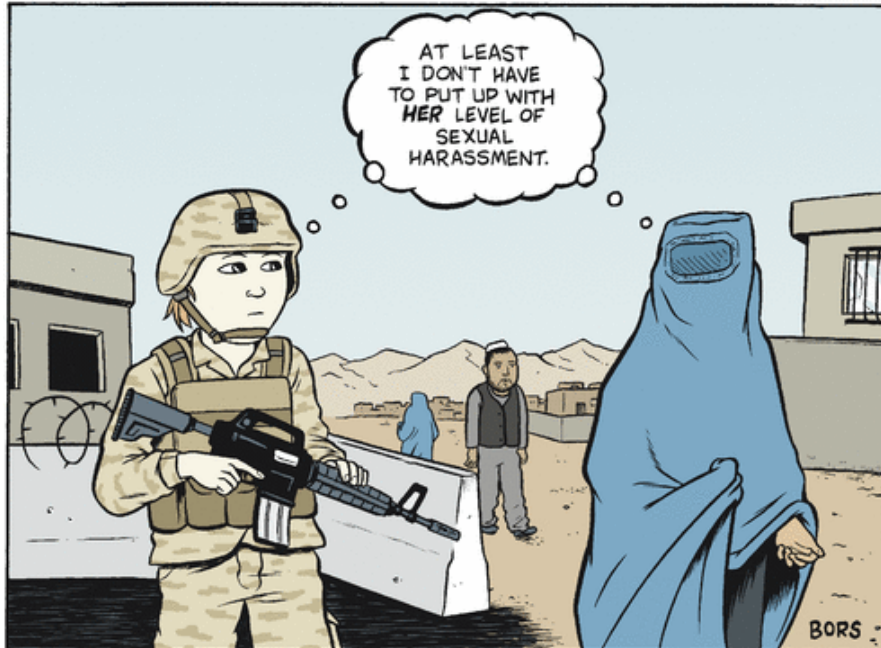


Military Resistance 11B4



**“The Defense Department Contracted
The Soul Of This Nation’s Military To
Line The Pockets Of Select
Individuals”**

**“Now That Their Excess Spending Has
Caught Up With Them, They Have The
Nerve To Talk About Reducing Training
Funding?”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
Feb. 4, 2013

We're in a budget crunch. That much is abundantly clear, and why wouldn't we be?

Civilians are being paid to do jobs that I did as a young soldier, while our soldiers are picking weeds and sweeping parking lots.

The containers we use for storage and transportation are leased/ rented at an exponentially more costly rate than outright purchase.

We're building hospitals to replace hospitals that were just renovated and had additional wings built. We have civilian maintenance personnel in our motor pools, but we still have mechanics. We have civilian cooks/workers in our dining facilities, but we still have food service soldiers.

The Defense Department contracted the soul of this nation's military to line the pockets of select individuals.

Now that their excess spending has caught up with them, they have the nerve to talk about reducing training funding?

I guess this is where we end up when the policymakers are not affected by the policies that they put in place.

Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Jones
Fort Hood, Texas

MORE:

**“I Constantly Hear About How The
Army Is Getting Ready To Cut
Spending”**

**“I Will Continue To Turn The Latrine
Light Off When I Leave So I Can Save
Them Some Money So My Boss Can
Have The Fancy Ink Pens He Likes To
Write With”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
Feb. 4, 2013

I constantly hear about how the Army is getting ready to cut spending.

This is not a problem, but how about we cut in the right spot?

I've been in the Army for 15 years, and in my time, I have seen some of the worst money management skills.

I've been working in my current job for 18 months and have had a perfectly good computer replaced twice because it had reached its life cycle. I have seen commanders spend \$80,000 on a covered smoking area because it rains sometimes.

I have seen new wall lockers replaced with new wall lockers the next year because we have to spend it before we lose it. Expensive contracts to paint walls that don't need to be painted just so we don't lose that money next year.

