

How Dozier Was Rescued

The scruffy young men wore bulletproof vests under their sport shirts. In the chill before a northern Italian dawn last week they began to filter into Via Pindemonte, a residential street in Padua. At about 11:30, as a construction crew with a bulldozer provided a noisy cover, the 80 plainclothesmen suddenly leaped into action. They hustled people out of cars and phone booths; they grabbed the attendants from the gasoline station. As the piazza was cleared, a moving van pulled up to the suburban apartment building and ten masked commandos dressed in black and cradling

pup tent in the middle of the room the rescue squad found U.S. Brig. Gen. James Dozier, bearded, shoeless and manacled to a camp bed. "Wonderful!" Dozier cheered. "OK, police!"

In 90 breath-taking seconds, Italy's anti-terrorist commandos ended Dozier's 42-day ordeal as a Red Brigades prisoner, dealing a crunching blow to the cause and mystique of the *brigatisti*. Six weeks after kidnapers jumped him in his Verona home and carried him off in a trunk, Dozier, 50, was rushed to freedom. At first he looked haggard in a borrowed sheepskin coat. But

phoned to greet Dozier personally, interrupting the military man in the middle of his shave. "I told Nancy he sounded as if he had just gone down to the corner for five minutes," the President said afterward. He praised the general's "courage and resolve." Cheers also rang out at the U.S. Embassy in Rome and at the NATO military base in Vicenza. But the triumph was mainly Italy's—and Italians celebrated in the key of 85-year-old President Sandro Pertini, who shouted "*Bravi! Bravissimi!*"

Not since 1975 had Italy's police rescued a Red Brigades kidnap victim alive. The



Photos by Edoardo Fomaciarri—Gamma-Liaison

'Just one small sacrifice for freedom': Dozier thanks his rescuers and gives his wife, Judith, a belated Christmas hug

M-12 light submachine guns jumped out. One blocked the exit from the Dea Supermarket on the ground floor. The nine others sprinted into the building.

The commandos raced up twenty steps to the second floor and barged into a dingy apartment over the street. Facing them in the hall stood a startled terrorist of the Red Brigades wearing a jogging suit; he had just come in with two plastic bags of groceries. One commando felled him with a karate chop to the forehead. Another *brigatista* rushed into the apartment's middle room, leveling a pistol equipped with a silencer at the "people's prisoner" on the floor. But a commando swung his rifle butt and knocked down the terrorist before he could shoot. Three other surprised terrorists surrendered without resistance. Under a blue

once in an army hospital, he asked for a shave and crew cut, ordered a cheeseburger, French fries and Coke—then returned to military trim with dazzling speed. The day after his rescue, crisply outfitted in uniform, Dozier conducted his own press briefing with wife Judith and daughter Cheryl by his side. In his Florida accent, he thanked "all those people who were on the praying end of it," lauded his rescuers as "true professionals" and shrugged off his captivity as "just one small sacrifice for freedom." Turning to his wife, who had made tearful pleas on Italian TV for his release, Dozier presented a belated Christmas gift: a pendant featuring the Lion of Saint Mark, the insignia of Italy's Veneto region—and of NATO's Southern Command.

In Washington Ronald Reagan tele-

search for Dozier had deployed 6,000 Italian lawmen with the support of American and European anti-terrorist experts—an operation that exceeded even the 1978 hunt for former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, who was executed after 54 days in Red Brigades hands. And the rescue established Italy's secret Leatherheads commando unit as one of the world's elite anti-terrorist forces (page 44). In one swift strike, the Leatherheads destroyed the insolent, catch-me-if-you-can aura of the Red Brigades, sinking the terrorists to a psychological and organizational low (page 42) after twelve years of political havoc. In the sweep for the American general, Italian police arrested dozens of terrorist suspects, seized weapons ranging from handguns to surface-to-air missiles and confiscated thousands of brigades strategy pa-

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pers and documents. After Dozier's release last week, police kept up the pressure, arresting dozens of suspects around Verona and uncovering numerous terrorist safe houses between Verona and Venice.

'NATO Hangman': In kidnapping Dozier, the brigatisti had picked a bigger fight than usual. Never before had the Red Brigades abducted a non-Italian. And by choosing Dozier, the deputy chief of staff for logistics and administration in NATO's Southern Command, the Italian terrorists were declaring war on the entire Atlantic alliance. The day after taking the American general, the Red Brigades pronounced him a "NATO hangman." In their first communiqué, deposited in a Rome garbage pail, the terrorists denounced the alliance as a "structure of military occupation."

