

## **Military Resistance 11D9**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Been there, done that. What else is new?"]

# **Afghanistan Marathon**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: April 18, 2013  
Subject: Afghanistan Marathon

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th  
Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

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## **Afghanistan Marathon**

**It is the Afghanistan Marathon  
Runners Race beginning in Lashkar  
Gah in Helmand Province  
& ending In Kabul so the US  
Dictator Stooze Karzai could crown  
the Winners.  
The first bunch to take off**

were Afghanistan Civilians, then off  
went the Afghanistan Fake Soldiers,  
coming up behind them were  
the Taliban with all kinds of weapons,  
then after that, the American Soldiers  
were bringing up the rear.  
The air & the road was so Hot  
that Human Beings handed out  
Water in cups to the Runners.  
Half way in the Marathon  
the Taliban set up IED's  
in the pressure cooker race  
& took off some of the American Soldier's  
legs, killed three & wounded  
more, they had to be choppered  
out to the hospital & it really made  
the US Top Brass mad  
because they had bets on which  
Army Unit would win,  
So they sent two drones to cripple  
the Taliban & it worked as the US  
Soldiers passed the Taliban,  
Arms, Legs lay everywhere.  
The Afghanistan Fake Soldiers  
began shooting the American Soldiers  
until the US Airforce took some of them  
out as the Rest tore off their Uniforms  
& Ran & Escaped back to their War Lords,  
Who were Not happy, because they  
had bets on the Winners too.  
Three quarters of the way,  
the American Soldiers set up an ambush  
& killed & crippled the  
rest of the Taliban  
but the damn Civilians who started  
out First, were getting Closer & Closer  
to the Finish Line  
So at the last minute, the US Airforce  
sent so many drones in  
that they killed all the Civilians,  
arms, legs, heads cut off  
lay everywhere  
& the Winners were the US Mountain  
Infantry who found it easy to run  
at Sea Level where the air was thick  
but the bastard Karzai

said they cheated & would Not  
make them the Winners & would Not  
give them their Trophies  
But he gave them to the few remaining  
Taliban Patriots on the long bloody road  
& Kept the Winners Money that  
the Americans gave him for Himself  
instead of the Winners.

The American Brass  
were so mad, that they sent a 100 drones  
out to kill any Afghanistans who were  
at Funerals in the next few days  
burying their Dead & then they'll bury more.  
This Long Afghanistan Marathon War  
has killed so many Afghanistan Children  
Mothers, Fathers, GrandFathers & Mothers  
for All these years, they can only Estimate  
how many Died, it's in many thousands.  
But at least we know  
how many, American Soldiers  
have been killed so far,  
it's a Marathon,  
an Afghanistan War Marathon  
supposed to end next year  
or the year after that,  
no one seems to know  
where the Finish Line is.

Written by Human Being Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Insurgents Ambush Afghan Government Convoy, Kill 5 Guards

April 16 By Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official says insurgents have ambushed a convoy of trucks in a restive province near the capital, Kabul, killing five members of a government guard force.

The spokesman for the governor of Wardak province says the convoy of supply trucks was being escorted by the Afghan Public Protection Force when it was ambushed on Tuesday on the country's main north-south highway in the Sayed Abad district.

Attaullah Khogyani says five guards were killed and one was wounded. He says the insurgents fled after the attack.

The highway is a key trade route for goods coming from Iran and Pakistan and headed for the capital.

Wardak is located next to Kabul and is considered a gateway and staging area for militant attacks there.

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## More Resistance Action

18 Apr 2013 Pakistan Today

In the east, a roadside bomb killed five men who were part of a government security force guarding a convoy of trucks in Ghazni's Qarabagh district, provincial spokesman Fazel Ahmad Sabaoon said.

Also in the east, insurgents attacked a checkpoint in Laghman province, killing four village policemen, provincial spokesman Sarhadi Zawak said. —

Also on Wednesday, six Afghan soldiers, two officers and four enlisted men, were found shot to death on a main highway that crosses Jowzjan, police spokesman Abdul Mannan Raoufi said.

He said the six had just left their military unit and were headed home for a break to visit their families. He blamed the attack, which he said occurred on Tuesday, on Taliban insurgents.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **National Guard Members Were Among Those Who Ran Toward Blasts In Boston**

Apr. 17, 2013 By Rachel George and David Leon Moore, USA TODAY Sports [Excerpts]

BOSTON — First Sgt. Bernard Madore served two deployments in Iraq, spending almost two years in hostile territory during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

While his military training prepared him to help after two bombs exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday, little could prepare the longtime national guardsman for what he saw.

