



Bodies in Groove, Belzen, Captain David Alex Colville (oil on canvas, 76.2 x 101.3 cm) CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

*The Somalia
Project*

Allan Harding MacKay

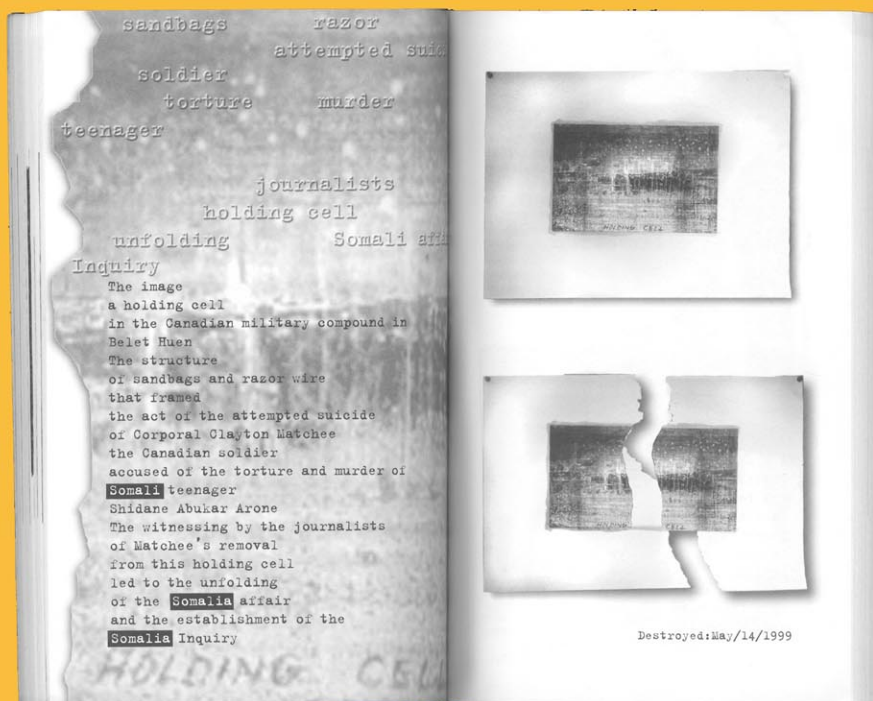
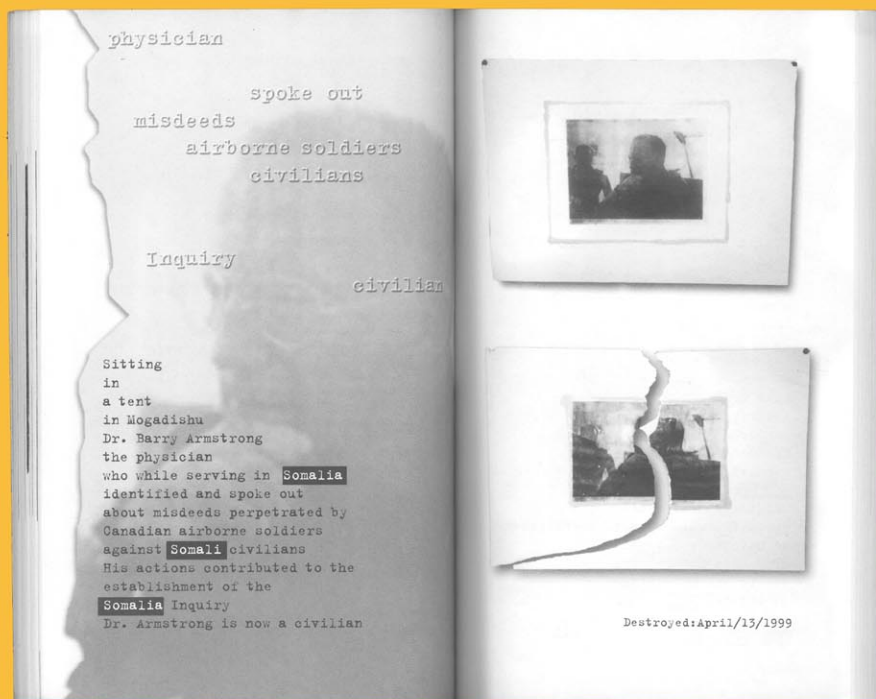
DESCANT 108
A Museum of War

