

Military Resistance 1216



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Oh, but were it so simple."]

**U.S. Soldiers Dying
From Survivable
Wounds:
Despite Advances In Care, The
Military Failed To Save Some
Troops In Iraq And Afghanistan;**

“Nearly A Quarter Of Americans Killed In Action Over 10 Years— Almost 1,000 Men And Women— Died Of Wounds They Could Potentially Have Survived”

“The Military Still Hasn't Fully Adopted Battlefield Aid Techniques That Could Have Kept Many Wounded Men Alive In Afghanistan”

“The Leadership Is Not Engaged To Solve The Problem Of Potentially Preventable Combat Deaths”



A U.S. Army soldier receives medical assistance after being injured by an explosive in Afghanistan in 2012. Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

Sept. 19, 2014 By Michael M. Phillips, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

In an unassuming building in suburban Washington, a team of military medical specialists spent six months poring over autopsies of 4,016 men and women who had died on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

They read reports from the morgue at Dover Air Force Base, where bodies arrived in flag-draped coffins. They examined toxicology reports. They winced at gruesome photos of bullet wounds and shredded limbs. In each case, the doctors pieced together the evidence to determine the exact cause of death.

Their conclusion would roil U.S. military medicine: Nearly a quarter of Americans killed in action over 10 years—almost 1,000 men and women—died of wounds they could potentially have survived.

In nine out of 10 cases, troops bled to death from wounds that might have been stanchied.

In 8%, soldiers succumbed to airway damage that better care might have controlled.

“Obviously one death or one bad outcome is too many, but there are a lot of them,” said one of the researchers, John Holcomb, a former commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research.

The findings appeared in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* in 2012 to almost no public attention.

“The Military Still Hasn't Fully Adopted Battlefield Aid Techniques That Could Have Kept Many Wounded Men Alive In Afghanistan”

But in military medical circles, they have fueled a behind-the-scenes controversy that rages to this day over whether American men and women are dying needlessly—and whether the Pentagon is doing enough to keep them alive.

Indeed, a new internal report concluded that the military still hasn't fully adopted battlefield aid techniques that could have kept many wounded men alive in Afghanistan. Some of those techniques have been used to great effect—often with little extra cost—by elite commando units, such as the Army Rangers, for more than a decade, say active-duty and retired military trauma specialists.

According to the report, for instance, though tranexamic acid is approved by the military as an anti-bleeding agent, more than 90% of aid stations in Afghanistan reported they didn't put it in medics' kits.

Only two-thirds possessed junctional tourniquets, new tools used to stop hemorrhaging for injuries too close to the victim's trunk for normal tourniquets.

Just 12% of medics carried ketamine, the painkiller now recommended because, unlike morphine, it doesn't cause a drop in blood pressure or breathing.

Shortcomings in battlefield care among regular troops may cause “the increased killed-in-action, case fatality rate, and preventable deaths seen in conventional forces when compared with special-operations forces,” the report concluded.

Military doctors say bureaucratic issues have stalled efforts to fully implement the most successful techniques.

The Pentagon has generals in charge of dentistry, nursing and veterinary care, but no single general is in charge of care for wounded soldiers before they reach a surgeon's table. In fact, front line first responders—mostly Army medics and Navy corpsmen—take orders from combat commanders who are likely to be infantry, tank or artillery officers, not from the military's top doctors.

“Right now there is nobody in charge of pre-hospital medicine in the U.S. military, so there's not one person that can make the decisions that can effect change in the military as whole,” said Army Col. Russ Kotwal, a special-operations doctor.

Trauma doctors say many of the military's efforts have come too late.

The latest drugs, gear and techniques are still used inconsistently by medics in the field, and by doctors at lower-level aid stations.

“There is frustration from a lot of us in military medicine,” said Brian Eastridge, an Army colonel who specializes in trauma care and who headed up the research team for the 2012 study on deaths from survivable wounds.

The cost of providing medics with the most updated battlefield first-aid equipment and medications is negligible, according to military doctors.

For instance, a dose of nasal ketamine, the pain killer, costs about \$1, the same as the morphine it would replace. The price tag for training medical personnel to use the latest techniques, however, is more daunting. By 2017, in one example, the military expects to have trained some 1,200 flight medics to the higher level of critical-care paramedics, at a cost of about \$70 million, according to a doctor involved in the program.

In the late 1990s, former Gen. Stanley McChrystal, then a colonel and commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, ordered his men to adopt the new techniques. The Rangers put them to the test in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On more than 8,000 missions between 2001 and 2010, the Rangers lost 28 men on the battlefield, but none had survivable wounds, according to a 2011 paper by Dr. Kotwal.

It was an achievement unmatched in the history of major wars, doctors say, and brought battlefield medicine into closer alignment with the military's success in treating troops at surgical hospitals behind the front lines.

There, it has recorded a survival rate of greater than 95%, according to military data.

That outcome is a combination of medical success and the likelihood that many of the worst injured died before they reached a surgeon.

The Rangers' story suggested to Dr. Eastridge and others that the military could save lives by focusing on the minutes immediately after an injury.

Dr. Eastridge knew the research itself would be hard going. Several colleagues who had previously performed autopsy reviews declined to participate; they knew the pictures would be too graphic. "Many of those images lie in wait and present as the stuff of my nightmares to this day," said Dr. Eastridge.

"Conventional Forces Aren't Consistently Applying The Latest Techniques For Controlling Bleeding And Clearing Airways"

The team spent months debating whether the wounded could have pulled through had they received better treatment or whether they were doomed from the moment they were hit.