“When you’re over there, you almost expect it,” he said Tuesday. “I’ve seen bombs go off. This was by far one of the most horrific scenes.”

Madore, 1st Lt. Steve Fiola and Staff Sgt. Mark Welch were part of Tough Ruck 2013, a group of military members who walked the 26.2-mile course carrying their rucksacks, which weighed 32 to 45 pounds.

Starting well before the race, many had just finished their eight-hour trek, their sacks filled with Gatorade, socks, a change of clothes, extra socks and first-aid kits. Many were treated in the medical tent, their feet blistered from the long day.

The group walked to raise money for an organization that supported them, Military Friends Foundation, but quickly became part of the initial response to a terrorist attack.

The three men, all guardsmen in the 1060th Transportation Company and Massachusetts natives, were near the finish line when two explosions came in quick succession.

They ordered other guardsmen at the scene to help direct people out of the chaos, while the three men ran toward it.

“We just tore that (fence) down and just allowed us to get in there and pull what was remaining — the burning debris, burning clothes — all the stuff that was on these people, just try to clean it the best we could,” Fiola said.

Fiola helped put out a fire from a handkerchief a man had in his pants. An emergency worker needed clean rags and water, and Madore said he found a baby blanket and took it to her before helping with triage. Welch first helped to clear the bleachers on the opposite side of the street before going to the site of the explosion.

Comparisons to IEDs — the improvised explosive devices used by the enemy in Iraq — were apt, they said.

“Just disturbing,” said Welch, who served two deployments in Iraq.

“I’ve obviously seen stuff like this before, but to have it happen on our own turf, it’s a little different. Limbs gone. Fingers away from the bodies.”

A native of Somerville, Mass., Madore had walked Boylston Street as a child, spent nights out there as a teenager, taken his kids there as a younger man. The shops were familiar to him, as was the scene following an explosion. Seeing it in the same place was not.

“To see it outside of a building that I know was horrible,” said Madore, 44. “I never thought I’d see something like that on our own grounds. When I walked away, it truly hit me.”

To a man, they praised the first responders, doctors and nurses who helped to quickly assess and treat people at the scene. The three men said they merely helped where they could.

Said Welch, “It’s drilled into us what we need to do. We run towards it, not away from it.”

Victims of the blasts say they will be forever grateful for the help.

Darrel Folkert, 42, of Redondo Beach, Calif., says he is thankful for two men named Ben and Mike — he doesn’t know their last names. They carried Folkert to safety when he was hit by shrapnel by the second explosion near the finish line Monday.

Folkert was standing on the north side of Boylston Street to watch his wife Jac, 42, finish the race. Jac Folkert never made it there and was instead diverted off the course a half-mile from the finish.

Folkert made it across Boylston, but that was it.

“I was able to stumble across the course and I sat down on the curb,” he said. “A number of different people offered to help me.”

Darrel Folkert said Mike and Ben carried him down a side street to Shaw’s grocery store where the two good samaritans stayed with Folkert while employees of the store responded.

Folkert had suffered lacerations and puncture wounds on his lower legs.

“I couldn’t have moved without somebody helping me,” he said. “What they did was way above and beyond.”

Ann Marie McDonough is a bookkeeper for Shaw’s and has been with the company for 30 years, according to store supervisor Benjamin Guitierrez. He said McDonough rushed to Folkert’s aid with bandages and water, and she got on the intercom to ask if there was a nurse in the store.

Mike and Ben tracked down police officers who called an ambulance, and Folkert was taken to Brigham and Women's Hospital and treated for his injuries.

"The staff was amazingly attentive and extremely helpful, not just to my injuries but also helping me get in touch with my wife and family," Folkert said. "It wasn't until an hour after I arrived at the hospital that I knew my wife was OK."

Jac Folkert was about to turn onto Boylston Street when the bombs went off. She was pushed back to Commonwealth Avenue.

"The people there were just amazing," she said. "They were offering us cellphones, bringing us warm clothes, food and water."

Marathon volunteers walked the group of stranded runners to buses where their gear bags were.

"That's how I found out that Darrel was in the hospital," Jac said.

Folkert was released from the hospital Monday night. The couple flew back to California on Tuesday night.

Other victims had similar stories.

At his news conference Tuesday, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick told of a woman named Victoria who was carried to safety by a man named Tyler who said he was a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

"Victoria very much wants to thank Tyler personally. ... We would love to hear from Tyler so we can connect him to Victoria," Patrick told news reporters.

