

GI SPECIAL 7B15:

The Future Confronts The Past:

Workers And Soldiers Together

Against The Government:

**They Marched In The Streets Of
Budapest To Protest Against
Government Dictated Cutting Of**

Their Pay:

**“I Serve For My Mother-Country. And
You?”**



[Only this week posted on Yahoo photographs: not a word about it at the time. T]
Budapest, Hungary: A local soldier stands in front of a banner that reads: "I serve for my mother-country. And you?" More soldiers are seen behind him, on both sides. Hungarian workers and soldiers went into the streets in late November 2008. They marched against the bankers' crises the led to the government cutting the pay of troops and civil service workers. (AFP/File/Attila Kisbenedek)

MORE:

“Revolutionary Movements From Below Become A Liberation And Celebration Of Life And Human Potential”

“In These Recordings, One Hears For One’s Self The Sound Of That Spirit Unleashed, Truly Bursting Windows And Doors; Truly Shaking The World”



Workers and Soldiers Together: The Russian Revolution

<http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/memoir/RusRev/images/rr19.jpg>

Music Review: T

CD: History of the Soviet Union in Ballad & Song: Vol. 1: Songs of the Revolution and the Civil War:

www.folkways.si.edu/albumdetails.aspx?itemid=1006

Some years ago, who knows why, Hollywood decided to celebrate the life of John Reed, American revolutionary socialist, journalist, author of *Ten Days That Shook the World* and observer-participant in October 1917 when armed insurrection brought the Russian working class to power.

The film was called "Reds".

In several powerful scenes, workers march through the streets of Petrograd while revolutionary songs boom out from the sound track.

This CD is not music "from the movie."

The film makers took their music from what is offered now on this CD: very old but clean recordings sung by Russians, released originally on 78's in the 1920s to celebrate the revolution, and now reissued by Folkways/Smithsonian.

The film used only a few minutes of this material.

But here are presented all of the 14 great revolutionary songs from those days of hope, before the traitor-rat Stalin and the scum backing him killed the Russian revolution to restore their own diseased version of capitalism.

The Internationale, The Red Flag, For The Power of the Workers Councils, You Fell Victim, Red Army -- the great marching song of the revolutionary troops -- and 9 more.

John Reed wrote of hearing these songs in the Petrograd central workers council when the announcement was made that the revolution was successful and all power was safely in the hands of the workers and soldiers government

"Suddenly, by common impulse, we found ourselves on our feet, mumbling together into the smooth lifting unison of the Internationale."

"A grizzled old soldier was sobbing like a child.

"The impulse rolled through the hail, burst windows, and soared into the sky.

"The war is over, the war is over, said a young workman near me, his face shining...."

With the CD comes a booklet of 16 photographs of the revolution, and 12 pages of text giving the history of each song, with Russian-English translation of the words

Revolutionary movements from below become a liberation and celebration of life and human potential.

In these recordings, one hears for one's self the sound of that spirit unleashed, truly bursting windows and doors; truly shaking the world.

MORE:

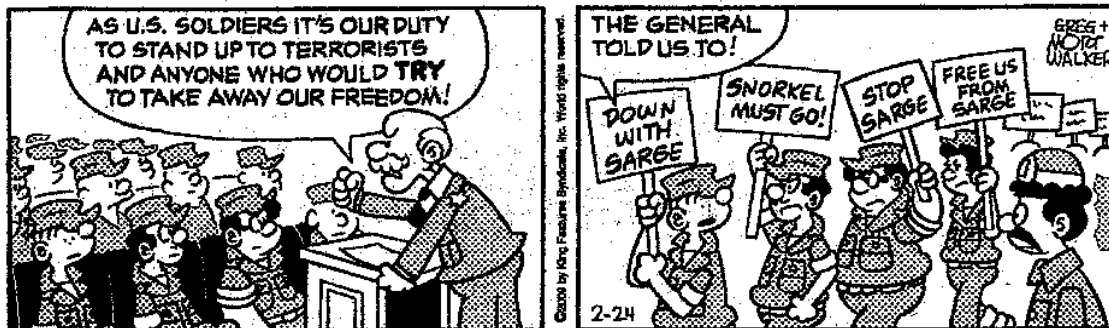
**The Occupied USA:
“Walking Up To A Fence” Is Now A
Crime:
Yeah, This Country Needs A
Revolution, Armed Revolution To Be
Specific:
Led By Our Troops, To Be More Specific**



U.S. Border Patrol terrorist scum arrest Rev. John Fanestil after he attempted to walk up to the U.S.-Mexico border fence during a protest at Border Field State Park in San Diego Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009. (AP Photo/Denis Poroy)

MORE:

“Then There Came A Cloud In The Distance, No Bigger Than A Man’s Hand, That Grew Into A Mighty Storm”



Army Times Cartoon: 2.23.09

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on 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 the wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

ACTION REPORTS

Contacts With New York National Guard:

“No Polite Denials But Almost Eager Acceptance Instead”

From: Alan Stolzer, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: February 20, 2009 10:45 AM
Subject: Two Day Outreach

TWO DAY OUTREACH

Not having made outreach rounds in a while, I decided to resume searching RR stations as soon as time permitted.

