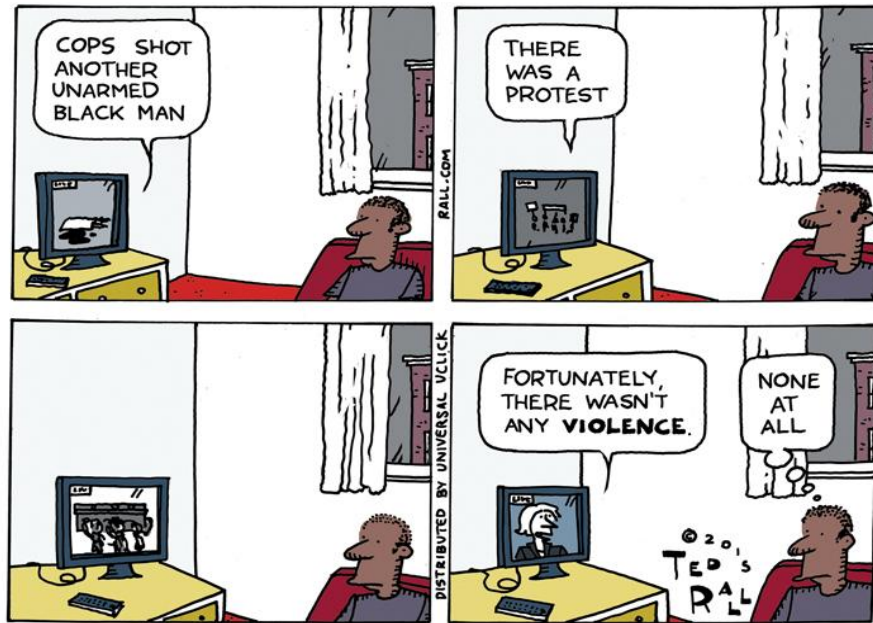


Military Resistance 13L11



Chicago Enemy Combatants Kill Again: “Her Blood Is Crying Out From The Grave Saying, ‘Evelyn, Avenge Me’”

December 27, 2015 by Megan Crepeau, Jeremy Gerner, Chicago Tribune & by Patrick M. O'Connell and Tony Briscoe, Chicago Tribune

Police responding to a call about a domestic disturbance shot and killed a 19-year-old engineering student and a 55-year-old mother of five, and authorities acknowledged late Saturday that the woman had been shot by accident.

The families of both victims demanded answers after the deaths, which were the first fatal shootings by Chicago police officers since last month's release of a 2014 video of Laquan McDonald's death put a national spotlight on the city.

The Police Department said its officers responded to a home in West Garfield Park around 4:30 a.m. and were “confronted by a combative subject resulting in the discharging of the officer's weapon, fatally wounding two individuals.”

The 19-year-old, Quintonio LeGrier, was carrying a baseball bat and threatening his father when police were called, according to police dispatch radio traffic. No gun was recovered at the scene, a police source said.

The woman who was killed, Bettie Jones, was a downstairs neighbor who had been asked by LeGrier's father to keep an eye out for the arrival of the police, according to both families.

Sam Adam Jr., an attorney who is representing the Jones family, said family members told him that Jones received a call early Saturday informing her that police were on their way to the residence. She went to answer the door, Adam said.

"If there's one person who should feel safe when the police arrive at her door, it's her," Adam said.

He said several shell casings from a police weapon were recovered near the sidewalk at least 20 feet from the front door.

Jones and LeGrier were reportedly found near the doorway, said Adam, adding that he did not believe police would have been under immediate threat from that distance.

Basileios Foutris, an attorney for Antonio LeGrier, Quintonio's father, said the teen was found lying halfway between the vestibule and Jones' apartment after the shooting — his legs in the vestibule and the rest of his body in the apartment.

Jones was found lying on the floor in her apartment, Foutris said.

Albert Person, LeGrier's cousin and a friend of Jones', also questioned why police fired at the two, claiming they did so from across the front yard as his relative stood in the doorway. LeGrier was holding a baseball bat but was not an immediate threat to officers, he said.

In a statement, the police said: "The 55-year-old female victim was accidentally struck and tragically killed. The department extends its deepest condolences to the victim's family and friends."

The West Side tragedy was the first of two police shootings Saturday. In the second, on the Far South Side, officers said they responded to an "assault in progress" call in the 1000 block of West 103rd Place. Police said they encountered an armed man and shot him. The suspect was taken in serious to critical condition to Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, officials said.

At the same time the police confirmed that the West Side woman was killed by accident, they also announced a major policy shift: All officers involved in shootings will be placed on routine administrative duties for 30 days.

The new policy is a dramatic change from the current requirement that officers have to come off active duty for three days.

Even while acknowledging the woman's accidental shooting, police offered a scant narrative of what occurred at the two-flat in the 4700 block of West Erie Street.

They did not say why the officer fired his weapon, whether the “combative subject” was armed at the time or whether the officers had a Taser.

Questions were referred to the Independent Police Review Authority, which confirmed only that the shooting had occurred.

IPRA head Sharon Fairley responded to both of Saturday's shootings, visiting a police detective area and the Far South Side scene. Fairley took over this month after the resignation of previous IPRA chief Scott Ando. Other fallout from the McDonald video has included charges against Officer Jason Van Dyke, the firing of police Superintendent Garry McCarthy and the launching of a federal civil rights investigation, which Mayor Rahm Emanuel first opposed but later welcomed.

The Fraternal Order of Police did not comment on Saturday's shootings, a departure from years of on-the-scene statements from organization spokesman Pat Camden.

The practice, quietly ended a few months ago, has come under intense scrutiny since the McDonald video release. After that shooting, Camden told the media that the teen had lunged at police. The video contradicted that report.

