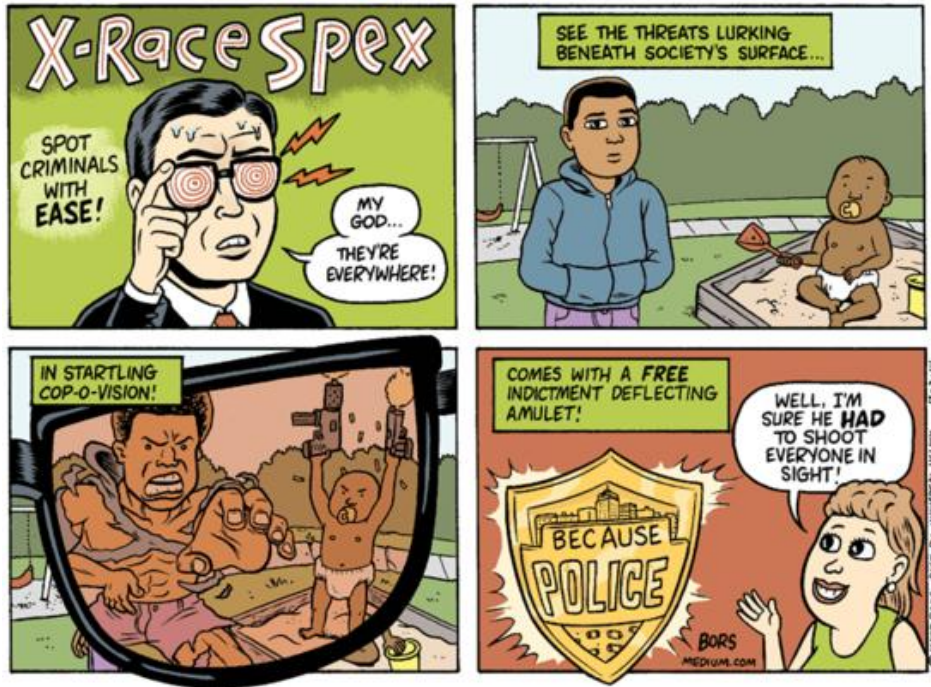


Military Resistance 12L11



**Civilian Control Of
Police Overthrown In
New York City:
New York Police Union Seizes
Command Of New York City
Police Department; Issues
Orders To Police, Declares War:**

**Mayor And Police Commissioner
No Longer In Charge Of What
Police Are To Do And Not Do:
“We Have, For The First Time In A
Number Of Years, Become A
‘Wartime’ Police Department.”
“We Will Act Accordingly.”**



Patrick Lynch, head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, speaks during a news conference at Woodhull Medical Center, Saturday, Dec. 20. Photo by AP/John Minchillo

20 Dec 2014 NEWSMAX.COM

The New York Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the NYPD's union, has issued this statement following the deaths of two police officers in an ambush:

“Starting IMMEDIATELY: At least two units are to respond to EVERY call, no matter the condition or severity, no matter what type of job is pending, or what the opinion of the patrol supervisor happens to be.

“IN ADDITION: Absolutely NO enforcement action in the form of arrests and or summonses is to be taken unless absolutely necessary and an individual MUST be placed under arrest.

“These are precautions that were taken in the 1970’s when police officers were ambushed and executed on a regular basis.

“The mayor’s hands are literally dripping with our blood because of his words actions and policies and we have, for the first time in a number of years, become a ‘wartime’ police department.

“We will act accordingly.”

MORE:

**“Bush’s And Obama’s
Militarized Police Forces Have
Turned Black And Latino
Neighborhoods Into War Zones”**

**“Cops Can Murder People Of
Color With Impunity”**

**“Use Of Militarized Police Will Only
Intensify As The Ruling Class
Imposes Another Round Of
Neoliberal Attacks On Workers, With
A Disproportionate Impact On
Workers Of Color”**

**“They Will Need Their Police To Enforce
The Resulting Inequalities Of Class And
Race”**

December 16, 2014 by Ashley Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Police departments single out communities of color, flood them with police, arrest scores for petty drug offenses, convict them, and then deny the victims an array of constitutional rights, including the right to vote.

The New Jim Crow has turned a generation of Black men into demonized second-class citizens.