The Red Brigades apparently drove Dozier from Verona to Padua, 48 miles to the east, and hauled him up in the trunk to a

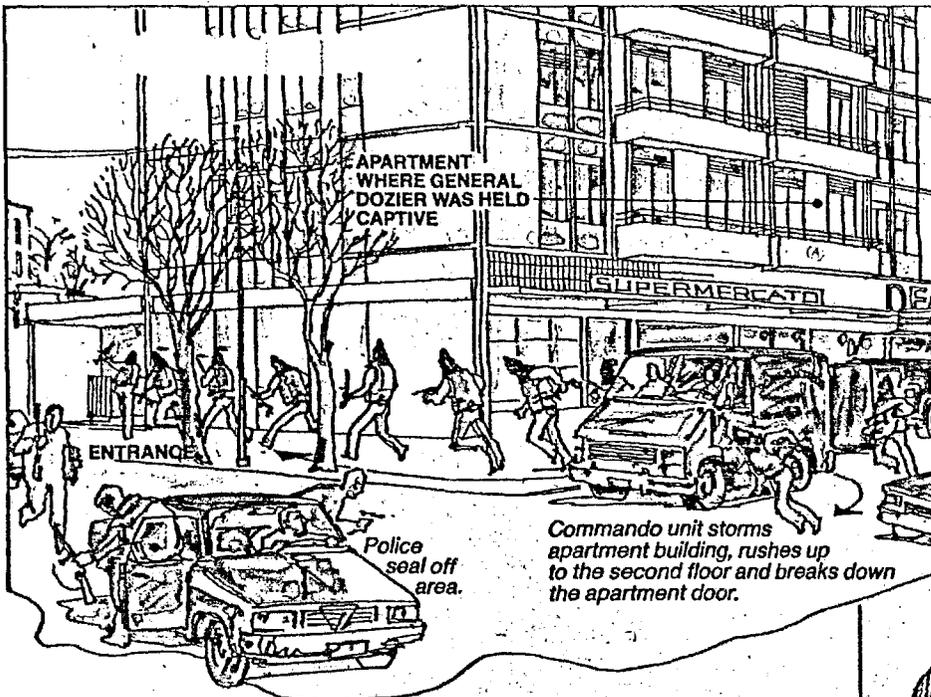
"People move in and out all the time," said a local merchant. "Not many know each other. This is the place in Padua where they get their drugs. This place is full of addicts, former students, kids without jobs and *fanulloni* [dropouts]." Lifeless at night, Via Pindemonte bustled with commerce by day. Much of the business centered on the Dea Supermarket under Emanuela Frascella's window in the eight-story apartment building that locals call "the skyscraper." "This was a perfect place for them," said a neighbor. "All day long they unload vans here, bringing stuff to the supermarket. If the terrorists carried the general upstairs in a trunk in broad



Fabian—Sygma

Standing tall after 42 days in a pup tent

The general apparently spent most of his time restrained in the pup tent—a measure designed to prevent him from ever describing his surroundings. When the terrorists wished to talk privately, they terrorized earphones on him playing classical music. Eventually, the terrorists issued a transcript of an "interrogation" of the general, saying their "proletarian trial" had exposed him as a "butcher." Early last week the Red Brigades issued its fifth communiqué—complete with a new snapshot of Dozier showing his growth of beard—



