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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

The Journal of Adventurers



**JUNE
1988**

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OF FORTUNE

The Journal of Adventurers

RAMBO IN AFGHANISTAN

**PHILIPPINE
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FOR
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
JUNE 1988

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COVER: SOF Associate Editor G.B. Crouse recently spent time with Sylvester Stallone as filming wrapped on "Rambo III." Having left most of Vietnam in a shambles, John Rambo now travels to Afghanistan to do what he does best — kick ass and take names. At stake is the life of his best friend and millions of dollars in box office revenue. See "Rambo in Afghanistan," page 40.

In a departure from SOF's usual practice, there are two different covers for the June issue. Which cover is on your copy of SOF depends on what part of the country you live in. Of course, if you want to drive across the state line and buy the other issue so that you'll have both, that's OK with us. Stallone photo: *Los Angeles Times*. Helicopter photo: Tri-Star Pictures
COVER INSET: American photographer Bruce Richardson accompanied mujahideen freedom fighters to Gomankai Mountain in Afghanistan to see firsthand how they continue to bloody the Russian invaders. See "Direct Hit on Nari," page 44. Photo: Bruce Richardson

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown



The Verdict

“WE brought this suit to get Soldier of Fortune off the magazine rack,” said the plaintiff’s counsel. “We hope that we have done that.” Thus, by his own admission, his motivation in bringing this suit related primarily to his or his clients’ own political/social agenda.

The appellate process will decide if the plaintiff’s counsel will accomplish his goal. But in the meantime, the rest of the American media have reached their decision. The *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* said “Almost certainly higher courts will reverse this ruling.” Another editorial put it this way: “The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals should overturn the Houston jury’s well-intentioned but misguided decision.” The *Concord Monitor* said, “In a decision we trust will be overturned...” *Advertising Age* magazine said, “In the appeals process, that jury’s award has just got to be overturned if justice is to prevail.”

Aside from the press, other experts offered their opinions. Noted attorney Alan Dershowitz called the implications of the decision “staggering.” Bruce Sanford, First Amendment counsel to the Society of Professional Journalists called it “shocking.” David Miller, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said “the decision would be overturned on appeal.”

Could there have been an addi-

tional motive for bringing the suit? The *Concord Monitor* said, “We suspect that the magazine was sued because, tenuous as its connection was to the case, it has deep pockets.” The *Boston Herald* had this to say: “When all is said and done, is it actually Soldier of Fortune’s deep pockets the plaintiffs find so appealing?” The *Los Angeles Times* also raised the question, saying, “Sometimes the American propensity to cast about for someone to blame — preferably someone with deep, money-lined pockets — leads to strange results. We think that’s what happened last week.”

The problem with this lawsuit isn’t the verdict; we trust that will be overturned in the 5th Circuit. The problem is that it requires time and effort that could be put to better use, such as helping freedom fighters around the world and bringing you the best combat-reporting and weapons reviews anywhere. But it takes something else away from these projects — money.

We have established the Omega First Amendment Legal Fund (see Parting Shot, page 96). Contributions (which are *not* tax deductible) may be sent to:

**Omega First Amendment
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1800 38th Street, Suite 202
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I appreciate your support. ☒

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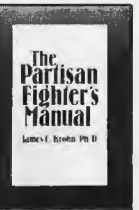

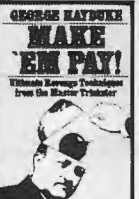

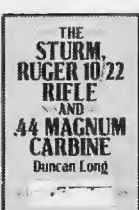



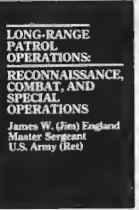

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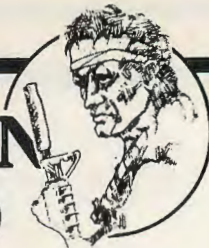
Last June a group of Canadians who fought in Vietnam as members of the U.S. forces asked the Canadian Legion to place plaques commemorating Canadian Vietnam veterans on cenotaphs in the province of Manitoba. The Canadian Legion turned down the proposal, and one legionnaire was quoted as saying, "We want no plaques in memory of mercenaries."

This didn't sit well with James Anderson, editor of the *Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine*, who wrote and asked if Americans who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II should be called mercenaries as well.

Officially the Canadian government does not recognize those citizens who fought in wars where Canada did not participate. The number of Canadians who fought in Vietnam is unknown, but estimates range from a low of hundreds to several thousand. It has long been said that Canada provided us with some of their best — and we provided them with our worst — during the Vietnam War.

SOF would like to correct the misconceptions from which the Canadian Legion and Canadian government seem to be operating, and therefore would like to solicit from our readers in Canada the names and current locations of any Canadian Vietnam veterans. We'll contact them for a feature on why Canadians fought in Vietnam.

BULLETIN BOARD



SOF Editor/Publisher Bob Brown (right) and Colonel L.H. "Mike" Williams (left), a former officer in the armies of the United States and Rhodesia and an SOF contributor, spent a week at Colorado's Keystone Resort learning to ski the "Mahre Way." Phil and Steve Mahre, medalists from the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, have set up shop at Keystone in Summit County, Colorado. Courses run from November through June and last three to five days. Cost ranges from \$275 to \$650. For more information, contact Keystone Resort at (303) 468-2316.

A SPADE IS A SPADE AND A RED IS A RED...

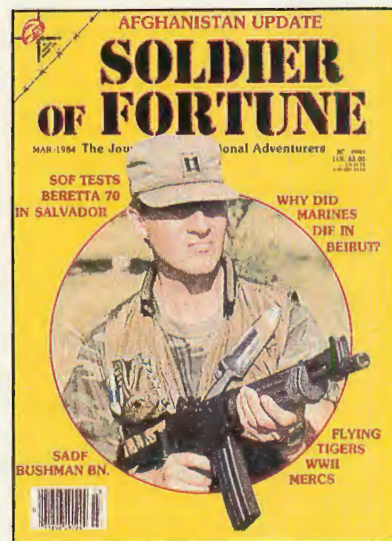
A ROT (Right on Target) Award to *TV Guide* for its 19 March comment on Ted "Mouth of the South" Turner's special on the Soviet Union. It read: "From Ted ('Goodwill Games') Turner comes a love song to the USSR. **Portrait of the Soviet Union** is seven hours of propaganda... thinly disguised as a documentary series. Roy Scheider provides the flowery narration. Gorbachev's press agents could have written it. For instance, straight-faced segments claim that 'freedom of religion is enshrined in the Soviet constitution,' but don't look for any mention of Soviet Jewry here."

GRENELINS

One worked his way into our photo files in March, and Managing Editor Jim Graves' chortles over salvaging a photograph out of his leftover material from the Grenada operation in 1983 turned to chokes when Army Sergeant Jon E. Long called.

Long was convinced the photo was his, and when Graves compared Long's previously published shot (*Army Times*, 13 November 1983) with the March '88 SOF cover, he agreed. Sometime between February 1984 and January 1987, while Graves was assigned to Washington as bureau chief and out of the SOF office loop, Long's unmarked photo was mistakenly filed with Graves' old Grenada art.

Our apologies to Sgt. Long, now Photographic Section NCOIC of the 7th SFG(A) Signals Company. Since Sgt. Long was on active duty when he shot the photo, and still is today, he can't accept payment for the photo. However, we'll gladly contribute the standard \$500 cover photo fee to the charity of his choice as well as sign him up for a one-year complimentary subscription to SOF.



Captain David Koch Arana, a close friend of SOF Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis and who appeared on the cover of the March '84 SOF, was severely wounded by a mine in March while on patrol in El Salvador. He has lost one eye but is expected to return to the army after he recovers.

Continued on page 8

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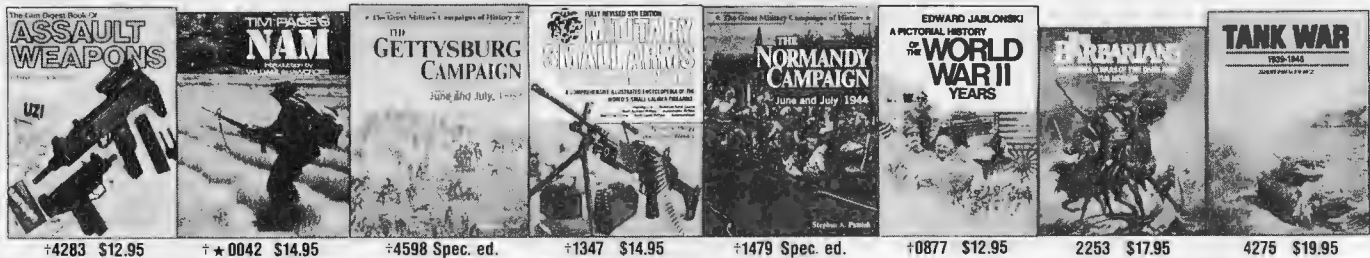
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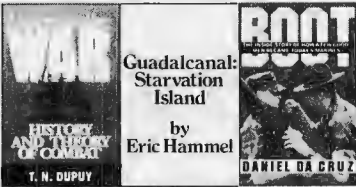
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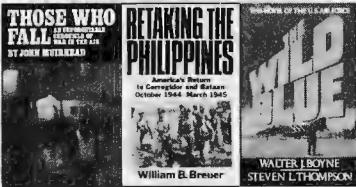
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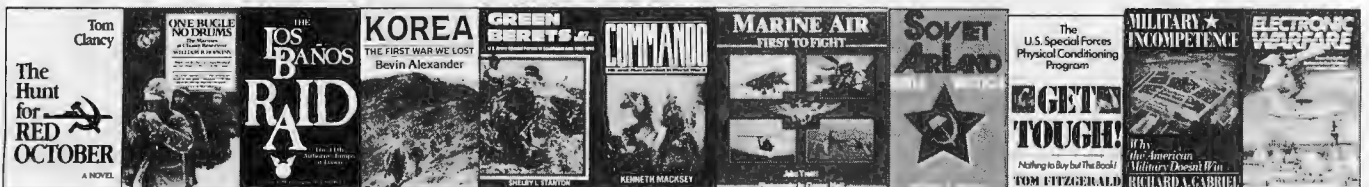
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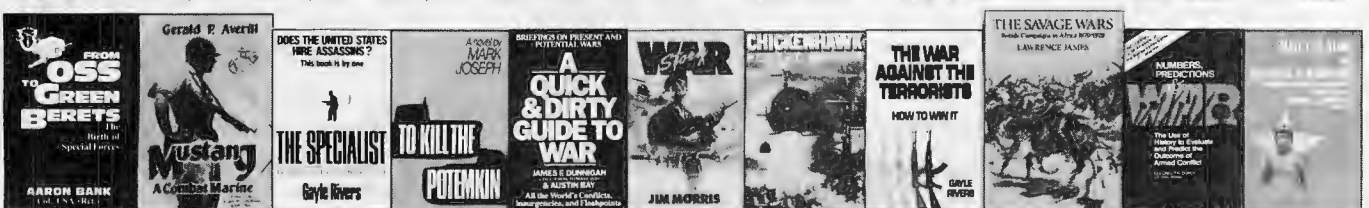
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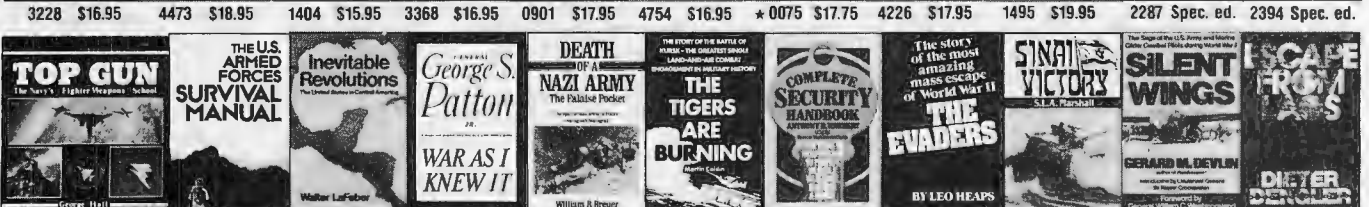
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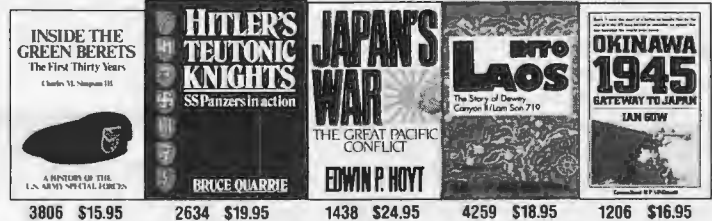
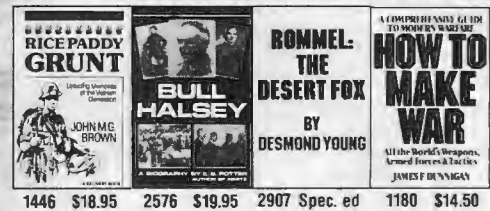
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If under 18, parent must sign.
Members accepted in U.S.A. and Canada only. Canadian members serviced from Canada where offer is slightly different.

67-M095



WHEN A COUP'S NOT A COUP...

It was, according to a senior South African Defence Force military officer in Pretoria, a "rather inept effort" at staging a military coup.

In mid-February, some 280 members of the Bophuthatswana Defense Force, led by political opposition leader Rocky Melebane-Metsing of the Progressive People's Party, decided that the government of President Lucas Mangope had to go.

Unfortunately for Rocky and his troops, platinum-rich Bophuthatswana has a mutual defense pact with South Africa, which literally surrounds the widely dispersed seven geographical areas comprising Bop.

The very next day, SADF troops, Ratel armored cars and helicopters led personally by SADF chief General Jannie Geldenhuys, swooped into the Bop capital of Mmabatho and restored Mangope to power.

Although there were a few casualties, there were a few lighter moments too. In one instance, Bophuthatswana's chief justice had just finished eating breakfast on the morning of the coup attempt when Rocky and seven of his troops burst into the judge's home. "Hi, I'm Rocky and I want you to swear me in as president of Bophuthatswana,"

the rebel leader reportedly told the chief justice. "Sorry," came the urbane reply. "The constitution does not make provision for a coup." Rocky should have taken his coup cue from there and just gone home.

Incidentally, the coup caught everyone by surprise, including Mangope's intelligence staff, which is comprised mainly of former Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organization officers. Mangope has promised that "heads will roll," and in African politics, that is often meant literally.

MOZAMBIQUE AND OZ...

If you think you understand Mozambican politics, go to the head of the State Department. The good guys (RENAMO's anti-communist guerrillas) are giving the bad guys (FRELIMO's communist government) such a hard time of late that Mozambique has gone to (it's civil service quiz time) 1) the Soviet Union, 2) the United States or 3) the United Kingdom for military aid and training. The answer is 2, or 3, or both.

While the U.S. State Department is beating off conservatives who want the United States to actively support RENAMO, the United Kingdom has allowed an outfit known as Defence Systems Limited (DSL) of London to provide trainers to Mozambique for its counterinsurgency battalion, which

helps protect the rail line to Zimbabwe.

DSL, headed by former SAS Major Alastair Morrison, naturally recruited former Rhodesian Special Air Service men for the job in Mozambique. It's a strange turnabout, because Rhodesia's C Squadron, SAS, helped form and train RENAMO forces in the first place. Reportedly at least one American is among the trainers, and yes, Virginia, the United States is providing "non-lethal" military aid to Marxist Mozambique.

HONOR ROLL...

El Salvador/Nicaragua Defense Fund contributors:

Jerry N. Arnold, Mark B. Nelson, Desiree Crisafulli, Dr. J.E. Gervay, Thomas Hill, Robert J. Redmond Jr., Christopher Marquette, Raymond C. Fisher — in memory of 101st Airborne troopers who made supreme sacrifice for their country, Conservative Caucus of Lower Delaware.

Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund contributor:

B. Curt Kingsbury.
Refugee Relief International Inc.

contributor:

Michael A. Mitchell, D.O. — Hominy Medical Clinic.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to these people and the numerous other donors who requested their names not be printed.

MY GOOD CHAPS IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK!...

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* (FEER) has got to be pulling our leg. Reporting on Pakistan's *dacoits*, bandits who specialize in kidnappings and highway robbery, the FEER reported one reason the *dacoits* are growing in numbers is because they have a tea bag advantage over the good guys. "An ordinary tea bag is filled with powdered milk and sugar so that they (the *dacoits*) only need to boil water. This comes in handy when they are escaping from army and police patrols. Army units... have to make tea the cumbersome way."

Brings to mind an image of ragged and sandaled *dacoits* racing over hill and dale closely pursued by splendidly turned out and turbaned soldiers frozen in step by the cry of "Time out. Teatime, chaps."

Continued on page 84

KAUFMAN'S SPRING SALE

HEADWEAR

Jungle Hats - US Military Issue -

- Brass Screened Eyelets
- Chin Strap



These "Boonie Hats" are the real thing!! Choose between:

- Woodland pattern camouflage, GI ripstop: 100% cotton as used in Vietnam. Brand New. \$14.00/each.
 - Woodland Pattern camo, army's latest issue; 50% cotton/50% nylon Genuine GI. \$12.25/each.
 - Desert camouflage; just issued to the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces. 50% cotton 50% nylon; Genuine GI. \$14.00/each.
 - Olive Drab (DD) Green; 100% cotton GI ripstop as used in early Vietnam. Genuine GI. \$12.25/each.
 - Khaki (Tan); 100% cotton ripstop made to military specs. \$12.25/each.
- The following jungle hats are our finest quality commercially made copies at \$7.00/each. Select:
- Woodland Camouflage Pattern
 - Tiger Stripe Camouflage Pattern
 - Olive Drab Green (OD)
 - Black
- Specify size: S(7), M(7 1/4), L(7 1/2), XL(7 3/4).

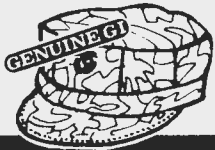
US Navy Style Commander's Cap with 'Scrambled Egg' Visor-

This cap features a mesh back and fully adjustable headband to fit all heads comfortably. Choose: Navy Blue or Black. \$5.75/each.



GI USMC Fatigue Hat-

Specify: Woodland Camo or Olive Drab (OD) Green. S, M, L, XL. \$5.95/each.

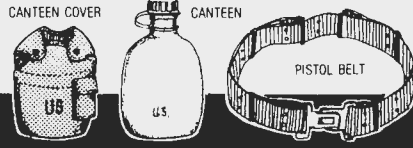


■ Reinforced Seat

■ Reinforced Knee

■ Drawstring Cuffs

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Black Commando Dog Tag Set -

(A Kaufman's Exclusive): 2 GI stainless steel tags, specially treated to be non glare flat black plus 2 black (4" and 24") ball chains. \$6.00/set.

Regulation GI Dog Tags -

set of 2 stainless steel tags and 2 stainless chains (4" and 24"). \$4.00/set. Want us to print them? WE'LL PRINT ANYTHING up to 6 lines and 15 spaces per line.

Printing: only \$1.50 per tag (\$3.00 per set). PLEASE, NO DOG TAG IMPRINTING ORDERS BY TELEPHONE.

BDU'S

Battle Dress Uniforms -

Adjustable Waist Tab

- 6 Pockets (Thigh Pockets Are Bellowed)
- 4 Large Bellow Style Pockets

Tell us your chest, height, and waist measurements when ordering. Choose from:

- Woodland Pattern Camouflage - 50% cotton/50% nylon. Army's latest issue. Brand New. Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$30.00/each; \$59.00/set.
- Hot Weather, 100% Cotton Ripstop Woodland Camouflage Pattern - latest issue to all US services for hot weather use. Regular lengths only. Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$30.00/each; \$59.00/set.
- Day Desert Pattern Camouflage - 50% cotton/50% nylon. Latest issue to Airborne Troops of the Rapid Development Force. Brand New. Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$32.00/each; \$63.00/set.
- Olive Drab (OD) Green - 100% cotton, ripstop, as used in early Vietnam. Current GI manufacture. Brand New. Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$30.00/each; \$59.00/set.
- Solid Black - a favorite of SWAT teams, these fatigues were manufactured in the US by a government contractor to military specs. 50% cotton/50% nylon. Regular lengths only (no long). Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$32.00/each; \$63.00/set.
- Tiger Stripe Pattern Camouflage - Commercial Manufacture - these are made by a US Government contractor to military specs. The tiger stripe pattern is true. Regular lengths only (no long). Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$32.00/each; \$63.00/set.
- Urban Camouflage Pattern - 50% cotton/50% polyester, made to gov't specs. The pattern is identical to the GI woodland but the colors are black, grays and white. Regular lengths only. Specify: Jacket or Pants. \$32.00/each; \$63.00/set.

Long Lengths - add \$3.00 pants or jacket; \$5.75/set.

Athletic Bundeswehr Tank Top -

These light-weight 100% cotton tank tops are genuine issue to the West German military troops to wear during physical training exercises. "Bundeswehr" (the name of the West German Army) is proudly embroidered above their crest on the front of the shirt. This comfortable, cool, European tank top is stylish, avant-garde, and perfect to wear while working out or relaxing in the summer sun. Brand new.

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL
Choose: White, or Black
shirt \$11.95/each;
2 for \$23.00.



ILLUMINATION

Angle Head Flashlite -

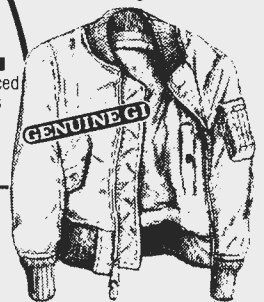
This is the heavy duty olive drab plastic flashlight issued to all military units. The flashlight is waterproof, non-glare and features 4 different lenses which can be easily installed or removed. It can clip onto the belt or suspender for hands free operation; operates on 2 standard D cell batteries and comes complete with a spare bulb. Brand new. sold in the GI box. Specify: Olive Drab (OD) Green or Black. \$6.50/each; 2 for \$12.25.



USAF Flight Jacket-

These flight jackets are issued to military fliers and are designated Type MA1 for Intermediate Cold. (This means that it is the medium weight jacket designed for comfort in a temperature zone of about 20 to 55 F.) Look for the military designation, sizes and stock numbers inside the left pocket. The outer shell and lining are 100% nylon making the jacket completely wind and waterproof. The interlining is 100% polyester fiberfill for the highest degree of warmth per ounce. This jacket is reversible - outside in your choice of either sage green or blue and the inside is survival orange. It features two hip pockets outside as well as inside, sewn pen and pencil holders plus zippered easy access storage pocket in the left sleeve. This is a snappy, convenient, warm, fully functional jacket and it happens to be the latest fashion trend. Specify:

- Sage Green or Blue Shell - Regular Length Only. Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL. \$54.75/each.
- Black (aylon shell) or Camouflage (50% cotton/50% nylon shell) - Regular Length Only. Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL. \$54.75/each.



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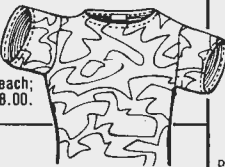
ATHLETIC CAMOUFLAGE

Camouflage T-Shirts -

50% cotton/50% polyester. Choose from:

- Woodland Crew (Round) Neck
- Tiger Stripe Crew (Round) Neck
- Desert Pattern Crew (Round) Neck

Specify Size: S, M, L, XL. \$7.00/each; or any 3 shirts for \$18.00.



Jogging Shorts -

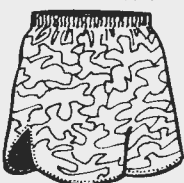
50% cotton/50% polyester

Sizes are from S to XL.

Tell us your waist size

when ordering \$6.50/each.

- Woodland Camouflage Pattern
- Desert Camouflage Pattern
- Olive Drab (OD) Green



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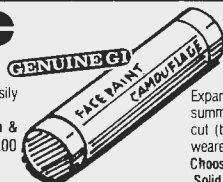
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CAMOUFLAGE

Camouflage Face Paint -

Each metal tube contains 2 colors of facepaint which can be easily removed with soap and water. Current military issue.

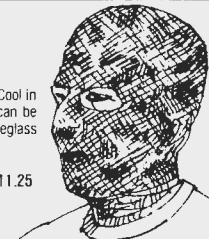
Choose: Woodland Camo (green & loam); desert camo (light green & sand); snow camo (white & loam). \$3.00/tube; 3 tubes for \$8.00.



Commando Camouflage Headnet - Spandoffage -

Expandable camouflage mesh fits comfortably on any size head. Cool in summer, warm in winter, this revolutionary new mesh material can be cut (but will not unravel) to form eye-holes for the comfort of eyeglass wearers.

Choose: Woodland Camouflage, Desert Camouflage or Solid Black. \$5.75/each; 2 for \$11.25



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PUBLIC ACCESS A TWO-WAY STREET...

Sirs:

I've been an SOF reader since '79 when a copy was floating around the Rhodesian Light Infantry's Cranborne Barracks in Salisbury, Rhodesia. I've agreed with your positions in the past but must now strongly disagree with Mr. Brown's public access editorial [Command Guidance, SOF, February '88].

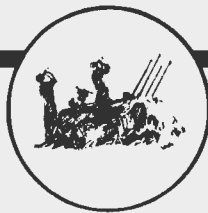
I'm a landowner with livestock and have had livestock shot, equipment damaged and property stolen by hunters, as have those living around me. I'm sure a small percentage of hunters are the ones committing these deeds but, as the saying goes, one bad apple spoils the rest.

I can't remember the last time a hunter asked to cross my land. That doesn't mean they haven't. I've heard shots and discovered four-wheel-drive tracks on my property.

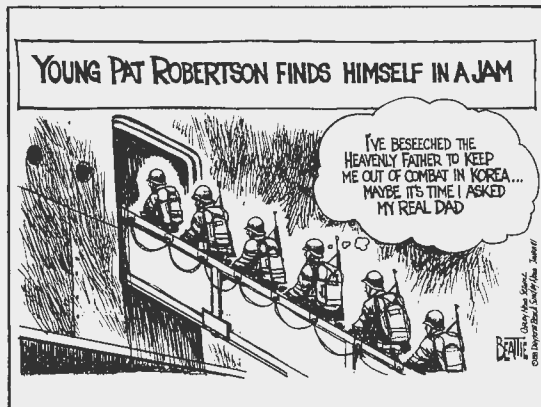
Recently a man shot his dad near here. Opening day looks more like a firefight than a sporting event. I wish the elk and deer could shoot back, then only the best hunters would be hunting.

Public access is a two-way street, Mr. Brown. Hunters have to act responsibly — perhaps then landowners will grant them access.

T.G.
Eddyville,
Oregon



FLAK



NO MORE JABS AT JANE...

Sirs:

I'm not a man endowed with years of military service or military awards and decorations, nor have I been involved in any major wars. I have served four years in the Royal Air Force and the SAS. My military combat experience is exclusive to difficulties with the IRA in Northern Ireland. However, I do believe that I still maintain the right to express my opinions, no matter how inflammatory others may find them.

In the February '88 FLAK column a Mr. Olson appeared to be accusing Jane Fonda of treason in reference to her political activism during the Vietnam War. I feel he not only wronged Ms. Fonda in his statement, but indeed wronged democracy itself. Wasn't the Vietnam War fought to defend democracy and the right to free speech?

If these basic rights and freedoms were not what the soldiers were dying to defend in a hot and grimy arena of hell half a world away, then I fear I have lost two American school chums to a senseless campaign of futility and uselessness.

Sir Rossiter B. Channon
Britain

There's a point where so-called political activism becomes treason. Students protesting on U.S. college campuses during the Vietnam War could be said to have been engaged in political activism. When a U.S. citizen visits the capital of a foreign power that the United States is at war with and gives aid and comfort to the enemy, as well as encourages our troops to desert and makes propaganda broadcasts for the enemy, we believe it goes beyond political activism and borders on treason. Many SOF readers have defended our right to free speech and we exercise this right to label Jane Fonda an American traitor bitch, just as the English labeled "Lord Haw Haw" a traitor and executed him for high treason in 1946 for his propaganda broadcasts from Berlin during World War II. More than a few Vietnam veterans believe Fonda should have been tried and hanged as well.

SOF LEGAL DEFENSE FORCE...

Sirs:

I was dismayed to learn recently that SOF has lost Round 1 in the fight over a classified advertisement that inadvertently resulted in a murder for hire. You and your magazine are being held, unfairly I believe, to a higher standard than is required of other publications. As just one example, I direct your attention to the following advertisement which appeared in the *Kansas City Times* on 5 March 1988 under the heading Situations Wanted: "Security Specialist, Ex. Military, 20 yrs. exp. Wants work, will escort/deliver, anyone/anything worldwide. Bob [phone number]."

Suppose "Bob" accepts a courier job delivering heroin which results in a gunfight and the death of a cop? Will the *KC Times* be taken to task as SOF was? I'm not an attorney, but I've read the U.S. Constitution. This is a First Amendment issue if there ever was one.

Don't give up the ship. This fight is more than worth the effort.

Michael L. Pandzik
Overland Park, Kansas

I was appalled to see that an ad as innocuous as the one you were taken to court over could result in such a travesty of justice. Your "deep pockets" have apparently been sought out by some conniving and unscrupulous lawyers whose actions bring dismay to all thinking people.

This is not a matter of free speech or media negligence — it's a matter of good sense and judgment, which seem to be in short supply in the courts of this land. Though SOF has deplored and taken a position against conventional terrorists, the unprincipled legal terrorists in this country are a greater danger, there being more of them. If they can find a buck in it they'll be after the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force because they train people to perform activities that could be fatal to enemies of the United States. Their interference in the military justice system has resulted in declining discipline and morale.

James H. Jensen
San Mateo, California

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Teaches all the fundamentals needed to physically and mentally develop the Ninja Warrior including stretching, conditioning, break falls, kicks, punches, Ninja obstacle course and more.

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3. NINJA COMBAT TACTICS VOL. 3

Teaches over 100 lethal hand to hand combat techniques. Shows how to quickly disable one or two attackers with devastating kicks, punches, arm locks, joint breaks, choke holds and more. The ULTIMATE in self protection.

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4. NINJA WEAPONS TACTICS VOL. 1

Teaches the lethal techniques of The Hanbo (4' staff) used to this day by the Japanese Police as their number one weapon. Also includes fighting techniques of the ancient BO (6' staff), and deadly YAWARA (6' palm stick).

#NJA-3 60 min Reg. \$69.⁹⁵ Limited offer \$49.⁹⁵

5. NINJA WEAPONS TACTICS VOL. 2

Teaches the feared Tekagi which are steel tiger claws worn on the hands by Ninja to tear their attackers to shreds. Also includes throwing techniques of the Shuriken (Ninja Stars), and Ninja Blow Gun techniques.

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6. NINJA WEAPONS TACTICS VOL. 3

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7. NINJA WEAPONS TACTICS VOL. 4

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Mr. Brown, I was rooting for you 100% during your recent visit to my hometown, Houston, Texas. Please excuse our news media, most of them aren't worth a hoot in hell.

We (the men who served) place your word and self in very high station. Here's hoping you come out smelling like a rose.

Jack McCleskey
La Porte, Texas

I'm sorry to hear about your recent lawsuit loss. I feel you should be protected under the Constitution. Seems it's true that nobody loves a soldier until the enemy is at the gate. Keep the faith against the sorry bastards!

M. Wadell
Upland, Pennsylvania

I never thought I'd compare Robert K. Brown to Larry Flynt or SOF to *Hustler*, but it looks like fate has singled you out to go to the Supreme Court to win freedom of the press. You'll win in the end, Bob.

Jack Wheeler
La Jolla, California

The other day I read an article in our local newspaper concerning your recent court battle with Mr. Black and Mrs. Eimann. Unfortunately I read the article while eating breakfast and promptly lost my appetite. I guess they expect you to

be psychic or have ESP when you run an ad in your magazine. I'm a former law enforcement officer and after reading the ad didn't get the impression this guy was a hit man. If these folks are looking for someone to file suit against, the ad gives more probable cause to sue the Marine Corps than SOF.

In my opinion you'll be victorious in appellate court. These folks would have found someone to do their dirty work whether they ran an ad in your magazine or not. The excuse that if the ad did not appear the people would still be alive doesn't make sense. Looking at the plaintiffs in the photo [taken after announcement of the jury's verdict] that accompanied the article, it appears they have gotten over the death of their family member quite well. I think they have dollar signs buzzing around in their brains.

Hope you get more letters of encouragement during this appeal. Several of my clients tell me that they think the magazine will go down the tubes because of this. I tell them that this will not happen because the government will have no one to turn to for current factual information on international matters. Then I politely tell them to take their defeatist opinions and stick them where the sun don't shine.

David Grimshaw
Phoenix, Arizona

SOF supporters have been writing and calling by the hundreds. I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. We will prevail! — RKB

SMALLER CALIBER HAS SUPERIOR PENETRATION...

Sirs:

I feel your magazine is superior in every respect to all firearms publications. Peter G. Kokalis is a very adept firearms evaluator and writer.

There is one very obvious mistake in the February '88 Full Auto. Mr. Kokalis writes: "Its 62-grain sharply tapered SS109 projectile has a hardened-steel penetrator frontal core which provides armor penetration superior to the M80 7.62x51mm NATO bullet at greater ranges."

This statement is absolutely false! The 7.62mm NATO ball provides the superior penetration in any medium at "greater ranges." This is one of the only misprints or mistakes I've found in five years of reading your magazine. Also not included was the 7.62mm NATO round's better wind-bucking ability. Please clear up this situation in your FLAK column.

