

Military Resistance 13B3



**“This Is Not A Civil War
Between Peoples, But Between
Governments”**

**“Every Media Outlet, Every TV
Channel, Shows Propaganda”**

**“Ukrainian Media Shows One Sort,
Russian Media Shows The Other”**

**“I Don't Want My Father Go To War,
Either, For Those Rich Fat Cats? Sorry,
No”**

A rally against military conscription took place two days ago, on Feb. 2, 2015, in the village of Dneprovka, Zaporizhye region of Ukraine.

That's located in south-central Ukraine, south of the city of Dnipropetrovsk.

Enclosed is the text of the speech to the rally by a young woman resident of the village, a student of journalism. The translation from YouTube is by New Cold War.org.

This rally is typical of the antiwar rallies that are sweeping across Ukraine today. An article describing this antiwar wave will appear on this website in the coming days.



Anti-conscription rally in village of Dneprovka, Zaporizhye region of Ukraine, Feb 2, 2015

Good morning! I'm a daughter of a conscript.

Like you, I don't want my father go to war, either. Just tell me: for whom or for what? For those rich fat cats? Sorry, no.

0.19 I still live in a quiet, calm town. And now they want my father to go and shoot at his brothers.

We live near the graves of our grandfathers who fought for peace and a future during WW2. Now what do we face? Now, our fathers, uncles, brothers go to fight for those fat cats.

0.44 I'm sorry, but this war was started not by these ordinary men who stand behind me (points behind her) but by those rich people, who have great sums of money.

Those who are getting much richer now and who profit on this war. They make great sums of money on it and enrich their banking accounts.

1.02 So, for what should my father go now to fight? For whom?

It's a pity, because my grandfather and grandmother have seen and lived through war. And now? For what? What do they show us in TV? I'm a student of a journalism faculty. I'm a second-year student. Our teachers tell us: children, please, don't watch TV now.

1.28 Civil war is underway. But this is not a civil war between peoples, but between governments.

Every media outlet, every TV channel, shows propaganda. Ukrainian media shows one sort, Russian media shows the other.

1.43 Our TV-channel 5—is the media of (President] Poroshenko and they will never tell you that Poroshenko is just a piece of shit, ready to do anything provided it is paid well (the crowd cheers). They will not show it on TV for sure, because that's Poroshenko's media.

And the same goes on all other media.

2.00 I would also like to say that it was not us who started all this. But the burden will be left on ordinary men.

If the war touches our region then my father will go and fight. Then he will fight, for all of us, including me, my sister and mother and others. Then, all of us will come to fight. Here we see men and women, all ready to fight – but only for our families, but not for those rich money-bags.

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.

ACTION REPORTS

Outreach To New York National Guard: X2

From: Claude C
To: Military Resistance Newsletter

Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard
Date: Feb 4, 2015

Good day all,

Last week, C.C. and A.S. went to two locations outreaching to active duty soldiers.

They were able to give out 7 DVDs of 'Authority and Expectation', 6 or 7 newsletters and 10 contact cards. In total, they interacted with 22 soldiers that day.

[Authority and Expectation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyfkLubnyBw>]

A once friendly contact, a Sergeant that had seem quite receptive and engaged, had such a different persona this time that he was not even recognizable at first. He seemed quite nervous and a bit stand-offish while talking with them. He told them that soldiers were not allowed to take anything from people at all.

Yet, they learned that the various soldiers patrolling in different areas in NYC are not all from the same unit and it might be that what is true for one unit, may not be for the other.

It would more than likely be helpful to start noting the different unit patches to gain a better idea of who to engage as well.

MORE:

From: Alan S
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard
Date: Feb 7, 2015 4:41 PM

Outreach (2/6/15)

At a NYC commuter terminal a sergeant, upon being approached, seemed enthused that “people were doing something;” and wanted to know what Military Resistance does.

When told about organizing among troops against the war in Afghanistan she thought I meant leaving the military.

When told we wanted them to remain in service and organize within she felt “then nobody would be left in service” and “who would do it?”

She had accepted a DVD of “Authority & Expectations,” Iraq vet Wray Harris's indictment of the U.S. 2003 invasion and one of “Sir! No Sir!,” a history of the war in Vietnam as well [http://www.sirnosir.com/the_film/storefront.htm].

She glanced through an MR Newsletter I'd given her and also accepted a reprint of MR Newsletter, Volume: 12L Issue: 7 headlining how “After 13 years of war troops feel burned out, underpaid, and lacking a sense of mission.”

This reprint was especially created for outreach purposes. Quite a few have been passed out in other outreaches.

The sergeant then led me to two more NG members, both quite young, who didn't want to accept any material saying they "weren't supposed to." Refusals by troops at the commuter terminals of our material has always been a relatively common instance but perhaps now a bit more frequent than ever.

Nevertheless, as pointed out in the previous outreach report of 1/28, it may pertain to certain units and not others since total turn-downs on an outreach are rare. Regrettably I neglected to note ID patches here but will be more attentive next time.

As a matter of fact another sergeant recognized me later on and greeted me warmly.

