

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

OF

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The Journal Of Professional Adventurers

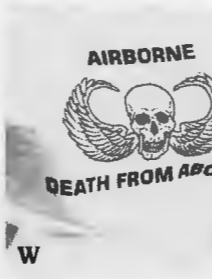
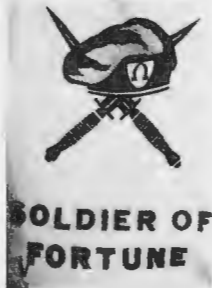
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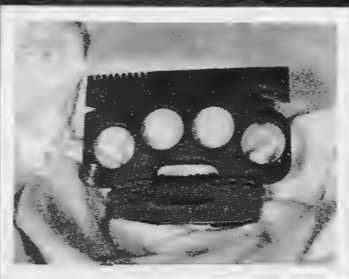
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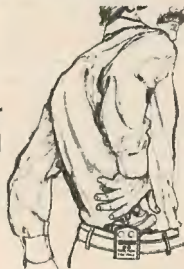
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

MAY/1981

VOL. 6, NO. 5

COVER: Recon Marine cammied up for action in the woods of Camp Lejeune, N.C. Recons like their duty rough: in routine training, they spend days without shelter in the frigid, rain-soaked bush of the sprawling base. Photo: Fred Reed.

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BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos



MAROON BERETS BACK ...

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Edward C. Meyer is restoring to his paratroopers their treasured maroon berets, which were snatched away from them almost two years ago.

An Army spokesman said, "It is just one of a number of efforts to increase the soldier's sense of togetherness, pride and unit identity."

It will take some months before the headgear can be purchased and issued through the regular supply system but, until then, jump-qualified paratroopers in airborne units can buy them on their own if they wish.

Nearly two years ago, Gen. Bernard Rogers, Meyer's predecessor, banned unusual headgear for special troops, with the exception of the Special Forces' green berets — which is their nickname.

SOF is encouraging a readership Congressional mail campaign to aid the Afghan Freedom Fighters. For details see box at end of Jim Coyne's Afghan story, p. 76.

SANDS AND JAMS ...

The Army — which insisted upon its adoption — is finally coming to the conclusion that the M16 rifle may not be all that wonderful a weapon after all.

At least two officers who took part in recent maneuvers in Egypt have their doubts about its value as a weapon — in desert fighting at any rate.

Capt. Carl Carrano, who led an assault infantry company in the Egyptian desert exercise, says the M16 "is

not a good weapon for the desert" because it lacks range and is prone to jam when used in a sandy environment.

Lt. Col. Dave Kuhl, who commanded the maneuver task force from the 101st Airmobile Division, says he agrees wholeheartedly with Capt. Carrano's judgment that "we need a longer-range weapon than the M16."

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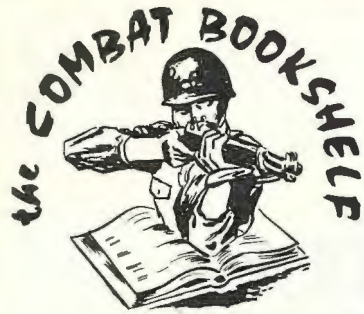
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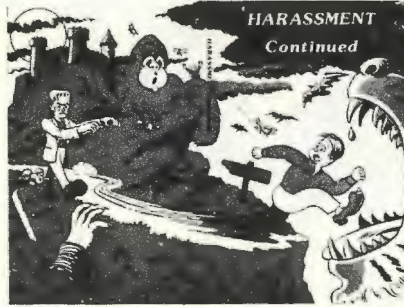


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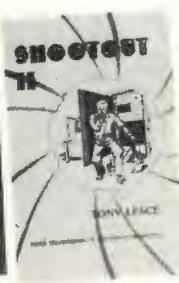


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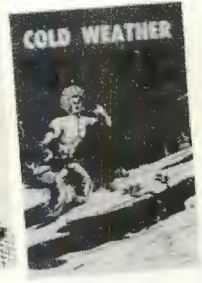
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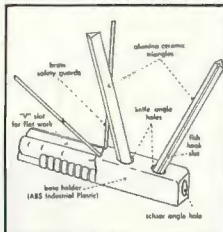
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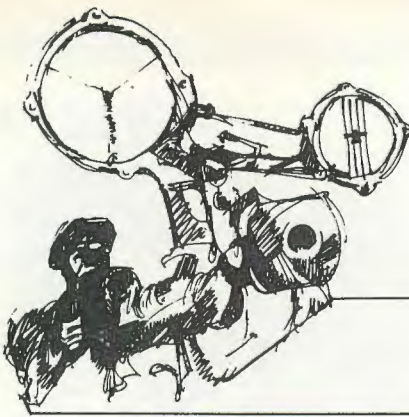
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FLAK

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Yours,
F.M.K.

Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Our experts tell us no. However, to be on the safe side, we suggest the pills be sucked, not chewed — and don't put two or three under the tongue and jump up and down. — The Eds.

PRIMO RIDGEBACK ...

Sirs:

Thank you for the article on Rhodesian Ridgebacks ("A Breed Apart," SOF, January '81). I had one of these animals until 1974. Primo (he was, too!) grew to be a trifle large by AKC standards, measuring 35-36 inches at the shoulders, 120 pounds empty, 51-inch chest, 19-19½-inch neck, strong as an ox, stubborn as a mule and possessed of some of the biggest teeth you have ever seen on a dog. I don't know how fast he could run, but 25 mph-plus seems like a sure bet. If he was not as quick as a cat, he damn sure could outrun one.

Before Primo was one year old he had broken two choke chains — that is when I went to parachute webbing and hardware for a collar. He used to routinely punch slats out of a six-foot-high wooden fence with his head. He would drag me down the street with a short lead and a choke chain when I weighed 200 pounds ("Heel, Primo! Heel, Primo!"). He was not the best disciplined animal I ever owned. Alas, he was not as strong as a Chevrolet — though it sustained some substantial damage.

Sincerely,
Will Gerth
Redondo Beach, California

GIVE ME THE WORDS ...

Sirs:

It is about time somebody told the true feelings of the soldier. I was deeply moved by "The Warrior Image" (SOF, January '81), for you said what I felt but did not know how to say.

I am the Detachment Commander of a small arctic recon and scout unit in the Alaska National Guard. I served with B Co., 1st Bn., 9th Marines as a rifleman in Vietnam (1968-69). After being separated from the USMC, I joined a 175 S.P. gun battalion in the USMC. After a year I then joined the Alaska Army National Guard. Up until now I had no real answer for the insults and jeers I have received over the past 13 years.

I have repeatedly heard it said in the community that the members of my unit and of any military organization are warmongers, lack intelligence and are in the military because they are incapable of anything else. This evaluation is totally erroneous. In my unit alone there are teachers, police officers, construction workers, engineers, students and a variety of other highly trained personnel. Some of my members drive 80 miles to attend guard drills. This is done at their own expense. Do they do it for the money? Hardly. Do they do it for glory? There is none. What makes the members of a military organization give up large sums of money or the comfort of a lighted fireplace and the company of a warm young lady to endure boring hours in a classroom or dark, cold (subzero) hours in the field?

I think your editorial — no, testament — tells it all, and I will continue to carry it until the torn and wrinkled page will no longer hold together. I will never forget it and I hope those I read it to will not either.

Sincerely,
Lt. J.S. Tong
Kenai, Alaska

Continued on page 20

AMERICA FIGHTS BACK!

"This is the most spectacular tribute ever issued to honor the 600,000 American troops—more than three times as many as fought on both sides at Gettysburg—who fought back and won after Hitler's massive surprise attack in the Ardennes."



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The Battle of The Bulge Commemorative Commando Knife with 18-karat gold-on-brass hilt and luxurious blue velvet-covered display case. Shown approximately one-half actual size.

To the American Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne: 22 Dec 1944

The fortune of war is changing. U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units...There is but one possible way to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation; that is...surrender... If...rejected, one German Artillery Corps and six huge anti-aircraft battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne...

(Signed) The German Commander

To the German Commander: 22 Dec 1944

NUTS!

(Signed) The American Commander

Note: The German Commander did not understand "...ze meaning of ze...Americano Commander's...reply... 'NUTS!'" So, an American P.O.W. explained, "Sir, this is an American slang word that, in effect, tells you to 'GO TO HELL!'"

It was December, 1944. For the first time since the Revolution, American troops were forced to fight for survival in a winter campaign, against a foreign enemy. Unrelenting rain, sleet, snow, fog, ice, mud, floods and sub-zero weather had bogged down American and Allied forces and prevented vital air support and surveillance.

In a tremendous surprise attack ordered by Hitler, von Rundstedt's 17 divisions with eight additional divisions in reserve drove a 50-mile-wide wedge (or "bulge") between the Allied forces in the north and the south in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg. The unsuspecting American forces were greatly outmanned and outgunned. Over 8,000 Americans were forced to surrender—more than in any other episode of any other war except Bataan. Bastogne was surrounded—and it looked like more Americans would be taken prisoner soon. All men joined the firing line—including clerks, cooks, truck drivers, repairmen and police.

By splitting the Allied forces, Hitler hoped to be able to force a separate peace on the Americans and the British. But the American, British and Allied forces courageously fought back. Before it was over, more than a million men fought on both sides. Hitler lost his last desperate gamble on the Western Front, and with it 82,000 in dead, wounded and captured, more than 800 tanks and over one thousand planes. American casualties totalled 77,000 of which 19,000 were killed and 21,000 were captured or missing. At least 700 tanks and nearly 600 aircraft were lost.

But now there could be no stopping the Allied push to the Rhineland.

Knife Honors Battle

The American Historical Foundation and Wilkinson Sword Limited are now honoring The Battle of The Bulge with the issuance of the same famous World War II Commando Knife carried by many of the heroic American, British and other Allied combat men in that bleak winter of 1944-1945 in the Ardennes.

This is the first time in over 35 years that the maker of the original, now famous, World War II Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife has made this long-hilted, chequered grip classic. This is not simply a reproduction but a skillfully made—largely by hand—genuine F-S Fighting Knife, re-issued in a limited edition by the original maker, with rich museum-quality embellishments and finish. Experts agree that this spectacular version of this famous Commando Knife will be greatly sought after by collectors. It takes its rightful place in the succession of historic edged weapons made in the Sword Works in London, England of the 208-year-old Wilkinson Sword Limited.

It is the most spectacular object ever issued to honor The Battle of The Bulge and will serve as a proud legacy of one of the greatest moments in American history, which can be passed along to future generations of your family to serve as a reminder to them of your interest in military history, and quite possibly of your participation, or the participation of one of your relatives, in this strategically vital battle of World War II.

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Only 2500 will be made worldwide for collectors, military historians, museums, and soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines of World War II and their families. Each knife will be individually numbered on the crossguard and registered with The American Historical Foundation.

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- Luxurious 15" rich blue velvet covered display

case, with brass closure clasps and hinges. Fully fitted and lined with blue velvet, white piping and white silk inner lid, gold tooled with commemorative inscription.

- Numbered Certificate of Authenticity.
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- Copy of General Patton's 680-word "Miraculous Talk With God" requesting good weather and divine guidance to prevent an Allied holocaust. ("...in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers months behind in their work.")
- The opportunity, without obligation, to add to your collection subsequent limited edition knife issues in this World War II Victory Collection series, with matching registry numbers. These knives, with different spectacular finishes and materials, will honor other major World War II Allied victories.
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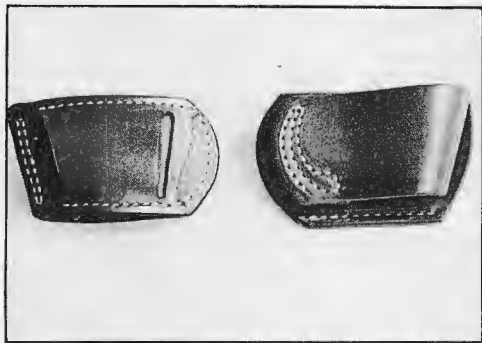
New Slide-Belt Holster

by Ken Hackathorn



BELT-slide-holster design is not often written about, although these belt-slide scabbards are very popular in many parts of the world, and their level of utility and practicality goes far beyond that of most holsters. The beauty of the belt slide lies in the fact that one can wear the slide without the gun in it and go about his daily duties without anyone noticing it. Without a pistol in the belt slide, the leather loop looks like a carry pouch for a smoker's pipe or a carpenter's hammer. The general public wouldn't give it a second glance.

Once the pistol is shoved into the belt slide, the weapon is held securely and close to the body for concealment and comfort. With the belt slide, one does not have to take his holster off every time he takes his gun off. This design is perfect for the merchant or shopkeeper who does not wish to wear a gun all the time.



FAR LEFT: Milt Sparks' Mirage (left) costs \$22 with natural finish, \$25 when dyed; Yagui (right) costs \$25 (natural), \$28 (dyed). To order, write him at Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 187, Idaho City, ID 83631. **Photo:** C.E.D. Kite **LEFT:** W. Gordon Davis' Model 456 Gridley Special belt-slide holster. A neat, practical way to carry sidearm, its design yields concealment and comfort. Pistol is secure but moves quickly into action. **Photo:** Ken Hackathorn.

The gun can be placed out of sight when one enters a business area, and the sight of the belt-slide holster will not cause the concern that an empty hip holster sometimes does. Many people prefer this system, and it is very common in the Southwest as well as Mexico. Central America favors the belt slide because it minimizes the heat and discomfort common to most hip holsters.

There are a number of fine designs available, and Milt Sparks has offered a couple of them for years. Recently, a new version has found a place on the hips of a number of pistoleros. W. Gordon Davis of the Davis Leather Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 446, Arcadia, CA 91006, has come up with a very nice belt slide. Called the model 456-Gridley Special, it sells for \$19.95 and is a good rig.

Many combat shooters use fancy rigs for competition but rely on scabbards such as the Gridley Special for everyday use. Gordon Davis offers a complete line of leather gear for the practical shooter and, judging from the number of his holsters used by top guns, his products are popular.

The Gridley Special belt slide may be just the answer to your sidearm-carry problems. I suggest you take a look at it. Although the M-456 Gridley Special is made for the Colt 1911 pistol, it will also accommodate most other common-duty autos, including the P-35, P-7 and the Walther PPK.



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Continued from page 6

younger and parachute volunteers cannot be more than 36 years old; 18 months of active service remaining in enlistment.

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DID YOU KNOW CAPT. SHANNON? ...

SOF reader Mike Shannon would like to contact anyone who knew his father, Capt. Kenneth Mike Shannon, in Vietnam, particularly anyone who was present when the elder Shannon was killed in February of 1968. Capt. Shannon was serving with the First (Black Horse) Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry at the time of his death. Mike can be reached by writing 1947 Hershner Dr., San Jose, CA 95124, or by calling (408) 377-4278.

W HOOPS ...

Sharp-eyed SOF editors have already spotted two bloopers in the April 1981 issue and we hasten to correct them in order to head off an avalanche of mail.

The weapon carried by the Afghan Freedom Fighter on the cover is an RPG 2, not RPG 7 as described in the cover blurb. Another obvious goof is the photo caption mix-up on p. 42. Those vehicles in the foreground clearly are not Mi-8 "Hip" helicopters but T-54B tanks. Vehicles in the background are Soviet APCs, lead one a BMP-2, an improved version of the BMP-1s following it. T-54Bs have a crew of four, weigh 36,000 kilograms when combat loaded, mount a 100mm main gun, carry an infrared search light plus two infrared driving lights and have a maximum road range of 400 kilometers.

Less obvious is another error on p. 31, the byline on "1st Marine Division 1950-51." It should have read Bob Poos, not Jim Graves. As Managing Editor Graves puts it: "That piece was obviously written by someone who was in the Marines during the Korean War. I ain't that old. Poos is. I was a Marine in Vietnam."

GOODBODY INFO SOUGHT ...

SOF reader George J. Hawkins of Box 591, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, would like to contact the family of a

Continued on page 82



MODEL #10 & 10L "OUTDOORSMAN"
A belt holster well suited to general field use. High ride allows seating with long barrels. Holster is molded to fit your gun. Special flap protects adjustable rear sights. Available silicone suede lining protects fine gun finishes. Lock stitched with durable linen thread.



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A first-quality inside-the-waistband holster. For the first time, all the features of standard holsters in a waist-band design. Features hand-molded leather, thumb-break strap, sight guards and more. Worn just behind right hip, it is comfortable and very concealable. Can be worn under loose shirts and short jackets. Snaps on and off belt. For autos and revolvers.



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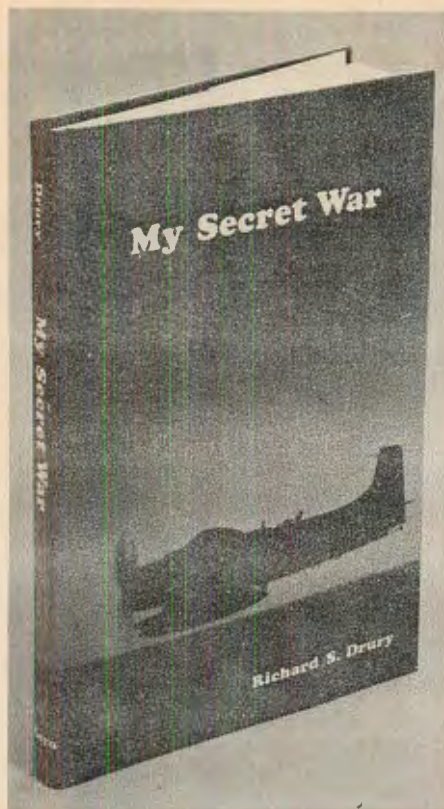
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IN REVIEW



RIGHT: USAF A-1E Skyraider, bomb load expended, rolls down through light cloud cover to make strafing pass at Viet Cong target south of Saigon. Saigon River can be seen at center right. Photo: USAF

BELOW: Air Commando A-1E Skyraider fighter-bomber. Photo: USAF



MY SECRET WAR. By Richard S. Drury. Fallbrook, Calif.: Aero Publishers. 1979. 224 pp., illustrated. \$10.95 in bookstores; \$9.95 (Calif. residents add sales tax) for first edition autographed by author from Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 30044, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. Review by Marv Wolf.

THIS is the book that we *all* wanted to write when we came home from Southeast Asia. Dick Drury, who now earns his living as a Flying Tigers' 747 instructor pilot, recounts his year on the Thai/Lao border, flying Douglas A-1E Skyraiders over Laos, and sometimes Vietnam.

It's about life in an air force that is no more, and that — officially — hardly existed at all. It is history only in the sense that the events he describes in a highly personal way actually happened. More to the point, it is the chronicle of a young pilot fascinated with his chosen aircraft, that venerable relic of WWII-carrier sorties: the Skyraider.

There is about Drury's writing the unmistakable stamp of truth: Even when he sometimes spends a few more pages than required spouting off about wing or squadron commanders who were most concerned with the length of a pilot's sideburns or his skill at falsifying award recommendations for the commander's benefit — the reader can share Drury's outrage. That's how it was. That's how he felt about it.

There are two stories here, both worth remembering. One deals with the hypocritical stance and self-deluded visions of the official Air Force. The other deals with the reality of day-to-day aerial combat for

members of the "Mach Nix Club," the Skyraider pilots that flew their patched-together fighter-bombers at nowhere near the speed of their jet-set counterparts. The Skyraider flew low, slow and reliably through skies all but filled with flak fired from deeply entrenched guns along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the NVA's pipeline through Laos for supplies and munitions heading south for their forces in Vietnam and Cambodia.

It was the sort of flying that won the Battle of Britain, the sort practiced on countless Pacific atolls, the sort sometimes called for along the singed ridges of Korean campaigns. It was seat-of-the-pants; it was as dangerous as any combat ever got; it was exactly what Dick Drury was looking for in his youth.

My Secret War is filled with the nitty-gritty details that could only come from having been there and taken good notes. It is a warning to those with romantic ideals about the realities of a war with a no-win policy. It is especially a come-uppance to those self-serving senior officers who always confuse appearances with effectiveness, who spend their days and nights worrying about their next medal, their next promotion, their next ticket to be punched, and never mind anything else.

But more than anything, this book is a salute to a whole genre of unsung heroes — men like Drury himself — who put their lives on the line daily to save one of their downed comrades. Toward the end of his 220 combat missions, Drury was assigned to Sandy duty. The Sandies were the most experienced Skyraider pilots around, and their duty was to fly an air-

borne standby, waiting for word that a U.S. airman was down. Then began their real work — protecting the downed fliers until they could be rescued by helicopter.

This was the most dangerous flying of all, and it was here that the Skyraider proved itself above all other planes. It could loiter longer, carry more ordnance and dodge and weave above the treetops. It was the Sandies that saved Col. Hambleton (see p. 22), and it was flying Sandies that earned Dick Drury the Silver Star (to go along with his four DFCs and 19 Air Medals).

This is a book with a flaw. It is not critical, but it runs the length of the work. From time to time, a word here or there seems to have bailed out of the text, or a bit of punctuation seems to have escaped and evaded. Not enough to stop the reader, but enough to remind him that a better proofreader might have made it more readable. It is hoped that subsequent editions will be shaped up before shipping.

But this is nevertheless a book that begs to be read, savored, kept handy for reference. A book your sons will want to read. A book you'll want to read again after a few months or a few years, when you begin to forget, just a little, how it was out there, in a world of great, spinning 14-foot propellers, a world enriched by the aroma of hot oil and sweat-stained overalls, a world of aerial adventure that is gone forever.





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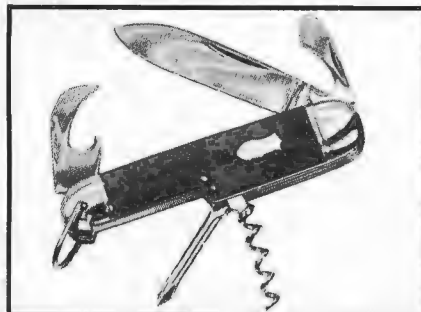
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IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Robert G. Lagana as told to M.L. Jones



What started as a day like countless others for Sgt. Robert G. Lagana, commander of Track 12, recon section, and the other men of C Troop, 3/4 Cav., 25th Infantry Division, ended in action. As he tells it:

OUR troop was busy setting up a night laager position outside a large village close to the base of Nui Ba Dinh (Black Virgin Mountain) in Tay Ninh Province on 18 June 1969. Earlier in the evening, trip flares had been positioned 80 to 100 meters to the front of all the vehicles, each crew careful to overlap theirs with the next to insure an unbroken early-warning line against the hardcore VC working the area. RPG screens had been erected in front of all the 113s and Sheridan tanks, fighting holes dug and claymore mines positioned.

The men on Track 12 and I began to relax and talk about our day's fruitless sweep of the jungle around the base of the Black Virgin. Darkness and the promise of rain kept the crews of the 113s close to their vehicles. Tonight we wouldn't socialize with the other crews over a warm beer, since the inky-black tropical night made even the Starlight scopes ineffective. Hours limped by.

Suddenly, the horizon blazed with light. Two trip flares were burning brightly 100 meters north of the laager. As if on cue, trip flares went off all around our encampment.

C Troop opened up with .50-cals, M60s and Sheridan main guns. The tanks facing the village held their fire, even though trip flares were going off directly in front of them. I heard my driver, Sol, scrambling beneath the commander's hatch toward his driver's seat. My two gunners were behind their M60s, laying down perfectly timed bursts. My .50-cal. shook the 113.

Sgt. Lagana's C Troop prepare to mount their tracks. Each vehicle as modified, is armed with a .50-cal. Browning M2 HB, two M60 MGs and a recoilless rifle.

Tracers arced into the night, and adrenalin pumped through tired bodies.

After what seemed like hours, I heard the old man through my CVC helmet: "Cease fire! Cease fire!" The guns stuttered to a halt.

Complete and utter silence. Nothing moved. Tension lay as thick as the tropical night.

Bursts of .50-cal. at real or imagined sounds and movement punctuated the rest of the night. Nerves on edge, 100 percent alert, no one slept. What was going on? We heard no return fire, not one round.

The sun rose red as a malignant eye, slowly focusing on us. Because we'd expended so much ammo in the recon by fire, the old man arranged for a resupply

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 and credits) 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.

convoy to link up with us. Tracks 11 and 12 were to proceed one kilometer to the village on the hardtop road to receive the resupply. Track 13 pulled an empty water buffalo to exchange for a full one. The three tracks started their engines and struck out on a bearing that would intersect the road south of the village.

We were all on edge. I rechecked the .50, glanced around and saw my gunners going over their weapons — no need for words. We knew our jobs and our tools. Everyone knew something was wrong.

No villagers — no one. Usually they'd be making their way to the fields or the big market in Tay Ninh. Tracks 11 and 12 covered the kilometer to the road in minutes. It was eerie — no villagers, no movement.

The commander of Track 13 deviated from our predetermined bearing and broke out of the jungle 200 meters north of our position. As he gained the road we saw a puff of smoke and heard the first RPG slam into the empty water buffalo. The second burst on the flat side of the track, tossing men from its deck onto the ground. I saw my friends scrambling to the ditch by the roadside. Without orders, my driver swung our track around to give the .50-cal. maximum opportunity.

I signaled 11's track commander to cross the road and lay down an intense covering fire in the direction of the disabled 13. Then I looked at Sol and my two gunners. I said, "Let's get 'em out of there."

Sol dodged and wove the track. We were in the KZ (killzone) in what seemed like seconds. My .50-cal. thundered long bursts that ripped up the countryside and kept the VC in their holes, and the blasts of the two M60s alternated with my fire — each man timing his shots so as to reload when the other two guns were firing.

I thought, "God, don't let us all stop to reload at once." He was listening.

The men in the ditch dashed for my track and scrambled on. By a miracle no one was killed. AK fire broke my radio antenna. We had lots of holes in the track but none in us. One man from 13 was slightly wounded but not badly enough to keep him from humping .50-cal. for me, grinning and thumping me and my crew on the backs.

Suddenly, explosion after explosion nearly tore our shirts off. To my right and left, C Troop was on line kickin' ass and takin' names. A most welcome sight.

We later learned we had routed a large VC force fortified with NVA. Their intent was to claim control of a large village in III Corps in order to gain concessions at the Paris peace talks. Guess we ruined their plans.

For his heroism during this ambush, Sgt. Lagana was awarded the Bronze Star.—The Eds.



I WAS THERE

by Toby K. Bogges
as told to M.L. Jones

Sgt. Toby K. Bogges is now a college student and reserve policeman in Porterville, Calif. He served three years in the U.S. Army as an infantryman, infantry squad leader and recon team leader. He is a recon team leader in the California National Guard and plans to continue his military career as long as he can be in a tactical unit. As he tells it:

I was on patrol during training at Jungle Operations Training Center (JOTC) in Panama, when we were "ambushed." We were slowly and painfully working our way through mud, black palms and dense jungle. It was about an hour before dark when Mac, our patrol leader, decided it was time to break for chow. We formed a "360" for security and started to grease.

I was so tired, I fell down and rolled over on my back, using my ruck' for a chair. The jungle was so thick that I could see barely five meters on either side of the trail.

Suddenly, a pair of the ugliest monkeys I had ever seen popped up in front of me and Mac. He hated monkeys because one had bitten him in 'Nam. Mac reached into his rucksack and pulled out his wrist rocket (one of those souped-up sling shots) and shot the bigger monkey right between the eyes with a ball bearing. It stiffened up and fell over, graveyard dead. I thought it was pretty funny and Mac was getting ready to pop the other one when all hell broke loose.