Scott Daily
Carlsbad, California

Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis replies: "At 600 meters both the SS109 (when fired from a 1:7-inch twist barrel) and the M80 projectiles will cleanly perforate NATO standard, mild steel test plate. However, at greater ranges the SS109, with its hardened-steel penetrator frontal core, will outperform the lead-cored M80. The heavier M80 bullet is indeed less subject to wind drift.

"I am no advocate of the 5.56x45mm NATO cartridge but, like it or not, the world's armies have largely adopted the small caliber, high velocity (SCHV) concept."

LETTERS

Your input has made FLAK one of SOF's most popular columns. Write and tell us your opinion of SOF or any subject you consider worth our readers' attention. We reserve the right to edit for content and brevity. Send letters to FLAK, c/o SOF, PO Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. ✉

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If you were born between the late 1800s and 1968, it is the symbol of your time, your day, your age. And future Americans will look back on your time, with reverence, as the ".45 Era."

But now "Old Slabsides" is retiring from the battlefields, replaced by the new 9mm pistol, so we can fire the same ammo as our NATO Allies who don't have the more powerful .45.

How much longer will the .45 be made? No one knows. But while it is, we're proud to salute the Americans of the ".45 Era" by issuing a separate, firing, commemorative .45 in honor of each of the four American armed forces that carried it.

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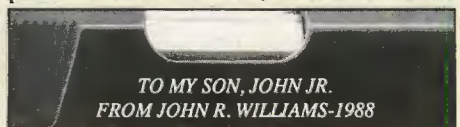
between 0001 and 1911, with the prefix "USA", for U.S. Army.

This is the military-model .45 M1911A1, and all parts are interchangeable with GI-issued guns. It is even fitted with a rare and desirable lanyard with gold-plated mounts. It fires .45 ACP ammo and could be called upon to defend your home and family.

Each pistol is built by the gunsmiths of Thompson/Auto-Ordnance, the company founded by General John T. Thompson, who developed the .45 autoloading cartridge, helped develop the .45 pistol and who invented the Thompson Submachine Gun. NRA test firings of their .45 show accuracy "significantly better than the average as-issued M1911."

To proudly wall mount or desktop display this museum quality firearm, a velvet lined, furniture-finished walnut case, measuring 14" x 8" x 3" is available. The glass lid and the concealed lock protect your investment from dust and unauthorized handling.

Three other .45 commemoratives, honoring the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force, are also available. Each has different exotic wood grips, historical etchings, medallions, lanyard and case liner colors and serial number prefixes appropriate to each service branch, to make all four .45s



Personalized engraving available on right side of slide. distinctive. Matching serial numbers for all four guns are available, as is a master case that holds and displays all four cases. The entire set of four is called "The Armed Forces Commemorative .45 Collection."

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BILLIONS of rounds of .22-caliber rimfire ammunition are consumed annually in the United States by target shooters, hunters and plinkers. No other caliber even comes close to the popularity of the miniscule .22. And with good reason, as ammunition in this caliber can still be purchased for less than two cents a round, possesses excellent accuracy and sufficient energy to take small game out to 50 yards and has a relatively low noise level.

Application of these attributes to machine guns, which spew out tremendous quantities of ammo in just a few minutes, would seem desirable. And in fact, the U.S. Army adopted a .22 LR subcaliber conversion kit for its Browning .30-caliber machine guns more than half a century ago.

During the late 1950s, Heckler & Koch introduced the first of an eventual series of four .22 LR subcaliber conversion kits, two of which they still distribute. All of the H&K subcaliber kits are characterized by technical excellence and precise craftsmanship considerably above the meager competition.

Heckler & Koch .22 LR kits operate by means of unlocked, pure blowback and fire from the closed-bolt position. Each H&K subcaliber kit permits both semiautomatic and full-auto fire, and is packaged in an attractive felt-lined wood carrying case.

First introduced, and still available, was a subcaliber unit for the G1 rifle, which is the FN FAL as adopted by the Bundeswehr in 1956. This kit will operate reliably in all metric FALs. The kit consists of a 22-inch barrel insert, a bolt and recoil spring group and two magazines. The spring-loaded firing pin has an unusually large rounded head. The front of the recoil spring's guide rod rests in a hollow on top of the bolt head. The bolt head, with its spring-loaded claw extractor of conventional configuration, can be separated from the body if the firing pin is pulled fully rearward. A single column 20-round .22-caliber magazine has been installed in the standard metric-FAL magazine, which is weighted to approximate the loaded weight of the magazine with 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition. Installation of this unit requires no more effort than sliding the barrel insert into the bore and replacing the normal bolt group with the operating group provided. In full-auto fire the cyclic rate is approximately 800 rpm. Suggested retail price of H&K's FN FAL subcaliber kit is \$551.46.

Most impressive is the subcaliber conversion kit for the G3/HK91 series of rifles. Its 19-inch .22-caliber barrel insert has a locking ring at the chamber end that secures the tube to the barrel extension. Using standard G3 maga-



FULL AUTO

Text & Photo by Peter G. Kokalis

Subcaliber Conversion Kits



Heckler & Koch's .22 LR conversion kit for the MP5 submachine gun was the least successful of the four subcaliber kits they have produced, and no more than 300 to 400 were ever manufactured. They are now a collectors' rarity.

zine bodies (painted light gray to distinguish them from 7.62x51mm magazines), 20-round .22 LR magazines have been installed, again with weights to simulate the combat specifications.

The bolt assembly consists of the bolt carrier, bolt body with spring-loaded firing pin and sheet-metal extractor and a guide rod containing the unit's recoil spring, a plastic guide sleeve and a set of washers that retain a very short buffer spring directly in back of the recoil spring.

When early G3 subcaliber conversion kits were installed in the semiautomatic HK91 rifle, if the retracting handle were pulled to the rear, the bolt and carrier would travel rearward past the hammer and, because there is no sear

catch for full-auto fire, the hammer would pop back onto the primary sear, blocking the bolt's return stroke. This problem was solved by welding a 2.5-inch extension on to the rear of the bolt carrier's mainspring guide tube, which prevents the bolt group from traveling past the hammer. All G3/HK91 subcaliber conversion kits have been so equipped for the last 10 years. This does not inhibit their use in a G3. At 820 rpm, the cyclic rate in full-auto fire is close to that of the kit designed for the FAL. A cleaning kit is also included with the suggested retail price of \$516.

Heckler & Koch's subcaliber conversion kit for the HK33/93 series rifles differs slightly from the others. As these rifles are chambered for a .22-caliber cartridge (5.56x45mm NATO), no barrel insert is required and the unit is provided with only a chamber insert to accommodate the .22 LR rimfire's case dimensions. Two 20-round magazines with plastic collars to fill the rifle's magazine-well are included. A 2.1-inch extension was also eventually

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added to the rear of the bolt carrier's mainspring guide tube to prevent the bolt group from moving past the semi-automatic HK93's hammer. Still, this unit operated with only marginal reliability and it was discontinued after a short production run. These kits are difficult to locate now and will frequently fetch up to \$750. At 900 rpm, the cyclic rate is quite high.

Rarest of all is the subcaliber conversion kit for H&K's 9mm Parabellum MP5 submachine gun, which was introduced in 1970. This unit consists of a barrel insert, two 20-round magazines with plastic collars and a bolt group that replaces the MP5's single-coil recoil spring with two nested coil springs. This latter modification reduces the cyclic rate to 650 rpm. But unfortunately the MP5 conversion kit is prone to continual stoppages. With every two or three magazines, an empty case will fail to extract and the bolt will travel rearward and then forward, stripping another round from the magazine and attempting to chamber it. Sometimes this stoppage is easy to clear, but all too often the empty case or loaded cartridge will either wedge into some inconvenient location in the bolt group or drop down into the trigger group, requiring disassembly of the weapon.

As the MP5 kits never performed in

“H&K subcaliber kits are characterized by technical excellence and precise craftsmanship.”

a totally satisfactory manner, series production ceased after no more than 300 to 400 were manufactured. Until recently, MP5 kits were rarely, if ever, seen in the United States. In November 1987, 137 of these MP5 subcaliber conversion kits were obtained from a West German police agency and imported to the United States. Most have already been scooped up by eager collectors, but a few remain. They can be purchased for \$850 from Billistics, Inc. (Dept. SOF, PO Box 944, Wallingford, CT 06492; phone 203-269-3365).

Heckler & Koch has developed prototype subcaliber conversion kits for both the M16 and Kalashnikov. It is unlikely that they will ever reach series production.

Fire only high-velocity .22 LR rimfire ammunition of the best quality through these subcaliber kits. I suggest either Remington or Winchester Super X. Never use standard or hyper velocity ammunition.

Neither the HK33 nor MP5 units will operate successfully in the three-shot burst mode, as the counter mechanism provides too much resistance during the recoil cycle. Although the weight and handling characteristics are similar to those of the full-caliber weapon, none of these units approximates the weapon's recoil impulse in the caliber for which it is actually chambered.

All .22 LR rimfire ammunition is dirty. Lubricant from the bullets, carbon fouling and unburnt grains of propellant combine to sludge up the works in short order, especially in machine guns, which consume large quantities of ammunition and whose reciprocating components move at high speeds. Be prepared to fieldstrip and clean the weapon frequently (at least every 400 to 500 rounds) if you want maximum performance.

If maintained properly, both the G1 and G3 kits will offer trouble-free operation. They can be enjoyable and cost-effective. But in my opinion, subcaliber conversion kits offer few, if any, advantages for training military or law enforcement personnel. ✖

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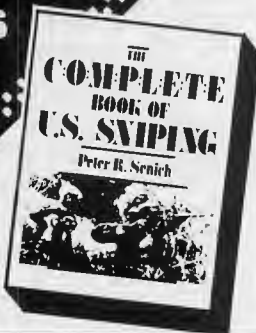


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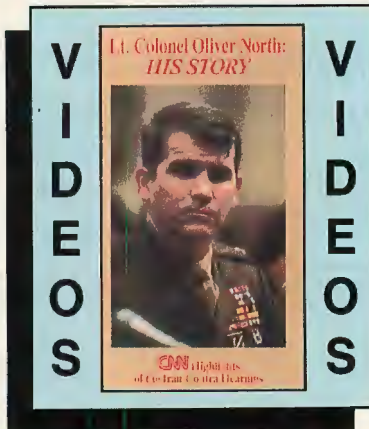
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Jack Thompson

Hidden Enemies



LOOKING at the faces of his men, the seasoned sergeant couldn't help but stop and observe the different pictures he saw: Jones looked like he never had anything to do; Smith was tired, every day was a struggle; Fernandez, wounded a short time ago, was fearful of anything that moved; and White's face burned with anticipation — after having killed in battle, he wanted to fight again to get the "big thrill."

Each of these troops faces an enemy even more insidious than the armed two-legged enemy who's ready to kill him. Together, I call these the *hidden enemies* of boredom, fatigue, fear and combat addiction. They're hidden because they lurk inside your brain housing group — after all, it's dark in there and you can't see too well.

Let's examine each of these hidden enemies more closely and see why they can be the greatest threats to a soldier's survival.

Boredom — A friend of mine once told me that soldiering is long periods of boredom interspersed with short periods of sheer terror. I couldn't agree more. As any troop will tell you, most of his waking hours are filled with a lot of waiting around punctuated with menial or repetitive tasks. A good example of this is guard duty. Take Private

Fatigue — physical and mental — can be more deadly than an armed enemy, and is often more difficult to fight. Jack Thompson discusses this and other "hidden enemies."

Photo: DoD

Smith, who went on guard duty at 0200 hours and doesn't get relieved until 0400. By 0300 he's bored stiff and not alert — easy prey for any attacker. Sure enough, by 0315, Pvt. Smith has had his throat cut by a not-so-bored VC sapper, and a night attack on the defensive position follows in a heartbeat. Terror follows boredom because

THINKING MAN'S SOLDIER

For over a decade, Jack Thompson has shared his extensive knowledge of soldiering and shooting with *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine readers. Jack served in the USMC in Vietnam for five years, battled terrorists in Rhodesia with the SAS and Selous Scouts for six years and has trained freedom fighters in Central America while providing bodyguard services for diplomatic personnel.

you are not alert or prepared for it.

Therefore, avoiding boredom can consume a major portion of a soldier's day. That's why officers and NCOs are masters at creating "busywork" — it's for their troops' own good. As the old saying goes: "The devil finds work for idle hands." Without goal-oriented duties to be performed on a daily basis, boredom will set in like the plague, leading to serious morale problems that can be as devastating to a unit as drug or alcohol abuse.

Fatigue — In the extreme state, fatigue is physical and/or mental exhaustion that adversely affects a person's performance. It is usually brought on by a lack of one or more of the following: food/water, sleep and conditioning.

Physical fatigue affects motor-skill performance, such as tactical movement, shooting and digging. It simply takes longer to complete a task when fatigued and it is usually done with less proficiency. Mental fatigue affects an individual's thought processes, particularly judgment and decision-making. While in a state of mental fatigue, soldiers in leadership positions must be able to make estimates of immediate situations and give five-paragraph field orders. Likewise, those at whom these orders are directed must be able to carry them out immediately — the enemy won't wait for you to catch up on your beauty sleep.

No matter how conscientious a commander is, fatigue among troops is inevitable and unavoidable, especially during extended combat operations. However, soldiers in leadership positions can minimize performance loss from their men by employing a few simple techniques:

1. Insist on good battle preparation. Soldiers who are well-prepared for operations are less prone to fatigue in the first place.

2. Give simple, clear and concise orders. The "KISS" (Keep It Short and Simple) principle is an important one to keep in mind here, because fatigued soldiers have short attention spans and can't or won't retain long, complicated directions.

3. Repeat all orders and make soldiers repeat them back to you so that there can be no misunderstanding of what is required. This forced dialogue helps to wake up the brain, while the activated behavior based on the orders overrides the effects of physical fatigue, as actions will be more purposeful and controlled.

Fear/Anxiety — Fear is a reaction to a specific threat, like an enemy soldier trying to kill you with a bayonet, and brings about a fight-or-flight response. In soldiering, there is an additional "freeze" response where a per-

Continued on page 83

UNDERWAY in the Mediterranean, submerged at 120 feet, the USS *Tullibee* (SSN-597) was quiet except for the sounds of the control room filtering down the scuttle above my rack. Today the subject on my mind was the date, 16 June. I'd enlisted in this man's navy four years ago today. By now I should have been stateside, a civilian, but I'd extended my service six months so Uncle Sam could pay for my first child, who was due in a month.

I'd begun dozing off when the control room PA cracked on and shook me awake. "Control. Maneuvering. Flooding in the engine room." I was just about to react to the report when I realized there was no alarm sounding. "Goddamned engine-room drill," I said to myself and rolled over. I'd had enough drills on this six-month cruise to last a lifetime.

Just a couple of weeks earlier, in Naples, we were moored to a seawall pier about 100 yards from the skimmers (surface portion of the 6th Fleet) when the duty section conducted its usual evening drill. On this day it was a repel boarders drill. We would sound the alarm and pass the word over the PA to repel boarders. A handful of qualified men would then be sent topside with small arms — M14s and .45 autos. On this day the sound of our alarm and the PA message drifted across the water to the surface ships nearby and they reacted.

The skimmers thought we were actually repelling boarders. When they saw a small party on the boat and pier with weapons, they called out the damned Marines. A few minutes later two small boats of battle-dressed, armed-to-kill, gung-ho jarheads were breaking water to help us fight off the nonexistent enemy. Luckily, no civilians were on the pier.

"Control. Maneuvering. Severe flooding in the engine room, and this ain't no goddamned drill," was the report that shook me out of my drill-in-Naples dream.

This time the alarm sounded loud and clear. I left my rack, pulling on my pants as I ran through the torpedo room and headed for engineering. But when I reached the hatch to the upper-level engine room, I found it dogged. I returned to the torpedo room and manned the central atmosphere monitoring system and began monitoring air quality throughout the boat. I reported to control over my headset that pressure buildup caused by incoming seawater was causing our controlled atmosphere to deteriorate and unwanted gases were on the increase.

Only about a minute had passed since the start of the emergency, but it already seemed like an hour. The boat was leaning about 15 degrees back



I WAS THERE

by John R. Estes

Underwater, Underway ... and Leaking



USS *Tullibee* surfaces during routine patrol. Imagine yourself on board, 120 feet below the surface, when suddenly the ocean starts leaking in. Photo: U.S. Naval Academy

from the weight of the water that had flooded in. The word came over my headset that we were going to emergency blow the ballast tanks and try to get to the surface. The sound of pressurized air blowing into the ballast tanks sounds like a train running through your head. No matter how many times you hear an emergency blow, it scares the hell out of you every time.

After the ballast blew, the angle of the boat changed drastically as the bow headed up. When we broke the surface, another report came from maneuvering that we had a reactor scram and were on battery power. "No problem," I thought. We were on the surface, the flooding was under control and we had fresh air coming in the bridge hatch.

We had surfaced in a rough storm, but it was far better than the alternative. After five minutes on the surface, I was about to tell control that the air quality throughout the boat was good when a large wave hit the bridge and rolled down the hatch into the control room. We later estimated that about 80 gallons came in.

The water soaked everything and everybody in control and ran down the scuttle. I heard yelling and looked down the passageway toward the bat-

tery well. What I saw sent a chill down my spine. I immediately reported to control that we had seawater in the battery well and were producing chlorine gas. The guys at the well secured it airtight and quickly moved away.

Command then ordered the diesel, our auxiliary engine, fired up and we switched power from battery to diesel. "Safe again," I thought. Then we took another cold water shot right down the snorkle mast into the hot running diesel. The diesel choked and died.

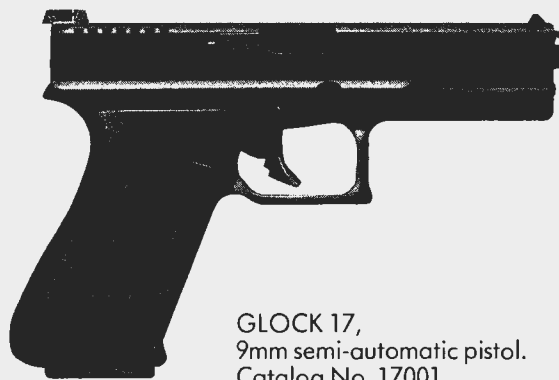
A thick, black, wet cloud rolled out of the diesel compartment, engulfing everything in the torpedo room. I saw the cloud coming and managed to hold my breath long enough to pull on my emergency air-breather mask. These masks, instead of having a filter, have a hose that plugs into an air manifold which instantly rewards you with fresh air. Not that day. First I got water, then dust and finally air. All the while the oily black diesel smoke was making its way through the boat. I was afraid we'd have to go on battery power again when maneuvering called and said the reactor was on-line and the emergency ventilation fan working.

We now had power to run all the boat's equipment, and fresh air was being pumped in. Things looked a little brighter except for the storm, which was still bouncing us off the bulkheads.

Men were sent topside to prepare a towline but, due to the storm, they spent all their energy trying to keep

Continued on page 83

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During the last several months it seems that someone left the booby hatch open and more than a few of the escapees hopped a fast freight to New York City, where publishing companies leapt at the opportunity to immortalize these simpletons' words and deeds in print. It is worth noting that three of the books reviewed here are described in the subtitle or on the dust cover as "true." We assume that was done because the ordinary reader wouldn't come to that conclusion on their own, and so the publishers felt compelled to inform the readers that this is the case.

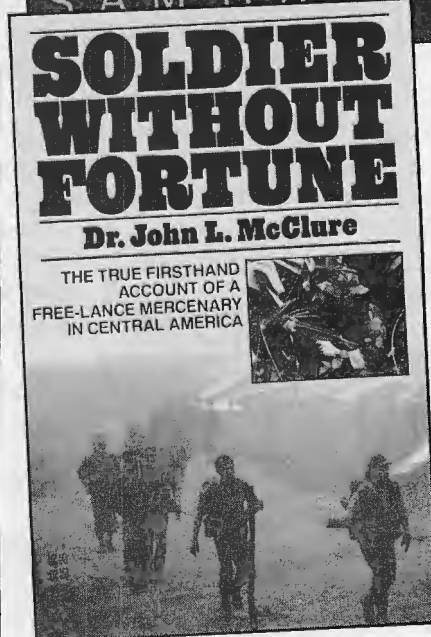
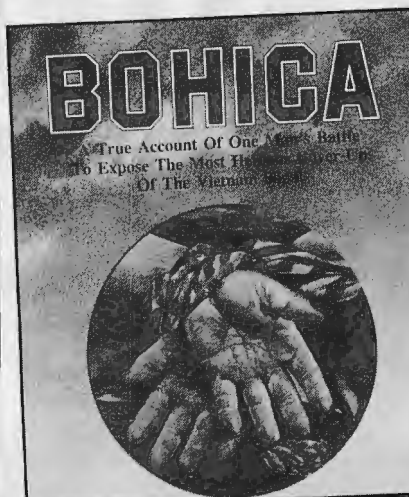
BOHICA. By Scott Barnes with Melva Libb. Bohica Corporation, PO Box 20-050B, Canton, OH 44701. 1987. Too Many Pages. Hardcover. \$19.95.

BOHICA (an acronym for "Bend Over, Here It Comes Again") is an appropriate warning for potential readers of Scott and Melva's daft tome on Scott's misadventures as a would-be POW rescuer. If you buy books by size, this 2 3/8-inch thick collection of bizarre tales is for you. Scott claims he was twice hired by the CIA to perform assassinations. The only person we could find who actually believed Barnes was Peter Jennings of ABC News, who broadcast some of Barnes' claims on "World News Tonight." When then-CIA Director William Casey took ABC to the mat, WNT made an on-the-air retraction. That leaves nobody who believes Barnes or his book, except perhaps Scott and Melva.

SOLDIER WITHOUT FORTUNE. By Dr. John L. McClure. Dell Publishing Company, Inc., 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York, NY 10017. 1987. 251 pages. Paperback. \$3.95.

I'LL be damned! Look at this,' I said, pointing to an article in *The New York Times*. 'There's still injustice and suffering in Central America. I've got to go.'" That literary gem is courtesy of **Soldier Without Fortune**, "The True Firsthand Account of a Free-Lance Mercenary in Central America." Well, sort of. After his alarming discovery about the state of affairs south of the border, Dr. John obtains the permission of his wife, "the lovely Alexandra Natasha Tarasova," and is off to Central America. The kindest things we can say about this book are that Dr. John chose a better ghostwriter than did Scott Barnes and, at 251 pages, it is mercifully short.

IN REVIEW



COUNTER TERRORIST. By Sam Hall. Donald I. Fine, Inc., 128 East 36th Street, New York, NY 10016. 1987. 336 pages. Hardcover. \$18.95.

EVERYONE remembers Sam Hall, right? He's the loon the Sandinistas caught snooping around one of their airfields and promptly deported to Miami. Well, in case you've forgotten, or have longed to learn more about Hall's fascinating life, here's your chance. Hall gives us his whole life story, from pre-birth (what he calls the "womb-wait") right up through his psychological evaluation at a Veterans Administration hospital following his release from a Managua jail, which goes a long way toward explaining why the Sandinistas let him out of jail. After reading **Counter Terrorist** you may come to the conclusion that, if only this Barney Fife of the mercenary scene had worked for the other side, the contras would have won the war a long time ago.

REPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES INVESTIGATING THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR. Edited by Joel Brinkley and Stephen Engelberg. Random House, Inc., New York, NY 10022. 1988. 475 pages. Softcover. \$9.95.

ALTHOUGH we don't generally review fiction, this book invites abuse and it would be impolite to refuse. Based on the popular, seemingly never-ending television series of the same name, **Report** brings back all those ninnies and self-righteous dullards of last summer's most popular daytime drama: Daniel (holier than anyone in the executive branch) Inouye, Brendan (I'm not a potted plant) Sullivan and Admiral John (I don't recollect) Poindexter. There is a completely baseless rumor that some of the proceeds from the sale of this book will go toward sending attorneys Arthur Lyman and John Nields back to charm school.

Must reading for insomniacs, catatonics and anyone who enjoys watching paint dry. ☒

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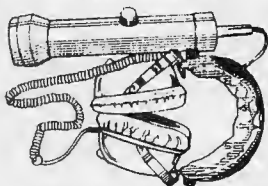
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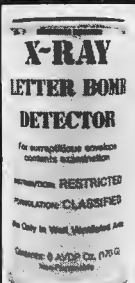
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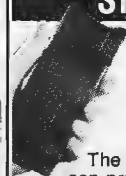
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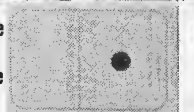
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SIX SHOOTERS

You Get What You Get When You Get There

Text & Photos by Ken Hackathorn



Walther PP (right), with mag release on frame and chambered for .32 ACP or .380, is a popular police sidearm in Western Europe and a popular backup gun everywhere. Makarov (left) is a design spin-off in caliber 9x18mm found throughout communist sphere of influence. Both are double-action.

At any gathering of professional adventurers, the conversation often turns to the ideal choice in sidearms. Everyone seems to have a favorite handgun for personal defense. With today's excellent array of service pistols, one would assume that our world traveler could opt for whatever handgun he chooses. This is a hasty, unwise assumption since the in-theater selection of a sidearm will most often be completely out of your control.

The very nature of the business places our world traveler in most of the "backwater" areas of this planet. Any chance of being issued a nice new CZ75, SIG-Sauer P-226, Beretta 92F or Pachmayr Combat Special .45 auto is about as remote as being served quiche with hollandaise sauce in the African bush.

Besides, your prize handgun will probably remain safely stowed in your footlocker back home, as international travel makes

transport of personal sidearms nearly impossible. Unless you have an extremely high level of clout with the palace guard in the host country, you'll be lucky to bring in anything more lethal than a can opener.

Therefore, the make, model and caliber of the sidearm you will access for self-defense will likely depend on just what it is they decide to give you. This handgun will typically be very plain, most often well-used and hopefully functional. Luckily, regardless of how exotic your destination, there are only about half a dozen service handgun designs universally encountered.

SIDEARM SAVANT

Ken Hackathorn will be remembered by *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine readers as a long-time editor of our "Combat Pistolcraft" column. A multi-lauled pistol champion, Hackathorn has years as an Army and police combat pistol instructor, and knows from personal experience whereof he speaks.

Of these, four handguns are extremely common: the Browning/FN P-35 Hi Power, Colt Government Model M1911, Tokarev TT-33 and the .38 Smith & Wesson Military & Police revolver or its copies. Any world traveler should be familiar with them and competent in their use. Other handguns that are also often encountered are the Walther P-38 and PP/PPKs, as well as the Soviet *Pistolet Makarov*, a Walther PP spin-off.

Of the big four, the P-35, M1911, TT-33 and .38 M&P are all outstanding designs that have been around for a long time. The Smith & Wesson M&P revolver has been with us for nearly all of the 20th century, the M1911 for three-quarters of this century, and the TT-33 and P-35 are both pre-World War II designs. All are extensively combat tested and each has proven itself to be an excellent fighting tool.

FN Browning P-35 Hi Power Pistol

- Caliber 9mm Parabellum, semiauto-

The king, Colt's M1911A1 .45 Government Model, one of the greatest manstoppers; copies and clones will be found in a variety of calibers.

The most widely issued handgun in the world, and one of the best, the FN Browning P-35 Hi Power features a high-capacity 13-round magazine and good pointing qualities.





matic, recoil operated, 13-round box magazine, 4.75-inch barrel, weight 1.9 pounds.

The single-action FN P-35 pistol, or "GP" as it is called in Europe, is the most commonly encountered service pistol in the world. Particularly if your travel places you in the company of "official types," the P-35 is typically the pistol you will be issued whether your travels are to Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East or south of the border. It is also made under license in Canada, Argentina and Venezuela and assembled in other nations. Sold to friend and foe alike by FN of Belgium, it is hard to find fault with the venerable Hi Power.

Currently issued by the British as the L9A1 and, in its Mk II dress, favored by our own FBI anti-terrorist unit, the P-35 offers the firepower of a larger-capacity 13-round magazine. This is a certain virtue, since quite often an issue pistol will come with only one magazine. (Care should be used in checking the P-35 magazine because its single-position feed, staggered-column design is somewhat sensitive to dirt and abuse.)

The contour and tapered shape of the P-35 allow for an easy concealed carry, and even those with small hands can control it with ease. The fact that the P-35 is easy to

Soviet-made TT-33 Tokarev pistol in 7.62x25mm; simple, strong, exquisitely reliable, "Murphy Proof" and found wherever the communists have spread their web of tyranny.



shoot well has made it popular, since even moderately trained marksmen can achieve an acceptable level of hits in close-quarters combat.

Though fitted with a manual safety, the P-35 does not have the grip safety of the Colt M1911, and the manual (thumb) safety of all but the newest Mk II models is difficult to use. Like most service pistols used today, the P-35 should be carried with an empty chamber and loaded magazine in place (condition three). It can be "pump primed" by rapidly cycling the slide to chamber a round as it is presented to the target.

M1911/M1911A1 .45 ACP Pistol

• Caliber .45 ACP, semiautomatic, recoil operated, seven-round single-column box magazine, 5-inch barrel, weight 2.43 pounds.

Thanks to two world wars, numerous U.S. military police actions, aid programs and international licensing agreements, this workhorse — which goes by such names as Army .45, .45 auto, M1911, and Government Colt — is also found throughout the world.

Many copies of the basic Colt M1911 pistol are common to certain geographical areas of the globe. Such spin-offs include the Argentine *Ballester Molina*, M1927 HAFDASA, Brazilian IMBEL 1911A1, Spanish Star (Star Model B pistols in 9mm Parabellum are common to much of Africa and the Middle East) and Llama pistols, plus a variety of U.S.-made M1911 clones.

Walther P-38 manufactured by Mauserwerke during World War II and in France and Germany after the war. Accurate, reliable, good pointing qualities, double-action.



Most of these pistols operate just as well as the Colt original but, after having fired nearly every type, I recommend avoiding the Llama pistols because of their poor quality.

The M1911 you might be handed in some darkened corner of the globe will hardly look and feel like the prize IPSC .45 auto you have back home in your gun locker. Odds are it will be an older U.S. GI service pistol that is pretty "broken in," rattles like a bucket of bolts and is complete with rusted finish, pitted barrel and abused magazine. Fear not: An issue M1911 pistol can look pretty worn and still have excellent practical combat accuracy.

If given one of these well-worn beauties, be sure to check for safety function and proper sear release (trigger pull), making sure the extractor will pull a round from the chamber and that the magazine will feed rounds smoothly into the chamber. The slide should cycle without drag or friction. Maintenance of the M1911 pistol is easy: keep it clean and lightly lubricated.

TT-33 Tokarev, Model 1933 pistol

• Caliber 7.62x25mm, semiautomatic, recoil operated, eight-round box magazine, 4.57-inch barrel, weight 1.88 pounds.

The Soviets have replaced the TT-33 Tokarev pistol with the newer *Pistolet Makarov*, a Walther PP spin-off. Still, the TT-33 remains the most commonly encountered ComBloc pistol. Basically a Browning copy chambered for the bottlenecked 7.62x25mm cartridge, the TT-33 is one of the finest military pistols ever issued.

Manufactured by the Soviets for three decades, the Tokarev (commonly called the "Toke") and its variants are encountered in East Bloc countries (especially Romania, Yugoslavia and Poland), North Korea, the People's Republic of China, Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. Due to its widespread use by the "bad guys," it may well be the sidearm to choose as a sterile weapon.

While the Tokarev is very spartan in

Continued on page 80

Smith & Wesson Military & Police wheelgun, the most widely distributed military and police revolver in the world. Easy to use, reliable, simple to maintain.



QUICK STRIKE AT GUAZAPA

Gunships and Grunts Grind Up G Camp

by Harry Claflin

THE Marine Corps hymn wafted through the window and rent the heavy veil of sleep which protected me from reality. "Anchors Aweigh" followed, just to ensure I didn't miss the fact that it was the dawning of a new and wonderful day in the Salvo military.

It didn't help any when I rolled over to check my watch and through bleary eyes noted that by now I should be shit-showered-and-shaved and be having breakfast with my counterpart, as it was 0540 hours. I had been to a party in military housing last night and had not gotten back to my room until about 0300 hours. With a hangover that would have staggered King Kong, I pulled on my uniform, brushed my teeth and stepped out into the bright sun of El Salvador.

The walk from the BOQ to the Airborne Battalion was about a mile and being late I decided to run it. Bad idea on a hangover. As I stumbled up to the front of the HQ, my counterpart was waiting for me and I detected a band of purple veins rising above his collar. I could tell he was not happy. After taking my ass chewing for being late, it was time to go to work.

My counterpart was a retired Special Forces sergeant major from the old school and sometimes I thought the brown-boot old summabitch had his stripes tattooed on. As we walked into the squad bay to pick up our students for today's demolition class, we noticed they were geared up and ready to move out on a combat operation. We found the sergeant and asked him what was going on. He said they were going on an operation but did not know where. No class today.

About this time the lieutenant came up and told the NCO to issue us weapons and ammo and be ready to move out in 10 minutes. I asked the lieutenant where we were going and he said we would find out soon enough. I had noticed a lot of activity while

IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

A frequent contributor to *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine, Harry Claflin spent six years in the Marine Corps, three of them with 1st Force Recon Company, and with MACV-SOG. He has trained army and air force regulars in El Salvador.

running across the base earlier but hadn't thought much about it. The sergeant major and I kept LBE (Load-Bearing Equipment) in the armory, so this was no problem.