The doctors chose a liberal definition of survivability, categorizing an injury as "potentially survivable" if it had taken place close to a major U.S. trauma center. The researchers knew they would be counting some injuries as survivable when, in fact, the soldier could well have been too isolated, or in a situation too dangerous, to receive lifesaving care.

"Maybe somebody bled out because they didn't get a tourniquet, but the reason might have been he was lying out on the battlefield while there was a firefight going on and they couldn't get to him," said Staff Sgt. Michael Smith, a combat medic and member of the team that produced the new report on trauma care in Afghanistan.

Dr. Eastridge's researchers deemed 76% of the battlefield injuries non-survivable; most were catastrophic head wounds, dismemberments or heart injuries.

Another 24%, though, were potentially survivable, the researchers found. The study set off alarm bells. It was, doctors said, the most extensive look into the actual causes of death in war. And it suggested conventional forces aren't consistently applying the latest techniques for controlling bleeding and clearing airways.

In part, the problem reflects decades of military focus on big stateside hospitals, which tend to the ordinary health needs of troops and their families at home. When a crisis occurs, the military pulls family practitioners, obstetricians and pediatricians, among others, from these hospitals to serve at the front lines, rather than trauma specialists, who are generally posted to surgical hospitals further back.

"We hadn't really focused attention in the pre-hospital arena"—the front lines—"as much as we focused our attention on the hospital levels of care," said Col. Mavity, the Central Command surgeon.

Rapid change, military doctors say, would require orders from the very top of the Pentagon.

The precedent many cite is then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who in 2009 ordered that all wounded in Afghanistan be evacuated to a hospital within one hour of their

injuries. The military shifted doctors and helicopters to make that happen, and now air evacuations usually take less than 45 minutes.

“The leadership is not engaged to solve the problem” of potentially preventable combat deaths, said Dr. Holcomb, one of the researchers, who served in Somalia and Iraq before leaving the military in 2008.

If an autopsy review were conducted today, the Pentagon “is confident” the number of potentially survivable deaths would be lower.

Front-line care, doctors say, will be vital when the U.S. finds itself sending smaller units into smaller conflicts, where it won't have the extensive evacuation and hospital networks it maintains in Afghanistan and once had in Iraq. On those scattered battlefields, a wounded man will likely have to wait longer before reaching a surgeon. What the medic does when he is injured may determine whether he lives long enough to do so.

“We're putting people back in Iraq,” said Dr. Holcomb, referring to Mr. Obama's recent decision to insert American special-operations troops to advise Baghdad in its campaign against radical Islamists.

“We've got people in Africa. This fight is just changing theaters and perspectives. In some sense it may be harder now.”

MILITARY NEWS

Obama Vows To Split ISIS Into Dozens Of Extremist Splinter Groups

Sep 10, 2014 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Declaring that the terrorist organization's actions can no longer be ignored, President Obama vowed Wednesday that the United States would use precision airstrikes for as long as needed to ensure that ISIS is divided into dozens of extremist splinter groups.

“ISIS poses a significant threat to U.S. interests both overseas and at home, and that is why we are committed to a limited military engagement that will fracture the terrorist network's leadership and consequently create a myriad of smaller cells, each with its own violent, radical agenda,” said Obama during a primetime address to the nation, stressing that any campaign to transform the group into a patchwork of volatile jihadist factions will not be performed unilaterally, but rather with the support and cooperation of key allies in the region.

“I have already discussed this plan with congressional leaders, and I have no doubt that our efforts will eventually replace this militant organization with many smaller but equally determined groups bent on using extreme brutality to impose fundamentalist Islamic rule. It will not happen overnight, but I can assure the American public that, in time, this group will be defeated, allowing us to focus our attention on the countless threats to homeland security posed by its many immediate successors.”

Obama added that while the ISIS campaign will not involve American boots on the ground, he reserves the right to deploy troops should one or more of the spin-off cells grow to be even more powerful.

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

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

The WHY Helicopter In Vietnam



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 15, 2014
Subject: The WHY Helicopter in Vietnam

The WHY Helicopter in Vietnam

**This was a Medevac helicopter in my military unit in An Khe, Vietnam. By 1970-71, most U.S. soldiers in Vietnam were asking:
Why are we still in Vietnam?
Why were we ever here in the first place.**

Shortly before I left Vietnam, I was called out in the middle of the night, because an American soldier had shot himself in the head with his M-16. When I entered the tent, he had blown

the back of his head out with one tumbling
M-16 round.
There was blood everywhere, especially on
my uniform.
He was a heroin addict, who was getting ready
to fly home after his one year tour of duty.
Or, should I say one year tour of insanity.
After all, this was a Wall Street War.
So, you might say he blew his betrayal brains out,
like so many thousands of other soldiers and
Vietnam veterans did when they came back
to a home that no longer existed.
To me, this suicide was a metaphor for the entire
Vietnam War.

Here is a synopsis for the war in Vietnam,
what the U.S. Empire did to Asian people:
You do not bring the enemy to the peace table
by just killing military combatants.
You ultimately bring the enemy to the peace
table by killing innocent civilians.
They ARE military targets.
This strategy is as old as warfare itself.
This is the unspeakable truth that nearly
every American would perceive as preposterous.
The truth is always lethal when it
ambushes your belief system.
But, the macabre part of all this, is the realization
that this WHY Helicopter is now flying all over the
Middle East scattering ashes from the Vietnam War.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
September 15, 2014

This poetry and photograph is dedicated
to the youth of America, who absolutely
have to know the truth. When the rich
and the privileged in America start sending
their kids to war, I'll start believing in noble
causes.
M.H.

