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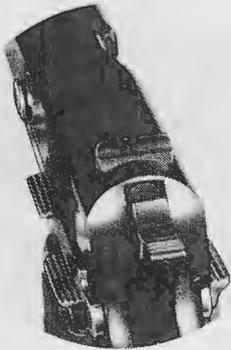


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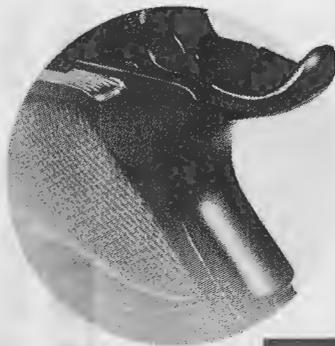
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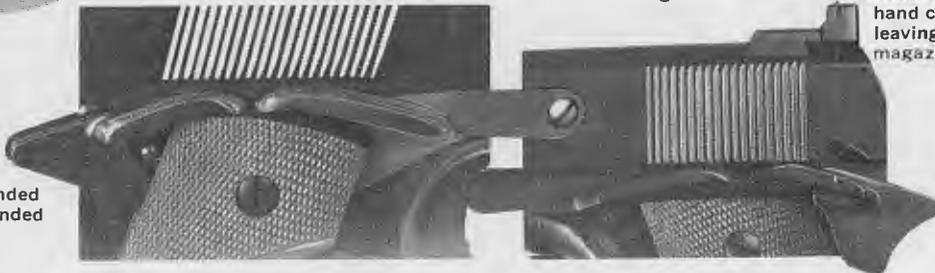
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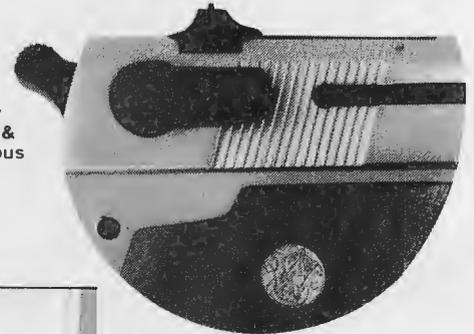
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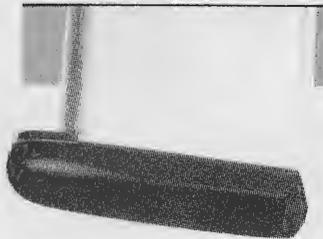
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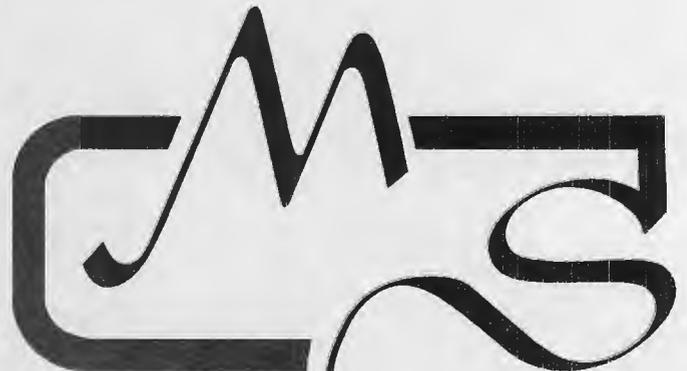
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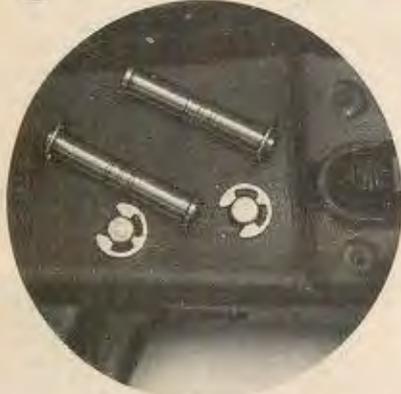


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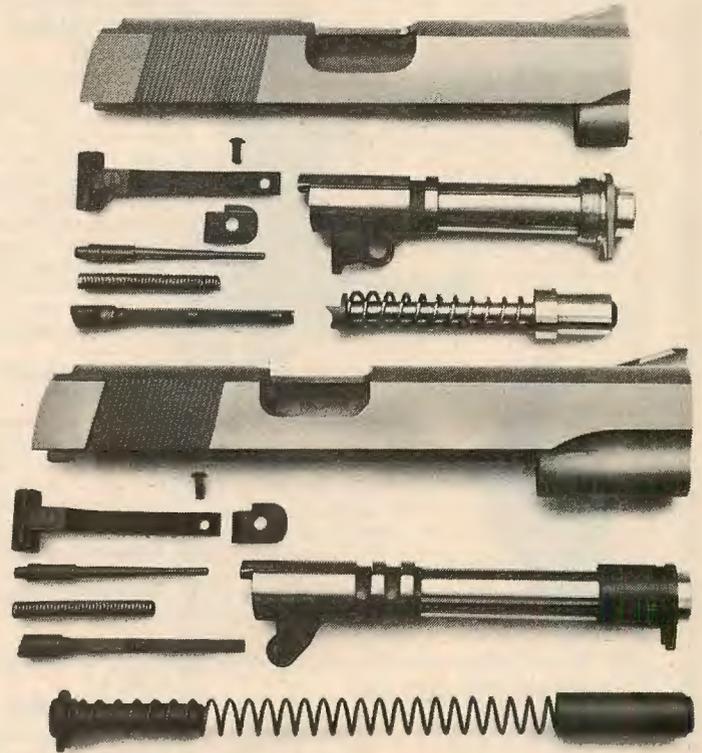
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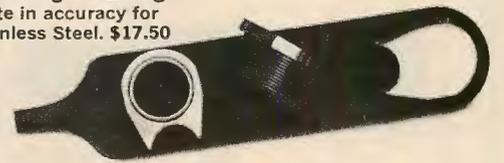


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COVER: Civilian employee of Aberdeen, Md., proving ground with XM249 MINIMI, one of the light machine guns being considered as the new Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) for use by Army and Marine infantry. See Lethal Lightweights, page 46.

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REGISTER TO VOTE
REGISTER TO VOTE

BULLETIN BOARD



by Jim Graves

SCRATCH ONE BAG ...

Salisbury, Rhodesia — Rhodesian bomb disposal experts blew up a camera bag belonging to Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown of *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine. It had been left in a book store.

Police said the bag was regarded as a "suspicious object."

Shops and offices in the vicinity were evacuated while the disposal experts carried out a "controlled explosion" to destroy the bag.

The technique is used routinely in Rhodesia as part of security precautions following several bombings in the run up to the recent independence elections.

Brown could not be reached for comment at press time.

MILITARY REUNION NOTES ...

Special Forces Association Memorial Convention '80 is scheduled for July 2-6 in Fayetteville, N.C. For further information, contact Joseph Seyer, 2020 Biltmore Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304 or "Pappy" Greer, P.O. Box 40122, Fayetteville, NC 28304.

The 34th reunion of the First Special Service Force (World War II) will be held August 14-16 in Helena, Mont. For additional information, contact William S. Story, 11815 Quarter Horse Court, Oakton, VA 22124.

The Third Marine Division Association will hold its 26th annual reunion July 23-27 at the Riverfront Towers in St. Louis, Mo. For more information, write Tom Stowe, 4711 W. Braddock Road, No. 2, Alexandria, VA 22311, or phone, (703) 379-7310.

Members of Airborne units are reminded that June 6th has been selected by the Allied Airborne Association and the United States Army Ranger Association as "Airborne Memorial Day." The Association is also encouraging members to wear a blue ribbon on the their left lapel along with their unit pin or wings as a tribute to the men who lost their lives while serving with airborne units.

The 101st Airborne Division Association's 35th annual reunion is scheduled to be held at the Hyatt

Regency Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., August 14-16. For additional information contact: Secretary, 101st Airborne Division Association, P.O. Box 101AB, East Detroit, MI 48021.

A Board of Governors meeting, open to all members of the 11th Airborne Division Association, will be held in July, in Phoenix, Ariz. Contact Richard L. Hoyt, Box 373, Johnson, AR 72741, for details.

TV HISTORY OF VIETNAM WAR ...

The National Endowment for the Arts, a government agency which underwrites scholarly research, said it would provide \$1.2 million to public television station WGBH in Boston to help produce a 13-hour series on the war in Vietnam.

The entire project is expected to cost \$4 million and will be produced with the help of Associated Television of Great Britain, Antenne Deux Television of France and the American Broadcasting Company.

The programs are to be ready for showing in the fall of 1981 and the intent is to cover every aspect of the war. Interviews are to be conducted with the victorious communists, American soliders, the U.S. diplomats who first engaged the United States in Indochina after France's defeat at Dien Bien Phu, the "boat people" who fled by sea, the defeated French and career soldiers who were frustrated in the war. Stanley Karnow will be the chief interviewer for the 13-hour program.

"The war is still alive," says Karnow. "It's alive in controversy. History is always being re-evaluated. Every generation sees it in a different way. It's going to be our view of it. It's going to be an attempt to be fair. We're not grinding any axes."

THE BOYS FROM BATF ...

As if they didn't already have enough of an image and public relations problem, the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau took one to the chin when special agent Francis X. McCann was indicted for allegedly sex-

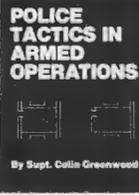
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SURVIVAL POACHING

by Ragnar Benson

Tells the survivalist how to collect large or small numbers of wild game under any circumstances, using Indian secrets. The author, an old-timer with 40 years of poaching experience, was taught these methods early in this century by an Ojibway Indian. Since our country faces an uncertain future, he wanted to pass along these methods to you. Shows specific collection methods for deer, elk, bear, moose, beaver, mink, muskrat, trout, salmon, grouse, pheasant, ducks, and many others. A particularly useful chapter tells the principles of entrance, evasion, and exit. Also covers lessons in scouting and woodcraft, equipment, firearms selection, and ammo choices. Includes over 30 line drawings detailing many ingenious traps, snares, and deadfalls. Truly a worthwhile addition to your survival library. Available February 1980. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 250 pp., illus., hardcover. **\$12.95**



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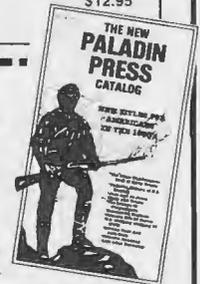
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A BUSHWHACKER

B MACHETE

C BOLO MACHETE

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

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- steel blade
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D SAWTOOTH MACHETE

- 23" overall
- sawteeth on back

E HATCHET

- wooden handle
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- 2 lbs.

F CAMP AXE

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G COMBAT KNIFE



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- steel blade
- sheath

H MARINE KNIFE

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- 5" edge
- steel blade
- sheath



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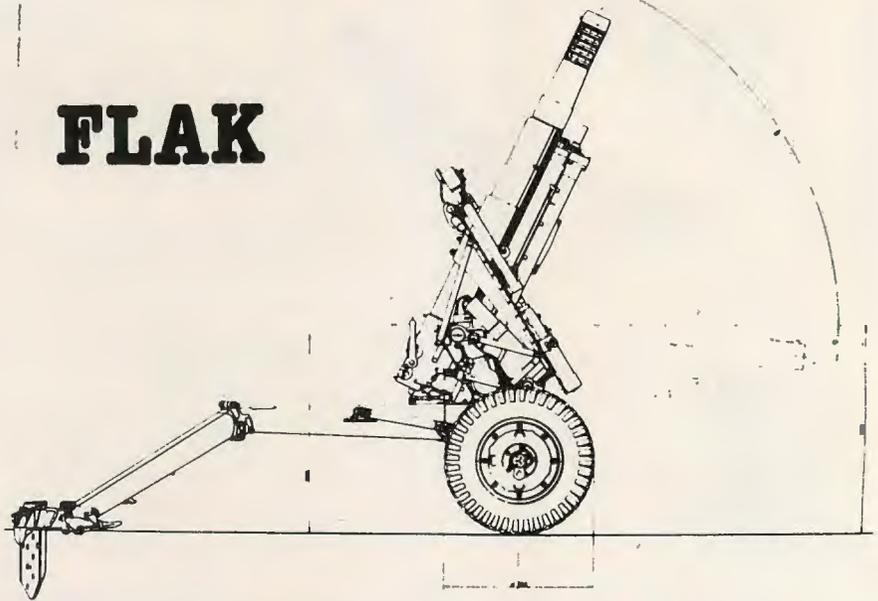
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FLAK



SAS TROOPER TAKES EXCEPTION ...

Sirs:
 I found John Howard's interview with Chris Dempster (SOF, June '79) interesting, particularly the remarks about a very good friend of mine — Peter McAleese. Like most SAS men, I spent my first term of military life as a member of the Parachute Regiment — with SAS time, a total of 20 years, so what I am going to tell you is not the rambling of some sprog (recruit).

Let's start with Dempster. As a liar he should receive an Oscar. As a man he should receive a hard punch on the jaw — if one could find where he had run to! As a so-called soldier he should get a bullet between the eyes. In fact, I am staining the reputation of professional soldiers everywhere by calling him soldier.

I was a member of the SAS when Dempster attended the selection course. I distinctly recall our receiving his report from the Paras prior to the course's starting. I quote, "We do not visualize this man succeeding in passing the SAS selection course due to the following reasons: A. He lacks the high intelligence normally associated with an SAS soldier. B. He is a bully not liked by many people in the Para Regiment. C. His soldiering ability leaves a lot to be desired. D. He can't keep his mouth shut, therefore is to be considered a security-risk."

All this we found to be true. He was quickly returned to his unit — not for the reasons he gave in his interview — but for unfitness, lack of determination and obvious lack of initiative. The fact that he was put on a cook's course sums up what everyone in the airborne thought of him — we have blokes here in Hereford with arms, eyes and legs missing who are still soldiering merrily away. Oh yes, he was shit-scared of parachuting!

Let's get a few facts straightened out about the man he denounced, Pete McAleese. On return from Angola, Pete, unlike Dempster, didn't hurry off to a publisher to get all his lies put into book form (all the witnesses to Dempster's bravado are dead). No, Pete flew out to Rhodesia where he went through the selection for the Rhodesian SAS and received a first class pass.

Once in the operational SAS he very quickly established himself to be the soldier he is and was respected by all his fellow soldiers. After god knows how many operations in the bush, Pete transferred to the famous Selous Scouts where he is now. This is the guy Bum Dempster ran down! Dempster couldn't lace his boots!

I hope you print this letter as a lot of professionals this side of the Atlantic were pretty angry about the way you printed Dempster's lies without any confirmation.

Yours sincerely,
 Bob Watson

Hereford, United Kingdom

Thanks for giving us the other side of the story. — The Eds.

EX-BOBBY DISCOVERS SOF ...

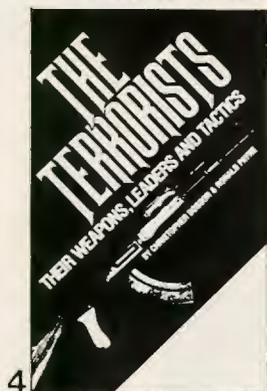
Sirs:
 Congratulations on a superb publication. I am impressed by SOF's standpoint and alignment on world and U.S. domestic issues. I found the interview with Brian Crozier, "International Strategist Forecasts Future," (SOF, December '79), especially interesting, since I have been acutely aware of the possibility of Great Britain becoming a Russian satellite state, prior to the election of the Conservative Party into government office.

I am an ex-British military policeman and ex-regular police officer and there is

Continued on page 87

Adventure Book Club

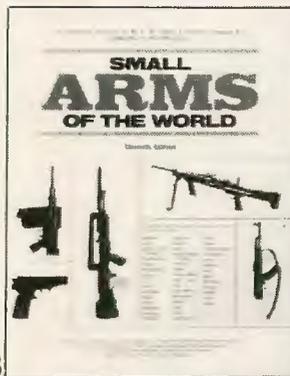
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ON THE MARK

Once in a great while, along comes a new concept in guns. Some are novel, but don't quite make it. Yet in spite of all obstacles, the truly great ones find their place. And as time goes by, even the most doubtful among us gain an appreciation for them. And yes, even endorse them in the ultimate way—by owning one. So it is with the CA Mark 45 cal. and the 9mm semi-automatic carbines. Some have been shocked by their appearance, which is not merely cosmetic, but a result of highly practical design which, incidentally, added a great deal to their look of authority. This proved to be a big plus since they were originally designed as a deterrent weapon for law enforcement. They were never intended to be pretty, they were built to be tough—and to keep the cost reasonable. Their performance has proven to be so amazing, they have emerged as one of the most popular deterrent weapons for farmers, remote area dwellers, hunters, collectors, and anyone who has a need for this kind of protection.

If you need more details on the Mark 45 or 9mm, see your dealer or write for Brochure # Q80.

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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Jerry Ahern



RPB MAC 10 45 — “point-and-shoot” accuracy’s no problem, says Ahern — shown with Colt MKIV Series 70 45 ACP pistol. Photo: Sharon Ahern.

PACHMAYR has long been known for making some of the best fitting, most practical replacement grips around. One of their lineup’s newest additions is Signature grips for the little Detonics 45 auto. I’ve been using a Detonics regularly for better than a year and with a Metalife SS Chromium M finish for the last six months or so. Using Federal’s gaping 185-grain JHP 45 loads or their 230-grain FMC hardball round, the Detonics performs virtually flawlessly, whether using six-round Detonics stainless-steel magazines, Colt-sized Lacha stainless magazines or the actual Colt magazines themselves. Though the Detonics comes from the factory with well-finished, functional checkered walnut grip panels — a la Colt style — the flat mainspring housing is either a cut-down Pachmayr insert or an identical twin. It seemed logical for Pachmayr to offer grips for the gun — now they do.

Like standard GM-45 grips, these new Pachmayrs are one-piece, metal-reinforced, checkered rubber, circling round the front strap of the pistol to give added tactility under all shooting conditions. With the existing flat mainspring housing unit, the Detonics looks somehow more complete than before. And it is more of a lifetime, all-weather gun as well.

Through Detonics now offers the 45 in stainless and hard-chromed finishes, my early Detonics was blue, with an added stainless-steel barrel. The magazine was also stainless. For a gun carried close to

the body, yet big enough in caliber for even the roughest chores, the Detonics needed one of the best finishes available. I chose the Metalife job from personal observation and the recommendation of knowledgeable friends. Later, I found many of the nation’s top pistolsmiths whom I interviewed for a section of a forthcoming book recommended the Metalife finish as well.

After its treatment, the gun displayed amazing resistance to body acids, moisture and neglect. Since I test a great many handguns, I always had some excuse to be on the range over the last several months and to unlimber the Detonics and pump some Federal ammo through it. I rarely had the time to clean it properly after finishing a day’s shooting. The Detonics and the Metalife finish have held up amazingly well. Now the new Pachmayr grips eliminate any fear of damage by normal use (or reasonable neglect).

Many shooters boast that Pachmayrs soften felt recoil and this may be true. I’ve never really noticed a great deal of change with various Walther, Browning and Smith revolvers. Yet, added gripping surface and more positive feel cannot be denied, even under conditions of extreme temperature or moisture. Just under \$20, the Pachmayr Detonics grips are a solid investment for anyone owning the compact little 45, and well worth a look for

Continued on page 22

A TRIBUTE TO VALOR

"This is destined to be acclaimed as the most spectacular object ever made available to honor the brave soldiers, sailors and airmen of the United States, England and Canada who risked—and in many cases gave—their lives for freedom in the D-Day Invasion in World War II."



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(Night of June 5-6, 1944)

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a reminder to them of your interest in military history and quite possibly of your participation, or the participation of one of your relatives, in this heroic assault.

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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT



Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

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. I am the proud owner of a Behlert-customized Combat Commander in 45 ACP. I'm looking for a smaller, lighter pistol for everyday carrying (reserving the 45 for serious business).

Some possibilities I've been considering include:

- 1) Walther PPKS .380.
- 2) Beretta 70S .380.
- 3) H&K 4 22 LR + .380.
- 4) WWII Beretta .380 Italian army issue.

Your comments on these or other weapons you might recommend would be greatly appreciated.

K.I.J., Hawthorne, New Jersey

A. *I wonder how you know when "serious business" is afoot. Most of us lack your prescience. If you wish to go below service calibers for personal defense I suggest the 22 LR, since it does not tend to produce a feeling of false confidence, and a 22 between the eyes is just as effective as a 44. In pocket 22s, I favor the Walther line, but not exclusively as I have not properly evaluated this market.*

Q. This summer I plan to try and qualify for the National Shooter's League match held in Laramie, Wyo., sponsored by D. Robert Burgess. I own a Colt Python 357 six-inch vent-rib nickel-plated revolver, also a Colt Series '70 MK IV Gold Cup 45 caliber pistol. The place where I shoot most often here is an old, outdated range used by the city and some highway patrolmen to qualify monthly. I would greatly appreciate any information I could utilize. I notice that my left eye is much steadier than the right even though I shoot right-handed.

J.R.S., Rock Springs, Wyo.

A. *There is little I can say that will help you with the Burgess match. It is highly stylized and quite a bit off to one*

side of the practical shooting discipline. However, there is nothing wrong with "cross-eyed" pistol shooting. Some very good shots shoot right-handed and left-eyed — and vice versa. There is a new IPSC affiliate in Cody — not close but still within reach: Paul Card, Spirit Mountain Freestyle Handgunners, 1419 Alger Avenue, Cody, WY 82414.

Q. I've been a wheel-gun man for the past 16 years — at times carrying two when the situation called for it. My personal choice has always been the Colt Python — four-inch on duty — a Jun-kind-tuned six-inch for competition. However, I can no longer deny the advantages of the auto loaders in combat shooting. The only time I carried them before was when I had to hit somebody and the cylinder wouldn't get knocked out of line. That was when I was much younger and didn't mind fighting the drunks and thugs. Since I've gone private and specialize in personal executive protection, the big wheel guns are no longer suitable — and I've gotten older. I've gone to a 45 ACP Colt Combat Commander, but the action isn't as smooth as I like and with my big hands it'll sometimes twist a bit — your opinion, please?

I'm ordering the M-S Safari Arms Matchmaster frame and screw-in bushing. I'll retain the guts of the Commander, honed down a little finer, add the Safari extended slide release and safety and magazine base pads, put on Behlert's high fixed-combat sights with the contrasting-color-dot set-up and finish up with Pachmayr grips. I've been carrying a Bianchi Model 4 ("Askins Avenger") holster and I've ordered a Bianchi Model 45 "Pistolero" rig for PPCs and combat shooting. I've got a Gold Cup trigger assembly that I can add. Am I on the right track?

H.A.M., Bertram, Texas

A. *To be quite frank, I do indeed think you are on the wrong track. In our experience here at the school*

Continued on page 78

Survival and Rescue

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Chapter 19, "Emergency Short-Term Survival," alone can save the lives of you and your loved ones. It is a crash course in the most essential areas if time is of the essence and things are caving in around you. In it the author gives you the best and most comprehensive food test derived from his own experience and in-depth research of various survival manuals. Also included is an abbreviated version taken from the Air Force Survival Manual. Knowledge of these tests is a MUST. The same lifesaving chapter will show you what to do when you get lost in the wild country, or if you were relocated from where you NOW live, and how to provide almost instant shelter and heat. You will receive vital information on survival hunting, unusual remedies, first aid, and orientation. Lists of survival manuals and essential items for the survival kit (most of which can be obtained locally and easily carried with you in times of emergency) are included.

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CUSS & DISCUSS

Yet, while I support the 9mm, with proper ammunition, for domestic purposes, I still require some convincing that it is appropriate for military use because of the bullet shape dictated by the Geneva Conventions. Even the famous — or infamous — LEAA gelatin tests gave 9mm hardball an extremely ineffective rating. (I do not include the slug developed by the men interviewed by SOF, as it has not been adopted and may never be.)

While kinetic energy is a better indication of bullet lethality than momentum, one must question how that energy is expended. This involves bullet shape, an extremely important question for the 9mm. It is not enough for energy to be expended in a body. It must be delivered efficiently. Hardball ammo tends to drill through a body, expending its energy slowly. A good hollowpoint delivers its energy quickly, explosively. Obviously, expending the same amount of energy in, for example, half the distance is more efficient.

This efficiency is critical for proper performance of the 9mm which relies on velocity to convey its energy. It is not as critical for the 45 which relies more on mass, apparent when one considers 45 hardball, the most inefficient shape, has better than 90 percent of the efficiency of 45 hollowpoint.

And please, do not bring up these counter-arguments: 1. hollowpoints don't open half the time; 2. 45s punch bigger holes; 3. penetration and physical wound size, not hydrostatic shock (as opposed to trauma), are what counts.

1. True, some hollowpoints don't open properly, but those that do, do so with extreme regularity. 45s are exempt from this rule because it is damn near impossible to get a slug that size up to decent velocity in an automatic. It is up to the shooter to experiment with ammo to discover what works in his pistol.

2. If holes mattered, 1½-inch broadhead arrows would be the ideal manstopper. They aren't. All wound size can determine is the amount of bleeding. Do you know how long it takes to bleed to death?

3. The reason the above is true is not that the broadhead lacks energy or momentum but that it cuts instead of expending energy to set up shock. Notice, I say shock, not trauma. Trauma comes from blood vessels bursting and bones breaking due to transmitted energy, in which case the energy is transmitted via hydrostatic means.

Most pistols cannot develop sufficient energy to do this, though rifles can. Shock is our body's reaction to injury. If you

Continued on page 17

BIGGER'S BETTER VS. LESS IS MORE

I thank all who took the time to write after reading the 9mm vs. 45 (Shootout, February '80). In the four-plus years I have been with SOF, no other article has drawn so much mail.

And since controversy is healthy, look for a forthcoming comparison of 9mm vs. 45 from a Philadelphia P.D. Officer.

—N.E.M.

BLACK BELT BLASTS . . .

Sirs:

Your interesting, informative article on the 9mm vs. 45 intrigued me. As a 45 handgunner, I've developed a fondness for the weapon's handling characteristics and whopping power. I've found the good ones are inherently accurate. But I was mystified by Jack Robbins' contention that neither the 9mm nor the 45 is likely to "knock people over like bowling pins."

He states, "You'd have to use a cartridge that would hit with enough momentum that, when you fire it, you would be knocked down too." This not only contradicts most people's combat experience with the weapon, but raises other questions.

As a karate black belt, I can state unequivocally that it is possible to "knock people over like bowling pins" with a punch, let alone a large chunk of high-speed metal, without being bowled over in turn. Better plug in some other variables, Jack.

Yours truly,
W.C. Duncan
Lakewood, Ohio

THOUGHTFUL . . .

Sirs:

Your article on the 9mm and its lethality expands and supports arguments I have presented to friends to show the best pistol for domestic self-protection is a 9mm automatic with large-capacity magazine.

Although my friends bring up incidents in which 9mms did not give adequate performance, I remind them of the Houston cop who had to shoot an assailant 14 times with a 45 — yes, he had to reload — or the suspect who took two pointblank 12-gauge blasts of 00 in the chest and still tried to take the shotgun out of the cop's hands until pulled off by the cop's partner or stories of people who just kept coming after taking hits from high-power rifles. I fully believe that somewhere out there somebody has a great story about how it took a *second* burst of .50 caliber fire to put somebody down.



Ready for anything? Maybe not. You may have the finest weapons in the world with heaps of ammo for each. You may have freeze dried food, medical supplies and a retreat secure from howling mobs. You may have Krugerrands, solar power and more tools than a Panzer Division.

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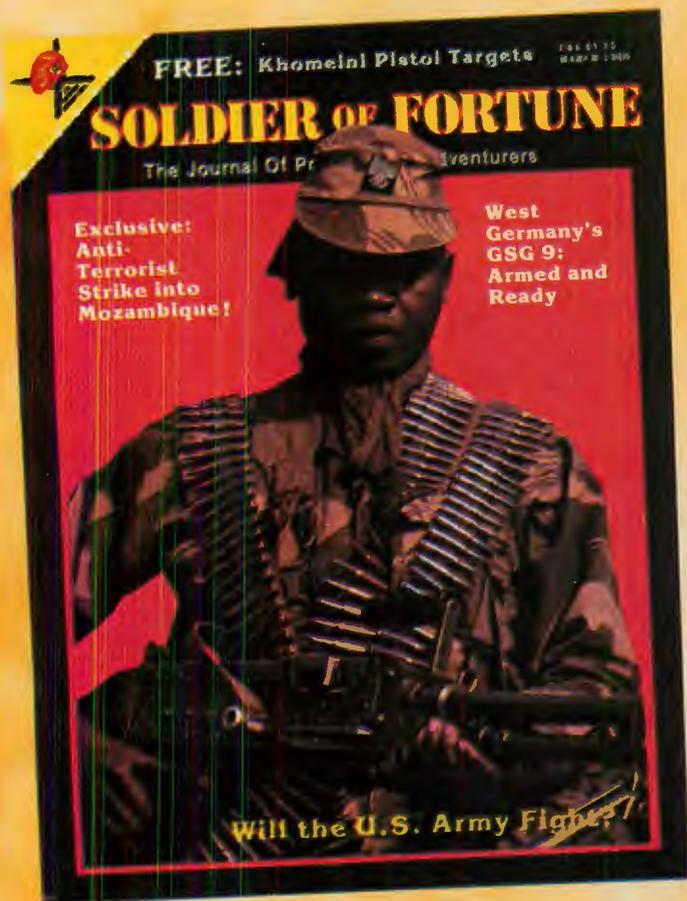
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CUSS & DISCUSS

Continued from page 14

don't believe in hydrostatic shock, let's try an experiment. Lie flat on your back on a bench or table. Have a friend — or enemy — take a baseball bat and slam it into your gut with all the force he can. Your skin remains unbroken and there is no wound. Yet you are rolling on the floor, puking, due to energy transmitted via hydrostasis and body reaction. A good hollowpoint does the same thing. It drills a hole in a body, then gives it a good kick in the gut.

But 9mm hardball does not deliver its energy efficiently. It just doesn't have the same kick to the gut as 9mm hollowpoint. Having more energy than the 45 is not everything. The 9mm must transfer that energy efficiently to achieve superior stopping power.

Until I am shown otherwise, I will have to contend that the lower-energy, more efficient 45 hardball is the best available round for military use.

Thank you,
Larry Loper
Sugar Land, Texas

STRONG FEELINGS . . .