In a few minutes the lieutenant came back in and told us to move out. The rest of the Airborne Battalion was already moving toward the runway where the Hueys were lining up. Whatever was happening, it was coming down quickly and no one was losing any time. Two of the AC-47 (Attack/Cargo-47) "Puffs" and several other gunships were already airborne. Looked like this was going to be a big operation. We trotted to the edge of the airstrip and sat down to wait. I asked the lieutenant again what was going on and where we were going. He told me I would find out soon enough. I didn't like this and told him so. He just grinned and promised me a good time. I noticed he kept nervously checking his watch. I had known this man for two years and had never seen him act this way.

In about 15 minutes he called the unit over and announced he could now tell us where we were going and what we were going to do. I found out later he had been given orders not to brief us until 10 minutes

before we left. We were going to Guazapa volcano as a raiding party to pick up a colonel who was being held prisoner. The colonel had been kidnapped a month earlier and intelligence indicated he was being held at a terrorist camp there. The plan was simple: We would be dropped on top of the camp under air cover to rescue the colonel; the rest of the battalion would act as a blocking force. All we had to do was walk in, find the colonel and bring him out. At this time Guazapa was under the control of the bad guys in a big way and I was sure they would not like this plan. The sergeant major and I exchanged glances.

I didn't know what was going through his mind, but I can tell you mine was working overtime. Here I sat with a rifle I had never fired — I didn't even know if it worked. It hadn't been sighted in and all I had were seven magazines of ammo, two hand grenades and a Ka-Bar knife. Oh well, you pay your nickel and you take your chances.

In another 15 minutes the Hueys came in to pick us up. So much for timing. The sergeant major and I jumped into the lead chopper with the lieutenant and we were on our way. Well, maybe I didn't know this rifle, but I had worked with this unit for almost two years and knew each man and what he could do. They were, to the last man, pros. It was not hard to understand why this unit had been chosen to make the assault.

The attack plan was simple. When we hit the ground we were to move to the front of the choppers, form up and hit the camp with everything we had. Each team knew what to do. One would cover while its sister team did the searching. As we flew north I could see the mountain coming up in the distance. The Hueys flew in tight formation and I could see the gunships to each side and in front of us. It was nice to have their company, but somehow they didn't give me



ABOVE: Load 'em up on an old war horse: AC-47 "Puff" with three .50-caliber AN-M3 machine guns mounted forward of cargo door. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

RIGHT: Group of young Salvo troopers from Airborne Brigade, M16A1s in hand, ready to climb aboard and go hunt Gs. Photo: Harry Claflin

much comfort.

It took less than half an hour to reach our target area. As we arrived I could see the gunships making their runs and their rockets exploding along a tree line below. Sitting in the door, I could see where we were going. About halfway up the mountainside was a knoll covered with man-high grass. On the east side was the dense tree line where the choppers were dumping their ordnance. No time to ponder, our chopper was going in.

Six feet off the ground we bailed into the



Over El Salvador, AC-47 "Puff" en route to support grunts on the ground. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis



tall grass. I had seen huts in the tree line as we were coming in and the lieutenant motioned us toward them. I jumped off the skid and landed on a rock the size of a mess table hidden in the tall grass. The whole top of the hill was covered with large rocks. As I hit the rock and went crashing off on my head with four more people on top of me, it must have looked like a circus from the air. We picked ourselves up and moved toward the tree line.

The propwash from the choppers was mashing the grass flat and it seemed we were standing on a pool table with no place

to hide. As we got into combat formation and hit the tree line we found our first huts, plus trenches and dug-in defensive positions. What a mess. This was a big camp and had obviously been established some time ago. The gunships had not fired on the camp itself, for fear of killing the colonel we were supposed to rescue, but were hosing down the hills around it. There were still cooking fires burning in the camp, food on plates in the mess area, hammocks still gently swinging, and we caught glimpses of

Continued on page 70

BATTLE OF Slow and Heavy

by Jack Lane

ANYONE considering which handgun to select for defense runs the risk of getting sucked into a numbers game of sorts. Many of the facts, figures, graphs, charts and computer simulations currently bandied about can be helpful, but some smell like an elaborate sales pitch for the new generation of expensive high-capacity self-loading pistols chambered for Georg Luger's *Wunderneun*.

Developed in 1902 to increase the knock-down power of the .30 Luger round, the 9mm Parabellum represented a move toward the undeniable knockdown power of the older, slower big-bore revolver rounds. The debate has raged ever since as to whether the move was far enough in the right direction. Original loadings of smokeless powder pushed the comparatively light 125-grain projectile out of its rimless 9mm case at a typical velocity of about 1,200 fps (feet per second).

This new approach combined a moderately lightweight projectile with comparatively high velocity to deliver its energy on target. The numbers are less significant than the approach.

Older handgun cartridges were typified

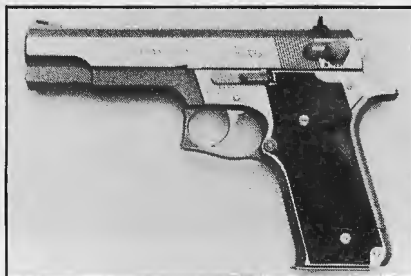
BIG-BORE BATTLER

Jack Lane is an author known to *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine readers for his down-to-earth articles on police work which reflect his many years carrying a badge and gun (see "Showdown at Wounded Knee," November '87). Before becoming chief of police in a community near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Jack served in the U.S. Army from 1964-65 and worked for a civilian intelligence agency from 1965-71, gathering information on the mounting anti-war movement. He is now a freelance writer living in Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

In this exchange with Sergeant Evan Marshall, Lane expresses his misgivings regarding the practical ability of the 9mm cartridge to knock 'em dead when the chips are down.



The author's choice for personal defense is something in a *serious* caliber. If you prefer wheelguns, a weapon like this Ruger GP-100 in .357 Magnum would be hard to beat. Photo: courtesy Sturm, Ruger and Company



If you are funded for new equipment — and just *gotta* have a shiny new double-action self-loader — there are some fine new offerings in .45 ACP. Here's Smith & Wesson's Model 645. Photo: courtesy Smith & Wesson

by .45 Long Colt, adopted for service by the U.S. Army in 1873, which fired a 250-grain bullet out of a large rimmed case at a muzzle velocity of about 900 fps. None of these numbers mean much when somebody is shooting at you, but the cumulative effect of

the .45 Long Colt was that it could knock down a man, or his horse, or both, with its heavy, slow-moving projectile.

The 9mm Parabellum and the .45 Long Colt, including its rimless descendant, the .45 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol), have long combat records and can do their job if the shooter does his and scores solid hits (not just one). Once you penetrate the cloud of statistics, it is apparent that the 9mm and the .45 represent distinctly different approaches — fast and light versus slow and heavy.

Which works the best? This was a subject I studied, and lived, for close to three decades, including service as a police chief. I learned to shoot after World War II, when plenty of good, cheap surplus 9mms and .45s were around, and I've carried both. The 9mms were always fun to shoot due to their reduced recoil. Of course you can say the same thing about .22s. The important thing was that against varmints (mostly the four-legged kind) and sick animals, the 9mms seemed to perform more like .38s, which are marginal and definitely not great stoppers.

I once had a partner who was shot in the heart at close range by a .38 Special and survived. His big, heavy Blackington badge

Continued on page 73

THE BORES

Vs. Fast and Light

by Evan Marshall

ARTICLES debating the best defensive handgun cartridge appear in magazines with depressing regularity. We are exposed to all sorts of complicated mathematical formulas that will "prove" a particular round's superiority. If not mathematics, then we're subjected to dramatic shots of gelatin, ductseal, wet newsprint and so on, which supposedly illustrate what happens when a bullet hits human tissue.

The problem with all this is twofold: First of all, bad guys who get themselves shot by good guys rarely have read Hatcher or other experts. Secondly, people come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Bullet resistance in human tissue can also vary widely depending on where the person is hit. A bullet that expands nicely in muscle might pass through soft tissue with little or no deformation.

Frankly, at the risk of sounding redundant, handguns are an extremely poor choice for defending ourselves. If we know there is going to be a problem and we still sally forth with a handgun, we are not displaying very intelligent behavior. When I know there is trouble afoot, I haul out my MP5 or M16.

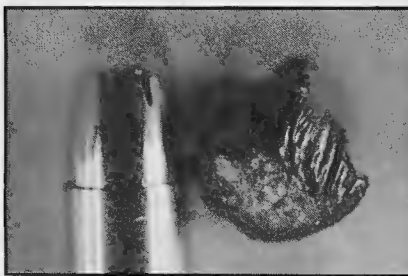
The dispute over the 9mm versus .45 ACP is, of course, a very heated one. Both camps will tell you they can prove their choice is a superior stopper. As a SWAT cop I'm only interested in which has the better track record on the street, not which gun writer I want to align myself with. I only have one personal hero and he's never written for gun magazines!

BETTER BULLET BOOSTER

Sergeant Evan P. Marshall has appeared many times in the pages of SOF with articles on police science and weaponry. A sergeant for the Detroit, Michigan SWAT team, Marshall has conducted exhaustive research into the practical ballistics of rounds that have killed assailants. In this counterpoint article, he asks the question "How dead does the target have to be?"



The Beretta 92F, winner of the Army's pistol competition and, at least for the time being, the new standard U.S. Army pistol. Photo: courtesy Beretta U.S.A.



Winchester Super Match 147-grain JHP, the author's favorite 9mm load. This one was removed from the brain of a guard in a crack house. Photo: Evan Marshall

I recently sat on a very prestigious panel that was assigned to discuss the 9mm versus .45 ACP controversy and make a final recommendation to a large law enforcement agency. I was the only cop on the panel. All the other members were forensic pathologists, surgeons or engineers.

One of the engineers made a very telling point: Because the 9mm has been adopted as the NATO pistol cartridge there is, and will

continue to be, a number of official research and development projects for the 9mm, while any development of new loads for the .45 ACP will have to be undertaken by commercial ammunition manufacturers or the big-bore buffs they serve.

I have to agree. I'm personally aware of two classified 9mm projects. And if I'm aware of two, there are probably 50 in the works.

One example of research and development in 9mm cartridges is the Olin Super Match load. It is a 147-grain JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point) that averages 965 fps (feet per second) from my SIG-Sauer P-226 and 1,088 fps from my MP5. Originally developed as a subsonic round for the suppressed 9mm submachine guns carried by U.S. counterterrorist units, it is a very interesting round. It is superbly accurate and produces sufficient penetration (unlike some 9mm JHPs) in soft tissue to reach vital organs. While we have only limited battle reports on it, it is producing one-shot stops 77 percent of the time. And yes, it reliably expands in soft tissue without hitting bone.

Other top performers in 9mm are the Winchester Silver Tip (one-shot stops 68 percent of the time), the Federal 115-grain

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MURDER CITY CLEANUP

Anti-Communist Vigilantes Drive NPA From Davao

Text & Photos by Gene Scoft



THEY roam the streets and back alleys of Davao armed with assault rifles, shotguns and vicious bolo knives. Dressed in cast-off military fatigues and T-shirts emblazoned with anti-communist slogans, these men are the teeth of the confederation of anti-communist groups known collectively as the *Alsa Masa* (Rising of the Masses). If you're a peaceful citizen of this sprawling town, you have nothing to fear from these men; if you're a communist, they will kill you.

In the mid-1980s the city of Davao, located on the Philippine island of Mindanao, was largely controlled by the communists of the NPA (New People's Army). Murders of public officials became so common that even the traffic cops couldn't man their posts, and extortion forced businessmen to bankroll the NPA. This chaos earned for Davao City the infamous nickname "Murder City," while its communist-infested Agdao district was labeled "Nicaragdao."

The downfall of the NPA in Davao began when the paranoid communist leadership started executing many of its own members in the belief that they were government spies or collaborators. The execution terror prompted many NPA to abandon the guerrillas and join Rolando "Boy Ponsa" Cagay, an ex-NPA member himself, and the *Alsa Masa* anti-communist organization that he founded in 1986. Disgusted with NPA violence, many Agdao civilians joined the *Alsa Masa* and drove the NPA out of Agdao in bloody fighting and some "executions" of their own.

Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida, commander of Davao's PC (Philippine Constabulary, a governmental paramilitary organization responsible for internal security), quickly grasped the potential of the *Alsa Masa* as an anti-NPA force and moved to place it under PC control. This task proved relatively easy for Calida because he could provide the arms and the official recognition that *Alsa Masa* and other pro-government groups needed.

With characteristic foresight, Calida didn't attempt to prosecute any of the NPA

This banner would mean something quite different in the United States, but in the Philippines KKK stands for the local *Alsa Masa* militia.

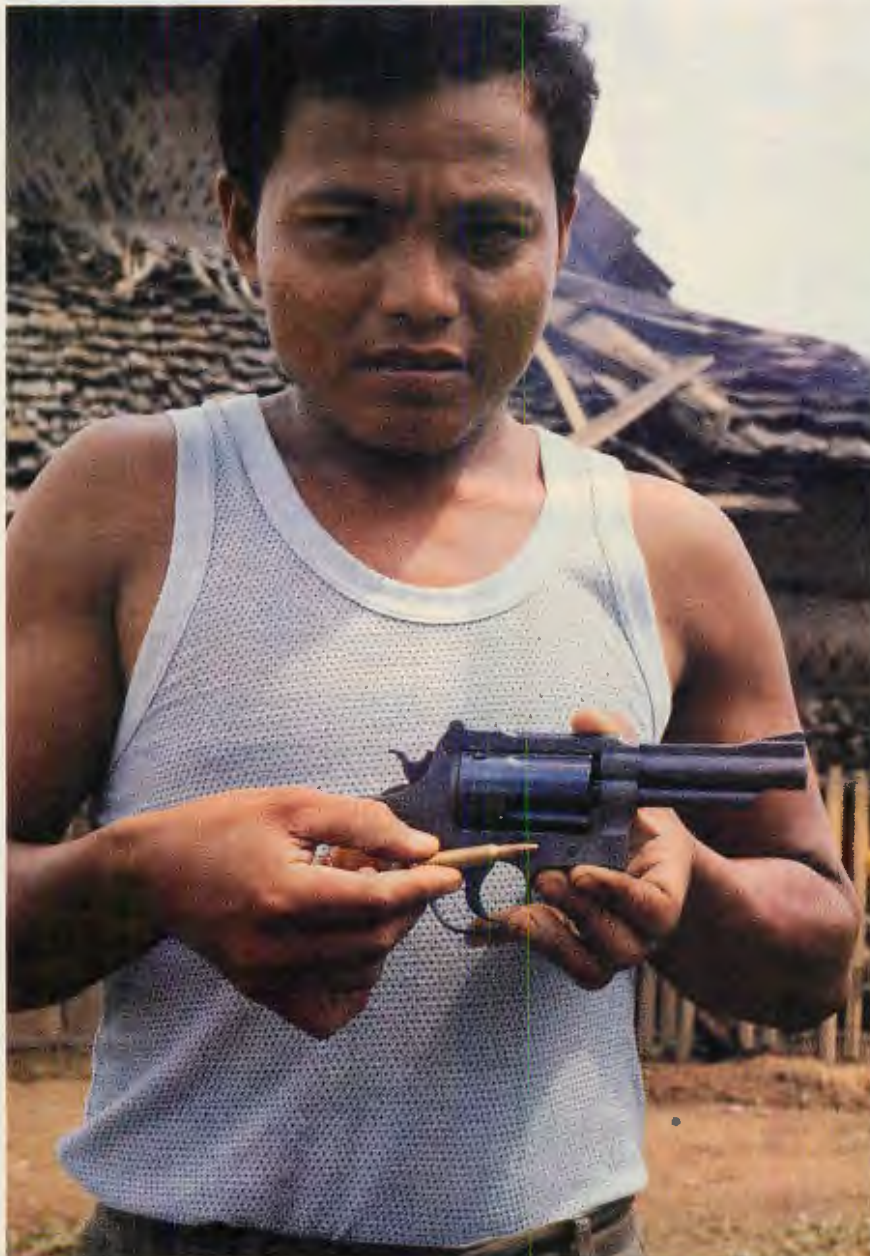
OUR MAN IN THE PHILIPPINES

Gene Scoft, an experienced soldier and combat correspondent, has spent the last several months in the Philippines reporting to SOF on the complicated and precarious political situation there, including the growing communist insurgency. Scoft is no newcomer to war zones, having filed stories for SOF from Afghanistan (December '86 and January '87), Nicaragua (September '87) and Lebanon (October '87).

members who joined the *Alsa Masa*. Rather, he sent them back to the hills to recruit their former comrades in the NPA to come over to the government. This policy, along with the growth of other anti-communist groups that have been gathered under the *Alsa Masa* umbrella, has proved so successful that *Alsa Masa* ranks have swelled to over 8,500. Most of the volunteers serve only as neighborhood watch committees, but many man roadblocks and some even conduct patrols against the NPA.

One dark benefit of the rise of the *Alsa Masa* is that NPA defectors were able to lead Lt. Col. Calida to the shallow graves of NPA victims in and around Davao. Officials estimate that there are at least 400 bodies buried in the area — no doubt a

BELOW: Soldier displays locally manufactured pistol from Davao made to fire a 5.56x45mm rifle round. This pistol is a favorite for NPA (New People's Army) assassin teams.



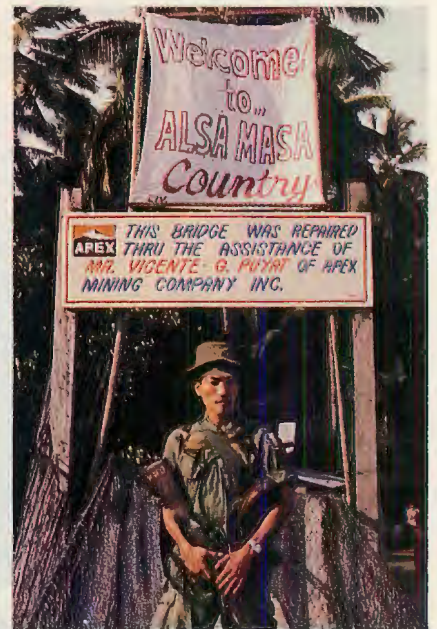
portent of things to come if the communists take over.

At first I had doubts about Calida. It's hard to take a man seriously when he keeps a framed picture of Rambo displayed in his bookcase. After only a few minutes of talking to him, however, I realized that my initial impression was way off the mark. Not only has his *Alsa Masa* program brought security back to Davao, but he is also the most senior military free-fall parachutist in the country, with 1,500 jumps to his credit. As PC commander, undisputed chief of all the *Alsa Masa* groups (some call him the "godfather" of the *Alsa Masa*) and senior free-faller in the Philippines, I don't care if he likes Rambo or not; he's definitely a man to take seriously.

The colonel appreciates the importance of civic action programs in this type of war. He was able to use his influence to bypass normal channels and obtain funds directly from Manila to buy a fleet of fishing boats for the Agdao district. These boats were to



Ex-NPA assassins, called "Sparrows" in the Philippines, who defected to form nucleus of *Alsa Masa*.



ABOVE: Village near Apex mining land proudly declares its sympathies with large banner.

BELOW: This manager of a large cacao plantation was shot in an NPA ambush because he refused to pay extortion money to the NPA. Backed up by *Alsa Masa* members who protect his plantation, he still refuses to be blackmailed by NPA.



be part of a community commercial fishing venture, and the program was inaugurated with great fanfare during an outdoor banquet attended by fishermen, politicians and *Alsa Masa* members. By instituting community development programs in areas once controlled by the NPA, the government has

been able to gain the trust and loyalty of the local population. A more prosperous neighborhood will make it extremely difficult for the NPA to again transform Agdao into Nicaragdao.

Calida was considering running for mayor during my visit. By law he would have to resign from the PC to be a candidate. Tossing away a 19-year military career is not an easy decision. During my visit with him, local council candidates supportive of Calida tried to convince him to use the incumbent mayor's past cooperation with the communists against him in the campaign. Calida refused. As he explained it, the mayor was forced to deal with the NPA when they had de facto control over much of the city, but he now fully supported the *Alsa Masa* program. Criticizing him, although it would further Calida's political ambitions,

would only endanger all of the progress that had been made in Davao. Ultimately, the colonel decided not to run. His selflessness should serve as an object lesson for the many selfish politicians in the rest of the Philippines.

The rise of the *Alsa Masa* has been aided by the phenomenon of the charismatic religious movement. Mystical Christian groups that are vehemently anti-communist are very popular in the Davao region and largely negate the pro-revolution liberation theology of some Catholic orders that has caused so much trouble in Latin America.

Many of these cults have been organized and armed under the *Alsa Masa* umbrella and have proven themselves to be effective against the communist infrastructure,

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BELOW: Some of Commander Lahi's *Pulaan* army, complete with Rambo hat, weird assortment of weapons and identifying messages on "uniforms." Calida effectively controls these groups and so far they have been effective in fighting the NPA, but some Filipinos fear that without firm control they might run amuck.

BOTTOM: Commander Lahi (center, wearing blue shirt) is embraced by followers after sermon. He is guarded by a man wielding homemade shotgun.



ABOVE: Gene Scroft's stories "Murder City Cleanup" and "Renegade Colonel of Cagayan" take place on extreme opposite ends of the Philippines: Davao, in the southeast portion of Mindanao Island, and Cagayan Province, in the extreme north of Luzon.

BELOW: Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida, PC (Philippine Constabulary) chief of Davao and uncontested "godfather" of the *Alsa Masa*.





PHILIPPINE KHMER ROUGE

"I'm afraid we might be staring at a Pol Pot future." So says a radical but independent Filipino leftist with extensive knowledge of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) and the NPA (New People's Army).

These sentiments are well-founded. In a manual prepared for exclusive use by Communist Party cadres inside the NPA entitled *A Guide to Establishing a Mass Base in the Rural Areas*, broad categories of people are named whom the Party considers suitable for "execution" by NPA guerrillas. They include: "enemies of the people, spies and unreformed elements who hinder the development of the revolutionary movement in the barrio." Therefore, anyone even suspected of being opposed to the "progressive" ideals of the NPA must fear for their lives. In *Mindanao Party Situation and Policies*, another CPP document, guerrilla leaders blame their losses on their failure to kill "bad elements" and "local government informants."

Clearly, these and other documents circulated among CPP members and NPA guerrillas explode the popular leftist myth that the aim of NPA killings is to clean up corruption and protect the rural population from exploitation. Rather, the goal is to terrorize local officials and villagers alike into submission.

This is necessary since the NPA, unlike other successful communist in-

NPA guerrillas in Luzon, Philippines, armed with M16A1s, Australian L1A1 FAL (center right) and rifle grenades in long plastic containers on their load-bearing equipment, leave no doubt about their ideological underpinnings.

surgeries, has no secure base area or sanctuary. There is nowhere the enemy can't come, so the NPA wants to make sure no one will talk to the enemy when he arrives. According to *Time* magazine's former Southeast Asia correspondent Ross Munro, "It has been their fanaticism, bequeathed by [their Maoist founder] Sison, and their increasing ruthlessness and opportunism . . . that have proved essential to the NPA's success."

Evidence continues to mount that the NPA's reign of terror rivals the Khmer Rouge's in savagery if not yet in scale. A leftist professor in Manila who once supported student communist-front groups like the League of Filipino Students learned the error of his ways in 1985 when he and some of his students witnessed a classic example of the rift between Marxist ideology and Marxist reality. Visiting an NPA stronghold, they watched as the guerrillas killed "suspected informers" before an audience of villagers. "It isn't just an execution. It's cruel, slow, painful," explained the professor while demonstrating how the guerrillas stabbed the victim in the legs, buttocks, back, shoulders and stomach before plunging a dagger into his heart. When asked if this type of thing is happening in an isolated region of the country, he

replied, "It's all over."

Since the NPA's beginning on 29 March 1969, its central task has been to realize the objectives of the CPP as delineated in the Party's founding manifesto (*Programme for a People's Democratic Revolution*): "Seizing political power through armed revolution."

As the "people's warriors," the NPA's modus operandi is to terrorize the rural population, killing real, possible and even potential informers who might hinder the consolidation of their base areas and threaten the underground administrative network of the CPP. This strategy has worked. According to one Philippine-based U.S. official plagued by déjà vu: "It's just like Vietnam. The guerrillas are killing the worst and the best local officials. They don't worry about the mediocre ones; they know they'll go along."

Mr. Munro hypothesizes that "none of the relatively low-level party members really knows what the CPP program is." Like the low-ranking Khmer Rouge soldiers who entered Phnom Penh not knowing that the next day they would be ordering the populace to evacuate, these soldiers of the CPP are ready to carry out the revolution for the establishment of a People's Democratic Republic of the Philippines (PDRP). And unless they're ready to go on the chopping block as "enemies of the people" themselves, they might well become the standard bearers of a new Night of the Long Knives — Philippine style.

— Tom Bates

SOF PHILIPPINE EXCLUSIVE

RENEGADE COLONEL OF CAGAYAN

Manila's Minutemen or Aquinaldo's Apocalypse?

Text & Photos by Gene Scroft

A distorted radio report cut short our Christmas celebrations. Though we could barely hear the words, one thing was clear — an outpost was under attack. Without hesitation, renegade Lieutenant Colonel Rodolfo Aquinaldo marshaled his men and charged to the aid of the beleaguered post.

Officially, Aquinaldo is no longer in the military. He resigned his position as PC (Philippine Constabulary) chief of Cagayan Province in northern Luzon (see map on page 34) a day after the failure of "Gringo" Honasan's coup in August 1987. A vocal supporter of the coup, Aquinaldo once offered the fugitive Honasan sanctuary in Cagayan. He is now supposedly out of the chain of command, but he still has full access to military installations. The radio call about his outpost was received at the headquarters of the second independent Scout-Ranger company and, judging from the way everyone — Scout-Rangers and civilian volunteers alike — jumped at his commands, he is still very much in charge.

BELOW LEFT: Author with Negrito tribesmen. Scroft is only 5 feet 8 inches tall, so you can see why the Spanish call these people "little black men."



The relief force consisted of one minibus (called a "jeepney" in the Philippines) full of Aquinaldo's civilian volunteers and a pickup loaded with Rangers. En route we added a Cadillac Gage V-150 armored vehicle mounted with a .50-caliber Browning and an M60 machine gun. The column screamed down the road in the middle of the night while Aquinaldo tried to verify the still sketchy location of the attack over his handheld radio. The volunteers dismounted about 400 meters from the suspected trouble and quickly moved up the road. We were in a wide valley full of rice paddies — a perfect area for an ambush but also the only way in. I followed the volunteers as they continued forward with Aquinaldo at the head of his men. No one was holding back. I was impressed.

When we arrived at the site, a small outpost of home defense forces, all was secure and peaceful. It had been a false alarm. Either the communist NPA (New People's

BELOW: This Cadillac Gage V-150 armored car was spearhead of column to relieve one of Aquinaldo's outposts believed to be under attack. It turned out to be a false alarm.

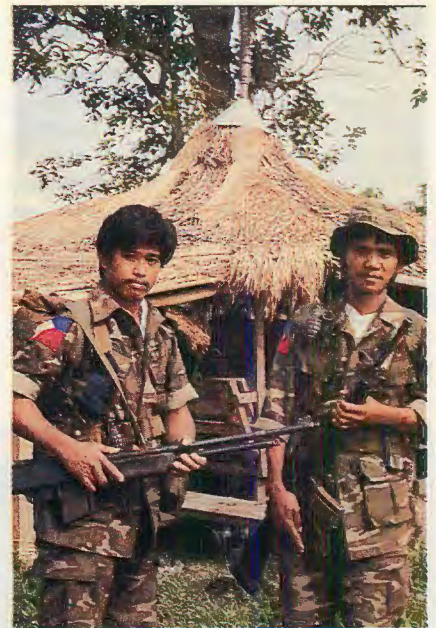


Army) was playing with us or some troops with a radio had had a little too much Christmas cheer. Either way, no harm done.

We moved on to the colonel's task-force headquarters deep in the paddy-strewn valley. The parallels between this and the motion picture "Apocalypse Now" were compelling: a successful operation against communist guerrillas conducted by a renegade colonel commanding fiercely loyal soldiers, guerrilla defectors, civilian volunteers and native tribesmen from an isolated camp deep in the countryside. It was truly the stuff of fiction. The task-force base, Aquinaldo's heart of darkness if you will, consisted of about six thatch-roofed bamboo huts surrounded by the homes of local farmers.

On our arrival, the building that served as the camp's mess hall was lit up with Christmas lights, and disco music blared from the Christmas Eve dance that was going on inside. A dance with local village girls was hardly the bull sacrifice of Coppola's film, but I guess some allowances must be made for reality.

The company-sized camp was located along a strategic river flowing from the Sierra Madre mountains. No defensive positions surrounded the camp, but the colonel explained that they weren't needed because



ABOVE: Two soldiers at Aquinaldo's base camp. Though no longer in the armed forces, the colonel still commands loyalty of soldiers in Cagayan. Note BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) carried by one of the soldiers, an ancient weapon but still revered in the Philippines.

BELOW: Camouflage-clad Negrito armed with M16 at Aquinaldo's task-force base camp. Recruitment of Negritos to the task force has been one of the colonel's main accomplishments, as their jungle skills make them more than a match for NPA insurgents.



the local villages notified him of all NPA movements in the area.

Aquinaldo's native volunteers consisted of Negrito tribesmen, the small, dark-skinned original inhabitants of these islands. One of the colonel's major accomplishments has been recruiting these neglected people into the task force. Barefoot and poorly armed, the betel-nut chewing Negritos' amazing jungle skills made them more than a match for the NPA in their rugged Sierra Madre home. With these people backing Aquinaldo, the communists have been denied the sanctuary of the mountains.

Aquinaldo has decided to end his reclusive status by running for governor of Cagayan Province. Since he didn't directly participate in the Honasan coup, there are no legal restraints to his candidacy. He believes that if the elections are fair (hardly a given in the Philippines), he will win. With all the military power at his command, it will be interesting to see what will happen if he loses (see the accompanying interview).

Manila isn't blind to the situation in Cagayan. Aquinaldo's deputy assumed official command after he resigned from the PC, but he was viewed by headquarters,

accurately enough, as a figurehead for the colonel. The deputy was replaced by an army officer just days before I arrived. The new man was under no delusions about his predicament. Fortunately for him, Aquinaldo was cooperating with his efforts to slowly exert authority over the task force. This cooperation stemmed largely, I suspect, from the colonel's desire to seem reasonable during the campaign.

The colonel is a dynamic leader, highly respected by the military and the people of Cagayan. Though quiet and unassuming in normal conversation, his intensity level



AQUINALDO INTERVIEW

SOF: Why did you leave the military?

AQUINALDO: I tendered my resignation a day after Greg's ["Gringo" Honasan's] coup. There is no room for initiative in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]. It's run by the same old faces [as under Marcos] who believe that we can beat the enemy using the same old tactics.

SOF: What tactics do you use?

AQUINALDO: I organized a task force of CHDF [Civil Home Defense Forces], PC and army units. I concentrate my military forces and use the CHDF to find the NPA. When we locate them, the army units attack and kill them. I call this "Project Aquinaldo."

SOF: Have you been successful?

Aquinaldo discusses operations against NPA at headquarters of second independent Scout-Ranger company in Cagayan. Minutes later, the colonel was leading a relief force toward one of his outposts believed to be under attack.

AQUINALDO: Militarily yes, but the NPA is part of a bigger problem that the military can't handle alone — dirty politicians.

SOF: Is that why you're running for governor?

AQUINALDO: Yes. I left the military to see if a peaceful approach will work. As governor I would have a direct line to the president and could bypass the dirty politicians. Aquino has become a prisoner of her own party and many of them are corrupt, especially her brother.

SOF: As governor would you sup-

port another coup?

AQUINALDO: That depends on the program of the ones running the coup. I would have to see the plan.

SOF: Do you think that you will win?

AQUINALDO: I'll win if they don't cheat.

SOF: What will you do if you lose?

AQUINALDO: If we have a dishonest election, I will leave the country. I can't support the Philippine people if they won't help themselves. But if the people ask me to stay, I will take up arms against the dirty politicians.

SOF: You say that you're a friend of Honasan. Did he carry out the coup attempt only to end corruption in the government or did he have some personal political ambitions as well?

AQUINALDO [smiling]: I don't know.

rises dramatically when he speaks of the war or politics. People will sit for hours while the colonel, often jumping from his seat and gesturing wildly with his hands, attacks the corruption of Filipino politicians. He is believed without question by his audience because he sets a personal example. He lives in a small house, modest even by Philippine standards, next to his task-force base. He doesn't own a car, and the flashy clothes and jewelry so prevalent with influential people in the Philippines are absent. When he tells his men they must go out and fight the communists, they obey without hesitation, because the colonel is always personally in the lead. This is how loyalty is won.