I've learned going before noon is best since patrol schedules changed months ago from every day to unpredictable appearance for National Guard troops at NY's RR and bus stations

At 11:30 I found a total of 5 soldiers at my first stop. I spotted a group of 3; two young female soldiers and one male, first. All were exceedingly polite and one even recognized me from MP armory outreaches.

She gladly accepted a GI Special saying what she'd previously read was "deep." Her eyes widened as I handed her that terrific issue of GI Special depicting the brief WWI Armistice. She certainly seemed hungry for information, especially the historical type.

Immediately afterward I spotted two male troops a bit further away. One greeted me as "the cookie man" since he also knew me from the armory. Their conduct was similar to the first three.

Moreover, all five didn't say a word about "not being allowed to accept material" as sometimes is the case.

In other words, no polite denials but almost eager acceptance instead.

The next day turned up no troops at another RR station but I stopped in a store where I'd had success before with store clerks who knew people in the armed forces.

Many supply stores employ young people of color and many of these have relatives/friends in the military.

Almost all who do gladly accept the lit since their military contacts usually don't like the wars, especially if they've already been deployed.

One young woman accepted a GI Special for her cousin who deployed to Iraq last week.

She said she'll definitely send it to her. I'll go by again before long and find out how that Marine cousin she already misses reacted to the lit.

Troops are the first line of outreach, sure, but there are even more of their contacts about if you don't find soldiers, Marine, sailors or airmen/women first.

All kinds of stores are full of such people.

So carry some lit with you.

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 GI Special 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.

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.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war. If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Khordi

February 22, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 115-09

Staff Sgt. Jeremy E. Bessa, 26, of Woodridge IL, died Feb. 20, in Khordi, Afghanistan, when his military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device followed by small arms fire attack by enemy forces.

Master Sgt. David L. Hurt, 36, of Tucson, AZ, died Feb. 20, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, from wounds received during the same incident.

They were assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

[Groundhog Day]

2001:

“The Fact That We Haven’t Won Support Among The Pashtuns, As Many Of Us Expected, Is One Of The Main Reasons Our Military And Political Objectives Have Gotten Bogged Down,”

Said One U.S. Official

“When The U.S. Began Its Bombing Campaign

Administration Officials

Anticipated A Brisk Wave Of Defections Among Pashtuns”

“The Problem Is That The Bombing Quickly Became Seen As An Anti-Pashtun Campaign Above All”

“This Forced Many Pashtuns To Side With The Taliban As Their Main Defender”

By NEIL KING JR., Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Despite continuing misgivings, the Bush administration has cast its lot with the opposition Northern Alliance in Afghanistan largely because the U.S. has failed to win anti-Taliban support among the country's crucial Pashtun population in the south.

[T]he effect on the effort to topple the Taliban has been significant as Pashtun tribal leaders rally around the regime, and hopes fizzle for a second front of opposition from the south, they add.

"The fact that we haven't won support among the Pashtuns, as many of us expected, is one of the main reasons our military and political objectives have gotten bogged down," said one U.S. official with long experience in the region.

When the U.S. began its bombing campaign almost four weeks ago, administration officials said they anticipated a brisk wave of defections among Pashtuns in the southern and eastern regions of the country, which are controlled by the Taliban.

The administration hoped disenchanted Pashtuns would take up arms, as the opposition Northern Alliance has done in the north, and help squeeze the Taliban from two sides.

But the attacks have had the opposite effect as U.S. jets struck Pashtun strongholds in Kandahar and Jalalabad, and American military planners talked of siding with the northern rebels, a group long seen as inimical to Pashtun interests.

This forced many Pashtuns to side with the Taliban as their main defender U S officials now say.

Although every one of Afghanistan's neighbors is part of the US led alliance, each is taking an increasingly strident stance on which Afghans should or shouldn't join a new government in Kabul

Their antagonism of each other is weakening the alliance and providing the Taliban with another propaganda coup as they play one neighbor off against another.

Pashtuns account for at least 40% of Afghanistan's 27 million people, and have been the country's dominant force, except in the early 1990s, when the same clique of ethnic Uzbeks and Tajiks that now form the Northern Alliance held Kabul.

The Taliban, which took control of the capital in 1996, is overwhelmingly Pashtun.

"The problem is that the bombing quickly became seen as an anti-Pashtun campaign above all," said Lee Coldren, a retired State Department official with long experience in Afghanistan.