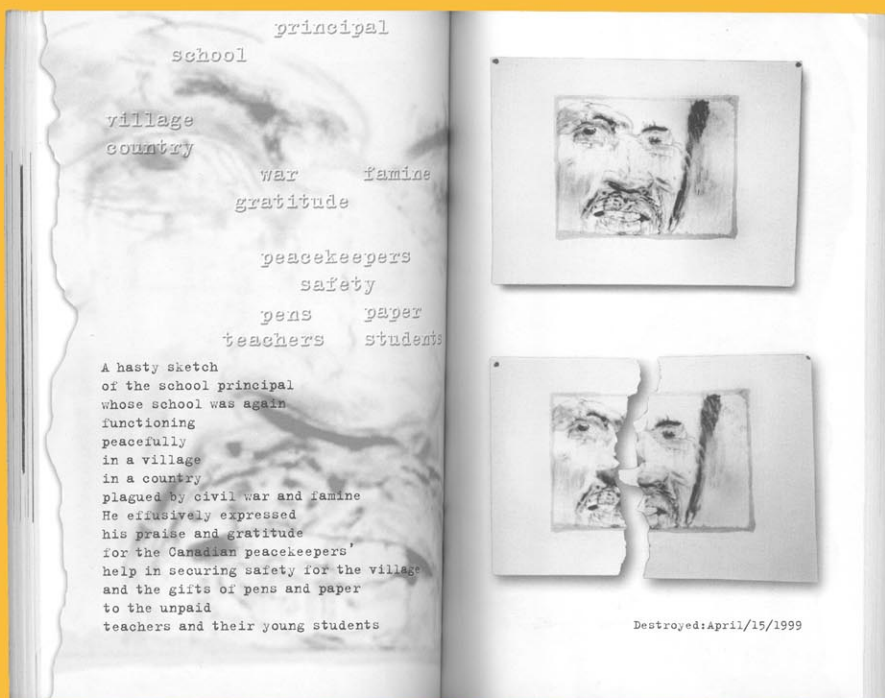
Holland
East Africa
India
Chile
Canada
The Balkans
East Timor
Iraq
Palestine
Guns . . .

