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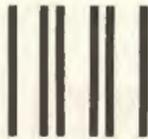
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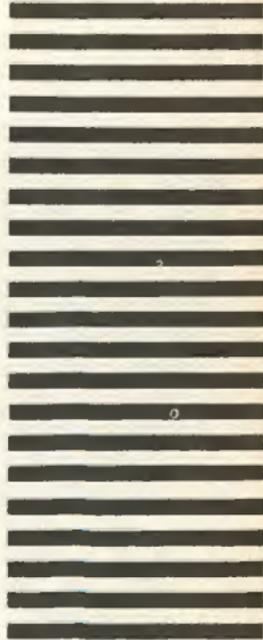
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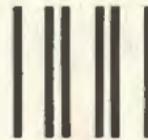
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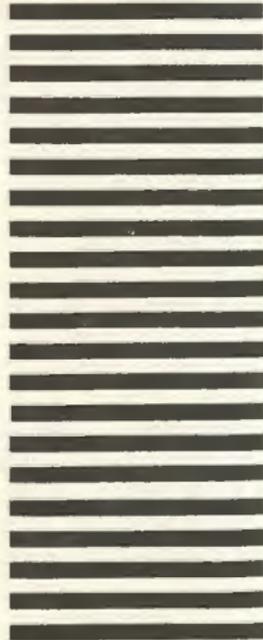
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NEW TITLES FROM THE ACTION LIBRARY:

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THE GERMAN SNIPER 1914-1945
by Peter R. Senich

The complete story of a most significant era in modern small arms development. No other book on German military sniping compares with the quality of Peter Senich's *The German Sniper 1914-1945*. Beginning with the Great War, Senich traces the evolution of the Mauser 98's initial adaptation to long-range sniping mode, including the special accurization measures and early development optical sights that were keystones for these adaptations.

Through the first stages of WWII, the most notable period in this weapon's development, Nazi armourers concentrated on adapting the venerable Mauser Karahiner 98K to the new advanced optical sights manufactured by Zeiss, Goerz and others. These sighting devices were without peer, and provided the German Army, particularly the specially trained "Scharfschutzen" (sharpshooters), with a decided edge.

Over 600 exceptional photographs detail every facet of these weapon systems, and the men who used them. Senich explores other noteworthy aspects of Nazi sniping history—the experimental role played by the Selbst-ladegewehr 41 and 43 selective fire assault rifles, and a separate chapter of interviews with WWII Germany's top three master snipers. *The German Sniper 1914-1945* also includes definitive proof mark identification information for all relevant sniping rifles, mounts, optical sights, and accessories.

Serious German historians and weapons experts simply must have this book! 8½ x 11, clothbound, 660 photographs, 468 pages. ISBN 0-87364-223-6

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THE AR-7 EXOTIC WEAPONS SYSTEM

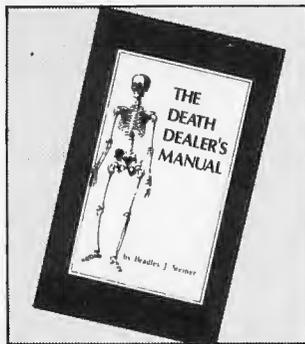
An unusual home workshop guide for the gun buff and hobbyist machinist. Over fifty working machinist's drawings, photos and full-scale templates show exactly how to convert the AR-7.22 survival rifle into a full-automatic silenced machine pistol, submachine gun or sophisticated silenced weapon. *The AR-7 Exotic Weapons System* was created by the same firearms designer who authored the famed Paladin title, *Home Workshop Silencers*.

This new comprehensive instruction manual details how to modify the weapon's original receiver, fabricate new sear and safety, as well as make a simple yet efficient silencer group assembly. Each drawing in *The AR-7 Exotic Weapons System* is of the highest quality. Fans of exotic weaponry and amateur gunsmiths will find this a valuable addition to their libraries and an excellent gift book. For historical and reference purposes only. 9 x 12, softcover, machinist's drawings, photos, full-scale templates, 72 pp. ISBN 0-87364-242-2

\$12.00

RHODESIAN S.A.S. COMBAT MANUAL

Obtained from a member of the Rhodesian Special Air Service Squadron, this scarce combat manual is now available to Paladin readers for the first time. The Rhodesian military forces were long regarded as one of the world's finest. This is the principal guide used to conduct the enormously successful operations—counter guerrilla ops, air ops, ambushing, and notable attacks on terrorist base camps—during the Rhodesian antiterrorist war. Contents include: Standard Security Terminology and Abbreviations, Communication, Rural Operations, Ambushing of Insurgents, Movement by Road, Land/Air Operations, and First Aid. All of it is useful to anyone planning for or participating in a COIN-type operation. 8½ x 11, softcover, diagrams, charts, 110 pp. \$12.00



THE DEATH DEALER'S MANUAL
by Bradley Steiner

Killers-for-hire walk the streets around us, every day. They may be mob hitmen, refugees from "The Farm," KGB executioners, or other government specialists. These human killing machines do their jobs with deadly efficiency, without an ounce of remorse.

The Death Dealer's Manual tells the true story of how these professional killers go about doing their ugly business. Author Bradley Steiner is known as one of America's top martial combat writers. He was able to penetrate the inner sanctums of the world's busiest assassination bureaus in compiling this terrifying guide to death-for-sale. Secret skills in the black art of assassination are divulged to the civilian reader—no holds barred. Numerous illustrations detail these termination techniques. Of special interest is a complete *Dim Mak anatomy chart* with time reference guide, published here in English for the first time!

Contents include: vital points, edged weapons, handguns, unarmed killing techniques, improvised weapon kills, use of the garrote and crossbow, synthetic and natural poisons, Dim Mak—Chinese death touch, and attributes of the professional assassin. **Warning: for informational purposes only!** 5½ x 8½, softcover, illus., 112 pp. ISBN 0-87364-247-3

\$10.00

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF TAEKWON DO FORMS

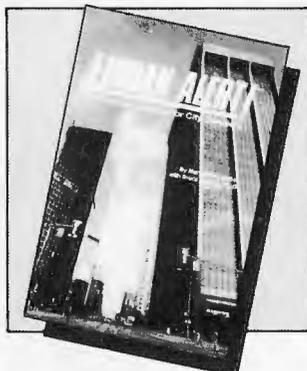
by Keith Yates

Here's karate with a difference—Taekwon Do, the powerful Korean style of martial art and self-defense. Author Keith Yates, a 5th degree black belt, is a seventeen-year veteran of Taekwon Do training. Each training pattern is exhaustively covered with photos, foot position diagrams, and dramatizations of actual applications. After discussing white belt fundamentals—from stances to kicks and blocks—Yates analyzes all thirteen forms, the cornerstones of the Taekwon Do art. They include: Chon-I, Tan-Gun, Toe-San, Won-Hyo, Yul-Kok, Basal, and seven others.

This classy, picture-perfect training manual is the first to contain all the Taekwon Do forms in a comprehensive, easy-to-read format. Over 500 photographs pack this volume—must reading for students and instructors, serious novices and hard-core pros alike. 8½ x 11, hardcover, illustrations, photographs, 168 pp.

ISBN 0-87364-244-9

\$24.95



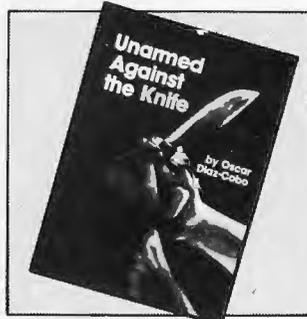
URBAN ALERT!
Emergency Survival for City Dwellers
by Mary Ellen Clayton
with Bruce D. Clayton, Ph.D.

Disaster strikes! "Brutal storm leaves thousands homeless" reads the headline. "Flood kills forty-one, strands hundreds." Are you prepared to survive? Or will you be a destitute refugee? Earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, riots, chemical spills, nuclear accidents, and fires spell chaos for the unprepared. But with the practical information provided in *Urban Alert!* and a minimum of time and money, you can survive disaster.

Author Mary Ellen Clayton with Bruce D. Clayton, Ph.D. of *Life After Doomsday* fame, gives vital tips on emergency food supplies, water, lighting, cooking and heating equipment, medical supplies, weapons, evacuation kits, and others. Author recommendations and numerous photos take the guesswork out of huying equipment.

Will you be a victim shuttled through relief agencies or a safe, comfortable survivor? *Urban Alert!* can make the difference 5½ x 8½, hardcover, photos, 192 pp. ISBN 0-87364-246-5

\$12.95



UNARMED AGAINST THE KNIFE
by Oscar Diaz-Cobo

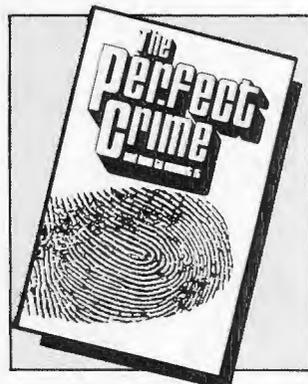
The hook on knife combat that had to be written! Now you can learn how to stop knife-wielding thugs and bullies dead in their tracks. Not a rehash on general knife fighting, *Unarmed Against the Knife* is the only complete self-defense book on hand-to-knife combat. Author Oscar Diaz-Cobo learned the secrets of hand-to-hand combat on the streets of Newark, New Jersey, one of the meanest training grounds in America. Here he combines street savvy with close-combat martial arts to give you practical knife-fighting and disarming techniques. Over 100 photos demonstrate how to gain a mental and physical advantage over the attacker, then move in to attack and destroy him.

Chapter titles include: Psychology of the Knife Fighter, Physical and Mental Conditioning, Attack and Destroy, Combat Tactics, Hand-To-Knife Combat, Knife Lock and Hold Defenses, Specialized Knife Attacks, Make-shift Weapons and Attacks, and What to Do If You Get Cut. Ideal for self defense and martial arts experts as well as average safety conscious citizens. 5½ x 8½, softcover, 100 photos, 88 pp. ISBN 0-87364-243-0

\$8.00

SPECIAL FORCES RECONNAISSANCE HANDBOOK

Successful reconnaissance depends on the motivation and training of the recon team. This new Paladin reprint details proven U.S. Army reconnaissance techniques, and patrolling methods that help bring your men back alive from the bush—where anything can happen. Scouting tactics insertion and communication techniques, team organization, composition, equipment, and patrol planning are covered in depth. Special attention is devoted to air infiltration and exfiltration, tracking, and use of human senses to obtain combat intelligence. A must for the beginner. A refresher for the old-timer. 8½ x 11, softcover, charts, 122 pp. \$12.00



THE PERFECT CRIME and How to Commit It
by Dr. Jekel

The title says it all! Here's the hottest item in the book world today. *The Perfect Crime and How to Commit It* reveals tales of unsolved crimes and dispels the myth that crime doesn't pay. Arsonists, shoplifters, jewel thieves, cat burglars, murderers, ace detectives, and top criminals contributed (some unwittingly) to make *The Perfect Crime* a startling expose of crime and criminals.

With less than 21 percent of all reported crimes solved, Dr. Jekel had a wealth of material at her disposal. She spent two years investigating and interviewing experts on both sides of the law. Jekel takes a hard look at America's loophole-ridden judicial system, which creates "successful criminals out of many hopelessly inept bunglers." *The Perfect Crime* is filled with information on the technical advancements of modern police laboratories, "a major hazard for successful criminals." Nowadays, an experienced detective can take fingerprints from inside a rubber glove, or identify a criminal's sex and blood type from a single hair.

In consecutive chapters, Dr. Jekel dissects and analyzes perfect crimes of theft, fraud, forgery, arson, shoplifting, and of course—murder. *The Perfect Crime and How to Commit It* is sure to thrill crime fans, mystery lovers, and adventurers.

5½ x 8½, hardcover, 208 pp. ISBN 0-87364-237-6

\$14.95

THE 100 DEADLIEST KARATE MOVES

by Dr. Ted Gambordella

Discover the 100 most lethal kicks, shotos, and blows perfected by the world's greatest karate masters. No flowery katas. Only hard-hitting, practical karate techniques that could save your life! In *The 100 Deadliest Karate Moves*, Dr. Ted Gambordella, a 5th degree black belt, teaches you how to fight to the death, if need be. Over 100 dramatic photos show exactly which vital points to attack to cripple or kill your opponent.

This book is not for dojo ballerinas; it is for men who take their fighting art seriously. Just a sample of the deadly moves covered are: snap kicks, heel kicks, vital points of the head and chest, shotos, palm heels, ridge hands, and many more! A special chapter on street fighting with karate makes this a super selection for any self-defense specialist. 5½ x 8½, softcover, over 100 photos, 88 pp. ISBN 0-87364-245-7

\$8.00

BETTER READ THAN DEAD

by Thomas Nieman

A new study of nuclear survival focusing on nuclear weapons and their effects, the Soviet nuclear threat, civil defense preparedness, and related survival considerations. The author has tapped new sources of information, and for the first time presents special two-color fallout maps for every county in the United States. Survivalists can now pinpoint the exact locations of their homes or retreats on these maps, and plan accordingly for the expected amount of radioactive fallout.

Over one hundred drawings and diagrams demonstrate how nuclear weapons work, how fallout spreads, how to build fallout shelters, and much more. Chapter titles include: Birth of the Atomic Age, Categories and Types of Nuclear Weapons, Electromagnetic Pulse, The Age of Modern Electronic Weaponry, The Current Threat to the United States, National Survival, Individual Survival Planning, High Risk Area, Maps, Expedition Shelters, and twelve more. The special fallout maps in *Better Read Than Dead* are not available from any other source. An excellent choice for survivalists and retreaters. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 193 pp. **\$14.95**

EVERYMAN'S GUIDE TO BETTER HOME SECURITY

by Vincent Joseph Guarino

The house is an ordinary middle-aged house. There are sash windows all around with catch-lock devices. One high window never closes quite right—something wrong with the hinge. In the living room are a young mother and two small children watching TV. Outside, shrubbery grows too close to the sliding glass door. A dark, motionless man-shape crouches in the leaves and shadows.

The house is a break-in just waiting to happen.

Would your home be safe if someone tried to get in?

With a burglary happening every fifteen seconds somewhere in the United States, the odds of break-in are against homeowners, whether they live in middle-aged houses or modern apartment buildings. The odds can be beat. *Everyman's Guide to Better Home Security* helps readers determine appropriate safeguard levels—for homes, businesses, and people—as well as aids in arranging feasible preventive measures. Step-by-step sections cover lock selection, door types, alarm setups, exterior and interior lighting, special considerations for apartment living, home and business safes, insurance coverage and claims, and personal safety. Guarino gives a complete run-down on the models of locks and alarms meeting minimum standards—a boon to the confused consumer. With the security check lists provided in the extra tear-out section, readers may keep important identifying information on file. This new edition in the Paladin Press *Everyman's Guide* series is a security investment in itself. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, drawings and photos, check lists, 136 pp. ISBN 0-87364-217-1 **\$7.95**

HOT CARS!

An Inside Look at the Auto Theft Industry
By Marcus Wayne Ratledge

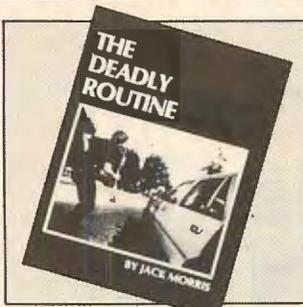
Life isn't fair and neither is a car thief. Read *Hot Cars!* before you buy your next used car, or your hard-earned money may be putting steak on a thief's table for a year.

Hot Cars! gives an inside look into the minds and methods of professional car thieves. Author Marcus Wayne Ratledge reveals the tricks of the multimillion-dollar industry he knows so well—car theft.

An ex-car thief, Ratledge was once part of a million-dollar theft ring. Now he tells private buyers, dealers, insurance claims adjusters, and law officers what the thieves know—and don't know—about legitimizing fake papers and serial numbers on stolen cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, trailers, and even airplanes.

Photos show what to look for to detect whether or not a vehicle's serial number has been altered. A comprehensive checklist details what questions to ask a seller to be sure he's legit. Chapter titles include: Dispelling the Myths, Hot Car For Sale, Private Purchasers, Beware!, Auto Conversion, Steal-Strip-Purchase-Repair, Protecting Dealership Vehicles, Insurance Agents—A Line of Defense, First Aid for Legal Loopholes, Motorcycle Conversion, and Airplane Conversion.

The author of another popular Paladin title, *Don't Become the Victim*, Ratledge tells used vehicle buyers how to avoid being taken for a ride financially by thieves. Don't be left holding the loan payment book for an auto that has been confiscated by police. Read *Hot Cars!* 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 136 pp. ISBN 0-87364-220-1 **\$5.95**



THE DEADLY ROUTINE

by Jack Morris

Every day he's on patrol, a law enforcement officer lays his life on the line. Issuing a summons on a routine traffic stop, answering a domestic complaint, or responding to a report of a burglary in progress, he's a target for snipers, desperados, and nuts. Only a watchful, alert approach to these seemingly "routine" situations can prevent his needless wounding or death.

In *The Deadly Routine*, Morris uses the workhunk approach to snap senior officers into realizing the very real dangers of mobile patrolling. True accounts of situations in which officers were killed or wounded have been reconstructed from eyewitness reports and court transcripts. The position of the police and criminal, time sequence, intent of the suspect, and level of officer training have been included. Follow-up questions give readers an idea of whether they would have ended up on the slab. This is intriguing, fast-paced reading.

In this practical guide for honing officers' judgment, Morris advises officers to respond in pairs but not simultaneously, assess the capabilities of a .38 caliber weapon, treat all stops with anticipation, and pick the time and place for confrontation.

Ideally suited to both classroom and home study, *The Deadly Routine* can be a life-saver. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover illus., 208 pp. ISBN 0-87364-241-4 **\$14.95**

AUTOMATIC & CONCEALABLE FIREARMS DESIGN BOOK, VOL. I

An astonishing collection of automatic and concealable firearms designs. Ten weapons are presented, seven of which are totally improvised. The others involve the modification of common semi-auto rifles (the AR-7 Explorer) to function on full automatic. All drawings are done to scale, and will provide hobbyist gunsmiths and machinists with a wealth of insights into the improvisation and modification of similar firearms. Designs include: AR-7 conversion; Squires-Bingham .22 conversion; .22 Silenced Weapon System; Stinger; Mini-Shotgun Pistol; and five others. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, diagrams; 40 pp. ISBN 0-87354-165-5 **\$12.00**

"I have been purchasing your books for several years now. I am very pleased with the speed and quality of your service. You have a very good selection of subjects that are of interest to me." D.S.

AUTOMATIC & CONCEALABLE FIREARMS DESIGN BOOK, VOL. II

Offers 10 new firearm designs for the home gunsmith or machinist. Three of the designs cover the selective fire modification of the Colt .45 1911A1, the Heckler & Koch 91-93, and the Winchester Model 64 .22. The other designs present unusual improvised weapons, with the home armorer in mind. These include the Revolver Knife, .22 Knuckle Gun, .12 Gauge Shotgun Pistol, Mini .22 Magnum, Front Bolt Action Shotgun, .22 Short Mini Machine Pistol, and two more. The high quality drawings are each accompanied by text explaining construction and operating details. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos and diagrams, 64 pp. ISBN 0-87364-177-9 **\$12.00**



CONSUMER REVENGE

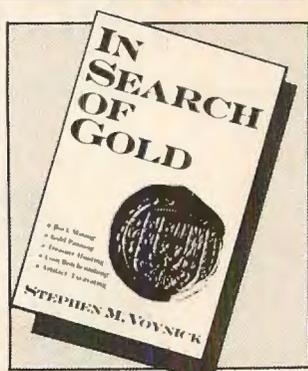
by Christopher Gilson, Linda Cawley, & Rick Schmidt

Looking for new revenge ideas? *Consumer Revenge* is the everyday consumer's guide for getting even! This all-new handbook gives workable ideas for taking vengeance on "greedy landlords, shoddy sellers, crooked contractors, exploitative employers, nasty creditors, and other consumer frustrations."

A Revenge Kit at the end of every chapter makes it easy just follow the step-by-step instructions, complete with sample letters, and other methods of taking revenge on societies, consumer institutions and government bureaucracies.

Learn how to gain the personal satisfaction of winning the battle against automobile manufacturers, restaurants, banks, credit institutions, contractors, insurance brokers, and moving companies.

Additional chapters cover: Arrest, Evicting and Burying a Police Record, "Driving" Regulations, Keeping Yourself In the Driver's Seat, and Burglars, Thieves, and Muggers: Do Unto Them As They Do Unto You. An appendix lists direct phone numbers of industry arbitration sources. Every consumer should have this useful, practical guide to fighting back! 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, hardcover, 348 pp. N.D. ISBN 0-399-12668-6 **\$13.95**



IN SEARCH OF GOLD

by Stephen M. Voynick

Men have killed for gold. The lure of great riches and the lust for hot-blooded adventure have driven more than a few people to desperate measures. And in the gold-getting game right now, the stakes are high and the profits are terrific.

In Search of Gold is the all-new, how-to guide to profit and action in the gold business. Packed with true accounts of abandoned mines, buried treasure, and golden galleons still waiting to be found, this is the book on the realities and legalities of gold—how to get it and how to keep it.

Stephen M. Voynick doesn't just write about gold. He finds it. Voynick's own successful searches make this book worth its weight in facts alone. He knows the territory as only one who's been there—and back—can know it. Follow him far into the bush country of Alaska, ninety miles from the nearest paved road, washing gold from gravels abandoned long ago; deep in the Costa Rican jungles, digging sacred Indian gold from pre-Columbian graves; and to the New Jersey shore, within two hours' driving time of millions of people, "clamming" for gold coins worth thousands of dollars.

In Search of Gold is a manual for weekend prospectors as well as full-time treasure salvagers. The author provides coverage on the newest technology and equipment within the budget of any gold seeker. This handsome hardcover edition features something extra: eight exciting pages of full-color, on-the-spot shots of recent gold recoveries.

Today more than ever, gold makes the venture worth the investment. If you're looking for pocket money, or a possible fortune, look first at Paladin's most dynamic title of the new year. 6 x 9, hardcover, full-color photos, maps, 216 pp. ISBN 0-87364-238-4 **\$15.95**

"I just want to say I am very pleased at the fast service I have received from your company. In regards to your publication, all of it is top quality. The people in the Armed Forces need a company like you so we can continue to improve our knowledge I speak for myself and my men." S.A.J. New York



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EDITOR'S NOTE



"NO more Vietnams!"
Fine. Shout it all you want, where you want, when you want. March in the streets. If the United States reimplements the draft, find a nice safe slot in school, an occupation or an "old" injury that makes you exempt — or head north to Canada and wait for amnesty.

The United States is a nation so great it can tolerate behavior like that and survive. I don't know how well we'll survive committing our professional military to another no-win conflict.

The mistake we made in Vietnam was not fighting it. It was in hamstringing our military advisers, then our ground forces composed of volunteers and draftees and, when the nation turned weary of the attrition, in making a "peace with honor" that was a political sell-out.

We sent approximately 2.5 million men and women — mostly volunteers, the professionals — halfway around the world to fight that dirty little conflict in Vietnam for 14 years.

If we had declared the conflict in Vietnam a war or ignored the formalities and fought it like one, Cambodia would not be the graveyard it has become and the South China Sea would have a lot fewer boat people.

There would also be a lot fewer dead, permanently disabled, or missing and unaccounted-for Americans.

It all came rushing back to me when an American TV crew spotted an American adviser carrying a M16 rifle while advising an El Salvadoran army unit rebuilding a bridge in the countryside.

When the film clip appeared in the United States, the guilty soldier, Lt. Col. Harry Melander, was ordered out of El Salvador by America's ambassador to El Salvador, and all advisers were told in firm tones they couldn't carry M16s.

You see the M16 has been classified as an offensive weapon by some civilian in the State Department who does not want to antagonize the anti-El Salvador coalition in America.

Melander was helping to rebuild a bridge that had been blown by Salvadoran rebels. Presumably if the rebels had attacked the rebuilding party and Melander had killed a rebel in self-defense at long range with his M16, he would have been engaged in *offensive* operations.

Melander and other advisers could wear Colt .45 sidearms, however. If attacked, he could have waited for the rebels to get close enough to kill them with his .45 and he would have been engaged in *defensive* operations.

President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig were reportedly a bit hot about the action the State Department took against Melander. Reagan said he would consider allowing the advisers to arm themselves with M16s.

But Rep. John Seiberling, D-Ohio, in a letter signed by 27 other House Democrats, warned Reagan he must consult with Congress before allowing U.S. military advisers to arm for combat.

"No more Vietnams" is right.

Let's quit asking our professional military men to put their lives on the line in some other country's conflict unless we're willing to allow them the right to stay alive.

— Jim Graves

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

JUNE/1982
VOL. 7, NO. 6

AARON BANK SAGA 24

Bob Caldwell
"Tell Bank to get Hitler!"

CONGO'S OPERATION DRAGON ROUGE 28

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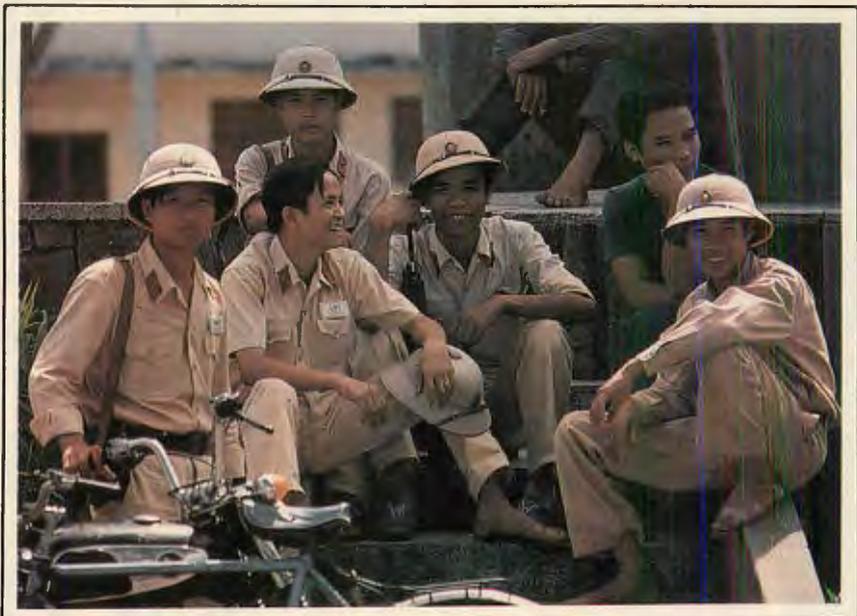
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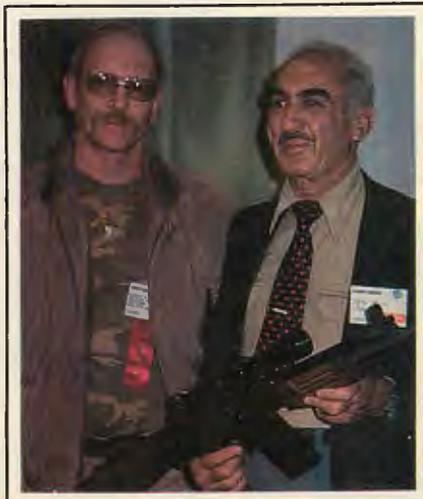
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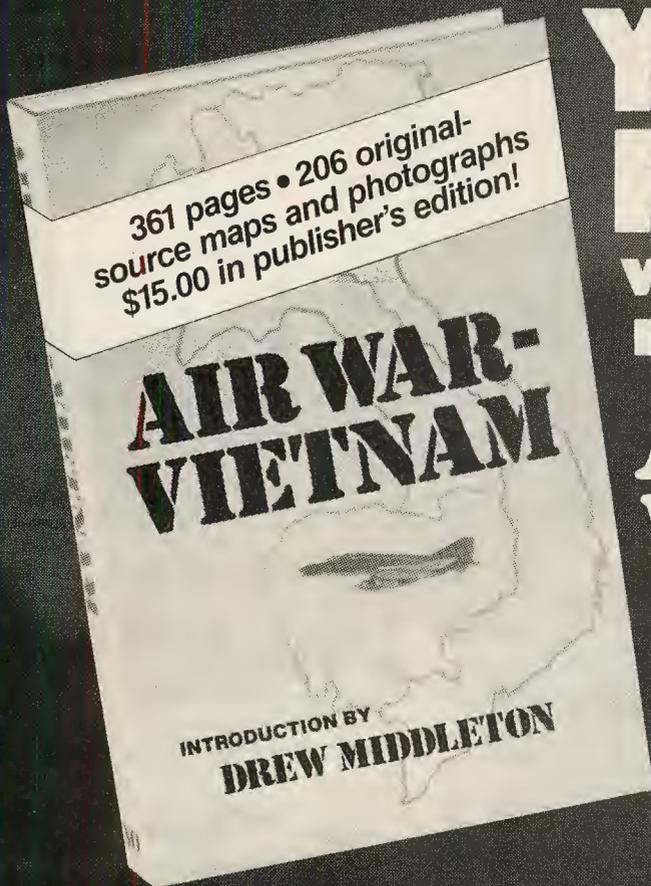
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COVER: Better Journalism Through Superior Firepower: (top to bottom) Al Nordeen (Rhodesian cammies, Selous Scouts shoulder tabs and stable belt), Marty Hart (army cammies, Airforce Airborne beret badge, and Battalion Cacadore 1929 pocket badge, all Portuguese) and Jim Drakos (current British army tropical camouflage) fire FN rifles for SOF test and chronicle of legendary FAL. Article begins on p. 48. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

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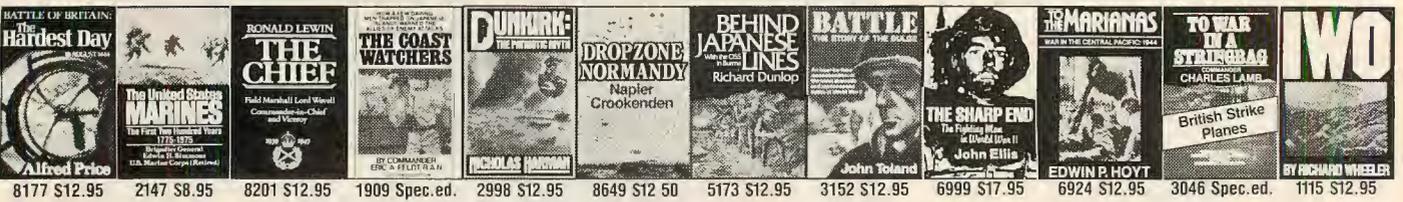
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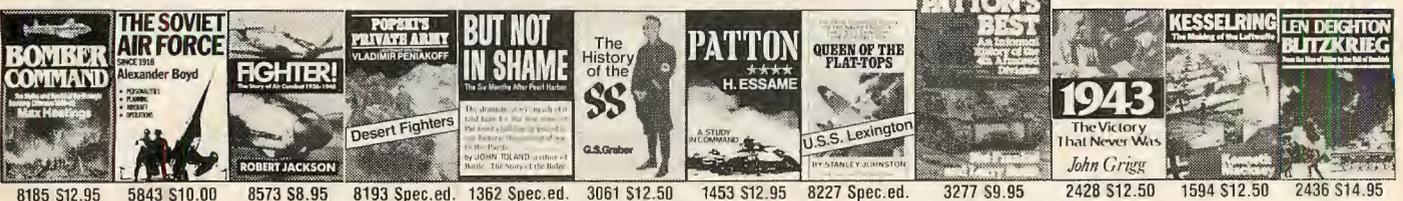
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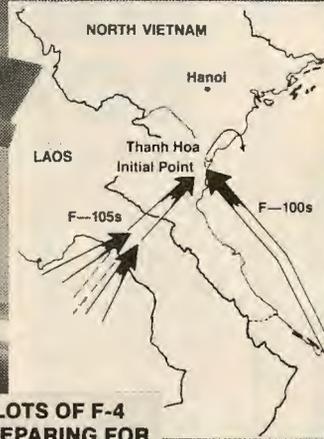
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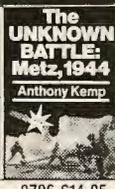
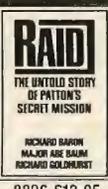
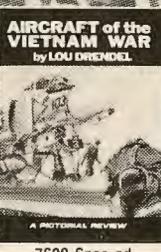
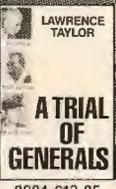
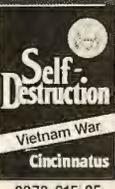
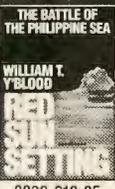
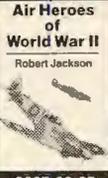
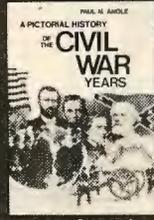
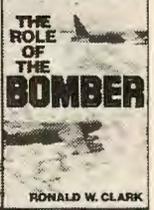
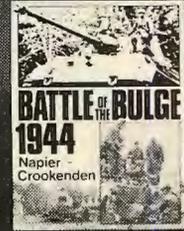
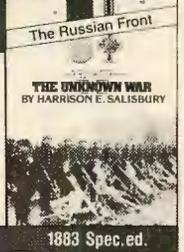
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CONVENTION SITE SELECTED ...

