

Military Resistance 15J1



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Veterans and troops take a stand, or a knee."]

Trump Orders US Military To Build Giant Wall In Afghanistan To Keep Terrorists Out



Photo: Dvids

September 20, 2017 by Philip Block, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON —

The Trump administration's long-awaited South Asia strategy includes plans to build a wall along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan, sources confirmed today.

The wall is expected to closely mirror the one planned for the US border with Mexico, and will feature alligator moats, electrified fences, barbed wire, and autonomous robotic machine guns that automatically shoot trespassers on sight.

The new wall is a part of broader strategy aimed at securing Afghanistan's borders from the activities of dozens of terrorists groups, defense officials say.

Among the strategy's more controversial elements is a provision banning all Muslims from entering Afghanistan, and a clause requiring all foreign-born persons to be deported.

Trump is said to have championed the idea during a recent meeting with the National Security Council.

"They said all the Taliban were coming in from Pakistan. So I was like, that sounds like our problem. All our terrorists are coming from Mexico," the president explained to reporters during a White House press briefing earlier today.

Allaying concerns about the cost of such a massive undertaking, the administration has purportedly promised to have Mexico foot the bill for the entire project.

Sources confirm that Afghan officials have agreed to build the wall after assurances were given that the estimated \$5.8 trillion needed for its construction will be directly deposited into various undisclosed offshore bank accounts.

Whiny Sen. Rand Paul Tries Ending The War In Afghanistan After Only 16 Years



Photo Credit: Gage Skidmore

9.14.2017 by Mason Bube, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — Legislation introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) failed to pass on Wednesday that would have effectively ended the war in Afghanistan and the bombing of at least six other countries, after Paul's Senate colleagues voted it down because he's a whiny little girl.

Paul, who hates freedom and America generally, was seeking to put an end to the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force, a law passed after the Sept. 11th attacks that allowed bombing of the terrorists responsible for it, the terrorists who hate the original terrorists, and Pakistani wedding parties.

"All I'm saying is if you're going to have a war, at least have a vote on it," Paul told reporters, desperately trying to convince them to "hold lawmakers accountable."

"But of course, it's too much to expect Congress to do anything that doesn't involve dinner with lobbyists."

In addition to his shameful forcing of the Senate to vote on whether to continue giving the president a blank check to drop Hellfire missiles on anyone he decides is a terrorist, Paul has in the past tried to force the National Security Agency to obtain a warrant before spying on American citizens.

"His constituents should be ashamed," Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said.

Fortunately, 61 patriotic, freedom-loving members of the U.S. Senate voted against Paul's liberal nonsense, including 13 Democrats.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome.

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier Avenges 9/11 By Giving 100-Dollar Bills To Corrupt Afghan Contractor



9.11.17 by Paul Sharpe, The Duffle Blog

KABUL, Afghanistan — Sixteen years after Sept. 11, 2001, a soldier deployed to Afghanistan is avenging the devastating terrorist attacks of that day by handing out 100-dollar bills to corrupt contractors in his area of responsibility, sources confirmed today.

“It’s a really somber day here to reflect,” said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Baker. “But we just need to remember that we are doing our part to take down these terrorist networks so they can’t do anything like that to us again, by handing out millions of dollars that will end up in the hands of the Taliban.”

In addition to doling out thousands of dollars every day to Afghans for construction projects such as schools kids won’t ever attend, barracks for Afghan Army troops they won’t live in, and \$10,000 bridges over rivers that are made from sticks and mud, Baker also fights terrorism by handing out pens and pencils to children they can later use as shrapnel for improvised explosive devices.

“This is exactly what I signed up for,” Baker said.

“My recruiter really dazzled me with stories of fighting an enemy I’d never see or understand. And then he told me about trying to enact democracy in foreign countries and I was totally sold.”

Baker first deployed to Afghanistan as a specialist in 2002, where he helped lose the trail of Osama bin Laden during Operation Anaconda.

But over 11 subsequent deployments to Afghanistan, he’s noticed an incredible amount of progress.

“When we first got here, the Afghans used to just ask us to build everything for them,” Baker said.

“But now, they have taken charge of their own country by asking us for money, so they can build it themselves.”

2,000 From Fort Bragg Off To Trump’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

9.21.2017 By: The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — More than 2,000 soldiers are deploying from Fort Bragg to Afghanistan, joining 1,500 soldiers sent there earlier this year.

The Fayetteville Observer reported that about 2,200 soldiers are heading to Afghanistan as part of a troop surge of more than 3,000 soldiers in addition to the 10,000 military personnel already serving in the country.

