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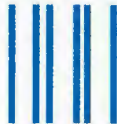
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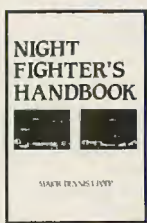


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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

WHY did we wait so long to deal with Khadaffi? Were we afraid of reprisal? Did we think military action wouldn't work? Were we afraid everybody would hate us? It's simpler than that. We thought Khadaffi would eventually become reasonable.

One of the holes in liberal thinking is that you can change people by changing environment. If we would just wait and let moderate Arab neighbors and oil money soften Khadaffi, Libya would join the community of nations and we would have no problems.

Well, that didn't happen. Oil gave Khadaffi money which gave him power which hardened him in his ways. With new conviction and more money Libya began invading, subverting and radicalizing its neighbors. The new, improved Khadaffi was much worse than the original model.

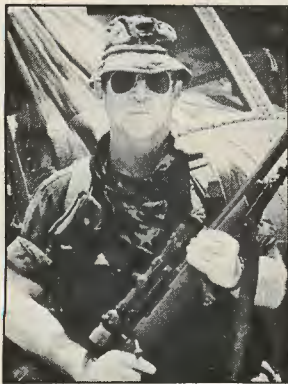
Before money and power corrupted Khadaffi absolutely, he had looked like an Arab nationalist. When the transformation was complete, we had a Third World hoodlum with the backing of a rich oil-based economy, and no constraints of ordinary civilized behavior. His method of operation was the breaking of conventions and treaties. He has been successful only because his strategy and tactics so violate conventional decency and diplomacy that his actions are incredible.

In these latest conflicts, Khadaffi wanted to confiscate recognized international waters in a restricted sea, for idiosyncratic national defense purposes. Thwarted in his illegal and impractical plot, he took revenge by clandestine means on private citizens. Violence was

our only possible response.

Before anyone thinks I'm overreacting, let me say that such *relatively* small transgressions would be poor reason for acts tantamount to war. Hostility in the Gulf of Sidra and the disco bombing were essentially excuses for what we would have done anyway. And we should have started dropping bombs before this.

When we crossed Khadaffi's imaginary line across the Mediterranean — recognized only by Burkina Faso — the time for talk had passed some years before. Negotiation only works when each side appreciates at least some of the other's problems, and when both sides aren't often deliberately lying. Neither of those conditions existed in Libya's relationship with the civilized world.



Unfortunately, we weren't given an appropriate excuse to intervene — or convenient logistical opportunity — when Khadaffi interfered in the Sudan, Burkina Faso and Chad. And

the Soviets seem to have given Khadaffi clear instruction to stay out of the Mediterranean. (They knew he couldn't compete, they hadn't given him the hardware to challenge us and they had their own hand to play.)

But someday the madman would give us our excuse. We had the ability; all we needed was the occasion.

Once the trap was set, it was just a matter of time. Khadaffi would step over our "line of death" precisely because he's not reasonable. He can't see the logic of the actions of others, while they can easily predict what he will do. It's good to know that just being civilized can give you the edge. ✕

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (ISSN 0145-6784/USPS 120-510) is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Magazine, Inc., Boulder, Colorado. Second Class Postage Paid at Boulder, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, Subscription Department, P.O. Box 348, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Subscription rates for twelve monthly issues: \$26.00 — U.S.A., Canada, Mexico. All other countries, \$33.00. Special domestic and foreign rates on request. U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single-Issue Price — U.S., \$3.00; United Kingdom, 2.40; Canada, \$3.50.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs, drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to Articles Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE.

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COVER: U.S. carrier-based aircraft in the Mediterranean have proven a thorn in Colonel Khadaffi's side ever since President Reagan made Libyan-sponsored terrorism a priority issue on his foreign affairs agenda. Aircraft like this F-14 Tomcat are meant to show America's resolve on the question of terrorism. In the words of President Reagan, "You can run, but you can't hide." Photo: Dept. of Defense

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THE TRIPOLI HILLBILLIES...

Sirs:

The recent military actions between the U.S. and Libya have prompted some of our soldiers to indulge their literary wit. Though I can't take credit for any of its composition, I hope you find it amusing. We mean no offense to anybody... except Muammar and his buddies.

Come listen to a story about a man named Achmed

Lazy, filthy raghead, barely kept his family fed

Then one day while shootin' at some Jews,
Up from the rocks popped a slug named Mu...

Khadaffi, that is,
Muammar,
Dirty dog.

Well, the first thing you know, our fleet's over there

Kin rags say, "Let's shoot 'em from the air!"

But Ron says, "The Gulf of Sidra is the place we wanna be."

So they took off from the fleet and they flew to Tripoli...

Libya, that is,
Mu's navy,
SAM sites,
Nothing left.
The Tripoli Hillbillies!
Ranse Clark
Berlin, Germany

CYCLING TO BATTLE...

Sirs:

While operating the KTM FRV, do you have to grit your teeth so much? This doesn't seem right. Anyone who rides motorcycles knows to keep his mouth closed, due to insects, etc.

Thomas
Honicker
Clearwater,
Florida



FLAK



IRA MARXIST SUBVERSIVES...

Sirs:

"Undercover in Northern Ireland," (SOF, February '86) was excellent. But many of your readers seem to know nothing about the situation in Northern Ireland. I lived in County Tyrone for 22 years until this year. The IRA are really Marxist subversives and there is hard evidence of their links with the PLO and ComBloc nations.

So all you Irish Americans who want to "liberate Ireland from Protestants and the British," watch out because the Soviets would love to take their place in Ireland.

R. Kennedy
Louisville, Kentucky



OPPOSING POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS...

Sirs:

Over the years I have been pleased with the technical excellence and general content of SOF, but why are you so quick to take a position, without fully presenting both sides or the root cause of an issue?

Since 1948, Israel has seen its borders bulge and expand far beyond the original bounds which established it as a state. Who now speaks out on this expansionism? Not SOF. The main issue is still the Palestinian problem. Where are they to go since they were expelled from their homeland of over 2,000 years? Without a Palestinian homeland of their own, there will never be peace in the Middle East. I am looking forward to some more objective SOF reporting on Middle East activities. An equitable and lasting peace there won't reduce your circulation.

Jon M. Ament
Glendale, California

The support which SOF provides Israel is self-defeating. Israel is the greatest thing that has happened to Arab nationalism since Mohammed. Israel is unintentionally helping to create a united, militarized Arab force which will threaten Europe much as it did for centuries past.

Michael J. Crawford
Roswell, Georgia

I am writing to express displeasure with your ad in the April 1986 issue of SOF. On page 8 it begins with "if you are a conservative minded citizen..." one should subscribe. I am not a particularly conservative minded citizen, except perhaps on defense. So what does conservatism have to do with being interested in the military? I consider myself a liberal of sorts, I have served with pride in the U.S. Army, and I have great interest in military matters. Does your ad mean that liberals are not interested in the military? That you do not want liberals to subscribe to your magazine? Maybe someone else will take my money.

R.J. Vattuone
San Diego, California

The ad was not meant to say that only conservatives can benefit from SOF. For 10 years we have worked to provide the clearest picture possible of wars against oppression around the world. We believe that sort of reporting is useful to people of all political persuasions.

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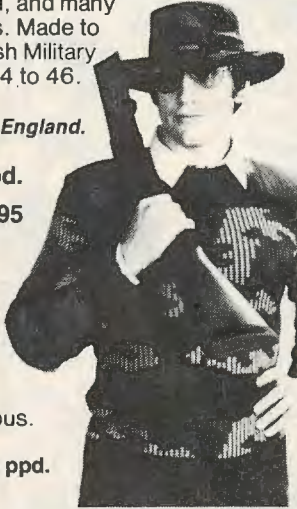
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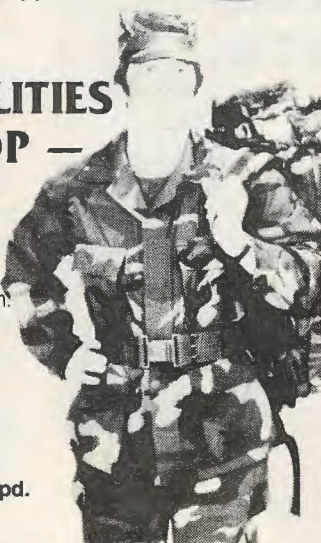
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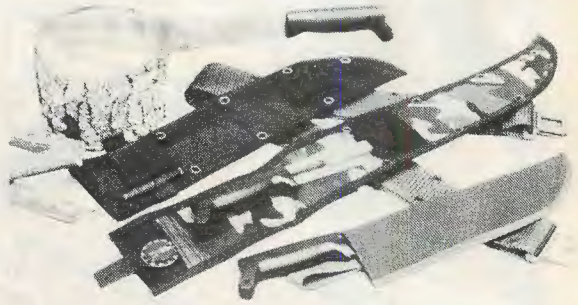
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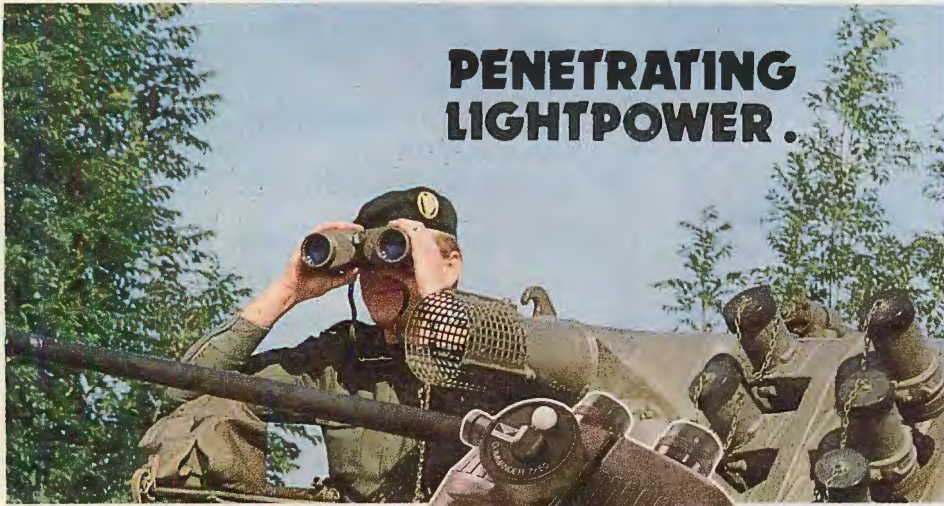
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I get a kick out of your publication which I buy whenever the bookstore here in Mexico stocks it. Regarding El Salvador, the guy you should be backing is Major Bobby D'Aubuisson and his party ARENA, not the thug Joe Duarte and his proto-socialist Christian Democrats who are neither Christian nor democratic. His sovietizations of the Salvadoran banks-cum-farming are in no way free enterprise. ARENA's planks, on the other hand, are straight out of the 1980 GOP platform.

R. Sepic, M.A.
Mexico City, Mexico

While it is true that Duarte is less than ideal when it comes to politics, he is the only real chance that El Salvador has when it comes to beating the guerrillas. Perhaps most importantly, the U.S. Congress would probably cut off military aid to El Salvador if D'Aubuisson came to power. It takes more than a beefed-up military to beat the insurgents; a new economic plan must be put forth as well. And as it now stands, the restless alliance between the military and Duarte holds the promise of breaking the back of the communist insurgency.



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I WAS WHERE?...

Sirs:
The April '86 I Was There ("Hot Nights, Hot Tempers, Hot Lead") must have been a put-on. Are you running a lousy writing contest? I'm surprised the first line of this turgid, overblown, pompous, and bombastic crud wasn't, "It was a dark and stormy night..."

I've been a subscriber to SOF almost from the beginning and have admired the generally high level of writing. Even the technical articles have style — and are written in good, solid, simple English. But these mutilated metaphors heaped upon malapropism and twisted cliches are too much.

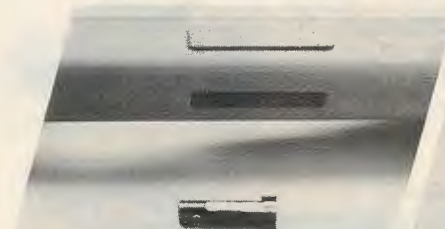
Richard E. Phelps
San Angelo, Texas

Regarding the May '86 I Was There ("Bush Busters"). The story smacked of bullshit. The character sounded like a cook who submitted his orgasmic Southeast Asian high adventure wet dream to SOF for publication. You guys put out the only magazine I read, but this

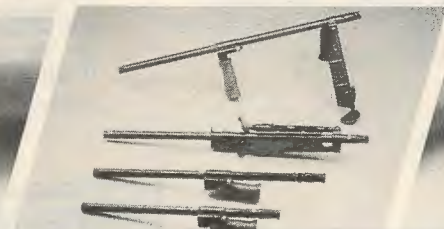
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STEYR AUG-SA

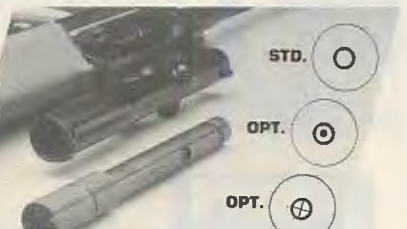
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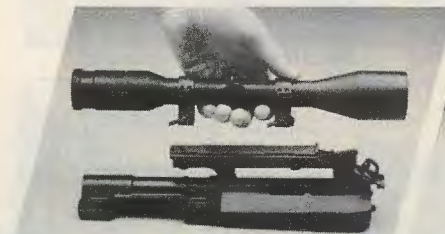
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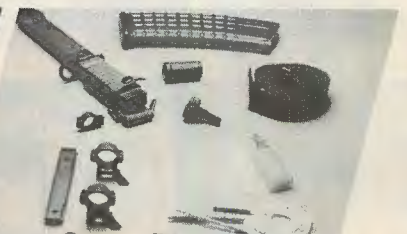
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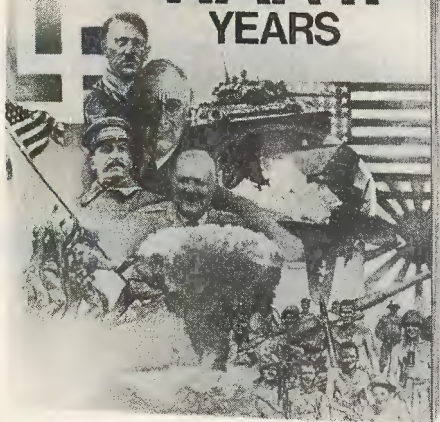
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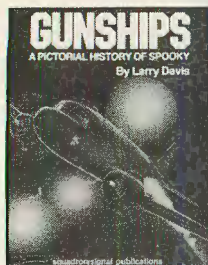


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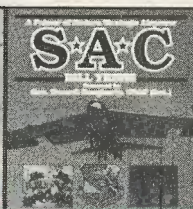
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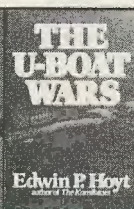
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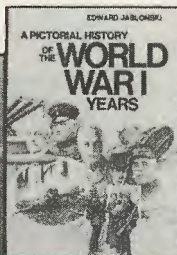
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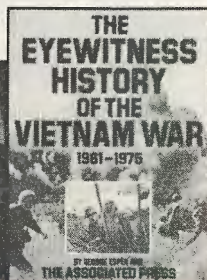
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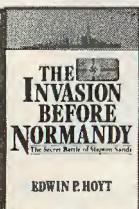
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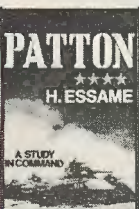
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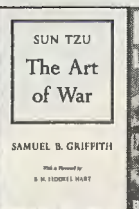
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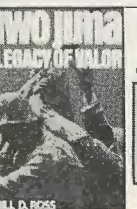
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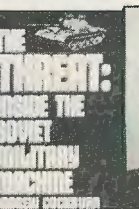
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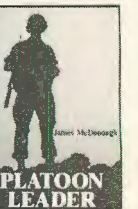
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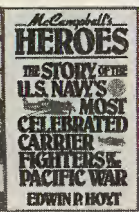
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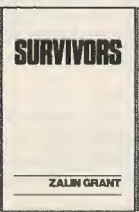
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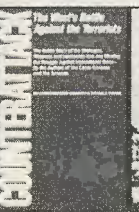
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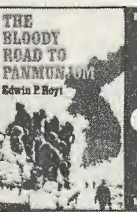
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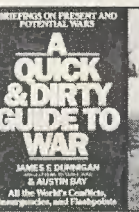
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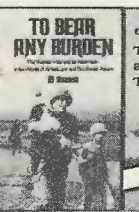
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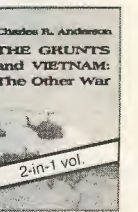
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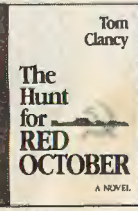
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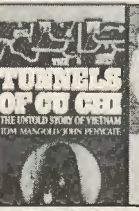
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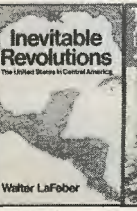
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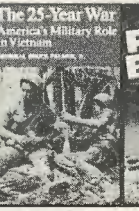
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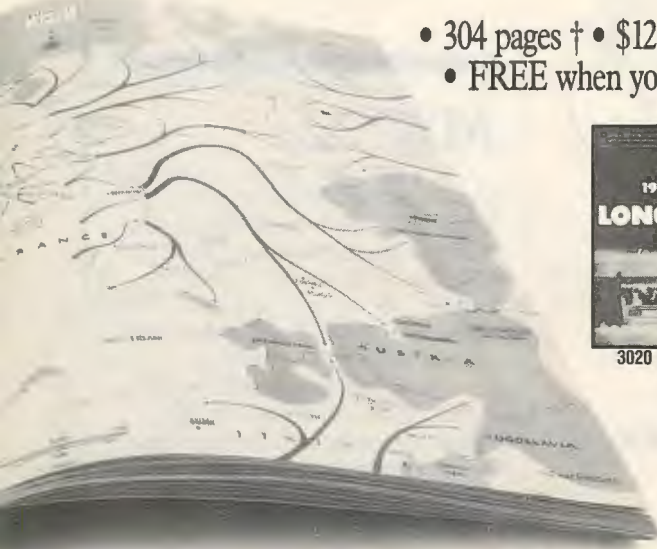


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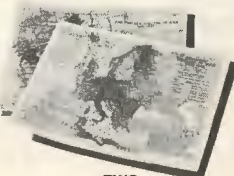
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LIBYAN L SHAKEUP...

There was a shakeup going on in Tripoli before U.S. bombs started falling in April, but it got lost in the dusty shuffle. On 2 March, Khadafi announced a little-noticed reorganization of his government. Eleven ministries, known in Libya as secretariats, were disbanded, including those concerning oil, justice, social security and agriculture. And one SOF source in Libya reported that Libya's Central Bank also is undergoing reorganization.

In the process of change, much power has fallen into the hands of Libya's number-two leader, Major Abdul Salem Jalloud, the Marxist boy-wonder of Khadafi's Green Revolution. For instance, the security police no longer will report to the justice minister, but directly to Jalloud.

Jalloud, 42, has been a major since 1969. He played a large part in building Libya's close ties with the Soviets in 1974, the same year he engineered a \$16 billion arms deal with the Kremlin. Most recently he has threatened to provide the Soviets with permanent military bases in North Africa.

Khadafi's choice of Jalloud to head Libya's security forces has paid off already. In the aftermath of the 14 April bombing ordered by President Reagan, SOF sources say Jalloud led the security forces and Revolutionary Guards that crushed several anti-Khadafi revolts within the Libyan army.

BULLETIN BOARD



FOX IN A HENHOUSE?...

Amusement turned to concern when SOF learned that Interpol officials are seriously considering a request by the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact nations to join the international police agency. The ostensible reason for joining is to help Western allies fight the battle against drug traffickers. But given the evidence of the involvement of communist governments in drug smuggling — particularly Nicaragua — and the access to sensitive terrorism intelligence Interpol membership would allow, we think the Soviets' request should be met with skepticism if not outright laughter.

But some Interpol leaders apparently have bought Ivan's story. Raymond Kendall, a former Scotland Yard police chief who is secretary general of Interpol, says "it seems inevitable to me that Russia will join, possibly next year. Any country which becomes a transit country for international drug trafficking automatically ends up with its own drug problem. You will always get local consumption." He cited Bulgaria as an example of that problem because of overland smuggling routes through Turkey.

Western intelligence sources indicate Kendall's thesis is only partially correct. Turkish drug rings do transit through Bulgaria, but with the official sponsorship and protection of Kintex, Bulgaria's state trading monopoly. The proceeds from this arrangement are used to finance international terrorist operations, including those of the Marxist-led Turkish People's Liberation Army (TPLA).

So why, if the Soviet Union has spurned membership in Interpol since the 1920s, do Kremlin leaders suddenly want in? The answer — to obtain sensitive intel on drug trafficking and terrorism to make their own such operations more efficient — seems only too obvious.

MERCYS IN SRI LANKA...

Our man in Sri Lanka reports the presence of several Rhodesian vets in that embattled island nation off the tip of India. Helicopter pilots who flew in Rhodesia, at least one former SAS noncom and one former member of the Special Branch have worked for several months as government military trainers in Sri Lanka. They were hired through a British company on a contract basis. **Do not** write SOF for details because recruiting mercenaries is illegal in the United States.

REUNIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS...

A reunion has been scheduled for veterans of the **91st Bomb Group (H), "Wray's Ragged Irregulars,"** and members of supporting units, who were assigned to Station 121 at Bassingbourn, England, from September 1942 until July 1945. The reunion is set for **10-14 September 1986**, in Tampa, Fla. For more details, write or call: **George W. Parks, 109 Wilshire Blvd., Vallejo, CA 94591, phone (707) 642-6392.**

Veterans of the **11th Armored Cavalry** are holding a reunion at the **Rodeway Inn Convention Center in Arlington, Texas, on 5-7 September 1986.** For more details write: "**Command Track,**" c/o **Ollie W. Pickral, 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080.**

Paratroopers, listen up! The **International Association of Airborne Veterans (IAAV)** is organizing a **friendship jump tour of Taiwan.** It is set for **November 1986.** Participants will jump from a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" and then be awarded Republic of China jump wings and a certificate. To receive more information, send a stamped, self-addressed long envelope to: **Director, IAAV, Suite 181, 606 W. Barry St., Chicago, IL 60657.**

The annual reunion of the **95th Bomb Group (H) Association** is set for **2-6 September 1986, in Valley Forge, Pa.** For more details, write: **Ellis B. Scripture, 1277 Wiltshire Rd., York, PA 17403.**

The **44th Heritage Memorial Group**, composed of all direct and support personnel assigned to the 66th, 67th, 68th or 506th bomb

Proudly Presenting...

THE VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE THOMPSON

The first, firing, collector longarm ever issued to honor the Americans who fought for freedom in Vietnam.



*"Bear any burden,
Meet any hardship,
Support any friend,
Oppose any enemy..."*
JFK, 1961

Like their fathers and older brothers who served at the Bulge, Okinawa and Pusan, our Vietnam Veterans served our nation for the same principles of "duty, honor, country" that have always guided our American fighting men in combat.

And, like many dedicated Americans, the Thompson served proudly in all three wars. In fact, many Vietnam Veterans report that the Thompson was more highly sought after than any other weapon, due to its reliability under jungle conditions and the stopping power of the .45 ammo it fired — two characteristics found lacking in certain other military-issued weapons.

Now, The American Historical Foundation is proud to honor our Vietnam Veterans through the issuance of the Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson.

Limited Edition Of Only 1500

Only 1500 will be made in this strictly limited edition commissioned by The American Historical Foundation and built to the Foundation's specifications by the official maker of the famous Thompson, Auto-Ordnance Corporation. Each is specially serially numbered between 0001 and 1500, with the prefix V (for Vietnam). This serial number is also inscribed on the accompanying Certificate of Authenticity, which attests to the 24-karat gold plating and the edition limit.

The Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson is being produced in a semiautomatic firing version, so no special license is required to own one. Upon special request, full automatics will also be produced and numbered within this edition limit for holders of Class III Federal Firearms licenses (please add \$350; non-refundable). Both versions have already been classified as Curios and Relics by BATF, an acknowledgment of their collectible status. Firing instructions are included.

Special Commemorative Features

This Thompson is a real man's weapon, constructed of 12 pounds of steel and walnut, but hand-built with special commemorative features.

You sight across the 24-karat gold plated rear sight base and through the special, gold plated activator knob with a single rib, symbolic of the DMZ that divided the two Vietnams. The highly polished, gun-blued barrel is cut with 35 deep cooling fins and mounted with a mirror-polished, 24-karat gold plated Cutts Compensator and front sight.

Your finger curls around the 24-karat gold plated trigger, as your left hand and right arm grasp the American walnut stocks — original G.I. production — hand finished with seven coats of hand-rubbed lacquer and polished to a gleaming presentation grade.

The stocks show off the 24-karat gold plated sling swivels, swivel mounts and screws which affix the black leather military sling.

You cradle the precision-milled receiver, which is highly polished to highlight the roll-engraved and gold-gilt infilled commemorative inscriptions. The presentation side bears our Flag, the Vietnam Service Medal, the famous Thompson "bullet" trademark and quotations from both Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. The reverse bears the special serial number, the issuing organization and the Thompson patents.

The shoulder stock is fitted with two, full-color, fired-enamel cloisonne medallions, bearing a gold plated inscription in black — symbolic of the Vietnam War Memorial — surrounding a circularized yellow and red flag of the Republic of Vietnam. The pistol grip is fitted with a matching medallion embossed with the Great Seal of the United States and commemorative tributes.

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This no-nonsense Commemorative is a fully functional, firing Thompson, chambered for the same famous, readily available, .45 ACP ammunition that G.I.s and American shooters have used since 1911. Because it fires in the semiautomatic mode, you do not need a special submachine gun license to own it. Anyone who can own a standard hunting rifle can own this Thompson Commemorative. And because it is a firing Thompson, it could be called upon to defend your home and family in the same manner in which it has defended American lives and freedoms for over 65 years. If you do not have a firearms license, we will coordinate delivery with you through your local firearms dealer after your reservation is received at Foundation Headquarters. If you do have a federal license, send a signed copy, and your Thompson will be delivered directly to you.

Highly Collectible

Because of the extremely small edition limits and their availability as semiautomatics, Thompson commemoratives have become some of the most highly collectible firearms in recent history. Previous Thompson commemoratives have been quickly fully subscribed and now bring significantly higher prices on the collector market.

A furniture-finished walnut display case, green velvet lined and fitted with an acrylic glass lid and three

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Available exclusively from The American Historical Foundation, you may use the reservation form below or call toll free. Your satisfaction is guaranteed, or return for a full refund within one month.

With your reservation, you will be made a Member of the Foundation and receive expert information concerning the history, care and display of military arms and edged weapons.

Prompt response is required if you are to be one of only 1500 men, museums and organizations worldwide who have the opportunity to own one of these extremely rare, firing showpieces. If the edition is sold out before your reservation is received, your deposit will be refunded and your name placed on a standby list. This special commemorative Thompson is assured a place of honor in any collection, and it provides a lasting, tangible link between those Americans who fought for freedom in Vietnam and their forebears of World War II and Korea.

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Yes, I wish to reserve the Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson, selectively plated with 24-karat gold, with roll-engraved inscriptions and deluxe presentation-grade finish. Only 1500 will be made. I will also receive a Certificate of Authenticity, membership in the Foundation and information concerning the history, care, display and firing of the Thompson.

My deposit of \$95 (or credit card authorization) is enclosed. Please invoice (or charge my credit card) for the balance due:
 in four equal payments of \$300.
 in six equal payments of \$200.
 in full.

My payment in full (or credit card authorization) for \$1295 is enclosed.

Also please send the optional furniture-finished walnut display case. Please add \$225 to the final charge of the payment I have selected above.

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squadrons during and since World War II, is having a reunion. It is set for **27-31 August 1986, in Colorado Springs, Colo.** For more details, call or write: **Bill Topping, 1426 Vadera Court, Fenton, MO 63026, phone (314) 225-7030.**

The **720th Military Police Battalion Reunion Association** is organizing a 1987 reunion for Vietnam vets and others who served in their unit. Those interested should call or write: **Joe Selovich, 1909 35th St., Kenosha, WI 53140, phone (414) 654-0517.**

A memorial to U.S. military veterans in Clairton, Pa., recently was lost due to the construction of a new bridge. VFW Post 803 in Clairton, which has donated land for relocating the memorial, also is seeking donations to rebuild the monument in this economically depressed — but proud — area. Interested parties should call or write the following for more information: **John Saire, Post Commander; VFW Post 803, 911 N. State St., Clairton, PA 15025, phone (412) 673-6113.**

The 37th annual reunion has been set for the **22nd Bomb Group (M/H), 5th AF (WWII).** It will be held **28 August-1 September 1986, in San Francisco.** For more information, call or write: **Jack Clark, P.O. Box 4734, Patrick AFB, FL 32925, phone (305) 636-5004.**

AFGHANS SHOP ON SOF...

Contributors to SOF's Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund have the gratitude of Brigadier General Ramatullah Safi (see Bulletin Board, SOF, April '86) and Commander Wali Khan of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA). Thanks to contributors, SOF sponsored a shopping trip to the Clark Brothers Gun Shop in Warrenton, Va. Safi is former CO of the Afghan army commando unit under King Zahir Shah and now heads NIFA's training academy. Wali Khan is NIFA commander of the Kabul region. During 1985, Safi and Khan took home \$10,000 for training and some badly needed hardware, such as binoculars, radios and metal detectors. Also in short supply are assault vests. You guys who have 'em and don't want or need 'em, send 'em in. As always, money is needed and appreciated. Send your donations to: **Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.**

CENSORSHIP BY PBS...

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has succeeded in its private efforts to censor from public viewing the second part of an Accuracy in Media (AIM) presentation. The AIM film explores ways in which the U.S. media distorted coverage of the Vietnam War. The PBS series on Vietnam, broadcast a couple of years ago, had such an anti-American slant that AIM produced a rebuttal program narrated by Charlton Heston, and demanded equal airtime to show it. PBS executives initially agreed, but said the length of the AIM piece required that it be separated into two segments. Part I, "Television's Vietnam: The Real Story," was broadcast. But then PBS reneged on its verbal promise to broadcast Part II.

AIM Director Peter Rollins said the public can still see Part II, titled "Television's Vietnam: Impact of the Media." Because of PBS censorship, however, the public will have to pay for that privilege. Video cassettes of Parts I and II are available for \$32.95 each by contacting: **Accuracy in Media, c/o Dr. Peter Rollins, 1275 K St. NW, Suite 1150, Washington, D.C. 20005, phone (202) 371-6710.** Specify which video format, such as VHS, is desired.

President Reagan, who saw both of the AIM segments during a special White House showing, wrote AIM that its presentation is "something that all Americans should see. But then [PBS] TV will never let them see it."



GRENADA STORIES...

Soldier of Fortune wants to hear in writing from U.S. vets of Operation Urgent Fury to liberate Grenada. Write your memories along the lines of SOF's "I Was There" monthly feature. Selected submissions will be used to compile a full-length feature story to honor the mission's third anniversary. Submissions must include your name, branch of service, rank and unit designation. Please advise if you want to remain unidentified. Photos, particularly color slides, are needed, but **must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Do not send originals.** Mail submissions to: **Grenada File, c/o Soldier of Fortune, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.** Material used will be subject to standard payment rate.

HONOR ROLL...

El Salvador/Nicaragua Defense Fund contributors:

John Fredricks, Conner D. Viant, Alton R. Moneyhan Jr., David L. Bongiorno, Dan Pickins, Dave Craig, Robert H. Santos. In memory of SFC Joseph E. Clark.

Refugee Relief International Inc.: B/2 11th Special Forces Group.

Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund: John Fredricks, Conner D. Viant, Dennis Rush, Aron Rush, Greg Driscoll, Richard "Doc" Woolfe.

TIP FOR TERRORISM...

If you are flying into an area of the world, such as the Middle East, in which terrorism is a threat, here are some general guidelines to follow in reducing the risk of becoming a terrorist victim. If possible, book your flight on a wide-body aircraft. Terrorists usually prefer single-aisled passenger jets. Do not fly first class, since this section usually ends up as the terrorist command post in the event of a hijacking. Arrive as much as two hours early and process directly through to the boarding area, which is the safest place to wait. Keep quiet and do not advertise the fact if you are a U.S. citizen. If you are military or otherwise connected with the government, do not carry on your person papers that reveal your employment unless absolutely necessary. Avoid aisle and other high-visibility seats. Finally, avoid airports such as Athens that are known for their lax security.

And avoid airlines that advertise Frequent Hostage Programs. ✕

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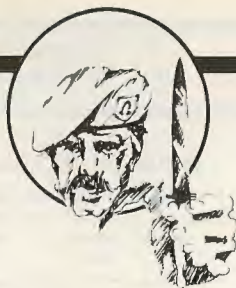
SF6A

NEARLY two years after my first SOF Battle Blades column, the mail still pours in. Some congratulates, some complains and most of it contains surprisingly similar questions. I try to answer every letter . . . eventually. But in the meanwhile, let me solve some of your most common problems with knives, and with me.

What is your least favorite fighting knife?

I don't even have to think about that one. In the whole history of edged weapons I can't think of a knife of less general utility than the Sykes-Fairbairn. Mechanically, the dagger is a weaker design than a single-edge knife. Some models of the Sykes-Fairbairn further complicate an already weak classic design by undercutting the edge at the ricasso. There isn't really any way to solve the dagger's problems since the dagger's basic mechanical drawback is its salient feature: double-edged construction. By grinding away from the center line the included angle is too nearly obtuse for a sharp edge. Also this steep angle tends to wedge in heavy materials, and its progressive lightening toward the point denies the blade any serious slashing capacity. About the only thing a Sykes-Fairbairn does really well is open oil cans rapidly. Every combat mechanic should be issued one — as long as he's 50 miles behind his own lines.

Why are most popular knife



BATTLE BLADES

by Bill Bagwell

Cutting Questions and Pointed Answers

models so much smaller than the blades you recommend?

Marketing, pure and simple.

Because we haven't been a knife-using culture since the turn of the century, few Americans have either a real or a perceived need for a general utility knife. Knives are therefore made for convenience and sold by aesthetics and advertising. If you don't use a knife, the most convenient blade will be the smallest. If your knife spends 360 days a year in a drawer, stainless steel will be easier to maintain. If fieldcraft isn't part of your day-to-day life, it's very likely that the knife you may carry constantly is more a fashion accessory than a tool. I'm at variance with modern industrial knife-making practice at nearly every point. Naturally, blade size is one more matter for

disagreement. Because I make and use knives every day, I'm going to lean toward the larger knife for its strength and general utility, just as a professional construction contractor is likely to sacrifice the convenience and economy of a miniature Japanese half-ton pickup for the power and carrying capacity of a full-size American-made one-ton.

Just look at the knives of blade-using cultures, and of men who use knives every day. Nearly all primitive societies use combination tools/weapons with blades in the 10-to-14-inch range. From Lapland to the Congo this is generally true, but that is one of our forefathers' lessons we have been quickest to forget.

Continued on page 146



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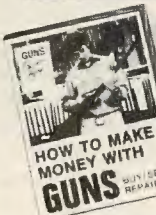
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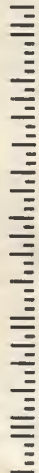
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PISTOLS in combat.

We've been programmed to believe they're necessary, that they fill a vital gap in the combat soldier's *arms de guerre*. But do they really? Or is that side arm just excess baggage which could be better replaced by rifle magazines or another canteen?

First, let's look at the pistol's traditional role in combat. It's been an officer's weapon based on the premise that he has other things to do with his hands than carry a rifle. His mission is to lead and control first, fight second. This premise is true enough for officers *not* on the front lines, but I'm willing to bet that combat officers have put a lot more faith in their M1, M14 or M16 than anything else they'd care to drag along. Twenty rounds of 7.62mm or 5.56mm at 200 meters provides more comfort than eight rounds of .45 caliber at 25 meters.

Rank's privilege aside, just what can a side arm do in battle? In essence, nothing; less than nothing when compared to a well-maintained and functional hand-held assault rifle. The argument I ran across during my four years in combat is that the side arm first provides a back-up weapon in the event your rifle fails, and second, that it's a better weapon to use in confined spaces — tunnels, caves, small buildings and huts.

To the first argument: Nonsense. The weight of a side arm and holster and the space they take up, the weight of the ammunition, magazines, pouches and cleaning rods and the space *they* take up, the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of the weapon itself in a combat situation — all of these factors heavily offset the slim possibility that the side arm will ever get used on the battlefield. I've only seen one incident where a pistol actually served its purpose as a back-up weapon: My machine-gunner's breech block cracked and he used his pistol to guard three prisoners.

So, when you compare weight, space and actual usefulness against the slight chance that your rifle will break, put your faith in the rifle and leave the rest of the stuff home.

The second argument has more credence. Tunnel rats cannot maneuver with a bulky rifle; if you're clearing a dark cave, the last thing you need is a rifle barrel banging against — or getting stuck in — a pile of rocks. But does that mean that everybody has to carry a pistol? Not at all. Perhaps one man per patrol — the medic, a gunner, your Blooper man — should haul a side arm along *if* there's a potential for use, and it should be considered as part of the squad's equipment rather than someone's personal property.

As for house-clearing ops, the last



COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by John Coleman

Good Enough for Custer



Regarding pistols in combat: Put your faith in the rifle and leave the rest at home. Photo: Dept. of Defense

thing I'd do is carry a pistol — regardless of caliber — while sweeping through a dim, rubble-filled room. If there's not enough space for my slack man and me to swing the barrels of our assault rifles around, then that building's going to get a frag or WP — or two — before we tiptoe inside for a look around.

What other factors should prey on your mind before you tuck that .45 or .38 into your waistband? The first, and most obvious, stems from the time-worn fact that officers or leaders generally *do* carry side arms. If you're an enemy sniper, or just some grunt hammering it out in a firefight, who would you aim for? The guy packing an FN or M16, or the fellow running around with the pistol on his hip? I'd go for the pistol every time because if you take out the boss, command and control tend to disintegrate at a rapid rate. (Smart leaders 1: don't wear pistols, 2: don't wear any rank or anything else which signifies they are leaders, and 3: stay away from radiomen with their aiming-point antennas. Carry your own radio — comms are much quicker that way — and fold the antenna back inside the carrying case.)

As I've mentioned, weight is another critical factor when considering whether or not to hump a pistol. The ubiquitous .45 Model 1911A1 weighs 2.99 pounds loaded, let's call it something like 3¼ pounds with a standard

leather holster. Now add spare magazines (you won't just carry *one*, will you?). Three loaded magazines add up to another pound and a half; add the weight of the magazine pouch, cleaning brushes and rods, and you're now packing five extra pounds. That's two spare canteens and an extra meal worth of weight, or extra magazines and ammo for your rifle — items you'll use more quickly and appreciatively than the bullet-slinger dragging down the right side of your LBE.

Is all this to say that the pistol has no use whatsoever on the battlefield? Of course not. Armor crewmen like them because they can bail out of a burning tank and still have some sort of defensive weapon tucked under the shoulder. I carried a 9mm Browning while serving in the RLI fire force in Rhodesia as did many of the paras. Pistols were carried under the elastic bands of the reserve chute just in case we got tangled in trees, couldn't free our rifles, and had to shoot it out with the terrors. It happened on occasion and made the pistol worth its weight a hundred times over.

There are also *specific* times when a pistol in combat is an invaluable tool, but its use should be dictated by the assigned mission rather than any other factors. If you need a silenced pistol for a job, carry one. If you're conducting specialized waterborne ops where it's possible your kayak and gear may get deep-sixed — and that has happened — then a back-up pistol and shoulder holster are worth the effort.

But does this mean that average Joe Grunt humping the bush in Central America, Africa, Afghanistan or any other war has a real need for a side arm? No. It looks macho, and it is easier to carry around in a base camp situation where SOP states that personnel shall be armed at all times. But in reality — and that means any place where someone's trying to shoot you — put your faith in a weapon that has the ability to take down 20 or more enemy troops at 400 meters.

As a personal weapon, the pistol in combat is good for only one thing: your own version of Custer's Last Stand. ☒

RUGER

Quality Firearms
1986





STURM, RUGER & Company, Inc.

*“Our direction
is towards perfection . . .”*

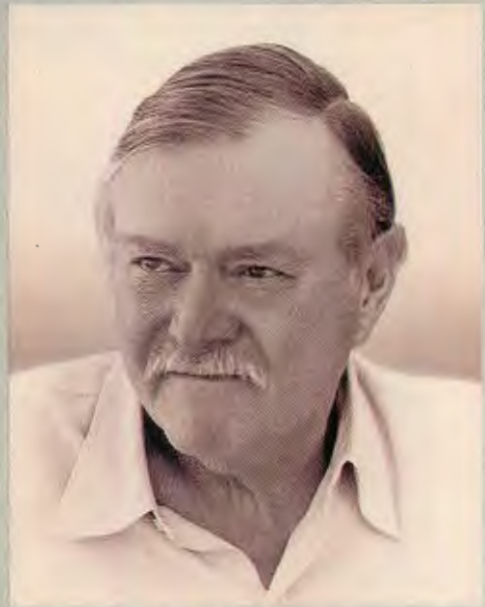
Today, with so much going on around us we have a tendency to forget about the simple pleasures that can be derived from the hunting and shooting sports, especially as they were enjoyed by the generations that preceded us. Their good fortune was to live in a less complex society, one where hunting to put meat on the table was a way of life. Their society was also one in which the marksman was admired and a county fair wasn't a county fair without an exhibition shooter. Although we cannot recreate those past times we can look to the future of the hunting and shooting sports in the United States optimistically and with great enthusiasm.

Ruger's basic business has always been the design and production of quality firearms. To assure our customers of a superior product, every firearm manufactured by us is

proof tested for strength, durability and fired for accuracy. Literally, millions of rounds of ammunition are fired on Ruger ranges annually in the development and testing of our products.

Any manufacturer who rests on past accomplishments will not survive in the competitive marketplace that exists today. We are striving to improve not only our manufacturing methodology, but also to pass along technological improvements that benefit our customers both in performance and value.

Ruger products are stocked and sold by thousands of retailers in the United States and in many foreign countries. A large percentage of Ruger sporting arms are sold through the specialty gun dealer who provides expertise and "personal service" in the day-to-day

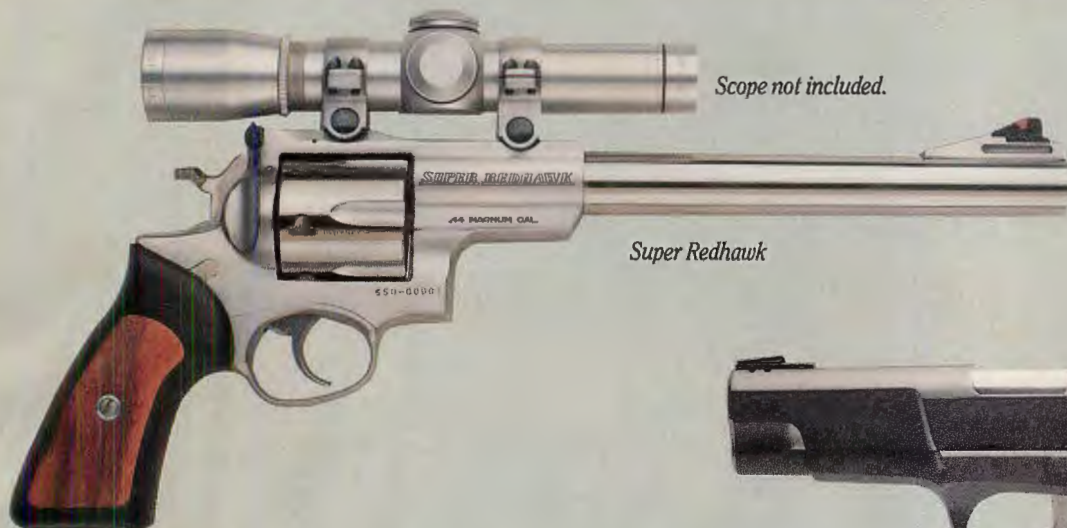


business of meeting the requirements of the hunting, shooting and law enforcement communities. To experience the genuine pleasure

that comes from handling fine quality Ruger firearms, visit and support your independent stocking gun dealer.

RUGER®

NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT



Scope not included.

Super Redhawk



P-85 Semi-Automatic Pistol

RUGER SUPER REDHAWK™ REVOLVER AND P-85™ AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Ruger has introduced over twenty new products or product improvements in the last two decades. In addition there are several new guns in various stages of development—two of which are planned for introduction in late 1986.

These exciting new handguns are the large frame Super Redhawk

double-action revolver chambered for the .44 Magnum cartridge and the Ruger P-85, 9mm double-action automatic pistol. The company's objective is to continue to introduce new products to meet the ever-changing needs of the hunting and shooting public.

RUGER GP-100™ NEW DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVER



NEW **RUGER GP-100™** *Double-Action Revolver* *Cal. .357 Magnum*

Designed as the ultimate .357 Magnum for police and personal defense use, the new GP-100 incorporates a number of important new features and improvements (patents pending), and offers a greater degree of accuracy, strength, reliability, and effectiveness than ever before realized in any double-action revolver.

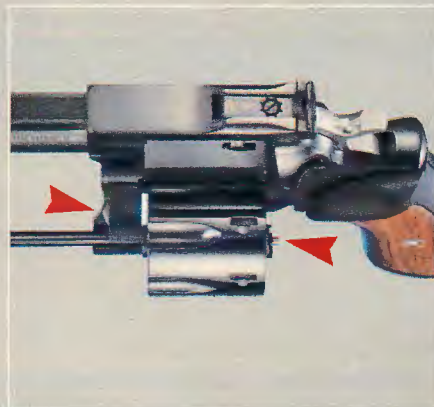
The unique GP-100 design includes a heavy, solid frame, rugged .357 Magnum cylinder, and cushioned grip panels which are anatomically designed to fit the hands of the majority of shooters. The interchangeable front sight system allows the installation of sights of various styles, heights and colors. A full length ejector rod shroud helps to

achieve the slight muzzle-heavy balance considered desirable for rapid double-action firing. Barrels are constructed with a wide top rib, longitudinally serrated to present a glare-free surface.

The GP-100 revolver serves eminently to confirm Ruger leadership in modern firearms design and manufacture.



The grip portion of the Ruger GP-100 revolver unlike the conventional skeleton type grip frame has been designed to incorporate a variety of functions. It houses the mainspring seat, trigger guard latch, and grip panel locator. The design of this unique frame extension also permits the installation of customized wrap-around grip panels in a variety of shapes and sizes to suit the tastes of the individual owner.



The Ruger cylinder locking system represents a successful mechanical engineering solution to the problem of positive cylinder locking. The Ruger cylinder is locked to the frame by a strong pilot bearing at the rear of the cylinder, and by a sturdy locking bolt at the front of the crane which engages a matching slot at the front of the frame.



The Ruger concept of integral subassemblies and simple takedown has been proven in previous Ruger designs, and is now brought to perfection. The Ruger GP-100 revolver can be field-stripped to its basic subassemblies in a matter of seconds, without the use of special tools allowing the user to clean and maintain the revolver in the field quickly and with great ease.



Scope not included.

RUGER 77/22™ RIMFIRE BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

The new Ruger .22 rimfire bolt-action is conceived as an elegant small game and target rifle. Unique new 3-position safety offers a new dimension in security.

Ruger 10-shot rotary magazine provides smooth feeding. Receiver with integral scope bases accommodate Ruger rings.



RUGER 10/22® AUTOLOADING CARBINE

The Ruger 10/22 offers lightweight, short overall length, and mechanical dependability. A 10-shot rotary magazine handles .22 rimfire cartridges. The reliable Ruger 10/22

is an excellent choice for small game hunters, target practice or beginning shooters. Standard model or Deluxe Sporter offered.



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A precision-engineered and manufactured shotgun of exceptional value and quality. Excellent balance and superb swing provide superior

over and under performance. Offered with 3" chambers in 12 and 20 gauge with 26" or 28" barrels in standard choke combinations.

RUGER® BISLEY SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVERS

The first Bisleys were used by competitive target shooters at the British National Rifle Association matches held in Bisley, England in the 1890's. The Ruger Bisleys are

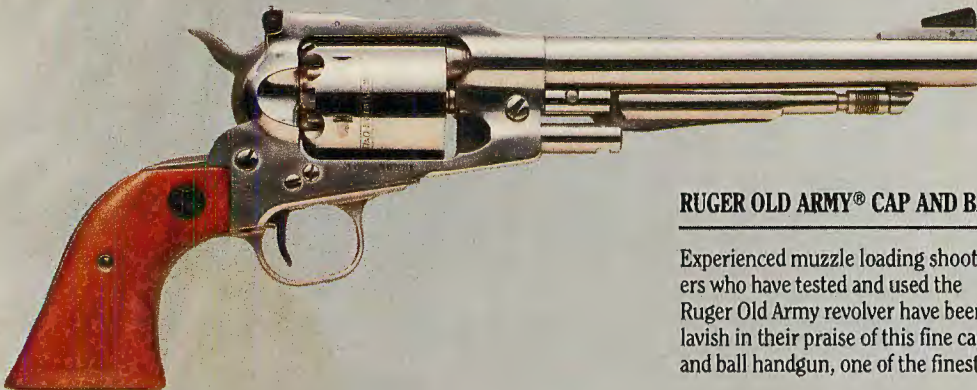
offered in two frame sizes chambered for a variety of handgun cartridges and with or without fluted cylinders and roll engraving.



RUGER OLD ARMY® CAP AND BALL REVOLVER

Experienced muzzle loading shooters who have tested and used the Ruger Old Army revolver have been lavish in their praise of this fine cap and ball handgun, one of the finest

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STANDS FOR QUALITY

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The Ruger XGI retains the essentials of the Garand design, proven in U.S. service rifles, but it is much improved in strength and durability. It

is a practical sporting rifle designed to withstand rough treatment with minimal maintenance. Chambered for .308 and .243 Win. cartridges.



Ranch Rifle

Scope not included.



Mini-14

Stainless Steel Model.

The Ruger semi-automatic rifles are chambered for world-famous hunting cartridges.



.223 Rem. .243 Win. .308 Win.

RUGER MINI-14® AND RANCH RIFLE®

The Mini-14 and Ruger Ranch Rifle are rugged, easy handling and lightweight. The Ranch Rifle, a powerful sporting auto-loader is designed for use with telescopic

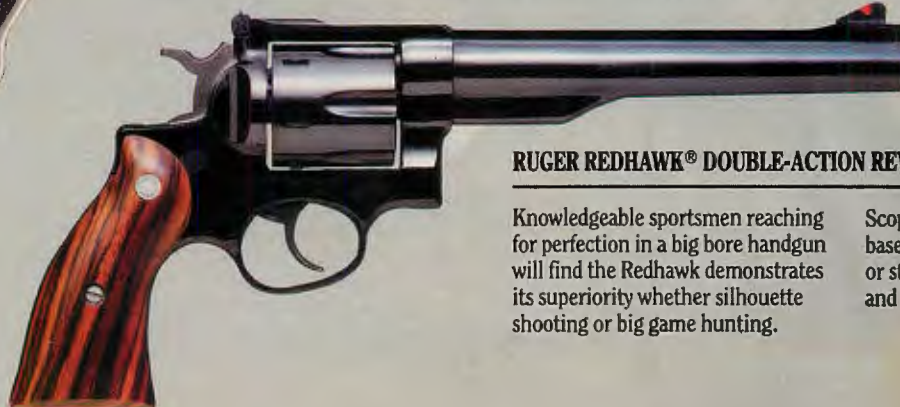
sights. Available in full, and compact folding stock models, which are ideal for camping and boating. Offered in blued alloy and stainless steel. Caliber: .223 Rem.



RUGER® MARK II AUTOMATIC PISTOLS

The new Ruger Mark II semi-automatic is basically a refinement of the original Ruger Standard and Mark I Target pistols, over one million of which have been pro-

duced. Offered in standard, target and bull barrel models in a variety of barrel lengths. Blued finish or stainless steel. Caliber: .22 Long Rifle.



RUGER REDHAWK® DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS

Knowledgeable sportsmen reaching for perfection in a big bore handgun will find the Redhawk demonstrates its superiority whether silhouette shooting or big game hunting.

Scope sight models incorporate bases for Ruger rings. Blued finish or stainless steel. Calibers: .41 Mag., and .44 Mag.



RUGER M-77® BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

Prized as a trophy rifle, this versatile bolt-action is used to hunt all sizes and species of game. Receivers incorporate integral scope bases that

accommodate Ruger rings. Available in both magnum and short actions in calibers ranging from .22-250 to .458 Mag.



RUGER M-77® INTERNATIONAL BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

This high performance sporting rifle has a full-length, high grade American walnut stock. Short 18½" barrel, open sights, and Ruger scope

mounting system are features. Calibers: (short action) .22-250, .250-3000, .243 and .308 Win., (long action) .30-06, .270.



RUGER M-77® ULTRA LIGHT BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

New 6 pound big game rifle in both long and short action versions, with integral base receiver and 1" Ruger scope rings. Calibers: (long action)

.270, .30-06, .257 (all with 20" barrels); and (short action) .22-250, .243, .250-3000, .308 (all with 20" barrels).



RUGER SUPER SINGLE-SIX® & SINGLE-SIX® .32 H&R REVOLVERS

The Ruger Single-Six was introduced over three decades ago and remains one of the most coveted single-actions. The patented Ruger transfer-bar ignition mechanism and other refinements have been features of New Models since 1973.

Originally chambered for the .22 Long Rifle rimfire, the Single-Six is now offered in the new .32 H&R Magnum cartridge, a hard-hitting small game, varmint and target load.

NUMBER 1 GUN MAKER



RUGER® NO. 1 LIGHT, MEDIUM SPORTER, & NO. 1 TROPICAL RIFLES

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Standard model has a medium 26" barrel, semi-beavertail forearm, quarter rib with 1" Ruger rings. Varmint model with heavy 24"

barrel, semi-beavertail forearm is tapped for target scope blocks, with 1" scope rings. Available in a variety of sporting and varmint calibers.



RUGER® NO. 1 INTERNATIONAL RIFLE

Lightweight 20" barrel. Full length forearm, adjustable folding leaf rear sight mounted on quarter rib with ramp front sight base and dovetail

type gold bead front sight. Calibers: .243 Win., .30-06, .270 Win., and 7 x 57mm. Weight: Approx. 7 1/4 pounds.



Blackhawk



Super Blackhawk

RUGER BLACKHAWK® AND SUPER BLACKHAWK® REVOLVERS

The massive Ruger New Model Blackhawk and Super Blackhawk revolvers have been expressly engineered for use with powerful modern centerfire cartridges. They incorporate all the best features of the proven Ruger New Model centerfire single-action design, including the patented Ruger transfer-bar

ignition mechanism.

These revolvers provide the sportsman and competitive shooter with the capability to handle almost any situation in the field or on the range. Calibers: .30 Carbine, .38 Special, .357 Mag., .41 Mag., .44 Mag. and .45 Long Colt.



New Goncalo Alves grips.



*Stainless steel model.
New Goncalo Alves grips.*



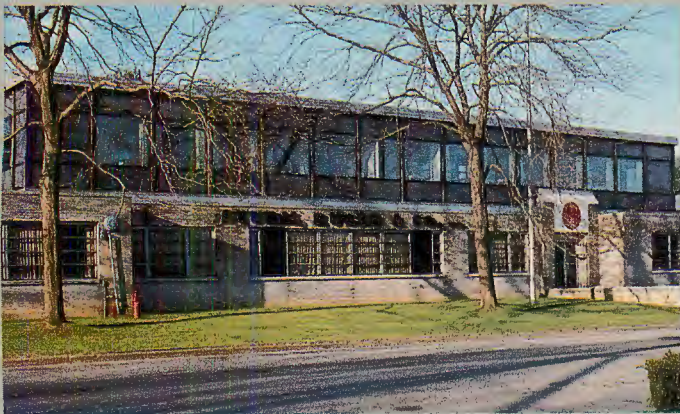
Stainless steel model.

RUGER SECURITY-SIX®, SERVICE-SIX® AND SPEED-SIX® REVOLVERS

This series of Ruger double-action revolvers are reliable, durable, and perfectly mated to the .357 Mag. and .38 Special cartridges.

Over one million of these revolvers have been made for use by

sportsmen and the law enforcement community around the world. Available in blued steel and stainless steel, with 2³/₄" , 4" and 6" barrels, and a selection of Goncalo Alves wood and rubber grip panels.



Southport, Connecticut



Newport, New Hampshire

All Ruger Firearms Are Designed and Manufactured in Ruger Factories in the United States of America.

From a work force composed of a handful of individuals in 1949, Ruger now produces sporting guns in two manufacturing facilities located in Southport, Connecticut and Newport, New Hampshire, occupying more than 300,000 square feet of space including our Pine Tree Castings division which is one of the ten largest producers of ferrous investment castings in the United States. All of our firearms are designed and manufactured in these two Ruger factories.

