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THE DECLASSIFIED REPORT

Introduction
By Chris "Werecat" Chung

Hello everyone,

As usual, I hope you are having a great time at JoeCon. It was a frantic countdown wrought with many unfortunate delays, but at least it's finally here!

One thing to mention before we begin, is the state of the franchise. Although we celebrate G.I. Joe's 50th Anniversary, there are mixed feelings from many in the community. What should have been a grand, happy celebrating showcasing a brand that has transcended time and geography, has been somewhat overshadowed. It has only had minimal attention brought to it from the media, and even less from its own makers. Furthermore, as this is the anniversary of the entire brand of G.I. Joe (not the 3 3/4" figures), 12" collectors have no special 12" figures to commemorate this hallmark event except for what the Collectors' Club is offering right now at the con, and even 3 3/4" collectors are in a state of ennui. After the removal, restructuring, and relocation of the G.I. Joe design team, many prominent sites were either declaring "deth of teh line" in 2014, or quietly prepping the fandom for disappointment and trying to explain away why there might not be any product this year; or why fans should lower expectations of what to expect. Hasbro seems to have dispelled some of this fear with their Toyfair reveals, but there is no question things are nowhere near where they should be. Several years ago I had mentioned in a prior issue of this magazine that seemingly every few years we go through a cycle of having a new team come in, re-invent the wheel, flood the marketplace with the same core "Vomit Characters" and more-of-the-sames—but then finally realizing and correcting those mistakes by starting to break new ground by offering better selection and better ideas before (ironically) being unceremoniously cut short; thus allowing the cycle to begin anew. Rinse and repeat...

Nothing exists in a vacuum, and we—the collective whole, are the ones primarily tasked for keeping this line alive. But we can do more. If we want to see it grow and thrive, we need to make our voices heard instead of relieving ourselves of that responsibility by letting someone else be our mouthpiece who may not share the same sensibilities as we have. So as fans and supporters, how do we fix this? As we move on, I want each and every one of you to seriously think about what G.I. Joe means to you, and what do you think are the brand's strengths and weaknesses. How would you fix the things that are broken? And on top of that, I also want you to share your ideas either on our website, or any of the others.

Now, to put in some levity, we have a great magazine for you this year focused on some of the lesser known European aspects of G.I. Joe collecting:

- Sam Damon fills in a significant gap in the collecting community by creating a checklist and comparison guide between the differences on European and U.S. vehicles.
- Dave Tree gives us a brief history of the Action Force toy line, and details how it was incorporated into the larger G.I. Joe franchise.
- David Arenas is kind enough to be a triple threat: first detailing European brochures and paperwork. He then gives us a breakdown of unique Spanish filecards, and finally he showcases Spain's premier G.I. Joe Collectors' group, Casa Slaughter.
- Mike Taber does a detailed review and analysis of the repainted Destro rechristened as Red Jackal in the United Kingdom, and articulates why he's a worthy addition to your international collection.
- Josh Eggebeen continues his breakdown on European comics, and includes a personal anecdotal sidebar by Richard Anderson on collecting rare Greek G.I. Joe comics.
- Last but not least Dan Musick is the focus of our Collector Spotlight.

As always, a huge round of thanks to all of our sponsors, contributors and staffers. A special thanks goes out to our booth staff, as they are the ones both volunteering their time, and also helping to disseminate this magazine. For those interested in submitting an article, or for those who would like to be the focus of our Collector Spotlight or Community Profile, please contact us at Samuel@joedeclassified.com.

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G.I. JOE VEHICLES IN EUROPE

By Sam "Nomad" Damon

Variations on G.I. Joe vehicles were released all over Europe, first as part of Palitoy's Action Force line, and then later under the G.I. Joe banner. There were also a multitude of significant figure variations within the European Joe line, but they have been exhaustively well-covered elsewhere. Both the YoJoe.com website and Ron Connor's (now out-of-print) International Action Figure Archive reveal most mysteries of the figure side of the line.

What hasn't been well-documented online, are the vehicle variations unique to Europe – some so subtle that, without decals, you would have to hold both a domestic American version and European version side-by-side in order to truly see the difference. I apologize if anything is left from this list, but one of the most electrifying benefits of collecting foreign toys is in constantly making new discoveries – meaning there is always more to be learned.



□ Armadillo



□ Armoured Troop Carrier



□ Battle Tank (M.O.B.A.T.)



□ Command Centre



□ D.E.M.O.N.



□ Devastator



□ Escape Armour



□ F.L.A.K.



□ H.A.V.O.C.



□ Hyena



□ Laser Exterminator



□ M.M.S.



□ Mean Dog



□ Mudslinger/Salamander



□ Mobile Command center (the vehicle is similar to the U.S. release with darker missiles. Detail of the missiles shown).





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G.I. JOE VEHICLES IN EUROPE

By Sam "Nomad" Damon



☐ P.A.C. R.A.T. Dart



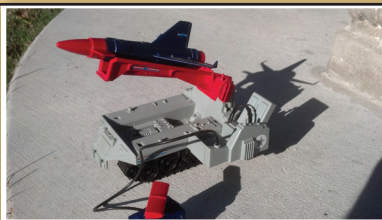
☐ P.A.C. R.A.T. Lance



☐ P.A.C. R.A.T. Shaft



☐ Phantom X-19 Stealth



☐ R.P.V.



☐ Radar Rat



☐ Rapid Fire Motorcycle



☐ Rolling Thunder



☐ SAS Hawk



☐ SAS Panther (yellow and black rollbar variations)



☐ Tiger Sting (front and back)



☐ Whirlwind



☐ Wolverine

Not pictured:

- ☐ Tomahawk
- ☐ Warthog
- ☐ Despoiler

EUROPEAN PAPERWORK

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

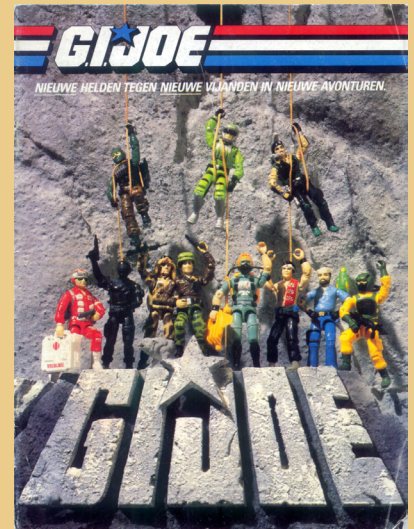
The aim of most G.I. Joe collectors is to complete the figures, vehicles, and playsets of a period; to own the cartoon series; or to own the original comic series or all the Larry Hama-written filecards. However, the deeper you go inside the brand, the more things you want to learn and get. It's amazing how much product, advertising, or merchandising was released not only inside the United States, but in the whole world.

That was my case. I've always enjoyed with G.I. Joe merchandising, catalogues, or brochures as a kid, but it wasn't until I started collecting again back in 2007 when I realized that there was more than figures and comics out there. An important part of this epiphany was my friend Dani "Falcon" who showed me the awesome Tiger Force Belgian brochure... hereafter I began my quest of paperwork across the world.

My main focus was to own every catalogue released in Belgium/Netherlands, but after some time I also started picking stuff from my own country - Spain, and others like the United Kingdom, Italy, and Greece.

Some of you will be wondering why focus on such a specific thing as Belgium/Dutch brochures. The answer is pretty easy: the best paperwork of G.I. Joe history was made there. These catalogues had astonishing pictures with dioramas inhabited by G.I. Joe figures, vehicles, and playsets. Another interesting point regarding these brochures was the fact they came in the two official languages in Belgium: French and Flemish. As Flemish is very similar to Dutch, the same paperwork was distributed in the Netherlands.

In this paperwork you can see many diverse things like a Cobra subterranean arctic base made with Styrofoam, Techno-Viper installations made with resistors and electronic plates, rainforests with real water rivers and wooden bridges... all those things that left the kids open-mouthed and excited for getting the G.I. Joe toys.



There were various sorts of paperwork released. In the first years Hasbro opted for doing dio (diorama) story-styled brochures. The figures and vehicles were presented as a part of a storyline. The covers were iconic, very similar to the famous Mike Zeck's illustration, with all the Joes featured below a big G.I. Joe logo. Inside you could see exciting images like a 4-part fold-out Dragonfly picture.

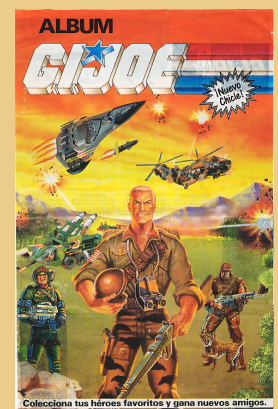
After this, Hasbro Belgium took a different direction. The following two years dio-based catalogues were released. Each page had a diorama that in the end, was part of a larger story although some of them didn't have links between. These two catalogues were the zenith of this kind of paperwork.