An Emanuel spokesman said the mayor was in Cuba on a family vacation but was in touch with aides in Chicago. Emanuel issued a statement Saturday night saying, “Anytime an officer uses force the public deserves answers, and regardless of the circumstances we all grieve anytime there is a loss of life in our city.”

A prayer vigil is planned Sunday afternoon at the scene of the West Side shooting, which left relatives outraged.

“I want this investigation to be thorough. I want answers,” said Bettie Jones' cousin Evelyn Glover Jennings. “Her blood is crying out from the grave saying, ‘Evelyn, avenge me.’”

While police said little about the shooting, relatives of the victims had plenty to say.

LeGrier had struggled with mental health issues in recent months, had become agitated and was carrying a metal bat in his father's upstairs apartment, relatives said.

“His father was scared because that's not his character,” said LeGrier's mother, Janet Cooksey, 49, who was not present at the time of the shooting.

LeGrier's father told his neighbor Jones downstairs not to approach his son while watching for police, family members said.

Responding officers were told by a dispatcher that a “male caller said someone is threatening his life. It's also coming in as a domestic. The 19-year-old son is banging on his bedroom door with a baseball bat.”

A relative of the teen said it appears LeGrier came to the front door as officers from the Harrison District pulled up. Jones' relatives believe she was behind LeGrier, near the entrance to her apartment.

Latisha Jones, 19, said she woke to gunfire and found her mother on the floor of her apartment with a gunshot wound to the neck. "She wasn't saying anything," the daughter said. "I had to keep checking for a pulse."

The Police Department did not say where the victims were standing when they were shot, but blood could be seen in the small vestibule and just inside Jones' apartment. At least one bullet appeared to have traveled through Jones' apartment, hitting at least two walls.

LeGrier's mother said the family was told her son was shot seven times.

"Seven times he was shot," Cooksey said. "He didn't have a gun. He had a bat. One or two times would have brought him down.

"You call the police, you try to get help and you lose a loved one," she said. "What are they trained for? Just to kill? I thought that we were supposed to get service and protection. I mean, my son was an honor student. He's here for Christmas break, and now I've lost him."

She directed her anger at the mayor. "Emanuel, I want a personal apology for my son's life," Cooksey said. "I don't want you to get on the news and say you're so ... I want a personal apology."

The NIU website shows LeGrier enrolled as a freshman in fall 2014 with an electrical engineering major. He graduated from Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep high school on the Far South Side.

"My son was going somewhere," his mother said. "He wasn't just a thug on the street."

Antonio LeGrier, the student's father, said his son had "emotional issues." He believes the officer "messed up" and shot recklessly. "I don't feel that his life was worth losing because he got upset," the father said.

A police source said investigators were waiting for the autopsy to determine how many times LeGrier was shot. The source also said investigators were looking into whether responding officers knew they were dealing with someone with mental health issues and whether anyone on the scene was equipped with a Taser.

Relatives of Bettie Jones said they, too, had questions.

"Right now there's a whole lot of anger, a whole lot of tears," said her brother Melvin Jones.

Jones lived in the first-floor apartment with her boyfriend, he said. She was the mother of four daughters and a son, her brother said.

Melvin Jones said he and about 15 other relatives were at the apartment Friday to celebrate Christmas with food and card games. “She had an excellent Christmas. Family was over,” Melvin Jones said. “And then to wake up to this.”

Robin Andrews, Bettie Jones' youngest brother, said Jones had been battling ovarian cancer for several years and had recently taken time off from her job at a bakery to recuperate.

“She was already sick,” he said through tears. “She was already fighting for her life.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Friends, Family Honor Mercedes Native Killed In Afghanistan



Michael Anthony Cinco, 28, of Mercedes, was unofficially identified as one of six troops who died during a suicide bombing outside the Bagram Air Force Base Monday. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

December 22, 2015 By RAUL GARCIA | Staff Writer, The Brownsville Herald

MERCEDES — Friends turned to Facebook on Tuesday to mourn the loss of the Rio Grande Valley’s latest casualty of war.

Michael Anthony Cinco, 28, a Mercedes High School graduate serving with the U.S. Air Force, was one of six military personnel killed Monday by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

Ashley Nicole of Mercedes couldn’t find the right words to honor Cinco.

Instead, she created a graphic design of Cinco in his military uniform with angel wings and titled it HERO, husband, son, brother, friend and leader, in his memory.

Tonight, his friends and family will join the friends and family of other fallen service men and women at the Mercedes Veterans War Memorial Lighting of the Candles ceremony. The event will honor Cinco and 47 other service members from the Valley who have died in the war against terrorism.

Cinco died coincidentally on the week the Mercedes War Memorial scheduled the evening vigil and prayer before the Christmas holiday.

The Mercedes War Memorial is a large stone wall that lists all the Mercedes service members who have died in the theater of war dating back to World War I though the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

“That changes things at the memorial,” said David Garza, Mercedes Veterans War Memorial director. “We have to honor him and etch his name on the wall.”

Garza said he is waiting on the official statement confirming Cinco’s death.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, issued a statement Tuesday on Monday’s terrorist attack in Afghanistan that killed six U.S. service members, including Cinco, who Cruz described as “an airman from the Rio Grande Valley.”

Two service members and a contractor were injured in the attack.

Friends were posting pictures and their favorite memories of Cinco on Facebook all day Tuesday and updating their profile pictures with a photo of him.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**Five Cops Attack Man For Rolling
Through A Stop Sign:**

“At Least One Of The Cops, Arturo Gonzales, Routinely Harasses Crisp And His Family”

“This Was Just The Latest Episode”

December 27, 2015 By Justin Gardner, The Free Thought Project [Excerpt]

A video uploaded to Facebook shows a gang of cops from the Fort Myers Police Department and Lee County Sheriff's Office brutally violating a man on the roadside, after pulling him over for a rolling stop.

