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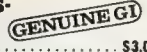
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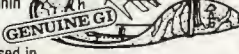
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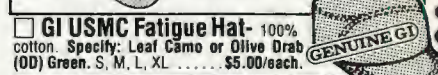
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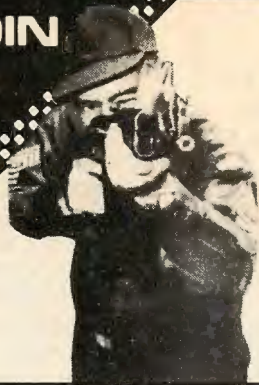
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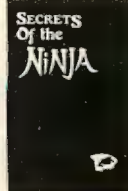
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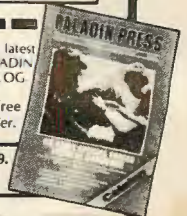


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EDITOR'S NOTE

CONTRARY to the wishes of Western governments and journalists – including those of the United States – the story behind the plot to kill Pope John Paul refused to die in oblivion, buried on page 22 of the *Washington Post*.

Instead, an incredible story reading like a Robert Ludlum spy thriller unfolded, implicating Bulgaria's secret police and leading eventually to the KGB, headed at the time of the assassination attempt by Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov.

The evidence against the Soviets is circumstantial, but damning. Despite pressure from the West to downplay the case, the Italian government felt that the evidence was so compelling that it elected to prosecute the Bulgarian secret police accomplices of the Turkish hit man, Mehmet Ali Agca. Even the Pope is known to believe that the KGB planned the assassination.

It is common knowledge that Bulgaria is the most servile of the Soviet Union's puppet states, and that the Bulgarian secret service, the KDS, is run directly by the KGB. Said Stefan Sverdlev, former Bulgarian secret service colonel who defected three years ago, "I do not doubt for one instant the role of the Bulgarian secret service in this attack. But if they did it, it was not on their own initiative."

Why has the story that captured the attention of the world not captured the attention of the American press and the Reagan administration? Why has the Reagan administration still not condemned the plot? Why has the CIA, according to an NBC spokesman in Rome and William Safire of the *New York Times*, actively discouraged journalists from pursuing leads that pointed to the Kremlin?

American reticence in dealing with the subjects unfavorable to the Soviet Union is not new. Witness the reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and their continuing use of Yellow Rain and other chemicals against the peoples of Southeast Asia.

If the plot had been hatched by President Reagan or the CIA, American journalists and Soviet officials would have joined in demanding a full investigation of the charges.

The fact is that the West is afraid to face the issue squarely because they don't want to admit the truth. It seems safer to ignore the evidence against the Soviets than to threaten world stability, such as it is.

If Soviet complicity were proven and accepted, what policy would the West adopt toward the Soviets concerning trade and, most importantly, disarmament? If the West faces the fact that the Soviets could deliberately plot to kill the Pope and murder defenseless villagers with poisonous chemicals, what else will they do, and how can we believe anything that they might say?

— Donna DuVall

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SOF

MAY/1983

VOL. 8, NO. 5

COVER: Mohammad Kareem, mujahideen camp commander and former brigadier in Afghan Army, shows SOF Soviet AKS-74 at secret base just inside Afghanistan. SOF's test and evaluation of assault rifle begins on p. 46. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis



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THOSE CARDS AND LETTERS ...

Sirs:

While leafing through SOF, July '82, I came across several letters in FLAK, opposing the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The fact that only excerpts from a few letters could be published due to the immense volume received is a good sign that there are still enough people around who care enough about this and other issues to take the time to write.

But think about it. While I'm not saying that people should stop writing to SOF, what is the point in expressing your beliefs and arguments in a letter to a publication that is read primarily by people who already share your beliefs and really need no further convincing? The readership of SOF should direct more of their letter-writing energies toward the newspapers and news magazines of the continent, thus enabling the ideas contained therein to come in contact with those who are undecided on an issue.

The left wing in North America is already well established in this practice, most notably since the resurgence of the communist-led "peace" movement. Almost every day I can read the editorial page of Canada's largest paper, the *Toronto Star*, and find a letter with the name of someone I recognize as a member of the Communist Party of Canada, or some other left-wing outfit. How many of those names that I don't recognize are also members or sympathizers with these organizations?

I urge you, SOF, to urge your readers to write to their newspapers as often as possible, just as you urge them to vote at election time. If we don't do something, some day we won't even be able to vote.

K. Brown

Brantford, Ontario, Canada

SOF takes this opportunity to remind our readers that a true democracy requires participation. The voice of the people can be heeded only if it is heard. Furthermore, our concern with the VVMF is ongoing, as "Background to Betrayal," p. 18, shows.
— The Eds.

CHALK ONE UP ...

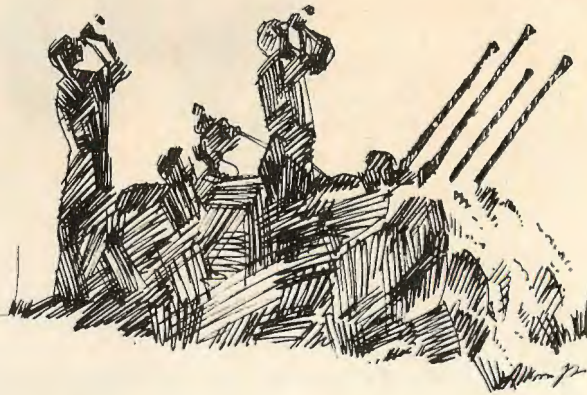
Sirs:

I just read in *Army Times* that the Army's new Stinger system was credited with one kill in the Falklands. Would you expand on this? Specifically, how many times was it fired, how did the Brits get a new system that is not yet fielded throughout the U.S. Army, and what is your own expert evaluation of the system?

Name Withheld

The U.S. Stinger system saw limited use in the Falklands War. It was fired five or six times and recorded one kill. The British received the new Stinger system through the direction of President Reagan. One reason why the Stinger saw only limited action is because most of the

FLAK



Special Air Service (SAS) crews trained to use the system were tragically killed when a British Sea King helicopter crashed on 20 May. The unofficial British reaction to the Stinger is that they appreciate its light weight.

— David C. Isby, *Soviet Analyst*

COVERT OPERATION ...

Sirs:

Here at Ft. Benning in the 2nd Plt., Echo Company, 9th Btn., 2nd Inf. Training Brigade, we have some very strict drill sergeants who don't allow the reading of any magazines — especially ones which don't follow military bearing, i.e., SOF or anything having to do with mercs. But there is a small group of us who have been faithful SOF readers for years and who cannot imagine a month without our "Journal of Professional Adventurers." Even though we have PX bag searches-and-seizures, one or more of us always gets our SOF successfully. It just goes to prove that even America's finest drill sergeants can't come between us and our SOF. Keep up with your usual high quality and we'll die in the front-leaning rest position, SOF nearby.

Leonard Mangine

Alan Wernik

Kendall Nash

David Merritt

Todd Seigmund

Robert Payne

Steven Armstrong

Tracy Batts

VEST QUESTION ...

Sirs:

In reference to your article on Soviet body armor ("Bad News For Boris," January '83), I believe there has been a mistake made. The vest depicted would appear to be well suited for its intended purpose. That is as a versatile piece of foul-weather gear.

With the ability to delete or exchange the packets with ones that are filled with down, and the inherent freedom of movement in a vest, it could be utilized in South Africa or Kozhva, winter or summer.

I may be wrong, and if I am, the M16 looks like it could prove useful on the modern battlefield after all.

W.D. Blackmon

Tule Lake, California

... AND ANOTHER

Sirs:

Just a short letter to let you know I've just read my first issue of *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, and I think it's great. First, one question and then a comment.

Do you know of any way — or anyone who can supply the information — to convert an ordinary automatic, a Ruger handgun, to full automatic firing? Is such a thing possible?

My comment: I would hate to see SOF turn out to be so overly patriotic and right-wing that it gets itself suckered into believing untrue information. This happened to an organization called United of America, some years back, when they mailed out literature showing a man being tortured to death by "the Heathen Chinese." The "victim" was an actor named Saki, and the photos were from a Steve McQueen movie.

I have traveled in communist countries recently, even helping to smuggle two people out of Poland. One made it; the other — apprehended in London — disappeared when the London embassy discovered his plans.

"Bad News For Boris" (Jan. '83) does not illustrate a bulletproof vest worn by Russian soldiers. It is simply a padded and insulated garment worn underneath other clothing for warmth. The Russian soldier does not wear armor protective clothing. He considers it quite sissified. You and your editorial writer were snookered.

Russian armament is of poor quality. I doubt that any of their missiles or rockets

Continued on page 92

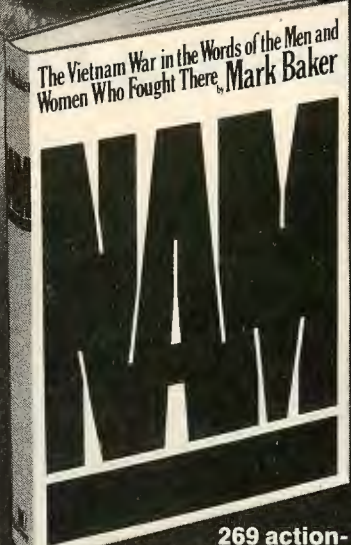
Photo courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps

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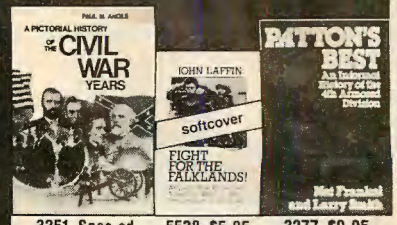
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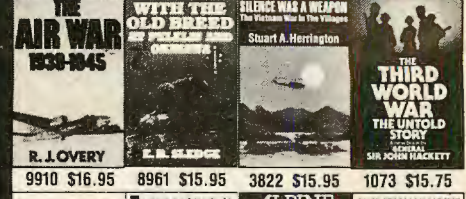
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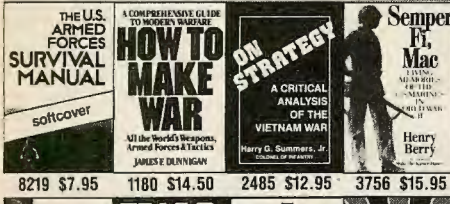
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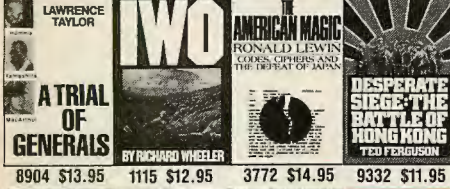
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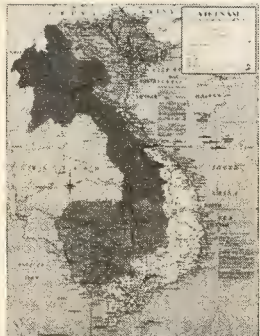
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SPRINGFIELD Armory, Dept. SOF, 420 West Main Street, A Yard, Geneseo, IL 61254, is building BM-59 rifles on re-machined receivers supplied by Beretta. Made to Italian Army specifications — with the exception of a selective-fire switch — a Springfield BM-59 is one of my favorite competition pieces.

These BM-59 rifles are offered standard with tricompensator, bipod, grenade sights, fold-down winter trigger and rubber butt plate with storage area for cleaning tools. All parts are made of strong steel forgings and the machine-work is such that current and future weapons cannot hope to equal it.

Since I heard of problems with the Beretta BM-62, I gave the Springfield Armory model a careful test to determine accuracy and reliability. I gave it a complete shooting workout, and found the BM-59 a joy to shoot.

While reliable, weapon accuracy varied with ammo to an unusual degree. It is clear that the BM-59/BM-62 rifle design is very ammunition-sensitive. With standard-grade 7.62 NATO M-80 ball ammo groups were not always pleasing. When match-grade or hand-loaded .308 rounds were used, the accuracy was most acceptable. It seems that with quality ammo, the BM-59 or the BM-62 will produce nice tight groups.

For comparison I tried the excellent Springfield Armory M1A as well as a .308 M1 Garand with M-80 ball ammo. Shooting 10-shot groups at 100 yards, both weapons delivered two- to three-inch groups regularly. When the same was tried with my BM-59, the group size was nearly always twice as large. I assume that the stock bedding and barrel node are such that the BM-59/62s simply do not perform well with M-80 ball.

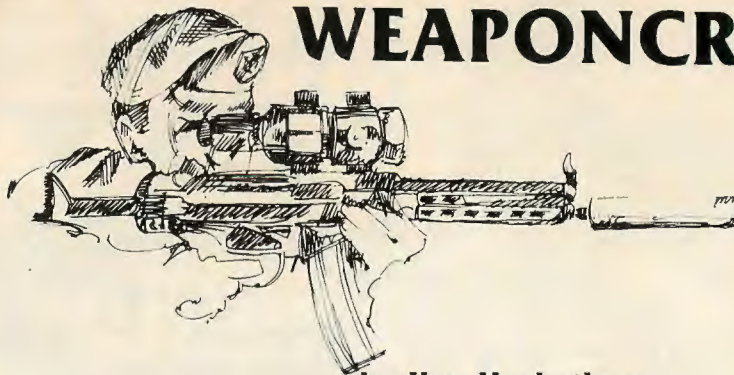
When M118 Match ball ammo was used, the BM-59 shot very respectable groups. With Mex-Match (Lake City M118 Match 7.62 NATO with the issue bullet replaced with Sierra Match King), the BM-59 produced excellent 100- and 200-yard groups. I must be honest and admit that I am not an expert rifleman, and rarely turn out those fine groups so often publicized by other gun journalists. When using iron sights on a stock rifle, I know what I can and cannot do. With good ammo the BM-59 will get the job done.

Since the best features of the Garand rifle are part of the BM-59 design, one gets the benefit of excellent sights, ideal trigger, positive safety and magazine catch (both ambidextrous), shooting comfort and handling characteristics second to none.

Unlike the Beretta BM-62 which has a short muzzle cap that does little to reduce muzzle blast or flash, the BM-59 tricompensator is very effective. It is available from Springfield Armory, and can be fitted to any BM-62.

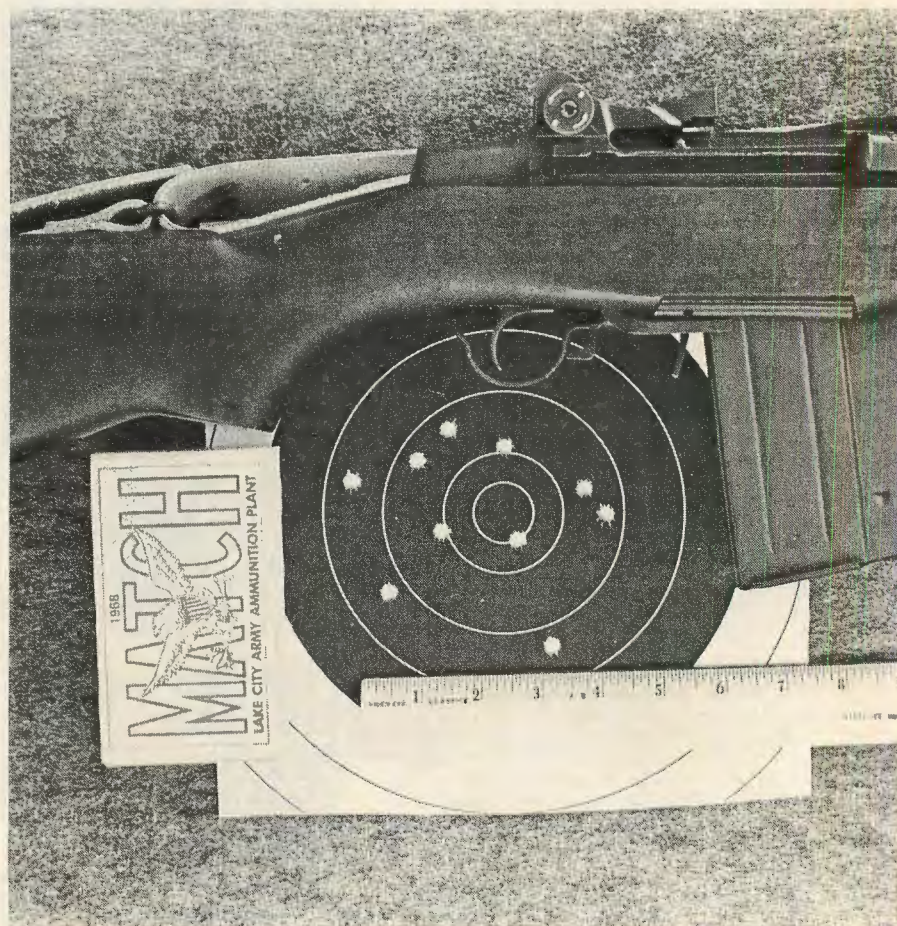
The BM-59 has a fine, light bipod mounted on the gas cylinder. The gas cylinder's attachment to the barrel caused

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by Ken Hackathorn

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Finely machined Italian descendant of Garand above average 100-meter group with M118 Match ball. Photo: Ken Hackathorn

some small change in elevation when the bipod was used, raising groups about three inches at 100 yards.

A complete stock of spare parts for the BM-59 is available from Springfield Ar-

mory and the Beretta BM-62 may be converted to BM-59 configuration at Springfield Armory. Owners of either weapon can stock up on spare magazines or buy paratroop folding stocks, ART-scope mounts, bipods or original Beretta bayonets from Springfield.

The BM-59 is not only a fine rifle, it's a practical investment, since these guns are the last examples of Beretta's best 7.62 NATO paramilitary firearm. ☒

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IT HAPPENED TO ME

Close Counts

by J. Peeff
as told to M.L. Jones



On 15 September 1968 J. Peeff was a 21-year-old Army first lieutenant assigned as an adviser to the 18th Division Intelligence and Reconnaissance Company, ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam), operating in Vietnam's III Corps. As he tells it:

WE were returning from a five-day mission to locate a Viet Cong (VC) base camp near Long Thahn. The VC defector (*Chieu Hoi*) whom Division had assigned to us as a guide had kept us going in circles — I finally requested and got

permission to terminate the mission.

We broke jungle and hit the road, heading for the prearranged pickup point. It was nearly noon, hot and dusty; everyone was tired and wanted to get back to our base camp at Xuan Loc.

As we approached a small Popular Forces outpost at a sharp bend in the road, I noticed someone standing in chest-tall elephant grass to our right about 15 meters away. He held something brown; I assumed it was an M1 carbine, the most common Popular Force weapon.

Suddenly, we came under intense small-

arms fire and I found myself with a half-dozen ARVNs in a ditch to the left of the road. The fire seemed to be coming from the other side so I yelled not to fire to our front because I'd seen a friendly about 15 meters away. I was answered by screams and moans; we were taking casualties as enemy fire increased.

An ARVN platoon leader screamed: "No friendlies, only VC in front," and raised up to fire. He was cut down immediately. I sprayed the area in front of us as fast as I could change magazines, but the tall grass obscured any real targets. I grabbed one of my two grenades, pulled the pin and prepared to throw it as best I could, lying prone. (To stand up and heave it "Hollywood style" would have guaranteed a trip home in a body bag.)

I had forgotten my rucksack. As my arm went back to throw, the pack strap slid down my shoulder onto my arm and caught it, impeding its forward motion.

The grenade blooped about five meters in front of me with an ear-shattering explosion. I was pelted with dirt but (luckily) no fragments.

I pulled the quick-release on the pack strap and grabbed my last grenade. With the ruck off and my arm free, I was able to throw it quite far. The enemy fire seemed to slacken.

My ARVN counterpart yelled for an assault. We arose almost as one, moving forward, firing into the tall grass. I tripped over something but picked myself up and kept going.

The VC finally withdrew and we returned to the road to regroup and take care of our casualties. I looked down — and discovered that I had tripped over a dead VC, who was lying 12 feet in front of my position in the ditch. He evidently had been the lookout who gave the signal to spring the ambush.

My first grenade, the blooper caused by my pack strap, had got him just in time. His right arm was twisted grotesquely behind his back — and it still clutched a Chicom grenade. ☒

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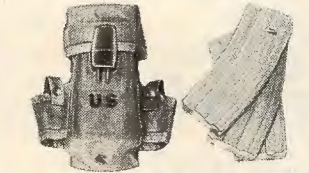


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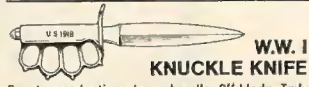


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IN REVIEW



KOREA: The Untold Story of the War. By Joseph C. Goulden. Times Books, Dept. SOF, Three Park Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1982. 700 pp. 16 pp. of photographs with Index, Notes and Sources. \$22.50. Review by Bob Poos.

THERE were very few heroes in high places in the Korean War, as most veterans with any knowledge of the times can confirm. Two can be named here, and that just about takes care of the list: Matthew Ridgway and Marine Corps Gen. Oliver P. Smith. Matthew Ridgway forged a first-rate Army out of a broken, defeated rabble, and those who survived the breakout (it was *not* a retreat) from the Chosen Reservoir owe Smith their lives and they know it.

The others — Acheson, Truman, MacArthur, MacArthur's Chief-of-Staff Almond — all come away with serious flaws in character and behavior in Joseph Goulden's book, **Korea: The Untold Story of the War**. Goulden's sources include the heretofore unpublished personal papers of Gen. Ridgway as well as mountains of classified documents unearthed by the author, who employed the Freedom of Information Act.

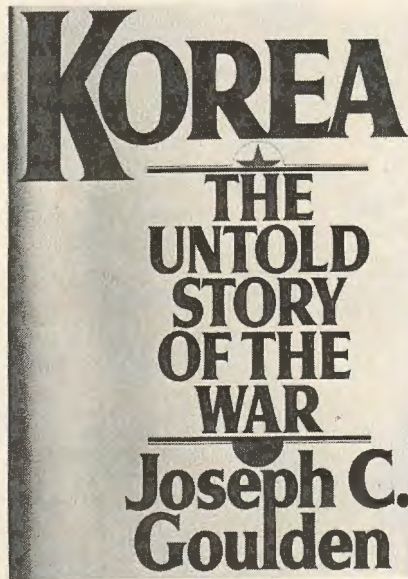
Acheson had indicated in a speech that the United States really didn't consider Korea very important to our geopolitical strategic policy. He should have been sharply aware of the fact that the Soviets considered Korea vitally important.

Truman, proud of his knowledge of history and world affairs, knew little of this particular part of the world. Furthermore, always fiercely proud of his Midwestern individuality, toughness and decisive character — remember "The Buck Stops Here" — he remained almost slavishly devoted to Acheson's advice in this war, which came close to seeing tactical nuclear weapons used for the first time. And Acheson could range from a flaming Hawk to a cowering Dove. Both were blissfully unaware that the American military was too weak, poorly trained and inadequately armed to be launched on such a global adventure, right in the teeth of a Soviet war machine that was just the opposite in all respects.

MacArthur had years before (it is revealed here for the first time) displayed disturbing signs of mental instability. A onetime aide, then Lt. (later Brig. Gen.) Thomas Jefferson Davis, had talked privately, describing strange scenes MacArthur played in Davis's company. Prior to World War II, MacArthur, then Army Chief-of-Staff, was fond of inviting Davis to his quarters, producing a loaded revolver, holding it — cocked — to his temple and threatening to pull the trigger because he feared "failure" — at what he wouldn't say. He would relax only after lengthy periods of overweening praise by the lieutenant who would assure him that he was too valuable an asset for the country to lose.

And MacArthur, said Davis, was fond of inviting flocks of Baltimore whores to his quarters, praising their looks and charm, and then, when they responded, viciously insulting them. "He never screwed one," said Davis.

The Joint Chiefs were aware of MacArthur's peculiarities during the Korean War but remained in fear of this weird General of the Armies. "He treated us like a bunch of kids," said Gen. Omar Bradley, JCS chairman.



MacArthur did conceive the brilliant Inchon landing that temporarily won the Korean War. But he could not have achieved his success had he not been furnished the finest tool ever given to a general commanding a hazardous amphibious operation: the magnificent First Marine Division.

This experienced amphibious unit was composed of a blend of regulars, who had been in the Corps when the war started, and hastily-called-up inactive reserves, veterans to a man of the Pacific fighting. They didn't need any seasoning in battle. The regulars got theirs when they went as the First Provisional Brigade to the Pusan Perimeter, the lone, tiny chunk of South Korea remaining in South Korean and U.S. control.

At Pusan, the Marine Brigade arrived when the U.S. Army was about to be

placed on the endangered-species list and then rendered a large hand in helping prevent it from becoming extinct. Even before this crisis had totally ended, the Marines were withdrawn, fleshed out by the reserves. It was unfair, even unreasonable, to ask these men to place themselves in such terrible jeopardy for the second time in five years — but to a man they did it. What was accomplished at Inchon is now, of course, history.

And it was probably the finest hour in MacArthur's career — the longest in U.S. military history. This success was terribly blemished when he lost his nerve after more than 10 Communist Chinese divisions raged across the Yalu River, virtually destroying the UN command, except for the First Marine Division.

South Korean President Syngman Rhee is depicted here as a xenophobic ancient, lapsing — sometimes at his own convenience — into muttering senility. But nevertheless he was clever — and tough — enough to extort from a timid U.S. leadership \$24 billion in foreign aid, plus 52,246 KIA, some 30,000 of them *after* peace talks began. The only solution Truman advanced to Rhee's intransigence was a plot to have the CIA kill him and replace the old man with a more tractable puppet.

President Dwight David Eisenhower did ultimately obtain a truce by threatening to employ tactical nuclear weapons against the Chinese who were by then in full command of the communist side although under strict Soviet guidance. But Eisenhower's final terms were the same as those proffered by Truman two years earlier. Truman had steadfastly declared throughout the war that he would not use these weapons — but he had them all ready for quick assembly aboard U.S. carriers off the Korean coast.

Truman did finally manage to screw up his nerve and relieve MacArthur after the latter had repeatedly disobeyed or cleverly skirted orders and directives and begun babbling about "laying a radiation belt across Manchuria." How Truman managed to accomplish this feat is revealed here for the first time.

Up to now, there have been only two other major, serious works on the Korean War: Robert Leckie's *Conflict*, and *Korea: This Kind of War* by T.R. Fehrenbach. Leckie's book is disappointing — a dull, dry, historical account of the war's developments. Fehrenbach's book is more readable. This infantry unit commander in Korea tells the story from the fighting soldier and Marine's point of view with interpretation that does not intrude.

But **Korea: The Untold Story of the War** is much more definitive than Leckie's or Fehrenbach's books. One chapter, "The CIA Comes of Age," appears on page 22 in this issue of SOF. Every chapter should be read by all SOF readers, including those who are only remotely interested in this subject.

SOF Executive Editor Bob Poos served as a rifleman with the 1st Marine Division during the Korean War.

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BELTS are a common means of supplying ammunition to a machine gun. As considerable energy is required to lift the belt onto the feed tray and extract the cartridges from it, its use has usually been restricted to rifle-caliber weapons. In many cases, the reciprocating bolt supplies the energy to operate a series of pawls that drag the belt through the gun. The pawls, usually attached to a feed slide, alternately pull and then hold the belt while the feed slide moves in concert with the bolt.

The first belts were made of cotton fabric and were used on both Browning's Colt Model 1895 machine gun (the so-called "potato digger") and Hiram Maxim's Model 1893 gun. The Colt belt held 100 rounds. The Maxim had a 250-round belt with metal spacers between each round and a long metal tab every fifth round. This tab was a positioner for holding the belt in place within the ammo box. Without it, belts tended to creep forward and rounds would slip out — the early Maxim belts were manufactured with a loose fit for easy hand-reloading in the field.

The early Vickers belts were of the Maxim type, but later ones were of all-cloth construction. They were cheaper to fabricate, but difficult to reload under field conditions (they were not intended for re-use). Cloth belts, in 100- or 250-round lengths, for the Browning M1917A1 and M1919A4/A6 machine guns are best reloaded with the belt-loader machine made for this purpose.

With the advent of World War I, the Vickers machine gun was soon adapted to aircraft. Fabric belts were unacceptable as the empty end of the belt invariably flew back into the pilot's face or became entangled somewhere on the plane. The metallic-link disintegrating belt solved the problem. It was invented in 1917 by William de Coursey Prideaux. As each round was extracted, the link would separate from the belt and fall into a canvas bag.

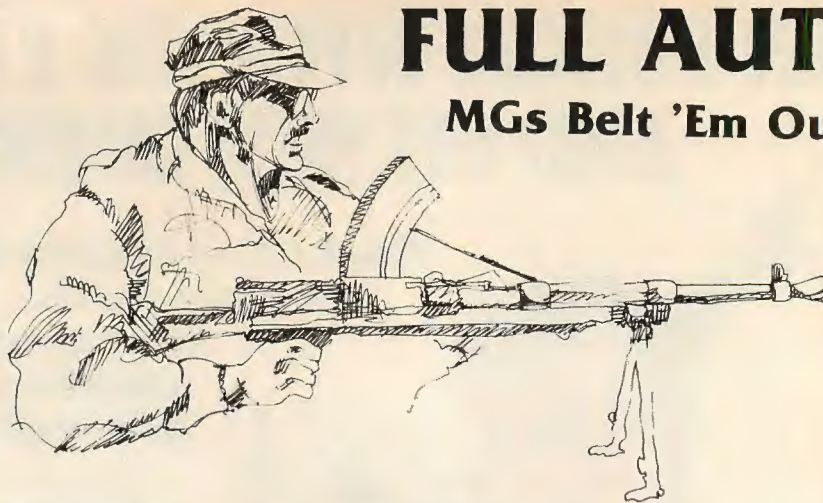
Metallic-link disintegrating belts remain the prevailing type, and are used with all the Browning machine guns in U.S. service. In the form of the M13 link, they are found in the M60 and FN MAG general-purpose machine guns (GPMGs).

The Germans popularized use of the non-disintegrating metallic belt during World War II. Known as the *Gurt 33*, it was developed for use in the MG-34/42 weapons series. Its only apparent advantage is its ability to reload a non-disintegrating belt more readily in the field. The *Gurt 33* link has a locating tab which snaps into the extractor groove of the cartridge. The Soviet RPD belt is a spin-off on the *Gurt 33*, and, although disintegrating, the U.S. M13 link is also patterned after the German style.

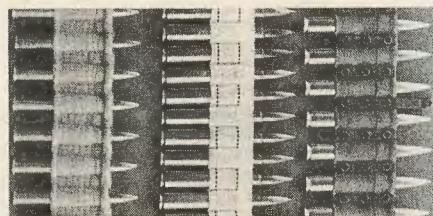
Over a long period of use, metallic belts induce greater wear on the feed system of the gun than do fabric ones. However, this negligible side effect was not a primary design parameter.

FULL AUTO

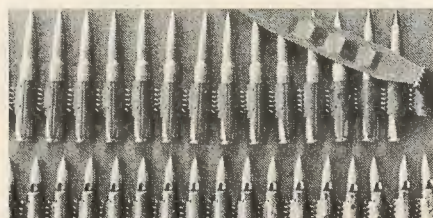
MGs Belt 'Em Out



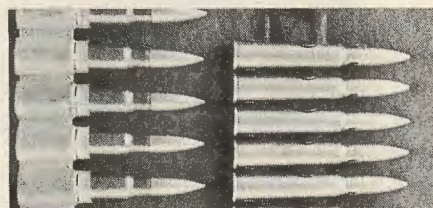
Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



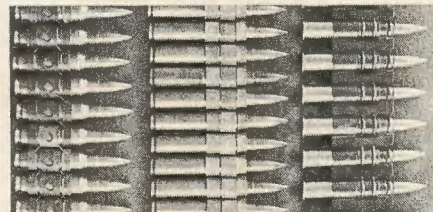
Cloth belts: Left to right, Vickers, late issue; Browning, WWII vintage; Maxim '08 belt (note metal spacers and positioner tab).



Non-disintegrating metallic link belts. Top: MG-34/42 (*Gurt 33*) with starter tab. Bottom: Soviet RPD. Both types are push-through design.



Left: unusual British Besa tank machine-gun combination cloth-and-metal belt. **Right:** rigid feed strip, or "charger," of Hotchkiss machine gun.



Disintegrating metallic links. Left: M13 push-through links for M60 and FN MAG GPMGs. Center: Browning M1917A1 and M1919A4/A6 links. Right: first disintegrating links, the Prideaux patent for Vickers MG. Latter two are pull-out types.

All belts, depending on the weapon's operating principles, are either "pull-out" or "push-through" systems. In the Browning, Maxim and Vickers machine guns, the cartridge is pulled out of the rear of the belt. In the MG-34/42, RPD, M60, FN MAG, M73 and M85, the round is pushed through forward out of the belt. While the push-through method is theoretically more efficient, both work and this difference is not a major consideration in evaluating machine-gun design. The Soviets still seem to prefer the pull-out method, which works at its best with rimmed cartridge cases.

The British Besa tank machine gun utilized an unusual combination cloth-and-metal belt. Quite possibly another English attempt at the best of all possible worlds, it was a push-through type.

A contemporary of the Maxim and Browning guns, the Hotchkiss machine gun used a rigid feed strip, called a "charger" by the French. In the earliest examples of this tray-like arrangement, the holder of each round was articulated, looking like a flexible belt. Individual articulation was quite expensive, so later versions had it after every three to four rounds. Eventually, rigid 30-round metal strips were adopted.

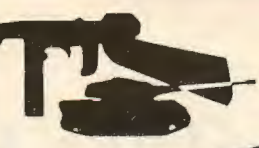
The most peculiar adaptation of the Hotchkiss feed strip is found on the Italian Breda Model 37 medium machine gun. This gun used a flat tin tray of 20 rounds, which was fed "rounds down" into the weapon. When the empty case was extracted from the chamber, it was put back into the tray. After the 20 rounds were fired, the entire tray holding all 20 empty cases fell out on the right side of the gun! Ingenious, but completely absurd unless a neat battlefield is important.

Finally, most belts incorporate a starter tab, either integrally or as a separate but attachable piece. This is merely a metal strip which can be pulled across the feed tray so the gun may be loaded with the top cover down and locked.

Belts have been with us from the beginning and most machine guns continue to need one. ☒

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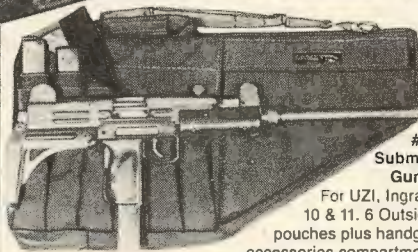
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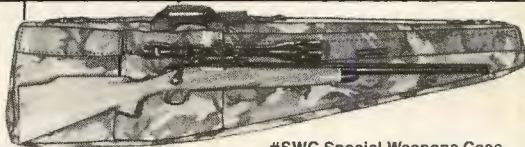
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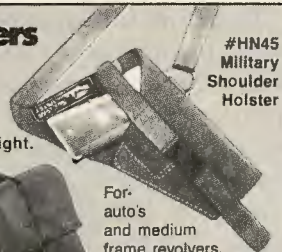


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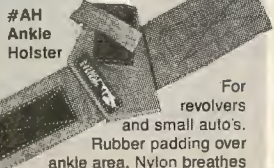
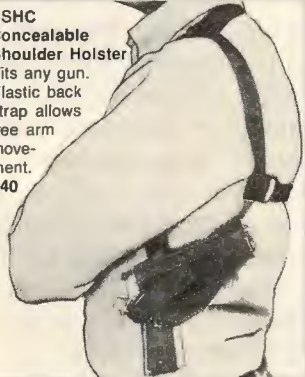
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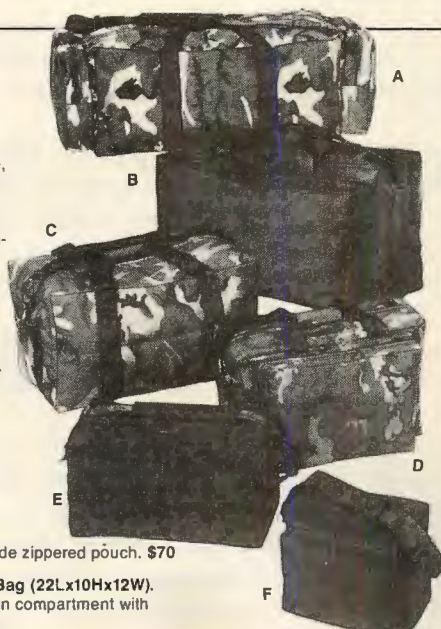


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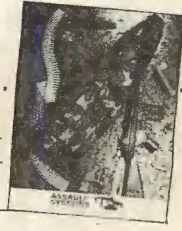
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You're The NRA—Take Control Of It

by Robert K. Brown

NATIONAL Rifle Association life members and annual members with five years' seniority will have the opportunity to regain control of "their" organization at the NRA meetings 6-9 May 1983 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Why is it necessary for eligible members to take back "their" organization?