Amazing as it may seem the personal art of gunsmithing is practiced every work day by Ruger craftsmen in this modern, large scale industrial operation. There is a meticulous attention to detail in the hundreds of machining and polishing operations required to meet Ruger specifications for all metal

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It has been the goal of the company since its inception to design and manufacture sporting guns of the highest quality, strength and reliability at a reasonable and fair price to the consumer. We continue to pursue that goal in the management of our business and in day-to-day manufacturing operations.

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Target**



**PPC
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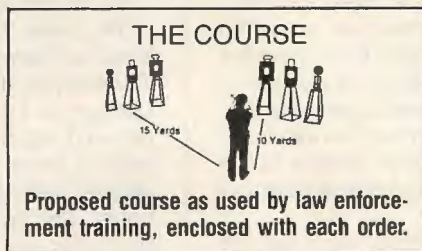
The Stand

The Combat Silhouettes are by far the best free standing steel targets anywhere for handgun training, qualifying or pleasure shooting. Simply shoot the head and the head falls back, to reset the head, shoot the center plate. No springs, no chains, no ropes, no nonsense. Just a complete target ready whenever you are.

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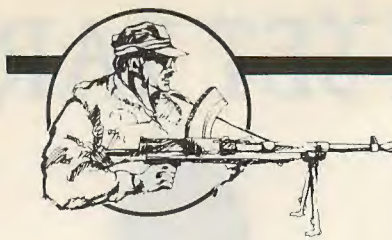
**REDI-SET TARGETS, INC.
DEPT. B, P.O. BOX 23084
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(904) 262-0638**

NO full-auto weapon is more easily recognized than the Thompson submachine gun. Gangster films were largely responsible for the Thompson's cult image, and the "Chicago typewriter" was further popularized by its widespread use by the United States, Great Britain, Nationalist China, France, Russia and Yugoslavia during the early part of World War II.

General John Taleferro Thompson designed his submachine gun (this was the first use of the term) between 1919-1920 around the somewhat dubious Blish principle. Developed as a "trench broom" to engage in combat as it evolved during World War I, the first prototypes were built by Auto-Ordnance at the shop facilities of the Warner & Swasey Company of Cleveland, Ohio. These first Model 1919 guns had no buttstock or sights and fired at a cyclic rate of 1,500 rpm. Shortly thereafter, Auto-Ordnance Corporation contracted Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company to manufacture 15,000 guns which possessed all the features that have since been associated with the Thompson submachine gun. Savage Arms Corporation manufactured Thompsons between 1940 and 1943. Auto-Ordnance also established its own plant by 1941 and produced the M1928A1, although in fewer numbers than Savage. Total U.S. Army procurement was 1,387,134 of all models.

Although a few guns were assembled by Birmingham Small Arms (BSA), Birmingham, England, chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge, the Thompson has forever been linked to the .45 ACP round. Firing from the open-bolt position, this gun supposedly operated by retarded blowback. The Blish lock is an H-shaped component made of phosphor bronze. This piece lies in the bolt body in slots inclined forward at 70 degrees. A lug on each side engages 45-degree recesses in the receiver. A crosspiece engages the actuator (cocking knob body) in a slot sloping back at 10 degrees. In theory, the greater the force applied to the Blish lock, the more it resisted rearward movement as it binded against the receiver's locking recesses, while at lower pressures it would move quite freely. In reality it did little other than add to the expense of manufacture.

On the original Model 1921, as produced by Colt, the cocking knob was attached to a thin flat plate. After the U.S. Navy purchased a few in 1928, a heavy steel block was welded to the actuator plate to reduce the cyclic rate from over 900 rpm to about 650 rpm. The digit "1" on the model designation was over stamped with an "8," a Cutts compensator was added to the



FULL AUTO

by Peter G. Kokalis

Tommy's Gun



The distinctive Tommy gun, forever linked with the gangster image of the twenties, is a classic addition to any WWII collector's army.

muzzle, the recoil spring guide modified to one-piece construction with a red fiber disc buffer and the vertical forearm was changed to a horizontal type. This variant is known to collectors as the Model 1921/28 Overstamp.

No expense was spared on any of the Thompson's other components. The receiver was milled from solid bar stock and beautifully finished. A sheet-metal oiler with two felt pads rests in recesses within the receiver, but it attracts debris. A fixed ejector is fitted to the left side, in opposition to the ejection port. Early ejectors are of one-piece construction and blued. During WWII this part was fabricated from three pieces and painted black.

The bolt body is nickel finished. When the bolt closes in battery, a hinged hammer strikes the front of the receiver and rotates on its axis pin to drive the spring-loaded firing pin forward. A 3-inch extractor fits into a slot cut into the cylindrical portion of the bolt. It's too long and breaks easily, so locate spares.

The 10.5-inch barrel has six grooves with a right-hand twist. It has 28 radial cooling fins that are purely cosmetic. On the original 15,000 Colt Thompsons these fins have radiused edges and are somewhat thinner than those

produced by Savage and Auto-Ordnance during WWII. This distinction can also identify a Colt Thompson that has been rebarreled. Many have, since faulty ammunition will bulge the barrel on a blowback-operated submachine gun before the operator has time to release the trigger.

Tommy gun sights are elaborate. The fixed, unprotected front sight is pinned to the Cutts compensator and has a distinctive hooked appearance. On Colt Thompsons, the front sight has a much smaller peak than those produced by Savage or Auto-Ordnance. Look for monkey business here. The original rear sight was manufactured by Lyman and is so marked. A peep aperture type, it's adjustable for both windage and elevation from zero to 600 yards in 50-yard increments. Its scale, peep aperture and open square-notch battle sight were left unblued on Colt Thompsons. With the exception of the scale, these components were blued on Savage and Auto-Ordnance Thompsons and the square notch changed to a cruder half-V notch that required only one mill cut. The cocking knob is cut so the front sight can be aligned with the peep aperture or notch. The rear sight body has long protective ears and is held to the receiver by four pins.

The lower receiver carries the trigger mechanism, pistol grip, fire selector, safety and magazine catch release. It should bear the same serial number as



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the upper receiver or this seriously degrades its collector value. The selector can be rotated to full auto or single. Placing the selector on single lifts the disconnecter under the sear and a rocker into the bolt's path of travel. When the trigger is pulled the sear drops down to release the bolt. When the bolt travels forward it trips the rocker, which in turn pushes the disconnecter away from the sear's tail and permits the nose of the sear to rise and engage the bolt's notch. The trigger must be released to reposition the disconnecter under the sear's tail. When the selector is rotated to the full-auto position the rocker drops down out of the bolt's path of travel and firing continues until the trigger is released.

The safety lever, also on the left side, is located to the rear of the selector. When set to safe a spindle engages in a groove at the rear of the sear and locks the sear in the up position. The safety cannot be manipulated when the sear is down and can thus be employed only after the bolt has been retracted.

Rotate the magazine catch release lever upward to withdraw or insert a magazine or drum. Drums can be inserted only after the bolt has been retracted. Original Colt Thompsons were equipped with a 20-round, two-position feed, staggered box magazine without markings of any kind. These were followed by magazines carrying the patent dates which repeated the

1920 date twice and then a more uncommon corrected patent date variant. During WWII these so-called Type XX magazines were marked by many subcontractors, including Crosby Co., Seymour Products Co., Auto-Ordnance Corp., W.P.S and SW-CO. Fifty-round drums (called the Type L) were also produced by several manufacturers and type C 100-round drums were made by Auto-Ordnance, serial numbered front and rear. Mismatched 100-round drums are worth about one-third less than matched drums.

The buttstock can be removed from the lower receiver by depressing its latch button. This feature supposedly enabled the operator to fire the weapon from the hip assault position. In practice, the buttstock is best left on the gun in all firing positions. The detachable buttstock became fixed by the addition of screws on the M1 and M1A1 models. Model 1921 and M1921/28 Overstamp Thompsons have serial numbers on the inside of the buttplate and on the butt end of the stock. I have never seen these match the receiver's number.

We end up with a 10.75-pound submachine gun that is entirely too heavy and was too complex and expensive even by WWII standards. Although it was never so used by the military, with a loaded 100-round drum the Thompson submachine gun weighs more than the Browning Automatic Rifle

(approximately 20 pounds). Overall length is 33.75 inches.

Designated "U.S. Model of 1928A1" by the U.S. armed forces, all those manufactured during WWII by Savage and Auto-Ordnance are so marked. Mechanically identical to the commercial Model 1928 Navy model, these weapons are also marked with the flaming U.S. Ordnance bomb and usually a GEG inspection proof in a circle, initials of George E. Goll, quality control inspector at Auto-Ordnance.

Military Thompsons were parkerized with nickel bolts. External surfaces were unpolished and numerous tool marks are clearly visible. All were fitted with a Cutts compensator with the Thompson bullet logo stamped into the left side. The right side of the receiver is marked with the U.S. patent numbers and "Auto-Ordnance Corporation, Bridgeport, Connecticut, U.S.A." The only evidence of their manufacture by Savage is a hyphenated "S" preceding the serial number.

Two important cost-saving measures were initiated during the production series. First to be eliminated was the unnecessarily complex Lyman rear sight which was replaced with a sheet-metal L-shaped nonadjustable peep aperture.

Next to disappear were the radial cooling fins. Consequently, there are

Continued on page 127

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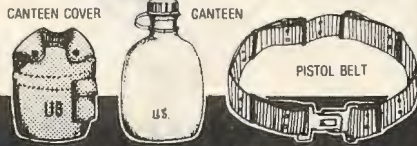


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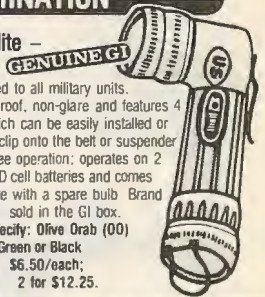
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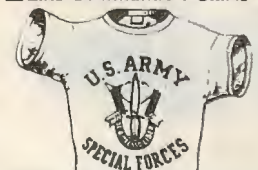
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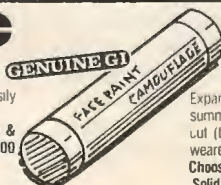
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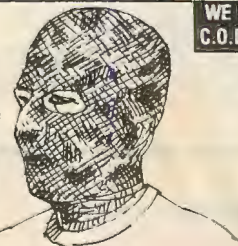
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I WAS THERE

by Danny Daniels

Too Much Bang for the Buck



Danny Daniels now lives in central California but back in 1969 his home was Danang. On one dark night he learned about easy money the hard way:

Guard duty was usually uneventful, but was it really worth the 20 bucks to replace a buddy on the hill? Photo: Dept. of Defense

WHAT I thought was the easiest 20 bucks I'd ever earn almost cost my life. My mercenary habit of charging \$20 to replace someone on a night patrol or hill watch had been paying off handsomely while I was stationed at 1st Marine Division HQ in Danang, South Vietnam.

The way it worked was like this: If Private Smith didn't want to go on his assigned listening post or patrol, he'd ask me if I'd go in his place.

"... for 20 bucks," I'd tell him.

"Sure," he'd say as he gave me a crisp \$20 military payment certificate.

When the provisional rifle company arrived on the hill, some sergeant would call off the roster, and I'd answer for Pvt. Smith. For the next nine hours I was Pvt. Smith.

Once I went up on the hill for a guy who refused to pay up. The next time he had hill watch he came to me again.

"Twenty, in advance," I demanded.

"OK, OK," he grumbled as he placed a 20 in my outstretched hand. To my amazement and pleasure, I found he'd handed me two 20s stuck together by the humidity of the tropic air. I laughed while peeling them apart. Ah, that's what I call sweet justice!

The hill watches amounted to nothing more than a string of boring nights. The \$2.20 per hour "mercenary money" supplemented my USMC pay of 13 cents per hour. Twenty bucks a

night was a lot of money in '68 and '69, especially for a teenager who literally went from the prom to 'Nam. Nothing ever happened during the hill watches.

On 22 February 1969, something did happen. That night it seemed the whole Vietnam War happened on my ridge line. To make matters worse I was a few weeks from rotating home, but when Lance Corporal McDonald paid me 20 bucks to take his place, I said, "Sure," and marched off like I always did.

I wasn't even going to die under my own name.

At 0100 the Viet Cong overran our hill. The attack began with mortars and RPGs. Then came the suicide waves of sappers. They even managed to plant a VC flag on the hill.

"This ain't worth 20 bucks," I thought, ducking for cover as I felt bullets fly past my head. The attack lasted until choppers came over and flushed Charlie down the hill. By 0230 all was quiet on the ridge line except for the groans of the wounded.

At 0400 a second wave of Viet Cong charged our hill — an instant replay of before. This time Puff the Magic Dragon came to our rescue.

At sunrise the ridge line was a shambles of spent rounds and bodies. I shook as I thought of what could have happened to me — all for a measly 20 bucks. I never took another 20 for someone else's battle.

So much for easy money. ✕

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SACRED RAGE. The Wrath of Militant Islam. By Robin Wright. Linden Press/Simon and Schuster, Dept. SOF, Rockefeller Center, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. 1985. 315 pp. \$17.95. Review by Dale Andradé.

VIOLENCE seems to be an everyday part of press coverage in the Middle East and a jaded American public has accepted the fact that people are going to die there on a daily basis. Yet new developments in world terrorism, more shocking crimes and clever manipulation of the press have shifted attention away from the causes of terror and onto the symptoms — the violence itself. It is unfortunate that a knowledge of violence and attention to its victims do not help us understand or counteract the strategy of terror.

What causes a large part of the Arab world to espouse violence toward things American? Two reasons — the history of United States' involvement in Middle Eastern affairs and, most important, the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism. Both causes are intricately woven into the pattern that has resulted in the increased number of American deaths at the hands of fanatics.

Sacred Rage is an important work that tracks down the reasons why Americans are the main target for the legions of Islam's new terrorists. Author Robin Wright tirelessly pursued her sources, from academics and intelligence officers to young Palestinian fighters and former hostages. The result is a clear and concise breakdown of how Islam has carved the face of politics in the Middle East.

Perhaps the most important chapter in this book is the last. Wright does more than list and file Islamic fundamentalists country by country. She also comes up with what she believes are the root problems of American relations with the Arab world and puts forth some possible solutions.

Sacred Rage comes down especially hard on what Wright calls the "Shultz doctrine," using as a definition the secretary of state's challenge to terrorists: "Go ahead and try to defy us. We'll get you in the end." If there is a flaw in this book, it is here.

Robin Wright is a firm believer in the futility of launching military strikes against terrorists and their bases, or, as clearly applies to the recent U.S. bombing of Libya, the use of force against states that harbor terrorists. The basic premise in Wright's conclusion is the belief that only a more realistic handling of Israel and her relations with the Arabs on the diplomatic front will garner the United States a better

IN REVIEW



"SACRED RAGE IS MUST READING—AND FASCINATING READING—FOR ALL WHO WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE FANATICAL VIOLENCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST."

—ANTHONY LEWIS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

SACRED RAGE

THE WRATH OF MILITANT ISLAM

footing in the Middle East. She discounts the use of force almost categorically.

Unfortunately, foreign policy needs more than theory and wishful thinking. It needs to be a many-faceted process that is complex enough to handle any contingency. **Sacred Rage** fails to present the military option realistically. In the long run, the prudent use of military might combined with effective diplomacy and a recognition of roots and goals of the new Islamic furor could pull America out of the whirlwind of terrorist attention.

Today, it is too easy to blame military means for all our problems and ignore the shortcomings of foreign policy planning. After all, the results of a military operation are there for all to see while the fruits of diplomacy often take years to come to light. Both can be flawed in conception and implementation; Robin Wright seems to have missed that point. She places too much trust in the State Department and its ability to correctly assess problems and policy.

While it is easy to shoot holes in the

conclusions of **Sacred Rage**, there is no question that Robin Wright has presented a fresh look at an age-old problem — coming to grips with the changing nature of politics and religion in the Middle East. She sums it up in one volume better than anyone else.

MANHUNT. The Incredible Pursuit of a CIA Agent Turned Terrorist. By Peter Maas. Random House Inc., Dept. SOF, New York. 1986. 302 pp. \$17.95. Review by Dale Andradé.

THE world knows that Colonel Khadafi has financed most organized international terrorist activity. What is often forgotten in the furor is the fact that Khadafi could never have done it alone. He had the help of sympathetic governments, a fragmented and apathetic Western alliance and a rogue American intelligence agent.

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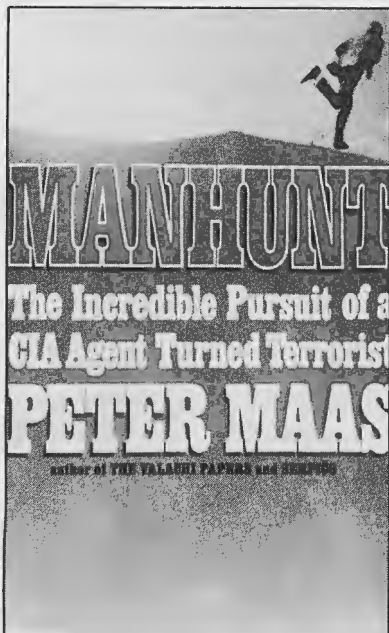
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the late 1970s and early 1980s. It could even be argued that Libya would be hard-pressed to pour forth such a volume of terror incidents without the help of that one man and his lust for big bucks.

His name is Edwin Wilson and now that he is behind bars in the United States the incredible tale of his operation in Libya is coming forth. In his book *Death Merchant*, Joseph C. Goulding laid the groundwork for following Wilson's misdeeds. Unfortunately, Goulding relied too much on one source and there are gaps in his coverage.



Peter Maas, author of *Serpico* and *The Valachi Papers*, has written the final word on Wilson in a work that reads like a Ludlum novel as it leads the reader through the maze of clues and incidents that finally resulted in the arrest of Edwin Wilson.

The story centers around Larry Barcella, a young assistant U.S. attorney in Washington who developed an obsession with tracking down and prosecuting Wilson. Author Maas uses Barcella and his quest for justice as a springboard for presenting the reader with the details of Wilson's past.

Maas employs the same investigative skills used in his two previous books and the result is a riveting tale from start to finish; it's hard to believe the story is true. But it is and Edwin Wilson was tricked out of his sanctuary in Tripoli to the Dominican Republic where he was extradited to the waiting arms of the law in the United States. Now he's behind bars for the next 52 years.

Anyone who wants to know the whole story of Edwin Wilson's relationship with Khadaffi's Libya should pick up **Manhunt** — you won't put it down until it's done. ✕



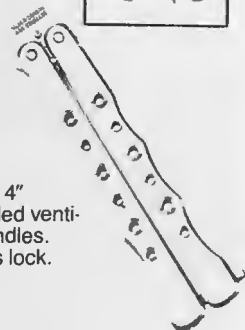
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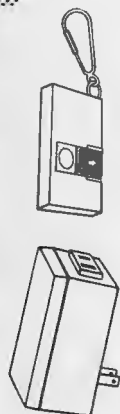


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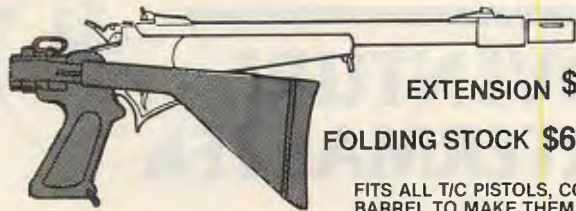
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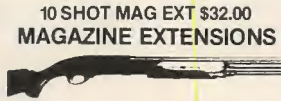


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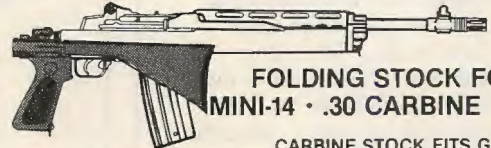
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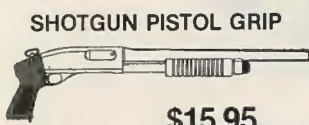
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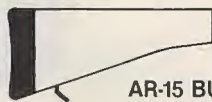
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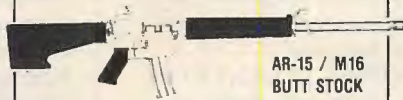
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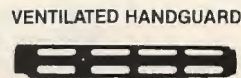
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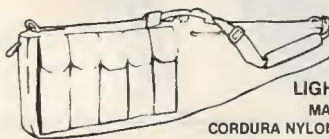


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AUTOMATIC SCATTERGUN

In this age of military-looking civilian assault rifles, it's only natural that shotguns should get into the act. And sure enough, they have.

The Vietnam War saw the use of shotguns on combat ops and their results were encouraging enough to suggest that they could be used in future low-intensity wars. Many models have been manufactured, but only a few have been seen by the general public. Here's one combat shotgun that hopes to make it on the civilian market.

This imported shotgun, called the USAS-12, obviously borrows its design concept from the M16, so military shooters should have no trouble adopting their combat technique to firing it. The Parkerized finish and nylon furniture are tough and simple to disassemble, even in the field.

Close-range hit probability is high — the improved cylinder choke and fast recycling time combine to make this shotgun effective even in heavy brush. The gas-operated recoil system keeps felt recoil to a minimum, an important consideration in a fast-firing big-bore.

The select-fire version pumps out a quick 360 rpm from either of the two magazines — a 12-round box or a 28-round drum. The basic

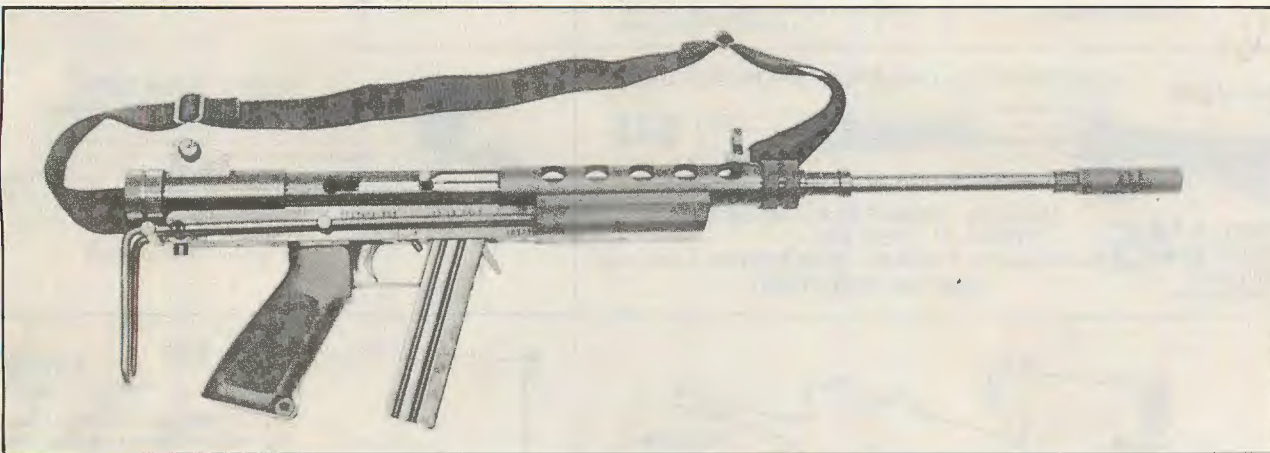
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package for the USAS-12 comes with a sling, cleaning brushes, oil bottle and two box magazines, all for \$695 for the semiauto version and \$750 for the full-auto.

Since the USAS-12 hadn't hit the market at press time (it should be available by the end of July), it is

impossible to tell you just how good this weapon is, but for more information write: Gilbert Equipment Company Inc., Dept. SOF, 3300 Buckeye Rd. NW, Suite 220, Atlanta, GA 30341. Phone: (404) 451-5558.



SLICK SURVIVAL RIFLE

Several rifles have hit the market during the last 10 years, but few are true to the survival breed. The U.S. Air Force first defined and developed the survival rifle (carbine) after WWII. Civilians got into the act with the introduction of the AR-7, manufactured by Armalite. (Charter later bought the rights and made the weapon.) For better or worse, the AR-7 remained the small-bore weapon of choice, even though it had an atrocious trigger and suffered

from mediocre reliability.

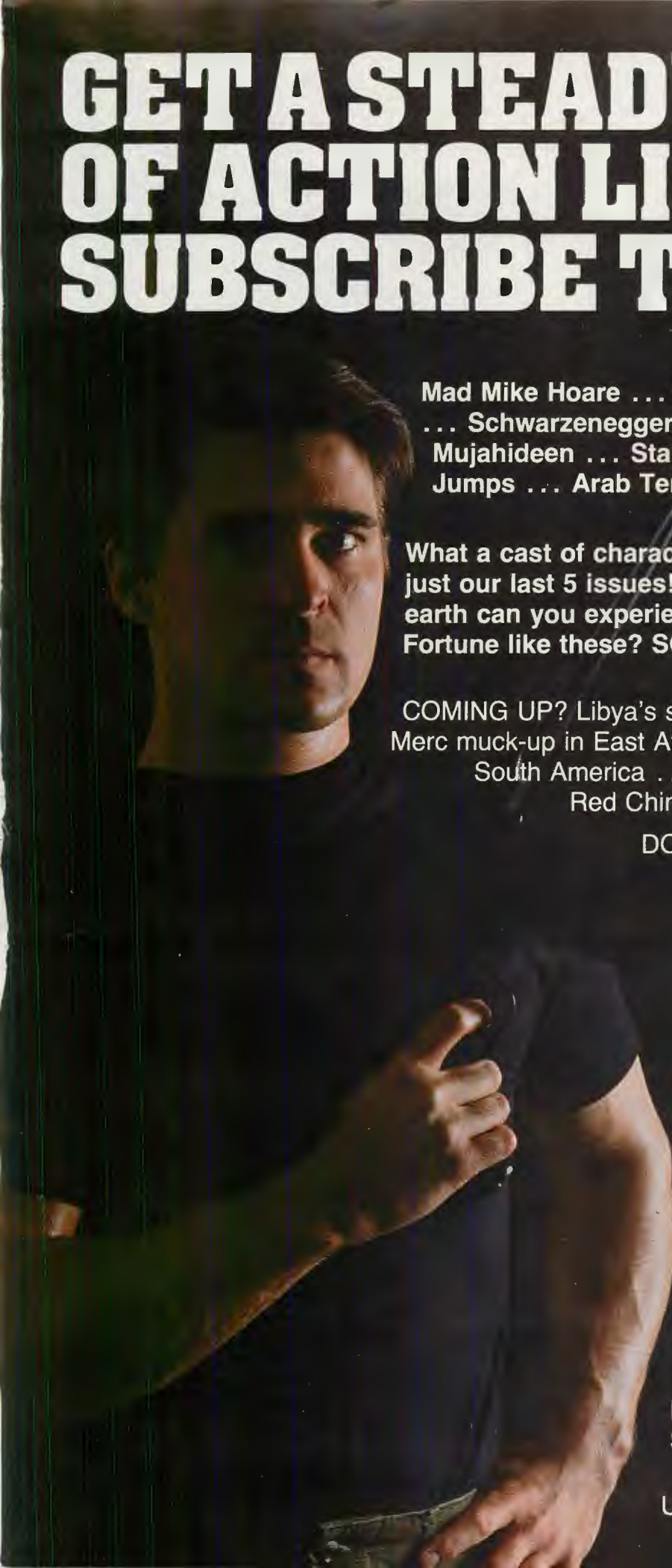
Now, small-bore fans have a new standard by which to judge survival rifles. Feather Enterprises commissioned Jim Sullivan, the designer of the AR-7's action, to improve upon his original design and the result is the AT-22 (Advanced Technology) semiauto carbine.

The AT-22 features a detachable 17-inch barrel, collapsible stock, 20-round magazine, oversized magazine release, ambidextrous

safety, rear sight adjustable for windage and elevation, hooded front sight and a flash hider. Weighing 3½ pounds, the AT-22 field-strips in seconds with no tools and is 100-percent made in the USA. The improved design also boasts better accuracy and reliability to boot.

Suggested retail price for the AT-22 is \$219.95. For more information write: Feather Enterprises, Dept. SOF, 2300 Central Ave., Boulder, CO 80301. ✉

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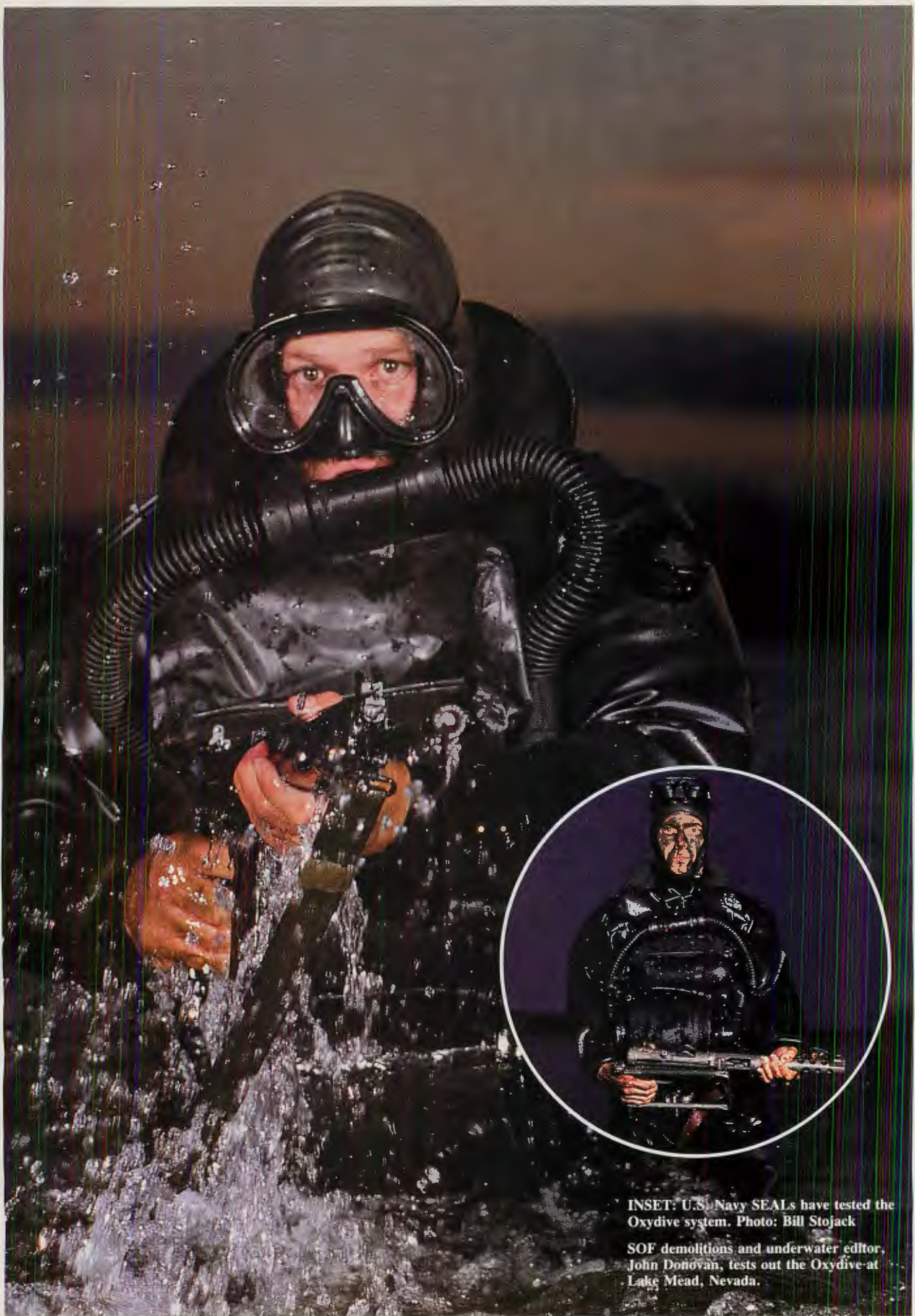
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INSET: U.S. Navy SEALs have tested the Oxydive system. Photo: Bill Stojack

SOF demolitions and underwater editor, John Donovan, tests out the Oxydive at Lake Mead, Nevada.

CLOSED CIRCUIT DIVING

Undetectable Underwater Ops

by John Donovan

IT'S only been 70 years since the invention of the self-contained underwater breathing unit (scuba) brought the undersea world into the realm of infantry operations. World War II saw the use of scuba by Underwater Demolitions Teams (UDT) in ops against shoreline obstacles in paving the way for a beach-landing invasion force. Since those early days, warriors beneath the waves have had one big problem: Exhaled air would boil to the surface in great clouds of bubbles, often giving away their positions. Now there's a new bubble-less design for underwater breathing equipment that takes care of the problem.

Called the Interspiro Oxydive, this new closed circuit setup functions by taking the exhaled air, passing it through a chemical scrubber to remove carbon dioxide and adding oxygen to make up for that used by the diver. Although simple at first glance, coming up with a viable way to make the system work proved to be a complex task.

Part of the problem arises from the complexity and delicacy of the system. While early bubble-less systems were better than standard scuba equipment for covert ops, advantages have always been weighed against increased problems of field support, complexity of maintenance, user training and reliability. In forward areas these problems were often overwhelming, leading to a reluctance to employ closed circuit systems.

The biggest shortcoming of previous closed circuit units has been that of regulating oxygen dosage. A diver's oxygen needs vary with his workload and exertion rate and the duration of the unit is a function of both the initial oxygen supply and how fast it is

consumed. A diver's needs can vary from as little as 0.3 liters per minute to as much as 4 liters per minute for a short duration, heavy workload. With the introduction of the Interspiro Oxydive these obstacles were overcome.

No previous closed circuit underwater breathing units have been able to accommodate the large variation in oxygen use rate and have settled for a fixed flow rate—not a desirable feature for combat divers. If a moderate dosage is chosen, then the diver at low exertion rates is losing dive duration, while at high exertion rates he is not receiving enough oxygen. Interspiro has developed a mechanism that allows the diver to adjust his oxygen dosage rate to compensate for an increase or decrease of his workload or exertion rate.

The oxygen bottle has a capacity of 1.5 liters, a charging pressure of 3,000 psi and gives a duration of three hours at a consumption rate of 1.5 liters per minute.

The absorber unit, or "scrubber," and its cartridge are designed in such a manner that refilling with soda lime is simple and fast. With this simple approach it is now practical for missions of extended length to drybag and carry extra oxygen cylinders and prepackaged absorber refills to change on the return swim.

The Interspiro Oxydiver combined with the Viking Diving Equipment "Combat Swimmer" variable volume dry suit increases mission flexibility beyond the point normally considered by underwater ops personnel. Several NATO countries, including Norway and West Germany, agree that the Oxydive system is the best on the market



ABOVE: Front view of the oxygen bottle and scrubber. Photo: Bill Stojack

BELOW AND BOTTOM: Complete Oxydive system is compact and lightweight: perfect for underwater ops. Photo: Bill Stojack



and have already adopted this combination of equipment.

The U.S. military has gotten into the act as well: Operational testing and evaluation by the Army Special Forces, the Naval Experimental Diving Unit and several other U.S. specialized units has led to a recommendation for procurement of the system in the near future. If you want to get more information on this revolutionary system, write to: Interspiro, Dept. SOF, 11 Business Park Dr., Branford, CN 06405. Phone: (203) 481-3899. And you better do it fast before the classified stamp descends, putting a lid on inquiries and articles. ✕

TEN Soviet soldiers walked into the kill zone. Since they all died in fire erupting from captured AKs, the Afghans had time to strip their bodies. A peculiar pistol was among the first trophies claimed.

These mujahideen of the Jamiat Islami organization had recovered a small silenced pistol from the body of a man who appeared to be a Spetsnaz trooper. Turned over to Afghan resistance officers, the pistol came into the possession of Ahmadshah Masoud, the mujahid commander famous for his courageous defenses of the Panjsher Valley.

When free-lance writer/photographer John Lloyd Stephens saw the silenced pistol in Peshawar, he had no weighing and measuring equipment in his camera bag. So he did the next best thing, photographing the weapon in assembled and stripped conditions. No facilities were available for test-firing.

From the photographs, the sound-suppressed pistol is a Makarov (*Pistole Makarov* or PM) variant. It appears to fire the standard 9x18mm ComBloc pistol round from the standard PM magazine. The P6 (as Western intelligence sources say it is designated) is a double-action, blowback-operated, self-loading pistol. Superficially it would be easy to guess that the P6 is a cut-down PM with an integral silencer. But the pistol represented in Stephens' photographs gives every evidence of being a new model of the PM, specially designed for its purpose and in full industrial production.

The frame of the P6 is elongated in front of the trigger guard to form an attachment for the suppressor. Since simply cutting away the front half of the PM's slide to accommodate the suppressor tube would increase the slide's velocity in recoil — possibly affecting accuracy, increasing wear and even allowing premature extraction before gas pressure has dropped — designers have modified the slide with heavy, thickened rails which protrude from the lower front of what is left of the P6's slide. This probably adds enough weight to the cut-down slide to regularize performance, but only with some gas escape from ports cut into the barrel.

For efficiency and compactness, the sound-suppressing system begins 20mm from the chamber. At that point, four twisting rows of five 3.5mm gas ports begin marching down the barrel, allowing gases to move directly from the barrel into the screen-filled suppressor tube. Combustion gases leaving the barrel so early in the ignition cycle must drop the muzzle velocity of the projectile by as much as 50 meters per second (mps).

Not only does the ported-barrel design limit the size of the P6, it also allows normal-velocity 9x18mm ammo to be used at any altitude or temperature while keeping the bullet's speed well under the sound barrier. At sea level and normal temperatures the Makarov bullet will leave the barrel at about 340 mps. Given the possible increases in velocity from increase in temperature or altitude, 9x18mm *could* go trans-sonic. Gas



RIGHT: Nothing fancy, but it probably works. Aside from modifications required to accommodate the suppressor tube, the P6 adds only a slide lock to the basic PM design. Photo: John Lloyd Stephens

SOF WEAPONS

MUZZLED MAKAROV

Soviets' New Quiet Killer

by SOF Staff





LEFT: Based on the *Pistole Makarov*, the Soviet Union's latest assassination weapon, designated the P6, appears to be in full production and issue. Photo: John Lloyd Stephens

ports probably reduce the functional muzzle velocity below 300 mps, over 100 mps slower than the speed of sound. There is no chance that a sonic crack could be produced by this pistol, and it is probably very quiet.

The built-on sound suppressor is an un-baffled tube without wipes, filled with a screen-wire roll. Although Stephens didn't record disassembly procedure, he observed that the pistol and integral suppressor were easily broken down, and the suppressor was obviously easy to maintain in the field.

Another important modification of the PM in its transformation into the P6 is a slide lock. The molded semicircle in the upper part of the grip's right side probably allows the slide lock to protrude for operation with the thumb of the right hand. Locking the slide in the breech-closed, forward position directs all ignition gases through the barrel and the suppressor, and virtually eliminates mechanical noise when the pistol is fired.

The MP has been much modified to adapt it for its new role as an assassin's weapon, and most of the work appears to have been done the right way. Unfortunately, SOF has no means to test the pistol, so we can't make any empirical statements on performance or accuracy. Without test-firing, we still can say that the Soviets have made some effort to keep the sights zeroed. The rear sight of the P6 has been raised to a full 10mm to level it with the front sight placed on the elevated top surface of the suppressor tube.

The P6 is a solid example of a sound-suppressed pistol designed around century-old ideas. There are no observed innovations, nor is existing technology cleverly assembled to solve a difficult problem. The P6 is probably quiet enough, accurate enough, lethal enough and cheap enough to satisfy Soviet planners.

The only really interesting thing about this pistol is that it is being produced in military issue quantities. SOF Soviet analyst David Isby relates that friendly intelligence organizations have obtained test samples of the P6. More interestingly, Isby reports that Afghan resistance forces in the Kunar Valley have captured several P6 pistols in combat actions over the last couple of years.

Apparently the Soviet military sees a need for a mass-produced, sound-suppressed compact pistol. It is significant that this assassin's weapon is in issue and in use with the Soviet army's front-line units. Is it possible that since the Soviet Union executes much of its foreign policy strategy through client-state terrorism that they have adopted similar terroristic tactics in war? The development of Spetsnaz formations and the production of the P6 may point in that direction. ✕



SILENCED MAKAROV CONVERSION

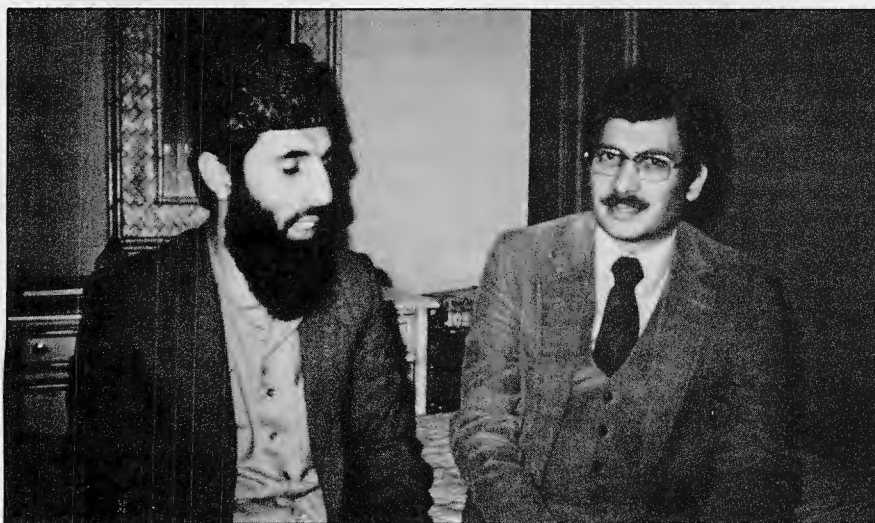
	P6	PM
Cartridge:	9x18mm	9x18mm
Operation:	blowback, manually locked	blowback
Magazine:	eight-round box	eight-round box
Weight:	unknown	660 grams
Overall length:	195mm	160mm
Overall height:	140mm	140mm
Suppressor length:	86mm	none
Suppressor diameter:	39mm	none
Muzzle velocity:	290 mps	340 mps

All P6 data is approximate

GULBUDIN HEKMATYAR

Holy Warrior Pleads His Case

by David Segal



Hekmatyar, left, and Segal meet in New York.

RELEVANCE to the real world is not one of the strong suits in games played at the United Nations, so the news hardly seemed journalistically earthshaking. Yet the Afghan mujahid contact who phoned late on an October Monday evening was excited. Gulbudin Hekmatyar and the leaders of six other Afghan anti-Soviet groups were in New York, the caller said. The coalition delegation — calling themselves the *Itehadi Islami Mujahideen-I-Afghanistan* (Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen) — was demanding Afghanistan's U.N. seat, now held by the Soviet puppet government.

The success of such a quest was remote at best. But imagining the spectacle that must have unfolded in the cavernous U.N. General Assembly chamber seemed oddly amusing. Fierce Gilzais, Hassanzais, Yusufzais and Afridis: holy warriors, trying to fathom the moral cowardice so fashionable in the Cave of the Winds.

Yet it is important that all seven major mujahideen leaders, commanding some 300,000 fighters, put aside differences to present a united front in New York. That

fact received almost no attention in the U.S. print media.

More curious still was the apparent attitude of the State Department. The U.S. government ignored the presence of seven leaders of the Afghan freedom fighters it usually extols. If anything, it seemed that Foggy Bottom bureaucrats did their dead-level best during the Afghans' week-long visit to pretend that the mujahideen do not exist. One plausible explanation was the then-imminent U.S./Soviet summit in Geneva, and the possibility that the Department was anxious not to insult our adversaries. Then our diplomats may not have been happy with a demand by the Afghan freedom fighters that the United States put its actions where its mouth is and recognize the mujahideen as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

The seven leaders in the Islamic Unity delegation included Gulbudin Hekmatyar, representing the *Hizbe Islami* (Islamic Party), the largest mujahideen group. Also

attending were Dr. Azizullah Ludin of *Harakat Inqilabi Islami Afghanistan* (Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan), and Sididiq Saljoq from *Mahazi Mili Islami* (National Islamic Front). Then there was Abdul Raheem of *Jamiat Islami* (Islamic Society), Ahmad Shah Massoud, the famed "Lion of the Panjsher"; Din Mohammed of the break-off *Mawlawi Khalis* faction of *Hizbe Islami*; Zmarak Yasir of *Ittihadi Islami Baraye Azadi Afghanistan* (Islamic Union for a Free Afghanistan); and Dr. Zabibullah Mojaddidi from *Jabhi Mili Najate Afghanistan* (Afghan National Liberation Front).

Hizbe Islami leader Gulbudin Hekmatyar, a prominent figure in Afghanistan's national and religious revival since his student activities in the mid-1960s, was the delegation's official spokesman. After making arrangements with the mujahideen, I flew off to interview him for *Soldier of Fortune*.

Hekmatyar's English was quite good — a whole lot better than my Farsi — and the interpreter was needed only twice in over 45 minutes. Below is an edited text of the interview:

SOF: Is the the main purpose of your visit to get Afghanistan's seat in the United Nations for the mujahideen?

Hekmatyar: Actually, we have come here as the sole representatives of the people of Afghanistan to show the United Nations and the world the true situation in our homeland. We want to gather support for our cause among the American people. Of course we want Afghanistan's seat in the United Nations since we are the real representatives of the Afghan people.

A majority of the General Assembly has several times condemned the Soviet invasion and occupation of my country. How can they recognize a delegate from the government that was imposed on us by foreign

Continued on page 125

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SOF On Patrol with the Arce Battalion

Text & Photos by
Bob Jordan & Karl Klein

SAN Miguel changes very little, and then only slowly. But as towns go in El Salvador and throughout Central America, the provincial capital of San Miguel Province — located about 10.5 clicks northeast of a large volcano of the same name — is a big town, despite the village atmosphere. The fortified headquarters of the Arce Immediate Reaction Battalion is located there. We'd worked there before, so our midmorning arrival after flying into San Salvador late the night before was a bit like a homecoming. A few friends from the Salvadoran Army greeted us.

Our mission? Through an agreement approved by the *Estado Mayor*, we were to train a 30-man platoon of hand-picked infantrymen organized into six squads, all to operate as independent fire team patrols. They should be able to conduct extended counterinsurgency missions against communist guerrillas operating in small, highly mobile bands. In short, we planned to teach our students to take the war right into the enemy's backyard and put him in a defensive, survival posture, not allowing him the time to act offensively.

We met with the battalion CO and his training and operations chief, a Major Equizabal, to go over our plan. The S-3 was quick to point out that air and heavy fire support assets were very limited. "If a small patrol locates the enemy, it is not simply a matter of calling in an air strike," Equizabal said.

In his clipped, faintly Rhodesian accent, Jordan acknowledged the problem. "We know you don't have the available resources to just call for arty or close-air support any time you want it," he said. "But the type of small patrol operations we have in mind are not just for reconnaissance. They are for combat. Once they locate the enemy, these

OPERAT



fire teams will be able to engage the enemy and kill him, for the most part unassisted. Training will be patterned after SAS counterinsurgency ops in Rhodesia, where a very similar tactical situation existed."

Jordan got his first taste of guerrilla warfare in Vietnam, but it was with the Special Air Service in Rhodesia, where he rose from trooper to a major commanding a squadron, and later as an officer in the South African Defence Force, that he developed his bushcraft knowledge into a fine art. The S-3 and CO said they were anxious to see if this concept would work with their men. The CO said our students would be hand-picked from ARCE's five line companies. He added with a wink that company COs would be told for the time being that we were teaching an infiltration course. Otherwise, they might be reluctant to volunteer their best men.

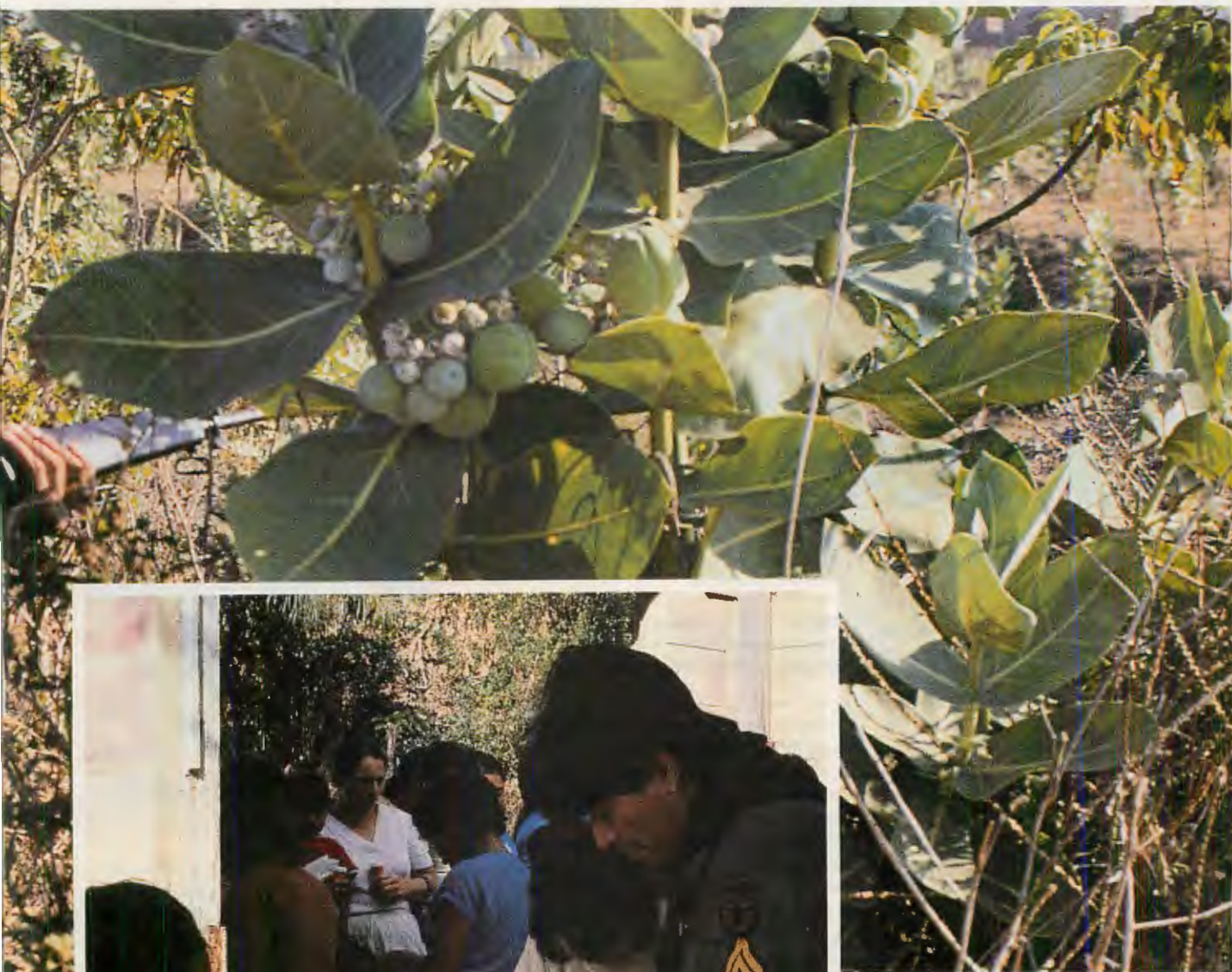
ABOVE: On patrol in Morazan, an Arce trooper pauses to scan the bush.

RIGHT: Arce sergeant helps civic action team dispense medicine in remote village.

If our program proved successful, the platoon we trained would form the nucleus of a recon company, the CO said. That decision had been approved by the command at the *Estado Mayor*. Our reputations were on the line. As Arce's CO explained his plans for the new unit, we looked at each other, both thinking of all the red tape they'd go through in the U.S. Army for such a TO&E change.

"One other thing," the battalion CO told us. "The battalion is due to start an operation up in Morazan. Most of the soldiers I have in mind for your course are assigned to Operation Carlos. They won't be able to

ION CARLOS



participate until they return from Morazan. So why don't you go with us to the field?"

We accepted immediately. Our presence on a combat op would serve several purposes. We could observe the men in action, allowing us to assess their proficiency in different skills. In this way we could concentrate on areas of need and spend less time on subjects in which they were already accomplished. Thus we would avoid wasting limited time in the few weeks available to us.

The S-3 gave us a sideways glance and an impish smile as we left the CO's office to draw our gear. "You will like Morazan," he said quietly.

As in most foreign armies, officers assigned to the headquarters element do not carry their own heavy gear on field operations. This is taken care of by enlisted personnel specifically assigned for that and



other administrative/logistical tasks. We decided it would look better to the men whom we would later train, however, if we carried our own gear. Each of us drew 350 rounds of ammo, an M16A1 rifle, grenades and a one-liter IV solution kit and other available personal medical supplies to augment what we'd brought down from the States. We also got jungle hammocks, two days of rations and three liters of water. Even then, our patrol kit did not weigh as much as those usually carried on LRRP ops in Vietnam.

We worked until about midnight cleaning our weapons and organizing our gear. We were instructed to show up at the cuartel no later than 0430. We set an alarm for 0400. At precisely 0300, a trooper already dressed in full combat gear rapped sharply on the metal door of our barracks room. Klein groggily opened it to see the trooper standing stiffly at attention. First call, he advised in precise Spanish. Klein thanked him, closed the door, flipped out the lights and rolled over for another hour's sleep.

The resounding metallic rap-rap-rap echoed again on the concrete walls. Klein turned on the lights and opened the door again. There stood the same trooper, still at attention, politely but more firmly advising us that the lights must be on and everyone — everyone — must be awake.

We fell out of our racks, policed up our gear and headed for the parade deck. After waiting in the courtyard for perhaps an hour, everyone mounted up on seven troop trucks with the canvas tops removed. Rucksacks and crew-served weapons were positioned near the center of the truck bed, while troops lined up standing on either side, facing outward with their rifles at the ready.

ABOVE: A weary soldier with a wounded hand rests in front of wall painted by Marxist guerrillas.

RIGHT: Under Jordan's watchful eye, Salvo troopers fortify a hilltop position deep in guerrilla-held territory.

The big diesel trucks lurched by the sentries and through the front gate.

Several kilometers west of San Miguel, the convoy turned off the paved highway north onto a dirt road. Dust quickly made the clear morning coolness less pleasant. We wrapped OD muslin triangle bandages around our mouths and noses for protection. The eastern sky showed a band of light pink, dimly outlining the closest line of hills. Truck engines began to labor against steeper grades, grumbling as drivers dropped them into lower and lower gears. We were headed north into Morazan.

Morazan Province is important to the Salvadoran government *and* to the Marxist guerrillas fighting under the umbrella organization of the FMLN . . . important for three reasons. First, it's located on El Salvador's northeast border next to Honduras. Its inaccessible proximity to the frontier makes it an easy infiltration area and resupply route for insurgents. Second, the rugged mountain terrain is suitable for insurgency operations aimed at destabilizing the duly elected government of President Duarte. Third, the area is economically desirable because of its vast and largely untapped wealth in natural resources, primarily timber.

The province had an excellent hard-surface road system. But it has fallen into disrepair from lack of use. It isn't used because of land mines and ambushes set by



the communist guerrillas, who seek to deny residents transportation arteries which can be used for self-sustaining commerce and communication with the outside world. So we stuck to dirt roads.

We reached our drop-off point in the tiny settlement of Carolina about midmorning. Operation Carlos officially got underway as we strapped on our gear. We were to sweep in a northeasterly direction toward Perquin, our objective. The farming town, once a vibrant market hub, now was a guerrilla stronghold, largely deserted by its civilian citizens. Our mission was to reach Perquin and provide whatever inhabitants we could find with medical and other assistance.

The companies deployed in a traditional maneuver formation, two forward and one back, with the Command Group roughly in the center. After waiting for the forward elements to deploy their formations, we took off at what we thought was a forced-march pace. We figured this would slow some after we put a little distance between us and our departure point. No dice. It was to be the regular pace for the next eight days.



The straight-line distance from Carolina to Perquin is about 20 klicks. But the trail winds up and down, round and round, up and over hills ranging between 300 and 1,300 meters. As we knew before we left the cuartel, this was going to be a long, hard walk.

A little over an hour passed. There was a muffled explosion ahead, off on one flank. "Mina," mumbled one old soldier under his breath. A mine. "Herido," came the radio message. Wounded. The Command Group double-timed ahead.

It was a homemade job, but no less effective. The trooper, about 17, lay on his back, already medicated, intently watching saline solution drip into the tube stuck in his arm. The front half of his left boot was missing. Klein counted 20 bloody holes in the right leg. A jagged gash ripped across the top of the leg into the groin area. The S-3 already was on the radio, calling for a medevac. A dustoff was on the way, he told the young casualty.

About an hour after resuming our march, another mine exploded. We radioed ahead, expecting to have to call for another helicopter. But the point elements had impounded an emaciated farm horse that had strayed into the hills. The horse was herded on the trail ahead of them. The poor animal was buzzard bait now, but it had saved a Salvadoran trooper from being seriously wounded and possibly killed.