The whole jungle came alive with this high-pitched "wooooooooop-wooop-wooooooop!" I looked back at Mac just in time to see a big wad of monkey shit impact on the back of his boonie hat. Then every tree in the place started to shake. As soon as Mac drew down on that second chimp, a whole bunch of monkeys descended on us. The shit had hit the fan.

I grabbed my machete and began to hack away at the bastards, but it was too late. They were out for pay-back. It was hand-to-monkey for a while, until Mac, who had lost a piece of scalp to the attackers, made the command decision to conduct a retrograde operation by screaming, "Fuck it! Head for the LZ!"

The landing zone was about two clicks away, and no easy hike in that terrain. By the time we made it to the choppers, we were covered with monkey shit and blood from head to toe.

I must admit it was kind of demoralizing — a whole long-range recon patrol chased out of the boonies by a battalion of baboons.



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FLAK

Continued from page 8

BUREAU BEHAVIOR ...

Sirs:

I do not know Ken Hackathorn, nor do I know his background. As a former special agent, however, I do know something about the FBI. There is certainly nothing wrong with two-handed, flash-sight shooting (see "Combat Pistolcraft," SOF, November '80). The Bureau teaches exactly that. In an instantaneous, point-blank gunfight, however, there just may not be enough time.

Bureau studies have shown that most gunfights are over in a "flash" and take place at less than seven yards, and that the participants tend to shoot high. Hence the FBI crouch, which also drops the unbuttoned coat open for the draw.

The "aim" is not necessarily to the "gut" as Hackathorn suggests, but includes the sternum, neck and head, the "five zone" or "kill zone." I personally know of several gunfights in which the agent, instinctively reacting as the Bureau taught him (weeks and weeks of rounds) took out his adversary.

I would respectfully suggest to Ken Hackathorn that the FBI does it for real, day after very long day, and that they have been damned consistent winners. For anyone who has put it on the line with them, Mr. Hackathorn, they are the best.

Respectfully,
Norman G. Bailey
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Ken Hackathorn replies:

Saying anything critical of the FBI defensive sidearm training system is bound to cause reactions such as Norman Bailey's. I have the utmost respect for the personnel and special agents of the Bureau, the premier law-enforcement agency in the U.S. Nonetheless, its firearms training program has not kept pace with the advances made in the past few decades. The current staff of firearms instructors at the FBI Academy are concerned about providing the finest defensive training available to their people. In December 1980, the staff at Quantico was introduced to the "New Technique" by one of the top IPSC shooters in the U.S., an special agent himself. They were impressed and interested in beginning a study to see how this system could be used with the FBI program.

Continued on page 26



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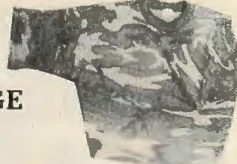
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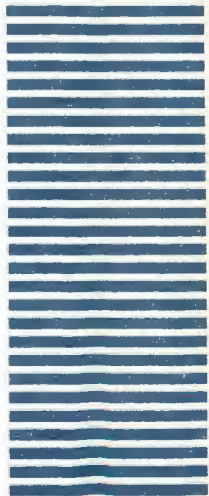
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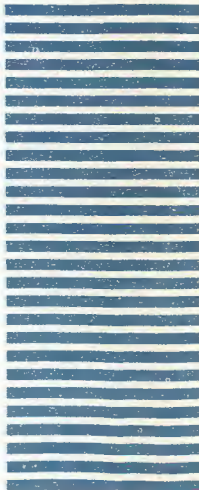
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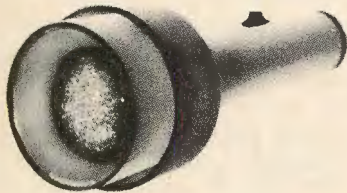
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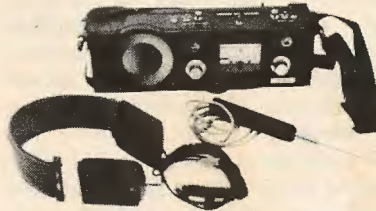
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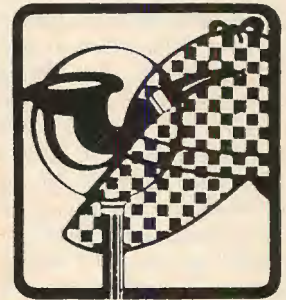
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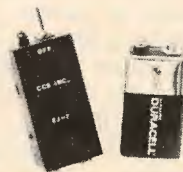
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BAT-21: DOWN NEAR THE DMZ

SOF Interviews Escaped Hero Gene Hambleton

by Marv Wolf

Lt. Col. Iceil "Gene" Hambleton, USAF (retired) is the soft-spoken, easy-going hero of Bat-21 (see p. 25), a book named for his radio call sign during the 13 days he evaded a substantial portion of the North Vietnamese Army in March 1972.

His military career began a few days after Pearl Harbor, when he and three of his buddies in his home town of Winona, Ill., volunteered their services to the military. Unfortunately, Ham — he hates his given name and answers either to Gene or Ham — was tall and skinny and had a couple of bad teeth, and the physical standards then were still reflecting pre-war realities. He was classified 4F and went to work in a hazardous job at a defense plant. When his foreman learned that Ham was being paid an hourly wage of \$1.11 as a high-explosive operator — the foreman was only getting \$.96/hr. — he complained to management, and Ham was told that he'd have to accept \$.95/hr.

Ham quit, after being warned by the Army colonel running the ordnance factory that to do so would mean being drafted. Ham knew he was 4F, and wasn't worried. Nevertheless, he was met at the factory gates by an Army staff car, and less than three weeks later he was inducted into the Air Corps as a private.

He was trained as an airframe and engine mechanic but, after freezing his hands on a P-38 manifold one frosty, Nebraska winter morning, he applied for cadet training. He was commissioned in 1945 and became a B-29 navigator. When the war ended, his squadron was preparing for Pacific deployment. Ham took his discharge shortly after, but remained in the reserves while he started a new career selling refrigerators.

But on Christmas Day 1950, he got a plain-wrapped telegram ordering him back to active duty. The Chinese had entered the Korean War and Ham was needed. At that point he made up his mind to stay in the Air Force when the war ended; it was a decision he and his wife, Gwen, had often discussed.

During the Korean fray he flew B-29 bombing missions over North Korea from bases in Japan, acting as radar/SHIRAN navigator on 43 missions. On one of these, returning from a bombing run at

the Senawiju Bridge, one of his crewmates tuned into a Chicom propaganda broadcast on shortwave radio. Ham was amazed and slightly frightened to hear a female announcer tick off the names of each of his crewmates — and his own — as they winged their way at 190 knots back across the Sea of Japan. He knew then that the enemy's intelligence was not to be underestimated.

After Korea, Ham made the transition to jets — first with the B-47 — and then went into target intelligence and increasingly sophisticated electronic and nuclear delivery systems. He became involved in target planning. When the B-47 was phased out in favor of the new B-52, Ham decided he'd had enough flight time and switched to the Air Force missile program, initially with the Jupiter program and later with Titan. He was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB near Tucson, and served first as a crew commander and later as operations officer, wing director of operations and finally squadron commander.

Then a new 15th Air Force commander was assigned. One of this general's idiosyncrasies was that he refused to have former navigators as tactical squadron commanders. Ham suddenly found himself assigned to Korat, Thailand, flying EB-66s. That was late in 1971.

SOF: Ham, what's a B-66?

HAM: The B-66 is the old Douglas Destroyer, a twin-engine jet that weighs about 60,000 lbs. It looks a lot like an A-7 in the air. Ours were EB-66s because we were outfitted with electronic gear instead of bombs. It's about an .85 mach ship, but we usually flew it at about 430 knots. One of our jobs was to draw fire from the SAM-2s. We wanted them to shoot at us because we could outmaneuver their missiles, and every missile they shot at us was one less they had to shoot at a B-52. And drawing fire helped pinpoint their launch area — then we could go in and destroy it.

SOF: How did you get away from a SAM?

HAM: We could pull about 6½ Gs in a dive, and the missiles couldn't handle more than 2½. I'll never forget the first time I was in a plane that was fired on. We had this equipment in the cockpit — we had 28 ECM sets in the plane — and we

could almost pick up a guy's watch ticking, with the guy on the ground. Our equipment would pick up everything that missile did. We'd know when they fired it up and started the engines. Our equipment read, "low power," "high power," and "launch." And it records it on a scope. So we'd know they were set to launch just when they knew it.

Now, our aircraft carried three people, but some other configurations in the squadron carried six. All of our ECM was automatic. We had one ECM operator just to maintain the black boxes — turn them on and off, switch frequencies, and so forth. Now, on our ship — an "E" model — the ECM guy sat in back and I sat up front in the right seat, almost side-by-side with the pilot. The ECM guy would pick up a signal, give me the data, and I'd plot it out on my map.

But that first one, it scared the hell out of me. We got the signal and the electronic-warfare man yelled, "SAM, SAM, SAM." Then we knew that we had about 10 seconds before we'd be hit — we were flying at about 30,000 feet. So we waited three or four seconds, to let the missile get close to our altitude, then we just turned that airplane over and went right straight down. We dropped about 10,000 feet.

As I said, we could pull about six Gs, but the missile's gyros would tumble at anything over 2½, and then the guidance system would go out of control. So the reason we'd wait three or four seconds was to let it get right behind us, and then we'd dive. The missile would try to follow us. Every time it would get about halfway around, then just go tumbling through the air. Then we'd pop back up to altitude and go back to work.

SOF: How often did you draw fire?

HAM: The day I was shot down was my 63rd mission, and I guess we'd been fired on about 45 times in all those missions. I remember one day I flew a double mission and we went up and down at least five times. That was five missiles we dodged. After a while it got to be a game. We'd laugh at 'em. Every once in a while we'd wait five seconds before we made our dive. Sometimes we'd go over and tease them, turn off our jammers for a few seconds, daring them to fire a missile. There was no way they were going to hit us.

SOF: But one day they did. How did it happen?

HAM: Well, you hear guys say, "Those stupid little yellow guys." But I've got news — they ain't stupid. They came up with a new guidance system, and the first time they tried it out was on my plane. We knew absolutely nothing about this. What they did is they turned off all the electronics before launch. So nothing showed on our scope. Then they fired the missile manually, aimed it optically. They had a new computer on that thing, and when it got about halfway up they turned it on, updating it with telemetry almost instant-

ly. Then we didn't have 10 seconds — we had four.

SOF: So they got you?

HAM: Well, yes. But there was one other little problem, and I wasn't too happy about that either. We'd been telling the Air Force where this one missile site was, and they wouldn't believe us — which was normal for the times. It took awhile before they'd pinpoint a new SAM location.

Well, all of the missiles up to then had been coming from the north. This one came in from the south. In our preflight briefing we'd rehearsed what we were going to do. We planned to break to the right as soon as a SAM came on our scope, then we'd dive. That would have been the normal procedure — away from the threat. Well, as soon as we got this one on our scope, the old boy in the back started to yell, "SAM, SAM," and we started to break right. Then, almost immediately, the guy yelled, "Negative! Negative! Go left!"

We turned it over to go the other way and, in *one* second, I looked out the win-



dow and there it was, right under our wing.

SOF: Then what happened?

HAM: If we hadn't done what we did, turn it over the way we did, I wouldn't be here. It was armed with a proximity fuse and, when it blew up, it was right behind my seat. So close it melted all the windows in the cockpit. I had little pieces of pot metal flak all over my chest and arms, but I didn't know it then. It was all happening so fast I couldn't think. I just acted. I looked down and there was no bottom in the airplane. I could look right down through it.

The interphone went out, of course, but we had emergency signals. The pilot gave me "seat pin with red streamer, thumbs up." Well, when you pull your seat handles up, the left handle bottoms the seat and releases the canopy. The right handle fires you up. I just pulled up the handles.

SOF: What about the rest of the crew — did they get out?

HAM: No. I've wondered about it ever since. When I went out of the plane, I MAY/81

went straight up. I could still see down into the airplane for a little while, and the pilot was still trying to fly it. So he was alive. The airplane was on fire. I saw it start to break up, but I never saw any more 'chutes. I've been thinking on it for years now, and I think I know what happened. I finally came to the conclusion that they fired *two* missiles at us. I think the second one hit that airplane. I'll never know for sure, but I remember that somewhere in my travels, after I was rescued, I was talking to one of my friends and he told me that they had fired two at us.

Now, I remember I started to spin — after I ejected, but while I was still going up. That makes me believe there was a second explosion, because I was spinning like a top. I remember that I had come out of the plane just fine, was sitting there in midair just like I was in a chair in a hotel room, and I remember looking down for my seat. Then there was another explosion, and that was when I began to spin. So I reached over and popped my parachute and, just as I did, I looked down and saw my plane, on fire, going down

An EB-66E (modified version of the RB-66B). This aircraft, with its crew of three, formerly used as a night photographic-reconnaissance vehicle, now utilizes a maze of electronic jamming equipment to protect friendly aircraft from enemy electronic detection. Photo: USAF

through a cloudbank.

SOF: Why did you pull your 'chute at that altitude? Wouldn't it have been better to let it open automatically?

HAM: That's possible, and in fact we were briefed to let it open itself at 14,000 feet, simply because by freefalling from where we were, 31,000 feet, I'd have been on the ground a lot quicker. But I started to spin and I thought I was going to black out, so I decided the only way to stop it was to pull the 'chute out.

SOF: Was that your first parachute jump?

HAM: It was my first, and my last. My only one. I made up my mind that I'm only going to bail out of one airplane in my life.

SOF: What kind of survival training did you have before you were sent to Thai-

land? Was it of any use to you when you found yourself surrounded by what seemed like half the NVA?

HAM: I had my first survival training while I was with SAC, in 1951, just before I went to Korea. I took it in Colorado. A seven-day course where they throw you out in the woods and say, "Find your own food, survive," and a week later they find out if you did. When I got orders to go to Southeast Asia, they sent me to Homestead AFB, Fla., for the water-survival course. We took the same course that the astronauts take. On our way to Thailand, we went to the jungle-survival course at Clark, in the Philippines. I'm not going to say much about the SAC training, because I was pretty young then and I thought it was unnecessary. I found out later that it wasn't.

The water-survival and the jungle training was some of the best training in my life. I don't much like water, but I got through it all right. But I kind of liked being out in the Philippine jungle. We spent about a week in the school, including two days and two nights out foraging, building camps, learning how to travel and how to find food. Then they brought us back and we played a kind of hide-and-seek game with the *negritos* — the natives they have over there.

SOF: What was that like?

HAM: They gave each of us two red dog tags, and told us to hide. Then the *negritos* tried to find us and, if they did, we had to give them one of the tags and then go find another place to hide. The *negrito* would exchange that red tag for one pound of rice. So he was going to look for us pretty hard, because he wanted that rice.

SOF: So how did you handle this training?

HAM: Well, the *negritos* catch about 99 percent of the people. They know the jungle. It's an all-day exercise, and I went out and found myself a pretty good hiding place and just stayed there all day long. In fact, they had to send the instructors out looking for me, blowing their whistles, before I came out. I found myself a bamboo patch, about the size of a king-sized bed, and just crawled in and pulled some leaves over me.

And I did something else, unconsciously I guess. I'd heard someone say that the way they find you is to look for the whites of your eyes. So, I had this black mosquito netting in a flight-suit pocket — standard issue for jungle flying — and I pulled it out and put it over my head. Then I just lay there all day. They ran over me five or six times, but they never did find me. I just went to sleep until the instructors came out with their whistles.

Turns out I was the only one in the outfit that didn't get caught. And when I was down in Vietnam and they were looking for me, I remembered about the mosquito net. I put it on, and kept it on.

SOF: What could you offer in the way of advice to someone who found himself

in a situation like you did in Vietnam?

HAM: The first and most important thing is: don't panic. Anybody who finds himself in that kind of situation has probably had some training. Probably good training. Stop, take a couple of minutes, and ask yourself, "What did I learn?" Then go do it. I did panic, for just a minute, after I hit the ground. I heard an AK-47 slug go by, pretty close to my head, and I hit the dirt.

Now, when you first get on the ground after bailing out, you're pretty hyped up. I was, I tell you. So after a while, I kind of collected my senses and thought, "Now what did they tell me to do in a situation like this?" I thought on it, and it all came back. Then I went and did it.

SOF: And what were some of the things they told you in training?

HAM: Well, first of all, don't panic. Find a hiding place and sit or, better yet, lie in it. And let all your adrenalin simmer down so you can start thinking logically. And that's what I did. I found myself a little ditch and lay down in it and just stayed there for about three hours. I know that sounds like a long time, but one of the reasons I stayed that long was because there was a pretty good ground battle going on right on top of me. I could see troops running around all over the place, but I couldn't tell which were NVA and which were friendlies. I wasn't going to take any chances.

I kept thinking, "Why don't I just get up and run over there to the friendlies?" But which were the friendlies? I couldn't decide. So I stayed there until dark. It was no time to flip a coin — not that I had a coin. After three hours I was fairly calm, and I knew that I'd always have someone up there in the air helping me, and that I'd be better off not taking chances.

SOF: Did you ever, after the 13 days or during that time, think they'd quit looking for you?

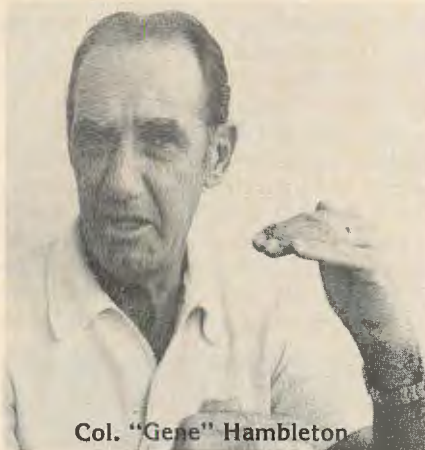
HAM: Yes, there were a couple of times I thought they'd knocked it off, especially about the sixth or seventh day. But I stayed there, not because I was afraid to move — the truth is I was *terrified* — but because the FAC told me to stay put. He had a plan to get me out, and they knew exactly where I was. They had me pinpointed to within 10 feet.

SOF: Why did the North Vietnamese want you, in particular, so badly?

HAM: Well, I'd been in targeting for most of my career. I remembered that night coming back to Japan from North Korea in a B-29 when that woman listed all the crewmen on my ship by name, rank and serial number. So I knew that when they found the wreckage of my plane — and that wouldn't be long — it wouldn't take them long to figure out who I was and that I knew almost every target that was going to get a bomb if we ever went to nuclear war. And I knew a lot about our ECM and our radar. So, naturally, our guys didn't want me taken alive.

SOF: Did you worry that you might get captured alive?

HAM: Well, you never know how strong you are. You never know how long you could hold out with just name, rank and serial number. I'll make this statement now, as I've made it before: I was *not* going to be taken alive. I was not going to spend time in the Hanoi Hilton. I had made my mind up. I had a little four-inch .38 and 26 rounds, I obviously wasn't going to start a war with it, but I was ready to do whatever I had to. I wasn't going to be caught.



Col. "Gene" Hambleton

SOF: How do you feel about what's been happening to our military strength?

HAM: I'm a little concerned. More than a little. Our biggest weapon is deterrence — our missiles, our bombers. I believe that's the only thing which will keep us out of war. I don't think we'll ever have a worldwide nuclear war since all of our supposed enemies know what we have, we know what they have, and we all know what devastation our arsenals could create. But we might have something like a limited nuclear war, with tactical weapons. In fact I'm sure there will be, since the Army has hand-held nuclear warheads. Right now we're trying to deter the Russians, or whoever else we might have to fight, with an airplane that's 25 years old — the B-52.

SOF: We have missiles, both land-launched and submarine-launched. Why would having a manned bomber make all that much difference?

HAM: Well, in Hanoi the B-52 proved it wasn't worth a nickel. We lost 17 of them in three days. I think the airplane we should have been flying in Vietnam was the B-47. It's more maneuverable and can go much lower. But what bothers me about the situation today is that a few people in the administration cut out the B-1. We *have* to have something to replace the B-52. It can't last much longer.

SOF: But why is a manned bomber so essential?

HAM: You can bring it back. It's just that simple. You fire a missile and you start a war. There are no destruct packages on our missiles. If that thing comes out of the silo, it's going to the target. With a man-

ned bomber, you can get on the radio and say, "C'mon back home."

SOF: What about a war in space? Is that likely?

HAM: Well, I think so. Fighting a war doesn't mean killing people, not always. One of our concerns is getting missiles to the target. The Russians have missiles that can lay out a screen that will just ruin our guidance systems. And we have the same thing. So that's another reason for a manned bomber. The Russians know that, and that's why they have so many big, modern bombers. But the Russians have put up a space station and, if it comes to war in space, that'll be their command post.

SOF: One of the trends in our military over the last 20 years or so is that we have taken the position that it's okay to be outnumbered because we have superior technology that will more than make up for the numbers. What do you think about this today?

HAM: I think there's a point at which you can become *too* fancy with your weapons. And right along with that is a point that has perturbed me for quite a few years now. This is the all-volunteer force. If you have sophisticated weapons, you need sophisticated people working on them. You're not going to get them with a volunteer military. So the thing we've got to do is to make the service attractive enough so that youngsters will take pride in it, and make a decent living from it. We need to attract the educational elite, and we can't unless we do away with the volunteer concept.

You know, today we've got basketball and football players in the pros who have gone through four years of college and can't write their names. What we're getting in the service is kids who have one year of high school. You can't take a kid who can't write his name and train him to work on the stuff we have now, because if he can't read, he can't learn anything.

SOF: So what's the answer?

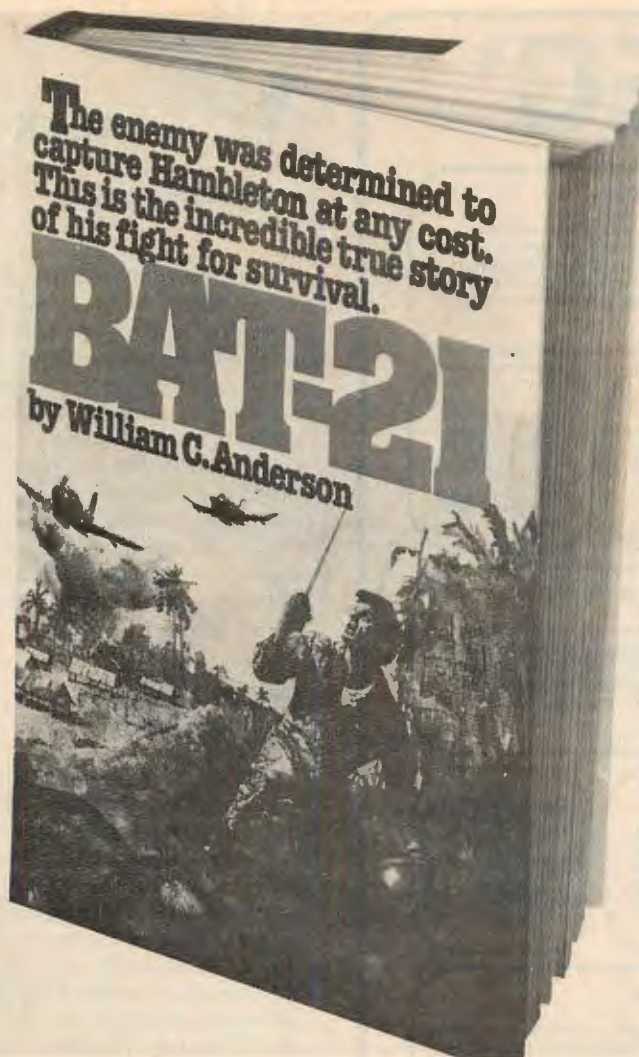
HAM: Well, I don't have all the answers. But first of all they're going to have to raise pay in the services, so that a person in the military service can live as well as a person in civilian life.

SOF: Then you think we're in trouble?

HAM: I think we can still protect our country with what we have, but it'll take longer. I still think that one American soldier is worth ten of any other. Training, national pride — we have it. But it hasn't surfaced lately, because right now there's no war going on as far as our soldiers are concerned.

SOF: Do you think we're in a kind of war, right now?

HAM: I don't think we've ever been out of one. With the way we're trying to supply the world with arms, food and technology, and with the way the Russians are responding — sure, we're in a war. Not a shooting war. But a war.



BAT-21. By William C. Anderson. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall. 1980. 188 pp. \$9.95. Review by Marv Wolf.

IT was 1972 and the American military machine was still rolling in high gear through Southeast Asia. There were B-52 strikes; F-4s and aging, but still effective, A-1E Skyraiders; Jolly Green Giant rescue choppers; and huge ground armies slugging it out beneath the monsoon clouds covering the DMZ.

Into this maelstrom flies a 53-year-old WWII retread, an Air Force light colonel named Icel Hambleton, in the right front seat of a semi-obsolete EB-66 loaded with black boxes.

The black boxes are the kingpin of our aerial attack, designed to protect and warn away the high-flying B-52s and other aircraft from the flying telephone poles called SAM-2s that the Soviets supplied to their North Vietnamese clients. In Hambleton's head are big secrets: the secrets of the black boxes, and the secrets of the Titan II missiles and their targets that Ham had formerly dealt with from the comfort and safety of CONUS bases.

So when Ham's EB-66 takes a SAM-2 hit and he punches out to land safely in the middle of a huge NVA ground offensive, everybody wants him alive. What follows is a day-by-day chronicle of Ham's successful escape and evasion through an area literally crawling with enemy. The fact that this is a true story makes it all the more intriguing.

Ham spent 13 days dodging the NVA. Thirteen days — punctuated by several abortive Jolly Green Giant rescue attempts, by repeated friendly forays against NVA troops trying to reach the thicket Ham concealed himself in, and by B-52 strikes used as diversions. In the end, it was the largest and most extensive effort ever launched in the history of warfare to retrieve a downed airman.

This invites comparisons with the ham-handed attempts to retrieve the American hostages in Iran. We moved heaven and earth because it was necessary, and Ham — an unlikely, aging hero — was rescued. Rescued because he refused to give up, and because his comrades-in-arms refused to give up.

If the tale is well worth reading, the telling sometimes gets in the way.

Author William Anderson is a retired Air Force colonel and author of seven novels and six other non-fiction books. He takes time to make a few overtly political statements, awkward speeches mouthed by two-dimensional characters with a huge supporting cast. Most SOF readers will agree with the notions espoused, but the space might have been better used to give more of the nitty-gritty details that would have enlivened the book. Why, for example, did the EB-66 — a ship that Ham and his mates flew nearly every day through SAM-2 country — get hit? Ham knows why, and it's a particularly fascinating tidbit. (See p. 23 for the answer.)

Another source of irritation is the constant use of jargon and light-hearted banter by everybody quoted in the book. In order to bring drama and order to a wide-ranging and complex story, Anderson has resorted to a dramatic trick — adopting an omniscient point of view that makes the reader an unseen observer of every event that bears on the story — and some that don't. So the book is largely a collection of conversations between characters that often seem smaller than life. Did *everybody* in the U.S. military go around delivering cutesy one-liners at the height of almost unbearable tension?

Apart from some relatively minor errors in fact — the Marines *never* had an organization called Rangers, but the Army did and does — the author's use of fictional composite characters and real people and events brings a necessary structure to the book that fleshes out the elaborate plans and their hair-raising execution. There are a couple of surprises hidden in the text that will wake up even the most jaded reader, and they help to enliven a book whose dust jacket gives away the fact that Hambleton is going to make it out alive.