Interestingly, he repeated a circumstance reported some time ago (in the same terminal) that both DVDs (see above) we hand out are "in the office" at Ft. Hamilton in Brooklyn among "many others" to be viewed by any and all.

It's always encouraging to hear such things.

He took material and his patrol partner, an airman (frequently encountered on outreach efforts beside NG troops), also took both DVDs, the reprint and an MR Newsletter with thanks.

All in all, 6 DVDs (3 of each), 3 MR Newsletters and 3 reprints were distributed this time.

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

The Military Resistance Organization:

Military Resistance Mission Statement:

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the war of empire in Afghanistan. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.

Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.

It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.

Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.

Membership Requirements:

7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.

8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

----- (Signed)

(Date)

----- (Application taken by)

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

MORE

You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference: Join The Military Resistance Organization: MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____

(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members
Civilians

@
@

Dues waived
\$25

Students/Unemployed @ \$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners @ Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

MORE

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

**MILITARY RESISTANCE:
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org**

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
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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.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgents Kill Somalia MP in Mogadishu

February 9, 2015 Horseed

Somali militant group al-Shabaab has shot dead a member of the Federal Parliament in the capital Mogadishu, the first killing of a legislator in 2015.

Abdullahi Qayad Barre was shot dead in the Hamar Jajab district on Monday while he was heading to attend a Parliament session. The Parliament is expected to carry out the vote of confidence for the new cabinet following weeks of bickering.

An official from al-Shabaab claimed the responsibility of the attack and threatened to continue the attacks on the legislators.

Security officials have said that they have arrested his driver in which they have linked him to the assailants.

The killing of the MP comes hours after over 100 members of the Parliament wrote a letter calling for the Parliament Speaker to resign, after accusing him of being "partial" to the government.

Since 2012 when the new parliament was formed, at least ten legislators have been gunned down in Mogadishu. Most of the assassinations have been claimed by al-Shabaab yet others were politically motivated.

MILITARY NEWS

**ISIS Militants Wearing Iraqi Military Uniforms Attack Iraqi Base Used By U.S. Soldiers:
"The Most Direct Attack On A Base Used By U.S. Forces Since The Current Conflict Began"**

“Some Officials Said At One Point That The Perimeter Of The Base Was Breached”

Feb. 13, 2015 By Julian E. Barnes, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]. Safa M. Majeed contributed to this article

WASHINGTON—Islamic State militants wearing Iraqi military uniforms and explosive vests attacked an Iraqi air base where U.S. military advisers are training Iraq’s security forces, the most direct attack on a base used by U.S. forces since the current conflict began.

The attack came a day after Islamic State militants took control of a town near the base, the first new territorial gain by the group in Iraq in many weeks, officials said.

On Friday, a group of 20 to 25 Islamic State militants, many dressed in Iraqi army uniforms, attacked the edge of the huge al-Asad Air Base before being repelled by Iraqi security forces, said Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary.

Adm. Kirby said a smaller group of fighters armed with suicide vests struck first, detonating their vests. They were followed by a larger group of about 15 fighters, who were going to try to storm the base, he said.

Most of the Islamic State fighters, Adm. Kirby said, were killed but he couldn’t provide a specific overall casualty report.

Military officials said U.S. and other coalition trainers were “several kilometers” away from the attack and were under no direct threat. There are 400 U.S. Marines and other service members at the base.

An Iraqi security-force official said that at the time of the attack, Islamic State militants also were firing rockets and mortars at the base.

On Thursday, Islamic State fighters moved against the nearby Iraqi town of al-Baghdadi.

The militants, according to an Iraqi official, took control of a number of government buildings after the local police fled following a pair of bombings.

Adm. Kirby said the U.S. assessment is that Islamic State has control of the town, but he cautioned not to make too much of the fall of al-Baghdadi or the attack on al-Asad.

The U.S., he said, still believes Islamic State fighters are on the defensive.

“We’ve said from the very beginning there’s going to be ups and downs,” he said.

Al-Baghdadi, which is less than 9 miles from the al-Asad base, has been under attack from Islamic State militants for months. In response to the attack, the Anbar provincial council renewed requests for military aid from Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

Militants also have launched repeated mortar and rocket attacks on al-Asad in recent weeks, but they have been considered ineffective. Al-Asad, about 100 miles west of Baghdad, is one of several bases where the U.S. military conducts training for Iraqi security forces and has become a high-profile target and a focus of Islamic State fighters.

Friday's assault was the first in which Islamic State forces sent an armed team to directly attack the base.

The U.S. provided overhead surveillance for the Iraqi force that repelled the attack, which was launched about 7:20 a.m. Iraq time.

Adm. Kirby and other officials said that reports on details of the attack were shifting as more information came in.

While some officials said at one point that the perimeter of the base was breached, Adm. Kirby said he couldn't pin down "the degree to which the perimeter was breached."

