

Military Resistance 14E3



Solidarity

**Obama Regime Reveals U.S.
Troops On The Ground In
Yemen “To Help Fight The Al-
Qaida”
“Pentagon Spokesman Declines
To Say How Many Troops Are
There”**

“The Amphibious Assault Ship Boxer Is Off The Coast Of Yemen With About 4,500 Marines”

“The Deployment Of U.S. Troops To Makalla Is One Of Three Operations The U.S. Military Has Been Conducting In Yemen”

May 6, 2016 by Andrew Tilghman, Military Times

A “small number” of U.S troops are deployed on the ground in Yemen to help fight the al-Qaida affiliate there that was controlling a major port city, a defense official said Friday.

A Pentagon spokesman declined to say how many U.S. troops are there supporting operations led by the Yemeni military and the United Arab Emirates around the port city of Mukalla.

“We have a small number of people who have been providing intelligence support,” the spokesman, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, told reporters Friday.

The U.S. troops deployed about two weeks ago and are at a “fixed location” providing intelligence support as well as “airborne (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance), advice and assistance with operational planning, maritime interdiction and security operations, medical support and aerial refueling,” Davis said.

Militants with al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula seized the port city last year amid the chaos of Yemen’s civil war. With looted bank money and oil exports, AQAP transformed Yemen’s southern coastline into a wealthy ministate.

“We view this as short term,” Davis said of the deployments, noting that AQAP has mostly withdrawn from the city after an attack in late April by about 2,000 Yemeni and Emirati troops. “This is specifically about routing AQAP from Mukalla, and that has largely occurred,” Davis said.

The deployment marks the first time the Pentagon has publicly disclosed deployment of U.S. troops to Yemen in more than a year. In March 2015, the U.S. evacuated about 125 special operations troops amid the expanding civil war between government loyalists backed by a Sunni Arab coalition and Houthi rebels supported by Iran.

Additional U.S. support for the Mukalla operations is provided by the amphibious assault ship Boxer, which is staged off the coast of Yemen with about 4,500 Marines from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The ship is providing medical support to the Emirate troops, Davis said.

The deployment of U.S. troops to Makalla is one of three operations the U.S. military has been conducting in Yemen.

In a separate operation, the U.S. military is providing support for a Saudi-led coalition that is backing the Yemeni government troops in the civil war against Iranian-backed rebels, specifically offering the Saudis intelligence, airborne fuel tankers and thousands of advanced munitions.

At the same time, U.S. aircraft continue to conduct occasional, unilateral “counterterrorism strikes” against specific AQAP militants who pose a potential threat to the United States. Since April 23, U.S. aircraft have launched four strikes on AQAP militants in Yemen, killing 10, Davis said.

AQAP was using the Yemeni port city as a “safe haven to plan future attacks against the United States and its interests,” Davis said. “They do remain a significant threat to the region and the United States.” Davis said the mission in Yemen is not an “advise and assist” mission like those underway in Iraq and Syria. Instead it would “fall into the category of intelligence support.” “This is really about the liaison to us for information,” Davis said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**“For A Long Time, Kabul Was
Fairly Safe For Foreigners”
“Now You’re About As Likely To See
A Western Diplomat Strolling The
Streets As A Polar Bear”
“The ‘National Unity Government’ Is At
Risk Of Collapse”**

May 5, 2016 by Philip Reeves, NPR [Excerpts]

If you drive around Kabul long enough, you will eventually see what must be the most cheerful slogan in Afghanistan.

Cars traverse the city bearing a happy little window sticker about the best way to approach life in a country beset by deep — and, in the eyes of most Afghans, worsening — trouble.

“Enjoy Today!” it reads. “Forget Tomorrow!”

That’s harder than it sounds.

This reality came into sharp relief last month when the Taliban killed 64 people, and injured more than 340, in a large, complex bombing and shooting attack that targeted the Afghan national security agency.



The scene following an April 19 Taliban attack in Kabul. Rahmat Gul/AP

The fact that the militants could cause such mayhem in a supposedly high-security area in the center of the capital added to a crescendo of criticism leveled at Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani.

It also strengthened a growing consensus among international and Afghan observers that the “national unity government” that Ghani leads, under an agreement cobbled together after a botched 2014 election, is at risk of collapse.

The crises facing the Afghan government are multiple.

The Afghan economy is tanking. The national currency, the afghani, has lost 20 percent against the dollar in a year. Several hundred thousand Afghans, many of whom are young and middle-class, have left for Europe in search of jobs, education and security.

Large parts of the landscape are outside the government’s control. Corruption is rampant.

As you drive around Kabul, evidence of how this general instability is affecting the lives of Afghans is everywhere.

The roads have become home to a multitude of checkpoints, police, soldiers, armed guards and buildings wrapped in razor wire and meter-thick concrete blast barriers. Women in blue burqas and haggard men on crutches continue to beg on the streets, despite the tens of billions in foreign aid poured into this city.

For a long time, Kabul was fairly safe for foreigners. They ate in cafes and restaurants. Now you're about as likely to see a Western diplomat strolling the streets as a polar bear. "They're locked up, basically," Kerry Jane Wilson said in an interview with NPR in March.

Last Thursday, Wilson, a charity worker, was abducted from the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, reportedly by two men posing as government intelligence officials.

