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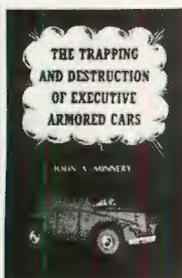
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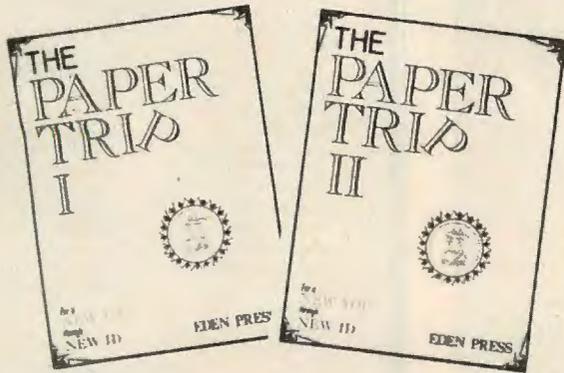
**SILENCERS PATTERNS AND PRINCIPLES**  
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# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

COVER: USS *New Jersey* fires a broadside from its nine 16" guns. This scene was repeated many times during the *Jersey's* 120 days on line in 1968 when it supported U.S. troops in South Vietnam's I Corps. This Queen of the Seas is the biggest warship ever built except for the Japanese battleship *Yamato* in WWII and saw action in WWII and Korea as well as Vietnam.

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# BULLETIN BOARD



by Jim Graves

## SORRY ABOUT THAT COMRADE ...

When communist demonstrators taunted Old Glory the folks of Raleigh County, W.Va. waded in, led by umbrella-swinging matrons. The older men delivered punches, while youngsters took the communists' red flags.

When local police broke up the melee, the communists, about two dozen of them, were arrested for waving a red flag: a violation of West Virginia law.

"Some of these old people can really hurt you when they get stirred up," said Sgt. Darel Green of the sheriff's office. "And the women are just as bad as the men. The citizens just took it into their own hands. We did the best we could trying to separate them and arrest the communists before the citizens got to them."

One member of the May Day Brigade, Carl Dix, disagreed, saying the police "fundamentally allowed them [onlookers] to attack us and push us, and our people got arrested."

## AWFULLY SORRY IVAN ...

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, some real Ivans are having trouble pushing around another group of people.

The 80,000 Russian soldiers sent into Afghanistan, at the request of a government they themselves installed in a bloody coup, have received a very hostile reception.

While Moscow has not been forthcoming with its casualty figures, experts have placed it around 500 per week. Hospitals in Tashkent and elsewhere in the Central Asian republics of Turkmenia, Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan are filling with Soviet soldiers wounded in Afghan fighting. Another rumor in Moscow is that coffins for the war dead are said to be arriving daily in Moscow and other major cities.

Matched against the Soviet troops are unknown numbers of Afghans, armed with weapons that defy description or classification, operating with an estimated 40 to 160 different insurgent groups.

Despite their advantages of technology the Soviets have found the ter-

rain and the Afghans very difficult to deal with and if the Afghans ever solve their tribal bickering and launch a common front, Soviet casualty figures could climb.

## BRINGING BACK THE BIG GUNS ...

Our cover shot is very appropriate this month as the USS *New Jersey* may be going back to sea.

The *New Jersey*, an Iowa class battleship, which served for 16 months in Vietnam, is one of two ships (the other is the carrier *Oriskany*) which the Navy wants to take out of mothballs, refurbish and send back to duty to improve the United States' ability to meet its growing commitments at sea, particularly in the Indian Ocean.

Plans call for the *New Jersey* to keep six of its nine 16-inch guns, which can fire one-ton-plus shells over 23 miles. The Navy thinks new technology, including rocket-assisted shells, could double the range of the 16-inchers.

In the three mounts left empty, Navy officials want to install launchers — they could fit in about 40 or 50 — for Tomahawk cruise missiles. The Tomahawk can be fitted with a conventional or nuclear warhead and has a range of over 1,000 miles. The 45,000-ton *New Jersey* could carry approximately 600 missiles.

The *Oriskany*, which saw extensive duty in the air war against Vietnam, can carry about 75 planes.

Estimates of the cost are \$255 million for the *New Jersey* and \$305 million for the *Oriskany*, but it would take at least two years to get the ships to sea.

## MILITARY REUNION NOTICES ...

The 13th Annual Reunion of the Gamewardens of Vietnam Association (River Patrol Force, Task Force 116) will be held Aug. 16 in Norfolk, Va. YNCS John C. Williams, USN, P.O. Box 5523, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, can provide the details.

The 550th Airborne Infantry Association will hold its 28th Annual Reunion over Labor Day weekend in Seattle, Wash.

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# FULL AUTO

by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston

Beginning with this issue of SOF, our Full Auto column will be written by a variety of editors. Leading off is Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston of the Shaker Heights, Ohio, Police Department, a veteran police officer whose interest in automatic weapons has led him to discover one-of-a-kind weapons (see "One of a Kind," SOF, April '80) and the adaptation of the M16 on which he reports below.

THERE I was, thinking that I had seen about everything in automatic weapons. Oh, I was really looking forward to the coming of the Sidewinder (See SOF, Jan. '78, Oct. '79) by Sid McQueen, of S&S Arms (I still am), but other than that, I didn't think much would come along to excite me. But as mother told me, there are times that I am just flat-out wrong. So it was with the SCACS (Sub-Caliber Automatic Carbine Suppressed).

The first time I saw the SCACS was in the fall 1979 Brecksville police gun show, which is south of Cleveland, Ohio. There, its creator, Bruce Swalwell, explained the device to me; it was love at first sight.

The SCACS is not a weapon system in itself, but merely a conversion, or an adaptation of an existing one. That is the Colt M16 rifle. First, the SCACS employs the Atchison selective-fire cal. 22 rim-fire conversion unit in an existing M16, but after that there are some big changes.

The standard M16 barrel is cut and machined to take the MAC 10 cal. 45 suppressor, and the barrel is ported where it extends into the first chamber of the suppressor. Since the Atchison 22 conversion works on the blowback principle, there is no need for the standard gas tube or front sight base, and those parts are done away with. The new conversion barrel is then installed into a spare M16 upper receiver, and the entire conversion replaces the standard upper receiver group in seconds. Of course the 5.56mm round cannot be fired through the new short barrel with the suppressor attached, as the pressure would be far too great for the suppressor to withstand.

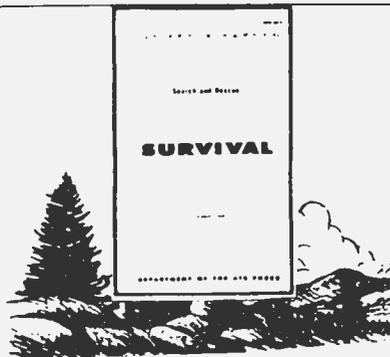
Swalwell demonstrated that while the SCACS conversion is silent enough as it is, holding in the forward assist with the thumb when firing single shots keeps the action closed, almost completely silencing the weapon. The conversion barrel will retail for \$49.95, plus postage. Also available will be the barrel nut with rotating assault sling swivel, and front sight, at \$9.95 and \$5.95, respectively. For more information on these and other interesting accessories, write S.M.W., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 30085, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130.



Holding action closed in single fire further muffles sound.



SCACS conversion broken down for inspection.



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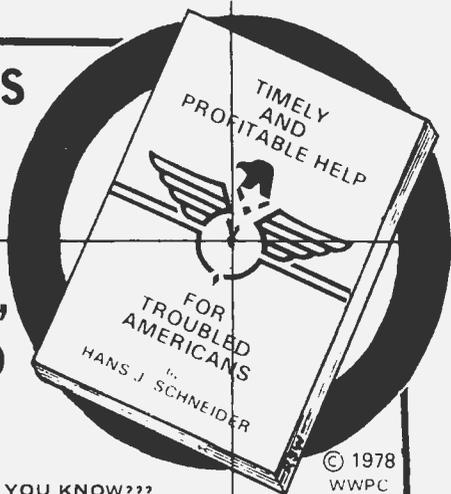
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Mr. Schneider is also the author of 2 other excellent books. His latest, **FLYING TO BE FREE** (256 pages), is his personal never-before-told story of the years he spent on dangerous aviation missions through war-torn Europe and the near-fatal accounts of his travels in almost 100 countries. **MASTERS OF LEGALIZED CONFUSION AND THEIR PUPPETS** (65,000 copies in print!) is an undisputed eye-opener written without compromise. These volumes will make wonderful additions to your library. Now ALL THREE books can be obtained for just \$15.95 ppd.—\$4 OFF (a 20% savings)! Prompt shipment guaranteed.

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# TERRAIN & SITUATION

Jerry Ahern



**P**OLICE work sometimes involves the practical use of gadgetry — gadgets useful to the officer who keeps abreast of current developments. And one new gadget is so important, yet so subtle, it could save police lives. Safariland produces a stainless-steel cuff key of about twice normal length, which works with Smith & Wesson Model 90s, the new Bianchi cuffs, Peerless cuffs and foreign imports. Now Safariland has introduced a new cuff key, but this one is hidden, designed for emergency use only.

Many police officers are shot with their own guns. And, in this age of hostage-taking popularity, it is not unique for an officer to wind up the prisoner of his own handcuffs. This new cuff key could buy the officer out of such a potentially lethal jam. It looks like an ordinary belt keeper, the kind used to anchor a gun belt in place over the trouser belt. Unsnap the keeper and inside is a concealed, stainless-steel handcuff key. It rotates on a swivel and is easily used. Available in black, basket-weave or plain, to match uniform duty-rigs, the keeper can even be employed by plainclothes personnel, just in front of a belt holster, positioned so it would seem to be there to retard forward holster movement. It is economically priced. For more information contact Safariland, Dept. SOF, 1941 S. Walker Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, USA.

**R**UGER has recently introduced perhaps the most practical all-purpose rifle around, a stainless-steel version of its popular Mini-14 .223 Sporter. The original Mini-14 was popular from its inception for sportsmen as a light, handy, all-purpose rifle, riding in pickup trucks and saddle scabbards, and with police officers as an easy-to-use, reliable, semi-automatic rifle. Even for short-range use on deer, the .223 is adequate and the Mini-14 excellent.

Such a rifle, however, whether used for sporting or defense purposes, is bound to come in contact with rough weather and knocks and dings. The stainless Mini-14 is relatively impervious to this. Because of the high quality of stainless steel used, rust-resistance with normal care is ex-

cellent. And there is no bluing or other finish material to scratch off on brush or hard ground — only the rear peep sight and the magazines, of course, are not stainless steel. Yet, the sling swivels are.

The Mini-14 stainless has some disadvantages for military and police application. The stainless steel finish is brushed, but still reflective. A more serious drawback is that stainless steel heats more and cools less rapidly than ordnance steel. In 20-round rapid-fire sessions, my stainless Mini-14 got hot — extremely hot — to the touch on the barrel. This heating was expected and is no more than can be found with one of the stainless revolvers after prolonged firing, but still something to consider. Despite the heating problem, living in Georgia as I do with its humid climate and prolonged rainy periods, the stainless Mini-14 is practical for me, and many shooters may find it the answer to all-purpose rifle chores as well.

Be wary with larger capacity magazines, however, with any of the Mini-14s. As anyone knows, many firms offer magazines for the Mini-14, as well as Ruger. Some of these magazines are excellent but some are not.

For more information on this new Ruger and any of the other fine Ruger police/defensive or sporting arms, write Sturm-Ruger, Dept. SOF, Lacy Place, Southport, CT 06490, USA.

**1**980 marks the 25th anniversary of one of the strongest, best-made revolvers in the world — the Colt Python .357 magnum. Development of the gun began in 1953, but introduction came in 1955. Today, the gun is just as popular as ever and is the highest priced domestic-manufacture handgun available. Current barrel offerings for the Python are 2½-inch, four-inch, six-inch and, new for 1980, an eight-inch barrel length as well. The Python is impossible to confuse with similar handguns. Its barrel's distinctive full-length vent rib is similar only to the smaller-framed Diamondback 38 and 22.

Why is the Python so strong? Only highest-quality materials are used; the frame size is simple for larger calibers; the

*Continued on page 76*

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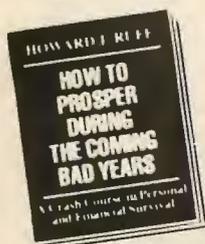
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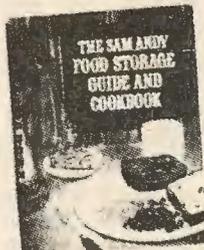
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# COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT



Jeff Cooper  
& Ken Hackathorn

**Q.** As a reservist, I and others face the prospect of service in Iran if gutless Jimmy Carter ever gets off his knees, stops holding prayer services and decides on something to actually get the hostages back. If sent, and the military forgets to prohibit personal arms, I would take with me my S&W .357.

Since we would be fighting Islamics, I desire to treat the projectiles of the cartridges with pig fat, and perhaps implant the hollow-points with pork or bacon fat as this would add to the damnation of the Islamic scum struck with them. My inquiry, essentially, is whether this treatment would diminish the effectiveness of the rounds or produce adverse results to the firearm.

Islamic swine are expendable but a quality firearm is not. Should I wind up using military weapons, would such treatment impact military weapons and/or ammunition? I would expect those serving with me to likewise treat their cartridges if there is no strong reason not to do so.

G.C.C.

Watseka, Illinois

**A.** *The pig-fat trick is traditionally a good one. It is not necessary, however, to go to all the trouble you propose. Just wait until your kitchen has a couple of cc of bacon grease to spare and roll your cartridges therein. Do it lightly and it will have no effect upon your ammunition except to make it smell good.*

*The point is to advertise. The pig fat by itself does nothing. It is only if the faithful are made aware of their peril that you gain points. If you make sure that they know what you are doing, you don't even have to do it.*

**Q.** I'm a private security guard who is forced to carry a revolver due to department regulations. I presently use an S&W Model 19 with a four-inch barrel and use .357 ammo while on duty to get maximum stopping power. Yet recently I was in a situation where I had to fire on two armed thieves in the warehouse where I was assigned. One was hit twice, but he was able to get a shot off at me as both my shots were through-and-through shots. I wasn't hurt, and both were caught, but

my confidence in this gun as a stopper was badly shaken. So, I'm considering either a change in ammo or a new gun like the S&W Model 58 .41 magnum with the so-called Police Load. Which do you recommend?

As a backup gun I'd like an S&W Chief's Special, yet I've heard that Mossberg is producing the Security Industries .357 in an S&W J-type frame. Do you think this small .357 can handle magnum loads? Why doesn't S&W produce the model 40 Centennial again? I once owned one and found it to be an excellent gun and have to this day regretted my decision to trade it for another gun.

T.M.

Jackson Heights, New York

**A.** *Your experience with the .357 is not common, but it does occur. There is no such thing as absolute stopping power in anything that can be carried in the hands. You can nevertheless increase your odds by moving up to a .41. I have no definitive information on the "backup gun" in action, so I am at a loss to make prescriptions. I think that if I had reason to carry a second weapon which had to be totally concealed, I would favor a 22 pocket auto such as the Walther PPK.*

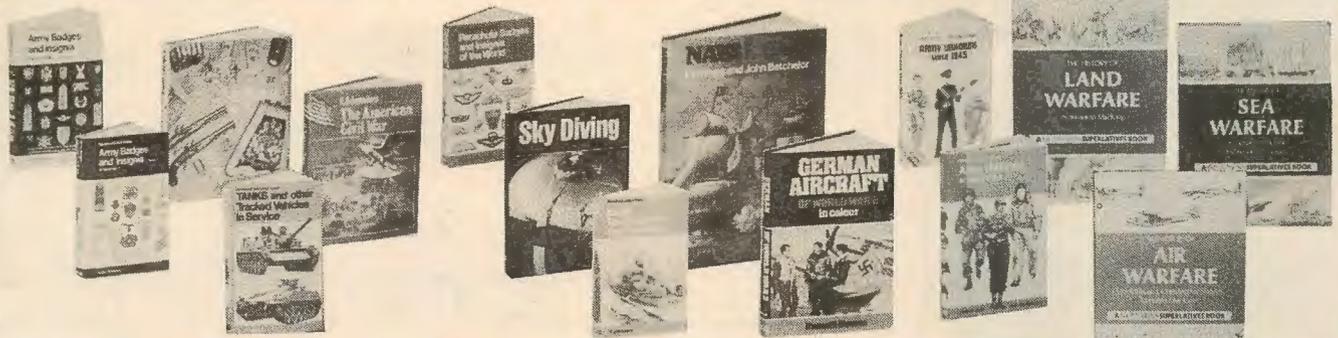
*Any "small .357" can digest full loads. The question is, "How long can it do so?" Obviously, such pieces are designed only for occasional use and if they hold up for 50 to 100 rounds they have served their purpose. I am not the person to query on the subject of S&W policy. If you wish to know why S&W does something, the best person to ask is S&W.*

**Q.** I recently was putting insulation in the attic of my home and found a handgun in the trash under the floorboards. The cylinder and the piece that holds it in place is missing. The words, "American Bulldog," are written on top of an eight-sided barrel. When I removed the hand grips I found the number 640 on the frame. I would like any information regarding this gun, its maker and whether they are still in business.

*Continued on page 22*

# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

## LIBRARY OF MILITARY HISTORY



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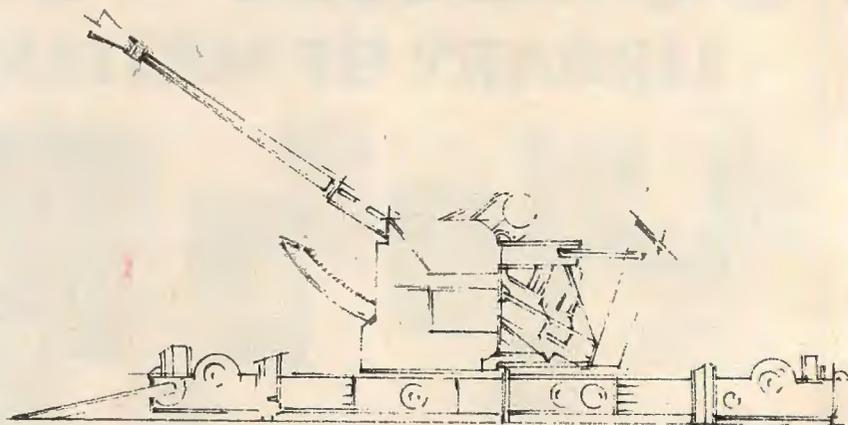
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# FLAK



## 20-GAUGE vs. WHEELGUN ...

Sirs:

The advice to (lady) novices in the letter from D.T. (FLAK, March '80) is typical of the bad advice most novices get when they finally decide to arm themselves. D.T. advises: get a 20-gauge single-shot, saw off the barrel, saw off the stock and shoot from the hip (at the bad guy's legs, for godsakes!). And don't worry about practice, 10 shots should be enough. May I sincerely suggest that either D.T. has the DTs or else he's gotten all of his combat experience from watching TV.

Having survived several real-life self-defense situations myself and investigated hundreds of others, I feel compelled to observe:

1. Any firearm which may be used by a novice for self-defense should be as simple to operate as possible, one that can be hurriedly grabbed, aimed and fired, without having to first cock a hammer, release a safety, operate a lever, etc.

2. The firearm should have a multiple-shot capability. Once an assault is in progress the attacker rarely flees because one shot is fired into the floor — or anywhere else except into his body — and the possibility of multiple assailants must be taken into consideration.

3. The firearm should be as powerful as the novice can shoot rapid-fire without flinching.

4. The gun should be small enough to be readily concealable. Otherwise, it might not be along when needed.

5. The novice must learn — and practice — the basics of combat marksmanship. All practice should be done at close range, three to 30 feet, using a combat silhouette target. Point of aim should always be the center-body area. When an attack comes, the action is usually so fast and in such poor light that only those with strong suicidal tendencies should ever attempt anything other than center-body shots.

6. The novice must learn an important fact of life (or death) — any armed attacker is a definite threat until he is down and out.

The bottom line is this: the best gun for a novice to use for self-defense is a double-action revolver. I feel the choice should be narrowed down to a quality American-made wheelgun of 22 magnum (WMR), 38 Special or .357 magnum caliber.

Sincerely,  
 Robert Flesh  
 Alva, Florida

*Thanks for your comments. As a long-time police officer and SWAT team leader, you know whereof you speak. See also "Guns for Gals," SOF, June '80.*

## COMMISSAR CARTER ...

Sirs:

After I stole SOF from my husband, I read the article on El Salvador (April '80) and feel we should call for Carter's impeachment as a traitor to America's peoples and beliefs. Although I am not an American (I was born in Scotland), I have lived in the United States for 10 years and have seen this once-great country go steadily downhill.

What is happening to this country when the man who is supposed to be its people's leader is selling them out to the communists? Let us hope that the American people will see the light in November and vote Commissar Carter out of office. I'm sure his communist friends will help find him a job.

Yours faithfully,  
 Susan L. Yokum  
 Richlands, North Carolina

## MUGABE ON GUN CONTROL ...

Sirs:

In March Time Magazine interviewed Zimbabwe-Rhodesia's prime minister-designate, Robert Mugabe, who is quoted as  
*Continued on page 23*

# THE VIETNAM WAR:

An Illustrated  
History of the Conflict  
in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General William Westmoreland

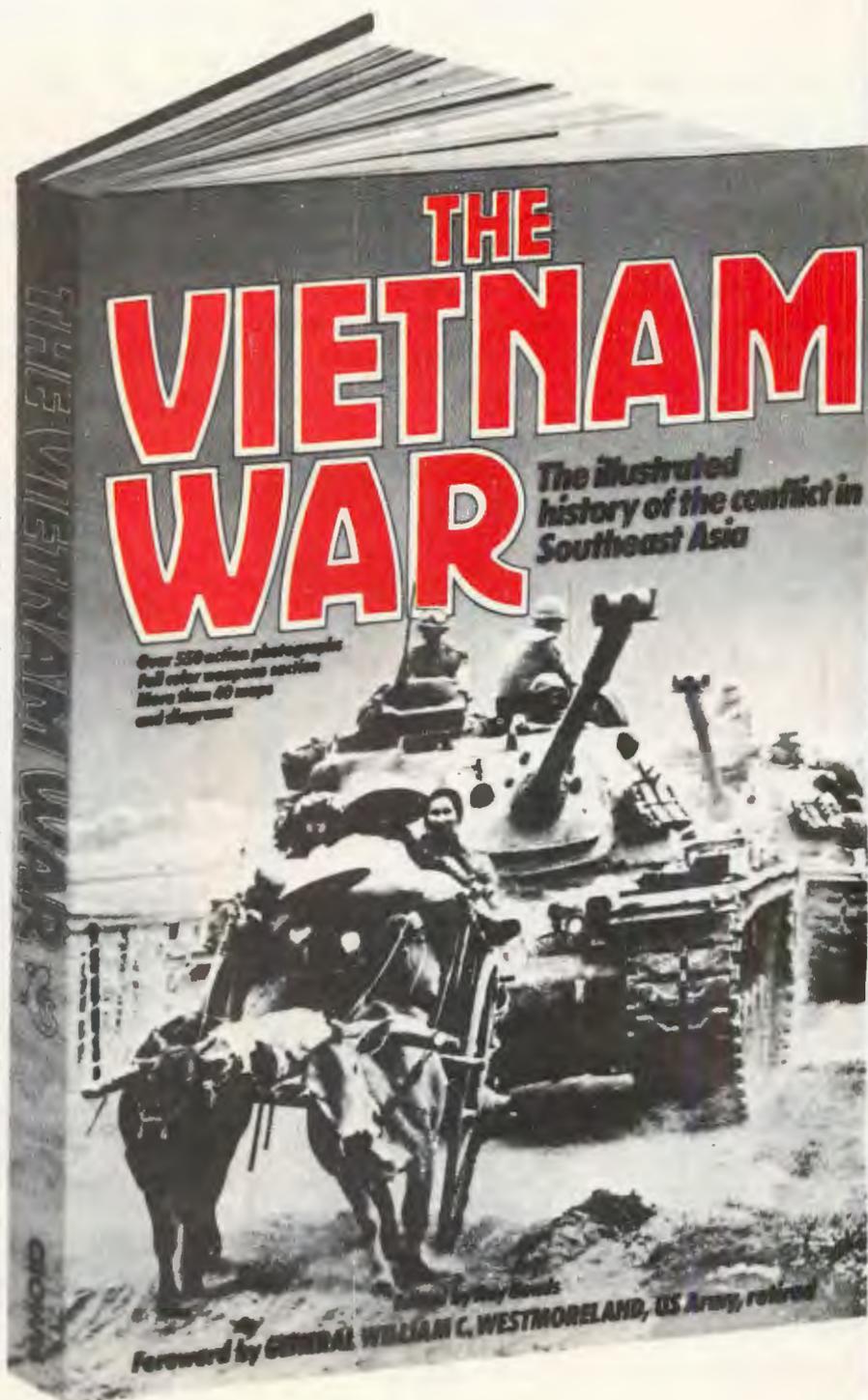
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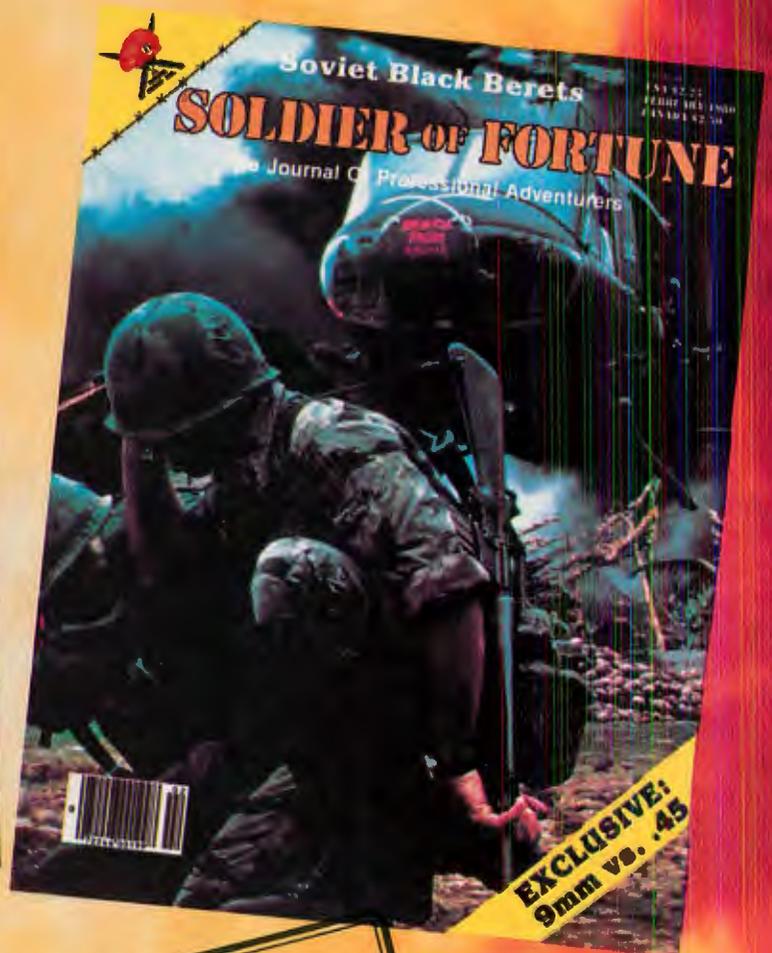
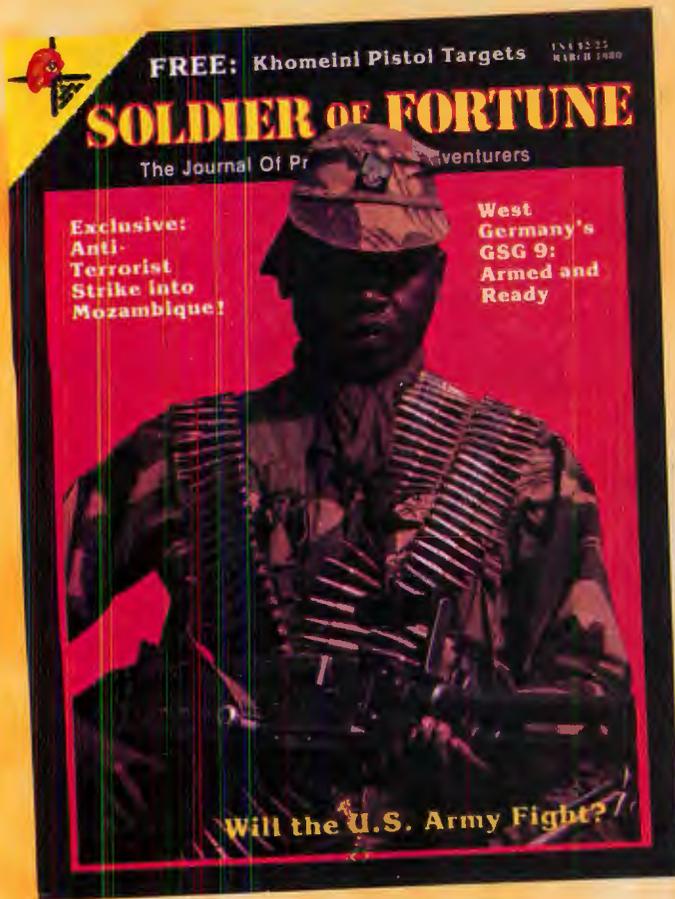
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# STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele

**Q.** Being of Filipino extraction, I was very pleased with the attention you gave to the Malaysian kris and the bali-song in your worldwide view of fighting knives and methods. Of all the books available, yours is the most comprehensive and practical.

My question regards the position of the "alive" hand, as it is referred to in *escrima*. That is, the hand not holding the knife. When I studied *tanto-jitsu*, my instructor, Mr. Ronald Duncan, taught us to keep the weaponless hand with the little finger edge forward. This is in keeping with the martial arts dictum of offering as small a target as possible.

The *escrimadors*, on the other hand, advise that the palm of the hand face inward, toward the heart. The reason they stated is, when the hand comes into play, the necessary turning of the wrist will add authority to the move. This seems to make sense if you've ever witnessed the short, momentumless hand snaps of *wing chun* boxing.

The opposite position, with the palm facing outward towards the opponent, is the one most commonly depicted in the majority of knife-fighting books. Cassidy, in particular, makes a point of this, explaining that if one is cut on the palm the hand is still capable of limited functioning; whereas if one is cut on the back of the hand, the severed flexing tendons will render the hand useless.

