

Military Resistance 14J8



**“You Know What”
“Every Time I See Officers
Surrounding An Individual Who
Needs Protection, I Will Interfere.
Every Fucking Time”
“I Can Take A Beating, Thank-You. I Will
Never Ever Ever Ever Walk By Silently.
Ever, Fuckers”**

Sep 14 by Ali Afshar, Human Development Project

You may or may not know that the incidence and relapse rates of schizophrenia in African-Caribbean males in Western countries has been reported as being much higher than equivalent white male cohorts.

E.g.

We found remarkably high IRRs for both schizophrenia and manic psychosis in both African-Caribbeans (schizophrenia 9.1, manic psychosis 8.0) and Black Africans (schizophrenia 5.8, manic psychosis 6.2) in men and women.

Fearon et al,
2006 http://westminsterresearch.wmin.ac.uk/4110/1/Fearon_et_al_2006_final.pdf

This knowledge was forefront in my mind when I saw a man in his twenties muttering to himself, handcuffed and surrounded by 4 white male police officers on El Camino, in Northern California.

As a physician, I have a duty (shit, I swore an actual oath) to preserve the health of all humans. There was no way I was going to drive past this situation without making sure that guy was going to be fine.

As I pulled over to ask if the gentleman was OK, I was immediately threatened with a ticket for blocking traffic. I re-parked my car legally and returned.

My exact words were “I want to help to make sure this guy is OK”. The officers were aggressive and angry, instantly.

“Show me your ID?”

“Why?”

“Show me your ID! You must obey an officer.”

“I haven’t done anything, I need to know he is OK, and I will be on my way”

“He is resisting arrest!” Shouted one of them.

“What?”

And before I knew it, I was face first on the sidewalk. I didn’t fight or protest or resist—I’m a nerdy non-violent type, and then things started to get really weird.

“He is fighting” one shouted as he planted his knee in my lumbar spine.

“I am not fighting, I am calm”

“He is resisting arrest!”

“No I am not”

They were running this weird fake dialog in the background.

“The ID looks fake” As he bent it and tried to scratch the numbers off of my CA driving license.

“Look it is bent”

“You just bent it”

“Definitely a fake ID, we have to take him in”

And then, weirdly someone grabbed my left middle finger and bent it back as far as it would go. Then my right ankle.

“Why would you bend my finger back?”

“Because you are resisting arrest.”

By now I am bleeding below my right eye (thanks for smacking my bespectacled eyes into the pavement) and my elbow has some road burn on it.

I can't move because of the pain in my lumbar spine and of course I have bilateral torn deltoids from cuffing procedure. I have not resisted or shown aggression in the slightest. It was obvious that there had been a collective decision to “teach this guy a lesson”...

“I hope you learned something today”

“Yes sir, I learned that everything I read and hear about the corrupt and criminal police departments in this country is fact. I have seen it for myself.”

Wrong answer, I guess, because he put me in the back of his car and started driving me to the police station.

“You are going to jail”.

“Why?”

“Resisting arrest.”

“Arrest for what?”

“Disobeying an officer.”

“If you asked me to jump off a bridge do I have to do it?”

“Did I ask you to jump off of a bridge?”

Fair point I guess.

“Why can't I just go home.”

“Because we have procedures, otherwise people will think we beat you for nothing.”

“So you admit you beat me for nothing?”

“No, that's the procedure.”

“Have you seen the videos of police shooting black guys for no reason?”

“You shouldn’t believe everything you see on YouTube.”

“I want a lawyer.”

I was out within an hour.

The best they could do was a citation for driving without a seat belt (in addition to resisting/delaying arrest). But only after I answered the question “what did you learn today?” with “I learned not to interfere with police business”.

Correct answer.

But you know what?

Fuck you.

Every time I see officers surrounding an individual who needs protection, I will interfere. Every fucking time.

I will interfere like a middle-eastern mother-in-law. It is my duty as a physician. As a human.

It is my duty to hold those people responsible for their actions. I can take a beating, thank-you. I will never ever ever ever walk by silently. Ever, fuckers. Pick on schizophrenics, you are picking on me.

Fuck you if you think you can scare people like me. You can’t.

You only make us more determined to do the right thing.

And yes, assholes, I could name each of you here. Name and shame. Each of 4 white, ignorant, asshole police officers.

But I won’t, I’ll see you in court with a badass lawyer. I have privileges that the other poor guy could never have. And I am going to use them.

p.s. if anyone knows what happened to the guy, I am still worried about him.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Attack Kills Two Americans In Kabul:

Soldier, Civilian Dead And Three More Wounded

October 19th, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO, Long War Journal [Excerpts] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

US Forces-Afghanistan confirmed that one American soldier and a civilian were killed and three more Americans were wounded in an attack today in the Afghan capital of Kabul. From the USFOR-A press release:

According to Reuters, "The shooting took place at about 11 a.m., while the international troops were visiting a base in Kabul." The gunman is reported to have been wearing an Afghan Army uniform.

Neither the Taliban nor the Islamic State has claimed the attack at this time. In the past, the Taliban has infiltrated Afghan security forces to carry out such attacks or convinced soldiers or policemen to turn their weapons on Coalition personnel. The Islamic State claimed credit for killing a US soldier in an IED attack in its stronghold of Nangarhar two weeks ago.

If the shooting is confirmed to be a green-on-blue or insider attack, where Afghan police or soldiers target Coalition personnel, then it would be the first recorded incident of its kind since April 2015.

MORE:

Illinois Soldier And Oklahoma Civilian Combatant Killed In Afghanistan; By Attacker In Afghan Army Uniform



Army Times

October 20, 2016 By: Michelle Tan, Army Times & Associated Press [Excerpts]

The two Americans killed this week in Afghanistan have been identified as Sgt. Douglas Riney and Michael Sauro, the Defense Department announced late Thursday.