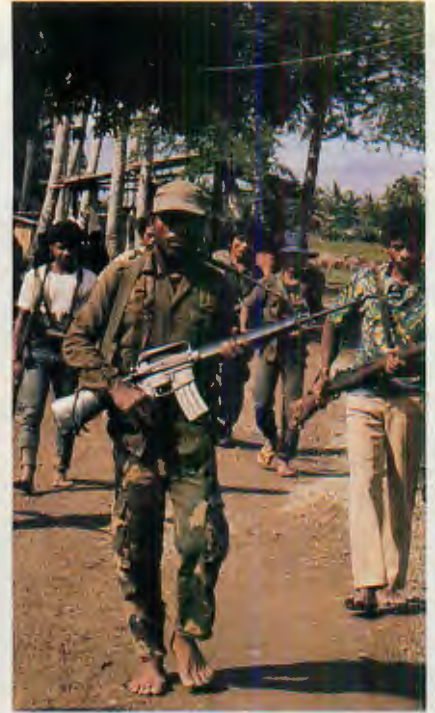
Aquinaldo will probably make a fine governor, even if his support of Honasan and his admission that he would consider supporting another coup if he agreed with the program make his commitment to the democratic process slightly suspect. If he isn't able to become part of the political mainstream, it is possible that he will fight against the communists and the government alike. If this occurs, Manila might be forced to use violence to retain control. Only one winner will emerge from the resulting chaos — the NPA. Let's hope that all those involved will have the discipline to avoid such a disaster.

Editor's Note: After this article was written, Aquinaldo won the election and became governor of Cagayan Province. ✕



ABOVE: Loyal Aquinaldo follower armed with Singapore-manufactured 5.56x45mm Ultimax 100 SAW (squad automatic weapon) at colonel's headquarters.

BELOW: Lieutenant Colonel Aquinaldo (in blue shirt) with some of his followers at base camp. The colonel's bodyguard (second from left) wears T-shirt expressing the group's sentiments toward communism.



ABOVE: Group of Negrito tribesmen entering Aquinaldo's task-force base. Negritos come down from homes in mountains for ammunition for their motley collection of arms, which consists of everything from M1 Garands to M16s. Lack of shoes doesn't seem to bother Negritos, whose feet are as tough as elephant hide.





RAMBO

IN AFGHANISTAN

SOF Joins Stallone on Set of "Rambo III"

by G.B. Crouse

Photos Courtesy Tri-Star Pictures

LEFT: Afghans flee a Soviet helicopter attack on their village. Helicopter is a French Aerospatiale Puma modified to resemble a Soviet Mi-24 gunship.

BELOW LEFT: Behind the sights of a Soviet 12.7mm heavy machine gun, Rambo prepares to battle Soviet helicopters.

BELOW: Rambo fighting his way through a Soviet fort deep inside Afghanistan.

SEVERAL years ago a somewhat dispossessed Vietnam veteran wandered into a small town in the Pacific Northwest and wreaked havoc on a scale not seen since the sack of Rome. On Memorial Day 1985, the imprisoned veteran, John Rambo, was released from prison through the good offices of his old friend Colonel Trautman and sent on a one-man mission to Vietnam to rescue American prisoners of war — which of course he did, again spreading destruction of biblical proportions.

Both of these films, "First Blood" and "Rambo: First Blood Part II," were wildly successful. For those of you who thought two Rambo films were sufficient, think again. Questions about a third Rambo

BELOW: Colonel Trautman, played by Richard Crenna, is captured by the Soviets on the wrong side of the Khyber Pass. Predictably, Rambo goes to Afghanistan to rescue his friend.

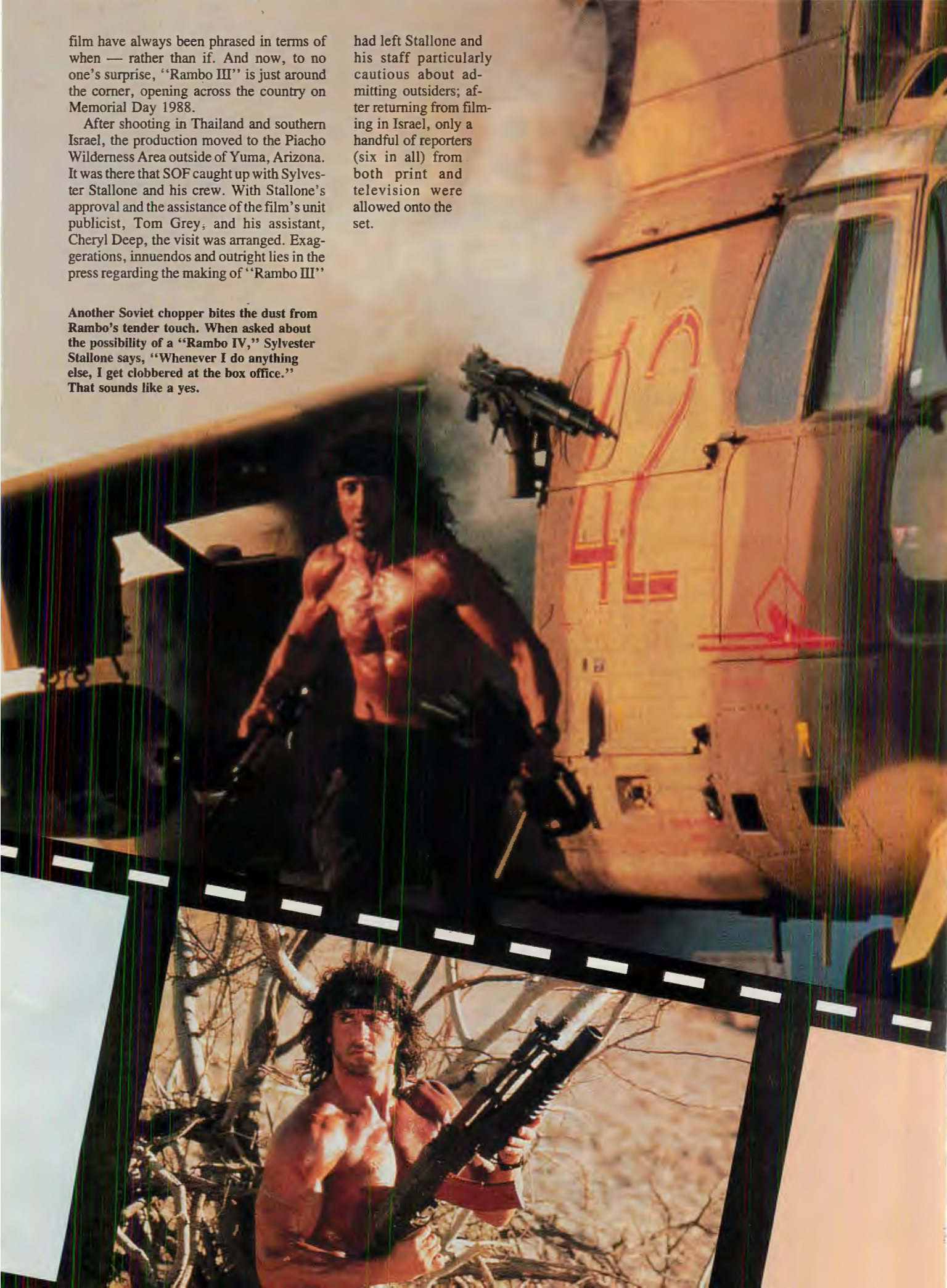


film have always been phrased in terms of when — rather than if. And now, to no one's surprise, "Rambo III" is just around the corner, opening across the country on Memorial Day 1988.

After shooting in Thailand and southern Israel, the production moved to the Piacho Wilderness Area outside of Yuma, Arizona. It was there that SOF caught up with Sylvester Stallone and his crew. With Stallone's approval and the assistance of the film's unit publicist, Tom Grey, and his assistant, Cheryl Deep, the visit was arranged. Exaggerations, innuendos and outright lies in the press regarding the making of "Rambo III"

had left Stallone and his staff particularly cautious about admitting outsiders; after returning from filming in Israel, only a handful of reporters (six in all) from both print and television were allowed onto the set.

Another Soviet chopper bites the dust from Rambo's tender touch. When asked about the possibility of a "Rambo IV," Sylvester Stallone says, "Whenever I do anything else, I get clobbered at the box office." That sounds like a yes.





Afghanistan is the setting for John Rambo's latest adventure. The film opens with the former Green Beret living in a monastery in Thailand. Enter Colonel Trautman. After failing to convince Rambo to accept a mission to Afghanistan, the colonel goes himself. After he's (you guessed it) captured by the Soviets, Stallone travels to Afghanistan to rescue his friend.

Unlike the previous Rambo films, "Rambo III" will have a much more epic look about it, with broad, sweeping camera shots and hundreds of actors and extras involved in many of the scenes. Not unlike the previous Rambo films, no expense was spared in wardrobe, props, weapons and special effects. On a typical day of shooting, the list of props and special effects materials listed in the production notes included rope, guns, bow, radio, napalm, rappelling equipment and smoke, along with three helicopters.

A list of the weapons used in the making of the film reads like the ComBloc pages of *Jane's Infantry Weapons*. The weapons were provided by Stembridge Gun Rental, which has been providing guns to Hollywood since 1920, and Ruben Cohai, whose firm, Weapons House, provides a similar service to production companies in Israel. All in all, more than 1,000 weapons were provided, including AK-47s, AK-74s, SKSs, Mauser and Lee-Enfield bolt-action rifles, RPDs, RPKs, Makarov and Tokarev

LEFT: Sylvester Stallone as John Rambo. The weapon, a Kalashnikov with an American-made M203 grenade launcher attached, is a Hollywood fabrication.

SOF Associate Editor G.B. Crouse with Stallone on the set of "Rambo III."

pistols, Dragunov sniper rifles, 12.7mm heavy machine guns, RPG-7s and Hungarian AKMDs. Not everything needed was available, so some compromises were made. A Soviet automatic grenade launcher, the AGS-17, could not be found, so Stembridge provided an American 40mm Mark 19 Mod 3 in its place. Belgian MAG 58s were used for door guns on the helicopters and, as SOF readers will quickly notice, M203 grenade launchers were mounted on Kalashnikovs. It sounds like an awful lot of weapons, but at times as many as 600 armed actors and extras were required for particular scenes.

Providing costumes for all those people was the responsibility of Richard LaMotte. His previous credits include "Red Dawn," "March or Die," "Rumor of War," "Winds of War" and "Tora, Tora, Tora." Drawing on his previous experience and books such as David Isby's *Russia's War in Afghanistan*, LaMotte created enough uniforms to equip up to 250 Soviet troops. Items such as Soviet campaign hats and camouflage were manufactured especially for the film. A two-week shopping trip to Peshawar, Pakistan, with an Afghan adviser resulted in costumes for more than 250 freedom fighters and an additional 100 Afghan women and children.

Helicopters, a significant factor in the war until the introduction of American-made Stinger missiles, played a part as well. Two French helicopters, a Gazelle and a

Puma, were converted to look like Soviet aircraft. A Bell Jet Ranger was used to film the aerial scenes. The aerial coordinator, Karl Wickman, whose previous work includes "Blue Thunder" and "Uncommon Valor," was responsible for the aircraft, flown by Roy Matthews and Charles Bella. Karl, a former Army helicopter pilot, seemed to be having a pretty big time working on the picture. When asked about that, he smiled and said that he and his pilots are just older kids with bigger toys.

Although other conflicts were suggested as possible settings for "Rambo III," Stallone's personal feelings about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan tipped the scales. Politically conservative Stallone feels that the brutal war there deserves wider attention. And as with the previous Rambo themes — the struggles of returning Vietnam veterans and the fate of American POW/MIA — Stallone isn't shy about putting his political philosophy on the screen, or discussing it with reporters.

"The Soviets in Afghanistan are insidious human beings," Stallone said. It has been suggested that Stallone is being too hard on the poor Soviets, but he sees it differently. "We have an obligation to the people who are dying. I'm already being accused of Red-bashing," Stallone told us, without much concern registering on his face. "The Soviets are portrayed as the bad guys because they are bad guys."

So much for the Soviets; how about the Democrats? "Every time they get into office we seem to lose a little air," the actor

Continued on page 76



Mujahid from Laza Mangal
Type 56 Chinese AKM on guard
Mangal has been scene of heavy fighting but
is now under mujahideen control

SOF AFGHANISTAN

DIRECT HIT ON NARI

**Yank Photographer
at Mujahideen
Front**

**Text & Photos
by Bruce Richardson**

A steady DOOM-DOOM-DOOM from the mujahideen DShK 12.7mm "Dashika" antiaircraft gun could be heard as two rocket-firing Soviet MiGs flew overhead from east to west. When their rockets exploded on the ground in front of me, the mule I was riding kicked and stampeded away from the impact area.

"Holy Shit!" I thought. "I've got to get off this thing and take cover!"

BAROOOM! More rockets hit, and debris and camel shit flew everywhere.

Sharif screamed at me, "Get down! Take cover! Get off that mule!"

Khangai rushed over and grabbed my mule's halter. I made a flying dismount and scrambled over the rocks for cover.

BAROOOM! BAROOOM! Everyone was hitting the dirt. Damn, those rockets are loud!

As quickly as the MiGs had come, they were gone. They had dumped about eight rockets on us, all missing the mark, hitting high over their target.

Fantastic! No casualties. No damage.

Sharif rushed to my side. "Are you OK, Mr. Bruce?"

"I think so," I said, wondering what kind of a greeting this was for my first day in Afghanistan. It had been only a few days earlier in October 1987 when the phone had rung in my hotel room in Peshawar, Pakistan:

"This is Abdul. May I come to your room to talk to you? We have a program prepared for you. Do you know who I am?"

"Yes," I replied. Abdul was an official in one of the seven Afghan resistance parties headquartered in Peshawar and was the man I hoped would help get me inside.

One hour later, someone knocked at my door.

"Hello, Mr. Bruce. It is Abdul." He had been reluctant to discuss any details on the phone for fear it was monitored. As Abdul

CANDID SHOTS OF THE RUSSIAN BEAR



Author (front right, holding Kalashnikov) and mujahideen companions rest during trek back to Pakistan after successful attack on communist fort at Nari.

A freelance photographer specializing in wildlife photography, Bruce Richardson's pictures of Alaskan brown bear during the salmon run and Canadian polar bear on sea ice have been published in the United States and Australia. In 1986 he gave a photo workshop for the Afghan Information and Documentation Center in Peshawar. This was part of a project to increase the flow of news to the West by training the mujahideen in use of 35mm camera equipment. Richardson currently works as a sales consultant to firms involved in export and foreign military sales.

outlined the details of my trip, I wondered about the chances for a successful covert entry into Afghanistan. "We will send a jeep for you tomorrow morning at 0530. Do not discuss this with anyone."

"That's affirmative," I said.

At 0530 hours the next morning, as I was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the jeep, the hotel clerk asked, "Where are you going?"

"Chitral," I said. "To do some hiking and photography."

"But," he insisted, "there are no flights today."

"No problem," I said. "A friend is taking me by car." Just as I said this, my jeep arrived.

"Have a good trip," exclaimed the clerk.

These were not innocent questions. Most hotel personnel are informants, either with Pakistani special branch or, worse, the *Khad* (Afghan communist secret police). I did not wish to share my plans with either group.

My driver sped toward the better district of Peshawar and party headquarters. As we arrived at a high-walled compound, an armed guard swung open the metal gates and we were admitted. A tall, English-speaking Afghan introduced himself: "Hel-

lo, I am Sharif. I will be your guide and interpreter for the next few weeks." Pointing proudly to a battered Toyota ambulance, he said, "This will be our transportation."

The driver, a short, mustachioed Afghan from Kunduz, stowed my pack in the covered bench seats, out of sight of any inquisitive border police. I was instructed to change into traditional Afghan clothes, which had been selected with great care as to color and type. I was heading for Paktia and my clothes had to resemble what was worn there. After a cursory inspection by Sharif and the driver, we departed.

Gendeley, our destination, was five or six hours away over rough, narrow, winding mountain roads in a tribal zone of Pakistan. Tribal zones are dangerous and are off-limits to all foreigners. They are essentially lawless but heavily patrolled by Pakistani police and militia. Any foreigners apprehended generally are interned and deported, with a stiff fine for anyone caught assisting them.

Sharif began to brief me on my cover story in the event we were stopped. "If

Mujahid trains young Afghans in use of Soviet Goryunov SGMB 7.62x54R HMG.

anyone questions you, you are an American doctor going to visit the mujahideen hospital in Thal." Thal was a town on our route to Gendeley.

At the first checkpoint we came to, I was apprehensive, but the ambulance cover worked like a charm, adding an official air to our presence. On two occasions when we were stopped, the inquisitive guards were satisfied merely to look inside the ambulance and did not seem to notice me.

After several hours of rough roads and Pakistani checkpoints, we arrived at the mujahideen center in Gendeley. Surrounded by Dashika HMG (heavy machine gun) positions, Gendeley was a mujahideen supply and staging area resembling a fort located in the middle of nowhere. Once inside, I was introduced to several mujahideen commanders who were busy with administrative functions. Later, tea was served and I was told I was to stay for a few days, then leave for a refugee camp near the border. I used my time at Gendeley to interview various commanders about the war.

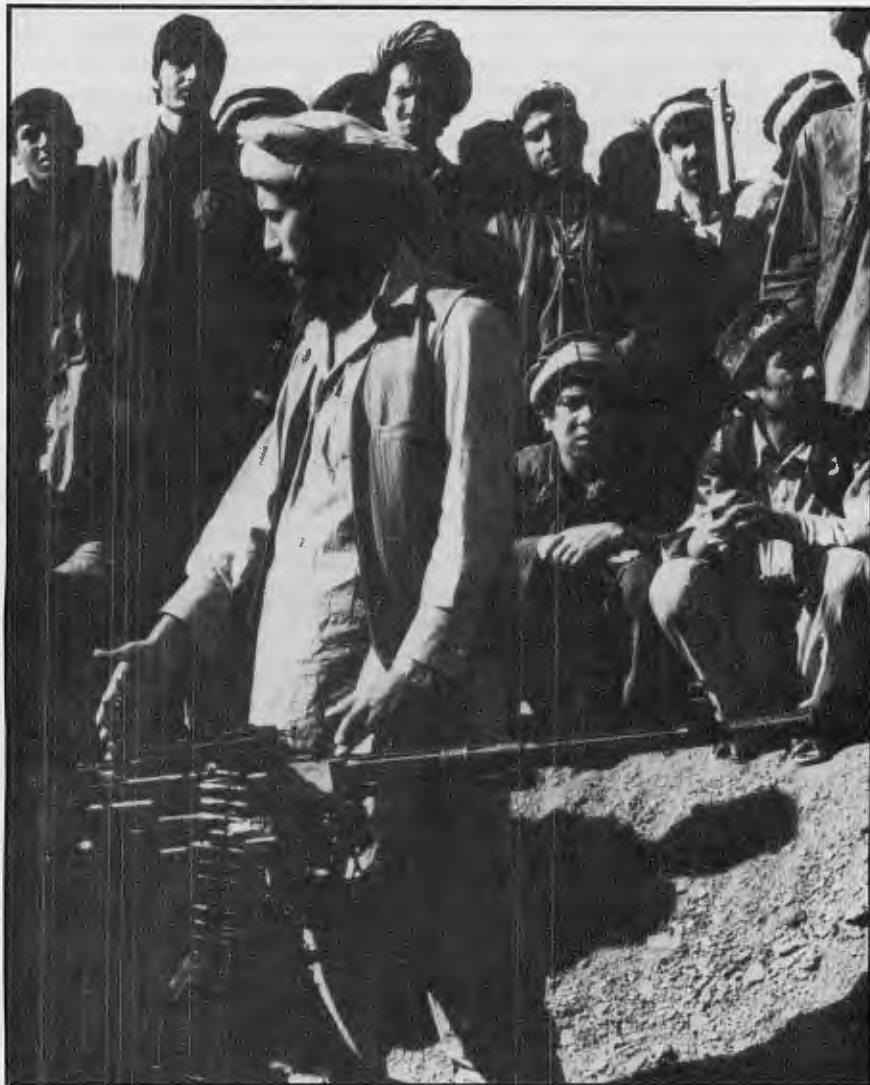
After several days passed, we were told to board the ambulance. Once again we were on our way, winding through the rough back-roads leading to the refugee camp. After three hours of driving and several uneventful checkpoints, we arrived at the refugee camp on the border of Afghanistan. We would stay here several days until we could coordinate with a group of mujahideen who would be leaving for battle in their native Afghanistan. Later, a jeep pulled up to our mud-walled quarters at the camp and several mujahideen got out.

Sharif began introductions. "This is Commander Haji A. Rahim, commander of the garrison at Lazha Mangal. He will meet us again in several days at Lazha." After a round of handshakes, we said good-bye.

"See you at Lazha, *Inshallah* [God willing]," exclaimed Commander Rahim. Lazha Mangal, a hamlet located in Paktia Province, Afghanistan, had been the scene of bitter fighting between Soviet and mujahideen forces. It was now under mujahideen control. It appeared that I would soon realize my plan to enter Afghanistan.

While at the refugee camp, I took the opportunity to talk to many of the elders through my interpreter, Sharif. I asked them about their homes and about the war. They were unanimous and vehement in their condemnation of the Soviets. "The *shuravi* [Russians] have destroyed our homes, our farms. They have killed our families and our animals. Most of our friends and family that are still living have fled to Pakistan. They come with helicopters and destroy everything." These were typical comments.

Zarin, an elderly Afghan with a particularly horrendous tale, recounted, "A force of Soviet and regime forces came. People were hiding in the irrigation canals. The Soviets poured petrol on them and set them on fire. Some were children, and some were elderly. They want to frighten us so we will not help the mujahideen. We will not give up until we are all martyred."



The next morning, a group of mujahideen arrived. They were the group with which I would enter Afghanistan. Most were from a more northerly province, Kunar, and were here to accompany me into Afghanistan and eventually to meet with Commander Rahim at Lazha, for operational duty. Sharif introduced Bazrg, Zahirullah, Amir, Pir, Iran-gul, Bakhtiar and Khangai. These mujahideen would be my bodyguards, my protectors, my guides for the next few weeks.

Early the next morning, someone shook me, jarring me into consciousness. It was 0500 hours. Sharif was standing over me. "Come on, get up. Today we go to Afghanistan." After a quick breakfast of tea and bread, we saddled up and began climbing the hills behind the camp, heading west.

Each of the next few days we would walk for several hours, then take shelter at a *chaikhana* (tea house) or another safe house that would provide food and lodging. Because of fear of cruel retribution, some were not willing to help us. We had walked for several days when Sharif called to me, "Mr. Bruce, we are now in Afghanistan. *Astallah mashai* [welcome]."

I will long remember my first day in Afghanistan: a beautiful day, blue sky, warm, tranquil. We had just descended from a high, rugged mountain into a beautiful forest with stands of pine and fir, groves of ancient walnut trees, clean rivers rushing from higher elevations and camel caravans heading for Pakistan with heavy loads of wood products harvested mostly from timber that fell during the heavy spring runoff. There was a potpourri of Afghans and Paks, all willing to run the gauntlet and participate in Afghanistan's small but thriving unofficial economy. There were myriad trails, most not much wider than a camel's hoof, all along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border. These are the main supply routes for the mujahideen as well as being trade routes for the entrepreneurs.

This unsanctioned traffic is well-known to the Soviets and is a target of unremitting attack, mostly from the air, in their heretofore unsuccessful effort to seal the border. As we approached a hamlet that was a mujahideen position, a Dashika opened up, DOOM-DOOM-DOOM. My mind began to race. I barely had time to wonder what was going on before the Soviet MiGs struck. Luckily, the MiGs flew too high for accurate rocket placement and we were unharmed.

Iran-gul smiled and explained, "The Soviets are afraid to fly low now. That's why they miss."

"Why are they afraid?" I asked.

"They're afraid of Stingers! They have lost many planes and helicopters."

"Yeah, Stingers!" I exclaimed.

I glanced at my watch. It was 0915 hours. Inside Afghanistan only two hours and already under attack. I recalled reading that most Soviet air attacks occur between 0800 and 0900 hours. The bastards were right on schedule. Later, we sat around sipping *shin chai* (green tea) and eating *nan* (bread) and



Map details the author's route to and from the mujahideen stronghold atop Gomankai Mountain in Paktia Province, Afghanistan.

talked of the attack.

Khangai was the first to finish and went out to look after the mule. I followed. It was then that I noticed a lone mujahid, tied to a mule and being led toward us.

The mujahid had sustained a horrible stomach wound and was on his way to Pakistan for medical treatment. He didn't look good. A real problem in this war is the lack of medical facilities near the front. Many mujahideen die from infection before they can be transported to Pakistan for medical treatment.

"Come. We must hurry," Sharif exclaimed. "We have a long way to go today. Do not talk to anyone as we travel these trails. We cannot know who all these people are. Some of them could be informants, and that would be dangerous. If the Soviets find out a foreign journalist is traveling inside Afghanistan, they will hunt you down."

I unpacked my camera and was taking some photographs when I heard, "Mr. Bruce, put away that camera. No pictures until we reach our destination. That camera identifies you as a *feranghi* [foreigner]. Wrap my *patou* [blanket] around your coat. Please, do not attract attention to yourself," Sharif said rather tersely.

I sensed that Sharif was a bit angry with me. "Okay," I said, "you're the boss."

Later that afternoon we approached Nargar, a hamlet with cultivated fields, mud-walled houses and little obvious war damage. At first the scene did not reflect the fact that this was a war zone. A group of children raced their mules along the village's only road. A farmer in the distance was plowing his fields on an old tractor. Children played everywhere, ever curious about the presence of strangers. Suddenly, perhaps 2,000-3,000 meters away, mortar fire erupted, then a Dashika answered. So much for bucolic tranquility — reality had set in.

"Sharif, what's going on?"

"I don't know. Come on, we must leave."

We hurried on for a few miles, stopping at the next *chaikhana*. After tea, I ducked out back to relieve myself, only to discover that I had dysentery, a problem that was to plague me all the while I was in Afghanistan.

Now we were traveling in the dark. I could see the silhouette of buildings as we approached another village. Something was wrong. I was uneasy, gripped with anxiety. Not a sound came from that village; no dogs barking, nothing. Could this be a Soviet ambush, I wondered? Had someone spotted me or my camera on the trail coming in, as Sharif had cautioned? We had seen a spotter plane earlier in the day. Maybe they had set us up for an ambush. No one spoke as we passed quietly through the village. Even in the darkness I could see why it was so still.

The adobe houses were in ruins, pounded to empty shells by attacks from Soviet MiGs and Mi-24 helicopter gunships. The devastation of this village was depressing. How can human beings wreak such horror and destruction on these people and at the same time run around the globe selling their "peace initiative"? What hypocrisy, I thought. Gorbachev is telling all who will listen about *glasnost* at home and peaceful intentions toward all peoples. Bullshit! I wondered if *Pravda*, in the name of *glasnost*, ever ran photos of villages like this.

At 2030 hours we finally arrived at the safe house that would be our quarters for the night. These mujahideen sure put in a long day, I thought. Tea was served, after which we all bunked out together in a small room. A tall Afghan provided us with blankets and an oil lantern. Some conversation ensued, but most of us were too tired to talk and slept soundly.

The next morning at 0530 I felt the urgent call of nature. I was pleased that my dysentery had not kept me up all night. Most of the mujahideen had already risen and, after a hurried meal of tea and bread, we were on our way. Our host, a mujahid armed with a World War I-vintage No. 1 Mk III SMLE (Short Magazine Lee Enfield) rifle would accompany us for a while. I sensed that perhaps he was guiding us. After several hours of steady climbing, we topped out on

a ridge where several camel caravan leaders were resting. Sharif was uneasy about the presence of so many strangers.

"Not safe here, we will go on," declared Sharif.

As we descended the mountain, I observed some women and children living in caves in the steep canyon walls, undoubtedly for protection against air attack. I thought how lucky we Americans are. We came upon a *chaikhana* along the trail. Sharif said, "We will stop here for tea and cake." I thought I must be burning a lot of calories, as I was constantly hungry in spite of my dysentery problems.

After drinking three glasses of tea, I ran out back to find a place to relieve myself; I hoped the food was going through slowly enough to release some nourishment.

As I squatted, cursing the amoebas in my intestines, Sharif called out to me, "Mr. Bruce, come on, we must leave. We have many hours ahead. Hurry, hurry."

"No rest for the wea-

ry," I grumbled, pulling up my baggy trousers and wondering if this guy were a mujahid DI. I could get to dislike a fellow who interrupted my amoebic rest stops. I hoped the Russians got it too.

We wended our way without obvious direction down the winding network of trails at a pace that would have made a triathlete wheeze. MiGs, from out of nowhere, roared into view high in the sky. We quickly took cover along the sides of the steep canyon walls. Apparently they didn't see us, as they were gone as quickly as they had come. Concentrate, I told myself, pay attention to the surroundings. This environment could be hazardous to your health. It was 1600 hours. This must have been the afternoon shift. I hoped the bastards were late for supper!

Soon we were climbing an abrupt mountain. I could hear artillery in the distance. Sharif said, "There is much fighting in the province." Near the mountaintop we crossed an area that had been devastated by either an artillery or rocket attack: splintered trees, craters, scorched earth. Khangai reached down and picked up a large, jagged piece of metal and explained, "One month ago, there was a BM-21 rocket attack here against the mujahideen. Many were martyred. Some were my friends." Four of our mujahideen stopped for *nemaz* (prayer).



Bazrg pointed to a hamlet tucked away in the side of the canyon wall about 2,000-3,000 feet below us. This was where we would spend the night, I was told. "Looks good to me," I exclaimed. Amir Mohammad quipped, "*Hapanache* [don't be sad]." And we were on the way to our next safe house.

After a very steep, rocky descent, we arrived at a hamlet of four mud-walled houses and were greeted by some children and elders who quickly showed us to our quarters. We stowed our gear and a boy of about 13 brought us wash water, as washing is a pre-meal ritual. Wahid brought in a large communal bowl of *nan* pieces covered with chicken broth. Without hesitation, we all dug in.

Soon afterward, while we relaxed with many glasses of tea, an elderly Afghan appeared and spoke to Sharif. Sharif listened intently, then asked me, "Can you help him? He has a leg wound." I removed the filthy bandage from the elder's leg and inspected the wound. Good grief, I thought. This looks terrible. The wound — large, deep and infected — had apparently been sustained during a fall in the mountains. "I'll do what I can," I said.

After bathing the wound, I administered an antibiotic salve and rebandaged it. Word of my treatment spread fast and other villagers began to show up, thinking an

American doctor had arrived. Most injuries were not of a serious nature: blisters, eye infections, complaints of headache, dysentery. All of these things were treatable with the medicine and limited medical knowledge I possessed. Because of the lack of a proper medical facility, serious ailments and combat injuries are evacuated to Pakistan. Because of the long, arduous journey, many die before reaching Pakistan.

The next several days were spent photographing and interviewing the villagers. Their story was all too familiar: massive destruction of villages and atrocities against the people. One elder said, "The Russians ran over the men with a tank and crushed them because they wouldn't help them to find the mujahideen." It's open season on everything and everyone in the Marxist liberation of Afghanistan. The Soviet strategy is one of terror and intimidation through massive destruction of populated civilian areas. But their plan to dry up support for the mujahideen has not worked.

Why is the world community so silent about these callous and methodical atrocities?

The next morning at 0900, our group

When author could steal looks at the action, he witnessed direct hits by 75mm recoilless rifle on communist fort at Nari.



leisurely began to stir. I was the last to get up. I was thinking about hot tea when suddenly the tranquil moment was shattered by the sound of MiGs overhead. Eight mujahideen all trying to get through a doorway at the same time would, under different circumstances, be quite a humorous sight. Once outside, we determined the threat level to be minimal, as the MiGs vanished into the deep blue Afghan sky. Returning to our tea and bread, I made the observation that the location of this hamlet, tucked into the canyon walls, was probably the reason that it went unnoticed by Soviet aircraft and escaped attack from the air. However, it had not escaped attack from troops and armor.

After breakfast Sharif, Bakhtiar and Iran-gul were having a conversation and pointing to the north. Sharif said, "We must leave today for Lazha to meet Commander Rahim and his men." As we departed, a spotter plane circled overhead. "We must be very careful. If the plane has seen us, MiGs will come," said Sharif.

Climbing up a high rugged trail, our group headed north toward Lazha, ever vigilant about the potential threat from the air. At the top of the mountain, our group paused for *nemaz*, spreading their *patous* for use in prayer. I used the time to take some photographs.

Hours later, we approached a column of mujahideen headed in the same direction as our group. "*Astallah mashai* [welcome]," shouted one of the mujahideen. I recognized Commander Rahim from our earlier meeting. "*Salaam alaikum*," I shouted back at them.

Soon Lazha Mangal came into view. A hamlet of eight mud-walled houses with large timbered roofs protected by a sheer rock canyon wall, it appeared very secure against air attack. The permanent personnel, firing their Kalashnikovs skyward in traditional mujahideen style, came out to greet the commanders and our group, who had arrived together. Ikbal Joh showed us to our new quarters: home for perhaps another week or two.

At supper, Commander Rahim and I discussed politics, using Sharif as an interpreter. Commander Rahim asked, "Why did America allow the Soviets to invade Afghanistan?" To this I replied, "The United States and the Soviet Union cannot risk all-out confrontation. The result would be to turn the world into ashes. There would be no Afghanistan nor United States. We must seek other solutions." Sharif added, "The commander and the men understand and agree with your position. They also appreciate your traveling a long way from your home to be with them in their *jihad*."