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

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

**The Road To Ruin:
“The Revolt That Would Explode At
The End Of 1842 And Destroy An
Entire British Army”
“A History Of The First Anglo-Afghan
War Describes The Consequences Of
Political Ignorance And Military Folly –
And The West’s Failure To Learn From
Past Mistakes”**

February 1, 2013 By Anatol Lieven, The Financial Times Limited.

Anatol Lieven is a professor in the war studies department of King’s College London and author of ‘Pakistan: A Hard Country’ (Penguin)



Anglo-Afghan war. The Last Stand at Gandamak. British invasion army is wiped out.

Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, by William Dalrymple, Bloomsbury, RRP£25, 608 pages

One of the most astonishing things about the western involvement in Afghanistan of the past decade, and the British shambles in particular, has been the failure to learn from or, indeed, to read accounts of previous failed interventions – even those by the officers of British regiments whose later incarnations are fighting in the country today.

Ignorance of Afghan history has not stopped a procession of contemporary “experts” from throwing about the cliché that we are in the grip of a new “Great Game”.

Aside from its lack of imagination, this parallel misses the most important point about the original: that, far from being a vital issue in 19th-century geopolitics, it was in fact something between a sideshow and an illusion. Within a few years of Rudyard Kipling’s coining the term, the British and Russian empires wound up their rivalry in the region when faced with the real common threat of Wilhelmine Germany.

This belated recognition of the pointlessness of the entire affair did not, of course, bring back to life the countless people who had died in the course of these imperial adventures over the previous 70 years.

In his brilliant new book on the first Anglo-Afghan war of 1839-42, Return of a King, the British historian and travel writer William Dalrymple describes the tragic beginnings of the Great Game in Afghanistan, and how unnecessary it all was.

The invasion to dethrone and replace the Afghan ruler Dost Mohammed Khan was prompted by fears of a Russian takeover of the country that were the merest paranoia.

The Russians had no plans whatsoever at that time to invade India through Afghanistan; nor could they have done so, since their frontier was still hundreds of miles to the north,

across the deserts of central Asia. The whole “threat” consisted of one semi-official emissary, Ivan Vitkevich (or rather Jan Witkiewicz, since he was Polish by birth), who was later disowned by the Russian government.

The report of Vitkevich’s arrival in Afghanistan was, however, enough to send the Governor-General of India, Lord Auckland, and an increasingly Russophobic political class and media in London, into a state of hysteria.

Exploiting the bitter rivalry between two branches of the royal clan, the British sent in an army to depose Dost Mohammed and replace him with his rival Shah Shuja, who had been living in exile in India.

As Dalrymple writes: “Shah Shuja remains a symbol of quisling treachery in Afghanistan: in 2001, the Taliban asked their young men, ‘Do you want to be remembered as a son of Shah Shuja or of Dost Mohammed?’”

Dalrymple notes – as do the Taliban – that Hamid Karzai, the present western-installed ruler of Afghanistan, is from the same sub-clan of the old royal tribe as Shah Shuja.

Initially, the conquest seemed to go well.

Dost Mohammed’s army was quite easily defeated, and with the help of generous British bribes, large numbers of Afghan chiefs and their followers swore allegiance to Shah Shuja.

The British were convinced that Afghanistan was now secure and stable under their client ruler.

But the British had not understood the fury that the presence of a large Christian (and Indian Hindu) army in their country would cause among conservative Muslim Afghans, especially when British officers started sleeping with Afghan women.

More importantly, they had not realised that most Afghan chiefs had not sworn permanent or unconditional loyalty to Shah Shuja, but only to accept his overlordship as long as it was to their advantage.

When the British pushed Shah Shuja to raise taxes to pay for a modern administration, and cut their own subsidies to the tribes, the chiefs lit the fuse to the revolt that would explode at the end of 1842 and destroy an entire British army.

Some of Dalrymple’s ancestors played a prominent role in the British conquest and administration of India. His great-great uncle, Captain Colin Mackenzie, was one of the few British officers to emerge from the Afghan debacle of 1842 with any credit.

However, this is far from being yet another account of a colonial war seen through the eyes of the colonialists. As with Dalrymple’s other books on British Indian history, *White Mughals* (2002) and *The Last Mughal* (2006), the greatest new contribution and the single greatest strength of this book is its employment of Afghan and Indian sources to examine the war from the point of view both of the Afghans themselves and the Indian soldiers who made up the majority of the “British” force.

The other thing that has marked out Dalrymple's historical works is his unflinching look at British imperial atrocities.

Others have touched on the sequel to the annihilation of the British Kabul garrison, when the British "Army of Retribution" fought its way to the Afghan capital and deliberately destroyed most of the city. Yet previous British accounts have tended to omit the most horrific details, even though they were amply recorded in memoirs of the time.

These included the massacre of much of Kabul's Hindu minority, who had taken no part in the war, and an attempt to do the same to the Qizilbash Shia, who had been British allies.

Having made their point, the British then withdrew with such haste that they failed to ransom many of their own Indian soldiers who had been captured during the retreat, and who for their service were left in Afghan slavery – despite appeals by British officers of the regiments concerned.