lb Ohlsson—Newsweek

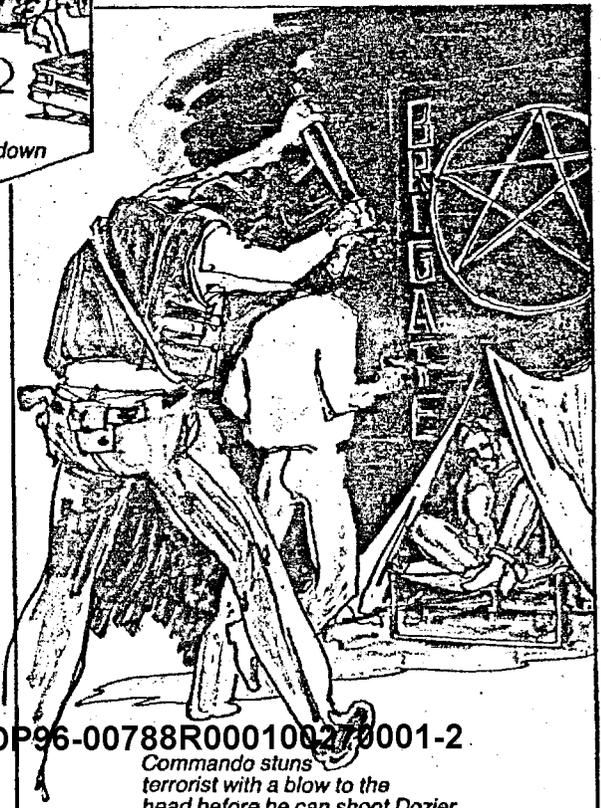
The Padua raid: A six-week ordeal ends in a daring 90-second blitz

second-floor apartment at No. 2 Via Pindemonte. The apartment had been rented by Mario Frascella, 51, a local physician who specializes in lung diseases. His daughter Emanuela, 20, a history student who was among those arrested by the Leatherheads in last week's raid, may have served as the apartment's legitimate tenant and as the kidnappers' contact with the outside world. According to Padua's daily *Il Mattino*, neighbors noticed Emanuela "buying large amounts of food regularly." A nearby newspaper vendor recalled that she had stopped by to purchase four papers every morning.

The neighborhood around the apartment, a drab suburb called Guizza where many of Padua's 50,000 university students

daylight, no one would have noticed a thing."

Hours after the abduction, the Red Brigades announced that Dozier had been taken to a "people's prison and will be submitted to proletarian justice." Their second communiqué accused Dozier of service as an "assassin and hero of the American massacres in Vietnam." It arrived with a fuzzy snapshot of the captive general revealing a bruise under his left eye—apparently suffered during his abduction. Dozier suffered no other physical injuries



Commando stuns terrorist with a blow to the head before he can shoot Dozier.



Olympia

Brigatisti on trial in Milan last December. Losing the momentum to a revitalized police force

Wounded But Still Dangerous

For the Red Brigades, the rescue of Brig. Gen. James Dozier battered its already badly dented armor. In 1978, at the zenith of Italian terrorism—when the kidnap-murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro was just one of 2,395 acts of political violence—the police appeared outorganized, outgunned and outwitted by the *brigatisti*. But a dramatic string of police successes in the past two years has boosted the morale of the *carabinieri* and shifted the momentum to the authorities—at least for now. “Everybody has this unjustified tendency to think that nothing works in Italy, so why should the police?” says Brian Jenkins of the Rand Corp., an expert on terrorism. “The truth is that there are 2,000 terrorists in jail—including the top leadership of the Red Brigades.”

Long Struggle: Even so, no one believes that the terrorist organization is out of business. It still has as much as \$10 million—from kidnappings, bank robberies and, some say, foreign countries—plus more than 400 active members and perhaps 10,000 active aboveground supporters. “The Red Brigades anticipate a long struggle, with many losses, and they have constructed an organization designed to regain those losses,” says Jenkins. “Over the past twelve years they have shown impressive recuperative powers.” They have also shown, he cautions, that they follow every major defeat with a major retaliatory blow.

But the police are now much better equipped to combat them. Since Moro’s murder,

anti-terrorist forces have received special equipment and training and have been better funded than ever before. A series of laws limiting the civil rights of suspected terrorists and increasing sentences has thinned the brigades’ ranks. The most important weapon has been a 1979 government decree offering easier sentences for terrorists who talk. Since then, police have taken down more than 200 lengthy confessions, which led them to dozens of hide-outs, arms caches and false-identification factories.

By 1980 the number of terrorist incidents had dropped by half—to 1,264—and the number of arrests of suspected terrorists soared to 1,083. Police continued their successes during their search for Dozier, staging a series of raids on Red Brigades hide-outs in which they arrested at least 42 suspected terrorists, including mastermind Giovanni Senzani, a long-sought former professor of criminology at the University of Florence. Police found missiles, hand grenades, guns and 3,000 pages of documents, including plans

Brigades members Libera, Savasta, Frascella, Ciucci: Grim warnings of retaliation



UPI photos

for a major winter offensive. Among the plots: as Christian Democrats held their nationally televised national conference, the brigades planned to open fire, seize television cameras, focus on the politicians being shot and read a communiqué on the air.

