

1995 STANDOFF AT
TS' PETEN



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IN 1995, A MONTH-LONG STANDOFF OCCURRED IN 'BRITISH COLUMBIA' BETWEEN NATIVES AND POLICE. IN A FIRE-FIGHT ON SEPT. 11, POLICE FIRED TENS OF 1,000S OF ROUNDS + BLEW UP A TRUCK. ALTHO' LIGHTLY ARMED, THE WARRIORS SUCCEEDED IN DISABLING A 'BISON' ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIER USED BY POLICE.



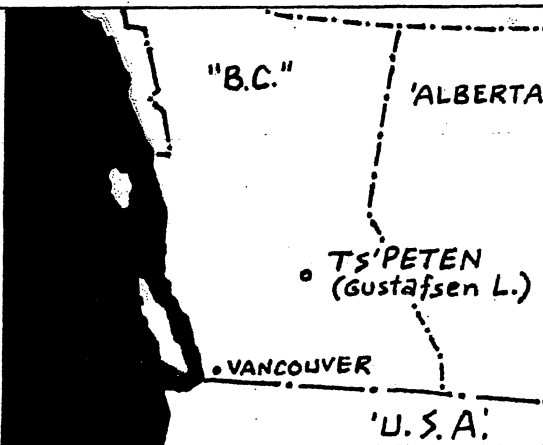
IN 1989, A SUNDANCE CAMP WAS SET UP AT TS'PETEN*



* CHA-PA-TEN (BIG LAKE), KNOWN AS GUSTAFSEN LAKE (IN SECWEMEC TERRITORY)

IN 1995, A LOCAL RANCHER ASKED THE POLICE TO EVICT THE CAMP. IN JUNE AND JULY, RANCH-HANDS BEGAN TO HARASS + THREATEN AN ELDER + HIS FAMILY LIVING IN THE CAMP. THE ELDER CALLED FOR HELP, AND WARRIORS CAME TO DEFEND THEM AND ASSERT NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY.

LIKE MOST OF BC, SECWEMEC TERRITORY REMAINS UNCEDED, FOR WHICH NO TREATIES WERE EVER MADE ~ A VIOLATION OF BRITISH, CANADIAN + INTERNATIONAL LAW...



THIS SOVEREIGNTY WAS THE POSITION OF THE DEFENDERS, WHO DEMANDED CANADA ABIDE BY ITS OWN LAWS + END THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF 'BC'.

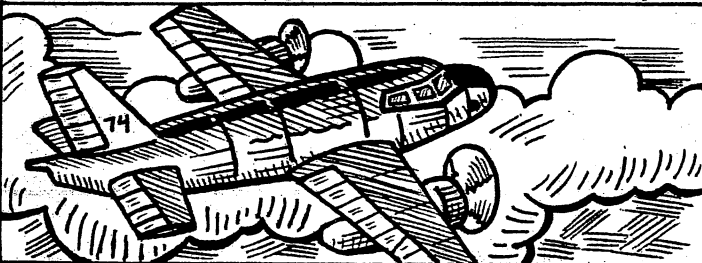
SO UNDER THESE LAWS, CANADA AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HAVE NO JURISDICTION!



THE DEFENDERS REFUSED TO MOVE. ON AUG. 18, THEY FOUND A HEAVILY-ARMED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) DOING SURVEILLANCE ON THEM.



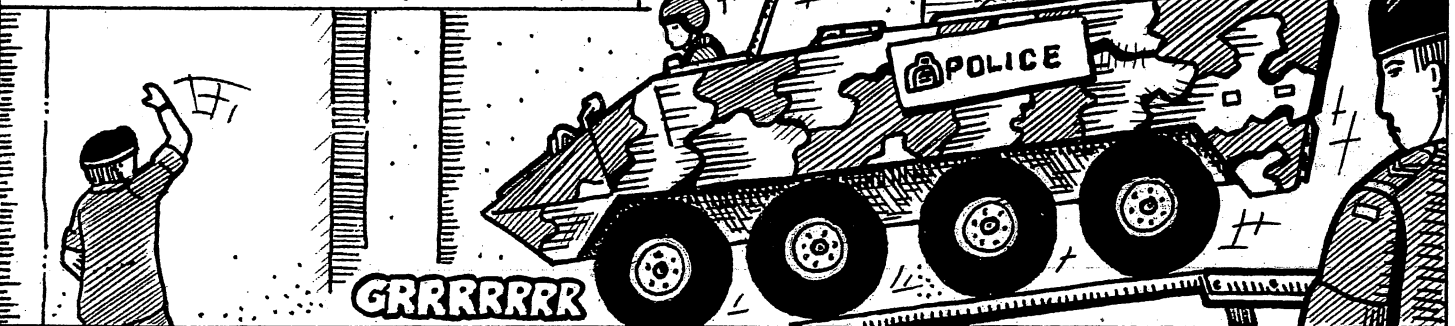
AT THE SAME TIME, POLICE BEGAN AERIAL SURVEILLANCE ~ HI-FLYING PLANES WITH POWERFUL CAMERAS...