Dalrymple describes how the British withdrawal was accompanied by a wretched mass of Afghan refugees and crippled British Indian soldiers – "a whole variety of groups whose lives had been uprooted and ruined by Auckland's failed adventure".

Even 170 years later, the events described in Return of a King still have the power to shock – and so they should.

It is to be hoped that any future British leader contemplating intervention in Afghanistan, or any other part of the Muslim world, will read Dalrymple's book.

For while it is first and foremost a valuable contribution to the history of Afghanistan and the British Raj, it is also intended to draw parallels and convey lessons about the latest western involvement in the region – lessons, it is worth noting, that were not lost on the more intelligent British officials of the time.

The first is a warning against civilisational hubris.

Before the British invasion of 1839, a British intelligence chief warned: "There is nothing more to be dreaded ... than the overweening confidence with which we are too often accustomed to regard the excellence of our own institutions, and the anxiety that we display to introduce them in new and untried soils.

"Such interference will always lead to acrimonious disputes, if not to a violent reaction."

If he had still been around, Sir Claude Wade could have said exactly the same (and with as little effect) to the Soviets in the late 1970s and the Americans and their auxiliaries in 2001.

The second lesson concerns money.

Every intervention in Afghanistan has turned out to be far more expensive than was foreseen by its planners.

Yet attempting to economise invites disaster.

As Dalrymple describes, there were multiple reasons for the Afghan revolt against the British occupation; but the destruction of the British forces began when local British officials, under pressure from London to make cuts, radically reduced the money being paid to the tribes along the route from Kabul to India – at which point they rebelled and cut the passes.

The British had assumed that the tribes' professions of loyalty to the British client ruler in Kabul, Shah Shuja, somehow meant that it was no longer necessary to pay for that loyalty.

If US officials in future try to cut their financial support to the bloated Afghan national security forces that they have created, they will discover that they have made the same mistake.

The final lesson concerns the need to understand Afghanistan on its own terms, and not fit it into simplistic international frameworks – least of all those understood in terms of good versus evil and “you are either with us or against us” (a phrase used by President George W. Bush and previously by a Russophobe British official in the 1830s).

This in turn means not demonising the Afghan enemy of the moment.

Not only in 1842 but after another Anglo-Afghan war in 1878-80, the British ended by helping on to the throne one of their former enemies (in 1842, Dost Mohammed, against whom they had launched the whole mess) in order to put the country back together again.

American officials in the 1980s were full of moral fury against the Soviet-backed communist regime in Afghanistan. After 2001, they recruited former communist officers to help fight against descendants of the Pashtun Mujahedin whom America had helped little more than a decade earlier.

In view of this past record, it would not surprise me in the slightest if in the years to come the west finds itself relying on the Taliban to create order in large parts of Afghanistan. Certainly, the British survivors of 1842 would have found nothing unexpected in such an outcome.

But then, one of the most depressing aspects of Dalrymple's account is that most British officials only really tried to learn about Afghanistan when they were on the verge of abandoning the place.

Punxsutawney Phil Predicted At Least Ten More Years Of War:

“We’d Have Been A Lost Cause Without His Sage Advice Plunging Us Deeper And Deeper Into Continued Operations Without A Clear, Defined Purpose”



Intelligence officials confer with Punxsutawney Phil. (Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

February 2, 2015 by Epic Blunder, The Duffle Blog

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. – Senior defense and intelligence officials confirmed today that groundhog and famous prognosticator Punxsutawney Phil had predicted another 10 years of armed conflict for the United States, setting the stage for rising domestic tensions and embroiled diplomatic relations in the years to come.

“Blood, death and the savage destruction of innocence, ho ho!” the chubby woodchuck cheerily chortled. “Fire, brimstone and another generation of broken youth, oh boy!”

Top-level CIA officers have been conferring with the squirrely seer since 2005, according to sources, two years after it became strikingly clear that the mission in Iraq was, indeed, far from accomplished.

Recently declassified documents revealed the CIA’s consultations with the gregarious groundhog have cost the agency nearly \$100 million, though what extravagances the portly prophet indulges in remain undetermined.

“Oh, Phil’s just a swell guy, a real dandy fella, boy, I tell ya,” one agent said, on condition of anonymity, tipping his top hat while extolling the woodland soothsayer’s virtues. “And to think, he’s right fifty percent of the time! I don’t know about you, but I’ll take those odds any day.”

Emerging from his lair in Gobbler’s Knob, sources confirmed that Punxsutawney Phil prophesied at least ten more years of bitter strife and bloodshed in the Middle East,

assuring the fevered propagation of geopolitical discord, burgeoning defense expenditures, growing dependence on private military contractors, and an increasingly inept Department of Veterans Affairs likely to be bankrupt by 2025.