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## **Syria Rebels Capture Homs Army Base After Fierce Clashes: "They Have Also Made Significant Gains In The South, In The Area Between Damascus And The Jordanian Border"**

18 Apr 2013 Aljazeera

Syrian rebels have captured a military base in the strategic central Homs province as part of a drive to try to expand territory under their control near the Lebanese border, activists said.

The Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights said the opposition fighters took control of the Dabaa military complex on Thursday, after weeks of fighting with government forces for control of the facility.

The group said government forces withdrew to military barracks east of the airport after fierce clashes took place, with casualties on both sides.

Dabaa is a former air force base and has an airfield, which has not been used since the Syrian conflict started. Instead, the army has based ground troops in the facility to fight the rebels, the Observatory said.

The base is located near Qusair, a contested central Syrian town near a key highway between Damascus and the coastal enclave that is the heartland of Syria's Alawite community and also home to the country's two main seaports, Latakia and Tartus.

The region is considered important to President Bashar al-Assad as it links Damascus, his seat of power, with one of his main allies, the Hezbollah group in neighbouring Lebanon.

The opposition fighters have in the past months chipped away at Assad's hold in northern and eastern Syria.

They have also made significant gains in the south, in the area between Damascus and the Jordanian border, helped in part by a recent influx of foreign-funded weapons across the boundary.

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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

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**“If We Oppose Terrorist Acts, It Is Only Because Individual Revenge Does Not Satisfy Us”**

**“Individual Terror Belittles The Role Of The Masses In Their Own Consciousness, Reconciles Them To Their Powerlessness, And Turns Their Eyes And Hopes Towards A Great Avenger And Liberator Who Some Day Will Come”**

**“The More ‘Effective’ The Terrorist Acts, The Greater Their Impact, The More They Reduce The Interest Of The Masses In Self-Organisation”**

The mass political strike, the armed insurrection, the conquest of state power—all this is determined by the degree to which production has been developed, the alignment of class forces, the proletariat’s social weight, and finally, by the social

**composition of the army, since the armed forces are the factor that in time of revolution determines the fate of state power.**

By Leon Trotsky, Der Kampf, November 1911. [From Marxists Internet Archive]  
[Thanks to Les Evenchick for posting.]

Our class enemies are in the habit of complaining about our terrorism.

What they mean by this is rather unclear.

They would like to label all the activities of the proletariat directed against the class enemy's interests as terrorism.

The strike, in their eyes, is the principal method of terrorism. The threat of a strike, the organisation of strike pickets, an economic boycott of a slave-driving boss, a moral boycott of a traitor from our own ranks—all this and much more they call terrorism.

**If terrorism is understood in this way as any action inspiring fear in, or doing harm to, the enemy, then of course the entire class struggle is nothing but terrorism.**

**And the only question remaining is whether the bourgeois politicians have the right to pour out their flood of moral indignation about proletarian terrorism when their entire state apparatus with its laws, police and army is nothing but an apparatus for capitalist terror!**

However, it must be said that when they reproach us with terrorism, they are trying—although not always consciously—to give the word a narrower, less indirect meaning.

**The damaging of machines by workers, for example, is terrorism in this strict sense of the word.**

**The killing of an employer, a threat to set fire to a factory or a death threat to its owner, an assassination attempt, with revolver in hand, against a government minister—all these are terrorist acts in the full and authentic sense.**

**However, anyone who has an idea of the true nature of international Social Democracy ought to know that it has always opposed this kind of terrorism and does so in the most irreconcilable way.**

Why?

'Terrorising' with the threat of a strike, or actually conducting a strike is something only industrial workers can do. The social significance of a strike depends directly upon first, the size of the enterprise or the branch of industry that it affects, and second, the degree to which the workers taking part in it are organised, disciplined, and ready for action.

This is just as true of a political strike as it is for an economic one. It continues to be the method of struggle that flows directly from the productive role of the proletariat in modern society.

In order to develop, the capitalist system needs a parliamentary superstructure. But because it cannot confine the modern proletariat to a political ghetto, it must sooner or later allow the workers to participate in parliament.

In elections, the mass character of the proletariat and its level of political development—quantities which, again, are determined by its social role, i.e. above all, its productive role—find their expression.

As in a strike, so in elections the method, aim, and result of the struggle always depend on the social role and strength of the proletariat as a class. Only the workers can conduct a strike.

Artisans ruined by the factory, peasants whose water the factory is poisoning, or lumpen proletarians in search of plunder can smash machines, set fire to a factory, or murder its owner.

