

MARCELINO TRUONG

SAIGON CALLING

LONDON 1963-75

Marcelino Truong's first book about the early years of the Vietnam war, the graphic memoir *Such a Lovely Little War* (2016), received starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews* and was named "one of the season's best graphic novels" by the *New York Times*. In this sequel, young Marco and his family move from Saigon to London in order to escape the war following the assassination of South Vietnamese President Diem, for whom Marcelino's diplomat father was a personal interpreter.

In London, his father struggles to build a new life for his children and his wife, whose bipolar spells are becoming increasingly violent. But for Marco and his siblings, swinging London is an exciting place to be: a new world of hedonists and hippies. At the same time, the news from their grandparents in Vietnam grows ever grimmer as the war intensifies and American involvement becomes increasingly muddled.

With its audacious imagery and heart-rending text, *Saigon Calling* is a bold graphic memoir that strikes a remarkable balance between the intimate chronicle of a family undone by mental illness and the large-scale tragedy of a country undone by war.

MARCELINO TRUONG is an illustrator and painter, and the author of *Such a Lovely Little War*.



GRAPHIC NON-FICTION
ISBN 978-1-55152-689-8

E-ISBN 978-1-55152-690-4 (EPUB)

E-ISBN 978-1-55152-691-1 (FIXED)

6 X 9 | 280 PP | PAPER (WITH JACKET)

\$28.95 CAN / \$26.95 USA

FULL-COLOR THROUGHOUT

PUBLICATION DATES:

USA & CANADA: **SEPTEMBER 2017**

UK & AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND: **NOVEMBER 2017**

DISTRIBUTED IN THE USA BY CONSORTIUM

DISTRIBUTED IN CANADA BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

(SALES BY AMPERSAND)

DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK BY TURNAROUND

DISTRIBUTED IN AUS/NZ BY NEWSOUTH BOOKS

PUBLICITY CONTACTS:

USA:

BETH PARKER, BETH PARKER PR (NEW YORK)

TEL: 914-629-9205

BETH@BETHPARKERPR.COM

CANADA:

CYNARA GEISSLER, ARSENAL PULP PRESS

TEL: 604-687-4233

CYNARA@ARSENALPULP.COM



ARSENAL
PULP PRESS

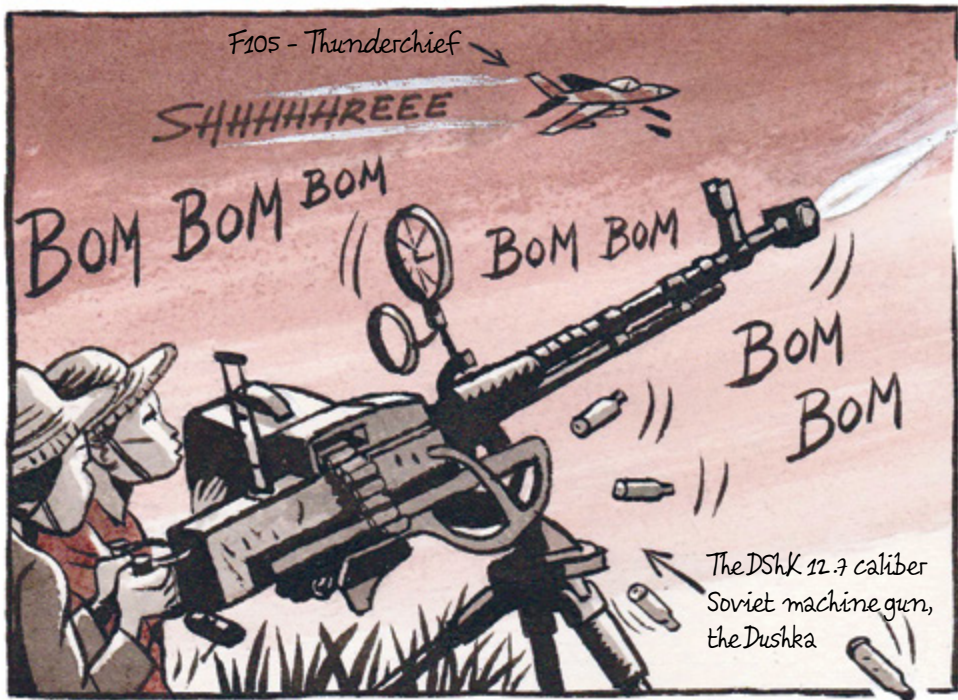
In 1967, England was wearing a red tunic and dancing to the sounds of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."



Influenced by San Francisco, in 1967 we had our Summer of Love too.