Riney, 26, and Sauro, a Department of the Army civilian, died during an attack near Kabul, officials said.

Riney, of Fairview, Illinois, was assigned to the Support Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Hood, Texas.

Another U.S. service member and two civilians were wounded in the same attack. Their wounds were not life-threatening, officials have said.

"Mike was the type of person who no matter what you asked of him, he was always willing to lend a helping hand to everybody," said Deborah Schreiner, chief of HAZMAT Training at the Defense Ammunition Center, Oklahoma, where Sauro was assigned, The Associated Press reported. "He was such a joy to work with and always so upbeat."

A U.S. official speaking on background said the attack occurred at an Afghan military ammunition supply point near Camp Morehead outside Kabul. The Americans were visiting the site as part of their train, advise and assist mission when a lone gunman opened fire on them at the entry control point, the official said.

An Afghan official earlier said a man wearing an Afghan army uniform had killed a U.S. service member and an American civilian Wednesday in Kabul.

Riney entered active-duty service in July 2012 as a petroleum supply specialist. He had been assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment since December 2012.

Riney previously deployed to Afghanistan from July 2014 to February 2015.

His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three campaign stars, and the NATO Medal.

Sauro was assigned to the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma, the Defense Department said. He traveled to Afghanistan last month for his third deployment and was scheduled to return to the U.S. in March.

He previously deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from February to May 2009 and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from October 2012 to January 2013.

The two U.S. civilians injured also were from the Defense Ammunition Center. Richard "Rick" Alford was in stable condition and Rodney Henderson suffered minor injuries, the center said, adding that they will both return to the U.S.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

**Taliban Ambush Convoy Of Afghan
Vice-President:
“Areas Of The North Have Descended
Into Chaos And Lawlessness”**

Oct 17, 2016 Reporting by Hamid Shalizi, Reuters

Afghan Vice-President Abdul Rashim Dostum escaped unhurt from an ambush by Taliban insurgents as his convoy returned from overseeing fighting at a northern battlefield, Afghan officials said on Monday.

In their effort to topple the Western-backed government in Kabul, Taliban fighters have battled their way into the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the capital of the southern province of Helmand, in recent weeks.

Sunday's ambush took place during a frontline visit to Faryab province by Dostum, who has recently been spending more time on his northern home turf than in the capital, Kabul, officials said.

"General Dostum was on the way back from overseeing the fighting when his convoy came under ambush," in the Ghormach district of the province, said Bashir Ahmad Tayanj, a spokesman for Dostum.

Afghan troops launched an operation in Faryab at the weekend as the Taliban fighters have gained ground in remote areas from where they frequently stage attacks on government forces.

Dostum, a war-hardened ethnic Uzbek, was in an armored vehicle, accompanied by well-armed security forces, when dozens of insurgents attacked the convoy, another official said.

Five men on Dostum's side and several insurgents have been killed, said a security official who did not want to be identified, because he is not authorized to talk to the media.

Dostum, who has close protection from hundreds of bodyguards and leads personal militias, is accused of war crimes by human rights groups.

He joined the political mainstream as President Ashraf Ghani's running mate in bitterly contested presidential elections in 2014.

Afghanistan's government has been investigating alleged abuses by militiamen loyal to Dostum and Atta Mohammad Noor, the acting governor of the northern province of Balkh, following repeated clashes between both sides in recent months.

Areas of the north have descended into chaos and lawlessness, according to a confidential report drafted by the investigators and seen by Reuters in July.

“The Taliban Has Surrounded Yet Another Provincial Capital In Afghanistan”

“Most Areas Under Taliban Control”

“Over The Summer, The Taliban ‘Seized More Than 100 Villages In Little Over A Week’”

October 21, 2016 BY BILL ROGGIO, The Long War Journal. [Excerpts] Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of The Long War Journal.

The Taliban has surrounded yet another provincial capital in Afghanistan and recently launched an attempt to overrun it.

The Taliban is now threatening six of Afghanistan's 34 provincial capitals in Afghanistan, according to data compiled by The Long War Journal, and its operations are not nearly confined to one region of the country.

On Oct. 16, the Taliban assaulted Maimana, Faryab's capital, “from three directions,” and attacked the city's airport and an Afghan Army base, but were rebuffed by Afghan forces, according to TOLONews. Taliban fighters withdrew to “bases to Khaja Sahib Posh and Pashtun Kot districts” after failing to achieve their objectives.

The Afghan Ministry of Defense said that the Taliban was attempting to free prisoners from Maimana's jail, and claimed that “hundreds” of fighters were killed or wounded during the attack, Khaama Press reported.

The Taliban used its sanctuary districts surrounding Maimana to launch this assault. The Taliban controls the district of Pashtun Kot and contests Khwaja Sabz Posh. These two districts encircle the provincial capital. The Taliban contests at least seven of Faryab's 15 districts, and controls one more, according to a study by The Long War Journal.

The attack on Maimana took place one day after the Taliban ambushed the convoy of Afghan First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the leader of the ethnic Uzbek and Turkmen-dominated National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan Party. The Taliban claimed it killed "50 hirelings including 5 commanders" and wounded more than 100 in the ambush. Afghan's Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah claimed Dostum was wounded. His office later denied that Dostum was injured.

Dostum's convoy was ambushed while he was traveling to Ghormach district, which was overrun by the Taliban on Oct. 11.

The situation in Faryab has been deteriorating for well over a year. In Oct. 2015, the group seized control of Ghormach, Garziwan, and Pashtun Kot districts, and attempted to overrun Maimana.

Over the summer, the Taliban "seized more than 100 villages in little over a week" in the districts of Almar, Qaysar, and Shirin Tagab districts, RFE/RL reported.

