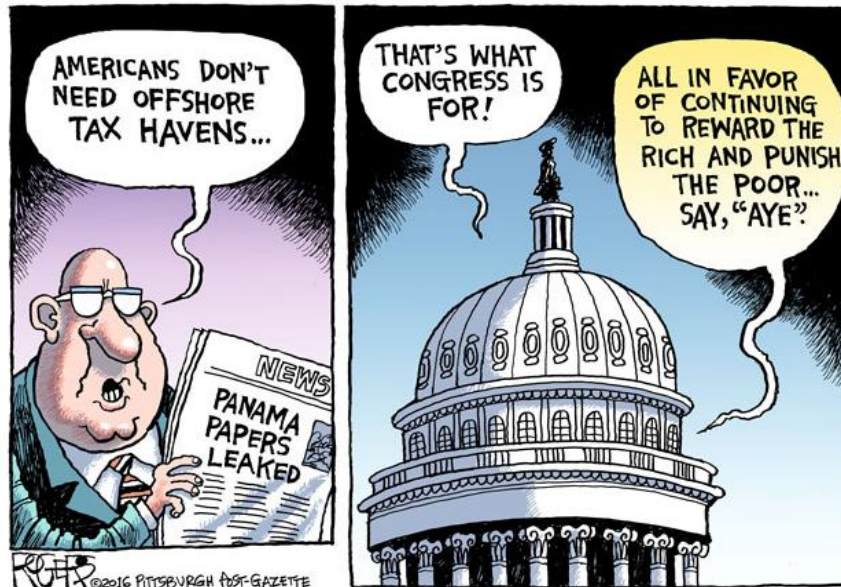


Military Resistance 14D6



IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Sergeant Cardin's Death:
"Just Because The Commander In
Chief Says There Won't Be
Combat Doesn't Mean That Will Be
The Case,' Said Sergeant Cardin's
Brother"**

**"It Doesn't Take Much For Someone
To Launch A Rocket And Start A**

Fight When You're In Someone Else's Country” “If That's Not Combat, I Don't Know What Is”



Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin in a photograph provided by his family. He was on his fifth combat tour in Iraq when he was killed. He was 27.

APRIL 11, 2016 By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — On a Saturday morning three weeks ago, American radar detected rockets headed for a secret fire base of about 100 Marines in northern Iraq.

As warning sirens blared, a 27-year-old staff sergeant on his fifth combat tour rushed the Marines under his command to a bunker.

One rocket missed the Marines, but another exploded near the staff sergeant, Louis F. Cardin, while he was still outside. He was seriously wounded in the chest and died within the hour.

Less than 12 hours later, a Marine arrived at the home of Sergeant Cardin's parents in Temecula, Calif., to inform them that their son had been killed.

It was the second time that an American service member had been killed in Iraq since President Obama resumed military operations there nearly two years ago.

In the days after Sergeant Cardin's death, American military officials were forced to disclose why he and the Marines were at the base, how Marines would be used in the future and how many American troops were actually in Iraq.

The new information illustrated how the conflict had quietly expanded far from the public's view, and raised questions about Mr. Obama's pledge to keep American troops out of combat there.

"Just because the commander in chief says there won't be combat doesn't mean that will be the case," said Sergeant Cardin's brother, Vincent Cardin, a former Army infantryman, in a telephone interview. "It doesn't take much for someone to launch a rocket and start a fight when you're in someone else's country. If that's not combat, I don't know what is."

In the days after the attack, Fire Base Bell was renamed Kara Soar Counter Fire Complex.

Two Defense Department officials, who were granted anonymity to discuss internal decision-making, said that the words "fire base" made it seem as if the Marines were in active combat.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Afghan Soldiers Desert As
Taliban Threaten Key Helmand
Capital:**

**"At Least Five Full Districts In The
Province Already Under Full
Taliban Control"**

“Challenges Will Be Made Worse By Extreme Losses Government Forces Endured Nationwide In 2015”

“Desertion Is Rife Within The Ranks. ‘The Army Let Us Down, So We Had To Come To The Taliban, Who Treat Us Like Guests’”

“I decided to leave the army when my dead and injured comrades lay in our base, and nobody took them to hospital. My army training is very useful now, as I am training Taliban fighters with the same knowledge.”

April 11, 2016 By Nick Paton Walsh, CNN

Kabul, Afghanistan

Sometimes you know a war's going badly when your enemy is right in front of you.

About 3 miles outside the southern city of Lashkar Gah, Afghan soldiers can see a white flag. It's not one of surrender -- quite the opposite.

The flag belongs to the Taliban, and shows exactly how close the militant group is to the capital of Helmand province.

Despite Afghan government assurances that the army can hold and retake ground, the strategic province that hundreds of NATO troops -- who have been in the country for the last 15 years -- died fighting for is closer than ever to falling to the Taliban.

Those inside Lashkar Gah are understandably nervous.

A Helmand police official, who did not want to be named for his own safety, told CNN on Sunday that the army had not made any recent advances, and at least five full districts in the province were already under full Taliban control.

The official said this included the towns of Musa Qala and Nawzad, and that an army offensive to retake the town of Khanisheen was recently repelled by the Taliban.