Weeks had passed since Peshawar, with recurring bouts of dysentery and hard physical activity. I was losing a fair amount of weight. If I didn't eat very much, my dysentery would subside, but I was constantly hungry, no doubt a result of the combination of dysentery and exercise. We visited mujahideen positions in the area daily, which appeared to lift the spirits of those men. They appreciated visitors and the subsequent rounds of tea and conversation.

Lazha seemed very peaceful and, except for the occasional scramble when aircraft appeared, did not resemble a war zone. But I had an uneasy feeling that the shit was about to hit the fan. That evening, while I caught up on my notes, Sharif asked Noor to relate a story to me: "I was on my way home from school when regime soldiers came along in a jeep and took me away. They punched me in the face and told me they would kill me if I resisted. I was taken to the army barracks outside Kabul. My parents were never told."

"What happened then?" I queried.

"I was given a uniform and Kalashnikov," answered Noor, "then was put in a truck and taken to the front."

"Did you receive any training?" I asked.

Noor replied, "No. On the first day at the front, I ran away with my gun and bullets

Mujahid armed with No. 1 Mk. III Enfield on Gomankai Mountain overlooking communist position at Nari.

and joined the mujahideen."

Commander Rahim added, "He is good mujahid. He has killed many *shuravi*. This forced conscription is common in the populated areas of Afghanistan, but due to massive defections, the regime forces are shrinking."

Noor continued, "Morale was very bad. The Soviet officers beat us and treated us poorly. When there was fighting, we were forced out in front to protect the Soviets from mujahideen bullets. Most tried to fire over the heads of the mujahideen. We did not want to shoot our own people. Even some Soviets defect to the mujahideen. They had been told they would be fighting Americans and Chinese, and do not like fighting Afghan civilians."

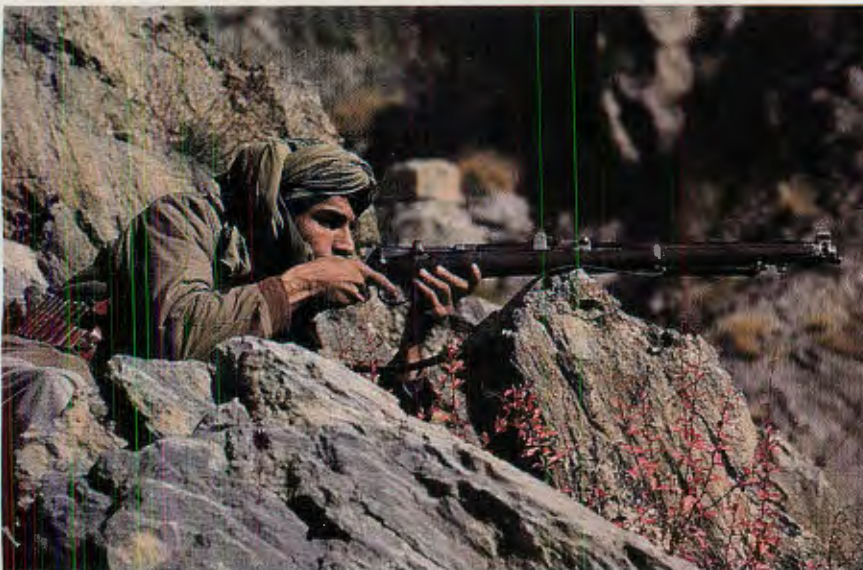
Assembling his men, Commander Rahim interrupted our discussion. "Tomorrow we will attack the communist post at Nari." Commander Tazamieer added, "The American will come with us to observe and write notes for his book." The plan was to link up with the mujahideen already in position on Gomankai Mountain overlooking the communist position.

The sun had not yet risen and we were on our way. As we climbed I was hoping no one would get injured. We were a long way from any medical aid. As we went higher and higher, I constantly searched for aircraft, but the heavens were blue and quiet. A subtle odor permeated the air as we passed through a devastated forest area. Trees were splintered and everything was charred black, suggesting a combined napalm and rocket attack. Everyone was quiet while we ascended the mountain. I was sure it was in contemplation of our imminent attack on Nari.

Eventually we reached the positions at the top of Gomankai. Cut from solid stone or cut deep into the ground and covered with huge timbers and heaped with stones, these positions appeared well-fortified, almost indestructible. Nari loomed below, 5,000-6,000 feet down the mountain. Nari is home to 1,500 Soviet and regime troops, and most ops against Paktia originate from it.

As we toured the positions, the heavy weapons were being prepared. In evidence were Dashika 12.7mm HMGs and Chinese ZPU 14.5mm ("Ziqriat") anti-aircraft guns, 75mm recoilless rifles, Chinese B-10 82mm recoilless rifles, 81mm mortars and, at another location, a BM-12 multiple rocket launcher (actually a Chinese Type 63 12-barreled 107mm rocket launcher that the Afghans have rechristened "BM-12"). Most ordnance appeared to be of Chinese manufacture, except for the 81mm mortar ammo, which was Swedish (Bofors).

I peered over the ridge in an attempt to get a photo of Nari. This drew a quick response from the commander. "Get down from there. We are watched all the time with binoculars, and they shoot at anything that moves. Come, we will have tea." As I joined Commanders Rahim and Darwish in a bunker, details of the attack were being discussed.



AFGHANS LEARN A NEW KIND OF SHOOTING

Bruce Richardson's photo workshop for Afghan freedom fighters was set up to train mujahideen in the use of 35mm equipment so they can record their war from the front lines. This photo record is then made available to Western media

sources and governmental agencies for timely, accurate news about that conflict.

This series of photos, taken by a mujahid in Nangarhar, tells its own story. From left to right: A Soviet Mi-24 Hind-D helicopter gunship makes a low straf-

ing run and fires its rockets into an Afghan village. The helicopter is shot down by mujahideen forces with a U.S.-supplied Stinger anti-aircraft missile, leaving only charred wreckage on the ground where it fell.



At 1430 hours, it started.

First, the BM-12 cut loose, followed by the Dashikas and ZPUs and the hollow report of the mortars. The recoilless rifles joined the concert — BLAM! I had an uncontrollable urge to see how we were doing and rose up to peer over the ridge. At that moment, a direct hit struck the fort at Nari. I cheered and gave the thumbs-up sign to the mujahideen behind me. Shouts of "*Allah akhbar!*" (God is great) filled the air as the attack continued.

There were more direct hits. Fire was now curling up from the fort, then a brilliant flash. Score one for the 75mm recoilless, right on the money. More cries of "*Allah akhbar!*" filled the air. My adrenaline was flowing. More explosions from the fort . . . must be ammo going up, or maybe petrol. The fort was taking a real pounding. I wondered whether they would call in Soviet air support. Where was their counter-battery?

Sharif pulled me from my perch. "Please, Mr. Bruce, be careful." I couldn't stand it, I had to look. What a show. Great shooting!

BAROOOM! Oh, shit! An incoming round. Everyone took cover. BAROOOM! BAROOOM! Mortars, I thought. They were getting close. Debris rained down on our heads as we tried to become one with the rocky mountaintop. We had to pay our dues for the attack on their position. I hoped they wouldn't call in air strikes.

BAROOOM! Oh, oh. A direct hit on our ammo bunker. BAROOOM! BAROOOM! Shit, I wish they would exhaust their ammo supply. The smoke cleared from the ammo bunker. No apparent damage. A lull ensued.

"Mr. Bruce, are you OK?" Everyone made voice contact to check for injuries.

"Yes," I said. "I'm OK."

This exchange had lasted for perhaps 20 minutes or so and we had sustained no

casualties. Again, our mujahideen began to pound the fort and its surrounding buildings below. The ZPUs spoke: DOOM-DOOM-DOOM.

I could not assess the damage done by the HMGs at that distance, but the effectiveness of the BM-12, 75mm, 81mm and B-10s were not open to question. Again, and in concert, our heavy weapons began to assail the communist position. Sharif screamed, "Get down. They are shooting at us."

BAROOOM! Wow. That was at least 100 meters long. BAROOOM! More incoming. "They are overshooting us," I shouted at Sharif.

MiGs would normally pound this position on a regular basis. I wondered where the hell they were. The Soviet strips at Khost and Ghazni were not far away. Gomankai is a very strategic position, one that has stubbornly rebuffed Soviet and regime forces from Nari and Samkani.

"Mr. Bruce. Come. We must go now," Sharif said, interrupting my photo session. "Tomorrow we will go to Parachinar." Parachinar is located in Pakistan and was approximately two days' walk away. My visa was due to expire soon, so that sounded like a good idea to me. We started to descend Gomankai Mountain at a pace that was difficult to maintain. I was weak from three weeks of dysentery and many hard miles of walking but charged with adrenaline from the events of the day. I managed to keep up.

Just below us, BAROOOM! Oh shit, more incoming. BAROOOM! Those long rounds were now right on our ass. BAROOOM! Why did they have to be such lousy shots? BAROOOM! That one hit the treetops and sprayed debris all over us. It was all assholes and elbows as we ran for cover. BAROOOM! I scrambled into the bottom of a small ravine after Sharif and Khangai.

I heard Sharif saying, "Mr. Bruce, please be careful." Ever vigilant, always protecting, Sharif was registering concern for my well-being.

"OK," I responded. Then the rounds stopped.

"Come, hurry," said Sharif.

As our pace quickened I recognized the signal of a counterattack from the *amoebas*. What timing! Oh well, I thought, I'll just hold it or lubricate these baggy Afghan pants. Can't afford the luxury of stopping here. Off we went, jogging down the trail.

All was silent. Gomankai was silent. The op was apparently over. The mood was jubilant. We had no casualties. What more could anyone ask? Again, cries of "*Allah akhbar!*" filled the air. Khangai turned on his cassette player and serenaded us with Afghan music as we traveled quickly down the mountain. Our column buzzed with talk of the attack. Morale was incredibly high. When we reached the BM-12 position, Commander Tazamieer was beaming, having just learned by radio that the op was a success.

After dark, we reached the center at Lazha just in time for supper. Sleep that night was not possible. The compound was alive with tales of the attack. Someone had taped the event and was playing it back. BBC was now broadcasting. I caught up on my notes, filling in the many events of the day. Some of the mujahideen came to me for treatment of blisters. I obliged, noting that my supplies were running low.

Sharif asked, "Can you write letters for some of the mujahideen who have friends or relatives in the U.S.?"

"Yes," I responded. "Of course. I'll carry these out and mail them from the States."

Eid Mohammad, a 20-year-old who had spent one year in the United States recovering from a wound sustained when he

stepped on an antipersonnel mine, asked me to write a letter to his doctor in Los Angeles and tell him he was doing fine.

The morning emerged bright and beautiful. We hastily consumed a breakfast of bread and tea. "Today we go to Parachinar," announced Sharif. "I couldn't believe I had been gone for almost a month.

As we traveled back to Pakistan, war damage was much more apparent. Gigantic 500-pound bomb craters, houses turned to rubble, animal corpses rotting in the sun, new grave markers everywhere. It's depressing to think how a technological superpower is doing this to these good people. Continuing down the road, a different scene began to unfold. Many destroyed T-54 Soviet tanks were in evidence, as well as burned-out trucks and BMP personnel carriers. I photographed what had obviously been a decisive mujahideen victory. "They came from Samkani," Sharif explained. "We

attacked them with RPGs and mines. Many mujahideen were martyred, but we were victorious."

It grew dark. We had been traveling for many hours. My eyes were beginning to swell shut from too much sun. I was riding the mule again, having trouble walking. My case of dysentery was really wearing on my nerves. I began fantasizing about hot showers. Dogs barked up ahead. I hoped a *chaikhana* was close by, so we could stop and drink tea. One was, and we did.

At 0500 we were on the move again. Our escort of 25 mujahideen turned back toward Lazha, leaving the original eight and the commander to continue on to Parachinar. "We will be at the border in one or two hours," Sharif informed me.

Near the border we stopped to assess my clothing. "Put on this coat. All the mujahideen wear them." The commander, approving, said, "American looks like mujahideen." I was dirty, sunburned and bearded. "Jesus, I look terrible," I said, inspecting myself in Sharif's polished *naswar* (green snuff) can. A Pakistani border guard rushed down to intercept us as we neared their tent compound on the border. After a brief conversation with the commander, he turned his attention to me. No time to be shy—I walked right up

to him and looked him in the eye. I was so tired and sick, I didn't really give a shit what happened! No problem. He looked at me but said nothing. We proceeded to rendezvous with a pickup truck. Piling in, we were on our way to Parachinar, Pakistan.

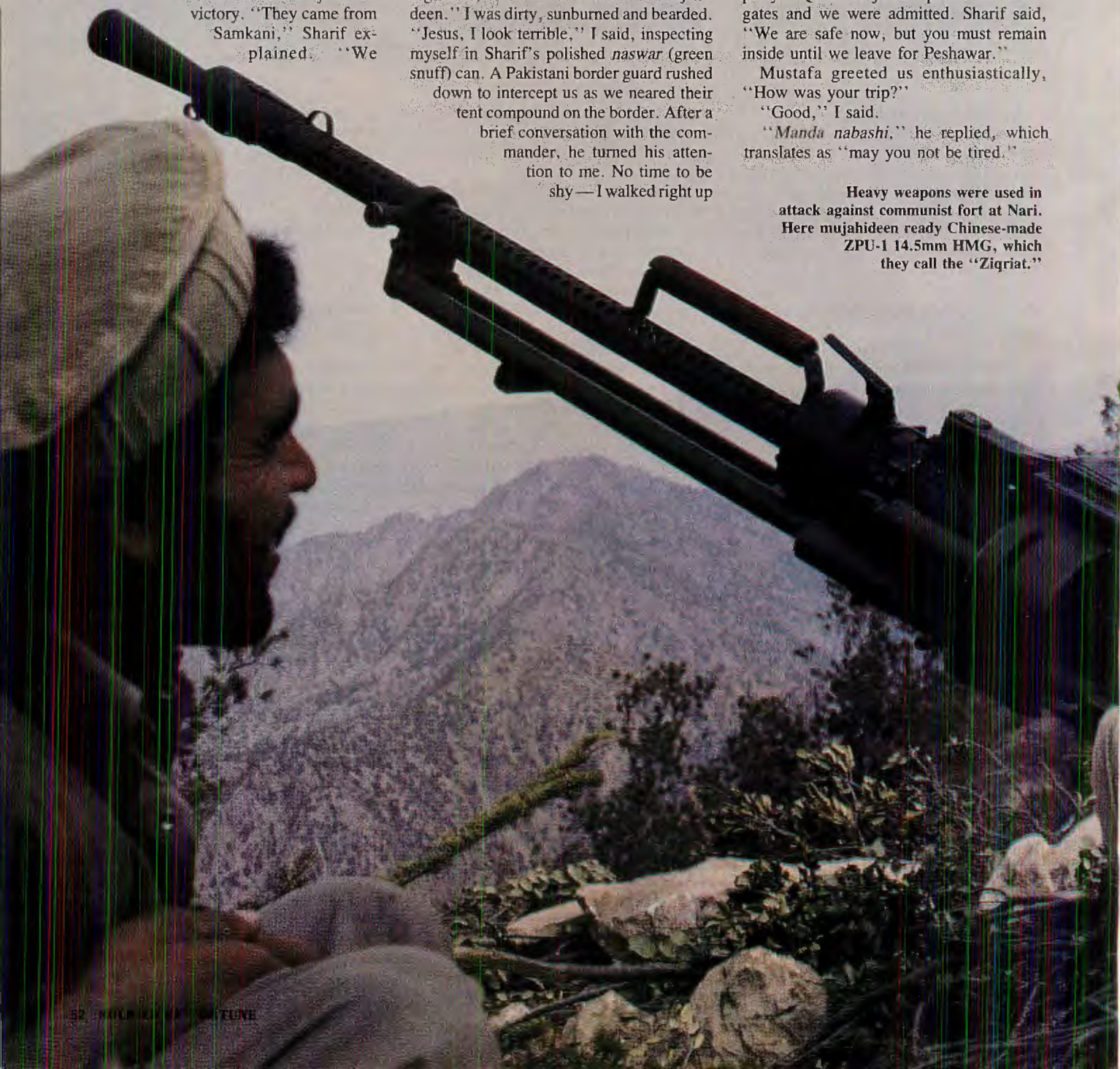
Up ahead, another checkpoint. Shit! These things were getting to be a real pain in the ass! We were stopped. Everyone was ordered out of the truck and subsequently searched. I feigned sleep in the cab of the truck. A guard approached, reached in and shook me vigorously. I did not respond. The guard opened the door and spoke to me. I ignored him. I was frisked where I sat, and the door closed. Smiling, the mujahideen climbed back on the truck, pleased that we had fooled the Pak border guards.

Parachinar was a bustling place, off-limits to foreigners. I noticed that it was swarming with police. Soon we were at party HQ. A mujahid opened the metal gates and we were admitted. Sharif said, "We are safe now, but you must remain inside until we leave for Peshawar."

Mustafa greeted us enthusiastically, "How was your trip?"

"Good," I said.
"Manda nabashi," he replied, which translates as "may you not be tired."

Heavy weapons were used in attack against communist fort at Nari. Here mujahideen ready Chinese-made ZPU-1 14.5mm HMG, which they call the "Ziqriat."



Mustafa was the ranking official at party HQ. We were promptly shown to our quarters and arrangements were made for meals. Commander Rahim left immediately for Peshawar for meetings with party officials.

A meal of tea and *masta* (yogurt) was brought to me while Sharif and the others dined on rice, salad and bread. After supper, medicine for my dysentery was offered. I sure hoped it would work. I didn't want to travel home in this condition.

For the next two days I rested, took medicine and began feeling better. I was getting anxious to return to Peshawar and the long journey home. It was now 1 November, 1100 hours. Sharif came into our quarters and shouted, "Quickly, gather up all your things. We are leaving for Peshawar right away. The ambulance has arrived."

Again, I was quickly briefed as to my cover story in the event of our capture by the Pakistani border police. Sharif explained, "Do exactly what I do. Watch me closely. If I get out of the ambulance, you do the same. Do not speak in English outside the ambulance until we are in Peshawar. If you are questioned, say only, '*Chamigi*.' That is Persian and the police will not understand you. If that does not work and you are captured, tell them you are an American doctor visiting the mujahideen hospital in Parachinar. Do not tell anyone that I am your interpreter. We will have 15 to 20

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IA DRANG AERIAL AMBUSH

1/9 Cav Scouts Turn Valley Into Kill Zone

by Dave Bray

THERE was a blinding thunderstorm going on outside, and I could barely see in the flickering candlelight as I sat in my pup tent trying to tape together an infantry map of the Pleiku/Ia Drang Valley area. Just getting the map together was almost more than I could handle. That was probably lucky because it didn't give me much time to think about what lay ahead of me.

I hadn't been in Vietnam long. A few weeks earlier, at about the time the 1st Air Cavalry Division was ordered to Vietnam (August 1965), two regiments of North Vietnamese regulars (NVA) had overrun the Special Forces camp at Kontum in the central highlands of South Vietnam.

After putting the men, women and children who survived the battle to death with flamethrowers, the two units continued south and laid siege to the Special Forces camp at Plei Me, just south of Pleiku in the Ia Drang Valley. For weeks, while the main body of the 1st Cav was en route via troop transport and aircraft carrier, the battle-hardened NVA attempted to breach the defenses at Plei Me. But the brave Green Beret team and their 179 'Yard (Montagnard) sidekicks held on, with the help of numerous Air Force strikes, chopper resupply and an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Ranger unit, which was badly injured when the NVA ambushed it.

Around the same time that we arrived in Vietnam the siege was broken and the crack 32nd and 33rd NVA regiments, joined by the 66th NVA regiment, melted away into the jungle near the Cambodian border. It was believed they were still in the area.

Our unit, 1/9 Cavalry squadron, had just settled in and gotten our feet on the ground at An Khe when we were issued 1/100 tactical infantry maps of the Pleiku/Ia Drang Valley areas (lots of them) and told to tape them together and prepare to move into that region. That's how I found myself in my tent on a rain-drenched night, trying to piece together a map. We had to handle the task very carefully — we flew so low and

EARLY SCOUT

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searched our target area in such detail that we had to use many maps to cover our search areas. We finally got the maps together, ready to move out the next day for Pleiku.

For the first days we staged out of Camp Holloway, where we were crammed

together: pup tents and choppers inside the airfield perimeter. Then B Troop, of which I was a part, headed south and began bivouacking in various clearings. We would land while it was still daylight and set up camp. But as soon as it was dark the order would come to "saddle up!" Everyone would hurry to his aircraft and, with all running lights out, we would be off 10 or 12 miles across the jungle to set up camp in another clearing that we had picked out earlier in the day. As scary as the landings in the dark were, it was a damned good idea. We were never attacked in our base camp in the Ia Drang Valley, although it seemed that our water supply never caught up with us and we were always thirsty and dirty.

The 1/9th Cav squadron was made up of five "troops" of company size — headquarters, A, B, C and D. Three of the troops (A, B and C) were aerial reconnaissance troops, while the fourth, Delta, was a ground recon troop. Each of the three aerial units was like a small squadron unto itself — headquarters platoon, Scout platoon, gunship platoon and the infantry platoon. The Scout platoon, of which I was a member, flew Bell H-13 Sioux "bubble-type" helicopters armed with eight rockets and two machine guns. Inside, the pilot and observer each carried an M16 and a .45 or a .38, as well as all the M34 Willy Pete (WP, or white phosphorus) grenades we could get off the ground with.

The infantry platoon had an authorized strength of 40 men, but I never saw it with more than 22 at any time. The platoon had their own D-model Hueys and air crews to carry them into and out of battle. The gunship platoon flew B-model Hueys armed with four M60 flexible 7.62mm machine guns and a total of 14 2.75-inch folding-fin rockets. This platoon provided backup for both the Scouts and the infantry platoon, acting as aerial artillery. The troop commander had his own gunship, which was the command aircraft.

As one of three Scout pilots, I found



Captain Fritz, leader of B Troop Scouts, during search for 32nd and 33rd NVA regiments, at base camp at An Khe, South Vietnam. Photo: Dave Bray



myself flying every mission under the one standing order that the Scouts had — “Find the enemy and maintain visual contact AT ALL COST!”

It soon became apparent to us that we had two choices: to fly either right on the deck or at an altitude over 2,000 feet. At 2,000 feet we were out of effective small arms range but we couldn't see anything down in the jungle. At four or five feet off the treetops or over the grass, we would surprise many North Vietnamese and be past them so quickly that they'd never have a chance to open fire on us. So we made a practice of flying tight to the deck. Our observers became masters at reading the maps and pinpointing our position when all I could see was an unbroken sea of treetops with no terrain features on which to orient myself.

At first our search orders came down from division headquarters and were no doubt drafted by some desk jockey who had never heard of contour plowing. Scout crews, gunship crews and lift-ship crews were assigned north-south grid lines to follow and weren't allowed to deviate from them. For the few days that we followed these orders, nothing was found at all. At one point during this silly line flying, I spotted hundreds of footprints heading east toward the Cambodian border in the dry sand of a creek below me. When I wanted to break off the line and follow them, I was roundly chewed out and told to resume flying the grid line.

On my first flight into the Ia Drang Valley, when we first began staging out of Pleiku's Camp Holloway, Warrant Officer (WO) Moore and I were following the dirt road that went southwest toward Plei Me. He was several hundred yards behind me and at 2,000 feet of altitude to provide radio contact with our base camp while I swept the sage-like bushes with my skids and zig-zagged back and forth across the rolling hills and gullies trying to flush some NVA.

Suddenly we came upon a badly mauled

When dustoffs couldn't fly out wounded, Chief Warrant Officers Barrie Turner (left, holding M16) and Doug Tucker (center, wearing sunglasses) flew out wounded themselves after fighting alongside Blues during ambush. Photo: Barrie Turner

unit of ARVN Rangers. As my observer and I flew below them in the gully to their left, they sat on their armored personnel carriers (APCs) and waved their red hats and scarves at us and cheered. It was quite a moment for a couple of young heroes hardly blooded in battle, and we made a show of dragging our skids through the tops of the bushes as we searched for North Vietnamese stragglers. We found nothing but South Vietnamese dead in the bushes. Then we nearly flew into a deuce-and-a-half truck filled to overflowing with their dead. The horrible sight sobered us up, but it also renewed our resolve to locate the enemy and do our damndest to annihilate him. I began to fly ever-widening circles around the ARVN in an attempt to draw out the North Vietnamese. Each time we passed the ARVN they would cheer us again, as if we were the heroes in some melodrama, but we had no luck in turning



U.S. Army field mess in Ia Drang Valley. Photo: Barrie Turner

up any NVA for a while.

Finally, after several passes, as I was flying just to the left of the road, Moore radioed urgently, “Break right, Bear, break right! You have tracers following you! Looks like a .50.” Immediately I broke over the roadway and down into the next gully. Moore was not sure where the fire had come from but by the cyclic rate could estimate the type of weapon, so we decided that I would try to draw it out one more time to let him home in on it.

After zigzagging around for a minute or two to get up my courage, I again traversed the ground I had just been over. The ARVN Rangers who could see me well stood on the tracks and cheered, but no fire came. It took two or three more passes and slowing down to 40 knots before the tracers again began seeking me out. This time I saw them as they passed my bubble on the left side, going the same way I was. Immediately I began a “ruptured duck” maneuver, rotating my cyclic stick slightly while raising and lowering the collective. This made us corkscrew through the air, making us very hard to hit.

After one more sure pass, Moore had the position pretty well determined and opened up with all the firepower he had on board: eight rockets, two M16s and a handful of M34 WP grenades. As the surviving Rangers gave us a standing ovation, I turned around and put my rockets where Moore had put his, but to this day I don't know whether we got the gun or not. We had to depart to rearm and refuel. Since it was getting dark, we did not return. Other flight crews were getting blooded about this time.

A tough West Pointer from California, Lieutenant Colonel John B. Stockton, commanded 1/9. Though considered “crazy” by many in the division, he was well-respected by his men. Sporting a large handlebar mustache, he was lean and bald and expected nothing out of his men except bravery, aggressiveness and the will to fight. Leading by example, Stockton got what he wanted out of us.

On one occasion a hog unit (Hueys with 48 rockets each) of the division Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) put rockets on the men they were supposed to be providing fire support for. They usually fired from at least half a mile back and about 4,000 feet of altitude. The rockets had a tendency to wander en route to the target, so such accidents were not uncommon with ARA. Several American soldiers were killed by the ARA, and Stockton used the event to spice a little pep talk to the pilots of our squadron.

The exact words the man spoke evade me, but I do recall such expressions as “lily-livered cowards” being thrown out several times with the admonition that none of our pilots had better ever fire from so far back or they would be kicked out of the squadron like the lily-livered cowards who shot their own men. This was his reminder to us that, since the inertia fuses in the warheads of the 2.75-inch rockets armed them after approximately 300 feet of flight,



Ia Drang Valley and area bordering Hospital Battle area, with Chu Pong mountain on right. Before being driven back by reinforcements, Blue leader Jack Oliver and his 20 men killed or captured a total of 128 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars during this battle. Photo: Barrie Turner

this would be close to our maximum firing distance when supporting a ground unit or engaging an enemy.

During the search of the Ia Drang, gunships spotted enemy soldiers — irregulars (Viet Cong, VC) — and attacked them as two platoons were put down to search the ground. It was about this time that two VC surrendered to our people and a third came forth with his hands up. His captor could not find his weapon. When the grunt asked permission to bring him in without his weapon, Stockton replied, "Negative. Get his god-damned weapon even if you have to kill the bastard."

Gunship pilots Barrie Turner and Doug Tucker flew cover during this engagement and put rockets on the enemy positions from about 350 feet out. Two other events, one humorous and one grim, took place during the early days of our searching the Ia Drang.

An Alpha Troop lift-ship flying search missions as part of a team with another D model flown by Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) "Pappy" Deitch suffered engine failure and went down into a very large stand of bamboo that was nearly 40 feet high. Pappy, an air captain who came over to the Army and took a warrant to fly helicopters, knew that it would be a long wait for a Chinook to come rescue the downed chopper. He also knew that thousands of NVA were in the area. After a careful look at the position of the four flight crewmen and the downed bird, he overrode the governor that holds down the engine rpms on the Huey and picked up some extra rotor blade speed and began a long, shallow descent through the heavy bamboo to where

the crewmen sat.

Like a giant lawn mower, the 48-foot blades of the Huey chopped their way through the bamboo to where the four men stood on the side of the Huey (it had rolled over on touchdown). As he hovered over them, they climbed over the skids into his Huey. Then, with his chopper vibrating mightily, they mowed their way out of the bamboo forest and headed back to Pleiku. Back at Camp Holloway the blades were found to be separated, leading edge from trailing, for their full length. How it flew, I'll never know, but Pappy was one heck of a pilot and the Huey was one hell of a chopper.

A Charlie Troop gunship flown by WOs Bayrone and Tolley got separated from its teammate and spotted some NVA near the Ia Drang River. They radioed that they were attacking the NVA and then there was nothing but silence. They had not given their exact position, only that they were near the river. Other helicopters went in search of them and a Scout chopper flown by Captain Gower spotted the wreckage of the Huey in a clearing near the river. Landing his H-13 nearby, he pulled his .38 and went to investigate.

Bayrone had been propped up against a tree and shot in the head. The body of one of the enlisted crewmen was nearby. There was no sign of Tolley or the other crewman, and NVA came out of the woods shooting at Gower. He ran for his H-13, returning fire at the NVA as he did, and exited the area. To deprive the NVA of the downed Huey's guns, sky-raiders were called in to bomb the wreckage. Several months later, Captain Jack Oliver (B Troop, Blue Team leader) was able to go in and recover the bones of the two crewmen. Infantrymen were inserted into the general area and found Tolley and the missing enlisted man. Rumor spread that they had been skinned alive, but several officers who should have been in a position to know denied this.

Finally, after several fruitless days of flying the grid lines as instructed by Division, someone seemed to realize that it was foolish and we were sent out in teams and assigned "sectors" to search. Always short of Scout pilots, Lt. Col. Stockton sent some of his staff officers down to fly with the Scouts. On 30 October, I drew Captain Gillette, the squadron intelligence officer.

I didn't know Gillette, but I soon learned that he had no use for us lowly warrant officers. He told me to fly a tight "wing" formation on him and I told him that I wouldn't. In B Troop we had already found that flying formation not only wasted two sets of eyes in the search mission, but the crew of the first aircraft was also hindered in effective observation while looking out for a close-in wingman. Not only that, but the second chopper was dead meat if the lead one went over an enemy who happened to have his finger on the trigger. One duck may get over the blind at five to 10 feet, the second — never! The ring knocker reminded me that I was merely a chief warrant officer while he was a captain. So I shut my mouth.

Our first flight was uneventful. The captain did not even seem to notice that the "tight" formation I flew on him was from 200 yards to one side and 100 yards behind him. On the second time out, Gillette broke out of the area we had been assigned to search and took off at twice the 40-knot speed at which we usually searched. In return, I ignored him and began to fly my usual zigzag search patterns. Soon, on my left, I spotted a zigzag slit-trench just above a gully and just below a field of maize. I radioed Gillette of the find, including the fact that we had spotted uniformed NVA in the trenches. He told me to "mark it on your map and keep flying." Sergeant Bill Doughtie, my observer, did this and we flew off to the southeast to join Gillette. By now he was near the Ia Drang River where it made a large horseshoe that opened to the north, and I could see him flying east over the trees.

After spotting the first group of NVA I was more into locating the main force than pleasing the captain, so I zigzagged my way south to join him. Approximately 500-600 meters north of the river, I spotted four occupied slit-trenches. They were laid out in a square. Three of the trenches were L-shaped and the fourth, on the northwest corner, was laid out straight as a diagonal across the corner formed by the entrenchments. Again I radioed Gillette and told him of my find. Once again he told me to mark it on my map and keep flying. This time, however, I refused and reminded him that the reason we were out there was to find the NVA and maintain visual contact. To his credit, he put aside his attitude problem and returned to where I was circling over the enemy positions.

Though the vegetation was relatively sparse, there were enough big trees to keep us from getting within 200 feet of the ground. After determining that the men be-

low us were in fact NVA, Gillette opened fire on them and instructed me to do so, too. Our rockets were set up at five degrees above level so we could fire them while right on the deck and not have them dig into the ground. At 200 feet in the air, this made it difficult for us to put them on ground targets, but we tried and our observers, Sgt. Doughtie and Spec.4 McMillan, opened fire on them with their M16s. We were low on fuel and had to depart the area while our infantry platoon (Blues) led by Capt. Oliver was en route. No one relieved us on station, so there was no one to guide Oliver to the NVA position. No ground contact was made with the NVA that day.

The next day, Major Dick Grube, the squadron executive officer, came down to fly with us Scouts. Two years earlier he had been company commander of Headquarters Company, 7th Aviation Battalion, in Korea. Assigned to B Company, I was training officer for both companies. When I asked him where he expected me to fly in relation to his position, he advised me that, since I was the experienced Scout, he would fly wing for me and, after I filled him in on the first spotting of NVA the day before, we decided to see whether they were still near the maize field and attack them.