"Winning Pashtun support now will be tough."

According to Afghan refugees arriving in the Pakistani border cities of Peshawar and Quetta, Taliban morale has strengthened and the regime has been able to muster more recruits, though many are conscripts rather than volunteers.

Tens of thousands of tribesmen in Pakistan — which has a sizable Pashtun population — also are mobilizing to enter Afghanistan and fight for the Taliban.

“The Taliban have successfully created the impression inside Afghanistan that they are getting stronger, and if they can last out for the next few weeks until winter and Ramadan comes, they will have defeated the U.S. attack,” said the Afghan head of an Afghan nongovernmental organization in Peshawar who travels into Afghanistan frequently.

Even before the bombing began, operatives from the Central Intelligence Agency were trying — with little success — to reach out to Pashtun leaders, mainly within the Afghan exile community in Pakistan. The agency offered money and logistical help, including satellite telephones and global-positioning systems that would enable CIA recruits to pass along intelligence that might help the U.S. target the Taliban and track clown Osama bin Laden.

But the CIA effort has largely flopped, U.S. officials say.

Critics contend that the lack of success shows that the agency’s knowledge of the area is scant, and that little goodwill remains from the 1980s when the CIA helped organize and arm the jihad against Soviet occupation.

MORE DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN:

**MORE 2001:
“The CIA And The Bush
Administration Don’t Share The
Same Short-Term Goals”
“While Some Would Like The U.S.
To Exert Maximum Efforts To Oust
The Taliban And Replace It With A
New Government, The CIA Seems**

More Focused On Destroying The Al Qaeda Terrorist Network There”

““Where Does It Say We Need A Substitute Government?’ Said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Porter Goss”

“The Danger Is We Get Caught Up In A Policy Dispute About What’s The Future Of Afghanistan And Get Distracted From Our Mission To Stamp Out Terrorism”

Hamid Karzai is another Pashtun factional leader who has been in Afghanistan for two weeks on a similar mission to arouse anti-Taliban activity.

Mr. Karzai is a political leader with deep tribal links. There are signs he enjoys more American backing.

11.24.01

By David Rogers and Steve LeVine, Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Taliban’s execution of a prominent opposition foe has become a public relations nightmare for the Central Intelligence Agency and illustrates the gap between the CIA’s immediate goal of gathering up intelligence to destroy terrorist networks and the longer-term desire to build a new Afghan government.

Abdul Haq, a fabled exiled veteran of the war to drive out Soviet troops, was captured on Friday and executed shortly afterward. He had entered Afghanistan from Pakistan just five days earlier to try to generate opposition to the Taliban among fellow Pashtuns, Afghanistan’s largest ethnic group.

His capture has provoked criticism of the CIA at a time when it is trying to gain credibility with Pashtun forces in southern and eastern Afghanistan.

Mr Haq’s American backers said he needed help to move over the border covertly and airlift a radio transmitter and arms into Afghanistan. Toward this end, Haq allies held discussions with A.B. “Buzzy” Krongard, the CIA’s executive director.

But U.S. officials say that when CIA operatives met with Mr. Haq a day before he entered Afghanistan, they offered only satellite telephones and some cash.

Mr. Haq apparently declined the aid as too little too late to help his cause.

James Ritchie, an American businessman who worked closely with Mr. Haq, said the rebel leader regarded the offer of the phones as a way to track his movements while not aiding his mission.

In the end, an armed CIA drone was sent in to Afghanistan to try to help Mr. Haq when he was cornered by the Taliban, but that couldn't prevent his capture. Other U.S. military aircraft also reportedly were dispatched.

"It is an appalling failure to engage with people who could help us," said Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security adviser and a paid consultant to Mr. Ritchie's older brother Joe, a prominent 54-year-old Illinois investor.

The criticism has magnified attention to the agency's alleged failings.

In a more subtle way, the harsh words may reveal that the CIA and the Bush administration don't share the same short-term goals as some of their critics within the anti-Taliban camp.

While some would like the U.S. to exert maximum efforts to oust the Taliban and replace it with a new government, the CIA seems more focused on using contacts in and around Afghanistan to gather up information that will help in destroying the al Qaeda terrorist network there.

"Where does it say we need a substitute government?" said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Porter Goss of Florida. "This is a region of tribes that haven't gotten along with one another, . . . The danger is we get caught up in a policy dispute about what's the future of Afghanistan and get distracted from our mission to stamp out terrorism."

The U.S. has other leaders to lean on for support.

Hamid Karzai is another Pashtun factional leader who has been in Afghanistan for two weeks on a similar mission to arouse anti-Taliban activity.

Mr. Karzai is a political leader with deep tribal links. There are signs he enjoys more American backing.