Bush's and Obama's militarized police forces have turned Black and Latino neighborhoods into war zones, where cops can murder people of color with impunity. Mike Brown and Eric Garner are the tip of the iceberg of this police killing spree.

The "war on drugs" and the New Jim Crow have perpetuated racist myths of Black criminality and pathology, which are reproduced in schools, media and other social institutions. Such myths have encouraged bigoted vigilantes like George Zimmerman to wage their own campaigns of gated-community policing and murder.

Obama's state has deployed this militarized police force to repress eruptions of struggle by the oppressed, particularly Black resistance to the New Jim Crow. Police were on standby during the protests against the execution of Troy Davis and the exoneration of George Zimmerman. And they were deployed to attack protests in Ferguson, New York City and Berkeley.

The American state has also deployed its militarized police to subdue protests against the inequities of the system.

During the 2009 G20 summit in Pittsburgh, the security apparatus wielded a vast array of weaponry--from helicopters to armored personnel carriers to the infamous sonic weapon, the LRAD--to abuse activists protesting against the decision to bail out the banks and impose austerity on workers and the poor.

The Obama administration also coordinated the repression of the Occupy movement across the U.S. in late 2011.

The Department of Homeland Security, mainly Democratic mayors of large cities, and local police departments collaborated in a series of assaults to disperse the Occupy encampments around the country.

The U.S. state's use of the militarized police will only intensify as the ruling class imposes yet another round of neoliberal attacks on workers, with a disproportionate impact on workers of color.

They will need their police to enforce the resulting inequalities of class and race.

MORE:

**“It’s A Definite War”
“A Lot Of People Aren’t Calling It
That, But It’s A War”**

**“I Came Because They’re Killing Us.
I Consider It An Obligation To Stop It
From Happening”
“Brick By Brick, Wall By Wall, Free The
Prisoners, Free Them All!”**



Over 50,000 people poured into the streets of Manhattan for the December 13 day of protests (Jan Hennies | OutImagery)

“On December 5 two LAPD bicycle officers shot dead a still-unidentified man here for “threatening” them with what, according to conflicting eyewitness accounts, may have been a pocket knife, a fake stage knife or no knife at all”

After the speak-out, protesters marched a different route to Nashua Street Jail. As the demonstrators gathered outside, prisoners visible through the windows of the jail held up their fists and hands, while chants rang out: “Brick by brick, wall by wall, free the prisoners, free them all!”

December 15, 2014 by Danny Katch, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Many Tens of thousands of people took to the streets December 13 in New York City, Washington D.C., and others cities in a powerful demonstration that the movement against police violence and lawlessness is only growing larger and stronger.

As protesters in New York City got ready to march, Ann, an African American woman from the Bronx, summed up the message of the day. “It’s a definite war,” Ann said. “A lot of people aren’t calling it that, but it’s a war. I’m seeking justice for my family and other people who need it.”

For those who came out to demonstrate last weekend, and for many more besides, they will never see the world the same again after the crying injustice of these two cases--not only in small Southern city, but the country's largest metropolis.

The largest demonstration of the day took place in New York City, where estimates 50,000 or more responded to the call to protest. During the four-mile march, the demonstrators itself stretched over a mile long in Manhattan's wide avenues.

The march began at Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village led by relatives of victims of police murders, including Frank Graham and Constance Malcolm, parents of Ramarley Graham; Nicole Paultre, fiancé of Sean Bell; and Iris Baez, mother of Anthony Baez.

Also at the front was Taylonn Murphy, whose daughter's murder sparked the massive police raid last summer on the Grant and Morningside housing projects. Despite his daughter's death, Murphy rejects the idea that more policing is necessary to address crime.

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Also at the front was Taylonn Murphy, whose daughter's murder sparked the massive police raid last summer on the Grant and Morningside housing projects. Despite his daughter's death, Murphy rejects the idea that more policing is necessary to address crime.

The march then turned south on Broadway, headed for One Police Plaza and the headquarters of the NYPD, where family members at the front of the march stood up on planters and told their stories of police violence against their loved ones via the peoples mic.

That was the end of the pre-planned march route, but thousands of protesters then continued to march well into the night, continuing what has quickly become a tradition of taking over streets all over New York City.

A few hundred marched up to Harlem via the Upper East Side, while a larger crowd of thousands forced their way past hundreds of cops to take over the Brooklyn Bridge and march deep into Brooklyn.

