob Dunkley (United Kingdom)

409 Mickey Fowler (United States team Captain)

404 Dale Guthrie (South Africa)

403 Jerry Usher (United States)

397 Peter Maunder (Zimbabwe-Rhodesia)

393 Andre Botes (South Africa)

392 Peter Boniface (Zimbabwe-Rhodesia)

386 Alan du Mee (South Africa)

While these placings reflect the competitors' real ability, there were a few cases of incredibly bad luck. Some shooters had their guns go sour on them at crucial moments, resulting in heavy loss of points and, in some cases, default. Gavin Carson's gun jammed three times, once when failure to rectify could have cost the South African team the world championships. At least four stainless steel Bar-Sto barrels came apart during the meeting, often with disastrous results.

Then there were a few individuals like Springbok alternate Peter Slack who had to forego comfortable points in order to show the way to his team mates. South Africa, as the host team, had to kick off on each event and was unable to "test" the course first.



In the team event, South Africa also took first honors, beating the Americans and the Zimbabwe-Rhodesians, who took second and third place respectively.

The awards were marred when American team member Chuck Taylor threw away his medal, not the sort of behavior one expects from a national competitor at a world championship meet.

A colleague declared: "You can be damn sure he wouldn't have ditched the medal had it been gold and he had done better!"

In the women's event, South Africa swept the board with veteran shooter Edith Almeida ahead of the rest of the team, followed by Claire Heney, Margaret Worthington and Les Rissik.

Final team placings are as follows:
South Africa 1906 points (overall winner)

United States 1891
Zimbabwe-Rhodesia 1842
Norway 1797

Other placings (in order of rank) Britain, South West Africa, the South African Ladies Team, Austria, West Germany, Belgium and Canada.

JANUARY/80

IPSC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

8 U.S. Shooters Place in Top 16

by Al J. Venter

IT seems they're in a class of their own — South Africa's handful of world champions — and 1979 is definitely their year. First, double world motor bike champion Kork Ballington, then Jody Scheckter, the Formula One speed merchant, and now the inimitable Jimmy von Sorgenfrei.

Von Sorgenfrei snatched the World Practical Shooting Championship title from under the noses of the Americans, beating such prodigious marksmen as Raul Walters and Ross Seyfried, who placed second and third respectively.

Von Sorgenfrei admits victory has not come easy. He has trained for several years, first to make a South African provincial team (Natal) and then to enter the National League. During the 1977 world championships held in Rhodesia and won by Dave Westerhout (who did not compete this year), he placed 16th overall.

At Roodepoort in September 1979, the name Jimmy von Sorgenfrei entered the list of immortals. He entered the 1979 South African National Championships after coming off three months' active service on the Angola border. A week before that contest he was in a motorcycle accident which resulted in a broken jaw, but he still went on to take the title for the second year in a row.

"It wasn't exactly easy," he recalled with an easy smile. "One of the shoots in the nationals required me to hold a magazine in my mouth. And with my jaw wired shut, I almost didn't make it."

In September, he became world champion. Now he's waiting for the next championships in two years' time to be held once again at Roodepoort, because it is regarded as the most advanced practical shooting range of its kind in the world.

Von Sorgenfrei's story is typically South African. He was born 26 years ago, finished school and chose a film technician job that didn't really appeal to him. Not long afterwards he set out on his own: with little capital he opened an army surplus store in Durban, Natal, where he now lives.

Over the Angolan border.

His first military call-up came when he was 18; he went straight in 1 Light Horse Regiment for a year. Then came Angola.

"I went across the border, of course; a helluva lot of us went in. But not to the top near Luanda, then in Cuban hands, like a few of the other fellows," he told me. In fact, I later discovered von Sorgenfrei was involved in the defense of Vila Rocados against some active Cuban elements and in the strike along the Mocamedes road before pulling back across the South West African border.

Von Sorgenfrei's shooting philosophy reflects a basic attitude which seem to be

common to most world class sportsmen. Like Ross Seyfried, he believes fitness integral to any training program: "Not super fit, but physically able to do what you have to do without strain. I believe that the fitter you are the more alert is your brain and in this game, that's important."

To this end he visits a gym four or five times a week with a run afterward to limber up — not very far — maybe three or four kilometers at a stretch.

For a long time he liked scrambling his motorcycle every weekend: "After a good scramble you know your body's had a thorough workover." But since his accident just before the 1979 nationals which left him with a broken jaw — he's decided to curtail riding in favor of shooting. "But I love my bike — I'll go back to it yet."

