

Military Resistance 14L10



Christmas Tree

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

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

Christmas Tree

Dead Solders hang from the Christmas tree,
a cross on top blinks red white and blue
blood dripping from the pine needles
like a junkie government who can't get enough.
Obama dressed as Old St. Sick throws
more coffins as presents under the tree
Congress doesn't argue about the cost of the war
they just hang shiny purple hearts made
of gold all over the tree and decorations
of black hearses end to end that go around
the tree and then hanging like bulbs are
missing arms and missing legs and hanging

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

written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Taliban Assaults Member Of Parliament's Home In Kabul

December 22, 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 FDD's Long War Journal

The Taliban claimed responsibility for last night's suicide assault on a member of parliament's home in Kabul that killed at least seven people.

The Taliban said a two man suicide assault team “armed with automatic weapons, improvised grenades and explosive vests” attacked the home of Malim Mir Wali, a member of parliament from Helmand province, as an “important military meeting” was taking place.

The two Taliban fighters took hostages and held off Afghan security forces for 10 hours before being killed.

Afghan officials claimed that eight people were killed in the fighting. According to a statement by Afghan President Arshaf Ghani, “two members of his [MP Wali’s] family, a number of his bodyguards and the son of another MP from Uruzgan, Obaidullah Barakzai” were killed during the Taliban siege.

However, the Taliban claimed that “up to 20 key enemy personnel were killed,” including the “head of Parliament Complaints Commission Muhammad Hanif Haneefi, Helmand Chief Justice Tayyeb Atal as well as commando troopers, police, ANA and multiple commanders of south western zone.” The Taliban’s claim cannot be confirmed.

Last night’s assault is the first high profile attack by the Taliban in the Afghan capital since Sept. 5, when a suicide team struck near the Afghan Ministry of Defense. At least 20 people, including Army and police officials, were killed during that assault.

This year, the Taliban’s high-profile attacks in Kabul have focused on military and political targets.

The latest attack in Kabul took place as the Taliban has sustained an offensive in northern, southern, eastern, and western Afghanistan. The Taliban offensive, dubbed Operation Omari after its founder and first emir, Mullah Omar, has strained Afghanistan’s struggling security forces. Several districts have fallen under Taliban control over the past year. All of Helmand province is currently either controlled or contested by the Taliban.

In the past, the Taliban has assassinated key political and military leaders in an attempt to destabilize districts and provinces coveted by the group.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Armed Terrorists Attack Couple In Subway For No Reason At All:

“Appleton, Who Was Pregnant At The Time, Was Pinned Down And Handcuffed, With Her Stomach Pressed On The Ground And Her Hands Behind Her Back”

“Appleton Suffered A Miscarriage Later Because Of The Officers’ Actions During The Arrest”

**“Some Bystanders Took To Social Media To Say The Officer Punched The Man”
Worthless Piece Of Shit Police Deputy Chief Jennings Said, “Some Would Say It Was A Punch, I Say It Was A Distraction Blow”**



Michael Smith’s girlfriend Andrea Appleton, 24, is restrained by a BART police officer while Smith was arrested July 29 at Embarcadero station. Appleton was pregnant at the time of the arrest and lost her child two weeks after. (Photo courtesy of Public Defender Jeff Adachi)

December 22, 2016 By KATRINA CAMERON, Mercury News

SAN FRANCISCO — A public defender representing a man and his girlfriend who were pinned to the ground by BART police officers during an arrest in July said body cam footage released Wednesday showed officers “continued excessive force.”

Public Defender Jeff Adachi is representing Michael Smith, 23, who was acquitted last week of misdemeanor charges of battery against a peace officer. Smith was arrested July 29 at Embarcadero station after a scuffle with BART police officers that was recorded by several bystanders and shared thousands of times on social media.

Adachi is asking the District Attorney to dismiss the charges and BART board of directors to review this case, which he called “a classic black crime bias.”

“Even though it’s a misdemeanor case, it’s an extremely significant case because it exemplifies what happens to so many young men of color,” Adachi said during a phone interview Thursday.

BART police are also conducting an internal affairs investigation into the case to determine if the four officers involved were out of line. The results of the investigation will not be released to the public.

The incident began when officers responded to a 911 call from a commuter who reported that an armed man threatened to rob him, said BART spokeswoman Alicia Trost. Officers believed Smith matched the description and asked him to get on the ground, but he reportedly “bit, kicked, and spat on officers while resisting arrest.”