Arriving at the position, we found the NVA in the same spot as the previous day. I asked Dick if he wanted to fire first since he had never fired rockets from an H-13 before. He said he did and I rolled in behind him at about 500 feet altitude as he and his observer squeezed off a rocket. To our horror, we could see the rocket ignite but not leave the tube. It was burning out both ends. A flamethrower almost three inches in diameter was burning out of control within two inches of three six-pound warheads about 18 inches from where Sergeant Felix "Tex" Helms sat. It was the first hung rocket we had experienced and we knew it was going to ignite the warheads and blow that chopper out of the sky. There was no way to jettison it. I radioed Grube to "Get it on the ground!" and he replied with a frantic "I know, I know!" They plopped the chopper on the ground about 150 feet from the trench they had been shooting at, and Doughtie and I opened fire on the trench to keep them down while somehow, with his bare hands, Tex managed to get the burning rocket out of the tube and throw it into the bushes. They then climbed aboard and got the hell out of there.

The next day, 1 November 1965, Chief Warrant Officer Larry Tasker and I were flying down a trail we had found near the Cambodian border. I was on the trees as we flew east, north of Chu Pong. I looked back and saw that Larry had popped up to 50 feet above the trees — right into the kill zone. I radioed Larry to get back on the deck. He said something about what I could do with the deck. Before I could counter his wisecrack, he rapidly came back on the air with, "There are four people running below me." It took me a few minutes, but I finally spotted them and we chased them through the



For first few days, pilots, pup tents and choppers were all crammed together inside the airfield perimeter at Camp Holloway. Photo: Barrie Turner

trees until they collapsed at the base of a tree, exhausted.

About this time Doughtie and I recognized this as the same spot where we had engaged the NVA with Gillette two days earlier. I had Larry go to 2,000 feet to radio base that we were in contact with NVA regulars. We had plenty of fuel and were able to wait while Blue was landed nearby. After I guided Oliver and his men into position, they ended up killing or capturing 128 NVA before being driven out by reinforcements. This incident was known as "Hospital Battle" because the attack area was an NVA regimental-sized hospital.

After refueling, Larry and I returned to the trail the NVA had been following, determined to find out if they had a rest camp hidden somewhere between the hospital area and the border. The trail was wider here along the river and in some places we could



Sergeant Melvus Hall, Scout observer, framed by 1/9 choppers in Ia Drang near Katecka on Route 19. Photo: Dave Bray

pass under the high canopy without fear of being trapped by vegetation. We soon located what appeared to be a rest area: many foxholes and bamboo huts along the trail.

I radioed Major Zion, the troop commander who was hovering over the Hospital Battle area in his command gunship, and asked that grunts be sent to investigate the camp. He replied that one fight at a time was enough. Larry and I burned a few huts with our rockets (no one was in sight) and left. That evening, as we fed ourselves on field rations, a very tired and very dirty Jack Oliver came over to me and said, "Dave, I hope you boys don't find anything else for a while."

Two nights later we were bivouacked in the most miserable spot imaginable. Small tree stumps were everywhere, along with thick stands of slender little saplings. After we had landed and set up camp, we were told to move our choppers. Bruce Johnson offered to move mine for me since I was writing a letter and, in the poor visibility of twilight, he sat my chopper on a jagged stump, smashing the oil pump.

I had just bought a Vietnamese net hammock and tried to sleep in it that night, having tied it to several saplings just a few yards in front of the operations tent. The strings kept breaking on the over-stressed, undersized hammock and I kept waking up, tying it back together and then catching a few more minutes of sleep. It was a most miserable night, but at daybreak I was to learn just how nice a night I had had compared to the others in the squadron.

Though Jack Oliver was not anxious to get back into a big fight so soon after Hospital Battle, the night of 3 November found him and his 20 Blues waiting in ambush at LZ Rose near the spot where Larry and I had found the rest camp. Accompanying Oliver and his men was reporter Charles Black of the Columbus, Georgia, *Ledger*. Black carried no typewriter that night. Like the ambushers, he was armed with a 12-gauge riot gun with double-aught buck. About 200

yards away, another platoon from 1/9 also lay in waiting. The plan was for the platoons to hold their fire until the enemy had passed the first platoon's position in order to inflict maximum damage by catching the enemy between the units.

As the men lay silently in the leech-infested muck of the jungle floor that night, the NVA did indeed pass their position — but they were still passing the first platoon of troopers when they reached the second platoon 20 yards away. Realizing that this was more than a small NVA unit between them, Jack and the other Blue platoon leader knew they were damned if they did open fire and damned if they didn't. They finally did open up on what turned out to be the vanguard of the 32nd and 33rd NVA regiments as they headed for the Cambodian border, about 1,500 meters away!

Apparently I slept soundly once I finally had the hammock tied properly because when I awoke early the next morning and staggered a few yards to the operations tent, I found that Gordon Fisher, the operations officer, and his radio operator were the only other people left in camp. Only my disabled chopper was there. No other machines were around.

"Where is everybody?" I asked Gordon.

He told me that a terrible battle had taken place during the night and Lt. Col. Stockton had ordered every man in the squadron into the battle: cooks, clerks and maintenance people. My hammock had been in plain sight of the operations tent, yet no one woke me.

"Why didn't someone wake me?" I asked.

Fisher just smiled. "Consider yourself lucky. Since your chopper was down, no one thought to wake you up. It might have saved your life." He then went on to tell me what he knew from monitoring the radio all night long. When the ambush was planned, the 1st Brigade was held in reserve. Colonel Stockton had operational control over the mission. Once the trap was sprung on the several thousand battle-hardened NVA regulars by the relatively inexperienced troops of the squadron, it was soon clear that the ambushers were badly outnumbered. It was at this point that Stockton ordered everyone in the squadron into the battle or immediate support thereof.

When our unit started getting wounded, the dustoffs would not go near the battlefield, so 1/9 lift pilots turned their landing lights off and felt their way to the ground among the 200-foot trees. Upon touchdown, they would friction down their controls, jump clear of the Hueys and fight alongside the infantrymen until there were enough wounded loaded aboard to justify their leaving the LZ. They would only travel a few miles to the Special Forces camp of Duc Co, where Captain Fritz, the Scout platoon leader, was coordinating the resupply of the unit and the medevac of the wounded. One of the gunship pilots, CWO Barrie Turner, describes that night:

"Doug and I landed our gunship about midnight. We shut down and grabbed our



UH-1B (B model) Huey armed with rockets. Chu Pong, South Vietnam, is in the background. Photo: Barrie Turner

M16s and fought alongside the infantry until about 0330, when it was our turn to fly a load of wounded out. Other gunship and lift-ship pilots had done the same thing, and each of them had taken many hits on the way out. Scared the hell out of me.

"We left our crew chief and doorgunner on the ground to fight and even took our rockets out of the tubes so we could carry more wounded. I'll never forget the sights and sounds of that night! You know, though, we never took a hit. You can bet that after it was over, Doug and I headed for Pleiku and the good old California Bar."

Sometime right after the ambush was



One of author's "best observers," Sergeant Benjamin Foster of Virginia, standing by H-13S armed with skid-mounted M60 machine guns. This helicopter was used as back-up for the author's rocket-armed H-13S. Photo: Dave Bray

sprung and the platoons realized that they were badly outnumbered, Lt. Col. Stockton ordered the 1st Brigade into preplanned LZs to the rear of the enemy forces. The deputy division commander ordered Stockton *not* to commit the reserves. Captain Fisher and several of the other pilots monitored the exchange between the general and Stockton. As related to me by Fisher (and later confirmed by others who had heard the transmission), it went something like this:

General: "Colonel, do not commit reserves. Over."

Stockton: "If I don't commit reserves my men are lost. Over."

General: "Colonel, you have one written and now this is your second verbal direct order — do not commit reserves. Over."

Stockton: "I am committing reserves. Out."

As the battle raged, Sergeant Charles Miller, our Scout platoon sergeant, was told to get a load of small-arms ammo ready for pickup by en route Hueys. He sent a detail with a ¾-ton truck to the Holloway ammo dumps. There they were met by a major and a first sergeant who told them they had to get their ammo from An Khe, another 45 minutes to the east. When the detail reported this back to Sgt. Miller, he hopped on the running board and ordered them back to the dump, where he politely saluted the major and told him briefly that they had to have ammo. The major said he was sorry, they had to get theirs at An Khe. Knowing time was critical for the men in the battle, Sgt. Miller wasted no time pulling his .45, jacking a round in the chamber and receiving fast permission for his detail to take all the ammo they needed.

Over the nine-day period of the Ia Drang battle, over 3,600 North Vietnamese regulars were killed by the very "green" troops of the 1st Cav Division. One officer from the 2nd of the 7th received the Medal of Honor for his part in the battle. The only



Sergeants Doughtie (left) and LeBlanc (right), Scout observers with rocket-armed H-13S near Plei Me, South Vietnam. Photo: Dave Bray

medal I know that Lt. Col. John B. Stockton received was a song, sung to the tune of "The Sloop John B" by a group of his pilots at the change-of-command ceremony when he left the squadron. It was very moving, and the tough old bastard turned around, put his hands on the back of Maggie the mule and shed a few tears.

The song had to do with a courageous man putting his men's lives ahead of his career. Most of us shed a tear or two ourselves. Even now, over 20 years later, when the ghosts of the Ia Drang run through my mind, I've been known to lift a glass to old John B. ✕

SCOUT REPORT — THE H-13S

Since the Hughes OH-6A, which had been designed for the Scout mission, was not yet available, the first Scouts to fly in Vietnam used the H-13 Sioux (H-13S) manufactured by Bell Helicopter.

The H-13S was an advanced and supercharged version of the old H-13E "bubble" chopper that was used during the Korean War with skid-mounted litters to medevac casualties. From what I was to learn later, I believe the H-13S was the better helicopter for the Scout mission; it gave the pilot and observer a better chance of survival, while providing excellent "loiter" time for searches.

The Hueys, Cobras and light observation helicopters (LOHs, pronounced lôches), with their turbine engines, had an effective flying time of about one hour and 45 minutes; the more efficient H-13S, with its reciprocating engine, could stay out for about two and a half hours before heading back to refuel. This additional 45 minutes of search time per mission had to count for something.

On some of our very first missions in Vietnam, the unit would send out a Scout team of two H-13Ses covered by a high-flying team of B-model gunships. This was supposed to provide protection for the vulnerable H-13S as it skimmed along the treetops or at four to five feet off the ground. In reality, however, it hindered the mission.

The big bubble and truss boom-tail construction of the H-13S made us almost invisible against the foliage of the jungle. When the gunships followed us for the high cover, they were forever asking us to pop up so they could see us. This was not only a waste of time, it also kept us from really doing the serious searching that we'd gone out to do. We had to break off the mission almost an

hour before we were low on fuel.

After two days of being "protected" by the gunships, some of us requested that we be allowed to fly without such protection. With permission granted, we began to find the North Vietnamese and do serious damage to them. Each of the troop's 18 Scout pilots chose the way he wanted his chopper armed. We had plenty of aircraft but a shortage of pilots, so most of us had two assigned helicopters.

At Lieutenant Colonel Stockton's direction, the squadron armorers and maintenance people had modified a rocket launching system for the H-13Ses. There were four tubes on each side, skid mounted, and a simple sheet-metal dial had been mounted on the right side of the console. When a rocket was needed, the observer would reach up and turn the dial to the next number. Hopefully, if the blast from the previous rocket had not burned out the launching wires, the rocket would ignite and fire.

On the HU-1s, if a rocket hung in the tubes the pilots would lift an emergency lever and explosive bolts would separate the rocket tubes from the chopper. On the H-13Ses we had no such luxury, and I watched many rockets burning out both ends and prayed that the warheads of the other rockets would not blow from the heat. Eventually we learned from an armorer that the rockets hung up in the tubes when the warheads had vibrated loose. Subsequently, we would lean out and screw down the warheads tighter while we flew and we had no more hung rockets. On some of the H-13Ses we had a pair of skid-mounted M60s which tended to malfunction more than they worked.

Each pilot was issued a .38 and an M16. The observers were issued .45s and an M16. In addition, we carried an M79 grenade launcher and a couple of claymore mines just in case we went down and the second chopper couldn't get us out in the Scouts.

Between pilot and observer was an ammo can with half a dozen M34 white phosphorus grenades which we dropped in trenches and on enemy machine gunners who thought they were unseen as they fired at gaggles of landing Hueys. In a bandolier hung on my shoulder straps were seven loaded M16 magazines. Twenty boxes of M16 tracers were stacked between my left side and the bulkhead of the H-13S. My observer carried his M16 at the ready. Mine hung from a large wire "safety pin" from my upper door hinge. The butt was on the seat, to the left of my collective.

After firing at a target, we would overfly it and, as the observer leaned out and fired to our rear and right side, I would prop the collective on my left leg, grab the pistol grip on the M16 and turn it upside down so the brass would not hit me in the face as I fired. The few seconds it took to empty the magazine and return my hand to the collective were enough to keep the enemy from firing back at us when we were most vulnerable — four feet over his head at 45-55 knots air speed.

One of the best things about the H-13S was its ability to grab a little extra power when needed. Unlike the turbine engines of the Hueys, the H-13S had no delay (while the governor was being overridden) between the time you twisted the throttle and the time you needed the power. Even if you needed to over-speed the engine or the rotor blades to do it, the H-13S would get you out of a tight spot better than any other aircraft.

To my knowledge only three of the Scout pilots in the squadron had been through the Tiger course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. They were: Jack Oliver of B Troop (Scouts and Blues), Gary Weatherhead of Alpha Troop Scouts and myself. One thing they taught us during our low-level tactics course — "Formation flying on the deck is not only nonproductive, it is suicide."



SOF EXCLUSIVE

GUNS

BEHIND THE GREAT WALL

PART 8

PRC Pineapples

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

SOF's exclusive series on weapons of the People's Republic of China (PRC) now concludes with an examination of PRC hand grenades. The eight parts of "Guns Behind the Great Wall," which began in the September '87 SOF, now stand as the most comprehensive study of PRC military small arms to be found in a Western publication.

Once again SOF thanks the PRC government for opening the People's Liberation Army Small Arms Research Institute to our Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown, Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis and contributing author Bob Jordan, who became the first Westerners to T&E PRC military hardware in-country.

HAND grenades. Handle with extreme care. They are potentially the most dangerous item in the soldier's arsenal of personal weaponry. Throughout history they have produced more self-inflicted injuries than any other device available to the infantry. Yet they still remain an important ingredient in the grunt's ability to meet with, and destroy, the enemy. While they'll never replace a rifle, I'll take a sack of grenades over a pistol anytime.

Their first recorded use was at the siege of Arles in 1536. During that era grenades (from the Spanish word *granada*, meaning pomegranate) consisted of an earthenware pot filled with blackpowder and stones and ignited by a piece of slow match. Used principally for the defense of fortifications, as siege warfare declined so did the grenade.

Grenades were revived during the Russo-

BELOW: PRC Type 67 stick grenade with 1.33-ounce charge of TNT is still in use with the PLA. Conventional pull-friction fuze has a time delay of 2.8 to 4 seconds.



LEFT: On the Vietnamese front in the fall of 1985, PLA soldier prepares to throw Type 67 stick grenade by clenching the pull cord between his teeth — a practice not recommended by most Western orthodontists. Photo: courtesy of PLA Pictorial



ABOVE: PRC versions of Soviet hand grenades. In the background is an RKG-3T, a shaped-charge, parachute-delivered antitank grenade. From left to right in the foreground are the Type 1 (Soviet F1), Type 42 (Soviet RG-42) and Type 59 (Soviet RGD-5).



BELOW: Chinese stick grenades of Vietnam War vintage feature both long and short handles and either cylindrical or serrated oval bodies. All employ pull-friction igniters with highly variable time delays.

ABOVE: PRC Type 77-1 is the final word on stick grenades, as it features a synthetic handle with a plastic screw cap. Hungary is the only other nation still thought to be fielding stick grenades.

Japanese War of 1904 at the siege of Port Arthur. World War I, with its static trench scenario, saw the universal adoption and massive use of hand grenades. By 1916 the British were producing more than a million grenades per week.

Modern grenades have evolved into two principal types, defensive and offensive. Defensive grenades are designed to produce a large number of fragments which will incapacitate at distances up to 40 meters. Earlier types, such as the U.S. Mk2, Soviet F1 and British Mills Bomb, have externally serrated cast-iron bodies which break unevenly into either large chunks or powder-sized particles. Unfortunately, the fuze assemblies and large fragments are often propelled as far as 200 meters from the point of impact. Defensive grenades such as these must be employed from adequate cover.

Offensive grenades are supposedly designed for use by assaulting troops fighting in the open. Featuring heavy explosive charges with thin walls and little potential to produce large fragments, they depend upon their blast effect to stun or kill the enemy.



In recent years, these distinctions have blurred. If incapacitation can be guaranteed within a 10-meter burst radius and the danger area limited to a maximum of 30 meters, the grenade can be used for both defensive and offensive purposes. For these parameters to be met, the fragments must be extremely small, with high initial velocity (up to 6,000 fps) and almost no residual kinetic energy at 30 meters.

Three methods have been used to successfully achieve these results: 1) a pre-notched wire coil inside a thin sheet-metal body (U.S. M26 series); 2) a large number (2,600 to 3,500) of steel balls within a plastic matrix (Austrian Arges Types 72 and 73); and 3) a pre-notched liner or sleeve within a thin sheet-metal body (PRC Type 82-2). This discounts the fuze assembly

which, depending upon its construction, can still fly back and embed itself in your forehead.

Hand grenades are encountered in two broad configurations. Most common today is a hand-sized fragmentation body filled with the explosive charge and to which is directly attached the fuze assembly. This grenade takes several shapes: spherical ("baseball" or "golf ball"), oval ("egg" or "pineapple"), cylindrical or combinations of these geometries.

Most of these grenades use one variation or another of the Bouchon (from the World War I French inventor), or "mousetrap," igniter system. The fuze unit, which usually screws into the grenade body, consists of a detonator tube and a casting with a percussion cap in the center. Hinged to the casting is a spring-powered flap holding a firing pin that aligns with the percussion cap. A safety lever (sometimes called the "spoon") clips on to a lip on the opposite side of the casting with the firing pin flap forced back against its coil spring. The spoon is held in place by a cotter pin, with an attached pull ring, that passes through a hole in the fuze head casting.

While the cotter pin is being removed, the spoon is held by hand against the grenade body. When the grenade is thrown, the coil spring pivots the flap, flipping the safety lever away from the grenade and driving the firing pin into the percussion cap to ignite the fuze. Most hand grenade fuzes are designed with a 3- to 5-second delay — time enough to reach the target without permitting your opponent to pitch it back at you.



ABOVE: The oval-shaped PRC Type 82-1 grenade has an atavistic pull-friction fuze and an inner liner with hexagonal serrations.

BELOW: Because of its compact mousetrap igniter assembly, the Type 82-3 is only 3 inches in overall length but produces 300 fragments.



YOU CAN'T EAT A HAND GRENADE — SOF's GOURMETS IN CHINA



It ain't chop suey. SOF's T&E team discovered hitherto unknown culinary delights behind the Great Wall.

They don't eat chop suey in China, but fried scorpions are an expensive delicacy. Homo sapiens is an omnivorous species and his appetite is controlled more by environment than instinct. SOF's team discovered quickly that Chinese menus behind the Great Wall bear little resemblance to those of Oriental restaurants in the United States.

Ink fish, sea slugs, ox tripe, chicken feet (a breakfast item), fungus, jellyfish, fish bladders, shark fin soup, 1,000-year-old eggs (actually jellied hard-boiled eggs dyed green), duck feet with mustard sauce and dumplings the consistency of raw dough were not exactly our cup of oolong tea.

These unappetizing tidbits aside, the food we were served in the People's Republic of China was excellent. China is a vast country with a long history. Ingredients and cooking methods differ widely from province to province. There are five major categories of Chinese cuisine: Shanghaiese (Eastern), Cantonese (Southern), Szechuanese (Western), Hunanese (Central) and Peking-style (Northern).

SOF's trip to the PRC was spent in and around Beijing, so our sampling of Chinese dishes was mainly of the Peking-style. Although some of the courses were derived from banquets held at the Imperial Court in Beijing, most originated in neighboring Shantung Province. Quick stir-frying is the most common method of preparation, as it permits the greatest retention of nutrients, freshness and original taste and color of the ingredients. Especially memorable were the sauteed scallops with bamboo shoots, fried prawns, roast duck, sweet and sour fish, braised abalone and deep-fried sweet rice balls.

All of this was washed down with copious amounts of Tsingtao beer and moderately palatable local wines interspersed with infinite toasts of Moutai (160 proof, clear sorghum alcohol).

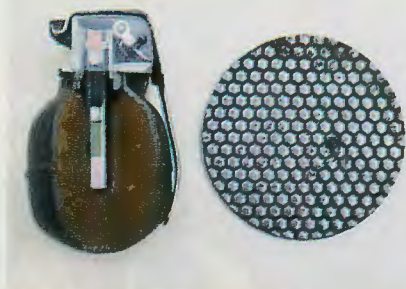
Developed over thousands of years, four elements influence the taste experience of Chinese cooking. They are flavor, aroma, texture and color. The Chinese have isolated five primary flavors: sour, pungent, bitter, sweet and salty. A Chinese banquet provides all of these components with harmony, contrast and accent.

Texture and color are frequently enhanced with ornately carved garnishes of carrots, radishes and turnips sculpted into delicate flowers and birds. The artisans who create these masterpieces are highly trained and employ special carving tools.

Formality also plays a significant role in any Chinese banquet. Great emphasis is placed upon the seating arrangement. The seat closest to the door is reserved for the host, while the seat farthest from the door, opposite the host, is the seat of honor. The seat to the left of the guest of honor is the second place of status; the seat to his right is the third. Once the appetizers have been served, it's customary for the host to toast the guest of honor and other guests. During the course of the meal, each guest, one by one, must toast the host. With the service of each new main dish (the head of any fish, duck or chicken served must face the guest of honor), the host must again toast the guests before anyone may begin eating. This adds up to a lot of Moutai and considerable camaraderie, no matter what your political inclinations are.

The numerous Chinese banquets attended by the SOF staff were unforgettable experiences. Our only disappointment? They never served us any fortune cookies.

Highly trained artisans create exquisite carvings of birds and flowers from carrots, radishes and turnips for Chinese banquets.



Type 82-2 grenade has a Bouchon-type igniter system with 2.2 ounces of TNT explosive filler. It breaks into 280 fragments.

Never hook grenades of this type to your LBE (Load-Bearing Equipment) by either the pull ring or safety lever. And never tape the spoons. By the time you unwind or tear away the tape, you may already be on your way to the pearly gates. Grenades should always be carried in pouches attached to your web gear.

The other basic configuration is that of the so-called "stick grenade," which is any grenade attached to a handle, usually wood, supposedly for ease in throwing. Introduced by British inventor Martin Hale in 1908, the first stick grenade featured an impact fuze and a cane handle to which were attached canvas streamers to insure nose-first impact. In 1915 the Germans added a time-delay fuze and removed the streamers, as nose-first delivery was no longer required. Called the *Steilhandgranate*, it was better known to the Allies as the "potato masher."

Delay fuzes on stick grenades usually incorporate pull-friction igniters that work on the same principle as a sulfur match. An abrasive-coated wire is embedded in a sensitive composition and attached to a cord passing through the hollow handle. When the cord is pulled, friction causes the primer material to flash and ignite the fuze, which burns for 3 to 5 seconds until it sets off the detonator.

No country has ever fielded as many stick grenades in such a wide variety of forms as the People's Republic of China. With plain or scored, cylindrical or serrated oval bodies, the wooden handles have varied in length from 2 to 5.5 inches. Early on, PRC stick grenades were frequently weather-proofed with a coating of beeswax.

Explosive fillers ranged from picric acid to mixtures of TNT (TriNitroToluene) or nitroglycerin with ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate or sawdust and schneiderite. Picric acid has almost universally been abandoned as a filler because, in contact with iron, highly unstable salts will form and grenade body interiors must be heavily varnished.

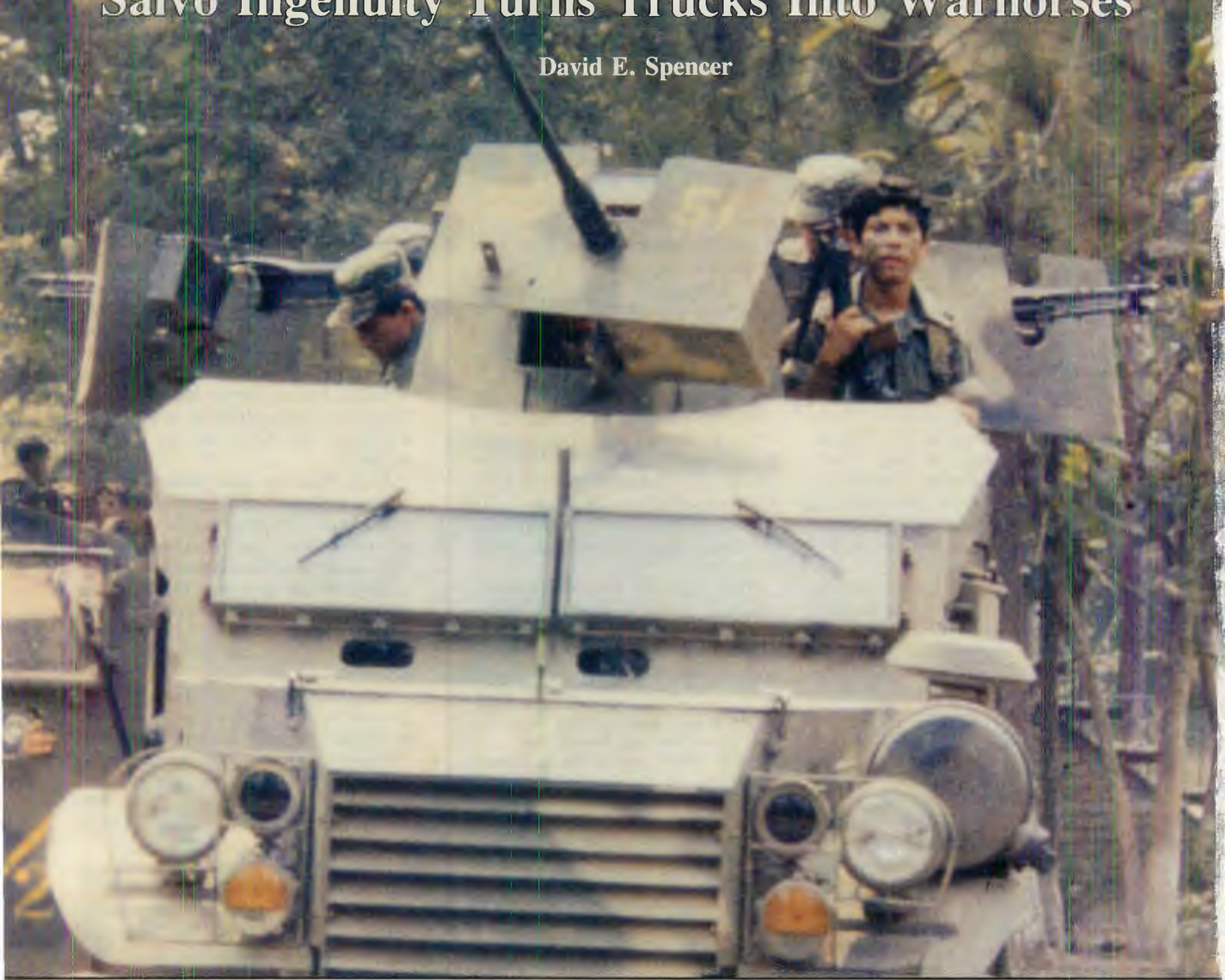
A study of PRC hand grenades reveals the same evolutionary trends we have seen in other areas of Chinese military small arms

Continued on page 71

CUSTOM-BUILT CAVALRY

Salvo Ingenuity Turns Trucks Into Warhorses

David E. Spencer



MORAZAN, El Salvador, 1985. Communist guerrillas hear the diesel motors of two vehicles coming down the road. Their flank security advises them that the vehicles are two homemade armored trucks of the Salvadoran army. The guerrilla commander isn't worried. He and his men

have ambushed such "customized" armored trucks before. You shoot out the tires with claymores and rifle fire, wait for the crew to jump out, then cut them down with machine guns.

The vehicles have now come within range and are clearly visible. The lead vehi-

cle is tall and ungainly looking. At top center is a turret with a .50-caliber Browning machine gun. On either side of the turret are M60 machine guns mounted behind armored shields. The rear vehicle is of the same type but only has an M60 mounted where the turret was on the lead vehicle.

The armament on the lead vehicle would make a good prize.

The guerrilla commander, seeing the apprehension written on the faces of his victims, smiles; even the Salvadoran troops don't appear to have full confidence in their vehicles.

When the armored trucks enter the ambush zone, the guerrillas let them have it. Claymores are detonated while machine-gun and rifle fire join in with the deafening blasts of the directional mines. When the smoke clears, the guerrillas stare in amazement. Something is wrong. The vehicles are still moving! The troops didn't jump out as expected. Instead, leaves and branches above the guerrillas' heads suddenly turn to confetti as the combined firepower of the army patrol's .50 cal, M60s and CAR-15s chew through the vegetation looking for the attackers. The guerrillas persist for a while but finally pull back, dragging their dead and wounded with them in a bloody retreat. They are the first to have fallen victim to the Salvadoran Cavalry Regiment's newest weapon in the fight against communist insurgents — the Cashuat.

The Cashuat is the latest in a long series of armored vehicles made at Maestranza (the central ordnance depot) in El Salvador. Earlier vehicles carried names such as Rayo, Mazinger and Astroboy. These names reflect the fertile imagination and ingenuity of Salvadoran military engineers, who set about answering their country's pressing need for armored vehicles at a time when El Salvador was under the combined pressures of an arms embargo, economic crisis and civil war. Where other countries in similar circumstances would have simply done without, El Salvador came up with its own innovative designs using available resources which, although not state of the art, have helped give the army the upper hand in its counterinsurgency efforts.

Development of the Cashuat for El Salvador's Cavalry Regiment

Early in the war the Cavalry Regiment's

GENTLEMAN AND SCHOLAR

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OPPOSITE: Cashuat moves out on an operation. Notice gun ports in the cab and side-mounted M60s. The vehicle is missing its spotlight, which is usually carried on the .50-caliber shield. Also clearly visible is the armored box for the .50-caliber ammo attached to the shield. Photo: David E. Spencer



ABOVE: Close-up of soldier's post on the troop-carrier version of Cashuat. Note sliding gun ports and the ballistic nylon tacked up to stop projectiles if they manage to penetrate the outer armor. Photo: David E. Spencer



LEFT: Soldier's post and one of the M60s on weapons-carrier version of Cashuat. Photo: David E. Spencer

To keep the roads free from guerrilla roadblocks, the regiment needed more vehicles. Studies were made of available vehicles and several Cavalry officers were dispatched to the United States to examine what it had to offer.

Many of these officers favored the Fast Attack Vehicle (FAV). This is basically an off-road dune buggy that can be armed with a variety of weapons such as an M60, TOW antitank missile launcher and/or 40mm automatic grenade launcher. But after extensive testing, the FAV was deemed insufficient for the Cavalry's needs.

Other U.S.-made vehicles were considered, such as the Cadillac Gage V-150 commando recovery vehicle, but the cost of these specialized vehicles was prohibitive, especially for the large number required by the Cavalry.

Finally, the idea was proposed that Maestranza make the necessary vehicles based on the 100 Dodge ¾-ton diesel trucks El Salvador had received from the United States since 1963 under the Military Assistance Program. Then-Major Oswaldo Marengo of Maestranza (he has since been promoted to lieutenant colonel) was commissioned to study the feasibility of this idea. Several prototypes were built, some with the dune buggy idea still in mind. The final version was officially designated *Vehiculo de Asalto Ligero* (VAL) or "light assault vehicle." It was later named "Cashuat" (an Indian word meaning "horse") because it was the Cavalry Regiment which presented its vehicle request to

responsibility was similar to the Dragoon Regiments of the Napoleonic period — an immediate-reaction mobile light infantry unit that could be rapidly mobilized to take care of any emergency situation. Whenever the guerrillas took a town, the Cavalry was called out to take it back. For example, it was the Cavalry which took back Santa Ana during the final offensive.

But with the arrival of the U.S. advisers and Huey helicopters, this role was delegated more and more to specially trained immediate-reaction battalions such as the Atonal, Atlacatl and Bellosos battalions. Consequently, in 1984 the Salvadoran high command defined a new dual mission for the Cavalry Regiment: first, to keep the national roads and highways open and free from guerrilla obstruction, since one of their favorite tactics was to put a roadblock on a highway, charge war taxes and burn commercial vehicles; and second, to protect the area between El Niño and Santa Ana.

SALVADORAN SPECIALTY: COMBAT VEHICLE IMPROV

Locally modified chassis account for most of the armored vehicles in El Salvador. In 1969 the Salvadoran army realized that it needed some kind of armored personnel carrier (APC) to support its troops in combat. Using available materials and 2½-ton M35 (6x6) Reo trucks, Maestranza built five simple armored trucks which became known as Rayos (Lightning). The life of these vehicles was short because the weight of the armor plates was excessive.

Rearmament of the army and security corps took place during the 1970s. New equipment was received from France, Israel, West Germany, Yugoslavia and other countries. A number of UR-416 APCs, Unimog, MAN 630 L2A and Magirus-Deutz Jupiter trucks came from West Germany and 12 Panhards came from France. The machines received were not sufficient to supply all units.