Lashkar Gah is currently under threat from two directions by the militant group, the official said.

The official confirmed what many analysts had long feared: that the highly valuable opium crop, now being harvested in Helmand, is a key reason for the Taliban's focus on the southern province.

Even a temporary lull in the fighting in Helmand in the past week can be attributed to the Taliban's focus on getting the poppy harvest in, the official said.

Government representatives strongly reject any suggestion that Helmand is under threat of Taliban control, or that Lashkar Gah would be overrun.

"It will not fall. If it falls, there is no doubt I will resign, but it will not fall," acting Defense Minister Masoom Stanikzai told CNN.

"It is not a rosy picture in Helmand. It's a difficult fight and there are many fighters coming from across the (Pakistan) border, there is no doubt about that."

He blamed the Taliban's recent advances on Pakistani assistance, an oft-repeated charge by Afghan officials.

"Why are we ignoring this fact? Go to Quetta, go to Peshawar. What the hell are those (militant) bases doing there? How are they moving there? How are they communicating there?"

The Afghan army has struggled in Helmand, where U.S. officials were strongly critical of its former leadership in the province.

"2015 was a bad year, but I attribute most of those (failings) to failures of leadership," Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, the U.S. forces' deputy chief of staff for operations, told CNN. He said recently appointed Afghan army leaders were "phenomenal" and that "they still have a very tough set of operations ahead of them, but I disagree completely that Lashkar Gah is on the verge of falling."

As Afghanistan moves into summer, and the warmer months known as the fighting season, existing challenges will be made worse by extreme losses government forces endured nationwide in 2015.

U.S. officials estimate that 5,500 Afghan security force members died that year alone, far more than the 3,500 NATO lost in its entire decadelong campaign.

Death is not the only reason the Afghan army is losing troops: Desertion is rife within the ranks.

CNN met two deserters in Helmand whose stories show the breadth of the problem, who have taken their skills -- months of U.S. taxpayer-funded training -- to the Taliban.

"I did 18 months of army training and took an oath to serve this country," one deserter said. "But the situation changed. The army let us down, so we had to come to the Taliban, who treat us like guests."

The two men still had their old uniforms, army IDs, and even the bank cards they used to withdraw their official wages.

“I decided to leave the army when my dead and injured comrades lay in our base, and nobody took them to hospital. My army training is very useful now, as I am training Taliban fighters with the same knowledge.”

More than 3,500 Afghan civilians died last year alone, and another 7,500 were injured -- record figures.

The stories of those who have fled to Lashkar Gah provide a snapshot of what Afghans endure daily, often out of the global spotlight.

“My worst memory was how a wedding party was hit by a mortar, killing a large number of women and children,” one man said.

“The police left after the fighting intensified and told me to move to a vacant corner of the village. But the bullets and rockets followed, killing 10 people. So I fled here.”

Another man came from an area the Taliban now control to buy goods in Lashkar Gah, and described a relative calm in the town of Musa Qala now the Taliban were in control.

“The bazaar is now full of people when it used to be empty. That was because security was bad and some people avoided the government forces in it.”

Still, government officials insist they will turn the fight around in Helmand in coming months.

Stanikzai, the acting defense minister, said much of the battle against the insurgency was about reinforcing public perception that the government was winning.

“It is not about the battlefield but the confidence of people in the political future. We have to create it. We have to work on it,” he said. “We have to defend the country.”

On Monday a bombing attack killed 12 people and injured dozens when a three-wheeled motorcycle loaded with explosives targeted a bus carrying new Afghan army recruits from eastern Afghanistan to Kabul, a spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry said.

At least 38 people also were reported wounded in the attack, which happened in Jalalabad, the official said. Jalalabad is the provincial capital of Nangarhar.

Taliban Rocket Hit Road Where Kerry's Convoy Passed Back-And-Forth Saturday And Another Hit The Diplomatic Area In Kabul

At least three rocket attacks were reported on Saturday shortly after the visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry who was in Kabul to ease tensions over Afghan unity pact left Afghanistan.

Police has confirmed that rocket hit a road near the Afghan Presidential Palace where Kerry's convoy had passed back-and-forth on Saturday and another diplomatic area in Kabul.

No casualties were reported and no group claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks.

This comes as earlier Taliban fired a rocket to the Afghanistan's parliament compound while lawmakers were in session.

On his unannounced visit to Kabul, Karry called on Taliban to resume peace talks with Kabul government and announced that for the moment there is no change on the withdrawal plan.

Insurgent Attack Kills 12 New Army Recruits: Another 38 People Wounded, Most In Critical Condition

April 11, 2016 Rahim Faiez, The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 12 new army recruits have been killed in a bomb attack in the eastern city of Jalalabad, a hospital official said Monday.

Twelve bodies had been taken into the main regional hospital in Jalalabad city, 77.5 miles from the capital Kabul, said Ahsanullah Shinwari, the head of the hospital.

Another 38 people were wounded, most of them in critical condition, he said.

The recruits were traveling in a bus Monday afternoon on the outskirts of Jalalabad — the capital of Nangarhar province.

Initial reports indicated that an attacker on an explosives-laden motorcycle rammed the bus, according to Ahmad Ali Hazrat, chief of the Nangarhar provincial council.