The 1982 SOF Convention site has been selected. The expanded six-day convention will be held from 12-17 October in Charlotte, N.C.

SOF Match Director Jake Jatras and Convention Director Bill Brooks have located the best facilities SOF has had for its convention and we expect the largest turnout yet.

The match, which will be hosted by the Charlotte Rifle and Pistol Club on its outdoor range near Waxhaw, N.C., will run from 12 October to 15 October, while the exhibit will be held in the Charlotte Convention Center 14 October to 17 October. The exhibit hall has 29,000 square feet of space and will accommodate 400 exhibitors.

A convention application, details on hotels, seminars, preconvention courses and parachuting will appear in July's *Soldier of Fortune*.

ANGOLAN UPDATE ...

There have been some recent developments in Angola, which is propped up in its military efforts against West-leaning Dr. Jonas Savimbi's UNITA (National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola) insurgent forces by some 38,000 Cuban troops (see "The War the World Forgot," SOF, July, August '81).

Dr. Savimbi says that Gulf Oil Co. is, in effect, paying the Cuban mercenary troops through some \$1.5 billion a year in oil revenues. Gulf confirmed this at Congressional hearings and boasted that it hoped to double that figure by 1985.

The parents of Gary Acker, former Marine who was captured in Angola while on a CIA-sponsored mercenary operation that opposed the Marxist takeover of the country, and his attorney are trying to get Gulf to put leverage on the Angolan government to free Acker and Gus Grillo, another American captured in the fighting.

Gulf, however, thus far is not cooperating.

Meanwhile, the enclave of Cabinda, from which most of the oil is drawn, is seeking to win its independence from Angola's MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) ruling party. A guerrilla force led by Francisco Xavier Lubota is growing ever more active in fighting Angolan and Cuban troops.

Said Lubota: "We want to be a small pro-Western democratic country. Cabindans don't like Angolans. Our languages are different. Our cultures are different."

"It's a mystery to me how the U.S. government allows Gulf to give so much money to Angola. The Gulf Oil Company reaps hundreds of millions of dollars in profits from its Cabinda offshore operations and pays the MPLA hundreds of millions of dollars a year in taxes and royalties, much of which is used to finance Cuban and Angolan troops illegally occupying Cabinda and repressing and killing the Cabindan people."

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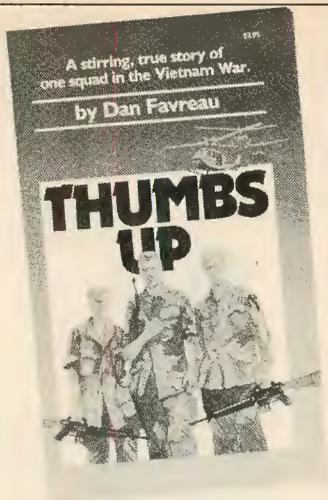
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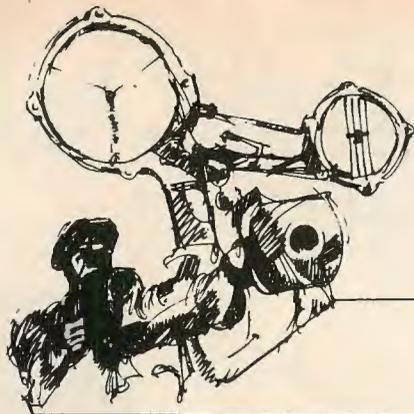
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Charles Tate
 Richmond, Virginia

Tate puts his money where his principles and patriotism are. This letter accompanied a \$500 check for Project Freedom and a \$263 check for the Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund. We thank Tate for his generosity, but we especially admire his ingenuity in allowing others to contribute to his good works. — The Eds.

MERC LAW ...

Sirs:

With reference to James E. Fender's "The Mercenary and International Law," which appeared in the February '82 issue of your magazine, Fender did an excellent job of summarizing an area of the law which (as he notes) is politically charged. I

Continued on page 85

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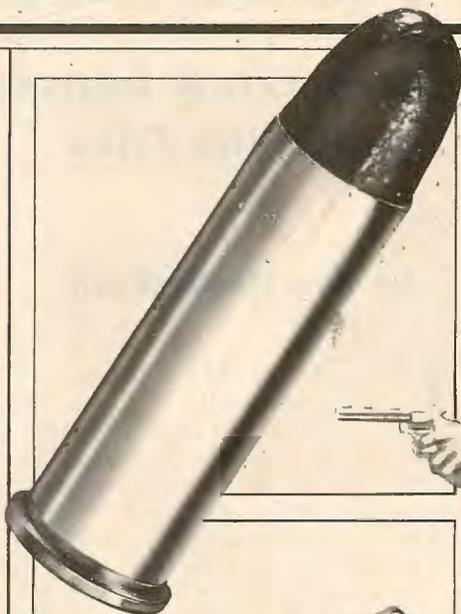


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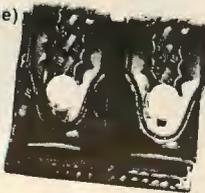
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Like many others, I am interested in the future of this fine pistol and its unusual cartridge, but I should concede that small companies making specialized arms in limited quantities do not ordinarily successfully convert to full industrial production. That's too bad, because I would like to see speculators and collectors buy up this nice run, so you or I could buy one for something in the neighborhood of \$500.

**Hackathorn's Bud Price custom-modified .45 Colt auto shows quality workmanship from end to end. Author fired 15-round group from prone position at 25 meters. Ammo was Remington 230-grain hardball. Photo: Ken Hackathorn**

RELIABLE — accurate — tastefully executed combat modifications performed on the .45 auto: The motto of Bud Price's Western Gun Exchange (Dept.

Continued on page 88

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IN REVIEW



OUR ENEMIES THE FRENCH: Being an Account of the War Fought Between the French and the British, Syria 1941. By Anthony Mockler. London: Leo Cooper Ltd. 1976. The Shoestring Press, P.O. Box 4327, Hamden, CT 06514. 1981. 252 pp. 12 photos, 3 maps. \$18.00. Review by William M. Brooks.

THE French are probably the most politically perverse people in Europe, and they become extremely impetuous when it comes to *la guerre '39-45*. I seriously doubt if **Our Enemies the French** will ever be published in France. Any study, no matter how objective, which casts a shadow on the Free French Forces will never make the best seller list: **Our Enemies the French** is both objective and onerous.

After France surrendered to the Germans on 22 June 1940, Germany occupied the northern third of the country and all of its coast line. A quasi-fascist government was legally established and recognized by the United States in the town of Vichy under the aging and popular *Maréchal* Petain. The question of which of

the many overseas French Empire territories considered themselves bound by the armistice agreement vitally concerned the British.

Syria was one such territory, occupied by the French Army of the Levant — a heterogeneous force composed of Frenchmen, Foreign Legionnaires, Senegalese,

Moroccans, Algerians, Tunisians, Syrian tribesmen and Lebanese levies, and commanded by the resilient Gen. de Verdilhac. In May 1941 the Germans began to send armed support through Syria to be used against the British by the Iraqis. German pilots based in Syria also attacked British troops in Iraq and Trans-Jordan.

The British, whose ulterior motive was to snatch Syria and Lebanon for themselves, decided it was time to invade. The British army, although stretched to its limits across the globe, managed to scrape together a polyglot force of Australians, Indians, British, Free French and Arab troops which entered Syria on 8 June 1941, under the false assumption that the troops of the Army of the Levant were ripe to cross over to the Free French. The Army of the Levant was anti-German (it refused offers of German air support throughout the campaign) but also anti-British — and especially anti-Free French.

The French government had sentenced Gen. de Gaulle to death *in absentia*. Because he was a declared traitor, de Gaulle failed in his efforts to persuade prominent Frenchmen to join the Free French. When the British attacked and sank the French fleet at Mers el Kebir, Algeria, killing more than 1,200 French sailors, and when Vichy cruisers turned back the attempted invasion of Dakar, Gaullist forces were dealt a severe blow, and Anglophobia against "France's traditional enemy" became widespread. The French Army of the Levant vigorously opposed the British invasion for 34 days and, although outnumbered and without reinforcements, nearly repelled it.

Mockler describes the campaign with all the zest and emotion of a bayonet charge. His robust style is ideally suited to explain the extraordinary circumstances and characters which featured prominently during the campaign, including the reluctance of the French Foreign Legion's *13eme Demi-Brigade* (Gaullist) to fight against the *6eme Regiment Etranger d'Infanterie* (Army of the Levant): "There is an unwritten law that legionnaires will not fight against legionnaires," Col. Monclar, the Gaullist Legion commander, declared as he resigned his command.

Syria was also a campaign which had chivalrous characteristics. It involved infantry, horse cavalry, tanks, warships, artillery and aircraft: Soldiers killed soldiers and the civilian population was hardly affected.

Anthony Mockler, author of *The Mercenaries*, has written a scholarly, objective, highly entertaining book which places the Syrian campaign of 1941 in its true historical perspective. My only complaint is its ridiculously high price, a price which may diminish circulation and limit readership.

NORTH AMERICAN FALS. By R. Blake Stevens. 1979. 166 pp. Illustrated. \$20.00. **UK AND COMMONWEALTH FALS.** By R. Blake Stevens. 1980. 260



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pp., illustrated. \$30.00. **THE METRIC FAL: THE FREE WORLD'S RIGHT ARM.** By R. Blake Stevens and Jean E. Van Ruten. 1981. 372 pp. Illustrated. \$50.00. All three volumes published by and available from Collector Grade Publications, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 250, Station E, Toronto, M6H 4E2, Canada. Review by Peter G. Kokalis.

R. Blake Stevens' awesome three-volume series on the FN FAL rifle has finally been completed with the recent publication of the final volume, **The Metric FAL: The Free World's Right Arm.**

In the first volume, **North American FALs**, Stevens reprints for the first time the now declassified results of the 1950 light-rifle trials conducted at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The three rifles tested were the American T25 (which eventually was replaced by John Garand's T44, an altered M1 action that finally became the M14), the .280 FN FAL, and the British "bullpup" EM2. The trial results make fascinating reading, especially to those uninitiated in the rigorous methods employed by the U.S. Ordnance Department when testing small-arms systems. All three rifles performed poorly and it is generally conceded that the trials were premature.

Further tests were held at Ft. Benning in 1953, where the FAL was chosen the best of the three designs. By 1957, however, reasoning that the T44 was one pound lighter than the FAL and could be produced on existing M1 machinery (a contention which proved false), the United States adopted the T44 (M14). The Canadians had in the meantime accepted the FAL (C1A1) and Stevens' first volume is filled with parts' drawings and operating instructions of the Canadian FALs and all their modifications and accessories.

The second volume, **UK and Commonwealth FALs**, details the politics and pressure applied by the United States in its opposition to the British .280/30 caliber (finally improved to the 7mm High Velocity). This dispute and the American refusal to accept anything less than a .30-caliber cartridge led to a dramatic con-



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frontation between President Truman and Sir Winston Churchill in Washington during January 1952.

Volume Two covers the entire production history of the FAL in both Great Britain and Australia from prototypes to issue models and experimental offshoots. The illustrations of the weapons, showing their salient details and their many accessories, including the numerous types of UK optical sights, are superb. In all, Volume Two illustrates 28 different FAL models, from the Enfield EXP-1 of the '40s to today's L1A1, the Ishapore 1A and the Australian X3F2A2. Included is every imaginable detail from field and troop trials to correspondence never before published.

American readers will be most interested in Volume Three, **The Metric FAL**. And, if you can afford to own only one volume in this expensive set, this is the one to buy as it covers the FN FAL/LARs sold in this country.

Stevens and his co-author, Jean E. Van Ruten (Volume Three only), commence with an interesting history of Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre, established in 1889. They plunge next into the most explicit description of the first 49 prototypes of the FAL that will ever be seen in print (130 pages in all).

Part two of the final volume covers the so-called golden age of the FAL from 1953 to the present. Included are detailed portrayals and illustrations of 27 different

contract series. Exotic experimental FALs, such as the blowback and Swedish models, receive their fair share of attention. Several sections on the FAL and the BATF provide illuminating insights on that now, hopefully, deceased agency. The book ends with what the authors label, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the FAL Gazetteer: a comprehensive compendium of parts' and accessories' photos, drawings and nomenclature.

In the authors' sketches and acknowledgements I was pleased to see reference to my good friend, Will Piznak, an important — but largely unrecognized — authority on military small arms of the 20th century. Piznak can still be found each year manning the high-power-rifle match towers at Camp Perry.

Stevens' three-volume FAL series stands as a landmark in the field of small-arms research, to which many aspire, but few will achieve. Detailed, all-encompassing, written in an organized, lucid manner and presenting material found nowhere else, this series is destined to remain the final word on its subject matter. All those who love the FAL and all serious students of military weaponry must own the entire set. At total cost of \$100 I would prefer a better index and hard-cover binding — but given the monumental stature of the work, this gripe is nit-picking of the meanest sort. Most highly recommended.



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I WAS THERE

by Helen Livingston
as told to M.L. Jones

In England, at the end of World War II, Mrs. Helen Livingston was the day nurse on a ward of Americans who had been prisoners of war in Germany. As she tells it:

THE American ex-POWs who were on our ward were not sick, but they had to be cleared medically before returning to the States. Allowed evening passes off post, they returned to their "sick" beds in various stages of revelry.

The night nurse, a stickler for routine, would turn on the ward lights promptly at five a.m. and loudly announce, "Time to rise and shine." The sleeper men had to be dragged out of bed to join the others already on their feet.

The men complied for a while, but the night nurse's routine soon became the "enemy." And with the initiative of our fighting forces, they found the enemy's weakness — and attacked.

One morning when she turned on the lights, the nurse was faced with a horrible decision. There, like gun emplacements, were 30 pajama bottoms — each one folded neatly over the foot of its bed.

From that time on, the night nurse respected the men's silent victory.

IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Bob Pace
as told to M.L. Jones

Bob Pace is now a security police officer with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Washington state, but in 1966 he served with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, in Vietnam. On 8 August during Operation Prairie, his platoon supported a recon-team extraction. After 20 Marines were lifted off the DZ, the remaining 21 were surrounded by a reinforced NVA company. For the next 14 hours, Sgt. Pace, although wounded, directed a successful perimeter defense. But his story is about another patrol on an earlier day, when he was new to the 'Nam. As he tells it:

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THIS was my first real search-and-destroy mission. The platoon leader had assigned me to the right-guide position, sort of assistant platoon sergeant. I was responsible for chow and ammo and things like that. The heat was getting to me even though I'd cut the sleeves off my utility shirt. I was proud of the jungle sling I'd rigged for my M14 and the taped magazines for quick firing. I could feel the weight of my .45 which I wore reversed on my left side, and I felt good about it even though I'd heard that Charlie liked to go for radiomen and those wearing .45s.

The platoon was walking along a road. Then we crossed down into a rice paddy toward a small village to our front. I was thinking about how good a cold beer would taste when I felt my body lift up into the air. I came down in the paddy face-first and I could hear firing — mostly small arms and mortars. At first, I couldn't find my helmet and rifle, but then I grabbed them and headed for cover. The other Marines had dived for cover and were returning fire. My M14 was covered with mud. I checked to make sure its muzzle was clear and then joined in the firing.

Suddenly, from my left I heard a man yell: "The steeple on that church!"

I looked and saw an old mission to our left. We had failed to check it out. Now an observer was in the steeple, directing

fire on us. The platoon quickly turned its fire onto the steeple — M60s, M14s and M79s began to blast at the mission. Chunks of the wall chipped off, and the steeple began to crumble as the rounds ripped into it.

Then everything fell silent. Slowly, cautiously, the Marines rose and approached the mission, their rifles waving back and forth, sweeping the area, looking for movement. As we neared the front of the building, we saw its large, old doors lying flat, torn by rounds, splintered into pieces.

Most of us were young; all of us were unshaven and tough. We walked inside and approached the smoke-shrouded altar. We nervously looked up, down and all round. My .45 was in my hand. As we drew closer to the altar, we stopped in awe. Up on the wall was a large picture of Jesus Christ, surrounded by huge holes from the weapons — but the picture was untouched. I'm no religious nut, but I felt very humble, and many of the Marines made the sign of the cross before moving out the side door.

Outside we formed back up. The platoon had been lucky — no KIAs — but we had six wounded, two seriously (and later I found a hole in my helmet liner). I was smoking a cigarette and talking to the platoon leader, when a crash echoed from inside the mission. Before we could react,

the roof caved in and the building disintegrated. No one gave any commands, but the platoon saddled up without a word and moved out back to the war. I don't know about the others, but I for one did not look back.



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.

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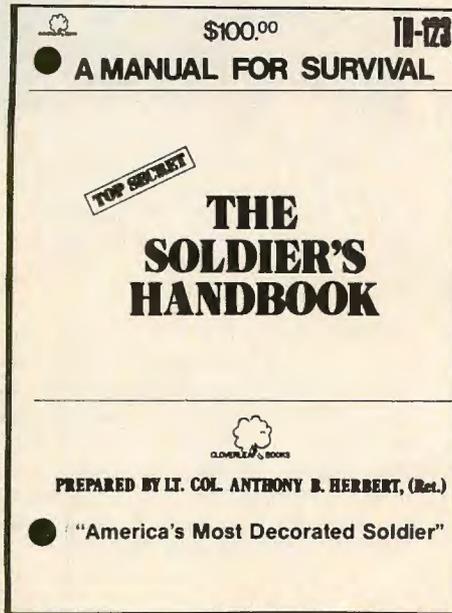
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THIS TEXT IS A VIRTUAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EXTRAORDINARY TECHNIQUES AND TIPS ON HOW TO FIGHT, PROTECT YOURSELF AND KILL! HOW TO BLOW UP THINGS AND COMMIT MAYHEM! AND SURVIVE. THE OPENING CHAPTERS DISTILL COURAGE AND DECISION MAKING TO BASIC TECHNIQUES WHICH DO AWAY WITH LABORIOUS EXERCISES AND TIME CONSUMING TRAINING. IT REDUCES HAND TO HAND COMBAT TO THE VERY ESSENTIALS OF HOW TO KILL SUDDENLY WITH YOUR BARE HANDS IN WAYS WHICH CAN BE LEARNED IN SECONDS; HOW TO FIGHT WITH A KNIFE THE FIRST TIME YOU PICK ONE UP, CORRECTLY, SIMPLY AND EFFECTIVELY! HOW TO CONSTRUCT LETHAL EXPEDIENT EXPLOSIVE DEVICES FROM BASE HOUSEHOLD-GROCERY ITEMS; HOW TO SURREPTITIOUSLY ENTER BUILDINGS, OFFICES, SAFES, FILE CABINETS, DESKS AND VEHICLES; PROFESSIONAL METHODS OF ASSASSINATION THAT REQUIRE NO SPECIAL SKILLS OR EQUIPMENT OR PRACTICE; TIPS ON SURVIVAL IN JUNGLES, THE ARCTIC, ON THE DESERT, AND IN BARROOMS, OR ON THE STREETS; THE BASIC KNOTS AND ROPE TRICKS WHICH PERMIT YOU TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING WITH A ROPE SHORT OF SERVING IT FOR DINNER; HOW TO CONSTRUCT EXPEDIENT WEAPONS AND SILENCERS; EMERGENCY NO-NONSENSE COMBAT FIRST AID; PATROL TIPS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE ON RAIDS, AMBUSHES, ESTABLISHMENT OF CLANDESTINE BASES, COUNTER-AMBUSH TECHNIQUES, SEARCH, HANDLING OF POWS; AND MORE!—BY AMERICA'S MOST DECORATED AND COMPLETE SOLDIER—TONY HERBERT. AND IT FITS INTO YOUR FATIGUE TROUSER POCKET—ALL 600 PLUS PAGES.

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Los Angeles Herald Examiner, Wednesday, Aug. 27

The book's already a big hit among old military hands, narcotics folk, cops, corporations and individuals with more than just a little to protect. And, promises Herbert, the book will be updated periodically. Which might prove necessary. After all, you never know when another Noble Cause may come loping around the next corner. □

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SOF Interviews Machine Gun Master



by Peter G. Kokalis

AMONG the military small-arms technicians of the Western world, no name is more revered than that of Lt. Col. George M. Chinn (USMC, Ret.). And justifiably so, for Chinn's four-volume series, *The Machine Gun*, first published by the Bureau of Ordnance, Department of the Navy, in 1952, remains the ultimate reference work in the specialized area of automatic weapons.

Original sets of *The Machine Gun* are now selling for more than \$500 in the rare-book market and all four volumes have been privately reprinted. And now, in an exclusive interview with *SOF's* military

small-arms editor, Peter G. Kokalis, this spritely, very much alert octogenarian announces his intention to commence work on Volume V of his historic series.

SOF: When did you first become involved with machine guns, Col. Chinn?

CHINN: In 1939, when I was transferred to Frigidaire to serve my apprenticeship, after they stopped making refrigerators and started to manufacture machine guns. I was sent in on that project. They were going to produce the caliber .50 M2 Basic. You could make seven different versions from the one receiver. Col. Samuel Green of the U.S. Army, formerly a professor of

mathematics at Georgia Tech, was the unsung hero who standardized the procedure for doing this.

SOF: When did you get the idea to write about machine guns?



Al Nordeen fires Browning M2 HB .50-cal. machine gun of type Col. Chinn helped to develop in 1939 as young Marine Corps officer. Note telescopic sight and empty case ejecting on right side of the receiver. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

CHINN: Between WWII and the Korean War, we had accumulated such a large body of material from test data (I spent my entire career testing machine guns) and so many conflicting stories that I approached the Bureau of Ordnance to see if it would entertain the idea of putting this material together in some kind of readable fashion. And its people agreed.

Continued on page 92

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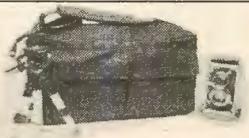
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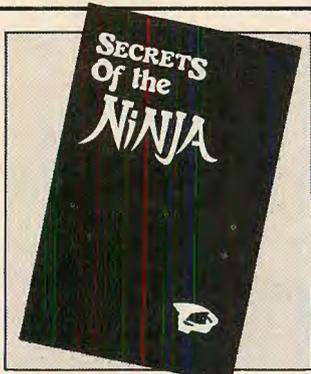
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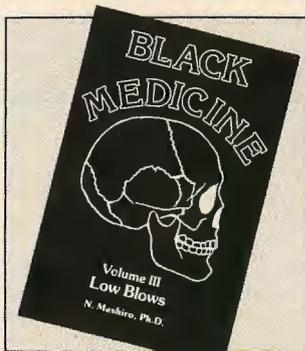
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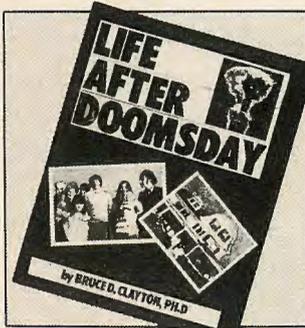
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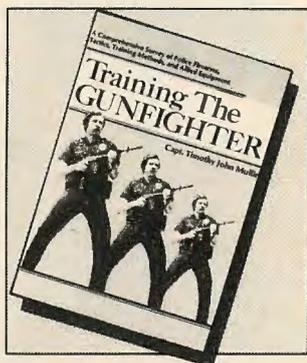
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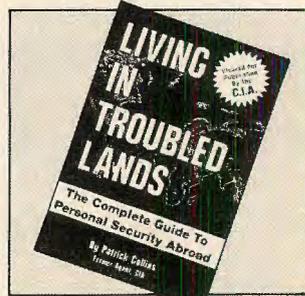


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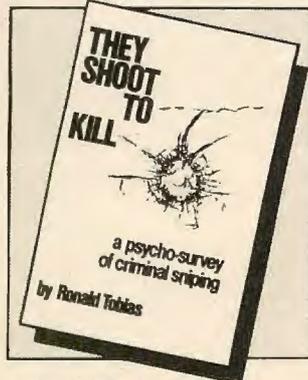
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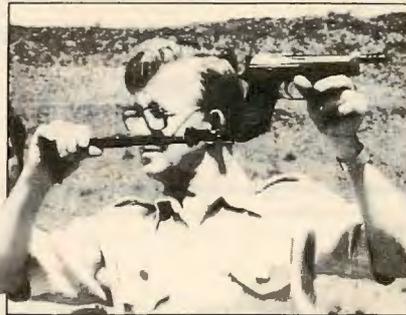
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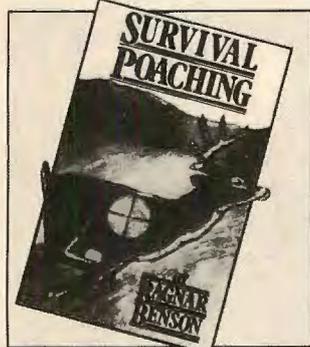
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by John Sanchez

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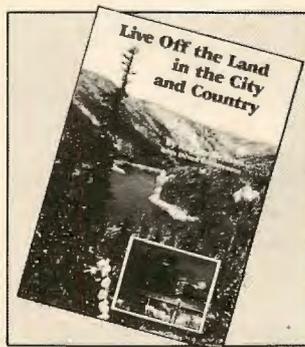
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by Ragnar Benson

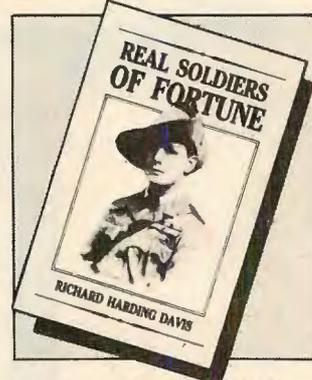
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by Richard Harding Davis

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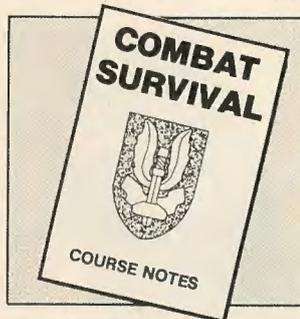
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AARON BANK SAGA

Part 1:

Master Spy, Master Soldier



In the midst of the Great Depression, an unemployed lifeguard fresh from the opulent spas of Europe joined the U.S. Army as a buck private at the unlikely age of 30. When he retired as a full colonel 24 years later, he closed the book on a career that included service as a spy, guerrilla leader, and founder of the Green Berets. His name is Aaron Bank, and this is the first of a two-part article on his remarkable exploits.

It was early 1942. The United States was frantically mobilizing its resources for total war against the Axis powers. The War Department was looking for likely candidates to serve in the newly formed Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the fledgling intelligence and dirty-tricks outfit.

Aaron Bank seemed like a natural. Although an American by birth, he had

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert J. Caldwell's 1966-67 Vietnam stint included service with the 272nd Military Police Company assigned to II Corps headquarters in Nha Trang. He was briefly attached to the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division operating in Phu Yen Province and subsequently participated in Operations Irving and Thayer with units of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Binh Dinh Province.

Caldwell is now an editorial writer and reporter for the *San Diego Union*. He has written extensively on political and military developments in Southeast Asia. His analysis of the late-1980 Southeast Asian scene, "Hanoi's Hit List," appeared in *SOF*, January '81. — M.L. Jones

OSS Trojan horse: German defectors dressed as mountain-infantry company of Wehrmacht. Mission, code-named Iron Cross, was to capture Hitler before he could reach Alpine fastness of Germany's "National Redoubt." Capt. Aaron Bank is on left in first rank. Photo: Courtesy Aaron Bank

spent years in Europe, making his living as a lifeguard at plush spas. He spoke reasonably fluent French, and fair German; was quick-witted, adventurous and in robust health.

Moreover, Aaron Bank already had years of intelligence experience. While other GIs were practicing close-order drill and peeling potatoes, Aaron Bank was traveling Hitler's pre-war Germany as a frequent "tourist" dressed in civilian clothes. Unlike other rubber-necking visitors out to view Germany's many historical and cultural attractions,

Bank spent a suspicious amount of time doing things like driving through the Siegfried Line, then under construction along the Reich's western frontiers.

He also took an unusual interest in the Wehrmacht and its new equipment, the political attitudes of civilians, Hitler's popularity among the people, and other items of information useful to superiors who considered it very likely indeed that Germany might soon be an enemy.

For the record, Aaron Bank maintains to this day that his "vacations" in Germany were just that. But he doesn't deny that he picked up a wealth of information that was welcomed by people in Washington who had nothing whatsoever to do with the travel business.

After receiving a direct commission as a second lieutenant and training as an infantry officer, Bank submitted his name to OSS recruiters looking for volunteers willing to undertake unspecified missions in Europe. Summoned to Washington and ordered to report to OSS headquarters in civilian clothes, Bank was accepted for training. He was told to collect his gear and, still in civvies, take a taxi to the "top secret" OSS training school operating under cover at the posh Congressional Country Club.

It proved an inauspicious introduction to the cloak-and-dagger world of the OSS. When he flagged down a taxi and gave his destination, the driver responded with a knowing wink. "Oh, you're going to that commando-training center," the cabbie said.

At the converted golf club in suburban Maryland, Bank and the other OSS recruits were schooled in the small-unit tactics appropriate to partisan warfare against the Germans in occupied Europe. Then came more rigorous training, including mock sabotage and ambush operations, at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va.

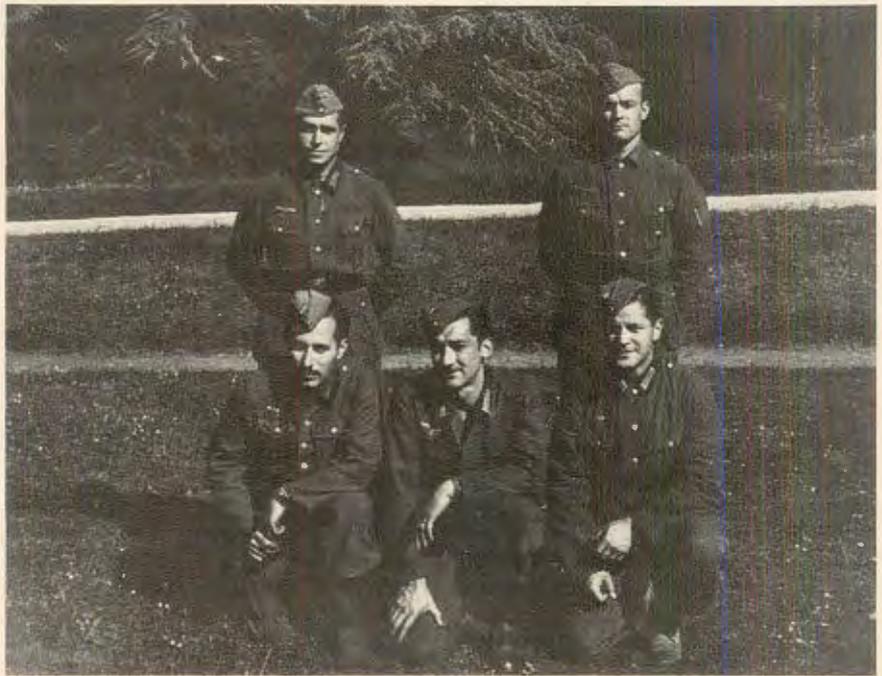
Recruits were then given a choice between joining the 30-man operational groups being formed for further training in the States, or being shipped to Britain for more intensive preparations for actual operations in Europe. Bank chose the latter because the OSS made it clear that those going to Britain would be among the first to see action.

