

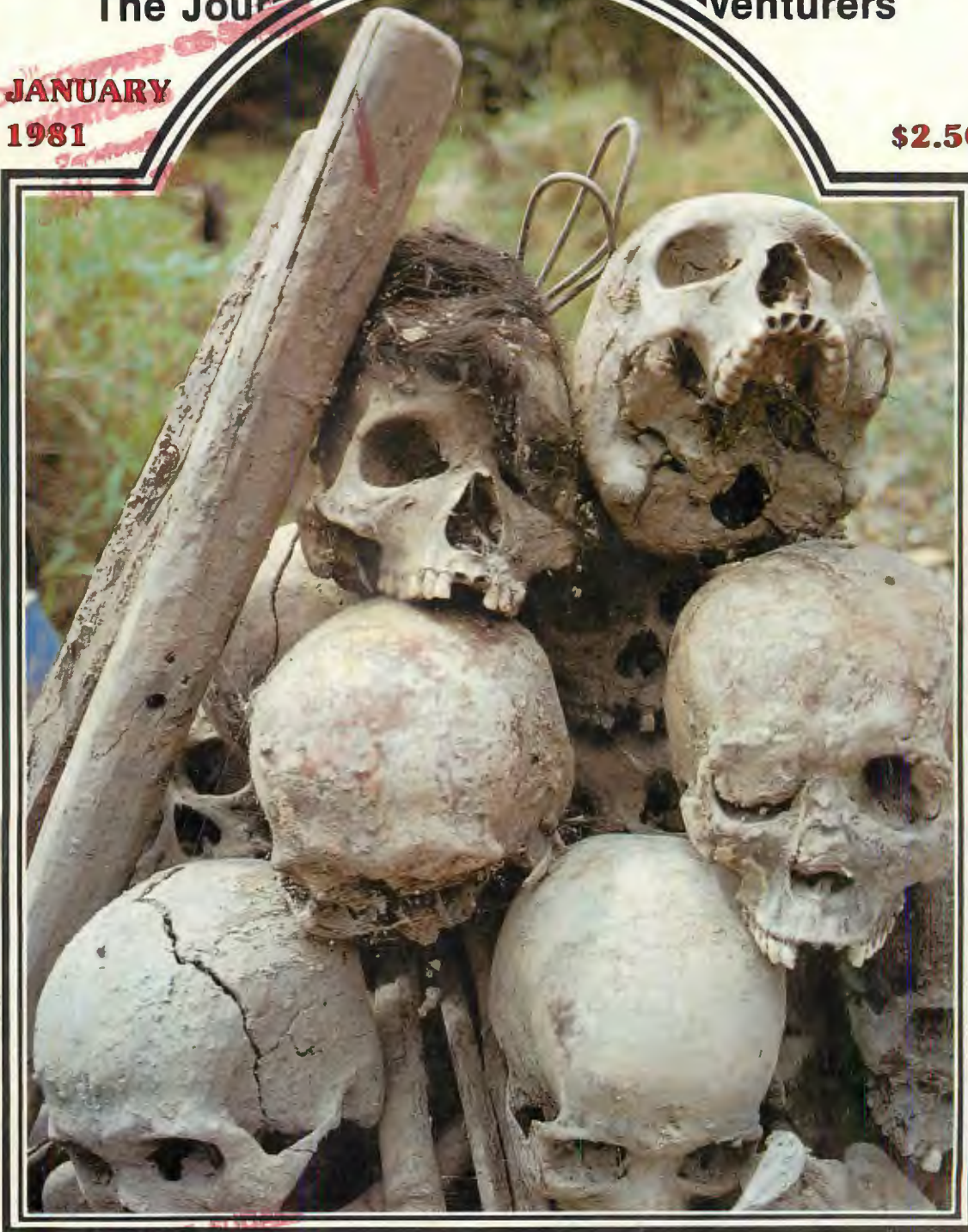
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**JANUARY
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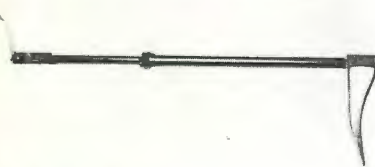


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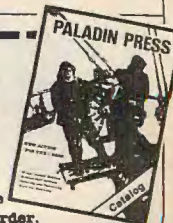
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

JANUARY/1981

VOL. 6, NO. 1

COVER: Heads and bones of bodies retrieved from water-wells at Toul Kawk village on outskirts of Phnom Penh. Most victims were political prisoners held by NOKORBAC, secret police of Pol Pot government, which ruled Cambodia from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979. Photo: Edward Rasen

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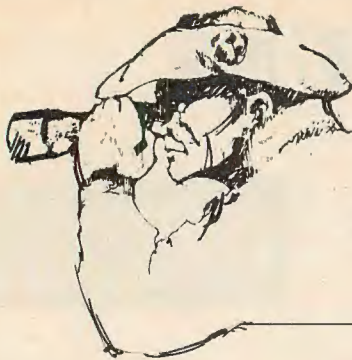
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BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos

SOF: NEW REPORT FROM AFGHANISTAN ...

A five-man team of SOF staffers returned recently from a two-week fact-finding and liaison mission in Pakistan and the Northwest Frontier. SOF met with major Mujahideen leaders and engaged in a number of other projects which cannot be revealed at this time.

Limited time and heavy fighting prevented SOF from penetrating into Afghanistan.

As we go to press, the Afghan freedom fighters still have not obtained ground-to-air missiles or sufficient operational funds. SOF has already delivered \$2,000 to one major group. Every dollar collected by SOF's Afghan fund goes directly to the Afghans. No funds are used for

salaries or administrative expenses. Send your nondeductible contributions to Every Dollar Buys a Bullet to Zap an Ivan Invader.

Look for an in-depth report on this trip in an upcoming issue.

COOPER SPEAKS UP ...

NBC's "Speak Up, America" program recently offered viewers a well-balanced program concerning firearms-ownership rights.

Marjoe Gortner, a regular on the weekly program, was the host and narrator of footage taken at Jeff Cooper's Gunsite. The film included shots of Gortner attending the school.

After showing the location footage, the program switched to comments

and questions from the audience. Speakers alternated between pro- and anti-gun viewpoints.

Cooper was in the audience and responded to several anti-gun comments from audience members.

The program included an electronic mini-poll of viewers from Columbus, Ohio, which served to confirm many pro-gunners' claims: 88 percent of the viewers polled favored continued private ownership of handguns.

U.S. MIDEAST INTEREST ...

Reports pieced together by SOF show that the U.S. is quietly but steadily building up its influence, if not its presence, in the Middle East.

Continued on page 78

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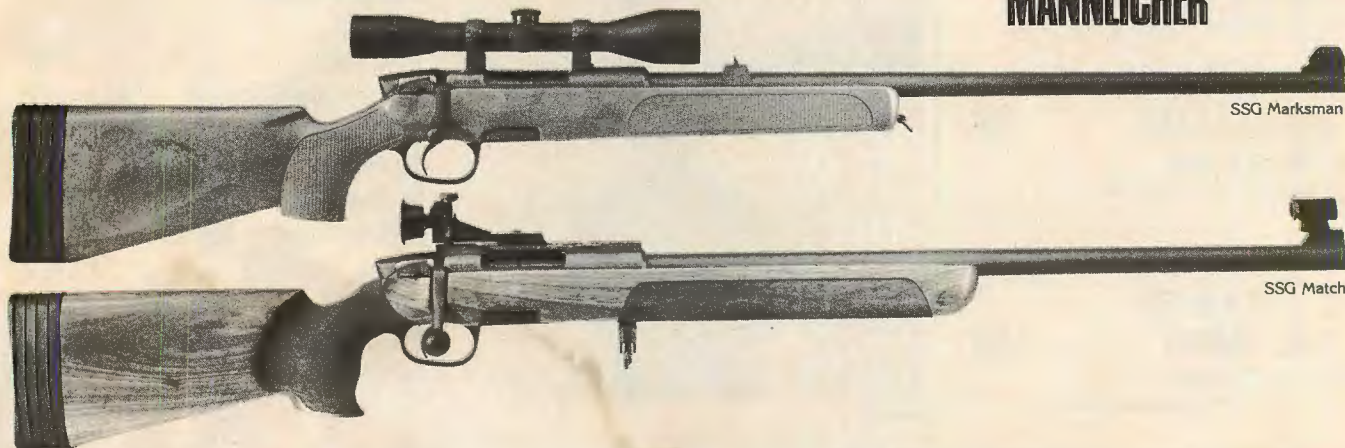
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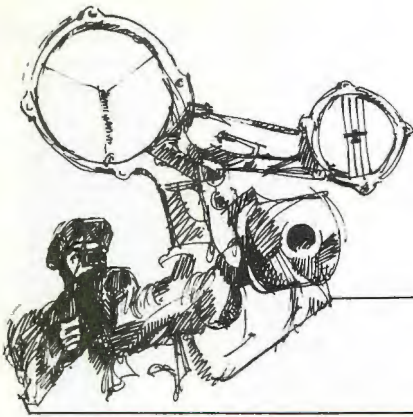


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STATE'S NO PEANUT ...

Sirs:

As a member of the State Department's bureaucracy, I am fully aware of its many failings. However, I must take exception to Jeff Cooper's cheap shot relating to the recognition of Red China ("... dyesthetic chicanery of the U.S. State Department," "Combat Pistolcraft," SOF, September '80). That ain't the way it is! A few facts:

1. As we all know, the decision to recognize the Peking regime as the government of China was made by President Jimmy Carter, not the State Department.

2. Everyone involved, including the Taipei government, has been aware for years that the move was inevitable. The irreversible progression was started by President Nixon with the 1971 Shanghai Communique.

3. The real sticking point in the whole business was the high-handed, demeaning manner in which the change of recognition was handled — particularly the total lack of prior consultation with Tokyo and Taipei, and the unforgivably short notice Taipei had to put its affairs in order. This was *entirely* the doing of the Carter Administration, *not* the Department. Any professional diplomat who has been around long enough to know where the coffee machine is could have handled it better.

4. The government of Taiwan is not the government of China. They are much nicer people, but they lost the war. You, of all people, know what happens to nice guys who lose wars. The Reds have been the rulers of the mainland for 30 years; we simply cannot refuse to talk to a government exercising effective and stable control over one third of the world's population.

5. If we do not get carried away with the newfound-friends bit (as Americans, particularly incompetent, naive American presidents, are prone to do), we can gain a **good deal** from the relationship without compromising Taiwan's security. (In any event, Taiwan had best look to its own forces for its security. *Nobody* should ever leave national survival solely in the hands of an ally.) The Red Chinese have been the victims of Soviet "dyesthetic chicanery" and have even exchanged a

few rounds of 7.62x39 across the border. As long as we keep firmly in mind that they are communists and we are capitalists, and that we are not going on any Long Marches together, the possibility exists of finding some common interest.

I know no one in the State Department who does not support the continued existence of a free and strong Taiwan. It is possible to keep up that support and still recognize the realities of the situation, to our benefit and to the discomfiture of the main enemy.

Sincerely,
Name Withheld
Washington, D.C.

MULTIPLE-SHOT SUICIDE ...

Sirs:

In "Combat Pistolcraft" (October '80), R.A.H., Kowloon, Hong Kong, initiates a discussion concerning suicides in which the victim/perpetrator shoots himself multiple times before finally being wasted. It was R.A.H. and Jeff Cooper's opinion that this type of suicide is rare. Not so!

As a police sergeant with 19 years' experience, I can verify, first-hand, that multiple-shooting and multiple-stabbing suicides are not uncommon to law enforcement officials. One case, in particular, comes to mind — a case on which I personally worked:

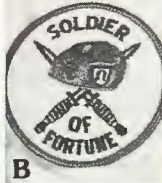
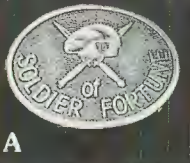
A professional prizefighter, who had long since been on the skids and the bottle, took off his clothes and propped himself up in bed; taking an ancient .38 S&W, he began to shoot himself to death. The first six rounds caused only superficial wounds, some mere nicks. He then reloaded and continued firing at his own head, and finally — with two rounds left — achieved a deadly head shot. The wall behind the head of the bed looked as if someone had been using it for target practice.

A person trying to commit suicide must first overcome the survival instinct, and the survival instinct prevents a number of

Continued on page 89



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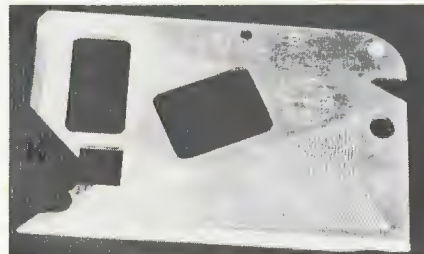


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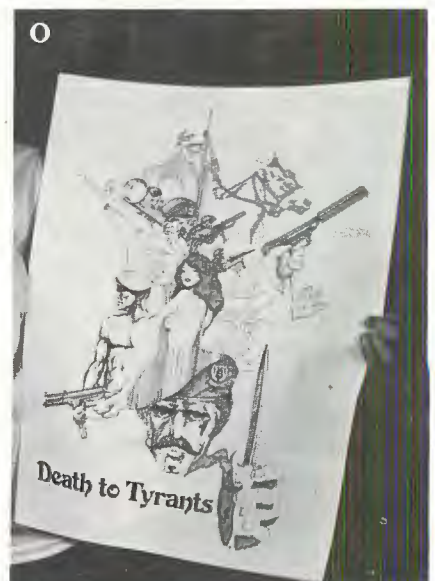
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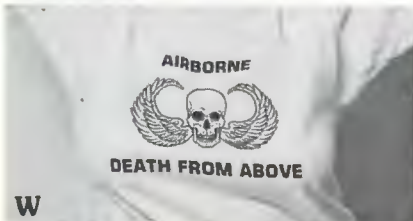
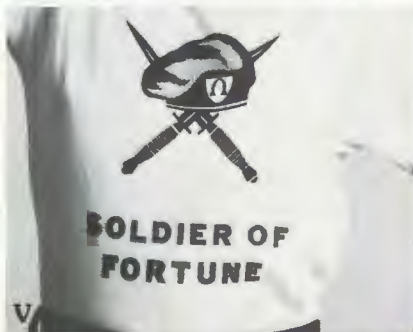
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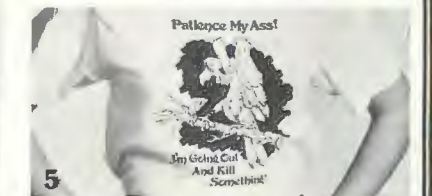
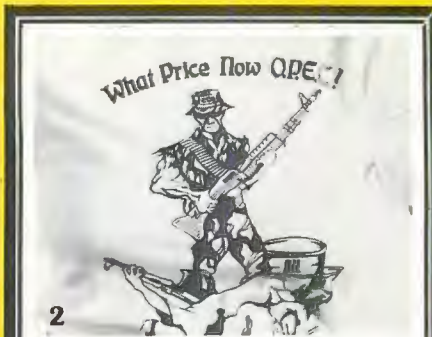


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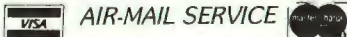
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by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston



Door gunner over Saigon. Note beer can feed assist under belt on M60. Photo: Joe Kocian

As a kid in the early 1950s, I remember reading an article about the development of a new U.S. light machine gun, which was to be patterned after the WWII German MG-42. Sure enough, when the U.S. M60 general-purpose machine gun made its debut, it resembled the MG-42 closely; not only its configuration, but the feed mechanism was borrowed from the earlier gun. The M60's bolt mechanism was taken from another famous German WWII weapon — the FG-42. These options, plus a few of our own, resulted in the basic light machine gun we still use.

The M60 has served us well through two decades, and has been adapted for duty in various configurations in armor. It was also used with a tripod and in helicopters — in which it served extensively in Vietnam.

For use by a chopper door gunner, the M60 is fitted with spade grips and is fed from a continuous belt from a box on the floor, rather than from the usual side-mounted 100-round pack — which is where a problem arose. The long ammo belt fed almost straight up to the feed

tray, and then had to make an abrupt right-angle turn to the horizontal plane before being drawn into the gun, resulting in an ammo belt that jerked and flopped up over the feed tray — a situation that did nothing to enhance accuracy and created a potential for malfunction.

American ingenuity solved the problem. The chopper-gun ammo belt needed to have a more rounded approach, and for this adaptation the most plentiful material was used: the beer can. That's right, a beer can brazed to the left side of the M60's receiver solved the problem as if it were made to order. Soon, most door gunners had one attached to their favorite M60s, and the enemy felt the consequences.

And so, the M60 machine gun incorporated the best of the MG-42, the FG-42 and, now, Budweiser — well, maybe the second-best part of Bud.



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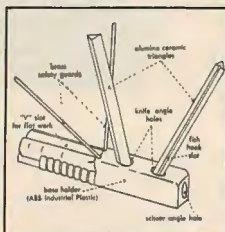
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TAPPAN ON SURVIVAL

by Mel Tappan

WHEN the Nazi regime came to power in the aftermath of Germany's post-WWI hyperinflation, the majority welcomed the stern hand of control and the promised "reform" of monetary excesses. Restrictions on personal freedom were accepted as the price of establishing "order." When strict gun control was instituted early in the first month of the new government's reign, most citizens dutifully complied, turning in even heirlooms and hunting arms.

A few thoughtful individuals who had done their homework on the origins of the National Socialist German Worker's Party and its leader, Adolf Hitler, immediately and quietly made preparations to leave Germany. Their acquaintances and associates derided them openly for overreacting and pointed out the sacrifices which many of them would be making in terms of their finances and careers. The few who withstood the pressure and acted immediately certainly experienced some temporary setbacks, but they escaped with their lives, their families and most of their personal property intact. Some, even those who would later be branded "restricted races," were able to sell their real property and take the proceeds with them.

At each successive stage of repression — when the Jews were made to wear identifying armbands, when their property was confiscated, when they were herded into ghettos and, finally, into concentration camps — a few more understood what was happening and took action to escape the worst of the holocaust, but as the end grew nearer and more obvious, avoiding it became more costly and less certain. And there were always the voices of the imperceptive majority droning the catch phrases that it substitutes for thought: "It couldn't happen here," "It can't get much worse," "World opinion will never permit it," "Sooner or later the government will do something."

Noble Language And Nefarious Purpose

This — let us not forget — duly elected and legally constituted government cer-

tainly did do something. It murdered a few million of its citizens or, as the enabling laws of the period put it, "terminated certain disruptive social elements" in the interest of "order and the public good." (Note: Tappan's universal rule of law: "The nobler the language, the more nefarious the purpose of any legal instrument.")

There are a number of points valuable to the potential survivalist now that can be drawn from this narrative of the German experience: 1) Independent informed thought, free from current popular opinion, is necessary to perceive the threat, especially at an early stage. 2) Independent action to avoid the consequences of the threat is the only safe course to follow, because the majority seldom recognizes the true nature of a problem until it is too late. 3) Do not rely on the popular press, the authorities or other official sources to warn you or to offer solutions. They are usually part of the problem. 4) The sooner you recognize the threat and begin to prepare, the better your chances for survival.

However instructive the parallels between the German experience of the '20s and '30s and our own present situation, argument by analogy is seldom the most convincing. That is especially true when the topic under discussion is a matter of life or death, entirely outside one's personal experience, and requires that rather far-reaching action be taken before the need for it becomes readily apparent.

In last month's column, I tried to present a comprehensive view of the coming crisis, together with enough corroborating evidence to persuade the perceptive and to provide at least a point of departure for the more skeptical. If that is not enough, send me an SASE at *Soldier of Fortune* and I will provide you with a basic reading list. For a rather detailed analysis of the problem, you may want to read *How to Survive and Prosper in the Next American Depression, War or Revolution* published by Financial Management Associates, Dept. SOF, 3928 Iowa St., San Diego, CA 92104. I certainly do not agree with many

Continued on page 33

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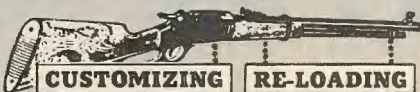
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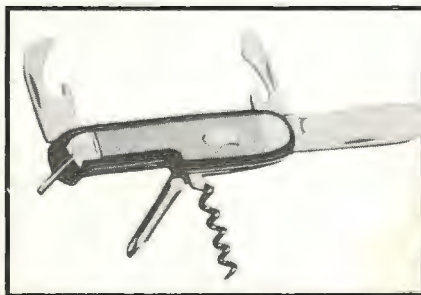
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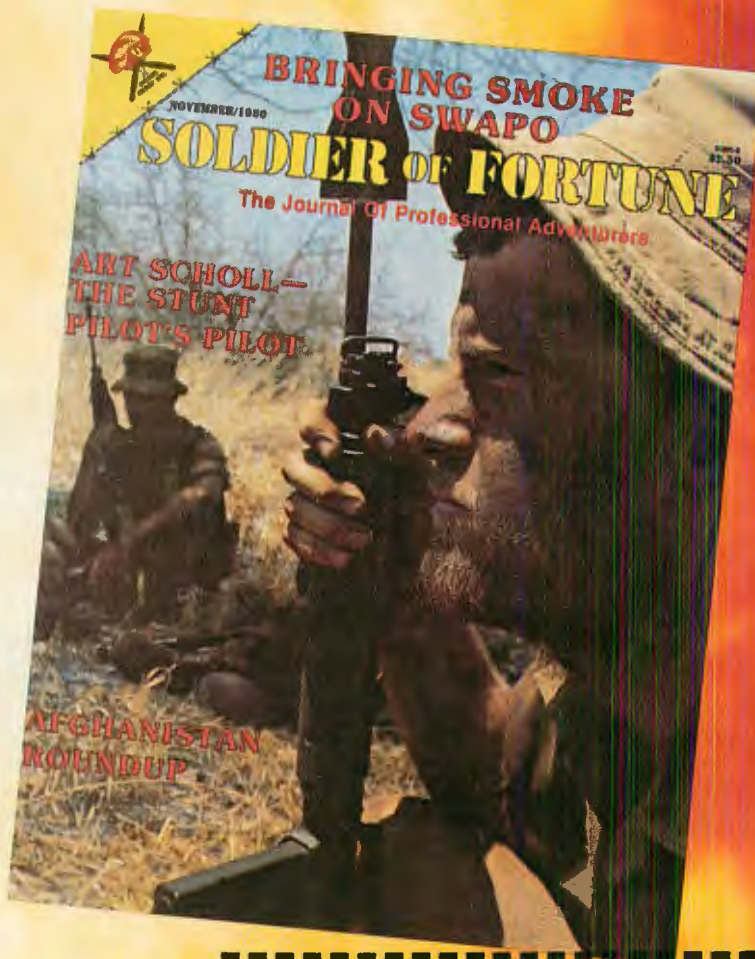
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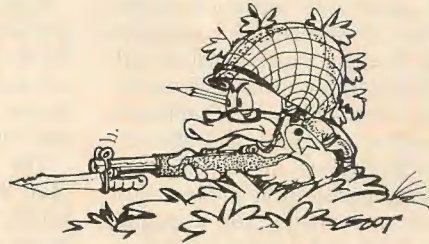
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application and the plater must take special care at his gunsmithing work, the ideal thickness of a hard-chrome deposit on a Colt .45 auto being .0004 to .0005 inch. This time-consuming process must be carefully monitored.

Since time means money, the popular gun finishes listed above are usually less than .0002 inch in thickness. In both processes, care must be taken to relieve the plated parts for hydrogen embrittlement.

Until recently, only a few big custom pistolsmiths have offered hard chroming for the individual — for a high price. Now a new source is available for gunsmiths or dealers wanting to offer hard chrome for their customers' pistols.

The Devel Corporation, Dept. SOF, 3441 W. Brainard Rd., Cleveland, OH 44122, is now providing a custom hard-chrome-plating service for Colt and S&W M-39 and 59 autos. Devel offers both the hard-chrome service, and the satin-nickel finish that is standard on its line of custom Smith & Wesson 9mm autos (see "Pistols With Polish," SOF, November '80). Dealer discounts are available.



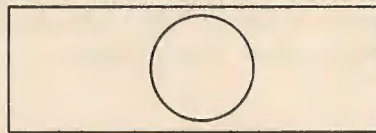
New Detonics "Combat Selector" replacement rear sight for 1911 series of Colt autos. Requires new, higher front sight installed also. Photo: Detonics

Retail price for a Colt Government auto complete is \$78. For the frame and related parts, the price is \$55. The satin-nickel finish is available for slightly less. Best news for the pistolsmith and the individual who does not want to be without his sidearm for long comes from the fact that Devel provides a three-week turnaround on their plating service.

PUT THE ODDS IN YOUR FAVOR. DIVERTER.*

The Diverter is a device which is installed on the muzzle of any 12 gauge, single barrel, cylinder bore shotgun, pump or automatic. This revolutionary shotgun accessory was developed for the USAF Directorate of Security Police and has seen service in Nam with the USN Seal team, in Latin America with AID, and is in current use by numerous military and police organizations here and abroad. The Diverter is standard equipment on certain models of HK shotguns and an accessory on High Standard Model 10 shotguns.

The Diverter changes the normal circular shotgun pattern to a predictable rectangular pattern with controlled height and a wide horizontal spread.



Comparison of pattern — Model 4 Diverter VS. 18" Cylinder bore (27 pellets #4 Buck).

Cylinder Bore	6 yards 2½" radius	10 yards 5" radius	18 yards 10" radius	25 yards 14" radius	40 yards 40" radius
Diverter Width & Height	17½" x 3½"	29" x 3½"	50½" x 12½"	70" x 16"	108" x 30"

Model 2 provides approximately half the coverage of the Model 4.

• PROBABILITY OF A LETHAL HIT IS INCREASED MORE THAN 2½ TIMES. •

The Diverter is available in two models: **MODEL 2** — For every inch of vertical rise, two inches of horizontal spread occurs. 2 to 1 ratio. **MODEL 4** — For every inch of vertical rise, four inches of horizontal spread occurs. 4 to 1 ratio.

The Diverter can be easily installed on the muzzle of a single barrel twelve gauge cylinder bore shotgun, pump or automatic. Installation is accomplished by direct soldering. Factory installation is offered (send barrel only), 3 to 4 weeks.

Texas purchasers include 5% sales tax. Send M.O., Certified or Cashiers Check. Personal and business checks must clear first. Sorry no COD's.

* USA Pat. 3,492,750
USA & Foreign Pat. Pending

\$42.00 either model (specify)
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5933 Bellaire Blvd. Suite 114, Houston, Texas 77081

WALT Wolff of the W.C. Wolff Company, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 232, Ardmore, PA 19003, has provided some of the finest gunsprings for many years. His custom-spring packages for various combat auto pistols are well known in shooting circles. I have recommended his 18½-pound recoil-spring set-up for the Colt Government pistol as the ideal balance in a combat-tuned auto (see Combat Pistolcraft, SOF, May '79). Wolff gunsprings also offer a complete line of lightweight springs for those .45 autos set up for light target loads, including the mid-range wadcutters so popular with the target-pistol crowd. As a bonus, each heavy-duty spring kit for the Colt Government Model pistol includes a heavy-duty firing-pin spring, which is longer and provides more tension on the firing-pin stop. This improvement not only adds tension to the firing pin, preventing the danger of accidental discharge should the pistol be dropped on its muzzle, but also holds the firing-pin stop more tightly, thus preventing the stop plate from slipping out of position and stopping the gun.

Wolff now offers a custom-mainspring package for the Colt auto. This main-

Continued on page 22

Special Report

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WORLD AT WAR!

Will the next 4 years bring a MAJOR war or depression to America?

by Roy S. Wathne
Freelance Reporter

"A MAJOR DEPRESSION, CIVIL turmoil, a dictatorship and gun confiscation may be ahead for America," now warns International Consultant and Survival Expert Hans J. Schneider. Far fetched? NOT AT ALL!

Hans spent his childhood in the Third Reich . . . his boyhood in the rubble of communist-occupied East Germany. His father, a former industrialist, lost \$10 million overnight and was imprisoned. This was a time when thousands of a disarmed populace were ruthlessly murdered. Hans and his family had to search the forests for food in order to survive.

BAD TIMES AHEAD

Don't ignore his warning. Hans J. Schneider is internationally respected for his rather accurate political and economic forecasts.

After twenty years of research, he has reached this conclusion: "America will go through a major depression within the next four years." He foresees big cities as centers of bloodshed, food shortages, and massive unemployment. People unable to cope with these conditions, will demand a dictatorial government to restore order, just like they did in his own homeland, Germany. The result? A MAJOR WORLD WAR.

Hans Schneider adds: "Even if all these events don't happen, any one of them could spell disaster to unprepared Americans, physically and financially."