Smith and his girlfriend, Andrea Appleton, 24, were on a BART train when an older white man made derogatory statements toward the couple, who are both black,

Adachi said. Smith and Appleton moved to another part of the train before the man called 911 to falsely report that he had been robbed by a black man who may have been armed.

Two witnesses who were on the BART train said Smith and Appleton did nothing and that the man started the confrontation. The man was not detained or charged with falsely reporting a crime.

BART police officers approached Smith because he fit the suspect description and yelled at him and Appleton to get down before forcing them to the ground.

Appleton, who was pregnant at the time, was also pinned down and handcuffed, with her stomach pressed on the ground and her hands behind her back. Appleton suffered a miscarriage two weeks later because of the officers’ actions during the arrest, Adachi said.

“When I first found out I lost my baby, I was stressful, I was hurt, I was lost,” Appleton said told ABC7 News.

It is not against BART policy to handcuff a pregnant woman, Trost said.

The policy cites that pregnant women “should be restrained in the least restrictive manner that is effective to officer safety, and in no event shall these persons be restrained by the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind body.”

Officers did not know Appleton was pregnant until she told police after they had already handcuffed her hands behind her back. Trost said the woman declined medical attention at the scene.

Adachi said Appleton was handcuffed with her hands behind her back for 25 minutes after officers learned she was pregnant.

In the videos posted on social media in July, two officers pinned Smith to the ground while a third officer handcuffed him. The officers can be seen with their knees on the man’s back and legs when he raised his head off the floor and turned it toward one officer, who appeared as though he shoved the man’s head down to the ground.

Some bystanders took to social media to say the officer punched the man.

During a news conference Wednesday, BART Police Deputy Chief Jeffrey Jennings said, “Some would say it was a punch, I say it was a distraction blow.”

After the arrest, Smith had scars and bruises on his arms, stomach, and legs from the officers restraining him.

“He had some pretty serious injuries but, of course, the most serious one is that they lost their unborn child,” Adachi said.

While he was mourning the miscarriage, Smith also lost his job as a youth worker because of the charges.

“It’s a situation where the mistakes that were made by BART police have resulted in real consequences for Michael and his family,” Adachi said.

“... If we don’t change things, what’s going to happen to the next Michael Smith? What’s going to happen to the next person who steps off a BART train in similar circumstances?”

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2472 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Black Family Brutalized By Texas Police Enemy Combatant When Trying To Report A Man Who Choked Their Child



Jacqueline Craig, 46, and her teenage daughter are arrested by Fort Worth, Texas, police - and the encounter was captured on live video. (photo: Facebook)

22 December 16 By Shaun King, New York Daily News

I was working on a holiday story for the Daily News last night. It was all about how you can de-stress during the holidays. I was going to tell you to watch less news, love on your family and friends, go see "Fences" and "Hidden Figures," and do some good in the lives of the people around you.

Then, late last night, while I was literally writing out my notes, my friend and Morehouse brother Lee Merritt, who is an attorney in Dallas, sent me a video that shook me to my soul.

In Fort Worth, Texas, yesterday, a 46-year-old mother, Jacqueline Craig, reported to the Fort Worth Police Department that a fully grown, bearded white man in her neighborhood put his hands on her 7-year-old son and choked him.

Her teenage daughters were with her while she was making the report and had sense enough to record her making the report on Facebook Live.

Clearly, black folk already know good and well that something simple like this is never simple with police in our country.

It's good that the exchange was filmed, because what unfolded, and what this racist officer said, would not be believed had it not been captured on film.

As Jacqueline calmly and reasonably explains to the officer what this man did to her 7-year-old son, she tells him that the man said he confronted her son because the boy threw a piece of paper on the ground.

As she proceeds to tell the officer that the man then choked her son, the officer actually asks her, "why don't you teach your son not to litter?" — then proceeds to basically tell the mother that the man had every right to choke her son.

As any rational human being would, the mother gets upset. She's holding it together, but she's stumped. And I get it — because when I saw this officer, in response to her saying her 7-year-old son was choked, ask her why she didn't teach her son not to litter, my blood started boiling.

When I first saw the video, I didn't know what was about to unfold and I thought I had seen the worst. I was already so angry I was almost shaking.

I have a 7-year-old. If a man choked my 7-year-old, police might be filing a police report for murder.

And to hear this cop basically say that black lives don't matter, and that it was all because she hadn't taught him right, infuriated me. Jacqueline then told the officer that his words upset her.

