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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **American And Two Slovak Soldiers Killed In Kabul**



U.S. trucks lift up an armoured vehicle hit by a bomb attack in Kabul December 27, 2013. A bomber attacked the convoy on the eastern outskirts of the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Friday, killing three soldiers. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani

12.28.13 NBCNews & AFP

KABUL, Afghanistan – An American was among three military personnel killed by a bomb attack on a convoy on the eastern outskirts of Kabul Friday, according to U.S. and local officials.

A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility in a message on his Twitter account, according to Reuters.

Two Slovak soldiers were killed. They had served in the fifth regiment at a special forces base in Zilina, central Slovakia.

The blast Friday in the Afghan capital injured six civilian passers-by and left the twisted remains of the attacker's car scattered across the scene along with several other badly-damaged vehicles, witnesses said.

# **U.S. Embassy In Kabul Hit By Indirect Fire**

December 25, 2013 by Stephanie Federico, NPR

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, was hit by indirect rocket fire Wednesday morning, officials say. NPR's Sean Carberry reports for our Newscast unit that no one was injured.

"They hit in an open area; they didn't strike any of the embassy buildings. There was no damage to embassy facilities, and there were no causalities," he said.

Embassy officials say they are investigating.

Taliban insurgents claimed they fired rockets at the embassy, but they often make claims that turn out to be exaggerated or untrue. **[Oh right. Must have been an attack by the tooth fairy.]**

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE BLOODSHED**

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

## **Resistance Action; Explosion Leave Four Policemen Injured In Kabul City**

Dec 25 KP

Two separate blasts rocked capital Kabul early Wednesday morning, leaving four police officers injured.

Kabul security chief Gen. Zahir Zahir confirmed the incident and said three police officers were injured following the blast which took place in the 16th district of Kabul city.

Gen. Zahir further added the explosive device went off while Afghan police officers were busy with defusing two missiles which were planted in the area.

He said the blast took place as a result of a remote controlled explosive device.

In the meantime, interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said, four police officers were slightly injured following the twin blasts which took place in the 16th district of Kabul city.

Mr. Sediqi further added that the first blast took place due to a missile explosion which was planted in a graveyard in Marjanjan hill, and the second blast took place as a result of a land mine.

Taliban group in Afghanistan claimed responsibility behind the incident. Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesman for the Taliban group said, four missiles were launched on US embassy in capital Kabul, which have incurred heavy casualties and damages to the embassy.

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# **“The Reports Are Cranked Out With Relentless Efficiency: Blistering Tales Of Waste, Fraud And Abuse Of American Taxpayer-Funded Projects To Rebuild Afghanistan”**

## **“Officials Here Have Complained About SIGAR’s Aggressiveness And Efforts To Attract Public Attention”**

## **“Yes, There Could Be Fraud But It’s Not As If The Audit Found Abuse”**

December 23, 2013 By David Zucchino, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — The reports are cranked out with relentless efficiency: blistering tales of waste, fraud and abuse of American taxpayer-funded projects to rebuild Afghanistan.

The damning audits from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction strike like missiles at the U.S. Embassy and military headquarters here. Trumpeted by an aggressive public relations effort, SIGAR findings cause heartburn among American diplomats and generals alike.

Many officials here have complained privately in recent months about SIGAR's aggressiveness and efforts to attract public attention.

"Let me get this straight," Philip LaVelle, a SIGAR spokesman, said of anonymous critics.

"They're complaining we're telling the American people how their tax dollars are being spent? The public has a right to know and we have a duty to tell them — and we intend to keep doing just that."

SIGAR says its investigations since 2008 have produced 56 criminal convictions or guilty pleas, involving nearly three dozen American military members and civilians, plus 21 Afghans.

In September, Sopko issued an audit charging that USAID continued to fund the Afghan Ministry of Public Health despite the ministry's "significant internal control deficiencies." Those deficiencies, Sopko wrote, put the ministry "at risk of waste, fraud and abuse."

In its 12-page response, included in the SIGAR report index, USAID said it "takes strong exception" to SIGAR's draft headline referring to potential waste, fraud and abuse.