"TIMELY HELP"

Mr. Schneider has written a book which I believe every concerned American should read. **TIMELY AND PROFITABLE HELP FOR TROUBLED AMERICANS** reveals his proven plan for your freedom and survival during economic and social turmoil.

There is hope and help! Mr. Schneider is NOT a prophet of doom. In his book, Hans has outlined what he has done . . . and what you can do to prepare for—even profit from—these times. 288 pages cover:

- ✓ Finding the right place to live in the turbulent times ahead
- ✓ How to educate your children at home! legally!
- ✓ What essential provisions to store
- ✓ Simple inflation / depression-proof investments with a 30-100% yearly

increase

- ✓ Jobs least vulnerable to unemployment
- ✓ Wilderness survival . . . Yachting for survival!
- ✓ Survival hunting, unusual remedies, first aid
- ✓ Independent energy sources
- ✓ Becoming self-sufficient
- ✓ Barter items
- ✓ Alternate weaponry/defense tactics
- ✓ . . . and much, MUCH more.



Hans J. Schneider believes we are headed for a disastrous social and economic period. But he has practical advice to help you profitably survive this time.

Mr. Schneider is not a theorist, but actually "practices what he preaches," as one newspaper reporter put it. Hans, his lovely wife, and their five children live in unspoiled wilderness next to a spring-fed stream, teeming with trout. They produce most of their own food and enjoy a wonderful family life. Is this your dream? His book shows how you can do it too!

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

- * ". . . sincere and engaging . . ."—Art Seidenbaum of *Los Angeles Times*.
- * "It is the best book I have read on the subject."—Dr. Marjorie Fry, Editor, Castle Rock, CO.
- * "Book is excellent. Number of my people want copies."—Pastor G. A., Amarillo, TX.
- * "Your book is most appropriate for these days. Runaway inflation and civil disorder is just around the curve."—Dr. John R. Andrews, M.D., Ellijay, GA.
- * "Sympathy and concern for an American populace headed toward what he feels is another period of 'hard times' prompted Hans J. Schneider to write **TIMELY** . . ."—*The Mail Tribune*, Medford, OR.
- * "More people should read it."—S. S., Atlanta, GA.

* "His book is exceptional not only because it is timely and practical, but because it is based on actual personal experience—it is not a lot of idealistic theorizing or useless philosophy."—R. A. Johnson, Survival Editor for *Inflation Survival Letter*.

You can order **TIMELY AND PROFITABLE HELP FOR TROUBLED AMERICANS** for just \$9.95 postpaid—certainly one of the best investments you will ever make. And his advice can profit you no matter where you live or what the economic condition may be!

TWO OTHER UNIQUE BOOKS

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 his boyhood passion for flying in his communist-occupied homeland, the years he spent on dangerous aviation missions through war-torn Europe and the near-fatal accounts of his travels in almost 100 countries. It is beautifully illustrated with over 110 photos/drawings and a full-color cover.

MASTERS OF LEGALIZED CONFUSION AND THEIR PUPPETS (55,000 copies in print!) is an undisputed eye-opener written without compromise. These volumes will make wonderful additions to your library.

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If you feel like I do that conditions will get worse . . . that America is headed for a time of crisis, why not order these books now before it is too late? Write today. The small cost is certainly worth the peace of mind to know that you and your family will be financially and physically prepared for the bad times that are unfortunately facing our beloved land . . . America.

ADVENTURE QUARTER- MASTER



by Cynthia E.D. Kite



SNAPPING TO IT

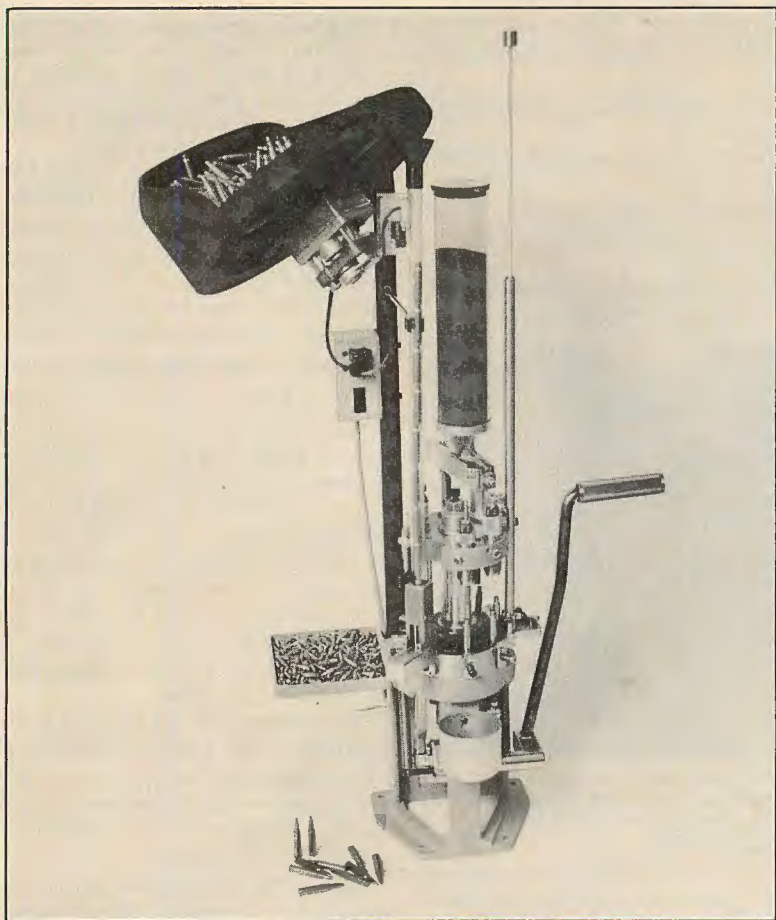
Fuji Photo Film company has expanded its operations with what it calls its "All Weather HD-S Fujica Camera" for use in difficult lighting and climatic conditions.

The 35mm camera is enclosed in a weather-resistant housing, permitting use in rain, snow and extreme humidity, according to the manufacturer.

The camera has a 38mm F/2.8 lens and uses standard 35mm film in 24- or 36-exposure rolls. An electronic shutter provides automatic exposures with speeds from 1/8th to 1/500th of a second.

The HD-S incorporates a built-in electronic flash unit with automatic and manual flash exposure.

Fuji stresses that the camera is not waterproof and thus not suitable for underwater photography. Further information available from Morrie Stin, Fuji Photo Film USA, Dept. SOF, 350 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10001.

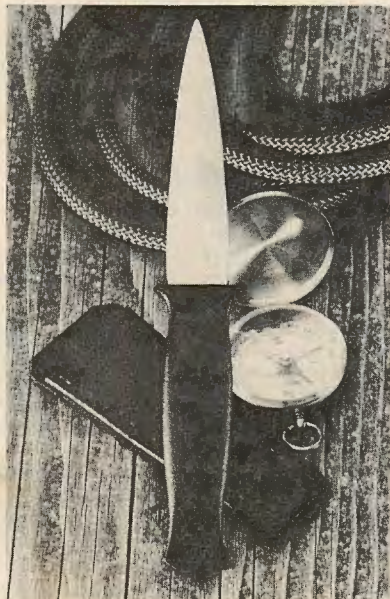


RELOAD YOUR OWN

Dillon Precision Products, which two years ago introduced its RL1000 commercial-cartridge progressive reloader at a cost of more than \$2,000, announces a new version with a price aimed at the private reloader.

It is the Model RL300, a tool designed to reload all calibers from .380 ACP through .30-06 at a rate of 300 an hour and at a cost of about \$325 with shell plate, dies and powder measure for one caliber.

The RL300 is designed to use standard 7/8x14 dies and has a powder measure utilizing interchangeable bushings. Two adjustable powder bars (large and small) are offered as options, as is a semiautomatic primer feed. For further information contact Dillon Precision Products Inc., Dept. SOF, Suite 106, 7755 E. Gelding Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

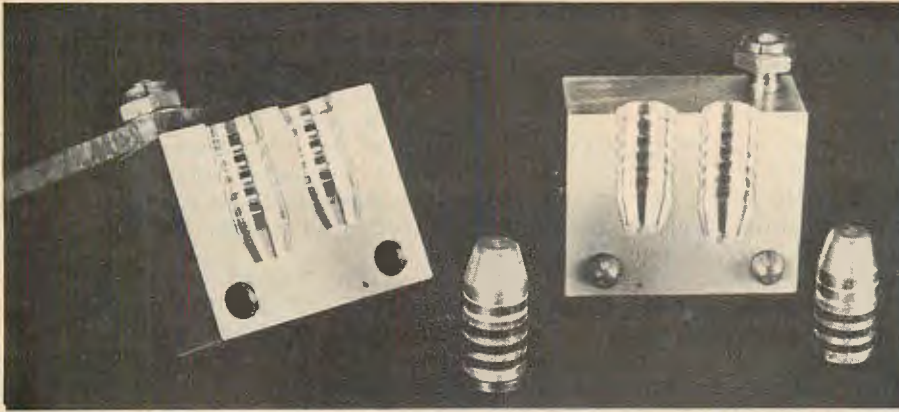


GERBER GUARDIAN

R.W. Loveless, chief designer for Gerber Legendary Blades of Portland, Ore., has created a new knife, the Guardian, which he says is "a knife I've wanted to make for years."

The Guardian has a blade length of 3½ inches and overall length of 7½ inches. It is designed for either boot or belt. The double-edged blade is hand-honed of surgical stainless steel, the handle being of solid aluminum with Gerber's non-slip wear-resistant coating.

A custom-fitted leather scabbard with belt or boot clip is included and an optional harness package is available from Gerber dealers. Or write Gerber Legendary Blades, Dept. SOF, 14200 S.W. 72nd Ave., Portland, OR, 97223.

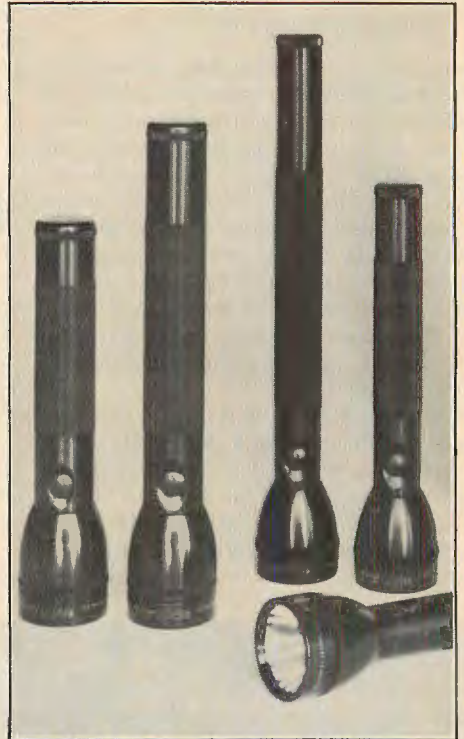


TWO FOR THE MOLD

SSK Industries of Bloomingdale, Ohio, reports introduction of a new two-cavity bullet mold producing bullets designed by J.D. Jones for the .44 Special, .44 Magnum, .430 JDJ and .444 Marlin cartridges.

The machined aluminum molds are available in 220-, 260-, 315- and 350-grain

weights with the 315 heavyweight called the "Ramslammer." Shown are the 350-grain gas check in .430 JDJ and 315 plain-base Ramslammer. Retail price is \$30, and with two different weights in one mold, \$35. Individuals and dealers may order direct through SSK Industries, Dept. SOF, Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910 or call (614) 264-0176.



A FLASH IN THE PAN

Mag Instrument Co. of Ontario, Calif., has introduced a new professional flashlight for sportsmen, law-enforcement personnel and others who require powerful, durable hand beams.

It's called the Mag-Lite and features an adjustable beam from flood to spot. The light is built of anodized aircraft aluminum. It has a lexan lens protecting a computer-designed reflector and the tail cap carries a spare bulb.

The manufacturer claims tests have shown the push-button switch can be cycled some 100 times a day for 30 years without failure because self-scrubbing internal parts prevent oxidation problems found in some other flashlights.

Twelve models are available, ranging from two- to seven-cell, D and C sizes. The light retails from \$22.95 to \$32.95 depending on model. Further information available from: Mag Instrument Inc., Dept. SOF, Box 1840, Ontario, Calif. 91762.

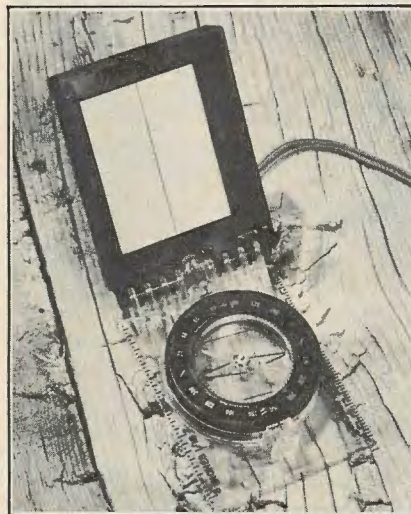


GETTING A GRIP

Bianchi Gunleather announces that it has branched out into the pistol-grip field with its new Lightning Grip which shrouds the hammers of Smith and Wesson snubnosed pistols.

Made of molded-rubber compounds and reinforced with steel, the grip completely shrouds the pistol's hammer spur, reducing the possibility of snagging on clothes during a quick draw but affording access to the hammer for single-action cocking.

The grip is offered for the S&W Chief's Special round butt and the S&W K M19 and M10 round butt revolvers. Features other than the shrouded hammer include finger grooves, speed-loader clearance and checkered palm swells. Retail price \$22.95. From Bianchi Gunleather, Dept. SOF, 100 Calle Cortez, CA 92390.



KEEPING ON COURSE

The Brunton Company of Riverton, Wyo., a manufacturer of compasses for 84 years, has issued a new line of four recreational models.

Standard features on all include: needle enclosed in a sealed, fluid-filled vial and adjustable declination.

Model identifications are the 8000 basic model, 8020 intermediate and 8040 and 8060 deluxe models. The 8060 has an extended base with cover, mirror, magnifier and lanyard. Free with each device is a booklet explaining how to use and care for compasses.

Price range is \$20.95, \$21.95, \$27.95 and \$29.95 (retail suggested).

Further information available from the Brunton Co., Dept. SOF, 620 E. Monroe Ave., Riverton, WY 82501.

EDITOR'S NOTE: SOF does not endorse any item reported in Adventure Quartermaster. When possible, an appropriate SOF staffer tests and evaluates products submitted. Sometimes this cannot be done and SOF simply publishes basic factual information about new products that we feel may be of interest to readers.



COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 18

spring kit is designed so that one can tailor the mainspring (the spring that powers the hammer) to work with the various loads that he chooses to use in his pistol. The mainspring is the prime retardant in the action of the 1911 pistol. The mainspring's most critical function is the camming action of the slide recocking the hammer in the recoiling stroke of the slide. If the mainspring is weakened in any way, it reduces the force needed to cam the hammer back, thus increasing slide inertia substantially.

If a target pistol is set up to function with light loads, then a Wolff lightweight mainspring of the 19-, 20- or 21-pound tension may prove ideal. However, if one is set on trying to make his .45 into a magnum, then the Wolff 26-, 28- or 30-pound springs may be of interest. His

standard 23-pound spring is perfect for most hardball loads. Those in search of such special spring packages should contact Wolff Gunsprings at the above address.

EVERYONE at one time or another has wondered about the concept of recoil buffers in the .45 auto. Many different types are made. I have tried those marketed by Behlert, Bar-Sto, Dinan and Gil Hebard. All are nice, but I doubt that they really do any good. In order for these spring-loaded buffers to work, the spring tension on the buffer plunger must be so stiff that it causes the pistol to malfunction. If adjusted to make the pistol function correctly, I doubt that it does any good.

For years we have looked for the ideal means of saving Colt autos from pound-

ing to pieces with thousands and thousands of rounds of heavy combat loads. The ideal system for this type of duty is a fiber washer like that used in the Thompson SMG, but no one took much interest in such a project. Armand Swenson, the master of the .45 pistolsmiths, declares that the only useful system is the fiber washer that will take the pounding of the .45 slide to frame slap for thousands of rounds.

Now, Bill Wilson of Wilson's Gun Shop, Dept. SOF, 101-103 Public Square, Berryville AR 72616, has taken Swenson's advice and with the help of Bill Rogers, the man who has used space-age plastics for both his holsters and grips, designed a poly-fiber buffer that slips over the existing recoil-spring guide. Combined with one of Wolff's heavy-duty recoil springs, it will give your .45 protection from excessive wear, frame and slide cracks, and increase functional reliability. I have tested one in my pistol for more than a thousand rounds. It seems as good as new.

Although Wilson recommends that these buffers be replaced every 1,000 rounds, I think they will last much longer. But, at a cost of \$5.50 for two poly-fiber buffers and one heavy-duty recoil spring, one can change whenever he wants. I plan to use Wilson's new gadget on my pistols.

PISTOLSMITH Bill North, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 8594, Asheville, NC 28804, has come up with a nicely designed, high, fixed rear sight for the .45 auto. Most gunsmiths these days make their own sights from 1/8-inch stock. However, special-design, high, fixed rear sights are often in short supply, and their price has increased dramatically since this type of sight system has become popular with combat shooters.

North's top-quality, high, fixed rear sight has rounded corners and a set screw to secure it in place. Price is \$10 each.

North has also set out to solve one of the problems with magazine bumper pads. Anyone who uses them knows that sooner or later they will fall off — usually when he needs them the most. North has designed an injection-molded plastic pad that attaches by means of two prongs that must be press-fitted into two 1/8-inch holes drilled into the base of the magazine. With a little super glue added, they will stay even if subjected to a shear-effect hard landing. A template is included with the pads to simplify drilling the holes. Price is \$6.50 for three pads, and they come in either red or black. I have tried a set on my magazines and find them very serviceable.

Continued on page 25

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IN REVIEW

LIFE AFTER DOOMSDAY. By Bruce D. Clayton. Boulder, Colorado: Paladin Press. 1980. 185 pp. Illustrated, with appendices. \$19.95. Review by Eugene A. Barron.

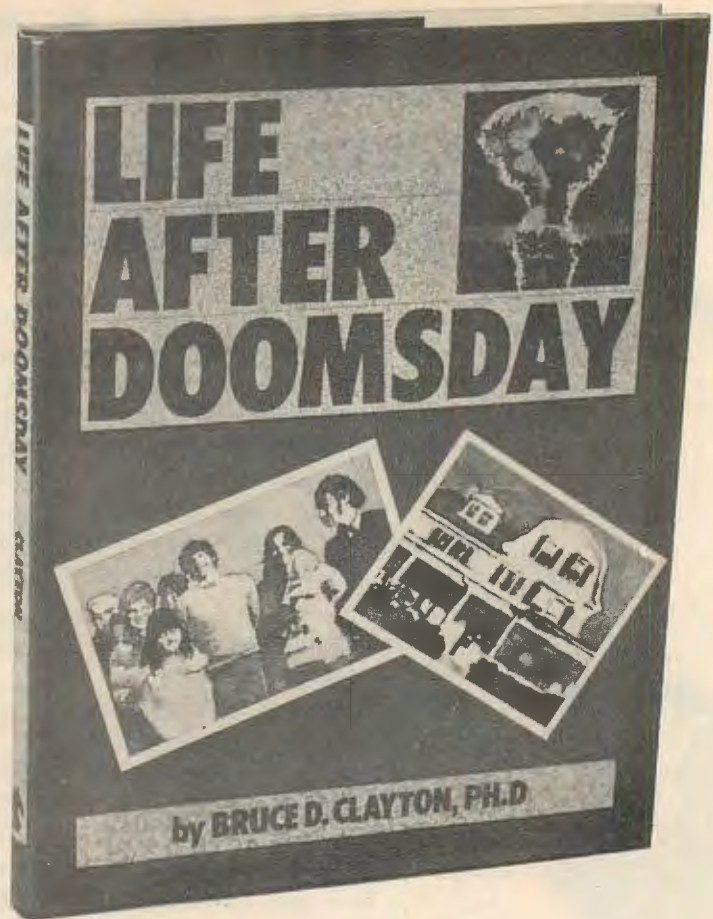
FOR those not afraid to "think about the unthinkable," Dr. Clayton has produced the only accurate and up-to-date manual for retreat and survival. Angered by the mass of misinformation promulgated by anti-nuclear groups and the official publications of federal government agencies, he has written a practical guide to the various aspects and problems related to emerging alive from any number of catastrophies — natural and manmade. Among the disasters discussed are: famine, epidemic disease, hurricanes and tornadoes, earthquakes, political disruption and thermonuclear war.

Nuclear war, as the presumed worst of the catastrophies, is discussed in detail, complete with tables on shock-wave effects, thermal effects and evaluations of electromagnetic pulse, initial nuclear radiation and fallout. In discussing the latter, he compares the inaccurate DCPA maps with those calculated on the basis of current information, and shows how the reader can prepare his own fallout map. The specifics of fallout shelters, including boats and aircraft, are detailed, while one of the appendices shows how to use an automobile to provide an expedient shelter when none other is available. For those living near city sewers, a homemade "key" that can be manufactured for 50¢ is shown.

Other chapters cover the aspects of living in an emergency retreat, especially the problems to be anticipated and their solutions. Major topics include provision of water and its purification, stored and grown food, medical supplies, weapons and self-defense, decontamination, sanitation, illumination, communication, daily scheduling and training of retreaters in the operation of all basic equipment.

Appendices include a listing of nuclear target areas, fallout pattern data, radiological information, medical data on thermonuclear explosion victims, as well as the construction of homemade air pumps and fallout meters. All in all, the book is a comprehensive, thorough treatment of its selected topics. Cross-checking with acknowledged experts in various areas elicited the response that Dr. Clayton has done his homework with a substantial degree of comprehension and accuracy.

If there is any area wherein to fault *Life*



after Doomsday, it is the lack of coverage of potential chemical and biological weapons of the type being employed by the communists in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan. While those currently employed by the Soviet Union date back to the first and second world wars, no doubt far more sophisticated devices of this type are now ready for use against this country. Given the dismantling of U.S. counterforce weapons in this area, their use in a first strike on this country is a reasonable probability.

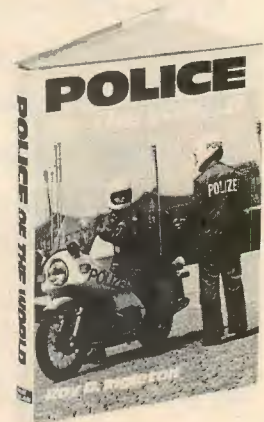
Dr. Clayton's academic credentials are impeccable for this type of treatise. Primarily an ecologist and survival consultant, he has acquired the necessary background to cover all of his subjects competently. The result of three years of research, *Life after Doomsday* is by far the best of the books on the subject of retreat and survival this reviewer has read.

Recently Eugene A. Barron, *SOF business manager*, reviewed *Paladin Press' Survival Poaching*. This month he tackled a more absolute survival manual and also found it good.

POLICE OF THE WORLD. By Roy D. Ingleton. New York: Scribner. 1979. 192 pp. \$12.95. Review by Leroy Thompson.

POLICE of the World is an extremely useful reference work. Classification is by country, with sections devoted to the police forces of virtually every major and

minor nation. Each section includes a short history of that country's police, their uniforms, organization, ranks with total strength at each rank and weapons (both standard issue and special purpose). Of particular interest are summaries of special and elite police units within the larger forces — for example, Italy's *Carabinieri*. Special security or counter-terrorist forces are also dealt with. All of



this information is presented in summary form — which can be frustrating when more details are desired — but excellent tables and numerous photographs help get the maximum amount of facts into the book's 192 pages.

In treating certain large countries with non-centralized police organizations — as in the U.S. — Ingleton obviously cannot give a detailed analysis of every one of their thousands of police forces. Representative forces of each major type (i.e. national, state, county, city, border patrol, etc.) are treated to give the reader an illustrative sample of that country. Unfortunately, a few countries, particularly some communist bloc ones, are so secretive about their police forces that detail is scant. In each case, however, an attempt is made to supply as much information as possible.

Despite its conciseness, **Police of the World** is a comprehensive source book which should prove irreplaceable to police officers or administrators by giving them insight into other police organizations around the world. It should be even more useful as a reference tool for the professional adventurer or world traveler who wants to know something about police forces in countries he might be in.

*As a former USAF special and base security officer, deputy sheriff, bodyguard and security chief for a large grocery chain, Leroy Thompson is well qualified to review **Police of the World**. Now in the military book business, Thompson is a frequent contributor to *In Review*.*



COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 22

DETONICS Manufacturing Corporation, Dept. SOF, 2500 Seattle Tower, Seattle, WA 98100, now offers a new rear sight for the .45 auto pistol. Called the "Combat Selector," this high-visibility design can be installed in the existing dovetail in about five minutes. Various sight blades may be installed for changes in elevation. These sights are designed for the combat shooter who sets his gun for one zero with a certain type of ammo and then does not change his sights. They are designed to be used with a higher, replacement front sight. I tried the new Detonics "Combat Selector" with a MMC white-line front-ramp sight and found it an excellent combination. Be sure and use Loctite on the rear-sight blade once the piece has been properly zeroed.



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IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Tom Jacobs as told to M.L. Jones



Tom Jacobs is a writer-photographer from Sacramento, Calif., with almost 10 years' experience in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. A desert warfare and amphibious Recon expert, he has trained fellow Marines in night movement, mountain warfare and small-unit tactics. He toured Vietnam from July 1967 to April 1969. Early in 1969, as a 20-year-old corporal, he found himself in charge of an eight-man Marine reconnaissance stronghold at the peak of the "Rockpile" near the Demilitarized Zone. As he tells it:

THE 105mm howitzer illumination round turned the jungle into a black-and-white photo as I looked for the dead NVA sapper. It was February 1969 and my eight-man detachment of Recon Marines was under siege at the top of the "Rockpile."

The battle had been calm for about an hour. Our M60 machine-gun team, positioned at the most likely approach to our stronghold, said concentrated fire by our M79 man had "wasted" an NVA off a steep incline to our north. Home base in Quang Tri said they wanted the body, so I was sitting on a rock in the open, trying to spot it. I was covered by two riflemen and the machine gun, so I wasn't worried. Besides, it was quiet now.

It hadn't been earlier. Shortly after dusk, the gun team reported seeing "something" that looked like a flame southeast of their position. I slipped into

The "Rockpile," facing east along Cua Viet River. Author snapped picture as helicopter brought him in for his first 33 days on "The Rock," a 200-meter-plus, jungle-covered chunk of rock about 10 klicks from Vietnam's DMZ. Due to rugged terrain, all food and water had to be flown in by helicopter.

my harness, grabbed my rifle and moved down to them. The team swore something was out there, so I moved into the rocks behind them to wait.

It was a long wait. I was about to give up when I heard the distinctive "clink" of a cigarette lighter being thumbed open. Suddenly, I saw a small yellow flame before me — and just as suddenly it was gone. I sprayed a few rounds in the general direction and the dark jungle answered with a stream of green tracers.

Contact!

We took small-arms fire and a flurry of grenades from the front and right flank. One Marine took a piece of shrapnel in the stomach, but it wasn't serious enough for a medevac. I returned to the radio and called in illumination. As the first rounds popped against the stars, our M79 man picked off an NVA to our northeast. That was the body Quang Tri wanted, so that's how I found myself on a rock during a lull, trying to spot the corpse.

As an illumination round winked out, an NVA made his play. He must have been creeping toward us for hours. Suddenly he popped up as a dark shape just forward of my rock. I was face to face with one of Uncle Ho's own.

He was as shocked to see me as I was him. I knew my life could be measured in split seconds, but I was frozen to my rock. He looked at me and I looked at him. Why was no one firing? I could feel the cold, solid weight of my rifle across my knees but I couldn't seem to lift it.

Someone yelled, and then I saw the NVA's arm swing in an arc. A small black shape left his hand and came lobbing toward me.

Grenade!

That did it. The machine gun began chattering and both riflemen opened up. The grenade was somewhere near me and all I could think of was the mark I had made on my short-timer's calendar that morning: 52 days left in 'Nam.

I curled into a ball behind my rock. The grenade blast shook and slammed me, but left me whole. The machine gun kept firing until the gunner's partner calmed him. We all kept low and silent, listening to the snap and rustle of the grenadier's escape. He missed — but so did we.

Suddenly, a brilliant yellow-white flash lit the jungle to our right. As the explosive rumble died, only our laughter was heard. In his haste to escape, the NVA had stumbled into a booby-trap we'd rigged days earlier. His grenade shook us up — but the one we left earlier for him closed out his health record.

We held the night and were reinforced in the morning.