And although you advocate that the left hand be used for grabbing, feinting and tossing sand in the eyes, you do not enter into detail regarding placement and positioning.

J.L.,  
Hollis, N.Y.

**A.** The style pictured in my book, *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting* (Phoenix Press, Dept. SOF, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306), is adapted from *saber fencing*, similar to *largo mano* (long distance) style in *escrima*. At this distance from your opponent, putting your left hand in front of you would just provide your opponent with another target.

At infighting distance, however, the left hand, if empty, should be carried in the *escrima* position. The consequences of a cut anywhere on that hand are largely unpredictable; the idea is to either keep it out of the way entirely, or put it where it can do the most good offensively (for checks, grabs and blows).

If the left hand is carrying another weapon or some object to be thrown there are occasions where it will be out in front of the knife hand. Likewise, if an opponent is using his fist, feet or a blunt instrument, there may be times when the empty left hand can block before the knife hand moves.

**Q.** My usual method of arming myself is a Gerber Mk.I, a Gerber FS-II folder, and a Hi-Standard 22 Mag der-ringer. Real serious business involves a Series 70 Colt Government Model.

I have had one serious confrontation, in the parking lot at work. Two hoodlums decided I looked like an easy mark. I drew my Mk.I Gerber and squared off. One of the creeps grabbed the blade of my knife, and I proceeded to take a couple of his fingers down to the bone. The lad decided he really was hurt and trucked off somewhere to get sewed up.

T.A.S.,  
Madison Heights, Mich.

**A.** This should be a lesson to the writer who thinks that inside hand cuts can be taken with impunity (see first letter). In general, your tactics seem sound: i.e., nothing succeeds like success.

**Q.** I was stationed at a USAF base in Spain at the outbreak of the 1960 Belgian Congo Revolution. We were given a special assignment and shipped to Leopoldville. Just before we left I picked up a switchblade at a local outdoor market.

We wore civilian clothes and rode out under guard to a secluded college 18 miles from the capital. It was there that we were told our mission was to establish and maintain radio communications from the American Embassy to the USAF HQ in Germany.

A few days later I went into town with two buddies. While having a drink at an outdoor cafe, I was approached by a native kid asking to shine my boots. When he heard me speak in French to a Red Cross representative, the kid ran over to three Congolese revolutionaries. From under their garments they took out their bush knives. All the customers ran into the cafe, including my two buddies.

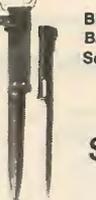
The closest one worked his way around the tables, holding his chopper over his head. I crouched with the switchblade in my right hand. At the right moment I pushed the button. I heard the click of the blade and almost simultaneously heard  
*Continued on page 75*



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Continued from page 6

**W**HILE MAO  
SPINS ...

A mere stone's throw from Chairman Mao Zedong's mausoleum is the Great Hall of the People, the edifice where the communist party gathers in congress.

The Great Hall of the People also happens to be China's Great Dance Hall. A year ago, for the first time since the onset of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, the communists allowed the dancing to begin.

Government organizations were permitted to rent rooms in the Great Hall for employee dances and at the start foreigners were allowed to mix with the Chinese.

However, when foreigners began taking Chinese women home after the dances, party officials decided it would be more proper if foreigners could attend dances three nights a week and Chinese the other four. Also not proper is rock-and-roll. The music is generally polkas or tangos.

It is not unusual for foreigners to be kept away from the Chinese people or to receive different treatment. At the Peking Hotel, for instance, ordinary Chinese are not allowed while people from the West are. In restaurants prices are calculated according to origin — Chinese guests pay

half the price Americans do.

**T**HE '36  
COUNTER-OLYMPICS ...

When President Carter proposed a counter-Olympics to take some of the sting out of the boycott of Moscow's Olympic Games we assumed it was the first of its kind.

But it's not. A *New York Times* story pointed out that communists backed a counter-Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, in 1936 as a protest against Hitler's Berlin Olympics. Moscow's Comintern was the behind-the-scene organizer of the Games slated to start on July 16 with 5,000 participants drawn from 16 nations.

But early that Sunday the revolution led by Francisco Franco erupted on the streets of Barcelona. Shortly after the start of the rebellion, a Catalan communist named Ramon Mercader rushed to the hotel housing the foreign athletes to help them. Mercader became famous four years later when he slammed an ice ax to the head of Leon Trotsky in Mexico.

Several hundred of the athletes, who were socialists and communists, joined the street fighting in Barcelona and became the nucleus of the International Brigades. Also in Barcelona soon after that was a Comintern agent named Tito — today the ailing President of Yugoslavia — who

Continued on page 78

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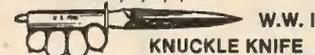
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## COMBAT PISTOL

Continued from page 12

If so, where can I write them to get this handgun restored?

D.K.N., Jr.

Lynn, Massachusetts

**A.** The American Bulldog revolver was one of the original Saturday night specials. It wasn't very much good when it was built and it is totally worthless now. If you need a weapon you need something better, and if you don't need it don't bother with it.

—Jeff Cooper

This month Ken Hackathorn discusses several items of interest to combat shooters, ranging from mail order equipment sources, to a midwestern submachine gun course, to techniques by which the shooter can improve his ability and better utilize his training time.

**A** New York store now stocks the excellently designed Jones custom extended-magazine catch for the Colt 1911 pistol. Write Jim's Flye Shoppe, Dept. SOF, RD No. 1, 9518 Rt. 60, Fredonia, NY 14063. Price is \$19.95 postpaid. If one desires the best extended-magazine catch on the market, this is the one to have. Shooters with small hands will find the Jones design works ideally and it can easily be converted back to the stock configuration for duty use. It is simple to install and can be changed in a matter of minutes.

**F**OR years Gill Hebard Guns, Dept. SOF, 125-129 Public Square, Knoxville, IL 61448, has offered a complete line of accessories for the pistol shooter. Although most of the goods seen in Gil Hebard's catalog are primarily intended for the target competitor, many items may be of interest to the practical pistol shooter. If you do not have a copy of Hebard's catalog, I suggest you write for one at the above address. It is too good to pass up.

**F**ROM time to time, the subject of the machine pistol comes up, and one often notes special interest in the submachine gun. Due to legal restrictions in some localities of the United States, many men have never had an opportunity to become familiar with the common variety of submachine guns. Also, unless they are Class III dealers of automatic weapons, few shooters get to handle, let alone fire the different types of SMGs. Realizing the increasing interest in the use of the submachine gun and its role in the weaponry spectrum, John Wetzel of Wetzel Arms Company has undertaken to satisfy this interest. Wetzel Arms Co. will offer a submachine gun familiarization study on July 18-19, 1980. Its purpose is to introduce the student to various types of submachine guns: Swedish K, UZI, Sterling, MAC 10, Walther MPL, H&K MP5, MP 40, M3A-1, PPs43, Thompson and other

Continued on page 75

## FLAK

*Continued from page 14*

saying, "There must be disarmament of everybody, not only the whites. There are many guns around, and we want to remove them. We want this to be achieved in as short a period as possible. The people now have the power, so I don't see any reason why they should have these individual firearms. If we want them to be armed, we will arm them properly."

So if the "people" truly do have the power, and if the government is satisfied to let them keep it, there should be no objections to letting the people keep their individual firearms.

The above worn-out scenario is all too familiar. After the weapons are locked up, the freedom of the people will be locked up as well.

Truly,  
Thomas A. Drescher  
Columbus, Ohio

## STUDENT SPEAKS FOR DRAFT ...

Sirs:

Lately, there has been a lot of talk of the draft coming back. My personal feelings are that it should be reinstated, but at my school about 65 percent oppose it. I am from a family of soldiers, and it seems to me that persons who live here and live off America's progress should serve their country.

I am a JROTC and I will enlist next year in the Army Reserve (I'm 16).

If only our teachers would teach us students how to despise communism and those despicable Russians. I am glad that your magazine allows us patriots to express ourselves without ridicule.

Sincerely,  
Paul Bonham Woodard  
Plano, Texas

## TEXAS TV HATCHET JOB ...

Sirs:

I object to the malicious, unfair, slanted coverage given by a Ft. Worth television station to SOF. For your information, the interview with Dan Medina of KXAS, an NBC affiliate, was twisted into an uncompromising condemnation of your publication.

While I personally don't care for some of SOF's contents, it contains mostly useful and even in a few cases vital information. I was outraged that absolutely no mention was made of "the other 80 percent" of the magazine.

Frankly, because of this one-sided coverage, I took a second look at SOF myself and now intend to subscribe.

Sincerely,  
Griffin T. Murphey, D.D.S.  
Fort Worth, Texas

*Thanks to Dr. Murphey and our loyal Texas readers who have sent us their reports — and tapes — of this TV series.*

—The Eds.



JULY/80

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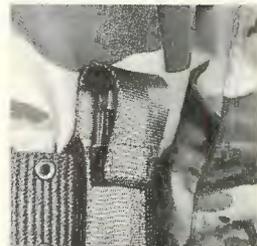
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 23

# I WAS THERE

by Det. Lt. Joseph M. Deoma  
as told to M.L. Jones

*Detective Lt. Joseph M. Deoma joined the Shaker Heights, Ohio, Police Department on 9 May 1962, and served as a patrolman in the uniform division until June 1969, when he was transferred to the police department radio room. As he tells it:*

**M**ONDAY, 2 February 1970, was a fairly routine day until late in the afternoon when I received a report of a man shot and shots fired on Fernway Road. I assigned two patrolmen to check out the report and turned to face the radio console.

Suddenly, the room filled with blinding light and a noise like a gigantic vacuum cleaner.

I thought, "My God, I've been electrocuted." The noise and vibration sounded remote until I heard screaming. It was Miss Pagliaro, a civilian secretary who had been standing by me in the radio room. I tried to open my eyes and focus them but was unable to.

I said, "I think I am blind," and my calmness helped her. She now told me the whole building just seemed to fall apart and collapse. We were partially buried by concrete from the walls with large chunks of concrete rubble all around us.

We could hear cries for help from other parts of the building. I thought I could see electrical sparks and I could hear telephones ringing. I wondered why no-one answered the phone.

Then I realized that I had some vision but I couldn't move. I kept hearing someone cry, "Oh God, help me, help me."

Finally, we heard loud, excited voices somewhere in the darkness and then a voice close by.

Someone told me, "We're taking Miss Pagliaro out now and we'll be back for you." I must have kept blacking out because it seemed no time before that same voice returned and said, "We're getting out now."

I felt myself being carried out. My carriers stumbled through darkness until I could see indistinct faces and felt cold air. I was placed in a vehicle and I heard voices and sirens all around me.

One voice said, "Someone pick up his arm so it doesn't drag on the floor of the squad."

I thought, "I'll raise my own arm," but nothing on my body wanted to work.

Another voice said, "He looks pretty bad. You better hurry." I could feel the vehicle and hear the siren and the voices of people in the vehicle with me.

I thought, "I'm going to die and I don't know what killed me." I thought of my wife and three children and felt very much alone but not afraid.

Then I remember a sudden rush of air. I opened my eyes and looked into those of a bearded man, the doctor treating me in the local hospital's emergency room.

When I next opened my eyes, I saw my wife, Donna, standing beside me. I told her, "Hon, I chipped my front tooth."

I later found out both interior and exterior jugular veins on the left side of my neck were severed, I had multiple lacerations of the head and body and a deep cut on the left arm and bicep muscle. When I arrived at the hospital, I had no blood pressure or discernible pulse. I was treated first in emergency and remained in surgery for five hours before being placed in in-

tensive care in critical condition for five days.

As I was recovering, I learned the police building had been bombed by a young mental patient who had first shot his psychiatrist on Fernway Road. He was killed by his own device when it went off, apparently prematurely.

Eyewitness accounts described a muffled roar from inside the building and then the roof's lifting into the air. The walls fell outward and the roof crashed down onto them. Of the 18 people in the building when it blew up at 5:13 p.m., the only fatality was the man who planted the bomb.



## IT HAPPENED TO ME

by James T. Speirs  
as told to M.L. Jones

*James T. Speirs, now a technical writer and consultant in San Diego, Calif., served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966 to 1969, including combat infantry tours with the 9th Marine and 4th Marine Regiments. In February 1967 he was a corporal with 3/9, "Mike" Company, at the Rockpile on the DMZ in Vietnam.*

*"The Rock," located past Camp Carroll on Highway 9, was shelled at will by NVA gunners from inside the DMZ, Mutter's Ridge and the "Razorback." That night, as he tells it:*

**I** stood watch on the perimeter of this vulnerable island with a Marine who had been in-country for two weeks. He was not adapting well and his "hyper" state made it impossible for me to sleep.

At about 0200, pebbles — dirt or rocks (we never found out which) — began to fall into our "fighting hole."

"Rock apes," I thought. The Rockpile was the home of hordes of small monkeys in the absence of combat troops.

The pebbles rattled down. The "boot" Marine next to me was by now in a state of panic, and I too was concerned. VC sappers often probed the Rockpile in hopes of getting the perimeter to open fire in order to locate our automatic weapons. They would then call in mortars and 152mm artillery pieces with pinpoint accuracy.

I informed the company CP of the situation on our ancient PRC-10 and was advised to use illumination grenades.

After three "illums" in 20 minutes, the pebbles still continued dropping, as if mocking our attempt to reveal their source.

I again called the CP and told them I was going to throw a fragmentation grenade. I threw one and its explosion shattered the night's heavy blackness.

Shaker Heights,  
Ohio, Police  
Department on  
3 February  
1970, after  
bombing.



Within five minutes the pebbles began dropping once more.

The Marine beside me had forgotten his "frags," leaving them two holes over to our left. He started to go get them.

"No," I said. "Stay here and use mine." I had mine in my jungle utilities, right thigh pouch — five "frags," pins straightened for quick use.

Staring hard into the darkness, trying to estimate distance, I told my fellow Marine to get a "frag" from my pocket. Panic-stricken, he grabbed a grenade and reeled it out of my pouch. As he pulled it out, I felt the spoon catch and pull the pin from another grenade.

I froze and felt the force of the spring-loaded spoon pop against my thigh.

"No chance," I thought, "I have no chance. Five grenades, five seconds — they'll send me home in an envelope.

"Let me run, God, fast and get away!" I still had to reach into my pocket. One, two, pawing for Number 3, knowing my time was up —

BOOMM!! The explosion ripped the night apart and I half laughed, half vomited, thinking of my incredible luck.

I'd grabbed the right grenade. I was too emotionally exhausted to confront my totally inept companion whose lack of composure caused the incident. In two days he would die in a nameless firefight along Highway 9.

The pebbles continued to drop until dawn.



**I**f 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 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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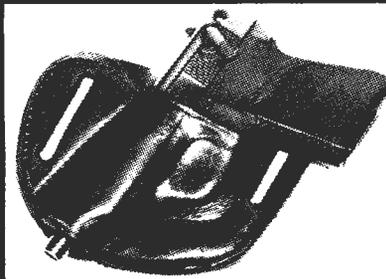
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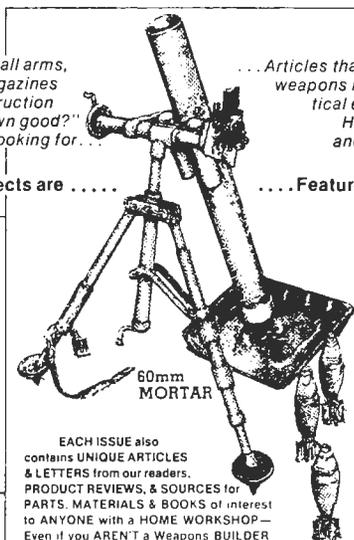
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# CHOPPED AND CHANNELED

## Sentinel Arms— Smallest 44 Magnum

by Lee Jurras

**W**ITHOUT debating the philosophies of the auto-loader vs. the wheel gun as a combat weapon, let's just say that for the wheel gun advocate, the new custom/combat "limited edition" by Sentinel Arms Co. should be received with great interest.

Although probably not the first 2½-inch barreled 44 magnum, the "limited edition" is the first to be available in significant quantities. This nifty conversion is the brainchild of Grant Stapleton, head honcho at Sentinel Arms Co. of Middletown, Pa. Stapleton, working in collaboration with Austin Behlert of the Custom Gunshop, (Dept. SOF, 725 Lehigh Ave., NJ 07083), is offering a limited edition of 450 units. Although the conversion work will be done at Behlert's shop, all guns will be marketed through Sentinel Arms Co.

The "limited edition" conversion starts with any S&W Model 29. The potential buyer can ship his Model 29 to Sentinel Arms for conversion or can purchase the entire unit outright. Each unit — regardless of origin — will be serial numbered 1 of 450, 2 of 450, etc.

### Sentinel and Magna-Port

Sentinel Arms has signed an agreement with Magna-Port to make the entire weapon on order. All 44 magnum snubnoses will be turned out by Magna-Port.

Starting with the standard Model 29, the barrel is cut and crowned to 2½ inches, with the standard S&W front sight relocated. Then the square butt is cut and ground to S&W round-butt configuration, with necessary modifications to the mainspring. The prototype gun I tested had no modification for the strain screw, and typical of the Model 29, backed off from recoil after some 500 rounds, resulting in two light primer hits with subsequent misfires during a fast double-action session on some running jack rabbits.

During a subsequent phone call to Behlert, I was informed that all "production" models will have a set screw installed to stake the strain screw at the proper setting — a plausible answer to those Model 29 owners who have resorted to Lock-tite.

The installation of a crane or yoke lock is then made. This is simply a spring-loaded ball detent fitted in the yoke; in the closed or locked position the steel ball detents to a seat in the frame directly under the barrel. Several pistolsmiths use a similar crane lock. It is the personal feeling of the author that the warping or bending of the crane when subjected to the recoil of the 44 is not this simple to alleviate. However, in all fairness to this conversion, after some 1,500+ rounds the crane on the test gun has not shown any appreciable bending.

### Artistry in Trigger Pull

Now comes the beauty part to wheel-gun lovers. The single- and double-action pulls are artistry. The single action broke at a crisp 1½ pounds and the flawless double action at a smooth six pounds.

The slick action work is arrived at in an unusual manner. Austin Behlert, with the assistance of an associate, has developed a patented process known as "micro/finish," basically a chemical application. Applied after the normal deburring and stoning of contact surfaces, the "micro/finish" actually changes the molecular structure of the surface metal, resulting in glass-smooth contact surfaces. Behlert would not elaborate on the depth of this molecular change, but present tests indicate it is adequate.

The standard external finish is Metalife Industries, Chromium SS plating. Pachmayr "Signature" grips are standard, as is Magna-porting. Magna-porting, combined with the Pachmayr neoprene grips and the round-butt frame all contribute to a lack of expected recoil in a 44 magnum of

this configuration. To experienced 44 users it is a pleasure to shoot, and controllability in the double-action mode has to be tried to be appreciated.

When field testing a combat-type handgun I've always felt machine-rest testing, or shooting groups over sandbags was a crock, best left to gun writers with nothing better to do. The gun either shoots when held in two grimy mitts, or it don't. I was able to connect on running jacks at 35-65 yards with both factory and handloads. Lying over the hood of my pick-up, I was able to keep most shots on a quart oil can at 100 yards. Those shots that were misses, I attributed to me rather than the gun or loads. On head- and shoulder-size boulders at 200 yards, the dude being shot at would have dove for cover had he been able after the first two sighters. To my way of thinking, this is field accuracy and more than adequate for usual handgun combat ranges.

In the ballistics department, I chronographed both the Remington and Federal 240-gr. SP factory loads. The Federal averaged 1,126 f.p.s., with the Remington clocking 1,112 f.p.s. The Federal gave an extreme spread of 52 f.p.s. with a standard deviation of 19, while the Remington load had an extreme spread of 89 f.p.s. and a standard deviation of 34.

### Velocity and Spread

While the velocities are not bad, the extreme spread and standard deviation of both factory loads indicate lack of uniform burning, which is to be expected in this ultra-short barrel. As a comparison, the same Federal 240-grainer clocked 1,165 f.p.s. in four-inch barrel, and 1,325 f.p.s. from a six-inch tube, so the potential user of the "limited-edition" model is only sacrificing 40 f.p.s. less than the standard four-inch barrel, but some 200 f.p.s. less than the six-inch version. The 44 mag. consumer should realize that domestic 44 mag. cartridges are designed for maximum velocity in barrels from 6½ to 8½ inches.

The handloader, by using the proper selection of projectile/propellant combinations, can improve the ballistics of his short and ultra-short barrel conversions. Without particularly trying to develop a load for the "limited-edition" model, I loaded some 180 and 265 bullets for a comparison test. A 180-gr. Sierra was backed by 14.5-gr. Unique, and a CCI 350 primer in new Remington cases. The average velocity from the 2½-inch barrel was 1,280 f.p.s. with an extreme spread of 41 f.p.s. and a standard deviation of 17. The 265-gr. Hornady bullet, backed by 17.0 gr. of Blue Dot, same primer and case; gave 1,135 f.p.s. velocity, an extreme spread of 46 f.p.s. and a standard deviation also of 17. Clearly, both loads with their faster propellants gave more uniform burning. The 265-gr. load is

within accepted pressure levels, and gave easy extraction, and with its thin jacket and soft core should offer excellent man-stopper qualities, without excessive penetration.

For the high velocity fan, the .180-gr. load should prove equally effective. Should these velocities seem low, remember we are talking of 180-265-gr. bullet weight with 44-diameter projectiles, from a 2½-inch barrel.

All in all, I found the Sentinel Arms "limited edition" an interesting concept, concealable, and of first-class workmanship. Price is \$250 in blue with standard action. Chromoly finish is \$85 extra, "micro-finish" \$50 extra.



**UPPER RIGHT:** Sentinel Arms combat conversion shows concealability factor. Hand holding gun wears size 10 glove, about national average for males. 41 oz. weight is two ounces less than standard four-inch version.

**CENTER:** Lee Jurras shoots Sentinel Arms "Limited Edition" in full recoil with Remington 240-grain load. Notice lack of muzzle rise.

**RIGHT:** Location of S&W front sight, Magna-porting, rounding of rear sight blade. Although generally excellent conversion, author feels full-size standard hammer surface should be reduced by half. All other features point to concealability and fast-draw capability.





# DOWN BUT NOT OUT

## U.S. Pilots Escape and Evade in Pacific During WWII

by Barrett Tillman

**I** didn't see the Zero behind me," says retired Maj. Gen. Marion E. Carl, USMC, veteran of the Battle of Midway and a top WWII Marine fighter ace and test pilot, recalling that September afternoon off Guadalcanal in 1942.

With his Grumman Wildcat hit from below and behind, Carl bailed out over the Pacific and bobbed about in the water for four hours before curious natives paddled out to investigate. They hauled him aboard their canoe and took him to their leader, a Fiji medic named Ronnie.

"I wanted to get back to Henderson Field," Carl declares, "and I knew I'd come down east of it. I asked Ronnie to help me and he showed me an ancient motorboat that had quit running long ago.

"I tinkered with its engine but couldn't get it started," Carl says, "so we decided to walk." Soon they met a group of natives who told them an estimated 2,000 Japanese had landed between them and Henderson Field.

"Since the Imperial Army owned that part of the island, I decided not to contest its claim," Carl grins. He returned to the boat and stripped and reassembled the motor, until it finally sputtered to life.

Four days later, he reached American-controlled waters and walked into Henderson Field. Here he discovered his squadron-mates, assuming he was dead, had already distributed his personal effects.

"That didn't bother me," Carl says. "I just asked for another Wildcat." Before leaving the Canal in October 1942, he shot down four more Japanese planes.

### Escape and Evasion in the Pacific

Owing to the nature of aviation generally and warfare specifically, it was inevitable that downed airmen from December 1941 through August 1945 would face many dangers in the Pacific. Fliers brought down over Europe or Africa had problems but in the PTO (Pacific Theater of Operations) they were faced with a variety of hazards from both nature and man.

The aviator who came down in the English Channel or the North Sea could freeze to death in a few hours. In North Africa he could become lost in hundreds of square miles of desert. But once on land, the flier's chances of survival were

generally good. He might not escape capture, but at least he was free of drowning, shark attack, starvation or other unpleasanties associated with prolonged time in the water. In Europe the Allied flier resembled the local population, often spoke the language and stood a fair chance of finding friends to help him escape.

If U.S. or British airmen evaded irate German civilians (who naturally resented strangers dropping bombs on them every day), his captors were generally correct, if not always pleasant. The Luftwaffe and German army, inheritors of the Prussian military tradition, accorded POWs such rights and protection as required by international law. Excesses were perpetrated largely by the SS or Gestapo.

### Dangers ranged from headhunters to malaria.

But consider the plight of the Army, Navy or Marine flier forced down in the Pacific. Even assuming he reached land, his safety could not be taken for granted. In most areas he found few friends and certainly did not speak the local dialect. Remember that some sectors of the South

Pacific — portions of New Guinea, for example — were populated by headhunters. Add to this the widespread presence of tropical diseases, reptiles and a hostile climate. In short, the downed aviator had to *survive* before he could hope to evade or escape. Therefore, simply enduring his surroundings became the major factor.

Americans were ill-prepared to cope with such a situation when the war began. Single-engine aircraft did not always carry rubber rafts, and the pilot's sole article of survival equipment was his Mae West. Early examples had to be blown up by mouth, but an improved model soon appeared with carbon dioxide bottles which allowed instant inflation.

Throughout most of 1942, U.S. Navy and Marine fliers had no personal escape or survival kits. Dive bombers and torpedo planes — most notably the Douglas SBD and Gruman TBF — carried two- or three-man rafts, but they were difficult to deploy. They were only accessible if the aircraft remained afloat long enough to retrieve them from a fuselage compartment. These rafts were usually equipped with basic survival gear such as small fishing kits and signal devices, but were apparently seldom used; they frequently went down with the plane.

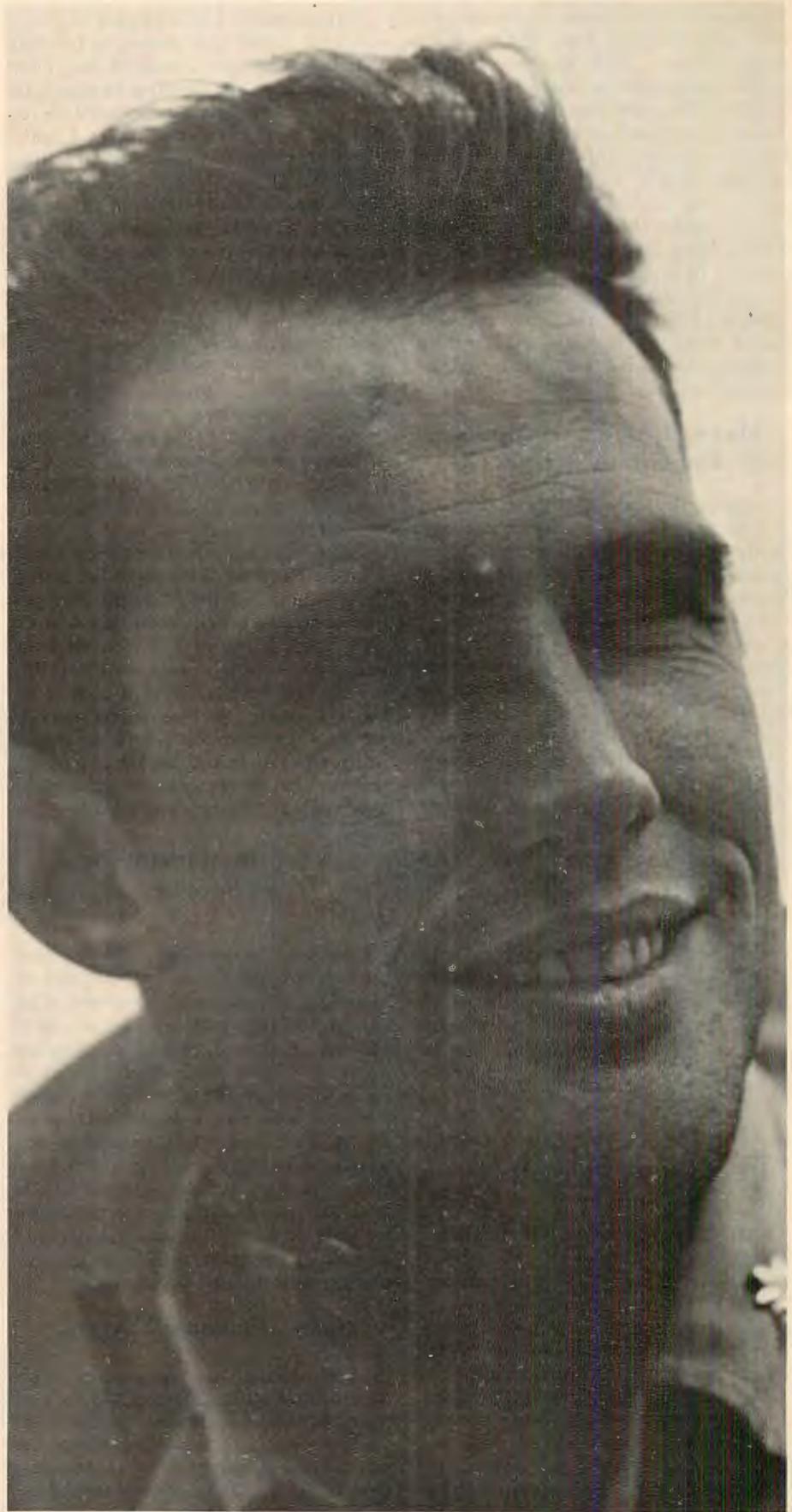
### Four oranges for six for 24 days.

Larger aircraft often afforded more opportunity to retrieve survival gear. Multi-engine types usually floated longer, owing to their greater bouyancy, but even that was no guarantee. Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, America's top War War I ace, was on a Pacific tour in October 1942 when forced down enroute to New Guinea. His five-man B-17 crew deployed two large rafts and a smaller one, but overlooked the food and water packets. While debating whether to fetch them from the plane, the B-17 sank.

The six men took stock of their supplies, limited to fishing gear without bait, a first-aid kit, raft repair kit, signal pistol and four small oranges. For 24 days they bobbed in 12-foot swells, endured blistering sun and torrential rain. They caught a few fish and Rickenbacker managed to grab a seagull which lit on his head. But one gull did little to pacify five starving men. By then, one had died of exposure. When finally rescued, each survivor had lost 40 to 55 pounds.

