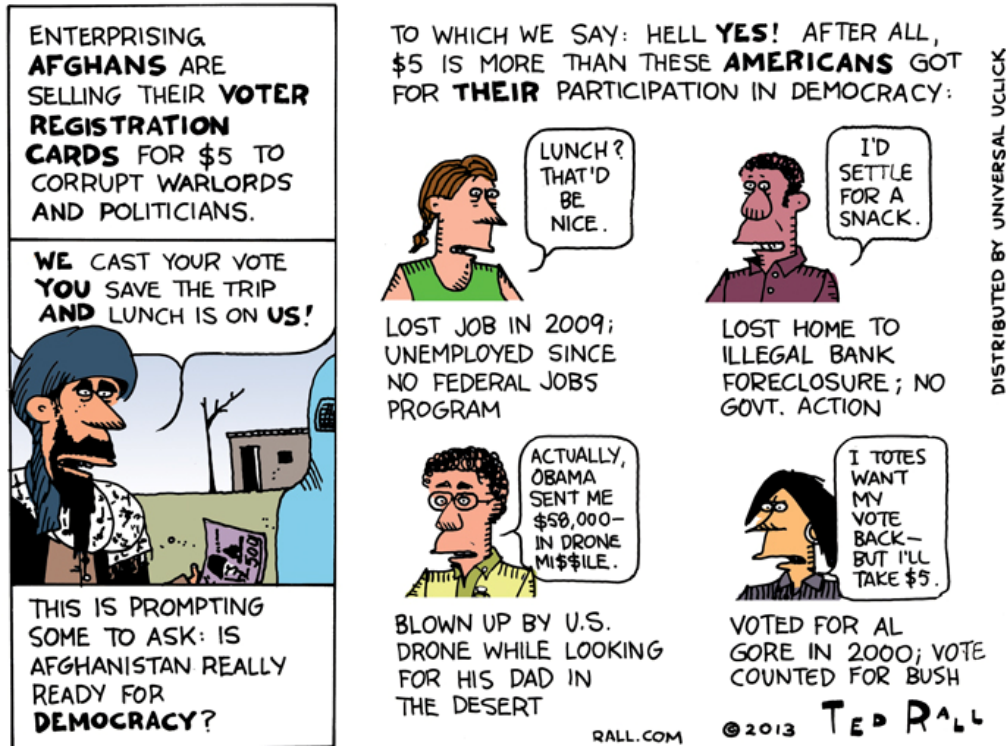


Military Resistance 12A2



The Present As History: 2014

Excerpts from *Introduction To Ferdinand Lassalle's Speech To The Jury* by Leon Trotsky (July 1905)

Imposing its own type of economy and its own relations on all countries, capitalism has transformed the entire world into a single economic and political organism.

And just as modern credit binds thousands of enterprises together by an invisible thread and imparts astounding mobility to capital, eliminating numerous small and partial crises while at the same time making general economic crises incomparably more serious, so the entire economic and political functioning of capitalism, with its world trade, its system of monstrous state debts and international political alliances, which are drawing all the reactionary forces into a single worldwide joint-stock company, has not only resisted all partial political crises but has also prepared the conditions for a social crisis of unprecedented dimensions.

Internalizing all the pathological processes, circumventing all the difficulties, brushing aside all the profound questions of domestic and international politics, and hiding all the contradictions, the bourgeoisie has postponed the denouement while simultaneously preparing a radical, worldwide liquidation of its supremacy.

This small planet on which we live will only complete this task once.

How fortunate is the generation that will shoulder this responsibility.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marietta Soldier Killed In Helicopter Crash In Afghanistan



Sgt. 1st Class Omar Forde, 28, of Marietta, was killed Tuesday in Afghanistan

Dec. 19, 2013 By Alexis Stevens, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

After playing three years of varsity football at Kennesaw Mountain High School, Omar Forde had offers to play at the college level when he graduated in 2004.

But he had bigger plans that included serving his country and starting a family with his high school sweetheart. He passed on football and enlisted in the military.

This week, the soldier from Cobb County was one of six killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan, the U.S. Department of Defense said Thursday.

Sgt. 1st Class Forde, 28, of Marietta, died Tuesday from injuries sustained while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, the department said. At the time of his death, Forde was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kan.

“You see it on the news all the time,” Heather Burk, a high school classmate, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. “But for it to hit this close to home, it was gut-wrenching. Just gut-wrenching.”

Forde grew up in Cobb County, where he attended Dowell Elementary School, Pine Mountain Middle School and then Kennesaw Mountain, his best friend of more than 20 years, Jon Barker, said Thursday night. Barker last saw his friend in July before Forde was deployed for the third time, Barker said.