Following mountain trails in Morazan is an unfortunate necessity. They are the only means of rapid passage through overgrown and rough terrain. Like Vietnam, overland movement through the bush is possible for a small, carefully moving recon patrol. For a

A Huey prepares to drop off more supplies and ammo for long-range patrol operation.

battalion-sized sweep, however, it is out of the question.

We plodded ever onward and upward, soaked in sweat. As late afternoon approached, one soldier pointed out to Klein a sheer cliff about 1,000 feet above them, saying something in Spanish that Klein, a Green Beret and Vietnam veteran, did not fully understand. He soon began to get the picture, though, as the column huffed and chuffed its way up a steep ridge line to the top of the cliff to establish a night defensive position (NDP).

After a quick dinner of canned beans and corn enchiladas, and with their water ration getting low, Klein and Jordan fell into their hammocks and soon were asleep.

The march continued at first light, mainly still uphill. We stopped briefly at a farmhouse to refill our canteens. The sweep then continued until 0930, when another dustoff was requested. We went forward to see why. We'd heard no mine explosion or small-arms fire.

A trooper had passed out in the ranks with a raging fever. The S-3 said the field medics suspected cholera or typhus. Despite the speed with which the medevac arrived, we heard later that the young soldier was DOA at the battalion aid station. His body was quarantined for autopsy. Then the chilling word came back to us in the field.

Meningitis. Bacterial meningitis. By then another trooper had collapsed. He died before the helicopter arrived. By the second dustoff of that day, though, three more soldiers had collapsed. All four were flown

back to San Miguel.

In the next couple of days, as we approached the virtually abandoned village of Terola, moving closer to Perquin, sporadic firefights to our front and on both flanks continued throughout the morning. Once a prosperous village, Terola was now a guerrilla stronghold. The Gs had left hurriedly as our lead companies closed in. Derelict buildings with slogan-painted walls and perhaps 30 nervous villagers were all that remained. The Command Group moved in and set up at 1130 hours. Patrols were immediately sent out to search the surrounding bush.

Just before noon, the now familiar sound of an AP mine explosion came rolling down from a hill overlooking Terola. Without really thinking, everyone in the CP knew another trooper would need a medevac. But then we paid more attention. Unlike most mine explosions, this one was quickly followed by a growing fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire and the thud of grenades. A firefight.

The smoke and dust was visible from the CP, up a hill about a klick away. But we couldn't raise the patrol on the radio. The patrol commander apparently was too busy to answer. Five minutes passed. The smattering of gunfire began to die in fits and starts, then stopped. Our radio crackled. It was the patrol commander.

"We have two wounded, one from a mine and another with gunshot wounds in the legs," he reported. "Medevac urgently needed. Enemy casualties are unknown, but blood was found in their position. They opened their ambush as the mine went off. More details to follow."



Those details only confirmed that another quick, typical counterinsurgency-type action had occurred. Nothing dramatic or conclusive, just a few more wounded soldiers and guerrillas, some ammunition expended and a few square yards of countryside temporarily changing control. El Salvador's Morazan Province has seen countless such incidents and no doubt will see as many more before the communist insurgents are defeated.

Back in Terola, the battalion's S-2 and S-3 officers began preliminary work to organize a civilian action program, something that gets very little press in the United States, but which helps El Salvador's rural poor nonetheless. It was apparent that life under the guerrillas had not exactly been the workers' paradise about which their propaganda officers loved to lecture. We made a few informal speeches, dispensed some free medical treatment to those in need and the obviously worn-out villagers plodded back to their hovels.

Area patrols continued the remainder of the day, but failed to turn up anything of significance. The faint boom and clatter of distant air strikes and firefights reached us, but Terola remained quiet throughout the night. Early the next morning, 3 February, a helicopter resupplied us with rations and ammo. We packed up and hit the trail about 1000 hours, headed upward into the rugged



TOP: Dustoff: Huey makes brief landing to evacuate more wounded.

ABOVE: Buddies work to stabilize a wounded soldier loaded on a Huey for medevac.

hills along a trail mainly suitable for mountain goats. Although the Command Group had no direct contact with the enemy, the occasional sputter of gunfire from our point and flank companies, as well as a firefight involving the Ponce Battalion deployed east of our position, reminded us that the Gs were very close.

The reveries of our long march quickly

vanished in a charge of adrenalin as we walked right into a recently abandoned guerrilla base about 1300. Its location and layout — low shelters hidden in thick brush, shallow foxholes and still-warm cooking pits — reminded Jordan of other times. The scene easily could be Vietnam or Rhodesia. But it is El Salvador, 1986. Appearances indicated about 50 inhabitants had un-assed the area a day or so before our arrival. We ransacked the place for intel, then torched it, a welcome respite from our hard uphill walk.

But too soon, we were on the road again. Jordan lapsed into his plodding rhythm again, his mind wandering, eventually onto



some old soldier's doggerel: *The grand old Duke of York, He had 10 thousand men; He marched them to the top of the hill, Then he marched them down again.*

The old duke no doubt would have loved Morazan Province. The geography there would keep him (or more properly, his men) busy for years and years. In several days of firefights, civic action programs and the destruction of enemy camps — always on the move — we climbed only a few of the thousands of hills and mountains in the region. Even the Salvo troops, widely regarded for their marching stamina, began to show signs of fatigue.

"It was mainly pride that kept me going," Jordan later acknowledged, "that and a healthy respect for what might happen to a gringo alone in these unfriendly hills if he got left behind."

The next two days were grueling ones: walking, walking, occasional brief enemy contact, stopping to burn abandoned guerrilla camps; walking, walking, regularly radioing for the evacuation of mine victims, our slow progress further complicated by a growing number of meningitis cases in the ranks. Finally one morning the Arce Battalion reached our objective, a sizable ville called Perquin. We fell out for a breather. Our relief was tempered with caution.

The FMLN had touted Perquin as one of their "liberated" towns. "Liberated" in

communist guerrilla parlance meant that Perquin — like Terola — was in an advanced state of decay.

Perquin's once-thriving lumber industry now can't even turn out toothpicks because communist insurgents destroyed electrical lines bringing power to the region. A once profitable agricultural region is now made up of scattered farms which barely feed the families that till the soil. Roads are unsafe for travel because of guerrilla mines and ambushes. But even with electricity and good transportation, there's no place to sell goods because free markets in places like Perquin and Terola have disappeared in a guerrilla-imposed Marxist economy. Most civilian doctors left, intimidated by the Gs and their mistrust of professionals as "rich intellectuals." The few surplus crops produced are confiscated by the guerrillas along with any money the villagers manage to make, stolen from them by the Gs as "war taxes."

Small wonder the 300 or so die-hards who refused to leave Perquin were happy to see us. Some even acted festive when they learned that a field medical clinic would be set up the following day. But what really struck a tender note in the midst of such destruction and deprivation was their generosity toward the soldiers. As the weary grunts began preparing field rations, they were offered tortillas and fruit from the villagers' meager cupboards. When the government has enough troops to garrison far-flung towns like Perquin, they will be welcomed.

A surprise was in store for the villagers: Gallons and gallons of paint and many brushes were delivered by helicopter. We passed them out to villagers, who before we finally left had painted almost every building, including all the walls with anti-government and Marxist slogans. A fairly complete census was taken and one of the Arce commanders chatted informally with a few town leaders about Perquin's immediate problems and some short- and long-term solutions.

That night was a blessedly quiet one. The morning stillness went uninterrupted until the dusty arrival of several Huey helicopters bearing equipment, supplies and several of the government's civic action specialists, including doctors, nurses and sanitation experts. Also arriving later in the morning were other personnel associated with *Soldier of Fortune*, including the magazine's contributing editor for paramedic operations, Dr. John Peters, and Tom Reisinger, a former Green Beret paramedic in Vietnam and president of Refugee Relief International Inc.

A public address system was set up as the villagers and other *campesinos* from outlying farms began to organize into groups. Music and an occasional speech provided a backdrop as folks lined up for medical examinations, treatment and medicine. An easy, relaxed atmosphere — almost carnival — pervaded the town square as locals visited with each other without fear and

provided for long-neglected needs.

Jordan was taking down some of this local color in his notebook, his mind drifting back over the last few days of the arduous march, when his body reflexes took over uncontrollably. The notebook and pen flew from his hands at the explosion of the first incoming mortar round as the combat vet dove for cover.

Not until he was safe behind a wall did his mind take over again. He glanced cautiously over the wall to assess the situation. The enemy fire apparently was ineffectual, passing overhead and falling outside the village perimeter.

But the noise level increased a notch or two as our guys cranked up the return fire. The Gs reverted to small arms, apparently beginning to fall back. The attack was more of an annoyance than a real threat. After about 10 minutes obviously bored villagers, who'd seen much worse, emerged from their hiding places and congregated in the village church. Government troops moved out to pursue the communist insurgents. As gunfire drew farther away, someone picked up the PA microphone and began shouting taunts at the guerrillas as the pop and sputter of automatic weapons fire faded into the hills.

By then, the lines had formed again and the civic action program resumed as if nothing had happened. Locals began chatting again, barely mentioning the incident except to joke about the Gs being eager to upset the government's good works and being mad because they were unable to do so. Before we left, every single civilian received a medical exam and necessary treatment. Our coming was welcomed, although it indirectly was a collective reminder to Perquin's citizens of how miserable their standard of living had become under domination by the FMLN. Their happiness was tempered by the knowledge that the guerrillas would reoccupy Perquin within hours of our departure. But their hopes no doubt were buoyed by the thought that the government troops obviously could come back into Perquin whenever they wanted. Surely they wished for that return to be sooner rather than later.

As we formed up one morning at the edge of town for the long march back to where trucks could safely retrieve us, Jordan asked Arce's S-3 about the status of meningitis cases in the ranks. "So far there are 24," he said, "but some cases may be malaria."

We were thankful to reach Arce's barracks without further enemy contact or mine explosions. The down side of being home was 35 confirmed cases of meningitis, three of them fatal. Instead of leave, the entire battalion faced quarantine to their quarters until the disease had run its course. After a few days, however, they were released for garrison duty and in some lucky cases R&R.

But our job — to train fire-team patrols — was just beginning. Despite the rigors of Operation Carlos, our hardest work — and that of the Salvadoran troops — still lay ahead. ✕

GUERRILLA ARSENAL

Rebel Weapons in El Salvador

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

FIGHTING along jungle paths and rural villages, the guerrilla has little use for action data automation systems, armored fighting vehicles and 8-inch self-propelled howitzers. He carries the tools of his trade on his back and in his hands: grenades, mines, rifles, machine guns and man-portable rocket launchers. And so it is in El Salvador, where I have spent many months over the last three years examining and analyzing the weapons of the communist insurgency.

A quick look at the tools of political terror produces no surprises, just more guns. Yet if you carefully examine the weapons of war in the Third World, a more complex pattern emerges: the tracks of international communist gunrunning. Guerrilla arms from El Salvador trace that map clearly.

No matter what anyone else tells you, the rifle remains the primary weapon of land warfare. It is the soldier's most intimate possession. Archetypal Salvadoran guerrilla bands will usually be armed with an assortment of G3s, FN FALs and M16s, in about equal numbers.

Captured G3s I have examined were either originally manufactured by Heckler & Koch and then refurbished at the Bandung Arsenal in Indonesia before sale to the Salvadoran government, or produced by INDEP (Industrias Nacionais de Defesa EP) in Lisbon, Portugal. All of the H&K G3s were made in the late 1960s, but the Portuguese rifles are of more recent origin, as some are dated 1981. Many are without forearms and must be fired by grasping the magazine with the support hand. A large number of these roller-locked, delayed-blowback rifles have badly rusted chambers and fail to extract with alarming regularity.

Most of the FN FALs are of Cuban origin. A hole, slightly larger than a 25-cent piece, has been cut by an end mill through the right side of the upper receiver's maga-



SOF Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis hunts down guerrilla weapons in El Salvador. Photo: Steve Salisbury

zine well to remove the Cuban coat of arms and "EJERCITO DE CUBA." Ordered from FN by the Batista regime in 1958, they are equipped with the long, so-called U.S.-style flash suppressor.

I have also seen several heavy-barrel, bipod-equipped versions marked with the Venezuelan coat of arms and "FUERZAS ARMADAS DE VENEZUELA" — a country which was an early sympathizer of the communist terrorists. I recently inspected a FAL with wooden buttstock, plastic handguards, short 22mm flash hider/grenade launcher and diagonal sand cuts on the bolt carrier. The serial number (44460), ground off the receiver, had been left on the bolt carrier. This rifle, of unknown origin, had been captured from the ERP (*Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo*), the terrorist

group held responsible for the Zona Rosa massacre of U.S. Marines in San Salvador.

M16s are obtained from two sources. Some have been captured from the Salvadoran army. Most, however, have been shipped from North Vietnam via Cuba and then Nicaragua. The huge stockpiles of equipment and munitions we abandoned in Vietnam have come back to avenge broken promises. Serial numbers have been defaced on many of the M16s from North Vietnam. All too often this is not an attempt at subterfuge, however. Six years of war in the harsh tropical environment of Central America have ravaged the M16s' T6 aluminum alloy lower receiver. After the protective paint finish has worn off, salts in the sweat from the support hand, which is often placed on the left side of the magazine well instead of the handguards, begin to attack the aluminum. At least 50 percent of the M16s in the government's Atonal Immediate Reaction Battalion — which operates in a high-salt environment near the coast — exhibit corrosion so severe that the magazine well has been completely eaten away on the front of the left side.

The Gs fight with a hodgepodge of other rifles as well. Some of the more exotic include muzzle-loading percussion shotguns and commercial .22 LR bolt-action and semiautomatic rifles of every make and description. I noted one .22 LR M1 Carbine look-alike made by Erma Werke in Germany and many Winchesters and Remingtons in all models. Numerous M1/M2 .30 Carbines have also been taken from the guerrillas.

Bolt-action military rifles were commonplace in the early stages of the war. Most frequently encountered are Czech Model 24 Mausers in caliber 7x57mm. Bearing Brno Arsenal marks, this rifle was adopted by El Salvador and several other Central and South American nations. I have also



ABOVE: Captured Cuban FN FAL rifles — one without handguards (top) and one with jury-rigged bottom handguard (bottom).

checked 98k Mausers with both the Czech rampant lion and Israeli (FN manufacture) crests on the receiver that were converted to the 7.62x51 mm cartridge by the Israeli government and conspicuously marked "7.62." Ten thousand of these rifles were obtained by Nicaragua during the Somoza regime when large quantities of equipment were purchased from Israel. Pattern 1917 U.S. Enfield rifles marked "MODEL OF 1934, REMINGTON, 7-MM" have also been recovered from guerrilla forces. These weapons were produced for the government of Honduras.

Galil ARM assault rifles are considered great prizes by the Salvadoran officer corps. While a few have been captured from the Gs, most were abandoned (along with Israeli combat harnesses and ballistic helmets) by fleeing Somocista troops in the 3rd Brigade area near San Miguel. Nicaraguan Galils have Spanish selector markings: 'S' for *seguro* or safe, 'A' for *automático* and 'N' for semiautomatic . . . no one seems to know what the N stands for in Spanish.

Unusually for a communist-backed insurrection, there are few AKs in El Salvador, but this, too, is part of a pattern. No more than five Kalashnikovs have been taken from the Gs. All were carried by guerrilla leaders, apparently as a badge of rank. I have seen two of these: One in the Arce Battalion in San Miguel was of Yugoslavian origin and the other at Ilopango air base was an early Russian AK-47 (transliterated serial number "VIA 5767R").

There are a few new Polish AKMs (folding stock, export models without grenade launcher) floating around El Salvador, but

they come from an unexpected source. All came from the Nicaraguan contras who purchased them recently from the Polish government for \$140 each.

RPG-2s and various grenades are the only ComBloc weapons to show up in El Salvador with any regularity. There appear to be two reasons for this. One-time leader of the FMLN (Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional), Napoleon Romero, has stated that a 1979 agreement between Cuba, Nicaragua and the various rebel forces stipulated that no Soviet Bloc armaments would be provided to cover the Managua-



LEFT: Major Aleman Rivera, CO of the Salvadoran Airborne Battalion, holds a captured U.S. .30 M1 Carbine with chopped buttstock.

BELOW: Captured Czech Model 24 rifle — a section from an M16 sling has been attached by heavy wire.



Havana-Moscow connection and foster disinformation that the rebel movement was entirely indigenous in origin. Finally, commonality with Salvadoran army weapons permits the terts to utilize captured stores of ammunition.

Submachine guns find small favor with Gs operating in the deep bush, if for no other reason than the scarcity of 9mm ammunition. As a consequence, they are usually funneled to urban terrorists operating in San Salvador. The usual melange prevails. At one time or another I have laid hands on a Sterling Mk4-L2A3 (serial number KR22030, supposedly from a Tunisian contract); an M3A1 Greasegun (serial number 601435) manufactured by Guide Lamp and crudely refinished with light gray enamel; a Czech Vz 61 (Skorpion) machine pistol in caliber 7.65mm (.32 ACP); a rare Mauser MP 57 (less than 30 produced); an Egyptian Port Said (a close copy of the Swedish Carl Gustav Model 45); and, of course, numerous Danish Madsen Model 50s with the Salvadoran crest.

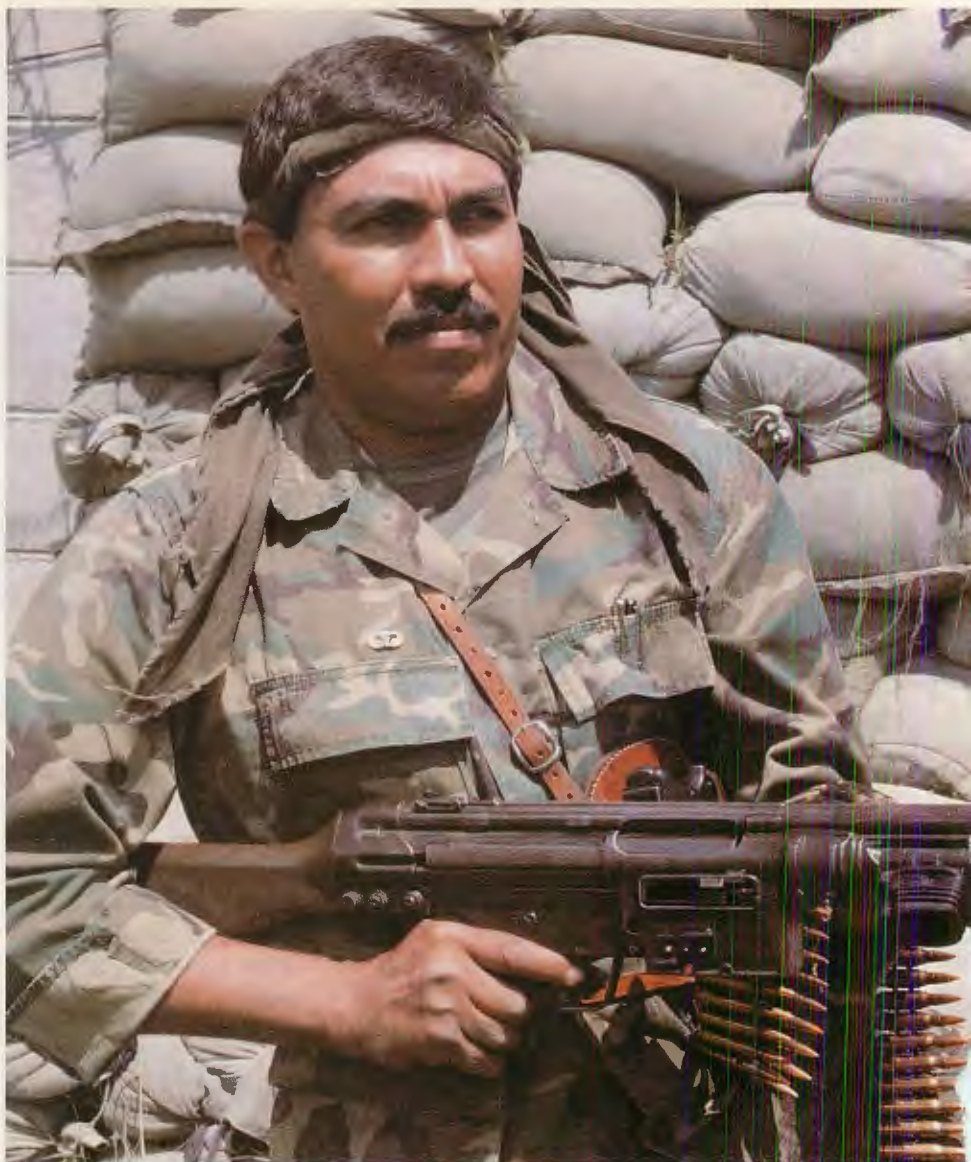
Pistols serve no meaningful function whatever in the jungles of El Salvador and I have seen but a handful of Browning HiPowers captured from the Gs.

M60s from North Vietnam remain the dominant machine gun in the guerrilla inventory, although their use in battle has declined sharply. Some might attribute this to a shortage of ammunition. I think the '60's disappearance is more closely related to its requirement for a constant flow of spare parts and meticulous maintenance.

BELOW: A bullet hole in the gas tube of this Cuban FN FAL has been patched with wire and solder (which will liquefy once the gas tube heats).

BOTTOM: Original pistol grip on this captured Cuban FN FAL has been replaced by one of tropical softwood.

RIGHT: Captured U.S. and European caliber .22 LR semiautomatic and bolt-action sporting rifles.





Without a central ordnance depot (*Maestranza*) or battalion armories to supply the components necessary to keep this machine gun functioning, the M60 will soon self-destruct. It's not much of a guerrilla gun. In my opinion, most of the M60s initially supplied to the guerrilla forces now lie as inoperable hulks on rusting piles in hidden caches.

A few Madsen-Saetter and HK21 GPMGs have been recovered as well, both of which have an even worse combat record than the M60. Some FN MAG 58 GPMGs had been left at the 3rd Brigade in San Miguel by Nicaraguan soldiers escaping the Sandinista takeover (I converted these feed mechanisms to accept M13 disintegrating links). Guerrilla troops are also equipped with the Browning .50 cal. M2 HB machine gun. But, at 128 pounds, this noble beast does not conform to their hit-and-run tactics and most remain north of the Rio Torola in guerrilla strongholds.

Other guerrilla weaponry includes RPG-2s (all that I have examined were manufactured by the People's Republic of China), M79 40mm grenade launchers (again, compliments of Ho Chi Minh), U.S. (60mm and

ABOVE: Salvadoran Airborne Battalion officer with captured HK21 GPMG.



81mm) and Yugoslavian (50mm, 81mm and 120mm) mortars, and homemade mines of all types.

As the increased efficiency of the Salvadoran army has prevented large-scale guerrilla operations over the last year, the Gs have responded with a greater use of mines along trails and roads. The majority of current Salvadoran army casualties are a result of these pernicious devices. Most common is a small "foot popper" fabricated from a 3-inch section of gray PVC pipe and acid detonated.

Ammunition may supply some of the best information for tracing the past life of captured arms. 7.62x51 NATO cartridges headstamped LC 74 (Lake City Ordnance Plant, Missouri, 1974) and WRA 69 (Winchester Repeating Arms Co., 1969) were abandoned in Vietnam by U.S. forces after withdrawal in 1973. I have inspected Com-Bloc cartridges in this caliber manufactured by Bulgaria in 1967 (headstamp: 10 67) and Czechoslovakia in 1969 (ZV 69). 7.62x51 NATO cartridges from Great Britain (RG L2A2 69), Belgium (FN 60), Venezuela (CAVIM 77) and Portugal (FNM 80-24) have also been identified. Ammunition taken from the Salvadoran army includes

BELOW: Captured Belgian M50BG white phosphorus signaling grenades.



LEFT: Captured Cuban FN FAL rifle — handguards retained by surgical tape and flash suppressor cut away, probably because of a bulge.

BELOW: Soviet grenades in El Salvador (left to right): F1, RG42 and RGD-5.





ABOVE: Both the handguards and buttstock of this captured M16A1 were replaced by handmade indigenous tropical wood components.

the following lots: HP 78 7.62x51 (Hirtenberger Patronen Fabrik, Hirtenberg, Austria, 1978); DAG 7.62x51 68 (Dynamit A-G, Empelde, Hannover, West Germany, 1968); and MS 192-59 7.62x51 (Manusaar, West Germany, 1959).

El Salvador offers a veritable cornucopia of combat grenades and I have pitched every kind I could lay my hands on, with one

RIGHT: Captured muzzle-loading percussion shotguns.

BELOW: M16A1 rifle converted to carbine configuration by guerrilla armorers who chopped the barrel and installed a G3 muzzle device and cut-down G3 tropical-style handguards.



exception. Primitive hand grenades were first used in the 15th century with burning fuzes. This type, made from short sections of galvanized pipe, can still be encountered in the Salvadoran bush. Having no desire to experience a premature detonation or to afford the enemy enough time to hurl the device back into my face, I have refrained from employing these unpredictable homemade bombs.

The Gs most commonly employ the Soviet WWII-era F1 defensive fragmentation grenade. Its deeply serrated cast-iron body has about 1½ ounces of TNT filler. The casualty radius is given as 20 meters, but due to extremely uneven breakup, large fragments can cause injury at up to 100 meters. Several years ago I was responsible for perpetrating a myth espoused by my friend, the late Larry Dring, to the effect that the UZRG pyrotechnic train fuzes on these grenades had variable time delays from zero to 13 seconds, and were so marked on the fuze body (see "Fuze Surprise" and "The Gift," SOF, September '83). Not so. I have now thrown at least 10 of these grenades and detonated an equal number of UZRG fuzes, variously marked 0, 1, 3 and 7. In every instance the time delay was three to four seconds, exactly as specified. The numbers on the UZRG fuze body are most certainly lot numbers only and do not indicate the time delay.

Defensive hand grenades are designed to produce a large number of fragments and must be thrown from adequate cover. So-called offensive grenades were developed for assaulting troops and thus have a high

explosive content with thin walls and little fragmentation. They produce a considerable blast effect to stun the enemy during the final assault on his position. They can usually be distinguished in the field by their smooth canister-shaped bodies.

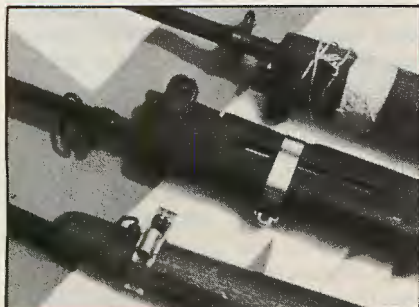
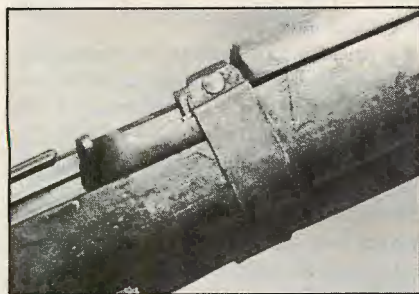
The Salvadoran guerrillas use two Soviet grenades that appear to be of the offensive type, but are in reality both defensive grenades. The first, the RG42 anti-personnel grenade, dates back to WWII. Inside its smooth, sheet-metal cylindrical body is a separate fragmentation liner with grooved, diamond-shaped serrations. The second, the RGD-5, is egg-shaped with a two-piece, smooth exterior and a raised lip around the center. Both of these grenades use TNT for a filler and the UZRG time fuze, although the spoon on the RGD-5 fuze is somewhat shorter. Due to its shape, the RGD-5 can be thrown farther than either the F1 or RG42.

Also encountered early in the war was the Czech RG4 offensive grenade. It has a sheet-metal cylindrical body, usually painted black, and both an upper and lower bursting charge. There is no time fuze, because the RG4 is impact detonated. To arm the RG4, simply pull the ring attached to the sheet-metal bar in the center of the body. Take care: The RG4 will explode when it touches so much as the twig of a tree overhead. For obvious reasons the RG4 is not popular in the thick bush of El Salvador.

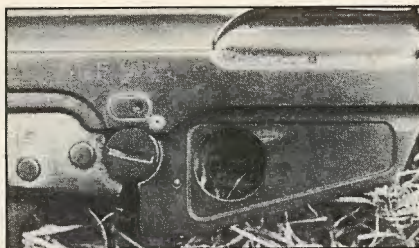
I have examined two Belgian grenades (perhaps also coming through the Cuban conduit along with the FN FALs) captured from the communist guerrillas. The M50BG is a green smoke grenade containing a white phosphorus filler which bursts over a moderate area. An unusual water-filled compartment on one side of the body reduces dispersal of the WP. The cylindrical

BELOW: Missing rear barrel band on this .30 M1 Carbine was replaced with a sheet-metal strap.

BOTTOM: Forearms held together by hose clamps, masking tape and wire.



ABOVE: M16A1 rifles worn by salt corrosion from sweaty hands.



body is painted olive drab and is marked "GREN. SMOKE, M. 50, PHOS., P.R.B. 2/53, Lot No 1." Designed for signaling, there is nevertheless some WP fragmentation produced by the burst. The Belgian PRB-8 grenade has an olive drab plastic body, cylindrical in shape. A spirally wound steel-wire sleeve, notched to disperse about 500 fragments, can be slipped over the plastic body for defensive purposes. Both Belgian grenades use the block-striker lever and pin-safety type PRB-3 time fuze with a delay of four to five seconds.

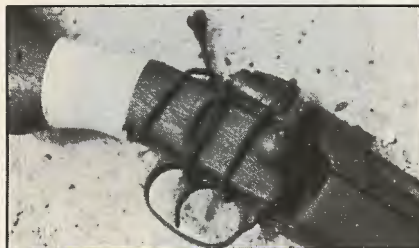
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BELOW: The top portions of this FAL's handguards were cut away, apparently after they were damaged.



LEFT: Cuban FN FAL rifle. Note hole in lower receiver which obliterates the Cuban crest and "EJERCITO DE CUBA."

BELOW LEFT: Czech Model 24 Mauser rifle — stock repaired with masking tape and boot lace.



BELOW: Captured Mauser 98k bolt-action rifles converted to caliber 7.62x51mm by Israel. Ten thousand of these were sold to Somoza. Note severe rust. Rifle on left carries Czech rampant lion crest and was manufactured at the Brno arsenal. Rifle on the right bears the crest of the Israeli Defence Forces and was manufactured by FN in Belgium.



VICTORIA CROSS

Great Britain's Roll of Honor

by Curt Rich

EACH country reserves its highest award for its heroes — the few ordinary men who show extraordinary courage on the battlefield. The United States awards the Medal of Honor; France, the *Croix de Guerre*. But perhaps the medal with the most colorful history is Great Britain's Victoria Cross.

Until 1856 Great Britain had no means of rewarding junior officers or enlisted men in the Royal Navy and Army for exceptional valor in the face of the enemy. The Crimean War made it clear that they needed something. Some say that the idea for creation of the Victoria Cross originated during a conversation between Prince Albert and the Secretary of State for War, the Duke of Newcastle. Others give credit to Queen Victoria or to war correspondent William Howard Russell. At any rate, Newcastle drew the Prince's attention to the need either for an extension of the Order of the Bath or for the institution of a new order of merit to be conferred regardless of rank, for outstanding personal gallantry in action. Prince Albert agreed and began to work on the form of this new order. And Queen Victoria — who took personal interest in the design and modified the final version of the cross to be bronze rather than copper and to read "For Valor" rather than "For the Brave" — presented the first 62 Victoria Crosses during the Crimean War in Hyde Park, London, on 26 June 1857.

The Victoria Cross is a stark, unimpressive medal in appearance, requiring the observer to realize its meaning by recognition rather than ostentation. Each cross was struck from the bronze of two Russian cannons captured at the Siege of Sebastopol in 1854, a constant reminder of the valor displayed in their capture. It measures 1.375 inches in diameter, and the ribbon is 1.5 inches wide. The date of the act of valor is inscribed on the reverse of the cross and the rank, name and unit of the recipient on the



back of the clasp. All of the Victoria Crosses have been made by Hancock's and Company Ltd., London.

The decoration was to consist of a Maltese cross (or cross pattée) and the ribbon was to be blue for the Royal Navy and red for the Army. A bar was to be attached to the ribbon for every subsequent act of bravery of equal merit. In the event of a collective act of exceptional bravery on the part of 50 or more men, the officers and men were to nominate four men for the award.

In 1867 the warrant was amended and members of the colonial forces in New Zealand and other parts of the Empire became

eligible for the Victoria Cross, and in 1911 the award was extended to Indian officers and enlisted men. In 1918, with the establishment of the Royal Air Force as a separate branch of service, the blue ribbon for the Navy was abolished and the red was adopted for all three services. In 1920 it was decided that when the ribbon alone was worn a miniature cross should be attached to it, a further cross being added for each bar awarded. At the same time women became eligible for the medal, but no such award has been made to date.

In 1959, surviving Victoria Cross holders were granted a tax free annuity of 100 pounds sterling regardless of rank. Previously all below the rank of officer had received a basic annual pension of 10 pounds.

From its inception to the end of the Vietnam War, a total of 1,352 Victoria Crosses were awarded. Between 1914 and 1975, 830 Victoria Crosses were awarded of which 634 were won during the First World War, 182 during the Second World War, and nine from 1945 to 1981.

Since 1854, 835 Victoria Crosses have been awarded to members of the British Army, 119 to the Royal Navy, Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Royal Marines, and 32 to the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force. The British East India Company and the Indian army won 137, the Australian forces won 91, Canadian forces won 80, South African forces won 28, and the New Zealand forces won 22. Three men have been awarded a bar to the Victoria Cross.

Perhaps the most famous mass awarding of the Victoria Cross during the 19th century was 12 to the most valorous of the survivors of the battle at Rorke's Drift, 22-23 January 1879 in the Zulu War. One hundred and forty men of the 24th Regiment held off attacks by 4,000 Zulus on a small hospital and staging post of Rorke's Drift for 12 hours after the Zulus had wiped out a much larger British contingent at Isandlwana. Under the command of Lieutenant Chard, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Bromhead, B Company, 2/24 Regiment, the defenders improvised barricades from wagons, mealie bags, crates of tinned meat and bodies of fallen Zulus.

The Gurkhas, both in the Indian army and in the British army, became eligible to win the Victoria Cross in 1911. Since then 13 have earned it, with a further 10 going to British officers in Gurkha regiments. Six of these 13 were won in Burma during WWII.

Lachhiman Gurung, a rifleman in the Fourth Battalion, 88th Gurkha Rifles, was in a forward trench on the night of 13 May 1945 when the Japanese attacked his company's position. The two men with Lachhiman were wounded almost immediately in the barrage of grenades. Lachhiman threw back two grenades. A third exploded in his hand, blowing off his fingers, shattering his right arm, and severely wounding him in the face, legs and body. He fought on for four hours, firing and even reloading his rifle with his left hand. Daylight disclosed 31 dead Japanese in front of his position.

The youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross was Boy (First Class) John Travers Cornwell. Cornwell was born 8 January 1900, and died 2 June 1916 during the Battle of Jutland. A sight setter and communications number in a gun crew, "he was mortally wounded early in the action. He nevertheless stood alone at a most exposed post, quietly awaiting orders till the end of the action with the gun crew dead and wounded all round him."

Private Robert Ryder, 12th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross "for most conspicuous bravery and initiative during the Battle of Thiepval Ridge, 26-28 September 1916, part of the final phase of fighting on the Somme while attacking enemy lines, his company was held up by heavy rifle fire and all the officers in charge were wounded. Due to lack of leadership the attack was showing signs of collapse when Pvt. Ryder made a solitary assault on the enemy trench, which, with the aid of a Lewis gun, he managed to put out of action. This feat not only made possible but also greatly inspired the subsequent advance of his comrades."

Captain Billy Bishop won a Victoria Cross without any friendly witnesses when he attacked a German aerodrome and shot down three planes one by one as they rose to defend the aerodrome. The normal requirement for witnesses was waived — since Bishop shot down 72 German aircraft, his valor was not in doubt.

During WWII, only one RAF fighter pilot won the Victoria Cross — James Bradley Nicolson on 10 November 1940. Considering the massive air battles which took place during the Battle of Britain, this seems slight. But only one U.S. pilot received a Congressional Medal of Honor in the European Theater of Operations.

Other interesting battles which resulted in the awarding of Victoria Crosses were the famous midget submarine raid at Kaa Fjord, Norway, on 22 September 1943 which resulted in two Victoria Crosses; the St. Nazaire commando raid on Normandy docks 27 March 1942 which resulted in five Victoria Crosses, and one to Wing Commander Guy Penrose Gibson during the 617 Squadron's "Dam Busters" raid on Mohne and Eder dams, 16-17 May 1943.

Two Victoria Crosses were given to members of the Gloucestershire Regiment for action at the Imjin River, Korea, 22-23 April 1951. The first went to Lieutenant

Colonel James Power Carne, DSO, 1st Battalion commanding officer.

"Following a series of heavy enemy attacks during which Lieutenant Colonel Carne personally led assault parties in repulsing the attackers, the Glosters were completely cut off from the rest of their brigade. When it became apparent that his battalion could not be relieved he organized it into small officer-led parties which then broke out. Lieutenant Colonel Carne himself was in charge of such a party but was captured within 24 hours. Throughout captivity he set an outstanding personal example of dignity and conduct to the other prisoners during a particularly difficult period."

Each cross was struck from the bronze of two Russian cannons captured at the Siege of Sebastopol in 1854.

The other Victoria Cross, one of two posthumous Victoria Crosses awarded during the Korean war, went to one of the platoon leaders of the Gloucestershire Regiment, 1st Lieutenant Phillip Kenneth Edward Curtis. His platoon was ordered to carry out a counterattack to dislodge the enemy from their foothold on "Castle Hill," near the Imjin River. Enemy reinforcements were called up, and fierce fighting developed at close quarters. Lieutenant Curtis, under covering fire, rushed the position but was severely wounded by a grenade. Despite attempts to hold him back, he recovered and rushed forward again but was killed by a burst of fire when within a few yards of his objective. The unit also received a Presidential Unit Citation from the president of the United States.

The Victoria Cross was awarded four times during the Vietnam War, to Australians. The first was to Warrant Officer II Kevin Arthur Wheatly in Tra Bong Valley, Quang Ngai Province, 13 November 1965.

"Warrant Officer Wheatly was in action with a company of South Vietnamese CIDG together with a fellow Australian, Warrant Officer R. J. Scranton. The company came under heavy attack from a Viet Cong force, and during this action WO Scranton was mortally wounded. Helped by a Vietnamese soldier, Wheatly dragged and carried the wounded man 200 yards to the shelter of some trees. Although the Vietnamese soldiers with him implored him to leave, he refused and was seen to pull the pins from two grenades and calmly await the advanc-

ing Viet Cong. Two explosions were heard, followed by a burst of fire. The bodies of the two Australians were recovered the next day, both having been killed by small-arms fire."

The last was awarded to Warrant Officer Keith Payne on 24 May 1969 for showing outstanding courage in holding off NVA attacks under hazardous conditions and for going out alone to gather in scattered units.

The last two Victoria Crosses were won in the Falklands. Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Jones was commander of 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. "On 28 May 1982 2 Para attacked Argentine positions around the settlements of Darwin and Goose Green. Just south of Darwin 2 Para were held up by an enemy trench system on a ridge. They sustained casualties, and the attack was in danger of faltering. 'H' Jones led his reconnaissance group to the forefront of the action where it became clear that the attack might fail unless desperate measures were taken immediately. Seizing a Sterling submachine gun, he called on those around him and charged the nearest position with total disregard for his own safety. His uphill attack exposed him to fire from several trenches. Near the crest he was seen to fall and roll back downhill but immediately picked himself up and charged once more, seemingly oblivious to the intense fire that was aimed at him. Almost on his objective, he fell mortally wounded. Soon after, one of his companies attacked the enemy who quickly surrendered, their will to fight completely undermined by Col. Jones' courageous assault. The momentum of the attack was rapidly regained. Darwin and Goose Green were liberated. The battalion released the local inhabitants unharmed and captured some 1,200 Argentine soldiers."

The last Victoria Cross was won by Sergeant Ian McKay, 3rd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, on 11 December 1982. During a silent attack on Mount Longdon his commanding officer was hit by a bullet in the leg. McKay took three men, broke, and charged the enemy position. His corporal was wounded, a private killed, and another wounded. McKay continued to charge alone. On reaching the enemy position he dispatched the enemy with grenades, relieving beleaguered 4 and 5 platoons, now able to deploy with safety. Sergeant McKay, however, was killed at the moment of victory.

The Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military award for conspicuous valor, was often given for spur of the moment charges. But more often, they were given for deliberate, calculated sacrifice, to men who altered the course of the battle. "The Victoria Cross takes precedence over all other orders and decorations," the warrant states. The wearer of the red ribbon and the bronze Maltese cross has won the highest award his country can give for an act of valor in combat with the enemy.

The author wishes to thank the Imperial War Museum, London, for its cooperation in preparing this article. ✕

COMBLOC SNIPER RIFLES

Crosshairs of the Warsaw Pact

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Yugoslavian M76 sniper rifle, based on the Kalashnikov system, is a popular Dragunov derivative.

WHILE American use of telescopic sights on military rifles dates from the Civil War, optically equipped service rifles did not reach prominence in Europe until World War I when highly trained German sharpshooters helped decimate the Russian horde along a thousand-mile line from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The Russian army at that time possessed no sniping capability. But by 1941 Germans dropped like flies before Red Army snipers who helped prevent the blitzkrieg from overrunning Mother Russia.

During WWII, Russian snipers were equipped with the M1891/30 Mosin Nagant bolt-action rifle fitted with either the four-power "PE" scope or 3.5-power "PU" scope. Although still employed by some Third World client states of the Soviet Union, these have generally been replaced by the Dragunov system. To determine accuracy potential, hit probability and overall quality of ComBloc sniping systems, an M1891/30 Mosin Nagant with "PU" scope and a Yugoslavian M-76 Dragunov derivative were selected by SOF for test and evaluation.

The M1891 rifle was developed by Colonel S.I. Mosin of the Russian Artillery who designed the action, and the Belgian Nagant brothers who were responsible for the magazine system. The complex and unusual bolt consists of three components, excluding the firing pin: the body with the bolt handle, the recessed bolt head with two locking lugs and extractor, and a coupling unit which also serves as a bolt guide.

Locking lugs cam laterally into recesses on each side of the receiver ring instead of vertically as in the case of the Mauser. The bolt handle on sniper versions is turned down. Cocking occurs when the cocking piece is held back by the sear as the bolt is opened. The safety is simple but clumsy.



YUGOSLAVIAN M76 DRAGUNOV SNIPER RIFLE

Caliber	7.92x57mm
Operation	Gas with three-position regulator and conventional Kalashnikov piston and extension attached to bolt carrier. Locking by means of rotary two-lug bolt. Fire from the closed-bolt position. Auto safety sear, but semiautomatic fire only.
Feed Mechanism	10-round staggered box type, detachable magazine
Weight, empty	11.6 pounds with scope and mount
Length, overall	45.4 inches
Barrel	Four-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.6 inches.
Barrel length	22 inches
Sights	Round, post-type front with protective ears; adjustable for windage and elevation zero. Sliding tangent type with open U-notch; adjustable for elevation only in 100 increments from 0 to 1,000 meters.
Optics	ON M76 4X scope, side rail mounted with aluminum rings and mount (quick detachable); Tritium illuminated range-finding (200 to 800 meters) reticle pattern; metascope for infrared detection.
Accessories	Wirecutter bayonet, rifle grenades, sling, passive optical night sight [PN5X80(j)], carrying case and optical maintenance kit for ON M76 scope.
Manufacturer	Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Kragujevac, Yugoslavia
Status	In service with Yugoslavian armed forces and several unspecified Third World countries.

The cocking piece must be pulled rearward against the firing pin's spring tension and turned counterclockwise about an eighth-turn.

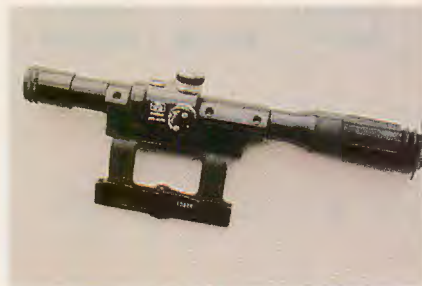
Model 1891/30 rifles differ from the original M1891 only by virtue of a shorter barrel (28.7 inches versus 31.6 inches), a rounded rather than hexagonal receiver and a rear sight marked in meters instead of archines (one archine is approximately 28 inches). With a weight of 8.7 pounds without scope, sling or bayonet — standard for this period — and an overall length of 48.1 inches, the M1891/30 rifle is awkward to carry and was supplemented by carbine versions throughout its production history. To my knowledge, Mosin Nagant carbines were never fitted with scopes.

Because of the large-rimmed 7.62x54R cartridge, the M1891/30 magazine has a peculiar feed interrupter which holds down the second round, permitting the top cartridge to feed and move forward without pressure from below. This magazine catch helps to eliminate jams and is not released until final rotation of the bolt. For purposes of unloading and maintenance, the magazine floorplate can be released by a spring-loaded catch. Magazine capacity is only five rounds. The rifle is loaded from five-round clips, but they cannot be used with the scope in place.

Almost full-length, the buttstock ends with a metal cap just 3½ inches from the muzzle. Of poor grade, the wood furniture on these rifles is usually stained and varnished or painted. Two metal barrel bands retain the top handguard. A cleaning rod fits into a groove on the buttstock's underside. A web sling is attached to leather straps that

BELOW: Yugoslavian ON M76 4X scope has tritium illuminated rangefinder reticle pattern and infrared detector.

BOTTOM: Nuclear warning label on ON M76 scope directly under knob which flips infrared detector filter into the field of view.



run through two slots in the buttstock in a manner peculiar to this rifle series. There is a finger groove on either side of the stock just under the receiver. A recoil crossbolt at this location all too frequently loosens and permits the barreled action to move about in the stock. This does nothing to maximize accuracy potential.

Sight radius of the M1891/30 is 24½ inches. A round, post-type front sight is threaded into the protective hood which can be drifted in its dovetail on the barrel for windage zero. The post can be rotated by inserting a tool through the top of the hood for elevation zero. A sliding tangent rear sight carries an open U-notch and can be adjusted for elevation only from 100 to 2,000 meters — a typical fantasy of this era.

The so-called "PU" 3.5-power scope is

TOP: M76 flash suppressor, front sight assembly and bayonet stud.

RIGHT: M76 gas block with three-position gas regulator helps to moderate felt recoil considerably.

BELOW: Yugoslavian M76 rifle field-stripped.



MOSIN NAGANT M1891/30 DRAGUNOV SNIPER RIFLE

Caliber	7.62x54R Russian Rimmed
Operation	Manually operated turn-bolt
Feed Mechanism	5-round box magazine with feed interruptor
Weight, empty	8.7 pounds without scope, sling or bayonet
Length, overall	48.1 inches
Barrel length	28.7 inches
Sights	Round, post-type front with protective hood; adjustable for windage and elevation zero. Sliding tangent-type rear with open U-notch; adjustable for elevation only in 50-meter increments from 100 to 2,000 meters. Sight radius 24.5 inches.
Optics	4X PE or more prevalent 3.5X PU scope mounted to left side of receiver. PU scope reticle pattern pointed post on bottom with thick, horizontal sidebars.
Manufacturer	Numerous Soviet arsenals and PRC. Many rebuilt in late 1950s at Polish arsenals.
Status	No longer manufactured. Obsolete in ComBloc armies. Replaced by Dragunov series. Still encountered in Third World ComBloc client states.

the most prevalent and worst of the two. Only 6¼ inches long, it sits too far forward on the receiver and causes neck strain when used for prolonged periods of time. The reticle pattern has been copied from that used by the German military since WWI. It consists of a single, thick, pointed post at the bottom of the field of view with thick horizontal sidebars. This format excels in subdued light and offers faster target acquisition than standard crosshairs. But since there is no range-finding capability the sniper must estimate the range and rotate the external elevation knob on top of the scope which is adjustable in 100-meter increments from zero to 1,300 meters. I don't know why the supposed effective range of this rifle is reduced from 2,000 to 1,300 meters by the addition of a telescopic sight.

Another external knob on the left side permits windage adjustments. The scope mount is attached to the left side of the receiver. Although it can be adjusted for initial zero by means of two opposing set screws, it is not designed to be detached by the operator. Inconvenient, but acceptable. The later four-power "PE" scope, also mounted on the left side of the receiver, was longer and permitted the sniper to maintain a normal shooting position when aligning his eye with the ocular.

BELOW: M76 buttstock and pistol grip are fabricated from better-quality wood than usually encountered on ComBloc small arms. Heavy rubber butt pad is quite effective.

BOTTOM: Test-firing the Yugoslavian M76 sniper rifle for accuracy potential with help from Armor Metal Products' portable shooting bench and Steiner's spotting scope.



CHRONOGRAPH RESULTS

Instrumentation: Oehler Model 33 Chronotach with Skyscreen detectors positioned 10 feet from muzzle. Ambient temperature: 74 degrees F. All readings in feet per second at elevation of 1,080 feet above sea level. All projectiles military with full metal jackets (FMJ). 7.62x54R ammunition fired through Mosin Nagant M1891/30 rifle with 28.7-inch barrel. 7.92x57mm ammunition fired through Yugoslavian M76 rifle with 22-inch barrel.

	Low Velocity	High Velocity	Extreme Spread	Average	Standard Deviation
7.62x54R					
Russian 150-gr. Type 'L'	2,939	3,003	64	2,968	25
Russian 150-gr. Type 'LPS'	2,818	2,853	35	2,833	12
Egyptian 180-gr. boattail	2,378	2,713	335	2,578	90
7.92x57mm					
Canadian WWII 154-gr. spitzer	2,691	2,816	125	2,759	43
German, 1938 156-gr. AP tracer	2,642	2,679	37	2,665	12
Portuguese 198-gr. boattail	2,393	2,443	50	2,421	16



Dragunov-copy M76 upgrades the Kalashnikov system to minimum sniping quality.

Our test specimen was one of a large number rebuilt in Polish arsenals during the late 1950s. The stock had been repaired in three places. The receiver, bolt, magazine floorplate and checkered buttplate had been stamped with new serial numbers. The bore was in fair condition only, so the barrel had obviously not been replaced. The metal parts, except for the bolt group which remains in the white, were reblued. Trigger pull weight was a consistent but spongy 7 pounds.

Without doubt, the Russian 7.62x54R cartridge remains the last of the old-fashioned, large-capacity, rimmed-case, long-range rounds to survive in the service of any major military power. Both the Soviet Dragunov sniping rifle and the PK series of current Soviet general purpose machine guns are chambered for this round. With the 150-grain light ball projectile, it's in the same class as the .30-06.

Three lots of 7.62x54R ammunition were used to test the M1891/30 Mosin Nagant sniper rifle. All were Berdan primed and corrosive. Two of the lots were Russian light ball. Both contained 49 to 50.5 grains of extruded tubular kernel type (IMR) powder and copper-clad steel cases. The first lot

was headstamped '60 45' (factory code 60, 1945). This ammunition used the M1908 projectile (Type 'L') which is a full metal jacketed (FMJ) spire-point bullet with a hollow base and no color code. It left the 28.7-inch barrel at an average velocity of 2,968 fps. Extraction was somewhat sticky. The other lot, headstamped '188' (factory code 188, no date) and captured on Grenada, is the current Russian light ball. It features an FMJ boattail bullet with a mild steel core (Type 'LPS') that is patterned after their armor-piercing round and carries a silver color code on the tip. It produced an average velocity of 2,833 fps, but a standard deviation



of only 12 fps, which is excellent for military ammunition.

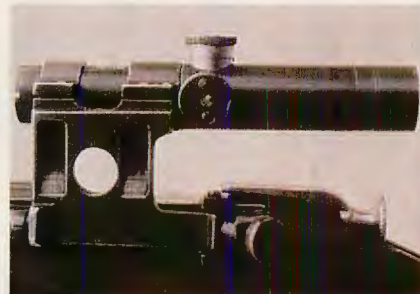
A substantial quantity of Egyptian ammunition was also fired through this rifle. The headstamp has Arabic characters which transliterate into "Misr" (the Arabic name for Egypt) and Factory No. 10. These are also Berdan primed, corrosive, and the cases are brass. A heavy 180-grain boattail FMJ bullet is propelled by 47 grains of European-type cut-sheet flakes. These Israeli battlefield pickups are really Egyptian junk. Forty percent have dead primers and when they do go off, hangfires are numerous. Those cartridges that ignited without incident have an average velocity of only 2,578 fps (expected because of the heavier bullet) and an unacceptable standard deviation of 90 fps.

Continued on page 122

BELOW: 3.5X 'PU' scope on Mosin Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifle.

CENTER: Russian crest and serial number on 3.5X 'PU' scope.

BOTTOM: The Mosin Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifle, replaced by the Dragunov series, is obsolete in all but a few Third World ComBloc client states.



TALE OF



NVA soldier on leave in Hanoi during the spring of 1973 seems to know that the war is won; it was only a matter of time.

TWO CITIES

Text & Photos by Donald Kirk

Saigon: Nothing Changes but the Name

IT had been more than a decade since I'd been to old Saigon, but it seemed like only days. Almost every street, every house remained unchanged since the deceptively tranquil summer before the end of the war when I had last passed through. But things were different now; the tensions of life under the conquerors from the north were visible in the faces of passersby.

As our government car eased its way back into the city from a day in the countryside, familiar sights, sounds and smells flooded over me: little cafes purveying thick black coffee; tiny garages where self-taught mechanics glued together motorcycles, cars and trucks; steaming restaurants reeking of beer, meat and vegetables — more legacies from old Vietnam. Still, there was no doubt that this was a different world than the one I had seen during the war. Take my guide, for instance.

A former guerrilla soldier from Hanoi, he now had a desk job in the foreign ministry. For some reason he had been assigned to show me around the new, improved Ho Chi Minh City — at my expense. I was supposed to stay with him at all times, especially when talking to Vietnamese. But in order to get a sense of the suffering of life in Ho

Chi Minh City under communist control, I had to get rid of him.

We had just returned from a visit to Tan An, a town south of Ho Chi Minh City on the main road to the Mekong Delta. After an afternoon spent at a monument surrounded by the gravestones of about 3,000 soldiers who'd "contributed their lives to the father-

A timeless scene: An old woman sells food from a basket atop her head.



land," anybody would be ready to pack it in for the rest of the day, even a die-hard communist. I told my guide I knew the neighborhood and wanted to look around for old times sake.

Yes, I could get back to the hotel downtown on my own. No, no, I wouldn't interview anybody, I promised. Yes, I knew the guide had to be with me whenever I opened my mouth. No problem, no sweat, as the GIs used to say. I left him sitting in the back seat of the car with a strange look on his lean, weathered face — half skeptical, half glad to be rid of his American charge — and strolled down the street.

Actually, I was looking for someone, a Vietnamese who'd interpreted for me years before when I'd covered the war, first for the *Washington Star* and then for the *Chicago Tribune*. I had no idea if he was still around or not, but he'd lived somewhere in this area with a wife and four kids. Hopefully he hadn't changed much; I'd last seen him in July of 1974.

I'd been on this same street in February of 1968 when U.S. soldiers were fighting block by block to drive out North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops who'd turned the race track a few blocks away into their headquarters for the Tet Offensive. The street had been a battleground four months later during the May 1968 offensive, but otherwise had been peaceful — even during Saigon's "final days" in April of 1975 when the North Vietnamese swept into town for keeps.

Hanoi: Monuments and Promises

LAST time I was in Hanoi I'd seen a train packed with teenage recruits in green fatigues, an odd sight considering the United States had just signed the "Paris Peace" that was supposed to end the war. I'd been in Hanoi for just one day on that trip — a passenger on a chartered Royal Air Lao planeload of journalists that flew from Vientiane into Gia Lam airport on the morning of 29 March 1973. We were whisked to the downtown prison where American POWs stayed and witnessed the departure of the last batch that afternoon on a C-141 before boarding the same Royal Air Lao plane back to Vientiane.

Not that I'd thought for a moment the war really was over. The emptiness of the Paris Peace was all too plain from the sound of gunfire on the roads leading out of Saigon.

On this latest trip, though, the war really was over — a decade over, to be precise, and I thought Hanoi, the hub of the great Vietnamese military and bureaucratic machine, might really be different. I expected a newness, a sense of "revolutionary progress," of change. I had no illusions about the degree of freedom, much less

happiness, instilled by the aging ideologues who cling to power here, but at least, I thought, the city might now display some brave-new-world styles, courtesy of the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

Communism turns a blind eye to street vendors in downtown Hanoi.



Not a chance. In fact, the small shops on the narrow streets were just as threadbare, as half-empty as I remembered them from the few fleeting minutes in which I'd been able to glimpse them more than 12 years earlier. The shopkeepers — remnants of free enterprise in a system deadened by more than 30 years of otherwise rigid collectivization — talked hesitantly, with occasional traces of real candor, through the guide supplied by the foreign ministry at my expense, though not my request.

"I did the same work 10 years ago," said a woman selling cloth in a small shop. "No, I cannot make as much money now as then," she admitted with a slight shrug. "Prices now are higher. Before, life was better."

