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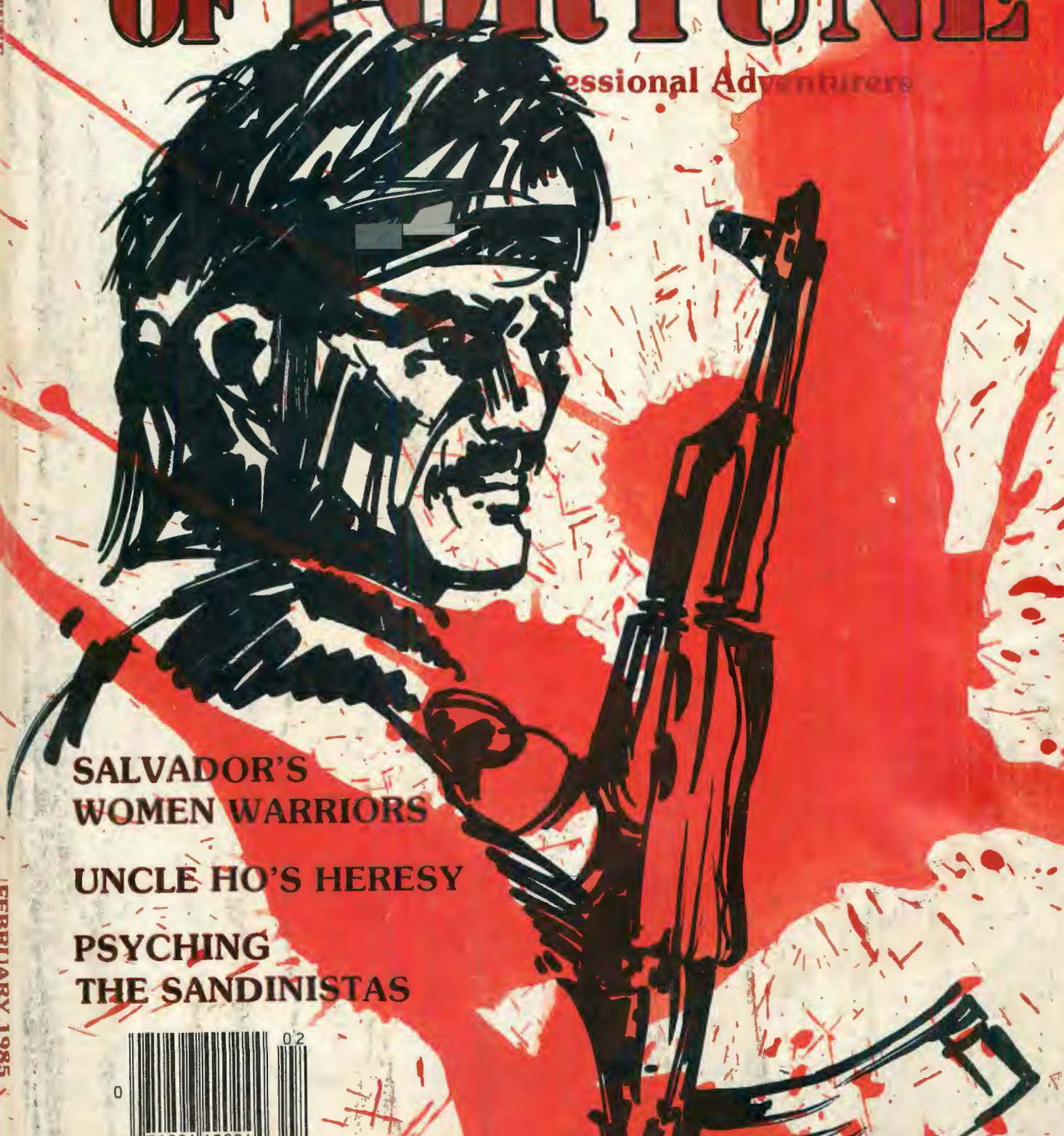
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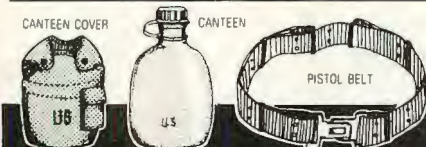
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Choose: Camouflage rubber armoured or Black rubber armoured.
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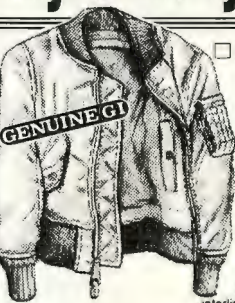
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Specify: Sage Green or Blue Shell - Regular Length Only.
Sizes: XS, S, M, L **\$46.75/each; XL \$51.50/each**

Brand New!! Flight Jackets in Black and Woodland Camouflage - Exact in every detail to the genuine GI MA1 jackets above, manufactured by the same government contractor, to military specs, with reversible orange linings. The Black nylon shelled jackets feature a gold zipper and the Woodland Camo jackets are made from genuine GI cloth of 50% cotton/50% nylon.
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XS, S, M, L **\$47.75/each; XL \$50.75/each; XXL \$62.75/each.**
Specify Olive Drab (OD) Green or Woodland Camo Shell.

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DE-BRIEF

by Dale A. Dye, Executive Editor

LIKE almost every other free enterprise, publishing boils down to the bottom line on a profit and loss sheet. Taking that premise a logical step further, it becomes obvious that newspapers — and magazines such as SOF — concentrate their coverage and placement emphasis in accordance with what they believe the reading public wants. That's a sound, logical business practice but it *is* not an excuse for sloppy journalism or sensationalism.

It is very likely the reason most newspapers, magazines, TV and radio reports characterized the recently-revealed manual on guerrilla warfare, which was developed by the CIA and distributed among the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters, as some kind of blood-drenched "murder manual." The document is not any such thing. It is a Spanish-language re-hash of theories and techniques developed by such proven tacticians and guerrilla fighters as Sun Tzu, Mao Tse-Tung and Ho Chi Minh. Of course, characterizing the manual in such mundane terms would not sell newspapers or magazines.

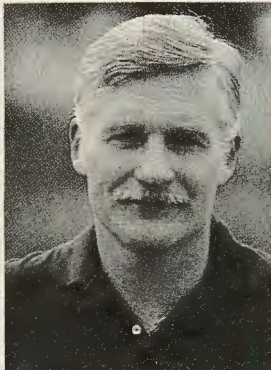
Years ago when those of us in uniform were sweating through "Jungle Villages" and "Booby-trap Trails" in preparation for combat in Vietnam, we were also reading the same sort of advice and theory contained in the CIA manual on insurgency warfare composed for the anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua. We gained access to such material primarily through the good offices of the U.S. Army's JFK Center for Unconventional Warfare at Ft. Bragg.

Soldier-scholars had pored over the writings of Chairman Mao, Uncle Ho and General Giap in an effort to give us some insight concerning what we were up against in fighting communists in Southeast Asia. They also developed manuals which could be used by Green Berets working with indigenous troops in what

amounted to counter-insurgency operations. Such volumes were full of tips and tricks designed to tell us what we could expect from the enemy and how we might employ similar techniques to combat them. No big deal. In fact, such studies were widely applauded as examples of American forces learning how to fight unconventional war and turn the tables on a guerrilla enemy.

Despite the gruesome labels and sordid implications pegged to the Agency-developed guerrilla primer distributed among anti-communist forces in Honduras and Nicaragua, the lessons contained in it run curiously to that type.

So why are some people in Congress sewing hair shirts, beating their breasts and leaking copies of the manual to the press like water through a bowled-over fire hydrant? As in the business of selling newspapers and magazines, it all boils down to a bottom line. Some people believe the communists pose a major threat to the security of the continent with their shenanigans in Central America; others obviously do not.



Those who think the Sandinistas should be left alone to impose their particular brand of tyranny on the people of Nicaragua love to paint a dark, draconian picture of the U.S. teaching evil, inhumane tactics to an illegal insurgency. Those who are naive enough to believe SAMs will not be fired across the Nicaraguan border at Salvadoran aircraft; that Soviet-built attack helos will only fly friendly skies, or that MiGs capable of intercontinental missions will never be based in Nicaragua would love to convince their constituents that America is meddling in affairs that do not concern her. They will grasp at any straw to support such disinformation efforts.

The CIA manual distributed to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters is just such a nebulous straw. ✕

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Ronald Greenman
Special Forces face armor in Vietnam. **82**



Page 66

COVER: *The covert-action story of '84 was the CIA guerrilla war manual. It was a primer to murder, mayhem and social disorder that no civilized nation could condone. Or was it? SOF — alone of all the media — is giving you the original text so you can answer the question: Is this a murder manual, or is it a conventional guerilla ops leaders' reference? Your tear-out copy begins on page 95. Illustration: Craig Nunn*

Bulletin Board 8
FLAK 10
Combat Weaponcraft 16
Battle Blades 12
In Review 20
I Was There 24
Full Auto 18
Adventure Quartermaster 26
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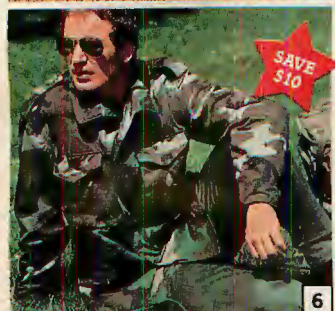
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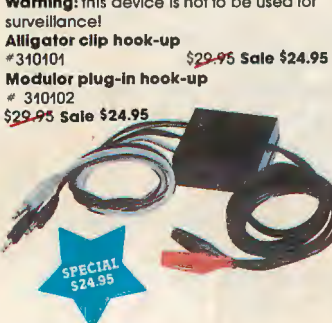
6 GI M-65 Field Jacket
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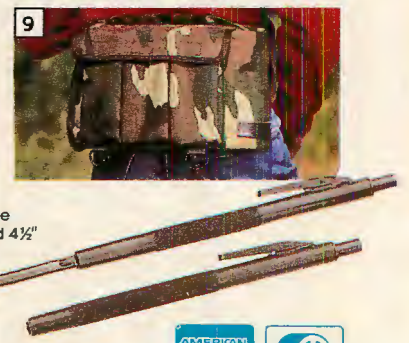
5 U.S. Military Fatigues.
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14

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17



HUNTER'S SPECIAL

18

18 Lifeknife Commando

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22 USAF N-2B Flyer's Short Parka

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FREEDOM FIGHTERS...

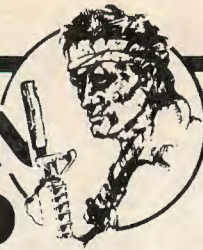
SOFers haven't forgotten the mujahideen, even if the six-o'clock news has. November 1984 was a good month for the Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund. Contributors included: Charles Cummings, Steven M. Womack, Frank Carpenter, Gem Burke, Purcell Oriental Rug Co., Robt. B. Skudnig, Eric R. Lash, James Bogart, Thos. E. Kettner, John Fredricks, Robt. F. and Kelly J. Mance, Glenn R. Spalding, Nancy Baldridge, R.A. Burnside, Daniel D. Connell, Dari Minnick, T.K. Benford, Thos. J. Morrison, A. McNally (Dalton-in-Furness, England), Rickey Brumbaugh, Wm. A. Kiff, Christopher Hekimian, Gerald Rinell, Larry K. Lewis, Roy T. Stevenson, Mark P. Motylinski, Matthew A. Sonner, John A. Traeger, Wildflower, Catherine D. Heffington, Carol Winkler, Roger A. Morin, Christopher Buchheit, Alexander T. Baskons, Paul Delegato, and Patricia L. Featherston.

Check or money-order contributions should be mailed to Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80302.

MISSING IN ARDE...

Bill Davis hasn't heard from his son George since April 1984. Then, *Time* Magazine wrote that he had been seen with ARDE forces. George is six-foot-three, blond and is 26 years old. Anyone knowing anything about George Davis' recent whereabouts should contact Bill Davis, Box 6194, Olympia, WA 98502. Phone: (206) 754-8423.

BULLETIN BOARD



No foreign shooter competed in SOF's Three-Gun International Match in 1984. Editor/publisher Robert K. Brown receives MilArms Company award from rep Mike Nudel. The check will be held and the award will be doubled next year. Photo: Emie Husted

MECH MERCS...

"Contract in Borneo" (p. 72 of this issue) will show you modern merc-work at its best. There are a few genuine gunslingers out there but most contract "soldiers" of the '80s are manning sophisticated equipment. And according to want-ads RCA has been running lately, the U.S. Navy is hiring its share of contract labor for the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEK).

Unmarried, experienced diesel mechanics, electricians, sonar technicians, computer technicians, calibration technicians, communication technicians, radar technicians trained in Nike Hercules radar, torpedo technicians and torpedo handlers may want to send a current resume and salary history to: Manager of Employment, RCA Service Co., AUTEK Project, 3800 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33402. They offer base salary, lodging, meals and foreign service premiums.

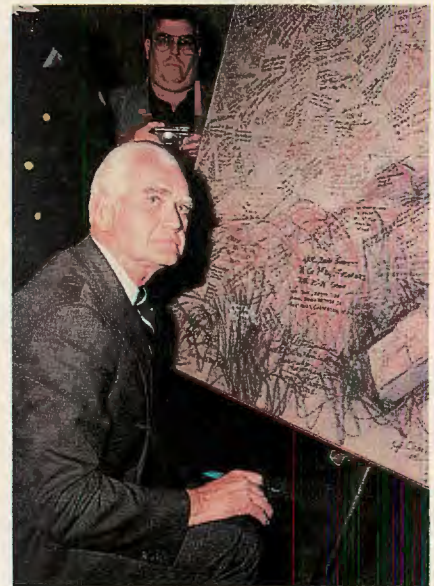
VIETNAM COLLECTORS' MEDAL...

H.R. 1870, sponsored by Rep. Frank Annunzio (D-Ill.), directs the Treasury Department to coin and sell a medal honoring Americans who served in the Vietnam War. Design competition will encourage Vietnam vets to send in their concepts. The medal will be struck by the U.S. Mint and sold nationally. No plans have been made to give them to vets.

WESTY'S WARRIORS...

Gen. William Westmoreland continues to carry the fight to CBS in an attempt to clear his name of charges that he falsified enemy strength figures before the Tet '68 offensive. This evidence probably isn't admissible in court, but thousands of men who served under him during the Vietnam War have given more than \$66,000 to Westmoreland's legal fund. Units whose men have already donated \$1000 or more to the fund are: 187th Abn. RCT, \$4,801; 101st Abn. Div., \$4,322; USAF (all units), \$3,048; 82nd Abn. Div., \$2,488; 9th Inf. Div., \$1,960; USN (all units), \$1,823; Special Forces, \$1,517; 1st Inf. Div., \$1,385. Vets organizations have kicked in too: Marine Corps Aviation Association, \$2,590; Retired Officers Association, \$2,351; Veterans of Foreign Wars, \$2,160.

Send tax-deductible donations to Veterans for Westmoreland, Box 264, Locust Valley, NY 11560. Checks should be made out to Capital Legal Foundation/Gen. Westmoreland, and you should specify your unit so the gift can be properly credited.



Gen. Wm. Westmoreland signs Viet-vet painting at SOF's 1982 convention, soon after CBS had charged him with falsifying enemy-strength figures. SOFers have since joined the thousands who have given to his legal fund.

KEVLAR CRACK...

The Czechoslovakian color news magazine *Svet v Obrazech* has us organizing war in Angola and generally representing the U.S. government in secret ops around the world. It also tells of Bob Brown's discussion (with an interviewer) of the U.S. Army's testing a helmet "made from Kevlar — a bullet-proof material first developed by the Soviet military but discarded for its ineffectiveness."

As you'll remember, SOF broke the story on the USSR's latest body armor in May 1984. Our tests showed, among other things, that the heavy, bulky, titanium-clad vest wouldn't stop anything heavier than 9mm Parabellum. At the same time, we explained that the Russian vest performed so poorly because the fabric was woven in an elastic twill instead of the more stable plain-cloth configuration.

LUANDA LOSING...

Hard as it is for anti-communist guerrillas to attract press attention, Angolan freedom fighters are making themselves hard to ignore. Amid widespread predictions that UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) could be in the capital city of Luanda sometime in '85, the Cuban-supported Angolan government is having trouble keeping up appearances as Luanda is blacked-out for days at a time when UNITA demo teams blow power pylons south of the city, as happened in the middle of October '84.

We wonder if a similar occurrence in Guatemala City would make headlines.

CIRCLE THE WAGONS...

The Soviets are turning Kabul into an armed camp by night, according to mujahid, journalistic and diplomatic sources. A *Wall Street Journal* reporter said he watched an armored clearing patrol circle the Kabul airstrip to safeguard the landing of a few choppers. Diplomats in Islamabad, Pakistan, say rocket attacks have become so disruptive that helicopter patrols have been multiplied, and Soviet troops are being pulled in from outlying provinces and the operations in the Panjsher to try to clear the Logar Valley south of Kabul. The Russians may win every place they can apply their force, but the more land they try to control the thinner their forces will be spread. ✖

MIG SMOKE SCREEN?...

Nicaragua's Marxist-led government will get Warsaw Pact jet fighters, Washington sources told SOF in mid-November, "it is only a matter of time." Insiders from the Pentagon, the White House and Capitol Hill began confirming old, unpublished reports that the Sandinista regime was set to receive new air assets for its inventory from the Communist Bloc: subsonic, Czechoslovakian-made Aero L-39 Albatros jet fighters and the Russian Mi-24 Hind attack helicopter.

Intelligence leaks widened in the wake of a short-lived Reagan administration storm over the alleged delivery of supersonic Russian MiG-21s (NATO code name "Fishbed") to the Nicaraguan port of Corinto. The administration much earlier made clear to Managua its intention to destroy any imported MiG-21s, citing the aircraft's capability as a strategic threat to U.S. borders. The furor quickly abated when it became apparent that the Russian freighter *Bakuniani* had unloaded no MiG-21s.

Two well-informed SOF Washington sources, however, say that the controversy over MiG-21s was "inflated" because the administration already knew, and apparently accepted, that ComBloc aircraft of no strategic threat to U.S. borders would be delivered. "I have a strong feeling that that the MiG-21 flap was just a smoke screen," one source said.

More conservative administration officials are as opposed to allowing Hind helicopters or the Albatros jets into Nicaragua as they are the MiG-21, because "I consider the L-39Z a much more effective fighter, a far greater tactical threat, than the MiG-21 ever could be in that environment," the source said, adding that the Czech jet has the added advantage of being a short-takeoff-and-landing (STOL) aircraft. "While everyone in the U.S. has focused on whether this or that ship contains MiG-21s, the Nicaraguans have been unloading aircraft that will do extreme damage to the anti-communist guerrillas," — the Hind helicopter.

Two other SOF sources, one at the White House, said as early as October that the administration planned to accept ComBloc delivery of the Czech jet fighters to Nicaragua. This was confirmed in mid-November by sources in Congress and at the Pentagon. And before the confrontation over delivery of non-existent MiG-21s had even begun, the Bulgarian freighter *Christo Batov* had unloaded four Mi-24 Hinds at the Nicaraguan east coast port of El Bluff. Eight more were delivered within the month, sources said.

But whatever agreement the U.S. and Soviet Union may or may not have about what kinds of aircraft the Reagan administration will tolerate in Nicaragua, the Sandinistas indicated the country has "the right and the duty to acquire whatever arms it needs to protect

itself." That, the Reagan administration has said, is the real rub. Counting its militia, Nicaragua can field 100,000 troops assisted by 3,000 Cuban military advisers and a smaller number of Soviets and East Germans. That's disconcerting to the country's closest neighbors. Costa Rica has no army and Honduras has only 15,500 military troops.

As for the MiG-21s, the U.S. has several aircraft in its inventory more than capable of neutralizing any strategic threat posed by the Soviet jets if they were stationed in Nicaragua. Since the first one was built in 1956, MiG-21s have been provided by the Soviet Union to 34 countries, most of them in the Third World.

Spurred by White House threats of a reprisal should the MiG-21s be delivered, the Sandinistas — aided by Russian technicians and advisers — have been busily beefing up air defenses. Once completed, the modifications could make any U.S. air strike much more costly. These considerations raise the question of whether the U.S. government might not be tempted to strike sooner rather than later.

There is no longer any question, however, that the Nicaraguans will get ComBloc jets; certainly first the Czech aircraft and possibly later even the MiG-21s. If that much is not true, then at least 50 Nicaraguan pilots receiving fighter jet training in Bulgaria are wasting a lot of their country's time and money.

VIETNAM VETS...

Sirs:

I would like to commend SOF and Dale Andrade for the article "Stamping Out Stereotypes: Will the Real Vietnam Veterans Please Stand." (December '84 issue) As the son of a Vietnam veteran, I can only begin to identify with the frustrations felt by my father and thousands of other Vietnam vets. Even at 16, I am infuriated by the treatment given to veterans by the U.S. press.

Patrick Ferguson
Columbus, Ga.

Thank you for your insightful words of wisdom and reality concerning the Vietnam veteran. It is reassuring to see that as time goes by the professionalism with which the Vietnam-era soldier did his job is beginning to be recognized as a good trait. Society is beginning to recognize that determination, self-reliance, resolve and belief in democracy were not only beneficial to those in Vietnam, but as a whole are very beneficial for the nation. Keep up the good work.

Jim Anderberg
Bakersfield, Calif.

Thanks, gentlemen, for your kind words. SOF will continue to tell the public that Vietnam veterans should be respected for their patriotic sacrifices, not reviled or ignored. — The Eds.



FLAK

SOF BAN SOUGHT...

Sirs:

As a concerned longtime subscriber to SOF I enclose for your information a newspaper clipping taken from the front page of *The New Zealand Herald* [in which police say they are considering a ban on sales of SOF in that country.] I have written the Minister of Customs in support of SOF. Keep up the good work.

I.E. Stroud
Huntly, New Zealand

The police here are quite upset about SOF. I find the magazine very interesting as I am ex-army. Some of the books SOF advertises are classed [by the government] as indecent. [They] cannot be imported so they have to be smuggled in.

Richard Boulton
Auckland, New Zealand

SOF is the only magazine I buy. All other SOF readers will understand my shock when I picked up yesterday's newspaper to see that the New Zealand police and the Minister of Customs are talking about banning the sale of SOF. Just in case, could you please send me the subscription rates for air and surface postage to New Zealand?

Blair C. Walter
Auckland, New Zealand

Being a dedicated SOFer and an Australian presents great problems. Being as popular as it is here, often not enough copies are actually on sale. The Australian government is very concerned about censorship. Perhaps it is the communists and socialists within the ruling Labor Party who are trying to block the availability of such magazines as SOF. People who read SOF here will continue to fight to rectify the situation.

Andrew Elder
Melbourne, Australia

Attempts to ban the sale of SOF by various governments, particularly New Zealand, are not new. The New Zealand government's gripe has been with SOF advertising, not editorial content. And as the most recent article from the New Zealand press stated, "Soldier of Fortune was investigated by New Zealand Customs in 1979. It decided the magazine did not breach the laws because the advertising was not a predominant feature." Unfortunately, most Western countries do not have the full protection of free press guaranteed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. — The Eds.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Sirs:

If there is a T-shirt and bumper sticker propaganda war being waged in this country, I would guess the left is winning more hearts than our side. Frankly, aside from the sentiments, I find "No More Vietnams" a more appealing and acceptable message than "Kill Them All; Let God Sort 'Em Out." I appreciate the historical significance of the latter, but I've seen enough indiscriminate killing in my time. I always viewed it as a tool of communists and other terrorists. Mottos like "Mess With the Best, Die Like the Rest," suggest to me someone with something to prove; usually that the wearer could afford the price of a T-shirt — which he hopes will convince someone — but not the price of a Silent Partner. The "best" I've known were pretty quiet about it. They just acted, without advertising.

In case no one noticed, we are in a battle for the minds and support of our own citizens. We might have won Vietnam if we hadn't lost here. We need some positive, acceptable propaganda if we aren't going to lose Central America in this country, too. We might win more hearts here if we turned off fewer minds.

Ben E. Fox
San Francisco, Calif.

Fifteen years ago I could not have imagined myself addressing a publication such as yours. Over the years, however, I have developed a deep respect for both those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam and those who came back with their eyes open to what the Marxist mentality is doing to our planet. When I started working as a public school teacher I became damned frustrated with the socialists who dominated our local union. They made it a policy to lie to the kids about anything that showed the U.S. in a good light. One even had the audacity to tell a number of Cuban students that the economic system of the Soviet Union was morally superior to that of the U.S. This year I have been teaching English to recent immigrants from all over the world. Out of 150 immigrant students, I have very few who are here for any other reason except that the Soviets screwed up his or her country. Name a country and I can tell you a horror story. If all one paid attention to was the popular press, most folks would never know that kids like this exist. The only publication that tells it like it is SOF.

D.R. Adams
Hayward, Calif.

Continued on page 109

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I have made my living making knives for nearly 15 years. I do not sell fertilizer, fix other people's teeth, or fight fires. I did not start making knives to bring in a few bucks or to have a little something to do in my retirement. I got serious about fighting knives a long time ago, and have seen any number of fads and gimmicks come and go in the field of knifemaking.

Sawteeth fall into this category.

Human nature being what it is, that statement is going to generate howls of protest, indignation, and probably some hard feelings. That's OK. The idea here is to talk about knives as tools and weapons — not fads. This "sawtooth syndrome" reveals a great deal about the motives of some knifemakers and the knowledge and intelligence of others. It also says a lot about how little the general public really knows about a knife, one of mankind's most basic implements since the stone age.

Sawteeth on combat blades first appeared in France. In about 1802 a Pioneer (Combat Engineer) short sword was made and issued with sawteeth. In those days, soldiers who constructed things or cleared areas certainly needed a chopping blade and they found a saw handy in the field also. As issued, the Pioneer's short sword made a clumsy fencing weapon but it chopped like an axe. Unfortunately, despite the teeth along the spine of the blade, the Pioneer's short sword sawed like a sword.

We have seen sawteeth to a limited degree on military bayonets. Saws on bayonet blade backs first appeared in the English Army in 1841. Once again, they were only issued to Pioneers.

By the time the Swiss copied the saw-bayonet in 1890 they had a specific purpose in mind. Attached to the end of a rifle, the bayonet could be used by assaulting troops to cut down wooden barbed-wire stakes. The Swiss thought the European battlefields of the near future would be festooned with wire.

They were right about the wire, but wrong about how to deal with it. Troops with padded clothing or mats, artillery and — finally — tanks would knock down wire faster than troops could cut posts and drag the wire out of the way.

Exit the sawtooth bayonet from the Swiss arsenal.

British infantrymen, seeing their own Pioneers' bayonet and thinking it might help them with wire, liberated a few for their own purposes.

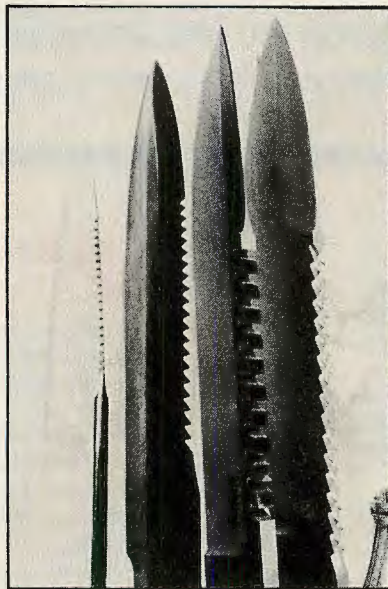
The War Office didn't pay much heed to the situation until public opinion forced them to take a stand. When a hue and cry was raised over how barbaric such a bayonet would be, the British quit issuing their version. In the



BATTLE BLADES

by Bill Bagwell

Sawtooth Syndrome



Highest tooth-count belongs to Parrish sawback (right), deepest teeth cut on Timberline, saw that's not a saw was Randall's Idea and Bianchi's shallow serrations are designed to cut rope. Photo: Peter Weizenegger

interim the Brits had discovered that their bayonet wouldn't saw down fence posts anyway, so the decision was not a particularly painful one.

The Germans, having seen both the Swiss and British examples of a sawtooth bayonet, made one of their own just in time for WWI and here we see the first nod to the psychological impact of a sawtooth bayonet. The Germans realized the weapon would not work as a field saw but they issued it anyway, banking on the intimidation factor. Their bayonet was so intimidating in appearance that the British promptly seized upon a propaganda advantage and castigated the Germans for using an inhumane weapon. The fact that British troops had previously carried such a blade did not deter them or their allies from instituting a policy of shooting any German prisoner who was unlucky enough to be captured carrying his saw-backed bayonet.

Now we've gotten to the real appeal

of the sawtooth feature on combat blades. There is an *implied ferocity* to any blade with a sawtooth back.

Never mind that it won't saw. Never mind that sawteeth weaken the blade. Never mind that you want the back of the blade of your combat knife to be smooth so that should you parry the blade of an opponent his blade will slide down yours to the guard where you have maximum leverage. Never mind those and several other good reasons why you won't want sawteeth on the back of your knife.

Teeth look mean. Their popularity has been boosted by a couple of movies, and the average guy thinks that a knife with sawteeth is just the ticket to polish his macho image. Here is a classic case of an uninformed public demanding a false bill of goods. Some knifemakers respond to the market because the money is there, because they don't know any better or because they truly believe sawteeth have some field or combat value on a knife.

What most knifemakers say in private differs from what they say in their brochures and in public about sawtooth blades. Most knifemakers put sawteeth on their blades simply because the public wants them and the knives sell. In this case the knifemaker does it simply to make money. *Caveat emptor.* There are a few knifemakers who think that their saw really works. I suggest they actually try to cut through a log or a board with their sawtooth knife. They will find that they can hack and chop their way through with the cutting edge much quicker.

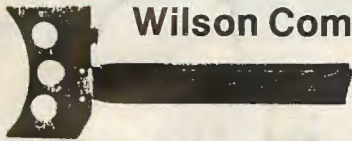
This is not supposition. I have tested the majority of the sawtooth survival knives, and not one of them has a saw that is remotely functional for that purpose. One of the better known examples with a saw that functioned better than most was by Bob Parrish. Three minutes of diligent work applied to a mesquite limb 2½ inches in diameter resulted in a saw cut to a depth of less than ¼-inch deep. That does not qualify as productive labor, as the same

Continued on page 106



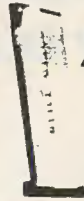
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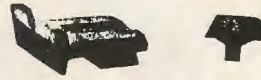
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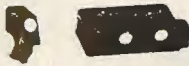
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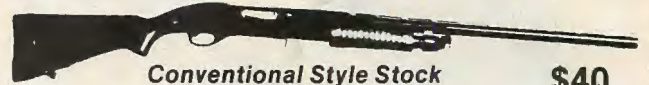


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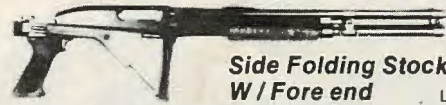


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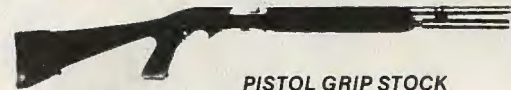
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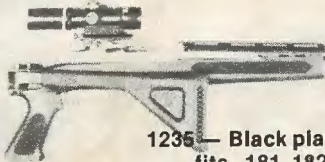
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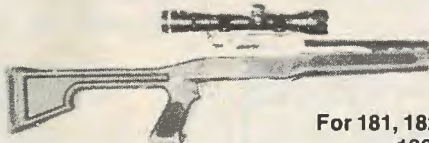
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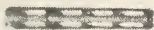
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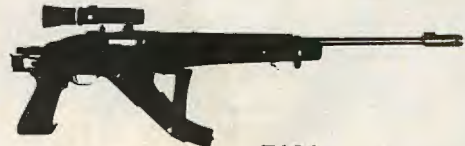
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NEXT to finding yourself in the kill-zone of a well-laid ambush, crashing through a door with armed men on the other side is about the most dangerous situation in infantry combat. But any soldier on any built-up battlefield may have to clear an enemy from a structure and it's important for them — and police officers — to consider the basic methods. There's no need to repeat American drills for SOF's readers. But British and Israeli methods differ noticeably. Let's examine the major differences in this craft of using weapons — and tactics — in combat.

Israeli house-clearing teams are the smallest of any army's. Three men divide responsibilities, and they have one special weapon: "door-key" grenades. Door-keys are a non-fragmenting grenade with nails on one side, and a magnet on the other. The nails go into wood doors, and the magnet sticks to metal.

Number one attaches a door-key near the door's lock, and pulls the pin. Two pitches in a frag when the door falls. The grenade goes off and three runs in firing an UZI or FN MAG. Two follows to back him up with his UZI. Number one backs into the doorway, to cover the rear and to keep one Israeli team from assaulting another, since several teams may work the same building.



COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Ken Mallet

House to House

SIEGECRAFT TEACHER

Guest columnist Ken Mallet's career in the British Army lasted a little over a decade, but touched every continent. He has cross-trained with Commonwealth, European, Asian and U.S. forces, and has served in a number of units specializing in forced entry in hostage sieges.

The Israeli three-man system is fast and economical in use of manpower. But it squanders small-arms ammo. It's also dangerous for innocent civilians in the building. Such destructive technique is fine for the military, but police and special units that must deal with terrorists, cornered criminals or hostages should forget about it. The British system will work better.

Based on counter-terrorist work, rather than house-to-house fighting, the British system begins with intelligence. Direct observation of the siege site, architectural drawings and interrogations of neighbors establish the size and shape of the room and its furnishings. Research may tell who the targets are and what they're likely to do.

We'll negotiate while special units train in a mock-up of the room, or an identical building. We'll go days without assaulting the building, because safety isn't a matter of time. It's a matter of the attitudes of the terrorists. But if all else fails, we go in.

Four men do the job. Number one's Remington 12-gauge pump blows the door off its hinges with rifled slugs. Then two throws stun grenades. Third through the door either fires his H&K MP5 at the ceiling, yelling "Get down!" to warn hostages, or hoses the room with suppressive fire. Four's MP5 or Browning Hi-Power dispatches identified targets: two aimed shots to the body for each before moving to another. One covers the team's backs, or wades in with buckshot if trouble develops. Depending on the situation — like the Iranian Embassy siege — we'll shoot everything that moves. But more often, we're selective.

Selective, not stupid. If a hostage doesn't drop when ordered, he's a target. And until we positively identify and dispose of all occupants, every living person is cuffed with plastic cableties. Since hostages can begin to feel a sense of a common fate with their captors, it isn't safe to leave hostages at liberty after a long siege. Remember Patty Hearst?

British terrorist-hostage tactics can be modified for standard house-clearing operations. If the mission is to clear a specified area, it gives attackers a good chance of survival. For taking prisoners, it works even better.

But in give-and-take urban battle, units may simply blast suspicious locations without going through the formal drill of room clearing. Grenade launchers, multiple hand grenades or satchel charges work well in these instances, but assault troops should never assume an area is clear until someone has gone in to look. ☒

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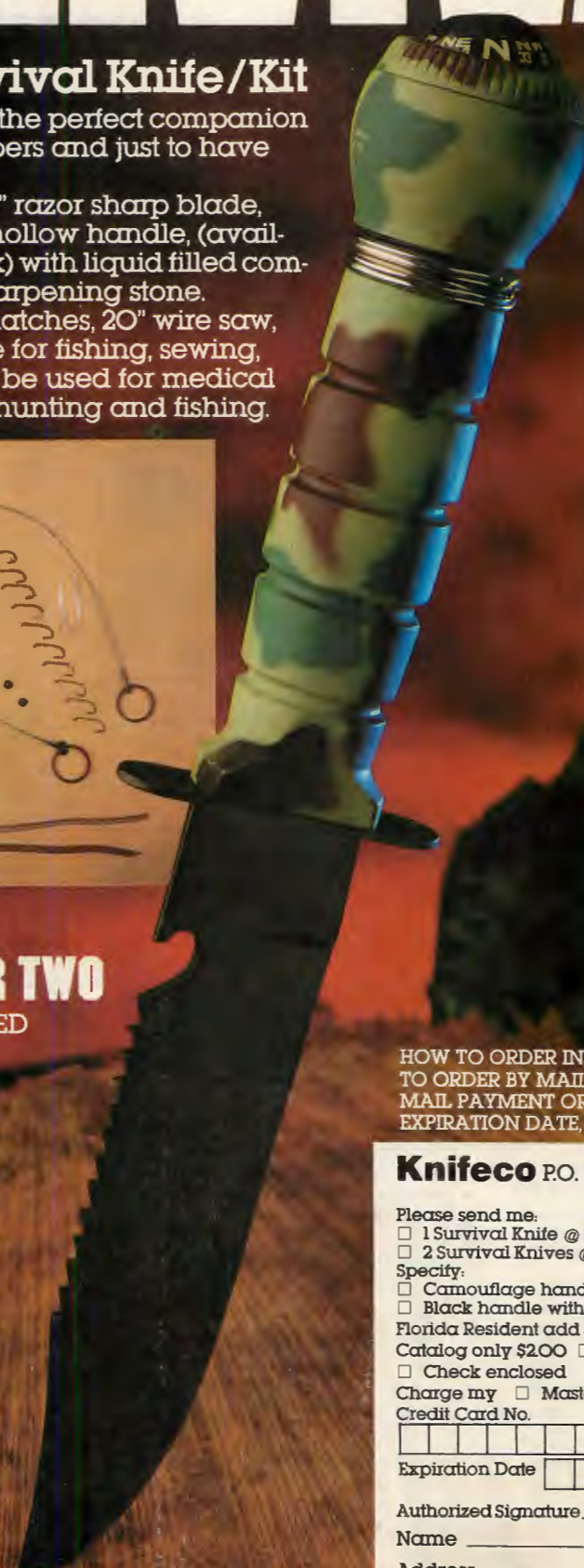
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YUGOSLAVIA walks a narrow tightrope between East and West, and that balancing act is reflected in their small arms.

The Yugoslavian Army's M53 GPMG is nothing more than a slightly updated German MG-42 and is still chambered in caliber 7.92x57mm (8mm Mauser). Their M59/66 A1 rifle series is the Simonov SKS with a gas cut-off and grenade launcher permanently attached to the muzzle. The current rifles of issue, the M70 (rigid stock) and M70A (folding stock), are Kalashnikovs chambered for the 7.62x39mm ComBloc cartridge with a grenade launching sight/gas cut-off. The light machine gun version of this so-called FAZ series of weapons, the M72, can be ordered in a 7.62mm NATO chambering which I have fired. The Yugoslav version of the Soviet Dragunov sniper rifle is issued in the German 7.92mm cartridge, not the 7.62x54mm Russian rimmed round.

In 1949 Yugoslavia adopted the M49 submachine gun. Chambered for the 7.62x25mm ComBloc pistol cartridge, this weapon looks like a close copy of the Soviet PPSH-41. It is not.

The configuration of the wooden stock, the magazine well, magazine latch release and the trigger housing group with selector switch (forward for full-auto and back for semi-automatic fire) closely resemble the PPSH-41. The rear sight of both is similar — a square notch "L" type flip, marked for 100 and 200 meters. The PPSH-41 has a hooded post front sight, adjustable for elevation, but the M49 hooded blade front sight can be moved in its dovetail for windage. The fixed sling swivels, located on the left side, are identical, one attached to the barrel jacket, the other inlet in the buttstock. Both guns fire by blowback from the open bolt, and their fixed firing pins have been press-fit into their bolt faces.

The PPSH-41 upper receiver body and barrel jacket are fabricated from a single heavy-gauge, sheet-metal stamping. Bent over a jig to form a square tube with rounded corners, the jacket is welded at the seam ends. Jacket vents are slender slits.

The M49 receiver body and barrel jacket are formed from cylindrical, drawn-steel tubing. The jacket vents are round holes.

The PPSH-41 barrel is sweated and pinned to the receiver and cannot be removed without difficulty. Taking a hint from the Bergmann MP35/I (see "Full Auto," SOF, December '84), the M49 has a quick-change barrel. Press in a spring catch located just aft of the front sight, rotate the muzzle compensator/front sight assembly (which is integral to the barrel) 90 degrees in either direction and pull the barrel.



FULL AUTO

by Peter G. Kokalis

Yugoslav M49/57

A two-position locking latch on the PPSH-41's retracting handle permits the bolt to be locked in either the open or closed position by pushing the latch into one of two cuts in the receiver's retracting handle slot. When locked in the open bolt position this latch is easily jarred loose. The M49 has a cross-bolt type safety located in front of the trigger guard.



Yugoslav M49/57 SMG: not just another PPSH-41 (author's collection).



M49/57 closeup shows PPSH-41-type selector inside trigger guard, cross-bolt safety in front of trigger guard, and tubular receiver body. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

The PPSH-41 is hinged at the magazine well. In disassembly, the receiver's end cap is pressed forward and the upper receiver/barrel jacket swung away from the lower receiver/magazine well. The M49 has a round, knurled end cap like those found on the Italian Beretta Model 1938A and 38/42 submachine guns. Press in on the protruding end of the guide rod/buffer assembly, rotate the end cap 90 degrees in either direction, and re-

move the assembly from the receiver body.

The M49 buffer assembly consists of a separate buffer spring and split ring assembly held to the end of the recoil spring guide rod by a retaining collar. The split ring assembly is composed of three bevelled collars and split rings. This system was simplified and replaced in 1957 by a rubber composition buffer between two steel collars permanently affixed to the end of the guide rod. The weapon's designation was changed at that time to M49/57. Either type is superior to the leather or composition buffers found on the PPSH-41. The Papasha's buffers soon become brittle and do nothing to cushion the bolt's sharp blow against the rear of the receiver. Direct transmission of this shock will eventually crack the buttstock. It hurts to fire a PPSH-41 and have bits of the buttstock fly into your face . . . especially if the gun is yours, the buttstock is serial numbered to the receiver and you have paid dearly for it.

The M49/57 bolt is long and accommodates the recoil spring and its guide rod in a recess milled into the rear. The bolt system resembles the Beretta Model 1938A's. The extra bolt mass drops the cyclic rate from the 900 rpm of the PPSH-41 to a more reasonable 700 rpm.

The 7.62x25mm pistol cartridge was adopted in 1930 for use in the Tokarev Model TT-30/33 pistol series. This bottle-neck cartridge is similar to the 7.63mm (.30) Mauser round developed originally for the Borchardt pistol and then increased in power for the Mauser Model 1896 Self-Loading Pistol (the "Broomhandle"). Until the arrival of the .357 Magnum, it was the hottest number in town and high velocity king of the pistol calibers. ComBloc loading will step out of the M49/57 barrel at 1,640 fps. Its 86-grain projectile has a very flat trajectory that offers consistent submachine-gun hit probability out to 200 meters. But some say you need three times its mass to kill anything. Too bad the tens of thousands of Hitler's troops who fell on

Continued on page 106

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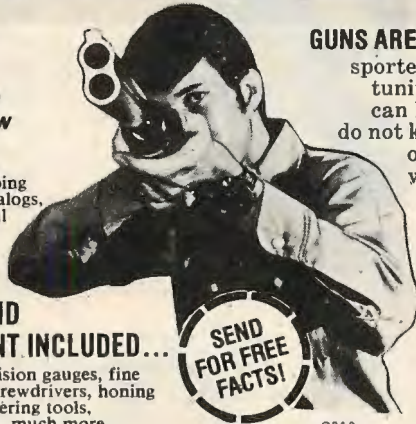
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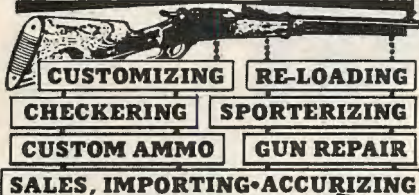
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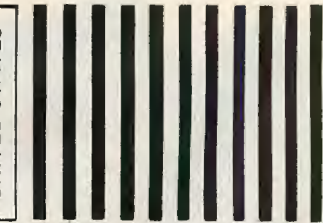
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THE GREAT RIFLE CONTROVERSY: Search for the Ultimate Infantry Weapon from World War II through Vietnam and Beyond. By Edward Clinton Ezell. Stackpole Books, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105. 1984. 368 pp. \$29.95 plus \$3 postage and handling. Review by Peter G. Kokalis.

MOST military small arms books should be issued with a pair of toothpicks to prop the eye lids open. Not so with Ezell's latest effort which contains all the ingredients of a best selling pot-boiler. Filled with intrigue, deception, incompetence, personal rivalries and hatreds, this story of America's pathetic search for the ultimate infantry rifle during the post-WWII era will rattle more than a few cages in the armaments industry. Ezell's surgical comment cuts through the bumbling confusion to isolate conceptual errors which led to sometimes-deliberate mismanagement and mistakes which killed men.

Ezell sets the stage with a brief history of the M1 Garand. The M1's battlefield successes masked the management mistakes and development difficulties which would rear their ugly heads once more during the Lightweight Rifle Program. Conflict be-

IN REVIEW



The Great Rifle Controversy

SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE INFANTRY WEAPON FROM WORLD WAR II THROUGH VIETNAM AND BEYOND



Edward Clinton Ezell, Curator, Division of Armed Forces History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
Foreword by Eugene M. Stoner, Designer of the M16 Rifle

tween production and design engineers is inevitable. In private industry it is minimized by intelligent management. U.S. federal armories have been

production oriented since their inception. Design departments at facilities such as Springfield Armory have traditionally been understaffed and their technological innovations short-shrifted as mere production line disruptions.

Toward the end of WWII the U.S. Army decided it wanted a rifle with greater firepower and lighter weight. In May, 1944 John C. Garand began modifying his rifle to selective-fire. In September of that year Remington was assigned a similar task. The user specifications were unrealistic: The M1 rifle weighed 9.5 lbs. without sling or loaded clip. The Army wanted a rifle based on the M1, with bipod, selective-fire components, a folding stock and 20-rd. magazine which would weigh no more than 9 lbs. The end of the war eliminated the sense of urgency and directed interest to other alternatives.

The ensuing Lightweight Rifle Program offered the Army an opportunity to incorporate the *Sturmgewehr* (assault rifle) concept developed by the Germans during WWII. At the heart of this concept was the employment of an intermediate power cartridge that would allow selective-fire capability in a truly lightweight rifle.

Led by the intransigent Col. Rene R. Studler, U.S. Ordnance Department Chief of small arms research and development from 1942 to 1953, the Army refused to re-think the role of the rifleman in combat and continued to insist on a light selective-fire rifle chambered for a full-power rifle cartridge. This was an impossible goal and full-auto potential fell by the wayside as the Army refused to modify existing tactical doctrine.

Ezell incisively details the agonizing story of Earle Harvey and his T25 rifle. Hand picked by Studler, Harvey worked under immense pressure against insurmountable obstacles. The Army insisted on a multipurpose weapon to fulfill requirements for a submachine gun, carbine, rifle, automatic rifle and sniper weapon. Without the potential for quick-change barrels of varying lengths and chambered for a full-power rifle cartridge the multipurpose concept was doomed from the onset.

When it became convenient to do so, Studler dropped Harvey and the T25 like a clod of dung to champion Springfield Armory's souped-up M1, the T44 — a cross between a jackass and a camel that was to be adopted as the M14. Along the way, Studler's



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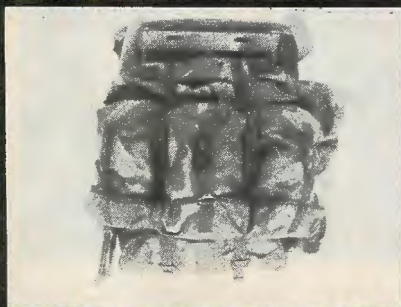
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crew rejected the fine British intermediate .280/30 cartridge leading the naive Brits to believe we would adopt the FN FAL if they in turn accepted what was to become the 7.62x51mm NATO round.

Throughout this entire shoddy and deceitful chain of events the traditionalists in the Army continued to subvert the concept of a selective-fire rifle. Their holy grail consisted of the sacrosanct belief in the virtue of aimed fire, the pious conviction that automatic fire is wasteful and the absolute certainty it would be impossible to ever supply enough ammunition to men armed with automatic rifles.

Yet a bio-statistical analysis of three million casualties during World Wars I and II, conducted by the Infantry Division of ORO (Operations Research Office) clearly indicated otherwise. ORO investigators discovered that hits on human targets were randomly distributed and men were no more likely to be hit by consciously-aimed projectiles than by random fragments. The time to degree of exposure to hostile fire were far more important factors in determining the number of hits from bullets. Furthermore, studies conducted in Korea indicated that aimed fire, while significant in the defense, played little role in the offense. The ORO study concluded that the rifle was seldom used effectively at ranges in excess of 300 meters and that most infantry kills were made at less than 100 meters. They clearly called for the adoption of more automatic weapons.

But, the dunderheads prevailed and the M14 was adopted. During its brief and less than glorious history, it was plagued from beginning to end with production problems and administrative failures. Harrington & Richardson receivers disintegrated while being fired at Fort Benning. It could not be produced, as so widely acclaimed at the time, upon M1 Garand production tooling. Original cost estimates were far too low. The entire effort was so badly managed that it failed to provide enough rifles to re-equip the Army and Marine Corps. With termination of the M14 program, the Army finally abandoned its long-held desire to have only one rifle and one cartridge.