“I worried about him, but every deployment got easier,” Barker said. “It’s always in the back of your mind. It just doesn’t seem real.”

In eight years of military service, Forde had been promoted seven times and was dedicated to his military career, Barker said. But outside of work, Forde had a fun personality that drew people to him. And he was a family man, dedicated to his wife, Megan, and two boys, ages 5 and 17 months, his friends said.

Forde’s former coach at Kennesaw Mountain, Scott Jones, is now the football coach at North Paulding High School. He called Forde one of his “pride and joys” in his 28 years of coaching and teaching.

“It doesn’t surprise me at all that he was serving his country because he was selfless and very committed to what he did,” Jones said Thursday night.

Forde’s family and friends are now preparing for his funeral. Those arrangements have not yet been finalized, but his classmates hope to be able to honor Forde’s sacrifice.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

**“United States Wants Afghanistan To
Halt The Release Of 88 Prisoners
From An Afghan Jail”**

“30% Had Participated In Direct Attacks That Killed Or Wounded 60 U.S. And Coalition Troops”

1.14.13 By Jessica Donati, Reuters [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan -- The United States wants Afghanistan to halt the release of 88 prisoners from an Afghan jail because they pose a serious threat to security, U.S. officials said on Wednesday, adding to strains between the two sides.

The United States only recently transferred the prison at Bagram to Afghan control after it had become a serious source of tension with the government in Afghanistan which is fighting a Taliban-led insurgency.

Relations with Afghanistan have grown particularly strained over President Hamid Karzai's refusal to sign a bilateral security deal that would keep around 8,000 U.S. troops in the country after 2014, when most foreign forces are due to leave.

A U.S. army official said the release of the 88 contravened a presidential decree to complete investigations at the prison and prosecute individuals when required.

"The Afghan Review Board has exceeded its mandate and ordered the release of a number of dangerous individuals who are legitimate threats and for whom there is strong evidence supporting prosecution or further investigation," said Colonel Dave Lapan, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The United States long resisted handing over the facility - because it feared individuals it considered dangerous would be released - but ultimately reached a deal with the Afghan government in early 2013.

About 40 percent of the prisoners were directly responsible for wounding or killing 57 Afghan civilians and security forces, and 30 percent had participated in direct attacks that killed or wounded 60 U.S. and coalition troops, a U.S. official said.

The head of the Afghan commission charged with reviewing the cases denied that the 88 posed a threat.

"In many cases, detainees were wrongly linked to certain incidents they were not involved in," said Abdul Shakor Dadras.

Resistance Action

Jan 01 2014 By Ghanizada, Khaama Press

An Afghan police officer was killed and two others were injured following an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in southern Zabul province of Afghanistan.

According to local government officials, the incident took place on Wednesday in Qalat city.

A local security official in Qalat city said the incident took place after a vehicle of the Afghan police forces struck with a roadside bomb, leaving one dead and tow others injured.

MILITARY NEWS

Comment Unnecessary

Afghan protest in Kabul



**“Rogue” Military Drone Attacks
U.S. Navy Cruiser:
“The Ship Had No Time To React”
“Computer Room Of USS
Chancellorsville Heavily Damaged”
[No, This Is Not From The Duffle Blog]**



A screen shot from a San Diego TV station shows where a drone struck the cruiser Chancellorsville in November. (Courtesy of NBC 7)

Dec. 30, 2013 By Sam Fellman, Staff writer; Navy Times

The drone that struck the cruiser Chancellorsville crippled a key computer center integral to the ship's cutting-edge combat systems, damage that will take months and tens of millions of dollars to fix, according to new details from surface fleet officials.

The rare drone mishap, which occurred off Point Mugu, Calif., in mid-November, left a roughly 3-foot-wide hole in the cruiser's hull.

New details and interviews with two sources close to the crew suggest the impact was even more severe inside the ship — a near-miss that could have ended in sailor casualties.

The damage centers on "computer central," a compartment extending most of the ship's width that houses many of the servers and signal processors for the cruiser's radar and combat systems.

The drone tore into this space and slammed into the far end, igniting a small jet fuel fire, according to two former Chancellorsville crewmen. The lone watchstander in computer central received minor hand burns while responding to the fire with a hose team, the sources said.

Surface fleet officials confirmed the type and scale of the cruiser's damage but declined to disclose details about what caused the mishap or the crew's efforts afterward, while safety and command investigations into the incident continue.

"The computer room on the port side of USS Chancellorsville was heavily damaged by the impact of the test target at the Point Mugu range Nov. 16," said Lt. Rick Chernitzer, a Naval Surface Force Pacific spokesman. "The preliminary estimated cost to repair the ship is approximately \$30 million."

Chernitzer added that the repairs are scheduled to begin in January and are expected to take six months.