Cpl. Tom Jacobs stands above minefield on "Rockpile" shortly before NVA sapper attack. Attack occurred on more approachable finger of land to east.



I WAS THERE

by Dr. Michael J. Keyes as told to M.L. Jones

Dr. Michael J. Keyes, now an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., was serving his residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 1972-73. On 7 January 1973, a burst of gunfire signaled the start of a two-day battle between police and an unknown number of terrorists barricaded in a hotel one block from the hospital. As he tells it:

I was finishing morning rounds at the hospital when I heard the shooting break out. The emergency ward was in an uproar with police, doctors and nurses frantically rushing to care for the first of many casualties.

A block away, at the Howard Johnson's Hotel, a man (or men) had taken hostages and was shooting it out with the police. As I stuck my head out of the emergency-room entrance, a bullet hit the wall behind me. I could hear the roar of a rifle and the high-pitched whine of .38 bullets.

I attached myself to a neurosurgery team, all of whom had seen service in Vietnam, as the first two police casualties came in. Both men were shot in the head and died within hours. One of the policemen was dragged away from an open spot by a news photographer who had been pinned down in the crossfire. The sniper was using the downed officer as bait to bring other policemen into the open.

The police finally began to cordon off the area to keep people out. The sniper set fire to the hotel and continued firing on the police. Law enforcement officers from five or six state, parish and federal jurisdictions poured in as the day progressed. No one set up an effective command post; no negotiation was attempted. In fact, to this day, no one knows how many terrorists were involved.

Ironically, the New Orleans Police Department had quickly and efficiently handled a similar situation a month earlier, when a self-styled black revolutionary group had barricaded themselves in a house and threatened to kill any policeman who came by. The New Orleans PD arrived with an armored car — at the request of the neighbors — and the group meekly surrendered with no damage done.

I remember my confusion and panic — I thought I was going to be killed — when several large black men with Afro haircuts rushed into the emergency room carrying shotguns. They finally calmed people down when they announced they were

New Orleans narcotics agents avoiding fire.

During that first day, the shooting was constant and smoke poured from the hotel.

More wounded and dead were brought in. I remember the tourist who was at the hotel swimming pool when a black man shot and wounded him. He fell into the pool where he played dead for several hours before the police rescued him. The hotel manager, shot at the beginning of the siege, was finally brought in. He later died.

Although the first day was almost over, no one had taken charge. No identification procedure existed and any terrorist could have simply walked out bearing weapons and passed as police. Police from the several jurisdictions, angered at what had happened to their brother officers, began to take independent action.

The siege then became a series of impressions for me. I remember the lieutenant-governor who tried to establish order with his police radio, but grew increasingly frustrated as the tragedy unfolded, and the death of a deputy police chief. He had led an attack on the Howard Johnson's stairwell with a group of volunteers in hopes of overwhelming the sniper. No one knows what really happened in the smoke and confusion, but the entry wound was in his back and there was no exit wound, indicating to me that a low-powered round, possibly a .38 Special, may have caused his death.

That first evening, a man, dressed in camouflage and carrying a shotgun, was apprehended in the hospital halls. He apparently wanted to help the police and had no connection with the terrorists.

The PD armored car continued to run around in circles. This time it accomplished nothing.

Finally, one sniper was trapped in a hotel stairwell. An anti-tank rifle was set up opposite him in an attempt to blow a hole in the wall and shoot tear gas near him.

After nightfall, a Marine helicopter, carrying policemen wearing flak vests and carrying M16s, flew around the roof. As I watched from the hospital's 19th floor, the sniper ran from his protected area. He was cut down by automatic-weapons fire. Police fire continued for 10 minutes after he fell. An autopsy later showed over 100 entry wounds and a severed leg.

The second day, on national television, the New Orleans Police Department celebrated the anniversary of the 1815 battle of New Orleans by assaulting an empty elevator shaft. Ricochets caused two casu-

alties. No terrorists other than the dead sniper were identified, but the bodies of a honeymooning couple, each shot through the head, were found in the hotel. In all, three policemen, four civilians and one terrorist died. It was estimated that more than 100,000 rounds were fired. The hotel was out of business for months.

When I talked to FBI psychologists five years later, I was told that this was a textbook example of what *not* to do in a sniper situation. To this day, no one knows why the incident occurred — or how many terrorists were actually involved.

If you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Attn: 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 (with captions) are also helpful. Captions should be typed on a separate sheet of paper and keyed to each photograph. 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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SHARPSHOOTING WITH CHAIRMAN JEFF

Mannlicher Moves Ahead

by Jeff Cooper



AUG ASSAULT RIFLE — The Steyr-Mannlicher AUG (Army Universal Gun) in its 20" barrel assault-rifle version.

IN September 1980 the Mannlicher factory at Steyr in Austria had many interesting firearms to offer, both sporting and military. Their superb barrel-making machines (which they supply to several other gunmakers) are used for all their rifled firearms and continue to produce tubes of unmatched consistency and durability.

Gradely Green Gun

One of the matters discussed at Steyr was the SSG. I pointed out that almost all of the green guns I had seen in the U.S. were fitted with the double-set trigger of the "sporting" version, and that this mechanism is unfamiliar to Americans, tricky to master and of debatable merit. (It was the thousand-year anniversary of the town of Steyr, and Dr. Weissenhofer suggested that it was probably also the thousand-year anniversary of the double-set trigger — a tradition in Central Europe

30 **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE**

that dies hard.) The standard two-stage military trigger of the SSG is perfectly splendid, besides being black instead of chrome plated. The sparkle of chrome seems out of place on this sort of piece.

My hosts pointed out that the trigger systems were instantly interchangeable, but I could only say that many U.S. dealers were emphatically unwilling to do any interchanging. I was told to announce to all interested parties that Steyr-Daimler-Puch of America, Dept. SOF, 85 Metro Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094 (telephone 710-992-8890), stands ready to make this exchange immediately upon demand. *Gut genug!*

Rumor had it that a flush-retractable bipod was to be made available for the SSG, but the fact is that this device now exists only in prototype. It looked good upon examination, though possibly a touch fragile and in need of flatter feet. It allows for enough rotation to accommodate it to uneven ground, a desideratum not always present on accessory

bipods. The management did me the honor of asking my opinion as to the marketability of the flush bipod and I voted for it. (I also voted for a simple cross-hair reticle, but this suggestion elicited no visible enthusiasm. Don't hold your breath.)

The SSG is a splendid rifle as it stands. While it is clearly not a general-duty arm, it is a joy to use for deliberate fire at medium to long ranges. In my opinion it would do its best work with the military trigger, cross-hair reticle and the production version of the integrated bipod. We shall see.

Star Wars Weapon

In the military line, Mannlicher is now in full production of the AUG, designated "G-77" by the Austrian army. This radical little gun is such an astonishing assembly of technological innovations and

revised tactical concepts that it is difficult to classify. The company publicists claim that it combines "auto-rifle performance with machine-pistol size." Perhaps. Whether anything firing the .223 cartridge provides true *rifle* performance is a point which remains moot.

in a hurry, but that is a somewhat unlikely challenge, probably outweighed by the consideration of compactness.)

The gas action is of the short-thrust type pioneered by "Carbine Williams," driving against twin recoil springs and rotating a multilug bolt reminiscent of the

reach of modern training systems — and superfluous. Mannlicher can build a splendid trigger — as in the SSG — but I was told several times that the AUG "is not a sniper rifle." *That* it is not.

The optical sight is integral with the receiver and doubles as a carrying handle.



DISASSEMBLED AUG — AUG assault rifle shown field stripped. Top left, barrel group; top right, receiver group; center, bolt group; bottom left, stock group with magazine; bottom right, hammer mechanism.

The armies of the world clearly feel it to be settled, but the ordnance choices made by military bureaucrats are frequently erroneous. (There are enough horrible examples of this to fill a large museum — which I may find one day. They include the five-inch X 25 AA gun, the .380 Webley, the Tiger without a machine gun, the Bf 109 without a drop-tank, the U.S. 30 Carbine and M16, and the gutless F-4.)

The AUG, however, is a .223, and is probably best termed an "assault carbine." It is a very compact, seven-pound, gas-operated, optically sighted, magazine-fed, selective-fire infantry weapon. Its jet-age character is reflected in its visual image, which is straight out of *Star Wars*. There are hopological conservatives who feel that this appearance suggests pulp covers more than serious conflict, but I find it charming. Among other things, its "face-down" potential is striking. "Non-dedicated personnel" (that's Aquarian military jargon for cowards) will be likely to take one look at it and surrender.

The "Bull Pup" configuration of the AUG locates its action back in the butt, and thus compresses the whole mechanism into about the same bulk as a conventionally designed piece with stock folded. Left-handed shooters are accommodated by a reverse assembly procedure which ejects to the other side. (This does *not* allow for bi-lateral barricade shooting

Stoner system. Much ingenuity has been used to make the whole assembly simple and easy to dismount for cleaning.

The chrome-lined barrel simply un-hooks and thus can be had in any length desired, balancing velocity against compactness at option. It can get hot during automatic fire, so the can-opener forward handle is permanently attached to help avoid burnt fingers. This handle is vaguely repugnant to me, and I recommended against it when I first saw it two years ago. It now folds forward, serving as a sort of jury-rig fore-end, and it looks much better that way.

The lockwork is plastic. Yes, you read that right. The lockwork — from trigger through hammer — is made entirely of plastic. Fancy that! And yet why not? It is easy to fabricate. It works. It can't rust. And it is very, very strong. You can pound it with hammers, reassemble it, and it will work. You cannot do that with steel lockwork. Maybe you can get a good trigger action with a plastic sear. I doubt it, but then I would not have thought lockwork could be made of plastic. The test guns we handled did not have what might be called *rifle* triggers, but then neither has an M16, nor a Kalashnikov nor a G-3. Good trigger action, the mainstay of good marksmanship, is not emphasized in an age in which good marksmanship is deemed to be beyond the

It is fitted with a set of pistol sights top-side for emergencies. (Quickly replaceable receivers are furnished with built-in, night-firing sight systems.) The standard sight magnifies one-and-a-half diameters and uses a coarse ring as a reticle. This enables the shooter to simply ring what he can see of his target and fire three or four quick shots. Since they will all land inside that ring, the target is likely to be damaged. If the target occupies too small an area within the ring, then it is too far away for effective engagement by this particular combination of cartridge, sight, trigger and shooter.

Whatever you think of this concept, reports from troops armed with the AUG indicate that recruits exposed to it are brought to an acceptable standard of marksmanship considerably quicker than before. Could be. It depends upon what is considered "acceptable."

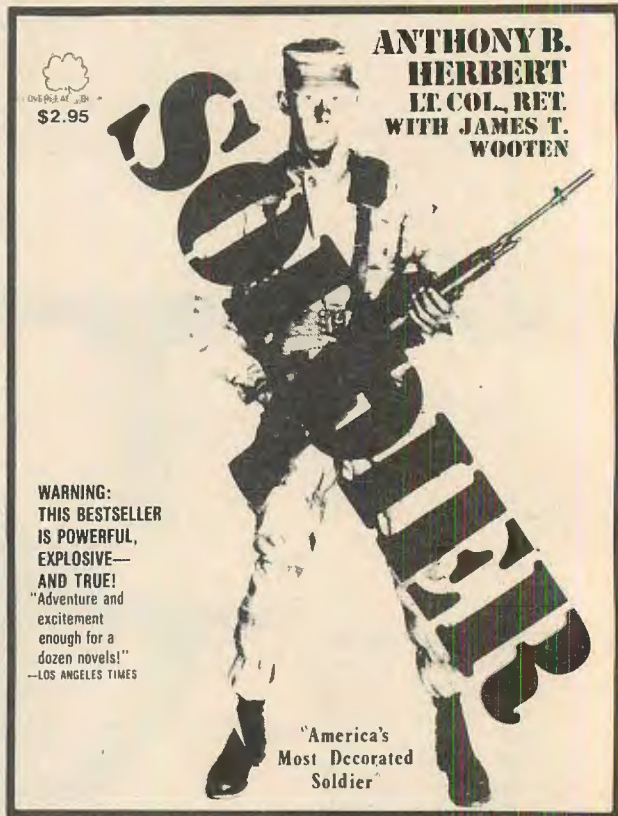
In practical accuracy I would call the AUG marginal. Four of us fired it off a bench at 50 meters and printed groups that were quite within reach of a good pistol fired off a bench by a good shot. This may be partly due to the trigger action and partly to the skimpy articulation of the barrel with the receiver — probably both. As a machine pistol it is good. As a rifle it is not. As an "assault carbine" — who knows? Within the limited role assigned to modern infantry it may be perfectly OK.

Continued on page 73

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SURVIVAL

Continued from page 12

of the conclusions in this volume, but the examination of how we arrived at the brink is well done and the entire book is provocative.

On The Brink

If you have a college-level understanding of economics, all you may need to satisfy yourself is a few hours in a library with a copy of my December column, indices to the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Congressional Record*. If you know what to look for and you are diligent in your research you will find abundant evidence that 1) a monetary collapse is imminent, 2) the government knows that such a disaster is impending and is preparing to impose draconian measures to enforce its view of order on the population when the event arrives.

Until recently, a good deal of specialized knowledge, an inside-information source or two and, perhaps, an act of faith were necessary in order to reach this conclusion with sufficient certainty to make survival preparations a priority concern. There was then, however, ample time to prepare.

Now, we have reached a watershed. Now, for the first time, there is enough unclassified information available support-

ing this view so that no one who examines enough of the data objectively could remain in doubt. There may yet be time enough to prepare, but I wouldn't care to waste even a day.

If we can agree that serious trouble lies ahead and that the time to make serious preparations to deal with it has arrived, the question remains, "prepare for what?"

It is not possible, obviously, to determine precisely what course present economic trends will take, how, exactly, the crisis itself will occur or what its aftermath may engender, but there are three likely scenarios that embody among them the most significant elements that are apt to be present.

Socio-Economic Collapse

I. The classic socio-economic collapse. Here there is usually a triggering event, causing the various monetary and economic factors which have been in place for some time to become suddenly manifest. Any of the following would serve as catalyst and there are many more that would do as well: refusal by OPEC or the Common Market nations to accept the dollar in exchange for goods, a terrorist-inspired nuclear explosion in either New York City, Los Angeles or Washington, D.C., a major earthquake in California, a decision by a major industrial country to

exclude the dollar as reserve currency, a transportation strike during the winter coupled with almost any other national crisis.

Massive violence, rioting and looting would erupt — at least in the cities. Food and other essentials would be exhausted in less than a week and arson would be the probable response to empty shelves. Firestorms would soon sweep every major city. Water and sanitation would fail, disease would become rampant, and survivors would begin scouring the countryside in search of food, shelter and valuables.

Small towns, especially rural small towns not too close to the cities, should fare much better. The central government would probably fall and, depending upon the length of the crisis period, communities might form into alliances resembling city states. Loss of life would probably be very high and a long period of anarchy would probably exist before successful attempts at rebuilding could be made.

Preparations for this contingency are necessarily extensive but relatively uncomplicated. Given the right location and skills, careful planning and the means to provide almost total self-sufficiency, even a worst-case version of this scenario could be weathered — not only safely but with some comfort.

Continued on page 87

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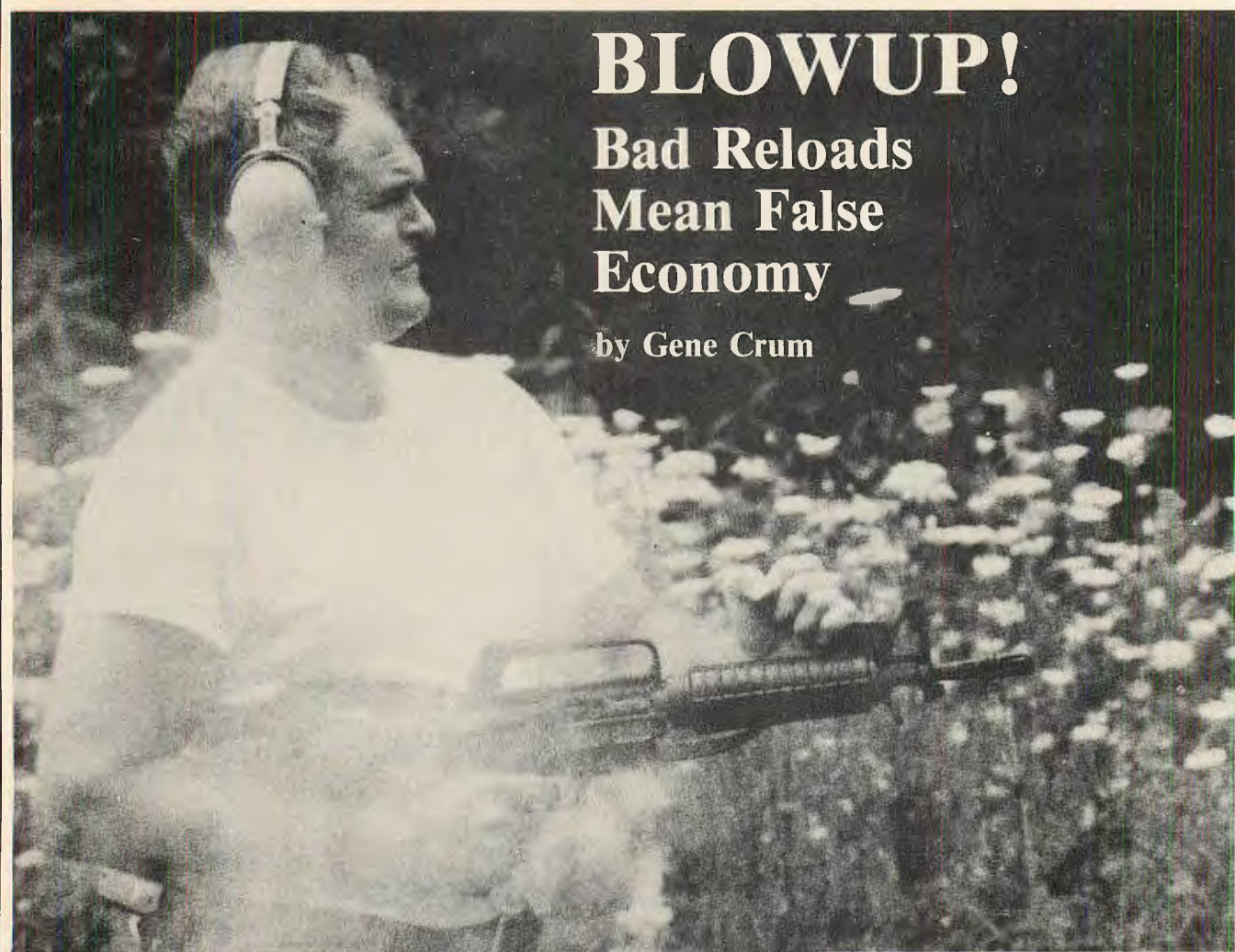
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BLOWUP!

Bad Reloads Mean False Economy

by Gene Crum



TROUBLE lurks in small places, as Sam Taylor discovered during a blasting session with a Colt CAR-15 on full auto.

Sam's tranquil plinking session in Hoosierland (Indiana) came to an abrupt stop when a round fired prematurely, rupturing the case and blowing the magazine out of the weapon. A friend caught the scene on film, showing the falling magazine trailing the thick white smoke, characteristic of ruptured-case blowups.

The weapon was not harmed, although the magazine was ruined: its lips were flared, the sides bulged below the point of support provided by the weapon's magazine housing, the base plate was blown away and the follower broken in half. Apparently, the magazine sustained virtually the full force of the escaping gas.

Resulting Damage

Taylor advised SOF that he had been using military-issue ammo and speculated that a ruptured primer had stuck in the firing-pin hole, protruding enough to fire the next cartridge. However, our close examination of the damaged case pinpointed the real cause: a defective reload, apparently from a so-called "commercial" reloader.

Blowup! Split-second following rupture of partly chambered 5.56mm round, Sam Taylor is partly obscured by smoke, while bulged magazine, trailing thick white smoke and dislodged live rounds, heads for ground.

The tipoff can be seen in the enlarged view of the case head. First, the case is marked "IVI" — a Canadian product, and a good one. But, although the primer pocket is expanded considerably, the clincher is the peculiar taper into the pocket, marking where the military crimp used to be. Notice the chattermarks.

This taper was made by some incompetent who used an ordinary woodscrew countersink, probably in an electric drill, to cut away the military crimp, supposedly to ease priming with commercial primers. The chattermarks always occur because (a) countersinks were not made for this job, and (b) the dolts who do this sort of thing usually hold the cases in their hand while zapping with the drill.

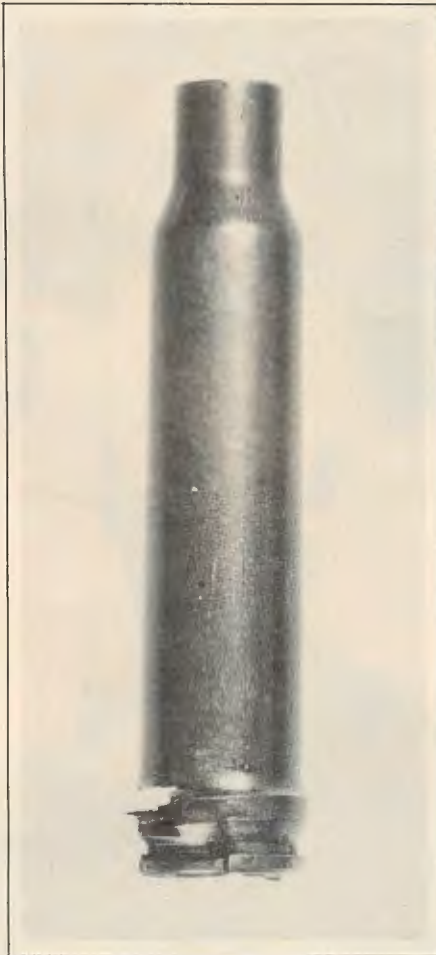
Faulty Technique

This technique cuts away the crimp, but it also cuts away part of the sidewall of the primer pocket and turns up a burr at the lower extremity of the cut. The burr, located part way into the pocket, resists full seating of the replacement primer, sometimes stubbornly. A careless reloader, going for speed rather than accuracy, can slam a primer in so deeply that the configuration will escape his reloading-press' shellholder, but still protrude significantly.

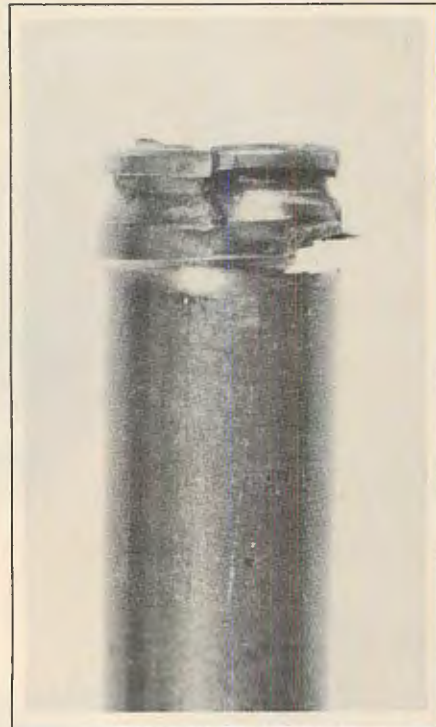
When this kind of primer protrusion is slammed by a rifle bolt, one of several things can happen: usually, the weapon jams; sometimes, the primer will either seat or distort enough for the weapon to close and fire "normally;" occasionally, the primer will fire at some point during



Cause of blowup of 5.56mm cartridge is apparent from obvious, crude removal of military crimp, apparently by woodscrew countersink. See text for details.



Ruptured 5.56mm cartridge case was nearly chambered when "high" primer fired. "Belt" at rear marks unsupported area.



Closeup side view of ruptured 5.56mm cartridge case. Rupture occurred at nearly full pressures, judging from distortion of case.

the chambering and locking cycle. When the latter happens and locking has not occurred, the case will be partly unsupported and will rupture. In some weapons, the escaping gas can wreck the gun. Sometimes, the rupture occurs early in the cycle. When this happens, the bullet will stick in the bore, often undetected until a "healthy" round is chambered and fired. The least that occurs as a result is a ringed barrel; often, the weapon is badly damaged.

Taylor was fortunate: only the magazine was wrecked. However, his lesson is one from which everyone can profit. When buying ammo, inspect it to be sure of what you're getting. Crude reloads can be slipped into stripper clips of issue rounds and may go undetected. Hopefully, it will not take an accident to bring it to your attention.

Accidents Don't Have To Happen

Reloaded ammo can be worth buying. Bad reloads are poison. Good reloads will show signs of care in manufacture: the primers will all be seated flush or slightly below the caseheads; the cases will be sized to minimum dimensions, preferably in an RCBS "Small Base" or "Ultra Small Base" full-length resizing die. The cases will be free of crust and crud, dents, cracks and serious scratches. In particular, the cases will feel clean and dry to the touch — an oily or greasy feel is grounds for rejecting the reload.

cluding full-metal jacket patterns, are offered by most of the reliable bullet firms and these, particularly, should be chosen.

cluding full-metal jacket patterns, are offered by most of the reliable bullet firms and these, particularly, should be chosen.

Know Your Ammo

Nothing has ever taken the place of knowing what you are doing — and what you are doing it with. The only sure key to avoiding an accident like Taylor's is to trust no one when it comes to buying or making ammo — whether it is your own or someone else's. Inspect it before shooting. At 1,000 rpm, you can't afford an accident.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gene Crum is a contributing editor for *Gun Week* newspaper and co-chairman of the Illinois State Rifle Association Legislative Committee. A freelance journalist, Crum calls himself a semi-retired adventurer. His main emphasis since the '50s has been the gun issue. His SOF articles include "Future of Civilian Gun Ownership in The U.S." (Fall '76), "U.S. Gun Ban" (September '77) and "NRA Shakeup" (November '77). —M.L. Jones





**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
AIRBORNE**



82nd's "Whiskys"
Make The Jump

Text and Photos by Marv Wolf

WHEN they open the door — that's when you really feel the fear. You hear the engines and the wind whipping by at 130 mph and it's so loud, incredibly loud. It just fills the plane. You can't hear anything else, and it's scary. Your stomach gets real tight, and you think to yourself, 'I just can't do it.' But it's too late.

"The green light comes on and everybody starts shuffling forward and you're really scared now, but you keep going. And then you just step out and you're falling. It's only about four seconds but it seems like forever. Then you feel the 'chute; you arch your back and look up and there it is, perfect, open. There's this wonderful feeling while you float down — you feel 10 feet tall. You feel invincible. From there it's a piece of cake.

"Just before you're on the ground there's a little fear again, but not like in the plane. When you're down you feel wonderful. You run off the DZ knowing you can do anything in the world," says Capt. van Seventer, one of 16,000 paratroopers in the U.S. Army's 82nd "All-American" Airborne Division.

But van Seventer is not your typical, six-foot, 180 pounds of hard-drinking, foul-mouthed, romping, stomping Airborne hellraiser. *She's 25, about five feet five inches, 115 pounds of Boston-bred, Stanford and Georgetown University Law School-educated lady.* And she's one of about 100 female paratroopers that have in the last year quietly joined the Army's most elite division. When she isn't jumping out of airplanes, van Seventer holds office hours in the legal-aid section of the 82nd's staff judge advocate's office. Like the other women in the 82nd, she's in a fighting outfit — but doesn't plan on seeing combat, even if the division were to deploy to a war zone.

"We'd never put women into a hot DZ," explains Col. Ralph J. Hallada, the 82nd's chief of staff. "They'll come later, jump if they have to, but probably be airlanded."

To Fight or Not to Fight

There are some 221 slots earmarked for women in the division, Hallada explains, which will be filled as quickly as women to fill them qualify as airborne troopers. The 221 slots are the result of a compromise worked out with Department of the Army two years ago. The Pentagon told the division they would have to add some women to their ranks. The 82nd didn't want any women in its all-male ranks.

"*We're a fighting division,*" explains Hallada. "*Before we're clerks or mechanics or cooks, we're all paratroopers. We'd like to think we're all teeth and no tail. Every woman we take just adds to the tail. Our mission is to be prepared to go anywhere, arrive, fight and win.*"



TOP: Capt. van Seventer sits behind desk in legal-aid section of 82nd's staff judge advocate's office when she's not jumping out of airplanes. BOTTOM: 2nd Lt. Patty Dooley, jump-school honor graduate and 82nd Signal Battalion platoon leader, checks out jeep.



Airborne Whisky at "tail end" of PLF (Parachute Landing Fall) from practice jump tower.