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam
1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:
hastiemike@earthlink.net) T

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a

so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

Man Who Lived Through Cold War Says Terrorist Group ‘Imminent Threat’ To America: “Appalled By The Incredible Threat Posed By Men Armed With Scimitars, AK-47s, And Twitter Accounts”



August 27, 2014 by Paul, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A 67-year-old man who as a young boy lived under constant fear the Soviets would launch nuclear missiles at his beloved country and wipe out everyone and everything he loved characterized a terrorist group as an “imminent threat to every interest we have” late last week, sources confirmed.

The man, identified as Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, went on to say that militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) were “beyond anything” he’s ever seen, despite his once serving in a bloody conflict in southeast Asia against a cunning and brutal adversary which utilized guerrilla tactics, irregular warfare, and committed numerous war crimes, all while supported by pinko heathens in Moscow.

“These people, these terrorists of ISIL, represent a clear and present danger to the United States,” said Hagel, who in grade school hid under his desk with his classmates to practice what they should do in the event of a devastating nuclear attack by the Red Soviet menace. “And we must do everything in our power to stop them.”

According to several senior defense officials, a regional terrorist group which has seized parts of Iraq and Syria but has so far demonstrated no capability of attacking inside the U.S., poses a much graver threat to the homeland than a nuclear-armed Iran, a rising and increasingly militaristic China, or a country named Russia which was a Cold War adversary for 44 years that would now like a do-over.

“(ISIL) is an organization that has an apocalyptic end-of-days strategic vision,” said Gen. Martin Dempsey, in support of Hagel’s points, while briefly thinking of the time when he was 10 years-old and those pinko Commie bastards tried to park a bunch of nuclear missiles 90 miles off the coast of Florida, intent on launching them all at the U.S. — an action which would likely bring about an apocalyptic nuclear winter.

Hagel, who oversees a nuclear arsenal of more than 7,500 warheads that could wipe out every living thing on the planet at the push of a button, went on to say that he was appalled by the incredible threat posed by men armed with scimitars, AK-47s, and Twitter accounts.

How The People’s Climate March Became A Corporate PR Campaign:

**“No Demands, No Targets, And No
Enemy”**

**“There Is No Unity Other Than
Money”**

**“A Corporate-Designed Protest March To
Support A Corporate-Dominated World
Body To Implement A Corporate Policy
To Counter Climate Change Caused By
The Corporations Of The World”**

September 19-21, 2014 by ARUN GUPTA, CounterPunch [Excerpts] Arun Gupta contributes to outlets including Al Jazeera America, Vice, The Progressive, The Guardian, and In These Times.

I've never been to a protest march that advertised in the New York City subway.

That spent \$220,000 on posters inviting Wall Street bankers to join a march to save the planet, according to one source.

That claims you can change world history in an afternoon after walking the dog and eating brunch.

Welcome to the "People's Climate March" set for Sunday, Sept. 21 in New York City.

It's timed to take place before world leaders hold a Climate Summit at the United Nations two days later. Organizers are billing it as the "biggest climate change demonstration ever" with similar marches around the world. The Nation describes the pre-organizing as following "a participatory, open-source model that recalls the Occupy Wall Street protests."

A leader of 350.org, one of the main organizing groups, explained, "Anyone can contribute, and many of our online organizing 'hubs' are led by volunteers who are often coordinating hundreds of other volunteers."

I will join the march, as well as the Climate Convergence starting Friday, and most important the "Flood Wall Street" direct action on Monday, Sept. 22.

I've had conversations with more than a dozen organizers including senior staff at the organizing groups. Many people are genuinely excited about the Sunday demonstration. The movement is radicalizing thousands of youth. Endorsers include some labor unions and many people-of-color community organizations that normally sit out environmental activism because the mainstream green movement has often done a poor job of talking about the impact on or solutions for workers and the Global South.

Nonetheless, to quote Han Solo, "I've got a bad feeling about this."

Environmental activist Anne Petermann and writer Quincy Saul describe how the People's Climate March has no demands, no targets, and no enemy.

Organizers admitted encouraging bankers to march was like saying Blackwater mercenaries should join an antiwar protest.

There is no unity other than money.

One veteran activist who was involved in Occupy Wall Street said it was made known there was plenty of money to hire her and others. There is no sense of history: decades of climate-justice activism are being erased by the incessant invocation of the "biggest climate change demonstration ever."

“A Seattle-Style Event—Organizing Thousands Of People To Nonviolently Shut Down The Area Around The United Nations—Was Thwarted By Paid Staff With The Organizing Groups”

Investigative reporter Cory Morningstar has connected the dots between the organizing groups, 350.org and Avaaz, the global online activist outfit modeled on MoveOn, and institutions like the World Bank and Clinton Global Initiative.

Morningstar claims the secret of Avaaz’s success is its “expertise in behavioral change.”

That is what I find most troubling. Having worked on Madison Avenue for nearly a decade, I can smell a P.R. and marketing campaign a mile away.

That’s what the People’s Climate March looks to be. According to inside sources a push early on for a Seattle-style event—organizing thousands of people to nonviolently shut down the area around the United Nations—was thwarted by paid staff with the organizing groups.

One participant in the organizing meetings said, “In the beginning people were saying, ‘This is our Seattle,’” referring to the 1999 World Trade Organization ministerial that was derailed by direct action.

But the paid staff got the politics-free Climate March.