He then responds and basically says that if she doesn't shut up, he'll be upset.

Jacqueline's teenage daughter then steps in front of her to calm her down and separate her from the officer. Then, in that moment, everything took a terrible turn for the worse.

The officer then starts grabbing and slamming everybody to the ground.

He grabs the teenage daughters and handcuffs them. He grabs the mother, wrestles her to the ground, and arrests her as well.

Fort Worth cops put out a statement Thursday afternoon saying the officer, whose name wasn't released, was, "placed on restricted duty status by the Chief of Police pending the outcome of the internal investigation."

As of early this morning, the mother and her teenage daughters were still in jail.

This is the reality of being black in America.

I wanted to give us some advice on how to de-stress during the holidays, but black folk are catching hell from coast to coast.

As some of you may have seen Wednesday, a YouTube prankster was put off of a flight from London to New York. He claimed that it was because he was speaking Arabic, and maybe it happened like that, or maybe it was all a hoax he created, but here's what I know.

Black folk don't need to create fake videos to expose injustice, the injustice is real all by itself.

MILITARY NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Army Sgt. Douglas Riney, 26, of Fairview, Illinois, killed in Afghanistan, at Dover Airforce Base. Army Times October 20, 2016

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

**Nothing has more revolutionary effect, and nothing undermines more the foundations of all state power, than the continuation of that wretched and brainless régime, which has the strength merely to cling to its positions but no longer the slightest power to rule or to steer the state ship on a definite course.
-- Karl Kautsky; The Consequences of the Japanese Victory and Social Democracy**

Ask Clancy The Agony Aunt: “Mary A Friend Asks, ‘But What Choice Do We Have Except For The Democratic Party?’”



From: Clancy Sigal
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: ASK CLANCY THE AGONY AUNT, from Clancy
Date: Dec 15, 2016 8:20 PM

Mary a friend asks, “But what choice do we have except for the Democratic Party?”

Dear Mary:

I feel your dilemma. So many battered wives and husbands share your problem. Your spouse promises to treat you better and for a short time they're so nice and gentle you feel hopeful for the future but then they revert to type and beat the living crap out of you.

For how many years have you endured this cycle of promise and abuse only to finally realize, I have got to leave this terrible marriage?

But what then?

It's terrifying to think of being politically partyless. Out there, alone. Too much freedom, makes you ill even to think about it.

It's not as if you're leaving the marriage for a new or better one. Or having an affair (with Jill Stein? Libertarians? Working Families?)

No, leaving a bad marriage is all on you, dear.

I wish there was a Battered Politicals shelter for you to be taken in and cared for until your mind clears.

Alas, your best support system is your own free desire to be unshackled from past love for your old Democratic spouse who practically killed you in the recent election.

And of course you should rely on your friends who are also Battered Democrats. Maybe all you can do for now is hold each other's hand.

Who knows? That could be the start of something really big.

Good luck, Mary. Know how you feel.

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ANNIVERSARIES

December 1914 The Soldiers Truce: A Hidden History From The First World War



German and British soldiers fraternize – Christmas 1914

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan]

To many, the end of the war and the failure of the peace would validate the Christmas cease-fire as the only meaningful episode in the apocalypse.

It belied the bellicose slogans and suggested that the men fighting and often dying were, as usual, proxies for governments and issues that had little to do with their everyday lives. A candle lit in the darkness of Flanders, the truce flickered briefly and survives only in memoirs, letters, song, drama and story.

December 1, 2005 by John V. Denson, 2005 LewRockwell.com [Excerpts]

The Christmas Truce, which occurred primarily between the British and German soldiers along the Western Front in December 1914, is an event the official

histories of the Great War leave out, and the Orwellian historians hide from the public.

Stanley Weintraub has broken through this barrier of silence and written a moving account of this significant event by compiling letters sent home from the front, as well as diaries of the soldiers involved. His book is entitled *Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce*. The book contains many pictures of the actual events showing the opposing forces mixing and celebrating together that first Christmas of the war.