"Yes, there could be fraud but it's not as if the audit found abuse," Yamashita [S. Ken Yamashita, director of program coordination at the embassy] said.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

**Two-Star Formerly In Charge Of  
The Air Force's Nuclear Missile  
Arsenal Removed From  
Command:  
"Appeared To Be So Drunk That One  
Witness Worried He Needed Help  
Standing, Was 'Pouting And Sulking'  
During Tours With Russian Officials And**

# **Delayed Activities On Two Days After Staying Out Late Drinking”**



Maj. Gen. Michael Carey was removed from command of the 20th Air Force commander for conduct unbecoming an officer in October following an Air Force inspector general's finding. (John Turner / Air Force)

Dec. 19, 2013 By Brian Everstine, Staff writer, Military Times [Excerpts]

The two-star formerly in charge of the Air Force's nuclear missile arsenal was "frequently rude" to his hosts while he led a U.S. delegation to Russia, socialized with "suspect" women and appeared to be so drunk that one witness worried he needed help standing, according to an inspector general investigation report released Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Michael Carey was fired as commander of 20th Air Force for conduct unbecoming an officer in October following the Air Force inspector general's finding. A member of the delegation reported his behavior to the inspector general shortly after returning from the trip in July.

Carey is still a two-star, and has since been reassigned as the special assistant to the commander of Air Force Space Command and has received a "letter of counseling." Carey was promoted to two-star in November 2011 when he served as deputy director of command, control and nuclear operations at the Pentagon.

The inspector general report said that Carey: was publicly drunk on the flight over and during the stay in Russia; made repeated statements on subjects such as Edward Snowden and Syria that were not "well received" by Russian leaders; publicly flaunted his authority as commander of a nuclear force during an airport delay; was "pouting and

sulking" during tours with Russian officials and delayed activities on two days after staying out late drinking.

Carey had been selected to lead the U.S. group that traveled to Moscow on July 14 for the July 16-17 Bilateral Presidential Commission, Military Cooperation Working Groups event hosted by the Russian Ministry of Defense. He was briefed at the Pentagon before leaving on July 14.

On Oct. 11, Air Force Global Strike Command announced that Carey had been removed from command of 20th Air Force after a "loss of trust and confidence" in his leadership and judgment, but did not provide an explanation at the time.

Through interviews with witnesses and Carey himself, the inspector general formed a timeline of Carey's actions:

July 14: Carey flew from Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C., to Zurich, Switzerland, on his way to the meeting. During an extended layover, Carey was seen drinking and at one point "talked loudly about the importance of his position as commander of the only operational nuclear force in the world and that he saves the world from war every day," according to witnesses.

July 15: The U.S. delegation arrived at a Marriott hotel in Moscow and met in an executive lounge. Carey reportedly had several beers and "again, started in on the very loud discussions about being in charge of the only operationally deployed force and saving the world."

He began saying the airmen in his command have the lowest morale of any in the Air Force.

After the executive lounge meeting, Carey and another member of the delegation went to a rooftop bar at a Ritz-Carlton hotel. There, Carey and the other member of the delegation drank "casually" and met women from the United Kingdom. Carey returned to his hotel somewhere between 2:30 a.m. and 5 a.m., according to the IG report.

July 16: Carey reportedly showed up for departure from the hotel 45 minutes late. At the initial briefing with the Russians, his behavior was reported to be rude and he was interrupting translations of the briefing.

During a lunch banquet, there were nine toasts with vodka, though the delegation was able to politely refuse the drinks. One lieutenant colonel told the IG that "the general, it looked like it hit him pretty hard but he wasn't out of control or that but he did look like he had quite a few at the table there while we ate."

During the lunch, Carey gave a toast that reportedly included the comments about Syria and Snowden that were not well received.

The group toured a monastery, where witnesses said Carey showed effects of the alcohol and interrupted the tour guide.

During a tour of the Red Square, Carey reportedly held up the group and was “sulking,” saying that he was displeased with how the day went and that he wouldn’t attend the next day.

That night, the group went to a restaurant for dinner. The restaurant, La Cantina, was suggested by Carey because he and another member of the delegation tried to go there the night before and “the General really wanted to see this Beatles cover band.” Carey reportedly tried to sing with the band, and asked if he could play the guitar.