What about self control? Von Sorgenfrei answered, "Basically, I suppose it's everything in this sport. Coordination, muscle control, nerves ... the lot."

"You practice and practice."

He added there was considerable sacrifice in the initial phase. "If you're aiming at the world crown you must regulate your life accordingly. You just don't go out every time you want to. You watch your food, your health, your training and so on. And you practice, practice, practice and practice some more. How else?"

Did he expect such high standards? (Jeff Cooper, doyen of the world's combat shooting fraternity, commented in his closing address that he regarded the recent world championships as the greatest test of shooting skills ever seen on a combat range.)

"The competition was incredible," von Sorgenfrei answered candidly. "I was competing against people who had attained a higher standard than had ever been seen in this country or elsewhere. The determination of Ross Seyfried is simply incredible."

What about the next time? Von Sorgenfrei smiled but said nothing.

Instead he talked about what he was going to do now that he had won the competition: three weeks in the bush hunting in Rhodesia's southeast. He wasn't really worried about reports of terrorists in the area; like the World Championships they were just another challenge.

"And I know how to handle that one!" he said. A.J.V.



Von Sorgenfrei pits his skill against rest of world's top combat shooters.



American Raul Walters took prestigious SOF trophy for his efforts in individual events up to final man-to-man shootout of 16 top shooters.



TOP:
Jungle lane — World Championship style.

ABOVE:
South Africa's Jimmy von Sorgenfrei, new World Practical Pistol shooting champion, with President's Cup presented to him by Jeff Cooper.

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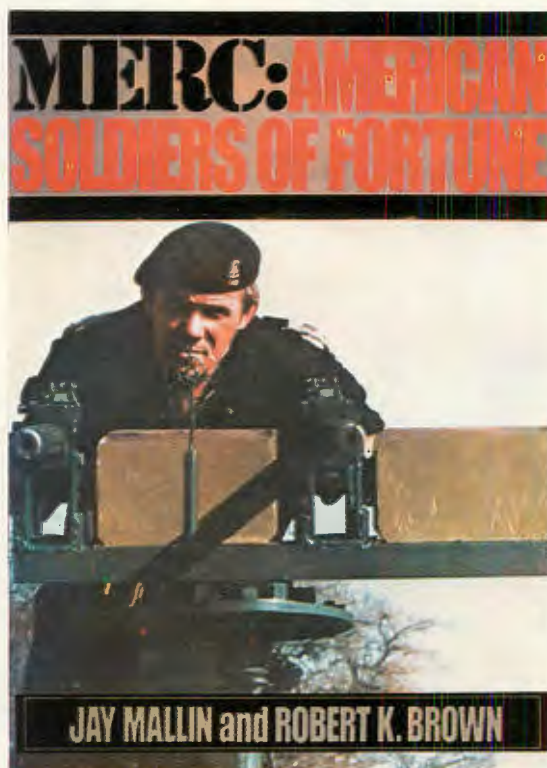
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JAY MALLIN is a former *Time* correspondent and author of seven books on unconventional warfare and terrorism. ROBERT K. BROWN was a Special Forces team leader in Vietnam; he is presently the editor/publisher of the controversial magazine *Soldier of Fortune*.

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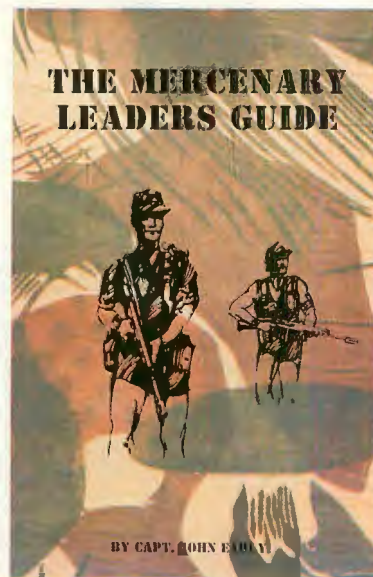
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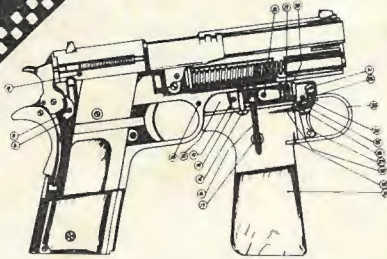
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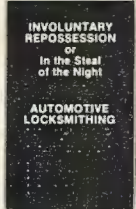
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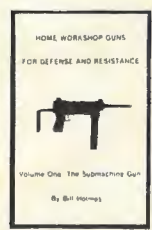


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