Screams of agony can be heard echoing from the trees as the man's arm is twisted almost to the breaking point and his rectum is invaded by the gloved hand of a drug war enforcer.

The cops can be heard saying, “Stop resisting! Just relax!” as the victim continues to scream and kick in pain.

Five officers are initially involved in subduing the man and searching his vehicle, and then another joins the fun by posing with gun in hand facing the onlookers.

The search appears to be in violation of at least part of Florida statute 901.211, which states in part:

“No person arrested for a traffic, regulatory, or misdemeanor offense, except in a case which is violent in nature, which involves a weapon, or which involves a controlled substance, shall be strip searched unless:

“(a) There is probable cause to believe that the individual is concealing a weapon, a controlled substance, or stolen property; or

“(3) Each strip search shall be performed by a person of the same gender as the arrested person and on premises where the search cannot be observed by persons not physically conducting or observing the search pursuant to this section. Any observer shall be of the same gender as the arrested person.

“(4) Any body cavity search must be performed under sanitary conditions.

“(5) No law enforcement officer shall order a strip search within the agency or facility without obtaining the written authorization of the supervising officer on duty.

Clearly, the anal cavity search was carried out in full view of the public, including a female onlooker. Other parts of the statute may have been violated as well.

Todd Crisp, a family member of the victim, said that at least one of the cops, Arturo Gonzales, routinely harasses Crisp and his family, and this was just the latest episode.

From the video it appears that the man did possess a bag of weed on his person or in the vehicle. However, possessing this plant — which is legal in four states and medicinally legal in 23 states — is no justification for the physical and sexual brutality carried out upon the man.

MILITARY NEWS

Syria: The Wheat War; “When You Control Bread And Fuel You Control The Whole Society”



(Cam Cottrill for The Washington Post)

December 18 By Annia Ciezadlo, Washington Post

In the fall of 2012, fighters from the Free Syrian Army took over Eastern Ghouta, a semi-agricultural area about eight miles northeast of Damascus. Government forces responded by placing the area under siege, cutting off water, electricity, gas, medical assistance and bread.

The regime's goal was to starve the people of Eastern Ghouta into submission, and it was working: The price of bread and rice went up 50 times. Locals were living on animal feed or sometimes eating nothing at all.

"They began to wage war against the people even through their daily bread," says Majd al-Dik, an aid worker for a Syrian humanitarian group called Spring of Life.

Nine months later, the Free Syrian Army mounted a military operation in a regime-controlled area called al-Matahin, the Mills, just outside Eastern Ghouta. Its objective was a flour mill, flanked by two rows of grain silos that housed part of the Syrian government's strategic wheat reserves — a potent weapon in the conflict that now, after 4 1/2 years, has killed at least a quarter of a million people. If the opposition could capture the mill, it could keep the wheat, break the siege, gain a strategic point on the airport road — and perhaps even make some money.

The firefight lasted a day and a half.

Before the battle ended on the second day, anti-government fighters sent a message via walkie-talkie to aid workers waiting inside Eastern Ghouta: We are in partial control of the mill. Come and help us get the flour. Dik and other volunteers drove toward the mill, taking a back road to avoid government snipers.

When they arrived, they were alarmed to see about 80 people, mostly civilians. Everyone in Eastern Ghouta had heard that there would be flour, and some people were desperate enough to run through shelling and sniper fire to get it. Locals climbed out of their cars and rushed toward the mill, eager to grab the sacks of flour inside the central storage area. The fighters tried to stop them, but they kept coming.

"They explained that they were hungry," Dik says, "and they were ready to die just to be able to eat." Too many of them would make exactly that sacrifice.

Bread is the staple food in the Middle East. Daily bread is "liqmet aeesh" — a Levantine idiom that translates as "morsel of life." In addition to its crucial carbohydrates, it is the main source of protein for many people in poor and rural areas.

"You can't imagine life without bread," says a Syrian aid worker from Aleppo, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "The calories, the energy it gives you, is equivalent to anything else you eat. Except it's a lot cheaper. So there's a chance for survival."

"When You Control Bread And Fuel You Control The Whole Society"

The Syrian government understands the importance of bread. So does the Islamic State, as well as the constellation of other armed groups vying to control the country's land and its people.

Strategically, bread is as important as oil or water. Civilians are dependent on the authority that distributes it, and profiteers are eager to resell it to hungry people at grotesque prices.

“When you control bread and fuel,” says a Syrian analyst from Damascus who spoke on the condition of anonymity, “you control the whole society.”

That’s why the Islamic State, other armed groups and the government aren’t just fighting over land; they’re warring over grain, too. The battles take place at every point in the wheat-production chain: from seeds growing in fields to flour mills, yeast factories and even bakeries.

Already, a third of the country’s wheat production lies outside the government’s control, according to officials from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

(Syrians who work in the agriculture sector believe that the number is probably higher.)

The Islamic State holds the biggest chunk, including much of the country’s breadbasket, the prime wheat-producing lands that Syrians call the Jazira.

It practices the same strategy in Iraq, where the FAO estimated last year that it controlled some 40 percent of all wheat production.

Wheat, like oil, is a fungible commodity. Disbursing it wins the loyalty — or at least the obedience — of civilians.

But the Islamic State also sells Syria’s stocks to Iraq, to traders in Turkey and even back to the government, all at inflated prices, according to people closely involved with wheat and bread production.

Other armed groups have been pursuing similar strategies. The result, as the World Food Program and the FAO estimated in July, is that almost 10 million Syrians — almost half of the country’s prewar population — are “food insecure,” meaning that they may go hungry on a day-to-day basis.