Police foiled the plan only days before the convention. The brigades’ setbacks are significant not only for their immediate effects, but also because they have a profound impact on recruitment efforts. As the group loses some of its beat-the-world glamour, it also loses some of its appeal to would-be members. With fewer recruits, the organization must rely on less tested, less committed members who are also less likely to die for the cause—and more likely to talk if captured.

That might explain why police broke the Dozier case and not the Moro case—and why Dozier was not killed when police burst in. According to Claire Sterling, author of “The Terror Network,” other terrorist groups are so alarmed about the brigades’ recruitment problems that they recently held a summit meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, to offer advice. In attendance: leaders of the Bader-Meinhof gang of West Germany, the Irish Republican Army, a Basque separatist group called ETA and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

‘Petty Bourgeois’: The brigatisti have also hurt themselves with vicious internal squabbling. After the murder of a chemical executive by the Red Brigades outside Venice, the Rome “column” issued a statement saying it disapproved. One copy of a communiqué from Dozier’s kidnappers included a hazy, 50-line appendix attacking the “second column of the August column”—believed to be a breakaway group from the Venice unit—for the “petty bourgeois” offense of stealing brigades’ funds. From prison in Palmi, Renato Curcio, founder of the brigades, smuggled to a Paris newspaper a remarkable 10,000-

word letter, painfully typed on eight sheets of flimsy rice paper, that indirectly criticized Dozier's kidnapers for not realizing that Soviet "social imperialism" was just as bad as the American kind.

Despite the brigades' setbacks, the Italian authorities remain extremely wary. The terrorists "are like World War I generals—they measure progress in terms of yards," says Jenkins. Sterling believes that while the Venice column seems to be on the ropes, the Milan and Rome columns are virtually untouched. Italians say the terrorists now are too ingrained in Italian society—especially throughout the prison system—to be eradicated easily, if at all. "It was a very hard blow, but not a decisive one," said one official in Rome. "We cannot drop our guard." Indeed, since the recent raids showed that the terrorists are equipped with missiles and other heavy weapons, even a handful of brigatisti could launch a major attack.

Parasites: Politically, the brigatisti have been trying to capitalize on the anti-nuclear, anti-NATO sentiment in Western Europe. "I think the anti-cruise [missile] lobby is a convenient issue to hide behind—they can feed off it like parasites," says Edward Moxon-Brown, an expert on terrorism at Queen's University in Belfast. "Rather than thinking this is the end of the road for the brigades, I think it may be a whole new beginning, one that has to do with Italy's membership in NATO." Robert Kupperman of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic Studies agrees, and he believes there soon might be a loose confederation of terrorist organizations in Europe. "I predict that within four to five months we'll see multiple kidnappings in NATO countries—to exploit the neutrality forces at work," he says.

Nevertheless, as Frankfurt University criminologist Friedrich Geerds points out, the rescue "will give enormous impetus and self-confidence to police authorities." American anti-terrorist experts are especially optimistic. Everyone agrees on one point: the Red Brigades will probably try to recover its morale and prestige by doing something spectacular—and soon. At the weekend, the Red Brigades sent out a message vowing to free their imprisoned comrades and declaring, "The liberation of Dozier will not succeed in stopping the current revolutionary process." NATO installations throughout Italy remain on high security alert: "We don't believe terrorism will end simply because Dozier is free," says one NATO official. "Now is the most dangerous time of all. The Red Brigades is like a wounded animal, looking to strike back." And that means uneasy days ahead for everyone.

JOHN BRECHER with ELAINE SCIOFINO and JANET STOBART in Verona; MADLYN RESENER in New York and bureau reports

INTERNATIONAL

but coldly declined to discuss his release. "Negotiate? What for?" demanded the communiqué. "The proletariat has nothing to negotiate with the bourgeoisie." After a few days in captivity, Dozier told his rescuers, his guards stopped wearing hoods or blindfolding him to conceal their identities. The general took the carelessness as a sign that he had been sentenced to die.