U.S. statutes prohibit women from serving in combat jobs. But despite Hallada's teeth-and-tail notions, there are jobs that don't automatically lead to combat. None of the 221 carefully selected slots is likely to place its female occupant in the thick of battle. The law aside, no one in the division has any desire to put women into fighting units.

"They'd never last," says a veteran of both Korea and Vietnam. "They just don't have the physical strength that combat requires."

Why Bother at All?

If women aren't permitted in combat
40 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

units, and if men don't think they'd be effective there, why are there 221 slots for them in the Army's most combat-ready division? Why bother at all? The answer lies in two areas. First is the numbers game the Volunteer Army is forced to play. A decade ago all female soldiers were in the Women's Army Corps, a WWII holdover. The jobs they were trained for were limited mostly to clerical and medical MOSs, and their number never exceeded more than one percent of the total Army.

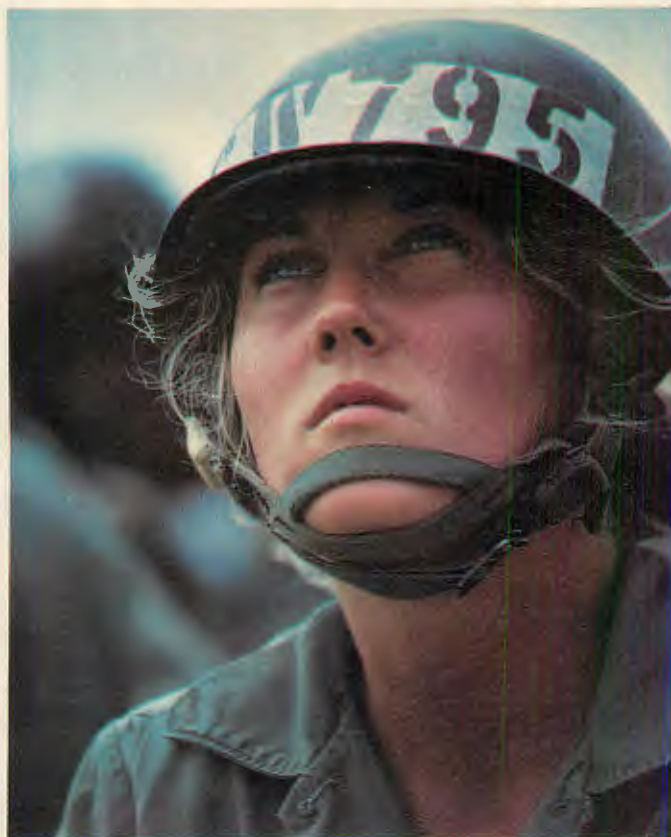
But now there is no draft and the Army, like the other services, is scrambling for every body it can get to fill its under-strength ranks. One way of filling them is

to up the number of women, which in recent months has risen to about eight percent of total Army strength. And one way to encourage more women to enlist is to open more jobs. The adventuresome are attracted to previously male-only roles, such as offered in the airborne units. Women have already demonstrated that they are capable of participating in sport parachuting — it is no great leap of faith to imagine them as military jumpers.

**"I can do anything
you can do."**

The appeal of airborne training to women has already been proven, and nearly every woman interviewed at the

JANUARY/81



82nd Airborne and at Ft. Benning, Ga., home of the Army's jump school, said she was attracted by the chance to do something different, to do something few women have done, and by the chance to show she was just as good as a man.

The other reason for including women in the airborne is the thorny question of equal opportunity and women's rights. President Jimmy Carter has gone to great lengths to demonstrate a commitment to women's rights. This has filtered down into the military.

"The Army has always been out in front on civil rights," says John Gause, Ft. Benning's deputy public affairs officer.

JANUARY/81

"The Army put blacks and whites in the same units in the '50s," he points out. "There was a lot of criticism — and a lot of problems that had to be worked out. But it wasn't until the middle of the '60s that we got around to integrating lunch counters in the South, and there are still parts of the country that have segregated schools. So if equal opportunity for women is still somewhere in the future for the whole country, the Army is at least trying, and leading the way."

The Army *is* trying. And there *are* problems. Plenty of them. They start at Ft. Benning's jump school, where women students are referred to as "Whiskys" because they have a "W" prefix to the roster

LEFT: Airborne women during physical training, doing "Whisky" pullups. **TOP:** Airborne women help each other out. **BOTTOM:** Whisky contemplates jump to come.



82nd Airborne Whisky packing parachute.



Last minute inspection before jump.





With "W" prefix attached to their roster numbers, 82nd Airborne women acquired the nickname "Whiskys."

numbers all airborne students display on their helmets. Whiskys have been coming through the program since mid-1976. One of the first was Sgt. Elizabeth Cunningham, now a ground-school instructor during the first week of the three-week training cycle. Clearly she is exceptional in at least one respect — a woman as strong as most men. She is a good example to women aspiring to become paratroopers.

The toughest part of the training is physical conditioning. Entry requirements differ for men and women. Men, for example, must demonstrate the ability to run two miles in combat boots in no more than 19 minutes and seven seconds. Women must only run one mile in 10 minutes and 4 seconds. Recognizing that men have greater upper-body strength, females do an easier, knees-on-the-ground type of pushup and pullups on a waist-high bar with their feet on the ground — easier than the conventional male pullup.

Women may find it easier to get into jump school, but they find it harder to complete. About 75 to 80 percent of all male starters eventually pin on parachute wings. Only 55 percent of the women do.

"It has to do with physical conditioning," explains Sgt. Jim Kwasniewski. "Boys play football and box and are used to getting their bodies beat on. Girls don't. Learning to jump subjects your body to a lot of bumps and bruises.

"Then there's the running. Both men and women have to run two miles every morning, just to start out. We know the women aren't going to make that — at least not many. So we run the women in a separate group, at the same distance, but at a slower pace. Even so, many can't keep up."

But if the women have a tougher time with the physical demands, they seem to be mentally stronger. Fewer quit the program outright. More are simply recycled through the ground-school portion of the training.

"Most of the men who can't make it the first time quit. The women seem more likely to stick it out, even if it means another week or two weeks in ground school," says 1st Lt. Felton McLaughlin, another ground-school instructor.

An Extra Push

While the women are less inclined to quit, they are also in need of, and get, additional training to master the various physical skills required of a paratrooper. The NCOs seem to spend more time working with individual women who can't quite master the parachute landing fall (PLF) or the 34-foot tower than they do with men.

This may be because of pressure from above to graduate as many women as possible. One airborne-school instructor — let's call him "Bud" — said that there is so much pressure put on instructors to pass women that "maybe 10 percent of those that we graduate I wouldn't want to jump with. It's not safe. I don't care much if they hurt or kill themselves, but all too often an improperly trained jumper will endanger others in the stick. And I know we're putting wings on women here that wouldn't get them if they were men."

Bud added that the pressure takes the form of verbal orders which place a great burden on instructors to justify and re-justify why each individual woman student should be washed out — a burden not present in the case of male students.

"So we let 'em slip through. We all have good jobs in the school, and we don't want to lose them. It's little things where the instructor's judgment makes the difference. Did the students make a proper exit from the door on the 34-foot tower? Do they know how to make a safe PLF on the swing-landing trainer? If the instructor keeps failing the student, and that student happens to be female, there's a lot of pressure on the instructor to pencil her in, get her through, especially if she has a critical MOS."

Another instructor, listening while Bud spoke, nodded his head vigorously in agreement.

How Much of a Push?

But the head of the Airborne Department of the Infantry School denies such occurrences. "There's a lot of interest in the Whiskys," says Col. Joseph Villa. "We do show concern about them. But we don't want anyone to graduate if they don't meet the department's standards. Maybe instructors are misconstruing interest — interpreting it as pressure. My

impression of the Whiskys is that they are very highly motivated. I think that if everybody'd just leave the women alone, we could do a better job."

Villa also points out that the difference in women's physical conditioning requirements is a Department of the Army standard. "All female soldiers take a PT test that is different from the male test. And while the male test gives a break to older men, with lesser requirements for men over 30 and again for those over 40, the women must pass their test with the same score regardless of age."

Nearly all airborne students are in their 20s, however. But what is the reason for high physical standards being required for men enrolling in jump school?

Col. Villa: "A physically conditioned soldier is less likely to be injured." It is no surprise then to learn that the injury rate among women in jump school is far higher than it is for men.

Another factor here might be equipment, which is not designed for very slight body types. For example, the chest and shoulders of most men leave ample room for the shoulder straps that crisscross the body as part of the parachute harness. But many women put on the gear to find that the width of the strap takes up the entire span between their necks and the edges of their shoulders. The result: many women are seen with bruises and abrasions on their necks, injuries that occur when the women jump from the 34-foot tower or practice on the swing-landing trainer.

It is not surprising that many of the men in jump school, both students and instructors, often seem highly protective of the women. Where a man will be jeered and given no sympathy whatsoever for a poor execution of some phase of training, this rarely happens to women. And the women themselves seem far more supportive of each other; slow learners or those not yet in physical condition are encouraged by their female classmates, not put down.

The presence of women in this dominantly male school has led to charges of sexual harassment and to charges of enticement.

Does Sex Enter In?

How many and what kind depends on whom you talk to. Off the record, instructors complain bitterly — some women students have untruthfully reported sexual harassment by instructors, specifically that some sergeant has failed a particular student because they wouldn't date him.

"If a Whisky complains about that, sometimes they'll fire the NCO without even trying to verify her story," said one instructor. But he also admitted that some women have been held back for a week because an instructor had taken an interest in her. "They figure if they can keep her around for a week, split her off from

her buddies, they might be able to score with her," said the instructor called Bud.

"That's nonsense," says Col. Villa. "We do get reports of such things from time to time, but we usually turn them over to the Inspector General so we're not investigating ourselves. Instructors are never fired without cause. And there have been incidents where it worked the other way. Many of my men are good looking. Sometimes a woman gets turned on by one. If the instructor's got any sense at all, and all of them know better, they'll just leave it alone."

Bud described an incident like the one to which Col. Villa referred. "There was one Whisky who kept falling out of the run. She's laying on her back in the grass. She was pretty, and she knew it. This sergeant comes jogging up to find out what her problem was. 'Oh Sergeant Airborne, I'd give anything to be able to get through this course,' she says, kind of moving her hips around. By this time a couple of other sergeants have come over. The first one says, 'What do you mean, Whisky?' And she moves her hips around again and kind of eyes all these men and says, 'I mean I'd *do anything*, just anything.' And the sergeant says, 'You mean *anything*?' And he kinda moves his hips around too. The girl says yes. **THEN GET YOUR ASS UP OUT OF THE GRASS AND GO CATCH YOUR PLATOON,**' says the sergeant."

The presence of women on the airborne campus also leads to some interesting changes. Sgt. Cunningham's responsibilities are not limited to duty with the other women. She works with the men as well, and the male students react to her differently than to male instructors.

Mother Strikes Again

Several men were interviewed, and all said essentially the same thing: They'd never drop out of a run as long as a female sergeant was there, and they work harder to win her approval than they would for a man.

"She's a woman," said one. "I'm not gonna let any broad run further than I can."

The "jody" songs that have been an airborne tradition for nearly 40 years have been known as much for their raunchy, macho lyrics as for their unvarying tempo, designed to match the rhythm of a group running.

"We've had to clean up our act," admits Col. Villa. Many of the songs which might embarrass women are no longer sung at all. And women have come up with their own, improvised variations — all of which seem to be on the same theme: "We can do anything men can."

An instructor chuckled over a story making the rounds. "Two privates, man and wife, came through the previous cycle. In the second week the man quit. When he got home that night his wife had

thrown his clothes on the porch and locked him out. 'Wasn't gonna stay married to no leg,' she said."

Reasons women offer for wanting to go airborne seem as varied as the women themselves. Pvt. Brenda Duran, 17, is an elfin figure, just over five feet tall, weighing less than 100 pounds. She was a high-school track star back home in a tiny town near Taos, N.M. She will go to riggers' school after airborne training.

"I joined up and went airborne because I wanted to show that if men could do it, I could do it," she says.

Second Lt. Jane Alexith, 22, was on her way to the 32nd Signal Battalion in Germany when she went through jump school. "I'm learning a lot," she says. "For a woman, having the jump wings means you get a lot more respect from your enlisted men. And just going through the program makes me feel better about myself — it's definitely a place to develop leadership qualities. And since there's no rank in airborne school, it's a chance to find out what enlisted people are like. We're all treated pretty much the same here and you get a chance to talk to privates, find out what they think."

Pvt. Carol Bobenrieth is 19 and just out of Radioteletype Operator's School. Her reasons are typical of many of her classmates: "I like the danger; the sensation

of falling and the possibility of doing things few women ever get a chance at."

By the time a woman makes it to the 82nd Airborne she's made the required five jumps, plus a "Hollywood" jump from a helicopter at the division replacement company. But before she is truly accepted into the ultra-macho atmosphere of the division, she has a lot more to prove.

Will the Novelty Wear Off?

No longer in a training environment, the women get few breaks — one is a private bath in their room, whereas men must use a large common facility. While female officers have the privilege of arranging their own PT schedule (except for one morning a week when they run with their units), enlisted types turn out with their units.

And here the difference in physical strength shows. Some men fall out, unable to complete the four or five miles, but women seem to do so more frequently. Jogging, shuffling or struggling off after their units, women in running gear are frequently the object of cat calls, hoots or uncomplimentary remarks hurled by male passersby.

"Women are still a novelty," admits Lt. Col. John Robinson, the 82nd's Adjutant General. "They're under a lot of

Men and women of 82nd Airborne ascend practice-jump tower.



pressure. But they're doing a job. We have problems getting enough men in parachute rigging MOSs. But we get a lot of women riggers now and they make up the difference."

One 82nd woman who has had to prove herself over and over — and has — is 2nd Lt. Patty Dooley, a platoon leader in the 82nd Signal Battalion. Tall, strongly built with a cascade of red hair that unfettered would reach nearly to her knees, Dooley braids her tresses and pins them in coils atop her head. Every morning she runs nearly four miles to her unit from her apartment, then leads her platoon on another four-mile run. On occasion she'll run even further — back to her apartment.

And when she is running by herself — no matter that it's a pace few men could keep and a distance few could match — she is still the object of cat calls from the sidewalk. "The men don't see an officer out there running. What they see is a woman, and in this outfit that means they're just naturally going to give her a hard time," says Dooley.

But Dooley doesn't let it bother her. After all, she was the honor graduate of her jump-school class — the only woman accorded this honor to date. She is the daughter of a retired Army colonel, a graduate (B.S. in biochemistry) of Notre

Continued on page 76



ABOVE: 2nd Lt. Jane Alecxi pumps iron to maintain combat-ready physical condition. BELOW: Pvt. Carol Bobenreith takes a break from rigorous airborne training.



Editorial

THE WARRIOR IMAGE

by Alexander M.S. McColl



S***SOLDIER OF FORTUNE*** supports the “warrior image” and the qualities that go with it: unflinching loyalty, uncompromising integrity, physical and mental toughness and, especially, courage in the face of hostile fire and other professional hazards. There are those who see this as glorification of war, killing and violence, and an unwholesome obsession with the means of death: guns, knives, jet combat aircraft, exotic ammunition and the other items catalogued in these pages.

Of course, in most anyone’s version of the ideal and perfect world, there would be no violence, no guns, no hatred and therefore no requirement for warriors. Tell that to the survivors of Auschwitz or to the Allied soldiers who liberated them by force of arms. Tell that to the peoples of Cambodia and Afghanistan today. Our world is not ideal and perfect — and never will be — given man’s fallible and imperfect nature.

Wargame, for a moment, this scenario: you are walking with your wife and children through the forest. A hungry leopard bounds out of the brush and carries off your loudly wailing youngest daughter. You might reflect that a leopard is a beautiful, noble beast — a natural predator not morally to blame for desiring to kill and eat your child. Or that the leopard is an endangered species, protected by assorted federal statutes, international treaties and United Nations resolutions. So, with deep sensitivity to the need of the leopard and profound distaste for an act of violence, you get a good sight picture and blow the leopard away. To do otherwise is dirty, yellow cowardice and a dismal failure of loyalty to your own flesh and blood. It is not a matter of lust for violence or hatred for the leopard, but a simple matter of duty and loyalty.

U***LTIMATELY***, a soldier is a man who has taken an oath to die in place if need be to keep the hungry leopards of the world from eating your

daughters. Only those overtly or latently biased toward communism could fail to glorify the warriors who fought at Corregidor, Bastogne or Iwo Jima or vilify their sons who fought at Chu Pong Mountain, Khe Sanh and Camp Carroll.

There is not enough money anywhere to hire men to do what an infantry soldier must do in combat. While yet in the earthly body, even psychopaths and mystics fear death and mutilation. The basic motivation of the good soldier — the real warrior — is an individual, personal commitment and a loyalty that accepts hardships and hazards, even unto death, so that “this” may not perish. “This” may be something as evil as Hitler’s Third Reich, as incomprehensible to the sheltered civilian mind as the honor and glory of the regiment or as noble and necessary as survival within the secular order of Western civilization. One can — indeed one must — admire the courage, hardihood and loyalty of the Kamikaze pilots at Okinawa, the Waffen-SS in Russia or the Dong Nai Regiment in Vietnam, while actively hating their causes.

But soldiers are also made of flesh and blood, emotions and values — not marble or putty. It is very difficult to feel loyalty to — or to crank up much courage to fight for — those who ridicule the very principles of loyalty and courage and treat soldiers as psychopathic hired killers and call them other nasty names. This is why we speak up for the warrior. As the Bible sayeth:

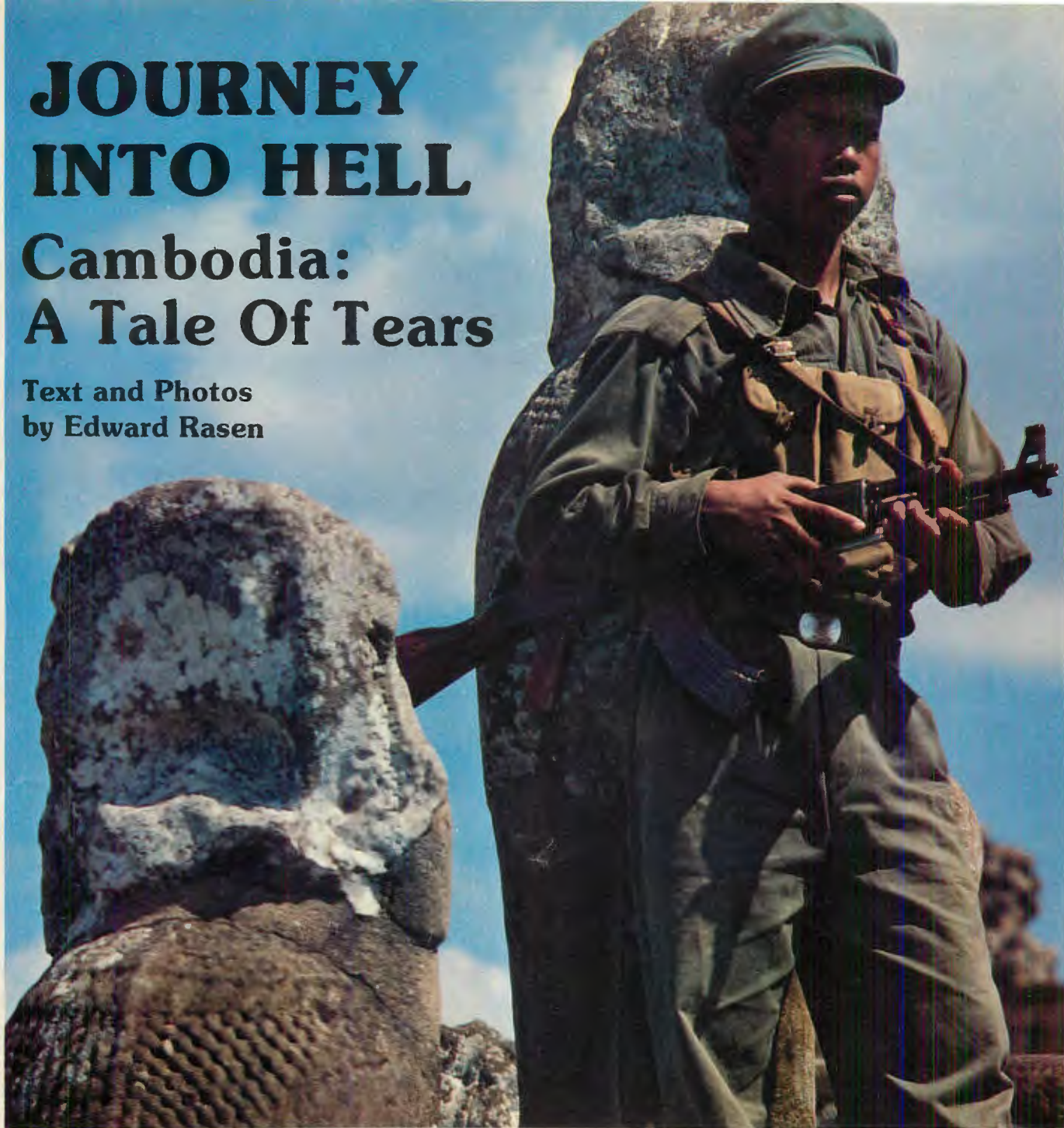
“This commandment I leave unto you, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.” — John 15:2-3



JOURNEY INTO HELL

Cambodia: A Tale Of Tears

Text and Photos
by Edward Rasen



Cambodian army soldier loyal to Heng Samrin guards Angkor Wat temples and carries Chinese Type 56 rifle. Above ammo pouches is pinned "January 7, 1979 liberation" medal — awarded to soldiers and supporters of "revolution" that toppled Pol Pot.

THE sky was a hard bright blue. Above burned a fiery circle that scorched the eye. We sat silently alongside the road, slowly sucking the hot air. I yearned for a cool shower. Partially obscured by dust, a group of oxen and cows plodded

along Cambodian National Highway 5, outdistancing a Vietnamese truck convoy. National Highway 5, the main east-west artery is, in reality, nothing more than a series of pot-holes, ox-cart trails and demolished bridges.



TOP: U.S. "Huey" helicopter, now flown by Vietnamese army pilots (former South Vietnamese army pilots trained in U.S.) over Angkor Wat temples.

BOTTOM: House in Monivong (Boulevard) district of Phnom Penh that was destroyed and looted during fighting in April 1975, when Khmer Rouge took control of city.

Beside me sat Pen Sokhun, a petite, 18-year-old girl swathed in green-checked fabric. She had worked on the road-gang for the previous seven months. Her brother, a soldier for the Heng Samrin government now ruling the People's Republic of Kampuchea (Cambodia), had

arranged the job. She considered herself lucky, especially because she was being paid the same wages — 18 kilós of rice per month — as a high-ranking cabinet minister in the government. While we talked, other workers, mostly young girls, repaired small craters with crushed rock and boiling tar. Black smoke and noxious fumes engulfed the area.

During 1975, when the pro-Russian, Vietnamese-backed Khmer Rouge guerrilla army overthrew the U.S.-backed military dictatorship led by General Lon Nol, Pen Sokhun was a secondary school student living with her family in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital.

From the mid-1800s until the fall of Prince Sihanouk in 1970, French colonialists dominated Cambodia from

Phnom Penh. Once an imperial city, it still exhibits the architectural characteristics that proclaim its former French colonial status. But today, the villas of the French quarter, once protected by high walls and iron-spiked gates, are bruised and battered.

Rusted barbed-wire barriers stretch across the roads. Skeletal frames of old buildings remind one of vicious battles. Small groups of Cambodians loot broken furniture from deserted houses. An occasional truck or car careens along a deserted street, veering around potholes and crumpled heaps of wreckage.

Haunted by tragic memories, people are slowly coming back to the capital seeking food and shelter. Almost everyone tells a tragic tale of life under



LEFT: Vietnamese Army 9th Division infantry soldier carries RPG-2 rocket-grenade launcher and PG-2 40mm rockets on road to Am Leang.

society were all regulated by the concept of "service."

"Serve the people, serve the revolution and serve Angka were the constant shouts of the cadre," said Sokhun.

"Take your destiny firmly in hand," was one of the slogans used to mobilize the workers. But blunter phrases warned: "Those who do not work, do not eat." Earth, water, people and animals were organized and incorporated into the harmonious plan of the Angka.

Communists And Kings

Long ago the kings of Angkor Wat succeeded in mobilizing their people and thereby brought their empire to the peak of its glory and power. Now the Angka, using forced labor, terror and summary executions, is attempting to duplicate their achievements.

"The methodical organization of the dormant energy in the peasant mass will increase its efficiency a hundredfold," envisioned Khieu Samphan, ideological guru of the Khmer Rouge, in his 1959 doctoral dissertation on his country's economy.

"We worked every day from early morning to late evening. There were no holidays," said Sokhun, while she loaded a small cart with crushed rock. "I slept on the ground. We were never allowed to complain. When we said we were sick, the Khmer Rouge cadre said it was our imagination." Hard work, malnutrition and disease soon caused the deaths of her parents.

In late 1978, Sokhun and her brother were sent to work at Muong, a devastated town on Highway 5 east of Battambang that served as a regional Khmer Rouge military headquarters. There she endured unending labor, wretched sanitary conditions and starvation while she helped construct ramparts. Soon, thousands of Khmer Rouge soldiers arrived by train from Phnom Penh and the provincial capital of Pursat, located approximately 60 kilometers to the east.

On 14 January 1979, Vietnamese army units advancing from Battambang entered Muong and, after vicious fighting, secured control of Highway 5. They fought their way across Cambodia on Highway 6, the northern east-west highway, then circled back on Highway 5 because the Vietnamese 9th Division had not opened the road from Phnom Penh, almost 300 kilometers to the east.

But during February and March 1979,

Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge. Very slowly, life is returning to one of Asia's once most charming cities.

The population of Phnom Penh is now more than 100,000 — up from the 9,000 who inhabited the city during the Pol Pot era, and down from the over two million during the Lon Nol regime.

On 17 April 1975, the Khmer Rouge took control of Phnom Penh and ordered the two to three million inhabitants to evacuate the city. "They told us that the United States was going to bomb Phnom Penh," said Sokhun. "The last days of April were very bad. Many rockets landed, and fires burned throughout the city. The streets were filled with refugees."

Sokhun and her family were sent to a

small village near the provincial capital of Battambang, located more than 300 kilometers to the west. There they cleared jungle and planted rice.

"Each person had to move four cubic meters of earth per day, or we did not receive any food," Sokhun explained. "At the commune, the only food they gave us was rice gruel. Meals were eaten at worksites to avoid wasting time."

To galvanize the people and stimulate their zeal for work, the cadre continually exhorted commune workers to clear more land and plant more rice, explaining, "We defeated the Americans because we produce more rice." The people were asked to devote themselves to the anonymous Angka — "The Organization." Members of the new



Young Cambodian boy in hospital at Kompong Cham, injured by grenade booby-trap left behind by Khmer Rouge.

Vietnamese 4th Army Corps units suffered heavy casualties in the Battambang, Muong and Pursat areas while trying to maintain control of Highway 5. Finally, in April 1979, leaders of the Pol Pot regime and many Khmer Rouge guerrillas retreated to the village of Tassang just 10 kilometers from the border of Thailand. Sokhun and her brother set out by foot for Phnom Penh. Two months later they reached the city's outskirts. They had nothing except the rags they were wearing and their freedom. Her brother immediately joined the government's Vietnamese-backed army.

I asked Sokhun what she would ask for if she were allowed one wish. "I would like to return to Phnom Penh and go to school again," she replied.

Even though the temperature was about 85 and rising, everyone worked at a steady, vigorous pace. Occasionally someone would say, "No work, no eat," and all the other workers would smile.

Journey to Am Leang

At a bombed and battered town 30 miles north of Phnom Penh, our car turned off Highway 5. Weaving, bumping and grinding, the old diesel-powered Mercedes-Benz eased forward at 15 miles per hour. Traveling with me was Kong Keu Kamine, an English-speaking Khmer interpreter, and Mao Phann, the Cambodian chief of security for Kompong Speu Province. We crawled past tiny villages that reeked of urine, feces and cooking rice.

Brightly dressed women doing their wash along a muddy stream provided the only touch of color besides the unbroken blue of the sky. Water buffalo wallowed in the river. A small footpath cut a straight line through the bush — the kind guerrilla soldiers might use. Young boys fishing waved at our car as it passed.

The stream represented all the water for miles. It had not rained for months. Dry ponds and riverbeds pocked the



Khmer Rouge guerrillas loyal to Pol Pot, wearing distinctive headscarves, who defected and were captured near Skoun. KR guerrillas defected as a group and traveled for almost a month through countryside avoiding Vietnamese units before surrendering. Their commander had told them they would be executed by Vietnamese and Heng Samrin forces.