At midnight, the protest culminated more than 10 miles away from the bridge at the Louis Pink housing projects in East New York, where the unarmed Akai Gurley was gunned in a stairwell by officer Peter Liang on November 20.

Tameka and Ray, an African American couple from New Jersey who brought their children to the New York City protest, said they wanted to teach their kids “to stand up, and that their voice will be heard--and that their lives matter,” Ray said. Tameka added: “I heard about the (earlier protests) after they were over. This one was a little more advertised on social media, so that’s how we heard about it.”

There were many families on the march, but the overwhelming demographic was the same as previous marches--young and multiracial, including many high school students.

Dante Robinson, a Black high school senior, said, “I came because they’re killing us. I consider it an obligation to stop it from happening.”

More so than on previous marches, many people organized themselves into small contingents, marching behind a banner. There were more formal contingents as well, representing student groups, Palestine solidarity activists--and medical students, who chanted, “White coats for Black lives!”

In Oakland, California, a crowd estimated at 3,500 came out for probably the largest of the many demonstrations in the San Francisco Bay Area since Mike Brown’s and Eric Garner’s killers went free.

Wanda Johnson, the mother of Oscar Grant III, murdered on a BART station platform in the early morning hours of New Year’s Day in 2009, spoke to the huge crowd outside the county courthouse. “We want officers to be held accountable for their actions...(to) feel that pain just as we have to feel it,” Johnson said.

Oakland was the site of some of the largest demonstrations in the aftermath of the no-indictment announcement in the Mike Brown and Eric Garner case, but more recently, the action shifted to neighboring Berkeley.

Those demonstrations defied expectations by growing in size last week, with demonstrators able to continue the model set in Oakland of taking over major Bay Area highways, in defiance of police crackdowns.

“I’ve Been Accused Of Stealing My Own Car Because They Didn’t Think I Should Have An Acura”

In Boston, the demonstration in solidarity with the national call for action on December 13 drew a multiracial crowd of over 2,500 people to Boston Common outside the Massachusetts State House.

One of the organizers of the demonstration, Brandi Artez, said:

“This isn’t just Ferguson--it’s Villa Victoria, it’s Roxbury, it’s Dorchester, it’s Mattapan.

“I’ve been accused of stealing my own car because they didn’t think I should have an Acura.

“The whole world is watching. If they want to come to my community and profile me, I’m going to come downtown and show them.”

After the speak-out, protesters marched a different route to Nashua Street Jail. As the demonstrators gathered outside, prisoners visible through the windows of the jail held up their fists and hands, while chants rang out: “Brick by brick, wall by wall, free the prisoners, free them all!”

When a group of demonstrators attempted to march closer to the jail, police stopped them--and then attacked the group, beating and arresting 23 people.

In Los Angeles, several hundred people converged on Hollywood and Highland for a demonstration under the banner #WeAreFergusonLA as part of the December 13 national day of action.

The protesters’ next move was several laps around the Hollywood and Highland intersection, tying up traffic for a half hour. Some motorists honked their displeasure with this inconvenience, while others showed solidarity.

One Black mother, stranded in traffic with her young child in the passenger seat, cheered on protesters with one hand raised in the “Hands up don’t shoot” gesture while capturing images of the protest with her mobile phone in her other hand.

This area was already a frequent gathering place for people organizing Ferguson-inspired protests against police violence.

But it became especially important on December 5 when two LAPD bicycle officers shot dead a still-unidentified man here for “threatening” them with what, according to conflicting eyewitness accounts, may have been a pocket knife, a fake stage knife or no knife at all.

The killing here was met with a protest of as many as 3,000 people at Hollywood and Highland on Saturday on December 7, for a protest dubbed “Blackout Hollywood.”

In Chicago, hundreds of people gathered downtown in solidarity with the larger December 13 protests in New York City and Washington.

The multiracial crowd held die-ins on State Street and along the Magnificent Mile, the city’s main shopping area. Laying outside the Nordstrom store on Michigan Avenue, protesters chanted, “I can’t breathe.”

A massive police presence did everything it could to keep the protests out of the streets, and to disrupt and split up the march.

At one point, police forced their way in between demonstrators, refusing to let either side cross the street to rejoin the others--even as shoppers crossed freely against the crosswalk signals. As protesters chanted, “The streets are public, let us cross!” and “Do we really need a shopping bag just to cross the street?” people on each side coordinated a plan, and eventually reunited the march.