Wilson has worked in Afghanistan for 20 years, most recently with a charity organization that helps impoverished Afghan women become entrepreneurs — for example, by producing and selling handicrafts.

Until recently, it helped administer an arts and crafts shop called Ganjina, a showcase for Afghan artisans that was hugely popular with foreigners.

A few weeks ago, the deteriorating security situation forced Ganjina to close its doors for the last time; there were barely any visitors.

**Few Boots On The Ground For
Afghan Regime Army:
“Some Wore Nearly Paper-Thin
Boots One Stumble Away From An
Exposed Heel Or Toe”
“I’ve Come Across Boxes Of New
Boots With The Soles Already Split”
“Despite More Than \$68 Billion In U.S.
Funding For Afghan Security Forces
Over The Past 14 Years, They Still Can’t
Even Clothe Themselves”**

May 5 By Tim Craig, Washington Post [Excerpts]

CAMP SHAHEEN, Afghanistan —

If first impressions really can be gleaned from footwear, -Afghan security forces may be about as disjointed and ragged as a state-run military can get.

As recruits stood in formation here last week, some wore nearly paper-thin black boots one stumble away from an exposed heel or toe. Others had on boots better suited for trekking through feet of snow than standing on sun-scorched gravel. The lucky ones had the same well-padded, -sandy-colored boots worn by a visiting U.S. general and his support staff.

“This one, when it gets wet, they are not comfortable,” said one soldier, Abdul Ali, 21, pointing down at his crumbled black footwear.

The sad state of soldiers’ boots highlights something that U.S. military officials have known for about two years: Despite more than \$68 billion in U.S. funding for Afghan security forces over the past 14 years, they still can’t even clothe themselves.

Because of widespread corruption and incompetence, the U.S.-led coalition has taken control of procurement of uniforms and boots for the Afghan army and the Afghan national police.

Now, the coalition is trying to airlift or ship in more than a million pairs of boots to make sure Afghan forces can properly walk onto the battlefield.

Some of the orders for those boots were placed as far back as 2014.

The shipments of boots — which cost about \$75 to \$90 per pair — are projected to total about \$100 million through the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. The coalition expects to spend an additional \$215 million on boots, uniforms and gear for Afghan forces in fiscal 2017.

U.S. taxpayers will be picking up about 80 percent of the tab.

Ken Watson, head of essential functions for NATO’s Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A), said the -coalition had “no choice” but to get into the clothing business to avoid a barefoot army.

But the Afghan procurement system was overwhelmed because of widespread corruption, poor management and overreliance on the lowest bidder, often from China.

As a result, Afghanistan became a model for how not to outfit an army.

Thousands of pairs of size 12 military boots flooded into the country, even though it’s rare for an Afghan’s foot to exceed size 10.

Some pairs arrived with each boot a different size. Even when both boots did fit, they were often so poorly manufactured that they quickly needed to be replaced.

“I’ve come across boxes of new boots with the soles already split, so we had to take them to the cobbler,” said Mohammad Zaman Momozai, the police chief of Parwan province.

Getting the Afghan government to handle its own military procurement has been further complicated by President Ashraf Ghani’s efforts to more closely scrutinize contracts to avoid fraud, Watson said.

“So we had to go back in. . . . You just can’t stop the flow of stuff,” Watson said. “He stopped buying, and that means someone has got to do it.”

While boots and uniforms account for a tiny fraction of Pentagon spending in Afghanistan, they highlight the choices facing President Obama and other world leaders over spending to prop up about 200,000 Afghan soldiers and 151,000 police officers.

At a summit in Warsaw in July, NATO leaders will seek commitments of an additional \$4 billion annually for Afghan security through 2020. Western diplomats say the request will be in addition to about \$3 billion in annual aid for Afghan reconstruction, which will be a topic at a summit in Brussels in October.

The stakes for Afghanistan are enormous, as the country’s battle against the Taliban insurgency shows no sign of subsiding.

According to the World Bank, Afghanistan is spending about 15 percent of its gross domestic product on security. Most Western countries, including the United States, spend less than 5 percent.

Afghanistan — where the poverty rate has crept up to 39 percent and where nearly one-fourth of residents are jobless — will be hard-pressed to sustain that level of spending.

“The United States military has lost much of its ability to make direct observations, provide tactical mentoring and collect reliable information,” the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said in a report to Congress last week.

Shipments of new boots from the United States, for example, are handed over to Afghans for storage in army and police supply depots.

From there, Afghan officials are responsible for distributing them. With CSTC-A officials housed on just four major bases and two smaller ones, Watson admits he’s not sure whether all the goods are going where they are supposed to.

“We can’t throw and catch and see where there may be problems along the supply chain,” said Watson, who estimates that 10 percent of the imported uniforms and boots will be lost, resold or stolen along the way.

“The focus needs to be on controlling them to make sure they don’t disappear or show up in a bazaar somewhere.”

Even here at Camp Shaheen, the timely arrival and distribution of needed clothing and footwear isn’t guaranteed.

“We just received 2,000 pairs of boots, and 50 percent of them were size 12,” said Col. Christian Walking, a German adviser with the Afghan army’s 209th Corps.

That could be a sign that -Afghan military leaders are trying to unload old stocks of boots, even though CSTC-A has shipped in 89,000 new pairs since October.