At that point — early 1943 — OSS volunteers arriving in England were being trained by Britain's experienced and highly regarded Special Operations Executive (SOE), a clandestine group organizing sabotage and partisan operations behind German lines. SOE's secret training sites included several of the private estates that dotted the English countryside. One of these was Wilton Hall, the baronial home of a British industrialist 90 miles from London.

On the tranquil grounds that surrounded Wilton Hall's 16th-century manor house, Bank and the Americans

honed their dark skills to deadly perfection. They qualified on all standard German, French and British small arms. They learned to kill silently with knife, wire, rope or bare hands. They were taught escape and evasion, demolitions, radio communications, intelligence gathering, and how to establish networks of agents. The training syllabus also included a short course at the British army jump school. Their instructors were experts — British, French and Norwegian officers and NCOs who were already veterans of partisan warfare in occupied Europe.

It was no school for the careless, the unfit, or the squeamish. At each stage of the training, men were weeded out and returned to regular army units. Those that remained were the best of the best. They had to be. Their assigned mission, code-named Operation Jedburg, was to "set France aflame" in preparation for the allied invasion.



The plan called for three-man teams to be parachuted into occupied France at prearranged points where they would rendezvous with members of the French resistance. Each team, consisting of one American or British officer, one French liaison officer, and one radio operator, would then attempt to organize hundreds of partisans. Arms, ammunition, explosives and other equipment would later be air-dropped to the partisans on instructions from the OSS teams. Thus, thousands of guerrillas were to be recruited, organized, armed, given rudimentary training, and brought under a central command able to coordinate and direct their activities against the Germans on the eve of the greatest amphibious invasion in history.

Bridges were to be blown, roads mined, rail lines cut, convoys ambushed,

and rear-echelon German units harassed.

If Operation Jedburg succeeded, it would wreak havoc in the German rear areas, disrupting supply, communications, and the movement of reinforcements to the invasion front. If it failed, the price would be paid in blood by the allied assault forces. And any OSS members caught by the Germans would, of course, be lucky to escape a firing squad.

In March 1944, some 20 OSS teams were selected to support the planned invasion of southern France that was to follow Operation Overlord, the Normandy landings. These teams, Bank's included, were shipped to Algiers for a final round of training before jumping into France.

The go signal for Bank's three-man team came during the first week in June, only days before the cross-Channel invasion of Normandy but nearly 10 weeks

Five Americans assigned to Iron Cross mission. Capt. Bank, commander of Iron Cross Company, stands on left. German uniforms made Americans subject to summary execution if caught. Photo: Courtesy of Aaron Bank

before the second allied invasion force would land on the French Riviera. Bank's drop zone was a rocky plateau 5,000 feet up in the rugged Massif Central overlooking the Rhone River Valley some 100 miles north of Marseille. A French army captain, who would serve as liaison officer, and a French lieutenant-radio operator completed the team.

The three dropped from the belly of an RAF Liberator shortly after midnight. On landing, Bank rolled and struck his head on a rock. Momentarily

dazed, he could not remember the identification sentence he was to use to establish his bona fides with the French partisans waiting at the drop zone.

Staring down the muzzles of two Sten guns refreshed his memory and the team then collected the 10 bundles dropped by the Liberator on its second pass. In addition to the team radio and M1 carbines for Bank and his two French officers, the bundles contained .45-caliber grease guns, BARs, British Bren guns and Lee-Enfield rifles for the partisans; combat rations, medical supplies, boots—a treasured commodity in France—ammunition and four million French francs.

Still a bit woozy from his hard landing, Bank was horrified when the comparative silence of the drop zone was shattered by a loud argument between partisans squabbling over pairs of combat boots that had spilled from a bundle. So, Aaron Bank's first task in German-occupied France was to separate quarreling partisans who hadn't seen a new pair of boots in years.

Trust No One And Keep Moving

An even more unnerving experience was to follow. The resistance had arranged for a truck to transport Bank, his team members, and the bundles from the drop zone to the designated site of his first base camp. As the sputtering truck with the OSS team concealed under a tarpaulin rolled through the French mountain villages that morning, Bank could hear civilians shouting, "*Vive les Américains, vive les Américains.*" Obviously their arrival was anything but the closely held secret it should have been.

And if the villagers knew, the Germans might know as well.

Nevertheless, Bank allowed himself to be talked into breakfast and a few hours' sleep at a safe house in Colle de Dez, a village not far from the prearranged spot for his base camp. Members of the local Maquis assured Bank that there was nothing to worry about. Every road leading to the village would be watched and the local telephone system could be used to warn of any approaching German patrols.

But Bank and his team members had no sooner fallen asleep than they were rudely awakened by a resistance man who burst into their room with the news that the Germans were right at the edge of the village. The three agents grabbed their clothes and weapons and went out the back window of their ground-floor room. Dressed only in underwear and boots, they raced up the nearby mountain.

The German patrol searched the house but failed to find the one telltale sign that the OSS team had been there—the field radio the French lieutenant had concealed under a woodpile in the cellar. A day later, a Maquis runner retrieved it. The lesson was plain enough: Trust no one and never stay in the same place twice.

The Germans didn't know it at the time, but they had come within minutes of catching a man who was to give them fits during the next three months.

Initially, the job of the Bank team was less to fight than to train others to fight, and to arrange the delivery of arms. Resistance forces, both Free French nationalists and French communists, were operating, but shortages of arms and ammunition limited their activity and the numbers of partisans who could be recruited.

Bank's radio link to the OSS headquarters in Algiers would enable him to arrange frequent night drops of small arms, including automatic weapons and light mortars.

But first, the leaders of local resistance groups had to be trained so that they in turn could train the newly recruited partisans for whom the arms were intended.

The plan was for Bank and his two French officers to move from one group to another, conducting training courses and calling in arms drops. Using a Citroen sedan "requisitioned" from a local French physician and a motorcycle purchased openly, the team crisscrossed the countryside north of Marseille and west of the Rhone Valley.

Traveling the roads posed definite hazards. Bank spoke French well enough to fool the average German manning a checkpoint, but his accent would surely betray him if he were to be questioned by a member of the Milice, a Vichyite police organization cooperating with the Germans.

Incredibly, the OSS had provided no French papers. The only "document" Bank had identifying him as a local French citizen was a resistance-supplied membership card for an amateur soccer team! And, had the Citroen been searched thoroughly, the Germans would certainly have found the carbines, Bren guns and radio that Bank and those traveling with him usually carried.

But a combination of prudence and luck, plus some timely warnings from the local resistance network, enabled Bank to avoid nearly all of the German roadblocks. And on the few occasions when he was stopped, he managed to talk his way past what must have been some rather lax Germans.

Within a week of landing in France, the Bank team had contacted most of the local resistance bands throughout the southern fringe of the Massif Central.

Training classes, which typically

numbered 30 or 40 cadres drawn from partisan groups in the immediate area, were run through a demanding two or three-day course in sabotage, demolitions, weapons instruction, radio communications and ambush techniques.

Air drops would then be arranged to supply the rapidly expanding partisan groups with weapons, explosives, medical supplies and ammunition.

Meanwhile, the French army captain accompanying Bank established a sabotage network that eventually stretched to Marseille. A second network responsible for intelligence was also set up, and a



OSS agent Aaron Bank (center) flanked by two French officers who were members of his Operation Jedburg team. Civilians were French resistance leader (far right) and his wife (left). Citroen sedan was "requisitioned" from French doctor. Photo was taken in September 1944 near Ales, France, shortly after Germans were driven from the area. Photo: Courtesy Aaron Bank

third organization was put together to pass down Allied fliers along a string of safe houses leading to the Spanish frontier. Local French doctors were recruited to treat wounded partisans. The black market was tapped for gasoline and other sundry supplies not included in the air drops.

In short, by mid-July the Bank team had built the foundations of a formidable guerrilla force ready and indeed eager to escalate the shadow war against German occupation troops. Allied forces were already fighting in Normandy and resistance groups in northern France were doing everything possible to disrupt the German rear areas. It was time to draw blood in the south.

One particularly inviting target was the power grid that supplied much of southern France with electricity from

hydro-electric stations high in the mountains. The power stations were too heavily guarded to attack directly, so Bank's partisans used their newly acquired explosives to knock down the high-tension pylons and transmission lines. At one point, they succeeded in cutting off power all the way to Lyon, where French factories under German control were turning out armored vehicles for the Wehrmacht. Rail lines presented tempting targets, and Bank's men kept German repair crews busy patching together blown tracks. The road net was also essential to German supply and



communication. Accordingly, bridges and culverts also proved profitable places to invest some of the demolitions air-dropped at Bank's request. The sabotage network even managed to damage vital port facilities in Marseille under the very noses of the Germans.

Not all sabotage required the use of scarce explosives. Bank had tutored his students in such field expedients as slipping sand into the axle boxes of railroad cars. That would eventually cause the wheels to lock, which frequently produced a derailment.

And while the sabotage network was making life miserable for the Germans, the intelligence agents recruited and organized by Bank's French captain were providing a steady flow of information on troop movements, unit locations and fortifications, all useful to allied planners mapping the invasion of southern France. This vital data was transmitted to the OSS in Algiers as part of Bank's three daily radio reports.

Most of the units assigned to the German 19th Army, which was responsible for the defense of southern France, were deployed along the Mediterranean coast or in garrisons guarding the lines of communication and supply that ran through such major cities as Lyon, Avignon, and Grenoble. Smaller gar-

risons were scattered through the mountains above the Rhone Valley. The Germans used convoys and motorized patrols to supply these garrisons and to maintain roving patrols in the countryside.

The road-bound convoys and patrols made ideal targets for the classic ambush tactics Bank had drilled into his partisans. The typical ambush pitted perhaps 40 guerrillas against a German unit of company size or less in trucks and light reconnaissance vehicles. Some patrols and convoys also included one or two light tanks or armored cars.

Bank selected ambush sites based on the terrain with special emphasis on narrow defiles, curves in the road, and the proximity of high ground that could be occupied by the partisans. A blocking element equipped with machine guns, satchel charges and grenades would immobilize the lead vehicle and thus halt the unit. Machine-gun teams at the far end of the ambush site would keep the trailing vehicles under fire and prevent the convoy from retreating. The bulk of the partisan force would then open up, raking the Germans with rifle and automatic-weapons fire and hurling grenades. Demolition cord, when available, would be strung along the roadside ditches and detonated when a sufficient number of Germans had sought cover there.

After three or four minutes of mayhem, Bank would blow his whistle and the partisans would scatter to frustrate pursuit. Later, they would rendezvous at a previously designated rally site three or four miles from the ambush scene.

The more experienced, better trained German units would react to an ambush by trying to free enough troops at the front or rear of the convoy to flank the partisans. But Bank never stayed long enough for such counterattacks to develop.

The frustrated Germans also had other ways to discourage ambushes. Once the partisans had melted away, the Germans would proceed to the nearest village, round up half-a-dozen young men, and shoot them. Before long, local mayors were demanding that Bank stop ambushing units near their towns.

When the partisans tried staging ambushes at midway points between two towns, the enraged Germans simply took reprisals in both. The resulting clamor was such that Bank had to call off ambushes in some areas altogether.

Throughout July and early August, Bank and his radio operator had listened each night for the coded sentences that would signal the start of Operation Anvil, the invasion of southern France.

When word came on the eve of the 15 August landings, the Bank team and other Jedburg groups in southern France

received new orders. Allied planners guessed correctly that the outnumbered Germans would mount only token resistance along the coast before withdrawing north up the Rhone Valley toward Lyon and then northeast to the Vosges Mountains and the German frontier. The Jedburg team leaders were ordered to concentrate their partisans and try to keep the retreating Germans bottled up along a single line of retreat up the Rhone. There, they would remain vulnerable to a steady pounding from the air.

Keep The Germans Near The Rhone

As expected, the American and Free French landings between Cannes and Toulon encountered only spotty resistance. But strong German garrisons in Toulon and Marseille fought stubbornly to deny the allies use of these key ports. Meanwhile, the bulk of 19th Army's troops began withdrawing up the Rhone Valley exactly as the allies had anticipated. Heavy air strikes were laid on, and it wasn't long before some German units began to break off from the line of march to seek less hazardous routes through the mountains.

The choke point for Germans trying to move west out of the valley was the small city of Ales, center of a road net linking the Rhone Valley with the southeastern edge of the Massif Central. It was here that Bank gathered his resistance fighters, now some 3,000 strong. Reorganizing the partisans into light infantry battalions, Bank deployed his command as a blocking force to deflect fleeing Germans back into the Rhone Valley. He established his command post at a cafe in the outskirts of Ales and waited for the first word of an approaching German column.

The residents of Ales were in a joyously festive mood. The city's garrison had pulled out and the arrival of the partisans spelled liberation, or so it seemed. French flags were unfurled all over town. The fire-department band paraded in the streets. Restaurants and cafes were crowded with celebrating citizens.

And then a runner dashed into Bank's headquarters cafe to report that a German unit was coming up the road from the valley. Within minutes, the city resembled a ghost town. The flags came down, shutters were bolted, the shops closed up, and not a soul could be seen on the streets. Just beyond the city limits, the German column struck the first of Bank's battalions. A brisk fire fight ensued, but the Germans had no
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CONGO'S OPERATION DRAGON ROUGE

Mad Mike & The Air Mercs Relieve Stanleyville

by W.C. Moessmer

Little has been written about the mercenary forces and their role in fighting the communist-backed Simba revolt in the Congo, 1962-64. The ground mercenary commander, Col. "Mad Mike" Hoare, published a book entitled Congo Mercenary, and was hired as technical adviser for the movie, Wild Geese. To my knowledge, nothing has been written about the Americans in the Congo who supported the central government, as there was limited publicity and little general interest in African and Third World affairs at that time.

—W.C.M.

GARY Powers' misfortune — being shot down by a surface-to-air missile over Russia — indirectly led to my employment as a USAF Air Operations adviser.

I was president of a small, undercapitalized supplemental air carrier and the financial recession of 1962-63 was taking its toll on many businesses like mine.

I read that Powers was making \$30,000 a year as a high-altitude recon pilot, so with 6,000 flight hours, including carrier combat in WWII and Korea and 1,300 hours of jet time, I applied for a pilot's job.

After a couple of months and reams of forms, I was called to an interview in Washington, D.C.

The encounter was a bust. With my dossier in his hands, the interviewing officer kept asking about my transport and helicopter experience; I had little of the first and none of the latter. The confrontation ended after five minutes with him informing me that the high-altitude program had been turned back to active-duty USAF personnel. I wondered why they had bothered to waste my time.

A few days later, I had another call from the voice in D.C. He requested that I return, as they had found a job "ideally suited" to my background and experience. I was informed that I should plan on staying five days for testing, but after they had dragged by I didn't give a damn



if I made it or not. The physical, mental and psychological tests were very thorough.

I was notified that I had passed and been accepted. I was assigned to the air branch.

My first assignment was to direct an air-transport company in Bolivia, but this job fell through — I learned that the LaPaz Airport was 13,000 feet above sea-level and the altitude would not permit operating with the equipment already planned for use. (This bit of news came after I had sold my house, taken five children from school — and told a pack of lies to my friends as to why I was moving to Bolivia.) The exercise was scrubbed, and I was told to “keep in touch” as they were looking for another

position for me. My opinion of the outfit's professionalism was not high, and my acquaintances wondered about my sanity.

About four days later, I got a call asking me to consider taking over a tactical operation in the Congo. Like most Americans at that time I knew that the Congo was in Africa, but had no idea of its geographical location. However, I was ready to get actively involved in “the business.” I accepted.

Arriving at Bolling AFB, I reported in at the air branch and was sent to get a passport, visas, USAF identification papers, travel advance, tickets and other items relating to my departure. I left D.C. late that day, changed planes at LaGuardia and was on my way to the *Republique Democratique du Congo* — the former Belgian Congo. It was May 1964. The urgency in getting me to Africa came because an American pilot serving there had been shot down on a mission and was hospitalized in Leopoldville. I was to relieve him for “90 days temporary duty” or until he returned to flying status.

At Ndjili Airport, Leopoldville, I was met at Customs by Col. Al White, a USAF officer who had flown in from the Philippines to assist me in the transition and to gather a “shopping list” of things that were required to make the Congolese Air Force effective against the communist-backed Simba rebels. Following introductions, I asked about the other pilot's condition, since I had known him in Arizona. White hedged. Then he told me that the pilot had been air-evacuated and died on a stopover in the Azores.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

W.C. Moessmer enlisted as a Naval Aviation cadet in 1942 and was commissioned ensign in 1944, going aboard the USS *Shangri La* as a Corsair pilot in Bombing-Fighting Squadron 85. He saw action at Wake and Okinawa and air strikes over Japan in which he shot down three enemy aircraft and destroyed 12 on the ground. Moessmer was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

After WWII, Moessmer attended the University of South Carolina. He was recalled to active duty in 1948 and served as a division leader in Fighter Squadron 52, flying Panther jets from the USS *Valley Forge* during the Korean “police” action. He was awarded the Navy Commendation and three Air Medals. His post-war duties included air-to-air guided-missile test pilot, heavy-attack-aircraft commander, continental ferry pilot, jet instructor and command liaison officer for the Naval Air Reserve.

Moessmer went on inactive duty in 1960 when he accepted a position as general manager of a supplemental air carrier. In 1963 he took a job as a civilian USAF air-operations specialist, serving in the Congo and Laos. He resigned in 1966 to take a flying job with Continental Air Services in Saigon. Moessmer was a military marketing representative for McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Co. and Standard Armament Co. He was self-employed in Florida until he returned to St. Louis in 1977.



ABOVE: Congolese soldier uses FAL to make Simbas into good Simbas. **LEFT:** 5 Commando merc keeps tight grip on 84mm Carl Gustaf M2 RCL with Swedish 9mm Model 45 SMG in foreground. Photos: Black Star

My first weeks as an "air operations specialist" were spent becoming acquainted with the "Third National" Cuban pilots, meeting with Belgian officers attached to the Congolese staff, meeting State Department personnel, learning my way around Leopoldville and forming a warm friendship with the two U.S. Marine colonels who headed up the U.S. Strike Command Detachment. These characters helped me considerably in the days ahead when I needed help in transporting personnel and materiel for the "Instant Air Force": a title bestowed on the pilotless Congolese Air Force because of the overnight arrival of pilots, planes, support personnel, and, of course, the money which mysteriously arrived to aid the Belgians in their feeble attempt to check the savage Simbas, who controlled more than two-thirds of the Congo.

There were about 14 Cuban pilots on board and it was immediately apparent that neither their morale nor physical health was good. They had been getting little logistical support or supplies, since they had been recruited for the Congolese government. Most were waiting for their six-months' contracts to expire so that they could collect a bonus and go home. Some, including the chief pilot, had advanced cases of malaria. Others suffered from malnutrition.

White and I worked on the "shopping list." We strongly urged that a well-staffed maintenance organization be formed, that additional T-28 fighters and B-26K bombers be obtained, that complete inventories of spare aircraft parts be on hand, two transport aircraft be sent over and that at least 10 vehicles be delivered to alleviate ground-transport problems. White left for the States and soon thereafter the necessities began to arrive, along with the personnel who were forming WIGMO — "the Western International Ground Maintenance Organization." It was indeed international: incorporated in Lichtenstein, managed by Americans, and staffed by more than 200 European mercenaries.

From that meager beginning our cup runneth over. The T-28 complement was increased to 16 and the B-26Ks began arriving.

Two C-46s were flown over and additional Cuban pilots signed on through the pipeline. Many were smuggled in because they lacked passports. The situation improved daily and I could discern much better morale developing as the Cubans realized that someone had finally become concerned about them.

I had been briefed: I was not to become directly involved in any actual combat flying. This order was due in part to the death of my predecessor (who was not military-trained and should never have been assigned a tactical position) and in part to the U.S. policy of no direct military involvement.



As usual, the American government "deplored" Simba aggression but insisted on a hands-off posture in military matters. My major functions were to assign and supervise contract personnel for up-country detachments; to instruct the tyro pilots in formation flying, gunnery and rocket training; to coordinate with the WIGMO manager in repair and maintenance scheduling; to liaison with the Embassy; to cooperate with the Belgian air officers at ANC (*Armee Nationale Congolese*: National Congolese Army) headquarters — and, under the table, to lend assistance to Mike Hoare and his Five Commando mercenary force. The U.S. government "deplored" the need to employ South African and Rhodesian fighters; however, there was no choice. It was the mercs or Simba domination of all the Congo. Whenever Hoare made a request that I could fulfill, it was done. We formed a friendship which still endures.

Eventually, the air force became organized and had two or three air detachments up-country. These groups consisted of four to six pilots, four T-28 aircraft, about 25 WIGMO personnel — and Hoare would provide one to two platoons of the Five Commando to conduct raids and provide airstrip security. The B-26s operated from Kamina Base in support of the bulk of Five Commando when Hoare mounted major attacks against the rebels.

The detachments were tied into Ndjili

by a single-side-band network to pass intelligence, mission results, aircraft status and requests for provisions and parts. The C-46s were dispatched out of Leopoldville to shuttle around the bush, delivering and exchanging items between the detachments.

Stanleyville was the main source of apprehension for the U.S.-Belgian-Congolese bloc. The city, which normally had 125,000 inhabitants, had been captured by a rebel general named Olenga, and although most of the U.S. diplomatic staff had been air-evacuated, two consulate members were captured along with hundreds of other whites of various nationalities.

Olenga had warned over Radio Stanleyville that if even one airplane flew over the city, an execution of the white prisoners would begin. All International Red Cross appeals for release of the hostages were rejected.

Naturally, there was concern about getting the hostages out, but no one had any information as to their location in Stanleyville. We could not get our paid Congolese contacts to go into the area, because all Congolese, including the ANC, were terrified by the Simbas.

Approval was finally granted for an arrangement to fly in 16 Cuban commandos. This force would traverse the Congo River in power boats, somehow locate the prisoners and then, hopefully, remove them. Our planes would provide air cover and supplies as requested. Ev-



TOP: Knowing how a jeep can draw fire, circumspect merc lieutenant Masy searches dead Simba rebel for papers.

ABOVE: Captured rebel talks fast to Congolese black and white merc captors, but not fast enough. He was shot just after this picture was taken. Photos: Black Star

everything was set for the run up-river. However, just then "Mad Mike" Hoare decided to launch his Five Commando mercenary column from Kamina Base. The American and Belgian diplomatic corps believed that Hoare would never make it. He faced a trip of 800 miles through Simba-controlled territory; he had neither supply base nor train. His trucks and vehicles were old and makeshift; his small band of South Africans, Rhodesians and European guns-for-hire was too greatly outnumbered to be effective. The U.S. Embassy decided to delay the Cubans' mission, pending further news of Hoare's endeavor to relieve Stanleyville. (The diplomatic brains were wrong as usual.)

Two days went by and to the amazement of all concerned — except Prime Minister Tshombe for whom Hoare's mercenaries had fought in Katanga — the column clicked off about 120 kilometers a day. At that rate he would near Stanleyville within a week. The concern now was whether he could pull off the capture before all the whites were killed. The American and Belgian staffs frantically huddled and decided to mount a joint operation to orchestrate with Hoare's attack on Stan.

I was called at the airport and instructed to report ASAP and meet with my boss. At that time the Leopoldville police had no motorized equipment, so the run to the city was full-throttle. In 10 minutes I was in town and immediately ushered into the boss's office; there was no wait as was customary, so I figured I was on the grill for some night-action screw-up. When offered coffee, I felt more at ease.

He said, "I might as well get to the point," and motioned me to a seat. "This morning 350 Belgian paratroopers were flown from Brussels to the Azores aboard Air Force C-130s. Tomorrow, or later today, they will be flown to Kamina Base and then they will be dropped on Stanleyville in an attempt to rescue the prisoners I'm aware of your orders not to become involved in any combat flying; however, because of the circumstances, we are countering that decision. You are the only experienced close-air-support pilot in the Congo and we are requesting that you cover the drop . . . this is a request, not an order."

"I'll take it." (A chance to have a go at our communist pals and no MiGs to contend with at the target area.)

"Good. Be at the briefing at Kamina at 0800 tomorrow. Ike Izaackson will be the mission commander. Report to him when you arrive there." He instructed me to take Bill, a paramilitary *type* and pyrotechnics expert, with me.

I left, called WIGMO to arrange for a transport, went home to pack my small kit and pick up my weapons and headed for Ndjili at red-line speed. At the WIGMO hangar I observed activity

around the C-46, and knew that Ray had things jelling for departure. I spotted Bill and realized that he had been contacted by the Embassy. I told Ray, the WIGMO manager, to have the two T-28s, which were in for maintenance, ready to go in the morning. I told Raul Perez, the Cuban chief pilot, that I would advise him where to meet me with the planes after I got to Kamina Base.

The flight to Kamina wasn't routine. Most of the few weather reports were obtained through pilot observations. Therefore, in a country as large as the Congo, these advisories were marginal at best. We anticipated, and ran into, a severe squall line about 45 minutes from our destination. Conditions became so hairy that I was tempted to turn back, but we literally bucked through and landed at midnight, parked near the C-130s and crawled into our sleeping bags.

The next morning, Bill and I hiked to the administration building to attend a briefing for "Dragon Rouge," code-name assigned the rescue operation, in deference to Belgian paratroopers' red berets. (They would, hopefully, be first into Stanleyville.)

Gathered in the lobby were some 30 or so military officers from the various countries represented in the Congo: Italians, Belgians, Israeli paratroopers, and about 20 USAF and Army personnel. No Congolese military or civilians were present. Our dirty, oily flight suits stood in marked contrast to those of the others, which displayed the starch of Leopoldville living. Col. Izaackson explained the op plan, which was to drop the 350 paratroopers at 0600 the following day, secure the airport area and immediately thereafter head for the city to free the captives before the execution threat could be carried out.

I was to take the two fighter planes to Punia, an airstrip about 90 miles south of Stanleyville that had been liberated by Hoare's mercenaries when they drove through en route to Stanleyville. An ANC platoon and a Belgian officer had been left there as a communications link with Kamina Base. We were to rendezvous with the C-130s as they approached the DZ and provide cover and close air support for the red berets on their request.

After the meeting broke up, I called Raul on the SSB in Leopoldville and told him to meet me at Kindu Airport, about 300 miles north of Kamina, with the T-28s. The C-46 took me to Kindu where I met Raul. We then flew to Punia, and the C-46 brought up the WIGMO personnel later in the afternoon, easing my mind about the security of the airstrip and planes.

Punia was located in the heart of rebel-controlled territory, and it was common knowledge in the Congo that if a fire fight broke out the ANC would haul



THE CONGO: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After Stanley's expedition to the Congo Basin in 1874, the Congo Free State was established under King Leopold II. This huge area of land belonged entirely to Leopold, and he used it basically as a forced-labor camp.

In 1908, international pressures forced Leopold to turn it over to the Belgian government as a chartered colony. Following WWII, because of U.S. and United Nations influence, Belgian King Baudouin granted the Congo premature independence and, ultimately, in July 1960, the country became self-governing.

Independence brought about a resurgence of intertribal conflicts. Then came Soviet intervention and atrocities against the whites and religious missions. Many whites fled the country, leaving behind their possessions and receiving nothing for their lifelong work. The continuing slaughter of the Belgian nationals who remained forced Belgium to recommit paratroop battalions to the Congo to protect its citizens from further bloodshed.

Dr. Moise Tshombe of Katanga and Kalonji of Kasai declared formal secession of those provinces from the central government. Both areas were pro-Western and intensely anti-communist; however, the UN, with U.S. assistance and blessing, sent 25,000 troops from 27 nations to the Congo to bring Katanga and Kasai back into the central government under President Patrice Lumumba. Sweden, that pillar of neutrality, even lent its F-86 jets to the cause and these planes bombed and strafed Katangese civilians and other targets in retaliation for the death of UN Secretary-General Daag Hammarskjold, whose death was incorrectly attributed to Dr. Tshombe.

Ghana, Guinea and Belgian socialists, all backed by Russia, deliberately stirred the diplomatic pot, assisting Lumumba's cause in the UN. A series of political maneuvers brought about Lumumba's downfall and death.

Joseph Kasavubu was elected president and, under pressure, he requested that Dr. Tshombe return from exile in Spain to become prime minister.

Tshombe returned, drawing cheers and crowds wherever he appeared. Through his popularity, he reunited the Congolese and made possible the ultimate defeat of the Simba (Lion) guerrilla revolt.

Shortly after the rebellion was crushed, Kasavubu dismissed Tshombe because he had become too popular. Then Gen. Mobutu Sesesako pulled off a military coup that deposed Kasavubu.

Tshombe again was forced into exile in Spain; however, his personal jet was hijacked over the Mediterranean, and he was imprisoned in Algeria. Neither the U.S. nor Belgian governments made any formal attempt to obtain his release.

Mike Hoare planned to stage a commando raid to rescue him; in fact, he contacted me regarding air-support for the mission, but for reasons known only to him, Hoare cancelled the operation. Tshombe died of a "heart attack" while in jail.

The "Mercenary Revolt" at Stanleyville under Jacques Schramm, a Belgian plantation owner — not a mercenary in the true sense — and a more recent communist-backed incursion in the city of Kolwezi (see "Jump into Shaba!", SOF, February '79), are the latest chapters in the history of instability and unrest in the Congo. On both of these occasions, Mobutu had to request foreign troops to put down the opposition. The ANC (*Armee Nationale Congolese*) hadn't improved in 15 years under Mobutu. —W.C.M.

WIGMO armorer works on B-26 attack plane at Stanleyville, the Congo. Deadly plane was armed with eight .50-caliber machine guns and 18 2.7-inch rockets. Photo: W.C. Moessmer

ass for the bush rather than make a stand.

All WIGMO workers were ex-military and armed with Israeli Uzi machine pistols; many had already engaged the Simbas while serving with the up-country air detachments.

The Belgian officer in charge at Punia was a young lieutenant who spoke limited English. He led us to a tarpaper shack that had evidently been used as a makeshift passenger waiting room before independence ruptured the Congolese order.

As we passed through the main room, I noticed that the Belgian's radio equipment was a WWII hand-generated radio T/R and thought, "Christ, I haven't seen one of those relics since I made an emergency landing at Naha, Okinawa, coming back from a strike into Japan." The Belgian pointed to a room off the main lobby: Our quarters had a dirt floor and no furniture.

"We've had some shitty living before," Raul growled, "but it could be better for the biggest operation in the Congo."

En route to Punia the weather had been fair with a 4,000-foot overcast and four miles' visibility. Now, as the squall line approached, local conditions went marginal. Our only navigation source was 1956 Esso road maps.

The weather suddenly became the determining factor in our plan; Raul and I knew that if we were caught in or above an overcast, we had damn little chance of getting back in to Punia or Kindu,

and Kamina Base was hopelessly out of range.

We slept fitfully as the rain drummed down on the tin roof above. At 0430 we went to the planes. "I don't like the look of it," Raul said. "It's right at 500 and less than a mile, and that's not good enough." Privately, I agreed, but I told him that we'd take off and if it didn't look good we'd do a 180 and come back in.

We didn't like it. We hit the crud at 500 feet with zero visibility. There wouldn't have been a chance in hell of finding Stanleyville, so we broke up and returned to the strip. It was only 1,400 feet long, so there wasn't a whole lot to play with on landing. We idled away the rest of the day, smoking and drinking coffee — the native brands, both of which were bitter to the western palate.

Meanwhile, the Belgian officer had contacted Kamina and found that the drop had also been delayed because of the overcast at Stanleyville. Another uneasy night. At 0430 we again manned the planes.

The weather had improved enough to make our chances of getting through look pretty fair. Kamina Base reported that the mission was "go" and that the C-130s would be airborne at 0500. We had figured our flight time at 40 minutes, an estimate based on no wind and slow-cruise to conserve fuel with an extra 10 minutes thrown in as a "Jesus" factor.

We took off, climbed through a thick overcast and broke on top in the clear at 5,000 feet, taking a heading north for the target area. Since Col. Izaackson had specified radio silence until the paratroopers hit the ground, we cruised without radio conversation.

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Survivor of Seychelles SNAFU, "Mad Mike" charged in skyjack and kidnap enters SA court. Photo: *Wideworld*

AOFB DEFENSE FUND...

Col. "Mad" Mike Hoare and other members of the group which tried and failed to take over the Seychelles in November were slated to go on trial in March and April, in South Africa and the Seychelles, respectively.