This remarkable story begins to unfold, according to Weintraub, on the morning of December 19, 1914:

Lieutenant Geoffrey Heinekey, new to the 2ND Queen's Westminster Rifles, wrote to his mother, 'A most extraordinary thing happened. . . Some Germans came out and held up their hands and began to take in some of their wounded and so we ourselves immediately got out of our trenches and began bringing in our wounded also. The Germans then beckoned to us and a lot of us went over and talked to them and they helped us to bury our dead. This lasted the whole morning and I talked to several of them and I must say they seemed extraordinarily fine men It seemed too ironical for words. There, the night before we had been having a terrific battle and the morning after, there we were smoking their cigarettes and they smoking ours. (p. 5)

Weintraub reports that the French and Belgians reacted differently to the war and with more emotion than the British in the beginning. The war was occurring on their land and The French had lived in an atmosphere of *revanche* since 1870, when Alsace and Lorraine were seized by the Prussians in a war declared by the French. (p. 4).

The British and German soldiers, however, saw little meaning in the war as to them, and, after all, the British King and the German Kaiser were both grandsons of Queen Victoria. Why should the Germans and British be at war, or hating each other, because a royal couple from Austria were killed by an assassin while they were visiting in Serbia?

However, since August when the war started, hundreds of thousands of soldiers had been killed, wounded or missing by December 1914 (p. xvi).

It is estimated that over eighty thousand young Germans had gone to England before the war to be employed in such jobs as waiters, cooks, and cab drivers and many spoke English very well. It appears that the Germans were the instigators of this move towards a truce.

So much interchange had occurred across the lines by the time that Christmas Eve approached that Brigadier General G.T. Forrestier-Walker issued a directive forbidding fraternization:

For it discourages initiative in commanders, and destroys offensive spirit in all ranks . . . Friendly intercourse with the enemy, unofficial armistices and exchange of tobacco and other comforts, however tempting and occasionally amusing they may be, are absolutely prohibited. (p. 6-7).

Later strict orders were issued that any fraternization would result in a court-martial.

Most of the seasoned German soldiers had been sent to the Russian front while the youthful and somewhat untrained Germans, who were recruited first, or quickly volunteered, were sent to the Western Front at the beginning of the war. Likewise, in England young men rushed to join in the war for the personal glory they thought they might achieve and many were afraid the war might end before they could get to the front. They had no idea this war would become one of attrition and conscription or that it would set the trend for the whole 20TH century, the bloodiest in history which became known as the War and Welfare Century.

As night fell on Christmas Eve the British soldiers noticed the Germans putting up small Christmas trees along with candles at the top of their trenches and many began to shout in English We no shoot if you no shoot.(p. 25).

The firing stopped along the many miles of the trenches and the British began to notice that the Germans were coming out of the trenches toward the British who responded by coming out to meet them.

They mixed and mingled in No Man's Land and soon began to exchange chocolates for cigars and various newspaper accounts of the war which contained the propaganda from their respective homelands.

Many of the officers on each side attempted to prevent the event from occurring but the soldiers ignored the risk of a court-martial or of being shot.

Some of the meetings reported in diaries were between Anglo-Saxons and German Saxons and the Germans joked that they should join together and fight the Prussians.

The massive amount of fraternization, or maybe just the Christmas spirit, deterred the officers from taking action and many of them began to go out into No Man's Land and exchange Christmas greetings with their opposing officers.

Each side helped bury their dead and remove the wounded so that by Christmas morning there was a large open area about as wide as the size of two football fields separating the opposing trenches.

The soldiers emerged again on Christmas morning and began singing Christmas carols, especially Silent Night. They recited the 23RD Psalm together and played soccer and football. Again, Christmas gifts were exchanged and meals were prepared openly and attended by the opposing forces.

Weintraub quotes one soldier's observation of the event: Never . . . was I so keenly aware of the insanity of war. (p. 33).

The first official British history of the war came out in 1926 which indicated that the Christmas Truce was a very insignificant matter with only a few people involved. However, Weintraub states:

During a House of Commons debate on March 31, 1930, Sir H. Kinglsey Wood, a Cabinet Minister during the next war, and a Major 'In the front trenches' at Christmas 1914, recalled that he 'took part in what was well known at the time as a truce. We went over in front of the trenches and shook hands with many of our German enemies. A great number of people (now) think we did something that was degrading.'

Refusing to presume that, he went on, 'The fact is that we did it, and I then came to the conclusion that I have held very firmly ever since, that if we had been left to ourselves there would never have been another shot fired. For a fortnight the truce went on. We were on the most friendly terms, and it was only the fact that we were being controlled by others that made it necessary for us to start trying to shoot one another again.'

He blamed the resumption of the war on 'the grip of the political system which was bad, and I and others who were there at the time determined there and then never to rest . . . Until we had seen whether we could change it.' But they could not. (p. 169–70)

Two soldiers, one British and one German, both experienced the horrors of the trench warfare in the Great War and both wrote moving accounts which challenged the idea of the glory of a sacrifice of the individual to the nation in an unnecessary or unjust war.