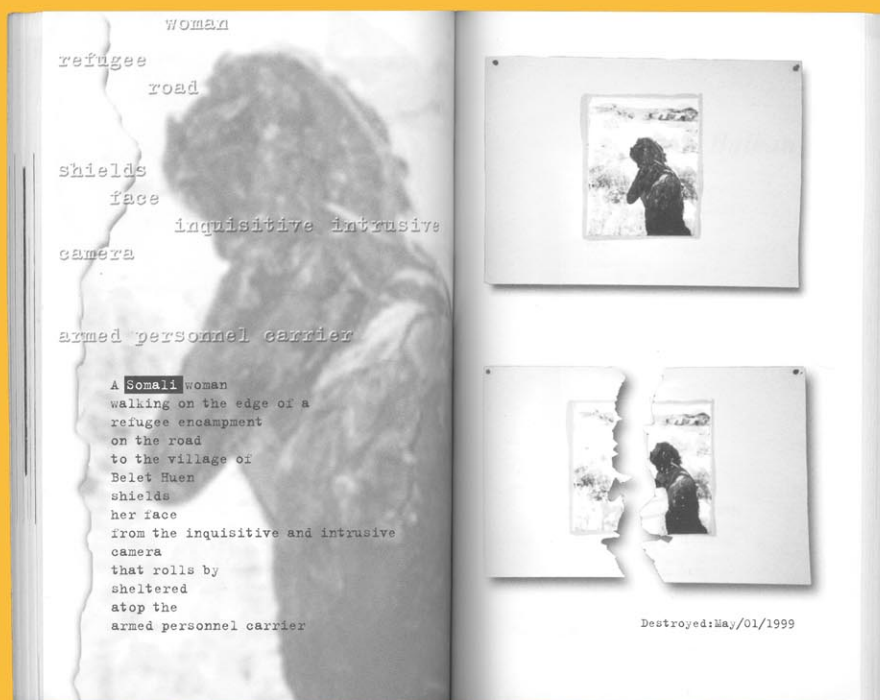
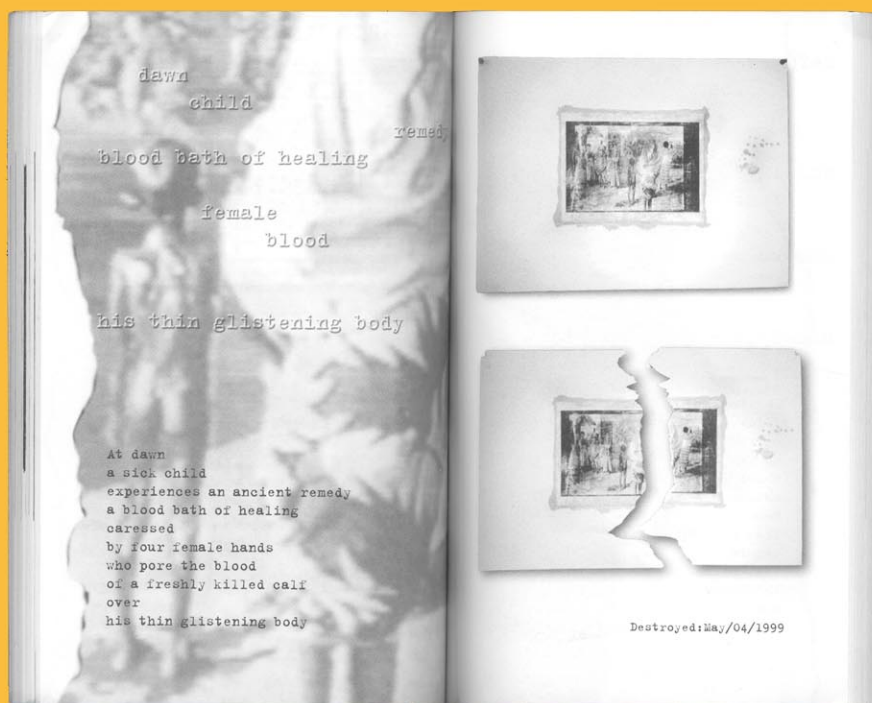
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A MUSEUM OF WAR

Justica Actis
No Bunker
Laura Brandon
Charles Horton
Brent
Vigil Burnett
Ann Crighton-Harris
Shobhan Panigrahy
Chris Giamous
Mona McTwish
Gould
J. L. Grammatin
Magpie Harvey
Marja Kacerevic
John B. Lee
Simon Levesh
Allan Harding MacKay
Admiral Mable
Anna Pashayzen
John Pashayzen
Barbara Ponomareff
Shirley Roberts
Martha Roth
Luka Segovic
Goran Santic

Descant
Volume 31, Number 1
Spring 2000
\$15.00







Somalia Project cont...

In March 1993 the Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artist Program commissioned Allan Harding MacKay to document, through works of art, Operation Deliverance and Cordon, humanitarian aid missions carried out by the Canadian Forces under United Nation direction.

During his travels in Somalia with the Canadian Forces, the artist's time was spent primarily in the operating environment of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. His overall, resounding impression is expressed as a motif throughout most of his work: high-tech military machinery juxtaposed against scenes of everyday life in Somalia. The timing of his assignment coincided with the events that led to the Somalia Inquiry, the torture and death of a Somali teenager, Shidane Abukar Arone, and the attempted suicide of Master Cpl. Clayton Matchee in the Canadian compound in Belet Huen. In addition to creating images alluding to this unfortunate incident, his art also captures images of Somalia's intense struggle for survival in a harsh environment amid the violence of civil war.

Since 1993, the Somalia experience has been featured prominently in MacKay's art practice, and his "Somalia Yellow" series has produced videos, drawings, collages, magazine projects, and prints, in addition to a theatre collaboration with the One Yellow Rabbit ensemble and images contributed to the Atom Egoian and Rodney Sharman's opera, *Elsewhere*. In 1996 a CBC documentary on MacKay's Somali experience, *Changing Perspectives*, aired on national television.

MacKay bases his professional career in Banff and is currently an artist-in-residence at The Banff Centre for the Arts.