During dinner, the women from the night before arrived. One kissed the general on the cheek, and they went to another table and eventually danced. Witnesses said Carey spoke about being someone of importance in the security business.

“It was notable to the IG that a discussion was had, with two foreign national women, which could easily be deduced that Maj Gen Carey was someone of importance, that Maj Gen Carey was probably in the Air Force, and that he was in Russia on official business,” the IG report states.

The group went out after dinner and arrived back at the hotel at 3 a.m.

July 17: The group again left late, about 15 minutes, because of Carey, the report states. During the morning briefing for the meeting, Carey was reportedly again rude to a translator. During a lunch banquet, there were approximately 25 toasts, which Carey reportedly repeatedly interrupted.

“Maj Gen Carey stated that he only had about a half a dozen shots or 8 ounces and sipped on some toasts and finished his glass on others,” the report states. “He also stated that he didn’t remember the particulars of any of his toasts other than them being about camaraderie. When asked if he was intoxicated when he left the banquet he declined to answer.”

Back at the hotel, Carey had drinks in the lobby until approximately 4 a.m. with a lieutenant colonel and a woman who worked in the hotel’s cigar shop.

Carey said that the “cigar sales lady” spent most of the night with them and, “She was asking questions about physics and optics and I was like, dude, this doesn’t normally happen.” Carey turned in her business card to OSI when he returned, saying he had concerns about her intentions.

July 18: The group left for the airport and returned home without incident.

## **MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL**

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## ANNIVERSARIES

**December 28, 1971  
“Members Of The Vietnam Veterans  
Against The War Leaving The Statue  
Of Liberty, Which They Had Occupied  
For Two Days”**



(Source: Photograph Collection of the American Museum of Immigration, Liberty Island, U.S. Department of the Interior, NPS)

[This comes from the weblog maintained by James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace: imagineaworldof.blogspot.com] [From the history of the Statue Of Liberty, by the National Park Service, www.cr.nps.gov]

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**Tim MacCormick of New Jersey and fourteen other members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, on the afternoon of December 26, 1971, arrived on Liberty Island by the Circle Line boat along with other tourists.**

But, when the last return ship to Manhattan sailed that evening, the veterans were not aboard. Instead, just before closing time, they hid among the exhibit partitions, building materials, and storage closets which were lying about the monument's base while work was being finished on the American Museum of Immigration.

**When NPS personnel made their 7:30 evening check-up of the statue, they found that the veterans had seized control of the landmark and barricaded the three ground floor entrances.**

**The men inside refused to speak to or admit any Park Service people, but on the door they posted a typewritten statement addressed to President Richard M. Nixon:**

***"Each Vietnam veteran who has barricaded himself within this international symbol of liberty has for many years rationalized his attitude to war. . . .We can no longer tolerate the war in Southeast Asia. . . .Mr. Nixon, you set the date (for leaving Vietnam), we'll evacuate."***

On December 27, twenty-one National Park police flew to Liberty Island from Washington where they were joined by New York City police and Coast Guardsmen. These security forces stood by while the government attempted to reach a peaceful compromise with the occupiers. They were told that they would be permitted to protest on the island if they would simply vacate the statue, allowing it to reopen to visitors.

**The veterans rejected the offer, flew the United States flag upside down from the statue's crown, and waited.**

Law enforcement officers also waited. During that day thousands of disappointed tourists were told at the Battery that they could not go out to the statue. Congresswoman Bella Abzug (Democrat-New York) sent a telephone message of support to the demonstrators.

Meanwhile, United States Attorney Whitney North Seymour, Jr., went before District Court Judge Lawrence Pierce to request an injunction directing the veterans to open the doors, leave the statue except during regular visiting hours, and permit Park Service personnel and tourists to enter.

On the morning of December 28 Judge Pierce issued a temporary restraining order, instructing the protestors to leave the statue "forthwith."

Two hours later, after conferring with their lawyers, the veterans removed the barricades from the entrances and emerged with "clenched fists raised."

They had cleaned up their debris and caused no significant damage to the property. The monument was reopened to the public, with the first ferry-load of visitors arriving at 2:15 that afternoon.

