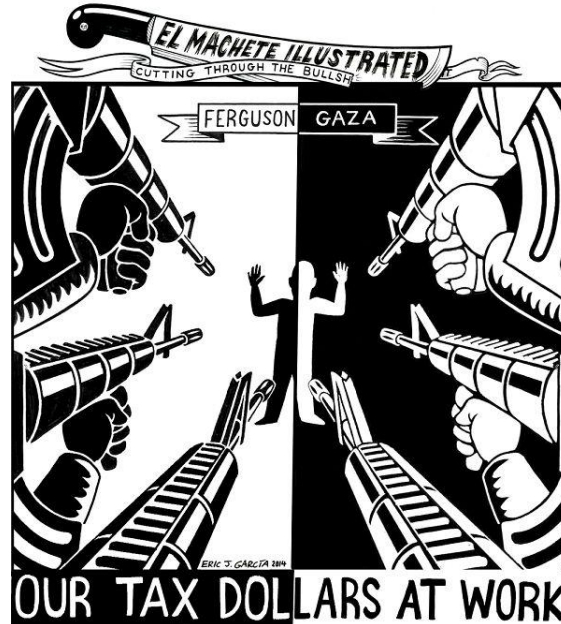


Military Resistance 1211



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "We found the weapons of mass destruction."]

AFGHANISTAN THEATER

“US Foreign Fighters Suffered Nine Combat Casualties During The Week Ending August 27 As The Total Rose To 40,765”

Aug 30, 2014 www.michaelmunk.com [Excerpts]

AFGHANISTAN THEATER:

US foreign fighters suffered nine combat casualties during the week ending August 27 as the total rose to 40,765.

The total includes 21,793 dead and wounded from what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and 18,972 dead or medically evacuated (as of Dec.3, 2012, when it stopped making the count public) from what it called "non-hostile" causes.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by reporting regularly only the total killed (6,833: 4,491 in Iraq, 2,342 in Afghanistan) but rarely mentioning those wounded in action (52,201: 32,242 in Iraq; 19,959 in Afghanistan).

They ignore the 59,908 (44,607 in Iraq; 18,463 in AfPak (as of Dec 3, 2012) military casualties injured and ill seriously enough to be medevac'd out of theater, even though the 6,831 total dead include 1,470 (962 in Iraq; 508 in Afghanistan) who died from those same "non hostile" causes of whom almost 25% (332) were suicides (as of Jan 9, 2013).

POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

MILITARY NEWS

Army Knocks 2-Star Down to 1-Star Rank:

**“When A Japanese Woman Accused The
Unidentified Colonel On Harrison's Staff
Of Sexually Assaulting Her, Harrison
Waited Months To Report It”**

Aug 27, 2014 by Robert Burns, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A two-star Army general faulted for failing to properly investigate sexual assault and other accusations against a colonel on his staff will be retired at one-star rank, the Army announced Wednesday.

The decision by Army Secretary John M. McHugh comes more than a year after Maj. Gen. Michael T. Harrison was suspended from his duties as commander of U.S. Army forces in Japan.

His case has been cited as evidence of why sex-crime victims say they don't trust the military to protect them, despite efforts by senior Pentagon officials, including Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, to make commanders accountable.

In March the Pentagon turned back an effort in Congress to strip commanders of the authority to prosecute cases, especially those related to sexual assault, and hand the job to seasoned military lawyers.

An Army inspector general's investigation report released in April said that in March 2013, when a Japanese woman accused the unidentified colonel on Harrison's staff of sexually assaulting her, Harrison waited months to report it to criminal investigators. That was a violation of Army rules.

Despite Harrison's suspension, the Army brought him to the Pentagon to make him director of program analysis and evaluation for an Army deputy chief of staff. The Washington Post reported in April that he received an administrative letter of reprimand in December 2013 for mishandling the sexual-assault case and other complaints in Japan, but remained on active duty.

Under federal law, commissioned officers retire at the highest rank in which they are determined to have served satisfactorily. "The secretary determined that Maj. Gen. Harrison's highest grade of satisfactory service was as a brigadier general," the Army said in a brief statement announcing McHugh's decision.

By retiring one rank lower, Harrison stands to lose a substantial amount of retirement pay.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.
“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they
oppose.”**

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion
emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced
that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which
they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the
death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only
guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the
more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the
people.**

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

There Was No Gun Control On Blair Mountain: Labor Has Its Own Lexington, Iwo Jima And Fallujah; And None More Bloody Than In The Hills And Hollows Of The West Virginia Coal Fields





The 1921 five-day BATTLE OF BLAIR MOUNTAIN was the largest domestic insurrection in the nation's post-Civil War history, pitting many thousands of armed "redneck" miners against private and federal armies of imported gunthugs, strikebreakers, sharpshooting soldiers and even a US army bomber, hired by the coal companies who – then as now - owned the state and federal governments and believed they owned the human beings who dug the raw coal.