Sirs:

Man, what a "load!" What an insult to our intelligence! What an enormous pile of bureaucratic engineering nonsense this ration of tripe has laid on your readers! I say, "Bull!" to these fantasy conclusions that these proving-ground prima donnas have come up with (undoubtedly of the same mold that gave us the M16). Any combat vet or big game hunter will agree.

"Engineer Davis" has a lot to learn if he actually believes his own words: "A round's lethality is not determined by its diameter, velocity or penetration." His "rate-at-which-the-bullet-deposits-energy-in-a-target" theory would surely get him freight-trained by a charging opponent be it communist or cape buffalo. In his way of thinking to have the wimpy 9mm or puny .223 lodge and dissipate *all* of its substandard energy in the first six inches of charging man or beast is more lethal than to have a .458 mag solid blast clean through lengthwise from skull plate to rectum — I don't doubt who's going to get the biggest dose of "immediate trauma!"

As for "Engineer Robbins'" absurd conclusions and SOF's Poos' capitulation to this foggy thinking, I extend my sympathy, for obviously neither of them can figure out "how" to apply the facts of velocity, weight and momentum that equal "stopping power."

I mean, really, boys, if you haven't got it yet just try this simple experiment:

1. Instruct assistant to secure one each 125-grain 9mm projectile and one 230-grain 45 caliber ball.

Continued on page 20

LIFE AFTER DOOMSDAY

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A most important point: *Life After Doomsday* does not subscribe to the "total annihilation theory." Dr. Clayton believes the American public has been severely misinformed on this matter. Social disintegration can be survived, and the world will be rebuilt, by a determined and resourceful few. Let *Life After Doomsday* show you how to be one of them.

THE AUTHOR

Bruce Clayton, Ph.D., is not just another self-proclaimed survival expert. He is an ecological engineer, electronics expert, martial artist, outdoorsman, and professional survival consultant. He is an insider in our national survival establishment. He has authored special studies for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and is recognized as a foremost authority in the field of nuclear survival.

Dr. Clayton wrote *Life After Doomsday* because he is angry. Angry with all the special interest groups that promulgate certain misinformation, leading the public to believe that no one would survive an all-out nuclear attack, and angry with our nation's constant defense budget cutbacks, which have reduced our civil defense preparedness to obsolescence.

Life After Doomsday represents Dr. Clayton's years of survival research, and contains information drawn from hundreds of expert sources.

DISASTER AND FALLOUT SHELTERS

Did you know that many home-made fallout shelters are little more than deathtraps? Improper ventilation systems are often the cause. Dr. Clayton details the correct way to construct shelters, from an emergency model that can be made in 15 minutes, to long term modifications to your entire home. Includes over a dozen different shelter designs, covering materials, ventilation systems, and sanitation/storage considerations. Even your plane or boat can be an effective emergency shelter if you know how to modify them.

FOOD STORAGE

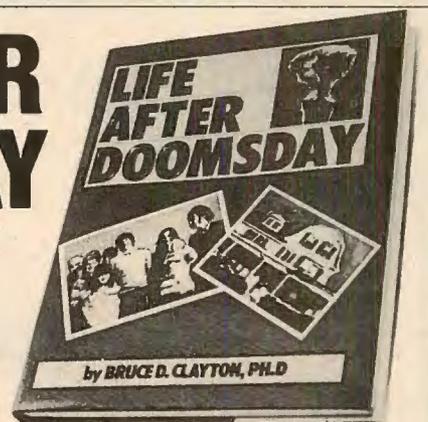
Why is it that the experts never agree on the storage life of pre-packaged food? *Life After Doomsday* clarifies this confusing situation. You'll get to know what kind of food to store, how much per person, and how long with safety. Dr. Clayton analyzes nutrition, and even gives tips on making basic survival chow taste like good home cooking. He also details correct water storage and purification procedures.

FORAGING, HUNTING, AND FARMING

Many survivalists and retreaters purchase remote plots of land, expecting to forage it for wild edibles and game, or farm it, when the time comes. This is ideal if you go about it correctly. Learn from *Life After Doomsday* how to select the right tract of land, and how to live from its harvest of wild plants and animals. Tells all about survival farming, giving the best choices for seeds, equipment, firearms, traps, snares, and so on. So the prepared survivalist can harvest a crop, not a nightmare.

EMERGENCY HOME MEDICAL TREATMENT

Here is the biggest single biggest problem facing the survivor: how do you provide medical treatment? Dr. Clayton shows how to prepare for this situation. Learn what



every survivor's medicine chest must contain, and why. He also includes a list of the best volumes for your medical library. A special appendix provides precise technical knowledge about nuclear war injuries — information not found within the pages of any other volume.

DEFENDING YOUR REFUGE

History has shown that one person in ten will rob for food if starving; one person in 100 will commit murder for food; roughly one in 1,000 will eat human flesh if hungry enough; and one in 1,000 will actively hunt people. Sobering statistics, indeed. A survivalist's well-stocked retreat might quite possibly be assaulted by a fanatic, hungry mob. *Life After Doomsday* analyzes this problem, and gives you the no-nonsense solution. You must first know where to site your retreat, then which weapons and tactics to use in its defense. Dr. Clayton tells you all of this and more in an eye-opening chapter titled, "To Have And To Hold."

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NUCLEAR WAR AND YOU

Life After Doomsday provides a wealth of information about nuclear war; its causes, effects, and defenses. All digested and clearly presented with the layman in mind. Charts and graphs show predicted fallout patterns for the U.S., enabling you to pick the safest spot for your retreat. Dr. Clayton provides complete plans and instructions for building a simple but accurate fallout meter from household materials in a few hours. He also includes effective decontamination methods, and much more useful radiological information. For example, a special slide-rule scale predicts fallout decay so you'll know when it is safe to leave your shelter.

SAMPLE REVIEW

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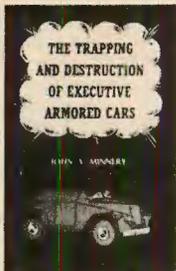
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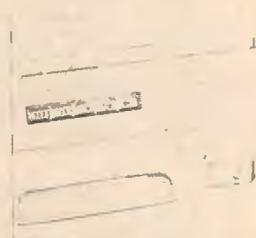


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SILENCERS

Patterns and Principles

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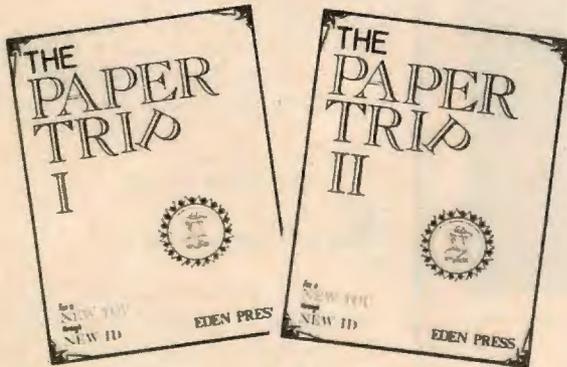
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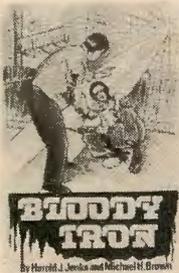
OLD GOODIES



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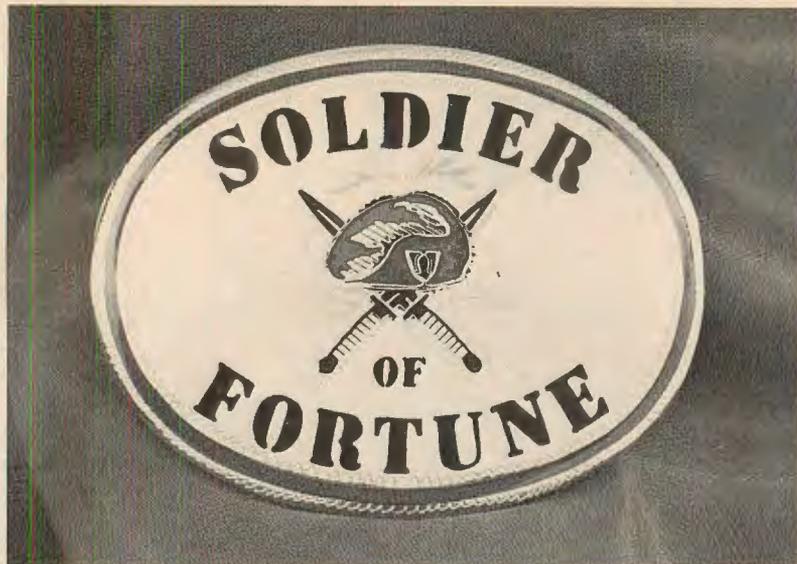
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CUSS & DISCUSS

Continued from page 17

2. Have same assistant position himself 10 feet away and alternately hand-throw at full force these projectiles against your bare cranium.

3. Now evaluate.

4. If it still doesn't register to you that the greater weight/mass of the 45 hurts more and raises a bigger knot, then, buddy, go on to Step 5.

5. Apply and secure employment with government testing facility with the rest of your kind in the self-serving, project-peddling world of bureaucratic mediocrity.

S.C. Stone
 Honolulu, Hawaii

KEEP THE FAITH ...

Sirs:

I would like to express my reaction to one thing mentioned in the article — what Mr. Robbins calls "conclusive lethality tests." Since both test method and data are classified, Robbins and his associates demand that SOF readers and every military man who carries a handgun, accept *on faith alone* their claim that this test accurately indicates what will happen to human targets in combat. This appeal to faith strikes me as one hell of an attitude for a man who claims to be an engineer.

Yours,
 Philip M. McEvoy
 San Francisco, California

BEEES & BULLETS ...

Sirs:

When I was a boy my father, an engineer, told me that aerodynamics and engineering had proven beyond all doubt that a bumblebee *could not fly*. Nature had designed it all wrong; the measurable proof was there for all to see! Now I learn from the February SOF that "in the case of 9mm vs. 45, the 9mm does as much or more tissue damage than the 45 ... so there's no doubt that the 45 takes second place!"

Earlier in the same interview, "Project Engineer" John C. Robbins lambasts 45 ACP performance on the basis of the 1911A1 Colt automatic pistol. How about an unbiased test and comparison with more modern 45 ACP automatic pistols such as the Heckler & Koch P9S, Browning BDA or even the American-designed Sterling Model 450? Both the H&K and the new Browning are easily convertible to the 9x19mm cartridge with a minimum of parts and time when necessity arises.

The first pistol I ever bought 17 years ago was a S&W Model 39. I still own it. The last pistol I got is a 45 1911A1 I put together from various parts. I shoot both. My tight, put-together 45 with its unaltered sights outshoots my Model 39, Browning Hi-Power and other 9mms I have shot. To quote gun writer Art Blatt: "The 45 ACP can boast two titles — it is one of the most powerful factory-loaded

handgun cartridges (due to its stopping power) and — properly handloaded — it is one of the world's most accurate." This accuracy and power don't come from new-bullet design and configuration.

But the ultimate proof is when "push comes to shove." An immigration officer stationed on the Texas border once tried to swap me a S&W Model 19 .357 for my Browning Hi-Power. A few years later he was looking for a 45 automatic. Why? The bad guys on the other side in a drug bust messed up a U.S. narc he knew with six or more body hits from 9mms and one 45 slug. Fortunately, the agent had on a torso vest which saved his life; however, he said that taking the 9mm hits felt like being run through with red hot poker, but the 45 slug damn near tore off his leg and caused a longer hospital stay.

So, it seems to me that *a new pistol for the 45 ACP and not a new 9mm pistol* would be the U.S. services' best answer for their authorized pistol. The 45 ACP cartridge was well designed to do what it does, whereas the 9mm Luger (parabelum) was created as an afterthought from the maximum limits of an expanded .30 Luger cartridge case.

Oh yes, for those ballistics experts who don't know yet, bumblebees perform what they designed to do quite well!

Sincerely,
Douglas S. Cadwallader
Palacios, Texas

CHUCK TAYLOR RESPONDS ...
Sirs:

I feel N.E.M. wrote a good piece on the subject at hand and I found it interesting and informative as far as it went. However, I feel that the issue of handgun ACP has been settled about as much as it ever will be by Hatcher many decades ago. Nothing I have seen since has shed any further light on the subject and, in fact, more recent attempts exhibit a lack of understanding of the basic issue, for they all seem to get lost in superfluous side-issues and fail to address the basic purpose of the sidearm.

The in-progress U.S. government tests certainly show this, for regardless of NATO logistics requirements, a handgun that does not stop an assailant reliably is not worth carrying. Likewise, the 45 is as accurate as a handgun can be, is as safe as a handgun needs to be, is a superior man-stopper by actual historic record and is the most reliable and functional of the so-called "modern" handguns. This can be readily proved anytime anyone is interested, and has been on many occasions.

I have met Jack Robbins and do not cast doubts on his honesty or intentions, but I highly suspect that the same forces that gave us the brilliant M16A1 5.56mm rifle are at work here.

I further disagree with the so-called "energy theory" as a deciding or even

Continued on page 76
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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 10

any other gun as well. For more information, write Pachmayr Gun Works, Department SOF, 1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

ANYONE who follows my writings here and elsewhere knows that one of the leather companies I always champion is Alessi Custom Concealment. The reason is simple. They make some of the most thoughtfully conceived designs for concealment use on the market. Recently, Lou Alessi sent me one of his belt holsters and magazine pouches and I've been trying them with my Detonics. Now, for a standard flat-silhouette belt holster with all the trimmings and a positive thumb break, no one makes a finer rig than Safariland with their 28 series holsters. But for a bare-bones hideout scabbard for any type of commonly carried defensive handgun, the Alessi rig really does the job.

The Alessi belt holster is available with a pull-through snap or without any safety retainer at all. And this, in my opinion, is where the Alessi rig shines. Of high-quality leather with solid stitching throughout, the double-slotted Alessi rig rides the gun high enough to push the butt into the waist but not so high as to give the "falling away" feeling so common with many belt rigs. Precision wet-molded, the russet-colored holsters keep the gun in tight. Open-bottomed, there is no possibility for dirt or moisture to collect. The somewhat cutaway design covers the trigger guard and enough of the slide top strap to protect the rear sight. Fit is tight, so the Alessi should be practiced with before being worn on the street, to limber up the holster and condition the shooter for the necessary force needed to withdraw the gun.

The single magazine pouch rides on the outside of the belt and can be threaded on like the holster or attached by means of the single "Dot" snap which secures the tunnel loop to the magazine pouch body. This pouch will work with standard Detonics magazines or regular seven-round Colt magazines equally well. Fit is good so there is little worry of vigorous physical activity dumping the magazine.

Both holster and pouch offer the shooter a highly concealable, high-quality way to carry a semi-automatic and a spare load. The pouch could, of course, be used with a shoulder or inside-the-pants holster as well. For more information on Alessi custom concealment holsters, write Alessi Holsters, Dept. SOF, 2465 Niagea Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150.

RPB Associates of Atlanta is now manufacturing the prestigious MAC 10 45 and 9mm SMGs and the MAC 11 .380, not only in submachine-gun form for Class III and military/police use, but in civilian semi-automatic form, sans shoul-

der stock. This semi-automatic-only SMG has been sweeping the country since its look and feel — if not the system of operation — is full-auto. The MAC 10 we tested recently features a 30-round magazine, sling, hold-down strap, black-leather holster, camouflage spare-magazine pouch — all but the magazine optional accessories. A barrel extension, vented for heat dissipation, looks just like a suppressor or silencer.

In 45, at carrying ranges, the semi-auto MAC 10 functioned smoothly with Federal 230-grain full-metal-case solids, even in rapid-fire bursts. Accuracy was satisfactory for the crudely sighted firearm and handling was no problem — unless one is going for more than point-and-shoot accuracy. Since a shoulder stock would make the "pistol" a short-barreled rifle, hence illegal, it is necessary to attempt some sort of two-hand hold. Usually, the off-hand winds up holding onto the barrel extension — no problem with burning if the fire volume is light. But one-hand — even with my slightly larger-than-average hands — just doesn't fit the bill with the RPB semi-automatic MAC 10. Perhaps with the gun held tight at the waist, but not for aimed fire.

Since this civilian-legal pistol is semi-automatic only, there is a tendency to treat it as a pistol. Yet, point shoulder and other positions are awkward. When one fires from the hip, the gun performs admirably with a little practice at typical SMG ranges.

RPB guns are not designed to handle anything other than hardball. Testing this with Federal wadcutter and Super-Vel 190-grain JHPs produced either complete lack of functioning or the most spectacular jams imaginable. Yet, when I moved back to the solids, problems disappeared.

Semi-automatics, like the full-auto versions, fire from an open bolt and feature a sliding safety and trigger guard ample for even a gloved hand. The .380 version — a semi-auto MAC 11 — is available mounted in a good-looking attache case. One can fire it through the case with no mechanical gizmos to go wrong; one simply operates a lever which causes the trigger to function.

For those legally able to own Class III weapons, not only are the full-auto MAC versions available, but also the justifiably respected Sionics silencers and a few other interesting gadgets. Wayne Daniel, president of RPB, knows his product, is concerned with quality and as happy as a kid with the semi-auto's popularity. Even the price is affordable. For more information or the name of a dealer near you, write RPB, Dept. SOF, 215 Chester Ave. S.E., Atlanta, GA 30316.



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It Happened To Me

by Rod L. Hinsch
as told to M.L. Jones

Rod Hinsch served four years with Special Forces Groups, the First, Seventh and Fifth, from 1964 to 1968. Retiring from the service as a sergeant, he now lectures on Southeast Asia and military history. As he tells it:

2:00 a.m. marked the beginning of the Tet Offensive for me. Sgt. Rafferty and I were sitting in the ready room of the Deans Helicopter Co. at Tan Son Nhut AFB outside Saigon, waiting for our chopper ride back to our base at Nha Trang, when the first rockets came in: that dull, unmistakable WHUMP-WHUMP of 122s.

The red glow of flares lit up the airfield as helo pilots and crews ran for the gunships standing ready on the apron.

Suddenly, an Air Police (AP) sergeant ran through the doorway. "Any of you men with weapons — we need volunteers. Sappers have gotten into the north side of the base." As he spoke, his eyes searched the room. My beret caught his eye. He smiled wryly, "Too bad you guys don't have an 'A' team with you. Let's go!"

Outside an air police truck waited with eight men aboard. Our group brought the number to 14. "Glad to have the extra guns," the sergeant said as we pulled up near a forward AP observation post.

A captain was briefing a group of APs. "They're here," he said. "We engaged them about half an hour ago. They're sappers and they need to get by us to get to the planes. Don't let that happen!"

We moved into position and waited. Nothing stirred. The first gray wash of morning light was staining the sky when suddenly an AK fired a long burst off to my left. Almost immediately a dozen more, backed with B-40 rockets, started their deadly chatter. They had been within 25 meters of us all night and now they were all over us.

Sgt. Rafferty was on one knee, keeping up a steady fire. I lay on my side next to him, pushing another mag into my M16. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a figure loom up behind me. He raised his AK and fired full-auto directly at us.

Sgt. Rafferty continued to fire forward, completely unaware of the bullets plowing up dirt all around us.

My eyes riveted on the flash from the muzzle of the sapper's AK. I fired and he went down, just like that.

God, how lucky! He must have fired 20 rounds from only 20 meters away — and missed. I fired three or four quick, wild shots and he went down.

I turned to Sgt. Rafferty to get his reaction. Still oblivious, he was jamming another mag into his rifle.

TOP: Chopper passes over Saigon Harbor on way to Tan Son Nhut Airbase. ABOVE: SF base camp in central highlands takes hit from friendly mortar fire during Tet '68. LEFT: Hinsch holds dead sapper's AK-47 after battle. RIGHT: Weapons, taken from sappers KIA in north base fighting, include AK-47s, RPG-2 rocket launchers, one M79 grenade launcher (on table, right).

I looked back at my former target and gaped as he brought up his rifle and fired again. I threw myself to the ground, firing as I fell. I knew I was dead. This was it — no more luck — all over. But my shots hit their mark and he went down, this time for good.

Afterward I told Sgt. Rafferty. He didn't believe me — until we checked the body, an NVA sapper carrying an AK-47 with an empty mag and eight holes in his chest.

I Was There

by James Sullivan
as told to M.L. Jones

James Sullivan, a Marine Corps veteran who lives in eastern Pennsylvania, was unprepared for the events that occurred one night in March 1975. As he tells it:

WHEN I headed home to my house trailer in the Pennsylvania woods that night, I didn't know what would happen before I got through my front door. As I pulled into my drive, I noticed nothing unusual — and neither did the intruder inside who was finishing wrapping up my possessions and gun collection in blankets.

I put the key in the door and opened it. My eyes met his and I don't know who was more surprised. I pushed the door shut as he pulled what looked like a Smith 38 out of his pocket. I lost my balance and was falling off the step as two 38 slugs ripped through the door. One caught me in the left hand, the other in the right leg. I made a one-point landing on the firewood pile, and as the door opened, I grabbed an ax and swung wildly with one hand, still half on my ass. The ax missed and stuck in the wall but made him fall backwards into the living room.

I hobbled to my truck for a gun. This time he came out, his 38 blasting blindly into the dark, and I took a shot at him from the end of the trailer but missed. He went back in. I heard glass breaking at the opposite end. Thinking he was breaking out the kitchen window, I worked back toward the kitchen, but it was a diversionary tactic to draw me away from the front door. I came around front just in time to take two shots as he ran toward the woods. The first missed. The second, well-aimed, hit him and he doubled over but kept running. In a split second he was in the woods and out of sight.

By now I had lost so much blood I knew I had to do something fast. I got inside, tied a bath towel around the leg which was pumping blood and called the cops. Twenty minutes later I was in the hospital.

Four local departments and the state police arrived with dogs that lost the scent

in the middle of a road. He must have been picked up by someone. I later recalled seeing a silver rod sticking out of his pocket that could have been a walkie-talkie.

What pissed me off most was I'd been a Marine for five years with a 45 strapped to my side and here I was stuck with a little .25 auto. My Mark IV was one of the guns in the crook's booty bag. I'd forgotten the Boy Scout motto: be prepared. I won't forget again.



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

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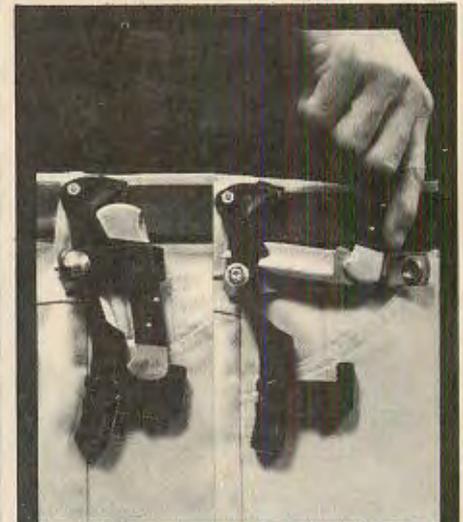
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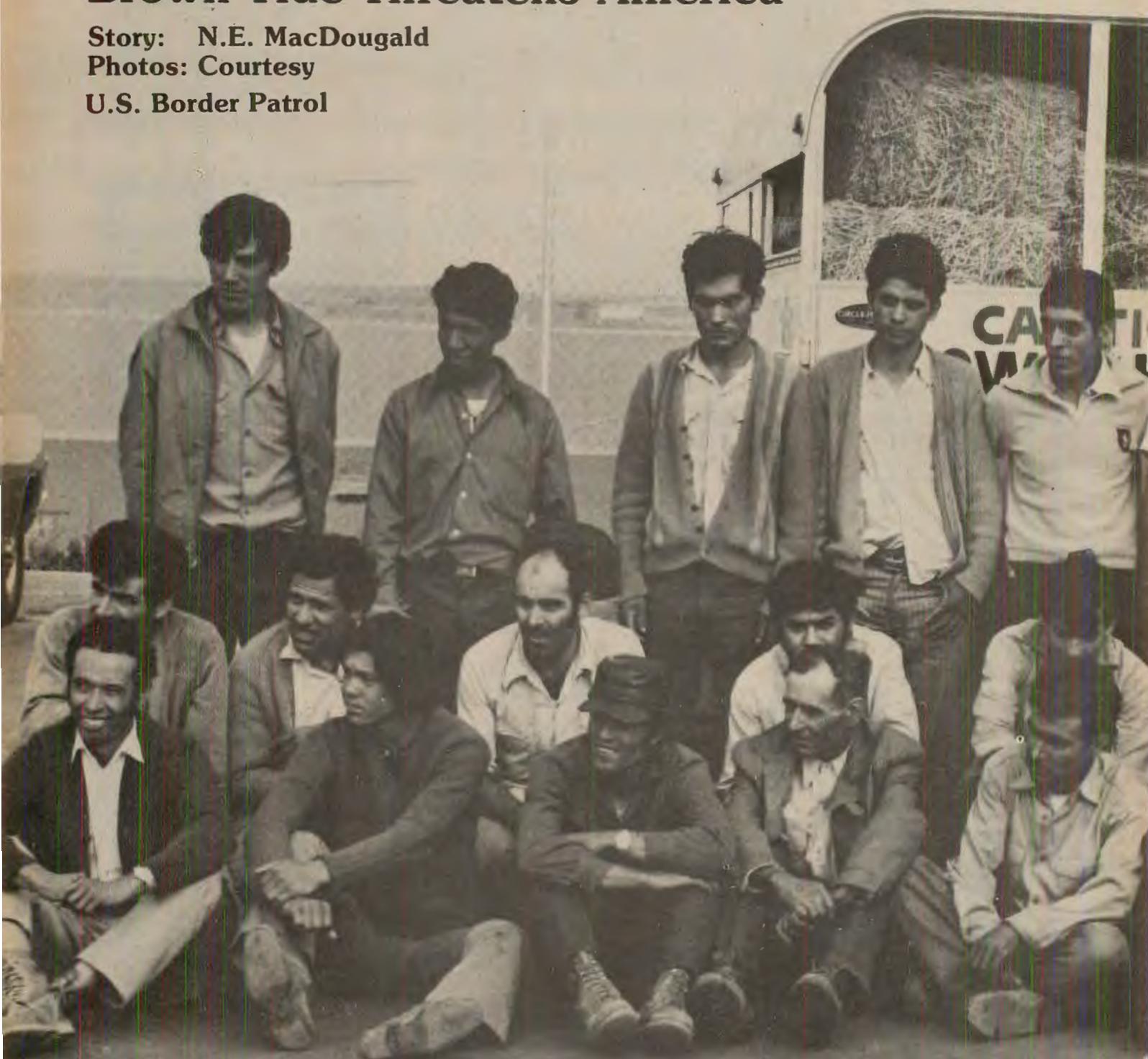
SILENT INVASION

Brown Tide Threatens America

Story: N.E. MacDougald

Photos: Courtesy

U.S. Border Patrol



**Third of a Three-Part
Series on the U.S. Border Patrol**



LIGHTS off, the much modified Ram-charger bounced through California's inky night. The Border Patrol agents shared a companionable silence as they scanned the darkness with their light-gathering binoculars. The radio stuttered brief directions.

"That was Foxtrot [the helicopter]," the driver informed me. "Says there are some illegals up ahead." Our vehicle accelerated slightly and bore to the right. The driver cut the engine and we got out and ran toward what we thought was movement. The agent riding shotgun shouted in staccato Spanish. The movement stopped. We closed in. Our haul that night consisted of four young children.

Children, for Christ's sake.

I was prepared to encounter hardened border crossers. Or maybe even smugglers. But all we got were some kids out seeking excitement. It was one of the kids' birthday, after all. They knew the Border Patrol agents would merely tell them not to do it again and point them toward the border a few hundred meters away.

"Illegals up ahead."

The following nights proved no better. I'd been sent to the California border town of Chula Vista (north of Tijuana) to get a story about the recent outbreak of violence there. Formerly docile illegal aliens were now hurling bottles, rocks and epithets at bewildered Border Patrol agents. Parts of the border looked like a battle zone. Gates were cut and broken, tunnels dug under fences, officers assaulted and Border Patrol vehicles scarred by the recent conflict.

The official Border Patrol response to this unprovoked aggression on American soil was as bewildering as the aggression itself. The agents were told to go to "high visibility." This meant a minimum of two agents per vehicle, with the vehicle parked in a conspicuous place. Thus agents were to change from their active role of protecting our border with Mexico, to a passive one of observation. Needless to say, most agents were furious. They'd spent years getting good at their jobs and now they were ordered to sit on their collective hands. And to stay out of areas traditionally used by alien smugglers.



In 1972 this horse trailer was apprehended with illegals hidden in the false bottom.

After almost a week of catching handfuls of indigent aliens, I was frustrated. During that time, I'd made up my mind who the hard men were in Chula Vista sector. The guys who stayed in shape and excelled in the field. Some of their peers respected them for their diligence, while others belittled their efforts and thought them overzealous or macho. I cornered these guys late one afternoon and leveled with them.

"You wanna get into it?"

"Listen, I was sent here to find out what is going on regarding the illegals. I think I have the bulk of the story. Christ, I have enough background to write a short book. But I don't have much action. I can't just write about nabbing a few grade-school kids. Can you take me to one of the hot areas?" The two looked at each other with knowing grins.

The big agent spoke, "You really wanna get into it, huh?"

I nodded.

He continued: "Meet us at the Anchor Inn parking lot tomorrow at 2000. And wear dark clothes."

I pumped the big man's hand. He smiled. I told them I knew they were risking their asses taking a journalist into a denied area. Typically, they said it was no big deal.

I spent that night apprehending scared little men who could not figure out how the agents had found them. Their lack of technical understanding made it unlikely they would discover we were using active and passive night-vision devices. As far as they were concerned, the mystery of their being caught simply enhanced the agents' mystique and omnipotence.

The next day, after snatching some sleep, I dressed for the night's activities: my armored vest was a compromise — hot and heavy but giving peace of mind. A mottled camo jacket covered my Smith & Wesson four-inch Model 29 with added Nite-Site®. My boots were old friends and made little noise.

I met my two comrades in the designated parking lot. The larger man carried a four-foot riot baton.

After exchanging greetings, and dipping some snuff, we drove toward the border and climbed toward a place known locally as "the soccer field." The driver killed the lights and ignition.

"Dead Man's Canyon up ahead."

"We'll walk from here," he said simply. We began walking single file.