BAT-21 is now making the transition from book to film, though at this writing no firm casting has been announced. The flaws in its narration and dialogue will diminish as the black-and-white of words on a page blossom into full color on a movie screen — perhaps that's what the author had in mind from the beginning. But don't wait for the film. Read the book, and discover to what lengths your country was willing to go to rescue one man when it had the will, and the means, to do what had to be done. Learn about a man like Col. Icel Hambleton, who refused to confirm his reservations at the Hanoi Hilton.



TECH SEC*



FLAK

Continued from page 20



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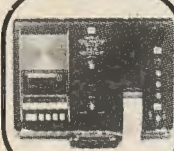
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I have yet to meet a serious student of weaponcraft who has tried the "New Technique" and then gone back to the old one-hand hip-level gunman's crouch. FBI special agents rarely get in gunfights, due to excellent planning and tactics when making arrests, but when a sudden, unexpected shooting occurs, the agents do not always come out on top. It's what works best and not tradition that counts on the street. The one-hand crouch is not the best way — nor the fastest, regardless of professional pride or ego.

PISTOL-PACKING PREACHER ...

Sirs:

This is a note of appreciation for your magazine. I am a minister and a seminary student. Some would have you believe that deep religious commitment will not allow such concepts as self-defense or calculated offensive measures. This is not the case. Those who see evil turned aside with a "kind word" are simplistic. The Old Testament shows a God of justice and the return of Christ promises a militant one. Ultimately, the sword will *not* be the deciding factor, but responsibility for freedom comes under the obligations detailed in Romans, 13th chapter.

Since books have priority now (I graduate in May 1982), my survival preparations have slowed a bit. Mel Tappan, were he living, would rebuke me for not having a semiautomatic rifle — but I'll just have to depend on being a little bit better shot than the "opposition." This is one preacher they'll never line up against a wall. Hang in there.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Corwin
Memphis, Tennessee

TASS NOT NEWS ...

Sirs:

Part of SOF's value is as a source of information not to be found elsewhere. Since reader participation must be an important part of maintaining high standards, allow me to contribute one minor detail in the interest of total accuracy.

On page 44 of the February '81 issue, you mention that in Russian Pravda means truth and Tass means news. Pravda does mean truth but *Izvestia* means news. Tass is an acronym for Telegrafnoe Agentsvo Cobetskogo Coyuza — which

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means Wire Service of the Soviet Union.

After all, if we're going to have to put them in their place one day, won't it be easier if we speak their language?

Do Svidania,
Don Seitz
Milford Center, Ohio

S SLICE OF KNIFE ...

Sirs:

"Anatomy of a Combat Knife" (SOF, January '81) by B.R. Hughes was informative and presented several good ideas but missed two important points.

First, any knife that will be subjected to prolonged use in a survival or combat role should be crafted of a rust-resistant steel. A soldier in a combat zone or an individual lost in the Big Woods has more important things to worry about than a rusting knife.

Second, the subject of the sheath was almost totally ignored. Yet a sheath for a combat knife is just as important as the knife itself. As with knives, everybody has his or her own ideas about what constitutes the ideal combat-knife sheath. It's a shame that sheaths don't receive the same attention as pistol holsters do in magazines in the field.

So how about it, guys. An article on knife sheaths by B.R. Hughes or David Steele would go a long way toward introducing new concepts and improving the breed.

Sincerely,
B.W.H.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Glad you liked the article. Thanks for the suggestion — we'll try to follow it up.
—The Eds.

R EADERSHIP COUNTS ...

Sirs:

I would like to tell you what a slick magazine you guys have. I am 16 years old. If it weren't for a friend of mine who also reads your magazine, I would never have known about it. Three months ago, I got a paper route and ever since then I've had the money to enjoy your magazine regularly.

My mom keeps ranting and raving about how revolting she thinks your magazine is. My dad says he'd rather see me reading *Playboy* — and one girl in my history class nearly got sick over "Parting Shots" (SOF, December '80). Frankly, I don't care if people keep telling me how bad your magazine is — I love it! Just keep up the great work.

Sincerely,
David Caillouet
San Antonio, Texas



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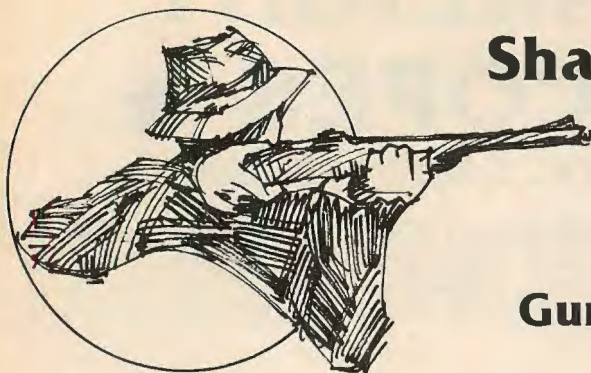
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Sharpshooting With Chairman Jeff

Gunsite Rifle Course

by Barrett Tillman



THE American Pistol Institute (API) at Gunsite, Ariz., is widely known (and widely misrepresented) for its courses in defensive pistolcraft. Though Jeff Cooper is universally identified with the .45 auto and the Modern Pistol Technique, his first love is the rifle. Consequently, a new dimension has been added to the curriculum at Gunsite Ranch in the Arizona desert.

Cooper's infatuation with rifles preceded his Marine Corps service during WWII and Korea. He hunted North American trophy animals between terms at Stanford and learned the '03 Springfield in ROTC. He still considers the Garand the finest battle rifle of all time. (Now, however, he is inclined to favor the Italian BM-59 version in 7.62mm NATO.)

Having grown up with bolt actions, Cooper retains a fondness for the breed — and not merely from sentiment. He maintains that, in most circumstances, a skilled person — male or female — can do as well with a boltgun as with a semiauto. Cooper's favorite "riflechick" is his daughter Parry, who's won open matches with a Remington .308. She confidently asserts, "If I can see it, I can hit it."

Therefore, API's basic rifle course begins with the assumption that a prospective student will bring the weapon which best suits his needs, and that doesn't always mean a semiauto with a 20-round magazine. Indeed, Cooper's hands-down favorite general-purpose rifle is the .308 Remington 600 with an extended-eye-relief two-power scope.

Hefting his pet, he says, "If the bad guys were pounding in the front door, this is what I'd grab as I ran out the back." He's speaking figuratively, of course. Anyone who's been to Gunsite knows that an armed opponent is unlikely to get within 300 yards of the ranch house. But the point is well made, and is often reinforced during the six-day course.

Ranging In On Day One

The fourth such class was held early last November. Cooper and two instructors sorted the students into categories and proceeded on the basis of weapon types. In this instance, both instructors were star pupils from previous rifle classes. Clint Smith is a police officer from Indiana who topped his class with his duty Remington 700 counter-sniper rifle. Tom Jester is a

big, drawling Texan who is regarded as a wizard with an HK-91. Both are expert riflemen blessed with equal shares of patience and sympathy — necessary qualities for teaching any subject.

The students offered a representative cross-section. There were five each from California and Arizona, two Alaskans, a pair from Colorado, and a sprinkling of others, including a Foreign Service officer on leave from Beirut. The equipment ranged from seven M1As and five HK-91s down to three Remington 600s and six mavericks, including an exotic Ruger 77 modified to accept an M14 magazine. Except for a Mini-14 and a Remington 742 in .30-06, all students shot .308s.

Most of the class members had taken at least one previous API course. Bearded John Brook, the Gunsite administrator, reckons that 35 percent of all API students are former graduates. A handful have taken three courses by now, and occasionally you find someone in his fourth Gunsite class. At \$400 a throw (plus travel and lodging), it's ample proof of satisfied customers. Of the 20 students enrolled in the fourth rifle course, a dozen had previous API instruction.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Barrett Tillman, a military-aviation historian, has appeared in our pages before (see "Down But Not Out," SOF, July '80). SOF's review of his book on the WWII Corsair appeared in In Review last month. He met Jeff Cooper at Gunsite while a student at Cooper's pistol and rifle courses.

Tillman, however, comes in second to his brother, Andy, as a contributor to "Sharpshooting with Chairman Jeff" (see our March '81 issue). While taking the course described in this article, Tillman mentioned his brother's solution to scoping the HK-91. Cooper wrote Andy — who sent in his article while Barrett's was still being written.

The two brothers operate a ranch in eastern Oregon. —M.L. Jones



"Notable shooting," Cooper said to author Tillman (above). Head shots are printed in 1½ seconds back from standard ready. Weapon is Remington 600.

Jeff Cooper is the Honorary Lifetime Chairman of the International Practical Shooting Confederation, and thus combines official authority with his vast background and experience. In this column Jeff will alternate his own observations with those of other experts of his personal selection.



Student takes on 50-meter double runners. Weapon is HK-91. INSET: Meat on the table: deer and other big-game targets prepare rifle-course students for real hunting.

There was a time when Americans learned rifle marksmanship in the armed forces or even in high school. But no more. And Cooper seems ambivalent on this point. While he relies upon the need for proper rifle instruction as part of his business, he also laments the services' diminished marksmanship programs. It's a worldwide trend, and Cooper notes that 20 years ago, few governments were in danger from rifle-equipped citizens. But now, considering the deplorable standard of military marksmanship throughout the world, several nations could be seized from within by marginally proficient civilians.

Opening Remarks: Marksmanship Factors

In his opening address to the class, Cooper touches on this very matter. He asks rhetorically whether the rifle is a sporting tool or an instrument of social change. But he makes it plain that at API the long gun is taught not primarily as a military weapon, but as a means of securing game. Though the majority of shoot-

ing is directed at IPSC Option targets, this is merely for convenience. (Several life-size animal targets are engaged during the course — but more of that later.)

Quoting Townsend Whelen, Cooper states that the object of his rifle class is to impart "the ability to hit small, often indistinct targets at unknown ranges, quickly and repeatedly, even though they may be moving." That is the essence of rifle marksmanship, and API identifies four primary factors in achieving that goal.

First is trigger control. Cooper believes 60 percent of good rifle shooting is proper trigger release. API gives relatively little instruction in the time-honored hold-and-squeeze method, but students are constantly reminded to do just that. As in pistol shooting, a quick "draw" (or presentation) is taught, followed by careful shooting. Smoothness and accuracy come first, for speed will follow as a result.

Second in importance are positions. API teaches prone, sitting, kneeling and standing, but always with the adage, "If you can get closer, get closer. If you can

get steadier, get steadier." Considerable time is devoted to perfecting each shooting position and selecting the proper one in the field. It becomes a trade-off between speed and steadiness, and the shooter must find what works best for him.

Next are sighting and aiming. Only a few rounds are fired at ranges over 300 meters, which Cooper feels is optimum for most practical rifle work. Again citing Whelen, he contends that with a good rest and sufficient time, a proficient rifleman should get first-round hits at 300 yards. Scopes give speed in target acquisition, but Cooper dispels the notion that they help anyone shoot better. An indifferent shot will do no better with a scope than with iron sights.

API identifies *gunhandling* as the fourth factor. Transition from carrying to firing, economy of movement, bolt operation or magazine change all apply here. Students are told beforehand that a solid 30 days of dry-firing and bolt cycling are not merely advisable, but necessary. Properly done, the rifle never leaves the

shoulder while the bolt is operated. It is something semiauto shooters don't have to contend with, but obviously API lacks the time to give such instruction once the student arrives. After practice, the action becomes automatic, and under stress a bolt-action shooter will seldom remember cycling his bolt.

Basic Rifle In The Classroom

In contrast to the basic pistol course (API 250), basic rifle (API 270) involves only two classroom sessions. Cooper uses these opportunities to explain optics and ballistics, but only to the extent he considers necessary. A scope, he emphasizes, is no substitute for binoculars. Scopes possess insufficient resolution for proper long-range scanning, while binocs are better for light-gathering, definition and field of view. He hesitates to make product recommendations on scopes.

As for ballistics and acceptable accuracy, most benchresters and silhouette shooters would consider API's attitude cavalier at best, crude at worst. But Cooper isn't concerned.

"If you want a small group," he quips, "just fire once." Minute-of-angle accuracy is fine, but API believes too many uninformed gun writers have made the shooting public hypercritical in such matters. Cooper equates minute-of-angle (MOA) accuracy in shooting with drag racing in transportation. Interesting, but not essential.

Instead, API teaches that a three-inch group is permissible at 200 yards if the same rifle and load produce one inch at 100. Out to 300 yards or so, two MOA is considered acceptable. To obtain these standards, Cooper recommends zeroing cartridges with 3,000 FPS or more at 250 yards, while cartridges under that velocity are best zeroed at 200. For most .308 loads, this produces a sight-setting three inches high at 100 yards and three inches low at about 240. For either muzzle velocity, the shooter merely holds slightly high at ranges out to 300 yards.

In short, it comes down to a question of how much accuracy an individual can use, not how much accuracy his rifle possesses under ideal conditions. Obviously, in hunting or in war there is seldom any such thing as an ideal condition. Therefore, the shooter must decide which factor is paramount at the crucial moment: speed or accuracy. Both are important, but which is more important?

The fast positions — offhand and kneeling — are not especially steady. And conversely, the steady positions — prone and sitting — are not really fast. Some are faster and some are steadier than others, and there lies the answer.

In addition to the standard positions, API teaches the military squat (known as "rice-paddy prone" in 'Nam) which offers the advantage of being faster than sitting and steadier than kneeling. Both elbows are braced on the knees, lending

Cooper (right) prepares student for "Vlei," ultimate test of position selection. Student carries customized bolt-action rifle.



good support. And both standing positions are taught. Classic offhand is used only when time allows nothing else. Olympic-style standing is employed when time is not crucial, but visibility is. Obviously, one would not choose to shoot standing unless he could not see the target otherwise.

Slings And Bipods

Closely allied to position shooting is use of the military sling. API devotes considerable time to teaching not only proper use of the sling, but fast acquisition as well. A practiced individual can go from standard ready (muzzle downrange, butt at belt level) to fully rigged sling in five seconds. Several drill sessions are run to instill proper procedures for "slinging up" both for prone and sitting positions. In either case, the supporting hand under the forestock is completely relaxed, exerting no pressure on the rifle.

Those riflemen with bipods receive less sling instruction but learn to extend their bipod legs rapidly while getting into prone. This is in keeping with API's rifle doctrine: you are taught the skills applicable to your specific weapon. Shooters with semiautos drill in fast magazine changes and shoot a Rifle Presidente (an innovation imported from Austria), while bolt actions work on the "shoot one, load one" principle. (The Rifle Presidente is fired on IPSC Option targets at 100 meters. The shooter starts in standard ready facing 180 degrees from three targets spaced one meter apart. On signal he engages each target twice, reloads and repeats. For a perfect score of 60 a good time is 30 seconds.)

Naturally, many procedures are compatible with all types of rifles. This is particularly applicable to fast positioning, which differs little from one weapon to another. After three days of this routine, the thighs and lower back muscles begin to protest against the strain of unaccustomed contortions. The early sling ex-

ercises are severe in this respect, leading novices to the conclusion that the Marquis de Sade must have been a rifle instructor.

Some people, more supple than others, find quick ways around the accepted methods. For instance, the military technique for assuming the sitting position is to bend at the knees, catching oneself with the shooting hand on the ground. But Tim Wickett, the personable young Alaskan who shared the bunkhouse with me, has a genius for getting into sitting. He seems to pull his legs right up underneath him, momentarily sitting in mid-air, and lands with a thump, locked into position, bending forward. It looks hilarious, but for Wickett it works. He was one of five shooters in the class who qualified as expert.

Preliminary Ranging In

Shooting begins at 25 yards, zeroing rifles, and soon progresses back to 50. The first two days are shot entirely on black-and-white bull's eyes, preparing for longer ranges and practicing sight alignment. From there, the ranges increase to 150, 200 and 300 meters. At each stage the instructors urge students to concentrate on position and trigger control before worrying about shooting fast.

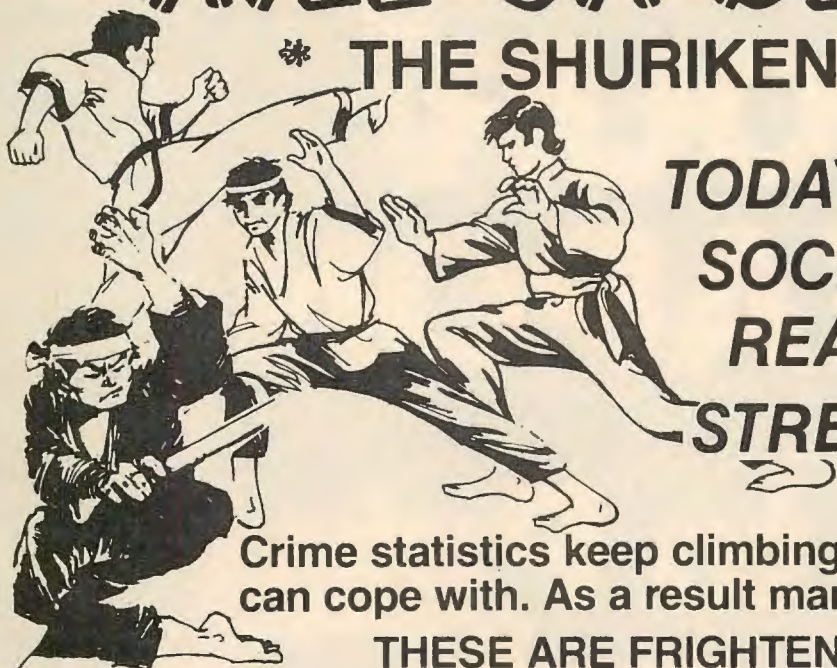
Rapid shooting is actually rapid aiming. The importance is brought home during snap-shooting exercises which allow a second and a half for a head shot at 25 yards and for a body shot at 50. After the first two days, the only bull's-eye shooting is against the mover, a 12-inch circle — shot from 50 yards — which covers a 30-yard gap in about six seconds.

Each class is divided according to weapons. In this case, the divisions were M1As, HK-91s ("the German army") and bolt actions. The latter probably received more individual attention, owing to the fact that only five bolt-action rifles appeared. As the week wore on, more

Continued on page 70

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* THE SHURIKEN NINJA-JITSU WAY



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Crime statistics keep climbing faster than any Police Force can cope with. As a result many of us are walking scared.

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CAMOUFLAGE YOUR WEAPON

How to Paint Your Piece

Text & Photos by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston

THE effective hunter learned long ago to make his appearance match his surroundings — to blend in, as did the game he stalked. In ancient times, his proficiency in this art had a direct bearing upon his survival. In war, too, the ability to remain unseen by the enemy has proved an advantage. Some facets of the art of becoming invisible include stealth, silence, use of terrain and camouflage.

Camouflage itself has evolved into an art. Scores of designs and patterns have been produced the world over to match all seasons and surroundings. Until recent times, however, the camouflage of the soldier and the hunter has generally been limited to his clothing. For too long, one prime piece of equipment has gone naked on the hunt and into battle — the weapon. The silhouette of the rifle, whatever its configuration, is as distinct as that of the man himself, and can be detected almost as easily if it, too is not made to blend in with the subtleties of the landscape.

Camouflage Methods

When the weapon is fabricated entirely of synthetic materials, there are three choices in the method of camouflage: paint, slip covers made from camouflage

cloth, and cammie tape. Paint is more permanent than the other two methods but takes longer and requires more skill for effective application.

One method I have used successfully is to first paint the weapon black. Enamel, lacquer or epoxy paint can be used, but remember: once epoxy is on, it is on for good! When the black coat is dry, the areas that are to stay black are masked. To do this, first apply tape to a cutting board, draw the desired patterns and cut them out with a sharp knife. Now apply these cutouts to the weapon where desired.

Next, apply a flat brown to the weapon. When the brown dries, make larger tape cutouts for those areas that will remain brown. Finally, spray the entire piece with a flat green or olive-drab. When that dries, peel off all of the tape, exposing the brown and black areas, and your weapon will be camouflaged. The order of green and brown can be changed if brown is to be dominant, and other shades can also be added. If desired, a tough, clear, frosted finish can be applied over the cammie job for extra durability and rust protection.

A simpler method of camouflaging with paint is to randomly paint the entire sur-

face with one or two shades of green, giving a mottled effect. Next, with double-sided tape, affix tree leaves to the desired locations, and spray lightly around them with black and brown paint. Remove the leaves, and you will have a quick and effective cammie job. The color combination can be varied, and a little practice on a sheet of cardboard will quickly make you an expert. I have found that oak, maple or other leaves that are irregularly shaped work best.

Slip covers, commercially available for long bows, can be used to some extent on rifles, or they can be made up from any available cammie cloth, including white for use in snow. Such covers can be held in place with lacing or velcro, but if they are to cover parts of the weapon which may be subject to high temperatures, they should be adapted to allow quick removal. Gunrunner Surplus, Dept. SOF, 5594 Airways, Memphis, TN 38116, offers cammie covers for the M16/AR-15 rifles. They cover the butt and handguards and are secured with velcro. They serve to break up the silhouette of the rifle and are quickly detachable. Gunrunner covers sell for \$18 per set. Presently, they are available in "tiger stripe" only, but



LEFT: MAC 10 in first stage of masking during camouflage painting.

CENTER LEFT: MAC 10 in second (brown) stage of masking. Cutting board and tape are used to make patterns.

BELOW LEFT: MAC 10 after final coat and removal of masking tape.



Gunrunner promises current GI leaf pattern soon, and hopefully one for the carbine handguards will follow.

Another top quality cammie cover on the market is offered by Dale Thomas, Quality Products Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 301R, Romeoville, IL 60441, for the MAC 10 suppressor. It comes in current leaf pattern and sells for \$15 ppd.

Cammie Tape

There are several cammie tapes available for use on bows, rifles and other equipment, including plain-white adhesive tape for use in snow. Cammie tape can be removed easily and rearranged to one's liking. This can come in handy where heat is involved.

Camouflaging Wood

When a weapon is equipped with a wooden stock, there is a fourth choice in camouflage. Rather than painting, you can permanently camouflage the stock with dye or wood stains. Practice on scrap wood first if using this method.

First, strip the wood of all finish and swab the surface with acetone or lacquer thinner to remove all oil from the pores. If the wood appears dark, as most walnut does, this method may not be satisfactory — light-colored wood works best.

With a pencil, lightly draw the desired cammie pattern on the surface by copying from an existing pattern or by making up your own. A small letter can be written in each area to remind you later of the color chosen for that patch. With a small brush, apply the green and brown stain or dye to their respective areas until the stock is covered. Allow to set overnight. The pattern will appear very distinct at this point, and if it suits you, leave it.



Example of leaf method of camouflaging on practice cardboard sheet.



ABOVE, left to right: M16 with slipcovers by Gunrunner; painted MAC-10 with Quality Products suppressor cover; M16 with cammie tape; Remington 870 in combination of tape and bow slipcover; Barnett crossbow with camouflaged dye.



LEFT: M14A1 with combination of cammie tape and slipcovers.



Wood stock camouflaged with dye.

You can now apply black, almost as an afterthought, to further break up obvious contours. Finally, you can apply a clear, frosted finish as mentioned before. This will soak into the wood, preventing the colors from running due to contact with oil or solvents.

If, after the basic colors are dry, you want a more subdued pattern, the wood can be swabbed with paint or lacquer thinner until the pattern is muted to your liking. When this is dry, apply the black and then the finish coat. This is probably the most difficult camouflage method and will take some practice, but it is the most durable and easy to touch up.

Whichever method you choose to camouflage your weapon, the result will be an effective, attractive addition to your equipment, and something you can be proud of — oh, and some day, one way or another, it just might save your life.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Cobras are an indigenous Vietnamese life form that any Vietnam vet who met one won't forget. The following anecdotes show three different techniques for dealing with irate cobras in the air and on the ground.

Airborne Stowaway

Maj. Michael Farrell was assigned as operations officer for the Office of Highland Affairs working for John Paul Vann (see "Vietnam Visionary," SOF, January, February '80), in "Old Camp Wilson," Pleiku City, Pleiku Province, in mid-1971.

ON that day I, as the only military team member, was assigned the mundane chore of flying several hundred persimmon bushes from Camp Wilson down to Buon Blech in the old Montagnard district of Cheo Reo (Phu Bon). Delivery was to be made to some displaced Jari tribesmen — they eat persimmons — who had been forcibly relocated earlier in the season.

We loaded about 75 of the bushes (about rosebush size, with their roots bound in burlap) into our Papa 3 Bird, a tired UH1D. We lifted off, climbed to about 5,000 AGL (Above Ground Level) and trimmed out, closing the doors and settling down for a boring milk run.

I took out a paperback book and started reading to pass the time. For some reason I looked up from my book — and saw a medium-size brown-gray cobra with hood expanded, looking me over. In the next 30 seconds I dropped my book, stood up on the seat, drew my service revolver, a S&W .45 ACP, 1917 Army, keyed the headset mike and started sweating.

Breaking into the normal crew banter, I stated clearly and loudly: "We have a cobra on board!" Immediately all crew members looked outside for an AH 1 G (Cobra gunship).

I quickly corrected them: "There's a snake on board!" The "peter pilot" turned in his seat and saw me ready to fire.

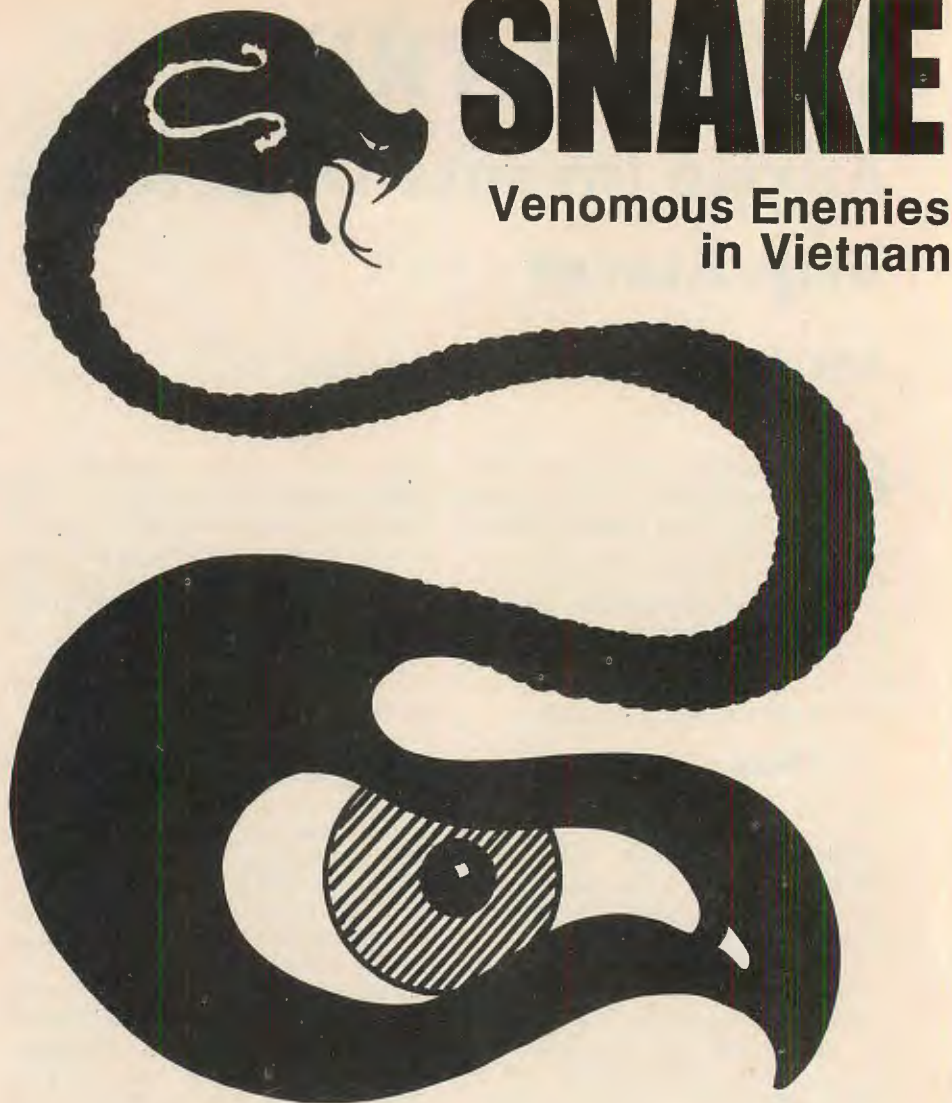
He bellowed, "Don't shoot!" His activities interested the cobra enough to make it move toward the front of the aircraft.