As a general rule, the only equipment which aviators carried during the war's first year was whatever they acquired themselves. "We weren't issued survival equipment as such," Gen. Carl recalls. "Most of us just had a pistol and a hunting knife and maybe a small first-aid kit clipped to our web belts."

By early 1943, measures had been taken to improve personal survival and escape gear. A waterproof seat pack was attached to parachute harnesses, containing an



UPPER LEFT: Affectionately called "Dumbo," PBY Catalina amphibian was widely employed in air-sea rescue operations throughout Pacific during WWII.

ABOVE: Maj. Marion Carl, USMC, fighter ace in Battles of Midway and Guadalcanal, repaired dilapidated motorboat after being shot down in September 1942. On return to Henderson Field, he found he'd been reported KIA.

individual raft with repair kit, first-aid kit with sulfa powder, basic fishing gear, signal mirror, hand paddles, bailing bucket and emergency rations. The latter included chocolate bars — “the dark, hard kind you can’t get anymore,” recalls one Marine pilot. In fact, candy of any sort was favored as additional material since it was popular with most natives. Other trinkets included Australian money, razor blades and all manner of religious objects. Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist missionaries active in the Solomons before the war turned many islanders toward the Allies and friendly natives made possible the famous “coast-watcher” system.

### Maxwell found crocodiles and coastwatchers.

One pilot who benefitted from the new survival gear and the coastwatchers was Lt. (jg) W.R. Maxwell of Navy Fighter Squadron 11. On 2 May 1943, Maxwell’s Wildcat was involved in a mid-air collision which severed the tail of his F4F. He bailed out, landing in the water south of Vangunu Island in the New Georgia Group, nearly 200 miles northwest of Henderson Field. As the squadron’s equipment officer, Bob Maxwell was well versed in use of his gear. The South Carolinian rigged an improvised sail and reached Tetipari three days later. For the next week he walked the length of the island, encountering a crocodile which claimed dominion over a coral channel, but saw no Japanese.

On the 13th, Maxwell launched his rubber raft for Rendova, where he met natives of the local coastwatcher’s network. Dick Horton, a prewar district officer in the area, sent for Maxwell and passed him along to Donald Kennedy, the famous coastwatcher who aided in the rescue of John F. Kennedy’s PT-boat crew.

### The Zero sliced at his feet.

When Maxwell returned to Guadalcanal in a PBY seaplane on the 17th, he had spent 16 days in enemy-occupied territory. The next two months were spent in a hospital, recovering. His safe return was typical of hundreds made possible by the courageous, resourceful Australians.

But not all pilots made it safely to the ground or water. The Japanese apparently made a standard practice of shooting enemy airmen in their parachutes, or strafing them once they landed. During a large air raid on the Russell Islands on 12 June 1943, Marine Corsairs and New Zealand P-40 interceptors engaged in a churning, milling dogfight. Second Lt. Sam Logan, a 22-year-old Kansas Marine on his second mission, went to help a Kiwi P-40, but his own F4U was set afire. He went over the side at 18,000 feet.

Unfortunately, Logan opened his chute too soon rather than making a free fall until well below the combat. A Zero pilot saw his canopy and turned in to attack. In two passes, the Japanese expended his remaining ammo without hitting Logan. The young Marine escaped by oscillating his chute, but the Japanese came back a third time, obviously intending to use his propeller as a giant meatgrinder. Still swinging his chute, Logan reached for his .45 but the Zero sliced off parts of both his feet.

Before the bloodthirsty enemy pilot could finish his work, he was scared away by another New Zealand P-40. Logan splashed down, suffering excruciating pain, but remaining clear-headed. He deployed his raft and climbed in, then quickly applied a tourniquet, followed by morphine and sulfa. He was shortly rescued by an amphibian, and eventually returned to active duty.

Faced with such an enemy, it is small wonder that most fliers preferred taking their chances with the sea rather than going ashore. As a last resort, all aviators were issued sidearms and given at least nominal instruction. This invariably involved bull’s-eye targets at about 25 yards. Practical pistol techniques had not yet been assimilated in the U.S. armed forces and rare indeed was a handgun instructor who advocated (or even allowed) anything but a Camp Perry stance.

### Favorite sidearms— 38 Specials.

Choice of weapons was allowed, and the favorite sidearm was probably any of a variety of .38 special revolvers. The reason for this had little to do with shooting in general, or with stopping an opponent. Most men simply found it easier to qualify with a .38 and it weighed less than the .45 auto. Model 1911s were widely carried, however, mostly in the standard GI flap holster on a web belt. Revolvers were generally tucked into a shoulder holster, with a built-in bandoleer carrying perhaps 30 rounds. Handguns, however, were seldom fired in earnest and more frequently used for signaling.

### Subs—“zoomie” savers.

Of more importance, were newer, more sophisticated means of escape. As the war progressed through the Central Pacific in 1943-44, American submarines played an increasingly important role in rescuing downed fliers. Taking station around an island target, the subs could be guided to men in the water by other aircraft circling overhead. Submarines became so adept at plucking “zoomies” from under the enemy’s nose that they occasionally had to deal with overcrowding. U.S.S. *Tigron* held the record, with 31 saves. But the most aviation passengers carried at





ABOVE: Lt. (jg) Alexander Vraciu, top Navy ace, bailed out of stricken Hellcat and spent five weeks with Filipino guerrilla unit before linking up with U.S. Army troops.



LEFT: 2nd Lt. Sam Logan, in this post-WWII photo a major, survived aerial combat with Zero pilot whose propellor sliced off parts of both feet. In PTO, enemy ferocity matched that of the ocean.

BELOW: Cmdr. W.I. Martin, shot down in Saipan's lagoon, not only swam to safety through rifle and MG fire but mentally noted beach's defenses. His info helped amphibious landing two days later.



one time was 22 by U.S.S. *Tang*, skippered by Lt. Cmdr. Richard H. O'Kane, in early 1944. Under the circumstances, nobody minded the crowded conditions.

Perhaps the most daring rescue was recorded by Lt. Cmdr. John Hess and his boat, U.S.S. *Pomfret*. During the first carrier strikes on Japan, in February 1945, pilots from the carriers *Hornet* and *Cabot* were down near the mouth of Tokyo Bay. Hellcat pilots from *Cabot* contacted *Pomfret* and circled protectively overhead while the sub negotiated 30 miles of very shallow offshore water. Nor was that the only danger. Minefields were known in the area, and as many as a dozen Japanese airbases were within a 50-mile radius. It took Hess a full hour to get in, scoop up the two fliers and make a safe getaway with his appreciative passengers. The *Cabot* fighter pilots contended that not even Hollywood could have done as well.

In all, 504 American aviators were rescued by submarines during 1944 and 1945. But for those aircraft brought down immediately offshore, the prospects of a submarine rescue were remote. It was up to the fliers to get as far out to sea as possible, where a sub or floatplane could meet them. During the battle for Saipan in the Marianas during June and July of 1944, numerous carrier planes were shot down close to the beach. Well within range of Japanese small arms, there was little opportunity to retrieve the airmen. They had to evade capture and escape on their own.

One intrepid Hellcat pilot off the light carrier *San Jacinto* established a record of sorts in this regard. Paddling his rubber raft close to shore by day, he hoped to bring himself into position to signal a passing aircraft and prompt a rescue. But it would have been near suicide to venture into the lagoon, where he could be easily seen from the beach. The fighter pilot rested each night, and continued the process for over two weeks before he was finally picked up.

### Martin—escape, evasion and intelligence info.

One of the best examples of heads-up evasion in the Pacific occurred about this same time. Lt. Cmdr. William I. Martin, skipper of Torpedo Squadron 10 off the carrier *Enterprise*, was shot down over Saipan Lagoon while leading his Avengers on a bombing mission. Martin jumped from minimal altitude, felt his chute blossom, and hit the water almost immediately. Neither of his crewmen got out of the stricken TBF.

Martin stood up in only four or five feet of water, some 200 yards offshore. Hauling in his chute canopy, he became aware of splashing sounds all around him. He looked back to the beach and clearly saw Japanese soldiers shooting at him.

*Continued on page 80*

# in Review

AIR WAR - VIETNAM



**AIR WAR—VIETNAM.** Introduction by Drew Middleton. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1979. 349 pp. \$15.00. Review by Dana K. Drenkowski, SOF Aviation Editor.

**T**HIS is an interesting volume, if only because it was written by 29 writers and six editors, all apparently on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, since they are identified by rank. How it came to be written is not told, but it resembles an official or semiofficial USAF history of air operations in Vietnam. Contrary to title expectations, it does not cover any other service's contribution to the air war.

**Air War—Vietnam** covers only three parts of the air war in Vietnam — plus an unexpected bonus: full coverage of the raid to free the merchant ship *Mayaguez*, captured by Pol Pot's Cambodian troops in 1975. In fact, the *Mayaguez* incident is the book's best written and most interesting part. Other sections cover Operation Rolling Thunder (the 1965-68 bombing campaign against selected targets in North Vietnam), Operation Linebacker I & II (the 1972-73 bombing of targets in North Vietnam — see my articles in SOF, September-November '77) and the air-ground operations in support of allied troops fighting the North Vietnamese army's invasion of South Vietnam in the great Easter offensive of 1972.

The book is spotty in that one writer may emphasize facts and figures for an operation, ignoring human factors or the "color" so dear to the reader, while the following one may cover only the human aspect of the operation and ignore totally the figures involved. Like all official

histories, games are played with numbers of planes lost during certain campaigns, leaving the reader with a mistaken impression as to how much that war really cost us in airplanes.

Given some of the figures, the reader, who is only casually interested in the Vietnam war, may wonder where those 550 returned POWs came from, plus the 2,500 or more MIA aircrews. The figures given in various operations lead one to believe airplane losses were in the hundreds, whereas they were in the thousands.

In addition, some authors use language reserved for official documents, which prescribes certain superfluous terms. Overuse of flamboyant but essentially meaningless language in USAF documents degrades its impact on the reader and does not belong in a work of this sort.

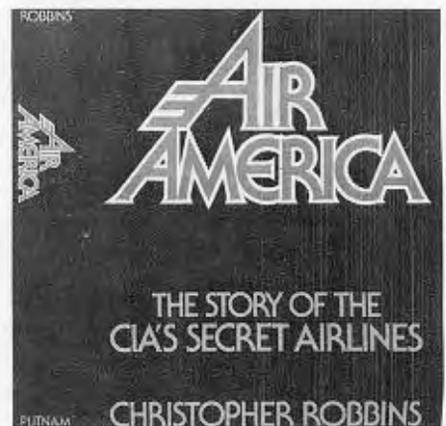
For example: "by his gallant and conspicuous action ... he inflicted severe losses to enemy men and equipment, etc., etc." In addition, some terms are explained two or more times, as each writer tries to define his terms for the reader, while other terms and tactics remain without explanation. This problem should have been resolved by an editor responsible for the content of the entire book.

I also noted major discrepancies between the events I saw and their report by the writers in **Air War—Vietnam**. Two other writers, both on active duty with the USAF, who also participated in the events in question, have written articles contradicting the book's position.

On the positive side, no other work to date has tried to put the goals of certain operations in perspective as well as to describe the operations themselves and how they met or failed to meet those goals. Another plus concerns the authors' efforts to use individual examples of aircrew actions to illustrate tactics, conditions at the time or turning points in operations. Although the USAF, like the other services, emphasizes teamwork over individual effort, air warfare is still a field where the actions of a single man flying one airplane may make the difference in a battle or campaign. A cargo plane pilot bringing a full load of ammo to a beleaguered unit, when all other resupply has failed, or a helicopter pilot's decision to go ahead and lead others in to rescue a surrounded unit (when all preceding choppers were shot down), or a fighter pilot's use of a single guided bomb to take out a bridge which had successfully withstood

dozens of raids in the past — all show one man's courage and skill as the deciding factor in an action. And this book tries to bring those stories out, re-emphasizing that even in our era of management by faceless bureaucrats and denigration of the human factor, one human with determination is still more valuable than an automaton.

**Air War—Vietnam's** negative aspects frequently outweigh its positive offerings. Since it usually reflects what the Air Force would like to think happened rather than what actually did, I would recommend it for the serious scholar of war only. Historians should always keep the "official" version handy to refer to as serious studies by scholars uncover more recently declassified material which enables them to look at operations more objectively. Additionally, SOF readers unfamiliar with the revolutionary role of electronics in air warfare might be well advised to obtain this book for its coverage of the rapidly changing field of electronics measures, counter-measures, and counter-counter measures which have reshaped all military planners' perceptions of their needs for future wars. If Vietnam and the '73 Arab-Israeli War are any guide, more than 50 percent of the planes launched in future air battles may have as their primary duty the jamming or destruction of enemy electronics and communications centers.



**AIR AMERICA: THE STORY OF THE CIA'S SECRET AIRLINES.** By Christopher Robbins. New York: Putnam's, 1979. 323 pp. \$10.95. Review by Leroy Thompson.

**P**ROBABLY no other soldiers of fortune in recent years were more ubi-

quitous than the pilots of Air America and other CIA proprietaries in Southeast Asia. Whether they were flying rice to refugees, guns to Meo mercenaries or supplies and replacements to infiltration teams along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Air America pilots carried on the tradition of the Flying Tigers throughout Asia. Despite the great scope of Air America's operations in Southeast Asia, little is known about its history, organization and personnel. Considering the nature of its mission, this isn't at all surprising.

Shortly after the CIA's formation, it was realized that the Agency needed its own planes which could fly anywhere at any time with no questions asked. As a result, it began to acquire planes and hire pilots, until at its peak Air America (used generically in the book and in this review for all CIA air operations — Southern Air Transport, Air Asia, etc.) was the largest airline in the world based on the number of planes owned or at its disposal. Eventually, Air America was also showing huge profits which could then be channelled back into purchasing equipment or, to the dismay of CIA's critics, into covert ops.

Robbins treats the CIA air organizations objectively in this work, showing admiration for the pilots and much that they accomplished without blenching from describing some of the incredible CIA foul-ups and the incompetent case officers competent pilots were sometimes forced to work with. Since much of Robbins' information is based on interviews with ex-Air America pilots, he captures the flavor of adventure, danger and uncertainty that was the Air America pilot's daily lot. He also does an excellent job of portraying some of the most colorful of the Air America pilots — men like "Shower Shoes" Wilson and "Weird" Neil Hansen. Still, all of these men were "pros," and their reminiscences sometimes don't include information on certain highly classified missions, but despite the built-in disadvantages of trying to research a classified operation, Robbins assembles a wealth of material.

Most difficult to obtain was information on the organization of Air America and its place in the CIA organizational structure. Other than the fact that it was under "Directorate of Plan," sometimes known in the vernacular as the "dirty tricks department," little hard data seems to be available. Robbins, himself, doesn't seem sure whether this is because of good security or because AA's operations were so large and so widespread that no one was really sure what was going on. Seemingly, it was some of each.

One of the most interesting parts of this work deals with Air America's operations in Laos, since little was or is known about this undeclared war. Using Helio-Couriers which could land in as little as 75 feet, some Air America pilots flew as many as 68 missions in one day. Many of these were "hard rice" drops (AA slang for

arms drops in Laos since they were ostensibly engaged in humanitarian delivery of rice) in which the Meos who fought under CIA auspices took delivery of weapons and shipped opium out. Obviously, when word began to leak out about the CIA flying opium, something hit the fan, but information seems to indicate that the opium which was the Meo's only crop continued to get to market with CIA knowledge, if not actual help.

U-2s out of Thailand, drops of CIA-trained rebels into Tibet, ops in Indonesia, all of these were Air America missions at one time or another, but despite its CIA affiliations and bad name from the few instances of dope flights, a large part of Air America's flying was actually humanitarian. Innumerable tons of rice were dropped to hamlets whose residents would have starved without Air America, thousands were evacuated for medical treatment and AA chopper pilots flew rescue missions for their own and Air Force pilots when no one else would accept the risk.

This book deals not only with the serious side of Air America but with many humorous elements of clandestine air operations. Among the most entertaining were the Air America pilot who could mimic a Russian accent so well that he had USAF pilots on R&R in Hong Kong convinced he was a Russian MiG pilot out of Hanoi also on R&R and the Air America pilot who was captured by the communist Chinese and finally released because he was driving the brain washers crazy.

One of Air America's final operations was the evacuation of South Vietnam during the last days, and the pilots displayed incredible courage in the worst possible conditions. Most of Air America's pilots were patriotic and courageous, deserving every bit of their admittedly high pay. As in any large group, there were a few who were there only for the money, but when the going got tough most of them disappeared or found that they still had a sense of responsibility.

Air America's motto was "Anything, Anywhere, Anytime — Professionally," and her pilots lived up to this motto. Robbins sums up the men of Air America best when he describes them as "the finest bunch of airplane drivers that has ever been got together anywhere," and anyone with an interest in Southeast Asia or covert ops will find their story well worth reading.

*Leroy Thompson knows whereof he speaks in matters military. He served in the Combat Security Police in Vietnam and Thailand and did graduate work in military history at three British universities. See SOF, May '80, for his review of Internal Security Weapons and Security Equipment of the World. He is presently occupied as a military book dealer and free lance writer.*

*SOF Managing Editor Bob Poos also remembers Air America. See his "Hitching a Ride on Air America" to the right.*

## HITCHING A RIDE ON AIR AMERICA

**W**AR correspondents in Southeast Asia who were savvy — and didn't mind risking their necks — knew that the best way to get to difficult and dangerous-to-reach places was via Air America or its sister operation, Continental Air Services. It was virtually the only way to get anywhere in Laos.

Several times I thumbed rides on AA Helios to Long Tieng, the mountain stronghold where Meo irregulars under the command of Gen. Vang Pao and advised by the most knowledgeable American in Laos, Edgar "Pop" Buell, operated against the North Vietnamese and communist Pathet Lao.

Once Pop advised, "Why don't you go over to Ban Na, that's the furthest-out strongpoint we've got. Right on the edge of the PDJ (Plain Des Jarres) which is presently being held by the PL."

An Air America pilot was flying up a load of rice and ammo to the Meos there and he obligingly let me hitch a ride with him.

Ban Na was an interesting place. It was located on the side of a mountain, the top of which had been leveled off — by hand — into a short, dirt air strip. The mountain was smack in the center of a circle of other mountains, all of them higher than Ban Na, which meant that the plane had to fly up the side of a mountain, go into a dive and head for the strip.

This we did and as we made our approach, the pilot said in disgust, "Aw shit, I should have known!" I looked ahead and lying right in the middle of the strip was a cluster of eight or 10 hogs, sleeping, enjoying themselves in the sun.

The pilot buzzed them, they scrambled to their feet and scurried away. We lifted back up, circled and this time made a successful landing.

We spent the night enjoying Meo hospitality, including their fierce and fiery rice wine, and departed in the morning.

"Like to see the PDJ?" inquired my friend. Sure.

We crossed the mountains, dropped down and pretty soon the large stone jars from which the place got its name came into view.

I asked, "How do you know when you're flying over occupied territory?" At that moment, an AK-47 round snapped through the plane, hitting nothing critical but scaring hell out of me.

"We're there now," the pilot said laconically.

We turned around and it was very, very nice to land once more at Long Tieng.

—Bob Poos



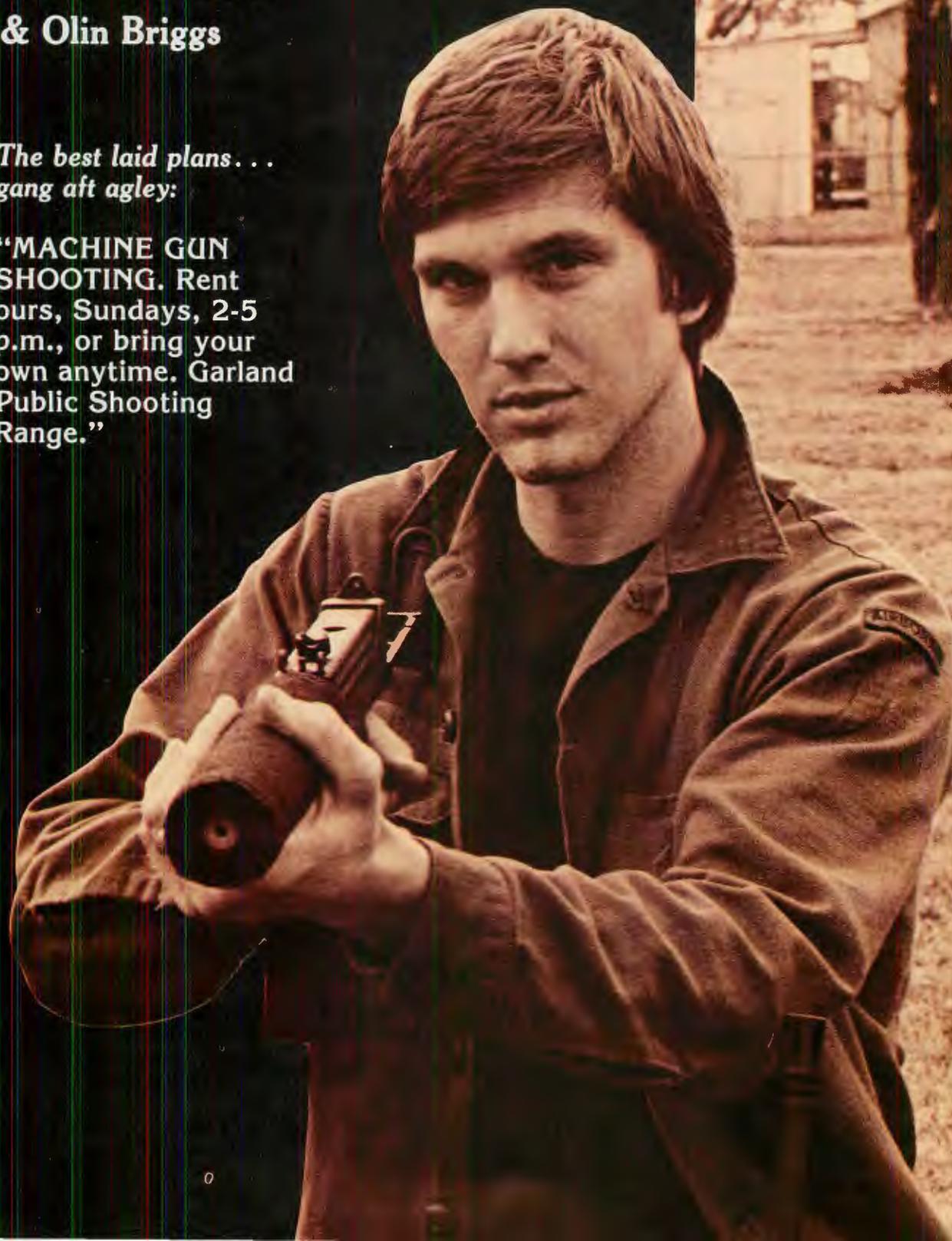
# MGs FOR RENT

## BATF Shoots Down Free Enterprise in Dallas

by Lynn Lanzoni  
& Olin Briggs

*The best laid plans . . .  
gang aft agley:*

**"MACHINE GUN  
SHOOTING.** Rent  
ours, Sundays, 2-5  
p.m., or bring your  
own anytime. Garland  
Public Shooting  
Range."



**S**MALL ad in the classified section of the *Dallas Morning News*, one of America's large metropolitan dailies. It cost \$35. It brought lots of interest — more than 60 telephone inquiries the first day. The advertising salesman at the newspaper could use it to advertise the effectiveness of the medium.

The ad was the work of two enterprising Dallas men who are into automatic weapons. The plan looked as if it would develop into a boom for their business and a boon for those in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex who share their interest in automatic weapons.

A chance for shooters to whet their appetites for the buck of a Thompson M1A1, an M16, a BAR, or a MAC 10. Once found and enjoyed, such an interest could result in the sale of a weapon.

The excitement of such an experience could, often would, make a convert out of any normal gun enthusiast. Sort of an — “Hey! Wanna take our stripped-down, or super-duper model out for a test drive” — approach that would bring new faces to Jim Day's 50-target range.

The planning by Day and his partner in the project, Mark Brown, was well done, with an outstanding turnout the first weekend. Ditto the second. Even a dose of bad, bad Texas weather did not staunch the flow on the third weekend, but something else did.

Both men had a visit from one of those agents from yet another of the governmental agencies designed to prevent the U.S. Constitution from doing its work in protecting the rights of citizens.

### **BATF strikes again**

The agency? Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF).

What started out as a free-enterprise project, full of hope and promise, bit the dust thanks to intrusion by the federal government. But we'll get around to that in a moment.

First, let's take a long look at a great idea, well-executed, and see how it went.

**LEFT:** Mark Brown holds favorite MAC 10 in backyard of Garland, Tex., home while talking to author about recent “rent-a-machine-gun” experiment at Jim Day's Dallas County range. Public responded until BATF shut program down. Photo: Southwest Action.

**RIGHT:** Lynn Lanzoni (right) takes instruction from Mark Brown (left) on operation of Brown's favorite MAC 10 in automatic weapons dealer's Garland, Tex., backyard. When Brown tried renting MGs to public on suburban Dallas range, BATF stepped in and stopped him. Photo: Southwest Action



The bottom line was to provide interested persons the chance to — legally — fire a series of automatic weapons. The \$30 fee was not designed to make Day rich on the range which he operates more as a hobby than as a business.

With a range lined up and a collection of working automatic weapons securely in Brown's possession, the next step was the advertisement, placed in the gun section.

Hopefully, people would see the ad and say, "Hey, that might be good training." After all, most Americans don't realize that they have the right to legally own and operate an automatic weapon.

More than 200 telephone calls came into Day's Garland (Northeast Dallas suburb) range demonstrating this.

"Yes, it is legal to shoot a machine gun," Day told them. "You pay \$25 for the use of the gun and \$5 ammunition fee and you're in business."

Day explained that anyone interested could even buy his own automatic weapon after complying with federal, state and county regulations.

The first Sunday, more than 25 people showed up to try their hand at emulating our favorite hero — John Wayne — by cranking off bursts from the hip.

Before the sun went down and Texas wind blew the gunsmoke away, more than 50 Metroplex residents — ranging from blue collar to white collar, truck drivers to physicians — had trooped to the line and satisfied their curiosity.

Most were like the bright, attractive Dallas female police officer who, after wrestling matches with the issue .357 magnum, showed a warm glow of satisfaction after the recoil, or lack of it, in firing bursts from the Parkerized Ingram .380.

"Man, that's for real," one dentist said, commenting on his first encounter with an automatic weapon.

There were no complaints. All agreed they got their money's worth.

### **Mark Brown. successful security.**

Brown has had a federal firearms license for five years and for the past year has been a Class III dealer. That doesn't sound too impressive?

Consider that Mark Brown is only 22 years old. However, he possesses, in addition to that magic license, many of the success symbols that we traditionally associate with a man much older. He has a finely furnished brick home, two late-model cars and a \$25,000 inventory in automatic weapons.

A man with possessions is conscious of them and, consequently, conscious of security. When he took them from his home to Day's range, his security consciousness followed him.

Security was a must. A dozen or more auto weapons being passed around a firing line just might be temptation enough

to cause someone to try a heist. Not a risk worth taking perhaps, but Day hired an off-duty Garland policeman to stand guard. Brown, a cautious man who worked the firing line all day, went one step further.

"Under my jacket was a .45, cocked and locked," he said. "I always stood a little to the rear and to the side of each shooter. You never can tell about people and it's not worth the risk."

The security plan was flawless. No problems during the entire series of consecutive weekends.

**RIGHT: Dee Day (left), range manager, checks in two customers to family-owned Garland Public Shooting Range in northeastern Dallas County, recent site of "rent-a-machine-gun" program. Photo: Southwest Action**

**BELOW: Shooter works his weapon after firing blast downrange at Jim Day's Garland, Tex., public range, site of recent "rent-a-machine-gun" program. Photo: Southwest Action**





That does not mean, however, that all was quiet on the Texan front. There were some serio-comic moments.

Like the uneducated retired policeman, now working for a security company, who visited the range and tried to arrest some of the shooters while they were performing the rat-a-tat-tat symphony.

He failed, obviously. But not being easily discouraged, he rushed out and flagged down a passing police officer to aid in the arrest.

"You're crazy," the policeman said. "You want me to arrest a bunch of people with machine guns when I don't have one?"

The sound of a series of automatic weapons firing on a suburban gunnery range attracts a lot of curious people and reactions.

"Machine guns on the range cause people to look or to call the FBI," Brown explained. "I know the FBI got a rash of calls when we were firing."

Even bad weather, which reduced the number of shooters to three, did not halt the program — BATF intervention did.

Looking back on the experience, both Brown and Day view it as successful. Brown sold 10 weapons during the month-long run of weekends.

"Further, the exposure increased my sales at gun shows," Brown said.

For Day, the range owner, results were equally happy. A lot of new gunners came to the range out of curiosity and stayed to become range regulars, even if they only were interested in plinking with a .22.

Brown, whose interest in guns started with his childhood involvement with television programs, shares with Day an uncertainty as to whether his gun business is a hobby or a true second business, but his deep commitment to his rights and his fellow shooters' civil rights is not.

"It all revolves around the second amendment," he said. "The BATF makes a point of sacking it at every range."

Hobby or business? It really doesn't matter. What does matter, to Mark Brown, is that having legal automatic weapons is one way of keeping America strong and protected against terrorism and unwanted violence.

### Jim Day: "Another shooting experience."

Brown's partner, 37-year-old Jim Day, shares most of his philosophy, and although the range he owns is no gold mine, it gives immense satisfaction.

Talking with many of the almost 50,000 customers who have found their way to his range since he built it in June 1969, Day pondered Brown's idea of renting machine guns to the public.

"I really was for it because auto weapons give my customers another shooting experience," he said. "Most importantly, they get an education on their rights with automatic weapons."

Day's plans called for buying some automatic weapons of his own to rent at the range after the initial program began to show a profit. That way machine-gun firing would have been available to shooters all week, not just on weekends.

Day was not surprised at the range of persons who took advantage of the weekend firing: neurosurgeon, judge, even an Indian chief.

"I feel terrorist activity fuels the public's interest in these weapons," Day said. "They're right, too, in their concern."

Machine guns have always been available on the market illegally.

"The only person who has much difficulty in getting an automatic weapon now is the average citizen," Day said.

The BATF, he said, has told him that their office is inundated with calls from people reporting that their neighbors have machine guns in their possession.