All along the street, entrepreneurial Vietnamese peddled whatever they could — digital watches from such capitalist enclaves as Taiwan and Hong Kong, eyeglass frames, ballpoint pens, vitamin pills, pants stitched together on decrepit sewing machines hidden in the shadows. Some of the goods came in legally, but Western diplomats in Hanoi say most is smuggled. Vietnamese officials returning from overseas trips rank among the worst offenders. They routinely carry back stereo sets, motorcycles, transistor radios — items one could never obtain legitimately under the present economic system. The influx is never

A grinning cyclo driver picked me up at a corner and energetically pedaled me wherever I pointed. Kids began to follow, chattering, banging the cyclo, reaching to touch my arm. I asked the driver to stop, retreated into a coffee shop and re-emerged on foot. No luck. I'd just about given up the search when I stared across the street toward a thin, silver-haired man. He was staring back. I decided to ask him for help in my search, so I strolled across the street toward him.

"Hi, Don," he said. A nervous smile played across his face. I stopped, stared hard and stuck out my hand.

"Le Viet!" That was his nickname, the only name by which I ever knew him. I had to look carefully again. Could this be that inveterate, slightly overweight rumor-monger with sleek black hair and a crafty grin revealing gleaming white teeth? Was this the same person who'd regaled me with tales of coups, corruption and political derring-do over endless cups of *café français* at Givral's and Boda's on Tu Do Street?

He looked like a scarecrow now. His teeth — the ones that were left — were crooked. His face was deeply lined with age and fear.

"Le Viet, let's talk," I insisted. He turned and waved me into his house. Quickly, smiling broadly, he asked me how I was, what I was doing, said he'd written, but the letter hadn't gotten through. How were some of the other journalists he'd known? Then he stopped suddenly.

"It is very dangerous here," he said.



The Rex, a U.S. military officers' club during the war, is now a hotel. The crown atop the sign was added by the communists.

"We cannot talk." He began barking at a couple of young men shooting pool on a decrepit pool table set in the center of the cement floor and gave them chalk for the sticks.

"Le Viet, what are you doing?" I asked, knowing life had not been easy since the fall of Saigon.

"I run a pool hall. I have not been downtown in more than 10 years. But you must go, it is dangerous." His wife smiled politely and two of his children scampered happily in the dusty, poorly lit rear of the room. A rather tall young woman — taller than either

enough to meet demand, and prices keep rising despite repeated government efforts to set the value on such staples as food and clothing. The great unanswered question: How can anyone afford a bicycle for sale, at the equivalent in Vietnamese *dong* of \$100, when monthly wages average less than 10 percent of that figure? The presumption: Beneath a surface of great government "plans" and "objectives" and "systems" lurks a network of corruption that provides the real base of influence and power.

This theory becomes reality when you discover just how easy it is to change dollars on the flourishing black market. Wander into a *dac san* (restaurant) and chat with the smiling manager. He'll bargain briefly, then slip you a brick-sized bundle of *dong* in exchange for your dollars as long as he's fairly certain no one at a table in the front of the place is looking. Or walk around the lake in the center of the city, then stray down a street past shops showing off the best in Hanoi styles — richly embroidered silk *ao dais*. Simply show a piece of paper revealing the number of dollars you've got, and someone will make an offer. Bargaining is the key, but if you're headed south to Ho Chi Minh City, hoard those dollars for changing there. The rates are higher in old Saigon.

The manager of a chic restaurant specializing in good wine and French-style

cuisine, Nguyen Van Ngoc, will quickly try to put to rest any doubts you might have about the stability of the Vietnamese economy. But then, he has little to worry about: His cabinets are filled with bottles of French wine and brandy, both in heavy demand by the regulars from Eastern Europe and such sympathetic Western nations as Sweden and

District-level communist officials prepare for a Party meeting in Hanoi.



Finland. Somehow, and you'll never find out just why, Ngoc's got it made, but don't think for a moment he avoided his duty to the fatherland.

From 1968 to 1971, he tells you, he was a driver on the Ho Chi Minh Trail — extremely hazardous duty when you consider how heavily the Americans bombed it.

"The American planes attacked every day," said Ngoc, who came home a sergeant. "I was very lucky. Some of my friends were killed." In 1968, he said, he drove some American POWs "to the rear," meaning Hanoi. "They were treated well," he insisted.

His brother-in-law, Hoang Huu Hy, a partner in the venture, said he was wounded in South Vietnam's Quang Nam Province in 1969 while serving as a rifleman. "I feel angry at the Americans," he said without animosity against a backdrop of walls festooned with East German travel posters and a Sanyo calendar. "Now we have difficulties," he went on. "Oh, we can accept them."

Contrast the luxuries savored by Ngoc and Hy with the hardships visible in the government markets. In the heart of the city, in a drab concrete structure described as a department store, crowds wait to buy tawdry pieces of cloth at prices lower than those in private shops. The trouble is, most of the counters are bare, and displays of new

Le Viet or his wife — hung back in the shadows. She was his eldest, his daughter, now 17, a tiny child when I'd last seen her.

"Le Viet, I thought you might be in the States."

With the sadness of fatalistic inevitability he gave me his excuse. "My kids were sick in 1975. I didn't want to leave them. Now I must take care of them. It is very tough."

Le Viet was right, though. It was dangerous to talk. I left, promising to return.

A couple of nights later I made my way back to the sordid pool hall. Le Viet's wife was in the doorway.

"Have you seen Le Viet?" she asked as I entered the house. "I am scared. He has not been home in two nights."

A small crowd gathered and I knew something was up. Policemen walked up to the taxi waiting outside. Le Viet's wife implored me to leave before the police questioned me — and her.

But it was too late to make a clean getaway. The police ordered me to stop as soon as I got to the taxi. They gestured to the driver to wait and escorted me to a small open-fronted office building across the street — "People's Administrative Committee," said the red-lettered sign in Vietnamese. The police were polite. So were the local civilian officials who showed up later. They just wanted to know whom I was seeing and why. "The people," said one of them, had informed them of my first visit.

When could I return to my hotel? Soon, they said. "Soon" stretched into two hours.



Downtown Ho Chi Minh City: Tu Do Street looks much the same as in the days of old Saigon.

Through a former South Vietnamese air force officer, who'd been trained in the United States and seemed pleased to talk to an American again, they asked about my visit to Vietnam, my background in the country and my relationship to Le Viet.

Finally, they shoved a statement at me, in Vietnamese, dutifully translated by the ex-officer, stating that I "did not have permission to go to this place" and had done so "in violation of the laws of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

That was it. Shaking hands with me, they told the taxi driver to return me to my hotel. Much later I learned that Le Viet had finally come home after "confessing" his error and promising to deviate no more.

It had been a light brush with a tough system. As an American journalist, I was a privileged character. The authorities, eager to open diplomatic relations with the United States in a bid for trade and aid to bolster the hard-hit economy, did not want an incident.

But life for Le Viet and the five million or so other residents of Ho Chi Minh City won't soon change — with or without U.S. aid. It's a desperate struggle just to survive. Shopkeepers showing off souvenirs, street vendors selling cigarettes and candy smuggled in from Thailand, clerks toiling for a pittance in airline offices — they grinned and shrugged when asked how they were doing. As many as half the potential workers are underemployed if not jobless, and the city seethes with tension that confounds even the tough types sent down from Hanoi to keep the lid on.

Wherever you go, there is a sense of being watched; contacts are made surreptitiously, hastily, with elaborate ruses for avoiding the legions of plain-clothed informants that keep the city from erupting



sneakers and sweaters and sandals are just that — display items, not for sale.

Ask any top-ranking official for an explanation of the country's problems and the answer is always the same: "We are not a rich country, we are a poor country," acknowledged Hoang Tung, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and former top editor of *Nhan Dan*, the Party newspaper. "But we have achieved things more precious than goods or clothes," he went on. "We have ended foreign domina-

Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach addresses the foreign press in Hanoi.

tion, and now gradually we settle the problems of the economy. We have unified our country and started our construction. Step by step we are building."

To get that overwhelming job done, Hanoi counts on the Soviet Union. About 5,000 Soviet aid workers are scattered around the country, picking up on many projects in the south where the Americans left off. The

Soviets, though, don't even begin to supply the hard cash needed to buoy the economy, and they're clearly resentful.

"*Lien so, lien so*," said with contempt, is a refrain you keep hearing as you stroll through the city. The words mean "Soviet Union, Soviet Union," but the tone is insulting. Let it be known that you're *ong tai*, a "man from the West," said a Dutchman working for the United Nations, and people are likely to respond with the equivalent of "good, good."

Part of the problem is practicality. What, after all, can Vietnam really do with the grand new Cultural Hall donated by the Soviets "for the workers," or with the monument of Lenin that Vietnamese and Soviet "volunteers" are building on the vacant lot nearby? The commoners in Vietnam want a better standard of living, not monuments and promises.

Soviets sense Vietnamese resentment and, fearing a confrontation, stay bottled up in a compound, away from this strange and potentially hostile environment. Once a week foreigners go for the big night out — to dance the night away at a hotel party where diplomats, aid workers and local elitists rock and roll to Western music played by surprisingly good local combos.

The laid-back mood makes for good conversation with the normally reserved Eastern diplomats and aid workers. Here you're

into open revolt. Wherever you turn, though, you're likely to meet someone anxious to tell his plight, to ask for a favor — money, advice on how to get out of the country.

The sense of revolt is most obvious in the back alleys; in dank, dingy rooms away from prying eyes. A former South Vietnamese army lieutenant colonel spoke in angry defiance of the possibilities of arrest and lengthy imprisonment — if not worse.

"We don't do nothing, just stay home," he said in the pidgin English he'd learned from his American advisers with the South Vietnamese army's airborne. "We never ask for jobs. The communists don't like us. We want to kick them out." He was stocky, muscular, in his 40s; ready, it seemed, for another war. At his side was his wife, who begged me not to use his name. He talked on, naming the American adviser whom he'd known so I could check out his story, talking about those long, ultimately useless operations in the mountains, then describing the eight and a half years he'd spent in prison — "re-education" — near Hanoi after the war.

Sharing the room with him now was a former South Vietnamese army captain who'd been captured by the North Vietnamese in the central highland town of Ban Me Thuot a month before the communists' final victory, released shortly afterward and then imprisoned for seven years after he tried to organize a revolt.

"If they know I talk to you now, they will

ON THE WAY OUT

The crowds surge around the check-in counter for the Air France flight from Saigon to Bangkok. Little kids in pressed pants or party dresses, old men in Sunday-best suits, grandmothers in flowing *ao dais*, middle-aged men in business jackets, neckties and clean shirts; all trying to look confident.

This is the day. The big day. Maybe the biggest day of their lives. This is the day they are getting out of Vietnam. Beginning new lives. For this day they have been waiting for an average of three or four years. A year and a half just for the Vietnamese authorities to approve their exit visas. Another couple of years for the Vietnamese foreign ministry and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to process their applications and get approval from the country to which they want to go.

It's all legal, the best way out for the millions of Vietnamese who'd like to live almost anywhere but in Vietnam. It's a lot safer — and cheaper — than bribing your way onto a boat at Vung Tau or paying even more for a perilous trek with uncertain guides overland through Cambodia to Thailand.

Called the Orderly Departure Program (ODP), it's a harrowing gauntlet of

international bureaucracy that has provided new homes for 106,000 Vietnamese, 46,000 in the United States, from 1980 to the end of April 1986.

Chaos reigns daily at Tan Son Nhut Airport and the frenzy reaches a peak every Thursday when the big Air France Freedom Bird takes the load that's going to the United States. Walk into the final departure area after check-in and customs, and you feel as if you're at a special religious observance. There is a tension, a quietness broken only by children's cries and laughs and the sound of a Vietnamese official calling off the names, one by one, for the final check before getting on the plane out.

Almost gingerly, reverently, the chosen walk to the little tables in the front of the room. There, they are met by U.S. foreign service officers, carefully polite, crisp, businesslike men and women trying hard not to appear either bored or arrogant. Quickly they check papers and name lists, ask perfunctory questions, then wave the passengers on toward the bus that will carry them to the plane.

This little ritual represents the only regular diplomatic contact between the United States and Vietnam. But it doesn't amount to much considering that the diplomats aren't given permission to go out



sure to hear what it's really like to spend a tour in Vietnam, surviving on shipments from home, boiling with frustration over bureaucratic red tape and marking the days until you're "back in The World," to borrow the old GI expression.

"I don't like the Vietnamese," said a young Czech woman sent here to teach Eng-

In modern-day Vietnam, bicycles still provide the primary form of transportation.

lish, of all things. "They're dirty." She looked flirtatiously at a Polish official while her husband chatted with a Vietnamese girl.

"The Vietnamese come here, yes," said a woman working for the United Nations,

"but they're only the upper classes." The music blared out of the hotel dining room, audible down the otherwise quiet street where a Vietnamese woman cooked ears of corn over a small stove and sold them for a few *dong* apiece.

A few blocks away, a red neon sign flashed "Cafe" from an enticing little window. Inside were magazine blowups of Western film stars of a generation ago and fading ads for French and American liquors. Not that you can get any Western booze there — only bottles of Russian vodka lined a cabinet shelf.

Across the street, around the corner, another "cafe" competed in what is clearly the city's closest approach to a nightclub district. A couple of bureaucrats — identifiable as such by their uniformlike slacks and short-sleeved jackets, chatted at a small table, and a young couple snuggled in a corner. The bureaucrats, reluctantly answering some questions, admitted to "shortages" and "lack of spare parts" for basic equipment but said they have enough. I wondered vaguely what the 3.5 million Vietnamese still in the army — fighting in Cambodia, guarding against China, most of all keeping the country from exploding in a

The war winds down: A female soldier strolls through the streets of Hanoi during the spring of 1973.



Vietnamese children pose for a picture during a carnival in the village of Binh Da, near Hanoi.

outside the airport. In fact, they too board the same Air France plane back to Bangkok — riding first class, courtesy of the airline, in return for the enormous business Air France gets from the program.

It all sounds like a fairly easy process except for the sheer numbers of applicants, but those that get to the plane have a lot going for them that the average Vietnamese citizen doesn't. To qualify for a U.S. visa a Vietnamese must meet

one of the following requirements: have relatives in the United States, have proof of past or present employment with the U.S. government or one of its agencies, or have worked for an American company.

Amerasians rank highly among those most likely to make it through the maze. Vietnam maintains it doesn't want the often light-haired, oversized kids left behind by their American fathers, and the United States gives them special preference. Still, U.S. and Vietnamese officials wrangle over how to categorize them.

"For the Vietnamese side the Amerasian issue should be considered separately," says Françoise Muller, the French woman until recently in charge of the UNHCR office. "For the U.S., Amerasians are part of the Orderly Departure Program. Thirty-six hundred Amerasians and their immediate family members, mostly mothers, were among the 12,000 who made it to the United States in 1985.

"Vietnam and the United States also argue bitterly about delays in processing. Vietnam early this year made the job much tougher than it already was by ordering the departure of five or six Americans working in the UNHCR office helping to screen applicants. The Vietnamese claim the United States has certain priorities, sometimes for certain people with close ties to the United States," says Muller. "The Vietnamese are very unhappy that the United States did not increase the program."



kill me right away," he said, sneering at the prospect.

I heard other stories, too. One morning in Givral's, the coffee shop on the main square known to a generation of correspondents and political gossips, a youngish man told an improbable tale about keeping the bodies of GIs buried near his house. The next day he returned with the imprints of three dog-tags: Strouse, Howard D.; Clements, Richard L.; and Rangeloff, Roger A., with serial numbers, blood types and religions. A day later he pressed into my hand a small packet that he said contained bits of teeth and bones — "evidence" for me to take to the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center. Furtively, looking around for signs that someone was watching us, he promised he could lead investigators to the grave of a dozen GIs who'd gone down in a helicopter while fighting north of Saigon during the North Vietnamese offensive in the spring of 1972.

I'd covered the offensive, going up Route 13 north of Saigon past the U.S. bases at Ben Cat and Lai Khe to a town named Chon Thanh, on the way to An Loc, surrounded at the time by several divisions of North Vietnamese troops. It was one of the toughest battles of the war — with perhaps 50,000 dead and wounded on both sides. I believed the man's story and wondered how many more one might hear that sounded true amid the phony tales concocted in hopes of getting entry visas to the United States.

(The fate of these three MIAs remains a

score of civil wars — do during leave . . . if they get any.

The next day, among the stalls of a sprawling government market, I saw a couple of one-legged beggars, possibly war veterans, and a small boy leading a blind woman. In one of the stalls a smiling old lady sold delicious-looking moon cakes. "Not many people can buy," she complained. "They don't have enough money. The price of rice is higher now than before."

Another woman, overhearing the conversation, said taxes were going up. "Some people don't sell anything," she said. She gets by, though, on the salary her husband makes as a truck driver. Together, they scrape together enough for themselves and count on help occasionally from their five children, now aged 23 to 25. A sixth, a son, was killed while fighting around Kontum, in the Central Highlands, in 1970.

"I am very sad," she said. "First his friends told me — and then the government formally confirmed it." Does she ever wonder why he fought? "It is an obligation to fight the enemy," she answered simply, impassively, before my guide, who rose to the rank of captain and has a son now serving in Cambodia, broke into the conversation. "That's enough," he stated matter-of-factly.

I wondered how the rural countryside

mystery to this day. I gave the dog tag imprints and bone fragments to a State Department official who later acknowledged turning them over to an Army officer at the Joint Casualty Resolution Center's office at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. When I asked the Pentagon what had happened to my little contribution, I was promised a reply from the JCRC office in Hawaii. I

An NVA soldier stands in a crowd of his comrades listening to the exhortations of a communist political officer.

heard nothing.)

A stroll through downtown Ho Chi Minh City is enough to make anyone realize that no Asian version of the American Dream will come soon to Vietnam. Communism has replaced the brief glimpse of life in the United States with a realistic fatalism. But the longing for America is just under the surface; half the city would gladly leap on the next flight from Tan Son Nhut airport to Bangkok to the USA if given the chance.

And some try to create their own chance. "Can you help, please," asked a woman



selling cigarettes at the traffic circle at the end of Nguyen Hue, the "Street of Flowers," where vendors still hawk huge bouquets as they've done ever since the French colonial era. She smiled, just as she would to a GI in one of the Tu Do street bars, long since converted to souvenir shops. Beside her, dressed like her mother in Vietnamese-style pajamas, was a girl about 17 — brown-haired, light-skinned, slightly chubby, with a wide-open American-style smile. "I live with her father long time," said the woman. "He don't write to me. I want to go to United States and look for him. Can you help, please?" She looked around carefully, eyes narrowing. "Police," she said. "They see me, they get me later. Don't talk too long."

Sometimes the faces — lined, resigned, impassive — flicker in recognition. The gap-toothed little man who cleared tables at Boda's, on Tu Do opposite the Air France office in the Caravelle Hotel (the names have all been changed, of course, but I forget the new ones), said he remembered me.

Down the street at the Majestic Hotel, overlooking the river, I sought out the room where I'd stayed for two years writing a book and scores of articles and discovered it was now an office. Upstairs, five floors up on a rickety French-built cage of an elevator now encased in tacky fiber glass, the maitre d' and a couple of aged waiters remembered me, too. They shook their heads derisively when asked how they liked their new Soviet



Vietnamese civilians still manage to make ends meet by peddling goods on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City.

and East European guests. No way to get out, said the maitre d' — no money for the boats that had already carried hundreds of thousands away through treacherous waters to Thailand or Malaysia, no way to get on the list under which a select few now left by

plane on the Orderly Departure Program. "Life is bad," he said, turning his palm up in the French gesture of submissive acceptance.

For an American back in Saigon, though, the sense persists that Saigon will always be Saigon; Hanoi may pretend to rule it but will never really subdue it. Black market stalls laden with goodies smuggled in from Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore attest to that.

would compare with the city. My guide took me to Binh Da, a prosperous village in the richest rice country of the Red River Delta. It was a mere 14 miles southwest of the capital, a pleasant jaunt down paved roads, through fertile land where poverty and economic hardship seem impossible. Local officials gladly confirmed the level of prosperity and happiness, and one of them pointed out the progress of the area since the B-52 bombings during the "Christmas bombing" ordered by President Nixon in December of 1972 before the signing of the Paris Peace.

"None were shot down here," he said, "but at night we saw fights." A mile or so away, he told me, you can see the depression in the soil where the bombs fell — now planted over with rice. "This is not a military target but the Americans bomb anyway. It is the mistake of the United States government to bomb the rice farmers."

Beside him in the small open-fronted commune office, another official said he served six years in the south, near Saigon, as a squad leader. "I was wounded twice," he said, "but when I came back I got money from the government."

In an old pagoda down the road, the commune chairman, Nguyen Tien Ty, said he served as a battalion commander around Ban Me Thuot in the highlands but escaped without a scratch. "I hate the American

soldiers," he said, parroting a government line, "but we love the American people because they support the Vietnamese people."

Outside the pagoda, I noticed fighting cocks, feathers shining, beaks defiant, preening in wicker cages. Cockfights were

Flowers sell well in Hanoi, despite the poor economy.



on for the afternoon, the height of the carnival after the officials have handed out all the special achievement medals. Kids eagerly surged around the birds, and men scrutinized carefully, betting secretively on the winners.

It was an image of vitality and violence, but it's hardly typical. Off the guided tour are the "military areas," the projects that Swedish and other Western aid workers say

Old Saigon will never quite outlive its boomtown past before the communist takeover.

I went by Saigon taxi to the edge of town, on an American-built highway leading to the air base, checking out the little coffee

shops where a Vietnamese friend had told me people might talk freely — or more freely than downtown. Here was where GIs

American POWs prepare to leave Hanoi on 29 March 1973.

had once hung out, among faded tailor shops and massage parlors and bars, and here, in the first cafe I saw, sat a couple of Vietnamese, probably intellectuals, judging from their glasses, the pens in their pockets, the pursed, thin lips. I sat down in a tiny



chair, ordered a small coffee and asked one of the men what was happening.

"We talk here," he said. "There are very few police." His narrowed eyes belied his confidence, darting toward the windows and door as we chatted. "More than half the



Looking down Nguyen Hue toward the Saigon River from the Huu Nghi Hotel.

people have no jobs. We *hate* the North Vietnamese. We *hate* the communists. Some day we will overthrow them. You will see."

I laughed. The conversation reminded me of all those coffee-shop interviews of bygone times when political rebels talked

darkly of overthrowing the U.S.-backed regime. "No, we will," he insisted. "You wait. We can." Hastily he swilled down his coffee. "We do not like communists. We not like corrupt people. We want our own government."

I had heard it all before, often. The man looked outside. "Police," he said. "No more talk." I belted down my cup and left. ✕



The jeeps are gone: Motorists on cycles have replaced military vehicles on the circle at the end of Nguyen Hue.

are falling far short of goals, the desolate stretches of overgrown forests and farmlands, the maze of red tape of a deadening bureaucratic machine.

"So far we've seen no evidence of a desire for reform," said a Western diplomat based here. "They're 10 years into reunification and importing more than ever. How long can the government expect people to tighten their belts? One cannot help wondering if war isn't a necessity for them — but how long can they go on like this?"

That's a question that burns itself on the minds of most visitors as they survey the throngs bicycling silently through the city,

to work, to market, to home and family — but rarely to play.

"These people seem to be motivated by war," said an Englishwoman who commutes between here and Saigon for the United Nations. "It's the only thing that interests them. There's an underlying cruelty about them. Look, their faces somehow contort."

It's a harsh judgment, but one that's hard to refute in a setting of pervasive suffering and fear. The Vietnamese seem content to continue to grind along barely above abject poverty, hoping vainly for empty "economic plans" to bail them out. Perhaps Hanoi will shake itself out of its ideological fog and steer away from the Soviets who keep Vietnam tied to an unrealistic plan for the future. ✕

GROUPEMENT DE FUSILIERS MARINS COMMANDOS

French Soldiers of the Sea

by Gerald Ellis



GROUPEMENT de Fusiliers Marins Commandos probably doesn't sound familiar, unless one is in special operations or a student of the world's elite fighting units. They are only slightly better known as the Marine Commando Group of the French navy. While there are no marines in the French armed forces, at least as they are known in the United States, the term *fusiliers marins* is often translated as marine instead of naval infantry.

By anyone's definition, however, these are naval troops. And even though naval infantry would be a more accurate translation, the French like to call them marines.

France abolished its tri-service amphibious command in 1968-69, after its colonial empire had been reduced to a fraction of its former scope. Now the marine commando

LEFT: French Naval Commando beret badge.

RIGHT: French Combat Swimmer chest brevet.

group forms part of the *Commandement des Fusiliers Marins (Cofusma)*, or Naval Infantry Command) which also consists of the *fusiliers marins* protection (security) companies and the *fusiliers marins* school.

The *fusiliers marins commandos*, now much smaller than their original size, not only must maintain an amphibious capability, but they also keep alive the rich marine traditions in the French navy. They have a wealth of history and experience to aid them in this task.

The early French sailors specializing in infantry warfare were designated *Troupes*

SOF DEBUT

Gerald Ellis is no stranger to the writing business, although this is his first appearance in *Soldier of Fortune*. "I would like to thank Commander Yves de Kersauson, Assistant Naval Attaché, for his assistance in preparing this article," Ellis told SOF.

He has written in the past for *Far Eastern Economic Review* and *Military Review* magazines. Ellis served on active duty with the Air Force in security work. He presently serves in the Army Reserve and is finishing his master's degree in geography at the University of Hawaii, specializing in remote sensing and cartography.



de Marine. The first unit was formed in 1622, under the title *Première Compagnie de la Mer* (1st Company of the Sea) by Cardinal de Richelieu, the chief minister to King Louis XIII. This unit was later expanded to become the *1er Régiment de Marine* (1st Marine Regiment). In 1769, Duke de Choiseul created the *Corps Royaux d'Infanterie et d'Artillerie de Marine* (Royal Corps of Marine Infantry and Artillery), composed of 24 companies.

A few years later this formation was reorganized and replaced by the *Corps Royal des Canoniers Matelots* (Royal Corps of Seamen Gunners), and the *Vol-tigeurs, Grenadiers* and *Fusiliers* (boarders, grenadiers and riflemen) of the *Régiment Royal Vaisseaux* (Royal Ship's Regiment). It was under this title that the French marines helped the United States win independence in the American Revolution.

Tracing the lineage of the French units is difficult because of conflicting and confus-

ABOVE: Work clothes for these commandos consist of their green berets, camo blouses and khaki shorts. Photo: French navy

RIGHT: Prepared for the dip, flipper-clad combat swimmers parachute into the sea. Photo: French navy

ing early accounts. But the *Régiment Royal Vaisseaux* and the *Corps Royal des Canoniers Matelots* apparently lost their long colorful names and reverted to the title of *d'Infanterie et d'Artillerie de Marine*.

Further clouding their history was the fact that these units served on land for so long with the regular army that they came to be looked on as regular infantry. Helping save the French marines from obscurity was a decision by their navy to reinstate *fusiliers marins* and *canonniers marins* (marines and marine gunners) military specialties in 1856.

By the time of the Franco-Prussian War

of 1870-71, the various marine units had regained some of their distinctive identity. During this conflict over 28,000 *fusiliers marins* and *canonniers marins*, plus an equal number of *d'infanterie et d'artillerie de marine*, helped defend Paris.

These naval troops were quite successful in their service, both at home and abroad. By the early 1870s, the army had gained control of part of the navy's marines. The *d'Infanterie et d'Artillerie de Marine* were renamed *Troupes Coloniales* and divided into *Infanterie Coloniale* and *Artillerie Coloniale*.

The War Ministry set up a separate department to administer the new colonial troops, and allowed them to wear an anchor on their tunic collars as a distinctive insignia. The anchor insignia was later transferred to shoulder boards and to the front of the helmet. For over 90 years the colonials campaigned in France's overseas territories until the territories ceased to exist.

The colonials reverted to the term "marines" in 1961. The "new" marines, however, are still under army control and while they have training in landing operations, they are not specialists in amphibious warfare.

Following the loss of the *d'infanterie et d'artillerie de marine* to the army, the navy was left with just its *fusiliers marins*, which it expanded. There was no danger of losing these men to the army because they were sailors with sailors' duties aboard ships. Later, of course, they would be taken off the ships and made into naval infantry again, particularly during the world wars.

Following World War I, in which the two regiments of the Admiral Ronarch Brigade played an important role, particularly during the fighting at Dixmude and Yser, the size of the marines declined and only a small force was maintained.

When World War II occurred and France was overrun, some of these marines left France to continue the struggle from England; others came later in answer to de





Gaule's appeal to fight. The few marines that arrived in England were supplemented by sailors without ships and trained as marines. One of the first signs that the new "Free French" army was a viable force occurred on 23 August 1940, when General de Gaulle and King George VI of England reviewed the fledgling formations. Among the numerous units present was one of *fusiliers marins*. This battalion, and its sister battalions that were formed later, fought in numerous actions in various parts of the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Western Europe, winning new glory for the *fusiliers marins*.

The battalion in England was sent to Egypt to support the British Desert Army. In December 1940, when General Wavell launched his offensive against the Italians in Libya, the battalion was in the forefront of the attack. During the Syrian campaign of

French Combat Swimmers during an underwater training mission wear life vests and closed-circuit breathing gear. Note instrument boards with depth gauge and compass. Photo: French navy

early 1941, which pitted Frenchman against Frenchman, a battalion of *fusiliers marins* was part of the Free French invasion force which consisted of over a division. The veterans from the Syrian campaign were used in the Second Libyan Campaign of November 1941-January 1942. Swollen by new recruits, the French army was able to field a much larger force, which included a marine regiment. This unit was the *fusiliers marins* battalion, mentioned earlier, reinforced with elements from the 23rd Colonial Infantry Regiment.

One of the most famous battles of the desert war was fought at Bir Hacheim in

early June 1942. This desert outpost was the southern anchor of a strong defensive line. Garrisoned only with Free French troops, it is remembered as a gallant defense conducted by the Foreign Legion under the command of General Koenig against major elements of the German *Afrika Korps*. Generally overlooked, however, is the fact that a *fusiliers marins* battalion assisted the famous *13eme Demi-Brigade de la Legion Etrangere* (13 DBLE) in the defense of this desolate but important position. The marines, as part of the Free French forces, campaigned across North Africa with the British 8th Army until the final surrender of all German forces in Tunisia.

Two other marine organizations served during WWII, and these were the *1er Regiment Fusiliers Marins* (1RFM) and the *2eme Regiment Blindée Fusiliers Marins* (2RBFM, or 2nd Marine Armored Reg-



and the French had reappraised their armed forces based on the projected needs of the French Union, the navy decided to reduce its large *fusiliers marins* formations to a relatively small naval commando unit for operations worldwide. The commandos that were formed are still the amphibious experts of the French armed forces. Other than the commandos, the only *fusiliers marins* formations are the 15 protection companies and sections that exist to secure the navy's many important installations. Another French naval organization exists, however, and this unit will be described first.

The *Corps de Debarquement* (Landing Force) is composed of specially chosen naval personnel trained in infantry tactics, but who maintain normal sailors' jobs aboard ships. The size of the sailor-cum-soldier detachment on a ship will vary with the size of the vessel. An aircraft carrier would probably have one company with two or three sections, a cruiser might have a company with two sections, while a destroyer or frigate could have one section with two or three combat teams.

In addition to their normal shipboard duties the members of the *Corps de Debarquement* are also used for shore patrol (military police) duties, security of shipboard centers, and shore-based installations. They are also useful for "showing the flag" in foreign ports or troubled areas. These sailor-soldiers may be the first on the scene to secure an embassy or protect French citizens and property in the event of trouble, so their military training is quite rigorous. In this age of revolutions, coups and terrorism, the *Corps de Debarquement* may be employed on numerous occasions in the future.

Ironically, France's infantry fighting experts probably come from its navy — the *Groupeement de Fusiliers Marins Commandos*, the formal name of the *Commandos Marine*, or naval commandos. But gone are the large formations of *fusiliers marins*. All that is left to carry on the name and tradi-

iment).

The 1st Marine Regiment, an outgrowth of the original single battalion, fought in Italy with the French Expeditionary Force, and then participated in the invasion of southern France during Operation *Dragoon/Anvil*. The 1st RFM fought up the Rhone River valley and then into Alsace before penetrating the German homeland. The 2nd RBFM landed at Normandy as part of the 2nd (French) Armored Division, commanded by General Leclerc, and swept across France. It participated in the liberation of Paris and then secured the city of Strasbourg before crossing into Germany.

These *fusiliers marins* formations were not really all marines, nor were they naval. They were actually composed of a few French marines augmented by colonial troops and serving under the marine title.

After the dust of World War II had settled



ABOVE: French marine commando wears a Bergen-type rucksack on the obstacle course. Photo: French navy

BELOW: A trainee leaps 10-plus feet into a sand pit as part of a confidence-building course. Photo: French navy



BOTTOM: The strain of a forced march shows on the faces of some of these commando trainees. A very small percentage will finally qualify. Photo: French navy





tions is a small naval commando force of about 600 men organized into four assault commandos of about company size. The four assault commandos, named *Jaubert*, *Trepel*, *de Montfort* and *de Penfentenyo*, are based at Lorient on the Bay of Biscay. The naval commandos are trained in amphibious assaults. Their specialty, though, is small-boat ops. They deploy at company strength or less. They are trained for hit-and-run raids, sabotage, liaison with shore agents, beach reconnaissance, general intelligence missions, coup de mains, and, of course, assault landings.

The current naval commandos were constituted in 1948, patterned after their World War II brethren in No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando. Number 10 (I-A) Commando consisted mainly of foreign nationals who escaped the Nazis and reached England. French staffed No. 1 Troop, while No. 2

Roping down from an SA321 helicopter, the method is very similar to that used by British commandos. Photo: French navy

Troop was composed of Dutch, No. 3 of Germans and Austrians, No. 4 of Belgians, No. 5 of Norwegians, and No. 6 of Poles.

The French troop was commanded by Commandant Philippe Kieffer, a naval infantry officer. Later, another French troop, No. 8, was formed and added to No. 10 (I-A) Commando. These two units were the core of the *1er Bataillon Fusiliers Marins Commandos* which was formed in England and served as the parent unit for the French commandos.

Throughout 1943 and early '44, the French and other commandos conducted small raids and reconnaissance missions along the occupied coast of Europe. Most of these missions were to survey proposed landing sites or to provide information on German coastal defenses. Some ops were designed to mislead the Germans about Allied intentions.

During the *Overlord* invasion at Normandy, the two French troops were attached to Lord Lovat's No. 1 Special Service Brigade, which landed at *Sword Beach* near the

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Being part of the navy, the standard dress uniform for the *fusiliers marins* is the traditional sailor suit, including the famous *matelot* (sailor) cap with its red puff on top. The attire has earned them the nickname "*les demoiselles aux pompons rouges*" (maidens with red pompons). Be sure to smile when you say it, however, and be prepared to fight or run. Not all French naval commandos see the humor.

Naval commandos are distinguished from regular French sailors only by the parachute brevet on their right chest. In the case of the *nageurs de combat*, they wear a special winged anchor badge with twin seahorses superimposed on it. The dress uniform might be the regular navy uniform, but for work they wear army combat dress. In the 1950s, the standard combat uniform for the commandos was M1946 green trousers (with large cargo pockets like American field pants) and a camouflage jacket of the leopard pattern. This jacket appears to be based on the American Marine WWII-era camouflage jacket that was supplied to the French in large numbers during the war in Indochina. Now, however, the naval commandos wear the current "general issue" camouflage uniform in the French disruptive pattern — also called tiger-stripe or lizard pattern — or the M1964 olive-green uniform (Satin 300) with its vertically zippered chest pockets. Often the commandos are seen in photos wearing an OD uniform with large patch pockets, secured with two snaps, similar to the old OD para-type uniform. This may be a transitional uniform between the M1947-series para

uniforms — in both camouflage and OD — and the M1964 uniform.

The French naval commandos of today have traditions and ties to the marines of 1622. But they are also keeping the heritage of the World War II commandos alive, much like the Royal Marines keep the traditions and heritage of the army and marine commandos alive through their use of the name "commando" and the wearing of the green beret. The French naval commandos also wear the green beret (with their field and combat dress), which was adopted by their predecessors in No. 10 (I-A) Commando in 1943, and on it they pin virtually the same bronzed cap badge that the WWII commandos adopted and wore from April 1944.

The only apparent difference between the badges is in the scroll at the bottom. On the WWII badge the scroll read "*1er Bllon FM Commando*," while the current badge reads "*Commando Marine*." The ribbon scroll on the WWII badge had an anchor at the left end and a star at the right end while the present scroll has an anchor at both ends. The remainder of the badge, a shield with a Lorraine cross in the corner, and a sailing ship with a dagger superimposed, remains the same.

Berets are common in European armies, particularly among the French, who probably invented it. The commandos, however, are easy to spot because they wear their berets in the British fashion, tilting to the right. They seem to be unique in doing this and are probably the only unit in the French armed forces that do so. The beret of the 1950s and '60s was different from its British ancestor in that it was fuller, being more like the large one worn by the *Chasseurs*

Alpins. Photos seem to indicate a crown seam, which would mean it was made in two parts — that of a crease was pressed into it. Presently, the beret appears exactly like its Royal Marines' counterpart in color and size.

For conventional landing operations the commandos wear full combat equipment (helmet, trousers, boots and web gear) but for raids and clandestine ops, equipment is selected for the particular mission and usually consists of the basic essentials, such as a camo shirt, swim trunks, patrol boots, knife, ammunition and rifle. The combat swimmers are rarely seen out of their wetsuits.

The combat swimmers use a special oxygen rebreather of French design that releases no telltale bubbles into the water. Because the rebreather rests on the chest, a special life vest has been designed that permits inflation without interfering with the breathing unit. The air chambers are on each side of the oxygen unit and under the arms.

The weapons of the naval commandos have changed as the French have modernized their arsenal. The current weapon is the FA MAS 5.56mm assault rifle, of bullpup design, with that unique carrying handle-cum-sight. Recent photographs show naval commandos using the Swiss-designed SG-540 5.56mm assault rifle with folding stock, as manufactured under license by Manurhin SA. This rifle was an interim weapon until the FA MAS rifle became available. Although the FA MAS rifle is supposed to replace the MAS 7.5mm M-49/56 semiautomatic rifle and the MAT-49 9mm submachine gun, it is expected that the MAT-49 SMG will be around for several more years as it is extremely popular due to its compact size and reliability.

mouth of the Orne River. The mission of the 1st S.S. Brigade was to link up with the British 6th Airborne Division, which had seized some key inland bridges. They reached their objective after fierce fighting during the afternoon of 6 June.

Movie buffs may recall in the film classic *The Longest Day* a segment on the French commandos' battle for the casino at Ouistreham after their assault landing. This same battalion fought again at Walcheren in October 1944.

Another commando formation existed, and that was the naval parachute commando *Ponchardier*, named after the major in command. This unit was formed late in the war for service in Southeast Asia. It arrived in Ceylon (presently Sri Lanka) in 1945, just before the war ended. But the unit and several others were sent on anyway with orders to reoccupy Vietnam and other French colonial possessions in Indochina.

The unit history of this airborne naval commando unit reflects very difficult fighting in the Saigon area in 1946. Although it was a "naval parachute commando," not all members were naval, parachutists or commandos.

One of these exceptions was the platoon commander himself, Roger Trinquier, who was an infantry captain who did not attend the parachute or commando schools until after his Vietnam tour, service which provided him with an abundance of on-the-job training. Trinquier also is known in French military circles for forming the *Groupement de Commando Mixtes Aeroportes* (GCMA, or Composite Airborne Commando Group), later renamed the *Groupement Mixte d'Intervention* (GMI, or Composite Intervention Group).

During the Indochina War, the French naval commandos operated along the coasts of Indochina and in the vast river networks as well. Naval commando units of various sizes conducted landing operations against Viet Minh guerrillas. Most of these naval commandos were assigned to the various *Dinassaut* (*Division Navale d'Assaut*, or Naval Assault Division) units, which were groupings of armored naval landing craft and army and navy amphibious troops. American Riverine forces used in South Vietnam were patterned on the French *Dinassaut* concept.

Following the French defeat in Indochina, the naval commandos were used in Algeria to hunt guerrillas and provide security at key naval installations. The navy fielded a *demi-brigade* of commandos — normally three independent battalions — for Algeria. But they also found time to take part in the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt in 1956, when they were landed at Port Fuad to reinforce the "paras" dropped there. After that political fiasco it was back to Algeria.

The naval commandos are organized into two branches, the regular commandos — if there is such a thing as "regular" commandos — and the combat swimmers.

The commandos are trained in conventional unconventional warfare training. All



Two Zodiac rubber boats with French naval commandos approach their support vessel after a mission. The Zodiac on the left contains field radio. The men are armed with SG-540 Swiss assault rifles in 5.56mm. Photo: French navy

are volunteers from regular naval units. If selected, candidates begin a four-month training program at the *fusiliers marins* school at Lorient. Like most courses of this nature, physical conditioning, combat training and shooting are stressed. If he passes the primary training phase, the recruit is further screened for commando service through rigorous physical and mental examinations.

Now the *really* tough training begins. The recruit is packed off to the parachute school at Pau for three weeks of intensive training. This tends to weed out a few more of the faint-hearted. Those who graduate from jump school go on to the naval commando group for a month of intermediate commando training. This includes cliff-climbing and rappelling sessions, crossing a "hasty-rig" two-rope bridge (one rope high to hold and one low to walk on — no safety strap) strung very high over a sea inlet between steep cliffs. Additional training includes obstacle courses punctuated with long, exhausting forced marches, close-combat training and incessant field exercises with little or no sleep.

Since these men are "naval" commandos, their training is advanced in amphibious assault operations of the sort practiced by British and American marines. Then comes small-boat handling with rubber inflatable boats, dinghies and folding kayaks. Infiltration, reconnaissance, and escape and evasion are drilled.

When all is said and done, about two percent of those who volunteer are finally accepted for commando duty.

Following the course the new commandos are assigned to one of the four assault commandos for further training. The complete training of a commando may take as long as six months before he is considered operational, but eventually he is deployed

with sections of the assault commandos or their detachments spread from France to Tahiti.

The second specialty of the naval commandos is combat swimming. Combat swimmers (*nageurs de combat*) are on a par with the U.S. Navy SEALs or the British Special Boat Squadron (SBS), trained to use air, land and sea techniques to reach objectives. They were created in 1951. Lieutenant Colonel Morlanne sent Captain Bob Maloubier of the Special Air Service and Ship-Ensign Riffaud to England for frogman training. They returned to help open the first combat swimmer school at Arzew, Algeria, the site of the amphibious warfare center. Later the school was relocated to Saint-Mandrier, near the large naval base at Toulon.

This unit is extremely small, consisting of only about 40 men. The detachment is known as *Hubert* Commando, after a *fusilier* sub-lieutenant that was killed in a landing accident.

In addition to the "normal" commando training they are extensively schooled in skiing, winter survival, mountaineering, and arctic through-the-ice diving. Then there is training in underwater demolition, landing site selection, beach reconnaissance, hydrographic surveys, coastal and harbor infiltration, mine clearance and sabotage.

Combat swimmers favor the kayak for infiltration because it is collapsible and will fit through a submarine hatch. The *Nautiraid* — the type used by the *nageurs de combat* — is strong and will carry two men and equipment through rough seas. Reliance on the two-man kayak is one reason the basic combat team consists of two men. Another favorite is the Zodiac inflatable boat, with or without an outboard motor. *Nageurs de combat* also practice night parachuting into the sea.

The bottom line is that whether day or night — by air, land and especially sea — a little-known specialty unit rich in history and tradition keeps France ready to answer the call for special operations and insurgency or counterinsurgency warfare. ✕



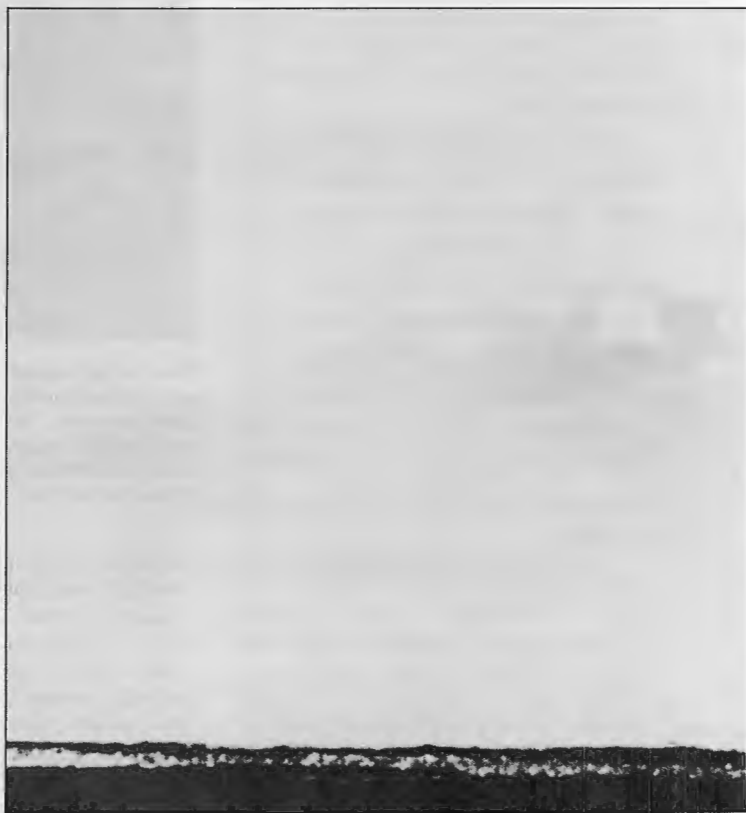
STRIKE ONE, STRIKE TWO...

Reagan Wins a Double Header

by Dale Andrade

BLOWS were not unexpected, but when they fell the world was shocked into recognition of a new face of the war against terrorism. President Ronald Reagan's decision to strike at Libya in response to its sponsorship of world terror was calculated to erode the foundations of the terror network over the long haul. Few people expected Khadaffi to pull in his horns after a single slap.

The administration had pondered action aimed at Khadaffi since Reagan was elected president, and now the years of debating possibilities had reached a climax: The time to act arrived. A final decision to test the desert dictator's bravado in the Gulf of Sidra marked the beginning of a new response to Khadaffi's unbridled



bullying.

Since Reagan's first term in office, a military strike at Khadaffi's sandbox was rarely in the cards. That's not to say that Libya hasn't been a thorn in Reagan's side since his early days as president. A CIA report put in his hands during his first months in office set the scene. Entitled "Libya, Aims and Vulnerabilities," it gave a threatening forecast of Khadaffi's growing challenge to U.S. interests in the Middle East and Africa. "More adventurism" on Libya's part was the report's final verdict.

What caused Reagan's move toward a more muscular response to Khadaffi's terrorism? It was military success rather than frustration that prompted the president to strike.

A rare taste of victory in the West's search for a military victory against terrorism whetted Reagan's appetite. It all started in October 1985 when Reagan's decision to force down a jetliner carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* proved that the West could, in certain instances, beat the terrorists at their own game. Although it couldn't be proven that Libya was behind the hijacking, there was no doubt that Khadaffi approved of the act.

Reagan could reach even further back for evidence of America's superior military muscle. On 19 August 1981 an exercise in the Gulf of Sidra resulted in the downing of two Libyan jets after a brief dogfight with U.S. F-14s. With these two precedents under his belt, the stage was set for another confrontation.

Khadaffi himself opened the curtain on the next scene. With his flair for the dramatic Khadaffi drew an imaginary boundary across the Gulf of Sidra: the "Line of Death." Reagan had the provocation he wanted and international law would back him up. Libya was claiming territorial waters 150 miles out to sea, a flagrant violation of the standard 12-mile limit. The U.S. Navy would be well within



Crewmen on the flight deck of the *USS America* secure the waist catapult in preparation for landing and recovery of aircraft. Photo: Dept of Defense

its rights to hold maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra.

The Navy publicly announced its intention to test the Line of Death with the Sixth Fleet on Friday, 21 March. The Fleet's commander, Vice Admiral Frank Kelso, was given complete authority on the maneuver — it was his show. Only in the event of American casualties would he be required to check back with Washington.

The three carriers *America*, *Coral Sea* and *Saratoga* and their battle groups steamed into position off the Libyan coast on the morning of 22 March, but bad weather forced a postponement until the following day. By Sunday, all three carriers sat in a row at the mouth of the gulf, their decks bristling with battle-ready aircraft. As darkness fell, F-14s began to dart into the Gulf of Sidra, making the first move in a carefully planned drama. Early on the morning of 23 March the surface vessels took up Khadaffi's dare by moving into the gulf. Three ships — a destroyer, a guided missile cruiser and the *Ticonderoga*, the Navy's Aegis radar and command ship — separated themselves from the fleet in order to coordinate the fleet's air defense.

With the fleet in place, the planes took to the skies. As many as 100 aircraft flew in circles at varying altitudes in a flying umbrella. The top of the umbrella consisted of E-2C Hawkeye surveillance planes. Underneath them circled EA-6B Prowlers tasked with jamming enemy radio and radar. Below all that, beneath the waves, prowled *Los Angeles*-class attack submarines. Everything was in place and the Americans had trespassed over the Line of Death — now it was Khadaffi's move.

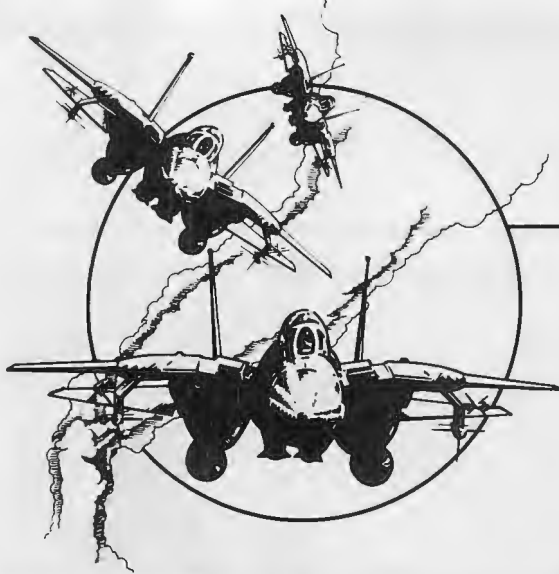
Libya's riposte came at a little after noon on Monday, 23

March, in the form of two Soviet-made SA-5 Gammon long-range air defense missiles fired at two reconnaissance planes. Their nerve centers scrambled by jamming from the EA-6Bs, the SA-5s spiraled harmlessly into the Mediterranean. The American response was swift, though not predictable. F-14s swarmed off the decks of the carriers and into the clouds. But that's all they did. No U.S. missiles were fired in return. Vice Adm. Kelso was in no hurry; the time would come to swat the Libyans soon enough.

Catapult officer gives the final signal to this EA-6B Prowler to launch from the deck of the *USS Saratoga*. Photo: Dept. of Defense



LIBYA



Khadafi must have interpreted Vice Adm. Kelso's restraint as lack of resolve because the fleet commander received a teletype from the commander in chief of the Libyan air force. It read: "Unless the aggressive acts are stopped against Libya we are about to destroy the carriers / Stop / In doing that we will have the political and military support of the world states / Stop / Maintain in peace you will leave in peace / Stop / Best regards." Vice Adm. Kelso would soon send his own regards.

A few hours later two Libyan MiG-25 Foxbats sallied forth beyond the 12-mile limit, saw what they were up against and turned tail. The Libyans fired another SA-5 missile at about 1800 hours and, like the others, it missed.

Still no U.S. response. Darkness fell and the sea began to churn out a 15-foot swell that threatened to again postpone the operation. Vice Adm. Kelso decided that it was now or never. Besides, the Libyans rarely flew at night.

Then Libya tried a new course of action, this time by sea. An attack boat cruised toward the U.S. armada,

Bombs away: A Soviet-made Il-76 Candid is about to go up in smoke as the ordnance from an F-111F drops down on it. Photo was taken by the aircraft's Pave Tack laser-guided delivery system during the bombing run. Photo: Dept. of Defense

Aerial photograph shows the damage done by Navy pilots during air strike on 14 April 1986. Photo: Dept of Defense



presumably in hopes that it could scare off the fleet. The carrier *America* got the nod to meet the threat. When the attack boat had moved within 38 miles of the carrier group, two A-6 Intruders screamed off the flattop and fired Harpoon missiles that skimmed over the choppy seas and slammed into the Libyan boat, setting it ablaze.

It was now 2215 hours. Two A-7s were launched from the *Saratoga* to deal with yet another threat, this time from Libyan radar at the coastal missile installation at Surt. About 40 miles from the site, they released their payload of high-speed anti-radiation missiles (HARM) and headed for home. Since HARM is designed to home in on SAM transmitters and not the launcher itself, the damage done was only temporary. But they succeeded in knocking out the most serious threat in the area — now the planes could turn their attention to a new menace.

Soviet-built *Nanuchka*-class Libyan guided missile corvette burns in the Gulf of Sidra after a clash with U.S. Navy aircraft from the Sixth Fleet. Photo: Dept. of Defense



THE SOVIET CARD

The Kremlin has picked some strange bedfellows in the past forty years, but none are stranger than Colonel Khadafi's Libya. In the forlorn hope that the dictator of this desert nation will grant them a deep water port at Tobruk, the Soviets have fawned after Khadafi, helping him spawn his terrorist plots around the world.

Khadafi doesn't show any sign of giving in, so why hang around?

The answer is money. Colonel Khadafi is one of the Soviet's largest arms clients, purchasing Soviet munitions to the tune of more than \$1 billion a year. In addition, between 5,000 and 6,000 military advisers are stationed on Libyan soil. Soviet involvement started in the mid-1970s, five years after Khadafi took power in a bloodless coup, and has picked up speed since 1981, when the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Libya.

The most disturbing trend occurred in late 1985 when Soviet technicians installed SA-5 anti-aircraft sites around the Gulf of Sidra and in Tripoli and Benghazi. Before the arrival of these formidable surface-to-air missiles the Kremlin had been content to train Libyan soldiers in the use of the more standard weapons purchased from the Soviet Union, including 50 MiG-25 and 143 MiG-23 fighter planes, 300 T-72 and 1,000 T-62 tanks, and a mishmash of submarines and patrol boats.

East German technicians supervise and train intelligence and military communications personnel while the Soviets appear to handle the infantry portion of the instruction. While there are plenty of East bloc advisers running around, they are not often seen far from military bases.

All this seems ominous, but there are some qualifying factors to the Soviet presence in Libya. No matter how important the Soviet Union is to Khadafi's military well-being, there are three reasons why Libya is unlikely to cozy up any closer to the Kremlin in light of the recent bombing. First, Khadafi abhors the communist ideal of godlessness. Second, he opposes Soviet efforts for Middle East peace talks and third, he has annoyed the Russians by selling Soviet-made arms to Iran while the Kremlin is supplying weapons to Iraq.

Nor are the Russians likely to offer increased support to

Khadafi. The Soviets' less-than-secure foothold in Libya colored their response during two U.S. attacks in March and April of this year. The Russians did not pass on satellite data and other intelligence to Tripoli as the clash between the U.S. Sixth Fleet and the Libyan armed forces unfolded in the Gulf of Sidra.

Soviet advisers on the ground in Libya played their part in stonewalling Khadafi's soldiers as well. Nearly 300 Soviet technicians stationed at an anti-aircraft missile site near Surt refused to leave their bunkers to help erect new launch pads for the SAMs during the Gulf of Sidra exercise. The Russians knew the score — why die for a lost cause like Khadafi? In fact, the only Soviet to perish during March and April was a soldier who keeled over from a heart attack while playing soccer.

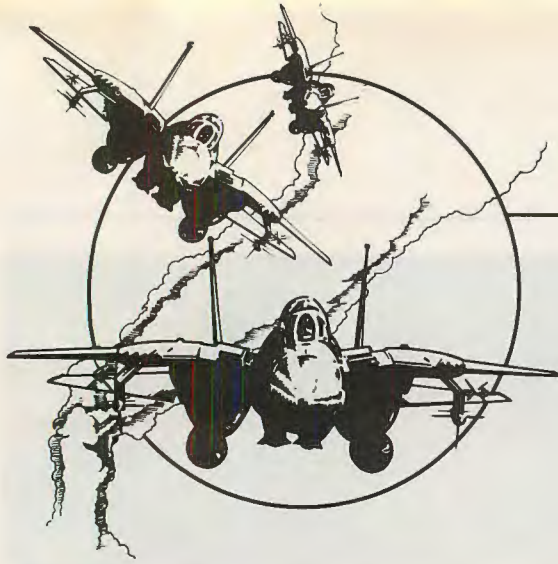
Even before Reagan's saber-rattling the Soviets showed signs of decreasing military aid, particularly spare parts, to Tripoli. In an effort to shore up the crumbling efficiency of Libyan defense facilities, Khadafi hired British and French experts who repaired the Soviet-made radar and guidance systems on SA-5 missiles after U.S. warplanes damaged them in March.

Following the most recent American bombing of Libya, the Soviets have done little more than pay lip service to Khadafi who is very aware of his precarious position. He even hinted that he might call on Warsaw Pact forces for assistance, hoping to force the Soviets into taking a stronger stand, although he has offered no concessions in exchange for such a grand request.