Earlier Monday in Kabul, at least one person was killed when a bomb ripped through a bus carrying Education Ministry employees to work.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said five people were wounded in the blast, caused by a magnetic bomb attached to the bus.

Rahim Gul, the assistant bus driver, gave a higher death toll, telling The Associated Press that two employees were killed.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Car Bomb Kills Five At Local Government HQ In Mogadishu

Apr 11, 2016 BY FEISAL OMAR AND ABDIRAHMAN HUSSEIN, Reuters

A car bomb at local government headquarters in Mogadishu killed five people and wounded five, an official said, in an attack claimed by Somali Islamist group al Shabaab.

Al Shabaab has frequently attacked government targets, hotels and restaurants in the capital since being pushed out by African Union peacekeeping forces in 2011 and rebasing in the country's south.

"We are behind the governor HQ attack," Abdiasis Abu Musab, the group's military operations spokesman, said.

On Saturday, another bomb killed three and wounded five in Mogadishu.

A police spokesman said that in Monday's attack a bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into the entrance of the headquarters. But mayoral spokesman Abdifatah Omar blamed a car parked at the rear of the heavily fortified compound.

"So far we have confirmed five civilians died and five others were injured," he said.

The blast, which other reports suggested may have been detonated remotely, destroyed part of a guardroom.

"We heard a huge bang and then (saw) huge clouds of smoke over us. We are safe," one female worker inside the compound, who identified herself as Nasra, told Reuters.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Police Officer Stabs Unarmed Teen For Speaking Arabic

“Police Spokeswoman Officer Jennifer Marlatt Claims No Hate Crime Was Committed Because ‘This Was A Spur-Of-The-Moment Argument’”

“The Fact That Roman Is A Fellow Cop Does Factor Into The Huntington Beach Police’s Decision Not To Label The Stabbing As A Hate Crime”



Arthur Roman, his brother Martin Roman, and his sister-in-law Jessica Roman

March 3, 2016 By Andrew Emmett, NationofChange

While visiting family in California, an out-of-state police officer was arrested along with his brother and his brother’s wife for allegedly stabbing an unarmed 17-year-old boy.

Although the Huntington Beach Police Department claim that a hate crime was not committed, the off-duty cop reportedly started the fight with a racial slur directed at the victim.

At 4:16 p.m. on Sunday, Illinois police officer Arthur Roman, his brother Martin Roman, and his sister-in-law Jessica Roman were sitting in a parked car near a 24 Hour Fitness when they heard two males speaking Arabic.

As 17-year-old Karam Jarrah and his brother-in-law Asem Dghem walked past the parked car, they reportedly heard a racial slur targeted at them.

“He was like, ‘What’s up Obama bam?’” Jarrah recalled.

As the confrontation immediately turned violent, Roman allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed the unarmed teen twice.

After the Romans fled the scene, Jarrah was taken to a local hospital and treated for his injuries. Jarrah was eventually released from the hospital, while Dghem was not wounded in the attack.

“It was just like a fountain squirting blood,” Jarrah said of his wound.

According to a statement from the police on Tuesday, the Romans were apprehended shortly after the stabbing incident and charged with assault with a deadly weapon and battery.

Although the victims told police that they were attacked for speaking Arabic and subjected to racial slurs, Huntington Beach police spokeswoman Officer Jennifer Marlatt claims no hate crime was committed because “this was a spur-of-the-moment argument.”

After posting \$25,000 bail, Martin and his wife Jessica were released from jail. According to Marlatt, Arthur Roman had to post \$100,000 bail due to the fact that he lives out-of-state. Oak Forest Police in Illinois has placed Roman on administrative leave pending an investigation into the stabbing. Roman has been an officer with the Oak Forest Police since 2014.

“They have to protect us, not stab us. He’s a police officer, supposed to be a role model,” Dghem told ABC7.

According to the FBI, a hate crime is defined as a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.”

The FBI does not exclude “spur-of-the-moment arguments” from its definition of a hate crime.

But the fact that Roman is a fellow cop does factor into the Huntington Beach Police’s decision not to label the stabbing as a hate crime.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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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

Sports Bar Politics And Corporate Duopolies:

**“The Corporate Duopoly Electoral
System Is The Equivalent Of The
Sports League Cabal: Whatever
The Score, The Owners Win”**

**“The Best Possible Outcome Of Their
Quadrennial Games Would Be A
Breakup Of The Duopoly, Through A
Split In One Or Both Of The
Corporate Parties”**

**“By Far The Greatest Contribution The
Sanders Campaign Could Make To
History Would Be If It Resulted In A
Genuine And Lasting Split In The
Democratic Party”**



Black Agenda Report

04/06/2016 by BAR executive editor Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report

“Those who seek fundamental change in U.S. political alignments and structures should root for whatever primary election results that contribute to the dissolution of the Democratic-Republican duopoly system.”

From the perspective of a sports bar, Bernie Sanders' 57% - 43% victory over Hillary Clinton's Corporate Demo Crusaders, in Wisconsin, keeps his Leftish Upstarts in the playoffs, although their chances of grabbing the brass ring in Philadelphia this summer are slim to none.