Professional: Dozier himself gave the Red Brigades little propaganda value for its effort. A 1956 West Point graduate, he had collected a Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Vietnam, where he served in the Eleventh Armored Cavalry Regiment. At the hands of Italian terrorists, he apparently conducted himself as a thoroughly professional soldier. Dozier's "interrogation" disclosed no classified information about NATO security. Instead, the five-page transcript released by the Red Brigades seemed to be based for the most part on biographical material seized from his apartment during the kidnapping.

According to a ten-page analysis of the interrogation prepared for the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Dozier apparently rearranged and even falsified several dates in his career to confuse his captors. The U.S. analysts also noted that Dozier had identified his Vietnam outfit as "Delta Charlie Battalion"—and some of them guessed that by adding the superfluous word "Delta," Dozier had meant to signal that he was being held close to water. (Padua is closer to the shore than Verona, but still lies 19 miles west of the Adriatic Coast.) Dozier demonstrated no inclination to spout leftist rhetoric in a bid for freedom. "I think his captors got a lot more than they bargained for when they took Jim Dozier," said a NATO friend. "They were probably more intimidated by him than he was by them. Jim was probably the toughest guy they ever got."

As Dozier tried to cope with his captors, Italian police closed in methodically. Their manhunt was assisted by at least six American anti-terrorist experts, including specialists in intelligence, communications and operational security. But in the flush of success, the Italians emphasized that they had run the show. "We never even saw" the foreigners, boasted Verona police chief Pasquale Zappone. "They all looked on and marveled at our efficiency. Today we can say that we are the best in the world." An Italian judge involved in the investigation dismissed the information provided by the Americans as "absolutely useless." In one instance, the collaboration turned into a minor competition. Based on Judith Do-



Gianni Giansanti—Sygma

Freedom at noon: Commandos hustle Dozier to safety

can police artists drew sketches of the kidnapers. "She said ours were better than theirs," chortled an Italian investigator.

The investigation that ultimately uncovered the little apartment in Padua was built on extensive and thorough Italian legwork. Early last month the dragnet swept up two well-armed guerrillas in central Rome who apparently were on the verge of a major kidnapping. Five days later police stormed three Red Brigades headquarters in the capital and captured a key brigades theorist. The weekend before Dozier's rescue, five suspected terrorists were arrested in the countryside north of Rome. Closer to Verona the search intensified: one local official guessed expansively that police had combed through "a million" apartments. In public, the authorities expressed total frustration. "Dozier could well be in the hands of the Martians, for all we know," said one top investigator.

Hope: At least twice, anonymous callers announced Dozier's death and sent police on wild-goose chases looking for the body; in one case authorities dragged a lake in search of the remains. But hope was kept alive, partly because Red Brigades turncoats provided clues—possibly encouraged by harsh police interrogations, or perhaps even by "rewards" from a mysterious \$1.7 million fund established by anonymous "friends" of Dozier. Finally, the patient policy of checking each tip paid off. Early last week investigators narrowed their search to a small area in the town of Verona and Padua. By some reports, police were following the lead of a captured terrorist who revealed several secret Red Brigades

police uncovered clues leading to additional hide-outs—and eventually to N. 2 Via Montemonte. "It was a textbook operation," said one U.S. official. "They cracked the column, the people talked, and they followed up every single lead. They did it right and it worked."

Meticulous Care: Detectives identified Dozier's prison at least twelve hours before the Leatherheads launched their raid. As they did throughout the manhunt, the commandos proceeded with meticulous care. They decided against a nighttime assault for fear that Dozier might go unrecognized and be killed in a cross fire. They also ruled out

an early-morning mission, worried that the terrorists might notice the advancing commandos in plainclothes or not at a normally quiet hour. Instead, the rescue squad timed its attack for the midday bustle. In preparation, scores of uniformed police began to ring the southern suburb in the pre-dawn darkness to control traffic into the area. Throughout the morning the 80 plain-clothesmen casually took stations around the apartment building with a twin set of orders: to clear civilians out of the potential fire zone and to subdue any terrorists who escaped the commando charge. At a remote location the attack squad filed into the little green moving van.

The Leatherheads who rescued Dozier

were equipped for every contingency. Against the possibility of a change in plans and an attack in the dark, the commandos carried infra-red glasses for night vision and equipped their weapons with infra-red night scopes. In case tear gas should be required, they carried gas masks. They took along their favorite assault rifle, the Italian-made M-12, a lightweight, short-barreled burp gun. They also carried heavy-caliber pistols strapped to their belts under loose-fitting shirts and sweaters. And they wore special, light bulletproof vests reinforced with thin steel plates. The raiders were led by a youngish-looking police colonel; his identity was kept secret.