The aircraft commander (AC), seeing the danger, put the ship in a nose-high altitude, forcing the cobra and cargo back toward me, the crew chief and the gunner. The snake headed for the "gunner's hell-hole."

The gunner keyed his mike and told the AC, "Lower the fucking nose or I'll blow your head off!" This request was accompanied by the chambering of a round in his model "97," much-modified riot gun. The AC complied.

At this point the AC was the only person still seated. The rest of us had our weapons in hand and cocked.

During the excitement we had lost considerable altitude and the cobra had finally made it to the gunner's hellhole. The



SNAKE

Venomous Enemies in Vietnam

gunner exited the aircraft through the window behind his MG (remember the doors were closed) and stood on the landing skid, hanging onto the MG mount.

Moments later the aircraft made a running landing and all passengers fled the aircraft, cobra included. After due consideration we decided to offload the cargo where it sat, and to hell with the Montagnards. In the process of unloading, we discovered another cobra secreted among the roots of a persimmon bush. After riding ourselves of the second unwanted passenger, we went back to Pleiku and contracted for land delivery of any further shipments of persimmons to the Montagnards.

Hiss and Miss

In 1970-71 John Stroup served as an Air Force staff sergeant, air police, stationed in Khanh Hoa Province, Military Region II, South Vietnam. On an evening that was quiet for that part of Vietnam, a C-7 Caribou two-engined cargo aircraft returned from a mission at a remote outpost to its wing airbase in the Central Highlands where Stroup was stationed.

Iwalked across the pad in the growing darkness to where the aircraft was parked in order to talk with the crew. Leaning against the fuselage by the front landing gear, I heard a low hiss. As I moved closer to the gear well, the noise grew louder.

I went to the rear of the Caribou, roused the crew chief and told him, "You got a pneumatic leak in the front gear well."

"Ah hell," he said. "There's always a leak of some type somewhere on this bird." Back at the nose, he bent down, heard the hissing and commented that it was an odd place for an air leak.

The Caribou fuselage rides low, just a few feet off the ground. I got a flashlight and we knelt down next to the front landing gear and crawled under the airplane to shine the light up into the cramped, dark well. The hissing was very loud now.

The light played across a maze of wires, pipes and mechanical apparatus. Slowly, two red eyes rose in the darkness from the base of the wheel well, hovering barely a foot away. We both froze for an instant, then I rolled left, the crew chief right, and the flashlight bounced off the front tires and shattered on the ground.

EYES

by Maj. Michael Farrell,
Roger T. LaRue, John Stroup



After a few minutes of cursing to calm the shakes, we scrounged up a pole, pushed a small one-sided equipment cart under the plane and prodded an angry five-foot king cobra into the cart. Carefully, we pulled the cart to the edge of the flight line under a light. The cobra stayed coiled, head up and hood spread, while the other troops gathered around to check it out.

In Vietnam, the king cobra was called a Two Step, since that was as far as you got if bitten. After a unanimous decision that the snake was definitely Viet Cong, I shot it with my .38 service revolver. One VC snake KIA.

To get its free ride the cobra must have crawled up into the gear well while the Caribou was parked and offloading at its last stop in the boonies. Too bad it didn't drop out on an enemy position on the flight back. That would have been the most unique airstrike of the Vietnam War.

Fragging It

Roger T. La Rue is now a detective in the Olathe, KS, Police Department, but in 1969-70 he served in Vietnam as a corpo-

ral with the 1st Recon Battalion, 1st Marine Division, as a team leader for a long-range recon team out of Delta Company.

When you work with a recon team, you have ample opportunity to meet the various types of animals which abound in the Asian jungles, but on the outpost (OP) where we were, we didn't expect to deal with much in the way of wildlife, except for the flies, mosquitoes and the most brazen goddamned rats you ever saw. But late one afternoon we met one of God's most frightening animals.

About midway into the 1969 monsoon season, my platoon was assigned to an observation post on Hill 119, located about 15 klicks west of Go Noi Island and awfully damn close to the Laotian border. The duty wasn't bad for the 15 days that the recon platoons would spend there, as one platoon from Delta Company, 1st Recon Battalion, which was based at Camp Reasoner, RVN, was constantly on station 119; and while not "up at the OP," the teams from the platoon would be assigned patrols in the bush.

This particular OP, due to its location and the fact that there was no jungle in the area, just a finger ridge that afforded

good visibility for the calling of air and arty on targets of opportunity, served as a vital communications link for Marine recon teams, as well as SEAL and Army Special Forces teams that were in the bush.

We had been catching a hell of a lot of rain, as well as the tail end of a typhoon which had wreaked havoc further south and along the coast. That day the break in the rain was a relief and it was still cool, so there were about five of us in Alpha Bunker, which commanded the approach paths from the OP's LZ. The bunker itself was six by six feet and we had made a floor by putting down pallets, to keep our gear — and us, of course — as dry as possible.

I was sitting with my back against the wall on the king's throne of all seats in the 'Nam, a grenade case, when I heard something out of the ordinary: one of those little sounds that registers on your subconscious in spite of the surrounding noise.

It was a kind of scraping sound, maybe a scraping and slithering together, but it got me to looking around quietly, and I noticed a pattern-like design about six inches wide underneath the pallet flooring and stretched damn near the length of the bunker.

Not being an alarmist, I just got up and calmly stepped out of the bunker, taking the letter I was writing with me, of course.

Then I screamed, "THERE'S A FREAKING SNAKE IN THE BUNKER!" The statement caused a not-so-orderly exodus from the bunker, with the other four guys hitting the door at the same time — and would you believe they all fit through at once?

With everyone out, I jacked a round into my .45 and blasted a magazine at the snake. This pissed it off more than anything else, so one of the bright guys flipped a frag in, which got everybody else on the hill excited, and it pissed the snake off even more. I don't know why the grenade didn't do at least as much damage to the snake as it did to our gear, including my AM/FM radio, and all our Deuce gear.

We could see the snake was trying to get into an area between the sandbags. One of the guys grabbed its bleeding tail to hold onto it, and two more began pulling out rapidly emptying sandbags. Suddenly, the fist-sized head of one very angry cobra popped into view, causing everybody to meet at the door again. Once clear, one of the guys cut loose with a full-auto 18-round burst from his '16, which cut off the snake's head about eight inches behind its jaws.

When measured out, the snake was six feet long, but it was so badly shot up we finally gave up on trying to skin it.



SOF AT THE S.H.O.T. SHOW

What's New In Guns, Knives & Optics

by Cynthia E.D. Kite



The third annual S.H.O.T. (Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade) Show at the Superdome in New Orleans, sponsored by NSSF (National Shooting Sports Foundation), included over 500 exhibitors this year and drew more than 16,000 people to view its wares — among them several SOF staffers.

Although, unfortunately, we were unable to personally test the products, in this and the next issue of SOF, we'll share with our readers some of the more interesting ones we encountered.

ATTENTION SOF READERS

SOF has been advised that charges have been brought against a member or employees of International Security Corporation, whose ad appears on page 27.

Because the ad was already printed and cannot now be deleted, we wish to advise you that the charges apparently involve mail fraud.

SOF is concerned because if fraud charges have been brought as a result of International Security Corporation's response to their customers, we wish to play no part in furthering their business.

Because we are on press as this is written, this is all the information we have at this time.



SOS SURVIVAL ...

Bench Mark Knives had a new offering at the 1981 Shot Show that they call the Serious Outdoor Sportsman's knife — SOS for short. Blackie Collins (above left) is the designer of this quick, maneuverable survival knife, which incorporates features unlike any other. Due to its uni-



que design, when folded one way, it's a handle; when folded the other, it's a 20-gauge stainless-steel blade cover.

The SOS, with its combination handle and blade cover, weighs just 4½ ounces and has an overall length of 7-3/8". The 3-1/8" blade is handcrafted of Sandvik 13C-26 Swedish high-carbon stainless steel, and precision ground to hold its edge. This handy utility knife features four hexholes of varying sizes — four wrenches at your fingertips — and sports a built-in lanyard hole with a braided-nylon, Marine-green wrist thong. The SOS retails for just \$29.75 from Bench Mark Knives, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 998, Gastonia, NC 28052.



SEE FOREVER ...

Swarovski Optik of Austria offers through its U.S. distributor, *Strieter Corporation*, the only central-focusing, yet waterproof, binocular: the Habicht (Hawk) 7x42 M DV SL. This top-of-the-line binocular is incomparably shock- and corrosion-resistant and, because it is airtight, condensation is impossible. The precision-adjusted and perfectly parallel optical axes greatly reduce the eyestrain often suffered during extended use, and the eyepieces are quickly interchangeable, accommodating persons with or without glasses. Each lens and prism coating receives a special anti-reflection multiple coating which lends excellent brightness and detail resolution, even in poor light. The Hawk is functional and comfortable to hold even in extreme temperatures (-58° to +158°F).

For the demanding consumer, *Strieter* has reduced the retail price of the Hawk to \$1,095. For further information contact *Strieter Corporation*, Dept. SOF, 2100 Eighteenth Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201.



FUTURISTIC FIREARMS ...

Ljutic Industries, Inc., which claims to "innovate not imitate," introduced a new concept in firearms this year with their Space Gun, shown here in the hands of a cooperative policeman. Designer Al Ljutic claims that his design will "revolutionize the market," because it practically eliminates recoil.

As he explains it, "The thrust of ignition equals the thrust of recoil — resulting in dormancy." With vibration restricted, accuracy is assured. "When two trains crash, they stop, right?" asked Ljutic. That's analogous to what's going on inside the gun upon firing, according to Ljutic, due to the opposing thrust action to the recoil.

Al Ljutic has designed a shotgun (shown here), a rifle (available in all popular high-power calibers) and a pistol around his unique concept. The shotgun retails for \$995; the rifle for \$895; and the pistol for \$695. For more details, contact *Ljutic Industries, Inc.*, Dept. SOF, 918 N. 5th Ave., P.O. Box 2117, Yakima, WA 98907.

DOUBLE DEUCE ...

CB Arms, Inc., with the assistance of Mark Wineman, at this year's show spotlighted its compact .22 LR, semiautomatic, double-action pistol — the Double Deuce — which they claim is similar, but superior, to the Walther TPH. The Double Deuce, designed primarily as a concealable pocket weapon, was announced as up-and-coming last year, but has not been available until now. This 18-ounce (empty), 5½" (overall length) autoloading pistol features an ambidextrous thumb-release safety, fixed, low-profile sights, checkered wood stocks, a seven-round magazine, all-steel construction and easy disassembly. It comes in blue-steel or industrial-chrome finish (\$199.95 and \$274.95 respectively).

Further information available from *CB Arms, Inc.*, Dept. SOF, 65 Hathaway Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.



TWO FIRSTS ...

W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery brought two innovative lockblade folding knives to this year's show. The Sidewinder (left) features the first side-release lock on the market, which designers claim to be the strongest lock available and which enables the user to close the blade single-handedly. The 3-5/8" blade has a square tang, allowing it to rest at half-cock position when closing. It features a Sidewindersnake photoetching and a laminated-hardwood handle, shaped to prevent sliding movement. The Sidewinder is 5¼"



when closed, weighs eight ounces and retails for \$76.50.

The Texas Lockhorn (right) features two identical lock-open 3½" California clip blades. This double-lock knife is another first in the field — and reduces the need for field sharpening. The Lockhorn has an ivory-micarta handle, is 4½" closed and weighs five ounces. Suggested retail price is \$65.50.

Both knives feature concave-ground, high-carbon stainless-steel blades and come with leather sheaths. For more details contact *W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Co.*, Dept. SOF, 20 Russell Blvd., Bradford, PA 16701.



MARINE RE

A Chance To Be Different

Text and Photos by Fred Reed



ABOVE: Recon Marine armed with silenced 9mm MAC-10 checks his map,



Photo: U.S. Marine Corps

CON, Part 1





LEFT: Marines also use Heckler & Koch MP5A3 9mm submachine guns with silencers. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Marines use M203 40mm grenade launcher mounted on M16A1 rifle with Starlite scope. **ABOVE CENTER:** Recon Marine goes out back of CH-46 on HALO training jump from 10,000 feet. **ABOVE:** Marine wears fully inflated drysuit used for cold-water operations. **BELOW:** Standard field radio for Recon is URC-87A with voice suppressor.



IN the Lejeune bush, oh-dark-thirty, 43 degrees and pouring down rain. Marine weather: not just cold, but god-awful cold — almost dangerously cold. Capt. R.E. Nelson, CO of Force Recon, and I walk down a dirt road running through the sodden second-growth pine. The road, a sea of soupy gray clay the color of chewing gum, sucks at our feet and only lets go — scoop! — with effort. The rain is steady and freezing, draining away body heat. In five minutes hands are numb, feet are soaked, and toes barely move in boots. Breath comes in quick, gray puffs as the body stokes up the metabolism, trying to keep warm. It doesn't work.

In this slop we find the Recons in a dripping stand of pine — or rather, they find us, which is how it usually happens. They have been in this frigid downpour all night, without ponchos or sleeping bags, after four days in the field. They huddle in this dark green world, ice water dripping from noses and fingers, faces green with camouflage paint and shivering so hard they can barely hold their rifles. They are kidding each other in whispers. That's when I figure these are some good troops. Secretaries jump out of airplanes, and lawyers run marathons, but it takes a special kind of man to have a sense of humor in this mess.

"Like this weather?" one of them asks. The paint makes his face look like a square foot of swamp. I tell him it's cold enough to freeze the personals off an iron dog. "Good training weather," he says, grinning, and his teeth shine bright white against the grave-mold green. We chat, shivering like leaves in a high wind.

We crouch in the dimness, talking in low voices. This is a mission and these guys are serious about training. My camera tells me that it doesn't care to take any pictures, thank you, until I find it some more light, but I click off a few anyway. I ask why men join Recon.

"We're looking for something we can't make ourselves do."

Certain attitudes are common among men in the elite outfits. One is an over-powering desire to test themselves. "Guys join for the challenge," a green-faced trooper whispers. "It's a chance to do something different, things that other guys never get a chance to do. I guess you could say that we're looking for something we can't make ourselves do."

These woods are a good place to look.

"What kind of relations does Recon have with the rest of the Corps?" I ask. I can't recognize individuals through the paint.



Capt. R. Nelson, CO of Force Recon, watches his jumpers from helicopter.

"Jealousy. They don't like us Maybe that's why they're always trying to get rid of Recon. That wouldn't be real smart. It's hard to recon the underside of a bridge with a satellite."

"The worst thing," another says, "is that they don't know how to use us. Our job is long-range recon. I guess we could do sting-ray operations, like blowing up castles or shit like that, but it isn't our job. We're supposed to sit in the bushes and look at things. Really it's pretty boring. But the infantry always wants to use us for stuff like point defense, or else they just ignore us. It's a waste.

"And don't ever mention the word 'elite' in the Marine Corps. They'll disband you immediately. That's a hush word. But that's OK with me. I'm happy just being known as a Marine. We're Marines before we're anything else."

A patrol emerges silently from the dripping forest. They are almost invisible in their camouflage, except for their hands, which stand out like white flags. A lot of their training consists of

watching grunt units train. Rumor has it that they sometimes do it without notifying command. If they get caught, Capt. Nelson catches hell, and the Recons who get caught really catch hell — not because they were where they weren't supposed to be, but because they were caught. This has to be rumor. Marines are extremely honest and would never do anything without permission.

We kneel in this green murk, which is lightening just enough with dawn to show low, gray clouds blowing in spooky swirls around the treetops. The radio man says the choppers don't want to fly in the overcast. This is not great news, because the men don't want to spend the rest of their lives here. Nobody says anything, but the road to hypothermia is getting shorter.

"We have more in common with each other."

We talk about special units, their differences from regular outfits. They say the same things I've heard from men in SEALs and Special Forces. "We pretty much socialize with ourselves. Sometimes you go out to the Golden Corral and half the company's there. It's not that we don't get along with other people, but we . . . I guess we have more in common with each other. What I like about this outfit is that you can drink with anybody, whether he's a sergeant or a PFC. In the regular service you can't drink with a guy if he's non-rated. There's a rule against fraternization. Not here. It doesn't hurt discipline because everybody's highly motivated."

As a SEAL officer once put it to me, "Not less disciplined, just less formal."

The rain picks up and the word comes that some courageous chopper pilot will try to extract us. We move out, cross the road quickly in groups of three, and patrol silently through the woods. I feel ice water running down my back in a steady stream. The men keep their distance from each other so that it would be very hard to hit more than one before the rest took cover. I run around like a spring-loaded jack rabbit, taking pictures, which ought to keep me warm but doesn't.

"Do you want a picture of us in defensive formation?" a sergeant whispers.

"Yeah, sure."

He signals, several guys close up at a fast crouch, form a three-sixty, and drop prone in six inches of grass and an inch of water. Like I say, it isn't jumping out of airplanes that makes Recons. Jumping into cold water is much harder.

The Recons' attitude toward publicity is curious. Like most military men, they secretly think the press are

Tired Marine, on patrol after a night in the rain, carries M16 with 30-round magazine.



clowns, which is an accurate assessment in most cases. Men in elite units have big egos, and the enlisted men are natural hams. ("Hey, can you make me a star?") But they really don't like attention. Capt. Nelson in particular is sick of the glamor-boy image. "We don't blow up castles. We aren't commandos. Scuba and parachuting are not our jobs. They're how we get to the job." He says this with great emphasis, as if talking to an idiot child, because he has told the same thing to reporters before — and read the next day about how Recon blow up castles.

An enlisted man told me, "Publicity's bad for an outfit like this. If we get glamorized in the papers, we're going to end up just like the other elite groups. That's what ruined the SEALs. They got all that publicity, and they started believing it. Special Forces started downhill when that song about the Green Berets came out. I'd rather have another million dollars on the training budget. We need new radios and av-gas, and I get tired of looking up and seeing nine patches on my canopy."

We crouch in the most miserable clearing in Camp Lejeune, which specializes in miserable clearings and miserable everything else, and wait for the chopper. Naturally it's late. Finally we hear that odd fwop fwop, pop smoke, and sprint for the bird. On the ride home, these guys still aren't discouraged. Maybe they just don't know when they're uncomfortable.

COMING SOON: SOF GOES TO THE WOODS WITH RECON

SOF staffer Fred Reed, a former Marine, recently went "home" to Camp Lejeune, known to Marine grunts as Camp Swampy and other even less affectionate names, to observe and report on the Second Marine Division's Second Force Reconnaissance Company. (Part 1 of his report starts on p. 40. Part 2 will appear this summer.)

The men of Second Force Recon, the only active-duty force-recon unit in existence today, are volunteers and undergo a seven-week course at Little Creek, Va. Although based at Lejeune, they attend a wide variety of schools offered by the Army and Marines elsewhere: Ranger, Pathfinder, Sniper, Jump, HALO, Scuba and others.

The M16 is their standard weapon now but, in search of a silenced automatic firearm, they are testing the Thompson SMG, MAC-10, MP-5 and CAR-15.

Look for Reed's report in an upcoming issue.



BACK TO THE BASICS



SOF Staffer Sharpens His Skills at Chapman Academy

Text & Photos by Bob Poos

When Gen. Robert Barrow, much-decorated veteran of WWII and Korea, was named Commandant of the Marine Corps, he made a speech stressing to his men the importance of "getting back to the basics" of being a small, elite, air-ground fighting team.

The same is true of pistol shooting, be it IPSC, practical or bull's eye. For that reason, SOF sent Executive Editor Bob Poos to attend the Intermediate course at Ray Chapman's Academy near Columbia, Mo., where the three-gun match for the SOF convention was held in September 1980.

Poos has long experience in bull's-eye pistolcraft but had done very little combat-type shooting. Chapman's Intermediate course is designed for people who have had experience in shooting but wish to sharpen and improve their basic skills. Poos learned a lot at the Academy.

SOF knows that many of its readers are polished professionals in the shooting game. Others are not. All of us need to keep clearly in mind the basics on which professionalism is built. We hope this article will be both interesting and informative to readers in that respect.

RECENTLY, I learned more about practical pistol shooting in one week than I had in the past 35 years. And that includes a tour in the Marines during which I had excellent instructors, fired Expert twice in qualification with the service .45, and 10 years of bull's-eye shooting in which I had some fine police and military coaches.

I owe my new proficiency — and I am now 100 percent better a shot than I was — to the Ray Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting.

Ray Chapman, a congenial 52-year-old Texas native, and his two instructors in the class I attended — Roy Erwin and Bud Mayfield — have, I believe, two secrets to their remarkable aptitude at improving a person's ability to pitch pills out of a .45 or 9mm. They constantly stress mastering, and I mean mastering, the basic techniques. And they have the patience of Buddha and the ability to interface with people.

You'll be corrected when you are doing something wrong with that pistol, but without the drill-instructor approach. You'll get the message, but you won't get it at your ear drums' expense.

Improving The Basics

I attended Chapman's intermediate course — one designed for someone who has been shooting handguns for some time but who wants to sharpen up his basics and improve his shooting. It includes 30 hours of instruction over five days (actually, you'll probably shoot an hour or two longer each day just for fun) and costs \$275. The equipment required is a serviceable pistol, belt, holster and rubber-soled shoes or boots. Chapman recommends running shoes. (I wore GI jungle boots that I had in Vietnam and they worked well.) Don't wear leather soles; you'll slip. Chapman advises that one will need at least 600 rounds of ammunition for this course. I shot about 1,000.

My class consisted of 19 men and two women — considerably larger than the normal class of 10 to 15 students. Even so, all of us received careful, detailed instruction and advice from Chapman, Erwin and Mayfield.

"Aim for the center of mass — always — I can't stress that *enough*. Use that adrenalin flow to your advantage. Sure you'll shake a little at first. Don't let the fact that you get a little excited and shaky disturb you. Just learn to keep yourself under control.

"That pistol must be stabilized when the hammer falls. Stabilize it as you're squeezing the trigger. And squeeze that trigger.

"Don't wrap your forefinger too far around the trigger unless you're shooting a revolver — then you have to. But with an automatic, keep it short of the first joint."



Poos executes one of firing exercises. In this problem, shooter aims at target at left and one further to left (not visible), then swings to right side of barricade, shoots target at right and another further right on hillside (not visible).

That's the essence of Chapman's first short speech to his students.

He also discusses equipment briefly.

Equipment Choices

"Most people who are successful in competition shoot a .45 Colt Government Model, Commander or Gold Cup. Some prefer a 9mm — both the Browning and the Smith & Wesson Model 59 are good pistols. But most of us like the .45. For one thing, it punches a bigger hole in the target, so it might touch a scoring ring that the 9mm would just miss.

"You need good, reliable, high-visibility sights. [Chapman does not like colored or fluorescent sights which he believes are distracting.] Use flat-black sights."

(A word here about sights. If you have a Colt Gold Cup, take it to a gunsmith and have him either put different sights on it or lock in the existing ones. Gold Cup sights, both front and back, tend to fly off during extended shooting. Some of the more experienced shooters in my class had already had this happen to them. It happened to four more during the class.)

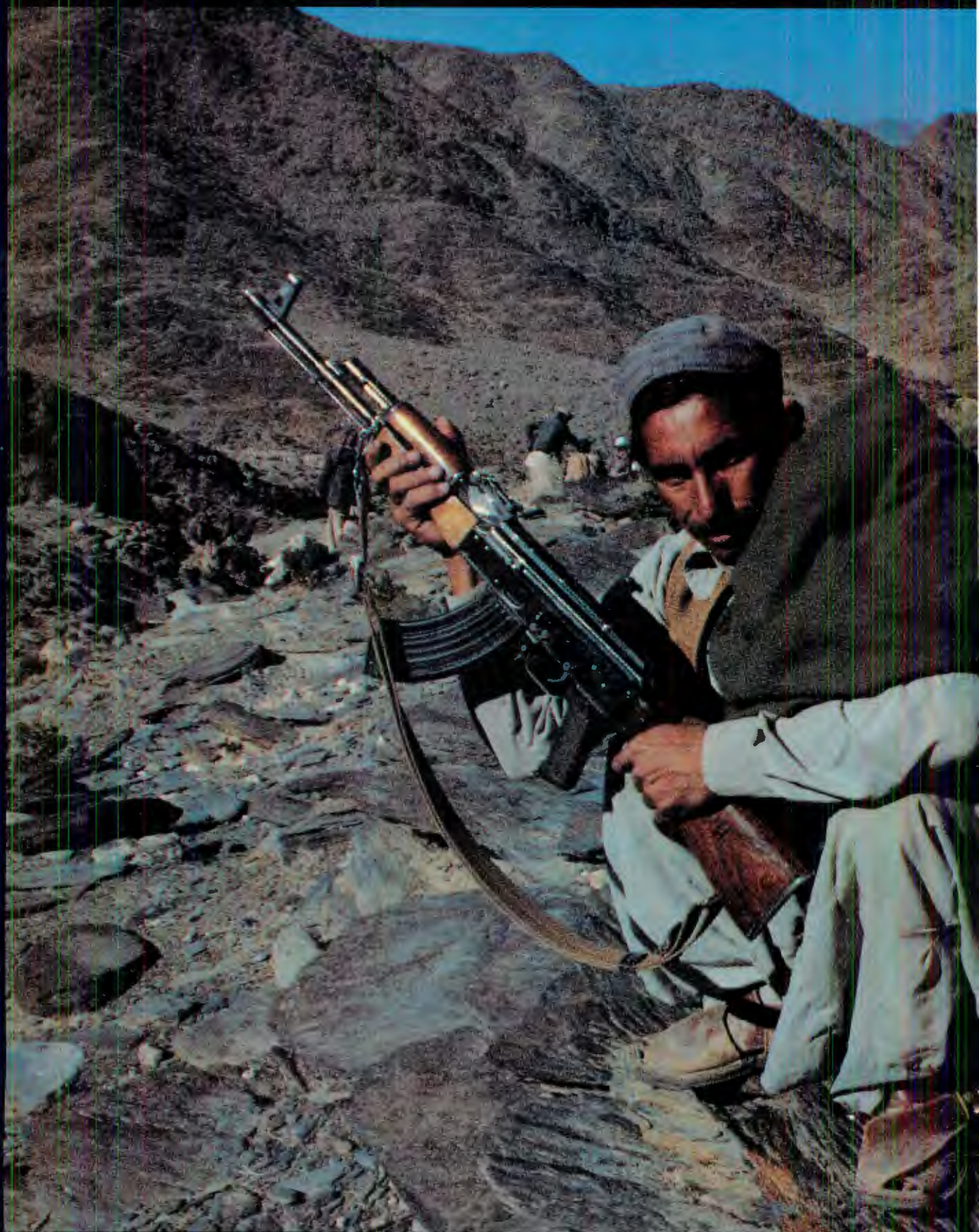
"Trigger release should be 4 to 4½ pounds. Use a mainspring that is suited to your ammunition. For hardball, get a hardball spring, perhaps 21 pounds." Chapman does not like a recoil buffer. Ambidextrous safety, of course.