It seems like every year around September, in every unit or organization I've belonged to, the commander comes around and says, "Give me your wish list. The end of the fiscal year is approaching."

However, when I was a drill sergeant, we had soldiers running around in the field yelling "BANG!" because we couldn't afford blank ammunition or proper training aids.

I hear the same garbage every time I point it out: It comes from different pots of money, but from where I stand, both pots are empty.

Either way, I will continue to turn the latrine light off when I leave so I can save them some money so my boss can have the fancy ink pens he likes to write with.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Franklin
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“They Are Just As Smart As Us,’ Indiana Guard Staff Sgt. Kyle Leonard Said Of Insurgents Here”

“They Are Not Stupid People, That Is What We Had To Respect. We

Have Multimillion-Dollar Vehicles, And They Are Still Killing Us” “When They Are Hit, Most Soldiers Survive The Blasts” “Kudos To The Taliban, Because They Had That One Placed Perfectly”

February 03, 2013 By Jesse Bogan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan

The Missouri National Guardsmen had already been briefed on the high threat of the day's mission. The bullets and explosives were packed. So were the tourniquets and Kevlar armored diapers.

They'd already prayed for protection from wolves among the sheep.

Now it was time for the combat engineers to roll out, to move toward a dusty road to nowhere where they'd previously found two improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, and been shot at.

As their convoy rumbled out of base in the early morning, heavy metal music reverberated through the headsets of three seasoned guardsmen riding in one of the armored vehicles.

They rode in the "Great White Buffalo," a battleship on wheels, complete with a V-shaped hull to repel blasts and a long mechanical arm to dig up homemade bombs.

Spc. Patrick Feldmann, far from his home in Washington, Mo., gripped the steering wheel, and spit tobacco juice into a cup strapped to the front of his Kevlar vest.

Five months into the deployment with 89 other men of the 1138th Engineer Company, he still holds a secret. He hasn't told his mother and girlfriend exactly what he is doing over here.

The 1138th normally drills one weekend a month at an armory in Farmington and responds to state emergencies like ice storms, floods and tornadoes.

That was before the 11-year war in Afghanistan and its accompanying war in Iraq.

Now, members of the 1138th troll through Kandahar Province, the birthplace of the Taliban, at a frighteningly slow pace. Their mission is to clear roadways of IEDs so other units and supply convoys can move around the war-torn country.

The company has cleared the way so other troops could safely close three bases, while enabling several infantry missions and the movement of Afghan security forces.

All men, these guardsmen primarily come from the St. Louis region and eastern Missouri. In real life, they are truckers, salesmen, teachers and mechanics.

Capt. Jason Davis, company commander of the 1138th, said about 70 percent of success in route clearance should come from skill, good equipment and training. The remaining 30 percent is luck.

“Luck has been in our favor,” said Davis, 32, a property consultant from Wentzville.

In September 2011, the 1138th replaced an Indiana Guard company that wasn’t so fortunate. It lost six of about 100 men — four from one blast, two in an ambush.

“They are just as smart as us,” Indiana Guard Staff Sgt. Kyle Leonard said of insurgents here.

“They are not stupid people, that is what we had to respect. We have multimillion-dollar vehicles, and they are still killing us.”

So far, just one of the Missourians has gone home from a combat injury. Sgt. 1st Class Randy Hargis, of Pacific, stepped on a mine while outside his vehicle. The blast shredded his Kevlar diaper, which probably saved his life, Davis said.

Four other guardsmen have gone home for non-combat-related injuries. Back pain is common. The men work in tight battle spaces with heavy armor strapped to their bodies, sometimes for days and nights at a time.

When they are hit, most soldiers survive the blasts. They say it feels like walking away from a bad car wreck.

Spc. Chris Hawkins, 30, a construction worker from Foristell, ran over a bomb in early January while clearing a route to help close a base. The vehicle filled with dust, and his head smacked the ceiling. Once he and the four-person crew realized everyone was OK and their legs were intact, they laughed.