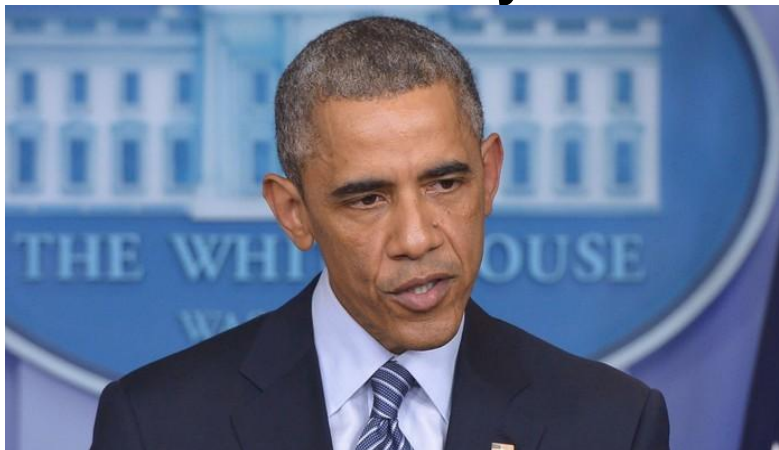
“Oh gee willikers, it looks like those rascallions just don’t know when to let up, but our boys will show ‘em what for!” whistled the merry marmot.

“No nation has ever benefited from prolonged warfare, but golly, the military-industrial complex is in for a real treat, ho ho!”

“Phil brings such valued insight to our defense strategy,” said Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “We’d have been a lost cause without his sage advice plunging us deeper and deeper into continued operations without a clear, defined purpose.”

At press time, White House sources reported that President Barack Obama had broken a mirror in the White House’s Executive Residence, ensuring at least seven years of bad luck for future occupants.

Last Line Of Obama’s Military Force Request Briefly Mentions Possibility Of 25-Year Quagmire: “The Proposal’s Language Intentionally Leaves The Door Open For A Future President To Extend The Authorization By One Or More Generations As Necessary”



Feb 11, 2015 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Following pages of subsections that would officially authorize continued airstrikes, rescue operations, and the deployment of U.S. Special Forces in the fight against ISIS, the final line of the military force proposal that President Obama delivered to Congress Wednesday is said to briefly mention the possibility of a 25-year-long quagmire.

“There is also a chance that we may become embroiled in a geopolitical nightmare until 2040,” reads the last sentence of the draft, immediately beneath a clause repealing the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq and a stipulation that Obama regularly provide Congress with updated reports on the offensive.

“And the cost of such an entanglement could amount to several trillion dollars and tens of thousands of lives, too.”

Legal scholars noted that the proposal’s language intentionally leaves the door open for a future president to extend the authorization by one or more generations as necessary.

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ANNIVERSARIES

February 11, 1937:

A Victory For Our Side

“They Faced Tear Gas Attacks, Heat Shutoffs, And Battled With Police And Company Security Guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy Sent In The National Guard”



Michigan National Guard confronting union supporters outside GM plants in Flint, 1937

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

February 11, 1937:

Forty-eight thousand General Motors workers won a 44-day sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan.

Walter P. Reuther Library:

The Great Flint Sitdown: On February 11, 1937, several hundred members of the United Automobile Workers Union (UAW) emerged from three General Motors (GM) factories in Flint, Michigan to the sounds of cheering crowd.

These workers had just completed a 44-day sitdown strike. Less than two years old, the UAW had won its first major victory.

Auto factories were tough places to work during the early years of the industry. The pace of work was controlled by the ever-increasing speed of the assembly line and the foreman held the power to hire or fire workers at will. Many jobs were physically demanding, machines had few safety devices, and industrial accidents were common. On August 26, 1935, auto workers organized the UAW to bargain for better wages and working conditions.

The Flint Sitdown began on December 30, 1936 when UAW leaders decided to call a strike against GM. The goal of the strike was simple: GM recognition of the UAW.

For over six weeks members of the UAW stopped production and refused to leave the plants they occupied. They slept on unfinished car seats, eating food their families and friends slipped through factory windows.

They faced tear gas attacks, heat shutoffs, and battled with police and company security guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy sent in the National Guard.

Faced with an enormous loss of production, GM conceded to the strikers' demands and signed a one-page document, agreeing to bargain with the UAW. This was one of the key events in American labor history.



The Flint Sitdown Strikers win February 11, 1937

February 13, 1968: The Anniversary Of Five Honorable Soldiers Who Stood Up

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

Five soldiers were arrested at a pray-in for peace in Vietnam at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Two were court-martialed for refusing to stop praying. The pray-in was repeated a year later.

STUCK ON STUPID

Texas School Shitheads Suspend 9-Year-Old For Making 'Terroristic Threats' With Magic 'Hobbit' Ring



This is the third and strangest suspension for Aiden Steward, 9, pictured on the right with a sibling, at the Texas school district. Foto: Jason Steward

January 31, 2015 BY Nicole Hensley, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS & 01 Feb 2015 by Scott Kaufman, Raw Story

A fourth grader in Kermit, Texas was suspended for making “terroristic threats” after allegedly telling a classmate that he had a “magic ring” that could make the boy disappear, the Odessa American reports.

According to Kermit Elementary School officials, 9-year-old Aiden Steward told a classmate that he possessed a magic ring forged in Mount Doom — a fictional location from J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* series.