Two former sailors spoke to Navy Times on condition of anonymity while the investigation continues. Between them, they have spoken with more than a dozen current crew members regarding the incident and provided Navy Times documented communications. Attempts to reach current crew members were unsuccessful.

Sailors said the toll could have been many times worse had the impact been a bit higher: Computer central is directly below the ship's combat information center — a space that, on Nov. 16, was full of sailors, officers and observers overseeing the radar tracking exercise.

“If the drone had been seven feet higher,” it could have wounded or killed dozens, estimated one former crew member. “There was a ton of people in combat watching this — the crew, plus contractors.”

This former sailor, who left the Navy this year, said the fire controlman second class on watch in computer central immediately responded to the downed drone, which had struck the starboard side bulkhead and started a fire. The drone's turbine was still running as it spewed jet fuel.

“It was running — it was still on fire — and he's in there, so he jumps out and goes back in to fight the fire with the rest of the team,” said the former crew member. “He was the number one nozzleman,” he added, a position responsible for directing the fire hose's spray.

The ship shuddered from the drone's impact, like the thud when the 5-inch deck gun fires, crew members told him.

The cruiser's Aegis weapons system had been outfitted with Baseline 9, the latest air defense suite, and was going through a routine radar tracking exercise as part of its Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials. The exercise is designed to calibrate the radar and targeting systems with a telemetry drone that typically gets no closer than a half-mile away. It is unusual to fire at these expensive target drones. The range and ship are on a radiotelephone net to coordinate the exercise.

The Navy has used the subsonic BQM-74E “Chukar III” drone for more than four decades.

At 12 feet long, it looks like a mini-Tomahawk cruise missile. Test flights are directed by controllers with Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, which oversees the sea testing range that includes San Nicolas Island.

The cruiser's CIC was told roughly four seconds before impact that controllers with Point Mugu had lost contact with the drone, and many crew members believe the drone went “rogue” — either failing to respond to remote control or deviating from its preprogrammed route. These are the two operating modes for the BQM-74E, according to missile designer Northrop Grumman.

“They were trying to raise (Point Mugu range control) on the net or something and they couldn’t get them, so they didn’t know where the drone was,” said the second former crew member, who said he was in touch with a half-dozen Chancellorsville shipmates.

“There was just a breakdown in communications ... and the ship had no time to react.”

Chernitzer declined to address the leading causes for the mishap, citing the ongoing investigations. Officials suspended drone operations a week later with the Chukar III and BQM-34S “Firebee,” which uses the same guidance system.

Chancellorsville was not slated to deploy in 2014, and officials are still examining how the lengthy pierside repairs will affect the ship’s schedule, said 3rd Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Lenaya Rotklein in an email.

“Chancellorsville was slated to conduct Combat System Ship Qualification Trials throughout 2014, and the impact to their CSSQT is still being assessed,” Rotklein said.

The Navy Fraud Scandal That Just Won’t Go Away: Department Of Justice Continuing Investigation Which Has Already Ensnared Navy Officials

December 30, 2013 by Jordain Carney, National Journal [Excerpts]

A Navy fraud investigation is becoming one the largest scandals for the armed service in recent years, and the investigation is spilling over into 2014.

Leonard Glenn Francis, the CEO for Singapore-based Glenn Defense Marine Asia, was arrested in September for allegedly bribing officials with cash, trips, and other items in exchange for ship information.

So far, six Navy officials have been tied to the incident with two arrested.

"I certainly don't think we've seen the end of it," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said earlier this month, discussing the case publicly for the first time during a press conference. "I think it's fair to say that there will be more disclosures coming in."

The secretary declined to say if he believes those disclosures will result in the arrest of more Navy officials.

John Bertrand Beliveau Jr., a supervisory special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, also plead guilty earlier this month to participating in the alleged fraud.

And the Justice Department noted in a press release that the investigation is still ongoing to determine the full scope of the alleged attempt to defraud the Navy.

Mabus couldn't comment on the amount of money that has been defrauded. But in court documents, U.S. attorneys characterize it as a "multi-national, multi-year, multi-million dollar fraud on the United States Navy."

Mabus said since 2009 the Navy has suspended more than 250 contractors and blocked approximately 400 more from holding naval contracts.

Silly, Stupid Bullshit Department: Marine Corps Cracks Down On How Troops Style Their Hair: “Styles That Involve ‘Hair Sculpting’ Were Singled Out For Disapproval, Including ‘Eccentric Directional Flow, Twists, Texture Or Spiking’”

Dec. 18, 2013 By James K. Sanborn, Marine Times [Excerpts]

The Marine Corps has approved a few new hairstyles for women, but it's taking a hard line against other styles — for both male and female Marines — that it considers “faddish” or “eccentric.”