Hoare, who has secured the services of Irish barrister Mike Hannon for the defense of both the men in South Africa and the seven in the Seychelles, has contacted *Soldier of Fortune* for assistance in raising funds for the defense of the men.

Hoare and 44 other men will be tried in South Africa for violations of the Civil Aviation Act and if convicted face a minimum of 15 years each. The six men and one woman on trial in the Seychelles will face much more severe sentences.

In next month's SOF we will print information of various items Hoare is offering for sale to raise funds for the defense of all 52 persons. It is not certain at this time, but Hoare indicated the items would be copies of 5 Commando (the mercenary unit commanded by Hoare in the Congo) shoulder patches, AOFB (Ancient Order of Froth Blowers, the name of the unit which made the attempt in the Seychelles) shoulder patches and personally autographed copies of Hoare's book, *Congo Mercenary*. Prices on the items and details on where to write will appear in our July issue.

If you wish just to make a contribution to the defense fund of the men, send a check or money order made out to Mike Hoare, AOFB Defense Fund, c/o *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.



T-28 fighter-bomber used in close support of mercenaries and Belgian paras making mercy-mission raid into Stanleyville, the Congo, to free white captives and liberate city from communist-supported Simba (Lion) guerrillas. Photo: W.C. Moessmer

WOODCHUCK WARS

SAW Cartridge Controversy Continues

by Maj. Jack Chase

IN February 1982 The U.S. Army type-classified the FN MINIMI as the new Army Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). It is expected to complement the infantry rifleman with a squad-level sustained-automatic-fire capability formerly lost when the venerable Browning Automatic Rifle was purchased out of the Army inventory. The SAW decision will impact small-arms development over the next several decades. Even more importantly, the weapon chosen will become the major U.S. Army automatic weapon in any conflict against Warsaw Pact ground forces.

Although the Army has chosen a weapon in 5.56mm caliber, its selection is only attractive on the surface: The 5.56mm round is certainly lightweight, is low in recoil, and the infantry rifle squad is currently armed with the M16 rifle in 5.56mm caliber. A second look, however, suggests that a weapon capable of firing the 7.62mm round is more appropriate for the task. If the decision is made to procure a SAW weapon capable of firing only the 5.56mm round as used in Vietnam, our armed forces may find themselves underarmed and under-gunned in a conflict which involves a more sophisticated enemy on a more open battleground.

Advantages cited by proponents of the 5.56mm round center on the cartridge's smaller volume and lighter weight. This means more rounds or other equipment can be carried per given volume of weight. The added velocity of the round (3,250 fps for 5.56mm as opposed to 2,750 fps for 7.62mm) is also a consideration.

On the other hand, performance of bullets in the 50- to 65-grain category (5.56mm) falls far short of the performance of the 149-grain M80 bullet (7.62mm). In addition to its greater killing power, proponents of 7.62mm cite the greater hit potential of the 7.62mm round, since the bullet has less ballistic drop, greater flight stability and greater effective range than the 5.56mm bullet.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maj. Jack Chase is a weapons sales engineer, a West Pointer, and a deer hunter. He earned a Purple Heart and Silver Star during street fighting inside the Citadel of Hue during Tet 1968. He feels he would have been more effective if he had been issued a personal weapon capable of firing the 7.62mm NATO cartridge.

Chase's article is reprinted with permission from the October 1981 issue of *Armed Forces Journal*.

The fundamental issue evolves right back to that old law of physics: $E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$, where E is the energy of the projectile, m is its mass, and v is its velocity. While a number of factors affect lethality, such as projectile construction and flight dynamics, the greatest single factor is related to the energy delivered to the target. Energy can be increased by increasing velocity. Mass is essentially a function of bore size — after all, only a certain amount of lead or steel can be pushed down a hole of a given diameter. Velocity is initially a function of chamber pressure, and chamber pressure is limited by certain practical working pressure limits. Without going into an analysis of interior and exterior ballistics, it is sufficient to say that the 7.62mm projectile carries more energy — more than twice the energy of the 5.56mm projectile through most of its usable range.

What happens once the projectile strikes the target — the terminal ballistics — is an issue hotly debated among ballisticians. A school of thought favoring 5.56mm maintains that wound ballistics are more severe due to the tendency of the 5.56mm M193 bullet to tumble upon impact and deposit all its energy within the body, while the 7.62mm M80 bullet may pass completely through the body and out the other side. Ballisticians of the 7.62mm persuasion maintain that the 7.62mm bullet is more fail-safe. It is

not as likely to become unstable under adverse conditions of weather or target masking. Still, the 7.62mm bullet will retain sufficient energy to punch through heavy uniforms and light body armor to do bodily damage. The argument favoring 7.62mm certainly seems more valid when all ranges and types of targets are considered.

An analogy to hunting can be made to illustrate the dramatic difference between 5.56mm and 7.62mm performance. If given the choice, most experienced hunters will invariably pick a .308 Winchester rifle (7.62mm) over one chambered for .223 Remington (5.56mm) for hunting deer-sized animals. In this regard, it is the consensus of most hunters that the .223 Remington in any loading is not consistently effective against animals much larger than a woodchuck or other varmint. It seems reasonable to expect that as a target a deer, not a woodchuck, is comparable to a human in overall size and body mass. If one accepts the premise that the mission of any combat soldier who carries a rifle or machine gun is to kill any enemy he may encounter, then the best choice of rifle or machine gun for that purpose should also be the 7.62mm (.308 Winchester).

Army doctrine would have us believe that the greatest threat the U.S. Army is likely to face is Warsaw Pact ground forces. Does this mean that the U.S. Army considers Warsaw Pact ground forces to be in fact comprised of an army of woodchucks? After all, hasn't the U.S. Army (with somewhat less than enthusiastic support of some NATO allies) adopted a 5.56mm rifle as the standard rifle, and isn't it considering adoption of a 5.56mm light machine gun as the standard machine gun?

Admittedly, the latter train of logic has been carried to its absurd extreme, but it illustrates precisely the absurd situation the U.S. Army is in concerning some of the current thinking about light-weapons acquisition. The unfortunate aspect is that many well-meaning service personnel would perpetuate the longevi-



ty of this inadequate cartridge by adopting an entire family of rifles, automatic weapons and cartridge variants based upon what is essentially a souped-up .22 round.

It is not my purpose to argue the wisdom of the decisions which led to the 5.56mm cartridge becoming the standard small-arms cartridge of the Vietnam era. It may even have been the better choice considering the dismounted nature of many operations in that debilitating climate, the relatively close-in nature of fire fights, and the relative vulnerability of a lightly clad enemy who seldom weighed in at more than 120 pounds soaking wet. The point is, we cannot let our Vietnam combat shooting experience serve as the only model upon which to develop weapons likely to be used in a European or Middle Eastern war. The threat is different and the field of battle will be different. It would be fallacious logic to make the *a priori* assumption that 5.56mm weapons are the solution based upon the limited and highly specialized data base gained in

Vietnam. Unfortunately, it is the collective perception of the "Vietnam experience" which now seems to be pacing new small-arms acquisition.

Around the time of WWII, Gen. George S. Patton said:

"There is only one tactical principle which is not subject to change. It is: to use the means at hand to inflict the maximum amount of wounds, death, and destruction on the enemy in the minimum amount of time."

The trend toward lighter, less effective rounds is an indicator of our subtle change in attitude since WWII about waging small-unit combat. With budgetary, manpower and space constraints imposed on our military by a variety of external and internal pressures, we have tacitly begun to accept the idea that "less is better." We have fewer tanks, fewer antiaircraft units, fewer infantrymen, fewer combat-ready divisions and less lethal ammo available to the rifleman than the Soviet ground forces. It seems incongruous to hear military experts testifying before Congress about

the ever-widening Warsaw Pact lead in submarines, aircraft and other major weapons systems when these same military experts do not use the means at hand to ensure that new automatic and semiautomatic gun systems are based upon a caliber which is adequate for the task.

The ballisticians, the program managers, the development teams and the requirements analysts all need to get out into the woods and talk to a few of the "good ol' boys" who understand through experience what makes a hunting cartridge effective. These woodsmen may not understand the formula $E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$, but they will understand that there are limitations, and that no amount of development or extrapolation of Southeast Asian-style warfare can stretch $E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ beyond its natural limits. A good deer cartridge is consistently effective against all animals up to the size of a deer or man. A good woodchuck cartridge is consistently effective only against woodchucks.



SOF FOCUSES ON BINOCULARS

How to Choose Your Long-Distance Eyes

by Dave Danylyshyn

Swarovski Optik of Austria produces the only waterproof, center-focus binocular available today. Shown here is the "Hawk," 7x42 SL which sells for \$1095. Strieter Corp., Suite 1, 2100 18th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201, are U.S. importers for Swarovski. Photo: Strieter Corp.



A binocular (sometimes incorrectly referred to as "a pair of binoculars") is probably a useful item to include in a kit list. The qualification "probably" is used with good reason: A robust unit, well selected and suited to your need, is an unquestioned plus; alternatively, a poor purchase will be more trouble than it's worth. Lenses may delaminate. Prisms may misalign. Joints intended to keep water, mud and mist on the outside can fail. Such mechanical lapses are apt to show up at inconvenient moments. And these are but a few of the many factors that can effectively reduce your optical acuity to 1x. If you're going to invest cash in a binocular, invest time as well. Otherwise, it's far too easy to wind up with an article better suited to propping up books than for field use.

Thanks to Galileo, a rudimentary form of long-range magnification has been around since 1608. His telescope

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Danylyshyn was a marksman with the Canadian-Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's). He is an avid rifle and bow hunter, and lists "ocean kayaking" as one of his hobbies. He uses a binocular (not "a pair of them") in most of his outdoor ventures, and has done extensive research on all sorts of ocular devices. He has had other articles on selecting outdoor equipment and on wildlife management published in Canadian journals. He now teaches high school biology, English and outdoor education in British Columbia.

—John Metzger

was simply a concave lens near the viewer's eye (the *ocular* lens) joined to a convex lens nearer the viewed objective (the *objective* lens), but it wasn't until 1874 that distance viewing really got under way.

At that time the Zeiss optical works at Jena, in Prussia, was given a grant equivalent to \$16,000,000 by the Prussian government to produce optical instruments suitable for use by its military. Zeiss succeeded with two major innovations. The first was the production of an optical glass of unparalleled clarity — "Jena glass." The second was the extension of the focal length (the distance the light travels between the objective and ocular lenses) by the emplacement of a series of prisms. These, combined with the highest contemporary standards of

production and quality control, resulted in the first binocular.

In these happy days of fourth-generation passive night-observation devices, infrared satellite photometry, fire-and-forget munitions and instantaneous radar/computer-link counter-battery fire, we tend to forget that within living memory it was the human eye — aided only by intricately arranged lumps of fused quartz — that had the final word in target acquisition. The differences in performance between field glasses and binoculars for a time were comparable to the later differences between optical devices and radar.

From 1894 and well into the first world war, officers of the Kaiser had a virtual monopoly on the use of binoculars, while Allied forces had field glasses, which are simply two Galilean telescopes joined at the center.

Field glasses are still produced. They are uniquely identifiable by their concave ocular lenses. The objective and ocular lenses are in direct line fore-and-aft, although this is a feature shared with roof-prism binoculars. For their size, they are light in weight, since the internal component is air rather than optical glass. They are inferior in every respect but price and weight to binoculars. The resolution is poorer. The field of view is more restricted. Most cannot be adjusted to meet differences in users' vision. Their most common modern use is as opera glasses, although some importers market them as a very inexpensive alternative to binoculars proper.

The fundamental part of the binocular is the prism. There are two arrangements, "porro-prism" and "roof-prism."

In a porro-prism binocular, the objective lenses are off the axis of the ocular lenses. If the objectives are further apart than the oculars, the stereoptic effect is greatly enhanced. This in turn results in a fuller, more "three-dimensional" effect to the viewer, although it is bulkier. Alternatively, the objectives may be placed inside the line of the oculars, which is a more compact arrangement, but as it necessarily limits the diameter of the objective lenses, it limits their light-gathering ability and reduces the stereoptic effect.

The prism attachment method of a binocular classifies it as either a "Zeiss-type" or as a "Bausch & Lomb-type." Zeiss-type binoculars are identifiable by the presence of two body cover plates. During construction these access the prism plate, which is a forging integral to the body tube. This system enables craftsmen to hand-fit the prisms to the prism plate. In the Bausch & Lomb method the prisms are aligned and secured to the prism plate outside the binocular, then inserted and secured through the single



end plate. The Bausch & Lomb is simple, secure and well-suited to production-line assembly by relatively unskilled workers. The Zeiss-type mount is very good if done by skilled, experienced craftsmen: It's also expensive. Binoculars labelled "Zeiss-type" are in fact produced using a modified Zeiss method, which can involve set-screws, shims and glue in the hand-fitting. Thus, in the highest price range, the two methods are equally secure. At moderate cost the Bausch & Lomb is probably the superior of two otherwise comparable models. Very expensive Zeiss-types, under \$60, will likely self-destruct at their earliest convenience.

The second type of prism arrangement is found in roof-prism binoculars. They superficially resemble field

Bushnell 8x30 wide-angle. Example of rubber-armored, Zeiss-type, center-focus binocular.
Photo: John Metzger



Clockwise from upper left: Bausch & Lomb-type porro prism, Zeiss-type porro prism, roof prism, Bausch & Lomb-type porro prism with close-set objective lenses. Photo: John Metzger

glasses in that their objective and ocular lenses are in direct line with one another. This allows for substantial reduction in size. It is also an inherently secure method of prism attachment. On the debit side, since the distance between the objectives is limited, the stereoptic effect is no greater than that of the unaided vision. In the super-compact models, the size reduction is paid for by decreased objective lens diameter. This makes night viewing impossible and dawn/dusk viewing poor.

Focus adjustments are effected either by a revolving knob on the axis bar or by the independent adjustment of the two ocular eyepieces. The former is called center-focus. Although poorly

sealed and the more fragile of the two, it is useful for situations requiring rapid adjustment or where the binocular is in frequent use by more than one person . . . sporting events, bird watching and the like.

The latter system is individual focus. The eyepieces are independently adjustable by rotation on their turrets. Although less handy than center-focus, individual-focus binoculars are usually better-sealed against the elements (much like a good rifle scope) to a degree that can't be approached by any center-focus system. Where durability is the question, individual focus is the answer. Military forces are invariably equipped with individual-focus binoculars for this reason.

Aside from construction details, the most important considerations when buying a binocular are magnification and light transmission. In 8x40, 7x50, 6x30 and so on, the first number is the magnification — the amount by which the viewed object appears larger. The second number is the diameter in millimeters of the objective lens.

Magnification is frequently over-rated. A 10x unit is not necessarily more useful than a 6x and can easily be less. Without support for his arms, a man can hold and view through 6x with no noticeable tremor. Best use of a 7x or 8x requires that the arms be steadied, and anything over 8x needs a solid rest or tripod. At 9x, for example, a scope mounted even on a heavy-barreled target weapon produces an image that bobs to the pulse and shimmers with muscle vibration. Additionally, as magnification increases, field of view decreases.

Light transmission is a function of the transparency of the optical components — lenses, coatings, prisms and what-have-you — and of their conformation. Optical glass is all pretty much of a kind from the users' point of view. There are some binoculars, the top-of-the-line Zeiss, for example, in which these parts are ground from the absolute-best glass produced on the planet, but there's no easy way for the consumer to distinguish the very best from the almost best — which is used in most. And the almost best is good, indeed. When selecting a binocular, therefore, your concern for the chemistry of these components should rank somewhere below the decision regarding the color of the carrying-case lining.

Their conformation, on the other hand, is important. Here's why.

The iris of your eye performs much as does the aperture of a camera. In bright light it reduces the lens aperture, protecting the retina from radiation burns. In darkness it dilates to allow full exposure. The human iris at maximum dilation allows a pupil diameter of about seven millimeters. For

an optical instrument to function, it must direct a beam of light into your pupil. The diameter of this beam is called the *exit-pupil diameter*. With the exception of "zoom-type" binoculars, this exit-pupil size is a given value for each instrument and does not vary with focus adjustments. If light conditions are such that your pupils are at 5mm and your instrument's exit pupil is at least that, then you're okay. If your pupils are out to 7mm (as they would be from last light to first light), your glass should be delivering at *least* a 5mm beam, and preferably 6 or 7mm. Anything less, and your low-light resolution is going to be seriously degraded.

If low-light utility is of concern to you, the exit-pupil diameter may be easily calculated. Take the figure given for objective-lens diameter and divide it by the magnification. For an 8x40, $40 \div 8 = 5$: an exit-pupil diameter of 5mm. For a 7x50, $50 \div 7 = 7.14$: exit-pupil diameter of 7.14mm. Of these two, other things being comparable, the 7x50 would be superior under low-light conditions.

If you apply this simple calculation to some of the pocket-sized roof-prism binoculars available, it is apparent that with their advantages come drawbacks. An 8x20 has an exit-pupil of 2.5mm — pupil diameter at noon on a clear sunny day. Convenient and light they are, but not suited to dawn/dusk viewing.

Mechanical shock and heat will quickly do in a binocular. While good ones are built to be sturdy, you can only build so much toughness into a device composed of at least 14 bits of precision-ground glass and sundry moving parts. Many less expensive instruments have their prisms held in place partly or entirely by glue. All have interfacing lenses joined with a transparent bonding agent called "Canadian Balsam." Both these substances soften at high temperature. Don't expose it to excessive heat, of course, but be particularly careful not to leave it for long in direct sunlight. As well as leading to lens delamination, this can fade the lens coating.

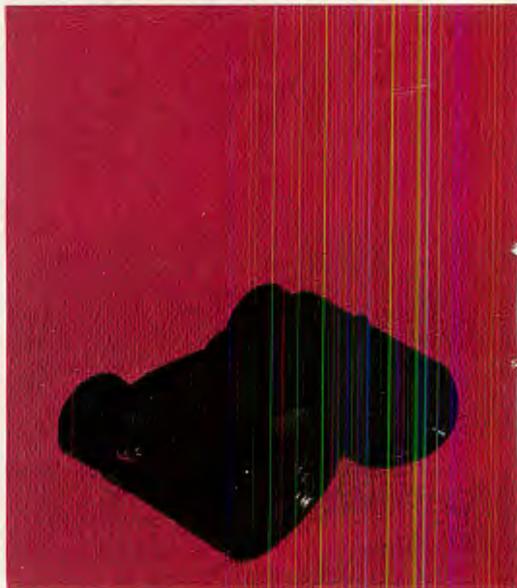
Ideally, optical glass would transmit all the light that falls upon it and reflect none. Untreated, even the best glass falls well short of this mark. Lenses are coated to get as close as possible. The substances used are based on magnesium fluoride compounds. The early coating compounds were soft, and although useful on the interior components, they were too easily abraded away by simple cleaning to use on the outside of the lenses. Lens coatings at present are tough enough to be used externally, but are much softer than the glass, and so require some special care. Don't clean your lenses with spit and a shirt-tail. After a few such



treatments the coating will vanish like toads in autumn. You can, in a pinch, use soft tissue paper and breath fog, but your investment will serve you longer if you use camera-lens tissue and lens-cleaning fluid. Both are available in camera shops.

Rigid sling attachments eat slings. If you have a sling of fabric or leather attached directly to a non-moving loop of metal, expect the rig to give way and drop on your foot in the not-too-distant future. This is easily avoided by inserting a few fisherman's snap swivels and split rings between the sling and the binocular body. A few turns of gun tape or electrician's tape around these shiny bits will then do away with conspicuous tinkle and glitter. An alternative to carrying the unit on a sling around the neck is to keep it in the carrying case attached to your belt. It's less conve-

Center-focus Nikon roof prism (left) and individual-focus Nikon roof-prism binoculars.
Photo: John Metzger





Center-focus Bausch & Lomb-type porro prism unit (left) is identifiable by objective lenses out of line with ocular lenses. Center-focus roof-prism binocular (right) has ocular and objective lenses in-line.
Photo: John Metzger

nient for immediate or frequent use, but it provides better protection.

A binocular will need to be "focused in" to your particular vision. It's best to do this at night when your pupils are at their maximum dilation. This reduces their depth-of-field. Adjusting the focus

Nikon roof-prism binocular. Lenses are in-line.
Photo: John Metzger



their depth-of-field. Adjusting the focus under these conditions, when visual parameters are restricted, gives a more accurate initial position, and a larger margin-of-error in the daylight when depth-of-field is deeper. Prop the binocular in such a position that you can see something with crisp horizontal and vertical lines. Telephone wires, bridges or the window framing on the apartment building across the way will do nicely. Focus one eyepiece at a time. When doing this, do not close the disengaged eye. Tape a piece of paper or cloth over the non-viewing eyepiece instead.

Now, viewing through the appropriate tube with the engaged eye, rotate the eyepiece from the well-out-of-focus position *through* the good-focus position, to the out-of-focus position on the other side. After establishing this bracket, narrow in on the correct position by decreasing the amount of bracketing adjustment until it's right where you want it. To check, close both eyes for about 30 seconds, then open them looking through the eyepiece. If the image is immediately sharp, without your eye having to take a second or two to adjust, you're on. Then make a small scratch on the turret and on the eyepiece so that you can quickly realign in case it gets knocked off focus. Exchange the piece of taped paper to the other eyepiece and repeat the process.

With a center-focus binocular, the procedure is almost the same. First focus the non-adjustable eyepiece by using the central focusing knob. Then adjust the independently adjustable eyepiece. If you don't mind nobody but you being able to use it, you can then make it nearly as element-proof as individual-focus binoculars simply by taping the eyepieces and focus controls firmly into this position. This is, in fact, a very satisfactory expedient if you find yourself in pressing need of a binocular but can't secure an individual-focus instrument.

If you are near- or far-sighted, you may initially focus your binocular with or without glasses. Ensure, though, that your subsequent use of the unit is under the same condition as that initial time. Those with astigmatism must wear glasses. Many binoculars have folding rubber eye cups to ensure correct interocular distance. Glasses wearers leave them in the collapsed position, others extend them.

There are two things to bear in mind when viewing in daylight. First, keep your eyes shaded. This allows your pupils to expand and thus be more sensitive to the magnified image. Wear a hat and try to position yourself under some cover. As well as enhancing your vision, this can prevent the reflection from your objective lenses from needlessly annoying the subject of your ob-

servation. Secondly, don't idly scan the ground. Observe it. Mentally divide your field up into sectors and sequentially search each sector. Some authorities suggest viewing from ground right to ground left to overcome many occidentals' inclination to "speed-read" the ground.

In daylight, the iris and pupil relationship is the vision-limiting factor. At night it's the cone cells of the retina. These distinguish light from dark and are acutely sensitive to movement as well. To take best advantage of this night vision the Canadian Combat Arms School recommends that:

"If you don't have the advantage of a night-vision device you must exercise your eyes in accordance with three rules: Don't expose your eyes to white light for thirty minutes prior to going on sentry; use off-center focus. When looking at something, direct gaze six to 10 degrees off-center; scan. This is simply using off-center focus to view an area. Pause in scanning frequently."

Search in daylight. **Scan** at night.

This is not intended to be a brand-name evaluation, but rather, a guide to points of construction. The relative merits of these points will depend on the way you intend to use your glass. To summarize:

- You can have extreme compactness, as in pocket-size roof-prism binoculars, but at the sacrifice of low-light vision.

- If you want very high magnification, you carry the extra bulk of the binocular itself, in addition to its tripod.

- Truly impermeable weatherproofing, as in individual-focus units, inconveniences rapid-focus readjustment, for which you would need center focus.

Finally, a few unapologetic biases and recommendations:

- Individual focus is better than center focus.

- For general use, a 6x30 is best, unless you're out a lot between last light and first light, in which case favor 7x50.

- Bausch & Lomb prism fixing is superior to Zeiss-type-fixing. Remember here that "Zeiss type" is a manufacturing method, and no longer a characteristic of products made by the Zeiss company.

- Be wary of a binocular that has an olive-drab rubberized coating. This marketing technique does not necessarily bespeak excellence in construction.

With minimal care, a 6x30, Bausch & Lomb-type, individual-focus binocular of reputable manufacture will prove more reliable than your average knife. Use these points, and select with the same care that you would apply to the purchase of a rifle.



WHY does the Joint Service Small Arms Program (JSSAP) Management Committee consider the Beretta M92S-1 9mm Parabellum pistol the finest military sidearm available? Why did one major American arms manufacturer fail so miserably in the armed-services competition to replace the M1911A1 .45 ACP pistol? Why did the Army decide that it needed to duplicate the Air Force's exhaustive tests of all available modern successors to the .45? These questions and others were answered when SOF obtained a copy of the JSSAP report through the Freedom of Information Act.

The United States began its search for a new military sidearm in 1979. The goal was to find a modern pistol in the same 9mm cartridge used by our NATO allies to replace the M1911A1. Through a series of tests conducted at Aberdeen's Edgewood Arsenal, the U.S. Army determined that the 9mm Parabellum round was as lethal as the current-issue .45 ACP cartridge. All weapons submitted for JSSAP testing were to be double-action, ambidextrous-control 9mm Parabellum (NATO) semiautomatic pistols with a minimum magazine capacity of 13 rounds. (For a first report on the candidate weapons see "Shootout: 9mm vs. .45," SOF, February '80.)

The Army's M1911A1 .45 ACP and the Air Force's S&W Model 15 .38 Special revolver with four-inch barrel were used as control weapons. All pistols, both candidate and control, were subjected to the same tests.

Testing of the pistols began with an evaluation for accuracy, both from the hand and from a machine rest at a distance of 50 yards. A test barrel was used for the 9mm and .45, but no test barrel was available in .38 Special. No difference was found between .45 ACP match and ball ammunition (each produced patterns with a mean radius of 4.4 inches), so ball ammunition was used for all .45 tests.

Finding ammunition for the 9mms was complicated because, according to the report: "The 9mm M1 ball ammunition which is in inventory was so inaccurate that it was not acceptable for evaluating the accuracy potential of the candidate 9mm handguns." (Commercial jacketed hollow-point ammunition was purchased from Smith & Wesson for the accuracy tests.

A Ransom Master machine rest was used to fire 10 10-shot groups from each of the guns submitted. The accuracy requirement was that the mean radius of the pattern fired by a pistol could be no greater than 1.4 inches greater than the radius of the pattern fired from the test barrel. The 9mm needs a six-inch extreme spread. Weapons with smaller spreads were acceptable, six- to seven-

Exclusive SOF UNCOVERS SIDEARM SNAFU



Winner and new champion: JSSAP tests swept by new Beretta M92SB 9mm semiauto. Photo: Beretta

inch spreads were marginal, and larger spreads were unsatisfactory.

The Heckler & Koch P9S 9mm excelled with a mean radius of 1.0 inches and an extreme spread of 3.5 inches, followed by the S&W M15 .38 Special at 1 3/4/3 and the Beretta M92S-1 9mm with 1.6/5.2. The S&W M459 9mm was also acceptable with 1.7/6.0, as was the FN

FA 9mm at 1.8/6.0. The Star M-28 and the FN HiPower (Browning P-35) 9mms were marginal. The FN DA 9mm, Colt SSP 9mm, H&K VP-70 9mm and the M1911A1 .45 were all found unacceptable in accuracy. The M1911A1 was dead last with a mean radius of 4.4 inches and an extreme spread of 15.0 inches.

Ironically, while the H&K P9S

Politics & Tradition Interfere with Military Pistol Selection

by Jake Jatras



Original Beretta entry as U.S. service sidearm, M92S had rotating firing-pin safety but Army barred butt mag-release button. Photo: Beretta

ARMY SIDEARM TRIALS

Shortly after the results of the JSSAP trials were determined, the Army decided to conduct another test, designated XM9 U.S. Service Pistol Trials XM9-SPT), which have recently been completed. Four firms submitted pistols for the XM9-SPT: Beretta M92SB, Smith & Wesson 459A, H&K P-7A13, and SIG-Maremount P-226. The latter two pistols were not involved in the earlier JSSAP tests. The Beretta M92SB differs from the 92S-1 in the adoption of a firing-pin-block mechanism. The SM9-SPT differed from the JSSAP tests in the following ways:

1) The requirement that the pistol fire 5,000 rounds between parts breakage was removed. According to our sources there is now no requirement for a gun to function through X number of rounds between breakage.

2) In the tests of reliability, the XM9-SPT stated that the weapon cannot jam more than once every 800 rounds. The JSSAP test set the figure at 1,500 rounds.

One knowledgeable source suggested to SOF that these changes in

procedure were designed to favor Smith & Wesson. This cannot be proved but informed sources state that an officer assigned to the selection committee recently visited S&W on his own behalf. This may suggest collusion.

The Army denies that the results of the JSSAP test were invalid and insists that JSSAP testing was conducted only to devise Request For Proposal (RFP) criteria for the XM9-SPT. The results of XM9-SPT are now classified material but these test results will be released soon. Our question is: Why did the Army decide to run its own test? Were they too embarrassed by the results of the Air Force's JSSAP test although they were professionally and fairly administered?

It is only a matter of time until we adopt the 9mm cartridge, for better or for worse. At the very least we should have the best possible pistol for that cartridge and the real winner of any competition.

— Bill Brooks

proved the most accurate from the machine, the H&K VP-70 was the first major disappointment: "During the initial machine-rest testing of the H&K VP-70, the malfunction rate was so high that considerable time and man-hours were being consumed just clearing the weapons. In addition, the accuracy was so poor that it was obvious that such a weapon could never be seriously considered for adoption."

Handheld accuracy and sustained-firepower tests were conducted using three groups of shooters. Group One shooters were considered to have high skill, Group Two shooters were above average and Group Three members were female security police. Firing was completed over the period of a year because of the delivery schedules for the weapons. Each shooter fired a 10-shot group with each of the handguns of each type, for a total of 100 rounds per tester per model of handgun.

Test organizers felt that handguns fired by Group One personnel should be capable of producing a group with an extreme spread of no more than five inches at 25 yards. Weapons that could shoot under five inches were acceptable, five- to six-inch patterns were marginal, and guns shooting patterns over six inches were unacceptable. For Group Two, guns shooting patterns with an extreme spread of seven inches at 25 yards were deemed acceptable. No data from Group Three was used in analysis, since some rounds missed the paper.

The S&W M-15 .38 Special control weapon was judged to have acceptable accuracy, as were the Beretta M92S-1 and the H&K P9S 9mms. The Star M-28, S&W M459, FN FA and Colt SSP were marginal, and the FN HP and M1911A1 were judged unacceptable. The Smith & Wesson M459 had a 10-pound trigger-pull resulting from a stiff main-spring designed to fire hard military primers. Attempts to lighten the trigger pull produced occasional bursts of full-automatic fire.

Sustained-fire effectiveness tests showed the number of hits a shooter could expect to place on target in a limited time. Targets were placed in the center of the range at 50 yards and flanking targets were placed at 25 yards. The shooter faced the targets with the gun in the "depressed" position, round in the chamber, hammer down. At the signal the shooter fired two shots at each target from left to right. The firing sequence was repeated as often as possible within five, 10, 20, 30 and 60-second tests. Each shooter shot each handgun twice in this series of tests. Personnel changes and test delays forced groups to subdivide and group results could not be directly compared, but all shooters did fire the control weapons.

Beretta's entry captured high honors

in this phase of the trial. Shooters averaged an enormous 70-percent improvement in performance over the S&W M15 and 32 percent over the M1911A1, for a mean improvement of 51 percent. The FN HP was second with a mean improvement of 45 percent, followed by the H&K P9S with a mean improvement of 37 percent. The S&W M459 showed a 33-percent increase and the Colt SSP had 32 percent. The FN FA showed only a 16-percent improvement and the Star M-28 a lowly one percent.

Regardless of a combat weapon's accuracy, the first consideration must be reliability. Since the sidearm is normally only used as a "last-ditch" self-defense weapon, any evaluation of military pistols must simulate the most obstructive conditions. About 8,000 rounds per model (2,000 per pistol) were fired for the test. Four pistols from the 10 of each model submitted were selected for the testing. Weapons that showed no possibility of being as reliable as the control guns were dropped.

From the field the only guns that warranted continued consideration were the Beretta M92S-1 and the Smith & Wesson M459. The candidate models dropped from the test had an average number of rounds between malfunctions ranging from 121 to 5.

Manufacturers that had submitted pistols were allowed to make minor design changes early in the testing, but they had to be true design changes, with re-designed parts inserted in lieu of the originals in all test guns. No parts fitting or "gunsmithing" was allowed.