Of those, almost 7 million need aid just to stay alive. And the black-market war economy that feeds them is controlled by combatants, who inflate prices — this year, they rose almost 90 percent — to profit from hunger and even starvation.

“For The Assads, Controlling Wheat And Bread Was An Excellent Way To Keep Unruly Peasants And Bedouins — Or Anyone Else — In Line”

Hafez al-Assad, the father of Syria’s current president, Bashar al-Assad, understood the importance of agricultural power better than any other of his generation’s strongmen. In 1977, he presided over the opening of ICARDA, a scientific research organization that promotes agricultural development. Over the years, he and his son funded the group generously. Its scientists worked to develop seeds that would allow Syria (along with other countries, such as Iran and Uzbekistan) to produce enough wheat to feed itself.

For the Assads, controlling wheat and bread was an excellent way to keep unruly peasants and bedouins — or anyone else who posed a threat to central state power — in line.

Even today, Syrian farmers in regime-controlled areas are required to buy seeds, fertilizer and water from the government. Officials set the prices and buy back the crops after the harvest.

Because the government controls every stage, farmers who step out of line can be easily punished. A rebellious farmer might, for example, find the government unwilling to extend a loan or buy his crops.

“Some of the farmers are encouraged to keep farming,” says a Syrian agronomist, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk about retributive government policies. “In some certain areas, not.”

Syria was such a successful producer that it became a net exporter of wheat for the better part of two decades — almost unheard-of in a region where most governments imported cheap wheat from abroad. According to ICARDA Director General Mahmoud Solh, the increased productivity netted the Syrian government more than \$350 million a year. The country also kept a strategic reserve of wheat — usually about 3 million metric tons, enough to get it through a lean year or a price spike.

In this most stable of dictatorships, nobody dreamed of a war.

But all that productivity came at a price. To produce these remarkable gains, Syria’s agricultural sector “mined” groundwater to irrigate farms. Experts predicted that this would lead to severe water shortages.

When a four-year drought struck in 2006, devastating 60 percent of Syria’s agricultural lands, the country’s groundwater was already depleted.

The resulting crisis forced about 1.5 million rural peasants to leave their land and migrate to the outskirts of cities such as Aleppo and Daraa. Unemployment was rampant. By early 2010, 80 percent of the people in the most severely affected areas were living on nothing but bread and tea.

Things got much worse when the uprising began in the spring of 2011.

As the war progressed, the Free Syrian Army and other armed opposition groups tried to seize control of various parts of the bread production chain: a yeast factory in Eastern Ghouta, a government-run bakery in Zabadani, and the flour mill and grain silos of al-Matahin, among others.

In most cases, the regime was able to take them back. But when opposition groups managed to hang on to sites such as silos and flour mills, they had to run them: Seeds and wheat, for example, had to be kept cool and dry to avoid spoilage.

“Agricultural Experts In Islamic State-Held Raqqa, For Example, Are Allowed To Come To Damascus For Government Training”

“The opposition made a lot of mistakes,” said a former official in the bakery workers association who spoke on the condition of anonymity. “They started to take control over

the silos without any idea how to manage them, and they gave the regime an excuse to blame them for the whole thing.”

After a while, a system emerged.

Often, when armed groups were able to keep control of wheat-related infrastructure, they would cut a deal with the regime: Workers could pass from one side to another to keep the production chain going.

Agricultural experts in Islamic State-held Raqqa, for example, are allowed to come to Damascus for government training.

“The militias are always interested to keep the expert because they know that the expert will take care of the system and keep it running,” says Adam Vinaman Yao, the deputy representative of the FAO in Damascus. “Where people really understand that they should make a deal is when it comes to (food). They know that without wheat they will not survive.”

These informal agreements allow farmers to keep producing wheat, which can then be trucked out of opposition-controlled areas — for a price. Wheat shipped out of Raqqa, for instance, is subject to a “tax” (in grain or in cash) of 20 to 25 percent imposed by the Islamic State or other armed groups. Those costs are eventually passed on to civilians, which has led bread prices to spiral up by 87 percent this year.

Most of Syria’s wheat is produced in the northeast; most of the demand for it is concentrated in the west. As the wheat travels across the country, each armed faction takes its cut. “If (the armed Islamist group) Ahrar al-Sham wants something,” says a Syrian engineer from Raqqa, “and the government wants 200 tonnes of wheat from this area, the government negotiates with the sons of the area. And the money goes into their pockets.”

But when these agreements break down — over a price or territorial dispute, for example, as in the Battle of the Mills — the result is siege, starvation and fighting. The wheat-production chain is hostage to Syria’s warlords and profiteers.

The longer flour is in transit, or the more checkpoints it has to cross, the higher its price rises. In Eastern Ghouta, smugglers bring food aid from private donors through several checkpoints. At each, traders and militiamen take a cut. The price of a kilo of flour starts out in Damascus at about 27 cents. By the time it reaches its destination, it’s up to \$4.50 — far too much for many of the unemployed, besieged civilians. “It’s hardest on civilians who have to feed their children,” Dik says. “These profiteers, they know the need of people.”

“The Regime Was Facing A Supply Crisis”

This spring, several senior government employees in the bread sector told me that the regime was facing a supply crisis. Flour shortages were forcing bakeries to use the whole grain of the wheat. Normally, whole wheat requires a longer processing time and more yeast. But slowing down the production line would worsen bread shortages, which

would lead, as they inevitably do, to more political unrest. According to FAO estimates, this year's harvested wheat area was the smallest since the 1960s.