Ezell explicitly recounts the history and development of the M16 rifle as no one has done to date. Eugene Stoner's creation was born out of concepts developed in the SALVO Project conducted during the early 1950's. SALVO-type weapons were designed for the simultaneous discharge of several small caliber projectiles from light recoil weapons having a controlled dispersion pattern. Following the SALVO Project, the Continental Army Command (CONARC) decided to sponsor development of a .22 (5.56mm) cali-

ber military rifle. The CONARC specifications permitted Stoner to develop a truly lightweight selective-fire rifle. The M16's early problems, the polarized points of view it engendered and the eventual M16 Product Improvement Program (PIP) that led to the type classification of the M16A2 are presented in fascinating detail.

An interesting chapter is also devoted to the SPIW (Special Purpose Individual Weapons) Project which utilized point target flechette ammunition and 40mm grenade area ammunition potential. Although substantial progress was made, the SPIW development was terminated as by that time more than five million M16/M16A1 rifles had been placed in inventory and there was little interest in procuring a high-cost replacement for the M16 family.

Ezell ends with a dramatic call to small arms. Stating there is still a shortage of funds and people, an absence of clearly specified goals and a low priority to small caliber research and development, he correctly demands that we must not discount the importance of infantry weapons. They are the very personal lethal tools which permit the infantryman to do his job: destroying enemy personnel and materiel while protecting friendly troops and their equipment. Properly equipped infantrymen are still a mighty force to be reckoned with. They want and need weapons which will maximize the killing power they can inflict on the enemy. In ground combat the soldier is only supplemented by more sophisticated technological systems. Better weapons should not add to the soldier's burden. We must concentrate on reducing, or at least not increasing, the grunt's load, improving target acquisition and range estimation and enhancing killing power.

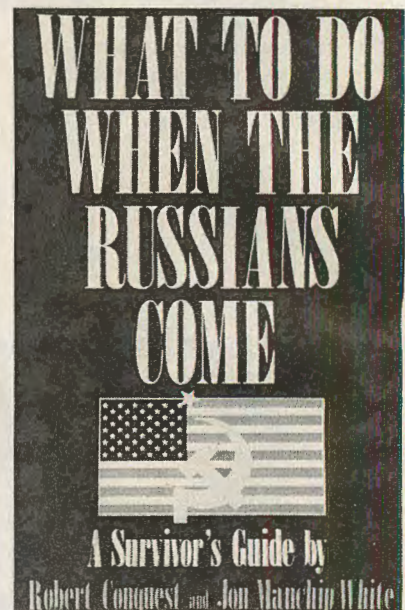
Well illustrated and footnoted, "The Great Rifle Controversy" lacks only an index. This book is dynamite and deserves the widest possible circulation in the small arms community — from collectors to designers, from manufacturers to end users. Recommended without reservation. Absolutely must reading. ✘

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE RUSSIANS COME. By Robert Conquest and Jon Manchip White. Stein and Day Publishers, Dept. SOF, Scarborough House, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510. 1984. 177 pp. \$14.95. Review by N.E. MacDougald.

ODDLY enough, *What to do When the Russians Come* really is a how-to guide for living in Soviet occu-

ped America in the near future. It is neither far-right, arm-waving paranoia, nor liberal, hand-wringing hysteria. The book's neutral point of view and sober tone provide strength and credibility. Although the title smacks of gimmickry, after only a few pages all thoughts of contrived controversy are forgotten. In fact, the style remains so matter-of-fact that the book reads exceptionally well.

Various vocations are rated as to their likely survivability under communist domination. Turning immediately to "Writer," I discovered no surprises. "Writers will know better than most what to expect from the Occupation as they are already well informed as to what happens to their co-writers behind the Iron Curtain..." So much for my future in Red America. Likely fates of U.S. military personnel, anarchists, John Birchers, Maoists, Trotskyites, and former Russian defectors are graver still. Sci-



entists fare better than most, but even they will be little more than well-treated prisoners.

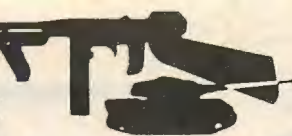
The book's contents can be found, in part, in Solzhenitsyn's works or similar literature by other Soviet emigrés. What makes *What to do When the Russians Come* different is its completeness and attention to detail. Quotations by Vladimir Bukovsky and Andrei Amalrik — former inmates of Soviet prisons and labor camps — leave little to the imagination about the joys of Soviet life. And death.

If dying on your feet sounds better than living on your knees, a token chapter is devoted to resistance but offers nothing about tactics and highlights strategy superficially. On the other hand, if collaboration with the oppressor seems an easier route, this

Continued on page 108

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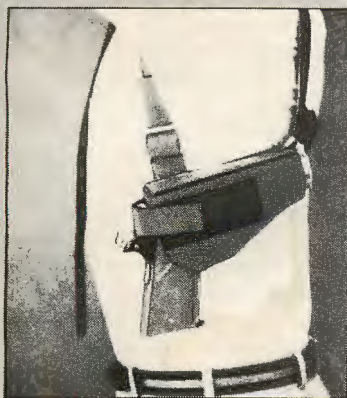
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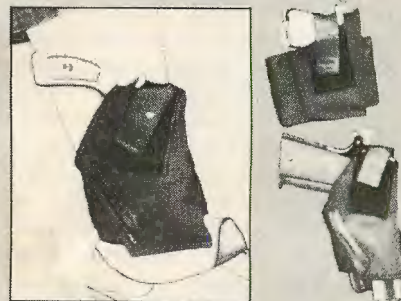
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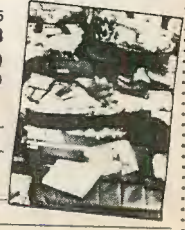
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David A. Cole, now a Houston, Texas, policeman, enlisted in the Marines in 1976. "The Marine Corps motto should be 'action speaks louder than words,' since the Corps has always been short on words and long on practice" he says. His two-week training session with India Co., 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, at the Coronado Naval Amphibious Base in California began, sank, swam and ended with the IBS — Inflatable Boat, Small. "The Gunny threatened us with painful death if we called the IBS a raft," Cole says. "When we learned to handle it we called it 'Invincible Boat, Small.' During night training we called it 'Invisible Boat, Small.' By the end of training we called it 'that silly-assed little raft' — but not when the Gunny was around."

IT was blacker than the inside of a coal mine. Twenty minutes before, the LCV's huge steel ramp had dropped down at the bow of the ship and our seven-man boat teams had begun disembarking. Now the Navy vessel lay off 500 meters from shore, engines stopped and all lights doused, waiting for our return after the raid. Silently, the last IBSs paddled toward the rest of the company, floating on line 350 meters from land. We waited on line for the signal to go ashore, parallel to the beach at 10-meter intervals for 100 yards just outside the surf zone, tense, crouched low so our silhouettes wouldn't show to the enemy inland.

I went over the game plan again with our boat team. As the demolition crew we were the key to the raid's success: We had to blow the transmitter and the radio building. The plan called for the company to come ashore undetected, scramble beneath a 10-foot-tall chain-link fence, low-crawl 100 meters over open ground, and take out the sentries and the garrison troops while we took out the radio tower. After everything blew, we were supposed to get the hell out of Dodge before their cavalry arrived.

Huddling in the boat, we could see the dark outline of Coronado Island against the glow of San Diego across the harbor. The wind picked up, blowing toward shore and at our backs. The weather forecast had called for a moonless, overcast night with three-foot waves, but the surf crashing on the beach sounded tremendous.

"We're going!" the radioman whispered. He took the handset from his ear and secured it on his web gear.

We began to paddle, three men to each side of the boat and the coxswain steering at the rear. As we gained speed, I looked left and right down the line to check our positions with the other boats. We were still on line. The



I WAS THERE

by David A. Cole as told to M.L. Jones

Hitting the Beach the Hard Way

coxswain whispered, "Stroke . . . stroke . . . stroke," to keep us in rhythm.

About 75 meters from shore the waves began to break. Surf pounded our ears. We paddled on, tense but undaunted. I looked to port for the other boats and saw several dark blobs floating in the water. Two boats had caught a more-than-six-foot wave and capsized. Another had lost half of its crew to a second giant breaker. To starboard, six other capsized IBSs bobbed, their teams floating around them. Some men swam for the beach. Others chased their boats. The waves joined the game, tossing the IBSs out of reach of the swimmers.

My team was paddling furiously now. The few boat crews still intact had one common thought: Get to shore before we got wiped out.

The coxswain was no longer whispering. He was yelling, "STROKE, STROKE, STROKE, DAMMIT, STROKE!!"

Paddling for our lives, we stared at the shore, now only 30 meters ahead.

Then the coxswain yelled, "DON'T LOOK BACK!!" We turned and looked. We shouldn't have. Towering above us was Big Daddy Wave. He had picked us to break himself on. Big Daddy picked up the boat and the IBS surfed in, hurtling toward shore. The wave drove us to the beach stern first with the bow in the water. We held on, leaning backwards. It was like a downhill rollercoaster ride. The wave broke about 20 meters from shore. The stern flipped over the bow, throwing us from our seats. In training they tell you to hold onto your oar when the boat capsizes. The first thing I lost was my oar.

I went under. I felt for the bottom to push myself up. It wasn't there. I tried to swim upwards. I couldn't find the surface! PANIC TIME! My lungs felt like I was breathing CS. I promised, "Lord, I'll go to Chapel next Sunday. Just get me out of here!" Then I touched bottom, planted my feet and shot upwards.

I was standing in waist-deep water.

It took me five steps to get ashore. Our IBS had beat us to the beach. Our team straggled in. We gathered the oars and checked our equipment as quietly as possible, then pulled the boat high on the beach and covered it with sand. When the other teams had covered their boats our soggy com-

pany assembled for the next stage of the mission.

It went as planned except that the "enemy" wasn't caught napping. We cleared the chain-link fence and started to low-crawl through an open field studded with Southern California ice plants. Overhead stars glittered in a clear night sky — and then someone tripped an enemy flare. It might as well have been noon. What seemed like about two million flares followed and the sky billowed with light from 81mm mortar illumination rounds. Boat teams became seven-man fire teams, popping blanks and running like hell over the last 50 meters to the objective.

My demo team made it to the radio tower, placed our dummy charges and said, "BANG!"

The noise from M16s and M60s died down as the enemy "died." Some of them should have won Oscars for their performance.

The company turned and ran like wild men across the open field to the chain-link fence. We scrambled through, ran to the beach, assembled the team, uncovered our IBS and dashed toward the water. Enormous waves still crashed down on the sand.

We ran into the surf, then piled into the boat and began to stroke. Paddling like madmen to the coxswain's breathless chant, we raced for calmer water. When we cleared the surf zone, we saw the LCV had moved closer to shore.

Ramp down, the ship bobbed in the swells just outside the breakers. As each wave rolled beneath the ship, the ramp, which must have weighed a couple of tons, rose out of the water about 20 feet and then slapped the sea violently as it crashed back down. Clearly, getting back aboard would require subtle timing.

We were the second team to arrive. The first boat team had paddled right up to the ramp. It rose out of the water like a sea monster and crashed down on the boat. Its crew abandoned ship and dived into the water just before the ramp struck the boat.

We were next. We watched the ramp rise into the air and smack into the water a couple of times to gauge the rhythm. Then we went for the gold.

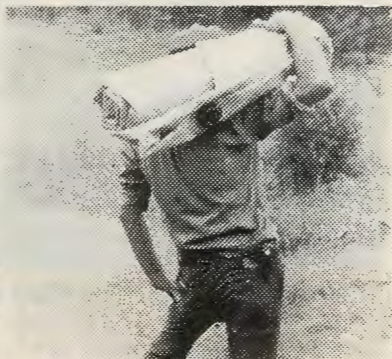
Paddling quickly, we gained speed, approaching the ramp while it was in the water. Only a few strokes more —

Continued on page 105

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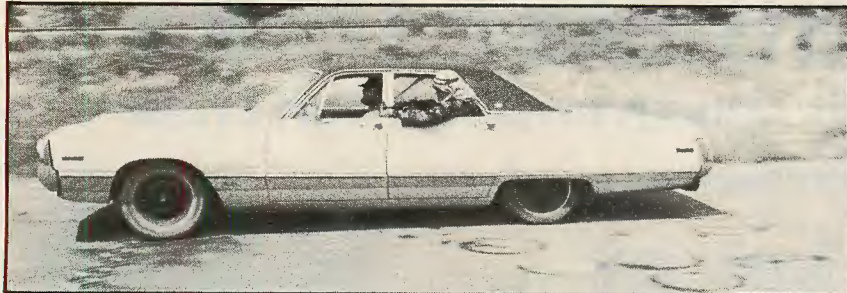
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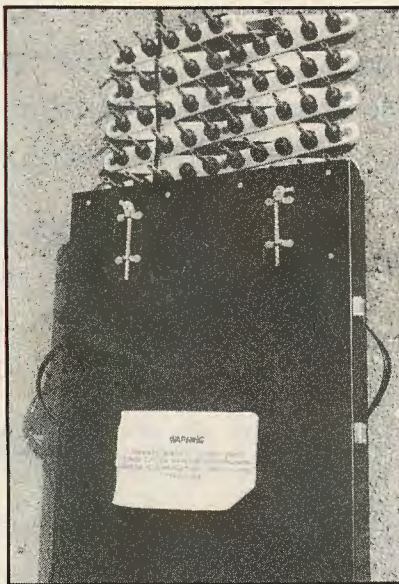
A car rolling over the Road Fang picks up a number of sharp, hollow, stainless-steel spikes in its tires. The spikes are held by friction in soft rubber bases that are fitted over steel machine screws. These screws are threaded into holes tapped in the aluminum bar-stock, scissors-jointed frame. When the spikes penetrate the tire body, the tighter grip of cord and denser tread rubber hold the shaft of the spike, pulling it out of its base and leaving the spike lodged in the tire. Even if the rubber core sticks in the tube at first, air pressure from the inside of the tire will blow it out quickly, leaving the tube a clear, open air passage.

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This steel-radial-equipped '70 New Yorker didn't make it far after SOF's test staff ran it over the Road Fang under its front wheels.

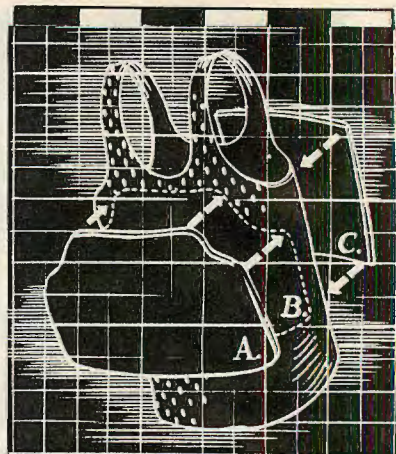
LEA's Road Fang in its compact aluminum case, with Velcro-closed pockets for deployment lines, stakes and carabiners.



for that. As the car slowed, it remained steerable. By the time we gave up trying to drive the car, a man walking could have caught us.

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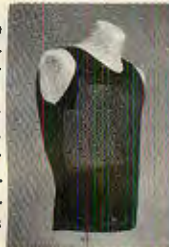
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SF 85



ENDLESS WAR

Iran-Iraq Stalemate Drags On

by Robert C. Smith



God is great: That cry echos across the battlefields of Iran and Iraq. This young Iranian chants with other soldiers in Ein Khosh, Iran after a skirmish. Tens of thousands of teen-age Iranians have volunteered for service at the front. Photo: AP/Wide World



EXCEPT for elemental differences in terrain and combatants, the area might be confused with Flanders or any of a number of other World War I battlefields. Endless serpentine trenches stretch for miles in several directions. The scorched earth between fortifications bears the same scars as any No Man's Land where artillery keeps troops hidden underground waiting for the dreaded order to go over the top.

But this is not Europe in 1918. This is the Iran-Iraq border in 1984, a period in military history when maneuver elements and mobile firepower should rule any battleground. Any battleground, that is, except

this one where a violent, volatile conflict between two Moslem nations has ground to a frustrating stalemate. Here it's still the Dark Ages of warfare.

On 22 September 1980, troops of the Iraqi Army launched a surprise cross-border attack on the Iranian soldiers of Ayatollah Khomeini. The Iraqis probably planned to limit their campaign to seizure of the long-disputed Shatt-al-Arab waterway, the oil fields in the Abadan-Khorramshahr area, and the vital transportation center and provincial capital of Dezful (see map on p. 30) in a lightning strike. If that worked, they would dig in and resist counterattack, their

primary objectives having been won. Timing was critical for the Iraqis. They assumed that the Iranian armed forces had become so weak following the Shah's overthrow that the campaign would be easy and their objectives could be seized with a relatively low investment of lives. It didn't work that way for the Iraqis — and the rest of the world — soon discovered.

A combination of unexpectedly stiff Iranian resistance and Iraqi strategic and tactical blunders turned the blitz into a stalemate. Both forces dug in deeply and began to pummel each other with all the firepower they could muster. The beleaguered soldiers

had plenty of time to contemplate the situation that had brought them to such a state of affairs.

Clearly, the situation in other nations had a lot to do with it. There had been increasingly violent border clashes between Iran and Iraq. A confrontation involving battalion-sized units on each side was reported in at least one instance but the fuse was lit when the Russians invaded Afghanistan. The possibility that the invasion was a prelude to a major Soviet land-grab in Iran prompted Iraq to order its own land-grabbing operation. To the military and political planners in Baghdad, it seemed a simple case of staking a claim before Ivan did.

From the beginning, the Iraqi move was ill-planned. Rather than opting for a maximum-effort blitzkrieg which could cut off strategic areas, the Iraqis selected the strange strategy of hammering their way through minor Iranian defenses with artillery, wedging in infantry formations, and finally committing armor-heavy forces in an infantry-support role that failed to exploit the thrusts. If Iraqi planning hadn't been so inept, they probably could have achieved their goals and been able to settle themselves into nice, tight positions while the Iranians struggled to hit back from the far end of a long logistical leash.

Iraqi attacks bogged down as soon as they encountered any resistance and simply stalled out, allowing the Iranians to transfer

troops from the interior to the threatened front. Instead of immediately encircling Abadan, Iraqi forces milled around in the area until mid-October when they were finally able to surround the city. Khorramshahr remained substantially in Iranian hands and Dezful was never seriously threatened. Instead of the planned limited war — a "Short, Victorious War" — the two nations found themselves staring at one another from trenches and launching suicidal infantry attacks for the rest of the winter.

The initial combat during 1981 took on bizarre aspects. Both sides employed modern tanks and jets to give half-hearted support to what were largely infantry attacks by men poorly trained in modern maneuver warfare. The Iraqis managed to gain control of Khorramshahr, but the battle exacted a

MILITARY HISTORY BACKGROUND

Robert Smith has several years of magazine writing under his belt. He was book review editor for *Ordnance* magazine and wrote book reviews for *Military Review* magazine. Publishing several articles for several military magazines including *Strategy and Tactics*, *Armor* and *The U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings* have given Smith a strong background in military affairs. SOF welcomes him aboard.

bloody toll. A series of sharp but uncoordinated Iranian counterattacks along the disjointed front caused the Iraqis considerable worry. More serious in terms of controlling the flow of events: the Iranians escalated the air campaign against Iraqi economic targets. The oil fields at Basra and Kirkuk were hit in continuing air strikes. The theory was simple. If the flow of oil from these areas could be cut or substantially reduced, the Iraqis would be unable to support their adventure for very long. The Iraqi response finally showed some foresight.

By directing their own air attacks against oil shipment facilities at Kharg Island and strategic Iranian chokepoints, the Iraqis were successful in pulling air assets away from the offensive and halting the potential-


ly dangerous Iranian bombardment of their facilities.

Neither side was able to break the resultant stalemate during 1981. After several feeble attempts to force modern tactics and a more wide-open approach on frontline formations, both sides returned to the dusty trenches and watched the dead pile up. Casualties were about 50,000 KIA on both sides through the end of 1981. Neither side has released accurate casualty counts, but this figure seems to be the closest to a realistic estimate.

About 18 months after the war began, the Iranians launched their first major, coordinated counterattack. On 22 March 1982, Iranian troops advanced against the deeply dug-in Iraqis and drove them back all along the front which marked their incursion into

Iranian territory. Despite marked instances of exceptional bravery among the Iranian attackers, the effort was indecisive. The Ayatollah's officers proved just as unable to exploit military advances as the Iraqis had been.

As the frustrating stalemate on the ground continued, economic and political realities were placing increased pressure on governments in both capitals. The war was getting very expensive to support and world leaders were pressing for a ceasefire. At the end of May 1982, the Baghdad government offered to withdraw all its troops from Iranian soil and seek mediation of the conflict through offices of the Islamic Conference. The seemingly-magnanimous offer was transparent to the Iranians. From the 30,000 Iraqi soldiers who surrendered shortly before the Iranian recapture of Khorramshahr



Iranian soldiers low-crawl to new positions in the barren desert inside Iraqi territory northwest of the Iraqi Zeid outpost. Photo: AP/Wide World.

it was becoming increasingly obvious that the Iraqi Army was teetering on the brink of military disaster.

In a self-righteous huff, the Iranians refused the overture pointing out that they were the victims of clear aggression. Flushed by military successes, the Iranians countered with three demands before peace could be restored. They insisted that the Iraqi president resign, that an international commission be established to fix blame for the war, and that substantial war damages be paid to Iran. The Baghdad government hemmed and hawed while the Iranians applied a military lever to urge a quick decision.

On 14 July, the Ayatollah's forces began a major offensive all along the the disputed front. It was cleverly designed to conceal



Gas war: An Iranian soldier wears a gas mask while on station on Majnoon Island. Reports of chemical weapons use by the Iraqis have given a new face to this war. Photo: AP/Wide World

their real objective — Basra. They hoped to capture the oil fields in the area and put forces in strategic position to sever Iraqi sea lanes. With surprising speed and efficiency, the Iranians pressed the offensive. There were heavy casualties on both sides but the Iranian forces lost more ground and men. Rumors that Iraqi forces were using chemical weapons first surfaced during this battle.

The realities remain unproven. Various sources who survived the fighting reported that tear gas of an unspecified type was used against Iranian troops. It made little difference in the outcome.

Iran's offensive began to stall. Further attacks were launched in October and November but the focus had been shifted to the Mandali-Dezful area in an effort to consolidate gains. It was another tactical blunder. Rough, restricted terrain channeled maneuver elements directly into the defenders' guns. The rationale for this operation was to open and hold the main road to Baghdad, a powerful tactical stroke if the Iranians could pull it off. They failed. The Iranians made a few gains but none justified the cost in lives and lost equipment. The torrential rainy season put an end to further

maneuvers by both sides as the terrain became impassible to anything other than small patrols. There was time to compute the cost.

Operations during 1982 were typically expensive for both sides. Iraqi losses stood at about 40,000 KIA, 70,000 WIA, and 40,000 POWs by the end of the year — about 60 percent of the pre-war Iraqi Army strength. Iranian losses were even higher, probably in the neighborhood of 300,000 casualties of all kinds, although a few sources insist that they lost as many as 500,000 total casualties during 1982.

The return on investment for the Iranians was poor. The offensive had regained most of their lost territory but there were significant political losses. The fighting solidified the pan-Arab bloc in opposition to the presence of the hated Persians on Arabic soil. Meanwhile, the Baghdad government gained an element of domestic support with their counterattacks. The political crisis prompted by initial defeats was buried under euphoria resulting from successful defense of the homeland.

By the new year of 1983, the fighting had settled back into the old familiar pattern of massive frontal attacks with little or no substantive gains. Iran again decided to put an end to the Iraqi menace once and for all. A series of massive, ill-coordinated attacks were launched in February, April, July and late October. All were beaten back with relative ease and Iranian casualties were described as "horrific." Troop commanders dug in again and began a series of short,





THE ROOTS OF CONFLICT

Another religious war in the Middle East is not surprising to most Americans, but few are aware of the background which has led to the continuing war between Iran and Iraq.

Historians tend to write it all off as simply the latest incident in a long and bitter series of feuds between the Arabs and the Persians, a mutual hatred that dates back to before the reign of Darius the Great. This certainly is a factor in the conflict which has complicated religious differences between the Sunni Moslem Iraqis and the Shi'ite Moslem Iranians, but there are a number of additional considerations.

Friction has been increased by differing policies concerning treatment of the area's ethnic minority Kurds, who have maintained a cohesive national spirit in the face of centuries of alternating oppression and benign neglect from both countries. In an ongoing attempt to win the independence of a Kurdish state, which would embrace parts of Iran, Iraq and Turkey, the Kurd mountain dwellers have staged a series of rebellions over the last several decades. The late Iranian Shah gave considerable support to the Kurds in their efforts to shake off Iraqi rule during the 1960s and the early part of the 1970s. Naturally, the politicians in Baghdad were not pleased.

Still, the primary reason why such friction was fanned into fire had less to do with vague historical precedents than with the subtle brand of economic warfare that Iran had practiced against Iraq since the 1920s. Since that time, the economies of both countries have depended almost totally on oil. Under British colonial rule, the Iranians had the power to control the Shatt-al-Arab

Fresh troops from Iran's heartland march toward the front. Iran has thrown many of its young men into battle in the name of Allah. Photo: AP/Wide World

waterway, the most efficient route for shipping Iraqi oil. They used this power to control Iraqi access to world trade routes and as a bludgeon to enforce the Iranian position in any dispute. In 1937 the British finally imposed a treaty on Iran which formally made the Shatt-al-Arab an international waterway.

An uneasy peace descended on the area despite continuing low-level border clashes, until 1969. The Shah of Iran, in an effort to pressure Iraq into submission on the Kurdish question, declared that his country no longer recognized the 1937 International Waterway Treaty. His move was timed to coincide with an Iranian-supported Kurdish rebellion aimed specifically at toppling the Iraqi government and relations between the two countries rapidly deteriorated.

Matters weren't improved by the Iranian seizure of the Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb Islands in the Straits of Hormuz. In effect, Iran had Iraq by the throat and was threatening to squeeze off the outbound flow of oil. Negotiations between the two countries opened almost immediately, but bogged down over Iranian demands — allegedly including the resignation of the complete Iraqi government and appointment of an Iranian-selected assembly.

Against this historical backdrop, it shouldn't have been surprising that when the Shah was deposed, matters would again come to a head. The Iraqis hoped that the new government, already in a shaky position, would be more willing to negotiate than the Shah had been. It was a forlorn hope and Iraq and Iran both moved down the road toward a long and painful war.

sharp actions that continue all along the border front.

The burner of war had been turned down from boil to simmer. That's where it remains although soldiers continue to be killed and wounded on both sides. The impasse will very likely continue to be a meat-grinder for the fighting men unless tactics change in the near future. There is some indication that both governments realize that and have turned to their military advisers for solutions.

Rumors from the area indicate the Iraqis have been clandestinely purchasing substantial quantities of mountaineering equipment from their allies. That may imply they intend to take to the hills to try a new tactic. They may field a trained mountain warfare unit in the future to flank Iranian forces through the difficult high terrain surrounding the border. Teheran would doubtless order a similar force trained and fielded in face of that threat although there is no indication that the Iranians are planning any such counter. More and more recruits — whipped into a religious fury by *mullahs* in Iran — are being scantily trained and shipped to the front. Apparently, Iran is prepared for continuing attrition in its fight with Iraq.

There are few lessons from the Iran-Iraq War for students of military tactics. Battlefield operations have been primitive — mass frontal attacks by Iranian infantry against well-defended Iraqi positions backed by artillery barrages and counter-battery fire are the norm as they were during WWI. Massed defensive fires from wheel-to-wheel Iraqi artillery cantonments are used to break the momentum of Iranian infantry assaults. Use of tanks and other armor has mostly been limited to minor sweeps intended primarily to mop up pockets of resistance bypassed by the infantry. Armor assets have been kept in mostly static positions and used by both sides mainly as mobile pillboxes rather than a decisive element of combat. Part of that is due to terrain limitations but lack of training in armor techniques can also be blamed.

A rumored shortage of tactical radio equipment in the Iranian ranks below battalion levels has created difficulty in coordinating their attacks. Coordination of air and artillery support in their operations, either offensive or defensive, has been non-existent. Much of the problem can be traced to international embargos on sophisticated equipment shipped to Iran. With supplies of high-tech equipment and spare parts cut off, the Iranians can't fight as effectively as they might.

Heavy losses in trained personnel have taken their toll as well. Continuing reports of Iranian gunners regularly firing on their own troops reflect either a lack of training or an inability to replace losses to trained artillery crews. Despite the fact that they seem prepared to accept it, that kind of attrition may have a considerable effect on Iran's ability to blunt future Iraqi attacks.

Iraqi units have generally proven to be



An Iranian soldier loads a 12.7mm machine gun on a Soviet-made tank captured from the Iraqis west of Dezful, Iran. The Iranians recaptured the area but it is still under constant attack by Iraqi aircraft. Photo: AP/Wide World

An Iranian soldier mans a ZU23-2 23mm anti-aircraft gun on Majnoon Island. The Iranians built a floating bridge 10 miles long over waterways in the Manjoon Islands of southwest Iran in an attempt to hamper Iraqi air raids. Photo: AP/Wide World

capable, if not inspired, soldiers. They appear to have finally mastered the techniques of meeting and defeating massive, potentially-overwhelming infantry attacks. But their field commanders seem reluctant to capitalize on defensive successes. They have regularly failed to follow up on Iranian defeats by going immediately over onto the offensive.

The air action over such stagnant battlefields marks the only significant ebb and flow in the war to date. Iraqi aircraft continue to carry out limited strikes against Iranian oil export facilities, but have shifted their effort to attacking enemy shipping assets. Imported technology has greatly improved the effectiveness of these ops. France conveniently sidestepped complicity in the war by "renting" five Super Etandard aircraft equipped with Exocet air-to-surface missiles to the Iraqis. An initial flap over the France's action seems to have disappeared in the morass of diplomatic rhetoric.

At this point, the Iran-Iraq War seems to involve more action in the geopolitical arena than on the battlefield. The Ayatollah has kept up the appearance of stiff resolution by threatening to close the Straits of Hormuz to oil traffic. Since the Iraqis maintain other reliable methods of getting their oil to the world markets, the threats are nothing more than an announcement that Khomeini is willing to commit economic suicide. He has made such threats before and failed to fol-

low through once his interim diplomatic and economic objectives were met.

Sealing the Straits would mean that no foreign-owned tankers would be willing to enter the Persian Gulf — even with Iranian escorts — since their insurance would not cover the voyage into an active war zone. That's the substance of the Iranian threat concerning the Straits of Hormuz, but the consideration is not taken very seriously by military observers. Iran currently lacks the means to close the Straits since most of their naval assets are either sunk, laid up for repairs, or otherwise unserviceable due to a lack of spare parts or crews, most of which were diverted to the front to cover losses in army units.

Despite more than two years of combat experience, the quality of military training throughout the Iranian Army remains low. Losses in trained field commanders would not be nearly as devastating if the Iranian military had maintained a decent core of junior officers after the fall of the Shah. Currently, the loss of junior officers far outstrips their replacement rate and that clearly affects the casualty rate among enlisted men. The Iranians bleed themselves white against fixed defenses and continue such attacks with a mindless fury.

When they stage offensives, the Iranians continue to hammer at essentially the same places in the Iraqi defenses, flailing at the oil fields near Basra and strategic areas



which would grant them their fervent desire to control the main road to Baghdad. Continued defeats and propaganda considerations have led the Iranians to charge chemical warfare is being waged against them. The evidence is confusing at best.

There are photos of alleged gas casualties with all the typical signs of exposure to some toxic agent — probably a mustard gas or derivative of some form of that agent. There are also first-hand reports from a number of commissions who visited the battlefields and found evidence of Iraqi use of chemicals.

French intelligence reported that the alleged gas victims had been injured in a refinery accident. This version is credible since some of the chemicals used in the processing of petroleum products, or created during the refining process, are extremely toxic. The fact that each of the alleged victims was accompanied by his own mini-Ayatollah — who sat close by to make certain that the man told the proper story — is extremely suspicious.

Further suspicion has been cast on such reports by Western intelligence sources which indicate Iraqi troops in the area where the alleged gassings took place did not carry chemical warfare protection equipment either before or after the reported attacks. No decontamination equipment of any kind was observed in the area. Not one of the visiting commissions to date has actually

toured the swampy battlefield area (it was back in Iraqi hands by the time they arrived) and have only inspected materials handed over by the Iranians.

The same Western intelligence sources that refute the charges of chemical warfare in the continuing Iran-Iraq conflict have noted some minor battlefield innovations, particularly in countering enemy air threats. Iraqi attack pilots continue to fly strikes on tankers at the Kharg Island oil terminal by launching missiles at extreme ranges; homing on radar contacts. The Iranians easily deceive most missile guidance systems by mounting reflectors on old barges anchored in harmless positions near the oil facilities. Many Iraqi Exocets wind up blasting tinfoil while the tankers remain safe.

For political reasons, the Iranians walk the tightrope between pressing home their attacks and keeping a low military profile to avoid angering other Arab oil states which might respond with increased aid to Iraq. That would clearly tip the delicate balance of power in the area.

Such considerations were likely what precluded an Iranian summer offensive in 1984 but there is reason to believe Teheran may order efforts to break the stalemate this year. Political pressures inside Iran may frustrate this plan, especially if the politicians dictate the location and type of attacks.

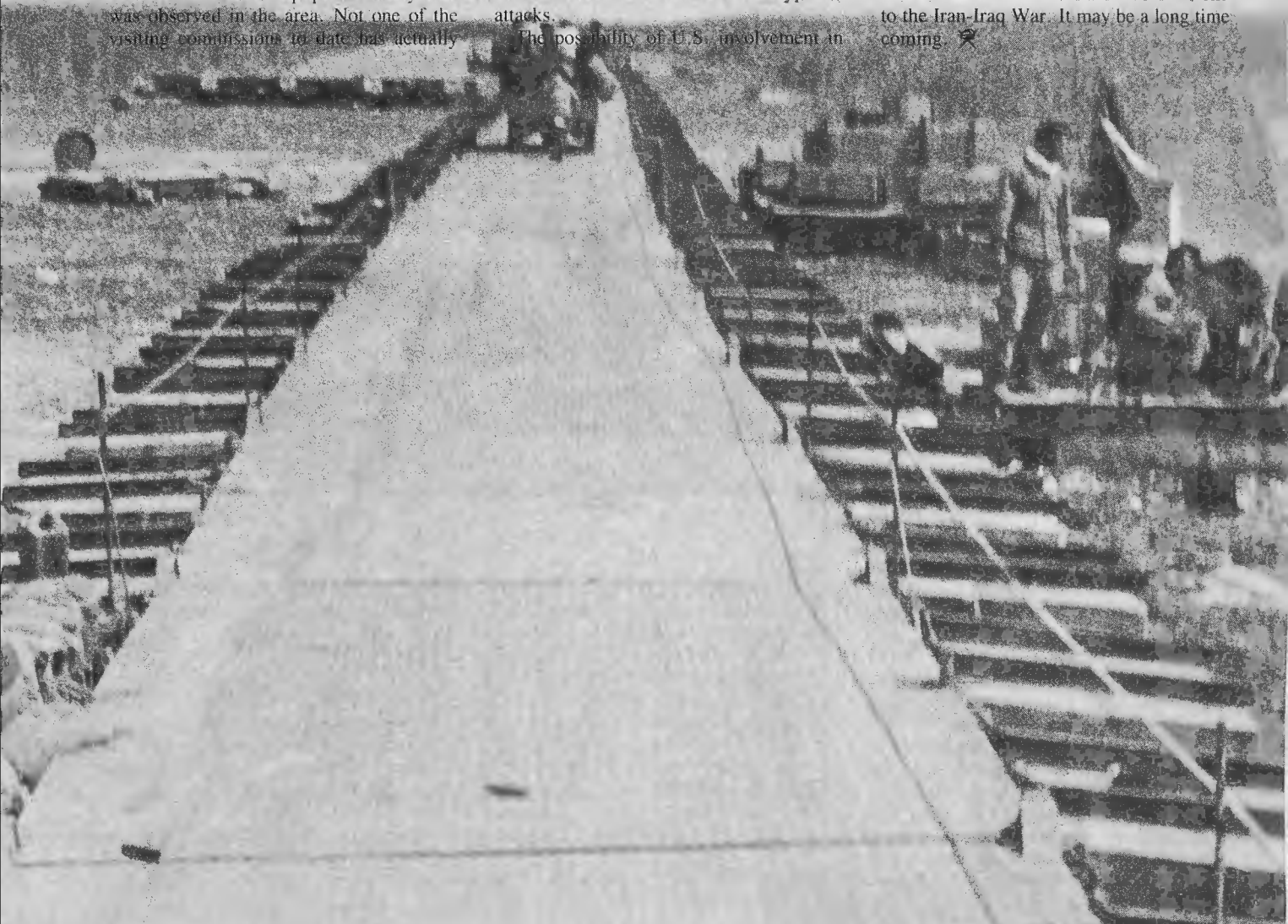
The possibility of U.S. involvement in

the conflict can't be ruled out completely. American warships are present in the Persian Gulf and they reflect the economic importance the U.S. places on the area. Allowing a major destabilization of the Persian Gulf area would yield disastrous results for America and her allies.

Fortunately for American interests in the area, the threat of Soviet intervention is minor. While the Soviets have massed troops and planes on the Iranian border, they probably have no interest in invading Iran. To do so would provoke some sort of American response and bring down the wrath of a world already enraged by the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Soviets could step in but it makes more sense for them to allow Iran to destabilize gradually. Any number of Kremlin-supported dissident groups opposed to Khomeini's rule could grab power with a minimum of screaming from the Arab world. They have given support to any group voicing a desire to overthrow Khomeini. The outlawed Tudeh communist party is one of these. Its leaders were imprisoned but dispersed members who remain in Iran probably number in the thousands. If Khomeini topples, they will undoubtedly have played a role in it.

In the face of such considerations, the world watches and waits for a decisive end to the Iran-Iraq War. It may be a long time coming.



PANJSHER VII

Soviets Smash Afghan Resistance

in Vital Valley

by David C. Isby



IT had become an enduring symbol of Afghan resistance to Soviet tyranny. The long, deep Panjsher Valley, stretching northeast from Kabul, was a focal point of mujahideen tenacity and Russian frustration.

Since the Soviet invasion, six separate, large-scale offensives designed to clear the area of mujahid defenders had failed. A seventh Soviet drive, launched in the spring of 1984, finally put control of the area in Russian hands. The tight focus of Afghan resistance was diffused. Despite the iron will and ferocity of area commander Ahmad Shah Massood and his beleaguered men, the Russians and their Afghan Army puppets currently control most of the vital Panjsher Valley.

Massood apparently has not been able to re-establish guerrilla infrastructure in the main valley. The charismatic guerrilla leader has not appeared in public since the spring offensive, although he is widely reported to have returned to one of the side valleys in June. Despite such a low-profile on the part of one of its primary leaders, Afghan resistance in the Panjsher Valley has not been destroyed and may be gradually rebuilding despite a continuing Russian presence.

By August of last year, the Soviets had withdrawn their forces from all the side valleys of the Panjsher. Their positions are currently centered around five large garrisons running the length of the main valley from its mouth at Gulbahar. Troops manning these garrisons compose a large part of the Soviet 40th Army's combat strength, including two regiments of the 108th Motorized Rifle Division headquartered at Kabul Northwest Camp, one regiment of the 103rd Guards Airborne Division from Kabul Southwest Camp, and one battalion of the non-divisional 345th Guards Airborne Regiment normally based at Bagram Airbase.

Despite such commanding positions, the Soviets may pull their forces out of the Panjsher Valley before the snows completely isolate the area. Some withdrawals were conducted in early September. The Russians have accomplished their mission. An

empty, desolated valley does not justify a long-term commitment of several regiments and the Soviets have shown they can enter and hold the Panjsher if they are willing to commit sufficient troops to the exercise.

If complete withdrawal is ordered by



T-72

Vital to Soviet massed-armor tactics, the tough, simple T-72 tank is the result of a direct line of armor development begun in the last years of WWII. The unreliable T-44 gave the basic direction, the T-54 (still in service all over the communist world) made the idea work, and the T-72 brought Soviet armor into the world of modern combat. Infrared observation and sighting equipment, air filtration, and an anti-electro-magnetic pulse liner help this tough, versatile tank do the Soviets' work.

DIMENSIONS: 31 feet long, 16 feet

wide, 8 feet high, 90,000 lbs. loaded weight.

CREW: Three.

ARMAMENT: 125mm smoothbore main gun, 7.62mm coaxial machinegun, 12.7mm HMG.

POWERPLANT: V-12 diesel estimated 750hp.

PERFORMANCE: 50 mph top speed, 300 mile range (without external tanks), 60 percent climbing grade, 18 feet of water fording depth (with snorkel), 4 rpm auto-loaded rate of fire.

VARIANTS: Three major types include command tank. T-80 is believed to be nothing more than an improved T-72.



Moscow, Soviet troops will turn over their garrisons to Kabul Regime forces which have shown themselves incapable of controlling much of anything outside their barbed-wire perimeters. If resupply becomes too difficult — or if the troops start deserting as they did during the 1982 attempt to occupy the Panjsher Valley — they may also be withdrawn from the area. Until a tactical decision is made and implemented, the situation resembles the stalemate that developed following the 1982 Panjsher occupation.

The Soviets failed to bring large numbers of Afghans to battle during the most recent Panjsher VII offensive, so losses on both sides were light compared to the two '82 drives in the area. Only one Soviet battalion suffered substantial casualties when it encountered heavy resistance during insertion as a heliborne blocking force for maneuver elements sweeping the valley. One Afghan force, caught in the open during daylight hours by Soviet aircraft, suffered the majority of the guerrilla casualties.

But casualty counts do not reflect the full impact of Panjsher VII on resistance forces. The Soviets did not *need* to defeat the mujahideen in a decisive battle and kill large numbers of Freedom Fighters. Their aim was to take the valley, hold it and destroy the agricultural base of the population. They clearly succeeded in doing that with a vengeance.

Soviet scorched earth tactics in Panjsher VII involved destroying flocks, irrigation canals, granaries and arable fields. The rationale was simple. If the Freedom Fighters could not even feed themselves they certainly could not re-establish Massood's guerrilla republic in the valley. Despite such brutality, the Afghans of the Panjsher have not stopped fighting the Soviets. They have simply changed their tactics.

Rather than attack the garrisons, the Afghans have instituted a policy of

Author David Isby hoists captured AKR, a micro-caliber SMG-length development of the AK-74 assault rifle.

ambushing the resupply convoys that must run between them. Bigger garrisons such as the Soviets now man in the Panjsher mean larger and more frequent convoys. The Soviets find themselves devoting much of their strength to convoy escort duties and counter-ambush patrols.

Soviet destruction of local food supplies has not changed the strategic significance of the valley. Guerrillas operating in the Panjsher simply bring food into the area with them. In July and August of 1984,

ambushes in the Khenj sector of the main valley led to Soviet airstrikes and heliborne operations into the Andarab valley, to the west of the Panjsher, probably aimed at cutting Afghan supply routes.

Continued Soviet domination of the Panjsher presents Massood with a complex set of problems including the conventional military concerns of supply and security. While wrestling with those, he must make efforts to expand and solidify his base of support within the resistance movement. Massood has reportedly had to disarm some of his forces for a dangerous lack of loyalty. Massood reportedly escaped a Kabul-directed



MiG-23 FLOGGER

Variable wing geometry gives the MiG-23 an unusual range of roles. Performing tasks as different as air-superiority fighter and ground-attack craft, its variety of payloads and short-runway capability make a contribution to the Soviet effort in Afghanistan.

DIMENSIONS: 60 feet long, 47 feet maximum wingspan, 14 feet high, 25,000 lb. empty weight.

CREW: One.

ARMAMENT: One pylon under fusel-

age, two under air intakes, and two under wings hold rocket pods, missiles, fuel tanks. One two-barrel 23mm cannon.

POWERPLANT: One 25,000-lb. thrust afterburning turbofan.

PERFORMANCE: Mach 2.2 top speed, 55,000 feet ceiling, 575-mile combat radius, 16,000-lb. maximum fuel and armaments load.

VARIANTS: Seven major types, including export and aerobatic versions, and MiG-27 ground-attack aircraft (*Flogger-D*).

assassination attempt at the beginning of the Soviet's April offensive and he has kept under cover much of the time since. The fact that the publicity-conscious mujahideen leader has avoided journalists since the most-recent offensive began — which he did not do during the two 1982 offensives — may indicate continued internal dissension.

The 1984 offensive was preceded by large-scale Soviet interdiction of the mujahideen supply routes into Afghanistan from neighboring Pakistan. The effort involved extensive use of helicopters, fighter-attack aircraft, and long-range infantry patrols. Key river crossings and trails were heavily mined. One of the main routes into the Panjsher was closed by weather during the 1984 offensive while a second was cut by a faction of the Hezb-i-Islami commanded by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who was cooperating with the Soviets. It virtually cut Massood off from external re-supply and reinforcement. The Soviet commanders realize how effective the campaign was in 1984 and may well stage a similar effort this year.

Massood is vulnerable but not necessarily in a dire situation in the Panjsher. Like other resistance leaders, he usually gets ample warning of an impending attack. Soviet troops are spread thin in Afghanistan and their overall combat readiness is relatively low. It takes time to prepare a Soviet Field Army for action, and increased commitment to the Panjsher is certainly reducing the Soviet ability to conduct offensive operations elsewhere in Afghanistan.

With the exception of the 103rd Guards Airborne Division (which appears to have moved permanently to Afghanistan since even the rear support echelon has left barracks in the Byelorussian Military District), Soviet divisions in Afghanistan receive drafts of new recruits at six-month intervals, allowing rotation of more experienced enlisted men who have finished their two years of compulsory service. The system leaves line divisions — in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and in the groups of forces in satellite nations — continually running a time-consuming training program.

While all Soviet draftees are supposed to have received pre-induction military training, in practice only the airborne units receive trained replacements. All other Soviet divisions do not consider their replacements ready for combat until they have completed a six-month training cycle within the division. Simple calculations indicate a full 25 percent of each Soviet motorized rifle division in Afghanistan is not combat ready at any given time. Since it is not needed for field service by under-strength units, much of the Soviet equipment in Afghanistan is kept in storage by the units and many of the tanks available for service remain on blocks and unmanned. About two-thirds of each deployed Soviet unit is involved in training, garrison duties, training support or refresher courses. That means — except for maximum efforts — only one-third of their overall field strength is available for operations



Mi-24 HIND

One way to spell bad news is *Hind*. Though fast and heavily-armed, *Hinds* can't fly NOE (nap-of-the-earth) so they're relatively easy to hit. Unfortunately, they don't go down easy and they can destroy nearly anything they see. Anhedral (downswept) wings contribute lift at speed, as well as serving as weapons attachment points. Photo is of *Hind-A*.

DIMENSIONS: 56 feet long, 14 feet high, 56 feet rotor diameter, 14,000 lb. empty weight.

CREW: Four (pilot, copilot, gunner, radar/observer).

ARMAMENT: Four or six Sagger, Swatter or Spiral antitank missiles; four UV-32-57 rocket pods (128 57mm rockets); and D, E, and F feature 12.5mm or 20mm four-barrel gatling in the nose. Eight to 10 troops.

POWERPLANT: Two 2,200-hp turboshaft engines.

PERFORMANCE: 160 mph top speed, 140 mph cruising speed, 300 mile range, 8,000 lb. payload.

VARIANTS: Six known variants range from lighter-armed, troop-carrying A, B, and C types to later heavily-armed D, E and F types with improved and increased electronics and armament.



Liberated Soviet weaponry returns to the field in the hands of mujahideen.

outside garrison. The situation is not lost on the Freedom Fighters.

Given such comparatively low levels of readiness among Soviet Army units in Afghanistan, the mujahideen quickly pick up signals when the invaders are staging for a large-scale operation. When a particular unit begins a cycle of combat-oriented refresher training or up-grading field equipment, the mujahideen begin to make their own preparations.

Problems with centralized command and control continue to plague the Afghans in 1985. Factional disputes still prevent formation of a single front to resist the Russians and the Kabul Regime forces, but the invaders are having their own problems in this area. There is a built-in delay between stimulus and response on the part of government forces since the Russians are making the tactical decisions unilaterally. Complicating matters is the fact that the Russians have not centralized command in Afghanistan as they have among their forces elsewhere in the world.

Soviet forces in Afghanistan — Army and Air Force — appear to be an extension of the Turkestan Military District. The Soviets have not established a separate group of forces, as they have in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, or East Germany. This likely reflects Soviet doctrine which lists Afghanistan as merely an extension of the Soviet Union rather than as an independent, subservient ally.

For major combat operations, the Soviet Union dispatches representatives of the general staff from Moscow to Kabul to supervise execution of field maneuvers. A satellite link has reportedly been established which facilitates direct communication with the Kremlin. Intelligence sources indicate Soviet Marshal Sokolov who commands the Southern Theater of Operations acts as *de facto* commander of the war effort in Afghanistan.