At the same time, an important number of specific brochures or special offer paperwork was released. Some interesting examples were the two brochures that combined comic vignettes and diorama pictures. Also remarkable were the mini posters (sometimes part of a greater scene) that presented some of the new figures of the year. For example, we have the Tiger Force brochure featuring an awesome fold-out jungle diorama!

Last but not the least were the dossiers. There were three dossiers featuring postcard-size diorama pictures of figures and vehicles. The postcards were easily removable from the rest and have the images in a more easy-to-handle way, as when the dossier was not folded it was awkward to look at the full picture.

Out of this classification there are other items worthy to be mentioned. The most important is the giant 1990 sticker poster. This poster came "empty", with blanks in the big diorama represented, and had to be completed with stickers offered by the national G.I. Joe Club. Also worthy of note was the G.I. Joe identification card and the background for figure display, as given by the club. There was also a yogurt advertising image that featured the Tomahawk helicopter rising off the packaging and some Joes eating from it.

Another important aspect, was, part of the pictures on the paperwork were also reused in other European countries, and some of the dossiers were released were nearly identical in countries like Spain. But there was more paperwork in Europe that would be interesting to mention.



EUROPEAN PAPERWORK

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

I think most of us know the Panini/Diamond sticker album. In this case, the point is to say this album was released in a lot of countries, the rarest being the dual-language from Belgium and the Israeli in Hebrew. But there exists another album pretty much unknown to the mass majority of collectors. This album features great artwork from U.K. based artists like Geoff Senior, author of many G.I. Joe and Transformers comic stuff. I was sure it only was released in U.K. but I was lucky enough to find the Greek version, with all letters in Greek style. The album also came with advice for the kids like practicing sports.



Another rare sample of European paperwork was the Italian dio-stories. I'm not sure if it existed in the U.S.A.'s Disney's weekly/bi-weekly mini-books with stories of Mickey, Donald, Goofy and the other Disney crew, but in Europe they were very popular back in the 80s. Enclosed in these books you could find advertisements of different toys and, in particular, G.I. Joe was promoted with short dio-stories of 3 - 4 pages. These dio-stories sometimes continued on the next mini-book, in a comic-book style. It was possible to see from U.S.S. Flagg to the Transportable Tactical Battle Platforms in those stories, so the Italian kids surely enjoyed a lot with those pictures. The only bad thing about these dio-stories was the poor paper they are printed on, making the pictures out of focus sometimes.

Also in Italia (and it's fair to say that is very rare), we can find one catalogue that mixed pictures with art. It's very long, with art of Sky Patrol figures and most of 1988 - 1990 pilots presenting their vehicle. Very little is known about it, but I felt it was worthy to mention. (All credit to my friend Iván "Dusty" Tomás for sharing the pics.)

In Spain, we had lots of interesting stuff. The two things I remember with the most affection were the Phoskitos's battleship-type game and the chewing gum sticker album. The first consisted in a sticker collection featuring artwork images of G.I. Joe figures and vehicles. These stickers came with little chocolate-covered rolled cakes. The stickers could be awarded with battleship-type game so, when you had a couple of games, you could play against your friends. The second sticker collection came with chewing gums. You'd get a little sticker with each piece of gum and then you had to put it on an album you could get for free. If you finished the album you were given two figures, and if you finished two, you could choose between Tomahawk, Rolling Thunder, and Phantom X-19. It was a great price for only buying some chewing gum, but it had a trick: the indescribably rare Toxo-Viper sticker that may or may not have existed. It was so impossible to get, nobody I know could find him, and even today it is one of the main "X-Files" for Spanish collectors: Did really the Toxo-Viper sticker exist?

As you see, the roster is big and varied: catalogues, brochures, advertisements, stickers, etc.. This is lucky for us G.I. Joe fans, as this gives us all the more to enjoy and collect because G.I. Joe wasn't only toys, it was a vast array of mass media merchandising spread across the world and localized in the most fascinating ways.





SPAIN/AMERICAN FILECARD COMPARISON CHART

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

Series 1 (1987)

Name (Spanish name)	Original file name	Spanish file name	Original birthplace	Spanish birthplace
Crankcase (Cigüeñal)	Indiana, Elwood G.	Carter, Elwood	Lawrence, Kansas	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Dusty (Dusty)			Las Vegas, Nevada	Alice Springs, Australia
Shipwreck (Eric)			Chula Vista, California	California, U.S.A.
Hawk (Hawk)	Abernathy, Clayton M.	Avernathy, James M.	Denver, Colorado	Warminster, England
Wild Bill (El Vaquero)	Hardy, William S.	Bisset, Cristóbal	Brady, Texas	Normandy, France
Quick Kick (Kung-Fu)	MacArthur, Ito S.	Ito, Lee Ho	Los Angeles, California	Canton, China
Airtight (Kurt)	Schnurr, Kurt	Schnurr, Rudolf	New Haven, Connecticut	Munchen, Federal German Republic
Sci-Fi (Sargento Láser)	Fine, Seymour P.	Finé, Sebastian P.	Geraldine, Montana	Strasbourg, France
Wet-Suit (Skuba)			Myrtle Beach, North Carolina	Toronto, Canada
Beach-Head (Surf)	Sneedon, Wayne R.	Sneedon, Wayne R.	Auburn, Alabama	Auckland, New Zealand

Series 2 (1988)

Name (Spanish name)	Original file name	Spanish file name	Original birthplace	Spanish birthplace
Hit'n Run (Acantilado)	Scott, Brent	Schmit, Brent	Sioux City, Iowa	Mutschellen, Suiza
Mainframe (Chip)	Parker, Blaine L.	Parker, Blain L.		
Cutter (Cuchilla)	Stone, Skip A.	Monroe, Tomás		
Outback (Jungla)	Selkirk, Stuart T.	Brass, D.S.	Big Pinney, Wyoming	Gosforth, Scotland
Dial Tone (Morse)	Morelli, Jack S.	Morelli, Jacques S.	Eugene, Oregon	Italian-Swiss Border
Monkeywrench (Llave Inglesa)	Bill Winkie	Saint-Anna, August		
Psyche-Out (Psico)	Rich, Kenneth D.	Von Rich, Ralf	San Francisco, California	Munchen, Germany
Road Pig (Puerko)	DeLuca, Donald	Salvatore, Giuseppe	Goblu, Michigan	Miss Late, Michigan
Slip-Stream (Slip-Stream)	Boyajian, Gregory B.	Baoyajian, Gregory B.		
Blizzard (Ventisca)			Wolfboro, New Hampshire	Juneau, Alaska
Tunnel-Rat (Topo)	Lee, Nicky	Lee, Severio		

Series 3 (1989)

Name (Spanish name)	Original file name	Spanish file name	Original birthplace	Spanish birthplace
Dodger (dodger)			South Bend, Indiana	Indiana
Tiger Force Recondo (El Vaquero)	LeClaire, Daniel M.	Hardy, William S.	Wheaton, Wisconsin	Hull, England
Maverick (Maverick)			Ida Grove, Iowa	Iowa
Taurus (Toro)	Ayvazyan, Varujan	Ayvazyan, Moreno		
Windmill (Windmill)			Roth, Edward J.	Roth, Edwards J.

Series 4 (1991)

Name (Spanish name)	Original file name	Spanish file name	Original birthplace	Spanish birthplace
Tiger Force Hit'n Run (Acantilado)	Scott, Brent	Prefacy, Vincent	Sioux City, Iowa	Basildon, Essex, UK
European Mutt (Doberman)	Perlmutter, Stanley R.	Verma, Steve G.	Iselin, New Jersey	London, New England
Hot Seat (Hot Seat)	Provost, Michael A.	Taylor, Michael A.	Pawtucket, Rhode Island	Bath, Avon, England
Sonic Fighter Dodger (Ice)	Renwick, Richard	Rockfull, Victor	South Bend, Indiana	Rubielos de Mora, Spain
Long Range (Long Range)	Fritz, Karl W.	Evans, David W.	Warwick, Rhode Island	Cardiff, Wales
Slaughter's Marauders Low-Light (Low-Light)	MacBride, Cooper G.	MacBride, Vincent G.	Crosby, North Dakota	Crosby, New Mexico
Recoil (Recoil)	Felton, Joseph	Balles, Teros	Fashion Island, Washington	Fashion Island, Washington

Continued on the next page...