**Only the conscious and organised working class can send a strong representation into the halls of parliament to look out for proletarian interests.**

**However, in order to murder a prominent official you need not have the organised masses behind you.**

**The recipe for explosives is accessible to all, and a Browning can be obtained anywhere.**

**In the first case, there is a social struggle, whose methods and means flow necessarily from the nature of the prevailing social order; and in the second, a purely mechanical reaction identical anywhere—in China as in France—very striking in its outward form (murder, explosions and so forth) but absolutely harmless as far as the social system goes.**

A strike, even of modest size, has social consequences: strengthening of the workers' self-confidence, growth of the trade union, and not infrequently even an improvement in productive technology.

The murder of a factory owner produces effects of a police nature only, or a change of proprietors devoid of any social significance.

Whether a terrorist attempt, even a 'successful' one throws the ruling class into confusion depends on the concrete political circumstances.

**In any case the confusion can only be shortlived; the capitalist state does not base itself on government ministers and cannot be eliminated with them.**

**The classes it serves will always find new people; the mechanism remains intact and continues to function.**

**But the disarray introduced into the ranks of the working masses themselves by a terrorist attempt is much deeper.**

If it is enough to arm oneself with a pistol in order to achieve one's goal, why the efforts of the class struggle?

If a thimbleful of gunpowder and a little chunk of lead is enough to shoot the enemy through the neck, what need is there for a class organisation?

**If it makes sense to terrify highly placed personages with the roar of explosions, where is the need for the party?**

Why meetings, mass agitation and elections if one can so easily take aim at the ministerial bench from the gallery of parliament?

**In our eyes, individual terror is inadmissible precisely because it belittles the role of the masses in their own consciousness, reconciles them to their powerlessness, and turns their eyes and hopes towards a great avenger and liberator who some day will come and accomplish his mission.**

The anarchist prophets of the 'propaganda of the deed' can argue all they want about the elevating and stimulating influence of terrorist acts on the masses. Theoretical considerations and political experience prove otherwise.

The more 'effective' the terrorist acts, the greater their impact, the more they reduce the interest of the masses in self-organisation and self-education.

But the smoke from the confusion clears away, the panic disappears, the successor of the murdered minister makes his appearance, life again settles into the old rut, the wheel of capitalist exploitation turns as before; only the police repression grows more savage and brazen.

And as a result, in place of the kindled hopes and artificially aroused excitement comes disillusionment and apathy.

The efforts of reaction to put an end to strikes and to the mass workers' movement in general have always, everywhere, ended in failure. Capitalist society needs an active, mobile and intelligent proletariat; it cannot, therefore, bind the proletariat hand and foot for very long.

**On the other hand, the anarchist 'propaganda of the deed' has shown every time that the state is much richer in the means of physical destruction and mechanical repression than are the terrorist groups.**

If that is so, where does it leave the revolution?

Is it rendered impossible by this state of affairs? Not at all.

For the revolution is not a simple aggregate of mechanical means.

The revolution can arise only out of the sharpening of the class struggle, and it can find a guarantee of victory only in the social functions of the proletariat.

**The mass political strike, the armed insurrection, the conquest of state power—all this is determined by the degree to which production has been developed, the alignment of class forces, the proletariat's social weight, and finally, by the social composition of the army, since the armed forces are the factor that in time of revolution determines the fate of state power.**

Social Democracy is realistic enough not to try to avoid the revolution that is developing out of the existing historical conditions; on the contrary, it is moving to meet the revolution with eyes wide open.

But—contrary to the anarchists and in direct struggle against them—Social Democracy rejects all methods and means that have as their goal to artificially force the development of society and to substitute chemical preparations for the insufficient revolutionary strength of the proletariat.

Before it is elevated to the level of a method of political struggle, terrorism makes its appearance in the form of individual acts of revenge.

So it was in Russia, the classic land of terrorism. The flogging of political prisoners impelled Vera Zasulich to give expression to the general feeling of indignation by an assassination attempt on General Trepov.

Her example was imitated in the circles of the revolutionary intelligentsia, who lacked any mass support. What began as an act of unthinking revenge was developed into an entire system in 1879-81. The outbreaks of anarchist assassination in Western Europe and North America always come after some atrocity committed by the government—the shooting of strikers or executions of political opponents.

The most important psychological source of terrorism is always the feeling of revenge in search of an outlet.