The changes, recommended by the Marine Corps Uniform Board that convened Oct. 29, and approved by Commandant Gen. Jim Amos, are detailed in Marine administrative message 658/13, signed Dec. 16.

Marine Corps Uniform Regulations define eccentric as “departing from the established or traditional norm,” while faddish is defined as “a transitory fashion adopted with wide enthusiasm.”

Uniform board representatives — including Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Mike Barrett, who is a sitting member — could not immediately be reached for comment to provide insight into what prompted the new standards or for more clarity on what qualifies as faddish or eccentric, but it appears commanders will have a certain amount of discretion in determining what does — or does not — meet standards.

Styles that involve “hair sculpting” were singled out for disapproval, including “eccentric directional flow, twists, texture or spiking,” according to the MARADMIN.

Other banned styles include “locks and twists” — not including french rolls or twists — and buns or braids with loose hair extending at the end, except within the recently approved “micro braid” or “multiple braid” style.

Multiple braids are a series of small, uniform braids about 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in diameter, that show no more than 1/8 inch of scalp between each braid.

“The braids must be tightly interwoven to present a neat, professional, well-groomed appearance,” the message reads.

They cannot contain foreign materials like beads or decorative items. Braids must continue to the end of natural hair, although hair may be worn loose below that point.

When braids are not gathered in a bun, they must comply with hair-length standards or be worn secured to the head in one direction. When forming a bun, the bun itself may be unbraided, but neatly and inconspicuously fastened.

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

<p>It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it. -- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers</p>

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika

Comment: T

The anthem of the South African liberation movement has been trashed over the past few years, transformed from a militant marching song into a slow dirge that barely moves, or, in other versions, into limping gushy sentimental garbage complete with violins and a church-style choir; carefully entombed with all traces of its revolutionary origins neutralized.

The lame, limp versions trotted out around the death of Nelson Mandela have nothing in common with what follows.

This link is to the anthem as it was recorded in the 1930's, when it was still a beautiful and revolutionary call to action, marching proudly into the future.

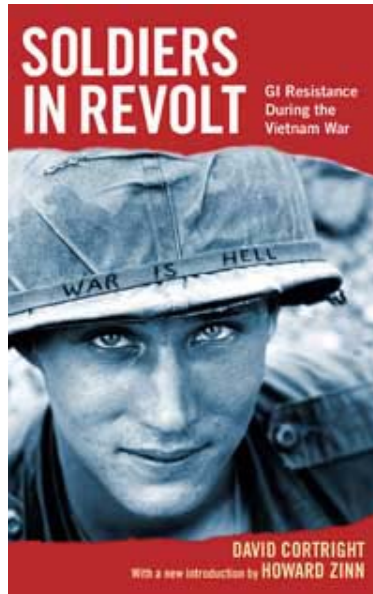
Turn up your volume to the max.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1hNMhdmpk>

**“To Avoid An Embarrassing Public
Confrontation, The General Was
Forced To Sneak In The Back
Entrance Of His Hotel”**

“Nearly One Hundred GIs Boldly Gathered Across From The Reviewing Stand Behind A Huge Banner Reading ‘GIs For Peace’”

“The Response From Soldiers Forced To March In The Parade Proved Embarrassing To The Assembled Commanders: Hundreds Raised Clenched Fists In Solidarity With The Demonstrators”



[A quantity of stupid drivel has appeared in the past few years asserting that it was the civilian opposition to the Vietnam war that led the movement in the armed forces. As you will see below, the sweeping upsurge against the war revealed by troops in 1969-1970 gave heart and leadership to the anti-war movement among civilians, whose public demonstrations were growing every smaller. Sound familiar? T]

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community. The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

On October 11 [1969] nearly one hundred Fort Bragg soldiers, mostly Vietnam veterans, marched in a Moratorium demonstration in Fayetteville. On October 15, protests occurred in San Antonio and Colorado Springs.

At Fort Sam Houston, approximately 150 soldiers signed a petition sponsored by the new paper Your Military Left, requesting facilities for a meeting on post. Their plea was rejected, though, and the Moratorium gathering was held instead in downtown San Antonio.

At Fort Carson, Vietnam veterans Tom Roberts and Curtis Stocker, editors of Aboveground, encountered a series of command restrictions aimed at preventing them from attending an evening demonstration in Colorado Springs. Despite the obstruction, later documented in an official Fort Carson memorandum leaked to the New York Times, the two managed to elude their would-be captors and joined seventy-five fellow soldiers for the anti-war observance in Acacia Park.

A few days later, on October 20, the ASU [American Servicemen's Union] chapter at Fort Lewis called a meeting at an on-post service club to discuss the war and the need for GI organizing; the gathering was broken up by MPs, however, resulting in the arrest of thirty-five GIs and three civilians.

