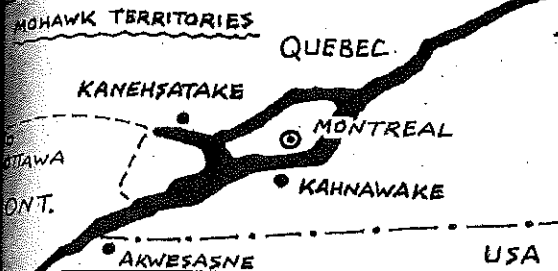


THE 'OKA CRISIS'

The 500
Years of
Resistance
Comic Book
by Gord Hill
2010

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1990, A 77-DAY ARMED STANDOFF OCCURRED IN THE MOHAWK TERRITORIES OF KAHNAWAKE AND KANEHSATAKE/OKA, NEAR MONTREAL.

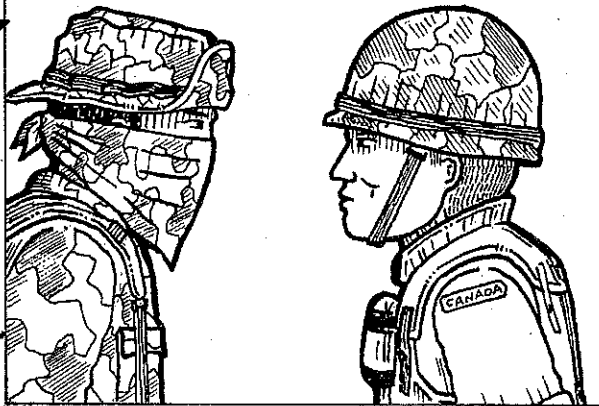


IN KANEHSATAKE, THE TOWN OF OKA HAD PLANNED TO EXPAND A GOLF COURSE INTO 'THE PINES', A SMALL FORESTED AREA CONTAINING A MOHAWK GRAVEYARD.



IN 1989, MOHAWKS AND RESIDENTS OF OKA BEGAN PROTESTS + PETITIONS TO STOP IT...

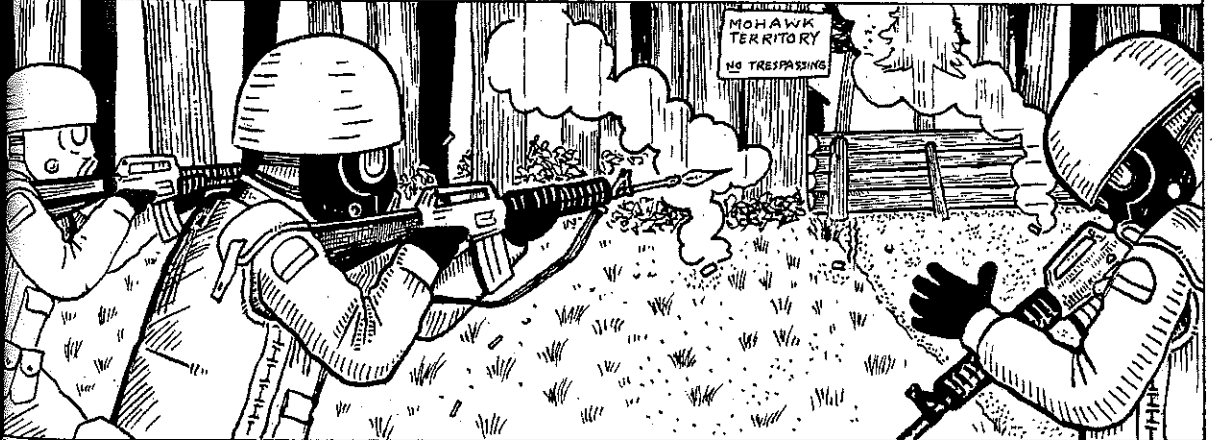
MOHAWK WARRIORS CONFRONTED OVER 2,000 QUEBEC POLICE AND 4,500 CANADIAN SOLDIERS...



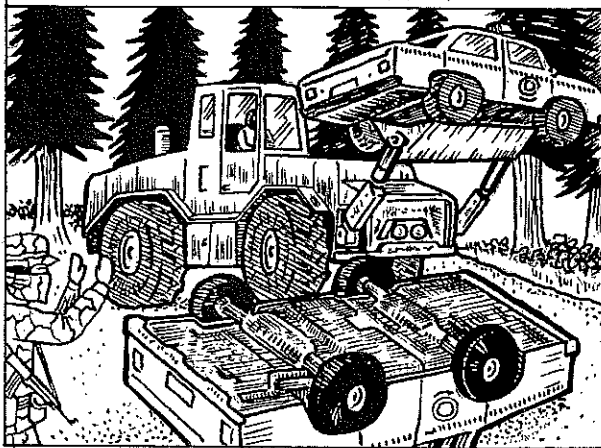
IN THE SPRING OF 1990, MOHAWKS SET UP A CAMP IN THE PINES AND BLOCKED A SMALL, DIRT ROAD...



