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TOMAHAWKS LEAD THE WAY FOR RANGERS

By Bruce Voyles

Among the lore, legends and relics of the Vietnam War is the story of the tomahawk. This most American cutlery weapon was discovered in use by the American Indians and quickly adapted to their own uses by explorers, frontiersmen and mountain men. It was standard wear of those early times.

During the years that followed, the tomahawk faded from popularity. However, the tomahawk saw resurgence among Vietnam troops, reportedly preferred by tunnel rats and by Marine Corp Ontos crewmen (the six recoilless rifles mounted on a tracked platform). The Vietnam-era 'hawk was known as the Laganhawk and went out of production in 1970. It became a much sought-after item among Vietnam-era militaria collectors. It even became a popular item for reproduction.

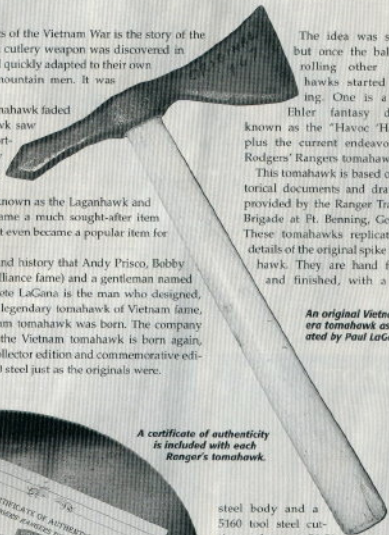
And so it was with this background and history that Andy Prisco, Bobby Branton (of American Knife Throwers Alliance fame) and a gentleman named Pete LaGana happened to meet. This Pete LaGana is the man who designed, manufactured and lent his name to that legendary tomahawk of Vietnam fame, and the idea of reintroducing the Vietnam tomahawk was born. The company was named American Tomahawk, and the Vietnam tomahawk is born again, available now in a combat/field grade, collector edition and commemorative edition. The tomahawks are made from 1060 steel just as the originals were.

The idea was sound, but once the ball was rolling other tomahawks started coming. One is a Paul

Ehler fantasy design known as the "Havoc 'Hawk," plus the current endeavor, the Rodgers' Rangers tomahawk.

This tomahawk is based on historical documents and drawings provided by the Ranger Training Brigade at Ft. Benning, Georgia. These tomahawks replicate the details of the original spike tomahawk. They are hand forged and finished, with a mild

An original Vietnam-era tomahawk as created by Paul LaGana.



A certificate of authenticity is included with each Ranger's tomahawk.



steel body and a 5160 tool steel cutting edge at 50-52 Rockwell with differential heat treating. The handle is hickory and etched with "Ranger" and "Rodgers' Rangers." The head is guaranteed against breakage for life, and replacement handles are available as an option.

The Rodgers' Rangers 'hawk has a 3.75-inch cutting edge on a 16-inch straight-grain hickory handle. A leather sheath is included, along with a



Company principals (from left) Andy Prisco, Peter Lagana and Bobby Branton.

certificate of authenticity. Retail on the Ranger hawk is \$385.

The American Tomahawk Company is working closely with U.S. Army Rangers at Ft. Benning as one of the sponsors of the Best Ranger contest.

*These tomahawks
replicate the details
of the original spike
tomahawk.*

with the addition this year of tomahawk throwing and some national television viewing of the event.

For more information contact the American Tomahawk Company, Dept. KI, 4976 See Wee Road, Awenden, SC 29429.

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One of the designs from the Rangers depicting the Rogers' Rangers tomahawk.

The Sword Armory

The Spirit of the Shogun



The Family has expanded



The Spirit of the Shogun family has expanded with two new models, the Date Masamune in blue, and the Uesugi Kenshin in dark green. This has been the birth of a legend from Last Legend Competition Blades, Paul Chen, and experts in the art of Goza target cutting, with each series limited to 600 numbered units. These two new models now join the Oda Nobunaga in red, and the Takeda Shingen in black. Each katana is backed by an unprecedented, one-year competition performance warranty, and includes the exclusive gloss black stand (with velvet padding matching the handle color of that katana), and maintenance kit. If you compete, want to compete, (or just want to own a blade that can), feel the legend with the Spirit of the Shogun.

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The Rogers' Rangers tomahawk.