The regime is increasingly relying on wheat from Iran and Russia, according to the FAO; because of the insurgents' taxes, it's cheaper for Damascus to import grain from those countries than from northern Syria. Meanwhile, the price hikes are putting pressure on the poor, many of whom were malnourished even before the war.

In 2012, the city of Raqqa was still under government control. But much of the countryside, including wheat fields and all-important grain silos, was in opposition hands. When the main opposition groups fragmented later that year, each militia seized a piece of the chain: wheat, flour or bakeries.

"They stole the bread and sold it at high prices," says the engineer from Raqqa. Inside the city, bread became scarce. If a bakery opened at 8 a.m., hundreds of people would start lining up at 1 in the morning.

When the Islamic State took over Raqqa in March 2013, it immediately tried to systematize bread production and distribution. It set up a strict rationing system: People still stand in line for bread, but now there are two lines, one for men and one for women. Every person takes a number. Each person can buy only a dollar's worth of flatbread — about 20 small pieces. Black-clad militants stand at the head of the line and look hard at every face to make sure nobody double-dips.

Unlike the previous patchwork of players, the Islamic State has made sure to seize all the resources from opposition and government forces. "Daesh controlled everything," says the engineer, using an Arabic acronym for the group. "The wheat, the mills, the bakeries." The militants have consolidated their control in this way elsewhere, too.

At first, the Islamic State allowed Raqqa's farmers to sell wheat to the government with its blessing — and its 20 percent tax. This year, however, Islamic State officials bought most of the harvest directly from the farmers, paying slightly more than the government would have. The Raqqa engineer suggests they are planning to become more vertically integrated — perhaps someday, like the Syrian government, self-sufficient in wheat. "They're buying it because they consider themselves a government," he says.

The Islamic State is also selling grain across the border in Turkey, where prices are much higher. One of the ironies of this trade is that international donors are purchasing vast amounts of wheat in Turkey — possibly helping to keep the price high — and sending it into Syria as humanitarian aid. Inside Syria, the opposition militias that control these donations often sell them at war-inflated prices.

"Maybe it's not a big deal, in your country, to think about bread," said Abu Sharif, the nom de guerre of the head of the independent bakery committee in al-Waer, a suburb of Homs that was under government siege for about three years. "But here, it's a very big thing."

Just as Majd al-Dik drove up to the mill, regime forces opened fire with 23mm machine guns mounted on a nearby Shilka anti-aircraft tank. Dozens of people died immediately. He watched as one man was decapitated by an artillery shell. People inside their cars were burned "into charcoal."

Some of the volunteers had driven trucks with which to liberate the flour. Dik and the other volunteers tried to pick up as many bodies as they could and load the injured into the trucks. At the same time, people were scrambling to grab as many bags of flour as possible — he estimates that they got about 5 percent.

As the volunteers piled the injured on top of the bags, blood soaked into the flour.

When the trucks got back to Eastern Ghouta, a crowd of starving civilians — women, children and the elderly — surrounded them.

At this point in the story, Dik had to pause before he could finish. “This was the most difficult moment,” he said.

The starving people were so desperate that they took the flour — even if it was soaked in blood. “After that, the entire operation failed,” Dik said. A few days later, the regime was back in complete control.

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

**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.
-- Leon Trotsky, “Up To The Ninth Of January,” 1905**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "No comment needed."]

**“The Objective Meaning Of
Revolution Is The Struggle For
State Power For The Purpose Of
Reconstructing Antiquated Social
Relations”**

**The State Is “The Greatest Means Of
Organising, Disorganizing, And Re-
Organizing Social Relations”**

“Democracy, As The Party Of The Proletariat, Naturally Seeks The Political Supremacy Of The Working Class”

Excerpts from *Foreword to Karl Marx, Parizhskaya Kommuna* by Leon Trotsky
(December 1905)

The State And The Struggle For Power

A revolution is an open contest of social forces in the struggle for power.

The popular masses rise up, driven by vital elementary motives and interests, and frequently have no awareness of the movement's goals or the paths it will take: one party inscribes 'right and justice' on its banner, another 'order'; the 'heroes' of the revolution are either impelled by a sense of 'duty' or carried away by ambition; the army's behaviour is determined by unquestioning discipline, by a fear that consumes discipline, or else by revolutionary insight that overcomes both discipline and fear.

Enthusiasm, self-interest, habit, bold flights of thought, superstition and self-sacrifice — thousands of different feelings, ideas, attitudes, talents, and passions are swept into and swallowed up by a mighty whirlpool in which they either perish or rise to new heights.

But the objective meaning of revolution is the struggle for state power for the purpose of reconstructing antiquated social relations.

The state is no end in itself.

It is only a working machine in the hands of the ruling social forces.

Like any machine, the state has its motive power, its mechanisms of transmission, and its working parts.

The motive power is class interest; its mechanisms are agitation, the press, the propaganda of churches and schools, parties, street meetings, petitions and uprisings.

Finally, the executive mechanism is the administration together with the police, courts and prisons, and the army.

The state is no end in itself.

It is, however, the greatest means of organising, disorganizing, and re-organizing social relations.

Depending upon whose hands control it, it can be either a lever for profound transformation or an instrument of organised stagnation.

Democracy, as the party of the proletariat, naturally seeks the political supremacy of the working class.