One area of concern was that the 9mm ball ammo being used for the endurance/reliability testing had harder primers than commercial ammunition. All competing manufacturers were advised of this situation, and informed that any pistol should be able to function with any 9mm Parabellum ammo from anywhere in the world. The Beretta M92S-1 pistols had the hammer springs replaced with stronger ones, as did the FN DA 9mm.

Of the four baseline M1911A1 pistols selected for the reliability testing, only two survived to the 10,000-round point. One frame cracked at 8,000 rounds and on the other the slide cracked at 6,400 rounds. The United States has not purchased any new .45s since the mid-40s and the report did not mention the age, nor the previous use of the M1911A1s. Magazine failures were considered and played an important part in the demise of the M1911A1.

Beretta walked over the competition. The Smith & Wesson M459 was second but there was really no contest. The mean number of rounds to a malfunction was 2,000 for the M92S-1 and 952 for the Smith & Wesson. The Beretta was more than twice as reliable. The M1911A1 hung in there, sort of, with a



In spite of Browning 9mm reputation, second place was undisputed for S&W M459, shown here. Photo: Smith & Wesson



Bete noire of JSSAP, Colt SSP's front sight repeatedly flew off slide from recoil Gs during testing, among other problems. Photo: Colt

TEST WEAPON STATISTICS RELIABILITY

WEAPON	TOTAL NUMBER OF ROUNDS (4 Weapons)	MAJOR MALFUNCTIONS					Mean number of Rounds to Malfunction	Acceptable (A) Marginal (M) Unacceptable (U)
		Fail to Feed	Fail to Chamber	Fail to Fire	Fail to Extract or Eject	Other		
Beretta M92S-1	28,000	3	2	2	6	1	2,000	A
S&W M459	40,000	5	1	2	29	5	952	A
M1911A1 .45*	34,400	15	17	1	8	5	748	A
FN DA	33,600	15	13	2	49	2	415	U
COLT SSP	7,636	13	8	29	10	3	121	U
FN HP	18,796	68	14	7	165	0	74	U
H&K P9S	18,697	116	5	113	0	123	52	U
FN FA	8,585	72	215	0	12	6	28	U
STAR M28	5,526	54	516	430	137	5	5	U
H&K VP 70	771	22	1	109	4	1	5	U

*Only two of the four endurance M1911A1 pistols could complete the 10,000-round firing. Gun No. 5 — frame cracked at 8,000 rounds. Gun No. 6 — slide cracked at 6,400 rounds.



Favorite with West German police, HK P7-13 entered XM9 trials with safety-first firing-pin cock lever on front of grip. Photo: H&K



JSSAP did not test this SIG-Sauer P-226 supplied by Maremont to XM9 Service Pistol Trials. Photo: SIG-Sauer

mean number of 748, taking into consideration that two of the four weapons broke.

It is difficult to imagine a weapon being submitted as a possible sidearm for the United States armed forces only being able to fire an average of five times before having a malfunction, but two tied for the cellar spot — the Star M-28 and H&K VP-70.

If reliability is the most important feature of a true "combat" pistol, second must be maintainability. In the field a broken weapon must be able to be repaired quickly and easily — and, hopefully, not too often. Once again the Beretta proved hard to beat. The Smith & Wesson M15 revolver was second only to the poor Colt SSP in parts replaced, once again reaffirming the revolver's weakness as a military sidearm. Two weapons could have been deleted from the analysis for either reliability or maintainability. Indeed a special category had to be added for the Colt SSP because parts actually fell off the gun; quite a few front sights launched themselves from the slide. The other loser was the Star M-28.

All of the environmental tests that were planned could not be completed. Attempts to test the weapons at 125 F and minus 65 F were halted since the 9mm ball ammo would not fire reliably at those temperatures. Salt-spray tests were cancelled due to time limits, but sand, dust and mud tests were accomplished. Two pistols of each model proven to be reliable in the other test procedures were used for the endurance program. The weapons were loaded, round in chamber, hammer down. The barrels were not sealed, simulating actual field conditions. After taking the weapons from the test medium, each one was shaken to remove excess and an attempt was made to fire the gun.

Actions taken to get each weapon to fire were recorded in three categories: Without Assistance, With Minor Manipulation and With Significant Manipulation. 1) Without Assistance indicated that the weapon would operate in the normal manner. 2) Minor Manipulation signified that such assistance as pushing the slide forward with the thumbs, or lightly assisting the turning of the cylinder was necessary. 3) Major Assistance meant several seconds of effort were required to get the weapon to operate.

After trying to fire the weapons in the original condition, attempts were made to fire the sidearm with a clean magazine and ammunition (simulating the field expedient of clearing the weapon and inserting a new mag). At last a separate magazine that had been exposed to the test medium was tried, usually without much success.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

EVALUATION AREAS	CONTROL GUNS			CANDIDATE 9MM HANDGUNS							
	M15 .38 Revolver	M1911A1 .45 Pistol	Beretta M 925-1	S&W M 459	FN DA	FN FA	FN HP	Colt SSP	Star M28	H&K P9S	H&K VP70
Machine-Rest Accuracy	EX	U	EX	A	U	A	M	U	M	EX	U
Hand-Held Accuracy	A	U	A	U		M	U	U	M	A	U
Sustained-Fire Effectiveness	U	M	EX	A		M	EX	A	U	A	
Reliability		A	EX	A	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Maintainability	U	A	EX	A	M	A	A	U	U		A
Sand and Dust	M	A	A	M	U						
Mud	EX	M	EX	M	M						

EX — Excellent
 A — Acceptable
 M — Marginal
 U — Unacceptable

Continued on page 90

VIETNAM IN TROUBLE

Jane Fonda's Black Comedy

by Tiziano Terzani
Photos by Ed Rasen

Tiziano Terzani is Far East correspondent of the newsmagazine Der Spiegel of Hamburg. His article is reprinted with permission from the World Press Review November 1981 issue.

THE day no longer begins with the blare of revolutionary music from loudspeakers. These days Hanoi awakens to the crowing of roosters. Chickens seem to be everywhere — tied to trees, in cages, or running free in the streets, yards and alleys of this once-elegant city. Its stench and rundown appearance seem of less concern to the people than their chickens, which at the least guarantee them a whole meal occasionally.

In the heart of Hanoi at the legendary Lake of the Magic Sword, children and adults try to catch fish in the dirty water with small plastic bags. Early in the morning all parks here as well as in Hue, Da Nang, Nha Trang and Saigon stir with beggars picking lice from one another. Millions of emaciated, pale Vietnamese begin each day exhausted as they renew the struggle for a bit of food. Six years after the victory that reunited the nation promising peace and prosperity, Vietnam is stalked by hopelessness and hunger.

Vietnam is a depressing panorama of defeats, from the fog-shrouded mountains on the northern frontier, where entrenched troops await the next Chinese assault, to the swamps of the Mekong Delta, where rebellious peasants resisting efforts to turn their fields into communes gird for the next government onslaught. Vietnam is no longer self-sufficient in agriculture. Industrial capacity is

at half-speed when it functions at all. The leadership in the North has lost its credibility in the same measure that it has failed to integrate the South.

Crime, corruption and prostitution combine with unemployment to make a mockery of wartime ideals. Tens of thousands of former political prisoners and the best-educated urban population devote most of their energies to getting out of the country. Fear and mistrust divide the people from the leadership. Communism becomes the theater of the absurd: Two-thirds of the budget is consumed by the armed forces and political structure.

The ambitious five-year plan drafted in the flush of victory in 1975 projected an annual growth rate of 14 percent. Reality was far different: a growth rate of 2 percent with an annual population growth of 3 percent. Grain production after 1980 was projected at more than 21 million tons annually, but the most optimistic estimates for this year are only 13 million tons.

"This nation of 58 million inhabitants is, in effect, bankrupt," says one official of an international agency. There are no reports of outright starvation, but malnutrition is endemic, visible in the skin of children and the lethargy of adults.

Average monthly wages are less than \$30. Government employees can purchase up to 36 pounds of rice monthly for an official price of five cents a pound, but there is never enough rice in the State stores, and on the open market a pound of rice costs almost \$3. A bowl of soup is more than \$2. Most Vietnamese meals consist of rice and vegetables, with the carefully nurtured family chicken going into the pot on special occasions.

During the war, Vietnam lived on foreign aid — the North with goods from China and the South with goods from the United States. Both sources dried up after reunification, and the new sponsor — the Soviet Union — cannot fill the gap. "Since 1975 we have 6 million more people and \$10 billion less," says Nguyen Khac Vien, a prominent historian living in Hanoi. "That we have survived is a miracle."

When the communists came to power, they seemed to have a plan for every problem, such as the one of overcrowded cities. The solution: resettlement in new "economic zones." Those left unemployed by the departure of the Americans were to wrest arable land from the jungle. Many of the South's army veterans and their families seized the opportunity; others were forced out of the cities. All suffered in a disastrous experiment that supported neither the settlements nor an increase in agricultural production.

One of the first of these model settlements was Le Minh Xuan, barely 20 miles northwest of Saigon. Visitors were shown the site as the future of Vietnam. Today no one is permitted to go there: The fields are barren, the huts empty, the unpaved streets deserted. No one had bothered to sample the soil, which just under the surface was so acidic that cultivation was doomed before it began. Ten thousand acres were plowed in a futile effort to raise rice.

The thousands who again live in the parks of Saigon and other cities are refugees from these failed rural communities. Other disasters include the plain of reeds on the Cambodian border, where

Hanoi ordered the cultivation of 25,000 acres of rice despite local warnings that the soil would not support such a crop.

Production is faltering throughout the South as machines wear out and raw materials are not delivered. During the war the textile mill at Bien-hoa, north of Saigon, produced 300 million yards of cloth annually from cotton imported from Japan and Taiwan. Lack of cotton has cut production by two-thirds. Cotton ordered planted on the outskirts of Saigon did not yield even a first harvest last year — insects consumed the entire crop.

The most valuable resource squandered by Hanoi is the people. Many skilled engineers and technicians in the South who could not flee or who cast their lot with the new government were dismissed and replaced by newcomers from the North. The goodwill of intellectuals who looked forward to working with the communists was rejected. Many who had offered their help spent months or years in the very prisons where Nguyen Van Thieu, the last president of South Vietnam, had held his opponents.

All who once held a significant position in the Saigon government are branded for life, and their children are barred from higher

BELOW: South Vietnamese workers undergo part-time reserve training. Weapons are American-made .30-caliber carbines and Chinese Type 56 assault rifles.

education. Even those South Vietnamese who fought with the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) are discriminated against. Madame Duong Quynh Hoa, former PRG Minister of Health, is deeply disturbed by the rigid dogmatism of the new government. She laid down all her official duties and now works as a pediatrician at a Saigon hospital. "I cannot work with people who think that they

alone possess all truth and virtue," she says.

Lost, too, is the moral imperative to which the communists laid claim in their long struggle to free the land of corruption, colonialism and foreign intervention. Bribery is as rampant in Saigon as it was in the days of Thieu, with money under the table demanded for housing permits, travel permits, permission to see a doctor, or permission to flee abroad. Few



ABOVE: While plastic replicas of M16s and M60s used to be available on the black market, today copies of Soviet tanks and weapons are available on the free market. Machine-pistol replicas are of French MAT-49, a favorite weapon of the Viet Cong. **LEFT:** Although goods are difficult to obtain on the legal market, Saigon's free market (we called it the black market) flourishes and even boasts Monopoly sets.



officials can live on their salaries. "The State pretends to pay us," they say, "so we pretend to work." They view illicit earnings as the way to make ends meet.

The local policeman demands two packs of foreign cigarettes to overlook a relative's illegal visit in an apartment. The Party official responsible for distributing meat sells part at the official price and makes a huge profit selling the rest on the open market, dividing the take with cronies. Party officials live in the best houses, have access to special hospitals, and are well-removed from the trials of daily life.

The most commonly cited example of communist "fraud" is the so-called re-education. Shortly after the takeover of Saigon the government called on all who had served the previous government to present themselves at collection points. Hundreds of thousands came. Most were released after a few days or weeks, but 250,000 disappeared in jungle camps. In 1976 the government promised that re-education would take at most another three years and that all inmates would be released at that time or brought to trial. Many — estimates range from 20,000 to 200,000 — have not yet returned.

"We are holding some because they have not yet changed their attitude. We are patient and can wait until they see the nature of their crime," says Lt. Col. Nguyen Van Mo, commander of the re-education camp at Hai Tay, a dozen miles south of Hanoi. The cells of his 462 inmates are clean, flowers bloom in the garden, the food is outstanding, the guards smile. It looks like a model prison prepared for a visit by foreigners.

The government knows that the camp, which also includes more recently arrested inmates, is a liability in its relationship with the South. "Nevertheless, we had to choose the lesser evil," admits a high official in Hanoi. "If we let these people go today, tomorrow they would be working against us to topple the revolution."

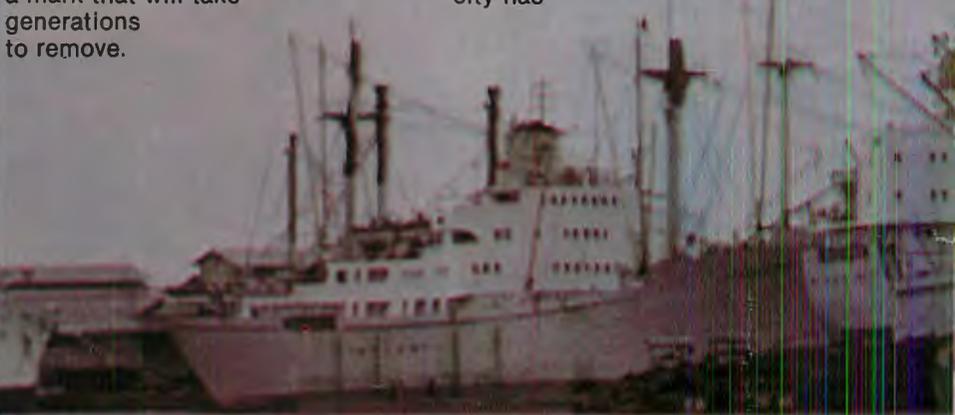
While not common, sabotage against the government does occur. Within one month two fires on the Haiphong dock destroyed huge quantities of Soviet goods. In the South a train was attacked. Occasionally communist cadres are assassinated. Telephone lines in the Saigon neighborhood where the new communist elite live are often cut. The government tends to inflate such acts to justify more repressive measures, but there is

no such thing as an organized, nationwide resistance movement.

"The only opposition party is the boat people," says a former Saigon attorney who with his son has unsuccessfully attempted to flee. Escape is not easy. A boat must be found, the right policemen bribed, a member of the family sacrificed to stay behind and watch the house should the escape attempt fail.

Those caught trying to escape are locked for several months in coastal jails overflowing with failed escapees. Yet thousands more try, with a monthly average of 10,000 successes. Most are upperclass South Vietnamese, Chinese living in Vietnam, intellectuals, soldiers and officers returned from re-education camps, or revolutionaries who have lost the faith.

The impact of the war remains heaviest in the South, where huge areas sprayed with "Agent Orange" by U.S. planes have left a mark that will take generations to remove.



Parents in these areas give birth to deformed babies far above average ratios, and farmers in the Pleiku area report grotesque flora in jungles defoliated by the chemical. But some of the corruption in the South, including prostitution and begging, has seeped north. During the war there were no beggars in the North. Now they camp there in parks and pagodas.

The past is a heavy burden for the government — the foreigners it drove from the land took the good life with them. Hanoi still bears traces of a French colonial city, while Saigon has the modern, chaotic stamp of the American presence. The new rulers have a formidable task in overcoming these twin legacies. All pre-1975 books in libraries are kept under lock and key in special areas. Saigon's biggest bookstore carries only Vietnamese books, Russian technical volumes, and one French biography of Brezhnev. But the old

revolutionary cadres still speak French, and the young ones speak English with an American accent.

Five years ago party chief Le Duan assured his listeners: "We will satisfy the people's needs for air conditioners, wrist watches, radios, TVs, and sewing machines." But today, Hanoi's main department store is as empty as it has always been, with dusty shelves and lackadaisical sales help. There are queues to buy matches, cigarettes and bread. It is impossible to buy a pad of paper in Hanoi or to supply schools with sufficient books.

Several factories built by East European nations are idle because Hanoi has no power to run them. The city's electricity still depends on a plant built by the French. For every insufficiency the Vietnamese have one answer: "The Chinese have prevented us from rebuilding the country. They don't permit us to live in peace — they force us to fight." Every Vietnamese city has

posters depicting the "Beijing expansionists" as successors to the American imperialists and the French colonialists, and they bear some element of truth.

After 1975 China pressured the Hanoi government through the Red Khmer, who attacked all along the South Vietnamese border with Kampuchea. In 1979 the Chinese launched a so-called defensive counterattack along their common border with Vietnam. Since then China has continued to threaten Vietnam with a "second lesson," forcing the war-weary nation to spend its resources in defending the northern border.

The Vietnamese have paid a heavy price for this animosity. During the war nothing happened in Cao-bang, about 115 miles north of Hanoi near the Chinese border. Today it is a dead town, systematically destroyed by the Chinese who seized it in 1979. Except for the valuable bauxite

deposits, none of the mines in the region is being worked for fear that the Chinese will return. The entire area is patrolled by the military.

If the Chinese hope to bring Hanoi to its knees they are achieving quite the opposite. The government, spawned in conflict, seems to consolidate its power best when beset by conflict. Hatred of the Chinese unites all Vietnamese whether North or South, communist or non-communist. "If this government falls we'll be taken over by the Chinese," says a priest in Saigon. "No one wants that."

After 1975 the Vietnamese were forced to choose between Moscow and Beijing. The Chinese offered aid only if the Soviets were excluded. This the Vietnamese were unwilling to do, and their choice crippled much of Vietnam's

Economic failings have forced the government to retreat from socialist principles, especially in the Mekong Delta, where peasants violently resist being forced into communes. Production there has slumped, and farmers would rather slaughter their livestock than see it forced into collectives. The government claims a 20-percent success rate in collectivization, but foreign estimates are only three percent.

The contrasts within the country make a mockery of monolithic communism, and for the moment the government is keeping a low profile. For the first time in five years the victory parade celebrating the end of the war did not take place. Perhaps officials wanted to avoid the spectacle of young cadets singing publicly, as they did recently, "We are sailing

full of energy to the U.S.A.," instead of the official song, "We are marching full of energy to the front."

As the sun sets in the thick, hazy air, dozens of houses open their doors and become modest cafes serving soup and cake. In the wooden stands along the streets that sell cigarettes by the piece, hundreds of oil lamps are lit, glowing like fireflies in the whispering darkness.



The Soviet Union is estimated to be sending three million dollars in aid per day to Vietnam to bolster that country's failing economy. East Bloc freighters (note Odessa Ocean Line) fill piers along Saigon River.



rebuilding effort. Imports from the Soviet Union barely keep the nation afloat, even though American sources estimate this aid to be as high as \$3 million daily.

Russian advisers and tourists are everywhere. Many Vietnamese call them "Americans without the dollars." A special area for Soviet tourists has developed in the old Saigon resort area of Vung Tau. The Soviets have not been given a port of their own yet, but there is no doubt that they soon will.

Russian trawlers monopolize fishing off Vietnam's shores, and with the departure of all foreign companies they also have a solid hold on oil exploration. The government recognizes the danger of such dependence and is trying desperately to open doors to the West, but its close ties with the Kremlin — to say nothing of its intrusions into Laos and Cambodia — have made such overtures a difficult prospect.



HE WAS THERE FIRST

Bobby Muller and three other members of the Vietnam Veterans of America made a highly publicized trip to Vietnam at the end of 1981. Muller claimed on the Phil Donahue show and at other times that he and his group were the first former American servicemen to be allowed into Vietnam and into Hanoi.

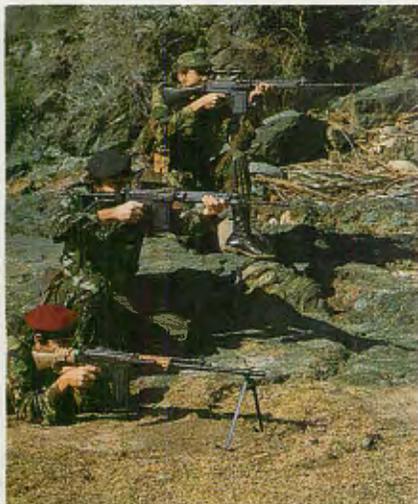
The photos illustrating this article were taken in 1980 in Saigon by reporter Ed Rasen, who served several Vietnam tours with the U.S. Army. (For details of Rasen's trip, see "Journey Into Hell," *SOF*, January '81, and "Cambodia's Three-Way War," *SOF*, February '81.)

Rasen also went to Hanoi in 1980 before going into Cambodia to cover the war there.

— Jim Graves



FUSIL AUTOMATIQUE LEGERE



Rise & Fall of a Misguided Classic

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

ABOVE: Full-auto burst from "Congo" Para FAL, wielded by Al Nordeen. Note ejected case frozen in mid-air. **LEFT:** Three-of-a-kind: From top to bottom, Al Nordeen, Marty Hart, and Jim Drakos shoulder, respectively, FN LAR .308 Match rifle with 4X Hensoldt scope, FN Para LAR, and FN LAR Heavy Barrel model.



LIKE the Colt single-action Army revolver, the Luger and M1911A1 auto pistols, and the Thompson and MP40 submachine guns, the FN FAL is both an esthetic and functional classic. But, an *assault rifle*, in the strictest sense, it is not. It could have been.

By the middle of WWII, the Germans became convinced that the individual soldier rarely engaged targets beyond 400 meters and that the ability of his weapon to deliver short bursts of full-automatic fire was a desirable characteristic. To these specific ends they designed a cartridge of reduced ballistic values, the 7.92mm Kurz (short) and the world's first true assault rifle (*Sturmgewehr*), the MP 43/44 (StG 44/45). Picking up on this concept after 1945, the rest of the world raced headlong down the path of intermediate cartridges and lightweight, selective-fire *assault*



TOP: Kneeling Al Nordeen aims "G" series FAL. **ABOVE:** Marty Hart squints through 4X Hensoldt scope on FN LAR .308 Match rifle. **UPPER RIGHT:** Hands of Marty Hart bridle bucking full-auto FAL without flash suppressor.



rifles. The most notable early example is, without doubt, the 7.62x39mm ComBloc cartridge chambered in the AK-47.

By 1950, the British, following this trend, had developed the .280/30 cartridge and chambered it in the British EM2 "bullpup" rifle and the Belgian FN rifle before that year's light-rifle trials staged in the United States. Forever the world's power freaks, the United States had taken the position that "there have been no changes in combat tactics which would justify a reduction of rifle caliber and power." Thus, the U.S. entry was the "full-power" T65 cartridge, which merely shortened the .30-06 case, a modification made possible by propellant improvements.

In 1953, American power politics prevailed and the modified T65 cartridge was finally adopted as standard by NATO and designated 7.62x51mm. This was done without any consideration being given to the desirability of selective-fire capability in a light rifle — a specification which absolutely necessitates the use of an intermediate-power cartridge.

Thus, by 1953, the British had adopted an American cartridge they didn't want and a Belgian rifle to shoot it that was their second choice. Amid this background of intrigue and controversy, the era of the FAL began.

Using D.J. Saive's breech mechanism, which closely resembles that of the Soviet Tokarev semiautomatic rifle, the original FN

FAL (*Fusil Automatique Legere: Rifle, Automatic, Light*) prototype was chambered in the German 7.92mm Kurz. After its redesign to 7.62mm NATO, by Saive and Ernest Vervier, the FAL soon became one of the greatest success stories in the history of modern military small arms. It has at one time or another been adopted and used by more than 90 nations, including numerous Latin American countries, the British Commonwealth and Israel. It has been manufactured by Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Great Britain, India, Israel and South Africa.

The FAL is gas-operated and fires from the closed-bolt position in both the semi- and full-auto modes. It has an operator-adjustable gas regulator which works on the "exhaust" principle. Under ideal conditions the major portion of the gas is passed through the regulator and out into the air. This system helps to reduce recoil.

If the correct procedure is followed, adjustment of the gas regulator is simple. Start with the gas-regulator sleeve fully screwed up over the gas port. Then unscrew the sleeve — with either the adjusting tool or the head of a cartridge — one complete turn so that the gas port is completely exposed. If you are lucky enough to own an older FAL, the number "7" on the sleeve will be in line with the axis of the rifle. (Unfortunately, these numbers have been eliminated from the new LARs, apparently as a cost-saving device.) This is the fully-open position of the gas regulator and when a round is fired short recoil will result (the hold-open will fail to engage).

With an empty magazine fitted to the rifle, screw the gas-regulator sleeve forward one click at a time, and fire one round only after each adjustment by inserting the cartridge into the chamber through the ejection port. When the hold-open finally engages, verify by firing several more rounds single-shot. As a safety margin, screw the gas regulator forward by two additional clicks and the exhaust regulation is set.

While it sounds confusing, in

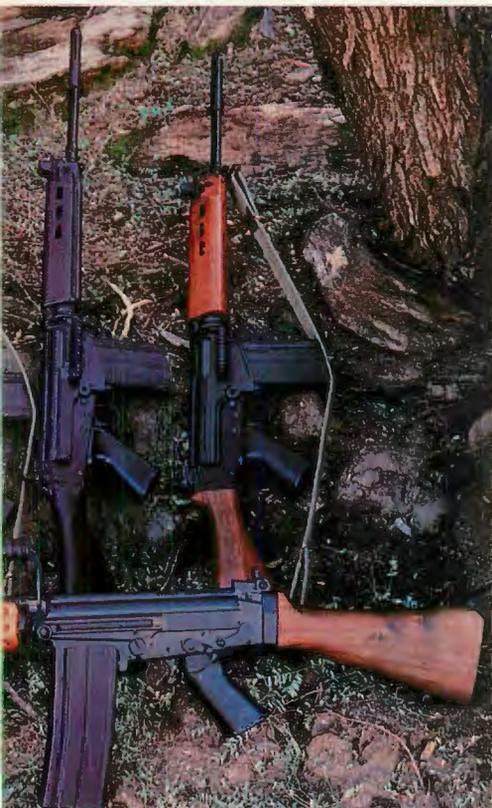
practice it is not. The gas regulator offers firing with the lowest possible recoil combined with the ability to direct more gas into the system under adverse conditions or in case of fouling.

The FAL's operating sequence can be briefly described as follows. After the projectile passes the gas port in the top of the barrel, some of the gas is diverted into the gas cylinder where it expands and drives the short-stroke piston back, which in turn strikes the face of the bolt carrier. This carrier moves independently to the rear about a 1/4 inch, during which time the chamber pressure has dropped to a safe level.

After this free movement, the carrier's unlocking cam moves under the bolt lug and raises the rear portion of the bolt out of the locking recess in the bottom of the receiver. The bolt and its carrier now travel back, compressing the recoil spring. The extractor withdraws the fired case, holding it on the bolt face until it hits the fixed ejector and is propelled out of the rifle through the ejection port.

The recoil spring drives the carrier and bolt forward, stripping the top cartridge out of the magazine and driving it into the chamber. The bolt stops and the carrier continues forward a short distance until its locking cam rides over the bolt, forcing and holding the bolt down into the recess at the bottom of the receiver.

A total of six different FALs were used in SOF's test and evaluation of this legendary weapon. Three of the rifles were semiautomatic variants of the so-called LAR (Light Automatic Rifle — the nomenclature used overseas by FN for the FAL since the early '70s and by Steyr since it began to distribute the rifle in this country in 1977), which is available through the Steyr-Daimler-Puch of America Corporation (Dept. SOF, 85 Metro Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094). They were a folding-stock, long-barreled (21 inches) paratroop model (No. FN 50-61); a standard, or "match," version with a rigid stock (No. FN 50-00); and the LAR heavy-barrel model with bipod (No. FN 50-41). Three older FALs were used for comparison: a semiautomatic "G" series (so called because of the "G" prefixing their serial numbers), one of 1,836 rifles imported from 1959 until January 1963, when they were reclassified by the BATF as exempt machine guns; a full-auto, folding-stock, short-barreled (18 inches) Belgian army paratroop model (No. FN 50-63) from the Congo; and a very early (serial No. 409) full-auto FAL without a flash suppressor.



FAR LEFT: Braced for hip-firing, Mary Hart holds FN LAR Heavy Barrel. **LEFT:** Tested FALs were (left to right) full-auto FAL Para with 18-inch barrel, Para LAR with 21-inch barrel, early full-auto FAL without flash suppressor, FN LAR .308 Match rifle, so-called "G" series FAL imported into U.S. in early '60s and FN LAR Heavy Barrel model in foreground.

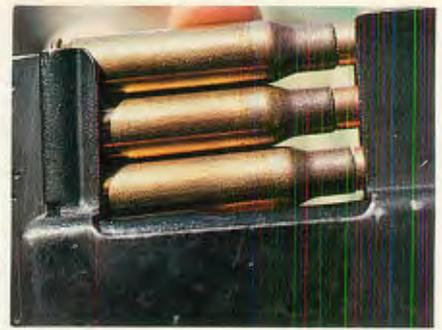
Before we scrutinize each rifle individually, let us examine the ways in which the new LARs differ from the older FALs. We can start with a piece of ghoulish trivia. The FAL receivers are all marked "F.A.L. cal. 7.62," while the LARs are stamped ".308 MATCH." It seems that it is now illegal for any citizen of Belgium to own a rifle chambered for any military caliber, such as 7.62mm NATO. However, ".308" (Winchester) is, of course, a sporting cartridge and thus legal! The cancer of bureaucratic mentality is a worldwide infection.

The original FAL receivers were forged and milled with a projected lifespan of 80,000 rounds. Blake Stevens (personal communication)

has observed one of these receivers which cracked in the locking-lug area after 60,000 rounds. Stevens has also seen a Canadian army FAL receiver (manufactured by flame cutting on a pantograph machine) which cracked after 40,000 rounds.

In an effort to lower production costs on a rifle which has never been cheap, the LAR receivers are investment-cast and mill-finished, with a hoped-for life of 40,000 rounds. The new investment-cast receivers are missing several of the lightening cuts that were milled into the older forged receivers — again, an attempt to lower production costs.

The trigger mechanism of the FAL is ingenious and well-designed and



FAL magazine loader.

THE "CONGO FAL"

by Al Nordeen

The "Congo FAL" used in SOF's test (marked "ABL 1963 M-3") is a Belgian army-issue weapon. It is also a souvenir of the successful airborne operation conducted by a joint task force in the Republic of the Congo during 1964. The weapon was issued to the 1st Para-Commando Regiment, Belgian Army, in early 1964.

On 22 November 1964, the 1st Battalion, 1st Company of 2nd Battalion, and a detachment from 3rd Battalion of the 1st Para-Commando Regiment were transported to Kamina, Republic of the Congo, to help plan and coordinate Operation Dragon Rouge, the code-name for a joint airborne operation involving the Belgian paras, National Congolese troops assisted by 5 Commando mercenaries, and a U.S. Air Force airlift command with one combat control team (see "Congo's Operation Dragon Rouge," p. 28). The Congo FAL was one of the weapons carried by a member of the 1st Para.

Dragon Rouge's objective was to rescue American, European and Congolese civilians held hostage in the city of Stanleyville by Congolese rebels supported by communist-backed Simbas (Lions), who opposed the Nationalist Congolese government.

After Dragon Rouge's planning phase was complete on 24 November, the Belgian airborne attack force departed Kamina airfield. Just before they arrived at Stanleyville, Simbas lined up 250 civilians in Lumunda Square in the city and gunned them down with machine-gun fire. Seventeen were killed and 40 wounded.

At 0400 the Belgian attack force parachuted to the assigned landing zone (LZ) at Stanleyville airport. Within 40 minutes the airfield was secured. During this time, the paras set up a defense perimeter and re-



Resting on "Congo" Para FAL are Belgian Army parawing badge (left) and Belgian Airborne Commando beret badge. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

moved 300 full 55-gallon drums and 11 wheel-less vehicles from the runway. They then advised the landing assault force that it was clear to land, dispatching an advance assault force to clear the road to the city.

As the aircraft containing the landing force touched down on the runway, 180 rebels and one platoon of Simbas made five counterattacks on the perimeter, only to be repulsed each time.