The head of the Faryab Provincial Council said that the capital was under threat and "outside district centers, most areas are under Taliban control." Afghan forces claimed to have retaken control of Ghormach today.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Pentagon Identifies Navy Sailor Killed By Northern Iraq IED



Chief Petty Officer Jason C. Finan (Courtesy of the U.S. Navy)

October 21, 2016 By Staff report, Navy Times

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command released the identity and information about an Navy explosive ordnance disposal technician killed Thursday in an explosion, amid the U.S.-backed effort to retake Mosul from Islamic State fighters.

Chief Petty Officer (EOD/EXW/SW/PJ/DV) Jason Finan, a 34-year-old from Anaheim, California, died "of wounds sustained in an improvised explosive device blast" in northern Iraq, DoD said in a news release.

"The entire Navy Expeditionary Combat Command family offers our deepest condolences and sympathies to the family and loved ones of the sailor we lost," said Rear Adm. Brian Brakke, the head of NECC, in a statement Friday.

Finan, a master explosive ordnance disposal technician was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 3 and was serving in an advisory capacity to the Iraqi coalition force supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

Finan joined the Navy in 2003 and served aboard the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan from 2004 through 2006, when he was selected for training as an explosive ordnance disposal technician, according to Navy records.

Attending dive school first, he spent the next year in training at the Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

His entire career as an EOD tech has been spent with EODMU 3 in Coronado. Along with the warfare qualifications listed above, Finan is an Iraq veteran who earned the Navy Marine Corps commendation for his service in combat.

His awards:

Navy Marine Corps Commendation w/ Combat V
Army Commendation Medal
Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards)
Army Achievement Medal
Combat Action Ribbon (two awards)
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Good Conduct Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon
Iraq Campaign Ribbon
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
NATO Medal
Rifle Expert Medal
Pistol Expert Medal

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

**The development of civilization and of industry in general has ever shown itself so active in the destruction of forests, that everything done by it for their preservation, compared to its destructive effect, appears infinitesimal.
-- Karl Marx; Capital: A Critique Of Political Economy; Volume II; The Process Of The Circulation Of Capital**

When Mothers Go To War



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: October 18, 2016
Subject: When Mothers Go To War

When Mothers Go To War

122mm rockets come screaming into a US fire base in Vietnam.
4 American soldiers are critically wounded as a rocket makes a direct hit on a bunker.
Two medics on the base are overwhelmed, as they frantically apply pressure bandages on bodies that are suffering from massive injuries.
There are legs missing, and an arm is nearly severed.
They try desperately to start IVs.
Tourniquets are applied as a last resort.
Eventually the medics are saturated, as arterial bleeding pumps blood into their faces.
Two of them are completely unconscious.
One has a head injury, and the other a chest injury.
Morphine is given to the other two with some risk, as there may be internal injuries from the explosion.
Both of them have lost legs below the knee.
Within 15 minutes, the medevac helicopter arrives.
The 19-year-old flight medic on board is so well trained, he is able to efficiently coordinate the transfer of the 4 wounded soldiers on the helicopter within a matter of minutes.

He looks at each face, and scans their bodies to determine who is the most critical.
He is totally aware that the window of survival for these young men is dependent on the speed of their arrival at the field hospital 30 miles away.
What he is not aware of, is he is about to enter a twilight zone.
A few seconds before the helicopter lifts off, 4 mothers jump on the helicopter to join their sons.
The rotor blades reach a high frequency pitch, as the chopper thrusts forward and gains altitude immediately.
The flight medic moves from one soldier to the next, applying more bandages, and checking their carotid arteries in a frenzy of motions.
At one point, he is performing CPR on two of the soldiers, because they have stopped breathing.
He tries everything humanely possible to save his patients.
When the helicopter lands, all 4 young soldiers are dead.
The inside of the helicopter is drenched in blood.
The wailing grief is unimaginable.
The 4 mothers were only able to watch, as their sons took their last breath.
They were powerless to do anything.
Just as when their sons received their draft notices months ago.
If only mothers knew.
If only mothers had a glimpse into the insanity of war.
They would kill Veterans Day, and bring back Armistice Day.
The only glory in war is in the imagination of those who were never there.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
October 17, 2016

Armistice Day was once the focus of grieving families who vowed that never again should valuable lives be wasted. In the 1920s and 1930s it became an occasion for peace activists around the world to rally in support of disarmament.

Photo by Mike Hastie
Taken in Vietnam
Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.

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

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**

Shut It Down

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: October 11, 2013
Subject: Shut It Down

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

Shut It Down

**There are many men at the VA door
that is locked
finger nail scratches & blood
runs down the door
& all of them want to kill themselves
and need help
until a shadow opens the door
& gives each man a loaded pistol
and tells them to go away
as the bloody door closes.
Marie, a Military Wife takes her 3 children
to the Commissary on base
where food & supplies are cheap
only to find it is closed
while her husband is fighting overseas
in a war for some reason
that she doesn't understand
what for & talk is the next payment
could be late or not there at all
so he is fighting for nothing.
WWII Soldiers fly to DC to see
their Memorial that is closed**

Democrats & Republicans rush together
to cut the ribbon saying Closed
shaking hands of War while back
at Congress they then work as
Repubcrats to cut VA Disability payments
Social Security that they fought for
as the Demopubs stab the Veterans
in their backs with an icepick
with government cold hands
so they die too and used as Yes men
for other Wars dead or alive
Now the government fire Soldiers
& gut the GI Bill, if you want a house
go build it yourself
or live in a rundown apartment
working for Walmart
then try to go to College
with an old car that needs tires
& guzzles gasoline.
All Veterans are a hassle
why can't they just fight & go away.
Now they backlog some PTSD
so they are given powerful scripts
so at best they will OD & go away
The US Empire Kills more X-Soldier
Veterans & Soldiers than the Taliban
or foreign enemy.
Bob rips off the bumper sticker on
his truck that says "I am a Proud Father
of a Son in the Army." His son
was just killed in Afghanistan,
The American Dream for the Soldiers
is no more because it is
an American Holocaust
that the Soldiers need to shut down.