As the need for armor persisted, Maestranza personnel tried to find ways to supply the armed forces with their required APCs. An International Harvester dump truck was available at Maestranza headquarters and then-Major Oswaldo Marengo decided to weld steel plates to this truck and provide it with an armored box in the bed which could carry 10 to 12 soldiers. A Yugoslavian 20mm M55 antiaircraft gun was installed on top of this armored cabin for fire support. This experiment in modifying an available vehicle for military use was a success and set the stage for a series of similar modifications in the future.

The next truck to be converted into an APC was the Magirus-Deutz Jupiter. Fourteen of these trucks were fitted with firing ports and machine-gun stations and could carry 18 soldiers. Known as the Mazinger (named after a Japanese cartoon series, *Mazinger Z*), this armored vehicle was very popular with the troops. Only a few of these vehicles still survive; some were destroyed by mines, the others need spare parts.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, heavy fighting began taking place in the cities and populated areas. A tracked vehicle capable of going through barricades and nail traps set up by the rebels was urgently needed. Lieutenant Colonel Marengo explained that the idea of buying tracked chassis came from a Salvadoran diplomat; he knew of a company in the state of Georgia that could sell "Woodmaster" tractors. Twenty-seven tracks were purchased by the government, stripped of their armor plate, cupolas and armaments and shipped to



Author poses with unmodified M114 belonging to U.S. Army. Photo: Julio A. Montes

El Salvador's Cavalry Regiment as "agricultural tractors" because of the weapons embargo with the United States. Once they arrived, Lt. Col. Marengo and his chief of armor workshop, Staff Sergeant Vicente Herrera, proceeded to equip them with steel plates and weapons systems. At least 10 different versions were manufactured, most of them as APCs. Others were fitted with three Yugoslavian 20mm M55 antiaircraft guns, one was modified as an amphibious APC and four were cannibalized for spare parts. Most of the APCs received a configuration similar to the M113, which has prompted some people to think they are modified M113s. The APCs were further modified by local commanders; Maestranza also modified some examples with an additional cabin and wire as protection from RPG fire.

The "Woodmaster" tractors happened to be M114s stripped from their plates. The M114 was developed by the Allison Division of General Motors Corporation back in the early 1960s, deployed in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, then withdrawn after a production run of no more than 3,000. It has a front-mounted Chevrolet 90-degree V-8 160-horsepower gasoline engine and GMC Hydromatic transmission. It has a maximum speed of 58 kilometers per hour and weighs 6.9 tons. Crew capacity as designated by the manufacturer is four, but the Salvadoran vehicles carry about 10 soldiers. These vehicles in Salvadoran service are known simply as *tanquetas* [little tanks], and a good number of them are still operational. Staff Sergeant Marengo (not related to Lt. Col. Marengo) from 1st Infantry Brigade told me that, though the M114s are fast, they are extremely expensive to operate. Another problem with the vehicle is that the motor overheats. The poor track design also gives poor mobility.

Other kinds of vehicles were also manufactured by Maestranza. An armored AMC Jeep CJ8 prototype was

built; armed with a .50-caliber HMG in a turret, the only example is still operational at Chalatenango garrison. Another unique vehicle was obtained by taking a Mazinger truck and installing an M55 gun turret and two weapons stations for HK21 LMGs. In addition, 20 Astroboys (another name taken from Japanese cartoons) were produced. They are simply armored boxes on Ford F-250 pickup chassis and are used as troop replacement carriers, urban patrol and food supply vehicles.

The Cavalry Regiment did not receive any of these modifications, and it needed something to replace its 2½-ton M35 trucks and supplement the UR 416s. A study was done by a technical group from Maestranza and a tactical group from the Cavalry Regiment. Over 150 M37 pickups had been received by El Salvador since 1963 under the Military Assistance Program. These vehicles were chosen by Lt. Col. Marengo to be repowered. Technical assistance was provided by Cadillac Gage and Milgroup.

When asked if Maestranza has any other project on the drawing board, Lt. Col. Marengo said that he would like to produce a mine sweeper (mines are the biggest problem in the countryside), and he expressed regrets that the Salvadorans have to fight against each other.

We will have to wait and see what surprises the boys from Maestranza and their brilliant executive officer, Lt. Col. Oswaldo Marengo, have in the near future. We can only wish them good luck and congratulate them for their efforts; they have proved to be masters of improvisation.

— Julio A. Montes

Julio A. Montes is a Salvadoran native who immigrated to the United States in 1981. Now a sergeant (E5) in the Utah National Guard, Company C, 1457th Engineer Battalion, in Provo, Montes is also working on a degree in political science at Brigham Young University.

Maestranza, and the obvious symbol of cavalry troops is the horse.

Design Characteristics

Originally the Cashuat came in two versions: a weapons carrier and a transport vehicle. Since then the transmission and chassis have been modified to accommodate the heavier weight of armor plating. The weapons carrier has a turret with a .50-caliber machine gun that is electrically driven by two foot pedals but can also be operated manually in case of power failure. Its protective armor plate has an outer layer of ballistic nylon. To enter the turret, the gunner has to squeeze into it from underneath. There is no top hatch, which makes it very difficult for the gunner to get out if the vehicle rolls over.

Mounted on either side of the vehicle bed is a shielded M60D machine gun with spade grips. The M60D is a special version of the M60 that was mounted on American UH-1D helicopters and some vehicles, such as the M113 ACAV, in Vietnam. All of the machine guns on the Cashuat can rotate 360 degrees, but the .50-caliber turret usually has two blocks placed on either side of the turret ring to prevent the gunner from accidentally firing on the M60 gunners. When necessary, the blocks can be removed, allowing the turret to rotate freely.

There are also eight firing ports in the vehicle for the mounted troops. The walls are lined with ballistic nylon for additional protection in case a bullet does manage to penetrate the main armor. The cab is also lined with ballistic nylon. Both forward occupants have firing ports in their side doors and below the windshield.

The bed of the vehicle is high off the ground to avoid mine blasts but has no overhead protection. Lieutenant Colonel Marengo told me that this was done intentionally. Experience has taught the Salvadoran command that, when a soldier feels overly secure, he loses his combat readiness; in some cases soldiers were actually falling asleep when inside a fully armored vehicle, which led to substantial losses among armored patrols. So the decision was made to leave the new vehicles uncovered, to provide a measure of insecurity and thereby keep the troops inside more alert.

The other transport version differs from the weapons carrier in that it has no turret or side machine guns. Mounted over the cab is an unshielded M60D on a pintle mounting. In the center of the bed is a cushioned elongated hexagonal seat for eight men. Each man is provided with a seat belt, but in practice these belts are seldom used, as most soldiers ride standing up in the vehicle bed facing outward.

I asked my Salvadoran military guide why their men rode standing up, since in Rhodesia it was found that when soldiers wear seat belts in personnel carriers there tend to be fewer casualties, especially in the case of mine blasts. He just shrugged his shoulders. I suspect that one of the main reasons the belts aren't worn is that the Salvadorans tend to cram as many as 15 men



ABOVE: Cargo and personnel-carrier versions of the M114 rest at First Infantry Brigade headquarters in San Salvador. Photo: Julio A. Montes



LEFT: M114 variation based on the M113 structure, armed with a fixed .50-caliber MG turret. Photo: Julio A. Montes

in one vehicle rather than eight. Also the men have a much better field of vision while standing in an open-topped vehicle.

While armor plating is certainly a must, the Salvadoran designers went one step further in assuring vehicle and troop survivability by fitting the Cashuat with bullet-resistant tires. This is a great improvement over earlier Salvadoran armored cars. Each tire is filled with a liquid chemical sealant made by Dupont. If a bullet penetrates a tire, this sealant immediately fills the hole and keeps the Cashuat rolling for up to 90 more kilometers. This is usually more than enough distance for getting clear of a combat zone after fighting an engagement.

Cashuat in Production

When assembly of the Cashuat was about to begin, technical advisers from Cadillac Gage in Detroit came to inspect the Salvadoran production facilities for making armored vehicles and found them very primitive and deficient. They were amazed that Maestranza had been able to build any vehicles at all. Though the Salvadorans were anxious to start working, these Americans convinced them to hold back while they showed them how to build the forms so the vehicles came out better made, and how to build vehicles in a series. According to Lt. Col. Marengo, one U.S. adviser tasked with setting up a production line: "spent almost 15 days just trying to show the mechanics the best way to set the line. He had a hard time teaching them; the mechanics just wanted to start cutting and welding and fix problems later."

In addition to advising the Salvadorans on production techniques, the head welders in Maestranza were sent to Detroit for special welding classes. Armor plating and machinery were then imported from the United States and production began.

The original engines were replaced with a Detroit 3.53 110-horsepower diesel engine and a Spider 3053-A "New Process" transmission. Changes in the brakes, chassis and springs were also made to accommodate the additional weight of the armor plating.

Actual production started in 1985 and lasted for about 18 months, with approximately two Cashuats being built per week. Originally, 89 vehicles were ordered, but the money only held out for the production of 66. All but two of the vehicles were given to the Cavalry. These other two Cashuats were requested by a colonel in Morazán.

At first the Salvadoran army soldiers didn't want to have anything to do with the vehicles because it was clear they had been made locally. Wary troopers went so far as to open fire on a few Cashuats with their assault rifles before they got inside to make sure the vehicles were really bulletproof. But after the excellent performance during its first combat engagement as described above, the once-skeptical Salvadoran soldiers gained a lot of confidence in the Cashuat. They claim the communist guerrillas are afraid of the vehicle and take off running whenever they see it. Some army sources say the guerrillas have even fired Soviet-made rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at the Cashuat without effect — the rockets were cleanly deflected by the armor.

The only noticeable drawback with the Cashuat is that it does not have a lot of off-road capability. But this is of no great concern, since the vehicle is used to patrol and protect the national highways in El Salvador.

Cashuat in Service

With the Cashuat, the Cavalry Regiment is organized into two Cavalry battalions. Each battalion has two Cashuat or Cavalry squadrons and one armored squadron. The armored squadron is made up of French Panhard AML 90 light armored cars and

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MURDER CITY

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though their doctrines smack more of voodoo than religion. The leader of one of the largest groups, *Pulaan*, calls himself Commander Lahi (Commander Race, as in ethnicity). During his sermons he strikes the sharp blade of a samurai sword against his stomach. Since he doesn't cut across his body it's not surprising that he is not cut, but his followers think that this is a demonstration of some type of divine power. Bandannas, talismans and shirts emblazoned with Latin prayers are worn by followers in the belief that they will be protected from enemy bullets. Welcome to the "Twilight Zone."

Cultism is not limited to the undereducated. Two company commanders of the elite army Ranger Battalion stationed in Davao are adherents to one of these organizations. They also believe that the spirit of God protects them from all harm. I gave them an opportunity to demonstrate this protection by offering to shoot one of them, but there were no takers. The bravery that religious fanaticism fosters among believers is fine if coupled with sound tactics; otherwise it is merely suicide.

A minibus load of Lahi followers drove up one night as I talked to Lt. Col. Calida outside his office. A former member had left the group to become a bodyguard for a local politician and he failed to return his weapon as required by *Alsa Masa* regulations. Lahi was prepared to storm the offender's house to get back the weapon. Calida refused to give him permission and sent him home with the assurance that he would take care of it. Lahi's personal loyalty to Calida is admirable, but one wonders what a less scrupulous PC chief would do with this power.

While *Alsa Masa* has been extremely successful against the NPA, the sight of armed civilians operating in a paramilitary role raises fear in many sectors of "death squads." So far, abuses have been minimal, much less in fact than was the case under Marcos' police. Potential abuses or not, the government has little choice but to support these movements. The Philippine people are fed up with the killings and extortions of the NPA, and armed groups are spontaneously rising throughout the country. It's better for the government to organize and control this movement than for it to act independently of any supervision. What has happened in Davao demonstrates that civilian forces can be invaluable in destroying the communist menace.

The message is clear — the people will fight to rid themselves of the NPA. If I were an NPA guerrilla, I would be concerned about the military — but my nightmares would be of *Alsa Masa*. ✕

INTERVIEW WITH PHILIPPINE DEFENSE ATTACHE CAPTAIN CARLOS L. AGUSTIN

Editor's note: SOF's interview with Philippine Defense and Armed Forces attaché Captain Carlos L. Agustín was conducted by letter and telephone over several days in late February 1988. Captain Agustín had read SOF correspondent Gene Scroft's report "Philippine Patrol" in our May issue and was anxious to present his side of the story. He is preparing a formal written reply to Scroft's accusations that the Philippine army is ill-trained and lacks motivation. We will print his reply in its entirety when we receive it.

SOF: The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has an international reputation as one of the worst-trained and worst-led armies in the world. What is being done to rectify this?

AGUSTIN: It is totally unfair for a correspondent who "joins" a military unit [referring to Gene Scroft's article "Philippine Patrol," SOF, May '88] and observes its operations for a week or two to pass judgment on an army as "worst-trained and worst-led" without reviewing the deployment history of that unit.

It is very difficult to explain why one's organization "does not click." The truth of the matter is that by virtue of our lack of adequate resources and troop base, we have practically violated all cardinal rules in military operations, which does not promote effectiveness. We realize this unfortunate deficiency.

On the ground, we deploy troops lacking the basic needs to move, communicate and shoot. We have overworked our men considerably. It is so easy to expect heroism and extraordinary courage from any soldier who is projected fresh in battle; you cannot expect the same effectiveness from a soldier who has been slugging it out in the field unsure of who is friend or foe on a day-to-day basis for months at a time.

The Filipino soldier, just like the Filipino contract worker abroad, has a reputation for hard work and dependability in spite of poor support. I have personal knowledge of what sacrifice they can do for God and country, much more than most other soldiers. But there is a limit to human endurance and efficiency.

What is being done? The number-one priority has been long recognized: more frequent [troop] rotation. The next, of course, is adequate support. This is a tremendous problem. Do you know that on a per-capita basis, the AFP is the least

supported in all of ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]? And we have the most need for such support, having the most serious insurgency.

SOF: Many feel that vigilante groups like *Alsa Masa* in Davao can defeat the NPA [New People's Army]. Others feel that they will turn into death squads. What is the government's position on vigilante groups?

AGUSTIN: We will not allow self-defense groups to become "death squads."

The government has issued instructions regarding "vigilante groups," much like those that cover neighborhood watch groups in some cities in the United States. The difference is that, since some areas are actually beleaguered by NPA terrorist "Sparrow" death squads, some groups tend to react with force. The government does not tolerate illegal armed groups but, understandably, some local police and military units allow certain groups to be more aggressive. The issue really is this: What is the community to do if it is threatened and there is no adequate police or military protection?

SOF: Ramos is thoroughly disliked by the military. Won't his being named Minister of Defense cause Aquino further problems with the military?

AGUSTIN: The statement that Defense Secretary Ramos is "thoroughly disliked by the military" is false and based on black propaganda. Obviously, it is from some disgruntled elements who want him out of the government for reasons which are self-serving. Of course, any leader cannot satisfy everybody; this happens everywhere. But a show of hands in the AFP will show that his leadership is not unpopular. Nationwide, he is rated by the population as second to Mrs. Aquino in popularity.

SOF: General De Villa was named AFP chief when Ramos was made Minister of Defense. The vast majority of the armed forces view De Villa as a puppet of Ramos and object that De Villa — a PC [Philippine Constabulary] officer — was chosen over an army officer. Why was this done?

AGUSTIN: Again, this question advances a wrong conclusion. General De Villa is a highly respected officer whose service reputation is well-known not only among AFP officers but also among those in the civilian community. When I was in AFP headquarters in the late '70s, I visited areas where he served as provincial commander, Davao and Negros Occidental, and noted his popularity for his dedication, service, integrity and ability to deal with local officials, the clergy and the population in general. Taking it from the AFP chief of staff then, General Romeo C. Espino: "If



Philippine Defense and Armed Forces attaché Captain Carlos L. Agustin.
Photo: courtesy Philippine Embassy

only all PC provincial commanders were like Rene [De Villa], we would have no problem."

SOF: In your opinion, what is the threat of a coup at this time?

AGUSTIN: The possibility of a coup is, in my opinion, highly unlikely.

SOF: According to your new constitution, the PC is to be abolished. Why is it still in existence?

AGUSTIN: The constitution provides that the Philippine Constabulary should be out of the AFP. Steps are being taken to accomplish this, but it will take time because of many administrative problems, one of which is how to handle the issue of pay and allowances and logistic support once the separation is accomplished. A joint body is seeing to this orderly transition. We cannot afford to make serious mistakes in mishandling the human behavioral aspects of this issue.

SOF: Some Philippine officials say that they are looking at a three-year timetable to win the war. Is this realistic? Is there in fact a timetable?

AGUSTIN: We are not at "war."

I am not aware of a three-year "timetable" to eliminate the insurgency. In my opinion, if we can eliminate poverty and create sufficient jobs within two years, a three-year timetable is reasonable. What is ironic, really, is that this is a chicken-and-egg thing: If the insurgency stops right now, solutions to the economic problems will come very easily.

SOF: What more could the Aquino government or the Philippine Congress do to win the war?

AGUSTIN: A lot, and the Aquino government is trying its best. Congress has been supportive, but there is a limit when our economic situation is such that we use about \$3 billion annually to service annual interest of our \$28 billion debt.

SOF: Loyalty to the people is very important in a guerrilla war. In an agrarian country like the Philippines, land redistribution is a major determinant in the loyalty of the people to the government. Where does land reform stand now in the Philippines?

AGUSTIN: Congress is addressing this issue. An executive order has been signed but the matter will have to wait for legislative action.

SOF: Has any consideration been given to handling the current NPA insurgency and Moro problem in the same way that former Prime Minister Ramon Magsaysay handled the Huks in the 1950s? That is, by offering land to those who agree to support the government, laying direct lines of communication between the peasants and the parliament and bringing an end to Philippine harassment of the civilian population?

AGUSTIN: The land reform issue is still being debated in Congress, the main stumbling block being determination of the maximum allowable area to be retained by present landowners. We no longer have the luxury of opening up public lands as was feasible under Ramon Magsaysay in the '50s. With the new Congress and the newly elected local officials, communication with the people can be more easily facilitated. The defense and AFP leadership have been stressing this point, together with the delivery of services to the people.

SOF: Some politicians are claiming that the NPA is receiving large quantities of military supplies from the communist-bloc countries, yet very little real evidence has been presented. Is their contention true or is it just for political consumption?

AGUSTIN: Their bases [for this contention] are the many unconfirmed reports which AFP and U.S. intelligence agencies, as well as the press, have received in the past two years. I am not aware of confirmed sources to this effect.

SOF: The war against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) seems to be quiet now. Why is this and can peace on this front be maintained?

AGUSTIN: The MNLF is divided among three factions. However, it is busy posturing at the present time, trying to get recognition in the Organization of Islamic Countries and, less likely, for a belligerent status with the United Nations.

Their main difficulty is that they really do not represent the majority of Moslem Filipinos. In fact, many Moslems have been killed on the government side in this unfortunate "war," which is primarily to advance the interests of people like Nur Misuari.

All of their claims and demands are unreasonable. There are social problems involved, but there is no polarization between Moslems and Christians.

I think the problem will eventually resolve itself.

SOF: Does the government of the Philippines really want the United States out of its bases at Clark and Subic Bay, or do they just want more money?

AGUSTIN: The position of the Philippine government is still being studied with respect to the negotiations of the bases. In fact, our ambassador to the United States went to Manila in February to confer with the panel on this matter.

SOF: Recent articles in international publications have called into question how much the Filipinos say that their people lack the discipline for democracy. Do you think the Philippines would be better off under a benevolent dictator, or are they ready for the give-and-take of democracy?

AGUSTIN: The experience of Japan, starting from the 19th century, and more recently the experiences of South Korea, Taiwan, China and Singapore have shown that some kind of compromise between true Western democracy and a little more rigid form of government is necessary in order to progress.

The idea of a "benevolent dictator" is very attractive, granting that we can find the right man. But can we?

— Tom Bates

QUICK STRIKE

Continued from page 29

assholes and elbows disappearing into the foliage ahead of us. Talk about an adrenaline rush!

We found very little war materiel at first. It looked almost like an R&R center for the Gs. The camp itself was about 300 yards long and 100 yards wide. As our teams spread out to search we heard the Gs hit the blocking force. There was definitely a big fight going on at the bottom of the hill. The sector I was in had a lot of bunkers and trenches and, like in Vietnam, everything was faced for an attack coming from downhill.

It didn't take us too long to sweep this area, although I was wishing I had brought a barracks bag full of grenades. Our boys had started finding weapons and supplies and were busy destroying everything in sight. The front teams had reached the far end of the compound and set up a perimeter. We had a team on each side of the camp and the rest were tearing the camp apart, but there was no sign of our kidnapped colonel.

The lieutenant got word on the radio that a large group of Gs was heading our way. We didn't have the firepower to handle what was coming at us, so it was time to go. The boys in the sky said they would keep them off our backs until we reached our PZ (pick-up zone). At about this time we saw eight to 10 Gs run inside a building at the far side of the camp. The lieutenant got on the radio and gave the location to the fly boys. We had a team about 50 yards from the hut and they had to run like hell to get far enough away so the chopper could fire. The Hughes OH6A came in for a pass and the hut just fell down around itself. Miniguns do that to mud huts.

We did not have time for a body count. The Gs were pouring fire into our position and it was time to boogie. We were about 400 yards from the PZ and it was all uphill. The first 200 yards I thought I would die and the last two I was hoping I would. By the time I reached the PZ I think a six-year-old kid could have killed me with a rubber bayonet.

The Gs had regrouped and were hot on our ass. When we hit the top of the hill the gunships were pouring fire in a 360 around us and our pickup birds were there to get us. The top of the knoll was small and only two choppers could come in at a time. The sergeant major and I stayed with the lieutenant and went out on the last bird. As we lifted off and fought for altitude, the intensity of the last two hours started to fade away. All that was left was the high of combat.

There is no other feeling like it in the world. You beat the bastards and you got away clean. On the way back everybody was laughing and acting like fools. When we hit the air base everybody was still on the high; we felt like we could whip the world. We had lost no one in the group and had torn the shit out of the Gs and their camp. The only downer was that we had not found the colonel.

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After the debriefing, the sergeant major and I turned in our equipment and went to the O-club for a drink. We met the pilots there and they told us the hut we had called the air strike on had produced eight dead Gs with rifles. In all there had been 40 G bodies accounted for and we had destroyed several tons of supplies in the compound. The sergeant major and I went back to my room for a shower, changed clothes and went to town to buy the best steak we could find.

As I left the sergeant major and caught a taxi back to the base at about one in the morning, my body started to remind me that I might be getting too old for this shit. It had been a very long day and tomorrow was only three hours away. ✂

PRC PINEAPPLES

Continued from page 63

development. By 1967 the PRC stick grenade had reached a single, standardized form as the Type 67. Overall length is 8.16 inches with a weight of 21 ounces. A 1.33-ounce charge of TNT is used as the explosive filler in the plain cylindrical body and the usual pull-friction fuze has a time delay of 2.8 to 4 seconds. The effective casualty radius (that distance from the point of detonation at which 50 percent of all exposed personnel will be incapacitated) is 7 meters, with a danger radius of 32 meters.

Type 67 grenades are still in service with the People's Liberation Army. An inert practice version of this grenade called the Type 58 is available from Keng's Firearms Specialty, Inc. (Dept. SOF, Suite 222, 6030 Georgia Highway 85, Riverdale, GA 30274; phone 404-996-2079) for only \$11.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping. The record throwing distance for this grenade is an incredible 90 meters, established by a PLA soldier.

The Chinese have also produced a number of grenades based on Soviet designs and differing from them only slightly. These include the Type 1 (Soviet F1), Type 42 (Soviet RG-42), Type 59 (Soviet RGD-5) and the RKG-3T (Soviet RKG-3 antitank grenade series). Although used with some success in the Arab-Israeli War of October 1973, the RKG-3 series has never been popular with the troops. Weighing almost 2.5 pounds, this shaped-charge, parachute-delivered grenade can be hurled but a short distance and requires a suicidal attitude on the part of its user.

In 1977 the PRC introduced what must surely rank as the final word on stick grenades. Known as the Type 77-1, it features a synthetic handle with a plastic screw cap. Overall length has been reduced to 6.84 inches and the weight dropped to 12.6 ounces, although the TNT explosive filler has been almost doubled (2.45 ounces). The egg-shaped body breaks into an average of 280 pieces (four times as many as the Type 67). A pull-friction fuze with a 2.8- to 4-second delay has been retained. The effective casualty radius and danger radius have

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been increased to 8.4 and 37.2 meters, respectively.

While this represents a significant improvement over previous types, Hungary is the only nation still thought to be fielding stick grenades. By the early 1970s, the PRC had begun its development of more compact, Western-style grenades.

First to roll down the Great Wall was the relatively diminutive Type 73. Weighing but 6.65 ounces and with an overall length of only 3.6 inches, it contains 580 steel balls within its 1.7-inch diameter. The effective casualty radius is 7.2 meters and it can be pitched 80 meters by almost any weak sister. A standard Bouchon-type igniter system is employed with a delay time of 3 to 4 seconds.

This was followed in 1982 by a series of three oval-shaped grenades. All three employ an inner liner with hexagonal serrations. Type 82-1 grenades are 4 inches in overall length and weigh 9.1 ounces with 2.6 ounces of TNT explosive filler. Producing 280 fragments, the effective casualty radius is 6.25 meters, with a danger radius of 30 meters. Surprisingly enough, a by-now atavistic pull-friction igniter system with a 3- to 4-second delay has been stuffed into the Type 82-1's short neck.

Type 82-2 grenades incorporate a Bouchon-type igniter system with a delay time of 2.8 to 3.8 seconds. (How the hell do you count 2.8 seconds when pitching a grenade?) Overall length is only 3.4 inches,

with a total weight of 9.1 ounces and 2.2 ounces of TNT filler. Breaking into 280 fragments, the effective casualty radius and danger radius are the same as those of the Type 82-1.

Even smaller is the Type 82-3 grenade. Although it produces 300 fragments, the overall length is but 3 inches due to its more compact mousetrap igniter assembly. Weighing 8.75 ounces with 2.1 ounces of TNT, the effective casualty radius is 6 meters, with a danger radius of 27 meters.

Grenades launched by hand will remain a useful combat asset into the foreseeable future. As it has with assault rifles, automatic grenade launchers and machine guns, the PLA has launched itself into the developmental forefront of these short-range, but deadly, missiles. Legitimate governmental entities desiring further information concerning the entire line of PRC grenades should contact Poly Technologies, Inc., Dept. SOF, 5/F Citic Building, 19, Jian Guo Men Wai Street, Beijing, People's Republic of China. ✕

security traveling away from the border. He explained, "Because of the bomb scares. The *Khad* agents are planting explosive devices in the bazaars and other public places and blaming the Afghan refugees in an attempt to alienate the Pakistanis and erode support for Afghanistan."

We stowed my gear in the ambulance and a little after noon we were on our way, winding along Parachinar's narrow streets that were choked with people, animals and rickshaws. Police were everywhere. Lady Luck would have to be with us to pull off this deception.

Five miles outside Parachinar we encountered our first checkpoint. Several vehicles had been stopped and were being systematically searched. All occupants were frisked. Sharif and I had lined up behind the others, awaiting our turn to be searched, when I suddenly realized that my notebook was in my shirt pocket, filled with accounts of the trip and written in English. Oh, shit! I thought, now I'm in trouble. As the guard searched me, he felt my notebook, giving it a gentle squeeze, but he didn't look in my pocket. Finally, I was waved on. One down, 15 or so to go.

Sharif and the ambulance driver had approving smiles on their faces when I climbed back into the ambulance. "Sharif, you had better put my notebook with my other gear. It would be hard to explain if discovered," I said.

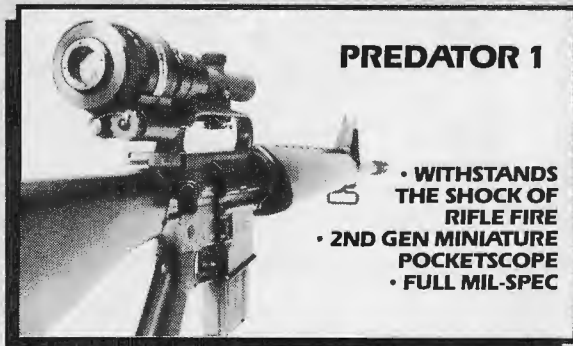
There were numerous anti-aircraft posi-

DIRECT HIT

Continued from page 53

checkpoints to pass through before Gen-deley. After that, it will be less dangerous as we continue to Peshawar."

I asked Sharif why there was so much



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tions along the road from Parachinar, and I queried Sharif about them. "They are here because of the threat from Soviet and regime MiG attacks that occur on a regular basis. Pakistani territory has been bombed and rocketed many times. Their targets are usually refugee camps and towns that they claim are being used as staging areas for the mujahideen. MiGs have been shot down over Pakistani territory."

Checkpoint number two loomed ahead. Two Pak guards patted me down. One spoke to me. I replied as instructed earlier, "Chamigi." He looked at me quizzically and waved me on. Checkpoint number two was in the bag. My cover was working.

Traveling north toward Peshawar, we successfully breached 16 checkpoints in spite of hand searches and careful scrutiny at each one. I was beginning to think I really looked Afghani. As we approached Hangu, the checkpoint gates were up and the guards waved us through — they were stopping only buses and passenger cars. The official look of the ambulance helped immeasurably, I am sure.

Darra Adam Khel, the gun-making town, was next along our route. Sharif commented, "Some of the mujahideen get their guns here, but they do not last as long as the Soviet, Chinese and Egyptian arms that we have." Shots rang out as we negotiated the narrow streets. Customers of the gunmakers would step out on the street and cut loose to

test their prospective purchases.

Security was noticeably more lax as we approached Peshawar. All checkpoints had their gates up, with only buses and private cars being examined. At 1730 hours, we arrived at Peshawar. Soon we were at party HQ. After a debriefing, I was taken back to my hotel in the jeep so as not to attract attention. As I entered the hotel lobby to re-register, the manager asked me, "Where have you been?"

"Oh, I have been up in Chitral, hiking and taking pictures." As usual, the snoops were curious. Caution was in order.

That evening, I luxuriated in a hot shower for about half an hour. Truly the stuff dreams are made of. Early the next morning, my phone rang:

"This is Sharif. May I come to see you?"

"Of course," I said.

"The commander and some of the mujahideen want to come and say good-bye to you. We will come at 1900 hours."

After showering, I ran down to the bazaar at Saddar to pick up some last-minute gifts for the family, returning to the hotel to catch up on some badly needed rest. My phone rang at 1845 hours.

"Hello, this is the lobby. There are some Afghan refugees down here to see you, but I can't let them come up to your room."

"Why not?" I demanded.

"It is hotel policy because of all the bombings. We have to be careful."

"Tell them to wait. I will be right down."

When I got down to the lobby and saw Sharif and Bakhtiar standing there, I got really pissed off. The manager looked sheepish and I jumped right on him.

"Either my guests can come to my room, or I will not stay in this hotel another minute."

"But we don't know these people," he countered.

"I have known them for years," I argued.

Reluctantly, the manager agreed to let them come up for a visit.

Eventually, all my guests arrived. We talked of our journey together and of a possible trip to Kunar in 1988.

It was time to say our good-byes. Reluctantly, with a lump in my throat, I said, "Hodai payman [good-bye, God be with you]."

The next morning I began the long journey home. ✕

SLOW AND HEAVY

Continued from page 30

stopped the 158-grain slug. I didn't like the guy very much and I've been suspicious of the .38 ever since.

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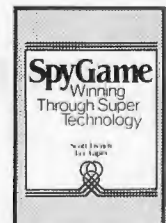
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seemed to put an assailant down faster. The only exception I found was provided by an expert handgunner with a "Smython" (a K-frame Smith & Wesson with a six-inch Colt Python barrel). Firing 125-grain Federal JHPs (Jacketed Hollow Points), this .357 was about the only relatively fast, light round that could play in the same ballpark with the big bores.

The .357 Magnum round was developed in 1935 by Elmer Keith and Douglas Wesson for handgun hunting. I guess that's why it does such impressive work out of a six-inch barrel. It is ironic, and potentially fatal, that many young police officers are so anxious to trade their "old" .357 revolver in for a shiny, expensive "new" 9mm self-loader.

I've been there myself. I remember the late 1960s and early 70s, when I just couldn't wait to get rid of my beat-up .357 and get a Model 39 Smith & Wesson so I could look a little more like a highway patrolman. Before I saved enough money to make that trade, the patrol, and practically everyone else, had become disenchanted with the 9mm autoloaders and had gone back to their .357 revolvers. I compromised and bought a new holster for my .357, hoping nobody would notice my faithful revolver's worn finish.

One of the things that turned heads away from the vogueish 9mm was the wide gap between its performance in the laboratory

on passive ballistic gels and computerized dummies and its performance on the street against real bad guys. Just after the LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) concluded a series of wonderfully complicated lab tests generating huge piles of data demonstrating to all but the most unregenerate Neanderthals the superiority of the Winchester 100-grain 9mm "Power-Point" semi-jacketed soft-nose bullets, an outlaw biker in Illinois soaked up 33 of them before falling to a couple of 12-gauge slugs from a riot gun.