August 31, 2014 by Clancy Sigal, Facebook

(To mark Labor Day I'm updating a piece I did for the Guardian. The hot news is that a few days ago, on 28 Aug '14, a U.S. appeals court ruled in favor of a coalition of local West Virginia citizens, coal miners and environmentalists NOT to deregister Blair Mountain as a historic site that coal companies want to strip mine and blow up. The U.S. justice department argued on the coal owners' side.)

(Labor Day, as we all know – I hope – began in 1887 after the Haymarket Massacre and Pullman strike when workmen were shot down by federal troops and U.S. marshals, both Chicago events. Fearing revolution, Pres Grover Cleveland hastened to mark the first Monday of September as a peaceful picnic-time in the hope that angry workers wouldn't opt for the more "red" May Day.)

("Union" is a bad word these days except for true believers. This is partly the dinosaur-like labor movement's fault. Union p.r. is usually terrible, and outreach to the wider community – churches, sports teams, even NASCAR - an almost forgotten art. West Virginians can teach us.)

"My first time in Westminster Abbey, London, I was taken by a South Wales coal miner friend from "the valleys".

Awed, we gawked at Poets' Corner, the Coronation Throne, the tombs and effigies of prelates, admirals, generals and prime ministers – England in all its majesty.

Gazing at the Gothic Revival columns, transepts and amazing fan-vaulted ceiling, my friend said, "Impressive, isn't it? Of course, it's THEIR culture not ours."

Our culture – class conscious, renegade – is rarely found in bronze plaques and statues but through orally transmitted memories passed down generation to generation, in songs and stories.

My family's secular religion is union.

They include cousin Charlie (shipbuilders), cousin Davie (electrical workers), cousin Bernie (printers), my mother (ladies' garment, cotton mill) and father (butchers, laundry workers), and cousin Fred (San Quentin prisoners).

Official history speaks of the Battle of Trafalgar and Gallipoli; we have Haymarket Square, Ludlow, Centralia and Cripple Creek: labor's battle sites, more often slaughtering defeats than victories.

Much of this history has disappeared down Orwell's "memory hole". But to remember is to resist.

Half our story – the half where unions created the modern middle class – and the eight hour day - is written in the unexciting prose of contracts, negotiations, wages and hours laws.

But the other half is inscribed in the ghostly sounds of whizzing bullets, shootouts and pistol duels of real, actual combat.

Labor has its own Lexington, Iwo Jima and Fallujah. And none more bloody than in the hills and hollows of the West Virginia coal fields.

The 1921 five-day BATTLE OF BLAIR MOUNTAIN was the largest domestic insurrection in the nation's post-Civil War history, pitting many thousands of armed "redneck" miners against private and federal armies of imported gun-thugs, strikebreakers, sharpshooting soldiers and even a US army bomber, hired by the coal companies who – then as now - owned the state and federal governments and believed they owned the human beings who dug the raw coal.

The Blair Mountain shootout had been preceded and provoked by the "Matewan massacre" when a sympathetic local sheriff and his deputies took on the coal company's hired gorillas who were evicting pro-union miners and their families from their shanties. (See John Sayles's film, "Matewan".) Enraged miners marched on to Blair Mountain.

When the smoke cleared, along an eight-mile front reminiscent of Flanders trenches, a hundred on both sides had been killed with many more wounded.

Outgunned and under a presidential order, the miners, led by the fabulously named Bill Blizzard, took their squirrel-hunting rifles and went home – to face indictments for treason and murder, drawn up by the coal owners and their bought judges.

Sympathetic juries freed most of them. (For further interest: Bill Blizzard's son, the late William C, has a book, *When Miners March*.)

Coal mining is where open class warfare is often at its sharpest, most visible and violent.

Something about the job underground, and the tactical skills it takes not to get yourself killed by roof falls and methane gas explosions, binds miner to miner in what the military likes to call "unit cohesion".

Historically, miners worldwide have been in the advance guard of social progress. It's one reason why coal companies in America, and Mrs Thatcher in Britain, always despised the miners and became obsessed with breaking their union.

Labor does not have its Westminster Abbey and probably shouldn't.

Museums are no substitute for "talking union".

Venezuela: The Sewer Overflows: A Corrupt Government Run By Crony Capitalists Hits The Wall; “The New Chavista State Bureaucracy Has Grown Personally Wealthy In The Exercise Of State Power”

How should we characterise this economy?

It is clearly capitalist, as Chávez himself acknowledged, and run by a layer of bureaucrats acting in concert with private capital, or indeed as profiteers themselves.