Whatever blessing the resistance derives from a convoluted Russian command structure, it's clear there will be no respite in 1985 from continued air attacks. Soviet tactical aircraft have become even more effective in the past year. The MiG-21 *Fishbeds* flown by the bulk of Soviet interceptor and fighter-bomber squadrons in Afghanistan were replaced by MiG-23 *Flogger* and MiG-27 *Flogger*, swing-wing fighter-attack planes by the end of August 1984. The increasingly frequent reports of SU-25 *Frogfoot* ground-attack aircraft in action in Afghanistan suggests that a second squadron may now be in the country and hunting for mujahideen formations.

Air tactics have also changed. The Soviets used their tactical aircraft more aggressively and more effectively throughout 1984. Previously, intelligence sources indicated a single Soviet Air Force unit — flying MiG-21R fighter-recon aircraft — had standing orders to attack targets of



opportunity. All others — both fixed-wing and helicopter — had to adhere to pre-briefed missions or targets. This appears to have changed, and a wider variety of Afghan targets may now be attacked by Soviet aircrews . . . especially supply convoys coming in from Pakistan. The majority of strikes are still flown against targets developed from reports by field agents and patrols or reconnaissance missions flown by helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, including twin-engine Antonov transports:

The increasing tempo of Soviet air operations against Afghan supply convoys has presented the guerrillas with new problems. They must now rely more heavily on the local population for food, which has increased shortages and made the guerrillas less welcome in some areas. The Soviets have refrained from launching a full-scale air interdiction campaign against the infiltration routes, but they have, in several areas, made it more difficult for the Afghans to operate.

Soviet helicopters are still the most important offensive weapons deployed in Afghanistan. In 1984, helicopter combat crews honed their tactics to a fine edge. Pairs of Mi-8 *Hips* are used for reconnaissance and target spotters for fast-movers or Mi-24 *Hinds* attack birds. *Hinds* have been reported operating in six-ship rather than four-ship formations. One attack near Jagdalak in Nangarhar province in May 1984, involved a formation of 16 *Hinds*. Large numbers of Mi-26 *Halo* heavy-lift helicopters are now in Afghanistan. A number bearing Soviet Air Force markings were reported ferrying troops from Kabul to Jalalabad in the spring of 1984.

There is also good news and bad news for Paktia in the coming year. Paktia Province borders Pakistan south of the Khyber Pass and, before the war, it was considered a backwater, where the Pathan inhabitants kept to their old tribal ways.

To the Soviets and their Kabul allies, Paktia has been Bandit Country since the start of the *jihad* in 1979. Each year since has included at least one Kabul Regime campaign in Paktia, which frequently resulted in spectacular defeats, leaving long columns of wrecked vehicles and piles of captured weapons for visiting journalists to photograph. The remote province is peripheral to Soviet strategy in Afghanistan. The Russians want to secure airfields, paved roads and cities. Paktia Province has none of these. It does have lots of angry Pathans. Soviet formations generally steer clear of the area, simply providing air support and advisers to the Kabul Regime units operating there.

The government forces must maintain a presence in Paktia since it contains one of the main infiltration routes from Pakistan into the interior. And continued fighting in Paktia also ties up guerrilla resources which could be harassing Soviet formations elsewhere.

Most of the Kabul Regime's forces in Paktia are in besieged outposts, resupplied



It seems like a poor match, but Afghans with AKs captured this D-30 howitzer.

only by air or well-escorted convoys. One such outpost — at Ali Khel in the corner of Paktia Province nearest Kabul — was surrounded in 1984 by guerrillas who also used the area as base for raids reaching toward Kabul and Jalalabad.

The response was an offensive involving local Kabul Regime forces, government militia and one Commando battalion redeployed from the Panjsher Valley where it had performed poorly. Mujahideen pressure on Ali Kehl persisted and in August the Russians finally took a hand in the matter. A force of 14,000 troops — Soviets and Kabul formations — moved against the guerrillas at Ali Khel. They were ordered to deploy as a hammer using the fort as an anvil.

Part of the reason for this unusual Soviet activity in Paktia was diplomatic. That month, a third round of indirect negotiations between the Kabul Regime and the government of Pakistan took place. Pakistan refuses to engage in formal negotiations with what it considers an illegitimate regime.

Putting Soviet troops in the border area was a way to increase pressure on Pakistan during the negotiations, as was a simultaneous campaign of increased bombing and shelling of Pakistani border towns.

The offensive petered out in early September and the Soviets withdrew their forces from Paktia without taking much of a toll on the Afghans. The mujahideen had frustrated their plans by avoiding contact with Soviet armored spearheads and ambushing resupply columns.

Airfield defense became a higher priority for the Soviets in 1984, especially after the destruction of a number of Soviet aircraft in guerrilla attacks. Soviet airfields in Afghanistan do not have reinforced concrete revetments and aircraft are frequently parked in the open. If the Afghans had mobile, single-tube 122mm rocket launchers of the type



Mi-8 HIP

From Finland to Somalia, and from North Korea to Peru, the Mi-8 is one of the most successful aircraft ever built in the USSR. General-purpose workhorse for all Soviet armed forces, it carries 10 percent more weight and three or four times the troop load of a *Hind*. *Hips* have been seen decked with more armament than the legendary Mi-24, including iron bombs. The bulbous rear fuselage allows clamshell rear doors to accommodate bulky loads.

DIMENSIONS: 60 feet long, 18.5 feet high, 69 feet rotor diameter, 15,000 lb. empty weight.

CREW: Two (pilot, copilot).

ARMAMENT: Triple-rack outriggers carry combinations of bombs, UV-16 and UV-32 57mm rocket pods, and Sagger and Swatter antitank missiles. Flexible-mount 12.7mm MG in nose.

POWERPLANT: Two 1,500-hp turboshafts.

PERFORMANCE: 160 mph top speed, 140 mph cruising speed, 300 miles range, 8,800 lb. payload.

VARIANTS: Eight types include the common *Hip-C* (a multi-purpose utility chopper) and heavily-armed *Hip-E*, the civilian luxury transport Mi-8 Salon and a 3,800 total shaft horsepower improvement designated Mi-17.

Brave gunners manning 12.7mm heavy machineguns discourage Soviet choppers from lingering over mujahid bases.

used by communist forces in Vietnam, they would have the potential to do great damage to Soviet aircraft. They would yield much more effective results than the 82mm mortars and RPG-7s that they currently use in airfield attacks. Reportedly, two Soviet *Raydoviki* (Ranger) battalions are currently based at Khandahar and Jalalabad airfields to patrol the area and prevent loss of critical air assets.

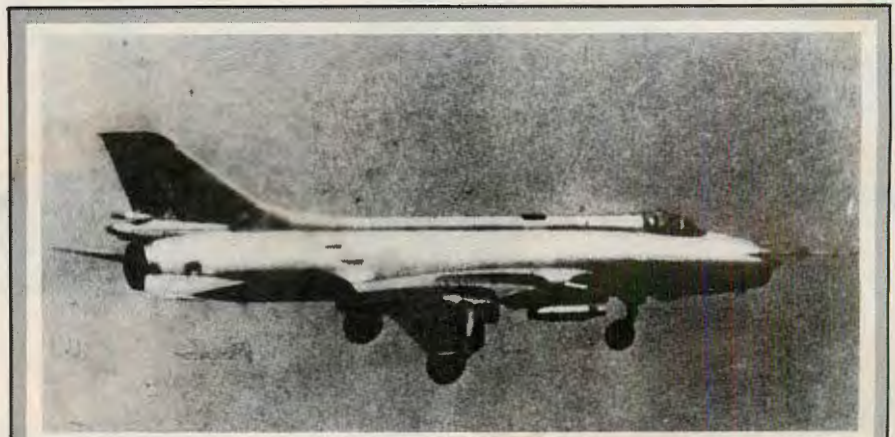
The Soviets have spent years looking for effective operational methods to subjugate the people of Afghanistan. In 1984, they continued large-scale offensive operations but increased emphasis on small-unit actions especially in interdiction and base defense missions. These tactics have been employed in conjunction with the stepped-up bombing or shelling of villages where guerrillas have been reported.

With friendly villages destroyed, mujahideen formations find fewer safe areas. Such tactics reduce the number of potential maneuver areas for guerrilla units making them easier for government forces to locate. There is also a significant effect on the civilian population which frequently evacuates such areas taking with it the mujahideen's critical base of support. The Soviets evolved this system after the 1982 offensives in the Panjsher and in the north and the west of Afghanistan. They have refined it since then.

For the Afghan people, a worse threat is famine. Research by Dr. Frances D'Souza, a British nutritionist who visited Afghanistan in 1984, shows that pre-famine conditions already exist in many areas. Russian tactics have had their effect on the situation but snowfall was light in the winter of 1984-85 which complicated the problem greatly. Melting snow provides water for the irrigation systems upon which most of Afghanistan's agriculture depends. Snow also covers and protects the winter wheat crop. Without snow, this crop has failed. The last time the snows failed in this way in Afghanistan was in 1972-73. The resulting food shortage caused heavy loss of life.

There have been famines in Afghanistan even in time of peace, but the war makes it difficult to relieve the suffering. There is currently no outside relief being sent through the Kabul government, which insists it has no problems with internal refugees or famine.

Continuing Soviet attacks aimed at the base of popular support for the resistance have greatly reduced the agricultural yield of Afghanistan but the most crucial potential problem appears to be disruption of the country's internal transportation system. If the Soviets expand their interdiction efforts to include routes used to distribute food, they could further increase the impact of shortages. That would result in waves of Afghans fleeing to the cities where they can be controlled or to Pakistan as refugees. ☒



Su-17 FITTER

Low fuel capacity keeps this close-support craft near home, but other advantages make it an excellent plane to support conventional troops on COIN ops. Swing wings help it work on short runways, and improved targeting electronics aim its heavy payload of air-to-ground weapons.

DIMENSIONS: 60 feet long, 45 feet maximum wingspan, 15 feet high, 22,000 lb. empty weight.

CREW: One.

ARMAMENT: Six or eight attachment pylons for bombs, rocket pods or fuel tanks, and two wing-root 30mm cannon.

POWERPLANT: One 24,000-lb. thrust afterburning turbojet.

PERFORMANCE: Mach 2 top speed, 55,000 feet ceiling, 300-mile combat radius, 11,000 lbs. payload.

VARIANTS: SU-17 close-support fighter, SU-20 long-range strike craft, and SU-22 equipped with *AtoH* air-to-air missiles.



VIETNAM'S VIETNAM



Players Change: The Game's the Same

by Mike Winchester



Vietnamese T-54 tanks with Cambodian government soldiers piled on top return from the field. Photo: Kraipit Phanvut

Weapons line-up includes Czechoslovak vz.58V folding stock assault rifle (left) and vz.58P standard model stand next to Chinese Type 56-1 and Soviet AK-47 (right).

THEY say it takes two and a half hours to reach the war zone next door. But bouncing from Bangkok to the Thai-Cambodian border, down the bumpy, creviced scar that passes for a road, usually shakes your fillings and jars your kidneys for more than three hours. The road snakes east across an endless checkerboard of rice paddies and irrigation canals, bends north to Kabinburi and the distant shadow-line of the Petchabun Mountains, and then swings east again through open, arid country to Aranyaprathet, the 'land of forests.'

At Aran the road and railtrack cross into Cambodia but it hardly matters. There is no traffic. Beyond the rail station the track simply disappears into the dark abyss of the Cambodian bush. The vehicular road ends abruptly at the Khlong Luek checkpoint in Aran where Thai troops of the Eastern Task Force face a platoon of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) and units of the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh regime of Heng Samrin. Such paranoid border-bumping

is nothing new in Southeast Asia, but the town of Aran has been vastly transformed since war and the accompanying human debris arrived on Thailand's doorstep in 1979. The once-sleepy market center has become a miniature boom-town besieged by regular army, paramilitary Rangers, traders, whores, international aid people and, naturally, journalists.

I know Aran as well as I will ever care to. Back in 1979 and 1980 I worked the border for weeks at a time on a screaming little trail bike. To the north of the town, "resistance" to Vietnamese communist invaders was just another word used as justification for tyranny on the part of small-time warlords and big-time profiteers. Various renegade Khmer guerrilla groups staked their claims over teeming refugee camps and the runaway black market the flood of victims spawned. Among the rice, the gold and the power, they found plenty to keep them arguing.

South of Aran, in the malaria-ridden heights of the Phnom Malai, the shattered remnants of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces

were struggling to regroup and stay alive. In those days, Aran had been a cool shower at the end of the day, a meal, a bed in a rat's-nest hotel and a few beers to fend off the boredom. Sometimes over the beer you could sit and listen to Vietnamese artillery rumbling like distant thunder from Phnom Malai.

This time around in late 1984, Aran was breakfast and a chance to stretch my

legs. Things had changed. In the Malai and all along the border to the south, the Khmer Rouge were dug in deep. Renamed the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, their black pajamas had been exchanged for Chinese-style, olive-green battle dress. As recipients of a massive resupply operation courtesy of their backers in Peking, the Khmer Rouge were on the rebound and active across much of

HANOI'S HUMBLE HELPERS

The Russian-made tanks rumbled menacingly down crumbling Highway 3 in southern Cambodia. Red flags tied to radio antennae and bearing a yellow outline of the Angkor Wat temples snapped in the humid breeze. Grinning infantry sprawled in a stupor all over the vehicles greatly detracting from the formation's warlike demeanor.

The tanks and troops represented the pride of an allied armed force that Vietnam is trying to build in a country currently ruled by their puppets in Phnom Penh. It looked like a losing endeavor but Hanoi is hoping such troops can be developed into a power sufficient to allow them to leave Cambodia securely under communist control. They'd like to be able to pull Vietnamese troops out and avoid any further taste of the worldwide outrage that resulted from their December 1978 invasion of the country.

Basically, Vietnam is trying to do in Cambodia what President Nixon did in Vietnam. The communists are trying to "Cambodianize" the war.

Based on first-hand observation of the emerging Phnom Penh army and talks with the soldiers destined to fill the ranks, it will take some doing. It seems Vietnam is having less success with its program than the U.S. had with Vietnamization back in the early 1970s.

A senior colonel of the Vietnamese Army with five years experience in the Cambodian boonies took time out from his duties to assess the situation. "Well, they have some good platoons, you know, a few good small units. But it's a very small army and the men are very young. And anyone with a high school education wants to work in a better job than the army."

That very small army, fighting under the banner of the "Khmer People's Revolutionary Armed Forces," or KPRAF, will face some formidable odds if and when the Vietnamese finally leave Cambodia. Arrayed against Heng Samrin's force are three anti-government groups: the communist Khmer Rouge, commanded by ex-Cambodian prime minister Pol Pot, with an estimated 30,000 or more

young, brutal guerrilla fighters; the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, loyal to the patrician Son Sann and fielding about 10,000 to 12,000 camouflage-clad "para" soldiers, and the Sihanouk Nationalist Army (known as ANS), headed by the dynamic Prince Norodom Sihanouk, with a maximum of 5,000 armed troops.

Vietnam's estimated 170,000 to 180,000 main-force soldiers in Cambodia have managed to keep the cities, the towns and most important roads in their hands. But the opposition's guerrilla tactics have pushed the vaunted Hanoi army into a very mortal defensive position — militarily, diplomatically and on the propaganda front.

"Cambodia is Vietnam's Vietnam," chortles a senior resistance officer on the Thai-Cambodia border. "They're fighting for five or 10 or 20 years. We're fighting for our country, for lifetimes."

Hanoi isn't fighting foreigners on Vietnamese soil any more. It's killing Cambodians in their own country. And Vietnam wants out. The question — as it was for Nixon — is how to get out and still accomplish strategic goals in the country.

Nixon's answer was Vietnamization, building the ARVN into a force which could fight the war on its own. Vietnam's answer in Cambodia is the same.

In the past five years, the puppet KPRAF has recruited and drafted an estimated 35,000 men into three infantry divisions, a training division and a number of independent battalions — such as the 1st Independent Tank Battalion which I observed trying desperately to hold a tactical exercise in a rutted field 55 kilometers south of Phnom Penh.

The tanks arrived at their destination three hours late. They initially couldn't find POL to fuel the vehicles and then they got lost on their way to the mock battle.

Finally, four tanks arrived. Three were badly-maintained T-54s, Vietnam's main battle tank and a Russian favorite for Third World distribution, and the final vehicle was a thin-skinned PT-76 amphibious model.

They represented, according to bat-



talion commander Kem Sophat, part of a total of 10 Russian-built tanks in his three-year-old unit. In those three years his battalion has conducted only one two-day field exercise. Not one of his soldiers has ever seen combat.

One of the tank commanders was a sharp-looking trooper named Lanh Kao, who had returned recently from a one-year tankers' course at the Red Army's main armor school in the Ukraine.

"In the past five years, our army has developed strongly," he insisted. "Now we can fight. Our unit has no fear of being attacked."

That may be true but Lanh Kao and his buddies are in no immediate danger. Vietnamese officers say their army will be in Cambodia for at least another five years. The performance put on by the 1st Independent Tank Battalion showed why.

It was your garden-variety Chinese fire drill. An Australian observer with a great deal of field experience walked away wondering "what Son Sann and Sihanouk are going to do with all the tanks they're going to get."

The four tanks and the accompanying infantry looked good for the first couple of minutes. The machines clanked forward splendidly and whirled around a little temple to one side of the exercise area. They jounced off into a nearby dry paddy and hedgerow which served as staging area for their mock-assault.

When the infantry dismounted, we noticed no two soldiers wore the same uniform. Some were barefoot, others sported a variety of footwear including sandals, running shoes, old American boots — some with laces, some without — and one prized pair of Russian cavalry boots sported by Soviet-



A show of friendship: PAVN troops waving Vietnamese and Cambodian flags drive through throngs of Heng Samrin supporters. Photo: Kraipit Phanvut

trained tank commander, Lanh Kao.

Uniforms were generally khaki but several soldiers were arrayed in other colors. None of the troops wore a Vietnam-style fatigue uniforms and there was not a pith-helmet in sight.

There was some confusion about the battalion commander's rank. As it was eventually explained, the Cambodian Army has not bothered with specifically designated ranks during the five years of its existence. There are soldiers, NCOs and commanders at various levels forming a loose chain of command, but you have to know the players without benefit of a program. There is no specified rank insignia.

While the Russians had clearly supplied the armor for this unit, the commander insisted ammo, fuel and maintenance is strictly Cambodian responsibility. He proudly proclaimed that no Vietnamese, no Russians, no foreigners of any kind took part in advising or training the battalion. Later it became obvious that he was telling a well-rehearsed lie.

As the tanks ground their way into the attack, the infantry dismounted to line up behind the armor. That took some time to arrange and the lack of communication didn't help. Despite the flag-bearing antennae waving from the tank turrets, the unit had no radios — none at all. Tactical communication between vehicles and infantry was handled by a single, bedraggled runner who sprinted from tank to tank with orders. Hand signals and the occasional frustrated shots

from the country. In fact, the old KR was looking as menacing as it ever did in the heyday of power struggles in Cambodia.

To the north, between Aran and the rock-ribbed spine of the Dongrek Mountains along Cambodia's northern border, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) is the military power. Led by former premier Son Sann, the KPNLF has consolidated its hold across the once

from an AK-47 were also used to attract attention.

A quick look inside the turret of the lone PT-76 indicated the radios had been intentionally stripped out of the vehicles. Wires had been cleanly cut and there were no dangling fixtures to indicate plans to put new radios in the vehicles.

Finally, the infantry managed to cluster in hazardous proximity to each other and a point element of five men moved out across the rice paddy. Behind them came the assault troops, on line and maintaining good interval. The tanks were just rolling from a staging area 200 yards to their rear. And then the rain came.

The infantry broke tactical formation and scrambled for a patch of nearby trees. The PT-76 broke out of the assault line and moved to pick up observers for a rollicking ride to the shelter of the temple. The battalion commander cleared his throat and stated emphatically that as far as he was concerned, the day's tactical exercise was finished.

The chuckling party of observers was taken to Phnom Penh for an afternoon of typical training at the Cambodian Army Officer's School. We watched a few hundred men learning close-order drill and crew drill for squad and company weapons.

School director Neang Sophal assured his visitors that no Vietnamese took part in a training regimen that included infantry tactics, field artillery techniques and heavy doses of communist ideology.

Half an hour later, I walked up to three Vietnamese officers watching anti-air drills and asked them if they were the anti-aircraft advisers.

"Yes," they answered. So much for the Cambodian story of independent training.

The equipment at the school was generally in fine condition which made a sharp contrast to the shoddy hand-me-downs we saw in the hands of the tank battalion in the field. Several Russian 122mm howitzers bore 1982 manufacturing dates. We spent time observing training with Soviet 82mm mortars; Chinese 75mm recoilless rifles and 12.7mm heavy machine guns, and 37mm anti-aircraft weapons.

chaotic border settlements and is striving to project some military muscle and political influence into the Cambodian interior.

During the pre-monsoon dry season, two new developments in Cambodia's struggle complicated the situation. Two PAVN regiments were badly bloodied in an abortive frontal assault on the KPNLF's GHQ at Ampil (SOF, August 1984) and a

The Vietnamese had rigged a sub-caliber training device to these AA weapons in the form of an old AK-47 which they welded parallel to the larger weapon's barrel. A simple string was tied to the AK trigger for practice firing. Magazines loaded with tracers allowed the crews to fire and observe trajectory without wasting money on costly 37mm ammo.

Oddly, there was no indication that advisers were teaching — or students learning — the basic tactics of guerrilla or counter-insurgency warfare. Given the situation facing the emerging, communist-puppet army in Cambodia, that may be a major oversight. The opposition to Phnom Penh control is clearly involved in the first of the three stages of classic guerrilla warfare. Small bands of Khmer Rouge or Son Sann or Sihanouk troops roam much of Cambodia employing ambushes, pre-dawn attacks, land mine warfare and booby traps. Resistance forces generally have no crew-served weapons, beyond an occasional 61mm mortar or heavy machine gun. They have no artillery and no armor. Despite that, the soldiers of Heng Samrin appear to be training — or being trained — for fairly conventional combat.

Vietnamese attempts to defeat the resistance with such tactics have been a dismal failure. Last March, for the first time, Son Sann troops even beat off a large-scale frontal assault by a Vietnamese unit. Normally, such an attack simply causes the resistance forces to fade into the jungle. The North Vietnamese Army — troops who did so well for so many years employing guerrilla tactics — now seem willing to let their protégés absorb punishment instead of dealing it out.

Puppet troops in Cambodia may, eventually, take over some combat responsibility from the Vietnamese. Unless training and the tactical situation change, they will do so using conventional tactics and enslaved to tenuous supply lines. That strategy will not defeat the highly-motivated guerrilla forces they face.

For now, the Vietnamese will have to continue doing the fighting — unless they want to lose all those tanks.

— Alan Dawson





country-wide KR guerrilla offensive struck at several Viet-held provincial capitals, marking the first serious blow to Vietnamese control in the country. Viet paranoia grew steadily after these events. During the first years after their Christmas 1978 invasion, they made a concerted effort to win Cambodian hearts and minds. But the 1984 setbacks brought an end to that policy and fanned the ancient animosity between the Khmer and the Vietnamese. Reports of increasingly heavy-handed PAVN abuse of the rural population were commonplace. Charlie's occupation troops were getting edgy. It seemed like a good time to take another look at the situation.

We left Bangkok in the shadowy half-light of pre-dawn. I was accompanied by Swedish journalist, Bertil Lintner and his Shan wife, a former radio operator with the anti-Rangoon Shan State Army who spent six years in the jungles of northeastern Burma. From Aran we pushed north along the ribbon of highway that parallels the border. Dodging a few swaying bullock carts and laughing peasant girls on push-bikes, we swung east down a feeder road that leads to the border.

Twelve clicks and several Thai Army checkpoints later we reached Nong Chan. A straggling row of stilted houses placed haphazardly on a bend in the road, the village had once been one of the border's biggest black market centers—a meeting point for tens of thousands of Khmer and Thai traders.

We passed the last Thai checkpoint and turned down the wide, red-laterite road built for the water and rice trucks of the international relief organizations. A kilometer or more beyond a wide anti-tank ditch dug by the Thais and we were over the invisible border into KPNNLF-controlled Cambodia.

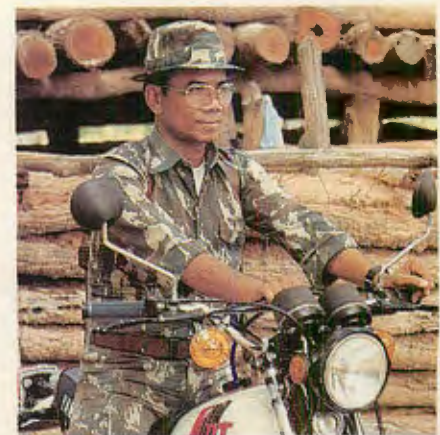
Nong Chan camp is a small, well-organized town on the fringe of the forests near the war zone. The lazy streets give an illusion of peace. Flanking the wide main street are bamboo warehouses, a Red Cross hospital, supplementary feeding clinics and a center for new refugee arrivals. Behind those is the inevitable sprawl of huts and market stalls intersected by mud streets that are home to the civilian population of 12,000.

We crawled on in first gear inching through the milling crowds of refugees that are the KPNNLF's civilian support base. The Vietnamese help place the refugees more firmly in the insurgent's camp by shelling the area with 105's and 130's when the mood strikes. Beyond the civilian camp, where the hard laterite gives way to a rutted mud track, the rainy season caught up with us. A pounding sheet of cold rain forced us to leave the car and walk the last few hundred meters to the nearby KPNNLF military base.

KPNNLF Special Forces roam the forests near forward positions at Ang Kan Seng.



KPNNLF Special Forces commander, Col. Pann Thay discusses plans over a table. Pann Thay has years of experience in fighting for his country.



Nong Chan camp commander Chea Chhut inspects a motorcycle used for scouting the trails along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Not even the Khmer Rouge's genocidal experiments in social engineering have managed to suppress the Khmer people's instinct for hospitality. In KPNNLF zones it's alive and well. In the evenings we sat with camp commander Chea Chhut and KPNNLF Special Forces commander Col. Pann Thay. Sitting at a table in a clearing outside Chhut's house, we drank iced beer or bourbon, talked, and watched the darkness descend on the jungle. The war was on hold.

As glasses were drained, refilled and drained again, we got to know our hosts pretty well. They were different types but both typical of the sort of leadership in Cambodia's non-communist resistance today. Pann Thay, a 46-year-old veteran jungle fighter, is a career officer and pilot. Stocky and extroverted, he speaks a slangy English learned in helicopter training centers across the U.S. Not long after the country gained independence from France in 1953, he joined the Royal Cambodian Army. Trained first in France and then the U.S., he later switched from choppers to infantry and in the mid-sixties graduated from Phnom Penh's military academy. In the first years of Lon Nol's war with the then Hanoi-backed

Khmer Rouge, Pann Thay commanded a regiment of mechanized infantry based outside the capital. He left his command in late '74 for advanced training at Ft. Benning. When the black-clad KR were sweeping down the boulevards of Phnom Penh on 17 April 1975, Pann was still in the U.S.

He never shows his feelings about what happened to his family. A common enough sort of story in Cambodia, I guess. Pann Thay's father, a senior civil servant, was executed on the steps of his house by the KR as soon as they entered the city. It's easy to understand the venomous hatred many of the non-communist resistance groups feel for their allies-of-the-moment, the Khmer Rouge.

In the years of state-sponsored terror that followed, Pann Thay also lost four sisters and three brothers. His wife and two children became part of a nameless trail of human misery that was forced to march west to the rural camps of the KR at Battambang. Though subjected to a callous labor routine and dehumanizing conditions, they survived and escaped to Thailand during the chaos of the Vietnamese invasion. Today his wife works for a California computer company. But Pann Thay could not forsake his roots. He returned to his homeland in 1981 to take command of the KPNLF's newly-formed Special Forces battalions.

Chhut is very different. Where the SF colonel is cosmopolitan and widely trained, Chhut is a self-taught country boy who clawed his way up to command. Where Pann Thay is ebullient and extroverted, Chhut is soft-spoken and reserved. But for all his unassuming facade, Chhut is unquestionably dangerous as hell. To survive in Cambodia as long as he has, it's necessary. He fought his way as a noncom in Lon Nol's Republican Army through brutal days and nights from Svay Rieng, the Parrot's Beak province on the Viet border, to a command near the Thai border.

Not wanting to turn himself in to become fertilizer for the KR, Chhut and nine others took to the jungle to continue their own war. During four murderous years of KR terror Chhut fought to hold together his tiny band. He spent time in jungle hide-outs and in Thailand earning money to buy ammunition. What Chhut doesn't know about surviving along the Thai border isn't worth knowing.

When the Vietnamese invasion crushed the KR in 1979, Chhut was leading a group of 125 guerrillas. By October, as the refugees began streaming to the Thai border in tens and then hundreds of thousands, he had established himself in the forests near the Thai village of Nong Chan. For the rest of that year and the next, while the KR tried to reorganize in the south, Chhut was surviving — and making a few fast bucks on the market.

By the end of 1980 the Ampil-based KPNLF, under Son Sann and former Lon



AN UPHILL BATTLE

Resistance to Hanoi's invasion and continuing occupation of Cambodia is divided into two primary factions. Major opposition activity comes from the dethroned Khmer Rouge (KR) communists and from considerably weaker, non-communist nationalist formations.

While opinions among observers differ, the strongest anti-Vietnamese force in Cambodia — outside the beefy ranks of the KR — is probably the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF). Mustering between 13,000 and 15,000 fighters, the KPNLF is closer in strength to the KR's 20,000-plus troops than any other resistance group.

Politically, the KPNLF traces its roots back to the Democratic Party of Cambodia, founded in 1946 and later active in opposition to the regimes of both Norodom Sihanouk and Lon Nol. Its reputation for fighting despotic regimes has been well-established over the years and that makes the KPNLF the logical benefactor of U.S. support. Unfortunately, the U.S. has kept that support extremely low key and sanitary. The Chinese throw the considerable weight of their support behind the blood-stained Khmer Rouge and American diplomats apparently feel Southeast Asia is not the place to create friction in the new-found cordiality between the U.S. and China.

Peking justifies its support of the KR as purely pragmatic. The KR are in a position to give the Vietnamese the best fight and it makes sense to support them, the Chinese reason. Washington grudgingly agrees.

A KPNLF guerrilla cradling a Type 56-1 leans against a tree and watches for Vietnamese troops.

According to U.S. government officials, a massive injection of weapons to the KPNLF would not change the military situation in Cambodia. They insist that a Vietnamese withdrawal is inevitable and the main purpose of the insurgency has been to deprive the Vietnamese of legitimacy for their stay in Cambodia, to act as a focus of Cambodian nationalism and to increase the costs to Vietnam for its occupation.

The U.S. is adhering to that line. In September 1983, KPNLF leader, Son Sann visited Washington hoping to elicit more aid. He left a disappointed man. Despite such events and official denials, there are increasing signs that the United States is providing direct aid to the non-communist forces of the anti-Vietnamese Democratic Kampuchea coalition. The aid is probably cash with few strings attached. ASEAN sources say that the covert aid is "entirely separate" from U.S. multinational aid to border relief operations and is not channeled through the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. Aid to the KPNLF has to be under the table and "non-lethal" in nature. The State Department told SOF that Washington has no plans to give anything but refugee aid and money. The KPNLF gladly accept the gesture and admit that it is a great help.

They also point out that "you can't kill people with money." And the Vietnamese communists can't be bribed out of Cambodia.

— Dale Andrade

Nol 2nd Div. commander Gen. Dien Del, was on the move with some quiet support from Thailand; the days of individual resistance were numbered. Most of Chhut's rivals learned that the hard way: Van Saren, strongman of Mak Mun camp near Nong Chan disappeared (believed executed); pro-Sihanouk Kong Sileah, one of the few committed to real resistance, died of malaria (believed poisoned); Inn Sakhorn, lord of Nong Samet camp was militarily defeated and is believed to be in France; Mit Don, former KR commander, free-lance border hatchet-man and connoisseur of Thai beer and village girls, was blown off his motorbike by a B-40 rocket during a "motorized" assault on a PAVN fire-base. He was blind drunk at the time.

Chhut read the writing on the wall. In late 1980 he struck a deal with Dien Del and joined the KPNLF. Chhut's armed following is still potent and he calls the shots around Nong Chan.

The present situation inside Cambodia may be a little less colorful than it has been in the past but resistance to Vietnamese occupation is still fraught with dangers. At Nong Chan, resistance forces have their backs hard against the wall of the Thai border. Infiltration units and political agents continue to push toward the Tonle Sap Lake and the Cambodian heartland, raiding, ambushing and building up political support in the villages, but the border areas remain crucial. The KPNLF and their nationalist allies in the *Armee Nationale Sihanoukiste* (ANS), loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, both use the fluid border bases as training facilities and safe areas in which they are assured of civilian support. Defense of these border enclaves is tying down as much as two-thirds of the nationalist strength. That's no way to run what the KPNLF and ANS are billing as a guerrilla war.

They told us that at Nong Chan alone, more than 3,000 troops, divided into eight battalions, were tied down in static defense along an extended perimeter. Less than 200 Nong Chan-based guerrillas were actually operating beyond enemy border positions in the interior.

Neither Chhut nor Thay has any illusions about what a full-scale PAVN assault, backed by armor, would do to their defenses. The April defense of Ampil, 45 clicks northeast along the border, was touted as a great setback for the PAVN, but the resistance did not have to contend with PAVN T-54s, apparently because of the effectiveness of KR strikes against fuel dumps inland.

Previous Vietnamese visits to Nong Chan serve as a grim reminder of the tenuous foothold the resistance is able to maintain in Cambodia. In June 1980 the

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KPNLF troops from the 702nd Battalion stand for inspection during drill and ceremonies at Nong Chan.





SAIGON REVISITED

A ghostly lot of Saigon remains in Ho Chi Minh City. The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) did not trash the city in a victory orgy as the Russians did with Berlin. And, unlike Phnom Penh under the ruthless conquest of Pol Pot, Saigon's citizens were not systematically massacred.

That doesn't mean the new management isn't doing its damndest to make sure the old Saigon is slowly but surely sacrificed for the "greater prosperity" of the new Ho Chi Minh City. What is left of Saigon is like a fading, peeling, forgotten circus poster, a slowly crumbling facade of memories, bit by painful bit revealing the reality of the Marxist dream.

That dream envisions an orderly, disciplined, socialist metropolis in which there is no need for the posh nightclubs of old Saigon because everyone is equal and "posh" implies a decadent, stratified society. For many of the city's tortured inhabitants, the communist dream is a nightmare. That's what I returned to see.

Almost 17 years to the day after my first visit to the city as an Army PFC with an extremely high pucker-factor, I looked down to see the Saigon River snaking below like an engorged serpent and the city rising quickly toward me. This former colonial capital had been in the hands of the communists for the past 10 years and that thought, coupled with the familiar sights, dredged bitter memories from the deep recesses where I'd stored them to avoid post-war trauma. Some of the spectres would be exorcised by my return to Saigon. Others would not.

I found out quickly that Americans were not the only ones to lose the war in Vietnam. The Viet Cong, the rebel fanatics of the National Liberation Front, also lost. They danced in the streets of Saigon when the last American left and they fired their AKs in the air while the NVA stood quietly by and fed them ammo. And then they were disarmed, debased and disillusioned. The real winners in Vietnam were the communists from the north who promptly took over all positions of power and authority in the country that Charlie Cong thought he was fighting to liberate from the jack-boot of the imperialist invaders. There is some justice in the world. Unfortunately, it's not all poetic.

Bitter Memories Haunt Ho Chi Minh City

by Alan Dawson
Photos by Kraipit Phanvut

At the 30th anniversary of Dien Bien Phu, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, the Viet Minh commander who defeated the French, sits on a rebuilt bunker used by his enemy. Tourists visiting the site see depictions of how the losing side lived during the long siege.

Standing in front of a gun purportedly used by the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu, a communist guide points at the French position eventually overrun by the communists. Many Vietnamese men over 45 claim to have participated in the battle.

A growing cynicism permeates the collective VC psyche, making them wonder whether they have any real role to play in shaping the evolution of a "workers paradise" in Vietnam, particularly in THEIR Vietnam, SOUTH Vietnam. Just as their predecessors did before the city fell to communism, the powers-that-be in the south still give briefings on land reform and, interestingly enough, just about everybody still bad-mouths Russians. There the similarities between Saigon of the '60s and Ho Chi Minh City of today end abruptly.

Vietnamese southerners, including the VC, are anxious that the renamed former capital should not become a drab, faceless hardship post like Hanoi. The soldiers and bureaucrats who come here are escaping the north where there are no good restaurants, no night clubs, no dancing, none of the marketplace vitality and street-life vibrance that can still be found in Ho Chi Minh City.





Dawson bargains with a merchant over the price of a beer. Pabst Blue Ribbon, Coca-Cola and boxes of Lux soap sell for about \$1 U.S. at prevailing black market rates.

DAWSON AN OLD HAND

Alan Dawson, 42, has worked in Southeast, South and East Asia for the past 17 years, as a U.S. soldier, reporter, correspondent and editor. Dawson was UPI's Saigon bureau chief when the capital of South Vietnam fell to communist invaders from Hanoi, and remained four months after the fall to file copy on new developments. For the next five years, he was Bangkok bureau chief for UPI, traveling on assignments ranging from Pakistan to Sri Lanka to the Philippines. Most recently, Dawson served in various editing positions, including associate editor, for the *Bangkok Post*, Thailand's major English language daily.

Despite the mystical link between past and present, the citizens and visitors alike quickly learn a crucial lesson for those who would recall the past and dwell on the heyday hustle and bustle of this city. You can return to Ho Chi Minh City but you can never go back to Saigon.

Like old Saigon, the people of Ho Chi Minh City still wheel and deal, wheedle and cajole, whine and plead, buy and sell, scam and short-change. You still see drinking and dancing although it's harder to find these days. You still see people who love posing for pictures but they don't smile as readily. Their situation as pawns in a power struggle has made them suspicious of strangers' motivations.

Foul-mouthed old crones in the central market still curse the customer who tries to bargain for their fruit. The casual stroller still has to step over refugees sleeping on the sidewalk. But there is a difference these days. The country people have not come to the city to escape the war. They are running from the peace.

The Ham Nghi Street market still features the delectable aroma of Asia's best bread, served hot twice a day. You can still salute the sunset with a drink in the bar atop the Caravelle Hotel before departing for a stunning Szechuan Chinese dinner. You can still drift with your thoughts while breezing on a noiseless cyclo up the almost-deserted Nguyen Hue, the Street of Flowers, where hookers on bicycles or in their own cyclos still negotiate the short-time tryst. And the curfew still descends on Ho Chi Minh City at midnight as it did on Saigon.

Ghosts usually come out at night chasing



Even under the defiant watch of Uncle Ho, as the Vietnamese refer to their version of "Big Brother," rock and roll throbs on as vibrantly as it did before the communists took over.

your dreams.

One night after dinner, I took a cyclo ride past the old villa where I had lived for five years until April 1975. An outdoor coffee shop occupied the spot where my three-car driveway used to be. I asked the manager if I might take a nostalgic peek inside the house. "No," barked Mrs. Hanoi Hardcore. "If you do, you'll want the house back and you can't have it."

I quickly pulled back in frustration. Damn, you can't even call in air or arty. That ghost remains. There are others that can be exorcised.

On the western fringes of the urban sprawl, past still-bustling Cholon and the signboards printed in Chinese, is the Phu Lam signal station, site of my first GI assignment in Vietnam, where satellite receivers and cables trafficked the huge volume of American communications in and out of the war. It looked inactive and almost deserted. Apparently the new guys from the north don't have the American penchant for instant access to everyone in the world via telephone or teletype.

But word is that at the end of next year, the Russians are going to reopen Phu Lam as a satellite transmission facility. In addition to regular telecommunications, the facility will receive live television broadcasts from Moscow. The Vietnamese I mentioned this to are not exactly holding their breaths in excited expectation.

Up in the Cu Chi district, the propagandists manage straight faces when they tell visitors that "unexploded U.S. ordnance" killed more than 100 people clearing the former battlefield to make way for new farms. A whole new generation of Vietnamese kids is learning that the VC never had a dud round, laid a mine or set a booby-trap.

The older folks, 35 and over, joke about the conveniently dichotomous state mem-





ory. They gleefully tell of one village reprogramming session in which a cadre member tried to solicit residential compliments and criticisms of the communist regime. A wrinkled and drawn old woman with betel-stained teeth, apparently unafraid, finally spoke up, saying she thought the new regime was good.

"And why," asked the young Hanoi-trained cadre member, "is the new regime good, in your opinion, old woman?"

"Well," cackled the old *ba*, expertly playing the official off as a straight man, "they sure managed to stop those VC rocket attacks since they took over."

Five "government entertainers" hired by the photographer stand in a downtown Ho Chi Minh City square where the best-known symbol of communism replaced a statue of Vietnamese Marines pulled down days after the fall of South Vietnam.

CU CHI TUNNELS

Tired of the same old family routine on your vacations? Maybe you should consider post-war Vietnam. But be advised: As tourist packages go, the latest Vietnamese version is a little out of the ordinary, ranking somewhere between slightly eccentric and the truly weird.

Taking a stroll along the Appian Way sounds nice, certainly romantic. But a promenade with your loved one down the Ho Chi Minh Trail?

Visiting the beaches of Normandy could be instructive as well as beautiful. On the other hand, traipsing out to see the overgrown jungles around Dien Bien Phu might not really grab you.

New Mexico's Carlsbad caverns always stir the imagination and the catacombs of Rome are world renowned. It may take a while, however, before Viet Cong tunnel complexes become the big tourist draw that communist planners apparently envision.

No, I am not kidding. The advertising possibilities are staggering. You can almost read the copy in the *Daily Worker* now.

"Visit Gen. Giap's French slaughterhouse Dien Bien Phu! Wend your leisurely way through the bomb craters on the Ho Chi Minh Trail! Spend an exciting afternoon exploring the colorful guerrilla insurgent tunnels at Cu Chi!"

Somehow it just doesn't have that Club Med ring to it.

As in every tour group, there is one guy in the crowd gullible enough to believe about anything. Ho Chi Minh slept here. Whatever.

The kid on the back row of our briefing also obviously still had some some professional dues to pay. No doubt that he was very young. His status as a seasoned journalist was another question. He seemed to inhale the Vietnamese



propaganda the way a wino soaks up Ripple. After his questions, most reporters glanced over to see if there was water dripping from his earlobes.

Hard times and traffic cops teach most of us that ignorance is no excuse. Hang around seasoned war correspondents and you'll get another opportunity to see the excuse won't wash.

"Did the Americans ever actually discover any of these tunnels?" The kid was obviously posing a rhetorical question. The communist guide, who appeared about as young and inexperienced as his questioner, was briefing several reporters on Vietnam's biggest — and very likely one of the world's weirdest — tourist attractions. The small, but well-maintained, section of tunnels in Cu Chi, northwest of Ho Chi Minh City, was a decade ago part of a vast underground complex built by the Viet Minh and Viet Cong at the edge of the old Iron Triangle.

Speaking in an earnest and officious tone, the guide said he didn't think a U.S. GI ever did find a tunnel in Vietnam. "The entrances were very well camouflaged," he said matter of factly.

If the young guide could say that with a straight face, Nguyen Quang Tiep, a middle-aged Cu Chi communist official sitting in the front row, could not help but smile himself. Many U.S. grunts

Communist tour guides claim this map of the Cu Chi tunnels was prepared for Gen. William Westmoreland to show Washington what he was up against. He is named on the display in Vietnamese as "Oet-mo-len."

who found those tunnels paid with their lives for acquiring the information.

Tiep's smile was not a victory smirk. It was the nervous, bittersweet grin of any war veteran, regardless of his political belief, who has looked into the cold eyes of death. He leaned to whisper audibly to the guy in the next seat.

"I'll never forget the day they discovered *mine*," he muttered. "God damn, I thought I was going to die for sure."

Many other Vietnamese defending that sprawling subterranean network thought on countless occasions that they, too, were going to die. And about half of them did, according to the communists' own count. The old Iron Triangle was the scene of some of the Vietnam War's biggest and bloodiest operations, a bitch of a piece of real estate extending from Cu Chi up to the Cambodian border. The U.S. military patrolled it, bombed it, defoliated it, napalmed it, built roads in it, resettled people out of it, declared it a free-fire zone, did everything but throw rocks at it.

They burned the tunnels, blew up the tunnels, booby-trapped the tunnels, put

But like glimpses of the old Saigon, humor here is fleeting. In another part of Cu Chi, now part of Ho Chi Minh City, a section of the infamous tunnel system has been preserved as a tourist attraction. U.S. and ARVN troops killed half of the communist soldiers in Cu Chi during the war. The VC and NVA guides are living proof that it wasn't enough. The ARVN lost the war and the victors want that cemented in the state's collective memory. That means they take no official note to the soldiers on the other side who died in the fighting. The former national military cemetery is completely untended and there are no signs or grave markers to tell visitors or young Vietnamese why the government has not turned the whole thing into a rice paddy.

Nearby, young Vietnamese teenagers are skipping rope and reflecting the popular culture of their country. Gone is the thunderous



Cattle are driven home in the dusty late afternoon of the remote Lai Chau Province village near the Dien Bien Phu battlefield. Much closer to the Laotian mountains than to Hanoi, most of these residents are ethnic Thais.

rhythm of rock and roll that used to boil through Saigon's streets to be mimicked by the kids. Now they chant with mindless repetition as though they believe there's something magical in the words of their new song.

*Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh
Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh
Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh...*

The obvious strategy is to get a firm mental grip on the kids and let the older people have their cynical jokes and limited capitalistic pursuits. The communists are after young hearts and minds. They are easier to mold. The old folks will be dead, gone and forgotten in another 30 years or so. Uncle Ho did not leave a tight time schedule for development of the true socialist paradise.

In the meantime, some of the old beat goes on. Maxim's night club has reopened on a street that used to be called *Tu Do*,

tunnel rats down the tunnels, blew tear gas into the tunnels, B-52ed the tunnels, threw hand grenades down the tunnels.

And they cursed the tunnels. In several languages.

Today the Hanoi government is putting tourists in the tunnels, rolling out the red carpet via Saigon tours with a guide and a minibus. As in other parts of Vietnam, the bulk of foreign visitors are Russians.

But the Cu Chi tunnel complex is only one of three offbeat tourist attractions being developed by the communist regime.

Early in 1984, the authorities started building a rest house-hotel at remote Dien Bien Phu so the groups of best tractor-builders from Kiev or wherever could take a look at that battle site.

Stranger still is the third project in the works. In late-1985 or early-1986, the Vietnamese plan to start taking tourist groups down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Considering that the communists denied there was such a trail in Laos, it could be interesting.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail tour is still in the planning stages. But Hanoi's formidable propaganda machine is already cranking out its fine grade of garbage, praising the truck drivers and human pack rats who scurried to repair extensive U.S. bomb damage during the war.

With the war over, Hanoi now openly brags about the 100,000 or so Vietnamese who spent their time on and near the 25,000 miles of trail. Conveniently forgotten are the wartime claims that Vietnam didn't have a soldier in Laos. The first complimentary tours from the communists should go to Jane Fonda and all the other ostrich-headed U.S. liberals who believed and spread Hanoi's party line that such a trail did not exist.

At Dien Bien Phu, about 175 miles due west of Hanoi next to the Laotian border, workmen put up a photo exhibit

and a scale-model sand table last May, the 30th anniversary of the French debacle there. The small town of Dien Bien Phu presumably is looking forward to the tourist influx. Its 2,000 or so residents are mostly ethnic Thais and they give new meaning to the term dirt-poor.

In Cu Chi, where my *Soldier Of Fortune* t-shirt raised a few communist eyebrows, a few VC war veterans are finally able to tell the truth about what happened in the TAOR.

"It was pretty bad here," said Tiep, who was a member of the local Communist Party committee from the mid-60s onward. "The Americans and the ARVN were both good and equally tough fighters."

Cu Chi — today part of greater Ho Chi Minh City — lay at the southern edge of the Iron Triangle and housed both the U.S. and ARVN 25th Infantry Divisions. The AO stretched north from here, through infamous Trang Bang next door and on up into Tay Ninh Province.

Two early major operations involving the U.S. 1st Infantry were Cedar Falls in 1966, and Junction City the following year. The VC took heavy casualties during both, but managed to reoccupy the Triangle.

The first tunnels were built in 1945 by the Viet Minh. But the American entry into the war in force literally pushed the VC underground for 10 years. A district map shows that the tunnel network — now abandoned and unused — linked VC villes. It was possible, said Tiep, to crawl miles through them.

"Mainly they were scary," he said. "They were dark and incredibly hot. I have spent up to six weeks at a time in them and it was never any fun at all."

The small tunnel section preserved for tourists is at the northern edge of the district. A burned-out M-41 tank (serial number 7963539) lies close to the entrance to one.