When protesters tried to enter a shopping center for a die-in, police attacked protesters, injuring several and arresting 23.

Despite the police attacks, people continued to march and organize jail support, before holding a final speakout near the famous Water Tower building--where chants like "Chicago to Mexico, police brutality has to go!" and "If we don't get no justice, then they don't get no profits."

MORE:

**NEW YORK CITY:
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

MORE:

**Gabon:
Dictator's Police Do Their Job -- Kill
Protesters;
"Ali, Get Out! 50 Years Is Too Long!"**

December 21 2014 By SAPA & AFP

Libreville - Gabon braced for new protests on Sunday, the day after three people were killed in a demonstration against President Ali Bongo Ondimba, according to the opposition.

Many more were injured in the violence on Saturday, an opposition coalition said in a statement late Saturday.

"In response to a peaceful demonstration... the head of state mobilised special units of the gendarmerie and the police and directed the weapons of the republic against peaceful, unarmed Gabonese," the opposition statement said.

"We have already recorded three deaths, many serious injuries and numerous arrests," it said, condemning "killings committed in cold blood and (with) live ammunition".

At least 20 people were arrested in scuffles between police and demonstrators, an AFP journalist saw.

The Opposition Front for Change called for a new protest in the capital Libreville and for demonstrations throughout the west African country.

Security forces were out in large numbers Saturday to prevent hundreds of demonstrators from gathering at Libreville's Rio Intersection for a rally that had been outlawed by the interior ministry the day before.

"Ali, get out! 50 years is too long!" the crowd chanted.

President Ondimba took office after the 2009 death of his father Omar Bongo, who had been in power since 1967.

The political climate in Gabon worsened recently with the publication of a book by journalist Pierre Pean that accuses the president of having falsified his birth certificate and diplomas.

In November, the opposition filed a complaint against the president but prosecutors threw it out.

MORE:

Mexico:

"We Can No Longer Allow Politicians To Return To Power Together With Their Police Forces"

"We Don't Want The Police To Come Back"

"If They Come Back, They Will Continue To Steal From Our Communities, And They Will Continue To Have Ties With Organized Crime"

"In Fact, We Have To Defend Ourselves From The Authorities"

We don't trust the authorities who are supposed to protect us, because all they do is leech our taxes--and instead of giving us security, they give us extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, theft, land dispossession and school closures.

December 17, 2014, Information from José Solano Ramírez, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

In this interview conducted at the start of December at the Red Square courtyard of the School of Economics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a parent of the one of the missing student and two fellow students talked to SocialistWorker.org contributor Héctor A. Rivera and Carmen Cohen, a representative of the Argentinian students union CAUCE-Corriente Universitaria Nacional.

[Following are comments by one of the students, José Solano Ramírez, a fourth-year student.]

Almost three months after their disappearance, the case of the 43 missing students from the Ayotzinapa teacher's college in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero continues to be at the center of political life in Mexico.

A national movement for justice and an international solidarity campaign emerged and spread after the students' bus caravan was attacked by municipal police on September 26, leaving at least three dead on the scene, along with the abduction of the 43 students from the Rural Normal School "Raúl Isidro Burgos" at Ayotzinapa.

The families of the missing 43 and their fellow students have been demanding information and action from the federal and state governments--all the more urgently after various "discoveries" of unmarked graves that turned out to be the remains of other victims of violence.

In Guerrero, citizens are organizing popular councils and taking over local governments.

Why are they doing this?

Because as Ayotzinapa, as teachers unions and as community police movements, we can no longer allow politicians to return to power together with their police forces, as if nothing had happened. If we continue to allow it nothing is going to change.

The president said he wants to create a new police force called the "Policia Unica," and he recently put out a stupid 10-point program for national security.

But these measures are useless for us--they are only useful to protect him and his cronies.

We want something else.

We don't want the police to come back.

We don't want the political parties to come back.

We want autonomy. As Ayotzinapa, as free municipalities, as indigenous municipalities and as peasant municipalities, we want autonomy.

We can't allow things to go back to normal. If they come back, they will continue to steal from our communities, and they will continue to have ties with organized crime.

In Guerrero, 18 social justice leaders have been murdered.

The authorities always blame this on organized crime, but we know that the Governor Ángel Aguirre is responsible.