Another source said, “You wouldn’t see Avaaz promoting an occupy-style action. The strategic decision was made to have a big march and get as many mainstream groups on board as possible.”

Nothing wrong with that. Not every tactic should be based on Occupy.

But in an email about climate change that Avaaz sent out last December, which apparently raked in millions of dollars, it wrote, “It’s time for powerful, direct, non-violent action, to capture imagination, convey moral urgency, and inspire people to act. Think Occupy.”

Here’s what seems to be going on.

Avaaz found a lucrative revenue stream by warning about climate catastrophe that can be solved with the click of a donate button. To convince people to donate it says we need Occupy-style actions.

When the moment comes for such a protest, Avaaz and 350.org blocked it and then when it did get organized, they pushed it out of sight.

If you go to People’s Climate March, you won’t find any mention of the Flood Wall Street action, which I fully support, but fear is being organized with too little time and resources. Nor have I seen it in an Avaaz email, nor has anyone else I’ve talked to. Bill McKibben of 350.org began promoting it this week, but that may be because there is discontent in the activist ranks about the march, which includes lots of Occupy Wall Street activists.

One inside source said, "It's a branding decision not to promote the Flood Wall Street action. These are not radical organizations."

Branding. That's how the climate crisis is going to be solved. We are in an era of postmodern social movements.

"Left To Their Own Devices The Organizers Will Lead The Movement Into The Graveyard Of The Democratic Party"

The image (not ideology) comes first and shapes the reality. The P.R. and marketing determines the tactics, the messaging, the organizing, and the strategy. Whether this can have a positive effect is a different question, and it's why I encourage everyone to participate. The future is unknowable.

But left to their own devices the organizers will lead the movement into the graveyard of the Democratic Party, just as happened with the movement against the Iraq War a decade ago. You remember that historic worldwide movement, right?

It was so profound the New York Times dubbed global public opinion, "the second superpower." Now Obama has launched an eighth war and there is no antiwar movement to speak of.

Sources say Avaaz and 350.org is footing most of the bill for the People's Climate March with millions of dollars spent. Avaaz is said to have committed a dozen full-time staff, and hired dozens of other canvassers to collect petition signatures and hand out flyers. Nearly all of 350.org's staff is working on climate marches around the country and there is an office in New York with thirty full-time workers organizing the march. That takes a lot of cheddar.

People are joining out of genuine concern and passion and hope for an equitable, sustainable world, but the control is top down and behind closed doors.

Everyone I talked to described an undemocratic process.

Even staffers were not sure who was making the decisions other than to tell me to follow the money.

It's also facile to say all groups are alike. Avaaz is more cautious than 350.org, and apparently the New York chapter of 350.org, which is more radical, is at odds with the national.

But when the overriding demand is for numbers, which is about visuals, which is about P.R. and marketing, everything becomes lowest common denominator.

The lack of politics is a political decision. One insider admitted despite all the overheated rhetoric about the future is on the line, "I don't expect much out of this U.N. process." The source added this is "a media moment, a mobilizing moment."

The goal is to have visuals of a diverse crowd, hence the old saw about a “family-friendly” march.

Family friendly comes at a high cost, however. Everything is decided by the need for visuals, which means organizers will capitulate to anything the NYPD demands for fear of violence. The march is on a Sunday morning when the city is in hangover mode. The world leaders will not even be at the United Nations, and they are just the hired guns of the real climate criminals on Wall Street.

The closest the march comes to the United Nations is almost a mile away. The march winds up on Eleventh Avenue, a no-man’s land far from subways.

There is no closing rally or speakers.

An insider says the real goal was to create space for politicians: “If you can frame it as grandma and kids and immigrants and labor you could make it safer for politicians to come out and support. It’s all very liberal. I don’t have much faith in it.”

When I asked what the metrics for success for, the insider told me media coverage and long-term polling about public opinion. I was dumbfounded. That’s the exact same tools we would use in huge marketing campaigns.

First we would estimate and tally media “impressions” across all digital, print, outdoor, and so on. Then a few months down the road we would conduct surveys to see if we changed the consumer’s opinion of the brand, their favorability, the qualities they associated with it, the likelihood they would try. That’s the same tools Avaaz is allegedly using.

Avaaz has pioneered clickbait activism. It gets people to sign petitions about dramatic but ultimately minor issues like, “Prevent the flogging of 15 year old rape victim in Maldives.”

The operating method of Avaaz, which was established in 2007, is to create “actions” like these that generate emails for its fundraising operation.

In other words, it’s a corporation with a business model to create products (the actions), that help it increase market share (emails), and ultimately revenue.

The actions that get the most attention are ones that get the most petition signers, the most media coverage, and which help generate revenue.

“We Have A Corporate-Designed Protest March To Support A Corporate-Dominated World Body To Implement A Corporate Policy To Counter Climate Change Caused By The Corporations Of The World”

Avaaz has turned social justice into a product to enhance the liberal do-gooding lifestyle, and it’s set its sights on the climate justice movement.

The more dramatic the emails the better the response.

It's like the supermarket. The bags and boxes don't say, "Not bad," or "kinda tasty." They say "the cheesiest," "the most delicious," "an avalanche of flavor," "utterly irresistible." That's why climate change polls so well for Avaaz. It's really fucking dramatic. But it's still not dramatic enough for marketing purposes.

One source said the December 2013 email from Avaaz Executive Director Ricken Patel about climate change was a goldmine.