Donald Trump's White Knights stumbled, but may still rally to shut out the Corporate GOP Avengers, in Cleveland, in July.

The problem with sports bar elections is that the Black and progressive teams aren't playing, and may not even exist.

As in professional sports, the “home team” isn't really from your city: it is comprised of high-paid mercenary athletes beholden to multi-millionaire owners who are bound together in a cabal that manipulates the whole spectacle for their own mega-profits.

The corporate duopoly electoral system is the equivalent of the sports league cabal: whatever the score, the owners win.

The best possible outcome of their quadrennial games would be a breakup of the duopoly, through a split in one or both of the corporate parties.

For the first time in at least a century, such an earth-shaking fracture is possible, and even likely. Therefore, those who seek fundamental change in U.S. political alignments and structures should root for whatever primary election results that contribute to the dissolution of the Democratic-Republican duopoly system.

Donald Trump has done a great service by pushing the Republican Party to the brink of disintegration.

For 40 years the GOP has provided its section of the tiny capitalist class with a popular base by acting as the White Man's Party within the duopoly structure.

(Throughout U.S. history, one of the two parties has always been the White Man's Party, whose organizing principle is white supremacy. This position is permanent, although it may be occupied by different parties at different times.) Until now, racial dog whistles sufficed to inform the white supremacist masses where to cast their ballots. Donald Trump has pumped up the volume to a (Queens-accented) rebel yell, stripping away the GOP “establishment's” pretenses to civilized bigotry.

Trump reckoned that the Republican masses wanted a real White Man's Party – so he's trying to give them one.

Such overt misbehavior threatens the post-civil rights ruling class consensus on race and the maintenance of political hegemony in the United States. Far worse, however, are Trump's heresies regarding U.S. Empire.

The billionaire believes he can wheel-and-deal America to continued supremacy in the world, while discarding much of global U.S. military infrastructure, halting wars of "humanitarian" intervention, and confronting China and Russia economically, rather than at the point of a missile.

As we wrote in these pages, last week, "If the Trump candidacy can continue to thrive while rejecting the holiest shibboleths of the bipartisan War Party, then we must conclude that the whole U.S. foreign policy debate is a construct of the corporate media and the corporate-bought duopoly political establishments."

The GOP "establishment" – meaning, the Republican wing of the corporate/financial ruling class – has loudly signaled that it will abandon the Republican emblem if it cannot be retrieved from Trump's overtly racist and "isolationist" clutches. Trump, for his part, says his followers might "riot" if he is unfairly denied the nomination – and most observers seem to believe them.

Two Republican Parties, splitting roughly the same voting constituency, are weaker than one.

Therefore, anti-duopoly "fans" at the political sports bar ought to be cheering for whatever primary election outcomes bring the GOP closer to the breaking point – especially if one of the fractured parts is militarily less bellicose than the current party, while indistinguishable from it on actual racial policy.

That's not cheering for Trump; it's rooting for a fracturing of the duopoly that ensnares the whole U.S. electoral apparatus and ensures that one of the rich men's parties will triumph at the end of each electoral cycle.

A similar logic applies to the Democrats that bookend the Republicans.

Bernie Sanders eagerly agreed to be a "sheep dog" for Hillary Clinton if she won the nomination.

However, polls show that many of his supporters do not feel bound by Sanders' promise. (And, who knows, at the end of the process, he might not feel honor-bound either, especially if Clinton keeps questioning whether he is a "real" Democrat).

By far the greatest contribution the Sanders campaign could make to history would be if it resulted in a genuine and lasting split in the Democratic Party, which is the duopoly holding pen for all but the most radical elements of the U.S. polity.

The Democratic Party cannot be transformed from below – and the question will be rendered moot by Clinton's victory, which is mathematically all but certain.

However, with every primary victory won by the Sandernistas, their righteous anger at the corporate stranglehold on the party and their estrangement from its structures, will increase.

If Hillary loses discipline and insults them once too often, a real break from the party by a critical mass of Sanders' left-most followers is possible – whether he swears fealty to Clinton or not.

There is no hope that the electoral system can play any positive role as long as the Democrats monopolize all the political terrain to the left of the White Man's Party(s).

The fracturing of the Republican Party – which seems inevitable – is a good thing under any circumstances. However, Hillary will use the crisis in the GOP to create a “big tent” Democratic campaign to absorb millions of disaffected Republicans.

No matter what the Democratic Party platform says, Clinton will wage a ferociously “centrist” campaign designed to accommodate refugees from Republican chaos, and she will govern from even further to the right.

The Sandernistas historical duty – if they are to have any lasting relevance at all – is to refocus their energies outside the Democratic Party.

This is more likely to occur if they do as well as possible in the remaining primary contests, and emerge from the experience with an intense sense of anti-corporate mission – one that is incompatible with the Clinton agenda.

The seats on the left side of the political sports bar should, therefore, be cheering for Bernie in the primaries – and hoping that Hillary behaves like the cackling witch she is, and totally alienates them before, and at, the Philadelphia convention.

MORE:

“Who Drives The Democratic Party?”