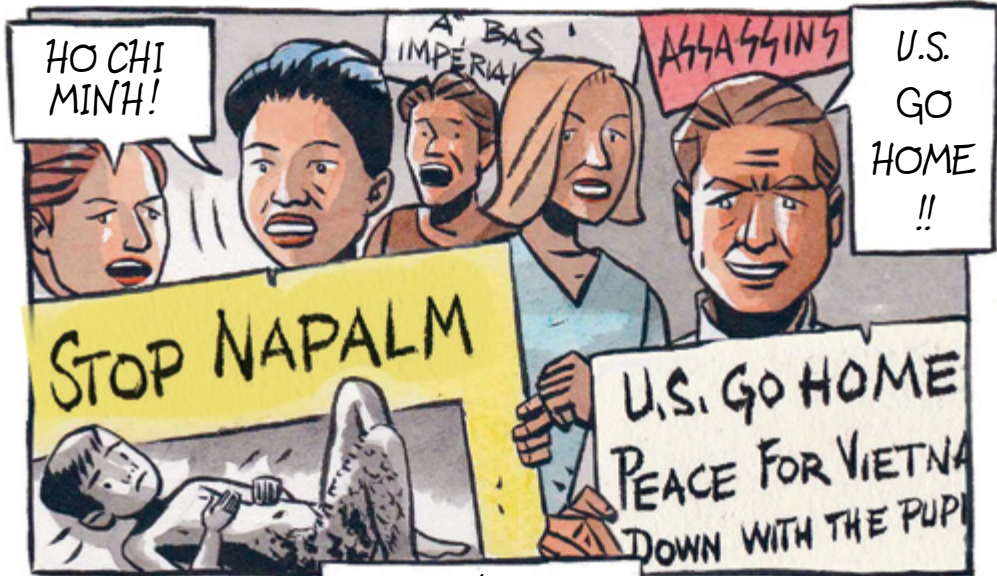
Protesters and flower children challenged the establishment and rejected the boring, passive lives of their parents. They were also horrified by the monster called the Vietnam War.



Subjected to American bombing, the totalitarian regime of North Vietnam seemed like a brave force of resistance - that image was carefully crafted - while in the South, US-led conventional troops wreaked destruction without ever stopping Việt-Cong subversion.



The clash of weapons and the voice of protesters were deafening, drowning out those Vietnamese who dreamed of a pluralistic democracy.

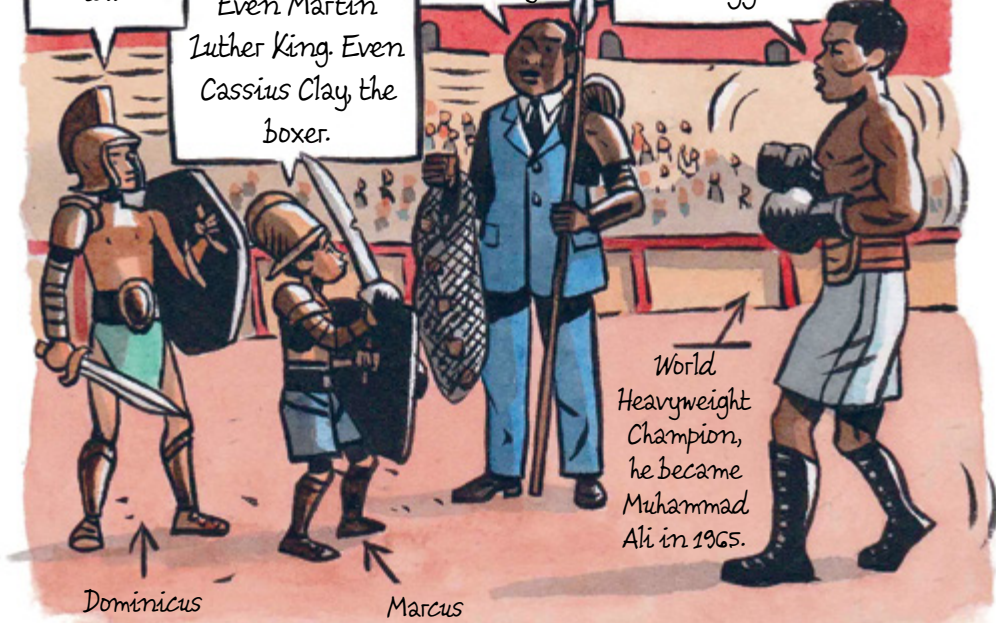


They're all against us!!

Looks like it! Even Martin Luther King. Even Cassius Clay, the boxer.

America is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.

No Viet Cong ever called me nigger!



Dominicus

Marcus

World Heavyweight Champion, he became Muhammad Ali in 1965.

America often wielded a heavy hand in Vietnam, and that triggered a barrage of opposition. We came in for our share of blame too, but as Vietnamese, we suspected our Việt-Cong adversary was a wolf in sheep's clothing.



Did you see that article about Viet Nam in TIME: "Inside the Viet-Cong"?

I love ZOOMs, don't you?