“We were in the lead for so long, we just kind of figured we’d hit one,” he said. “Kudos to the Taliban, because they had that one placed perfectly.”

Several of the men in the company have been hit on multiple occasions.

“I’ve been blown up three times,” said Sgt. Tim Barker, 37, of Troy, who fixes convenience store beverage equipment for his real job. “Twice in Iraq and once here.”

He didn’t boast. He explained the fact like a cook talking about being burned in the kitchen.

Barker, who recently found out he’s going to be a grandfather, downs chocolate throughout the missions and crosses his fingers if it gets dicey.

It's that one huge IED lurking out there in no man's land that's in the back of Lt. Perry Hoffman's mind — the bad-luck blast that soldiers won't walk away from.

Hoffman, 39, of Rolla, an intense leader with a lot of gray hair for his age, kept telling his platoon to stay sharp for the recent mission, even though they were experienced.

"We are getting too close to home to be making mistakes now," he said.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN
THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION
AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK
OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU
THERE COVER THEIR ASS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



Soldiers with the Missouri National Guard's 1138th Engineering Company in Afghanistan, stop to try and make repairs on one of their vehicles at the start of a mission in January, 2013. Photo by J.B. Forbes jforbes@post-dispatch.com

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WAR?



The remains of Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin E. Lipari of Baldwin, N.Y., at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Dec. 17, 2012. The Department of Defense announced the death of Lipari who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

**“Why Does The Suicide Rate
Among Military Personnel
Continue To Climb--Even**

Among Those Who Never Saw Combat?”

**“The Pills And Pill Cocktails Many
Troops Are Prescribed Are Clearly
Linked To Suicidal Thoughts And
Behavior”**

**“One In Six Service Members Was On
A Psychoactive Drug In 2010 And
“Many Troops Are Taking More Than
One Kind”**

**“Several Powerful Military Psychiatrists
And Administrators Are Also
Consultants To Big Pharma”**

February 2, 2013 by Martha Rosenberg, AlterNet

Why does the suicide rate among military personnel continue to climb--even among those who never saw combat?

This week the Pentagon announced there were more suicides among active-duty members of the armed services in 2012 than combat deaths--a staggering 349.

Eighty-five percent had not even seen combat, reported Bloomberg.

The suicide rate rose similarly last year and also included troops who had not faced combat.

There were 38 Army suicides in July of 2012 compared with 32 suicides in July of 2011. In a 2010 Army report called Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Report, 36 percent of the troops who killed themselves had never even deployed.

The suicide rate increased by more than 150 percent in the Army and more than 50 percent in the Marine Corps between 2001 to 2009, reported Military Times in a series of in-depth articles.

One in six service members was on a psychoactive drug in 2010 and “many troops are taking more than one kind, mixing several pills in daily 'cocktails' for example, an antidepressant with an antipsychotic to prevent nightmares, plus an anti-epileptic to reduce headaches--despite minimal clinical research testing such combinations,” said Military Times.

The pills and pill cocktails many troops are prescribed are clearly linked to suicidal thoughts and behavior.

Antidepressants like Prozac and Paxil, antipsychotics like Seroquel and Zyprexa and anti-seizure drugs like Lyrica and Neurontin all carry clear suicide warnings and all are widely used in the military.

Almost 5,000 newspaper reports link antidepressants to suicide, homicide and bizarre behavior on the website SSRStories.com.

The malaria drug Lariam is also highly correlated with suicide and its use actually increased in the Navy and Marine Corps in 2011, according to the Associated Press.

Eighty-nine percent of troops with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are now given psychoactive drugs and between 2005 and 2009, half of all TRICARE (the military health plan) prescriptions for people between 18 and 34 were for antidepressants.

During the same time period, epilepsy drugs like Topamax and Neurontin, increasingly given off-label for mental conditions, increased 56 percent, reports Military Times.