Aiden claimed Thursday he could put a ring on his friend's head and make him invisible like Bilbo Baggins, who stole Gollum’s “precious” in J.R.R. Tolkien’s fantasy series “*The Lord of the Rings*.”

Principal Roxanne Greer declined to comment on the fourth-grader’s suspension, citing confidentiality policies, according to the Odessa American, who first reported Aiden’s troubles Friday.

Aiden’s father, Jason, told *The Daily News* that his family had just watched *The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies* earlier that week, and that his son “didn’t mean anything” when he told his classmate he was in possession of the “one ring to rule them all.”

“Kids act out movies that they see. When I watched *Superman* as a kid, I went outside and tried to fly,” he said.

“I assure you my son lacks the magical powers necessary to threaten his friend’s existence,” he added. “If he did, I’m sure he’d bring him right back.”

Kermit Elementary Principal Roxanne Greer told the Odessa American that she could not comment on the suspension, because “all student stuff is confidential,” but Steward said that she told him that any and all threats to a child’s safety — including magical ones — would be taken seriously by the school.

He also said that he requested, in writing, a detailed explanation as to how his son’s statements constituted a “terroristic threat,” and that he was told by a representative of the Kermit Independent School District that the school would mail him a letter.

The family moved to the Kermit Independent School District only six months ago, but it’s been nothing but headaches for Aiden. He’s already been suspended three times this school year.

Two of the disciplinary actions this year were in-school suspensions for referring to a classmate as black and bringing his favorite book to school: “The Big Book of Knowledge.”

“He loves that book. They were studying the solar system and he took it to school. He thought his teacher would be impressed,” Steward said.

But the teacher learned the popular children’s encyclopedia had a section on pregnancy, depicting a pregnant woman in an illustration, he explained.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Stupidest Police Lies Of 2015 So Far:

“They Were Concerned About The Safety Of Protesters Marching In The Street At Night ‘Clad In Dark Colors’”

“They Arrested Lynch-Zorlu Because They Thought Her ‘Personal Safety At Peril’”

Some 50 community supporters came out to the Holyoke, Massachusetts, district courthouse on January 23 to show support for Vanessa Lynch-Zorlu, a local activist who was unjustly arrested at a November protest against the grand jury decision in Ferguson.

Lynch-Zorlu is a fixture in local movements around civil rights and equality, and is highly active in the Black Lives Matter movement in the area, as well as other groups such as Springfield No One Leaves and ARISE. She has taken part in many marches and protests in Northampton, Holyoke and surrounding communities in Western Massachusetts.

On one of these marches, on November 30 last year in Holyoke, Lynch-Zorlu was arrested. She and others organized the protest to honor Barbados Independence Day and show solidarity with the family of Mike Brown after the refusal of the Ferguson grand jury to indict Officer Darren Wilson.

The turnout for the protest was much smaller than usual, which Lynch-Zorlu believes made it an easier target to be harassed and dispersed by local police. She and six other people started a march down High Street when four police cruisers inserted themselves in the path of their march.

Knowing they had the right to march unless told they were participating in an illegal assembly and ordered to disperse, the protesters walked around the cruisers and continued down the street.



Vanessa Lynch-Zorlu (left foreground) leads protesters challenging racism and police violence

According to Lynch-Zorlu, this series of events was repeated two more times. After the third time, five officers came running at her, yelling. While trying to make out their statements and get an explanation for their hostility, Lynch-Zorlu was grabbed from behind by one of the officers. She yelled to let people know what was happening, but gave no further resistance. Lynch-Zorlu was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Police later told a reporter from Mass Live that they stumbled on the march while on their way to investigate an unrelated incident of narcotics being sold on Elm Street--they

claimed they were concerned about the safety of protesters marching in the street at night “clad in dark colors.”

They went on to claim that they arrested Lynch-Zorlu because they thought her “personal safety at peril.”

When the two versions of events are stacked side by side, they raise a few important questions about the police response--questions which highlight some of the problems that the Black Lives Matter movement is trying to communicate.

First, assuming they were responding to an actual crime when they “stumbled on” this peaceful march, why did the police stop to harass the protesters?

Could one cruiser have stayed while the others investigated the alleged crime they were supposedly investigating?

Why was it necessary for four cruisers to respond to a group of seven peaceful marchers?

What does this show of force and level of hostility say about the priorities and attitudes of the Holyoke police towards the community they are supposed to be protecting?

When a call was put out for local activists to show up for Vanessa's court date, it was received loud and clear.

About 50 people showed up at the courthouse on the frigid January morning, including local activists, members of the International Socialist Organization, and other student organizations.

The mass mobilization of state and local police in the courthouse would have made one think they were expecting an army.

Before going in, Lynch-Zorlu led the group on a march around the block to chant slogans. While marching, we received welcome support from people driving by and walking on the sidewalk, showing their solidarity through raised fists and honking horns. When Vanessa went inside to see what the court would offer her, the group continued to show their support with a rally outside the courthouse.

She emerged a few minutes later and said they wanted her to pay \$150 and sweep the whole thing under the rug. Since she had done nothing wrong, she rejected this offer and demanded her right to see a judge.