No lab test can reconstruct all the variables that enter into real shootings. Sergeant Evan Marshall of the Detroit Police Department's homicide section is among the younger generation of defensive handgunners who figured that out. The only way to find out what really works on the street is to study actual shoot-outs in detail, and Sgt. Marshall is conducting just such a study.

Working in Detroit, Sgt. Marshall sees plenty of gunshot victims and, having been in harm's way himself, he demonstrates the proper concern for priorities — that is, saving his bacon once the balloon goes up. So far, so good.

Although he seems to view some of the exotic 9mm loads with favor, he points out that his research has just started. He is very careful about drawing conclusions from the research he has done so far. Others, however, are not. They read the percentages Sgt.

Marshall assigns to the defensive rounds he has studied and immediately jump to the conclusion that one or another is the "magic bullet." They ignore Marshall's own warnings that all the facts are not yet in.

Marshall himself used to carry .45s but now favors the SIG-Sauer P-226 in 9mm. The round he favored until quite recently was the 115-grain JHP (Federal or Winchester), which his research indicated had provided a one-shot stop in 68 percent of the incidents he'd studied. This was a lot higher than I expected, especially when his research indicated that the 9mm was just as effective as the .45 ACP, which also has a 68 percent one-shot stop record, assuming a good torso hit. That's practically heresy to a generation of gunners raised on the tried-and-true .45. The 11th Commandment, "They all fall to hardball (at least 19 out of 20 do)" is called into question by Marshall's statistics. He seems to have fallen away from the one true caliber!

Sergeant Marshall compounds the heresy in more recent writings when he concludes that the new top 9mm is the Winchester 115-grain JHP +P instead of the previous king of the 9mm hill, the Federal 115-grain JHP, which has now slipped to a relatively modest, but still effective, 62 percent in comparison to the Winchester +P's whopping 78 percent.

The Federal 115-grain JHPs lost their halo because, Marshall explains, recent lots

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seem to have significantly lower muzzle velocities than earlier lots. He is a careful researcher and is probably right about the lower muzzle velocities, but no company is more careful than Federal about quality control and if this kind of thing can happen to them, it can happen to anybody.

The smallish dimensions of the 9mm cartridge itself may well be the problem. There is small room for error in a case this size and the 9mm has always had a reputation among reloaders for being temperamental. Incidentally, merely storing them in the trunk of your car for a while in cold weather can produce the same type of variation in muzzle velocity noted by Marshall.

The picture that emerges from this cloud of carefully compiled data is of a JHP that won't expand reliably and may let you down when you need it most. The bigger .45s are less temperamental and do not require maximum muzzle velocities to be effective. They throw a heavy and blunt enough slug out of the barrel to do the job without any arcane bullet configurations which require sizzling high velocities in order to expand reliably.

One response in the 9mm camp is to juice up the 9mm to a +P level like Winchester did for the Illinois State Police recently with its 115-grain JHP. This, of course, places more stress on the critical components which keep self-loaders operating and increases the risk of an untimely mechanical

failure. It is also a dramatic illustration of the fact that the 9mm simply needs more power. Why not just issue .45s or .357 Mags?

The snowstorm of data and percentages tends to obscure what is really being measured. Mossad, Israel's secret service, for example, has highly trained agents who achieve almost 100 percent stops with .22 Shorts. But this obviously does not mean that the .22 Short is the best choice for the thousands of men and women who may need to defend themselves in our increasingly hazardous environs.

Sergeant Marshall is clearly on the right track studying actual shootings. He is not far enough along on that track, however, for the rest of us to conclude that the 9mm +P is 78 percent effective for every defensive situation.

Departments that have adopted the 9mm in the past couple of years tend to be highway patrols, federal agencies and big-city departments with relatively strong training programs. Sergeant Marshall's carefully compiled statistics, in other words, are measuring shooter proficiency — not the lethality of the cartridge.

A state trooper who has just been retrained for a new 9mm is liable to be a better shot than a part-time sheriff's deputy or security guard. Smaller, poorer departments still using revolvers usually lack funds for the level of training provided to

big-budget agencies. And, as Mossad's experience shows, a good shot with a .22 Short can produce very impressive statistics. But these statistics measure shooter proficiency, not the overall lethality of a particular caliber or loading.

If you rely on a defensive handgun to preserve your life, don't let a numbers game get you killed. If you have a good .357 or a big-bore handgun, stick with it until all the facts are in. ✕

FAST AND LIGHT

Continued from page 31

JHP (70 percent stopper) and the BAT (74-75 percent one-shot stops). By comparison, .45 ACP ball produces one-shot stops 63 percent of the time (and overpenetrates on the human body approximately 70 percent of the time!). Winchester .45 JHP produces one-shot stops 68 percent of the time, while the CCI JHP .45 offering gives us one-shot stops 70 percent of the time.

The obvious question is, if I can get similar or superior results from the 9mm, why should I carry an eight-round pistol instead of one that carries 16 rounds? My team carries 9mm pistols not because of some bureaucratic decision that was made in spite of our pleas for a .45, but because we found it will do everything that can be reasonably

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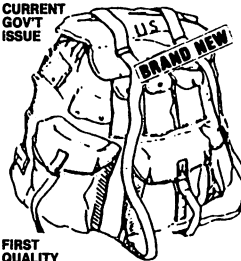
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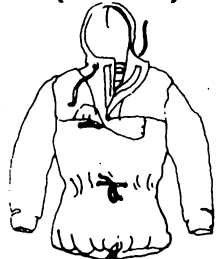
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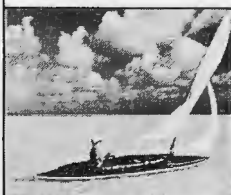
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expected from a handgun.

If SWAT cops across the country are choosing the 9mm for their high-risk assignments, why should anyone concern themselves with what some armchair pistolero touts as superior?

I do not, of course, consider the 9mm to be perfect. However, it does offer good stopping power in a moderate recoil package that is both reliable and accurate enough for its intended purpose. But it is not the "manstopper" that some of its more rabid supporters claim it is. I teach my guys triple taps because handgun bullets are really iffy stoppers. If we were issued .45s tomorrow, we would still practice triple taps.

While this will probably not end the controversy, just remember one thing: If actual shooting results show a slight superiority by the 9mm, I still wouldn't want to go to war with one. Serious fighting is done with rifles and shotguns. I routinely carry a 9mm because my M16 is extremely difficult to conceal on my person — not because I'm convinced I've got a superior manstopper in my Milt Sparks Summer Special holster! ☒

RAMBO

Continued from page 43

said, adding, "I think Jimmy Carter was one of the great mistakes of history." As a strong supporter of President Reagan, Stallone's views on the election aren't hard to predict: "I'd like to see another Republican in the White House."

All of the people who insist that Stallone is three points over plant life on the IQ scale have something in common: They haven't met him. In talking with me on the set, he was friendly, articulate and well-informed. People have accused him of taking himself too seriously, but apparently nobody told Richard Crenna about that.

Whenever Stallone was the butt of a joke, the source was usually Richard Crenna, who co-stars in the film. Crenna, when asked, can't remember how many films he's made, but "Rambo III" is his third appearance as Colonel Trautman, friend and mentor of John Rambo. Early news stories from Israel made constant mention of the tension on the set. If there ever was any, it was gone by the time the crew got to Yuma. It is difficult to believe that tension could last very long with Richard Crenna in the area. Crenna, looking fit if not particularly well-groomed, was a source of constant laughter on the set. His jokes, off-the-wall comments and good-natured attacks on Stallone kept everyone entertained.

In several sequences, the script had Stallone firing his compound bow. While practicing before a shot, Stallone made the comment that Fred Bear "had once fired his bow into a charging Cape Buffalo." When someone asked who in the hell Fred Bear was, Crenna shouted, "He's the guy who was killed by a charging Cape Buffalo." Typical Crenna.

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For one particular scene, Stallone fired the bow straight into the camera. So as not to damage the machine, it was protected by plastic shields with only the lens uncovered. From 60-70 feet away there wasn't much chance of Stallone leaping up from behind his rock, firing the bow after taking quick aim and actually hitting the expensive lens. As a joke, Crenna hollered, "If he hits the lens, we all have to turn our per diem checks back in." Stallone, taking it all in stride, jumped up, took very quick aim and sent the arrow straight through the lens. He was undoubtedly as surprised as everyone else but, with considerable presence of mind, he turned to the crowd with a hint of a grin on his face and said, "Let that be a lesson to you." Everyone laughed — except the cameraman.

When asked about the politics that always seem to go hand in hand with the Rambo films, Crenna is as concerned about the issues as Stallone. He was among the more vocal critics of the way returning Vietnam veterans were mistreated, contrasting their welcome with the one he received after service during World War II. Crenna views the war in Afghanistan as having some parallels with the Spanish Civil War, when Hitler's Germany used the war to test weapons and develop doctrine. Despite the current optimism regarding a Soviet withdrawal, Crenna, along with Stallone, doesn't see an end to the war soon.

Criticism from others within the movie industry rarely focuses on Crenna the way it does on Stallone. Crenna finds the negative remarks "amusing," coming as they do from a "business dedicated to the box office."

Talking with Stallone, I had to ask if there will be a fourth Rambo film. He told me, "That depends on the Soviets; the character is sort of left in limbo at the conclusion of III." Crenna said he'd be delighted to be in another Rambo film, and Stallone seems to enjoy the character — and the opportunity to blast the Soviets.

There is a further reason to expect another Rambo film. According to Stallone, "Whenever I do anything else, I get clobbered at the box office."

"Rambo III" can be appreciated in two ways, or not at all. First and foremost, it's entertainment. As Stallone says, "Rambo is a state of mind, not a state of being." The film will contain as much fantasy as the previous two, so if you're expecting a documentary — don't. It isn't meant to be an accurate and realistic examination of the war in Afghanistan. As for the wildly improbable events that occur in Hollywood's depiction of actual events, it's important to keep in mind that the cast and crew of this film are very much aware that they're presenting fantasy.

Secondly, the film will focus public interest on an issue that deserves wider attention. The American Left has largely succeeded in keeping the war in Afghanistan out of the debate over our relations with the Soviet Union. "First Blood" spoke to the



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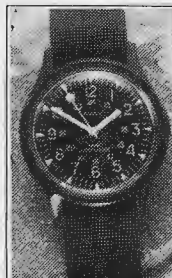
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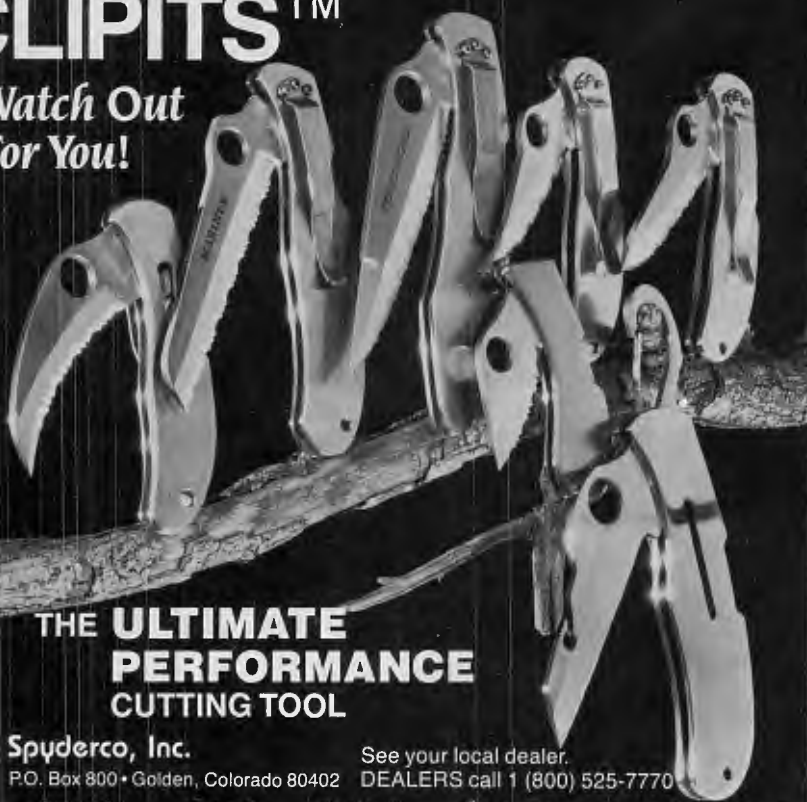
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issue of "Vietnam veterans trying to re-enter the American franchise," as Stallone puts it, and the second film focused on the POW/MIA issue. Now, "Rambo III" puts the war in Afghanistan on the big screen in a way that's sure to raise public awareness and invite bitter criticism from the Left.

So, if you don't enjoy action-adventure films with a military theme and a healthy dose of fantasy, and you don't care about the brutal Soviet war against Afghan independence, you probably won't much care for "Rambo III." In fact, you'd be better off renting "On Golden Pond" for your VCR and writing your congressman about something truly important, like cleaning up rock music lyrics. ✕

SALVO CAVALRY

Continued from page 67

West German UR-416 armored personnel carriers. Since these vehicles are scarce and have an important role, the men of the armored squadrons are all NCOs with several years experience. Each battalion also has a support group consisting of 106mm Spanish-made recoilless rifles mounted on AMC Jeeps. These Cavalry squadrons are scattered around the country in locations where they have better access to strategic areas on the roads.

A typical Cavalry operation will be run similarly to what occurred over Easter weekend 1987 during Operation Caminante, which was designed to protect Easter weekend vacationers. Early on Easter morning a cavalry squadron left the central bus station in San Salvador headed for San Miguel and accompanied by all the buses and commercial vehicles wishing protection. Infantry units patrolled alongside the road while air force helicopters patrolled overhead, looking for likely ambush sites and signs of guerrilla movement. Although enemy formations had been spotted earlier in the area and the guerrillas had threatened to paralyze Easter weekend traffic, the column arrived in San Miguel reporting no contacts with guerrillas.

At 1500 hours the same column left San Miguel on the way back to San Salvador. The Cavalry repeated the tactics it had used that morning and no guerrillas dared show their faces. The fact that there was no fighting and that traffic flowed without disruption attests to the effectiveness of this operation.

Operation Caminante is typical of the war today in El Salvador. The government soldiers have become highly proficient and professional, and whatever sporadic combat action that does take place usually ends up in the government's favor.

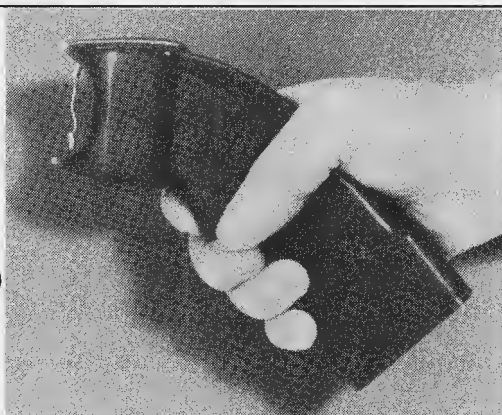
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similar vehicle is ideal. It is relatively simple to produce, inexpensive (about one-quarter to one-half the cost of any similar vehicle made in the United States or Western Europe) and, most important, it gets the job done.

The Salvadorans still hope to obtain some more sophisticated vehicles with a better off-road capability, but until then, and probably even after the new vehicles arrive, the Cashuat will be the mainstay of the Cavalry regiment. The ingenuity and initiative that helped design and produce the Cashuat are the same spirit that is helping the armed forces of El Salvador win the military side of their civil war. ✖

SIX SHOOTERS

Continued from page 27

appearance and often overlooked by mainstream firearms enthusiasts, the TT-33 is as "Murphy Proof" as a sidearm can be and goes bang every time you pull the trigger. It is also small, flat and easy to conceal.

Tokarevs do not sport any manual safeties, but the half-cock notch of the hammer serves as a rugged slide lock and can be used as a safety. Thumb cocking is difficult in a speed draw. Normal carry of the TT-33 is with an empty chamber and loaded magazine in place. Grip-to-frame angle is quite sharp, and under stress an unfamiliar shooter will often find his slugs hitting the ground unless a conscious effort is made to raise the muzzle to compensate for the bad grip angle.

Unique to the TT-33 are the feed lips built into the hammer/sear unit of the pistol. As long as the Tokarev magazine will retain cartridges, these frame-mounted feed lips will ensure positive round control during the feeding cycle.

Caliber 7.62x25mm cartridges are nearly identical to the C96 Mauser (Broomhandle) 7.63mm pistol cartridge. While far from being a great fight stopper, its effects are more than adequate when bone is hit. Combined with the bottlenecked 7.62x25mm cartridge, the TT-33 pistol is the most reliably functioning pistol of the lot, requires very little care and is easy to maintain.

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Smith & Wesson's M&P revolver is the most combat-tested wheelgun ever made and is the most popular double-action revolver in the world. Known as the Model 10 in the United States, the M&P in .38 Smith & Wesson caliber was given to the British during World War II and has been supplied to our allies ever since. Additionally, all USAID (United States Agency for International Development) programs that have trained the police forces of many foreign nations use the M&P as the standard service revolver. Specifically, both the Smith & Wesson M&P and its clones are most popu-

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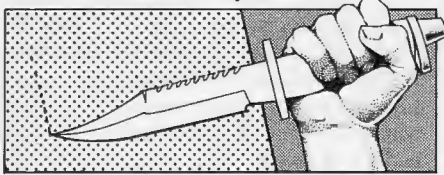
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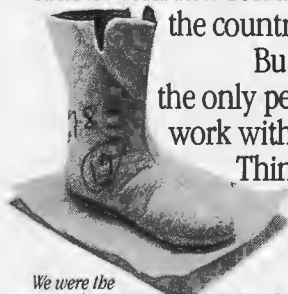
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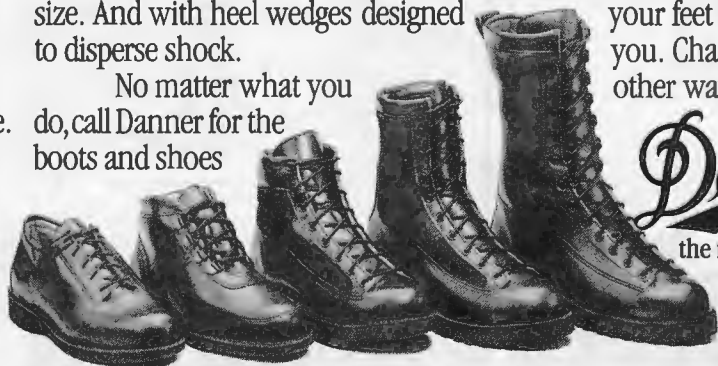
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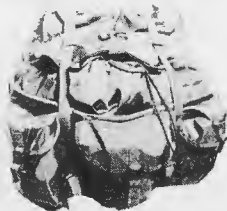
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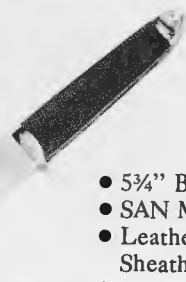


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As with any issue revolver, check that the cylinder will rotate without binding and that it is properly aligned. Also make sure the extractor rod is not loose and does not wobble when the cylinder is rotated, and inspect the firing pin to see if it is broken or damaged.

Walther PP Type

As stated in the introduction, even with the popularity of the FN P-35, M1911, TT-33 and Smith & Wesson M&P, there are other handguns that are likely to be encountered when you head out overseas.

Walther's P-38 pistol, pride of the *Wehrmacht*, continues to find its way into both police and military holsters in many parts of the world. Certainly large numbers of Nazi P-38 pistols continue to be used, plus a host of postwar P-38 pistols manufactured in France or Germany and sold to military and police agencies worldwide. Chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge, it was one of the first of the double-action service auto-loaders. Though often underrated, the P-38 is accurate and reliable.

P-38 autos should be kept clean and lightly lubricated; make sure to inspect magazines for proper function. P-38s bearing Nazi proofs must be checked for proper function of the hammer-drop safety, as some wartime models produced in occupied countries were sabotaged to fire when the hammer is lowered on a loaded chamber via the hammer-drop lever.

Along with the P-38, Walther has marketed smaller pocket pistols such as the PP and PPK in 7.65mm (.32 ACP) and 9mm Kurtz (.380 ACP). They are common police sidearms in much of Western Europe, where they are considered primary weapons instead of backup guns as in the United States. Many bodyguards and security agents also prefer these small Walthers. In spite of their weak calibers, the PPK and PP Walthers can be marginally adequate, though they are far from the ideal fighting handgun. I have found that they must be well-maintained and their reliability is less than advertised.

The Soviet military has replaced its TT-33 with a pistol that is for all practical purposes a copy of the Walther PP. Called the *Pistolet Makarov* (PM), it is chambered for a 9x18mm cartridge that is midway between the power of the .380 and the 9mm Parabellum. This ammo is hard to come by outside the Soviet sphere of influence.

Operation of the PM is very similar to the Walther PP except that the slide-mounted hammer-drop safety works opposite of the Walther, in that it must be pushed *up* to drop the hammer. Also, the PM uses a heel-mounted magazine release. The Soviet PM is a rugged pistol, reliable but far less lethal than the older TT-33 using the 7.62x25mm cartridge.

When and where you encounter these weapons depends upon where you travel and what role you have there. Remember, the choice of weapon will most often be

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based upon what is available, not on what you want, so know the limitations and strengths of your handgun. Sidearms of this type are considered disposable, so getting attached to one could be futile, if not fatal. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 22

from being washed overboard. Surface ships were maneuvering all around us when a very large aircraft carrier moved between us and the storm. This made the difference between night and day. Most of the wave action stopped immediately. Soon our guys on deck were able to attach a line and, via a small boat, sent it to a destroyer which took us under tow.

Destination: Rota, Spain, for two months of repairs before finally going home. ✕

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 21

son buries himself in his arms and is unable to participate in the fight.

Like fatigue, everyone is susceptible to fear and there is no way to avoid it on the battlefield. The key is to not let yourself be overwhelmed by it. Instead, try to control it by using the added energy caused by the fear to your own advantage.

Anxiety, on the other hand, is the body's reaction to a generalized non-specific threat. An example of this is being in an area where there are mines and booby traps. The thought of being maimed for life, which is worse than being killed, causes you to become overly cautious. As we know, overly cautious people are accident prone, and mines and booby traps are not very forgiving. In such a situation, anxiety eats away at you like a cancer, causing you to think about the unseen mines and booby traps instead of concentrating solely on the ongoing combat operation. The real trap, then, becomes the anxiety trap, for you are mentally caught by the things you are physically trying to avoid.

Your best tactic here is to make a conscious effort to overcome your anxiety by forcing yourself to focus on the immediate tasks at hand, with the ultimate goal of successfully completing a mission. This helps to mentally structure your time and gives a sense of urgency and purpose to your actions, thereby not giving those feelings of anxiety a chance to take hold of you.

Combat Addiction — This is caused when, during a firefight, the

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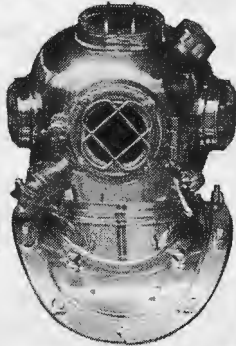
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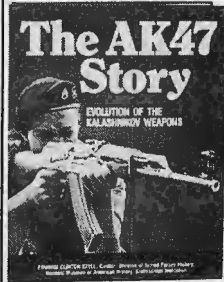
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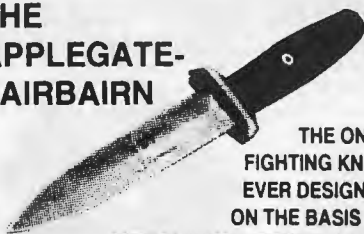


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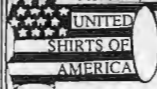
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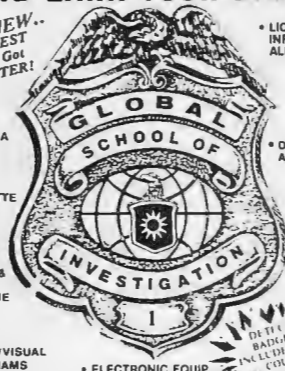
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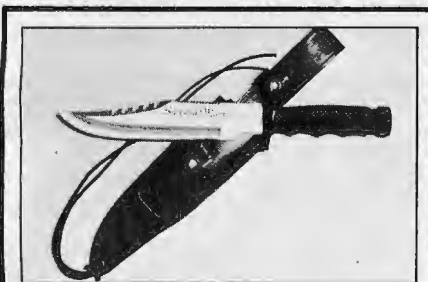
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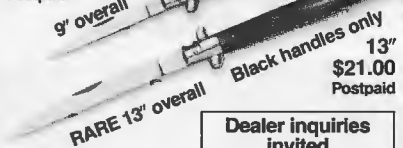
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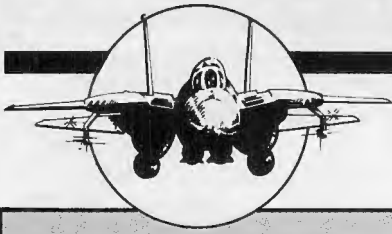
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PARTING SHOT

SOF NEEDS YOU

by John Coleman

"It was not *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine that hired the killer. It was not *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine that committed the crime," Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown declared. Nearly 200 years ago, concerned men guaranteed freedom of speech and of the press through the addition of the First Amendment to our Constitution. In 1988, our legal system seems to have lost clear sight of that protection which has stood the test of time — and judicial scrutiny — since 1791.

By now SOF readers are well aware of the outcome of our Houston, Texas, court battle earlier this year. Damages of \$9.4 million were levied against us because we should have been able to look into the mind of an advertiser and know ill intent was brewing behind his personal ad.

It's difficult for us, as well as major media around the country, to accept that judgment.

"Media cannot ascertain the hidden personal agenda of every person who seeks to place a classified ad," states an *Advertising Age* editorial. "Publishers are not mind readers, nor can a publication verify every advertising claim," the *Concord Monitor* said.

Of course we can't, and to believe that any classified advertiser — some running thousands in their publications each day — can track down and verify each advertiser's "hidden agenda" is wholly unrealistic.

Imagine this ad appearing in your local paper: "Single male, loves the outdoors and hunting, wishes to meet young lady with same interests." Straightforward enough, with no obvious immoral or illegal intent. Yet months later, the paper is slammed with a lawsuit by the young lady's family because "single male," recently released from a state mental institution, felt "hunting" meant tracking the woman through the woods with a hatchet. Is it the paper's fault? Should they have had a battery of staff psychologists on call to analyze for "hidden agenda"?

"No publication can offer ironclad assurances that advertisers aren't engaged in potentially illegal or fraudulent activities. Even an army of investigators couldn't guarantee the good and legal intentions of every ad advertiser," answered a *Newsday* editorial.

Let's take this rocky boat on another tack, where the chilling effect may blow with even more force. A confused teenager watches a movie where a character robs a liquor store and gets away with it. The teenager then copycats, kills two people and ends up in the morgue himself. Who's liable? Who should the survivors sue? The actor who played the part, the scriptwriter, or the director? Or perhaps the camera operator at the local movie theater? Should film companies be held up to judgment for providing fantasy that turns into a viewer's reality? Should they become thought police, accountable for the acts of their audience in the same way SOF's been held accountable for the

"hidden agenda" of our advertisers?

As a *Los Angeles Times* editorial put it, "If a publication is to be held liable for the criminal acts undertaken by its readers, using products or services advertised on its pages, then what about those menacing ads for steak knives? And ant-poison? And gin?" Or movies, television programs and videos with a flash of violence?

Plaintiff's attorney during our Houston case wasn't, apparently, much interested in these types of difficult questions. "We brought this suit to get *Soldier of Fortune* off the magazine rack," he said. Was that really the suit's aim, to have a legitimate publication forced out of business because someone didn't like it? If so, and we must accept counsel's word for it, then the trial's outcome is even more frightening in its implications. We can imagine a prudish contingency fee lawyer sharpening his teeth over the prospects of suing *Playboy* off the shelves for advertising condoms which may be defective, or a hydrophobic attorney going after *Yachting* for advertising a rubber lifeboat which springs a leak.

Of course, we were singled out for being *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine, "The Journal of Professional Adventurers," which those on the political left perceive as being "The Journal of Professional Mercenaries." Based on counsel's quote, he probably believes the latter (even though he admitted that he hadn't read SOF's editorial content). Others, such as the Soviets' *TASS*, *Izvestia* and *Pravda*, have said much the same about us in the past.

On one level, that seems to be what this case was about: the perception of what *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine is and does, and to which audience we may or may not cater; and whether perceptions do a successful lawsuit make. Granted, in its first years SOF was a rough-and-tumble, no-holds-barred action publication. It's called capturing an audience so you can stay in business.

Those first years had the left and various liberal groups stamping us with an undeserved reputation of being mercenaries, war mongers, fascists and general ne'er do wells (and catering to same), who extol the virtues of bloodlust and forceful overthrow of Third World countries. And it's that reputation that was, in part, on trial in Houston.

We believe we were judged on what *Soldier of Fortune* was perceived to be 10 years ago. We were not allowed to show what *Soldier of Fortune* is today — a politically conservative, issue-oriented, combat-reporting journal, with a well-educated and diverse readership ranging from senior corporate CEOs to college students to active-duty military.

What frightens us is that *Soldier of Fortune* — the magazine — was on trial at all, when the issue at hand revolved around our supposed foreknowledge of an advertiser's ill intent. What frightens us is that an attorney can walk into a case with the perceived idea that he or she is going to get a publication "off the magazine rack." Apparently, perceptions do a suc-

cessful lawsuit make — if it's against a *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine.

Fortunately, Houston was only the first round; our legal system of appeals guarantees that. Unfortunately, it's going to be a long, hard — and expensive — fight through the appellate circuit, one which may eventually take us to the United States Supreme Court. And in the meantime, we're all going to have to suffer the process. Instead of focusing our energy and money into *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine each month, we must instead invest ourselves in the legal system. This case should never have happened but it did, and we're going to take it on full force, with the same commitment to the ideals of freedom and liberty that have always been the cornerstone of *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine.

And that's what this fight is really all about — freedom of the press and personal liberty. This isn't just our fight; the outcome is going to affect every one of you, individual reader or media giant, if the Houston precedent is allowed to stand. We'll be your standard bearer through this legal gauntlet, but we can't march alone.

We've asked you in the past to support causes we felt were important to all of us. We ask you now to support another — *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine. Unfortunately this may not be the last time that the First Amendment will be attacked in ways that SOF feels should be defended. On other days, in other ways, there will be challenges to the constitutional right of SOF to publish. Therefore, we've established the **Omega First Amendment Legal Fund**, an independent trust which will help defray SOF and Omega Group legal fees and related expenses while we carry our battle forward. How important is this fund? To be blunt, it will keep *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine on the newsstand (sorry about that, counselor). We are not, as it's been termed, a "deep pockets" publication. Our money goes to causes — POW/MIA, Afghan and El Salvador defense, and refugee relief among others — from which we receive no return, and back into SOF each month, where you see the results in exclusive first-hand combat reports from around the world.

Yet all that, and the magazine itself, may stop without your dollars. The **Omega First Amendment Legal Fund** is not tax deductible, but for your support of \$25 or more, Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown will send you a signed Certificate of Appreciation, a gesture to say "Thanks for believing in us." Donations should be made payable to the "**Omega First Amendment Legal Fund**" and sent to **1800 38th Street, Suite 202, Boulder, Colorado 80301**.

Will we win this case in the end? Yes. There's too much at stake for all of us to lose what will become a landmark legal decision. Of course, we would have rather left our footnote in history some other way, but to paraphrase a World War II D-Day quote, "This is where we landed, and we'll start the war from here."

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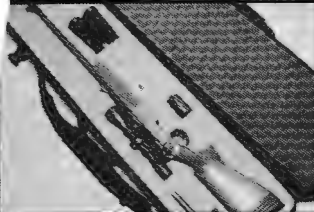
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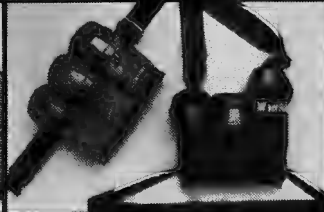
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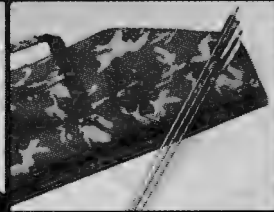
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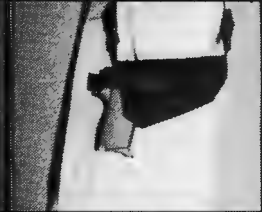
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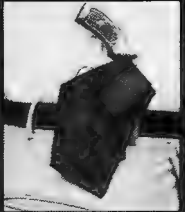
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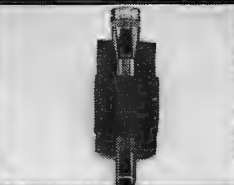
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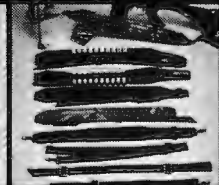
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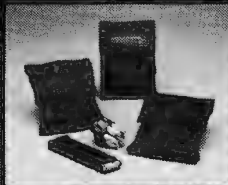
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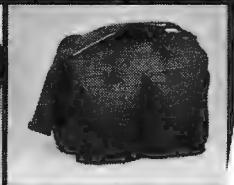
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