The smaller man gestured and said, "Up there, to the left. That's Dead Man's Canyon. Don't make any noise and keep your head down. At night it's difficult to tell size, so if you walk like a tonk [nickname for alien], they won't know who you are."



ABOVE: Ingenuity is not confined to North America. These illegal aliens wear homemade anti-tracking devices. BELOW: This 1960 Dodge pick-up, stopped by the Border Patrol in 1969, hid fourteen illegals in the back. The smuggler and two illegals rode in front.



The incline became steeper. They were setting a good pace. I regretted my gluttony at the Anchor. (Expense accounts encourage gorging.) I was beginning to see better now. The hill we were traversing was strewn with garbage and human excrement. Its stink nauseated me. Soggy mattresses, knotted condoms, discarded shoes, girlie magazines, bottles and cans, toilet paper, tires... I made a mental note to thank the publisher for this juicy assignment.

We reached a level place. I could see bonfires a few hundred meters away and could hear singing.

"We've really gotta be quiet from now on," whispered the small, tough man at my side. I was relaxed, but alert. The two desserts I'd eaten were still deciding whether or not to stay down. We began walking again with heads low.

As we crested a rise, we got our eyes opened. Ahead of us, on a rock-littered plain, more than 300 Mexicans milled near open fires. My pulse quickened.

"Jesus Christ," muttered the big man. I wanted action and now I had it.

I asked, "How are we going to apprehend half of Mexico?" My companion on the left brandished his baton in answer; the other drew his service revolver. This startled me because I assumed that when you drew a weapon, you meant to shoot someone.

"La Migra!"

The smaller man barked an order: "Spread out and grab as many as you can." We started walking quickly. Then we were spotted.

The cry went out, "*La Migra! La Migra* [Immigration]!"

We were running after them now. I grabbed a man by the wrist and was looking for another when the larger agent told me to let him go. I complied, bewildered.

He sensed my confusion and shouted, "Get the well-dressed ones! They're the *polleros* (smugglers)!" The crowd was outrunning us — running toward Mexico.

We slowed down. We were disappointed not to apprehend anyone, but the agents felt great about doing what they were paid to do. I asked what the strategy was now. As answer, an object landed a few feet from us.

"Watch out for rocks," cautioned the smaller man.

Insults and rocks flew.

The crowd had regrouped and apparently decided that since it outnumbered us 100 to one, it had little to fear. It got ugly. Insults and more rocks flew. They were testing us. Stories of agents being stoned returned to me. A quick decision had to be made. I deferred to my companions who had more experience.

"Take out your radio and turn up the squeelch!" shouted the smaller man.

I realized what he meant. I looked toward a nearby hill and repeatedly yelled a man's first name. My cohort began saying official-sounding nonsense into his radio. We couldn't actually call for support because technically we were not in the area. But the bluff was a good one. It bought time.

Mexican standoff.

"Start walking backwards the way we came," said the big man. We walked purposefully, guarding our flanks. The hail of rocks and bottles slowed.

"Guess this is what you'd call a Mexican standoff," quipped the smaller man.

"Yeah," I replied.

As we retraced our route, we had to jump for cover a couple of times, just like the aliens, to avoid Fox, the heliborne light platform. Since we weren't officially in the area, we couldn't afford to be seen.

We got back to the vehicle. The larger man turned up the transceiver's gain. We found we'd created quite a stir. A Border Patrol vehicle cruised by and its driver asked what all the commotion was about.

The big man hesitated a second, as if wondering if he should trust the man, then explained that we had just returned from the soccer field.

"I'll be damned," smiled the shadowed face. "Good for you."

My knowledge of the hilly terrain was not very good. I'd only been there at night and had not seen a map. I asked where exactly had we been. And that's when I realized the aliens' audacity.

"We were a quarter-mile inside the U.S. border," explained the smaller man. "That's what hacks us off so much. They run their raw sewage into the U.S., taunt us, then run for it if we pursue them. Sure makes you feel like your hands are tied."

I had the lead for my story now. I had the action I wanted. And I had new respect for my companions. They had handled themselves like pros in a difficult situation. Having been in similar confrontations, I knew that any indecision or lack of aggressiveness on our parts would've been interpreted by the crowd as weakness. The agents kept their heads. And their lives.

Both men are vets. Both learned how to move in the field while in the service. The smaller man [six feet tall] served as a Special Forces trooper overseas for a couple of forces, the larger as a Marine in Vietnam.

Our border: a fence with more holes than posts.

Now that I'd seen the ease with which illegal aliens penetrate our border, I wanted to know more. Like most Americans, I'd never lived near a border and had no idea what one looked like physical-

ly. I always assumed our border with Mexico was impregnable. In reality, it is a fence with more holes than fenceposts.

My first question was how can we keep illegal aliens out of the U.S.? The answer I had in mind showed my naivete. I was thinking about a bigger fence, a better barrier. The answer I received from most Border Patrol agents showed more thought: simply remove the financial incentive and impoverished Mexicans will have no reason to come north. This could be accomplished by putting teeth back in the law against hiring illegal aliens. A couple of stiff fines against greedy employers would set a good precedent and deter others.

The more people I spoke with, the more this idea made sense. We cannot find fault with a poor Mexican because he is enterprising enough to cross the border illegally in search of a job. Most illegal crossers aren't looking for trouble. They simply want to find a job, work hard for a while, then rejoin their families in Mexico. But others want to stay and enjoy the good life, while remaining Mexican citizens. And here lies the real threat.

One astute agent asked me what the second-largest Mexican population center was after Mexico City. I thought for a second, then admitted that I'd be guessing.

His response rocked me: "East Los Angeles." He asked me which was the third largest. Again, I admitted my ignorance.

"We're talking of millions."

He said quietly: "Chicago." I was beginning to get a new perspective now. We were not talking about a few thousand or several thousand illegal aliens. We were talking about millions of them, living comfortably in the U.S., taking advantage of our services, and paying little, if any, taxes.

Exactly how many illegal aliens enter our country each year is anybody's guess. But an educated estimate comes from the Chula Vista sector. They reason as follows: in April 1978, Border Patrol agents made 45,000 apprehensions. It is assumed that only one out of three aliens is apprehended — thus, about 90,000 aliens passed through Chula Vista undetected.

This makes approximately 1,080,000 illegal aliens filtering through each year. If Chula Vista sector accounts for 40 percent of the nation's apprehensions, the figure jumps to 2,700,000 uninvited guests per year. Even our great country cannot sustain a horde that size annually.

But until the financial incentive for American businessmen is removed, the problem will remain. Illegal Mexican laborers will work long and hard — and cheap. And that is the bottom line. As long as agribusiness employs illegals, the phenomenon will continue.

Some Americans among us ask: why not have an open border policy? Their reasoning is that the border barely keeps people out anyway, so why not open it up? The reasons against this naive notion are many. The main one is that each sovereign state should take care of its own. Why should the U.S. act as a safety valve for Mexico's population overload, and for that matter, why should Mexico act as ours?

The safety-valve metaphor was not by chance. For decades, Mexico's economic, social and political climate has been troubled. An unofficial estimate puts Mexico's unemployment at roughly 50 percent. If this is so, our turnstile border is probably responsible for preventing a major revolution in Mexico. But even if that is too emphatic, there is little doubt that too many Yankee dollars ride south in our brown brothers' patched britches.

Dangers: dope and disease.

Drug smuggling is another reason to stop the brown tide. Poor Mexicans, wanting to come north illegally, realize that money will be needed to pay off smugglers and for travel to a likely employment site. The easiest way for a peasant to obtain *mordida* (bribe money) is to take a few kilos of marijuana with him. Thus drugs often accompany illegals in their flight. Outright, large-scale drug smuggling is also a problem, but deserves an article in and of itself.

Health hazards brought north by illegals figure significantly in the Border Patrol agents' frustration at bureaucratic road blocks to law enforcement. Tuberculosis, leprosy, venereal disease and numerous forms of parasites make the impoverished and ignorant illegal even more of a problem.

According to a former agent, "Our TB rate's back up to what it was years ago. Schools in the border areas are infested with lice. A lot of illegals work in restaurant kitchens where disease is particularly likely to spread. A few years back an illegal was apprehended in Chicago. He was the salad man in a very exclusive restaurant. When he was apprehended, his fingertips were missing as a result of leprosy. I got TB once from contact with our clientele. It's an occupational hazard."

Job displacement is a more visible problem. It affects both legal aliens and citizens. The Border Patrol offices receive calls daily from frustrated people who have just been fired and replaced by illegals. Border Patrol agents handling these calls sympathize, but are powerless to do anything. Perhaps a different President would change this tragic picture.

Foreign espionage agents also enjoy the freedom of our turnstile border. Flying in and out of the U.S. is fraught with red tape, while Mexico is much less demanding — and a little *mordida* goes a long



way. If we return to a secure border, we will make it harder for our enemies to come and go freely.

“Help! We’re under fire!”

But there is humor in the Border Patrol as well as concern and frustration. In Chula Vista sector, a couple of years ago, two agents were being shot at from the Mexican side.

They got on the radio and pleaded: “Send help, we’re under fire.” They waited and waited, and then they heard clanging sounds and saw two fire trucks charging toward them.

I’d heard stories that nine-month-pregnant Mexicans would try to cross the border illegally to give their child American citizenship. I asked a recently-retired agent about this.

“There are cases on record where a woman, at the last moment, like in El Paso, would run across the bridge to drop that baby on U.S. soil. Or they’ll go across the line [border] through a barbed wire fence just to drop that baby. If she makes it, her child’s a U.S. citizen. That’s it. And I don’t blame her one damn bit.”

He continued, “If this [poor border security] goes on another 10 years, the entire U.S. will be bilingual. And the big voting block controlling our national government will be Latin.”

Like a rock in a beehive.

“In Chula Vista sector, the smugglers have another tactic for getting their charges across the border: they come across in large groups. In June 1978 three Border Patrolmen went out to apprehend a group of 2,000. It was like throwing a rock through a beehive. . . . Most of the crowd made it into the residential area.

“For years now, people on the border have had to be more careful than most, or things would turn up missing. My brother and his wife used to live in El Paso. When she hung up her clothes to dry, she’d have to sit outside until they were done. If you wanted to water the lawn, you had to take out the hose, water the lawn, then take the hose back in again. You didn’t even leave a bicycle out. The closer you lived to the river, the worse it was.”

Retired Senior Patrol Agent Dick Heidt, a veteran of almost 24 years, now residing in Tucson with his family, speaks out:

“The Department of Justice under the Carter administration is a criminal organization. It uses its power to make attacks against law enforcement in general and the Border Patrol in particular. For example, in 1978 we had three agents in Tucson who caught a smuggling load containing 11 or 12 aliens that would have been VRed [voluntarily returned, in lieu of deportation], that night. The smuggler copped out; he’d admitted it and was already

Continued on page 74



ABOVE: The motivation of freedom and employment is evidenced here by this prospective illegal alien.

LEFT: Drugs and alien smuggling are intertwined. In 1967 this truck was apprehended with 297 kilos of marijuana.

RIGHT: This illegal alien suffered from advanced leprosy when apprehended. Other diseases are more dangerous because they are not visible.



FROM ESCAPE TO ESCAPISM

The AquaScooter Story

by M.L. Jones
and John Donovan

THE scuba diver surfaced a mile offshore in the icy North Sea waters. As his eyes swept the horizon, searching for his beacon of freedom — twin flashes from the Danish lightship, *Gedser* — a violent cramp doubled him over helplessly. He clung to the makeshift machine he had created, then turned in what he hoped was the right direction.

As the cramp eased up, he let the machine carry him silently across the choppy sea. He looked up, navigating by the North Star. Finally, shivering despite his wet suit and the heavy sweater he wore beneath it, he spotted the *Gedser's* two flashes winking in the far distance. When the lightship's crew dragged him and his water-machine aboard, he had been afloat for nearly five hours. Bernd Boettger's prototype AquaScooter had completed its first successful test run.

Boettger, a chemical technician, had escaped from East Germany. His first attempt was unsuccessful. While visiting the beach at Mecklenburg, he noticed the *Gedser* 15 miles off nearby Gral-Mueritz. The lightship rides permanent anchor in the North Sea. An excellent swimmer and former lifeguard, he decided to swim to it. He soon learned that escaping under his own power was impossible. The sea was too rough, the water too cold and the distance too great.

He decided to make a machine that would pull him through the sea. For eight months Boettger worked, building his first prototype but on his first attempt to test his machine, he was spotted by marine border guards at Batterhagen, arrested and jailed for three months. Although he was convicted of an illegal attempt at border crossing, his employment in an essential industry resulted in a suspended sentence — and he was allowed to remain by the seaside.

Boettger, armed with a fierce set of requirements, began work on a second machine: the vehicle had to be quiet; it had to pull him under water; it had to hold enough fuel for the 15-mile journey; it had to work the first time.

The machine took a year to build. After

purchasing its 1½-HP scooter motor, he built his water-scooter from scratch. The 22-pound mini-sub consisted of a fiberglass tank, an engine, a propeller and a snorkel-equipped breathing unit. The tank had two compartments. One held approximately seven quarts of fuel, the other the flotation unit and air for the engine, a muffler for the exhaust and the breathing unit. When the machine was ready, with a full tank he could count on five hours of movement at approximately three miles per hour.

Boettger entered the sea at 11:30 p.m. on a starry night in September 1968 from the beach at Bad Warnemuende, not far from Gral-Mueritz. He immediately sank to the 1½-foot depth that would allow him to pass marine border guards manning the coastal watchtower only 1,000 feet from his entry point. For an hour he let his machine drag him under the sea. When he saw no sign of pursuit, he cautiously broke the surface, dropped the 12½-pound lead belt he used for ballast and skimmed across the surface.

Boettger also carried a second belt for provisions. It contained vitamin C and a plastic bottle holding a mixture of sugar, chocolate and milk. A small rubber balloon held 10 ounces of drinking water. On his back, he carried safety equipment: a rolled-up air mattress and tools for repairs at sea.

For the first hour he remained submerged, occasionally lifting his head out of the water looking for pursuit — but his departure went unnoticed and the snorkel was too small to be spotted with searchlights. During the voyage, he held onto the bottom part of the pipe beneath the scooter, the propeller screw rotating just in front of his nose.

He swam in total darkness for two hours before spotting the *Gedser's* signal. It took him nearly three more hours before he was spotted by the ship's watch.

"Man's head in water!"

Boettger had made it.

When the news of his successful escape broke in the European press, an executive of Rockwell International read about it and became interested in Boettger's water-machine. He contacted a West German subsidiary of the company which gave Boettger the opportunity to begin work on a commercial version of his AquaScooter.

In 1974, Rockwell halted development

and production of the AquaScooter but the ingenious machine refused to die. James Taylor brought it to the United States where he formed AquaScooter, Inc. for its distribution and by the end of January 1978, the first commercial AquaScooter prototype was successfully tested.

AquaScooter's inventor was not so fortunate: in the early 1970s Bernd Boettger died in a diving accident off the coast of Spain.

—M.L. Jones



Bernd Boettger holds prototype AquaScooter that carried him across North Sea in 1968. Machine has two-chambered fiberglass tanks, engine, propeller and snorkel-equipped breathing unit, supplying air to both diver and engine.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maj. John L. Donovan, president of Donovan's Dynamiting Inc., is head of the underwater search and recovery team for the McLean County, Ill., Sheriff's Dept.; bomb disposal officer for Bloomington and Normal, Ill., former SWAT team commander for Sangamon County, Ill., karate and hand-to-hand combat instructor and SCUBA instructor with more than 4,400 hours underwater. Donovan is also a master parachutist with some 240 jumps.

—Bob Poos

FOR the past few months I have been fusing and evaluating the AquaScooter. I tested it in rivers and lakes for about 50 hours in rough and smooth weather conditions. I find it to be a fine piece of sporting equipment for scuba or skin divers. It is capable of hauling three grown men with a total weight of 580 pounds and can be used by the whole family.

The machine has a uniquely submersible two-cycle engine that uses a gas/oil mixture. This engine is completely sub-

mersible, since the machine has a 3½-foot snorkel that lets the engine “breathe.” If the snorkel goes underwater, the air is shut off and the engine stops immediately. If, however, only a small amount of water has gotten into the air tank the engine can be restarted underwater.

One point I would like to stress: if you let it go, the machine floats and turns in a small circle until retrieved.

The AquaScooter is manufactured by AquaScooter, Inc., Dept. SOF, 43 Commerce St., Springfield, NJ 07081, (201) 379-1323.

The 15-pound machine is easily transportable and can be used to drive an inflatable or lightweight boat. Like any

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	
Direct drive two stroke engine displacement .	48cc
Power 2 HP (DIN) at 4,000 RPM (1.47 KW)	
Thrust approx.	18-24 Kgs.
Ignition magneto	BOSCH
Ignition advance	2mm
Spark plug (set gap .02 approx.)..	BOSCH W 95T 1M
Carburetor	TILLOTSON HS
Fuel tank capacity	About 2 liters
Fuel mixture: swimming-Boats	100:1 — 50:1
MEASUREMENTS	
Length	514mm (20.3 in.)
Width	182mm (7.2 in.)
Height	307mm (12.1 in.)
Weight	6,400 Kg. (14 lbs.)

other good piece of equipment, it requires some care in operation and maintenance. It will run on the surface or submerged down to three feet at a top speed of 3½ miles per hour. Handgrips with thumb-trigger control regulate speed. A tank of gas will last about two hours. Care of the equipment is basic. After use, let it run one minute out of water, then rinse with fresh water. This purges any water that may have gotten into the engine through the snorkel.

People who like moderately priced sporting goods equipment will be interested to know that AquaScooter sells for less than \$300. Accessories are available. They include a bracket that converts the unit into an outboard motor for light boats and a carrying case.

The equipment, if painted a dark color, can be used for covert operations. Besides being lightweight and compact, it is noiseless when submerged.

The AquaScooter is durable, dependable, exciting and fun — and it offers excellent quality and service.

I recommend it. —John Donovan



TOP: Compact AquaScooter looks like gas tank of motorbike with snorkel attached — as Donovan demonstrates before testing it out. Photo: Jean A. Daily. LEFT: Under way — AquaScooter propels Donovan through water at 3½ mph during test. Snorkel prevents water from reaching engine. Photo: Jean A. Daily. BOTTOM: Florida seaside beauties prepare to test 20-inch AquaScooter. Five-inch diameter, enclosed propeller develops up to 50 pounds of thrust at 4,000 rpm.

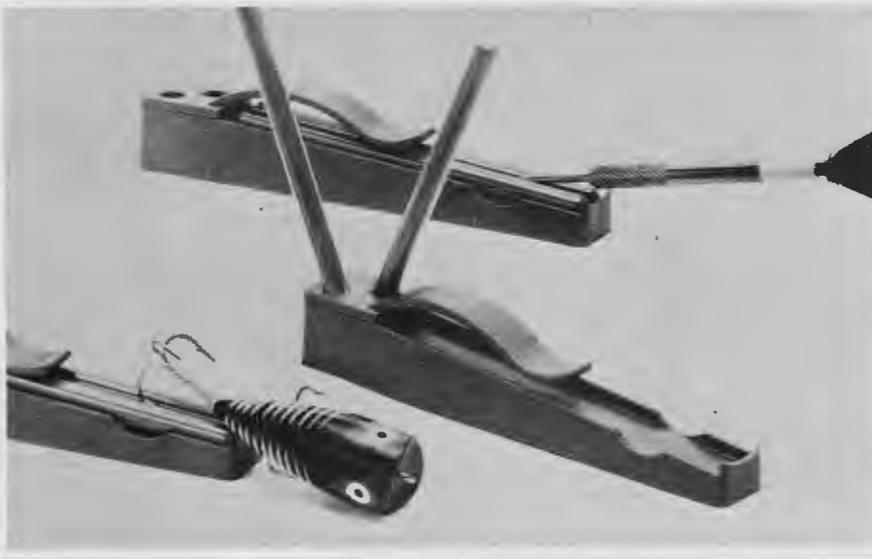


ANNUAL S.H.O.T. SHOW

SOF Attends Annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show

by Dana K. Drenkowski and N.E. MacDougald

San Francisco's Brooks Hall hosted this year's Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trade show. Last year's premier of the SHOT show in St. Louis hinted that it would soon supplant the older National Sporting Goods Association show. For those interested in weapons, it's the only place to be. Over 400 exhibitors showed their wares this year. Following are the products and processes that caught our collective eye.



Louis N. Graves Co., Inc., Dept. SOF, Box 308, Anoka, MN 44303, demonstrated its new Sports Crock Stick. The two four-inch by $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch ceramic rods fit in a $5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch impact plastic base that clips onto pocket or visor. Designed for bow hunters, backpackers, fishermen and survival kits, the new device will put a finishing edge on small blades or fish hooks. It is not intended to re-edge damaged blades. Price \$5.95.



Benchmark Knives, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 998, Gastonia, NC 28052, offers the Diamondback™ featuring Benchmark's exclusive Rolox System™. Standard model pictured with genuine India stag handles and leather sheath. Other models available with choice of Coco Bolo wood or Micarta handles. Rolox System™ does away with conventional folding mechanism. Instead the thumb slides the blade into position where it locks. Price ranges from \$75 to \$90.



Action Arms Ltd., Dept. SOF, 4567 Bermuda St., Philadelphia, PA 19124, displayed a new semi-auto version of the famous UZI submachine gun. We talked briefly with Uzi Gal, designer of this famous weapon and the Galil assault rifle. The new semi-auto model sports a 16-inch barrel to meet minimum-length standards

for the feds. Unlike the original, the new weapon fires from a closed bolt and uses a floating rather than a fixed firing pin. The receiver configuration is also different from the original so that basement tinkerers cannot convert it to automatic. The new UZI weighs 8½ pounds empty. Price: \$595.



Swarvoski Optik KG, distributed by *Strieter Corporation*, Dept. SOF, 2100 18th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201, displayed several rubber-armored fine optical systems. The 7x42 binoculars are the only *waterproof* centerfocus model avail-

able. They are engineered with reliefs for the thumbs and are thus comfortable, a major consideration when viewing for long periods. Priced at \$1,245, the optics are reputed to be as good or better than their German competitors, Zeiss and Leitz.



Also available is a rubber-armored spotting scope. The fully coated (Iralin®) 30x75 Habicht scope weighs 1.3 kilograms and measures 330mm when closed, 530mm open. Price: \$885.



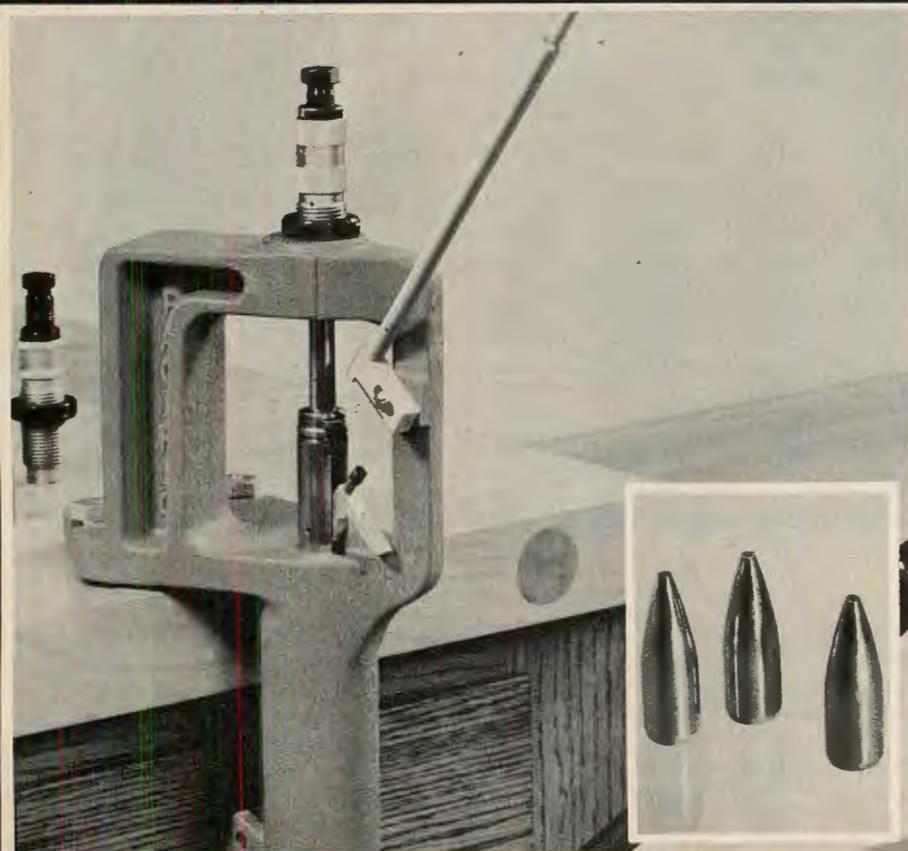
Beretta Arms Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2000, Ridgefield, CT 06877, announces their BM 62, a civilian version of their BM 59. Weighing 9¼ pounds, the

gas-operated weapon is basically a refitted M1. The BM 62 features a detachable 20-round box magazine, recoil pad, and is chambered for 7.62 NATO (.308 Win-

chester). Length of the carbine is 38.5 inches, price \$985 at time of publication.



Norma-Precision Ammunition Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 30-06, Ithaca, NY 14850, announced their new special Norma Magnum ammo. Norma reps stated that the new round delivers magnum velocities without accompanying high pressures. According to their figures, 38(+P) ammo from other manufacturers propels a 110-grain bullet 1,020 FPS, while the Norma 38 special Magnum will deliver 1,540 FPS with that projectile. Norma claims their new load is safe in any 38 special revolver. According to the manufacturer, their achievement stems from a technologically advanced powder. A 50-round box retails for \$24.85.



Pacific Tool Company (A division of Hornady), Dept. SOF, Box 2048, Grand Island, NE 68801, exhibited their new Positive Priming System. The automatic primer eliminates individual primer handling and reduces priming cycle time. One cycle moves the primer arm under the automatic primer feed, picks up a primer, moves it into the ram cavity and up into the die where it is seated. The new primer system comes with the new 0-7 reloading press and costs \$59.95.

Hornady exhibited its second offering in its series of 22 caliber match bullets. Designated as 52-grain BTHP, it is the first boat-tail design in the series. The manufacturer says it is ideally suited to both bench rest and long range varmint tasks. The bullet features an extremely small hollow point. Price not available.



Colt Firearms, Dept. SOF, 150 Huyshope Ave., Hartford, CT 06102, boasts new handguns. Both Python and Trooper Mk III feature new 8" barrels. The Python is chambered for either 38 special or .357 magnum, while the Troop-

er Mk III can be had in 22 LR, 22 magnum, 38 special, and .357 magnum (all models available in blue or nickel). These new barrel lengths and new calibers should please hunters looking for a high-quality DA revolver. Prices range from

\$295.95 to \$485, depending on model.

Colt's Custom Shop now offers an electroless nickel finish called Nitex, resembling stainless steel in appearance (see SOF, May 1979, page 63).





Wichita Engineering and Supply, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 11371, Wichita, KS 67211, displayed its new line of products. Wichita makes bench rest and silhouette rifles, silhouette pistols, barreled actions and a full line of accessories. (Shown is a checkered stock for Ruger's Mini-14 coming between Publisher Brown on right and Wichita President Nolan H. Jackson). Those interested in particularly corrosion-resistant weapons, will find the stainless steel 'Wichita Magnum rifles and pistols interesting. The Magnum rifle sells for \$1,750, the pistol's price on request.



Diamond Machine Technology, Inc., Dept. SOF, 34 Tower St., Hudson, MA 01749, premiered their Diamond Whetstone. DMT's sharpening substance contains minute diamond particles that sharpen quickly; water is used instead of oil. Diamond Whetstones come in four sizes, from approximately 1x3x1/4 to 3x8x1 and offer coarse and fine grits. Prices range from \$13 to \$60, including leather cases for the smaller sizes and wood for the larger.



Dan Wesson Arms, Inc., Dept. SOF, 293 Main St., Monson, MA 01057, (413) 267-4081, showed a prototype of their 44 magnum revolver. According to sales manager Fred Hill, the new wheelgun's action drops out the bottom like all Ruger DA revolvers. Like other Dan Wesson handguns, the gun will feature interchangeable barrels and shrouds. And a "gun-leveling" device will be built into the shroud that, according to Hill, will reduce muzzle whip. Lead bullets may tend to block the vents in the gun-leveling device, thus jacketed bullets are recommended. The gun will be available in about a year and will be priced competitively with other high-quality 44s.



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"Vienna Schmaltz," original painting by Wilson Scruggs

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CD



DELTA AMBUSH

NVA Trap Former Comrades

by Chris Doyle



TOP: South Vietnamese Regional Force soldier holds B-40 rocket captured on Hill 102 in Tri Ton District.
RIGHT: Chau Got served as Viet Cong assistant company commander before coming over. He was a scout leader in Tri Ton District in 1971.



IT was 3:00 a.m. on a sweltering night along a small nameless canal, deep in the Mekong Delta. The Cambodian border lay several kilometers away. A full moon highlighted the backdrop of ominous mountains, on which Viet Cong signal fires burned. These beacons served to guide North Vietnamese troops moving north from the Tram, to infiltrate the famous "Seven Mountains Region," as that part of the western Delta is known. *Nui Coto* (Superstition Mountain), most important of the "Seven Sisters," had been a communist stronghold since the days of the Viet Minh.

Currently, portions of three NVA regiments (95-A, 18-B and 101-D) occupied its slopes. A particularly heavy concentration of communist troops, along with a regimental headquarters, was entrenched on a rocky prominence known in local jargon as the "Rockpile." B-52s, napalm, artillery and air-dropped cluster bomb units (CBUs) had thus far failed to dislodge them.

Despite swarms of unrelenting mosquitoes and oppressive humidity, the five Kit Carson Scouts lying in ambush among the reeds lining the canal did not stir, but continued their silent vigil, awaiting the prey. Suddenly, without warning, it hove into view — a large sampan being poled swiftly through the darkness, moving so quietly it almost seemed to float above the water. As the craft entered the kill zone one of the scouts detonated a claymore, then another, and the rattle of small arms filled the night.

It was over as quickly as it had begun. Leaning to one side, the sampan drifted crazily, and one of its occupants floated face down in the murky water. Rising from the reeds, the scouts took up pre-assigned positions. One scout entered the water and brought the rapidly sinking sampan and the floating body to shore.