As the country prepared for the second wave of Moratorium actions, in November, an extraordinary full-page ad appeared in the New York Times Sunday edition of November 9.

A statement calling for an end to the war and support for the planned November 15 mobilization in Washington, D.C., was signed by 1,366 active-duty servicemen. Included among the signees were 189 soldiers in Vietnam, 141 GIs at Fort Bliss, and people on over eighty additional bases and ships throughout the world.

The statement had a dramatic impact within the peace movement and was at least partly responsible for the success of the events on the following weekend.

The huge November 15 peace rally in Washington (attended by some 250,000 people) was led by a contingent of over two hundred GIs, many of them associated with the local GI paper, Open Sights.

The next day, fifty of the servicemen joined in a picket line at the Court of Military Appeals Building to protest the injustices of military law.

A simultaneous rally in Los Angeles on the fifteenth also was headed by active-duty servicemen, including fifty Marines from Camp Pendleton.

The November Moratorium also witnessed a series of important actions by one of the most dynamic new groups of the GI movement, Fort Bliss "GIs for Peace."

The organization was formally launched on August 17, 1969, when several hundred soldiers, many of them assigned to the Defense Language Institute (DLI), gathered in El

Paso's McKelligan Canyon to proclaim the following purposes: to promote peace, secure constitutional rights for servicemen, combat racism, improve enlisted living conditions, and provide aid to the local chicano community.

Through Gigline, an unusually well-written and articulate GI paper, the activists quickly attracted widespread local support -- and as a result, encountered serious repression. Paul Nevins, a drafted Ph.D. student and the group's first chairman, was shipped out to Germany; Gigline's first editor received abrupt orders to Vietnam; and three other leading organizers were suddenly transferred to different bases, just hours before a scheduled Moratorium protest. In all, ten soldiers received transfer orders in the organization's first five months of existence.

New members always rose to fill the vacuum, though, and the group's activities proved remarkably successful.

One of their first actions involved an anti-war protest at the traditional Veterans Day parade in El Paso.

As weapons and marching units filed by in the November 11 pageant, nearly one hundred GIs boldly gathered across from the reviewing stand behind a huge banner reading "GIs for Peace."

The response from soldiers forced to march in the parade proved embarrassing to the assembled commanders: hundreds flashed the "V" for peace sign or raised clenched fists in solidarity with the demonstrators.

On Moratorium day, the group urged students at DLI to boycott the noon meal and gather for a period meditation at a nearby chapel. Nearly a dozen plain-clothes men and officers showed up at the church to intimidate the protesters, but sixty soldiers braved the threats and carried out the prayer meeting as planned.

The neighboring enlisted mess hall, meanwhile, was three fourths empty - despite the rare attendance of a huge contingent of officers.

The anti-war upsurge culminated the following Saturday, when several hundred Fort Bliss soldiers marched at the head of a peace rally in downtown El Paso.

The third series of Moratorium protests, scheduled for December, produced two additional GI demonstrations, including one of the largest and most militant gatherings in the history of the GI movement.

At Fort Bragg, a growing GIs United Against the War sponsored another rally in Fayetteville, this time attended by two hundred soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The more significant action, however, came on December 14 in Oceanside, California.

In the largest Moratorium demonstration in the country on that day, an estimated one thousand servicepeople joined a crowd of four thousand in a march and rally near Camp Pendleton.

The event united black, white, and chicano GIs behind a strongly anti-imperialist and anti-racist program and marked the founding of an important new GI organization, Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM).

Operating out of the "Green Machine" coffeehouse in Vista, Camp Pendleton Marines launched the paper Attitude Check and established MDM as an openly revolutionary organization.

Their program called for the right to collective bargaining, constitutional rights for all servicepeople, abolition of the court-martial system and its replacement with a jury and court of peers, the end of officer privileges, the elimination of racism, freedom for all political prisoners, and an immediate pullout from Vietnam.

During a visit to the area in February 1970, Marine Commandant General Leonard Chapman labeled MDM "a serious threat to the defense of this country."

Because of internal disputes, however, Pendleton MDM faltered, and by the summer of 1970 split into factions, with a new paper, All Ready on the Left, replacing Attitude Check.

Despite these difficulties at Camp Pendleton, the idea of MDM proved attractive to other radical servicemen. During the first half of 1970, the group's program and name were adopted at six other locations: San Diego, Long Beach Naval Station, El Taro MCAS, Fort Ord, Fort Carson, and Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

As GI organizing flourished, the factionalism that hindered MDM became evident at other bases, with several separate organizations often existing on one post at the same time.

No such divisiveness hindered soldier organizing at Fort Bliss.