THEY ALSO ASKED THE CANADIAN ARMY FOR HELP.



AMONG THE HELP REQUESTED BY THE RCMP WERE 'BISON' ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APCs)...



ON AUGUST 21, FOUR BISONS WERE MOVED TO AN ARMOURY IN KAMLOOPS (150KM SOUTH)

ON AUGUST 24, DEFENDERS FIRED SHOTS AT A POLICE HELICOPTER. (IT WAS REALLY ANNOYING!).



AT THIS TIME, POLICE SEALED OFF THE AREA WITH CHECKPOINTS ON ROADS...



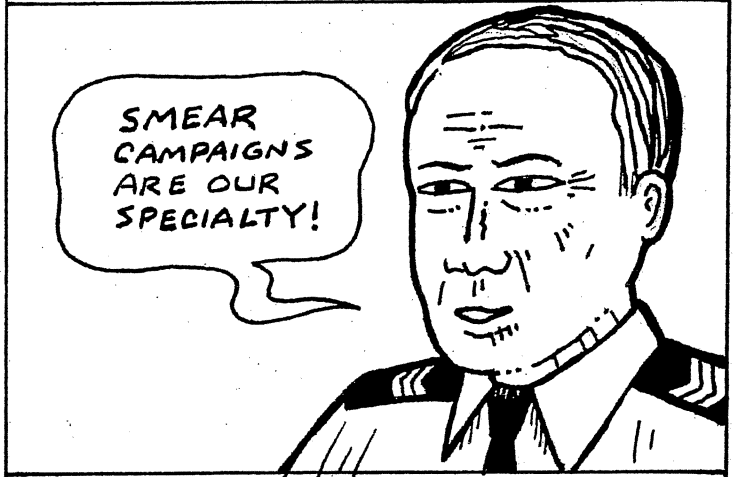
THEY ALSO CUT THE CAMP'S RADIO-PHONE, MAKING IT A DIRECT LINE TO POLICE ONLY.

AS A RESULT, THE DEFENDERS COULDN'T COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC...



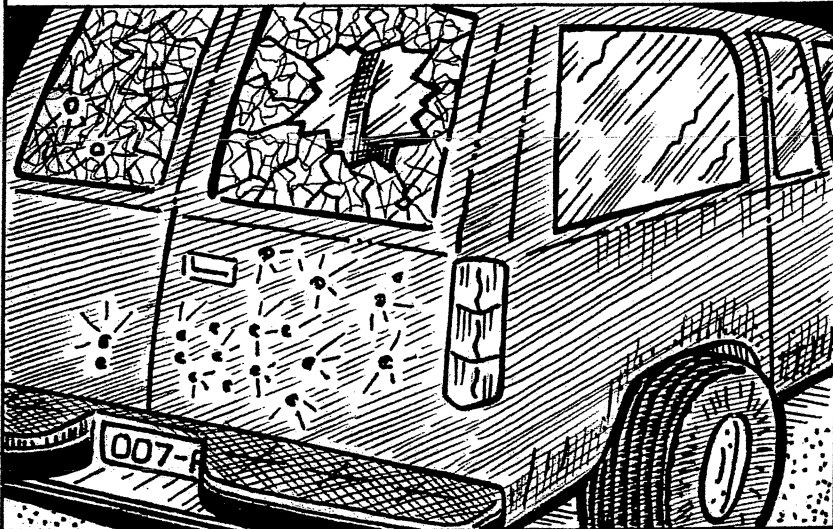
THE MEDIA REPORTED ONLY THE POLICE AND GOVERNMENT VERSION OF EVENTS.

THE RCMP USED THE MEDIA TO SPREAD LIES AND DISINFORMATION...



*ACTUAL QUOTE: SERGEANT MONTAGUE IN RCMP VIDEO DOCUMENTATION OF THE SIEGE - EXPOSED DURING TRIAL IN '97.

ON AUGUST 27, POLICE CLAIMED A SUBURBAN USED BY THEIR ERT HAD BEEN AMBUSHED. FLAK VESTS SAVED THE COP'S LIVES...



NO ONE WAS CHARGED IN RELATION TO THIS, NOR WAS THERE ANY WESCAM FOOTAGE. DEFENDERS CLAIM POLICE FABRICATED THE ENTIRE 'AMBUSH'.

AROUND THIS TIME, A SECRET RCMP AND MILITARY COMMAND POST WAS SET UP: 'CAMP ZULU'.