Fort Bragg soldiers are stationed throughout the country. They have a variety of missions, including training, advising and assisting Afghan military personnel as well as providing security for other U.S. forces in the country.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

20 Killed By Insurgents In Three Separate Attacks: “Most Of Them Regional Government Soldiers”

September 11, 2017 Harun Maruf, voanews.com

At least 16 people were killed, most of them regional government soldiers, after al-Shabab militants attacked the Somali town of Beled Hawo on Monday, officials and residents said. Four other people were killed in incidents elsewhere in the country.

Security sources say militants attacked three locations in Beled Hawo, which sits on the Somalia-Kenya border.

The first attack targeted a military base, about six kilometers outside Beled Hawo. The mayor of Beled Hawo, Mohamud Hayd Osman, told VOA Somali the militants detonated a car bomb before storming the base.

"The troops evacuated their wounded, and retreated to another location three kilometers away," he said.

Independent security sources told VOA Somali that 14 government soldiers were killed in the attack, with eight others wounded. Soldiers fled the base following the heavy attack and crossed into Kenya, the sources say.

After overrunning the base, militants entered the town and attacked the main police station, residents told VOA.

Osman says two civilians were killed in that attack. "They were unable to penetrate the station first, but they have detonated explosives on the perimeter," he said.

The third attack by the militants targeted the town's district headquarters. Osman said the militants detonated explosives at the building that houses the mayor's office, causing damage.

As al-Shabab fighters and Somali soldiers battled, Kenyan troops launched artillery fire on advancing militants to prevent them from entering Kenya.

Residents also said they saw Kenyan military helicopters in the air, trying to force al-Shabab militants to withdraw from the town. The militants retreated just over an hour after entering the town, Osman said.

Al-Shabab claimed to have killed nearly 40 soldiers and freed 35 inmates from prison. Osman denies the claim. He said police freed the prisoners in order to save them from being killed by al-Shabab.

Meanwhile, three government soldiers were killed in an ambush by militants near the town of Bal'ad, 30 kilometers from Mogadishu, witnesses said.

They told VOA Somali that militants ambushed a military convoy which departed Bal'ad on its way to Jowhar town.

In Mogadishu, a car bomb went off in the city's busiest road. Witnesses said one person was killed and four others were injured in the car bomb at Maka Al-Mukarama road.

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POLICE WAR REPORTS

White Campus Security Guard Shoots Himself, Then Blames Black Man Who Doesn't Exist to Cover It Up



Brent P. Ahlers. RAMSEY COUNTY JAIL

Sep 14, 2017 by Monique Judge, The Root

A campus security officer at a Minnesota college accidentally shot himself in the shoulder Tuesday night, and because he was afraid that he would get in trouble for the incident, he made up a story about a black gunman to cover up his mistake.

The Star Tribune reports that St. Paul police were immediately skeptical of 25-year-old Brent P. Ahlers' story that he had been shot by a black gunman in a navy blue sweatshirt with a short Afro, so they did not publicly share the description of the supposed shooter. The campus of St. Catherine University, however, was still put on lockdown for hours as 55 police officers, four K-9 units and Minnesota State Patrol aircraft searched for the alleged suspect.

Ahlers, who is white, told police Wednesday that he made up the story because he was afraid of losing his job at the Catholic university for women, where firearms are not permitted and not issued to security personnel.

He was arrested Wednesday night and cited for falsely reporting a crime, which is a misdemeanor. After being treated for a shoulder wound, he was booked into the Ramsey County jail and released on his own recognizance at 4:30 a.m., according to the Pioneer Press.

Ahler's case has been presented to the city attorney's office to be considered for charges above and beyond the false-report citation.

St. Catherine University President Becky Roloff posted a statement to the school's website Thursday evening condemning Ahler's actions and saying that he had been fired by the university:

“I want to update the community on two aspects of the issues raised in connection with the St. Catherine University Department of Public Safety officer who falsely reported having been shot on campus Tuesday night.

“First, as you know, Brent Ahlers was put on paid leave September 13 while the St. Paul Police conducted their investigation and the University completed a review of the facts. That status has now changed. He is no longer an employee of the University effective today, September 14.

“Second, I want to be clear that St. Catherine University strongly condemns racial discrimination, racial stereotyping, and racial profiling of any kind. The statements attributed to the former employee concerning the race of an alleged suspect are deeply troubling and do not reflect our values.”

Meanwhile, black leaders spoke out Thursday morning after news broke that Ahlers had confessed to making up the whole thing.