By adopting a broad, non-partisan approach, GIs for Peace successfully united a large number of servicemen and, despite a lack of civilian aid, carried on an extensive program of anti-war activity.

One particularly effective demonstration occurred during a January 1970 visit to El Paso by Army Chief of Staff William Westmoreland. When the former Vietnam commander arrived in the city on the fifteenth to deliver an address, he was greeted by a picket line of eighty local soldiers.

To avoid an embarrassing public confrontation, the general was forced to sneak in the back entrance of his hotel.

The largest GIs for Peace gathering, indeed one of the largest in the history of the GI movement, was a March 15 rally in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon. Approximately two thousand people, including more than eight hundred servicemen, came together for a festival of political speeches and rock music, in a massive display of local anti-war sentiment.

At Fort Devens, about twenty GIs join several hundred civilians for the first rally ever attempted at this base. The paper Morning Report appears for the first time.

Seventy-five soldiers and five hundred civilians gather for an anti-war march and rally outside Fort Meade.

The first anti-war demonstration in the history of Anniston, Alabama, draws fifty Fort McClellan service people and two hundred civilians.

At Fort Benning, one hundred GIs and some three hundred civilians attend a “people’s tribunal” on American war crimes.”

In Fayetteville, North Carolina, Rennie Davis, Jane Fonda, and Mark Lane address a crowd of 750 Fort Bragg soldiers and three thousand civilians in the largest Armed Forces Day rally in the country.

At Fort Hood, over seven hundred soldiers march through the streets of Killeen and rally in a nearby park.

At Fort Bliss, GIs’ for Peace and local students, demonstrate against the war at the local University of Texas campus.

The first anti-Vietnam protest in Manhattan, Kansas, attracts over one thousand people, including four hundred soldiers from Fort Riley.

An MDM-sponsored rally in Colorado Springs draws thirty Fort Carson GIs and several hundred civilians.

Tom Hayden raps to approximately two hundred Marines and several thousand civilians in a rally near Camp Pendleton.

Fort Ord MDM sponsors a march and rally of more than three thousand people. Extra work assignments and riot duty mobilizations limit the GI contingent to only one hundred.

A festival and series of workshops near Fort Lewis draw sixty soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The events of Armed Forces Day not only demonstrated widespread anti-war sentiment within the ranks but sparked continuing political activity at many bases.

Several groups made their initial appearance during the time, and a number of others experienced an increase in active-duty involvement.

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community.

The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

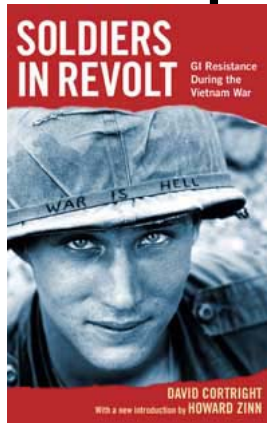
As Abbie Hoffman quipped to the crowd at Fort Meade: “Behind every GI haircut lies a Samson.”

GIs United [military band] members participated in various peace demonstrations in the New York area. One of the group's most unusual and daring activities occurred at a civilian-sponsored demonstration on October 31.

Led by Sp/4 Verne Windham, ten Fort Hamilton GIs marched up the streets of New York at the head of thousands of demonstrators -- undoubtedly the movement's first anti-war Army band.

MORE:

**FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY:
A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The History Of
How An Armed Forces Rebellion
Stopped An Imperial War**



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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General Indifference Assumes Command Of Afghan War Effort



November 14, 2013 By Juice Box, Duffel Blog

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – In a move sure to go unnoticed by basically everyone, U.S. Army Gen. John Indifference took the reins of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force from Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford in a change of command ceremony this morning.

“I’d like to say it’s an honor, but the truth is I could generally give a shit,” the generally indifferent Gen. Indifference told an audience of bored but nodding military elites. “Generally speaking, I’d say none of this will matter much when we’re all dead in another hundred years or so anyway.”

The apathetic leader’s appointment follows a quiet fall from grace for predecessor Dunford, who sources say was thought to be generally too motivated for the task at hand; this summer, Dunford sparked controversy with the Pentagon by constantly spouting off in the media about mission success, hope for Afghanistan’s future, and all kinds of other silly shit.

"We've got a lot of work to do still, but lets not set the bar too high," Indifference said, signaling his clearer alignment with Washington's strategic intent.

At a press conference following the change of command, the general spoke more specifically on the upcoming Coalition retrograde, the enduring threat of violent groups in the region, and, crucially, the April elections that will replace Afghan president Hamid Karzai. In closing, he reiterated that he actually doesn't give a fuck about any of that.

"Probably doesn't matter what's going on here."