In 2008, 578,000 epilepsy pills and 89,000 antipsychotics were prescribed to deploying troops.

Both the increase in the overall suicide rate in the US (rising to 36,000 a year after falling in the 1990s according to USA Today) and in the military coincide with the debut of direct-to-consumer drug advertising in the late 1990s.

They are also correlated with the FDA's approval of many drugs with suicide links and a population that is increasingly taking psychoactive drugs for minor problems and symptoms.

Several powerful military psychiatrists and administrators are also consultants to Big Pharma who shamelessly enroll veterans in drug studies and promote the pills that drug companies pay them to promote.

Who can say conflict of interest?

When concerns about the rise in the general suicide rate in the US surfaced last fall, US Surgeon General Regina Benjamin announced federal grants for suicide hotlines, more mental health workers, better depression screening and Facebook tracking of suicidal messages.

Nowhere, did she mention examining the role of suicide-linked drugs on, ahem, suicide.

The Pentagon is apparently in similar denial.

“A Group Of War-Wounded Revolutionaries And Their Supporters Forced Their Way Into The General National Congress Building Late This Morning”
“They Held The Government ‘Fully Responsible’ For Delays In Providing The Necessary Treatment For Them”
“One Of The Intruders Threatened Some Members Of Congress With A Gun”



Congress President Mohamed Magarief meets with protesting revolutionaries staging a sit-in at the Congress building. (Photo: GNC)

February 04, 2013 By Michel Cousins., Libya Herald [Excerpts]

A group of war-wounded revolutionaries and their supporters forced their way into the General National Congress building late this morning, Sunday, demanding the authorities pay their medical bills abroad.

They said they had been thrown out of hospitals and hotels in a number of countries because of non-payment of bills.

Congress President Mohamed Magharief met with the protestors, who staged a sit-in, saying that they would not leave the building until their demands had been met.

Most later left, although this evening a few were said to still be on the premises.

This is not the first time that Congress has been stormed. Just over a week ago, dozens of former revolutionaries forced their way into the building demanding that the Chief of Staff, General Yousef Mangoush, be replaced. Again they were met by Magarief.

According to Benghazi Congress member, Mohamed Amari Zayed, there was what he called an “unfortunate” incident in today’s event when during an altercation, one of the intruders threatened some members of Congress with a gun.

However, Ziyad was supportive of the wounded revolutionaries calling them “heroes”. Other members too said that they held the government “fully responsible” for delays in providing the necessary treatment for them and that they had to be treated with dignity.

Medical treatment for Libyan revolutionaries abroad has been a fraught issue for more than a year after it turned out that the programme was being massively milked both by many Libyans and a number of healthcare providers abroad.

Together it is estimated that corruption and mismanagement of the programme has cost the Libyan state billions of dollars. As a result, it was slashed. However, that has hit genuine wounded fighters requiring treatment outside the country.

Last month, Prime Minister Ali Zeidan announced that the programme would restart, but subject to strict spending controls.

“Veterans Across Maryland Who Have Filed Disability Claims At The Department Of Veterans Affairs’ Baltimore Office May Wait More Than A Year For A Decision”

Even Then “A 25 Percent Chance That Their Claims Will Be Mishandled, According To Agency Figures” “Claims Filed By Veterans Seeking Disability Compensation Pending 429 Days On Average”

February 3 By Steve Vogel, Washington Post [Excerpts]

BALTIMORE — Veterans across Maryland who have filed disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Baltimore office may wait more than a year for a decision and even then face a 25 percent chance that their claims will be mishandled, according to agency figures.

The Baltimore regional office’s performance is among the nation’s worst, with claims filed by veterans seeking disability compensation pending 429 days on average, six times VA’s goal of 70 days, and 162 days longer than the national average.

The wait in Baltimore, which serves nearly a half-million veterans living in Maryland, is longer than in any of VA’s 56 offices except the one in Oakland, Calif., figures show.