**There is no need to belabour the point that Social Democracy has nothing in common with those bought-and-paid-for moralists who, in response to any terrorist act, make solemn declarations about the 'absolute value' of human life.**

**These are the same people who, on other occasions, in the name of other absolute values—for example, the nation's honour or the monarch's prestige—are ready to shove millions of people into the hell of war.**

**Today their national hero is the minister who gives the sacred right of private property; and tomorrow, when the desperate hand of the unemployed workers is clenched into a fist or picks upon a weapon, they will start in with all sorts of nonsense about the inadmissibility of violence in any form.**

**Whatever the eunuchs and pharisees of morality may say, the feeling of revenge has its rights.**

**It does the working class the greatest moral credit that it does not look with vacant indifference upon what is going on in this best of all possible worlds.**

**Not to extinguish the proletariat's unfulfilled feeling of revenge, but on the contrary to stir it up again and again, to deepen it, and to direct it against the real causes of all injustice and human baseness—that is the task of the Social Democracy.**

**If we oppose terrorist acts, it is only because individual revenge does not satisfy us.**

The account we have to settle with the capitalist system is too great to be presented to some functionary called a minister.

**To learn to see all the crimes against humanity, all the indignities to which the human body and spirit are subjected, as the twisted outgrowths and expressions of the existing social system, in order to direct all our energies into a collective struggle against this system—that is the direction in which the burning desire for revenge can find its highest moral satisfaction.**

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## **Predator Drone Nominated For Nobel Peace Prize**



17 April 2013 by Ross Magee, The Duffel Blog

OSLO, NORWAY — The General Atomics MQ-1 Predator unmanned drone was nominated Monday for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its unrelenting pursuit of peace and tranquility in under-governed spaces around the globe, the Nobel Foundation announced.

“The prize is awarded annually to recipients who have displayed an abiding commitment to ridding the world of conflict,” according to Nils Droppenhauer of the Nobel Foundation. “The Predator has shown an unwavering dedication to seeking out and eliminating sources of badness everywhere, but particularly in fragile states where its impact is felt more intimately.”

Between 2004 and 2013, The Predator single-handedly reduced the number of opponents to world peace by no less than 1,533, with some estimates putting the number as high as 2,500.

Conducting hundreds of missions daily, the remotely piloted drone and its peace-seeking missiles are capable of bringing instant tranquility to multiple villages and/or pickup trucks simultaneously.

Public response to news of the nomination has been overwhelmingly positive. Yemeni tribal leaders this week issued a joint statement praising the Nobel nominee’s quiet professionalism and willingness to reach out to those in need of peace in even the most remote corners of the world.

Amnesty International, a close personal advisor to The Predator, commented, “Predator has helped encourage the migration of hundreds of thousands of previously homeless Pashtun nomads to more prosperous lives in the carefree environment of refugee camps and Peshawar shanty towns.

“If not for the persistent gaze of this tireless humanitarian, many families would be forced to remain living in bucolic poverty, their lazy lifestyles under constant threat from wicked evil-doers.”

Outspoken American religious scholar Anwar al-Awalaki, a vocal opponent of The Predator’s peace initiatives, was unavailable for comment.

In a statement issued Tuesday, a spokesman for the reclusive automaton best known for his typically terse, binary media interviews said “the Predator is humbly grateful for the positive attention the Nobel nomination will bring to his growing global network of precision-guided peace projects.

“He feels this nomination could have just as well gone to similar peace advocates, such as The Assault Rifle, Ohio Class Ballistic Missile Submarines, or The Mossad, but accepts it as a representative of the greater community.”

Other nominees for this year’s Nobel Peace Prize include AIDS for its groundbreaking efforts in global poverty reduction, as well as Hurricane Sandy and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, both of whom had an enormous impact on human life this year.

At press time, all three were reported to have turned off their cell phones and moved to undisclosed underground locations in anticipation of spirited debate from The Predator’s advocates.

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## ANNIVERSARIES

# ***The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*** **April 19, 1943:** **In Memory Of Those Who Died** **Courageously Resisting An Imperial** **Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand**



A resistance fighter with a homemade flame thrower during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.  
[citizenship.typepad]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

On the eve of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, to send them to concentration camps.

The destruction of the ghetto had been ordered in February by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler:

“An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans, and reduce the size of this city of millions — Warsaw — which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.”

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

In the summer of 1942, about 300,000 Jews were deported from Warsaw to Treblinka.



When reports of mass murder in the killing center leaked back to the Warsaw ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (for the Polish name, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, which means Jewish Fighting Organization).

The Z.O.B., led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, issued a proclamation calling for the Jewish people to resist going to the railroad cars.

In January 1943, Warsaw ghetto fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of ghetto inhabitants for deportation. Fighters used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto.

After a few days, the troops retreated.

This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters to prepare for future resistance.

The Nazis began the final liquidation of the ghetto the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Seven hundred and fifty fighters fought the heavily armed and well-trained Germans.