He is most positive about the bullet and the load: "Use a 200-grain lead, flat-

Continued on page 88



TOP LEFT: Ray Chapman closely supervises shooter early in Intermediate Course instruction. **TOP RIGHT:** Student in Chapman Academy Intermediate Course checks and pastes target. **ABOVE:** Shooters taking Intermediate Course at Chapman Academy fire from prone position.





SOF STAFFER INSIDE AFGHANISTAN

Another exclusive report on the Mujahideen's fight for freedom behind Russian lines near Jalalabad. With little or no aid from the Free World, the guerrilla struggle continues unabated.

Text & Photos by Jim Coyne



SCATTERED among debris left over from the ambush lay a letter, lovingly folded between the pages of a young Soviet soldier's Military Identification Booklet. No. 3926240, Evegny Efimovich Bulyaev, born 17 March 1961.

It read:

October, 1980,

Dear Evegny, hello. I always think of you. Daiya has gone North of Crozin. The hilltops of Crozin have been covered by snow. It is getting colder and colder, day after day.

I do not know when you will come home. I always work. Mother is at home. Mostly watches TV and listens to the radio. No news.

One day when it was raining heavily, the body of Victore, who 15 days ago married with Nadia, was brought from Afghanistan. Poor Nadia. How unfortunate.

Hope you will return soon.

I love you. I love you. Please, I love you.

XXX.

Evegny will not be going home alive either. At 19 his life ended in a burst of automatic-weapons fire as he and the rest of his BTR crew scrambled from their trapped vehicle into the open, hostile hills of Afghanistan.

Surrounded by more than 300 Mujahideen guerrillas, they never had a chance. They ran out of air cover and luck simultaneously.

The Afghan province of Kunar, bordering Pakistan, is rugged and mountainous. Covered by thick pine forests, it is an ideal area of operations for a guerrilla war — as far as the guerrillas are concerned. There is only a precarious, narrow main road, sheared from the rock and bordered by the Darya-ye Kunar River winding below.

Raw Russian Deal

During a late November afternoon in the mountains overlooking the road near Jallala, a group of 300 to 400 Mujahideen assembled to plan an attack that night on Barrie Kot, a Russian armor and mecha-

nized-infantry garrison of 500 Soviet troops and 2,000 troops of Afghanistan's Marxist government.

Always, everywhere in Afghanistan, it is the Russians who man the tanks and APCs, while what remains of the Afghan army ride in trucks, or walk. It's a raw deal all the way around.

Seldom do Russian forces move without heavy helicopter-gunship air cover overhead.

However, this day, unexpectedly, a column of eight vehicles moved toward Barrie Kot from Asmar, another Russian garrison to the south. Two APCs, an eight wheeler and a four wheeler, led the column, followed by a T-62 tank. Without air cover, a fatal mistake.

Excitedly, the Mujahideen formed a plan of attack. Twenty-five men quickly moved out to create an avalanche to block the road toward which the Russian column advanced — unaware. While the roadblock formed, the other guerrillas divided into groups and concealed themselves in rocks above a hairpin curve in the road. Thirty men stayed behind as the column passed with instructions to create another avalanche to block retreat once the ambush erupted.

Tactically, the ambush could not have been planned better.

As the lead BTR rounded the turn, its crew spotted the roadblock ahead and stopped, with the other APC and trucks behind strung out around the turn. Behind them all, the T-62 ground to a halt, unable to provide fire support for the lead vehicles.

Within seconds, the truckloads of Afghan infantry withered under a hail of automatic-weapons fire that overwhelmed them and disabled the trucks, setting one ablaze. The lead APC crews panicked, realizing they were caught between the rocks ahead and their own destroyed trucks behind. They tried frantically to fire and maneuver. Then the hatches snapped open as they attempted to scramble toward the convoy's rear and the "safety" of the tank. It was here, on the bare earth of a desolate road, that Evegny Efimovitch Bulyaev — the young Ukrainian soldier — died.

Tank Trap

The tank driver, realizing all was lost, reversed gears and fired the main gun point-blank into the hillside and began a fast track back toward Asmar. Then the second avalanche fell — blocking retreat.

In its frantic effort to climb over the huge rocks blocking the road, the T-62 only managed to grind itself deeper into the dirt. Another avalanche fell in front of the tank, leaving only three or four meters in which it could maneuver.

Adjar, leader of one of the Mujahideen assault groups and a former shepherd, leaped onto the tank's hull and shot off its antenna. Then, with the butt of his

AK-47, he jammed the turret machine-gun barrel so it could fire only into the air.

Other Mujahideen climbed onto the tank and covered its viewports with rags and dirt.

One can only imagine the crew's blind terror while making every effort to extricate themselves from this horror and certain death.

But, like a huge beast caught in a pit trap, the tank finally exhausted itself and lay still, engine idling, belching diesel smoke.

One after another, Mujahideen carefully and quickly dragged scrub brush and small dry trees toward the immobile T-62, piling the wood against its sides and top.

They called out to the crew inside, taunting, "If there are any Muslims inside, come out." But there are only Russians in tanks. No reply came.

Fire was set with a single spark, and flames and grey smoke engulfed the tank, curling into the late-afternoon sky.

Mujahideen cheered as the inferno of superheated air grew in intensity.

Then it was over. Night fell like a final curtain.

Such stories of individual bravery in the face of overwhelming odds are legend and, like many accounts of heroic acts, the truth is often more fantastic than fiction.

DIM THAT TANK

Soviet forces in Afghanistan have come up with an interesting innovation in the use of a mine-detection device that has for some time been a standard tool in the Russian army.

It is the DIM, a magnetically sensitive anti-vehicular mine detector.

The DIM was originally designed to be mounted on the front of a jeep-style vehicle. The device is essentially composed of two rods, each about 10 feet long, with magnetic sensors on the ends. The rods lightly brush the ground ahead and the sensors, upon detecting metal, send a message back to the vehicle. The procedure then is for troops to dismount and manually sweep the suspected area.

However, the Soviets have abandoned use of DIMs on jeeps and adapted them to T-62 tanks. The reason is probably quite simple. Russians riding in exposed vehicles have suffered heavy casualties from Afghan freedom-fighter snipers, so now the Russians go everywhere in Afghanistan in tanks or APCs — buttoned up.

A freedom fighter told SOF that the Afghans have developed a number of methods to render the DIMs less effective. These were described to SOF staffers, but we are not going to divulge them because the Russians probably have not yet figured out what the Afghans are doing. —Bob Poos

TOP LEFT: Hashmet Mojadidi, son of Sebghatullah Mojadidi — leader of the Afghan National Liberation Front — sighting in Chinese Type 56 assault rifle with folding bayonet, west of Dakka, Afghanistan. MIDDLE LEFT: Soviet Military Identification Booklet #3926240, Pvt. Evegny Efimovich Bulyaev, KIA, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, November '80. Captured Soviet AKM with plastic 30-round magazine. BOTTOM LEFT: Unexploded Soviet air-deployed plastic anti-personnel mine (PFM-1) near trail west of Towr Kham. (See SOF April '81, and this issue.) Notice liquid-explosive seepage on outside. LEFT: Torak Mahlik, said to have killed 65 Russians since the invasion. Mahlik is a title reserved for village headman.

Recently, while sitting late one night talking with some young Mujahideen discussing America and the election of Ronald Reagan (in whom they place great hope), there was a quick knock at the door and a man slipped in, all smiles. Everyone immediately stood, crowding around, hugging him, shaking his hand. More Mujahideen entered to see him, greatly excited. I hadn't a clue as to who he was, but I knew he was important.

QUESTIONS OF ARMS AND UNITY

The most urgent problem facing the Afghan resistance — other than the Russian army — is unity of command. Where the Russians have one commander, the Afghans have scores.

A government in exile is desperately needed, one that would be responsible for procurement of arms from other governments. This is a serious matter, one which eventually may decide the outcome of the war.

The needed weapons are shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank rockets and mines. Sophisticated and deadly stuff. For any sympathetic government to provide such arms, responsible leadership is required on the part of those receiving them. Who gets them? How? For how much? Who are they going to be used against? Where? How soon? All legitimate questions.

It has been more than a year since the Russian winter invasion of 1979. In the first months of the assault, the Mujahideen — and the rest of the world — were stunned by the attack's ferocity and magnitude. Only daring feats of individual bravery bought time for the Mujahideen to fall back and regroup. Command disintegrated into anarchy. Ad-hoc alliances were formed, and then broken. Finally, five of the main groups established a revolutionary council. But this "Loyal Jirga" has been rendered ineffective by the opposition of fundamentalist pro-Khomeini Islamic groups. Pro-Western Islamic groups have been thwarted in their attempts to introduce words like "democracy," "nationalism" and "elections" into the council charter.

Incredibly, the United States seems most anxious to please the most anti-Western Islamic factions, rather than the pro-Western groups.

A commander of the largest and most pro-Western group told me: "The United States is difficult to understand. It is as if it is best to say, 'Go away, leave us alone, we don't like you, you're our enemy.' Then you get the United States' respect, and anxious offers of help. But when we extend our hands in genuine offers of friendship, we're ignored. It is peculiar."

To say the least.

—J.C.

(Later, I was told he was a high-ranking official in the present Afghan "government," an informer who came that night to report, and then returned the following morning to Kabul.)

Tea and bread quickly appeared, and for many minutes he answered questions and relayed news. Then he began a long story in Pushtu, a rich language known for its nuances in the art of storytelling. (It has more than 200 subtle insults).

For the next 15 minutes he spoke to an absolutely silent audience. When he finished, there was a sudden storm of laughter and everyone sprang to his feet, hugging him, each other, and even me. I, of course, had no idea what had been said, but I sure wanted to know.

This is it:

Tale Of Three Russians

The big news in Kabul that week concerned an old man, a gatekeeper at a small children's school. Early one morning before the children arrived, he entered a classroom where a teacher was preparing the day's lessons. He told the teacher that his sons and relatives had fled to Pakistan and, because of his age, he was certain he would never see them again.

He told the teacher he had prayed that morning and promised Allah he would kill three Russians before the day ended. The teacher looked at him, amazed, and laughed. The old man left and walked to the bazaar. In its center sat a Russian tank whose crew had dismounted to sip tea and buy cigarettes. From a food stall, the old man picked up the Afghan equivalent of a machete, used locally to chop melons and coconuts, and, with a stroke, decapitated the seated tank officer from behind. The crew, horrified, scrambled toward their tank. The old man ran after them and once again buried the blade, with one

swing, in another tanker's skull, killing him instantly. The remaining Russians had, by this time, regained the safety of their tank, and the old man fled through the bazaar. But he was soon caught by informants loyal to the government and taken to the governor, who quickly convened a court.

The governor asked the old man why he had done such a thing. The old man replied that he would tell, but first everyone present must recite the Shahadah to prove they were all Muslims (In Arabic: "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah.") The court agreed and all present recited the Shahadah.

The old man told them he now believed they were all Muslims. He said he had prayed to Allah that morning and promised to kill three Russians before day's end, and if they would please excuse him for five minutes, he would like to find the third.

Winter Action

Winter will be decisive in the course of the Afghanistan war.

In December 1979, the Afghans, and the world, were taken by surprise when the Russian army launched an armored assault, spearheaded by a political assassination, and seized Afghanistan's capital and major cities. The world should not have been surprised then, when, this winter, another Russian assault took place. Historically, Russia has always used winter as an ally.

There are two scenarios. In the worst case, the most vital and disturbing question facing Afghan resistance, Pakistan, the Free World and the United States is: How do we keep the Russian army at bay if it chooses to expand beyond Afghanistan?

Border crossing at Towr Kham. The irony of the driving instruction may be lost to the local motorist entering Afghanistan.



Russian strategy of intervention in Third World countries is based on taking advantage of political and economic problems prevailing in the target area. Internal and external conditions are exploited without regard to ideology. The aim is chaos. Such conditions take time to develop and Russia, until recently, believed time was in its favor in Afghanistan.

Detente, which has a different meaning for the Russians than it does for Americans, gave them all the time they needed. They were prepared to wait. Now, however, the resurgence of Islam in the near Middle East; Sino-American rapprochement and cooperation in scientific, technological and military fields; discord within the Soviet camp itself; the possibility of existing Russian sources of oil drying up; the shift of American public opinion away from detente; the apparent willingness of the West to significantly increase defense spending; and the election of Ronald Reagan as President, have suddenly changed the Russian perception of time. It is now of great importance. The premature and miscalculated action in Afghanistan was a direct result of this change. Developments are likely to occur much faster than hitherto believed.

Iran and Pakistan are now the two frontline states situated directly in the path of Russian objectives in the near Middle East. Russian possession of Iran would not only deprive the industrialized West of substantial quantities of oil, but would pose a threat to its oil sources on the Arabian Peninsula. It would also outflank NATO from the southeast. But such an action would almost certainly mean confrontation with the U.S. and Europe. Precisely for that reason, it is more logical to assume the Russian army will move southwest, through Pakistan, rather than elsewhere in the near Middle East. The world would be less inclined to

risk a conflict with Russia if only Pakistan's security were jeopardized. Pakistan is a poor country with only a 33-year history as a nation.

By coordinating a simultaneous move with India, which has fought two recent wars against Pakistan for control of Kashmir, the Russians could, if they wished, divide Pakistan at the Indus River. By so doing, they also would solve with brutal finality the problem of Afghan-resistance sanctuaries in Pakistan.

In such a scenario, Pakistan stands alone staring down the barrel of the Khyber Pass. The only impediment for Russia would seem to be China, its long-time rival in Asia. But China is unlikely to side actively with Pakistan in a war with Russia without the involvement of Western Europe and the United States. To do so would be against China's long-term interests.

The Chinese would have to fight Russia and its allies on five widely separated fronts: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Vietnam and China's own long, tenuous border with the Soviet Union.

Invading armies have swept down from the mountains and passes of Afghanistan to pillage and plunder the Indian subcontinent for more than 3,000 years.

The warm-water port of Karachi beckons to Moscow like a jewel. It must be an intoxicating goal for the Kremlin. But for others, it is a more sobering thought. As one high-ranking Pakistani military officer told me while we stood together on the Khyber Pass, "This is where the whole world will go to war. Everyone is waiting."

Most Probable

The second scenario has already begun. The addition of 25,000 fresh Soviet troops has made major ground-and-air search-

Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil. Puppet Afghan Government Police, Afghan Army, and Political Officer at border crossing near Khyber Pass. Barbed wire marks the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.



AIRPORT ENCOUNTER

Next to me on the plane from Peshawar to Karachi sat two well-dressed, anxious-looking gentlemen I took to be Pakistanis. I was wrong. They were Afghans who had left Kabul three days before, ostensibly on a business trip to Frankfurt. In reality, they were seeking asylum and were afraid that they would be stopped before they got there. They told me of their perilous drive from Jalalabad to the Pakistan border. I told them I had been with the Mujahideen at that time, overlooking that very road. We all laughed.

They introduced me to a young boy who had been twice wounded by the Russians and had spent the last three months recovering in a Khyber hospital, now also on his way to Germany. (It seems Afghans are unable to secure U.S. visas.) The boy was very polite — and very nervous.

We sat together in the Karachi terminal waiting for our common flight out, taking turns watching each other's luggage, exchanging stories and news.

Suddenly, the older man nudged my arm, nodded toward the opposite counter and said, "Russians."

Sure enough, there they were. A nervous Pakistani hung up a sign reading "Aeroflot — Moscow," with Misha the bear on it. The Russians were a humorless group of fat, badly dressed people. One of them kept an unlit cigarette dangling from his lower lip as he scowled around the room.

The boy couldn't take it. His knuckles were white as he gripped his only bag.

We told him to stay calm and go to the restaurant. As he got up to leave, he spat at the feet of the nearest Russian. They pretended not to notice.

I stared at them, fascinated, as they waited anxiously to board their plane.

Finally, I couldn't take it either.

I had, in my pocket, a Xerox® copy of Evgeny Efimovich Bulyaev's military identification card (the young Ukrainian killed only two weeks previously in Kunar — see p. 74).

I knew if I didn't do it, I'd regret it all my life.

I walked up to the group of Russians, and asked if anyone spoke English. All but one of them turned away. He growled, "Russian."

I held out, in front of his face, the ID card with Evgeny's photograph and the unmistakable star, hammer and sickle. They all turned around.

I pointed to the photograph, drew my finger across my neck like a knife, and said, "Afghanistan."

Then I walked away. —J.C.

and-destroy operations possible inside Afghanistan, combined with operations aimed at sealing the border areas and supply routes near Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, including limited ground and air incursions against guerrilla sanctuaries within Pakistan itself. More than 200 incursions of Pakistani air space have occurred since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. In one raid, six Mi-24 gunships rocketed and strafed a Pakistan army border post at Kit Kot in Bajaur Agency for 20 minutes, killing two Pak gunners. The Paks returned fire with a quad-12.7mm anti-aircraft gun and reported hits on what they believed to be the command-and-control gunship. It was last seen trailing smoke and dropping debris in the direction of Jalalabad. Pakistan could not confirm a kill until 10 days later, when tribesmen began crossing the border, carrying sawed-off pieces of the gunship's armor which they promptly began to sell to knife manufacturers for \$2 U.S. a pound.

In late November, Kabul Radio began announcing that military exercises, started weeks previously, were continuing in four provinces: Kabul, Wardak, Kunduz and Paktia. Armed forces communiques, broadcast simultaneously, ordered residents of these provinces to carry their identification cards.

"Daily sweeps will be conducted by Security Forces to conscript males aged 21 or over for military service."

These reports coincide with diplomatic messages of major Soviet actions against guerrilla forces in Parwan as well as Logar and Wardak Provinces.

Guerrilla sources confirm the "exercises" are, in fact, widespread search-and-destroy operations, involving large numbers of helicopter gunships and armor-supported ground forces. Soviet and Afghan troops (referred to as Lenin's Sons) entered the narrow Tangi Valley in Wardak Province and began a systematic roundup of guerrillas, using lists of names provided by informers.

The Russians are deploying battalion- and brigade-sized units, using air-assault tactics in a new phase of the war to block and destroy guerrilla strongholds.

Once more using winter as an ally, as well as the experience and intelligence acquired during the first year's fighting, the Russians mounted large, sustained operations aimed at the destruction of guerrilla sanctuaries and opposition.

Afghan Steel And American Mush

Once again, the bravery and endurance of the Afghan people will be tested in their fight for freedom. There has been no military assistance from the "Free World."

Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1813, "If ever there was a Holy War, it was that which secured our Liberties, and gave us Independence."

Ironically, it is the United States, once a fortress of freedom, proud to proclaim itself "The Arsenal of Democracy," which now seems willing to discuss freedom only in a free land, or lecture the world on human rights. Freedom and human rights in Afghanistan have been crushed beneath the tracks of Russian tanks.

Lenin's doctrine is: "Probe with the bayonet — if you find mush, advance; if you find steel, withdraw." In Afghanistan, the Russians have found the steel will of the Afghan people. In the United States, so far, they have found mush. Official U.S. reluctance to provide weapons for a struggle which is, by any definition,



Guerrilla freedom fighter less amputated foot as a result of new Soviet PFM-1 mine. (See SOF April '81, and this issue.) Photo: Tom Reisinger

clearly a fight for freedom, is particularly repulsive in view of the historically recent Soviet policy of supplying massive amounts of military aid to the Vietnamese communists for use against American troops. Surface-to-air missiles of every variety; radar-controlled anti-aircraft; modern aircraft; tanks; armored personnel carriers; light and heavy weapons; anti-tank weapons; artillery; mines; ammunition; training and advice — all were freely given to kill 57,500 Americans and wound more than 300,000 others. It was no mystery where the stuff came from. We all knew. Washington knew. The world knew. But business as usual prevailed. No one mentioned going to war with Russia over it.

What goes around, comes around. If the Russians now want Afghanistan so badly, I, for one, would like to give them the maximum opportunity to die for it. Let's supply the guerrilla Mujahideen with the Redeye surface-to-air missiles we consider obsolete. They'd litter the land-

OPPOSITE: Instructions and operations orders are dictated to a courier near Jalalabad. Lack of radio communications may be asset to guerrillas, since Soviets could intercept and locate radio transmissions. Weapon is .303 Lee-Enfield Mk III 1907.

scape with MiGs and Mi-24s. Give them LAWs and anti-tank mines and there wouldn't be one Russian in a tank anywhere in Afghanistan.

Ultimately, however, it is not a question of whether the United States, or any nation, arms the Afghan people. They will fight. As one guerrilla leader wryly put it to me, "Our arms factories are in Russia." The Russian army stands facing the reality that it has now become a war between every Afghan family and the Soviet Union.

Believers' Swords

History teaches that freedom goes hand-in-hand with bravery. The people of Afghanistan are, above all things, brave. There is a saying in the local dialect of the hill tribes: "A non-believer believes in his shield; a believer believes in his sword."

The fight for freedom is the fiercest of passions, an ideal so consuming it rides rough-shod over doubt. It is a faith. It is for this reason Afghanistan will win.

First, realize that everywhere the Russian army goes in Afghanistan it is surrounded and outnumbered by increasingly competent resistance forces. Secondly, realize the Russian army is being beaten. I'm certain this comes as a surprise to most of America. The American press persists in portraying Afghan resistance as "rebels," implying the legitimacy of the "government" they are "rebellious" against; or as small bands of ragtag tribesmen, doomed by "the most awesome military machine on earth." This is nonsense. The Mujahideen guerrillas, admittedly poor and ill-equipped, are rich in tactical ability and have an innate sense of guerrilla warfare.

The Mujahideen are quick to take advantage of Russian mistakes, and the Soviets are making many mistakes. In fact, the modern Russian army had, until now, only vicarious experience in warfare, being untested in real battle since 1945. It shows. The ranks are predominantly composed of 18- and 19-year-old conscripts who don't have a clue as to why they've been sent to Afghanistan. They were told to expect resistance from CIA imperialists. Most Russians suspect their government of lies, but this war has proven beyond belief, even for officers.

Continued on page 72



AFGHAN PSYWAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Afghan Freedom Fighters wage psychological as well as guerrilla warfare against their Russian invaders. Psywar posters mysteriously appear tacked or pasted on the walls of buildings in cities occupied by Soviet troops.*

This is the translated text of one of them brought back by SOF Special Correspondent Jim Coyne. It is a joint effort of the Afghan Islamic National Front and the Popular Labor Union — descendants of White Russians exiled from their homeland after the Soviet revolution in 1919. Its Russian name is Narodno Trudovoy Soyuz Rossiyskikh Solidaristov, generally known by the initials NTS.

NTS activists live in several European countries — but maintain contacts inside the Soviet Union itself.

AFGHAN ISLAMIC NATIONAL FRONT: NTS SOLDIER!

Soviet power sent you into Afghanistan under the slogan, "Fraternal Assistance." They lied to you. They said you were going save the Afghan people from the Chinese, the Americans and the Zionists. But through the viewpoint of your tank and the sight of your machine gun you see not foreign interventionists, but Afghan partisans. What you were told was foreign intervention is in fact the Afghan people defending their land *from you*. You see how the Afghan peasant strikes against you, with *what kind of eyes* every youth looks at you. Didn't your grandfather-father-partisans strike against Hitler's occupation forces in this way? Didn't

your father burn the enemy soldier with such a gaze?

At home they can scarcely make ends meet, but the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] doesn't pity the millions of people, doesn't pity the thousands of lives — nor your life. It



only wants to extend its power still further. They sent your father to Hungary in '56, your brother to Prague in '68, and now you see yourself in the role of chastiser. The struggle against the Afghan partisans brings neither glory nor honor to Russia: it only places a still more disgraceful hand on our people.

THE WORD "RUSSIAN" HAS NOW BECOME A SYMBOL OF OPPRESSION. EVEN THE GOOD NAME OF "PEOPLE'S" POWER HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM THE PEOPLE.

You now find yourselves in a desperate situation. Failure to fulfill your orders burdens you with death — death and disgrace. The more you look into it, the more you see yourselves in such a trap. Hasn't the time come for us to put an end to arousing a worldwide conflagration, to put an end to the game of war on two fronts and begin to set our own house in order? If one must perish, isn't it better, isn't it more worthy, to perish in the struggle for freedom of one's own people, than for the enslavement of others?

ISN'T IT TIME TO STRIKE THE CRIMINAL POWER OF THE CPSU IN THE NECK?

The People's Labor Union struggles for a free Russia. For free, secret and equal choice of popular representatives. For equal rights and opportunities for all citizens. For economic initiative. For free professional unions. For spiritual, cultural, economic renewal of the country. For the right of national self-determination. Such a Russia will come. Such a Russia is *not* beyond the mountains. Therefore, do not give up your life in a strange land in the name of strange *interests*. Save it for the future, for the liberation and revitalization of the Homeland. Pull out of Afghanistan homeward, to reveal the truth of this dirty war, to embrace your near and dear ones, to preserve a pure conscience!

Popular Labor Union

Colorado's
Japanese
Knifemaker
Guards
Samurai
Tradition

BLADES OF KUZAN ODA

by Galen L. Geer

Kuzan Oda holds his Best-of-1980-
LA-Knife-Show winning armor-
piercing fighting knife.

58 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

MAY/81



FOR an instant the steel flashed against the blue Colorado sky and carried me back through the centuries to feudal Japan. Kuzan Oda smiled at me. The long samurai-sword's point poised over the mouth of the scabbard, in which the entire blade had been hidden from the sun a second before.

"You want to see it again?" he asked.

I nodded and watched him slide the three feet of gleaming metal back into its case. He turned and nodded at an unseen enemy. His face contorted and suddenly the steel flashed again, whipping out of the scabbard in a blur of movement across the front of his body. Then it poised above his head for a fraction of a second before dropping to slice the imaginary enemy in two — stopping an inch from the ground.

Again Oda smiled. Looking at me, he said: "To learn the quick draw and cut takes maybe two years. To learn how to fight — a lifetime."

Koichiro Oda, better known as "Kuzan, the Knifemaker," may be one of Colorado's most unusual residents. I learned about him from the publicity following TV's *Shogun* series, when the Japanese and their culture became the most popular subject in the newspapers. *Soldier of Fortune* became interested in Oda when we learned about his unusual knowledge of samurai swords and customs, and his outstanding knives. He is one of the most interesting craftsmen we've interviewed.

Since Oda came to the United States from Japan five years ago, his reputation as a knifemaker and sword polisher has been growing steadily. Oda brought back to life the "old-world" tradition of craftsmanship and combined it with the needs of the modern world in his knives. In his Colorado garage workshop, the knifemaker carefully designs, then builds from the finest steel he can buy, a line of fighting and hunting knives found nowhere else in the country.

Kuzan Oda demonstrates drawing long sword for "quick draw and slash." He holds scabbard to draw top of blade against wood and to protect fine steel edge.

Oda works in shop, polishing samurai swords.



All of Oda's knives possess an intrinsic beauty which lifts them above the class of knives sold across the counter in most stores to that of the finest-quality blades. Al Mar, whose knowledge of knives is well known to SOF readers, says of Oda's work: "His knives are among the best made and worth the money."