SPAIN/AMERICAN FILECARD COMPARISON CHART

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

Tiger Force Sneak Peak	King, Owen	Falgas, Ferny	Bangor, Maine	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, UK
Static Line (Static)	Badducci, Wallace J.	Toner, Daniel T.		
European Spirit (Spirit)	Iron-Knife, Charlie	Cuchillo de Hierro, Carlo	Taos, New Mexico	The Great Canyon, Arizona
Tiger Force Tunnel Rat (Topo)	Lee, Nicky	Lee, Severin		
Tiger Force Blizzard (Ventisca)	Natale, Gregory M.	George, Comin G.	Wolfboro, New Hampshire	Leipzig, Austria
Windchill (Windchill)	Steel, Jim	McDonald, Jim	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Loch Lomond, Scotland

Series 5 (1992)

Name (Spanish name)	Original file name	Spanish file name	Original birthplace	Spanish birthplace
Clean Sweep (Albatros)	Price, Daniel W.	Ironman, Jessus		
Bullhorn (Asta de Toro)	Ferreira, Stephen A.	Bover, Boby		
Sub-Zero (Bajo Cero)	Habershaw, Mark	Dasee, Vincent	Smithfield, Rhode Island	Detroit, Michigan
Eco Warriors Flint (Ballena)	Faireborne, Dashiell R.	Barbera, Carlos		
Capt. Grid-Iron (Barra de Acero)	Lydon, Terrence	Rossillo, J. M. Trennor		
Sonic Fighter Zap (Bill)	Melendez, Rafael J.	Zerep, Poulen	New York City, New York	Port Avenue
Free Fall (Bilyboy)	Arndt, Philip W.	G., Comin D.		
Cold Front (Cold Front)	Donahue, Charles	Maqui, Cuencor	Fort Know, Kentucky	The Ravine, Kentucky
Sonic Fighter Dial Tone (Dial Tone)	Morelli, Jack S.	Dial Tone	Eugene, Oregon	-
Ambush (Emboscada)	McMahon, Aaron	Romeuss, Frank		
Talking Commander Hawk (Falgass)	Abernathy, Clayton M.	Sleeper, Ferdy		
Super Sonic Fighter Lt. Falcon (Libélula)	Falcon, Vincent R.	Ironman, Jessus	Fayetteville, North Carolina	Michigan
Pathfinder (Machete)	Ianotti, William V.	Garcci, Ing		
Major Storm (Mayor Storm)	Swanson, Robert G.	Verma, Steve K.	Providence, Rhode Island	Coventry, England
Topside (Neptuno)	Blanchet, John	Chastel, Charles	Fort Wayne, Indiana	Rockfort, Indiana
Super Sonic Fighter Major Bludd (Piraña)	Bludd, Sebastian	Sidney, Australia	-	-
Super Sonic Fighter Road Pig (Puerko)	DeLuca, Donald	Salvatore, Giuseppe	Goblu, Michigan	Miss Late, Michigan
Salvo (Salvo)	Hasle, David K.	De Witten, Sandy		
Talking Commander Stalker (Stalker)	Wilkinson, Lonzo R.	Wilkinson, Louzo R.		
Super Sonic Fighter Psyche-Out (Télex)	Rich, Kenneth D.	Ustero, Snow		
Stretcher (Tórax)	Larivee, Thomas J.	Jordee, Uncle	Hartford, Connecticut	International Waters, Mediterranean Sea
Sonic Fighter Tunnel Rat (Tunnel Rat)	Lee, Nicky	Lee, Severio		
Updraft (Updraft)	Smithers, Matthew W.	Moragues, Christian		
Skymate	Toner, Daniel T.	Ariass, Julius P.	Queenstown, Australia	Queenstown

Series 6 (1993)

No mistakes				
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Series 7 (1994)

Name (Spanish name)	Original file name	Spanish file name	Original birthplace	Spanish birthplace
Ace (Ace)	Armbruster, Brad J.	-	Providence, Rhode Island	-
Battle Corps Gung-Ho (Gung-Ho)			Fer-de-Lance, Louisiana	Fer-de-Lance, Los Angeles
Star Brigade Payload (Payload)	Morgan Jr, Mark	-	Cape Canaveral, Florida	-

THE LEGEND OF THE INFAMOUS HASBRO IBERIA'S CLEANING LADY

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

Every Spanish G.I. Joe fan has heard about the Hasbro Iberia's Cleaning Lady. But do we know why that expression appeared? What were the felonies perpetrated by this curious character of Spanish G.I. Joe mythology?

Basically this concept started out as a running joke to explain how such a large number of Spanish filecard text and descriptions used incorrect spelling, incorrect grammar, and why these filecards and characters were essentially mutilated, modified, or even completely invented without any rhyme or reason. When this became a dedicated meme, everyone began to say that it was the Cleaning Lady who worked after hours at the Hasbro Iberia location who would edit or add to the filecards right before they were set to be printed, thus no changes could be made to the huge amount of nonsense.

Here you can see some of these silly facts. Enjoy!

Mayor Storm (Major Storm):

Name: Steve K. Verma
Birthplace: Coventry, England
Primary Military Specialty: Pilot Specialized
Secondary Military Specialty: Code Decipherer
Neither Grade nor SN
Text: Major Storm was fascinated by tanks when a child. He liked to make small models and later to study computer languages. Later, he assisted a military academy where everybody was open-mouthed with his learning skills and logic deduction. He was pivotal in the design of the General to make it invincible.

Rampart (Rampart):

Name: Sindey Colvee
Birthplace: Ghandya, Alaska (deformation of a very sunny and hot, opposite to the cold of Alaska, holidays town in the region of Hasbro Iberia, Gandja)
Primary Military Specialty: Coast Guard
Secondary Military Specialty: Ballistics Specialist
Text: Rampart is a videogames ace that decided to put his reflexes at Navy service, as anti-aircraft artilleryman. These skills got him to be selected by G.I. Joe. Rampart's life seemed to be destined to serve as Coast Guard as he was always in the sea while young. He won some contests related with the sea and it's known that G.I. Joe wanted to recruit him when he was only 16 years old! He knows so well the coast that can discover submarine caves... from out the water!!

Cold Front (Cold Front):

Name: Cuencor Maqui
Birthplace: The Ravine, Kentucky
Secondary Military Specialty: Infantry Sergeant
Text: Cold Front is the focus of his teammates' jokes due to his capacity of catching tan and for being very vain. He always carries lots of luggage when going out for military tests. To finish, he is unsociable, a hardhead, and decisive, but has a great sense of humor.

Range Vipers (Range Viper):

Text: Member of Cobra's Special Assault Troop. He's very feared because his kind of attacks: surprise assaults without respect for anything. One night, he locked himself up with five rats and two snakes to win a bet. Next morning, Range Viper appeared to be sleeping calmly while the vermins snuggled themselves in a corner of the room.

Pathfinder (Machete):

Name: Garcoy Ing (Garcoy is a deformation of the most common surname in Spain: Garcia)
Primary Military Specialty: Jungle Guide
Secondary Military Specialty: Engineer / Cartographer
No Grade and different SN
Text: Mentions to have worked with Tiger Force. When he finishes his exhausting missions, he always has strength to climb a banana tree, pick some bananas and make puffs with them for his fellow Joes. Also says he takes profit of his photographic memory to draw maps of the paths he opens in the jungle.

Stretchor (Tórax):

Name: Uncle Jordée (Jordée is a deformation of Jordi, a common name in the region in which is based Harbro Iberia, Valencia). Imagine a guy called "Tío Jordi" in Spanish. lol
Secondary Military Specialty: Nautical Specialist
Birthplace: International Waters, Mediterranean Sea
Neither Grade nor SN
Text: Torax (Stretchor) is very appreciated by his Joe team-mates. One day, he saved a wounded man at the front and spent 2 days inside a cave where he healed the man. When he returned to the HQ, his superiors fell silent and organized a big party when they saw him and his mate returning safe.

Decimator (Decimator)

Text: Decimator isn't part of a unit but a person. He is an excellent driver and mechanic, the best choice to pilot the Hammerhead. Even he was the person who designed the vehicle, Cobra, with the Hammerhead and the B.U.G.G., has strengthened its position on the coasts and Decimator is able to control, from his command post, the six combat vehicles in which is divided his craft.

Updraft (Updraft):

Name: Christian Moragues
Secondary Military Specialty: Bombing Tactics Specialist
No SN
Text: When a child, Updraft only wanted one thing: to be helicopter pilot. Now pilot and aircraft, Updraft and Retaliator, complement themselves so well than seems to be an only being.