And the Baltimore office’s 73.8 percent accuracy rate, measuring the percentage of disability claims completed without error, is the country’s worst.

“Why does it take so long to give people something they’ve earned?” Jonathan W. Greene, an Army veteran from Annapolis who served in Vietnam, asked during a visit to the federal building on Hopkins Plaza, a few blocks from Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. It was one of many trips he has made over the past year to sort out a problem over disability payments dating to 2010.

Baltimore’s problems, veterans’ representatives say, illustrate the role that poor planning and neglect — such as allowing extended vacancies in critical positions — have played in the crisis, which in this case left the office without adequate resources.

“Baltimore has been a somewhat troubled office for decades,” said Gerald Manar, who worked 30 years in the VA benefits system before becoming deputy director of National Veterans Service for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“It’s been on a roller coaster, depending on the quality of the management.”

Like offices in other big cities, Baltimore’s has had difficulty retaining its best employees, who can be lured away by better-paying or less-demanding jobs. The problem is

accentuated by Baltimore's proximity to VA's Washington headquarters, which tends to poach the best supervisors.

The real crisis began in 2007, when Baltimore was selected to help pilot a joint VA-Defense Department integrated disability evaluation system, an effort aimed at eliminating red tape that ensnared service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other military hospitals.

Eager to move forward with the program, VA officials overlooked the Baltimore office's lack of preparedness for the project.

"It was expanded too rapidly — the resources weren't in place," Manar said. "That was an office that was on the edge anyway."

Baltimore's top rating specialists were assigned to the project, leaving inexperienced employees to process complex claims.

The number of pending claims in Baltimore began to rise, reaching 6,200 by 2008 and 7,000 in 2009.

Then, in November 2009, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki made veterans eligible for compensation for three major ailments linked to Agent Orange, prompting a flood of new or renewed claims by Vietnam veterans exposed to the toxic herbicide.

The department's Veterans Benefits Administration assigned 37 percent of its rating staff, including many of its most-experienced workers, to handle Agent Orange cases, which reached 260,000.

Nationally, total pending claims, which stood at 391,000 when President Obama took office in January 2009, reached 886,000 by 2012.

Special VA teams that had previously assisted Baltimore with its growing backlog could no longer help.

The Baltimore office was soon in a free fall as its number of pending claims, which stood at 8,900 at the beginning of 2010, reached 12,100 by 2011 and 16,600 by 2012.

Baltimore's accuracy rating on the disability status it assigns veterans fell from 84 percent in 2008 to 65 percent in 2011.

An error could mean overlooking a critical piece of medical evidence that would establish a claim's legitimacy or miscalculating the proper rating that should be assigned an injury.

Many mistakes end up meaning some veterans are denied full compensation for injuries, while others might be paid too much.

Even as the backlog in Baltimore was exploding, VA left critical vacancies unfilled.

After Baltimore's director left in July 2010, a succession of five people served as acting director through September 2011, when Scheibel was promoted from acting to official

director. The position of assistant director, empty since September 2011, was occupied only last month.

“The ability to attract talented candidates was challenging due to the high cost of living in the Baltimore commuting area,” VA said in a statement.

The veterans service center manager was reassigned for poor performance in 2009, and the critical position was left vacant from October 2010 until February 2011.

“There was no continuity of supervision,” said Dominique Maestas, assistant supervisor for the Disabled American Veterans office in Baltimore. “It was a rotation of people coming in. We would take a claim to a supervisor, and the next day they weren’t on the team.”

For veterans seeking resolution to their claims, the lack of answers has been infuriating.

“I’d come in every two months, and they’d say, ‘We’re still processing your application. We apologize,’ “ recalled Greene, the 64-year-old veteran from Annapolis, who filed for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Baltimore met VA standards in only one of 15 areas inspected, failing in areas that included handling of PTSD and traumatic brain injury cases. The office’s 7 percent compliance rate was tied with Anchorage as the lowest in the country.