Because it is clear to many members that the NRA no longer represents what many of us, particularly the Federation for the NRA (FFNRA) members, believe in. Most NRA members belong just because the NRA and the ILA have opposed restrictive gun laws.

Under the NRA's current leadership, there has been little serious effort to challenge the people and organizations who want to take our guns — and no effort at all to overturn restrictive gun laws enacted recently.

But isn't the NRA's purpose to defend our "right to bear arms" and guarantee our rights to the private ownership of weapons?

CERTAINLY it is, but it's becoming increasingly difficult to believe that the NRA leadership, particularly Harlon Carter, believes this — based on NRA actions in the last few years.

What has happened is that Carter and other NRA leaders decided that the NRA could best hold the line against future gun restrictions by toning down the NRA's image as a conservative bastion, the last hope of gun owners.

It appears that Carter et al. thought that, by following a policy of detente in its relationship with media and liberal politicians, it could prevent any further erosion of gun owners' rights.

The NRA's detente policy was not totally unsuccessful. It has managed to hold the line, although the NRA's handling of the McClure-Volkmer bill was less than effective and its contribution against California's Proposition 15 was not as significant as the anti-gun nuts would have us believe.

The reason for the NRA's deterioration is that the Old Guard detente became the end, not a means to an end. The NRA leadership appears to be enjoying the chance to hobnob with Washington politicians so much that it has quit listening to its membership, and has forgotten what it set out to do in the first place.

The clearest evidence of this loss of sight of the target is borne out by Carter's firing of Neal Knox, formerly the head of the NRA's Institute for Legis-

lative Action, and by his pulling the plug on the toll-free legislative action line.

Carter pulled the plug on the legislative action line — the fastest, easiest way for private members to reach the NRA lobbying office — because, frankly, he didn't care what the average dues-payer had to say about NRA policy.

Knox — who listened to the members and took on full-bore the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) bureau as well as anti-gun media and politicians — was axed by Carter so that the NRA could continue its tete-a-tete with people that most NRA members would detest.

Knox, the nominal head of the informal FFNRA, spearheaded a successful movement for direct election of the executive vice-president of the NRA. That change made it possible for all life members to vote directly for the NRA's most powerful officer.

Knox did this to make the NRA more responsive to its membership and the Old Guard went along with it because they were afraid they were in danger of losing control of the Board of Directors. Throwing the election open to life members would enable the Old Guard to control the elections through *American Rifleman* and *American Hunter*, which report only the Old Guard position.

But it didn't work out that way. The FFNRA continued to make inroads in the Board of Directors elections and suddenly the Old Guard saw the threat. So the Old Guard tried to disenfranchise you. *Shooting Times* has already reported that Carter offered FFNRA leaders a deal if they would champion restoration of the election of the executive vice-president to the Board of Directors, which he still controls. Carter wanted control of that election enough to offer his resignation in exchange for FFNRA support.

Knox, who has always supported democratization of the NRA, was fired because he wouldn't accept Carter's "deal."

What's to be done?

AT Scottsdale, the FFNRA will try to steer the NRA from its "liberal fling" and back on target with new bylaws aimed at actively protecting your rights.

Watch what the FFNRA does in Scottsdale and if you believe their platform best represents your ideas about the NRA's future, vote with us. ☒

Here's something you don't usually see in armor ads . . .


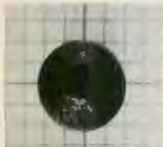

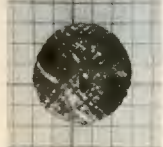
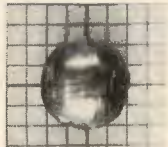

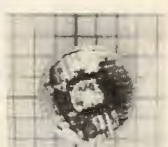
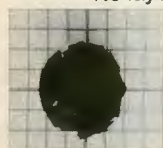


HARD FACTS

A lot of armor makers seem bent on keeping you from knowing much about their products. We don't see it that way. If you are going to stake your life on something, we think you need to know as much as possible about it. So read on.

There are nine layers of 31 x 31 count, 1,000 denier, Zepel-D[®] treated Kevlar[®] 29 in each SILENT PARTNER[®] armor insert — exactly the style and weave of Kevlar recommended in the 1977 NILECJ study that set the national standard for police armor. A lot of manufacturers cut their cost by using something less.

We have one quarrel with that study. It says the most powerful round you need to worry about on the street is the .38 Spl. 158 gr. round-nose lead projectile. Since 20 percent of all police officers killed in the line of duty are shot with their own or their partner's gun, that's not very realistic.

Here's a rogue's gallery of rounds recovered from a standard nine-layer SILENT PARTNER insert under NILECJ test standards. (A more detailed report, covering the full range of rounds tested, comes with your armor.)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Rem. 230 gr. .45 ACP FMC Velocity: 836 FPS No armor layers penetrated</p>  | <p>Rem. 250 gr. .45 Long Colt LRN Velocity: 770 FPS No layers penetrated</p>  |
| <p>Rem. 210 gr. .41 Magnum LSWC Velocity: 994 FPS No layers penetrated</p>  | <p>Rem. 158 gr. .357 Magnum JHP Velocity: 1,151 FPS One layer penetrated</p>  |
| <p>Fed. 123 gr. 9mm Para. FMC Velocity: 1,069 FPS Three layers penetrated</p>  | <p>Rem. 115 gr. 9mm Para. JHP Velocity: 1,161 FPS Two layers penetrated</p>  |
| <p>W/W 115 gr. 9mm Para. Silvertip Velocity: 1,190 FPS No layers penetrated</p>  | <p>S&W 125 gr. .38 Spl. Nyklad Velocity: 1,001 FPS No layers penetrated</p>  |
| <p>W/W 40 gr. .22 Magnum JHP Velocity: 1,210 FPS Two layers penetrated</p>  | <p>CCI 32 gr. .22 LR Stinger Velocity: 1,283 FPS Two layers penetrated</p>  |

(ALL BULLETS PHOTOGRAPHED ON 1/8" GRID)



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Body Armor you can't afford to be without!

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This is serious armor — the same style and weave of Zepel[®]-treated Kevlar[®] recommended by the federal report that set the national standard for police body armor. But there is 12.5% more armor, **front and back**, in your SILENT PARTNER than that report recommended!

SILENT PARTNER's T-shirt design is unique. It's the first successful combination of a comfortable cotton garment and first-rate flexible armor. You put on your SILENT PARTNER like an ordinary T-shirt. Armor and all, it weighs just 1.5 pounds!

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125 GR. .38 SPL. +P JHP
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Four colors to choose from



230 GR. .45 ACP FMJ
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| | | | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---|
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| (1) Complete units: (shirt, front and back armor) @ \$99.95 each | Qty. | | | | | \$ |
| | Color(s) | JC DC W B | JC DC W B | JC DC W B | JC DC W B | |
| (2) Extra T-shirt Carrier(s) @ \$22.95 each | Qty. | | | | | \$ |
| NAME _____ | | | | | | Shipping and Handling \$ 5.00 |
| STREET ADDRESS _____ | | | | | | 6% Sales Tax (La. res. only) \$ |
| CITY/STATE _____ | | | | | | TOTAL \$ |
| SIGNATURE _____ ZIP _____ | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Check* <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D. (CASH ONLY) <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex |
| CREDIT CARD No. _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ | | | | | | Mail to: Silent Partner, Inc. 230 LAFAYETTE ST. GRETNA, LA 70053 <small>*Please allow 3 weeks for check clearing</small> |

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TOO BAD, IVAN . . .

Israeli planes bombed and killed 11 Russians at the site of a downed Israeli electronic-warfare aircraft in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley during the Israeli-Syrian conflict last summer. The Russians were trying to salvage pieces of the highly sophisticated, Israeli-made electronic countermeasure (ECM) equipment, according to a report in *Air Force Magazine*.

Determined to destroy the aircraft rather than let it fall into enemy hands, the Israelis arrived at the site after the Russians had begun scavenging it.

"The Israelis got the Russians as well as the downed aircraft," U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Richard N. Perle was reported to have said.

Air Force Magazine is usually considered reliable and well-informed.

PLO VS. BABY DOC? . . .

The Duvaliers — Francois "Papa Doc" and his son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" — have ruled Haiti ruthlessly since 1957. There have been numerous attempts to overthrow the regime — some of them more comic than military — but none have succeeded.

Now, however, "Baby Doc" Duvalier may be facing a truly dangerous foe. On 1 January of this year a bomb exploded in a car parked along a road on which Duvalier was to travel several hours later. Three people were killed (one may have been the bomber).

The bomb was evidently the work of the *Brigade Riobe* (named after a person killed in a '60s revolt), headed by Jean-Claude Luis-Jean. Luis-Jean was trained by the PLO in the Mideast and, in at least one instance, is believed to have been with the world's top terrorist bankroller, Libya's Mommar Khadafy.

Last July four *Riobe* commandos, possibly including Luis-Jean, infiltrated Haiti in a small plane, planning to kill Duvalier. Duvalier didn't appear as expected, so the commandos tried — but failed — to blow up a bridge and two electric towers. The following week two small airplanes buzzed Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, and dropped *Riobe* pamphlets that said, "Liberation is near." A few days after the 1 January explosion, bombs were found in the Finance Ministry and the central post office of Port-au-Prince.

Duvalier may be facing his greatest threat yet.

SOVIET ARMS IN ARGENTINA . . .

Argentina's official air force magazine, *Aereospacio*, said that Argentine forces used Soviet-built SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles during the Falk-

BULLETIN BOARD

by Donna DuVall and John Metzger



SOF's Rick Venable was in the Angolan bush with Jonas Savimbi's troops last December when three-way deal was worked out to exchange the two Russian prisoners (above with Savimbi's Red Cross representatives) and another Russian captured by South Africans for Americans Gary Acker and Gus Grillo. There was also an exchange of some remains (Cubans for South Africans). The two above were pilots captured by Savimbi's forces when their transport was shot down. Acker and Grillo were captured in 1976. Photo: Rick Venable

land Islands war with Britain last year.

The article, printed in January and entitled "Missiles in the Malvinas," did not disclose how many shoulder-launched SAM-7 *Strela* heat-seeking missiles were used, but did say that the weapon was not very effective.

"One limitation of this system is that it must be used in conditions of relatively good weather," the magazine said. The Falklands are usually covered with clouds and fog most of the year.

It was not disclosed who provided Argentina with the Soviet weaponry. Most of the Argentine arsenal was purchased from Western Europe, particularly from France and West Germany. The Humphrey-Kennedy Act of 1978 prohibited U.S. arms sales to Argentina on grounds of human rights violations.

THE CONTINUING SUCCESS OF OUR CAMPAIGN IN AFGHANISTAN SHOWS ON THE...



... FACES OF OUR TROOPS!...



AFGHAN UPDATE . . .

Evidence implicating the Soviets in chemical warfare in Afghanistan continues to mount. Lt. Gen. Ghulan Siddiq Miraki, a senior Afghan secret-police official who recently defected, gave the latest proof.

Claiming that he worked closely with the KGB, Miraki cited specific examples of Soviet use of chemical

agents against Afghan villages. One such incident occurred in August 1982, in Central Afghanistan. The Soviets sprayed an area that they believed contained rebels. However, the wind changed and blew the chemicals back over the Soviet troops instead, killing large numbers. Seems that it's not just the political winds that are changeable in Afghanistan.

Miraki made other interesting claims. One was that the Soviets were building anti-aircraft missile sites in the northern border region of Wakhan, which were pointed toward China. That should reveal something about the seriousness of the rumored Russo-Sino *rapprochement*.

Mujahideen reports that they had pushed the war into Soviet territory were substantiated by Miraki. According to him, Soviet Tadzhikistan had been attacked by Afghan rebels. Mujahideen claims include Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as well.

Miraki contends that the Afghan rebel forces are much more effective than they were just a year ago. More and better equipment (supplied either externally by Pakistan, China or Britain, or captured from Russian or Afghan Army troops), allows them to pursue the fight with more tenacity and accuracy. Particularly effective, according to Miraki, is the guerrilla campaign in the capital city of Kabul. Only four streets are considered safe from rebel action, and at night the city belongs to the guerrillas (see "Kabul's Urban Guerrillas," SOF, November '82).

Meanwhile the war continues. If you would like to contribute to the Afghan resistance, send donations to Afghan Freedom Fighter Fund, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

GULF OF TONKIN DESTROYER RETIRED . . .

The USS *Turner Joy*, the destroyer involved in the historic Gulf of Tonkin incident, has been decommissioned after 23 years of service.

The *Turner Joy* was built in Seattle in 1959 and made 12 Pacific deployments as part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, earning nine battlestars in the Vietnam War. But the 2,850-ton destroyer is best-remembered for the 2 August 1964 Gulf of Tonkin episode.

Retired Capt. Robert Barnhart, who commanded the *Turner Joy* in 1964, remembers the incident:

"We were on patrol about 15 to 20 miles off the North Vietnam coast. We had been warned to expect an ambush . . . we came under attack from at least four North Vietnamese torpedo boats."

No Americans were hurt in the attack, but the incident had far-reaching consequences. President Lyndon Johnson, adamant that no more



American ships would be attacked on the high seas, pushed through Congress the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave him wide-ranging war powers. Soon he ordered retaliatory air strikes over North Vietnam, which eventually led to direct involvement of U.S. troops in Vietnam.

The Gulf of Tonkin incident and its resulting resolution were controversial. Some war critics questioned that the *Turner Joy* was attacked. They maintained that Johnson and his advisers fabricated the North Vietnamese attack to get popular support for U.S. involvement in Vietnam and that freakish weather had produced the radar indicators that the ship was being attacked.

Barnhart doesn't buy it: "Was it a ghost [radar echo]? A ghost doesn't go 32 miles in toward you, make a turn and then make a perfect torpedo attack against you."

The *Turner Joy* is now peacefully retired at Bremerton, Wash.

AMERICAN VETERANS' CALENDAR . . .

Have we got a deal for you! A 1983 calendar. Wait a minute before you turn the page — we're serious.



Even if 1983 is almost half over and you're not interested in keeping track of the last five months, here's a calendar we think you'll want. The American Veterans' 1983 Calendar by Cynthia Sedlmeyer features signed pencil drawings depicting patriotic scenes from World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam. All branches of the U.S. armed services are represented.

To order, send \$2.00, plus \$1.00 for postage, to American Veterans' Calendar, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 103, Berea, OH 44017. (Orders of five or more receive free postage.) That's a small price to pay for a work of art.

SURE BET . . .

**Fourth Annual
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Room reservations may be made by contacting: Sahara Hotel & Casino, 1 (800) 634-6666. Please identify yourself as an SOF Magazine conventioneer. Single or double occupancy rooms are \$48 per night.

Complete information, fees, order forms and schedules will be featured in next month's SOF. See you there.

SANDINISTA CHIEF DESERTS . . .

Agustin Roman Maradiaga, Chief of Operations of the Sandinista Air Force, has left Nicaragua to seek political asylum in the United States, making him the most recent of many high-ranking Sandinistas to escape Nicaragua's repressive FSLN regime. Other notable exiles include former junta members Eden Pastora and Alfonso Robelo.

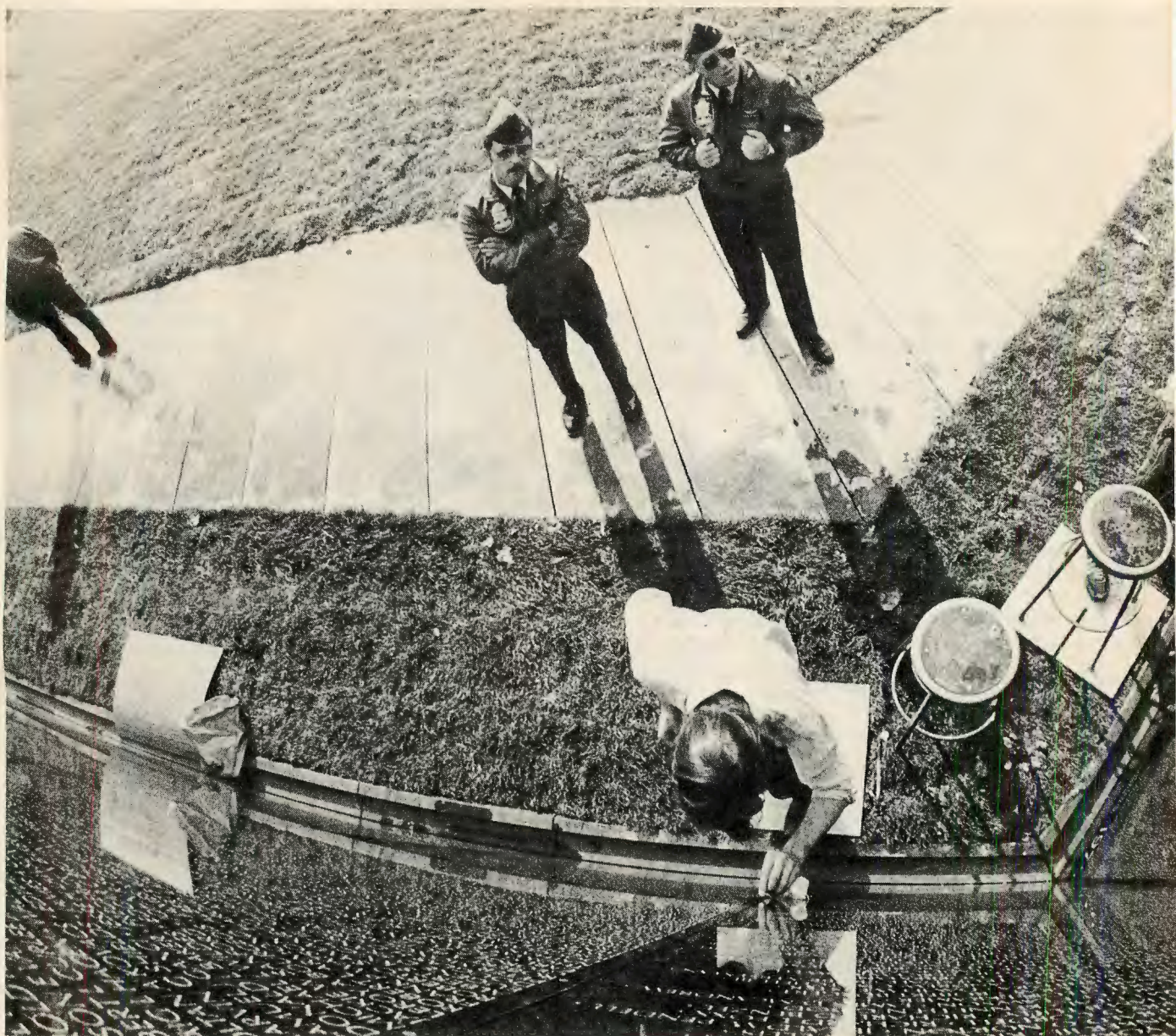
Maradiaga trained at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, from 1965-67, and served in the Nicaraguan Air Force until 1974, when he became a pilot for Lancia Airlines' international flights. He held that position until 1979 when he hijacked a plane for use by the National Liberation Front (FSLN) to fight Somoza's troops.

As the pilot for the FSLN revolutionary commanders, Maradiaga helped transport arms, ammunition and fighters from Costa Rica to Nicaragua. He organized the Sandinista Air Force, which he headed until his recent desertion.

After Somoza's defeat, in addition to being chief of the Air Force, Maradiaga became the executive pilot for the Sandinista junta. In that capacity he flew junta members to Cuba and other sites for official visits.

Maradiaga's desertion in itself is not critical; he can be replaced with a new chief of operations. What is significant is that the long list of

Continued on page 89



Vietnam Veterans Memorial being cleaned before November opening. An estimated 150,000 spectators viewed monument dedicated to 57,931 men and eight women killed in Vietnam. Photos: Wide World

THE memories came flooding back when I spotted the familiar 25th Infantry Division patch. Fifteen years had passed since I had first worn Tropic Lightning's emblem, but, standing there as they dedicated the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington last November, it could have been last week.

All the old units were represented: the 3/4 Cav, the 5th Mech, 1st of the 27th. The place names came back too: Trang Bang, Go Da Ha, the Bo Loi Woods. So many years had passed since these obscure hamlets had been a part of our daily lexicon — years when we scarcely thought of them except perhaps in the depths of night when they came unbidden, and unwanted. Still, the memory of them was burned into our souls, by too many fallen comrades and innocence lost too soon.

But my purpose on the Mall that day was not remembrance. I was there to continue a task which had begun more than a year earlier at a press conference held at the Capitol.

In October 1981, Rep. Don Bailey, D-Pa., who at the time was the most highly decorated Vietnam veteran in the House, called and asked me to attend a meeting he was organizing to protest a film entitled *Frank: A Vietnam Veteran*. Produced by WGBH, the Public Broadcasting affiliate in Boston, the documentary showed a self-confessed drug addict, homosexual and alcoholic as the typical product of the Vietnam War. To add further insult to this injury, PBS planned to air the program on Veteran's Day.

Bailey had approached the network, requesting it to provide air time immediately after the program for a panel of Vietnam vets to comment on the content of the film. PBS denied Bailey's request, stating another program was scheduled to follow *Frank*. This, it turned out, was *Warrior's Women*, which portrayed the typical Viet vet as a wife beater.

Hence the press conference.

Near the end of the conference, as the

MONUMENTAL ERROR

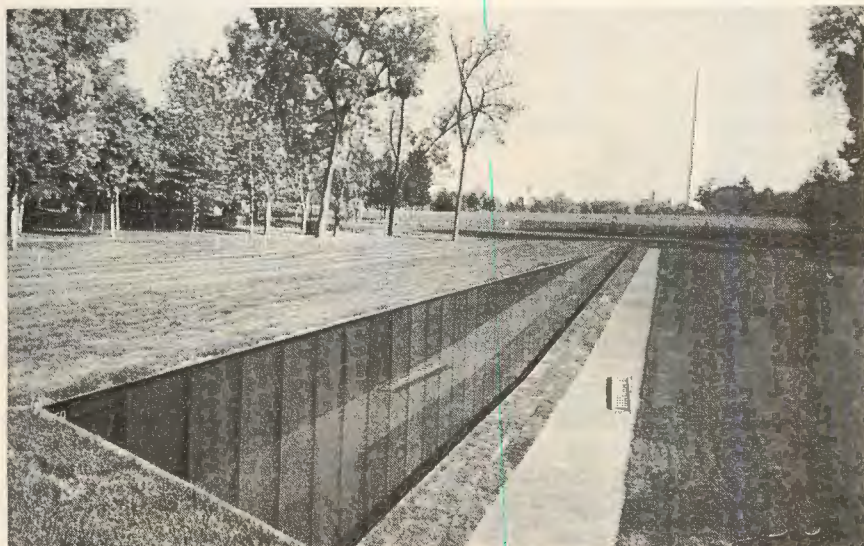
David Douglas Duncan, famous photographer best known for his portraits of war, compared the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the nearby Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. "They are dramatic architecture," he said. "They are harmonious with the Washington landscape."

"But I don't think of the Vietnam Memorial in terms of architecture. It was great for the families to come and see the recognition. But this monument is not a monument. It is a formalized mass grave."

BACKGROUND TO BETRAYAL

Viet Vets Want Their Memorial Back

by Milt Copulos



newsmen were packing up their cameras, Tom Carhart, a former Tiger Platoon leader with the 101st, stood up to ask if any of us were aware of what was going on with the memorial.

Like most of the hundred-odd vets in the room, I was vaguely aware that a memorial was planned, but knew little else about it. I assumed that I would be solicited for funds, and was looking forward to making a contribution.

What Carhart said sent a shock through the room. The design selected, he told us, consisted of two long black walls, sunk into the ground, listing the names of the fallen chronologically. There was to be no inscription, no flag, no mention of the war which took their lives. In disbelief, we crowded around him to look at a small picture of the proposed monument he had brought along.

Carhart had been struggling to bring the memorial issue to the public's attention for more than five months. An early volunteer for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, he had even arranged for

the \$45,000 bank loan that financed the first direct-mail fundraiser. However, when VVMF announced its selection after a national design competition, Carhart was appalled. Calling it a "black gash of shame," he protested to the Memorial Fund, the Fine Arts Commission and anyone else who would listen, but his pleas were ignored.

Congressman Bailey and *Fields Of Fire* author James Webb had also been protesting to VVMF but they too were given short shrift. Worse, the design had all but won final approval from the necessary agencies, and it looked as if there were little anyone could do.

As Andy Messing, the Vietnam veteran who founded Vietnam Veterans For Reagan, said, however, "The war isn't over until both sides say it's over."

Carhart's impassioned plea galvanized the group that day, and with the assistance of Robert K. Brown, Publisher of SOF, a meeting was called for the next weekend to see what could be done. Most of us who met that weekend were

torn by the controversy.

We didn't want to do anything to further promote the negative stereotype of the veteran so popular with the media, and yet none of us wanted the black ditch to stand unchanged. Events were moving so swiftly that whatever was done had to be done soon.

We decided on two necessary lines of attack: 1) to bring the matter to the public's attention; 2) to see what could be done within the approving agencies.

Speed was of the essence, because ground-breaking was scheduled for March 1982 — just four months away.

Over the next few weeks, there was a flurry of activity. Those of us who had media outlets began writing on the subject. Others canvassed Capitol Hill in search of congressional support. Still others approached contacts within the Reagan administration. As we began to make our presence felt, VVMF pulled out all stops.

It had always been their strategy to push the design, which they knew would

be controversial, through the approval process with as little fanfare as possible. Our efforts to publicize it were therefore the last thing they wanted. Their attempts to silence the opposition ranged from congressional pressure to plain slander (as in the case of Carhart whom they repeatedly portrayed as suffering from delayed stress syndrome).

By this time, however, we were beginning to win allies of our own: 47 members of the House, and several Senators, including Jeremiah Denton, D-Ala. — a retired Admiral and former Vietnam POW — signed a letter asking Interior Secretary James Watt to withhold approval. Several Vietnam vets within the Department also went to ask for a delay.

The odds didn't look good, because there were several highly placed White House officials who feared the political repercussions of such a move, and argued vigorously against it. Watt, however, is no stranger to controversy, and has always been willing to stand on principle. In early December 1981, he notified the Memorial Fund that he was withholding approval until the complaints of veterans concerning the design were addressed. His last-minute reprieve was the break we needed.

It wasn't long after that I received a call from Sen. John Warner, R-Va., asking for a meeting with the veterans protesting the wall design. On 22 December, the day he and Elizabeth Taylor announced their divorce, Webb and I sat down with him to outline our group's complaints. Both of us had received hundreds of letters on the issue, as had others in the group. Despite the low media profile on the memorial, the response to what had been published indicated a fairly strong sentiment against the Maya Ying Lin design among those who were aware of its appearance.

Why not take a poll, we suggested, and find out what Vietnam veterans really thought? After listening attentively, Sen. Warner promised to get back to us, and thanked us for the meeting.



This World War I vet came to honor the dead of another generation of young men called upon to pay ultimate price for freedom. Photo: Ron Shumate



RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON FLAG PLACEMENT, INSCRIPTION, AND THE MEMORIAL DESIGN BY ITSELF

| CATEGORY | VIETNAM VET | FAMILY MEMBER | VIET ERA VET | OTHER VET | NON VET | FAM. & VIET VET | TOTAL |
|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|-------|
| Number | 530 | 96 | 89 | 33 | 140 | 626 | 888 |
| Should the flag be prominently displayed as an integral part of the memorial? | | | | | | | |
| YES | 94.2% | 84.4% | 92.1% | 87.9% | 74.3% | 92.7% | 89.5% |
| NO | 5.5% | 15.6% | 6.7% | 12.1% | 24.3% | 7.0% | 10.0% |
| NO OPIN. | .3% | -0- | 1.2% | -0- | 1.4% | .3% | 2.8% |
| Should there be an inscription making reference to the principles for which Viet vets fought? | | | | | | | |
| YES | 84.7% | 81.2% | 71.9% | 72.7% | 56.4% | 83.5% | 78.2% |
| NO | 12.5% | 18.8% | 25.8% | 27.3% | 37.9% | 13.3% | 19.0% |
| NO OPIN. | 2.8% | -0- | 2.2% | -0- | 5.7% | 3.2% | 2.8% |
| Which of the following best describes your impression of the wall design by itself? | | | | | | | |
| STR. FAV. | 27.4% | 34.4% | 34.8% | 42.4% | 57.1% | 28.4% | 34.1% |
| SOME FAV. | 6.2% | 13.5% | 19.1% | 21.2% | 16.4% | 7.3% | 10.5% |
| SOME UNFAV. | 8.3% | 6.3% | 9.0% | 15.2% | 7.1% | 8.0% | 8.2% |
| STR. | | | | | | | |
| UNFAV. | 54.3% | 44.8% | 34.8% | 12.1% | 12.9% | 52.9% | 43.3% |
| NO OPIN. | 3.8% | 1.0% | 2.3% | 9.1% | 6.5% | 3.4% | 3.9% |
| *Please rank the following suggested locations for the flag and statue according to your preference: | | | | | | | |
| A | 74.1% | 78.1% | 69.7% | 60.6% | 47.1% | 74.6% | 69.3% |
| B | 7.5% | 6.3% | 4.5% | 12.1% | 7.9% | 7.4% | 7.3% |
| C | 12.8% | 11.5% | 11.2% | 27.3% | 33.6% | 12.6% | 16.3% |
| NO OPINION/ OTHER | 5.7% | 4.1% | 14.6% | -0- | 11.4% | 5.4% | 7.1% |

* Option A represented the proposal made by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to the Fine Arts Commission in September, Option B represented placing the flag at one side and the statue within the tree line, and Option C represented the placement suggested by the Fine Arts Commission with both the flag and statue within the tree line. Letters were used so as not to bias the respondents.

Model of statue of three American soldiers by sculptor Rick Hart. Many critics of the wall feel that this statue truly captures the spirit of Vietnam in a way that the "black gash" doesn't even approach.

Photo: Ron Shumate

VETERAN WRITER

Milt Copulos was in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division from 1967-69. Retired on disability, Copulos is now Director of Energy Studies at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Sculpture Selection Committee for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

VETERANS POLL: THE WALL ON THE MALL

by Milt Copulos

The poll taken at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was designed with the assistance of prominent experts in survey research.

There were a number of reasons for the selection of this particular time. First, the dedication guaranteed a national cross section — veterans from every state were there. Secondly, everyone polled would have had the opportunity to see the actual memorial rather than a model or artist's conception, and could clearly understand where the proposed locations for the new elements were.

Most importantly, the poll would be taken in an atmosphere which placed the original design in the most favorable light possible — while a steady procession of speakers praised it as the long overdue recognition of the veteran's service.

We felt it necessary to go to such lengths to ensure the original design every opportunity to be viewed favorably, because many of us, myself included, had strongly negative feelings toward it. We saw it as nihilistic — more a memorial to the negative image which had evolved around the war, than a tribute to the honorable service of the 2.7 million Americans who fought it.

Although we had been contacted by countless Vietnam veterans who shared our view, the nagging doubt that we might be wrong left us honor-bound to seek the truth, without bias. Well, the results are in, and they are, to say the least, compelling.

While visiting the memorial, 888 people took the time to answer our survey — far more than required for statistical validity: 530 of them were

I had just reached my office and was taking off my coat when my secretary told me she had Sen. Warner on the line. Would I, he asked, help organize a meeting to bring both sides together and resolve the dispute?

When we began the first of our marathon sessions held in the Senate Office Building, the tension in the room was so thick you could almost reach out and touch it. The tables had been formed in a hollow square in the cavernous chamber, further contributing to the sense of division between the two groups. Sens. Warner and Denton and Reps. Bailey and Phil Crane, R-Ill., sat at the head, as if in a courtroom. At first, it appeared no solution was possible.

Vietnam veterans, and 96 were family members of Vietnam veterans.

They were asked four questions: 1) Should the flag be prominently displayed as an integral part of the memorial? 2) Should there be an inscription referring to the principles for which the veterans fought? 3) What did they think about the wall design by itself? 4) Which of three proposed locations did they prefer for location of the new elements?

Without exception, all categories polled indicated that the flag should be prominently displayed as an integral part of the memorial: 89.5 percent of the total respondents answered yes to this question, with 94.2 percent Vietnam veterans and 74.3 percent non-veterans saying yes.

As to the question of the principles for which the veterans fought, again a wide majority said yes, with Vietnam veterans leading the percentage at 84.7 percent, and non-veterans at the lower end with 56.4 percent. Overall, 78.2 percent agreed.

This unanimity of attitude did not carry over to the wall design, however. There appeared to be little middle ground in the emotions elicited by the stark black walls: 54.3 percent of the Vietnam veterans polled said their impression of the wall was strongly unfavorable; 27.4 percent indicated a strongly favorable impression. Only 8.3 percent of the veterans rated the wall as somewhat unfavorable, and 6.2 percent somewhat favorable.

Among non-veterans this margin was reversed, with 73.5 percent giving the wall either a strongly favorable or somewhat favorable rating; 20 percent rated it unfavorably. Overall, however, the wall received an unfavorable rating from those polled.

On the final and most important question — that of placement — unanimity once again appeared. Here, the option labeled "A," which would place the flag pole behind the

We had been asking that the color of the monument be changed, that it be brought above ground and that a flag and an appropriate inscription be added. VVMF said they might accept the addition of a flag.

Ross Perot, the billionaire computer magnate who is heavily involved in the POW/MIA issue, offered to pay for a poll to determine Viet vets' sentiments on the issue but was strongly resisted by the Memorial Fund. Every time the idea of seeking the counsel of those the memorial was intended to honor arose, the VVMF fought the idea like a mother lion protecting her young.

Continued on page 85

apex of the walls, and the statue about 170 feet in front of it, was the first choice of every single category of respondent, and in every category save one — non-veterans — by a margin of more than two to one.

This option was the placement suggested by the sculpture selection panel and placed before the Fine Arts Commission last September, endorsed by every major veterans group, the Gold Star Mothers and even the Memorial Fund itself.

Overall 69.3 percent of the sample selected option "A," in comparison to option "C," the placement demanded by the Fine Arts Commission. "C" was first choice of only 16.3 percent of the total sample and a mere 12.8 percent of Vietnam veterans.