**Tim MacCormick issued a statement to the press explaining why they had picked this particular target:**

**"The reason we chose the Statue of Liberty is that since we were children, the statue has been analogous in our minds with freedom and an America we love.**

**"Then we went to fight a war in the name of freedom. We saw that freedom is a selective expression allowed only to those who are white and maintain the status quo.**

**"Until this symbol again takes on the meaning it was intended to have, we must continue our demonstrations. . . . "**

**MORE:**

## **A Vietnam Veteran Who Occupied The Statue Of Liberty Remembers; An Iraq Veteran Against The War Understands**

December 24, 2006 By Tim Blanger of The Morning Call

Nestled in a corner of a tiny Carbon County hollow, between an unnamed hill and an unnamed stream, Paul Fichter's home sits in quiet, exurban isolation. His lawn, a collection of lush ferns scattered among mature pine trees, is calming, meditative.

But climb the steps of Fichter's simple wooden porch and the mood changes. Next to the door, a three-foot-long Air Force missile pierces the weather-worn trailer's side at combat-ready angle, its fin end exposed.

Granted, Fichter's eccentric outdoor inventory includes a miniature Arc de Triomphe model encased in a backyard terrarium, twin Buddha-like statues , an Allentown fire hydrant and one of the city's discarded Call Box emergency telephones, the last two bought at auction.

But the missile ...

The ordnance helps Fichter disguise damage a falling tree did to his trailer several years ago. The outside of the trailer looks fine, but inside, the damage is more apparent. The roof still leaks.

**For those who know Fichter, the missile also recalls the Vietnam War and the effect it had on him. He was one of 15 veterans who occupied the Statue of Liberty for three nights and two days over the Christmas holiday 35 years ago, starting on Christmas Eve.**

Fichter looks good for a 61-year-old. He's stopped drinking but still smokes. He ties his long, silver-gray hair in a ponytail. When he thinks, he sometimes strokes his substantial gray beard. The war, that war, for good or bad, plays a big part in who he is.

A star football player at Emmaus High School — he was starting offensive end on the 1962 team that shared a league championship with football powerhouse Northampton that year — he was drafted after he failed to register for classes at Moravian College, which he attended for a year.

After a year in the Army, he decided to volunteer for duty in Vietnam, in part, he says, because he liked the anti-authoritarian air the veterans returning from the war displayed. He wasn't very political or even all that upset about being drafted, he remembers

**But the year Fichter spent in Vietnam turned out to be a traumatic experience. When he talks about it today, his voice changes, takes on a once-removed quality. "You just didn't know who the enemy was," he says, haltingly.**

Friends of Fichter's from Emmaus also served in Vietnam. But Bill Trotter, his football teammate, thinks the experience especially affected Fichter.

"He was always a very intelligent, very introspective guy. I think he had much more of a difficult time adjusting," says Trotter, now a partner in the Hotel Bethlehem. "He thought about a lot of things and I saw that intensified when he came back. He thought a lot about his experiences and it had a deep impact on him."

The decision to become part of the anti-war movement was a slow process for Fichter.

When he came home, he decided not to marry or have children. "I was in no condition to marry anyone. I knew of the problems, of what happened when guys tried," he says.

**"I came to realize that, basically, I came home to a parade, which is to say Emmaus in 1968 was an environment that was still in favor of the war. I received slaps on the back and handshakes and 'Nice job; well done, lad' for what had been the most morally abominable thing I had ever done or ever hoped to do."**

One night in the spring of 1971 — he remembers it was a Monday, for some reason — Fichter caught bits of a national news report from Washington, D.C., where an anti-war group, the Vietnam Veterans Against The War, was camping on The Ellipse and returning war medals.

The vets sardonically called their non-violent “assault on Congress,” as Fichter puts it, Dewey Canyon III, a reference to Dewey Canyon II, the military code name given to a secret operation in Laos, Vietnam’s neighbor, which began earlier that same year.

**Fichter was moved by what he saw in the coverage of that event, especially images of Vietnam Vets and Gold Star mothers, women who lost sons in the war, being turned away from the iron gates of the Arlington National Cemetery, where they had wanted to hold a demonstration.**

**“I came to a rapid conclusion,” he recalls. “If I was going to be involved in any capacity beyond an individual effort, this would be the organization.”**

The next day, he arranged for a leave of absence from his construction job and drove to Washington to join the Dewey Canyon vets.