“Quite frankly, I haven’t seen any change,” said Phil Munley, who runs a Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs office that assists veterans with the Baltimore VA.

A few days after Christmas, Greene was notified that he would receive the back disability compensation owed for his PTSD. “Maybe I just got lucky,” he said.

For many others, the wait continues.

Andy Titsworth, a 26-year Army veteran, filed a claim in November 2010 seeking disability compensation for joint pain he thinks is connected to two tours he served in Iraq. An initial decision reached in May was never released, because VA found that it had made an error, he said.

More than two years after he filed, the case remains under review. “I don’t know what’s being done — they haven’t given me any indication,” Titsworth said.

“I’m used to bureaucracy, but I didn’t expect it to be like this,” he added. “At some point, I expected somebody to say, ‘This is taking way too long.’ “

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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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 Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy.

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

“The Cost Of War Was The Poison Running Through The 14th Century”

**The Funds “Were Squeezed From
The People Of France For A Cause
Which Could In No Way, Present Or
Future, Benefit Them”**

**“Why Should They Take From Me
What I Earn With My Needle?”**

**“I Would Rather The King And All Kings
Were Dead Than That My Son Should Be
Hurt In His Little Finger”**

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

This is a short section from Barbara Tuchman's "A Distant Mirror - The Calamitous 14th Century." Pages 412-413

The social damage was not in the failure but in the undertaking, which was expensive.

The cost of war was the poison running through the 14th century.

The funds contributed by the crown and by Anjou himself, not to mention the sum stolen by Pierre de Craon, were squeezed from the people of France for a cause which could in no way, present or future, benefit them.

This did not escape notice, nor soothe the popular mood.

On hearing of Anjou's death, a tailor of Orleans named Guillaume le Jupponnier, when "overcome with wine," burst into a tirade in which can be heard the rarely recorded voice of his class.

“What did he go there for, this Duke of Anjou, down there where he went? He has pillaged and robbed and carried off money to Italy in order to conquer another land. He is dead and damned, and the King St. Louis too, like the others.

“Filth, filth of a King and a King! We have no King but God.

“Do you think they got honestly what they have? They tax me and re-tax me and it hurts them that they can't have everything we own.

“Why should they take from me what I earn with my needle? I would rather the King and all kings were dead than that my son should be hurt in his little finger.”

The record of the tailor's case states that his words expressed “what others dared not say.” After arrest and imprisonment, he was pardoned by the Governor of Orleans.

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 the war, 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.

Outreach To The Troops 1907: “The Work Of The Socialist Youth Is Not In Vain”

**“During The Strikes At Dunkirchen,
Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-Le-Min The
Soldiers Ordered Against The
Strikers Declared Their Solidarity
With The Workers”**

**“The Young Socialist Workers Are
Working With All The Enthusiasm And
Energy Of The Young To Have The Army
Side With The People”**

Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.

October 8, 1907: Vperyod [Forward], Issue #16. By V.I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

It will be recalled that the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart discussed the question of militarism and in connection with it the question of anti-militarist propaganda. The resolution adopted on the point says, in part, that the Congress regards it as a duty of the working classes to “help to have working class youth brought up in a spirit of international brotherhood and socialism and imbued with class consciousness”.

The Congress regards this as an earnest of the army ceasing to be a blind instrument in the hands of the ruling classes, which they use as they see fit and which they can direct against the people at any time.

It is very hard, sometimes almost impossible, to conduct propaganda among soldiers on active service. Life in the barracks, strict supervision and rare leave make contact with the outer world extremely difficult; military discipline and the absurd spit and polish cow the soldier.

Army commanders do everything they can to knock the “nonsense” out of the “brutes”, to purge them of every unconventional thought and every human emotion and to instill in them a sense of blind obedience and an unthinking wild hatred for “internal” and “external” enemies.... It is much harder to make an approach to the lone, ignorant and cowed soldier who is isolated from his fellow-men and whose head has been stuffed with the wildest views on every possible subject, than to draft-age young men living with their families and friends and closely bound up with them by common interest.