The guides point out well-camouflaged tunnel entrances and allow tourists to crawl about 50 meters along one to get an idea of the heat, darkness and claustrophobic conditions. Most of the preserved tunnel sections and rooms have been enlarged a bit and reinforced with concrete sides to cut down on maintenance.

Tiep had apparently never talked to an American veteran before, and he was interested to know if I was surprised at the tunnels at all. I told him, truthfully, no, that the existence and structure of the tunnels were well known to nearly every combat trooper in the area.

Another wartime Viet Cong asked if the Americans realized just how much advance notice the communists had about big U.S. operations in the Iron Triangle. Yes, I replied, Americans knew very well about communist infiltration.

When the VC learned of an operation, they went underground. "It was the only way we could survive," said Tiep.

The guides show off the vertical tunnels, the horizontal tunnels, the kitchen with its smoke-dispersing roof, an entrance for animals. Entrances and fighting positions, they said, were often immediately beside the road, to get as close to American troops as possible and thus prevent immediate reliance on artillery or airstrikes.

"Every day was dangerous," Tiep recalled. Although physically safe from bombs five meters below the surface, a major problem was a cave-in from the shock of the bombs, particularly from B-52 strikes.

Tiep shrugs now. "If you survived a cave-in, you just had to dig a new tunnel."

A war has moved through Cu Chi. It's over now and the new conquerors have moved in.

The tourists. — Alan Dawson

Freedom Street. The Ho Chi Minh City address is *Dong Khoi*, or Street of the Simultaneous Uprisings. Mostly frequented by high-level communist bureaucrats, Maxim's features a dinner that costs the typical government worker about three months wages. Like most Saturday nights, the place is packed. But at a small table on this particular evening are two Americans, a Thai and an Indonesian, the only foreign customers.

A nine-piece band plays everything from a tango to an instrumental version of the Scorpions' "When the Smoke is Going Down." Stylishly dressed women, probably the wives or mistresses of high-level officials, suck on British-made cigarettes, which cost about two weeks' pay for a citizen lucky enough to have a low- or mid-level government job. On the still-thriving local black market, a pack of Marlboros cost a visiting American 200 dong, or \$20 if you change your money at the bank. Vietnamese vendors regularly charge the Russians \$30 per pack for the same product.

I decide to go back to my hotel — the old Majestic, which has been renamed the *Cuu Long*, or Nine Dragons — to change my shirt. In the short walk between Maxim's and the hotel, I cover 10 years in 50 meters. In the lobby is a group of about 15 Russian tourists, probably the best tractor makers in Minsk or something, getting a military-style briefing on tour activities for tomorrow.

Finding Russians, who are derisively referred to by locals as "Americans without dollars," is not all that difficult in Ho Chi Minh City. The former home of the U.S. ambassador is their consulate. Many work in the old U.S. Embassy, that big white building just down the street from the zoo. It's now the Vietnamese oil ministry. By using technology left behind by fleeing U.S. engineers, the Russians have finally made an oil strike in the South China Sea off Vung Tau. *Ain't this a bitch?* From R&R Center to Esso Plant in one leap.

Russians do not venture out alone in Ho Chi Minh City. It would not good for the country's image if Ivan the Tourist or Boris the Bureaucrat came up as a corpse floating in the Saigon River. And that's a real possibility. The average guy on the street hates the Russians for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is their demeaning attitude. Despite that, the country is firmly hitched to the red star. Vietnam exports much of its labor force and a great deal of its food crops to Russia. The Soviets send tanks and guns in return. Both governments are happy with this arrangement even if their people are not.

I talked with the deputy mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, Pham Van Khai. A self-professed "second generation" communist, he is about 50 years old and a typical bureaucrat. Conceding that his city is still a free-wheeling place, the deputy mayor said the hardest task for the new regime is "to make everyone equal." Like an old man patiently explaining a simple statement to an ignorant grandson, he told me the road to



Private Nguyen Huuc Phuoc (right), formerly of the Hue Reconnaissance Division, exemplifies thousands of loyal Vietnamese soldiers abandoned to the communists when the U.S. pulled out. Photo: USMC

socialism would be long and arduous, requiring many sacrifices from everyone. We shook hands and he hustled out to climb into his car and weave his way home through a million bicycles. His was one of the very few non-military motor vehicles in the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. Apparently some will have to sacrifice less than others.

The sad part is that in Ho Chi Minh City even bicycles — those two-wheel standards

of oriental transportation — have become a luxury most citizens can no longer afford. A well-paid civil servant or experienced school teacher makes about 600 dong per month, a fairly average salary. A bicycle to take him to and from his job would cost about six months' wages. A kilogram of sugar cost 80 dong, or several days' work. A day of work will buy one day's supply of rice. A single fish means four days of work. A Japanese-made portable, black-and-white TV costs 12,000 dong, and 17 days of work are required to buy a single pair of Vietnamese-made *ersatz* jeans to fit a five-year-old. Government workers, who get state subsidies, can buy rice and sugar at prices far below those demanded on the

GOOD AS GOLD

When Cambodian roadside vendors near the Thai border advertise their contraband Singha beer of Thailand as "good as gold," they're not just talking about the brew's color.

Once described as "the world's best beer which causes the world's worst hangovers," Singha was among several varieties of warm beer on display in a ramshackle little noodle shop near Batambang in Cambodia's Muang district, a remote area not far from the border with Thailand. I stopped by for lunch and a chat with the locals.

Noticing the two cases of Singha among the other brands — mostly European, but including Vietnam's "33" — I decided the Thai brew would be a good choice because we were so close to Thailand. It had the somewhat alluring taint of forbidden fruit because it obviously had been smuggled across the border.

"It's not for sale," the shopkeeper told me when I asked how much for a bottle of Singha beer.

"I can pay in American dollars," I said to the shopkeeper, uttering usually magic words in the Vietnamese-controlled country.

"For dollars, I'll sell Heinekens, 33, Carlsberg," said the shopkeeper. "Not Singha. I also have Amarit [a less popular Thai beer]. Not Singha."

Why have Singha on display at all, I wondered.

"Oh, it's for sale all right," said the Cambodian. "No riels, no piasters, no Thai baht, no dollars. I sell Singha only for gold."

The shopkeeper wasn't kidding. Pieces of gold are used as major currency in western Cambodia near the Thai frontier. Some folks just don't trust the socialist economy.

I settled for a \$2 Carlsberg.

— Alan Dawson

open market, but they must stand in line to pay three weeks' wages for a bicycle tire.

In the end, it's no surprise to me that almost a million Vietnamese have fled their

country since the fighting stopped. Another million have signed up to leave legally. Others openly approach Americans about getting out by boat. The Vietnamese gov-

ernment, rather than restricting the departure of its citizens, ironically criticizes Uncle Sam regularly for not taking enough refugees. Every emigrant, whether leaving by jet-powered freedom bird or leaky fishing boat, is one less potential resistance member.

RAT PATROL

Return visitors to Hanoi's Thang Loi (Victory) Hotel know enough to order dinner at an early, tactically safe hour. But this apparently was the first — and very likely the last — visit for "Ivan Slobovski." The stolid Russian adviser was eating alone at the fashionable-but-dangerous hour of 2100, unaware that he was being slowly surrounded by members of the Rat Patrol.

Not the celluloid, television version, mind you, but a squad of the furry, disease-bearing variety.

A bevy of bemused battlefield observers comprised of U.S. and Aussie journalists, who had just polished off the last cold cans of Asahi beer, watched the scene unfold before several hotel staffers. It was apparent that the famed Thang Loi rats were not so much interested in Ivan as in the pork chop he was eating.

The rats quickly moved in on the Russian from all sides, at first sticking to the walls, then scooting from table leg to chair, trying to keep cover.

The rat NCOIC obviously subscribed to the fire-and-maneuver tactical principle.

As the rodent noose tightened around Ivan, the assault rat leaped on his table, stood on its hind legs, wiggled its nose to test the culinary authenticity of the final target and cheeped a warning for Ivan to back off.

Ivan did not look up. The observers could read his mind from the dumbfounded look on his face:

"There is no rat on my table," he was probably telling himself. "There are no rats in this room. I am in a socialist country and it is clean. I am going to finish my pork chop and go up to bed."

"Ratski! Ratski!" screamed the typically irreverent journalists as they unleashed a barrage of empty beer cans toward the rodent aggressors. But roars of laughter ruined their aim.

Ivan continued to keep his eyes on his plate. The point rat advanced a couple of cautious inches across the table toward the Russian's plate.

The rodents finally won the battle with a diversionary tactic.

As man and assault rat were eyeball-to-eyeball, waiting to see who would blink first, a second rat scurried over the bare top of Ivan's sandal-clad foot. That did it. Unconditionally and without further ado, he surrendered his only weapons, a knife and fork. With as much Soviet dignity as he could muster —

which wasn't much, given the hoots of reporters and giggles of a half-dozen young Vietnamese women — Ivan quickly retreated from the dining room, speechless.

Rats discovered the Thang Loi years ago, and for them it has become an indisputable and virtually unguarded luxury. Even in a land where millions of the huge, furry critters roam the villages, towns and countryside at will, the Thang Loi rats are notable. They perch in trees to see who and what comes and goes, crouch behind walls, lurk in the sewers.

At night they saddle up for a main foray that inevitably centers on the hotel dining room. By 2000, Rat Patrol commanders have their scouts dispatched for customer reconnaissance, separating the drinkers from the eaters, the meticulous from the slobs. By 2100, when the air conditioning and music are turned off, the squads begin to move in, as they did on the hapless Russian. The more surreptitious, deep recon members slip into hallways and head for the rooms, seeking any stray crumbs that might have been dropped.

It was one of these elite "A-team" rats that was inadvertently captured by a Thai photographer, Kraipit Phanvut, whose work sometimes appears in SOF. Ot, as the photographer is known to his friends, quickly but groggily responded one morning to the proverbial zero-dark-30 wakeup bang on the door of his hotel room at the Thang Loi. After washing up, he tossed his shaving kit into the suitcase and slammed it shut, grabbed it and his five Nikons and headed downstairs to catch the airport bus.

The three-hour flight to Phnom Penh was the usual horror show that regular Vietnam Airlines customers have come to expect, with gross overbookings, no service and a Russian TU-134A jetliner that can either climb or have air conditioning, but not both.

Safely on the ground again in Cambodia, Ot and his traveling companions headed for the much cleaner, more accommodating Hotel Monorom. Dropping his suitcase on the bed, Ot popped open the latches. Out jumped a somewhat bloated specimen of the dreaded *Rattus Thang-Loitus*, who gave his travel agent an imperiously ungrateful glance and ambled off, looking like he might be in search of a good place to take a nap.

Hearing of the incident, a Frenchman observed in an apropos turn of phrase that "the communists may control Vietnam by day, but the rats control the night."

— Alan Dawson

Poor people have never been a rarity in Vietnam whether they suffer under a callous, U.S.-backed regime or a totalitarian communist government. But there are a whole lot more poor and a lot fewer rich people in the new Ho Chi Minh City than in the old Saigon.

On one of my last evenings in-country on this most recent visit, I was sipping a beer and strolling among the food stalls. A decrepit, one-legged beggar approached with that unmistakable look in his eye. I was in for a touch. I nearly gave him the standard brush-off but something about his tattered jacket caught my attention. It used to be part of a uniform.

"Ask him," I directed the market girl, "whether he fought for Nguyen Van Thieu or Ho Chi Minh."

But before she could speak, he looked me dead in the eye and replied in English, with a painful sarcasm in his voice, "I guess, after all, I fought for Ho Chi Minh."

Pressed for information, the beggar said he lost his leg at Quang Tri in 1972 as a member of Airborne 1/1. A weeks-long, set-piece battle, one of the most ferocious of the war, had been necessary to retake South Vietnam's northernmost provincial capital. It was an classic case of the "we had to destroy the city to save it" school of tactics.

We talked a few minutes, the old paratrooper and me, neither of us really comfortable. He didn't want to badmouth Americans for pulling out. I didn't want to remind him of what was so painfully obvious. The winners write the rules as well as the history.

He told me he cannot live with his family because his status as a former enemy of the communist state would make life even harder for them. As it is, his children are denied schooling, there are no ration cards for meat and clothing, no state housing.

American veterans may be bitter at about their homecoming but there are soldiers of that war who got dumped on much worse. Compared to ARVN vets still stuck in Vietnam, American GIs were treated to ticker-tape parades and hailed as conquering heroes.

You never seem to get to the bottom of it all in Ho Chi Minh City. Ten years after the war, this veteran's only shirt was his old fatigue jacket bearing patches on camouflaged patches. It's pitiful remnant of a better time when the only thing he had to fear was death.

Saigon — like the old soldier — hasn't died, but it's fading rapidly away in the face of shabby treatment by communist conquerors.

You can return there. But you can't go back. ✕



SOF WEAPONS

STEYR AUG



This Bullpup's No Dog

Text & Photos by
Peter G. Kokalis



BULLPUP suggests a dog . . . and the turbulent field of military small arms certainly doesn't need any more of those. What it does need is an accurate, light-weight, lethal rifle to put in the hands of well-trained infantrymen. The Bullpup-style assault rifle may be part of the answer.

Certainly bullpups — those odd-looking, space-age smoke-poles that seem to have all the conventional parts in unconventional places — are not the perfect combat weapons for all occasions, but they have their military applications. And technical advances in bullpup design are rapidly making the weapons common sights in world hot-spots.

It's easy to tell when you've got a bullpup in your hands. It may not be so easy to tell that you're necessarily holding a military rifle. The magazine is in the buttstock and the trigger is halfway down the barrel. It seems odd, but there's no denying it's compact. A Steyr AUG bullpup with a 16-inch barrel is a foot shorter than the standard service M16.

Bullpups are bastard children. Championed by the British throughout the 20th century, bullpup rifles have never been much of an enticement to the U.S. military. In August, 1902 British engineer J.B. Thomeycroft presented a prototype bolt-action rifle to the British War Office for consideration by the Small Arms Committee. In trials it was not impressive and all official interest in the Thomeycroft design ceased by 1903.

During the early part of 1944 work started at Enfield on the design of a new bullpup sniper rifle. Called the Sniper Rifle *Experimental Model I* (SREM I), the weapon featured a radical design. The bolt traveled in a metal housing inclined 12 degrees below the bore axis. The bolt was operated by a pistol grip which carried an arm engaging a cammed slot on the right side of the bolt. Rearward movement of the pistol grip first rotated the bolt to unlock it and then retracted it. But military weapons technology was firmly dedicated to self-loading rifles and the bullpup sniper rifle project was abandoned in 1945 at war's end. Despite the slide into post-war obscurity, the early research had sparked

Austrian Army marches on exercises with standard-issue 20-inch barrel AUG. Photo: Steyr

French weapons engineers took a long look at bullpup technology and produced their own prototypes.

some continuing interest.

Early efforts culminated in the controversial, ill-fated British EM-2 rifle which was effectively torpedoed by the Americans in the 1952 international trials held at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Refusing to throw in the cleaning rag, the British have ignored American obstinance on the issue and recently adopted the Enfield Individual Weapon (IW) and Light Support Weapon (LSW). Both are bullpups.

Some bullpup fervor did manage to cross the channel. In Belgium, FN produced a prototype carbine (serial No. 3) which was a bullpup design by Dieudonné Saive. But the project was subverted by the dictatorial Director General of FN, René Laloux. French weapons engineers took a long look at bullpup technology and produced their own prototypes. One of these — the French FAMAS — is a general issue weapon in French Army units.

Using the Johnson/Stoner rotary bolt, the Enfield EM-2 layout and a host of carefully considered innovations, the Austrian firm of Steyr Daimler Puch, AG, has fielded a bullpup called the AUG (Army Universal Gewehr [rifle]). Adopted by the Austrian Army in 1977 — where it is called the Stg 77 (Sturmgewehr [assault rifle] 77) — it has become one of the most familiar bullpup weapons in the world. The AUG is now available in both military and semiautomatic-only versions in the U.S.

The bullpup's salient feature is compactness. By definition, a bullpup's barrel group is moved well back into the stock and action and magazine are placed behind the trigger assembly. Ejection of spent cartridge casings occurs close to the shooter's face and some critics claim bullpups are inappropriate for left-handers. Other critics — particularly those with combat experience in confined areas — claim the bullpup design forces a soldier to expose too much of his body when firing around corners. But bullpup fans have their own reasoned response to all that.

Only 20 percent of the world's population is left-handed, they argue, and most of them can be trained to fire effectively from the opposite shoulder. Even southpaws who can't manage the switch can be equipped with bullpups modified to accommodate them. Both the Enfield IW and the Steyr AUG feature left-side ejection.



STEYR AUG SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO — M193 and M855 (SS109) type ball ammunition.
Operation:	Gas — short-stroke piston with gas system mounted to barrel. Two action settings for operation under normal and adverse conditions. Third action setting for firing blank ammunition and rifle grenades.
Cyclic rate:	680-850 rpm.
Magazines:	30- and 42-rd. plastic staggered box type
Weights, empty:	Submachine gun — 6.7 lbs. Carbine — 7.3 lbs. Assault Rifle — 7.9 lbs. HBAR — 10.8 lbs.
Overall lengths:	Submachine gun — 25 inches Carbine — 27 inches Assault Rifle — 31 inches HBAR — 35 inches
Barrel:	6-groove, right hand twist with one turn in nine inches. Hammer-forged construction. Chrome-lined bores and chambers.
Barrel lengths:	14, 16, 20 and 24 (Heavy Barrel) inches
Sights:	1.5X optical sight (with emergency fixed iron sights containing illuminated dots) standard and integral with the receiver casting. HBAR model equipped to accept high power telescopic sights and night vision optics.
Accessories:	Multi-purpose and light bayonets with clamp adapter, telescopic and night vision optics for HBAR model, grenade launcher M203 (AUG-8), carrying sling, rifle grenades, blank firing devices, combat harness and all spare parts components.
Manufacturer:	Steyr Daimler Puch AG, Defence Division, A-1010, P.O. Box 120, Vienna, Austria.
U.S. Distributors:	Selective-fire models: Gun South, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 6607, Birmingham, AL 35210. Semiautomatic-only model: Interarms, Ltd., Dept. SOF, 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22313.
Status:	Adopted for service by the armed forces of Austria, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Tunisia, Malaysia, Djibouti and Morocco. Used by U.S. Navy SEALs, British SAS and police agencies throughout the world. Undergoing trials in Australia.

It is also used by the U.S. Navy SEALs, the British SAS and the Cambridge (England) police.

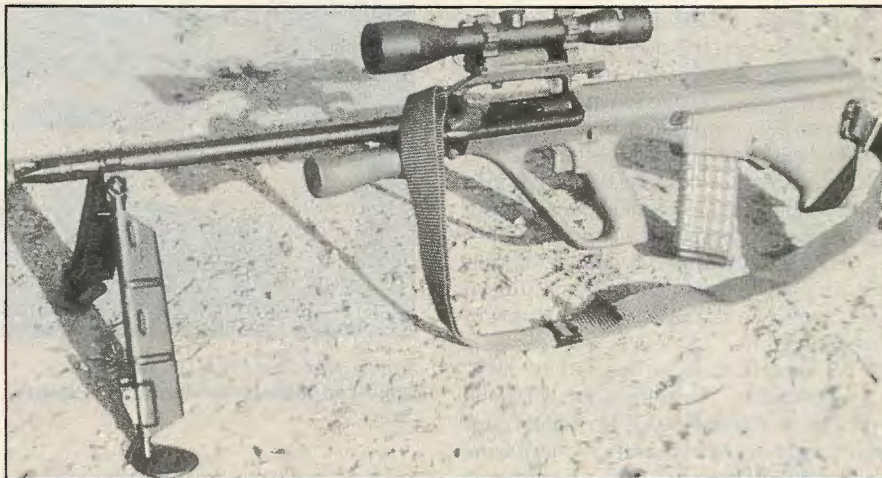
tion options and the FAMAS has two ejectors which work to throw the case through either a left or right ejection port, depending on which one the shooter selects. Certain combat types who favor bullpups say shooting around corners is not healthy so soldiers armed with shoulder weapons should be taught not to do it. The argument for and against bullpup designs continues.

Meanwhile, the development process that brought the weapons into active service is interesting. The Steyr AUG was developed by the Austrian Office of Military Technology under a project headed by Colonel Walter Stoll. By the end of the 1960s it was apparent that the international trend in military small arms was moving toward lighter and more compact rifles. NATO's 5.56X45mm cartridge was chosen as a proven performer in combat and Britain's EM-2 bullpup configuration was picked for compactness and ease of handling. Interchangeable barrels were specified to provide a submachine gun, carbine, assault rifle, sniper rifle and light support weapons in a basic bullpup system.

Austrian military trials then compared the AUG with the FN FAL (Austrian Stg 58 in 7.62mm NATO), the Czech Vz 58 in 7.62X39mm ComBloc, and the 5.56mm NATO FN CAL and Colt M16A1. The AUG proved to be at least as reliable as any of its competitors. It also proved to be superior in accuracy potential, target acquisition, handling characteristics and full-auto fire controllability. In short, the AUG proved to be a winner.

Now in service with the Austrian Federal Army for more than eight years, the AUG has also been adopted by Saudi Arabia, Oman, Tunisia, Malaysia, Djibouti and Morocco. It is also used by the U.S. Navy SEALs, the British SAS and the Cambridge (England) police. Australia is currently conducting comparison trials in an attempt to decide on the AUG or the American M16A2 for their troops. Austria's proven bullpup has also garnered some endorsement from the guys in the black hats. Colombian M-19 Marxist rebels have also obtained a number of AUGs from Tunisia via Libya.

At first glance, the AUG appears bizarre, startling and futuristic. A closer look shows sinister efficiency. From the peculiar muzzle brake to the rubbery butt plate,



HBAR barrel features 24-inch length, stable bipod and a sophisticated brake/flash suppressor.

it is obvious that efficiency and human engineering were priority parameters in development of this particular bullpup.

Twenty-eight machine operations shape the pressure-die-cast aluminum alloy receiver, which is finished with baked enamel. Carrying handle and optical sight are integral with the receiver casting on all but the HBAR model. The receiver itself does not carry or guide the bolt assembly. A steel barrel extension containing recesses for the bolt's and barrel's locking lugs is fitted to the rear of the receiver. The barrel extension is held in place by two, thin-walled steel tubes, flanged at each end for retention on the receiver casting. These tubes also act as bearings for the bolt carrier's guide rods. The front sling swivel is mounted on the front of the receiver and held in place by a roll pin. A spring-loaded, button-operated barrel locking latch is also mounted to the front of the receiver and retained by a steel plate held to the casting by two screws.

The plastic retracting handle is located on the receiver's left side, and is non-reciprocating. An unusual forward bolt assist is activated by a spring-loaded button on the top of the retracting handle. Depressing this button connects the retracting handle with the left guide rod, so the handle can then be shoved fully forward to place the bolt into battery. Locked this way, you can ride the retracting handle slowly forward for silent cocking.

Seven locking lugs are machined into

the rotary bolt, and an eighth lug is on the extractor. The ejector is a spring-loaded bump-type. Extractor and ejector positions are reversed on the left-handed shooter's bolt.

Like nearly every other modern self-loading rifle, the bolt rotates by camming action. But leave it to the AUG to arrange the machinery in a *completely* different way. Retained by a roll pin and held in the up position by the firing pin, the cam-pin is set into the rear of the bolt.

Since the receiver is an aluminum casting, and wouldn't hold up well to the slamming action of the cam-pin, a steel pressing with a cut-out cam-path sits on top of the bolt body. That pressing rotates the bolt by guiding the cam-pin through the bolt carrier's cam-slot. Firing-pin spring hooks around a nub on the end of the cam-plate and the plastic guide plug friction-fits inside the spring. A slot in the cocking piece allows the firing pin to protrude and hold the cocking piece in place at the end of the bolt carrier. A small roller mounted at the top rear of the bolt carrier eases its movement back and forth in the stock body.

Two hollow steel guide rods brass-brazed to the bolt carrier contain the two recoil springs. They are not normally removed for maintenance. During recoil, the return springs are compressed against two solid steel rods permanently mounted inside the stock assembly. Guide rod tubes are chrome plated. The gas piston drives the bolt group backwards by means of the piston furnished by the right-hand rod. The left-hand rod bears retracting handle pressure when they are connected

But you can't follow with the bayonet. The Austrian Army thinks bayonets are archaic and inhumane.

by the forward assist button. Should the gas cylinder become clogged the tip of the left hand guide rod can be used as a reamer to remove excessive fouling. That may seem overly-complicated, but it's not. The AUG has been carefully engineered to avoid excessive complication. It's also been engineered to provide the soldier or policeman with several weapons in one.

AUG is a system. Four different barrels fit any AUG receiver in a matter of seconds. That makes four different weapons.

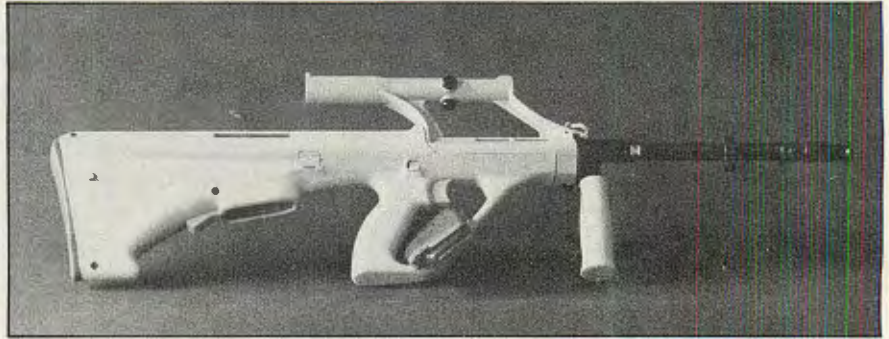
All barrels are constructed of high-quality steel by the cold-hammer forging process developed by GFM of Steyr, Austria, and bores and chambers are chrome plated to increase barrel life. Each barrel has eight lugs around the chamber end which engage the receiver's barrel extension. As the bolt engages the rear of the barrel extension, the cartridge is loaded into the chamber without stress on the receiver body.

Barrels have six grooves with a right *hand twist of one turn in nine inches*. Steyr believes this twist is a better compromise for use with both M193 and the new M855 (SS109) ammunition. Barrels with a 1:7 twist can be obtained on special order.

An exterior sleeve sweated onto the barrel contains the gas port, piston, cylinder, and gas regulator and the vertical foregrip hinge assembly. Three M16-style split rings seal the chromed piston and the return spring is attached to the piston. Gaps on the rings (washers) should always be positioned so they remain separated in use.

There are three gas regulator positions. Position 1 (small dot on the gas cylinder) is the normal setting and permits the largest amount of gas to escape into the atmosphere. Position 2 (large dot on the gas cylinder) diverts more gas into the system for adverse conditions or extreme fouling. Position GR blocks gas escape for firing blank (ballistite) cartridges to launch rifle grenades of the non-bullet trap type. In the GR position the rifle cannot cycle. To adjust the regulator, pull out on the top of the gas plug and rotate until the ball detent is aligned with the desired position.

The vertical foregrip is also used to rotate the barrel and withdraw it from the receiver during barrel changes. It provides sufficient leverage to extract a fouled bar-



Saudi dress for the AUG includes sand-camouflage tan furniture. Photo: Steyr

rel and prevents the unintentional and permanent obliteration of one's fingerprints by hot barrel steel.

Want an SMG? Crank on your 14-inch barrel and the AUG is a submachine gun with an unloaded weight of 6.7 lbs. and overall length of 25 inches. As a safety precaution, the vertical foregrip on this barrel will not fold forward. It would extend beyond the muzzle and there are any number of dolts who would blow away their hands, provided the opportunity. The muzzle device on this barrel is a simple open four-pronged affair that offers more than sufficient muzzle blast and flash to frighten off anyone you may have missed with the bullet.

AUG flash suppressors work, but they're machined like watches. Muzzle devices on the 16-inch and 20-inch barrels have three open prongs. Slots cut on top and each side control muzzle climb and avoid stirring up dust. However, flash characteristics are excellent and the brake mildly affects muzzle climb. That's all the soldier needs to know. Internal threads cut in the device probably accept blank firing adapters. But for all one can deduce from the Steyr English user's manual — written with the style, grammar and spelling of a 1950 Japanese camera manual — they might hold small light bulbs. Closed bird-cage-type flash suppressors are also available on special order.

The 24-inch barrel's muzzle device is even more bizarre. It looks like abstract metal sculpture. A closed-type device, Steyr machines its complex shape out of a single block of metal. Two large ports on each side and three smaller holes in front effectively control muzzle climb. But it is

the exterior of this brake that is threaded to accept blank firing devices and grenade launching equipment. All AUG muzzle devices are threaded to the barrel. They are also supplied with plastic protective muzzle covers which should be trashed immediately, since they serve only to trap and retain moisture in the bore. In combat they are invariably forgotten and shot off.

The 24-inch barrel and HBAR stock form a multipurpose weapon within the AUG system. With the strong Steyr bipod, the HBAR is adaptable to either sniping or LMG deployment. Well-designed, sturdy and mounted close to the muzzle, the bipod's legs elevate and lock like the Mk I Bren bipod. When this barrel is used in the mode of a light support weapon, an open-bolt firing kit can be fitted to avoid cook-offs during sustained fire. This weapon is designed to replace a lot of battlefield hardware.

But you can't follow with the bayonet. The Austrian Army thinks bayonets are archaic and inhumane. Barrels don't even have studs for bayonets. But multipurpose and light weight bayonets are available to other users. A stud clamps on to mount them.

Aside from the absence of a bayonet lug, the "real rifle" fans don't like the looks of a weapon that is all stock. You don't see much else on an AUG. But part of the beauty of the AUG is the way the stock encloses and protects all the weapon's operating parts. And since it's almost all high-impact plastic, there's no trouble in supplying it in military green, black (U.S. law enforcement version) or desert tan (Saudi contract).

The stock covers nearly everything that can be damaged on an AUG. Two plastic halves of the stock housing are held together by a unique friction process using pressure and vibration. The stock includes

Contained in an open-topped plastic box, the modular hammer mechanism is fabricated entirely of plastic...

a large — and, of course, unconventional — trigger guard on the pistol grip. It's just like a normal trigger guard, except it holds the whole hand, in stead of one finger.

The stock holds two steel operating rods in guides on either side of the magazine well. They connect the trigger to the firing mechanism. Immediately above the pistol grip a plastic cross-bolt safety holds the trigger rods. Press to the right for the "safe" position (white dot) and left for "fire" (red dot). The crossbolt's disassembly lock pin retains the bolt and receiver groups. Find that lock pin just forward of the magazine well and press it to the right to remove these components from the stock housing.

On the bottom of the stock, behind the magazine well, sits the magazine catch release. It is ambidextrous in the sense that left and right-handed shooters have equal difficulty reaching it in the firing position. Unfortunately, it's hard to put the release anywhere but behind the magazine well. Above the magazine well are two ejection ports (for right and left handed shooters), one of which is always covered by a removable plastic plate.

Behind the magazine well, the shoulder butt portion of the stock assembly contains the hammer mechanism module and the rear end of the bolt group. A hook on the front of the butt provides a hand rest when firing the heavy barrel version off the bipod in the prone position. At the rear of the butt-section a compartment holds a cleaning kit which consists of an oil bottle, nylon and brass brushes, a cleaning rod tip, cleaning paper and a nylon corded pull-through. Olive drab in color, the butt plate is made of synthetic rubber which offers good adhesion to the shoulder. It is held in place by the rear sling swivel's locking pin.

Contained in an open-topped plastic box, the modular hammer mechanism is fabricated entirely of plastic, except for pins, springs, the drop safety and the lock-bolt latch. Even the hammer is plastic. And yet, according to Austrian tests, the mechanism will withstand more than 100,000 firing cycles before failure. And some complained about unconventional plastic furniture on the M16.

If you really want to see "unconventional," try to find the selector lever on an AUG. There isn't one. Just pull the trigger a short distance to the first sear stop for



Steyr AUG with 16-inch barrel proves an efficient, reliable, compact infantry weapon with an overall length of 27 inches.

Proper employment of HBAR as sniper/precision shooting weapon, with left hand on butt hook.

semiauto. Further rearward travel to a second pressure point operates the sear in the full-auto mode. With the trigger fully depressed neither the disconnect or bolt slide can engage the hammer's sear notch. A plastic automatic fire lever, which operates like an auto safety sear, prevents firing until the bolt is in complete battery. This component is missing from the semiauto-only police version. Typical trigger-pull weights to the semiauto stage are a crisp, but heavy, 9 lbs.

Permanently fixed combat optical sights are another space-age feature of Austria's issue rifle. The AUG is equipped with a 1.5X optical sight (made by Swarovski Optik of Tyrol, Austria) designed for today's typical battle ranges of zero to 300 meters. The military version has a thick black ring-reticle. It can be used as a

rangefinder since a standing man will just fill the inner diameter of the reticle at 300 meters. The law enforcement version has a small black dot in the center which permits more precision in aiming. Windage and elevation knobs can be adjusted for initial zero, but after that, no adjustments are required out to 300 meters. But if the scope fogs or breaks, the soldier isn't out of luck. Open emergency sights have been cast into the top of the scope tube. Fixed blade front sight and square notch rear sight have three illuminated dots (one on the front blade and two at the rear) for use at low light levels.

But the optical sight should be used first in low light: It's designed for twilight conditions. Austrian Army trials proved the 1.5X scope was not only rugged, but as the shooting environment becomes more difficult its advantages over iron sights become more obvious. Tested under time pressure, poor target/background contrast, dawn and dusk, flare illumination and long ranges, AUG optics gave improved hit potential over iron sights. All

Continued on page 100



SHAW LOOTS VEGAS

Convention Combat Shooters Bag \$60,000

by SOF Staff



John Shaw (right) won the whole shootin' match. Choate Machine & Tool Co. rep Glenn Choate proudly presented the big prize. Photo: Ernie Husted

Heckler & Koch rep Steve Perry (right) gave a Model 91 to the second place winner. Mike Plaxco gladly stepped up to accept it. Photo: Ernie Husted



Handling her weapon with experienced ease, shooter Judy Culbertson fires away as range officer Steve Herberth watches. Photo: Mike Schaefer

THEY MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE

Match sponsors are, by shooter's award: 1st, Choate Machine & Tool Co., \$10,000; 2nd, Heckler & Koch, \$5000; 3rd, Beretta U.S.A., \$4000; 4th, Omega Group, \$3000; 5th, Sturm, Ruger & Co., \$2000; 6th, Atlantic Research and Marketing Systems, \$1000; 7th, Lanchester/Sterling Armament, Ltd., \$950; 8th through 15th Places, Bianchi Gun-leather, \$5000; Top Rifle, Springfield Armory, \$1000; Top Pistol, Rogers Holster Co. \$1000; Top Shotgun, L.L. Baston & Co., \$1000; Top Military, Clayco Sports, \$1000; Top Police, Top Woman, Marex/I.A.C., \$2000; Top Foreign, MilArms, \$1000; Tyro Award, Arminex, \$1000; Median Award, *Combat Handguns Magazine*, \$500; Century Award, Al Mar Knives, \$500; Anchor Chain, SOF Staff, \$500.



“THE opera’s not over ’till the fat lady sings.” SOF Match Official Dave Arnold repeated the tired phrase to anxious competitors awaiting the final results of the 1984 Soldier Of Fortune International Three Gun Combat Championship. Arnold’s words became prophetic as a desperate, last-minute charge by John Shaw lifted him to a stunning victory.

It was no small feat considering the nature of the beast. No other shooting contest presents competitors with such a diverse challenge. The format for this test of skill is “semi-surprise.” Each year all three courses (rifle, pistol and shotgun) are changed and the new courses kept secret until the day before the shooting starts. Planning for the match, competitors are forced to stick to the basics instead of practicing a particular stage.

Planning didn’t help a whole lot with the rifle match. All it took was good shooting. The rifle-shooting match was designed as a standard exercise using fixed times and ranges. Five stages required 45 rounds for a possible 450 points.

Stage one was fired from 300 yards at five International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) Milpark buff cardboard targets. The IPSC Milpark has a 10-inch center worth ten points, but when you’re looking over open iron sights from 300 yards that target looks pretty small. All shooting was freestyle — any position that struck your fancy. On the start command, riflemen engaged each target with one round, reloaded (mandatory) and again fired at each target with one round. The time limit was 50 seconds.

During stage two, the shooters moved closer. Eyeing the targets from 200 yards, each contestant shot two separate strings. One freestyle shot at each target in 18 seconds was followed by one round at each target in any position but prone in 20 seconds.

Also a two part exercise, stage three advanced competitors to 150 yards and presented the shooters with a unique start. Entrants placed their rifles empty on the ground, muzzles pointing downrange. From five meters, competitors dashed to their rifles, loaded them and engaged each buff opponent with one round within the 20 second time limit. The next string began with the shooters in the ready position and required them to engage each target with one round in any position but prone within 18 seconds.

Stage four was fired from 100 yards. Starting with the weapon slung and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, the shooters tried to put one round into each target — offhand. Time limit for this string was 15 seconds. The stage was repeated again for a total of 10 rounds.

Now shooters could clearly see their



Beretta came up with with third place honors for Ron Yurczak (center). Company reps Warren Barron (left) and John Good gave him his medal. Photo: Ernie Husted

Fifth place shooter Ron Sharp (center) shows off the medal given him by Sturm Ruger & Co. reps Walter Sych (left) and Mike Timm. Photo: Ernie Husted



targets. From 50 yards, the bullseye looked huge. This was the final stage. From the ready position each shooter engaged the far left target with one shot in 2.0 seconds. The other four targets got similar treatment to the tune of a five-round total.

As always, safety was paramount. The normal ready start position was defined as weapon loaded, safety on, finger out of trigger and muzzle pointed downrange. The weapon could not touch the shoulder and while bipods were allowed, they had to be folded at the start. Slings were to hang free.

There weren’t any real surprises this year. M1A .308 rifles once again dominated the competition with a few .223s sprinkled in. Idaho’s Ron Sharp, who won the new shooter award in ’83, mastered the rifle competition with a score of 422. Mike Plaxco was right on his heels at 420, followed by Brian Enos with 419, Dennis Schmauch with 413 and Ron

Yurczak with 411. (Yurczak fired a Colt AR-15.)

Notice any names missing? Last year’s champ, Lanny Providence had won that contest on his strong rifle shooting, and it was anticipated that in order to take first overall a solid rifle score would be necessary. Matches are weighted unequally with the rifle stage accounting for at least 50 percent of the total. A blowout on the rifle phase theoretically could not be made up in the other two events.

John Shaw shot the rifle match in the early morning on day one and just wasn’t showing his usual skill. He turned in a dismal score of 337, way off the pace of the other title chasers. It appeared that the best he could hope for would be a good showing in the shotgun and pistol matches.

Now that the favorite was out of the race the scramble for first heated up. But no one informed Shaw of his doom. He



John Satterwhite runs Bruce Thompson through his paces on the shotgun course. Photo: Mike Schaefer

PRIZE DONORS SOF THREE GUN INTERNATIONAL 1984

	Total Donation		
Bagwell Knives		Eagle Ltd.	
Damascus Combat Bowie Knife, Engraved (\$1,100)		7 Shooters Medals	\$200
Forged Combat Bowie Knife (\$400)	\$1,500	Aimpoint	
Military Armaments		MK3 Sight	\$220
One-M10A1S 9mm MAC10 Pistol Version (\$400)		RP Knives	
One-M10A1S .45 MAC10 Conversion Kit (\$200)		RP Survival & Combat Knife Ser. #784231	\$200
One-ART II Rifle Scope (\$660)		The Collector's Armoury, Inc.	
Extra Magazines, MAC10's (\$60)	\$1,320	"Shooter One" Target System	\$159
Silent Partner		Yankee Mfg., Co.	
10 ballistic vests (\$130 apiece)	\$1,300	12 #050 Commando Smoke Grenades (\$50)	
L.L.B. Enterprises		Five Coils 50-ft. Waterproof Fuse (\$50)	
12-Cordura Para Bags (\$240)		12 12-Ga. Colored Flare Shells (\$25)	
60 Trifold Wallets (\$537)		One 12-Ga. Flare Gun w/3 Shells (\$25)	\$150
60 Bifold Wallets (\$417)	\$1,194	LifeKnife	
Adventure Specialists		LifeKnife Commando Model w/NATO saw (\$60)	
LBV1/SWAT Tactical Vest (\$198)		LifeKnife Trailmaster (\$40)	\$100
LBV2/Military STABO Vest (\$335)		Martin Kruze Knives	
LBV5/Survivalist's Vest (\$257)	\$810	1 #1 Fighting Knife	\$85
William's Trigger Specialties		D.C. Brennan Firearms, Inc.	
One HK Set-Trigger Job		Four Flash Suppressors	\$75
One HK Contoured Trigger Job		Nordac Mfg. Corp.	
One HK Standard Trigger Job		One LC-2 w/Straps	\$60
(All go to three highest rifle scores shooting HK's)	\$750	Survive-It-Systems	
Smith & Wesson		99-Piece First Aid Kit w/Belt Pouch	\$54
One S&W Model 659 Stainless Steel 9mm Pistol	\$460	Safe Zones	
Johnson Firearms Specialties		Ten S01 217M Maps	\$50
Eight Model RM1 Readi-Mags (\$360)		Survival Enterprises	
Eight Readi-Mag Baseball Caps (\$40)	\$400	One Star Plate Bld. System	\$39
Amerigear, Inc.		Pocket Survival	
18 Hide-A-Gun Units	\$360	Four Micro Fisch Viewers	\$30
SWAT Viper		Spyderco, Inc.	
One Tactical Suit (\$160)		One Clipit Worker Folding Knife	
One SAS Holster (\$35)		INCO	
One GSG-9 Shot Shell Holder (\$25)	\$320	10 SIPO Whips	
B.J. Alan Co. Inc.		TOTAL	\$9,045
Jumbo Phantom Assist	\$259		
Gemini			
One Nightstalker Survival Kit	\$250		

never looked back and aggressively attacked the two remaining stages.

This year's pistol match was straightforward and scored "Virginia Count" or limited Comstock. Shooters are limited in the number of rounds they can fire, but a miss still counts for a 10 point penalty. Match Director Dave Arnold designed the course and helped introduce this concept to practical shooting when he served as the match director for the IPSC World Championships in Virginia in 1983.

The course was a 42-round test worth a possible 210 points and was fired against IPSC Milpark targets. A modified Bianchi barricade with an added cross-piece forced shooters to either shoot over or under the cross-piece, depending on the rules for each phase.

From behind the barricade, the shooters faced three buff silhouettes, one at seven yards and two at 10 yards. The close target was partly covered by two no-shoot targets. Even a nick on a no-shoot was an automatic 10 point penalty.

Stage one. The anxious shooters approached the box attached to the barricade and placed their palms against the wall. On the start signal the competitors drew and fired one shot at each target from above the cross-piece on each side of the barricade for a total of 6 rounds. Only head hits counted.

Stage two started the same, but this time contestants shot each target once from above the cross piece and once from beneath it. A quick reload and it was over to the other side of the barricade for a repeat performance. The whole stage totaled 12 rounds.

Stage three was a bit more relaxed: Entrants were allowed to fire two shots on each target from any two shooting spots, reload (mandatory) and repeat for a total of 12 rounds.

Stage four required shooters to fire once at each target from under the bar on one side, then dash to the opposite side and repeat the sequence for a total of 6 rounds.

Finally, stage five was a repeat of stage four, but with the shooting done from above the bar.

Simple? Yes. Close and fast? Yes. Deceptive? Absolutely!

A good test of skill does not require complicated equipment or difficult distances. This stage proved that point to all present. In a brief match all aspects of basic practical handgunning were covered neatly. Speed, accuracy, movement and reloading skills were incorporated in the stages.

Not to be put off by his lackluster showing in the long gun phase, Shaw was moving up with his pistol. Smith & Wesson's "Tommygun" Campbell wasn't making it easy for him though. After dusting off his 9mm "Supergun I," Campbell smoked the course with a

score of 207.20. Shaw crept closer with a second place score of 200.00. Right behind were Jim "Hitman" Zubiena at 193.46, Ross Carter at 192.80 and J. Michael Plaxco at 190.00. All top scorers were still in the running for first be-

fore the shotgun scores were in.

SOF's shotgun courses are traditionally fast and furious. Match '84's did not break the mold. This scattergun test was a short tactical assault match against 11 steel knockdown targets at



Sixth place honors went to James Clark. Robert K. Brown (left) accepts the award from Atlantic Marketing Research System (A.R.M.S.) rep Lou Pacheco. Photo: Ernie Husted

Rifleman Ron Sharp (right) outgunned the rest of the field to take the rifle match award from Springfield Armory's Rob Williams. Photo: Ernie Husted



Primo pistolero Tom Campbell (left) clutches the trophy given to him by Bill Rogers of Rogers Holster Co. Photo: Ernie Husted



Under the watchful gaze of two range officers a shooter blasts away during the pistol phase of the competition. Photo: Mike Schaefer.

various ranges and angles.

The stage was straightforward, but if a target was left standing a 10 second penalty was added to the shooter's time. Score was based on elapsed time from the starting signal until the stop plate was knocked down. Shotgunners were allowed only five rounds loaded in the weapon at the start. After the first shot reloading was allowed.

Just how fast can someone handle a shotgun through a reactive course? Stats Officer Lloyd Harper, Dave Arnold, Ken Hackathorn and course designer

John Satterwhite did some testing and felt it would be next to impossible to get over a score of 200. The first two days the experts were on the money. After that, the whole game was busted wide open.

Arizona speedster Lee Souter was the first to top the double century mark. His score of 205.00 seemed untouchable. Then John Shaw stepped to the line, his Remington 1100 tuned and ready.

One competitor observing Shaw was running his own stop watch. When Shaw



John Shaw's incredible shotgun performance garnered him a new scattergun from L. L. Baston & Co. Photo: Ernie Husted

Dennis Schmauch (center) topped the field in the military category and was awarded his prize by Clayco Sports, Ltd. rep Richard Storino (right) and Robert K. Brown. Photo: Ernie Husted



1984 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE THREE-GUN INTERNATIONAL

COMPETITOR NAME	SCORE
1. John Shaw	779.00
2. J. Michael Plaxco	766.06
3. Ron Yurczak	
1st TYRO	742.90
4. Brian Enos	728.60
5. Ron Sharp	721.12
6. Jim Clark, Jr.	717.88
7. David R. Watson	
TOP COP (ATF)	717.32
8. Tom Campbell	715.49
9. Stu Mullins	707.40
10. Tim Knutson	706.30
11. Bill Rogers	700.11
12. Bill Wilson	694.66
13. Al Allen	690.23
14. David Pinkley	686.40
15. Mike Schaefer	680.64
16. Rob Leatham	680.34
17. Jason Cole	674.20
18. Daniel Smith	671.74
19. Jonathan Marsh	668.29
20. Michael Voight	667.43
21. Jim Zubiena	661.80
22. Dennis Schmauch	
TOP MILITARY	660.35
23. Jake Kempton	658.07
24. Walt Bodie	657.67
25. Larry Cohen	651.86
26. Paul Miller	
1st HK RIFLE	651.84
27. Paul Walker	650.63
28. Mike Fichman	648.43
29. Scott R. Seabourn	646.18
30. Leo Harrison	640.83
31. Robert Fithen	636.92
32. Mike Dalton	631.73



Mike Plaxco's sharp eye and steady rifle helped propel him to a second-place overall finish. Photo: Mike Schaefer

33. Jerry Black	622.41
34. Bobby G. Reed	622.30
35. Paul Liebenberg	620.83
36. Mike Henry	620.27
37. Mike LaPlante	615.09
38. Lee Souter	613.60
39. Daniel M. Peterson	612.39
40. C.L. Comer	610.20
41. Floyd Halleckson	608.00
42. R.W. Van Sickle	606.48
43. John Hundley	
2nd HK RIFLE	602.06
44. Frank Glenn	601.54
45. Larry Nygard	601.53
46. Steve McCreary	600.32
47. Mic Culbertson	599.96
48. James Albright	599.49
49. Gregory Akers	599.45
50. Eddy Ramirez	589.91

RIFLE MATCH WINNERS

1. Ron Sharp	422
2. J. Michael Plaxco	420
3. Brian Enos	419
4. Dennis Schmauch	413
5. Ron Yurczak	411

PISTOL MATCH WINNERS

1. Tom Campbell	207.20
2. John Shaw	200.00
3. Jim Zubiena	198.46
4. Ross Carter	192.80
5. J. Michael Plaxco	190.00

SHOTGUN MATCH WINNERS

1. John Shaw	242.00
2. Lee Souter	205.00
3. David R. Watson	193.77
4. Jim Clark, Jr.	189.88
5. Bobby Reed	185.60

hit the stop plate, he mumbled "Hell, I must have bumped the stop button" as he cleared his timer and began to ask for the actual time. Wrong. Shaw had just accomplished the impossible.

Firing wide open and never looking back, Shaw's blistering run was almost too much for spectators to believe. His score factored a remarkable 242.00! The best in the land could only stand and blink.