The British soldier, Wilfred Owen, wrote a famous poem before he was killed in the trenches seven days before the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

He tells of the horror of the gas warfare which killed many in the trenches and ends with the following lines:

*If in some smothering dreams you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues – My friend, you would not tell with
such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.*

(The Latin phrase is translated roughly as It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country, a line from the Roman poet Horace used to produce patriotic zeal for ancient Roman wars.)

The German soldier was Erich M. Remarque who wrote one of the best anti-war novels of all time, entitled *All Quiet On The Western Front*, which was later made

into an American movie that won the Academy Awards in 1929 as the Best Movie of the year.

He also attacked the idea of the nobility of dying for your country in a war and he describes the suffering in the trenches:

We see men living with their skulls blown open; We see soldiers run with their two feet cut off; They stagger on their splintered stumps into the next shell-hole; A lance corporal crawls a mile and half on his hands dragging his smashed knee after him; Another goes to the dressing station and over his clasped hands bulge his intestines; We see men without mouths, without jaws, without faces; We find one man who has held the artery of his arm in his teeth for two hours in order not to bleed to death.

I would imagine that the Christmas Truce probably inspired the English novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy, to write a poem about World War I entitled *The Man He Killed*, which reads as follows:

*Had he and I but met
By some old ancient inn,
We should have sat us down to wet
Right many a nipperkin!*

*But ranged as infantry,
And staring face to face,
I shot at him as he at me,
And killed him in his place.*

I shot him dead because – Because he was my foe,

*Just so: my foe of course he was;
That's clear enough; although*

*He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,
Off-hand like – just as I – Was out of work – had sold his traps – No other reason
why.*

*Yes, quaint and curious war is!
You shoot a fellow down
You'd treat if met where any bar is,
Or help to half-a-crown.*

Many leaders of the British Empire saw the new nationalistic Germany (since 1870–71) as a threat to their world trade, especially with Germany's new navy.

The idea that economics played a major role in bringing on the war was confirmed by President Woodrow Wilson after the war in a speech wherein he gave his assessment of the real cause of the war. He was campaigning in St. Louis, Missouri in September of 1919 trying to get the U.S. Senate to approve the Versailles Treaty and he stated:

Why, my fellow-citizens, is there (anyone) here who does not know that the seed of war in the modern world is industrial and commercial rivalry? . . . This war, in its inception, was a commercial and industrial war. It was not a political war.

Weintraub alludes to a play by William Douglas Home entitled *A Christmas Truce* wherein he has characters representing British and German soldiers who just finished a soccer game in No Man's Land on Christmas day and engaged in a conversation which very well could represent the feelings of the soldiers on that day.

The German lieutenant concedes the impossibility of the war ending as the soccer game had just done, with no bad consequences – Because the Kaiser and the generals and the politicians in my country order us that we fight.

So do ours, agrees Andrew Wilson (the British soldier)

Then what can we do?

The answer's 'nothing.' But if we do nothing . . . like we're doing now, and go on doing it, there'll be nothing they can do but send us home.

Or shoot us. (p. 110)

The Great War killed over ten million soldiers and Weintraub states, Following the final Armistice came an imposed peace in 1919 that created new instabilities ensuring another war, (p. 174). This next war killed more than fifty million people, over half of which were civilians. Weintraub writes:

To many, the end of the war and the failure of the peace would validate the Christmas cease-fire as the only meaningful episode in the apocalypse.

It belied the bellicose slogans and suggested that the men fighting and often dying were, as usual, proxies for governments and issues that had little to do with their everyday lives. A candle lit in the darkness of Flanders, the truce flickered briefly and survives only in memoirs, letters, song, drama and story. (p. xvi).

He concludes his remarkable book with the following:

A celebration of the human spirit, the Christmas Truce remains a moving manifestation of the absurdities of war. A very minor Scottish poet of Great War vintage, Frederick Niven, may have got it right in his 'A Carol from Flanders,' which closed,

*O ye who read this truthful rime
From Flanders, kneel and say:
God speed the time when every day
Shall be as Christmas Day. (p. 175)*

MORE:

British And German Soldiers Arm-In-Arm



The Illustrated London News of January 9, 1915 [Thanks to June VI, who sent this in.]

