

Esquire

AN AT HIS BEST

SEPTEMBER 2009

Hey, Isn't That

A Whole

→ **SAM WORTHINGTON?**

Lotta
WOMAN

The Greatest Actor
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LOVE



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→ **EAT LIKE A MAN**

• Recipes. By Men.
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→ **NFL PREVIEW**
From a Beautiful
Woman

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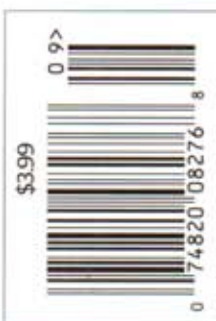
PLUS:

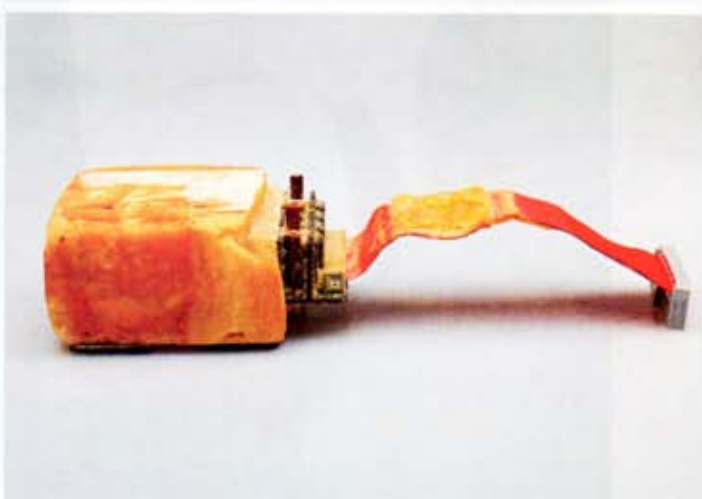
A Doctor's
Murder,
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Crash, and Other
Stories of Our Time.

How To
BUY CLOTHES
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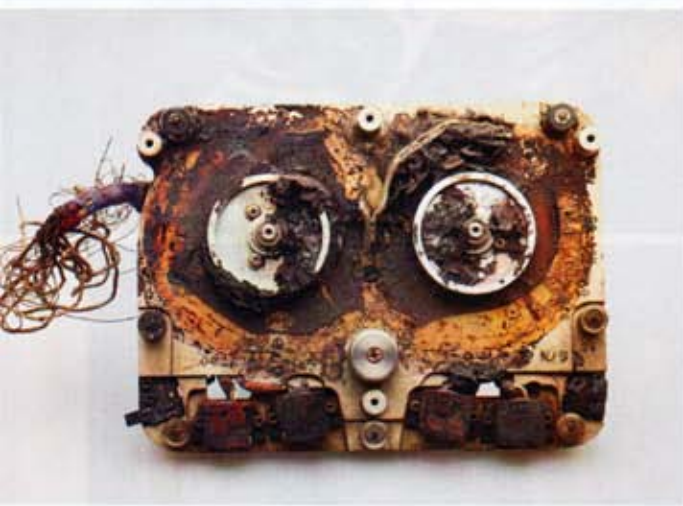


AND:
Basterds. Lots of
Basterds.





Battered flight recorders (black boxes) and some of their components from decades of air disasters—at top right, one from the early 1960s—line the shelves of Ted Givins's office at the TSB. At bottom right is the nearly pristine flight recorder recovered from the wreckage of the Sikorsky S-92.



THE END OF MYSTERY

A LARGE TRANSPORT HELICOPTER WITH
EIGHTEEN SOULS ON BOARD
SUDDENLY FELL OUT OF THE SKY AND
PLUNGED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE NORTH
ATLANTIC LAST MARCH. LOST AT SEA.
THEN PHONES BEGAN TO RING.

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

began with a single leaf of paper, rolled up on the ocean floor, 540 feet beneath the swells. The paper was lifted from the darkness by the lights of a remotely operated vehicle dropped over the side of a supply ship called the *Atlantic Osprey*. The men who piloted the ROV—from inside a quiet, windowless container that had been welded to the ship's deck—trained its cameras on the paper. They were working in black and white, more out of habit than anything else. When they did what they usually did, maintaining the underworks of oil platforms, color rarely factored into it; everything down there was machined from the same shade of gray. But now these men were doing different work, and they leaned into their monitors and tried to make out the black type on the white paper. They were able to read just a few words about how to fly a helicopter. "That's when we knew we were on the right track," Allan Chaulk says.

On the table in front of him, inside the Transportation Safety Board of Canada's engineering branch in Ottawa, Chaulk has rolled up a piece



BY CHRIS JONES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFFREY MILSTEIN