Everywhere anti-militarist propaganda among young workers has yielded excellent results. That is of tremendous importance. The worker who goes into the army a class-conscious Social-Democrat is a poor support for the powers that be.

There are young socialist workers' leagues in all European countries. In some, for instance, Belgium, Austria and Sweden, these leagues are large-scale organisations carrying on responsible party work. Of course, the main aim of the youth leagues is self-education and the working out of distinct and integrated socialist outlook. But the youth leagues also carry on practical work. They struggle for an improvement in the condition of apprentices and try to protect them from unlimited exploitation by their employers.

The young socialist workers' leagues devote even more time and attention to anti-militarist propaganda.

For that purpose, they try to establish close ties with young soldiers.

This is done in the following way. Before the young worker has joined the army, he is a member of a league and pays membership dues. When he becomes a soldier, the league continues to maintain constant contacts with him, regularly sending him small cash aids (“soldier's sous” as they call them in France), which, however small, are of substantial importance to the soldier.

For his part, he undertakes to provide the league with regular information about everything that goes on in his barracks and to write about his impressions. Thus, even after he joins the army, the soldier does not break off his ties with the organisation of which he was a member.

An effort is always made to drive the soldier as far away from home as possible for his service. This is done with the intention of preventing the soldier from being tied with the local population by any interest, and to make him feel alien to it.

It is then easier to make him carry out orders: to shoot at a crowd. Young workers' leagues try to bridge this alienation between the soldier and the local population.

Youth leagues are connected with each other. When he arrives in a new town, the soldier, a former member of a youth league at home, - is met by the local league as a welcome visitor, and he is at once brought into the circle of local interests and helped in every possible way.

He ceases to be a newcomer and a stranger. He is also aware that if any misfortune befalls him he will receive help and support. This awareness adds to his courage, he

gains assurance in his behaviour in the barracks, and is bolder in standing up for his rights and his human dignity.

Their close ties with young soldiers enable the youth leagues to carry on extensive anti-militarist propaganda among the soldiers.

This is done mainly with the aid of anti-militarist literature, which the youth leagues publish and circulate in great quantities, especially in France, Belgium and also in Switzerland, Sweden, etc.

This literature is highly diverse: postcards with anti-militarist pictures, anti-militarist army songs (many of these songs are very popular among the soldiers), "soldier's catechism" (in France it was circulated in more than 100,000 copies), all sorts of pamphlets, leaflets, appeals; weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and magazines for soldiers, some of them illustrated.

Barracks, Recruit, Young Soldier, Pju pju (a pet name for the young recruit), and *Forward* are very widely circulated. For example, in Belgium the newspapers *Recruit* and *Barracks* have a printing of 60,000 copies each. Especially many magazines are published at the time of the draft.

Special issues of soldiers' newspapers are mailed to the homes of all recruits.

Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.

Recruits receive special attention. They are given a ceremonial send-off.

During the recruitment, processions are staged in the towns. In Austria, for instance, recruits walk through the town dressed in mourning and to the strains of funeral marches. In front of them rolls a decorated red carriage.

All the walls are plastered with red posters which say in large letters: "You will not shoot at the people!"

Evening parties with ardent anti-militarist speeches are held in honour of the recruits. In short, everything is done to awaken the recruit's consciousness, to ensure him against the evil influence of the ideas and emotions which will be instilled into him in the barracks by fair means and foul.

The work of the socialist youth is not in vain. In Belgium, there are almost 15 soldiers' unions in the army, which are mostly affiliated with the Social-Democratic Labour Party and are closely allied with each other. In some regiments, two-thirds of the soldiers are organised.

In France, the anti-militarist mood has become massive. During the strikes at Dunkirchen, Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-le-Min the soldiers ordered against the strikers declared their solidarity with the workers....