That trip began his involvement with the group, which included attending dozens of gatherings, conventions and protests.

**Almost by chance, he came to be among the veterans who occupied the Statue of Liberty.**

He first learned of the planned action at a peace encampment at Valley Forge, outside of Philadelphia.

“I was quietly approached and told that if I wanted to take part, I should be at a certain time and place the next day,” Fichter recalls. Once they were there, the group still wasn’t told of its final destination, although Fichter says at least a few of the veterans knew the details.

He believes the secrecy had much to do with a widely held belief among the vets that the government had spies inside the anti-war movement.

“There was a general expectation that we were going to spend some significant time in prison for our actions,” Fichter says. The vets feared the Nixon administration would bring down the full weight of the federal government on them, he says.

**The Statue of Liberty occupation coincided with other veteran actions around the country, including a protest in which several veterans chained themselves to the fence near the Betsy Ross house in Philadelphia.**

**Fichter’s group stopped at a home in northern New Jersey — Fichter isn’t sure exactly where — and the group made sandwiches, which they stuffed into the pockets of their jungle fatigues. Then they drove to Manhattan and boarded the last ferry of the day to Bedloe’s Island.**

**The 15 men ascended the Statue of Liberty then hid in the arm, which was undergoing repairs, and waited until the staff of the National Park Service left the island.**

**“We wanted to stay in the statue until the war ended, but we knew that was fairly optimistic,” he says. One of the vets, armed with a roll of dimes, went to the pay**

**phone in the statue's lobby and began calling media outlet s. Within hours, the occupation was national news.**

The event itself was actually uneventful. The vets didn't want to damage the statue, just draw attention to their opposition to the war.

The vets ate sandwiches and drank instant coffee, which they found in the canteen area of the statue.

They held a news conference and discussed the occupation with officials from the National Park Service.

**Bill Garvin, one of Fichter's best buddies, took an American flag from the lobby and climbed out onto the statue, hanging the flag upside down — an international symbol of distress. The image made many newspapers the following day.**

**"We tried to keep a focus," Fichter says. "We weren't against the American people or the people who worked for the National Park Service. We showed that we were some human beings who were trying to end the war."**

The vets negotiated with park officials and, after three days, they left as a group, returning on a ferry to Manhattan. They had taken up a collection among themselves and left the money for the coffee they drank. They also left a note apologizing for any inconvenience they might have caused park workers.

No charges were filed.

In the end, says Fichter, there was no "mindless cheering and shouting." A few other vets met the occupiers as they returned and there was a press conference at a local restaurant. Mostly, the protestors were hungry.

"We hadn't won. The question was, did we do anything? We had tried. That was our perspective," says Fichter.

Fichter continued to work with Vietnam Veterans Against the War but eventually came to realize he had to stop.

"I began to burn out," he says. "I continued with local actions, but the torch was being passed. I was no longer able to function that well. I had encountered too much."

A few weeks after the occupation, Fichter says, the Allentown office of the FBI called, leaving a message with his mother, Muriel, an English teacher at Emmaus High School. They wanted to interview Fichter — "interview being an interesting euphemism," he says.

They didn't ask about the statue occupation, Fichter says, but wanted to know about his involvement in the veterans' peace group.

The interview "contributed to the hastening of my psychological decline," Fichter says.

Vietnam began his descent, but it wasn't until 40 years after his return that he took steps to arrest it.

Three years ago, at the start of direct U.S. involvement in Iraq, Fichter sought help from the Veterans Administration for the first time.

Fichter says the Iraqi war may have contributed to his mounting emotional problems. He can't say for sure. Doctors told him to stop following the news because doing so might upset him.

He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome and began taking medication. He makes a point of praising his VA doctors and the help he's received.

He is now semi-retired from his landscaping and handyman jobs, collecting disability benefits.