Dianne Binns, president of the St. Paul NAACP, told the Star Tribune that Ahler’s decision to describe the nonexistent suspect as a black man is rooted in the racism that perpetuated slavery and the oppression of blacks for hundreds of years.

“That’s what black people live with,” Binns said. “We’ve been lynched, and we’ve been put in jail to find out later you haven’t done it. That’s the sad thing about it. It hasn’t stopped.”

“It’s a sickening thing,” Tyrone Terrill, president of the St. Paul African-American Leadership Council, told the Tribune. “He put not only black youth at risk; he put St. Paul police and other law enforcement at risk with his lie.”

Oklahoma Cops Kill Deaf Man As Neighbors Scream ‘He Can’t Hear You’

21 September 17 By Eleanor Sheehan, Splinter

Police officers fatally shot Magdiel Sanchez, 35, who is deaf, outside of his home in Oklahoma City, OK, on Tuesday night.

When authorities arrived at Sanchez’s home investigating a hit-and-run, they found him on the porch carrying a metal walking stick. With little warning and as neighbors looked on shouting that he couldn’t hear them because he was deaf, one officer fired multiple shots at Sanchez.

The Associated Press reported that police officers Sgt. Chris Barnes and Lt. Matthew Lindsey arrived at Sanchez’s home after a car parked in the driveway matched the description of a vehicle involved in a hit-and-run near the neighborhood. However, Sanchez was not in the car when the accident occurred, his father was driving and had fled the scene of a collision that did not involve another person.

Officers apparently considered Sanchez's walking stick, which the Oklahoma City Police Department first described as a stick and later a metal pipe, a weapon. Several neighbors yelled "he can't hear you" as police officers demanded that Sanchez drop the so-called weapon. As Sanchez walked towards them, Barnes fired multiple shots at him and Lindsay fired his Taser. Both officers weren't wearing body cameras.

One witness, Jolie Guebara, later said that Sanchez carried the stick when he walked at night. "He always had a stick that he would walk around with, because there's a lot of stray dogs," Guebara told the AP, adding that she heard five or six shots.

Julio Rayos, another witness, told The Oklahoman that Sanchez couldn't hear and had difficulty communicating:

Rayos said Sanchez also had developmental disabilities and was non-verbal. "The guy does movements," Rayos said. "He don't speak, he don't hear, mainly it is hand movements. That's how he communicates. I believe he was frustrated trying to tell them what was going on."

Guebara also said that Sanchez used a notepad to communicate with people in the neighborhood. In a press conference on Wednesday morning, Police Capt. Bo Mathews said that the responding officers couldn't hear Sanchez's neighbors horrified shouts. Barnes, an 8-year veteran, has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation. The case is being investigated as a homicide.

Customs Agents Seized A Lawful Gun Owner's Truck Over Five Bullets..

"I'm Sick Of Hearing About Your Rights," The Agent Said, According To Serrano's Lawsuit. "You Have No Rights Here"

"How Do They Get Away With This? How Could This Happen?"

September 13 By Christopher Ingraham, Washington Post

On Sept. 21, 2015, Gerardo Serrano was driving from his home in Kentucky to Piedras Negras, Mexico, when his truck was searched by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at Texas's Eagle Pass border crossing.

After finding a small ammunition clip, the agents took Serrano's truck from him.

Two years later, Customs hasn't charged Serrano with a crime, and they haven't given his truck back either.

Now he's suing over what he calls a violation of his constitutional rights.

Customs seized the truck under the laws of civil asset forfeiture, which allow authorities to take cash and property from citizens upon suspicion of criminal wrongdoing. Because it happens under civil law, no criminal conviction — or even criminal charge — is necessary for authorities to take property they believe is connected to a crime.

Supporters call civil forfeiture a valuable crime fighting tool that allows authorities to take criminals' ill-gotten gains and put them to good use. Critics, like Serrano, contend the practice is an invitation to abuse that ensnares thousands of innocent citizens each year.

Serrano's case hinges on the meaning of those five bullets.

Serrano is originally from Chicago but he's lived on a farm in Kentucky for 20 years. A lifelong Republican, he unsuccessfully ran for a seat in Kentucky's House of Representatives in 2014 on an explicitly pro-Second Amendment platform.

He describes himself as a civil libertarian, and has a concealed carry permit for a Sig Sauer .380 pistol he carries for self-defense.

"I believe in freedom," he said in an interview with The Washington Post. "That's what made this country great, is our freedom, our liberty."

In September 2015, Serrano drove his new Ford F-250 pickup from his home in Kentucky to the Mexico border. He was going to visit a cousin he hadn't seen in many years.