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR**

NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of Staff Sgt. Alex Jimenez and Specialist Byron Fouty at Arlington National Cemetery Feb. 17, 2009. Jimenez of Lawrence, Mass., and Fouty of Waterford, Mich., both of the 10th Mountain Division, killed in May 2007 outside of Baghdad. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Wisconsin Combat Veteran Refuses To Return To Iraq: “By Making Him Take Part, The Government Broke The Contract Under Which He Agreed To Defend The U.S.” Iraq War “An Illegitimate, Unnecessary Campaign”

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Project, who sent this in.]

February 22, 2009 Grand Forks Herald & 2/20/09 Green Bay Press Gazette

A Wisconsin Army Reservist refused to leave Friday to return to his unit in Iraq, saying he's disillusioned with the U.S. role there.

Spc. Kristoffer Walker, 28, Green Bay, said he e-mailed his squad leader, platoon sergeant and company first sergeant in Iraq, stating he won't return from his two-week leave.

When his initial enlistment ended, he joined the Army Reserve unit headquartered in Buffalo, Minn. The unit was activated in July and deployed to Samarra, Iraq, in October.

Walker said he hasn't pursued conscientious objector status because it would be futile. "The Army's definition is a little different than mine," Walker said. "The Army's definition is that you have to be opposed to war and all its forms. That's not me. I absolutely support using military force to respond or retaliate to attack. By their standards, you're not allowed to object to one conflict over another."

Walker has served with the 353rd Transportation Company out of Buffalo, Minn., which deployed to Iraq in October. He said he was a truck driver for the first two months, and since then, he's worked in the headquarters office.

Walker said Friday night that he originally enlisted in the Army in February 2002, motivated by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and served a tour in Iraq as an infantryman.

After four years active duty, he later joined the Reserves.

He said he now views the Iraq war as "an illegitimate, unnecessary campaign," and he feels that by making him take part, the government broke the contract under which he agreed to defend the U.S.

Walker said he has been seeking a transfer for several months, contacting elected officials and military personnel. "Everyone drags their feet," Walker said. "I'm a little beyond frustrated."

I signed up to defend the Constitution and defend the country against foreign enemies. But I'm not going to do something immoral and contrary to the contract I signed up for. It's really quite sad."

An Army spokesman said that after 30 days, Walker could be arrested as absent without leave, which could lead to trial for desertion.

**If The Oregon "Guard Home"
Campaign Has Its Way, Deployment
To Iraq And Afghanistan Will Be
Stopped:**

“Oregon’s National Guard Protects Us Year Round. We Must Now Act To Protect Them”

February 19, 2009 By Peter Bergel, Statesman Journal.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are about to come home to Oregonians more than they ever have before.

If the Pentagon has its way, 2,800 to 3,500 National Guard troops from Oregon will be deployed to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan before summer. This would be the largest deployment of Oregon National Guard troops abroad since World War II.

If the Guard Home Campaign has its way, that deployment will be canceled.

The Guard Home Campaign is a coalition of 54 Oregon organizations working together to pass state legislation aimed at preventing the deployment. It is part of a national campaign now active in 19 states and growing.

Why target state legislatures? Isn't this a federal issue?

Legally, the National Guard can only be deployed abroad if a valid Authorization for the Use of Military Force exists.

Since World War II, AUMFs have taken the place of the formal congressional declarations of war required by the Constitution to commit the nation to war. GHC claims that the 2002 AUMF for Iraq has expired, since it refers to the capture of Saddam Hussein and his alleged weapons of mass destruction and enforcing U.N. resolutions against Iraq.

The 2001 AUMF for Afghanistan is so broad that its terms can never be fulfilled. Thus, it too fails the test of validity.

There is a bill in the Legislature that affirms that the state militia (National Guard) "is limited to service on behalf of the State of Oregon unless the organized militia is called to federal active duty under a constitutionally authorized federal order pursuant to a Congressional declaration of war or a valid Congressional resolution."

This bill is accompanied by state Senate and House resolutions urging the governor to use the power confirmed by this legislation to keep the Guard in Oregon.

Fifteen percent of the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget used to be dedicated to fighting fires. Now, with the drying caused by global warming, that figure is above 50 percent. Can we afford to lose the services of our Guard troops in order to send them to a war more Oregonians do not even support?

If you believe Oregon's National Guard will be needed to fight fires, deal with floods and help with search-and-rescue missions, now is the time to contact your state

representative and state senator urging a speedy yes vote on the bills to keep the Guard in Oregon. If you do not know who your legislators are, go to leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/ to find out.

Oregon's National Guard protects us year round.

We must now act to protect them.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

**“The Army’s Own Poll Shows The
Troops Tired, Worried And Resentful
Of Leaders”
[And That Was In 1997!]**

8.1.97 Wall St. Journal

The Army's own poll shows the troops tired, worried and resentful of leaders.