What the survey results show is that the group for whom the memorial was built — Vietnam veterans — has a very clear picture of what they want, and that picture is sharply at odds with what a small segment of the arts community would foist upon them. To allow this small group to control the decision of placement would be a travesty, and yet, unless the president acts to end the deadlock, that travesty may occur.

As I contemplated that eventuality and the poll results, images of two men came into my mind. One was the architect who had argued during the compromise meetings that the wall design "needed no corny patriotic claptrap like a flag or a statue to adorn it." The other was my friend, the Wolfhound, still proud of the 25th Infantry Division 15 years after leaving Vietnam.

Wolfhound stood next to me singing the national anthem during the dedication ceremony, his eyes misting as the emotions of the moment overcame him. The architect may not believe a flag belongs at the memorial, but the Wolfhound does, and so do I. ☐

CIA'S KOREA

IN early 1951 a Chinese communist inspection officer reported to Peking that its troops in Korea were sick, starved and frozen, surviving the sub-zero winter on a few unthawed scraps of potatoes daily. "When the fighters bivouac in snow-covered ground their feet, socks and hands freeze together in one ice-ball; they cannot unscrew the caps on their hand grenades; the fuses will not ignite... skin from their hands sticks on shells and mortar tubes..." With no shelter the Chinese lived in disease-producing misery, and scores of thousands of men lay immobilized by pneumonia and intestinal diseases.

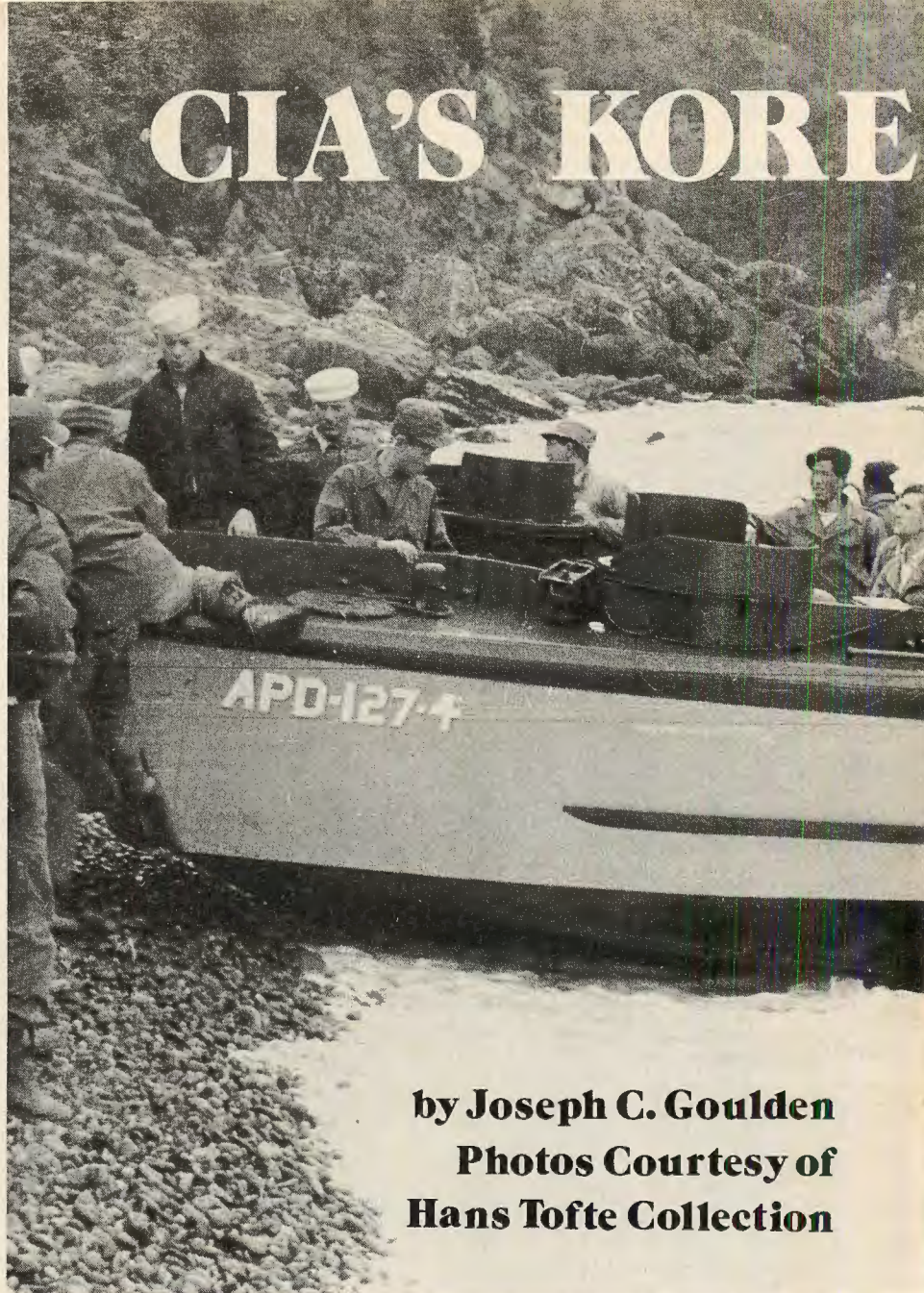
Although the Chinese had slackened the tempo of battle after their December victory, Gen. Matthew Ridgway knew the lull would be short-lived. After the two previous offensives the Chinese had been forced to pause a few weeks to regroup and to replenish their supplies, which were brought in over the ice-coated mountains of North Korea by human bearers. All Ridgway could do was try to bring his own men back into fighting form — two Army divisions had been virtually destroyed in December — and hope that he would be able to beat back an enemy with a numerical advantage of four or five to one.

Although Ridgway didn't know it, his command was about to receive vital help from an unlikely congeries of sources: a Danish-American spymaster, the Nationalist Chinese Coast Guard and an anonymous U.S. espionage agent in the Indian government.

In mid-January Central Intelligence Agency station chiefs throughout the Orient received an urgent message from headquarters in Washington. The message relayed "hard" intelligence received from an agency plant in the Indian government of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, which, despite professed neutrality in the Korean War, gave frequent propagandistic and diplomatic support to the Communist Chinese. Now Nehru's support was to become material as well.

According to the agent, the Chinese had chartered a Norwegian freighter and dispatched it to Bombay, India, to take on a cargo of medical supplies provided by the Indian government. The shipping manifest was impressive: It included three full field hospitals, plus assorted drugs ("enough to give at least three shots of penicillin to every enemy soldier north of the 38th parallel," according to one American intelligence agent), surgeons, physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel and gear.

Washington's message to the field agents was blunt: The ship and its cargo must be stopped from reaching the enemy "at any cost." The message did not dwell on humanitarian aspects of the shipment. Should the medical supplies reach Chinese armies in the field, they



by Joseph C. Goulden
Photos Courtesy of
Hans Tofte Collection

would put them into shape for a renewed offensive that could cost thousands of American and Republic of Korea lives. But intercepting the ship was a matter of considerable diplomatic sensitivity. Although Norway was a member of the United Nations, it nonetheless had permitted its vast shipping interests to continue trading with the enemy, despite diplomatic protests from the United States and other UN members with troops in the field.

The United States had shied away from declaring a blockade of China because of fears of offending the British, who also had continued trading with China as a means of protecting their crown colony of Hong Kong.

Thus the dilemma: How could the United States halt the shipment without provoking a diplomatic furor that could shatter an already fragile diplomatic alliance? The message from CIA headquarters did not address this issue; it

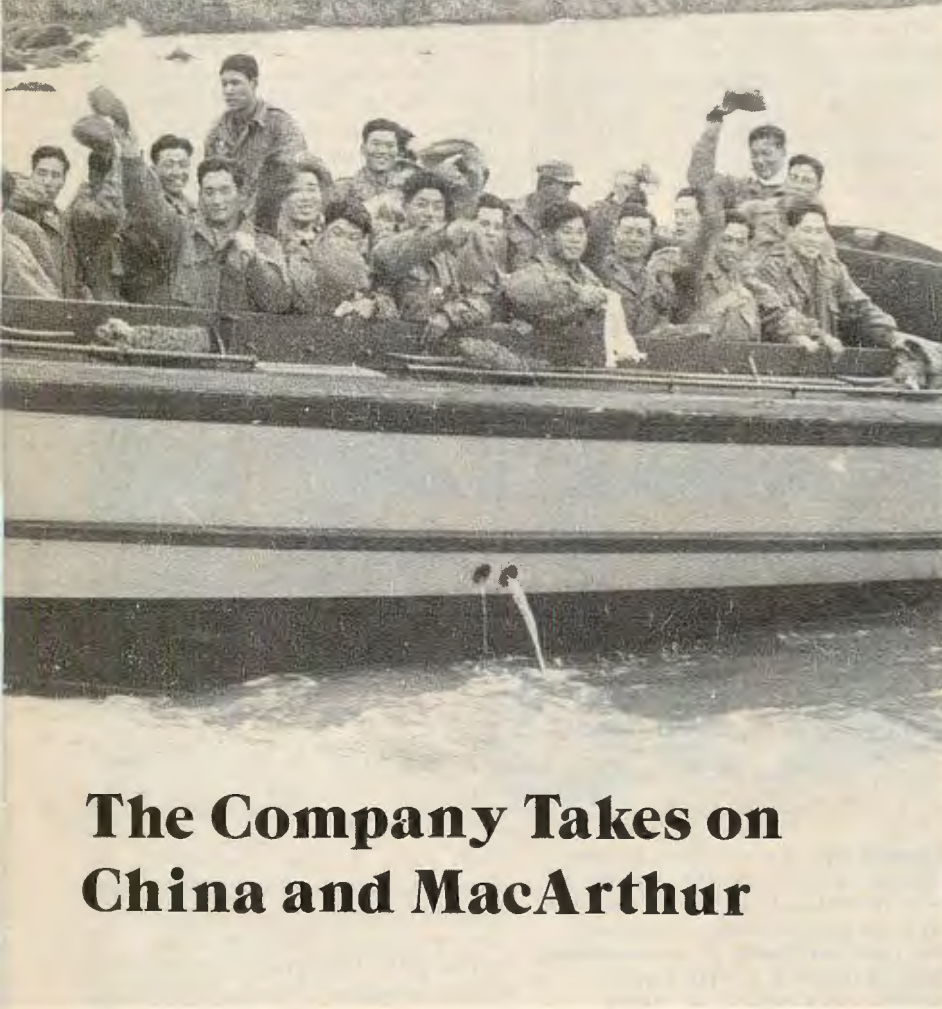
simply instructed field agents to do the task, and do it quietly, and the expense be damned. But the message did carry an implicit but unstated warning: Do not embarrass the U.S. government.

Thus began Operation TP-Stole, an act of unabashed (and successful) piracy of the ship of another nation on the high seas without even a bow in the direction of international law.

(For administrative purposes, the CIA assigns a digraph designation to related operations in a given area. Korea War operations bore the prefix "TP.") The CIA had joined the Korean War, and with boots and fists flying.

The directive ultimately reached Atsugi, Japan, and the desk of Hans V. Tofte, a handsome Danish-American with thinning blond hair and a touch of his native Scandinavia in his voice. Virtually unknown outside the insular intelligence community, Tofte nonetheless carried a reputation among peers as one

AN CAPERS



The Company Takes on China and MacArthur

of the more remarkable operatives of the 20th century.

And what had happened in his life *before* he read the cable about the Norwegian vessel tells much about why he was superbly suited for the mission.

Tofte's experience in Asia began in the early 1930s, when at age 19 the East Asiatic Company, a Danish shipping firm, sent him, the son of a Danish sea captain, to Peking to learn Chinese as the first part of a planned career abroad. The firm was an equivalent of the East India Company that the British long used as their colonial agent in India, and it had offices up and down the coast of China.

"When you went overseas for the company," Tofte related, "you did so with the understanding you would be there 25 years or so, with marriage not permitted the first 10 years."

After two years of Chinese-language studies in Peking, Tofte lived in Kirin,

South Korean guerrillas during amphibious training in U.S. Navy landing craft. Background is Yong-do Island.

Manchuria, for eight years, traveling there and in the northern part of Korea on behalf of his company. He developed strong ties with the White Russian aristocracy, refugees from the Communist Revolution, living in the area, and he came to know the twists and turns in virtually every railroad and highway.

(Later, as a CIA officer, Tofte would bemusedly plot Chinese troop movements over the rail lines he had traveled as a young man and give his guerrilla teams precise locations — bridges and other bottlenecks — where traffic would be particularly vulnerable to a saboteur's bomb.)

When the Second World War broke out, Tofte returned to Denmark and joined the underground. But he recognized reality: The Nazis were not to be

defeated from within an occupied country. Using bogus papers, he managed to escape to Spain (flying nervously on a German plane) and thence to the United States. In New York he sought out William Stephenson (later famed as "The Man Called Intrepid"), who ran British intelligence operations in America. Tofte offered his services, and Stephenson dispatched him to Singapore, where he organized native crews to run supplies over the Burma Road to the Chinese fighting the Japanese in the interior. He organized guerrilla bands of tribesmen and fought valiant but ultimately futile delaying actions against the Japanese. When Singapore fell, Tofte returned to the United States and surrendered his rank of brevet major in the Indian Army to enlist in the American Army as a private.

Because of his background, Tofte was detailed to the Office of Strategic Services, the wartime intelligence and espionage organization from which the CIA eventually evolved. Now commenced the most dazzling of Tofte's WWII exploits.

Working with Maj. Gen. William "Wild Bill" Donovan, the OSS chief, Tofte was instrumental in devising a scheme to compel the Germans to divert strategic troops from the campaign in Italy to Yugoslavia. The British had been parachuting arms, ammunition and other supplies into the mountain strongholds of Yugoslav patriots who were conducting a pinprick war against the Germans. The impetuous Tofte thought this effort too slow and too limited. Drawing upon his maritime background, he organized a flotilla of old and otherwise worthless coastal vessels, manned them with refugee Yugoslavs and set up a seaborne supply service across the Adriatic from the Italian port of Bari to the island of Vis off the Yugoslav coast.

By October 1943 Tofte's strange little navy contained vessels — old schooners, trawlers and rusty tramp steamers — that darted across the sea at night, each ship carrying as much materiel as the British airdrops had supplied in a month. Josip Broz Tito, later president of Yugoslavia, gratefully received the arms, and his partisan bands tied down scores of thousands of German troops. The United States awarded Tofte the Legion of Merit.

When the war ended, Tofte had invitations to remain in American intelligence. Although the OSS was disbanded within months after the fighting stopped, intelligence professionals knew a replacement agency would eventually emerge. Tofte declined, for he did not wish to spend his life in a quasi-military organization. He returned to Copenhagen as manager of an American overseas airline, maintained contact with the chief of the Danish intelligence service

and occasionally carried covert documents to the United States. In the late 1940s he married an American woman and moved to Mason City, Iowa, to run her family's printing business.

By now the Central Intelligence Agency was in existence — a minute organization, distrusted by the military and the State Department bureaucracy, but with considerable internal ambitions. Tofte visited Washington during Christmas 1949 and heard fervent recruitment pleas from two old war friends, Desmond FitzGerald, the CIA's deputy director for plans (i.e., head of covert operations), and Major Gen. Richard Stilwell, head of Far East operations. During a lunch at the Sulgrave Club, Tofte politely but firmly refused to join the CIA. He was leading a comfortable middle-American life in Iowa — the Rotary club, the Episcopal Church, a Boy Scout commissioner — and he wanted no part of a peacetime bureaucracy. He did agree to talk with Frank Wisner, another wartime colleague now in CIA clandestine services. The setting befitted the CIA's orphan status, a cluster of ramshackle wooden "temporary" buildings near the Reflecting Pool.

"We sure need you," Wisner said.

Tofte again declined. "But if there is another war, you can count on me," he said.

In June 1950 Tofte went to Ft. Riley, Kan., for two weeks' active duty training as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. He heard about the war on Sunday morning and thought: War has come, and Jesus, I am caught in Ft. Riley in uniform! The expected call from Wisner came early the next morning.

"Is this enough of an emergency for you?" Wisner asked dryly. It was, Tofte

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Joseph C. Goulden, who lives in Washington, D.C., is the author of 11 books, including the bestsellers, *The Superlawyers* and *The Best Years*, a book which covers the period from VJ Day to Korea. He employed for the first time in *Korea: The Untold Story of the War* use of the Freedom of Information act as a source in a major published work. Five years of research went into *Korea*. SOF reprints this chapter, "The CIA Comes of Age," with permission of its publisher, Times Books of New York City.

of operatives in the event the communists overran either Japan or Korea.

"Basically I was told to choose a site and build an operations base outside Tokyo, big enough to handle 1,000 people, with our own communications. Whatever else happened, I was on my own."

Tofte telephoned his wife in Mason City and asked her to meet him when his Tokyo-bound flight stopped briefly in Minneapolis. She brought him two suitcases of clothes. "I never went home."

Tofte did insist upon one thing before accepting the Korean assignment. He had secondhand knowledge of the way things were run in MacArthur's headquarters and of the martinet qualities of



Full body view of Hans Tofte's personal command aircraft with CAT markings — cover for CIA aerial operations. From left are a Navy lieutenant named Ackerson, who supervised landing of Korean guerrilla forces in the north, a South Korean guerrilla leader and Lt. Col. "Dutch" Kraemer, Tofte's military aide in guerrilla operations.

Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby, the theater G-2, with whom he must work intimately. So he refused to maintain his reserve rank of lieutenant colonel. He would go to Tokyo only with an agency rank equivalent to major general, the same as Willoughby's. The CIA agreed.

Tofte's precaution proved wise, for the CIA had a bare toehold in MacArthur's theater. Only in May had Gen. Stilwell succeeded in obtaining MacArthur's permission for the agency to operate in his portion of Asia. MacArthur's antipathy to clandestine intelligence independent of his command dated to WWII, when he absolutely refused to admit OSS agents to the Pacific theater. A military traditionalist, he disdained the free-lance qualities of agents working independent of his headquarters, and only immense pressures from Washington forced his reluctant agreement with Stilwell a few weeks before the war began. (Willoughby took the CIA's insistence on running its own intelligence networks in Asia as a personal affront. People active in CIA intelligence gathering at the time say he was mistaken. The CIA's position was that it needed sources independent of the military and State Department to ensure that in-

said. "Can you get in here now?"

By Tuesday Tofte was at agency headquarters in Washington. He recognized that because of his background in the Orient and his linguistic ability (by now he spoke six languages), he was a natural for assignment to Korea. Stilwell and Wisner arranged for briefings, but they could give Tofte few orders.

"There was no book to go by," he said. "This was the first time that CIA was to function in a hot war."

As a general guidance Tofte was told to look to the CIA functions mandated by Section Five of NSC 10/2, the National Security Council directive which outlined the spy agency's mission: covert political operations, covert sabotage and economic warfare; evasion and escape plans for pilots downed behind enemy lines; and a "stay-behind" organization



Maurice Curry, CIA operative who ran South Korean guerrilla training base on Yong-do Island. Base facilities form background.

grained biases did not affect the national intelligence estimates given the President.)

When Tofte arrived in Tokyo, he found that the CIA presence there consisted of "six poor souls" working from a hotel room. This unit, under Georges Aurell, maintained uneasy liaison with what Tofte called "the tight little island" of MacArthur's staff. A more substantial operation was at Yokosuka Naval Base near the port of Yokohama, where William Duggan conducted intelligence operations under auspices of a CIA branch with the meaningless title Office of Special Operations, or OSO. Tofte set about organizing his own unit for covert activity, the Office of Policy Coordination, or OPC.

First, however, he had to bring the recalcitrant Willoughby into line. Their first clash came when Tofte, a man unshy about asserting his importance, insisted on being billeted in a suite at the Imperial Hotel, best in downtown Tokyo. Impossible, huffed Willoughby, the Imperial is exclusively for generals, admirals and other "top military men of special importance." Tofte asserted his "rank" of major general and received the suite. He also demanded that the military supply him a two-star flag for his automobile. When it was not forthcoming, he had one made for himself.

"I decided that the only way to deal effectively with Willoughby was to kick him in the pants every chance I got, to let him know I was tough as he was, or tougher," Tofte related. So when Willoughby made what came to be his "monthly threat" to throw Tofte and the CIA out of Japan, Tofte would tell him, "Shut up, you work for me, I'm an American citizen and a taxpayer, and you can't order me around."

But Willoughby and Tofte did share a common ability for languages, a fact that gradually moderated "but did not entirely end" the hostility between them. "I would call him one day and speak in Russian, the next day in Chinese. It got to be sort of a sport, and he would laugh about it. But I made one thing plain to him. 'I will not speak with you in your goddamned German,'" Tofte said, recalling his days with the Danish underground.

Tofte benefited from having an experienced bureaucrat as his Tokyo deputy — Colwell Beers, who had previously served the government with the U.S. Forest Service and the Hoover Commission (a postwar agency on efficiency in government). "Beers was a hell of a good bureaucrat," Tofte said. "He kept me out of jail because he knew his way around government and how to handle the paper work and details. We became a formidable team."

Tofte and Beers spent the first week driving around the environs of Tokyo, looking for a site for the new CIA base. "It wasn't all work. We took along pic-

nic lunches and swam off the Imperial Beach." In fact, they were eating lunch as they walked around Atsugi Air Force Base, 47 miles south of Tokyo, with a splendid view of Mount Fuji, when they came across an isolated area of some acres. "I had a beer in one hand and chicken sandwich in the other, and I pronounced, 'This is where the base will be.'" Still eating and drinking, Tofte and Beers paced off where various buildings would be located. Engineers and a construction battalion were at work within the week.

Next Tofte needed people. He sought them in the military, the only pool of available manpower. Recognizing upper-echelon hostility to the CIA, he concentrated on second- and third-level staff officers. "One of my responsibilities was to establish an evasion-and-escape [E&E] operation across Korea to rescue downed fliers. For obvious reasons, this had great appeal to the Air Force and the Navy, for they wished security for their fliers. Thus I was able to persuade these services, and the Army as well, to assign men to me."



Hans Tofte (left) directed CIA covert operations during Korean War. At right is his chief aide, Lt. Col. "Dutch" Kraemer (USMC). They are talking with a South Korean guerrilla leader, one of those dropped by the Agency in successful operations in North Korea during the war. In background is well-fitted C-47, Tofte's personal plane. It has Civil Air Transport markings. CAT, ostensibly a commercial airline, was actually the CIA's own air force. A descendant of Gen. Claire Chennault's old "Flying Tigers" air group which fought for Nationalist China during WWII and the Chinese communist revolution, CAT was also a predecessor of Air America and Continental Air Services which flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Tofte assembled two officers each from the Air Force, the Army and the Navy and locked them into his Tokyo conference room with orders to draw up an E&E plan. "If a pilot was hit up around the Yalu River, in MiG Alley, and he had minutes' flying time before going down, it made a colossal difference if he knew where he had to head for." Tofte laid down these specifications for the E&E plan:

- Two islands off the east and west coasts of Korea above the 38th parallel as the main E&E destinations for downed airmen, manned by CIA agents and communications personnel.

- A "belt" across the peninsula to be saturated with trained guerrillas as guides, working from fixed inland positions that would be given pilots as part of their combat briefings.

- Covert agents and E&E observation points to be established along the east and west coasts just below MiG Alley at 20-mile intervals, equipped with communications gear.

- Two CIA-controlled indigenous "fishing fleets" to patrol the coasts to

look for downed fliers, using actual black-market operations as cover.

- Briefings of fliers on E&E techniques by CIA agents before their missions, and debriefing of rescued airmen once the system went into operation.

- A supply of \$700,000 worth of one-ounce gold bars bearing the chop of the old Bank of China, so that each pilot could carry three or four bars in his uniform to pay native Koreans for help. Tofte knew the gold was obtainable in Formosa.

After some revisions and discussions, the Air Force and Army accepted Tofte's plan. The only demurrer came from Willoughby, who said that because of currency restrictions, the Formosan

gold could not be brought into Japan. Tofte did not bother to argue. That night he flew to Formosa, made a private deal with the exile Bank of China and returned to Japan with the \$700,000 of gold. Within a month parts of the E&E plan were working.

The next step was to create guerrilla bands, both for E&E duties and for sabotage and paramilitary operations. CIA interrogation teams screened Koreans in refugee and POW camps near Pusan, paying particular attention to North Korean refugees and their motivation for leaving their country. Those found to be interested in liberating the North from the communists were offered guerrilla assignments.

Tofte recognized that the motivation might be something other than ideology. "The refugees were down-in-the-mouth, bored with nothing to do. Joining the guerrillas would give them a chance to get out, to eat three meals a day, to have something to do. They would be buddies with a purpose, rather than shuffle around the camp." Through the screening CIA found enough trained radio and telegraph operators — chiefly from the South Korean Telegraph Company — to form communications sections for the guerrillas.

For a training base, Tofte took over Yong-do, a small island in the Bay of Pusan at Korea's southern tip. There a CIA detachment headed by Lt. Col. "Dutch" Kraemer, a Marine officer, trained some 1,200 Korean guerrillas for action in the North. Potential leaders were screened and transferred for extensive training to another base in Japan, Chigasaki, some 10 miles from Atsugi, on the beach of Sagami Bay.

The training continued through the fall of 1950 and the early months of 1951, with agents periodically being pulled out and dispatched to E&E duty in the North. The format was the same basic guerrilla course Tofte had taught other Asians in the early months of WWII: weaponry, use of small boats for covert landings, sabotage techniques, covert communications, espionage and the other tradecraft skills long used by behind-the-lines agents.

CIA borrowed underwater demolition experts from the Navy for training and for launching actual missions. Small landing craft would stand offshore below the horizon while the infiltration and sabotage teams inflated their rubber boats and rowed to the beach. "I wanted it known [to the Koreans] that the Americans took the guerrillas in by hand. This gave the Koreans respect for us, and the military services also."

Tofte's empire expanded by leaps and bounds. Several years earlier the CIA had taken control of Gen. Claire Chennault's old "Flying Tiger" air force from WWII — American mercenaries and regulars who fought for Chiang Kai-shek against the communists — and



transferred it to Formosa, where it was renamed Civil Air Transport, or CAT. Now 40 of the aircraft, bearing Nationalist Chinese markings along with the CAT emblem, were transferred to Japan and Korea for Tofte's use. The pilots and ground crews were on the CIA's payroll. Tofte took a comfortably outfitted C-47 — number XT-854 — for his personal plane, for flights around the string of six CIA training stations in Japan and others in Korea. He also took over a small house on Yong-do Island overlooking Pusan Harbor, highest point in the area, which he used for a retreat and for planning conferences. "This was one of the best views in Asia, and getting down there away from all the clamor in Tokyo enabled us to work better and faster."

Tofte's mandate gave him responsibility for covert action in a wide swath of Asia outside Korea: eastern Siberia as far inland as Lake Baikal; all of Mongolia and North China, including Manchuria; and the Kurile Islands and the Ryukyus, the latter under Soviet control. One particularly delicate target was

the major Soviet naval base at Vladivostok, Siberia. The Soviets used many Koreans and Chinese for casual labor at the base; thus insertion of CIA operatives was relatively easy. At any given time after late 1950 CIA had at least half a dozen agents working there, watching Soviet naval movements and keeping alert for any sign of possible Russian intervention in the war.

The base was so closely guarded, however, that Tofte's agents dared not use radios for communication. "We relied on 'carrier pigeons' — other Korean agents who would take messages back and forth. Damnably dangerous work, but necessary."

By air and sea, agent teams penetrated Manchuria and eastern Siberia; other specially trained units based at the Atsugi CIA facility went into the Shantung Peninsula and the Tientsin area of North China. For political reasons there were strictures on the use of the CAT planes for insertion of agents on missions into China and the Soviet Union. "We couldn't have planes with Chinese Nationalist markings flying over these



ABOVE: South Korean guerrillas in training on Yong-do Island practice firing with 2.36-inch rocket launchers.

BELOW: Guerrillas pause during training. Note Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), standard U.S. light automatic weapon during WWII and Korean conflict.



countries, so we relied upon the Far East Air Force," Tofte said.

Gen. Earle E. Partridge, the FEAF commander, thankful for the CIA's help in rescuing his downed airmen, readily agreed to furnish planes and pilots for these dangerous behind-the-lines missions. MacArthur, however, early on decided that Tofte's operation was becoming too big, independent — and dangerous. On 25 October 1950, MacArthur cabled the Joint Chiefs of Staff that Tofte's Office of Policy Coordination, "which [was] operating under special agreements, had been intermittently violating these agreements." He reported that a recent incident, an airdrop of an agent into Soviet territory from an FEAF plane, had taken on "serious proportions." Accordingly, he advised the JCS that he intended to suspend the project. He had already "directed the agencies of his command that they would not participate in similar projects without his specific authority."

The JCS replied two days later that "no responsible official in Washington questioned [MacArthur's] command authority over the operations of the CIA in his theater or in areas projected therefrom." Nonetheless, the JCS "hoped he would afford such support to authorized intelligence and covert operations of CIA as would be consistent with CINCFE responsibilities."

(Although Tofte spoke freely of Korean operations in many interviews, because of security strictures he would give scant details of CIA activities in China and the USSR. Despite the passage of three decades the CIA refused my Freedom of Information Act requests for access to the voluminous reports Tofte filed during his tenure in Korea. "At the end," he told me, "the monthly reports were the size of a Manhattan phone book.")

As the weeks passed, Tofte's force at the Atsugi base alone rose to more than 1,000 people living in a secure compound within the airfield. The CAT aircraft gave CIA a mobility independent of the military. "We never asked for military orders in Japan or Korea," Tofte said, "but wrote our own to look like the official papers without which nobody could move. We ignored the embargo on bringing indigenous personnel in and out of Japan and moved hundreds of guerrillas and agents in and out of our own training and staging camps both in the war zone and throughout occupied Japan."

These sub-rosa activities did not entirely escape Willoughby's attention. CIA personnel found themselves under surveillance by Japanese policemen working for army counterintelligence; Tofte was so angered he gave fleetingly serious consideration to "drowning" one particularly obnoxious officer work-

Continued on page 65

BRITISH BEDOUIN

**John
Glubb Pasha**

by Leroy Thompson
Photos Courtesy of the
Imperial War Museum





SHORTLY after John Glubb joined the Desert Patrol in Iraq, he learned the whereabouts of some of the most feared robbers in the Arab world. Leading a detachment of his fierce patrolmen into the desert, he found the outlaws camped in the hollow of some sand dunes, and swept down on them. The robbers didn't fire a shot, fearing the patrol's legendary marksmanship, and Glubb's men arrested no one; in-

LEFT: Arab Legion Desert Patrol sergeant wears Arab Legion badge on headdress and is equipped with Smith & Wesson .38/200 British Service revolver. Chest bandolier holds five-round charger clips for Lee-Enfield. At his waist hangs jambiya, traditional Arab knife.

MILITARY HISTORIAN

Leroy Thompson, a frequent contributor to SOF, has a solid background in law enforcement and military history. He was a special and base security officer in the U.S. Air Force and in civilian life has worked as a deputy sheriff, a bodyguard (in Europe and the Caribbean) and security chief of a large grocery chain. Thompson's academic background includes graduate studies in military history at the Universities of Oxford, Edinburgh and London.

Thompson now runs a military book business that supplies universities, military academies and military installations throughout the world. His SOF articles include "SAS at War in Malaya," SOF, April '81, and "SAS Today," SOF, December '82.

Arab Legionnaires of the Desert Mechanized Force prepare to go on patrol. Note Lewis gun mounted on each truck.

stead they drove away 250 camels belonging to the bandits.

From that day, the Bedouin knew that Glubb was not a man to be trifled with. Other officials, both Arab and English, threatened criminals with jail and fines, which frightened them very little. A man who relieved them of their precious camels got their attention.

When Glubb joined the Arab Legion, it was a small desert police force. During the next 26 years, he turned the Legion into a fine fighting force and became so beloved by his men that they would have overthrown their king and put Glubb on the throne. The respect which the Legion enjoyed in the eyes of professional soldiers was largely attributable to its leader. He always minimized his own contributions, giving credit to his men, particularly the desert Bedouin. T.E. Lawrence proved during World War I that the Bedouin made excellent soldiers, if they had a leader who could gain their love and respect and realize the fighting potential of these independent nomads.

T.E. Lawrence and John Glubb were such men.

Glubb's British Army service gave little indication that he would achieve fame as a soldier of fortune. After being wounded with the Royal Engineers during WWI, he was sent to Iraq, where he helped quell an Arab revolt in 1920. While in Iraq, Glubb nurtured his lifelong interest in Bedouin literature and military history. Realizing that the Be-

douin with whom he dealt daily were the descendants of the Moslem knights who had conquered most of the known world under Suleiman the Great, he developed an appreciation of their fighting potential.

In 1924, to better understand the desert way of life, Glubb rode a camel 500 miles across the Syrian desert from Transjordan to Iraq. This feat impressed the Bedouin, who told Glubb he was one of them at heart.

Because he understood the Bedouin, Glubb ended the centuries-old tribal raiding in Iraq by forming a police force from local Bedouin familiar with the laws and customs of the desert. Glubb and his men gained the respect of the tribesmen, who began to rely on the law to settle their disputes.

Since tribal warfare was an even greater problem in Transjordan, in 1930 Glubb was invited to join the nine-year-old Arab Legion to form another desert police force. The Arab Legion's commander, British soldier of fortune F.G. Peake (Peake Pasha), supported Glubb's formation of the Desert Patrol and within two years appointed him his second in command.

As he had in Iraq, Glubb tried to recruit his patrol from local tribesmen, but distrust was strong among the nomads and Glubb found himself policing thousands of miles of desert alone. But slowly, recruits began to trickle in. One indication of the loyalty Glubb inspired in his subordinates was the sudden appearance of three former desert recruits who had served under him in Iraq and followed him 1,000 miles across the desert to rejoin him.

Since they successfully controlled



John Bagot Glubb with King Abdullah of Transjordan, whom Glubb served for more than 20 years.

thieves and smugglers, the patrol's reputation grew. Gradually the local sheiks and their people came to respect Glubb and to realize that his men were there to protect and help them rather than collect taxes or harass them. Before long, hundreds of locals, including many sheiks' sons, were anxious to join the patrol's 90-man complement. Discipline problems were nonexistent, dismissal from the Legion being feared above any other punishment.

Within a year raiding had virtually ceased and the patrol was esteemed throughout the desert. The rough tribesmen regarded it with the affection of Texas frontiersmen for the Texas Rangers, and, just as one ranger was enough to handle a riot, one desert patrolman often prevented trouble between large, armed bands merely by his presence.

Glubb's men knew how to use their Enfield rifles and S&W revolvers expertly when necessary, but they brought order to the desert more by force of character than by force of arms.

With the raiding under control, things were fairly quiet in the desert when Glubb officially became Peake's second in command in 1932. Glubb continued to personally command the Desert Patrol, whose members viewed him as a stern but loving father. The patrol was already the finest Arab

fighting force in existence, but Glubb also wanted to use his men to educate other Bedouin.

Since virtually every recruit was illiterate, Glubb launched a program to teach all patrol members to read and write. It was said that when Glubb inspected Desert Patrol camps, grizzled veterans, who faced raiders and smugglers fearlessly, fidgeted like uncomfortable schoolboys while he looked over their slates or copybooks.

Glubb thought that the Bedouin's inherent nobility produced outstanding soldiers. He emphasized excellence not by harsh rule but by his belief that his men were the best in the world. The efficiency, discipline and *esprit de corps* of the Desert Patrol caused pride in all Transjordanians.