He snapped a few photos with his phone as he drove through the checkpoint, planning to upload them to Facebook, just as he says he had been doing throughout his whole trip, to share the experience with friends and family back home.

That's when the trouble started. One of Serrano's photos shows two Customs agents looking in his direction, hands held up. According to his lawsuit, the agents objected to his taking photos.

Those agents waved him over to the side of the road, on the U.S. side of the border, and demanded he hand over his phone.

Serrano said "no."

Customs declined to say whether there's a prohibition on photography at border crossings.

Customs also declined a request from The Washington Post to speak with the agents involved with the seizure of Serrano's truck, or to provide any report of the incident they

may have written up. Serrano submitted a FOIA request for these documents in December 2016. Customs assigned a tracking number to this request, according to his lawsuit, but has not otherwise responded to it.

Customs also declined to comment on any issue pertaining to the case, issuing a statement instead: "As a matter of policy, we do not comment on pending litigation. However, lack of comment should not be construed as agreement or stipulation with any of the allegations."

According to Serrano's lawsuit, as he tried to explain himself, one of the agents unlocked Serrano's door, unbuckled his seat belt, and yanked him out of the car.

"I know I didn't do anything wrong," Serrano told The Post. "So I say 'listen, you can't yank me out like that, I'm an American, you can't do that to me.'"

The agent took his phone, and demanded Serrano give him the passcode.

Serrano recalls he told the agent to "go get a warrant."

By this time, other agents had started searching his truck. "I said, 'Hey listen I have rights, you're violating my rights, you're not supposed to do that kind of stuff,'" Serrano recounted.

"I'm Sick Of Hearing About Your Rights," The Agent Said, According To Serrano's Lawsuit. "You Have No Rights Here"

"I'm sick of hearing about your rights," the agent said, according to Serrano's lawsuit. "You have no rights here."

Eventually, one of the agents searching the truck found an ammunition clip containing five .380-caliber bullets and yelled "we got him!," according to the lawsuit.

The bullets in Serrano's truck were a problem because civilian firearm ownership is illegal in most cases in Mexico, unlike in the United States. The State Department says that hundreds of Americans are arrested in foreign countries each year for carrying guns that are perfectly legal in the United States.

But those arrests typically happen south of the border, not in the United States. "It's definitely unusual to search a car that's leaving the country," said Robert Everett Johnson of the Institute for Justice, a civil liberties law firm that is representing Serrano in federal court and a longtime forfeiture opponent. "The normal focus with CBP is on people coming into the country, not people going out of the country."

Serrano had planned to take his pistol on the trip, but he left it home at the strong urging of his cousin, who explained the potential consequences of bringing it to Mexico. But he didn't realize the extra ammunition clip, containing five .380 caliber rounds, was still in the center console of his truck.

At the crossing, the CBP agents put Serrano in handcuffs and continued to ask him to give up the passcode.

“You go get that warrant,” Serrano says he told them. “I’ll wait for you in jail.”

Serrano didn’t believe that any judge would grant a warrant to search a phone for taking pictures at the border. He says he was trying to call what he believed to be the agents’ bluff. “A lot of people don’t understand basic civil rights,” he said.

For Serrano, there was also the principle of the whole thing.

“I ran for office here in Kentucky,” Serrano said. “I ran on principles of the Constitution and my rights. Everyone knows me as a Second Amendment guy. It would be hypocritical of me to talk one way in my home state and then give (CBP) what (they) want. I have to stand by my principles.”

The agents eventually placed Serrano in a locked cell without food, water or a toilet, Serrano says. Periodically someone would come in and ask for the passcode to his phone, he says. He refused every time.

Serrano says that after three hours, the agents told him he was free to go, returned his phone and said he wasn’t being arrested or charged with any crime. Serrano says he was elated and thought he “wore them out.”

But then, the agents handed him a document informing him that Customs was taking his truck and the ammunition clip. Those items were “subject of legally becoming the property of the Federal Government (forfeiture),” according to the document, because Serrano had failed to disclose the presence of the clip, making the truck a “conveyance of illegal exportation.”

Serrano told the agents to arrest him. “If I did something wrong I’d prefer they arrest me because I knew I’d win in court,” he said

They declined.

Many Americans haven’t heard of civil asset forfeiture, the legal provision that grants police the authority to seize cash and property from people not charged with a crime.

The practice doesn’t follow the traditional American concept of “innocent until proven guilty.” If police suspect that you acquired something as a result of illegal activity, or even if it is connected to illegal activity, they can take it from you. If you want to get it back, the onus is on you to prove you got it legally.