A belligerent posture toward Washington from the Kremlin is unlikely because of the risk it entails. Nothing more harmful than bellicose bluster will filter out of the Kremlin and even that will probably not last long. Witness Gorbachev's unwillingness to stake the future of arms control on the issue of Khadafi's regional stability.

The delicate nature of playing the international relations game in the Middle East has placed the Soviets between a rock and a hard place. They can't relinquish their toehold in Libya, but they can't appear to stand too firmly behind that pariah of the desert, Muammar Khadafi, either. In the words of a Western diplomat in Tripoli, "It is a perverse trap for the Soviets. They probably don't want to be as involved as they are."

LIBYA



A pair of A-6s flying a routine mission over the gulf spotted a Soviet-made *Nanuchka* missile corvette off the coast near Benghazi. Vice Adm. Kelso gave the order to hit the ship as soon as it passed over the 12-mile limit and at 0115 Libyan time *Yorktown* fired two Harpoon missiles at the first boat as well as at a French-built *Combattante* patrol boat prowling just north of the Line of Death.

Aegis sensors picked up new activity at the Surt SAM site and the order came down to knock it out one more time. U.S. planes let loose two more HARMs and the enemy radar went dead.

Three hours later the Sixth Fleet delivered its final, parting blow — two planes pumped a pair of HARMs into another Libyan patrol boat near Benghazi.

As quickly as it began, the strike was over. In all, the Sixth Fleet had sent at least two Libyan surface craft to the bottom of the sea and, for the time being, shut down one missile base. Most of this military hardware was Soviet-made and, in some cases, Soviet-maintained. So what happened to the Soviets during this exchange?

Perhaps the foremost worry in Reagan's mind had been the possibility of killing Soviet advisers and technicians during the strike. In an effort to prevent this, the U.S. had quietly informed the Soviets exactly what was up, including the plan to venture over the Line of Death. Apparently the Soviets took their cue and were simply not around when everything exploded.

While the Soviets got away with no human loss in the strike, Moscow may well have to reassess its position in North Africa in light of the action. Although the Soviets are friends of Khadaffi, they know better than to throw all their weight behind him. Moscow was reluctant to do anything more tangible than stay out from the tussle. Soviet prestige in the region may also have been diminished by the poor performance of their hardware and the shoddy training of

ABOVE LEFT: Aircraft carrier USS *America* steams for the Libyan coast in preparation for air strikes against Khadaffi. Photo: Dept. of Defense

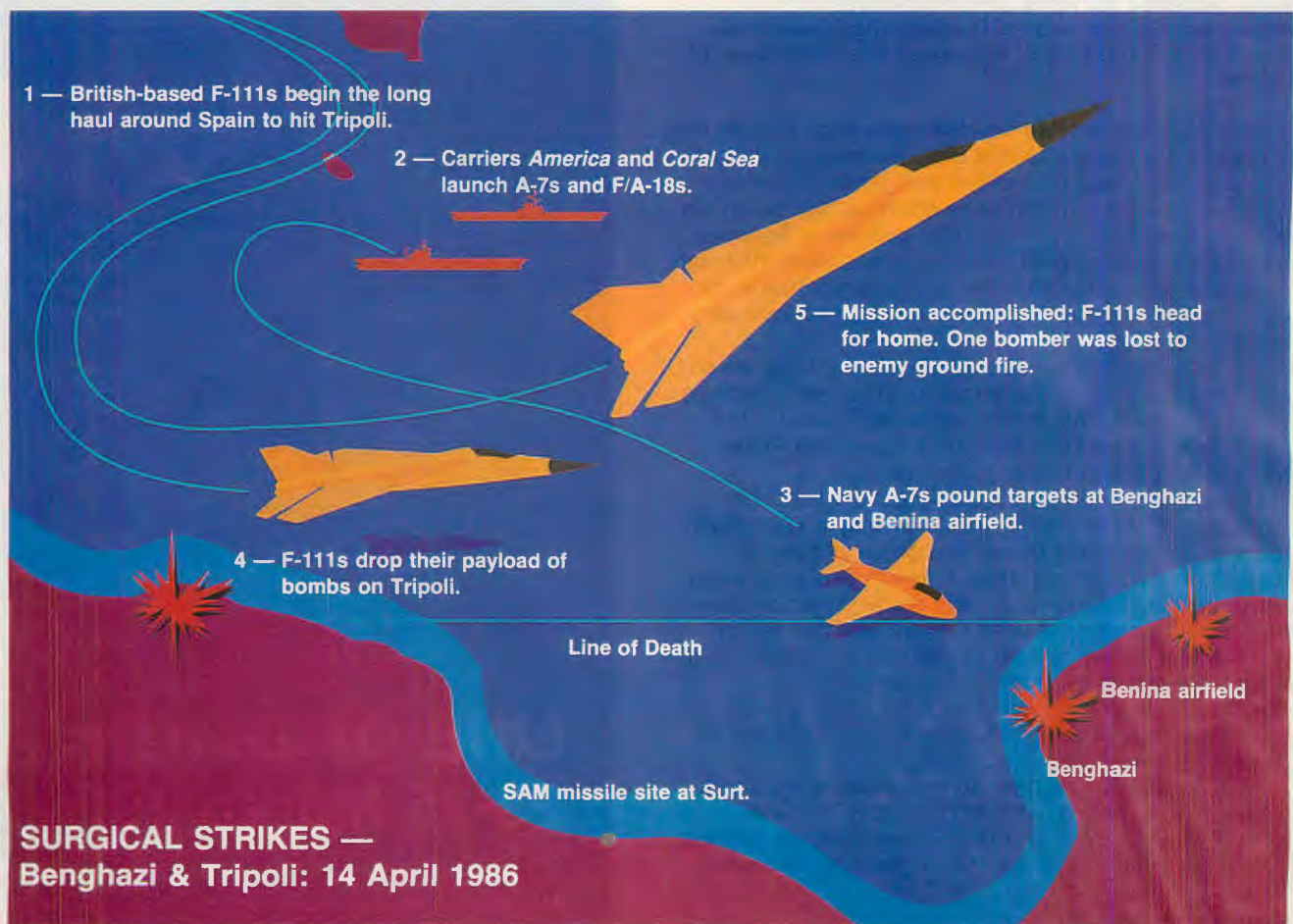
ABOVE RIGHT: An F-14 Tomcat screams from the deck of the USS *Saratoga* during maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra. Photo: Dept. of Defense

Libyan forces. Not surprisingly, though, a crescendo of shrill rhetoric spewed forth from the Kremlin a few days after the exercise. No matter how loud the Soviets' reaction, the future will likely hold little change in U.S.-Soviet relations, in spite of Washington's rough handling of Moscow's client.

The United States was well aware of Khadaffi's probable response — more terror — and their fears came to pass soon enough. But Reagan clearly intended for the Gulf of Sidra incident to be the first of a series of blows designed to bring Khadaffi to his knees. A new spate of terrorist bombings in Europe provided the impetus for another blow aimed at Libya, this one designed as a pre-emptive rather than a retaliatory strike. Reagan and his aides weighed the pros and cons of such a move and decided to go ahead, whatever the short-term cost in relations with our allies and the Soviet Union.

As with the first strike, the world had no reason to be surprised when U.S. warplanes screamed over Libya a second time. But everybody seemed to be. Everything President Reagan did pointed toward a serious raid against Khadaffi's operation and any alert politician in Western Europe, let alone Libya, should have seen it coming a mile away.

It was fast, though. Eleven minutes after 18 F-111s first streaked over Libya, 200 feet above the sandy coastline, the operation was over and most of the Air Force's targets lay in piles of smoking rubble.



LIBYA



Battle casualties: Air Force captains Fernando Ribas-Dominicci (left) and Paul Lorence (right) were killed when their F-111 was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Photo: Dept. of Defense

On 8 April Reagan had decided that a second strike was in order, but unlike the Gulf of Sidra exercise, he did not give the military free rein on this one. Some stiff criteria were set down: A plan had to be drawn up that would run the least risk of killing either Libyan civilians or American pilots. That meant that the raid had to be pulled off at night against targets on the coast. Also, the targets had to be distinct enough to show up clearly on radar screens as military objectives.

The Navy could have handled the job, but there weren't enough A-6s on the carrier decks to hit several objectives at the same time. That left the job to land-based F-111 fighter/bombers based in England . . . provided Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher approved.

Thatcher was shown irrefutable proof of Khaddafi's bloody handprint on the nightclub bombing in West Berlin and she was given the power to approve all possible targets for the upcoming strike. Three targets were finally chosen in the Tripoli area: Aziziya barracks, which served as Khaddafi's command post; the Sidi Bilal port facility, which was a training ground for Palestinian frogmen; and the military airfield which was home for Libya's Soviet-made Il-76 transport planes. Two targets were selected in Benghazi: an airfield for MiG-23s and the Al Jamahiriya army barracks.

At about noon on 14 April, six hours before the attack was scheduled to begin, the F-111s, 28 KC-10 and KC-135 tankers and five EF-111 Ravens climbed into the sky and assembled out over the English Channel, away

Continued on page 132

Cruiser Yorktown

8 — 0115, 25 March. Cruiser *Yorktown* fires two Harpoon missiles at a third Libyan patrol boat.

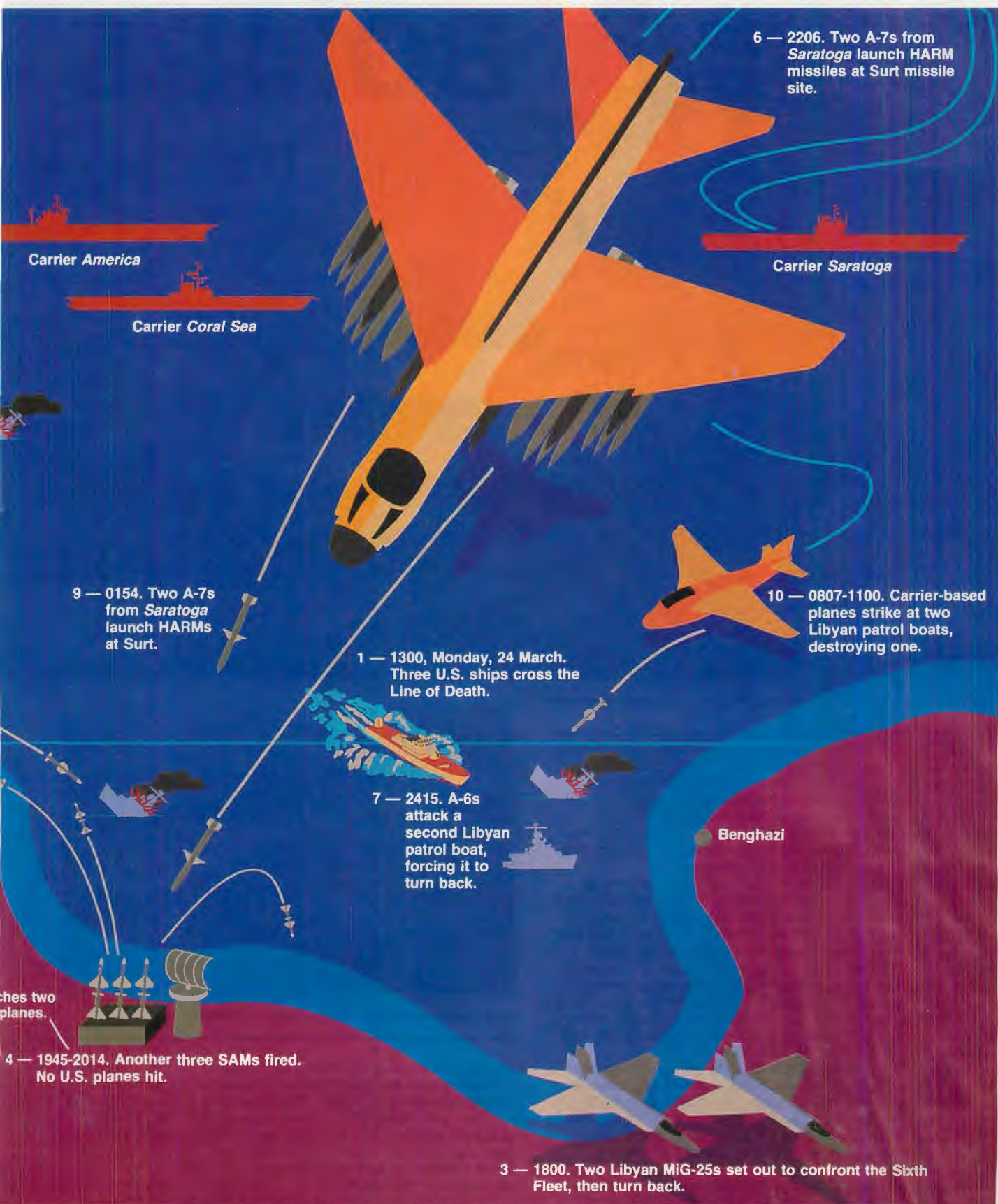
Tripoli

5 — 2126. Two U.S. A-6s from the carrier *America* attack a Libyan patrol boat with Harpoon missiles and Rockeye bombs. The patrol boat is destroyed.

2 — 1452. Libya launches SA-5 missiles at U.S.

LINE OF DEATH: 23-25 March 1986

(All times are local — Libyan time is 7 hours ahead of E.S.T.)



6 — 2206. Two A-7s from *Saratoga* launch HARM missiles at Surt missile site.

Carrier *America*

Carrier *Saratoga*

Carrier *Coral Sea*

9 — 0154. Two A-7s from *Saratoga* launch HARMs at Surt.

10 — 0807-1100. Carrier-based planes strike at two Libyan patrol boats, destroying one.

1 — 1300, Monday, 24 March. Three U.S. ships cross the Line of Death.

7 — 2415. A-6s attack a second Libyan patrol boat, forcing it to turn back.

Benghazi

atches two planes.

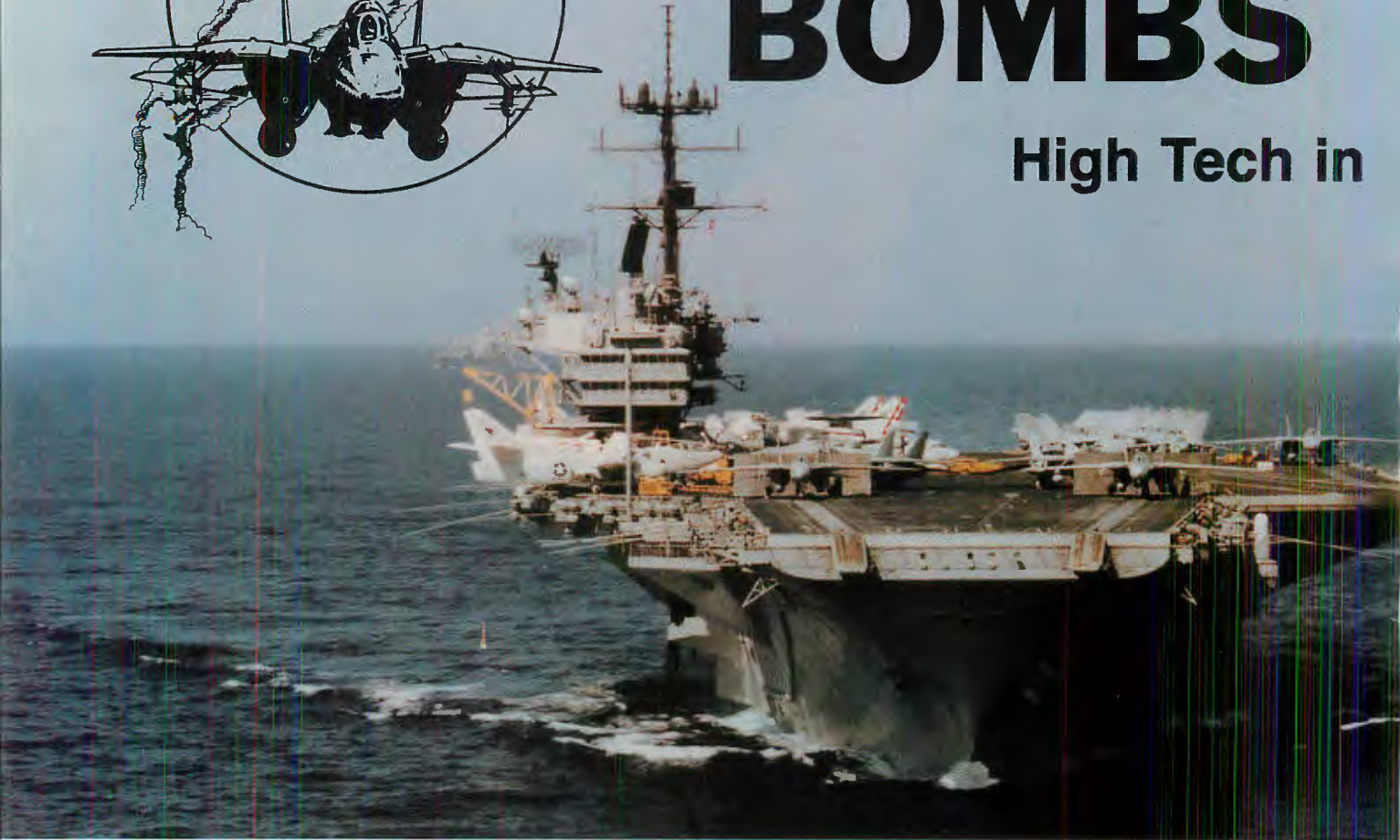
4 — 1945-2014. Another three SAMs fired. No U.S. planes hit.

3 — 1800. Two Libyan MiG-25s set out to confront the Sixth Fleet, then turn back.

LIBYA

BOMBS

High Tech in



USS America (CV-66), USS Saratoga (CV-60) & USS Coral Sea (CV-43): Three conventionally powered (non-nuclear) multipurpose aircraft carriers (CV) operating with the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet constituted the key operating platforms for the U.S. naval air actions in the Gulf of Sidra in March. Two of the carriers subsequently operated aircraft for the strikes against Benghazi-area targets on the Libyan mainland in April. The three carriers involved in the Sidra and Libya operations represent three decades of U.S. Navy aircraft carrier construction.

Eldest of the three is the *Coral Sea* — laid down in 1944 as third of the *Midway* class, the largest class of warships built by the United States during World War II. She was commissioned in 1947. Built back then for less than \$88 million, the *Coral Sea* cost much less than five of the F/A-18 Hornet strike fighters she operates today. A \$190 million overhaul completed in January of last year gave her a new flight deck and capability to operate the Navy's new Hornets. Afloat now for more than 40 years, the *Coral Sea* is scheduled to relieve the USS *Lexington* as training carrier (AVT) in the early 1990s and should continue service in that duty at least through the turn of the century.

The *Coral Sea* displaces 52,500 tons standard and more than 65,000 tons fully loaded. Her length overall is 979 feet, beam is 121 feet, and draft is 36 feet. She can steam at more than 30 knots with 12 boilers driving four turbines driving four shafts. Her manning comprises approximately 5,000 total, including both ship's company and air wing personnel, and she operates approximately 70 aircraft.

The *Saratoga* was laid down in 1952 as second of the *Forrestal* class, the first carrier class designed specifically to operate jet



USS America (CV-66). Photo: Dept. of Defense

aircraft, and she was commissioned in 1956.

She displaces just more than 59,000 tons standard and well over 80,000 tons fully loaded. Overall length is 1,063 feet, beam is 130 feet, and draft is 37 feet. She steams at 33 knots or better with eight boilers driving four turbines driving four shafts. Her manning comprises approximately 5,300 total, including both ship's company and air wing personnel, and she operates approximately 85 aircraft.

The *America* was laid down in 1961 as third of the *Kitty Hawk*

AWAY

a Terrorist War

Compiled by J.D. Mayfield



USS Saratoga (CV-60). Photo: Dept. of Defense

class, largely derived as an improvement of the *Forrestal* class, and she was commissioned in 1965. The *America* displaces over 60,000 tons standard and just short of 80,000 tons loaded. Overall length is 1,048 feet, beam is 130 feet, and draft is 37 feet. She steams at more than 30 knots with eight boilers driving four turbines driving four shafts. Her manning comprises approximately 5,300 total, including both ship's company and air wing personnel, and she operates approximately 85 aircraft.

F-111F with Pavé Tack: The U.S. Air Force's F-111F is a swing-wing, twin-engine, two-seat, long-range, supersonic, tactical strike fighter equipped with an automatic, low-level, terrain-following, radar-controlled flight control system.

The Pavé Tack AN/AVQ-26 system is an airborne, all-altitude, day, night or adverse-weather, electro-optical target-acquisition, laser target-designation and weapons-delivery system developed for use with a variety of weapons systems. The Pavé Tack system rides in the weapons bay of the F-111F and deploys downward for target acquisition and designation during the approach phase of the strike run. The system's FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared) imaging subsystem allows wide field-of-view target acquisition and

narrow field-of-view magnified target identification and tracking even under adverse visibility conditions. The FLIR sensor is boresighted to the system's laser target-designation subsystem to permit precise targeting and guidance of laser-guided bombs. Aftward viewing capability of the FLIR imaging subsystem enables real-time evaluation of the accuracy and effectiveness of the strike during the exit phase of the strike run.

The original F-111 design was developed in the early 1960s under the TFX program and first flew in late 1964. The F-111F version with the TF30-P-100 engines first flew in 1973.

A-6E Intruder with TRAM: The U.S. Navy's A-6E Intruder is a carrier-based, twin-engine, two-seat, subsonic, night and all-weather attack aircraft that can carry up to 18,000 pounds of external stores on five store stations. Intruder weapons include Harpoon anti-ship missiles, HARM and Shrike anti-radiation missiles, Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, and a variety of gravity-fall bombs. Typical loadings include four Harpoons, or 28 500-pound gravity-fall bombs, or three 2,000-pound gravity-fall bombs plus two 300-gallon drop tanks. A-6Es in the fleet now possess the TRAM (Target Recognition and Attack Multisensor) system, which gives the Intruder FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared) imaging capability for enhanced night and adverse-weather operations and laser target-designation capability for enhanced strike accuracy using laser-guided weapons.

The original A-6 design was developed in the 1950s. The A-6E version entered service use in 1972, and the A-6E/TRAM joined the service in 1979 and began carrier-based duty in 1980.

A-7E Corsair II: The U.S. Navy's A-7E Corsair II is a carrier-based, single-engine, single-seat, subsonic light attack aircraft with limited night and adverse-weather operational capability that can carry up to 15,000 pounds of external stores on six underwing pylons and two underfuselage stations. Corsair II weapons include HARM and Shrike anti-radiation missiles, Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, and a variety of gravity-fall bombs; it also carries a single internally mounted M61A1 20mm cannon with 1,000 rounds of ammunition. Typical loadings include two Sidewinders and 32 500-pound bombs, or 16 1,000-pound bombs, or six 2,000-pound bombs.

The original A-7 design was developed in the 1960s and was based on the F-8 Crusader. The A-7E version first flew in 1968.

F-111F armed with laser-guided bombs with Pavé Tack deployed under center fuselage. Photo: General Dynamics



WEAPONS EDITOR

J.D. Mayfield is the executive editor of *Combat Weapons Magazine*.

LIBYA



USAF F-111F in flight over England. Photo: General Dynamics

F/A-18A Hornet: The U.S. Navy's F/A-18A Hornet is a carrier-based, twin-engine, single-seat, supersonic, high-performance multimission strike fighter that can carry up to 17,000 pounds of ordnance on nine external store stations. Those Hornet stations and their typical stores consist of two wingtip stations for AIM-9 Sidewinder infrared-homing air-to-air missiles; two outboard underwing stations for air-to-surface or air-to-air weapons, including Sidewinders or AIM-7 Sparrow radar-guided air-to-air missiles; two inboard underwing stations for external fuel tanks or air-to-surface weapons; two underwing fuselage stations for Sparrows or avionics pods; and one underwing centerline station for an external fuel tank or an air-to-surface weapon or avionics pod. The Hornet also carries a single internally mounted M61A1 20mm cannon with 570 rounds of ammunition. Avionics pods that can be mounted include the AN/AAS-38 FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared) imaging system that will increase the Hornet's night and adverse-weather strike capability.

The first developmental Hornet first flew in late 1978. The first production F/A-18A was delivered to the Navy in 1980, and the F/A-18A first officially entered operational service with the Marine Corps in early 1983.

EA-6B Prowler: The U.S. Navy's EA-6B Prowler is a carrier-based advanced electronics countermeasures (ECM) aircraft derived from the A-6 airframe. The mission of the Prowler, according to the Navy, is to "assist aircraft operations by suppressing and degrading enemy defense systems through the jamming of enemy electronic signals."

The four-man EA-6B carries the AN/ALQ-99 advanced tactical ECM system, which, in its current most-advanced Navy

operational version, integrates internally installed equipment, including an advanced digital processing computer and control system, with a vertical stabilizer fin-tip surveillance receiver pod and with five external underwing and underfuselage pods each containing two high-power jamming transmitters, a tracking receiver and the necessary antennas plus a ram-air turbine power generator. The range of frequencies jammed can be varied by varying the mix of transmitters installed in the pods.

The EA-6B weighs more than 32,000 pounds empty and can

USN A-6E Intruder on the USS *Saratoga*. Photo: Dept. of Defense



carry more than 15,000 pounds of fuel internally. Takeoff weight in full jamming configuration is approximately 55,000 pounds. Length overall is stretched from the A-6 to just less than 60 feet (to accommodate the increase in crew from two to four). Maximum rated level speed at sea level in full jamming configuration is 530 knots, and cruise speed exceeds 400 knots. Service ceiling is 38,000 feet. Maximum range in full jamming configuration is approximately 950 nautical miles. Two J52-P-408 non-afterburning turbojets, each rated at approximately 11,200 pounds static thrust, power the EA-6B.

The prototype EA-6B first flew in 1968, and production deliveries began in early 1971. The current most-advanced Prowler operational version became operational in 1984.



A-6E with TRAM mounted under nose. Photo: Grumman



USN A-7E Corsair II on the USS *Saratoga*. Photo: Dept. of Defense

E-2C Hawkeye: The U.S. Navy's E-2C Hawkeye is a carrier-based, all-weather, tactical airborne warning and control aircraft. The main mission of the Hawkeye, according to the Navy, is to "provide all-weather airborne early warning and command and control functions for the carrier battle group. Other missions

GULF OF SIDRA OPERATIONS 21-26 MARCH 1986

Editor's Note: The following is the official chronology of events released by the Department of Defense.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Three carrier battle groups (CVBGs) totaling 24 combatant ships were assigned to the Gulf of Sidra exercise. The duration of the exercise was four and one-half days and involved almost 200 sorties of aircraft below Khadaffi's "Line of Death" with almost continuous participation of a three-ship Surface Action Group (SAG) well below 32°30'N. Maximum air penetration below 32°30'N was 60 nautical miles and the SAG maximum penetration was 42 nautical miles. All U.S. ships and aircraft completed the exercise without battle damage and with every objective fully met.

21 March 1986

7:01 p.m. EST — A notice of intent (NOI) was filed 24 hours prior to commencement of operations to conduct naval air and sea exercises in international waters within the Tripoli flight information region (FIR). The operation period was between 7:01 p.m., 22 March, and 6:59 p.m., 1 April.

22 March 1986

7 p.m. — CVBGs on station in FIR and task force organized.

23 March 1986

5:01 p.m. — Aircraft operations began south of 32°30'N, Khadaffi's declared "Line of Death." Five events including 13 aircraft were initiated.

24 March 1986

12:01 a.m. — Aircraft operations continued with numerous penetrations as far as 60 nautical miles below 32°30'N.

6 a.m. — SAG began operations south of 32°30'N.

7:52 a.m. — Libyan SA-5 missiles fired from Surt. During the period from 7:52 a.m. to 1:14 p.m., between four and eight surface-to-air missiles were fired at U.S. Navy aircraft operating over international waters.

2:30 p.m. — Libyan guided missile patrol boat, *La Combattante* class, attacked and destroyed by two A-6 aircraft from USS *America* using two Harpoon missiles.

2:56 p.m. — Surt SA-5 radar sites attacked and damaged by two A-7 aircraft from USS *Saratoga* using two HARM missiles. HARMs track on radiating target-tracking radar antennas.

4:30 p.m. — Libyan *Nanuchka*-class guided missile patrol boat attacked by two A-6 aircraft from USS *Saratoga* with unknown damage.

5:49 p.m. — USS *Richmond K. Turner* fired two Harpoon missiles in a night contact in the vicinity of reported anti-aircraft fire with unconfirmed results. [Editor's Note: Other Navy, DOD and administration sources state that the USS *Yorktown* fired.]

6:47 p.m. — Surt SA-5 radar site attacked a second time by two A-7 aircraft from USS *Saratoga* firing two HARM missiles. Unconfirmed results.

25 March 1986

12:01 a.m. — Aircraft and SAG operations continued with numerous penetrations as far as 60 nautical miles below 32°30'N by the aircraft and as far as 42 nautical miles below by the SAG.

12:20 a.m. — Libyan *Nanuchka*-class guided missile patrol boat attacked and destroyed by two A-6 aircraft (one from USS *Coral Sea*, one from USS *Saratoga*) with one Harpoon and two Rockeye cluster bombs.

26 March 1986

12:01 a.m. — Aircraft and SAG operations continued.

9 a.m. — Freedom of navigation exercise complete. Objectives achieved and all ships above 32°30'N.

LIBYA



Designed to replace the E-2B in the same role, the E-2C entered service in late 1973 and began carrier-based duty in 1974.

EF-111A Raven: The U.S. Air Force's EF-111A Raven is a supersonic advanced electronics countermeasures (ECM) aircraft derived from the F-111 airframe.

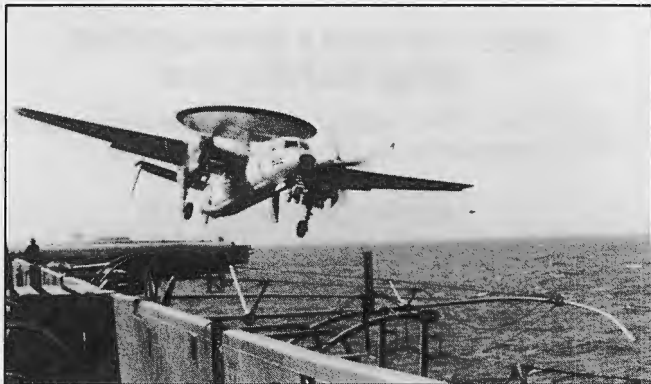
The two-man, Mach 2-capable Raven carries the AN/ALQ-99E advanced tactical ECM system, an enhanced version of the AN/ALQ-99 system carried by the Navy's EA-6B Prowler. The ALQ-99E integrates an advanced digital processing computer and control system with up to 10 or more high-power jamming transmitters housed in the weapons bay and with a surveillance receiver system mounted in a fin-tip pod atop the vertical stabilizer. The range of frequencies jammed can be varied by varying the mix of transmitters installed in the bay, which is covered by the transmitters' underfuselage radome.

The EF-111A weighs more than 55,000 pounds empty and can carry 32,500 pounds of fuel internally. Takeoff weight in combat configuration is approximately 70,000 pounds. Length overall is 76 feet, and height overall is 20 feet. Swing-wing span varies from 63 feet spread to 32 feet fully swept. At combat weight, maximum speed is approximately 1,200 knots and service ceiling is 45,000 feet. Endurance without refueling exceeds four hours, and ferry range is 2,000 nautical miles. Two TF30-P-3 afterburning turbofans, each rated at approximately 18,500 pounds static thrust, power the EF-111A.

Delivery of operational EF-111As began in late 1981.



USN F/A-18A Hornet on the USS *Coral Sea*. Photo: Dept. of Defense



USN E-2C Hawkeye takes off from the USS *Saratoga*. Photo: Dept. of Defense

include surface surveillance coordination, strike and interceptor control, search and rescue coordination, and communications relay."

E-2Cs maintain station at altitude up to 30,000 feet on the defense perimeter of the carrier battle group to detect and assess potential air and surface threats. Current most-advanced operational E-2Cs are equipped with the AN/APS-138 radar system (which began replacing the older AN/APS-125 radar system in 1983). The APS-138 is designed to detect airborne targets within a surveillance volume of three million cubic miles while simultaneously monitoring maritime traffic; it can detect aircraft out to more than 250 nautical miles and cruise missiles out to approximately 150 nautical miles. The E-2C's AN/ALR-73 passive detection system senses electronic emitters out to twice the detection range of the radar system. The E-2C's onboard computer system is designed to simultaneously monitor more than 600 contacts and direct more than 40 air intercepts. Normal E-2C crew numbers five.

The E-2C airframe is a high-wing monoplane design topped by a distinctive elevated 24-foot-diameter rotodome enclosing the AN/APA-171 radar and IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) antenna system that rotates at six rpm. Two T56-A-425 turboprop engines power the Hawkeye, driving two four-blade, 13.5-foot-diameter, constant-speed propellers. The E-2C weighs approximately 38,000 pounds empty and carries 12,400 pounds of fuel internally. Maximum takeoff weight is approximately 52,000 pounds. Length overall is 57.5 feet, and height overall is more than 18 feet. Wingspan is 80.5 feet, and wing area is approximately 700 square feet. Maximum level speed exceeds 320 knots, and cruise speed typically is 270 knots or more. Ferry range is approximately 1,400 nautical miles. Maximum endurance of six hours permits three to four hours on station more than 150 nautical miles out.

AGM-84/RGM-84 Harpoon: The Harpoon medium-range anti-ship cruise missile has been operational with the U.S. Navy since 1977 and in the years since with an increasing number of allied navies. It arms a spectrum of combat craft ranging from submarines to surface combatants — patrol craft through battleships — to land- and carrier-based aircraft. The air-launched configuration is designated AGM-84, the surface-launched configuration is designated RGM-84, and the submarine-launched configuration is designated UGM-84. The aerodynamically steered, turbine-engined Harpoon flies a programmed, low-level flight path to the target area with in-flight attitude reference and midcourse guidance controlled by an onboard computer system; target acquisition is made by a self-contained, frequency-agile, ECM-resistant, active radar seeker system; and terminal guidance uses either the active seeker or passive homing techniques. The Harpoon can deliver its 500-pound, contact-fuzed, HE penetrating-blast warhead to a range of 70 nautical miles. The AGM-84 version is 12.5 feet long and weighs 1,160 pounds at launch; the RGM-84 version (with solid-propellant booster) is 15 feet long and weighs 1,450 pounds at launch.

AGM-88 HARM & AGM-45 Shrike: The AGM-88 HARM air-launched high-speed anti-radiation missile was developed, according to the Navy, "to destroy or suppress enemy electronic emitters, especially those associated with radar sites used to direct anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles." The HARM is evolved from and is intended to replace the AGM-45 Shrike and

AGM-78 Standard ARM missiles, complementary shorter- and longer-ranged air-launched anti-radiation missiles of older design. The Navy received the first production HARM in 1983; the Shrike and the Standard ARM date from the Vietnam War.

The aerodynamically steered, solid-propellant HARM is 13.7 feet long and weighs approximately 800 pounds at launch. The HARM's passive-homing, microwave radiation-seeking guidance

U.S. OPERATIONS AGAINST LIBYA 14 APRIL 1986

Editor's Note: The following is the official chronology of events with supporting information released by the Department of Defense.

CHRONOLOGY

14 April 1986

12:13 p.m. EST — 28 KC-10/KC-135s commenced departure from RAF Fairford and RAF Mildenhall.

12:36 p.m. — 24 F-111s commenced departure from RAF Lakenheath and five EF-111s sortied from RAF Heyford. Four silent refuelings conducted en route to the target area. (Note: The above totals include spare aircraft.)

5:20-6:20 p.m. — USS *Coral Sea* launched eight A-6E strike and six F/A-18 strike support aircraft.

5:45-6:15 p.m. — USS *America* launched six A-6E strike and six A-7 strike support aircraft.

6:54 p.m. — Commenced ECM [electronics countermeasures] with EF-111s and SAM [surface-to-air missile] suppression with A-7s and F/A-18s.

7:00 p.m. — Commenced simultaneous attacks on Benina airfield and the Benghazi military barracks with 12 A-6Es and the Aziziya barracks (Tripoli) and the Sidi Bilal terrorist training camp with eight F-111s.

7:06-7:11 p.m. — Five F-111s conducted an attack on the Tripoli military airport, the final target.

7:13 p.m. — All Navy strike aircraft confirmed "feet wet" (i.e., over the ocean, away from the Libyan land mass). Unable to confirm all USAF aircraft "feet wet."

7:15 p.m. — SAR [search and rescue] forces alerted to search for possible missing aircraft.

7:46 p.m. — *Coral Sea* strike aircraft back on deck.

7:53 p.m. — *America* strike and primary support aircraft back on deck.

8:14 p.m. — First return refueling confirms one F-111 missing.

10:16 p.m. — One F-111 returning to UK diverted to Rota, Spain, with overheated engine.

11:24 p.m. — Diverted F-111 reported safe on deck at Rota.

15 April 1986

3:10 a.m. — All aircraft (less the one F-111 reported missing and the diverted F-111 in Rota) reported safe on deck in the UK.

10:00 p.m. — SAR effort terminated. Negative result.

16 April 1986

5:01 p.m. — F-111 which had diverted to Spain returned to RAF Lakenheath.

AIRCRAFT STATISTICS

USAF Tanker Support Aircraft — 28 KC-10s and KC-135s, launched from RAF Fairford and RAF Mildenhall. (The original plan had called for 30 but only 28 were needed and only 28 were used.)

USAF ECM Aircraft — Five EF-111s, launched from RAF Heyford. (Only three of these took part in the attack; one returned to Great Britain with the F-111F airborne spares cited below, and the other was held in reserve for use if needed.)

USAF Strike Aircraft — 24 F-111Fs, launched from RAF Lakenheath. (Six of these were airborne spares which returned to base as planned after their initial refueling. The other 18 continued on; 13 of these attacked targets as designated in the chronology and five aborted.)

USN Strike Aircraft — 14 A-6Es, launched from the USS *America* (six aircraft) and USS *Coral Sea* (eight aircraft). (Twelve of these attacked targets as designated in the chronology and two aborted.)

USN SAM Suppression Aircraft — 12 A-7s and F/A-18s, launched from the USS *America* (six A-7s) and USS *Coral Sea* (six F/A-18s). (All of these attacked targets as designated in the chronology.)

AIRCRAFT ABORTS

KC-10/KC-135 Tanker Support Aircraft

No aborts

EF-111 ECM Aircraft

No aborts

A-7 & F/A-18 SAM Suppression Aircraft

No aborts

F-111F Strike Aircraft

Five aborts,* three systems degradation and two cause not reported

A-6E Strike Aircraft

Two aborts,* cause not reported

(*Note: Pilots were directed in advance to abort if any system was not working properly before they reached their assigned target areas.)

MUNITIONS EXPENDED

F-111F Strike Aircraft

2,000-pound laser-guided bombs

500-pound high-drag gravity bombs

A-6E Strike Aircraft

500-pound gravity bombs

750-pound gravity bombs

A-7 & F/A-18 SAM Suppression Aircraft

HARM missiles

Shrike missiles

TARGETS

Al Aziziya barracks in Tripoli — Main headquarters of Libyan planning and direction of its terrorists attacks overseas.

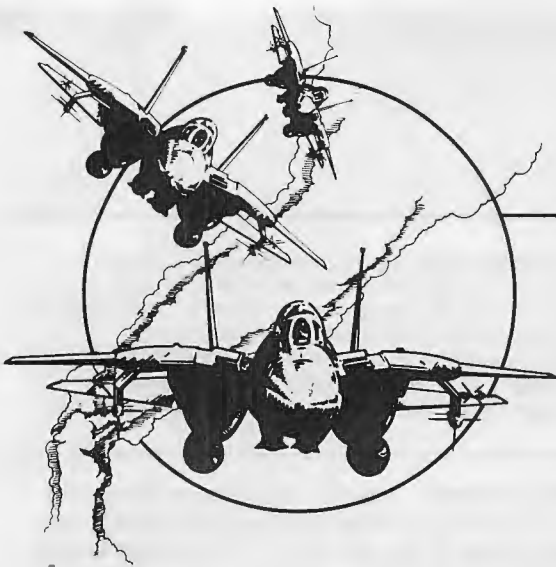
Al Jamahiriya barracks in Benghazi — Alternate command post to the Al Aziziya barracks.

Sidi Bilal port facility — Training base for Libyan commandos.

Military side of Tripoli airport — Il-76 aircraft transport military and subversive material around the world.

Benina military airfield — Military suppression target, home base for military and subversive material in the war against Chad.

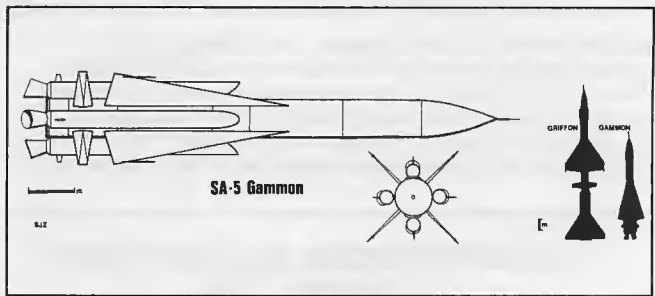
LIBYA



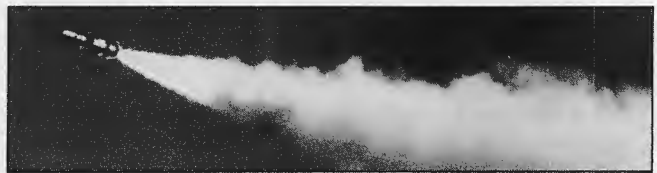
system directs it over ranges of more than 12 miles to the target radar site's emitting antenna, where its 150-pound prefragmented HE warhead detonates, damaging or destroying the antenna and other nearby elements (or personnel) of the installation.

The smaller Shrike is 10 feet long and weighs approximately 400 pounds at launch. The aerodynamically steered, solid-propellant Shrike's passive-homing, microwave radiation-seeking guidance system delivers its 150-pound HE fragmentation warhead to its target radar site's emitting antenna over ranges of less than 10 miles.

The HARM most significantly improves on the Shrike in that it has broad-band frequency-sensing capability and can be programmed to accept new threat emitter frequencies; the Shrike is hard-wired and more narrowly sensitive with respect to frequency, requiring selection, before each aircraft sortie and for each Shrike station on the aircraft, of the proper Shrike submodel (from a total of at least 13 submodels) configured to home on specific anticipated target emitters.



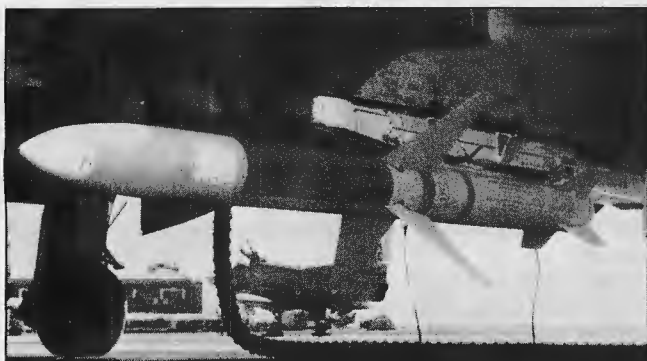
Soviet SA-5 Gammon long-range SAM. Drawing: Steven Zaloga.



RGM-84 Harpoon ship-launched anti-ship missile. Photo: Dept. of Defense



AGM-88 HARM high-speed anti-radiation missile. Photo: Dept. of Defense



AGM-45 Shrike anti-radiation missile. Photo: Dept. of Defense



Paveway II GBU-10 Mk.84 2,000-pound laser-guided bomb. Photo: Dept. of Defense

USS *Ticonderoga* (CG-47) & USS *Yorktown* (CG-48): The *Ticonderoga* is the first and the *Yorktown* is the second of the *Ticonderoga* class of Aegis System-equipped, conventionally powered, guided missile cruisers, which are built on the same hull as the *Spruance* class of guided missile destroyers. The general mission of the *Ticonderoga* class of missile cruisers, according to the Navy, is to "destroy enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, and surface ships in order to prohibit the employment of such forces against U.S. forces. CG-47 Class ships will normally be assigned to Carrier Battle Groups or Surface Action Groups."

Both the *Ticonderoga* and the *Yorktown* were active with Sixth Fleet carrier battle groups involved in the Sidra and Libya actions.

The *Ticonderoga* was laid down in 1980, launched in 1981 and commissioned in 1983. The *Yorktown* was laid down in 1981, launched in 1983 and commissioned in 1984. Each is armed with two LAMPS (Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System) helicopters, the Phalanx CIWS (Close-In Weapons System), Mk.46 anti-submarine torpedoes, two Mk.45 five-inch guns, and Harpoon anti-ship, Standard multipurpose and Asroc anti-submarine missiles. Each is equipped with the AN/SQS-53A sonar system. Displacement fully loaded is 9,600 tons, length overall is 567 feet, beam is 55 feet, and draft is 31 feet. Each steams at more than 30 knots. Normal complement is 375, comprising 33 officers and 342 enlisted men.

The *Yorktown*, the guided missile destroyer USS *Scott* (DDG-995) and the destroyer USS *Caron* (DD-970) constituted the three-ship surface action group that operated below the 32°30'N "Line of Death" in the Gulf of Sidra in March.

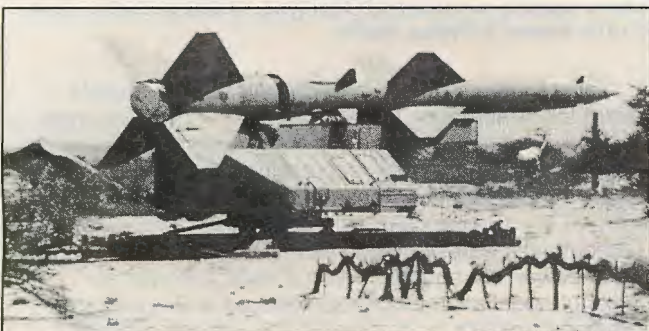
Nanuchka II-class missile corvette: Libya's inventory of Soviet-built missile corvettes of the *Nanuchka II* class totaled four before the appearance of Sixth Fleet ships and aircraft below the Gulf of Sidra "Line of Death" in March. Each *Nanuchka II* is armed with four Soviet-built SS-N-2 Styx anti-ship missiles (which can deliver a 400- to 450-kilogram warhead out to a range of 40-80 kilometers) and a Soviet twin SA-N-4 anti-aircraft missile launcher (with an estimated shipload of 20 missiles with estimated range of 12 kilometers), plus a twin 57mm anti-aircraft mount. Displacement is 780 tons standard and 900 tons fully loaded, length overall is 198 feet, beam is 40 feet, and draft is just more than 10 feet. The vessel has a top speed approaching 35 knots. Range at cruising speed of 15 knots is approximately 4,500 miles. Normal complement numbers about 70.



French-built Libyan *La Combattante II-G* missile fast-attack craft. Photo: Dept. of Defense

***La Combattante II-G*-class missile fast-attack craft:** Libya's inventory of missile-armed, fast-attack craft of the French-built *La Combattante II-G* class totaled 10 prior to the appearance of Sixth Fleet ships and aircraft below the Gulf of Sidra "Line of Death" in March. Each *La Combattante II-G* is armed with four French/Italian Otomat anti-ship missiles (which can deliver 60 kilograms of HE in a 210-kilogram warhead to an effective range of more than 60 kilometers and to a maximum range of up to 180 kilometers), along with a single 76mm mount forward and a twin 40mm mount aft. Displacement exceeds 300 tons fully loaded, length overall is 161 feet, beam is 21 feet, and draft is just less than seven feet. The steel-hulled craft has a top speed approaching 40 knots. Range at cruising speed of 15 knots is approximately 1,600 miles. Normal complement is 27.

Soviet SA-2 Guideline medium-range SAM. Photo: Dept. of Defense



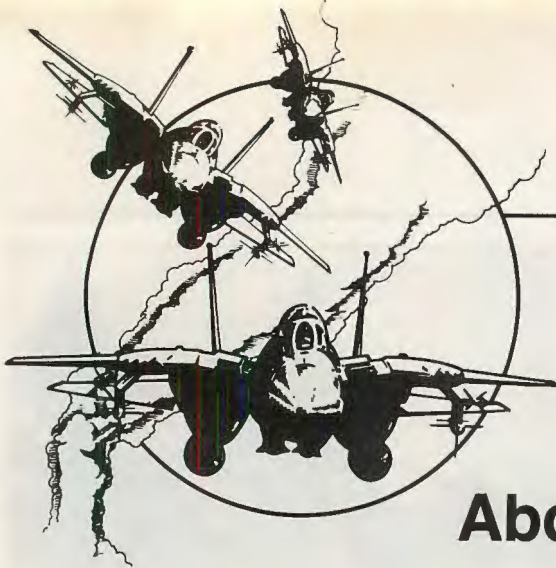
Soviet SA-3 Goa short-range SAM. Photo: Dept. of Defense

SA-5 Gammon, SA-3 Goa & SA-2 Guideline: Libya possesses Soviet-built SA-5 Gammon long-range, SA-3 Goa short-range and SA-2 Guideline medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems for air defense.

Western intelligence agencies have yet to declassify either technical details or photographs of the long-range SA-5 Gammon SAM, which has long been widely confused in the Western press with the nonoperational Griffon SAM, photos of which have been published and misidentified as the SA-5. (The Gammon, Griffon and Gaffer SAMs were developed roughly concurrently by the Soviets more than 25 years ago; the Griffon and Gaffer apparently derive from the older SA-2 Guideline, and the Gammon apparently beat them out for widespread operational deployment beginning in 1963 or earlier.) The Gammon exceeds 10 meters in length, with four solid-propellant boosters configured around the missile body which contains the main liquid-propellant propulsion system. Some reports credit the missile with a top speed of greater than Mach 4 and a maximum effective range of up to 250 kilometers, with a minimum effective range of probably 60-80 kilometers. Although it apparently is aerodynamically steered, the missile is reported as having an effective altitude of up to 30,000 meters (an altitude at which aerodynamic control surfaces are not very effective).

The short-range SA-3 Goa SAM dates from at least 1961 and usually operates in proximity with the SA-5 or SA-2 missiles so that missed intercepts at longer ranges can be backed up by a close-in second chance at an intercept. The two-stage, solid-propellant Goa is reported to be 6.7 meters long and to weigh 636 kilograms at launch. The missile can deliver its proximity-fuzed HE warhead to slant ranges of 25-30 kilometers at speed greater than Mach 2. The foreplane aerodynamically steered missile has an effective ceiling reported as more than 13,000 meters, although its primary mission is considered to be short-range defense against low-flying aircraft.

Operational at least since 1958, the widely deployed but technically obsolescent medium-range SA-2 Guideline SAM has appeared over the years in a number of configurations displaying minor external differences. The two-stage Guideline nominally is 10.7 meters long and weighs about 2,300 kilograms at launch. The missile's solid-propellant booster and liquid-propellant sustainer can deliver its approximately 130-kilogram, proximity-fuzed, HE warhead to slant ranges of 40-50 kilometers at speed estimated at up to Mach 3.5. Effective ceiling of the tailplane aerodynamically steered missile is reported as 18,000 meters. ✂



LIBYA

HATCH

Abdul Salem Jalloud Emerges

THE Reagan administration's single-minded preoccupation with Muammar Khadafi's sponsorship of world terrorism has clouded an issue which may soon rear its head if Khadafi is pushed out of his seat as Libya's dictator. The Libyan government has the American people believing that the word of Colonel Muammar Khadafi is law in Libya — a potentially disastrous misunderstanding — and thus that Tripoli's foreign policy is subject to the whims of a madman. This fails to take into account the Soviet Union's deft manipulation of Khadafi through his own second-in-command, Major Abdul Salem Jalloud.

In the aftermath of America's 15 April bombing of Libya, when the U.S. news media suddenly noticed that Khadafi was not entirely in charge, they postulated that Jalloud and three other officers — Deputy Chief of Staff Hweldi al-Hamedi, Army Commander Abu Boke and Inspector General Mustafa Kharubi — had wrested power from Khadafi. They also began to take brief, if shallow, interest in Jalloud as Khadafi's number-two man and probable successor.

Attention to Jalloud is belated. Jalloud and his allies — notably Major Kharubi — have been running Libya on a day-to-day basis since April 1974, while Khadafi spends much of his time waxing philosophic about revolution and Libya's "historic mission."

However mad his policies may appear, Khadafi at least pursues his own goals, while Jalloud is more likely to follow the Kremlin's direction. While Libyan and Soviet interests in the Middle East and North Africa sometimes mesh, they aren't always identical. Jalloud's job is to see to it that Soviet interests are protected when they clash with Khadafi's pet project of the moment.

It's difficult to pinpoint when the 42-year-old Jalloud became the Kremlin's man in Tripoli, but the transformation seems to have occurred in the early 1970s. Like Khadafi, Jalloud was a fervent Arab nationalist when the nationalists seized power on 1 September 1969. But within five years it became obvious that Jalloud had evolved into a convinced Marxist-Leninist and an enthusiastic supporter of Soviet goals in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Jalloud's first major appearance in U.S. news came in the form of an interview published 4 June 1970 by *The New York Times*. Already a major at 26, Jalloud was "acting chief of government" while Khadafi was out touring various Arab capitals. Jalloud said in the interview that Libya opposed the sale of U.S. aircraft to Israel and intended to set "realistic prices" for Libyan oil. "Libya's relations with the United States are basically determined by America's attitude toward the Arab nation," he said.

Not recognizing the open blackmail of Jalloud's position



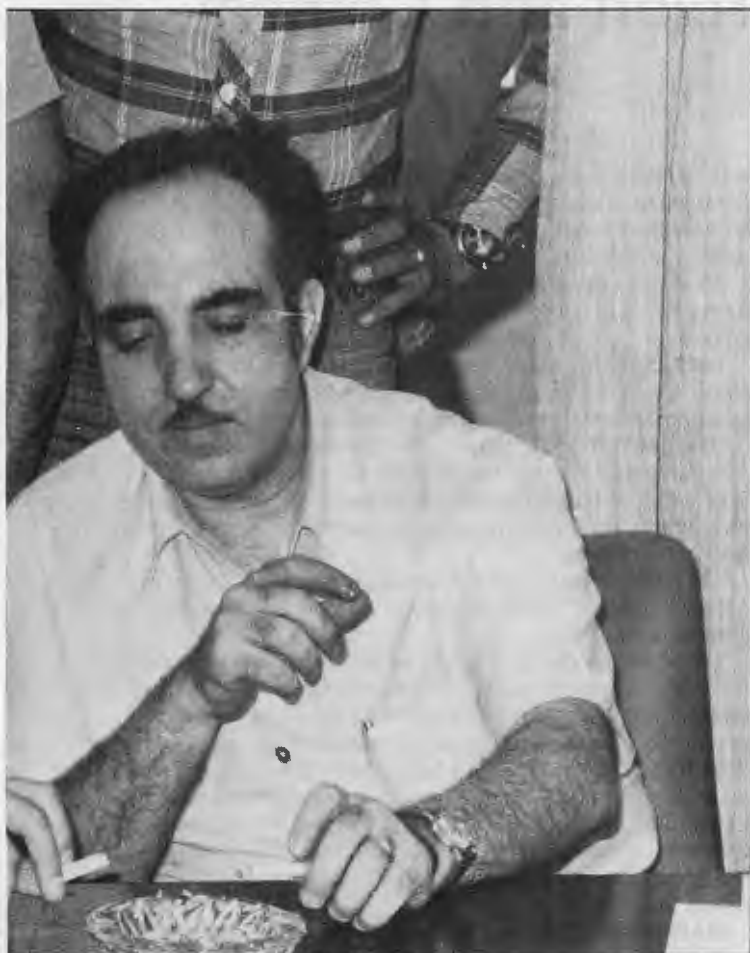
Major Jalloud, left, holds a press conference with the PLO Fatah's second-in-command, Abu Iyad, in Beirut during June of 1976. Photo: AP/Wide World

— "You can count on our hostility unless your attitude toward the Arab nation is to our liking" — *The New York Times* presented Jalloud as a moderate who "spoke with ease and calm even when expressing indignation." Jalloud's moderate image has persisted with the U.S. media in the 16 years since the interview.

Jalloud was a busy man in 1971, a decisive year in his rise to power. He announced on 2 April that after six weeks of negotiation Libya had reached a five-year agreement with 25 oil companies to raise the price of

ET MAN

From Khadaffi's Shadow by David Segal



Libya's crude from \$2.25 to \$3.45 per barrel. By 1976 Libyan crude oil prices were approaching \$15 a barrel. So much for Libya's promise. Jalloud had negotiated the agreement, which set a crucial precedent by breaking the Western oil cartels' solid front on pricing, in his capacity as minister of economics and development and as vice premier.

