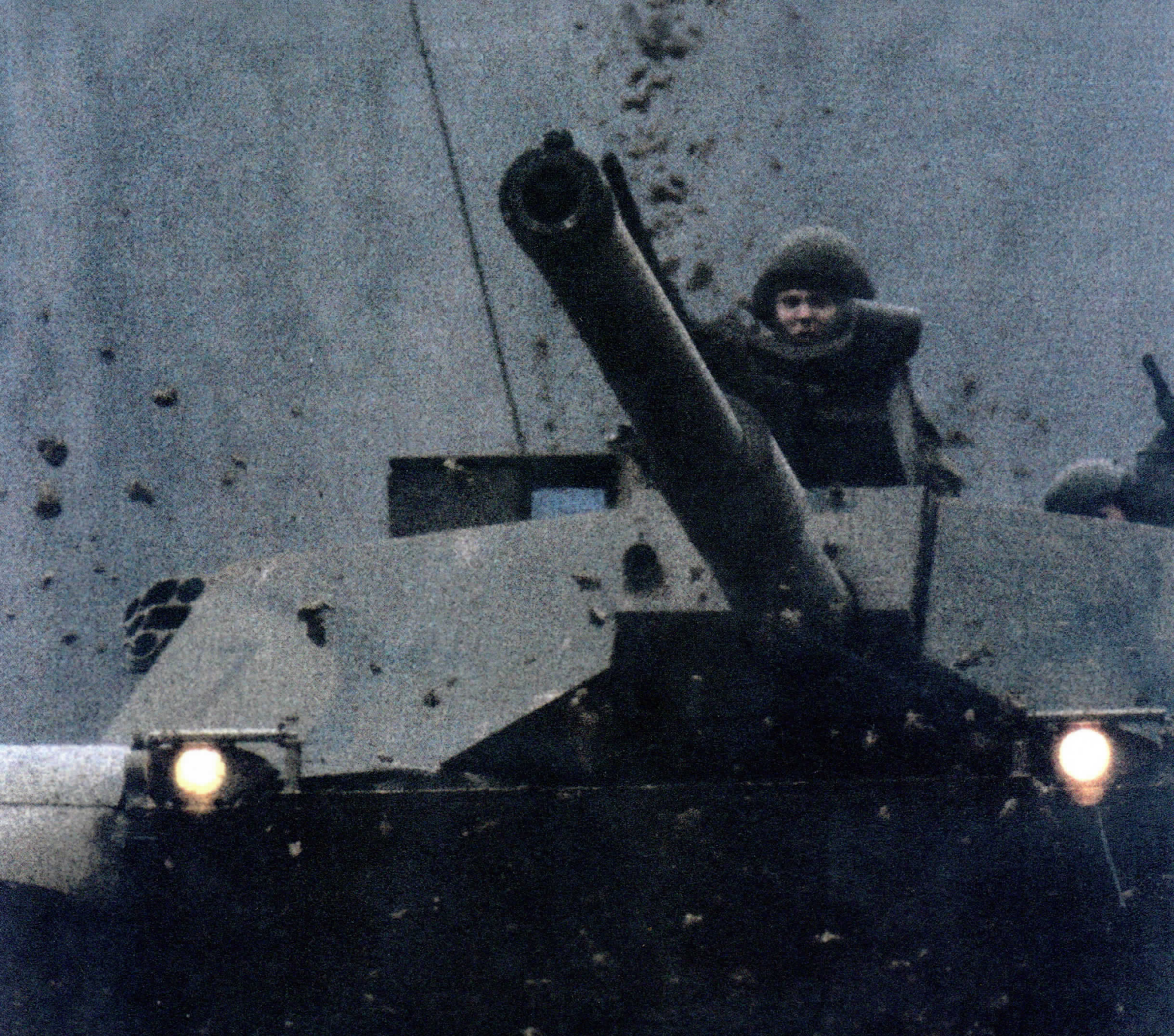


THE NEW FACE OF WAR

# ARMOURED FIST



BY THE EDITORS OF TIME-LIFE BOOKS



# The Armored Fist



PUSTAKA PERDANA



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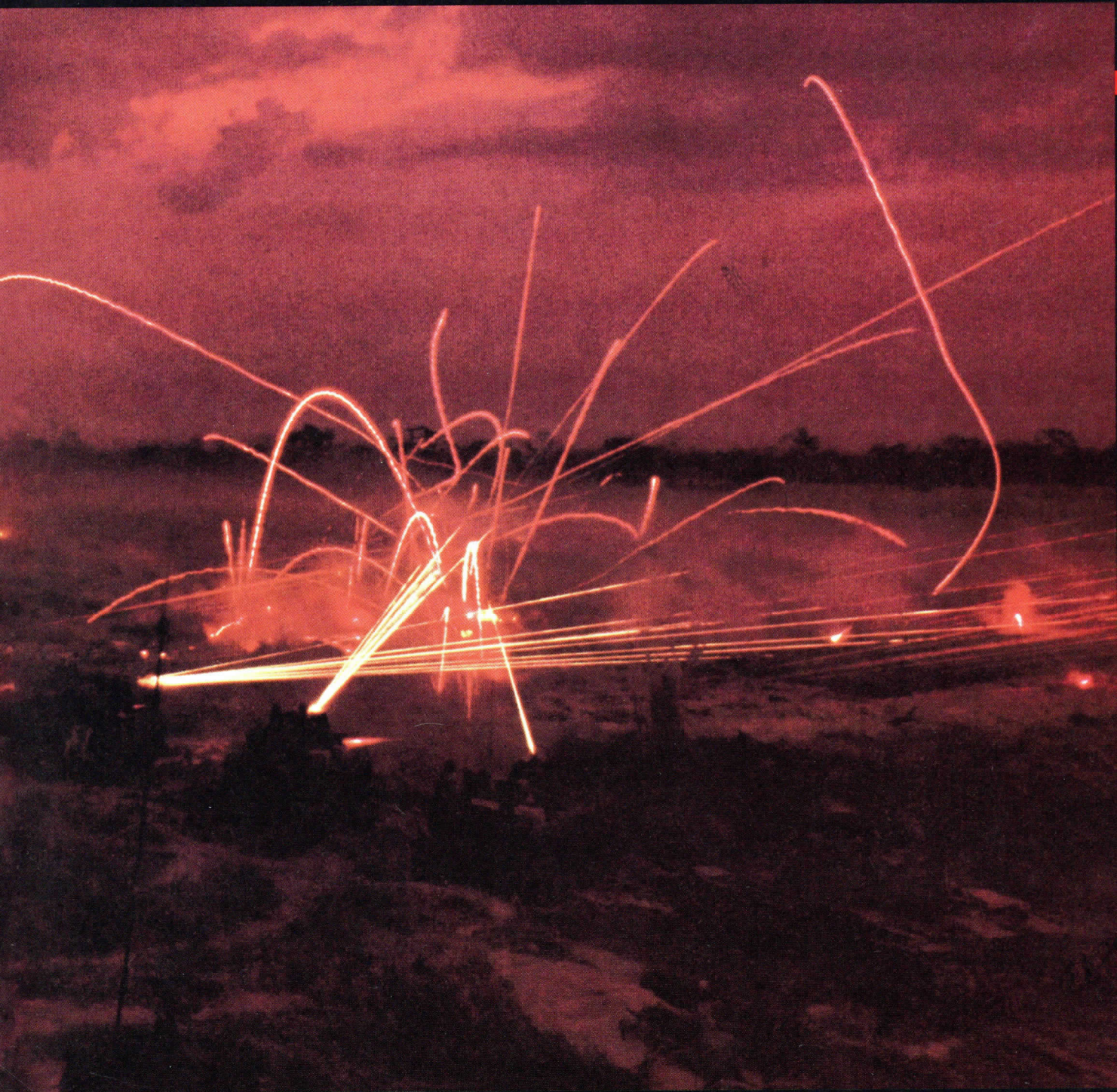
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## ***The Behemoths of Land War***

Spitting fiery streaks of death from their machine guns (*above*), hurling bolts of destruction from their main guns, crushing obstacles beneath their treads, shrugging off storms of counterfire, tanks have rumbled through the twentieth century like beasts from another age. On land, they are the supreme threat, a tool of war whose speed, firepower, and steel-clad massiveness can hurt in many ways—by punching into rear areas and destroying command posts or supply depots, by rolling



over a dug-in enemy, by moving swiftly to cut off an avenue of retreat, or simply by spreading a morale-sapping chill of dread.

Tanks do not fight alone: Ordinarily, they are accompanied by lightly armored fighting vehicles, infantry carriers, helicopter gunships, engineers, mobile artillery, and other complementary forces. Nor do they thrive everywhere. As pictured here, M48 Patton tanks and M113 armored cavalry assault vehicles could be formidable

in sweep operations in Vietnam, but their scope was limited: Much of the country's jungled terrain deterred armor. In the bloody territorial struggle fought by Iraq and Iran from 1980 to 1988, armor was sometimes thwarted by a marshy battle zone. Nonetheless, the tank and its deadly retinue have remained at the center of modern land warfare, demonstrating their primacy in arenas ranging from the deserts of the Middle East to the urban battlefields of Bucharest and Beijing.

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