LAND OF BLOOD AND TEARS

HALF dead, diseased, malnourished and wasted, Kampuchians (Cambodians) struggle to escape the genocidal Pol Pot army as it retreats from the advancing forces of the new, pro-Russian, Vietnamese-backed government.

The plight of the Khmers is still hidden from most of the world by armies battling inside their country. But in increasing numbers, skeletal victims of Kampuchea's war and famine are moving toward Thailand.

Only the hardest Khmers have reached the refugee camps in neighboring Thailand. Many drag themselves along the ground, exhausted, and often diseased beyond medical help. Others just lie down and die. Their faces are gaunt; their sunken eyes burn with the fever of cerebral malaria. Many, particularly children, limp on feet swollen from beri-beri, caused by malnutrition. Over 135,000 refugees have gathered at the Khmer 007 Mean Chey camp, four kilometers inside Kampuchea. It is the largest refugee camp in Kampuchea or Thailand, and every day another 2,000 to 3,000 Khmers arrive.

Most of the refugees at Mean Chey are from towns in western Kampuchea, and some have been traveling since April, when Vietnamese-backed guerrillas toppled the Pol Pot government. All of the refugees lost relatives during the Pol Pot (Khmer Rouge-directed) holocaust.

"All my land and property was taken by the Khmer Rouge," said Yueng Chueng, 56 years old. "They took my son away for indoctrination and I never saw him again."

A former teacher stated, "The Khmer Rouge made plowing, farming and gardening the university of higher education. If you did not work in the fields, you were not given any food."

Mean Chey has become the largest camp because the refugees get protection from the 1,000-man army of the newly formed Khmer Angkor Liberation Front.

On 29 October 1979, leaders of Khmer guerrilla units from all areas of Kampuchea and representatives of various political groups, including the new Heng Samrin government, met at Mean Chey to sign an agreement to organize and fight for a government elected by the people.

Mr. in Sakhan, commander of the 007 camp and president of the Khmer Angkor Liberation Front, said, "The Khmers will fight until death if they are not allowed to form a democratic government." Sakhan and many Khmer Angkor leaders are suspicious of the Heng Samrin government. They fear a repetition of the atrocities inflicted by the Chinese-backed Pol Pot regime.

The Khmer Angkor movement has sprung to life since the Vietnamese army pushed the remnants of the Pol Pot government to the Thai border. As the Vietnamese battle the Pol Pot troops, nationalist Khmer guerrilla units are forming. However, Sakhan acknowledges that without arms and aid from a major

Western power, the nationalist movement has no chance of toppling Heng Samrin's People's Revolutionary Council and the Vietnamese-armed Tong Song Lay guerrilla organization.

In fact, the Khmer Angkor forces, in order to conserve ammunition, had to negotiate a non-aggression pact with the hated Pol Pot forces.

Keo Anne, a 20-year-old Pol Pot soldier, was captured in a field near the mountains. He was too weak to run and his joints were swollen from beri-beri. Before the soldiers took him to the hospital, he said that the Pol Pot forces were under the command of Ta Mok, a small, thin, elderly man with white hair, infamous throughout Cambodia as the harbinger of death. Keo Anne said Ta Mok personally sent him to Phnom Krek, a nearby village, to beg for food in his name.

In early 1979, Ta Mok had organized political rallies which attracted large numbers of people, due to the extra food rations he promised those who attended. The people were taken to jungle areas surrounded by explosives and mines. After the rallies, 15,000 to 20,000 people were blown up and killed.

As we walked along a jungle trail, the Cambodian soldiers said the Pol Pot government called their country the Land of Blood and Tears. The soldiers call it the Land of the Dead. Cambodia remains a nightmare, and it will be a very long time before the situation improves.



—E.R.

landscape, along with clumps of tall, dry elephant grass and bare trees. In the sultry stillness, a little boy herded melancholy cattle across a barren rice field.

Pol Pot Horror Chamber

Thirty miles south, thick woodland guarded the ridges of the Aural mountains. The jungle foliage, watered by mountain streams, was still green. At the base of the mountains was the village of Am Leang, former Khmer Rouge stronghold, headquarters of "Angka," the Pol Pot-led political organization that ruled Cambodia from 17 April 1975 to 7 January 1979, and "revolutionary" capital of Democratic Kampuchea, as the country was called during that time.

Am Leang: never before visited by a Western journalist and only recently secured by the Heng Samrin government now ruling Cambodia. The name itself brought visions of horror — thousands of Cambodians died there during the most

radical experiment since Hitler's holocaust. A monument to a "new cultural revolution," inspired by former Chinese leader Mao Tse-Tung, a sanctuary for Saloth Sar — better known as Pol Pot — Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, the disenchanted men who planned the revolution, the village was a horror chamber for their victims.

Peasants in the Am Leang area began supporting the Khmer Rouge in 1970, following the military coup which toppled the long-standing government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

One old peasant man said that the people did it because the cadre was sympathetic and helpful. "They told us about making a new economic system. During Lon Nol, the government soldiers tried to take our rice and food as taxes when we went to the markets."

A pervasive wartime corruption of values and purpose quickly divided the people and the government that overthrew Sihanouk. As a result of the combination of corrupt administration,

oppressive absentee landlords, usury and lack of security, the peasants were brought to a point where they were ready to listen to the Khmer Rouge, who advocated violent revolutionary solutions to their plight.

In 1959, Khieu Samphan wrote that a communist-run Cambodia should "withdraw from the world economy and restructure the local economy on a self-centered basis" in order to purge the country of "decadent colonial practices." After the Khmer Rouge takeover, Angka imposed its program. But human life quickly became subservient to a radical anti-materialist revolution.

Western officials estimate that as many as three million Cambodians died after the communist takeover. At least several hundred thousand were murdered in cold blood during the "cultural revolution," which was not only inspired by China, but also supported by large amounts of Chinese military and economic aid.

Continued on page 63

ANATOMY OF A COMBAT KNIFE

SOF Interviews Experts

by B.R. Hughes

In its February '80 issue, *Soldier of Fortune* published an article on Bill Bagwell, one of the leading knifemakers of this era. Although Bagwell had been featured in other periodicals, he told me he had never experienced so much reader response from a single article.

"One thing that struck me," Bagwell explained, "was that most of the individuals who contacted me as a result of that SOF article were very serious about wanting a genuinely fine knife — one they could depend on. Another thing was that altogether too many of those same men are really not sure of what they actually need. I'm very much afraid that many of them are going to be taken by 'con' artists, and I hate to see these guys taken advantage of."

Bagwell and I got to talking. Questions we tried to answer included: 1) What is a combat knife? 2) What features are desirable on a combat knife? 3) What features are virtually useless on a combat knife? This article is a result of that rap session. We decided that a piece directed at SOF readers interested in purchasing a combat knife, yet still uncertain of what it should be, would be a service — and we were qualified to ask and answer the pertinent questions.

There was no doubt that I could ask questions about handmade and factory



B.R. Hughes pictured here on black-powder safari in Rhodesia. Photo: Darrell Crawford

knives. My first magazine article on this subject was published in 1967, and since then I have had more articles published than any other writer on the subject of knives. I have also authored or co-authored four books on this topic.

Bagwell was certainly qualified to speak on the technical aspects of cutlery. He has been a full-time knifemaker since 1971 and was the second modern American smith to successfully forge Damascus steel, regarded by many as the finest, most beautiful blade material available today. At one time Bagwell was resident knifemaker at Old Washington, Ark., where, legend tells us, a blacksmith named James Black made the original Bowie knife for James Bowie during the winter of 1830-31. Throughout his knifemaking career, Bagwell has preferred to make large fighting knives, though he has turned out his fair share of hunters and boot knives.

We both felt that we needed a third member for our panel — a man who had "been there" so to speak. It wasn't long before the name of Harry Kuhn came up, and we agreed Kuhn would be a real asset. Born in Germany, he served with Hitler's Volksturm during the closing days of WWII, was captured by the Russians and spent some time in a prisoner-of-war camp. Kuhn and two others escaped, and



Bo Randall, cutler recommended by both Bagwell and Kuhn, designed his Model 16 for those in and around water. Model has stainless blade and Micarta handle. Blade is actually slightly modified Bowie pattern. Photo: W.D. Randall

with the help of some friendly Poles, made it back to Germany. His family moved to America in 1946, and in 1953 he joined the American army.

Kuhn served with the 82nd Airborne and later with the Special Forces. Since then he has had a variety of experiences, and today he is a martial-arts instructor in New York. Kuhn has been a knife buff for years, and he has one of the most extensive collections of combat knives in the country.

The result of our round-robin discussion follows:

SOF: What general type of knife do you feel would be best suited for all-purpose combat use?

BAGWELL: A Bowie-style knife. A Bowie is, after all, a refined fighting knife. Such a knife should possess the following features: the point should be at or very near the axis of thrust, which is usually at the centerline of the handle, not the blade as is generally supposed. This gives a Bowie the ability to penetrate as well as a dagger, while providing a larger wound channel. The Bowie also has a greater slashing capability, due to its sharper single edge, and this may be more important in the real world than a dagger's supposed penetration advantage. The Bowie will be strong. In fact, a properly forged and tempered Bowie is for all intents and purposes *impossible* to break. I have shot a bullet from a .30-30 Winchester into the blade of one of my Bowies with *no* blade damage.

KUHN: If a custom knife isn't available, or if you feel you simply cannot afford one, probably your best bet is a Ka-Bar or a Navy MK II plus a good folder, such as a Buck, Gerber or Schrade.

SOF: Do you feel that other types of knives are suitable for specialized-combat purposes, and if so, what type?

KUHN: Stiletto-type daggers would be useful for behind-lines infiltration.

BAGWELL: A smaller knife of the same general Bowie pattern might be useful where a lot of gear must be carried, but I'd try to give up some of the other gear myself.

SOF: What special features do you feel are desirable for a combat knife?

BAGWELL: First, it *cannot* break. Second, it should possess excellent balance and feel as if it were an extension of your hand.

KUHN: I prefer a small guard, as overly large guards tend to hang up on clothing, web gear, brush and so on. I feel that a protruding pommel [Yawara-type] would add to its effectiveness. I also like a small sharpening stone in a pouch on my sheath.

SOF: If you'll forgive me for providing an answer to one of my own questions, I'd like to add that I consider a thong hole one of the few really functional options that is generally available. This is one "extra" I'd insist upon.

JANUARY/81

OK. Now what features sometimes found on combat knives do you feel to be generally worthless?

BAGWELL: Well, my first vote here would go to so-called "blood grooves." For god's sake, they aren't blood grooves! They're simply a styling carry-over from the Middle Ages when swords got so big and heavy that bladesmiths forged grooves in the blades to make them lighter and easier to swing. The proper name for such a groove is "fuller," so called because of the blacksmith's tool used to

Finally, I don't care for heavy butt caps. My feeling is that if the guy is close enough to knock in the head, he's close enough to cut, and the cut is more likely to be fatal than the blow. More to the point, the heavy butt cap kills the fine balance that a first-class fighting knife must have.

KUHN: Beware of hand or knuckle guards, such as those found on the 1918 trench knife. They're useless. Also, I cannot recommend any knife with a blade longer than eight inches.



Two "fighting knives" by maker Tommy Lee. Kuhn endorses their blades of 154CM. Photo: Weyer

forge it in the blade. The style has hung on, and today a fighting man often requests a "blood groove" in a custom knife which isn't that at all. The groove costs more money and, more important, it actually weakens the blade.

I'd also give a classification of worthless to the saw teeth you find on many blades. Really, how many of these have you seen that work properly?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

B.R. "Bill" Hughes outlines his knifecraft expertise at the beginning of this interview with Bill Bagwell and Harry Kuhn. He is also a gun writer, whose article on the first Texarkana bowling-pin match — sponsored by SOF — appeared in our September '79 issue.

Hughes is also a muzzleloading enthusiast and edited *Muzzleloader* magazine for several years. In 1976, he participated in the first modern black-powder hunt permitted by the Rhodesian game department. He has also taught journalism at the college level.

—M.L. Jones

SOF: What blade material do you favor for combat knives?

BAGWELL: Well, you know I'm a smith, as opposed to a person who simply takes a bar of steel fresh from the mill and grinds a blade from it. My knives are forged, and I use this system because I sincerely believe it results in a better blade. It should be obvious that it is more difficult and exhausting to forge than to grind. Certainly, if I were convinced that I could produce a blade of equal quality without spending those hours at a hot forge, I'd do it.

There is no other blade material that can equal good Damascus steel, *but* there are only a few of us who can offer such blades. They are expensive, and the waiting time may be lengthy. I would therefore say a properly forged blade, non-Damascus, would be the most practical for most customers. I use 1040 steel, and after I have used a process which I call "double-extra forging" on it, it is better than anything available except Damascus.

KUHN: If you are in damp areas, particularly where there is a lot of salt, you might want to consider a blade ground

from 154CM. D2 is also a good blade material. Here, I'm speaking only of non-forged blades. Many people prefer them.

SOF: Readers should be aware that while there are more than 400 men making and selling custom knives in this country today, there are probably no more than 20 genuinely first-class smiths. Probably 90 percent of the knives that you see at big gun shows are ground, not forged. Many of them are very, very good.

What handle material would you recommend?

BAGWELL: A good, tough wood. The synthetics can be both slippery and cold. I have seen knives dating back to the 1870s that have wooden handles which are still intact and serviceable.

KUHN: I like wood. Osage orange has performed well for me. The new dark Micartas may be more practical, however, because they can really take a beating.

SOF: Here's a tough one for you, Bill. If you couldn't get a Bagwell knife, what would you buy if you had need of a combat knife?

BAGWELL: There are several smiths doing superlative work today. If I couldn't have one of my own knives, I'd look for a knife made by either R.H. Ruana, Howard Fauchaux, Jim Schmidt, Bill Moran or Bo Randall. Because of the orders they already have on hand, it would probably be tough to obtain a Moran, a Schmidt or a Fauchaux. You'd have to wait five years or more, although they might give a slight break to a serviceman who has a real need for a good knife *muy pronto!* On the other hand, Ruana and Randall can deliver a knife pretty quickly.

SOF: Harry, would you like to add anything to Bill's answer?

KUHN: Not really. A Randall Model 1 or Model 14 would be hard to beat.

SOF: Harry, earlier you said you felt that a blade longer than eight inches was almost useless. What blade length would you actually recommend for a combat knife?

KUHN: Depending on the size of the individual, between six and eight inches.

SOF: Bill, do you have any thoughts on that subject?

BAGWELL: I certainly do. I like reach, but not at the expense of speed. I have found 7½ inches or so about right for most men, and I agree with Harry that eight inches is the practical limit.

SOF: Occasionally one encounters a combat knife with a hollow butt and a screw-on cap. Would you recommend this feature?

KUHN: I've seen some with stainless-steel handles that were very slippery. You could solve this by wrapping the handle with leather or fishing line. I don't think it's a bad idea.

BAGWELL: You always give up something to get something. The strength and balance of a hollow-handled knife are



Harry Kuhn, former member of 82nd Airborne and Special Forces, now teaches mas oyama karate and is a noted collector of fighting knives. Photo: Harry Kuhn



Knifemaker Bill Bagwell in front of his display at gun show. Bagwell has been full-time cutler since 1971 and was second American smith of modern times to successfully forge Damascus steel. Photo: B.R. Hughes

not equal to a standard model. On the other hand, this provides a handy place for medication, water purification tablets, fishhooks and so forth. I wouldn't want one of those gadgets on my combat knife, but it does have some merit.

SOF: Let's assume that some of our readers are now convinced that they need a good, functional, handmade combat knife. What assistance would you give them in making a final decision as to the type and make?

KUHN: Well, look at as many knives as you can. Read as much on the subject as possible. Bill Hughes and Sid Latham are both good authors on this topic. When you find the maker you like, tell him your needs, including the purposes for which you are buying the knife. For heaven's sake, don't tell him how to make the knife. Ninety-five percent of the time you'll come out ahead if you trust the knifemaker. They are fantastic people.

BAGWELL: Most people don't realize this, but I can talk to a man on the phone for 10 minutes, find out his height, his weight and his glove size, ask a few questions, and then make him a knife that suits him perfectly.

If he sends a drawing of a knife, and I make him that knife, he often gets something that is ugly, doesn't suit him, doesn't suit me and feels like a lead weight. I make knives for a living, and I've gotten to the point over the years where I realize that what a man says he wants in a letter and what he really has in mind are not one and the same thing. That's why I like to talk to my customers, even if it's only on the telephone.

Again, let me say this. A dagger is inherently a weak design, and a fighting man will be better served by another blade pattern.

That concluded our formal discussion. To sum up, our two authorities seem to agree that a good combat knife should be tough, have a forged blade approximately 7 to 7½ inches in length and a handle made of either Micarta or hardwood. The handle should have a thong hole, but otherwise it should be without frills.

SOF readers who learn from the above advice will be saved disappointment, not to mention a chunk of dough. Come to think of it, our discussion just may save a few lives.



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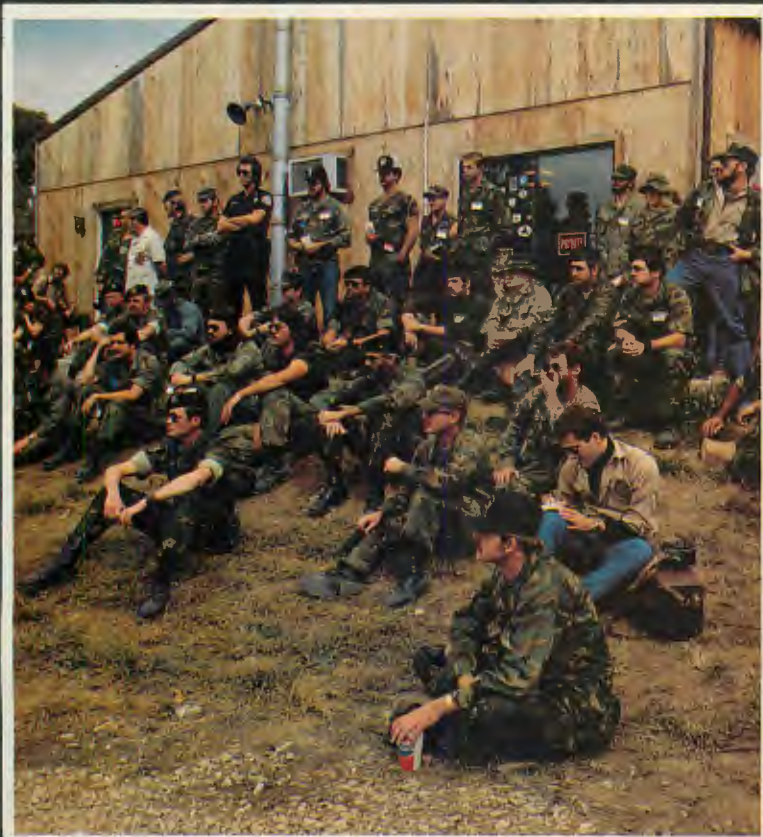


WERE YOU THERE?

We were and had a blast. Look for full coverage of the 1st Annual SOF Convention in next month's issue.



Photos by Cynthia E.D. Kite



A BREED APART

Resizing The Rhodesian Ridgeback

Text and Photos by N.E. MacDougald



MARCH 21st was a fine Friday in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, last year. The elections were over and people were beginning to relax a little — but not 30-year-old Charles Anderson Cox. He was liquidating his assets and moving to Southern Africa.

Cox was preoccupied with moving. His estate was remarkable: swimming pool, kennel, stable and landscaping were subtly breathtaking. To duplicate it in the States would cost close to \$500,000, yet Cox sold it for just over \$100,000. It broke his and his wife's hearts. But after having served in the Rhodesian armed forces, Cox couldn't bear to stay in a communist country — no matter what the sacrifice.

So he sold his house, his cars and his horse, but, at the last minute, he couldn't sell — or give away — his eight Ridgebacks. He loved them too much. And after spending a day with them, I understood why.

Cox, an American by birth, moved to Africa about five years ago and settled in what was then Rhodesia. He founded an

art gallery in the capital city and did very well for himself. He bought a spacious home on six wooded acres and began breeding lion dogs — otherwise known as Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

The only problem was his dogs didn't fare well at local dog shows. Seems his highly bred canines were too large to win ribbons in competition. Rather than succumb to others' conceptions of what size a lion hunter should be, he and an associate began breeding still larger dogs.

When I questioned him about his dogs, he explained how the breed began:

"It originated from a ridged dog the early Afrikaaners discovered when they came to the cape. This Hottentot hunting dog is one of two ridged breeds in the world — the other originated in China. The Afrikaaners crossed this Hottentot hunter with an unknown large European breed. Breeders like Von Royen built upon this foundation and finally developed what is now known as the Ridgeback.

"Earlier Rhodesian Ridgebacks were magnificent animals, while today's are glorified Pomeranians, standing no more





LEFT: Hilda.
CENTER and RIGHT: Funny.
Rhodesian Ridgebacks are named for the short, yellowish-tan hair that forms a ridge on their backs.

than 26 inches at the shoulder. Years ago, if a lion was badly wounded during a hunt, these dogs would go in and finish it. To do this, the dogs had to be ferocious. Earlier lion dogs were longer-haired than today's version — this was partial protection against being bitten."

Cox explained that earlier Ridgebacks were not only taller, but more powerfully built. Today, most registered males weigh about 80 pounds, while females average 70 pounds. He claimed that early Rhodesian champions often approached 140 pounds.

"The present standard," sniffed Cox, "is a maximum of 27 inches at the shoulder for males and 26 inches for bitches. Courtney Ferguson and I have been trying for years to breed an animal more like the original breed. That is, double the present weight.

"Long-time Rhodesian residents recall massive Ridgebacks from their childhood. My wife's uncle tells of watching a large Ridgeback jump, catch a horse by the nose and bring it to the ground."

Cox recalled visiting a rancher who owned a particularly tough Ridgeback. He estimates he and the rancher had driven five miles from the ranch house when the man let the dog out for a run. Cox claimed the dog — 28 inches at the shoulder — averaged over 25 mph throughout the trip home.

"A Ridgeback is noted for its deep chest, and actually uses it for knocking down quarry," explained Ferguson. "We have a lioness that we got to deter terrorists. I've seen Funny knock this animal over with his chest while airborne. It's an incredible sight."

Cox surprised me by telling me that Ridgebacks make reasonably good bird dogs too.

"It takes some patience to show them what you want, but once you've shown them, they'll find birds for you."

I shook my head in admiration. Cox and his Ridgebacks are a winning combination.



Diary of A Marine Raider

THE CREAM OF THE CORPS

by Arthur D. Gardner

Foreward by Jim Graves



LEGEND surrounded Carlson's Raiders as soon as traditionalist superiors reluctantly permitted Evans F. Carlson to form the Second Raider Battalion on 5 February 1942.

There was a dire need for heroes and legends then, as the United States staggered in defeat — its fleet destroyed and on the bottom of Pearl Harbor, its armies fleeing all over the Pacific from the seemingly invincible Japanese.

In Carlson, America found a man with the right combination of experience, political influence and determination to make a legend spring to life.

Carlson, a former Army officer who joined the Marine Corps in the 1930s, had considerable political pull through his friendship with Capt. Jimmy Roosevelt, the son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. That enabled him to get his unit formed, despite considerable

resistance from more conservative superiors within the Marine Corps.

When Japan invaded China in 1936, Carlson was sent there as an observer. He spent a considerable portion of his time in the Orient with the Chinese Communist 8th Route Army, and lessons he learned from it proved invaluable when the U.S. finally took the offensive against Japan.

In China, Carlson learned that a key to the Japanese army's success was its skill in flanking and infiltration tactics. But he also perceived that the flanking and infiltration teams were but lightly armed. Furthermore, by overemphasizing those tactics, they weakened their own flank and rear security — making them vulnerable to attack.

Carlson felt the way to beat the Japanese was to outflank and hit them from behind — with superior firepower. His plan was to send small units of highly

motivated, well-armed and tough men against the Japanese in commando-type operations.

His first requirement was the right kind of Marines. Carlson issued a call for volunteers and 3,000 men signed up for interviews with him and his Executive Officer, Roosevelt.

Carlson told Roosevelt: "I won't take a man who doesn't give a damn about anything." Carlson stressed that point, because in China he learned that men intellectually committed to the war — men who believed in it — made better soldiers than those who were either indifferent or suicidal.

Thus the questions asked of prospective Raiders confused them. They ranged from: "What do you think of America? Why do you hate militarism? Do you think we ought to exterminate the Japs? Why do you want to join the Raiders?"

What's the war about? What're we fighting for?" to "Can you march 50 miles in a day? Can you cut a man's throat without hesitation?"

Arthur Gardner, author of the "Diary of a Marine Raider," says he was at first leery of volunteering for the unit, as scuttlebutt at San Diego held that only "Super Marines" need apply. "Well, I knew some of the men who were volunteering, and I knew they were no better than I was," said Gardner. "Most of them had been in the Marines a little longer (Gardner had just finished recruit training), but I knew they couldn't be that much better and I wasn't about to admit they were until it was proven."

The legend still passed around today over Marine campfires is that the original Raiders were all big, mean and freed from the brig to form the unit. The truth is that a few did come from the brig, but most came straight from the graduating recruit classes in February 1942 — young men from farms, cities and small towns of America.

Of the 3,000 volunteers, Carlson found 2,000 acceptable. But the Table of Organization (TO) permitted him to keep fewer than 1,000. That problem was solved by intense training with special emphasis on hand-to-hand combat, jungle warfare and hit-and-run raid tactics like those used by the British Commandos.

"Sometime toward the last of April 1942, Maj. Carlson gave us a bruising test to weed out the undedicated and the glory-seekers," explains Gardner. "After training unusually hard one day, we returned to our cook fires and pup tents at dark. After cooking rice in our canteen cups and browning some bacon ... we prepared to get some sleep as we were all on the point of exhaustion.

"But the word passed to fall out with full combat gear and we started a forced march that lasted until sunrise the next morning. Raiders straggled in all day since many had fallen by the road in utter exhaustion.

"Next morning Maj. Carlson told us that anyone who wanted to get out of the outfit was free to do so, and at least 200 took advantage of the offer."

That solved one of the TO problems. Another was solved because Carlson was a determined type, not likely to quit when told "No" by higher authority.

At that time, a Marine squad consisted of 10 men: a squad leader and nine riflemen, eight armed with M1 semiautomatic rifles and one with a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).

Carlson and his staff decided that rather than the large, difficult to maneuver 10-man squads, they wanted smaller units armed with more automatic weapons.

Carlson's concept was to break the squad up into fire groups, or fire teams, of three men—one to carry a BAR, one a



Sgt. Maj. Vuzu holds head of Japanese soldier killed at Guadalcanal. Natives frequently decapitated Japanese soldiers after Raiders killed them. Vuzu, a member of police prior to Japanese invasion, was made honorary Sgt. Maj. by the USMC for his assistance in the Guadalcanal campaign. He warned Marines of impending Japanese counterattack and was instrumental in getting other islanders to serve as scouts, guides and bearers. In July 1979 Sgt. Maj. Vuzu became Sir Sgt. Maj. Vuzu when knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his wartime service to the allies. Photo: Arthur D. Gardner

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Arthur D. Gardner enlisted in the U.S. Marines shortly after the onset of World War II. He was accepted as a member of Carlson's Second Marine Raider Battalion and sent for intensive training near San Diego; Calif. On 9 May 1942 the Raiders shipped out for further training at Oahu, Hawaii. At the end of that month they were sent to Midway and in November to Guadalcanal.

Gardner declares, "I carried a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) the entire time I was in the Raiders. It was a beautiful weapon and I would not have traded it for any other available at that time. It weighed 18 pounds and each 20-round clip weighed one pound. I always tried to keep my ammo supply at 30 clips, which I carried in bandoleers slung across my shoulders."

After action with the Raiders, Cpl. Gardner returned to the States on leave. He went back overseas in September 1944 and saw action in the Okinawa campaign the following spring. At the end of the war, he was sent to Tientsin, China, where he spent the remainder of his enlistment. He returned to the U.S. in February 1946.

—M.L. Jones

Thompson .45 caliber submachine gun with a fifty-round drum magazine and one an M1. Since the fire groups could operate independently of each other, Carlson proposed that the fire-group leaders should receive promotions in proportion to their increased responsibilities.