An unreleased internal Army poll of 4,065 soldiers and officers finds nearly half report feeling the Army is becoming hollow.

A majority, 60%, say the force is overtaxed by foreign deployments.

Some officers complain of ineffective combat units.

**Organized Criminal Loansharks
Control Army “Charity”
Some Troops Blackmailed Into
“Donating”**

Others Can Buy “Free Passes From Physical Training”

“Soldiers Can Be Fined Or Demoted For Missing Loan Payments. They Must Clear Their Loans Before Transferring Or Leaving The Service”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: “For the GI who needs the help, you get officers who believe in "personal responsibility." Connect this with the guy who videos buying Harleys while stationed in Iraq.”]

2.22.09 By JEFF DONN, AP National Writer

FORT BLISS, Texas – As soldiers stream home from Iraq and Afghanistan, the biggest charity inside the U.S. military has been stockpiling tens of millions of dollars meant to help put returning fighters back on their feet, an Associated Press investigation shows.

Between 2003 and 2007 — as many military families dealt with long war deployments and increased numbers of home foreclosures — Army Emergency Relief grew into a \$345 million behemoth.

During those years, the charity packed away \$117 million into its own reserves while spending just \$64 million on direct aid, according to an AP analysis of its tax records.

Tax-exempt and legally separate from the military, AER projects a facade of independence but really operates under close Army control.

The massive nonprofit — funded predominantly by troops — allows superiors to squeeze soldiers for contributions; forces struggling soldiers to repay loans — sometimes delaying transfers and promotions; and too often violates its own rules by rewarding donors, such as giving free passes from physical training, the AP found.

Founded in 1942, AER eases cash emergencies of active-duty soldiers and retirees and provides college scholarships for their families. Its emergency aid covers mortgage payments and food, car repairs, medical bills, travel to family funerals, and the like.

Instead of giving money away, though, the Army charity lent out 91 percent of its emergency aid during the period 2003-2007.

For accounting purposes, the loans, dispensed interest-free, are counted as expenses only when they are not paid back.

During that same five-year period, the smaller Navy and Air Force charities both put far more of their own resources into aid than reserves. The Air Force charity kept \$24 million in reserves while dispensing \$56 million in total aid, which includes grants, scholarships and loans not repaid. The Navy charity put \$32 million into reserves and gave out \$49 million in total aid.

AER executives defend their operation, insisting they need to keep sizable reserves to be ready for future catastrophes.

But smaller civilian charities for service members and veterans say they are swamped by the desperate needs of recent years, with requests far outstripping ability to respond.

While independent on paper, Army Emergency Relief is housed, staffed and controlled by the U.S. Army.

Most charity watchdogs view 1-to-3 years of reserves as prudent, with more than that considered hoarding. Yet the American Institute of Philanthropy says AER holds enough reserves to last about 12 years at its current level of aid.

Daniel Borochoff, president of the American Institute of Philanthropy, said that AER collects money "very efficiently. What the shame is, is they're not doing more with it."

Still, Borochoff's organization, which grades charities, gives the Army charity an "F" because of the hoarding.

The AP findings include:

- **Superior officers come calling when AER loans aren't repaid on time. Soldiers can be fined or demoted for missing loan payments. They must clear their loans before transferring or leaving the service.**
- **Promotions can be delayed or canceled if loans are not repaid.**
- **Despite strict rules against coercion, the Army uses pushy tactics to extract supposedly voluntary contributions, with superiors using language like: "How much can we count on from you?"**
- **The Army sometimes offers rewards for contributions, though incentives are banned by program rules. It sometimes excuses contributors from physical training — another clear violation.**
- **AER screens every request for aid, peering into the personal finances of its troops, essentially making the Army a soldier's boss and loan officer.**

"If I ask a private for something ... chances are everyone's going to do it. Why? Because I'm a lieutenant," says Iraq war veteran Tom Tarantino, otherwise an AER backer.

"It can almost be construed as mandatory."

AER pays just 21 staffers, all working at its headquarters at Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va. AER's other 300 or so employees at 90 Army sites worldwide are civilians paid by the Army. Also, the Army gives AER office space for free.

AER's treasurer, Ret. Col. Andrew Cohen, acknowledged in an interview that "the Army runs the program in the field." Army officers dominate its corporate board too.

Army regulations say AER "is, in effect, the U.S. Army's own emergency financial assistance organization."

Under Army regulations, officers must recommend whether their soldiers deserve aid. Company commanders and first sergeants can approve up to \$1,000 in loans on their own say-so. Officers also are charged with making sure their troops repay AER loans.

"If you have an outstanding bill, you're warned about paying that off just to finish your tour of duty ... because it will be brought to your leadership and it will be dealt with," says Jon Nakaishi, of Tracy, Calif., an Army National Guard veteran of the Iraq war who took out a \$900 AER loan to help feed his wife and children between paychecks.