23 June 14 by Mike Gonzalez, International Socialist Journal [Excerpts]

The core of Chávez's programme was to achieve state control of the oil industry, negotiate for an appropriate level of royalties, and use that income for social and economic development.

And yet production, agricultural and industrial, is at a virtual standstill.

The state-owned industries—including iron and steel and aluminium production based in Bolívar province around Ciudad Guayana—are paralysed by the lack of spare parts for machinery, the absence of raw materials and the failure to invest over time. Some \$312

million assigned to the Guayana Corporation by Chávez in 2012, for example, has not arrived.

The supply of bauxite, the basis of aluminium production, has dwindled to a virtual halt because the six massive extractor vehicles bought from Belarus are all damaged and there are no spare parts. The huge Alcasa Aluminium Factory in Puerto Ordaz, conceived as the first socialist factory under workers' control, is not functioning.

The construction industry is crippled by the absence of cement and steel rods.

(According to the Central Bank, cement was the only industry that increased production in 2013. Yet it is virtually impossible to find, and is sold on the black market for ten times its official value. What are being sold in most cases seem to be materials belonging to the state.

Agricultural production has declined continuously in recent years, to the extent that 90 percent of the food consumed in Venezuela is imported—despite the country's enormous agricultural potential.

Land expropriations, which were to be the basis of a new socialist agriculture, declined in 2013, and the agriculture minister recently announced that some lands might now be returned to their original owners, the same people who have regularly employed armed men to attack peasant occupations.

Auto production, which employs 80,000 workers, is barely functioning—the number of cars produced in a week is what would have been produced in one afternoon a few years ago.

In the area of pharmaceuticals—where there are life-threatening shortages of essential medicines and drugs, including cancer treatments, anti-convulsive drugs and aspirin—national production has ceased.

At a recent conference, Eduardo Samán, whose three tenures as minister of consumer affairs ended abruptly when he went after speculators and closed establishments that were overcharging, argued, in a well-informed speech, that Venezuela could produce its own generic drugs instead of importing them at a huge mark-up.

The conference was well attended by press and media who recorded the ministerial speeches; Saman's contribution, however, was not even alluded to.

(The demonstrations of health workers calling for emergency government intervention in the health sector were ignored-despite the fact that hospital drugs and equipment are regularly stolen by armed gangs marauding through the hospitals.)

Prestige projects, like the oil production plants on the Orinoco or the sugar refinery in Barinas province, involved huge spending but have never started production. The full list of such projects is too long to include in this short article.

There is a pattern here.

Chavismo has never had a long or even medium term economic plan.

The improvisation and pragmatism that characterised Chávez's presidencies fascinated and amused external observers.

But the consequence in half-completed projects, disinformation, sheer inefficiency and above all corruption is only now coming to light to its full extent.

The very foundation of the Chavista project, the deployment of oil wealth for the general good, is now systematically undermined.

Barrio Adentro, the iconic Mission run by Cuban medical personnel, has no drugs or medicines and can only really offer advice; the hospital sector has suffered a degree of neglect which has led to deteriorating buildings, collapsing equipment, a lack of the most essential drugs, and theft on a grand scale.

The emblematic Gran Misión Vivienda, building social housing, is regularly presented as the shining example of Chavista success.

Every Thursday, Maduro appears on television, delivering houses somewhere in the country and throwing out figures in the hundreds of thousands—but the reality, again, is very different from the extravagant claims made for the programme. In fact, house building is down by 66 percent over the same period last year.

In April this year Maduro announced the plan to build 220,000 houses—without mentioning that this was a reduction of the original target of 380,000. Around 4 percent of them have been built so far.

And where Chávez's vision of a social housing project included schools, sports facilities, business and community facilities, the present projects are limited to the physical buildings, many of which remain unfinished.

The administration of these half-built towers has in many cases been left to local criminals who buy and sell "spaces"—not rooms or flats—under the benevolent indifference of the state.

The question is, where has the oil income gone?

Why are so many projects incomplete? Where are the dollars handed out to importers for goods that plainly have not arrived?

In fact, the distribution of dollars on terms too byzantine to understand has covered a large-scale flight of capital which never returned at all.

Jorge Giordani, the minister of planning, recently announced that \$20 billion had "disappeared" from the Treasury in 2012 and that 40 percent of dollar allocations in 2013 had gone to "empresas de maletín", phantom companies created to launder money.

He claimed to have a full list of them that he was about to publish. The list has yet to appear.

Those dollars—the official estimate is \$190 billion—are presumably now nestling in bank accounts in Panama, the US, Russia and elsewhere.

The beneficiaries of this secret commerce are not just the old ruling classes, the Venezuelan capitalists who run the 35 percent of the economy still in private hands.