The group began to file into the courthouse with Vanessa when she reentered the court to see the judge, but before half the group could be checked in, the judge made a hasty decision to reduce the criminal charge to a civil infraction and maintain the fine. Lynch-Zorlu contested this, and a closed hearing was scheduled for March 11.

After leaving the courthouse, Vanessa led us in a four-and-a-half-minute moment of silence for the four-and-a-half hours that Mike Brown's body laid in the streets, and the group dispersed.

She spoke to the group about the decision, the greater movement and its relevance to Holyoke. She highlighted the inequality and backwards priorities of the city by bringing to light the story of a local building which had collapsed--putting many local minority business owners and tenants out of homes, and out of business.

The community had been trying to bring these unsafe conditions to the attention of the city, but the city chose to allocate the funds for the large police presence to crack down on minor crimes and peaceful protests as opposed to the poverty and inequality that is at the root of the problem.

Vanessa's next court date is on March 11. It is a closed hearing, but supporters have been encouraged to gather outside the courthouse in solidarity. Hopefully, the extra time for organization and the nicer spring weather will bring out an even larger turnout. On a related note, January 30 is the next upcoming court date in Springfield for Ayyub Abdul-Alim, who was set up by the FBI for refusing to work for them as an informant within the Muslim community.

It will be important for activists from Western Massachusetts to mobilize for both of these court dates. We need to put an end to police brutality, delegitimize mass incarceration, and stop the New Jim Crow once and for all.

Homeless Man Killed By Hail Of Police Bullets: Suspect Trying To Run Away

February 12, 2015 By David Edwards, Raw Story

Police in Washington state said they were forced to kill a man who was armed with rocks, but witnesses claim the suspect was trying to run away.

The Bellingham Herald reported that "more than a dozen witnesses" watched Pasco police officers confront a man outside Vinny's Bakery and Cafe on Tuesday. The man was observed throwing a rock at a passing vehicle before police arrived.

According to the witnesses, the suspect was holding a rock, and appeared to threaten officers.

Ben Patrick said that he was just yards away when he saw officers try to shock the man with their Tasers. "The guy was trying to pull the Taser out of his arm," Patrick said.

Cellphone video posted to YouTube shows the man confronting police before the officers fire three shots and then begin chasing the suspect. The officers appear to corner the man in the blurry video, and about 10 more shots are fired.

"It was just a rock!" one of the witnesses yells at the officers.

In the video, a motionless body can be seen lying next to a building with officers standing over it.

“He’s already dead!” a witness says, as the officers handcuff the suspect.

Patrick told the Bellingham Herald that the man’s back was turned to officers when he was shot to death.

“I really thought they were just going walk up and tackle or tase him,” he explained. “But they opened fire. His back was turned.”

Patrick’s wife, Shannon, witnessed the shooting, and told a similar story. “He turned around to take off running and the cops just shot him,” she said.

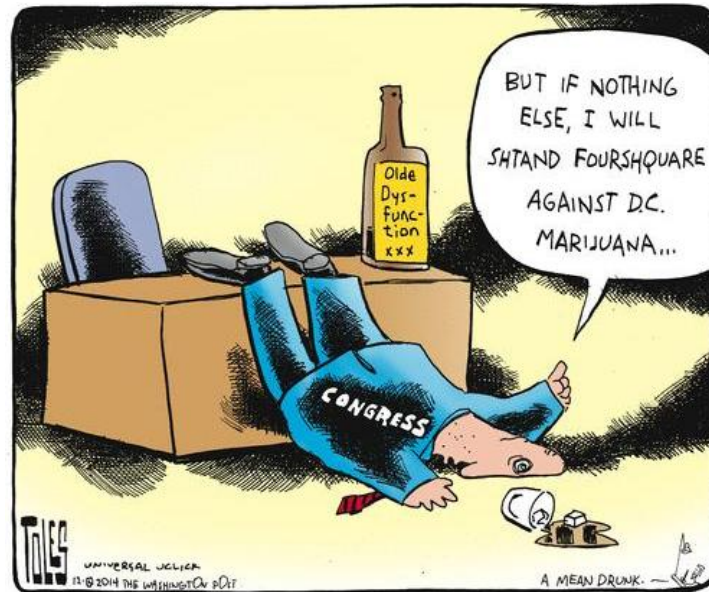
“All he was trying to do was walk away.”

But police spokesperson Capt. Ken Roske insisted in a statement that the officers were forced to open fire because they had been threatened.

“He (didn’t) comply with their commands as far as we know right now,” Roske said.

In a statement released later in the evening, the Pasco Police Department said that “officers were assaulted by the suspect and a Taser was used but not successfully.”

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionists Attack Palestinian Taxi Driver in Occupied West Jerusalem

February 15, 2015 by IMEMC News & Agencies

A number of Israelis, on Saturday night, assaulted a Palestinian taxi driver while he was at work in West Jerusalem, according to witnesses.