The Army also exercises its leverage in raising contributions from soldiers. It reaches out only to troops and veterans in annual campaigns organized by Army personnel.

For those on active duty, AER organizes appeals along the chain of command.

Low-ranking personnel are typically solicited by a superior who knows them personally.

Spiegel, the AER administrator, said he's unaware of specific violations but added: "I spent 29 years in the Army, I know how ... first sergeants operate. Some of them do strong-arm."

Army regulations ban base passes, training holidays, relief from guard duty, award plaques and "all other incentives or rewards" for contributions to AER.

But the AP uncovered evidence of many violations.

Before leaving active duty in 2006, Philip Aubart, who then went to Reserve Officer Training Corps at Dartmouth College, admits he gave to AER partly to be excused from push-ups, sit-ups and running the next day.

For those who didn't contribute the minimum monthly allotment, the calisthenics became, in effect, a punishment.

"That enticed lots and lots of guys to give," he noted. He says he gave in two annual campaigns and was allowed to skip physical training the following days.

Jack Tilley, a retired sergeant major of the Army on AER's board from 2000 to 2004, said he was surprised by AP's findings, especially during wartime.

"I think they could give more. In fact, that's why that's there," said Tilley, who co-founded another charity that helps families of Mideast war veterans, the American Freedom Foundation.

What does AER do with its retained wealth? Mostly, it accumulates stocks and bonds.

AER ended 2007 with a \$296 million portfolio; last year's tanking market cut that to \$214 million, by the estimate of its treasurer.

Sylvia Kidd, an AER board member in the 1990s, says she feels that the charity does much good work but guards its relief funds too jealously. "You hear things, and you think, "They got all this money, and they should certainly be able to take care of this," she said. She now works for a smaller independent charity, the Association of the United States Army, providing emergency aid to some military families that AER won't help.

Though AER keeps a \$25 million line of bank credit to respond to a world economic crisis, its board has decided to lop off a third of its scholarship money this year.

British Government Charged With Hiding Rising Injury Toll From Taliban Bombs: "Our Maimed And Injured Service Personnel Are The Hidden Face Of An Unwinnable Military Conflict And One The Government Is Reluctant To Reveal"

"The Taliban are not stupid; they know what they are doing," he said. "We had swept that whole area for IEDs previously. They had seen a loophole where a sniper could take aim from and set the device in that position."

February 22, 2009 The Sunday Times

MORE than 100 British soldiers have suffered amputations and other debilitating injuries in the past year in Afghanistan, according to previously suppressed Ministry of Defence (MoD) figures that reveal the true toll of the Taliban's roadside bombing campaign.

The number of troops losing limbs or eyes, suffering serious burns or permanent brain damage has increased dramatically since August 2007 when the Taliban intensified their efforts.

During the past 18 months, 37 of the 71 British troops killed are known to have been the victims of roadside bombs or mines, but the number of troops disabled in the attacks has never been fully disclosed.

Figures obtained by The Sunday Times from medical sources show that 37 soldiers suffered "life-changing injuries" between April 2006, when they first deployed to southern Afghanistan, and the end of that year.

There were 55 such injuries during the whole of 2007. Last year the figures more than doubled to 114 and there have been 12 cases this year.

Campaigners claim the MoD is deliberately keeping the human cost of the war out of the public eye.

They say the government must fund long-term care for maimed or mentally disabled soldiers instead of relying on charities such as Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

The MoD has bought better armoured vehicles in an attempt to counter the Taliban offensive, which has seen a fourfold increase in improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

However, with the insurgents using such large amounts of explosives there is a limit on the protection afforded even by new Mastiff armoured vehicles.

There have been cases of soldiers in Mastiffs who were protected from a blast but who lost their legs below the knee as a result of the shock wave inside the vehicle.

Commanders have also demanded more helicopters so that troops do not have to move by road. Such is the scarcity that last week a British operation against the drug barons financing the Taliban had to use aircraft provided by the US marines.

This weekend the MoD admitted that 23 soldiers underwent amputations between December 2007 and November 2008, but said it was unable to provide a breakdown of other serious injuries.

Among the victims was Lance-Corporal Tom Neathway, a 25-year-old paratrooper from Worcester, who lost both his legs and an arm following a Taliban explosion last July in Kajaki, northern Helmand.

"The Taliban are not stupid; they know what they are doing," he said. "We had swept that whole area for IEDs previously. They had seen a loophole where a sniper could take aim from and set the device in that position."

The Taliban had seen British troops using metal detectors to find bombs and switched to using non-metallic components.

"The ambulance driver who transported me was hit by another device on his way back and died," Neathway said.

During his stay at Selly Oak hospital in Birmingham, Neathway had to be resuscitated three times. He was later moved to Headley Court, a military rehabilitation centre in Surrey.