In May 1971, Jalloud's prominence continued to be apparent. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat narrowly foiled a carefully planned Soviet-backed coup attempt by Deputy President Ali Sabry. Thousands of Soviet military advisers were expelled en masse by Sadat. Jalloud was sent by Khadaffi to Egypt to express Libya's support for Sadat and condemn "Soviet neo-colonialism."

Two months later, in July 1971, Jalloud masterminded the forced landing of a British airliner in Benghazi. Jalloud justified the action by pointing out that two leaders of an unsuccessful, Soviet-backed coup against Sudanese President Gaafar al-Nimeiry were aboard. They were dragged off the commercial jet, returned to Sudan and shot as traitors. Then Libya soundly condemned Soviet imperialism in Sudan. Libya had joined with Egypt in preventing Nimeiry's downfall. Jalloud was reputedly the architect of this activist anti-Soviet policy, but by this time, he also began displaying anti-Western sentiments in Morocco and Malta.

At the same time he was opposing Soviet efforts to install puppet governments in Egypt and Sudan, Khadaffi was sponsoring a coup of his own against the pro-Western King Hasan II of Morocco. The coup was a miserable failure. Jalloud suddenly found himself on one hand denouncing the execution of pro-Khadaffi plotters in Morocco while praising — if not aiding and abetting in — the execution of pro-Soviet conspirators in Sudan.

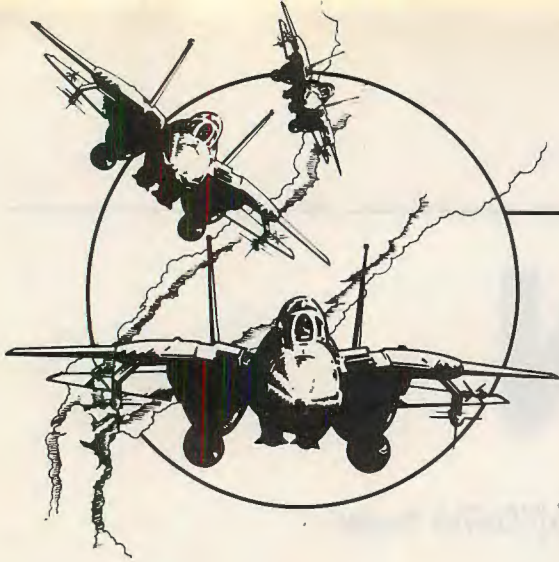
Late in July, Jalloud flew off to Malta to congratulate the newly elected Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and to offer Libyan money if Mintoff would evict Great Britain from her military facilities on that strategic island nation. Mintoff gave the Brits their walking papers and Libyan petro-dollars flowed into Malta, which has maintained close ties with Libya ever since. Jalloud had his first major diplomatic triumph under his belt.

But neither Libya nor Jalloud had really joined the Soviet camp yet, despite Libya's anti-Western efforts in Malta and Morocco. Libya still supported Egypt and Sudan against Soviet efforts to overthrow those governments. Ironically, Khadaffi later would put Libya to great effort and expense to eliminate Sadat and Nimeiry.

Libya's drift into a pro-Soviet orbit began in February 1972, barely six months after Libya helped foil a pro-Soviet coup attempt in Sudan. To be properly understood, this sudden rapprochement should be observed in the broader context of the Kremlin's Middle East policy.

After their embarrassing failures in Egypt and Sudan in 1971, the Soviets decided that the quickest way to regain credibility and influence in the Arab world would be to actively support and help organize Arab attacks on Israel. It was a sure-bet proposition for the Russians. If Israel was defeated, the Kremlin could claim part of the credit. If the Arabs failed to defeat Israel — as actually happened — the Arabs would be grateful anyway and in need of Soviet aid more than ever.

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LIBYA

LIBYA

A Chronology of Colonialism, Coercion and Combat

by John Coleman

WHY does Libya bomb planes, harass poor neighbors, assassinate competing political leaders and attempt suicidal raids against the military of the First World? Because if Libya chooses to act, its choices of tactics are limited by its primitive economic, technical and military development.

Until the late 1950s, Libya floated on backwaters distant from the world's geopolitical mainstream. It was a terribly poor country — about 93 percent of its 680,000 square miles is desert or semidesert — whose coastal region along the Mediterranean was alternately dominated by Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Vandals, Arabs, Turks and Italians.

Libya's standing in the world community changed dramatically with the discovery of enormous deposits of high-grade petroleum 200-300 miles south and southeast of the Gulf of Sidra. But petrodollar wealth led to government corruption and inequal distribution, and little was done to help the predominantly Muslim population of Arabs and Berbers.

Great economic changes normally foster political upheaval, and the stage was set for a young army colonel of desert Bedouin background to light the fuse. Muammar Khadafi was a follower of Egypt's Gamal Nasser and his theories of pan-Arab, anti-colonial nationalism. Combined with fanatical adherence to Islamic fundamentalism — and a pathological hatred of the State of Israel — Khadafi was now ready to impress his views on the rest of the world.

Libya has been and still is a nation which has limited ability to apply its foreign policy by any means other than what we now call terrorism: the weapon of have-not nations. This is the calendar of Libya's attempts at influencing the rest of the world without being a world leader.

1800-05. Conflict between the United States and the Barbary States over the U.S.-adopted European custom of buying immunity from naval raids; Pasha of Tripoli demands excess payments, hostilities break out in 1801. Navy officer John Rodgers negotiates a settlement in June 1805, but Barbary pirate raids continue. U.S. political and military force ends tribute system in 1815.

1911-12. Turko-Italian War. Italy conquers northern Tripoli, but through the Treaty of Ouchy which ended the

war, Turkey grants Tripoli autonomy. Libyans continue to fight Italian occupation, but Italy occupies most of the country by 1914. Becomes Italian colony after 200 years as part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

1934. Italy adopts the name "Libya" (the ancient Greek name for all of Africa except Egypt) as the official title of its colony.

1943. After an Allied victory over the Axis powers in North Africa, Libya is placed under Anglo-French military government. Italy relinquishes all claims in 1947.

DECEMBER 1951. Libya is the first country to obtain independence through United Nations' auspices. Proclaimed a constitutional and hereditary monarchy under King Idris I, Emir of Cyrenaica, and admitted to the United Nations in 1955.

1953-54. Libya allows the United States and Britain to establish military bases on Libyan territory in return for annual subsidies.

1958-59. Discovery of major oil reserves. Libya becomes the world's seventh leading producer of petroleum and tenth of natural gas in 1971 enabling the resource-poor country to eventually become self-supporting.

SEPTEMBER 1969. King Idris overthrown by a military coup. Revolutionary Command Council proclaims new Libyan Arab Republic, 27-year-old Colonel Muammar Khadafi becomes chief of state. Khadafi immediately lends support to the National Liberation Front (FROLINAT) rebels in Chad.

MARCH-JULY 1970. British military installations closed in Tobruk and El Adem, as was U.S. Wheelus AFB near Tripoli; several thousand Italian residents expelled.

1971. All foreign-operated libraries and cultural centers closed. Libya forms a loose alliance with Egypt and Syria called the Federation of Arab Republics. Provides assistance to fellow Muslim Idi Amin of Uganda.

1972. United States recalls its ambassador and does not replace him.

1973. Khadafi announces a "cultural revolution" in schools, businesses, industry and all public institutions as part of the "people's power." In August, Libya and Egypt announce they will form a unified state "in stages." Libya contributes men and equipment — mainly aircraft — to the Arab side of the Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War.

1974. Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba signs and

then immediately repudiates a unity agreement with Libya. Relations between the two worsen with continuing conflicts over ideology and territorial waters in the Gulf of Gabes.

1976. In support of the minority Toubou ethnic group, Libya attempts to annex areas of northern Niger but fails. Niger government repeatedly claims Khadaffi is attempting to destabilize it.

MARCH 1977. Libyan General People's Congress changes country's name to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (state based on the masses).

APRIL 1977. Panama's chief of state, Brigadier Omar Torrijos, meets with Khadaffi in Libya. Torrijos receives financial and political support for his efforts to gain control of the Canal from the United States.

JULY 1977. Tension between Egypt and Libya — stemming from Anwar Sadat's refusal to merge with the Libyan state and other ideological differences — results in a border war lasting less than a week. Egyptian air and ground troops quickly defeat outnumbered and ill-equipped Libyan forces. "We gave Khadaffi a lesson he could never forget. [We'll] repeat this lesson unless this maniac stops playing with fire." — Anwar Sadat.

OCTOBER 1978. Khadaffi's 2,000-man Libyan expeditionary force helps Idi Amin during his abortive invasion of Tanzania; forces are routed by the Tanzanians.

1979. Former CIA agents Edwin Wilson and Frank Terpil contract with Khadaffi to supply weapons, recruit military personnel to conduct training, and gather intelligence for Libya. Wilson and Terpil are indicted by a federal grand jury in 1980. Wilson is convicted in 1982, Terpil remains a fugitive.

DECEMBER 1979. Mobs sack U.S. Embassy in Tripoli in support of Iran's seizure of the American hostages in November; most remaining staff members are withdrawn.

JANUARY 1980. Libyan-trained Tunisian commandos seize Gafsa, Tunisia. Government calls for aid from France and the United States, expels Libyan ambassador. Libyan incursions continue into 1981-82.

FEBRUARY 1980. Tunisian and French embassies sacked and burned in Tripoli; authorities take no action. Throughout 1980, Libyan exiles and anti-Khadaffi businessmen operating overseas are assassinated in the United Kingdom, Italy, West Germany and Greece. One gunman said he was sent to "kill an enemy of the people."

OCTOBER 1980. Former Green Beret Eugene Tafoya attempts assassination of anti-Khadaffi exile Faisal Zagallai in Colorado. Tafoya is later convicted.

DECEMBER 1980. Libyan troops, numbering some 10,000, invade Chad. Subversion in The Gambia by Libya causes a break in relations between the two countries.

1981. Libya, South Yemen and Ethiopia join in a tripartite alliance designed to expel all "imperialist" — meaning American — influence from the region.

JANUARY 1981. Libyan report states that former Chadian leader Goukouni Queddei and Khadaffi had planned to merge Chad and Libya, helps lead to Hissene Habre's takeover of Chad from Queddei.

Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings again assumes control of Ghana and immediately receives aid from Khadaffi in the form of arms and cheap oil. Rawlings' Provisional National Defense Committee (PNDC) is directly modeled on Khadaffi's People's Committees. In mid-1983 plans are



Staged assassination of former Libyan Prime Minister Bakouh in Egypt during November 1984. A professional make-up artist used human blood in order to convince the Libyans that their plan had succeeded. Photo: AP/Wide World

made to provide 120 Libyan soldiers with jungle training in Ghana.

FEBRUARY 1981. Libyan gunmen open fire on passengers arriving at Rome airport from Algiers, targeting an anti-Khadaffi exile.

MAY 1981. U.S. government closes Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) and expels staff from Washington.

JUNE 1981. Bomb explodes in front of the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum.

JULY 1981. Anti-Khadaffi Libyan student killed in Ogden, Utah.

AUGUST 1981. Two Soviet-supplied SU-22 Libyan jets attack U.S. Navy F-14s near the Gulf of Sidra. Navy: 2, Libya: 0.

OCTOBER 1981. In Egypt, two bombs explode in the luggage being unloaded from a plane originating from Libya. Planned assassination of Chadian official Hissene Habre in Sudan fails when Libyan hit team surrenders.

NOVEMBER 1981. Several bombs explode near government installations in Khartoum, Sudan. Libyan troops withdrawn from most of Chad under intense diplomatic pressure; further withdrawals occur in 1982.

DECEMBER 1981. United States invalidates passports for travel to Libya, asks all U.S. citizens to leave.

MARCH 1982. United States imposes prohibitions on Libyan crude oil imports, extends trade embargos against Libya.

FEBRUARY 1983. Rumors of a Libyan-backed coup — sparked by intense Libyan activity on the border — in Sudan is downplayed by Egypt to assuage Sudanese and U.S. concerns.

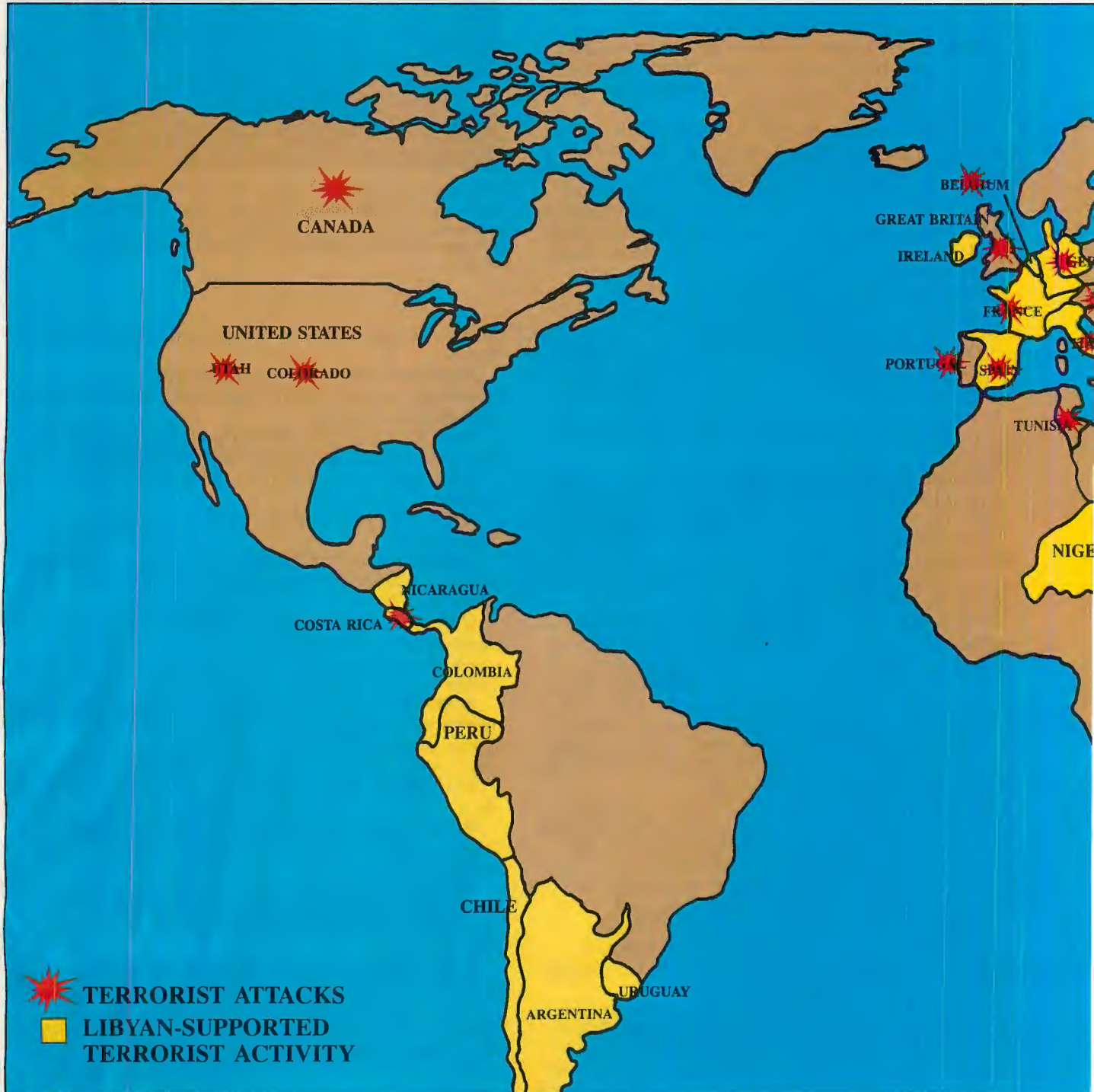
JULY 1983. Libya invades Chad for the second time; provides air cover, armor and troops in support of former Chadian President Goukouni Queddei. Khadaffi double-crosses the French in 1984, who had withdrawn their troops, by leaving his own forces in control of the northern part of the country — the 60-mile-wide uranium- and manganese-rich Aouzou Strip.



LIBYA

AUGUST 1983. Libya provides material support to the coup in Burkina Faso and helps Captain Thomas Sankara topple the government of army pediatrician Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo. Sankara establishes Libyan-styled Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and maintains close economic and military ties with Khadaffi.

JANUARY 1984. The airport, two hotels and the headquarters of the Voice of Zaire (radio and television)



are bombed in Kinshasa, Zaire. Zairean secret service arrests Libyan-trained insurgents. (Zaire was the first African state to renew diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1973 Middle East war. Zaire also sent 2,000 paratroops to support Chad's President Habre — Khadafi's adversary.)

FEBRUARY 1984. Libyan government announces that all exiles must return home or face the "death penalty." Harassment and assassination of exiles increases

worldwide. Government takes no action while the Jordanian Embassy is looted and burned in Tripoli.

MARCH 1984. Libyan TU-22 bomber attacks Omdurman, Sudan, site of an anti-Khadafi radio transmitter. In England, four bombs explode in London and Manchester near sites of Libyan exile activity; three others are disarmed. Twenty-five people injured, nine Libyan

Continued on page 134

WIDE WORLD OF TERROR





LIBYA

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING

Khadaffi's Bad Neighbor Policy

by SOF Staff

LIBYA'S taste for terror began two hundred years ago when the state-supported Barbary corsairs of Tripoli and Algiers attacked their neighbors and made the Gulf of Sidra unsafe for civilized merchant navigation. Today, after a 150-year hiatus, North Africa's Barbary Coast is again swarming with terrorists who call Libya home.

Ever since he seized power in a 1 September 1969 military coup, Libyan strongman Muammar Khadaffi has consolidated that power by systematically crushing all opposition groups within Libya. Khadaffi's lust for power has led him to pursue his dream of a united Arab nation — under his leadership.

Khadaffi (who often compares himself favorably with Garibaldi, Bismarck, Lenin and Nasser) sincerely believes that he is one of history's great men with the God-given mission of leading the Third World and defeating the West and its Third World friends through revolution and subversion. He makes no secret of this belief.

Egypt

Regional leaders know that Khadaffi is not a good neighbor, but they tend to dismiss him as a nasty man who is mostly talk and bluster. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had dismissed Khadaffi as "a vicious criminal, 100 percent sick and possessed of a demon," while former president of Sudan Gaafar al-Nimeiry joked that Khadaffi has "a split personality — both evil."

If they had fully realized how determined and dangerous Khadaffi really is, Sadat and Nimeiry might have declared

Colonel Muammar Khadaffi, resplendent in his military uniform, lectures his people on the virtues of Islam.





LEFT: The ruler — for now: Hissene Habre continues to wage a seesaw battle against Libyan-backed rebel forces. Photo: AP/Wide World



CENTER: Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiry was ousted in a Libyan-sponsored coup on April 1985. Photo: AP/Wide World



RIGHT: Sudan's new strongman: General Abdul Rahman Mohamed Hassan Swareddahab. Photo: AP/Wide World

war on him. On 6 October 1981 Anwar Sadat was gunned down by some of his own soldiers while watching a military parade. The assassins, led by Lieutenant al-Islamboli, turned out to belong to *Takfir wal Hegra*, a fundamentalist Moslem group sponsored by Libya. In April 1985, Nimeiry was overthrown in a Libyan-sponsored military coup and had to take refuge in Egypt, where Khadaffi has been trying to kill him ever since.

Immediately after the Sadat assassination, Khadaffi personally called upon Egyptians to overthrow their government, and, while the response was much less than Khadaffi had hoped for, the Libyan dictator was not discouraged. Within a week, two bombs exploded at Cairo International Airport. The bombs had been concealed in luggage unloaded from a flight originating in Tripoli.

In July 1984, Libya mined the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez, seriously impeding shipping and damaging 18 merchant vessels. The mines, which were unusually small (probably designed to harass shipping rather than sink ships), were of Soviet manufacture.

In November 1984, Egypt announced that former Libyan Prime Minister Bakoush had been assassinated in Cairo and published photos of the murder victim. When Libya promptly and proudly claimed responsibility for the assassination, the Egyptians revealed that the victim was, in fact, alive, that the murder photos were faked, and that a four-man Libyan hit team was in custody for attempted murder.

In May 1985, Egypt foiled a plot by radical Palestinians to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Cairo with a truck bomb. An Egyptian diplomat told me that "there is no doubt that

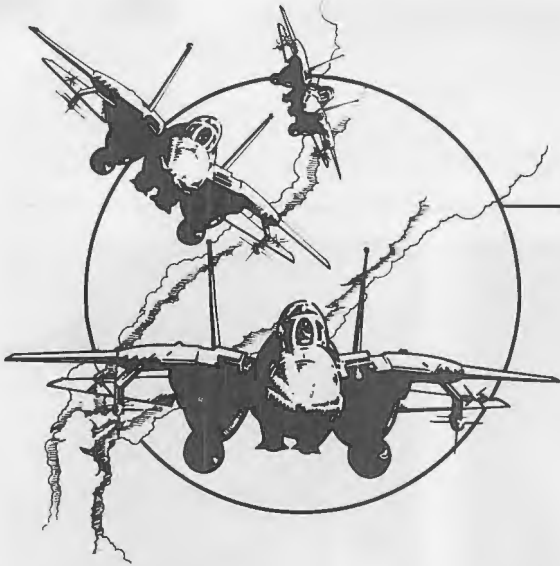
the people who tried to blow up your embassy were backed by Libya." Unconfirmed reports say the Palestinian group involved was the infamous Abu Nidal.

In November 1985, one year after the attempted assassination of Bakoush, another four-man Libyan hit team was arrested in the course of an attempted attack on a meeting of Libyan exiles near Cairo. After the arrests, Egypt released audio and video tapes incriminating Libya. Among other things, those arrested said that Khadaffi's hit list for Egypt includes Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

This year's opening shot in Khadaffi's continuing war



LIBYA



A man in an Egyptian army uniform fires his AK into the presidential reviewing stand. President Sadat and five others were killed. Photo: AP/Wide World

against Egypt was fired on 28 February 1986, when hundreds of Central Security Force militia conscripts rioted in the streets of Cairo for four days, calling for the overthrow of President Mubarak and the establishment of an "Islamic Republic" in Egypt. During the riots both Libya and Iran called for Egypt's "Muslim people" to rise up and overthrow their pro-Western government. Although Egyptian authorities have uncovered the outlines of a vast and coordinated plot with clear Libyan direction and instigation and are going to prosecute (and probably execute) dozens of major conspirators, Egypt is reluctant to openly blame Libya, according to a knowledgeable Egyptian military officer. The officer added that if all known information about the February riots were publicized, the Egyptian people would demand a war with Khadaffi. The Egyptian government, however, wants to avoid an actual



shooting war, so the complete facts are being suppressed, he said.

Sudan

Neighboring Sudan has also found itself subject to Khadaffi's meddling. The first phase of his Sudanese campaign ended in victory last year with the overthrow of President Nimeiry in April. Before that, Libya had been a major source of arms and money for southern Sudanese rebels. In February 1983, the Sudanese foiled a Libyan-directed and -supported coup attempt, with help from Egypt.

In March 1984, one of Libya's Soviet-supplied TU-22 Blinder bombers bombed Omdurman in an unsuccessful attempt to destroy a Sudanese radio station that was broadcasting anti-Khadaffi programs by Libyan oppositionists.

Since Nimeiry's overthrow, Khadaffi has used Libya's newly restored diplomatic facilities in Khartoum and the offices of Libya's Jamahiriya Airlines as a cover from which to consolidate his foothold in Sudan and carry out his



The key to North Africa: Libya has long had hopes of toppling Egypt's pro-Western government and the first step was the assassination of Anwar Sadat. Here, Sadat sits in the reviewing stand just before the attack that took his life. Photo: AP/Wide World

Algiers and from Algiers back to Beirut.

Even with the similarities in foreign policy, Libya isn't on good terms with the pro-Soviet leftists that rule Algeria. One reason may be that, to Khadaffi, the Algerians aren't radical enough. For example, they are neutral in the Iran-Iraq War, rather than being allied with Iran like Libya and Syria. The Algerians are also not *actively* anti-American, meaning they don't actually order attacks on American targets or intentionally sponsor groups that do.

Another reason for tension is that Libya has consistently refused to negotiate a definite border demarcation with Algeria. Still, despite his support of fanatically pro-Soviet former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, Khadaffi doesn't appear to be actively trying to overthrow Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, at least not yet. While the possibility of a shooting war with Algeria seems remote at this point, relations are still far from cordial.

Tunisia

For years, Khadaffi has tried to overthrow the pro-Western government of Tunisia's President Habib Bourguiba. In 1980, regular Libyan army units seized the southern Tunisian mining town of Gafsa while Libyan broadcasts called upon the people of Tunisia to rise up and overthrow their government. Although the Libyans brought along massive amounts of arms and supplies for any would-be rebels, the Tunisian people's response to Khadaffi's call for revolt was as cold-shouldered as that of the Egyptian people.

The French response, however, was much more forceful. France threatened war and Khadaffi backed off like a whipped dog. In an effort to save his honor as an Arab warrior, government-incited mobs burned down the

Military officers and state officials lie dead and wounded following an attack by assassins on 7 October 1981. Photo: AP/Wide World



campaigns against Egypt and Chad. A number of known terrorists have been assigned to those offices. In May, barely a month after Nimeiry's overthrow, an entire planeload of terrorists arrived in Khartoum carrying assault rifles.

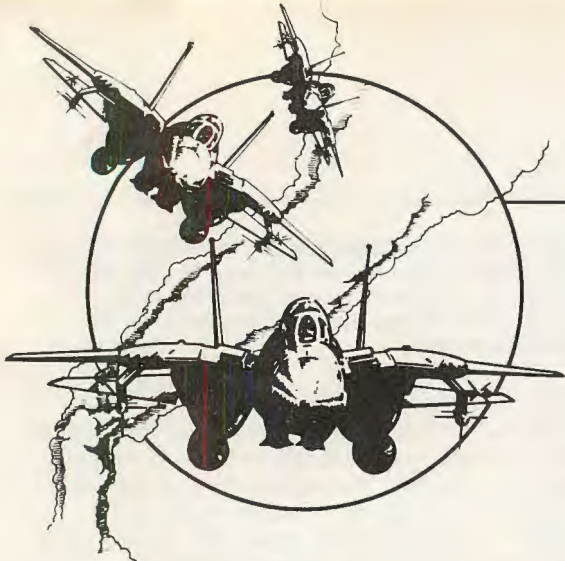
While Libya's takeover of Sudan is not yet complete, it is well underway, and the threat to Egypt from her suddenly hostile southern neighbor could become serious.

Algeria

Although Algeria is not as well-known as Libya for being a terrorist haven, it has been just that since 1968. On 23 July of that year, three terrorists from George Habash's PFLP seized an Israeli El Al plane en route from Rome to Lod and forced it to fly to Algiers. Although the hijackers were "imprisoned" by the Algerians, they were soon released and treated as heroes.

Since then, Algeria, along with Lebanon and Libya, has been a favorite destination for airplane hijackers. The Shi'ite fanatics who hijacked TWA flight 847 in June 1985, for example, flew from Athens to Beirut, from Beirut to

LIBYA



Khadaffi's readiness: While Libya boasts an arsenal of modern weapons, military training is not up to par with most of the Middle East. This woman soldier aims an SA-7 during a training session. Photo: AP/Wide World

TOP: A Libyan military aircraft shot down in Ouaddai Province, eastern Chad, by the guerrilla forces of present President Hissene Habre in September of 1981. Photo: AP/Wide World

ABOVE: A French paratrooper (right) instructs Chadian soldiers in the use of artillery. An estimated 3,000 French troops were sent to Chad during 1983. Photo: AP/Wide World

French and Tunisian embassies in Tripoli while security forces looked on.

In January 1984, a series of well-planned "bread riots" broke out in Tunis with almost certain Libyan direction and coordination. Shortly thereafter, terrorists dynamited a pipeline near the Libyan-Tunisian border from bases in Libya.

During 1985, Khadaffi expelled over 30,000 Tunisian workers from oil-rich Libya and confiscated their property in an effort to apply pressure to Tunisia's poor economy. Several Tunisian newspapers attacked Khadaffi for the expulsions, and, in September 1985, a Libyan diplomat tried to mail letter bombs to critical Tunisian journalists. Several of these exploded, wounding two postal workers. Tunisia broke off diplomatic relations with Libya over this incident.

Morocco

Until 1985 Libya was actively supporting Algeria's Polisario thugs against Morocco. Largely out of irritation with Algeria, Khadaffi withdrew his support and signed a treaty of unity and friendship with Morocco. The new treaty is expected to be meaningless except insofar as it keeps Khadaffi out of mischief in the southern Sahara.

Chad

Chad is the most blatant example of Libyan aggression toward her neighbors. Throughout the 1970s, Libya supported various guerrilla groups and tribes in northern

Chad in an effort to establish a puppet government in N'Djamena. Libya's popularity, however, suffered a setback in 1973 when Khadaffi forcibly annexed the northern part of Chad, known as the Aozou strip.

Not satisfied with his slow progress in enveloping Chad, Khadaffi invaded in October 1980 and tried to impose a "union" of the two countries. France threatened war and, in November 1981, the Libyans withdrew from Chad, leaving pro-Libyan President Goukouni Queddei behind as their puppet in N'Djamena.

When Queddei was deposed by current President Hissene Habre in 1983, Libya again invaded. Direct French intervention confined Khadaffi's incursion to the northern 40 percent of the country, but what's left of Chad will remain independent only so long as the French (or other parties) are willing to stand up to Libyan encroachment.

Having failed to get what he wanted by naked force, Tripoli's mini-Mussolini again resorted to his favorite weapon: murder. In September 1984, the Chadian government uncovered a Libyan plot to assassinate President Habre and his entire cabinet with a briefcase bomb. Khadaffi's plot was foiled — for the time being.

Jordan

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak isn't the only Arab



French attack: Cratering bombs dropped by French Jaguar jets hit a Libyan-built runway at Ouadi Doum in northern Chad on 16 February 1986. Photo: AP/Wide World

leader on Khadaffi's hit list. According to State Department Special Report No. 138: "We believe that Khadaffi has added Jordan's King Hussein and Iraq's Saddam Husayn to his hit list because of restored ties to Cairo and Washington, respectively."

Syria

The only major Arab country with which Libya has good relations is Syria. These two countries are pariahs even to the Arab world, and often cooperate in subverting other Arab countries. Although Libya and Syria have similar interests, the two nations keep each other at arm's length.

Iran/Iraq

Besides Syria, Libya has good relations with Marxist South Yemen (which has the dubious distinction of being the only Soviet-controlled puppet state in the Arab world) and Iran.

Khadaffi has allied himself with Khomeini in the Iran-Iraq War, supplying Iran with tanks, anti-tank weapons, anti-aircraft weapons and Scud-B surface-to-surface missiles. Libya also gives its support to anti-Iraqi (but not anti-Iranian) Kurdish separatists and Iraqi opposition groups, including the terrorist Shi'ite fundamentalist Al-Da'awa Party.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Khadaffi views black Africa as the most promising area in which to forge an anti-Western "Union of African States" — under Libyan leadership, of course. Most of the sub-Saharan states are poor, ill-equipped and ill-prepared

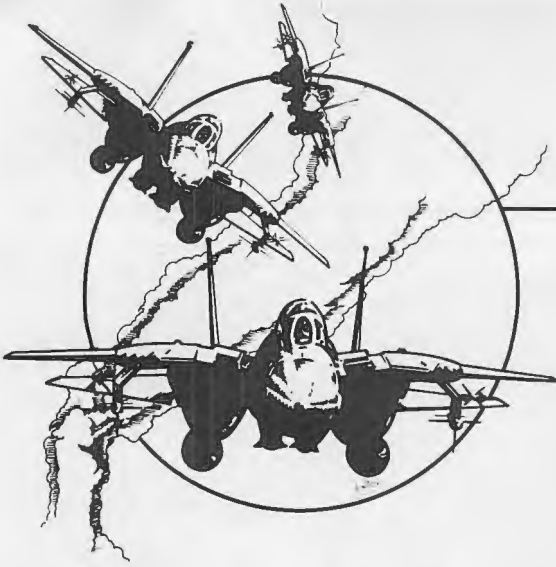
to defend themselves. Division along tribal lines leaves many African states with little sense of real national identity, leaving them vulnerable to Khadaffi's empire-building.

This is the same area of Africa that was ruthlessly plundered for "black gold" (which in those days meant slaves, not oil) by the Barbary States and Arab traders, until the slave trade was abolished in the 19th century by newly enlightened Western Europeans. Today, if Khadaffi

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An armed Chadian soldier guards a group of rebel prisoners in N'Djamena after fighting in August of 1983. Photo: AP/Wide World





LIBYA

**TO THE
SHORES
OF TRIPOLI**



SOF Correspondent Reports from Ground Zero

by Elizabeth O. Colton

It was strangely quiet in Libya the day before the U.S. raid. It didn't seem like a country bracing itself for attack. Yet this time many sensed that the American president would carry out his threats to do something tough to put the Libyan leader in his place. The whole world had once again turned its focus upon Libya.

There were 87 of us foreign newspeople, mostly Americans and British, in Libya to cover the attack on Monday night of 14 April. We were staying in Tripoli's best hotel, the Al-Kabir (The Grand), on the waterfront in downtown Tripoli overlooking the capital's commercial and naval port. The view from the rear opened on the sprawling Libyan capital. I was there, on-scene in Tripoli, the night when America's military bombed Libya.

The Libyan capital that Monday, 14 April, exhibited an unreal sense of calm. City streets were busy. There were no checkpoints along the highways. The old bazaar behind the historic fort was bustling with buyers and sellers. Downtown pedestrians strolled along the sunny sidewalks. Men and women chatted in coffee shops.

Just under the surface there was distinct nervousness about what might happen next. Said one young Libyan woman, "We just hope if President Reagan strikes, he won't aim for our civilian areas." Many Libyans, especially the more informed government officials, admitted they were worried by reports that ships of the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet were steaming back toward their shores.

Over the weekend Colonel Khadafi had threatened to begin moving foreign oil workers, including the approximately 800 to 1,000 Americans still in Libya, onto Libyan army camps believed to be targeted by the U.S. military. But there had been no confirmation that any such enforced moves had begun. However, there were reports that fuel and other military supplies were being transferred from Libyan bases for temporary storage at oil and construction sites where many foreigners worked and lived.

A missile launched from the shores of Tripoli lights up the town before impact. Photo: AP/Wide World

ON THE GROUND IN TRIPOLI

Elizabeth Colton knows Libya. Off and on for the past five years she has reported from Tripoli on events that have shaped U.S. relations with Libya for major news services including ABC News, *The Washington Post*, the *San Francisco Examiner* and *USA Today*. Colton was on the ground in Libya in August 1981 when American F-14s shot down two attacking Libyan SU-22s and her experience led her back to Libya before the 14 April bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi.

The only major sign of preparation inside the government was the report that hospitals throughout Libya were put on a 24-hour emergency alert. According to foreign nurses in Tripoli and Benghazi hospitals, enormous quantities of medicine, blood and plasma had been added to existing stocks. Extra beds had been brought into hospitals and whole sections had been set aside for emergency wards.

That day many Libyans and diplomats in Tripoli were thrown off guard by the EEC Foreign Ministers' meeting in The Hague. The European community had decided to trim Libyan diplomatic missions in their countries, but they refused to give any support to American military strikes against Libya. One senior West European diplomat remarked, "Of course, now the United States will have to take into account public opinion in Europe. They won't want to act completely against their allies' wishes." He was soon proved wrong.

Another European diplomat was certain the U.S. would attack. That Monday in Tripoli, he predicted, "The U.S. will go right after Khadafi himself. And I'm afraid, because my house is not far away from their targets."

Late Monday afternoon, a small pro-Khadafi parade was staged in downtown Tripoli. Hundreds of Libyan school children, dressed in military uniforms, marched through the streets into the revolutionary Green Square, conveniently near the journalists' hotel. It was all so tame that I went jogging after briefly checking out the demonstration. All seemed normal in Colonel Khadafi's Libya.

Monday night in the Libyan capital was quiet, completely peaceful. Tripoli's picturesque Mediterranean seafront was ablaze with lights along the palm-lined boulevard. In the harbor, ships of the Soviet-supplied Libyan navy were anchored where ancient Roman fleets and later Barbary Pirates were once moored.

It was after midnight and I had crawled into bed. All the stories I could think of for that day were filed; I had reported that Colonel Khadafi's government appeared to be taking some measures in preparation for a possible attack from the Americans. Yet still at that point it was hard for anyone in Tripoli to believe that the Americans would actually do something.

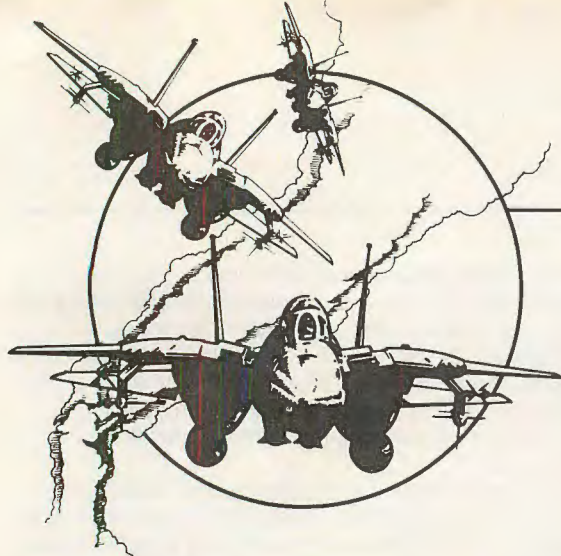
I phoned ABC News in New York and was told that U.S. government sources predicted Reagan would attack Libya sometime in the next 48 hours. Then I heard from another Washington source that a U.S. military operation against Libya might be in process *now*. It really seemed unbelievable. The night was so tranquil. I could see and hear nothing unusual out the window, only an Arab city with its minarets sleeping under blazing lights.

But my gut instinct was that there was something to the tip, and I'd better stay alert. I again contacted ABC in New York to pass on this latest bit of information. I then tried reaching some high-level Libyans to get some reaction, but the telephones rang unanswered in several offices and houses. I had a strange feeling something might happen soon.

By then it was 0100, Tuesday morning on the Mediterranean. I couldn't sleep so I headed out of my room to see another reporter. He had heard similar rumors from his head office that an attack was imminent.

As we sat talking by his open window on the back, cityside of the hotel, we suddenly heard rolling, rumbling explosions in the distance. We looked at each other in

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astounded recognition of what was happening.

"That's it," we shouted together. The long-awaited American attack had begun. It was 0200 Tuesday, 15 April in Tripoli. It was 1900 Monday night on the East Coast in the States, time for the major TV newscasts of the day.

I rushed down the hall to the ABC News office where we had an open phone line rigged up between Tripoli and New York through London. Frantically, I called into the handset to New York, alerting them to get up to speed. ABC geared up to interrupt their program, going immediately into a live broadcast from Tripoli. Our camera crew came rushing in and started filming the fireworks display over the port and along the waterfront to the east and west.

ABC's anchorman Peter Jennings came on the line, asking me to begin again describing what was happening. Suddenly, I was speaking on live audio from Tripoli, Libya, on ABC News' television and radio while the amazing attack was actually in process. The noises of the raid and counterattack could be heard directly down our phone line to Americans all across the country.

The sounds of bombs reverberated in the near distance. Screaming jets flew low overhead. A flash of fire fell across the sky just beyond our seafront window. (Many of us later thought it could have been the one American plane that never returned to base.) Flares lit up the sky in all directions. A long roll of tracers climbed into the sky, but the target — an F-111 — was long gone. Then the *rat-a-tat-tat* of anti-aircraft guns ricocheted through the night air. Missiles shot across the Bay of Tripoli and over the capital city.

Another huge jet whined toward the city. Then more anti-aircraft fire. And smoke, not from the tracers, but presumably from targets struck by the 500-pound bombs. Then a distant explosion. There was silence in between. Then another plane and more explosions. They were close. Maybe less than a mile from our building. The Al-Kabir Hotel shook and shook again as loud explosions rolled over us.

These were probably the bombs that were dumped on Khadaffi's residential compound, the Bab Al-Aziziya Barracks. We saw eight craters there when we were taken to tour the area 36 hours later. The bombs that fell on the Libyan leader's residence missed Khadaffi: No one was sure where he had been, but most think he was in his tent which would have survived the nearby concussions. Khadaffi later claimed to have been asleep when it happened. He said, "I stumbled around in the dark, trying to find my children in the smoke and rubble."



Khadaffi visits wounded civilians after the U.S. air strike on 14 April. Photo: AP/Wide World



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The attack continued, live for us in Tripoli. In roared another heavy aircraft. Tracers streaked into the sky. The sound of the jet could be heard coming low over the city. We could hear a bomb falling. Whistling. We knew there would be a massive explosion. *Boom.* That may have been the one that hit the nearby residential areas. We could hear the *rat-a-tat-tat* of the return anti-aircraft fire again. The whole sky was now ablaze with every kind of gunfire.

Elsewhere, though we couldn't see or hear them, American warplanes at the same time were pounding targets in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city, and west of Tripoli at the Sidi-Bilal Naval Training Center for commando frogmen. Days later we were taken to view the damage in those places, but we were never shown the real military targets.

The whole operation ended after only 20 minutes. It wasn't until then that all the hotel lights were finally cut. Soon afterward, a blackout engulfed the city of Tripoli. The Libyan reaction had been slow. During the entire aerial invasion, the lights had stayed on, almost guiding the American bombers to their targets. Obviously, the Libyans had not expected the attack when and how it finally came. Even if, as reported later, the Soviets had warned them an hour beforehand that the U.S. warplanes were on their way toward the shores of Tripoli, there was little sign that the

Libyans were in any way militarily prepared.

About 15 journalists crowded into our darkened ABC room. We huddled on the floor and listened to the White House press briefing coming back through our speaker from New York. Spokesman Larry Speakes announced, "The strike is over, and American planes have returned to the fleet after they struck at the heart of Khadaffi's ability, his actual infrastructure, for mounting terrorist operations." There we were in Tripoli moments after the attack, listening to this announcement live from Washington. It seemed very strange.

At 0400 (2100 EST), over our still-open speaker, we heard Ronald Reagan begin his live address to the nation. Just as the American president was saying that the Libyan people ought to be ashamed of the terrorism their leader had sponsored, our line was cut. All we could do then was wait until our American head offices could get calls in to us again.

That first night in the darkness, many of us feared what the Libyans might do to us in retaliation. There was always the possibility of being taken hostage. But, remarkably, throughout our time there after the attack, the Libyans were generally friendly and hospitable.

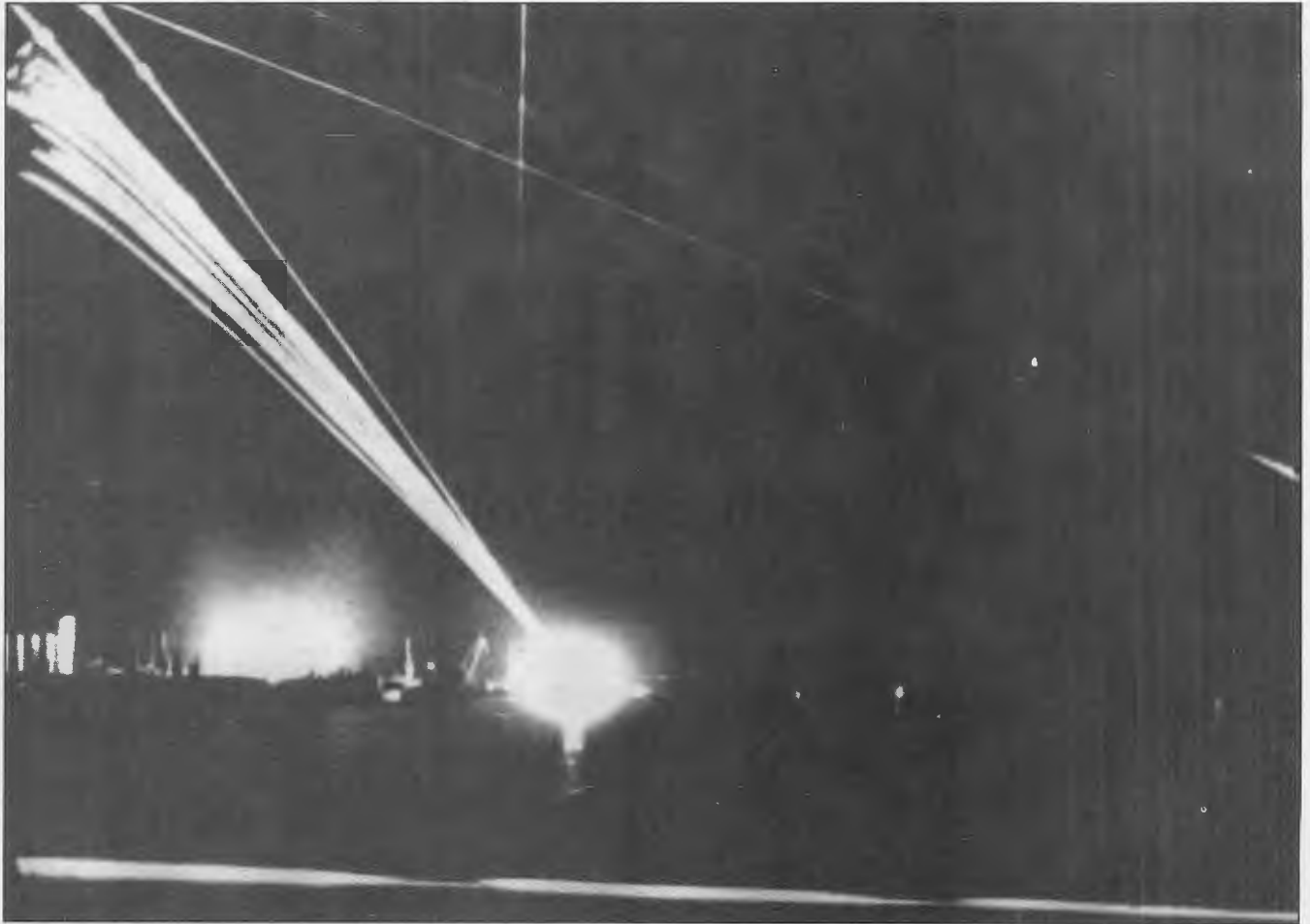
A little before 0500 in the morning, Libyan officials — by now swarming in the hotel — ordered us to report at once to the lobby. There the press corps was told we were going to be taken to view the damage. Then, all of a sudden, the hotel shook again with the sound of anti-aircraft fire. The Libyans, some bearing Kalashnikovs, panicked and began shoving the journalists back up the darkened stairwell.

We watched from our windows as the whole sky lit up again with tracer bullets. Heavy artillery fire came from the direction of the main barracks area. The horizon was glowing in the west and in the east toward Matiga Air Base, the former American airfield called Wheelus. Searchlights scanned the sky. More flares illuminated the early dawn in Tripoli. Then the gunfire stopped almost as abruptly as it had begun. At first we thought it could have been a coup, or else a Khadaffi show of power. There was never a proper explanation.

Finally, as dawn was breaking, we journalists were again summoned to the lobby and taken on buses to the nearby residential neighborhood of Ben-Ashour. Many houses were nothing more than rubble heaps. There were five completely demolished apartment buildings and at least a hundred other houses damaged along with the nearby French Embassy. (There were many jokes later that the hit was no accident since the French refused to allow the American bombers to fly over France en route to Libya.) A huge crater had ripped open a street. Cars were smashed to pieces. Burst mains sprayed water into the air. Speculation about the reason for such extensive damage to a residential area later centered around the one F-111 that was shot down. Perhaps it had dropped its bomb load after it had been hit; it was impossible to tell from our position on the ground.

Whatever the reason for the destruction, it was all around us and the Libyans meant to exploit it. One homeless family stood huddled together in a park. A Libyan woman, Moreda Mohamed, cried out in Arabic, "President Reagan should not fight against women and children sleeping in the night if he is a man who fights men."





Daylight had come at last in Tripoli after the long night of terrifying air raids, firings and eerie darkness. Throughout Libya, people were stunned by the night's events. Libyans repeatedly said, "America is the real barbarian." Now in the morning haze there was still total confusion throughout the city. People wandered in a dazed state in our hotel and along the streets. No one could believe that the U.S. had actually done this. No one could imagine where the situation would lead from here. Several Libyans remarked, "Just wait. Let President Reagan see what we'll do now."

No one was sure what the Libyans would or could do next, if anything. There was no question that their leader, Colonel Muammar Khadafi, was shocked by the raid. It appeared in the first few days after the bombing that there were skirmishes within the military and possible coup attempts. Khadafi had also been reined in by his senior deputies. But as one diplomat from a country having good relations with Libya said afterward, "Khadafi is still in control. He's just sharing some of his power a little more than usual."

It did seem, however, that the mercurial leader had been subdued, at least for awhile. It was also the time now for a re-evaluation of Libyan policy. One Libyan insider quietly explained what was going on in Libya after the raid. As his eyes darted about carefully to be sure no other Libyan was listening, he put it this way: "Humpty Dumpty has had a great fall. Now all the king's horses and all the king's men are trying to patch Humpty together again." ❌

Missiles and tracers streak skyward as the Libyans try to pinpoint attacking U.S. planes. Photo: AP/Wide World



Small boys contemplate a bomb-damaged building in Tripoli a few days after the American bombing. Photo: AP/Wide World



LIBYA

MILLIONS FOR MURDER

Khadaffi Bankrolls World Terror

by David Segal



THE mask of terrorism hides many faces, but none more recognizable than that of Muammar Khadafi, Libya's restless "Duce of the Desert." Since he came to power in a coup on 1 September 1969 Khadafi's monumental ego forced him to spread his influence on world terrorism like ripples on a pond. He could never be satisfied with being merely a regional menace.

Khadafi's cash flows from oil wells in his otherwise impoverished nation and this, combined with Libya's strategic position on the Mediterranean Sea, quickly attracted the attention of the Soviet Union. By 1974, with Moscow's aid, Khadafi transformed his oil-rich domain into a major terrorist den that poses a steadily growing threat to the security of the West and of pro-Western governments around the world.

Today Libya provides money, training and arms to at least 50 extremist groups and nearly 40 radical governments. High on this list are the Abu Nidal, Ahmed Jibril and Naif Hawatmeh factions of the PLO (Fatah — Revolutionary Command; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command; and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, respectively) and numerous terrorist groups based in and operating out of Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Nicaragua. Khadafi has shown a remarkable willingness to loosen his purse strings and training facilities to nearly any terrorist group that asks.

These include terrorist groups operating as far afield as Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ireland (North and South), Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. It would be nearly impossible to cover all of Khadafi's antisocial activities, but, according to the authoritative British publication *Foreign Report*, an estimated annual total of 7,000 foreign terrorists pass through a network of at least 15 Libyan training camps, 14 in Libya and one in Libyan-occupied Chad. These camps are:

- Ras al-Hilal, about 250 kilometers west of Tobruk near the Mediterranean coast.
- Beda, 200 kilometers south of the Gulf of Sidra. Sidi Bilal, south of Tripoli. This was one of the targets hit in America's 15 April air raid.
- Sebha, in central Libya, is said to be a site for the training of assassination hit squads.
- The "April 17th" camp near Benghazi.
- Tajura camp, about 16 kilometers from Tripoli, said to be a training site for members of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (Provos).
- Al-Aziziya, 45 kilometers south of Tripoli, bombed during the 15 April U.S. air raid.
- Al-Jadayim, west of Tripoli.
- Al-Jagbub, about 30 kilometers west of the Libyan-Egyptian border.
- Ghadames camp, near where the borders of Libya, Tunisia and Algeria intersect.
- A camp in the town of Surt, proper.
- Kufra camp at an oasis in southeast Libya, said to be the site of special and advanced training.
- Sabaratha camp, west of Tripoli.
- Benina camp outside Benghazi, also bombed during America's 15 April air raid on Khadafi's bases.

Testimony to violence: The hat of slain policewoman Yvonne Fletcher lies on the ground where she fell after being shot from the Libyan Embassy on 18 April 1984. Photo: AP/Wide World



April 1983: Libyan aircraft transporting weapons marked as medical supplies to Nicaragua was detained in Brazil. Photo: Dept. of Defense

• A camp in the Aozou strip, an area of Chad occupied by Libya.

Very few instructors at these camps are Libyans. Most are hired Palestinian, Syrian, Cuban and East German experts in such subjects as assassination, demolitions, small arms and espionage.

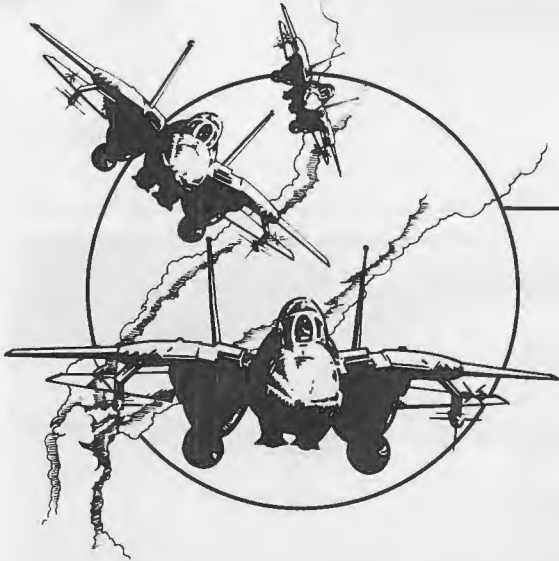
The reason for the massive amount of Libyan support for terrorist groups, extremists and guerrillas all over the globe becomes clear after a brief glance at Khadafi's philosophy. The man believes himself to be a man of destiny and believes Allah gave him the job of leading the Third World to victory over the West and its allies. And he makes no secret of this belief. It is openly proclaimed in the pages of *Al-Zahaf al-Akhdar*, the English-language *Jamahiriyah Mail*, various official Libyan government proclamations (such as the *Declaration on the Establishment of the Authority of the People* of 2 March 1977), and Khadafi's own revolutionary Bible, the *Green Book*. Unfortunately, Khadafi's openly stated goals and beliefs, like those of Hitler 50 years ago, are difficult for people to take seriously. Fortunately, more and more people come to their senses with each new Libyan-sponsored terrorist act.

Normally, Khadafi pays non-Libyan professionals like the PLO to do his dirty work, but he makes an exception for "stray dogs" — which is Khadafi-speak for Libyan exiles who still have the courage to oppose his reign of terror. Khadafi prefers to have his own Libyan hit teams hunt his Libyan opponents down and kill them.

By 1980, after systematically crushing all opposition groups within Libya, Khadafi was ready to deal with opponents who had found refuge abroad. From 1981 to the present, Libyan hit men have murdered dozens, if not hundreds, of anti-Khadafi Libyans in Greece, Turkey, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, the United States, Latin America and the Middle East. They have narrowly missed murdering many more, though not for lack of effort.

This has resulted in tensions between Libya and the host countries of the "stray dogs" Khadafi wants to kill. In April 1984, for example, gunmen in the Libyan People's Bureau (Embassy) in London opened fire on a crowd of

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anti-Khadaffi demonstrators killing a British policewoman and wounding 11 demonstrators. This followed a nasty series of bomb attacks against Libyan dissidents in Britain during the previous month. The British broke diplomatic relations with Libya and after the embassy was vacated, British authorities found weapons and spent shell casings in the building.

In the United States, an anti-Khadaffi student was killed in July 1981 in Ogden, Utah, presumably by pro-Khadaffi Libyans. In May 1984 the FBI arrested two Libyans in the Philadelphia area for trying to buy silenced handguns — the usual Libyan assassination weapon. One year later, in May 1985, a Libyan diplomat at the United Nations was sent home for his activities in aiding hit teams assigned to terminate anti-Khadaffi students, and a suspected Libyan hit team was broken up before it could implement a plot to kill Libyan dissidents in four states.

The United States also witnessed one attempted murder of a Khadaffi opponent by a Libyan-hired foreign assassin, rather than the usual native Libyan hit squad — the failed assassination of Faisal Zagallai in October 1980. A student in Fort Collins, Colorado, and an outspoken opponent of the Khadaffi regime, Zagallai was shot twice in the head but survived with only the loss of his right eye. His American would-be assassin, Eugene Tafoya, was apparently working for Edwin Wilson, an ex-CIA agent employed by Khadaffi. Described by the CIA as a “rogue elephant,” Wilson is believed to have trained Libyan and foreign terrorists.

BELOW: Seven pistols and plenty of ammunition were found by police following the expulsion of Libyan diplomats after the shooting in St. James Square. Photo: AP/Wide World



ABOVE: A police officer sprints for cover near the Libyan Embassy during a siege that followed the killing of one policewoman and the injuring of 11 Libyan anti-Khadaffi protesters. Photo: AP/Wide World

The United States broke diplomatic relations with Libya in 1982, two years before Britain, because Libyan diplomats were engaging in “acts incompatible with their diplomatic status,” and Libya was sponsoring “acts hostile to the United States.” The straw that broke the American Eagle’s forbearance was sensitive intelligence information indicating that Khadaffi had dispatched hit teams to kill the president of the United States, Ronald Reagan. At the time, most influential U.S. news media dismissed the idea as so much Reagan administration paranoia. Today, in retrospect, things look a bit different.