Kuzan knives are expensive. The least costly is a four-inch skinning knife which sells for a base price of \$150. His prices then climb, topping out at \$500 for an eight-inch, no-frills dagger.

The prices seemed high until I watched Oda at work. His skinning knife — the easiest for him to make — requires a full day and a half to fashion from the metal blank. That's roughly 12 hours of skill which has taken Oda a lifetime to acquire.

Oda began learning about blades as a 12-year-old in Tokyo. He was apprenticed to his uncle, Yasoro, a Tokyo sword merchant, who bought and sold samurai swords.

"My uncle would buy an old, rusty sword and bring it into his shop. There he would begin to slowly remove the rust and restore the blade. When it was finished, he would then sell the sword for many times what he paid for it."

It was from his uncle that Oda learned to look beyond the shroud of history that surrounded samurai swords and penetrate their mystery.

"A samurai sword is like no other in the



ABOVE: Samurai short-sword tangs. From top: Simosaka Group (village), value \$2,000, age, 300 years; unsigned but watering shows is Hasebe Kunishige, national-treasure class (mar on blade reduces value to \$10,000), 600 years; Munehira, \$500, 300 years; Norimitsu, \$1,000, 300 years; Kangsada, \$5,000, 300 years; blade is 100-150 years old, tang 500, value \$500. **LEFT:** Kuzan knives include (center) armor-piercing fighting knife with black-micarta handle, \$500. Others are, clockwise from top right, boot knife, coca-bola wood handle, \$300; boot dagger, coca-bola wood handle, \$350; prototype in author's collection, ironwood handle; skinner, black-micarta handle, \$175; utility hunter, green-micarta handle, \$175; dropped point, red-micarta handle, \$175.



world," Oda explains. "It is filled with mystery, stretching from the love of the craftsman who prayed for the sword's success, to the last warrior who carried it in battle. The traditions that surround these swords make them a mystery to most Westerners."

After four years working under his uncle, Oda was promoted from sword polishing to knifemaking. More years were devoted to the study of knives in Tokyo — during which he quickly learned he had inherited a bonus: his knowledge of samurai swords. Today that knowledge is applied to his own knifemaking.

New Knife Design

At the 1980 Los Angeles Knife Show, Oda's newest creation, a six-inch armor-piercing fighting knife, won the "Best of Show" award. The knife, a sleek, lethal-looking weapon designed for combat, captures a person's attention at the first glimpse. The knife is based on the line of the samurai *Wakizashi*, or short sword, a close-fighting weapon designed to penetrate enemy armor.

From the point, the blade top flares out, giving the point added strength for fighting. The blade itself then sweeps back toward the hilt, adding strength to the cutting edge.

Oda designed the armor-piercing knife not to fail when the user was defending himself against either man or marauding animal — in the tradition of the samurai, who could depend on his sword not to fail him in mortal combat.

"When I first designed this knife, people asked me why I wanted such a knife. It is hard for many people to understand that the hunter and the soldier need a knife which is different from any other. It is a knife made to kill — in defense of one's life or family."

Although Oda has altered the tradition of testing new blades to fit the modern world (see "The Steel Of The Samurai," p. 60) he still tests each new knife before it leaves his shop. Also, he refuses to make a knife he cannot test himself. The numerous requests for throwing knives he receives are all politely declined.

"I do not throw knives," he explains, "so I could not test a throwing knife — therefore I do not make them."

Kuzan knives are "tools only." Every one of his knives is designed to fill a special need. He believes there are patterns, ways of giving a knife a good feel and balance — some of which have been proven over centuries — which should not be changed. "Try to change these designs," Oda says, "and you change the knife. Such foolishness could cost a man his hand or even his life."

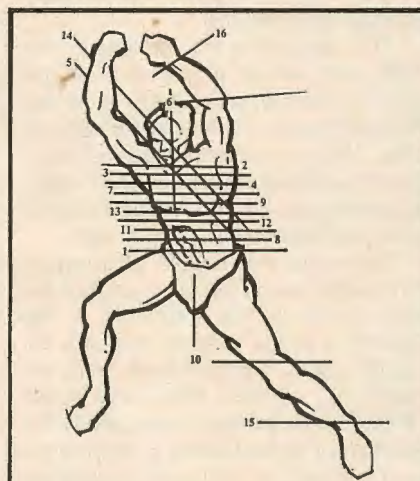
Oda does not want to live with the thought that one of his knives may fail when it is needed.

"I am a craftsman; the tradition of Japanese blades is found in my knives. A

knife that is good, that is functional, will have its own lines, its own beauty. To try to add to those lines, to make a knife like a piece of art, is to destroy the lines which give it strength."

Knives, while they are making Oda famous, are not his only business. He is also one of the few men alive who can polish a samurai sword in the true tradition of Japan's polishers. Also, he is believed to be the only Japanese in the U.S. who uses the pure-Japanese method of polishing the swords.

One room of Oda's home is without furniture. A floor covering protects the hardwood floor from water spillage. Inside the room stands a large tub of water, a collection of stones and a traditional wooden bench/block for holding the stones while polishing the swords. Samurai swords are scattered around the room.



TESTS FOR NEW SWORDS

No samurai sword was ever accepted blindly. Each had to pass a series of tests, one of which was hacking up the bodies of criminals — or peasants if one happened by at the right (or wrong) time. The cuts, all numbered and given exotic names, ranged from the most difficult (across the hips, No. 1) to the very easy (anyone can chop off a hand), No. 16.

1. *ryo kurma* — pair of wheels.
2. *tai-tai* — very big.
3. *karigane* — wild goose.
4. *chiwari* — splitting the breast.
5. *o-kesa* — priest's robe.
6. *kami-tatewari* — top vertical split.
7. *wakige* — armpit.
8. *kurmasaki* — end of the wheel.
9. *surisuke* — rubbing in.
10. *shimo-tatewari* — bottom vertical split.
11. *san-no-do* — third body cut.
12. *ni-no-do* — second body cut.
13. *ichi-no-do* — first body cut.
14. *ko-kesa* — small priest's robe.
15. *tabigata* — sock region.
16. *sodesuri* — cutting the sleeve.

Sword polishing is a slow process that was first developed 600 years ago. A collection of seven stones, each with a different degree of coarseness, is used in the process. A tub of pure water (no chemicals can be added) sits in front of an odd-shaped wooden footrest. A stone is placed in the wooden block. It is held in place by another block with a foot on top of it. After selecting the sword he wants to polish, Oda wets the blade with water, then the stone, and he begins a soft, swirling motion of the blade on the stone. After drawing the sword along its length, he adds more water to the blade and the stone and repeats the age-old process.

Depending on the condition of the blade and quality of the steel, the cleaning/polishing/sharpening process can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks. Oda often encounters problems with samurai swords brought back from the Pacific during WWII. Because Americans don't really understand the kinds of swords they may have captured, they sometimes try to polish them on wire wheels or grinding wheels — a mistake that can ruin the sword beyond repair.

"To use anything except the proper stones on a samurai sword," Oda says, "will ruin it. The careful folding and doubling of the steel when the sword was first made can be ruined by the smallest touch of a grinder wheel or even a file."

Sword Hunt

To try to track down historic swords, Oda prowls flea markets, gun shows and any place where a samurai sword might show up. These swords, depending on their owner's knowledge and his ability to prove the sword's worth, can sell for anywhere from \$100 to several thousand dollars. Oda is searching, mostly in vain, for the missing national treasures of Japan carted off by American GIs at the end of the war.

"Thirty-six of these swords were national treasures," Oda says. "All but two are missing. So, whenever I can, I look at old war souvenirs to see if I've found one."

The swords Oda is searching for were taken out of a number of museums by American GIs who were part of the occupation forces. To Oda, it is important to look for the swords, but he holds nothing against the Americans who took them. "It was war," he explains, "and America won — had we won what would we have taken? It's all meaningless now."

If Oda were to locate one of the swords, he would try to arrange a meeting between the owner and a representative of the Japanese government. Since they are national treasures, the government would pay enormous sums of money to get them back once they were authenticated. When I asked how much, Oda only shrugged his shoulders and said: "How much is a treasure worth?"

Another group of swords, although not national treasures, were those claimed by many Americans as war trophies during the Pacific campaigns. These swords range from cheap scrap-iron blades to family heirlooms that may be centuries old. They may command prices from a few hundred dollars to tens of thousands. Most are worth two or three thousand dollars after restoration.

People who own samurai swords and want Kuzan to restore them don't walk in to his home, leave the sword and expect to be quoted a price or pick it up a few weeks later. He is unable to quote a price until he sees the sword's condition and has a chance to examine it. Also, he has a one-year-plus waiting list of customers.

American Apprentice

To help with his backlog of work, Oda has finally taken on an apprentice, Terry Berryman, a former oil-field worker who started working for the knifemaker three months ago after hearing him talk about the swords and his knives at a gun show.

"I don't care if it takes years," Berryman explains, "but this is an art which should not die. I want to learn both sword polishing and knifemaking. Oda is the only man in this country who can teach me."

With someone to help with his work, Oda now has time to pursue one of his other interests — hunting. One of the reasons he left Japan was its strict gun-control laws.

Gun-Control Bullshit

"In Japan," Oda explained, "there is too much bullshit you have to go through to get a license to own a gun. I've always loved to hunt but I couldn't have the guns I wanted — so I left."

Oda's first stop was L.A., where he worked for 18 months as a knifemaker. He then moved to Colorado, where he worked for six months before settling in Colorado Springs to open his own business. Now Oda feels he has the best of both worlds: a thriving knife business and access to Colorado's big-game hunting.

Right now, he still doesn't have the time he wants for hunting. Oda is running at least a month behind on all knife orders. Part of the reason is that he starts with blank metal from Colt Steel, the highest quality he can find. From it, he cuts the knife out by hand and shapes the blade and tang with hand files before turning to a belt grinder to begin the final lines.

To get the mirror finish on the steel that is one of his marks of quality, Oda carefully uses green chrome on a cloth wheel to remove the last surface scratches. The handles are made from a variety of materials, depending upon what his client ordered for the knife. Finally, before shipping the knife, Oda tests it in his shop to be sure it will live up to his trade name

— Kuzan, which means "mountain" in Japanese. He wants his knives to last as long as the mountains.

To get a copy of Oda's latest price list, SOF readers can write directly to him at: Kuzan Knives, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 15795, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

THE STEEL OF THE SAMURAI

For the samurai warrior, his sword was an extension of himself — a part of his body. A warrior spent most of his life, when not actually in service to his lord, seeking greater warriors he could learn from and study, hoping to improve his combat skills.

A samurai's sword was not issued to him by some obscure supply sergeant. The price of his swords may have cost the young samurai his land, his family — everything he owned. But, for him, it was worth the cost.

The samurai sword, because of the men who carried it and their unique place in history, is sought by most collectors because of the warrior connection. Yet, to understand the real beauty of these steel blades and their value, a person must have some knowledge of how they were made — and used.

The sword was treated with respect even when not in use. If it was not being carried in its scabbard, it was placed in a rack with the edge up, hilt to the right. The scabbard itself was made of, or lined with, soft wood. When the sword was drawn, either for combat or maintenance, it was drawn, and returned, by sliding the back of the blade on the wood so the edge would be undamaged. The fit between hilt and scabbard was so tight that the blade could not rattle and moisture could not enter the scabbard and rust the blade.

Although volumes have been written about the sword's use, it was the creation of these magnificent blades that caused the samurai to revere them. That reverence was carried to the battlefield. The samurai's code of conduct determined where he could strike his enemy. A samurai warrior was never proud of having struck his enemy in any manner, or on any part of the body, except for those established by the code. For instance, the long sword could be used only on the top of the head, the wrist, the leg and below the knee.

Although most illustrations show samurais carrying only two swords, they often owned, and carried, many more. In most "sets," two smaller sheaths were made in the scabbard of the two larger swords. One was for the *Kozuka*, a short throwing knife, and the second was for the *Kogai* or head pin. The throwing knife was the first weapon children learned to handle, and a youngster planning to become a

samurai was expected to throw the knife and hit a man *in the eye* at 20 paces!

All samurai swords were tested, frequently on the first peasant who happened to walk by. This *tamshrigiri* was common throughout Japan. Tests were also conducted on criminals. An expert would be on hand for a criminal's execution with a new samurai sword, and he would later write a report on the blade's worth for the intended owner. However, the blades were never tested on murderers, rapists or any person with a tattoo or skin disease, since their blood would diminish the blade's strength.

After the execution, the corpse was hung up or placed on a pile of sand and more test cuts were made. There are 16 different cuts recognized by the samurai and each one had to be tested before the blade was ready for its owner.

Although all of the Japanese blades were made in more or less the same manner, their difference lay in their length. These are: Jin Tachi, 33 inches and over; Katana and Tachi, 24 to 30 inches; Chisa Katana, 18 to 24 inches; Wakizashi, 16 to 24 inches; Tanto and Aikuchi, 11 to 16 inches; Toroi Toshi, 9 to 12 inches; and Kwaiken, 3 to 6 inches.

The Japanese swordsmith started with raw ore collected from secret supplies in the mountains. He returned to his shop or village and built a new blast furnace for each sword. The smelting operation, once begun, lasted four days. At the end of the smelting process the furnace was torn down and the metals collected. By using different degrees of hardness from the raw ore, the smith could control exactly the quality of the intended blade.

The most complicated of the several processes of making blades was the *ori awase san mai*. A bar of steel was welded to the edge of a bar of iron and this steel then placed between two more bars of iron and the bars welded together.

Each process was slightly different and, depending on the smith's preference and his own skills, the process of folding and doubling the steel, then welding it, could take weeks and give at least 32,768 layers of steel to a single bar (the future blade), producing the world's first homogeneous steel. Master swordsmiths, such as Masamune, welded four bars, made by doubling, then welded and doubled the bars five more times, producing 4,194,304 layers of steel in a single blade — a feat unequalled today!

Continued on page 78

SEX & PSYWAR

Pornographic Paper Dolls

by Herbert A. Friedman



German "Mirror-Wise" tells frontline soldiers not to trust civilians. Text reads, "Joan was in her room and just about to change because she intended to go to the cinema with Bob. She had done that quite often since John, her husband, had left for the front. Why shouldn't she? Bob is a good friend of John's and he certainly wouldn't object. Everybody understands that Joan cannot always sit home alone for years, without any companionship." Cartoon shows end of story.

WEBSTER'S Dictionary defines pornography as "writings and pictures intended to arouse sexual desire." Would it surprise you to know that all the major governments involved in WWII used pornography as part of their victory strategies?

Sex on the battlefield? What was pornography expected to accomplish? Why dirty pictures instead of bayonets? Professor Paul Linebarger, author of *Psychological Warfare* (Infantry Journal Press, Washington, D.C., 1948), justified the campaign by stating that young soldiers are almost totally preoccupied with sex. In America especially, secondary sex references are a part of daily life. Women are draped over every conceivable product, from automobiles to refrigerators. Thus, our enemies hoped to use this familiarity with sex to excite and arouse front-line troops. Since no quick relief from this arousal was available, it was hoped that morale would plummet.

In *German Psychological Warfare* (Arno Press, N.Y., 1972), Ladislav Farago agrees, stating that the young soldier is a bundle of hyperactive glands, with all his thoughts relating directly to sex and appetite.

Both authors knew that the Allied and Axis powers produced leaflets using sexual themes in an attempt to demoralize soldiers at the front during the last world war.

Did these leaflets work? Did their finders become emotional cripples unable to carry on their everyday duties? Did they concentrate on their guns instead of their weapons? Evidence leads us to believe that just the opposite happened. The "dirty pictures" became collectors' items, sought after by the troops who passed them from hand to hand with a resultant *lifting* of morale.

Professor Linebarger noted that the Japanese idea of "involuntarily celibate" males — so desirous of women that they would surrender out of depression — just didn't hold water. Our troops collected the pornography and "despised the Japanese as queer little people for having sent it."

Torment Or Toilet Paper?

One American GI assigned to the 35th Infantry Division in February 1945 tells of receiving pornographic leaflets in an artillery barrage: "We used the leaflets for toilet paper in Company C." This interesting statement reinforces that of Sir Arthur Harris, RAF Air Marshal: "My personal opinion is that the only thing achieved [by dropping leaflets] was largely to supply the continent's toilet paper requirements for the five long years of war."

In *Paper Bullets* (Froben Press, N.Y., 1946), Leo Margolin describes the French lines during the so-called "Phony War" period in 1939 and early 1940, when "the French soldier's will to fight evaporated

like his breath." Josef Goebbels, Reich minister of enlightenment and propaganda, provided millions of leaflets with drawings of a tired, dirty French soldier in a forward position contrasted to a French woman in the arms of a British soldier. The constant repetition by enemy loudspeakers stressing the absence of British troops in the Maginot Line and their conspicuous presence — with French women of course — in the rear echelons also aggravated military insecurity.

Sefton Delmer, a reporter with the French army—who would later become an official of the British wartime-propaganda agency—recalls his visit to the French front in 1939. He was shown a leaflet which "consisted of a small picture on very thin tissue paper showing a French soldier doing his duty at the front. But, if one held the picture to the light, the scene underwent a complete change. In place of the brave *poilu*, one now saw in minute, salacious detail, a British Tommy fornicating with what a caption told us was the Frenchman's fiancée."

There are a number of different variations of this card. On 1 May 1939, French soldiers along the Maginot Line received a German airdrop of thousands of colorful cards which showed brave troops fighting and dying in front of a barbed-wire emplacement. Above the men is a clear area of sky and the words, "*Ou le Tommy est-il reste?*" (Where is Tommy staying?) When this card is held to the light, a new scene magically appears, because a second

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card has been cleverly attached beneath the covering piece. The new scene answers the question about the whereabouts of British troops by showing them cavorting behind the lines in a French cafe. There are seven known variants of this card.

The Nazis enjoyed making these see-through cards and used them frequently. They dropped similar cards on Americans later in the war, showing a dead GI in the foreground with the words, *Two ways of spending the war*, and *Fighting*. When this card is held to the light, the soldier is seen with a naked woman and the second choice becomes obvious: loving.

Other cards were dropped by the Luftwaffe over Poland to reinforce anti-Bolshevik feelings. Considering the German treatment of the Poles, the success of these cards is doubtful. One card shows a wedding scene. A priest reads from the Bible, while the kneeling bride and groom look on. At the top of the card in Polish is, *Beginning of success or forbidden future?* When the card is held to the light

we see a horrible ogre-like Russian soldier ravishing the bride. The dead husband lies in the background.

In 1944, Allied troops on the Normandy front found cards showing a dead soldier with the words, *White Plays*. When held to the light, a black man is seen raping a white woman from behind, with the text, *Black wins*.

Divide And Conquer

To divide and conquer was the intention of many enemy leaflets, of which the "see-through" type mentioned above is one variety. They attempted to drive a wedge between American troops and their British allies, soldiers and civilian "slackers" at home, Christians and Jews, blacks and whites.

The Nazis started their campaign early in the war. In *The Big Lie* (Pan Books Ltd., London, 1958), John Baker White tells us, "Goebbels had a wonderful theme for the bitter winter of 1939-40. The British forces were back, well away from the Germans, on the Franco-Belgian frontier, and he was not slow to paint to the French a picture of drunken soldiery living in comfort, seducing their wives and daughters."

In the winter of 1939-40, many French soldiers were found passing around a postcard that showed the then-Secretary of State for War sitting between two scantily clad cabaret artists in a Paris nightclub. Although it had been taken months before the war started, the Germans printed on the back: *While you sit in the line this is what the British are doing with your wives*.

The Nazis produced an entire series of anti-semitic leaflets to use against the Americans during the Anzio landings, chronicling the adventures of "Sam Levy." These were dropped over Allied troops trapped on the beaches of Anzio in early 1944.

Each leaflet related another segment of the life and times of Sam Levy, "steerage passenger from Eastern Europe," who grows rich at home while the Christians fight for their country. During the course of the series, Sam manages to seduce a young blonde girl, destroying the life and happiness of both her and her heroic lover, wounded at the front.

In *Psychological Warfare*, Professor Linebarger states: "These Nazi leaflets tried to lower American morale by combining oestrus, resentment, discouragement and intra-American hatred."

The first leaflet pictures Sam helping a young girl put on a pair of nylons. Its caption states: *Today she is pulling down 60 bucks*.

The reverse reads: *Sam knows what he wants. Two years ago, comely Joan Hopkins was still a salesgirl behind the ribbon counter in a New York 5 and 10 cts. store getting 12 dollars a week.*

Today she is pulling down 60 bucks as the private secretary to Sam Levy. Bus-

ness is excellent and Sam is making a pile of dough on war contracts.

For him the slaughter can't last long enough.

Sam has no scruples about getting a bit intimate with Joan. And why should he have any? Tall and handsome Bob Harrison, Joan's fiance, is on the front, thousands of miles away, fighting for guys like Sam Levy.

Joan loves Bob, but she doesn't know when he will come back.

The second leaflet goes further and shows Sam with his hand on Joan's thigh. Behind him stands a servant, giving the impression that this episode is occurring in Sam's apartment. The caption below the picture reads: *Joan is feeling so lonely anyway.*

The story on the reverse reads: *Sam at work. After his arrival in New York City, cigar-chewing Sam Levy, a steerage passenger from Eastern Europe, used to live on the lower East Side not far from the Bowery. Soon he was able to move to upper Broadway. When President Roosevelt took those steps short of war, Sam had already leased a ten-room apartment on Riverside Drive.*

Slick-haired home-front warrior Mordecai Ezekiel, boss of a government department in Washington, saw to it that his chum Sam would be on the earning end of the war. Rich profits on war contracts let Sam climb up the social ladder, taking two steps at a time. He is now residing in a duplex de luxe apartment on swanky Park Avenue.



ABOVE: German WWII propaganda showed civilians conquering on bedroom front in this end-of-the-evening leaflet dropped to front-line troops. BELOW: Japanese also used Germans' divide-and-conquer technique in WWII. As leaflet is unfolded, it depicts the consequences when an Aussie soldier leaves for battle. Former GI who served in New Guinea says the leaflets gave the troops "a hell of a good laugh."





German puzzle leaflet dropped in 1939-40 on Maginot Line to French troops. When assembled it gave anti-semitic message.

Why shouldn't Sam invite beautiful Joan Hopkins, his private secretary, former 5 and 10 cts. salesgirl, up to his place to have supper with him and cocktails?

Joan is feeling so lonely anyway. More than two years ago, Bob Harrison, the man she wanted to marry, had to leave her for the battlefields of Europe, thousands of miles away.

He is fighting for Sam Levy and his kind.

Joan is hoping that Bob will return to her safe and sound. But she knows that many of her girl friends are already waiting in vain for their men to return.

Sam knows her predicament and he is trying his darndest to cheer her up.

Why, Bob wouldn't know it anyway! And what's a little kiss among friends?

Come See My Etchings

The third leaflet finds Joan in bed with Sam, obviously having performed a sexual act. Sam, apparently bored, is reading the *Wall Street Journal*. The caption reads, *Poor little Joan! She is still thinking of Bob...*

On the reverse, the serial continues: *The way of all flesh.*

When pretty Joan Hopkins was still standing behind the ribbon counter of a 5 and 10 cts. store on Third Avenue in New York City, she never dreamed of seeing the interior of a duplex Park Avenue apartment. Neither did young Bob Harrison, the man she loves. Bob was drafted and sent to the battlefields in Europe, thousands of miles away from her. Through Lazare's Employment Agency Joan got a job as private secretary with wily Sam Levy. Sam is pulling in big money on war contracts. Should the slaughter end very soon, he would suffer an apoplectic stroke.

Now Joan knows what Bob and his pals are fighting for.

Joan always used to look up to Bob as the guiding star of her life, and she was still a good girl when she started working for Sam Levy. But she often got the blues thinking of Bob, whom she hadn't seen for over two years. Her boss had an understanding heart and was always very kind to her, so kind indeed that he often invited her up to his place. He had always wanted to show her his etchings. Besides, Sam wasn't stingy, and each time Joan came to see him he gave her the nicest presents. Now, all women like beautiful and expensive gifts. But Sam wasn't the kind of man you could play for a sucker. He wanted something. Wanted it very definitely... Poor little Joan! She is still thinking of Bob, yet she is almost hoping that he'll never return.

Final Blow

The fourth leaflet of the series shows Sam and Joan entering their car, with a crippled soldier standing nearby. The cap-



While you are away,

German divide-and-conquer technique tried to drive wedge between British Tommies and American GIs. Reverse text on this leaflet reads, "What goes on at home whilst you are away. No woman can resist such handsome brutes from the wide-open spaces." A former GI, who remembers seeing these leaflets being dropped by plane to British troops in the Netherlands near the German border, says, "My British friends thought it was funny. It was the first indication I had that we might be winning."

tion reads: *It was a rude awakening for her.*

The message on the reverse ends the serial: *The moment she dreaded.*

Forgotten are the days when comely Joan Hopkins was still selling ribbons in a 5 and 10 cts. store in New York City. As private secretary to slick Sam Levy, big money maker in the war business, she rose to be a sugar daddy's darling.

Sam didn't have any cash when he got started, and he doesn't like to be reminded of his early days on the lower East Side. The war was just the right thing for him. Like many other home-warriors, he made the grade piling up dough and growing fat on the sacrifices of those young American boys fighting on foreign battlefields.

At heart Joan is not a bad woman. For over two years she had not seen her fiance, clean-cut Bob Harrison, whom she cares for very much. Bob was shipped to Europe to fight for the cause of Sam Levy and his kind.

Two years is a long time for any girl.

For more than half a year she had not heard from Bob. He seemed to be among the missing.

One Sunday afternoon, however, just when Joan and Sam were stepping out of fashionable Bonwit Teller's shop on Fifth Avenue, she was struck speechless by the sight of a man in uniform.

It was a rude awakening for her. And it was also a dreadful blow to Bob, for it was he who suddenly stood opposite her — on crutches, one leg amputated.

Two lives — lost to one another forever.

So much for Joan and Bob's sad soap-opera. Despite these leaflets' handsome artwork and their attempts to duplicate American colloquial slang, they failed to sap the GIs' will to fight.

In *The Devil's Brigade* (Chilton Books, N.Y., 1966), R.H. Adleman and Col. G. Walton mention German propaganda on the Anzio beaches: When faced with barrages of "Sam Levy" leaflets, their men, rather than being insulted or demoralized, collected the Nazi propaganda as prized souvenirs. A number of the troops were seen fighting over ownership of some of the more titillating specimens dropped by aircraft or fired from cannon at the beleaguered GIs.

The sex leaflets cheered and excited the men. Depression was not a side effect.

In *Up Front* (Henry Holt and Co., N.Y., 1945), Bill Mauldin, the famous wartime cartoonist, recalls being bombarded with Nazi "Sam Levy" leaflets during the Anzio invasion and seeing American soldiers risk their necks to crawl out of their foxholes to get copies. He remembers that although the story line was not top quality, the pictures were interesting — and besides, the troops were so hungry for reading material that they would have read just about anything.

While Tommy's Away The Yanks Will Play.

Another theme of the Germans' divide-and-conquer technique was that while the British were fighting and dying, the Americans "played merry hell" with the women back in England. In retrospect, that idea might not have been far from the truth in the war's early days, when the GIs were still training and the British were carrying on most of the fighting.