The desert's calm was disrupted in 1936 when the troubles in Palestine spilled over into Transjordan. To give the Legion mobility against terrorists infiltrating from Palestine, the Desert Mechanized Force and two cavalry squadrons were formed and added to Glubb's command. In what was perhaps the most effective anti-terrorist campaign in history, Glubb's troops swept the guerrillas from Transjordan. The high efficiency of the 1,200-man

The high efficiency of the 1,200-man Arab Legion had much to do with this victory, but even more important was the cooperation of the Transjordanians who refused to harbor terrorists and made a point of keeping "their" legion informed of terrorist activities.

In 1939 Peake Pasha retired, and Glubb, now Glubb Pasha, took command of the Arab Legion, but to the Transjordanians he was not a foreigner. That year also saw the beginning of WWII in Europe. At first the war seemed far away from the desert, but after the defeat of France, the Vichy government in nearby Syria was a constant reminder of German conquests. When British fortunes were at their lowest, King Abdullah of Transjordan nobly entered the conflict as Britain's ally. To the Germans, Transjordan's tiny army must have seemed a joke. To the rest of the world it appeared a noble but futile gesture.

The whole Middle East feared a German invasion, and when a pro-German revolt broke out in Iraq, a British force was sent to invade that country. Transjordan's offer of support was accepted, and Glubb's Desert Mechanized Force led the column as guides. Although originally skeptical of the 350 Arab soldiers and their transplanted English commander, British officers and men soon accepted the legionnaires. For

the remainder of the war, members of the Arab Legion were cordially invited into British regimental messes and canteens. No other non-Anglo troops, except the Gurkhas who fought beside British soldiers for almost a century, had ever gained such popularity among British enlisted personnel.

Besides being effective scouts, the Arab Legion also operated behind enemy lines, destroying installations and harassing supply lines. Glubb's old friends among the Iraqi sheiks remembered him and gave aid when possible.

Legionnaires also led the Allied invasion of Syria and were welcomed by local Arabs as liberators. After this operation it was assumed that the Legion, which had been recruiting and training more men in Transjordan, would be posted to the Western Desert to fight against the Afrika Korps. With Hitler's invasion of Russia, however, security for the overland lend-lease route to Russia and for the vital middle-eastern oil pipelines became so crucial that the Legion was used as a garrison force throughout the Middle East. Although it was thankless work, the Arab Legion kept the supply lines free from sabotage or pilferage during the war.

After WWII, the West determined that the Jews should have their own homeland, and Jewish settlement in



Bedouin members of Desert Patrol mounted on camels. Glubb always thought of these desert nomads as the backbone of the Arab Legion.

Palestine increased. While encouraging the settlement of displaced persons from Europe, the United States and Britain gave little thought to the native Palestinians, thus creating bitterness among the local Arabs. Though the British tried to administer Palestine, they found themselves facing terrorism and hatred from Arab and Jew alike. Britain asked her old friend, King Ab-



dullah, for help, and he ordered Glubb to send Arab Legion security companies across the border. Though scrupulously fair, the Legion was vilified by both Arab and Jew as a servant of the British.

As the British left Palestine and Israel was created in 1948, Arab apprehension about the future grew and Palestinian Arabs begged the Arab Legion to protect them. Fearing that the more numerous, better-armed Israelis

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ARAB LEGION: Armament and Tactics by Fred Reed

The armament of the Desert Patrol consisted of .38 Smith & Wesson revolvers, chambered for the .38/200 British service round (U.S. .38 S&W); bolt-action .303 Lee-Enfield rifles; and .303 Lewis machine guns with a cyclic rate of fire of 550 rounds per minute and using 47- or 97-round drum magazines. During World War II and after, they used .303 Bren machine guns with a cyclic rate of fire of 500 rounds per minute and 30-round box magazines.

The Desert Patrol was almost entirely Bedouin and relied on age-old Bedouin tactics of hit-and-run. When tracking camel thieves or raiders, the Desert Patrol were also masters of ambush. While fighting in WWII, the Arab Legion operated mostly as scouts, but also engaged in SAS-style hit-and-run raids behind enemy lines. The Desert Patrolman was also known for being dogged in pursuit of raiders or thieves.

Although there were agricultural areas in Transjordan, the terrain in which the Patrol operated consisted mostly of slightly undulating plains broken by lava fields, rugged cliffs and



Marmon-Herrington Mark IVs of the Arab Legion Armored Car Regiment.

valleys. About the only inhabitants of this vast, empty space of rock and sand were nomadic tribesmen from whom the patrol was drawn.

Transportation used by the patrol changed rapidly. In the '30s, it used Ford trucks with Lewis machine guns mounted on them; starting in 1939, homemade armored trucks were built; in 1945, Marmon-Herrington armored cars were added; in 1949, Land Rovers with short wheel-bases came into use for patrols; in 1952, Valentine (Archer) 17-pound self-propelled guns were added and, in

1954, Charioteer tanks with 20-pounder guns. The armored cars, self-propelled guns and tanks were primarily for use by armored units of the Arab Legion. The Desert Patrol normally used only trucks or, later, armored cars. They also used camels and horses.

In peacetime, the Patrol served as a paramilitary rural police force, but also as the arm of the government which had the respect of the locals. In fact, the Patrol often acted as all branches of government for the Bedouin. In war, members of the Patrol acted as light cavalry or light armored infantry, and were at their best while scouting and raiding.

Don't Be A Jerk

LEARN TO TALK MERC

by John W. I. Ball

LET'S start right out by getting straight with each other. Being a soldier of fortune ain't all it's cracked up to be. Decent jobs are hard to find, the pay is marginal — if you get paid at all — the working conditions are not what OSHA would recommend, the food (when you get food) usually still has the hair on it, your family life is a laugh, your fellow workers are as surly a lot as you could possibly wish to find and naturally there's always that possibility of being, like, *killed*. The less said about the retirement program the better.

In spite of all this, or perhaps because of it, there are a lot of folks out there who have romantic notions about the dashing life of the mercenary soldier. And you can take advantage of this even if you have never had the opportunity to be one (or, for that matter, even if your total military experience consists of flunking your National Guard physical). Here's how.

Talk merc. If Chris Walken and Richard Burton can do it, so can you. It is the purpose of this article to teach you how.

For the reader with some military experience, of course, talking merc will come fairly easily, as you already have most of the necessary bad habits. Pilots, whether military or civilian, will also find merc an easy language to pick up. However, it harms none of us to improve our techniques and add to our

MERC SPOKEN HERE

John W.I. Ball's ability to speak merc like the natives probably comes from his Army background. Now a security consultant, he is also a major in the U.S. Army (Reserve) and active in the National Guard.

Ball served in 'Nam in 1969-70 with the 1st Air Cav. as a scout pilot and gunship pilot. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star and Air Medal plus, as he says, "the rest of the fruit salad they handed out over there."

This isn't the first time Ball has submitted an article to SOF. About a year ago, we accepted another humorous piece on a current Caribbean caper. Time passed and more important issues pre-empted article space in the magazine. We had to send Ball's article back — in magazine jargon, "kill" it.

Ball's response is worth printing in full: "Just a note to tell you I received the kill-fee. It has given my friends something to talk about — not everyone gets a certified 'kill' fee from *Soldier of Fortune*. Considering your magazine's image it might be better to call it a 'non-publication honorarium,' perhaps."

—M.L. Jones

skills, otherwise *Reader's Digest* wouldn't keep running "It Pays To Increase Your Word Power" every month.

Let's start with telling time. The military uses a 24-hour time system which leaves most civilians slack-jawed although it's certainly not difficult. One a.m. for instance, is 0100 hours (pronounced "zero one hundred hours"). One p.m. is 1300 hours (pronounced "thirteen hundred hours"). Minutes are added as appropriate, i.e., 2:15 p.m. is pronounced "fourteen-fifteen hours" or simply "fourteen-fifteen" if you're being slangy. Be slangy whenever possible.

The real trick is to practice until you feel comfortable with this time system, then use it whenever possible *and translate*. Telling a blind date, for instance, "I'll pick you up at 1800, sorry, that's six o'clock your time," is one of the better ways to impress her. Right away you've caught her imagination and become a Man of Mystery.

The next thing to learn is the military phonetic alphabet. Space does not permit running the whole thing here, but suffice to say that it is designed to allow messages to be radioed without mistakes or misunderstandings arising from different pronunciations of letters. "A," for instance, is Alpha, "B" is Bravo and so on. You can get the whole thing from any local reserve unit, ROTC detachment, flying club or Boy Scout troop.



Use of the phonetic alphabet allows almost immediate double plays such as "I'll pick you up at 1800 ... sorry ... that's six Papa Mike your time. Papa Mike? Oh, that's p.m. Six p.m. Be ready when I get there."

By this time, of course, you've got the poor girl so bum-fuzzled that she feels inferior and will accept a little prodding such as that last line about being ready when you get there. See how it works? Truly beautiful short-term relationships can be built on this basis.

The next thing you need to understand about talking merc is that nothing military is ever called by its full and correct name by anybody who has made it past his first 20 minutes of Basic Training. The military uses a lot of numbers and initials in identifying its equipment, and these designations tend to get pruned down in use to something that the users can live with.

The AN/PRC-25 radio, for instance, is universally known and loved as the "Prick-25." Weapons and fighting equipment for some reason tend to be known by numbers. Thus an M16 rifle is generally called a "sixteen" and an M113 Armored Personnel Carrier is called a "one-one-three." This can get a tad tangled when names (although you should start using the term "nomenclature") overlap; the M60 machine gun and the M60 tank are good examples. Both are

commonly referred to as "sixties."

Context can help avoid confusion. "There I was, hosing 'em with my 60 ..." implies a machine gun since one does not normally hose the foe with an M60 tank, although one might indeed hose 'em with the co-ax (co-axially mounted machine gun in a tank turret).

Confusing, isn't it? Now, imagine how confused your hypothetical blind date must be, realize how vulnerable a confused person is — and you can see where all this is leading.

"Humpin' our rucks through the boonies — we saw six dinks."

There is, of course, no way to talk merc like a native without years of exposure to the language. It's like any other foreign tongue: The best way to pick it up is to live with the natives, talk with the natives and think like the natives. On the other hand, Berlitz language courses have been teaching

people to find the potty in 27 languages for years and you're not *trying* to pass these linguistic gymnastics off on actual mercs. You're just trying to dazzle the uninformed.

With that thought in mind, the following is a list of useful words and phrases in merc. You can mix'n'match or construct whole sentences, whatever makes your blood pressure rise. Use them in good health.

KILL: grease, wax, slot, hose, *smoke*, take out, pop, hit, dust, waste, render inop, separate their dogtags, close their health record, torque, fire up. (There are others, but this is a good starter kit. Use in *sentences* like this: "So we popped three of 'em with the 60 and the rest split.")

GUN: It should be noted here that the only piece of military shooting equipment which is properly a "gun" is a cannon. Ask any veteran what happened the last time his Drill Sergeant heard him call his rifle a gun. Go ahead, ask. "Gun" in this lexicon is a generic term covering pieces, irons, weapons, bullet launchers, etc. Guns are most generally known by either their number (60, 16), their initials (FN, AK, PPK, RPD) or their caliber (.38, .45, .223, 7.62).

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SOF Looks At Concealment

HIDING YOUR HEATER

Text & Photos by Bill Guthrie

WHEN it is important to be able to reach something fast, it's usually not a good idea to hide it. Generally, this is as true of guns as it is of anything else, but there are times when the soldier, duty cop or private citizen needs to hide a gun and still get to it on demand.

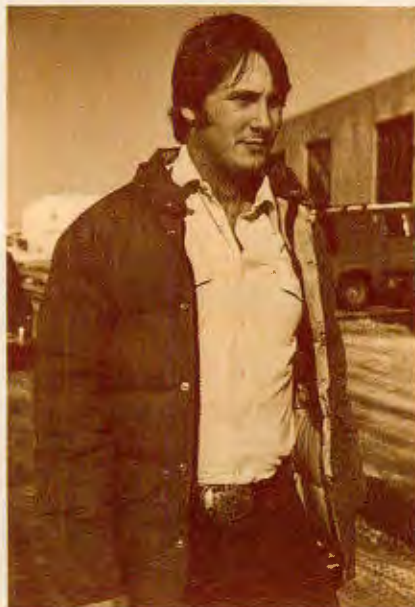
Unusual concealment can be seen in the sniper-rifle/crutch in *The Day of the Jackal* or in the UZI-in-the-briefcase trick shown in the videotapes of the Reagan assassination attempt, but the average hidden firearm will be a pistol in a pocket or a holster. Under these condi-

tions the length, height and width of the pistol, the user's build, and the thickness of covering garments govern what can and cannot be concealed.

Caliber of ammunition controls what size a handgun must be if it is a repeater. Number of rounds held in magazine or



TOP LEFT: Any holster can show your gun if you bend the wrong way. **BOTTOM LEFT:** John Metzger, mild-mannered SOF reporter, carries .44 Magnum S&W M29-2 in notebook-shielded parka pocket. **BELOW:** Heavy coats pad more, but stiffer construction allows unfastened front to gap, revealing weapon.



cylinder, their arrangement and the bore diameter impose dimensional requirements on a handgun. Accordingly, a small .22- or .25-inch semi-auto is bound to be easier to hide than a Dirty Harry .44 Magnum. Smaller-caliber handguns can be stuck in the waistband, boot top, pockets, rolled bottoms of watchcaps or anyplace else you can think of where the pistol is protected from view. They weigh practically nothing, are very slender and often do not have the kind of profiles that might immediately give them away as guns.

As good an idea as it may be for one expecting violence to have these pop-guns on his person as back-ups, he should not rely on them as primary weapons. Then you need a handgun with more power, number of cartridges and accuracy than an extremely small light-caliber semiauto can provide. Although many other satisfactory cartridges exist, the most commonly available full-sized pistol rounds are .45 ACP, .44 Magnum, .44 Special, 9mm Parabellum, .357 Magnum and .38 Special.

Although simplicity and resistance to dirt and pocket-fuzz seem to favor the revolver, there is one very good reason to use an auto for concealment: width. The cylinder on a .44 Mag six-shot is about 1.75 inches, while the standard 1911 Colt .45 is closer to 1.25 and the H&K P7 PSP is 1.1 inches. In terms of hiding any of those under clothes, it is obvious that the thinner weapon will not make the same kind of impression on clothing that the thicker one will. Addi-

tionally, longer barrels for slower-burning powders, hammer-spurs and a design requirement for the cylinder to ride above the hand in the pistol's frame make nearly all revolvers harder to hide than standard large-frame autos.

It is not fair, but body build must also be considered when trying to hide a pistol on a human. We all know men in the neighborhood of 250 pounds who could hide a pistol-gripped riot gun under a windbreaker, but most of us do not have that advantage. Axiomatically, the bigger someone is, the easier he can hide a gun.

If the carrier has a particularly slender build and can afford the tariff, there are extremely compact 9mm and .45 auto-loaders on the market, notably the Detonics line, the ASP, Beretta 92SB Compact and the rumored Belgian FN Compact 9mm (approximately 6.75 inches long, one inch wide and a nearly unbelievable 3.5 inches from butt to top of slide with a seven-plus-one capacity). It should be mentioned that the stock H&K P7 is not much bigger than these special compact editions.

After considerations of the size of the weapon and the size of the gunman, clothing defines what can be hidden. Light, tight-fitting, minimum coverage sporting clothing is not good for concealment of full-size handguns. Obviously, heavy winter clothing will cover nearly anything, but a comfortably cut business suit, sport-coat or windbreaker worn over shorts and T-shirt all help conceal firearms.

LEFT: Safe and secure, squeeze-cocking HK P7 barely breaks waistline in inside-the-belt Bianchi holster.

BELOW: Nearly undetectable except by pat-down, ASP in Bianchi clip-on peeks out of boot before lowered cuff hides the 9mm compact.



A down jacket can cover almost anything a man can carry up to a British two-inch commando mortar. Large patch pockets are good for hiding guns, and the giveaway profile can be further concealed by covering the weapon with a notepad or a wadded handkerchief.

Although belt or pocket gives enough security for most purposes, special holsters usually offer greater retention and comfort. The classic concealment rig, beloved of directors of gangster movies, is the shoulder holster. Shoulder holsters come in three configurations best categorized by the way the gun's muzzle points when it is holstered. Most often the holster holds the pistol so the muzzle points down the wearer's side with the butt tucked under the armpit, but one variant puts short-barreled autos under the arm with the barrel pointed straight back and the butt in the most natural vertical position for a quick draw. The final, and rarer, version points the barrel up in front of the shoulder with the butt pointing backwards under the armpit. This design is most useful with long-barreled revolvers.

Many excellent holsters are currently available which ably hide pistols at the belt. They improve on sticking the pistol through the belt by more securely holding the weapon, holding it higher and tighter to the body, smoothing the profile of the barrel and action to prevent identification, and preventing tangling of sights in clothing on the draw. A pistol on the belt is usually in an easier and more natural position for the draw than one in a shoulder holster. If the coat is long and heavy enough, a relatively low outside-the-belt design is perfectly adequate, but most modern low-profile designs fit inside the pants.

Rather slower on the draw, but hard to find are the ankle holsters. Popularized by Gene Hackman's impersonation of "Popeye" Doyle in *The French Connection*, ankle holsters are fine hidings of compact pistols. Some are elaborate padded and velcro-strapped holsters suitable for ankle or calf wear, while others are held by a spring-steel clip to the inside of a boot top, and can double as inside-the-belt holsters. A light, small, alloy-frame pistol can be concealed just as well in an elastic ankle bandage at a fraction of the cost of the other two, though the draw may be slower.

The position, place and kind of firearm to be hidden are limited more by the imagination than by products available. Experiment with weapon concealment if it is needed, and be prepared to be surprised where guns can be hidden.

Also, if you have not checked applicable laws on concealed weapons in your community and state be prepared to be surprised at the absence of humor with which your experiments will be treated by the authorities. ☒

DUSTOFF!

“God Go With Us”

by Robert B. Robeson



HE trudged through the ankle-deep sand at the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam, displaying the smiling face that I would learn to appreciate so much in the next few months. He was short, wiry, and he saluted even though his flight helmet was still on — visor up and intercom cord trailing out behind him like some dangling reptile.

Grabbing my overloaded duffel bag and effortlessly slinging it over a shoulder, he directed me toward the idling helicopter on the pad 50 yards away. It was my first glimpse of Specialist Five John N. Seebeth.

It was mid-July 1969. War would now be a reality for me, but Seebeth — at 21 — had already seen it all. I wondered, later, if he'd ever really been young or if, like so many others I would get to know in Vietnam, he had been born old and experienced in the ways of death and life. Although the next month and a half would irretrievably alter our lives, I will never forget his smile at that first meeting — and it was always there whether we were involved in good or hard times. I knew Seebeth was a good

FROM 'NAM TO NEBRASKA

Robert B. Robeson flew 987 combat medical-evacuation missions in Vietnam (1969-1970), evacuating 2,533 patients. He was operations officer and commanding officer during his tour with the 236th Medical Detachment (HA) in Da Nang. He lost seven helicopters to enemy fire, was twice shot down and has been decorated eight times for heroism. He is a free-lance writer, having published 250 articles in 155 international, national and local publications, which include *Sepia*, *Frontier Airlines Magazine*, *Army Aviation Magazine* and the *Reader's Digest*.

He is the State recruiting and retention manager for the Nebraska Army National Guard in Lincoln, Neb., and has served more than 23 years in the military. He is presently completing his thesis for a master's degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Medevac UH-1H chopper fired up for rescue by author Robeson and CW2 Timothy J. Yost, headed to Red Beach/Da Nang in early 1970. Photo: Bild am Sonntag

man for a bad medevac, but I knew little else about this grinning, gung-ho medic until it was really too late.

Our crew was assigned to field standby duty at LZ Baldy, about 25 miles south of Da Nang. Farther south, Americal Division units had been engaged with an entire North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division and we began flying 12 to 13 hours a day picking up their dead and wounded. During those 2½ days, our dustoff crew was forged into a team that worked under the worst conditions to save lives in combat.

I remember lying on my back on a dusty bunk during a brief lull in the action the second day, and talking to Seebeth across the hootch. A high-pitched voice and animated conversation were his trademarks and I smiled as he drew me a picture with hands that had saved many lives. This time the words had a serious note — probably because

we knew our odds were getting worse. He spoke rapidly and I listened and nodded as he talked. He brought up the possibility of our being shot down.

"Well, sir," he said, "if we ever go down you can sure count on one thing."

"What's that?"

"That I won't leave you alone out there. Especially if you're hurt. If I have to die, I want to go trying to help someone or trying to protect my buddies."

At that moment it sounded a bit too dramatic, even though we'd already taken a number of "hits" the morning before in our first aircraft. I had been locked into my shoulder harness when a round entered behind my seat and broke the unlocking device.

But even in combat you don't *really* think the worst will ever happen. You see it all day but it's always someone else — never you. We talked for a few minutes more until another mission being called in ended our discussion.

It was another insecure landing zone, under heavy small-arms fire. Normally, we'd try to get gunships to accompany us, but none were available because of heavy action in the area. The ground troops had also radio-relayed to the aid station that the patient would be dead unless we got there immediately. Although we were unarmed, we agreed to go it alone and try to sneak in . . . as we'd done so many times before.

This mission was for a seriously wounded American. He waited for us in a valley that we'd gone into 10 to 15 times before. We had received fire on almost every attempt.

I remember looking down as we approached the area. It appeared calm and untroubled from 2,000 feet but inside I knew danger was waiting down there. Even Seebeth's usual "God go with us," spoken softly into his intercom before every approach, seemed different. The crewchief said later that he held up crossed fingers as he said it. He'd never done that before. Maybe intuition warned him.

Diving down from 2,000 feet, we spun quickly toward the yellow swirl of smoke



Bloodstained "chicken-plate" (armored vest) worn by Seebeth when rounds went over neckline — see hole — to blow out his larynx. Photo: Robert B. Robeson



in a tiny clearing. But all of our maneuvering was to no avail because we had to drop straight down into a "hover-hole" barely wider than our blades. We began taking hits before we touched the ground.

As our skids made contact, the entire jungle exploded with enemy fire. We were encircled. As they threw the wounded man aboard, holes popped in the chopper's skin as if by magic. I turned to Seebeth to see if he was inside when a short burst of automatic fire blew open his neck. I yelled for the crewchief to assist him as we attempted to climb out of the ambush. The fire continued and knocked out all of our radios but one. Somehow we climbed and limped toward home.

I turned in my seat and told Seebeth, "We'll get you back. You'll be all right." I doubted it since there was a ragged hole where his throat had been. He just shrugged his shoulders and instructed the crewchief, via hand motions, how to put the IV into his arm. Then he monitored its flow and kept his own airway clear of the blood that was quickly filling his lungs.

With great difficulty we flew the aircraft back and landed safely. A litter team was waiting for us but Seebeth pointed to the other patient, pushed them away, and ran 70 yards to the aid station — unassisted. As a medic he knew the severity of his injuries and was well aware that seconds saved meant life.

I ran in behind him and marveled as he jumped up on an open litter used for examinations. He waved for the doctors to start working — doctors who had

Col. Pratt (left), 95th Evacuation Hospital commander, presents Robeson with second Distinguished Flying Cross and second Air Medal with "V" in early 1970 at Red Beach (Da Nang), Vietnam. Photo: Capt. Richard L. Fox

worked with him on other patients only hours before.

He kept mouthing the words, "I can't breathe," as they began a tracheotomy to get air to his lungs. There was no time for pain-killers — they just started cutting. Seebeth was fighting to live and began kicking his feet in anger at his body's failure. I held his feet and tried to ease the fears we all had.

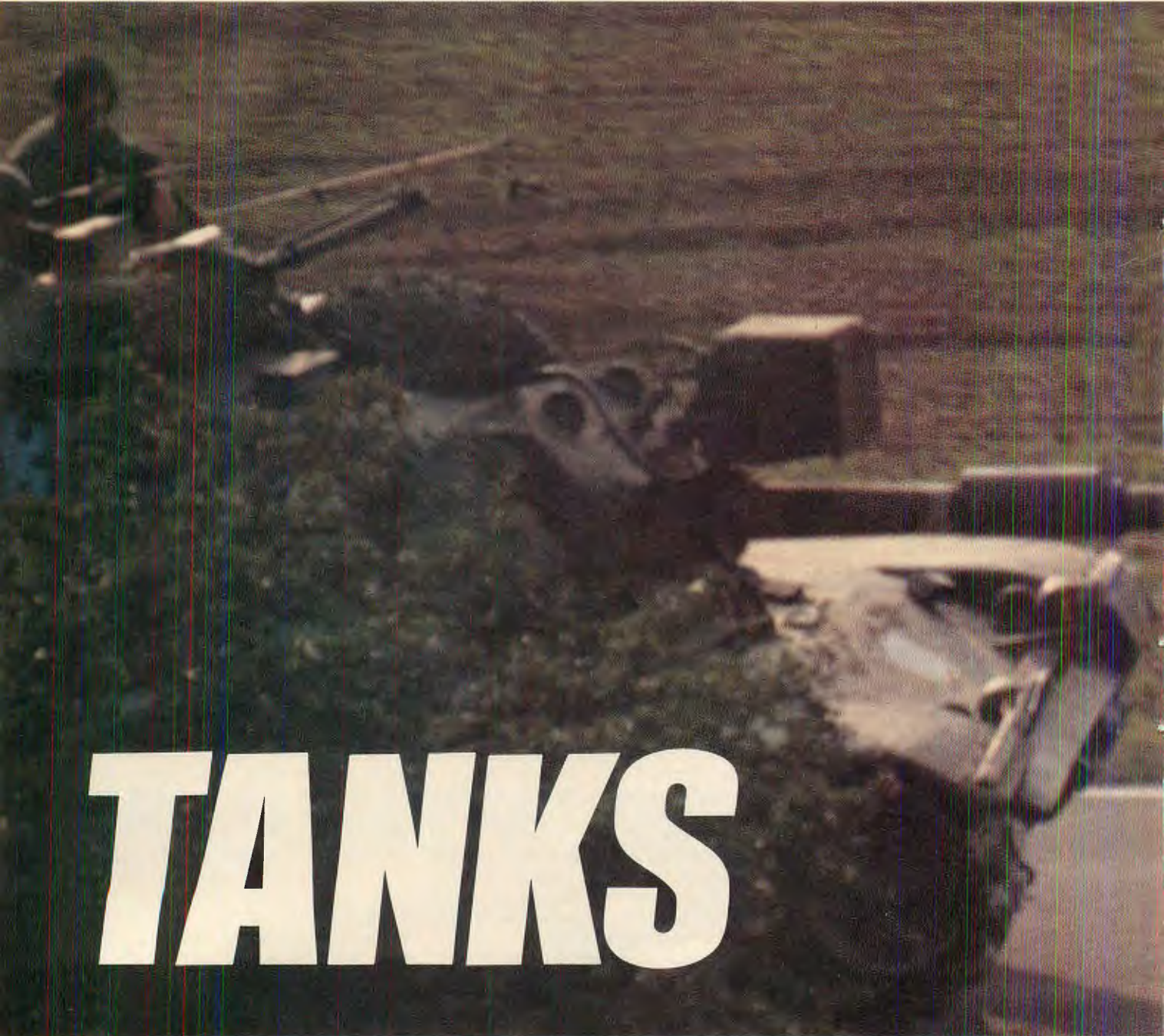
He looked at me. His lips moved silently: "I can't breathe," and big tears began to run down his cheeks — mingling with the mucus and blood that covered him and everyone nearby. He suffered bravely until he passed out.

After surgery, Seebeth began to respond and was judged capable of being evacuated from the war zone for further surgery. I went to see him a number of times, between missions, at the evacuation hospital but he was always unconscious so I just stood by the bed feeling inadequate, watching the heaving chest and the tubes running in and out of his body.

I wished then that the whole world could have seen him bring three Americans back to life in one day after they had been placed aboard our aircraft apparently dead. Mouth-to-mouth breathing and closed heart massage, which he could do simultaneously, gave them

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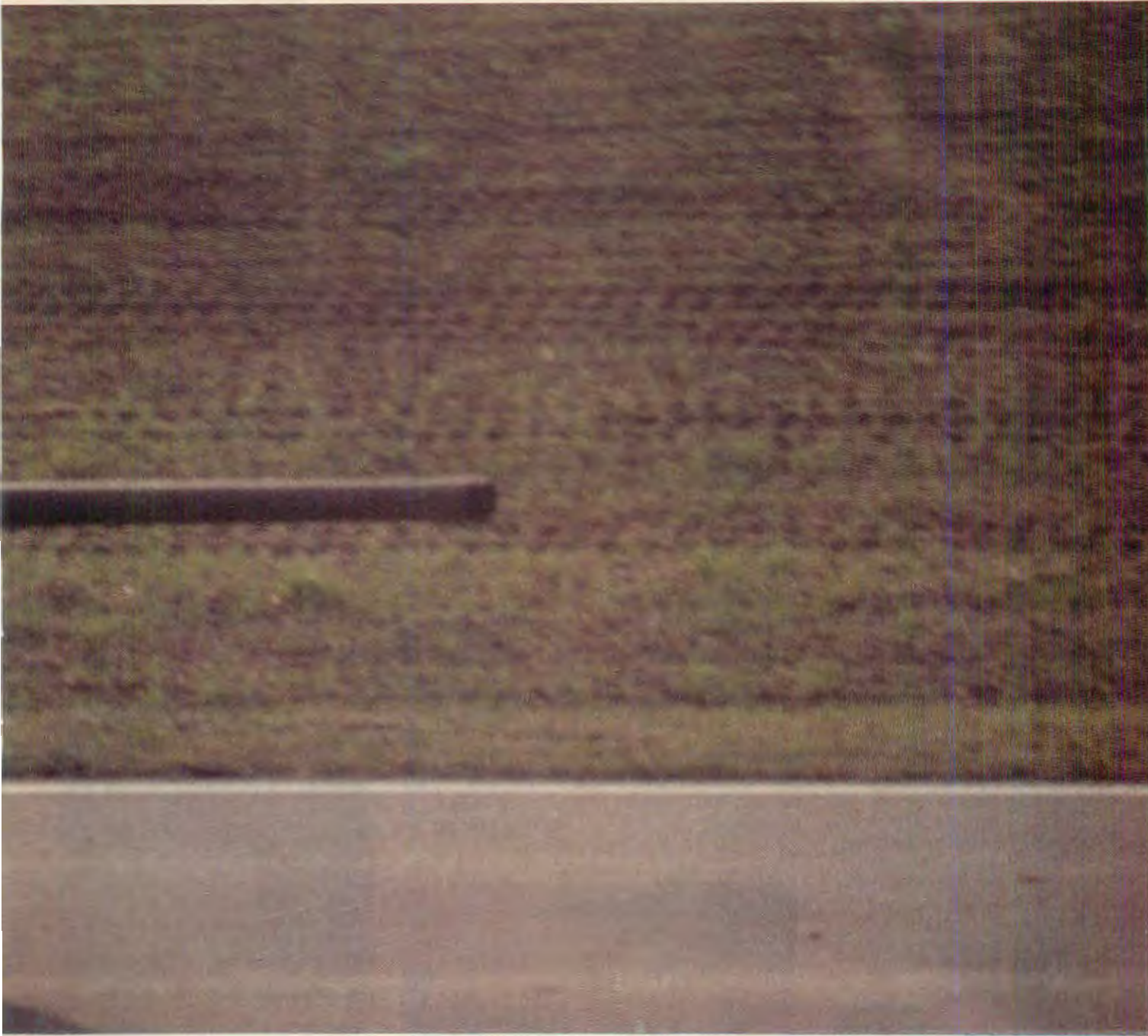
Text & Photos by Rick Venable



TANKS

TODAY'S ARMY SHAPING UP

SOF Joins Reforger '82



ABOVE: U.S. M60 Main Battle Tank moves down German road during Reforger '82. **RIGHT:** Calif. National Guard UH-1 Huey sets down in rural Germany as Maj. Tom Lasser checks situation.



OUR Huey raced low over the rolling German countryside at 120 knots, sometimes only a few feet off the ground. The sun stabbed in slanting rays through broken clouds. We skimmed over hills and plateaus that fell away suddenly for hundreds of feet to valleys and fields.



LEFT: U.S. M60A1 MBT moves out in cloud of dust. ABOVE: M113 APC lurks in treeline.

Germany is lovely, full of open country despite a large population, and good tank country. We were looking for tanks.

They aren't easy to find, even for the Army. The sprawling exercise going on below was Reforger '82, the latest in a long series of annual war games in which an allied Blue Force tries to repel an invasion of the Orange Force, simulating you-know-who. The troops move fast, hide well and don't always bother to tell the Public Affairs Office where they are.

A lot of guys from several countries were down there, including 19,000 brought over from the United States to simulate the emergency reinforcement that is supposed to happen if war starts. A lot of new hardware was getting field-tested, notably the M1 Abrams main battle tank, the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and the Divad (Division Air

Defense system). You still couldn't see a damned thing.

The pilot threw the Huey into a hard bank over thick woods, reminding me of other times and places. We swung over a sugar-beet field, squatted four feet off the earth and ooched under a power line. Those things can do an unholy number on a chopper that doesn't know where they are.

RIGHT: Troops of 82nd Airborne Division's air-defense contingent use M163 Vulcan self-propelled anti-aircraft guns fitted with M61A1 20mm Vulcan automatic cannon. BELOW: U.S. M60A1 MBT tank column waits to move out in Reforger '82.



ABOVE: M1 Abrams MBT, equipped with commander's M2 HB Cal. .50 machine gun, has 105mm M68 E1 main gun. U.S. will update gun to German Rheinmetall 120mm in 1984.



Then we flew aimlessly over an area of several square miles, turning here and there, hovering, curving on a new course, carefully showing no interest in the long line of blue tanks hidden in a tree line. Commanders take their ambushes seriously. Reporters are not welcome if they give away positions.

The tanks were M60s. We were looking for M1s. Finding them was proving a hell of a problem. You can argue about whether an M1 can get to the neighborhood McDonald's without breaking down, but when they are running, they are fast — incredibly fast.

Every time we had taken off to look for them, the major at PAO had pointed at the grid map and said, "They were here an hour ago." In an hour one of those things could be in northern Denmark. They were never around when we arrived.

We finally sailed casually over the hidden column, 18 tanks with their main guns trained on the road. The crews started hamming it up when they saw my cameras. One of them, who understood how

photographers work, began firing blanks at the Huey.

I was glad to see that kind of high-spirited clowning around. It means morale is good. When you spend a week flying over an exercise, you don't gather many hard facts, but you get overall impressions that can mean a lot. For example: The Army has improved vastly since I last looked at non-elite outfits.

In the late '70s, I once went through jungle training with an average division in Panama, and then went to Ft. Hood for some time in the field with the armor. The troops were sullen, half-assed, poorly trained, badly disciplined and just plain stupid. Racial tension was dangerously high. I don't think the public ever realized how bad the situation was.

The Army I saw in Europe looked sharp. The men seemed happy, knew what they were doing and had the kind of do-it-because-you're-supposed-to discipline that American armies ought to have. I think the blacks and whites would actually shoot at the Russians instead of at each other in a war. In particular, blacks seemed to think they were part of the army, not oppressed people. The change is clear, and badly needed.

SOMEWHERE north of Wertheim — Once again we were in the Huey, looking for M1s. We swooped into the kind of tight bank that makes you think when your legs are hanging out over the skids. As we raced over a clearing in the forest, two evil-looking barrels suddenly snaked around to track us: a Divad, a twin-barreled, radar-

directed 40mm now coming into the inventory. You can get debates over how effective it is, but you won't get them from chopper pilots. It certainly tracked us well.