Get out the notepads, check the batteries on the calculator, figure and refigure. The amazing performance boosted Shaw to the top spot. This has got to be the shooting comeback of the century.

Scanning the shotgun results one could get the impression that the other 145 shooters were using single-shot Browning BT-99 trap guns! Lee Souter was in second place with a score of 205.00. Third-place Dave Watson factored a 193.77, fourth-place Jimmy Clark Jr. turned in a 189.88 and Bobby Reed clung to fifth with 185.60. The point spread from 1st to 5th was 56.40 points.

A disappointed Mike Plaxco recorded only 156.06 on this stage and his previous lead melted under the heat of Shaw's smoothbore prowess.

After braving the Las Vegas desert heat, John Shaw captured his second SOF crown with a total score of 779.00, tailed by Mike Plaxco at 766.06. Ron Yurczak came in third and also won the Tyro award (new shooter) with a 742.90.

Bianchi Cup Champ Brian Enos took fourth scoring 728.60, Ron Sharp was fifth tallying 721.12 and Jim Clark Jr. netted sixth with 717.88. David Watson won seventh and top cop (ATF) with 717.32. (There are some white hats in ATF... make note Ripley!)

Top Military honors went to 22nd place finisher Dennis Schmauch. Heckler & Koch recognized competitors entered with their gear and top H&K rifleman was Colorado's Paul Miller in 26th place. Forty-third in overall and second H&K shooter was John Hundley and third from California was Walter Vollmer in 54th.

Congratulations to Bob Bannister for his Median Award at 73rd place. IPSC Lady Champ Lee Cole rolled home to Fayetteville, Arkansas with her loot as the Top Lady. (Twelve were entered in the match!) John Trapini nailed down the Century Award at 100th.

Last place shall, of course, remain anonymous (his initials are Chuck Traynor) who did not go home unrewarded. He did receive a gift certificate for instruction at the Billy Bob Brooks North Carolina Institute of Bayoneting. (Pete Kokalis Guest Instructor.)

1985's contest is already in the planning stages. Take up the challenge! Watch for info in SOF. ☒



Marex-International gave the award for best woman shooter to Lee Cole (left). Photo: Ernie Husted



The Tyro award from Arminex, Ltd. was pulled in by shooter Ron Yurczak (left). James Mongello awards the prize. Photo: Ernie Husted



The Century award went to John J. Trapini. Al Mar (right) hands over a knife and a check. Photo: Ernie Husted

SOF EXCLUSIVE

**Women
Warriors
Train to Take
it to the G's**



SALVADOREÑAS AT WAR

Text & Photos by Steve Salisbury



THE Battle of the Sexes is about to open on a new front in a surprising location. Despite a long tradition of male *machismo* in their country, female soldiers in El Salvador are being trained to take a giant social leap forward into the very front lines of their country's continuing war against communist insurgency.

In a major military policy shift for the male-dominated Salvadoran military, more than 70 young women — most of them either personally displaced or emotionally scarred by guerilla terrorism — have begun basic combat training courses in the war-ravaged eastern provinces of San Miguel and Morazan. They are already training in two all-women combat platoons, dubbed the Panthers and the Tigers. Like the Pentagon's decision to integrate large numbers of women into the American armed forces, the move in El Salvador has prompted a big difference of opinion throughout the ranks, from high command at *Estado Mayor* all the way down to the lowest line company grunt.

That's all academic in San Miguel and Morazan. There the argument has ceased and the females fighters are sweating and straining alongside male recruits in an effort to complete infantry training. Previously relegated during military service to traditionally feminine tasks such as as cooking, nursing, domestic chores or secretarial duties, women troops here can now be assigned to line combat units if the senior commander in a given area approves such a move. To avoid forcing the issue on unwilling officers, officials at the Salvadoran Ministry of Defense are leaving the decisions concerning employment of women soldiers up to their responsible subordinates. In the case of the Tigers and the Panthers, the decision has been to train females and then integrate them as replacements in previously all-male units. That puts Salvadoran female soldiers strides ahead of their female counterparts in the U.S. American women soldiers, sailors, Marines and those serving in the USAF are restricted by administration policy to non-combat duties only.

While combat training for women continues full-tilt for the Tigers in San Miguel and the Panthers in Morazan, opinions



Women in this training platoon hope to be sent into combat alongside Salvadoran men.

concerning such experiments vary widely throughout the country. The main question seems to be motivation. Why would females in a male-dominated, Catholic, traditional society want to become embroiled in the male business of field soldiering? Reasons become obvious in conversation with woman soldiers in training. All have volunteered — in some cases pleaded — for a crack at combat training.



Except for registered nurses commissioned as officers following training abroad, Salvadoran Army nurses hold no rank.

EL SALVADOR'S ARMY NURSES

While battlefields have traditionally been male domains, women have never been far behind the fighting. Historically, most women in the military were trained and employed as nurses. In that capacity military women have been no strangers to the gruesome results of combat. The situation in El Salvador's Army Medical Service is similar.

Milagro de Transito Ramos, a nurse in the Salvadoran Army, remembers her country's last election day, 25 March 1984, as particularly horrible. The squat 20-year-old, now stationed in San Miguel, was in her second month of military duty when she got a close-up look at war. Wounded govern-

ment troops who survived a communist guerrilla ambush in the northeastern village of Tejutepeque limped five kilometers to the nearest army outpost in Ilobasco, where she was assigned. The soldiers had left the bodies of 20 of their compatriots behind.

After a fierce fire fight the following day, the army retook Tejutepeque, and the nurses stationed nearby followed them into the war-ravaged village to treat the wounded.

"There was a lot of destruction," recalls Milagro. "The subversives . . . dismembered one (government soldier). It was terrible. A head here, an arm there, dogs eating the corpses. We put the corpses in body bags and trucked them to Guacotepeque. There we cleaned and identified them, then put them in coffins to be later sent to their families."

Not quite half of El Salvador's 2,000 military nurses are assigned to field duty. Most work in San Salvador at the Military Hospital, but even they see the horrors of the bloody war because virtually all of the seriously wounded eventually come to the main facility for treatment.

According to Colonel (Doctor) Jiron Flores, head of El Salvador's military medical services, a position not unlike the U.S. Surgeon General, the nursing ranks contain the only female military officers. Of the country's six female officers, the highest ranking is a captain. All are officers by virtue of training outside their own country. El Salvador requires that all military personnel who study nursing abroad be commissioned.

While the U.S. armed forces commissions every registered nurse, male or female, and affords them the privileges of an officer, Salvadoran military nurses have no official position in any chain of command.

Many of these petite Latino women from the provinces hardest hit by guerrilla terrorism frankly state they are driven by something much more powerful than pure patriotism or petty politics. They have seen fathers, mothers, siblings, spouses and sweethearts kidnapped or murdered by marauding rebel bands.

Dora de Rosario Romero — a delicate-looking 18-year-old who stuffs her black curls tightly under a fatigue cap was born in Joatec, a little village in Morazan near the Honduran border. She volunteered for combat service after she completed school in 1984 — four years after the guerrillas trying to import a Marxist revolution burst into her home changing her family's life forever.

"They dragged my brother from the house to fill their ranks," stammered Dora, obviously struggling to maintain a tough trooper's decorum and deal with the painful memory. "He told them he couldn't keep up with them. One night he escaped. He's living in Honduras now." Dora Romero realized quickly that simple Salvadorans were no longer safe inside their own country.

The tears came when she finished the story. "Because he deserted them, the guerrillas (came back and) killed my mother."

The soldier reappeared. "Si! Si! I want revenge! I want to kill those *hijos de putas* (sons of whores.) My mother was a beautiful person."

Dignora Gloria Orellana's grandparents were also beautiful people. They loved their family and worked hard on a tiny Morazan farm to provide for them. Dignora's grandmother and grandfather also committed the capitalist crime of owning a modest home and a little piece of their own land. That couldn't be allowed by socialist guerrillas in the area. "The subversives were jealous and cut their throats," sputtered the enraged granddaughter, a dark-skinned 19-year-old who once sold tortillas to supplement the income of her extended family. In the all-female Tiger Company, her story is not unusual.

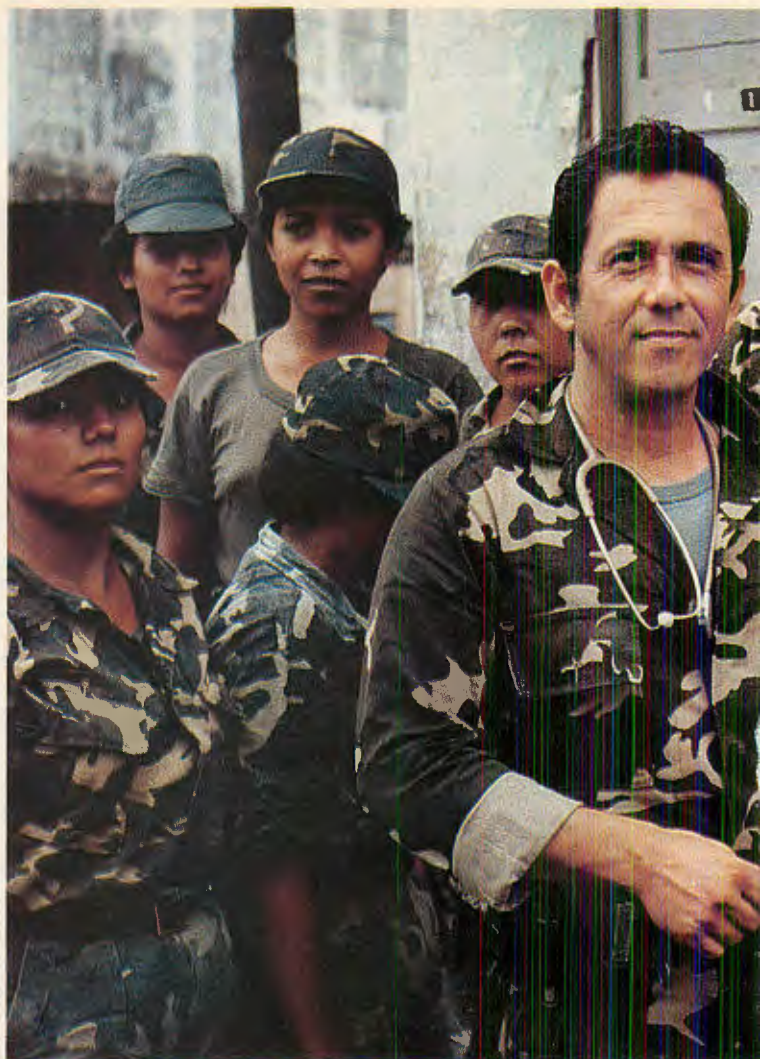
"My brother was a corporal, a radio-operator," said an incensed Alicia Armendra Vasquez, also 19. "The guerrillas captured him at Guazapa. They shot him and burned his body. I could hardly recognize him in the casket. Before that they had killed my uncle in front of his children. I want to be the best soldier I can be so that we can win this war and save other families from the sadness which mine has suffered."

The reasons such women join the Salvadoran Army to fight are all sound and understandable. What puzzles some observers in Central America is why the super-macho, male-dominated military would let women serve on the front lines. Answers depend on who is being asked.

"I've always believed in the potential of women as soldiers," Lt.Col. Domingo Monterrosa-Barrios told *Soldier of Fortune* in an interview shortly before his death in a 23 October helicopter crash. As commander of the 3rd Salvadoran Infantry Brigade based in San Miguel and one of his nation's most widely respected field commanders, Monterrosa led a new breed of military officers in implementing innovative ideas. He may have been influenced by increasing use of women as guerrillas by various insurgent formations throughout Central and South America.

Certainly El Salvador's war-ravaged economy and a spreading national pride has some influence on women entering the military. In El Salvador army service is an honorable endeavor which provides a steady income and the basic necessities of survival which are hard to come by in many areas of the countryside.

The real genesis of women in combat service must be credited to Dr. Alcides Caballero, chief physician for the Comando Instruction Center in San Francisco Gotera, the capital of Morazan. As the 44-year-old doctor made his rounds of refugee camps on Gotera's outskirts, visiting and treating people who had fled from guerrilla violence in their villages, he saw a number of young women who wanted to get in-



involved in the struggle beyond the periphery. "Girls started to approach me asking if they could join the Army," Dr. Caballero related. "I told them there were already enough helpers.

"But they said no, they didn't want to be helpers. They wanted to be soldiers. I was all in favor, taking into account the tremendous amount of displaced people who are wasting away and need to work. It would be a good way for them to serve the community and the country at the same time. Unemployment has been a real problem, and many girls have been turning to prostitution to survive. I don't want to see any more *putas* in my country."

Dr. Caballero talked the idea over with Lt.Col. Napoleon Herson Calitto, who commanded 3rd Brigade troops in Morazan until he died in the same helo crash that killed Monterrosa. Calitto was supportive, indicating he had often considered the idea himself. On 7 August, Calitto met with a dozen young women in Gotera's dilapidated movie house. Satisfied that they were serious about becoming soldiers, he



Male surgeon relaxes with female soldiers. While women are not subjected to as much abuse, the same end result is expected: a combat-ready soldier.

Women of this combat-training platoon drill with male counterparts, who jog past in formation.

Arevalo, center, falls in with male soldiers as she trains to be a combat medic.

Most women in Salvador's military still hold such traditionally female jobs as secretaries, clerks and nurses. Here a woman helps a Salvo soldier with administrative paperwork.



mentioned the idea to his immediate superior. Monterrosa recommended it to the high command at *Estada Mayor*, and approval for the experiment was given in the summer of 1984.

The following week recruiting centers in San Miguel and Morazan began processing a limited number of women for two training platoons. By mid-September, Morazan had the Panther unit containing 30 women and San Miguel had 40 women in the Tiger platoon.

Sure to be vigorously debated in El Salvador are the acceptance criteria for admission to the two all-women combat platoons which differ sharply from one unit to another. The San Miguel Tiger Platoon accepts women, regardless of their marital status or whether they have children. "A man who is married and has kids can be a soldier," said Lt. Jose Gonzales Alberto Santos the Deputy Training Officer for the Tigers. "It's only equal that a woman can also."

Admission to Morazan's Panthers is more restricted. Applicants must be single and childless, no less than 17 and no older than 30. They must have at least a sixth-grade education and each recruit must also provide a letter of permission from her parents.

Several of the women training at San Miguel are married and have children. The situation does not seem to worry them. "Sure, I felt sad at first being away from my baby son," said Antonia de Carmen, 20, the only Tiger from the city of San Salvador. She is recently estranged from her husband who is also a soldier and was forced to leave her son in her mother's care. She admitted it was quite a sacrifice for a young mother, but that did not deter her from joining the army to fight. She explained that she truly wanted to do something to help end her nation's long and bloody struggle for political self-determination.

Not surprisingly, there is a certain element of militant feminism among these female soldiers. "I joined the army to serve the country so that it may never fall," said 18-year-old Marta Elisibeth Dias, "and also to represent the Salvadoran woman. Our uniforms mean pride and honor. My mother says she would have joined herself if she were young enough."



Others are prompted to volunteer out of sheer boredom or an adventurous longing to become an integral part of the country's major concern — the war. "Back at home there's nothing to do," said Leonila Romero Arueta, 17, the gutsy unofficial leader of the Morazan Panther Platoon. "We want to go to the bush . . . and kill guerrillas. They have women fighters, so why can't the army, too? We can fight just as well as a man once we're trained."

The pay scale for women soldiers seems to reflect a belief in that equality. Women who successfully complete their combat training will be paid the same as male privates: 450 colones a month, roughly \$112 U.S. on the street exchange. That's not much by current U.S. military standards, but in a country where the yearly per-capita income is less than \$400 U.S., it can make for a superior lifestyle. Of course, the women soldiers will have to survive combat duties to enjoy it and their training is designed to insure they do.

While basic training for the women is quite rigorous, there is a noticeable lack of physical abuse from their male drill in-



Nurse Milagro de Transito Ramos, in blue smock, has seen the horror of El Salvador's war. Here she tends a recuperating soldier.



Elena Elisabeth Arevalo, the only Salvadoran female combat medic trainee, wrenched her leg badly in this rappelling fall during a live-fire training exercise.

CITING TITLE 10 . . .

While females in the U.S. military are not the rarity they once were, neither have they become commonplace outside jobs traditionally associated with women. They are still restricted from service in prestigious combat assignments and Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps officials cite Title 10, United States Code, Section .0312 as authority for keeping women out of combat units. Given the disparity of their missions, it's not surprising each of the services has a slightly different interpretation of that law.

According to a Marine spokesman in Washington, the Corps "generally restricts WM's (women Marines) from duty aboard combat aircraft and vessels, and WM's are not classified for duty in units of infantry, combat engineers, artillery, tanks, or assault amphibian vehicles.

"Enlisted WM's are provided weapons familiarization training, but the object of this is not combat preparation," said the Marine spokesman. "It is to familiarize WM's with their male counterparts' role as basic riflemen. WM officers participate in tactical field training exercises that are limited to a defensive role, as well as survival, support and staff functions for offensive operations."

There are currently 9,225 woman Marines in the Corps which figures to 4.5 percent of the total strength.

A U.S. Navy official, citing Title 10, said the law "prohibits the permanent assignment of women to combat ships or aircraft, so the Navy makes no such assignments on a permanent basis.

"However, women can be assigned to temporary duty (on combat vessels or aircraft) under certain conditions," the official said. "The combat ships or aircraft to which they are assigned cannot be expected to be in a combat area or engaged in combat. The temporary assignment of such women also can be for no longer than 180 days."

Assignment of women to sea duty is a contributing factor in easing the load of sea duty for men, according to the Navy official. As of 30 September 1984, the Navy had 3,700 female enlisted sailors serving on 30 ships and 175 women officers aboard 32 ships.

Of the Navy's 99 enlisted ratings, only 17 are closed to females, 15 because of direct combat potential. Two Navy officer career specialties — submarine warfare and special warfare — are closed to women. Despite all that, most of the Navy's enlisted women remain in administrative or clerical jobs, and most female naval officers are in jobs traditionally associated with women, such as administrative, medical, or dental.

The U.S. Army rule of thumb for assigning women, according to a Pentagon spokesman, is that they are "normally" placed only in jobs that would have them behind a brigade rear boundary.

"Women (in the Army) are authorized to serve in any officer or enlisted specialty . . . at any organizational level and in any unit of the Army except infantry, armor, field artillery, combat engineers and low-altitude air defense artillery of battalion or squad size or smaller. Women are also excluded from serving in scout or attack helicopters," an Army spokesman said.

Of the approximately 755,000 active-duty Army troops at the end of fiscal 1984, 9.9 percent were women; with females making up 9 percent of the Army's officer corps and 9.9 of its enlisted troops.

The U.S. Air Force leads the four services in the percentage of women on active duty. Of the approximately 599,000 Air Force personnel at the end of fiscal 1984, 11.2 percent were females. Women made up 11.4 percent of the Air Force's enlisted personnel and 10.4 percent of its officers.

An Air Force official said women "fly virtually every airplane in our inventory except those involved in combat." The Air Force also trains women in the use of M16s and small arms, and like other military branches, does employ armed women to police and other security units not assigned to duty in combat zones.

structors. Such maltreatment is quite common with male soldiers undergoing their initial training. Minus such tactics, the course of instruction is exactly the same as it is for men destined for duty in line outfits.

According to Monterrosa the training program has been uniquely refined to produce effective female soldiers rather than female soldiers who act like men. "We recognize differences between men and women," Monterrosa said, "but we are not making it easy for them."

That's become crystal clear to 21-year-old Elena Elisabeth Arevalo, the only female being trained as a combat medic. In late September, while tackling a combat obstacle course in western El Salvador alongside her male colleagues in the Sanitation Battalion of the 3rd Brigade, Arevalo nearly became a casualty. Rappelling down a 40-foot cliff, with bullets cracking above and tear-gas smoke billowing below, she lost her grip and fell 20 feet to the ground. The fall knocked her out, cut her on the chin and wrenched her knee badly. She was rushed to a field hospital while training continued.

The incident did not seem to have any chauvinist impact on her buddies in the basic training platoon. "Bad luck," said one trooper. "It could have happened to anyone."

Arevalo was back on wobbly feet by early October at the Military Hospital in San Salvador, still as determined as ever to become a combat medic. "The doctors feel I need to recuperate more," she said, "but I feel OK already. I want to go back to the base now and continue training."

Such sentiments have convinced some officers involved in the pilot program that the women can succeed on El Salvador's rugged battlegrounds. "These girls are really doing well," said Lt. Cesar Barera, the officer in charge of training the Morazan Panthers. "They come close to the limits of a man. They have courage. I think they'll make good troops."

Opinions vary among the grunts about women joining their ranks. "It's all right if a girl wants to be a soldier," said one. "Just one more person to cover my ass."

"Women as nurses are fine," said another. "But as troops — no. They couldn't take marching over hills for kilometers, then fighting. Plus they distract the men."

Most of the male troopers seem to be reserving judgement, according to Monterrosa. "The men are very curious," he said. "They are watching very closely. In a way, it's a test for the women. They have to prove themselves."

Other Salvadoran soldiers, including some senior officers, have rushed to judgement. "It's bullshit," said Lt. Col. Ricardo Cienfuegos, the Army's Public Information Officer. "These women are only going to be administrators who know how to shoot."

How many and how often Salvadoran women will be assigned to combat missions remains unclear, especially since the deaths of Monterrosa and Calitto. Calitto said he saw only a limited role for women, primarily to replace men in non-combat jobs and free more males for battlefield duty. However, Monterrosa envisioned a much broader role for women in the army which included active combat.

"After basic training," Monterrosa said, "they will integrate with the men. They will be incorporated according to their own capacity to whatever units need personnel, including BIATs (Anti-terrorist Infantry Battalions). Naturally they'll be in combat if their units are."

Both Monterrosa and Calitto expressed the opinion that female soldiers could be particularly useful serving in sanitation, communications, intelligence and reconnaissance fields.

Monterrosa, the military visionary respected and feared for doing the unexpected, thought women "can be particularly effective in infiltrating the subversives. Just doing so would have a psychological impact. It would make the subversives have doubts about using women themselves."

But both military pioneers who championed female combat troops in El Salvador's Army are dead. It remains for their successors to decide what role women will play in the nation's struggle to survive. ☒



Arevalo readies for live-fire exercise during training with male Salvo soldiers.

A Salvo drill instructor shouts directions to female trainees. All must be in shape to survive the rigors of combat in the mountains.



CONTRACT IN BORNEO

Merc Mech as Brunei Crew Chief

Text & Photos by Anthony Nigro



THERE I was, bored blue in the Blue Boar Inn in Cambridge. Christmas is a bad time to be idle.

But Mr. Trip, my contact in England, had told me to wait. Having traveled halfway around the world to sign a contract for employment in a less pleasant place, I figured cooling my heels here in the UK couldn't hurt. I passed the time thinking about how I got to be in the situation.

On that Christmas 1977 I'd been an "overseas contract employee" for nine years. The people who hired me were generally building an air force and wanted some of my aviation expertise. There are plenty of pilots for hire around but you can't find many trained and experienced mechanics who are willing to risk life, limb and creature comfort overseas. I would — if the price was right.

I thought of myself as a sort of "Merc Mech" specializing in military aviation maintenance, especially combat helicopters. In my line, experience counts as much as credentials. Fortunately, I had plenty of both.



Author (second from right), airwing pilots and maintenance crew take time out during a training field exercise.

MERC MECHANIC

Anthony Nigro, 42, writes from Singapore where he is under contract with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment. His job there includes helicopter maintenance, training and consulting. Nigro has worked or lived in 23 countries during the past 17 years, including five years in Vietnam. In addition to four years in the active Marine Corps, he has worked with the armed forces of 18 countries.

Nigro has been busy circling the globe. He is an airframe and powerplant mechanic with a commercial pilot license. He also speaks Vietnamese and Spanish fluently has been through several U.S. Army special warfare courses. Nigro is a member of S.O.F. American Legion Post 1, Shanghai.

Over 12 long hard years I'd done contract work in Vietnam for the U.S. Army, the Vietnamese Air Force, the Cambodian Air Force and, most recently, with the Imperial Iranian Army Air Corps where I spent two years keeping 'em flying for the Shah before he got dumped. My portfolio contained an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marines, U.S. Federal Aviation Authority licenses as a commercial pilot and airframe and power-plant mechanic, trade school diplomas and letters of service and commendations from my former employers. It was plenty to get me the job I was offered through my British contact but there had been a dry spell before that.

When I left Iran, I took a vacation in Southeast Asia to look up old friends I'd met during the Vietnam War and to search for work in the area. I toured Thailand, Burma, Hong Kong and Indonesia with no luck. Finally, in Singapore I met an Englishman who told me that a man with my qualifications was just what the budding Royal Brunei Malay Regiment needed.

I didn't even know where Brunei was. When I finally found it on a map, the place turned out to be a tiny speck on the island of Borneo. The information included indicated Brunei was a British protected

sultanate of some 2,000 square miles nestled along the northern coast of Borneo. The population was listed as about 130,000. My English friend told me a lot of foreigners were serving in Brunei's armed forces, either on contract or on loan from the British. Given my resources at the time, the idea sounded like a winner.

Getting to Brunei was easy. I flew in from Singapore and simply dialed the number listed for the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment's Air Wing. Much to my surprise they were delighted to hear from me and set up an interview the same day.

Apparently they'd been through this drill before and knew how to ferret out the experienced people from the loud-mouths. The tests began the moment I reached Barakas Camp. An Englishman named Steve had picked me up at the gate and announced that I was lucky to have a clean-cut appearance. He said if I'd showed up with long hair or crummy clothes, he'd have left me at the gate.

After a brief, courteous interview during which my credentials were screened carefully, Steve led me out of his office and over to a nearby hangar. When he asked me to climb up onto the roof walkway of a Bell model 205A1 helicopter, I knew we were in phase two of my entrance exam. The 205 is a tough bird to work on and if you don't know your way around, you can fall or wind up shoving an arm or leg through the plexiglass of the pilot's overhead canopy window. I climbed aboard and Steve scrambled up behind me.

He ran me through a full components and systems check on both the Bell 205A1 and 206B before he was satisfied. The next stage of testing, masked as simple courtesy to a potential employee, involved getting me checked out of my hotel and into quarters at the World Wide Helicopters compound in Barakas Camp.

While I packed I thought about the terms of the proposed contract. They were offering full-time work as an employee of World Wide Helicopters and not service in the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment. World Wide, an American-owned company registered in the Grand Cayman Islands, was under contract to the regiment to provide helicopter maintenance and operational support personnel for the unit's small aviation command. Pay was half what I'd been making in Iran but Brunei's cost of living was much lower.

I'd also been told that in the event Brunei was invaded or attacked, all contract employees were expected to stay on the job "as long as their services are required."

That sounded familiar. I'd been in a similar situation while working for an aviation outfit in Vietnam. I remembered attacks on places like Pleiku, Da Nang, Bien Hoa and Saigon when contract employees' services were certainly required. I also remembered loading the bodies of

those who stayed until they could no longer render more service. I'd hung in there until the last week of April 1975 when I finally managed to get out of Ton Son Nhut before the communists could execute me as a mercenary.

No balls, no blue-chips, I figured. And the deal here in Brunei was fairly sweet otherwise.

My next test came that evening when I met a group of friendly foreign employees who invited me to spend the evening with them at the naval officers club at Muara. They plied me with booze and were somewhat surprised to discover a man of my experience who doesn't drink. At the club I got into a pool game with a British officer who liked me well enough to promise me a contract if the deal with World Wide didn't pan out. Ironically, the guy I picked to shoot pool with my first night in Brunei turned out to be the regiment's aviation maintenance officer. It was a nice gesture, but I had passed World Wide's final test.

There was one minor problem to take care of before I could go to work on the Brunei Regiment's helo fleet. I had to fly to England for a final interview and contract signing with a representative of the home office. They told me to call and wait for a Mr. Trip when I arrived. That's what left me in the Blue Boar at Christmastime.

After three days, Mr. Trip, an ex-RAF fighter pilot, finally showed up to ask me a few routine questions and glance at my papers. That was it. He handed me the contract and I signed it. I flew back to Brunei after contacting a friend in Thailand who had been storing my tools. He promised to ship them to Barakas Camp. When they arrived, I was already a working member of the flightline maintenance crew.

It was never routine. Aviation maintenance work in the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment's compound was demanding. The hours were long, and we had few days off. We worked whether it was sunny or rainy even preferring the later. The heat in Brunei is horrible and we all liked to



A field expedient dinner table holds all the comforts of home — even wine. International crew of contracted technical mercs share a light moment in the field.

HARD-CORE?

The World Wide Helicopter crew I knew was a skillful, hard-working group. They were a mixed bag of international professionals, some with war experience, all with military experience. Though they were later described in a Singapore daily newspaper as a band of tough, hard-core, technical mercenaries, I'd call them capable professionals. They certainly weren't hard-core.

I had worked with hard-core guys in Vietnam. Comparing the international crew in Brunei with the contract workers in Vietnam was like comparing the Boy Scouts of America to the French Foreign Legion. It takes years of being shot at and missed and hit at and hit to harden to the core. During the Vietnamese War the hard-core technical mercenaries were those who stayed on after the United States military withdrew in 1973, those who, for pay, attempted to save the sum of things that God and man had abandoned.

Though they were frightened, they were not frightened off. Though they were killed, they were not killed off. They were in Saigon during the last few hours, before it fell. Some were lost and never heard of again. The Singapore daily newspaper reporter did not know the meaning of hard-core.

— Anthony Nigro

get airborne when the opportunity arose. The air over the dense jungles of Borneo is clear and cold.

Our biggest problem was a lack of skilled mechanics. World Wide Helicopters had recruiting problems and a high staff attrition rate. Not everyone can take the heat, frustration and long hours involved in this type of work.

The situation was complicated by the fact that the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment's aviation component performed civil as well as military duties. It served as the country's coast guard, patrolling the borders and coast lines and protecting its oil rigs and the coastal and inland shipping against pirates. Well-armed, well-organized pirates have always infested the South China Sea but these days cutlasses have been replaced with modern weapons, including M16s, machine guns and hand grenades. Most people have heard about pirate attacks on Vietnamese refugee boat people, but they also go after tankers in the open sea. Brunei's Air Wing and Navy tries to keep them away from shipping which comes and goes through the Sultan of Brunei's territorial waters.

The military aviation authorities also transport most of the supplies to military outposts and bases in the country's interior. They fly a continuous training syllabus to upgrade pilot skills and the workload makes for significant maintenance requirements. Despite that, the Brunei Air Wing had the best safety record per flying hours ratio I've ever seen.

The "Flying Doctor Program" was another aviation project handled by Brunei's military. The royal family established the program of daily flights to the interior villages and constructed a government house in each village. Doctors and nurses went along on the flights to aid the sick and deliver medicine and supplies. Teams of paramedics were permanently based at each government house with two-way radios used to call for airborne ambulances from the Royal

Brunei Regiment. The situation resulted in regular alerts for aviation and maintenance crews.

During one such call-out I was duty engineer when the beeper I was required to wear sounded. I threw my flight suit over my shoulder and took off running for the duty car. I roared into the hangar area just as a helo was being towed to the hot-pad by the duty ground crew. Rushing over to the cold bird, I snapped on my flashlight and climbed onto the roof to do my pre-flight checks. Oil-level,

fuel-level, hydraulic-fluid, intake, general-condition: all looked OK.

I plugged in the APU, cleared the tail rotor, strapped in two sleepy pilots and checked for leaks after the engines had been run up. A quick thumbs up and we pulled collective to get airborne. Someone was sick or injured in a remote village deep in the Brunei interior.

It was not unusual for me to fly along on such hops. In emergencies I regularly dou-

bled for a missing crewchief. Our average time from first beep until the chopper was airborne was 10 minutes. If I stayed behind, I had to remain on the flightline and in radio contact with the bird until the mission was complete. My work would not end until the bird was back on the ground and I had completed post-flight inspections and topped off its fuel and oil.

If the mission went without a hitch, it was no real sweat. If the bird died out there, I had to man a back-up chopper and fly into the jungle to fix it.

My most memorable call-out as duty engineer sent me to Brunei's picturesque seashore — but there was no time for leisure. One of our helos, flying a night patrol mission over water along the coast, had reported a chip-detector warning light. When the crew gets that indication of potential disaster, it's SOP to set the bird down as soon as possible. The pilot banked for the shoreline and landed in the nearest cove. Then he radioed his position back to camp.

I got to the hangar as a second chopper was being readied to fly to him. I had to take my tool kit and make necessary repairs on the spot. As we hovered above the beach where he'd landed, we realized the area was too small to accommodate both helos. My pilot set down on a nearby ridge and motioned me out of the ship. Alone in the dark and lugging my heavy tool-box, I had to negotiate a steep 30-foot embankment to get to the beach. Luckily, the dirt was soft and I skidded down without too many problems. Looking back I realized getting up would be another matter.

When I hit bottom, the beach looked smaller than it had from the air. It was smaller. The tide was coming in like gangbusters. From the look of the approaching waves, I had less than two hours to fix the bird or it would become a boat. I inspected all the required parts and replaced them. We started the engine and let it run for 15 minutes for a ground check. By now the water was nearly at the skids.



Three Bell 212s fly a mission over Brunei jungle.

THE ABODE OF PEACE

In Malay dialect, Brunei means the "abode of peace." That's appropriate most of the time. The country is a small sultanate on the northwestern coast of the island of Borneo. Composed of two enclaves within the Malaysian state of Sarawak, the country has been ruled for more than 600 years by the family of Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin. Its major export is oil and natural gas. Other products are rubber, rice and sago. Such natural assets — particularly the petroleum products — make several nations in the area lust for a piece of Brunei. That's why the sultan maintains a military force.

Before Sir Muda, affectionately called "the Old Sultan" by his people, handed over the reins of government to his oldest son, sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, he created the country's welfare state. Brunei's people have free education and health benefits as well as heavily subsidized housing and food. They pay no income taxes and are eligible for interest-free loans.

Brunei is an Islamic country. Westerners, as Nigro discovered, make up the smallest segment of the population. They hold positions in government departments, the army and navy, commerce and the oil industry. More than half of Brunei's population are Malays. The next largest ethnic group is approximately 40,000 Chinese. The remainder of the population consists of the indigenous races, mainly Iban and Dusun tribesmen, who live in the jungle outside the capital city, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Most of the country's people live in the capital, formerly called Brunei, which lies eight miles from the mouth of the river of the same name. Behind the city stretch cleared hills and jungle-covered mountains. The city is 1,518 nautical miles from Singapore.

Brunei's climate is typically tropical, hot and moist in the daytime and cool at night. Rainfall is plentiful. So far Brunei remains the abode of peace.

— M.L. Jones

"I think it'll make it back to camp OK." I told the pilot, since the warning light had not gone back on.

"If you're telling me it's safe to take her up again, you're going to have to go along," he answered.

I stared back at the hill I had descended. "It's a lot safer riding this chopper than trying to climb that hill again. I could get hurt." It was a routine flight back to Baraka but my quick-fix would not hold. We got another 10 hours out of the engine and then I had to replace it.

Most of my jungle excursions in Brunei were prompted by such maintenance problems. Occasionally things got a little more serious. I flew several missions following military alerts sounded when one of the Sultan's off-shore oil rigs was approached by an unidentified vessel. More frequently, it was a medical emergency in a remote village: childbirth (a hemorrhage or a breach birth) or an accident (a burn victim who had had a gas stove blow up in his

face, an amputation from a chain saw breaking, or a snake-bite victim). The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment Air Wing had to handle all of them.

Lives were saved all the time thanks to the helicopter crews of the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment and the hard-working, dedicated, international crew of professional maintenance men who kept them flying. A Singapore reporter who visited the regiment's aviation command once described us as a band of "tough, hard-core, technical

mercenaries." Although the reporter did his best to make us sound like foreign devils, the people who depended on us to get them to the hospital in time called us angels.

And Brunei stays safe from invasion or attack thanks to the readiness of the formidable Royal Brunei Malay Regiment and a small, select group of soldiers of fortune, all of whom would "stay on the job as long as their services are required." I know. I bet my life on it. ✕



Royal Brunei Malay Regiment insignia

A QUESTION OF SECURITY

Most people haven't even heard of Brunei. But this small corner of Southeast Asia is striving to make its mark in the volatile arena of Asian politics.

Brunei failed to join the Federation of Malaysia when it was formed in 1963 because of the former sultan's insistence on retaining control of oil revenues and his desire to be next in line for election to Malaysia's rotating kingship. Kuala Lumpur refused. The political turbulence caused by the question of joining Malaysia was largely responsible for the state's one political upheaval; an abortive attempt by the now outlawed Parti Rakyat Brunei (Brunei People's Party) in 1962 which was suppressed with the help of British troops.

Relations with Malaysia were cool until 1973 when a group of PRB political detainees escaped from prison and were granted political refuge in Malaysia. Following a period of acute political tension, relations with Kuala Lumpur were restored to a more normal tenor in 1977. Malaysia still wants Brunei in its fold and actively agitated for its absorption until the British relinquished all control in 1983. All of Southeast Asia fears that an independent Brunei might be vulnerable to outside forces, especially in view of the autocratic system of government and the past history of attempted revolt.

Brunei's current sultan, Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, rules over a tiny country that before 1920 was only a backward and impoverished spot on the northern coast of Borneo. The discovery of an oil field was the first step in Brunei's climb to prosperity. Today it is the richest state in Asia in terms of per capita income.

Before independence, Brunei relied on England for protection. If Bolkiah could have his way, he would still have British troops stationed in Brunei to safeguard his independence. London would have none of that however. Brunei is now on its own.

The major preoccupation of the government is internal security. About half the yearly budget is spent on the armed forces, the Royal Brunei Police and the Department of Security and Intelligence. A

hefty \$195 million was spent on Brunei's burgeoning military in 1982 reflecting the government's concern with security after the British leave.

The armed forces of Brunei were known as the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment: all naval and air elements formed part of the army. In keeping with Brunei's new independent image, the military has been renamed the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). Ground forces consist of two infantry battalions (the second of which was only formed in 1975 and reached full strength in 1978), and one armored reconnaissance squadron. There are plans to form a third battalion but the fact that recruitment is voluntary and manpower in short supply — it is estimated that the available military manpower pool stands at about 4,000 — means that it is unlikely to be complete until well into the 1980s.

In an attempt to bolster armed forces ranks, Brunei has formed a company of women soldiers and another of teenage boys. Both were designed to free the men to tackle front-line duties but the boys are also groomed in special schools to prepare them for study overseas, mostly in Britain.

Army training and equipment, uniforms and rank structure all conform closely to British models. Most of the senior command positions are filled by some 60 expatriate British officers. The RBAF expects to have only a handful of such officers left by 1990. There is a joint effort to train suitable native officers to replace the expatriates but it is not likely that many indigenous personnel will be senior or experienced enough to command the army until at least the mid-1980s.

The naval and air elements of the RBAF comprise about 350 men and there is a shortage of trained pilots and naval officers. The naval element is stationed at Muara, the country's only commercial port and the air wing will eventually be stationed at the international airport near the capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

Although Brunei's armed forces are small, they have some of the most modern equipment and armaments money can buy. The major weapons of the ground forces include 16 Scorpion light tanks, 24 Skankey APCs and 16 81mm mortars. The navy has recently taken delivery of three fast patrol boats armed with Exocet missiles. Three river patrol boats and two landing craft round out the naval complement. The air wing has one HS-748 transport, two Cherokee training aircraft and 10 Bell helicopters of various models. Brunei has also bought a Rapier air-defense system from Britain.

The transition to full independence in 1983 and the withdrawal of the Gurkha battalion on garrison duty there were viewed with some trepidation by the government but there still seems to be no threat to Brunei's internal security. The banned PRB is still seen as a major threat though the RBAF, the police and the 235 man Department of Security present convincing obstacles to any internal attempt to overthrow the government. But as long as Brunei fails to relax its autocratic grip, the possibility of external trouble cannot be entirely discounted.

— Dale Andrade

SOF HISTORY



JOURNEY TO DISASTER

Skytrain Skeet Shoot over Arnhem

Text and Photos by Joe Curreri

American paratroops train in England in 1942, preparing for invasion of Europe.





FRIENDSHIP

Author taxis *Clay Pigeon* down runway on an airfield in England. Photo: Joe Curreri

After the war Joe Curreri returned to Philadelphia where he opened a shoe repair shop. He kept in touch with Adrian Goosens by writing Adrian's sister Mary who understood English. But he wanted to do something more for the man who had saved his life at the risk of his own.

Curreri's chance came in 1953 when a devastating flood swept through Holland. The Dutch desperately needed food, clothing and medicine. Curreri immediately posted a sign on his shop window: "We will collect any old clothing, shoes and blankets for Dutch Flood Relief."

The author tells us, "The response was tremendous. Kind, sympathetic people rushed to help. I collected two truckloads of clothing, blankets and shoes. That wonderful display of sympathy, kindness and understanding renewed my faith in mankind."

Time passed. Both Curreri and Goosens married and fathered two children. They both suffered heart-attacks, recovered and retired. But Curreri had still not been able to visit the man who had saved his life until last year when Goosens called and invited him to Holland.

The author and his oldest son prepared for their journey. Curreri also chose gifts for his friend, though as he tells us, "No matter how kind I was, no matter what gifts I showered on him it would never repay his courage, his commitment and his generosity. I had to do something special. My city and my country helped."

William J. Green, the mayor of Philadelphia, drew up an official greeting to Adrian Goosens and his comrades

thanking them for "the help you gave American soldiers and for the cause of freedom during the war." With it came a miniature engraved reproduction of the Liberty Bell. The White House sent a color portrait of the president inscribed, "To Adrian Goosens, with thanks and greetings." Signed — Ronald Reagan.

On his 1984 flight Curreri flew through friendly skies, carrying cameras instead of combat troops, bundles of gifts instead of bullets. And so the two men met again at Goosens' home in Eersol, Holland, clasping hands and raising glasses in tribute to their mutual memories. When Curreri presented the Dutchman with the gifts from America, Goosens stared at the miniature bell of freedom. He slowly rang it, whispering, "It was my duty . . ."

Goosens is now 68. A retired teacher, he keeps busy on the farmland he owns. He declares, "I don't have time to die. I'm too busy."

During the author's 11-day stay in Holland, he and Goosens retraced the steps of their adventure in the woods. They even rediscovered the two fox-holes the Americans had dug.

This time Curreri discovered the beauties of Holland and the warmth of its people. Adrian and his sister took the two Americans on a tour of Holland, Belgium, Germany and Denmark. Everywhere the greeting was the same: "Here's to you, Yank!"

Curreri says of his friend, "Adrian Goosens is a short man. At five-foot-six, he doesn't look the part of a rough and ready freedom fighter. But to me and the other men he saved from the burning hulk of that C-47 he is at least 10 feet tall."

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. The beginning of the end came a year earlier, on 6 June 1944, when the Allies hit the beach in Normandy and broke through into the French countryside. When Avranches fell on 30 July the Allies swept out of Normandy into the heart of France, liberating Paris on 25 August.

As ETO veteran Joe Curreri says, victory in France filled the Allies with confidence. Operation Market Garden, which began on 17 September 1944, was a two-phase operation to occupy Holland. The objective of "Market," the airborne phase of the operation, was to seize key bridges and railheads in advance of "Garden," the British 2nd Army's armored thrust, to outflank the Germans at Arnhem. The airborne troopers captured several bridges, including Arnhem's, but Market Garden failed when Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery's tanks were caught by a German counteroffensive.

Curreri was a crewman on an Army Air Force C-47 that ferried airborne troops into the drop zones for Market Garden. He nearly died before finally getting the chance to tell this story.

THE throaty roar of idling aircraft engines disturbed the peaceful stillness of an emerging dawn. Aboard the ponderous C-47, an electric excitement pulsed through the stale air in the cramped cockpit. It was as if we were headed for a pleasant Sunday outing. As crew chief on this bird, I had little time to share the feeling. My mind was occupied with last-minute pre-flight checks. It was September 1944 and the victory at Normandy had all of us flushed with confidence.

On that calm morning in southern England, the greatest armada of troop-carrying aircraft ever assembled was to take-off and drop 20,000 paratroops into Nazi-occupied Holland. Three months earlier, we had helped drop the 101st Airborne Division into France on D-Day. "It was easy," I had boasted. In my over-confidence and inexperience I thought we were about to strike the final blow against Hitler.

"This is it," I told my buddies on the foggy flightline. "This will end the war." I'd soon learn better.

The plan looked good: 1,068 planes and 478 gliders would drop and land Allied troops in Holland, opening a corridor for the British 2nd Army to advance on the ground from Belgium into the heart of Holland. Later, ground forces were to link up with the airborne troops. It was called Operation Market Garden — and it didn't work.

Some of the bloodiest fighting occurred when paratroopers attempted to capture a bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem. Overall, casualties topped 17,000, nearly double the number that had fallen in Normandy. But I had no sense of impending disaster that morning in September. As usual, I was concentrating on the beat of the engines, feeling it through the soles of my flight boots.

It started out perfectly. We lifted off



THE C-47 "GOONEY BIRD"

The Douglas C-47 has seen plenty of action. Probably the most widely-used aircraft in the history of the U.S. Air Forces, it served in every combat theater in WWII and was produced in greater numbers than any other army transport. Affectionately called the "Gooney Bird" by the crews, the C-47 was one of four weapons nominated by General Eisenhower as instrumental in helping win WWII.

Developed from the DC-3, the C-47 first carried troops and supplies for the army in 1940. By 1942, its grey shape could be seen lumbering through the skies from Europe to Asia.

The ill-fated Operation Market Garden used the venerable C-47 to ferry troops on the airborne phase of the operation. Many plummeted in flames when German antiaircraft gunners caught them on the way to the DZ.

After the war the C-47 was not allowed to retire. It flew cargo and passengers until it was finally replaced by jet-propelled cargo carriers. Even today the C-47 serves with third world air forces and small airlines.



Manufacturer:

Douglas Aircraft Company. Also built under license in Japan and the USSR.

Type:

C-47, R4D-5, R4D-8) Utility transport and (C-47) glider tug; (AC-47) air to ground weapons platform.

CREW:

Two (C-47) with capacity for 27 troops or 18 to 24 stretchers or 10,000 lbs of cargo; (R4D-8) slightly larger with a crew of three and up to 36 troopers or 27 stretchers.

POWER PLANT:

Two 1,200 hp R-1830-90D engines.

Dimensions:

Wing span, 95 ft.; length, 64 ft. 5.5

Douglas C-47s tow gliders to Normandy coast on D-Day to start airborne phase of Operation Overlord. Photo: U.S. Air Force

in.; height, 16 ft. 11 in.; wing area, 987 sq. ft.

Weights:

Empty, 16,970 lb.; loaded, 25,200 lb.; overload limit 33,000 lb.

Performance:

Max. speed, 230 mph; initial climb, 1,200 feet per minute; service ceiling, 23,000 ft.; max. range, 2,125 miles.

Armament:

AC-47 usually mounts three 7.62mm miniguns; other types of armament available.

Dutch partisans take time for photo session while moving American plane crew through woods. Top row: Adrian Goosens (second from left) and Father Gyspers (second from right). Bottom row: author (third from left) and Radio Operator Harry Tinkcom (to author's left). Photo: Adrian Goosens

CLASS OF SERVICE <small>This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.</small>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">WESTERN UNION</h1> <small>A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT</small>	SYMBOLS <small>DL = Day Letter</small> <small>NL = Night Letter</small> <small>LC = Deferred Cable</small> <small>NLT = Cable Night Letter</small> <small>Ship Radiogram</small>
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.WUA132 42 GOVT= WUX WASHINGTON DC OCT 5 149P
 MRS JENNIE CURRERI=
 1916 SOUTH SARTAIN ST PHILA=

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON TECHNICAL SERGEANT JOSEPH CURRERI HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION SINCE SEVENTEEN SEPTEMBER OVER HOLLAND IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED=
 J A ULIO ADJUTANT GENERAL

smoothly despite the overload of troops and equipment and climbed to form for the channel crossing. The air was smooth as silk and most of the troopers in our load seemed to drift into sleep. Over northern Holland we met no enemy fighter opposition, but when we neared Nijmegen we began to see the telltale gray and black puffs of German flak. As we neared the drop zone, the Sunday-outing mood disappeared. Butterflies fluttered nervously in my stomach and the paratroops awoke to stare around at each other in wide-eyed anticipation of the jump.

We were in the 436th Troop Carrier Group. My plane, carrying four crewmen and 18 paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division, was prophetically named *The Clay Pigeon*. We would soon know why. Our pilot was Lt. Guido Brassesco, an intense man. To me, he was the greatest flier in the world. Lt. Andrews, our co-pilot, was stern and strict. A no-nonsense man. Sgt. Harry Tinkcom, our mild-mannered, scholarly radio operator and I had a lot in common — we both came from Philadelphia. In Europe during WWII, that was enough to make us fast friends for life. Ours was as smooth-working a crew as you could find anywhere in those violent skies. The pride we felt in our ship was obvious.