The sampan, liberally sprinkled with holes, contained three more bodies — North Vietnamese by their dress — and a hodge-podge of weapons: two AKs, a BAR, an SKS, a damaged M1 Garand and a 45 pistol. Other gear included sacks of rice, a ChiCom field telephone, clothing, field packs and a variety of documents.

The bodies were lined up along the canal bank and methodically searched, yielding more documents and a roll of blood-soaked piasters. The sampan was then filled with water and allowed to sink; the documents and piaster notes were tossed into a waiting sack.

Reassembling, the scouts shouldered the captured weapons and other booty and moved out single-file across the paddies. Later, when it was light, they would return to fingerprint and photograph the bodies, provided they had not been carried off in the interim by the enemy. A short march by an alternate route would bring the scouts back to the government outpost they had departed some eight hours earlier.



TALES OF THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS

by Chris Doyle

DURING a tour of duty in the Seven Mountains, known alternately as the "Seven Devils," American advisors gathered dozens of human-interest stories that — while certain never to make the front page — were nonetheless interesting in themselves, illustrating the war's unique and sometimes bizarre character.

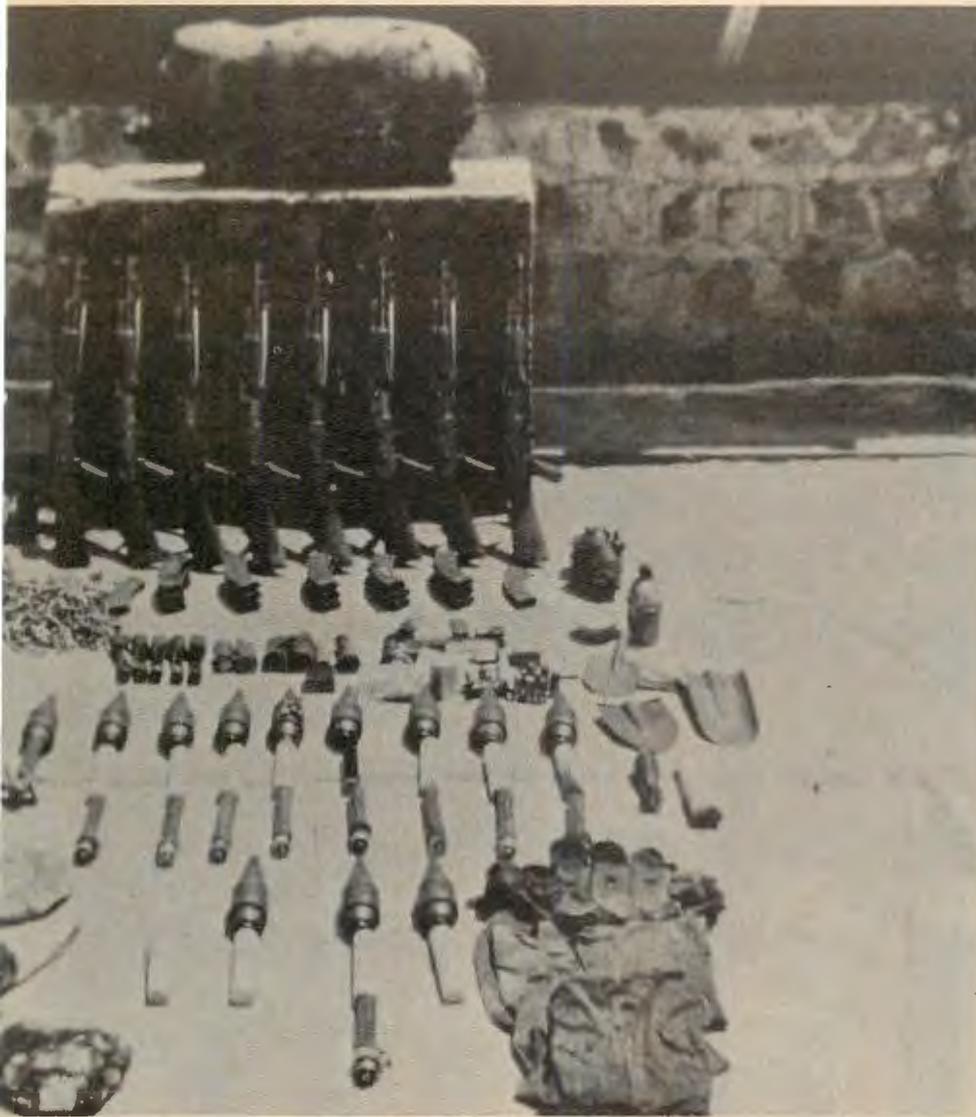
Once there were three Viet Cong who surrendered to an RF outpost near Olam, seeking amnesty under the provisions of the Chieu Hoi Program. They were turned over to local American advisors, interrogated, treated to a shower and a hot meal, then sent on to Chau Phu by chopper for indoctrination at the Chieu Hoi Center. A week later, while working in the kitchen, they were caught trying to introduce poison into the afternoon meal. During interrogation by ARVN field force

police, all three confessed to being "penetration agents."

A number of the RF companies in Tri Ton District were composed of tough ethnic Cambodians — "Khmer Kampouchia Kram," they called themselves — who had formerly been bandits until brought over to the government's side through the machinations of Special Forces in the early '60s. The KKK ate the livers of their enemies to gain strength, and on occasion would ask their American advisors to partake of the feast. Most declined.

One American Army captain who embraced the tenets of capitalism a little too enthusiastically was relieved of duty and court-martialed when it came to light he was involved in selling arms to Cambodians across the border. His sales included a .50-caliber and two M60 machine guns, and he had standing orders for as many more as he could supply.

A number of U.S. civilian organizations were represented in Chau Doc, and



ABOVE: Weapons, ordnance, field gear captured after Scouts ambushed column of 60 NVA, killing 14 (confirmed) in March 1971. LEFT: Chau Ut Le, second-in-command of Scouts, was killed under mysterious circumstances in August 1971 on outskirts of the district town.

one thin, wet-lipped young man who worked for International Voluntary Services gave every indication of being of the limp-wristed species. Later it transpired that his favorite pastime was going alone on night ambushes along the Cambodian border.

Chau Phu, the provincial capital, boasted a house of ill-repute known as the "Green Door," rumored to be the "best whorehouse west of Can Tho." While it was never on the same scale as the "Pink House" in Danang, the "Green Door" was enough of an attraction that troops in the outlying areas were always finding excuses to go into Chau Phu "on business."

Among the RF soldiers on Hill 102 was a wizened old character, minus several fingers, known as the "Mad Bomber." It was his job to construct and maintain the maze of defensive mines and boobytraps that surrounded his company's position. The American advisers always secretly prayed that his missing digits were not a

testimony to his skill at handling explosive ordnance. The "Mad Bomber's" son also came in for his share of notoriety — it was said that on one occasion the youngster had carried a grenade to school and tossed it through a classroom window, putting the schoolhouse out of commission for several weeks.

And finally, there is the tale of the NVA soldier who was captured and put on a chopper bound for the province's intelligence center to undergo interrogation. As the chopper approached the Chau Phu LZ at about 400 feet altitude the prisoner suddenly leaped from his seat and out the door, feet first. They found him in the paddies the next morning, up to his waist in mud and quite dead.

Quipped a Special Forces trooper nearby, "Damn finest stand-up landing I ever saw."



The majority of the Tri Ton Scouts had *chieu-hoied* (defected) after the disastrous 1968 Tet Offensive. Although the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese scored an international propaganda triumph with their Tet "victory," its hollowness was apparent to knowledgeable observers. Thousands of experienced guerrillas and veteran political cadres had been sacrificed — in vain — in an attempt to capture objectives that could only be held for very limited periods of time, if at all.

Likewise, a general uprising of the "oppressed" South Vietnamese populace — which Hanoi and the puppet National Liberation Front had grandly predicted — also failed to materialize. Now, Hanoi was forced to send thousands of replacements south, as fillers for decimated Viet Cong units. Regular North Vietnamese units were also sent, to bolster the fighting spirit of the surviving Viet Cong. In the spring of 1969 the first North Vietnamese army units made their appearance in the delta, previously an all-Viet Cong show. Their mission was to attempt to wrest back territory which had passed to Free World military forces in the aftermath of the Tet "victory."

Scout Leaders

In late 1968 the first contingent of Kit Carson Scouts in Tri Ton District was organized, under the operational control of a U.S. Army captain. He was also responsible for their rations, weapons and pay. The scouts were first tasked with gathering intelligence and conducting ambushes; on occasion they also led forays on *Nui Coto*. They continued functioning within this framework until June 1969, when their captain was replaced by a young, aggressive second lieutenant fresh from the Intelligence School at Fort Holabird, Md.

This new commander set about reorganizing the scouts and over a period of 18 months increased their number from nine to 16. Their mission and their effectiveness were increased to include joint ambushes with district Regional and Popular Force units, Eagle Flight strikes, and operations with the National Police Field Force. When required, the scouts acted as guides or advance elements for such units as ARVN Rangers, Special Forces CIDG and the Mobile Riverine Force. They were also charged with setting up and maintaining agent networks among the local populace.

Phoenix Action Arm

Eventually, together with the local provincial reconnaissance unit, the Kit Carson Scouts became the action arm of the Phung Hoang (Phoenix) Program within Tri Ton District. On an "as-needed" basis, the scouts also provided assistance and training to People's Self-Defense Forces throughout the district.

After some well-deserved sleep they would be picked up by truck and returned to the sub-sector compound, where they would brief the U.S. military intelligence officer who served as their control. The scouts were sure he would be pleased — the month was not yet half over and this was their second successful ambush. They might even receive another bonus!

Kit Carson Scouts

These dark-skinned troopers in camouflage utilities and black baseball sneakers were part of the contingent of Kit Carson Scouts from Tri Ton District, in the province of Chau Doc — the very heart of the well-known and much feared “Seven Mountains Region.” All were of Cambodian extraction and, as required by the Kit Carson Scout Program, were former members of the Viet Cong who had defected to the South Vietnamese government under the auspices of the Chieu Hoi, or Open Arms Program. Following security checks and political indoctrination at a Chieu Hoi Center, they had all volunteered for the Kit Carson Scout Program.

Since scouts were usually employed in their native areas, where it was correctly judged they would be most effective, this usually meant they would be up against their former comrades-in-arms. If captured, they could look forward to a slow, lingering death at the hands of the Viet Cong. The local District Party Committee had already sentenced all of the Tri Ton scouts to death in absentia, for “betraying” the communist cause.

In their years of communist service, several scouts had risen to relatively prominent positions in the Viet Cong ranks. Chau Got, scout leader, had previously been the assistant company commander of C-804, the local district force company. Another scout, Chau ut Le, had served with the insurgents since the days of the Viet Minh, and was a well-known figure throughout the district. A third, Chau Krech — dubbed “Smiley” by the American advisers — had been the leader of a Viet Cong mortar platoon. All had switched sides after realizing that the communist cause was bankrupt — that nationalists and others who clamored for reform were only being used to further the aims of the Lao Dong hierarchy in Hanoi.

By their constant interdiction of enemy patrols and supplies, the scouts by early 1970 had become the proverbial thorn in the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese paw, which tried several times to “ambush the ambushers.” On one occasion approximately 60 enemy troops, with a 60mm mortar and a .51-caliber machine gun, waited in the vicinity of several recent scout contacts for three nights, determined to eliminate their adversaries. The scouts, forewarned through their local intelligence network, meticulously avoided the area.

On another occasion, during a daylight exchange of gunfire in the abandoned hamlet of Kok Khvao, the scouts’ control (newly promoted to first lieutenant) succeeded in wounding one of the local district party committee members, grazing his cheek with an M16 round and laying it open to the bone. The wounded insurgent managed to escape, but seemed to take this as a personal affront. Several days

later, while conducting a proselytizing session in a small hamlet near Olam, he thoroughly denounced the American officer and his band of “renegades” to the assembled crowd in no uncertain terms. His bandaged cheek added emphasis to his speech.

Still later, enemy documents were captured which mentioned some of the scouts’ exploits and promised a substan-



tial reward for their elimination, in whole or in part. There were no takers.

Throughout 1970 the scouts continued to function in a manner all out of proportion to their number. They constantly preyed on the enemy, ambushing couriers, interrupting resupply missions and forcing members of the infrastructure to surface. On several occasions they were singled out for praise by the late John Paul Vann, top

U.S. advisor in the IV Corps Military Region and a frequent visitor to Tri Ton (See SOF, Jan., Feb. '80).

In the latter half of 1970 the scouts began working with the ARVN 9th Division and related units, then attempting to reduce the communist presence in the Seven Mountains. In the campaign's early days, the scouts led two battalions up the slopes of Nui Coto. Later, they moved to

Tuk Chup Knoll (the "Rockpile"), the mountain's southwestern extremity and the main focus of enemy resistance.

In December 1970, the scouts received a new control, every bit as adept as his predecessor. Enemy troops were now fleeing Nui Coto in large numbers, attempting to reach the neighboring mountains of Nui Cam and Nui Giai.

Ambush!

In early 1971, assisted by four U.S. advisers, the scouts ambushed a column of approximately 60 NVA. Spotting the enemy's approach through a Starlight Scope, the scouts deployed and took up positions. After detonating claymores, they took part in a heavy firefight. Dawn's first light revealed 14 NVA bodies and numerous blood trails. A considerable quantity of weapons, equipment and field gear was also left behind by the enemy. This engagement proved to be the scouts' largest single kill. There were no friendly casualties.

By the summer of 1972, the U.S. ground combat role in the Republic of Vietnam was rapidly drawing to a close, and the Kit Carson Scout contingent in Tri Ton District was phased out. A few of the scouts opted to cross the border into Cambodia, where they joined the army of the Khmer Republic. Those who chose to remain behind in Tri Ton were integrated into local district forces and organized into a Special Reconnaissance Platoon.

First assigned to Salon Hamlet, at the base of Hill 102, they were to secure the immediate area and prevent the enemy from collecting taxes and food and indoctrinating local inhabitants. Within a few days of arrival, they endeared themselves to the locals by conducting a successful ambush which netted several enemy KIAs. Weapons and documents were also recovered.

Death and Destruction

By employing the enemy's own tactics against him, the Tri Ton scouts succeeded in turning the canals and byways of the "Seven Mountains Region" into a labyrinth of death and destruction for small units of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. In their 3½ years of operation, from late 1968 to mid-1972, the scouts ran up a score of over 100 confirmed enemy killed, plus a sizable list of probables. These figures are all the more significant when one considers that many of the enemy casualties were important individuals: couriers, party committee members, cadres and the like, who were not easily replaceable. Kit Carson Scout casualties for the same period amounted to two killed and four wounded. That is combat effectiveness!



LEFT: Scouts Chau Con, Chau Ut Le, Chau Ray, Chau Got and "Smiley" during period they worked with ARVN 9th Division. RIGHT: Author during March 1970 operation in An Tuc.

LEFT: Scouts Chau Ut Le, "Smiley" and Chau Ray during cave-clearing operations on Nui Coto in fall 1970. BELOW: Ethnic Cambodians work with allied units. Man at right holds fully automatic, chopped-down M2 carbine.





LETHAL LIGHT WEIGHTS

New Squad Automatic Weapon Is Lighter, Has Interchangeable Ammo

by Tom Wilkinson



Author Tom Wilkinson, former Green Beret, holds the H&K XM248.

AS an end user, I say: "It's about time."

I'm talking about the U.S. military's decision to develop a Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) that: 1. has more firepower than the standard infantry rifle; 2. has less bulk and weight than standard squad or company machine guns; 3. can be operated by one man dependably.

It must be capable of sustained, accurate, automatic fire, have quick-change barrels and be loaded from linked belts or assault packs. In view of my knowledge of the present system, I will add that it must be capable of accepting magazines from the standard M16 rifle with no adaptation. This, I feel, is a strong requirement, as the SAW should be the same caliber as the standard infantry weapon. If a machine-gunner — and that could be you — runs out of belted ammo, a rifleman could throw him a 30-round magazine from his M16 to keep him working.

A SAW must be light. I know some of us walked from one end of Korea or Viet-



ABOVE: SAW Experimental Model XM262, made by Heckler & Koch, West Germany, has cyclic rate of fire of 900 rpm. It is belt fed, belt driven by sprockets, has roller locked, retarded blowback action system, barrel length with flash suppressor of 482mm, weighs 7.69 kg without ammunition, but with accessories; overall length of one meter. **BELOW:** Ford Aerospace and Communications Corp. of the U.S. produced this XM248 as its candidate for new SAW. It has cyclic rate of fire of 500 rpm, is belt fed with rotary drive and operates through dual gas system with three-lug rotating bolt. Barrel length with flash suppressor is 609mm. It weighs with accessories but without ammo 6.5 kg, has overall length of one meter.





ABOVE: Experimental SAW (XM249), made by Fabrique Nationale, Belgium (familiar to many SOF readers), has cyclic rate of fire varying from 700 to 1,100 rpm. Fed by box magazine, it is operated by single gas system with two-lug rotating bolt; has barrel length with flash suppressor of 523mm, weighs with accessories and without ammunition 6.5 kg. Overall length is one meter. **BELOW:** U.S. Army, courtesy of Ballistics Research Laboratory, Aberdeen, Md., has its own candidate for new SAW, XM106 — cyclic rate of fire 750 rpm, weighs with accessories, but without ammo, 4.8 kg. Gun is fed through standard M16 A1 rifle magazines or by three-box (Tri-Mag) assemblies. Its operation/locking mechanism is rotating bolt with eight lugs. Barrel length with flash suppressor is 546mm, overall length one meter. Like all other hopefuls, it fires 5.56mm ammo.





Griswold range assault course — note lack of recall in full automatic fire (XM248). This is true of all the SAW candidates.



H&K XM262 — this weapon fires both semi and full automatic. Was the heaviest of all the SAW candidates.

nam to the other, humping our standard — and heavy — MGs of the time — but you who did it can't tell me you wouldn't have liked them to have been lighter.

Simple to operate.

A SAW must be simple to operate and to keep operating. How much training does it take to make a soldier proficient in operation and maintenance? A SAW should not require head spacing, timing, complex take-down or assembly.

Then we add weight distribution and balance, the sight picture and how the weapon feels in the assault position.

Will it jam when dirty? How easy is it to clear when jammed? Can it be taken in the

bush without front sights, carrying handles and barrel latches snagging? Can it go for days on end, be taken across rivers and dropped in dirt or mud? Will it do this without cleaning or oiling and still fire? If it can't, it will get you killed. I know training and field manuals say clean every so many hours or so many rounds fired but these manuals are written for more ideal times.

These are some of the considerations we kicked around regarding the Squad Automatic Weapon. Now it seems the military has asked the same basic questions.

In case I don't always make it clear, I call two entirely different groups of people "the military": one, the policy makers, the *career* people, who use

regulations not as guidelines but as reasons why one can't do something. Then you have the *pros*, who must try to function, train and survive under these self-perpetuating, paper-pushing SOBs (the Wilber Js of the world). In this case, even the paper tigers have put aside personal ambitions and gotten behind a new weapon system — the Squad Automatic Weapon.

Military Tests.

The SAW project has taken me from Aberdeen, Md., to Fort Benning, Ga. Aberdeen heads the technical or purely functional tests. User tests are conducted at Griswold Range, Fort Benning. Gris-

wold Range is a story in itself. The computerized range has moving single targets and moving area targets at ranges of approximately 30 to 1,000 meters. The computer not only records hits but tells one what gun fired on which target.

Maj. Robert Weise, a SAW project test officer from the Small Arms Test Division at Fort Benning, is professional and genuinely interested in the program. His support personnel put in long hours. Of these men, NCOIC Sgt. Sam Whitt and PFC John Spell do more than just their jobs, and I'm not that easy to impress.

Approximately 30 soldiers fire the SAWs for test purposes. They are rotated from gun to gun to insure all weapons get a fair evaluation. Not all test gunners take the interest that PFC Spell does. Some fire just to burn up the ammo and go lay on their ass. But rotation of personnel insures that good gunners fire all weapons.

Testing Scenario.

The scenario calls for the guns to be fired from a foxhole, in a prone position on the big range. Gunners then move to the assault range where they fire from various positions on wooded trails at pop-up targets. Tests are fired day and night, rain or shine, hot or cold. Weapons are not cleaned until so many rounds have been fired through them in order to check functioning under adverse conditions.

Throughout these tests, logs are kept on each weapon (by serial number) on barrel changes, accuracy, jams, misfires and anything else that might affect performance.

XM106

The four weapons being tested are:

The XM106 — a much-modified M16 rifle. It has a heavy, quick-change barrel, heavier bipod and longer sight radius. It fires from the open-bolt position. It does not fire from a belt, but from three 30-round magazines, pop-riveted together with spacers for quick change. These M16s were modified to M106 configuration by BRL, Aberdeen, Md.

XM248

This basic system has been around for some time and is an in-house development. The weapon was initially developed by Rodman Labs in contention with two other commercially designed systems. (Although in the 1966 small-arms study the other two weapons tested out better, the Rodman was selected.) The gun was given the OK because it has "unique and novel design features" — but so did the Edsel.

The weapon was given to Ford Aerospace and Communications Corp., Aeronautics Div., for further work. Ford has brought it to its present state of devel-

opment. The XM248 fires from an open bolt. It has a dual-rod, dual-gas system with a rotary feed assembly on one of the rods and a quick-change barrel.

XM262

The XM262 has the dubious distinction of being the heaviest of the four candidates at 7.69 kilograms, over one kilogram heavier than its closest rival. The gun fires from the closed bolt, has a quick-change barrel and sprocket drive-feed mechanism. It can be fired semi or full automatic. The XM262 is produced by Heckler & Koch of Germany.

XM249

The XM249 fires from an open bolt, has a quick-change barrel and a variable rate of fire — 750 to 1,000 rounds per minute. (Fire is varied by switching the amount of gas pressure fed back into the operating system.)

The weapon has a very simple take-down and operating system. The MINIMI has another desirable feature in that it can be fed from a disintegrating belt or from standard M16 30-round box magazines with no changes. Produced by Fabrique Nationale of Belgium, this weapon is currently used by some European armies.

The tests at Fort Benning are fair, realistic and demanding. If it rains on Wednesday, all four SAWs fire the same scenario, so that all are fired under the same conditions.

The SAW project is long overdue and with government bureaucracy the way it is, it will take longer but at least it's on the way.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

When the Air Force wanted a human shooting machine who also had an intense technical knowledge of military firearms to help test 9mm pistols as a possible replacement for the service 45s and 38s, it sent for Tom Wilkinson (See "Shootout: 9mm vs 45," SOF, February '80). Wilkinson is a former Green Beret in Vietnam and after his Army hitch there, returned as a "contract civilian" for the Army, doing things he still can't or won't talk about. He is also an acknowledged authority on automatic weapons. SOF sent him to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., to take part in the selection of a new Squad Automatic Weapon and the fact that the U.S. military accepted him is testimonial to his weapons expertise. —Bob Poos

REGISTER TO VOTE
REGISTER TO VOTE

GUNS FOR GALS

Self-Defense Weapons for Women

by Bill Carpenter



THE time is around 3 a.m.; the place, anywhere. As we all know, there is no neighborhood in our society today free of crime. You hear a strange noise outside your home; then the door knob begins to slowly turn back and forth. What do you do? You call your local law enforcement agency and report the trouble.

The police dispatcher is polite and asks you for the facts: name, address, nature of problem, etc. He then tells you that due to layoffs in the department because of loss of federal or state funds, all units are tied up on other calls. He assures you that as soon as he has an available unit, he will dispatch it to your home.

When the police finally arrive, you probably know nothing of it, because you are raped, kidnapped, dead or beaten badly. It sounds frightening, doesn't it? However, it happens every day all across the U.S.A. I know what I'm talking about; I am a veteran police officer.

When lives are at stake, you can do impossible things.

But there is an answer to this problem. It is called home defense. I know a lot of women say: "I'm afraid to have a gun around the house," or "I could never shoot one." Let me tell you something, ladies. When your life or the lives of members of your family are at stake, you can do things you never thought possible.

I know in many cases the man of the house must be away from home due to work, etc. He probably will run down to the local gun shop, whip out \$50 and buy a cheap .25-caliber automatic and take it home to the little lady. He shows her how it works, loads the magazine and tells her to put it in the nightstand, where it may remain for years without her ever firing it. If you are one of these men, you can do more for her by investing in a cemetery

plot, because this is where she will end up should she ever need to use the weapon. In most cases, the gun lacks the stopping power to bring down an advancing felon. No matter which weapon is chosen, make sure she knows how to use it and practices with it as often as possible.

Now there is the other extreme — a 44 magnum for home protection. This is usually too much gun for most ladies to handle. People frequently don't hit where they aim on the first shot and the gun's jumping out of one's hand renders it useless. However, if this is the gun chosen, I suggest a cast bullet in a reduced 44 magnum load. If one lives in an apartment complex, the hazards of using a large, powerful handgun must be considered. A round from a gun going through walls may cause injury or death with the end result a nasty lawsuit.

Well, what now? There are many different makes, types and calibers of guns



**End result:
happy young
lady who
has just
discovered it
is not as hard
as it looks.
Target was
shot with
Colt Gold
Cup 45 auto
from 30
yards.
Demonstrator
had never
fired any type
of firearm
prior to these
photographs.**

and different loads of ammunition for each. A person should select a handgun on the basis of several different things: How much can one afford to spend? Will it be used not only as a home defense weapon, but also for hunting small or large game? Some states permit the carrying of a concealed weapon, but one would hardly choose a Model 29 with an 8-3/8-inch barrel for concealment. In all cases, check first what local and state laws are in regard to possession, transportation, etc., of a handgun.

Some states have ridiculous laws, such as one can shoot in self-defense only if the intruder states he intends physical harm. I'm a firm believer in the saying, "I would much rather be tried by 12 of my peers than have six of them as pallbearers."

I know all too often a lady will be taken hostage because a robber or rapist will tell her if she doesn't cause any trouble, then she won't be hurt. She believes this and her decomposed body is found a couple of weeks later in the trunk of a stolen car. I do not advise anyone to try and play the role of hero; this can also get one killed. I say that if one has the element of surprise and the means to resist a felon's attack, do so.

When purchasing a handgun, check with the local police department. Some departments have a course where ladies are taught how to shoot. If the local police department does not offer these services, a gun dealer can usually refer one to a gun club or to someone with the knowledge to teach safe gun handling. However, I assume that most men who read SOF will be able to teach the ladies what they need to know.

A lot of people will keep a 22-caliber pistol for home protection. A 22 is a dead-

ly weapon in the hands of an experienced shooter who has time to aim for a head shot or other vital area. However, in a home situation one may be shooting in semi- or total darkness and at close range, or in a difficult position, and in most cases the 22 is just not enough gun.

I would not choose anything less than a 9mm and then I would use super-vel ammo or reloads of 115-grain JHP or JSP. I myself prefer, and I'm sure many SOF readers will choose, the 45 automatic with

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Carpenter is a combat veteran of Vietnam, 1966-67. He served tours of duty with the 101st Airborne Div., the 82nd Airborne Div. and Special Forces. A police officer with the Brilliant, Ohio, Police Department for eight years, he declares, "I'm alive to write this article because I was wearing an armored vest that stopped a sniper's bullet that hit me in the chest one year ago. I know only too well what a mean, ugly world our society is today."

Carpenter also serves as training adviser to Sheriff Richard Ferguson, Brooke County, W.Va., Sheriff's Department, in SWAT team training, teaching team members rappelling, sniper team training, etc.

An SOF reader since the first issue, Carpenter says, "I look forward each month to receiving my SOF subscription. It's the best magazine on the market today. Each issue is full of articles of interest and adventure. I have also found many interesting, useful articles in regards to my profession."

—M.L. Jones

super-vel JHP ammo as the ultimate defensive handgun for the home.

There are many different makes and sizes of handguns on the market today. I personally own a 45 Colt Gold Cup national match. As an off-duty weapon, I carry a 45-caliber Star P.D. imported by Interarms. I find both of these excellent 45 automatics, and they have no trouble handling any type of 45 ammo on the market. The thing to remember, no matter what type of handgun chosen — automatic or revolver — if there are children around the house, make sure the gun is securely out of their reach.

I am sure that many wonder about an article on women appearing in SOF. Not many women read the magazine, but for men who do, why not take time to teach your lady how to defend herself? The day may come that you're not there and this knowledge may save her life. I have people who ask me about using shot-shell loads for handguns. These may work fine on rats or snakes, but I would not want to count on them to save my life.

What about shotguns?

People will also ask about using a shotgun. A shotgun is an excellent and deadly weapon at close range, but a 12 gauge may be too much gun for most women to handle. It could quite possibly be too hard to bring into action in close quarters.

Some good examples of women who are alive today because they knew how to defend themselves with a firearm are printed each month in *American Rifleman* magazine, in the armed citizen column. These individuals prevented injury or death to themselves or their families, because they had the armed means to resist an attack.

As I stated before, whichever weapon is chosen for home defense, be sure how it works, what to do in case of a misfire, and most important — learn to shoot it well.

Crime control not gun control.

A big step towards getting the scum off our streets is to vote out of office elected officials who advocate gun control. We could also do without judges and prosecuting attorneys who let repeated offenders go free or serve very light sentences. The answer is crime control, not gun control.

Always remember — it is better to have a firearm and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATOR

THE demonstrator I chose to use in this article is an attractive young schoolteacher from Wheeling, W.Va. She is currently working on her master's degree in English education.

Continued on page 86

South African Sends Scores of Cubans to the Big Cigar Factory in the Sky

RSA'S CUBAN KILLER

by Bob Poos

Editor's Note:

The following interview, an SOF exclusive, was obtained by Managing Editor Bob Poos during his recent trip to southern Africa. The young South African Armored Corps officer who blew away more than 70 Cuban mercenaries one wild, rainy afternoon in Angola had heretofore refused to meet with newsmen, the only previous account of his adventure being a quotation from his citation for heroism that was printed in a small South African publication. However, the officer agreed to talk to Poos and Africa Editor Al J. Venter largely because SOF is among the American publications most respected in South Africa.

IT would be difficult to convince Lou Van Vuuren that a 9mm pistol is not an adequate sidearm. You see, he killed 11 Cuban soldiers with one on a rainy afternoon in Angola.