One leaflet shows an American sergeant on a bed with a semi-nude girl. The text reads: *You Americans are sooo different.* On the reverse, the Germans tell the Tommies, *The Yanks are putting up their tents in merry old England. They've got lots of money and plenty of time to chase after your women.*

The fellow that first showed me this leaflet had sent it home to his family as a souvenir. I noticed his criticism written on the face of the leaflet: "Here's a bit of bullshit the Jerries used to drop over the Limey lines back at Normandy. A shade rough, ain't it?"

Allied troops in Italy in 1944 were showered with some interesting anti-Yank leaflets. These pictured a GI lifting the skirt of a young British girl. The text explains, *This is a true account of what happened to an innocent girl from Maidstone who met an American one night: "I was walking home when an American soldier asked me if he could accompany me. Not knowing Americans, I said yes. On the way he pointed to some bushes and said*



German "Life" magazine series showed nudes in various poses.

there was a lovely view from them. We went over and sat down. He opened a can of beer and after he had a drink he pulled me into the bushes, inned me and outed me, wiped his tallycock on my skirt, pissed in the beer, and walked away whistling 'God Save the King.' "

Officers Only

The Germans also tried to divide officers and enlisted men. One leaflet says, *For men only*, and shows a wounded GI being treated by a medic. Behind the two, a third soldier has been hit by enemy fire. On the reverse we find, *For officers only*, and see a couple necking passionately on a love seat. The girl is almost nude and the officer is kissing her and caressing her breast.

Another leaflet of the divide-and-conquer type is entitled *Home-Front Warriors*. It pictures a civilian sitting on the grass with a woman, her legs open in invitation. The text at the bottom of the leaflet reads, *It was a memorable day for Bill.*

A third leaflet shows a drunken civilian with three semi-nude girls on his lap and the text, *Poor Jerry! You don't have this: The slacker for whom we fight and to*

whom we leave our girls. Look here: This is the man who stands between you and me. In the background we see British soldiers being led into battle by Death.

Life And Death

A final type of German sex leaflet simply uses a pornographic picture to catch the soldier's attention. In this category we find a great number of leaflets that could easily pass for pin-up photographs. Some show women partially or fully dressed in sexy poses.

Many of these leaflets became collector's items, and completing a set became a challenge to enterprising GIs. One handsome leaflet dropped on Americans in Italy pictured a helmeted, topless girl standing near a battlefield. The anti-semitic propaganda declares, *The home-front warriors, especially the Hebrews, are rolling in cash and praying that this war will go on forever. They are launching "reconnaissance" parties too, but into the bedrooms of lonely ladies. Their ammunition is a fat roll of bills and their war-cry is: More Dollars and Girls. They get them!*

This particular leaflet has the notation: *Georgia series comprising 6 pictures. Have you got the others? Isn't that amaz-*



Propaganda message comes in companion cover. Note change in dateline.

ing? Not only did the Nazis print poison for us, and then shoot the items at us with shell and bomb, but they also catalogued the material and asked us to be sure to collect the entire series!

The Georgia series was dropped about October 1944. One leaflet states, *While you are getting ready for an assault, one of the newly made profiteers is probably kissing your sweetheart.* Another asks, *When have you last held a really sweet girl in your arms? I mean of course a real American girl, not one of these dirty Italian girls where you are never sure whether you will not have to see a doctor after three days.* This was among the early German attacks on Italians made after Italy sued for peace with the Allies on 8 September 1943. The Nazis were pretty rough on their former pals, even producing a leaflet advising GIs to catch the "Naples-type" gonorrhea, which was allegedly impossible to cure and would result in the soldier being sent back to the States.

Although not really pornographic, the use of disease or sexual problems related to medicines is perhaps a subtopic in itself. The Nazis produced a number of leaflets discussing venereal disease. One told of the high rate of VD among the

women at home. Pretending to be indignant, it stated that 84 percent of the afflicted women were wives of American soldiers serving abroad.

Japanese Propaganda Pills

The Japanese used similar techniques. They produced one leaflet for the Philippines which was supposed to have come from the U.S. Army. It warned our GIs: *Filipino women are willing to offer themselves for a small amount of food-stuffs and Filipinos have no knowledge of hygiene, disease carriers are rampant.* This was intended to turn native civilians against allied troops.

I learned of an even more ingenious technique used by Japanese psywar forces from a former naval intelligence officer. "Atabrine, the pill we were supposed to take three times a day to combat malaria, would make a man permanently impotent, the Japs said. As a result, a large number of troops, mostly men with little educational background, stopped taking their pills. The troops suffered badly from malaria and were often of no use in combat."

Let us leave the field of medicine and return to pornography. The Japanese con-

ducted their own psywar campaign. They were not about to let their Axis buddies get ahead in smut. They produced crude sex leaflets with two main themes. One, similar to the Germans', tried to drive a sexual wedge between Australian troops and their American comrades. "Yanks" were pictured as suave lovers with greased hair and plenty of money to buy the affections of lonely wives and girlfriends.

Rape The Natives

The second theme was aimed at natives of the occupied countries held by the Sons of Nippon. In these leaflets, the Allies were often shown raping local women. The Japanese were to be the saviors who would drive out the "white eyes" and make Asia safe for Asians.

One leaflet of the first type shows a caricature of a slick-haired American mounting an Australian beauty. Below, her husband runs through the jungle, penis in hand, chasing a black native woman. The text reads: *That goes double. The slick Yank (in Melbourne): Take your sweet time at the front Aussie — I got my hands full right now — with your sweet toots at home.*

Another shows an Australian soldier standing in New Guinea looking back toward his homeland. An American holds a semi-nude woman in his arms. The text reads: *Australia screams: The Aussie: What was that scream, something up? The Yank: Sh..sh—Quiet girlie. Calm yourself. He'll be on the next casualty list. No worry.*

Still another leaflet of this type shows an American kissing a girl while dozens of dead Australians lie in the foreground. The text reads, *Hey! You Diggers! He came, he saw, he conquered! Thinking you 'Diggers' will never come back alive, the Blacks and the Yanks are raping your wives, your daughters, your sweethearts — they're helpless without your protection. Your future happiness is at home. Surely you'll not give up your lives to make this possible.*

A rather strange leaflet produced by the Japanese shows an Aussie in the center, totally shot up, missing one leg, wounded in the arm. Around him are four photographs of happy couples, each with a similar message: the Yanks are having a great time while you are dying in the jungle. The last of the four messages rubs it in with *Ooh la la, that was a thrilling experience! I feel so fresh, so alive in your arms.*

Another leaflet consists of three cartoons. The text reads, *We were the happiest of couples . . . until our tearful parting. Oh! how she wept! . . . But no sooner had I left, my wife was told I'd never come back.* The final cartoon shows an evil-looking civilian carrying the soldier's wife to bed.

Some leaflets were aimed exclusively at local native populations. The Japanese hoped they could be persuaded to rise

against their colonial masters. In the Philippine Islands, the Japanese used a striptease series to catch reader attention. They dropped leaflets daily, each with a little more "cheese-cake." One showed the face of a woman, the next her bosom. Soon the leaflets showed her completely naked and, finally, performing a sex act. These popular leaflets have become collector's items.

The Japanese also dropped leaflets over Malaya in an attempt to turn the natives from their British comrades and commanders. Some of these leaflets, dropped in late 1941 and early 1942, showed British troops mistreating Malayan women and dragging them into military trucks. Other similar propaganda leaflets showed an Australian soldier carrying off a Malayan wife after murdering her husband. The Japanese concept of "face" came into play in this campaign, since Malayan women were highly respected for their modesty and rigid social behavior. This show of "putting on of hands" by white "infidels" was expected to cause great turmoil among the caste-minded, highly moral native population.

Leaflets were used during the Japanese victory over the British bastion of Singapore. One divide-and-conquer piece showed a number of British officers listening to a lovely, large-breasted concert performer. Just below the scene we notice the still-smoking, charred bones of the Indian and Malayan troops that we are told "died to defend Britain's interests."

Another leaflet, meant to cause "loss of face" among the white rulers, showed a fat, naked British woman being dragged behind a cart in full view of a company of Japanese soldiers.

U.S. Sex For Hitler

There seems to be some question as to whether or not the United States ever produced or disseminated pornographic propaganda leaflets. Some published statements indicate that leaflets were prepared, or at least collected, but there is no record of their having actually been used.

Daniel Lerner's *Sykewar* (George W. Stewart, Inc., N.Y., 1949), mentions a leaflet allegedly produced by the Office of War Information that pictured Josef Goebbels with a semi-nude starlet on his lap. Since Goebbels was a notorious womanizer, and in fact did keep an occasional actress as a mistress, this leaflet may have been more fact than propaganda.

The Office of Strategic Services appears to have been involved in a major pornographic operation. At least three books written after the war mention this plot, so there is a strong likelihood that it existed. In *The Spymasters* (Elsevier-Dutton, N.Y., 1975), Charles Whiting tells us, "The OSS flooded Berchtesgaden with pornography, which the experts calculated would unhinge Hitler's mind."

The operation is discussed in greater detail in *OSS: The Secret History of America's First Intelligence Agency* (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1972), in which R. Harris Smith says that a group of OSS psychoanalysts thought the Nazi totalitarian state could be brought to its knees if Hitler could be psychologically destroyed. The great Nazi juggernaut would go out of control and run down without the all-powerful Fuehrer's hand at the helm. After conducting a long-range psychological profile of Hitler, these specialists decided that the German leader could be brought down by exposure to massive amounts of pornography and so they gathered one of the finest collections of smut and filth in the Free World. The material was to be crated onto Air Force bombers and dropped by the ton outside Hitler's headquarters. It was hoped that the Fuehrer would step



WWII allies also received German propaganda. This Polish postcard asks, "Carefree youth or cruel fate?"

outside, see photographs of naked women in various lewd poses, and fall to the ground foaming at the mouth in "paroxysms of madness."

The plan came to naught when the Army Air Corps colonel who was to act as liaison with the scientists discovered what the mission was all about. He decided that they were a bunch of madmen and told them that not one airman would ever risk death on such an insane project.

A third version of the story declares that the plan was aborted due to lack of aircraft. More likely, the plan was dropped because somebody finally came to his senses.

Did the United States produce other sex leaflets? If so, were they ever disseminated? It is difficult to say, since neither the OWI nor the OSS is willing to talk about any such operation. However,

we did come across one interesting document, *Final Report of Production and Distribution from July 15, 1944 to May 15, 1945*. This document came to light in 1979 when a former intelligence officer assigned to the OSS decided to auction part of his personal collection of wartime memorabilia. The former first lieutenant had supervised a field photographic unit during the last months of the war.

OSS Leaflets

Among the items named was a group entitled, "Sex Leaflets," with the information that 79,000 were prepared. They were forwarded to OSS outposts for dissemination to the enemy. Of these, 15,000 were sent to Algeria, 3,800 to Bari, 41,500 to Brindisi, 500 to northern Italy, 3,600 to France and 13,500 were put into "special distribution."

We do not know whether these leaflets were pornographic, since no code numbers or descriptions are given. They might picture something as innocent as a lonely wife or love-sick girlfriend. On the other hand, they might be truly pornographic with a sexual message meant to destroy the front-line soldiers' will to fight. Until we can definitely identify them, we can only surmise how far the OSS truly ventured down pornography's primrose path.

Would the United States use pornography today? We cannot be sure, but FM 33-5, *Psychological Operations Techniques and Procedures*, might give us a clue. Under the general heading of "Theme Taboos," we find the category: "Female figures not fully dressed* or references thereto; sexual stimulation except nostalgia induced within the confines of good taste; pornography.*"

Wondering what the asterisks meant, I read the footnotes and found: "A waiver of the proscription against techniques, symbols, representations or themes listed above, if marked with an asterisk, may be sought with appropriate justification..."

Our British cousins have admitted to production of a number of pornographic leaflets. Sefton Delmer, a wartime official of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE), discussed a number of projects in an article, "H.M.G.'s Secret Pornographer," published in the *London Times*, 21 January 1972.

He recalled producing a two-page folding leaflet which had as its theme the German patriotic song, "The Watch on the Rhine." After showing a snow-covered grave on the Russian front, the British agency placed on the second page a picture of a naked girl about to have sex with a dark-haired, dark-skinned non-German. The song line, "firm stands and true the watch on the Rhine," was changed to "firmly and sticks it true the foreign worker in."

This type of leaflet hopes to attack the soldier's morale by indicating that non-

Aryans are reaping the rewards of German sacrifices, and to drive a wedge between the German and his allies that have come to Germany voluntarily or through force. This type of leaflet uses a favorite Axis divide-and-conquer theme.

A second leaflet recalled by Delmer was a "black" item. "Black" indicates that the leaflet's source is kept hidden in hopes that the enemy will believe it is one of theirs. The leaflet claimed to be German, exposing British lies. It pictured Adolf Hitler saluting, his open fly exposing a huge penis. The British printed the caption, *This is a most appalling forgery. Everyone knows the Fuehrer does not possess anything of the kind.* Delmer tells us that this item was never disseminated.

The final pornographic item he remembers was an exquisite menu for a dinner party given by a Nazi official for his friends. The propaganda theme showed the Nazi Party eating food of a quality unheard of in wartime Germany and far beyond the average citizen's wildest dreams. To catch reader attention, Delmer placed numerous males and females engaged in sex acts around the menu's border.

We read of another British project in *The Big Lie*. John Baker White tells us that the British were quick to mention the influx of foreign workers to German soldiers serving at the front. A leaflet was produced showing a swarthy civilian about to rape a beautiful German blonde woman. The cards were dropped mainly on Greece in hopes that severe damage would be done to the morale of the occupying forces. On the card's reverse a message told of thousands of "romantic Italians" and "virile Norwegians" who were billeted in or near the native homes of these poor soldiers so many thousands of miles from Germany.

As might be expected, exactly the reverse of the hoped-for dip in morale occurred. A flourishing market for the cards arose among German troops, and when Crete surrendered, a number of the prisoners were found to have saved the zesty little items as war souvenirs.

More Tidbits

More projects come to light from time to time as former wartime agents write their memoirs or give newspaper interviews. For instance, the *Sunday Pictorial* of 23 October 1955 reported that the famous photographer of nudes, Horace Narbeth, had done a propaganda job for the British. According to the clipping, he was asked to produce a photograph of a fat Nazi officer sitting at a desk with a nude girl on each knee. The officer was to be handing banknotes to one of the ladies. Narbeth allegedly produced the desired photograph which was then dropped on the Japanese to show them what kind of people their allies were. I don't understand why the Japanese were expected to

react to propaganda of this type. I spent much R&R in Japan during the Korean conflict and recall that an awful lot of money changed hands in those lovely Geisha houses.

Another former British agent, writing in an Israeli paper, told of a leaflet that showed naked women, gave football scores, and detailed German war losses. Allegedly, after capturing Jerry's attention with the sex pictures and sucking him in with the latest sports news from home, he would then believe the rest of the British propaganda.

Armin Hull, the mysterious British forger who produced a great deal of WWII's counterfeit documents for the SOE, recalls a pornographic leaflet that he helped design and print. He told me, "I produced a four-color item in the spring of 1942. It displayed a naked woman with a foreign worker on the proflit. There was



When held to light, propaganda cartoon appears.

also a picture of soldiers' graves in Russia. The caption read, *In the East they fight, in the West they fuck.*

Another leaflet using the same theme shows a blonde woman in her slip being kissed by a dark-haired worker. The text states: *Foreign laborers. There are already more than ten million horny foreign laborers in all parts of the Reich today. And — your women are lonely!*

I asked Hull about his attitude toward pornographic leaflets. Did they serve any purpose? He replied, "The pornography was a complete waste of time, but it was very popular with the adolescents in OSS and PWB," implying that the entire concept was one which our own people thought up to amuse themselves. If we recall that there were a lot of amateurs in the business in those days, with OSS being attacked in the press as standing for "Oh

so social," there could be a grain of truth to Hull's belief.

Numerous historians have stated that propaganda, in order to be useful, must be truthful. The limited gains made by fooling or ridiculing the enemy are not worth the loss of belief in our honesty. It is when the enemy firmly believes that we are telling him the absolute truth that he becomes vulnerable to our message. Once he religiously reads our leaflets and believes, he is ours.

Will we see sex leaflets used in future conflicts? If we mean hardcore pornography as practiced by Germany in WWII, the answer is probably no. Considerable research has been done on the concept of psychological warfare, and it is understood today that leaflets showing explicit sexual acts tend to increase morale rather than destroy it. The major powers are aware of this and will not fall into the job of cheering up lonely soldiers isolated in front-line positions. It is possible that the so-called "Third World" powers, still learning their tactics by trial and error, will succumb to the temptation and try for easy victories through the use of sexual themes.

More Of The Same To Come?

We can expect the continued use of certain sexual themes. All sides have found that leaflets which prey on a soldier's loneliness, and illustrate a wife or girlfriend weeping or otherwise unhappy, seem to offer positive results.

Both sides used such methods during the Korean War. Wives were depicted sitting at home crying and telling how they missed their men. The wording of one Korean leaflet still brings a mist to my eyes: *Your dear mother is filling with tears in her eyes. Your pretty and young wife is going crazy, for she can't stand it any longer. Touching!*

In Vietnam, we again tried the same general technique. One leaflet has the wife saying *Oh! in my dreams at night, I drain my tears crying for you. Oh! when can we be together again?* The husband, a hardcore Cong in the bush, answers: *Oh! my darling, I am coming home. Open the door quickly my love. Oh! now we are in happy reunion.* The United States printed and airdropped millions of leaflets on the Cong and numerous times used this same theme, as can be seen by some of the titles: "Return to your snug nest," "Do you think of your family's happiness?" and "Don't join the VC to harm the people and yourself, return to live with your family."

Right now at Fort Bragg, psychological warriors are doing research and writing propaganda for future wars. Only time will tell if they have learned the lessons of past conflicts.



SHARPSHOOTING

Continued from page 30

semiauto shooters demonstrated increased interest in the Remington 600, as its lightness and ease of handling became apparent. API's secretary, Shirley Bell, used a Mohawk equipped with a Harris bipod. Though "handicapped" by being left-handed, she came on strong toward the end.

Like Tom Jester, Bell hails from Texas, and my Yankee ears never tired of listening to their dialect: Jester: "Girl, what chu doin' down theah?" Bell: "Hush now, bo. Ah'm fixin' to do some serious shootin'."

Midweek Dingers

By midweek the exercises were taking form in practical applications. The game trail was a popular event, involving all manner of full-size critters. The object is to gain three decisive hits in 60 seconds on deer, bear, antelope or rams from about 50 to 300 yards. A six-inch dinger in the vital zone is the target, and no hit on the animal counts unless the metal rotates.

My personal favorite was the charging lion. This is reserved solely for the bolt actions and, for fast-paced action, compares favorably with the funhouse in the pistol course. Cooper took the role of a professional guide during a lion stalk.

Loaded and locked, we proceeded from bush to bush until he said, "Wait here."

He moved to the right side of the tree and whispered, "There he is. Step out and take him."

Moving left, I saw a life-size lion in profile about 100 yards away. The dinger is low behind the shoulder, and topography requires the shot to be made standing. If the dinger is rung, well and good. You've bagged yourself a cat. However, my round was too high....

"Look out," Jeff yelled. "Here he comes!"

A charging lion can cover 100 yards from a standing start in something under four seconds. Abruptly, a huge head leaped upward (controlled by pulley cables in one of three positions 20 to 25 yards away). You have only that long to spot the animal, swing on him and get off a snap shot. The first time, I was a shade too late and the maned head dropped down as my round missed. There was a heavy stillness.

I just shook my head and Cooper said, "Well, you'll have a chance for revenge."

Thankful for the opportunity, I did better next time. I still failed to hit the gong, but this time my follow-up shot took the beast under the right eye. Comparing notes later with other bolt-action shooters, I discovered how well the preparation had worked. None of us distinctly recalled working the bolt after the first round, but the second one was there when we needed it.

API pistol grads will recall the donga — a deep, narrow gully stashed with 10-inch dingers. A similar exercise is run in the rifle course, but with metal cans as targets. Nearly all the shooting in this run is inside 15 yards, something Cooper found lacking in his military training.

"Nobody in the Army or Marine Corps ever told me I might be expected to shoot at anything under 100 yards," he recalled. Yet the first time he saw a healthy Japanese, the range was rock-throwing distance. The same applies to dangerous game. Buffalo and lion have a disturbing habit of showing themselves at close quarters. Hence the gully tour, potting tin cans. The only problem is target recognition, aside from finding them to start with! I looked directly at one weathered, dark-colored can and passed it up as a non-target. API is thinking of using various-colored Frisbees in future classes.

The ultimate test comes in the *Vei* (the Afrikaans word for valley). The student walks a trail, initially head-deep in an eroded creekbed, emerging onto level ground. Option targets are cunningly hidden to left, right and ahead at ranges from 30 to 400 yards. Without an instructor, nobody would ever spot all 10 targets. Two rounds are fired at each silhouette, with emphasis on proper position selection. The second run is timed and scored Comstock.

Rifle Ten Scores

The final exercise for score is the "Rifle Ten." Depending upon one's level of skill and state of mind, it is greeted either with anticipation or dread. From the march-ready position, each student is required to sling up and go prone, or extend his bipod and go prone. Three hundred meters downrange is an Option target. Two rounds are fired at 300, 275 and 250 meters while prone, followed by two rounds sitting at 225 and finally two standing at 200. The clock is running all the while, and so is the shooter! It's a fine exercise for equalizing speed and accuracy.

Cooper's best run at this test was 107 seconds with 7 fives, 2 fours, and a miss. Two students in the class recorded similar times with semiautos, but with no more than eight hits. Two bolt-action shooters achieved nine hits in somewhat longer times, with a Remington 600 and a 700.

Graduation day is capped by a man-against-man shootoff. Side-by-side plates of armor, each 12 inches square, are 200 meters out. From standing, the two competitors may assume any position they desire *except* prone. The first man to hit his target wins that point, with best two out of three deciding each bout until the semifinals. Then it's best three out of five. The series is run on the J-Ladder with double eliminations. (Incidentally, the J stands for Janelle, who devised the

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format. Cooper says she should have a master's degree in physical education for her invention, but that's only part of the reason. The fact is, Mrs. Cooper is Gun-site's leading poolshark.)

The results of the rifle duel were illuminating. Top gun was Neland Nobel of Phoenix with an iron-sighted M1A. Gary Carver, of Kenai, Alaska, was best of the bolt-action shooters, using a Model 700, modified to accept seven rounds in the magazine. Big Dave Allen from Colorado was one of two HK shooters in the top four and would probably have done better had he not suffered a separated case at an inopportune moment.

Overall, the bolt guns proved most reliable. Several MIAs had problems, and although the HK-91s were undeniably trustworthy, problems such as Allen's did crop up. Several semiauto shooters came away thinking seriously of buying Remington 600s — which, unfortunately, are no longer produced.

Our overall consensus was that in a truly representative test, the type of weapon makes little difference. The man or woman behind the sights is the crucial ingredient — something the U.S. government has forgotten or ignored. It is noteworthy that the 300 to 350 rounds API students fire in six days is more than the Army uses in its basic marksmanship course. But quite aside from the quantity of ammo expended, Gunsite students will come away with a much better foundation in rifle shooting than most military personnel ever acquire. Speaking personally, I felt I had to work harder in the rifle class than in basic pistol, but the effort was wholly worthwhile.

Currently, API runs two basic rifle classes a year — one in July and one in November. The advanced rifle course has not been scheduled yet, but will probably appear in the latter part of 1981. The emphasis will be upon faster shooting and longer ranges — out to 500 yards or so. (SOF will report on the new rifle class as soon as the opportunity arises.)



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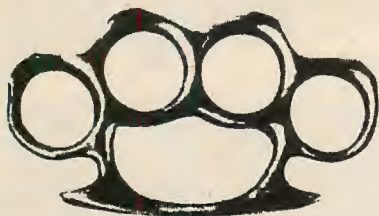


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AFGHANISTAN

Continued from page 54

Morale quickly deteriorated from lack of resolve and the constant threat of attack from a bitterly hostile populace. Drug abuse became a new problem, compounded with alcoholism, desertion and disillusionment.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

The armored and airborne assault in December, 1979, leveled off at approximately 100,000 troops. In a mountainous area the size of Texas, only enough were committed to seize Kabul, Jalalabad and Baghram, with large garrisons and smaller, more remote bases tenuously resupplied by road or air. Of the original troops, 15,000 were "withdrawn" as a "gesture" on the eve of the Vienna Accords conference. It's common knowledge here, however, that they were Tajik and Uzbek troops from the Soviet Union, themselves Muslim (40 percent of the population of the Soviet Union is Islamic), who simply would not fight and, when "withdrawn," openly traded AK-47s and ammunition for copies of the Koran. The remaining 85,000 men were left to cope as best they could with the prospect of imminent death. (One captured Russian document I have seen, but which is impossible to verify, places total Russian casualties from December to

June, 1980, at 19,000 — nearly one-fifth of the original number.)

The Russians aren't wearing "smile" buttons.

EXPLOSIVE ANALYSIS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *SOF Special Correspondent Jim Coyne picked up in Afghanistan and returned to the U.S. the first Soviet plastic anti-personnel mine to find its way into Western hands. There was sufficient residual explosive in the device to allow tests aimed at discovering what kind of explosive it contained. So Coyne took the mine to SOF Explosives Editor John Donovan in Danvers, Ill., and they and Dr. Michael Kurz of the Illinois State University chemistry department, performed a spectrum analysis of it. This is their report put into layman's language.*

Chemical composition of the mine is only remotely similar to any commonly used in the Western world and vastly different from most.

Of interest to those who have some knowledge of explosives is the speed of detonation — some 26,000 feet per second. That is somewhat slower than Tetrytol used in satchel charges, or similar to detonating cord — extremely fast.

Traces of the liquid explosive contained in the mine were removed with an extracting agent (deuterated chloroform), filtered and then concentrated.

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In other words, the unknown explosive bore a slight resemblance to the chemical makeup of C-4 and dynamite — but only a slight one.

Dr. Kurz said that specific attempts to match the spectra with 68 known Western explosives failed to yield a perfect match.

Dr. Kurz concluded:

"Of the three major organic classes of explosives, the spectra are most consistent with organic nitrates.

"They do not match the nitroaromatics at all."

Furthermore, he said, "Some of the more commonly encountered nitrates and nitramines can be eliminated. These include nitroglycerin, dinitroglycol and nitrocellulose in the former category and RDX and HMX in the latter."

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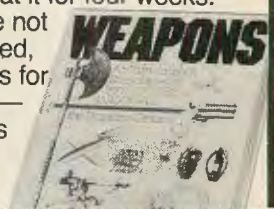


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BULYAEV'S BACKGROUND

Union Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Air Force and Fleet. Unlike many young Soviet citizens, it appears that Evigny had not been a Young Pioneer — the militarized Soviet version of the Boy Scouts which mixed weapons training and political indoctrination with its hikes and campfires.

He had been a member of the Komsomol, the youth wing of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, since he was 14 years old. Membership in the Komsomol can lead to full membership in the Party, which is a great advantage for anyone who looks toward advancement or comfort in Soviet society.

Evigny was called up for military service straight from high school — his book shows no civilian occupation. He could not have enlisted in the Soviet Army, as much or as little as he may have wanted to do so, for all those without previous service (except for musicians and perhaps a few other types of specialists) must wait their turn to be called up to serve the Soviet Union.

Evigny was 18 when he received the Russian equivalent of a draft notice — the normal call-up age for those who are not physically unfit, in an ROTC-type program, or have a hardship exemption.

Like most of his contemporaries, he was unmarried. Evigny received his physical from the Kitsmon' Military Commissariat — he had apparently stayed in the same town all his life.