It was headlined, "24 Months to Save the World." It begins, "This may be the most important email I've ever written to you," and then says the climate crisis is "beyond our worst expectations" with storms and temperatures "off the charts." Then comes the hook from Patel, "We CAN stop this, if we act very fast, and all together. And out of this extinction nightmare, we can pull one of the most inspiring futures for our children and grandchildren. A clean, green future in balance with the earth that gave birth to us."

Telling people there is 24 months to save the world is odious, as is implying an online donation to Avaaz can save the planet.

The same overblown rhetoric is being used for the People's Climate March: It's the biggest ever. There is "unprecedented collaboration" with more than 1,400 "partner" groups in New York City. Everything comes down to this one day with the "future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to bend the course of history."

Presumably the orderly marchers behind NYPD barricades will convince the governments of the world that will meet for the Climate Summit that won't even meet for another two days that they need to pass UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon's "ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution."

Moon is now joining the march. But it's hard to find details, including on the Climate Summit website, as to what will actually be discussed there.

The best account I could find is by Canadian journalist Nick Fillmore. He claims the main point will be a carbon pricing scheme. This is one of those corporate-designed scams that in the past has rewarded the worst polluters with the most credits to sell and creates perverse incentives to pollute, because then they can earn money to cut those emissions.

So we have a corporate-designed protest march to support a corporate-dominated world body to implement a corporate policy to counter climate change caused by the corporations of the world, which are located just a few miles away but which will never feel the wrath of the People's Climate March.

Rather than moaning on the sidelines and venting on Facebook, radicals need to be in the streets. Join the marches and more important the direct actions. Radicals need to ask the difficult questions as to why for the second time in fifteen years has a militant uprising, first Seattle and then Occupy, given way to liberal cooptation.

What good is your radical analysis if the NGO sector and Democratic Party fronts kept out-organizing you?

Naomi Klein says we need to end business as usual because climate change is going to change everything. She's right.

Unfortunately the organizers of the People's Climate March didn't get the memo. Because they are continuing on with business as usual that won't change anything.

One prominent environmental organizer says that after the march ends, "The U.N. leaders are going to be in there Monday and Tuesday and do whatever the fuck they want. And everyone will go back to their lives, walking the dog and eating brunch."

The future is unwritten. It's not about what happens on Sunday. It's what happens after that.

MORE:

“Movements Are Bound To Be Confused At The Beginning, Confused Because The Thinking Of The Masses At First Moves Among Contradictions, Lack Of Clarity, And Lack Of Cohesion, And Also Because Of The Role That Prophets Still Play In Them”

On The History Of Early Christianity, By Friedrich Engels, *Die Neue Zeit*, Vol. 1, 1894-95 [Excerpts]

And just as those who have nothing to look forward to from the official world or have come to the end of their tether with it — opponents of inoculation, supporters of abstemiousness, vegetarians, anti-vivisectionists, nature healers, free-community preachers whose communities have fallen to pieces, authors of new theories on the origin of the universe, unsuccessful or unfortunate inventors, victims of real or imaginary injustice who are termed “good-for-nothing pettifoggers” by the bureaucracy, honest fools, and dishonest swindlers — all throng to the working-class parties in all countries — so it was with the first Christians.

All the elements which had been set free, i.e., at a loose end, by the dissolution of the old world came one after the other into the orbit of Christianity as the only element that resisted that process of dissolution — for the very reason that it was the necessary

product of that process — and that it therefore persisted and grew while the other elements were but ephemeral flies.

There was no fanaticism, no foolishness, no scheming that did not flock to the young Christian communities and did not at least for a time and in isolated places find attentive ears and willing believers.

And like our first communist workers' associations, the early Christians, too, took with such unprecedented gullibility to anything which suited their purpose

In fact, the struggle against a world that at the beginning was superior in force, and at the same time against the innovators themselves, is common to the early Christians and the socialists.

Neither of these two great movements was made by leaders or prophets — although there are prophets enough among both of them — they are mass movements.

And mass movements are bound to be confused at the beginning, confused because the thinking of the masses at first moves among contradictions, lack of clarity, and lack of cohesion, and also because of the role that prophets still play in them at the beginning.

This confusion is to be seen in the formation of numerous sects which fight against one another with at least the same zeal as against the common external enemy.

So it was with early Christianity, so it was in the beginning of the socialist movement, no matter how much that worried the well-meaning worthies who preached unity where no unity was possible.



YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

ANNIVERSARIES

September 23, 1939: Disgusting Imperial Anniversary; Hitler Sells Lithuania, Stalin Buys