Shock Poetry written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

ANNIVERSARIES

October 21, 1837:

Betrayal And The Stain Of Foul Dishonor: Courtesy Of The United States Army



Osceola ("Black Drink") (circa 1804-1838) Seminole leader
By George Catlin, 1838

Carl Bunin Peace History October 15-21

The U.S. Army, enforcing Pres. Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act, captured Seminole Indian leader Osceola (meaning "Black Drink") by inviting him to a peace conference and then seizing him and nineteen others, though they had come under a flag of truce.

The Seminole had moved to Florida (then under the control of Spain) from South Carolina and Georgia as they were forced from their ancestral lands, then forced farther south into the Everglades where they settled.

Under the law Jackson urged on Congress, they and the others of the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Cherokees) were to be moved, by force if necessary, west of the Mississippi (Arkansas and Oklahoma).

Npg.Si.Edu [Excerpt]

Although neither a hereditary nor an elected chief, Osceola was the defiant young leader of the Seminole in their resistance to Indian emigration.

In 1835 he plunged his knife into the treaty he was asked to sign that would move his people from their swamplands in the Southeast to the unoccupied territory west of the

Mississippi. This action precipitated the Second Seminole War--a seven-year game of cat-and-mouse in the Florida swamps against federal troops.

Tricked into talking peace, Osceola was captured in 1837 while carrying a white flag of truce and was imprisoned in Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

This treachery so outraged George Catlin that he went immediately to the prison. He and Osceola became friends, and Osceola willingly posed for his portrait.

“This gallant fellow,” wrote Catlin, “is grieving with a broken spirit, and ready to die, cursing the white man, no doubt to the end of his breath.”

Soon after this portrait was completed, Osceola died of malaria. Osceola’s name was derived from the Indian term “Asiyahola,” the cry given by those taking the ceremonial black drink that was supposed to cleanse the body and spirit.

Hungary October 23, 1956:

“One Soldier, Then Two, Had Offered Their Guns To The People”

“By Dawn Some Of The Soviet Soldiers Were Leaving Their Vehicles And Joining The Mass Demonstrations”

“Some Of The Tank Crews Decorated Their Tanks With The Flag Of The Revolution”

Marxist.com/ [Excerpts]

This month is the thirtieth anniversary of the Hungarian revolution of 1956.

Even though its outcome was a tragic defeat, in which at least 20,000 Hungarian workers were killed and countless others injured, imprisoned and forced into hiding or exile, it nevertheless was undoubtedly the most significant pointer to future developments in the Stalinist states since the consolidation of the bureaucracy around Stalin in the 1920s.

The tremendously inspiring events of the Hungarian October are full of lessons for the workers of Eastern Europe and the whole world.

Stalinist commentators have tried to paint a picture of these events as the work of CIA agitators and counter-revolutionaries.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The revolutionary traditions of the Hungarian working class in themselves make such a claim incredible.

Even prior to world war one there were big strikes and wage demands. In 1905 there was a big movement of landless laborers against wage cuts. In the Hungarian revolution of 1919 the workers moved to overthrow the fragile regime of the bourgeois liberal Karolyi because it could not satisfy their revolutionary demands.



www.sziszki.hu

Shortages began in the shops, especially of meat. People had to queue all night to get the things they wanted.

At the same time the bureaucrats carried on with their opulent existence.

The revolution of 1956 was a revolution to rid society of this gang of parasites, torturers and murderers, who claimed to rule in the name of the working class, and to reassert the traditions of 1919 of the involvement of the working class in the revolution and the subsequent running of society.

One worker from the giant Csepel plant told a western correspondent: "The West should not believe that the workers fought to bring back Horthy or the landowners and counts. We shall not give back the land, the factories or the mines."

The causes of the 1956 events also lie in the political developments within the bureaucracy.

Mirroring the economic crisis there were tremendous political upheavals.

In 1953 with the death of Stalin there were some signs of a "thaw" in the monolithic rule of Moscow and its puppets in Budapest. Rakosi, a hard line Stalinist, retired. Nagy, who had a reputation as a "liberaliser" and was initially favoured in the Kremlin by Khrushchev, took over.

In several Eastern Bloc countries during the fifties a similar switch was made. Bureaucrats who were denounced later as "Titoists" came to the fore. This layer of the bureaucracy had no objection to a one-party totalitarian system in which the leading layer had enormous privileges, but they did oppose the Russian bureaucracy plundering all the spoils of the nations' economic progress for themselves.

Gomulka in Poland played a similar role.

It was the fact that these bureaucrats had been persecuted by the USSR earlier, for taking an anti-Russian stand, that gave them a certain credibility with the masses.

Some sections of the masses believed that Nagy's "new course" would give the regime a "human face".

But behind the scenes there was a desperate struggle going on within the bureaucracy, and much trepidation within the Kremlin, as to the dangers inherent in even a microscopic dose of reform.

A real measure of just how little "return to legality" took place under Nagy was subsequently revealed during the 1956 revolution itself.

Within the first week 5,500 prisoners of war were released. These were men who had been sent back from Russia eight years before but had been imprisoned again by the hated AVO secret police.

They had not been charged and had no prospect of release.

These people remained illegally in prison, many assumed by relatives to be dead, during the Nagy period of 1953-55.

In fact the prison camps, allegedly intended for the enemies of the revolution, were at this time full of common people, workers, poor peasants, small stall holders, etc.