The book *'Source/Derivations: Allan Harding MacKay'* an extensive monograph on the artist authored by Robert Stacey, has recently been published by the Art Gallery of Windsor, printed by Coach House Press, and distributed through Archives of Canadian Art and Design fax: 416-595-0031

Acknowledgements: Art Director: Allan Harding MacKay, Designer: Hans Moenen
Developed with the support of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia,
Artist-in-Residence Program, 1999.

Canada At War, 1999

Allan Harding MacKay

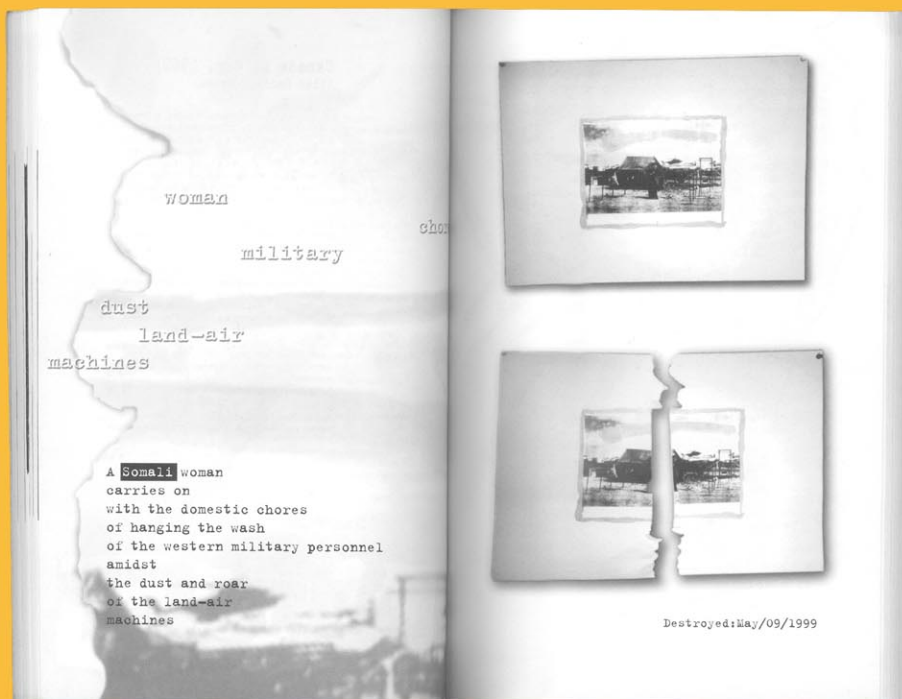
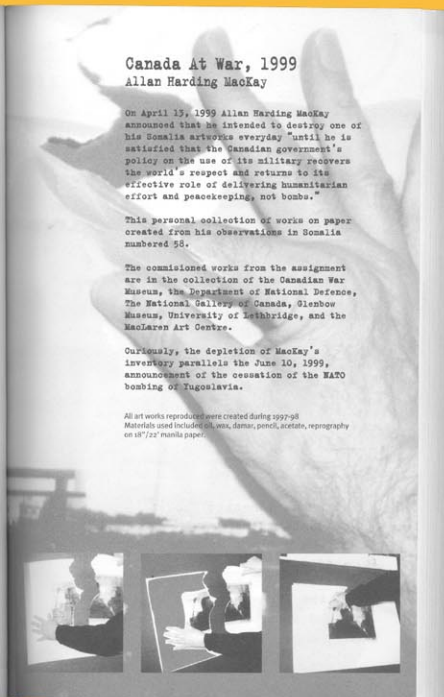
On April 19, 1999 Allan Harding MacKay announced that he intended to destroy one of his Somalia artworks everyday "until he is satisfied that the Canadian government's policy on the use of its military recovers the world's respect and returns to its effective role of delivering humanitarian effort and peacekeeping, not bombs."