At 11:35 the raid began with force and

Leatherhead Heroes

When the Italian police received the crucial tip that led to General Dozier's rescue, they turned to their best men to do the job: a crack anti-terrorist unit called the *teste di cuoio*, or Leatherheads. Roughly 50 highly trained policemen make up the elite commando squad, whose official name is the Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza (NOCS). A veil of official secrecy surrounds almost everything about them, from the names of their leaders to the location of their headquarters. They owe their dramatic name to their reputation for toughness and to the light leather headgear they wear to shield their faces and necks—and to conceal their identity—while in action. And after last week's daring rescue, some Italians gave another name to the *teste di cuoio*: "Supermen."

The Italian Government formed the Leatherhead unit after the kidnapping of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro in 1978. They modeled it after Europe's most respected special operations units: Britain's Special Air Service regiment and Border Protection Group 9, the West German anti-terrorist outfit that freed a group of hijacked Lufthansa passengers in a dramatic raid on the airport at Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1977. The Italian police allow only their best young officers

to volunteer for the NOCS unit, and only a fraction of the applications win acceptance. To pass muster, volunteers must show not only enthusiasm and intelligence but also top physical conditioning. Says one source in Italy's Interior Ministry, which oversees the force: "We want well-motivated men who are strong, fast, quick and lean."

Like Marines: The NOCS commandos undergo the most grueling and comprehensive training of any Italian security force. "They are trained like U.S. Marines," says one aide at the Interior Ministry. Once the men are selected, they go to the Abbasanta Police Training Center in the rugged, rocky hill country of Sardinia, also the terrain where Italy's Army Reserve rehearses military maneuvers. At Abbasanta

they learn judo and karate, high-speed driving skills, sharpshooting, demolition and explosives work; they also master the use of specialized weapons and equipment such as the M-12 submachine guns and lightweight bulletproof vests used in the Padua raid. The training stresses night operations: the Leatherheads who rescued Dozier were carrying special infra-red glasses for night vision and had infra-red scopes mounted on their rifles.

The NOCS commandos devote intense study to "knowing the enemy." They steep themselves in terrorist tactics and methods and pore over Red Brigades tracts to absorb the murky *brigatisti* ideology. They verse themselves in the minute details of terrorists' underground life-styles and secret communications techniques. Before the Dozier rescue, that knowledge—along with NOCS expertise in radio interception, phone-call tracing and other electronic surveillance methods—led to several major breakthroughs in penetrating the disciplined Red Brigades network.

Fierce Rivals: With the Padua raid, the NOCS unit scored its first major operational victory. Until last week, the most successful commando strike against the Red Brigades—a helicopter raid on the Trani Prison in southern Italy in late 1980 that freed a group of hostages held by Red Brigades inmates—was the work of another anti-terrorist task force, the Special Intervention

Group (GIS), which operates as an arm of the *carabinieri* paramilitary police under the command of Italy's Defense Ministry. The GIS anti-terrorists are also called Leatherheads—and the NOCS and GIS units are fierce rivals. Lack of coordination between the two groups has been blamed in the past for hampering Italy's anti-terrorist campaign. No more. The NOCS commandos are now national—although still anonymous—heroes. When Dozier's rescuers went before Italian television cameras, they masked their faces with ski masks, scarfs, nylon stockings—even a paper bag. The unspoken message: the Leatherheads are ready and eager to grapple with the Red Brigades any time they have to.

MARK WHITAKER with
RON MOREAU in Rome



precision. The commando who charged into the supermarket shouted, "Keep quiet," and told the customers: "We're from the police. Don't be afraid and don't move." One woman fainted. Another called home afterward. "I was being held prisoner in the market," she recalled. "I thought it might be a robbery."