“We don’t even buy size 12,” Watson said.

For the past year, SIGAR has been conducting an audit of clothing purchases. In September, John F. Sopko, the inspector general, informed coalition commanders that preliminary findings revealed that tens of thousands of Afghan troops were not receiving “cold weather clothing” such as hats and gloves.

“When they come here, they just receive uniforms and nothing else,” said Col. Atei Ataoulah, head of training for the Afghan army in northern Afghanistan. “When they want to wash their feet, they don’t have shower shoes.”

The shower shoes will probably have to wait.

For now, the coalition is focused on just making sure good boots get on the ground.

As of earlier this month, just 23 percent of 388,686 pairs of army boots and 29 percent of 572,361 pairs of police boots ordered in 2014 and 2015 had been delivered, according to coalition records.

An additional 245,000 pairs are being ordered for soldiers and police officers this year.

And coalition officials expect they will have to remain in the clothing business well into the future.

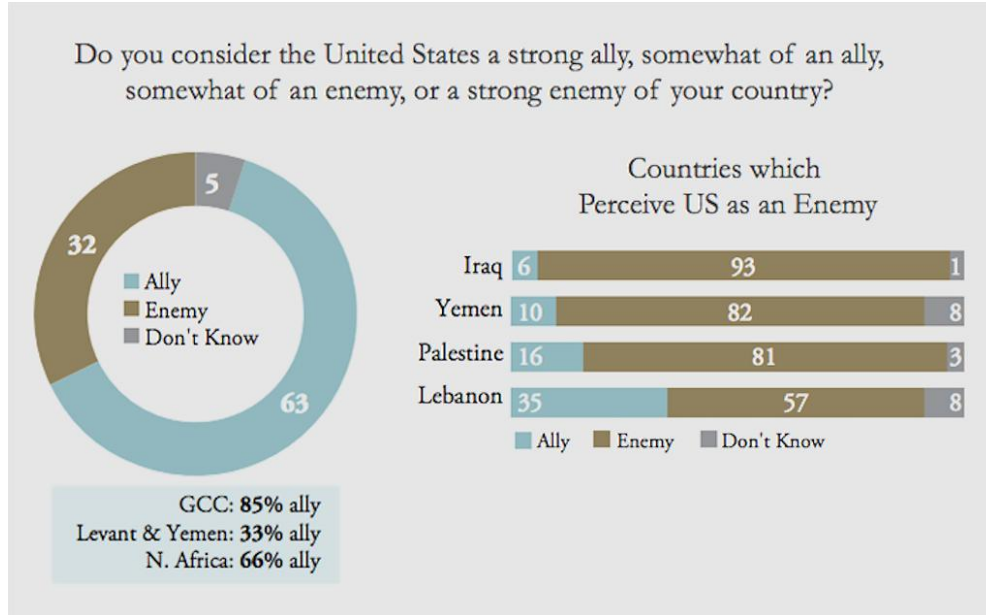
Watson noted, however, there is one positive trend.

At least for now, Afghan security forces remain capable of buying and cooking their own food — although much of the funding for that still comes from the international community.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Poll Finds Young Iraqis Overwhelmingly Consider U.S. Their Enemy:

Huge Majorities Of Young People In Yemen And The Palestinian Territories Also Consider The U.S. To Be An Enemy



Apr. 13 2016 by Murtaza Hussain, The Intercept

More than 90 percent of young people in Iraq consider the United States to be an enemy of their country, according to a new poll.

After years spent justifying the war as a “liberation” of the Iraqi people, the survey casts further doubt on the success of that endeavor.

The poll was conducted by Penn Schoen Berland, a public relations and market research firm co-founded by controversial strategist Mark Penn, and was sponsored by a Dubai-based affiliate of Burson Marsteller, once described as “the PR firm for evil.”

Still, the undertaking, as outlined by organizers, sounds ambitious. It included 250 face-to-face interviews in three Iraqi cities, plus another 3,250 interviews in 15 other countries throughout the Arab world, all with men and women ages 18-24 “selected to provide an accurate reflection of each nation’s geographic and socio-economic make-up.” It claims an error rate of plus or minus 1.65 percent.

The survey found that overwhelming majorities of young people in Iraq, Yemen, and the Palestinian Territories consider the U.S. to be an enemy. In Gulf Arab states, on the other hand, perceptions of the United States were far more positive. Roughly 85 percent of those living in the Gulf say that they consider the U.S. to be an ally, with another 66 percent expressing the same view in North Africa.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**This Town Ran An Illegal Debtor's Prison For Years:
"The System Usually Targeted Non-Jailable Offenses Like Jaywalking, Violating Park Curfews, Or Drinking In Public"
"The City Treated Poverty As A Criminal Offense"**

"Homeless Man Imprisoned For 90 Days Under Multiple Pay-Or-Serve Sentences For Panhandling"

Now It Has to Pay Back the People It Jailed

07 May 16 By Alan Pyke, ThinkProgress

Colorado Springs will pay back destitute people it illegally jailed because they couldn't pay court fines, the city announced Thursday.

The city will also discontinue its debtor's prison policy, which violated both the U.S. Constitution and a 2014 state law in Colorado. The system usually targeted non-jailable offenses like jaywalking, violating park curfews, or drinking in public.