Tony Garland, a defence consultant, spent several weeks at Selly Oak hospital when his son was wounded and was shocked at the number of disabled soldiers.

“I saw maimed soldiers, some who had lost limbs and some with brain damage. They get first-class medical treatment while they are in the army but there is no long-term care for them when they leave,” he said.

Garland, 66, from Newbury, Berkshire, is campaigning to force the government to fund long-term care rather than rely on charities. “Our maimed and injured service personnel are the hidden face of an unwinnable military conflict and one the government is reluctant to reveal,” he said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Feb 22 (Reuters)

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and two were wounded in a roadside bomb explosion in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

An explosion killed five Iraqi soldiers late on Saturday as they entered a deserted home in the town of Baaj, 375 km (235 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

Five Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in southern Mosul, police said.

A bomb attached to a vehicle wounded a U.S.-allied neighbourhood guard leader in Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The head of a local office of the Sunni Arab Iraqi Islamic [collaborator] Party (IIP) was targeted by a roadside bomb in central Tikrit, 150 km (100 miles) north of Baghdad, police and the IIP said. Both Jamal Shaiban and his driver were lightly wounded.

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.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins**

**"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

As Christ’s Head Drops

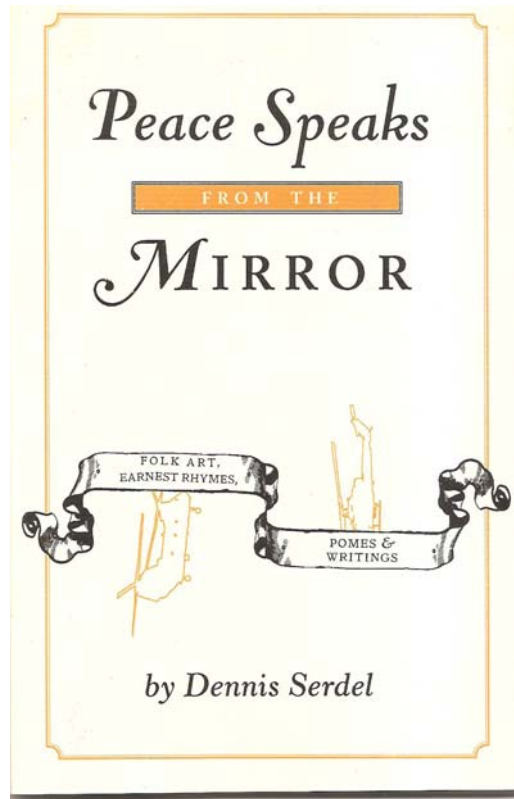
By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th
Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against
The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

As Christ's Head Drops

We care less if the enemy slices
your stomach and pulls out your intestines
you suffer all night before they shoot you
in the morning because
you are not a good Soldier
if you let this happen to you.
We want this oil so bad that we will not
even whisper the words,
"We have lost the war
and we are bringing all the Soldiers home."
Our eyes are green with envy and dollars
we say, "The hell with almost all the American voters."
It is so nice to get millions for Christmas bonuses
we thank the Christian Coalition for voting for Christ.
He hangs there like a dead bison
with a spear in his side.
Poor Christ dies for billions of dollars
never to reach the common man's hand
but is used like our Soldiers
as they sacrifice their lives for the rich.
These people are the Anti-Christ and they are evil,
these are the people our Soldiers should kill.
Remember the money changers when Jesus is mad,
remember all the 30 pieces of silver of the Elite
when they sell him for much more
for oil and billions of dollars
as they go to their Anti-Christ
Churches for Christmas
feeling so Holy
but they are Not.

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Or payment can be made by well hidden American dollars in a Registered Mailing.

Let me know.

Dennis Serdel

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

Troops Invited:

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 send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq

Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now!
(www.ivaw.org/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

there's
that
melody
again

WITH A DEMOCRAT IN OFFICE, THE ESTABLISHMENT MEDIA STRIKE UP A REFRAIN WE HAVEN'T HEARD IN, OH, EIGHT YEARS OR SO...

--AND WILL PRESIDENT OBAMA RISE ABOVE **IDEOLOGY** AND INCLUDE THE REPUBLICANS AS **EQUAL PARTNERS** IN EVERY DECISION HE **MAKES**?

IT'S REALLY THE ONLY **RESPONSIBLE** THING TO DO!



HOW DEEPLY THIS MESSAGE RESONATES WITH OBAMA HAS LONG BEEN A SUBJECT OF DEBATE AMONG HIS SUPPORTERS.

HE **SAYS** HE WANTS TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS--BUT IN OUR **IMAGINARY** CONVERSATIONS HE ASSURES ME HE DOES NOT **MEAN** IT!

MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO NOT WORK WITH THEM!

BUT WHAT IF THAT'S WHAT HE **WANTS** US TO NOT THINK?