When Carlson's organizational proposal worked its way up to higher headquarters, the traditionalists balked again. Carlson, being a dogged sort, rewrote his proposal once more. The second time around, approval came down for him to organize his troops in any manner he wished within his battalion strength limit. He also received permission to issue the automatic weapons, provided supply could produce them. (Carlson's basic concept of fire groups was later adopted by the entire Marine Corps.) It evolved into a four-man team — fire-team leader, a corporal; rifleman, BARman and assistant BARman, privates or PFCs. All but the BARmen carried M1s.

Another Carlson innovation carried on today is the use of the Chinese expression "Gung Ho."

At some of the first training sessions in California, Carlson stunned his men — enlisted and officers — by telling them that the traditional rules under which Marines operated would not apply in the Raiders. Officers were to give up many of the privileges they were accustomed to and there would be periodic meetings where the men would sit and discuss training, America, democracy, militarism and other non-combat-related subjects.

Carlson called these sessions "ethical indoctrination." The purpose was to unify the men in pursuit of a common goal, understood by all.

"The Chinese have two words which mean 'working together,'" Carlson said. "'Gung,' meaning work and 'Ho,' meaning harmony. Gung Ho! Work Together!"

Carlson's Raiders trained in Hawaii until August 1942, when they were sent on a diversionary raid deep into the Central Pacific at Makin Island to draw off Japanese reinforcements against the 1st Marine Division landing at Guadalcanal and Tulagi.

Makin, some 2,000 miles from Pearl Harbor, is in the Gilberts. Plans called for 221 Raiders to travel by submarine and launch the attack from rubber boats. The raid produced mixed results — the Raiders killed 83 Japanese and lost 30 men from their own ranks. The Marines considered Makin less than a success due to problems with the rubber boats and the motors that came with them. Some men could not get through the heavy surf and back to the subs. Nine men left behind and captured were beheaded by the Japanese on 16 October. However, that news was kept from the American public and Makin, which was the first victory on land scored by the Americans during



World War II, captured public imagination.

Gardner didn't make the Makin Island raid, but when the Raiders went to Guadalcanal, and later Bougainville, and cemented their legend, he was in the thick of it.

On Guadalcanal, the Raiders, aided and assisted by the ferocious, canabalistic Solomon Islanders, pulled off one of the more incredible exploits of the war. In one month they moved 150 miles behind Japanese lines, fought the enemy daily, killed more than 700 at the loss of only 17 Raiders killed and 17 wounded, and destroyed a Japanese artillery piece named "Pistol Pete" which had made life hell on Henderson Field for the 1st Marine Division.

Gardner served with the unit from start to finish and his terse, accurate and moving diary helps explain why the Raiders became a legend in their own time — and remain so today.

For whenever Marines gather in their slopchutes, over canteen cups of coffee in the boondocks or barracks-room bull sessions, survivors of the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon Landing, Chosen Reservoir, Khe Sahn, the Rockpile and the Arizona Territory will elaborate and enlarge their own exploits — yet, inevitably, someone will say "but how about them Raiders? They were really tough."

Nov. 8: Arrived at Guadalcanal about daybreak and were unloaded before noon. Some of us are on outposts along the river. There are crocodiles in this river.

Nov. 9: Loaded us in tank lighters and moved several miles up the coast. Set up a command-post bivouac. We have about 50 native guides with us to carry supplies and extra ammunition.

Nov. 10: Started out about 0700 and advanced about 10 miles. Rugged going. We had to ford three rivers: the Bevande, Tine and Balesuma. Set up a new bivouac here. We now have about 200 natives with us.

Nov. 12: Moved forward at daylight. The Japs had moved out during the night. We lost five men yesterday and buried them where they fell.

Nov. 13: We followed the Japs to the next river, the Asa Mona, and attacked them on both flanks. They are dug in so we dropped back and called for 7th Marines' artillery to soften them up.

Nov. 14: Lost five more men yesterday. We escorted about 100 natives to the beach for more needed supplies — especially ammunition.

TOP: Bearded, muddy Marine Raiders trudge down trail from front after three weeks of fighting on Bougainville. BOTTOM: Marine Raiders return fire on snipers on Bougainville. Snipers were trying to knock out Raiders who had captured and turned on Japanese their own 37mm field piece. Photos: USMC

Nov. 15: Rested all day. Dug wild potatoes, gathered red peppers, killed two tree lizards and made a stew. The lizards are green, about a foot long, and the meat is something like white meat from chicken, if you have a good imagination. Had a Gung-Ho meeting. We are going into the interior to harass the Japanese in every way we can. We will take no prisoners under any circumstances. Any Raider caught stealing from another Raider will be executed without exception.

Nov. 16: Moved our base about three miles. Ran into occasional scattered Japs separated from their companies. Killed several of them. Lots of dead Japs lying around. We are bivouacked in a native village.

Nov. 17: On combat patrol. Lots of dead Japs; some knocked out by artillery. I found one alive but wounded and I shot him. He watched me with his eyes all the while. We ran into a bunch of cattle and shot eight of them. We had to send a runner back to the command post for natives to pack it in.

Nov. 18: We escorted a group of natives to the beach where the 7th Marines are based and brought back rice, tea, hardtack and ammunition.

Nov. 19: Carlson told our doctors to survey everyone not in A-1 condition. About 70 weeded out today.

Nov. 20: Guarding the supplies here now. We have outposts in trees all day and listening posts all night. Mosquitoes are terrible here. Impossible to sleep.

Nov. 21: Company headquarters joined us and set up their TBX so now we have communication. They sent about 50 natives to pack supplies so we can move out but that isn't enough for what we have to pack, so we are waiting for further word.

Nov. 22: More natives showed up and we moved about four miles to the next river, the Toni. Set up bivouac.

Nov. 23: Moved about nine miles and made a new bivouac. Very rugged here with thick brush, vines, thorn stringers that we call "wait-a-minute vines" and a thick overhead that prevents the sun from ever getting to the floor. There is a small creek nearby.

Nov. 24: Had a combat patrol about six miles up the river. We were on the alert for Japs but didn't contact any. However, found lots of fresh sign and also one well-used trail that they have been using.

Nov. 25: On alert but rested some. About 40 men surveyed out and sent back to the beach.

Nov. 26: The doctors spend all day examining Marines to determine how good a shape they are in. Only the best can stay. Fifty or 60 were sent back today. One of our jobs in the interior will be to locate a 75mm gun the Japs have there and put it out of action. They have been shelling Henderson Field with it.

Nov. 27: Moved up the river straight inland for about nine miles. Sent out native

scouts and there are several thousand Japanese close by. Can't build fires so we don't eat tonight.

Nov. 28: Went on combat patrol up an ungodly steep hill and located the East-West Trail on top of the ridge. Found where they had the 75mm set up but they have moved it. Ran into several Japs who were startled to see us. I killed two and believe we killed about a dozen altogether.

"We have Japs on all sides of us now."

Nov. 29: We are down to about 136 men and honed to what you might call a razor's edge. We moved about two miles further upstream. We have Japs on all sides of us now and are moving with utmost caution.

Nov. 30: We crossed a ridge so steep we used ropes to get over the top. Found the 75mm we have been looking for and also two 37mm guns and destroyed all three. We crossed the East-West Trail, dropped into the upper Lunga River and ran into several hundred Japs. It started to rain and came down in bucketfuls. We killed 40 or 50 Japs and the rest escaped across the river. Finally quit raining about dark and we are bivouacked on a small stream. We decided to build fires and take our chances.

Dec. 1: Discovered this morning that we camped about 70 yards from a battalion of Japs all night. We surprised them at daylight and completely disorganized them. We killed at least 200 and the rest escaped across the river and into the jungle. Blackie was killed by a Jap sniper. We buried him here in this place. We made a cross for his head and covered it with tin from hardtack containers. Planes came over and dropped us bags of rice and some five-gallon tins of hardtack. They were so low the chutes didn't have time to open and we were out on our hands and knees picking up rice a grain at a time. The hardtack was not much more than crumbs.

Dec. 2: We formed a guard unit and accompanied our doctors while they made an inspection of Japanese medicines and supplies. Jap bodies are stinking really bad now. We buried two that were close to our sleeping area. Rain came down like a waterfall all afternoon.

Dec. 3: We moved about two miles down the river and split into two groups. Some continued on down the Lunga River toward the beach and the rest of us climbed a Japanese trail up a steep ridge. Near the top we ran into two Jap machine-gun nests and a number of Jap snipers and riflemen. Took us 1½ hours to wipe them out. By then it was dark. Someone came around asking for water for the wounded but no one has any.

Dec. 4: Camped last night without grub, fires or water. Moved out this morning and over the first ridge contacted a large number of Japs dug in on a fringe of jungle overlooking a grassy plain. They surprised us when they first opened fire, but we deployed and out-maneuvered them and killed them all in about three hours. We lost three men last night and three more this morning besides wounded. Lt. Miller died today.

Dec. 5: We marched 27 miles yesterday. We haven't eaten or had water for two days. We marched clear across Henderson Field. It is bigger than I had realized. Adams had a hand grenade in his back pocket and the pin worked out and it exploded you know where. He was hurt pretty bad. The natives built another stretcher and packed him along with our other wounded. Goodbye, Guadalcanal.

Carlson Takes His Battalion AWOL

After the Guadalcanal operation we returned to our base at Espirito Santo where we were given the opportunity to rest and where we spent Christmas that year. Col. Carlson was determined that we should have some rest and relaxation and

Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson (center) washes his feet and changes socks while two Raiders stand guard on upper Lunga River. Photo: Arthur D. Gardner



3 February 1943 we boarded the U.S.S. *Henry T. Allen*, an old President Liner. We docked at Wellington, New Zealand, on 9 February, and after eight glorious days we reboarded another ship, the U.S.S. *Clymer*, and returned to Espirito Santo. This maneuver was frowned upon by Carlson's superior officers as he had taken us there without permission — indeed, against orders. He was relieved of his command and returned to the States where he was described as a "Marine Corps Adviser." Later he was severely wounded on Saipan but he survived his wounds.

Our new commanding officer was Col. Alan Shapley, a spit-and-polish Marine with a brilliant record and decorations for bravery during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. We had lost our colonel, but his memory remained with us and we actually felt saddened and bereaved. By this time the tempo of the war had changed and the United States was now on the offensive in the South Pacific. No longer were hit-and-run raids of any purpose. Now it was hit-and-stay and our training was modified accordingly.

Our base was moved to Noumea, New Caledonia, and replacements began to swell our ranks until we were back to battalion strength. Training and maneuvers occupied most of our time night and day. Beachhead assaults were emphasized and we spent weeks practicing them. By late October we were aboard ship bound for our next operation, which turned out to be Bougainville. As on Guadalcanal, I kept a daily diary and the first entry is dated 1 November 1943.

Nov. 1: Our destroyers opened up on Jap positions on Bougainville about 0500. About 0730 we hit the beach against moderate opposition. Our casualties were light, but Lt. Col. McCaffery, our executive officer, was killed as well as a few dozen others.

Nov. 2: Rained a lot last night. We dug fox holes and just waited for daylight. Our ships off shore shelled Jap positions all night. The Japs infiltrated our lines and threw hand grenades. Lots of rifle fire last night and all day today. We moved up and formed a front line. Jap planes were over twice today.

Nov. 3: We relieved the 3rd Raiders on the roadblock which the Japs have been hitting without letup. Our artillery opened up on the Japs about 0800. We received word that a large number of Japanese were in a native village and we took a combat patrol in there and killed most of them.

Nov. 4: Bad night. Some of the Marines on the line got scared and threw hand grenades all night. There were no Japs where they were throwing the grenades. It rained all day and now the water is standing eight inches deep everywhere.

Nov. 5: They moved us back toward the beach in the evening and they fed us spuds and corned willie. Cats and tractors are

bogged down in this mud everywhere you look. Mud is one foot to four feet deep everywhere.

Nov. 6: About 3,000 Marines came in this morning in LSTs. Went on a combat patrol and we killed quite a few Japs. Lt. Hatt was walking along a trail with thick brush on either side when a Jap jumped out and cut his throat. We were so startled we didn't get a shot at him. Lt. Hatt died.

Nov. 7: Jap planes bombed us most of the night. Two Marines were killed near us. Japs landed three or four barges of fresh troops and they hit our roadblock today. They hit us hard but we held them back. Quite a few wounded—mostly face and legs. More rain and more rain.

Nov. 8: Jap planes bombed us all day. Heavy fighting on the line and it was all we could do to hold them back. Fought all day. Rainbow Campbell, Hajic and Ford were killed. I have no idea how many others.

Nov. 9: Third Raiders took over from us this morning. They had it hot and heavy gaining back what we had yesterday. We moved back up and dug in directly behind them in case they didn't hold the line. Our artillery pounds away 24 hours a day. It has to be tearing them up.

Nov. 10: We sat and lay in eight inches of water all night. Looked over Jap bodies all morning. Several hundred lying nearby. The 9th Marines took over the front lines and we moved back to rest. Our planes came in low and fast this morning and strafed the Japs about 200 yards in front of us. Scared us as bad as it did the Japs.

Nov. 11: Jap planes dropped bombs all night. Lot of Marines cracking up and falling out with nerves. We figure we killed around 300 or 400 Japs up there. We've had a lot of casualties. Marko died today. He was hit in the back with a piece of Jap mortar shell.

Nov. 12: Resting up. We had a mail call of all things. I got 11 letters.

Raiders Support 21st Marines

Nov. 13: Japs hit the 21st Marines' lines so we moved to the front in the evening. We are dug in just behind the front lines in case they break through. Steady rifle and machine-gun fire. The stench from dead bodies is so bad here we can barely stand it.

Nov. 14: Our artillery started at 0900 and the fury of it was overwhelming. Our light tanks came up for support and then our planes bombed and strafed the Jap lines directly in front of us. The 21st Marines advanced the front lines about 200 yards against heavy opposition and we moved our lines up behind them. Hundreds of Japanese killed. We killed about 30 even back here. Dead Marines are lying all about. I understand our tanks accidentally killed some of the Marines when

they ran over them. Vaught and I moved into a fox hole here that was already dug. We don't know if it was dug by Marines or Japs. There are six dead Marines lying about two feet from our foxhole. Been there since yesterday.

Nov. 15: The 21st Marines got scared last night and fired into the darkness until daylight. They even shot some of their own men. Details are bringing dead Marines out. Many are fly-blown beyond recognition and have no identification on them. The 3rd Raiders moved up and relieved us and we dropped back to rest. Dirty and crummy more than tired.

Nov. 17: Eight Jap planes came in low, without warning, about daylight and strafed us. Guaranteed to cure constipation. Then more planes right behind them and they kept it up for about an hour. There were 18 planes altogether. Lots of dead and wounded.

Nov. 19: We are on constant standby alert. Jap planes bombed most of the night. Killed seven near us and wounded five or six. You can hear the bombs whistling when they are coming down. They always sound like they are coming straight at you.

Nov. 20: Air raids all night. They dropped a lot of bombs about 0500 and set some gasoline stores on fire. Quite a few wounded coming down the trail today.

Nov. 21: Jap planes really bombed us last night and this morning. Bombers and some dive bombers. Got a few pretty close to us. We moved out about 1200 and dug in directly behind front lines. A lot of rifle fire along the front line. Japs are dropping 90mm mortars in here. We went on combat patrol beyond our lines and found two dead Marines.

Nov. 22: We moved up and took over the front lines. Japs lobbed 90mm mortars in here all night. Killed seven and wounded a bunch. Japs had foxholes dug here and we are just moving into them. Constant small-arms fire now. We are in the hills now and the Japs are dug in about 200 yards away. We can hear them talking and shouting orders. There was a dog fight overhead today. We saw three planes shot down.

Nov. 23: Artillery and mortar fire 24 hours a day. We moved forward, pushed the Japs back and set up a new line of defense. We gained about 400 yards. We have G Company on our right flank. A U.S. destroyer lying offshore is firing over our heads into Jap positions. Jap mortar fire has slacked off some. I think they are afraid to use it because they fear our return fire.

Nov. 24: Our artillery fired without let-up all night. Two Jap mortar shells landed almost on top of us this morning. Knocked out a bunch of our men. Buddy Barritt was killed and four were wounded. Jefferson and several others were badly shell-shocked. We got eight turkeys already



JOURNEY

Continued from page 51

Not until 7 January 1979, when Russian-backed Vietnamese military forces toppled Angka and installed the Heng Samrin-led government, did the tidal wave of genocide subside. Ieng Sary, one of the leaders of the deposed regime, now concedes that his group made mistakes in revolutionizing Cambodia. "We recognize there were political errors in going too far to the left," he said. "We moved too rapidly."

But the Chinese have not given up their dream of taking over Cambodia. They continue to arm and supply the fugitive Khmer Rouge forces. Peking says it is committed to supporting a guerrilla struggle for "10 to 20 years" to reduce Vietnamese influence in Southeast Asia. Vietnam promises to withdraw once the "threat from China and Pol Pot is over."

Counterattack and Executions

Last February, following the Vietnamese liberation of Phnom Penh and eastern Cambodia, Pol Pot forces totalling almost 20,000 retreated to the Am Leang area and O Re Sey, another

former Khmer Rouge stronghold, located approximately 40 miles northwest of Am Leang near the Tonle Sap River. As the Vietnamese army's 9th Division moved west on Highway 5 toward the provincial capital of Kompong Chhnang, the Khmer Rouge forces launched a counterattack.

Three miles from the city limits, along a barren stretch of road, the Khmer Rouge, armed only with rockets, mortars and small arms, annihilated nine Soviet-supplied tanks leading the Vietnamese column. The two forces battled for almost two months outside Kompong Chhnang, several times engaging in hand-to-hand combat. At one point, the Khmer Rouge retreated from their positions along Highway 5. The Vietnamese loaded their wounded on undamaged vehicles and raced for Kompong Chhnang. However, the Khmer Rouge regrouped and dug in on the city's outskirts. The Vietnamese, mostly unarmed, were slaughtered in an ambush. Finally, Vietnamese combat units liberated the battered 9th Division, which had suffered over a thousand casualties. The Khmer Rouge forces retreated south to Am Leang, leaving behind several thousand dead and wounded. The Vietnamese army's demolished tanks, trucks and ambulances still remain along the highway.

Following the battles along Highway 5,

Heng Samrin soldiers armed with Chinese Type 56 rifles with folding triangular bayonets help Cambodian farmers harvest rice in fields near provincial capital of Siem Reap.

Khmer Rouge cadres in the Am Leang area began executing forced-labor-brigade workers in an apparent attempt to prevent desertion and subversion. Four miles northeast of Am Leang, at the former Buddhist pagoda Wat Kanseng Sam (Temple of Good Handkerchiefs), several peasants claimed that entire work brigades, numbering more than 1,000, were marched into the jungle and executed during the last week of February 1979.

"The Khmer Rouge took my son and his family away," said Yueng Chueng, a wizened old man. "I never saw them again."

Another man and several boys talked about what had happened. "There were many people killed," said the grey-haired man. "The smell was very bad."

During our discussion, an emaciated young girl dressed in tattered black pants and shirt stopped and listened. "There were thousands of people from the cities working in the communes at Am Leang,"



Khmer Angkor Liberation Front (anti-Vietnamese, anti-Pol Pot) soldier armed with RPG-7V rocket launcher (note range-finding optical sight) and PG-7 rockets in Western Cambodia, northwest of Sisophon.

said Mum, a sickly, pale, sweating girl, in a soft voice. "The peasants from Am Leang were treated special by the Pol Pot cadre. We had to do more work than other peasants or we were not given any food."

Mum had been a student in Phnom Penh in April 1975, and, like Sokhun, she and her family, along with hundreds of thousands of other residents, were ordered to leave the city.

In the countryside, the Khmer Rouge separated Mum from her family and sent her to build fortifications in the

southeastern part of Cambodia, near the Vietnamese border. Later she was sent to Am Leang, where she cleared jungle and planted fields with thousands of other former city dwellers. She never saw her parents again.

By December 1976, the Cambodian communists were skirmishing against their "fraternal" Vietnamese comrades. As the fighting intensified through 1977 and 1978, the rhetoric from Angka's leaders became colored by Chinese communist ideology: Vietnam now was the enemy. Ironically, the previous Cambodian governments of Prince Sihanouk and General Lon Nol had accused the Vietnamese of being Peking puppets.

During bizarre ceremonies denouncing Western technology, dozens of bulldozers, tractors and construction machines were brought to the Wat Kanseng Sam and dismantled, parts stacked in ever-growing mounds.

Thousands of assembled labor-brigade workers were told: "Now you city people will use your hands like the peasants to grow the food you eat."

Mass Graves

Today, tangled vines and tropical vegetation engulf the heavy equipment. The rusted stacks of engine parts, surrounded by mass-grave mounds, remain as accursed monuments. Vietnamese soldiers at Wat Kanseng Sam pointed out numerous mass graves within a mile of the temple. Here the theoreticians and technicians of horror carried out their work.

Local villagers guided the soldiers and me through the forest. After wading across a knee-high stream, we followed an overgrown footpath into the jungle. An earthen mound 40 yards long and 10 yards wide was said to contain thousands of bodies. The ground was overturned in several places, revealing partially decomposed corpses, hair still apparent on some. Our peasant guides said the Khmer Rouge clubbed people to death. The smell was so nauseating that many of the soldiers vomited. One woman wept, pointing at the bodies. I didn't know what to do.

"All my family was killed," sobbed a skeletal peasant. "We just wanted to work our fields and have enough food to eat." I felt a tightness in my stomach. There was nothing to say.

During March 1979, Cambodian soldiers of the Heng Samrin-led "National Liberation Front," aided by Khmer Rouge defectors, former labor-brigade workers and Vietnamese soldiers, battled Khmer Rouge forces massed at Am Leang. By 19 April, the Vietnamese-Cambodian coalition had overrun the Khmer Rouge positions and captured a number of Chinese artillery pieces, including 130mm guns. The Khmer Rouge guerrillas fled to the Aural mountains, taking thousands of hostages with them.

Mountain Hostages

"I was with many people who were forced to the mountains by the Pol Pot cadres," said Mum.

Some of the hostages escaped. During the last half of 1979 almost 10,000 peasants, refugees and Khmer Rouge soldiers surrendered or sought sanctuary in the Am Leang area, according to Kim Son, a village official. On some days several hundred people — half dead — were brought in by Vietnamese 9th Division soldiers conducting search-and-rescue operations in the densely foliated mountains.

"The Khmer Rouge cadre told us the Vietnamese would kill us, so we were

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JANUARY/81



afraid to leave," said Mum, who just several days before had escaped from the mountains. "Many people have died up there. There are only a few left." She put her hands to her face and cried. Tears formed in my eyes. I looked away. I was surrounded by misery: people sitting, waiting to die; displaced persons starving to death because nobody wanted them and nobody could help them.

Near a dirt trail, a row of thatched-roof huts strung along a rice paddy marked the outskirts of Am Leang. Tangled vegetation choked the rice fields. People dressed in rotted clothes gathered around me. Hollow-eyed children with stick-like arms and legs crowded together. Many limped on feet swollen from beri-beri, a disease caused by malnutrition. Few spoke. None smiled. Some were confused, others upset. Many had fought and risked death to eliminate the presence of the U.S. in Cambodia. They had started out with political ideals, but along the way things had gotten distorted. The dream turned into a bloodbath. Now the enemy from 30,000 feet was standing before them, speaking their language.

Holding Hands With Death

A woman and a small girl, eerily silent and withdrawn, held hands as if to reassure one another. Possessed by a quiet delirium, they moved in a world apart, a time apart, beyond life and even death. I confronted the fearful victims of the past 15 years of civil war, B-52 airstrikes, famine and the Khmer Rouge reign of terror. The little girl took my hand and held it. I was silent. One had to be there to understand.

I left the people standing on the outskirts of what was once a lovely jungle hamlet. I walked into the village and saw a young girl lying on the ground, gagging and gasping for breath. Her eyelids fluttered, showing the whites beneath. She was dying and I couldn't save her.

I saw her die. Her mother, or perhaps a relative, held the limp body, slowly stroking her hair, softly talking and singing, desperately trying to rekindle the spark of life. I began talking to the little girl; I didn't want to acknowledge either death or my failure to prevent it. I never even knew her name, but somehow wanted her to know I cared.

The pervasive influence of Angka on the village and its inhabitants was overwhelming. But in the midst of misery and suffering, it seemed peaceful. One had to acknowledge the reality of mass-grave sites and women washing babies in mud puddles. It wasn't a news report on television, or a picture in the newspaper.

"When will the U.S. help us?"

"When will the United States help us?" asked a leathery-faced old man, savoring

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a cigarette that I provided. "The United States doesn't recognize your government," I replied.

"Pol Pot?" he asked.

"No, the new one," I said. He removed his cigarette, exhaled, gave me a puzzled look and said, "I don't understand."

We sat looking at each other, grateful for the peaceful pastime. "I don't understand either," I said, slowly shaking my head.

A small boy, wearing a dirty shirt that hung to his swollen knees, slowly gathered sticks and twigs along the nearby treeline. I offered him candy and cigarettes. "My name is Nuong Hoeng," he whispered, "I am 15 years old."

Soldier Without A Rifle

Hoeng said he was from Wat Thak Chum village in nearby Kompong Chhnang Province and had been forced to join the Khmer Rouge in 1978. "They said I would be killed if I did not become a soldier." Hoeng had never attended school until the Khmer Rouge sent him to political indoctrination classes. After a three-week program, he was sent to Am Leang, where he spent most of his time herding cattle, as he had for his parents. "I was a soldier for the Khmer Rouge, but I never had a gun.

"When the fighting began, more than 300 boys and girls, young and old, were in my group that went to the mountains," said Hoeng. "We had no food. Only a few members of my group were still alive when I escaped."

I asked him what he was going to do. He looked at me as if I had asked him to explain the meaning of life. I waited, then repeated the question. "I want to take care of my father's fields," he replied. "Where are your parents?" I asked. "I don't know," said Hoeng.

Emotionally drained, I left him. I wondered how he was coping with reality — I wasn't doing too well. And the horror was that all the stories and all the pictures by all the journalists had not stopped the fighting and killing — and were not going to.

During the day, Vietnamese soldiers brought 43 persons to Am Leang from the Aural mountains. All except three had to be carried because they were sick and malnourished. Some were Khmer Rouge guerrillas for whom the promised freedom never came. They remained sullen and alone. Curious Cambodian soldiers stared at them, but the villagers walked by without looking. They cringed, however, when local farmers arrived carrying bloody slings made of multi-colored cotton cloth. Inside were two small boys severely wounded by a hand grenade they had found in the jungle.

Pallid and feverish from cerebral malaria, the barefoot refugees sat silent with fear. They waited, breathing heavily, and wept. Some just stared, creating an unspoken but pervasive sense of death. Ravaged and maimed, they were graphic evidence of an experiment gone haywire.

Pol Pot Scavenger

"The Pol Pot cadres are few in number. They have abandoned the people and moved to the mountaintops," said Oun Doeung, a sickly 17-year-old soldier. "The people in the mountains do not like Pol Pot, but they think they will be killed if they surrender."

Doeung said he became a Pol Pot soldier in 1977. His native village in Takeo Province, south of Phnom Penh, was long controlled by the Khmer Rouge. In early 1979 he was forced to the mountains and remained there only because "the Pol Pot cadres killed the people who wanted to go to the villages." Doeung said Khmer Rouge guerrillas remained hidden in camouflaged shelters and caves, but malaria, dysentery, beriberi and malnutrition had decimated their ranks.

"We were forced to search for food to feed the high-ranking cadres," said Doeung. "We stole rice and bananas from villages near the mountains."

Siem Ny, a 20-year-old Khmer Rouge soldier, added: "Only nine remain in the mountains from my original group of 200 boys. The cadre told me that the soldiers of the new government would cut off my feet and hands because I am a Pol Pot soldier. But I am very surprised, because the soldiers treat me very kindly."

"The people are afraid of the Vietnamese," said a young Cambodian soldier carrying an M16 rifle. "They think they will be killed. They want us to protect them." Their statements reflected age-old fears of the Khmer and Cham peoples who inhabit Cambodia. For centuries they fought against the Vietnamese until the arrival of French colonialists in the 1860s.

Racial and Cultural Conflicts

A basic and essentially unbridgeable gap exists between Cambodians and Vietnamese. The origin can be traced to the roots of the two cultures: the races of Cambodia are of Indo origin; the Vietnamese are of Sino origin. The two conflict fundamentally, with differences ranging from religion to eating utensils.

Cambodians are predominantly Theravadin Buddhists, and were first indoctrinated by Indian merchants not long after the birth of Christianity. These merchants also introduced their language, social customs, system of government

Continued on page 71

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Two senior commanders in Chitádo raid. One carries Galil 5.56 rifle. Faces are blackened because they may be involved in other strikes.