More than 60 victims of the city's debtor's prison policy are getting repaid with interest under the \$103,000 settlement with the state's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) chapter.

Under the city's previous "pay or serve" sentencing policy, people who couldn't afford fines for non-criminal violations like panhandling near highways were forced to spend one day behind bars for every \$50 the court said they owed. The settlement sets compensation for 66 pay-or-serve victims at the rate of \$125 per day they were jailed.

That translates to an \$11,000 payout for Shawn Hardman, a homeless man who was imprisoned for more than 90 days at significant taxpayer expense under multiple pay-or-serve sentences for panhandling.

Colorado Springs had issued more than 800 separate “pay or serve” sentences in less than two years, the ACLU found.

The group alerted the city of the figures and relevant legal arguments in October. Mayor John Suthers said Thursday he was “pleased to report that our Municipal Court, City attorneys and Councilmembers worked expeditiously to correct the situation upon learning of the non-compliance.”

Three quarters of the time, the people jailed for being broke had been brought to court for an offense that carries no jail time under the relevant statute. Yet jailed they were, as the city treated poverty as a criminal offense.

Debtor’s prisons are banned by the Constitution, as the Supreme Court established in the early 1980s.

Yet the practice has made a resurgence in communities around the country in recent years, as cash-starved states and towns enacted a huge number of new fines, process fees, and related courtroom charges associated with non-criminal offenses.

All but two states have added fees or increased existing ones since 2010, according to a 2015 review by the Alliance for a Just Society. The threat of jail time for non-payers gives teeth to those stiffer fee structures — and politicians too focused on fee revenues often fail to notice they’re spending more to illegally jail the poor than the fees are even bringing in, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

The increasing reliance on criminal fees for revenue, and the corresponding debtor’s prison revival, coincide with the severe budget crunch most communities experienced during and after the financial crisis and Great Recession. Some of that budget pressure was inevitable given how deep a crater the Wall Street crisis created. But in many corners of America, those conditions were exacerbated by decades of starve-the-beast fiscal policy designed by conservatives hell-bent on shrinking government down small enough to “drown it in the bathtub.”

The tax-cutting obsession promoted by generations of conservative lawmakers has harsh consequences for all manner of public programs.

But for people like Hardman, it’s gone even further, depriving them not just of their freedom and their constitutional rights but of any real opportunity to find their footing in life.

“I was told over and over that I either had to pay or go back to jail,” the Colorado Springs pay-or-serve victim said in a statement. “Without a home or a job, the cycle kept repeating.”

And in communities like Ferguson, Missouri, the same civic reliance on scraping fees off of desperately poor people has antagonized deep-rooted racial inequalities in ways that fundamentally threaten American societal cohesion.

It's little wonder, then, that the pattern of local debtor's prisons has caught federal law enforcement officials' attention. The Department of Justice warned lower court systems across the nation against such practices in March, while also issuing grant funding for court administrators who want to reform these policies.

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.”

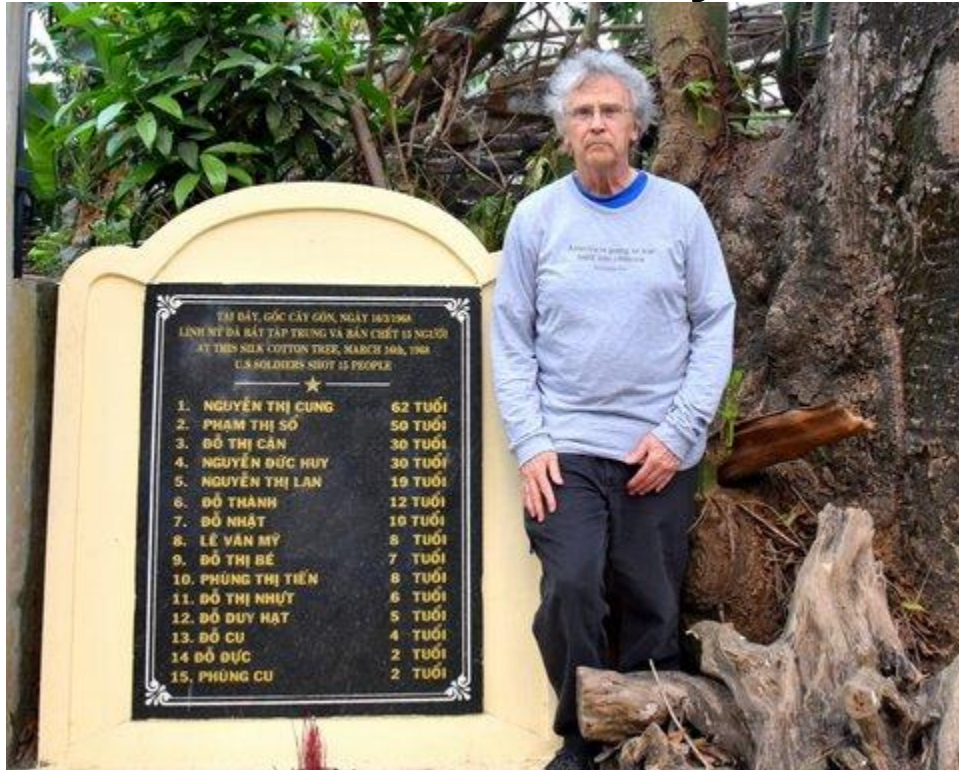
“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

They treasured up wrath for the time to come.