I was thinking about going home to Philly after the war when my airborne world was shattered. With an incredible flash and roar, a flak burst blew through the middle of the fuselage. In seconds, the plane was blazing and crackling with an uncontrolled fire. Staring from my position forward back toward the troop bay, I could clearly see terror on the paratroopers' faces as they shoved and elbowed toward the open door in wild disorder. They wanted out of our blazing, bucking transport before the stricken ship fell below minimum jump altitude.

One by one I watched them leap past me to take their chances swinging under their chutes. The static lines swiftly tore open their backpacks but the flames fanning out from behind the C-47 licked at the nylon and several of their chutes ignited like torches. It was a sickening sight and I felt totally helpless. Fortunately, there was little time to stand and watch. We realized the crippled bird was doomed and we'd have to use our own chutes soon.

"What'll we do, Joe?" The nervous voice of Harry, the radio operator, floated through the smoke. I don't know how he got through that inferno and made his way up to my position outside the cockpit. Fearing the plane might explode, I shouted, "Jump!"

Harry didn't hesitate; he disappeared into the clear sky.

And then the realization struck me like a second burst of 88mm flak. I had never

Fortunately, this cable proved to be false. Curreri was rescued by Dutch partisans and returned safely to England.

jumped in my life. The aircrewman's chute harness was properly strapped to my body, but I had never considered having to use it. There was not much time for cherry jump jitters. The aircraft was losing altitude fast and I had to do something quickly if I intended to survive the shoot-down. I did.

Swallowing the lump of fear that threatened to gag me, I dove out the door, through a sheet of fire that now engulfed the plummeting plane. Would my canopy vanish in a blaze like a kitchen match? There was no way to tell. It was jump or die. I fell through the blaze and finally felt the cold air of clear sky on my face. At about 400 feet my chute billowed open — just in time.

Hanging from a mass of skinny cords, I wondered what to do next. They didn't

teach us much about bail-outs in flight school so I ignored the upcoming landing and thought about how I might survive in German territory with only a knife. I smashed into Dutch soil like a wet sandbag and began to frantically tear at the parachute harness. Free of the encumbrance, I ran staggering toward the relative safety of a nearby forest, my heart thumping in unison with my pounding feet. Dropping to the ground behind a tree, I looked back and saw the oily column of smoke that marked the grave of *The Clay Pigeon*.

I was alone in enemy territory — without a gun. Keep moving. I told myself. Just keep moving and maybe you'll run into allied troops.

Friends finally meet in Holland 40 years after Dutchman saved Curreri's plane crew. Left, author, right, Goosens. Photo: Joe Curreri



WAR IN THE SHADOWS

World War II had several popular images. It was tons of bombs dropped from a sky black with clouds of Allied fighters and bombers. It was herculean invasions hurling hundreds of thousands of soldiers onto beachheads brooded over by bunkers. The coastline of Fortress Europe was dotted with defensive positions perched like vultures and waiting for the dead to wash ashore. World War II was total war.

But there was another facet to this second great world conflict. It was a war in the shadow of greater events. It was just as violent and harrowing as any great battle. It was the underground war fought by various resistance groups through the European Theater of Operations. Not until the liberation of Europe did the scale of this shadow war become known and even today it is still shrouded in some mystery and shot through with legend.

The Dutch resistance to Nazi occupation and tyranny is a classic case. From the beginning the Dutch resistance was committed to helping Jews. As the Nazis pressed their policy of extermination or internment, more and more Dutch families offered to hide the Jews in their homes. A network of skillful amateur smugglers brought hosts and guests together — a perilous task since Jews were not permitted to travel.

On 22 February 1941, the Gestapo swooped down on the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam, rounded up about 400 young men and shipped them off to a concentration camp. Infuriated Dutch Christians staged a city-wide strike to protest the treatment of their countrymen. Nazi guile fooled many of the Dutchmen into thinking the situation was rectified, but activists realized the killing went on unabated. Many Dutchmen joined the organized underground resistance and their efforts helped save the lives of nearly 15,000 of their Jewish countrymen and helped the Allies gain a strong foothold on the continent.

Like Holland's cityfolk, many farmers answered German predations by joining the underground. They hid Jews and passed information to the Allies. The farmers were also watched by the Germans: Dutch Nazis and gangs of thugs roamed the countryside in search of Jewish fugitives. Each capture was rewarded by a small bounty paid out of the rents and interest from confiscated Jewish properties.

Because of Holland's peripheral position in the scheme of the war's major campaigns, the Dutch Underground had to content itself with helping Jews and harassing the Germans. They kept up morale with a persistent display of the ill-will they bore the Germans. The



Dutch partisans stand by remains of *Clay Pigeon* after Germans shot the plane down during Market Garden. Photo: Joe Curreri

effect on German morale was considerable. The diary of a Nazi policeman tells the tale. "We could see in Holland for the first time what foreigners thought of us in the occupied countries. The population treated us as if we weren't there. It was hard on the nerves."

Holland's government in exile gave moral support to the resistance from its base in London. They published anti-German pamphlets, books and newspapers that were a constant irritation to the Nazis. With few arms and little hope of receiving any more, the Dutch underground contented itself with being an irritant to the Nazis and did not plan any major sabotage operations. In Amsterdam, if a German entered a restaurant, everyone got up, paid their bill and walked out. Anyone who didn't often found a sticker on their back that read, "This swine supports the Germans."

It took great courage in the face of certain reprisals to stand up to the Nazis. On 23 June 1940, Prince Bernhard's birthday, thousands of Dutch wore a white carnation in their buttonholes, as the prince had done. The Germans

grasped the significance and snatched the flowers away. Many of the demonstrators had hidden razor blades underneath the flowers — the bloodied hands quickly tightened around what was left of Dutch freedoms.

And so it went. Since the Allies did not plan to use Holland as a rung in climbing the ladder to the German fatherland, the Dutch Underground could only jab weakly at the Nazi giant that held Holland in its fist. The Allies' major connection with the Dutch Underground involved the V-2 rocket science laboratory at Peenemünde. On 18 August 1943, they bombed the installation severely crippling production. The Dutch resistance paved the way for the bombing with timely intelligence reports and minor sabotage. In the aftermath of the raid, the Dutch were there to rescue and hide the crews of planes shot down. Many were hidden until they could be smuggled back to friendly territory in France after D-day.

Holland's resistance to the German occupation didn't get the dramatic publicity and glamor of the French Underground but they were just as important. Any group that fought the German occupation was one more annoying thorn in the Nazis' side.

— Dale Andrade



C-47s played an enormous role in WWII. Often towing gliders, they dropped clouds of paratroopers on the battlefields of Europe.

The forest was totally alien for a downed airman and city boy from Philadelphia. A cracking twig made me dive for cover. The stirring of fallen leaves must be made by enemy soldiers searching for me. Would I die so far away from home? Oddly, I was relatively calm when I met my fate.

Out of a clump of bushes stepped a figure. We stared at each other and I wished desperately for a weapon. "American," the stranger said pointing at me. "American?" Expecting to be gunned down in my tracks, I simply hung my head and nodded.

"*Vien avec moi.*" My high school French told me he'd said to follow him. Friend or foe? I had to trust him.

His name was Adrian Goosens, a diminutive, wiry leader in the Dutch Underground. He hid me in his home for two days until German soldiers began scouring the area for crash survivors. When Kraut troops began banging Dutch heads and probing haystacks with their bayonets, he hid me in the woods until the danger passed. Finally, a Dutch priest, Father Gypers, came to get me.

"Adrian sent me," he said. "Come with me. I'll reunite you with some Americans."

We walked through the forest, the colors of autumn masking the peril around us. The German infantry and armor formations were pouring through the area in a counterattack against the British armored units. I had never seen so many Germans. In fact, I had never seen any German soldiers. Father Gypers remained calm and unruffled until we reached a clearing where I saw the radio-man from our crew. Damn, it was good to see another American. He had obviously survived the bail-out unharmed.

"Joe, you son of a gun," he laughed. "I knew you'd make it!" Then he led me to two wounded men lying on the ground. It was like seeing dead men return to life. Our pilots were alive.

"No! It can't be!" I mumbled. "But, but I thought . . ."

Incredibly, they had ridden the plane down. After the crash, the Dutch had dragged them both out of the flaming wreckage. Andrews was unconscious and Brassesco had broken legs, cuts and burns.

What would we do with two wounded men? It was impossible to get back to Allied lines. We were between the paratroopers to the north and the British 2nd Army in the south. The area between — where we huddled in a Dutch forest — was filled with pissed-off Nazi troops. Our brief operational briefing indicated Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery was due to link up with the Americans in two days. We decided to stay hidden and wait for the British to arrive.

Adrian would scout the area and warn us of an approaching enemy. We tried hard to act calm but the charade was unconvincing. For seven days and seven sleepless nights we hid in the woods, moving about on Adrian's advice. I marveled at the Dutchmen's skill and courage in the face of a brutal enemy who regularly shot first and asked questions last.

To add to our dilemma, the Underground had brought us a German prisoner. He looked old and sick and pleaded for his life. He was the enemy but none of us could kill him in cold blood. We took turns guarding him closely.

"Where the hell is the 2nd Army?" I kept asking. We didn't know it then but they had their own problems.

The Allies had greatly underestimated German strength, completely discounting reports of powerful panzer divisions in the

area. While paratroopers were falling by the thousands at Nijmegen and Arnhem, the approaching British ground forces were meeting fierce resistance. Fortunately for us, they did manage to break through the phalanx of panzers and SS formations.

The British finally arrived in our area on the seventh day following our downing. Their advance was heralded by the staccato stutter of machine guns and the pounding roar of heavy artillery. The British were getting closer and we all felt safety was just a short distance away. Over-confidence began to flow back and we felt like celebrating. We should have known better.

Adrian dove into our brush shelter with crushing news. "The British are only a few miles away, but Germans are retreating right toward your hideout!"

Fear crawled through my veins like a snake once again. "Run for it," said Brassesco, grimacing with the pain of his two broken legs. "Scatter. I'll only hinder you."

"Fat chance," I replied. "We'll dig in." Harry and I frantically dug two foxholes. We put both pilots in one and covered them with branches and underbrush. Harry, the prisoner and I scampered into the other. Within minutes, about 30 Germans retreated toward us. They came within 20 feet — and built a machine-gun nest!

One yelp from our prisoner and we were dead. With trench knives at his throat, we made him understand that any sound would be his last.

Breathlessly and in tense silence, we waited to die. I heard leaves being trampled nearby. Thoughts of home churned inside me. I wondered, "How do you explain to a mother that her son died for his country?" Those terrible words, *missing in action*, would crush my mother. I hoped she would be spared that.

Bullets began to whine over our heads. I prayed and sweated. We stayed, cramped and silent in our holes for three hours.

Finally Adrian's voice rang out through the battlefield smoke. "Come out. Come out. The British are here!" Never have four Americans been so happy to see their British cousins. I wept for joy. Our ordeal was over and we could return to England. While many others had perished in the fight to push the Nazis back, we were still alive.

As we prepared to leave, I glanced at the departing POW truck. Our German captive caught my gaze as the truck wheezed down the road. He waved . . .

After the war, I turned to the war games of the business world, but I'll never forget the paratroopers on my plane who perished. Nor will I forget the fine people who saved us. They personified the desire for freedom and the tenacity it took to win the fight for Holland and Arnhem. But most of all, I will never forget Adrian Goosens, the man who saved not only my life, but those of my crew and numerous other downed Allied airmen during World War II. He wore no uniform, but there is no doubt: He was a soldier. ✕

LONG NIGHT AT LANG VEI



"We've Got Tanks in the Wire"

by Ronald Greenman

Ever since the first tank rumbled onto the battlefield in WWI, armor has played a crucial role in military tactics. WWII became the proving ground for tanks and in virtually every conflict since, armored fighting vehicles have been heavily involved. And then came Vietnam. Heavy tanks bogged down in rice paddies and monsoon mud. Given their own experience with tanks, the American combat troops were hardly worried about being attacked by enemy armor.

And then came Lang Vei.

DAZED and exhausted North Vietnamese Army private Luong Dinh Du stumbled into Lang Vei Special Forces Camp A-101 on 30 January 1968. His arrival caused quite a stir and he was rushed to the operations center for questioning. Du readily answered his interrogators.

He was an NVA regular, a rifleman with 8/66, 304th Division. And he was present on 21 January when his unit attacked American forces in the Khe Sanh area. Luong said their casualties had been heavy and nearly half his battalion was lost in the fighting. All that was routine background but Du did spill two new items of information that worried the SF troopers at Lang Vei.

Speaking through an interpreter, Luong said his battalion XO and a squad of sappers had reconnoitered Lang Vei just two nights ago. His company had been about to attack on two occasions but were ordered to stand down. As far as he knew the attack had only been postponed, not cancelled.

Luong then dropped a grabber that caused a stony silence to descend on the ops bunker. Although he had not actually seen them, the NVA private was sure armored vehicles were supporting his division. He said he had heard the unmistakable clanking of tracks and he thought they were probably tanks.

Since the NVA had never used armor in the South, Luong's comments about the tanks might have been ignored except for three other sightings. On the 23rd a prisoner

had told his Marine interrogator that he had heard tanks as his division moved down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. On the 24th an Air Force FAC (Forward Air Controller) reported spotting five tanks along Highway 9. An airstrike was called and one vehicle was destroyed. The others pulled off the road and managed to escape damage. Finally, on the evening of the same day, 2,720 Laotian troops of the 33rd Royal Laotian Battalion and their families appeared at Lang Vei. They had earlier been overrun by elements of the 304th and 325th NVA Divisions. The attack had been led by tanks.

Now the SF troopers began to take the possibility of tank attack seriously. Defenses and impediments at Lang Vei were hurriedly augmented or improved. As Private Luong was being flown out to a POW cage, 100 LAWs (Light Anti-tank Weapons) were airlifted into the camp.

Lang Vei was already a mini-fortress. The northernmost of the Special Forces outposts, located about two kilometers from the Laotian border, Lang Vei's perimeter was marked by a chain-link fence. Behind that stretched the familiar spider webs of concertina and tanglefoot wire. Bunkers were reinforced with mammoth hardwood timbers.

AUTHOR-HISTORIAN

Ronald Greenman served with the U.S. Army from August 1970 to August 1971. After returning to civilian life, Greenman attended San Jose State University and earned a Master's degree in history.

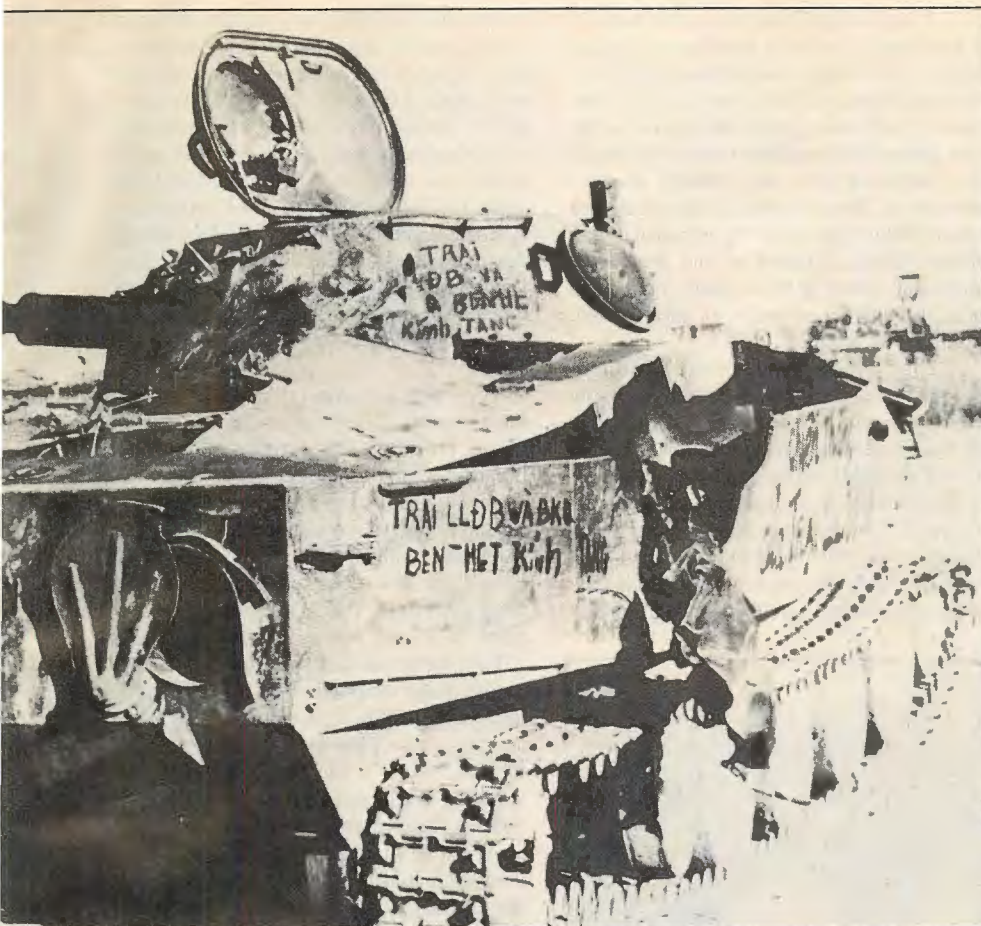
He became interested in the Italian military in and has published two articles regarding the Italian Army in North Africa during WWII. He is currently working on a book that examines the mutual perspectives of American veterans and Vietnamese refugees 20 years after the war.



Although Lang Vei was small as Special Forces outposts go, it had been buttressed with significant amounts of support weapons and ammo. Dotted around the compound were two four-deuces (4.2-inch mortars) with 800 rounds of HE (high explosive) and illum, six 81mm mortars and 19 60mm tubes ready to fire some 5,000 rounds of HE. The SF A-team had also managed to garner two 106mm and four 57mm recoilless rifles with 40 rounds for the big guns and 3,000 for the smaller, mostly beehive. Around the perimeter were two .50-caliber machine guns, two M60s and 39 BARs. Ammunition for this array was ample and it seemed that the troops could fire forever without exhausting their supply.

Ramrodding this firepower were 12 Green Berets, 14 Vietnamese Special Forces troopers, six interpreters, and a MIKE Force (Mobile Strike Force) of 161 Hre Montagnard tribesmen. Six Special Forces advisers (one platoon of Hre and two Green Berets) were also based in the area about 800 meters west of the camp. The CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) at the camp numbered 82 Bru Montagnards (Company 101) and 150 ethnic Vietnamese formed into three companies. On the north side of Route 9 and a little to the east of Lang Vei, the SF troopers had placed the 500 or so Laotian troops under the control of six Special Forces advisers flown in from Da Nang.

To back his bets, Capt. Frank Willoughby, CO of A-101, had 50 tubes of various



sized artillery on call, all pre-registered. The Marines at Khe Sanh, about five kilometers to the east, were prepared to supply two rifle companies as an immediate reaction force if they were needed. MACV-SOG's Command and Control North (CCN) at Da Nang also had another MIKE Force allocated to support Lang Vei. Willoughby felt prepared but not necessarily secure. There was certainly one NVA division and at least parts of two others roaming around somewhere outside his wire. And he believed they had tanks.

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong 1968 Tet offensive exploded across the landscape on the night of 30/31 January. From that time until 6 February the defenders at Lang Vei came under increasing artillery attack. A sharp increase in patrol contacts was also noted.

It was just 30 minutes past midnight on 7 February when Sgt. Nikolas Fragas, peering out into the eerie, greenish flare light, saw what appeared to be tanks trundling up the Lang Troai road toward the camp. Fragas watched in shock as the vehicles halted at the wire and two NVA with wire cutters calmly began snipping away.

In a sharp crackle of small arms fire, they slumped over dead. Company 104 was responding — and so was Fragas. He hollered into the CP radio, "We have tanks in our wire!" and raced toward the operations center.

Lt. Col. Daniel Schungel, Special Forces commander for I Corps, was in the operations center with Willoughby. He was mak-

Creeping coffins: The PT-76 amphibious tank tore up the Lang Vei defenders but it didn't always fare so well. In early 1969, they tried it again at Ben Het. This slogan-covered PT-76 corpse shows the ease with which they can be destroyed.

ing a goodwill gesture to the irate Laotian commander, also a lieutenant colonel, who resented being ordered around by a mere captain without a field grade officer present, when the NVA struck.

Fragas reached the ops center, made a quick report, turned, and bounded back up the cold concrete stairway leading into the darkness above. The officers watched the tanks as they blasted away at company 104's position, the orange muzzle flashes briefly illuminating the sinister silhouettes of the attackers.

Schungel ordered Willoughby to raise Da Nang and Khe Sanh and order up artillery, flareships and air support. Willoughby dashed back downstairs while Schungel headed towards the 2nd Combat Reporting Post.

By 0230, the Marines were pouring all the arty they could into the area around Lang Vei. The rounds had little effect. In less than two hours, the NVA assault force had managed to breach Lang Vei's wire. The situation was critical by 0243 and the beleaguered defenders adjusted the arty to fall on their own positions. Enemy soldiers dropped like flies as the Marine artillerymen peppered the perimeter with airbursts. In one of the last communications before the

lines went dead, an SF RTO screamed exuberantly over the radio, "We don't know what you're using but for God's sake keep it up!"

Two tanks threatened 2nd CRP. Under the stark light of an 81mm illumination round, Sgt. 1st Class James Holt was furiously sighting one of the big recoilless rifles. His gun belched twice and both tanks lit up. Relieved at his success, Holt was startled when another tank churned up the Lang Troai road. Coming on at full speed it skidded to a stop on top of the wire and rapidly blasted three bunkers apart before Holt gathered his wits and returned fire. A direct hit killed the tank but Holt was out of ready ammo at his position. Without the use of the big gun the 2nd CRP was nothing more than a high-priority target and so Holt made a dash for the team house. He was never seen again.

Two more tanks rumbled up from the south and overran the 104th's positions, forcing the company to fall back into the 2nd and 3rd CRPs. That exposed the 101st's flank and that company began taking armor abuse. Two more tanks appeared from the north and stormed the 101st's defenses.

While tanks were occupying everyone's attention, Willoughby was painfully aware that the NVA infantry were following close behind the armor. His compounds were beginning to look like three-ring circuses with enemy troops and friendlies zig-zagging around the area in the eerie glow of flare light. He need fire-support to keep the NVA from flooding the area. He managed to shift some fire onto the major penetrations which scattered the enemy infantry somewhat.

CIDG defenders weren't impressed. They broke and ran. Even the arrival of a Spooky gunship over Lang Vei and the deadly lava-flow of its fire was not enough to convince the CIDG troops that they stood a chance if they held fast. Given an absence of direct pressure, the NVA rallied and took the entire east end of the camp.

About the same time, three more tanks and two platoons of infantry hit the 102nd and 103rd positions. The CIDG defense collapsed and panicky troopers began to fall back into the three CRPs. Some stayed and tried to reorganize but most took off at high-port for the safety of the Khe Sanh perimeter. What had been a dicey situation was rapidly turning into a disaster.

The MIKE Force outpost had also fallen which meant the Lang Vei defenders in the main camp had no flank security on one side. And the A-team was suffering significant losses. Sgt. 1st Class Charles Lindewald had been killed and Sgt. 1st Class Ken Hanna captured. Their Hre-troopers were either dead or scattered.

NVA tanks were methodically destroying the camp's outer defenses, rolling unhampered up to bunkers and blasting them with cannon fire. Meanwhile, the defenders had desperately organized some men into two-man ad-hoc tank-killer teams. They had guts and ample LAWs but they weren't doing too well.

The portable AT weapons seemed to make a lot of noise and certainly provided an unnecessary adjunct to the spectacular fireworks display at Lang Vei, but they were not killing tanks. No one knew it at the time but the NVA were extremely lucky to get away with such boldness in the face of those LAWS: The attacking tanks were thin-skinned Soviet PT-76s — amphibious vehicles about as heavily armored as a U.S. APC.

Tanks were clanking around ominously inside Lang Vei's final perimeter. The first that entered was immobilized but not destroyed by a LAW. Though crippled, it continued to serve as a strong-point and swept the inner area of the camp with cannon and machine gun fire. SF officers were threading their way through the panicky defenders trying to restore order and organize a counter-attack. The tanks prevented that.

A close round from one of the PT-76s impacted near Schungel and three others, wounding all four. NVA infantry dashed from behind cover of a tank to close with the wounded men. Lt. Quy, Lang Vei's Vietnamese operations officer and the only one of the four still able to fight, shouldered his weapon and stopped the attackers single-handedly.

The battered and bleeding men were staggering toward the team house when a second tank crashed the inner wire. Schungel shook off the shock-effect of his wounds and charged the tank with hand grenades as one of the AT teams spanged a LAW into the vehicle's engine deck. The hatch popped open and flames shot into the air. In a panic, the NVA crew of the disabled tank began bailing out one by one. Schungel dropped each crewman as he cleared the hatch. The time was 0245.

Inside the ops center Willoughby assumed command believing Schungel was dead and the camp completely overrun. He would make a last stand here in the command bunker defended by eight Americans and 30 Vietnamese.

NVA attackers were becoming flushed with victory. They knew the end was near for the defenders of Lang Vei. In a frenzy, they surrounded the command bunker and began to pelt the entrance and ventilation ducts with grenades and satchel charges. Inside, the defenders were being bloodied and shocked by blast pressure from the explosions. They rapidly developed more serious problems.

A tank ground its way onto the earthen roof of the command bunker and squatted there. The NVA hoped the weight of the vehicle might be enough to collapse the overhead protection and bury the occupants alive. The roof held but the defenders' luck did not. In a shower of dust and debris, the radio antenna snapped. The men in the hole were cut-off from the outside world.

With contact interrupted, artillery commanders and FACs assumed the worst. They kept the air and arty strikes working over the area presuming anyone who was hit was probably NVA. It wasn't necessarily so.

A group of four Americans and about 50 CIDG huddled near the team house. The air around them snapped and sizzled with snarling lead from small arms or shrapnel. They had to break out of the death trap or die. In two groups they sprinted toward the northern perimeter wire and carefully crawled through it. Remembering a dry creek bed about 200 meters away, the exhausted men headed for it, slithered in and waited for their fate. They'd be rescued, fight their way through to escape — or die. No one could be sure which.

Things were not much more reassuring for the battered defenders holding on in the SF team house. Schungel and 1st Lt. Miles Wilkins were wondering what had become of the missing Lt. Quy and the other American of the four wounded who had managed to make it to the team house. Outside the building the NVA leaders were holding a council of war. Apparently they decided the Americans inside would want to surrender.



Slow going: U.S. 1st Cavalry trooper slowly advances on a suspected NVA position as his unit retakes the Special Forces encampment at Lang Vei. Photo: AP Wide/World

Five NVA sauntered casually toward the building. Schungel fired through the door and all five fell. The incident did not sit well with the NVA surrounding the team house and they responded with a furious volley of small arms fire, grenades, and satchel charges. Both Schungel and Wilkins were hit and decided to un-ass the area. They darted out of the building and dived into the nearby dispensary. With the NVA in hot pursuit, the officers scrambled down into a hole under the floorboards. Mystified enemy searchers took their frustration out on the shelves of medical supplies stocking the aid station, stomping about and smashing medical supplies. Beneath the thin boards the two Americans huddled and cringed at the shower of glass that fell on their hiding place.

Things had settled into a stalemate down at the ops bunker. The tank was still parked on top threatening to collapse the roof. Although artillery and bombs continually rocked the earth, several NVA milled about

the entrance as if they were strolling through a park on Sunday. These veterans knew there was not much danger. Air Force jets were still striking within the camp perimeter, but the pilots were giving the command bunker a wide berth in hopes some Americans were still alive. Arty had been shifted to fall outside the inner perimeter.

It was an eerie sight for the pilots staring down into the smoke and firelight. The only living things above ground at Lang Vei wore NVA uniforms. They were clearly in control and Lang Vei was clearly under siege.

There was a strange lull in the action and the survivors inside the bunker had a welcome moment for a reorganizational breather. An occasional grenade rattled down the entry stairs but most of them exploded harmlessly inside the stairwell. The defenders realized they were on borrowed time. Ominous sounds of digging set their teeth on edge. The NVA were going to come in — one way or another.

First light was just showing through the gloom of the stairwell when a thermite grenade detonated in a hot orange flash. Scattered paperwork burst into angry flames and the ops center began to fill with choking smoke. Gas grenades tumbled in and the air became nearly unbreathable.

About 20 minutes later a voice from above threatened in perfect English that the bunker was going to be blown up around them. The South Vietnamese leader decided that he and his CIDGs were going to surrender and off they marched. Apparently the interrogation of the CIDGs was fruitless because moments later the same English-speaking voice called down the stairs asking if the Americans were still armed, what their ammunition situation was and if their CO was still alive. Fragas, Spec. 4 James Morehead and Lt. Paul Longgrear answered by firing wildly up the stairwell. The talking was over.

At 0630, the side of the bunker erupted inward. Flying chunks of concrete seriously wounded Morehead and knocked Fragas unconscious. The rest of the men braced for the coming rush but the NVA held back. They weren't going to be channeled into the American fire unless it was absolutely necessary. More grenades bounced through the breach in the wall. Willoughby was knocked unconscious by concussion from one of the incoming ChiComs. The other Americans decided to play dead, hoping the enemy would move on, but the delirious Morehead moaned in pain. An injection of morphine quieted him but it was desperation. Everyone in the bunker realized the jolt of pain-killer might kill the wounded man.

The morning sun shown full upon the desolated camp. From their hiding place under the floor of the dispensary, Schungel and Wilkins decided to make an escape. They made it as far as the 1st CRP bunker when Schungel was cut down by a hail of AK fire. They were forced to seek cover and stay hidden with the survivors in the com-



THE NVA SURPRISE

The clanking rumble sounded strangely out of place in the still darkness. Pacing perimeter guards at Lang Vei paused in their monotonous routine and squinted into the blackness. What could it be? They had heard that ominous sound countless times before, but still its source eluded them.

It didn't take much longer for them to accurately identify the sound. Bursting through the shadowy outline of trees like squat, grotesque elephants with their trunks extended in front of them, North Vietnamese tanks rolled into the assault.

Tanks. Eleven of them, all Soviet-made PT-76 light tanks. Military intelligence had heard rumors but nobody took them seriously. The battered defenders of Lan Vei certainly did. They had to.

Armor did not play a pivotal role in the fighting during the Vietnam War so instances in which it was used—especially by the communists—deserve examination.

The PT-76 was designed as an amphibious tank and introduced into service in the Soviet Army in 1952 as the prime armored vehicle for the amphibious assault role. Because of the swimmer requirement, the PT-76 had to be designed with a relatively high ratio of size and weight to armament. At 14 tons and sporting only a 76.2mm cannon, the vehicle is sadly undergunned by today's standards.

It is also significantly thin-skinned to keep the weight down to acceptable standards for amphibious ops. PT-76 armor can be penetrated easily by most heavy machine guns. Despite this, it continues to be widely used by Warsaw Pact armies and other Russian surrogates.

Armor enthusiasts readily recognize the PT-76's chassis. It has been used as the base for an entire family of armored and unarmored vehicles, including the ASU-85 self-propelled anti-tank gun, the BMP-1 Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle and the BTR-50 APC. The hull is welded in construction and divided into three compartments with the driver at the front, fighting compartment in the center and the engine at the rear. The commander, who also acts as the gunner, is seated on the left with the loader on the right. Three integral periscopes are housed in the turret, which can be traversed 360 degrees by hand.

Soviet PT-76 amphibious tank was not designed as an MBT, but it gave the Green Berets at Lang Vei a headache.

The commander also has an optical TSh-66 sight mounted in the turret roof, forward of the hatch cover.

The PT-76 is fully amphibious and is propelled through the water by two water jets mounted at the rear of the hull. Switching on the two electric bilge pumps and erecting the trim vanes at front and rear are the only preparations needed before entering the water. Opening and closing the hatches over the water jets steers the tank when it's swimming. The PT-76's swimming ability leaves much to be desired. Its surf and rough-water capabilities are inferior to almost everything the West possesses.

Armament on the PT-76 is the D-56T 76.2mm gun with 7.62mm coaxial machine guns for light backup. The main gun has a maximum rate of fire of between six and eight rounds a minute. Maximum range in the indirect fire role is between 12,000 and 13,290 meters. Armor penetration ranges from between 58mm and 61mm at 1,000 meters, depending on the ammunition used. The NVA also used a Chinese version of the PT-76; the Type 63 light tank, which is an upgunned model weighing 18 tons and mounting an 85mm gun.

The PT-76 is wholly unsuited for the role it played at Lang Vei. Designed as a reconnaissance vehicle for use when a scout car is impractical, it usually supports light probes of enemy positions before a strike. Formations manning PT-76's are also used as point elements during tactical river crossings, but the vehicles were never designed to lead an attack on a fortified position. That was demonstrated clearly in 1972 when the NVA again sent PT-76 units in to attack dug-in defenders at An Loc. They got trounced.

It all depends on the defense. At Lang Vei, the soldiers could have taken the tanks out but they weren't ready for them. A well placed .50 cal will easily penetrate the hull of a PT-76. If military intelligence had not disregarded reports of armor moving into the area, the result of the battle may have been quite different. Instead of a smoking slaughterhouse littered with dead friendlies, Lang Vei might have been surrounded by brewed-up PT-76 hulks.

— Dale Andrade

mand bunker.

It was clear to everyone that their situation was desperate. The extent of the danger was unclear to the Marines at Khe Sanh, who only knew that the Green Berets were in trouble at Lang Vei. The CO of the 26th Marines, Col. Lounds, had been ordered to reinforce Lang Vei in case of attack, but under the circumstances such a relief operation was impossible. It would have been suicidal to move a suitable force into the area on foot. Any column moving down the road, especially at night, would undoubtedly be ambushed. Even heliborne efforts from Khe Sanh were ruled out because of NVA strength and capability in the area. Air observers indicated the NVA had withdrawn their tanks to the only LZs near the camp and they could bring deadly fire on any combat assault flying in to relieve Lang Vei.

At the old Lang Vei camp across the road from the main NVA objective, Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Ashley, Spec. 4 Joel Johnson, and Sgt. Richard Allen were haggling with the Laotian battalion commander who refused to commit his entire force to a relief effort. They were finally able to talk him out of about 100 men. Under close air support they advanced in line from the northeast, across Highway 9 and into the remains of the 101st's defensive positions. Heavy fire from the 104th's former area sent the hasty assault to ground.

Outside the perimeter, Staff Sgt. Tirach cautiously led his small group eastward along the edge of the highway and linked up with Ashley's men. With the additional manpower they had a better shot at survival. As the troops went on line Tirach was startled to see Schungel, Wilkins and five CIDGs staggering down the road. By some miracle, they had eluded the NVA and jumped the wire. Ashley wasn't complaining. He could use the reinforcements.

Despite overwhelming odds, the tiny assault force launched four valiant attacks at the NVA. All were repulsed. In the final charge, Ashley was severely wounded. Johnson and Allen managed to get him pulled back to cover but they had their own problems. A stray artillery round killed Ashley and knocked Johnson unconscious. Ashley was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his efforts to save those still trapped in the camp.

Willoughby came to in the shattered command bunker about noon. Four hours later he decided to pull the survivors out of Lang Vei, even if it meant taking more casualties. Fortunately, the communications link with the on-station FAC still worked in spurts, despite the fractured antenna. The Air Force screamed low over Lang Vei, dropping their deadly cargo all around the bunker, and then made dummy passes to keep the enemy down while the Americans scrambled out of the hole and dashed for the northern wire.

The plan worked. The Americans were able to reach the perimeter after fighting their way through only light opposition. The bloodied crew was shocked to see Lt. Qu

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— the eternal survivor — waiting with a jeep. Willoughby's men piled in and they tore away from the Lang Vei camp.

Quy drove to the old camp, where Schungel was trying to raise a Dust-Off helo for his most seriously wounded. Most of them, including Morehead, had to be left inside the shattered command bunker. In desperation, Schungel had ordered up a mammoth air strike to level what was left of Lang Vei. He made it clear to the FACs that the area around the ops center was to be spared.

Schungel was not aware that another American — 1st Lt. Thomas Todd — was also still alive and hiding inside Lang Vei's emergency medical bunker. Todd wanted out badly. Figuring that safety lay with survivors in the ops center, he dashed through a hail of both friendly and enemy fire only to find the bunker deserted except for the body

of Morehead, who had died only moments after his buddies had left. There was no hideout for Todd here.

Streaking through clumps of mangled earth and dismembered bodies, he made for the highway. Pillars of dirt erupted all around him from the fury of the air strike, but he managed to get to the wire unscathed. A dust-cloud and the clatter of rotor blades kept him moving toward his destination. Helicopters and a 50-man reaction team had arrived to evacuate the Lang Vei survivors. He was the last living American to make it out of Lang Vei.

Despite the wild time and uncertainty they had all experienced, the Americans managed to make it back to Khe Sanh by 1700. They were safe at last. But they'd paid a high price for survival. Two hundred CIDG troopers were known dead and 75 were missing. Of the 24 Americans, 10 were dead and 11 wounded. Any unaccounted for were presumed dead.

The entire area around Lang Vei was a shambles. Almost all the equipment and weapons in Lang Vei were destroyed. With the fall of the base, the entire area destabilized. About 6,000 stragglers — Vietnamese irregulars, civilians, Montagnards and Laotians — descended on Khe Sanh behind Willoughby and his men. Knowing that enemy agents may have mingled with the horde, the Marines refused to admit the crowd. Instead, they disarmed the refugees and held them outside the wire until Special Forces officials could screen them and evacuate the friendlies.

A three-man C-Team came from Da Nang to reorganize the Special Forces survivors and retake Lang Vei. The C-Team members and the camp survivors conferred over three badly-needed bottles of Jack Daniels. Their conclusion was that retaking the camp in the face of the NVA that swarmed over Lang Vei made little sense. Especially with only a half dozen or so Green Berets. The plan was abandoned. The Special Forces men sipped their JD and hunkered down to endure the siege of Khe Sanh with the Marines.

Lang Vei had fallen and it could stay down as far as they were concerned. Even after the NVA left, the Americans did not reoccupy the camp. The emphasis shifted away from the area after the Tet offensive was over and the meandering battle lines shifted.

The fall of Lang Vei marked the first successful use of armor by the North Vietnamese in the war. Despite that, they failed to achieve their ultimate objectives. Strategists felt the NVA wanted to use Lang Vei as a staging area for continuing attacks on Khe Sanh, which was the real plum in the area. The enemy had Lang Vei, but they failed to take Khe Sanh, even with light armor in reserve.

The Green Beret survivors of the Battle of Lang Vei like to believe the NVA had been hurt so badly in their efforts to take the camp that they were forced to modify their plans to besiege Khe Sanh. ☒

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VIETNAM'S VIETNAM

Continued from page 47

camp was overrun by PAVN infantry triggering a stampede of refugees into Thailand. Chhut's guerrillas were pushed to the edge of the anti-tank ditch. In January 1983 a three-pronged PAVN assault on the area was backed by 24 T-54s and 20 M113 APCs. The attackers lost one tank to a mine and two to RPG fire but Nong Chan was finally overrun on 31 January and razed to the ground.

When the 1984 dry season arrived, PAVN attacks focused on Ampil and Sokh San on the southern flank. Nong Chan only had to contend with sporadic artillery harassment. But during the monsoons of that year, resistance leaders worried that PAVN and Peoples Republic of Kampuchea Armed Forces (PRKAF) units of the Phnom Penh regime were not pulling back from the border as usual. Recon patrols discovered the communist forces skulking like buzzards around the border camps.

Alone, the PRKAF poses no real threat to the resistance. It currently fields only five seriously-understrength divisions of some 5,000-6,000 men each. The PRKAF is composed of draftees, impressed from villages and deployed mostly for internal

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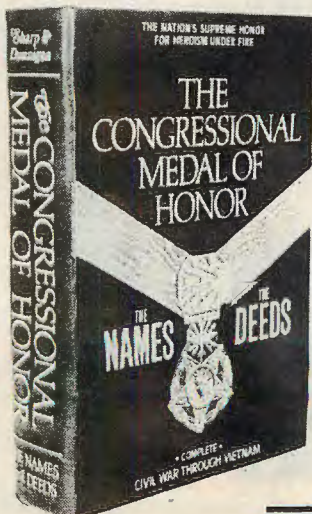
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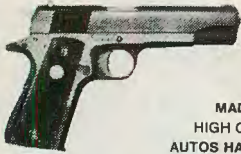
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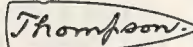
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security duties. Their morale is brittle. To describe the Heng Samrin forces' combat record as unimpressive would be wildly flattering. Their most memorable day came last year when one battalion of the 3rd (aka 286th) Div. refused to accompany its Vietnamese allies in an assault on an ANS border base. It was promptly disbanded by PAVN officers.

This year, Hanoi has evidently decided it is time the PRKAF gets involved in some real action if it is ever to become more than an embarrassing liability. There is a purely strategic consideration in the pressure exerted by Hanoi on the PRKAF formations. The PAVN's 160,000-strong expeditionary force in Cambodia is stretched so thin and taut in facing growing resistance strength that it has become necessary to gainfully employ Khmer units. Of PRKAF's five divisions, four are currently in front-line positions around resistance bases along the border. Two of them, the Kompong Cham-based 4th Div. and the Kompong Chhnang-based 5th Div. were moved up earlier this year. Opposite us at Nong Chan, Chhut's men were squared off against the 9th Regiment of the PRKAF 4th Div. supported by small contingents of PAVN artillery and armor.

The situation may go down on record as one of the region's great ironies. Hanoi is beginning a "Khmerization of the war." They must have learned something from the U.S. involvement in Indochina.

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As yet the process has a long way to go before Vietnamese commanders can seriously contemplate pulling PAVN divisions out of the Cambodian quagmire and handing control of the region to loyal PRKAF troops. It may never happen. But with at least 2,000 Khmer officers undergoing specialized military training in Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe, there's no doubt which way the politico-military wind is blowing. Hanoi's long-term game plan for Cambodia hinges on vast improvement in the combat capability of the PRKAF.

Thay and Chhut's other major worry during our visit was the growing strength of their KR "allies." They have legitimate grounds for such concern. With considerable misgivings and murmuring in the ranks, Son Sann's KPNLF and Sihanouk's ANS joined the KR's Democratic Kampuchean regime in mid-1982 to form the UN-recognized Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea committed to persuading Hanoi it should order its troops out of Cambodia. The deal was simple: the KPNLF and ANS nationalists would give the KR government the political and diplomatic respectability it needed to save a UN seat for the resistance. In return, the nationalists would gain a higher diplomatic profile while Peking would beef up their forces with the military hardware they desperately needed.

These days, the deal has soured somewhat. Still, the nationalists have gained some diplomatic credibility and they have built considerable support throughout the countryside. The KPNLF, which in 1982 numbered some 6,000 armed men, today counts more than 12,000 soldiers with a trained but unarmed guerrilla reserve of 8,000. The smaller ANS was founded in 1981 with only 750 armed men. They now have 6,500 troops backed by a trained reserve of 5,000. It's not enough. Combined — and the two formations are increasingly working closely together — the nationalist parties cannot begin to match the strength of the KR, the biggest and most effective guerrilla force in Asia today.

Conservative estimates put current KR strength at 30,000 to 35,000 full-time guerrillas. Some analysts believe the figure may be closer to 50,000. The KR boasts an estimated 15 "divisions," based on early Vietminh units of the same designation. A full-strength division fields 3,000 men.

KR forces are strongest along the western border that nestles against Thailand and in the Elephant and Cardamon Mountains of the southwest. As their dry season strikes on Kompong Chom clearly illustrated, they can also operate effectively in northern Cambodia.

Intelligence sources believe that the KR today have more hardware than they can use. The standard individual weapon is the Chinese Type 56-1 folding stock

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assault rifle. Support weapons include Chinese RPGs, the Type 69 grenade launcher and B-40 rocket launchers in considerable quantities. There's no shortage of heavier weapons either. Mortars range from 60mm through 82mm to 120mm, and KR gunners regularly employ the Chinese version of the 12.7mm DShK HMG.

The Khmer Rouge have a more sophisticated support system than their allies. In addition to the usual elephants and human porters drawn from a civilian support base along the Thai border, the KR are also using trucks to shift supplies inland. In short, man for man, the KR are arguably more experienced, more highly motivated, better disciplined and more effective than any other force on the Cambodian battlefield — PAVN included.

Unfortunately for the resistance, the KR's power is actually an Achilles Heel in the movement to oust Vietnam from Cambodia. Their gruesome record in power makes many other communist dictatorships look like benevolent democracies. Most Cambodians still remember the horrors they were subjected to under the KR and Phnom Penh constantly cranks out propaganda to insure they don't forget.

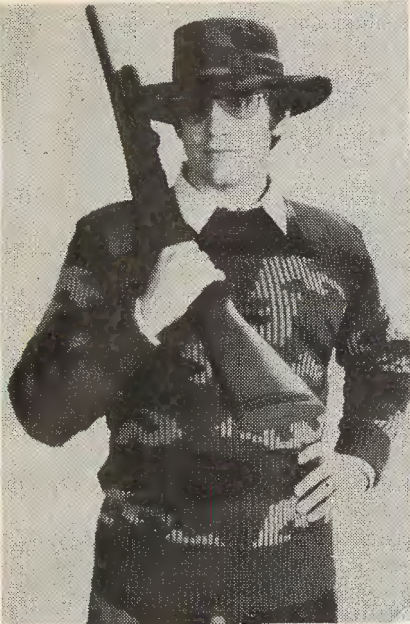
Further KR expansion is only hampered by recruiting problems. Since 1980, KR leadership has redesigned anti-Vietnamese strategy and — with some prodding from Peking — they have made a serious attempt to clean up their act. For the sake of appearances, the Communist Party of Kampuchea was disbanded, Pol Pot was retired to a shadowy but still powerful role as commander-in-chief of the army, and Khieu Samphan was sent onto the international stage to play Mr. Nice Guy for the communists.

Outside Cambodia the shallow facade does not appear to have fooled many people. Inside the country, the charade may be working. The behavior of KR troops towards the rural population has changed since the bloody old days. All supplies acquired in villages are paid for — often over-paid for — in cash or even gold. Monks are accorded respect and "communism" is a word never used in conversation between villagers and KR officers. Under the cloud of rising disenchantment with the PAVN presence and increasingly tough Vietnamese counter-insurgency measures, the KR's new deal may be starting to pay dividends.

Meanwhile, the KPNLF and the ANS are proving to be a fly in the ointment the KR is attempting to spread over the wounds of the Cambodian people. Talk of moving in on the act with a non-communist alternative to both Heng Samrin and Pol Pot has become unsettling among the communists. That much was made very clear last year when KR units in the northeast opened a coordinated campaign of harassing their



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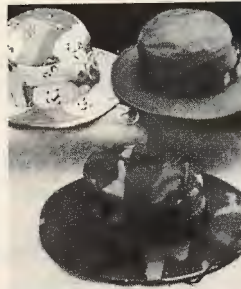
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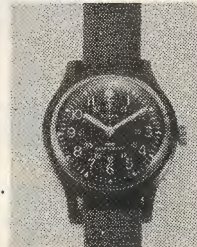


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nationalist allies. Sihanouk sympathizers in Son Sann units infiltrating toward the Tonle Sap from the border were ambushed or disarmed by larger KR forces. Friction was worst in the three provinces targeted by the KPNLF for a monsoon season offensive: Battambang, Oddar Meanchey and in particular Siem Reap. The KPNLF's message came through loud and clear in the words of Gen. Dien Del. "The Khmer Rouge don't want us to operate in that zone," he commented. "They want the population in their hands."

With these ominous signs facing them, KPNLF commanders are more than a little concerned over the dribble of support they've been receiving from other nations. Most of what arrives comes from China. But Peking is not opening any floodgates for the KPNLF. "The Khmer Rouge are being supported by the Chinese 100 percent," Pann Thay stated. "By comparison, they're giving us maybe five percent."

The ASEAN Bloc — Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei — which loudly condemns Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia has been less than willing to back its position with money. Even as Hanoi continues to order assaults on border area resistance camps and strengthen PRKAF divisions, ASEAN remains committed to a "political" solution. Five years of stubborn Vietnamese occupation has not prompted them to see the futility of such a position. While Malaysia has provided training to resistance Special Warfare instructors at its Johor Baru Jungle Warfare School, only Singapore has been prepared to provide direct arms support. West European nations and the U.S. have confined support for the KPNLF and ANS to "humanitarian" and "non-lethal" items.

In abstract terms this lip service is bad enough but on the ground it looks even worse. During visits to points along Nong Chan's defense perimeter we got an infantryman's view of the problem. We scurried along shadowy jungle paths on trail-bikes, the quickest means of negotiating the narrow, twisting tracks that connected one strongpoint to another.