Once the landing assault force had off-loaded the aircraft, its members linked up with the advance force in the city. These units were assisted by Gen. Mobutu's National Congolese troops (ANC: *Armee Nationale Congolese* or National Congolese Army) to search Stanleyville for surviving hostages and rebels. On 25 and 26 November, prisoners were taken and the surviving civilians were evacuated by aircraft to Leopoldville (center for the Task Force Command).

During the action, ANC troops looted and mutilated and murdered Congolese civilians as well as unarmed prisoners. The only difference between them and the rebel forces was the uniform.

Rebel hostility was suppressed late on 27 November, a credit to the courageous, professional Belgian paras who killed armed rebels only when necessary and took prisoners when possible. In the three-day operation, the U.S. Air Force conducted evacuations with 80 aircraft supplied by the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and the Republic of the Congo.

The men of the airlift command were pros by any standard. Often under fire, they loaded and flew 2,000 Americans and Europeans as well as 300 Congolese civilians to safety. The Air Force combat control team (CCT DET 1, 5th Aerial Port Squadron) precisely handled the entire communications net.

On 27 November at 1715, the mission had been completed and the last C-130 departed Stanleyville en route to Kamina with the last group of paras and the combat-control team. The "Congo FAL" went along.

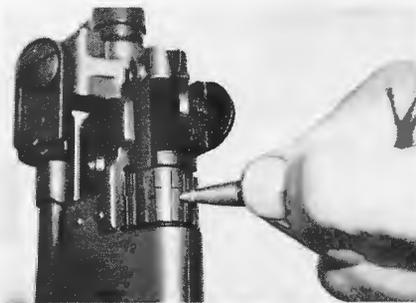
has been much copied. It incorporates both the usual sear which is attached to the trigger by a pin and an "automatic safety sear" which is in front of the hammer and must be depressed for the hammer to rotate.

The semiautomatic "G" series FALs imported in the early '60s contained a number of modifications, including elimination of this automatic safety sear, to render them incapable of full-auto fire. The BATF decided this was insufficient and demanded that the cut milled in the receiver to accept the safety sear be eliminated on all FALs imported to the United States. The 1,836 rifles imported prior to this

Continued on page 77



FN FAL (right) conveniently marked on gas plug, front sight, and gas-regulator sleeve; marks economically but inconveniently missing from FN LAR.



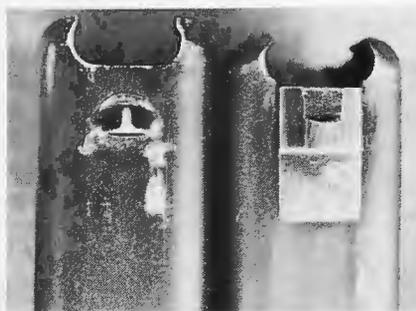
Often found near guns, bullets work to adjust FAL/LAR gas-regulator sleeves.



FAL bayonets: (top to bottom) early bayonet with flash suppressor prongs for plain barrel, same blade and handle but guard modified to accept "American-style" suppressor, and current issue, single-purpose, tubular-handle bayonet for FAL/LAR flash suppressor/grenade launcher.



Para FAL recoil spring rides in sheet-metal receiver cover, not butt, since stock folds: bolt and bolt carrier from Para.



Canadian FAL magazine (right) has durable solid-metal front lug which — unlike punched standard mag lug on left — needs no special care or inspection.

SPECIFICATIONS

Weapon	Weapon weight without magazine	Overall length
FN LAR Standard	9.4 lbs.	43 in.
FN LAR Para (21-in. barrel)	8.6 lbs.	butt folded 33 in.
FN LAR Para (18-in. barrel)	8.3 lbs.	butt folded 29 in.
FN LAR Heavy Barrel	13.2 lbs.	butt in position 39 in. 45 in.

Steel magazine, empty: .55 lb.
Steel magazine, full: 1.72 lbs.
bayonet: .45 lb.

Rifling twist: 4 right grooves: 1:12 inches
Cyclic rate of fire in full-auto: 650 to 700 rpm

Available accessories: magazines, tubular-handle bayonet, blank-firing device, scope (4X Hensoldt) with mount, web carrying sling, magazine loader, cleaning kit and light bipod.

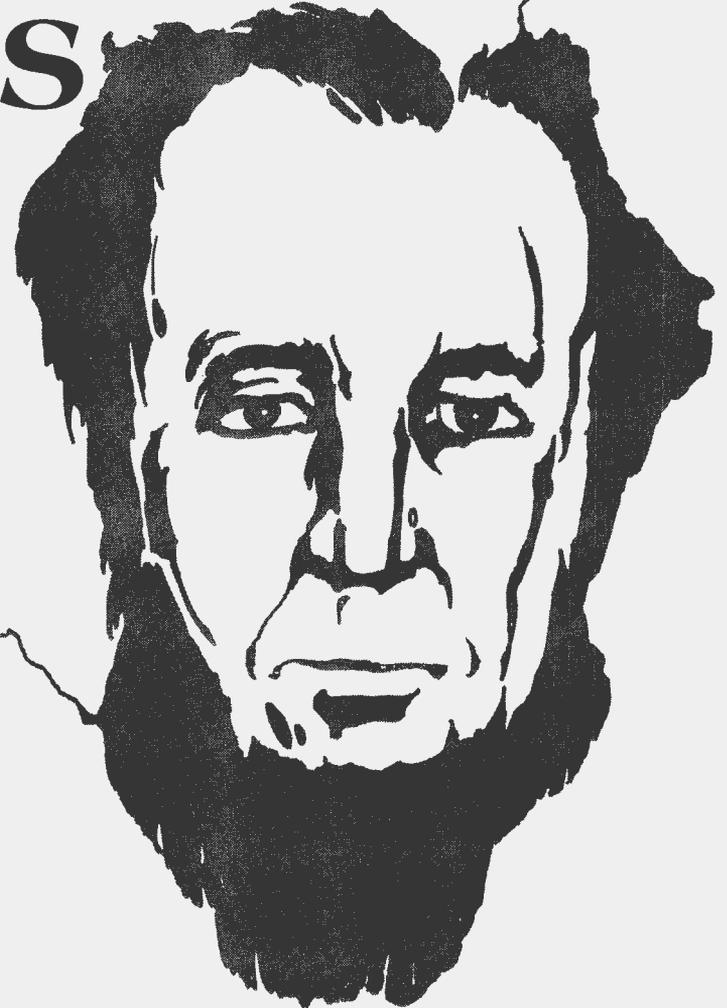


Difference between this pistol-gripped semiauto large-mag sporting rifle and the FN FAL battle rifle (illegal in civilian Belgium) is the "civilian" .308 Win. chambering instead of (identical) 7.62 NATO.

ALEXANDR SOLZHENITSYN SPEAKS OUT

Poland Proves West's Weakness

by Alexandr Solzhenitsyn



EDITOR'S NOTE: The West has offered many interpretations for the crisis in Poland, but all of them miss the mark, says Alexandr Solzhenitsyn. The real lesson, he believes, is that there is "no single nation in Europe that would not be ready to furnish (communism) the necessary number of hangmen" it needs to conquer all of Europe. In this excerpt, the Nobel Prize-winning author illustrates his conviction that the West is unprepared to fend off communism's "triumphant march" and too naive to see the insidious nature of the ideology itself.

by Alexandr Solzhenitsyn

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WHAT is the main lesson to be drawn from the events in Poland? In the course of the past 65 years, this same lesson has been served to the world, more or less clearly, about 50 times, but the West has always attempted to ignore it, not to understand it or to give it a wrong interpretation.

What explanations do we hear today? They range from naive indignation — "They have spoiled the West's Christmas holidays" (this was the meaning of a question I received from an English newspaper) — to a hazy mirage: "A military junta of the Latin American type emerged in Poland to unseat a worn-out Communist Party."

Oh, really, just try unseating a Communist Party that holds power! When,

where and who has ever succeeded in achieving that?

The simplest explanation speaks of foreign interference: "The Kremlin has forced Jaruzelski." But if the Kremlin's pressure is a sufficient explanation, then neither the Soviet army nor even the Soviet *tshekists* (police) acting under pressure can be held responsible.

Nor do we, citizens born in the USSR, have any responsibility since we, too, have been "forced" to act by the Kremlin since 1918, through the *tsheka*, to carry out executions, by sending to the bottom boats crowded with living souls, by setting up camps for millions and millions of persons, by exterminating populations at a rate unprecedented in world history.

We may objectively remark that the Kremlin itself had, in the first stage, recourse to outside force: the hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war of the 1914 war who had been left free to impose their will in a foreign country. Surely communism never shirks from leaning on an external force, but it would be undignified and illusory to be satisfied with such an explanation.

If the communists have succeeded in strengthening their power in Russia, Cuba and Ethiopia, it's because they found sufficient numbers of volunteers in those countries to accomplish the task of hangmen while the rest of the population did not resist. And all of them are responsible — all except those who died while resisting.

"Pressure from the Kremlin?" All right. But why has Jaruzelski, the Polish militiamen, the Polish army — why have they all obeyed? How did one find promptly half a million helpers?

Of the past 50 lessons, the Polish lesson is most significant since we are dealing with an exemplary nation as to its homogeneity, its unity, its integrity — a nation so powerfully cemented by national and religious sentiment that nothing, apparently, should split it. And yet it, too, has produced the needed numbers of communist helpers.

Among the Poles who today are indignant are perhaps some who, in 1945, participated in the extermination of the national army. Just like among the victims of the 1968 events in Prague we find a good deal of those who, in 1945, helped to build communism with all their enthusiasm, mocking the refugees fleeing the USSR.

This, therefore, is the lesson: The danger facing 20th-century humanity does not come from such and such country, nation, or such and such particular leader, it arises from the universal evil represented by communism.

It has been 65 years since communism has been accomplishing, virtually unhampered, its triumphant march throughout the world. And there is no single nation in Europe that would not be ready to furnish it the necessary number of hangmen they need to surrender entirely.

Let us take West Germany today: It is crawling on its belly — or nearly so — in the face of communism, without there being any need to call on agents from East Germany.

And France? For a long time, a party there, backed by millions of voters, has been acting in broad daylight and does not conceal its intention of supplying world communism with the personnel it will need. And there will be plenty of people — more than in Poland — to come from such countries as Italy, Spain or Great Britain.

The new factor is not "pressure from the Kremlin," it's the fact that mankind

is unprepared, is too weak to oppose the communist evil that overcomes and defies intelligent thinking.

The terrible fact is not "pressure from the Kremlin," but the fact that all mankind, all of us, let ourselves be pushed into the trench dug out for us by communism because of our spiritual weakness.

It's only too easy today to express one's belated sympathy for Poland, to ardently hope that the Poles will again shake the yoke, to bar the road to communism in its march into Europe. But why, then, did the Western allies in 1946 push Poland (as well as Bulgaria and Romania) with such carelessness into the arms of communism?

What is there new in the occupation of Afghanistan when Trotsky, at the pinnacle of his power, already wrote explicitly that "the road to Berlin passes through Afghanistan," and while Lenin, when living in Switzerland, had foreseen in his 1915 program that his revolutionary armies (which did not yet exist) would march into India?

The Universal Evil of Communism

Yes, world communism still represents a foreign force for every nation. The Polish lesson assumes added significance since even in Poland, with its passionate love of freedom, with the drive of its people toward independence, even this country has come down in defeat.

No Western nation has built up such a capacity for resistance. Therefore, the Polish December rings like a funeral march for the Europe that, from 1917 to 1982, has failed to comprehend the nature or the danger that has threatened its own existence.

It's fashionable these days to harbor illusions that "communist ideology is dead," that it has met with disaster. Oh, it burns with enough fire yet to conquer the whole world. Everything points that way.

Brezhnev and Jaruzelski do not shoulder alone the responsibility for the Polish developments: They share it with Deng Xiaoping, Pol Pot, Castro, the leaders of Nicaragua, Marchais and even Berlinguer and Carrillo. Yes, they too, though they are brandishing public protests.

It is their ideology that, with its heavy steps, is crushing Poland, and let us ad-

mit it is not entirely alien to the socialists who, though, are protesting vehemently. The ideology of any communism is based on the coercive power of the state. Let's not be mistaken: Solidarity inspired itself not by socialism but by Christianity.

The ideology is dead? Before dying, it will yet find enough time to destroy and conquer the whole West and relish in its blood. Communist ideology is a metaphysical force that runs counter to nature. It acts in defiance of physical, economic and sociological laws. Instead of perishing, as it should, it goes triumphant. It is triumphant because of the West's weakness.

Communist ideology is still capable of surviving in the USSR and in Communist China: It will yet find soil on the Earth capable of nourishing it.

It has been 65 years that year after year, month after month, the West has been tipping the balance in the same way: to fall and to surrender.

Several generations of Europeans have abandoned themselves to a comfortable life while, east of Poland's Bug River, millions of their kin were being killed and exterminated. Just like today's European pacifists who, in their spiritual deviation, hasten to put spokes into the wheels of the United States, which seems determined to resist.

Europe does not want to count on its own forces and it puts all its hopes into an external miracle, in the success of the foggy negotiations with the communists.

But there are no miracles for misled souls. Negotiations with the communists have never produced fruit for the West and have always ended in defeat.

(There are two apparent exceptions: Austria has benefited from a personal gesture of Khrushchev. As to the atmospheric nuclear test ban, it was the result of a worldwide defense reaction.)

All the negotiations, starting with Genoa (1922) to Yalta and Helsinki and those that are now under way in Geneva, have done nothing but mislead the West and assure the success of communism. The present hopes are all in vain. Western democracies are grasping at illusions.

One has to be blind to expect salutary results from talks with a heartless adversary. The West, too, is weak, a weakness that results from three centuries of European evolution, and is to be found in its very foundations.

Western society as it appears today, which is consuming more and more, shying away from work, hedonistic, whose family is destroying itself, tempted by drugs, atheistic, paralyzed by terrorism, has spent its vital energy and lost its spiritual health: It cannot survive such as it is. And socialism, far from being a solution, is nothing but another form of the same evil.



SECOND S.H.O.T.

More Guns & Goodies

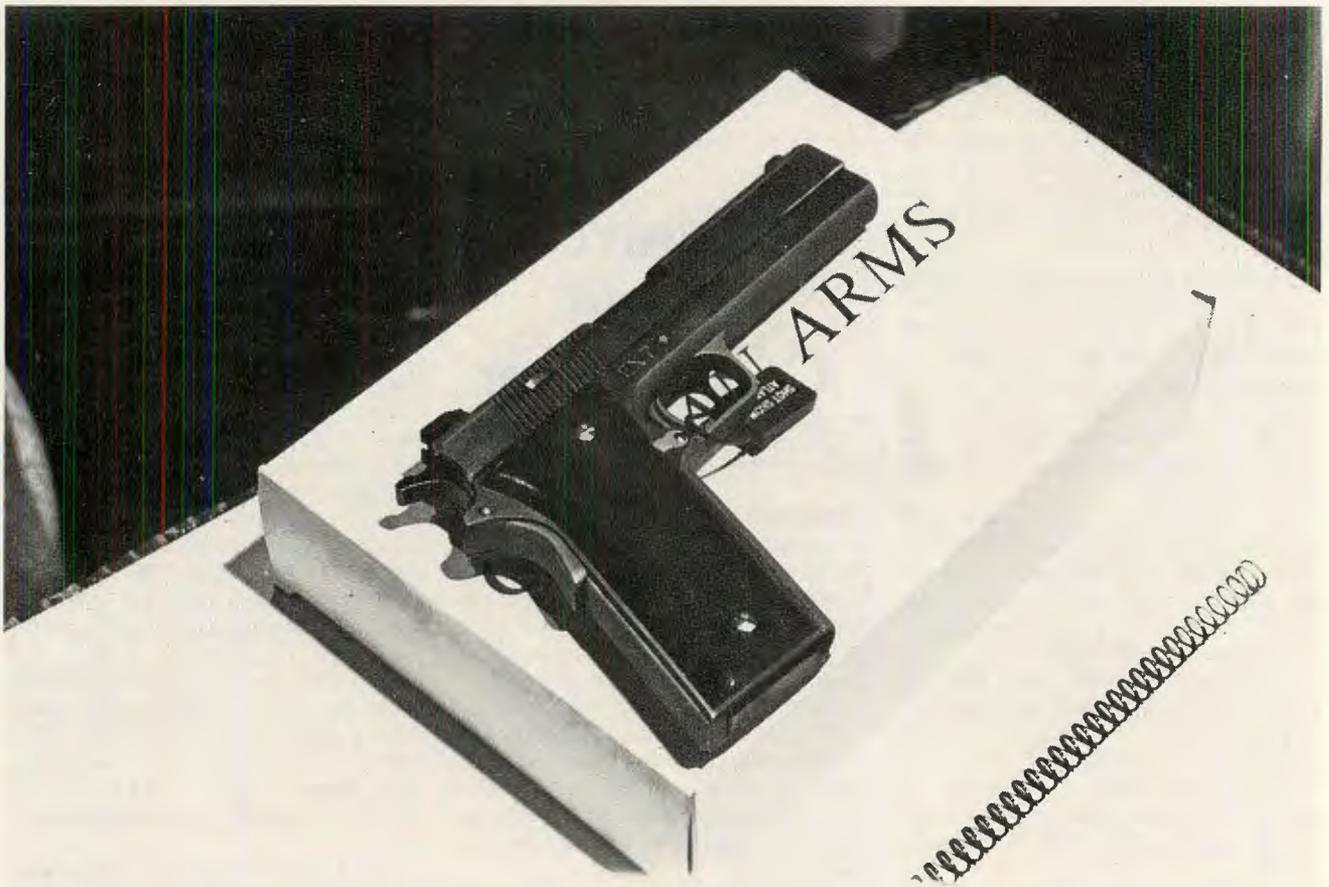
by John Metzger

IN this issue, SOF wraps up its coverage of the fourth annual S.H.O.T. (Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade) Show held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, 11 to 13 January. SOF staffers were there to see what was new in the in-

dustry. The items shown here are but a small cross section of the equipment exhibited by more than 675 companies. We chose to show the hardware that we felt would be of most interest to our readers.

Atlanta's show will be a tough act

to follow — despite record-low temperatures and snow — but next year's show in San Francisco should prove to be bigger and better. SOF will be there to report on what's new in the shooting, hunting and outdoor trade industry.



HOODED COONAN . . .

Coonan Arms, Inc., has developed a new .357 Magnum semiauto pistol. This stainless-steel piece has been christened "The Coonan," and will see production late this summer. The gun will retail for \$495. Sixty-eight percent of the Coonan's parts are interchangeable with the Colt .45. It will feed any factory .357 Magnum ammunition (except shot), but will not function properly with .38 Special ammo. Conversion kits will be avail-

able in the future. In fact, Coonan plans to produce the gun in five different calibers. Its unique, patented magazine will feed any type of rimmed ammo successfully.

Other features include a non-glare finish on the sighting plane, smooth walnut grips, serrated front sight, low-profile rear sight, 45-ounce loaded weight, 8.3-inch overall length and five-inch barrel.

"A unique feature on this gun,"

says Bill Coonan of Coonan Arms, "is a patented barrel hood that locks up into the slide so that there's no rear-end barrel play. This guarantees the gun to be free from stove-piping, and guarantees more accuracy because the rear of the barrel doesn't float."

For more information on the Coonan, contact **Coonan Arms**, Dept. SOF, 1163 Old Fort Rd., St. Paul, MN 55102. Phone: (612) 699-5639.



Zeiss has produced a scope package that offers rugged dependability, using the highest-quality materials and standards of manufacture. The four new scopes come in 4x, 6x, 3-9x and 10x and are one-piece tubes with integral turret, precision windage and elevation adjustments, multi-coated lenses, instant dioper adjustment, cushioned eyepiece and weather-sealing.

The Zeiss 4x, 6x and 3-9x variable are set to be parallax-free at 100 yards. The 10x varmint/target model is adjustable for parallax-free operation at any desired range from 40 yards to infinity. The new C-Series scopes have rubber-covered objective bells to mute accidental bumpings. The finish on the scopes is virtually indestructible; it's of a matte-type so as not to emit game-spooking reflections, yet it's attractive enough to complement any rifle on which it's mounted.

Zeiss also displayed its line of binoculars (left). Of course, they exhibited the same quality of design and attention to detail found in its scopes. For accuracy, superb image quality throughout the entire field of view, and high-light transmission, Zeiss performance is of the absolute highest quality.

Like I said, you get what you pay for — and Zeiss scopes and binoculars are not cheap. I suggest you examine each Zeiss product carefully before you buy, to make sure it's what you want. Write for more information to **Carl Zeiss, Inc.**, Dept. SOF, One Zeiss Dr., Thornwood, NY 10594. Phone: (914) 747-1800.

DOUBLE LENSES . . .

Carl Zeiss, Inc., of West Germany, has come out with a new line of rifle scopes called the Zeiss C-Series (top photo). Since Carl Zeiss set up shop in 1846, the company has provided the optics industry with many innova-

tions, including variable scopes in the 1920s and coated lenses in the 1930s, and it continues to be a pioneer in its field. All Zeiss products are of the highest quality available — you get what you pay for.



GUARDIAN OUTFIT . . .

Gerber Legendary Blades has announced its new line of Guardian Survival Knives. The knives are, of course, offered separately, but Gerber's Ron Robley got my attention with what he calls the "Complete

Guardian Survival Kit" (above). Robley suggested to me that this nice box of vicious-looking blades would make a good wedding gift.

Included in the special (and practical) presentation case is the standard

Guardian, a 3½-ounce double-edged dagger with spring-release, top-grain-leather, boot-clip scabbard with shoulder harness included; Guardian I, four ounces with 4¾-inch double-edged blade and leather belt/boot scabbard with quick-release thumb snap, shoulder rig also included; and Guardian II, an extremely well-balanced blade of eight ounces, with an overall length of 11¾ inches. Leather scabbard with leg-tie thong included.

I was impressed with this case: three fine knives with special harness gear and sharpener. The whole set is available with matched serial numbers one through 1000 and designer Robert Loveless' signature for \$295. With conventional serial number and no Loveless signature, the set retails for \$250.

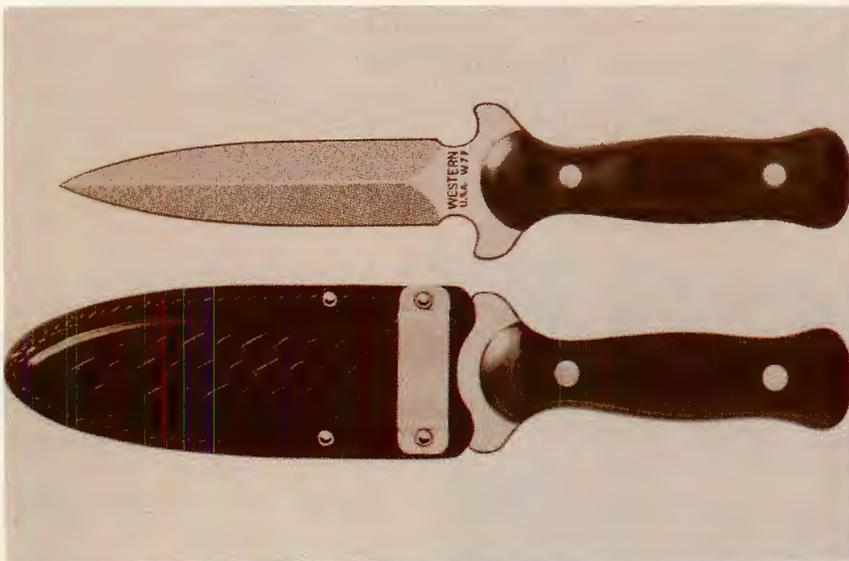
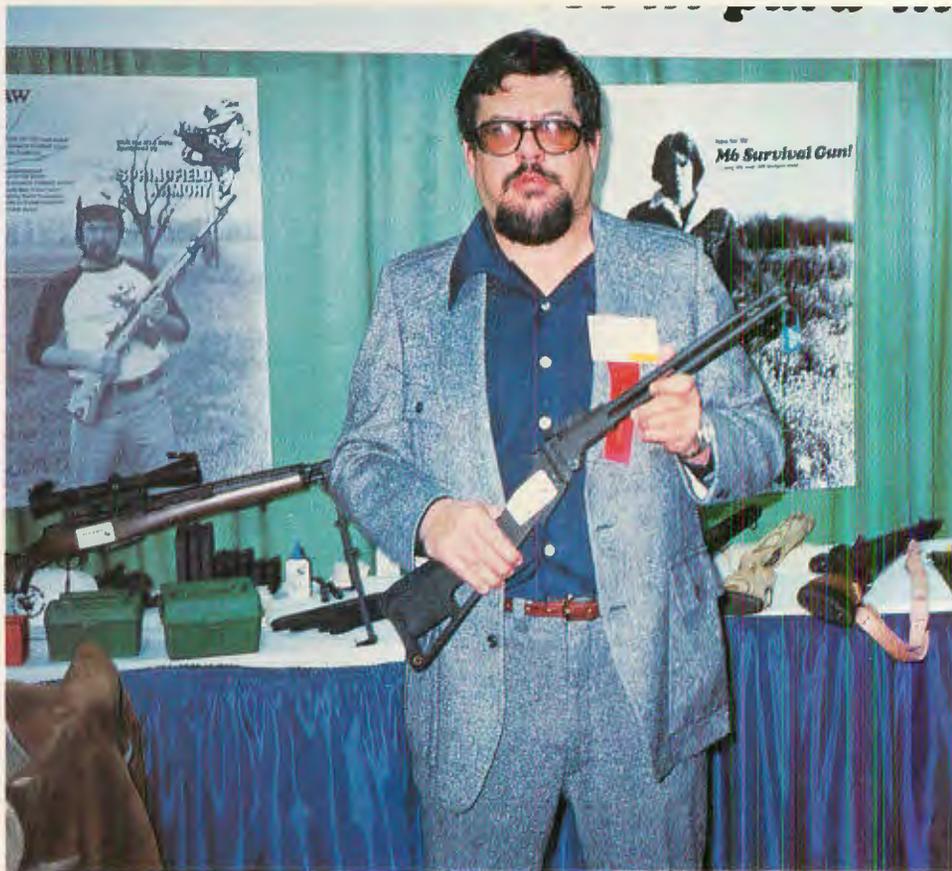
For more information regarding all Gerber products, contact **Gerber Legendary Blades**, Dept. SOF, 14200 S.W. 72nd Ave., P.O. Box 23088, Portland, OR 97223. Phone: (503) 639-6161.

SURVIVAL IN SPRINGFIELD . . .

The new trend toward survivalism has led to a noticeable increase in survival-oriented items at the S.H.O.T. Show. Pictured is SOF's Jake Jatrass with Springfield's new M6 Survival Gun.

With the typical ruggedness found in Springfield products, the M6 is a low-cost, durable, lightweight weapon (no positive retail price is available yet). Designed for compact storage convenience, the gun folds into itself, and there's a quick access magazine for 10 .22-cal. shells and five .410 shotgun shells. It is a .22-caliber rifle over/.410-gauge shotgun under with a weight of 3¾ pounds and overall length of 31½ inches. Folded into itself, the gun is 18 inches in length.

Springfield will introduce this survival gun sometime this summer — hopefully by the time this story sees print. In the meantime, if you would like more information on the M6, and other Springfield products — including a new lightweight receiver for the M16 (shown above the M6, far right) — contact **Springfield Armory**, Dept. SOF, 420 West Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254. Phone: (309) 944-5138.



FAST-DRAW BOOT KNIFE . . .

Western Cutlery Co. of Longmont, Colo., has come out with a unique new boot knife: the W77 (above). It has a double-ground, 4½-inch, 440-stainless-steel blade and resin-impregnated hardwood handle. Overall length is 8¾ inches. Features include a one-piece blade and guard, full tang through handle, solid-nickel silver rivets, and a newly designed sheath that has its own patent. The knife is held in the sheath by friction, and is secured by a metal clip around

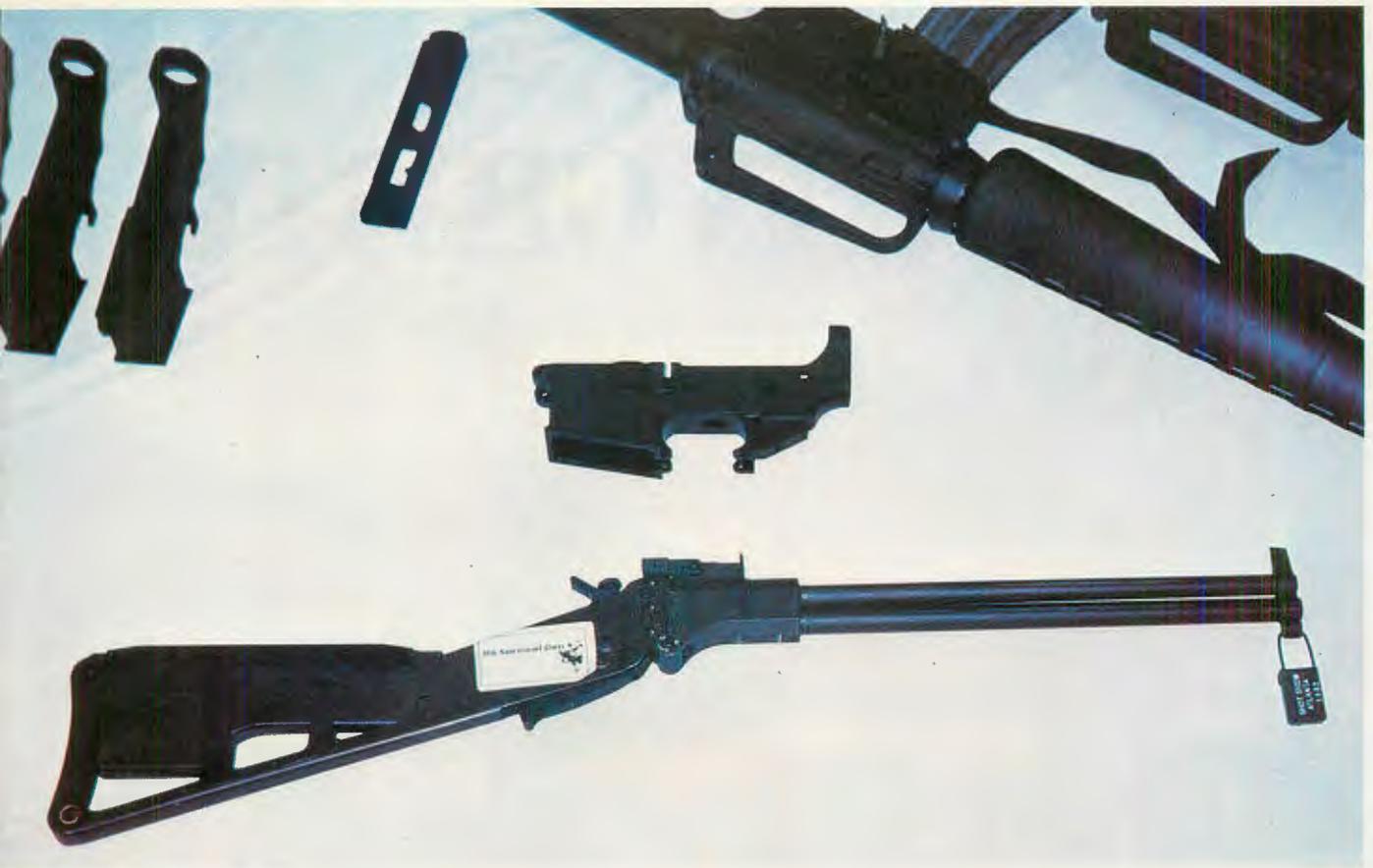
the sheath, riveted to the boot clip on back. It holds the knife well, and there are no release clips to hang up on, even when you use your weak hand. The black molded-leather sheath is embossed with a basket-weave design.

At \$29.95, this knife is a good buy. For more information, contact **Western Cutlery Co.**, Dept. SOF, 1800 Pike Rd., P.O. Box 1539, Longmont, CO 80501. Phone: (303) 772-5900.



STOCKING UP . . .

Wanda Anderson (above) holds the Ruger 1022 auto rifle equipped with the Black Warrior folding stock. John Masen, of McKinney, Texas, started out as a professional gunsmith, then went into the parts business. He recently commissioned Garth Choate to make the stock, and it's a good one, with the level of quality that SOFers have come to expect from Choate. The stock retails for \$69.95, and has an ABS (extremely hard plastic) front section, stock and pistol grip molded as a single piece. The en-



T EKNA SURVIVAL . . .