Sandor Kopacsi, the Chief of Police in Budapest in 1956, who subsequently resigned and got political asylum in the west, gives an account of his tour of inspection of these camps which reads like Dante's journey through hell.

The camps were packed full of dejected demoralised prisoners, who had never been tried, who came up to him and told him of the petty crimes, such as chicken stealing, they had been incarcerated for.

Yet even the minuscule moves in the direction of reform under Nagy proved eventually too much for the nerves of Moscow. Khrushchev changed his attitude towards "the new course".

In April 1955 Nagy was removed from the premiership and expelled from the party as a "right-wing deviationist". Rakosi was wheeled back in with a clampdown on all the new policies.

Yet the zig-zags of the Kremlin bureaucrats only whipped up a mood of discontent amongst the Hungarian masses. When, in February 1956, Khrushchev's speech at the 20th congress denouncing Stalin's crimes came to light, the whole of Hungary began to seethe with discussion. A group of intellectuals, naming themselves the Petofi circle (after the famous poet of the bourgeois revolution who was executed in the defeat of the 1848 revolution and became a national hero), began to meet regularly and semi-openly.

“The Whole Of The Eastern Bloc Was Awash With Discontent”

In his book, Kopacsi makes a very interesting revelation about the morale of the state forces at this time.

In the spring of 1956 a squad of secret police were sent into the Petofi circle and the active element of the Young Communist movement, which was also bubbling with debate.

As the dissidents' arguments became more fully explained the police spies became more and more open to the ideas about reforming the system which were being put forward at these meetings. "Suddenly a majority of these 'spies' declared that they were in agreement with the points made in the Petofi circle!" Kopacsi recounts, "together they issued a statement, which they signed, declaring themselves in solidarity with the ideas put forward by the young reformists of the party."

The whole of the Eastern Bloc was awash with discontent.

The floodgates had begun to burst even as early as 1953 with a massive strike wave and street fighting in East Germany.

In Plzen and Prague, Czechoslovakia there had been riots. In the Hungarian industrial towns of Csepel, Ozd and Diosgyor the masses had come onto the streets in protest against the conditions. Even within the Soviet Union there had been strikes and protests amongst the prisoners within the labour camps.

In May 1956 vast numbers of Russian troops and armoured vehicles were sent into Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, to crush an uprising sparked off by austerity measures.

In June 1956 the workers of Poznan, in Poland rose.

Inevitably this also had an effect on the young people inside the state forces. The Petofi circle even held one famous all-night meeting of 6,000 with people spilling out into the streets around demanding democratisation of the system and intellectual liberty.

This movement of intellectuals was a reflection of the deep underlying discontent amongst the workers. In conditions such as this where all political freedom is barred, it is often the intellectuals who give the first overt expression of the movement swelling up beneath the surface of society.

“The Revolution Was Already In Motion”

Pravda angrily denounced this ferment.

Yet even Szabad Nep, the Hungarian CP paper, under the pressure of the masses was grudgingly forced into agreement, in words, with the more secondary demands.

The bureaucracy in Budapest went into crisis over the question of whether to bring in more reforms in an attempt to restore the ailing credibility of the party, or to bring in more hard-liners and clamp down on all the ferment.

Many bureaucrats dithered between the two positions lacking any confidence in either.

In every subsequent political crisis in the Stalinist states the bureaucracy has divided to differing degrees along these lines.

A further symptom of this indecision was the removal again of Rakosi in July 1956, because he was obviously arousing the hatred of the masses. This time, however, he was not replaced by a reformer but another hard-liner, Kadar. Kadar had been imprisoned and appallingly tortured by the Stalinists. This gave him a certain credibility in the eyes of the masses, but it also made him a compliant tool of Moscow.

Nagy was further demoted, confirming the impression that the leading circles within the bureaucracy were absolutely determined not to tolerate any quarter for reforms.

The so-called Communist Party was by this time a Communist Party in name only.

It had been purged, terrorised, bribed and corrupted into nothing more than a freemasonry of cynical careerists, and an appendage of the totalitarian state.

In the elections of 1945 the CP had got 17 percent of the vote. Dora Scarlett reported an estimate made in 1956 which is only a very rough guide but nevertheless significant, that if an election was held with a guarantee of no interference, the CP would have been lucky to get 10 per cent.

During the revolution itself the CP of 900,000 vanished overnight.

Over the summer of 1956 discussion and opposition became widespread in the colleges and in the factories.

The revolution was already in motion.

Hostility amongst the masses towards the regime reached such a pitch that any spark could set off an explosion.

In October that spark came.

Students in Budapest called a demonstration for the 23rd. It was unprecedented for a demonstration to be organised outside of CP control. The authorities banned it but the organisers announced they were going ahead anyway.

Initially it was over the conditions of students but an atmosphere of excitement spread amongst all the youth and workers of the town.

A series of wider political demands soon were included and eventually the youth were being called to demonstrate in support of the workers of Poland.

What a marvelous testimony to the internationalism of the movement, that the spark which ignited the revolution was actually a demonstration of international solidarity!

Tens of thousands flooded onto the streets.

The secret police (AVO) understood that any reforms whatsoever would inevitably include a calling of them to account for their ten years of crime and organised terror.

In panic they fired on the crowd. When police arrived to try and restore order, the crowd explained to the police how the AVO had fired on defenseless men, women and children.

The young policemen, who knew the cruelty of the AVO, scarcely hesitated before handing over their guns to the crowd.

Anyone who says that the forces of the political revolution are powerless against the arms of the state apparatus should look at the reports of Police Chief Kopasci as he describes his conversations over the radio with the different police units in the capital.