The new Chavista state bureaucracy running government agencies and nationalised enterprises has grown personally wealthy in the exercise of state power.

Infrastructural projects, absorbing vast amounts of state funds, are delayed or abandoned unfinished.

The Brazilian engineering giant Odebrecht, involved in several big bridge-building projects in the Orinoco Basin and in the much-delayed train system which was so emblematic for Chávez, has suspended operations until the financial future of the projects is clarified.

The house-building programme financed by what is called the Chinese Fund, the fund drawing money from PDVSA and the Central Bank of Venezuela for major projects, provides no accounts.

And projects are rarely fully completed. Yet the budget for materials, like cement, has been allocated and spent in each case.

How should we characterise this economy?

It is clearly capitalist, as Chávez himself acknowledged, and run by a layer of bureaucrats acting in concert with private capital, or indeed as profiteers themselves.

The picture internationally confirms that, since it is currently operating joint enterprises, especially in oil, with China, Russia, Belarus, Spain, Iran and others, none of whom have any interest in altruism or building a socialist economy.

The economic project articulated by Chávez and Ramirez, and repeated by government spokespeople as a mantra, has gone into reverse.

The state, which Chávez wanted “pulverised”, has grown in size and penetration and has accrued to itself greater and greater powers—from oil to communications, from currency agency to direct importer.

It has also expanded from 16 to 32 ministries and quadrupled the number of vice-ministers, providing opportunities for the kind of nepotism that was the defining feature of the Fourth Republic, which preceded Chávez.

The Missions, meanwhile, and the direct democracy they were to represent, have withered on the vine.

They exist, and Maduro recently announced that more would be created and all placed under the control of a single new ministry.

Like the consejos comunales and the comunas they are administrative arms of the state with neither autonomy nor political or economic independence.

Much Of The 21st Century Worldwide Tendency Towards Politics Disguised As Religion Expresses Rage Against Capitalism, Which Has Become A Religion Disguised As Economics: “During One Period Of History Hegemony Belongs To Religion, During Another To Politics, And So Forth”

Comment: T

In attempting to defend reactionary social systems, some argue that nothing happens without the “will” or “permission” of this or that supernatural being.

Many politicians will agree that the slaughter of Afghans by the U.S. Empire is done with the “will” or “permission” of God. Bush once said that God had spoken to him personally and commanded him to “strike” Saddam Hussein.

When Obama demands God bless America at the close this or that major public pronouncement, he is merely doing his job, as he protects and defends the Empire over which he presides, with the full backing, in that work, of the political layer of the capitalist elite who rule this nation.

Part of that job, as is true for various politicians in many other nations, is invoking the name of this or that supernatural entity said to be blessing the nation, seeking thereby to gain the favor of the reactionary and credulous to prop up the Imperial regime.

Viewing the world as a material reality and having no fear of or belief in assorted supernatural creatures that human have created in their own image would be a recommendation for political leadership, rather than a condemnation.

Religion has been and continues to be used by those in power to justify their greed for Empire, their murderous local dictatorships, and all forms of tyranny and oppression.

There are no world religions that have not been so used by wealthy and powerful oppressors.

If indeed nothing anywhere occurs without the “will” of some God, and if indeed such a being exists, he or she or it is a mass murdering monster.

It is one thing to believe in a supernatural being. That is one among many bedrock democratic rights guaranteed in any decent society.

It is quite another to defend evil by throwing down the “will of God” argument for everything that occurs, up to and including the rape-murders of small children, the oppression of women as a gender, the torture of Jews and Muslims by the Spanish Inquisition, and the current Imperial butchery loose in the world.

That is a political argument valuable only to tyrants and oppressors.

Excerpt from: The Monist View Of History, By G.V. Plekhanov; 1895; St. Petersburg, Russia

Up to this point our propositions, of necessity, were very abstract.

But we already know that there is no abstract truth, truth is always concrete.

We must give our propositions a more concrete shape.

Those to whom the English aristocrats of the Restoration were “in contradiction” were extreme religious fanatics; in order “to do the opposite” to what they were doing, the reactionaries had to go as far as materialism.

In France of the eighteenth century things were exactly opposite: the defenders of the old order stood for religion, and it was the extreme revolutionaries who arrived at materialism.

The history of human thought is full of such examples, and all of them confirm one and the same thing: in order to understand the “state of minds” of each particular critical epoch, in order to explain why during this epoch precisely these, and not those, teachings gain the upper hand, we must as a preliminary study the “state of minds” in the preceding epoch, and discover what teachings and tendencies were then dominant.

Without this we shall not understand at all the intellectual condition of the epoch concerned, however well we get to know its economy.

But even this must not be understood in abstract fashion, as the Russian “intelligentsia” is accustomed to understand everything.