ZULU HAD A FIELD HOSPITAL, KITCHEN, COMMUNICATIONS, AND SLEEPING QUARTERS...

ON SEPTEMBER 4, POLICE REPORTED A SECOND 'ATTACK' ON A SUBURBAN...



DURING THE TRIAL, WHAT POLICE SAID WAS A BULLET STRIKE TURNED OUT TO BE TREE BRANCH HITTING THE TRUCK...

THE NEXT DAY, POLICE PUBLICLY DEPLOYED THE BISONS, CITING THE PREVIOUS DAYS 'ATTACK' ON THEIR OFFICERS...



INSIDE THE CAMP, THE DEFENDERS HELD DAILY MEETINGS. THEY PRAYED AND SMUGGED FOR SPIRITUAL PROTECTION...



THEY ALSO MAINTAINED THEIR ARMED DEFENSE WITH TRENCHES + PATROLS...



ON SEPT. 10, A DELEGATION OF SECWEPMEC ELDERS VISITED THE CAMP; A NO-SHOOT ZONE WAS SET UP WITH POLICE AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE ONGOING...



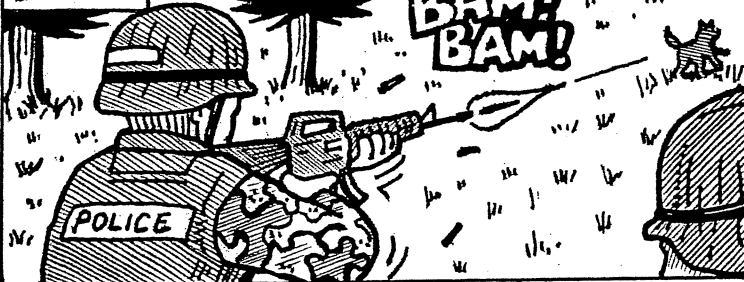
ON SEPT. 11, HOWEVER, POLICE AMBUSHED A TRUCK USED BY THE DEFENDERS IN A NO-SHOOT ZONE. AS THE TRUCK DROVE DOWN A ROAD, EXPLOSIVES HIDDEN IN THE GROUND WERE DETONATED...

THE TWO OCCUPANTS FLED THE DISABLED TRUCK ~ UNARMED ~ ALONG WITH A DOG...



THEN A BISON APC HIDDEN IN THE FOREST DROVE OUT + RAMMED THE TRUCK.

POLICE ON FOOT OPENED FIRE, KILLING THE DOG...



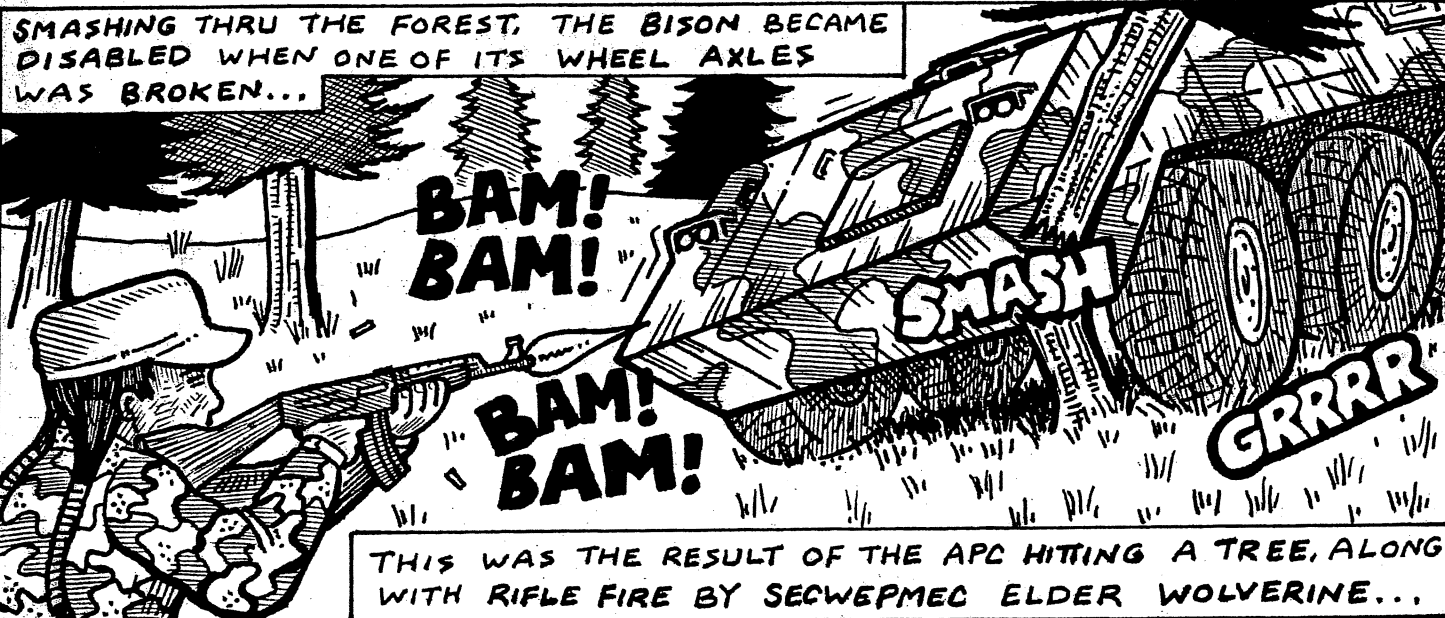
AS THE TWO DEFENDERS SWAM ACROSS A LAKE, POLICE IN THE APC OPENED FIRE.