For example, he describes a conversation over the radio with one of his lieutenants during the October 23 demonstration, a Lieutenant Kiss (someone who "was prepared to sacrifice his life for the party. But for the Stalin statue?"):

"KISS: People are pulling down the Stalin Statue. Please send us orders immediately.

"KOPASCI: Okay Comrade Lieutenant, tell me about this pulling down.

"KISS: There are about a hundred thousand people around the Stalin Statue.

"KOPASCI: Are you sure there are as many as that?

"KISS: Comrade Colonel, there are more than a hundred thousand, if not two hundred thousand. All of Heroes Square, all the edge of the woods is black with people. What shall I do?

"KOPASCI: Okay, how many men have you got?"

"KISS: Well, er...twenty-five Comrade Colonel!"

"KOPASCI: Useless! Look at what the people are doing and you will know straight away...You see Comrade Kiss these are specialists. They are workers from one or other of the big Pest factories. Only the workers possess the equipment to do what you report."

This is how Kopaszi describes the first news over the police radio that the masses were armed:



Hungarian National Museum

“One Soldier, Then Two, Had Offered Their Guns To The People”

"The tone of the junior officer at the other end was one of catastrophe: 'Comrade Kopaszi the participants have guns.'

“I asked for complete silence in the room. I thought the man I was talking to had gone mad. ‘I don’t quite understand. Repeat Comrade Lieutenant.’ In a measured tone the lieutenant repeated the account of how young recruits has been surrounded by the crowd, told they needed weapons to defend themselves against the security police and then how one soldier, then two, had offered their guns to the people.

"In my office silence reigned. My colleagues looked at me motionless. From the gravity of my voice and the look on my face they understood that the news I was

getting was no joke. 'My boy how many arms have you distributed and what type?' ...I awaited the reply, the blood frozen in my veins. 'Twenty-five or thirty rifles and about as many small machine guns. Some rounds of ammunition as well. What are your orders?' I could only give one: 'Barricade yourselves in and turn out your lights.'"

These conversations clearly illustrate how powerless and terrified the bureaucracy were in the face of an armed movement of the masses.

They show that once the workers are on the move all the seeming strength of the state forces comes to nothing.

Parallel with the rapid conquest of the streets went a very rapid development of political consciousness of the masses.

One meeting held in the town centre began with a demand from the crowd that the government send a minister to address them about what reforms it proposed to make. The bureaucracy hesitated and vacillated for an hour and then decided to send the minister of agriculture.

By the time he arrived the mood of the crowd had changed to hostility towards anything the government may have offered and they booed him off the platform. One of the features of all revolutions is this very quick development of the political consciousness of the masses.

“By Dawn Some Of The Soviet Soldiers Were Leaving Their Vehicles And Joining The Mass Demonstrations”

The Russian bureaucracy responded to these events with panic measures.

On the night of October 23-24 they sent in the tanks.

Everyone fought them in the streets.

People brought small arms out of their homes with which to attack them.

Children as young as thirteen or fourteen set to them with Molotov cocktails.

Such ferocious resistance on the part of the Hungarian workers and youth inevitably made a big impression on the Russian soldiers.

They began to question why they had been sent. Some had been told by their officers that it was a fascist rebellion that needed crushing.

This did not square with such widespread and popular resistance.

By dawn some of the Soviet soldiers were leaving their vehicles and joining the mass demonstrations. Some of the tank crews decorated their tanks with the flag of the revolution (the Hungarian flag with the coat of arms removed).

Russian troops asked for political asylum. They saw in the determination of the Hungarian workers the capacity to set up a new type of regime that would not hand them back to the Russian commanders.

A vast crowd assembled in front of the parliament building.

The AVO fired on the crowd. Russian troops moved in and defended the crowd from the AVO.

All public buildings were taken over by the workers.

The radio was requisitioned for the revolution and the demands of the workers broadcast to the rest of the nation and beyond.

Russian troops used their tanks to give backing to the assault of the workers on the police headquarters.

The prisons were open. Whole labyrinths of underground passages, cells and torture chambers were unlocked. Prisoners walked out like ghosts, men and women who had been assumed dead for years.

In fact the network of secret police passageways under Budapest was so vast that throughout the weeks of the revolution relatives and friends searched for prisoners. Tapings could be heard in the further recesses. Some were so hidden that the revolution never reached them, before they could be found the counter-revolution had struck.

Newspapers sprung up everywhere.

One CP eyewitness said "people hungered and thirsted for the printed word as though they had crossed a desert." From six dreary official papers twenty-five lively dailies with circulations going into millions sprang up within a few days. The revolutionary youth, the different sections of workers, peasants, police and army all had their papers. All rejected anti-semitism and fascism.

Arising out of the spontaneous political interests of the masses a number of new political parties sprang into life, including a Social Democratic Party and a Peasants Party.

The right for a multiplicity of political parties to exist was enshrined in the programme of the political revolution.

Without a doubt the experience of the Hungarian revolution shows that the workers had the capacity to take over and run society.

Open suitcases taking collections for the families of those killed in the fighting were left unguarded on the street corners. Peasants showed their support for the revolution by bringing cartloads of food into Budapest and distributing it free. This in a country where people were still living in poverty!

In desperation at their troops defecting to the revolution the Soviet authorities withdrew them from Budapest. In his memoirs Khrushchev recalls the vacillations within the top

circles between "crushing the mutiny" or pulling "out of Hungary": "I don't know how many times we changed our minds back and forth."

Desperately seeking a means to contain the situation, in consultation with Moscow through Andropov, then the ambassador in Hungary, the leaders switched once again to concessions. On October 25 the premier, Gero, who had provoked the masses further by a ranting speech on the radio about fascist agents, was removed at Moscow's bidding. Several of the worst Stalinist die-hards were removed from the Politburo and Nagy was suddenly rehabilitated and made premier.