This is the reality we are living in Mexico.

Municipal councils have already been set up in some places. Local communities must decide what they will do.

The only police we can have in Guerrero is a community police, because that's the only police we trust.

We don't trust the authorities who are supposed to protect us, because all they do is leech our taxes--and instead of giving us security, they give us extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, theft, land dispossession and school closures.

We must put forward alternatives.

We don't trust the authorities.

In fact, we have to defend ourselves from the authorities, and we have to defend ourselves from organized crime--which in the end are the same thing.

We have to protect ourselves from them because if nobody looks out for us, we don't know what will happen to us.

MORE:

“The Police Suddenly Have A Legitimacy Problem In This Country”

“People Everywhere Are Going To Start Questioning The Basic Political Authority Of Law Enforcement”

“When That Perception Sinks In, It’s Not Just Going To Be One Eric Garner Deciding That Listening To Police Orders ‘Ends Today’”
“It’s Going To Be Everyone”



A standoff in Newark during the wave of rebellions that crossed America in 1967.
Photograph: New York Times Co/Getty Images

[From Military Resistance 12L7 12.15.14]

Comment: T

In the recent past, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court and the CIA have, in turn, been thoroughly discredited for being what they are: obedient servants of the rich and powerful who oppress and exploit the rest of us.

Now, as Taibbi senses, somewhat opaquely, it’s the turn of the police. They are the next to the last prop whose key mission is to defend the U.S. ruling class should general mass rage and rebellion reach the boiling point against a government by, for and of the American oligarchy

The police are incapable of doing that job.

Rebellions in major U.S. cities during the 1960's required calling in soldiers to put them down.

In those days, the rebels were Black, the soldiers overwhelmingly not, and they did not identify with the reasons for the uprisings.

We are past those days, and so are the soldiers.

You think not?

Army Times reports 12.15.14:

“After 13 years of war, troops feel burned out, underpaid, lacking a sense of mission.” “They hate the Army.”

Those who pay more than lip service to the need for revolutionary change to rid ourselves of the class of capitalists who afflict us every day in every way would do well to consider what action to organize, now, to transform our soldiers into our allies in the class war for human liberation.

That is a “sense of mission” our soldiers can proudly take hold of.

07 December 14 By Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone [Excerpts]

Nobody's willing to say it yet. But after Ferguson, and especially after the Eric Garner case that exploded in New York yesterday after yet another non-indictment following a minority death-in-custody, the police suddenly have a legitimacy problem in this country.

The Garner case was a perfect symbol of everything that's wrong with the proactive police tactics that are now baseline policy in most inner cities. Police surrounded the 43-year-old Garner after he broke up a fight. The officers who responded to that call then decided to get in Garner's face for the preposterous crime of selling “loosies,” i.e. single cigarettes from a pack.

When the police announced that they were taking him in to run him for the illegal tobacco sale, Garner balked and demanded to be left alone. A few minutes later he was in a choke hold, gasping “I can't breathe,” and en route to fatal cardiac arrest.

On the tape you can actually hear the echo of Garner's years of experience with Broken Windows-style policing, a strategy based on a never-ending stream of small intrusive confrontations between police and residents in target neighborhoods.

The ostensible goal of Broken Windows is to quickly and efficiently weed out people with guns or outstanding warrants. You flood neighborhoods with police, you stop people for anything and everything and demand to see IDs, and before long you've both amassed

mountains of intelligence about who hangs with whom, and made it genuinely difficult for fugitives and gunwielders to walk around unmolested.

But the psychic impact of these policies on the massive pool of everyone else in the target neighborhoods is a rising sense of being seriously pissed off.

They're tired of being manhandled and searched once a week or more for riding bikes the wrong way down the sidewalk (about 25,000 summonses a year here in New York), smoking in the wrong spot, selling loosies, or just "obstructing pedestrian traffic," a.k.a. walking while black.

This is exactly what you hear Eric Garner complaining about in the last moments of his life. "Every time you see me, you want to mess with me," he says. "It stops today!"

Over the last three years, while working on a book about the criminal justice gap that ended up being called *The Divide*, I spent a lot of time with people like Eric Garner. There's a shabby little courthouse at 346 Broadway in lower Manhattan that's set up as the place you go to be sentenced and fined for the kind of ticket Staten Island cops were probably planning on giving Garner.