Ahead we saw something else I'd been looking for — Leopard tanks of the German 12th Panzers, wicked machines with the characteristic wavy skirts. I waved at the pilot to set down, which he did, and ran into the field to get some pictures. The crews grinned, waved and went about their business. They look to be as good as their reputation, goosing those big mothers around with precision you wouldn't expect in a tank. German crews were generally less playful than ours, not stuffy but just quieter. I wouldn't want to fight them.

The big question in these parts is how the Leopard stacks up against the M1. The Army is sensitive about it, having gotten a lot of flak about the alleged defects of the M1. The answer seems to be, at least according to everyone I talked to here, that they are both good tanks when working. The debate breaks into two questions. First, is the M1's 1500-horsepower turbine and reputedly delicate drive-train a match for the sturdy diesel of the Leopard?

The Army swears it is, and says that the 174 M1s in Reforger had a 97-percent overall operational-readiness rate. This is a better performance than the M60s turned in. Critics still say the Army is cooking the evidence

because it can't afford to admit the M1 is a lemon. Take your pick.

Second, is the M1's 105mm main gun a match for the Leopard's 120mm smoothbore? *Hell no.* The Army as much as admits this by its plans to put a 120 on later M1s. The United States is notorious for under-gunning its tanks. Meanwhile the official line at the *Pentagon* is that the 105 is adequate, and that a tank can carry a lot more of the smaller rounds. Think how many BBs it could carry.

IN the air — A couple of things strike you about European war, at least if you are accustomed to Asian-style fighting and haven't really thought a lot about Europe. The weather stinks. It was bad in Asia too, but American pilots didn't have to fight an enemy air force. Germany is cloudy and foggy a lot of the time. The people who think the Air Force should get large numbers of cute little day-fighters like the F-5 ought to spend an hour trying to use one against an enemy in a cloud bank.

And with night-vision gear making it easier for armies to move in the dark, an attack plane that can't work *after sundown* is going to be a ticket for Ivan to ride, all night long. Maybe we should have larger numbers of slightly less-sophisticated planes, like F-6s, but anything less would be crazy.

It is a lot harder to find things over here than I had expected. My idea of something hard to find was a 90-pound rice-burner in black pajamas. Masses of tanks, I thought, should stand out like a bargirl in church. They don't. The West Germans park them between houses in towns. Several times I drove down long, ordinary-looking streets and found tank-guns looking at me from every garden. They don't show from the air. Even without cammo nets, you have to fly right over them and slow down to see them. The crews tend to cozy up to tree lines in the field and back into the woods every time they stop. Visible they ain't.

SOMEWHERE near Schwabebisch Hall — I was in the woods with the 49th Medium Helicopter Company, Maj. Tom Lasser commanding. The 49th is a Guard unit out of California, flying CH-47 Chinooks. I had

flown over with them from the States. They had their operations room set up in a beerhall rented from the Germans, and repair facilities spread through the woods for concealment. Lasser and I and some of the pilots were sitting under the trees, greasing down on Cs. The damned things haven't improved since they were invented.

"I can't believe how rotten our luck has been," Lasser was saying. "We fly way the hell and gone to Germany and sit on our butts for two weeks. Damn." He

RIGHT: M1 Abrams MBT with commander's M2 HB Cal. .50 machine gun and loader's M240 MG in 7.62 mm NATO. **BELOW:** German *Lancers* survey countryside for enemy. German MG3 in 7.62mm

NATO sits atop truck. *Bundeswehr* wears one-piece U.S.-style steel helmet with camouflage netting.





ABOVE: Chopper-mechanic tinkers with cranky turbine. RIGHT: Bundeswehr Gepard twin 35mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun has surveillance radar.

BELOW: Bundeswehr Leopard, 12th Panzer Rgt. driver checks vehicle's road wheels and support rollers as it stands on country road.



poured little C-ration envelopes into his coffee to try to make it drinkable. Army coffee is worse than Marine coffee, if that's possible.

"Look at it as a vacation," said one of the pilots. "How many governments send their Guard units to Europe for R and R?"

A few days before an Army CH-47 had crashed with 40 or so skydivers aboard. All died. *Stars and Stripes* had published an eerie picture of the bird, way up, still in level flight for a last instant, with the aft pylon torn off and hanging in air. The rear rotor blade was hitting the ground.

All Chinooks were grounded immediately. I had spent a morning in the fog with mechanics while they took oil samples from the transmission for analysis for metal content. The transmission on the dead bird had gone.

I like traveling with the Guard. Both in the Air Force and the Army, the Guard is where you find the pilots out of 'Nam who wanted to keep flying. Usually they've had more hours in the air

than the active guys, and a hell of a lot more in combat. If war comes, they won't need OJT.

They still have a little to learn about ground warfare. Lasser and I were chatting about something when a shrill rendition of "Dixie" came squealing from nowhere. One of the guys started slapping furiously at one of those musical watches you can buy now. Think about that on your next ambush: You're watching the bad guys come down the trail, and all of a sudden your goddam watch starts singing. . .

In a field — Clouds were low, the weather damp and cool. Sugar beets stretched into the distance in front of the road. Nothing was happening. Suddenly a C-141 slid out of the overcast at 900 feet. Jeeps and howitzers started falling out of the cargo doors. Chutes deployed and the hardware drifted toward the earth. The plane left.

More 141s slipped from the clouds and hundreds of specks fell from them — part of the 82nd Airborne. The drop was right on time after a nonstop flight from the States. The troops hit the ground and sprinted for the howitzers. Aiming stakes went in, ammo came out.

In nothing flat they were firing blanks at a simulated enemy. Before the first round exited a tube, the guns were surrounded by German school kids. Reforger is the best thing that ever happened to them. The 82nd drove off to war. The field was empty again.

It's a good trick to drop 700 men right on time after the long flight from Ft. Bragg, N.C., and the

airborne knew their stuff. Still, you have to wonder what good it's going to do to drop a

comparatively small number of lightly armed men in front of Ivan's huge armored forces, equipped with all the artillery in the world. In fact, to express a thought I heard from several officers speaking in private, you have to wonder what good NATO is going to do?

PEDEN Barracks — At this former Luftwaffe base, now used by the U.S. Army, the new UH-60 Blackhawk was showing its stuff. Two Hueys flew in, dropping off their grunts. One Blackhawk picked them all up and flew away.

The Blackhawk is a sleek, powerful machine that can fly high and fast in hot weather, which the underpowered Huey couldn't. Everybody likes it, which means it won't get any publicity: If the military does something right, that's not news. An Army general of my acquaintance, who doesn't want to be named, told me that the Blackhawk is a fine solid bird; the APU (Auxiliary Power Unit) has some problems, but nothing to worry about.

In another field — Finally I found an M1, broken down in the open. The fuel pump had gone out. This is a bad-luck failure and has nothing to do with the tank's alleged unreliability.

Several of the crew were swapping war stories in the shade of the 60-ton beast. I parked, wandered over and

quickly got to the big question: "Does this ugly mother work, or doesn't it?"

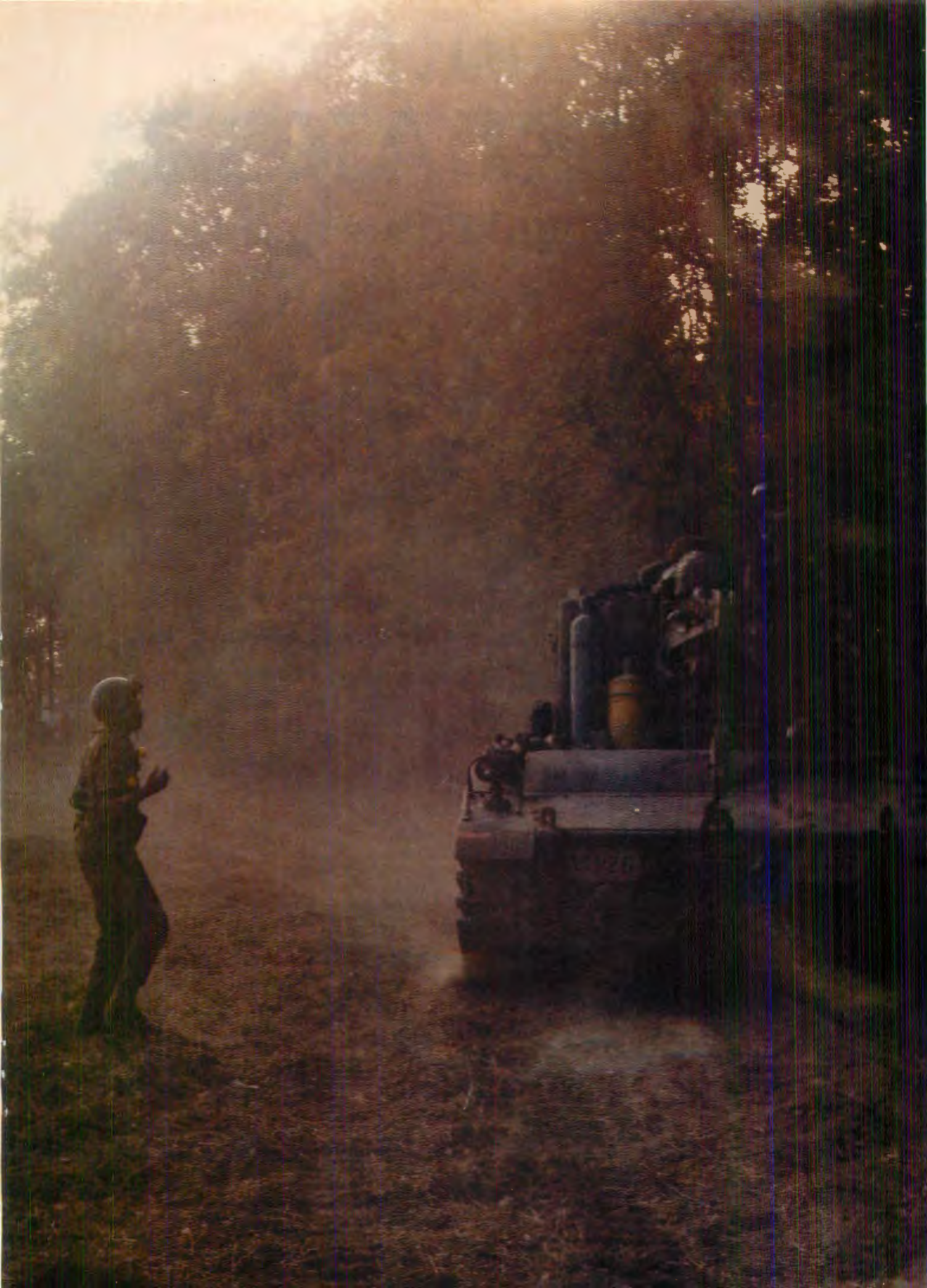
The answer from the crewman, a Chicano fellow out of San Antonio, was the same one I got from all other M1 crews I talked to (toward the end of Reforger, I actually found some). He said, "Best bleeping tank ever made. Jesus Christ, all those newspapers are full of it. I've been in armor for seven years, M60s mostly, and those stupid bleeping reporters don't know which end the bullets come from. And they tell *me* my tank doesn't work. This buggy's the best, man. We've had it off the ground twice already."

Believe it or not, the M1 is so fast you can get it off the ground on a big bump.

An officer later told me the M1 is so fast that you have to devise new tactics for it. He said, "Think about flanking maneuvers. In M60s you aren't much faster, if at all, so you don't usually think, 'Let's flank the bastards.' These babies are so swift you can turn the corner on the bad guys easy. In these things, you're always thinking end-run."

I was thinking beer. I got in the car and headed for the hotel, still pleased with the new Army. It may be too small and under-equipped, but at least it isn't embarrassing. ☒

U.S. M88 Medium Recovery Vehicle moves out at sunset.



SOF EXCLUSIVE: SOVIET AKS-74

Kokalis Debunks Russian Rifle



Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



ABOVE: Mohammad Kareem, mujahideen camp commander and former brigadier in Afghan Army, fires Soviet AKS-74 assault rifle in caliber 5.45x39mm ComBloc at secret base just inside Afghanistan. **LEFT:** Assembled and battle-ready, AKS-74 with stock extended. Note typical AKM finger swells on lower hand guard.

WE are on the road to a mujahideen training camp near the the Afghanistan border. The hot, humid fall afternoon is made all the more oppressive by our cramped quarters in the red jeep. The three mujahideen who ride with us are armed with an incongruous melange of weaponry: a Tokarev pistol (marked M20), a rare DWM marked 1906 Commercial Luger (in caliber .30 Luger), an H&K 91 rifle (the U.S. import version) and the AKS-74 assault rifle (folding-stock version) which I have come to test and evaluate.

We are met at the camp's entrance by guards carrying Egyptian-made AKMs and a P14 Enfield (in caliber .303 British). A long row of open-sided tents extend the length of the camp's firing range. A table has been set up for me and I race toward it, clutching the AKS-74 in my sweating hands. I begin immediately to disassemble this fascinating new Soviet battle rifle.



With an overall length of just 36.5 inches (only 27.25 inches with the stock folded) and weighing in at 7.9 pounds (empty), the AKS-74 feels right even before you fire it. The barrel is 18.5 inches long. The AK-74 series are basically AKMs chambered for the new 5.45x39mm ComBloc round, incorporating a number of important improvements. In fact, reports from British intelligence sources indicate at least one AK-74 has been examined which had a barrel resleeved from 7.62x39mm to 5.45x39mm. The receiver remains the same. It is a one-millimeter-thick "U" section of stamped sheet metal extensively supported by pins and rivets. The rails on which the bolt reciprocates are stamped and spot-welded to the inside of the receiver.

All Kalashnikovs are gas-operated, but have no gas regulator. I have never seen a Kalashnikov malfunction as a result of fouling. But, without a regulator, the gas port cannot be cut off to utilize blank cartridges to fire rifle grenades. (The only exception: the Polish PMK-DGN-60 assault rifle, whose gas cylinder has been modified



Original rust-colored AK-74 magazine (top) was identical to that last produced for AKM. New AK-74 magazine (bottom) is dark-brown ABS plastic. Change to darker shade was dictated by realization that original color compromised camouflage.

NEW AK-74 MAGAZINE by Peter G. Kokalis

The Russians have recently fielded an entirely new 30-round magazine for the AK-74. Uncovered during SOf's most recent incursion into Afghanistan, it has until now remained unreported by Western intelligence sources.

The original AK-74 magazine, except for changes in geometry required by the 5.45x39mm cartridge, was identical to that last produced for the AKM. It was fabricated from a glass-reinforced, rust-colored, polyethylene plastic. Molded in two parts, the magazine body was assembled using a viscous two-part epoxy resin adhesive. The adhesive residue was removed by hand-grinding.

The four prominent notches on the upper front of the magazine come from clamp marks used in gluing the two segments together. While not phenolic, the AKM/AK-74 magazine was noted for its great strength and durability.

The new AK-74 magazine is composed of a dark-brown buterate plastic

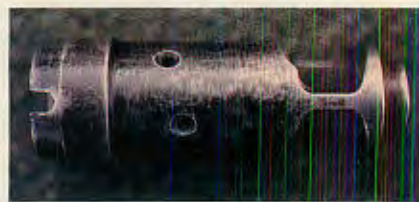
(also called ABS) of the type commonly used in appliance manufacture in the United States. The two body components, probably vacuum-formed, have been heat-molded together rather than glued.

The four clamping notches remain and the entire assembly has been finish-ground also. The magazine follower, spring and floor plate are identical to the original. All AK-74 magazines have a raised, horizontal rib on each side of the rear lug to prevent their insertion into a Kalashnikov of 7.62x39mm caliber.

The change to dark brown was obviously dictated by realization that the bright rust color seriously compromised positions by visual disclosure. Wall strength of the new magazine is considerably less than that achieved by use of glass-reinforced polyethylene. However, the new AK-74 magazine must be far less expensive to produce. It undoubtedly represents an attempt to design a really cost-effective, totally disposable assault-rifle magazine. It also represents the Soviets' tendency to push improved technology into service more rapidly than the United States, illustrating their preference for field-testing over the laboratory.



Closeup of AKS-74 receiver group. Center position is marked "AB" for full auto. Lower position marked "OA" for semiautomatic fire. Selector lever is as noisy and stiff to operate as previous models.



AKS-74 muzzle device. Kokalis found this remarkable brake reduced felt recoil to almost nothing, but produced tremendous sideblast.



The AKS-74 two-lug rotary bolt. Note massive claw extractor.



Field-stripped AKS-74.

Extended AKS-74 folding buttstock. Fabricated from stamped sheet-metal struts and held open by spring-loaded button latch, this is excellent and much-needed improvement.



AKS-74 gas tube and hand guard.



Stamped sheet-metal receiver cover ribbed for structural support as with the AKM.



AK-74 5.45x39mm ball and tracer (green-tipped) rounds.

Characteristic piston group, virtually unchanged from Kalashnikov antecedents.



AK-74 SPECIFICATIONS

CALIBER: 5.45x39mm
 MUZZLE VELOCITY: 2,950 fps
 WEIGHT, empty: 7.9 lbs.
 LENGTH (AKS variant): . overall 36.5 inches; with stock folded 27.25 inches
 BARREL: Length 18.5 inches; chamber and bore chrome-plated 4-groove, right-hand twist, 1 turn in 5.8 inches
 FEED: 30-round plastic magazine, will also accept 40-round RPK-74 SAW magazine
 SIGHTS: Front adjustable post
 Rear, tangent, U-notch, elevation to 1,000 meters
 OPERATION: Gas, no regulator, selective fire
 CYCLIC RATE: 600-650 rpm
 METHOD OF LOCKING: . . . two-lug rotary bolt
 MANUFACTURER: unidentified Soviet arsenals

to accept a gas cut-off valve for this purpose.) Of course, grenades fitted with a bullet trap, now being used ever more widely, could be adapted, although, because of their small size, they deliver a substantially reduced explosive package. However, except for the little-used RKG-3 rifle grenade, the Soviets prefer portable rocket launchers, such as the familiar RPG-7.

The AK-74 operates as follows: After ignition of the primer and propellant, gases are diverted into the gas cylinder on top of the barrel. The piston is driven rearward and the bolt carrier, attached to the piston extension, goes through the necessary amount of free-play travel until the gas pressure drops to a safe level. A cam-slot milled into the bolt carrier engages the bolt's cam stud and rotates the bolt about 35 degrees to unlock it from the receiver. Unlike the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) and many other designs, the Kalashnikov offers no primary extraction during bolt rotation. Thus, a large extractor claw is required on the AK-74 and is even more massive than its AKM predecessor.

As the bolt travels back it rolls the hammer over and compresses the recoil spring. The bolt ceases its rearward travel by slamming into the rear end of the receiver. The recoil spring then drives the bolt forward, another round is stripped from the magazine and chambered, and the bolt then comes to rest. The bolt carrier continues onward for about 5.5mm after the two-lug rotary-bolt locking has been completed.

In the case of the older AK-47, the heavy forged receiver alone is sufficient to prevent the bolt's unlocking when the carrier hits the receiver stop. The danger of the weapon's firing out of battery is thus eliminated. It is also during this last forward movement of the bolt carrier that the secondary, or safety, sear is released and control of the hammer's rotation goes back to the primary, or trigger, sear.

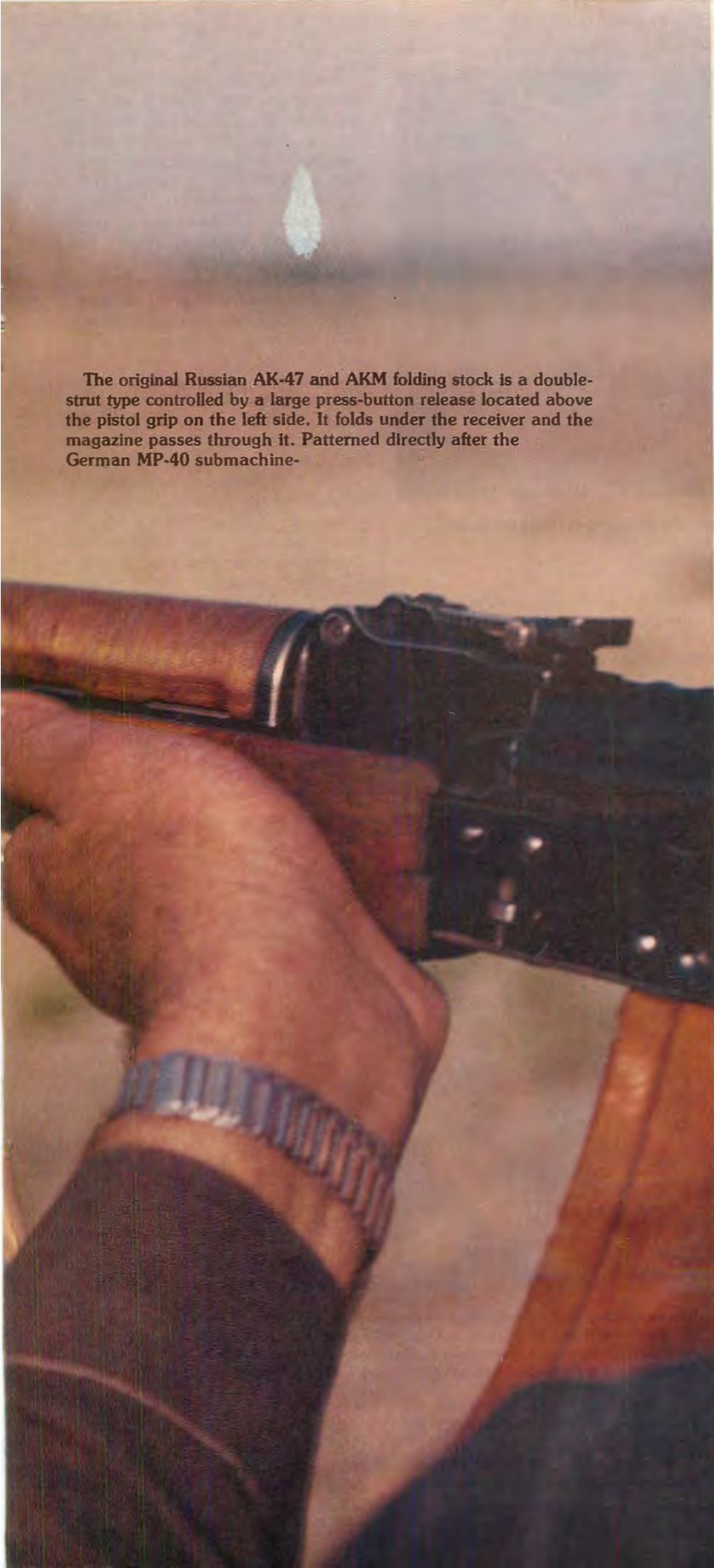
The pinned, sheet-metal receivers of the AKM and AK-74 are much lighter than that of the AK-47. They undoubtedly induce more severe bounce characteristics on the bolt carrier. This brings us to the so-called "rate reducer" found on the AKM and AK-74. Western small-arms technologists unanimously observe there is little difference in cyclic rate between the AK-74 and the AKM. Why then add a complex five-component device to the weapon? Because, it is actually not a "rate reducer," but a final fail-safe, delaying hammer drop until the complete cessation of all bolt-carrier bounce.

It's a shame but Ivan just won't tell us a damn thing about his weapons systems. We always have to figure them out for ourselves.

In typical Kalashnikov fashion the AK-74 hammer and trigger spring is made of three-strand cable, patterned after the Germans' multiple-strand cables in the recoil spring of the MG-42. It is a common misconception that this was done so that if one strand broke the weapon could continue to function. In truth, it is simply less expensive to manufacture springs in this manner. The AK-74 trigger and firing mechanisms are borrowed from the U.S. M1 Garand rifle.

The selector lever on the AK-74 also remains the same. It is a stamped, sheet-metal bar on the right side of the receiver which is manipulated by the thumb. Noisy, stiff and difficult to operate with gloves, it remains a decided defect in the Kalashnikov design. The top position is safe, locking the trigger so the bolt cannot be retracted. The center position, marked "AB," is for full-auto as the spring-loaded safety sear is depressed and deactivated entirely from control on the hammer. The lower position, marked "OA," is for semiautomatic fire and places no pressure on the safety sear, which is free to catch the hammer. In the "OA" position, when the trigger is released, control of the hammer is restored to the primary sear and pulling the trigger will fire another round.





The original Russian AK-47 and AKM folding stock is a double-strut type controlled by a large press-button release located above the pistol grip on the left side. It folds under the receiver and the magazine passes through it. Patterned directly after the German MP-40 submachine-

gun stock, it is adequate for firing pistol-caliber ammunition, but makes a flimsy firing platform for larger-caliber weapons. The new AKS-74 folding stock is a serious attempt to correct this deficiency, rather than a consequence of the older stock's inability to clear the new magazine (as others have stated); the AK-74 30-round magazine is slightly shorter than the 30-round AK-47/AKM magazine.

The AKS-74 folding buttstock is fabricated from stamped sheet-metal struts, bent into a U-shape and assembled by punch fit and welding. It folds to the left, and is held open by a spring-loaded button latch located at the rear of the receiver on the left side. The stock is held closed by a spring-loaded hook on the left-forward end of the receiver. This new stock is robust and rigid — an excellent, much-needed improvement.

The pistol grip, forearm (which has AKM-type finger swells) and buttstock, on the less-common AK-74 version, are the usual laminated wood.

The gas tube on the AK-47, AKM and AK-74 contains longitudinal depressions around the entire circumference to provide a reduced bearing surface for the piston and permit excess gas blow-by. The gas tube on the Finnish M-62 and the Israeli Galil have smooth surfaces, and thus the piston itself is notched to create this effect. The AK-74 gas tube has a spring washer attached to its rear end that is not found on other Kalashnikovs. Designed to retain the gas tube more securely, it requires a sharp slap when reassembling.

The AK-74 rear sight is a tangent type with an open U-shaped notch. It is adjustable for elevation only out to 1,000 meters — a complete fantasy since this is well beyond the accuracy potential of both weapon and operator. The front sight is a threaded post type, adjustable for elevation zero with the standard Kalashnikov combination tool. Windage adjustment can be done only by sliding the front sight in its dovetail.

The AK-74 is finished in a high-gloss black enamel. The issue web sling is of the spring-hook variety common to Soviet small arms.

Does the AK-74 have a bayonet? I don't know; I never saw one and neither had any of the mujahideen I queried. The AK-74 muzzle device would certainly prevent use of the AKM bayonet, yet the weapon has a bayonet stud below and to the rear of the front sight.

The specimen I fired was manufactured in 1976 (serial number 597780). Seven years after the manufacture of almost 600,000 units,



Chinese play catch-up. New PRC assault rifle is cheaper, simpler copy of Russian AKM.

PRC'S NEW ASSAULT RIFLE by Peter G. Kokalis

A new variant of the Kalashnikov assault rifle has surfaced in Afghanistan. Supplied to the mujahideen by the People's Republic of China, this AKM-type spin-off differs considerably from its Type 56-1 predecessor. The

Type 56-1 was essentially a folding-stock version of the AK-47. Its forged receiver was manufactured by conventional milling operations. It is distinguished from its Russian counterpart by the selector markings ("L" for full-auto and "D" for semiautomatic) and the conspicuous extra rivets on the buttstock struts.

The new Chinese assault rifle has the stamped sheet-metal receiver of the AKM. It can be instantly identified by the prominent magazine-guide dimples on each side of the receiver, located directly over the magazine. There is no bayonet lug. The barrel has a plain end. There is no muzzle compensator (AKM) or muzzle nut (AK-47). The selector markings remain as before, "L" and "D." The extra rivets are gone from the buttstock struts. The receiver cover does not have the transverse ribs found on the Russian AKM.

Missing also is the so-called "rate reducer" of the Russian AKM/AK-74 series. The Chinese must feel this hammer-delaying fail-safe is not necessary.

The most distinctive external feature of the Chinese AKM is its furniture. The upper and lower handguards are composed of a bright reddish-brown fiber-reinforced phenolic plastic. There are no finger swells on the lower handguard. The pistol grip is likewise fabricated from the same material. Its unique shape somewhat resembles the pistol grip found on the Colt Browning 1917A1 and 1919A4/A6 light machine guns, which were in turn patterned after the famous Colt Single Action Army revolver.

Very interesting. ☒

DARRA ADAM KHEL: EVERYTHING IN WEAPONRY, AND THEN SOME by Peter G. Kokalis

So you have always wanted a bolt-action carbine in caliber 7.62x39mm ComBloc that used Kalashnikov 30-round magazines? Furthermore, you wanted it to be fitted with the most exotic looking — but probably useless — muzzle compensator that anyone has ever seen?

As SOF's Foreign Correspondent Mekong Jim Coyne and I found out, all that and much more is available from the gun dealers of Darra Adam Khel in Pakistan. Using foot-pedal lathes, primitive forging methods and lots of files, Darra's gunsmiths can make or duplicate almost anything that does not involve stamped sheet-metal processes.

The rifles made in Darra are mostly bolt-action. Exhibiting many years of British influence, Enfields and their local hybrids predominate. Strange Mauser/Enfield combinations are also common. Darra-made submachine guns are always variants of the Sten, usually Mk Vs with the vertical fore



Gunsmithing limited only by imagination: SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown holds shop-made custom rifle that exactly copies "Iranian" Mausers, except for short barrel, flash suppressor, 7.62mm NATO chamber, FN 20-round box magazine, and M14A1-style pistol-grip.

grip. In pistols, the Webley prevails, as do small pocket autos that are Spanish Star spin-offs.

Modern assault rifles, which depend so much on spot-welded, die-stamped

sheet metal are either smuggled in from other areas (such as Pakistan-produced G3s) or more often, in the case of Kalashnikovs, taken off very dead Ivans. ☒

Mohammad Kareem was never able to achieve anything shorter than a three-round burst. Too many years with an Enfield, I guess.

it seems certain we would have heard of a bayonet had one ever been fielded.

The AK-74's most interesting feature is certainly the 5.45x39mm cartridge for which it is chambered. First reports hinted at a ballistic breakthrough and rumors were widely circulated that the muzzle velocity exceeded 4,000 fps. Stories of massive tissue damage filtered out of Afghanistan. The first large quantities of this ammunition were provided by SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown, and turned over to the U.S. Army and the National Rifle Association for testing (see "Assignment Afghanistan," SOF, September '80 and "Aberdeen Ranges in on Russia's New Round," SOF, March '81). Test results indicate there is nothing particularly astounding about the 5.45x39mm round.

The brown-lacquered steel case is Berdan-primed. Its 39.37mm length makes it slightly longer than the 7.62x39mm ComBloc case which measures 38.60mm. The primer has a copper cup and is sealed with a heavy red lacquer.

The propellant charge is an unremarkable ball powder — almost primitive by U.S. standards — and similar in burning characteristics to the WC 844 powder used in our 5.56mm NATO military ball ammunition. The average charge weight is 23.0 grains, but plus or minus 1.5 grains.

The 56-grain boattail projectile has a gilding-metal-clad steel jacket. The unhardened steel core is covered by a thin lead coating which does not fill the entire point end, leaving a hollow cavity inside the nose — the cause of most of the speculation concerning its wounding potential. Others have commented that the bullet design is complex and expensive to fabricate, but in reality it is not as difficult to produce as our WWII M2 armor-piercing bullet.

The 50-grain tracer projectile has a shorter ogival profile and is green-tipped — although the igniter mix appears to be red. The amount of igniter material is only slightly less than our new L110 tracer projectile (which has a 900-meter burn) and so a burn of up to 800 meters can be expected.

The ballistic performance of the 5.45x39mm cartridge is no better than the .222 Remington. The muzzle velocity is only 2,950 fps, compared to 3,270 fps for the U.S. M193 ball ammunition. Steel-plate penetration

is inferior to the M193 projectile and not even in the same ballpark with our new SS109 bullet, which will penetrate the U.S. steel helmet at 1,300 meters. Tests indicate that on soft targets, even with its hollow cavity, the 5.45x39mm round has no greater wounding capacity than the M193 bullet.

The 5.45mm bullet, largely because of its greater length, has outstanding aerodynamic characteristics and exhibits far less drag than the M193 projectile. The Soviet bullet's overall length of .990 inch requires an extremely fast twist for adequate stabilization. The four-groove AK-74 barrel has a right-hand twist of 1:5.8 inches. This is really fast (compared with the M193 bullet which needs only 1:12 inches and the SS109 which will require a twist of 1:7 inches). So fast, in fact that the barrel lands on the leading edge are beveled to minimize distortion of the bullet's steel jacket.

In conclusion, there is nothing spectacular about the 5.45x39mm cartridge. It barely approaches the performance level of our Vietnam-era M193 ammunition. It is an entire generation behind our new SS109 ball ammunition.

The most immediately distinctive feature of the AK-74 is its muzzle device. The brake is threaded onto the barrel's muzzle and held in place by a spring-loaded button. It is easily removed. The major portion of the brake consists of a large, two-inch-long expansion chamber. Three vent holes have been drilled into the rear end of the chamber, one to the right and two toward the top. This positioning of the holes prevents muzzle climb upward and to the right when fired by a right-handed shooter, and deflects gases sideways, preventing backblast from reaching the firer. Two large vertical cuts have been made at the forward end of the brake on each side, and are offset toward upper dead center to further drive the muzzle downward. Finally, a flat plate (open in the center for passage of the projectile) deflects the gases and produces a forward thrust.

The shooter's most lasting impression of the AK-74 is the

remarkable effectiveness of its muzzle brake. Felt recoil is almost nonexistent. During full-auto bursts my line of sight never moved from the target. In the kneeling position, using a hasty sling, two-round full-auto bursts were consistently held to only six-to eight-inch groups on 200-meter targets. This is no worse than the accuracy potential of the rifle and ammunition, which after several hundred rounds I judged to be no better than about six true minutes of angle (MOA). The Soviets consider this combat-acceptable since they do not build small-arms systems with the Camp Perry matches in mind.

The stability of the AK-74 muzzle brake for the shooter is somewhat counterbalanced by its effect on those poor souls located on his immediate flanks: The side blast is simply horrendous, as I learned when I photographed Mohammad Kareem, the mujahideen camp commander (a former brigadier in the Afghan Army) during our firing sequences. As they say, everything involves some trade-offs.

The AK-74's trigger pull is typical Kalashnikov. It's not two-stage, just one long scratchy creep with a sudden let-off at the end. It takes some getting used to. Mohammad Kareem was never able to achieve anything shorter than a three-round burst. Too many years with an Enfield, I guess.

As expected, the AKS-74 operated without malfunctions of any kind. However, I noted that the lack of a hold-open was often disconcerting even to the mujahideen. Balance characteristics of the AKS-74 are superb, even when the 40-round RPK-74 magazine was inserted. Cyclic rate of the AKS-74 appeared to be in the area of 600 to 650 rpm.

The AK-74, and more commonly the AKS-74, are now ubiquitous among Soviet troops throughout Afghanistan. The mujahideen are impressed with it and it sells for more than \$4,500 in the gun shops of Darra Adam Khel. It is extremely robust and reliable, following in the Kalashnikov tradition. With the exception of its muzzle brake, there is nothing revolutionary about the AK-74 series. It is a most logical and natural evolution of the Kalashnikov system.