South Africa Raids Chitádo

SWAPO STRIKES OUT

Text and Photos by Al J. Venter



Chitádo as it appeared shortly before South African strike. Building in left foreground was blown by attackers.

AS Southern African or Rhodesian raids go, it wasn't a big one. But in its own way, it had the classic proportions of something described in the Infantryman's Handbook.

Early last August, less than a company of heliborne troops was airlifted into Chitado — a dirty, derelict little town in the extreme southwest of Angola's "Badlands." They went in at dawn, and within 90 minutes secured the town and the area around it to a depth of five kilometers. A total of 27 enemy soldiers lay dead.

South African forces suffered one casualty: the army doctor accompanying the strike force accidentally shot himself in the foot while disembarking under fire.

The objective: SWAPO — the militant pro-Marxist South West African People's Organization seeking to end white rule in Southern Africa, a country twice the size of California, with a population of only 100,000.

Intelligence Gives Battle Plans

Much thought had gone into the raid. Southern African cross-border attacks are rarely taken lightly. The plan grew out of previously gathered intelligence. During a much larger onslaught by South African forces on Cassinga, further north, two years earlier (see "South Africa vs.

in early 1979. These *sorties* were followed by several attempts to subvert the primitive Ovahimba people — many of whom still live in stone-age conditions, wear nothing but skins, regard hunting prowess as the mark of maturity and measure wealth in the numbers of cattle and goats owned by an individual.

Months later, several prominent Kaokolandans were murdered by SWAPO cadres by way of "example." Shortly thereafter, landmines were laid in the region, powerlines from the Kunene hydro-electric scheme sabotaged and, finally, an attack on the South West African riverside town of Ruacana took place on the night of Sunday, 27 July 1980. This action prompted retaliatory action on the part of the South Africans.

The Last Straw

Shortly before 0300 that Sunday, a squad of about a dozen SWAPO terrorists lobbed 40 Soviet-made mortar shells — 82mm and 60mm — into the civilian half of the village. Only 14 hit their mark; two were direct hits on houses in the Water Affairs compound, fortunately uninhabited at the time. Two more shells swept into the nearby military camp where six national servicemen were lightly wounded by shrapnel.

— the local SWAPO headquarters.

Every visit involved large crates being unloaded at the houses and at a brushy riverbed position several hundred yards away. (A large cache of arms was discovered later in this vicinity.)

So the attack plan was put into motion.

Leaflet Warning

The raid's success did not come easily. Not long before the "troopies" went in, fixed-wing aircraft dropped several thousand leaflets warning locals that attack was imminent. Civilians and the Angolan MPLA garrison at Chitado were advised that South Africa's argument was not with them.

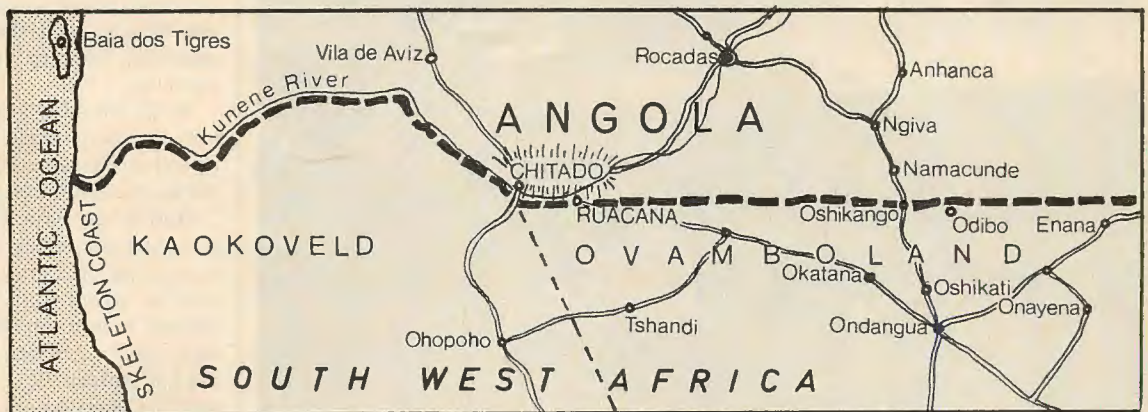
Final Attack

When South African forces finally entered Chitado, they found the place in an appalling mess. None of the original Portuguese inhabitants remained; there was no regular economic or commercial activity in the town apart from the occasional requirements of the military.

Food was critically short; the local clinic had been unmanned for years. It was ironic — if any of the civilians needed urgent medical attention, it came from the South Africans across the border.

In the actual attack, house after house was cleared. Where there was evidence of

Chitado was an isolated colonial outpost during Portuguese epoch. Now it sits at end of desolate road to nowhere.



SWAPO Terrorists," SOF, November 1978), a complete SWAPO battle plan had been captured which showed clearly the insurgent movement's intention to escalate the war. Captured documents detailed plans to extend hostilities into a vast new area — Kaokoland, a huge, almost waterless plain fringed by mountains, desert and the icy South Atlantic Ocean.

Until then, this desolate region, flanked on one side by the Skeleton Coast and on the other by war-ravaged Owambo, had escaped SWAPO's attention.

SWAPO's Battle Plan

SWAPO's campaign began slowly. It is now known that SWAPO *rece* teams made their first incursions into Kaokoland

It was then decided by the General Officer Commanding of SWA Command, General Jannie Geldenhuys, that a strike should be launched at what appeared to be the source of much of this hostile activity: Chitado.

The South Africans had been monitoring the former Portuguese town for some time; an MPLA source had been extremely well paid to supply useful information on a regular basis. His reports indicated that almost all hostile acts inside Kaokoland were preceded by frantic activity in Chitado.

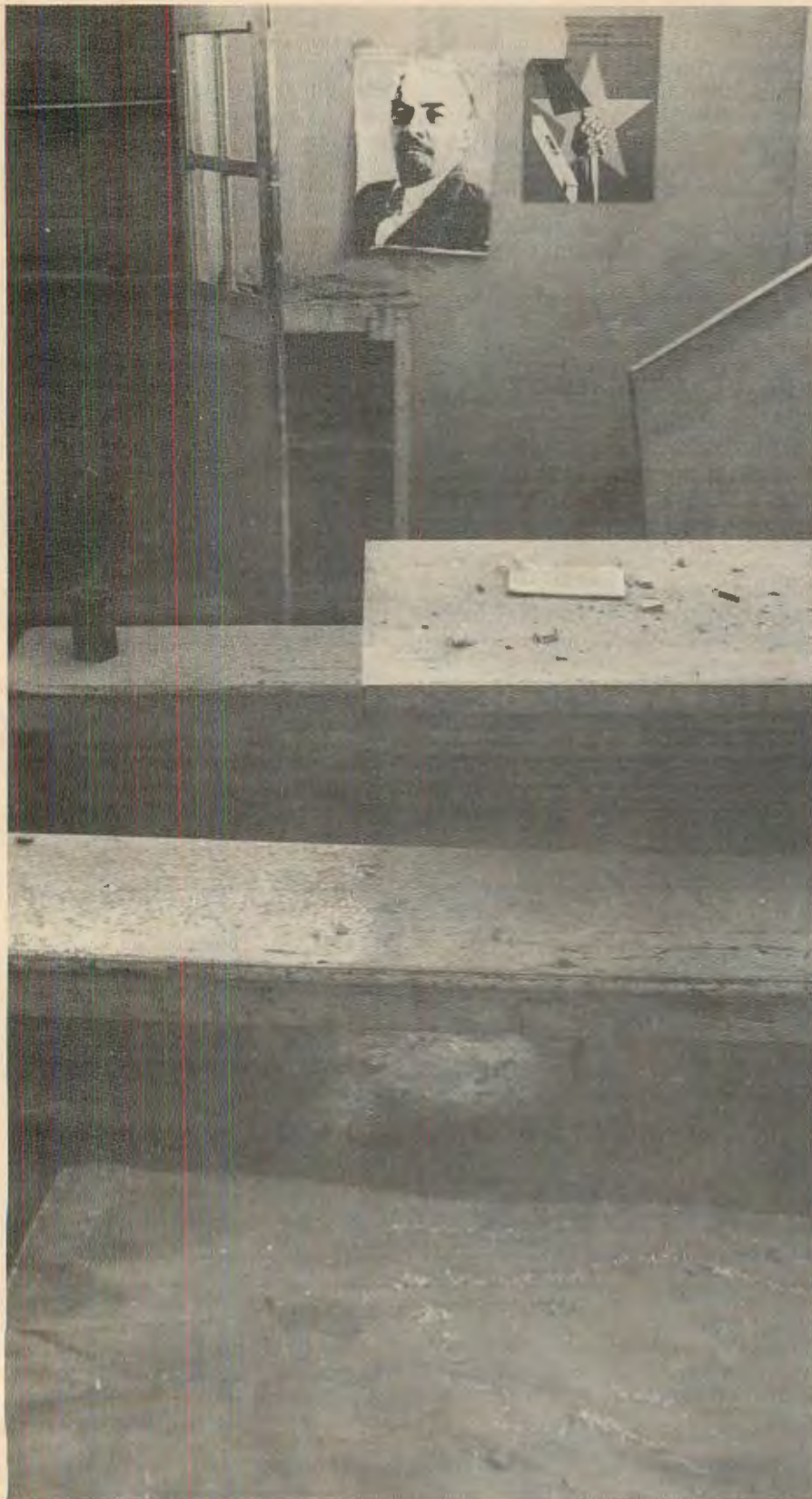
On such occasions, squads of white Toyota Landcruisers would visit the village. They would make an initial courtesy call at the regional MPLA Command Post and then move on to two large white houses on the southern edge of town

resistance, the positions were silenced with the help of grenades and shells.

Initially, South African officers were puzzled by the fact that none of those killed or captured were wearing SWAPO uniforms — everyone in Chitado had on the FAPLA uniform (worn by the military wing of the pro-communist MPLA). Then one of the prisoners explained:

MPLA Cover

The local commandant was adamant that while SWAPO remained active in his town they were not to draw attention to themselves by wearing "strange" uniforms. His orders were explicit: "Wear MPLA uniforms or move to another area. I don't need to be bombed by the South Africans."



Lenin and other Marxist figures were much in evidence in most gathering points inside Chitado.

There was also another, more subtle, reason. By clinging to MPLA mores, it was not immediately obvious to visitors or strangers passing through Chitado that there were SWAPO personnel in the settlement.

Clearly, once the first South African helicopters swung low over Chitado, this

particular *commandante* was among the first to be advised of a hostile presence. His body was not found among the dead. Survivors said afterward that he climbed into his truck and headed for the bush moments after reading the first pamphlet dropped by the SAAF plane.



BORDER WAR UPDATE

The war along the northern fringes of South West Africa continues unabated.

By the middle of August 1980, South African security forces had achieved the highest two-week tally of body counts ever attained during routine operations. The official total was almost 100 — not counting those wounded during ambushes or those who escaped. South Africa lost a handful of men in the same time span.

In one onslaught alone, a dozen SWAPO terrorists waited in ambush for a South African patrol. The moment the first shot sounded, the men in khaki — most of them 18 or 19 years old and doing their two-year national service — took the offensive. All 12 SWAPO insurgents were killed and three South Africans wounded in the fray.

SWAPO has been suffering an *average* of over 100 casualties each month (and often more in cross-border raids such as *Smokeshell*, *Sceptic* and *Reindeer* — see “‘Operation Smokeshell’ Smokes Out SWAPO,” *SOF*, November '80). This loss is bound to have an effect. It is known that the movement has only a few thousand fully trained combatants, and that many seasoned guerrilla fighters have been killed recently.

While SWAPO's fighting ability has not yet been undermined, the continued onslaught initiated by the South Africans must eventually show results.

During my visit in August it was observed that many SWAPO patrols seem to lack the grit and determination which previously characterized SWAPO movements. Some enemy units have been seen wandering about the bush aimlessly, as if they lack command. Others go out on forays which, though of a military nature, usually deteriorate into food-foraging patrols.

Documents captured during Operation Sceptic (July 1980) indicated that the supply situation of SWAPO cadres in Angola is often critical. Since most of Angola is living below the breadline, this state of affairs must affect SWAPO morale and efficiency. The movement relies heavily upon MPLA goodwill and succor.

The truth is, it's not that the Luanda regime does not want to help out — it cannot, because there is nothing to give. Food is as scarce throughout the rest of Angola as it is in the south where SWAPO is trying to fight a war.

— Al J. Venter



JOURNEY

Continued from page 66

and medical practices into Cambodia.

The Vietnamese, reflecting 10 centuries of Chinese rule, which ended in 939 A.D., practice Mahayana, or Greater Vehicle Buddhism, as well as Confucianism and Taoism. The Vietnamese adopted the Chinese mandarin system, part of the language and many of its customs.

Physical differences also divide the two races. The Cambodians have Caucasian features, characterized by round faces, round eyes and flat noses. The Vietnamese are definitely Oriental, with narrow, slightly slanting eyes and high cheekbones.

But at Am Leang, Vietnamese soldiers were doing a good job of quelling fears and winning hearts and minds, as they shared rice and coconuts with dying refugees and Khmer Rouge soldiers.

"There is nothing in the jungle," said one girl with swollen limbs and trembling hands. Her hair was matted with dirt and twigs, her face misshapen from pain. "The people are starving. The children are all dead." Her body started shaking horribly. She was suffering from cerebral malaria. As we talked, she began convulsing spasmodically — and died. The look of terror faded from her face.

The soldiers wrapped her in plastic and carried her to a shallow pit. Inside were two dead men. The misery, the disease, the starvation had finally ended for them. They no longer cared about democracy or communism — for corpses have no ideologies. But they show us what war, disease and famine really mean.

Both the Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge soldiers said there were many bodies scattered in the elephant grass and buried in mass graves throughout the mountains. But there were no monuments to them. Had the sanctity of human life been forgotten? I walked off into the jungle by myself, seeking escape. Even during war, the jungle is tranquil.

There was blood all over the narrow footpath I followed. Entering a clump of trees, I came upon a small group of soldiers. Sunlight stabbed through the trees and spotlighted a man lying on the ground, his stomach ripped open by automatic-rifle fire. His back arched, his eyes rolled and strange guttural sounds came from his open mouth as if he were making one last attempt to plead for his life. The man died. I left Am Leang.

"Even the soldiers cry."

As I walked the dirt trail toward my car, I passed small groups of young Vietnamese and Cambodian soldiers plodding along. They were armed with a conglomeration of weapons, including U.S. M60 machine guns and M79

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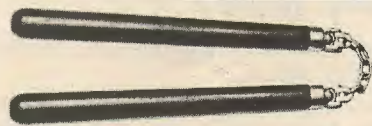
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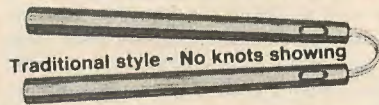


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grenade launchers, Chinese B40 rocket launchers and AK-47 automatic rifles. They had just completed a week-long patrol in the mountains and claimed to have killed 11 Khmer Rouge guerrillas and captured nine weapons the previous day. They said the situation was very grim.

"Everywhere we went we smelled death. We saw dozens of skeletons along the way," said Quoc, a Vietnamese soldier. "There is nothing like it in the world. People dying everywhere. Even the soldiers cry."

As too often in recent history, Cambodians have become victims of the conflicting desires of their neighbors and foreign superpowers, and pawns of geopolitics. Once again, control of Southeast Asia is at stake. It is not simply a war between Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge guerrillas and the Vietnamese army. In many ways, the conflict has become an extension of the last war between the United States and Vietnam; and the Carter administration, despite the exaggerated puffery of its human-rights policy, continues to feed the perpetrators of genocide, to support them at the United Nations and to curry favor with China. Who cares about Cambodians?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edward Rasen's report from Cambodia in this issue of SOF continues his coverage of 20th-century global conflict. He's covered the Vietnam war and its aftermath and the fighting in Lebanon, Chad, Ethiopia and Nicaragua.

In the '60s and '70s Rasen worked as cameraman, writer and producer both for TV and news services, including CBS News, ABC, PBS (Public Broadcasting System), Pacific News Services and Dispatch News Service. He has also written for UPI.

In 1979-80 Rasen spent two months in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam as an ABC field producer and cameraman — the most extensive visit by any Western journalist in almost five years. ABC used his material in a special one-hour report in March 1980.

SOF is pleased to publish this two-part analysis and photo coverage of Rasen's last trip to Cambodia and to welcome him aboard as an SOF author. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Rasen has also written for **Playboy**, **Penthouse** and the **New York** magazine.

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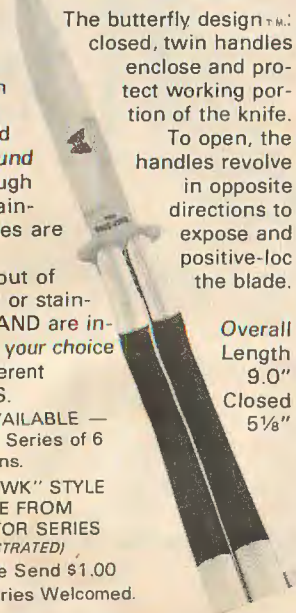
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SHARPSHOOTING
Continued from page 31

The fire selector is the trigger itself. A pressure of 3 kg (6.6 pounds) gets you one shot. Press back beyond that to 6 kg and you get full auto — no switching required. This works fine on the range, but I must reserve judgment pending battle tests. I have an idea that a scared young man in his first action with the piece is likely to panic into full auto far more frequently than his leaders may deem desirable. The object of shooting is hitting, not noise.

The AUG is naturally very easy to shoot, with its small cartridge and ample weight. Its recoil in the semiautomatic mode is negligible, and on full auto it will not trouble even our latter-day female soldiers. One-hand full auto is easy, if you have the need for such displays.

The plastic magazine holds 30 rounds and is practically indestructible. You could hand it to a four-year-old on Christmas day and it would still work on New Year's Eve. The plan is to pack the ammunition in these magazines at the factory only in emergencies, but not otherwise, in view of the shelf-life of fully compressed magazine springs. One can detect certain flaws in this planning — due mainly to the unpredictable nature of emergencies.

An ample recess is provided in the butt wherein various "possibles" (biltong, pull-through, toothbrush, shot of schnapps, etc.) may be stored. The bullpup configuration does not lend itself to vulgar brawling, and the AUG is not really suited to the delivery of the classic buttstroke. Historically, the rifle butt has accomplished more than many realize, but I daresay it is rather too coarse a weapon for today's polite society.

In all, I think the AUG is a remarkable engineering *tour de force*. I wish it were more accurate. I wish it had a better trigger. And I am no fan of the .223 (except for jackrabbits). It is obviously a purely military firearm, not meant for private use, and as a fully automatic weapon it is regarded with horror by the BATmen, so it is of mainly academic interest to American shooters. But still it has great appeal. When the semiautomatic version with crosshair reticle (now contemplated) is available, I think I will sign up. Perhaps we can find a way to civilize that plastic sear and hammer. Perhaps we can solidify that barrel-receiver joint. Even if we can't, it is such a nifty anti-piracy boat gun that I may have to buy a boat just to go with it.

New 9mm Pistol

In prototype stage at Steyr is the GB-80 pistol. Essentially it appears to be what is offered in the U.S. as the "Rogak P-18." When this was mentioned the Mannlicher staff seemed a bit pained. One gathers

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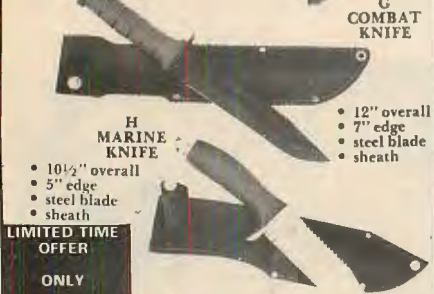
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that relations between Mannlicher and Rogak are not the best. Claim-jumping, anyone?

In any case, the GB-80 is a huge and unhandy 9mm Parabellum pistol which wins the "my-magazine-is-bigger-than-your-magazine" sweepstakes, with 18 rounds in readiness and one up the spout. If magazine capacity is a true measure of a pistol's usefulness, then this is the answer. (I recall Bruce Nelson's answer to a query about this: "A big magazine is a great advantage — providing you miss most of the time.") It may be that more is always better, but nothing in life is free and you pay for a lot of rounds with a lot of bulk.

When asked my impression of the piece I said, "Big!"

My host responded, "Well, it's a military pistol." Does that clear the matter up?

The GB-80 may not be as cumbersome as the Automag, but it comes close. And all it puts out is a puny 120-grain .36-caliber bullet. (My idea of a "nine" is that neat little PSP.)

The GB-80 is a non-selective trigger-cocker. If you want to carry it cocked you carry it *unlocked*, because that switch in the port side of the slide is a hammer-dropper rather than a safety. (I was told that in Europe you always fire a warning shot first, so you don't care where it goes. Hmm!)

The action is a gas-delayed blowback, so the barrel is rigidly mounted, which makes for accuracy. This proved out on the range, where Dr. Werner Weissenhofer, quondam director of IPSC/Austria, printed some elegant 50-meter groups.

The sights feature the three-dots-abreast illumination pioneered by Heckler & Koch. While I personally get along very well with black-on-black, many people like illuminated sights, and this three-dot arrangement appears to get the best results.

The blowback is dampened by gas, bled off the barrel through two vertically opposed vents situated forward of a belt about halfway between chamber and muzzle. Propellant gas expands forward of the belt and against the rear of the barrel bushing, which then holds the slide forward to some extent, plus reduces recoil. It would seem that some rearward movement of breech-block must occur before the bullet passes the vents and allows the gas to enter the expansion chamber, but, if so, it does no harm, for the pistol does not burst cases. Despite the fact that the Rogak pistol tested by Chuck Taylor in the U.S. did not function well (SOF, April '79), this Mannlicher version gave us no cycling trouble at all. We did not fire it very much, but what we did fire went off without a hitch of any kind.

There is an esoteric characteristic in any handgun which, for want of a more precise term, I will call "feel." It is to some ex-

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tent subjective, but not entirely so. Human hands differ widely in configuration, but they are all still constructed in the same pattern, hence some pistols feel better — to most people — than others. And this is not a frivolous matter.

Hard to Handle

You shoot better with a weapon that feels good in your hand, and while you can adjust to an uncomfortable instrument with practice, this is a problem you ought not have to face. While I am accustomed to the feel of the great 1911 Colt, I freely admit that the Czech 75 feels better — both to me and to a large majority of those who have tried it. On the other hand, the Broomhandle Mauser, the VB-70, the Mamba and the GB-80 do not. The hand does not slide easily into a comfortable firing grip on any of these, and an 18-round magazine is not worth the trade. Besides, the fact that the Cz 75 also has a big magazine indicates that the design problem is not insurmountable.

I do not see why a military pistol need be unhandy. For that matter, I don't see why defensive pistols need varying characteristics in order to meet the requirements of a soldier, police officer or private citizen. A defensive pistol's basic requirement — its ability to save a life — is the same for all three, and the weapon best suited to meet that requirement will be the same. If someone were to shoot at me I would earnestly hope to be able to stop him, and that will not change with the color of my shirt or the cut of my cap.

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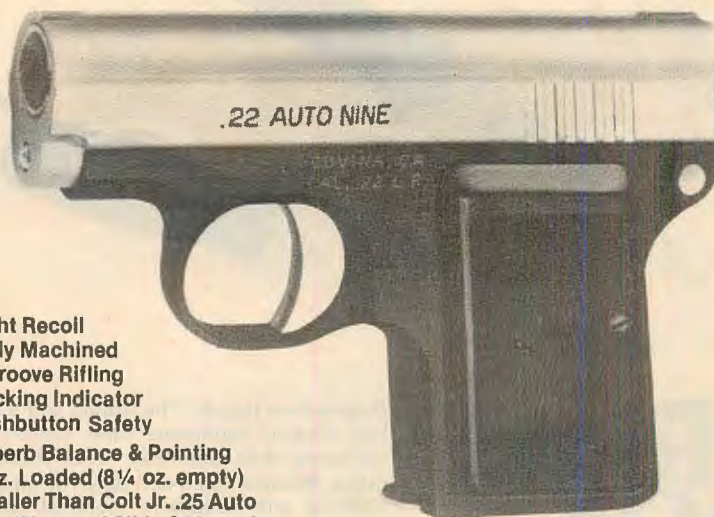
Jeff Cooper covers in depth the technical aspects of Austria's AUG (Automatic Universal Gun) in his regular column, "Sharpshooting With Chairman Jeff." Steyr-Mannlicher representatives recently brought one of these unusual weapons by the SOF office for testing by staffers. None of them have the technical expertise of Jeff and one had never fired an automatic weapon before. But in an upcoming issue they will give their evaluations of the gun. Look for it!



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WOMEN

Continued from page 45

Dame where she studied on a four-year ROTC scholarship, a qualified jumpmaster and a Regular Army officer.

Dooley says she liked jumpmaster school. "Not only can you jump out of a perfectly good airplane, you can throw people out," she says, and only those who know her would know she's kidding. But being a jumpmaster is serious business, as Dooley explains. "From the time a soldier is manifested until they jump out of the plane, the jumpmaster is responsible for them. A jumpmaster has to check everyone out, make sure they've rigged their chutes properly, tell them about any hazards — wires, water, trees — that might be near the DZ, and just make sure that everything is correct."

At Ft. Bragg, where 20,000 soldiers jump at least four times a year, there is ample reason to believe that a jumpmaster's duties are taken seriously. And to remind everyone of hazards, two jumpers lose their lives each year, on the average, while dozens of others sustain injuries — some serious.

Where Is the Bottom Line?

Both Dooley and 1st Lt. Holly Hileman, the signal battalion's assistant S-4 (S-4 functions are concerned with logistics), agree that they wouldn't be in the division at all if Department of the Army hadn't insisted.

"It was the same thing back in the '40s when they went to integrate the races. Guys must have said, 'I don't want a black in my platoon.' Only they didn't say 'black,' and they didn't think a black could do the job. Now we know different. But right now women are still having to prove, every day, that they can handle it," says Hileman.

Seen from the Division's point of view, there is logic in not wanting women. Let Maj. Roger Smith, the Public Affairs Of-



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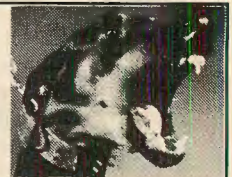
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ficer and the official Division spokesman, have a few words: "If it was up to the two-star (Maj. Gen. Guy Meloy, III, the 82nd's CG), we wouldn't have any women. A parachute and reserve come to about 40 pounds, plus another 35-40 of web gear, rifle and other field equipment. Put that on even a big woman, and you can see the problem. And when you look at one that is more typical, say 110 pounds, it's even worse. To the extent that we have women filling men's jobs, we're not as combat ready as we would be with men in them."

The bottom line: what everything adds up to, after all the calculations have been performed. For the 82nd Airborne's female paratroopers, their pluses and minuses make up a complex equation, bearing on the division's ability to accomplish its missions. Will everything sort itself out? Will women prove they can handle whatever is required of them? Will they eventually find a combat role? For the All American Division in an era of changing values, no one has yet figured out what the bottom line is.

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Continued from page 6

In Washington recently the U.S. signed a pact with Somalia giving American forces access to Somali military facilities at Berbera in the strategic Horn of Africa overlooking the Persian Gulf.

The signing occurred just six days after Somali forces fought a bloody battle against invading Ethiopian troops. A Somali official said the attack, by an estimated 1,500 Ethiopians supported by air and armor, was most likely designed to frustrate fledgling military cooperation with the U.S.

Reports indicate that some 90 invaders were killed and 30 taken prisoner at a cost of 35 Somali dead. The battlefield near the town of Goraya-Owl 10 miles inside Somalia was littered with burned-out Russian vehicles and abandoned weapons.

The clash was the first in three years of a long, sporadic war between the two countries.

And the U.S. is helping Egypt improve an isolated Red Sea airfield and port. The purpose, reliable sources say, is to furnish a staging area for American forces in case of trouble in the Persian Gulf.

The base is at Ras Banas located just across the Red Sea from Saudi Arabia. It formerly was used mainly by Egyptian coastal patrols.

The U.S. is also helping to strengthen Sudan's armed forces and air defenses to help offset the military power of two hostile neighbors — Libya and Ethiopia.

The Pentagon plans to sell Sudan 80 armored personnel carriers and eight 20mm anti-aircraft guns. The sales follow the provision to Sudan of

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The Sudan has an army of about 60,000 men and an air force of about 15,000 with 36 combat planes.

The U.S. has also reached agreements with Oman and Kenya to use their facilities during a crisis.

COMBAT-READY QUESTIONS ...