BRITISH AND GERMAN SOLDIERS ARM-IN-ARM AND EXCHANGING HEADGEAR: A CHRISTMAS TRUCE BETWEEN OPPOSING TRENCHES.
DRAWN BY A. C. MICHAEL

SAXONS AND ANGLO-SAXONS FRATERNISING ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE AT THE SEASON OF PEACE AND GOODWILL: OFFICERS AND MEN FROM THE GERMAN AND BRITISH TRENCHES MEET AND GREET ONE ANOTHER - A GERMAN OFFICER PHOTOGRAPHING A GROUP OF FOES AND FRIENDS.

The spirit of Christmas made itself felt in at least one section of the trenches at the front, where British and German soldiers fraternised, and for a brief while, during an informal and spontaneous truce, there was peace on earth and goodwill towards men among those who a few hours before had been seeking each other's blood, and where bound to do so again after the truce was over.

The part of the British lines where these incongruous scenes occurred, was, it is said, at a point where the enemy's trenches, only about eighty yards away, were occupied by a Saxon regiment. Further along the line, where Prussian troops were said to be stationed, there was a certain amount of fighting.

It was apparently towards the British left that the friendly truce was observed, while officers and men from both sides left their trenches and met in No Man's Land between, where, as a rule, no man dares to show so much as the top of his head.

British and Germans met and shook hands, exchanged cigars and cigarettes, newspapers and addresses, and wished each other the compliments of the season, conversing as far as possible with the aid, as interpreter, of a German soldier who had lived in America.

A group of British and German soldiers, arm-in-arm, some of whom had exchanged head-gear, were photographed by a German officer.

The figure on the extreme left in our drawing, for instance, is a German soldier in a British service-cap, while the fourth figure from the left is a British soldier in his goat-skin coat wearing a Pickelhaube, or German helmet.

Some of the British, it is said visited the German trenches and an Anglo-German football match was even played. The dead who lay in front of the trenches were buried, and a party of German brought back the body of a British officer.



German and Russian soldiers fraternize on the Eastern Front

December 23, 1961: Hideous Anniversary: The First KIA In A Previous Imperial Disaster



James Davis

Carl Bunin Peace History December 20-26

James Davis of Livingston, Tennessee, was killed by the Viet Cong, the insurgents in South Vietnam, and became the first of some 58,000 U.S. soldiers killed during the Vietnam War.

Lyndon Johnson later referred to him as “the first American to fall in defense of our freedom in Vietnam.”

Over two million Vietnamese would die before the end of the war.

December 26, 1971: Honorable Anniversary: Vietnam Veterans Against The War Liberate The Statue Of Liberty



Carl Bunin Peace History December 24-30

Two dozen members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War “liberated” the Statue of Liberty with a sit-in to protest resumed U.S. aerial bombings in Vietnam.

They flew an inverted U.S. flag from the crown as a signal of distress.

Military Resistance In PDF Format?

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RECEIVED FROM READERS

Thanks to Lisa Savage [Went 2 the Bridge blog] for sending in this quote 12.22 concerning proposed Trump regime leadership:

**"That cabinet contains enough gargoyles to remodel Notre Dame."
Cecile Pineda**

STUCK ON STUPID

Stupid's That Hopefully Die With 2016

1. "Thank you very much for that."

A new babble that has infected CNN interviewers. Patient zero was found on some stupid TV commercials. "This salve will ready help your crotch itch." Reply "Thank you very much for that."

"Thank you" is fine. "Thank you very much" can be OK when something really merits it. "Thank you very much for that" is pretentious and stupid.

2. "Can you tell me.....?"

A favorite of lazy interviewers who can't formulate an intelligent question. This substitutes for thought.

"Can you tell me why there is a war in Syria?"

Someday someone will emerge and simply reply "Yes," winning the hearts of all those disgusted with interviewers who wouldn't know a challenging question if one bit them on the ass.

3. Starting sentences with "So"

"So is that a dead body over there against the wall?"

"So I guess maybe it is."

"So, you think it's a werewolf?"

"So let's ask."

On And On And On

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Congo Erupts As Dictator Refuses To Obey Law: Joseph Kabila Names New Government Five Minutes Before His Term Was Set To Expire; “Protesters Swarmed The Streets In Several Suburbs Of The Capital Kinshasa, Demanding The President Leave Office, And Burning Tires And Erecting Barricades”
“In Kinshasa, Protesters Burned The Headquarters Of Kabila’s Ruling Party”



www.voanews.com

Dec. 20, 2016 By NICHOLAS BARIYO, Wall Street Journal

Antigovernment protests flared in Congo on Tuesday after Joseph Kabila shuffled his government to bolster his bid to remain president until scheduled elections in 2018.