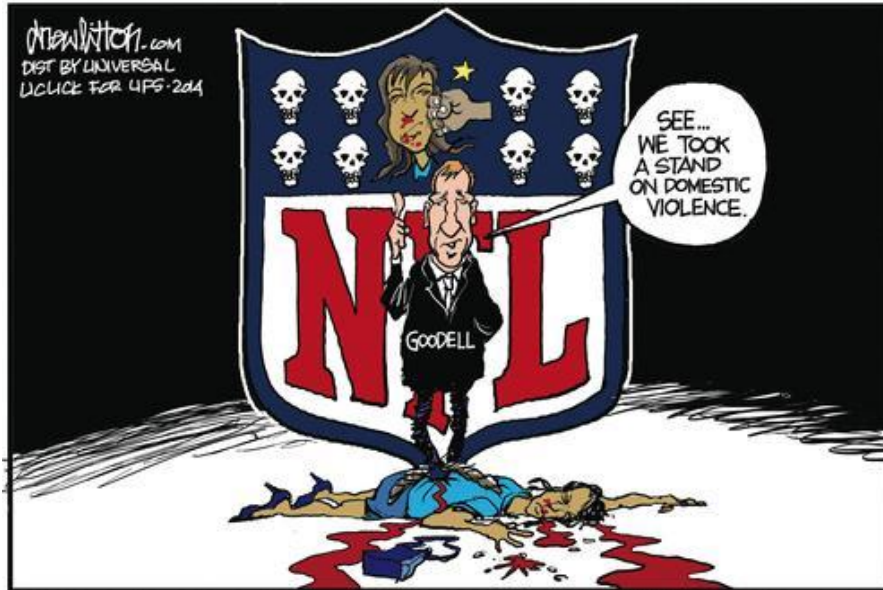
Hitler-Stalin

Carl Bunin Peace News 9.23 – 9.30

Nazi-led Germany [capitalists pretending to be “National Socialists”] and the Communist Soviet Union [capitalists pretending to be Communists] considered enemies at the time, negotiated an addendum to the Hitler-Stalin Pact ceding Lithuania, the small independent country on the Baltic Sea, to the Soviets’ sphere of influence [translation: to the Russian Empire] in exchange for 7.5 million gold dollars.

Josef Stalin, the Georgian who was General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of Germany, had agreed the previous month to allow Germany free reign [translation: to expand the German Empire] in eastern Europe, leading to Germany’s invasion of Poland.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Demonstration Against The War On Gaza In A Tiny Iceland Village: [The Evil Is Dying Worldwide]

August 8, 2014 By ander, CNN

In the tiny village Ísafjörður in Iceland a few women who were fed up and horrified by the news of bloodshed and killings in Gaza, Palestine, got together and held a very symbolic demonstration in the plaza of their home town.

They gave a little speech and read some poetry to a relatively big crowd that had gathered to take part.

Clothes lines had been strung around the plaza and they hung children's clothes on the lines and encouraged other participants to do the same. In the end the demonstrators

had hung up about 400 pieces of clothes – one for each child killed in the Israeli bombings on Gaza in July-August 2014.

“That’s more children than attend the children’s school in our village” one of the women said.

Hanging clothes on a line is an act of caring, something a parent does for the family and performing this common, everyday act in this horrible context was really moving. We feel for the children and families in Gaza and we wanted to express these feelings.”

CNN PRODUCER NOTE: by Jareen, CNN iReport producer

ander says he knew about places in Iceland where people were demonstrating for the people of Gaza, but he was surprised to come across a clothing line installation in the town of Isafjordur in the northwest of Iceland on August 8. The clothes on the line represent the people killed in Gaza during the Israel and Gaza conflict.

“Majority here in Iceland are against this and are more on the Palestinian side than the Israeli side,” he explained.

“My thoughts are that this is tragic. Always the innocent die in big numbers.”

<p>To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx and http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16 The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”</p>

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The Endless March Of Police Violence: Enemy Combatants In Blue Busy, Busy, Busy

September 19, 2014 by Katie Halper, AlterNet [Excerpts]

From Ferguson, Missouri to Staten Island, New York, it seems like a new story about police brutality breaks every day.

Here are some recent incidents of police violence from around the nation that you may not have heard about. Because honestly, who can keep up?

22-YEAR-OLD BLACK MAN POLICE CLAIM THEY SHOT IN SELF-DEFENSE WAS ACTUALLY SHOT FROM BEHIND

The two officers who shot and killed 22-year-old Darrien Hunt in Saratoga Springs, Utah, claimed that they acted in self-defense after the young man lunged at them with a samurai sword.

This week, the family's lawyer announced that Hunt's parents had a private autopsy performed, which determined that Hunt had actually been shot in the back six times from a distance of 100 yards.

Witnesses also say Hunt was shot as he was running away from the cops. As the family's lawyer said, "The shot that killed Darrien, which was straight in the back, did not have an exit wound.... It raises the question as to how you can lunge at someone and be shot in the back at the same time."

Hunt's mother, who is white, explained why she thinks this happened to her son, who is bi-racial: "They killed my son because he's black. No white boy with a little sword would they shoot while he's running away." Less than 5% of the population of Saratoga Springs, a wealthy community 30 minutes south of Salt Lake City, is non-white.

17-YEAR-OLD IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER BEING TASED, STEPPED ON AND ALLOWED TO FALL

Last Sunday, 17-year-old Bryce Masters, of Independence, Missouri, was driving to a friend's house to play video games, when the police pulled him over for driving a vehicle for which they had a warrant.

According to the police, Masters, the son of a Kansas City Police officer, "became uncooperative, physically resistive (sic) to exiting the car, and an altercation ensued leading the officer to deploying his Taser."

According to witnesses, however, when the police officer asked Masters to roll down his window, he explained that he couldn't because the window was broken.

So, the police officer did what anyone would do when faced with a slight teenager who had made no physical threat whatsoever: tase him in the chest against department policy, pull him from the car, handcuff him and allow him to fall face first onto the concrete.

And then, for good measure, put his foot on his back.

The Independence Police Department only permits tasing if the subject is an immediate threat to an officer or another person, uses force to resist arrest, flees or attempts to hurt himself. Sitting in a car does not meet any of these requirements.

As a result of the totally unnecessary tasing, Masters went into cardiac arrest, stopped breathing, had to be resuscitated, was hospitalized and put into a medically induced coma.

Doctors began to bring him out of the coma on Monday and, as of Tuesday, he was in critical but stable condition and was being treated for acute oxygen deprivation to the brain during his cardiac arrest.