Day explained that almost anybody can buy and shoot a machine gun. The cost is only about \$500. The only catch would be if the potential owner had a criminal record.

It works like this: the buyer fills out a five-page government form, submits an application that includes fingerprints and a passport photo to the sheriff or police chief, pays a one-time \$200 license fee and submits to an FBI investigation.

Even with the slow bureaucratic process, the buyer can usually pick up his machine gun in six weeks.

O.K. We know the program was a great idea. It met with smashing success — then it was smashed by the BATF folks. How it was done is easy; the why is open to interpretation.

### BATF agent cases the joint.

The "how" started the second weekend when an "unsuspicious" person — noticed by both Brown and Day — showed up on the range.

"The guy spent a lot of time looking at the ceiling, being oh so cool," Brown said. "I'm sure he was a BATF agent."

Just before the third weekend, two BATF agents visited Day's range.

"Those two birds told me I was making an illegal transfer," Day said. "They were very emphatic with their explanation."

He recounted it this way:

"If I had 10 people renting one automatic weapon, then those 10 people were guilty of making 10 illegal transfers and each was guilty of one count of illegal possession."

Even though BATF's point of view was "ridiculous" and a sham, Brown and Day both recognized a serious motion to "cease and desist" when they heard one. Renting stopped the next weekend.

Both, concerned with their constitutional rights, immediately asked "why." First a letter was sent to BATF in Dallas requesting information.

The reply came in from Washington, D.C., and defined a "transfer" as any time a non-licensee holds the weapon. That, in the bureau's view, makes the person subject to taxation and having to file the necessary paperwork.

### Who, why and Editor Poos

The letter — a copy went to each — was not the only information the pair received. Each got a surprise inspection of their records.

The "who" was now clear; the "why" not very, but the letter and the visit from the agents to inspect records document the only "why."

We checked with the BATF office in Dallas and asked for an interview. Not only did we not get an interview, we got only one comment:

"The Washington office is communicating with your editor, Bob Poos." That was from a Mr. Carrier, the special agent in charge of the Dallas BATF office.

The fact that you are reading this indicates that the editor didn't feel there was any threat.

It's for sure, however, the BATF boys just don't want automatic weapons firing done in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Maybe they don't want the public to know anything about such a program.



# SOF DIVES IN Staffers Attend Diving Equipment Manufacturers Show

N.E. MacDougald

**A**CCORDING to SOF reader demographics, two out of three readers are interested in diving. To pursue those interests, Publisher Robert K. Brown and I traveled south to update ourselves on equipment in the sport and commercial diving industries.

DEMA publicity man Hillary Hauser recalls the industry's growing pains: "Scuba has come a long way. I remember the first instruction pamphlet from Rene Bussoz (founder of U.S. Divers); it said, 'While it is important to see under water, it is vital to breathe.' And Gustav DallaValle, founder of Scubapro, said, 'When you quit breathing, come up!'"

While these statements show a firm grasp of the obvious, they are more than merely amusing. They show the infancy of an enterprise that now boasts amazing sophistication and a high growth rate (approximately eight percent per year).

Hauser continued, "In the early days, a lot of innovative scuba engineering went on in garages. People were diving with garden hoses or putting garbage cans over their heads. Physiological maladies such as the bends and embolisms were not considerations, nor was nitrogen narcosis (rapture of the deep). Throughout the '50s and mid-60s, scuba was thought of as a tool to help spear game fish. It was macho at its worst."

Thus diving, with all its sophisticated equipment, has just recently come of age in terms of an ethic that encourages enjoyment of the underwater environment.

DEMA began in 1969 in Los Angeles. It was founded to establish safety standards for life support equipment (tanks, regulators, buoyancy compensators) before the federal government interfered. The idea was, it is better to police from within than be policed from without. They used

criteria of the American National Standards Institute.

The 1975 DEMA began with only 70 booths, but this year's show saw 300 exhibitors. And there was more than hardware on display. Travel agencies sold dive packages through slick videotape presentations; underwater photographic specialties, both domestic and imported, were pitched; and scuba certifying agencies (such as the National Association of Underwater Instructors and the Professional Association of Diving Instructors) pumped PR.

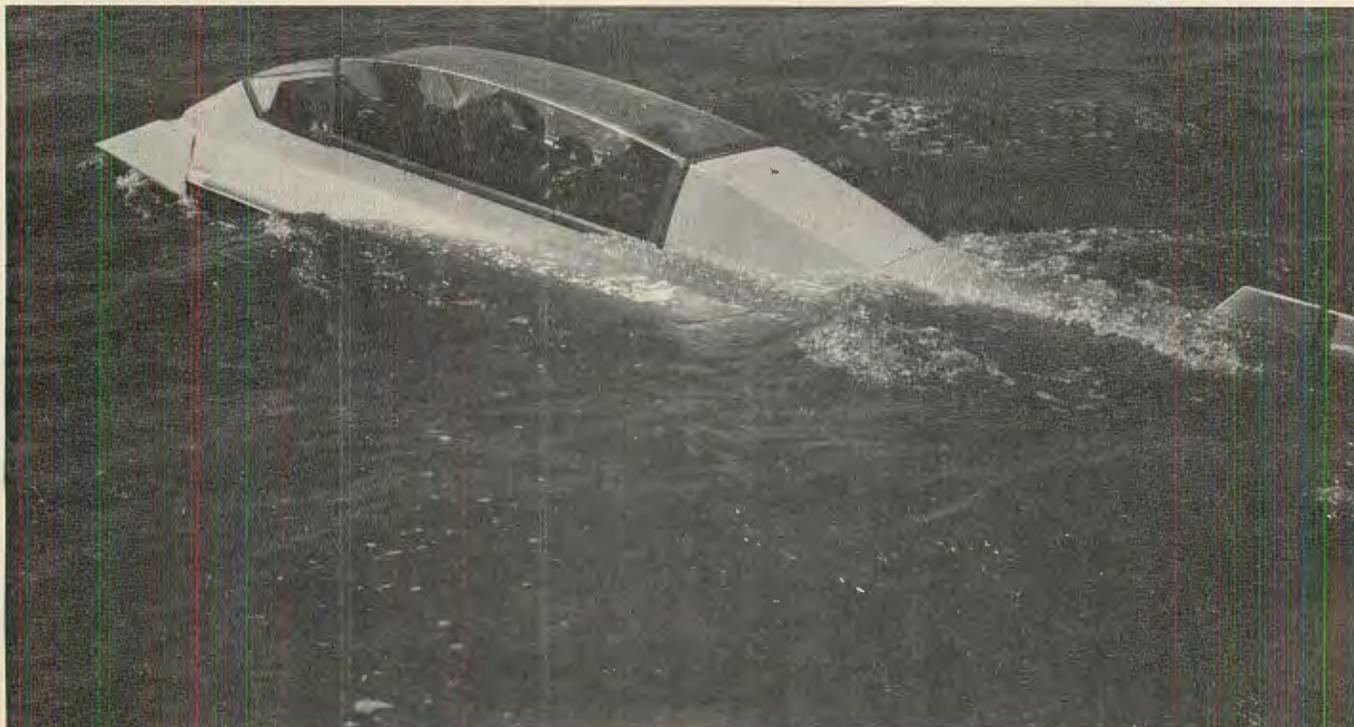
Diving technology has burgeoned during the last few years and some of the innovations caught our attention: decompression computers the size of a paperback; buoyancy compensators that could be filled manually or through the high-pressure outlet of a regulator and emptied by pushing a button or pulling the manual inflator hose; stainless steel tanks that put more compressed air in a smaller volume with the bonus of corrosion resistance.

There were other products and processes that bear mention, but because of space constraints cannot be elaborated upon. Look for these new products in forthcoming Adventure Quartermaster columns.

During the DEMA show, we purchased products we thought interesting enough to test and evaluate on a trip to the sunny isle of Cozumel in Mexico (see accompanying story on next page).



**Underwater Propulsions, Inc., Dept. SOF, 5409 S. 101 E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74145, developed electrically powered Diver Delivery Vehicle powered by a 36-volt, permanent magnet DC motor fueled by six, 6-volt batteries. Designed to operate to 300 feet depth. Range is two to eight hours depending on speed and optional electrical equipment. Carries up to four SCUBA-equipped personnel. Price: \$16,500.**





1) TEKNA manufactures a complete line of waterproof (to over 2000 depth), explosion-proof flashlights, ideal for any application. TEKNA-LITE III (top) produces over 12,000 candlepower from eight-pack of 'AA' cells. Seven inches long; weighs 12.5 ounces; burns for over an hour. Rechargeable version retails for \$59.95; non-rechargeable, \$24.95. TEKNA-LITE I (center) weighs 5 ounces; 5 inches long. Retails for \$39.95 rechargeable; non-rechargeable \$18.95. TEKNA-LITE II (bottom) has one moving part, weighs 3 ounces. Retails for \$9.95. 2) Sea Quest Inc., Dept. SOF, 722 Genevieve Street, Solana Beach, CA 92075, manufactures superb buoyancy compensators. Pictured here is their top-of-the-line SeaJacket III. Side gusset with length adjustment allows fitting B/C to your body build. Combination Rapid Exhaust Dump valve and LP power inflator allows one-hand control of inflation and deflation. All models of Sea Quest B/C's tested by SOF staff received high marks. 3) Subsalve Industries, Inc., Dept. SOF, Box 9287, Providence, RI 02940, manufactures a line of heavy-duty lift

bags for sports, commercial or scientific application, including vessel salvage. Subsalve also offers custom flotation service which can advise on any particular salvage project. 4) Latest U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit Regulator Tests confirm TEKNA Regulators' performance and efficiency unmatched by any competitors. Weighs 6.5 ounces; structural resin T-2100B. 2nd stage is unbreakable, won't dent. Is corrosion free. Has incredibly low breathing resistance. During Mexico diving tests, SOF staff found new TEKNA regulator superior to other popular makes. Retails for \$199.95. 5) Achilles, Dept. SOF, 25 Branca Road, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, markets complete line of inflatable craft. Pictured here is their 5-man SD-12. Hull fabric is of heavy duty nylon; has 3 separate air compartments. Length: 12'4" inflated; beam, 5'1"; weight, 101 lbs; loading capacity, 1,100 lbs; recommended HP., 15 (4-25) standard shaft engine; no. of air chambers, 4 plus air keel. Price \$615.

# STAFFERS TEST DEMA SHOW GEAR IN MEXICO

by N.E. MacDougald

**A**FTER having our appetites for diving whetted at the fourth annual DEMA show in New Orleans (see accompanying story), we rushed to the airport bound for Cozumel, an island south of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. But fate had other plans for us. Due to a wildcat strike, we flew no farther than Houston. The next day we arrived in Cozumel to find that our luggage would not arrive till the following afternoon. That meant another non-diving day.

Instead, we rented motorcycles. I wasted no time in dropping mine and for the remainder of our journey sported a fine case of pavement rash. But the fun was just beginning.

The next day our luggage arrived.

## Warm Water Frenzy

We attacked the warm water in a frenzy, only to find one of our party could not clear his ears and had a mask full of blood from a burst blood vessel. But that could happen to anybody. Right?

The next day another of our group developed symptoms of the bends. Our harmonica-playing dive doctor listened patiently and declared that the man could not have the bends because of insufficient depth and bottom time. Sure enough, the symptoms subsided.

The following day went smoothly except that Publisher Robert K. Brown did not equalize his mask and consequently received a blood-red bruised eyeball. No big deal, though. These small tribulations vanish when one looks down and sees angel fish, barracuda, box fish, clown fish, conch, crab, grouper, lobster, manta rays and parrot fish, puffer fish, star fish, sun fish, red (and white) snapper, sting rays, trigger fish and trumpet fish.

And there were sea urchins, which made one wish he had never left land if he stepped on one. And deadly stone fish,

camouflaged devils the size of a beer bottle, with spines full of neurotoxin similar to a cobra's. We observed them with respect.

Our gear fared better than we did. We used SeaQuest Sea Jacket buoyancy compensators, Tekna regulators (first and second stage), a wide variety of fins, Tekna masks, snorkels, knives and lights. We had no equipment failures, despite the fact that we abused our stuff.

## Tekna bounces

After one dive, I was sorting gear on our third-floor balcony, when I heard a thud on the pavement below. I had inadvertently dropped a Tekna III light. I rushed down to retrieve it, thinking how lucky I was not to have hit anybody. The light did not go on when I turned the switch, but I didn't really expect it to. After replacing the bulb, however, the light beamed bright as ever. The only damage was a bump where the flashlight impacted with the concrete.

The Sea Jackets (as opposed to conventional horse collar types) worked flawlessly, although some divers found them uncomfortable. But this was more an opinion than a functional criticism. And most fins (both slipper and adjustable) worked well, although the stiffer fins seemed more efficient. AMF's new rubber compound was a particular favorite.

Tekna's knife corroded after a couple of days in sea water, but rinsing could have prevented this, and a few minutes with steel wool could have cured it. Besides, Tekna is changing to a more corrosion-resistant steel, thus ending the problem.

## Roll your own

Our last day proved most eventful. We rented a jeep (with a roll-bar for safety's

sake) and bumped down a sand road toward some Mayan ruins. After examining them, we started back with Publisher Brown's brother at the helm. I sat shotgun while Brown and assistant art director Mary Jenkins took the jump seat. Halfway back, the radiator started singing and boiling. We shut down and walked to the nearby ocean waiting for it to cool down.

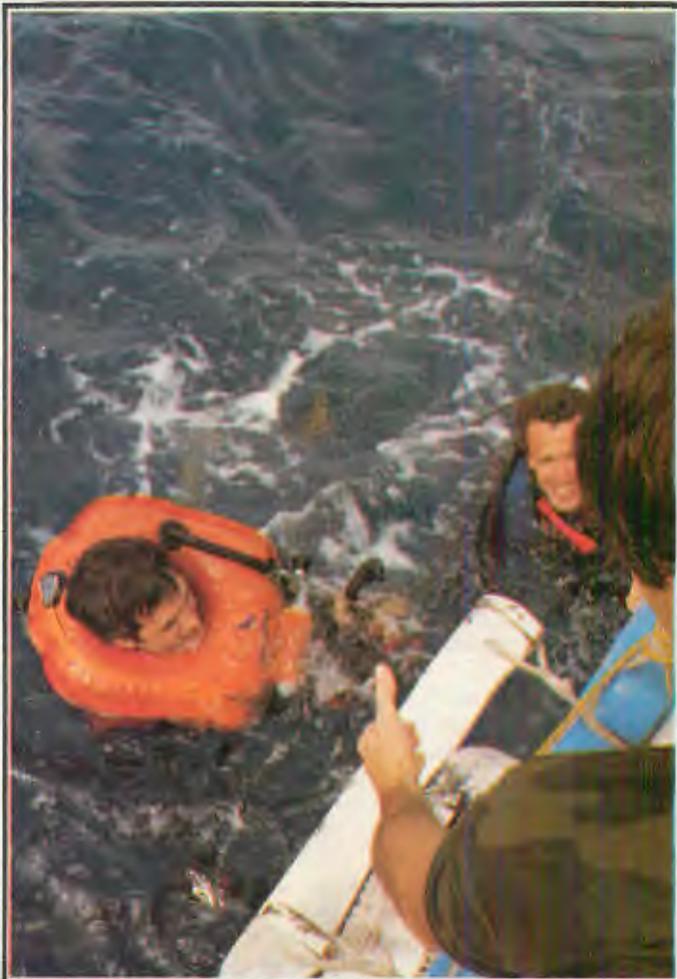
Ten or 15 minutes later, we jumped back in the old clunker and high-tailed it for town. But we hit a hole and the folks in back bounced into the unpadded roll-bar. Brown broke his nose and Jenkins suffered a mild concussion. I won't describe the hospital scene except to say it was straight out of M\*A\*S\*H.

Back in the land of the big PX, I discovered that some of our luggage was lost on the last leg home. And the dump where we stayed overcharged us.

Adios, Mexico.



**TOP LEFT:** TEKNA President Ralph Shamlan, right, wears Tekna knife on arm. Velcro straps allow for quick adjustment. Dr. Yehuda Melamed, director of the Israeli Naval Medical Hyperbaric Institute in Haifa, on Shamlan's left, also dove with SOF. **TOP RIGHT:** SOF's N.E. MacDougald favored placement of Tekna knife on leg. SOF staffers gave this product a triple A plus. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Robert K. Brown returns from testing a sea jacket buoyancy compensator manufactured by Sea Quest. Brown preferred jacket type B.C. configuration as contrasted to front or back type B.C. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Shamlan has inflated his buoyancy compensator and prepares to board.



# LIGHT FOR NIGHT OPS

## Ranger Sgt. Designs Safelight

by Bob Thompson



**W**HILE chief RTO in a Ranger unit a few years ago, I found a need for a small, reliable light for encoding/decoding messages, reading maps, etc., in the dark. Because of light discipline while on patrol, ambushes and similar operations, I felt that a regular flashlight, even with a red filter and a pinpoint focus was not the answer; it was still too bright and much too bulky.

Those who know anything about a Ranger RTO know that weight and space are at a premium and anything to save either is desirable. A penlight is about the proper size, but its brightness and reflection are a problem.

An issue penlight nearly met my qualifications, but not quite. What I was looking for wasn't easy to find. It was an issue item in only a few aviation units and unavailable through our S-4 or self-service. It had a built-in red filter, but the lever that slid it into place was liable to breakage after only one or two uses and then the filter would slide in and out at the most inopportune time. Even with the filter in place, I felt that it was still too

bright to be used when "sneakin' and peekin'." Also the on/off switch was not reliable. So I decided to come up with my own light.

I first looked for a reliable penlight. When I obtained one that had a positive on/off switch, I set about finding a substitute for the too bright, white light from the standard bulb. I needed something that put out only enough light for reading and would avoid lighting up the surrounding area. It should preferably be a red light to preserve night vision, have a low rate of power consumption, and fit into the penlight casing.

The answer was obvious — a light-emitting diode (LED). LEDs put out a very low level light, not by a hot filament but by a chemical compound that glows when a small current is passed through it.

You can obtain an LED at almost any electronic parts store. They are inexpensive and come in a variety of colors, sizes and voltages. For general use I recommend a red one with 4.0 or 4.5 operating voltage. Most penlights use two AA batteries (BA58 military issue) for a 3.0 volt

bulb. I have found that running the LED at a bit less than the operating voltage is a good idea. If a 4.5 volt LED can't be located, use a 3.0 volt with a sub-miniature resistor of between 500 and 2500 ohms soldered to either lead of the LED.

Find a reliable penlight and check the switch to see that it has a good positive feel. Do not use one of the disposable lights; it must have a replaceable bulb. Also needed is a soldering iron, solder, epoxy glue and a pair of small pliers with a wire cutter.

Remove the bulb from the casing and break out the glass. Be sure not to crush the metal base. Remove the filament leads and insulation from the base. Desolder the contact at the tip of the base, leaving a clean hole for the next step.

Check the polarity on the LED. Unlike a regular bulb, current will only flow in one direction. Do this by touching one lead from the LED to the tip of the battery in the casing of the penlight, and touch the other lead to the casing itself. If

the LED does not glow, reverse the leads. Once the polarity has been determined, assembly of the bulb begins.

If using a 3.0 volt LED, solder the sub-miniature resistor to one of the leads. Insert the LED into the base of the bulb, remembering the polarity. Solder the positive lead to the contact point on the tip and the negative lead to any other part of the metal base. Check for shorts or other problems and reinsert the newly assembled bulb into the penlight. If everything works right, remove the bulb and mix up some epoxy glue. The fast drying kind is best. Fill the space between the LED and the base with the epoxy and let dry. If you get any epoxy on the top of the LED, wipe it off immediately.

While the epoxy is drying, paint the casing a dark color or blue to eliminate reflection. I also wrapped mine with electrical tape. Since I was an RTO, I was often called upon to fix anything that was remotely electrical or electronic and the tape came in handy. It also helps protect and waterproof the light. When the glue dries, reassemble the light — it's ready for use.

I ran a few informal tests on my first model, and it proved to be an amazing device. With the light held one to two inches from the object, one can read even small print easily. There is no visible reflection from more than about five feet and unless one looked directly at the tip, it couldn't be seen. I left the light on for three weeks continuously to determine how long the batteries lasted. I ran out of patience before the batteries ran out of juice.

I used the light off and on over the next couple of years, and never had to replace the batteries. It was used on operations in desert, jungle and arctic conditions with never a malfunction. I made a dozen or more and gave them to some of the other people in the unit and they never reported a malfunction either. Mine was immersed in swamp water for a week at a time, survived dozens of parachute jumps with bad PLFs, and was dropped 15 feet onto cement several times with no ill effects.

Besides the obvious tactical military use for this kind of light, there are several others that I can think of: SWAT operations and police stakeouts, darkroom use, nighttime hunting, espionage and similar occupations. These lights won't light the way out of a forest or a cave, but they will allow one to read something or check a weapon or compass in the dark, without being seen.



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**SEND FOR FREE CATALOGUE**

# REMEMBER THE ALAMO

by Mike Williams



**F**OF those of us with a low boredom threshold, this has been a banner year. Among the more memorable incidents orchestrated by the Carter administration, for our amusement, have been the hostage farce in Teheran and the seizure of the U.S. ambassador to Colombia in Bogota; both the 50 Americans in Iran and the ambassador in Bogota are still captives at this writing.

Now for the spring finale, we have the spectacle of three Commie cuckoos scaling the walls of the Alamo, tearing down the Texas flag, running up a red, Marxist banner and showering a crowd of some 200 incensed Texans with blue political pamphlets.

The dialogue at that event probably went something like this: "Thass ri', Jose ... pull eet down!"

One large Texas flag slides down the flagpole and crumples into the red dirt of the Mission's roof.

"*Bueno, hombre* ... up weeth the red wan!" Snaking up the pole goes a red Marxist banner that flutters weakly in the slight breeze. Three denim-clad figures, two male, one female, jump with joy, clapping hands and shaking their fists at a gathering crowd below on the square facing the shrine.





**“GOTCHA!” It’s off and away as a San Antonio police officer removes a protestor from the roof of the Alamo, 26 March 1980. Three members of the so-called Texas Revolutionary May Day Brigade hoisted a red flag above the 262-year-old mission. They were arrested for disorderly conduct.**

Jose grabs a loud-hailer from the girl and leans over the edge of the roof. Pressing the button on the handle he begins shouting.

“O.K. jou gringos . . . *Viva la raza!*” Handfuls of blue leaflets shower down on the assemblage; a few tourists crane their necks to catch a glimpse of the three on the roof.

A lanky, scrawny-necked visitor from Ohio turns to his female companion: “Goshawgee, Eunice, lookit them boys! Bet they’s part of a show ’er somethin’.” He wipes nostril with the back of one hand. “Sure don’t see such’s this in Murleyville.” Wipes other nostril.

“Elmer, you’re makin’ me sick!” she scolds. “Use your hanky like a gentleman . . . it ain’t polite t’blow snot like that.” More shouts from the rooftop.

“Hey jou Gringos! *Cabrones!* Jou bin suckin’ the blood from us Chicanos an’ forcin’ us to live on our knees!”

A pick-up truck — a battered, green ’69 Chevy — with three Texans, stops, pauses and backs up. The driver and his two passengers poke their heads out of the windows.

“Ed! Lookit them goddamn greasers on the Alamo’s roof!” The speaker and his two companions pile out of the truck

and trot toward the crowd. On the roof, the leaflet-throwers repeat their shouts, railing at the growing crowd.

“Merl, what the hell’s he sayin’?” Ed grabs the driver’s arm and points up at the protestors. Merl puts tip of tongue in left cheek, shifts chaw of Red Man to other cheek and turns to Ed:

“That tamale-eater’s yellin’ we’re suckin’ his knees!”

---

### **“Goddamn greasers on the Alamo!”**

---

The third Texan, wearing a huge belt buckle with the words *Billy Bob* embossed in gold letters in the center, suddenly snarls, “Them spics done tore down the Texas flag!”

Merl’s chaw of Red Man explodes from his mouth, arcs through the air and lands on the cobblestones at Eunice’s feet, splashing a brown spray on her new Sears and Roebuck white tennis shoes.

“By god, you’ve gotta nerve, mister!” Elmer swells a spindly chest and places a protective arm around Eunice’s shoulders, glaring at the tobacco chewer.

"Looky here, this here's my wife!" Elmer narrows his eyes.

"That's your hard luck, ol' hoss," sniffs Merl, looking at Eunice.

"Let me through, you clods!" The speaker sports a full, reddish beard, gold-rimmed granny glasses, blue-jeans, open-toed leather sandals and a red bandanna sweat-band. Banging against a Levied hip is a leather-encased camera.

"Look who you're shovin', you pecker-wood!" Ed grabs a fistful of denim shirt, jerking the intruder to a halt.

"Let me go! I'm Bertram Clapsides, reporter for the *Revolutionary People's Weekly Organ*," shouts the bearded one.

"Aire you with them locos on that roof?" rasps Ed, plunging a hand into his pocket for a Barlow clasp knife.

Clapsides jerks free, tossing his head. "No, you idiot! I'm here to cover this story for the masses of the world." He smooths his beard. "We're going to reveal the true picture of Chicano exploitation and degradation at the hands of you Texas brutes." Eyeing Ed with new interest, Clapsides smiles winsomely and breathes, "I must say you're just macho John Wayne, you savage."

## "News Peek standing by at the Alamo."

"Hell, Ed, he ain't nuthin' but uh danged faggot," Merl snorts and grabs the shaggy red beard and yanks. The journalist's shrieks cause Eunice to quail and break into a staggering trot, carrying her away from the scuffle.

A squeal of tires heralds the arrival of three San Antonio police cars. They take up positions cordoning off the square. To the west appears a police helicopter, rapidly approaching the Alamo.

At one of the patrol cars, an officer picks up a microphone, his eyes fixed on the approaching chopper.

"Foxtrot One, this is Control ... how d'ya copy?" There is the sound of static, then a reply.

"Uh ... roger, Control, this here's Foxtrot One ... we gottcha loud an' clear. We'll be over the Alamo in about three minutes an' check out those suspects ... we'll let you know if they're armed — out."

The patrolman turns to his sergeant standing nearby and asks, "Sarge, you want us to get them ladders ready?"

"Yep, soon's that chopper crew lets us know what's happening with them suspects, you can git to it."

A small, white van rolls up next to one of the police cars. Two men step out, one carrying a TV camera which he focuses on the other, a slender, grey-haired man who smiles at the lens and speaks: "Howdy, folks ... this is News Peek, Channel 9 TV, here on the scene at the Alamo. Seems like there's some kind of distur-

bance here involving a few protestors. We'll try and get some details for you in a few minutes, so please stand by." He turns to one of the policemen and is busy gathering details, when a garishly-painted station wagon, bearing letters that cover the entire side of the vehicle, careens up and stops beside the van. A burly female figure scrambles from the wagon and heads toward the Alamo, frantically followed by two scurrying figures, both carrying TV cameras. She halts in front of the Alamo with the yelling crowd in the background. Both cameramen train on her.

"This is Bronwyn Hetherington, National News, speaking to you from San Antonio, Texas." She pauses dramatical-

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SOF military affairs editor, L.H. "Mike" Williams, is a fourth generation Texan, with hometown in Houston. For him, the taking of the Alamo represents not only the desecration of a national monument, but a personal insult. The first Williams in Texas, Col. Samuel May Williams, served in the Congress of the Republic of Texas, started the first bank in Texas (Commercial Bank of Galveston), was the Secretary of the Texas Navy, personal confidant of Sam Houston, and the state's first land recorder. (His adventures can be read in *Samuel May Williams: Early, Texas Entrepreneur*, Margaret Swett Henson, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1976.) He also had the good sense to die broke, but in bed.

—S. Nielsen

ly, brushing back part of a Dutch-boy haircut. "Ladies and gentlemen, it is absolutely horrifying here at the Alamo, shrine of centuries of Texas atrocities against the pitiful, down-trodden millions of Spanish-American, Hispanic, Latino minorities."

Bronwyn's appearance has caused a score of tourists to stop and gawk; her lumpy frame is encased in a tan safari suit festooned with cossack-type ammunition pouches on the jacket front, epaulets on the shoulders and parachute jump-pockets on the trousers.

"As we are standing here this very minute, history may well repeat itself! As you know, in 1836, 153 brutal, macho Texas mercenaries assaulted 3,500 lightly armed, friendly, non-violent Hispanics. They put them to the sword by the thousands." She draws a breath and continues, "Now the tables have turned. Thirty-five heavily armed, down-trodden young men and women — all students of Spanish-American backgrounds — have seized this ugly, chauvinistic structure in the name of liberal freedom ... their smiling faces, brown, their simple clothing,

blue denim, and above their heads, an imposing red banner." She lowers the mike, smiles, then signs off. The cameramen beam and the group trots back to the station wagon.

## "Go git 'em!"

"Sarge, we got the people ready with the ladders!" The patrolman eyes the chopper as it finishes its last pass over the Mission. The two policemen see the pilot wave and the radio crackles into life, reinforcing the hand signal. "Control, this is Foxtrot One ... go on, they ain't armed." The chopper banks and flies back to the west from whence it came.

"Go git 'em!" The sergeant waves to the four officers carrying ladders and running for the back of the Alamo.

"Jose! Those *policias*'re coming weeth ladders!"

All three of the protestors, realizing their time has come, stand together raising clenched fists and singing the first strains of "The Internationale."

"Dammit, come on, Earl, this ladder's a-shakin' sumthin' fierce!" Two patrolmen shakily clamber up the ladder and emerge on the roof, pausing for breath.

"Don't shoot! We surrender!" howl the martyrs, raising their hands.

"The hell with that ... come on outta there, you loonies."

"You're all under arrest for trespassing and desecrating a shrine ... I'm readin' you your rights." One officer grabs Jose around the chest as the activist starts to struggle. As the motley group starts down the ladders, a nattily-dressed young man wearing aviator-style glasses and carrying a black attache case runs to meet them.

## "The President stands behind oppressed minorities."

Trotting alongside the trio, he gasps, "I'm J. Ewell Smythe, Health-Education-Welfare. We want you to know that the President is with you in your fight for human rights and the oppressed minorities! As you know, he has always been in the forefront in the fight for the Polish people." Jose looks at him as if demented.

"Gringo, I ain't no polack! Jou tell that Carter he ain't got no votes from us!"

As the troop is hauled away in waiting patrol cars, Bronwyn is railing at the police brutality displayed by the officers in forcing the trio to descend by ladder, rather than furnishing them a fire engine with Cherry Picker.