Late Monday, five minutes before Mr. Kabila's second and final term in office was set to expire, state television announced he had formed an expanded 65-member cabinet headed by opposition-leaning Samy Badibanga as prime minister.

The naming of a new government—a coalition between the president's ruling party and small, marginal opposition groups—appeared to be an attempt by Mr. Kabila to defuse the main opposition, which wants him to step down immediately.

Shortly after the announcement, protesters swarmed the streets in several suburbs of the capital Kinshasa, demanding the president leave office, and burning tires and erecting barricades, witnesses and activists said.

They were met by gunfire from security forces, United Nations human-rights officials said, adding that at least 20 people were killed. The death toll could grow, said Col. Felix Basse, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo.

As protests broke out elsewhere in the country later Tuesday, Human Rights Watch said it had received unverified reports of many dead and wounded.

A government spokesman couldn't be reached for comment about the protests and allegations of casualties at the hands of security forces.

In Kinshasa, protesters burned the headquarters of Mr. Kabila's ruling party and in Lubumbashi, capital of the copper-rich Katanga province, demonstrators clashed with police, witnesses and antigovernment activists said.

Etienne Tshisekedi, a veteran opposition leader who heads the Union for Democracy and Social Progress party, urged his supporters to protest what he described as a coup by Mr. Kabila.

Fideli Beni, an official with the opposition group Lucha, said it was time for Mr. Kabila to leave office. "He is an illegitimate president," Mr. Beni said.

The 45-year-old Mr. Kabila succeeded his father as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2001, after the elder Kabila was assassinated. He won election to a five-year term in 2005 and again in 2011.

Under Congo's constitution, he is barred from seeking a third term, but in September, the country's electoral commission said elections to choose his successor, originally scheduled for November, would be held in April 2018.

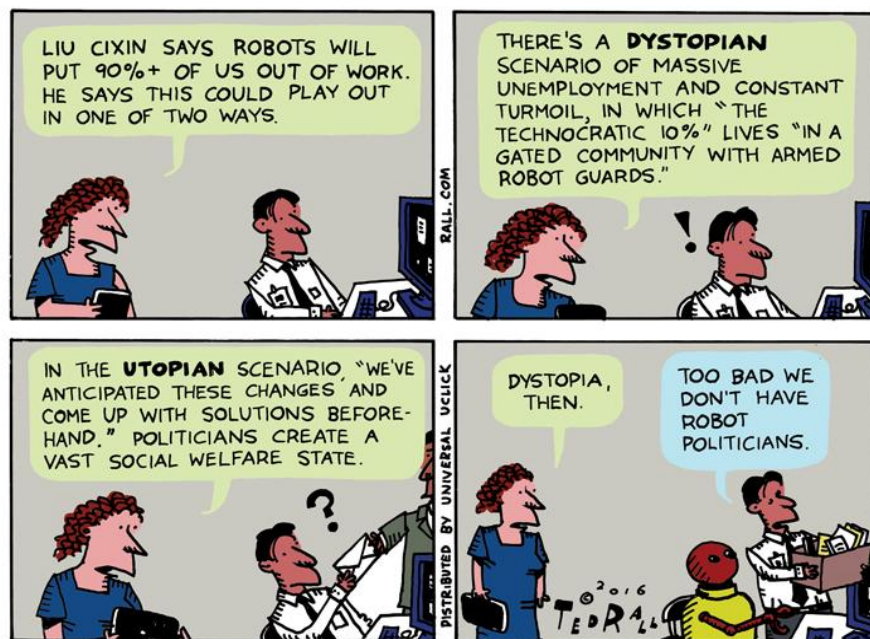
In a controversial decision, the constitutional court ruled he could remain in office until then.

The size and strength of the opposition to the president is difficult to determine in a country of 70 million people spread across a territory the size of Western Europe.

For a second straight day, the government blocked social media sites such as Twitter and WhatsApp, compounding the difficulty of determining the scope of the antigovernment unrest.

Congo's Roman Catholic bishops were expected on Wednesday to resume mediation efforts between the government and opposition. Those efforts broke down on Saturday after Mr. Kabila refused to commit to stepping down when his second term expired.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Thousands Of Social Security Recipients Are Left With Below-Poverty Incomes When U.S.