-- Edward, Earl of Clarendon, 1702, on the growing discontent below that led to the revolutionary overthrow and 1649 beheading of Charles I, King of England.

Self Portrait At My Lai



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: May 06, 2016
Subject: Self Portrait at My Lai

Self Portrait at My Lai

I am standing next to a silk cotton tree and a marker with the names of fifteen Vietnamese civilians who were murdered at My Lai on March 16, 1968. If you look at the December 5, 1969 issue of Like Magazine, you will see one of Ron Haerberle's pictures that was in the article graphically covering the massacre. Seven people appear in a vertical picture, with a Vietnamese woman wearing a red blouse, that was taken at the exact location of my self portrait.

This is a quote from the article on page 36: "Guys were about to shoot these people, photographer Ron Haerberle remembers.

"I yelled, 'Hold it,' and shot my picture. As I walked away, I heard M-16s open up. From the corner of my eye I saw bodies falling, but I didn't turn to look."

From Vietnam to The Middle East,
The American Empire has never stopped killing.
The My Lai Massacre is a metaphor for the entire Vietnam War.

My words on the front of my
shirt read: "America is going to war itself into oblivion."

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
Photograph taken on
April 5, 2016

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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a
so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen
of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

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

In Memoriam:
Donald W. Duncan, 79, Ex-
Green Beret And Early Critic Of
Vietnam War, Is Dead;
"Mr. Duncan Was One Of The First
Returning Veterans To Portray The
War As A Moral Quagmire"
"He Became A Fierce Critic Of The
War"
"The Whole Thing Was A Lie"

MAY 6, 2016 By ROBERT D. McFADDEN, New York Times

Donald W. Duncan, a Green Beret master sergeant who came home from Vietnam a disillusioned hero in 1965 and became a leading early opponent of the war, died in the obscurity of a small Midwestern town seven years ago, an all-but-forgotten soldier. He was 79.

In an age of seeming information ubiquity, the news media will generally recall the lives of noteworthy people when they die. But Mr. Duncan's death went largely unnoticed outside of Madison, Ind., the Ohio River town where he lived.

His obituary in The Madison Courier said only that Mr. Duncan had once worked for a local nonprofit that helped poor people find jobs.

The crucial events of his life — the killings and brutalities of 18 months in Vietnam, the agony of conscience and conversion, and the years of antiwar struggle — had happened long ago and were not mentioned.

Mr. Duncan's daughters Valerie Casey and Luise Wilson confirmed last week that he died on March 25, 2009, at a Madison nursing home.

In an America torn by protests against the war in the late 1960s and early '70s, Mr. Duncan was often in the news, although not as prominently as the pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, the Roman Catholic priests Daniel and Philip Berrigan or the actress Jane Fonda, who was photographed laughing and applauding on an antiaircraft gun in Hanoi. (Daniel Berrigan died on April 30.)

But in 1966, well before the Tet offensive and the My Lai massacre stirred national discontent, Mr. Duncan was one of the first returning veterans to portray the war as a moral quagmire that had little to do with fighting the spread of Communism, as American leaders were portraying it.

Sergeant Duncan, who went to war convinced it was an anti-Communist crusade, ended his Special Forces duty a changed man.

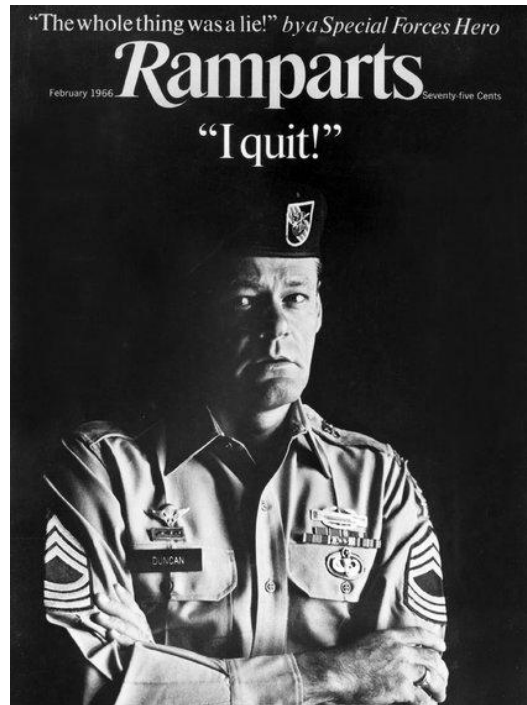
A 10-year veteran, he rejected an offer of an officer's commission and left the Army. Back home, he became a fierce critic of the war, writing articles and a memoir and speaking at rallies across the country with the singer Joan Baez, the writer Norman Mailer and the comedian Dick Gregory.

In a 1966 cover article for Ramparts, a radicalized Roman Catholic political and literary journal, Mr. Duncan told of witnessing murders, torture and other atrocities by American forces in Vietnam in violation of all international laws; of refusing orders at An Khe to kill four enemy prisoners whose hands were tied behind them; and of rapes by South Vietnamese troops that were never reported, let alone punished.

"The whole thing was a lie," Mr. Duncan wrote.