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# HOW THE HELL DID WE GET HERE?

by Patrick J. Buchanan

**T**O the thunderous ovation of both Houses of Congress, the President enunciated the Carter Doctrine during his State of the Union address.

"An attempt by any outside forces to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America and . . . will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

Pardon me if I don't join in the applause. For the President has just issued a warning to the world's mightiest power which the armed forces of the United States lack the capacity to carry out.

Two weeks before Jimmy Carter's formalized warning to the Soviets in his State of the Union address, he spelled out the limited sanctions he was taking against Moscow for its invasion of Afghanistan. In the first authoritative Soviet reaction, the Tass News Agency responded:

"On the whole, the statement of the President gives one the impression that it lacks political balance, lacks the real consideration of the international situation and overestimates the real potentialities of the United States while underestimating the potentialities of those states with regard to which the United States plans to take some or other steps."

Translated, the Soviets are saying in polite language that either Carter is deceiving himself as to U.S. military capability, or he is running a dangerous bluff in the Persian Gulf. It is difficult to refute the Russians.

The Truman Doctrine in the 1940s was backed up by the unrivaled American atomic arsenal. The Eisenhower Doctrine of the '50s, covering the Middle East, was supported by both strategic and naval dominance.

Thanks largely to Carter and the congressmen who cheered him on, the Carter Doctrine is a large check drawn upon an account long ago marked "insufficient funds."

**A**SSUME the Kremlin gives its benediction to a "war of national liberation" in Baluchistan, an attack on Pakistan, an invasion of a collapsing Iran. How does Carter propose to deter them, or stop them?

We cannot credibly threaten the Soviets with strategic retaliation as we did in 1962, for their strategic arsenal is superior and less vulnerable. And our strategic forces have been constructed to conform to the McNamara Doctrine of "mutual assured destruction" which envisions the annihilation of the United States in the event of their use!

We cannot threaten the Soviet tank armies with tactical atomic weapons, for the Soviets would respond in kind and vaporize the three carriers which contain most of our striking power in the region of the Persian Gulf.

We cannot threaten them with superior conventional forces, for we do not possess superior conventional forces. The American Army is less than half the size of the Red Army, less well-equipped and half a world away from the scene. We lack the bases from which to fight and the airlift and sea lift needed to carry our soldiers to their defeat.

"How the hell did we get here?" bawled Walter Cronkite in an address to a symposium in Austin, Texas, on "The International Challenge of the '80s — Where Do We Go From Here?"

Well, we got here through a decade of denuding the American military establishment, while our politicians and press, with a few honorable exceptions, ignored or disparaged the greatest military buildup in history inside the Soviet Union.

**A**ND, if memory serves, half a decade ago, when Cronkite was braced with evidence that CBS Evening News had allocated one minute in two years of coverage to the shifting balance of power, The Most Trusted Man in America dismissed his questioner:

"There are always groups in Washington expressing views of alarm over the state of our defense spending. We don't carry those stories. The story is that there are those who want to cut defense spending."

That's how we got here, Mr. Cronkite; and that's the way it is.

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# THE TANGLED WEB

## The Vietnam War: An Overview of the Conflict in Southeast Asia

by Jim Graves

**I**N 1925, Nguyen Ai Quoc — also known as Nguyen That Thanh, Ly Thuy, Song Man Tcho, Nguyen O Phap and Nguyen Sinh Chin — a nationalist, communist, pro- or anti-French/Chinese/Japanese, depending on the situation — betrayed nationalist leader Phan Boi Chau to the French. In 1926, he formed the Thanh Nien, the Revolutionary League of the Youth of Vietnam. In 1941, he succeeded in uniting several communist and nationalist groups into the League for the Independence of Vietnam, the Do Cap Dong Minh Hoi or the Viet Minh. Nguyen Ai Quoc was also known as Ho Chi Minh.

On 22 December 1944, 34 men paraded in a jungle clearing before a 32-year-old history teacher wearing a black Homburg hat, a city suit and a revolver in a cowboy-style-holster. The men were the first regular members of the Vietnamese People's Liberation Army (VPLA), or Chu Luc. The ex-history teacher was Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap.

In March 1945, the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) determined that the Viet Minh was the main Indochinese anti-Japanese force and increased delivery of supplies and instructors to Ho and Giap. In August, the Viet Minh was strong enough to seize Hanoi and declare an independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Vietnam had been controlled by the French through most of the 19th century and the French returned at the end of World War II to confidently hoist the Tricolor in Saigon, an act which eventually led to war and France's humiliating defeat at the village of Dien Bien Phu in 1954.

The Geneva agreements divided Vietnam along the 17th Parallel. Although the United States was not a signatory, it became involved when





Secretary of State John Foster Dulles — who had wanted to intervene at Dien Bien Phu — created the Southeast Asia treaty Organization (SEATO) to protect Southeast Asia from communist aggression. That was up front. Behind the scenes, Dulles sent Col. Edward Lansdale of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to harass the Viet Minh. In Hanoi, Lansdale's men did silly things like contaminate the fuel supply for Hanoi's bus lines and effective things like spread stories about Viet Minh terrorism and slogans — such as “the Virgin Mary has gone South” — which led to the exodus of 900,000 civilians (mostly Catholics) to the South.

This propaganda defeat Ho turned to his advantage as the 900,000 who fled left land and property behind which was redistributed. That helped Ho, who lived simply and dressed in black peasant garb, transform himself into the venerable and popular “Uncle Ho.” Those fleeing south passed along the way some 100,000 Viet Minh who were headed north. While Giap was forced to bring most of his troops above the line, he left behind a 1,000-man cadre for future action.

### The Problems In The South

The new premier in the South, Ngo Dinh Diem, who dressed in white and favored an European style of life, faced land reform problems, an armed threat from three private armies — the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religious groups along with the Binh Zuyen criminal organization — and the problem of assimilating the mountain tribes. Diem used harsh measures to destroy the private armies in the South, failed to bring the mountain peoples over to his side and his incredibly cor-



**TOP:** Navy Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (Bell SK-5 ACV) moves through Mekong Delta. **BOTTOM:** During “Operation Game Warden” Air Force Kaman HH-43 Huskie rescue helicopter hovers above MK II River Patrol Boat of Task Force 116 on Bassac River. **MIDDLE:** Navy Lt. Cmdr. Donald D. Sheppard aims flaming arrow at bamboo hut concealing Viet Cong bunker on bank of Bassac river. U.S. Navy Photographs



rupt regime made no serious attempt at land reform. Nonetheless, Diem had the backing of the United States.

The political arm which controlled the cadres in the South was known as the Trung Ương Cục Miền Nam or the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN). The man who controlled COSVN was Le Duan, a founding member of the Indochinese Communist Party. After a trip to Hanoi in 1957, Le Duan came back and gradually began guerrilla activity in the South using the 1,000 men he had, with 2,000 men he brought back from the North, stragglers from the Cao Dai, Hao Hoa and Binh Xuyen armies, disenfranchised farmers and the tribesmen. In 1960 he organized his diverse elements into the National Liberation Front (NLF)—the Viet Cong.

**The Vietnam War: The Illustrated History of The Conflict In Southeast Asia** points out the above facts. It also shows President John F. Kennedy was confronted with a deteriorating situation when he took office in 1961. Perhaps smarting from the embarrassment of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, he determined to resist communist aggression in Southeast Asia. Kennedy increased the flow of aid to South Vietnam — men, materiel and money — and pressed the Diem regime to enact reforms.

Diem, however, made no serious attempts at reform, the country was torn by political and religious ferment, and the men, materiel and money had little or no impact on the NLF. Kennedy gave his approval to the coup that led to Diem's death only three weeks before his own assassination in Dallas.

The situation faced by President Lyndon Johnson was even worse and his reaction was to increase aid and assistance to South Vietnam. Johnson also approved a plan for the South Viets to conduct clandestine operations in the North and approved intelligence-gathering U.S. destroyer patrols along North Vietnam's coast.

These actions led to the North Vietnamese patrol boat attacks on the U.S.S. *Maddox* on 2 August 1964. The *Maddox* knocked out two patrol boats with its guns, but the Vietnamese fired two torpedos that missed by only 200 yards. A second attack — questioned, as opinion is divided on whether the blips were real or imaginary boats — against U.S. destroyers on 4 August led to an American air strike against North Vietnam's torpedo boat base at Vinh and on 7 August Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. It gave Johnson the power to "take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and...to take all necessary steps including the use of armed force to assist any member or protocol state" of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. The situation continued to



**TOP:** North Vietnamese soldier waves flag over captured bunker at Phouc Binh in 1975. Photo by Democratic Republic of Vietnam. **BOTTOM:** Marines from I Company, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, take cover 20 miles south of Da Nang while jet sweeps in to blast Viet Cong positions. U.S. Marine Corps Photograph.

deteriorate and in March 1965 Johnson got operation "Rolling Thunder" — air strikes by U.S. aircraft in the North — going. On 8 March the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade came ashore at Da Nang to protect the air field there — a true watershed as it was the first time an American infantry unit was committed.

By June 1965 Johnson had moved nine infantry battalions into Vietnam and Gen. William C. Westmoreland had approval to move them out of the enclaves so that they could conduct "counter-insurgency combat operations."

### The Book

The first seven chapters of **The Vietnam War**, from which the material above was

extracted, provide an excellent overview of the tangled web of events that led up to the commitment of American combat units in 1965. The book's remaining 16 chapters deal with America's halting, step-by-step conduct and withdrawal from the war, the eventual defeat of the South Vietnamese and the aftermath right up to 1979.

The book was published that year by Salamander Books in London, England, and Crown Publications, Inc. of New York, N.Y., published the American edition at the same time.

Salamander Books' editor Ray Bonds put together a 14-author team to produce the text and he chose well — selecting 12 Americans who had served as U.S. military historians either as civilians or

members of the military, and two British authors who contributed chapters on the French era and on the development of the communist army. The authors produced 23 essays which cover the story of Vietnam from the 3rd Century B.C. up to 1979. Additionally there is a thought-provoking foreword by Gen. Westmoreland, the American commanding general in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968.

For icing, Bonds included a section with brief biographies of key individuals in Southeast Asia, a chronology of the main events and a comprehensive index.

The book is lavishly illustrated with 590 photographs, maps, charts, diagrams and some of the most spectacular four-color art illustrations I've seen produced on the war. The photographs were obtained from the various branches of the U.S. military, from the Etablissement Cinematographique et Photographique des Armees, the Associated Press, the Royal Laotian army, the Australian army, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the *New York Times*, Popperphoto, Harlingue-Violet, the government of Kampuchea and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. (The drawings and photographs reproduced with this article were taken from the book — Copyright © Salamander Books, Ltd., 1979. Used by permission of Crown Publishers, Inc.)

While the topical approach to writing history does not generally result in the production of a unified theory, a careful reading of the book produces ample support for some theories Westmoreland raised in his foreword. Westmoreland wrote: "...The North Vietnamese 'broke the will of the enemy to fight' and despite American victory on virtually every battlefield, emerged in the end triumphant." North Vietnam's ability to "break the will" of America was in Westmoreland's view assisted by Johnson's determination to keep the war limited, thus locking American forces into a defensive strategy and more importantly a prolonged conflict. Westmoreland is certainly correct in that Johnson's policy was directed so as to follow "...a policy at home of business as usual. Had it not been for the draft, and sensational coverage of the war piped for the first time by television into American living rooms, only those who served and their loved ones would have recognized that the nation was at war."

### The Tet Campaign

Writing about Tet, Westmoreland hammered home his point about journalistic coverage of the war: "Despite the fact that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong incurred a military defeat of such proportions that it took them four years to recover, reporting of the offensive by press and television in the United States gave an impression if not of American and South Vietnamese defeat, then of endless war that could never be won."

Charles B. MacDonald, Deputy Chief Historian for Southeast Asia in the U.S. Army Center for Military History, was the author of the essay covering the Tet campaign in *The Vietnam War*. His essay supports Westmoreland's position on the role of journalists.

MacDonald's theory is that the massive assault on South Vietnam's cities in 1968 was an all-out military offensive designed to convince the Americans that victory in Vietnam would require sacrifices America was not willing to make. He details the elaborate and cunning preparations the North Vietnamese made just prior to the battle and it is fascinating reading.

As MacDonald explains, the North Vietnamese started attacks against remote posts — Song Be, Loc Ninh, Dak To and Khe Sanh — to draw off American troops from the cities and disguise their plan. NVA and VC commanders participating in the diversions and the main attacks were not told of their real purpose and targets until the last possible moment. To prevent American bombing of supply lines during the final build-up, North Vietnamese officials passed the word to the American government that if U.S. "...bombing ceased, North Vietnam 'would hold talks.' That was a change from the usual 'might hold talks'." The U.S. passed word back through Romania that bombing around Hanoi would be halted. Finally, because Tet is such an important holiday, observed as seriously in the North as in the South, North Vietnam moved up the date of its Tet festivities one day, so its troops could celebrate for three days before the scheduled start of the Tet assaults on 31 January.

Despite the careful planning, one North Vietnamese headquarters unit launched its attacks prematurely, hitting cities in the Central Highlands and central coastal provinces. According to MacDonald, this enabled the Americans and South Vietnamese to get out an alert.

MacDonald calls Tet a "... severe defeat for the communists," a premise based on the failure of the communists' primary goals — their hope to trigger a civilian uprising, desertion from South Vietnamese military forces and their plan to demonstrate that the ARVN was incapable or unwilling to fight — and severe communist losses: 32,000 killed and 5,800 captured as opposed to 3,800 American and ARVN losses in the first two weeks.

### The Failure Of The Journalists

"But this was not the impression given by the copy and television of American newsmen. As one of their number, Peter Breastup, then reporting for the *Washington Post*, was to note in a carefully-documented study nine years later: 'Rarely has contemporary crisis-

journalism turned out, in retrospect, to have veered so widely from reality'."

MacDonald also asserts that the newsmen had not taken pre-Tet warnings of upcoming communist activity seriously and therefore, "To them, the Tet offensive was an incredible shock, an unmitigated disaster, a clear American and South Vietnamese defeat. None of them thought to draw parallels with other wars in which a losing side had staged a grand surprise assault — as Germany had in 1918 and 1944. Confirmed in their long-held skepticism, they were determined to expose the subterfuge and chicanery they saw behind the Johnson administration's claims of progress."

"Damage in the cities, light by the standards of World Wars I and II or Korea, was to most newsmen appalling. Television cameras focusing on one badly damaged block could give the impression of an entire city in ruins."

Following Tet there were three actions that had tremendous impact on the eventual outcome of the war. Westmoreland gave up his command in Vietnam to become Army Chief of Staff, Johnson announced that he would not be a candidate — he suggested peace talks and "...to his surprise the North Vietnamese agreed to talk." MacDonald calls Tet a military defeat but a psychological victory for the communists and reasons that it "...prepared the way for their eventual victory."

### Khe Sanh: Ruse Or Key Battle?

In my opinion both MacDonald and Bernard C. Nalty, who wrote the chapter on Khe Sanh (See "Khe Sanh: No Dien Bien Phu," *SOF*, May '80) failed either to recognize the importance of the battle for Khe Sanh or place it in its proper perspective as part of the North Vietnamese general offensive of 1968. MacDonald calls it a mere ruse while Nalty says Tet was the main offensive and "...it is unlikely that the North Vietnamese ever envisaged the base as a second Dien Bien Phu." Nalty is not even convinced that it was "the most important battle" of the war.

It is doubtful if it will ever be decided which — Tet or the siege of Khe Sanh — was the main effort, or even which had the most impact in the United States. But to me it is significant that primarily Viet Cong were committed to the Tet offensive while the 325th and 304th NVA divisions laid siege to Khe Sanh at the same time the 324th and 320th NVA divisions tied down Marine units along Route 9, just east of Khe Sanh. The 304th, designated to make the final assault on Khe Sanh, fought with great distinction at Dien Bien Phu and was considered one of the best NVA units. Its allocation to the attack has to be significant.



1st Air Cavalry Reconnaissance platoon members jump from UH-1D Huey three kilometers west of Duc Tho during "Operation Oregon." U.S. Army Photograph

Maj. David Miller, one of the two British writers, contributed an essay on the development of the communist armies to *The Vietnam War* and his comments about Tet and Khe Sanh are interesting. Miller claims the Tet campaign was decided on only "...after a major row in the Central Committee." He states that the Chinese and Gen. Giap were opposed to the plan as it "...represented a major aberration of orthodox theory...." Miller also points out, accurately, that Tet was a VC operation, and NVA units not committed at Khe Sanh were generally held out of the battle. Communist losses during Tet Miller pegs at over 45,000 killed and captured and he states that after Tet "...the predominance of the NVA military forces over the Viet Cong was absolute." Miller asserts that at Khe Sanh: "There can be no doubt that Gen. Giap was trying to recreate the conditions and success of Dien Bien Phu, and the sur-

render of the garrison would have been a fatal blow to the Americans."

In a forward written for *The Battle For Khe Sanh*, published in 1969 by Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Westmoreland wrote: "There is also little doubt that the enemy hoped at Khe Sanh to attain a climactic victory, such as he had done in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu, in the expectation that this would produce a psychological shock and erode American morale." Westmoreland claimed the thrust against Khe Sanh was an attempt by the North Vietnamese to take over the Northern two provinces of Vietnam for the purpose of setting up a "liberation government" there.

### The Origin Of Dust Off

Although *The Vietnam War* essays generally are what is referred to as over-

views, a careful reader will be able to extract some fascinating incidents and trivia from the book.

For example:

"Dust Off," a word we all knew and came to appreciate in Vietnam, comes from the radio call-sign of Maj. Charles Kelley, a famed pilot killed in action in 1964.

Operation Starlite in 1966 was actually supposed to be named Operation Satellite. The name change resulted from a clerk's typing error undiscovered until too late to be changed.

The concept that the communists operated "on a handful of rice a day" is a myth. Gen. Giap once wrote: "On the Dien Bien Phu front the supply of food and munitions was a factor as important as the problem of tactics....Day and night hundreds of thousands of porters and young volunteers crossed the passes and  
*Continued on page 59*

# FURY ON HILL 64

by Col. Henry Radcliffe as told to Bob Poos

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Only one Marine unit at the Khe Sanh Combat Base was overwhelmed during the 77-day North Vietnamese siege (See "Khe Sanh: No Dien Bien Phu," *SOF*, May '80) in 1968 — a platoon of Alpha Company, First Battalion, Ninth Marines. The company commander, then Capt. Henry Radcliffe, sought permission from Marine brass to lead a counter-attack when the outpost was overrun. Permission denied.

But Marines have a way of going after their own, whether the brass approves or not, as we shall see. Radcliffe, now a full colonel, stationed at the American Embassy in London, refers to himself as "the duty Marine over here." *SOF* obtained this exclusive interview with him via long distance to the British capital after first coming across an account of the event in *The Vietnam War: The illustrated history of the conflict in Southeast Asia*.

—Bob Poos

Our battalion was at the western limit of Khe Sanh Combat Base with the mission of holding the western approach. On the night of 6 February 1968, the North Vietnamese, with a large infantry force under cover of rocket and artillery fire, moved in and overran the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei (See "Armor in The Wire!" *SOF*, November '79).

"Next day, rumors really began flying and then some of the Montagnards who'd been at Lang Vei started drifting in with tales of what had happened there.

"I went out that afternoon to check a strong point we had on a place called Hill 64 — not because of its height — but because we had 64 Marines up there, a rifle platoon reinforced with some extra mortars and machine-gun teams.

"The platoon commander, 2nd Lt. Terence R. Roach, Jr., some men and I started stringing wire in earnest, using a couple of sledgehammers our battalion sergeant major had 'commandeered' somewhere.

"I explained to Roach what had happened at Lang Vei and told him the company would be on 100 percent alert.

"So that night no one in our company slept and we put out our night activities — what we called our night acts — you know, patrolling outside the wire, moving from position to position, making sure night-time security was established. I stood watch off and on with the radio operator.

"About 0330 hours, I got a call from Roach and he said there was lots of movement outside their wire. I had just asked him what the state of the alert was, and he replied '100 percent,' when all hell broke loose. We started receiving heavy artillery fire, which was unusual at night — you didn't get much of that after dark.

"Then it quietened down. We waited 'till morning and once the sky started to clear, we got a Bird Dog [spotter plane] up there. The enemy ceased fire from their positions and we settled down until late afternoon."

The quiet day had ominous prospects for Alpha 1/9 and its isolated strong

point. The North Vietnamese waited for cover of darkness and then, as Col. Radcliffe tells it:

"We got word they were being hit — quicker than I can tell you — it was a massive assault of the northwest slope. The position was a rather remarkable one. It was football-shaped and our strong point was on one end of the football. The men were strung out almost due west.

"We had been thinking ahead and had buried caches of food, ammunition and hand grenades — they came in handy.

"Meanwhile, in a really massive charge, the North Vietnamese totally sabotaged the barbed wire. They had placed automatic weapons on another hill further out to the west and with good covering fire from the artillery, made the charge. I got a radio relay from the platoon RTO man who evidently recognized my voice. He said, 'Skipper, come and get us. They're all over the place. They've broken through the wire, but we're trying to hold them back.'

"I told him to get Roach on the radio, but he said, 'I can't, he's out reorganizing the men.'

"So I called on the land line we had run right out to the wire, and tried to figure out what the hell was going on. Meanwhile, I told a supporting tank company that things were real tight."

"I requested permission [from battalion] to counter-attack. Permission was denied. Higher headquarters policy was that we would sit tight and not get engaged in pursuing long-term heavy ground combat. If there was going to be a war in the trenches, it was going to be on their side [to attack], not ours. We'd hit 'em with air and artillery while the enemy was out in the open, trying to charge the trenches.

"We waited and communications with the overrun platoon got worse. I tried to get another lieutenant up there on the hill. But he was shell-shocked. An RPG round had gone off right in his bunker. He could talk but he couldn't hear. So I had to shout and relay the words through the radio operator to him as best I could.

"By then, they had overrun the position after blowing the wire with satchel charges and Bangalore torpedoes, moving in real quickly.

"Finally, I told my exec, Lt. Griffin: 'Griff, you're gonna have to watch the company — I'm going to take what I can, go out there and find out what the hell's going on. You give that word on the land line back to battalion.'"

Radcliffe decided to act on his own.

"I still hadn't been given permission from headquarters to counter-attack. But nobody said I couldn't make a 'Recon in Force' (he didn't ask)."

Radcliffe gathered together a team of volunteers, the company gunnery sergeant, some squad and fire team leaders and a couple of eager privates. The company's blood was up, aware of buddies in trouble out there in all that noise, shellfire, rattling of automatic weapons and gloom of darkness — probably the entire company would have volunteered.

Radcliffe continues: "So I picked up a squad and placed them on my left flank, which faced west. I said, 'For Christ's sake, don't let those guys [the North Vietnamese] get between us, we could lose our lives.' Then 12 of us made the climb up the slope of the football-shaped hill.

"And a corporal, who had been with the company a long time, came crawling over and said, 'Gooks all over the place, captain.'

"I said, 'Where is the rest of your platoon?' He replied, 'This is all, skipper. This is all we have left.' I found out later that Roach and the platoon sergeant had both been killed, not in the initial assault but in the second or third.

"So I took my volunteer group and moved down to see what the position looked like on the southern side. We had a trench line that was dug around the hill in a zigzag pattern. I started moving down to these positions, occupied now by the NVA.

"We were fighting so goddamn close that we couldn't fire our M79s, as the grenade launcher rounds must travel nine



**TOP:** After successful counter-attack, Radcliffe's Marines were ordered to withdraw to main perimeter and jets dove in to deliver napalm on remaining NVA. **ABOVE LEFT:** Capt. Henry Radcliffe led "Recon-in-force" through trench lines (behind) to drive out NVA assault force which overran outpost from his company on Hill 64 during battle at Khe Sanh Combat Base in 1968. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** Hill 64 and surrounding area were pounded by numerous air strikes on 9 February. **ABOVE RIGHT:** One load of captured NVA weapons removed from Hill 64 after Marines retook position: weapons include AK-47s, RPG-7 launchers, 60mm mortar, Russian RPD LMGs and RP-46 LMGs.

feet from the muzzle before they arm themselves.

"We pulled back a little and, luckily, found a weapons cache and pulled out a case of grenades.

"We just went at it — hand grenades, hand grenades, blowing them out of the positions they'd taken over. We finally cleared the damn thing. It was, I guess, 0300.

### The Hill Was Covered With NVA Bodies

"Later on, they made serious attempts to kick us off that hill; by this time it was beginning to get light. The only air we could get was some South Vietnamese Sky Raiders. We brought those in and they did a helluva fine job. We were able to repel two attacks. One of them crested the hill

and we gave them a hail of fire. About eight or 10 of them were there with grenades and AKs. They were coming up a hill that was covered with NVA bodies."

That attack hurled back, Capt. Radcliffe and his squad of volunteers started looking for surviving Marines. "We found seven or 10 wounded. There were still a few small pockets at the  
*Continued on page 59*

## The fighting men

Anti-Communist forces in Vietnam included the South Vietnamese (Army of the Republic of Vietnam, ARVN), French, American and Australian. The ARVN were often compared unfavorably with the NVA and Viet Cong, but the ARVN fought well when led well. The French fought in Indochina from 1946 to 1954, losing 94,581 killed and missing, with 78,127 wounded. The U.S. infantrymen bore the brunt of the second Vietnam War effort with more than 500,000 U.S. troops in Southeast Asia in 1968-69. Between 1964 and 1973 45,790 were killed. The Australians had 6,672 men committed in 1969.

**The Australian**



**The American**



Communist forces included the Viet Cong, the indigenous national liberation movement of South Vietnam, and the North Vietnamese Army, of which it was nominally independent. There were regular VC units of up to regimental strength and many small, part-time units in villages. The North Vietnamese Army at first supplemented and then took over from the VC. The 1975 communist victory was the result of a conventional invasion by North Vietnamese armor and infantry.



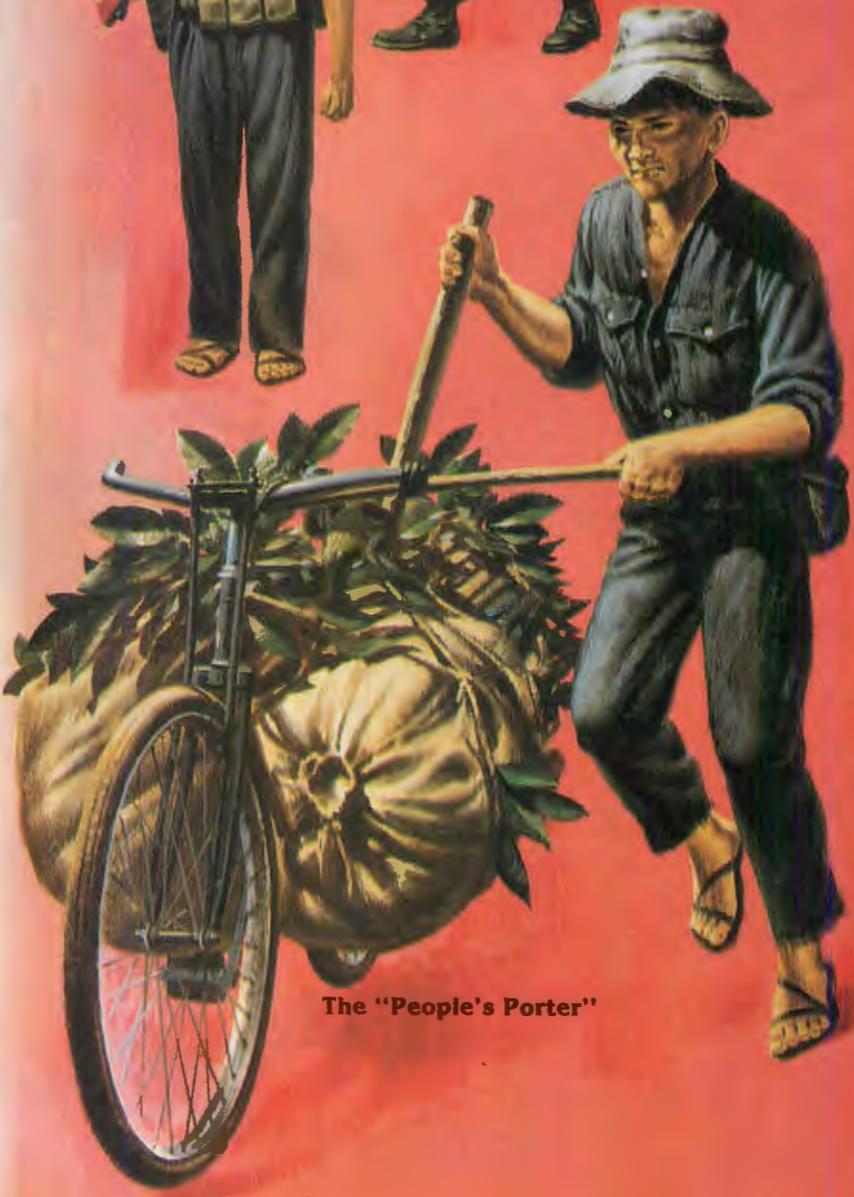
**The North Vietnamese soldier**



**The Viet Cong soldier**



**The French soldier**



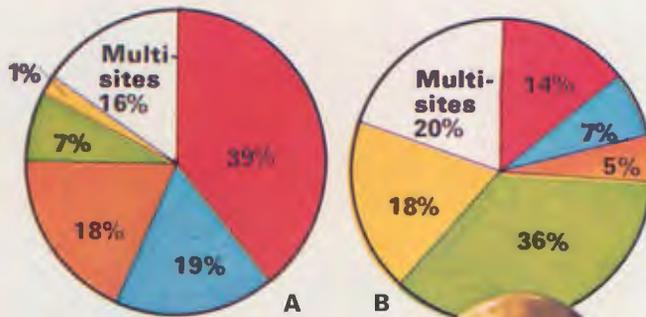
**The "People's Porter"**

# Casualty evacuation from the battlefield

The helicopter made a very significant contribution to casualty evacuation in Southeast Asia. Nearly all US and ARVN battlefield casualties were heli-lifted to rear areas. Transport aircraft of the US Air Force were used for the evacuation of patients needing major medical facilities in Southeast Asia or in the United States; the USAF's Military Airlift Command evacuated a total of 406,022 patients, including 168,832 battle casualties, between 1965 and 1973.