Most SOF readers are familiar with the Tekna knife, distributed by Phoenix Associates. Inspired by the U.S. Navy's request for a lightweight, nonreflective knife for UDT and SEAL teams, Tekna announces its "B" series of survival knives (above). Like its predecessor, the "B" is formed from a single piece of nickel/chromium 431 stainless steel. A permanent, non-reflective black matte finish is then carefully applied to the entire surface area of the knife.

The balanced rows of serrated teeth near the hilt are razor sharp and designed to initiate a line fracture, ensuring a one-stroke cut. The bilateral symmetry of the knife guarantees that the blade is always positioned for the cut and, simultaneously, hand

and knife assume the natural foil grip, even on a blind draw. The knife has a 7.5-inch overall length, and is available with three types of sheaths: a low-profile leather clip sheath, a high-impact plastic sheath with thumb-operated latch and velcro straps for forearm or calf attachment, and the same sheath with wire-type boot clip. The knife retails for \$49.95 with plastic, velcro-strapped sheath, or \$44.95 for leather or plastic sheath with wire clip.

This new Tekna knife is available through Phoenix Associates, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 687, Boulder, CO 80306. Phone: (303) 447-1263.

Continued on page 89

tire rear section is manufactured and installed by Choate for the Masen Company.

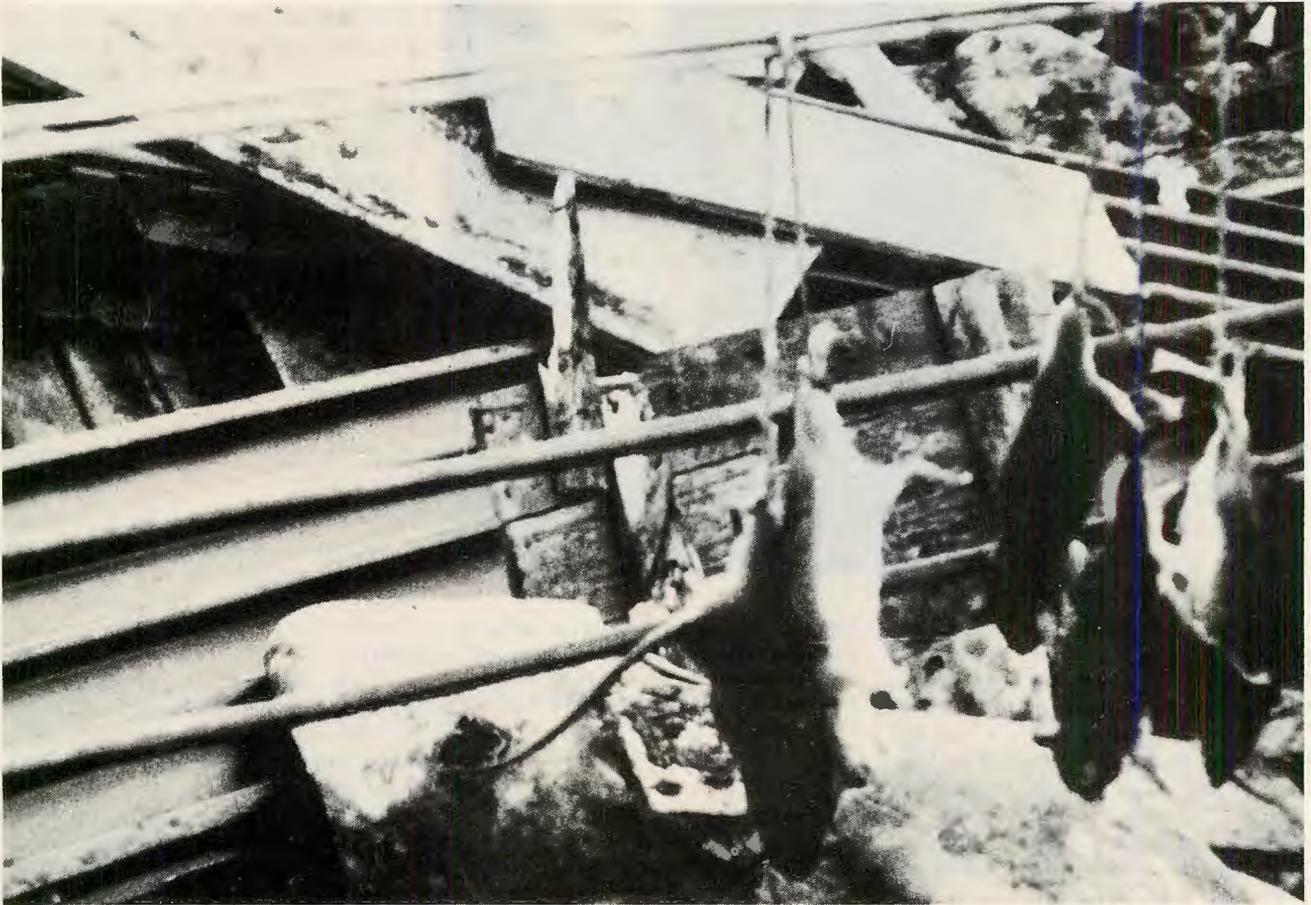
Masen is a stocking distributor for Choate, Pachmayr, M.M.C. .45 sights, sew-on gun emblem patches and obsolete Remington and Winchester .22 parts. Send \$1.00 for his catalog. Write to John Masen, Dept. SOF, Rt. 1, Box 345, McKinney, TX 75069. Phone: (214) 542-0783. For more information on Choate's products, write to Choate Machine and Tool, Dept. SOF, Box 218, Bald Knob, AR 72010.

RATTUS NON GRATUS



Khe Sanh's Furry, Fiendish Foes

Text & Photos by Ernie Husted



I woke from a light sleep. Something was wrong. I lay there in the darkness, letting my senses wander to find what they might. The wind was blowing against the tent around me, the canvas billowing out at the breeze's whim. The ropes were straining back and forth while the wooden tentpoles creaked overhead. I listened for several minutes — nothing sounded out of place. Then I heard the noise that made my nerves raw: *They were back.*

My skin crawled when I thought

Marines at Khe Sanh on recon during Great Rat Hunt rummage through damaged bunker for the enemy. Crafty rats had developed tunnel system under sandbags, but fell during Marine daylight barrage.

about them. I could hear the C-ration cans rattle on the floor as they ate the leftovers and licked the cans clean. In my mind I could see them, shadows of black and gray scurrying around, their noses searching for smells of something to eat.

Earlier, after my meal, I had carried my empty cans outside and thrown them away. I had then sprayed insect repellent where I had cooked; that would take care of any grease or food smells. I had remembered to wash my hands and face thoroughly, especially my lips. When I heard them squeal, fighting over a scrap of food, I licked my lips and rubbed my fingers together to make doubly sure.

The noise was very close. One of them was climbing up a blanket onto a cot; I didn't know if it was mine. I slowly

Beginning body count during Great Rat Hunt. Four confirmed kills sway slowly in the breeze at Khe Sanh. Methods of killing varied with each Marine's imagination.

pulled out the knife and flashlight from under my pillow. Suddenly, there was a blood-curdling scream. I sat up and switched on my light. The guy who slept next to me was screaming and waving frantically. A large rat was hanging from his lip. The rat had bitten it because the smell of food was on it. When the animal was finally pulled loose, it took a piece of lip with it.

The next morning, the bitten Marine started the long, painful series of rabies shots. He took the first shot right in the stomach, and he would take one a day for the next 27 days. I didn't know



which was worse, the rat bite or the shots. The guy would be in the rear for a month with no patrols to run; I knew I'd much rather be running patrols.

When I look back on it, I had felt prepared when I first arrived in Vietnam. I was ready to fight and kill the enemy. I had had an idea of what the country was like and had been prepared to endure the climate, hot or wet.

Nobody had said anything about the rats. During the daylight I never saw them. I could go about my normal routine without interruption. But things were different at night: The rats ruled. The most I'd ever see of them was a blurry shadow running from the light. We tried many ways to kill them, but few were successful. One was to light a candle and put it on the floor, then put food around it and turn out the lights. Then we would sit on our cots in the dark, watching the pale circle of light, a knife ready to throw when they appeared. It was so boring, most of the time the rats had an easy meal because we'd fall asleep.

The regular rat traps we set turned out to be indirect methods of feeding them. Instead of taking food from us, they took it from the traps. Even if a rat got careless, I'm not sure the trap would

Author before rat attack in luxury sleeping accommodations at Khe Sanh. Hammock was envy of bunker until night rat attack. M14 on left did little to stop kamikaze rat blitzkrieg.

have held, they were all so big.

Our company had moved to Khe Sanh, a small Marine outpost just a few clicks from Laos and the DMZ. It seemed that a very large group of North Vietnamese soldiers — about 45 to 60 thousand — decided to blow our little base away. When the first mortar, rocket and artillery rounds hit, we left our tents and went underground into the bunkers we had dug. When the shelling finally stopped, almost everything above ground had been blown up. The tents and cots which had been our homes were gone. We now lived in our bunkers.

We no longer had cots to put us a few feet above the rats. By sleeping on the ground, we were on their level. Imagine sleeping on your back, packed in like sardines, and having a rat run over your face as he goes from one end of the bunker to the other. After the second night, I decided to do something to get above it all. I found my solution in the form of a piece of parachute. I came

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ernie Husted Jr. has had stories printed in his local National Guard magazine and in *Leatherneck* about his experiences in the Marine Corps. He first hit 'Nam in April 1967 after Recon training. He participated in Operation Hickory in 1967 with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, then joined up with 3rd Recon Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Bravo Company. His story takes place at Khe Sanh, before and during the siege in early 1968. Today he is a security guard for International Harvester in Springfield, Ohio.

About 10 years ago, Husted was remodeling his kitchen and happened to run into another furry creature in the bread box. With total disregard for his own life, former-Marine Husted tactically retreated upstairs and grabbed his 9mm Browning Hi-Power. He returned to the kitchen and counterattacked, rushing the breadbox. Without hesitation, he dispatched the enemy into the Great Rat Beyond. A job well done.

After all, he had already had combat experience during the Great Rat Hunt at Khe Sanh.

— John Metzger

back and made the parachute cloth into a hammock, which I hung, using pieces of parachute cord and two metal hooks that I secured from the supports of the bunker roof. This had to be the perfect idea.

I was the envy of everyone in our bunker. No one else was able to use my idea because there was no other place to hook anything more from the ceiling. Mine was the one and only.

Then, one night, I had my boots off and was curled up in my hammock. It wasn't very late, so everyone else was playing cards by candlelight. I had just dozed off when something fell on my chest and woke me up. I opened my eyes slowly to look right in the snout of a huge rat. He had been trying to cross a narrow board above my bed and slipped, landing on my chest. When you're literally nose to nose with a rat, you don't want to excite him or make him mad. There was no way I could move fast enough to get out of my hammock without him biting me at least once. So I lay very, very still, catching bits and pieces of conversation.

"I've got a pair of twos. Will you take them?"

"Hell, I can beat that; give them to me. Boy, did you lie."

"I'll take three. Now. There wasn't a pair of twos, but I do really have a pair of kings. Do you believe me?"

"Sure, pass them over, you lying

dog," and everyone broke out laughing. The rat soon lost interest in looking at my face and crawled under the covers, curling up next to my side. I began to take short, small breaths so I wouldn't irritate my bed companion. All I could do was wait, but wait for what? The guys were just a few feet from me, but there was no way to get their attention without disturbing *him*. When they started laughing again, I felt more alone than ever.

The rat had been wet, and I felt the moisture soak through my shirt. I had to fight the urge to scream every time he nuzzled closer to me. After what seemed like two lifetimes, someone noticed that I hadn't moved. They said it was too early for me to be sleeping and called my name. After several loud attempts to wake me brought no response, one person came over to me. He immediately noticed that I had my eyes open and was looking down my side.

"Hey, he's got something in bed with him. Is it a rat?" he asked. I blinked my eyes. "What can we do to get it out?" He knew I had no ideas but I wasn't going to be able to lie still much longer. They decided to untie the rope at my feet and slowly lower the hammock to the ground — hopefully the rat would slide away from me. Great idea, but they couldn't untie the knot. They had to start using a knife.

Well, the knife slipped and cut the rope, dumping me, a sleeping rat and the hammock all together. During the mass confusion, the rat got away. I aged about ten years from the experience, but I put my hammock back up anyway, because it was still the best idea so far.

Finally, the day came when we were able to strike back. One of the bunkers had taken a rocket hit. No one inside had been hurt, but part of the bunker had to be repaired. As we started pulling off sandbags, we found that the rats had made tunnels and nests between the different layers. Three rats took off from under one bag alone. One of them jumped onto the neck of a man and ran down his body to the ground. Besides scaring the shit out of the guy, it really made him mad. He had an E-tool in his hand and started chasing the rat with pure hatred in his heart. In the daylight, the rat was confused and unable to get away.

When we saw how helpless the rat was, it made us want to get even for all the nights we had lain at their mercy. In an instant, there were two Marines chasing the rat, then three, then four. With a full-fledged mob after him, he never had a chance. He was dispatched into the Great Rat Beyond with his little skull crushed. We tied a string onto the rat's tail with the other end secured to a wire running between two posts. The dead rat hung there blowing in the breeze.

"That's one. Let's get the rest," came



Crude living conditions in narrow bunker. After siege at Khe Sanh, bunkers were all Marines had left to live in. They slept packed like sardines, and rats had run of place. Rifle is M16.

a cry from the mob. We all started back to the bunker and the waiting sandbags. Along the way, we collected rocks, sticks and E-tools. With these weapons and daylight on our side, we began the Great Rat Hunt.

At first, several of them managed to escape, because we were so enthusiastic. We'd see a rat take off running and the only thought in our minds would be to club him. If the rat happened to run over someone's foot, more than likely we'd miss the rat and pound the foot. We just about beat each other to death.

The rats were getting away and our toes were taking a beating, so we got organized. One person wearing gloves would lift the sandbag. He'd stand still if there was a rat underneath, allowing it

to take off into the circle of waiting men. The techniques for killing were as varied as each man's imagination.

The hunt continued for hours. The wire became crowded with dead rats. By the time we finished, there were 36 confirmed kills. The rats would never again cause us to fear the darkness as before. No matter how much they bugged us at night, come daylight we'd get them.

After admiring our handiwork and shooting a few pictures, we decided to get rid of them. We cut them down and put them in a small hole in the ground. We poured five gallons of gasoline on them. With a swoosh, the flames started, reducing them to ashes.

In our minds the power of the rats had been broken. Nothing would ever be as bad as the rats. At least, that's what we thought. That night, we saw the first of the new fear crawl into our area: The snakes *were coming in to eat the rats.*



AGAIN, THE FACT FINDERS

Ramsey Clark on The Yellow Brick Road Again by George F. Will

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RAMSEY Clark, that groupie of anti-American dictators, recently visited Nicaragua, issuing exclamations of approval, punctuated by a swoon of admiration for Nicaragua's Marxist dictatorship. Shucks, says this Manhattan lawyer in his country-boy manner, it's about the neatest revolution he's laid eyes on. That is high praise from a connoisseur who has laid eyes on a few since leaving office as Lyndon Johnson's last Attorney General. Immediately after leaving LBJ's Cabinet, Clark decided

that U.S. policy in Vietnam lacerated his conscience. He made a pilgrimage to Hanoi, supporting Hanoi's program of conquest. More recently Clark had a crush on Khomeini.

Clark and some friends went to Nicaragua on one of those "fact-finding" trips that invariably find three "facts." The first is usually that the left, which is shooting its way to power or is busy screwing down the lid of its dictatorship, is really, deep down, democratic. The second finding usually is that, although the leftists are talking and acting like communists (harassing all "counter-revolutionary" parties and newspapers) and are being armed to the teeth by com-

munists (Nicaragua suddenly has the largest army in Central American history, an army unrelated to any defensive needs), they are behaving this way only because the United States "is driving them into the arms of the communists." The third finding is usually that the United States is doing this because, being paranoid, it confuses simple peasant agrarian reformers with communists.

"You will not find," Clark says, "a revolutionary movement in our epoch in which there has been such a high commitment to human rights." Clark and Co. took a page from the fact finders who used to find that Russian kulaks rather enjoyed "resettlement" at Stalin's hands. Clark and his friends are stoical about the sufferings of the Indians who have been "resettled" at gunpoint. Heck, the Sandinistas say, they used only 2,000 troops, and, besides the Indians had been exposed to clergymen "preaching a primitive brand of anti-communism." (Do the Sandinistas prefer more elevated brands?)

One of Clark's companions says the regime "is doing everything it can" for the Indians. Oh? A fact the fact finders missed is that the Sandinistas are conducting a Cambodia-style campaign of systematic violence to extirpate a culture, preventing children from learning their parents' religion and language, creating thousands of refugees, herding people into concentration camps, burning villages, burying some Indians alive,



M. Shelton

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making bonfires — there are photographs — of Indian bodies.

Nicaragua and its Cuban patron (and Cuba's life-support system, the Soviet Union) are supporting the conquest of El Salvador by a violent minority. Critics of U.S. aid to El Salvador foresee "another Vietnam." Some critics recently became exercised about five U.S. military advisers carrying rifles in a region of El Salvador where according to the kind of lunatic guidelines generated by fear of "another Vietnam," rifles are not supposed to be carried.

Many of those who are most eager to portray El Salvador as "another Vietnam" willfully misdescribed the conflict there, and then in 1975 conveniently caused Vietnam to disappear from their political radar screens. You remember: The war was called an "indigenous peasant revolt." That description got run over by an army indigenous to North Vietnam, armed with tanks and rockets indigenous to the Soviet Union. The most striking common denominator between Vietnam and Central America is the one thing denied by many people who warn that El Salvador is "another Vietnam." The common denominator is Soviet complicity. The participation of Nicaraguans, Cubans and Soviet arms does not inhibit those Americans who are determined to portray El Salvador's

struggle as a purely "internal affair." What will they say when El Salvador has become a staging base for the Soviet-Cuban assault on Guatemala, preparatory to the assault on Mexico?

Supporters of U.S. policy in Indochina endorsed, and critics ridiculed, two theories. The "domino theory" held that Hanoi's conquest of South Vietnam would envelop Cambodia and Laos and bring communist troops to the Thai border. The other theory was that blood baths would follow communist victories. The boat people put to sea, Cambodia became a charnel house and those who had ridiculed the "domino" and "blood bath" theories changed the subject. Today their subject is El Salvador as "another Vietnam." But, as *The Washington Post* says:

"... Somehow, sometime the people who fought and argued so passionately against the American effort and who so confidently misread the nature of the other side really need to accommodate the fact of the misjudgment into their thinking. Vietnamese history did not cease with our disengagement, and it also did not exactly improve."

The sentimentalizing of "the other side" — in Indochina, in Central America — shows the lengths to which some people will go to avoid facing the fact that in many conflicts there is not a nice

side. It is said that the rebels in El Salvador, like Nicaragua's Sandinistas, are "gravitating" toward the Soviet camp. That suggests an impersonal force of nature, like gravity. Such language disguises the fact that our enemies are doing what they choose to do.

Already there are calls for the United States to press for a "coalition government" in El Salvador. In America, with its broad, mild consensus, when a Democrat or Republican president includes a member of the other party in his Cabinet it is considered bold. In El Salvador, where the two sides have been butchering each other, they are supposed suddenly to collaborate with the civility that democracy presupposes. It is amazing what people will believe to avoid facing the fact that in some conflicts one side or the other is going to win.

Clark, an archetype, is less a terrible simplifier than he is a terrible simplification, a distillation of all the follies of all the pilgrims who have worshiped at whatever shrines were considered "progressive" at the moment. Dabbling in Third World calamities is just a hobby for Clark. *He lives and works comfortably far from the horrible effects of the causes he supports. But they are getting closer.*



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AARON BANK

Continued from page 27

stomach for an assault on prepared positions. Soon they were headed back down the road toward the Rhone.

Once again, Ales erupted in celebration. Out came the flags, the crowds, and the firemen's band.

Several hours later, a new German unit was spotted approaching the city. Flags, revelers, and the firemen's band vanished. Another fire fight, sharp but brief, sent the dispirited Germans back the way they had come.

The pattern repeated itself every few hours for three days. The partisans turned back every German column and the grateful citizens of Ales celebrated each victory over the detested Boches. The local jails filled up with captured German stragglers.

By 28 August, Free French armored units had arrived in Ales and U.S. troops pursuing the Germans had reached Montelimar, 75 miles north of Marseille.

Aaron Bank's war in southern France was just about over.

Jedburg team members were ordered to Grenoble for debriefing. While waiting for these interviews to begin, Bank and his fellow OSS agents learned that a nearby Jed team was still fighting a trapped German unit.

A scratch force of OSS types, Bank included, took off for the nearby town where partisans and Free French troops had surrounded a company of German infantry on a hill. Just as Bank and the others reached the town, a civilian appeared on the road and warned that German mortar crews were right around the corner.

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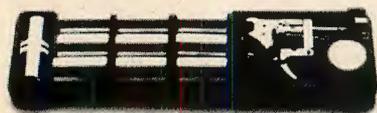
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the edge of the village, Bank and another Jed-team member saw two armed Germans standing in the open. A quick burst of fire dispatched them — and brought a prompt retaliatory mortar barrage that sent Bank scrambling back toward the Free French positions.

The Germans on the hill were refusing to surrender because they feared execution at the hands of the partisans. So Bank was pressed into service by the Free French commander to assure the Germans that they would be treated as prisoners of war. That brought a prompt surrender, and Bank returned to Grenoble.

He had reason to be well satisfied with his work. The partisans whom Aaron Bank had armed, trained and directed had killed or wounded about 1,000 Germans in less than three months. More importantly, they had disrupted the German rear areas and interrupted supply lines just when the 19th Army could least afford to be distracted from its preparations for the invasion.

Overall, the Jed teams had made a significant contribution to the allied victory in France. After the war, Gen. Eisenhower said that the partisans mobilized by the Jed teams had been the equal of several additional allied divisions.

The Germans had been routed in southern France, but they were far from beaten elsewhere on the continent. Before long, Aaron Bank had orders to report to London.

The German collapse throughout France in August 1944 and the subsequent allied sweep to the very borders of the Reich in September produced something akin to euphoria among U.S. military intelligence analysts. The official intelligence assessment for the week of 2 September portrayed the German armies in the West as completely shattered and incapable of mounting a solid defense, even behind the fortified barrier of the vaunted Siegfried Line. Many were predicting Christmas in Berlin.

The suddenness of the Wehrmacht's defeat in France, coupled no doubt with the wild optimism of the moment, found the OSS unprepared for missions in Germany itself but thoroughly willing to try anyway. So, when Capt. Aaron Bank reported to OSS headquarters in London, he was offered missions that were as harebrained as they were suicidal.

On one, he would have parachuted into the Reich in German uniform equipped with a folding bicycle and a concealed radio. His assignment: Pedal around the country transmitting periodic intelligence reports on German troop movements. His OSS case officer airily dismissed the need for a cover story and a full set of forged military papers.

When Bank flatly rejected this ticket to a firing squad, the case officer suggested an even more ludicrous scheme. Bank would be dropped near Bad Tolz in the Bavarian Alps south of Munich. Alone, on foot, and without contacts, he would break into the nearby Waffen-

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SS officers' school, steal whatever "documents" he could find, and escape to Switzerland. Instead, Bank took the 30-day home leave offered all Jedburg Operation veterans by OSS chief, Gen. William "Wild Bill" Donovan.

By the time Bank returned to London shortly after Christmas, the heady optimism on the western front had long since evaporated. The Germans, far from collapsing, had staged an astonishing recovery. From Holland all the way to the Swiss frontier, they had held firm or yielded ground only after stubborn, prolonged resistance.

Meanwhile, a powerful panzer reserve had been marshalled and then unleashed in Hitler's surprise Ardennes offensive. Although the German winter offensive, dubbed the Battle of the Bulge by the Americans, had been contained, it was obvious that cracking the western front was going to be anything but a cakewalk. Accordingly, OSS headquarters in London was de-emphasizing its Spécial Operations (SO) branch — organized to conduct guerrilla warfare — in favor of its Special Intelligence (SI) section.

What the allies needed most was military intelligence in preparation for the final offensives into Germany. Certainly the Ardennes offensive, which came as a rude shock, had underscored the need for better intelligence. Moreover, the Reich was generally considered barren ground for partisan operations. Jedburg-type teams weren't likely to succeed in a thickly settled country blanketed by security forces. And few Germans could be expected to revolt against their own army.

Still, SO wasn't prepared to be frozen out altogether and, in late December, the Special Operations branch conceived a truly audacious operation code-named Iron Cross. A bogus company of German mountain infantry would be recruited from among anti-Nazi POWs in France. After suitable training, the company would be parachuted into Austria's rugged Inn Valley from which it would conduct sabotage and guerrilla warfare while disguised as a Wehrmacht unit.

Bank's language skills and experience made him an obvious candidate for command of the Iron Cross Company. Assured of full OSS support and the time needed to recruit and train volunteers, Bank readily accepted. Here was a plan whose daring and sweep held an irresistible appeal for any devotee of clandestine warfare. The danger would be great, but so was the potential damage that could be inflicted in a sensitive area only 60 miles from Hitler's mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden.

Bank spent another week at OSS headquarters in London, refining plans for Iron Cross and outlining his logistical requirements. Then it was on to Paris, where he was assigned a headquarters and training area at an ap-



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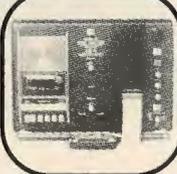
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propriately secluded estate in the Saint-Germain district.

To simplify recruiting, Bank was teamed with a German communist, an emigre official of the underground *Frei Deutschland* (Free Germany) organization. Locked up in the POW cages in France were hundreds of secret *Frei Deutschland* members who had either been conscripted into the German army and subsequently captured or fled Germany as civilians and been interned by the French. Bank's *Frei Deutschland* liaison would scan the rosters at each POW camp and pick out the German communists or sympathizers he knew. The potential recruits would then be interviewed and asked if they were willing to fight against the Nazis. Most accepted on the condition that they would not have to engage the regular Wehrmacht units composed mostly of ordinary Germans who were not members of the Nazi Party. That was fine with Bank inasmuch as he expected action primarily against SS troops, the zealous Nazis hated by the defectors he was recruiting.

Within a week, Bank and his team of interviewers had signed up 175 Germans, more than enough for the Iron Cross Company. They were issued GI fatigues for training, paid \$5 per day, and quartered in tents on the estate grounds at Saint-Germain. Bank and his staff, which now included an OSS lieutenant and three German-speaking American sergeants, moved into the chateau and put the finishing touches on a rigorous training schedule.

Instruction in basic soldiering wasn't necessary as nearly all of the Iron Cross volunteers were Wehrmacht veterans. The training stressed the more specialized skills of sabotage, demolitions, ambush, disruption, psychological warfare, and even a touch of political subversion. Bank selected two of the savviest Germans — both hard-core communists who had fought on the loyalist side during the Spanish Civil War — as intelligence agents. They were to wear civilian clothes and gather information for the company in the towns along the Inn Valley.

The combat training was as realistic as Bank could make it. His house-clearing exercises even featured floors smeared with animal blood obtained from local butchers. Pop-up targets mounted inside the unoccupied houses on the estate provided live-fire opportunities. Jump training was conducted from wooden mockups and every Iron Cross trooper learned the standard parachute landing fall and how to exit from aircraft doors and bomb bays.

Day by day and week by week, the company was being honed to a fine edge. Those who didn't measure up physically or who proved insufficiently committed were promptly dropped. By early April, the original force of 175 volunteers had been whittled down to an even 100.



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Meanwhile, the OSS office in Paris was collecting the full complement of German uniforms, weaponry and assorted gear needed to outfit the Iron Cross Company. No detail could be overlooked. The company would have to appear authentic enough to march past a German field marshal without arousing the slightest suspicion.

An elaborate cover story was invented to explain the fact that Bank spoke better French than German, and that he spoke both with an accent that few Europeans and certainly no German was likely to have. If the need arose, Bank was to explain that he was a native of the French-speaking island of Martinique in the Caribbean, had emigrated to occupied France, become a German sympathizer, and subsequently enlisted. But cover story or no, the accent and Bank's imperfect German meant that he would have to exercise command while posing as a lowly private. An ex-Wehrmacht lieutenant would act as the company's "official" commander.

As the Iron Cross Company went through the last scheduled days of its training, the military situation was changing dramatically. The allies had now forced the Rhine and were driving deep into Germany. In the east, the Russians had reached the Oder River, barely 40 miles from Berlin. Allied intelligence had picked up numerous reports that top Nazi officials, perhaps including Hitler himself, might retreat along with elite SS troops into a so-called National Redoubt in the Austrian Alps if Germany were overrun. The Inn Valley, located northeast of Innsbruck and 50 miles south of Munich, was a natural approach route to the Redoubt region.

This was the strategic backdrop for a Paris dinner attended by OSS Commander Bill Donovan and SO branch officers, including Bank's superior. Gen. Donovan asked for a status report on Iron Cross. Told that the company was ready to go, Donovan then changed the entire focus of the mission with a single sentence: "Tell Bank that when he gets in there to get Hitler."

The next day, Bank frantically rewrote the training schedule. If Iron Cross was to succeed in grabbing Hitler and other top Nazis fleeing to the Redoubt, Bank's Germans would have to refine their ambush techniques and learn how to penetrate defended compounds. And there wasn't much time. Hitler and members of his entourage might abandon Berlin at any moment.

Stealth, surprise and fire discipline were now more important than ever. By day, the force practiced ways of isolating Hitler's Mercedes from the escort vehicles that would presumably accompany it. By night, they rehearsed the kind of infiltration tactics that would be needed to gain entry to any building housing the Fuehrer or other Nazi leaders pausing to rest on their way to the Redoubt.

Finally, in late April, Bank was alerted and told that departure was imminent. The next day, an advance team, consisting of Bank, his American radio operator, and the two Germans trained as intelligence agents, flew to Dijon where they were to await an OSS flight to the drop zone. The remainder of the company would follow in C-47s as soon as the advance party had determined that the selected drop zones several thousand feet above the Inn Valley floor were secure.

For the next several days, Bank and his party haunted the air operations center at the Dijon airfield. Each day they were told that bad weather over the Inn Valley ruled out any flights. In desperation, Bank offered to go in something smaller than the lumbering Liberator originally scheduled for the mission. But the answer remained the same: Weather over the target precludes a drop; check again tomorrow.

On the sixth day came the stunning word that Iron Cross had been cancelled altogether. Bank was told that the Seventh Army had cracked through to the Inn Valley and that, therefore, the mission would be pointless. That was less than the full truth. OSS headquarters had already begun to have second thoughts about Iron Cross even as Bank paid his daily visits to the Dijon air operations center.

Nearly all of the German Iron Cross

volunteers were dedicated communists. Dropping them into the Reich during the final days of the war could have unforeseen, and decidedly unpleasant, political consequences. OSS had decided not to take the chance.

A crestfallen Bank returned to Saint-Germain. The Iron Cross Company was disbanded and its German members went back to their POW cages with nothing more than their pay and a promise of early release at war's end.

There never was any mass German retreat toward the National Redoubt. Hitler, of course, elected to remain in Berlin, where he committed suicide as the Russians closed in on his bunker.

Even so, Iron Cross might have scored at least one coup. Hermann Goering, commander of the Luftwaffe and Hitler's deputy until the Fuehrer sacked him in early April, was finally run to ground by U.S. troops just 10 miles from Bank's drop zones above the Inn Valley. Aaron Bank is convinced that, had Iron Cross gone ahead, Goering would have been his prisoner.

(To be continued. Part 2: Southeast Asia and the Green Berets.)



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CONGO

Continued from page 33

As we approached the ETA, Raul glanced over at me and I gave him a thumbs-up, indicating that I was ready to punch through the cloud deck on his wing. We broke out of the overcast at 2,000 feet directly over the one paved highway that ran northeast out of Stanleyville. The city was only five miles southwest of our position. Our navigation had worked.