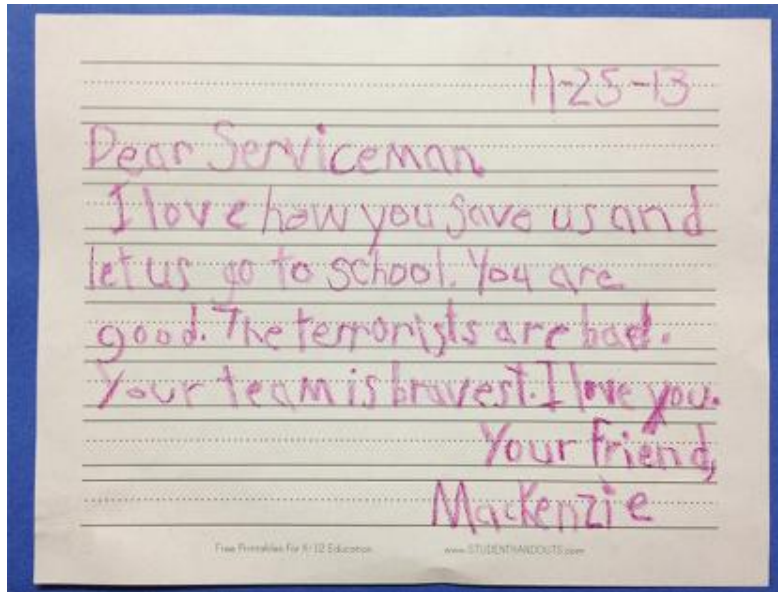
The proletariat grows and becomes strong together with the growth of capitalism.

In this sense, growth of capitalism is also the development of the proletariat in the direction of its own dictatorship.

However, the day and the hour when power will pass into the hands of the working class do not directly depend upon the level of the productive forces, but rather upon the relations of class struggle, the international situation, and finally, upon a number of subjective factors that include tradition, initiative, and readiness for the fight.

Soldier Responds To Letter From A First Grader





Comment: T

The Duffle Blog publishes satire by and for members of the armed forces. The politics of this piece are significant, to put it mildly. They are biting, radical, and fresh. The politics currently expressed by leading organizations self-advertising as standing with troops and veterans within a no-longer-existent “anti-war movement” are cardboard in comparison.

Dec 16, 2013 By Juice Box, The Duffle Blog

Dear Mackenzie,

Thanks for your kind words. The support of young Americans like you makes everything we do feel at least marginally worthwhile.

But let's get a few things straight.

First of all, I'm not your friend. In fact, I specifically tried to avoid receiving this letter to save myself the burden of writing you back.

Second, your black-and-white characterization of this conflict grossly misunderstands the complexity of modern warfare and, indeed, the folly of declared war against any group as broadly unspecific as “the terrorists.”

This isn't World War II, and the extent to which I am “good” and the enemy is “bad” is subject to debate — just ask anyone who's ever woken up to a Hellfire landing in the backyard.

It's inaccurate, in any case, to suggest that we're here fighting any sort of unified adversary.

On a given day, I couldn't tell you if I'm being shot at by Taliban, Haqqani, Hezb-e Isalmi, Taj Mir Jawad, or the Afghan National Army.

At a certain point, when you're surrounded by people who hate you, there comes a time for looking inward. The truth is I'm not a "hero," and what I do has no bearing at all on your daily life.

Seriously, what am I "saving" you from?

Al-Qaeda abandoned its goal of a global caliphate years ago and has since retooled to source a collection of loosely affiliated regional insurgencies that, while dangerous, won't disrupt your flow of touch screens and high fructose corn syrup anytime soon.

Frankly, it's this very sort of half-baked, yellow-ribbon-car-magnet, support-the-troops bullshit that has made the perpetuation of America's commitment in Afghanistan as palatable as it's been to a country of binge consumers unanimously ignorant to what's actually going on out here.

Despite my distaste for limp platitudes, I am, by all rights, a patriot. For this reason, I find your depiction of our nation's flag with six stars and five stripes particularly offensive. The United States flag has fifty stars, one for each state, and thirteen stripes to symbolize each of the original colonies.

Perhaps if even a fraction of the \$680 billion blown on this war had been reapportioned to public education you would know this.

If you really wanted to do something nice for me this Christmas, you might instead have written your congressman.

You might have said to him or her that you were fed up with the waste and disgusted by the endemic mismanagement of this so-called war.

Or you might have simply told that cloying, self-satisfied teacher of yours to shove it.

But don't let me harp. It's simply my hope that, somewhere in between Saturday morning cartoons and learning to add and subtract, you'll stop and apply a dose of critical thinking to your assessment of our military's role abroad.

Thanks again for the letter and happy holidays. Punk.

Very Respectfully,
Sergeant First Class Patrick Fenway
Logar Province, Afghanistan

P.S. The butterfly in your picture is wildly out of proportion.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

ANNIVERSARIES

December 30, 1936: Class War At GM



Workers sit down at GM



Supporters pass in food to sitdown strikers

Peace History Dec 26 - Jan 1 By Carl Bunin

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

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

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

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1948; Honor To The 60,000

Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin

Sixty thousand Puerto Rican men refused to register for the draft. Eight were prosecuted.

Happy Anniversary December 31, 1970 The Day The Liars Were Repudiated

Peace History Dec 31 - Jan 6 By Carl Bunin

The U.S. Congress repealed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which in 1964 authorized a dramatic increase in U.S. military involvement in Vietnam in response to an attack on U.S. forces that was later revealed to be fictitious.

How The Tonkin Gulf Lie Launched Vietnam War

July 27, 1994 By Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon, Media Beat

Thirty years ago, it all seemed very clear. "American Planes Hit North Vietnam After Second Attack on Our Destroyers; Move Taken to Halt New Aggression", announced a Washington Post headline on Aug. 5, 1964.

That same day, the front page of the New York Times reported: "President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and `certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam' after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin." But there was no "second attack" by North Vietnam -- no "renewed attacks against American destroyers."

By reporting official claims as absolute truths, American journalism opened the floodgates for the bloody Vietnam War. A pattern took hold: continuous government lies passed on by pliant mass media...leading to over 50,000 American deaths and millions of Vietnamese casualties.