"We weren't preserving freedom in South Vietnam. There was no freedom to preserve. To voice opposition to the government meant jail or death. Neutralism was forbidden and punished. Newspapers that didn't say the right thing were

closed down. People are not even free to leave, and Vietnam is one of those rare countries that doesn't fill its American visa quota."



Mr. Duncan, who as a Green Beret had been decorated for his service in Vietnam, wrote an article published in Ramparts in 1966 saying he had witnessed atrocities there. Credit Ramparts

In 1967, Mr. Duncan joined the Rev. William Sloane Coffin Jr., Dr. Spock, David Dellinger and other leaders of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, to plan and carry out huge protest rallies in New York, Washington, San Francisco and dozens of other cities, at which draft cards and American flags were burned and protesters clashed with the police.

Mr. Duncan also testified that year at an unofficial "war crimes tribunal" organized by the philosopher Bertrand Russell in Denmark, and at a South Carolina court-martial, where he spoke in defense of Capt. Howard R. Levy, a Green Beret who had also turned against the war.

Captain Levy was convicted of disobeying orders and attempting to incite disloyalty, and eventually served 26 months in prison.

In 1968 Mr. Duncan, then the military editor of Ramparts, helped Mr. Dellinger, Mr. Gregory, Rennie Davis and other antiwar leaders plan protests at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The rallies and marches drew tens of thousands of protesters and led to hundreds of arrests and injuries, and to a circuslike trial of eight protest leaders on inciting-to-riot charges.

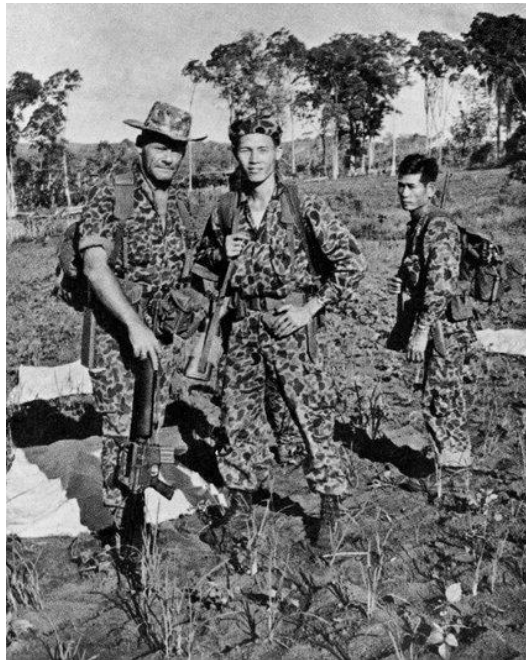
In his Ramparts articles and a memoir, "The New Legions" (1967), Mr. Duncan detailed a military career that began in December 1954, when he was drafted by the Army in Rochester, a 24-year-old American who had been born in Canada and raised by a stepfather of Hungarian origin.

“We Have Allowed The Creation Of A Military Monster That Will Lie To Our Elected Officials, And That Both Of Them Will Lie To The American People”

“I was a militant anti-Communist,” Mr. Duncan wrote in Ramparts. “Like most Americans, I couldn’t conceive of anybody choosing communism over democracy. The depths of my aversion to this ideology was, I suppose, due in part to my being Roman Catholic, and in part to the stories in the news media about communism. My stepfather was born in Budapest, Hungary. Although he had come to the United States as a young man, most of his family stayed in Europe.”

Mr. Duncan was serving with an artillery unit in Germany in 1956 when the Soviet Union crushed the Hungarian revolt. He recalled being frustrated and angry when the United States did not intervene. He joined the Special Forces in 1961. “I was so impressed with their dedication and élan,” he said. “Their anti-Communism bordered on fanaticism.”

Special Forces training, he said, included “methods of torture to extract information,” including “the delicate operation of lowering a man’s testicles into a jeweler’s vise.” He said he later witnessed the use of such techniques in Vietnam.



Mr. Duncan as a master sergeant, left, in a photograph published in Ramparts. Credit Ramparts

He volunteered to fight in South Vietnam in 1964 and served in missions all over the country with the Fifth Special Forces Group. He killed the enemy, saw comrades killed, watched civilians shot and bayoneted and their villages burned. He was awarded South Vietnam’s Silver Star, the United States Army Air Medal, two Bronze Stars and the Combat Infantry Badge, and was recommended for a Silver Star and the Legion of Merit.

On reconnaissance in Laos, where United States bombers were pounding an enemy supply route, he began to doubt American reports on the war.

“This mission confirmed that the Ho Chi Minh Trail, so called, and the traffic on it, was grossly exaggerated,” he said, “and that the Vietcong were getting the bulk of their weapons from ARVN and by sea. It also was one more piece of evidence that the Vietcong were primarily South Vietnamese, not imported troops from the North.” (The ARVN was South Vietnam’s Army.)

Mr. Duncan said it had been common knowledge that draft-dodging and desertion rates among South Vietnamese troops were “staggering,” and that Vietcong guerrillas attacked American machine-gun positions “across open terrain with terrible losses.” American propaganda, he said, could not obscure such lopsided motivations.

“Even during the short period I had been in Vietnam,” he wrote, “the Vietcong had obviously gained in strength. The government controlled less and less of the country every day. The more troops and money we poured in, the more people hated us.”

He concluded that America was destined to lose the war.