**Fichter's delayed reaction to his post-traumatic stress syndrome doesn't surprise veteran Michael Hoffman, also from Emmaus, who experienced a similar, if not quite so delayed, reaction from his Iraqi tour of duty.**

**"At first I was happy to be back, but slowly, I started having problems," says Hoffman, 26, who now lives outside of Philadelphia. "I started drinking continually and started having nightmares. I realized something was wrong. I was never for the war, but I had the usual soldier's mentality. I had orders. I followed the orders, and then I got to go home."**

**Reluctantly at first, Hoffman started speaking out against the war, then the 1997 Emmaus High School grad became one of the founding members of Iraqi Veterans Against The War.**

Veterans from both Vietnam and the Iraq conflict have made strong connections, Hoffman says. "So many of the Vietnam Vets devoted their lives after Vietnam to making sure it didn't happen again. Now, they're watching my generation fight a war they swore they would never allow. It is literally killing them inside. I'm seeing Vietnam Vets who were clean and sober for years go back to drinking. Iraq is making them relive Vietnam."

**Less than four years into the Iraq war, Iraqi veterans are speaking out against it, says Frank Corcoran, a Vietnam veteran who volunteers for Veterans for Peace, a Philadelphia-based group opposed to the Iraq war.**

The Iraqi Veterans Against the War held national planning sessions last January in Philadelphia. A series of informational meetings, to get their word out, followed, says Corcoran.

"Most of our members are out of the service and actively speaking out," says Corcoran. "We're a lot of ex-Marines, ex-medics, folks who were deep into" the war.

That Iraqi vets are voicing their opposition to the war doesn't surprise Ted Morgan, a political science professor at Lehigh University, who teaches courses on the Vietnam war.

Opposition to the war among Vietnam vets was a “historically unprecedented movement in the military. It took an enormous breaking through of people’s consciousness. Before Vietnam, there was a very strong consensus in the country that the United States could do no wrong overseas.” Vietnam Veterans were part of changing public opinion, Morgan says.

“Vets in the (Vietnam) war, whether they were in the VVAW or not, were not viewed as anti-war people but as really important voices in the movement. They had super credibility for what they were saying because they had been there, engaged in combat and had seen it first hand.”

In a storage room in his trailer, Fichter keeps a box of booklets and flyers from his days in Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and he has been thinking about looking through it for the first time since he ended his involvement.

“Those were some good times,” he says. “I’d like to work on the differences between the VVAW in big cities and smaller towns. A lot of the vets from the bigger cities were socialists. Guys like me from the smaller towns, we worked at Bethlehem Steel. We didn’t want to end capitalism. We wanted to end the war.”

Fichter is also slowly working his way back. He’s happy in his home — “Hovel, Sweet Hovel,” a sign near his door reads — calmly talking about this being where he wants to settle for the rest of his life. A small stream runs behind the property and a series of landscaping lights flicker off the water at night.

He watches the stream from a window, sitting in a barber’s chair in his living room, between two bookcases. One holds books about Vietnam and a few war mementoes, including a helmet Fichter wore when he served as a military policeman. The other bookcase has a Civil War theme. “I guess I was looking for something, a war that had some meaning,” Fichter says of his interest in the 19th-century war between the states.

A third bookcase, the largest of the three, holds hundreds of dusty folk recordings, mostly on long-playing, 33 1/3 records. The large television near the chair is dark and silent. Folk music from a satellite radio station floats in the background.

At last, Paul Fichter may have found his peace.

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## ***Great Moments In U.S. Military History:***

### ***December 29, 1890:***

## **Massacre At Wounded Knee;**

## **“Many Women And Children Standing By Their Tipis Under A White Flag Of Truce**

# **Were Cut Down By Deadly Shrapnel From The Hotchkiss Guns”**



**A mounted soldier rides among the dead Indians at Wounded Knee**

[Via Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin]

English.uiuc.edu

From Momaday, “The American West and the Burden of Belief” in Geoffrey C. Ward, *The West: An Illustrated History*. Copyright © 1996 by The West Book Project, Inc. (Little Brown, 1996).

On December 15, 1890, the great Hunkpapa leader Sitting Bull, who had opposed Custer at the Little Bighorn and who had toured for a time with Buffalo Bill and the Wild West show, was killed on the Standing Rock reservation.

In a dream he had foreseen his death at the hands of his own people.

Just two weeks later, on the morning of December 29, 1890, on Wounded Knee Creek near the Pine Ridge agency, the Seventh Cavalry of the U.S. Army opened fire on an encampment of Big Foot’s band of Miniconjou Sioux.