If the alleged hit teams were real they were probably



composed of PLO professionals. When Khadaffi orders a terrorist action abroad, it is normally carried out by one of the 40 or so Libyan-sponsored terrorist groups (usually by hard-core PLO professionals) that are not readily traceable to Libya.

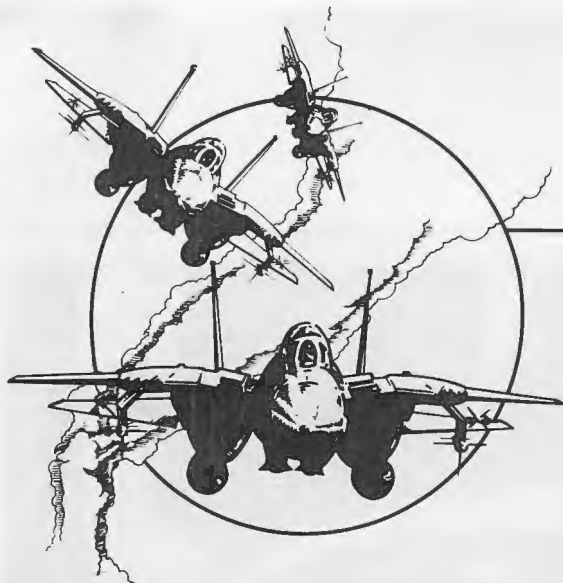
When Muammar Khadaffi began his foreign aid program to the world's developing terrorist groups, he did not deliberately set out to become a major part of the Kremlin's international terror network. As a devout Moslem and fervent nationalist, Khadaffi's basic sympathies seemed to lie with the extreme right, rather than with the communists, in the early years of his reign. The first terrorists to receive aid from Khadaffi were Italy's most extreme neo-fascists, the spiritual heirs of Libya's repressive colonial masters.

One of Khadaffi's early efforts was the Italy-Libya Association, later outlawed as a front for Italian right-wing

terrorists. That association was headed by Claudio Mutti, who would later be jailed for his role in the 2 August 1980 bombing of Bologna's railroad station that killed 84 people. Another Khadaffi-backed fascist group in those days was the *Avanguardia Nazionale*, whose posters summed up the Arab-fascist alliance with the slogan: "We are with you, heroic Arab-Palestinian People, and not with the Dirty, Fat Jews," to cite one example.

Starting with financial aid to the right wing of the PLO in 1971, Khadaffi's taste in terrorists drifted ever leftward until, today, he is supporting PLO factions that are trying to kill Arafat for being overly conservative. The turning point appears to have come in 1974 when Khadaffi was nearly ousted by his second-in-command, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, and a clique of pro-Moscow officers. In return for Jalloud's continued backing, Khadaffi agreed to hitch his wagon to Moscow's star. He has never looked back.

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A hail of bullets and grenades tore up this airport lounge bar and killed and wounded many of the patrons. Photo: AP/Wide World

Shortly after Jalloud's pro-Moscow coup, Khadaffi signed a \$16 billion arms deal with the Russians, and Libya has been a major conduit for Soviet arms to terrorist groups ever since. In short order, Khadaffi hooked into the "Carlos" network of European and Latin American leftists headed by Wadi Haddad. Haddad's boss was Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) chief George Habash, a long-time dedicated Marxist-Leninist with close ties to the Soviet Union.

The complex relationships of Khadaffi and his new friends are best illustrated by the 27 June 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight to Entebbe, Uganda. The hijackers were Palestinians of the PFLP and Germans of the Red Army Faction (RAF, a.k.a. Baader-Meinhof Gang) who were all members of Wadi Haddad's Carlos network. Financed by Khadaffi, they hijacked a French airliner in Greece, refueled in Libya and landed in Uganda. There, reinforced by new PLO arrivals and protected by Idi Amin's Ugandan troops, the hijackers demanded the release of PLO and leftist terrorists held in Israel and Europe. Khadaffi's Soviet connection is the only one not instantly obvious in the Entebbe episode, although, given the framework of the Carlos network, it can be strongly inferred.

Today, Libya has moved far beyond merely arming, training and financing various PLO factions. Libya and Syria are allied in trying to wrest control from Yasir Arafat,

who has headed the PLO since 1968. In December 1983, Libyan- and Syrian-backed PLO factions combined to drive Arafat and his remaining Fatah loyalists out of their last stronghold in Lebanon, the northern port city of Tripoli.

At the moment, Khadaffi and Arafat are mortal enemies, but this doesn't stop Libya from backing certain PLO factions, nor does it stop various PLO factions from doing all sorts of odd jobs for Khadaffi. Of the nearly 20 Palestinian terrorist organizations, the following have the closest ties to Libya:

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP): Led by George Habash and headquartered in Damascus, the PFLP has 500-600 men under arms. Despite its small size it is one of the most important groups within the PLO since it is completely independent of any Arab country and advocates the PLO's freedom of action and decision-making.

Aside from the usual advocacy of the destruction of Israel, the PFLP also openly espouses a strident Marxist-Leninist ideology and advocates the establishment of "socialist" regimes throughout the Arab world. The Habash front has the closest ties of any PLO group to the international left, particularly European groups like the Provisional IRA, Action Directe, Communist Combat Cells, Red Brigades, RAF, GRAPO and ETA. Some of PFLP's actions include the 1970 simultaneous hijacking of four planes to Jordan, the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the 1976 Entebbe hijacking.

PFLP acts as a kind of elite group of ideological commandos that helps implement Soviet policy within the PLO and elsewhere. Habash's current close association with Syria in the power struggle against Arafat is out of character and is probably being done on Soviet orders. Habash's close allies of the DFLP remain outside the Syrian camp, perhaps in order to give the Soviets the option of a controlled group in the Arafat camp, should they need one.

Khadaffi has helped finance the PFLP since at least 1974. That financial support continues, but, while Libya and the PFLP sometimes cooperate with each other, Habash's group is independent of Libyan control.

Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP): Naif Hawatmeh's DFLP split off from George Habash's PFLP in 1969, largely over personalities. The two organizations have virtually identical philosophies and work in very close cooperation with each other. There are even terrorist units operating in Lebanon under joint PFLP-DFLP command, coordinated by the leaders of both organizations.

Hawatmeh is an orthodox communist whose loyalty to Moscow exceeds even Habash's, and his organization is more dependent on Libyan money than the PFLP. Basically, the DFLP can be counted on to carry out any operation Khadaffi wants them to, provided they are paid for it and Moscow does not object.

DFLP's 900-1,000 men are organized in four "battalions" and one joint DFLP-PFLP artillery unit, and their operational command, under Khaled Abd ar-Rahim, is in Ta'albiye, Lebanon. Headquarters are in Damascus and Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, and training is done in Syria.

DFLP, which is best remembered for its 1974 massacre of Israeli school children at kibbutz Ma'alot, maintains close and regular contact with the Soviet Union.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command (PFLP-GC): This group, which split off from



The bodies of two Libyan-sponsored terrorists lie in the international terminal of Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport. The 28 December 1985 attack resulted in the deaths of 16 travelers. Photo: AP/Wide World

Habash's PFLP in 1968, currently musters about 800 terrorists. It has no fixed ideology and is built, to a large extent, around the personality of its forceful leader, Ahmad Jibril. The PFLP-GC has close ties to Libya and is almost entirely Libyan financed.

Along with the Syrian-controlled "Sa'iqa," the PFLP-GC furthers the Syrian position within the PLO by armed force. Because of Jibril's active role in throwing Arafat out of Tripoli, Lebanon, in 1983, about 100-150 of his men, led by former security chief Abu Jabar, left the PFLP-GC, but they are not yet actively allied with Arafat.

Based in Syria, PFLP-GC headquarters are at Rehan, near Damascus, and its main training base is "Camp 17th September" at Ein Sahab. Jibril's Lebanon headquarters are at Deir Znun.

Libyan influence on the PFLP-GC is dominant. Jibril's group does whatever the Libyans want, whether or not the Soviets approve. Only if his position with Syria was endangered would Jibril refuse to carry out a job for Khadaffi.

Fatah — the Revolutionary Council (Abu Nidal): Led by Sabri al-Bana, this faction, with about 500-800 terrorists and activists, is one of the most dangerous terrorist groups in the world. Much of its present strength consists of Arab students in Europe, including non-Palestinians.

The group, which split off from Arafat's Fatah in late 1973 over a disagreement regarding post-Yom Kippur War political tactics, maintains Fatah's organizational structures and claims to be the "real" Fatah. However, it is better known by Sabri al-Bana's nom de guerre, Abu Nidal.

From 1974-1981, Abu Nidal was based in Baghdad with total Iraqi governmental support. This support declined as Iraq's growing concern about the Iran-Iraq War led her to seek better ties with conservative Arab governments and with the West. In November 1983, Abu Nidal was expelled from Iraq as part of an effort to clean up Iraq's image in the West, especially the U.S.

By that time, Abu Nidal had already established operational centers in Syria and has since established similar centers in Libya and Iran. By 1985 Libya reportedly had become Abu Nidal's main base of operations and source of money.

In April 1986, *Bild am Sonntag*, a West German weekly known for its excellent intelligence sources, reported that Khadaffi was paying Abu Nidal about \$12 million a year. This works out to about \$24,000 per person for Abu Nidal's active cadre of about 500, and that doesn't count Libyan arms, training or other funding not yet pinpointed. It seems highly probable that the Abu Nidal group will do anything Khadaffi is willing to pay for.

Abu Nidal has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to operate wherever it chooses, staging attacks in 20 countries on three continents. Its specialty is acting as an "enforcer" for Libya, Syria and Iran by attacking conservative Arab states and factions. Abu Nidal has been responsible for attacks on Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt and Arafat's supporters in the PLO. The group also attacked Western targets (particularly British ones), Israelis and, recently, Americans. The following are just a few of the major terrorist acts carried out by Abu Nidal in 1985:

April — Abu Nidal terrorist fires Soviet-made SA-7 missile at a Jordanian Alia airliner taking off from Athens airport. The plane was hit, but the rocket did not explode.

July — Abu Nidal thought to be responsible for bombing two restaurants in Kuwait, killing eight and injuring nearly 90. Also, in Madrid, Spain, Abu Nidal attacks the ticket offices of Alia and British Air, killing one and wounding 24.

August — Abu Nidal bombs a hotel in Athens, Greece, injuring 13 British tourists.

September — A second Athens hotel is bombed, injuring 19 tourists, mostly British. Also, Abu Nidal members throw grenades at the the Cafe de Paris in Rome, injuring 38 tourists, including Americans, Germans, Britons, Italians, Argentines and Brazilians. Shortly thereafter, the British Air office in Rome is bombed and 15 people are injured.

November — Abu Nidal hijacks an Egyptair airliner to Malta, killing an Egyptian security guard and shooting three passengers in the head to persuade Egypt to release various extremists from Egyptian prisons. One of these passengers, an Israeli woman, dies, but the other two miraculously survive. A further 58 passengers are killed

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A partly covered body lies on the floor of the check-in area for El Al airlines in Vienna's Schwechat airport after a terrorist attack on Friday 27 December 1985. Photo: AP/Wide-World





A-CAMP JUMP

Another War Story

by Jim Morris

JUNE 1964, almost a year before the first U.S. troop units arrived in Vietnam: Special Forces was still deploying as teams on six-month TDY tours. Four of us, Special Forces officers, 'squeezed under the porch of the ops shack to get out of the rain.

I had just brought my last patrol back into camp after having taken Walt Swain, a good friend and XO of our replacement detachment, on his orientation patrol. We had killed three and captured a Walther PPK pistol that I had confiscated as my personal war trophy. We had sprung the ambush at 2:30 in the afternoon, less than eight clicks from a Vietnamese district headquarters. Even Captain Charley Judge, Walt's CO, was impressed. And he was never easily impressed. Judge turned the Walther over and over in his hands. Swain told the story of how it happened.

"So you didn't put out flank guards?" the Old Man, Captain Crews McCulloch, asked.

"Nope," Swain replied. "Just got on the trail and barreled on through."

The Old Man looked a little embarrassed. "We usually keep off the trails and put out flankers," he said.

I started to explain that it was a fairly safe area, that our intelligence had put the VC crossing the ambush site at a certain time, and that I had wanted Swain's first patrol to be a success so they'd stay with our concept of operations.

I'd made my decision based on the best facts available and been right. I didn't need to apologize to anybody. "I'm going to get cleaned up," I said, moving off into the rain toward the wash house.

I was proud of that operation. We had spent our first four months wandering around in the woods until somebody shot at us. But by then the Old Man had evolved a concept of operations that got us in solid with the tribespeople, and from that I had been able to set up a superb intel net. For the past two months we had been going on short patrols, setting up on the trails, waiting for

an appointment that Charlie didn't know he had.

We knew that place cold. The Old Man could stand anywhere in Phu Bon province and call out a four-digit coordinate without reference to a map. We had the highest kill score in II Corps, and we had gotten two-thirds of it in the past 60 days. Never in my life had I been anyplace that I wanted to leave less.

BELOW: A young Captain Morris, 5th SFG, soon after arriving in Vietnam.

My stomach cramped badly. I'd been operating with a constant bellyache for over two months, losing a steady five pounds a month to amoebic dysentery for half a year.

That night at supper the Old Man said there wasn't time for any more patrols. "The operational fund has to be taken into finance at Nha Trang by an officer. Judge and I have to inventory weapons tomorrow, so you're elected."

I wasn't happy about it because there was still one patrol planned. But that night I packed an AWOL bag and polished a pair of



LEFT: CIDG trooper on patrol in the Central Highlands with Det. A-321, 5th SFG, during Operation Attleboro at Phuoc Truong. U.S. Army photo: Sergeant Bernie Mangiboyat



jungle boots. The following morning I caught the II Corps courier aircraft, a Caribou, at the airstrip.

It was still dry season in Nha Trang and the sky was hard pale blue from the mountains to the sea. The air was lemon yellow and the sun baked my bones. I was covered with a fine film of sweat as soon as I jumped off the Caribou. It felt good. The passengers stood with their baggage beside a long row of new whitewashed concrete hangars, the hard concrete of the runway stretching off in the distance.

I went inside one of the hangars, body turning suddenly cool as I passed into the shade, blinking to adjust to the light. The 7th Aerial Port Squadron's passenger desk was an upright homemade counter painted with a gray gloss. It was manned by a young airman second class in fatigues and a blue baseball cap.

"How do I get to the new Special Forces headquarters?" I asked. I hadn't been to Nha Trang since we came in-country.

"It's way across on the other side of the runway, sir," he said. "Just a minute and I'll call over and get you a ride."

A young PFC in shortsleeve fatigues and beret drove up a few minutes later, and I got

Spec. 4 Bill Foody treats a wounded Montagnard. Later wounded and evacuated to Walter Reed, Foody now is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Medical Corps serving as chief of surgery in a military hospital in West Germany.

in his jeep. He tore off down the runway to the crossing point and then through a guarded gate on the barbed wire fence surrounding the new Special Forces compound.

It was a lot different than the old thatched-roofed camp we had stayed in when we first came in-country. Just inside the gate, next to the runway, was a row of low, whitewashed warehouses. Along the fence were 35 or 40 loading points, one for each camp. Just outside the fence was a small pitched-roof building with a sign that said "USAF, Transportation Movement Control."

I automatically checked the Buon Beng loading point. Rolls of barbed wire lay stacked out front. One thing we didn't need was barbed wire.

We drove parallel to the row of warehouses, cut right and up the red dirt road to the headquarters. On the right was the new

one-story, L-shaped headquarters building, white and gleaming, with concrete walks, little pickets and white ropes to keep visitors from walking on the grass that was just beginning to poke through the new earth. There was an enormous sign running the length of the building that said, "HEAD-QUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES, VIETNAM," white on black, with a replica of the hat flash on one end and another of the Special Forces shoulder patch on the other. Across the blacktop street was a mess hall complex: one large mess hall, with two dining rooms separated by a courtyard, one for officers and one for enlisted men.

"Pretty nice compared to the old headquarters, huh sir?" said the PFC.

I grunted. There was something offensive about it. The old thatch job had said, "We'll do this with no frills and leave." This headquarters advertised an American investment in Vietnam. We were no longer guests. We were the proprietors of something.

I took the manila folder with the ops fund in it inside the door marked FINANCE. A fat spec 5 behind a big steel desk took it, turned and handed it to a pretty Vietnamese girl, who put it at the bottom of a pile of paper on her desk. "Where's the BOQ?" I asked the spec 5.

"All the way down the street and to your left, sir," he said.

I grunted my thanks and went back through the door, out into the hard yellow sunshine. I looked around, always feeling uneasy in Nha Trang. The mountains loom over the town within easy mortar range.

I walked down the street to the row of barracks stretching off to the right. Like the rest of the buildings they were gleaming white one-story structures with pitched roofs and lots of windows to let in the air. A walkway ran in front of the barracks, and across from the barracks was another row of bigger buildings, three of them. The sound of splashing water indicated they were latrines. In front of each barracks was a small teal and gold metal sign hanging from an inverted L-shaped bracket. The sign in front of the first barracks said "BRODT BARRACKS," and there was another over the door that said BOQ. Every barracks was named after a Special Forces man killed in Vietnam. Too many had been friends of mine.

The last time I saw Jim Brodt, he and I and a guy named Morgan Jones sat in the bar of the Fort Buckner Officers Club on Okinawa. Morgan and I made up rowdy songs and Brodt bought beer to keep us fueled.

A kid named Neil McIver was killed in the same action as Brodt. His building was down the street. He and Mike Iten, our junior commo man, had gone through basic, jump school and training group together. Mike was in Vietnam on his first tour when they were killed. He and McIver used to *di-da-di* back and forth to each other in the evening. Then McIver quit sending. Mike didn't find out why for a couple of weeks. His team sergeant got him drunk, told him,

then sent him to Dalat for three days. We were free enough for that sort of kindness in those days. He and McIver were both 18 at the time.

It seemed almost indecent to be sleeping in Jim Brodt's memorial. I went inside and threw my gear on the first empty bunk. In back was a Dutch door with the top part open, and a sign that said, "Transient Personnel, Check in Here." There was a fat, gray-haired leg sergeant back there, reading a true adventure magazine.

"I sign in here?"

"Yessir, and check your side arm."

I signed his register and slipped my scrounged USMC shoulder holster over my head. "Anywhere around here to get a drink?"

"Prayboy Crub's down at the end of the barracks row, sir," he said.

"Is it open?"

"Noon to midnight, sir."

I went back into the sunshine. The white rows of buildings closed in around me and for a moment my eyes started flicking from shadow to shadow. Then I realized what I was doing and walked with my eyes fixed straight ahead, to the end of the row.

It was dark inside the Playboy Club after the brightness outside. The club was in a regular barracks building, long and narrow, but there were rows of chrome and leatherette couches on the left, with round black formica-topped coffee tables. The bar ran almost the entire length of the right side and the mirror behind it ran the length of the bar. It was two o'clock in the afternoon. The bar was three-quarters empty. Mostly the customers were transients like me, with bleak faces and very wide eyes. Their shoulders slumped and they seemed to cluster on the couches, with their backs to a wall. Over in one corner was a bunch of young PFCs and spec 4s. They were very clean and eager and talked loudly. Most likely off-duty commo men and truck drivers. Next to them was a glowing multicolored Seeburg juke box. At the other end of the room were two Gottlieb pinball machines.

I went over to the bar and sat down, staring at the rows of canned cashews, Polish sausages, and my own face in the mirror. It looked ten years older than it had six months before. The barmaid came over. She was almost thirty, and had aged fast, too, become stringy and hard-faced. She wore black capri pants and a purple blouse. But she had beautiful long, straight black hair, drawn into a ponytail, flipped over her shoulder, and spilled down the front of her blouse in a shimmering cascade. "Gimme a San Miguel and a bag of Fritos, Angel," I said.

I took my beer and went over to the juke box. There were three good songs on it, loud and rhythmic enough to preclude rational thought. I put in a dollar's worth of quarters and played them four times apiece: *Twist and Shout* by the Beatles, *Deep Purple*, Nino Tempo and April Stevens, and *Green Onions* by Booker T. and the M.G.s.

Hard rhythm threw me out of myself and I

stood, letting the beat drive me along. I killed my beer and went back for another.

Then I took the beer and the Fritos and sank into one of the deep chairs along the wall. I flipped my feet up on the low coffee table and let a long gurgle of beer slide down my throat.

I sat there until my twelve records played through, then broke a five, put in another dollar and played them again, four more times apiece. I did it fast, before anybody else could have a chance to make a selection, but somebody had slipped in a nickel and Sinatra sang *All the Way*.

I got another beer and some pork skins. I ate a lot of junk food that afternoon, missed lunch, and drank through supertime.

Some guys I knew came in. I grunted enough greeting to acknowledge their presence without inviting conversation.

My belly felt kind of crummy and my head was hot and it seemed a good idea to roll the cold beer bottle over my forehead. As soon as the beer was gone I got up, thinking I might go downtown.

But then I felt very sick, and walked quickly out the door and across the space to the latrine building. It was dark and stars shone down between the buildings. Then

From left, Philippe Drouin, Montagnard interpreter; Staff Sergeant Ken Miller, senior commo man, who had three TDY tours to the same camp; and Miller's company commander and adopted son, Nay Phin.



there was the brightly lighted latrine with a row of booths on the left and porcelain sinks on the right, each with its little square of mirror. I bolted for one of the booths.

I got my pants down just in time. My bowels emptied in great racking spasms. I sat on the stool and rocked back and forth, trying to hold my stomach down. Then I grabbed the chain on the French-style crapper and, holding my trouser tops in my hands, whirled and watched the last of the stool swirl down the drain, as I threw my guts up in a sour green and yellow gusher, just finishing in time to sit back down again. This time it was all liquid.

I alternated like that for half an hour, until finally there was nothing left but sphincter spasms and dry heaves. Then I buckled up and went back to the Playboy Club, the closest place where there was help.

I barely got the door open, and stood there in the doorway, looking into the dim interior at all the green butts on barstools. *Green Onions* was still playing and I couldn't have cared less.

Two young sergeants I had known on Okinawa came up. One of them said, "Sir, you all right?"

"No," I said. "I am not all right. I am all wrong."

One of them clamped a hand over my forehead. "You better believe it," he said. They half-dragged, half-carried me to a jeep, got my AWOL bag and weapon from the BOQ and drove me to the 8th Field Hospital on the other side of the airstrip.



The ride was a dark blur.

A white-coated medic gave me a card to fill out and stuck a thermometer in my mouth. "Hundred and five," he said when he took it out.

For three days I sat in a bed in the hospital between crisp, clean sheets, floating free in a bright white swirling cloud of feverish hallucinations.

It got cold, so cold, I shivered for a long time, floating in the cloud. Then it turned warm again and I went conscious and ate a clean meal off a clean tray, with salad.

"What have I got, Doc?"

"Gastroenteritis."

"What's that?"

"It's a badly upset stomach condition, characterized by diarrhea, vomiting and a high fever."

"Yep, that's what it is, all right."

And I slept, twelve, fourteen, sixteen hours a day. Three days later I woke up. I grabbed a medic and said, "Man, I gotta get out of here. My team leaves day after tomorrow, and I got stuff scattered all over that camp."

"You sure you feel well enough to go?"

"Sure, sure. I feel great. See!" I swung down out of the bed and walked about four steps, briskly, and with my head held high. Then I stopped and grabbed a bedpost so I wouldn't fall down.

"Okay," he said. "Get your gear and check out."

As soon as I could get dressed and clear the hospital I lurched into the street, AWOL bag in hand, and thumbed a ride on a passing three-quarter.

He let me off at the little building beside the warehouses, the Transportation Movement Control office.

I pushed through the screen door and leaned on the counter. My stomach still had a few butterflies, but by and large I felt

Morris, right, and Sergeant John Watson examine two of a dozen AR-15s that arrived without explanation at their camp. It was their first experience with the rifle.

okay. There was a sleek, efficient-looking airman first class with a boogie haircut — ducktails on the sides and crewcut on top — and a clipboard, working behind the desk. Two pilots sat back, drinking coffee, their feet up on desks. They wore flight suits and S&W .38s in cowboy rigs. They both had survival knives and good boots. One wore a U.S. Army blocked fatigue cap and the other a camouflage duck hunting cap. They looked tired. I didn't trust anybody in Vietnam who didn't look tired. But these guys looked real good; they were Air Commandos.

"You got anything going to Cheo Reo this afternoon?" I asked.

"Yes sir," the airman said. "Leaves at 1200 hours."

"Okay," I replied. "Book me on it. Name's Morris."

As soon as I got my name on the manifest I went back up to Special Forces headquarters and picked up our clearance for the ops fund, got some lunch, and came back down to the TMC.

"Sorry, sir," the airman said as I came through the door. "That aircraft is a scrub. The right wheel is flat."

It was already too late to catch the courier and even if I could, it only went to Pleiku today, then back to Cheo Reo tomorrow. By that route I'd be lucky to get back before the team left. "You got anything else going that way?"

"No sir, not until day after tomorrow."

"Aw," I said, "I have to get there. You got anything going over it?"

"Yes sir. There's an airdrop at Plei Ta Nanglé this afternoon. But it won't land at

Cheo Reo."

"Have you got a weather check?" I asked. "What's the ground winds?"

"Eight to ten knots, sir," he said, checking the chart behind him.

"Okay, what time's the aircraft take off?"

"Fourteen-hundred, sir."

"Book me on it." I went to the Special Forces supply office next door. There was another clerk behind a desk there, an Army guy.

"Who do I see to draw a backpack, reserve and kit bag? And preferably a helmet," I asked him.

"Chief McKee, sir," he said. "He's the rigger officer."

"Where's he at?"

He pointed toward the back of the office, on the other side of a partition. I went back there and found an earnest gentleman in his forties, laboriously poring over paperwork. He had a light fringe of hair around a gleaming bald spot, and his face looked far older than his years.

"Chief McKee?" I asked.

"Yes sir." He stood up, and I saw he wore master parachutist wings and rigger wings. He was well-built, actually in a lot better shape than I was, a dead-earnest man, and highly conscientious.

I explained the situation to him and asked for a T-10 parachute assembly.

"Sir," he said. "I don't approve of jumping in on these unprepared DZs. That's a very unsafe practice. I highly recommend against that."

From his standpoint, of course, the chief was absolutely right. But that didn't help solve my problem.

"Approve of it or not," I said, "will you give me the rig?"

"No sir," he said. "I won't."

"The hell with it. You must work for somebody around here that can authorize it. Where's he at?"

"Major Kollat is the S-4, sir. His office is in the front."

I walked back up to the front of the supply office and through the door marked Supply Officer.

He was seated behind his desk. The desk had a nameplate on it that said Zoltan F. Kollat, Major, United States Army. He was a very muscular man with brown curly hair. He had been our PT instructor at Bragg, and with his shirt off, from behind, if he wiggled a finger, his entire back looked like a flag waving. He didn't seem to be doing anything right then, just staring off into space. Perhaps he was practicing his glower.

"Major Kollat," I said.

He reached up and scratched his nose, almost splitting his sleeve up around the bicep. "What?" he replied.

"You mind if I borrow a T-10 assembly? I want to jump into my camp this afternoon?"

"Naw, I don't care."

"Thanks." I got out of his office fast, before he could change his mind. Avoiding Chief McKee, I went to the warehouse and

drew the rig and a helmet. Then I went back to the TMC.

There was still an hour to wait, so I got a cup of coffee and sat down with it. They had some old magazines for the flight crews to read. I picked up a dog-eared *Argosy*.

At 1:45 the airman came back and said, "About time to load up, sir."

"Thanks." I slipped my shoulder holster over my head and picked up the heavy kit bag with the two parachutes in it, and my AWOL bag with the other hand.

"You want some help with that, sir?"

"Nope, I'll make it."

The crew squatted over their map under the wing of their C47. Over by the door a fork lift put cargo pallets up on the conveyer inside the aircraft. Up inside, two door-bundle kickers tied on G-13 cargo chutes. Directing the whole operation was Chief McKee.

"Major Kollat loaned me a rig," I said.

"All right," he replied, but he still didn't look very happy about it. As old a jumper as he was, he must have seen a lot of guys bent out of shape on better drop zones than the Cheo Reo airstrip. I sat down the kit bag and went over under the wing to talk to the crew. "Going to Cheo Reo?" I asked.

The pilot looked up. "Can't land there," he said. "Not on the flight plan."

"Just go over the airstrip at about twelve hundred," I said. "I'm going to jump."

"Okay, fine."

I squatted down over the map and showed him the approach I wanted. He suggested a better one and I agreed to it. "Look," I said, "if you got one of these little message-dropping jazzers, why don't you come down over Boun Beng and I'll lob it in and have somebody meet me at the airstrip. I don't relish walking all the way out to camp."

"Sure," he said. He reached into his flight suit and came out with an iridescent red streamer, about fifteen feet long, with a small weighted pocket in one end for messages.

The pilot got up and looked questioningly at his aircraft. "All right," he said. "Let's see if this sucker'll fly."

He went back to climb up the ladder. Chief McKee's men had already stowed my chute in the back.

The flight took about two hours, which gave me plenty of time to write out, "Have somebody meet me with the ambulance at the airstrip. Will jump in about half-hour from now — Morris."

Then I went up to the door and looked out. This pilot was flying a lot lower than the one who'd taken my team in. That was because the weather had been better then. No clouds. We followed the flat, looping Song Ba all the way up from the coast, and my country was as beautiful as ever. The green seemed to shimmer in the rainy season, and the flat square paddies were filled with water that gave off a sheen, like a thousand mirrors laid out on the ground, broken by regular sprigs of rice. I watched the shadow of the airplane flying off to the

left and the reflection of it just below. The three of them, the real one in the sky, the shadow one on the ground, and the reflection in the stagnant water, flew in perfect formation until we came to the mountains. The reflection disappeared and the shadow got broken apart by irregular country.

Down below was the district headquarters on Highway 14, and I could see the big trail that ran a hundred feet from where we had ambushed the VC company commander and his two buddies the day before I went to Nha Trang. A little to the west was the spot where Bill Foody, our junior medic, got hit in the leg. It was saddening to look down and see the ground we had made our own with so much effort, only to have our tour end just as we had achieved a real mastery of the area.

Our past was written all over the land below. And the future was written in the past if you could see it.

I could see some of it. We knew the Montagnard revolt was coming, had reported it and not been believed. A few minutes before, my aircraft had passed to the east of one of the Rhadé camps where the troops were to rebel.

Captain Crews McCulloch, right, known as the Old Man, and Nay Re, a Montagnard company CO. Nay Re later was executed for mortaring a Vietnamese district headquarters during the Montagnard revolt.

The first bundle blocked the door and I couldn't lean out, so I ducked back inside and went up to talk to the crew chief.

"Drop down over Buon Beng," I howled over the engines, "and I'll lob out the message. Then I'll jump on the way back from Plei Ta Nanglé."

"Rodge," he said. He turned and spoke into his microphone, nodding to the pilot. Then he turned back to me.

"We're ten minutes out from Cheo Reo now," he bellowed. "We'll be dropping down in about five."

I nodded and went back to the door, working my way around the door bundles and the conveyer belt all the way back. The wind caught my face again as I got to the door. It seemed only a moment later that the aircraft started dropping. I knelt and took the message streamer from the front of my shirt, peering around the bundle. The ground below rose swiftly, and we started passing over the road complex around Cheo Reo. I could have reached out and touched the treetops underneath.

I leaned out as far as I could and made out the great oval of dozed trees around the camp, thatched-roofed buildings, and the shiny tin roofs of the supply building, commo shack and dispensary up ahead and closing fast. Then the dozed trees were underneath, scattered helter-skelter with great

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GUERRILLA ARSENAL

Continued from page 51

Finally, the guerrillas often use U.S. M67 grenades captured from the Salvadoran army. This 2.5-inch devil weighs in at a mere 14 ounces and contains 6.5 ounces of Composition B within its ball-shaped, pre-engraved fragmentation body. Called "baseball" grenades, M67s can be pitched a good 40 meters, have a time delay of 4 to 5 seconds and a casualty radius of 15 meters. They are the most effective hand grenades used in El Salvador.

All these weapons depend on maintenance for their usefulness, but guerrilla armorers operate without proper tools, almost no spare parts and in primitive jungle environments. Some of their repairs and modifications are innovative to say the least — almost brilliant — but most are crude and often ineffective. Most guerrilla weapons are severely rusted, indicating they lack rudimentary maintenance equipment such as cleaning rods, patches, oil, bore cleaner and brushes.

Parts are commonly cannibalized from one weapon to another as one operating M60 is better than two or three down. Repairs are effected with material at hand and that means masking and surgical tape, electrical wire, hose clamps and even boot laces. FAL gas tubes can be repaired with wire wrapping and solder. Tropical wood replaces broken plastic buttstocks, handguards and pistol grips.

Many rifles have chopped barrels and/or buttstocks. While this may sometimes indicate an attempt to create a more compact configuration, most barrels have been cut back to remove bulges caused by firing with mud and debris in the muzzle. Arbitrary modification in the barrel length of a gas-operated firearm can affect the port pressure and seriously affect functional reliability. I fired a chopped FN FAL that failed to extract every three or four rounds.

The most radical modification I have seen was an M16A1 whose barrel was cut back and fitted with a G3 flash suppressor and shortened G3 "tropical" type handguards. Both the guerrillas and the Salvadoran army fit G3 pistol grips to the M60's forearm.

Six years of combat without respite in the harsh climate of El Salvador have taken their toll on all the combatants' small arms. Of the primary weapons in the war, the M16s and FN FALs, badly scarred and disfigured, continue to spit bullets. The G3s are turning sour and the M60s, as I predicted, are beginning to self-destruct on both sides of the fracas.

The war is winding down in El Salvador and despite the communists' attempts to mask the trail of weapons from ComBloc countries, the spoor is clear for all to see. Sure, no concrete proof of arms shipments from Nicaragua to the FMLN via the Gulf of Fonseca exists, but an overwhelming array of circumstantial evidence flies in the face

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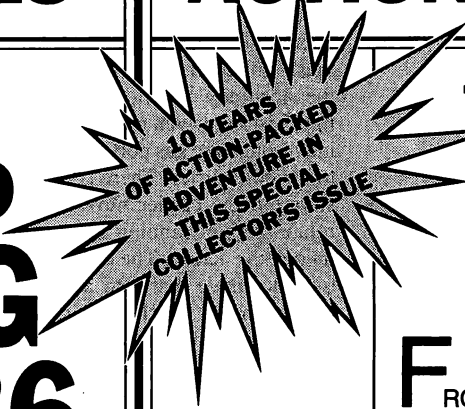
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of Sandinista claims of innocence. Of course the FMLN is clever enough not to use Soviet weapons — they're too easy to trace. But then so are the M16s from Vietnam. Perhaps even the communists know it's too late in the game to be wearing a mask. ✕

COMBLOC SNIPER RIFLES

Continued from page 57

With regard to accuracy, current Russian light ball turned in the best performances with 3 MOA, mediocre at best. Older Russian ammunition and the Egyptian heavy ball never shot better than 3.6 MOA. Remember, however, that our test specimen's barreled receiver floated about in the stock with every shot fired. Consistent head shots would not be possible with this rifle at even 200 meters. The antiquated M1891/30 Mosin Nagant rifle simply cannot cut the mustard as a modern sniper rifle.

By the late 1960s, these rifles had been replaced in the Soviet armed forces by the Dragunov system. The Dragunov rifle is based on the Kalashnikov system and has an awesome reputation. Our test specimen was the Yugoslavian M76 derivative of the Dragunov manufactured by Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Kragujevac. It will soon be available

in the U.S. in caliber 7.62x51mm NATO. A PRC version of the Russian Dragunov, in caliber 7.62x54R, will soon be imported by Keng's Firearms Specialty (Dept. SOF, 6030 Highway 85, Suite 222, Riverdale, GA 30274).

Gas operated, the Dragunov has a Kalashnikov-type bolt and carrier but a separate short-stroke piston. Long-stroke operation results in movement of a heavy mass which jars the weapon and decreases the accuracy potential. The Dragunov's light piston, driven rearward by gases moving through the gas port, transfers its energy to the bolt carrier. There is no piston extension and the carrier moves back alone to rotate the bolt running in its cam path and unlock the action. The carrier and bolt continue to move rearward and compress the recoil spring which then drives the bolt group forward to strip a round from the magazine and lock the two-lug rotary bolt into its recesses in the receiver walls before the next shot is fired. The Yugoslavs have, for some reason, opted to retain the Kalashnikov's original long-stroke method of operation with the piston and extension attached to the bolt carrier. The M76 differs in other significant details from the Soviet SVD (Samozaryadnaya Vintovka Dragunova) and Rumanian FPK (an almost exact duplicate of the Russian SVD), although disassembly/assembly procedures are identical to any other Kalashnikov and will not be described here.

Before WWII the Yugoslavs adopted the

German 7.92x57mm cartridge for use in their military rifles and machine guns and until recently the standard sniping system was a rebuilt, accurized Mauser 98k fitted with a telescopic sight. This caliber has been retained for both machine guns and the M76 sniper rifle. With its rimless case it constitutes a better choice than the 7.62x54R while retaining equivalent ballistic potential.

At 11.6 pounds, empty, but with scope and mount, and an overall length of 45.4 inches, the M76 is not exactly a lightweight scout rifle. But snipers don't usually move about as much as other straight legs and this is an acceptable tradeoff for an enhanced accuracy potential and reduction in felt recoil.

A forged and milled receiver, like that of the AK-47, is partially responsible for this heft. This receiver and all other metal parts have been salt blued with a black finish, except the bolt and piston group and regulator which have been left in the white. The gas block and receiver on my specimen are slightly plum colored, indicating improper bluing techniques.

A simple, three-position regulator has been fitted to the gas block, the normal position being '1.' It produces the least felt recoil, expelling most of the gases into the atmosphere before they act upon the piston head. Soviet SVDs have two-position regulators. The regulator can be adjusted only after the gas tube has been removed. Except for a protruding tab to lock the regulator, the

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gas tube is that of the Kalashnikov series, but with four gas vents on the bottom.

Since there is no provision for full-auto fire, the Kalashnikov trigger mechanism has been simplified. It consists of a trigger, sear, disconnect, hammer, hammer and trigger pins and multiple strand spring. The safety sear and its coil spring, which permit the hammer to fall only after it has been tripped by the bolt carrier when the bolt locks, have also been retained. While the trigger pull weight on my specimen is only 3.25 pounds, the trigger must be pulled along a seemingly infinite course of travel before let-off. The standard Kalashnikov safety lever has only two positions. With the lever set in the upper position to safe and a magazine in place, the bolt carrier can be retracted only enough to inspect the chamber for a loaded round. Stiff and exceptionally difficult to manipulate, the selector lever makes the usual loud AK noises.

A moderately effective muzzle device has been attached to the M76's four-groove, 22-inch barrel. Flash suppression is no better or worse than any number of other attachments of this type. Muzzle climb is moderated slightly by location of the five elongate vents with three on top and two at the bottom. Nothing to rave about here. Four interrupted threads at the rear of the muzzle device will presumably accommodate rifle grenades.

The rearmost portion of the muzzle device serves as the front sight mount and the

entire assembly is pinned to the barrel at this point. The round, post-type front sight is guarded by heavy protective ears. Threaded to a steel pin which can be drifted right or left, the front sight can be adjusted for both elevation and windage zero. The rear sight is a sliding tangent type with the usual open U-notch. It can be adjusted for elevation only from zero to 1,000 meters in 100-meter increments. There is no battle position.

There is a bayonet lug on the bottom of the front sight mount, a strange anachronism. Bayonets serve no useful purpose on such military small arms as sniper rifles and submachine guns. A Soviet-style AKM wire-cutter bayonet is now standard issue in the Yugoslavian armed forces. Both the scabbard and bayonet are of the second model type: plastic- rather than rubber-insulated steel scabbard and steel instead of plastic pommel as found on the first model AKM bayonets. The Yugoslavian version is distinguished by its black scabbard and grip panels.

Of all-steel construction, the staggered box-type magazine holds 10 rounds. The magazine's follower is raised to hold the bolt group back after the last shot has been fired in the manner of the PRC Type 68 20-round magazine. But there is no hold-open stop on the receiver and when the empty magazine is removed, the bolt group will immediately fly forward. This is foolish, and serves only to increase the difficulty encountered in removing the magazine.

The magazine release catch, directly in front of the trigger, is a spring-loaded flapper and magazines must be inserted from the front and rolled back to engage the catch.

Soviet and Rumanian Dragunovs have skeletonized, laminated-wood buttstocks with the front portion as a pistol grip. The Yugoslavs have opted for a more conventional configuration. A blond, tight-grained wood, lightly stained and oiled, has been used for the buttstock, pistol grip and handguards. A 1/2-inch-thick, solid black rubber recoil pad has been attached to the rear swivel under the buttstock and the front swivel fitted to the gas block.

All very interesting, but the M76's most intriguing component is its telescopic sight. The ON M76 scope is patterned after the PSO-1 optical sight found on the Soviet SVD, with one important difference. The PSO-1 scope employs a small battery-operated internal light bulb to illuminate the reticle during operation under subdued light conditions. The Yugoslavs have eliminated both bulb and battery and substituted tritium illumination. At low light levels the reticle pattern glows green. A nuclear-powered betalight is far superior in both longevity and maintenance to the cruder system used on the PSO-1.

Both PSO-1 and ON M76 scopes also have an infrared detector, often referred to as a "Metascope." A small knob on the ON M76's right side can be rotated forward to flip an internal green filter up into the scope's

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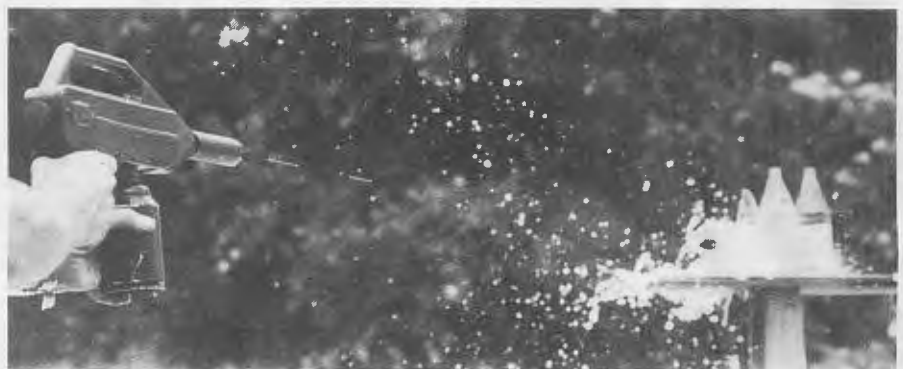
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optical path. Infrared sources, such as small-arms night sights and searchlights mounted on MBTs, can then be detected as an orange glob in the scope. Future ON M76 scopes will omit this feature since military technology has moved away from IR emitters.

Optically, the ON M76 scope is a conventional, fixed four-power telescope of military grade with an aluminum housing about 9½ inches in overall length. The actual field of view is 5 degrees 10 feet. A threaded, removable sunshade is attached at the objective end. A long, soft rubber eyecup of the proper length to obtain the required eye relief can be slipped over the ocular end. The eyecup has four pinholes to minimize fogging and prevent suction. In addition to the infrared detector knob there are external controls for elevation (top of scope) and windage (left side). Elevation can be adjusted from zero to 1,200 meters in 100- and 50-meter increments. Calibration matches the trajectory of 7.92x57mm Yugoslavian M49 ball (standard issue), M70 (tracer) and M75 ball (match grade) ammunition.

The range-finding reticle pattern is, in modified form, that of the Russian PSO-1 scope which, in turn, copies the principle used in the PGO-7 and PGO-7V optical sights on the RPG-7 rocket launcher. It's quite simple, requiring a minimum of training, but very effective. To the bottom left of

the vertical crosshair is a baseline marked '1.75,' the average height of a European in meters. Above the baseline are seven short ascending steps, moving upward from the left. Every other step is marked (8, 6, 4 and 2 corresponding to 800, 600, 400 and 200 meters). Simply place the feet of your target on the baseline and match the top of your target's head with the appropriate step. This is the distance to the target. All that remains (if the rifle and scope have been zeroed) is to dial the equivalent number on the elevation knob.

The mount and rings are black anodized aluminum. Two circular holes in the mount permit use of the iron sights while the scope is in place. The scope can be quickly detached from the single side rail and riveted to the receiver's left side by a locking lever on the mount. Repeated removal and installation during our test and evaluation did not alter the unit's zero. When detached, the scope and mount are carried in a leather and canvas pouch that also contains a camel's hair brush, optical cleaning cloth and a combination tool with screwdrivers for adjusting the scope.

A passive night sight, called the PN5X80(j), can also be installed on the M76. It has a five-power magnification and a 10-degree field of view. Using rechargeable batteries it is reported to be effective against human targets up to 700 meters and

vehicles up to 2,000 meters.

Although its case is far too long by today's standards, the German 7.92x57mm cartridge still performs with excellence in machine guns and sniper rifles. Adopted by the German army in 1888, it is one of the most widely distributed military cartridges in history.

Ammunition from three different sources was tested in the M76. At one time surplus WWII Canadian ammunition in this caliber was commonly available, and with good reason — particularly for reloaders — since their brass cases (headstamped '7.92MM44') are boxer primed, but corrosive. The bullet used was a copy of the German S ball, a 154-grain FMJ spitzer. With 47 grains of IMR-type powder, this ammunition left the M76's barrel with an average velocity of 2,759 fps and a standard deviation of 43 fps.

We also fired some ancient German ammunition, headstamped 'PS*7 38' (manufactured by Polte, Magdeburg, in 1938). Berdan primed and corrosive, its brass cases are filled with 44 grains of European-type cut-sheet flakes. The black-tipped, 156-grain boattail FMJ bullet and red primer annulus indicate this to be armor-piercing tracer. By now it only traces 50 percent of the time and for just a short distance, but like fine wine its accuracy performance only seems to have im-

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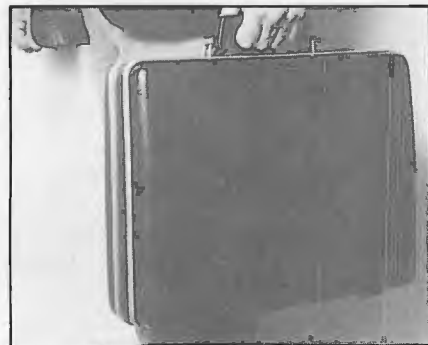
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proved with age as the average velocity was 2,665 fps with an astounding standard deviation of only 12 fps.

Portuguese ammunition of 1971 vintage ('FNM 71-20') is Berdan primed, but non-corrosive. Its 198-grain FMJ boattail bullet duplicates the German so-called s.S ball. Propelled by 44 grains of European-type cut-sheet flakes, this ammunition produced an average velocity of 2,421 fps with a standard deviation of only 12 fps.

The German ammunition produced the best accuracy with 2.6 MOA. The 198-grain Portuguese projectile did not fare well in the M76 Dragunov and shot no better than 5 MOA. I had no access to the special ammunition supposedly issued to ComBloc snipers. Assuming it to be of match grade, I think we could easily get the M76 down to 1.5 MOA. That would permit head shots out to 300 meters and chest shots up to 450 meters in the hands of a moderately trained rifleman. Most sniper kills I have observed were made at less than 500 meters.

Testing for this report required two essential pieces of equipment: a high-quality spotting scope and a sturdy bench. Steiner's 24x80 military field telescope, weighing only 44 ounces, offered exceptional clarity and brightness. Waterproof and dust resistant, it's covered with rugged, frost resistant NATO green rubber armor and has passed a rugged shock vibration test. All the glass

surfaces are coated against glare and extreme light conditions. This 24-power telescope has a field of view of 105 feet at 1,000 yards which equals two degrees. The fiber-reinforced polycarbonate housing exhibits negligible temperature expansion from minus 40 C to plus 70 C. An adjustable ocular ring permits eyeglass wearers to see the full field of view. An objective lens will accept an optional sunshade. A compact Porro lens system helps hold internal light loss to a minimum. Suggested retail price is \$599. Optional accessories are available. For further information contact Pioneer Marketing and Research Inc., Dept. SOF, 216 Haddon Avenue, Suite 522, Westmont, NJ 08108.

We used a sturdy, portable shooting bench manufactured by Armor Metal Products (Dept. SOF, 2500 Phoenix Ave., Helena, Montana 59604). Built like the proverbial brick latrine, the bench top is a massive 1½-inch-thick plywood unit with 10 plies oriented in all directions, which gives outstanding resistance to deflection throughout the surface while keeping the weight manageable. Top area dimensions are 29x43½ inches with an 11½-inch inset (right- or left-handed). The assembled bench stands 33 inches high on heavy-wall galvanized-pipe legs. The leg mounting brackets are heavy ¼x5x5-inch steel plates with welded, precisely angled leg sockets which are

through-bolted to the bench top. Once the brackets have been installed, field setup is simply a matter of screwing in the legs.

Three- and four-leg models are available. I used the combo model, weighing 65 pounds. That's heavy, but compared to the flimsy portable units, it's an acceptable tradeoff. The three-leg model costs \$119.95, the four-leg is \$129.95 and the combo model is \$139.95, and that's not too heavy at all for quality that locks your crosshairs on the target. ✕

GULBUDIN HEKMATYAR

Continued from page 38

intervention troops during that invasion? That regime has no right to represent the nation it is fighting against!

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Hekmatyar: The policies of your American State Department are very difficult to understand. Sometimes I think the American government does not care about the Afghan people. It only wants to use Afghanistan to make a deal with the Russians.

I have been in New York, along with the representatives of six other Afghan mujahideen organizations, to present our case to the United Nations. It should have been in the newspaper headlines. We gave interviews and news conferences. We gave a filmed interview to CBS. It was never shown. We spoke with *Time* magazine and *The New York Times*, but there is no reflection of this in the newspapers or on the television and radio. How can this be, unless the American government wishes it so?

SOF: In this country the government does not control the press. If your fight against Russian occupation is being ignored, I'm afraid it is the ignorance of the media and the indifference of the American people that are at fault.

Hekmatyar: I hope you are wrong. I would rather believe the American government is responsible. But it is a fact that our delegation has not gotten any press coverage for over a week.

SOF: What can you tell me about the military situation in Afghanistan now?

Hekmatyar: Russia has increased the number of their troops in Afghanistan. At the beginning, they had much fewer troops,

but when they could not crush our movement, they increased these troops. Now they have around 230,000 *involved in fighting*.

SOF: And more from their support units based in the Soviet Union?

Hekmatyar: There are troops on that side of the border. They also participate in fighting. In the northern province bordering Russia, most of the activities are carried out by the troops based on their side of the border. The bombardments are carried out by airplanes from Soviet bases.

Still, there are a big number of Russian troops in Afghanistan. They are launching offensives, killing innocent people, burning villages, burning fields. They deliberately starve the people and drive them from their land. Those who are left are taken for conscription to the Karmal army and made to fight against their brothers.

The Russians come down to the occupied areas and take away the children to Russia. They tell them lies and propaganda and train them to fight their own people.

These atrocities will not crush our resistance. The Russians only occupy 10 percent of our country. They are not safe. Their rule is shaky. Our casualties have increased several times over what they were before, but this is true for the enemy side also. Still, the situation is more and more to our advantage.

SOF: Have there been mujahideen opera-

tions inside the Soviet Union?

Hekmatyar: We were not planning for it. We do not desire to spread the war to the Soviet Union. But there were some actions.

SOF: Where is most of the fighting now?

Hekmatyar: Mostly in the northern provinces bordering Russia.

SOF: Not on the border with Pakistan?

Hekmatyar: They are trying to bring the war there and close off the border, but they are not able.

SOF: What about fighting in western Afghanistan?

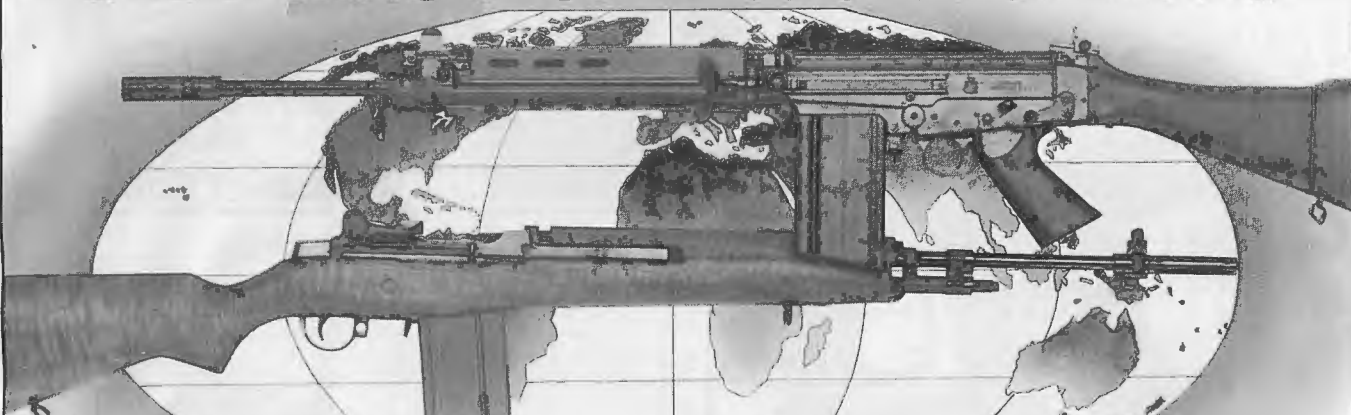
Hekmatyar: In Farah [Province] there was a big operation at Shindand airbase. Twenty-one jets were destroyed by our forces during a rocket attack.

SOF: There were reports in *Jane's Defence Weekly* that the jets at Shindand were destroyed from inside the base by Afghan air force officers.

Hekmatyar: Yes, it was from the inside, but in coordination with our forces around the base. The people inside put charges on the airplanes while the mujahideen attacked with rockets from a distance to make the enemy think it was *not* done from the inside. Still, the Russians were able to realize how it happened. They captured five officers, one doctor, three pilots and one co-pilot. They killed them after they were tortured.

SOF: Is there fighting between the Karmal troops and Iran on the border near Zabol and Zaranj?

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Hekmatyar: Yes, it is true. The Karmal troops and even the Russians have crossed the border with Iran and attacked their gendarmes. This is because Iran helps the mujahideen and because there are 1,500,000 Afghan refugees living in Iran. So far these attacks have not been serious, and Iran pretends they don't happen. The Russians and their Karmal puppets are too busy in other places to make much trouble for Iran.

SOF: Can you tell us anything specific about the Soviet use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan?

Hekmatyar: The Russians continue to use chemical weapons, especially in Logar Province. In fact, our delegation has just given the United Nations Secretary General a detailed report on the Russians' chemical war against our people. Besides the usual chemical attacks with helicopters and airplanes, the Russians are poisoning the water of Afghan refugees in the camps. In the Manserah camp in the Pakistan North West Frontier Province, 1,000 people were affected. They drank water poisoned by Russian agents.

SOF: You mean the water was poisoned by Soviet KGB agents or military personnel?

Hekmatyar: No, by Afghan traitors working for money. Some of these agents were captured and have confessed their crimes. Our people have no defense against such attacks. The only defense is to kill

more Russians. There have been, *el-hahmd-ul-illah* [praise be to Allah], several chemical accidents in which Russian and Karmal troops have been killed.

SOF: There are rumors from Western Afghanistan of cooperation between the mujahideen and some of the Khalqi Communists against Karmal's Parchami Communists.

Hekmatyar: There has been fighting between them, the Khalqis and Parchamis, but there is no cooperation with the mujahideen. The Khalqis try to sabotage the Parchamis from the inside, but all of their activities are underground. They do not take arms against the Karmal regime and fight openly because they only want to replace the Parchamis in power. They are still communists.

SOF: When do you expect another Russian offensive?

Hekmatyar: The Russians usually attack late in the spring and into the summer.

SOF: Are chemical weapons mainly delivered by helicopters, airplanes and artillery?

Hekmatyar: Yes. Did you know that they are also using dum-dum bullets, cluster bombs, napalm, fuel-air explosives and booby traps? Some booby traps are disguised as pens and matches. Little children pick them up and lose their hands and legs. What kind of people are these that make war on small children?

In the high mountains, where our fighters are, there were many trees. Now they are all burned. They burned down some trees only three hundred meters from my position. From the air, they burned them.

SOF: Do you have any protection against Soviet chemical attacks?

Hekmatyar: We have captured some Russian gas masks and chemical suits, but very few. The only real protection is not to let the Russians find us. ☒

30 October 1985

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 22

three broad categories of the M1918A1 Thompson: 1) Early specimens with both finned barrels and Lyman rear sights; 2) midrange guns with finned barrels and the fixed L-shaped rear sights; and 3) M1928A1s with smooth barrels and fixed L-shaped rear sights. Eventually the actuator knob was left unchecked and the selector and safety levers replaced with simplified rod-type levers. It wasn't enough. By 1942 the Model 1928A1 was replaced by the drastically redesigned M1 and shortly thereafter by the M1A1.