The official story was that North Vietnamese torpedo boats launched an “unprovoked attack” against a U.S. destroyer on “routine patrol” in the Tonkin Gulf on Aug. 2 -- and that North Vietnamese PT boats followed up with a “deliberate attack” on a pair of U.S. ships two days later.

The truth was very different.

Rather than being on a routine patrol Aug. 2, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actually engaged in aggressive intelligence-gathering maneuvers -- in sync with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force. “The day before, two attacks on North Vietnam...had taken place,” writes scholar Daniel C. Hallin. Those assaults were “part of a campaign of increasing military pressure on the North that the United States had been pursuing since early 1964.”

On the night of Aug. 4, the Pentagon proclaimed that a second attack by North Vietnamese PT boats had occurred earlier that day in the Tonkin Gulf -- a report cited by President Johnson as he went on national TV that evening to announce a momentous escalation in the war: air strikes against North Vietnam.

But Johnson ordered U.S. bombers to “retaliate” for a North Vietnamese torpedo attack that never happened.

Prior to the U.S. air strikes, top officials in Washington had reason to doubt that any Aug. 4 attack by North Vietnam had occurred. Cables from the U.S. task force commander in the Tonkin Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick, referred to “freak weather effects,” “almost total darkness” and an “overeager sonarman” who “was hearing ship’s own propeller beat.”

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, who gained fame later as a POW and then Ross Perot’s vice presidential candidate. “I had the best seat in the house to watch that event,” recalled Stockdale a few years ago, “and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets -- there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American fire power.”

In 1965, Lyndon Johnson commented: “For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there.” But Johnson’s deceitful speech of Aug. 4, 1964, won accolades from editorial writers. The president, proclaimed the New York Times, “went to the American people last night with the somber facts.” The Los Angeles Times urged Americans to “face the fact that the Communists, by their attack on American vessels in international waters, have themselves escalated the hostilities.”

An exhaustive new book, *The War Within: America’s Battle Over Vietnam*, begins with a dramatic account of the Tonkin Gulf incidents. In an interview, author Tom Wells told us that American media “described the air strikes that Johnson launched in response as merely ‘tit for tat’ -- when in reality they reflected plans the administration had already drawn up for gradually increasing its overt military pressure against the North.”

Daniel Hallin’s classic book *The ‘Uncensored War’* observes that journalists had “a great deal of information available which contradicted the official account; it simply wasn’t

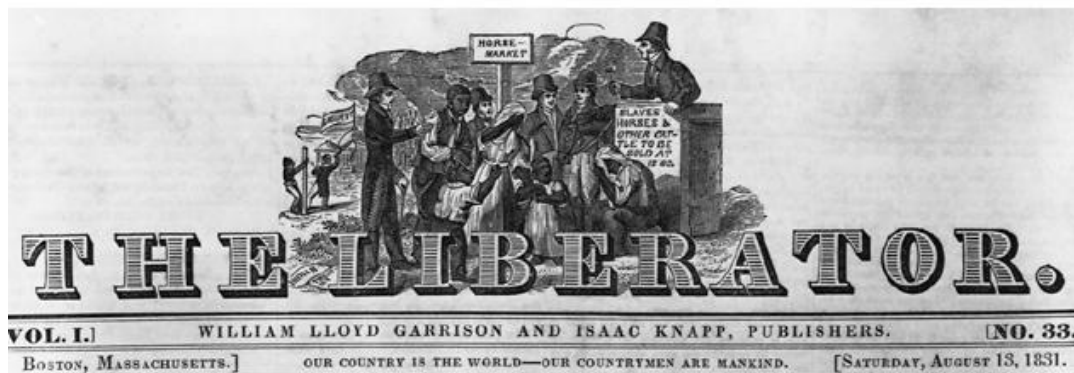
used. The day before the first incident, Hanoi had protested the attacks on its territory by Laotian aircraft and South Vietnamese gunboats.”

What’s more, “It was generally known...that `covert’ operations against North Vietnam, carried out by South Vietnamese forces with U.S. support and direction, had been going on for some time.”

In the absence of independent journalism, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution -- the closest thing there ever was to a declaration of war against North Vietnam -- sailed through Congress on Aug. 7. (Two courageous senators, Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska, provided the only “no” votes.) The resolution authorized the president “to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.”

The rest is tragic history.

January 1831: Magnificent Anniversary



The masthead of William Lloyd Garrison’s abolitionist newspaper, The Liberator, denounces slavery. [Wwnorton.com/]

January 1831:

William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist, announces his anti-slavery newspaper, The Liberator.

“I am aware that many object to the severity of my language, but is there not cause for severity? I will be harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice.

“On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation.

“No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to sound a moderate alarm...but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present...

“I am in earnest--I will not equivocate--I will not excuse--I will not retreat a single inch--AND I WILL BE HEARD.”

January 1, 1781: Anniversary Of A Betrayal; “General George Washington Tricked The Troops Into Disarming” “He Then Had Their Leaders Shot By A Firing Squad”

1.1.11 By Dave Blalock, GI Café Kaiserslautern, Facebook, Open Group

**PAST NEW YEARS DAY IN THE GI RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
FIRST RECORDED FRAGGING & MUTINY!!!**

Vietnam wasn't the first war in which disgruntled US troops murdered their own officers. This tradition goes back to the American Revolution.

The first incident of “fragging” was recorded in the Revolutionary War diary of a 9th Pennsylvania troop officer named Captain Joseph McClellan, who wrote that drunken troops turned on their superiors on January 1, 1781.

These soldiers were disgruntled because they felt they should have been discharged after serving for three years. In describing the casualties of this fragging he wrote that, “Captain Bitting was shot through the body and soon died,” and that “Captain Tolbert was badly wounded.”