Government Confiscates Their Money: “Most Affected Recipients In Fiscal Year 2015—114,000—Were Age 50 Or Older And Receiving Disability Benefits”

“Borrowers Deemed To Be Totally And Permanently Disabled Are Entitled To Have Their Student Debt Erased, Though Many Aren’t Aware Of The Option And Still Have Checks Garnished”

Dec. 20, 2016 By JOSH MITCHELL, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

The federal government is increasingly taking money out of Americans’ Social Security checks to recover millions in unpaid student debt, a trend set to accelerate as more baby boomers retire.

The government has collected about \$1.1 billion from Social Security recipients of all ages to go toward unpaid student loans since 2001, including \$171 million last year, the Government Accountability Office said Tuesday.

Most affected recipients in fiscal year 2015—114,000—were age 50 or older and receiving disability benefits, with the typical borrower losing about \$140 a month. About 38,000 were above age 64.

The report highlights the sharp growth in baby boomers entering retirement with student debt, most of it borrowed years ago to cover their own educations but some used to pay for their children’s schooling.

Overall, about seven million Americans age 50 and older owed about \$205 billion in federal student debt last year. About 1 in 3 were in default, raising the likelihood that garnishments will increase as more boomers retire.

“I believe this is the tip of the iceberg of what may be to come if we don’t work harder on this problem,” said Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, the top Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

The report showed garnishments left thousands with Social Security checks below the poverty line, prompting Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) to call the practice “predatory.”

Both lawmakers said they will push legislation to ban it.

The government—the nation’s primary lender for college and graduate students, with a portfolio of nearly \$1.3 trillion—has long had the ability to garnish Social Security retirement checks, most disability checks, and federal workers’ wages to collect unpaid student debt.

Borrowers deemed to be totally and permanently disabled—the most extreme classification—are entitled to have their student debt erased, though many aren’t aware of the option and still have checks garnished, elected officials say. Any amount erased is taxed as ordinary income.

Federal law prohibits student-loan borrowers from expunging their debt in bankruptcy, except in rare circumstances.

But consumer advocates and some congressional Democrats say the government’s tactics have become too aggressive, targeting many borrowers who are destitute and have no hope of repaying. Most Social Security recipients rely on their checks as their primary source of income, other research shows.

Daniel Pianko, a managing director of University Ventures, which invests in for-profit and nonprofit schools, says the government may be worsening the troubles of older borrowers by promoting programs that set monthly payments as a share of borrowers’ earnings.

Payments under “income-driven repayment” programs frequently cover only part of the interest and not the principal, allowing balances to grow.

In that sense, the income-driven repayment programs have the same effect as payday lenders, trapping poor borrowers in a growing amount of debt.

“Every month and every year the loan balances go up, which means by definition this problem will only get worse,” Mr. Pianko said.

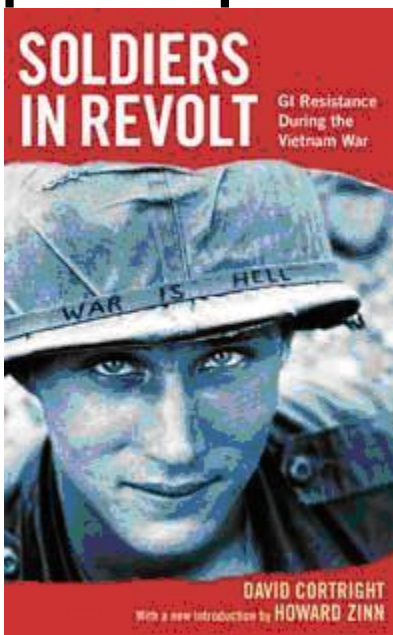
Beverly Etan, 63 years old, worries she will have her Social Security checks garnished when she retires. The nursing-home employee from Arkansas says student-debt collectors have already been garnishing her income-tax refunds over a federal loan from the early 1990s that she took out to earn an associate degree in business administration.

Ms. Etan said she couldn’t find a decent-paying job after earning the degree and ran up credit-card debt while raising three children on her own. She filed for bankruptcy in the 1990s but the student debt remained, and the balance has grown due to interest. She said she has been paying more than \$500 a month toward her student loans, but doesn’t see an end in sight.

“I’m tired. I want to stop working,” Ms. Etan said. “If I stop working, that little money that they’re going to give me, that goes towards student loans.”



FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Veteran Describes The Strategy And Tactics Used By Troops To Stop An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

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