"We're pretty sure one side or the other already has this thing in the bag," said Indifference spokesperson Maj. Lee Incompetent.

While this will be Indifference's first turn in the spotlight, he is no stranger to the Afghan mission. According to top NATO officials, Indifference has been hard at work behind the scenes in Kabul for years, almost single-handedly masterminding the Coalition's strategy from roughly 2002 to 2009.

It's perhaps this breadth of experience that has the 70,000-some troops still in theater singing the new commander's praises.

"General Indifference is that rare senior officer who seems like he really gets me," said some sergeant in the middle of some province no one's ever heard of. "If I knew I weren't mistaken, I'd say for sure we had worked together in the past."

At the White House, President Barack Obama also hailed Indifference as the right man for the job at the right time and, at long last, a leader who adequately embodies America's attitude towards war-torn Afghanistan.

"Frankly, I can think of no one better to lead our nation to victory," the president said. "Or, you know, defeat ... whatever winds up shaking out over there."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Terrorists Attack Palestinians Plowing A Field; Local Palestinian Official In Occupied South Hebron Hit Over The Head With A Rock

30/12/2013 Ma'an

BETHLEHEM -- A group of settlers injured a local Palestinian official in the south Hebron hills on Saturday after attacking him with a rock, a local peace group said Monday.

"On Dec. 28, a group of settlers attacked Palestinians who were plowing a field in the South Hebron Hills village of At Tuwani. Hafez Huraini, a member of the South Hebron Hills Popular Committee, was injured in the attack," Operation Dove said in a statement.

Huraini told the group that five settlers from the illegal outpost of Havat Maon, four of whom were children, attacked the villagers as they worked on their land.

One of the settlers approached Huraini and hit him over the head with a rock.

Residents from at-Tuwani gathered and managed to force the settlers away, but they continued to throw rocks at the villagers before finally leaving the area.

The attack took place at 2.45 p.m. and Israeli forces arrived in the area at 4.15 p.m., by which time Huraini was at a hospital in Yatta receiving treatment.

"This is resistance: to go daily to your land. We are protesting every day, every night," Huraini said.

In November, Operation Dove said the illegal outpost of Havot Maon was expanding at a "phenomenal" rate.

Home to around 200 settlers, the outpost is one of the most violent and radical in the occupied West Bank.

**“Starvation As A Weapon Of
War Is Becoming One Of
Assad’s Main Tool To Punish
And Pressure Revolting Areas”
“The Starved Were All Inhabitants
Of Yarmouk Camp For Palestinian
Refugees In Syria”**

“Among The Fifteen Victims Of Assad Is An Infant, No More Than A Few Months Old”

“Regime Forces Have, On Top Of The Food Blockade, Also Cut Off All Water Supplies To Yarmouk

December 29, 2013 by Salim Salamah. Uruknet.info [Excerpts]

To Abdullah Al Khatib who chose to defend our dream of a little Palestine inside Syria, who chose to stay in the camp, thereby redefining the meaning of belonging and what it is to dream of a better tomorrow. I dedicate this humble piece to him alone.

A million thanks for Hanin Shakrah and her unlimited support while writing this piece.

In front of me now, as I am writing this piece, are the names of fifteen person who died due to starvation exacerbated by dehydration.

Regime forces have, on top of the food blockade, also cut off all water supplies to Yarmouk.

The starved were all inhabitants of Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees in Syria, located approximately seven kilometres south of Damascus.

Writing stories of the dead is an easy task as they will never see your words or correct your miss-spelling of their names and ages, or your far too weak attempt at describing the insufferability of life under a hundred and seventy days of a hermetic siege.

The fifteen dead are no more than numbers added to the death toll. Among the fifteen victims of Assad is an infant, no more than a few months old.

Others were men, in the prime of their youth who simply perished in a slow and excruciating death.

Activists have borne witness to children, who, just before passing away were wailing and crying, begging their mothers for grilled chicken for lunch. The mothers watched helplessly as their children finally silenced.

One of the videos, etched forever on to my retina, is the horrifying scene of a little girl living under the siege of Homs, in central Syria.

When asked by the photo journalist what food she dreamt of, she replied "banana and some bread". He asked whether she missed her friends and she angrily replied "No, I

don't miss my friends. They are outside, out of the siege, having the food they want! Why shall I miss them"?

One man on the photos that will be known as the Yarmouk starvation massacre, Fayeze Sadeh, had tied a rope around his stomach, hoping that this would avert the unfathomable hunger.

His chest ballooned, his bones were as thin as arrows.

Fayeze passed with eyes closed and features tormented, but without the relief that overcomes some dying. Fayeze's last moments depicted the hunger that killed him.

Activists have described a child at the age of six, who's last words "I'll tell God what you did to us".