“Not The Black, Brown And Poor Who Are Its Base Voters, Trapped In Its Trunk”

“The Democratic Party Is Owned By Its Contributors, By Wall Street And The Hedge Fund Guys, By Monsanto And Big Ag, By Military Contractors, Privatizers And Gentrifiers”



04/06/2016 by BAR managing editor Bruce A Dixon, Black Agenda Report

Who drives the Democratic party?

Not the black, brown and poor who are its base voters, trapped in its trunk.

Black voters in particular are not “strategic voters” so much as captive constituents of the privatizers, gentrifiers, jailers, banksters and military contractors who steer the Democratic party.

Our only strategic decision is whether to remain captives or pull the latch and escape from the Democratic wing of the party of the rich.

Strategy is an overall plan or policy designed to achieve some objective. So what is this thing that Democrats and nominal non-Democrats call “strategic voting”?

Will this “strategic voting” thing help us roll back the vicious police and prison states?

Will it make the economy work for the 99% instead of the 1%?

Will it help us stop gentrification or the privatization of schools, roads, post offices and public services?

Will strategic voting get the thirty million people, many of them black whom Obamacare missed real health care?

Will strategic voting stop our drone bombings in Somalia and Pakistan, or US support of apartheid Israel?

The proponents of strategic voting readily admit that it will do none of these things.

For them, “strategy” is simply electing a Democrat, any Democrat because Republicans are the White Man's Party. This calculus of fear, as Glen Ford has explained is the entirety of black presidential politics. It's a politics of fear, a fantasy world in which overwhelming dread of the White Man's Party is the first, the last and only thing that matters.

The problem of course is that throwing away our hopes, for a just and peaceful society, for getting off fossil fuels and creating millions of new green jobs especially in the inner cities where we need them most, shelving our demands for economic justice and radically shrinking the prison population, putting aside our struggles for higher wages and the right to unionize, for affordable day care, housing and health care, for free quality education from kindergarten through universities --- putting all these things on the back burner for fear that the White Man's Party might gain the White House, the state house or whatever house is not a strategy at all. It's just fear, and fear is not a strategy.

Fear is running away from strategy.

Fear is fleeing from any meaningful struggle.

“Strategic voting” means jumping back into the trunk of the Democratic party's car. If that's a strategy it ain't a good one.

Democrats in office have often proved themselves the “more effective evil” executing policies like school privatization, mass surveillance, whistleblower crackdowns and banker pardons that Republicans could only dream of.

As passengers in the Democratic party's trunk we don't get consulted about what the Democrats do once they're in office.

Barack Obama didn't ask black America if we wanted public schools defunded, broken and privatized or if we wanted the bankers lightly slapped on the wrist instead of broken and imprisoned. African American voters are what political scientists call a “captive constituency”.

The last strategic thing we did was to let our fear of the White Man's Party induce them to climb into the Democratic party's trunk.

The Democratic party is owned by its contributors, by Wall Street and the hedge fund guys, by Monsanto and Big Ag, by military contractors, privatizers and gentrifiers.

Once we're in the Democratic party's trunk, and we've been there for a generation now, the only strategic options are to remain a captive constituency or to pull the latch and escape from Hillary's and Debbie Wasserman Schulz's, from Cuomo's and Rahm Emanuel's trunk to leave the Democratic party and vote our hopes instead of our fears.

I'll be voting for the Green Party this year because it's the only party that opposes school privatization, and drone wars, and gentrification. It's the only party that thinks voting ought to be a constitutional right and that aid to Saudi Arabia and apartheid Israel ought to end yesterday, and more.

Unlike a vote cast in fear, a vote from Rahm's trunk, my vote will be a strategic one.
Unlike Democrats, I will be voting my hopes and demands, not my fears.

The Gravedigger

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade;
United Auto Workers GM Retiree

From *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*, Dennis Serdel

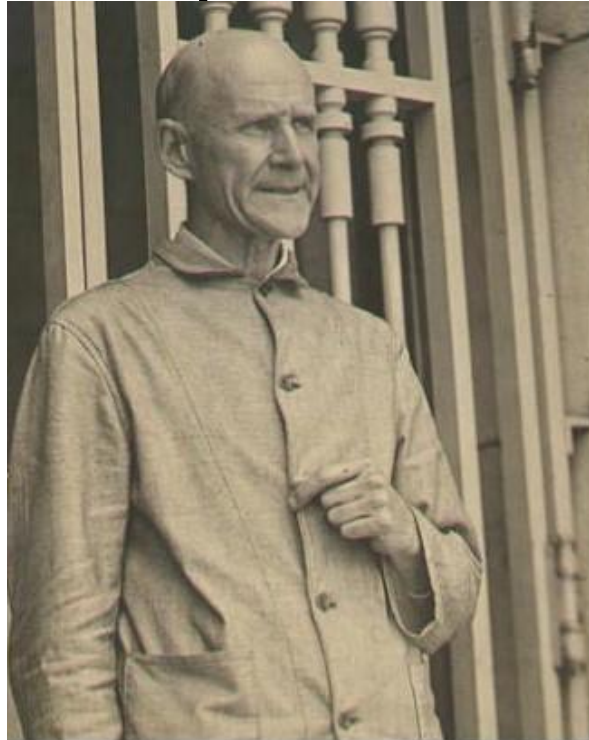
It's cold in the morning
and he shivers,
he kicks up the furnace
he turns down at night
these heating bills are killer
he puts some coffee on
trying to remember
who he buries today
these Michigan winters
freeze the ground on down
he needs some gas
in the truck
and the digger too
it's a hell of a way
to make a living
but it's steady pay
After a cup and a half
of coffee and three cigarettes
it dawns on him who's grave
he has to dig today
it's Mary and John's son
from across the tracks
the paper had his picture
he was just a boy
played football
at the old high school
a stand out star
joined the Army after that
cause all the jobs are gone.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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NNIVERSARIES