Bullhorn (Asta de Toro):

Name: Bobby Bover
Primary Military Specialty: Logistics Manager
Secondary Military Specialty: Sniper
Neither Grade nor SN
Text: Asta de Toro (Bullhorn) is very appreciated in the team and thanks to his big knowledge of Geology, Finances, iijQuantum Mechanics!!! and Sharpshooting can draw up complicated plans in a few seconds. he was 12 years, while navigating with his parents, they get lost due to a big storm. He made a compass with a magnet and they were able to return home.
Motto: Every problem has a solution

Ice (Sonic Figher Dodger):

Name: Victor Rockfull
Primary Military Specialty: Laser Weaponry Neutralizer
Birthplace: Rubielos de Mora, Spain
No Grade and different SN
Text: Ice was studying laws but, when he was going to finish, visited a local exposition where saw how a laser cut a steel beam like a knife cut cheese. He was so impressed that entered in a specialization formation G.I. Joe set in Norway. There, he obtained the best score. When Ice finishes his missions and the honchos give him some days for a leave, he always does the same: meets with his twin brother, Dodger*, for a football match!
***Dodger facts:** twin brother of Ice: Name: Renwick, Richard; Birthplace: Indiana



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THE LEGEND OF THE INFAMOUS HASBRO IBERIA'S CLEANING LADY

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

Telex (Super Sonic Fighters Psyche-Out):

Name: Snow Ustero
Primary Military Specialty: Communications Engineer
Secondary Military Specialty: Military Mountaineering Instructor
Neither Grade nor different SN
Text: Telex is in charge of all G.I. Joe communications. He is a qualified expert in every communications device and his ability with weapons is awesome. His only fault: is a little bit deaf and sometimes makes mistakes sending messages. However, as he is very pleasant, his mates forgive him. Telex is equipped with state-of-the-art communication equipment and also possesses great ability with laser weapons. If you add all of this to his mountaineering skills, you have one of the most valuable G.I. Joe members.

Tunnel Rat (Sonic Fighter Tunnel Rat):

Name: Lee Severio
Primary Military Specialty: Activist (in Spanish, EOD is translated as "Artificiero" and is similar to "Activista". The Cleaning Lady had a poor vocabulary)
No Grade and different SN
Text: References to "Topo", his original codename in v1 and Tiger Force version. He alternated missions with Tiger Force and Sonic Fighters and were so successful than Cobra thinks he has to be two different persons. No references to the weapons he carries.
Motto: "Anything that doesn't kill you, makes you stronger!"

Lampreys (Sonic Fighter Lampreys):

Text: Minor changes with the inclusion of more weapons and rewriting of the second paragraph of the filecard but saying the same.

Law (Sonic Fighter Law):

No grade
Text: Suppression of some facts.

Puerko (Super Sonic Fighters Road-Pig):

Name: Salvatore, Giuseppe
Birthplace: Miss Late, Michigan
Text: Puerko was promoted by Cobra very quickly due to his criminal record and because he is always doing "cerdadas" (Things made by a pig; in Spanish, Puerko is a deformation of puerco that means pig).

Rock'n Roll (Super Sonic Fighters Rock'n Roll):

No Grade nor different SN
Text: His skills has made him the prefect man to test new equipment or to keep secret documents. Rock'n Roll has become a close friend of Libélula as both have carried out lots of difficult missions together.

Dial Tone (Sonic Figher Dial tone):

Name: Dial Tone
No Birthplace.
Text: Built his first radio when 10 years old, with pieces that bought with the money earned cleaning cars. When 14, worked in a radio broadcaster and when 16 he was a total expert. It was hard for him to accept the military discipline but soon began to stand out thanks to his inventiveness and orientation skills. Dial Tone was promoted, as he is one of the most reliable members of the team, and changed his name from "Morse" (Spanish name for this figure) to Dial Tone.

Stalker (Talking Battle Commander Stalker)

No Grade and different SN
Text: Stalker has earned his promotion thanks to his amazing interventions in the far tundra and also due to his valor, intelligence and command skills. When he was promoted, his best friends, Snake Eyes and Storm Shadow, gave him a gold copy of the dog tags he wore when they serve together in the L.R.R.P.s.

Viper (Sonic Figher Viper):

Text: Viper isn't part of a unit but a person. Viper is the responsible of the dirty jobs of Cobra. He robbed the G.I. Joe HQ blueprints and only the best G.I. Joe efforts prevented him to be given the most important Cobra's award: the chance to commit the crime you want. G.I. Joe knows the most dangerous stuff of Viper aren't his weapons but his thoughts-transmitter helmet. Viper really deserved his promotion. He has committed lots of crimes without blinking, winning the admiration of his Cobra mates. G.I. Joe really wants to nab this guy; at least they know he changed his name and he won't be called "Vibora" anymore. *Vibora is Spanish translation for Viper and was the name for Viper v1.

Piraña (Super Sonic Fighters Major Bludd):

Name: Neither name nor birthplace.
Text: Piraña is a peculiar guy. He recognizes himself he doesn't mind the fate of his colleagues. He only thinks in reaching the target given by Cobra honchos and in being paid after. After ten years on first line he still wants to keep fighting while he receives the money. Piraña has an anti-laser machine gun that can deflect the shots... this is because he still hasn't taken a wound after so many years.

Commander (Talking Battle Commander Cobra Commander)

Text: Commander is deeply respected inside the ranks of Cobra and even some of his members consider him a friend. Although Commander always bags the favors he makes, is really appreciated and everybody wishes to have him as commander.

Albatros (Eco Warriors Clean-Sweep):

Name: Jessus Ironman (Jesús is a common name in Spain; again is used this name for other character!)
Primary Military Specialty: Eco-Warrior Trooper
Secondary Military Specialty: Zoology
Neither Grade nor different SN
Text: Albatros speciality is the animals and the effects some substances can cause on them. This interest began was 18 years old. His dad was the manager of Elizabeth Zoo and a lion was going to die due to an unknown disease. Albatros spent 3 days without sleeping, studying the animal conduct and finally could prepare a cure that saved its life.

Libélula (Super Sonic Fighters Lt. Falcon)

Name: Jessus Ironman (Jesús is a common name in Spain)
Primary Military Specialty: PTP Specialist (Helicopter Pack)
Secondary Military Specialty: Sniper
Birthplace: Michigan
Neither Grade nor different SN
Text: Libélula is one of the team members recalled when the things get worse. His pulse with the laser rifle and skills with heli backpack make him the man to eliminate enemies silently. His modus operandi is to land stealthily on a rock or tree and open fire. When Libélula returns from a special mission always celebrates his success in the same way: eating a huge salad in two minutes!

Interrogator (Battle Copters Interrogator)

Text: Interrogator is an expert in the use of Battle Copters as he even participated in the robbery of the prototype from the company that was collaborating with G.I. Joe. Interrogator trains and trains and because of that, his piloting skills are amazing. For sure he'll be a serious problem for G.I. Joe team. This man joins two capabilities to be aware with: intelligence and discipline; So... Beware, G.I. Joe!

Ballena (Eco Warriors Flint):

Name: Carlos Barbera (Barberá is a common surname in the region where was based Hasbro Iberia)
Primary Military Specialty: Infantry Commander
Secondary Military Specialty: Biology
Neither Grade nor SN
Text: Ballena loves nature. When a child he spent hours walking on the mountains and keeping in his awesome memory everything he watched. His interest grew and started to study Biology at university, where was one of the best students ever. This added to his computer handling led him to find a good assignment in the G.I. Joe team.



DECLASSIFIED

THE LEGEND OF THE INFAMOUS HASBRO IBERIA'S CLEANING LADY

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

Arsénico (Eco Warriors Sludge Viper):

Text: Arsénico is referred as a character not a unit like Sludge-Vipers. Arsénico is one of the most dangerous Cobra operatives. When he was 20 years old, he was wanted for polluting various rivers. When the Police captured him, acknowledged his guilt and was condemned to life sentence. However, Cobra could free him and incorporate to its ranks.

Ozono (Eco Warriors Ozone):

Primary Military Specialty: Eco-Warrior Trooper
Secondary Military Specialty: Experimental Biology
Neither Grade nor different SN
Text: Free translation of the original filecard with big omissions

Rascacielos (Cloudburst)

Primary Military Specialty: Spy
Secondary Military Specialty: Operations Planning
Neither Grade nor SN

Text: Rascacielos was always on the heights when a child: climbed to trees, mounted on ferris wheels or whatever... always his feet weren't over the ground! When he grew, became interested in parachuting, and later, in gliders, in which was junior champion of his state. Meanwhile he studied a lot and was able to finish the university degree two years before the usual. Because all of this, his entry in G.I. Joe team was positively accepted.

Falgass (Talking Battle Commander General Hawk)

Name: Ferdy Sleeper
Primary Military Specialty: Infantry Commander
Secondary Military Specialty: Operations Specialist
No Grade and different SN

Text: Falgass has lots of friends inside G.I. Joe and has collaborated closely with Rampart and Blizzard in some difficult issues and being always successful. He has been three years on the front line and got a promotion to commander thanks to his achievements. This promotion was celebrated sleeping 20 hours!