The ideologists of one epoch never wage against their predecessors a struggle sur toute la ligne, on all questions of human knowledge and social relations.

The French Utopians of the nineteenth century were completely at one with the Encyclopaedists on a number of anthropological views; the English aristocrats of the Restoration were quite at one with the Puritans, whom they so hated, on a number of questions, such as civil law, etc.

The territory of psychology is sub-divided into provinces, the provinces into counties, the counties into rural districts and communities, and the communities represent unions of individuals (i.e., of individual questions).

When a “contradiction” arises, when struggle blazes up, its passion seizes, as a rule, only upon individual provinces – if not individual counties – and only its reflection falls upon the neighbouring areas.

First of all that province to which hegemony belonged in the preceding epoch is subjected to attack.

It is only gradually that the “miseries of war” spread to its nearest neighbours and most faithful allies of the province which has been attacked.

Therefore we must add that, in ascertaining the character of any particular critical epoch, it is necessary to discover not only the general features of the psychology of the previous organic period, but also the individual peculiarities of that psychology.

During one period of history hegemony belongs to religion, during another to politics, and so forth.

This circumstance inevitably reflects itself in the character of the corresponding critical epochs, each of which, according to circumstances, either continues formally to recognize the old hegemony, introducing a new, opposite content into the dominating conceptions (as, for example, the first English Revolution), or else completely rejects them, and hegemony passes to new provinces of thought (as, for example, the French literature of the Enlightenment).

If we remember that these disputes over the hegemony of individual psychological provinces also extend to their neighbours, and moreover extend to a different degree and in a different direction in each individual case, we shall understand to what an extent here, as everywhere, one cannot confine oneself to abstract proposition.

Let us consider the operation of this law.

When a certain class is the enslaver of all in the eyes of the rest of the population, then the ideas which prevail in the ranks of that class naturally present themselves to the population also as ideas worthy only of slave-owners.

The social consciousness enters into “contradiction” to them: it is attracted by opposite ideas.

But we have already said that this kind of struggle is never carried on all along the line: there always remain a certain number of ideas which are equally recognized both by the revolutionaries and by the defenders of the old order.

The strongest attack, however, is made on the ideas which serve to express the most injurious sides of the dying order at the given time.

It is on those sides of ideology that the revolutionaries experience an irrepressible desire to “contradict” their predecessors.

But in relation to other ideas, even though they did grow up on the basis of old social relations, they often remain quite indifferent, and sometimes by tradition continue to cling to them.

The “state of minds” of any given age can be understood only in connection with the state of the minds of the previous epoch.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Beijia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we'll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to injustices, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

Sergeant Major Diverts Surveillance Drone To Check For Uniform Violations



July 9, 2014 by Maxx Butthurt, The Duffle Blog

The air is hot and stuffy inside the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) ground control trailer at FOB Masum Ghar, located in the heart of southern Afghanistan.

Two soldiers from the 205th Military Intelligence Company deftly pilot their unmanned aerial vehicle over the wastes of the Panjwai District searching for targets, while Brigade Sgt. Maj. Steve Knott vigilantly watches over their shoulders.

The tension lining the men's faces is a visible reminder of how stressful their three-month tour has been.

The UAV crew has been tasked with overwatching a company of infantry, silently moving through the fields and grape-rows surrounding a high value target compound and preparing for their assault. In the trailer, Knott is straining his eyes, looking for anything out of the ordinary, no easy task given the grainy resolution of the screens.

Suddenly the sergeant major leans forward and jubilantly shouts, "Right there!" before jabbing his finger at the screen. The air is electric with excitement, and the pilots deftly reorient the drone's cameras to focus on their prey.

Thousands of feet below the aircraft, the image clears to reveal Private First Class Todd Armstrong. The soldier is struggling to climb over a low wall that had just been cleared for IEDs, pulling security with his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), and simultaneously maintaining a low silhouette while carrying almost 70 lbs of gear.

The soldier's boots are unbloused. Additionally, it appears that one of the sleeves on his combat uniform was rolled to allow better access to his wrist-mounted GPS.

Knott smiles a wolfish grin and sprints out of the trailer into the main BDE Tactical Operations Center, grabbing a hand-mic from the nearest radio operator and declaring, "We got another one!"

After calling the company commander on the ground and ordering him to halt his men in place, the sergeant major begins a hasty lecture about uniform standards and the dangers of improper supervision by leaders. He also tells his UAV operators to swoop even lower in their search for infractions.

Approximately 15 minutes into the sergeant major's tirade, as the aircraft continues to buzz loudly over the stalled infantry, the unit commander interrupts the transmission to report that they had been compromised and were currently receiving heavy small arms and RPG fire.