April 13, 1919: A Hero Imprisoned For Opposing Imperial War



Eugene V. Debs when he was a prisoner at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, sentenced for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Hall of Fame Honoree"
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/laborhall/evd.htm>>



Socialist and labor leader Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for opposing U.S. entry into World War I.

While in prison, he received nearly one million votes for President in the 1920 election (as he had in 1912).

April 14, 1988:
Very Happy Anniversary
**Next To Last Government To Invade
Afghanistan Withdraws In Defeat**



Happy Russian soldiers going home.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 9-15

April 14, 1988:

The Soviet Union signed an agreement to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan after ten years of humiliating defeats at the hands of Afghan resistance forces.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
April 19, 1943:
**In Memory Of Those Who Died
Courageously Resisting An Imperial
Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand**



A resistance fighter with a homemade flame thrower during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
[citizenship.typepad]

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

On the eve of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, to send them to concentration camps.

The destruction of the ghetto had been ordered in February by SS Chief Heinrich Himmler:

“An overall plan for the razing of the ghetto is to be submitted to me. In any case we must achieve the disappearance from sight of the living-space for 500,000 sub-humans (Untermenschen) that has existed up to now, but could never be suitable for Germans, and reduce the size of this city of millions — Warsaw — which has always been a center of corruption and revolt.”

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

In the summer of 1942, about 300,000 Jews were deported from Warsaw to Treblinka.

When reports of mass murder in the killing center leaked back to the Warsaw ghetto, a surviving group of mostly young people formed an organization called the Z.O.B. (for the Polish name, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, which means Jewish Fighting Organization).

The Z.O.B., led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, issued a proclamation calling for the Jewish people to resist going to the railroad cars.

In January 1943, Warsaw ghetto fighters fired upon German troops as they tried to round up another group of ghetto inhabitants for deportation. Fighters used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto.

After a few days, the troops retreated.

This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters to prepare for future resistance.

The Nazis began the final liquidation of the ghetto the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Seven hundred and fifty fighters fought the heavily armed and well-trained Germans.

The ghetto fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended.

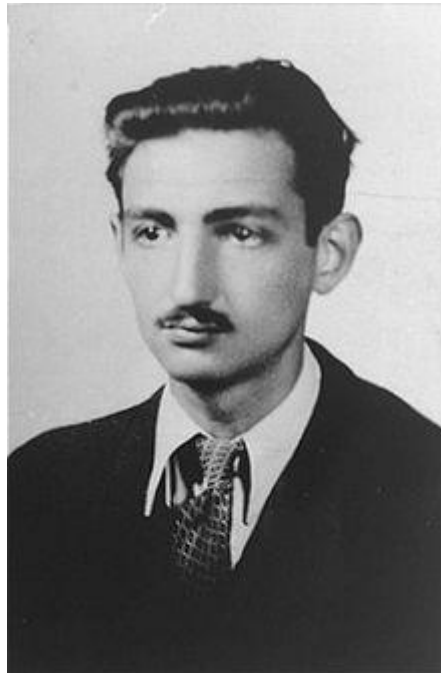
The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured, about 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to killing centers or concentration camps.

Resisters held off the Nazis for three weeks, using precious few and largely ineffectual weapons, but they were determined to go out fighting, decrease the number of Nazis, and hopefully serve to let the whole world know of the plight of the Jews.

MORE:

Marek Edelman



[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Wikipedia [Excerpts]

Marek Edelman (Yiddish: מאַרעק עדעלמאַן, born 1919 in Homel or 1922 in Warsaw – October 2, 2009 in Warsaw) was a Jewish-Polish political and social activist and cardiologist. Before his death in 2009, Edelman was the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Before World War II, he was a General Jewish Labour Bund activist. During the war he co-founded the Jewish Combat Organization (ŻOB).

He took part in the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, becoming its leader after the death of Mordechaj Anielewicz. He also took part in the city-wide 1944 Warsaw Uprising.

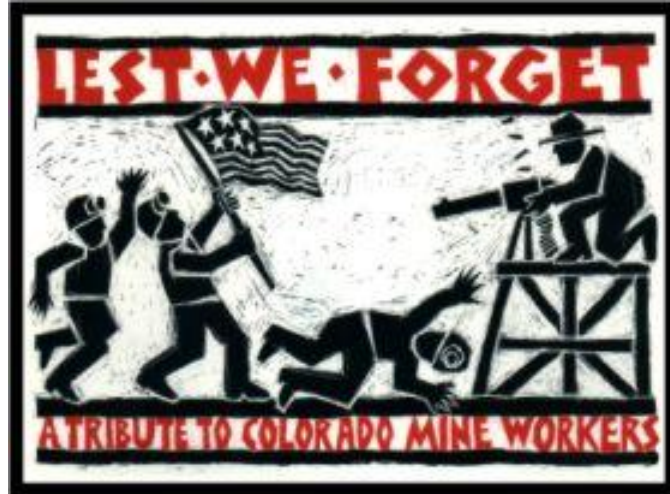
After the war, Edelman remained in Poland and became a noted cardiologist.