Altitude (Battle Copters Major Altitude)

Secondary Military Specialty: Aeronautic Designer

Text: Altitude spent his whole life studying and piloting aircrafts. He was crew member of every Sky Patrol crafts [There is another Joe named Altitude in Sky Patrol, with a different name, but Hasbro Iberia decided to give Major Altitude a link with that character] and thanks to this experience was chosen between 2000 people to pilot the Battle Copters. Altitude knows Cobra owns the Battle Copter and it is piloted by the evil Libélula [Please note Libélula was a Joe traitor in Lt. Falcon's Super Sonic Fighters team] so he's preparing for the day they'll meet on the air!

Rodio (Eco Warriors Toxo Viper):

Text: Rodio is referred as a character not a unit like Toxo-Vipers. Rodio has the reputation of being the most macabre member of Cobra. He doesn't have any remorse and is able to exterminate whatever he faces. Right now is working alongside Arsénico and Cianuro (Sludge Viper and Cesspool) to pollute the world. Rodio is equipped, like his other partners, with a toxic acid minigun.

Viento (Skymate)

Name: Julius P. Ariass (For sure name after a person named Julio Arias, name and surname pretty common in Spain; doubling the consonants seems to be a common practice for Hasbro Cleaning Lady to hide his changes in the names)

Primary Military Specialty: Karate Instructor

Secondary Military Specialty: Tracker

Birthplace: Only appears Queenstown. No mention to the country.

Neither Grade, status (transferred from Australian S.A.S) nor SN

Text: When he was only a child, Viento felt a true passion by sails so, when he was 13 years old, became windsurf instructor. Once windsurf was dominated, he searched for stronger experiences. Then, he incorporated himself to G.I. Joe where studied the best flying with sails formulas, adding his experience for helping to built the first hang glider. Viento not only controls the flight; he also is an expert in survival. Armed only with a boomerang, he crossed the Australian jungle and made concrete to build his own house... but this is only a detail for a man who use to fight to get his everyday food.

Barracuda (Talking Battle Commander Overkill)

Text: Barracuda is much feared between Cobra ranks. For him, the ends justify the means. The soldiers don't want to have him as commander because he used to betray them in order to get his own objectives.

Buitre (Night Vulture):

Text: Buitre is referred as a character not a unit like Night Vultures. Buitre has earned his codename as he rose inside Cobra ranks taking profit of his colleagues' misfortunes (this is a word game as "buitre" means, in Spain, a person who takes profit from things other people does). His story seems to be taken from a terror movie: when 18 years old he was a fugitive for robbing three planes. Seeing himself corralled, he opted for joining Cobra where his meteoric promotions attracted attention, not for his amazing skills with any flying device but the mysterious deaths that surrounded them.

Cuervo (Skycreeper):

Text: This evil Cobra member is, without any doubt, one of the best glider pilots ever. Despite this fact, he isn't very wanted by his Cobra mates as he is always reminding them he is the best there is. Even, he enjoys abusing them and can't wait for picking on anybody. His reputation is so bad that he is considered a bad person inside cobra ranks!!

These are the biggest changes but we have lots of little modifications as name changes, text omissions, different military specialties, etc. They would fill a huge book! At least, with this, you have a very clear vision of the ridiculous things we had to bear.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACTION FORCE TOY LINE

By Dave Tree

To most G.I. Joe collectors, the term "Action Force" means the British releases of the Hasbro toys by Palitoy from 1982 to 1985. Some may think of the repaints of characters for Z-Force, Q-Force, Space Force, SAS, or even the Red Shadows, but few relate to the re-birth of the brand by Hasbro Industries U.K. using the standard range of Hasbro U.S. G.I. Joe products; which have a wealth of variations and international oddities in their own right.

At the height of its release, Action Force by Palitoy was the second best-selling boy's toy in the United Kingdom. Palitoy had enjoyed a long established alliance with Hasbro distributing the 12" G.I. Joe brand as "Action Man". Since its U.K. 1966 launch, Action Man had grown from strength to strength and developed beyond Hasbro's output in both product and accessories. However by the mid-eighties Palitoy had been acquired by General Mills, forming part of a wider toy company portfolio which also included Kenner - a competing rival of Hasbro. Things began to change at the start of 1984 with General Mills deciding that smaller scale toys were the future and ordered the production ceased of Action Man. This came as a huge blow to Palitoy plans of a new Action Man brand extension, and within a few months Palitoy's Design Department was made redundant. In part of its creation to separate its toy divisions and create Kenner Parker Toys, further General Mills restructuring led to the eventual closure of Palitoy in 1986 leading to the suspension of Action Force as well as many other Palitoy created products (although Kenner Parker Toys still owned the intellectual property rights).



The gulf left by closure of Palitoy presented an opportunity to Hasbro that had previously been unavailable. The opening of Hasbro Industries U.K. in 1983 led to distribution into the U.K. and Europe of many of the best-selling brands like Transformers and My Little Pony, but under agreement with Palitoy, not G.I. Joe. Recognising the popularity and foundations laid by Palitoy, Hasbro Industries U.K. began the work to re-launch the Action Force line using only their own G.I. Joe products in 1987. Hasbro Industries U.K. was free to reuse the recognizable brand name Action Force, but added "International Heroes" to the brand title to help differentiate it from any previous incarnation. In order to embrace the international element, many of the released character filecards were altered to reflect different places of birth from around the world. Hasbro Industries U.K. had a back-catalogue of nearly five years of G.I. Joe product to draw from to create the perfect launch range. Taking into account products that had already been released in 1985 via Palitoy, only Cobra Trooper, Destro, and Strom Shadow saw re-release as individual figures and Skystriker, Night Attack Stinger, Water Moccasin, F.A.N.G., and Zartan & Chameleon as vehicles with respective pilots. The rest of the launch range comprised of items from 1984 and 1985 with the premium products being the Mauler M.B.T., Tactical Battle Platform, and the Cobra Hydrofoil.

In 1987 Action Force launched Range Character Places Of Birth: Ace: Montreal, Canada; Airtight: Munich, W. Germany; Alpine: Grenoble, France; Barbecue: Naples, Italy; Bazooka: Minnesota, U.S.A.; Crankcase: Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.; Dusty: Alice Springs, Australia; Flint: Lincoln, England; Footloose: Dundee, Scotland; Frostbite: Galena, Alaska U.S.A.; Heavy Metal: Liverpool, England; Lady Jaye: Cork, Ireland; Quick Kick: Canton, China; Shipwreck: California, U.S.A.; Snake Eyes: Classified; and Wild Bill: Hull, England.

Brand name and character birthplaces were not the only changes on the packaging. Although very similar in style to the U.S. releases, any artwork or photography that featured the words "G.I. Joe" were re-worked with "Action Force". The on-package Flag Points became Action Force Points. (Loyalty reward systems were familiar from the Palitoy era, although there was no launch promotion ready at the start for Hasbro Industries U.K..) The toys themselves were in most part identical to the U.S. releases, with the exception of the decals reflecting "Action Force" rather than G.I. Joe. Manufacturing was spread between Hong Kong and Ireland; which created a couple of toy and accessory colour variations

To help build the awareness and make the brand look bigger than it actually was, Hasbro Industries U.K. took inspiration from its U.S. parent with licensing - something Palitoy did not use to its full advantage. Third party companies used Action Force branding for lunch boxes, bed spreads, and other complementing products. One of the most popular (and key to the launch success), was the tie-in with Marvel U.K. Comics. Marvel U.K. had originally pitched for the Action Force comic back in 1983, but lost out to IPC Media who ran Battle Action Force from 1983 to 1986. For the re-launch, Hasbro Industries U.K. made it clear not to reference back to any of the previous U.K. comic storylines. Instead, they concentrated on new stories based around Action Force operating from London and taking on Cobra's European terrorism threat. It also included a second ongoing story that was a reprint of the Larry Hama Real American Hero storyline. The leading team of writers, artists, inkers, and colourists that worked on Hasbro Industries U.K.'s other lead comic book, Trans-



A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACTION FORCE TOY LINE

By Dave Tree

formers, created weekly serials that complemented and dipped in and out of Larry Hama's storylines. "Consequences" and "Truth", printed in issues 37 and 38 acted as bookends to Hama's classic "Silent Interlude" and saw Scarlett being kidnapped by Storm Shadow in London instead. The Marvel U.K. run also introduced a great range of background characters like the Ministry of Defence liaison, Trent, who was involved in several stories and died at the hands of Monkeywrench whilst attempting to rescue his daughter and Chattle (a Cobra weapons developer), who faced off Snake Eyes in homage to the film Predator in "The Cold Zone".