ON JULY 11, 1990, OVER 100 HEAVILY-ARMED QUEBEC POLICE ATTACKED THE MOHAWK BLOCKADE, SHOOTING TEAR GAS + AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. MOHAWK WARRIORS RETURNED FIRE; IN A BRIEF FIRE FIGHT, ONE POLICE MAN WAS SHOT + KILLED...



THE POLICE FLED, ABANDONING MANY VEHICLES. THESE WERE USED TO BUILD NEW BARRICADES...



AT NEARBY KAHNAWAKE, WARRIORS SIEZED THE MERCIER BRIDGE, A VITAL COMMUTER LINK TO MONTREAL...

HUNDREDS OF POLICE ARRIVED + SEALED OFF THE AREA; ADVISORS + EQUIPMENT FROM THE MILITARY WERE ALSO SENT...



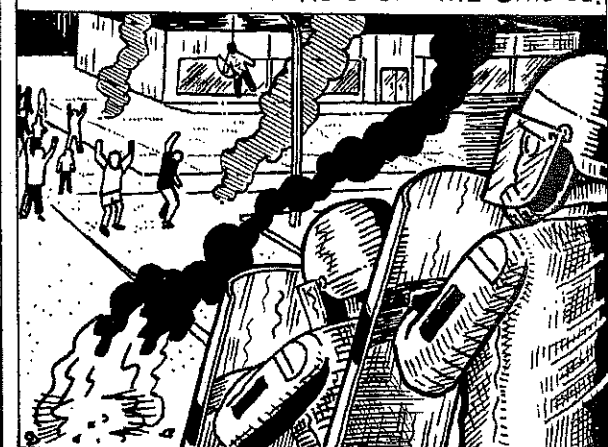
IN KANEHSATAKE, WARRIORS FORTIFIED THEIR POSITIONS; REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPLIES WERE SMUGGLED IN...



AT KAHNAWAKE (POP. 7,000), ENTRANCES WERE BARRICADED. FOOD, MEDICAL AID, AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE ORGANIZED.



AS THE SIEGE WENT ON, WHITE MOBS FROM NEARBY TOWNS BEGAN TO RIOT. THEY DEMANDED POLICE RE-OPEN THE BRIDGE.

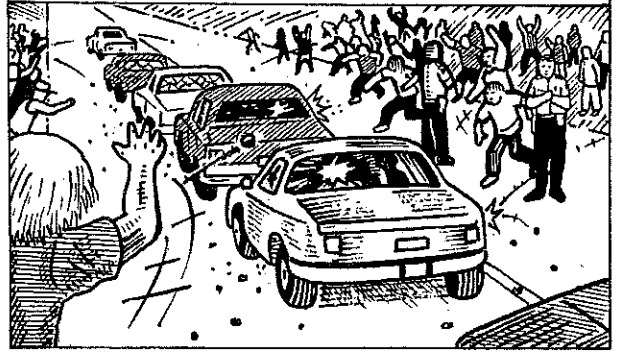


ON AUGUST 20, THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TOOK OVER FROM POLICE AT BOTH KAHNAWAKE + KANEHSATAKE.



4,500 TROOPS WOULD BE DEPLOYED, WITH LEOPARD TANKS, APC'S, HELICOPTERS, FIGHTER JETS, ARTILLERY, AND NAVAL VESSELS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