## Causes of casualties

The proportion of deaths from small arms in Southeast Asia (see table, right) showed a marked increase over World War II (32 per cent) and Korea (33 per cent) and was mainly due to the advent of the lightweight, high-velocity rounds fired by the Soviet AK-47 (and captured American M16s). These bullets caused large entry and exit wounds, left severe tissue damage, and affected blood vessels out of the direct path of the missile. These weapons' rapid-fire capability increased the proportion of multiple wounds. Wounds caused by mines and booby-traps were often very large and dirty, because the victim was usually close to the device when it exploded. The figures here are averaged over the years 1965-70; actual proportions varied year to year.



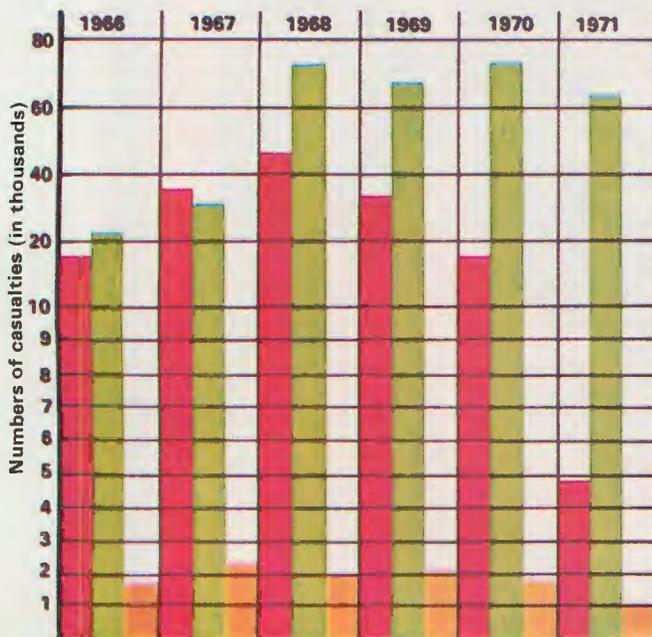
## Location of wounds

The two segmented circles, color-keyed to the figure of the soldier, shows the location of fatal (A, far left) and non-fatal wounds (B) in casualties reaching hospitals. A high proportion of fatalities were due to head and neck wounds; this was attributed by medical staff to the reluctance of troops engaged in violent activity to wear helmets.

Deaths	Causes	Wounds
51%	small arms	16%
36%	fragments from artillery	65%
11%	booby traps, mines	15%
—	punji stakes	2%
2%	others	2%

## Serious casualties, Allied forces, 1966-1971

The numbers of serious casualties sustained during the years 1966-1971 by US (red), South Vietnamese (green), and Allied (orange) troops are shown below. The death ratio for those who reached US hospitals was 2.6 per cent, a very significant improvement on the 4.5 per cent death rate of World War II. The ratio would have been even more favorable had it not been for the helicopter, which delivered to hospital a proportion of mortally-wounded soldiers who would have died on the battlefield in previous conflicts. Of the wounded who survived, a massive 83 per cent were able to return to military duty either in South Vietnam or in the United States.



## WEB

*Continued from page 53*

forded the rivers in spite of enemy planes and delayed action bombs. Indeed, a strong rear is always the decisive factor for victory in a revolutionary war."

In 1967, the U.S. had 473,200 troops in Vietnam. But actual infantry strength was 49,500 men, only 10.46 percent. The remainder were artillery and engineers (12 percent), aviation (2 percent) and headquarters and logistics (75 percent). VC/NVA strength at the same time was estimated to be 63,060 combat troops and an unknown number of porters and other non-combat personnel.

To illustrate just how seriously the VC took their campaign of terrorism, consider this incident from Hue, February-March, 1968: "...A squad with a death order entered the house of a prominent community leader and shot him, his wife, his married son, and daughter-in-law, his young unmarried daughter, a male and female servant and their baby. The family cat was strangled, the family dog was clubbed to death, and the goldfish scooped out of the fishbowl and tossed onto the floor. When the communists left no life remained in the house — a 'family unit' had been eliminated."

By 1971 the U.S. had refined its aerial night-war capability until it claimed thousands of trucks destroyed on the Ho Chi Minh trail during a week's time. However, supplies continued to flow from north to south, raising some questions about the "truck war." The biggest question of all was "...where were the tens of thousands of burned-out wrecks that should have littered the roads of southern Laos? (To answer this last question, irreverent junior officers invented the "Great Laotian Truck Eater," a monster which arose before dawn to devour the vehicles killed during the night!)"

The most difficult target American pilots faced in North Vietnam was the Thanh Hoa bridge, some 80 miles south of Hanoi. Navy, Air Force and Marine airmen flew 700 sorties against the bridge at the cost of eight aircraft. "Walleye" glide bombs, which had a television camera in the nose of the 1,100-pound warhead to relay a picture to the cockpit of the bomber, scored hits on the span but failed to bring it down. But in 1972 a "Smart" bomb — a 2,000-pound bomb guided by a laser beam — brought it down.

"The destruction of the Thanh Hoa bridge disproved a legend...that the world was composed of two spring-loaded hemispheres, hinged somewhere under the Atlantic and held together by the Thanh Hoa bridge; if the bridge was severed, the world would fly apart!"

**The Vietnam War** is a big book (245 pages) and in it the Vietnam vet or reader interested in the Vietnam war will find hundreds of bits of information like the ones above.

JULY/80

He'll also find some of the most dramatic photographs ever published on Vietnam, particularly those obtained from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. There are some spectacular shots showing communist troops moving into South Vietnamese cities and bases in 1975. One in particular — it shows four NVAs, carrying AK-47s, running past abandoned ARVN helicopters on the strip at Tan Son Nhut — will always stick in my mind.

**The Vietnam War** is also fairly expensive — \$17.95 — but even at that price it's a bargain. As the best overall illustrated history of Vietnam it belongs on your shelf.

**THE VIETNAM WAR.** Edited by Ray Bonds. Salamander Books, Ltd., London. 1979. 248 pp. \$17.95. Order from Soldier of Fortune, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.



## HILL 64

*Continued from page 55*

western end that we hadn't taken yet. But it was pretty obvious by now that we controlled all the high ground.

"Daylight came and we called in more accurate fire, myself and the radio operator. I had a really super artillery FO, a lance corporal who could call in 105 fire right in your back pocket. We were able now to knock off most of their supportive fire on the far hill with our artillery.

"Now it was just a matter of mopping them up. They were reluctant to leave but I think we just had a little more resolve to get the edge than they did.

"Then we started finding a couple of our men still alive here and there in bunkers that had been overrun. A squad leader, a corporal, a really super guy, who was wounded himself, went down the trenches, picking up wounded men and carrying them back down the hill through a hail of enemy fire.

## "Keep everybody off my back while I consolidate."

"We continued to clear the area and found more wounded Marines along with some NVA. I was in the process of making sure we got all the people out of there without any more casualties from so-called wounded NVA. Then the situation began to stabilize."

Capt. Radcliffe then decided that he was going to hold the hill with the pick-up force he had: "I told the XO that I had a hell of a lot of confidence in him — you're going to have to keep everybody off my back while I consolidate. I don't have any time to talk on the radio.

"We checked out the wounded North Vietnamese and I found that one of them was a company commander, so I told one of my troops: 'Scotty, we gotta get this guy back.' I think there was a total of

three NVAs alive and I said to a corpsman, 'Doc, how do we stand?'

"He said, 'I think a couple of these guys will make it.' So I said to the Gunnery: 'We're lucky as hell, got a couple of prisoners. Get some Marines and get them down the hill. And goddamn it, I don't want them "dying" on the way down.'

"So the Marines started lugging them down and one guy slipped and he and the prisoner slid down the hill away and I remember hearing him say to the prisoner, 'You son of a bitch, I've carried you this far — you gotta live.'

"But we just couldn't keep them alive, no matter how hard we tried, although we got a lot of good information off them, especially the officer. He was worth his weight in gold."

The fight was over now and it was just a matter of Alpha 1/9 policing up the area.

Radcliffe says: "We loaded the wounded back down the hill, then we tried to clear out all the weapons, went around, counted bodies and investigated to see if anyone was still alive. It was a damn mess. As I said, Roach was killed. The platoon sergeant was killed. As I recall, one or two of the squad leaders made it out of there. When the chain of command was blown apart, those guys took it upon themselves to react as best they could and I think their training paid off."

SOF: "That sounds like it was one hell of a fight."

Radcliffe: "Oh yeah, that was quite a day. We probably fired enough rounds that day to start the Third World War.

## "A North Vietnamese stood on him."

"When we moved over to the other slope of the hill, we found a couple of other Marines. Christ, they were the furthest ones out and they were still alive. One of them in particular was out there when they first got overrun. He was stunned but was awake when they stripped his body of his papers and stuff.

"He told me he believed that the North Vietnamese, at least one or two of them, knew he was alive. In fact one of them stood on him. He didn't know if he was standing on him to be mean or if he was trying to keep people off of him. He wasn't jumping up and down on him or anything like that, just stood on him. And the kid said he knew that those guys looked at him and saw him with his eyes open." (Eds. note: L/Cpl. Robert Wiley, who was temporarily paralyzed by the explosion of a satchel charge, remained conscious while enemy soldiers searched him and took photographs and documents he carried.)

SOF: "Did you get a decoration out of that operation?"

Radcliffe: "Yeah."

SOF: "What did you get?"

Radcliffe: "I'd rather not talk about  
*Continued on page 83*

# THE GREAT RHODESIAN ELECTION FRAUD

## How The West Sold Out Rhodesia

by Robert K. Brown

As the Rhodesian elections drew near, SOF decided to send a contingent of staffers to observe, as well as help maintain "law and order" in our own small way. Brown, Craig Nunn, Associate Editor MacDougald and SOF contributor Tom Wilkinson arrived in Rhodesia a few days before the election and managed to get in a small fire fight while accompanying a company of Rhodesian African Rifles. After the election, a rumor of an arrest list of prominent foreign volunteers with the security forces and of any SOF staff members forced the SOF contingent to "go to ground." The rumor proved to be just that, but as Brown explains, "The line between prudence and paranoia is, on occasion, a bit grey." A full report on SOF's adventures and misadventures will be carried in a future issue.

voters turned out, including an unknown number of children who were rarely asked for credentials," he wrote.

In view of the above statement, it will be interesting to see if the good bishop is allowed back into Rhodesia and, also, how long he stays.

What intimidation techniques did the terrors use to force their will upon the largely illiterate, politically unsophisticated black tribesmen? A member of a Ground Cover unit — a native-born Rhodesian who speaks four African dialects fluently and is a long-time friend of SOF — reported the following:

"A Ground Cover (GC) unit was assigned to each regional police station. GC personnel were responsible for gathering intelligence for a specific area. One European would command and control a stick of four Africans who would operate their own informant nets. Informants were paid cash for good information. Some provided information because they were sympathetic, e.g., their relatives were members of the security forces. Others could be coerced due to past terror activities.

"GC units often obtained intelligence by what they called 'pick-ups.' For instance, when buses were stopped at road blocks, every passenger would be briefly interviewed. If an individual was found to be friendly or if we found a passenger who had provided us with information in the past, we would find some excuse to take him off the bus and interview him further. Often we'd use the ruse of finding something wrong with his papers. In this manner we developed a comprehensive picture of the terror order of battle in the region — their strength, armament and war names.

"Shortly after the Lancaster House agreements (the negotiations attended by the British, the terrors and Rhodesians, which led to the March 1980 elections) were accepted and civilian buses started operating through the Tribal Trust Lands (TTLs), we found that two or three terrors were remaining in each *kraal*. They were the hardcore who had been in the areas a long time, in some cases two or three years.

Rather than going to the designated

**A**NOTHER defeat for the West. After 15 years of gallantly thumbing her nose at England, the United States and the rest of the world, Rhodesia has fallen. Fallen, in the final analysis, not to tens of thousands of communist-sponsored terrorists, but to a crooked election in which blatant intimidation played so prominent a role as to make the Boss Tweeds and Mayor Daleys of the big city machines that resorted to election fraud in the past green with envy.

The black and white Rhodesian political parties, which had conducted a fair and free democratic election in April 1979, and which had been pressured into holding another election with their terrorist opponents, due to pressure exerted by England, the U.S. and militant black African nations, once again opted to play by the rules. They restricted their electioneering techniques to those accepted by the west.

The Rhodesian pro-western political groups predicted that even though the terrorist parties were participating in the elections, they would not win a majority. That a coalition of the Rhodesian Front, representing the whites; the UANC, led by Bishop Muzorewa, who had won the April 1979 elections, and Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZIPRA, would take power. It was agreed amongst the anti-communists that Nkomo led the least offensive of the two terror organizations even though he was responsible for and boasted about shooting down two Air Rhodesia Viscounts filled with civilian passengers.

When the votes were counted, Upset! Marxist Robert Mugabe won an astounding 63 percent of the vote and 57 seats — a solid majority — in the new Parliament.

How did the terrorist Mugabe manage such a massive and conclusive upset? By a well-orchestrated, clever campaign of intimidation which either went unnoticed or was ignored by most "impartial" observers and the western "liberals" who were determined to end the war no matter what the price.

Mugabe and his terrors obtained "victory" by threatening the black electorate with indiscriminate assassination and mutilation — and continuation of the war — if Mugabe did not win.

One of Rhodesia's two Anglican bishops, Bishop Paul Burrough of Mashonaland (northern quarter of Rhodesia inhabited by the Mashona tribe which made up the bulk of Mugabe's forces) in a letter published in the London *Times* shortly after the elections, summed up the situation, saying that Mugabe won the election because the blacks believed "that only by appeasement could peace be restored"; that the Rhodesian blacks had decided, like the British election organizers to obtain "peace at any price."

"In effect," he continued, "the country was handed to those trying to take it by force, who had made it abundantly clear that murder and destruction would continue unless this were done.

"So keen were the people to give in to mass intimidation . . . that in the most vital province, 112 percent of the assessed

assembly areas, as they were ordered to do by the Lancaster agreements, they instead sent young sympathizers — *mujibhas* — who carried and handed in at the assembly points old SKSs or PPSHs and webbing that had been smuggled into Rhodesia while the Lancaster agreements were being thrashed out. One theory is that Mugabe dragged out the Lancaster House negotiations in order to allow sufficient time to implement this plan. On the surface, therefore, it appeared that the Mugabe terrors were honoring the terms of the agreement, whereas, in fact, they were able to maintain a viable and oppressive presence in the *kraals*.

"These terrors told the tribesmen that they would randomly kill and mutilate a number of individuals in each *kraal* if Mugabe lost. To emphasize their threat, they committed a large number of atrocities in the TTLs a few weeks before the elections, most of which were never reported.

"The reason they weren't reported was, according to the terms of the Lancaster House agreement, the Rhodesian security forces were confined to their bases and prevented from patrolling, from showing a presence in the countryside. This had the additional impact of convincing unsophisticated tribesmen that the Rhodesians had lost the war. After all, the security forces no longer came into the *kraals* while the terrors remained!

"We did receive some reports of terror atrocities, but most tribesmen were fearful of signing their names to official affidavits which would then be forwarded to the British-appointed governor, Lord Soames."

The *mujibhas*, both boys and girls, played a significant part in implementing the intimidation campaign. Their average age was between 15 and 17 but ran from 13 to 20. They warned of the approach of security forces and secured water and food for the terrors. They also exposed collaborators or "sellouts." Technically a sellout was someone who actively opposed the terrors or cooperated with the government but could be an individual who was simply "not with the cause."

The terrors held *pungwes* — a night-time meeting — which included singing, dancing and political indoctrination. At the end of the *pungwe*, they called on the *mujibhas* to name sellouts. The *mujibhas* were expected to identify sellouts. If they did not, they ran the risk of being so labeled themselves.

Frequently, sellouts were identified as anyone the *mujibhas* did not like. They could order anyone to do anything. If someone refused to cooperate he was either mutilated or murdered or both.

A high-ranking guerrilla defector, whom I interviewed and who refuses to be identified or even state whom he supports but is no friend of Mugabe, put it this way: "Immediately prior to the election, authorities reported that 22,000 guerrillas had reported to the assembly areas. Im-

mediately after the election, the number of guerrillas in the assembly areas increased to 26,000. If there were 4,000 people with weapons amongst the local population during the elections, what were they doing? It's obvious, isn't it? They sure as hell weren't there because they were watching the latest releases from Hollywood."

He went on, "812 guerrillas were captured during the third week of March. This never happened before during the entire war. What were these people doing? Very simple. They accomplished what they wanted and there was no further reason for them to stay in the *kraals*."

In order to make their threats more credible during the actual election itself, Mugabe's terrors resorted to a number of primitive but cunningly effective techniques.

Many polling places were manned by teachers who were ZANU sympathizers. They allowed people to vote as many times as they wanted — up to 10 times each. ZANU supporters were identified by "flapping" one arm slightly as they voted. Mugabe had chosen a rooster as his symbol and by so moving their arms they "gave the sign of the cock."

There were many cases of Mugabe terrors lining up in the voting lines or queues so there would be one terror every fifth or 10th place. While in the queue they informed other voters that if they did not vote for Mugabe they would be killed, because the terrors' weapons were just outside the voting perimeter. After working their way up to the polling station, they peeled off, assumed a position at the end of the line and once again moved forward with the line of voters, thus maintaining a continuous stream of intimidation.

Weeks before the elections, terrors began showing tribesmen "black boxes" of their own manufacture. The terrors explained that since the white man had a box that could tell if you voted, they now had one that could tell who you voted for!

During the April 1979 elections, the Rhodesians, to preclude people voting more than once, required the voter, after depositing his ballot in the ballot box, to dip his fingers in a solution which would register under an infra-red light. Before voting, all voters put their hands under the infra-red light to see if they had voted before. The terrors had eight months to come up with this gimmick, which took advantage of the tribesmen's ignorance.

In other cases, Mugabe men sat a distance from the polling place with small black note books. The voters were told that they were recording the names of anyone who voted against Mugabe. Once again, the unsophisticated voter had no way of determining whether or not this was the truth. And the "impartial" observers, who knew nothing of African customs or superstitions, saw no intimidation being carried out by a couple of blacks with notebooks 50 meters from the polling station.

Terrors also used hand calculators. They would show the tribesmen the calculators, punch a number and tell the voter that with this device they could determine who voted for whom.

In order to prove one was 18, the legal voting age, voters had to produce birth certificates. In some cases, 160 individuals used the same certificate and, therefore, innumerable underage individuals voted for Mugabe in the Mugabe-terror-controlled regions.

The intimidation factor was supplemented by a general acceptance of the mass of black voters that if Mugabe did not win, he and his terrors would return to the bush and the war would continue. Some of the leaders of the frontline states — Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia — stated they would not accept the results of the elections if Mugabe did not win.

"This realization, coupled with the strong desire for peace at any price," according to a chief inspector of the British South African Police, "resulted in a massive, pro-Mugabe vote even among the blacks in the Rhodesian security forces."

And the terrors had purposely and effectively cultivated this attitude amongst the blacks on the TTLs. The average tribesman was tired of the war, tired of having his schools and clinics closed by the terrors, tired of having his roads mined and transportation interrupted, tired of having his children abducted and forced to serve with the terror forces, tired of having his cattle dips closed, tired of having to supply the terrors with food and young girls.

Lancaster House agreements stated that the British government's representatives, led by Lord Soames, would "... be responsible for supervising the elections to the full extent necessary to ensure that they are free and fair ... He [Lord Soames] and his assistants will keep themselves fully informed of all matters relating to the elections and will inquire as necessary into any aspect of the conduct of elections."

Though Bishop Muzorewa, Joshua Nkomo and a group of Rhodesian Front MPs complained that the election was unfair, perfidious Albion, represented by Lord Soames, said little and did nothing. As Bishop Muzorewa said, "How can there be an expression of the will of the people when they have been warned that if they don't vote ZANU [PF] they'll be killed?"

In some quarters, the suggestion has been made that Lord Soames be a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. Instead, *Soldier of Fortune* recommends that he be given the Neville Chamberlain Award for "Accommodation of Terrorist Intimidation."

So, we ring the curtain down on Rhodesia, changing the comment often made about democracy in Africa — "One man, one vote, once" — to "one man with an AK, 10 votes, once."

**I**F you don't have it on when trouble comes, you bought it to be buried in.

Most fatal gunfights in the United States occur from 12 feet or closer and are over in an average of less than three seconds.

Soft, lightweight, bullet-resistant vests are concealable enough today to offer real protection to police, bodyguards and security personnel, but to be effective you have to be wearing them when trouble comes.

In addition, to get your money's worth from soft body armor you need facts before buying, especially as many vest salesmen will mislead you.

You must first decide why you need it, how often it will be worn, what coverage you want and what it will have to stop.

To decide what threat level you wish to stop, canvass your area to check the types of confiscated weapons and types of weapons most likely to be used against you. You must be realistic and get a vest that you will be able to wear daily. Threat levels are listed according to the types of projectiles the armor will have to stop:

Threat Level I — 22 LR (40-gr.); 38 spec. RNSP; 12-ga. No. 4 shot.

Threat Level IIA — 9mm FMJ (1090 f/s) 124-gr.; 357 mag. 158-gr. lead.

Threat Level II — 9 mm FMJ Remington 124-gr.; 1175 f/s; 357 mag. JSP Speer 158-gr.

Threat Level III — 7.62mm (.308 Winchester) 150-gr.

Threat Level IV — .30-06 military APM-2, 166-gr., 2750 f/s.

I recommend you start by considering a Threat Level IIA vest, since most U.S. handgun rounds in street use can be stopped by this vest. In Europe, you will need a Threat Level II vest, since there are numerous 9mms with high-velocity, steel-cored bullets. A Threat Level II will also stop most 9mm submachine-gun rounds.

I would not recommend buying a new vest made of Kevlar® layers and multiple layers of ballistic nylon. Ballistic nylon was used extensively a few years ago, but Kevlar® is much stronger by weight and ballistic nylon is being phased out.

Get a vest that has 16 layers of Kevlar® 29, 1,000 denier, 31x31 weave. Each layer should be bonded on its edges (as this will increase the life of the ballistic panels, and all panels I've tested took multiple hits closer to the edges of the panel than with unbonded panels.) Each panel should be enclosed in water-proofed nylon or rubber-coated Kevlar®. Uncoated ballistic panels simply build up smells easier; they are not appreciably cooler.

### **Remember your vest must fit comfortably.**

The front panel should reach from the navel to the top of the sternum (slightly lower in plain-clothes.) The front panel should extend around the sides of the body with one or two elastic chest straps

— don't compromise here — on each side fastening to the carrier or the other end of the strap with Velcro fasteners. Get elastic chest straps that are 1½ to 2 inches wide.

The front panel should be shaped so that when the arms are held directly in front of the body (fists about a foot apart) the vest panel will not rub the arms; otherwise an eight-hour shift becomes intolerable and you end up with your vest in the trunk. Front-adjustable shoulder straps are a nice feature in a stock vest but not essential.

If the vest you purchase has cotton/polyester carriers for its ballistic panels, you should get at least two extra carriers. Whenever the carrier gets damp with perspiration the ballistic panels should be taken out to dry — or mildew will form on the inside of the waterproof nylon. The ballistic panels will begin to smell or produce black spots on a white carrier. Carriers should be the same color as the uniform shirt or blouse (for plainclothes work use white carriers).

Fitting females offers special problems and challenges. Many women simply prefer a male vest over a T-shirt rather than an awkwardly designed female vest. Vests with specially designed cups to fit each breast are generally not practical or comfortable. A front panel with a dart (or sewn-in fold) on each side is most acceptable. A T-shirt should be worn against the body and an inexpensive karate-style breast protector (from any martial arts magazine) is worn by itself or slipped into a nursing bra, over the T-shirt and under the vest. These plastic protectors also guard the breasts from injury in fights and help preserve the feminine silhouette, a fact many ladies appreciate.

### **The vest's bullet and weapon-stopping capacity.**

Your Threat II vest will stop 22 caliber, 22 magnum, .25 auto, and .32 auto (even .32 KTW), 38 special (not 38 armor-piercing), any 45, .357 magnum (not AP), .380, 9mm U.S. rounds, and .41 magnum rounds from handguns. The only rifle bullet this vest will stop is a 22 caliber firing long rifle round.

Your vest will not stop an ice pick, but it will stop a sharpened screwdriver. It will not stop a thin, razor-sharp stiletto in a straight thrust, but it will stop a kitchen knife or hatchet. It will not stop a broadhead arrow, but it will stop any target or field-tipped arrow. No knife or razor can slash through a vest. When stabbed, it feels like you are being lightly punched. In an auto wreck, a vest may keep a steering column out of your chest.

### **Vests Do's and Don'ts**

1) Do read all care and maintenance information on your vest before putting it on.

# **A MATTER OF LIFE**

## **Policeman Looks at Protective Vests**

**by Ken R. Pence**

2) Don't test it against a tree stump during a boring interval, because each hit weakens vest integrity. That's like testing bullets and then carrying the hulls.

3) Do wear your vest. Vests worn daily save more lives in car wrecks than in shootings.

4) Don't wear a vest if you have high blood pressure. You will fatigue more quickly while wearing a vest, since body heat is retained.

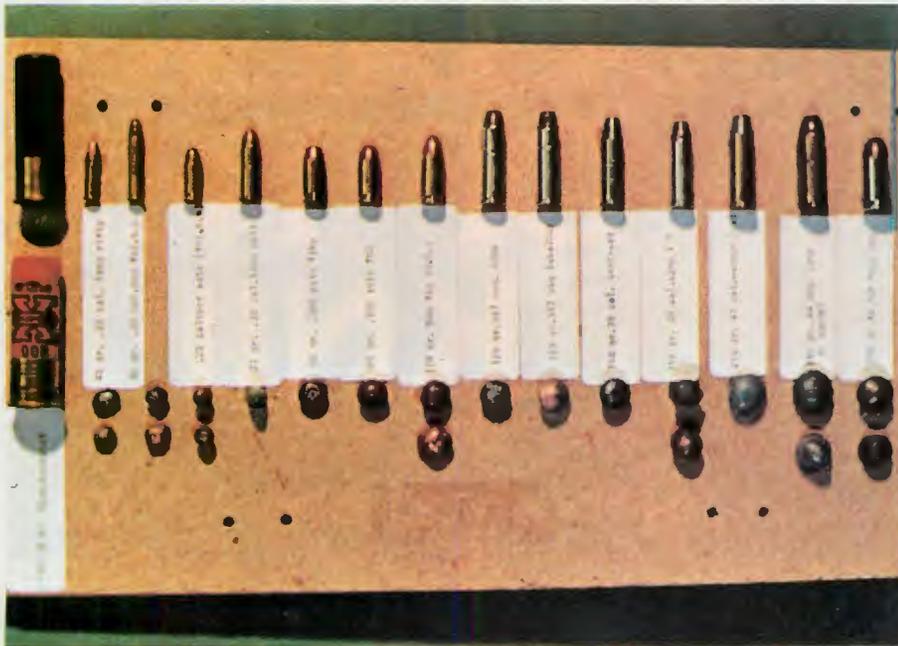
5) Don't wear a vest too tightly, because this strains muscles used to expand the chest and accelerates fatigue.

6) Don't put deodorant directly on the vest. This can cause a skin rash. If rash develops, use a medicated powder on skin before putting a T-shirt and vest on.

7) Do wear your collar open. This relieves heat build-up in hot weather by allowing heat to escape. Holding the top of the front panel and moving it away from the body and then rapidly back (pumping air under the panel) aids in cooling after exertion. The Safariland Cool-Shirt promotes circulation but is bulky and expensive. Wide mesh hunting T-shirts are a less expensive alternative and relieve heat build-up somewhat.

8) Do change an ordinary suit vest to hold the ballistic panels of a bullet-resistant vest by sewing the front of the suit vest together and adding a separate piece of cloth on the inside of the suit vest to hold the panels. The suit vest should have Velcro, a zipper or button closure on one side.

9) Do choose vest with provisions for inserts. This can quickly raise the protection level of a vest. I prefer the Second



**TOP LEFT:** Bullets fired from three feet that did not penetrate standard 15-layer Kevlar 29 Vest.

**TOP:** Front view showing author wearing vest properly so it doesn't show.

**LEFT:** Women's vests — older model Second Chance (left), Armour of America impractical women's vest (center) and newer model Armour of America.



Chance Hard-Corps inserts since they are comparatively light, cheap and effective. The ceramic, carborundum and fiberglass/Kevlar® inserts are not a great deal more effective. With the Second Chance metal inserts, you can quickly raise a Threat Level II vest to stop Threat Level IV (a big step for under \$100).

10) Don't get plastic inserts to stop blunt trauma since it is not as serious a problem in soft, bullet-resistant vests as once thought.

### Blunt Trauma

Blunt trauma is body damage (bruises, cracked ribs and other internal injuries) resulting from bullet impact on a person wearing a bullet-resistant vest.

If you understand how a vest works, it will help you understand blunt trauma. Vests are multiple layers of incredibly tough, woven fabric. When a speeding bullet hits a vest, it begins to slow down as it breaks through layers. It slows down as it passes through layers because it gives up energy to break the tough fibers. This breaking of fibers begins to deform (flatten) the bullet (full-jacketed bullets flatten least in most cases) and bullet diameter increases at each successive layer.

This deformation causes rapid deceleration of the bullet. The bullet finally has too little energy to break the fibers in the next layer and then pushes the remaining unbroken layers forward. This larger fabric area pushing forward (toward the body) spreads bullet impact energy over a

large area. The more unpenetrated layers, the more bullet energy is dissipated before striking the body. The resultant impact on the body from the unpenetrated layers causes blunt trauma.

Luckily, we need not derive a formula to determine blunt trauma since there have been so many actual bullet hits on vests with people in them, many that go unreported to FBI research. (If your department has any officers shot wearing a vest, please send information to: David W. Pimenti, FBI National Academy, Quantico, VA 22135.)

Most case histories of officers shot while wearing vests show that they were not knocked off their feet. A short course in physics will show that energy transfer

*Continued on page 76*

# SOLDIERS OF THE KNIFE

## Ranger Predecessors: Special Service Force of World War II

by Christopher Newport

**O**F the many knives used by Americans during World War II, the Case V-42 stands apart. Like the Luger, its appeal lies in its sinister appearance and its ties to the men who used it.

The knife was carried by members of the First Special Service Force who, after a dry run against the Japanese on Kiska Island in the Aleutians, saw action from 3 December 1943 through 5 December 1944 in Europe, their most notable achievements being the capture of Monte la Difensa and action at the Anzio perimeter.