MILWAUKEE POLICE OFFICER WON'T BE PUNISHED FOR LYING ABOUT WITNESSING AN ILLEGAL STRIP AND CAVITY SEARCH

In August, a jury awarded Leo Hardy half a million dollars in damages after determining that Milwaukee police had illegally, "maliciously," and with "reckless disregard" for civil rights, strip and cavity searched him. Officer Stephanie Seitz, who is either forgetful or legally blind, told investigators she was unaware of these searches.

The only problem is that the prosecutor's office recovered a surveillance video in which Seitz "clearly observes" the anal search. They determined that she had had been "clearly untruthful" and committed perjury. But, she won't be charged with anything. Because, what's the big deal? I mean, lying, perjury, probing? They kind of cancel each other out, right?

OFFICER CAUGHT BEATING A SUSPECT ON VIDEO IS SUSPENDED...TWO MONTHS LATER.

It only took the Baltimore, MD police commissioner two months to get around to suspending an officer who was caught on video beating up a suspect at a bus stop back in June. Officer Vincent E. Cosom claimed that Kollin Truss had assaulted his girlfriend and then assumed a position of attack.

What makes this version of events so fascinating is that it is contradicted not only by Truss's girlfriend but by videotape footage.

Tuss doesn't do anything more than get attacked.

Officer Cosom not only punches Tuss several times, but does so while another officer restrains the alleged attacker (who didn't actually attack anyone).

Among the members of the community outraged that Cosom had continued to be on active duty for so long is Councilman Carl Stokes, who said the attack "looked unprovoked.... It seems apparent that the officer wrote a dishonest report.... The citizen wasn't in a fighting position.... The more proper thing would have been for the second officer to get between his colleague and this citizen, and say, 'Stop this. Don't do this. This is not what we do, no matter how angry we are.'"

The great news is that even while suspended, Cosom will continue to get paid.

POLICE COMMANDER AND RENAISSANCE MAN OF BRUTALITY IS FINALLY INDICTED

On Thursday, Cook County, Chicago prosecutors announced the indictment of Chicago police commander Glenn Evans, who has been charged with aggravated battery and official misconduct.

His attorney claims Evans, who is pleading not guilty, will “not only be exonerated but vindicated.” It will be interesting to see how exactly he’ll be vindicated, given that during his 28 years on the police force, he’s been suspended at least 11 times.

Evans has been put on leave for behavior including “domestic altercations,” missing court appearances, and the excessive use of force.

In one particularly charming incident, Evans is accused of forcibly removing a mother who was trying to visit her daughter in the hospital, slamming her against police cars, punching her and giving her a black eye.

On another occasion, Evans responded to a man he suspected of having stolen something from his car trunk by handcuffing him to a porch rail and beating him with a gun, leaving him with a three-inch laceration of his head and a concussion.

According to a report by a former chief epidemiologist, city agencies filed 45 excessive-force complaints against Evans between 1988 and 2008. An industrious abuser, Evans has continued to provoke complaints of excessive force and cost the city hundreds of thousands in federal lawsuits in the last few years.

His most recent hits include allegedly putting his gun in a suspect’s mouth and a taser against his crotch, threatening to kill him. And yet Evans had received the staunch support of Chicago police superintendent Garry McCarthy.

POLICE THREATEN TO BRUTALIZE MAN IF HE REPORTS THAT THEY BRUTALIZED HIM

Now for some good news: a judge ruled that people aren’t at fault for not filing a lawsuit on time if the reason for the holdup is the threat of police brutality.

Back in 2002, Chicago police officers entered the home of firefighter Robert Cook, threw him to the ground, and beat him over the course of an hour. They threatened that they would plant evidence on him and have him fired if he reported the abuse.

When Cook did so anyway, the sergeant assigned to investigate the case called Cook a liar and, once again, threatened to have Cook fired if he pursued the complaint. And, surprisingly enough, the allegations were deemed “unfounded.”

Ultimately the same officers who brutalized Cook were arrested for, among other things, home invasion, armed violence, kidnapping and more.

The officers did what any officers guilty of abuse and police brutality would do: attempt to block a civil rights lawsuit on the technicality that Cook didn’t file it on time. But U.S. District Judge Robert Gettleman decided in favor of common sense rather than sociopathy, ruling that the lawsuit could move forward.

“Threatening a victim of police brutally to ensure he does not reveal what transpired is clearly wrongful... When such threats are made with the clear intent to prevent a plaintiff from seeking redress for the underlying wrong, the threats constitute active steps distinct from that underlying wrong.”

The police shamelessly argued that if Cook had really feared for his life, he would have moved away. But Judge Gettleman wasn't buying that excuse either: “If crooked cops threaten an individual's livelihood and safety, it is not clear that changing his address would offer much protection,” Gettleman said.

“Even if this were the case, it would be unjust and unreasonable to require that a victim of police misconduct uproot his life.”

Florida Cops Using Swat Team In Raid To Check On Barbershops: “With Guns Drawn, The Deputies Rushed Into Their Target Destinations, Handcuffed The Stunned Occupants— And Demanded To See Their Barbers’ Licenses”

September 18, 2014 By Steven Rosenfeld, AlterNet

Disney World is not the only fantasyland in Orange County, Florida, according to the U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit, which Tuesday issued a remarkable ruling slamming the sheriff and a state barbershop inspector for imagining they needed — and then using — a SWAT team in a police raid to see if haircutting licenses were valid.