The road below was packed with people, trucks and military vehicles. Some weapons carriers were pulling off the highway. They immediately opened fire with their mounted automatic weapons. We assumed that the horde had to be rebels, so we armed our .50-caliber machine guns and 2.75 rockets and knocked out about 10 of the vehicles. We cruised the road to Stanleyville, firing at anything resembling a military target. Raul climbed the flight to 2,000 for better visibility, and I spotted the boxy silhouettes of C-130s to the west; they were starting to turn up-wind for the airport. Considering that we were flying outdated planes, had no radio aids and no direct communications with the 130s, the rendezvous was either very

professional — or lucky as hell.

The runway perimeters were strafed to soften it up and to drive out any enemy that might have been camouflaged in the tall savannah grass. At exactly 0600, the 130s dropped their human cargo. They then came back to drop heavy equipment, before retiring to a point some miles from the DZ.

We orbited around the field, striking at mortar and machine-gun positions and observed the paras collecting equipment and fanning out to form a line at the airport perimeter. Smoke and dust permeated the field as they put their mortars and automatic weapons to work.

Other Red Berets raced across the field to attack the Sabena guest houses which were located across the street from the control tower. Everything on the ground seemed to be going on schedule.

Colonel Ike's early drop had caught the rebels asleep, as he predicted. Dragon Rouge ground control came up on the air and gave us instructions to knock out some rebel mortars which were making it hot for the paras at the end of the runway. The area had been marked with white sulphur rounds, so finding the targets was no problem, and a few rockets silenced them permanently. The firing on the highway and the work at the airport had exhausted most of our ammunition and all 18 of our rockets.

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We informed Dragon Rouge control of our state and were instructed to land after the 130s were down. As soon as they landed, their crews unloaded Ferret armored cars, which were immediately manned by the paras and gunned out of the airport toward the city, illustrating the precise execution of that day's operations.

We taxied to the control-tower base, shut down, climbed out and went to the tower where control was manned by a Belgian major. We told him we'd be back in business as soon as the C-46 came up from Punia with ammo and people to rearm the planes.

To kill time, we decided to hike across the field and shoot the breeze with the 130 pilots, some of whom we knew from Leopoldville. On the way, we saw two vehicles racing through the main airport gates. I recognized the tall, slim, dust-covered figure of the leader of the Cuban commandos behind the wheel of one. The commandos had arrived. They had been left — I thought for good — in Leopoldville and I wondered how in the hell he'd gotten them here. We waved at them and they pulled up beside us. He climbed down, cradling a Browning sawed-off shotgun (a common weapon in the Congo); the dirty bandana tied around his forehead was stained with blood.

"Kinda looks like you fucked up," I said, looking at the makeshift bandage. "How the hell'd you get up here?"

He grinned and then winced. "I borrowed the wheels off Father Superior at Lisala, got a Strike pilot to fly us to Kindu and joined up with Hoare there . . . it was a helluva trip and my little guys did a great job. Mike put us on the point a couple of days so that should tell you what he thought of them!"

He also told me that he had received a message at Kindu, ordering him to get the Cubans out of the mercenary column, but he had ignored it. He didn't want to miss the excitement. I knew exactly how he felt.

He bet me that they would have his group on the first available air for stateside. He won. They were gone the next day. I never did see him again, nor have a chance to pay up. He died in 1970 from malaria contracted in Vietnam.

Stanleyville's capture involved minor street fighting. But the "Lions" proved to have no stomach for battling professional troops, and those who weren't gunned down in the initial phase quickly fled to the bush. More than 40 whites, including Dr. Carson, a U.S. citizen who had devoted many years to treating the Congolese, were murdered before the paratroopers could rescue them. Hundreds of Congolese were also slaughtered before the Simbas disappeared into the jungle.

Hoare entered from the south the next day. He'd missed most of the fun but made up for it when he sent his platoons

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into the outlying areas to destroy pockets of resistance. Hoare went back across the Congo River the following day to rescue 28 Catholic priests and nuns who were reported being held in a mission. By the time he got there, they'd all been killed.

The air force was called on as required and helped eliminate remaining rebel outposts. Stanleyville was secured.

"Dragon Noir," the rescue operation at Paulis in central Orientale Province, took place a few days later and followed the same pattern utilized at Stan. The paras were dropped on the airport; and Bill, the pyrotechnics expert, added to the rout by employing the well-garded Fire-Fight Simulators. Evidently, the word of the Stanleyville rescue had reached Paulis rebels in advance. There was only minor opposition to the landing, and more than 2,000 prisoners were subsequently released. After Stan, the communist-backed Simba cause was doomed.

My last assignment was Bunia, in the extreme northeast corner of Orientale Province, coordinating with Mike Hoare's Commando for stopping arms shipments being flown into Dar es Salaam by Russian transports. From Dar es Salaam, they were surface-shipped to Aba on the Congo-Sudan border. As usual, Hoare's mercenaries made short work of the opposition, engaging in hot pursuit across the border whenever the rebels fled to what they considered sanctuary.

The Simbas were no longer a factor; the Congolese political battles, rather than war, once again became the determinant on the Leopoldville scene. Prime Minister Tshombe, who had come out of exile to unite the populace against the leftist Lumumba factions, was being undermined by the very U.S. and Belgian governments that had previously guaranteed him support. As far as the United States was concerned, Tshombe's name was synonymous with strife; the instability that had plagued the Congo had originated with his bid for independence for the province of Katanga.

And so, the United States cast its diplomatic die with Gen. Mobutu, whom our diplomats saw as a "firm" ruler. Iron-handed would be more like it.

But happily I had left the Congo before Tshombe was railroaded. Tshombe — a giant in Africa — was brought down by a plot that led to his Algerian imprisonment and death from a "heart attack." The actual details of his high-jacking and imprisonment never have been uncovered, although it is known that Mobutu offered one million dollars for his return to the Congo so he could be executed publicly in Leopoldville.



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FAL

Continued from page 53

judgment were declared exempt from this requirement.

In 1973 when FN went to an investment-cast receiver, the company forgot to omit the safety-sear recess in the receivers manufactured for U.S. delivery. As a result, Steyr sold more than 2,000 rifles (including SOF's test weapons) which were no different from the original "G" series FALs that BATF had reclassified as machine guns. BATF has agreed to exempt the LARs also, provided they have not been modified. All future LARs imported into the United States must conform to BATF requirements, i.e., the receiver recess for the automatic-safety sear will have to be omitted. The entire scenario is more than a little bizarre, as the full-auto mode is not especially useful in a light rifle chambered for the 7.62mm NATO cartridge.

The take-down lock lever has been moved from its former position, directly to the rear of the upper receiver where its motion was often impeded by the rear sling swivel on the paratroop models, to a more convenient location under the upper receiver on the LAR.

The absence of markings on the gas-regulator sleeve has already been noted. Sad to say, the front-sight markings have also been removed from the LAR, leaving no frame of reference other than several small dots. In addition, the "A" (Automatic) and "Gr" (Grenade) markings have been eliminated from the gas plug. However, the "A" side of the gas plug is still notched for identification. These economy measures are of small consequence, but irritating.

The trigger pulls on all three of the LARs were heavier, exhibited excessive drag, and were nowhere near as crisp in let-off as those of the earlier FALs. Unfortunately, there is little even the most competent of gunsmiths can do to permanently correct this in a FAL. An obsession for match-quality triggers in military service rifles is peculiarly American, however.

The fixed rear sight of the early paratroop FAL has been replaced by a two-position (150 and 250 meters) flip sight. The sight's protective ears have been enlarged as well.

The LAR's synthetic butt stock is a considerable improvement over the old wooden stocks. More impact-resistant than wood, it is capped by a substantial rubber pad which significantly reduces felt recoil.

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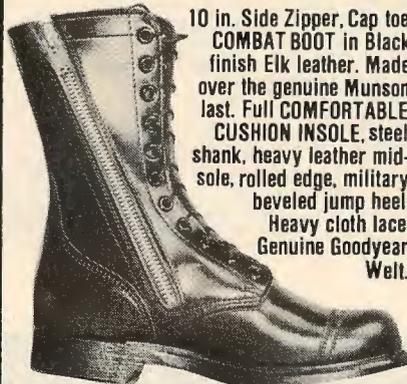
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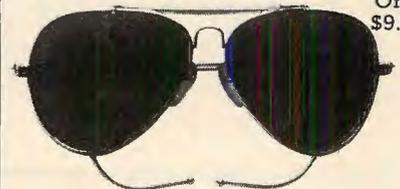
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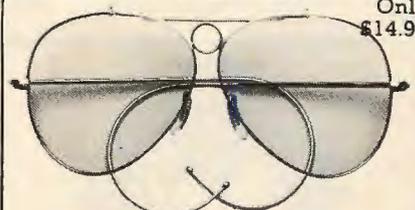
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All of the FAL/LARs had a baked-enamel exterior finish: the early FALs glossy black, the Congo FAL an odd two-tone gray and black, and the LARs matte black.

The tubular aluminum folding stock on the LAR "PARA" model has a newly added complexity. To open or close, the spring-loaded stock must be pressed downward as before, but now an additional spring-loaded catch must be simultaneously moved to the left — a difficult and confusing procedure, especially in combat. The folding stocks on the Galil and AK-74S are much easier to open or close quickly under stress.

The front lug of the FN FAL magazine locks up into the receiver when the magazine is properly inserted front end first. This front lug has been merely punched out of the sheet metal of the magazine body. A weak feature which has caused many a malfunction, this front lug should be inspected periodically. The Canadians solved this problem by installing a separate beefed-up front lug. Unhappily, while all other FAL magazines can be used in the Canadian FALs, their improved magazine can be used in no other. A 30-round British Bren Conversion (L4A2) magazine was employed during the tests. It worked well but is quite heavy.

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The very early full-auto test FAL was notable by the absence of a flash suppressor. It was intended for use with IMR-type powders, which in general do not produce as much flash as the more common ball propellants. This rifle's unusual bayonet has two prongs attached to the hilt, which, together with the blade itself, serve as a flash suppressor.

Both the full-auto Congo paratroop FAL and the "PARA" LAR had combination flash-hider/grenade launchers. They were equipped with a tubular-handle, convex-bladed bayonet that is useless for anything except sticking people. Since this is not a bayonet's primary function in the field, it will promptly be discarded by the average grunt. The flash suppressor on the "G" series FAL and the "match" FAL was long and slender and not designed for grenade launching. It only further adds to the FAL's already almost-excessive length — a problem in heavy brush and house-clearing.

The LAR Heavy Barrel has its own flash suppressor which also aids in reducing muzzle climb, at the expense of increased side blast. As imported into the United States, in semiautomatic only, the LAR HB serves no discernible purpose. Complete with its bipod and chrome-lined heavy barrel, it weighs in at over 13 pounds. Far too heavy to fire effectively off-hand, its weight and bulk would be justified only if it were capable of firing in the full-auto mode.

The FAL/LAR is a comfortable rifle to shoot and it handles well. The adjustable gas system, placement of the gas cylinder above the barrel, and alignment of the stock with the barrel axis all reduce the tendency of the weapon to climb in rapid semiauto fire. Little difference in felt recoil was noted between the 18 and 21-inch barrels of the two folding stock paratroop models. Well-built, rugged, handsomely finished for a military rifle, and adequately reliable except under the most severe sand and dust conditions, the FAL/LAR's reputation is largely well deserved.

Although the rear sight tends to wobble and must often be shimmed (a piece of paper match will do nicely), and many will find the rear peep too close to the eye (four inches closer than the rear sight of the M1A/M14), the FAL is capable of splendid accuracy. I managed one three-shot group fired from the rigid-stocked LAR off the light bipod of 1/2-minute of angle (MOA) at 100 meters.

Two scopes were tested. The first was a 4X Hensoldt as used on the early West German army (*Bundeswehr*) FAL (G1). The G1 rifle, as used by the Austrians (StG

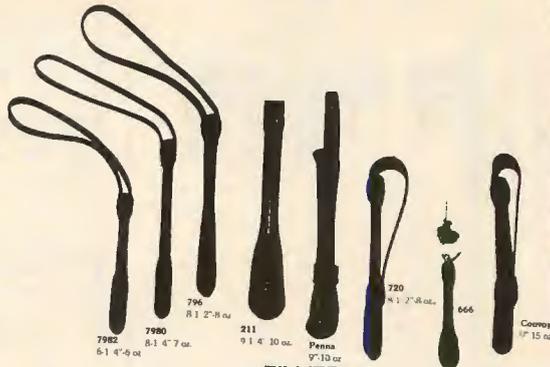
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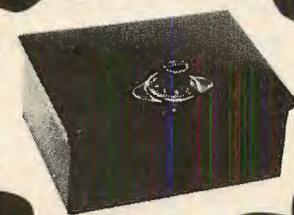
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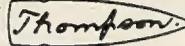
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58) and Dutch, featured a stamped, sheet-metal handguard, a bipod and a removable flash-hider/grenade launcher. The other scope tested was the 4X unit currently marketed by Steyr for the LARs. Marked "FN," it is also probably manufactured by Hensoldt. Both scopes are mounted on the sheet-metal FAL receiver cover and both failed to hold zero miserably. Bench-rest groups fired with these scopes exhibited as much as 12 inches in vertical dispersion at 100 meters. This is unacceptable. The fault lies not in the optics, but in the use of the sheet-metal receiver cover as a mount. The thin FAL receiver cover simply bends and twists too much during the firing sequence. To date, only Jim Leatherwood has presented a satisfactory alternative — a rigid mount that completely replaces the original receiver cover (see "Leatherwood Scopes," SOF, May '82).

Firing an FAL in the full-auto mode — on those versions possessing this feature — is best restricted to only the most experienced operators in two to three-round bursts at extremely short distances. At ranges of 200 meters or more, employing an unsupported kneeling or sitting position, it can be anticipated that the second and third rounds in the burst will hit at least 10 meters above and to the right of the first shot. Full-auto fire offhand with an 8- to 10-pound rifle in caliber 7.62mm NATO is strictly an emergency procedure. In fact, many, if not most, of the nations which adopted the FAL have removed the selective-fire option entirely.

Alas, the twilight of the FAL is upon us. Amid the grumbling, breast-beating and teeth-grashing of those who feel the infantry is inadequately armed with anything less than a 1,000-yard .30-caliber cartridge, most former FAL users are moving to the new generation of true assault rifles in 5.56mm NATO. The Israelis and South Africans (both with a continuity of battle experience) have gone to the Galil, the Austrians to the Steyr AUG, the Belgians themselves to their new FNC carbine, the Canadians to either the FNC, or, even more likely, the M16A2, and the British to their dusted-off "bullpup," while the Australians and West Germans are still scrambling. Although its death will be many years in coming, anyone who wants an FAL should buy a LAR now. The FN FAL, one of the 20th-century's grandest dogs of war, will be remembered fondly and mourned mightily by all those who used it in the flame and sweat of battle.

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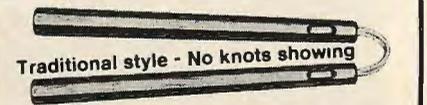


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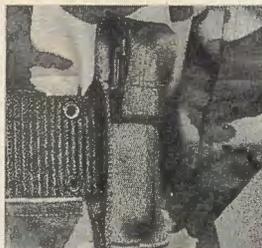
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Continued from page 6

Gulf spokesman Keith Anderson replied: "These remarks are inflammatory rhetoric that bear little resemblance to the situation in Cabinda."

SMAW AHEAD ...

The Air Force has adopted a new weapon which the Marines are also considering and the Marines have added another new weapons system to their inventory. Ironically, one of the two weapons may have served as a prototype for the Russian Plamya 30mm automatic grenade launcher (see "Successful Afghanistan Treasure Hunt," SOF, April '81, p. 24).

This is the MK-19 40mm automatic grenade launcher. It is a belt-fed, blowback-type, air-cooled point and area-support weapons system. Normally it is fired from an armored personnel carrier but it can be employed from a tripod mount. The Marines are also considering this gun and indications are that they, too, will go for it.

Meanwhile, the Marines unilaterally moved ahead to procure a new weapon known as the Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon — SMAW.

The SMAW warhead is designated the Mark 118 Mod. O Dual-Mode. The "dual-mode" refers to an unusual fusing device that automatically senses density of a target.

If the target is "soft," such as a sandbagged bunker, detonation is delayed until the warhead has achieved penetration. Should the target be "hard" — armor or concrete — detonation occurs at once. It is expected that alternate warheads, using flame, smoke and other capabilities, will be developed.

The SMAW replaced functions formerly filled by LAWs and bazookas. It is reusable, has a telescopic sight and a spotting rifle to ensure good first-round accuracy.

The MK-19 (actually MK-19 Mod. III now) has an interesting history. Its development began in 1966 to meet an urgent Navy request for such a weapon in Vietnam. Because of the request's urgency, a compressed development program was established and, within 17 months, the gun was in Vietnam. However, because of the stepped-up development program, serious problems of reliability and safety occurred.

U.S. CONSTITUTION'S 2nd
AMENDMENT RIGHT TO
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GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA...

IT IS NOT A RUMOR...IT REALLY HAPPENED!

On June 8, 1981, the Village Trustees of Morton Grove, Illinois, voted 4-2 to ban handguns.

Incredible as it seems, the Ordinance actually prohibits the possession of a handgun within a private citizen's home, regardless of whether the firearm is kept for recreational use or self-defense.

Handgun owners among the 23,000 villagers were given until September 8 to turn in their handguns or face arrest, prosecution, fines and possible imprisonment.

The Constitutionality of this new anti-gun law was immediately challenged in a lawsuit, and that case, *QUILICI vs. THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE*, is now pending before the United States 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The trustees who voted in this new anti-gun law were sending a message to other communities throughout the nation; they view the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution and similar state constitutional provisions as not protecting the rights of law-abiding handgun owners.

There is another message here, even if you are not a handgun owner. What will they think of next?

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19

Redevelopment got underway and, by 1971, some 600 MK-19s, now designated the MK-19 Mod. 1, were found reliable after thorough testing and sent to the Vietnamese army. Upon Vietnam's collapse, most of these were captured by the communists and it is believed the Soviets used them as a prototype for their Plamya.

Statistics on MK-19 Mod. III:

- Weight: 68 pounds;
- Mount: 44 pounds;
- Length: 34.6 inches;
- Height: 7.9 inches;
- Muzzle velocity: 790 feet per second;
- Rate of fire: 350-450 rounds per minute.

FRISCO'S IRISH ...

The FBI is investigating the California recruiting of an American Volunteer Brigade to support the Irish Republican Army in Ulster.

Law-enforcement authorities' interest in the recruiting effort was triggered by a full-page ad in *Frisco*, a new magazine owned by 20 area journalists.

The ad compared the IRA's terrorist activities to those of the American colonists in their revolution against Great Britain. It sought men with prior active service, reserve training or a willingness to be trained "for service in Ireland."

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ARGENTINE INTERVENTION? . . .

Sources in Central America report that Argentina has undertaken a paramilitary role intended to topple the Marxist government of Nicaragua and to halt the pipeline of supplies to communist guerrillas in El Salvador from Nicaragua and Cuba.

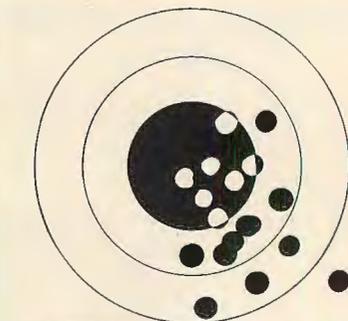
Reportedly, Argentina's role, which is said to be principally a training effort, is being carried out with either cooperation from or knowledge of the United States.

State Department spokesmen declined comment on the matter.

The Argentine Embassy in Washington said the report was untrue.

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FLAK

Continued from page 8

would like to clarify several statements of his and add another to provide a complete picture of the subject.

The United States actively participated in the negotiation of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 11, 1949, and signed the Protocols on December 11, 1977. However, neither negotiation nor signature is tantamount to acceptance, as Fender suggests.

Article 47 is being scrutinized very closely for the precise reasons outlined by Fender, viz., that it permits denial of prisoner-of-war protection to a mercenary because of his status rather than his actions in combat. Article 47 was opposed by the International Committee of the Red Cross during its negotiation on the basis that it provides a disincentive to a combatant to conduct his military operations in accordance with the law of war.

I cannot agree with Fender's conclusion (p. 28) that Article 47 is applicable to members of Cuban military units stationed in Angola (however much we may disagree with their being there), nor (p. 27) that "anyone who fights in a foreign war in which his country is not a belligerent fits this definition." The former are excluded by paragraph 2(f), while the latter can be excluded under paragraph 2(e) by enlistment in the armed forces of one of the belligerents — as Fender correctly notes was required by the government of Rhodesia. Finally, while the practical effect of Article 47 may be the denial of prisoner-of-war status to any individual characterized as a "mercenary," other provisions of Protocol I do provide certain fundamental guarantees to any combatant, as the author correctly notes (p. 29). Thus it is incorrect to conclude (p. 28) that "the bottom line is that no one who is considered a mercenary can look to international law for protection."

One other point should be made with reference to Fender's summary of the potential criminal liability of a mercenary. Certain actions may violate other international or domestic laws for which individuals may be prosecuted. For example, U.S. and Canadian citizens recently were prosecuted and convicted of violations of U.S. neutrality laws (18 USC 960) for their attempt to participate in a *coup d'etat* in Dominica. Similarly, the individuals involved in the recent incident in the Seychelles are being detained by the government of South Africa because of their violation of the anti-hijacking convention (22UST 1641; TIAS 7192).

Fender's article provides useful infor-

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mation on this subject, and *Soldier of Fortune* should be commended for its publication.

W. Hays Parks
Chief, International Law Branch
International Affairs Division
Department of the Army
Office of the Judge
Advocate General
Washington, D.C.

CHINESE LAMPOON SOVIETS ...

Sirs:
I got a good laugh out of this, and I thought you and SOF readers might, too. This is a photocopy from *Renmin Ribao (The People's Daily)* published by the Chinese Communist Party in Peking (Beijing).

Gypsy
Lexington Park, Maryland



CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE ...

Sirs:
Congratulations! The February issue was one of your finest. I hope to see more along these lines. (Rather than, say, movie stars.)

Of special interest was the "FLAK" letter sent by Tim Moriarty. It's amazing how many 8- and 9-year-olds the "CIA," "Special Forces" and "ASA" had working all over Southeast Asia! Hell, man! I thought they all came back and settled right here in Colorado! Why, Lakewood is wall-to-wall with battle-hardened (no scars, plastic surgery) 20-year-old "government-trained assassins." Truly "special" people were quite well-trained, but they did not receive "wall paper" for their efforts, only skill.

Patrick D. Sperry
Arvada, Colorado

OK, no more movie stars. . . . As for the other, you've noticed too? — The Eds.



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Meet the Master of GUN CONCEALMENT

**COMBAT
PISTOLCRAFT**



by Ken Hackathorn

Continued from page 10



John Bianchi, holster maker supreme and former police officer, has designed and made more holsters than perhaps any man in history. The reason is simple: countless thousands of satisfied repeat customers around the world, spanning the last quarter of a century. Customers whose needs for quality, dependability, and unique design caused them to select BIANCHI time after time. Uniformed patrol officers, detectives, narcotic agents, the U.S. Border Patrol, and countless foreign and U.S. Government law enforcement agencies have depended on BIANCHI to deliver the very best gunleather available. When quality and performance come before price, BIANCHI is the Number One choice, with over 100 holsters, belts and accessories to choose from. This includes uniform holsters, shoulder holsters, concealment holsters, and field holsters. BIANCHI GUNLEATHER, the world standard by which all gunleather is judged. If you have the need, BIANCHI has the answer. BIANCHI GUNLEATHER for the serious shooter. At Authorized Dealers worldwide. Complete full-color pocket catalog \$1.00.

SOF, Route 2, Box 92, Miami, OK 74354) describes his work as accurately as his pistols.

At the U.S. IPSC shooting championships, I won a gift certificate for one of Price's custom .45 conversions. To give him a clean slate, I sent him a new, stock Colt MKIV Government Model. In eight months Price sent back a fitted, finished, decorated .45 auto that is functional, reliable and beautiful.

The Bomar adjustable sights are mounted low on the slide for holster clearance, and the front sight is an improved ramp silver-soldered in place. The top of the slide has been longitudinally grooved with .40 fine lines per inch. This "decoration" takes advantage of the eye's natural inclination to alignment.

The practical bias of Price's tuning is further demonstrated in its Swenson ambidextrous safety, wide beavertail replacement for the stock grip safety, and Commander hammer. The trigger guard has been squared and checkered, and the front strap of the grip frame has been decorated with a 30-line-per-inch checkering that also gives a secure gripping surface. The mainspring housing was milled flat to the original 1911 pattern and checkered with a coarse 20-line-per-inch cross-hatch that further enhances grip. The magazine well is beveled for speed-loading, and a long National Match-style trigger has been fitted. The fit of slide and frame has been carefully tuned to minimize wear for longer, more accurate shooting and to turn a reliable pistol into one that is nearly functionally perfect. The trigger pull is set at a crisp combat standard of four pounds. The ejection port has been enlarged to minimize any chance of a jam, and the pistol has been further decorated with checkering on the rear of the slide and the hammer. This pistol is a master gunsmith's combination of usefulness and beauty.

Like anyone who does good handwork — from knifemakers to bookbinders — Bud Price is months behind on his work. Eight months seemed like a long time while I was waiting for my pistol, but this superb weapon justifies every day of it.



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Continued from page 59



S & W COPS SHOTS . . .

Smith & Wesson has come out with a beautiful new police shotgun. Called the Model 3000, it's a pump with dual action bars. Shown here from top to bottom: Model 3000 Police Shotgun, stock extended, with eight-round magazine, 20-inch barrel, blade front sight and fully-adjustable rear sight, slug choke; Model 3000 Police Shotgun with oil-finish, walnut-stained hardwood stock and fore-end, fluted comb and ventilated recoil pad. The bottom weapon is the Model 3000 with five-round magazine, 18-inch barrel and pistol grip.

The weapon is 12-gauge, with 2¾-inch chamber. Overall length with 18-inch barrel is 38½ inches. Approximate weight is 6¾ pounds. Positive cross-bolt safety is interchangeable for right or left hand.

We haven't fired one of these fine looking crowd-sweepers, but we hope to get a chance soon. For information on prices and availability, contact Smith & Wesson, Dept. SOF, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01101. Phone: (413) 781-8300.





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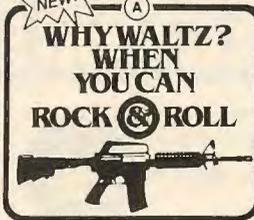
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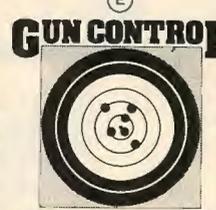
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- C. The S&W M459 is as maintainable as the M1911A1 pistol
- D. The Beretta M92S-1 is over 10 times as maintainable as either the S&W M459 or the M1911A1 .45.
- E. Two of the four M1911A1 pistols evaluated for endurance would not withstand the 10,000-round test.
- F. The M15 .38 Special revolvers exhibited unsatisfactory maintainability.
- G. The Beretta M92S-1, the S&W M459 pistol and the S&W M15 .38 revolver have acceptable machine-rest accuracy.
- H. The M1911A1 pistol does not have acceptable machine-rest or hand-held accuracy.
- I. The Beretta M92S-1 pistol and the M15 .38 revolver have acceptable hand-held accuracy.
- J. The S&W M459 does not have acceptable hand-held accuracy due to trigger-pull problem.
- K. The Beretta M92S-1 and S&W M459 exhibit acceptable firepower.
- L. Neither of the control guns, the M15 .38 and the M1911A1, exhibits acceptable firepower.
- M. The Beretta M92S-1 exhibits acceptable reliability under sand and dust and mud conditions.
- N. Neither the M15 .38 revolver, the M1911A1 pistol nor the S&W M459 is acceptable in both sand and dust conditions.
- O. The Beretta M92S-1 is superior to all of the other 9mm pistols evaluated and is superior to either the M15 .38 revolver or M1911A1 .45 pistol.

Recommendation: the Beretta M92S-1 pistol should be adopted to fulfill all military requirements for a standard sidearm.

The JSSAP test answered questions — but it has raised a few, too. It was bad enough that Smith & Wesson — a name synonymous with “handgun” for over a century — should fall to such a weak second place before the Italian aspirant, but how could Samuel Colt’s descendants embarrass the American tradition of arms to the point that special categories of defects had to be invented for the Colt entry?

It may well be — in spite of the .45’s die-hard defenders — that the pistol of the Marine and the Ardennes may not be the best pistol to flap at our sides as we run into future battles. America can swallow that, but do we have to be further humiliated by not being able to make an acceptable modern replacement?



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FULL AUTO

Continued from page 18

SOF: How long did the entire four-volume project take?

CHINN: We knocked out a volume a year, in addition to our normal military duties.

SOF: There is a rumor flying around that you are about to undertake Volume V in the series. Would you care to substantiate that rumor?

CHINN: Due to my age, I had tried to in-

terest some younger people in the service to continue this project, as I have enough material for several more volumes. But it has not taken place, so I am resolved to head the project myself and get the fifth volume out. I have some personnel to assist me in whom I have great confidence, and we intend to put out Volume V, which will cover everything from 1953 to the present. It's amazing the amount of material that we have accumulated since 1953.

SOF: The first four volumes dealt principally with light, medium, and heavy machine guns. Since that time a great deal of developmental emphasis has been devoted to the so-called assault rifle, which was just coming into vogue in the mid-50s. Do you plan to address yourself to this topic also?

CHINN: That's a good question. We have enough material on assault rifles alone for probably several volumes. Certain outstanding design concepts in this area will be included in Volume V. The great breakthroughs in modern ammunition also need to be discussed.

SOF: How long have you been at work on Volume V itself and when can we expect to see the finished result?

CHINN: We have been working on the compilation of material for the last four or five years (off and on for more years before that), and I think we can reach the publication stage in another year.

SOF: Have you thought past Volume V to subsequent volumes?

CHINN: At my age it becomes difficult to think in those terms. I would like to see the series continued as a military publication, for certain reasons that I cannot talk about, but if it can't, I intend to continue in the private-publishing sector. But I, myself, am only concerned with Volume V. There are so many ideas in the area of automatic weapons that deserve preserving. So many excellent concepts died of the fatal disease — "no requirement."

SOF: In addition to your written series on machine guns, what other types of work in this area were you involved in?

CHINN: Experimental work entirely. If it made sense, then we didn't get it. Mostly theoretical concepts. However, what is of no requirement today is sometimes the crash program of tomorrow, and so I would rather stay away from discussing those topics.

SOF: In conclusion, could you tell us how many years you have been actually accumulating written material on the development and history of modern machine guns?

CHINN: I've been collecting material for more than 25 years. It's stored in 22 filing cabinets and all sorted and graded as to importance. I would also like to add that *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* is searched religiously every issue — and it has yielded a great deal of important information for our files.

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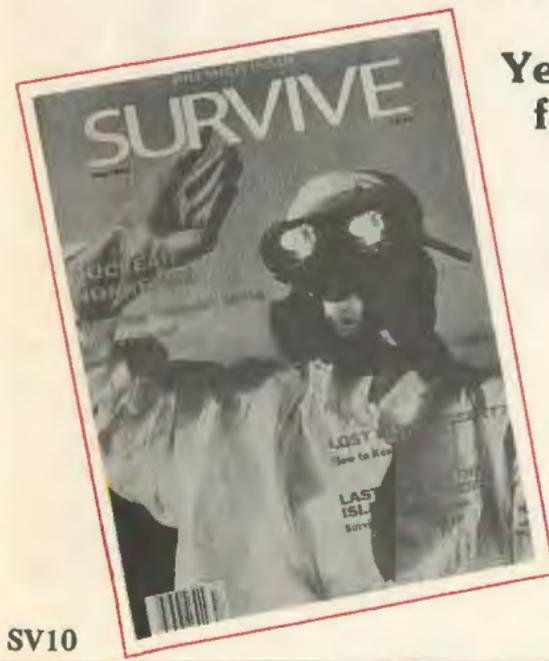
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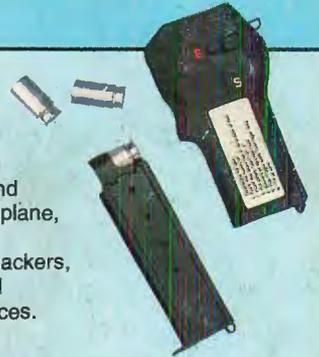
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