At the time, Van Vuuren was a lieutenant (pronounced "leftenant") in the South African Army Armored Corps. He is now a captain and an instructor at the Armored School near Blomfontien.

And those 11 weren't the only Cubans that Van Vuuren, his Eland armored car and its armament disposed of that day. He sent 60 others to that Big Cigar Factory in the Sky in batches of about 30 with the Eland's 90mm gun.

During Operation Foxbat in 1975, the South African Armored Corps slashed into Angola in support of UNITA forces fighting the shaky new Marxist MPLA government. (The South Africans were at the very gates of Angola's capital, Luanda, when a massive Russian airlift of arms, including Soviet-piloted fighter-bombers, and 25,000 Cuban troops turned the tide against UNITA and its South African supporters.)

However, the Cubans had to pay a heavy price for their intrusion into Africa

and Lou Van Vuuren personally made them aware of how costly African adventures could be. He created a lot of widows that blustery, rainy day near the town of Kibula.

At the time, Van Vuuren was a busy young man. A second lieutenant, he commanded his own Eland and a troop of two others — and served as loader for his own 90mm gun.

The South Africans had just made a river crossing at "Bridge 14," a famous landmark in South African army lore, and learned that a buildup of some two battalions of enemy infantry confronted them.

Van Vuuren describes his first clash with the Cubans:

"We had deployed about five kilometers into the bush past the bridge when

I got a radio message asking if I knew of any friendly white infantry approaching from my rear. I didn't know of any. In fact, I was sure there were none, so I figured it must be Cubans. We had encountered them before. They fight a little better than the Angolans — but not much. They're always high on *dacca* [marijuana]. The dead we examined and the prisoners we captured had *dacca* on them.

"At any rate, my troop of three Elands had relieved a troop of five. We were told that there was some enemy, including tanks, approaching. I moved the vehicle to the top of a hill where we had good visibility and located a number of targets. [Enemy small arms fire knocked out the Eland's two 7.62 Browning machine guns.]

Continued on page 75

Lou Van Vuuren, then a lieutenant troop commander, is shown with his Eland armored car shortly after his hairy encounter with about 100 Cuban mercenaries in Angola. OPPOSITE PAGE: Van Vuuren in photo taken recently at entrance of South African Armored School in Blomfontien.





HANDY BUT HIDDEN

Action
Cameras
Cheap,
light and
in-
con-
spicuous
full-
frame
35mm
cameras
may be
just right
for you.

by Daryl Tucker





OPPOSITE PAGE: Compact camera can fit in ammunition pouch, protected and out of the way. **TOP:** Close-up of Rollei XF-35, largest compact evaluated, **MIDDLE:** Olympus XA with its case pulled apart, ready for use. **ABOVE:** Olympus XA with flash attached.

WHILE in Rhodesia in 1978, I watched as a security officer, who had been in Mike Hoare's Five Commando, took a small camera out of a magazine pouch and photographed the savannah landscape of thorn trees, *kopjes* (granite outcrops) and dry grass for a souvenir.

He then slipped the camera back — protected, out of the way and inconspicuous.

Ah so.

For two years in Vietnam, a stint in Cambodia where I had freelanced for the Associated Press, and then in Rhodesia, I had staggered around with one to three heavy cameras hanging from my skinny neck.

But here was a camera that could fit in a marsupial pouch, yet light enough so one did not list to port.

It was a Rollei 35 S or T series full-frame 35mm camera with a lens that collapsed into the body like the old 50mm Elmar for the Leica. It had a built-in light meter, but lacked exposure automation. Although its viewfinder did not have a rangefinder focusing mechanism, it was still a useful camera, and it started me thinking about the possibilities of pocketable cameras capable of serious work.

A camera is a useful tool in military missions and police work. Crime-scene photography, evidence documentation and surveillance photography have been a part of law enforcement for many years.

A compact camera is especially useful in military intelligence, particularly when bulk and weight are considerations. Photographic documentation provides more information and better confirmation than purely verbal means. The imagery is also easily reproduced as many times as necessary for dissemination and interpretation. A recon unit equipped with a camera can increase its information-gathering capability several times.

A 35mm camera used from the air is very effective. During my first tour in Vietnam (1967-68) I worked with another enlisted man in developing a system of low-altitude aerial photography using 35mm cameras. Such a camera, used around 1,200 feet or lower from a spotter plane or Huey, can provide information unobtainable from conventional film shot at 10,000 feet.

I once photographed Viet Cong carrying 122mm rockets in stretchers and hiding them in a high paddy wall about six miles south of Da Nang. Prints were quickly made and annotated. Subsequent airstrikes by Phantom F-4s produced eight secondary explosions. Although mere visual observation could not determine exactly what was going on, it became obvious on an 8-by-10 print that was easily interpreted without specialized training. The only additional expense involved was a roll of film and some prints. The cameras, focused at infinity, did not require great expertise. The idea was sim-

COMBAT CAMERA

BY Galen L. Geer



WHILE planning a future overseas assignment I had to consider several camera problems. They included: the terrain, which will range from high mountains in the winter to Asian jungle; lack of any facilities for repair or replacement of equipment; portability — everything would have to be carried on my back along with survival gear and other equipment. For that last reason I did not want to duplicate any of my equipment. I wanted a spare camera that would give me some versatility.

Because I have used a wide assortment of photographic equipment in the field under some extreme conditions, I have a good working knowledge of most camera systems. Several of the cameras Daryl Tucker covers in his article, "Handy but Hidden," I've used in the field and I support his article completely. However, my set of problems demanded more than what Tucker writes about.

One of my major hurdles was the addition of a flash unit. A flash unit of some type is essential on any photographic-writing assignment. Granted, you will not use it in the field (I've seen more than one military photographer pop off a flash unit at the wrong time). However, you may need it for those photos where pushed film will not work. The flash is also its own problem. It means extra bulk to carry, must be attached or removed from the camera and the camera has to be set for the flash. That takes time. In short, the only thing a flash has going for it in the field is when it is in use — the rest of the time it is a pain in the ass.

Realizing I intended to do some indoor work in very poor light, I began searching for a compact 35mm camera with a built-in flash. I settled on what I call a "cocktails and tea" camera — the Vivitar 35EF. I was attracted to the camera by its size (5¼x3¼x2 inches). Also the camera is a rangefinder with a 38mm F/2.8 lens. The focus ring uses figures rather than f/stops and is easy to adjust. The exposure system is automatic (good for snap 'n' run shots) and it can handle films up to ASA 400. A self-timer is mounted on the front although I seldom use one. The flash itself pops up for quick use, then can be pressed back into place for storage.

While the camera lacks all of the accoutrements of the more "professional" and "stylish" 35mms used by the accepted pros (who come, in a lot of cases, equipped with two cameras, four lenses and a self-styled swagger), my little "stand-by" 35mm is going to get a rough workout in the next few weeks. I am confident in it.

ply to get as close as possible and fire away — the camera that is.

It was found that the best combination was one camera with a 35mm to 50mm lens for an overall view, including terrain features, to aid in six-digit coordinate location of the area of interest, plus another camera with a 200mm lens for detail.

Tri-X (ASA 400 black and white) proved the most versatile film for varying light conditions and the 1/1000-sec. shutter speed used (to eliminate lack of sharpness caused by aircraft speed and vibration).

Many missions were flown to document communist road construction, anti-aircraft positions, bunkers, personnel and their activities, bomb damage assessment and targets of opportunity.

Since a spotter plane will often carry an observer, at least a compact camera should be standard equipment.

Compact Camera: Inconspicuous.

A compact camera can be useful in situations where discretion is the better part of valor, since it can be carried unobtrusively until ready for use. Even when observed, one can pass more easily for a tourist when using an amateurish-looking camera. A pair of cameras dangling from the neck tend to identify one as a journalist, an identity not always desired.

Some groups of people, like soldiers, do not regard journalists highly and may

have had bad experiences before with writers whose editorial point of view predetermines their writing. A low-key approach can usually win people over, and after acceptance a small camera can then be dug out of pocket. Most of us want our story told — but truthfully.

I had to be careful not to look like a paparazzi around security officers in Rhodesia. They weren't movie stars or politicians and didn't need publicity.

Several ranchers in Rhodesia told me of experiences they had had with dishonest European journalists. I decided to prove myself as a security officer before doing any writing or photography. As it turned out, I was so busy training my guards and patrolling there wasn't any time or energy for anything else.

My advice to readers, who might have an opportunity to do an SOF story, is to present a low-key appearance in a situation where too many cameras and tape recorders could make people paranoid. A compact camera could be helpful, as could one of the cigarette-pack-sized tape recorders now available.

Rollei XF-35

After I returned to the States, I started looking for a good, pocketable camera. I didn't find exactly what I wanted, but the Rollei XF-35 came close. It is much smaller than most 35mm cameras — 4-3/8 inches long, and 2¼ inches wide — and can fit into a fatigue shirt pocket or a magazine pouch. At 13¼ ounces it is fairly light.

The Rollei has a rangefinder for accurate focusing. I decided I liked precision focusing too much to do without it, although it isn't always necessary for subjects at a distance from the camera.

The compact 35s have viewfinders and sometimes superimposed rangefinders rather than single lens reflex (SLR) viewing. Pentaxes and Nikons are examples of SLR through-the-lens viewing.

Unfortunately, the Rollei doesn't have a zone focusing scale, which is handy for prefocusing a camera. On most lenses, f/stop calibrations on both sides of the distance index indicate depth of field range. Depth of field is the area of acceptable sharpness at a given aperture. Zone focusing allows the use of maximum depth of field.

For example, if you are photographing terrain and focus a 50mm lens at infinity (the lazy 8 symbol on the lens scale) with the aperture set at f/11 (a small aperture), depth of field will range from 22 feet to infinity. However, if the lens is focused at 25 feet, depth of field stretches from 11 feet to infinity.

Depth of field decreases at larger apertures. At f/2, depth of field is from 173 feet to infinity with the lens focused at infinity. When the lens is focused at 12 feet,

at $f/2$, the zone in focus is from 11 feet to 13 feet, not much, unless you want to throw the background out of focus to isolate the subject. At $f/11$, still focused at 12 feet, the range is $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet to 25 feet; at $f/16$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $51\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

As you can see, a lens can be prefocused to provide the greatest depth of field, so no time is lost fiddling around. Some subjects and events don't wait around for you. While working as a combat photographer I usually had my camera zone focused at 10 feet. Even when disoriented by close incoming rounds I could still get sharply focused photos.

Shutter speeds.

Since the Rollei's shutter speeds and apertures are coupled, a fast (ASA 400) film will allow the greatest depth of field under different lighting conditions.

The Rollei does not have shutter speeds longer than $1/30$ of a second, which limits it to hand-held use (as opposed to long exposures with the camera mounted on a tripod) in conditions of sufficient light for its slowest shutter speed and maximum lens aperture — but that takes in a lot of situations such as office lighting and after sunset in the bush.

It does have a B setting, which means the shutter will remain open as long as the shutter release is depressed, preferably by a cable release.

The shutter release is about half an inch long, which softens finger pressure, minimizing lack of image sharpness caused by shaky hands at slower shutter speeds. You have to be careful of camera movement at $1/60$ sec. or slower.

The between-the-lens leaf shutter makes a quiet "click," less obtrusive than the k-thwack! of an SLR's focal plane shutter.

When the light is really poor, as in a dimly lighted bar, and you want to photograph your well-lit, but not necessarily illuminated buddies, a flash is necessary.

An inexpensive, non-automated flash is all you need, because of the Rollei's flash system. On the bottom of the lens barrel are several settings.

Normal setting is "A," for automatic exposure. For flash, a ring is turned and set to the guide number of the film/flash combination. For a small flash like my Vivitar 125, and Kodachrome 64 (slide film), the guide number would be determined by the aperture that would be used at 10 feet — $f/4.5$ — multiplied by 10 (feet), or 45. Just set the ring at 45, turn on the flash, focus carefully, and fire away.

With the camera thus set, evidently the rangefinder couples with the aperture for correct flash exposure where the camera is focused. Also, at the guide number 45 setting the focusing ring is locked between four and 15 feet. A guide number of 110 restricts focusing between five and 15 feet. The lower the guide number, the more useful the range. Clever, those Germans.

Be sure to move the ring back to "A" when the flash is not in use.

The Rollei XF-35 has a self-timer but the one on my camera has fallen off twice, the second time lost forever.

If the shutter release is depressed slightly, the exposure (as indicated by a needle in the viewfinder) is locked, a useful feature in the case of backlighting or a dark background. Such conditions can cause incorrect exposures — underexposure in the case of backlighting — so a reading is taken close to the subject — for example, a person with the sun behind him or her — the exposure locked in and then the exposure made at the shooting distance.

There is no cut-off switch for the meter, but Rollei claims it's good for a year. After eight months my meter is still working.

Now that we've examined one camera and defined some terms, let's move right along to another pocketable camera, the Minox GL.

Minox GL

The smallest of the compact 35s, it weighs in at only seven ounces. The fold-out lens closes up into the body, which be-

comes its own case — just the thing to drop into a pocket.

The front lens flap pulls down like the old four-by-five Speed Graphic, disclosing the 35mm (moderate-wide-angle) $f/2.8$ Color Minotar lens, which focuses to three feet.

There is no rangefinder, so scale focusing is used (guestimation). There is a depth-of-field scale, which you know all about now.

The light meter provides aperture preferred automatic exposure, which means the photographer selects the aperture and the camera sets the shutter speed.

A moving needle in the viewfinder indicates shutter speeds from $1/30$ to $1/500$ second. There is no exposure lock as with the Rollei, but there is a two f /stop exposure increase setting for backlit situations.

Minox makes a little flash that fits in a hot shoe on top of the GL for exposure automation.

Olympus XA

Without a doubt, the Olympus XA is the most unique and advanced pocketable camera. It has been available only recently, and quickly sold out.

One begins with a completely enclosed camera, protected by a plastic case. It slides apart just far enough to reveal the 35mm $f/2.8$ Zuiko lens, which focuses to 2.8 feet. The shallow lens does not fold out, yet the case is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. The XA has a rangefinder which is focused by moving a knurled knob below the lens.

Exposure is aperture preferred, with the camera setting the shutter speeds, which range from one to $1/500$ second. Exposure is indicated by a moving needle on the left side of the viewfinder. There is no manual override or exposure lock, but a 1.5 f /stop increase to compensate for backlight is provided by a little foot on the bottom of the case. It also controls the battery check and self-timer. When the foot is turned to the "Check" dot, the XA emits a continuous high-pitched tone and a red light near the aperture scale goes on if the batteries are strong.

Move the foot to the self-timer dot, press the shutter release, and the 12-second delay is activated, while the red light flashes and the camera beeps. The foot also stabilizes the camera when it is placed on an uneven surface.

The Rollei XF-35 sells for about \$120, although I have seen it for less. The Olympus XA is \$150; with the flash, \$180. Minox GLs go for \$240. Of the three, features and price considered, the Olympus XA seems the best buy.

How to test cameras.

There are other pocketable cameras on the market, but the three above are among



Author Daryl Tucker, holding M16 with extended 30-round magazine.

the best. Beware of camera sales people pushing cameras that may not have equivalent quality and features. It is not unusual for those in camera sales to unload slow moving, second-rate, discontinued or outdated equipment on customers who may not be acquainted with all the models, features, and technological improvements in photographic equipment.

Test reports in the photography magazines can be helpful. The Olympus XA is tested in *Popular Photography* (Nov. '79).

Before making a purchase, run a roll of film through a camera you are interested in. If the exposures are consistent under a variety of conditions, the images sharp under the scrutiny of eight-power magnifier and the camera quick and easy to use, then you probably will not be disappointed. I saved a lot of money recently by testing a lens that turned out to be a turkey.

Test a lens at its largest aperture and then stop it down three times — for example from f/2.8 to f/8. Most lenses exhibit detectable loss of sharpness and aberration correction (flare, etc.) when stopped down. Check the edges as well as the center. Edge sharpness improves considerably as a lens is stopped down.

A good lens is usable at its largest aperture. Brick walls make good test targets, as do posters and signs photographed across a street. Place a test target in the center of the frame and then near the frame edge for comparison.

No one camera can do everything. Suit the camera to the job at hand for best results.

I am taking a compact camera to Honduras and expect to use it extensively. It will be easy to carry because of its light weight and small size — and it will insure publishable work, an important consideration since I still have the habit of eating.

POCKETABLE IT AIN'T

by Jim Graves

You should use the same criteria to select a camera to cover combat you would use for selecting a weapon.

When the moment comes, you want to be in possession of that piece of equipment which is going to do the job.

That is why, as Galen Greer eloquently puts it, "...accepted pros ... come in a lot of cases with two cameras, four lenses and a self-styled swagger."

I confess, I'm often guilty of carrying at least two cameras and four lenses but my swagger is actually more of a stagger, since I also hump a lot of other equipment (filters, meters, flashes, tripod, motor drives, film — in several types and large quantities — and cleaning materials).

The difference is that I'm there to shoot photographs, not people. Requirements of my profession demand that my equipment be versatile and durable.

Equipment has to be versatile as there is no way to predict under what circumstances I'll be taking photographs. Light level may range from bright sunlight to pitch black. Distance from camera to subject is also unpredictable and critical.

A photojournalist had better be prepared to handle any and all situations. Which is why we haul those large, heavy 35mm single-lens-reflex cameras with all the ancillary gear. It's expensive and it's heavy but it's the only way I know to get the job done.

My basic camera (a Canon F-1) weighs 41 ounces and costs \$453 while Daryl Tucker's Rollei XF-35 weighs 13 1/4 ounces and costs \$65. (These are discount prices available through mail order houses which advertise in the popular photography magazines. The prices are considerably cheaper than at your local camera store; the equipment is the same).

But the differences between my camera and Tucker's is that I can add on equipment that will allow me to take photographs in difficult light situations accurately, up to several frames per second, by touching a single button just once, obtain closeups from hundreds of yards away and I am convinced sharper photographs.

Like most photojournalists I consider pocket cameras — even the much improved full-frame 35mm type Tucker likes — to be at best items geared to the needs of serious amateurs. They are quite adequate for taking photographs of friendly subjects (at close range) and landscapes (if there are any unfriendly subjects around).

Durability is another factor to consider. There are Canons, Nikons and Leicas around that have produced hundreds of thousands of photographs, over extended periods of time, in extremes of hot and cold without a breakdown. Nikon in particular has the reputation of being capable of absorbing a lot of punishment. I suspect that the pocketables — which make heavy use of plastics — are not nearly so durable.

The camera you will need depends on the job you take on. If your intention is serious, professional photography — be prepared.

I will not deny that Tucker's piece is lighter, cheaper and somewhat less conspicuous than mine. A 45 is also lighter, cheaper and less conspicuous than a M60 but in a firefight I'll take the M60, thank you.



FAR LEFT:
Barney Barco, Phoenix Director, demonstrates Rollei XF-35.
LEFT:
Minox GL with protective cover pulled down.

UNDERSTANDING A NEEDED PROFESSION

George Watts, one of our readers, sent us these comments in a letter. They were so relevant that we turned them into an editorial in order to share them with you.

by George W. Watts, Jr.

AS I sat in my car, a woman walked by. She saw my old fatigue jacket and said, "You and your damn Army." An employer asked why I was in the reserves, saying everyone is trying to get out these days and I was an odd fish. As I walked out of the local reserve center — in uniform — a young fellow and his girl drove by and yelled, "Lifer!"

After these incidents and because of my more than nine years' service in the U.S. Army, active and reserve, with one year in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, I wrote this article. I believe it reveals the true situation in the United States, an attitude that must be changed to keep our country free and strong.

In the United States today the military profession is held in low esteem. Few academic institutions teach self-esteem, even though many of these institutions were founded to train military officers.

Soldiers seldom wear their uniforms off base today, not because they are ashamed of them, but because of public reaction to a uniform. Today not only the military, but anyone who studies war is held in contempt and despised. If this state of affairs lasts, we will soon have not only a nation that despises its Army, but an Army that despises its nation. Such an Army could deteriorate or turn on the nation it should protect.

THE professional military requires a special kind of man, one who can expose himself to danger, against the odds and possibly far from home, and still hold fast and strive for victory. Throughout history, the professional soldier has acquired special knowledge, which has continued in the United States from Breed's Hill to the jungles of Vietnam.

It is a mistake to think soldiers fight for money only. They need recognition and respect to put forward the effort necessary to win. They have pride of country and of their profession. They need backing from the people they are putting their lives on the line for. An army despised by its country will win few victories.

Though all men, including soldiers, wish for peace, it is human nature for people to want things other people have. Because of this basic human need if one wants peace, he must prepare for and understand war. A man without a home will not listen to words of peace from a man with one. Because it is impossible for the man with a house to give one to every man without one, he must protect his own home.

IF the government and the Army made an effort to educate the people about armies and their purpose, about the reasons why men fight and about the need for an aggressive spirit in our society, the public would have a better understanding of the professional soldier. The best weapons in the world will not help an army that is not mentally healthy enough to use them. I believe that changing public opinion toward the Army should be the top priority item on the modernization program of the United States Army. In our troubled world, these professional men and their military knowledge will be needed — today and as far into the future as modern man can see.



THE VIETNAM WAR:

An Illustrated History of the Conflict in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General William Westmoreland

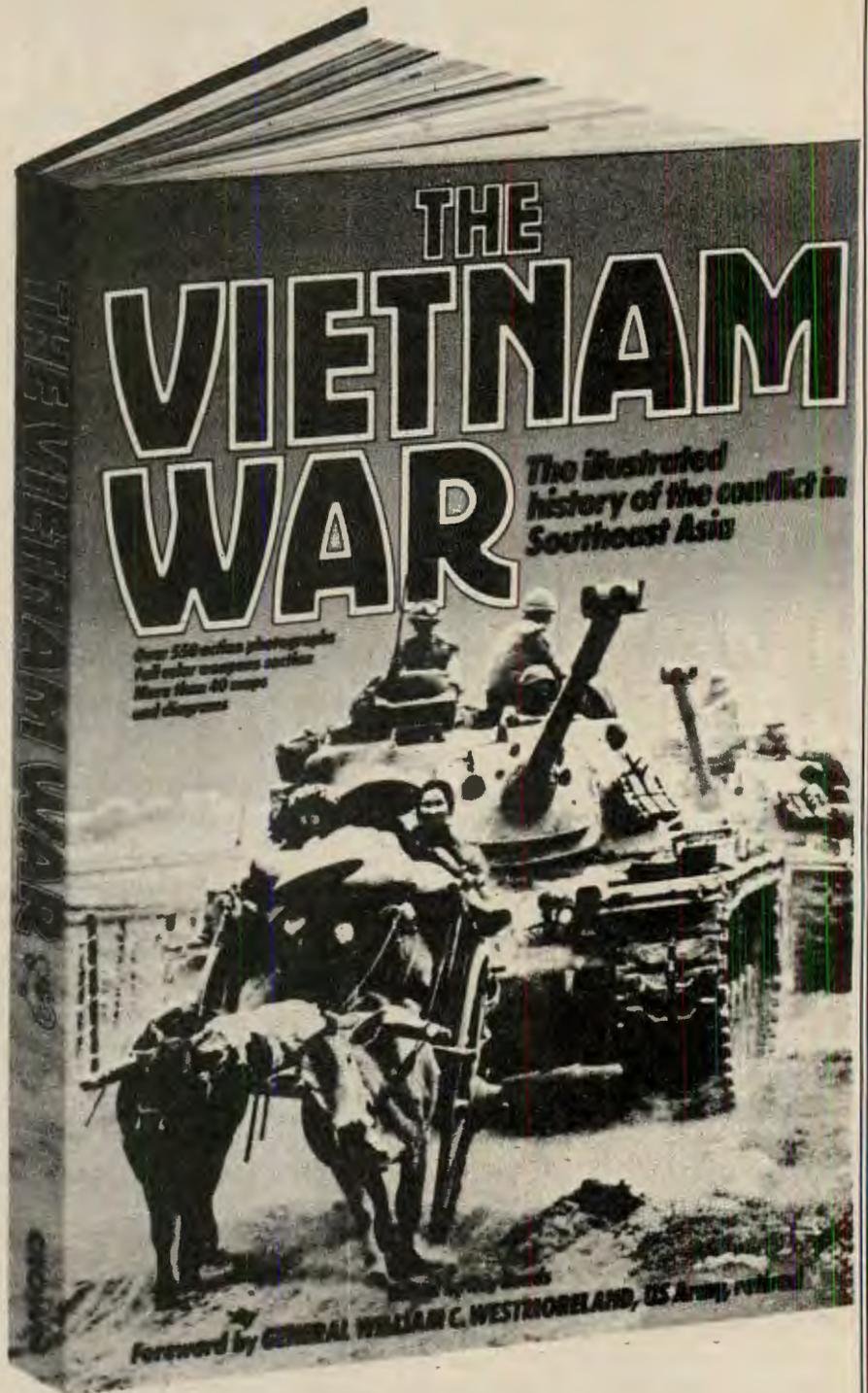
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Each victory, each defeat, is examined technically, with an appraisal of the tactics and the major weapons used by the combatants.

Photographs in color and black and white, technical drawings, maps, diagrams, and straight, clear text make this the most important and comprehensive military story of the Southeast Asian conflict.

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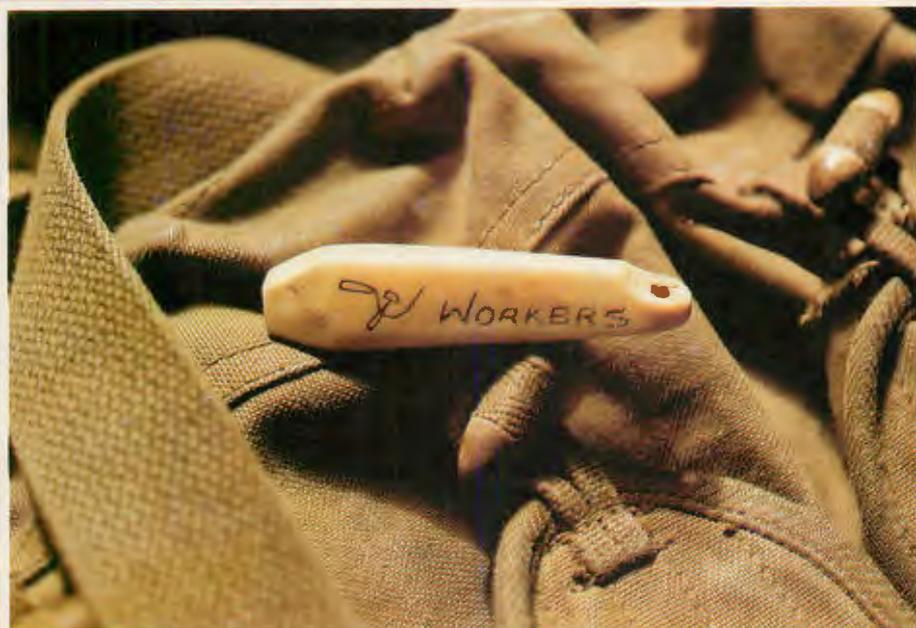
MUSHONGA

Magic Charms: No Substitute for Flak Jackets

by Jake Jatras

TOP: Amulet shows terrorist's hopes — map of Rhodesia and Chinese communist star.

Zambian terrorist died despite Soviet magic of hammer and sickle. 2½-inch amulet could not stop Rhodesian bullets.



MUSALINI readied himself to scramble off the small rubber craft. No time could be lost once it beached in Zimbabwe. The trip across the Zambezi River from Zambia had been slow and tension grew as they approached the opposite bank. It was no secret that Security Forces often set up ambushes along the banks. Just last week eight of his comrades had been trapped on a small island in the river. Even the Zambian artillery's cover fire had not helped them escape the 90mm guns of the Rhodesian Elands.

He checked his webbing and for the last time pushed up ambushes along the banks. The small boat was now only yards from the shore. He reached to his neck. He could feel the power. As he rubbed it the power grew; he could not fail. Shots.

Oli knelt down next to Musalini, the recently shot invader. Two FN rifle rounds had caught the terrorist square in the chest. He noticed an off-white object ly-

ing to one side attached to the neck by a leather thong. He jerked it off and stuffed it in his pocket.

Back at his base near Chirundu he had ample opportunity to scrutinize the two-inch-long amulet. Wiping off the blood, he could make out writing and some recognizable symbols. It was a power charm. *Mushonga*.

In much the same manner that Indians of the American plains wore their war medicine bags around their necks to bring them power and ward off enemy blows, black African terrorists cling to the belief of *muti* or power amulets.

Traditionally, an Indian brave wore his war bundle to insure success in warfare. Each warrior's medicine bag contained symbols representing objects he wished to win in battle — such as horses — and symbols for his "special helpers" he had seen aiding him in visions.

In the power charm pictured here the object of this terrorist's intentions is the

country of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. He has etched a rough outline of the country on one side with a Chinese communist star over it. On the other two sides are scratched the words, "Happy Workers," words he has undoubtedly heard often from his resident political officer during long indoctrination sessions.

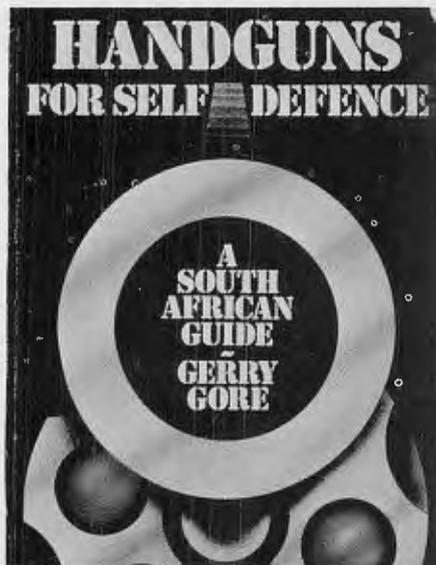
The wearer's symbols for his "special helpers" in this case are a Chinese communist star and some Russian farm implements. There can be no doubt whom he considered his benefactors.

A local shaman has probably informed those who wear the charms that they will help them on successful missions.

American Indians discovered the hard way that in action a war medicine bag did little to deter a 45/70 round and I would imagine that the terrorists in Z-R are beginning to reconsider their philosophy regarding magic when faced with determined Rhodesians, who rely on skill for their *mushonga*.