The ghetto fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended.

The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured, about 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to killing centers or concentration camps.

**Resisters held off the Nazis for three weeks, using precious few and largely ineffectual weapons, but they were determined to go out fighting, decrease the number of Nazis, and hopefully serve to let the whole world know of the plight of the Jews.**

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# ***The Ludlow Massacre*** **April 20, 1914:** **Infamous Anniversary:** **Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms** **Slaughtering Women And Children** **To Serve The Rich:**

# Some Honorable Soldiers Resist, But The Colorado National Guard Becomes Notorious All Over The World As Foul, Cowardly Strike- Breaking Scum



**Eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org

A lot more than 2,000 miles separated the Rockefeller estate from Southern Colorado when on Monday April 20, 1914, the first shot was fired at Ludlow.

One of history's most dramatic confrontations between capital and labor — the Ludlow massacre — took place at the mines of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I).

**Troops from the Colorado state militia attacked strikers, killing 25 (half women and children), in Ludlow. Two women and eleven children who suffocated in a pit they had dug under their tent.**

Having struck the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company the previous September for improved conditions, better wages, and union recognition, the workers established a tent camp which was fired upon and ultimately torched during the 14-hour siege.

## The Ludlow Massacre

[The following was excerpted from Howard Zinn's A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pgs 346-349).]

“... shortly after Woodrow Wilson took office there began in Colorado one of the most bitter and violent struggles between workers and corporate capital in the history of the country.

This was the Colorado coal strike that began in September 1913 and culminated in the ‘Ludlow Massacre’ of April 1914.

**Eleven thousand miners in southern Colorado ... worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, which was owned by the Rockefeller family.**

**Aroused by the murder of one of their organizers, they went on strike against low pay, dangerous conditions, and feudal domination of their lives in towns completely controlled by the mining companies.”**

“When the strike began, the miners were immediately evicted from their shacks in the mining towns. Aided by the United Mine Workers Union, they set up tents in the nearby hills and carried on the strike, the picketing, from these tent colonies.

**The gunmen hired by the Rockefeller interests -- the Baldwin- Felts Detective Agency -- using Gatling guns and rifles, raided the tent colonies.**

**The death list of miners grew, but they hung on, drove back an armored train in a gun battle, fought to keep out strikebreakers.**

**With the miners resisting, refusing to give in, the mines not able to operate, the Colorado governor (referred to by a Rockefeller mine manager as ‘our little cowboy governor’) called out the National Guard, with the Rockefellers supplying the Guard’s wages.**

**“The miners at first thought the Guard was sent to protect them, and greeted its arrival with flags and cheers.**

**They soon found out the Guard was there to destroy the strike.**

The Guard brought strikebreakers in under cover of night, not telling them there was a strike.

**Guardsmen beat miners, arrested them by the hundreds, rode down with their horses parades of women in the streets of Trinidad, the central town in the area.**

And still the miners refused to give in.

When they lasted through the cold winter of 1913-1914, it became clear that extraordinary measures would be needed to break the strike.

**“In April 1914, two National Guard companies were stationed in the hills overlooking the largest tent colony of strikers, the one at Ludlow, housing a thousand men, women, children.**

**On the morning of April 20, a machine gun attack began on the tents.**

**The miners fired back.**

**Their leader was lured up into the hills to discuss a truce, then shot to death by a company of National Guardsmen.**

The women and children dug pits beneath the tents to escape the gunfire.

**At dusk, the Guard moved down from the hills with torches, set fire to the tents, and the families fled into the hills; thirteen people were killed by gunfire.**

**“The following day, a telephone linesman going through the ruins of the Ludlow tent colony lifted an iron cot covering a pit in one of the tents and found the charred, twisted bodies of eleven children and two women.**

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

**In Denver, the United Mine Workers issued a ‘Call to Arms’ -- ‘Gather together for defensive purposes all arms and ammunition legally available.’ Three hundred armed strikers marched from other tent colonies into the Ludlow area, cut telephone and telegraph wires, and prepared for battle.**

**Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.**

**At Colorado Springs, three hundred union miners walked off their jobs and headed for the Trinidad district, carrying revolvers, rifles, shotguns.**

**“In Trinidad itself, miners attended a funeral service for the twenty-six dead at Ludlow, then walked from the funeral to a nearby building, where arms were stacked for them.**

**They picked up rifles and moved into the hills, destroying mines, killing mine guards, exploding mine shafts.**

The press reported that ‘the hills in every direction seem suddenly to be alive with men.’