“I don’t think Vietnam will be better off under Ho’s brand of communism,” he said. “But it’s not for me or my government to decide. That decision is for the Vietnamese. I also know that we have allowed the creation of a military monster that will lie to our elected officials, and that both of them will lie to the American people.”

Donald Walter Duncan was born in Toronto on March 18, 1930, to Walter Cameron Duncan and the former Norma Brooker. Little is known of his early life. His father died when he was young, and his mother married Henry de Czanyi von Gerber, a naturalized American who became a noted cellist and orchestra conductor. His stepfather’s daughter, Frances (Donald’s stepsister), became the actress Mitzi Gaynor.

As a young man, Mr. Duncan was an office clerk, lumberjack, foundry worker and tree-topper. He married, had a child and divorced before being drafted. In West Germany in 1955, he married Apollonia Roesch. Their daughters are Ms. Casey and Ms. Wilson. After a second divorce, he married and divorced several more times. Besides Ms. Casey and Ms. Wilson, his survivors included at least two grandchildren, and Miss Gaynor.

After Mr. Duncan’s antiwar activities, he lived in Berkeley, Oakland and elsewhere in California. His daughters then lost track of him for years. He settled in Indiana around 1980, and in 1990 he became a founder of River Valley Resources, which provides services for the poor.

“Dad did not talk a whole lot about the war,” Ms. Wilson recalled. “But he was involved in a lot of antiwar things.

“We were young, but he wanted us to understand. He instilled in Val and me a sense of what’s right.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

THE 1st Of MAY MARCH WITH INDEPEDENT TRADE UNIONS. DNEPROPETROVSK (UKRAINE)

**“Oligarchs Must Be Removed
From Power”,
“Yes To Workers Struggle, No – To
Capitalism”
“Freedom For Working Class”**



May 6, 2016 INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION "ZAKHYST PRATSI"

More than 100 members of the independent trade union “ZAKHYST PRATSI” (“Defense of Labour”) and workers’ trade unions from different industrial plants held a demonstration devoted to solidarity and struggle for the working class (employees) rights.

Among them were regional representatives from The Southern engineering plant, Dnipropetrovsk metallurgical plant of Petrovskiy, Dnipropetrovsk tube-rolling plant “Interpaip”, private research-and-production enterprise “Dnepropress” and the utility enterprise “Dneproelectrotransport”.

Their demonstration had a great success.

Despite big pressure, made on the organizers and the atmosphere of fear, the column of demonstrators held on the square near “Raketa” park. They marched along the city streets towards the city and the regional administrations where meetings took place.

The participants of the action had trade union, national, red and black flags in their hands. In an unusual form they left a big resolution, which had the length 3 on 3 meters.

During the march, the activists advanced different slogans, such as: “Oligarchs must be removed from power”, “More rights for workers to improve our life”, “Where our salary”, “No to the slavery labour codex”, “Yes to workers struggle, no – to capitalism”, “Gang must go away from Verchovna Rada”, “Freedom for working class” and others.

Among the representatives several people made speeches. Alexei Simvolkov, Andrii Ishchenko, Igor Parhomenko, Andrii But and Eugene Derkach in their emotional speeches steered the masses to make more active protests against the slavery labour codex which oligarchy wanted to adopt in parliament in its interests, to continue working struggle and solidarity among the working class.

They also proposed to expand the work of the independent trade unions.

As the result of the 1st of May in Dnepropetrovsk we can make a conclusion that actions of independent trade unions and anti-oligarch protests unite people with different views.

Anti-Government Protest Unites Macedonians And Albanians In Tetovo: “Less Than 20 Years Earlier, Displaying The Macedonian And Albanian Flags

Together In Tetovo Could Have Led To Arrests”

04 May 16 by Aidan Phillips, BIRN

Tetovo

For the first time last week, the yellow sun of the Macedonian flag and the double-headed eagle of the Albanian flag flew side-by-side at a demonstration in Tetovo.

Organised by civic movement Protestiram, the rally was part of a country-wide series of marches organised since President Ivanov’s decision on April 12 to pardon politicians being investigated by the special prosecution.

These erupted early last year following claims by the opposition that the government, then led by Nikola Gruevski, was responsible for illegally wiretapping more than 20,000 people, among other criminal allegations.

“Years before, (for) an ethnic Albanian to fly the flag of Macedonia - or a Macedonian to be at a rally with Albanian flags - it would have been a betrayal on either side,” said Kastriot Rexhepi, the Director of Foreign Affairs of Albanian political movement BESA.

Many locals would see this as an understatement - less than 20 years earlier, displaying the Macedonian and Albanian flags together in Tetovo could have led to arrests.

MORE:

Thousands Of Macedonian Anti-Government Protestors Marked The Fifth Anniversary Of The Brutal Murder Of A Young Man By A Police Officer: The Authorities Tried To Cover Up; “You Cannot Hide Murder, Nor Wash Blood From Your Hands”

“Justice For Martin, Freedom For All”



Photo: Robert Atanasovski

06 May 2016 by Sinisa Jakov Marusic, BIRN

Skopje

Thousands of people gathered on Thursday evening on Skopje’s main Macedonia square, where 21-year-old Martin Neskovski was beaten to death on June 6, 2011, when the ruling VMRO DPMNE party was celebrating its election victory.