“The Program Of The Revolution”

But despite his reputation as a "reformer", on the crucial questions confronting the Hungarian workers Nagy was no different from the hardline Stalinists.

Moscow persuaded him to declare martial law. He dumbly acquiesced with the Soviet decision to send troops to crush the movement. On the first day of his new premiership 300 workers were killed outside the parliament building by the state forces. His hands were drenched in blood from the outset. But given the tremendous power and sweep of the revolution he was a last line of defence for the bureaucracy because of his reputation.

Nagy offered an amnesty for all those who handed in their weapons. The Soviet authorities started a display of "negotiations" with his new administration, offering the masses the hope of a peaceful withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country.

In reality this was a smokescreen behind which they were preparing for more effective military action.

The truth was that the irresistible sweep of the mass movement rendered the Nagy government completely impotent. Without army, police or mass backing, it was a government in name only, an administration suspended in mid-air.

Rumors flew around as to the actions of the Russian columns. There was much confusion.

Some sections of the masses did not want to believe that a new invasion was in the offing. If they were coming why were they going? Yet to anyone prepared to think things through carefully, it was clear their job had not finished. They were not far outside Budapest and their ranks were being swelled by reinforcements. Soviet troops took over all the airports.

The program of the revolution had gone through different stages as the workers' consciousness leaped forward.

The workers demanded:

Workers' councils in all factories to establish workers' management and a radical transformation of the system of state central planning and directing.

Wage rises of 15 percent for the lowest paid, 10 percent for other workers and an upper limit of £106 on salaries, which in the money of those days would have done away with the privileged position of the bureaucracy.

Abolition of production norms except in factories where the workers' council decided to keep them.

Increases in the lowest pensions.

Increase in family allowances.

A fairer system of taxation.

A more rapid programme of house building by the state.

This was a programme with a wide appeal to the masses.

The revolution had transformed Budapest over the short space of a week.

Kopaszi paints a vivid picture of the parliament building in these days of workers' power.

"This immense 'Westminster on the Danube' was more like the Smolny Palace in Petrograd, Bolshevik headquarters in 1917...than the old parliament chamber in London. The corridors and rooms were packed with delegations of workers, peasants, soldiers, artists, writers and politicians of different parties which had not been seen at all since 1947."

Effectively the workers had taken power. In the provinces the workers had joined the movement and come out on strike. In the mining towns there was a very solid strike. All the workers were on the streets. There was an atmosphere of insurrection.

Amongst the peasantry too there was a big movement. The old Stalinist collective farm managers were driven off with knives and pitchforks.

The peasants elected revolutionary committees. It is true that in some areas they broke up the land from the collectives into private plots. But this was linked with a warning that if any of the landlords tried to come back the peasants would organise a second revolution.

This is how Peter Fryer, a reporter for the British Communist Party paper, the Daily Worker described the workers' councils:

"In their spontaneous origin, in their composition, in their sense of responsibility, in their efficient organisation of food supplies and of civil order, in the restraint they exercised over the wilder elements of the youth, in the wisdom with which so many of them handled the problem of Soviet troops and, not least, in their striking resemblance to the soviets or councils of workers', peasants' and soldiers' deputies which sprang up in Russia in 1905 and again in February 1917, these committees, a network of which now extended over the whole of Hungary were remarkably uniform.

“They were at once organs of insurrection - the coming together of delegates elected by factories and universities, mines and army units, and organs of popular self-government which the armed people trusted.

“As such they enjoyed tremendous authority, and it is no exaggeration to say that until the Soviet attack of November 4 the real power in the country lay in their hands.”

Russian Imperial Invasion Destroys The Revolution

The Nagy government, the last fig leaf of the authorities, effectively had no control. Power was in the hands of the revolutionary committees. The advanced sections of the workers, big sections of the youth and the industrial workers sensed that things could rapidly come to a head.

They prepared to once more defend the revolution. A new wave of strikes began which rapidly reached the proportions of another general strike.

At this juncture the Russian bureaucracy began their second assault on the revolution.

At 4 in the morning of Sunday November 4, Russian tanks, having encircled Budapest, began to bombard it with shells from the hills outside. By dawn they had entered the city and occupied key buildings including the parliament. The attack came across the nation all at once. Every city was pounded by artillery and then occupied.

Yet far from being crushed in one simple and massive assault as the Russian bureaucrats had hoped, the second invasion in fact spurred on the workers to even greater struggle making them more determined than ever to fight for the revolution to the finish.

The consciousness of even the widest sections of the masses exploded into new life.

Those who had not participated previously in the street fighting came pouring out to join the "veterans" of the previous week. The workers fought, along with children, students, the old and the soldiers and police who had come over. They built or rebuilt barricades. They occupied positions before the Russian columns entered the towns.

The fighting was ferocious. The tanks were attacked by the masses from all sides. Russian soldiers later reported that they had never seen such determined resistance.

But this second wave of Soviet troops had very little understanding of what they were crushing. Many of them had been hastily transported from the far-eastern provinces of the Soviet Union and could speak no European languages.

Peter Fryer, in a final dispatch to the Daily Worker, which the editor hid from his staff, said: "Some of the rank and file Soviet troops have been telling people that they had no idea they had come to Hungary. They thought at first they were in Berlin, fighting German fascists."

Some had even been told they were on the Suez Canal. The Hungarian workers attempted to hand them leaflets, but there was very little infantry action because the top officers feared the fraternisation that had occurred before. The Russian tanks came in and pumped shells into the buildings where they thought the resistance was.

The top Soviet officers desperately maneuvered to "maintain the morale" of their troops by shooting those of their men who displayed any sympathy for the Hungarian workers!

For example, one Soviet tank officer was executed because his column had found its road blocked by a line of women and children sitting in their path. Instead of christening the street with their blood he drove his contingent round another way.