“It was a scene right out of a Hollywood movie,” the Court's ruling began. “Teams from the OCSO (Orange County Sheriff's Office) descended... with some team members dressed in ballistic vests and masks, and with guns drawn, the deputies rushed into their target destinations, handcuffed the stunned occupants—and demanded to see their barbers' licenses.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office was providing muscle for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's (DBPR) administrative inspection of barbershops to discover licensing violations.”

The Court's 44-page ruling, which will allow four barbers to proceed with a lawsuit that the cops violated their Fourth Amendment protection from unconstitutional searches,

vividly describes how a team of local and state police ran amok—and then claimed immunity from prosecution, which the Court rejected, when the raid’s victims sued.

Notably, the ruling didn’t even talk about the blatant constitutional violations first, but instead snidely asked if the cops involved were complete idiots who thought they were so far above the law that they could ignore previous multiple rulings from the very same Court ordering cops not to conduct militarized SWAT raids as a routine tactic:

“We first held 19 years ago that conducting a run-of-the-mill administrative inspection as though it is a criminal raid... violates clearly established 4th Amendment rights. We reaffirmed that principle in 2007... Today, we repeat that same message again. We hope that the third time will be the charm.” The ruling described how what should have been a boring administrative task—checking for a current state license—spiraled out of control.

The 2010 raid against the Strictly Skillz Barbershop began not as a response to a violent emergency, but as a fishing expedition led by two cops, DBPR’s Amanda Fields and OCSO’s Keith Vidler, a sheriff with the rank of corporal. Apparently, Vidler heard Fields say she was having a hard time with some barbers when checking their state licenses.

“Upon discovering that barbering without a license is a 2nd-degree misdemeanor under Florida law, Vidler became intrigued by the possibility of a collaboration between the Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) and OCSO, and spent over a month... developing a plan for a joint sweep operation,” it said.

“All of the targeted barbershops were businesses that serviced primarily African-American and Hispanic clientele.”

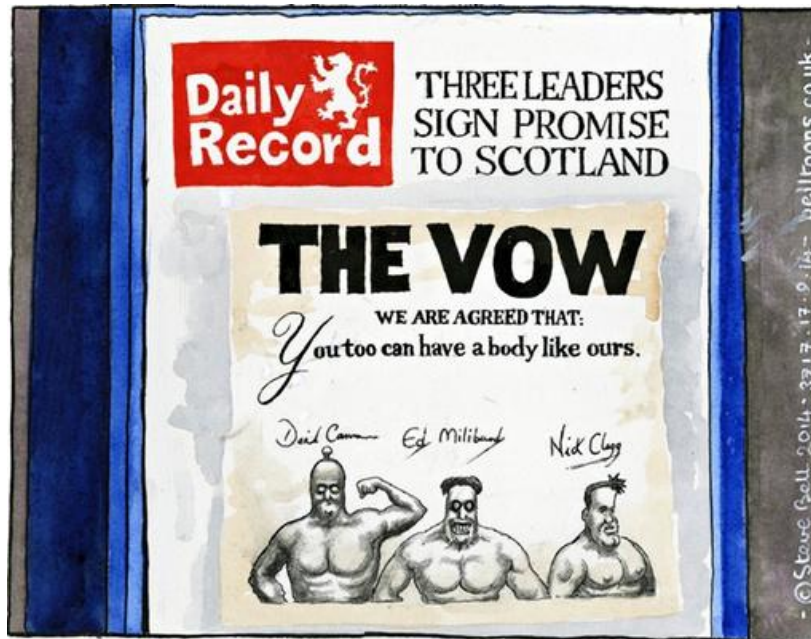
As Pete Kraska, a professor and chair of graduate studies and research in the School of Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University, recently told AlterNet after testifying in Congress about militarized local policing, there is a trend among far too many police agencies to launch out-of-control fishing expeditions.

“The plan also contemplated other law-enforcement objectives,” the Court wrote. “For example, the plan provided that any contraband discovered during the inspection had to be turned over to OCSO for prosecution and that the officers, with the assistance of narcotics agents, would identify and handle any narcotics, gather intelligence, and interview potential confidential informants.”

Meanwhile, the cops, as they were preparing for their SWAT raid, visited the barbers and basically saw nothing wrong—no expired licenses, no signs of drugs, no violent threats; only adults getting haircuts and kids getting trims before the first days of school. The police did not have a search warrant, the Court’s ruling also noted.

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Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to Sunny Nam and South Korea shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest ranking retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a last sacrifice to his country he would give himself TDY to Europe. The reason was to "get forward information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he returned from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (except on nightclubs and cozy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long traveled on Senate funds, but while on TDY there, he accompanied by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the red carpet rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal — only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs." The grim fact is that while the government hawks are sitting in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May, 7,000 GIs have been killed in action. Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start dropping bombs.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, VGI speaks to him while he was on leave during his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you were over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing to pay, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of these patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contact with the Vietnamese, with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, even they got addresses too.

VGI: What was it like, living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food, with them. They used to walk go for the little treats in the canteen packs, the gum and the cation cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, the really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of cations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapbar which she had made out of a cation tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer. It had a little bubble on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

Six yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the women naturally went in panic. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and here she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any slack about being with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks, I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village chief in Ben Son, he was one of

the aides. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was a girl who we didn't get married at our observation point, and they brought us food. So we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bill Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said "No" because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He got one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible, and seeing guys being executed in a park, a full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we brought out rice and got out rice, it's not pretty, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong visiting the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff". "Puff" came over and leveled the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took the kid real close. When we went to R and R we brought him back, toys and clothes and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old cation cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one north Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

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