Launched as a weekly comic in March 1987, some of these stories eventually were reprinted in the U.S. under the G.I. Joe European Missions series. Although they never aired on terrestrial U.K. television, some of the G.I. Joe cartoons were redubbed into Action Force by Tempo Video and sold as VHS Video cassette tapes. The tapes were at a premium for the time and eventually included a redub of *The G.I. Joe Movie*; however the re-dub used different voice actors leading to awkward sound editing and it makes for uncomfortable viewing today. To help support and market new toy releases, Hasbro Industries U.K. used comic book advertising extensively in most of the Marvel U.K. weekly comic book titles. The style of the advertising was done in comic panel format using photography of the toys, and whilst the spotlight was usually on a vehicle or two, this format allowed the use of several action figures to help cross-promote the products. In addition, despite only two television channels that supported commercials in the U.K., a budget was also given for television advertising.

The first of these was the Night Attack Stinger and the A.W.E. Striker in May 1987, and several more television commercials would be created over the next few years.

The rebirth of Action Force would prove to be Hasbro Industries U.K. most successful launch to date. Taking the boy's toys action figure market by storm, Action Force had returned, and some said it was better than ever. Action Force Points promotions followed for exclusive product like the Hooded Cobra Commander, and a chance for U.K. fans to become members of the Steel Brigade. Over the following years the mixed assortments were catching up with U.S. releases, however not all the characters or vehicles saw a U.K. release. From 1989 the brand evolved to "G.I. Joe, The Action Force" as a phase change before converting the brand name fully to "G.I. Joe" in 1990. Even though by this point the brand and products were in line with the U.S. releases, the packaging print and filecards would still continue to be unique. Hasbro Industries U.K. also took the opportunity to create exclusive products like adding to the ranks of Tiger Force, and making repaints of previously unreleased Hasbro characters like Spirit.

Although very similar in appearances to the U.S. releases, hidden under the surface the 1987 re-launch of Action Force holds a great collecting treasure trove for the completist---be it the toy variations, alternate file cards, Action Force licensed merchandise, or another alternate comic universe material. Though the name might have been different, together with the Palitoy releases, the U.K. embraced the G.I. Joe toylines quite like no other country in terms of product and diversity.



CHARACTER PROFILE: RED JACKAL

By Mike "Mike T." Taber

Action Force is one of the most popular foreign G.I. Joe concepts. For many of the earliest collectors, Action Force was their first and easiest access into the world of foreign Joe releases. The fact that Hasbro produced the figures means they are on par with the quality of American versions. And, the classic molds which were used to create the Action Force exclusives ties them to the iconic years of the Joe brand. Along with a few repaints of classic Joes, Palitoy released two exclusive Cobra repaints. One, Red Laser, was a straight repaint of the Version 1 Cobra Commander figure. But the modified paint masks on the head and the red body color help to differentiate him as a completely different character. The other, Red Jackal, was a repaint of the classic Destro figure. This reinvention; though not as drastic as that of Red Laser, is still a different look for the Destro mold.



The differences between Red Jackal and Destro are not great. Officially they should be considered different characters. Though in the Action Force comics, many members of the Red Shadows organization went on to become the European origins of Cobra. The Red Jack and Destro figures use the same basic color palette. Both have a black base for the body, red highlights, and the silver chromed head. Thus visually they are not overly distinct. The main difference between the two is that Red Jackal wears a red undershirt under his tunic. Forgoing the bare-chested 1970's inspired look allowed for Red Jackal to also sport a thoroughly imposing skull and crossbones Red Shadows logo on his chest. It is this logo that provides the greatest visual disparity between the two. (It also provides the greatest source of likely wear on the Red Jackal figure.) The similarity is nice, as it plays into my view of the figures within my collection.

Red Jackal is an example of the pre-Cobra Destro and allows some freedom in use of the character. He can appear in the Red Shadows mythos without overly convoluting the established Joe canon from the U.S.. For example, to me, the Red Jackal character is Destro---though it is the Destro who operates in Europe and sells his M.A.R.S. wares to European terrorist and splinter groups. Just as with Cobra in the United States, as certain groups gained more power, Destro would allow himself to be aligned with the larger organizations. That is why he was willing to wear the Red Shadows logo. He supplied the Red Shadows with massive amounts of weaponry (including the Hyena tanks that he also sold to Cobra under the name of H.I.S.S. tanks), thus their financial wherewithal drew him into wearing their insignia when he traded his arms throughout Europe.

Aside from just having a slightly different uniform, Destro also liked to trade under different names. If he was known as "Red Jackal" in Europe, "Destro" in North America and "Outlaw" in South America, it would be harder for the intelligence agencies of the late 1970's and early 1980's to understand that this was one person with a massive worldwide network of arms dealings rather than three or four more regionalized, smaller producers. As Cobra later absorbed or eliminated many of their competing organizations around the world, Destro abandoned his other names and simply became "Destro." Ultimately his split with Cobra took him back to his regionalized roots. But by then he was known well enough as Destro to do so. Plus his new golden mask signified his break not only with Cobra, but his past personas as well.

Red Jackal was released as the driver of the Hyena tank. This was a repainted H.I.S.S. tank that was released under the Action Force brand in the early to mid 1980's. The Action Force line was one of the most robust toy lines released in the world. Complete with an array of figures, a villain, and a fleet of vehicles, the Action Force toy line was every bit as large and diversified as the vintage Star Wars line. Had Palitoy found a way to get it into the U.S. market prior to 1982, there might never have been a G.I. Joe line.

CHARACTER PROFILE: RED JACKAL

By Mike "Mike T." Taber

As the Action Force line matured, it slowly changed. Starting as 5-point articulation figures, the line was infused with re-painted G.I. Joe molds after Hasbro acquired Palitoy. These Joe figures and vehicles were sold for a short time bolstering the line's offerings. The line then changed again to straight-up Hasbro produced Joe figures released on Action Force cards. Eventually these figures were moved onto cards that were mimics of the American packages. As a consequence of this metamorphosis, the unique heroes and villains of the Action Force pantheon were dropped and forgotten in the mainstream.

In the late 1990's and early 2000's, a U.K. based toy dealer offered up large quantities of bubbled Action Force figures, all packaged with accessories. The actual figures released were Action Force toys, though they did not include all the accessories. The difference was that the dealer overstock was intended for future Action Force releases that were cancelled when the line was transitioned to repackaged G.I. Joe figures. These bubbled, overstock figures were sold into the dealer market and then resold to many collectors around the world. The result is that figures like Red Jackal can be considered complete either with the full complement of Destro accessories or without.

The Version 1 Destro mold saw use around the world. But, of those figures, Red Jackal has the most differences from the standard, American figure. (Which isn't saying much when you consider how similar Red Jackal still is to Destro.) Besides the Red Jackal release in Europe, the Destro mold was also released in Argentina, Mexico and Brazil. However, after the mold's South American sojourn, it disappeared. Many collectors would have loved to have seen this version of Destro in his golden Iron Grenadier colors, just as many would have also loved to have seen the 1988 Destro figure in a silver mask as homage to earlier incarnation. But that was not to be. While the mold still had some great potential, Hasbro had other Destro molds that they felt were good enough during the 2000's, so they had no reason to go back and recreate this Destro version.

Red Jackal figures are relatively hard to find and somewhat expensive. Being a European exclusive meant that informed American collectors were aware of the figure from the earliest days of collectordom. That allowed many of these to be imported to the U.S.. But over time, those figures have been absorbed into the collecting community and remain locked away.

Today, the figure is tougher to find than it was a decade or so ago. Mint and complete Red Jackals run in the \$60.00 or so range. Some go higher, some go lower, depending upon the buying market, the condition of the Red Shadow logo, and the overall paint wear and joint wear. It's a lot for a slight repaint of Destro, but, it's also kind of worth it to have a new take on the character that can tie him more to his European roots. For that reason alone, I find Red Jackal worth the expense and time it takes to add him to a collection.



COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: Dan "Volleydan" Musick

Who are you?

My name is Dan Musick. I live and work in San Marcos, TX. where I own a CPA firm. I have been married to my wife Laurie for ten years and we have two kids, Andrew and Claire. Besides toy collecting, I also enjoy classic muscle cars, all kinds of music, and playing video games – especially the older systems.

How long have you been collecting?

I got into collecting right after college, with the relaunch of the Star Wars line. This would have been around 1995. For about five years I collected only Star Wars, but then I got tired of trying to keep up with all the new product and quit. When they relaunched the He-Man line, I collected that as well. It wasn't until around 2000 that I got back into 'vintage' toy lines. G.I. Joe soon became my collecting focus and I've since sold – or tried to sell – almost my entire Star Wars collection just to have room for the Joes. While I still have quite a bit of MOTU stuff and a few pieces from other 80s toy lines, my collection is now about 85% G.I. Joe.

What's your favorite piece in your collection?