Several of the soldiers who complied with this were also executed.

In the prison yards of Budapest such executions continued all day and all night. This grisly fact illustrates that despite all the measures taken by the Russian bureaucracy the Hungarian workers made an impact on the minds of quite wide layers of even this second wave of troops.

Despite this show of strength the bureaucracy almost failed to regain control.

It took fifteen divisions, with six thousand tanks, backed up by MiG fighter planes to quell the movement.

Buildings were pumped with phosphorus to set them on fire. One commentator, Andy Anderson, described it thus: "Smoke from burning buildings, exploding shells and Molotov cocktails mixed with the dust from crashing masonry to create a choking fog. The sight of the mounting wounded created a fog to choke the mind."

Yet even with such brutality on the part of the Russian bureaucracy it took weeks to finish the job. On November 4 the still-born Nagy government, which represented nobody and no-one, was replaced by one under the hard-liner Kadar.

He appealed for the workers to go back to work but the strike intensified. On November 5 he "warned", he "hoped for" and he "requested" a return to work. On the 6th and 7th he "threatened". On the 8th his henchman Marosan declared "it is the duty of every decent worker to go back to work."

But throughout the workers remained on strike and more and more Russian tanks fell victim to the heroic armed resistance of the masses.

The most forceful and long-lasting resistance to the invasion came precisely from the big working-class areas of Budapest.

Hospital figures show that the injured consisted of 70-80 percent young workers.

"Red" Cespel, so called because it had been in pre-war days a bastion of the CP, was one of the last districts to hold out.

Open resistance continued in isolated pockets well into 1957 and even in 1958 and 1959 there were strikes and demonstrations as the workers attempted to resist the remorselessly tightening grip of bureaucratic control.

The victory of the bureaucracy did not come easily.

1956 opened up a new period of economic development for the Hungarian economy.

The Russian bureaucracy deliberately decided to pump resources into the country. They had been so frightened by the revolution that they wanted to ensure the masses were kept more content to avoid a repetition.

Living standards rose significantly for the Hungarian masses for the rest of the 1950s and the 1960s. To put it in the words of Khrushchev: "We shall shut their mouths with goulash." Even in the seventies there was still substantial progress. This was the basis for the relative stability of the Kadar regime.

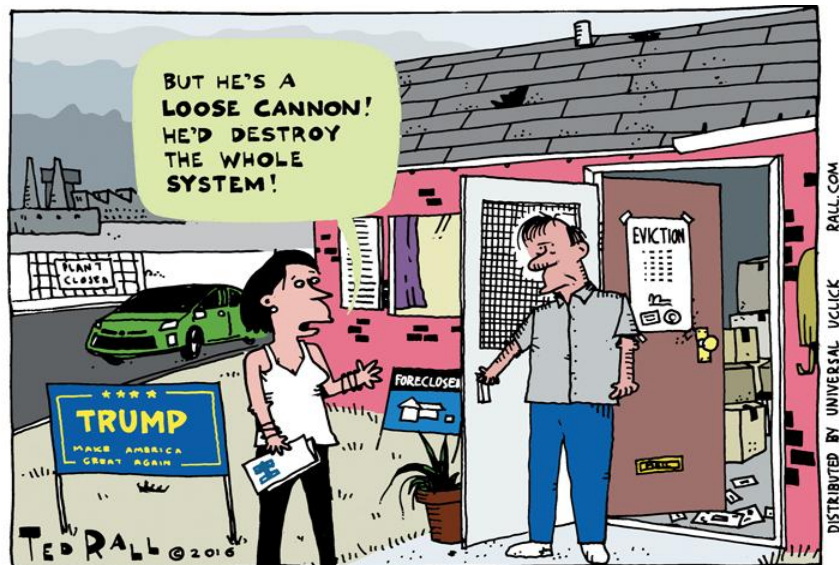
The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a glorious page in working-class history.

It added to the heritage of mankind a priceless experience.

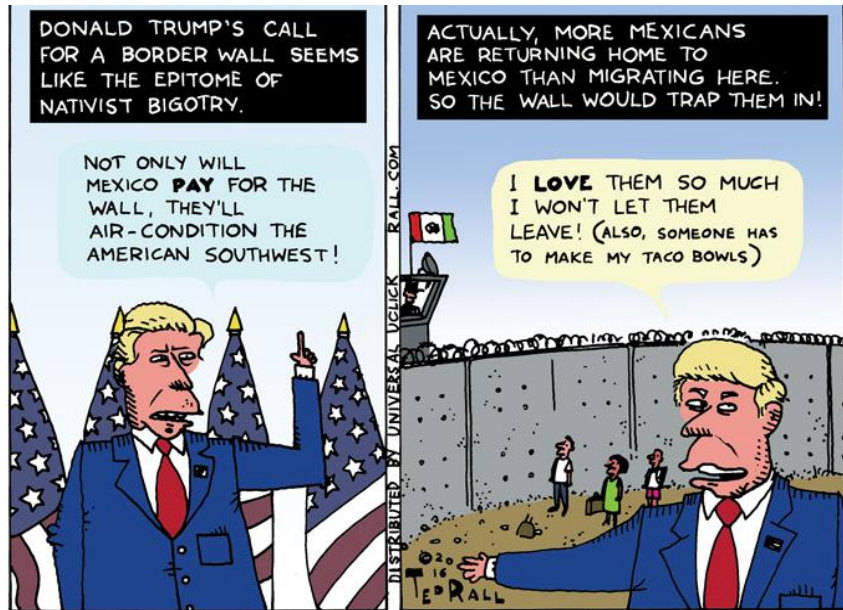
It was in this sense a pointer to the future of mankind.

Victory was possible. In reality victory was won, but it was snatched away again by the second Soviet invasion.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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