The AK-74 carries the Soviets into the current mainstream of military small-arms technology. The overwhelming adoption by NATO and ComBloc armies of the 5.56mm and 5.45mm cartridges, respectively, is correct, as I've said before (See "A Defense of the 5.56mm," SOF, July, '82, p. 40). It will continue, despite the anachronistic carping of those on the sidelines. ☒

BRING BACK THE LRRP

Men Not Machines Make The Difference

by Lt. Col. Henry G. Gole

STUDY of the U.S. Army force structure reveals a glaring gap. The combat intelligence and target acquisition capability inherent in long-range reconnaissance patrols (LRRPs) has been almost totally erased since our Vietnam experience. Despite well-researched recommendations that the gap be filled, especially in the U.S. Army in Europe, no action has been taken to provide combat commanders with the very best eyes and ears available to them — those of the LRRP. The continuing lack of an essential capability is a serious deficiency for which we will pay in blood, particularly during the earliest phases of future combat in Europe. This defect demands attention.

One of the most pressing concerns of a corps or division commander engaged in combat is knowledge of the enemy in front of him or on his flanks and how that enemy can affect his mission. We have deprived him of one of the best sources of that knowledge by not providing him with LRRPs. Our aversion to LRRPs stems largely from two U.S. military biases: overreliance upon gadgetry and dislike of elite units.

Fascination with gadgets is deeply imbedded in American culture and has served us well in commerce, industry and in the wars we have fought. From Benjamin Franklin through Samuel F. B. Morse, Thomas A. Edison and Robert S. McNamara, we have been pragmatic fixers of problems, a people subconsciously convinced that the answer to most human problems can be found in a laboratory, system or gadget.

Until the war in Vietnam, the gadgets produced by American imagination and industry were fitted into military organizations in some sensible proportion, mixing men and the products of our highly developed technology. In Vietnam, probably out of frustration due to the inability of the nation which placed the first man on the moon to defeat an elusive enemy running around

the jungle at night, all sense of proportion was lost. A fence was built between the North and the South; people-sniffers, defoliants, seismic and acoustical devices, radars and sundry black boxes were tried: And more bombs were dropped in Vietnam than on Adolf Hitler's Germany. The gadgets did everything but produce victory.

Recently, *The New York Times* reported on the progress of the U.S. 9th Division. This so-called high-technology division is engaged in a number of innovative trials to produce a force light enough for rapid strategic deployment and potent enough to sustain itself on a modern battlefield. The report underlines the point of this plea by failing to mention LRRPs and the human dimension of combat intelligence and target acquisition:

"A battalion specializing in collecting electronic intelligence, jamming enemy communications and radar, and gathering information by ground radar has already begun to run tests. Some of its new equipment was bought off the shelf from a commercial radio supply store."

In addition to demonstrating that the Army development system is not responsive to small-quantity specialized equipment needs, the cited passage ascribes a kind of magic capability to the latest in scientific devices, an expression more of a wish than a description of operational reliability. Even the hardware a generation removed from Vietnam-era acoustical and visual equipment breaks down and requires maintenance. Operators still become numb staring at screens and concentrating on sounds. Human beings make mistakes, and machines fail to function just when one has been conditioned to rely upon them. Elephants are confused with tanks and

Members of Co. I (Ranger), 75th Infantry in A Shau Valley, Sept. 1970. Troops carry XM177 short assault rifles.

Photo: Edward Rasen





monkeys with men, while humidity or freezing temperatures play tricks on machines and operators.

Certainly, the latest technology must be exploited and employed to do things men cannot do as well as machines and to supplement human capabilities wherever possible. The error we are inclined to make is to rely too heavily upon hardware when experience dictates that a mix of reconnaissance men and machines is the best means for gathering and reporting combat intelligence. The U.S. Army seems prepared to continue to exaggerate the capability of sensitive machines and to denigrate or ignore the reliability of the best gatherer and reporter — man with a good radio transmitter. We are in danger of failing to make the critical distinction between equipping men and manning equipment.

For reasons not entirely clear (perhaps it is only to be expected of the developers of the assembly line and interchangeable parts), the U.S. Army has historically viewed elite troops with suspicion. Even when tolerated and given a place in our force structure, elite units were often misused. Ranger units covered themselves with glory in World War II— but they were often misdeployed in Korea as ordinary line companies.

Special Forces units were severely reduced in number in the post-Vietnam years after establishing an admirable combat record doing the hazardous and dirty little jobs in Vietnam. They did jobs quite removed from their primary mission of training, motivating, equipping and leading dissident elements deep inside denied areas. The fact that some of the assigned dirty little jobs were not necessary contributed to the suspicion that Special Forces units in Vietnam were running their own shadow war. This allegation alienated conventional officers who were dubious, in any event, about organizations outside of the divisional structure.

Thus, the demise of *reconnaissance* units after the Vietnam experience was probably more than a case of throwing the baby out with the bath water. It was part of the attempt to purge the Army of all taints associated with that war. The self-confidence, aggressiveness and competence of elite troops — Rangers, Special Forces and reconnaissance men — rankled conventional officers. Our Army wants tigers in combat but prefers docile pussycats in time of peace. The Modern Volunteer Army prefers the American corporation to the Foreign Legion as its model. Targets will be “served,” not destroyed. Men will be “managed,” not led. Elite units will be disbanded after our wars and resurrected as shots are fired in anger again.

Army leadership understandably devotes most of its attention to divisions,

brigades and battalions, but it erroneously neglects the less frequently used, but essential, precision instruments in the tool box. We had great difficulty in deciding to leave that international badge of the paratrooper, the red beret, where it belongs — on the trooper's head. We lament the absence of *esprit* among our troops while disbanding organizations which demonstrate high morale or stripping them of its outward signs. In the contest between standardization and excellence, standardization wins every time.

Uniqueness seems to violate something in the soul of U.S. Army leadership, a problem understood by Gen. Edward C. Meyer as he considers establishing something like the British regimental system in the U.S. Army. One hopes that what he accomplishes will not be reversed by his successor to be born again under his successor's successor.

It did not take division commanders in Vietnam long to recognize that LRRPs would be required to find the enemy if the division was to fix and fight him. Lacking an LRRP capability, commanders determined to remedy that deficiency from within their own resources. Some Special Forces soldiers were diverted to divisions to organize and lead LRRP units. Project Delta, a 5th Special Forces Group element which conducted in-country reconnaissance missions, was tasked to train the divisional reconnaissance teams (see "Death-Dealing Project Delta," *SOF*, July-September '81).

Elite Troops: Precision Instruments In The Army's Military Toolbox

Beginning in 1966, a steady stream of reconnaissance trainees passed through Nha Trang to acquire those soldier skills necessary for the demands of the reconnaissance mission, a mission requiring special techniques beyond those normally found in U.S. rifle companies. The divisional soldiers brought a willingness and sense of adventure to Nha Trang and acquired there the techniques developed by Project Delta from experience on the ground.

To suggest that a rifle squad — even the best rifle squad in a company — possesses the resourcefulness required for the exacting and hazardous reconnaissance mission is to fail to understand the demands of such work. This was clearly recognized by division com-

LRRP DEFENDER

Lt. Col. Henry G. Gole originally prepared this article as an occasional paper at the Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. *SOF* reprints it with permission from the October 1981 issue of *Military Review*.

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manders who demanded reconnaissance elements of their own. Also, it was understood by Gen. William C. Westmoreland who formalized ad hoc arrangements between the divisions and 5th Special Forces Group by creating the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Recondo School at the Project Delta compound in Nha Trang.

Later in the war, the 75th Rangers would make their contribution to the reconnaissance mission in Vietnam for the divisions and separate brigades. The point is that, in war, we needed LRRPs and created them; they were promptly disbanded in peace.

The problem for the U.S. Air Force and Army field artillery is less one of killing targets than acquiring them. An Air Force colleague reports that, in flying an A10 on a clear day over a range in the American South, he had difficulty in spotting tanks known to be at a given location. He never did see them. It is unlikely that he will be more successful against an enemy adept at concealment in a European environment characterized by frequent and protracted periods of limited visibility.

The same problems will become obvious as artillery reaches out to the 35-kilometer range planned for our new indirect fire weapons. Firepower is impotent if the target is not located. Soviet movement at night and under the concealment provided by foul weather will compound the problem of finding the target. Observed fire controlled by a human being continues to be the preferred method.

Lack of combat intelligence and the absence of an LRRP capability in our divisions and corps in Europe will require our commanders to improvise

again — next time. Gadgetry in Europe will suffer a high failure rate due to cloud cover and limited visibility. Also, the Soviets will play their strong cards by jamming our electronics, deceiving us with phony emissions and exercising great communications discipline.

There will be a paucity of reliable combat intelligence, particularly in the critical first hours and days of combat when fast-moving, numerous Soviet forces will confuse our efforts to find them so that they can be fixed and fought. They will move during periods of limited visibility and make good use of camouflage. An outmanned and outgunned U.S. Army could be outmaneuvered as well. We cannot afford to be blind and outflanked. Without reliable information about enemy activity, we are in danger of making our already tenuous position worse. Furthermore, it is unlikely that commanders will be given the time to organize, train and deploy reconnaissance teams in the early stages of the next war.

Those who would invest hope in Special Forces or Ranger units to perform the LRRP mission are doomed to disappointment. Special Forces elements are trained for and will be deployed in a strategic mission of little immediate interest to corps and division commanders whose tactical concerns will be with an enemy in their immediate neighborhood. Active Army Ranger units, however well-qualified to do the LRRP job, train for other missions and will be neither available nor familiar with the terrain on which they might be expected to operate. Our excellent Army National Guard Ranger units, the only true LRRP capability we currently enjoy, are unfamiliar with the headquarters with which they will be required to operate — if room on aircraft is found to get them to Europe in the critical early days of war in Europe.

Without LRRPs, Army Will Be Blind And Outflanked In Europe

In brief, commanders in Europe need LRRPs in the force structure now, in time of peace, so that they will be immediately available in the confused initial phases of combat and as the battle develops. They should be assigned to Europe so that commanders and staffs might learn how to use them on terrain and in an environment with which both parent units and LRRPs should be

familiar. The excellent Special Forces soldiers and Rangers are precisely the kind of men who could do the LRRP job, but they are not, in fact, preparing for that highly specialized role because of other operational requirements.

Our allies in Europe are fully aware of the need for LRRPs. The *Bundeswehr* assigns an airborne-qualified LRRP company to each of the three German corps deployed. They practice their skills in the area of anticipated combat, conduct excellent training and enjoy a degree of stability and team integrity almost unknown in the U.S. Army. Belgian LRRPs consist of small cells of highly skilled soldiers who remain in four-man teams for years. They, too, are airborne-qualified and cross-trained in medical, weapons, intelligence and communications skills for combat in a specific corps area in Europe.

The British Special Air Service troops are among the best in the world and prepare for the LRRP mission as do the French and our other European allies. (See "The Empire Strikes Back," "Who Dares Wins" and "SAS Today," *SOF* December '82.) The Europeans invest quality personnel and priority training in their reconnaissance teams, a practice which should be emulated by the U.S. Army. Total reliance upon gadgets is unsatisfactory to the Europeans and should be to us. Smaller European armies manage to find the resources to do the reconnaissance job and to do it well.

The Soviet Union also believes that LRRP teams are necessary. The reconnaissance battalion of the motorized rifle division and tank division includes a long-range reconnaissance company designed to operate 100 kilometers behind the enemy forward edge of the battle area (FEBA). The Soviets also have an LRRP capability at army level, consisting of teams planned for use 350 kilometers from the FEBA. Team members are carefully selected and are subjected to rigorous physical and psychological training. Their main targets are our nuclear delivery means, command and control facilities, radar locations, troop locations and movements. They probably report on a planned schedule, except in an emergency, using short-burst transmissions to minimize detection.

Even among professional soldiers, there seems to be some blurring of missions and roles as LRRP, Ranger and Special Forces operations are considered. At the risk of oversimplifying what it is these units do, when thinking

Continued on page 83

Bill Wilkinson — Co. E, 20th Inf. (LRP) near Kontum with ARVN 22d Infantry Division in 1967 — wears ARVN Airborne cammies, carries XM177 (CAR 15). Photo: Bill Wilkinson Collection



CREATING PROVISIONAL LRRPS

It's Possible But Difficult In Today's Army

Text & Photos

by Capt. Dan Stolenberg

CURRENTLY the standard LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) unit for the U.S. Army is the Airborne Infantry Ranger Company (see Tables of Organization and Equipment [TO&E] 7-157). When authorized it is usually found at corps or army level. As Lt. Col. Gole points out in the article that begins on p. 54, there now are no LRRP units in our active-force structure and only two in our reserve components. In addition to the LRRP units prescribed by TO&E, a non-standard or provisional LRRP unit is also doctrinally possible (see FM 31-18), although to my knowledge none now exist.

The TO&E-prescribed Airborne Infantry Ranger Company (LRRP) is organized and equipped solely for long-range reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. However, the decision to utilize the LRRP rests with the CO (Commanding Officer). Its combat capability comes only from individual weapons; the unit is not trained for or expected to perform direct combat missions. It is the ground commander's all-weather, 24-hour, on-call, human (as opposed to the "gadgets" described by Lt. Col. Gole) intelligence-gathering source and it has little in common with a line Ranger Company as found in the two Ranger Battalions of the 75th Infantry. (See "Rough and Ready Army Rangers," SOF, April '82.)

The Airborne Infantry Ranger Company (LRRP) is organized and equipped quite differently than its Ranger Battalion "cousin" with which it is often confused. It has more in common with a USMC Force Recon company and — in command/control and communications — with the Ranger Battalion's headquarters company. Its capabilities include self-planning as well as command and control of its committed patrols to include coordination for insertion and extraction and, if necessary, resupply. It maintains continuous long-range com-

munications with its patrol elements and follows up with post-operations debriefings and after-action reports. It also maintains its own order of battle and area study files to help premission patrol planning. Typical company-level administrative, supply, transportation, maintenance and food service functions are also provided for.

Comparison of TO&Es of the LRRP company with the more traditionally organized and equipped Ranger company, specifically designed for direct combat missions, shows why a Ranger Company of the Ranger Battalion cannot be expected to perform the LRRP Company mission and makes it obvious why the LRRP unit cannot perform the mission of a Ranger Company or any traditional infantry company, whether Airborne, Airmobile or Mechanized.

When one compares the two TO&Es, several major differences show up. In the LRRP Company headquarters section, the inclusion of a defined operations section (whose tactical intelligence capability is comparable to a combat arms battalion) and a communications platoon show that this company's role is unlike that of the traditional Ranger Company. Comparison of the "line" platoons of both units shows this difference in roles even more clearly. One should not generalize when speaking of Ranger companies: They are as different as apples and oranges.

The three patrol platoons consist of a conventionally configured platoon headquarters (platoon leader, platoon sergeant and RTO [radio-telephone operator]) and eight patrols or teams. Each patrol consists of a patrol leader (PL), an assistant patrol leader (APL), a scout-observer, a senior RTO and a secondary RTO. These five men make up

SOF leads the way: Associate Editor Bill Brooks goes over the wall during recondo training at Ft. Bragg.





ABOUT CAPT STOLENBERG

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the typical long-range recon patrol. Equipment includes, in addition to individual weapons and gear, three portable radio sets, communications security equipment, binoculars, various night-vision devices, camera, and chemical and radiological detection equipment.

Once inserted into the AO (area of operations), the patrol establishes a patrol base and an observation post (OP) near the objective or target. Primary considerations in base selection include proximity to the objective, security and potential for proper siting of radio antennas. The OP is established so as to give excellent visual observation of the objective while providing adequate cover.

It is from this OP that the actual reconnaissance or surveillance takes place. Normally two men occupy the OP; the other three remain in the patrol base. The two can be rotated, when security permits, to maintain equipment, mess, rest and engage in other patrol-base activities. Patrol-base personnel provide some security for those in the OP; therefore, the patrol base should — if possible — be sited to allow overwatch of the OP.

Although a LRRP patrol can also conduct limited area reconnaissance, it greatly increases the chance of detection. Once in place every precaution must be taken to prevent mission compromise. Unlike local patrols from the company and battalion level (which usually “hump” to and from their objective), LRRPs are usually beyond the range of friendly artillery fires and tactical air support. For this reason LRRPs should avoid movement once they have established themselves in their AO.

Since the TO&E LRRP Company is found at corps level or higher, units below this level — typically the division and separate brigade — which need the LRRP capability are caught without it. A corps commander can detach one or more of his LRRP platoons down to subordinate commands, usually on a temporary or single-mission basis.

Additionally, since the corps commander's area of interest is much broader and deeper than that of his subordinate commanders, a coverage “gap” usually exists. This gap lies between what can be provided by the corps commander's assets and by the line units

subordinate to the division and brigade in the conduct of their normal reconnaissance patrolling activities.

As long as the division and separate brigade can task subordinate units to provide LRRP capability or can accept actual LRRP support or intelligence produced by LRRP operations in an area of mutual interest from corps level, they have no problems.

The chance of subordinate units providing a properly trained LRRP capability to a division or separate brigade commander is remote, at best — it's not their job. The chance of higher HQ providing a division or brigade commander's long-range intelligence requirements is just as remote. If a corps or higher level doesn't have a LRRP capability, then it's every commander for himself.

By his particular TO&E, each commander is authorized a certain "mix" of personnel — in various specialties and grades — and equipment which, when combined in various configurations, is expected to perform a certain task, or tasks, as required by the particular mission of that unit. Commanders often find that their particular TO&E (which always looks good in a line-and-block diagram) is not the best solution to their immediate needs and undertake to "retailor" their available assets in order to accomplish their mission. This is their prerogative as commanders, but if this "retailoring" fails to accomplish the mission, or if an unexpected setback occurs, then they too will become subject to "retailoring."

The ability to tailor assets to fit mission requirements creates the Provisional Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company. The commander, by tasking his subordinate commands for men and equipment, can design and equip his own provisional LRRP company. Provisional LRRPs will vary in size, organization, equipment and employment, because of different missions, enemies, terrain, availability of men and equipment, and the effect of the loss of personnel on the units that have provided them in relation to their carrying out their own missions. The organization of any provisional unit is a double-edged sword — what you create at one level you lose at another.

The training for LRRPs, TO&E or provisional, is essentially the same. Since provisional LRRPs will not usually operate at the extreme ranges of a corps or higher LRRP unit, sophisticated communications training is not normally required. Ranger qualification is highly desirable and required by TO&E 7-157 for PLs and APLs as well as other cadre positions within the LRRP company. Ranger School quotas are available to most commanders. Pathfinder training is also desirable, as well as HALO,



M16s at ready, students gather around instructor at 18th Airborne Corps Recondo School, Ft. Bragg, N.C., May 1980.



National Guard students worm through Ft. Bragg barbwire-festooned mudbath in Recondo training.

Scuba, Language, Intelligence Communications and CBR (Chemical, Biological, Radiological Warfare).

For any personnel other than cadre — and for cadre when Ranger or other

specialized training is not available — Army Recondo training provides initial patrolling instruction. LRRP training is an ongoing process that reaches its peak through the continuous training of patrols as integral units. The Army Recondo training program is detailed in Training Circular 21-1. A recondo training program can be established by the separate brigade commander, or by a higher command, to train LRRP assets or individual troops who return to the line companies as cadre.

Only two LRRP companies are authorized in the force structure and they are

VIETNAM LRRPS POST '69

| COMPANY | ASSET SOURCE | STRENGTH | SERVICE | COMMAND |
|------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------|---|
| Co. C, 75th Inf. | Co. E, 20th Inf. (LRP) | 230 | 1 Feb. '69- 25 Oct. '71 | I Field Force- Vietnam |
| Co. D, 75th Inf. | Co. D, 151st Inf. (LRP) From Co. F, 51st Inf. | 198 | 20 Nov. '69- 10 Apr. '70 | II Field Force- Vietnam |
| Co. E, 75th Inf. | Co. E, 50th Inf. (LRP) | 118 | 1 Feb. '69- 23 Aug. '69 | 9th Infantry Division |
| Co. E, 75th Inf. | Second Tour | 61 | 1 Oct. '69- 12 Oct. '70 | 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Div. |
| Co. F, 75th Inf. | Co. F, 50th Inf. (LRP) | 118 | 1 Feb. '69- 15 Mar. '71 | 25th Infantry Div. |
| Co. G, 75th Inf. | Co. E, 51st Inf. (LRP) | 118 | 1 Feb. '69- 1 Oct. '71 | 23rd Infantry Div. (Airmobile) |
| Co. H, 75th Inf. | Co. E, 52nd Inf. (LRP) | 198 | 1 Feb. '69- 15 Aug. '72 | 1st Cavalry Div. (Airmobile) |
| Co. I, 75th Inf. | Co. F, 52nd Inf. (LRP) | 118 | 1 Feb. '69- 7 April '70 | 1st Infantry Div. |
| Co. K, 75th Inf. | Co. E, 58th Inf. (LRP) | 118 | 1 Feb. '69- 10 Dec. '70 | 4th Infantry Div. |
| Co. L, 75th Inf. | Co. F, 58th Inf. (LRP) | 118 | 1 Feb. '69- 26 Dec. '71 | 101st Airborne Div. (Airmobile) |
| Co. M, 75th Inf. | 71st Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 61 | 1 Feb. '69- 12 Oct. '70 | 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) |
| Co. N, 75th Inf. | 74th Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 61 | 1 Feb. '69- 25 Aug. '71 | 173rd Airborne Brigade |
| Co. O, 75th Inf. | 78th Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 61 | 1 Feb. '69- 20 Nov. '69 | 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division. |
| Co. P, 75th Inf. | 79th Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 61 | 1 Feb. '69- 31 Aug. '71 | 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech.) |

both in the Reserve components. Co. F (Ranger), 425th Infantry, is part of the Michigan Army National Guard and Co. G (Ranger), 143rd Infantry, is in the Texas Army National Guard. From time to time, however, other LRRP units have been assigned to the National Guard units in other states.

LRRP COMMO

by Capt. Dan Stolenberg

Due to the nature of the LRRP mission, communications become extremely sophisticated. Because of distances, special communications equipment and techniques must be employed. The patrol's primary means of communication is the AN/PRC 74, a single sideband (SSB) AM radio with extended range capability (range will vary due to different antennas, atmospheric conditions, etc.). The pair of AN/PRC 77s (an FM set with a very moderate range) are used for communications between the OP (observation post) and patrol base; the SSB radio, located in the patrol base, relays information to base radio stations located behind the FEBA (Forward Edge of the Battle Area). By properly siting the SSB antenna for directional transmission and using tactical brevity codes to reduce on-air time, patrols reduce exposure to OPFOR (opposing forces') radio directional scanners, thereby greatly increasing the chances for mission success.

An emergency FM communications link can be provided to the patrol via an aerial relay platform operating in the vicinity of the FEBA. This communications system will be limited in Europe or the Middle East because of the anti-aircraft capability in the forward elements of Soviet or Soviet-trained and equipped forces. The FM radios can also be used for communications with other LRRP patrols operating within the AO.

For communications with its operational patrols, the LRRP Company communications platoon is broken down into three base radio stations, each identical in capability, which are located in depth behind the FEBA. One base radio station is co-located with the LRRP CP, which typically is located near the intelligence section (G2) of its supported headquarters. The multiple-base radio-station concept ensures maintenance of continuous contact with the committed patrols to prevent interruption with an individual station due to atmospheric conditions, frequency prediction or "skip" (the masking of radio signals by terrain features).



Students at 18th Airborne Corps Recondo School are critiqued by 82d Airborne Div. instructor, May, 1979.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Co. F, 52nd Inf. (LRP) | 1st Inf. Div. |
| Co. E, 58th Inf. (LRP) | 4th Inf. Div. |
| 70th Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 11th Inf. Brigade (Light) |
| 71st Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 199th Inf. Brigade (Light) |
| 74th Inf. Detachment (LRP) | 173rd Abn. Brigade |

The most noteworthy among these was Co. D (Long-Range Patrol), 151st Infantry, 38th Infantry Division, Indiana Army National Guard, which served with distinction with 2nd Field Force-Vietnam (1969) and became the first National Guard unit since the Korean War to receive the Combat Infantry Company designation.

Sadly, D/151 was deactivated in the late 1970s, apparently due to inability to retain sufficient Ranger and Airborne-qualified personnel. Other states which have tried to maintain LRRP companies have been unable to do so for any appreciable length of time. They include Delaware's Co. A (Ranger), 259th Infantry; Alabama's Co. E (Ranger), 200th Infantry; and Puerto Rico's Co. E (Ranger), 65th Infantry. Texas's acquisition of a LRRP company came about, in part, as a result of Puerto Rico's loss.

Provisional LRRP units began to be formed in Vietnam as early as 1966. These units, which became official in 1967, were formed because division and separate brigade commanders recognized that a requirement existed for a reconnaissance/patrolling capability beyond what was authorized or provided for by their stateside TO&Es. In 1967 these units were officially entitled Long-Range Patrol. They were:

| COMPANY | UNIT |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Co. E, 20th Inf. (LRP) | 1 Field Force (1967) |
| | 4th Inf. Div. (1968) |
| Co. F, 51st Inf. (LRP) | 11 Field Force-Vietnam |
| Co. E, 50th Inf. (LRP) | 9th Inf. Div. |
| Co. F, 50th Inf. (LRP) | 25th Inf. Div. |
| Co. E, 51st Inf. (LRP) | 23rd Inf. Div. (Amercial) |
| Co. E, 52nd Inf. (LRP) | 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile) |

In 1968, Co. F, 58th Infantry (LRP), was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and Co. D, 151st (LRP), replaced Co. F, 51st Infantry, to become the LRP element for II Field Force-Vietnam. In 1968, two other Long-Range Patrol units were formed, entitled Infantry Detachments. The 79th Infantry Detachment (LRP) operated in "Eye" Corps with 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Div. (Mech.), and 78th Infantry Det. (LRP) operated in III Corps with 3rd Brigade/82nd Airborne Div. In January 1969, the 75th Infantry Rgt. was formed under the Combat Arms Regimental System to provide a parent unit for the separate LRRP companies, and the assets of the LRRP companies in Vietnam were transferred to the ranger companies of the 75th Infantry.

The advent of the 75th Infantry Ranger Companies was a logical progression, since the success of the Provisional LRP Companies had proved the need for a highly trained, motivated force possessing LRRP capabilities.

As the war in Vietnam wound down, the LRRP companies were deactivated. As in the past, units born from the necessity of war became the first casualties of the reduction in force. Undoubtedly we will crank them back up once more when we need them again. But why shouldn't we let common sense and experience be our teachers? Before we had enough time to recover from initial mistakes and take corrective action. Do we really believe that we will have such a luxury again? ☒

RIGHT TO THE POINT

SOF Report on S.H.O.T. Show Knives



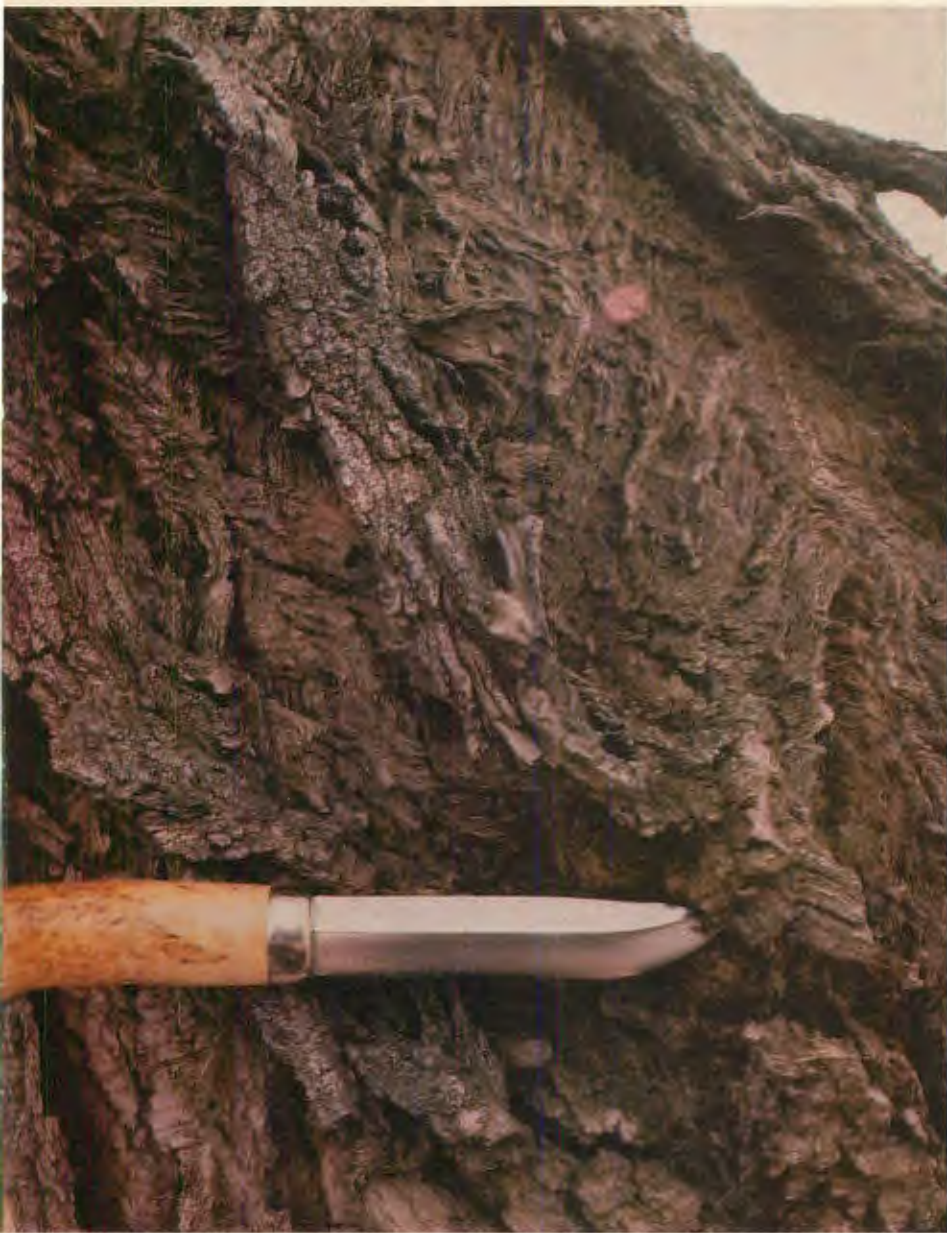
RIGHT: Classic grace of traditional Finnish *puukko* translated into modern stainless alloy by Marttini. Photo: Bill Guthrie

BELOW: Gerber's new line of 441 stainless Frisco Shivs designed by Blackie Collins. Photo: Bill Guthrie



ABOVE: SOFer Ken Hackathorn displays Swedish Safety Knife. Photo: John Metzger





by Bill Guthrie

BELOW: Al Mar's classic folders in camouflage. Photo: John Metzger



ABOVE: Sharpeners were big: Ron Robley shows Gerber compact hone. Photo: John Metzger



LEFT: Tough knife from rough country. B.R. Hughes of Texarkana makes this 12.75-inch combat knife. Photo: B.R. Hughes

DALLAS hosted 1983's Texas-sized Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show. Even though most leisure-time businesses are suffering this year, the manufacturers and jobbers turned out in cheerful herds to show, buy and sell everything anybody could want in the outdoors. Originally barred from the S.H.O.T. Show, some pieces of paramilitary equipment rushed in after the ban was lifted. In future issues SOF will show you what the industry saw at the S.H.O.T. Show in handguns, long guns and the latest in scopes and binoculars. Now we'll show you what's new with some of the world's cutlery.

New dress for old favorites was a dominant theme at S.H.O.T. Show knife exhibits. Gerber presented the trade representatives with a line of glare-suppressed combat knives in a handsome, threatening, black-matte finish. The legendary cutlery from Portland introduced the line with examples of the Mark II, and the Loveless-designed Guardian and Guardian I.

Though not so functional, John Clarke and Son, Ltd., of Sheffield, England, had a few samples of a specially engraved Sykes-Fairbairn dagger made as a commemorative of the Falklands War. Unfortunately, no price has been set, but Clarke is looking for American dealers. Interested parties can reach them at Dept. SOF, 65 Garden Street, Sheffield S1 4BJ, England.

Geier Enterprises, Inc., Dept. SOF, 1607 S. Chicago Ave., Freeport, IL 61032, exhibited one of the most unusual and uncompromisingly useful knives ever marketed: the Swedish Safety Knife. Made of Swedish stainless steel by Hanses, the Safety Knife looks like a gimmick with a ring cast into the plastic handle. As weird as it looks, this knife is all business. The ring holds the user's forefinger while he cuts, and mates with a flexible plastic stud built into the belt-loop on the sheath. Once the knife is fully inserted into the scabbard with the stud engaged in the finger hole, it cannot come out unless it is removed the right way: by inserting the forefinger into the finger-hole as the knife is drawn. Geier suggests a list price of \$24.95, and it's hard to think of more working knife for the money.

Marttiini knives are famous in Europe, and most American outdoorsmen have had one of its filleting knives at one time or another. The fillet knives — like most of Marttiini's line — are distinctive for their deep sheaths, arctic curly-birch handles and decorated stainless-steel blades of graceful profile.

Until now it has been relatively hard to find the many other knives made by this distinguished Finnish cutler, but Marttiini Knives, Dept. SOF, 540 W. Main Street, Anoka, MN 55303, is selling the full line and looking for dealers. Marttiini Knives range from a tiny fishing knife to Lapp "machetes" over

two feet long, engraved with reindeer-herding scenes. These knives are as beautiful as they are practical.

Bench-made knives are becoming common among outdoorsmen, and the big manufacturers have begun to get the idea they're missing part of the market. Buck's response to this is Buck Custom Knives. Headed by Chuck Buck, the youngest Buck in the knife business, the custom shop allows you to order any combination of 38 blade designs in four different steels and 16 handle materials ranging from micarta to mastodon ivory. Further information is available from Buck Custom Knives, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1267, El Cajon, CA 92022.

Kuzan Oda introduced his version of the classic big-game hunter's knife-set. Held in a handsome deep double-sheath, Oda's latest designs are a heavy, slightly dropped-point skinner and a delicate spear-pointed caping blade. Oda can be reached for prices and ordering information at Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 15795, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.