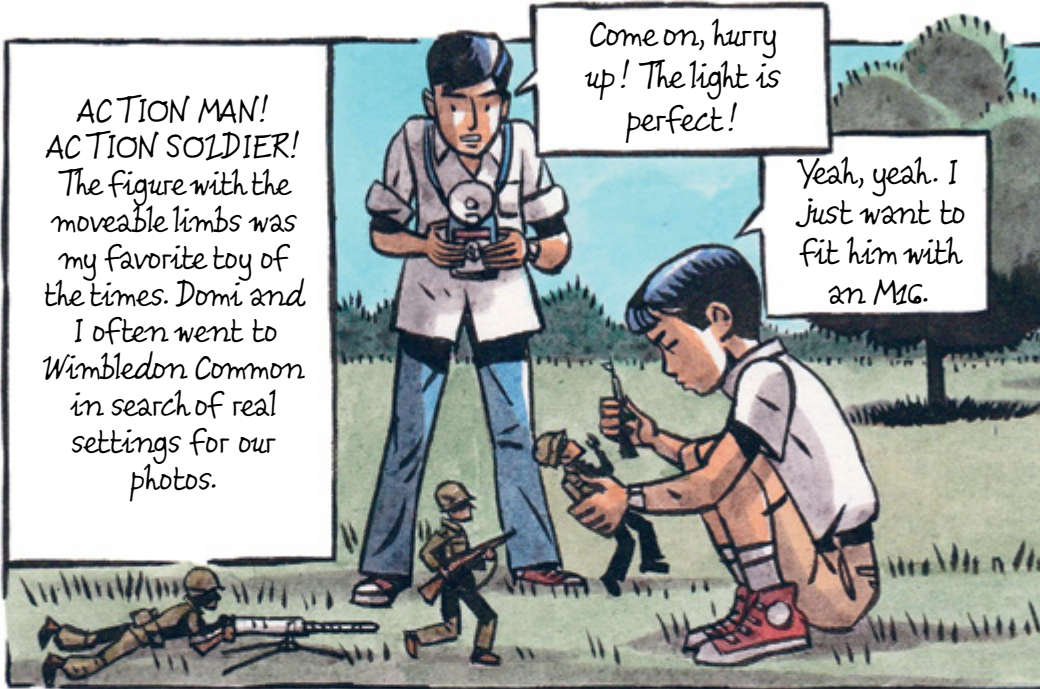
Yeah, they're great!

I read stuff about the Việt-Cong in Papa's books. They're pretty tough!

Time Magazine, August 25, 1967

ZOOM ice lollies



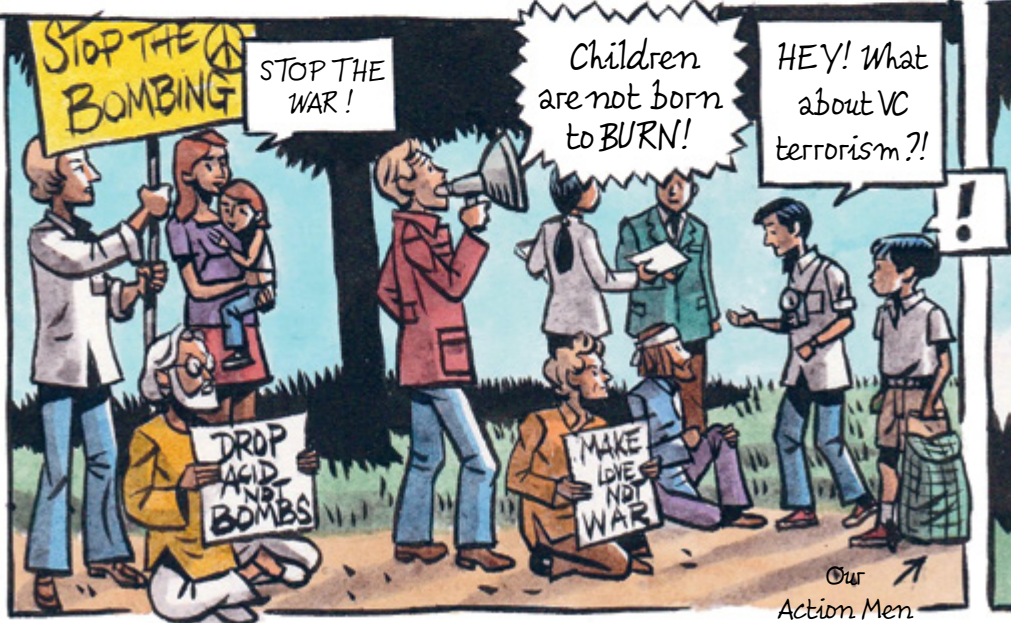


**ACTION MAN!
ACTION SOLDIER!**
The figure with the moveable limbs was my favorite toy of the times. Domi and I often went to Wimbledon Common in search of real settings for our photos.

Come on, hurry up! The light is perfect!

Yeah, yeah. I just want to fit him with an M16.

One day, we came across a demonstration protesting the war in Vietnam. People had gathered in front of the Vietnamese ambassador's residence - Clockhouse Mansion - located at one end of the Common.



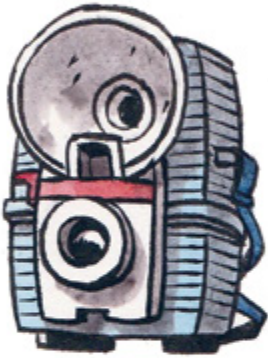
STOP THE WAR!

Children are not born to BURN!

HEY! What about VC terrorism?!

Our Action Men inside

Here are two photos that survived from Wimbledon 1967 or 1969. I changed my GIs' uniforms to make them look like Vietnam grunts.



Our Brownie STARFLASH by KODAK (1959).