The Commissariat is a Communist Par-

Every Soviet soldier must carry at all times what amounts to the equivalent of the Service Record Book of U.S. forces. This *Voyenniy Vilyet*, (Military Card) is often referred to in English as a "Soldier's Small Book." Similar in size and binding to a U.S. passport, the book's cover is bright crimson, its pages ornately watermarked with the red star and superimposed hammer and sickle. All of a Soviet soldier's military career — from induction, usually at age 18, to final separation from the reserves, when he may be over 50 — is recorded in the pages of this book. While not a highly sensitive document, it can tell much about the man who carried it — in this case, Evigny Efimovich Bulyaev.

A Ukrainian, Evigny was born on 17 March 1961 in the town of Kitsmon' in the Chernovitskii district, which is in the Carpathian Mountains.

He was a high-school graduate, and the evidence suggests that he received military training during his high-school education that was equivalent to U.S.-style basic training as well. This training takes place in all high schools in the Soviet Union, under the auspices of DOSAAF — the

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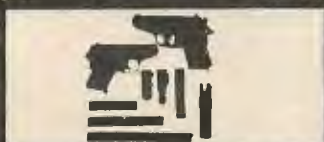
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ty organization which contains military representatives whose functions include acting as a U.S.-style draft board. On 30 June 1979, Evegny was inducted by this Commissariat, which issued him this book. His photograph shows him in civilian clothes, of medium build, as typical in appearance as he is in biography.

Evegny would have been allowed to express preference as to which branch of the service he would like to be in, but final allocation was the decision of the Commissariat. Evegny, like most recruits, went to the army.

Evegny probably would have been inducted as part of the spring 1979 call-up (there are two call-ups a year — spring and fall).

After the traditional public send-off ceremony for all the new recruits from each district, Evegny spent his first two to four weeks in the army in what appears to be a reception center coded "77 800." Like all the units Evegny was assigned to, it is referred to in the book by a code number. This is a standard Soviet practice. Each Soviet unit has a permanently assigned code number, although these may be changed for the duration of a specific operation. Such a reception center would not be a massive training base on the Fort Ord or Fort Jackson scale. It may have been a separate installation, or it may have been an adjunct to a combat or support unit, possibly the unit in which Evegny was to spend the rest of his two years' active service.

In unit 77 800, recruit Bulyaev had his paperwork processed, attended political and military-law lectures and had his qualifications examined. He apparently had sufficient qualifications to have "specialist" entered in his book next to the notation referring to his stay in unit 77 800 — although, unlike the U.S. Army, "specialist" is not a rank.

Evegny probably learned his specialist knowledge during DOSAAF training. This is not unusual — in 1974, one third of Soviet recruits had acquired a military specialty in DOSAAF courses. Such a DOSAAF specialist qualification is not necessarily equivalent to an army specialist qualification, which carries extra pay as long as the holder remains proficient and his job is related to the specialty. It is not certain which status Evegny fell under.

Processing complete, Evegny finally took the oath and officially became Private Bulyaev at unit 77 800 on 29 July 1979. The oath was administered by one Markin, Chief of Staff of unit 77 800, who also approved Evegny's rank of private.

Soon afterward, Evegny was in his line unit — orders for this move had been cut as early as 13 July — and he remained at 77 800 for at least two weeks after that. Again, his career follows standard Soviet practice. After initial processing, a serviceman goes directly to the line unit in which he will complete the balance of his

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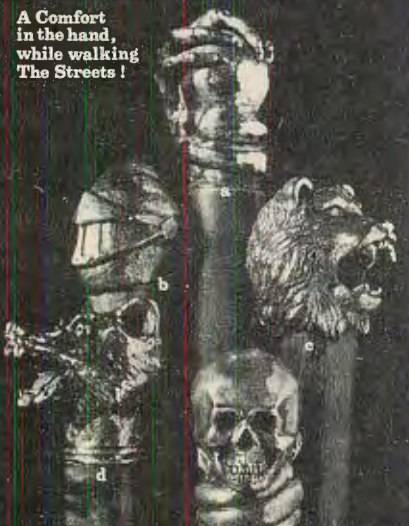
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two years' active service, not to a separate installation for basic or advanced training. His line unit will have to teach him anything DOSAAF left out.

Evegny's line unit was coded "92 992." These figures are written over earlier codes in the section of the book where the units he served with are recorded. This is probably a mistake in transcription, but it also may mean that the unit changed its code while Evegny was a member.

Changing a unit's code when entering a combat zone, such as Afghanistan, would be in accordance with Soviet practice. It does not indicate that Evegny was transferred; that would have been shown in a separate entry approved by the new unit's Chief of Staff.

During his first month with unit 92 992, Evegny earned first-class qualifications with two types of light machine guns: the 5.45mm RPK-74 and the standard 7.62mm RPK. A squad automatic weapon firing the new Soviet 5.45mm round, the RPK-74 is believed to be similar to the older 7.62mm RPK light machine gun — possibly being a rebuilt weapon. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training (six hours each month) is emphasized as a matter of course throughout the Soviet army, and in the same time period Evegny qualified in this subject, the same time period Evegny qualified in this subject.

These qualifications are initialed by someone and signed, at intervals, by his company commander. The signatures are hard to read, but the commander's name appears to be "Selruyam" and is linked with the cryptic word *Skorokhod*, literally meaning footman, here probably either a surname or a code name.

An earlier entry bears a different, quite illegible, signature. Evegny apparently received a new company commander sometime between August 1979 and January 1980.

All qualifications are entered in the form of abbreviations, some of which are indecipherable, and repeatedly marked by the big rubber stamps so loved by Soviet officialdom. In January 1980, Evegny qualified on the AK assault rifle and the 9mm Makarov PM pistol.

He also qualified with a poison-gas alarm and in dismantled gas reconnaissance (which probably involved the use of hand-held detection kits). He further qualified on a weapon that was probably a machine gun (*pulemet*), or possibly a gun (*pushka*) such as a tank gun. His combat duty is entered as gun layer (*navodchik*), although he may also have had NBC-connected duties.

While Evegny was never promoted, this too is typical of the Soviet serviceman. Rank is hard to come by in the first two years' service, except for those selected for NCO training at the reception centers.

It appears from information in the book that when Evegny went to Afghanistan, he did so as part of his unit, not as

an individual replacement — again, standard Soviet practice. By the time of the Soviet invasion in December 1979, he would have been with his unit for five months. Evegny earned no new qualifications after the end of February 1980, perhaps indicating that from then on fighting became more important than training.

Private Evegny Efimovich Bulyaev won no medals, received neither commendations nor promotion. Those sections in the book are blank. Also blank are the sections for recording his separation from active service and his reserve-service activities, for in the third week of November 1980, 15 months after he was inducted and less than a year after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Evegny Bulyaev was killed in action during the Soviet winter offensive.

—David C. Isby

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The Afghan Freedom Fighters are reasonably well armed as far as light shoulder weapons are concerned — these being mainly .303 British Lee-Enfields or captured Soviet AK-47s.

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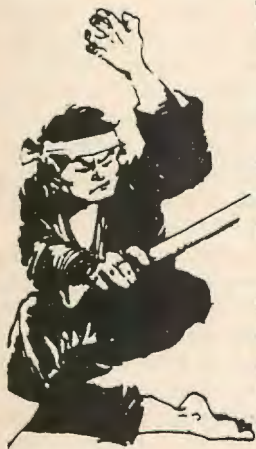
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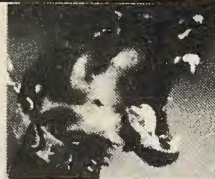
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KUZAN ODA

Continued from page 60

To temper the steel and produce the combination of hard and soft steels which made the blades superior to any other in the world, a watering process was used. Layers of clay were put on the blade to retard heating and cooling of the metal in the final tempering stages. At dawn, on the day the steel was to be tempered, the swordsmith would dress in a white robe and begin heating the steel. When the metal reached the proper color (temperature) it was plunged into clear, cold water. The clay, which had retarded the heating, then retarded the cooling, leaving the uppermost part of the blade soft while hardening the cutting edge. If everything was done properly throughout the weeks of work on the blade, it would emerge from its clay shroud a perfect example of samurai steel.

From this point, the swordsmith turned the blade over to his co-workers who fashioned its hilt, scabbard and handles. The blade's final polishing might consume another month before it was ready for testing.

The art of the samurai swordsmith is lost to the modern world. Because of the time and care used by these craftsmen, the blades they produced had an unusual amount of silicon in the metal, which baffles modern metallurgists. Without using the slow, low temperature heating of the old swordsmiths, the steel cannot be duplicated — and no one is willing to make the effort.

As the final act of the swordsmith, after a sword had passed the tests and was in fact a "work of pride," he cut a series of file marks in the tang and inscribed his name and the date in the metal. It is those marks which, if known and understood, mark the difference between a national treasure and just another old sword. Only a few of the masters were able to produce the perfect amalgams which have become Japanese national treasures.

Ironically, the swordsmiths took their craft to the grave, and the treasures that survived may lay forgotten in garages and attics of American WWII veterans — where they will remain until found, and then either be returned to Japan or thrown into the scrap pile. The same veterans who defeated the last of the samurai may, in the end, destroy the last of their swords as well.

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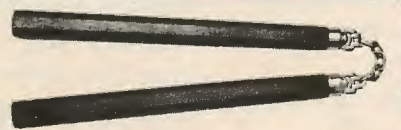
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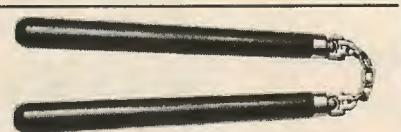


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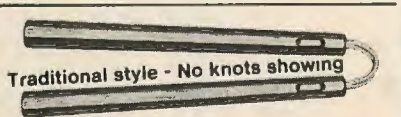


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thinks himself someone, and we shall see!"

In the battle that followed it is said that Meishu killed 26 men and wounded 11 more. Fact or fantasy? Whether Meishu's battle is myth or not, the Japanese samurai is one of the most fearless and awesome warriors of history.

The development and rise of the samurai spanned several centuries. Samurai history paralleled Japan's progression toward a united island nation. The country's bloody civil wars fueled the growing power of the samurai, who gave to the world many of those traditions of loyalty and honor and the belief there is something worth fighting and giving one's life for other than the financial reward — a belief shared by many modern soldiers of fortune and SOFers of the past.

Historians divide the development of the samurai into three periods, each approximately one century long. The first, the "Kamakura" period, lasted from 1185 to 1333. During this time, Japan's feudal government began to lose effectiveness. Although feudal war lords had co-existed with the Kyoto court for several generations, the feudal system began to break down and the land became lawless. Local landowners and managers — appointed by the court — started to raise their own armies, since without them they could not guarantee the safety of their farmers or families.

For many members of Japanese families, a way out of poverty and a chance to obtain land for their heirs, came by being samurai — professional soldiers. The birth of the samurai created a discrepancy, both in military training and equipment, between the professional and the conscript, pressed into service to serve his chieftain — still a problem in today's armies.

The samurai's "bushido" credo then began to emerge as the most powerful in Japan. As the warrior class grew, so did its power, and its members took a greater part in the day-to-day life of all Japan.

The second period of samurai growth, called the "Muromachi," lasted from about 1338 to 1573. During this time, the bushi, or samurai warriors, gained control of what remained of Japan's imperial government. They quickly eliminated most of the centuries-old court proprietorships.

The final period, the "Tokugawa," lasted from about 1603 to 1867. It is the time period of the novel, *Shogun*. During this time the bushi class remained unchallenged as Japan's rulers, although, even then, the country's military leaders were turning to a civil form of government to replace the feudal system they had created.

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Throughout this time, as each new leader emerged from the masses, he gained a large following of samurai from his *shoen*. Even temples and monasteries began to assemble large forces of samurai for defense, and troops to loan to those military leaders whom they supported. New problems were created by this growth, however. At times of general peace, large numbers of unemployed soldiers roamed the countryside. Most stayed within the law, but a few became bandits, turning their swords against the people they had defended.

One of the most famous civil wars to rip through Japan was the "Gempei war," from 1180 to 1185. It is important in the development of the samurai because many of the warriors' beliefs and creeds were created during this war's battles. The war itself culminated in a bitter battle along the inland sea of Japan when the Taira forces, surrounded and outnumbered, met the Minamoto for the last time. Although the Taira were annihilated, they fought valiantly, never surrendering and remaining loyal to their leaders until it cost them their lives. The samurai in subsequent generations always strove to meet — or exceed — the Taira's

high standards of loyalty.

The century following the Gempei war, however, saw both Japan's greatest danger and triumph. Kublai Khan, who had taken Korea and most of the east, set out to add Japan to his list of conquests. That move would cost him the lives of more than 100,000 warriors before he died, frustrated with failure.

The first of his two invasions came in 1274, when he assembled a force of 30,000 Chinese and Koreans and landed in Japan north of Kyushu, near Hakata. There he met a hastily assembled Japanese samurai force. The samurai, although badly outnumbered, held Khan's massive army on Japan's shores, and a wind (later claimed to be a *Kamikaze* or divine wind) finally smashed all of Khan's ships and drowned most of his army — saving the island.

Khan then assembled a second invasion force, numbering nearly 140,000 warriors, and sent it to Japan. This time the Japanese were ready, and although a second "divine wind" again wrecked most of the invasion fleet, a massed samurai army was waiting. It held the invasion to the beaches, then threw it back into the sea.

Although the samurai fought for warlords and landowners rather than nations, they exalted loyalty, honor and fearlessness above life itself. They accepted death as part of their profession and fought for what they believed in as well as for pay. Their two prime symbols became the sword, which is the soul of the samurai, and the cherry blossom, "whose petals drop at the first breath of wind — just as the samurai will give his life for his lord without regret."

Some readers may recall those WWII Japanese pilots, scornful of certain death, who flew into American ships to save their homeland from the humiliation of defeat. For the Western world, meeting the East on a modern battlefield for the first time, the Kamakaze pilots presented "a shocking display of the Oriental contempt for human life." This inaccurate interpretation of the Japanese samurai code distorted its meaning and ignored its history. After six centuries of existence, the modern world brought an end to the samurai — on the steel decks of American warships.

Although the samurai are now history, their code of honor survives in many of today's fighting men. Those who carry the code as part of their own are the stuff from which legends are born — the modern soldier of fortune and his fight to the death against tyrants.

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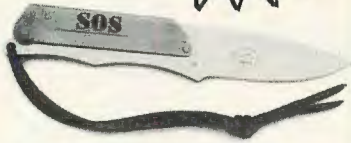
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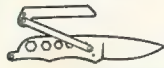
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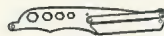
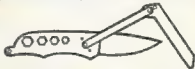


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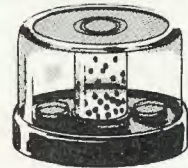
soldier he served with in Vietnam whom he knew only by the nickname of "Goodbody." Hawkins believes the man's first name was Tim. They served together in the Fourth Battalion, 31st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division in 1968. "Goodbody" was killed on an operation in the Que Son Valley that year. The only further clue Hawkins has to his friend's identity is that he is believed to have been a native of either Big Pine or Lone Pine, Calif.

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Dr. Ferguson reports that a similar appeal for uniforms, published in SOF last year, received "excellent response." He adds that "patriotism is alive and well" in his part of California. We hope so.

MAIL SERVICE CUTS ...

Bad news for travelers in foreign lands: The American Express Company is cutting back on, and may ultimately eliminate, its policy of holding mail addressed to people at AMEX offices in foreign capitals.

But U.S. embassies or consulates will accept such mail and hold it for about one month.

An AMEX spokesman said that because of the expense involved, the mail program "is in flux. We're trying not to do it anymore." And the service remains free only to holders of American Express cards.

A State Department spokesman said, "We don't encourage this sort of service. We are equipped normally to deal only with official mail, and we do have a problem with mail that is not picked up."

However, he added that mail will be held for a period of time, determined by the size of the embassy or con-

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SUBMARINE MONSTERS ...

The Soviet Union has launched the biggest submarine in the world's history. This nuclear-powered missile-firing giant is only a little smaller than the WWII Essex-class aircraft carriers, and more than twice the size of the largest U.S. sub.

The huge new sub — first of what is called the Typhoon class — was launched last fall in the White Sea from a Severodvinsk shipyard near Archangel. It displaces 30,000 tons as compared to the Essex-type carrier's 30,800 tons. The boat has 20 missiles with a range of more than 4,000 miles.

America's largest sub, the USS *Ohio*, first of the Trident class, displaces 18,700 tons and was launched in April 1979. It is expected to begin sea trials in a few months.

Intelligence sources speculate that the Russian sub's unusual size may be due to the Soviets' plan to begin far-longer patrols than the two-to four-month periods of their current subsurface. Thus, more space would be needed for crew accommodations, supplies and underwater detection devices.

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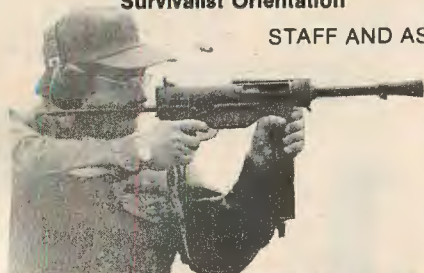
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Furthermore, the USSR has launched the first of a second new class of submarine — one that can fire cruise missiles from underwater. And they have deployed two more Alpha class subs: the fastest, deepest-diving vessels in the world.

NUMBERS vs. TECHNOLOGY ...

Some U.S. intelligence analysts believe it is time for the U.S. to revise its strategy which stresses superior technology over numerical superiority in a possible war with the Soviet Union.

These strategists point out that, historically, technological superiority has failed in confrontation with larger numbers. Two examples: German WWII battleships were technologicaly better than those of the British. But the British had a 3-2 edge in numbers, and German battlewagons threatened British control of the North Sea only briefly.



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Some of the gear the Russians have is better hardware than ours and they have more of it. Some examples of areas in which we are badly outnumbered:

• **Fighters:** Other than a handful of F5s, the U.S. Air Force has not had a new fighter since the F-4 Phantom. New F-15s and F-16s are entering service now but are having shakedown problems, and it may be years before they meet Air Force requirements. America is now outnumbered 7,800 to 5,200 in fighter planes, and the Soviets are building them at a rate of three to one compared to the U.S.

• **Missiles:** The U.S. Titan class entered service in 1963, the Minuteman II in 1965 and the Minuteman III in 1968. The MX class will not be operational until the mid-1980s at the earliest. Meanwhile, the Soviets have replaced their missile systems twice, are testing a new generation that will be in service before MX and are believed to have rapid reload capacity for their silos.

• **Tanks:** The tank gap in Europe grows steadily worse. When the main U.S. battle tank, the M60, entered service, it was better than its opponent, the Soviet T-55. It was marginally superior to the Russian T-62 but is marginally inferior to the Soviets' T-64 and T-70. The Russians now have their T-72 in wide service and probably will field a T-80 before we can get

Continued on page 90

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BASICS

Continued from page 46

nosed bullet with a long nose. You'll have fewer feeding problems. Use five grains of bull's-eye powder or six grains of 231 ball powder."

He recommends diamond checkering on front and back of the grip but doesn't like it on the front of the trigger guard: "It's too hard on your leather."

After a short lecture on these subjects, it's down to the range to begin work on the basics. Chapman's course is flexible, but it usually starts out with six shots from six draws at seven, 15 and 25 yards. Then two shots per draw at the same ranges and then three. And Chapman, Erwin and Mayfield will be observing you closely.

They will probably have suggestions and they will certainly expect you to listen and pay attention.

The second day was also devoted to basics but the action gradually increased. One shot per draw 12 times at 10 and 25 yards, then on to shooting at two targets; first relay was one shot on each for six shots and then two on each for eight rounds. Then it was on to firing at three targets, then the prone position at 25 and 50 yards.

Accelerating Action

Day three the action speeds up even more. Practice on rapid magazine changes. Firing while making 90- and 180-degree turns from both left and right. Firing the *El Presidente*, a 180-degree whirl, and firing on three targets for a total of 12 shots. Up to now it's been the standard two-hand practical style of shooting, but this day you do some one-handed firing, both weak and strong hands, and shifting the pistol from right hand to left. And we started firing on moving targets.

On day four we started firing from behind barricades from both the right and left of the barrier at 10 and 35 yards, and then worked on the Bianchi, six rounds' rapid fire from each side of the barricade at 10, 15 and 35 yards. Then we fired two shots from behind a barricade and dashed 36 feet to another barricade, taking total concealment and then firing three shots from the left side of the barrier.

Also on the fourth day, we practiced shooting while advancing rapidly on the target. Later that day we had our first real field problem. This consisted of firing from behind a barricade at one target, two shots, running from it to the side of a simulated building, blasting two targets from there, **dashing forward**, reloading on the run, and shooting three more bad guys while advancing on them. Fun.

But the real challenge comes on the fifth and final day and, although it is indeed a challenge, it is a hell of a lot of fun. The first course was drawing and firing at an enemy target five feet in front of you,



Instructor at Chapman Academy gives advice on firing from behind barricade.



Smoke curls from pistols as students at Chapman Academy fire at long range.

leaping behind a barricade which signals a target to move from the left. You place two shots in a bad guy to your right about 15 yards away and then must place two shots in the mover. Then it's reloading on the run, dashing up a staircase, blasting two targets down below, leaping from the 12-foot tower, reloading on the run again, shooting a target concealed behind a tree and then popping a steel plate which ends the timing.

Yes, you're timed on this one, as you are on the next, which consists of drawing

and firing two shots into a bad guy on your left, falling prone and firing from underneath a car (simulated by a picnic bench), killing two targets 35 yards downrange, running around the car, firing two shots into a close-up bad guy on your immediate right, reloading on the run to a barricade, dropping two targets over the left, two more pretty much directly in front, reloading on the run again and blasting one target 10 yards away from the right side of the barricade and finally one up a hillside to the right.

The final exercise of the course is firing for record and qualification. It is essentially controlled shooting and one must score 70 percent to graduate. I'll not go into detail on the course because I believe Chapman likes to surprise the shooters here.

Every person in my class graduated.

The Chapman Academy is now three years old and some 300 students have passed through it thus far.

Required Equipment

For those considering attending, the equipment required is: Basic Course — a reliable pistol, a practical holster, two extra magazines, ear protection and at least 400 rounds of ammunition (cost \$175); Intermediate Course: same gear as above but with running shoes or boots in addition and at least 600 rounds of ammunition (cost \$275); Advanced Course: everything needed for the Intermediate plus a concealable holster and pistol, a light jacket to conceal the weapon, a flashlight and at least 700 rounds of ammunition (cost \$300).

Besides these courses, Chapman also conducts a police survival course which includes practical training in use of pistol, shotgun and rifle. It is intended for police officers only. Chapman's advice is to use duty-type equipment.

Those using revolvers in any of the courses will, naturally, need two speed-loaders and belt holders.

Chapman's advice to people considering the basic course is: "Wait until you've completed it before you consider buying any really expensive equipment."

For those readers who are office-bound in their jobs or may feel they are over the hill physically, don't worry. The physical requirements are challenging but not impossible.

Average Students

For example, our class included Gene Smith of Eureka Springs, Ark., who at age 74 is the oldest person to attend the school. Like the rest of us, he graduated and received his certificate. The youngest person to do the same was 14-year-old Heidi Lippmeier of Cincinnati.

Those interested in attending any of the courses should book reservations at least six months in advance. The same is true for those who don't want to bring their own ammo and wish to shoot Academy reloads, which I did and found dependable — one misfire in a thousand rounds.

Unless you're a top-ranked national or international practical pistol shooter, a course at Ray Chapman's will improve your shooting ability remarkably. It did mine. Was it worthwhile? Well, I'm going to take the advanced course as soon as Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown will let me.

SPECIAL COURSE

Besides the four regular courses of shooting at the Ray Chapman Academy — Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Police Survival — there is another, most unusual one.

It is conducted exclusively for residents of the Federal Republic of Germany.

"We get people from all over the world here," said Ray Chapman, "but we started getting so many West Germans, we decided to open a special class for them alone." —B.P.

SAFETY FIRST

Safety is constantly stressed at the Chapman Academy, although shooters in the Intermediate and Advanced courses are expected to be well versed in it before they get there.

Our class had a total of five accidental discharges (ADs) during the entire course — remarkable when you consider all the running, jumping, etc., and the fact that 21 people fired between 700 to 1,000 rounds each.

And all the ADs were downrange. None of them, I'm happy to say, were made by the SOF staffer on the scene. —B.P.

BRITISH TV CONVERTS

John Green and Jeff Sawtell, a news team from the British commercial TV network, filmed the entire week of our intermediate course at the Ray Chapman Academy of Practical Pistol Shooting.

They said, "We're here because there is no such thing as this in Britain, even though there is rising violence there, including gun violence.

"Our impression is that private gun ownership by properly trained people is a good thing. We are very much impressed with what we've seen here."

The pair, neither of whom had ever fired a handgun, even did a little shooting after some training by Chapman personally. And they enjoyed it, or at least said they did. —B.P.



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Continued from page 86

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● **Bombers:** The U.S. Air Force sought the B-70 but it was cancelled, as was the B-1. Now the Air Force will have to settle for a stripped-down B-1 or for a souped-up FB-11H. Then there is the Stealth — if it works and if the Soviets haven't yet figured out how to detect it. But the Stealth cannot be ready until at least 1986. By then, our existing B-52s will be 23 to 30 years old.

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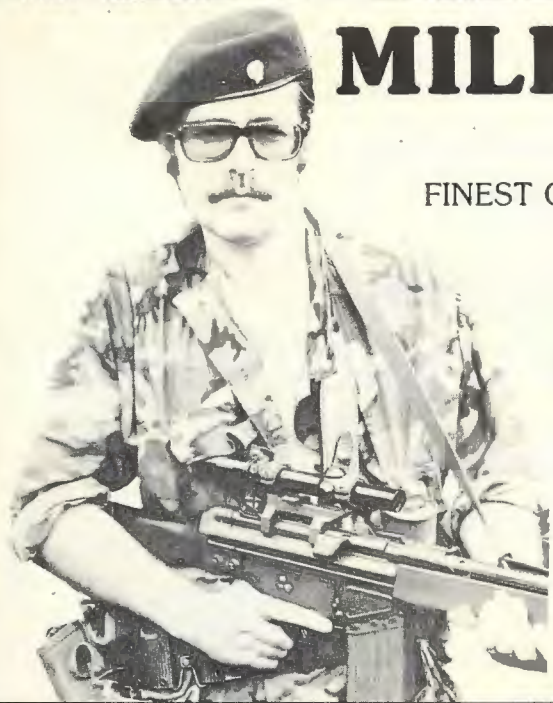
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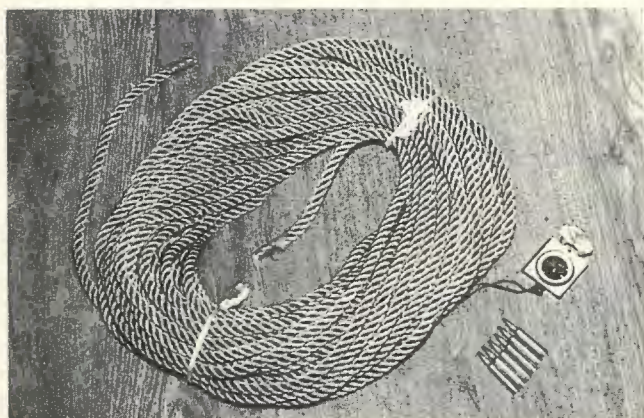
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