Oda's friend Al Mar was also present with knives and camouflaged snap-clo-

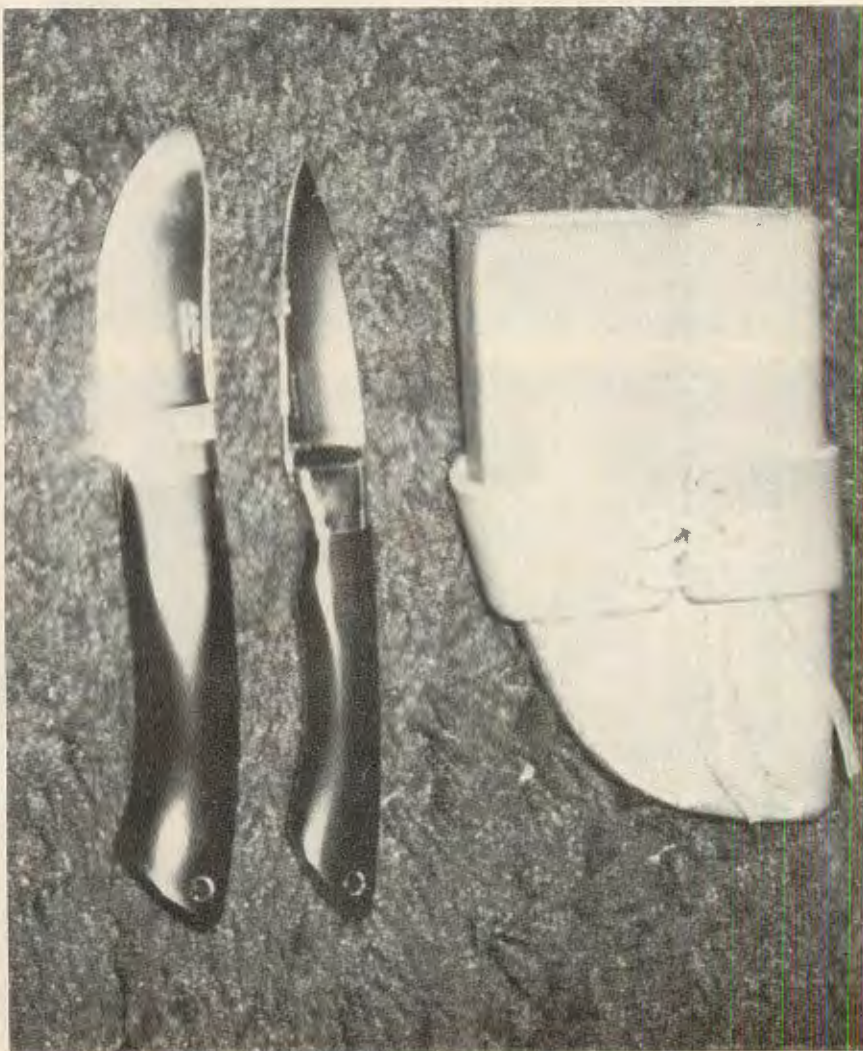
sure belt cases for folders designed for the survivalist and paramilitary market. Though the Hawk, Falcon and Eagle models are not new, they are now available with subdued green micarta scales, from Al Mar, Dept. SOF, 5861 S.W. Benfield Ct., Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

Most modern knives don't need a lot of care, but they do need to be sharpened. The old favorites — including the revolutionary Lansky Sharpening System — were represented, but this year's novelty was a prototype exhibited by Spyderco, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 800, Golden, CO 80401. Sal Glesser safely and quickly breezed through the toughest sharpening jobs with his light, portable Fold-A-V sharpener.

This original honing device is a triangle, hinged at the corners so it folds for convenient storage. Unfolded it forms an inverted triangle with abrasive blocks on the inside of the two lower legs. Development is not yet complete and no price has been mentioned but watch for it later this year.

A number of private custom and bench-made knife-builders appeared at the S.H.O.T. Show, but their work deserves closer attention than can be given here. The most interesting will be covered in later issues of SOF. ☒

Kuzan Oda's big-game knife set. Photo: John Metzger



KOREAN CAPERS

Continued from page 27

ing for Willoughby. In moments of frustration Tofte would say that MacArthur had only three enemies: the Russians, the Chinese and the North Koreans. "I had four," he said. "Those three, plus MacArthur."

Occasionally Washington-dispatched oddballs did come through Tofte's domain. One man, a Cherokee Indian code-named Buffalo, had been asked in Washington, "How would you like to kill [North Korean Premier] Kim Il Sung?" "I'll start today," he supposedly replied, and left for the Far East. Buffalo was so suspicious of the world that he would not go near a conventional CIA office, even a deeply covert one; he insisted on meeting Tofte and other officers "at sunset near the wall of the Imperial Palace." Buffalo had been offered what Tofte called a "grand prize of a considerable amount of money" if his assassination mission succeeded. It obviously did not, and exactly what Buffalo did after leaving Tokyo was never known to the CIA.

In the area of psychological war Tofte managed not only to tarnish the Soviet Union's reputation in Japan but also to earn a \$104,000 profit for CIA in the process. Soviet policy at the time was to encourage leftist groups in Japan to resist MacArthur's democratization process and to make the Japanese citizenry wary of too close an alignment with the United States. The implication was that bystander Japan could be destroyed in a U.S.-USSR war.

Tofte's chance for propagandistic mischief arose in late 1950, when the Soviets began freeing hundreds of Japanese soldiers who had been "lost" in Siberia since WWII ended. "There were many lovey-dovey stories in the leftist press in Japan about how nice the Russians were to free these men," Tofte said. He sensed other motives. The American military presence in Japan, save for staff people, consisted of a military police battalion. Tofte feared that the released POWs, and the surge of pro-Soviet sentiment, might give the Russians a propaganda advantage. He and deputy Colwell Beers talked about a countermove but could not find any suitable ideas.

Willoughby inadvertently gave them an opening. Someone on his staff obtained a diary kept by a Japanese colonel who had spent the postwar years in a Siberian labor camp, a grim experience. "Willoughby didn't know what to do with the diary, so he sent it over to CIA as a sort of joke," Tofte said.

Tofte skimmed a translation and announced to Beers, "We're going into the movie business. We are going to make a movie about how it is to be a prisoner of war in Russia."



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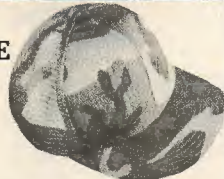
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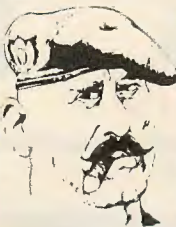
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At Tofte's urging MacArthur lifted a ban that had prevented the Japanese film industry from reopening after the war. A request went to CIA headquarters for a film director and writer. Working chiefly with Japanese film technicians — but under CIA direction — crews built a replica of a Russian prison camp in the snowy vastness of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. Tofte ordered, among other items, four rail cars of tomato catsup. Why? Beers asked. "Because this is going to be the bloodiest movie ever," Tofte replied.

That it was. "I knew we were on the right track when communists tried to sabotage the set. The movie was a dreadful exposure of the Soviets. The Japanese film industry loved it because it put actors and technicians back to work after a long layoff. Audiences loved it because it was a damned good film. We opened at 20 Japanese theaters simultaneously, and it ran for weeks, a smash hit at the box office. Eventually it played at more than 700 theaters. It created tremendous indignation and anti-Soviet feeling. And when we added up the figures, CIA took out a profit of \$104,000 which was turned over to the U.S. government."

A more conventional covert warfare operation was carried out at the behest of the National Security Agency, created concurrent with the CIA as the nation's code-breaking and communications-intercept organization. NSA technicians had trouble intercepting North Korean and Chinese messages in the early months of the war. The Chinese used an underwater telephone cable across the Yellow Sea for most of their message traffic between troop commands in Manchuria and their general headquarters in Peking, a line on which the NSA could not eavesdrop because of its location far behind enemy lines. So the NSA came to the CIA with a request: Was there any way the CIA could disable the cable, thereby forcing the Chinese to use radio broadcasts susceptible to monitoring?

Tofte received the query in his morning cable traffic ("It was always fun opening the mail, for one received the oddest things") and began thinking about the problem. By happy circumstance, he happened to know a bit about the cable in question, for in prewar days he had owned a vacation house on the Manchurian coast. "The cable went into the water about 600 yards from my garden fence. Further, it was owned by a Danish company, the Great Northern Telegraph Co." Through discreet inquiries Tofte managed to plot the cable's course across the Yellow Sea and the depth at which it could be found. His source even volunteered that cable breaks were particularly annoying when the two severed ends drifted away from each other.

PHOENIX

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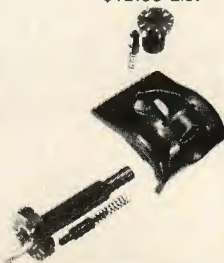
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Several days later a flotilla of "Korean fishing boats" converged in the Yellow Sea. The cable was tugged to the surface by grappling hooks and cut. Separate vessels snatched up the loose ends and sailed away in opposite directions. Soon NSA monitors were overhearing and deciphering radio traffic between Chinese forces in North Korea and Manchuria and the defense ministry in Peking.

(Radio-intercept capabilities — and results — remain one of the more closely guarded secrets of the U.S. government; thus an accurate evaluation of Tofte's cable caper is impossible for an outsider. But one early intercept that came to Tofte's attention gave him immense personal pleasure. "The High Command in Peking warned the field commands that 50,000 guerrillas were loose between the lines. Actually we had about 1,200 men in the field, no more.")

But in terms of overall importance to the Korean War effort, no other CIA operation approached the one directed against the Norwegian ship carrying a load of medical personnel and supplies to the Chinese Communists.

No one in Tokyo — including Hans Tofte — was very optimistic about TP-Stole. The ship flew the flag of a neutral nation, and for obvious diplomatic reasons the United States did not dare challenge it openly on the high seas. Tofte talked with the Navy, which politely said it could do nothing, not even with unmarked covert ships. Nor did the Air Force care to risk a covert bombing, for the source of the raid would be transparent to the international community. But Tofte did persuade the two services to keep the vessel under surveillance as it steamed north. A U.S. destroyer hovered just over the horizon, tracking the freighter and radioing frequent location reports to Tofte in Japan.

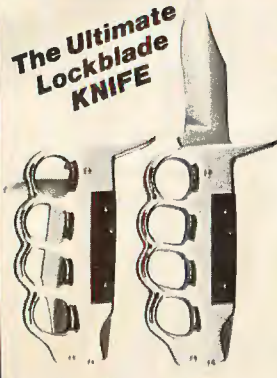
Tofte knew Washington was serious when CIA headquarters authorized him to spend \$1 million on TP-Stole without any further authorization. To Tofte, the lifting of normally tight CIA fiscal restrictions meant stopping the ship was "definitely an act-first-and-talk-later proposition."

CIA station chiefs from throughout East Asia gathered with Tofte in Tokyo to plot means of stopping the ship. At one point it appeared the vessel might put into Hong Kong for supplies. Al Cox, the station chief for the port, drew explosives and other special equipment from CIA-Atsugi and hastened back to Hong Kong, "to plan a sabotage operation under the noses of the British authorities if necessary," in Tofte's words.

But the ship did not pause. It continued north.

Tofte knew time was running short. All he could wheedle from the Far East Air Force was a promise to bomb the ship — the Norwegian flag notwithstanding — if it put into a North Korean port. Such was unlikely, however, for

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the UN controlled the seas off Korea. If the ship docked at a more logical destination in Manchuria or South China, the FEAF's hands were tied.

Scanning a map, Tofte saw only one possible intercept point. He boarded one of his CAT planes and flew to Formosa for a conference with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, whom he had met during his Burma Road guerrilla days early in WWII. Al Cox, the Hong Kong station chief, joined him. Luckily Chiang remembered Tofte, and he did not blink when the Danish-American spymaster asked his help in an audacious plot. He called in a Nationalist Chinese Coast Guard commander, one Wong, and said, "Give Mr. Tofte what he wants."

Soon a flotilla of nationalist gunboats — Al Cox and other CIA agents aboard — moved out to sea and, guided by U.S. Navy communications, intercepted the freighter just north of Formosa. The Americans remained below decks during what Tofte termed a "fairly discreet piracy under CIA supervision." Chinese boarding parties took command of the freighter, held the Norwegian crewmen incommunicado and systematically transferred its cargo to their own ships. Tofte let the Chinese have the medical supplies as a prize of war; the nurses, doctors and other medical personnel were never heard of again, and he does not speculate as to their fate. Now empty, the freighter and its crew were permitted to resume their voyage, knowing

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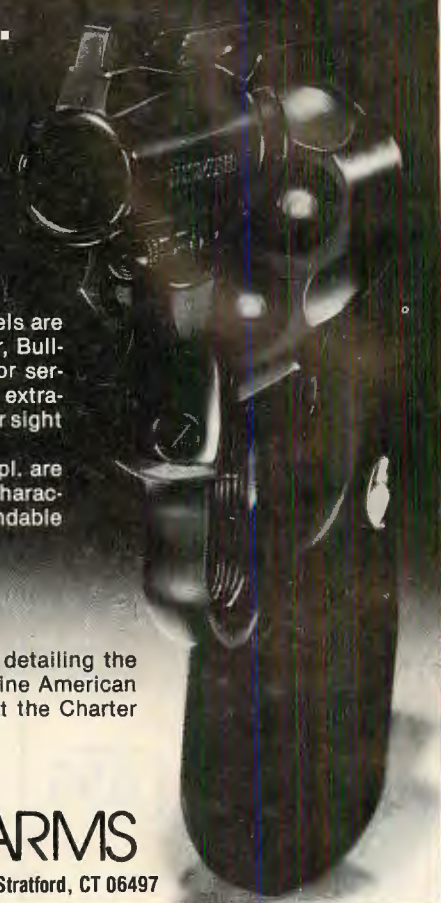
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only they had been looted by Asian pirates on the high seas. TP-Stole was a success.

To Tofte, the "operation justified the entire CIA budget for the next three to five years. By delaying the enemy's spring offensive for three months, it saved probably 75,000 American lives, for when the Chinese came, Gen. Matthew Ridgway had had time to organize his artillery positions. The Chinese were mowed down by the thousands when they launched their attack."

Tofte returned the \$1 million. "I didn't need a penny of it; Chiang Kai-shek did everything." Years later he happened to be dining at the India Club, a private luncheon establishment for shipping executives in Manhattan. Two maritime lawyers were discussing a claim involving a mysterious episode in the Far East. As they talked, Tofte realized the ship involved was the one he had pirated in 1951. He suppressed a smile and remained silent.

The exploits of Hans Tofte in Asia, and of other agents elsewhere in the world, brought a new respect for the CIA to Washington. Thus the Korean War marked the agency's growth into one of the more powerful units of American government. Raw figures suggest the magnitude of the CIA's surge in three years. In 1949 the agency's Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), the cover name for covert activities, had total personnel of 302, a budget of \$4.7 million and seven foreign stations. By 1952 OPC had grown to a strength of 2,812 direct employees plus an additional 3,142 "overseas contract personnel" — a catchall category that included both deep cover agents and flunkies — a budget of \$82 million and 47 stations.

Another factor contributing to the CIA's growth was the domineering presence of Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, a man willing to wield authority. The stunning success of the Chinese intervention gave Smith the opportunity to bring even MacArthur into grudging acceptance of the CIA's role in the national security establishment. With President Truman's blessing, Smith visited MacArthur in January 1951. What transpired between them remains a secret. But MacArthur thereafter did not interfere with CIA activities in his theater.

*From Korea by Joseph C. Goulden.
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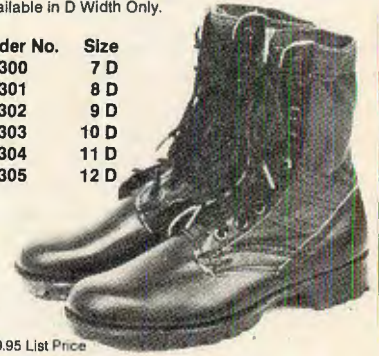


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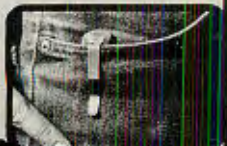
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GLUBB PASHA

Continued from page 31

would overrun the Arab portions of Palestine, King Abdullah ordered Glubb to occupy them defensively, and when the British finally withdrew, the Legion crossed the border in force.

Among other problems facing the Legion was an acute ammunition shortage, because the British depot in Palestine had always supplied them and large stockpiles hadn't been thought necessary. The British did try to turn as much ammunition as possible over to the Arab Legion, which they considered the only stabilizing influence in the area. Ironically, a shipload of artillery and mortar ammunition intended for the Legion was seized by Transjordan's "ally," Egypt, which quickly lost the ammunition to the Israelis when the fighting started. Later, the Israelis fired it at the Legion.

As war became inevitable, Glubb was offered command of all Arab armies, but he turned this offer down, realizing it was made more in hopes of having an English scapegoat if the war were lost than in appreciation of his ability to command. Because of this decision, and a few strategic withdrawals during the fighting, Glubb was stigmatized by the Arab press as "pro-Jewish," despite the fact that Glubb's

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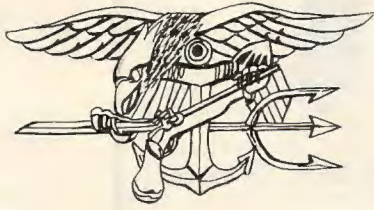
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2,000 soldiers — representing the smallest Arab state involved in the 1948 war — did a large part of the fighting. Glubb was also one of the few westerners who objectively reported atrocities committed by Irgun terror squads, organized by Menachem Begin, future Israeli prime minister.

Despite misgivings about his allies and his desire to avoid war, Glubb sent the Legion into Palestine where it fought heroically. Facing overwhelming odds, the Arab Legion did not suffer a single defeat. Though greatly outnumbered, the Legion finally broke into the besieged portion of Jerusalem and saved the Moslem holy places — a remarkable accomplishment when one considers that most of the legionnaires had never seen a city and were not trained or equipped for street fighting, while many of their opponents had served with Western armies during World War II.

Perhaps the Arab Legion's most heroic action during the war came at Latrun, a key blocking position on the road to Jerusalem. If Latrun fell, the Arab portions of Jerusalem could not be held, and once Jerusalem was under Israeli control, all of Arab Palestine could be overrun. The Israeli army, spearheaded by the Palmach, its elite assault unit, launched attack after costly attack against Latrun. Each was repulsed with huge Israeli losses, and when a cease-fire was finally called, the Arab Legion still held Latrun.

Due to the UN's inability to enforce the cease-fire, hostilities soon resumed. The Israeli Army's full strength was thrown against the Arab Legion since Tel Aviv recognized the Legion was its only true threat. Except for minor, strategic withdrawals to more defensible positions, the Legion continued to hold over its entire front and successfully defend all key positions. Eventually, all other Arab armies, led by Egypt — the most vociferous and bellicose in the press — withdrew from the war, leaving slightly more than 11,000 Arab legionnaires facing an Israeli army of 120,000.

When the final truce was arranged, the other Arab countries, particularly Egypt, needed a scapegoat. Jealous of its successes, they began a propaganda campaign against Glubb's Legion. One result was a series of assassination attempts against Glubb by Palestinians who believed he had sold them out to the Israelis — doubly ironic since only Glubb and his men had kept Palestine from Israeli control; but since the Legion fought instead of talked, this fact went unnoticed.

When the UN declared an arms embargo against countries involved in the 1948 fighting, Britain ordered all officers seconded from the British army to the Arab Legion to stop fighting. This order forced all British officers except

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Glubb and his top subordinate, N.O. Lash, to leave their commands during the fighting.

Arab leaders justly resented this order, and Glubb and Lash, who stood loyally by their men, received the lion's share of the resentment, which came not from within the Legion, but from without. In the long run there were even some positive results of the withdrawals, since subordinate Arab officers gained combat experience in important command positions.

When peace finally came in 1949, it proved an uneasy one. Transjordan adopted the name Jordan and 500,000 Palestinian refugees, thereby tripling its population and its problems. From the beginning, Palestinians infiltrating into Israel from Jordan and other surrounding countries proved a problem. The incursions began as visits to relatives or attempts to salvage personal property, but as hatred was fomented against Israel by Egyptian agitators backed by Saudi money, the Palestinian terrorist raids started.

Israel's retaliation policy also stems from that period. Jordan, the country with the most Palestinians, was the primary object of Israeli vengeance. In many cases, Israeli retaliatory raids were against Jordanian villages whose residents had nothing whatsoever to do with the Palestinian terrorists, thus creating more hatred of Israel.

To protect his adopted country from reprisals, Glubb established a Legion border patrol to prevent infiltration into Israel and to stop Israeli units from entering Jordan. The long border and lack of manpower, however, rendered this impossible. To aid the overtaxed Legion, Glubb established training cadres to teach local volunteers the rudiments of weapons usage and tactics. With regular Legion officers and NCOs assigned as advisers, this National Guard assumed much of the responsibility for border and village protection. Promising members of the Guard were also accepted into the Arab Legion.

Realizing the Arab Legion was going to be dealing with unrest for an indefinite period, Glubb undertook its reorganization. He said, "In discipline, drill, tactics and weapon training we aimed at the same standard as the Brigade of Guards." After his long-time second-in-command, Lash Bey, retired, Glubb was joined by Brig. Sam Cooke, who helped reorganize and train the Legion. Cooke was amazed that despite its combat losses and the attacks on Glubb and the Legion in the Arab press, the enlistment waiting list was longer than ever and *esprit de corps* and standard of excellence were above reproach.

The Arab Legion was also one of the most democratic military units in the world. Racial distinctions were nonex-

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istent. The senior officer present, whether British or Arab, was in command, and the British saluted senior Arab officers without hesitation. Despite the Legion's growth, Glubb remained a father to his men. He started schools for his soldiers' children where honor and loyalty to king and country were taught instead of the political rhetoric rampant in other Jordanian schools. Eventually, most officers, NCOs and technical personnel within the Legion came from these schools.

Glubb was also the only military leader in any Arab country who believed in telling his troops the truth. He constantly visited his men at their messes where he told them exactly what the military situation was — good or bad — and they loved him for it.

During 1950 and 1951, more than half of the Legion remained deployed along the Israeli border, and its constant threat to Tel Aviv may have been the only thing preventing Israel from invading other Arab countries. Yet attacks on Glubb and the Legion, by those very nations which depended on them, continued.

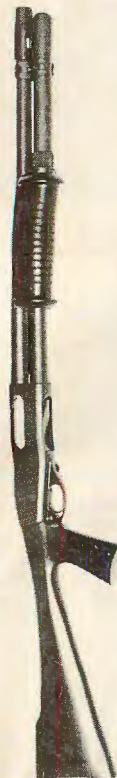
In 1951, Glubb's friend and ruler, King Abdullah, was assassinated. Until his son Tellal could return from Switzerland where he was undergoing mental treatment, Glubb and the Legion kept order in the country. In July 1952, Tellal's aberrations caused his removal from the throne, and he was succeeded by his 17-year-old son, Hussein, who is still the monarch.

From the beginning, Hussein lacked affinity with Glubb. Many of their problems may be traced to the 38 years' difference in their ages. In addition, young Hussein, fresh from a crash course at Sandhurst, probably felt more qualified than Glubb to determine military policy. Also, many of Hussein's associates came from a small clique of Arab Legion officers who were dissatisfied with Glubb's promotion policies. These officers, city-bred university graduates, felt that promotion in the Legion should be based on education and family.

Glubb, on the other hand, had established a promotion system based on military merit and experience. This allowed the desert Bedouin, who had always been the Legion's backbone, an equal chance at promotion. Though experience had proven that most effective Legion officers had risen through the ranks — usually from the Desert Patrol — Hussein was convinced that his friends deserved promotion over self-educated Legion veterans.

Another source of conflict was a rumor that the English, in the persons of Glubb and other Anglo officers, and not King Hussein, controlled the army. Though Glubb never disobeyed his commander in chief, Hussein was young enough to have his pride hurt by

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these accusations. Glubb recognized that the Arab Legion should be commanded by Arab officers eventually, and had arranged to send two Arab officers to the British Staff College each year. Glubb hoped to phase out all British officers by 1965, at which time he would retire and hand over command to a Jordanian.

Relations between Glubb and Hussein remained civil though not as cordial as his relationships with previous monarchs. There was never, however, any doubt of Glubb's loyalty to the king. In 1954, riots instigated by Palestinians broke out on the day of parliamentary elections and, for the first time, troops of the Arab Legion were forced to fire on a crowd.

During the next two years, as unrest grew among Palestinian refugees, the Legion was frequently called upon to promote internal security. These actions added fuel to the criticisms of Glubb in the Arab press.

Finally, on 1 March 1956, Hussein, giving in to pressure from his young advisers, the Arab press and radical politicians, dismissed Glubb. As a reward for more than a quarter of a century's loyal service, Glubb was ordered to leave the country the next day. Despite this treatment, Glubb kept the Legion from acting on his behalf against the king.

All other English officers and many veteran Arab officers were also removed. Their loss severely undermined the Legion's morale and placed it at a great disadvantage in subsequent fighting against Israel.


With Glubb's departure, the Arab Legion ceased to exist in its old form, though enough traditions remained to make the Jordanian army one of the best in the Middle East. Shortly after Glubb left, many of the politicians and officers who had clamored for his removal tried to overthrow Hussein, but Glubb had taught his men the meaning of loyalty. The Legion supported Hussein, and the attempt failed.

Glubb's dismissal marked the end of the great era of British soldiers of fortune like Clive, Gordon and Lawrence, who led non-English troops through force of character and empathy, coupled with martial prowess. Though Glubb retired to England, his heart remained in the desert. A legacy of honor, loyalty and courage remained there as well, Glubb's gift to his Bedouin brothers. ✕

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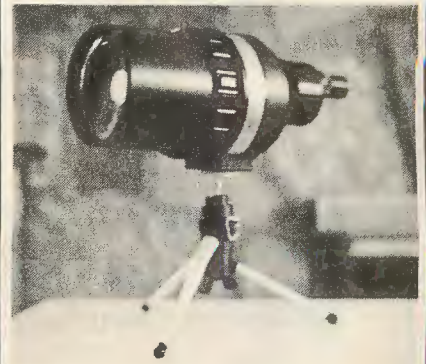
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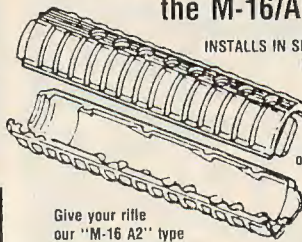
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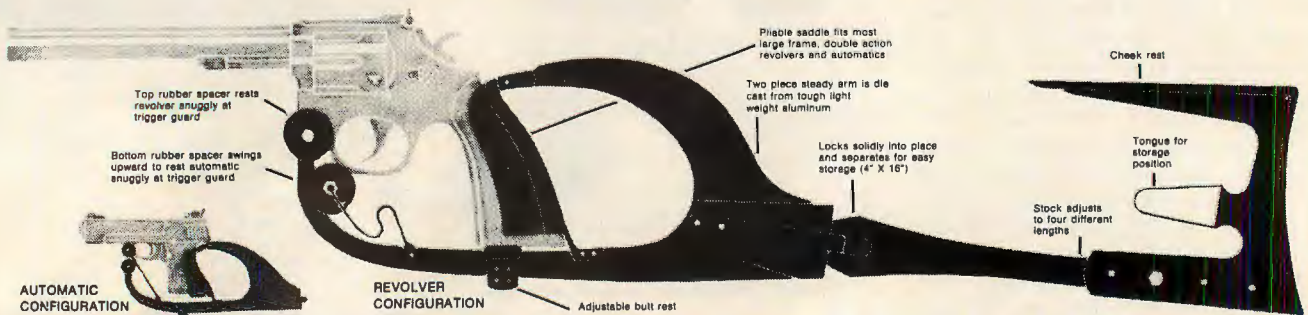
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Now we come to an unpleasant subject: vulgarity, obscenity and general garbage-mouth vocabulary. Almost everybody who is over 10 years of age and doesn't live in a cave knows all of the words. Many people, however, do not realize what a live and vibrant part of the military vocabulary cursing is, especially **THE WORD. THE WORD**, of course, is "fuck," which will be cited only once and hereafter replaced by **WORD** as appropriate (this is a family-oriented magazine). It is enough to say that **THE WORD** is the cornerstone of most military conversation below Corps level.

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A word here about times and places to talk merc. Clearly you would not want to burst into fluent merc around people who have known you all your life and know that you've never been off the block. The same holds true for women whom you've dated more than once.

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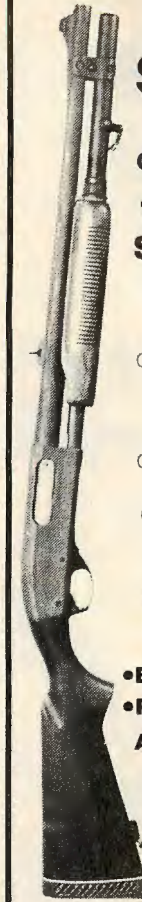
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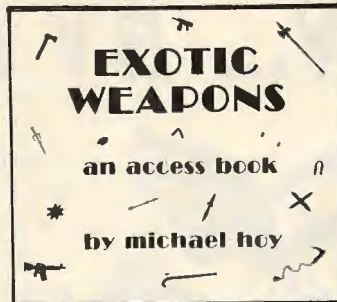
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tually went? Use your own judgment.

I would also like to caution you about maintaining a sense of proportion. Merc is best spoken in small doses. It is more effective, say, to habitually use military time and habitually refer to the bathroom as "the latrine" than it is to regale people with an endless round of war stories. War stories run the risk of getting boring, whereas a small mannerism like using military time can be fascinating. The military-time ploy, for instance, can lead a listener to ask, "Were you in the Army?" To which you can reply, "Well ... sort of ... here and there" And you're off and running.

Be shy and evasive. Hollywood has done pseudo-merc a big favor by fostering the belief that Real Veterans Don't Want To Talk About It. My ass, they don't. All the real vets of various wars

that I know can't wait to talk about it. It's my personal belief that most guys go to war mainly for the stories they can tell. But you can live up to the Hollywood image and be filled with Silent Sorrow if you want to and people will not only eat it up, but respect you for it. It's better to keep dropping tantalizing tidbits than to heave the whole pizza at them. Keep it in mind.

You should also keep your audience in mind. It is acceptable to talk merc around women too young to know any better, around guys who have never uttered a military word in your hearing and around foreign exchange students who don't even speak English. It is *not* OK to speak merc around anybody who looks old enough to have been in Vietnam, anybody who responds to some comment of yours with a pointed question (change the subject) and especially not around those two guys in the corner of the bar: the ones with the deep sun-tans, short haircuts, lines around their eyes and their backs to the wall.

Otherwise, have fun but remember the immortal words of James Coburn in some otherwise forgettable flick: "I taught you everything you know, but I didn't teach you everything I know"

So stay out of the bars *I'm hustling* ☒

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DUSTOFF!

Continued from page 37

another chance to live. Seebeth would do anything to save another human.

Days later, Seebeth was taken by helicopter to Da Nang Air Force Base for evacuation. The crew that flew him over told us that as they took his litter from our ship to the waiting ambulance, Seebeth raised two fingers to form a "V" and then he raised his other hand. In it he waved our unit patch — a patch that exhorted "Strive To Save Lives."

They said he was smiling through the blankets and tubes. The two pilots had to look away; they were all crying, Seebeth included. Even in combat there is time for love to grow, and we all loved Seebeth for what he was — the best medic we'd ever seen.

He had lost his larynx but not his spirit. He always gave more of himself than was required. He kept going because he believed that human life was the most important thing. I'll always remember those words before every approach, "God go with us."

Seebeth left his mark on the thousands he treated but he knew and respected the inevitability of death. He took his wounds the same way: fighting, but humble. His memory will always be with me — watered by tears and warmed by the smiles of yesterday. His words so long ago were prophetic — the memory of John Seebeth, of his courage and humanity, will never leave me alone.

Nearly 14 years have passed since then. The world has changed dramatically, but the memories of this special medic still touch me because he typified the humanity that often is overshadowed by the inherent brutality of any war. Seebeth was wounded in August 1969. This 21-year-old is now 34. He saved my life that day; the burst of machine-gun fire would have hit me if he hadn't been sitting between me and the NVA. I have only one photo of John Seebeth. It doesn't do him justice, but then nothing does. Strangely enough, it shows the exact position I saw him in when he was hit, because he was sitting facing toward the rear, with his back against the other pilot's armored seat.

For 12 years, I wrote letters to VA hospitals and to fellow pilots, trying to find out where Seebeth was and how he was doing. Finally, I was told that the VA computer system could assist me if I wrote down his name, rank, serial number, and where and when he was wounded. I sent a letter with my address and phone number in the summer of 1981. The VA forwarded it to his last known address.

That fall, the phone rang. My wife answered. She said to me, "It's for you. It's some guy with a very hoarse voice. I

Continued on page 82

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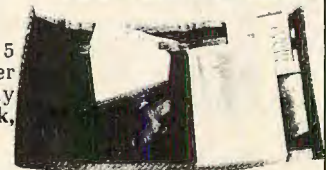
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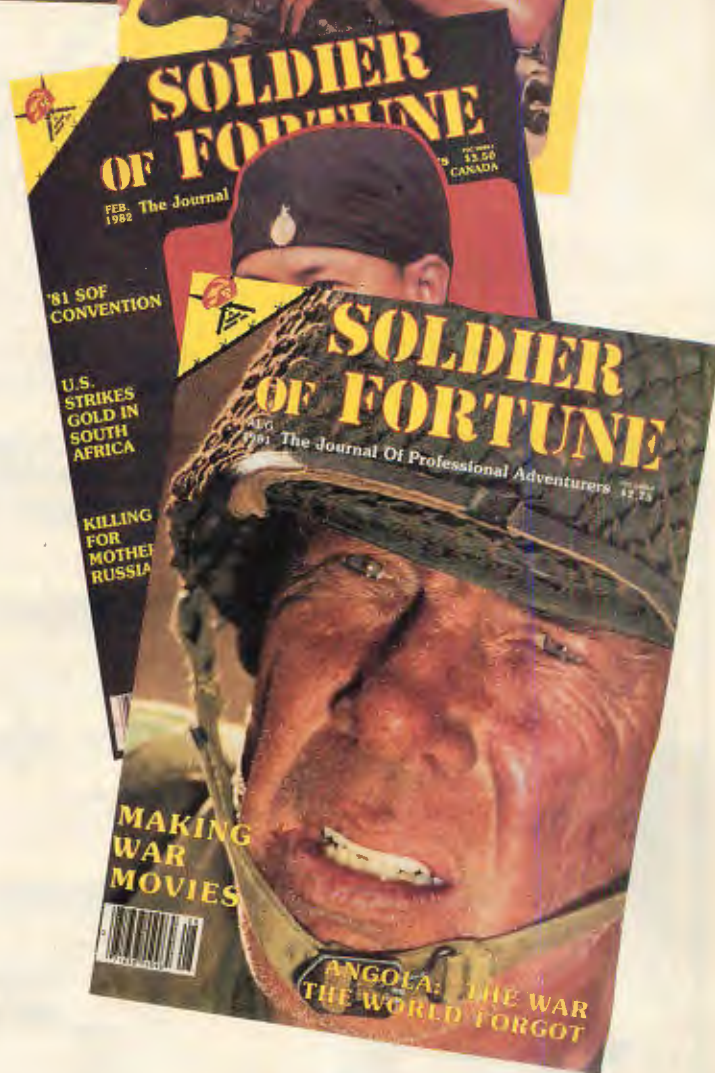
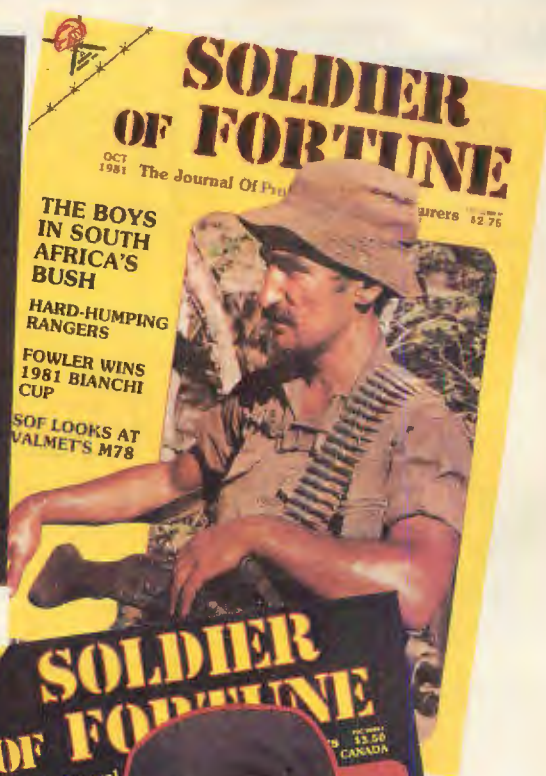
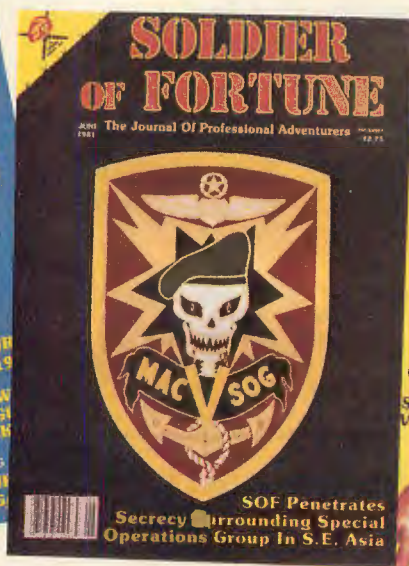
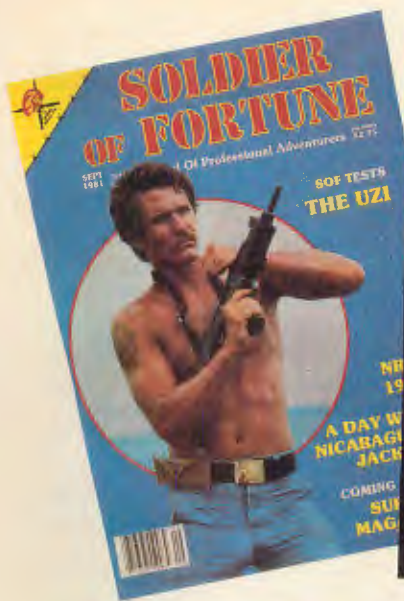
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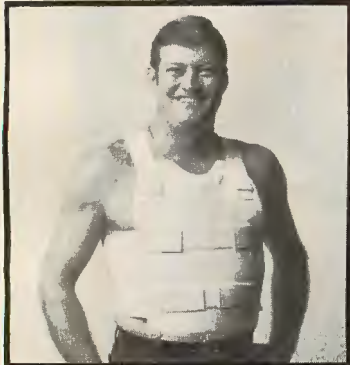
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DUSTOFF!