AT THIS TIME, OTHER DEFENDERS OPENED FIRE ON THE APC, WHICH BEGAN TO PURSUE THE SHOOTERS...



SMASHING THRU THE FOREST, THE BISON BECAME DISABLED WHEN ONE OF ITS WHEEL AXLES WAS BROKEN...



INSIDE THE BISON, THE STRANDED COPS CALLED FOR HELP...



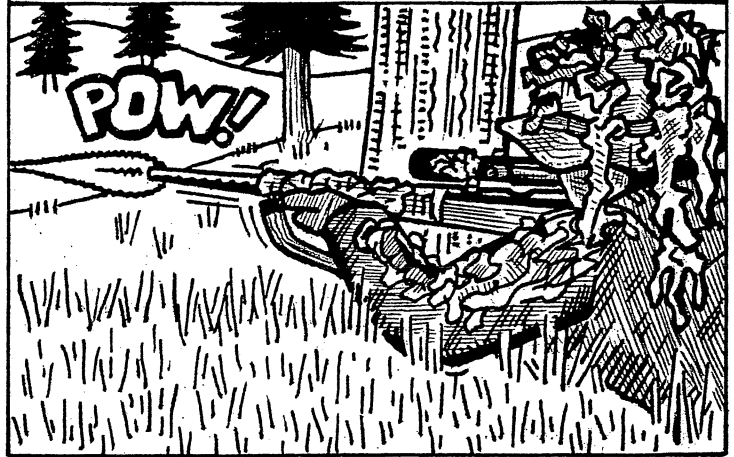
MORE BISONS ARRIVED TO RESCUE THE STRANDED TEAM. POLICE FIRED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ROUNDS...



ON SEPT. 12, THE RCMP ASKED FOR THE ARMY'S 'ELITE' ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT JOINT TASK FORCE TWO (JTF2)...



THAT SAME DAY, AN RCMP SNIPER FIRED ON A DEFENDER WALKING IN A NEGOTIATED NO-SHOOT ZONE...



ON SEPT. 13, LAKOTA SPIRITUAL LEADER ARVOL LOOKING HORSE WAS ALLOWED INTO THE CAMP...



ON SEPT. 16, ANOTHER LAKOTA SPIRITUAL LEADER ~ JOHN STEVENS ~ WAS PERMITTED ACCESS TO THE CAMP.

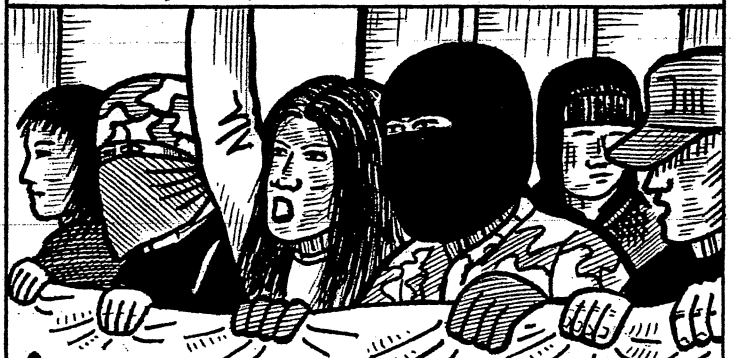


STEVENS ADVISES THEM THEIR WORK WAS DONE AND COULD NOW LEAVE...

ON SEPT. 17, THE DEFENDERS PLACED THEIR WEAPONS IN A FIRE AND WERE ARRESTED BY POLICE...



ALTOGETHER, THIS WAS THE RCMP'S LARGEST OPERATION IN CANADIAN HISTORY, INVOLVING OVER 450 COPS WITH 9 BISON APCs...



NATIVE YOUTH MOVEMENT

THE TSPETEN STANDOFF HAD A BIG IMPACT + INSPIRED A NEW GENERATION OF INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE IN 'BC'!



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

TS'PETEN

9-11-1995



3005.