As a member of Solidarity, he took part in the Polish Round Table Talks of 1989.

Following the peaceful transformations of 1989, he was a member of various centrist and liberal parties. He also wrote books documenting the history of wartime resistance against the Nazi German occupation of Poland.

The Ludlow Massacre
April 20, 1914:
Infamous Anniversary:
Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms
Slaughtering Women And Children
To Serve The Rich:
Some Honorable Soldiers Resist, But
The Colorado National Guard
Becomes Notorious All Over The
World As Foul, Cowardly Strike-
Breaking Scum

Eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.



A lot more than 2,000 miles separated the Rockefeller estate from Southern Colorado when on Monday April 20, 1914, the first shot was fired at Ludlow.

One of history's most dramatic confrontations between capital and labor — the Ludlow massacre — took place at the mines of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I).

Troops from the Colorado state militia attacked strikers, killing 25 (half women and children), in Ludlow. Two women and eleven children who suffocated in a pit they had dug under their tent.

Having struck the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company the previous September for improved conditions, better wages, and union recognition, the workers established a tent camp which was fired upon and ultimately torched during the 14-hour siege.

The Ludlow Massacre

[The following was excerpted from Howard Zinn's A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (pgs 346-349).]

"... shortly after Woodrow Wilson took office there began in Colorado one of the most bitter and violent struggles between workers and corporate capital in the history of the country.

This was the Colorado coal strike that began in September 1913 and culminated in the 'Ludlow Massacre' of April 1914.

Eleven thousand miners in southern Colorado ... worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Corporation, which was owned by the Rockefeller family.

Aroused by the murder of one of their organizers, they went on strike against low pay, dangerous conditions, and feudal domination of their lives in towns completely controlled by the mining companies."

“When the strike began, the miners were immediately evicted from their shacks in the mining towns. Aided by the United Mine Workers Union, they set up tents in the nearby hills and carried on the strike, the picketing, from these tent colonies.

The gunmen hired by the Rockefeller interests -- the Baldwin- Felts Detective Agency -- using Gatling guns and rifles, raided the tent colonies.

The death list of miners grew, but they hung on, drove back an armored train in a gun battle, fought to keep out strikebreakers.

With the miners resisting, refusing to give in, the mines not able to operate, the Colorado governor (referred to by a Rockefeller mine manager as ‘our little cowboy governor’) called out the National Guard, with the Rockefellers supplying the Guard’s wages.

“The miners at first thought the Guard was sent to protect them, and greeted its arrival with flags and cheers.

They soon found out the Guard was there to destroy the strike.

The Guard brought strikebreakers in under cover of night, not telling them there was a strike.

Guardsmen beat miners, arrested them by the hundreds, rode down with their horses parades of women in the streets of Trinidad, the central town in the area.

And still the miners refused to give in.

When they lasted through the cold winter of 1913-1914, it became clear that extraordinary measures would be needed to break the strike.

“In April 1914, two National Guard companies were stationed in the hills overlooking the largest tent colony of strikers, the one at Ludlow, housing a thousand men, women, children.

On the morning of April 20, a machine gun attack began on the tents.

The miners fired back.

Their leader was lured up into the hills to discuss a truce, then shot to death by a company of National Guardsmen.

The women and children dug pits beneath the tents to escape the gunfire.

At dusk, the Guard moved down from the hills with torches, set fire to the tents, and the families fled into the hills; thirteen people were killed by gunfire.

“The following day, a telephone linesman going through the ruins of the Ludlow tent colony lifted an iron cot covering a pit in one of the tents and found the charred, twisted bodies of eleven children and two women.

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

In Denver, the United Mine Workers issued a ‘Call to Arms’ -- ‘Gather together for defensive purposes all arms and ammunition legally available.’ Three hundred armed strikers marched from other tent colonies into the Ludlow area, cut telephone and telegraph wires, and prepared for battle.

Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.

At Colorado Springs, three hundred union miners walked off their jobs and headed for the Trinidad district, carrying revolvers, rifles, shotguns.

“In Trinidad itself, miners attended a funeral service for the twenty-six dead at Ludlow, then walked from the funeral to a nearby building, where arms were stacked for them.

They picked up rifles and moved into the hills, destroying mines, killing mine guards, exploding mine shafts.

The press reported that ‘the hills in every direction seem suddenly to be alive with men.’

“In Denver, eighty-two soldiers in a company on a troop train headed for Trinidad refused to go. The press reported: ‘The men declared they would not engage in the shooting of women and children.

They hissed the 350 men who did start and shouted imprecations at them.

“Five thousand people demonstrated in the rain on the lawn in front of the state capital at Denver asking that the National Guard officers at Ludlow be tried for murder, denouncing the governor as an accessory.