IN REVIEW



HANDGUNS FOR SELF-DEFENCE. By Gerry Gore. MacMillan: South Africa. 1979. 164 pages. \$7.85 Rand. Review by Ken Hackathorn.

FEW practical pistol shooters are as experienced as Gerry Gore, one of South Africa's original organizers of combat pistol activity. Gore is recognized as a firearms expert and this knowledge is enhanced by his skill at weaponcraft.

While serving with the British in Cyprus, his formal combat pistol schooling was sharpened under the famous Col. W.A. Fairbairn. Later, while studying the technique and methods taught by Jeff Cooper, Gore became one of the positive factors that helped introduce free-style combat shooting to southern Africa.

As captain of the South African Springbok National Team, he established himself as a world-ranking shooter. During his years on the South Africa National Team, Gerry Gore polished his skills as instructor and coach. The result is an excellent training program, ideal for both novice and experienced pistol handlers. Whether private citizen, soldier or police officer, the methods described in *Handguns for Self-Defence* excel in both combat and competition.

It is the author's aim to appeal to those who care only to learn the means to defend themselves. Neither match-winning strategy nor tin-can-plinking secrets will be found here. Unlike many American texts that discuss only the sporting aspects of handgun usage, this book offers a guide to those who must survive a hostile

attack. Application of martial arts techniques is its basic theme. Thus, *Handguns for Self-Defence* is more specialized than many similar works. Considering the state of affairs in our society, it is refreshing to find something as straightforward as this book. The articulate writing provides only the necessary information, clear and to the point.

Basic firearms knowledge, choice of the handgun, stopping power, gun handling, basic skills and psychological preparation, as well as tactical considerations are some of the more important points discussed. Basic training courses, with recommendations on holsters, gun modifications and advanced courses of fire are also handled. Unlike many books written on "how-to" subjects, *Handguns for Self-Defence* is filled with explanations of proper details such as grip, stance and gun handling.

Combined with excellent photographs that clearly illustrate points explained, it offers the reader means of learning without confusion.

The result is a superb instruction manual on practical pistolcraft, described in plain language and skillfully illustrated. Considering the number of people who purchase handguns for personal defense, this book should be considered required reading for them.

Individual copies of the book may be obtained at the following address: Gerry Gore, Box 27128, Sunnysdale, Pretoria 9132, Republic of South Africa. \$10.00 surface mail, \$14.00 air mail.

SOF contributing editor Ken Hackathorn met Gore at the Columbia, Mo., Practical Pistol Conference in 1976. Gore was the South African representative at the Conference, which led to the formation of IPSC. Gore now operates a shooting academy near Pretoria, RSA.

RIOT CONTROL. By Anthony Deane-Drummond. Crane, Russak & Co., New York. 1975. 158 pp. \$9.50. Review by John C. McPherson.

IN April 1968, I found myself stranded in Washington, D.C., during the full day of the Martin Luther King riots. It was a highly memorable day and, fortunately, my only direct experience with civil insurrection. The British government has not been so lucky. Aside from the ongoing saga of the Irish Troubles, there

have been ugly riots in Hong Kong and sundry other corners of the old Empire.

Riot Control is an encapsulation of what the British have learned in controlling those disorders as well as their observations of methods used in other countries. The author, Maj. Gen. A.J. Deane-Drummond, served 32 years in the British army, including a stint in the Parachute Brigade and command of 22 SAS Regiment in Malaya during 1957-58. His duties involved him in riot situations on several occasions and, following his retirement, he represented the British Ministry of Defense in the study of riot control worldwide. Not only are the author's credentials impressive, the book was originally published in England by the prestigious Royal United Services Institute for Defense Studies.

There are three basic situations that traditionally provide the impetus for a riot. The first is conflict between the government and those it governs. Secondly, hostile groups within a society may clash. The other situation is caused by crowd behavior, the truly spontaneous disturbance created by mob psychology. Deane-Drummond cites examples of each throughout history, ranging from problems caused by the chariot racing fans of Constantinople to the current nastiness in Northern Ireland.

As you would expect, a chronicle of riot suppression goes hand-in-hand with this brief history of social disorder. The lesson to be learned here is how to apply the proper technique for the proper situation, time and place. One situation that was successfully defused by Draconian measures was the insurrection in Amritsar, India, in 1919. A local independence faction had fomented revolt against British rule, burned buildings, killed British subjects and generally rendered the police helpless. A small military force was assembled by Brig. Gen. R.E. Dyer who was determined to restore order to this large and hostile city. Dyer entered Amritsar with his force of riflemen and Gurkhas and promptly banned public gatherings and established a curfew. His edicts were immediately defied by a large group that assembled in a square to listen to revolutionary speeches. Dyer's small force marched to the square and, without further ado, dispersed the group by firing 1,650 rounds of .303 rifle ammunition into the crowd, killing about 300 and wounding many more. The city was subdued though Dyer's actions had

the consequences of tightening procedures used in the Empire for riot suppression as well as setting Mahatma Gandhi firmly on the path of non-violent resistance that would prove a successful tactic so many years later.

Deane-Drummond shares with us some good insights into currently fashionable revolutionary technique. While revolutionaries, particularly of the Marxist variety, and their goals may be loathsome to the average citizen, the powers that be must resist the temptation to wade into them and administer the treatment they deserve. Excessive force may be emotionally satisfying and morally justified in the minds of the individual enforcers, but it also plays directly into the hands of the riot organizers. Chicago in 1968 was such a situation. The demonstrators did everything in their power to enrage the police who proceeded to thump the heads of all and sundry while the television cameras recorded it all. The result was publicity and martyrs for the provocateurs who had successfully managed to blur the responsibility for the riot.

As the real threat to society comes from those who plan disorders rather than from spontaneous disorders, it follows that the forces of law and order must provide for a planned response rather than extemporization when insurrection strikes. Local authorities should have military-style contingency plans for all levels of threat. Appropriate plans are difficult to formulate without good intelligence, perhaps a special problem in the United States where legislative restraints have hampered the FBI and CIA in recent years. Most importantly, the police and military must have the support of the people they seek to protect. To this end, authorities need both a strategy in harmony with the ethic of the country and a public relations program to insure that the citizenry knows it.

This is not primarily a book of riot control tactics though they are discussed, particularly in light of the experiences of the past decade in Ulster. A brief chapter on equipment covers the range of options at various force levels from the unpleasant to the lethal. Tables in the back of the book mention almost every conceivable type of anti-riot agent, what they accomplish and where they have been used as well as any drawbacks.

In strong contrast to the 1960s, the 1970s were a time of almost blissful domestic tranquillity. Whether this will continue into the present decade of political turmoil and economic unpleasantness remains to be seen. If the '80s hold any "long, hot summers" for us, the forces of public safety would do well to heed the lessons of **Riot Control**.

John C. McPherson is a frequent contributor to IN REVIEW. See SOF, January '80, for his most recent review, The World's Fighting Shotguns, and his author's credentials.

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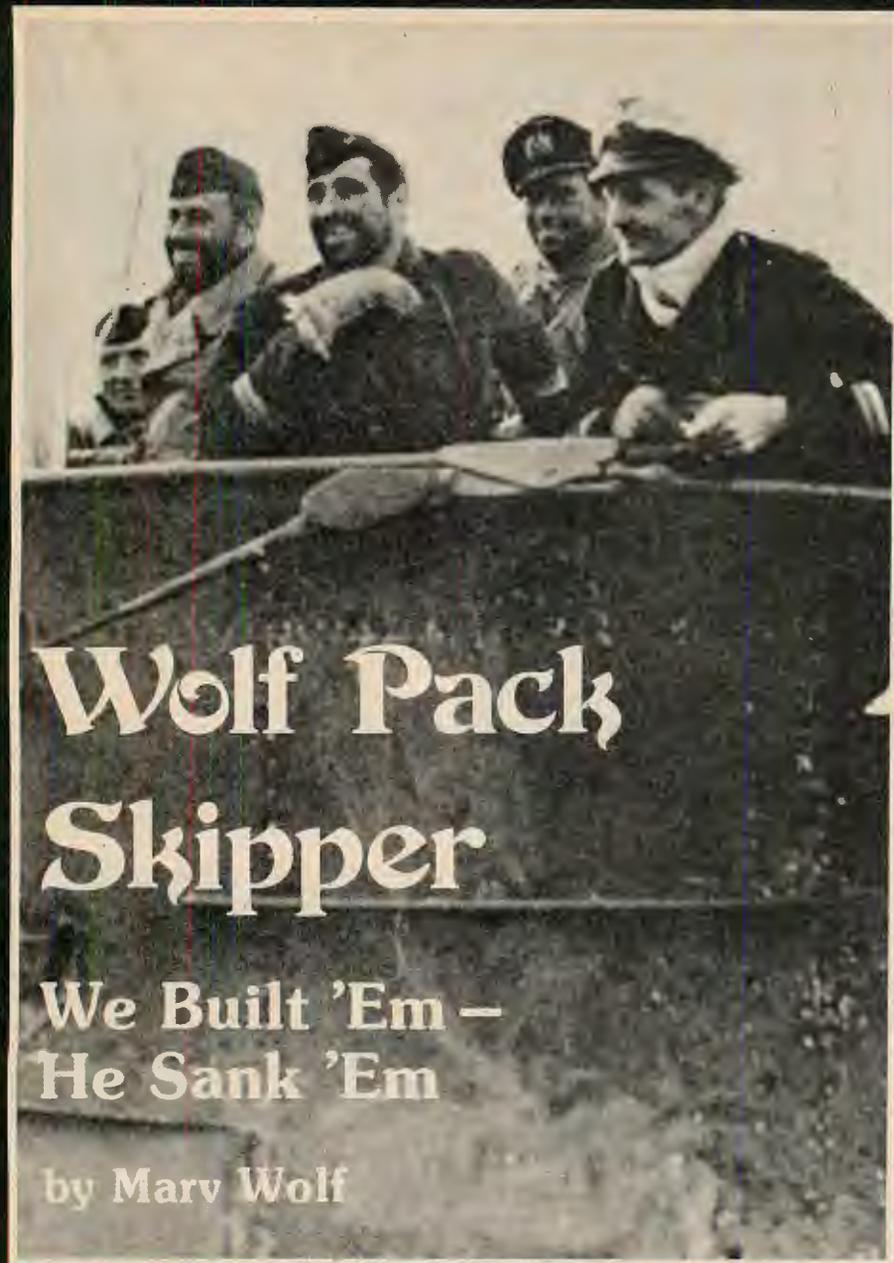
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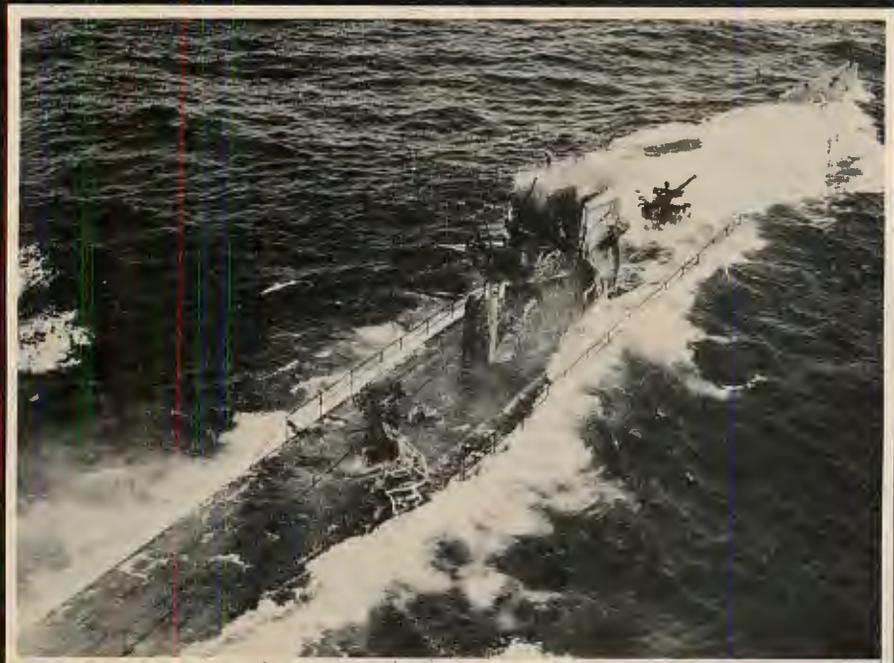




Wolf Pack Skipper

We Built 'Em —
He Sank 'Em

by Marv Wolf



Editor's Note:

Heinz Houben became a German U-boat skipper at age 20 when his captain and all other senior officers were killed by an American bomb. He is believed to have made more combat submarine missions than any other sailor in any navy — Allied or Axis — and to have made the longest combat patrol in submarine warfare history. His account is a stirring testimonial to the courage of undersea sailors no matter in which navy they served.

HOUBEN was sleeping off the exhaustion of an all-night watch in his tiny bunk forward of the conning tower when the lone plane roared in low out of the newborn Caribbean dawn. "It was a U.S. Navy patrol. Land-based, I think. It might have been a (Douglas) Dauntless, but I'm not sure," he recalls.

He will never know for sure. By the time he forced his way up through the U-134's hatch the warplane had dropped a single small bomb and was a mile or two off to starboard, winging toward a dark smudge on the horizon — Puerto Rico. The bomb landed with devastating accuracy, squarely in the middle of the bridge.



ABOVE: Hans Houben during early naval training prior to U-boat duty during WWII. **LEFT:** German U-boat surfaces in North Atlantic after being depth-charged by U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Spencer*. Shortly after this unusual photo was taken, crew abandoned ship and submarine went to bottom. Houben was lucky enough to escape such a fate. Photo: UPI

"It didn't do much damage to the ship, but it killed the skipper, the exec, the engineering officer and two lookouts — everybody on deck at the time. There was blood everywhere. Pieces of bodies all over the bridge. There wasn't 10 kilos left of any one," remembers Houben.

With buckets and a firehose, Houben and other crewmen washed the bloody remains of their captain and shipmates into the sea. Then Houben ordered everyone below, and took the U-boat down to the comparative safety of the deep.

Lt. Heinz Houben was now acting captain of the German submarine U-134, a 750-ton raider with six torpedoes, a lot less diesel fuel than needed to get home and 46 crewmen. It was 1943, and Heinz Houben was 20 years old.

Although thousands of miles from home port, short on fuel and torpedoes, in command of a lone submarine deep in enemy territory, Houben didn't panic. Despite his youth he found himself in a position he had prepared himself to handle; although he will always wish his sudden elevation to command at sea had come about through other circumstances, it was exactly the position he had long sought.

He was born in Dusseldorf, the son of a successful contractor, a member of a family with a long and honorable military tradition. His father served as a naval officer in WWI. An uncle fought his way to lieutenant general of cavalry during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Young Houben joined the Navy Youth in 1937, when he was 14. On weekends and school vacations he learned navigation and seamanship under retired navy instructors. He first saw sea duty aboard the *Horst Wessel*, a wooden, 19th-century square rigger that is familiar to generations of postwar U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduates as a classroom-at-sea under its present name, the *Eagle*.

By 1941, Houben was in his country's navy. After boot camp he went through an accelerated, wartime version of the naval academy at Flensburg. Graduating in late 1941, Cader Houben was posted to a minesweeper on convoy escort to Norway. The idea was to give him a chance to get his feet wet. The plan succeeded with help from a British Swordfish torpedo bomber; a tin fish from the plane sank the minesweeper and Houben found himself swimming in the icy waters of the North Sea until rescued.

Then it was back to dry land for more school, this time at the submarine base at Liebau. Subs were Houben's second choice; he had requested duty in fast torpedo boats. "I was glory hungry," he recalls. "Torpedo boats seemed like the quickest way to a command, the quickest way to glory — and that's all there was to it. There were no moral issues in war." He was turned down for PT boat duty. "I thought, 'The next best shot is a submarine.' A good friend of mine was the

son of the German submarine commander, Admiral Doenitz. He helped get me into U-boat school."

After six months of "theory and practice," Ens. Houben graduated to the next phase of his education as a naval officer — front-line duty. He was assigned to the U-134, based at La Rochelle in France. The U-134 patrolled the mid-Atlantic, an area bounded roughly by lines drawn east-west through the Bay of Biscay on the north and the Cape Verde Islands on the south.

"U-boats—where the action was."

"Our patrols lasted about six weeks at first because that was as long as we could stay out without resupply," Houben recalls. "Later we would rendezvous with supply submarines — 'milk cows' — and our patrol range was doubled, sometimes tripled."

By the end of the war, Houben was to survive 16 combat patrols in U-boats, a record never equaled by any other submariner in any navy, he claims. Ordinarily, six or eight patrols were as many as most submariners were required to complete. Those that survived were transferred to instructor duty or sent to surface vessels. Houben was offered such transfers. He turned them down.

"I didn't want to go on a destroyer or a minesweeper," he says. "The best of the German navy was assigned to the U-boat fleet. That's where I wanted to be, where the action was."

During most of the war years following the United States' entry into the fray, much of the German surface fleet was bottled up in the Baltic by the numerically superior British and American fleets; U-boats were Germany's primary sea threat.

One of Houben's first patrols took the U-134 a bit further west than usual. "In the fall of 1942 we went up the Hudson River, at night," he recalls. "We were looking for a target. When the lights of New York City were in view, we turned around and went back the way we came."

It was a nervy time for all aboard the sub; if they ran into trouble, they would have to fight it out with deck guns — the river was far too shallow to risk a dive. But no worthy targets presented themselves, and the low-lying sub escaped detection by the U.S. Navy's primitive radar. A few minutes before dawn the U-134 slipped silently into the Atlantic.

Their mission was to destroy Allied shipping. Oil tankers were especially prized targets, although the U-134's skipper liked to go after escorts. "He had this chivalrous notion that warships should be fighting warships," remembers Houben. "He would have gone after a carrier if there was one around. It was all very romantic, but he had a hard-time getting it through his head that the best way we

could help Germany win the war was to sink tankers and freighters. We had to cut the British lifeline. That was the U-boat's mission — sink the ships carrying the war materiel that kept England in the war."

And sink them they did. Houben reckons that U-boats he served on accounted for more than 100,000 tons of merchant shipping — about 20 vessels — plus a British destroyer and a Canadian Corvette. "We liked operating in American waters early in the war. The Yanks weren't nearly as good at hunting submarines as the British. The British had so much more experience. And we especially liked to hunt in the Gulf of Mexico during 1942 and 1943, because it wasn't as dangerous for us," says Houben.

"Most of the action was in Europe and the Pacific — there wasn't anybody around in the Gulf. The Americans came after us with B-17s, flying out of Cuba, but there wasn't much they could do about us even if they caught us on the surface. It was good hunting for a while. Later on the Americans came up with hunter-killer groups, and that was trouble. Their job was to kill you, and they never stopped until they did. And when you're up against planes from a jeep carrier and three or four destroyers, there isn't much a submarine can do except try to hide. What else could we do? Try to sink them all ourselves? Nobody was that good," recalls Houben.

"One fish and down they'd go."

In 1943, the British and Yanks began to get their anti-submarine act together. "They were pressing us, driving us further out into the Atlantic. So we'd slip into the Gulf of Mexico and hang around outside of Galveston, Pensacola or Corpus Christi. There were a lot of shipyards along the coast there, building Liberty Ships — cheap little freighters of maybe 5,000 tons. They'd launch one and then take it out for a sea trial. One torpedo and down they'd go," remembers Houben.

On one Gulf patrol their mission was to go after tankers returning from the Venezuelan oil refineries at Curacao. "We went after them, shot three or four fish. I'm pretty sure we got some hits, but there was no explosion, no flames. Maybe we busted up some empties. Anyway, we had to get out. The Gulf is big if you're going to swim but for a submarine there isn't enough room to hide.

"We were low on fuel, so we went through the Mona Passage, between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. We were trying to save a few days." The U-134 threaded the passage at night, on the surface. That night Houben's watch ended and he went below to sleep. The skipper tried to make it a few miles further from land before pulling the plug. He cut it too fine, and Houben suddenly found himself in command.

"I wasn't exactly green, but I wasn't what you'd call seasoned, either. This was my fourth patrol. Anyway we dived. The crew gets very nervous on the surface in daylight, and after what happened I had to calm them down. When we were down, I started to reassign duties — this one would have that watch, that one man this piece of equipment. Then we came up to periscope depth and stuck the antenna up and tried to get in touch with our base. We had a little trouble at first, but then we made contact."

After reporting what had happened, Houben asked for instructions. The U-134 was directed to rendezvous with a supply sub to take on fuel.

"The milk cow was about 115 miles east, at about our same latitude. We were able to refuel early the next morning, but they didn't have any torpedoes to give us. While we were refueling another sub came along, with a senior skipper. But he had a very green executive officer, so he said it didn't make any difference which one of the two of us took command of the U-134.

"Got three hits."

"I stayed with my boat, though the other skipper told me to hang around with him. So we stayed 10 to 15 miles apart, and that night we got lucky, found a convoy coming around from South Africa. We went after them — shot all six torpedoes. I got three hits — but they were big ships. The important thing for me was to get the confidence of my crew. I said to myself, 'The first thing I see through the periscope I'm going to shoot. As long as we hear a noise from the other side, I'm okay.' If we had missed, I would have been in deep shit. They'd begin to doubt me. You can't have that on a submarine."

In those years, the torpedoes available had to be aimed by pointing the submarine at the target. The skipper manned the periscope in German subs, and his job was to estimate target range and speed.

This was cranked through a primitive computer which delivered settings for depth and running time of the torpedoes. If the skipper's guess was good, the torpedoes would find their target. If he was off, the fish would run until their batteries were exhausted and then sink harmlessly. Everything depended on the skipper's estimate of range and speed.

"One of mine blew sky-high."

"The biggest problem was to guess distance — it's very hard across a flat surface. But this time I was pretty close, and we got three hits. There were four ships and two escorts — so that meant there was something in there that was valuable. We never figured out what it was. No troop transports, for sure. The other guy got an escort. I saw one of mine sink — it blew sky-high. Hit it twice, the other was about 7,000 tons, and I know it took one



ABOVE, TOP: S.S. *Republic*, tanker, goes down by stern after absorbing German torpedo shortly after leaving port on U.S. eastern seaboard. Five men went down with it. Area was known as "Graveyard" by American seamen because of German U-boat efficiency. ABOVE: U.S. merchant ship *Bensen* burns with thick, oily clouds of smoke after being torpedoed almost within sight of continental U.S. Hans Houben witnessed many such sights: BELOW: German submarine commander peers through periscope as he estimates torpedo range of target, probably American tanker off southeast Atlantic coast near Miami.



hit but I didn't see it sink. The other U-boat was closer, but I never got confirmation on the second target because he didn't make it. We had nothing to shoot with, so we headed for home. The other skipper went back after the convoy, but they knocked him off," Houben says.

It was a close call for Houben. Had the other skipper had more confidence in his exec, he would have taken Houben aboard his own vessel and Houben would have gone down with it.

"But that wasn't my closest call," grins Houben. "In 1941 I was on leave in Paris. My boat was in drydock, and somebody on another boat — U-80 — had gotten sick. They ordered me to St. Nazaire to take his place. But the Allies were already bombing the French rail system night and day. By the time my train got through the mess left by the bombing, we were six hours late getting to St. Nazaire and I missed my ship. That was the last anybody ever heard from U-80, so my luck held. I guess I'm Irish — I always thought I'd get through the war, and I did."

Houben's closest brush with the enemy came on a record 225-day combat patrol, thought to be the longest of the war. "In those days U-boats were quite primitive," explains Houben. "It isn't like now, with a big boat with lots of room, frozen food and a nuclear reactor so you can stay out for two years if you have to. Boats like the U-82 were only 218 feet long. There was absolutely no privacy — even the skipper had only a green curtain to screen his hammock, and the rest of us nothing at all."

"When we left port we had supplies stored everywhere. Fresh food was kept within reach. By the middle of a voyage it was all gone and we ate mostly dried potatoes. Even today I can't stand to think of them. We had a small fresh-water still, but it was barely capable of making enough water for drinking. There was none for bathing, shaving or washing clothing, so sometimes we used sea water. Mostly everyone did without. We'd take a change of underwear and by the end of the voyage our clothes would be black — so dirty we usually just threw them away. Life on a U-boat at sea was miserable," he says.

The boat Houben joined in late 1943 was the U-134. Although it was a little larger (1,120 tons, 252 feet) than U-82, living conditions were about the same. "I was assigned as the U-181's executive officer," remembers Houben. "We were supposed to go to the Indian Ocean to operate. Germany had a U-boat base at Penang [*in what is now called Malaysia — The Eds.*]," Houben explains. With the Suez Canal in Allied hands, it meant the U-boat would have to circumnavigate Africa. "Since our mission was first of all to get to Penang, we stayed clear of shipping lanes. We just wanted to get there as quickly and safely as possible," he recalls.

The trip took nearly four months — and when they arrived at Japanese-occu-

ped Penang they found out it was all for nothing. "The Japanese were not really our friends. When we got there they kicked us out. Something about too many submarines in the Indian Ocean. They were like a bunch of bookkeepers. While our skipper argued with a Japanese liaison officer, they kept us in a little camp on the edge of the city. We lived in tents. They wouldn't let us leave the camp while we tried to straighten things out.

"The Japs kicked us out."

"It was some kind of an administrative foul-up. There was another German base in Indonesia, and one of the German subs there — they also operated in the Indian Ocean — was torpedoed and sunk by an American sub, not long before we arrived. [*This was the only sinking of a U-boat by an American sub in the entire war — The Eds.*] So in the end we had to turn around and go home."

That was when the trouble began. "We began to have all sorts of psychological problems with the crew. It came from being confined for so long, under constant stress. Everyone began to show signs of irritation. Men would get into fights about stupid little things. We didn't really begin to understand how bad things were until we got under combat pressure. But in the meantime we had all sorts of little problems. The weather was hot and humid. Everyone was getting rashes from the heat and from being dirty all the time. The skipper started to worry about a mutiny.

"There was a feeling among the officers that we didn't have a stable crew. We had a doctor aboard on that patrol, and he told the skipper: 'You better watch these men. Don't put them under too much pressure.' But I was young, and the skipper was young — about 26 or 27 — and he said, 'Don't worry so much. They'll shape up as soon as they hear depth charges.' Well, it didn't work that way," recalls Houben.

"We were pinned down."

"We got in trouble off Freetown, on the west coast of Africa. There was a convoy coming out of Sierra Leone, going west. This we attacked. We shot and missed. And then came the American destroyers — Fletcher class jobs. They were new then, and they came after us. They had a hunter-killer group inside that convoy, and we didn't know it. They were hanging back. We got into trouble. We had to dive, and they kept sitting on top of us, dropping depth charges, and we got knocked around quite a bit.

"When you're pinned down like that there's not much you can do. They kept us down for hours and hours. After about 12 or 14 hours the air got bad. Under normal conditions that would be pretty

hairy," explains Houben. In the U-181's situation, it was even worse. The crew's nerves were shattered by some eight months of nearly continuous sea duty.

"Keep in mind that the skipper was only 26 and the youngest man aboard was 17," says Houben. "A lot of raw nerves. Then we took a couple of depth charges real close, and the lights went out. Glass flew everywhere. A couple of gaskets popped. Now this is not too serious, usually — you shut some valves off and later you fix the gaskets. But some of these young guys were on the edge of panic. When the lights go out, the emergency system is supposed to cut in automatically. It didn't. It was pitch dark and we had to fix something, so somebody felt around for a flashlight.

"Before he came up with it, we heard this other guy start praying. Out loud. When the flashlight came on he was sitting there like a monk, with his hands folded, praying as loud as he could. Now prayer is not bad. But praying out loud in the conning tower of a submarine with Yank destroyers all over the surface — that was bad. Someone told him to shut up, and he just prayed louder. So one of the petty officers went over to him and hit him in the face, and he shut up.

"In a while we got the lights fixed and when they came on we thought we'd try to sneak away. But they were up there waiting, and when we started our electricies they came right back and dropped more depth charges. The guy who had been praying — he was only about 18 years old — just got up and started running. He smashed into a bulkhead — his face was a bloody mess.

"We got him quieted down again. By this time, we had been submerged for about 16 hours straight. We were at 800 feet, which was about 150 feet more than our equipment was supposed to handle. We weren't too worried about the pressure hull cracking, because we knew some other subs had been as deep as 950 feet and come back. I myself had been to 750 once. But the air was very bad, and those devils were still up there.

"It was quiet for a while, and I took over the con so the skipper could have some relief. Then suddenly we heard the screws of the destroyers coming again, right at us. The radio operator was another kid, about 18. He just couldn't take it any more. He grabbed the signal pistol — what we used to shoot signal flares — and stuck it in his mouth. Before anyone could get to him he blew his entire head off. It just disintegrated. It was awful. Somebody threw up.

"We were very lucky, because the destroyer just went on over us. He didn't stop. Nothing happened — he headed back toward Freeport. We waited awhile and then we surfaced, and headed for home," he says. "Lucky again, because we couldn't have stayed down much longer, and we didn't want to fight it out on the surface with a big Yank destroyer."

"When we got to the area outside Bordeaux we were to meet an escort ship," he adds. "These were old freighters stuffed full of empty drums and they had lots of anti-aircraft guns. They could really put up a curtain when they had to. Anyway, the ship was to go ahead of us through the minefields guarding the port, and if she hit a mine then it blew up a few barrels — no harm done. But we got there and — no ship. After all that time, we wanted to get through the mines and home."

"We hung around and waited for the ship — and then the British planes showed up. They tried to bomb hell out of us. Came pretty close, too. We were still in water deep enough to dive, so we went down. They dropped some more bombs, and then a couple of German torpedo boats showed up, and after the British played some more games, they went home and so did we — the torpedo boats guided us through the mines," says Houben.

After the U-181's return all sorts of administrative hell broke out. "We were pretty sore that we'd gone all that way for nothing, that we'd almost been sunk, and it was for nothing. Nothing. There was an investigation, but I don't know what happened; they never told me," says Houben.

"We didn't believe the war was over."

When the war in Europe ended Houben was at sea on the U-2456, an experimental submarine of 1,600 tons. "We were in the south Atlantic, and we got the signal. It was in code, but we didn't believe it. They sent the signal again. The second time we had to believe it," he says, and even today

there is a little sadness in his voice when he remembers that time.

Instructions from home base told the U-2456 to proceed to the nearest Allied port and surrender, and to fly a black surrender flag while on the surface. The officers of the German U-boat talked it over, and their skipper decided to disregard the instructions.