Continued from page 79

can hardly understand him."

"Hello," I said.

"Bob?"

"Yes."

"This is John."

"John who?" I asked.

"John Seebeth."

He's now living in Seattle, Wash., and we talked for 30 minutes, reliving that near-tragic day and the past 12 years. He's had 10 or 12 throat operations. Science and surgery have allowed him to speak again, but not in that rapid, high-pitched voice we knew. An alien sound has replaced the laughter he gave so freely, but he's alive and well.

On 3 October 1982, I flew to Seattle to visit John. We met at the Seattle/Tacoma, Wash., airport. KOMO-TV and radio from Seattle were also on hand to cover the story for their 6 and 10 p.m. news programs. But I wasn't thinking about the surrounding cameras, lights or microphones as I walked from the aircraft and embraced this special medic and friend after so many years. All I could think of was that we were survivors — we'd helped each other to make it back alive.

We shared some tears, laughter and many reminiscences during the next few days. John's positive outlook on life and living, despite the pain and suffering he'd undergone with his 100-percent disability from the war, overshadowed everything else, as always.

When it was time to say goodbye again, John placed his finger over an opening in the plastic device that fits into the 1 1/2-inch by 3/4-inch hole in his throat. This device lets air pass through his mouth so that he can speak.

"Thanks for coming, Bob," he said. "It has really meant a lot to me." Our eyes misted as we embraced for the final time. My gaze went past him to a poster on his bedroom door. It said:

"Some men see things as they are and say, why?
I dream things that never were and say, why not?"

—Robert Kennedy
Somehow, no other statement seems so appropriate in John Seebeth's world.

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Continued from page 57

of Special Forces one should imagine units operating hundreds of miles in the enemy rear over a period of months, even years, in the midst of a friendly indigenous force. The Special Forces soldier is a tough teacher whose function is training and leading non-U.S. irregular forces deep in the enemy rear.

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Force could be brought to bear by reconnaissance teams effectively acting in a manner similar to those of an advanced or "jump" command post. The team's control headquarters must sort out the LRRP's priorities on a mission basis. The team can perform either the intelligence function or play a role in the destruction of key targets. However, involvement in target destruction — normally by air or indirect fire weapons — increases the probability of a team's detection by the enemy.

Either the enemy intercepts electronic emissions, fixes the team's location and attempts to destroy it, or the enemy deduces the presence of a U.S. reconnaissance team by the precision of certain U.S. combat actions. Risking the team's survival is a function of the priority of the target to be destroyed and the difficulty of infiltrating teams into the lucrative target area.

One anticipates that, in a European war, the most likely means of positioning reconnaissance teams in the enemy rear would be by the stay-behind technique — that is, the team remains in concealment as the attacker advances until the team is in the enemy rear. In a confused battle environment, it is also possible to infiltrate teams by land, sea or air. When this can be done, teams can

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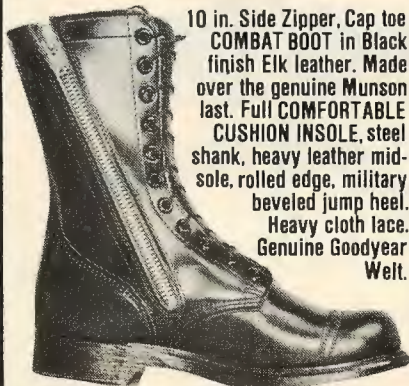
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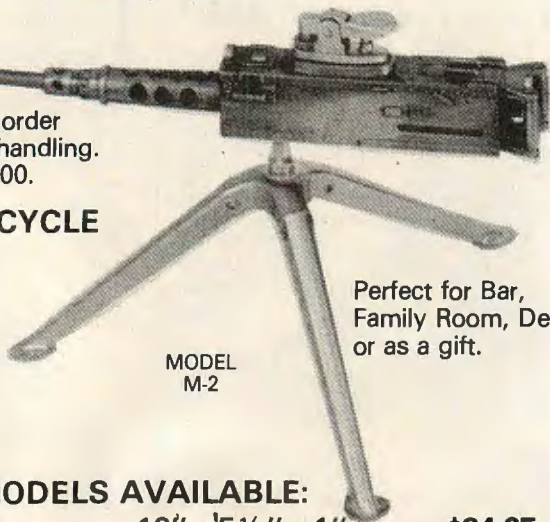
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be used to direct target destruction. When infiltration is particularly hazardous, the valuable assets in place are best used for the lower risk mission of gathering and reporting intelligence.

It should be obvious that enlightened use of LRRPs requires training and experience by the staff officers at the control headquarters, as well as the training of the teams. Staff knowledge of the LRRP's capabilities and limitations in a specific area of operation earns the trust and confidence of the reconnaissance men in those responsible for defining missions. This relationship does not develop among strangers; it requires close cooperation over time, preferably in time of peace.

Clearly, the reconnaissance mission will be extremely hazardous on a sophisticated European battlefield. It will be less hazardous for teams which have trained together in the anticipated battle area than for improvised teams hastily put together or for rifle squads without special training.

The U.S. Army has always had 10 or 20 soldiers in each company-sized unit who prefer operating independently on high-risk missions to the often mind-numbing routine of most conventional units. Of the soldiers inclined to independence and adventure, some also possess the other requisite qualities of the good reconnaissance man: the courage, determination, self-discipline and self-reliance necessary to operate in an atmosphere of danger far from the flagpole. We should not overlook a simple truth: Some men thrive on such work.

Such men equipped with radios capable of transmitting short-burst messages lasting just a few seconds, even fractions of a second, can report and, if well trained, survive. There is a profound difference between information from such a skilled team reporting what is being seen in real time and the quality of information provided by a machine emitting squeals or depicting shadowy images. But there is no reason to rely upon one or the other when the commander can have both.

The human source of combat intelligence, in addition to providing information on the enemy to the tactical operations center, also assists the operator of technical devices and his commander by corroborating with human senses what is displayed on such devices. This enhances the ability of headquarters to assess what is yielded by acoustical, seismic or screen displays.

Commanders desperately need accurate, reliable information on enemy activity when that enemy is mobile and powerful. It is difficult to believe that we cannot provide at least one reconnaissance company to each of the two corps commanders in Europe and a platoon of reconnaissance teams to each division commander. Europe is the place to begin the return of the LRRP. ☒

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BETRAYAL

Continued from page 21

By early evening, a haze of blue smoke filled the room, and jackets and vests had been long discarded. Even Sen. Warner had his sleeves rolled up. The opposing sides were still deadlocked.

Then, someone suggested the addition of a flag and a statue to the existing wall. Suddenly, the group came alive, both sides seeing this as a possible solution. We agreed to meet again in a few weeks, so that opponents of the Maya Ying Lin design could review submissions made during the original competition that included statuary.

In keeping with the spirit of compromise, Tom Carhart, who was scheduled to debate the memorial issue with Jan Scruggs of the VVMF the following day on *Good Morning America*, agreed to skip the appearance, and let Scruggs announce what had occurred.

The second meeting filled the Senate hearing room. Even Maya Ying Lin was there. By this time, the placement of the flag and statue had become a central issue. The Fund architect, Kent Cooper, argued that they should be placed at a distance from the wall, so as not to intrude on Maya Ying Lin's original concept. In his view, it was unnecessary to "adorn the wall with corny patriotic claptrap." Moreover, he argued a flag is a "long stringy object," which would conflict with Lin's design.

After yet another round of heated debate, it was decided that the flag should be placed at the point of the "V" formed by the two walls, and the statue out in front. A panel, to be selected, was to screen possible statue designs, then report back to the larger group. The design selected by the larger group was then to be publicized, and comments from Vietnam veterans solicited. Once that was accomplished, Secretary Watt would be asked to allow the groundbreaking to go forward. It seemed as though we had won — but we didn't know that VVMF had allies at the Interior Department as well.

The following morning we arose to the news that Dan Smith, an official with the Interior Department's Park Service, had granted VVMF a permit to break ground on 26 March, just two weeks away. Suddenly we found ourselves faced with the choice of either asking Secretary Watt to reverse Smith, or to allow the Fund to go ahead, and hope for the best.

Watt had already suffered enough adverse publicity from the affair, and the media were all too willing to pounce on his every slip. It seemed unfair to ask him to take more abuse. All we could do now was try to get the new elements selected quickly.

A panel (Webb; Art Mosley, a West Point graduate; Bill Jane, who worked for Action's Vietnam Veteran Leader-

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ship Program, and I) was assembled by VVMF to select a design for approval by the Memorial Fund's board and other interested parties. The plan to solicit comments from Vietnam veterans had apparently been discarded.

Rick Hart, the highest-ranked sculptor in the original design competition, was invited to attend our first meeting. Since our charge included the requirement that competitors in the original selection process be given preference, this seemed a logical place to start. Hart agreed to get back to us in a few weeks with some "clay sketches."

What we could not have anticipated was Hart's excited phone call the following week. He told us his concept model was done. As soon as we saw it, we knew we had the answer to the memorial dilemma.

Hart had captured the essence of what the memorial should say. He told us the image struck him almost as soon as he returned to his studio, and that he had worked ceaselessly over the weekend, the model almost sculpting itself. All that remained was to agree on proper placement of his sculpture.

Almost at once, however, we encountered an obstacle. Cooper, the Memorial Fund's architect, had been asked to work with us on placement of the flag and statue. He made clear from the outset that he opposed the addition of new elements, and would just as soon

they were not included. A running battle with Cooper ensued, during which his suggestions sometimes approached the ludicrous. Among the options for flag placement he presented to our panel was the suggestion that an eight-inch-high "memorial flag" be placed at the bottom of the juncture of the two walls. When we pointed out that no one would see it, it was clear that Cooper was well aware of that fact.

Cooper's favorite option, though, was to place the flag and statue within the tree line that ran along the edge of Constitution Gardens some 300 feet from the wall. Touting it as an "entryway concept," he claimed it would be on the path most visitors would take when visiting the memorial. As we walked the site, however, something else became clear: Placement in the tree line would ensure that like the wall itself, neither the flag nor statue would be visible to most passers-by. What made Cooper's insistence on this placement even stranger was that during the second meeting of the larger group it had been rejected out of hand.

Ultimately, our group decided to place the flag behind the apex of the two walls, in a position slightly off-center, in line with the statue which would rest approximately 170 feet away in a natural alcove formed by the tree line. The figures in the sculpture would be looking across the wall at the flag, and an inscription would be included on the flagpole's base.

After presenting this selection to all parties, it received formal approval from the board of VVMF, as well as every veterans' group imaginable. It seemed the controversy was resolved. However, as Messing says, "It isn't over until both sides say it's over."

Although we had been aware that a small group of architects was lobbying against the compromise, we were unaware of the tacit approval these efforts had apparently received from some individuals involved with the Memorial Fund. Worse, Fund architect Cooper threatened to testify against the proposed changes before the Fine Arts Commission — an agency whose approval was needed. Finally, another landscape architect was brought in to assist in the presentation to the Fine Arts Commission, and a broad range of individuals and organizations were lined up to testify on behalf of the changes.

The gathering at the Commission's October meeting was impressive. Every single veterans' organization in the United States, ranging from the American Legion to the Gold Star Mothers, came forward to endorse the amendments. From 1000 until 1500 hours, the procession continued, all adding their voices to the ringing endorsement.

In one particularly poignant moment, Mrs. Regina Wilkes, a Gold Star mother who lost one son in Vietnam, had an-

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other permanently disabled and a third who is still in uniform, said, "When I look at that statue, I see my sons."

The only opposition came from the American Institute of Architects, whose argument was based solely on the specious notion that the additions violated the "sanctity of design competitions." The competition rules allowed for changes to winning designs, however, and modifications to designs in such competitions are commonplace.

It came as a shock, then, when the Fine Arts Commission accepted the modifications, but rejected the proposed placement, recommending instead a location in the tree line — the exact location proposed by Cooper — declaring that this location would create a "natural entryway."

Once again, we had been outmaneuvered. The National Salute to Vietnam Veterans was only a few weeks away, and the wall was to be dedicated as part of the celebration. It would be grossly unfair to those traveling thousands of miles to tamper with the celebration, but to do nothing meant the additions might either be hidden in the trees (as Carter Brown, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, wished) or never completed.

It was decided at this juncture to take an exit poll during the dedication. Throughout the controversy, no one had asked the opinions of a broad spectrum of Vietnam veterans. The dedication ceremony presented an ideal opportunity to do this. Tens of thousands of veterans would be attending, from as far away as the Pacific Islands. They would all have been able to actually see the wall and the site, and would be polled under circumstances in which they would be able to conceptualize what different placement options would entail.

To ensure the poll's integrity, a group of highly qualified experts was asked to review the questionnaire. Volunteers from local universities helped conduct the survey, and an official at the Interior Department, Smith (who had earlier granted the groundbreaking permit to the VVMF), was asked to tabulate the results to ensure an honest count.

The results were decisive. Those who served in Vietnam wanted the additions, and they wanted them placed prominently. When presented with three placement options — each designated with a letter so as not to bias the results — three-quarters chose the one presented to the Fine Arts Commission. Only 12.8 percent selected the option favored by Brown and Cooper. In fact, in every category polled, the option favored by veterans won hands down.

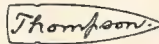
VVMF's response was curious. They said that after their "experts" reviewed the questionnaire, they had determined that the placement question was biased, and that the results were therefore invalid. However, I had not furnished them with a copy of the questionnaire,

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and they never revealed who their "experts" were. It appears they have consistently resisted finding out what veterans want because they realize that any valid poll would reject the Maya Ying Lin design outright. In fact, that is exactly what earlier, albeit less scientific, polls conducted by Perot and *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine indicated.

Still, it isn't over until both sides say it's over. During the lame-duck session of Congress, Rep. Bailey narrowly missed having a bill pass both Houses of Congress to mandate placement of the new elements in accordance with veterans' wishes. After winning in the House of Representatives by a unanimous vote, the legislation was blocked from coming to the floor in the Senate by Sens. Mathias, R-Md., and Warner. The bill may be reintroduced this session.

The American Legion has reaffirmed its support for the placement presented to the Fine Arts Commission last October. Armed with this support and a "sense of House" resolution, Secretary Watt's position on placement is somewhat strengthened. Moreover, Watt has informed Carter Brown that he will continue to fly a flag under a "temporary" permit at the memorial until such time as a final decision on placement is reached. For this, he deserves our thanks.

The only way to resolve the issue once and for all, however, appears to be through congressional action. It may take time, but time is now less of a problem. The memorial has been dedicated, and a flag flies there daily.

It would seem a small matter to ensure that the permanent flag and statue are placed properly, since they will always be there. Although VVMF probably is satisfied with the current situation, they might well remember: It won't be over until both sides say it is. ☒

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Continued from page 17

former Sandinista officials who have "flown the coop" confirms the growing popular dissatisfaction with the Sandinista regime.

DIEGO GARCIA THREATENED . . .

Diego Garcia, a critical U.S. forward base for aircraft, naval ships and Marines, has been declared a part of Mauritius by its left-wing government.

When Mauritius obtained its independence from Britain in 1968, Diego Garcia and the Chagos Archipelago remained under British colonial rule. Mauritius was compensated for the territory with \$7 million. Britain agreed to let the United States establish a military base on the island.

As a precondition for establishing the base, the United States insisted that no people remain in Diego Garcia. Consequently, the Ilois, black descendants of African slaves who had been on the island for approximately 100 years, were removed to Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius. Many ended up in slums there.

Mauritius now demands the return of the island so the displaced Ilois can return. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is rumored to support Maruritus's claim; her support is based largely upon the desire to demilitarize the Indian Ocean.

The British have rejected the Mauritian claim.

RHODIES HEAD SOUTH . . .

Most whites in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia have migrated south to the Republic of South Africa. White pilots who have been flying for Mugabe's forces in Zimbabwe are now doing the same. After Zimbabwe lost a large portion of its fighter aircraft in a sabotage explosion at Thorn Hill Air Force Base last year, an investigation was conducted by the Air Force Air Vice Marshal and his deputy, both of whom are white. They were arrested as suspects in the sabotage by Mugabe's secret police, held in prison and tortured. As of this writing, the Air Vice Marshal and his deputy are still being held.

With terrorist tactics like this going on, it's no wonder that white pilots are moving their homes to South Africa. Readers may expect to see Cuban and other ComBloc pilots refilling the ranks of Mugabe's fighter force.

RDF TO BE SEPARATE COMMAND . . .

As of January 1983, the Rapid Deployment Force for operations and planning in the Persian Gulf area and Southwest Asia became a separate unified command. Army, Navy and Air Force commanders assigned to the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force are to become part of the new central command, and the term Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force is to be dropped from military vocabulary. The new command will be called the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) and will restructure command and control, but will not create new military forces, according to Defense Department officials.

Forces to be assigned to the RDF include 11 tactical fighter squadrons under the 9th Air Force, three carrier battle groups, elements of the 18th Airborne Corps and a Marine Corps amphibious brigade.

New boundaries for USCENTCOM will include territory from Egypt to Pakistan and from Iran south to the Horn of Africa and Kenya. Israel, Syria and Lebanon will be excluded, however. They will fall instead within the U.S. European Command.

HELP FROM HANOI JANE . . .

Tom Hayden, aided with money from his wife, Hanoi Jane Fonda, was elected to the California Assembly from the 44th District last November. According to a report in the *Los Angeles Times*, Hayden spent a whopping \$1,541,915 to win — more money than has ever been spent in a state-legislative race anywhere in the country, and even more than in most congressional races. Hayden received 53 percent of the vote, including much of West Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Malibu. This area is also the stronghold for Hayden's leftist organization, the Campaign for Economic Democracy (CED).

REPLACING THE LAW . . .

The Army and Marines have established a joint team to evaluate a replacement for the Light Antitank Weapon (LAW) that was regarded with mixed emotions by the troops who used it in Vietnam.

The Army has for several years been experimenting with the Viper, a self-contained lightweight, shoulder-fired antitank rocket. Something like the LAW, it is packaged and sealed in an expendable fiberglass launcher. The weapon is designed as a throwaway piece with an effective combat range of some 300 meters and good penetration. It weighs 8.9 pounds and is 27 inches long in carry position.

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However, the project has become embroiled in controversy with costs allegedly growing from \$67 to \$1,450 per round. Also, the round is insufficient to effectively penetrate armor on the front end of the Soviets' new T80 tank.

The Army/Marine task force is looking for a weapon that weighs less than 20 pounds and is 40 inches or less in length.

Among the weapons to be evaluated are: British LAW 80 with spotting rifle, French Apilas, French Strim LRAC 89, German Armbrust P2, Norwegian M72-750 and Swedish AT-4.

In 'Nam, the troops liked the LAW's light weight (a man could tuck two or

more in his web gear easily), but disliked their frequent misfires.

GROUND EAGLE ...

Forty years after the former American Eagle Squadron fighter pilots of the British Royal Air Force became a part of the U.S. Army Air Force, the remaining Eagle members plan to erect a memorial in London and a permanent museum exhibit in California.

The ambitious plan to honor the 243 Americans who served in the Eagle Squadrons has run into financial problems both here and in England. Plans called for an obelisk to be

raised in London's famous Berkeley Square on a site donated by British Petroleum Pension fund, and an exhibit of Eagle Squadron memorabilia at San Diego's International Aerospace Hall of Fame. As the focal point of the exhibit, a *Spitfire* aircraft, which the Eagles flew in 1940-41 to help defeat the Luftwaffe raiders, would be suspended from the ceiling.

The Eagle Squadron was formed in 1940 when American businessman Charles Sweeny, nephew of the famous soldier of fortune Col. Charles Sweeny (see "A Man for All Wars," SOF, May '82), convinced the British Air Ministry to set up an American Air Defense Corps, made up of American volunteer pilots. Col. Sweeny was made honorary chairman. The Eagle mascot was taken from the American passport insignia.

The Eagles made an important contribution to England's air victories, receiving 40 decorations, primarily Distinguished Flying Crosses and Distinguished Service Orders. Its pilots shot down more than 73 German aircraft. In 1942 the Eagles units became part of the USAAF as the 334th and 336th squadrons of the 4th Fighter Group, Eighth Air Force. The 4th Group went on to become the highest-scoring fighter group of WWII and Korea, and established a fine record in Vietnam.

Posters have been printed of the *Spitfire* and *Hurricane* aircraft and are available with a \$25 donation; shoulder patches come with a \$15 donation; memorial plaques will be given to \$50 donors. For more information about the Eagle Squadrons Association, or to make a donation, contact ESA Secretary, 1582 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton, CA 94566.


NEW PAINT FOR AIR FORCE ...

The U.S. Air Force plans to repaint all of its aircraft in a mottled greenish-gray camouflage paint scheme. The new colors will replace the old greenish-tan pattern. The new pattern will be called "European 1," and will be used on all planes, including large-cargo aircraft.

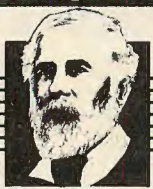
CREDIT DUE ...

When Charles W. Gabler of Van Nuys, Calif., discovered that a large local department store had contributed substantially to proposed Proposition 13, he returned the credit card he had had with them for the past 20 years, stating, "I believe actions speak louder than words, and by your generous contributions to restrict individual's rights [to own handguns], and by your entrance into the so-called 'political arena,' I simply re-


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fuse to trade with the enemy . . . it is my time to stand up and be counted."

Gabler, a lawyer, learned that Carter Hawley Hale Stores Inc., owner of the Broadway Store with which he had his credit card, had contributed thousands of dollars in support of Proposition 15 from reading it in a gun magazine.

"I've raised five children and spent a lot of money at the Broadway in the past 20 years," Gabler said, "but what's more important, I'll spend a lot more in the next 25 years. I'll spend that with organizations which share my convictions."

If each of the nearly five million Californians who voted against Proposition 15, which was defeated by a three-to-two margin, refused to patronize the proposition's sponsors, perhaps future restrictive proposals wouldn't be so well-funded.

MORE MARINES IN LEBANON? . . .

The Reagan administration reportedly is considering at least doubling the American troop commitment in Lebanon. Presently, a reinforced Marine battalion with support elements is there.

No firm decision has been made of

who would go, or when or how long they might stay, but a buildup of some sort appears likely. The Lebanese Army has been steadily improving, but is still far from ready to fill the gap that will be left by eventual withdrawal of foreign forces.

The possibility of Belgian, Dutch and Korean forces supplementing the French, Italian and U.S. troops already in Lebanon is also under consideration.

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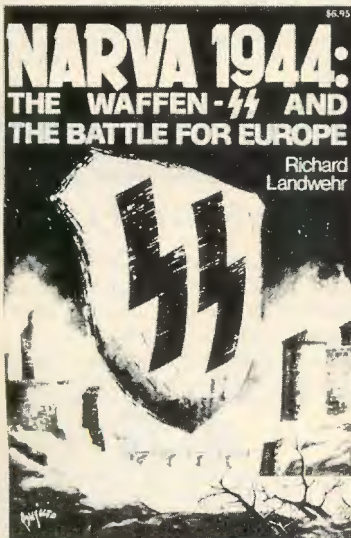
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FLAK



Continued from page 4

— at least those which are seen by the general public — are capable of getting off the ground, much less from continent to continent. It's all a big bluff, and we Americans, noted for our gullibility, are going for it hook, line and sinker.

Sincerely,
Charles Gray, Ph.D.
Santa Fe Springs, Calif.

Sorry, but the vest described is indeed a flak jacket for the following reasons, among others: 1) A jacket designed for cold-weather protection would not incorporate heavy plastic bags to contain the insulation material. Plastic of this type doesn't breathe and would allow no evaporation of body moisture. 2) The plastic bags are set in open pockets. Clearly they are intended to be replaced immediately, i.e., after impact with projectiles or explosive fragments has damaged them. 3) The vest is open on the sides and provides no insulation for the vital kidney area, an important factor in properly designed cold-weather gear. 4) For more than 20 years now Soviet infantry tactics and equipment have revolved around the concept of armored infantry fighting vehicles. The vehicle's skin itself should obviously provide primary personnel protection, leaving the individual only with fending off almost-spent shards of shrapnel, at least while in the APC. 5) Finally, the item has been examined by western intelligence sources, who have four other different types of Soviet body armor, and they have confirmed that it is just that, a flak jacket.

Regarding the question of handgun conversion, any semiautomatic firearm can be converted to fire full-auto. Some only after a great expenditure of time and effort, and some quite easily. With a pistol, unless a shoulder stock and three-shot burst control are incorporated, the result will be unsatisfactory as the cyclic rate will be too high, the muzzle climb uncontrollable and the hit probability too low.

Furthermore, such conversions are distinctly illegal, unless you live in a state that allows possession by individuals of Title II firearms (California does not), and first file and gain approval of a BATF Form 1, accompanied by a \$200 transfer tax and local police certification. It is not our policy to dispense information that could place SOF readers in legal jeopardy. — Peter G. Kokalis, SOF Military Small Arms Editor

SOUTH AFRICAN LAV ...

Sirs:

In the February '83 issue of SOF there appeared an article entitled "LAV it to the Marines." That started me thinking — while there seems to be a sincere interest in finding a LAV, the military is overlooking a possible supplier of proven vehicles. I refer to the South African Ratel, which may be worth consideration as it has already seen combat. If the Ratel meets the necessary requirements an agreement might be possible whereby it could be produced under license.

Mark Frank
Marietta, Ohio

Not a bad idea, since the Ratel has a considerable reputation among people who have seen it in operation in Africa. However, we suspect that the political climate is not such that the United States would either consider or be able to purchase Ratels from South Africa at this time — The Eds.

A N OLD FAVORITE ...

Sirs:

I was pleased to see favorable press concerning the A-1 Skyraider in your publication. This is one aircraft that should have been maintained in our services. As yet no currently fielded aircraft in anyone's inventory can match it as a cost-effective ground-strike aircraft or helicopter escort.

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Steve Rohde
Fallbrook, California ✂

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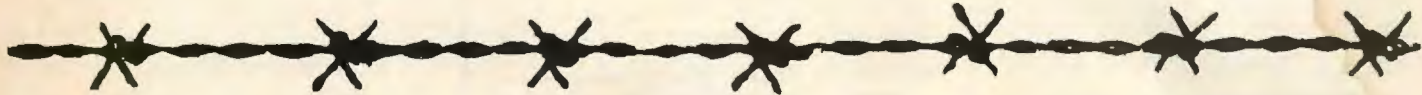
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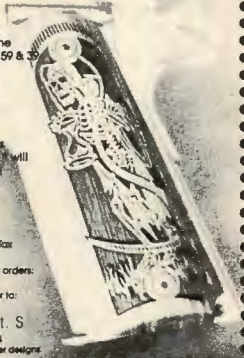
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DEATH TO CUBANS!

Written off by most of the western world, Jonas Savimbi's Army is still very much alive and busy killing Cubans in Angola's bush. SOF's Rick Venable joined Savimbi's troops to get an update and what he found will stun you in June's *Soldier of Fortune*.





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A KNIFE THAT WAS TEMPERED IN HELL

By Robert A. Buerlein

JAPANESE warlords were sweeping across the Pacific. America desperately needed a tough commando force to strike back. We got one—the U.S. Marine Raiders.

This elite force of hand-picked fighters was specially equipped to carry out their deadly missions. A 1943 song described them well: "They carry machine guns like pistols, and a knife that was tempered in Hell!"

The knife was developed expressly for them by Lt. Col. Clifford H. Shuey. Based directly on the Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife, this was the first knife designed by a Marine Corps officer and officially issued to Marines. It was called the U.S. Marine Raider Stiletto.

Instead of a separately machined cross-guard and grip being attached to the blade tang with a top nut, the Stiletto hilt was die-cast directly on the tang. This was faster to make and permitted gripping surfaces impossible to achieve by lathe turning. The side panels were ribbed vertically to increase gripping power on the thrust. The top and bottom panels were checkered to improve the grasp in the thrust and the slash.

The zinc-aluminum alloy used for the hilts took a sharp cast impression and had the proper weight, toughness and "feel"—wet or dry.

The blades were machined from stamped blanks of rolled steel. This quick production rushed Stilettoes into the hands of Raiders within weeks of design approval. Only fifteen thousand of these knives were made—a small quantity compared to the two and a half million U.S. M-3 trench knives made in 1943 alone.

For this reason, these Stilettoes are scarce. Specimens in mint condition can easily sell for \$1,000 or more. They are so scarce that the U.S. Marine Raider Association has officially authorized a special limited edition reissue of the Stiletto, to make it possible for Raiders to own a battleworthy Stiletto again.

The U.S. Marine Raider Association is approving every step of this project to assure a knife superior in every way to the wartime version.

Each new blade is forged from the finest Sheffield sword steel. Then each is hardened, tempered, hand ground and mirror polished by the highly respected H.G. Long & Co., established in 1846 in Sheffield, England.

The zinc ions of the wartime alloy hilts have leached out over the past 40 years, leaving the metal brittle and often cracked. For this reason, each hilt of the official reissue is cast of pewter, a metal proven to endure for centuries.

For beauty and to further set this Stiletto apart from all others, the hilt is heavily plated with Sterling Silver and inset with a full color cloisonne enamel Marine Raider insignia. The blade is deeply etched with a foliate U.S.M.C. scroll, and the limited edition serial number is engraved on the reverse shoulder. It is a beautiful—yet battle worthy—weapon.

This is the first time since World War II that this knife has been produced—and this is the only time the Stiletto will ever be officially authorized by the U.S. Marine Raider Association.

Because of the superior quality of this Stiletto and the attention it is receiving in the Marine Corps, future collectors may well prize this limited reissue even more than the original Stilettoes. This has happened on numerous occasions with collector arms in the past.

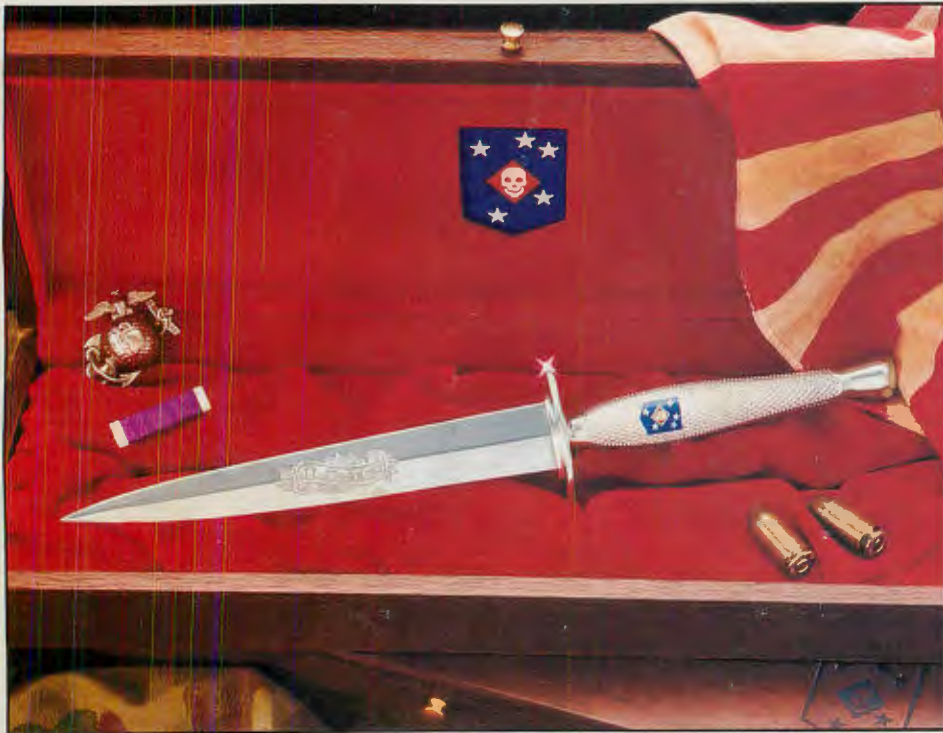
Only 2500 Stilettoes will be made—far fewer than produced during the war. This limit corresponds with the number of known surviving Raiders. This officially authorized reissue will be available to the general public only to the extent that these Raiders do not reserve Stilettoes—a built-in assurance of rarity to collectors.

Reservations for the officially authorized Stiletto are now being accepted on a first come, first served basis by The American Historical Foundation, on behalf of the U.S. Marine Raiders. A Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each Stiletto, as does a history of the Raiders by Raider Colonel "Stormy" Sexton.

This is an opportunity to own one of the rarest and most valuable knives in the world of military collecting, at a small fraction of the price that the wartime Stilettoes bring today.

Each time you pick up this officially authorized Stiletto, you—and the generations who follow—will share a bond with these famous daring Raiders with blackened faces, carrying "machine guns like pistols and knives that were tempered in Hell", silently paddling rubber boats ashore to an enemy-held island to put their lives on the line in the defense of America's freedom. ■

Officially-authorized reissue of the U.S. Marine Raider Stiletto. Limited edition of 2500 worldwide.



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To: The American Historical Foundation
1022 West Franklin Street, Dept. SOF-S1
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: (804) 353-1812
24-hour toll free reservations:
(800) 558-8133

- Yes, I wish to reserve the U.S. Marine Raider Stiletto, officially authorized by the U.S. Marine Raider Association. I understand that the hilt is overlaid with Sterling Silver, and the blade is forged, hardened, tempered and mirror-polished sword steel. Each is individually serially numbered and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity, a copy of "Historical Handbook of the Marine Raiders" and membership in The American Historical Foundation. Free delivery.
- Also please include the optional furniture-finished mahogany display case, lined with Marine Corps scarlet velvet and bearing the Marine Raider insignia on the outer lid and in silk on the inner liner.
- My deposit of \$35 is enclosed. Please invoice (or charge my credit card) for the balance due prior to delivery.
- My payment in full is enclosed (Stiletto: \$195; optional case, add \$30).

Name

Address

For Visa, MasterCard, or American Express, please send account number, expiration date and signature. Virginia residents add tax.