Composed of American and Canadian volunteers, the Force was conceived by an Englishman, Geoffrey Pyke, an eccentric genius who convinced Lord Mountbatten that a small group of soldiers especially trained for arctic and mountain warfare could, with the help of a snow vehicle he designed (the prototype M29 Weasel), be parachuted into the northern areas of occupied Europe to interfere with German activities there.

The result, he reasoned, would be twofold: a reduced flow of raw materials into Germany from the industrial installations attacked and an understandable shift of enemy troops from main battle fronts to these backwater areas in an effort to protect the German rear and keep the supply of raw materials flowing into the Reich. Ideally, the plan (Project Plow) would tie down half a million Germans, using only 1,000 Allied troops.

Because of the ability of the United States to furnish the resources necessary to bring it to fruition, Project Plow was given to the U.S. Army to evaluate in May 1942. Lt. Col. Robert Frederick, given the job of studying the proposal, found it impractical. In his opinion, Plow could be best carried out by local partisans and, if implemented, would require the ill-advised diversion of war materiel from the buildup for the invasion of Europe.

### Project Plow was given a tentative green light.

Apparently, for political reasons, the War Department did not agree with his analysis and gave the project a tentative green light. Ironically, Frederick was ordered to take charge of it and, with Pyke, develop the idea into reality. At Churchill's suggestion, Canadians were to be included in the unit.

When the Canadian and American Army volunteers and the requested special equipment arrived at Fort Harrison in Helena, Mont., Col. Frederick's training area, he instituted a program to bring the men to a maximum level of physical fitness and expertise in arctic and mountain warfare and at the same time weed out the weak and unreliable.

Three years of grammar school and physical and mental toughness were the

basic requirements for a volunteer to be accepted — to remain, simply the ability to meet the training requirements. To pass out during an exercise was acceptable — to give up meant instant reassignment.

The latter was considered a fate worse than death by the troops. Later, in Italy, this attitude would become more literal.

As training neared completion, the decision to scrap Project Plow was made in Washington, but Col. Frederick managed to keep his command viable and available for assignment. Pyke by this time had faded from the scene as much due to his inability to cooperate with his associates as to the impracticality of his original plan.

The Force had received its V-42s by this time and were awaiting an opportunity to try them out. The knife was manufactured by W.R. Case and Sons according to War Department specifications. Possibly designed by Col. Frederick himself, it was made in three versions: the original as requested by the Army, a second prototype and the production model.

The first two were essentially the same: a bright, hollow-ground blade with a pronounced ricasso, a leather washer grip and a blued, rounded and flared pommel. The government specification knife had a slightly different blade towards the point because tests involving human skeletons in dummy shells indicated a sticking problem. This resulted in a second prototype with a less needlelike point.



TOP: WWII combat knives: left to right, USN MK2/KA-BAR, M3, British Commando knife, two German WWI-II styles. ABOVE: V-42 with long scabbard and shoulder patches of 1st Special Service Force and Korean War Rangers.

ABOVE: Four of world's most advanced combat knives. Top to bottom: Randall No. 1, Randall No. 2, Gerber MK2 and Samson "Steele Fighting Knife." Latter, designed by SOF Knife Editor David E. Steele, is latest major entry into the design field. Simplified construction keeps price well within reach of average soldier.

The final production V-42 had the second blade style, now blued, a grooved grip and a pommel similar to the original, but with a sharp point. The guard, inexplicably, remained unblued.

These knives, even then, were much coveted by Forcemen and others as well, for their sinister, deadly appearance readily appealed to knife-starved GIs destined for distant battlefields.

### The Force captured Monte la Difensa in a two-hour night attack.

After participating in the virtually unopposed reoccupation of Kiska, the First Special Service Force was sent to the European Theater where it first engaged in combat on 3 December 1943 in the capture of Monte la Difensa in Italy, an awesome achievement by any standard, for the Force captured a mountain defensive position, that had successfully repulsed the American 5th Army with heavy casualties, in a two-hour night attack rather than the expected three days. In their first combat, one-third of the Forcemen were killed or wounded.

During this period of mountain hopping and later at the Anzio beachhead, the V-42s saw much use. Although trained for airborne, arctic and mountain warfare, the Force in its one year of combat operations in Italy and later in France specialized in classic Ranger activities, i.e., raids, ambushes and reconnaissance behind enemy lines as well as conventional infantry operations.

At Anzio, aggressive patrolling and the amount of frontage assigned to them led the Germans to believe that they were facing a division instead of a few depleted battalions.

In operations characterized by stealth, surprise and lightning-fast assaults with Forcemen yelling and screaming, and usually with no quarter, the unit earned a reputation as the toughest fighters in the Allied armies. The opposing German veterans feared them and at one time offered a 10-day pass to any soldier who captured one alive — a rare occurrence. Col. Frederick's men gave the enemy two choices when they attacked: run or die.

### The Force gained the reputation of a suicide outfit.

The Force was disbanded in France in December 1944. During its one year of combat, it developed a reputation as a suicide outfit and, with a 600 percent turnover due to losses in 12 months, the idea is not far off the mark. Staying with the unit meant reconciling oneself to almost certain death.

This rapid expenditure of first-class troops was caused by a high command lacking the imagination to know when and how to use such men. It was Col. —

later Gen. — Frederick's leadership that made the Force an effective unit and kept it that way despite heavy casualties, his eventual promotion and reassignment, politics, materiel and personnel shortages and tactical misuse. He was quite probably the best fighting general the U.S. Army produced during World War II.

Sustained combat usage also told upon the V-42s, with attrition through destruction, loss and theft, causing M3 trench knives, bayonets and commercial products to fill the void.

The Forcemen's attachment to the knife was strong and evident — they even incorporated it into their flag. It exemplified, as they did, the "Spirit of the Bayonet"; an aggressive desire and aptitude for infantry work within arm's reach. This attitude and their devotion to Frederick made them formidable fighting men. It also killed or maimed nearly all of them.

After the Force was disbanded and its survivors assigned to the Ranger and other infantry units, it and the V-42 dropped into obscurity. The tight security surrounding the First Special Service Force's activities and its relatively few living veterans were the cause. Only in the late '60s was its existence brought before the public by a book describing its exploits. The resulting film was not very popular with Forcemen who saw it.

The V-42 is a rare knife since only a few thousand were made. With its high attrition rate, those few that survived the war were thought to be in the hands of a few veterans or collectors. However, the knife was to be called upon to serve a new generation of soldiers who differed from the Forcemen only in title: Ranger.

### In 1950 the call went out for Ranger volunteers.

In June 1950, as the North Koreans pushed south at the beginning of the Korean War, a call for volunteers went out to the U.S. Army's airborne divisions. Ranger battalions similar to those disbanded after World War II were to be formed at Fort Benning, Ga.

Among those who volunteered were veterans of the last war, including ex-OSS, Rangers and paratroopers, hot for a fight. Their training was similar to that given to the First Special Service Force, including infantry tactics, demolition, mountain warfare and physical conditioning.

During this period, some Rangers were issued the Case V-42. Apparently, a small number of knives had never reached the Force, remaining in some quartermaster depot since the war. Exactly how many were distributed is unknown and competition arrived almost immediately.

A salesman began to visit Ranger barracks at Fort Benning with Randall combat knives. The Rangers were quick to appreciate the value of the No. 1 all-purpose fighting knife and the No. 2 fighting stiletto. Many V-42s were then passed to those without a Randall or stuck in a GI duffle bag for the duration. This salesman became a fixture in Company areas and, later, Ranger replacements arriving in Korea and Germany would also be carrying Randalls. Because of their steady availability, they became almost a standard Ranger item.

Historically, as with most modern elite units, Ranger Companies were misused in

Today's combat knives include (top to bottom) Randall No. 2, Randall No. 1, Gerber MK2, British Commando and USN MK2/KA-BAR.



Korea, usually serving as line infantry and division point rather than as Rangers — specialists in behind-the-lines operations.

With daylight and with combined arms assaults against North Korean and Red Chinese — the preferred enemy — positions the rule rather than the exception, there was less opportunity for knife work of the kind the V-42 and Randalls were designed for.

### Many a V-42 was blooded during night patrols.

However, these knives did silence enemies during night patrols and infiltration of positions. Many a Randall and V-42 were blooded this way.

Ranger casualties were heavy, few members of the first postwar Ranger class remaining unscathed. In September 1951, the Ranger Companies in Korea were disbanded and survivors assigned to other units on an individual basis. After the Army's dubious assignment of Rangers to line infantry outfits, theoretically to enhance their fighting capabilities, Rangers would not serve together as a unit until the Vietnam War era.

So ends the history of the Case V-42, but it, and the Forcemen who originally used it, have left a tangible legacy that makes itself felt every time a collector or soldier examines one of the knives, or when someone takes a close look at the Special Forces crest, incorporating the Force's crossed arrows insignia and V-42 within it.

The Forcemen, and the Rangers who inherited their knife and traditions, were as close to being true warriors as a 20th-century soldier can be. They accepted war for what it is and consciously decided to participate in close, personal, bloody and dangerous combat in which they submitted to the outcome. They were truly soldiers of the knife.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher Newport is no stranger to SOF's pages, having written "The AK-47 and Its Variations" (May '79) and "The AK-47: An Update" (October '79). A collector of small arms, Newport drew together and evaluated information from a variety of sources to compile this two-part dictionary of the Soviet bloc's primary assault rifle.

Newport's interest in handheld weapons extends from fire-power to direct-contact arms, and his friendship with Col. Nakajo, present owner of the V-42 fighting knife illustrated in this article, led him to research the history of this World War II fighting knife, the results of which are printed here.

—M.L. Jones

## V-42: Test & Evaluation

A soldier's knife should not be a stiletto — that is the weapon of an assassin, not of an infantryman, who needs one with a design flexible enough to allow its efficient use in the preparation of foraged food, shelter and camouflage. The stiletto serves none of these purposes well. A soldier will use his knife least for killing, the only task that a stiletto is suited for.

The stiletto is, however, popular and, putting aside the fact that individual preference is the final arbiter, an argument can be made for its selection for combat in special environments such as built-up areas or deserts. When supplemented by a pocket knife and other edged tools, such as a machete, it may suffice anywhere, but with minimum equipment, a more versatile design should be chosen.

Special units may also choose the stiletto if they do not expect sustained combat; the British commandos, in the early years of World War II, were such a group, their operations against the Germans usually lasting only a matter of hours.

The Case V-42 is the finest mass-produced example of the breed in terms of quality of manufacture. It has a few flaws. The blade has a first-class blue and is hollow-ground for maximum sharpness. Its length is 7-5/16 inches, perhaps an inch too long for ease in sticking someone within arm's reach. Its large ricasso, however, allows a finger forward grip which can alleviate this problem if its user remembers to choke up on the handle while under stress.

The thumbprint-shaped grooves on one side of the blade are an interesting design feature and, with the skull crusher and leather-backed guard, are the V-42's most distinctive characteristics. The grooves were apparently included to remind the owner to hold the blade horizontally to facilitate slashing and ribcage thrusts.

American Indian war arrows were also designed with this ribcage penetration in mind and had the blade attached so as to strike, theoretically, in the same horizontal position.

This excellent idea is hampered by the leather handle's ovaloid shape which makes such a grip unnatural. A circular cross-section would have been more efficient, allowing the blade to be held in every way with an identical grip.

The skull crusher also causes problems by being too sharp at the point, making it easy for the user to stab himself while carrying the knife. A more blunt version would have been just as effective and safer to handle.

Another drawback to this crusher design is its flared protruding lip. The grip advantage it provides is offset by its uncomfortable projection into the user's hand when the knife is gripped normally.

The sheath also has design flaws; when worn, its unusual length puts the knife handle at about wrist level. While good in theory, this does not allow the placement flexibility of a Randall No. 14 or No. 18 sheath or that of a British commando knife.

The latter, the inspiration for the V-42, can be carried on the web belt, shoulder harness, boot or, with the use of straps, anywhere on the leg. It even has sewing tabs included on its sheath to facilitate attachment wherever the soldier desires.

The V-42's sheath design, an early World War II innovation also used in a shortened form with M3 trench knives and Marine Corps stilettos, was never liked. The M3 version was later replaced by a conventional plastic bayonet scabbard but, because of the other weapons' short-term production, no improvements came about for them.

These sheaths were also characterized by the use of staples at the mouth to prevent accidental cutting — staples that quickly scratched off the blade's protective finish, encouraging rust.

In summation, the V-42 is very much like the Luger — at first glance it gets a high weapon rating. Upon examining the design in detail, however, one notices flaws that would hamper its use by anyone who has not consciously decided to compensate for them. The main objective in military weapon design is to create a tool that can be used effectively and instinctively.

The V-42 is of high quality manufacture and deadly in the hands of an expert but, for the average infantryman looking for a good combat knife, there were and are better weapons available in either stiletto or utility form, including the KA-BAR/MK-2, the M3, the Gerber MK II and the Randall No. 1 and 2. None of these, however, are so visually impressive. Nor do they have the V-42's interesting history.

—Christopher Newport



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## SLASH AND THRUST

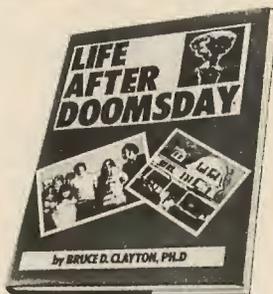
by John Sanchez

Knife fighting, and books about this deadly art, have enjoyed a great resurgence in popularity lately. However, until *Slash And Thrust*, no book ever presented a complete, totally practical *knife fighter's training program*. That is exactly what this book does — tells the novice knife fighter how to train himself to become an expert! The author also presents many little known, more sophisticated techniques, making this the ideal selection for novice and expert alike. Covers choosing the martial knife; test cutting; carrying methods; complete training program; guard and grip positions; slashing and thrusting; human target areas; quick kill strikes; footwork; deceptive movements, and much more. Gives plans for making your own knife shoulder rigs, saving you at least \$20! Also tells how to use and throw exotic edged weapons, such as the Shuriken, Shaken, Irish Dart, Chakram, Chinese Cloth Dart, and Hand Quarrels. Illustrated with many line drawings. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 72 pp., ISBN 0-87364-188-4. **\$6.00**

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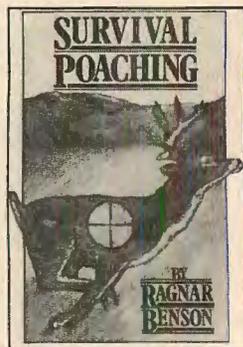
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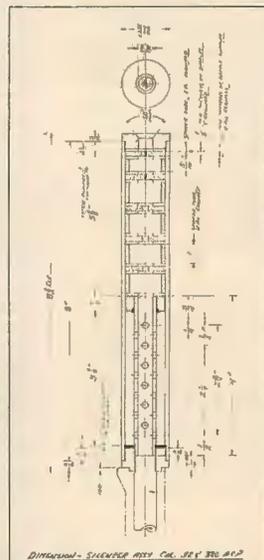


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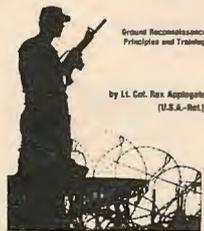
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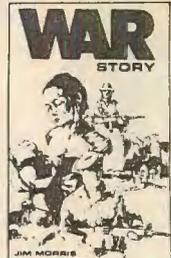
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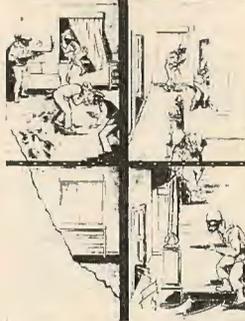


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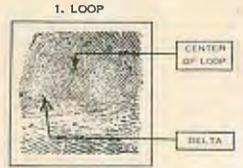


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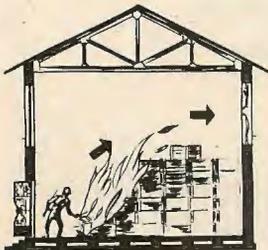
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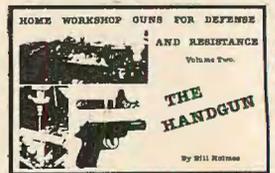
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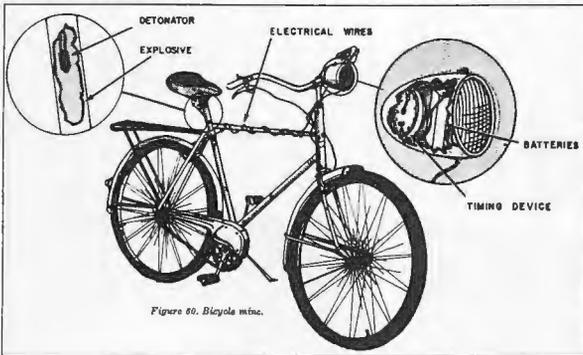
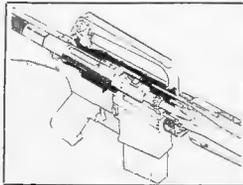


Figure 80. Bicycle mine.

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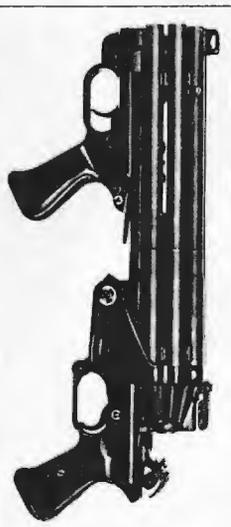
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# SOFT CRITIC BOMBS IN UN CHARADE

by Tony Bliss, Jr



**"... It should be noted that it is not unlawful for a citizen or other person in the United States to leave this country with intent to enlist abroad in a foreign military service."**

**Letter to the Honorable Patricia Schroeder, (D-Colo.) signed by Robert L. Keuch, U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General, 27 September 1979.**



**D**RESSED in a lipstick-red turtleneck and blue corduroy suit, Dr. Robert Schware viciously attacked *Soldier of Fortune* at a February meeting of the Special UN Committee Against Apartheid in New York.

It was the 447th meeting of the learned committee, in fact, and like most of the hundreds of previous meetings it would have taken a panga to cut through the rhetorical gibberish — it was that thick.

There was only a scattering of people in the vast conference room when the American-born Schware, with his slight English accent, "exposed" the menace "posed by the racist, pornographic and violent *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*."

Schware, who had just flown in from London the night before, calls himself a "self-employed, social-economic consultant." He is also the coordinator of something called the Committee of Concerned Citizens on Mercenary Activities in Colorado — a group formed in May 1979 and targeted almost exclusively against SOF.

### **Schware defines mercenaries as "hired killers and hit men."**

It is a committee, he told the UN, organized to reveal "the widespread murders, assassinations and other forms of brutality committed by United States mercenaries."

Schware calls these soldiers of fortune "hired killers and hit men," men who are ready to continue their "brutal adventures" in South West Africa if peace finally comes to Rhodesia. These barbarians, he said, will be increasingly drawn to South West Africa because of SOF articles saying that white farmers need protection.

If Schware calls protecting farmers from SWAPO terrorists "barbarian adventures," that's because he conveniently bends things to conform to his "social-economic" views. And, Schware has very strong views towards anyone who fights against communist-labeled and dominated "national liberation movements."

For apparently, in Schware's view, anyone fighting against the Patriotic Front or SWAPO is a vicious murderer motivated by racial hatred. He carefully made no mention of the brutal terrorist slaughters of civilians. Nor did he make even a passing reference to the Cuban whores and Soviet rubles in Angola and elsewhere.

Schware outlined his committee's attempts — through letters and petitions — to have SOF investigated for what he calls the illegal activities of aiding and abetting mercenary recruiting. Although he said that even if all SOF activities are completely legal, he would try to pressure Congress into changing the existing laws.

It seems that Schware isn't much of a believer in First Amendment rights. Perhaps, because there are damn few freedoms of any kind in the political groups he supports.

### **UN warns about "mass murderers" and "pirates."**

But, at the UN, Schware's propaganda was welcome indeed.

The chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid, Nigerian Ambassador B. Akropode Clark, was easily duped. He thanked Schware profusely for his "expert" testimony and warned that if these "mass murderers" and "pirates" come to Africa "they will pay with their lives."

Clark said that Americans at one time fought for causes like the Spanish Civil War. Yet, true to the double standard usually evident at the UN, Clark said only racism and greed motivated Americans to fight in Africa.

Fortunately, the U.S. is not so easily taken in by Schware's rhetoric. Schware said he found it "especially significant" that the U.S. Attorney General's office in Washington told him that investigating U.S. mercenaries was at "the very bottom of their priority list."

But at the UN such rhetorical double standards are SOP. A case in point is a resolution adopted without a vote in December by the General Assembly to consider drafting a convention against "mercenaryism."

Commenting on the resolution at the time, the representative from Togo spoke of the need to muzzle the "hordes of unscrupulous killers." The Barbados representative said: "These despicable, 20th-century pirates will stop at nothing in their blood-thirsty, savage attempts to earn filthy lucre."

The resolution itself deplored the use of mercenaries to overthrow existing governments. But, then it went on to deplore those who fight against "national liberation movements of peoples which are struggling against colonial domination or alien occupation or racist regimes." No translation is needed here.

The United States at the time said it had no qualms about an objective study, but it could not agree with the items which dealt with those who fight against "national liberation movements." And, the U.S. said it had trouble with the item calling for countries to "prohibit the recruitment, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries."

Needless to say, Andrew Young had long since departed as head of the U.S. Mission!

Of course, the practical effect of the resolution — at least the eighth against mercenaries so far — is negligible. It simply places the item on the General Assembly's agenda next fall. And, given the

UN's record of trying to agree on anything, little is likely to come of it.

Before Schware concluded his own testimony, he said that SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown was at the center of a mercenary network throughout the United States.

As Schware was leaving the conference room, I asked him if he was accusing Brown of actually recruiting mercenaries.

"Well, most of Brown's staff are ex-Green Berets. They've had extensive training," he said — an answer Schware felt was weighty enough to require no explanation.

He dismissed news reports quoting the FBI as saying SOF was aware of the laws and stayed well within their bounds equally glibly by saying: "Do you ask a criminal if he is a criminal?"

So I asked Dr. Robert Schware exactly what is a "social-economic consultant" and whom does he consult for?

"All that is irrelevant," he retorted.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tony Bliss, Jr., is SOF's East Coast correspondent. A true SOF type, his background ranges from two tours in Vietnam as an infantryman in the 101st Airborne Division to working as a cowboy in Montana to near completion of an advanced degree in journalism at New York University. Bliss's 'Nam tours were in 1965, when he was first a rifleman and later an acting platoon leader, and 1967, when he was a team leader with the Division's Long Range Patrol Company. He got a Silver Star at Dak To the first tour and a Bronze Star at Song Be the second.

Prior to Vietnam service, he was an honor graduate of the 101st's Recondo School and later a cadre/instructor in the school. He has taught patrolling, mountaineering, survival and mine warfare at West Point. He left the Army as a staff sergeant (E6).

Prior to Army service, Bliss, 34, worked as a Montana ranch hand, a veterinarian's assistant in California — and as a lemon picker in the Sunshine State. He has a bachelor's degree in English from C.W. Post College on Long Island and has completed all MA requirements except for writing his thesis.

Bliss for the past 5½ years has been a Foreign Desk editor on a major Eastern Seaboard metropolitan newspaper. His hobbies include backpacking, judo — tournament class — rifle and pistol shooting and study of Southeast Asian history and affairs — he is a member of the Asia Society and the Association for Asian Studies. Previous stories for SOF include reviews of the motion pictures *The Deer Hunter* (September '79) and *Apocalypse Now* (February '80).

—Bob Poos

# Who Is Robert Schware?

by S. Nielsen

SOF's first face-to-face encounter with Robert Schware came at a press conference called by him at the Denver capitol building on 26 October 1979. The gilt dome and murky, marble interior of the 80-year old building gave a serious tone to what turned out to be a non-event. There were only a few more journalists than representatives of the Committee of Concerned Citizens about Mercenary Activities in Colorado. SOF was represented by Managing Editor B. Poos, Editor S. Nielsen, and photographer M. Jenkins. On the podium for the CCCMAC were coordinator Robert Schware, his father, Rudolph Schware, Art Warner, American Friends Service Committee, Robert Prince, U.S. Peace Council, Dorothy McLaughlin, Boulder Committee of Justice and Peace, John Copeland, committee member, and Helen Douglas, local NAACP member.

Schware's opening statement to the press was that the public must be made aware of the extent of mercenary activities, which are, according to him, a crime against humanity and thus comparable to the crime of Nazism in Europe. When pressed for specifics during the subsequent question-and-answer exchange, Schware's left-wing hype failed to deliver anything concrete. When asked directly if the committee were accusing SOF Publisher Brown of recruiting mercenaries (a felony in this country), Schware's response was, "No comment."

Through the media, prior to the press conference, Publisher Brown had offered to debate Schware publicly. The committee's response was, "Our purpose is not to debate Brown, but to expose him." Attempts by SOF staff to speak with Robert and Rudolph Schware and other committee members were not even met with common courtesy, as soon as our identity was known.

The committee said it was not "an instrument of any political party" and "its activities were permeated by profound humanism." Yet Rudolph Schware was refused access to the bar exam by the New Mexico Supreme Court (*Rudolph Schware, Petitioner, v Board of Bar Examiners of the State of New Mexico*, 353 US 232, 1 L. ed 2d 796, S Ct 752, 1957) because "the petitioner (Schware Sr., has not shown good moral character, in view of his past membership in the Communist Party, his use of aliases, and his record

of past arrests." The U.S. Supreme Court later overturned this ruling, quoting insufficient grounds. Schware *per se* also admitted in the press conference that he had been charged in 1940 with recruiting soldiers to fight against Franco in the Spanish Civil War. These charges were also later dropped.

Some committee members are affiliated with the U.S. Peace Council. When asked to describe this organization, Schware said it's in a "process of reorganization and revitalization. Its main concern is with promoting detente and the passage of SALT II." When confronted with the fact that the U.S. Peace Council is cited in a Government Printing Office report, "The CIA and the Media," (Supt. of Documents, S/N: 052-070-04609-1, page 574 ff.) as being a Soviet apparatus, Schware rejected the question as being an "attempt to revive the cold war" and he closed the press conference.

Rudolph Schware is a practicing attorney when not counseling the Concerned Citizens. He maintains a modest office in Denver, but he has the real thing on the walls: originals by Picasso and Dali, old European communist stock.

His son Robert affects a British accent, turtleneck sweaters, cords, loafers, left-wing hyperbolic rhetoric and an expressionless delivery. He reportedly works with a government agency in Denver.

SOF first became aware of the Schwares when they presented a petition to the Boulder City Council (4 September 1979), requesting citizens to express their opposition to mercenaries. The Boulder City Council took no action then or at a later meeting. In fact, this writer met with Boulder mayor Ruth Correll, who welcomed a copy of the winter 1977 issue of SOF, which contains an article by Boulder City Council member Paul Danish ("How U.S. Tax Dollars Pay for PLO Terrorism.")

Publisher Brown is well-known around the small town of Boulder. He has been living here for 25 years, graduated from the University of Colorado Graduate School in 1965, and started *Soldier of Fortune* here 10 years later.

Schware was incensed at Boulder's "lack of outrage," and submitted an article to that effect to the public opinion

*Continued on page 82*

**STEELE**

*Continued from page 18*

the sound of metal hitting cement. The backstrap had broken, letting the blade swing uselessly. Needless to say, I thought this was the time for my final "big surprise," but miraculously the Red Cross official ran out and explained that I was American, not Belgian, and my assailants departed.

F.J.M.,  
Address omitted

**A** Sometimes faulty equipment is a blessing in disguise, since stabbing the one assailant would have meant inevitable retaliation from the others. However, in 99 percent of the cases it is best to have completely reliable weapons. One of the best fighting folders I have seen lately is the balisong made by Bali-Song Inc. (Dept. SOF, 3039 Roswell, Los Angeles, CA). I have opened and closed mine thousands of times and rammed the blade into numerous immovable objects, and it still works fine.

**Q** I had to shoot and kill one of three men who assaulted me about a month ago, and while the charges were dropped on grounds of self-defense, my illegally carried firearms were confiscated. The other two creeps are still looking for me, along with some assorted goon-type relatives and friends.

What can I get in the way of a folding stiletto? I don't want to be found with a

sheath knife or a gun because of the first case.

W.L.,  
San Jose, CA

**A** Carrying a lockblade folder, especially a stiletto, in the pocket is a felony in California. Your best bet is to carry a single-edge, high-quality folder in an unconcealed belt sheath. The Bali-Song mentioned above is excellent. You could also try the "Desert Fox" folding fighter made by Paul Fox (Dep. SOF, Box 2130, Hickory, NC 28601) or the "Odin's Claw" made by Wayne Goddard (Dept. SOF, 473 Durham Ave., Eugene, OR 97404). Frank Centofante (Dept. SOF, Box 17587, Tampa, FL 33682) has an entire line of such knives. You should also check with your lawyer about the possibility of acquiring a pistol permit (although these are scarcer than chicken lips in California, handgun carry usually being restricted to peace officers); he can also see if the "immediate danger" exception to Penal Code Sec. 12020 would apply to you.




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**COMBAT PISTOL**

*Continued from page 22*

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*Continued on page 78*

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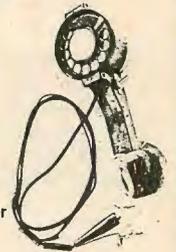
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For descriptive information, brochure, 1980 class schedule, and application, send \$1.00 to The American Pistol Institute, Gunsite Ranch, P.O. Box 401-X, Paulden, Arizona 86334.



## TERRAIN & SITUATION Continued from page 10

cylinder bolt cuts are between the chambers rather than over them. Standard are a ramp front-sight and Accroclick fully adjustable rear. But an optional Eliason rear sight (like that found on the Gold Cup) with Patridge front sight can be had at modest extra cost. Two action-tuning variations are offered, above the nice action found on the standard guns. One variation slicks the action so much that it is not recommended the gun be used with magnum primers because ignition might not always be positive. The other action job, the more sensible of the two, smooths the rough spots and doesn't interfere with reliability.