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M1928A1 in production there was an enormous Allied demand for sub-machine guns. By the end of 1940 the British had ordered 107,500 Thompsons at a total contract price of \$21,502,758 — a little more than \$200 each. Many thousand more were eventually purchased by Great Britain after the fall of Dunkirk. British Thompsons are the single most interesting and desirable of the M1928A1 series.

Not content with the weapon as delivered, the British arsenal at Enfield Lock incorporated several modifications. The vertical forearm, with its characteristic finger grooves, was preferred and to this was added a sling swivel of British design on the right side. This forearm commonly split at the rear and many British Thompsons exhibit arsenal repairs in the form of two mortised inserts at this location. The barrels are always marked with British nitro proofs in tons. British proofs usually appear on the receiver as well. On most British Thompsons the rear sling swivel was moved to the top of the buttstock and the bottom hole filled with a wood plug.

About 15 percent of all M1928A1 Thompsons were marked "TOMMY GUN" on top of the receiver in back of the actuator slot and below the Thompson bullet logo. Added to establish this name as a trademark, a contraction of Thompson, it does not refer to the British soldier (also "Tommy") since it appeared on some U.S.-issued M1928A1s. British Thompsons that possess all of the above features and are in excellent condition with matching upper and lower receivers will fetch a minimum of \$2,500 today.

For all its complex construction, disassembly of the M1928A1 Thompson is relatively straightforward. Remove the magazine and close the bolt, under control. Set the selector to full auto and the safety lever to fire. Depress the stock latch and remove the buttstock. Turn the gun upside-down and depress the frame latch button at the bottom rear of the upper receiver. Pull the lower receiver slightly to the rear until it clears the latch. Hold back on the trigger and slide the lower receiver off the upper receiver. Push the recoil spring guide forward out of its position in the hole in the upper receiver and withdraw the recoil spring, guide rod and buffer disc. Slide the bolt to the rear and lift out. Slide the actuator and Blish lock to the front position and withdraw the bronze lock through the receiver's locking recesses. Slide the actuator back to the rear until the cocking knob is aligned with the round release hole at the end of the actuator slot. Reassemble in the reverse order.

When inserting the Blish lock make certain the word "up" is in view and

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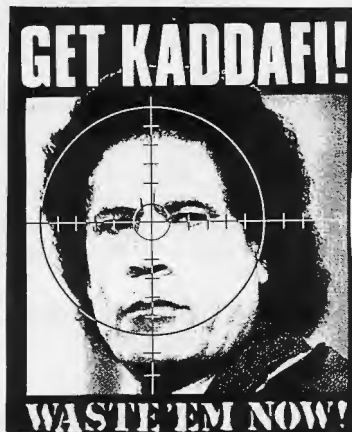
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the arrow points toward the barrel. Compress the recoil spring over the guide rod and insert a small punch or pin in the hole on the guide rod. Remove the punch after the spring assembly has been placed into the proper position in the receiver. I have seen many Thompson recoil springs ruined by ignoring this procedure.

It's not necessary to detach the butt end of the Thompson's sling and place it under your left foot, as some have maintained, to score hits when firing three- to four-shot bursts. With an excess of 10 pounds to absorb recoil energy, I would hope not. When fired in short bursts, the Thompson is controllable and hit probability is high. Accuracy potential is compromised by the confusing imposition of the actuator knob's notch in front of the rear sight, but the average snuff is far more dangerous with a Tommy gun in his sweaty hands than with a Colt M1911A1. Stoppages are rare and invariably a consequence of bent feed lips on a box magazine or faulty ammunition. Thirty-round box magazines developed for the M1/M1A1 series can be used in any of the earlier Thompsons.

I would never discard my M16 for this ponderous antique. But, an M1928A1 is a respectable addition to any WWII military small-arms collection. ✕

A-CAMP JUMP

Continued from page 119

dried clumps of dirt clinging to their snarled roots. We passed over the trench, like parallel brown mole burrows, and a water buffalo ran over a pig to get out from under the shadow of the wing. We couldn't have been over forty feet off the ground.

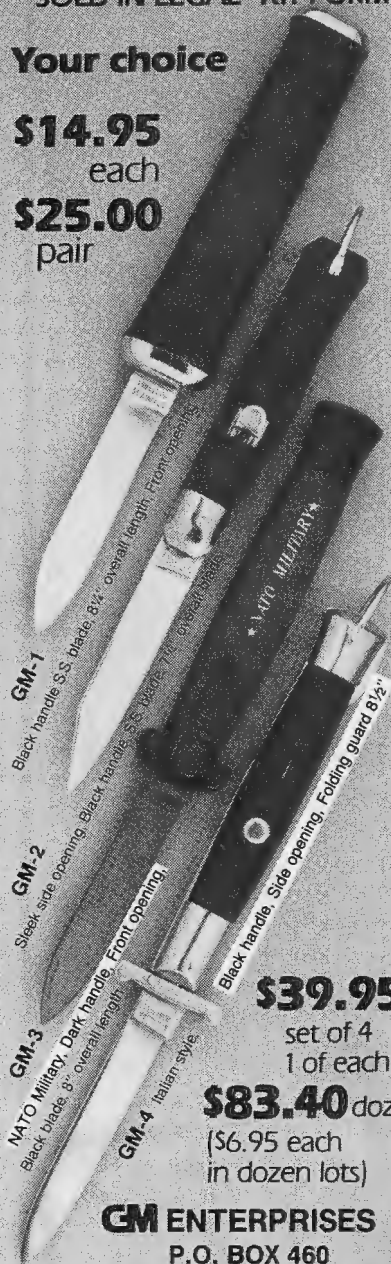
I thought, I better get rid of this, and threw the message streamer out the door as hard as I could. It immediately disappeared from sight. I wondered where it landed. The aircraft ascended.

Fifteen minutes later we were circling Plei Ta Nanglé, the great triangle of the camp laid out on a plateau. We circled once. Then the first bundle got jammed in the door and we took it around again. The aircraft flew about 150 feet over the DZ to give the cargo chutes time to open. We had plenty of time, plenty of fuel, and a small DZ, so they made one pass per bundle. Mr. McKee and his two riggers hooked up the static lines and manhandled the bundles into the door. As the aircraft made its approach the two kickers tipped the bundle out so it was just balanced on the edge of the door. They had to lean back hard to hold it in. Mr. McKee leaned around and stuck his head out the door to judge the exact moment they passed over the panel. Then he looked back and yelled, "GO!" and the door was suddenly

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empty, the static line dragging back and down, taut and hard. Then the two kickers dragged the static line back in and dumped it in the back.

Figuring the time to get back to Cheo Reo I decided to chute up. I went aft and opened my kit bag, reached down and pulled out the rig.

I ran the leg straps through the handle of my AWOL bag so I wouldn't have to carry that. By the time the last bundle was out I was ready for some help with the reserve. Chief McKee cinched it up for me and made a thorough rigger check. The helmet was a little loose, but it was too late to worry about that now. I wrapped my glasses in my beret and shoved them down the front of my shirt. Mr. McKee went around behind to check the backpack and then he handed the static line over my left shoulder.

The adrenalin was up and I was ready to go. I started waddling back to the door. When I got about six feet away I stopped and hooked up the static line, inserting the safety wire through the snap link.

Then I moved into the door. Below were the trails and jungles we had run over for this too short a time. We passed over the village where Ksor Ay, our oldest platoon leader, who had fought for the French before us, who had his front teeth filed out and his earlobes pierced and stretched into big loops in the old Jarai manner, would be assassinated when he went home on leave wearing a uniform. We passed over the spot where Nay Re, our psychotic company commander, was to be executed for mortaring a Vietnamese district headquarters during the revolt, but of course I didn't know about that yet. Knowing Nay Re though, it was predictable that something like that would happen. It was also predictable that a convoy of government troops would be ambushed on the same road where I used to drive a jeep alone and unmolested, because they didn't understand the principle of not setting a pattern. Six Americans were killed on that ambush, and it wouldn't have happened if even one member of our team had been there.

I had to come back, not just this time to get my stuff, but to finish the job.

We had led the Montagnards way out on a limb and couldn't quit until they were down safe. We never did do that, but we stuck with them another nine years, and without that their culture wouldn't have survived either Vietnamese regime.

I'd keep coming back as long as it was there to come back to.

Maybe that's why I was making this jump. I could just as easily have waited for the team in Nha Trang, but if I hadn't gone back then I'd never have gone back at all. I wasn't going back to say goodbye to the Jarai. I was going back to say hello to myself.

I moved close to the door and felt the wind blast. Down below was the canopy of trees to the left of Highway 14, and back on the other side of the highway the mountains of Chu Dle Ya. And below the tree canopy,



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on the small trails, were little skinny guys in black shortie pajamas and tire sandals, with wicker helmets and captured American weapons, or the new family of Chinese weapons which were just beginning to appear.

If I had yelled the wind would have torn it away, but I yelled inside my mind, howling fury at the whole frustrating mess of it, and even at this distance of time I can't tell which side my mind was yelling at. "Don't get too fat, you bastards. Don't get too comfortable. I'm coming back. I'm coming back to get you."

I suddenly became conscious of Mr. McKee there beside me, a worried frown on his face. He was keeping his balance by hanging onto the cable. We passed over some more green mountains, the camp, and the town of Cheo Reo, on the left. We came up on the Cheo Reo airstrip, more than three-quarters completed now, but still with a great clutter of ill-maintained construction equipment at the unfinished end. I grinned and the AWOL bag flapped against my legs as the pilot turned to make his downwind leg.

When we got past the construction equipment at the other end, he turned again and started his approach run.

I leaned way out the door and the wind blast caught me full in the face. I squinted and my eyes watered, but I could make out the red cross on top of the ambulance. We were about 450 yards from the desired exit point.

"Sir," said Chief McKee, beside me, "I don't see any smoke on that DZ."

"I didn't ask for smoke, Chief," I yelled. "They'd only put out red smoke for no drop."

"You can't hardly judge the wind without smoke, sir. I don't think you better jump." All this time we were steadily eating up DZ. I leaned way back in the door, with my fingers hooked around the outside.

"You got a point there, Chief," I said, jumping up and out. The blast whirled me away as I shouted, "One-thousand, two-thousand, three-thousand, four-thousand." I was away and free, leering at my toes, grabbing the sides of the reserve during the four little tugging pops at your back that you can barely feel. Then I grabbed the risers and looked upward at the great shining pale green globe of the parachute canopy above.

STRIKE ONE, STRIKE TWO

Continued from page 81

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Eight A-6s and six F/A-18s screamed off the deck of the *Coral Sea* and six A-6s and six A-7s climbed skyward from the *America*. A-6s would bomb Benghazi under the protective net of A-7s and F/A-18s armed with radar-seeking missiles, as well as F-14s and E-2C command-and-control planes.

So far so good — the Libyans were completely surprised. A few moments before the F-111s eased into their bomb runs, Navy A-7s and F/A-18s went after the Libyan anti-aircraft installations around Benghazi. Shrike missiles and HARMs quickly put them out of commission. Even the airfield's MiGs failed to get airborne — at least four were destroyed on the ground.

The F-111s over Tripoli found themselves facing much the same situation. Although the Libyans knew the planes were out there by this time, they had no clue as to where they would strike. The American planes veered south into Libyan territory and punched at Khadaffi's barracks, the airfield and the naval base from behind. Libyan radar did finally get a fix on the F-111s, but the Air Force pilots sent signals to the Navy F-14s circling nearby. They swooped in for the kill, disabling the SAMs and the radar.

Anti-aircraft fire from Soviet-made ZSU-23-4s positioned around the Aziziya barracks took up where the SAMs left off. In fact, it was one of these old-fashioned AA guns that shot Captain Fernando Ribas-Dominicci's F-111 out of the sky. The doomed plane made a run for the sea, but exploded in a fireball some seven miles off the coast.

Despite Libyan claims that the United States deliberately rained bombs on innocent civilians, that does not appear to have been the case. Considerable caution was taken to assure that all targets were away from civilians in the hope that no unnecessary deaths would occur. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Khadaffi, knowing a propaganda opening when he saw one, quickly showed the press damage done to civilian dwellings and paraded cameras around some civilians, mostly women and children, who had been wounded in the attack. Apparently, Khadaffi has taken to adopting children on a moment's notice — no one had heard of his adopted daughter until after her death in the bombing raid.

But the rules of engagement were strict. Each F-111 was required to lock two aiming systems on target before dropping the payload. Although a skilled weapons operator could achieve adequate hit probability with only one targeting device, the Pentagon decided on the "double lock" rule just to be on the safe side. That the U.S. pilots adhered to this rule is painfully apparent: Two A-6s and five F-111s had to abort their missions and two of the six planes that attacked the Aziziya barracks failed to achieve

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double lock. Perhaps Khadafi owes his life to the American pilots' scrupulous adherence to the rules of engagement.

Whatever the case may be, the raid is over and civilized people around the world hope there will be no need for a replay in the future. The Reagan administration certainly doesn't want to risk the lives of more American servicemen, but might have no choice if Libya continues on its present course.

Will Reagan continue to spar with Khadafi if he persists in his support of world terrorism? The United States has historically been shortsighted when it comes to foreign policy. Quick-fix solutions seldom get results and the bombing of Libya is no exception. Of course Khadafi will retaliate, but how long can he keep it up in the face of an American public firm in its resolve to put him out of the terrorist business? Let's hope the United States doesn't give in first. We have too much to lose. ✕

LIBYA CHRONOLOGY

Continued from page 95

suspects arrested.

APRIL 1984. A bomb in unclaimed luggage from a Libyan airliner explodes in London's Heathrow Airport, injuring 25 people. A British policewoman and anti-Khadafi demonstrators are killed during the siege of the Libyan People's Bureau in London. British citizens are arrested in Libya in order to put pressure on the British government during the siege.

MAY 1984. "The Libyan masses have decided to form suicide commandos to chase traitors and stray dogs wherever they are and liquidate them physically." — JANA, the official Libyan news agency.

JULY 1984. Libya mines the Red Sea, damaging 18 vessels of varying nationalities. Attacks against exiles in Greece. A bomb explodes in the Brussels, Belgium, office of Air Zaire, and another in front of the Zairean Embassy.

AUGUST 1984. Khadafi and Moroccan King Hasan sign Arab-African Union, aligning themselves — for different reasons — against Algeria and Tunisia.

SEPTEMBER 1984. Chadians uncover Libyan plot to assassinate President Habre. Evidence, including photographs, is provided to the United Nations.

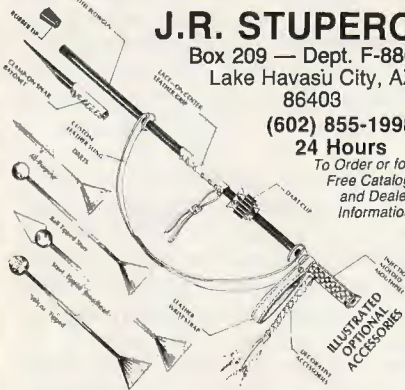
NOVEMBER 1984. Egyptian President Mubarak announces Libyan plot to kill former Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Bakoush in Egypt. Photos of the faked assassination are sent to the Libyan Embassy in Malta; Libyan press announces the assassination and says a suicide squad had been sent to "liquidate enemies of the revolution." Head of the four-man hit team, Briton Anthony

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Gill, says his group was also going to attempt the theft of a U.S.-supplied F-16 fighter.

FEBRUARY — APRIL 1985. Assassinations attempted or carried out against anti-Khadaffi exiles in Austria, Italy, Cyprus and West Germany. Sudan's President Nimeiry overthrown with Libyan backing.

MARCH 1985. "We want every one of us to say: I have decided to die just to spite America." — Muammar Khadaffi, praising attacks on American installations.

MAY 1985. Libyan UN diplomat declared persona non grata; 16 Libyans subpoenaed to appear before a U.S. grand jury in connection with a plot to kill exiles in the United States. Egyptians uncover a plot by Libyan-backed Palestinian terrorists to destroy the U.S. Embassy in Cairo with a truck bomb.

JUNE 1985. "We're not going to tolerate these attacks from outlaw states run by the strangest collection of misfits, looney tunes and squalid criminals since the advent of the Third Reich." — Ronald Reagan, in response to the hijacking of TWA flight 847.

SEPTEMBER 1985. Libyan diplomat smuggles 100 letter bombs into Tunisia which are destined for journalists. Several explode, and Tunisia severs diplomatic relations with Libya.

OCTOBER 1985. Four PLO hijackers seize the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and kill one American passenger. U.S. charges Libyan support for the operation.

DECEMBER 1985. Passports used by Abu Nidal terrorists in the attack on Israeli El Al counters in Vienna and Rome are traced to Libya which had confiscated them from Tunisian guest workers. Western intelligence sources state that Abu Nidal was paid between \$5-6 million by Libya for the Vienna and Rome massacres in which 19 were killed and 112 injured.

JANUARY 1986. "[Khadaffi's one of those] fellas who thinks it's all right to shoot 11-year-old girls." — Ronald Reagan, in response to the shooting death of Natasha Simpson at the Rome airport.

MARCH 1986. United States Operation Prairie Fire. U.S. Sixth Fleet crosses Khadaffi's "Line of Death" into the Gulf of Sidra and stays there for 75 hours. Libya fires SA-5 missiles at U.S. aircraft, Navy jets knock out one of the radar sites near Surt with HARMs (high-speed anti-radiation missiles). Libyan patrol boats approach the fleet; one sunk by Harpoon anti-ship cruise missiles, one by Harpoons and Rockeye cluster bombs. Op Prairie Fire was preceded by 32 days of "crossing the line" by Navy aircraft — just to keep Khadaffi's air defense systems on full alert.

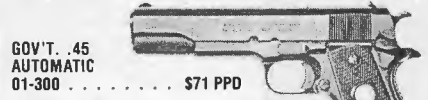
APRIL 1986. Libyan bombing of La Belle disco in West Germany kills a U.S.

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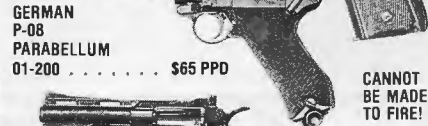
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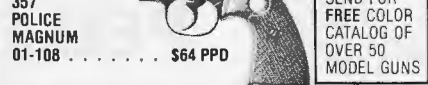
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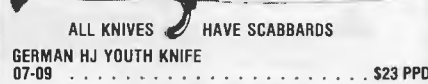
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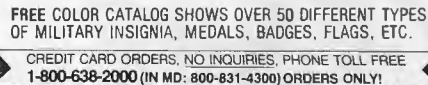
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Army sergeant and Turkish woman; 230 injured including 79 Americans. U.S. intelligence sources claim the bombing was a prelude to massive worldwide terrorist attacks.

APRIL 1986. Operation El Dorado Canyon, the U.S. 11-minute strike against Libya. Carrier-based A-7s and F/A-18s hit radar sites with HARM and Shrike missiles, F-111s launched from Britain hit Tripoli-area targets in two waves. Carrier-based A-6s hit targets in and around Benghazi.

Khadaffi's followers and allies retaliate: Three hostages — two Britons and one American — are killed in Lebanon and dumped on a road in the Shouf Mountains; communications officer William Cokals of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, is shot in the head and all nonessential personnel are evacuated; El Al security guards at Heathrow Airport in London discover a bomb set to explode while the aircraft was en route to Tel Aviv.

Libyan-sponsored terrorist attacks against U.S. and allied political, military, business and private targets will doubtless continue. There's also little doubt that if they do, measured U.S. retaliatory responses are just as likely against Muammar Khadaffi and his followers.

But how far has the network developed and spread? Would the removal of Khadaffi, either from U.S. strikes or internal coup, decrease the threat of terrorist action around the world?

Probably not, at least in the foreseeable future. During his tenure as the most vocal leader of the terrorist movement, Khadaffi has supplied aid, sanctuary and ideological support to a number of terrorist organizations: the Irish Republican Army, the Basque ETA, Corsican separatists, Philippine Moro guerrillas, Colombian M-19 guerrillas, anti-Turkish Armenian terrorist groups, the PLO, Abu Nidal's faction, radical American Indian and black groups, East Germans, Spanish Catalan separatists, Kanaks from New Caledonia — and a host of radical Middle Eastern, Central and South American terrorist organizations.

Khadaffi offered sanctuary to the three surviving members of the Black September guerrillas who killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games and, in 1984-85, according to the U.S. State Department, armed Libyan "pilgrims" tried to disrupt the annual haj to Moslem holy places in Saudi Arabia. Washington intelligence sources have also claimed that Khadaffi has sent hit teams to kill Ronald Reagan and other senior government officers in the United States; offices of American businesses overseas, the headquarters of the U.S. Sixth Fleet and its key personnel, and CIA station chiefs in Europe have also been targeted.

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BAD NEIGHBOR POLICY

Continued from page 101

has his way, the region will again fall under Arab domination.

Zaire

Yet another Libyan-inspired murder plot was hatched, this time against Mobutu Sese Seko, president of Zaire, in September 1985. Khadafi's hostility toward Zaire is motivated by its close ties to the West, its recognition of Israel and its support of Chadian President Hissene Habre. It also happens that Zaire, a leading producer of cobalt, uranium and other strategic materials, is a major target of Soviet subversion.

Libya provides money, small arms and training in sabotage and guerrilla warfare to several anti-Mobutu groups, including the National Front for the Liberation of the Congo and the Congolese National Movement. Libya's ties to these groups are maintained through Libyan diplomatic facilities in countries bordering Zaire, but those ties are also worldwide.

In 1983, I saw a number of Libyan-supported front groups, including the National Front for the Liberation of the Congo, hobnobbing with well-organized and well-heeled Libyan "students" at Howard University in Washington, D.C., during "African Liberation Day." The festivities were sponsored by the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), an American black organization with close ties to Libya. The AAPRP's head, Kwame Ture, has never made a secret of his own dedication to Marxism-Leninism. Ture is better-known to most Americans as 1960s black activist Stokely Carmichael.

Uganda

Khadafi had particularly close personal ties with Uganda's former ruler, Al-Hadji Field Marshal Doctor Idi Amin Dada, Life President of the Republic of Uganda and Conqueror of the British Empire. Fortunately, Libya's use of their own and hired PLO troops to keep Amin in power failed as badly as Amin's efforts to run Uganda's economy. In 1979 the 2,000-man Libyan Legion, sent to Uganda to help prop up Amin, was routed by the invading Tanzanian army on their way toward unseating Libya's one firm ally in black Africa.

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West Africa

Three years before the successful April 1985 pro-Khadaffi coup in Sudan, the Libyan dictator had already overthrown the pro-Western government of Upper Volta in 1982. No one particularly noticed or cared, either then or since, that a nation of nearly seven million people had been taken over by a coup sponsored and engineered by Libya. Even the French, defenders of Tunisia and Chad, did not threaten war over this episode. Of course, it matters little to the world at large who rules in the capital of Ouagadougou, and Upper Volta has, so far, done nothing more radical than changing its name to Burkina Faso.

Another portion of Khadaffi's money, weapons and training goes to Tuareg tribesmen who are in revolt against the governments in Mali and Niger. Among the documents captured in 1982 by the Israelis in Lebanon was Libya's organizational proposal for the creation of a "Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of the El Tuark (Tuareg) People."

Southern Africa

After Amin's fall in April 1979, Libya's leader shifted some of his attention to supporting Robert Mugabe's takeover in Rhodesia and his subsequent efforts to turn the new Republic of Zimbabwe into a Marxist state. Most of it, however, went to supporting the struggle for the "liberation" of Azania.

Azania is National Liberation talk for the "Republic of South Africa," and it is sure to come into general media usage over the next ten years in much the same way "Namibia" replaced South West Africa. At present, Libya is helping hundreds of "Azanian Freedom Fighters" in the countries bordering South Africa, in PLO camps and in Libya itself. Khadaffi doesn't hide this fact; he boasts about it. After all, the South African regime is openly racist and, as such, it is difficult for people to muster any sympathy for it. Khadaffi counts his opposition to South Africa as a feather in his leader-of-liberation cap.

But under the surface lies the actual nature of the African National Congress and other "Azanian Freedom Fighters." They are not fighting for the principles Westerners consider democratic. They are trained terrorists, controlled by Marxist-Leninist totalitarians who can be (and have been) far more repressive than the racist regime in Pretoria they want to replace.

Many Azanian terrorists have been trained, not just in Libya and the Arab world, but in the Soviet Union, East Germany and Cuba. The convergence of interests and effort between Khadaffi and the Soviet camp that can be seen in South Africa is typical of Libyan support for various terrorist groups around the world.

Libya's blatant support of subversion in nearby countries is now getting the

international scrutiny it so richly deserves. The United States and Europe must take the lead in pulling Khadaffi's fangs; most of Libya's neighbors are too weak to do it on their own. The West has been reluctant to strike out at Khadaffi in the past, but Western courage may grow along with Western outrage as Libya continues to be implicated in terrorist events around the world. ✕

MILLIONS FOR MURDER

Continued from page 113

during a botched rescue attempt by Egyptian army commandos.

December — Abu Nidal launches simultaneous attacks on Israeli El Al ticket counters at the Rome and Vienna airports on 27 December. Three of the terrorists in the Vienna attack carried Tunisian passports that have been traced to Libya. Two of the passports were confiscated from Tunisians who were expelled from Libya last summer, while a third was "lost" in Libya by a Tunisian worker in 1977.

Abu Nidal makes no effort to avoid injuring innocent bystanders. In fact, the group appears to go out of its way to find targets with a maximum potential for innocent civilian casualties. As Lenin said, "The purpose of terror is to terrorize," and Abu Nidal seems to be an outstanding student of that school of thought.

Interestingly, the Abu Nidal group almost never uses the name "Abu Nidal," which was pinned on it by the press and foreign governments. It normally calls itself "Fatah — the Revolutionary Council" or, occasionally, "Black June." When it wants to avoid direct responsibility for its acts, Abu Nidal also uses a number of aliases: Arab Revolutionary Brigades (against the Persian Gulf states), Black September (when attacking Jordanian and Palestinian targets), and Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems (ROSM) when attacking British targets. Given the current tension between Libya and the United States, it would be surprising if Abu Nidal does not carry out some specifically anti-American attacks, perhaps under yet another name.

Popular Arab Liberation Movement (PALM): Led by Naji Alush, this small group of under 100 active terrorists broke away from Abu Nidal in 1979 and lived to tell about it. PALM draws its support from dedicated activists in Lebanon, Syria, Libya and Europe.

According to Israeli Foreign Ministry sources, there are PALM infrastructures in Spain, West Germany and Britain, although actual activity so far is low. Most of the funding appears to be Libyan.

Palestinian Arab Revolutionary Committees of the Arab Liberation Movement (variously called PARC or ALM): Despite the fancy title, this recently organized group, headed by Ziad al-Khumsi, is largely a figment of Muammar Khadaffi's imagination. PARC appears to be Khadaffi's attempt to establish a completely Libyan-controlled group within the PLO that will be as subservient to Libya as Sa'iq'a is to Syria. Virtually all of PARC's facilities are in Libya, but real Palestinian members are few and far between.

So far, PARC hasn't undertaken a single known terrorist operation, but, given Khadaffi's desire to hit American targets, that could easily change.

Palestinian terrorists aren't the only extremists with ready access to Libyan money and/or support. There are even some American groups that maintain close ties with Libya.

For example, I interviewed several members of a large American delegation that attended Khadaffi's Green Book conference in 1983. An annual affair held at Garyounis University in Benghazi, the ostensible purpose of the conference is to bring together people from all over the world to discuss the merits (if any) of Khadaffi's philosophy as expressed in his Green Book. In reality, the conference is a cover for various anti-Western groups to make contact with the Libyan government and/or be contacted by it.

During the 1983 conference from 7-13 April, an American delegation, representing various U.S. extremist groups, met with Khadaffi in his tent to discuss the general situation of "revolutionary groups" in the United States. According to secret sources, a "business meeting" followed the next day. That meeting was presided over by Khadaffi's second-in-command, Major Jalloud.

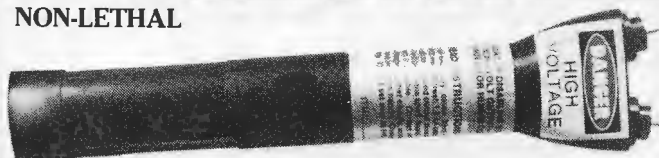
At that meeting, the Libyans urged the American radicals to form a "united revolutionary force" and offered the Americans Libyan money and assistance. Among the American groups at the meeting were the Nation of Islam, the Republic of New Afrika, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the International Indian Treaty Council.

Two years later on 24 February 1986 Khadaffi gave a live televised speech by satellite to a Nation of Islam convention in Chicago, in which he urged black American servicemen to leave the military and create a separate army because the United States "must be destroyed." There was no noticeable response to Khadaffi's appeal among black American servicemen, and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan publicly dissociated himself from Khadaffi's appeal. That public disclaimer did not stop Farrakhan from accepting a \$5 million interest-free loan from Khadaffi a

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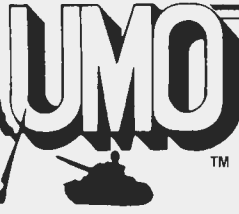
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Libya's leader also has ties to Kwame Ture's (a.k.a. Stokely Carmichael's) AAPP, the Republic of New Afrika and AIM. Khadafi has tried to forge these groups into a violent "revolutionary force" to be used against the United States, so far without much success.

While a number of American radical groups (not always left-wing) probably would be willing to engage in violence on Libya's behalf, there has been little indication of such activity to date. That should change in the near future, however.

The question of organized domestic violence with Libyan assistance is far from hypothetical in El Salvador, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Britain, Ireland, Spain, Italy, West Germany, France, Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. A complete listing of all Libyan assistance to over 50 terrorist and guerrilla groups around the world is not possible in the space we have, but a couple of examples will suffice.

Libya has supported Ireland's self-proclaimed Marxists of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (Provos) since the early 1970s. In March 1973, for example, the Irish navy boarded the merchant vessel *Claudia* off Helvick Head, County Waterford, and confiscated five tons of cargo: 250 assault rifles, 246 bayonets, 850 rifle magazines, 243 pistols, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 500 grenades, 100 anti-tank mines, and large amounts of timers, blasting caps, fuzes, TNT primer and gelignite explosive.

Most of the arms were of Russian origin and had been loaded onboard by Libyan soldiers in Tripoli. Among the six Irishmen arrested aboard the *Claudia* was a Provo leader named Joe Cahill, presently in charge of distributing privately donated NORaid "relief funds" in Ireland.

Since then, both Khadafi and Libya's state-controlled media have blown hot and cold on the Irish issue, sometimes openly supporting the Provos and sometimes denying any connection with them and even condemning them. In practice, Libyan support for the Provos never stopped.

In April 1975 Khadafi told an Irish Parliamentary delegation that, in the future, "no aid would be given to any illegal organization in Ireland." In September 1976, he told *Newsweek* "... our relations with London and Dublin are improving rapidly ... the IRA chapter is behind us." He lied.

We may never know how many Libyan arms shipments got through to the Provos. We do, however, know about a recent one that didn't get through. On 26 January 1986, Irish Gardai (police) arrested five men and seized over 100 guns and 20,000 rounds of ammunition in dawn raids on three different sites in

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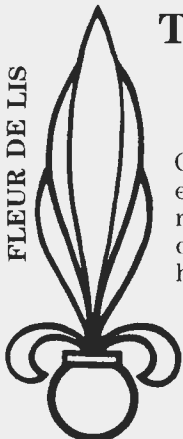
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The guns included 87 Kalashnikov assault rifles (all new) of East German, Bulgarian and Rumanian origin; 10 West German Heckler & Koch rifles, and 17 Brazilian 9mm Taurus pistols. The ammunition, which came in 20 1,000-round boxes, was all 7.62mm ComBloc, manufactured in Yugoslavia for the Libyan army. Clearly marked on each of the 20 ammunition boxes were the words "Libyan Armed Forces. Cartridges for Weapons." Senior Gardai sources said that the shipment had originated in Libya and international police were working on pinpointing the deadly cargo's route from Libya to Ireland.

Irish terrorists are not the only people to receive massive "Libyan lend-lease." In April 1983, four Libyan planes were forced to land in Manaus, Brazil, for technical reasons. Although the crews claimed they were carrying medical supplies to Colombia, the skeptical Brazilians searched the planes and found they were carrying 84 tons of arms, explosives and other military equipment to Nicaragua.

The ultimate terrorist nightmare could become reality if Khadaffi got his bloody hands on a nuclear device. He hasn't done so yet, though not for lack of trying. In May 1983, a junkyard owner in Rome was arrested by Italian authorities for trying to sell 10.5 ounces of enriched uranium to "a Middle Eastern country." That Middle Eastern country is reliably reported to have been Libya. As to where and how the junkyard owner got his hands on 10.5 ounces of enriched uranium is still a mystery.

President Reagan certainly hopes Khadaffi will never get The Bomb, but his thoughts and actions are turned more toward Libya's present depredations. The bombing of military targets in Tripoli and Benghazi on 15 April shook Khadaffi out of his complacency and showed American resolve on the question of terrorism. It didn't end Libyan terrorism in a single swipe, but it was a step in the right direction.

More than brute military muscle is needed to tear down Khadaffi's sand castle — the much-debated economic boycott must be made a reality. After all, virtually all the money Khadaffi uses to finance terrorists comes from a single source — oil. In 1980, those revenues reached an all-time high of \$22.6 billion. Even with today's soft oil prices and lowered production, Libya's estimated 1986 revenues of \$7 billion are still more than enough to finance Khadaffi's terrorist activities. Even if America's European allies were to cut their oil imports from Libya by half, the impact on Khadaffi's cash flow would be substantial.

Should that fail, a natural extension of the economic weapon would be the destruction of Libya's oil fields and refiner-

ies — without his source of revenue, Khadaffi's terror machine would grind to a halt.

Since the United States is completely independent of Libyan oil, the only consideration standing in the way of our destroying Khadaffi's oil production is the dependence of France and Italy on Libyan oil. Disarray and discord among our allies — combined with the way oil can lose notice of its national origin as it moves through the market — may gut any attempted aggressive use of economic weapons. If we can't mount an effective boycott, Reagan may have to use military muscle yet again. The ball is in the European court now. ✕

HATCHET MAN

Continued from page 91

Israel's most active enemies at that time, Syria and Egypt, would have to be strengthened. Iraq, already friendly to the Soviets, would have to be brought into the game if possible. The final key would be to get the unpredictable Khadaffi's support, or at least his pledge not to interfere.

So in January 1972, the Kremlin invited a delegation of high-level Libyan leaders to Moscow for prolonged discussions. That delegation — which was headed by Jalloud and included his close ally, Maj. Mustafa Kharubi — left for the Soviet Union on 21 February, first stopping in Cairo to confer with Sadat.

The same day Jalloud arrived in Cairo, Soviet Defense Minister Andrei A. Grechko left the Egyptian capital after a meeting with Sadat aimed at repairing relations damaged by the unsuccessful coup.

Arriving that day in Damascus was Soviet First Deputy Premier Kirill T. Mazurov, heading an economic and military delegation on a six-day visit. Most of the delegation's visit was with Lieutenant General Mustafa Tlas, chief of staff of Syrian armed forces. One result of this visit was the Yom Kippur War of 1973, during which Tlas commanded Syrian forces.

Finally, also on 21 February 1972, Saddam Hussein, vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council (now president of Iraq) departed Moscow after an official visit. While at the Kremlin, Hussein had signed a "Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation."

Obviously a big day for the Kremlin's grand strategy in the Middle East. In a chessboard that stretched from Tripoli to the Tigris-Euphrates River valleys, Soviet pieces were rapidly being put in place.

Jalloud arrived in Moscow on 23 February for five days of talks with Leonid Brezhnev. The official result of

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these talks was the announcement of an agreement between Tripoli and Moscow for a joint venture to further develop Libya's oil resources. But soon afterward, the Lebanese daily *An Nahar* reported that the real purpose of the Brezhnev/Jalloud agreement was to buy advanced Soviet arms for Egypt with Libyan oil money. Subsequent developments have proved this Lebanese report completely accurate.

Following 18 months of build-up after the February 1972 meeting and a massive infusion of new Soviet equipment, Egypt and Syria were ready. On 4 October 1973, Soviet diplomats and civilians were hastily evacuated from Cairo and Damascus without explanation. Two days later, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel. The Yom Kippur War was on. Jalloud's role in the Soviet grand design was relatively minor, however, that of behind-the-scenes arms purchaser for Sadat. But Jalloud had left the Soviet Union deeply impressed by Moscow's military might and political ruthlessness. He has been the chief Libyan proponent of a strong alliance between Moscow and Tripoli ever since.

After Egypt and Syria were defeated in the Yom Kippur War, Libya continued to call on other Arab nations to maintain their oil embargo against the United States. Jalloud in the meantime had become Libya's prime minister.

Responding to the embargo, the United States called a Washington conference of 13 Western oil-consuming nations in January 1974. Only France among the 13 flatly refused to consider plans for a common Western policy addressing the oil embargo.

Seeing an opportunity to drive a wedge in the shaky alliance, Jalloud flew to Paris on 14 February for five days of talks with President Georges Pompidou and Premier Pierre Messmer. Jalloud offered a guaranteed oil supply from Libya to France if Paris would urge French businessmen to invest in Libya. On 19 February, Jalloud and Messmer signed a Franco-Libyan oil-for-aid agreement. The Libyans promised an uninterrupted oil supply in return for arms, ships and technical aid in telecommunications, agriculture and nuclear energy. Jalloud returned to Tripoli via Budapest, where he stopped, presumably to give the Soviets a full report.

After returning to Libya for a few days, Jalloud flew to Italy on 25 February. He then engineered an oil-for-aid deal with Italy similar to the one signed with France. Libya agreed to triple its oil sales to the Rome government, which meant 25 percent of Italy's oil needs were being met by Khadaffi's government. In return, Italy provides technical expertise to Libya's petro-chemical, steel and shipping industries.

With these two important deals consummated, Libya turned attention to in-

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creasing oil production to meet its end of these agreements. Nothing had come of the official February 1972 announcement that Moscow and Tripoli would work together to further develop Libya's oil resources. Nothing much really had been expected, particularly because Soviet equipment and drilling techniques are not exactly state-of-the-art.

So Jalloud sought out the same industrial giant that provides the Soviet Union with most of its advanced oil technology: Armand Hammer's Occidental Petroleum. Libya and the U.S. firm discussed a possible contract.

On 15 March 1974, Armand Hammer — the Kremlin's favorite capitalist — agreed to invest \$90 million over five years to explore 11 million acres of Libyan desert for oil. Occidental would get 19 percent of the profits, Libya the rest. On the same day, Jalloud closed another deal with Italy's national oil company, AGIP, to explore another 100,000 acres. AGIP got only a 15 percent cut of profits from that venture.

With the economic infrastructure on a solid foundation, Libya followed Marxist tradition by changing its political superstructure. On 7 April 1974, Khadafi resigned his post as president and turned over many of the job's duties to Jalloud, who was out of the country at the time. Jalloud was in Paris that day attending a memorial service for French President Pompidou. Soviet President Podgorny, who also was in town for the service, quietly met with Jalloud in the Soviet Embassy before the two left Paris.

As *The New York Times* reported Libya's power shift, Khadafi was "divested of his political, administrative and traditional duties," which now were assumed by Jalloud, "known as a more moderate man.... Mr. Jalloud is regarded as a reasonable man and a potentially better neighbor than" Khadafi.

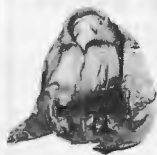
The real upshot of the 7 April change in power was that Khadafi was allowed by the 11-man Revolutionary Council to remain in charge provided he did not oppose Jalloud's efforts toward a close working alliance with the Soviet Union. That alliance became official a month later when Moscow, whose relations with Egypt had sunk even further, was desperate for allies in the Middle East.

Jalloud returned to Moscow on 14 May 1974. He confirmed Libya's "unity of aims" with the Soviet Union in the "struggle against imperialism and reaction in the Middle East" in an interview published by the Soviet news agency TASS. Jalloud remained in Moscow for a week, meeting with Soviet Communist Party leader Brezhnev, President Podgorny, Prime Minister Kosygin and Foreign Minister Gromyko.

The Soviets announced on 20 May 1974 that Jalloud and Kosygin had signed an agreement to sell Soviet arms

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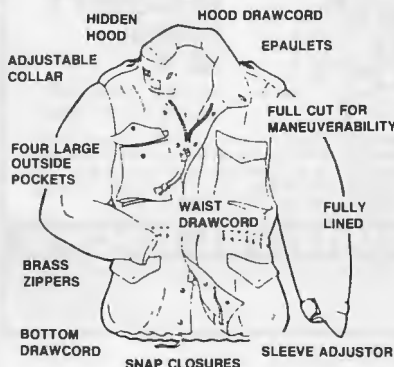
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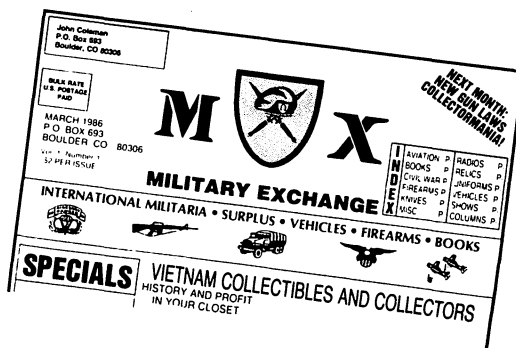
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BATTLE BLADES

Continued from page 14

What's the difference between a combat knife and a survival knife?

That's pretty simple: A combat knife needs to be quicker, and a survival knife needs more power. You see, in a survival scenario, your knife should be primarily a tool. It should be designed for heavy chopping and cutting chores. Also, in the wilderness, it is a good presumption that if you do have to fight, it need not necessarily be against a man. By the way, this is not as unlikely as it sounds. A few years ago in Colorado a young man fought a mountain lion with his sheath knife when he was attacked while hiking, and about 10 years ago there was a report of a teenage Eskimo killing a polar bear with a knife. He must have looked good to eat as the bear was passing through the town of Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island, one long arctic night. An enraged carnivore won't duck when you swing, so speed in a survival knife is less important than power. That means a survival knife must have a heavier blade, with more weight toward the tip. ✂

FLAK

Continued from page 6

"trying too hard" story struck a raw nerve.

Bob McDonald
Mesa, Arizona

I Was There is a forum for our readers to submit their personal stories of combat, law enforcement and valor for publication. We realize that many of our readers are not writers, yet we encourage all contributions. Submissions are subject to editing and revision and will be viewed critically before acceptance. Stories of 500 words or less should be sent to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Payment is \$50 upon publication.

A BETTER-INFORMED BUYING PUBLIC...

Sirs:

For several years now, I have been fielding questions from knife aficionados. Before Battle Blades, knife buyers' questions were uninformed. They groped for a viewpoint based on something akin to mysticism and myth. Then for the

first time in my knifemaking experience, the potential buyer of combat and survival blades seemed to be leaving the fog and misinformation behind them as they debated designs, techniques and materials on firmly grounded concepts. The great number of knife buyers who refer quite confidently to SOF's Battle Blades is resulting in a changeover in attitudes at large. Serious purchasers seem to have abandoned previously held ideas and assumptions supporting the superiority of factory heat-treated, stock removal, stainless-steel blades designed for real combat or survival use. Battle Blades has achieved a high degree of credibility with the readers of SOF, and the only individuals who have expressed disapproval are the stock removal knifemakers with whom I have discussed the column. It's easy to see why.

John M. Smith, Bladesmith
Newman, Illinois

As a regular reader of your fine journal I had to write and express my views on some rubbish written in a rival magazine called "Gung Ho Knives" where they tried to ridicule Bill Bagwell and SOF with some below the belt remarks on knifemaking, etc. I wholeheartedly support Bill Bagwell and this attack on him will only rebound on "Gung Who?"

Phil Skinner
Suffolk, England

In the April '86 issue Bill Bagwell had some comments to make about my Tanto. In response, I'd like to say that the 5¾-inch blade was designed for cutting and slashing strokes, not chopping, which tends to overcommit the knife arm leaving it vulnerable to stop hits and counter blows. As far as blade reach goes, it's a simple matter to compensate for an enemy with a longer blade by an adjustment in footwork and timing. But for those who insist on a long blade, we now have a Magnum Tanto with an 8¾-inch blade complete with sword guard.

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'60s stink. After reading about lubrication problems in Peter Kokalis' column last year, I began to pay a lot more attention to that part of M60 maintenance. Although I didn't follow your advice about the white lithium grease, I did make certain that the CLP was applied well in advance of use so that there was plenty of time for it to cure. This small step may have played a big role in the current status of my company's '60s — mine were the only two operational ones in the company. Two-thirds were in for depot-level repairs. The problem was cracks in the forward portion of the receiver, and broken rivets. Why is this happening? Is it just that these weapons are nearing the end of their useful life? Is the lubrication problem a part of this?

Name & Address Withheld

According to Peter Kokalis, the cracked receivers and broken rivets are more a function of metal fatigue than lack of proper lubrication, although that accelerates the process and reduces the weapon's useful life span. By the way, most of the Army's M60s are reaching their end.

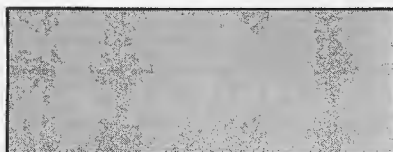
The bolts should be lubricated with white lithium grease in the locking lug area. But even with proper lubrication this component will rarely last more than 20,000 rounds before complete failure due to the tremendous slamming the bolt lugs receive when they engage the barrel sockets. You can prolong bolt life by removing the sharp edges on the chipped surfaces.

POLITICAL ACTIVISM...

Sirs:

Thank you for your articles on the peace activists working for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. I have encountered and talked with many of these people during the two years I have been living and working in different areas of Central America as an independent Christian missionary. Your magazine is a welcome sound above the din of media liberalism we most often receive here.

Christopher E. Williamson
San Salvador, El Salvador ✉



TURMOIL IN CENTRAL AMERICA



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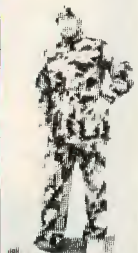
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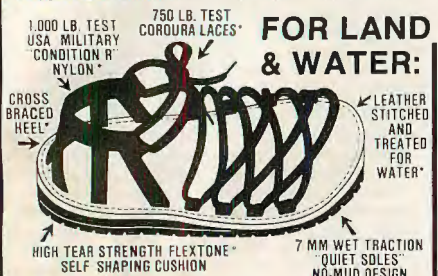
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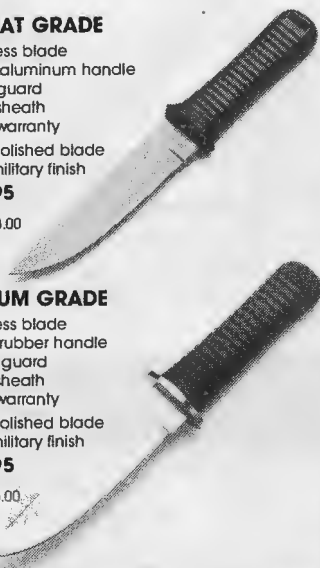
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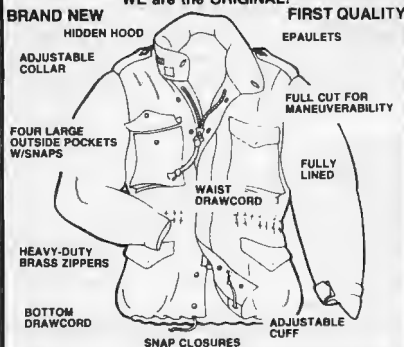
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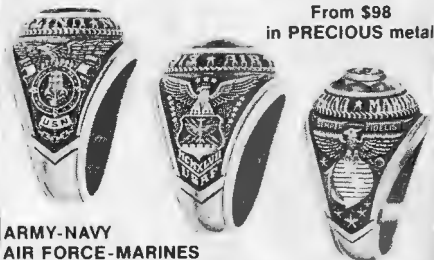
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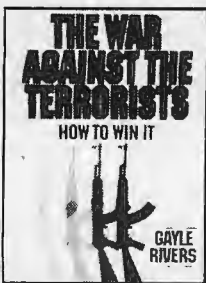
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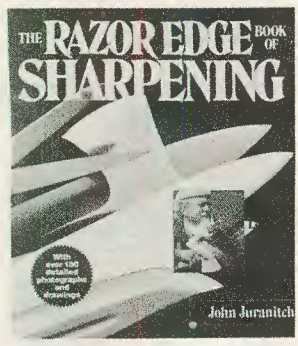
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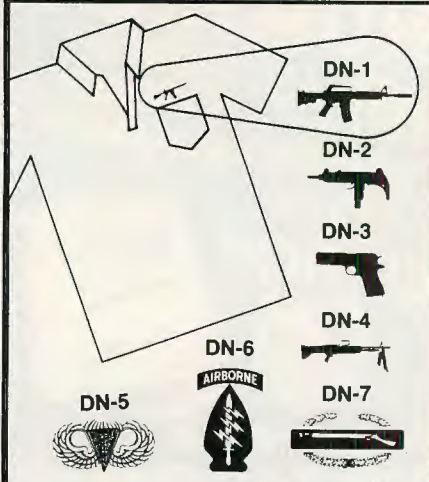
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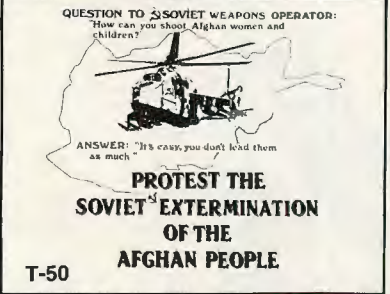
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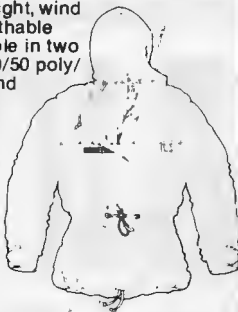
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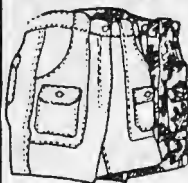
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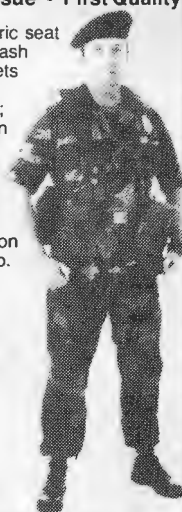
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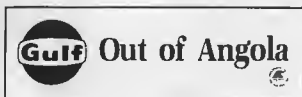
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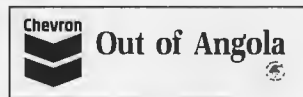
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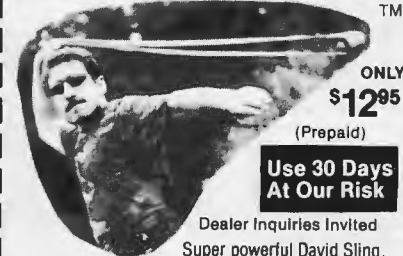
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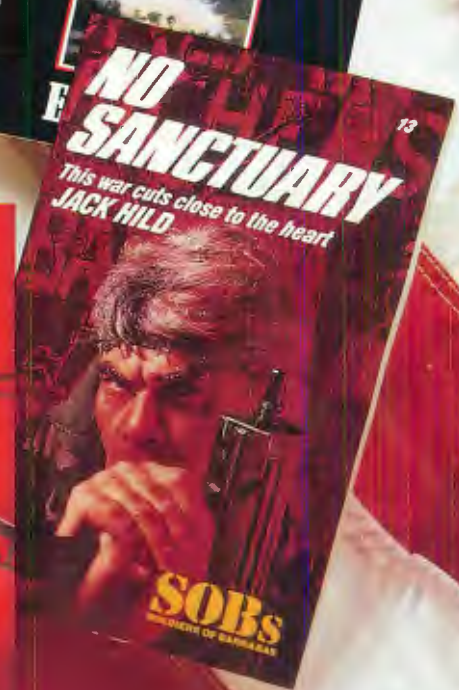
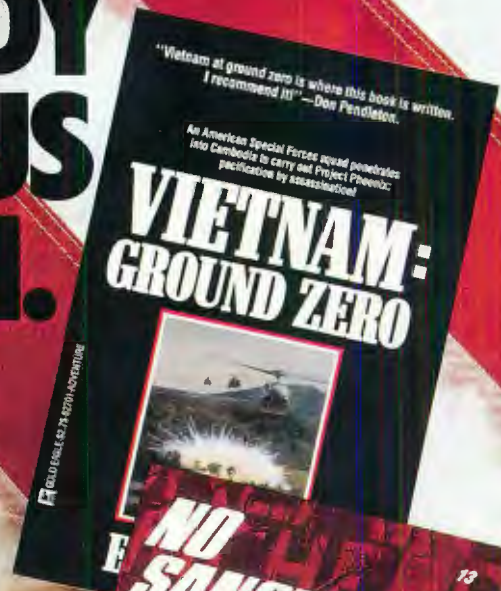


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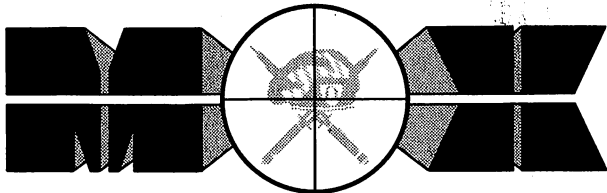
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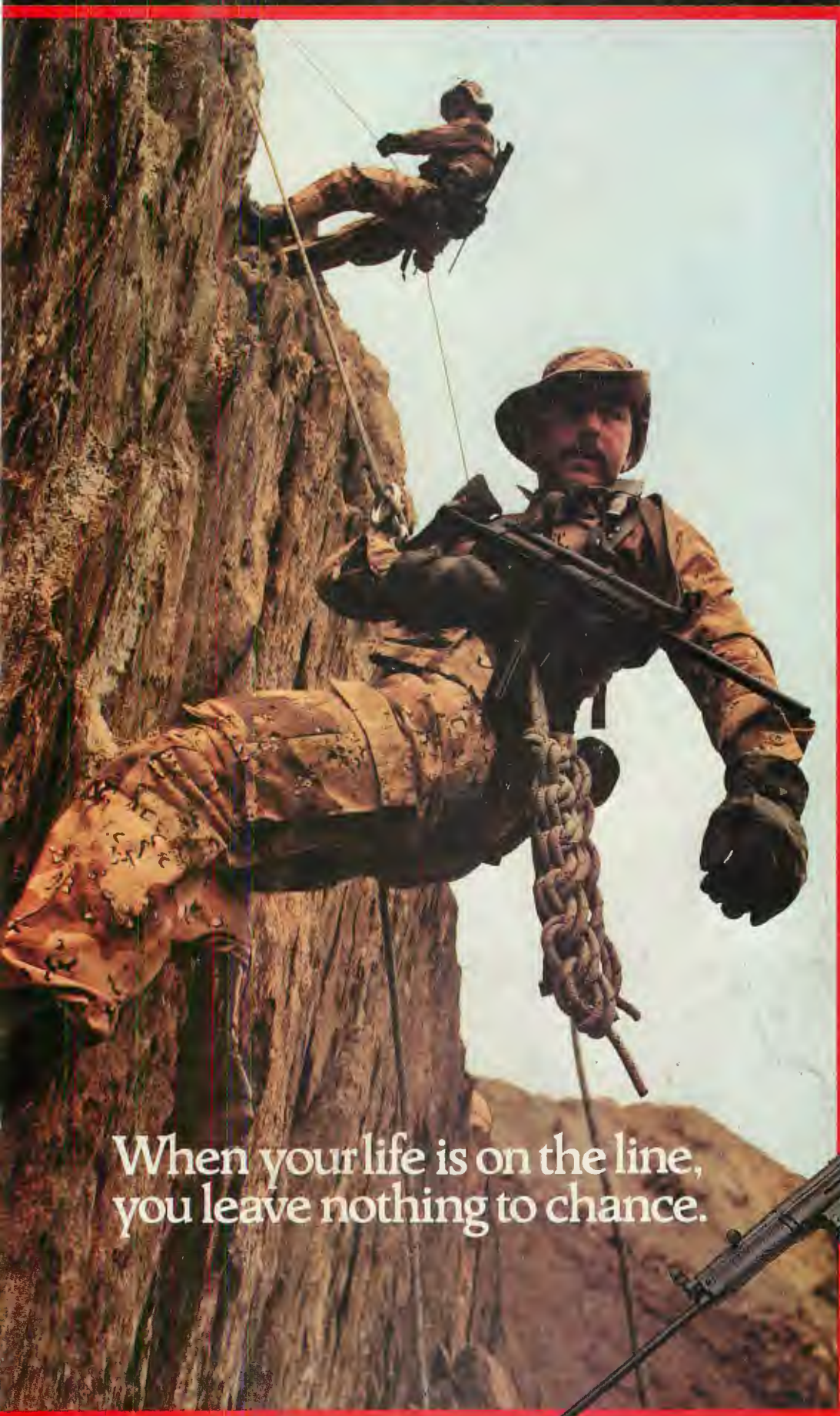
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