CONTENTS

MAP 1 viii
MAP 2 xii
PREFACE xiii
LIST OF ACRONYMS xv
INTRODUCTION by Erik Ching xvii
Photo section follows Introduction.

1980
Tearing Your Heart Out 2
Off to War with a Priest 5
On the Way to El Escondido 8
Rafael: Morazán, a Strategic Project 9

1981
January 1 18
January 2 18
Licho 18
The Sky Is Taken by Assault 21
The Resurrection of Altagracia 25
The Pain of Calixtro 27
The Massacre at Junquillo 30
Damn! La Guacamaya Never Gives Up! 32
Monsignor Romero in La Guacamaya 33
Jonás 34
Calle Negra, Almost Certain Death 36
Villa del Rosario 41
El Zapotal 45
A North American in the War 46
Juan Ramón, from Bus to History 47
Eighty Devils Set Loose 49
The Torogoces Are Born  51
Benito  53
Alejandro Peluna’s Flying Mule  54
Chiyo and Pajarillo  56
Loving Marcela in the Midst of War Is Another War  58
Tancho  60
Perquín, Road of Embers  63
The Fifth Front  66
Victorino, the Light Within  67
Operation Hammer and Anvil  70
Toni, Montalbo, and Javier  71
Monterrosa Captures Radio Venceremos  74
Radio Venceremos Goes to the Sea  76
Return to Morazán  79
The El Mozote Massacre  81

1982
The Cave of Passions  90
The Fortress of Happiness  93
Hell in Poza Honda  96
The Battle of El Moscarrón  100
The Incredible Return of Colonel Castillo  107
Ana Guadalupe  109
Manlio, Your Guitar’s Beating  111
The First Prisoner Exchange  112
Freedom for Perquín  113
Lesbia and the Idols of Pensacola  115
Every Last One of Us Danced, Colonel  117
Rogelio’s Sense of Humor  119

1983
Shutting Down Transportation  122
Oswaldo Escobar Velado  124
El Quinto Piso de la Alegría  128
Paty’s Memories  132
The Swearing In of the BRAZ  134
The Defeat of the Belloso Battalion  136
The Amatillo Bridge  138
La Antena Is Taken  140
Monterrosa and His War Trophies  142
Atilio and the Smell of Ink 143
Diana the Huntress, an Assassin Sent by the CIA 147
The Bells Toll for Carlos 148
Attack on the Third Brigade 149
El Pedrero 152
We Capture the Butcher 154
El Cheje, the Godfather 156
The Military School in San Fernando 157
General Command in Morazán 161
Sesori 162
Morazán Has a Name: Commander Quincho 165

1984

The Legend of El Chongue 170
The Colonels’ Logic 173
The Exchange of Colonel Castillo 176
The Trickster Is Tricked 177
Nolbo versus the Gringos 180
A Piece of Deerskin, and El Calihuate Is Reborn 181
A Stradivarius Violin 183
It Wasn’t the Siguanaba 185
Lety 186
Ana Lidia 187
The Carpenter Who Destroyed an Empire 189
A Meeting in La Palma 192
Operation Torola IV 194
To Die Like a Dog 196
The Gringos’ Man 197
The Trojan Horse 199
The Sword of Mars or the Mirror of Venus? 204
The Tenacity of the Izote 211

EPILOGUE, 1992 217
EPILOGUE, 2003 223
EPILOGUE, 2009 225

INDEX 227