The urgency of documenting this topic today grows out of desperation.

Some people are or will soon be dead.

Yet, recently there were news of a European aid convoy, intending to break the siege on Yarmouk. The only video news source I found about this convoy was dated 12 December 2013 and it lasts only 32 seconds.

But it clearly shows the aid convoy making it only to the entrance of the camp, failing then in reaching the population.

Later, on the 27th of December, the campaign announced on its webpage that they couldn't reach an agreement to enter the camp, another statement, also dated 27th of December, by an activist inside Yarmouk, Mohammad Jalbout said to the Syrian radio station "Sham FM" that: "The European Convoy complied with the conditions set up by the Syrian government to distribute food assistance for the besieged inhabitants of Yarmouk at a meeting point which is known as (Cables Point) at Sbenah.

"The location is situated north of the besieged camp. Jalbout illustrated that this rendezvous point is very hard to access for those who are besieged.

"It's not the entrance of Yarmouk but rather, requires a four kilometre walk, and is tantamount to putting one's life in danger, due to the ongoing shelling that the inhabitants of Hajjar Aswad neighbourhood are subjected to. For someone deprived of nutrition for months this is not an easy feat.

Starvation as a weapon of war is becoming one of Assad's main tool to punish and pressure revolting areas, the continuous talk about a cease fire between FSA and Assad forces supported by PFLP-GC Palestinian forces loyal to the Syrian regime is nothing real.

[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."]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



People Who Can Still Afford To Live In New York Praise Bloomberg



December 31, 2013 by Andy Borowitz, The Borowitz Report

NEW YORK — As the curtain comes down on the Michael Bloomberg era, the three-term mayor of New York received fulsome praise last night from his most appreciative constituency: the people who can still afford to live there.

Harland Dorrinson, principal owner of the hedge fund Garrote Capital, hosted a black-tie dinner in the vault of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to pay tribute to a mayor who, in Mr. Dorrinson's words, "put living in New York out of the reach of everyone except the deserving few."

"To a lot of people, Mike Bloomberg will be remembered for reducing smoking and improving people's diets," said Mr. Dorrinson.

"But that shouldn't overshadow his greatest accomplishment, creating unaffordable housing throughout New York."

"When Mike took office, this city was teeming with regular working people," Mr. Dorrinson said, shuddering at the memory. "Today, it's a magnificent tapestry of investment bankers, real-estate developers, and Russian oligarchs."

The hedge-fund owner is such a fan of Mr. Bloomberg's, in fact, that he has only one bone to pick with him: that he left office too soon "to finish the job."

"There are still a few pockets in the city where, regrettably, the middle class seems to be hanging on," he said. "The rent is too damn low."

As for Mr. Bloomberg's critics, Mr. Dorrinson was philosophical: "I know there are some people who think Mike was terrible for New York, that he took a city rich with diversity and ruined it. But fortunately, they all live somewhere else now."

**[Déjà Vu All Over Again]
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"Fighters In Ramadi Deployed Two
Tanks And Seven Humvees They Had
Seized From The Military"**

“We Will Not Kneel To The Army Of Maliki”

December 30, 2013 By YASIR GHAZI, The New York Times [Excerpts]. An Iraqi employee of The New York Times contributed reporting from Anbar Province.

BAGHDAD — Heavy fighting erupted on Monday when the police moved to dismantle a protesters' camp in Ramadi, west of Baghdad in Anbar Province, police and local officials said. At least 17 people died in the clashes, according to a security official.

Battles also broke out in other parts of the province, including Falluja.

The security official, who asked not to be identified, said 12 civilians had been killed and 26 wounded in fighting in Ramadi and Hit, a nearby city.

In Falluja, the official said, five soldiers were killed and 15 people were wounded.

In scenes reminiscent of 2005, when Anbar was under the control of militants, fighters in Ramadi deployed two tanks and seven Humvees they had seized from the military.

“We will not kneel to the army of Maliki — he should know that dealing with the people of Anbar is no picnic,” a tribal fighter in Ramadi said, referring to Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki of Iraq.

“He thought that he can deceive the world by fighting Al Qaeda, but in reality he is fighting the Sunnis.”

Sheikh Abdul Malik al-Saadi, a leading cleric, asked Shiia in southern Iraq not to send their sons to participate in “this blatant aggression on their brothers” in Anbar.

Police officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said security forces had pulled out of Falluja and Ramadi and were shelling the areas where the militants were gathered.

The forces cut off communications networks and Internet access across Anbar Province.

An official at the Ramadi hospital said many of the wounded were women and children.

The official said that the hospital expected to receive more victims, but that ambulances were unable to reach some areas because the heavy fighting was continuing.

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DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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

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