Across the street a witness telephoned the police emergency number, 113, and reported a robbery in progress. "They swarmed out in civilian clothes, with their bulletproof vests and waving their submachine guns, and within seconds the whole piazza had been emptied," said pastry-shop proprietor Adriana Boaretto. "Through my shop window I saw some young fellows with balaclava helmets, with plastic bags over their heads, with scarfs tied around their faces

very serious about it." The brigatisti rounded up in Padua represent a cross section of battle-seasoned veteran terrorists and raw recruits. In addition to Emanuela Frascella, the apartment's nominal tenant, they included:

■ Antonio Savasta, 27, a leader of the Rome column of the Red Brigades. Police suspect the former law student of helping plan the kidnap-murder of Moro and of chemical company executive Giuseppe Taliercio. He is also suspected of involvement in the kidnapping of Ciro Cirillo, an official of the ruling Christian Democratic Party. He won notoriety in a previous encounter with police—escaping after a February 1980 shoot-out in the Sardinian city of Cagliari.

■ Emilia Libera, 26, a Rome nurse and Savasta's companion. Libera accompanied Sa-

Dozier was ice out into the sunlight and driven to the local police station. About ten minutes later Ciucci, the wounded terrorist, was carried out and taken to a hospital in an ambulance. After a few minutes the four remaining brigatisti were led out, first the two men, then the two women. "They were all very quiet," said a bystander. "None of them shouted or showed his fist as they usually do when the television is around."

Thursday: Safe at Padua's police headquarters, Dozier asked to know, first of all, the day of the week. When told, he repeated vaguely, "Giovedi, giovedi," (Thursday). Police offered him a pair of shoes, but he said, "No, it doesn't matter." He declined a chair as well, explaining: "I've spent the last six weeks without standing up, so I want to stand." He said he was tired and refused food at first, but drank an espresso and a



Fabian—Sygma



AP photos

A soldier returns to trim: The last Red Brigades portrait, the first cheeseburger and a shave interrupted by the President

and woolen skiing caps. They certainly looked like terrorists, but one could see they were not, because the police didn't shoot at them. One came into my shop and told everybody to stay inside and keep away from the entrance," Boaretto said. "They were trying to take care of the people in case of a shoot-out. Also they wanted the car park empty in case some terrorist managed to escape the net."

'Overjoyed': On the second floor of the apartment building, one of the commandos, a champion weight lifter, broke through an unmarked door "with one single blow," as the police report put it—and promptly confronted and felled the terrorist who was returning from shopping. Within seconds, the Leatherheads had arrested all five Red Brigades jailers without firing a shot. "I was overjoyed," Dozier said later, "and one of the finest things I felt was [when] I grabbed ahold of a policeman, and he had his flak jacket on, and it felt pretty good."

Dozier had a measure of respect for his captors. "They are a bunch of dedicated people," he said. "They are smart. They

vasta during the incident in Cagliari—and by coincidence last week a Sardinian court sentenced the pair in absentia to 30-year prison sentences for attempted homicide.

■ Cesare di Lenardo, 22, a former construction worker from Gorizia.

■ Giovanni Ciucci, 32, a former railroad worker from Pisa. Police named Ciucci as the terrorist who was aiming a 9-mm Beretta pistol at Dozier's head before a commando struck him down.

The grimy, four-room apartment itself was a terrorist treasure-trove. Inside, police found fifteen pistols, five submachine guns, seven hand grenades, six packages of plastic explosives, \$17,000 in Italian currency, a mimeograph machine, false identification documents and a card file of prominent personalities in the region. Police also recovered the steamer trunk used to transport Dozier, the typewriter that had printed the five terrorist communiqués in the case—and the Red Brigades banner that served as a backdrop in the two photographs of Dozier issued by the kidnapers.

Dazed and still shoeless after the rescue

cappuccino. Finally, police chief Gianfranco Corrias asked Dozier if he would like to take a shower. The general declined again, saying, "I just want to go home." "Here was a man who seconds before had a pistol pointed at his head, yet he was the happiest man in the world," said Corrias. "He never complained—a true officer."

The general was taken to the U.S. military hospital in Vicenza for a checkup and a reunion with Judith and Cheryl Dozier, who flew in from West Germany. Amid the tears, celebrations and talk of a Washington meeting with the President, Dozier indicated his own preference: a short vacation with his family and a quick return to his NATO job. Back in Padua, three commandos in battle dress were still keeping watch at No. 2 Via Pindemonte eleven hours after their proudest 90 seconds. "We have been trained to do this job," said the youngest one, pulling the scarf from his face to speak briefly. "We are professionals, and today we were able to show it."

STEVEN STRASSER with ELAINE SCIOLINO in Rome. LIN WIDMANN in Padua and bureau reports