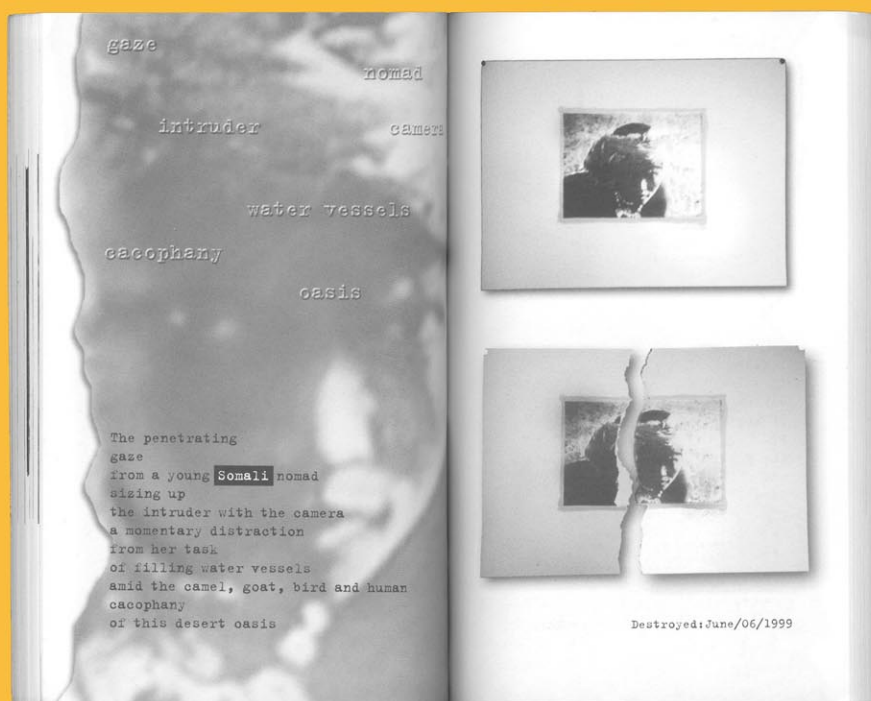
This personal collection of works on paper created from his observations in Somalia numbered 98.

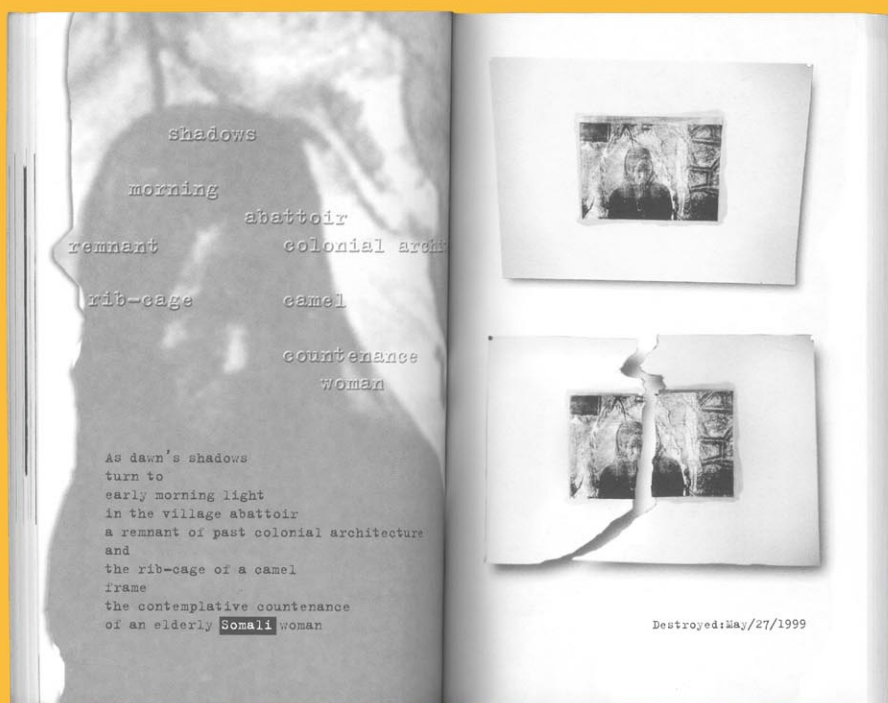
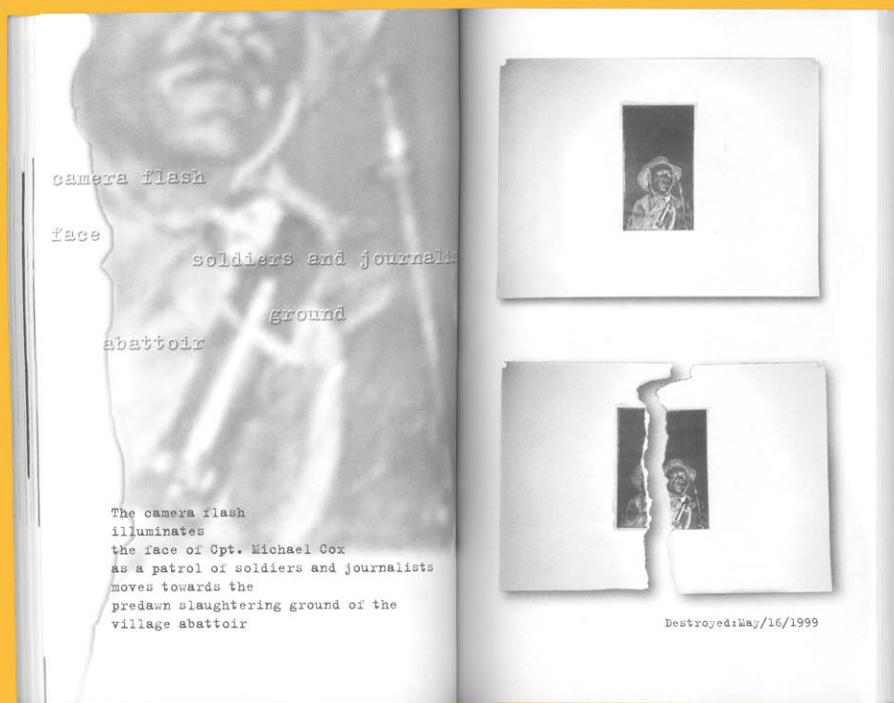
The commissioned works from the assignment are in the collection of the Canadian War Museum, the Department of National Defence, The National Gallery of Canada, Glenbow Museum, University of Lethbridge, and the McLaren Art Centre.