Later in the month the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops of the Army wage a mutiny.

In order to crush their rebellion General George Washington tricked the troops into disarming. He then had their leaders shot by a firing squad made up of some of their fellow mutineers.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“Mounted Officers Ordered Him To Stand Up”

**“He Did So, And Raised His Arms In
The Air”
“They Fired Several Rounds At His Legs,
And Shot Him In The Chest After He Fell
Onto The Ground”**



December 26, 2015 by IMEMC & Agencies

Israeli soldiers killed, Saturday, a young Palestinian man in Bab al-Jadid area, in occupied Jerusalem, after claiming he “carried a knife, and attempted to stab an officer.”

Eyewitnesses refuted the military's allegations.

Israeli sources said the soldiers, and police officers, stopped the man and started searching him, and that he then allegedly "pulled a knife and attempted to stab them, before they shot him dead."

The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed the death of the young Palestinian man, who was later identified as Mos'ab Mahmoud al-Ghazali, 26, from Wad Qaddoum neighborhood in Silwan town, in occupied Jerusalem.

An eyewitness said the Palestinian was sitting near the Bab al-Jadid when mounted officers ordered him to stand up, and after he did so, and raised his arms in the air, they fired several rounds at his legs, and shot him in the chest after he fell onto the ground, the Maan News Agency said.

After his death, undercover soldiers of the Israeli military stormed his family's home, violently searched it and interrogated several members of his family.

The Health Ministry said the latest incident brings the number of Palestinians, killed by Israeli fire since October 1, to 138, including 26 children and 7 women, and that the number of wounded Palestinians exceeded 15,000, including more than 4,500 who were shot with live fire and rubber-coated steel bullets.

Palestinian Girl Survives Kidnap Attempt By Zionist Settlers In Occupied Jerusalem: “One Of Them Grabbed Hold Of Her Coat And Tried To Strangle Her, But She Managed To Slip Out Of The Coat And Run Away”

27-12-2015 The Palestinian Information Center

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, -- A 23-year-old Palestinian girl on Saturday evening suffered neck injuries and a trauma after fanatic Jewish settlers attacked her car and physically assaulted her in an attempt to kidnap her in Occupied Jerusalem.

A group of masked and armed settlers threw stones and opened fire at the car of Inas Asiyouri and then assaulted her after she lost her way and arrived in Ramot area near Shuafat town, northeast of Jerusalem, according to her husband Samer Asiyouri.

The husband explained that the settlers forced his wife to stop and leave her vehicle before one of them grabbed hold of her coat and tried to strangle her, but she managed to slip out of the coat and run away.

He added that the settlers stole her cellphone and caused damage to the car, noting that his wife was admitted to Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem for medical treatment.

Troops Kill Woman For Driving While Palestinian In Occupied Palestine:

**“Israeli Army Claimed ‘She Attempted To Ram Soldiers’”
“Eyewitness Confirmed She Was At Least 30 Meters Away From The Military Roadblock, When The Soldiers Opened Fire On Her”**



December 25, 2015 by IMEMC News

Israeli soldiers killed, on Friday evening, a Palestinian woman while driving her car near the main entrance of Silwad town, northeast of the central West Bank city of Ramallah.

The slain Palestinian woman has been identified as Mahdiyya Mohammad Ibrahim Hammad, 38. She is a married mother of four children.

Although the Israeli army claimed “she attempted to ram soldiers with her car,” eyewitness confirmed she was at least 30 meters away from the military roadblock, when the soldiers opened fire on her.

They added that the woman was not even speeding when the soldiers opened fire on her car, and that the army fired many live rounds at her.

Following the shooting, the soldiers left the woman to bleed to death, and held her body for more than two hours before handing her to the Palestinian side, near the Beit El military roadblock.

The family said the funeral ceremony and procession will be held on Saturday, after the noon prayers in Silwad.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Hammad was shot with two live rounds in her face, five rounds in the chest and two in the pelvis.

Also on Friday, the army killed a young Palestinian man, identified as Hani Rafeeq Wahdan, 22, east of Gaza City. Wahdan was shot with a live round in the head.

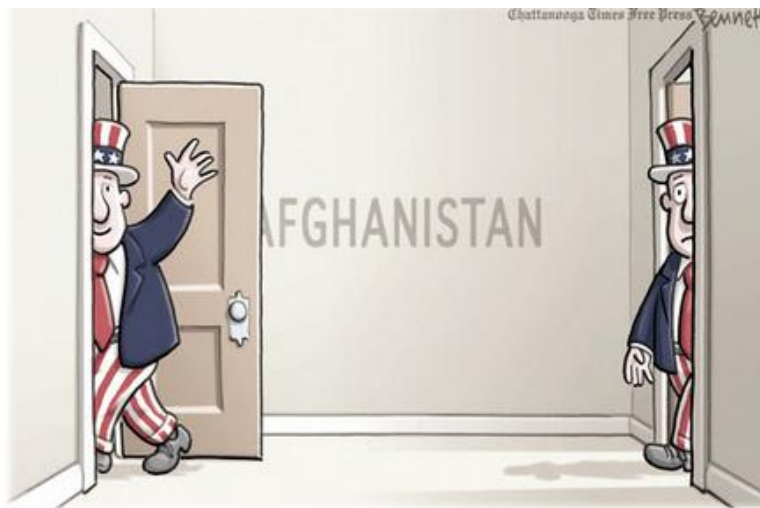
The Palestinian Health Ministry said 137 Palestinians, including 26 children and 7 women, have been killed by Israeli fire since October 1, while more than 15000 have been injured, including 4500 who were shot with live fire and rubber-coated metal bullets.

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."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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.

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