I sat in that courtroom over and over again for weeks and listened to the stories. I met one guy, named Andre Finley, who kept showing up to court in an attempt to talk his way into jail as a way out of the \$100 fine he'd got for riding a bike on a sidewalk in Bedford-Stuyvesant. He couldn't afford the hundred bucks. It took a year and multiple all-day court visits to clear up.

I met a woman who had to hire a sitter so she could spend all day in court waiting to be fined for drinking wine on her own front porch.

And in the case of a Bed-Stuy bus driver named Andrew Brown, it was that old "obstructing traffic" saw: the same "offense" that first flagged Ferguson police to stop Michael Brown.

In Andrew's case, police thought the sight of two black men standing in front of a project tower at 1 a.m. was suspicious and stopped them. In reality, Andrew was listening to music on headphones with a friend on his way home after a long shift driving a casino shuttle.

When he balked at being stopped, just like Garner balked, cops wrote him up for "obstructing" a street completely empty of pedestrians, and the court demanded 50 bucks for his crime.

This policy of constantly badgering people for trifles generates bloodcurdling anger in "hot spot" neighborhoods with industrial efficiency. And then something like the Garner case happens and it all comes into relief.

Six armed police officers tackling and killing a man for selling a 75-cent cigarette.

That was economic regulation turned lethal, a situation made all the more ridiculous by the fact that we no longer prosecute the countless serious economic crimes committed in this same city.

A ferry ride away from Staten Island, on Wall Street, the pure unmolested freedom to fleece whoever you want is considered the sacred birthright of every rake with a briefcase.

If Lloyd Blankfein or Jamie Dimon had come up with the concept of selling loosies, they'd go to their graves defending it as free economic expression that "creates liquidity" and should never be regulated.

Taking it one step further, if Eric Garner had been selling naked credit default swaps instead of cigarettes – if in other words he'd set up a bookmaking operation in which passersby could bet on whether people made their home mortgage payments or companies paid off their bonds – the police by virtue of a federal law called the Commodity Futures Modernization Act would have been barred from even approaching him.

There were more cops surrounding Eric Garner on a Staten Island street this past July 17th than there were surrounding all of AIG during the period when the company was making the toxic bets that nearly destroyed the world economy years ago. Back then AIG's regulator, the OTS, had just one insurance expert on staff, policing a company with over 180,000 employees.

It just won't hold.

If the law isn't the same everywhere, it's not legitimate. And in these neighborhoods, what we have doesn't come close to looking like one single set of laws anymore.

When that perception sinks in, it's not just going to be one Eric Garner deciding that listening to police orders "ends today."

It's going to be everyone.

MORE:

A Song For 2015

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6JoSruSCos>

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier From Mesa (AZ) Killed by IED in Afghanistan

December 15, 2014 by Ryan Van Velzer and Paulina Pineda, The Republic

A Mesa resident was one of two soldiers killed during a military operation in Afghanistan on Friday, Dec. 12, according to the Department of Defense.

Spc. Wyatt J. Martin, 22, died when the vehicle he was riding in struck an improvised explosive device, according to the DOD news release.

Sgt. 1st Class Ramon S. Morris, 37, of New York, also died during the attack, which occurred in the Parwan province.

Both soldiers belonged to the 3rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Martin is remembered by family and friends as having a “bigger than life” personality and as an inspiration to all who knew him.

Julie Martin, Wyatt’s mother, told 12 News her son loved his job and saw it as an opportunity to give back to the community. He enjoyed the military’s structure and taking a leadership role, she said. “It’s what he wanted to do” Martin said. “He always felt good about what he did and I felt good about who he was and how he represented us, his country and the military.”

Wyatt, the youngest of three, loved fishing and hunting, and wanted to work in the Game and Fish Department, his father, Brian Martin, told 12 News.

Friends nicknamed him Paul Bunyan in high school because of his adventurous attitude and love of the outdoors, his mother said.

The Martins, who last saw their son in June during a family vacation to Michigan, said they’ll most miss his hugs and his excitement.

Jordan Williams, Wyatt’s childhood friend, described him as “easily the greatest man I’ve ever met.”

“He always found a way to brighten people’s days no matter what,” he said. “It was what drew people to him.”