A little on the big side — 43½ ounces and 11¼ inches LOA with six-inch barrel — the Python is probably the ultimate .357 magnum revolver. In this age of the autoloading pistol, we sometimes forget that a revolver can digest wider varieties of ammunition, special purpose ammo, even shotshells, and can be pattern-loaded. If fired with factory ammo — even the hot stuff like the 158-grain SJSP .357 load from Federal — the Python is essentially a lifetime gun. Available in blue and nickel, for field use under adverse conditions, something like a Metalife job might not be a bad idea.

The factory grips are big, but replacement grips from Pachmayr may be obtained in two sizes, one near the actual frame size and one larger, which approximates the Colt original grip size. For the serious revolver with a service life longer than your own, the Python is a perfect choice. It isn't cheap, retailing at \$461.50 currently. But with the Python, you definitely get what you pay for. For additional information write Colt, Dept. SOF, 150 Huyshope Ave., Hartford, CT 06102, USA.



## LIFE

Continued from page 63

(impact from a handgun bullet is insufficient to knock an officer down). As an experiment you could surprise fellow officers with a jab from an electric cattle prod. It gives a similar reaction to the bullet impact on a vest. Officers, who are surprised and temporarily hurt by the cattle prod (some being off-balance at the time), sometimes fall down. This experiment will not add to your popularity but is an enlightening analogy to bullet hits on vests.

A case in point; in February 1977, a Metro Nashville officer was shot in the left, lower back during an armed robbery call. He was shot with a 240-grain .444 bullet from a scoped Marlin rifle from a distance of less than 50 feet through the back panel of his bullet-resistant vest and was not knocked off his feet. The bullet energy from this distance is approximately 3,000 ft./lbs., about 10 times the energy

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of most 38 special ammunition. This officer returned to full duty in five months.

In July 1976, a solo Metro patrol officer, running emergency, sped over a hill to find a tractor-trailer rig locked-up across the road. The impact knocked the police car's bumper to the firewall. The shattered steering column had a sharp two-inch projection and it along with another pointed metal object (a broken spotlight handle), hit the officer in the chest, causing light bruises through the vest. The officer spent two days in the hospital for facial lacerations and slight concussion.

Two Metro officers were stabbed while wearing vests but reported that they thought they had been lightly punched in the back at the time.

### Expect bruising.

Pictures of officers shot while wearing vests are available in the Body Armor Program Executive Summary (July-August 1977) by the Aerospace Corporation. Histories show where there was no total penetration (perforation), that 7-ply vests show smaller, deeper bruises compared to the lighter, shallower bruises on officers wearing heavier commercial vests. Brochures from Second Chance show many actual pictures of blunt trauma.

Even officers shot while wearing a light 7-ply vest required little medical aid. Of the nearly 100 reported cases that Metro had access to, there were no mortalities from blunt trauma, few cracked ribs, but many large bruises. If shot while wearing a vest, any vest, where the bullet does not totally penetrate, you can expect the impact of a light punch, a sting like an electric shock or a bee sting and a bruise about six times the bullet diameter. That's all. If your vest will stop the bullet from totally penetrating the vest, you need only be prepared to treat large bruises.

I have personally worn and ballistically tested several vest models (See Vest Analysis Chart).

Do not worry about test results done while vests are wet because in actual wear (sweat or rain), vests cannot get wet enough to degrade stopping performance — and Dupont states that Kevlar® retains its original ability when allowed to dry.

Do not worry about test results that showed too much deformation on a hunk of clay. If a vest stops a bullet from total panel penetration, blunt trauma is not going to kill you, no matter what "desk-perts" say.

Wearing and properly maintaining a good quality vest will become second nature to you if you follow these ground rules. As the saying goes in Nashville (to our 800 officers who are required to wear vests daily): "Better to be hot than shot."

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**VEST ANALYSIS CHART**

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Second Chance	Y Z U.S. Border Patrol (rubber coated)	IIA II II (IV)	Insert Option Easy to Clean Inserts
Point Blank	15	IIA	Thin & Flexible
Safariland	M-3	II	Rather Thick but Good Workmanship

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Ken Pence is a veteran member of Nashville, Tenn. Police Department, currently assigned to the Metro Police Academy as firearms and defensive tactics instructor, a position Lt. Pence is well qualified for since he is a National Rifle Association (NRA) certified firearms instructor, has attended the FBI Instructors School, holds a rating of Police Firearms Expert from the NRA, is a 3rd Degree Blackbelt in Korean Tae Kwon Do and Moo Duk Kwan, has attended the FBI's Special Tactical Firearms School (SWAT) and served as point man of the Metro Unusual Situation Team (SWAT). Pence, who graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, is making his debut in SOF with this story.



**BBD**

*Continued from page 20*

helped organize the International Brigades and may have helped organize the counter-Olympics. The theme song of that counter-Olympics was later adopted by the famous communist-led Fifth Regiment.



**COMBAT PISTOL**

*Continued from page 75*

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**I**n the art of combat pistol shooting, proficiency often means long, arduous training, with skill retained by extra hours on the range practicing various firing techniques. How one practices can have a great deal to do with his overall performance. One's best bet is to shoot with a top-level shooter that can show him proper technique and provide good advice.

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One of practical shooting's burdens comes from the fact that mistakes are sometimes as difficult to recognize as to correct. Many of us have continued to suffer from bad technique without realizing we were making a mistake in our shooting form. In many cases, the people one shoots with are either not aware of the problem, or don't care whether one is doing it correctly or not.

One of the best checking systems comes from having one's self photographed while shooting a match, or course of fire. This way the photos will reflect exactly what one is doing. By examining the pictures, one can determine poor stance, bad shooting form, grip, head position and other critical factors. I find it interesting that many people notice their stance or shooting position when looking at their photos taken in shooting drills.

Probably the best system is to have a video tape made of one's shooting, then play it back to observe his performance. The resulting tape will make the individual more aware of what must be worked on. Even without advanced equipment one can find a friend with a simple camera to take photos and shoot some basic firing drills. Study the resulting photographs for good techniques and those which need improvement.

**M**ANY practical shooters have no other person to practice with and must train by themselves. Trying to prepare for a certain time-limit stage can be difficult without another person to run the stop watch. North Carolina practical pistol shooter and pistolsmith Bill North solved this problem by using an inexpensive tape recorder. First, he taped various range commands, then the starting signal complete with the stop whistle at the end of the time limit. This enables him to practice by himself and still become skilled at shooting the required time limits while training for the different stages. If one is training by himself, this may be the ideal method to use. —Ken Hackathorn



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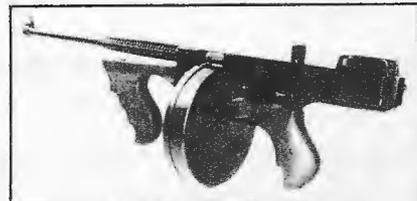


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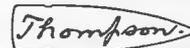
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## DOWN Continued from page 31

"To hell with this," he thought, and struck out for the reef about 1,000 yards away. A big, well-built Missourian, Martin had been a varsity swimmer at Annapolis. He started swimming underwater in a series of spurts, still clinging to his chute canopy and hauling his back pack.

Halfway to the reef, Martin looked back and saw two boats heading toward him. He frantically began swimming again, knowing he had little prospect of evading the Japanese. But providentially a new air strike arrived, forcing the boats back to shore. Carrier planes bombed and strafed the beach, much to Martin's satisfaction, though shrapnel from anti-aircraft shells periodically fell around him.

Though nearly to the reef and the open sea which meant survival, Martin's pro-

Continued on page 84

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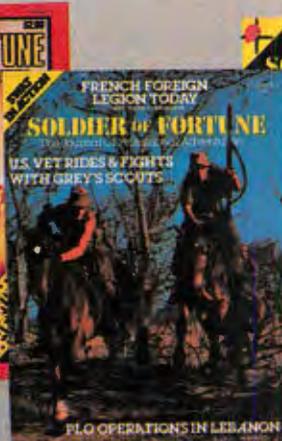
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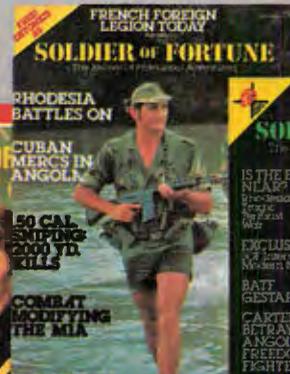
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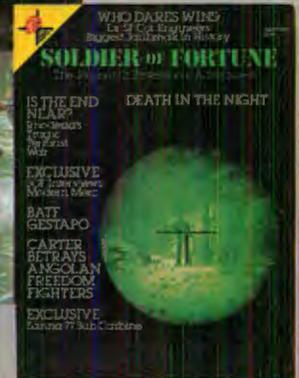
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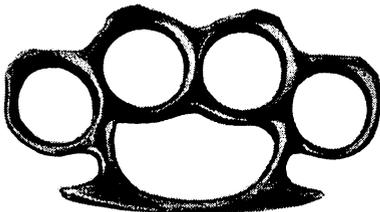
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## SOF CRITIC

Continued from page 74

ion column of the *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver, 500,000 readership) which he wanted the newspaper to run anonymously. The paper refused. Schware then put the name of one of his committee members to the manuscript and it was printed without the paper's knowing of the incorrect author credit. (*Rocky Mountain News*, 7 September 1979, "Speak Out, by Robert Copeland.) [The *Rocky Mountain News* became more circumspect about the committee, and did not print anything about the February Anti-Apartheid committee testimony by Schware in New York.]

Schware's hot pursuit of the lack of outrage next led him to ask Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) to write the Justice Department for an investigation of SOF. The Department's laconical response was: "We are aware of *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine. In the event that sufficient information comes to our attention indicating that a violation of federal criminal law has been committed, we will take appropriate action." (27 September 1979, signed Robert L. Keuch, Deputy Assistant to the Attorney General.) According to Rep. Schroeder's Denver spokesman, another letter was sent 15 January 1980 to the Justice Department asking for further explanation. As of this writing the Department has not deigned to reply to Schroeder.

After this, little was heard about Schware. Or from Schware. At no time did Schware, his committee or Rep. Schroeder contact SOF to get a statement or reaction. The Denver-based anti-mercenary group next appeared in New York. According to press releases prior to the 11 February 1980 meeting of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid, Schware claimed that the "London accords [Lancaster House Agreements, signed 21 December 1979] recently reached on peace in Rhodesia require the removal of 13,000 to 15,000 mercenaries, including 4,000 Americans from the country." It only took a quick call to the United Kingdom Mission to the UN in New York to refute this bit of fiction. The first secretary in charge of the Rhodesian question gave a brisk, British "nonsense" to Schware's figures. He said that there was no mention of mercenaries at all in the Lancaster House agreement, and that, to his knowledge, there were no American mercenaries in Rhodesia.

What is Schware's next move? Very possibly to get the U.S. Congress to approve changes in the Geneva convention concerning mercenaries. Until now, according to the February 11th testimony to the UN Special Committee, "Western countries usually supported the view that mercenaries

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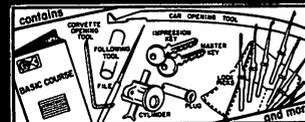
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should be considered as prisoners of war." And, in point of fact, the present status of mercenaries is defined by an additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions of July 1977 (Article 47) as the following: "1. A mercenary shall not have the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war." This protocol lacks force of law in the U.S., but if accepted would mean that the legal definition between one man's mercenary and another man's freedom fighter would be up to arbitrary, subjective decisions.

It is clear that Third World nations will submit a proposal, sponsored by Nigeria, to the next UN General Assembly calling for mercenary activities to be declared an international crime against humanity. But, then with the UN's track record, Schwere may turn out to be right: "All that is irrelevant." —S. Nielsen



**HILL 64**  
*Continued from page 59*

that. I'd rather talk about what the other guys did and what they got.

"But I will say this. It was hairy out there. I think, knowing what I know now, I'd have to be goddamn silly to go out and do something like that again."

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To prevent Marines from reinforcing the outpost, the NVA fired 350 mortar and artillery rounds into the main 1/9 position.

The attack came against the northwestern and southwestern corners of the outpost. The NVA used bangalore, or threw canvas on the barbed wire and then rolled over it. In the trenches, the NVA depended on RPGs and satchel charges. Machine guns, placed inside the areas penetrated, pinned down Marines on the eastern side of the hill.

Roach, the platoon commander, was killed near the trenchline during a counter-attack. Marines were involved in savage hand-to-hand combat in the counter-attack and Roach climbed atop an exposed bunker to direct fire.

Although Radcliff's counter-attack enabled the Marines to restore lines on Hill 64, 26th Marines' Commanding Officer Col. David Lownds later elected to abandon the outpost and pull the Marines back to the main

*Continued on page 87*

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## DOWN

*Continued from page 80*

fessional instincts took over. Still very much in danger, he made mental notes on the lagoon, taking bearings on prominent landmarks to pinpoint his location for intelligence officers. Water depth, current, nature of the bottom and width of the reef all registered. Then his observations were interrupted by more shell splashes, and the squadron commander went over the reef into the breakers, still toting his gear.

Once beyond the lagoon, Martin inflated his Mae West and raft, letting the latter drift downwind still further out of range from the beach. Finally satisfied he was temporarily safe, he climbed in the raft, secured his gear and rigged a sail with his chute canopy. *Enterprise* aircraft had him in sight, and before long a Curtiss floatplane picked him up. The SOC pilot emptied a whole 45 magazine into Martin's raft, preventing other searchers from thinking it was occupied, and took off. Later that day Martin watched from a destroyer as the AA battery which had shot him down was destroyed by naval gunfire.

It takes considerable cool to note tide, current and coral formations when people are trying to blow you out of the water, but Bill Martin was a professional's professional. His report on the lagoon and reef aided the amphibious landing two days later.

## Philippine Guerrilla Activity

With the invasion of the Philippines in October 1944, downed fliers had a much better chance of finding help on the ground. A large, well-organized guerrilla movement had been operating for nearly three years. Those aviators shot down far inland did better to sit and wait for the advancing U.S. Army to come to them. But others took a more active role.

Among the latter was Lt. Alex Vraciu, a 25-year-old Hellcat ace with 19 planes to his credit. Shot down at the beginning of his third combat tour in December, Vraciu bailed out and hit the ground only minutes ahead of the Japanese. He was quickly surrounded by Filipino guerrillas, who rushed him off toward a nearby village. Periodically some of the locals would lift Vraciu and carry him several paces down a narrow trail, then set him down. When he asked about the curious procedure, he was informed it was for his own safety: they didn't want him falling into one of the punji-stick pits along the path.

Joining a guerrilla band led by a U.S. Army officer, Vraciu was appointed brevet major, but had little opportunity to engage the Japanese. Not that it was for lack of effort. When General MacArthur's troops met Vraciu's band several weeks later, the guerrillas were arrayed in style. Many rode horses — including a

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squad of mounted buglers — and the men were armed with all manner of weapons. Vraciu himself, in addition to his own 45, packed a Nambu pistol and a Japanese saber.

Upon rejoining his squadron aboard the carrier *Lexington*, Vraciu shrugged: "It was but a small affair."

### From Saigon to Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu

A different sort of escape was the result of the first carrier strike on French Indochina on 12 January 1945. Six carrier aviators shot down during the day were lodged in the main prison in downtown Saigon. But the Vichy French, anxious to demonstrate a newfound attitude toward the Allies after years of working with the Axis, treated them more as guests than prisoners. In a few weeks, however, the Japanese got wind of the situation and began searching the city.

There was no choice but to evacuate the prisoners. The senior American was 22-year-old Lt. (jg) Blake Moranville, a *Hornet* F6F pilot shot down while strafing Tan Son Nhut Airfield. Moranville and the others agreed to go to Hanoi and narrowly missed capture by the Japanese enroute. They were discovered in the back of a truck while waiting to cross a river, but evidently the Japanese mistook them for French.

During an overnight stop at Hue, the fliers considered stealing an ancient French aircraft, but without maps or knowledge of the plane's range, there was no percentage in it. They were taken to Bavi, a Foreign Legion outpost overlooking Hanoi, and lived in miserable surroundings for several days. Then the Japanese began hunting down sources of possible resistance, and a nearby French army outpost was massacred within earshot of Bavi.

That did it. The French threw open the Americans' cells, handed them old bolt-action rifles, pith helmets and canteens and announced they were marching westward to Dien Bien Phu. Would the *aviateurs Americains* care to join them? They would, and did. In a relentless, exhausting two-week forced march, the 200 legionnaires covered some 300 miles of mountainous terrain. That is, the survivors did. All but about 50 were killed in an ambush one night, which the fliers narrowly escaped. Moranville's group flew to safety in Kunming, China, two days before Japanese over-ran the French garrison.

The final air campaign against Japan was mounted in large part from B-29 bases in the Marianas with fighter escort provided by P-51 Mustangs on Iwo Jima, halfway between Saipan and Tokyo. By this time, the rescue service had become multifaceted, with submarines, destroy-

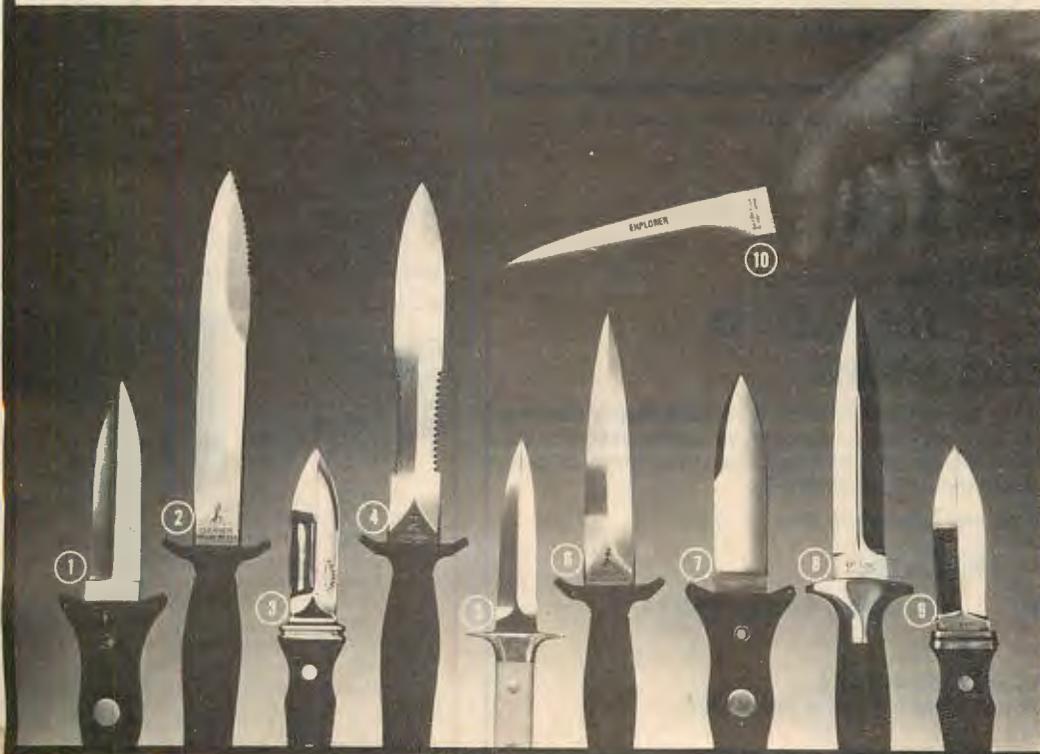
ers, amphibious aircraft and air-dropped motorboats.

### Swim or Sink

However, early experience at Iwo Jima showed insufficient training for Army Air Force fliers in water survival techniques. Col. Harry Crim, a Mustang squadron commander, well recalls those days. After watching helplessly from his cockpit while a fellow pilot drowned trying to get out of a chute harness near the beach, Crim pushed for more realistic training. This included throwing pilots out of whaleboats and making them perform exercises to acquaint them with their equipment. Once a motorboat was dropped from a lifeguard B-17 to a P-51 pilot off the Japanese coast. The pilot climbed in, tried to start the motor, and couldn't get it going. The Japanese came out and took him. Back at Iwo, Crim's squadron found that none of the outboards would start. Corrections were quickly made.

Despite such setbacks, the Army's air rescue service received high marks from combat pilots. The nearby Bonin Islands were garrisoned by some of the most fanatical troops in the Japanese army. American fliers shot down there faced horrible fates. Seventh Air Force bomber crews and Navy carrier pilots were subjected to ritual beheadings and ceremonial cannibalism at Chichi Jima, all documented in war crimes trials.

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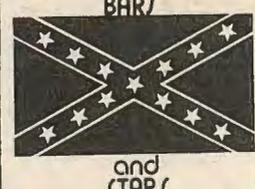
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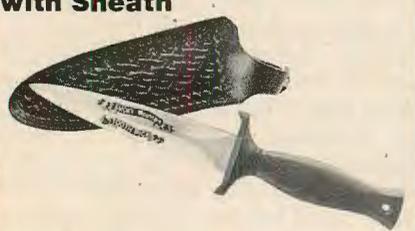
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Knowing this, one appreciates the rare brand of courage displayed by an Army rescue crew flying a Catalina seaplane. Seeking a P-51 pilot down off Chichi Jima, the PBV landed amidst mortar fire from shore, taxied up next to the fighter pilot's rubber raft and put a crewman in the raft. The Mustang pilot was already dead, but the Catalina crew wanted to make sure. They took off in a hail of mortar shells and somehow made it.

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But it wasn't all gut-wrenching adventure and cool courage in desperate straits. The story is told of a Marine Corsair pilot forced down by weather in the Gilbert Islands in early 1944. He remained stranded on an island for several weeks before a ship arrived to pick him up. The rescue party apologized for the delay. According to legend, the aviator petulantly retorted that if help never came, it would be too soon. Looking around, the sailors quickly discerned why. There were few men on the island and the native girls apparently devoted themselves to making the young Marine's "ordeal" a memorable one.

That story may or may not be true. If it isn't, it should be.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Barrett Tillman's interest in aviation has been lifelong. His father was a Marine Corps dive-bomber pilot in WWII and Tillman learned to fly at age 16. Since 1967 he and his father have maintained a fully restored Navy N3N biplane.

A fifth-generation Oregonian, Tillman graduated from the University of Oregon in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He has published nearly 80 magazine articles in North America and Europe and was a consultant to Time-Life Television for two segments of the documentary series, *GI Diary*. He has also written four books on the operational histories of WWII naval aircraft.

Tillman became interested in combat pistolcraft in 1978 and completed the

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basic course at Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute in that year. He is now director of the Oregon Practical Shooting Association.

—M.L. Jones



## HILL 64

*Continued from page 83*

perimeter. Alpha lost 21 killed and 26 wounded in the engagement.

Radcliffe was awarded his second Silver Star at Hill 64. His first was awarded on 2 July 1967 when he led a relief column to Bravo Company, 1/9 when it was ambushed northeast of Con Thien.

Prior to the attack against the outpost, the NVA made several determined attacks and got into the wire of Marine outposts on Hill 861 (20-21 January) and Hill 861A (5 February) but were quickly driven out. After the attack on 1/9, the only infantry assault on the combat base was an attempt against the 37th ARVN Rangers on the south side on 29 February. It, too, was repulsed with heavy losses to the NVA.

If the North Vietnamese were trying to recreate the conditions and the victory they achieved against the French at Dien Bien Phu in their attack against Khe Sanh in 1968, one possible reason for their dismal failure was the spirited defense of outposts by Marines like Col. Radcliffe. At Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the French lost their outposts. The Americans would not.

—Jim Graves



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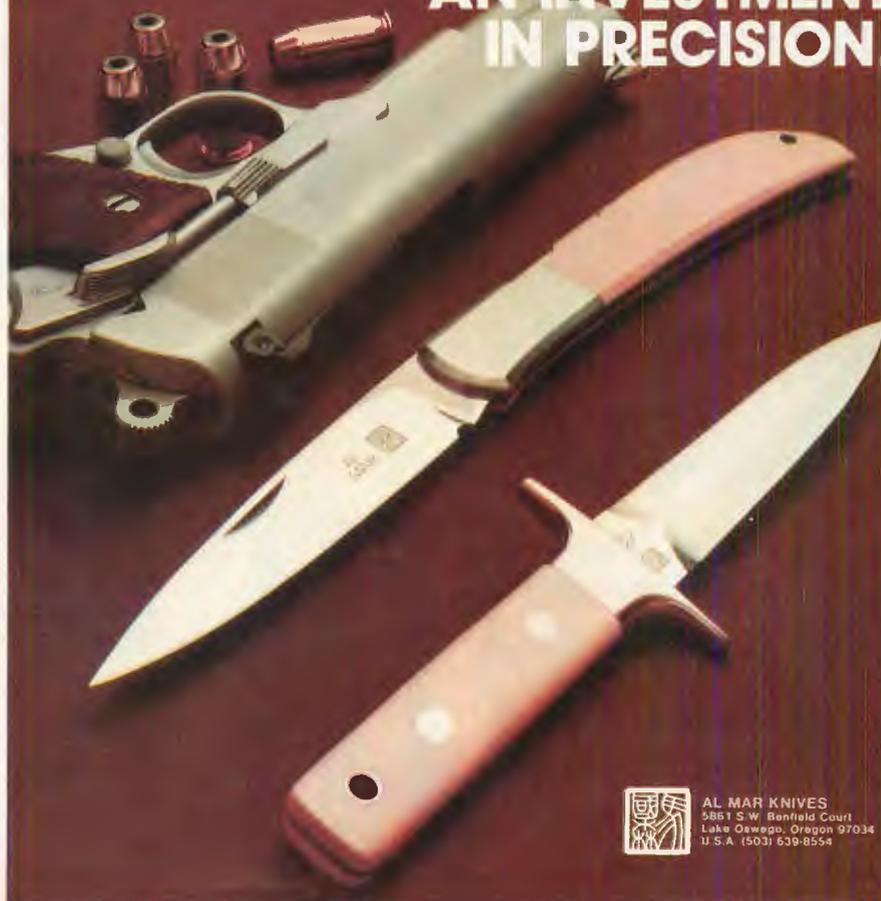


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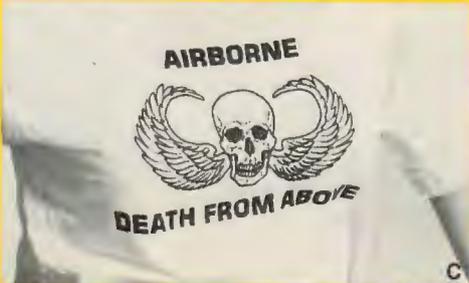


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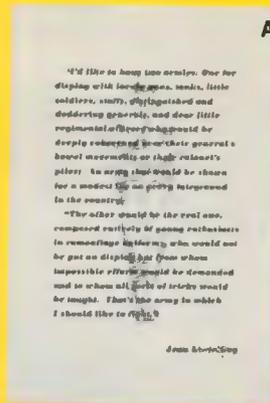
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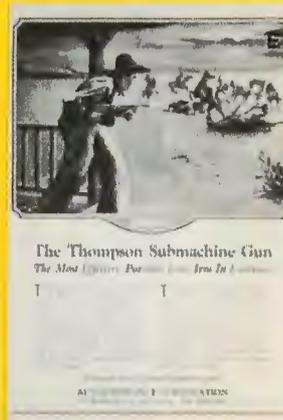
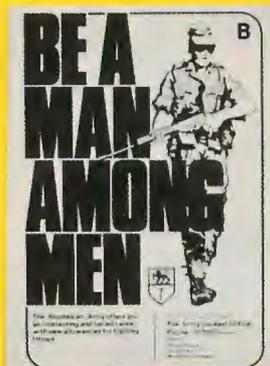
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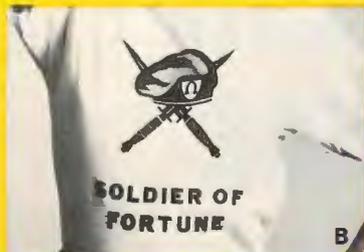


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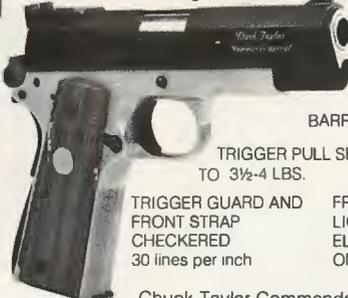
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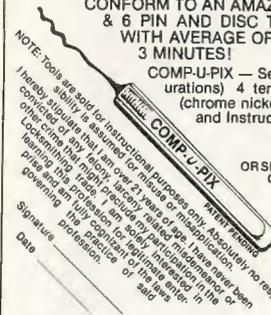
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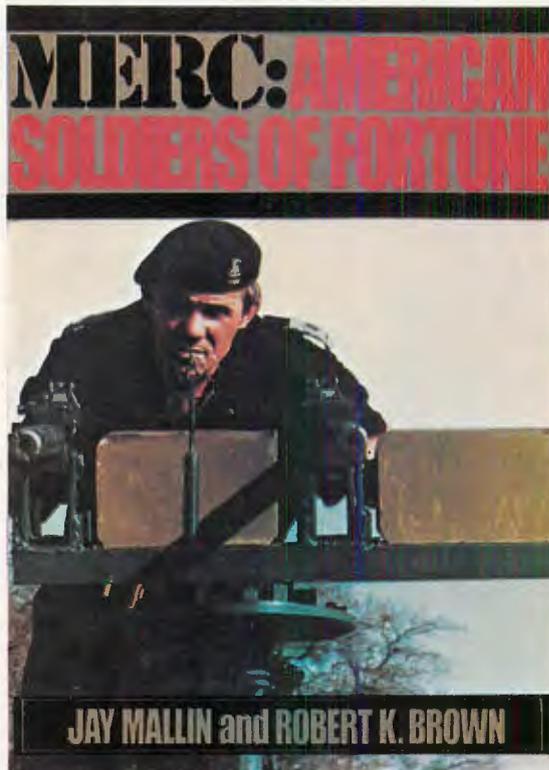
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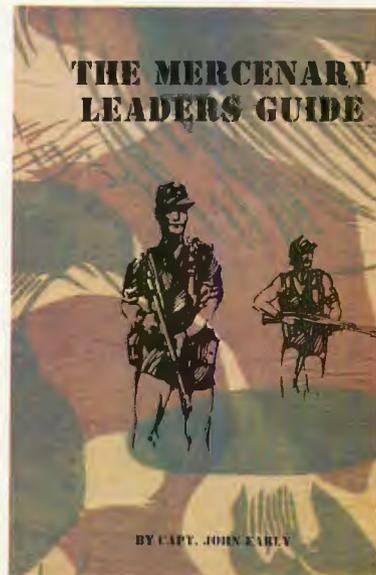
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