The Denver Cigar Makers Union voted to send five hundred armed men to Ludlow and Trinidad.

Women in the United Garment Workers Union in Denver announced four hundred of their members had volunteered as nurses to help the strikers.

“All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

Pickets marched in front of the Rockefeller office at 26 Broadway, New York City.

A minister protested in front of the church where Rockefeller sometimes gave sermons, and was clubbed by the police.

“The New York Times carried an editorial on the events in Colorado, which were not attracting international attention.

The Times emphasis was not on the atrocity that had occurred, but on the mistake in tactics that had been made.

Its editorial on the Ludlow Massacre began: 'Somebody blundered ... '

Two days later, with the miners armed and in the hills of the mine district, the Times wrote: 'With the deadliest weapons of civilization in the hands of savage-mined men, there can be no telling to what lengths the war in Colorado will go unless it is quelled by force ... The President should turn his attention from Mexico long enough to take stern measures in Colorado.'

"The governor of Colorado asked for federal troops to restore order, and Woodrow Wilson complied.

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

Congressional committees came in and took thousands of pages of testimony.

The union had not won recognition.

Sixty-six men, women, and children had been killed.

Not one militiaman or mine guard had been indicted for crime.

"The Times had referred to Mexico.

On the morning that the bodies were discovered in the tent pit at Ludlow, American warships were attacking Vera Cruz, a city on the coast of Mexico--bombarding it, occupying it, leaving a hundred Mexicans dead--because Mexico had arrested American sailors and refused to apologize to the United States with a twenty-one gun salute.

Could patriotic fervor and the military spirit cover up class struggle?

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

Could guns divert attention and create some national consensus against an external enemy?

It surely was a coincidence--the bombardment of Vera Cruz, the attack on the Ludlow colony.

Or perhaps it was, as someone once described human history, 'the natural selection of accidents.'

Perhaps the affair in Mexico was an instinctual response of the system for its own survival, to create a unity of fighting purpose among a people torn by internal conflict.

"The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

But in four months the First World War would begin in Europe.



The aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Heroic Zionist Forces Shoot Palestinian Boy Herding Cattle In Gaza Strip

April 11, 2016 Ma'an

GAZA CITY -- Israeli forces on Monday shot and injured a Palestinian boy in the central Gaza Strip.

Witnesses told Ma'an that Israeli forces deployed near Hujr al-Dik area in central Gaza Strip opened fire at a young teenager herding cattle, injuring him in the foot.

Medical sources identified him as Amir al-Tarabin, 13, and said he was in moderate condition.

An Israeli army spokesperson didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Israeli forces frequently open fire on Palestinians inside of or near a military-imposed "buffer zone" on both land and seaside borders of the besieged enclave.

The exact limits of the zone are unclear but enforced with live fire, putting the lives of Palestinian farmers and fishermen who work near the border at risk.

The Israeli army says the use of live fire is necessary to deter potential "security threats." However, the practice has destroyed much of both the agricultural and fishing sectors of the impoverished coastal enclave, which has been under Israeli blockade nearly nine years.

Occupiers Bar Over 100 Gaza Athletes From Running In Palestinian Marathon: “Among The 103 Athletes Was Star Runner Nader Masri, Who Represented Palestine At The 2008 Olympics”

Apr 1 2016 PalestineChronicle.com

More than 100 Gaza athletes were unable to participate in the fourth annual Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem, after Israel refused to give them permits to exit the blockaded Gaza Strip.

The organizer condemned the action as a “blatant violation” of international laws on freedom of movement.

Among the 103 athletes barred was star runner Nader Masri, who represented Palestine at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Joining him on the banned list were members of the campaign group Right to Movement and Right to Play – the organizing body behind the event, together with the Palestine Olympic Committee.

It is the third time such a situation has happened, according to Palestinian news agency WAFA. In the first and second marathons in 2013 and 2014, Israel refused to grant the athletes permission to join the sporting event. In 2015 it only allowed a very small number of Palestinians to participate.

The move by Israel was blasted by the marathon’s organizer, I’tidal Abdul-Ghani, as “a blatant violation of all international laws and norms pertaining to athletes’ freedom of movement.”

The symbolic event is a 42km (26-mile) run organized every year in protest at the restrictions on movement imposed by Israel on Palestinians across the occupied territories.

It kicks off at the Church of the Nativity in the old city area of Bethlehem and runs the length of the city, as well as past two refugee camps and along the Israeli-constructed wall.

Winners are given a medal fashioned out of a local-growing olive tree and a certificate.

Zionists Destroy Palestinian Lands To Boost Illegal Settlement, As Usual

4.2.16 Palestine Information Center

BETHLEHEM –

The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) destroyed Palestinian cultivated lands in al-Khader town, in southern Bethlehem, in favor of illegal settlement expansion.

Anti-settlement activist Ahmad Salah said Israeli occupation bulldozers threw debris piled up from the Israeli illegal settlement of Daniel into Palestinian lands.

The cultivated lands cover an area of eight dunums and are planted with olive trees and grapes. Several crops were completely damaged in the process.

The activist added that fauna and flora around the targeted lands sustained remarkable damage as a result of the IOA's leveling process carried out in favor of illegal settlement expansion.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



YOUR INVITATION:

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