That's a tough call because there are so many pieces that I worked so hard to track down. Then there are other pieces that have a lot of sentimental value because they're "survivors" from my childhood collection. There are also items that I like a lot just because they're cool. If I had to pick a single item and name it my absolute favorite, it would probably be my MOC Letal from Brazil. The card is in terrible shape, but it's an extremely rare piece in any condition, and it exemplifies everything I love about collecting international Joes – from the reimagining of the character itself, to the funky colors.



COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: Dan "Volleydan" Musick

What was your first Joe figure?

The first time I saw G.I. Joe on the shelves was in 1982. My mom told me I could pick out two figures (because let's face it, what good is one if he doesn't have anyone to fight?). I chose Grunt and Snake Eyes. It wasn't long until I had the whole series though.

What kind of Joe items do you collect?

I collect domestic and international Joe figures and vehicles based on the ARAH era (1982 - 1994). I also collect the Joe comics. I try to stay away from non-toy items, because there is just so much product out there.

What's your primary focus of your collection?

Since the day I first saw the international archives on YoJoe.com, I've had a passion for collecting international figures and vehicles. These days I spent probably 90% of my Joe-related time on international stuff. I also have a collection of around 35 different versions of the V.A.M.P., and I'm always looking to add to my character focused collections for Rock 'n Roll and Zap.

Which piece was the hardest to acquire?

In the international collecting community, competition can be fierce for the truly rare pieces that might only be offered for sale once every few years. I've been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time a few times, but the piece I probably worked the hardest to track down was my Funkscoo V.A.M.P.. I've only seen a handful of them sell in the ten years I've been collecting international Joes.



COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT: Dan "Volleydan" Musick

What is your favorite Joe related memory?

I know everyone typically says something from their childhood, but while I do have many great childhood memories with Joes, my favorite Joe memory is attending my first convention in Dallas in 2008. Not only did I get to spend an entire weekend "geeking out", but I made many friends that weekend who have gone on to become some of my best friends not only in the hobby, but in the world.



SUPER JOE, COMMANDO, AND ACTION FORCE COMICS

By Josh "Antarctic" Eggebeen

Starting in the mid 1980's Hasbro and Marvel began releasing G.I. Joe comics all around the world in different languages with many of them being published in Europe. Most these were all just reprints of Larry Hama's Marvel created stories, though the huge exception being the *Battle Action Force* and *Action Force* stories created in the United Kingdom. There are 14 confirmed European countries that published G.I. Joe in the late 80's and early 90's. And two unconfirmed: Belgium and Luxembourg.

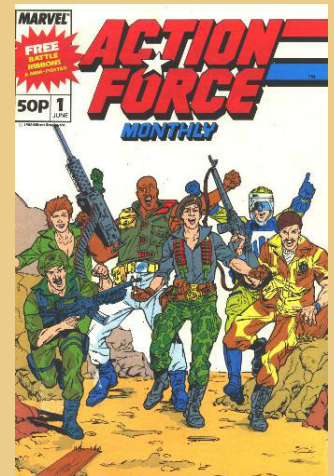
The Quick List (with start of publishing year)

Czech Republic (or then known as Czechoslovakia)	Denmark (1987)	Finland (1988)	France (1987)
Germany (1987)	Greece (?)	Italy (1988)	Netherlands (1987)
Poland (1992 & 1996)	Spain (1987)	Sweden (1988)	Norway (1988)
		Turkey (Late 80's)	

United Kingdom -- Battle Action Force (1985), Action Force (1987), Ladybird Action Force (1987), Action Force Monthly (1988), G.I. Joe The Rise of Cobra (2009)

Back in the days before the internet, Photoshop, email, and digital comics, the process of creating Joe comics in another language was an entirely different method. It first started with translation - which had an unintended consequence of creating slight changes to the story. Most of these changes were due to language and cultural differences, locations, and even some character names were changed (usually to correspond with how the toy is named in that country), but always the core Hama story remained the same.

When comics were published in the 1980's it was the beginning of an industry wide transition, especially regarding the printing color process. G.I. Joe in the U.S., although published by Marvel, was actually printed by World Color Press, a company that printed all major comics from both DC and Marvel from the 1930's until the 1980's in "Magazineland" or Sparta, Illinois. World Color Press had no European presence, so Joe (and Marvel) comics published in Europe had a wide variety of publishers that printed and released the comics. Depending on the publishing company and its technology of the time, one of two options happened. The first and most common: A copy of the artists black & white penciled, inked (but not lettered nor colored) on 8.5" x 11" boards would be shipped to that publisher along with the other necessary separate sheets to complete the printing process.



From there they inserted the translation which allowed them to slightly adjust the word balloons and recolor the comic according to the color coded guidelines sent by Marvel. The second option was the completed artwork including coloring with blank word balloons would be mailed (keep in mind this was 20 years before they could be emailed). The translation would then be forced to fit into the U.S. balloon by the letterer, often creating wording that didn't fit right.

The one common factor was the length of the European comic which was one and half issues to one of the U.S. versions. So often in the European version the story would end mid-U.S. version, to be picked with the second half starting the next issue thus creating some strange cliffhanger moments. Very few started with the U.S. #1 issue, and reprinting the Special Missions stories was common. Most were regular U.S. comic sized, but some countries published Trade Paperbacks well before the U.S. began releasing them. And of these, about half of the European comics were called Action Force even though they were reprinting the U.S. stories - the one exception is Germany which reprinted the U.K.'s Action Force stories.

The most obvious difference is usually on the cover where "A Real American Hero" is replaced with some other subtitle like Héroes Internacionales (Spain), Internasjonale Helter (Norway), Speciale Opdracht (Netherlands), Forza Irresistibile (Italy) and Heros Sans Frontieres (France).

All of this added up to lots of variations: Turkey is the most unique example. It's called Super Joe; it's digest size; and it's black and white. In Spain, the comics started out titled as *Commando*. Poland printed G.I. Joe comics in 1996 two years after they stopped in the U.S..

So far all of the comics that I have been talking about were published in non-English languages, but the United Kingdom



SUPER JOE, COMMANDO, AND ACTION FORCE COMICS

By Josh "Antarctic" Eggebeen

had Joe comic activity of a completely different sort: they were creating *original* stories and artwork.

The first Joe related comics appeared in Battle Action Force (BAF) (1985), which was a long running series starting out as "Battle" then adding the "Action Force" title which had a completely different cast of characters from the Larry Hama comic. An interesting aspect of these original stories is they were released weekly and in newspaper style publication, so they were technically not a comic book but a serial. This series is pretty hard to find and generally expensive. (Devil's Due Publishing had cameo appearances of these characters in their final World War III series, and in 2009 the Collector's Club released BAF figures.)

After Battle Action Force finished, U.K.'s Marvel publishing division began its own weekly unique to G.I. Joe stories in 1987. It was simply titled "Action Force." It ran weekly for 50 issues as a magazine size comic book, but it also included several specials and a few mostly-prose hardcover annuals. Generally they had three individual stories happening inside a single issue: one was a U.S. reprint and the other two were U.K. created stories. These issues are generally considered not to be part of the A Real American Hero "Hamaverse" continuity, but arguments can be made for including them.

There is an Action Force/Transformers crossover in this series. After the 50 issues ended, it switched to *Action Force Monthly* (1988), which was a regular U.S. size and length comic, but again with aspects unique to the U.K. stories. These were later reprinted in America as *G.I. Joe European Missions*, which this title is considered official continuity to the A Real American Hero Hamaverse.

At different points in the U.K., Action Force later switching to "G.I. Joe", and appeared as a secondary title within the main U.K. Transformers comic, and then even later appearing for 12 issues in *The Incredible Hulk*. Also, there were children's books published by Ladybird that also had unique stories. When *The Rise of Cobra* film was released in 2009, there was a six issue original magazine-style (with a toy attached) series that showcased the movie characters in action.

A few Joe comics since 2001 have appeared in Europe. Devil's Due Publishing published several trade paperbacks in Spanish that were released mostly in Spain called *Biblioteca G.I. Joe* and *G.I. Joe Reloaded* (2006). And in 2009, several IDW trade paperbacks were printed by Panini and released in the U.K..

I consider collecting international G.I. Joe comics a real joy because one can find many surprises when you compare and contrast the subtle (or overt) changes made between the American comics and their overseas counterparts.

For more information go to YoJoe.com's International Comic Section. <http://www.yojoe.com/comics/international/> Also see Richard Anderson's impressive collection at <http://www.gijoe comicsinternational.com/> Special Thanks to Larry Hama.

Comic Collector Richard Anderson also offers a sidebar on the Greek G.I. Joe comics:

The Hunt for Greece (or how to discover G.I. Joe comics in Europe)

By Richard Anderson

For over a year I had been trying very hard to find out if the Greek G.I. Joe comics existed or not. I think I had sent emails to every comic shop in Greece that I could find. Most did not bother to reply, and the couple that did only said that they did not carry translated comics. What kept me looking was no one ever said they didn't exist.