"We wanted to go home," says Houben. "We were close to some French possessions, but the last thing we wanted to do was surrender to the French. So we went north, on the surface at night, submerged with our snorkel during the day. We thought there wouldn't be too many Allied ships around if we went around Scotland and into the North Sea, so that's the way we went. We went into the area near Helgoland submerged. It was pretty rough so we didn't use the snorkel. When we came up we were right in the middle of four big British warships, and they all had their guns leveled at us."

"They signaled us to run up our black flag, but we pretended not to understand and ran up another one instead. Then one of the British ships got under way and signaled us to follow her as she headed up the coast to the nearest German port," recalls Houben.

It was then two weeks or so after the surrender, and the crew of the U-2456 had no idea what awaited them. For all they knew the Allies were shooting German sailors or hanging submarine crews. With more than a little trepidation, the U-2456

HANS HOUBEN, today multi-millionaire head of marine contracting firm — and U.S. citizen — holds model of U-boat he skippered during WWII.

entered the harbor under the guns of the British warship.

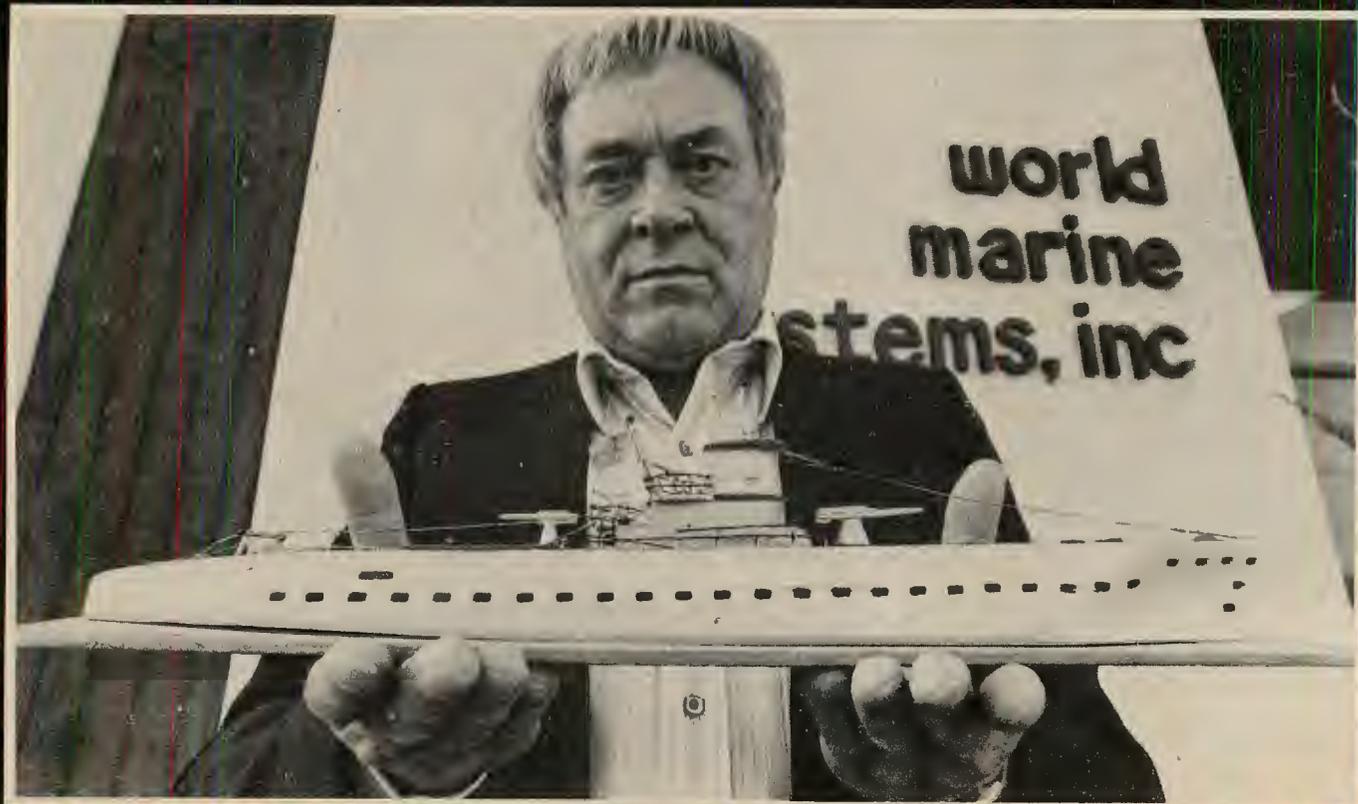
They were greeted with massive indifference. They were just one more warship of a vanquished foe. At length someone signaled them to a certain dock, and after they had secured the U-boat to it they were ignored for several hours.

When the British finally came, it was the British army, not their navy. "The army had captured the port and they were in charge. They came to the ship and said we could leave one officer and nine crewmen, but the captain and the other crewmen had to come off. So I stayed," says Houben. "We just sat there for about two weeks. Then they told us that soon a British crew would come aboard, and that we would help sail the U-boat to Scotland, where we would be interned while the British studied our U-boat. Well, we didn't want to go to Scotland, and we were bored sitting there. So that night we just opened up the seacocks and let the U-boat sink," says Houben.

Houben and his crew climbed to the pier and walked ashore while their boat went down. "The water wasn't very deep and the top of the periscope stuck out of the water. But we hadn't cut the shore lines so when the U-boat went down it took the pier over with it. We thought all hell would break loose when that happened, but there was nothing," he recalls. Ashore were thousands of German sailors, and Houben and his crew mixed with them with no difficulty.

"The next morning the British discovered what we had done. They rounded up all the German sailors in the port,

Continued on page 85



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JUNE, 1979

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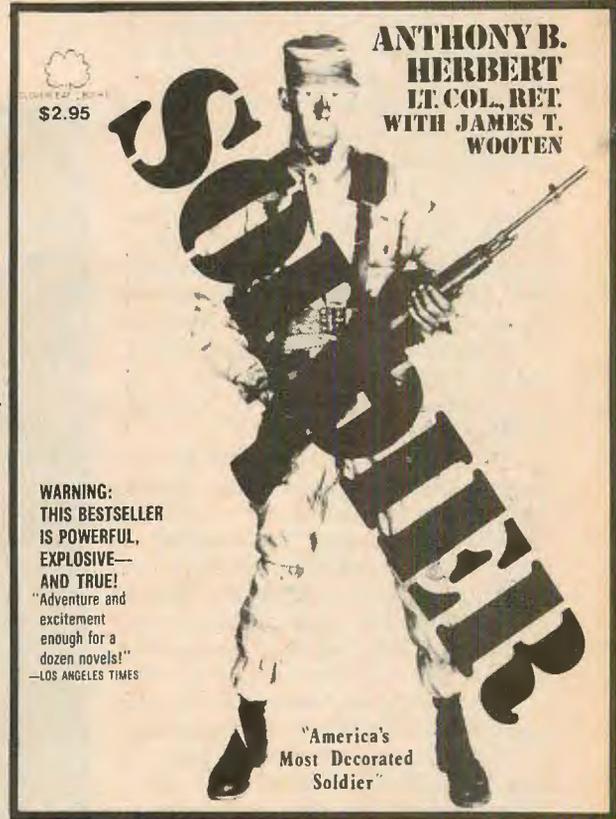
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— Ye Middle

UNKNOWN to President Carter or the CIA, the United States of America has been divided into six kingdoms, a few principalities and a multitude of baronies, shires and freeholds. These are all ruled in an autocratic manner by right of arms, with no appeal to democratic principles whatsoever.

In 1966, a group of malcontents, drawn mainly from the University of California-Berkeley history department, came together and declared all events since 1650 to be null and void. They found the everyday world of street riots, space shots and the Vietnam war dull, and longed for the days of bold knights and ladies fair — so they formed the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

The objective of the Society (SCA) is to foster activities of the Current Middle Ages — the medieval world with flush toilets. This is done by adopting a pre-1650 persona, and then living the part to the hilt, at least at all SCA functions. A criticism sometimes made of members of the Society is that they don't always stop living the part when the function is over.

When asked who he was in real life, one member replied, "This is who I really am. I put on a persona the rest of the week to earn my bread and butter."

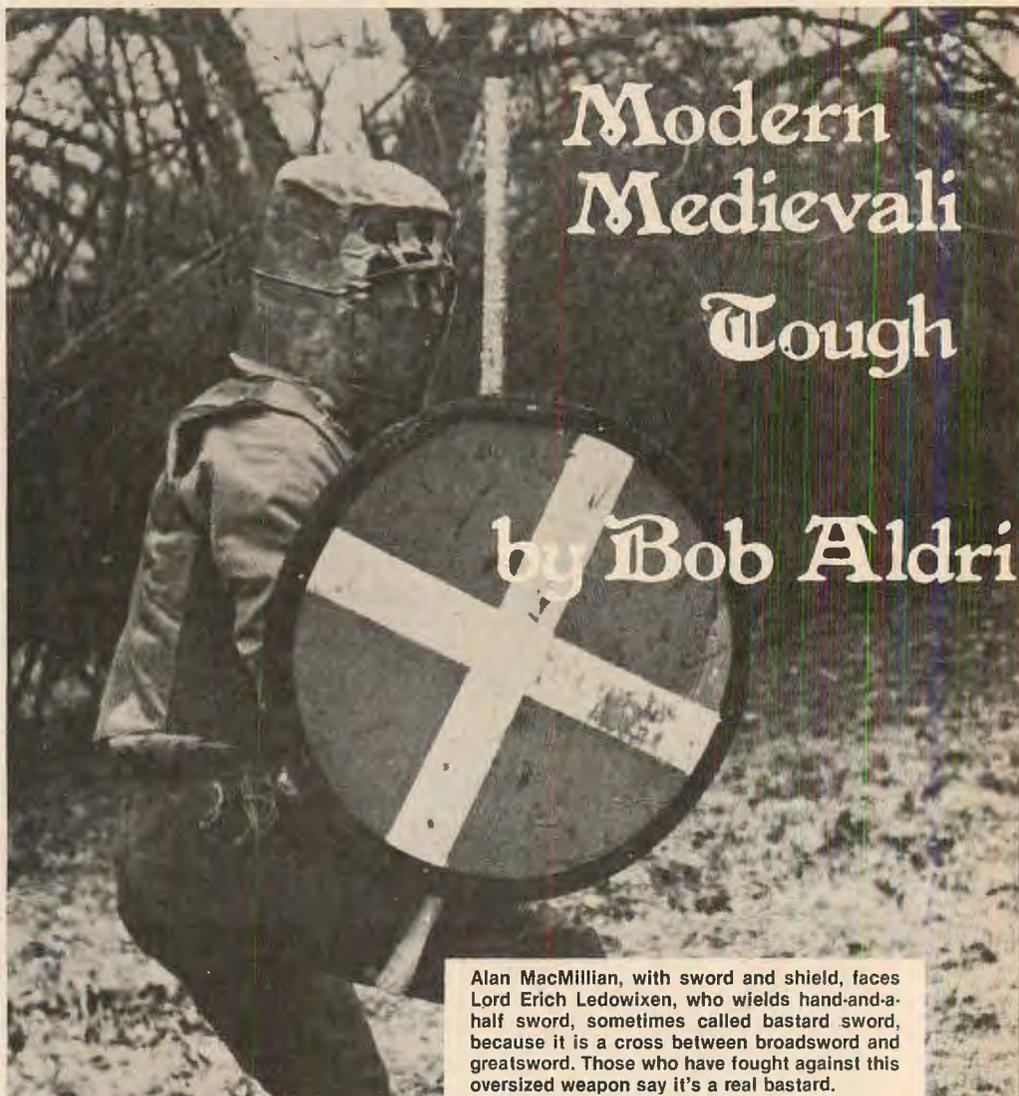
Everyone in the Society is addressed as milord or milady; there are no serfs or peasants. Other titles are given by appointment or are earned, either by force of arms or skills in medieval arts or sciences.

Knighthood is earned, then given by the king in recognition of accomplishments. The knight of the current middle ages practices the virtues of yesterday and is able to dance the dances, play a fair game of chess, read the symbols of heraldry such as coats of arms, and is familiar with the music and literature of the age. In addition, he must be proficient with the weapons of the day — the shield, mace, broadsword and others that he may face in the lists.

Force of Arms

Kings, princes, barons and other rulers are always chosen by force of arms in special tourneys. Fighters use rattan weapons — the heavy one- and two-inch bars of rattan used to make lawn furniture. Weapons are nominally padded and not one has ever been killed in a mock battle, though there have been instances when the loser and possibly the winner of a passage of arms was in need of medical assistance. For this reason, no one is allowed to fight without a liability release being signed, and without the presence of a "healer." A healer is not necessarily a doctor, but someone with medical training, certainly the best trained person available.

It might seem that these tourneys are nothing but extremely rough pillow fights, using shields and padded clubs. This is not



Alan MacMillan, with sword and shield, faces Lord Erich Ledowixen, who wields hand-and-a-half sword, sometimes called bastard sword, because it is a cross between broadsword and greatsword. Those who have fought against this oversized weapon say it's a real bastard.

the case. Long hours of research go into making fighting weapons as authentic as possible in appearance and heft. Once this is done, more research is devoted to learning how the weapon was actually used, and to perfecting the fighter in the art once it is discovered. Strength and agility count for a lot in this type of battle but will not enable a beginner to win over a seasoned fighter, providing the veteran has been learning as he should. This is demonstrated at each tourney when the assembled knights challenge all comers in a grand melee — the knights, all of whom have mastered their weapons in gaining their titles, are always victors — it is like matching street brawlers against black-belted karateka.

Naturally, there is some cultural shock when the current middle ages and the mundane world meet. I am sure of the truth of all but one of the following stories, for they were related to me by actual participants — and one does not question the work of one of the lords in

the Society, not unless one is willing to face that lord in combat.

Ragnar the Unbathed

A party of lords and their ladies were enroute to the Grand Pennzantic Wars, and were traveling in costume by a Volkswagen van. They were pulled over by a patrolman. The driver, Ragnar the Unbathed, looked suspicious to him — something to do with wearing a steel helmet with 10-inch horns and a real bear-skin jerkin while driving down the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

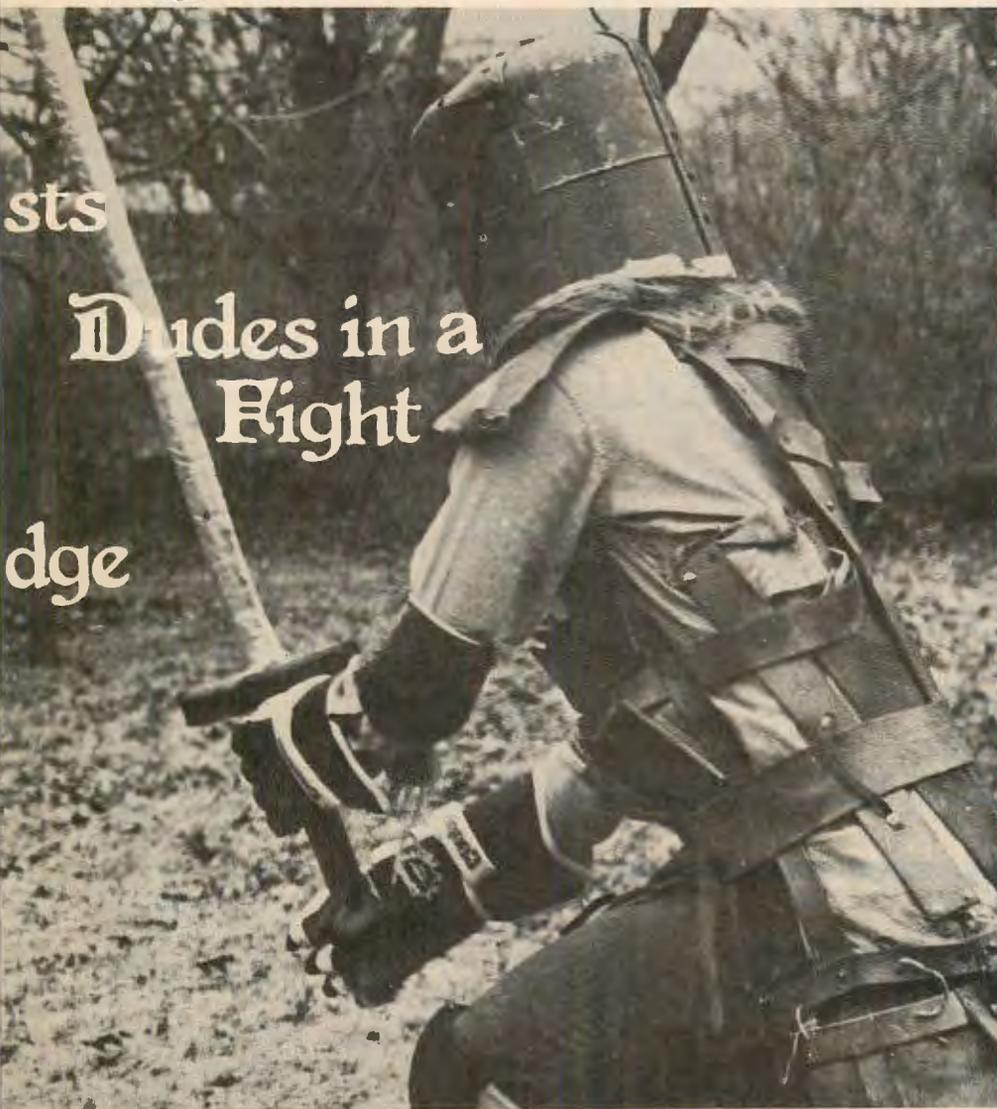
When the officer required Ragnar to dismount and saw that he was wearing a breechclout instead of trousers, and a belt from which hung an hourglass-shaped ax and an 18-inch dagger, he asked him to drop the belt carefully and assume the position made famous by television police shows. The officer then cautiously opened the rear door of the windowless van. As the door opened, Rolf of Bedlam chose to

Age Bash

Dudes in a Fight

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perform a double handspring out the door in his court jester's costume, and was almost shot for his pains. The rest of the party came out much less dramatically.

By the time the startled officer had six assorted men and women in various historical costumes lined up beside the road, he had discarded his original theory — that he was dealing with an escapee from the nearby state hospital — but he quite definitely wanted a reasonable explanation, especially since the van was loaded with steel weapons to be worn with the costumes at the revel that follows the war.

Broadsword vs. Switchblades

When they had finally convinced him that they were going about legitimate business, the officer turned without a word and headed for his car.

Ragnar called after him, "Can we go now? You're not giving us a ticket?" "Not on your life," the trooper an-

swered, "I'm not fool enough to try explaining *this* to a judge."

Another story concerns an SCA revel in a rougher section of New Orleans. One of the lords was escorting two ladies out to their carriage — sorry, their car — when they were accosted by four young toughs wielding switchblades.

"Hey man, let's see what you're carrying," one said, referring to the lord's cash.

"As you will, knaves," the lord roared, and hauled out a yard of broadsword. This was met with the sound of four knives hitting the pavement and four sets of rapid feet retreating down four different streets.

Another story concerns a tourney held in California. As the fights were in progress in a small park, a local motorcycle gang roared by, turned and came back, and decided to have some fun by showing the fighters some *real* fighting. They piled off their bikes, swarmed over the fence, and charged, brandishing bike chains, tire irons and knives.

At a word from the autocrat of the tourney, a herald stepped forward and shouted, "To arms, varlets on the field!"

The assembled lords rushed to meet the invaders swinging their padded weapons and shields. It quickly became evident that a tire tool is a poor substitute for a mace, a bike chain is no match for a morningstar, and a knife against a sword is just plain ridiculous. Almost 30 minutes later, a member of the *motorcycle gang* escaped to a phone and called the police.

As the battered hoods were being hauled away by the police, the herald ran up with a final word: "We'll be holding a tourney here next year at the same time. Would you like to come to that one too?"

Sir Marius and the Mugger

There are those who hold that members of the Society start by playing roles and end up unable to distinguish the role from reality. They claim to fear that such people will become unable to cope with the modern world. In actual fact, there may be a grain of truth in saying that the members tend to live in their own world, but it's the world, not the SCA that may have trouble coping. Consider the case of Sir Marius and the mugger.

Sir Marius, in his mundane persona of off-duty police officer, and a young lady are waiting to be served a late supper in a cafe in the rougher section of a large city. Suddenly, from outside comes the sound of a woman's scream.

Leaping to his feet, sending his chair crashing, and with a lusty shout, "A Marius to the rescue!" he races through the crowded restaurant. Outside there is some sound of a scuffle — the sound of a police siren — then Sir Marius opens the door to find every eye in the house turned on him.

He stops, gives a sweeping bow, worthy of a Galahad, and says, "Milords, Miladies, the needful has been done."

"Death to the Saracens!"

In these days when Arabian sheiks tweak our collective nose with only a groveling response from our government, when we "languish in peace" and the real warriors of our nation scheme to continue to fight its enemies under other banners — I take a great deal of quiet pleasure in the knowledge that one of the men so carefully chosen to serve as a watch officer at NORAD is in reality a crusader from the 12th century. I have a mental picture of some day when the Arabs go one step too far, of this man striding into the control room with his broadsword and, with a war cry, "Death to the Saracens!" slamming home the red button with the flat of his blade, thereby starting the greatest camel stampede in the history of the world.

If this is escapism, let's all try to escape.



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SILENT INVASION

Continued from page 31

sentenced. In a few days, the aliens would have been returned to Mexico.

"But the public defender solicited a statement from the smuggler that he was struck by one of the agents. So they held the witnesses in jail for six months. There was a big investigation. They had a line-up of Border Patrol agents to see if the smuggler could pick out the one who struck him — to no avail because he hadn't been struck. They took the case to a grand jury and it got thrown out.

"Meanwhile, these aliens were kept in jail for six months. This cost us, the taxpayers, \$30 per day per person.

"When I first came in the Border Patrol 24 years ago, there were about 1,200 agents and Mexico's population was less than 30 million. Now there are between 65 and 70 million people in Mexico, while there are now less than 2,000 agents. No effort has been made to keep the Border Patrol strength up to where it could do its job.

Hands-off Policy

"Immigration [and Naturalization] Service policy does not allow us to go into the cities where most illegals are working. Instead, we send most of our men out to the desert each day. If they work hard, maybe they'll catch a few aliens. We're not even allowed to pick 'em up off the street. This hands-off policy isn't written. It's understood.

"There's no hope that Mexico will correct its economic situation. The invasion's going to go on and on. Our national election ballots have been written in both English and Spanish for years. New Mexico is officially bilingual..."

I asked Heidt what he would do if tomorrow he was installed as head of the INS. Heidt's response was instructive: "I'd do the same thing that Germany did a few years ago when they terminated their program for temporary foreign workers. If a person is caught employing an illegal alien, he receives an unmitigated \$20,000 fine for each illegal. I think this would work just fine in the U.S. And the form would have to be as easy to write as a traffic ticket."

"New York's crime rate— part of the problem."

Heidt explained "A low regard for life is part of the Mexican culture, so when an illegal comes north, that culture usually travels with him. So the crime rate climbs, especially violent crime. Each December, professional shoplifters come up to Tucson from Mexico. They work all the stores and take it all to a safe house.

"A large part of New York City's big crime rate stems from illegal aliens. It's estimated that one out of eight people in New York is an illegal. It's not just a border problem. The country is being overwhelmed, with no effort being made

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to stop it. But I think a change in the national attitude could correct it."

Heidt continued, "In December 1979 a Border Patrol helicopter in Chula [Vista] sector was knocked down, they assume with a rock. The crew was badly injured. About 300 illegals swarmed across and were trying to tear the craft apart. They were trying to get the officers inside. A nearby agent tried to come to the crew's rescue in a vehicle. The crowd stoned him — just about killed him. Then the sheriff's department helicopter came in and made sidesweeps [at the crowd] with its skids. They drove the crowd away so we could rescue our people. Not a gun was drawn, even though those men were being killed."

I asked Heidt what a reader should do if, after reading this article, he wanted to protest to someone with clout.

Heidt sighed, "I have no idea. I have no faith in anybody doing anything. Using our process, while we still have a country, get together and vote for people who are concerned with the well-being of the United States. In other words, throw all the liberals out of office."

(See *SOF*, December '79, for Part 1, "Cactus Curtain," and January '80, for Part 2, "Blast from the Past.")

EDITOR'S NOTE: *While stiff fines levied for the employment of illegal Mexicans would slow illegal alien traffic, I consider it impractical and an attempt to treat the symptom not the disease. The problem is unemployment in Mexico and greed in the United States.*

Mexico has an incredible unemployment rate due to a shortage of arable land, rapid mechanization in its farming industry, a high illiteracy rate among rural persons and a shortage of jobs for unskilled persons in its cities. American businessmen profit from this as those conditions produce a supply of desperate men willing to work long hours for low pay. The Americans who profit range from farmers, working as little as 100 acres, to Fortune 500 companies that control farms covering thousands of acres. And the "big boys" of agribusiness simply have too much political clout to allow our law makers to pursue strict immigration policy.

Mexicans are much like Americans: they love their land, their food, their music, their country. If conditions were such that they could prosper in Mexico they would stay there. During the next decade or so, Mexico will have an enormous amount of money from its immense oil and gas resources to invest in restructuring its economy. The cure may be for the United States to offer an exchange of technological assistance in building a stable economy in Mexico for head-of-the-line status at Mexico's oil wells. We need oil and Mexico needs teachers, technicians and equipment.

Jim Graves



RSA'S CUBAN KILLER

Continued from page 55

First bag: 1 Russian truck, 30 Cubans

"That fighting died down, so we returned to the tar road and that was when I saw a Russian truck coming up from behind — although at first we thought it was one we had captured earlier. But it wasn't. It was loaded with Cubans, about 30 of them, I'd say.

"At first, I observed them through my periscope. Then as the truck came alongside, I opened the hatch for a closer look.

"The Cubans were laughing and one was playing a guitar. One of them gave me the V peace sign with his fingers as they went by and I returned it.

"I let them get about 10 meters ahead and then let one round loose from the 90. Truck and Cubans sort of disappeared."

Then, as Van Vuuren says, "We carried on. I posted two cars in good artillery firing positions and went ahead on recce."

Second bag: 20-30 Cubans, 1 Land Rover

Van Vuuren came across a Land Rover which contained two 44-gallon drums of gasoline and a large supply of ammunition. He had decided to capture it when the Eland rumbled up to a small store outside which stood a cluster of Cuban troops.

"They were all standing around in the rain, waving their hands in the air and arguing. I suppose they were high on *dacca*. There seemed to be no leadership."

Van Vuuren and his crew adjusted the 90mm, touched it off and another group of 20-30 Cubans virtually disintegrated.

"We heard, then, reports of infantry coming up the road. I decided we couldn't capture the Land Rover, so I fired my last round into it."

Third bag: Cubans vs. 9mm

Van Vuuren was trying to rejoin the other two vehicles in his command when the Eland's engine died.

A troop of Cubans appeared and began swarming over the Eland. "There we were. Both MGs knocked out and no ammunition left for the 90. I had forgotten about my sidearm (a Star 9mm semi-auto) when Tommy Corms, my driver, reminded me of it.

"I pulled it out of the holster and shifted it to my left hand, because I had injured the right hand being jolted around in the vehicle.

"I started shooting out of a firing slit and got four of them with the first magazine. I reloaded and in the excitement forgot about my sore hand, fired with it and got seven more.

"By this time, there seemed to be only one of them left. He was lying down near

the side of the road firing at us with an AK-47. Fortunately for us, none of these Cubans had any RPGs on them.

"Tommy wanted to run right over the chap but that didn't seem fair to me. I thought maybe we could just scare him off so we headed for him."

By this time, the Eland was traveling on four flat tires. It can run for about 50 kilometers on flats if the vehicle is driven slowly and with care.

The Cuban remained in the vehicle's path and Corms drove it right over him and then over another Cuban lying behind him they hadn't noticed.

"By now, all the Cubans were dead or fled," said Van Vuuren.

At this stage of the game, most commanders in Van Vuuren's situation would have pulled out and returned for more ammo, repairs, etc. Not this guy. He wanted to stay on the captured ground to give the appearance of a threat.

"If we pulled back, we'd just have to take the ground all over again," he said.

But eventually they were relieved. The fight took six hours in all and Van Vuuren estimates that his little troop wiped out at least 200 Cubans.

Van Vuuren, who stands 5-11, weighs 160 pounds and sports a neatly clipped military moustache that matches his dark brown hair, says he was not scared during the episode. "We were far too busy for any emotions. But later I went into a kind of shock and for a few days had difficulty sleeping."

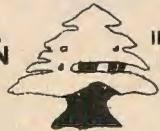
The young officer cannot explain why the Cubans were so unobservant, even to the point of one of them giving him the V sign as they drove by, other than that they had ingested too much pot and possibly thought the Elands were some sort of Soviet vehicle with which they were unfamiliar.

The South African army awarded Van Vuuren the Cross of Honor, Third Class, for his exploit. That's roughly similar to the Distinguished Service or Navy Cross in the American military.



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CUSS & DISCUSS
Continued from page 21

contributing factor in the issue, since results obtained from mathematic calculations and/or wound cavity tests in non-relevant mediums such as oil or water-based clay, duxseal, ballistic gelatin, water or wet or dry sand don't seem to correspond with actual observed results in both civil and military combat involving handguns. To the degree that such methods depart from observed, historic reality, these "modern" tests show lack of validity.

I personally do not feel that the U.S. government has any idea of what it is trying to do, other than spend money, and this program shows it, as did other, earlier programs. I am not willing to accept the 9mmP as a replacement for the 45 ACP. Further, I cannot accept any of the pistols being considered as being nearly equal, much less superior to the basic 1911 system (Colt-Browning).

2. These pro-9mm arguments are based on lab tests which allegedly prove 9mm to be equal if not better than 45 in lethality or killing power. This misses the point. Whether the assailant dies is irrelevant as long as he immediately stops attacking. As noted before, lab tests are not required for this characteristic. Actual experience shows that a single 45 in the torso stops the fight 90 percent of the time, 9mm only 50 percent. Lab tests have been done because real-world experience won't yield the right conclusion, i.e., "9mm is best."