Congress — which created the problem in the first place by creating the all-volunteer military concept — now wants to know why most U.S.-based Army divisions are unfit to fight.

The flawed concept itself is why, but Congress (having been responsible for it) is not likely to admit that.

What Congress wants to do is establish a special committee to review readiness of the American military force.

Congress was aroused by a Defense Department report conceding that none of the 10 divisions based in the continental U.S. is fully ready to fight.

Judged most fit for combat was the elite 82nd Airborne Division. It had a rating of C2 on a scale C1-C4. C2 means combat-ready with minor deficiencies.

Seven other divisions had the lowest rating of C4 — not combat-capable. These included the 101st Airborne and the 24th Mechanized Infantry Divisions. The 82nd, 101st and 24th, along with a Marine division, comprise the recently created Rapid Deployment Force.

Marine divisions were not rated in the study, but are thought to be in somewhat better shape than Army divisions because they were the only service that actually exceeded



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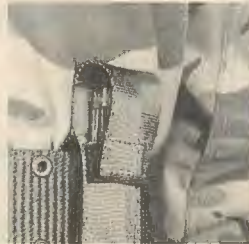
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recruiting quotas in the recently ended fiscal year.

Manpower deficiencies accounted for most of the low ratings, although insufficient training funds and availability of modern equipment were also factors.

Other divisions with C4 ratings were the First Cavalry, Second Armored, Fifth Mechanized, Seventh Infantry and the Ninth Infantry.

The First Infantry and Fourth Mechanized Infantry divisions were rated combat-capable with major deficiencies.

The Army has six divisions abroad in Europe and Korea, all at more than 100 percent manpower strength.

MUGABE: WORDS BEFORE DEEDS ...

To the surprise of practically no one, Zimbabwe's Marxist-oriented ruler, Robert Mugabe, has made it clear where he stands on world issues: four-square behind the PLO and other terrorist "liberation" movements.

Mugabe, in an 80-minute speech to the United Nations General Assembly, thanked the "litany of donors" to his seven-year terrorist war in what was formerly Rhodesia. These included the UN, the Soviet Union and other communist nations, most of the so-called non-aligned nations — and Great Britain under the government of Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. But he particularly singled out aid from the "Front Line States" of Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique and Botswana.

Naturally, his speech was frequently interrupted by applause, and at the end he drew a standing ovation.

Mugabe set himself some ambitious tasks. He said his government would fight for SWAPO rule of South West Africa, in behalf of the PLO, and for Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara. SWAPO is the black Marxist terrorist movement operating from Angola and Mozambique that seeks to impose its rule in South West Africa, which it calls Namibia.

"Great Britain," Mugabe said, "after years of commission and omission, decided to take action and thereafter acted resolutely." Britain, under Thatcher's leadership, sponsored and oversaw the controversial election in which Mugabe and his fellow terrorists defeated then Rhodesian Prime Minister, Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

The day after his UN speech, Mugabe appeared in Washington seeking \$4 billion in aid. He talked with Jimmy

Continued on page 86

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POKING FUN

Some Striking Points

Story by Ken R. Pence
Photos by John T. Ross

THERE are many misconceptions concerning how and where to effectively strike the body. Dispelling the mystique surrounding the body's nerve centers is not the purpose of this article. My purpose is to share some striking points and techniques that have been proven "street worthy" by myself and the thousands of people I have trained: police, military and civilian. There is no recommendation like: "I hit him and he went down like a sack of bricks," "He just grunted and went out cold," or "I'm being sued."

Head Start

Starting with the head, it is important to note that it is the repository of four senses and therefore extremely sensitive to force. The eyes are perhaps the most obvious target. However, human beings are instinctively protective of their eyes and a strike must be fast and hard to be maximally effective. The subject will often partially close his eyes and turn his head so that it is difficult to center the strike.

The most disconcerting and disabling blow to the eyes is a full-fingered fan job. The fingers are stiffened and slightly spread and, if possible, all fingers are utilized. Even if only one finger hits its appointed target, the end result is painful for the subject. The first probable reaction is for the subject to bring his hands up, to either protect the face and eyes or grab for your hands. This — as any experienced fighter knows — leaves the rest of his body open for another strike. Using only two fingers to strike the eyes requires exceptional accuracy and can be blocked using only one hand. Strikes to the eyes do not always cause instant or permanent blindness, but will cause intense pain and disorientation so that the subject will raise



TOP
Use fingers to eyes.

RIGHT
On a woman — strike under and to side of breast.

BOTTOM
Use heel of hand under nose to knock subject off you.





Front kick to groin. Will bend subject forward or knock him down.

his hands to his face and usually stumble about and fall. He will also find it difficult to counter further strikes.

On The Nose

The nose is another blatant target. It is usually prominent, is rarely covered and is hard to protect. At one time it was believed that if you struck a subject under the nose, the bridge cartilage would be knocked loose and pushed into the brain, causing immediate death. Not so. Seeing (and being involved in) hundreds of "nose hits" at karate tournaments and on the street showed me that while some "strikees" wished they had died, none passed into the great beyond with a punctured frontal lobe.

A direct under-the-nose strike will break the nose, cause a great deal of pain to radiate across the face and a great deal of blood to flow. For the less-experienced fighter who is the victim of such a strike, the blood and pain psychologically weaken the fighting spirit. Again, it is likely the hands will go to the face, vision will be impaired, and if further blows are deemed essential, the subject will find them difficult to deal with. The best strike

for the nose area is to thrust the heel of the hand up under the nose, hitting at a 45-degree angle.

Eardrums

The delicate membrane in the ear makes it a prime target. There are drawbacks, however. If the ears are covered with hair or a cap, the blow will be dissipated and one can anticipate having to follow through with another technique.

Cupping the hands and slamming them over one or both ears will rupture the eardrums; the subject will drop to his knees and go into shock. It is unlikely that fatalities will result.

One ruptured eardrum will cause excruciating pain and the subject's head will ring for about 10 days. But it will heal, and the subject will not be so injured as to be unable to dream of revenge. Ruptured eardrums bleed little and show little or no visible signs of damage. A subject *can* fight briefly after having one eardrum damaged.

Trauma Troves

The favorite target of macho men such as John Wayne is the jaw. Though satisfying to crunch, it is not a particularly disabling place to strike. Think back on all the fist fights you have seen on the silver screen. I don't know about you, but

I don't view a 10-minute, knock-down drag-out as in my best interest. The most effective jaw strike I can recommend is a palm-heel strike to the jaw while the subject is sticking his tongue out at you.

The neck, throat and skull-base areas provide a veritable "trauma trove" of striking points. The throat is the most sensitive, its most vulnerable part being the top of the hollow. Here, a non-marking strike is achieved by opening the hand and striking forward, making contact to the windpipe with the webbing between the thumb and index finger. The subject will gag and grab his neck. His breathing will become labored, giving you vital time to either escape or strike again. If you don't mind damaging your assailant, you can strike with the stiffened finger-tips or with the tensed edge of the hand (knife hand strike — shuto).

The sides of the neck provide areas where a forceful blow will knock a person unconscious, but not cause serious damage. Striking with the edge of the hand below and in front of the ear, or right at the edge of the skull slightly behind the ear lobe can add concussion to unconsciousness for your subject.

A forceful blow with the edge of the hand or fist edge (hammer fist) will only knock your subject out. Punching behind the ear can cause loss of vision, but for experienced fighters this blow will be only a preliminary strike before the finishing

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blow. This strike will *not* work on some one who is high on drugs or mentally deranged, as they will not respond as anticipated to a side-of-the-neck blow.

Body Blows

The collarbones are thin and can be broken with the edge-of-the-hand (knife hand — shuto) strike. A broken collarbone will inhibit the subject from using the arm on the broken-bone side.

If your assailant is a woman, a particularly sensitive strike would be to punch up and into the side of the breast.

Below the armpit is a spot often neglected by infighters. A forceful punch will knock a subject down or double him up. A strike to the floating ribs is also a good preliminary striking point — and painful.

The solar plexus is an overrated striking point, but is excellent for making a subject bend over for a knee lift to the face or a hammer-fist blow to the base of the skull. You can knock a person unconscious by striking here, but just knocking his breath out is more likely. The solar plexus is essentially an area for a "sucker punch" followed by a second strike.

A strike to the ribcage could damage a subject by cracking ribs, but it is not a prime target. A close friend of mine once did a back kick to an assailant's ribcage, fatally wounding him by driving his broken ribs through his lungs, but this is an exception.

Below The Belt

The lower intestines are covered with a thin layer of muscle and make a good target if you want to bend your subject over. A forceful strike slightly above the groin will double a person over and cause retching afterward — if he is still conscious. A strike here will rarely mark your assailant.

The kidneys (located two inches above the belt on either side of the back) are good areas to hit if you are behind your prey. A solid punch can cause unconsciousness and permanent damage, but often will only cause severe pain, so a follow-up strike might be necessary.

The groin area, made famous by mothers instructing their daughters in self-defense, is not as perfect a target as legend would have us believe. It is true that the groin can be punched, kicked or grabbed, thus lending itself to a variety of strikes. The main drawbacks are:

- 1) If your subject is high on drugs or alcohol, or insane, he probably won't feel the blow until he begins to "normalize."
- 2) Most men are very protective of their groin area and have fast reflexes when it comes to keeping their "family jewels" safe.

If you decide to grab for the groin, aim slightly to one side to get one testicle. Kicking up under the testicles is the most

effective blow and can cause unconsciousness, but will generally just double the subject over and start him retching. (A follow-up strike to the kidney or temple is very effective.) One can also punch or use the palm, heel turned upward, to hit into the groin.

Legging Down

The knees are good to strike if you wish to down a subject. If the opponent faces you, kick with the toe of the shoe under the kneecap. It will tear cartilage and knock him down. You can also kick with the heel or side of the foot, slightly above the kneecap, or from the side directly at the knee joint. This blow takes only 60 pounds of pressure to be effective and can guarantee that your "kick" will not be running off at any great speed.

The shin is a painful place to be struck, as anyone who has bumped a coffee table in the dark knows. If one delivers a good solid blow to the shin, its usual effect is to bend the subject forward and place him in perfect position for a knee-to-the-nose strike.

The instep can be stomped on to break the delicate bones in the foot. Again, the subject bends forward and is ready for your next strike. Any leg blow will limit the assailant's effectiveness. You never see a good one-legged fighter.

With all these places to hit, why crush your knuckles on a spot that won't take your man out in the first round? The whole idea in fighting is to direct your force to your assailant's weak points.

You may know someone who says, "Hit me in the stomach as hard as you want." You rarely find people who say, "Stick your finger in my eye as hard as you want." One must remember that every body has weak points. You will enhance your fighting ability if you aim for nerve centers and ignore the amateurs' love of hitting anything that isn't covered.



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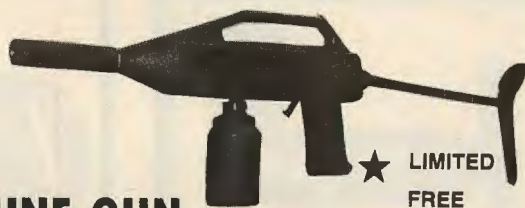
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Continued from page 80

Carter and members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Carter praised the former terrorist chief as "a notable world leader" and said the outcome of the struggle in Zimbabwe has "thrilled the world."

However, Mugabe got no assurances of financial aid.

SOG REUNION ...

The Special Operations Association is holding its fourth annual reunion in Las Vegas at the Landmark Hotel Dec. 12, 13 and 14.

Those eligible include personnel from MACVSOG, CCN, CCS, CCC, DELTA, OMEGA and SIGMA as well as some people who were in air and sea support units which protected and saved the lives of Special Operations Group teams. Older behind-the-lines operatives from OSS and Jedburgh are also eligible as are some from certain classified projects.

For further information about the reunion and whether you might be eligible to attend call: Charles Berg (707) 778-2274 or Bob Burton (805) 687-6696.

MOST DON'T DODGE ...

About 93 percent of those eligible

— a far higher figure than in the Vietnam era — registered in the government's selective-service program. In the Vietnam years, about 75 percent of those eligible signed up upon coming of draft age.

Selective Service Director Bernard Rostker said that of the estimated 3,880,000 19- and 20-year olds eligible, some 3,593,000 had signed up by the deadline.

The figures were challenged by the Rev. Barry Lynn, chairman of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft, but Lynn conceded that he had no figures of his own to make any counter-claim.

This registration was for men born in 1960 and 1961. Registration of those born in 1962 is in January, and then youths will be expected to sign up within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

Failure to do so is punishable by a possible five-year prison sentence and a fine of \$10,000.



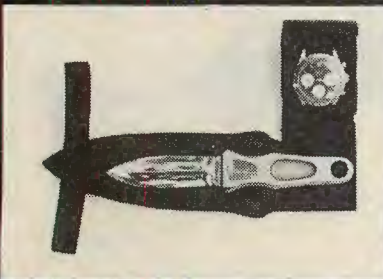
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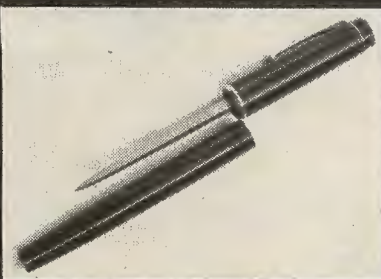
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SURVIVAL

Continued from page 33

Most survivalists seem to favor some version of this general theme. It is certainly the most straightforward unravelling of our complex economic ills, but it may not be the most likely.

Please note that I did not term this scenario "unlikely." It may very well be the first to occur, but I do want to point out that preparing solely for this contingency is shortsighted, since it will only happen if a crisis develops virtually overnight in response to a precipitating occurrence: e.g., a public repudiation by the Soviet bloc of the \$70 billion-plus borrowed from U.S. lending institutions, causing rampant bank failures to develop more quickly than the government can intervene.

If there is no triggering event, no sudden dramatic climax to stimulate a simultaneous eruption of problems so massive as to overwhelm the legislative machinery created to deal with them, then we may encounter a very different denouement indeed.

Police State

II. Dictatorship — Police State. In the absence of one crisis potentiating the effect of another, our various economic time bombs will tend to manifest themselves seriatim and, on that basis, the government can cope with them for a protracted period. Even though it cannot solve the problem, it has the power to apply band-aids and then go on to the next crisis.

For example, when inflation reaches levels just short of initiating public rioting, wage and price controls will be instituted. Never mind that they will create essential shortages and a black-market economy — Big Brother will deal with that problem when it surfaces. Next may be a liquidity crunch and bank runs. The machinery is already in place to declare a "temporary" moratorium on loans and to supply unlimited printing-press currency to the banks without collateral and without regard to their financial condition. (Why not? The stuff they are printing isn't really money.)

Propaganda And "Public Good"

The stunning inflation that will result may then be defused by another delaying tactic, and all the while a steady stream of propaganda will be explaining away these "extraordinary," "temporary" occurrences, and new controls, rules and restraints will be put into place as rapidly as they can be distributed. All of these will be for "the public good" and against the makers of "obscene profits."

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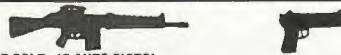
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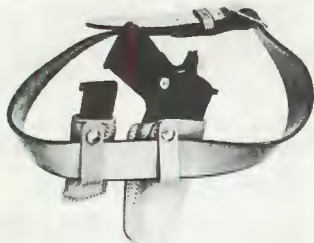
Even larger numbers might remain loyal to the government out of a misguided sense of patriotism — a tendency to confuse one's country with its government. If a soldier doesn't understand the background of the collapse, is not expecting it and only confusion and chaos seem to prevail outside the gates of his base, simply obeying orders may appear the safest course to follow.

In many ways, this second is the most difficult scenario for which to prepare and the one which offers the least chance of surviving the disaster completely unscathed. Because this contingency is so complex, I will devote an entire column and reading list to the special problems which it poses.

War

III. War. Two years ago I would have said that war or the threat of war as international blackmail was the least likely of the three primary scenarios. After all, why wouldn't the Soviets merely outlast us? Politically and militarily things are certainly going their way, thanks in no small measure to some incredibly stupid moves on our part — such as no-win war policies, gigantic loans and food shipments — allowing them both to feed their people and to outspend us on defense.

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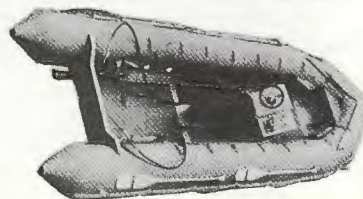
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That logic no longer obtains, however. The Soviet economy is presently in even worse condition than our own, and by 1982 the Russians will be net importers of oil. Internally, their condition is desperate — and a new element has been added. They now have contempt for U.S. willingness to protect its own vital interests, and that attitude, coupled with their pressing need for oil, may well lead to further Soviet adventurism and a serious confrontation which neither side wants. Since both we and they have now adopted counterforce targeting, it is conceivable that either side may believe a limited nuclear exchange to be feasible.

Far more probable, however, are the prospects that emerge from the Soviet development of Directed Energy Weapons, specifically High Energy Lasers and the Particle Beam Generator. Former Air Force Intelligence Chief General Keegan believes that the Particle-Beam device will be fully deployed in the Soviet Union by the end of 1981, and information I have developed independently suggests a time frame as early as April.

This device, which accelerates subatomic particles to the speed of light, in effect throws a lightning bolt as large as 200 miles in diameter, and it has the ability to alter the molecular structure of its target. No more than six, properly located, would make the entire Soviet Union completely invulnerable to attack by ICBMs or conventional aircraft.

The day after these were deployed, the President of the United States might be informed by hot line and invited to take his best shot at Moscow for proof. Within a week new "trade and exchange" agreements could be ratified by Congress and a new era of peace and cooperation would be ushered in without a shot being fired. It could be years before anyone even knew what happened and by then....

Be Prepared

Finally, don't overlook the possibility that we have people in our government who are perfectly capable of starting a hot war if things get too far out of hand domestically, in order to unite the nation against a common enemy and to delay the coming economic chaos.

The one thing which each of these scenarios demands is taking immediate action to the end of becoming prepared to live self-sufficiently away from urban centers and independent of the present economic system. Your first concerns should be with the means of providing security, food and water, proper location and health care. The next several columns will deal with these topics as fully as space permits.



FLAK

Continued from page 7

suicide attempts from succeeding. It is that last-minute response that pulls the shot off-target or puts the brakes on that knife thrust. Of course, anyone with the determination of the subject in the case cited above will eventually get the job done!

L.G.S.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

SHOTS HIT HOME ...

Sirs:

I wish to commend Loren W. Christensen and *Soldier of Fortune* magazine on the story about the sniper on the roof of the Holiday Inn motel in Portland, Ore. ("Shot in the Heart," SOF, October '80). I remember the incident well, but the story had many facts that I did not know or remember.

I also like your coverage of Afghanistan.

Keep up the good work, SOF!

Sincerely,

Mark the Merc

Portland, Oregon

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affairs, I find your articles on current military events helpful in my studies. Your magazine goes in depth where other news reports leave off. Your coverage of the aftermath of a conflict is to be commended. One never reads in other publications about the suffering of anti-communist Indo-Chinese who were sold out by the U.S. and who remain in their homelands.

The coverage of events in the Caribbean and Latin America by your staff is excellent. As a resident of south Florida, I have come in contact with exiles from Cuba, Jamaica and Nicaragua. "The spectre of communism," as Karl Marx called it, haunts this region. (Meanwhile the White House worried about how many delegates Ted Kennedy had or which state Ronald Reagan would win.)

We should be helping the free nations of Latin America and be more realistic about human rights in this chaotic area. We should begin a guerrilla training program of Latin American and Caribbean exiles so they can be sent back home to liberate their homelands from Cuban-inspired communism. Already some Cuban exiles have taken it upon themselves to train for such an event. They are in the Florida Everglades training in guerrilla warfare with weapons allegedly bought with their own money.

You and your readers should not believe the liberal press concerning young people and the draft. Most people my age — 19 — registered and are ready to fight for our country. The ones who are protesting on TV are just a few big mouths, and when it comes time to fight they will have nowhere to run and hide, because the next war will be the big one!

Sincerely,
John E. Chicky, Jr.
Jensen Beach, Florida

REEL-TO-REEL FLYING ...

Sirs:

As a footnote to Dana Drenkowski's "Flight of the White Eagles" (SOF, August, September '80), Merian Cooper was also a filmmaker. During WWI he filmed acrobatics by American ace Eddie Rickenbacker for the newsreels. During the 1920s he continued making adventure films with fellow Polish veteran Ernest Schoedsack and went on to become an executive producer at RKO Pictures. One of his first feature films at RKO was *King Kong* (1933). The giant ape was, of course, ultimately vanquished by combat aircraft.

Sincerely,
Gary Higginbotham
Springfield, Missouri

RUSSIANS AND RABBITS ...

Sirs:

The mysterious bullet wounds which the Russians have been inflicting upon the Afghans, as described by Galen L. Geer

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MORE NUKES

(SOF, September '80), are identical in appearance to those inflicted on our local groundhog population by my 25-06 and .17 Remington hollowpoint reloads. Only the size of the exploded wound channel differs, along with the surrounding volume of bruised flesh. I have done autopsies on several hundred groundhogs and on numerous rabbits during the last few years.

I am neither a doctor nor a veterinarian. I am a meat hunter. The reason I've been doing autopsies on all these groundhogs and rabbits is to determine which cuts of meat I can salvage for my stewpot and which cuts should be left behind for the coyotes and farm dogs.

Lest the Russians get too ambitious, let it be noted that we have plenty of hollowpoint ammo over here, and innocent Afghans aren't the only people in the world who can be killed by that stuff, which would be just the thing to turn Russian innards into something resembling black caviar sauce.

Sincerely,
Ronald Lank
Kingston, Ontario, Canada



CORPS

Continued from page 62

cooked up here on the front lines. Supposed to be for Thanksgiving. Lots of rifle fire today on both sides.

Nov. 25: We laid down a 10-minute artillery barrage this morning and as soon as it was over we advanced about 300 yards before we met opposition. We ran into about a platoon of Japs dug in on a knoll. They lobbed a lot of knee mortar rounds and threw hand grenades down on us. Lawson, Peterson and I made two trips to the 9th Marines' command post under heavy fire. How they kept from hitting us I can't possibly understand. The bullets whistled by like mosquitoes. It was afternoon before we could outflank them and we killed them all. There were about 60.

Nov. 26: We moved out this morning and tied in with the 9th Marines. Then we advanced about 900 yards. We were supposed to tie in with F Company on the left but they weren't there, so we dropped back 300 yards and we still couldn't find them. We are set up here sticking out like a sore thumb. We found some big Jap bivouacs today. They were all over this area. Lots of artillery hits in here and I suppose that ran them out. Lots of Japs buried shallow and the stench is unbelievable. There are about 30 unburied.

Nov. 27: Contacted F Company this morning. Another combat patrol and we found another big Jap bivouac area just

JANUARY/81

ahead of where we were yesterday. We estimated at least 1,200 dead Japs knocked out by our artillery. Smith and I went across the draw and found numerous dead Japs and a well-used trail with communication lines strung along it. We were relieved by 9th Marines and dropped back.

Off The Line

Nov. 28: We got two hot meals today — the first for some time and it made the sweat pour off us. We are on a moment's notice to move out if we are needed. Took a good bath in a stream nearby and felt good to be cleaned up. We talk to the 53rd SeaBees near here and they think we are great. They named one of their roads "Marine Drive" for us.

Dec. 7: We marched five miles to front lines packing grub and ammunition to the paratroopers.

Dec. 14: The Japs hit the 9th Marines hard today and our artillery really tore them up.

Dec. 21: I was admitted to Hospital C Medical with malaria.

Dec. 25: We had spam and sliced pineapple for Christmas dinner.

Dec. 26: Checked out of hospital and reported back to my company on front lines. They have trenches dug three and four feet deep and are just sitting tight.

Dec. 27: Japs lobbed a lot of mortars in on us last night. Chick Madsen and two other Marines were killed.

Dec. 29: We went on combat patrol about 2,000 yards forward of our lines and didn't see any live Japs.

Jan. 11: Army troops relieved us and we dropped back to the beach. We will go aboard ship tomorrow. This island is what I would call "secured."

The Raiders were doomed. We were to be disbanded and reformed as the 4th Marine Regiment, the only regiment that refused to surrender its colors in the Philippines. (The 4th Marine Regiment survivors burned their colors and headed for the bush when ordered to surrender.)

It was a sad day for us but it was inevitable. One Raider wrote a poem that started, "They are doing away with the best they've got and throwing us in with the common lot." While it was a nice thought, it was not necessarily true. Put any Marine into combat and he is likely to be just as effective, just as good, as any other Marine.

On Guadalcanal the separation took place. Those of us who had left the States on 9 May 1942 were referred to as "The Old Raiders," and we were put aboard ships bound for the United States. The others went to the 4th Marine Regiment. Of the 900 who had started out there were now exactly 231.

Gung Ho.



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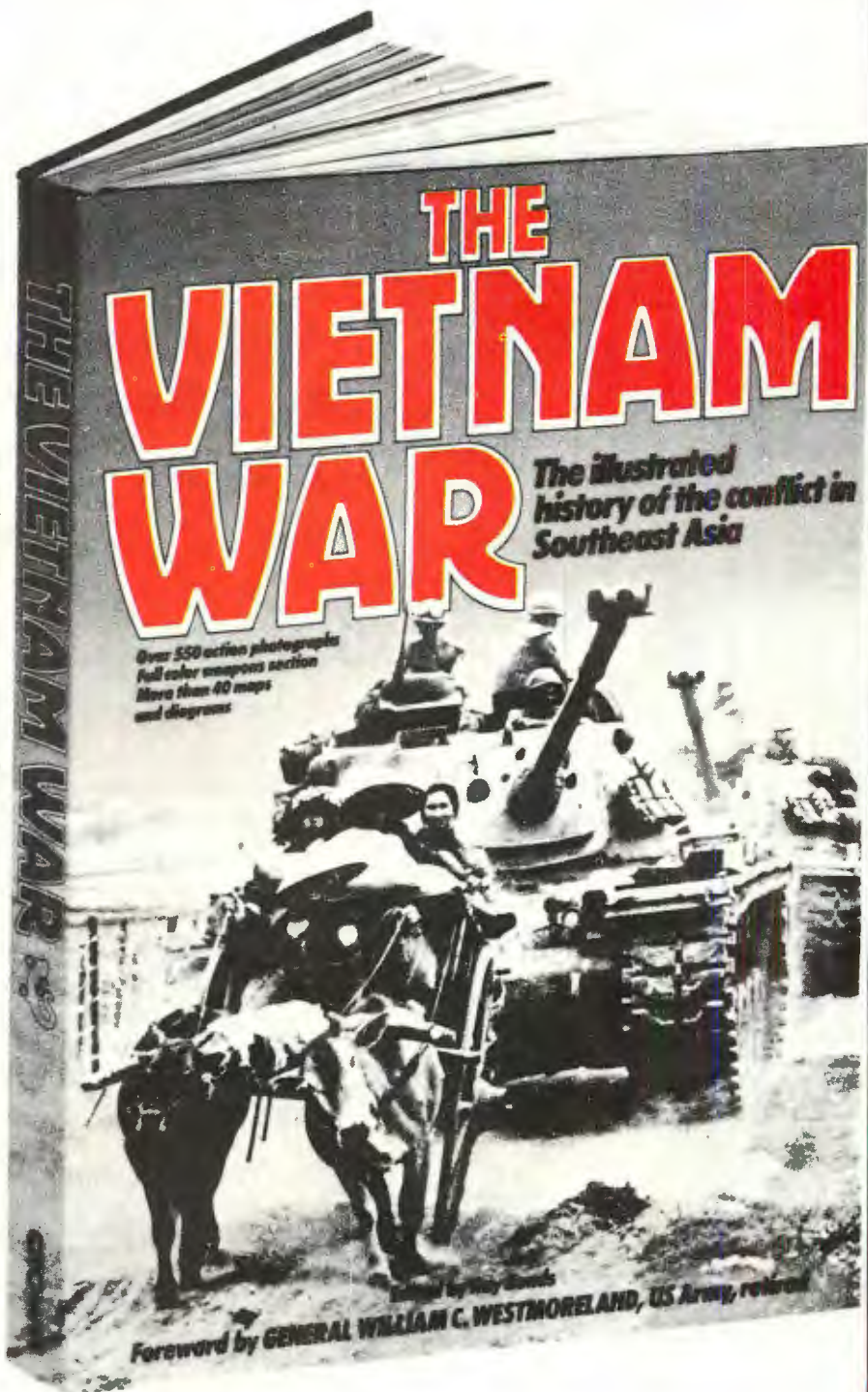
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