In desperation, I went to eBay and began emailing every vendor that sold books, magazines, stamps or other collectibles that had an item location of Greece. After two months of negative responses, I got my first real answer: A young comic collector emailed me back and said that they did indeed print G.I. Joe comics there, but they stopped after only 30 issues - but unfortunately he did not have any. A month later I received an email from another of my random queries. He informed me that he had some and would gladly trade for American issues. He also warned me that their covers had been redrawn to accommodate their title and was done rather poorly on many issues. Of course he didn't fully understand why I would want the Greek issues when we have the real thing in America.

We began trading, and some months later I was contacted by yet another nice Greek man who also sent me some issues. He collects expired passports, so I find passports and we trade. Overall this quest took nearly three years, but now I can conclusively say yes indeed, there were Greek Joe comics, and I finally have most of the set.

COMMUNITY PROFILE: CASA SLAUGHTER

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

It's difficult to be an action figure collector outside U.S.A., but it's even more difficult to be a G.I. Joe collector in Spain. Poor distribution from Hasbro Iberia; high shipping and custom costs; and sometimes a society with hostility to all American culture make this hobby hard to carry on.

Because all of us fight against the adversity, the G.I. Joe Spanish Community, Casa Slaughter, is like a family with strong ties between its members, although they may live in Madrid, Barcelona, or the distant Canary Islands. As a friend of mine always says: "*¡No somos muchos pero somos machos!*" ("We are not a lot but we are machos!").

Back in 2002, a little group of irrepressible G.I. Joe fans created G.I. Joe España in the now closed MSN Communities.

After some months, this community is closed and some of its members create G.I. Joe Elite, under the umbrella of the newly created Dominion, a project led by some hardcore multi-collectors. This community was limited to a few members. After that, Dominion launches two communities: Casa Slaughter and Eternia. These two new forums exceed all the expectations.

In 2006, the two communities were translated to Nueva Dominion, moved out of MSN, and created other forums dedicated to Transformers, Saint Seiya, more recently, Superheroes, The Smurfs, and more. Thanks to its members, it is the most active and this group has accomplished a number of interesting projects like scanning all of Spanish G.I. Joe comics and translation of unpublished issues (ongoing); gathering of all but two Spanish filecards and translation of most of filecards from unreleased figures in Spain; interviewing comic artists; and scans of Spanish and European advertising. (As will be detailed in a separate article in this magazine.)

Another of the pivotal points in Casa Slaughter is the customs/diorama/dio-story section. There are extremely gifted members with awesome creations here. I invite you all to take a look at this section. Also, No-prize contests are celebrated regularly.

There are a lot of collector interests represented in Casa Slaughter: Vintage, modern era, vehicles, figures, blisters, loose, comics, etc.. There are also some with huge collections with some of them containing very rare Funkskool or South American figures, awesome paperwork from different European countries, or even Russian MOC figures!

As an organized community, Casa Slaughter has more than 200 members from Spain and some American countries like U.S.A., México, Argentina, and Chile. This intense fanbase has grown the community to being one of the most important G.I. Joe communities in the Old Continent. The most prominent chapters of the group are based in Madrid (including Castilla-León and Zaragoza sub-chapters), Barcelona, Levante zone (with Mallorca, Andalucía and Castilla-La Mancha sub-chapters) and Canary Islands.

The chapters have regular meetings but, more or less, once a year the community tries to have an annual meeting. The most important ones were the organized to watch the G.I. Joe movies or to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of G.I. Joe figures in Spain.



COMMUNITY PROFILE: CASA SLAUGHTER

By David "Blowtorch" Arenas

In recent years, some members took the initiative and decided to take a step forward. We've attended the U.S. A.'s G.I. Joe Collector's Club Convention, the U.K.'s Roll Out Roll Call, and the MESOCRA association (formed by 12 Casa Slaughter members), has released G.I. Joe exclusive figures (Crazy Viper and Crimson Techno Viper, whom the last has an original filecard written by Larry Hama) in its little Spanish G.I. Joe Convention, or set exhibitions at different places.

It's amazing to see how Casa Slaughter has developed itself over the years---from a small group of G.I. Joe romantics to the big organization of today. The best of all in this long way has been the possibility of finding people to share your love about the brand with. I recommend all G.I. Joe fans to do the same... The experience deserves it!



CASA SLAUGHTER CONSISTS OF:

Nueva Dominion Webmaster: Daniel "Firefly" Luque and Rafael "Víbora de Callejón" Riancho

Casa Slaughter Webmaster: Rafael "Víbora de Callejón" Riancho

Casa Slaughter Moderators: Andreu "Fred VII" Olivera, David "Zanzibar" Ariza, Arsenio "Flint" Rueda, Javier "Big Boa"

Madrid Chapter (among others): Gerardo "Hawk" Barsi, Azeguiñe "Jinx" Olmeda, Jorge "Zartan" Velasco, Luis "Beach Head" Casado, Luis "Viper Commander" de Andrés, Alex "Doc" García, Rubén "Gung-Ho" García, Francisco Javier "Afilado" Marcos, David "Blowtorch" Arenas, Pedro "Shipwreck" Gutiérrez, José "Destro" Guerrero, David "Zanzibar" Ariza, Arsenio "Flint" Rueda, David "Cobra Commander" Sánchez, Víctor "Ventisca" Bonachela, Enrique "Iron Grenadier" Silva.

Barcelona Chapter (among others): Daniel "Falcon" Sánchez, Dani "Firefly" Luque, Andreu "Fred VII" Olivera, Javier "Big Boa" Pascual, "Lampreys", Julián "Metralla", Sergio "Frostbite" Crespo, "Drop Zone", "Low Light."

Levante (among others): Iván "Dusty" Tomás, Daniel "Strato-Viper" Bernal, José Manuel "Eels" Martín, Roberto Carlos "Downtown" Ramos, Miguel "Mercer" Medina, Guillermo "Wild Bill" Martín, Diego Alberto "Sci-Fi" Fernández, "Backblast", "Jungla", Manuel "Machete", J.A. "Morse" Serrano, Javier "W.O.R.M.S."

Canary Islands (among others): Jonatan "Tunnel Rat" Sosa, Luis "Recoil", "Techno-Viper", "Night-Viper", "Hit'n Run", Juan Pedro "Toxo-Viper" Cano.

For more information on the CASA SLAUGHTER:

<http://www.nuevadominion.com/casaslaughter/inicio.php>

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Hear ye, hear ye!

Happy 50th Anniversary, G.I. Joe! (Too soon?) With **G.I. Joe: Retaliation** in the rear-view, we find ourselves at a bit of a down-year in on-the-shelf collecting. With that in mind, I figured this would be a great opportunity to once again focus our eyes on overseas aspects of Joe collecting by looking at the European releases. Not only is the European line full of its own popular supporting lore (like the Red Shadows), but it's perhaps the easiest of the foreign countries to find items from. The lack of language barrier (where applicable) helps, of course, but the multitude of active Joe fans in Europe certainly helps facilitate collecting goals. Additionally, the small variations continue to appear, adding an element of excitement and surprise if you're tired of the internet age and "knowing" all the answers.

We'll be getting our podcast back up and running in the near future, and there are some website changes planned as well. Additionally, we're investigating what may be our first Kickstarter project – so keep your eyes on us through whatever media you're following us on. And dangit – stop by and introduce yourself!

These wonderful chaps below were of tremendous assistance this year:

Jim Beutel
Loc Bisping
Marc Callison
Benjamin Conway
Derryl DePriest
Timothy Finn
John Golembiewski

Sean Harker-Figel
Brian Holst
Will Houze
Scott Jennings
Troy McKie
Troy Osgood
Scott Perrett

David Podjasek
Greg Schueller
Sam Sears
Chris Thrace
Jeffery Strobl
Chad Sylwester
Joel Ylvisaker

Special thanks to this year's contributors:

David "Sweet, another Blowtorch!" Arenas
Josh "SDCC chase foil variation" Eggebeen
Dan "Ultimate – I swear it this time" Moore

Dan "I'll wait for it at Ross" Musick
Mike "I **need** another Snake-Eyes" Taber
David "Obligatory foreign remake" Tree

Joe Declassified Magazine Staff

Editor-In-Chief: Chris "I'd have *totally* bought that at retail" Chung
Layout and Design: Todd "A Skystriker remake would sell out in *seconds*" Weinzierl
Printer: James "Not the incentive figure you want, but the one you *deserve*" Kavanaugh

Sam "More characters should be based on fanboys" Damon

Publisher/Founder
Joe Declassified

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