Sincerely,
Scott McClelland
San Jose, California

LOVES CONTROVERSY ...
Sirs:

I've always loved to listen to the 9mm Para vs 45 ACP controversy. It's a great way to kill an otherwise boring afternoon, since proponents of both tend to be die-hard fanatics. Never having had to shoot anybody with either, I can't speak from first-person experience. During my active Army tour (infantry indirect-fire crewman-mortarman, 11C) I had a 45 as my personal weapon. I qualified expert, and found the 45 pleasant to shoot (I'm 6'2", 220 pounds, with a grip like a gorilla). I own a Colt Mk IV and a S&W Model 39 and practice quite often (I handload all ammo). I should like to bring up a few historical points:

The 45 ACP was adopted in accordance to the Philippine experience at the turn of the century when high velocity .355-.358 cartridges drilled neat little holes in Moro tribesmen without spoiling their zeal. Large-caliber bullets tended to drop them in their tracks. Tests of the 45 round (basically developed from the old .455 Webley) were done on live targets (cattle), a truer medium than paraffin or clay.

The mystique of the 9mm parabellum developed with the Luger pistol. Unlike the 45 ACP, the 9mm with its lighter



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weight and good bullet shape proved an excellent submachine-gun cartridge. The 9mm in a pistol always has raised praises or damnations by its users.

The pistol can seldom substitute for the rifle. A pistol is the personal weapon of last resort in regular military usage. Some, especially the SOF, like to carry it as a form of insurance policy. The Army has toyed with the 9mm since 1946, in 1956 taking it seriously enough for trials. The Army, unlike the Air Force, fights its battles in the real world as opposed to the sky. Ever since the AF foisted the Mickey Mattel (M16A1) onto the Army, the Army doesn't have highest faith in AF R&D, and it's the AF pushing the 9mm. In its European use, the pistol (although Europe has produced the best) has been primarily a badge of rank for the officer or senior NCO. Neither the military nor the police liked the idea of lugging around a miniature cannon.

The whole concept of the pistol in NATO, no matter what caliber, might be rapidly going out the window. The new emphasis in West Germany and France is on more potent, more compact submachine guns, such as the IMP and its like. Then again, gentlemen, feel free to argue over your favorite pistol. In the long run, it won't make a damn either way.

Jim Compton
San Diego, California



RELOADING TIP

by Donald F. Casserly

SUBJECT: Military-primer pocket-Scrimp removal.

I have found an easy way of removing the primer pocket crimp from military cases.

Equipment needed:

1. An electric 3/8" power drill.
2. A small and large primer pocket-reamer from C-H Tool & Die Corporation, Box L, Owen, WI 54460, \$3.45 each.
3. A pair of utility gloves.
4. A small brush.

Steps after cases have been decapped:

1. After the wooden handles have been removed, place the reamer in the drill head and tighten it into place.
2. Put a glove on the hand that will be holding the case.
3. Remove crimp slowly until you get the hang of it.
4. Take the small brush and remove the shavings.

The whole operation takes a second or two. The cases are now ready to be reprimed.

Donald F. Casserly is a security policeman at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.



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COMBAT PISTOL

Continued from page 12
(which is quite considerable), we find the more fussing around one does with a 1911 pistol the more difficulties he is likely to encounter. Many of the additions and modifications you suggest on the pistol are simply going to get in their own way, as well as make the pistol unserviceable. Essentially all that is really needed on a 45 auto is a set of high visibility sights and a good trigger. Most of the new productions come with a good trigger as it is, so all we usually need is a set of sights that can be seen. The rest of the things you mention will help your shooting as much as a set of racing stripes will improve your driving.

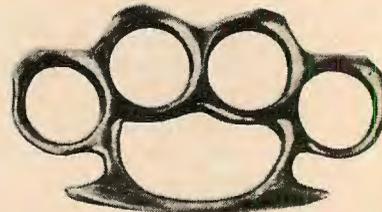
My advice is to save your money until you have shot enough to realize what your pistol really needs, and put nothing superfluous on it.

Q. I have a question about relative stopping power of pistol cartridges. Relative stopping power seems to be based on *single-round* impact. Short of using a SMG on full auto, could one achieve a higher cumulative relative stopping power by firing a burst of three rounds (at least two impact) for a given round? To illustrate my assumptions, I submit the following scenario:

A. Fire at target at combat range with three rounds of 9mm parabellum, rapid-fire Llama auto pistol. First and third rounds impact torso within one foot of

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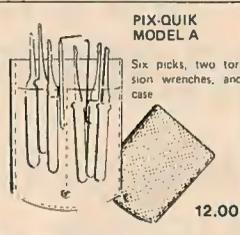
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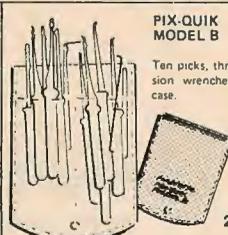
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I am interested in learning the locksmith trade for the purpose of legitimate enterprise. I am presently enrolled in an accredited locksmithing school. OR I have elected to learn this trade through the process of "self teaching". I am fully aware of the laws which govern the practice of this trade, and I understand and recognize the responsibilities related to the conduct of this trade.

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each other. Target standing upright and facing towards gun.

B. Same conditions as above, but service auto pistol with factory-load 45 caliber ACP round used, single impact in torso.

Study into the effects of multiple impact effect from a SMG may give part of the answer to my question. I'm not advocating a full auto 22 in LR SMG for self-defense, but was curious as to possible cumulative relative stopping power of less effective rounds if more than one hit is made within a short period of time.

G.J.D., Fullerton, California

A I believe — though I have no way of proving it — that the almost instant duplication of impact with a second hit will increase stopping effect. It is for this reason that we always teach our students to fire twice.

At such time as I can persuade the Chicoms to send us several thousand human guinea pigs I will run the tests that you suggest and let you know the results. For them the expenditure of 2 or 300,000 people is hardly worth mentioning.

This month Ken Hackathorn addresses the problem of uniform practical pistol rules, ammunition and holsters, as well as ever-present conflict between gamesmanship and practical shooting styles.

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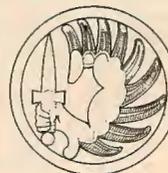
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ing the rules that govern practical pistol competition. It was felt that the fewer the rules, the better. Naturally, there has been some necessary regulation, and sadly, it seems we have arrived at the point where changes need to be made.

My concern is not about power factor-
ing or holster rules, or even 9mm vs. 45
ACP flap. What we need is a format to
follow for all match regulations and scor-
ing procedures. All too often, we see a
rule enforced one way in one part of the
country and another way some place else.
The hassle over doubles and rules changes
must be governed fairly. Once these ruling
and scoring decisions are standardized, a
booklet can be made available to com-
petitors as well as to judges and match of-
ficials in major contests. I hope we avoid
the complex rule-book ideology common
to other shooting disciplines — such as
bullseye competition.

We must bite the bullet and address the
problem of clear-cut definitions of start-
ing positions, penalties, scoring pro-
cedures and match applications.

Solving the ammunition-power-factor
problem is really quite simple. For major
contests — nationals, regionals and sec-
tionals — factory ammo should be fur-
nished as part of the entry fee. For the
past couple of years, the boys out in
Arkansas have provided ammo in their big
spring match. It has not only solved the
hassle of checking ammo, but reduced
malfunctions to a very low number. A big
match such as national championship
should require no more than 200 rounds.
Ammo can be purchased at dealer or job-
ber prices to maintain economy.

The often-heard complaint about
"practical holsters" is common in most
shooting circles these days. Many people
feel that a really serious shooter will work
from a holster that one would wear for
daily carry. Realistically, most top com-
petition shooters are gamesmen, and
won't change unless forced to abandon
their competition holsters. In fairness one
must realize most active shooters in the
IPSC ranks consider practical pistol
shooting as simply a way of spending their
Saturday or Sunday afternoon. They
neither carry a gun daily nor do they care
to. They feel it is unfair to make them use
a holster for realistic use when they don't
need one.

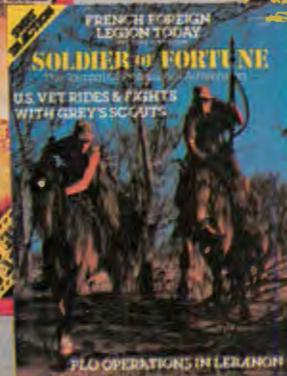
At IPSC's formation in 1976 at the Col-
umbia International Combat Pistol Con-
ference, its purpose was stated clearly in a
written introduction in the second part of
the first sentence: "So that some sort of
organization and direction could be given
to the SPORT of practical pistol
shooting." The 1980 U.S. regionals are to
be shot this fall. The courses are to be
semi-surprise. If it were announced that
one match would require the contestant to
use a concealed carry — following the
United Kingdom rules — then we may just
start moving in a direction that reflects

Continued on page 82

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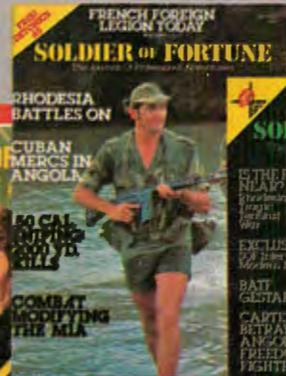
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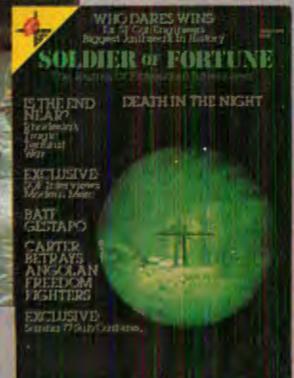
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RIFLE INSTRUCTION NOW AVAILABLE AT WORLD FAMOUS GUNSITE RANCH INSTRUCTION BY JEFF COOPER

The American Pistol Institute, highly acclaimed for its pistolcraft instruction, is now conducting courses in the practical use of the rifle. These courses have been introduced to meet an increasing demand for training in the safe and efficient use of rifles by civilians, as military marksmanship continues to decline in availability and specialize in purpose. The high-power precision rifle, carefully used, is still a very practical instrument for individuals, and it appears that a great many people need instruction in it that is no longer available in the public schools. Gunsite students will learn ballistic theory, sights and sighting, positions, trigger control and progress through slow-fire exercises at short range to position selection, shooting sling and bipod, range estimation, time pressure, and moving targets.



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reality. The one match requiring concealed carry would be drawn at random. The remaining matches would allow the gamesmen to use their exotic competition holsters, while the lawmen could use duty rigs to benefit realistic training.

If contestants know they must use a practical, concealed rig, they will practice and train with one to prepare for any problem. And if I am right, many will stick to the one holster that works for everything. Remember, we saw the walk-and-draw rigs begin to fade after the old South West Pistol League cocked ready-hand position was outlawed.

When more realistic hand positions were enforced, holsters started to look practical. The key is not to try to favor a particular group or shooting style, but to reflect the logic of real-life encounters. We all know what should be, but competitive drive will prostitute practical match logic if allowed.

A case in point occurred in the dark-house exercise in the 1979 U.S. IPSC Nationals. Many contestants solved the problem with proper logic and in the spirit of the encounter. But the contest designer allowed others to make a mockery of the event by charging the targets and placing the muzzles of their pistols inches from them, blasting each one with a couple of rounds and then racing off to the next to repeat the same act. Such a tactic in real life would have been pure suicide. Contestants could have been penalized if they crossed a specified firing line to insure more demanding tactical fire and movement. Sadly, those who shot correctly and in a tactical manner were outmatched by the gamesmen who followed the pin-ball approach.

Chuck Taylor shot a fantastic score in the proper manner, using sound tactical logic. His performance was right from the book as to how it should be done. Sadly, his fine, skillful technique went practically unnoticed as a result of the carnival atmosphere. Match and course designers must consider what they are trying to do in order to promote practical shooting. IPSC shooting need not be complex or exotic in order to be practical.



BBD

Continued from page 6

ually abusing and sodomizing five girls in Queens, N.Y., over a four-year period.

The agent was booked on charges of sexual abuse, possession of dangerous weapons, sodomy, robbery and endangering the welfare of a minor. Four of the victims were 14-year-olds.

According to Detective Ronald Policare of the Queens sex squad, the attacker forced his victims at knife-point to rooftops of buildings where



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they were made to perform sexual acts.

Another member of the sex squad stated, "There are about 11 other incidents where the same type ruse was used. The attacker would lure them into buildings by trying to steal their school lunch money."

It may be necessary to revise that old joke about the boys from BATF.

OH NO, NOT THE SONGS ...

An Army investigation of sexual harassment of women soldiers has been expanded to include Ft. Bragg, N.C., as well as Fort Meade, Md.

One battalion commander at Ft. Bragg was quoted as saying: "You can and should control what's in good taste, such as the little songs soldiers sing to keep cadence while marching. Some of those are dirty enough to curl your hair."

For what it's worth, when I went through Parris Island, some of the few occasions when we had a chance to smile and relax from the pressure was when our hair was curled by those little songs. It would also take away one of the few opportunities a boot has to be creative.

It may be necessary in this day and time, but it's regrettable. Recruits may never again hear: "I know a gal from Kalamazoo."

THANKS BATF & SWAPO ...

SOF's popularity is high in some surprising places.

For instance, in the past few days we have received no less than three subscription requests from various branches of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

As SOF readers know, we have been mildly critical of that agency in the past.

During SOF Managing Editor Bob Poos' recent trip to Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and Southwest Africa, he learned that SOF is quite popular with SWAPO, the Marxist guerrillas operating in South West Africa, not to mention ZIPRA and ZANU terrorists in Rhodesia. In fact, during the Rhodesian army's long-range raid at Chimoio in Mozambique last year, booty captured by the ZR raiders included a complete, bound set of SOFs, from Issue No. 1 through the latest then out.

Well, it's nice to keep adding subscribers ...

HUMOR IN CUBA ...

Fidel Castro and his State Security Police probably don't find them terribly funny at all but we thought we would pass along some of the acts

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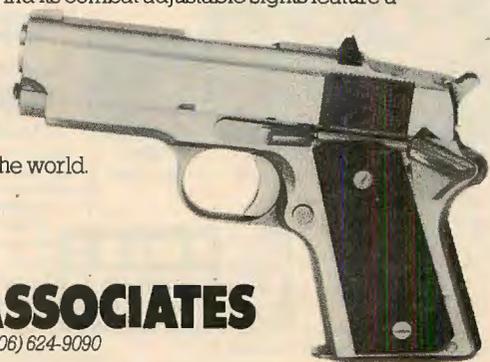
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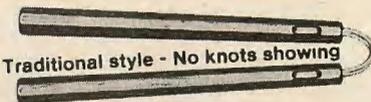


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that have passed for humor in Havana these days.

The persons who don't particularly like Castro have generally preferred to use an exempt vehicle to transmit their broadsides: like dogs, statues and horses.

Dogs have been turned loose on the streets with various signs but the pick of the litter was one which stated: "With Bloody Batista We Ate But With Fidel Even The Dogs Go Hungry."

On Malecon Boulevard in Havana, there is a statue of revolutionary hero Antonio Maceo. Maceo, who fought in the war of Cuban Independence in 1898, is depicted as striding forward with a sword in hand. Some wit added a suitcase to his other hand and hung a sign around his neck: "Gone To Miami."

If that didn't make Castro and his police see red the horse did. Castro's nickname is "El Caballo," or "the horse" in English. Another Cuban turned a horse loose in Havana with a sign around its neck, which stated: "Yo Tambien, Me Voy." That's "I'm Leaving Too."

CUBAN STYLE C R I P O F F . . .

One SOF source on events in Cuba and Latin America reports that Cuba may be diverting some of the reconstruction aid sent to Nicaragua. The story is that the aid headed for the port of Corinto, on the Pacific side, is off-loaded at sea onto Cuban ships, then shipped to Cuba via the Panama Canal.

Cuba is also trying to pump up its failing economy by wringing extra dollars out of visitors to Cuba. Cuban exiles can go back into Cuba now but they have to purchase a Cuban passport to do so. That includes those who are now naturalized American citizens. In addition, the exiles have to pay \$425 for round-trip air fare from Miami to Havana with three nights lodging in a Havana hotel. The problem is that the exiles go to Cuba to see relatives and generally stay with their families. Also visitors to Cuba have to change their dollars to Cuban pesos — at the rate of 72 centavos (cents) for every dollar. The Cuban peso is worth a maximum of five cents, if you can find any takers, according to one source in Miami.

WOOPS!

One of our careful readers caught something we didn't in a photograph on page 57 of our March issue. The outline for the photo supplied by African correspondent Al Venter identified a collection of weapons as PPSHs, Stens and SKSs. The PPSHs and Stens were there but on re-examination there were no SKSs in

the photo. What was there, as our reader pointed out, was a SVD Dragunov sniping rifle and possibly its scope can (this is not certain as it is very hard to make out). Our staff member who IDs weapons has been chastised.



WOLF PACK SKIPPER

Continued from page 70

thousands and thousands of us," says Houben.

While the German submarine sailors wore distinctive uniforms, this apparently escaped the British army's attention. They simply rounded up *all* German sailors, stood them in ranks and demanded that the crew of the scuttled U-boat identify itself. "When we didn't, they said they'd just keep us there until we did. So we stood in ranks, all day, with no food and no water, and it was very hot," remembers Houben.

When the day was nearly over, the British produced the skipper of the sunken U-boat, and forced him to go from man to man, to identify his former crew.

"When he got to me he just looked at me and said nothing, and never gave any sign he recognized me," remembers Houben. "And he went on through all the ranks, and never gave any of us away. Then the British told us that we were going to stay there a long time, until the guilty parties came forward. By then it was pretty late and some of the guys had fainted and everyone was pretty miserable. I thought to myself, 'What the hell. The war is over. What could they do to me?' So I stepped forward, and my men followed," says Houben.

The British army ripped off all Houben's rank badges, and interrogated him for hours. "They put me on a big pile of wooden boxes, and you had to stand very straight and still or they would collapse and you'd fall down. But they never hit me. They wanted to know if we had put explosives on the U-boat, and why we had sunk her," he remembers.

After some time, Houben was turned over to the British navy. "The navy guys were very apologetic. They understood a little more about our feelings. In fact, they apologized for the army ripping off our rank badges," he says.

**"I wanted to go home.
So I did."**

Houben was considered a troublemaker by the British. "So they sent me to a special camp for POWs that had been in Naval Intelligence and other hard cases. There wasn't much to do there, and I wanted to go home. So I did," he says. In broad daylight he packed his seabag with his few personal possessions and strolled

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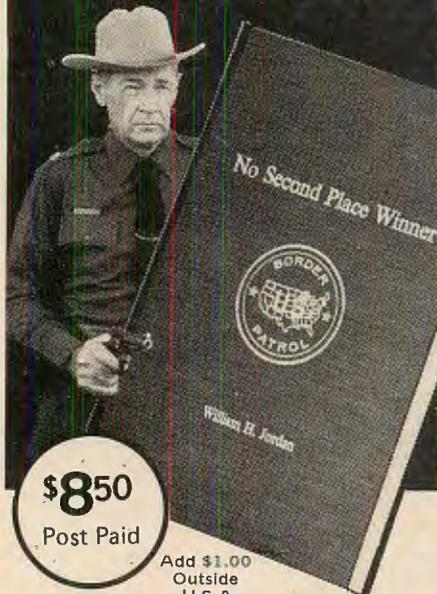
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out the gate, nodding politely to the guards. They never asked him where he was going, and he just kept putting one foot in front of another.

"It was so easy I wondered why I took so long to do it," says Houben.

Heinz Houben never got a piece of paper from the German navy signifying his discharge. "For all I know, they might still be carrying me on the rolls. Maybe I'm an admiral and don't know it," he laughs.

Houben came to the U.S. in 1955, became a U.S. citizen in 1960. He holds several postgraduate degrees in marine engineering from U.S. and European universities, and is president and founder of a marine construction contracting firm. He is a millionaire several times over, and admits that he would now have a hard time fitting through a U-boat's hatch.

"My U-boat days were the most exciting days of my life," he says. "The men I served with were the finest men I've ever known. They had something extra — they were quite special. You knew you could depend on them for anything. I'm pleased to say that I was once one of them."

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GUNS FOR GALS

Continued from page 53

At the time the photographs were taken, she had never fired any type of weapon. If I were a teacher, I would give her an A+. She was the best student I have ever had when it comes to shooting a handgun.

I gave her approximately one hour of instruction on the proper and safe handling of a firearm — loading and unloading, proper stance, grip and trigger control. She was then permitted to fire 20 rounds of 22-caliber ammo to get the feel of a handgun. After that it was as though she had been born with a handgun and had been shooting one ever since. She would put a lot of men that I know to shame.

I then had her fire some SWAT team special weapons — to prove that women also can handle weapons if they want, no matter what type. I'm sure many of you men out there would like to have shared a fox hole with someone like her during your tour in Vietnam. It sure would have been nice if the U.S. had drafted women, too.

I could find only one fault with her — she is a "leg." However, she is ready to improve herself by taking jump training. She also stated she may be interested in trading in her books for a MAC 10 or M16, in case any of you A-Team commanders are looking for a light weapons person. I sure wish they had teachers like her when I went to school!

--Bill Carpenter



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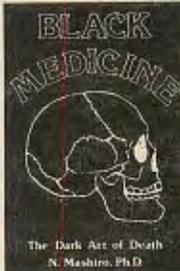
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FLAK
Continued from page 8

no doubt in my mind or in the minds of many other British servicemen and civilians of there being communist agents active in British politics, industry and services, including the police forces of Great Britain, some in high places and some in low positions. This first came to my attention when I started my career as a police cadet at age 17 and was evident throughout my service.

I was one of many who resigned from the Force because of political policy, poor living conditions and very low pay (a year and a half ago I was earning 140 pounds (\$280) a month after taxes). I was expected to live above the station in single men's quarters. I must say I believe the dedication of the men and women of the British police and the high standards maintained while getting the job done are the finest in the world, bar none.

I believe the apathy and lethargy that have allowed communists and other elements to infiltrate great nations like Britain and the U.S.A. must be halted. Like Brian Crozier, I feel whether it's domestic infiltration or agitation, foreign domination or pressure by communist agents throughout the free world, the situation can be handled, because there are plenty of men capable and willing to do so. Keeping an eye on our domestic happenings and on foreign activity is each free man's god-given right. Diplomacy and international politics are words but freedom is life for me and my son's sons and I mean to keep it.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Smith
P.O. Box 4174
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**KNIFEMAN
THROWS QUERIES ...**

Sirs:

I've been a regular, eager reader of your magazine from the very first issue. I think it's tops. However, I've had to accept on faith the accounts and content of your articles because most of your features deal with adventures or exploits of men in the U.S. Army, Marines, the Rhodesian and South African armies and the French Foreign Legion. My realm of experience lies with the U.S. Navy, from which I retired with 30 years honorable service as a CPO.

I've had a lifelong interest in all sorts of weapons but have narrowed my interest to handguns and knives. I not only make the world-famous DAN-D fighting knife, but I've been a knife user for some 48 years and a knife thrower for about 40 — all of which leads me to the point (ouch!) of this letter. While glancing over Tom Dunkin's article about WerBell's Cobray School (SOF, January '80) my eye was caught by a remark made by Barney Cochran, WerBell's acting president: "It is as important to know when to throw a knife as to how

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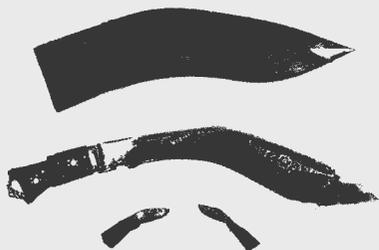


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to throw it (page 50)." (Bullshit, sir, sez I.) He goes on to state that to learn to throw a knife takes "one hour a day, five days a week, for three weeks." Again I must respectfully reply, "Bullshit, sir."

Three to five hours a day, seven days a week, and every week forever, would be a more realistic training schedule for a person really and truly interested in mastering the sport of knife throwing, and let's face it, gents, that's really what knife throwing is — a sport. According to Cochran, one of his former comrades in Air Commandos "gets two or three deer each hunting season using a throwing knife." Now I ask you serious hunters of the wily deer to ponder that statement a moment or two. It really boggles the mind. This dude must have to carry his balls around in a wheelbarrow!

Anyone who throws his knife in combat is a goddamned fool! What's he to do for an encore if he misses, and his last (and presumably only) weapon goes slithering off into the bush? The man does not live who can get "two or three deer each hunting season using a throwing knife." I can't help wondering about the wisdom of making a man who is gullible enough to swallow that line acting president of a school which is supposed to command respect and credibility.

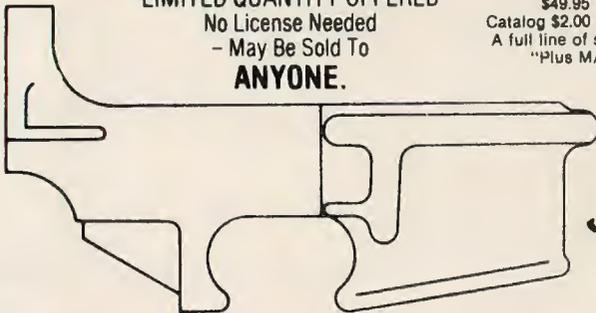
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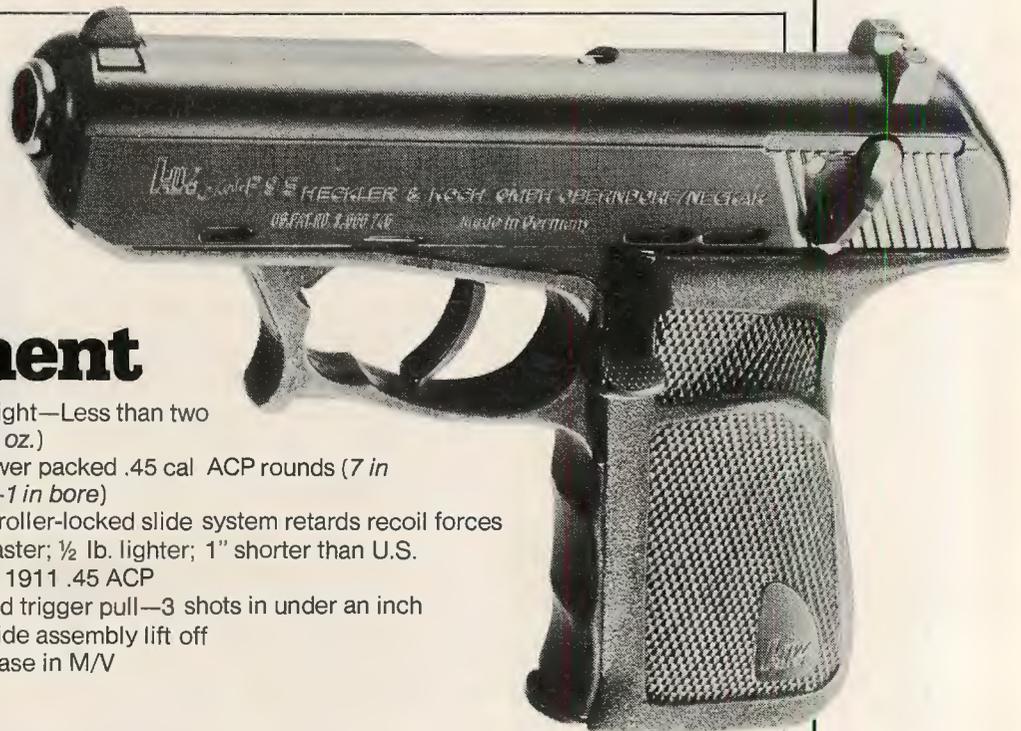
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**VC FOR JUSTICE
ADDRESS CHANGE ...**

Sirs:

Thanks for running my "Traitor or Hero" letter on Marine PFC Robert Garwood in Cuss and Discuss (SOF, February '80). I have since returned to helicopter flying in support of the off-shore oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico and have changed my mailing address to:

VC (Veterans Committee)
to Assure Justice
P.O. Box 1150
Bandera, TX 78003

I am still very much involved in supporting the Marine Corps systematic pursuit of the due-process-of-law in the Garwood case.

Sincerely,
Dale W. Hurst
Bandera, Texas

**MP STORIES
PRAISED ...**

Sirs:

I have recently been reading your excellent magazine and have enjoyed it very much. I really enjoyed the MP in Vietnam stories written by Nick Uhernik ("Toughest Beat in the World," August '79, "Battle of Blood," October '79, "Snatched from Death's Jaws," December '79, "Saigon's Deadly Streets," May '80). I can readily compare my experiences with his. I would like to see more of these Vietnam MP stories in SOF. They are really good.

Yours truly,
William W. Meek
Los Angeles, California

We plan to use Nick Uhernik's articles as long as he sends them to us. Look for his article on Fort Hustler in an upcoming SOF.—The Eds.



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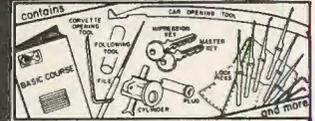


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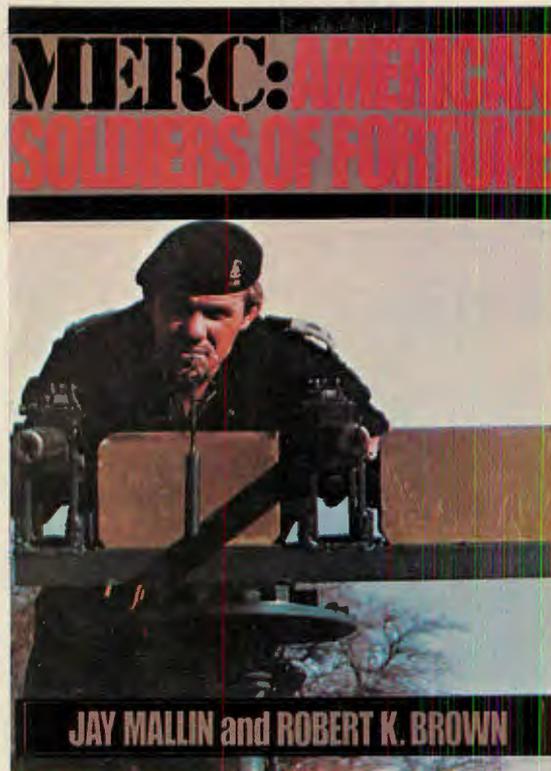
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