**“In Denver, eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The press reported: ‘The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.**

**They hissed the 350 men who did start and shouted imprecations at them.**

“Five thousand people demonstrated in the rain on the lawn in front of the state capital at Denver asking that the National Guard officers at Ludlow be tried for murder, denouncing the governor as an accessory.

The Denver Cigar Makers Union voted to send five hundred armed men to Ludlow and Trinidad.

Women in the United Garment Workers Union in Denver announced four hundred of their members had volunteered as nurses to help the strikers.

“All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

Pickets marched in front of the Rockefeller office at 26 Broadway, New York City.

A minister protested in front of the church where Rockefeller sometimes gave sermons, and was clubbed by the police.

“The New York Times carried an editorial on the events in Colorado, which were not attracting international attention.

The Times emphasis was not on the atrocity that had occurred, but on the mistake in tactics that had been made.

Its editorial on the Ludlow Massacre began: ‘Somebody blundered ... ‘

Two days later, with the miners armed and in the hills of the mine district, the Times wrote: ‘With the deadliest weapons of civilization in the hands of savage-mined men, there can be no telling to what lengths the war in Colorado will go unless it is quelled by force ... The President should turn his attention from Mexico long enough to take stern measures in Colorado.’

“The governor of Colorado asked for federal troops to restore order, and Woodrow Wilson complied.

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

**Congressional committees came in and took thousands of pages of testimony.**

**The union had not won recognition.**

**Sixty-six men, women, and children had been killed.**

**Not one militiaman or mine guard had been indicted for crime.**

“The Times had referred to Mexico.

**On the morning that the bodies were discovered in the tent pit at Ludlow, American warships were attacking Vera Cruz, a city on the coast of Mexico--bombarding it, occupying it, leaving a hundred Mexicans dead--because Mexico had arrested American sailors and refused to apologize to the United States with a twenty-one gun salute.**

Could patriotic fervor and the military spirit cover up class struggle?

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

Could guns divert attention and create some national consensus against an external enemy?

It surely was a coincidence--the bombardment of Vera Cruz, the attack on the Ludlow colony.

Or perhaps it was, as someone once described human history, 'the natural selection of accidents.'

Perhaps the affair in Mexico was an instinctual response of the system for its own survival, to create a unity of fighting purpose among a people torn by internal conflict.

"The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

But in four months the First World War would begin in Europe.



The aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914.

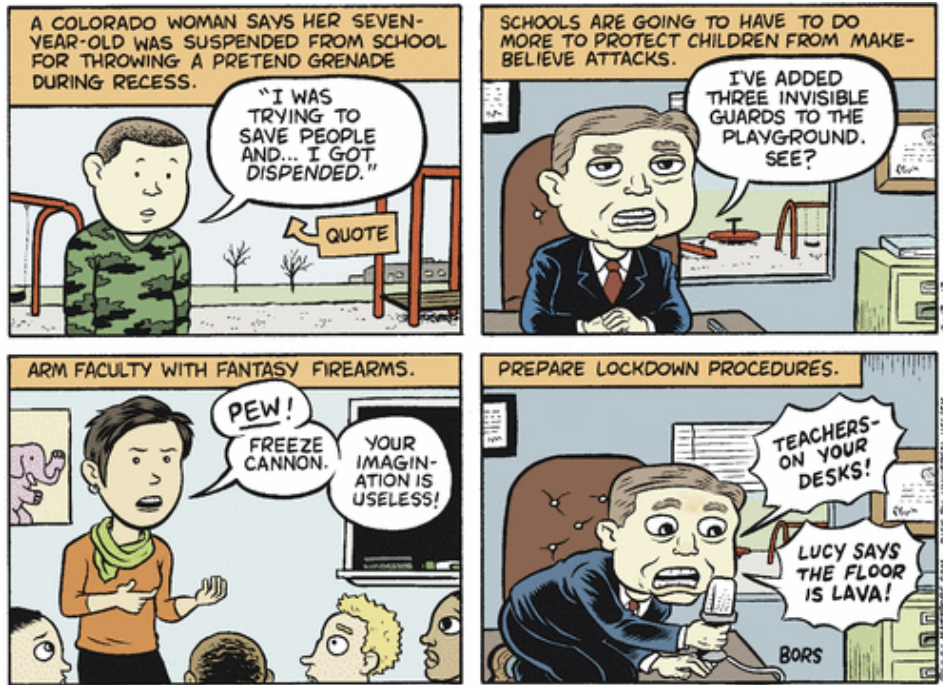
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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



# CLASS WAR REPORTS



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# **Poll: Most Americans Say Redistribute Wealth**

## **“Only 33 Percent Of Americans Think The Current Distribution Of Wealth In This Country Is Fair”**

4/18/13 By KEVIN ROBILLARD, POLITICO

Nearly 6 in 10 Americans say wealth is distributed unfairly in the United States, and a majority want the federal government to play Robin Hood to fix the problem, according to a poll released Thursday.