The first day out we stopped at a forward position of the KPNLF's 108th Bn. A couple of sturdily-built bunkers were hardly visible in the tangled bramble beside the trail along which any major attack would come. The position was less than one klick from a dyke dug by the Viets in an effort to hamper guerrilla infiltration inland. One meter deep and two wide, the dyke had been mined and booby-trapped on the side nearest us, while on their side, PRKAF patrols moved back and forth between their own positions in the villages of Soriya, Preav and Yang Dangkum.

From the bunkers we trekked on foot up the overgrown trail to the rusting hulk

of a truck knocked out by a landmine during the fighting in early 1983. Pann Thay spoke through a huge grin. "Chinese-built truck; Chinese mine." The little ironies of communist politics amused him. The platoon with us spread out through the forests, disappearing into the sparse cover of spindly trees and elephant grass. One hundred meters from the dyke we halted and listened. You could almost hear the silence in the rising midday heat. It was too quiet.

We retreated to the bunkers in the face of this uncertain, unusual silence. Hammocks had been strung like giant spider webs between the trees. A crude wooden table sat in the middle of a pale brown patch of dusty ground. Considering the surroundings, the food wasn't bad: chicken, watersnake, rice and vegetables and the magical appearance of beer, whiskey, soda and ice. It was most welcome but our fare was certainly more extravagant than the average KPNLF grunt's chow.

Conversation turned naturally to weaponry. The Front fields a mixed bag and the idle 8,000-man reserve suggests that there aren't enough weapons to meet demands. Nong Chan bristles with Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifles, captured Soviet AK-47s, Chinese SKS carbines and the occasional M16 left over from another war. Section weapons were mostly Chinese Type 56 copies of the Soviet RPD LMG and fortified positions were generally equipped with Type 57 HMGs; the Chinese version of the Soviet Goryunov SMG. The old B-40 showed up far more often than the Type 69 Chinese copy of the RPG-7.

Weapons aren't the only things in short supply. Just about everything else a fighting force needs is also critically low in the KPNLF supply dumps. In comparison with the KR, both the KPNLF and the ANS have been fighting on a shoestring. Ammunition is the most immediate requirement. Serious shortages have already hampered plans for a monsoon season strike against PAVN forces.

"We're down to about 50-60 rounds per man right now," said Pann Thay. "Maybe enough for 15 minutes sustained fighting. B-40 ammunition: maybe one or two rounds for each launcher. Same with 82mm mortars. 60mm mortars?" A bitter laugh. "We've got no ammunition left. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing."

Basic equipment such as mosquito nets, hammocks and plastic sheeting for hootches — all standard issue for KR troops — are also hopelessly short. One Special Forces officer recently returned from a LRRP mission that kept him in the vicinity of Tonle Sap Lake for several months. He told SOF that in his 120-man company only 30 men had hammocks or mosquito nets. They had to beg for food from friendly villagers. The KR pays generously for the same food. Something's wrong here.

Cambodia's non-communist resist-

ance finds itself caught in a race against the clock. It is struggling to project military and political power into the Khmer heartland and establish solid footholds among the population before an increasingly hard-hitting PAVN hammers its bases against the anvil of the Thai border. But that's not all. The KPNLF and ANS are in a race with their Khmer Rouge "allies" for the support of a rural population increasingly disenchanted with the Vietnamese presence. Whether under the present circumstances they stand to win either contest remains a very open question. ✕

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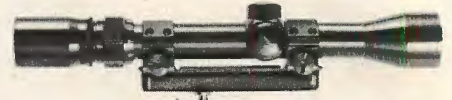
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GUERRILLA WAR MANUAL

What appears in this special pull-out section of your February SOF has become virtually a public document. We have taken this opportunity to give our readers full access to the infamous CIA document titled "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare" — despite the fact that we believe some minor portions have been deleted by government sources — because we think you would rather decide for yourself what's involved rather than accept the allegation that it is some sort of evil, inhumane "murder manual" for rebels without a cause.

Several points are relevant before you delve into this document which has caused such a furor in the world press. There is nothing particularly new or startling here. The advice given is aimed primarily at resistance leaders who are taught to regard and treat the people among whom they must operate as a sea in which guerrilla fish must swim. Sound familiar? It should. It's straight out of Mao Tse-tung as told to Ho Chi Minh. They may be communists but that doesn't make their theories of guerrilla warfare any less valid or effective. When you're involved in a struggle for your life, you use what techniques work — regardless of their origin.

Techniques for effective psychological operations in guerrilla warfare

are primarily dealt with in this manual in broad, relatively non-specific terms. There is the odd allusion to "neutralizing" enemy sympathizers and troublemakers in an area of operations. There is no specific direction to indicate the term means kill, kidnap or simply relocate. Adherence to the basic philosophies presented would indicate the first choice would be the last one made by a guerrilla leader concerned with his image among the people.

This manual is actually one of two translated and distributed to Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua. While this version is obviously intended for study by leaders, there is a shorter, comic-book-format primer aimed at the less-educated common fighting man or woman. It contains more-tangible tips for insurgency and resistance such as stopping up Sandinista toilets with sponges to create discomfort and confusion among the enemy. If that amounts to "imperialist warmongering," we recommend the next manual be written by the Tidy-Bowl Man.

Robert K. Brown
Publisher

Dale A. Dye
Executive Editor

GUERRILLA warfare is essentially a political war. Therefore, its area of operations exceeds the territorial limits of conventional warfare, to penetrate the political entity itself: the "political animal" that Aristotle defined.

In effect, the human being should be considered the priority objective in a political war. And conceived as the military target of guerrilla war, the human being has his most critical point in his mind. Once his mind has been reached, the "political animal" has been defeated, without necessarily receiving bullets.

Guerrilla warfare is born and grows in the political environment; in the constant combat to dominate that area of political mentality that is inherent to all human beings and which collectively constitutes the "environment" in which guerrilla warfare moves, and which is where precisely its victory or failure is defined.

This conception of guerrilla warfare as political war turns psychological operations into the decisive factor of the results. The target, then, is the minds of the population, all the population: our troops, the enemy troops and the civilian population.

This book is a manual for the training of guerrillas in psychological operations, and its application to the concrete case of the Christian and democratic crusade being waged in Nicaragua by the Freedom Commandos.

Welcome!

INTRODUCTION

1 — Generalities

The purpose of this book is to introduce the guerrilla student to the psychological operations techniques that will be of immediate and practical value to him in guerrilla warfare. This section is introductory and general; subsequent sections will cover each point set forth here in more detail.

The nature of the environment of guerrilla warfare does not permit sophisticated psychological operations, and it becomes necessary for the chiefs of groups, chiefs of detachments and squadron leaders to have the ability to carry out, with minimal instructions from the higher levels, psychological action operations with the contacts that are thoroughly aware of the situation, i.e. the foundations.

2 — Combatant, Propagandist Guerrillas

In order to obtain the maximum results from the psychological operations in guerrilla warfare, every combatant should be as highly motivated to carry out propaganda face to face as he is as a combatant. This means that the individual political awareness of the guerrilla of the reason for his struggle will be as acute as his ability to fight.

Such a political awareness and motivation is obtained through the dynamic of groups and self-criticism as a standard method of instruction for the *guerrilla training and operations*. Group discussions raise the spirit and improve the unity of thought of the guerrilla squads and exercise social pressure on the weak members to carry out a better role in future training or in combative action. Self-criticism is in terms of one's contribution or defects in his contribution to the cause, to the movement, the struggle, etc., and gives a positive individual commitment to the mission of the group.

The desired result is a guerrilla who can persuasively justify his actions when he comes into contact with any member of the people of Nicaragua, and especially with himself and his fellow guerrillas in dealing with the vicissitudes of guerrilla warfare. This means that every guerrilla will be persuasive in his face-to-face communication — propagandist-combatant — in his contact with the people. He should be able to give five or 10 logical reasons why, for example, a peasant should give him cloth, needle and thread to mend his clothes. When the guerrilla behaves in this manner, enemy propaganda will never succeed in making him an enemy in the eyes of the people. It also means that hunger, cold, fatigue and insecurity will have a psychological meaning in the cause of the struggle due to his constant orientation.

3 — Armed Propaganda

Armed propaganda includes every act carried out and the good impression that this armed force cause will result in positive attitudes in the population toward that force; it does not include forced indoctrination. Armed propaganda improves the behavior of the population toward them, and it is not achieved by force.

This means that a guerrilla armed unit in a rural town will not give the impression that arms are their strength over the peasants, but rather that they are the strength of the peasants against the Sandinista government of repression. This is achieved through a close identification with the people, as follows: hanging up weapons and working together with them on their crops, in construction, in the harvesting of grains, in fishing, etc. Explanations to young men about basic weapons, e.g. giving them an unloaded weapon and letting them touch it, see it, etc. Describing in a rudimentary manner its operation, describing with simple slogans how weapons will serve the people to win their freedom, demanding the requests by the people for hospitals and education, reducing taxes, etc.

All these acts have as their goal the creation of an identification of the people with the weapons and the guerrillas who carry them, so that the

population feels that the weapons are, indirectly, their protection in the struggle against a regime of oppression. Implicit terror always accompanies weapons since the people are internally "aware" that they can be used against them, but as long as explicit coercion is avoided, positive attitudes can be achieved with respect to the presence of armed guerrillas within the population.

4 — Armed Propaganda Teams

Armed Propaganda Teams (EPA) are formed through a careful selection of persuasive and highly motivated guerrillas who move about within the population encouraging the people to support the guerrillas and put up resistance against the enemy. It combines a high degree of political awareness and the "armed" propaganda ability of the guerrillas toward a planned, programmed and controlled effort.

The careful selection of the staff, based on their persuasiveness in informal discussions and their ability in combat, is more important than their degree of education or the training program. The tactics of the Armed Propaganda Teams are carried out covertly and should be parallel to the tactical effort in guerrilla warfare. The knowledge of the psychology of the population is primary for the Armed Propaganda Teams but much more intelligence data will be obtained from an EPA program in the area of operations.

5 — Development and Control of the "Front" Organizations

The development and control of "front" (or facade) organizations is carried out through subjective internal control at group meetings of "inside cadres" and the calculations of the time for the fusion of these combined efforts to be applied to the masses.

Established citizens — doctors, lawyers, businessmen, teachers, etc., — will be recruited initially as "Social Crusaders" in typically "innocuous" movements in the area of operations. When their "involvement" with the clandestine organization is revealed to them, this supplies the psychological pressure to use them as "inside cadres" in groups to which they already belong or of which they can be members.

Then they will receive instruction in techniques of persuasion over control of target groups to support our democratic revolution through a gradual and skillful process. A cell control system isolates individuals from one another and at the appropriate moment, their influence is used for the fusion of groups in a United National Front.

6 — Control of Meetings and Mass Assemblies

The control of mass meetings in support of guerrilla warfare is carried out internally through a covert commando element, bodyguards, messengers, shock forces (initiators of incidents), placard carriers (also used for making signals), shouters of slogans, everything under the control of the outside commando element.

When the cadres are placed or recruited in organizations such as labor unions, youth groups, agrarian organizations or professional associations, they will begin to manipulate the objectives of the groups. The psychological apparatus of our movement through the inside cadres prepares a mental attitude which at the crucial moment can be turned into a fury of justified violence.

Through a small group of guerrillas infiltrated within the masses this can be carried out; they will have the mission of agitating by giving the impression that there are many of them and that they have a large popular backing. Using the tactics of a force of 200-300 agitators, a demonstration can be created in which 10,000 — 20,000 persons take part.

7 — Support of Contacts with their Roots in Reality

The support of local contacts who are familiar with the deep reality is achieved through the exploitation of the social and political weaknesses of the target society, with propagandist-combatant guerrillas, armed propaganda, armed propaganda teams, cover organizations and mass meetings.

The combatant propagandist guerrilla is the result of a continuous program of indoctrination and motivation. They will have the mission of showing the people how great and fair our movement is in the eyes of all Nicaraguans and the world. Identifying themselves with our people, they will increase sympathy toward our movement resulting in greater support by the population for the freedom commandos, taking away support for the regime in power.

Armed propaganda will extend this identification process of the people with the Christian guerrillas, providing converging points against the Sandinista regime.

The Armed Propaganda Teams provide a several-stage program of persuasive planning in guerrilla warfare in all areas of the country. Also, these teams are the "eyes and ears" of our movement.

The development and control of the cover organizations in guerrilla warfare will give our movement the ability to create a "whiplash" effect within the population when the order for fusion is given. When the infiltration and internal subjective control have been developed in a manner parallel to other guerrilla activities, a *commandante* of ours will literally be able to shake up the Sandinista structure and replace it.

The mass assemblies and meetings are the culmination of a wide base of support among the population and it comes about in the later phases of the

operation. This is the moment in which the overthrow can be achieved and our revolution can become an open one requiring the close collaboration of the entire population of the country and of contacts with their roots in reality.

The tactical effort in guerrilla warfare is directed at the weaknesses of the enemy and at destroying their military resistance capacity and should be parallel to a psychological effort to weaken and destroy their socio-political capacity at the same time. In guerrilla warfare, more than in any other type of military effort, the psychological activities should be simultaneous with the military ones, in order to achieve the objectives desired.

II COMBATANT-PROPAGANDIST GUERRILLA

1 — Generalities

The objective of this section is to familiarize the guerrilla with the techniques of psychological operations, which maximizes the social-psychological effect of a guerrilla movement, converting the guerrilla into a propagandist as well as a combatant. The nature of the environment in guerrilla warfare does not permit sophisticated facilities for psychological operations, so use should be made of the effective face-to-face persuasion of each guerrilla.

2 — Political Awareness

The individual political awareness of the guerrilla; the reason for his struggle, will be as important as his ability in combat. This political awareness and motivation will be achieved:

— By improving the combat potential of the guerrilla by improving his motivation for fighting.

— By the guerrilla recognizing himself as a vital tie between the democratic guerrillas and the people, whose support is essential for the subsistence of both.

— By fostering the support of the population for the national insurrection through support for the local guerrillas, which provide a psychological basis in the population for politics after the victory has been achieved.

— By developing trust in the guerrillas and in the population for the reconstruction of a local and national government.

— By promoting the value of participation by the guerrillas and the people in the civic affairs of the insurrection and in the national programs.

— By developing in each guerrilla the ability of face-to-face persuasion at the local level; to win the support of the population, which is essential for success in guerrilla warfare.

3 — Group Dynamics

This political-awareness building and motivation are attained by the use of group dynamics at the level of small units. The group discussion method and self-criticism are a general guerrilla training and operations technique.

Group discussions raise the spirit and increase the unity of thought in small guerrilla groups and exercise social pressure on the weakest members to better carry out their mission in training and future combat actions. These group discussions will give special emphasis to:

— Creating a favorable opinion of our movement. Through local and national history, make it clear that the Sandinista regime is "foreignizing," "repressive," and "imperialistic," and that even though there are some Nicaraguans within the government, point out that they are "puppets" of the power of the Soviets and Cubans, i.e., of foreign power.

— Always a local focus. Matters of an international nature will be explained only in support of local events in the guerrilla warfare.

— The unification of the nation is our goal. This means that the defeat of the Sandinista armed forces is our priority. Our insurrectional movement is a pluralistic political platform from which we are determined to win freedom, equality, a better economy with work facilities, a higher standard of living and a true democracy for all Nicaraguans without exception.

— Providing to each guerrilla a clear understanding about the struggle for national sovereignty against Soviet-Cuban imperialism.

— Discussion guides will lead the guerrillas so that they will see the injustices of the Sandinista system.

— Showing each guerrilla the need for good behavior to win the support of the population. Discussion guides should convince the guerrillas that the attitude and opinion of the population plays a decisive role, because victory is impossible without popular support.

— Self-criticism will be in constructive terms that will contribute to the mission of the movement and which will provide the guerrillas with the conviction that they have a constant and positive individual responsibility in the mission of the group. The method of instruction will be:

a) Division of the guerrilla force into squads for group discussions, including command and support elements, whenever the tactical situation permits it. The makeup of the small units should be maintained when these groups are designated.

b) Assignment of a political cadre in the guerrilla force to each group to guide the discussion. The squad leader should help the cadre to foster study and the expression of thoughts. If there are not enough political cadres for each squad or post, leaders should guide the discussions while the available cadres visit alternate groups.

c) It is appropriate for the cadre (or the leader) to guide the discussion of a

group to cover a number of points and to reach a correct conclusion. The guerrillas should feel that it was their own free decision. The cadre should serve as a private teacher. The cadre or leader will not act as a lecturer, but will help the members of the group to study and express their own opinions.

d) The political cadre will at the end of every discussion, make a summary of the principal points leading them to the correct conclusions. Any serious difference with the objectives of the movement should be noted by the cadre and reported to the *commandante* of the force. If necessary, a combined group meeting will be held and the team of political cadres will explain and rectify the misunderstanding.

e) Democratic conduct by the political cadres: living, eating and working with the guerrillas, and if possible, fighting at their side and sharing their living conditions. All of this will foster understanding and the spirit of cooperation that will help in the discussion and exchange of ideas.

f) Carry out group discussions in towns and areas of operations whenever possible with the civilian population; don't limit them to camps or bases. This is done to emphasize the revolutionary nature of the struggle and to demonstrate that the guerrillas identified with the objectives of the people move about within the population. The guerrilla projects himself toward the people, as the political cadre does toward the guerrilla, and they should live, eat and work together to realize a unity of revolutionary thought.

The principles for guerrilla/group and political cadre discussions are:

— Organize discussion groups at the post or squad level. A cadre cannot be sure of the comprehension and acceptance of the concepts and conclusions by guerrillas in large groups. In a group the size of a squad of 10 men, the judgement and control of the situation is greater. In this way, all students will participate in an exchange among them; the political leader, the group leader and also the political cadre. Special attention will be given to the individual's ability to discuss the objectives of the insurrectional struggle. Whenever a guerrilla expresses his opinion, he will be interested in listening to the opinions of others, resulting in unity of thought.

— Combine the different points of view and reach an opinion or common conclusion. This is the most difficult task of a political guerrilla cadre. After the group discussions of the democratic objectives of the movement, the chief of the team of political cadres of the guerrilla force should combine the conclusions of individual groups in general summary. At a meeting with all the discussion groups, the cadre shall provide the principal points and the guerrillas will have the opportunity to clarify or modify their points of view. To carry this out, the conclusions will be summarized in the form of slogans wherever possible.

— Face with honesty the national and local problems of our struggle. The political cadres should always be prepared to discuss solutions to the problems observed by the guerrillas. During the discussions, the guerrillas should be guided by the following three principles:

— Freedom of thought.

— Freedom of expression.

— Concentration of thoughts on the objectives of the democratic struggle.

The result desired is a guerrilla who in a persuasive manner can justify all of his acts whenever he is in contact with any member of the town/people, and especially with himself and with his guerrilla companions by bearing the vicissitudes in guerrilla warfare.

This means that every guerrilla will come to have effective face-to-face persuasion as a combatant-propagandist in his contact with the people, to the point of giving five to 10 logical reasons why, e.g. a peasant should give him a piece of cloth, or a needle and thread to mend his clothes. When a guerrilla behaves in this manner, no type of propaganda of the enemy will be able to make a "terrorist" of him in the eyes of the people.

In addition, hunger, cold, fatigue and insecurity in the existence of the guerrilla acquire meaning in the cause of the struggle due to the constant psychological orientation.

4 — Camp Procedures

Encamping the guerrilla units gives greater motivation, in addition to reducing distractions, and increases the spirit of cooperation of small units, relating the physical environment to the psychological one. The squad chief shall establish the regular camping procedure. Once they have divested themselves of their packs, the chief will choose the appropriate ground for camping. He should select land that predominates over the zone with two or three escape routes. He will choose among his men and give them responsibilities such as:

— Cleaning the camp area.

— Adequate drainage in case of rain. Also building of some trenches or holes for marksmen in case of emergency. In addition, he will build a stove which will be done by making some small trenches and placing three rocks in place. In case the stove is built on a pedestal, it will be filled with clay and rocks.

— Build a windbreaking wall which will be covered on the sides and on top with branches and leaves of the same vegetation of the zone. This will serve for camouflaging and protecting it from aerial visibility or from enemy patrols.

— Construct a latrine and a hole where wastes and garbage will be buried, which should be covered over at the time of abandoning the camp.

— Once the camp has been established, it is recommended that a watchman be put in place in the areas of access at a prudent distance, where the shout of alarm can be heard. In the same moment the password will be established, which should be changed every 24 hours. The commander should establish ahead of time an alternate meeting point, in case of having to abandon the camp in a hurried manner. They will be able to meet in another already established point, and they should warn the patrol that if at a particular time they cannot meet at that point, they should have a third meeting point.

These procedures contribute to the motivation of the guerrilla and improve the spirit of cooperation in the unit. The danger, sense of insecurity, anxiety and daily concern in the life of a guerrilla require tangible evidence of belonging in order for him to keep up his spirit and morale.

In addition to the good physical conditions in which the guerrilla should find himself, good psychological conditions are necessary for which group discussions and becoming a self-critic are recommended. This will greatly benefit the spirit and morale of the same.

Having broken camp with the effort and cooperation of everyone strengthens the spirit of the group. The guerrilla will then be inclined toward the unity of thought in democratic objectives.

5 — Interaction with the People

In order to ensure popular support essential for the good development of guerrilla warfare, the leaders should induce a positive interaction between the civilians and the guerrillas through the principle of "live, eat, and work with the people," and maintain control of the activities. In group discussions, the leaders and political cadres should give emphasis to positively identifying themselves with the people.

It is not recommended to speak of military tactical plans in discussions with civilians. The communist enemy should be pointed out as the number one enemy of the people, and as a secondary threat against our guerrilla forces.

Whenever there is a chance, members should be chosen who have a high political awareness and high disciplinary conduct in the work to be carried out, to be sent to the populous areas to direct the armed propaganda where they should persuade the people through dialogue in face-to-face confrontations following these principles:

- Respect for human rights and others' property.
- Helping the people in community work.
- Protecting the people from communist aggressions.
- Teaching the people environmental hygiene and to read etc., in order to win their trust, which will lead to a better democratic ideological preparation.

This attitude will foster the sympathy of the peasants for our movement, and they will immediately become one of us, through logistical support, coverage and intelligence information on the enemy, or participation in combat. The guerrillas should be persuasive through the word and not dictatorial with weapons. If they behave in this way, the people will feel respected, will be more inclined to accept our message and will consolidate into popular support.

In any place in which tactical guerrilla operations are carried out in populous areas, the squad should undertake psychological actions parallel to these. They should precede, accompany and consolidate the common objective and explain to all the people about our struggle, explaining that our presence is to give peace, liberty and democracy to all Nicaraguans without exception, explaining that our struggle is not against the nationals but rather against Russian imperialism. This will serve to ensure greater psychological achievements which will increase the operations of the future.

6 — Conclusions

The nature of the environment in guerrilla warfare does not permit sophisticated facilities for psychological operations and the face-to-face persuasion of the guerrilla combatant-propagandists with the people. It is an effective and available tool which we should use as much as possible during the process of the struggle.

III ARMED PROPAGANDA

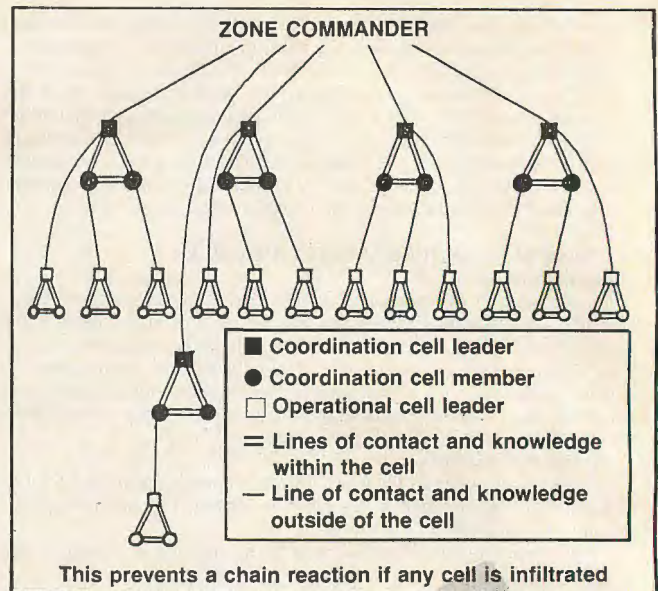
1 — Generalities

Frequently a misunderstanding exists on "armed propaganda," that this tactic is a compulsion of the people with arms. In reality, it does not include compulsion, but the guerrilla should know well the principles and methods of this tactic. The objective of this section is to give the guerrilla student an understanding of the armed propaganda that should be used and that will be able to be applied in guerrilla warfare.

2 — Close Identification with the People

Armed propaganda includes all acts carried out by an armed force which result in the improved attitude of the people toward this force. It does not include forced indoctrination. This is carried out by a close identification with the people on any occasion. For example:

- Putting aside weapons and working side by side with the peasants in the



countryside: building, fishing, repairing roofs, transporting water, etc.

— When working with the people the guerrillas can use slogans such as "many hands doing small things, but doing them together."

— Participating in the tasks of the people, they can establish a strong tie between them and the guerrillas and at the same time a popular support for our movement is generated.

During the patrols and other operations around or in the midst of villages, each guerrilla should be respectful and courteous with the people. In addition he should move with care and always be well prepared to fight if necessary. But he should not view all the people as enemies, with suspicion or hostility. Even in war it is possible to smile, laugh or greet people. Truly, the cause of our revolutionary base, the reason why we are struggling, is our people. We must be respectful to them on all occasions that present themselves.

In places and situations wherever possible, e.g. when they are resting during the march, the guerrillas can explain the operation of weapons to the youths and young men. They can show them an unloaded rifle so that they will learn to load it and unload it; aiming at imaginary targets since they are potential recruits for our forces.

The guerrillas should always be prepared with simple slogans in order to explain to the people, whether in an intentional form or by chance, the reason for the weapons.

"The weapons will be for winning freedom; they are for you."
 "With weapons we can impose demands such as hospitals, schools, better roads and social services for the people, for you."

"Our weapons are, in truth, the weapons of the people, yours."
 "With weapons we can change the Sandino-communist regime and return to the people a true democracy so that we will have economic opportunities."

All of this should be designed to create an identification of the people with the weapons and the guerrillas who carry them. Finally, we should make the people feel that we are thinking of them and that the weapons are the people's in order to help them and protect them from a communist, totalitarian, imperialist regime which is indifferent to the needs of the population.

3 — Implicit and Explicit Terror

A guerrilla armed force always involves implicit terror because the population, without saying it aloud, feels terror that the weapons may be used against them. However, if the terror does not become explicit, positive results can be expected.

In a revolution, the individual lives under a constant threat of physical damage. If the government police cannot put an end to the guerrilla activities the population will lose confidence in the government, which has the inherent mission of guaranteeing the safety of citizens. However, the guerrillas should be careful not to become an explicit terror because this would result in a loss of popular support.

In the words of a leader of the Huk guerrilla movement of the Philippine Islands:

"The population is always impressed by weapons: not by the terror that they cause, but rather by a sensation of strength/force. We must appear before the people, giving them support with our weapons that will give them the message of the struggle."

This is then, in few words, the essence of armed propaganda.

An armed guerrilla force can occupy an entire town or small city which is neutral or relatively passive in the conflict. In order to conduct the armed propaganda in an effective manner, the following should be carried out simultaneously:

— Destroy the military or police installations and remove the survivors to a "public place."

— Cut all the outside lines of communication: cables, radio, messengers.

— Set up ambushes in order to delay the reinforcements in all the possible entry routes.

— Kidnap all officials or agents of the Sandinista government and place them in "public places" with military or civilian persons of trust to our movement. In addition, carry out the following:

— Establish a public tribunal that depends on the guerrillas and cover the town or city in order to gather the population for this event.

— Shame, ridicule and humiliate the "personal symbols" of the government of repression in the presence of the people and foster popular participation through guerrillas within the multitude, shouting slogans and jeers.

— Reduce the influence of individuals in tune with the regime, pointing out their weaknesses and taking them out of the town without damaging them publicly.

— Mix the guerrillas within the population and show very good conduct by all members of the column. Practice the following:

— Any article taken will be paid for with cash.

— The hospitality offered by the people will be accepted and this opportunity will be exploited in order to carry out face-to-face persuasion in the struggle.

— Courtesy visits should be made to the prominent persons and those with prestige in the village such as doctors, priests, teachers, etc.

— The guerrillas should instruct the population that when the Sandinista repressive forces interrogate them, they may reveal EVERYTHING about the military operation carried out. For example, the type of weapons they use, how many men arrived, from what direction they came and in what direction they left. In short, EVERYTHING.

— In addition, indicate to the population that at meetings or in private discussions they can give the names of the Sandinista informants who will be removed together with the other officials of the government of repression.

— When a meeting is held, conclude it with a speech by one of the leaders of guerrilla political cadres (the most dynamic), which includes explicit references to:

— The fact that the "enemies of the people," the officials or Sandinista agents, must not be mistreated in spite of their criminal acts although the guerrilla force may have suffered casualties and that this is done due to the generosity of the Christian guerrillas.

— Give a declaration of gratitude for the "hospitality" of the population as well as let them know that the risks that they will run when the Sandinistas return are greatly increased.

— The fact that the Sandinista regime, although it exploits the people with taxes, control of money, grains and all aspects of public life through associations which they are forced to become part of, will not be able to resist the attacks of our guerrilla forces.

— Make the promise to the people that you will return to ensure that the "leeches" of the Sandinista regime of repression will not be able to hinder our guerrillas from integrating in the population.

— A statement repeated to the population to the effect that they can reveal everything about this visit of our commandos because we are not afraid of anything or anyone, neither the Soviets nor the Cubans. Emphasize that we are Nicaraguans, that we are fighting for the freedom of Nicaragua and to establish a very Nicaraguan government.

4 — Guerrilla Weapons are the Strength of the People Over an Illegal Government

The armed propaganda in populated areas does not give the impression that weapons are the power of the guerrillas over the people, but rather that the weapons are the strength of the people against a regime of repression. Whenever it is necessary to use armed force in an occupation or visit to a town or village, guerrillas should emphasize making sure that they:

— Explain to the population that, in the first place, this is being done to protect them, the people, and not themselves [the guerrillas].

— Admit frankly and publicly that this is an "act of the democratic guerrilla movement," with appropriate explanations.

— That this action, although it is not desirable, is necessary because the final objective of the insurrection is a free and democratic society where acts of force are not necessary.

— The force of weapons is a necessity caused by the oppressive system, and will cease to exist when the "forces of justice" of our movement assume control.

If, for example, it should be necessary for one of the advanced posts to have to fire on a citizen who was trying to leave the town or city in which the guerrillas are carrying out armed propaganda or political proselytism, the following is recommended:

— Explain that if the citizen had managed to escape, he would have

alerted the enemy that is near the town or city, and they would carry out acts of reprisal such as rape, pillage, destruction, captures, etc., in this way terrorizing the inhabitants of the place for having given attention and hospitalities to the guerrillas of the town.

— If a guerrilla fires at an individual, make the town see that he was an enemy of the people and that they shot him because the guerrillas recognized as their first duty the protection of citizens.

— [Explain that] the commando tried to detain the informant without firing because he, like all Christian guerrillas, espouses nonviolence. Having fired at the Sandinista informant, although it was against his own will, was necessary to prevent the repression of the Sandinista government against innocent people.

— Make the population see that it was the repressive system of the regime that was the cause of this situation, that really killed the informer, and that the weapon fired was one recovered in combat against the Sandinista regime.

— Make the population see that if the Sandinista regime ends the repression and corruption backed by foreign powers, etc., the freedom commandos would not have had /sic/ to brandish arms against brother Nicaraguans, which goes against our Christian sentiments. If the informant hadn't tried to escape he would be enjoying life together with the rest of the population because he would not have tried to inform the enemy. This death would have been avoided if justice and freedom existed in Nicaragua, which is exactly the objective of the democratic guerrilla.

5 — Selective Use of Violence for Propagandistic Effects

It is possible to neutralize carefully selected and planned targets, such as court judges, *mesta* judges, police and state security officials, CDS chiefs, etc. For psychological purposes it is necessary to take extreme precautions and it is absolutely necessary to gather together the population affected so that they will be present, take part in the act, and formulate accusations against the oppressor.

The target or person should be chosen on the basis of:

— The spontaneous hostility that the majority of the population feels toward the target.

— The rejection or potential hatred by the majority of the population affected toward the target, stirring up the population and making them see all the negative and hostile actions of the individual against the people.

— If the majority of the people give their support or backing to the target or subject, do not try to change these sentiments through provocation.

— Relative difficulty of controlling the person who will replace the target.

The person who will replace the target should be chosen carefully, based on:

— Degree of violence necessary to carry out the change.

— Degree of violence acceptable to the population affected.

— Degree of violence possible without causing damage or danger to other individuals in the area of the target.

— Degree of reprisal predictable by the enemy on the population affected or other individuals in the area of the target.

The mission to replace the individual should be followed by:

— Extensive explanation within the population affected of the reason why it was necessary for the good of the people.

— Explain that Sandinista retaliation is unjust, indiscriminate, and above all a justification for the execution of this mission.

— Carefully test the reaction of the people toward the mission and control this reaction making sure that the population's reaction is beneficial toward the Freedom Commandos.

6 — Conclusions

Armed propaganda includes all acts executed and the impact achieved by an armed force which produces positive attitudes in the population toward this force and does not include forced indoctrination. However, armed propaganda is the most effective available instrument of a guerrilla force.

IV ARMED PROPAGANDA TEAMS (APTs)

1 — Generalities

In contact with the very reality of their roots in a psychological operation campaign in guerrilla warfare, the *commandantes* will be able to obtain maximum psychological results from an Armed Propaganda Team program. This section is to inform the guerrilla student as to what Armed Propaganda Teams are in the environment of guerrilla warfare.

2 — Combination: Political Awareness and Armed Propaganda

The Armed Propaganda Teams combine political-awareness building with armed propaganda which will be carried out by carefully selected guerrillas (preferably with experience in combat) for personal persuasion within the population.

The selection of the staff is more important than the training because we cannot train guerrilla cadres just to show the sensations of ardor and fervor which are essential for person-to-person persuasion. But even more important is the training of persons who are intellectually agile and developed.

An Armed Propaganda Team includes from six to 10 members; this number or a smaller number is ideal since there is more camaraderie.

solidarity and group spirit. The themes to deal with are assimilated more rapidly and the members react more rapidly to unforeseen situations.

— In addition to the combination as armed propagandist-combatant each member of the team should be well prepared to carry out permanent person-to-person communication, face-to-face.

— The leader of the group should be the commando who is the most highly motivated politically and the most effective in face-to-face persuasion. The position, hierarchy or range will not be decisive for carrying out that function, but rather who is best qualified for communication with the people.

— The source of basic recruitment for guerrilla cadres will be the same social groups of Nicaraguans to whom the psychological campaign is directed, such as peasants, students, professionals, housewives, etc. The campesinos/peasants/ should be made to see that they do not have lands, the workers [should see] that the State is putting an end to factories and industries; the doctors, that they are being replaced by Cuban paramedics, and that as doctors, they cannot practice their profession due to a lack of medicines. A requirement for recruiting them will be their ability to express themselves in public.

The selection of personnel is more important than the training. The political awareness building and the individual capabilities of persuasion will be shown in the group discussions for motivation of the guerrilla as a propagandist-combatant chosen as cadres to organize them in teams, that is those who have the greatest capacity for this work.

The training of guerrillas for Armed Propaganda Teams emphasizes the method and not the content. A two-week training period is sufficient if the recruitment is done in the form indicated. If a mistaken process of recruitment has been followed, however good the training provided, the individual chosen will not yield a very good result.

— The training should be intensive for 14 days, through team discussions, alternating the person who leads the discussion among the members of the group.

— The subjects to be dealt with will be the same, each day a different theme being presented for a varied practice.

— The themes should refer to the conditions of the place and the meaning that they have for the inhabitants of the locality such as talking of crops, fertilizers, seeds, irrigation of crops, etc. They can also include the following topics:

- Sawed wood, carpenter's tools for houses and other buildings.
- Boats, roads, horses, oxen for transportation, fishing, agriculture.
- Problems that they may have in the place with residents, offices of the regime, imposed visitors, etc.
- Forced labor, service in the militias.
- Forced membership in Sandinista groups, such as women's clubs, youth associations, worker's groups, etc.
- Availability and prices of consumer articles and of basic needs in the grocery stores and shops of the place.
- Characteristics of education in the public schools.
- Anxiety of the people over the presence of Cuban teachers in the schools and the intrusion of politics, i.e. using them for political ends and not educational ones as should be.
- Indignation over the lack of freedom of worship and persecution of which priests are victims and over the participation of priests such as Escoto and Cardenal in the Sandinista government, against the explicit orders of his Holiness, the Pope.

NOTE: Members of the team can develop other themes.

The target groups for the Armed Propaganda Teams are not the persons with sophisticated political knowledge but rather those whose opinions are formed from what they see and hear. The cadres should use persuasion to carry out their mission. Some of the persuasive methods that they can use are the following:

— Interior Group/Exterior Group. It is a principle of psychology that we humans have the tendency to form personal associations from "we" and "the others" or "we" and "they," "friends" and "enemies," "fellow countrymen" and "foreigners," "mestizos" and "gringos."

— The Armed Propaganda Team can use this principle in its activities, so that it is obvious that the "exterior" /outside/ groups ("false" groups) are those of the Sandinista regime and that the "interior" /inside/ groups ("true" groups) that fight for the people are the Freedom Commandos.

— We should inculcate this in the people in a subtle manner so that these feelings seem to be born of themselves, spontaneously.

— "Against" is much easier than "for." It is a principle of political science that it is easier to persuade the people to vote against something or someone than to persuade them to vote in favor of something or someone. Although the regime has not currently given the Nicaraguan people the opportunity to vote, it is known that the people will vote in opposition, so the Armed Propaganda Teams can use this principle in favor of our insurrectional struggle. They should ensure that this campaign is directed specifically against the government or its sympathizers since the people should have

specific targets for their frustrations.

— Primary Groups and Secondary Groups. Another principle of sociology is that we humans forge or change our opinions from two sources: primarily through our association with our family, comrades, or intimate friends; and secondarily through distant associations such as acquaintances in churches, clubs or committees, labor unions or governmental organizations. The Armed Propaganda Teams cadres should join the first groups in order to persuade them to follow the policies of our movement because it is from this type of group that the opinions or changes of opinion come.

3 — Techniques of Persuasion in Talks or Speeches.

— Be simple and concise. You should avoid the use of difficult words or expressions and prefer popular words and expressions, i.e. the language of the people. In dealing with a person you should make use of concise language, avoiding complicated words. It is important to remember that we use oratory to make our people understand the reason for our struggle, and not to show off our knowledge.

— Use lively and realistic examples. Avoid abstract concepts, such as are used in universities in the advanced years and in place of them, give concrete examples such as children playing, horses galloping, birds in flight, etc.

With the intelligence reports supplied by the Armed Propaganda Teams, the *commandantes* will be able to have exact knowledge of the popular support which they will make use of in their operations.

4 — Psychological Tactics, Maximum Flexibility

Psychological tactics will have the greatest flexibility within a general plan, permitting a continuous and immediate adjustment of the message and ensuring that an impact is caused on the indicated target group at the moment in which it is the most susceptible.

Tactically, an Armed Propaganda Equipment program should cover the majority and if possible all of the operational area. The communities in which this propaganda is carried out should not necessarily form political units with an official nature. A complete understanding of their structure or organization is not necessary because the cadres will work by applying socio-political action and not academic theory.

The target populations of the Armed Propaganda Teams will be chosen for being part of the operational area, and not for their size or amount of land.

— The objective should be the people and not the territorial area.

— In this respect, each work team will be able to cover some six towns in order to develop popular support for our movement.

The Team should always move in a covert manner within the towns of their area.

— They should vary their route radically, but not their itinerary. This is so that the inhabitants who are cooperating will be dependent on their itinerary, i.e. the hour in which they can frequently contact them to give them the information.

— The danger of betrayal or an ambush can be neutralized by varying the itinerary a little, using different routes and arriving or leaving without previous warning.

— Whenever the surprise factor is used, vigilance should be kept in order to detect the possible presence of hostile elements.

— No more than three continuous days should be spent in a town.

— The limit of three days has obvious tactical advantages, but it also has a psychological effect on the people, on seeing the team as a source of current and up-to-date information. Also, it can overexpose the target audience and cause a negative reaction.

— Basic tactical precautions should be taken. This is necessary for greater effectiveness as was indicated in dealing with the subject of "Armed Propaganda." When it is carried out discreetly, it increases the respect of the people for the team and increases their credibility.

The basic procedures are: covert elements that carry out vigilance before and after the departure and in intervals. There should be at least two and they should meet at a predetermined point upon a signal, or in view of any hostile action.

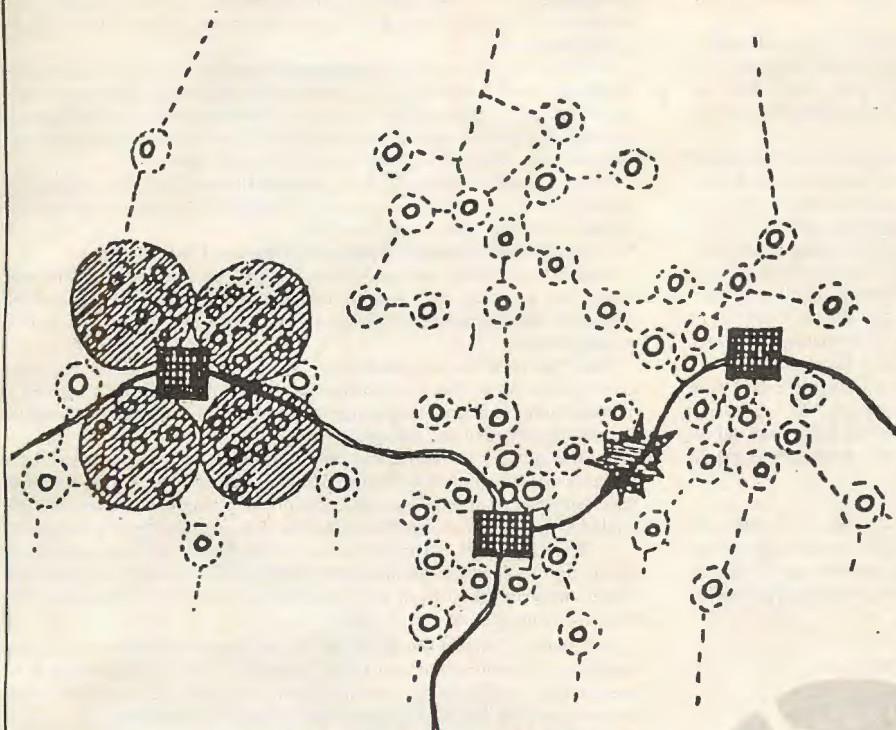
The team's goal is to motivate the entire population of a place, but to constantly remain aware that defined target groups exist within this general configuration of the public.

— Although meetings may be held in the population, the cadres should recognize and keep in contact with the target groups, mixing with them before, during and after the meeting. The method for holding this type of meeting was included in the topic "Armed Propaganda" and will be covered in greater detail under the title "Control of Mass Meetings and Demonstrations."

— The basic focus of the Armed Propaganda cadres should be on the residents of the town where their knowledge as formers of opinion can be applied.

In the first visits of identification with the inhabitants, the guerrilla cadres will be courteous and humble. They can work in the fields or in any other form in which their abilities can contribute to the improvement of the living style of the inhabitants of the place, winning their trust and talking with them: helping them to repair the fences of their cattle; the cleaning of the same, collaborating in the vaccination of their animals; teaching them to

GENERAL AREA OF OPERATIONS



Deeper in the country towards Managua



read, i.e., closely together in all the tasks of the peasant or the community.

— In his free time, our guerrillas should mix in with the community groups and participate with them in patronal activities, parties, birthdays, and even in wakes or burials of the members of said community; he will try to converse with both adults and adolescents. He will try to penetrate to the heart of the family in order to win the acceptance and trust of all of the residents of that sector.

The Armed Propaganda Team cadres will give ideological training, mixing these instructions with folkloric songs and at the same time he will tell stories that have some attraction making an effort to make them refer to heroic acts of our ancestors. He will also try to tell stories of heroism of our combatants in the present struggle, so that listeners try to imitate them. It is important to let them know that there are other countries in the world where freedom and democracy cause those governing to be concerned over the well-being of their people, so that the children have medical care and free education; where also they are concerned that everyone have work and food, and all freedoms such as those of religion, association and expression; where the greatest objective of the government is to keep its people happy.

— The cadres should not make mention of their political ideology during the first phase of identification with the people and they should orient their talks to things that are pleasing to the peasants or the listeners, trying to be as simple as possible in order to be understood.

— The tactical objectives for identification with the people are the following:

— To establish tight relations through identification with the people, through their very customs.

— To determine the basic needs and desires of the different target groups.

— To discover the weaknesses of the governmental control.

— Little by little, to sow the seed of democratic revolution in order to change the vices of the regime toward a new order of justice and collective well-being.

In the motivation of the target groups, by the Armed Propaganda Teams, the cadre should apply themes of "true" groups and themes of "false" groups. The true group will correspond to the target group and the false one to the Sandinista regime.

— For the economic interest groups such as small businessmen and farmers, it should be emphasized that their potential progress is "limited" by the Sandinista government, that resources are scarcer and scarcer, the earnings/profits minimal, taxes high, etc. This can be applied to entrepreneurs of transportation and others.

— For the elements ambitious for power and social positions it will be emphasized that they will never be able to belong to the governmental social

class since they are hermetic in their circle of command. Example, the nine Sandinista leaders do not allow other persons to participate in the government, and they hinder the development of the economic and social potential of those like him, who have desires of overcoming this, which is unjust and arbitrary.

— Social and intellectual criticisms. They should be directed at the professionals, professors, teachers, priests, missionaries, students and others. Make them see that their writings, commentaries or conversations are censored, which does not make it possible to correct these problems.

— Once the needs and frustrations of the target groups have been determined, the hostility of the people to the "false" groups will become more directed against the current regime and its system of repression. The people will be made to see that once this system or structure has been eliminated, the cause of their frustrations would be eliminated and they would be able to fulfill their desires. It should be shown to the population that supporting the insurrections is really supporting their own desires, since the democratic movement is aimed at the elimination of these specific problems.

As a general rule, the Armed Propaganda Teams should avoid participating in combat. However, if this is not possible, they should react as a guerrilla unit with tactics of "hit and run," causing the enemy the greatest amount of casualties with aggressive assault fire, recovering enemy weapons and withdrawing rapidly.

— One exception to the rule to avoid combat will be when in town they are challenged by hostile actions, whether by an individual or whether by a number of men of an enemy team.

— The hostility of one or two men can be overcome by eliminating the enemy in a rapid and effective manner. This is the most common danger.

— When the enemy is equal in the number of its forces, there should be an immediate retreat, and then the enemy should be ambushed or eliminated by means of sharpshooters.

— In any of the cases, the Armed Propaganda Team cadres should not turn the town into a battleground. Generally, our guerrillas will be better armed so that they will obtain greater respect from the population if they carry out appropriate maneuvers instead of endangering their lives, or even destroying their houses in an encounter with the enemy within the town.

5 — A Comprehensive Team Program — Mobile Infrastructure

The psychological operations through the Armed Propaganda Teams include the infiltration of key guerrilla communicators (i.e. Armed Propaganda Team cadres) within the population of the country, instead of sending messages to them through outside sources, thus creating our "mobile infrastructure."

— A "mobile infrastructure" is a cadre of our armed propaganda team

moving about, i.e. keeping in touch with six or more populations from which his source of information will come; and at the same time it will serve so that at the appropriate time, they will become integrated in the complete guerrilla movement.

— In this way, an Armed Propaganda Team program in the operational area builds for our *commandantes* in the countryside a constant source of data gathering (infrastructure) in all the area. It is also a means for developing or increasing popular support for recruiting new members and for obtaining provisions.

— In addition, an Armed Propaganda Team program allows the expansion of the guerrilla movement since they can penetrate areas that are not under the control of the combat units. In this way, through an exact evaluation of the combat units they will be able to plan their operations more precisely, since they will have certain knowledge of the existing conditions.

— The *commandantes* will remember that this type of operation such as the Fifth Column which was used in the first part of the Second World War, and that through infiltration and subversion tactics allowed the Germans to penetrate the target countries before the invasions. They managed to enter Poland, Belgium, Holland and France in a month and Norway in a week. The effectiveness of this tactic has been clearly demonstrated in several wars and can be used effectively by the Freedom Commandos.

— The activities of the Armed Propaganda Teams run some risks but no more than any other guerrilla activity. However, the Armed Propaganda Teams are essential for the success of the struggle.

6 — Conclusions

In the same way that the explorers are the "eyes and ears" of a patrol, or of a column on the march, the Armed Propaganda Teams are also the source of information, the "antennas" of our movement, because they find and exploit the socio-political weaknesses in the target society making possible a successful operation.

V DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL OF FRONT ORGANIZATIONS

1 — Generalities

The development and control of front organizations (or "facade" organizations) is an essential process in the guerrilla effort to carry out the insurrection. That is, in truth, an aspect of urban guerrilla warfare, but it should advance parallel to the campaign in the rural area. This section has as its objective to give the guerrilla student an understanding of the development and control of front organizations in guerrilla warfare.

2 — Initial Recruitment

The initial recruitment to the movement, if it is involuntary, will be carried out through several "private" consultations with a cadre. (without his knowing that his is talking to a member of ours). Then the recruit will be informed that he or she is already inside the movement and he will be exposed to the police of the regime if he or she does not cooperate.

— When the guerrillas carry out missions of armed propaganda and a program of regular visits to the towns by the Armed Propaganda Teams, these contacts will provide the commandos with the names and places of persons who can be recruited. The recruitment, which will be voluntary, is done through visits by guerrilla leaders or political cadres.

After a chain of voluntary recruitments has been developed and their trustworthiness has been established by carrying out small missions, they will be instructed about increasing/widening the chain by recruiting in specific target groups in accordance with the following procedure:

— From among their acquaintances or through observation of the target groups — political parties, worker's unions, youth groups, agrarian associations, etc., finding out the personal habits, preferences and aversions, as well as the weaknesses of the "recruitable" individuals.

— Make an approach through an acquaintance, and if possible, develop a friendship, attracting him through his preferences or weaknesses: it might be inviting him for lunch in the restaurant of his choice or having a drink in his favorite cantina or an invitation to dinner in the place he prefers.

Recruitment should follow one of the following guidelines:

— If in an informal conversation the target seems susceptible to voluntary recruitment based on his beliefs and personal values, etc., the political cadre assigned to carry out the recruitments will be notified of this. The original contact will indicate to the cadre assigned, in a detailed manner, all he knows of the possible recruit and the style of persuasion to be used, introducing the two.

— If the target does not seem to be susceptible to voluntary recruitment, meetings can be arranged which seem casual with the guerrilla leaders or with the political cadres (unknown by the target until that moment). The meetings will be held so that "other persons" know that the target is attending them, whether they see him arriving at a particular house, seated at the table in a particular bar or even seated on a park bench. The target is then faced with the fact of his participation in the insurrectional struggle and it will be indicated to him also that if he fails to cooperate or carry out future orders, he will be exposed to actions of reprisal by the police or soldiers of the regime

— The notification of the police denouncing a target who does not want to join the guerrillas, can be carried out easily, when it becomes necessary, through a letter with false statements of citizens who are not implicated in the movement. Care should be taken that the person who recruited him covertly is not discovered.

— With the carrying out of clandestine missions for the movement, the involvement and handing over of every recruit is done gradually on a wider and wider scale, and confidence increases. This should be a gradual process, in order to prevent confessions from fearful individuals who have been assigned very difficult or dangerous missions too early.

Using this recruitment technique, our guerrillas will be able to successfully infiltrate any key target group in the regime in order to improve the internal control of the enemy structure.

3 — Established Citizens, Subjective Internal Control

Established citizens, such as doctors, lawyers, businessmen, landholders, minor state officials, etc., will be recruited to the movement and used for subjective internal control of groups and associations to which they belong or may belong.

Once the recruitment/involvement has been brought about and has progressed to the point that trust allows that specific instructions be given to internal cadres to begin to influence their groups, instructions will be given to them to carry out the following:

— The process is simple and only requires a basic knowledge of the Socrates dialectic: that is the knowledge that is inherent to another person or the established position of a group, some theme, some word or some thought related to the objective of persuasion of the person in charge of recruitment.

— The cadre then must emphasize this theme, word or thought in the discussions or meetings on the target group through a casual commentary, which improves the focus of other members of the group in relation to this. Specific examples are:

— Economic interest groups are motivated by profits and generally feel that the system hinders the use of their capability in this effort in some way; taxes, import-export tariffs, transportation costs, etc. The cadre in charge will increase this feeling of frustration in later conversations.

— Political aspirants, particularly if they are not successful, feel that the system discriminates against them unfairly, limiting their capabilities, because the Sandinista regime does not allow elections. The cadre should focus political discussions toward this frustration.

— Intellectual social critics (such as professors, teachers, priests, missionaries, etc.), generally feel that the government ignores their valid criticism or censors their comments unjustly, especially in a situation of revolution. This can easily be shown by the guerrilla cadre as an injustice of the system at meetings and discussions.

— For all the target groups: after they have established frustrations, the hostility toward the obstacles to their aspirations will gradually become transferred to the current regime and its system of repression.

The guerrilla cadre operating mixed among the target groups should always maintain a low profile, so that the development of hostile feelings toward the false Sandinista regime seems to come spontaneously from the members of the group and not from suggestions of the cadre. This is internal subjective control.

Anti-governmental hostility should be generalized and not necessarily in our favor. If a group develops a feeling in our favor, it can be utilized. But the main objective is to precondition the target groups for the fusion in mass organizations later in the operation when other activities have been successfully undertaken.

4 — Organizations of Cells for Security

Internal cadres of our movement should organize into cells of three persons, only one of them maintaining outside contact.

— The cell of three persons is the basic element of the movement, with frequent meetings to receive orders and pass information to the cell leader. These meetings are also very important for mutually reinforcing the members of the cell, as well as their morale. They should exercise criticism of themselves on the realization or failures in carrying out individual subjective control missions.

The coordination of the three-member cell provides a security net for reciprocal communication, each member having contact with only an operational cell. The members will not reveal at the cell coordination meetings the identity of their contact in an operational cell; they will only reveal the nature of the activity in which the cell is involved, e.g. political party work, medical association work, etc.

There is no hierarchy in cells outside of an element of coordination, who is the leader, who will have direct but covert contact with our guerrilla *commandante* in the zone or operational area. The previous diagram does not indicate which new operational cell is the limit, but it indicates that for every three operational cells, we need a coordination cell.

5 — Fusion in a "Cover" Organization

The fusion of organizations recognized by the Sandinista government such as associations and other groups, through internal subjective control, occurs in the final stages of the operation in a tight connection

with mass meetings.

When the guerrilla armed action has expanded sufficiently, armed propaganda missions will be carried out on a large scale: propaganda teams will have clearly developed open support of the institutions; the enemy system of target groups will be well infiltrated, and the preconditioning of these groups at the point at which mass meetings are held, then, the internal cadres should begin discussions for the "fusion" of forces into an organization — this organization will be a "cover" source of our movement.

Any other target group will be aware that other groups are developing greater hostility to the government, the police and the traditional legal bases of authority. The guerrilla cadres in that group, for example, teachers, will cultivate this awareness building, making comments such as "So and so, who is a farmer, said that the members of his cooperative believe that the new economic policy is absurd, poorly planned and unfair for farmers."

When the awareness-building is increased in the sense that other groups feel hostility toward the regime, the group discussions are held openly and our movement will be able to receive reports that the majority of their operatives are shared in common, greater hostility against the regime will be developed and the order to fuse/join will come about. The fusion into a "cover" front is carried out by means of:

— Internal cadres of our movement will meet with others such as presidents, leaders and others at organized meetings chaired by the group chief of our movement. Two or three escorts can assist the guerrilla cadre if it becomes necessary.

— Publish a joint communique on this meeting, announcing the creation of the "Cover" front, including names and signatures of the participants, and names of the organizations that they represent.

After releasing this communique, mass meetings should be initiated which should have as a goal the destruction of the Sandinista control.

6 — Conclusions

The development and control of the "cover" organizations in a guerrilla war will give our movement the ability to create the "whiplash" effect within the population when the order for fusion is given. When the infiltration and internal subjective control have been developed in parallel with other guerrilla activities, a democratic guerrilla commander will literally be able to shake up the Sandinista structure and replace it.

VI CONTROL OF MASS CONCENTRATIONS AND MEETINGS

1 — Generalities

In the last stages of a guerrilla war, mass concentrations and meetings are a powerful psychological tool for carrying out the mission. This section has as its objective, giving the guerrilla student training on techniques for controlling mass concentrations and meetings in guerrilla warfare.

2 — Infiltration of Guerrilla Cadres

— Infiltration of guerrilla cadres (whether a member of our movement or outside element) in workers unions, student groups, peasant organizations, etc. preconditioning these groups for behavior within the masses, where they will have to carry out proselytism for the insurrectional struggle in a clandestine manner.

— Our psychological war team should prepare in advance a hostile mental attitude among the target groups, so that at the decisive moment they can turn their furor into violence, demanding their rights that have been trampled upon by the regime.

— These preconditioning campaigns must be aimed at the political parties, professional organizations, students, laborers, the masses of the unemployed, the ethnic minorities and any other sector of society that is vulnerable or recruitable; this also includes the popular masses and sympathizers of our movement.

— The basic objective of a preconditioning campaign is to create a negative "image" of the common enemy, e.g.:

— Describe the managers of collective government entities as trying to treat the staff the way "slave foremen" do.

— The police mistreat the people like the communist "Gestapo" does.

— The government officials of National Reconstruction are puppets of Russian-Cuban imperialism.

— Our psychological war cadres will create compulsive obsessions of a temporary nature in places of public concentrations, constantly hammering away at themes pointed out or desired, the same as in group gatherings: in informal conversations expressing discontent; in addition passing out brochures and flyers and writing editorial articles both on the radio and in newspapers, focused on the intention of preparing the mind of the people for the decisive moment which will erupt in general violence.

— In order to facilitate the preconditioning of the masses, we should often use phrases to make the people see, such as:

— The taxes that they pay the government do not benefit the people at all, but rather are used as a form of exploitation in order to enrich those governing.

— Make it plain to the people that they have become slaves, that they are being exploited by privileged military and political groups.

— The foreign advisors and their counseling programs are in reality,

"interveners" in our homeland, who direct the exploitation of the nation in accordance with the objectives of the Russian and Cuban imperialists, in order to turn our people into slaves of the hammer and sickle.

3 — Selection of Appropriate Slogans

The leaders of the guerrilla warfare classify their slogans in accordance with the circumstances with the aim of mobilizing the masses in a wide scale of activities and at the highest emotional level.

When the mass uprising is being developed, our covert cadres should make partial demands, initially demanding, e.g. "We want food. We want freedom of worship. We want union freedom," steps that will lead us toward the realization of the goals of our movement, which are: GOD, HOMELAND AND DEMOCRACY.

If a lack of organization and command is noted in the enemy authority and the people find themselves in a state of exaltation, advantage can be taken of this circumstance so that our agitators will raise the tone of the rallying slogans, taking them to the most cadent point.

If the masses are not emotionally exalted, our agitators will continue with the "partial" slogans and the demands will be based on daily needs, chaining them to the goals of our movement.

An example of the need to give simple slogans is that few people think in terms of millions of cordobas, but any citizen however humble he may be, understands that a pair of shoes is necessary. The goals of the movement are of an ideological nature, but our agitators must realize that food, "bread and butter," "the tortilla and red beans," pull along the people, and it should be understood that this is their main mission.

4 — Creation of Nuclei

This involves the mobilization of a specific number of agitators of the guerrilla organization of the place. This group will inevitably attract an equal number of curious persons who seek adventures and emotions, as well as those unhappy with the system of government. The guerrillas will attract sympathizers, discontented citizens as a consequence of the repression of the system. To each guerrilla sub-unit will be assigned specific tasks and missions that they should carry out.

Our cadres will be mobilized in the largest number possible, together with persons who have been affected by the communist dictatorship, whether their possessions have been stolen from them, they have been incarcerated, tortured, or suffered from any other type of aggression against them. They will be mobilized toward the areas where the hostile and criminal elements of the FSLN, CDS and others live, with an effort for them to be armed with clubs, iron rods, placards and if possible, small firearms, which they will carry hidden.

If possible, professional criminals will be hired to carry out specific selective "jobs."

Our agitators will visit the places where the unemployed meet, as well as the unemployment offices, in order to hire them for unspecified "jobs." The recruitment of these wage earners is necessary because a nucleus is created under absolute orders.

— The designated cadres will arrange ahead of time the transportation of the participants, in order to take them to meeting places in private or public vehicles, boats or any other type of transportation.

— Other cadres will be designated to design placards, flags and banners with different slogans or key words, whether they be partial, temporary or of the most radical type.

— Other cadres will be designated to prepare flyers, posters, signs and pamphlets to make the concentration more noticeable. This material will contain instructions for the participants and will also serve against the regime.

— Specific tasks will be assigned to others in order to create a "martyr" for the cause, taking the demonstrators to a confrontation with the authorities in order to bring about uprisings or shootings which will cause the death of one or more persons who would become the martyrs, a situation that should be made use of immediately against the regime in order to create greater conflicts.

5 — Way to Lead an Uprising at Mass Meetings

It can be carried out by means of a small group of guerrillas infiltrated within the masses who will have the mission of agitating, giving the impression that there are many of them and that they have popular backing. Using the tactics of a force of 200-300 agitators, a demonstration can be created in which 10,000-20,000 persons take part.

The agitation of the masses in a demonstration is carried out by means of socio-political objectives. In this action one or several people of our covert movement should take part, and highly trained as mass agitators, involving innocent persons, in order to bring about an apparent spontaneous protest demonstration. They will lead all of the concentration to the end of it.

Outside Commando. This element stays out of all activity, located so that they can observe from where they are, the development of the planned events. As a point of observation, they should look for the tower of a church, a high building, a high tree, the highest level of the stadium or an auditorium, or any other high place.

Inside Commando. This element will remain within the multitude. Great

importance should be given to the protection of the leaders of these elements. Some placards or large allusive signs should be used to designate the Commando Posts and to provide signals to the sub-units. This element will avoid placing itself in places where fights or incidents come about after the beginning of the demonstration.

— These key agitators of ours will remain within the multitude. The one responsible for this mission will assign ahead of time the agitators to remain near the placard that he will indicate to them, in order to give protection to the placard of any contrary element. In that way the commander will know where our agitators are and will be able to send orders to change passwords or slogans, or any other unforeseen thing, and even eventually to incite violence if he desires it.

— At this stage, once the key cadres have been dispersed, they should place themselves in visible places, such as by signs, light posts and other places which stand out.

— Our key agitators should avoid places of disturbances once they have taken care of the beginning of the same.

Defense Posts. These elements will act as bodyguards in movement, forming a ring of protection for the chief, protecting him from the police and the army, or helping him to escape if it should be necessary. They should be highly disciplined and will react only upon a verbal order from the chief.

— In case the chief participates in a religious concentration, a funeral or any other type of activity in which they have to behave in an organized fashion, the bodyguards will remain in the ranks very close to the chief, or to the placard or banner carriers in order to give them full protection.

— The participants in this mission should be guerrilla combatants in civilian clothes or hired recruits who are sympathizers in our struggle and who are against the oppressive regime.

— These members must have a high discipline and will use violence only on the verbal orders of the one in charge of them.

Messengers. They should remain near the leaders, transmitting orders between the inside and outside commandos. They will use communication radios, telephones, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, or move on foot or horseback, taking paths or trails to shorten distances. Adolescents (men and women) are ideal for this mission.

Shock troops. These men should be equipped with weapons (knives, razors, chains, clubs, bludgeons) and should march slightly behind the innocent and gullible participants. They should carry their weapons hidden. They will enter into action only as "reinforcements" if the guerrilla agitators are attacked by the police. They will enter the scene quickly, violently and by surprise, in order to distract the authorities, in this way making possible the withdrawal or rapid escape of the inside commando.

Carriers of Banners and Placards. The banners and placards used in demonstration or concentrations will express the protests of the population, but when the concentration reaches its highest level of euphoria or popular discontent, our infiltrated persons will make use of the placards against the regime which we manage to infiltrate in a hidden fashion, and on them, slogans or key words will be expressed to the benefit of our cause. The one responsible for this mission will assign the agitators ahead of time to keep near the placard of any contrary element. In that way, the *commandante* will know where the agitators are and will be able to send orders to change slogans and eventually to incite violence if he wishes.

Agitators of rallying cries and applause. They will be trained with specific instructions to use tried rallying cries. They will be able to use phrases such as "WE ARE HUNGRY. WE WANT BREAD." "WE DON'T WANT COMMUNISM." Their work and their technique for agitating the masses is quite similar to those of the leaders of applause and slogans at the high school football or baseball games. The objective is to become more adept and not just to shout rallying cries.

6 — Conclusions

It is *sic* a revolutionary movement of guerrilla warfare, the mass concentrations and protest demonstrations are the principle essentials for the destruction of the enemy structures.

VII MASSIVE IN-DEPTH SUPPORT THROUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

1 — Generalities

The separate coverage in these sections could leave the student with some doubts. Therefore, all sections are summarized here in order to give a clearer picture of this book.

2 — Motivation as Combatant-Propagandist

Every member of the struggle should know that his political mission is as important, if not more important, than his tactical mission.

3 — Armed Propaganda

Armed propaganda in small towns, rural villages, and city residential districts should give the impression that our weapons are not for exercising power over the people, but rather that the weapons are for protecting the people; that they are the power of the people against the FSLN government of oppression.

4 — Armed Propaganda Teams

Armed Propaganda Teams will combine political awareness building and the ability to conduct propaganda for ends of personal persuasion, which will be carried out within the population.

5 — Cover ("Facade") Organizations

The fusion of several organizations and associations recognized by the government through internal subjective control occurs in the final stages of the operation in close cooperation with mass meetings.

6 — Control of Mass Demonstrations

The mixture of elements of the struggle with participants in the demonstration will give the appearance of a spontaneous demonstration, lacking direction, which will be used by the agitators of the struggle to control the behavior of the masses.

7 — Conclusion

With too much frequency we see guerrilla warfare only from the point of view of combat actions. This view is erroneous and extremely dangerous. Combat actions are not the key to victory in guerrilla warfare but rather form part of one of the six basic efforts. There is no priority in any of the efforts, but rather they should progress in a parallel manner. The emphasis or exclusion of any of these efforts could bring about serious difficulties, and in the worst of cases, even failure. THE HISTORY OF REVOLUTIONARY WARS HAS SHOWN THIS REALITY.

APPENDIX

The purpose of this appendix is to complement the guidelines and recommendations to the propagandist-guerrillas, expressed under the topic of "Techniques of Persuasion in Talks and Speeches" (Sect. IV), to improve the ability to organize and express thoughts for those who wish to perfect their oratorical abilities. After all, oratory is one of the most valuable resources for exercising leadership. Oratory can be used then as an extraordinary political tool.

2 — The Audience

Oratory is simultaneous communication par excellence, i.e. the orator and his audience share the same time and space. Therefore, every speech should be a different experience at "that" moment or particular situation which the audience is experiencing and which influences them. So the audience must be considered as "a state of mind": happiness, sadness, anger, fear, etc. are states of mind that we must consider to exist in our audience, and it is the atmosphere that affects the target public.

The human being is made up of a mind and soul; he acts in accordance with his thoughts and sentiments and responds to stimuli of ideas and emotions. In that way there only exist two possible focuses in any plan, including speeches: the concrete, based on rational appeals, i.e. to thinking; and the idealized, with emotional appeals, i.e. to sentiment.

For his part, the orator, although he must be sensitive to the existing mass sentiment, at the same time he must keep his cold judgement to be able to lead and control effectively the feelings of audience. When in the oratorical momentum the antithesis between heart and brain comes about, judgment should always prevail.

3 — Political Oratory

Political oratory is one of the various forms of oratory and it usually fulfills one of three objectives: to instruct, persuade, or move; and its method is reduced to urging (asking), ordering, questioning and responding:

Oratory is a quality so tied to political leadership that it can be said that the history of political orators is the political history of humanity, an affirmation upheld by names such as Cicero, Demostenes, Danton, Mirabeau, Robespierre, Clemenceau, Lenin, Trotsky, Mussolini, Hitler, Roosevelt, etc.

4 — Qualities in a Speech

In general terms, the most appreciated qualities of a speech, and specifically a political speech in the context of the psychological action of the armed struggle are the following:

— Be short and concise: a length of five minutes/line missing in Spanish text, p. 83/... that of the orator who said: "If you want a two-hour speech, I'll start right now; if you want a two-minute one, let me think a while."

— Centered around the theme: the speech should be structured by a set of organized ideas that converge on the theme. A good speech is expressed by concepts and not only with words.

— Logic: The ideas presented should be logical and easily acceptable. Never challenge logic in the mind of the audience since immediately the main thing is lost — credibility. As far as possible, it is recommended that all speeches be based on a syllogism which the orator should adjust in his exposition. For example: "Those governing get rich and are thieves; the Sandinistas have enriched themselves governing; then, the Sandinistas are thieves." This could be the point of a speech on the administrative corruption of the regime. When an idea or a set of guiding ideas do not exist in a speech, confusion and dispersion easily arise.

5 — Structure of a Speech

Absolute improvisation does not exist in oratory. All orators have a "mental plan" that allows them to organize their ideas and concepts rapidly; with practice it is possible to come to do this in a few seconds, almost simultaneously with the expression of the word.

The elements that make up a speech are given below in a structure that we recommend always putting into practice, to those who wish to more and more improve their oratorical abilities:

— Introduction or Preamble: one enters into contact with the public, a personal introduction can be made or one of the movement to which we belong, the reason for our presence, etc. In these first seconds it is important to make an impact, attracting attention and provoking interest in the audience. For that purpose, there are resources such as beginning with a famous phrase or a previously prepared slogan, telling a dramatic or humorous story, etc.

— Purpose or enunciation: the subject to be dealt with is defined, explained as a whole or by parts.

Appraisal or argumentation: Arguments are presented EXACTLY IN THIS ORDER: First, the negative arguments, or against the thesis that is going to be upheld, and then the positive arguments, or favorable ones to our thesis, immediately adding proof or facts that sustain such arguments.

Recapitulation or conclusion: A short summary is made and the conclusions of the speech are spelled out.

Exhortation: Action by the public is called for, i.e. they are asked in an almost energetic manner to do or not to do something.

6 — Some Literary Resources

Although there exists a typically oratorical device of diction, in truth, oratory has taken from other literary genres a large number of devices, several of which often, in an unconscious manner, we use in our daily expressions and even in our speeches.

Below we enunciate many of the literary devices in frequent use in oratory, recommended to those interested the moderated use of them since an orator who overuses the literary device loses authenticity and sounds untrue.

The devices that are used the most in oratory are those obtained through the repetition of words in particular periods of the speech, such as:

— Anaphora or repetition of a word at the beginning of each sentence, e.g. "Freedom for the poor, freedom for the rich, freedom for all." In the reiteration, repetition is of a complete sentence (slogan) insistently through the speech, e.g. "With God and patriotism we will overcome communism because..."

Conversion is the repetition at the end of every phrase, e.g.: "Sandinismo tries to be about everyone, dominate everyone, command everyone, and as an absolute tyranny, do away with everyone."

In the emphasis, repetition is used at the beginning and at the end of the clauses, e.g. "Who brought the Russian-Cuban intervention? The Sandinistas. And who is engaged in arms trafficking with the neighboring countries? The Sandinistas. And who is proclaiming to be in favor of non-intervention? The Sandinistas."

— Reduplication, when the phrase begins with the same word that ends the previous one. For example: "We struggle for democracy, democracy and social justice." The concatenation is a chain made up of duplications. For example: "Communism transmits the deception of the child to the young man, of the young man to the adult, and of the adult to the old man."

— In the antithesis or word play, the same words are used with a different meaning to give an ingenious effect: e.g. "The greatest wealth of every human being is his own freedom, because slaves will always be poor but we poor can have the wealth of our freedom."

Similar cadences through the use of verbs of the same tense and person, or nouns of the same number and case. For example: "Those of us who are struggling we will be marching, because he who perseveres, achieves, and he who gives up, remains."

— Use of synonyms, repetition of words with a similar meaning. For example, "We demand a Nicaragua for all, without exceptions, without omissions."

Among the figures of speech most used in oratory are:

— Comparison or simile which sets the relationship of similarity between two or more beings or things. For example, "Because we love Christ, we love his bishops and pastors." "Free as a bird."

— Antithesis is the counterposition of words, ideas, or phrases of an opposite meaning. For example, "They promised freedom and gave slavery; that they would distribute the wealth and they have distributed poverty; that they would bring peace, and they have brought about war."

Among the logic figures are the following:

— Concession, which is a skillful way to concede something to the adversary in order to better emphasize the inappropriate aspects through the use of expressions such as: but, however, although, nevertheless, in spite of the fact that, etc. For example: "The mayor here has been honest, but he is not the one controlling all the money of the nation." It is an effective form of rebuttal, when the opinion of the audience is not entirely yours.

— Permission, in which one apparently accedes to something when in reality it is rejected. For example, "Do not protest, but sabotage them." "Talk quietly, but tell it to everyone." (the gossip)

— Prolepsis is an anticipated refutation. For example, "Some will think that they are only promises; they will say, others said the same thing, but no.

We are different, we are Christians, we consider God a witness to our words."

— Preterition is an artifice, pretending discretion, and something is said with total clarity and indiscretion. For example, "If I were not obligated to keep military secrets, I would tell all of you of the large amount of armaments that we have, so that you would feel even more confidence that our victory is assured."

Communication is a way to ask and give the answer to the same question. For example, "If they show disrespect for the ministers of God, will they respect us simple citizens? Never." Rhetorical questions are a way in which one shows perplexity or inability to say something only as an oratorical recourse. For example: "I am only a peasant and can tell you little. I know little and I will not be able to explain to you the complicated things of politics. Therefore, I talk to you with my heart, with my simple peasant's heart, as we all are."

— Litotes is a form of meaning a lot by saying little. For example: "The nine commanders have stolen little, just the whole country."

— Irony consists of getting across exactly the opposite of what one is saying. For example, "The divine mobs that threaten and kill, they are indeed Christians."

Amplification is presenting an idea from several angles. For example: "Political votes are the power of the people in a democracy. And economic votes are their power in the economy. Buying or not buying something, the majorities decide what should be produced. For something to be produced or to disappear, that is part of economic democracy."

The most usual plaintive figures of speech are:

Deprecation or entreaty to obtain something. For example, "Lord, free us from the yoke. Give us freedom."

Imprecation or threat, expressing a sentiment in view of the unjust or hopeless. For example, "Let there be a Homeland for all or let there be a Homeland for no one."

Conmination, similar to the previous one, presents a bad wish for the rest. For example, "Let them drown in the abyss of their own corruption."

The apostrophe consists of addressing oneself toward something supernatural or inanimate as if it were a living being. For example, "Mountains of Nicaragua, make the seed of freedom grow."

— Interrogation consists of asking a question of oneself, to give greater emphasis to what is expressed. It is different from communication since it gives the answer and is of a logical and not plaintive nature. For example, "If they have already murdered the members of my family, my friends, by peasant brothers, do I have any path other than brandishing a weapon?"

— Reticence consists of leaving a thought intentionally incomplete, so that mentally the audience completes it. For example, "They promised political pluralism and gave totalitarianism. They promised social justice, and they have increased poverty. They offered freedom of thought and they have given censorship. Now, what they promise the world are free elections."





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The Los Angeles Times, Feb. 20, 1983

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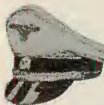
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STEYR AUG

Continued from page 59

receiver castings except the HBAR feature the built-in scope tube.

The HBAR (Heavy Barrel Assault Rifle) receiver casting has an integral universal scope base which accepts NATO mounts to accommodate night vision equipment and telescopic scopes for the sniping role. Mine is fitted with the high quality Austrian Kahles ZF69 6X42mm scope with a carrying handle attached to the upper ring halves. The reticle pattern is that used by the German military since World War I: a single, thick, pointed post at the bottom of the field of view with horizontal side bars and stadia lines. Although never popular in this country, this format excels in subdued light and offers faster target acquisition than standard cross-hairs. A formidable combination when mated to the futuristic AUG HBAR.

Since everything on the AUG is more or less astounding and different, you wouldn't expect to slap an Adventure Line M16 magazine into the magazine well — and you don't. Except for the follower spring, the magazine components are entirely plastic. The waffle-pattern magazine body is the strongest I've ever seen. Especially noteworthy is the magazine's transparent body. While not crucial, it's at least comforting to instantly count remaining cartridges. Two capacities are available: 30 and 42 rounds. As with all bottom-fed light machine guns using large-capacity magazines, the AUG HBAR will monopod on the 42-rd. box when fired from the low prone position off the bipod.

The gas-operated AUG fires from the closed-bolt position, except when the open-bolt kit is installed. Pulling the trigger presses the hammer mechanism slide rearward by action of the sear lever. This permits the hammer to rotate upwards, powered by its two springs, striking the firing pin, which moves forward to ignite the primer. Propellant gases flow through the barrel's gas port into the gas cylinder, driving the piston rearward against the right guide rod. After a movement of about 7mm, the bolt is rotated by the cam pin moving in the bolt extension and carrier slots. Extraction and ejection of the empty case occur during the bolt group's continued rearward movement. The hammer is rolled back and will stay locked if the trigger has been pulled to the first stage only.

After the bolt carrier reaches the end of its rearward travel, it is driven forward by the two recoil springs within the guide rod tubes. A fresh round is stripped from the magazine and the cam pin rotates the bolt into the locked piston. In semiautomatic mode the slide piece presses the automatic fire lever down and the hammer becomes locked by the disconnecter lever. Releasing trigger pressure will transfer the

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hammer lock from disconnecter lever to slide piece. When the trigger is pulled past the second pressure point neither slide piece nor disconnecter lever can prevent the hammer from rotating upward again.

After the last round has been fired, the magazine follower presses up a lock bolt latch on the front of the hammer mechanism module to hold the bolt group to the rear. But there is no release button and the cocking handle must be retracted to release the bolt group after a fresh magazine has been inserted — a minor irritation for those accustomed to the M16 and Beretta AR 70 series weapons.

To field strip the AUG, first retract the bolt, remove the magazine and make certain no cartridge remains in the chamber. Press the barrel locking latch button downward, rotate the barrel to the right and withdraw it from the receiver. Press outward on the gas plug's latch and rotate the plug until the cut on its lower rim is aligned with the retaining stud on the barrel's sleeve assembly. Withdraw the gas plug. If badly fouled, the piston and spring may have to be driven out with small brass drift from rear end of the cylinder or the end of the right guide rod.

Allow the bolt to slide forward smartly. Do not release the trigger, or the hammer will roll upward preventing removal of the hammer mechanism. Press the stock's cross-bolt disassembly lock-pin all the way to the right and remove the receiver and bolt groups from the stock assembly. The receiver requires no further disassembly.

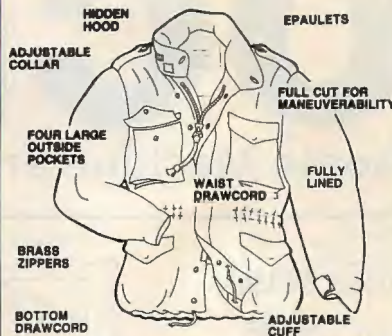
Then, take the bolt group, grasp the rear of the firing pin, rotate it 90 degrees counterclockwise and pull it out the rear of the bolt carrier. Depress the cam-pin so the bolt, bolt extension, firing-pin spring and plastic plug can be removed. The cocking piece will then drop away from the bolt carrier. Push in on the dimple in the butt plate and pull out the rear sling swivel pin. Lift off the butt plate and withdraw the hammer mechanism module.

After cleaning, lightly lubricate the exterior metal surfaces, the bore and bolt group. Do not lubricate the gas plug, piston or cylinder, regardless of instructions to the contrary in the Steyr manual. Oil in the gas system only bakes to a varnish finish and accelerates fouling. Most fouling is restricted to the components in the gas cylinder and they should be carefully cleaned with appropriate steel brushes and scrapers.

Reassemble in the reverse order. After the hammer mechanism has been placed back into the stock (with the hammer cocked), depress the plastic retaining bolt lock and insert the rear sling swivel pin only to its first notch. Replace the butt plate and press in the rear sling swivel pin all the way to its second notch. Check the weapon for proper functioning after complete reassembly.

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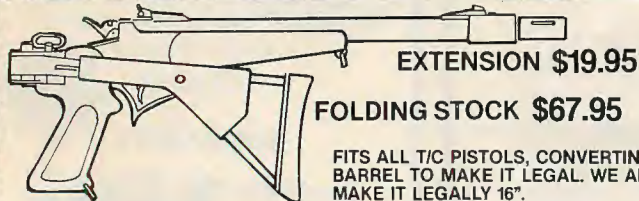
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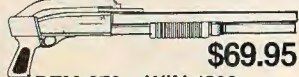
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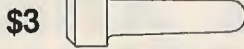
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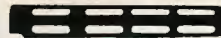
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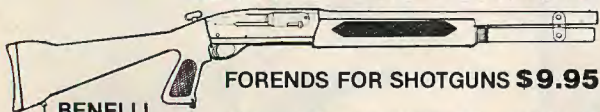


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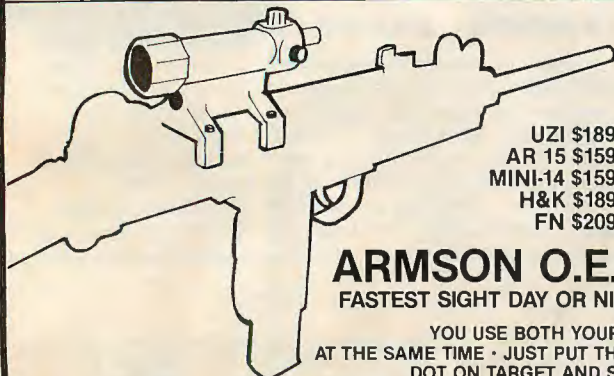


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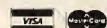
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inch barrel) and a selective-fire police model with 14-, 16- and 20-inch barrels. There were no stoppages of any kind. The bolt failed to hold open after the last round on three occasions. The magazine follower propels the lock-bolt latch upward and this problem is usually associated with magazine follower springs of marginal strength.

By the way, fresh magazines must be slapped hard when inserted or they will not properly engage the magazine catch.

The ejection path is consistently high and to the rear — about eight to 10 feet back of the firer. Ejected cases frequently strike and mildly scuff the stock just to the rear of the ejection port with no ill effect.

Ergonomics are superb and felt recoil is nonexistent. And a magazine or two will allow you to master the trigger system. At first you want to pull right past the first pressure point into the full-auto mode. A little practice gives easy discrimination between semiauto and full-auto fire.

Burst fire, of course, is more effective than hosing with automatic small arms, and controlled bursts are easy with the AUG. M193 ball produced about 750 rpm and experienced operators could fire two-shot bursts without effort (cyclic rate varies from 680 to 850 rpm depending on ammunition). Bursts are best kept to two shots with the 14- and 16 inch barrels, because a third round in selective fire will pass above and to the right of a man-sized target at 75 meters. But effective three-shot bursts are possible at this range with the 20-inch barrel. The HBAR version can be used for effective burst fire out to 300 meters.

When sniping with the HBAR I got better accuracy without holding the vertical foregrip. The support hand should be placed under the magazine catch above the butt hook when firing off the bipod in the prone position.

Longer 20- and 24-inch barrels will shoot two MOA at 100 meters every time. Hit probability is also high with the 16-inch barrel — my personal favorite since it combines compactness with undiminished hit potential at normal engagement distances.

But unless you plan to spend most of your life breathing exhaust fumes inside a Panhard AML 245 Armoured Car, you can forget about the 14-inch barrel, in my opinion. It's a flame thrower with the muzzle report of an elephant rifle.

I detect no major faults in the Steyr AUG system. All who participated in the SOF test and evaluation praised its balance and handling characteristics. It's a stunning triumph and complete vindication of the bullpup concept properly executed. In particular, the AUG 1.5X scope offers a true vision of the future. Hit probability and the speed of target acquisition are enhanced significantly by this sturdy little carrying handle. You can expect to see more optics of this type on assault rifles of the future.

I would not hesitate to carry an AUG into battle.

Selective-fire versions of the Steyr AUG and all its accessories are available in the United States to law enforcement and government agencies only, through the police distributors of Gun South, Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 6607, Birmingham, AL 35210), its exclusive importer. A semiautomatic-only version is available from Interarms, Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22313). ☒

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IT HAPPENED TO ME

Continued from page 24

but the ramp swung up. We stopped paddling but our momentum carried us under.

The ramp was 20 feet overhead when the coxswain yelled maniacally, "BACK STROKE, BACK STROKE!!!" We got out from under with little to spare. Ten meters out we stopped paddling and checked the rhythm again. My muscles ached from exertion and my heart was pounding like a pile driver.

The coxswain shouted, "GO!" We dug our oars in and pulled with all our strength. Just as the ramp crashed down, the bow of our boat skidded onto the metal deck. The first two men on the port and starboard sides jumped out and pulled the IBS higher. Then the rest of the team bailed out and together we pulled the boat off the ramp into the LCV.

The rest of India Co., wet, tired and more than a little disillusioned with the "Inflatable Boat, Small," made it into the ship without loss of life or serious injury. As we rode over the channel waters off San Diego to the base, we agreed we'd rather be landlubbers and leave boating to the Navy. ☒

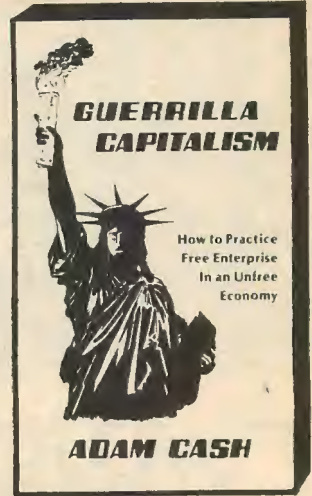
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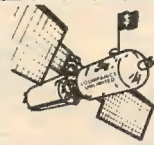
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Continued from page 18

the Eastern Front didn't know this. . . . Maybe they would have just gotten up off the frozen ground and walked away.

The M49 was equipped with a curved 35-round box magazine similar to, and interchangeable with, the 35-round PPSH-41 stick magazine. The authorities (*Jane's Infantry Weapons*) state that the M49/57 will not accept the PPSH-41 71-round drum magazine. Not so. My M49/57 submachine gun will churn like butter with any Soviet 71-round drum it is mated with. If you can ram the drum in the well.

Since the M49/57 uses the PPSH-41 magazine well design, it inherits most of the problems. Because the well is too easily spread or squeezed — even during fabrication — PPSH-41 magazines were individually fitted and serial numbered to specific guns. Apparently to eliminate this problem, the M49/57 magazine well's lips have been brass-brazed finished to provide a softer and more accommodating upper contact surface. Still, sticks and drums are slow and hard to attach and remove. It's a problem with the system.

The M49/57 submachine gun weighs 8.7 pounds, unloaded. Its four-groove barrel has a right-hand twist and is 10.75 inches long. Overall length is 34.25 inches. In fit, finish and the expanded use of machined parts, the M49/57 stands far above the PPSH-41 (whose mass I have always believed consisted of at least 10-percent welding slag). It is sturdy and reliable, and those who want an SMG in this caliber are well advised to choose the Yugoslav gun over its Soviet counterpart.

Select specimens of the M49/57 are available to qualified Class 3 dealers and law enforcement agencies only for a modest \$325 from ARMEX International (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 252, Broderick, CA 95605).

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BATTLE BLADES

Continued from page 12

limb was then cut in two with three chops.

A saw is not really near the top of the list of essential survival gear in any case. American Indians before the 20th century, and any true primitive today, survived in the wild without saws.

The modern sawtooth "survival knife" got its initial push from none other than Bo Randall. And Randall, to

his credit, knew exactly what he was doing at the time. He had no intention of making a knife with a hollow handle and a saw on the back of the blade so that a guy could cram six months of essential supplies into the handle, go to the North Woods, and build a log cabin with the thing.

Bob Gaddis of Nordic Knives in Solvang, Calif., is a retired ordnance engineer who operates one of the better custom knife emporiums in the country. He has handled Randalls for years, and graciously sent me copies of the original correspondence between Bo Randall and Capt. George Ingraham of the 94th Medical Detachment which led to the design and development of the Randall Model 18.

Randall didn't want to make a knife with a sawtooth back because it wouldn't saw. Capt. Ingraham explained that he spent a great deal of his time in helicopters under fire, and that when one of them was shot down you sometimes had to rip and tear your way out of the side of the thing to get out. The hollow handle was to hold enough morphine or water purification tablets to help a crewman survive in the bush until he could be rescued. Given that goal, Randall devised a sawtooth configuration that would indeed enable a man to rip and tear through the aluminum skin of an air-

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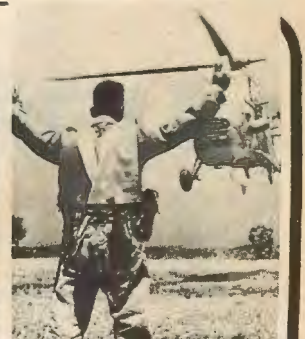
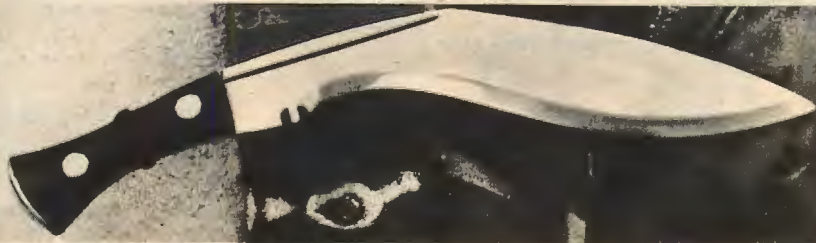
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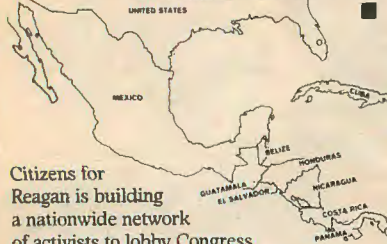
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craft.

The Randall blade was never intended to be a saw, and the knife was originally named, if memory serves, an Escape and Evasion model. Randall stuck to a limited objective with his sawtooth blade. By and large, those who have subsequently copied and "improved" his design have mainly tried to make sawteeth into something they are not. Randall's Model 18 was originally designed and intended to be an aircraft-escape and short-term evasion tool, and not a knife with a wood saw on the back.

If you are a member of an aircrew and you face a very real danger of having to get out of a downed aircraft on a regular basis, you might want to seriously consider adding a Randall Model 18 to your equipment. Other blades with sawteeth are useful only if they make you feel better because they are on your knife.

This whole sawtooth syndrome is something to make a knifemaker ponder the scheme of things. Does he give an unsuspecting public what it wants and instill a false sense of capability while he and his banker rejoice? Or is he just in the dark and copying something that sells? Or maybe he is like some of us who sit back and shake our heads and wonder why in hell people buy the things. ✂

IN REVIEW

Continued from page 22

option for the spineless also receives attention. And escape abroad gets particularly dispassionate treatment.

If you believe Soviet occupation of America is impossible, this book probably will not cause a stirring in your breast. If you believe Soviet occupation of America is inevitable, then likewise, it probably will not strike a responsive chord. But if you — or someone you know — remains sitting on the fence, **What to Do When the Russians Come** offers a convincing read.

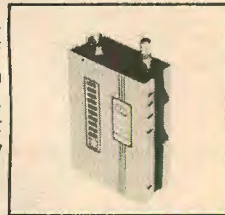
Robert Conquest, one of the world's leading authorities on foreign affairs and the USSR, is a Research Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Jon M. White is Lindsay Young Professor of English at the University of Tennessee. If I had to grade these illustrious professors, they would receive an A for content and a B for style. But most importantly, they would receive an A+ for not pontificating or indulging in pseudo-intellectual interpretations. ✂

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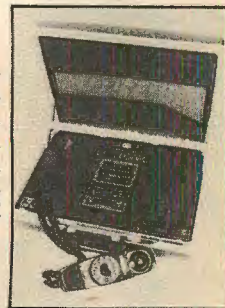
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FLAK

Continued from page 10

Mr. Fox and Mr. Adams make some very fine points. SOF strives to do its part in winning hearts and minds, which is sometimes a tricky proposition when one is also dedicated to telling it like it is. Some people do not like to hear the truth. Even when the handwriting on the wall is clear, they will criticize the shape of the letters. But SOF will keep trying with all the resources at our disposal. — The Eds.

MEDIA REVIEWS...

Sirs:

I saw Robert Brown on the *Phil Donahue Show* this morning. It was enlightening and informative. Up until now I have relied on the news media for my source of information. Boy, how little I know and how great my ignorance is. I've bought single issues of SOF only for weapons articles of importance to my husband and me. Now I intend to subscribe for the vast wealth of

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information I've been overlooking. *Newsweek* has nothing on you. I want to thank Mr. Brown for waking me up, and a special thanks to all of you who help in making this information available to the public. Teresa M. Meester Randall, Iowa

The "Crossroads" segment about SOF's contributions in El Salvador was fantastic. Lt. Col. Robert Brown, John Donovan and Bill Brooks came across as honest and patriotic Americans. The correspondents from CBS, try as they might, could not show otherwise. My congratulations on a job well done.

Robert McLeod Danvers, Mass.

Thanks, readers. While SOF has not changed its outlook, the perception of SOF by other media has moderated toward more fair coverage, particularly with the realization that a large segment of the public supports the magazine's approach to covering the world's hot spots. — The Eds.

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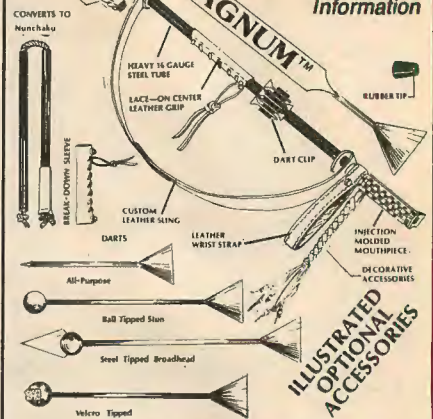
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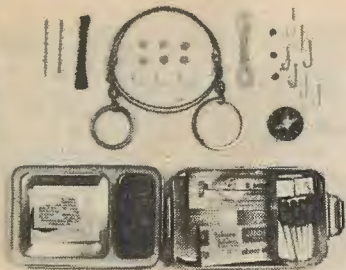
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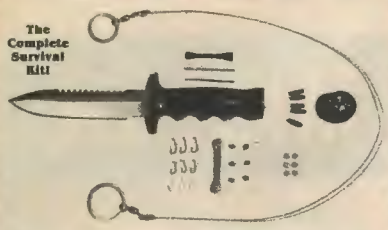


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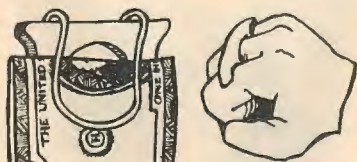
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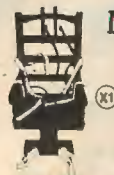
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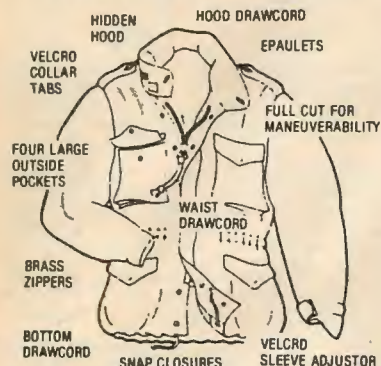
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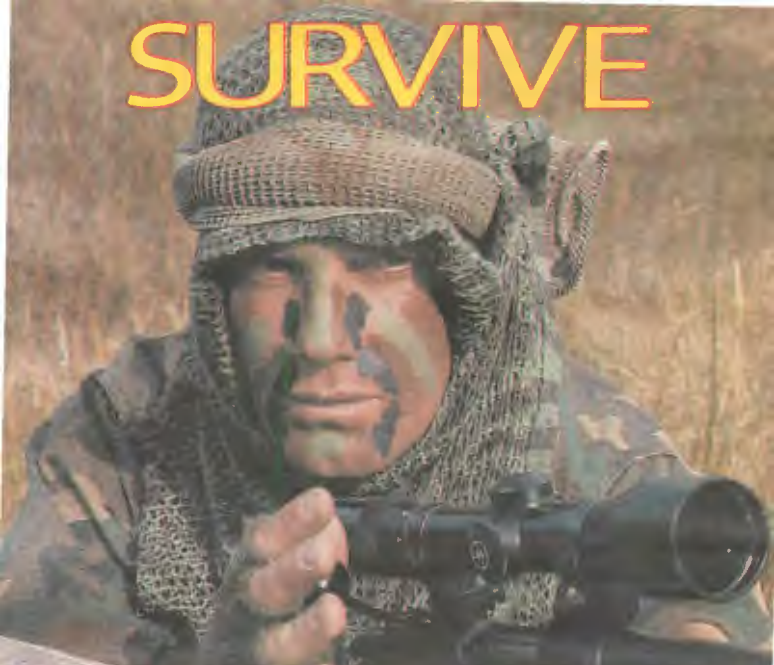
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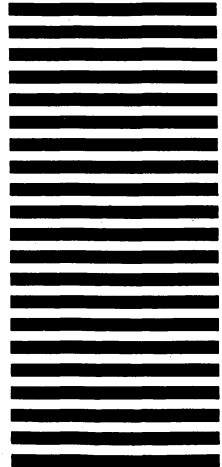
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