"Roger, understand 'troops in contact,'" Knott tells the commander. "But let me just add that you need to inspect your soldiers better prior to going on patrol." As multiple medical evacuation requests began to flood the radios, Knott leaves his post to wait at the landing zone for the incoming wounded to ensure they are still wearing the proper protective gear.

The firefight lasted mere hours, but the Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) included four Field Grade Article 15's, two Letters of Reprimand, and seventeen counseling statements. When the weary Soldiers finally returned to base, they were directed to immediately stand in a formation where Sgt. Maj. Knott received the Army Achievement Medal for his action during combat.

ANNIVERSARIES

September 3, 1838; Frederick Douglass Escapes From Slavery: "It Is Not Light That Is Needed, But Fire"



Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

Frederick Douglass made his escape from slavery in Baltimore and went on in life to become an Abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate.

[During the Civil War, he pressed relentlessly for the enlistments of former slaves into the U.S. army, and when this was permitted, they served with honor and played an important role in defeating the slave-owning traitors who formed the Confederacy. T]

Frederick Douglass:

“Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”

“Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will.”

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.”

“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.”

“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.”

“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

September 4, 1970: Happy Anniversary: Operation Raw



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10

September 4, 1970

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) began Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal).

Over the following three days more than 200 veterans, assisted by the Philadelphia Guerilla Theater, staged a march from Morristown, New Jersey, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, reenacting the invasion of small rural hamlets along the way.

MORE:

Operation Raw **From The Days When U.S. Soldiers Rebelled And Stopped A War**

[From GI Special 3D22: 11.22.05]

By Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968
Letters To The Editor
Revolutionary Worker, April 9, 1985

It was Labor Day weekend 1970 — the end of summer when tradition in America is for friends and family to gather in back yards, beaches, and parks.

It was 10:30 a.m. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and a company of infantry swept into town, seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up roadblocks and taking civilian prisoners.

Anyone fleeing was killed, the rest were tortured and then killed just for being there. The younger women were particularly manhandled and abused before being killed. At 10:45 a.m., once again on alert, the company marched south of the town, leaving a trail of bloody bodies and survivors standing in their yards and streets, mute with shock, unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers. Leaflets lay in the streets which said:

“A U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY JUST CAME THROUGH HERE.”

“If you had been Vietnamese:

—We might have burned your house.

—We might have shot your dog.

—We might have shot you.

—We might have raped the women.

—We might have turned you over to your government for torture.

—We might have taken souvenirs from your property.

—We might have shot things up a bit.

—We might have done all these things to you and your whole town.

“If it doesn’t bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are ‘gooks,’ then picture yourself as one of the silent victims. Help us to end the war before they turn your son into a butcher. . . or a corpse. Signed Vietnam Veterans Against the War.”

With No Business As Usual Day fast approaching (and coming by coincidence right before the tenth anniversary of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam), I thought it was just the right time to recount this political action carried out by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

This was Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a four-day simulated, 90-mile search-and-destroy mission through eleven rural towns and villages from Morristown, New Jersey to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

By the end of four days 125 veterans and a few active-duty GIs had formed four platoons and two recon squads to reenact thirteen “incidents” like described above.

It was “theater,” but these reenactments brought home a powerful political statement that shook up the stultifying atmosphere in the middle-America towns which had largely escaped the mass upsurges of the time.

Formed in 1968 to lobby, this was VVAW’s first breakout action to bring the war home. As Scott Moore, a member of its executive committee, said at a press conference: “The time for talk has come to an end for VVAW. We have been talking for three years to no avail. We are now proceeding on a course of action.” The discussion of planning leading up to it had asked the questions of how to break through the normal business as usual protests that had been going on, to shake things up and expose the truth.

“Montgomeryville, PA., September 6, 1500 hours: We liberated a shopping center. The platoon surrounded it front and back and we took seven prisoners from the crowd. We interrogated them, then beat the shit out of them. After they’d been executed, we carried one girl who looked like she was fourteen over to the side of the road and mauled her with the butts of our rifles. Blood streamed down her head and soaked her torso. Maybe 150 cars passed by. Everyone looked, then turned aside. They didn’t look again. No one stopped. They couldn’t stand to

look at the bloody little kid” (excerpt from the Camden, NJ Courier Post reporting on the demonstration).

A local guerrilla theater company agreed to play the townspeople in the prearranged skits; towns and roads were mapped in advance so that as the company surrounded a home or a village — with walkie-talkies screaming and vets running all over the place, blood capsules bursting on library steps in front of meat stores — there was a sense of realism in the air as America’s safe hamlets were invaded. There could be no business as usual today.

Though their rifles were toy props, most of the vets were not acting.

In a few cases they had been doing this for real only a short time before, and in several “incidents” they went right to the edge of reality in carrying out their mission.