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer ordered that flags at all state office buildings be lowered to half-staff on Monday, Dec. 15 in honor of Martin. Flags will also be lowered the day of Martin’s funeral service, according to a statement from the governor’s office. A date has not been announced.

“Please join me in offering a prayer for Specialist Martin, for his loved ones, and for all the men and women who have risked and given their lives to preserve and protect freedom throughout the world,” Brewer said in the statement.

As of Dec. 11, 2,214 U.S. military members have died in Afghanistan as a result of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the Defense Department.

“We Asked For Air Support, But They Didn’t Come”

21 December 2014 AFP

In northern Afghanistan Saturday seven police were killed and about a dozen wounded when some 200 Taliban fighters attacked their post in the Qushtapa area of Jawzjan province, provincial police spokesman Ahmad Farid Azizi told AFP.

“We asked for air support, but they didn’t come. After hours of fighting the police were finally overpowered and lost their lives,” he said.

On Saturday, two remote-controlled bombs hit a military vehicle in Jalalabad city in the east of Afghanistan, killing two and wounding two others, said provincial spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdul Zai.

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA’S WAR?



The remains of Sgt. Maj. Wardell B. Turner, Nov. 26, 2014 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Turner, 48, of Nanticoke, Md., died Nov. 24, 2014 in Kabul, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

Christmas Tree

“Dead Solders Hang From The Christmas Tree”

**From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: December 22, 2010
Subject: Christmas Tree by Dennis**

**Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour)
Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree**

Christmas Tree

**Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,
a cross on top blinks red white and blue
blood dripping from the pine needles
like a junkie government who can't get enough.
Obama dressed as Old St. Sick throws
more coffins as presents under the tree
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war
they just hang shiny purple hearts made
of gold all over the tree and decorations
of black hearses end to end that go around
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are
missing arms and missing legs and hanging
like garland are gold and silver bars that
the war profiteers steal in the early morning
so all the children find is a funeral procession
as they watch the dead Soldiers placed
into coffins and witness the carnage under
the tree and when they look up, all they
can see is more dead Soldiers hanging from
the tree and all they know is Christmas**

isn't supposed to be like this, as the War on
the Workers is like the War overseas
where the rich take everything and
give back nothing, using a
lying banner that says Peace On Earth,
Goodwill Toward Men and Christ says
nothing except follow your government
and the priests and pastors and the leaders
of the churches preach, let us not forget our
fallen Soldiers on Christmas Day
and the Soldiers overseas, so we can
enjoy the freedom to live in poverty,
but the children rise up in a choir of truth
sing to their elders can't you see the dead
Soldiers hanging from the Christmas tree
can't you see the rich stealing the silver
and gold like every day is Christmas
for them as they keep the money
and all we get is dead Soldiers each hanging
from a cross and placed on a Christmas tree
and our Mom and Dad's don't have a job
all of this is so wrong
makes you want to kill someone

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

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

People do not make revolutions eagerly any more than they do war. There is this difference, however, that in war compulsion plays the decisive role, in revolution there is no compulsion except that of circumstances.

A revolution takes place only when there is no other way out. And the insurrection, which rises above a revolution like a peak in the mountain chain of its events, can be no more evoked at will than the revolution as a whole. The masses advance and retreat several times before they make up their minds to the final assault.

-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution

**“We Must Make Every Possible
Use Of The One Slogan That
Can Unite The Army With The
Revolutionary People”**

**“We Must Do This So That The
Officers, On The Decisive Day, Will
Not Be Able To Trust The Soldiers,
And The Soldiers Will Have The
Same Distrust Of Their Officers”**

**“The Result Is That Nothing Remains
But Mechanical Discipline; There Is
No Longer Any Faith That Things
Must, Or Even Can, Continue In The
Old Way”**

**“Everything Else Depends On The Street,
Where The Last Remnants Of The
Hypnosis Induced By The Barracks Will
Dissolve In The Revolutionary
Enthusiasm Of The People”**

From “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905; By L. Trotsky [Excerpts]

One of the main elements of military hypnosis is the faith energetically promoted among the soldiers that they are invincible, mighty, and superior to all the rest of the world.

The war has killed that faith everywhere.

Soldiers and sailors were sent to the East without any hope of victory.

And when an army loses faith in its own invincibility, it is already halfway to losing faith in the invincibility of the social order it serves.

The one leads to the other.

In the current war, tsarism has shown itself for what it really is.