When the shooting ended, Big Foot and most of his people were dead or dying.

It has been estimated that nearly 300 of the original 350 men, women, and children in the camp were slain. Twenty-five soldiers were killed and thirty-nine wounded,

Sitting Bull is reported to have said, “I am the last Indian.”

In some sense he was right. During his lifetime the world of the Plains Indians had changed forever.

The old roving life of the buffalo hunters was over. A terrible disintegration and demoralization had set in. If the death of Sitting Bull marked the end of an age, Wounded Knee marked the end of a culture.

**"I did not know then how much was ended.**

**"When I look back now from the high hill of my old age, I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered all along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes still young.**

**"And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people's dream died there. It was a beautiful dream...." -Black Elk-**

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**Indian Bodies on the ground at Wounded Knee**

Paula M. Robertson: From Encyclopedia of North American Indians. Frederick E. Hoxie, Ed. Copyright © 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

**Many women and children standing by their tipis under a white flag of truce were cut down by deadly shrapnel from the Hotchkiss guns.**

**The rest fled under withering fire from all sides.**

**Pursuing soldiers shot most of them down in flight, some with babes on their backs.**

One survivor recalled that she was wounded but was so scared she did not feel it. She lost her husband, her little girl, and a baby boy.

One shot passed through the baby's body before it broke her elbow, causing her to drop his body. Two more shots ripped through the muscles of her back before she fell.

The warrior Iron Hail, shot four times himself but still able to move, saw the soldiers shooting women and children.

One young woman, crying out for her mother, had been wounded close to her throat, and the bullet had taken some of her braid into the wound.

A gaping hole six inches across opened the belly of a man near him, shot through by an unexploded shell from the guns.

**Others told of women, heavy with child, shot down by the soldiers. Bodies of women and children were found scattered for three miles from the camp.**



**The mass grave at Wounded Knee**

On New Year's Day, a pit was dug on the hill that the Hotchkiss guns had been on, and the frozen bodies of 146 men, women, and children were thrown into the pit like cordwood until it was full.

The whites stripped many of the bodies, keeping as souvenirs the Ghost Shirts and other clothing and equipment the people had owned in life, or selling them later in the thriving trade over Ghost Dance relics that ensued.

One member of the burial party remarked that it was "a thing to melt the heart of a man, if it was of stone, to see those little children, with their bodies shot to pieces, thrown naked into the pit."

Besides the 146 buried that day, others who had been wounded died soon afterward, and relatives removed many of the bodies before the government burial party arrived.

Estimates of the number of Lakotas slain vary, but many authorities believe that the figure is around three hundred men, women, and children.

Not many escaped.

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## December 30, 1936: Class War At GM



Workers sit down at GM

Peace History Dec 26 - Jan 1 By Carl Bunin

Members of the United Automobile Workers sat down at a General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan. GM, the world's largest corporation at the time, had refused to recognize or negotiate with the union, despite passage of the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) in 1935 which promised unions the right to organize.

The local's membership adopted a tactic developed by French workers. Instead of picketing outside a factory only to be ignored or forcibly cleared away, the sit-down strike enabled workers to halt production and seize the plant "from the inside."

The strike began just days after the end of a successful sit-down at Ford supplier Kelsey-Hayes.



Supporters pass in food to sitdown strikers

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



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# **“Emergency Federal Program That Acts As A Lifeline For 1.3 Million Jobless Workers Will End On Saturday”**

28 December 13 By Annie Lowrey, The New York Times [Excerpt]

An emergency federal program that acts as a lifeline for 1.3 million jobless workers will end on Saturday, drastically curtailing government support for the long-term unemployed and setting the stage for a major political fight in the new year.

The program, in place since the recession started in 2008, provides up to 47 weeks of supplemental unemployment insurance payments to jobless people looking for work. Its expiration is expected to have far-reaching ramifications for the economy, cutting job growth by about 300,000 positions next year and pushing hundreds of thousands of households below the poverty line.

An extension of the unemployment program did not make it into the two-year budget deal that was passed just before Congress left on its winter recess. When the federal program expires, just one in four unemployed Americans will receive jobless benefits - the smallest proportion in half a century.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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