Only 33 percent of Americans think the current distribution of wealth in this country is fair, according to the Gallup Poll, while 59 percent say it is not. Fifty-two percent said the United States should redistribute wealth through heavy taxes on the rich, while 45 percent disagreed.

While the percent of Americans who said the current distribution of wealth is unfair is down from 68 percent in 2008, the number of Americans who favor federal redistribution is at an all-time high.

There are predictable partisan and ideological divides on the questions. Forty-seven percent of conservatives believe the distribution of wealth is fair, compared with only 17 percent of liberals. Only 26 percent of Republicans want the government to redistribute wealth, compared with three quarters of Democrats.

The poll of 1,005 adults was conducted from April 4 to April 7. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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## **Hundreds Of Thousands March In Chile For Free Education For All:**



# “In The Capital City Of Santiago, A Huge Demonstration - Estimated At Over 120,000”



Students march during a protest to demand Chilean President Sebastian Pinera's government to improve the public education quality, in Santiago, on April 11, 2013.  
AFP Photo / Claudio Santana

April 14, 2013 Jon Queally, Common Dreams

The Chilean student movement roared back to life on Thursday, with organizers and media outlets reporting that hundreds of thousands of people joined students in the nation's streets calling for a free and quality education for all.

Peaceful marches took place in nearly a dozen cities across the country.

In the capital city of Santiago, a huge demonstration - estimated at over 120,000 - held a jovial and energetic march through the city which culminated at the city's landmark Estación Mapocho.

As the larger group dispersed, some protesters were met with tear gas and water cannons as police forces clashed with smaller splinter groups from the larger crowd.

The Buenos Aires Herald, which said the marches were reminiscent of the waves of demonstrations that swept Chile in 2011, reports:

Hundreds of thousands of students took their educational claims again back to Chilean streets to demand a free, high-quality education system as the Andean country gets ready for key elections this year.

[...] schools and universities were left empty once again with around 120,000 students protesting in Chile's main cities such as Santiago, Temuco and Valparaiso to reach an educational reform.

"There are more than 120,000 people here in Santiago and we have to consider the demonstrations in the rest of the country which show that we can change the reality we are living under a latent injustice as we continue to be the world's most segregated country in educational terms," head of the Catholic University Student's Federation Diego Vela affirmed.

Student leader Camila Vallejo, in an interview with local ADN Radio, said the size of the demonstration showed that the student movement and the broader social movement in Chile are once again growing and on the move.

"This symbolizes that the student and social movement didn't go home and that that the movement is here to stay," Vallejo said.

Students at the march carried flags and banners with slogans like "The Struggle Continues" and "Free Education for All" while dancing and chanting along the streets.

Under similar banners in 2011, large street demonstrations pushed for a rejection of the Pinochet-era education policies that students still say relegate education advantages to the elites while making it unaffordable to most Chileans.

As the Santiago Times reports:

"For Chileans, marching in masses is not a new phenomenon. The current student movement reached its peak in the winter of 2011 with some of the largest demonstrations in Chile since the return of democracy in 1990."

"If we didn't have these marches, we wouldn't be able to talk about education and health and justice," (said protester Nito Rojas).

Though representing various organizations, the common goal among all marchers was to denounce the state of education in Chile.

"We are marching because we want free and quality education," said Valentina Ibañez, a first-year student at Universidad Alberto Hurtado. "Education should be equal for everyone, it should be free - we all have the same rights."

Ibañez, like many other students, held up large cloth banners with her school affiliation and slogan. More than a dozen of her classmates and teachers joined the masses in the streets of Santiago.

Despite the slight chill in the air, the march was infused with dancing and cheering. Some participants played drums, many waved flags while others threw shredded paper confetti into the air.

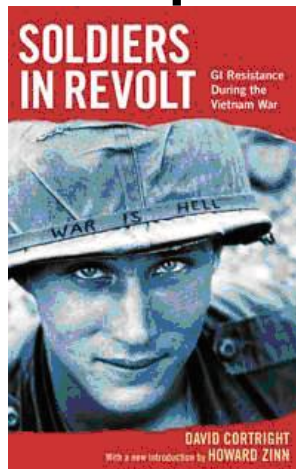
## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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## FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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