War is an event that focuses not just the public interest, but also the professional interest of the army. Our ships are slower; our guns have a more limited range; our soldiers are illiterate; our non-commissioned officers have neither compass nor map; our troops are barefooted, naked and hungry; our Red Cross steals; the commissariats steal — and the news and rumours of all this naturally penetrate the army and find eager listeners.

Every such rumor acts like an acid that eats away at the corrosion of moral drill.

Years of propaganda work during peacetime could never accomplish what is achieved by a single day of warfare.

The result is that nothing remains but mechanical discipline; there is no longer any faith that things must, or even can, continue in the old way.

The less faith there is in autocracy, the greater is the likelihood of faith in the enemies of autocracy.

We must make the most of this state of mind.

We must explain to the soldiers the meaning of the mass working-class action being prepared by the Party.

We must fix this knowledge in their consciousness with a continuous stream of pamphlets.

We must make every possible use of the one slogan that can unite the army with the revolutionary people: 'Down with the war!'

We must do this so that the officers, on the decisive day, will not be able to trust the soldiers, and the soldiers will have the same distrust of their officers.

Everything else depends on the street, where the last remnants of the hypnosis induced by the barracks will dissolve in the revolutionary enthusiasm of the people.

Of course, it is easier to fire over people's heads than to refuse to fire altogether or to hand over one's rifle to the insurgent masses. That is a fact.

But the difference is not so great as it may first appear to be.

The same soldier who yesterday fired into the air will tomorrow hand over his rifle to a worker, provided he is confident that the people are not just being 'rebellious' but are able and determined to hold the bridges until they win recognition of their rights.

That confidence can and will be instilled in the soldiers by the numbers and the enthusiasm of the crowds in the street, supported by the entire people, and by the news of simultaneous action throughout every region of Russia.

Therefore, in order for the proletariat's political strike, once transformed into demonstration by the entire people, to become the starting point for a victorious revolution, a sympathetic attitude must be widespread throughout the army.

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

RIGHT-WING LESSONS LEARNED

1. IT'S NEVER ABOUT RACE. IT'S ABOUT "THUGS" IN "BAGGY PANTS" WHO LISTEN TO "RAP"!

I DON'T EVEN SEE COLOR! LITERALLY, I'M COLORBLIND.

2. IT'S UNFAIR TO HOLD POLICE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. MUST THEY BE PESTERED WITH ANNOYING QUESTIONS EVERY TIME THEY KILL SOMEONE?

HOW CAN THEY EVEN FUNCTION UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS?

3. VICTIMS CAN BE DISREGARDED IF THEY WERE IMPERFECT HUMAN BEINGS. MIKE BROWN WAS A SHOPLIFTER WHO LOOKED MENACING! AND ERIC GARNER WAS OBESE!

END OF DISCUSSION!

4. A GRAND JURY DECISION = AN UNEQUIVOCAL EXONERATION. WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT--SOME SORT OF NON-SECRET, ADVERSARIAL SYSTEM OF JUSTICE BALANCING DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION?

SURE, AND HOW ABOUT FREE PONIES FOR EVERYONE WHILE WE'RE AT IT?

5. PROTESTERS ARE AN IRRATIONAL BUNCH. IN MY OPINION AS A PROFESSIONAL SERIOUS PERSON, THEY'RE ALL COMPLETELY BONKERS!

THANK YOU FOR THAT EXPERT ANALYSIS!

6. BLACK LEADERS ALWAYS HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES. THOSE "RACE HUSTLERS" JUST WANT TO EXPLOIT RACIAL TENSION FOR THEIR OWN GAIN!

WHICH IS WEIRD SINCE NONE OF THIS IS ABOUT RACE!

7. IF MARTIN LUTHER KING WERE ALIVE TODAY HE'D BE A WHITE CONSERVATIVE. WHY CAN'T TODAY'S BLACK AMERICANS LIVE UP TO OUR SELECTIVELY-EDITED VERSION OF HIM?

THAT ONE QUOTE OF HIS IS VERY INSPIRING!

8. WHITE PEOPLE ARE THE REAL VICTIMS. I JUST FEEL LIKE THERE MIGHT BE SOME RACISM LEFT IN SOCIETY.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE REAL RACIST!

DR. KING WOULD BE SO DISAPPOINTED!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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