The protesters covered the square with giant red slogans like “You cannot hide murder, nor wash blood from your hands”, “Justice for Martin, Freedom for All” and “Murderers”.

They also dyed the water in the square’s fountains red and threw red paint balls at giant pictures of former prime minister and VMRO DPMNE leader Nikola Gruevski and his former interior minister Gordana Jankuloska.

For nearly two days after Neskovski’s murder in 2011, the police denied the incident had happened but then changed their story amid growing protests, confirming the victim’s identity and claiming they had the murder suspect in custody.

Igor Spasov, a member of a special police unit called the Tigers, was later sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Officials insisted that Spasov was not on duty at the time and so the police were not legally responsible for the murder.

But wiretapped conversations released this time last year allegedly revealed that Gruevski's chief of security, Dejan Mitrevski Urko, called in Spasov that night, meaning that the authorities were responsible for his actions.

The tapes involving then interior minister Jankulovska, her spokesman Ivo Kotevski, the PM's chief of staff Martin Protugjer, former secret police chief Saso Mijalkov and then premier Gruevski appeared to show a possible plot to pin the murder on the policemen alone and avoid responsibility falling on higher officials.

Thursday's rally was part of the ongoing 'Colourful Revolution' anti-government demonstrations organised by the civic movement Protestiram ('I Protest').

Protestors, who were joined by Martin Neskovski's brother, also marked the one-year anniversary of the violence in Skopje that erupted after the release of the wiretaps.

During the unrest in 2015, police hunted down and arrested protesters who were outraged by what they heard on the tapes.

Human rights NGOs accused the police of using overwhelming force.

MORE:

Kosovo Citizens Reluctant to Cooperate with Police

05 May 16 by Besjana Bajrami, BIRN [Excerpt]

Pristina

According to the public opinion survey by the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, KCSS, which was published on Thursday, 43 per cent of respondents would rather take action to protect themselves than call the police.

"Citizens hesitate to cooperate because they fear their identities may be disclosed, because of perceived police incompetence and the social stigma of being labelled as collaborators," said Sofije Kryeziu, a researcher at the KCSS.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Heroic Zionist Military Attack More Unarmed Palestinian Fishermen: “The Detained Fishermen Did Not Exceed The Permitted Fishing Zone”

24-4-2016 The Palestinian Information Center

GAZA

The Israeli occupation navy on Sunday morning kidnapped two Palestinian fishermen as they were working off the northern coast of the Gaza Strip.

Local sources told Quds Press that an Israeli gunboat intercepted a fishing boat off the shore of Beit Lahiya town, north of Gaza, and rounded up two Palestinians on its board.

The sources added that the fishing boat was towed to Ashdod port near northern Gaza.

They also affirmed that the detained fishermen did not exceed the permitted fishing zone.

Occupation Police Attack Palestinians After Settlers Desecrate The Aqsa Mosque

24-4-2016 The Palestinian Information Center

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

Israeli police forces on Sunday morning attacked Muslim worshipers and mosque guards after the latter prevented Jewish settlers from performing Talmudic rituals at the Aqsa Mosque.

Eyewitnesses said that a horde of 25 settlers entered the Mosque at 7:30 in the morning under tight police protection before some of them tried to perform rituals at the Mosque's Rahma Gate.

They added that a brawl started with the police escort when guards of the Mosque and some Muslim worshipers intervened to bar the settlers from continuing with their rituals.

In another incident, some settlers did some provocative dances as they were leaving the Mosque through the Mosque's Silsila Gate so as to irritate the Muslims there. Yehuda

Etzion, the extremist Jew who tried once to detonate the Aqsa Mosque, also desecrated the Aqsa Mosque in the morning.

A Jewish temple mount group, for its part, provided live coverage of the settlers' break-ins at the Mosque.

Zionist Regime Confiscates More Palestinian Lands In Nablus For Illegal Settlement: “An Israeli Plan To Establish A Road Network For Surrounding Settlement Outposts That Were Illegally Built At The Expense Of Palestinian Lands”

24-4-2016 The Palestinian Information Center

NABLUS -- The Israeli occupation authorities (IOA) on Saturday notified the confiscation of hundreds of dunums of Palestinian lands near the West Bank cities of Nablus and Ramallah in favor of illegal settlement expansion.

The targeted lands are located in Jalud village, in southern Nablus, and Turmus'aya and al-Mugheir, in northern Ramallah.

The notifications targeted agricultural lands in basin 22, 20, and 19 of Jalud's tracts, head of the Jalud village council, Abdullah al-Haj Muhammad, told a PIC journalist. He added that the move comes as part of an Israeli plan to establish a road network for surrounding settlement outposts that were illegally built at the expense of Palestinian lands.

The decision came shortly after the Israeli occupation authorities announced the activation of the so-called detailed regulation project No. 1/1959 to build passageway 467 along the road between Jalud and al-Mugheir villages. The passageway covers 5420 meters in length and 50 meters in width.

It extends along the Shilo settlement eastwards to the Allon road connected to Jericho.

A couple of months ago and following an appeal filed by the Jalud village council, the Israeli Supreme Court cancelled a former military order issued in 1978 which ruled for the confiscation of 1,705 dunums of Palestinian lands in Jalud. The court verdict ruled for returning 1,675 dunums to their native owners and confiscating the 30 remaining dunums.

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



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