As time goes on, there are more and more Social-Democrats in the army and the troops become increasingly less reliable.

When the bourgeoisie has to confront the organised working class, whom will the army back?

The young socialist workers are working with all the enthusiasm and energy of the young to have the army side with the people.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

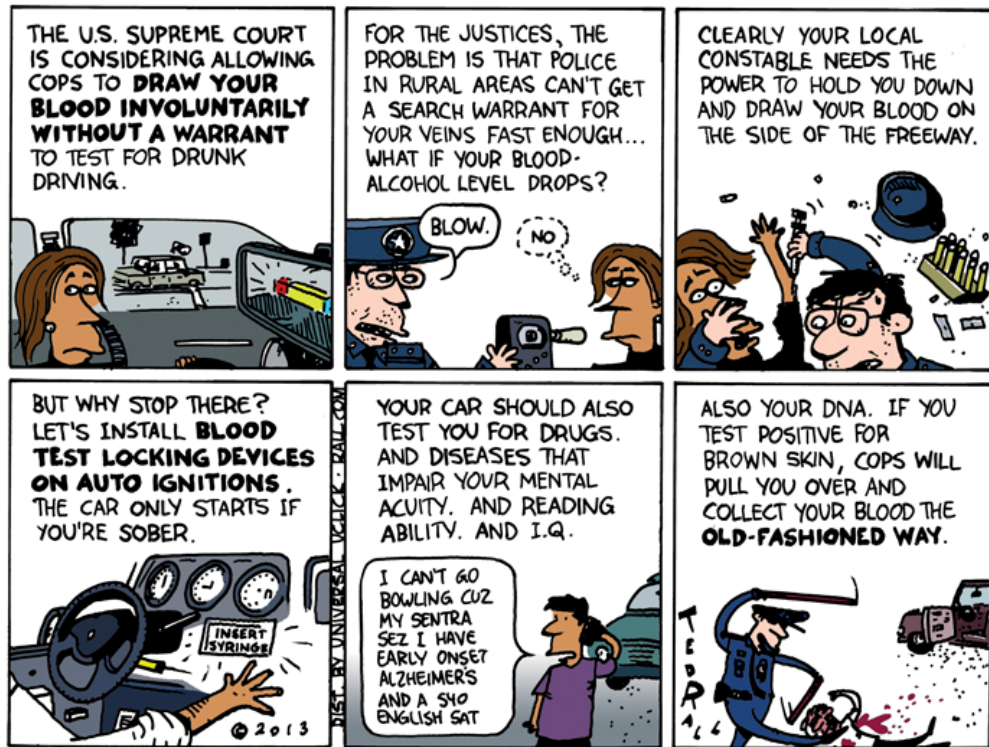
Zionist Dictatorship Attacks Palestinians On Their Own Land, As Usual



A Zionist border police officer uses pepper spray to disperse Palestinian activists after the group set up tents and makeshift structures on Palestinian owned land south of Nablus February 2, 2013. REUTERS/Mohamad Torokman

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Troops Invited:

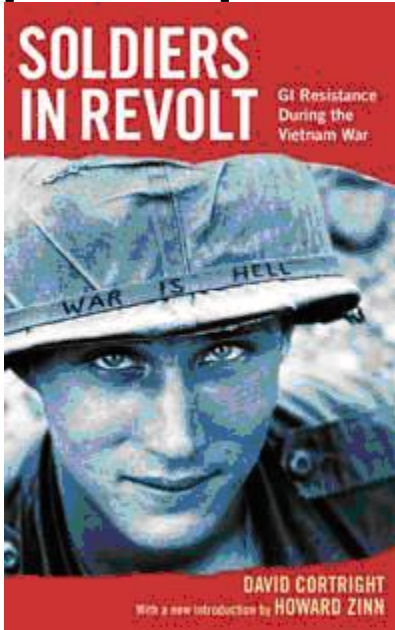
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