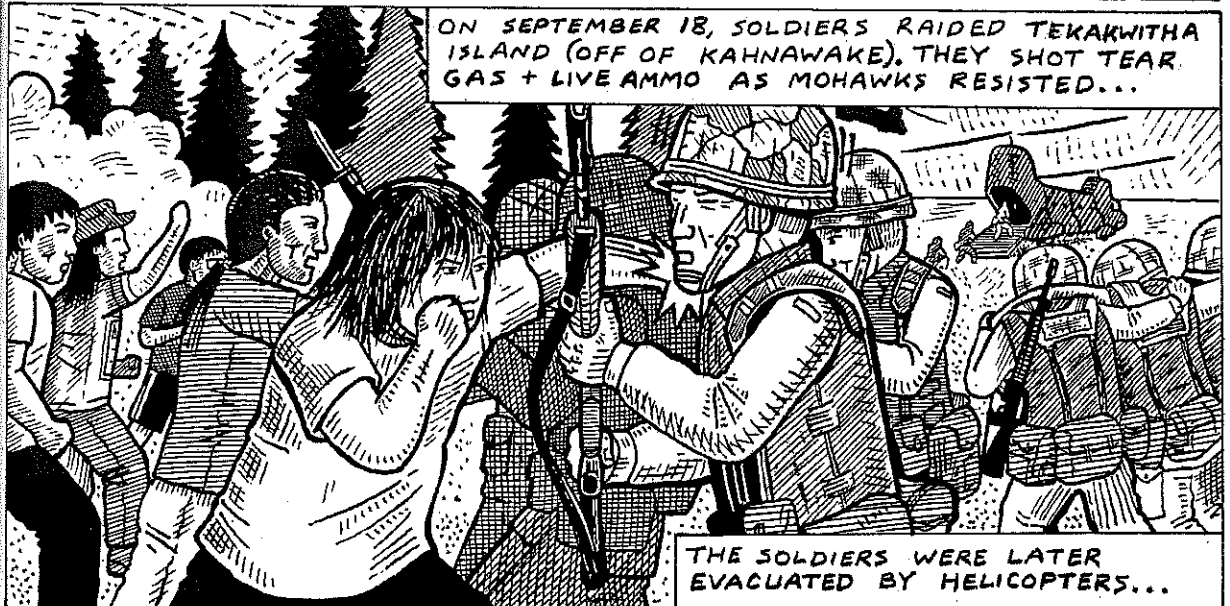
IN KAHNAWAKE, SOME MOHAWKS WANTED OUT. ON AUG. 28, AFTER BEING DELAYED BY POLICE, A CONVOY WAS ATTACKED BY WHITE MOBS; THE POLICE DID NOTHING...



AT KANEHSATAKE, WARRIORS RETREATED AS THE ARMY ADVANCED, ENDING UP IN A TREATMENT CENTER BY SEPTEMBER...

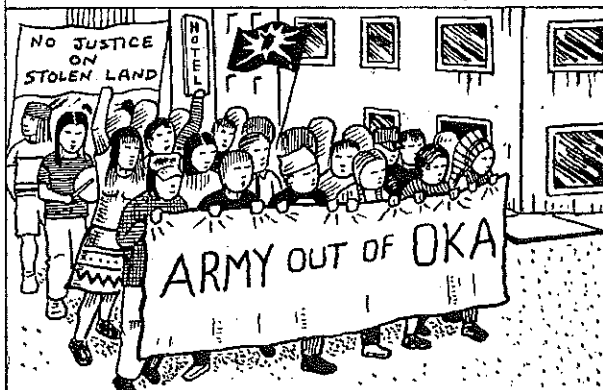


ON SEPTEMBER 18, SOLDIERS RAIDED TEKARWITHA ISLAND (OFF OF KAHNAWAKE). THEY SHOT TEAR GAS + LIVE AMMO AS MOHAWKS RESISTED...

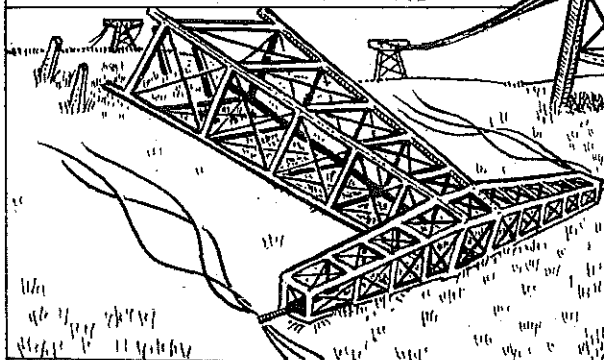


THE SOLDIERS WERE LATER EVACUATED BY HELICOPTERS...

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, NATIVE PEOPLE SHOWED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE MOHAWKS THRU PROTESTS, OCCUPATIONS, ROAD + RAIL BLOCKADES, + SABOTAGE...



IN BC + ALBERTA, RAIL WAY BRIDGES WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE...



IN ONTARIO, 5 HYDRO-ELECTRIC TOWERS WERE CUT DOWN BY SABOTEURS...

ALTHO' THE GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA PORTRAYED THE WARRIORS AS CRIMINALS + TERRORISTS, MANY SAW THEM AS HEROES DEFENDING THEIR PEOPLE...



CANADA FACED AN INDIGENOUS UPRISING IF IT USED FORCE TO END THE SIEGE.



OKA SERVED TO REVITALIZE THE WARRIOR SPIRIT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND OUR WILL TO RESIST...

ON SEPT. 26, THE LAST HOLD OUTS AT KANEHSATAKE BURNED THEIR WEAPONS AND WALKED OUT...



MOST WERE LATER FOUND NOT GUILTY OF WEAPONS + RIOT CHARGES. THE OKA GOLF COURSE WAS NEVER EXPANDED...