In town after town, and once by a county fair, homes were mock-burned, free fire zones formed, hostages taken for interrogation, and onlookers were given a taste of what the Vietnamese people were forced to live with.

None of the audience liked being called “round-eyed gooks,” offended by the sharp language of the leaflets being handed out. Reactions ranged from disbelief and shock to embarrassed laughter to damning U.S. involvement to some who thought the uniform was being disgraced.

Local communes and peace groups met the vets at different points with banners, signs, cars honking, fists out of windows. On September 5 this march met up with and camped with 60 members of the offshoot of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called MAN, Making a Nation, who were themselves marching to the UN to protest American failure to sign the antigenocide bill.

The tempo picked up as the march neared the end and word spread of this “forced raid into America.” The vets themselves got strong in their determination to see it through. At night the campsites were not drunken beerfests but preparation of another type — political discussion over what was the next step, what should our objectives be, how to reach out to the millions of vets and GIs out there trying to figure this out also.

This was sharp as there was a wide range of opinion — some were just basically opposed to Americans dying, with much discussion about the nature of imperialism, while others were revolutionaries working for the defeat of America. (All this with rotating night patrols on the perimeter -- — the campsite owners had been threatened by a local citizens committee, a car had tried to run someone down and a shotgun had been pointed out the window of a home along the route of march.)

The two sharpest points agreed to were (1) a series of objectives that drew the links between the racism and sexism to what America did around the world and that VVAW work toward getting all American soldiers and CIA out of every country in the world, and (2) a specific call to prepare for a series of war crimes investigations — the famous “Winter Soldier” hearings — to “place the blame

where it properly belongs, on administration and military officials and all those who dictate policy and remain silent or profit from war.”

As one vet summed up his feelings about the weekend: “the spirit that we would never again fight *for* America — America was the enemy that had to be stopped, that we were fighting as part of and for a different world — this became real on the march for me and became a guide for many vets later on.”

By the last day, spirits were high as the vets encountered a last bit of opposition — a pitiful display of what America has to offer — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, and John Birch Society denouncing the vets for not being vets and calling people to god and country.

The vets laughed at this as they reached Valley Forge, Pennsylvania where they formed up on a hilt, single file along the top, “rifles” up for a final assault. They moved down the hill as if back in Vietnam sweeping through a rice paddy — angrily chanting for American withdrawal.

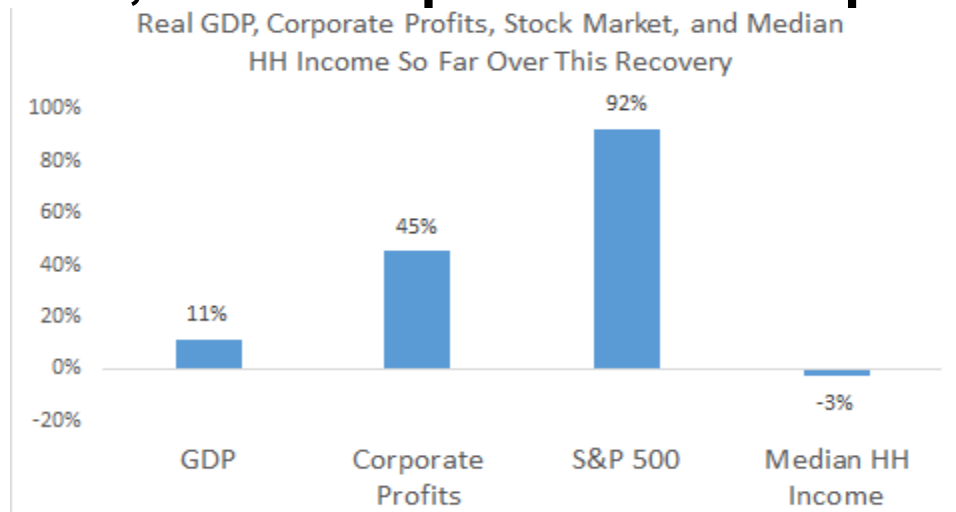
For the crowd of 1,500-2,000 at the rally site below — now standing up and cheering — the scene had a chilling’ scary effect — a final sense of what it must have been like to be Vietnamese in Vietnam in 1970.

“Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968; former national officer of Vietnam Veterans Against the War; organizer for Winter Soldier Investigation and Dewey Canyon 3, 1971.”