Wafa reports that witnesses present at the scene said a group of Israelis attacked Ibrahim Bader, who works as a taxi driver, and bruised him throughout his body. Bader was transferred to hospital for medical treatment.

This incident is a continuity of previous attacks seemingly targeting Palestinians in areas where they live next to and work with Israelis.

There have been rounds of tension escalating from time to time in recent years, but the most violent one was arguably in July 2014, when Israeli settlers kidnapped 17-year-old Muhammad Abu Khdeir, from the Arab neighborhood of Shu'fat and burned him alive.

Abu Khdeir was found dead in a wood near West Jerusalem, hours after he was kidnapped.

On November 2014, a resident of the Jerusalem neighborhood of al-Tour, who works as a bus driver with Egged Israeli Transport Company, was found hanged by settlers with a rope wrapped around his neck.

The driver was then identified as Yusuf Rammouni, age 32.

Settler violence in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank also involves (but is not limited to) acts of arson, predawn attacks on vulnerable villages, stone-throwing, uprooting of plants and hit-and-run attacks.

According to the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, "Rather than restricting violent settlers, Israeli security forces impose restrictions on the Palestinians."

B'Tselem took an example to that, when in April 2011, settlers threw stones at Palestinian vehicles on Route 60, after Palestinian policemen shot an Israeli settler who broke into Joseph's Tomb, in Nablus.

In response, the military forbade Palestinians from traveling on the section of the road between the Huwara intersection and Jit village, imposing collective punishment at Palestinians.

Occupation Forces Attack March In Azzoun Town Demanding Opening Of Gate



15.02.2015 Altahrir & PIC

QALQILIYA, Palestine

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) on Saturday violently suppressed a protest march calling for opening the gate of Azzoun town, east of Qalqiliya, and wounded a number of young men.

Eyewitnesses said that Imad al-Kholi, 21, and Nihad Radwan, 20, suffered rubber bullet injuries in their heads when Israeli troops fired rubber bullets and tear gas grenades at the march.

They added that many protesters received medical treatment after inhaling tear gas.

Dozens of young men marched in the afternoon to the closed eastern gate of the town to demand the occupation authorities to open it and lift movement restrictions.

Activists from the town had called for expanding the popular participation in the march and organizing it every Saturday in the town.

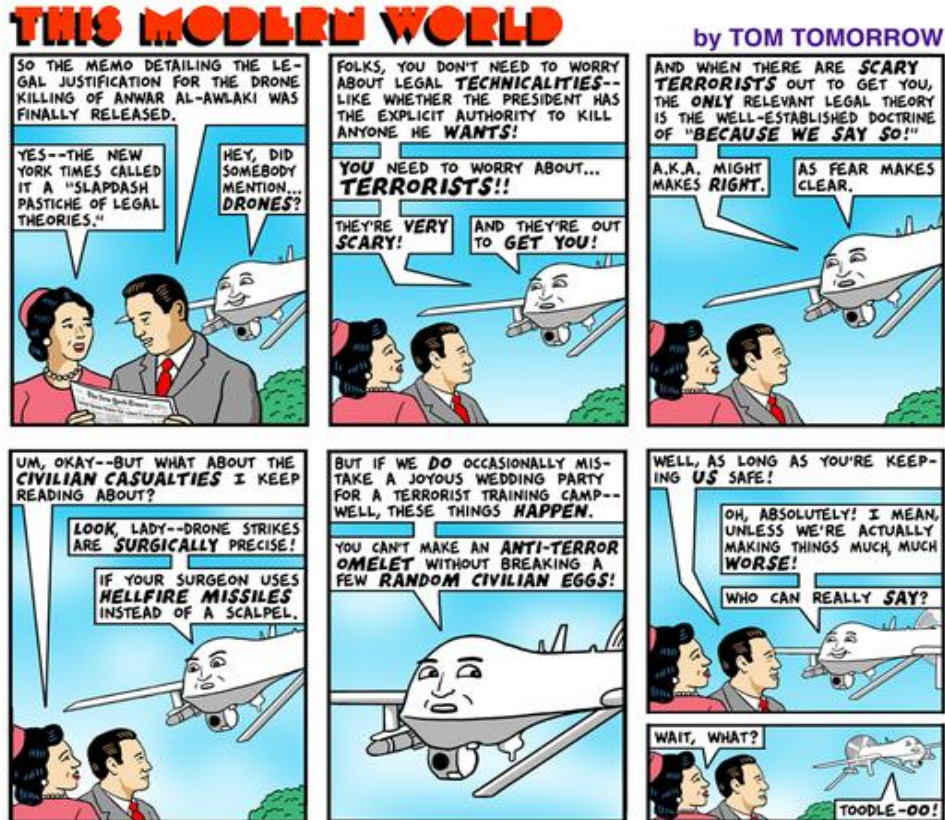
They said that the purpose of the protests are to open the gate to nonresidents.

The village of Azzoun is nearly 90 percent surrounded by the segregation wall.

There is only one entrance and exit from the village and only residents are allowed to pass through the gate, although there are sometimes movement restrictions on the residents themselves.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.maanneews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>
 The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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