BUT CLEARLY--EVEN AFTER A BLOWOUT ELECTION--DEMOCRATS FEEL THEY MUST EMPHASIZE **HARMONY**...

IT IS TIME TO EXTEND A BIPARTISAN HAND ACROSS THE AISLE--AND WORK WITH OUR REPUBLICAN FRIENDS TO FIND **COMMON GROUND**!

PARTISANSHIP IS **SO** DISTASTEFUL!



...WHILE REPUBLICANS REMAIN AS NOISY AND DISSONANT AS EVER.

WE'LL VOTE AGAINST **ANY PROPOSAL** THE DEMOCRATS COME UP WITH UNLESS **SIGNIFICANT** CONCESSIONS ARE MADE TO APPEASE US!

AND THEN WE'LL **STILL** VOTE AGAINST IT!



MAINLY, WE JUST HOPE THIS DOESN'T END UP TURNING INTO THE SAME OLD SONG AND DANCE.

HEY GUYS! HERE'S MY TIMID, INCREMENTAL **HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL**, WHICH I'VE TWISTED INTO **KNOTS** TO AVOID UNWARRANTED ACCUSATIONS OF "SOCIALISM"!

TOO BAD--**SOCIALIST!**

JOINK!



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CLASS WAR REPORTS

“In Other Business News”

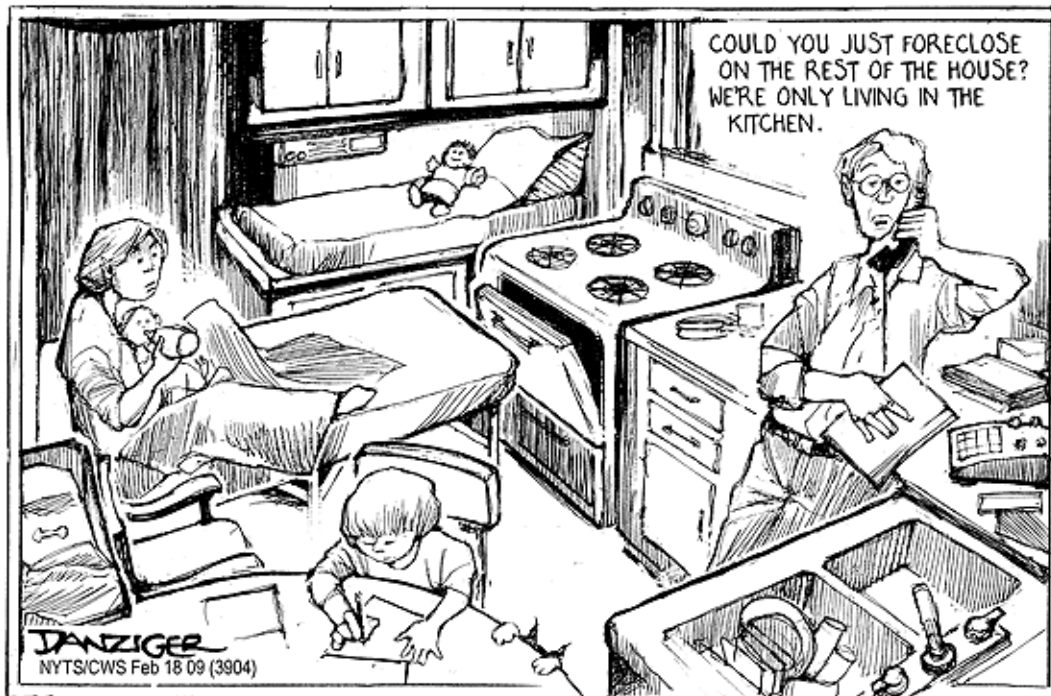
February 17, 2009 The Borowitz Report [Excerpt]

In other business news, GM and Chrysler revealed their rescue plans, which call for the two auto giants to stop making cars and become banks instead.

After reviewing the size of the bailouts that the government has offered to the nation's banks, GM chairman Rick Wagoner said, "Only a total loser would keep making cars."

The CEOs of GM and Chrysler said that in their first official act as banks they would award themselves \$10 million bonuses and fly to the Cayman Islands.

The Winter of Our Discontent



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: The lumber mill just closed in my town.]

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Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

The Fists Are Beginning To Show



Hundreds of PCCW workers march on a Hong Kong downtown street during a protest against salary cuts and the firing of their co-workers Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009. PCCW runs fixed-line, mobile phone, broadband and broadband TV services. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

GI Special www.militaryproject.org
*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*

The image shows the logo for 'GI Special' at the top left. Below it is a photograph of several soldiers in military uniforms. One soldier in the foreground is carrying a stretcher with a person lying on it. Other soldiers are walking alongside him. The background shows a city street with buildings.

*GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:
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http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

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