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

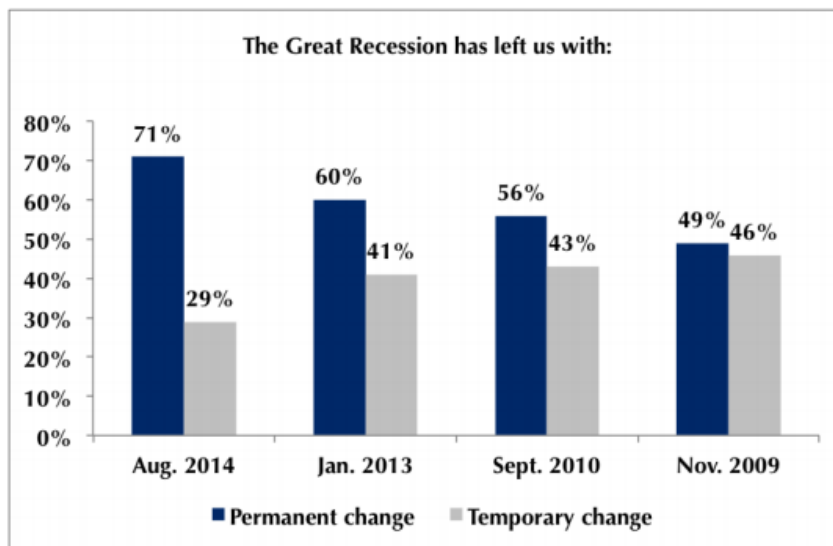


No, Most People Are Not Stupid



Sources: BEA, Standard and Poors, Sentier Research.

FIGURE 1. Widespread Perceptions of Permanent Economic Change



Source: Mark Szeltner, Carl Van Horn, and Cliff Zukin, *Diminished Lives and Futures: A Portrait of America in the Great Recession Era*, January 2013. Jessica Godofsky, Carl Van Horn, and Cliff Zukin, *American Workers Assess an Economic Disaster*, September 2010. Carl Van Horn and Cliff Zukin, *The No Confidence Economy*, November 2009 (New Brunswick, NJ: Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University).

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OCCUPATION PALESTINE



Zionist Forces Kill 12-Year-Old Palestinian Boy Near Hebron: “Khalil Was Playing In Front Of The House”



MaanImages

08/12/2014 Ma'an

HEBRON -- A 12-year old Palestinian boy was shot dead by Israeli soldiers while playing in front of his home in al-Fawwar refugee camp south of Hebron in the southern West Bank early Sunday, medics told Ma'an.

Palestinian medical sources at Hebron's al-Ahli Hospital told Ma'an that Khalil Muhammad Ahmad al-Anati arrived at the hospital after being shot in the back.

They said that the gunshot entered through the victim's lower abdomen and exited through his groin.

Doctors tried their best to resuscitate the boy and stop severe bleeding, but they announced his death shortly after he arrived in the emergency room.

Locals told Ma'an that shortly before the boy was killed an Israeli military force escorted Israeli engineers into a neighborhood known as Nabat al-Haffara for unknown reasons.

"We don't know what they (the Israelis) were doing," Yussef al-Anati told AFP, crying, his shirt soaked in blood after carrying his nephew to hospital.

"Khalil was playing in front of the house, then we heard gunfire. The kid was screaming and fell down," he said. "He was shot in the back and the bullet exited through his stomach."



MaanImages

A few young men hurled stones at the soldiers in response to the military incursion, and the soldiers subsequently opened fire at the boys, locals said.

A bullet hit al-Anati while he was standing in front of his home.

He was evacuated to the hospital in a private car. AFP gave a conflicting report of his age, quoting medics as saying he was 11.

Al-Fawwar is located south of Hebron near an Israeli military checkpoint that divides a number of local Palestinian communities close to the local illegal Israeli settlement of Haggay.

At least 17 Palestinians have been killed across the West Bank in the last month, amid widespread public anger and growing protests over an Israeli assault on Gaza that has killed more than 1,915 Palestinians in the last four weeks.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, check out:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with the years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VSF, stuck to him while he was on leave visiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1972 we've let out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you were over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to go, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of these patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right near to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, now they got addresses now.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food, we shared their. They used to walk go for the little treats in the certain parts, the guns and the cation cations and everything, and in fact they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all the expected from us was the empty boxes of cations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a souvenir which she had made out of a cation tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little Buddha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in panic. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any stink about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was the 1st or 2nd Battalion of the 1st Division and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son. He was one of

the stinks. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was no way we didn't get impeded at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw them when COL Bill Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personal-carrying items—throw them, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible, and seeing guys being carried in in ponchos. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought out rice and got out rice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, and on there'd be Viet Cong waiting the area. No houses at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Pull". "Pull" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took the kid real close. When we went to K and K we brought him back toys and books and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was in on coming down

Continued on page 8

WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to Sunny Nam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest volume entrepreneur in January was speeded up by graft mandates. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get forward information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "beneficial mission" he returned from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and night hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he accompanied by using US military aircraft, and his chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs."

The grim fact is that while the government hawks are flying in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that time, we'll have had more information on the two sides about it.

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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