Curiously, the depletion of MacKay's inventory parallels the June 10, 1999, announcement of the cessation of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

All art works reproduced were created during 1997-98
Materials used included oil, wax, damar, pencil, acetate, reprography on 18" x 24" matted paper.





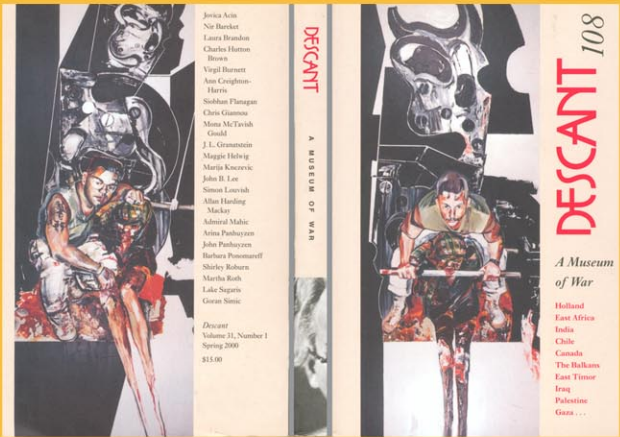




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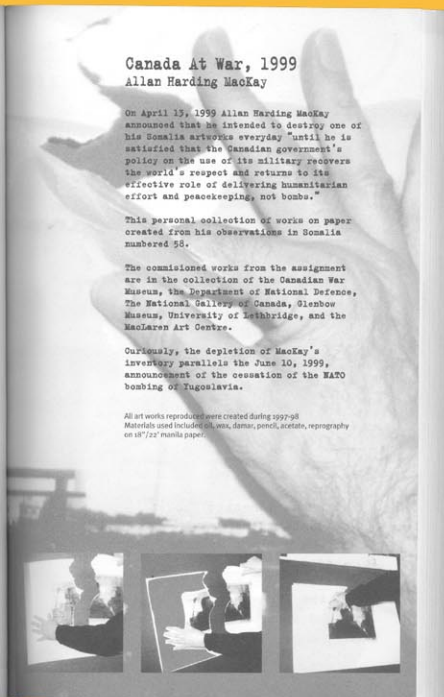
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WOMAN
military
dust
land-air
machines

A Somali woman
carries on
with the domestic chores
of hanging the wash
of the western military personnel
amidst
the dust and roar
of the land-air
machines



Destroyed: May/09/1999