Once property is seized and forfeited, in most states and at the federal level police can either keep it for themselves or sell it at auction to raise money for the department. Critics say this creates a perverse profit motive.

“Civil forfeiture allows the government to take your property without giving you any of the protections you get under the Constitution” as part of the criminal justice system, said Robert Johnson, Serrano’s attorney. “That’s an open invitation to abuse.”

The practice is widespread. In 2014, for instance, federal law enforcement officers alone took more than \$5 billion worth of cash and property from people — more than the total amount of reported burglary losses that year.

After public outcry, the Obama administration put in place a number of restrictions on forfeiture that made it harder, in some cases, for authorities to take property without a criminal conviction. But Attorney General Jeff Sessions recently reversed those restrictions.

Serrano eventually rented a car to get back home to Kentucky.

Several weeks later he received a formal forfeiture notice from Customs, informing him that the government believed his truck was being used to transport “arms or munitions of war.” The notice gave him a number of options to pursue if he wanted his truck back.

One of the options was to make an “offer in compromise” — send Customs a check, and if they deemed the amount to be high enough, they would return his truck to him.

“That’s like a shakedown,” Serrano said, “give us an offer and we’ll figure out if it’s enough.”

Serrano’s federal forfeiture notice gave him the option of sending an unspecified sum to Customs to get his truck back.

Serrano opted to challenge the seizure in court.

“Gerardo didn’t want to throw himself at the mercy of the agency,” said Johnson, his lawyer. “He wanted the judicial system to put it right. He invoked his right to a judge.”

Serrano filled out the paperwork immediately and wrote Customs a check for nearly \$4,000 — a bond in the “penal sum” of 10 percent of the truck’s value, which the agency required of Serrano to challenge the forfeiture in court.

Serrano’s bank records show that Customs cashed the check on Oct. 30, 2015. Nearly two years later, they still have his truck.

Serrano’s lawsuit, filed on Sept. 7, seeks the immediate return of his vehicle, compensatory damages, and an injunction against federal agencies prohibiting them from similarly seizing property without prompt hearings in the future.

“Two years is too long to wait,” Johnson said. “Just like you get a hearing within 48 hours of being arrested, you should be entitled to a hearing promptly after your property is taken.”

Serrano, for his part, has spent the past two years making loan and insurance payments on a truck sitting somewhere in a Customs impound lot. He’s become disillusioned by the government he once sought to join as an elected official.

“It’s like there’s a war going on and they want to make war with my Bill of Rights,” he said. “How do they get away with this? How could this happen?”

Man Arrested for Asking Question at GOP Senator’s Town Hall

06 September 17 By Mallory Shelbourne, The Hill

Local police are reportedly planning to charge a man who attended Sen. Patrick Toomey’s (R-Pa.) town hall after he asked the senator a question that was perceived as “threatening.”

The exchange between Toomey and the man, reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, led Bethlehem, Pa., police to remove the man, who law enforcement said they would charge with disrupting a public meeting and disorderly conduct.

According to the Post-Gazette, Simon Radecki of Northampton County asked Toomey a question about a family member in an effort to talk about immigration.

“We’ve been here for a while. You probably haven’t seen the news. Can you confirm whether or not your daughter Bridget has been kidnapped?” Radecki asked the senator.

After several seconds, Radecki then said, “The reason I ask is because that’s the reality of families that suffer deportation.”

Tim Fallon, the CEO of PBS39, which aired last week’s town hall, described the exchange to the newspaper as “one of the scariest things that I have ever been a part of.”

The incident caused the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania to come to Radecki’s defense, however.

The group’s legal director said the ACLU would “love to talk” to Radecki should he require legal assistance.

“You aren’t going to show that intent, and the disruption stemmed not from his question but the response to it,” Vic Walczak, the legal director, told the Post-Gazette.

A spokesman for Toomey called the question “reprehensible.” “Asking questions that are based upon kidnapping a child is not only reprehensible, but it is inherently threatening,” Steve Kelly told the newspaper.

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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.
-- Karl Marx quoted by V. Lenin in State And Revolution; 1917**

**There is something in human history like retribution; and it is a rule of historical retribution that its instrument be forged not by the offended, but by the offender himself.
-- Karl Marx; Dispatches For The New York Tribune. September 16, 1857**

Popolo; popolo; muoiano i tiranni!
-- Machiavelli; History of Florence, Book III

When society places hundreds of proletarians in such a position that they inevitably meet a too early and an unnatural death, one which is quite as much a death by violence as that by the sword or bullet; its deed is murder just as surely as the deed of the single individual.

-- Friedrich Engels; The Condition of the Working Class in England; 1845

Graves Registration

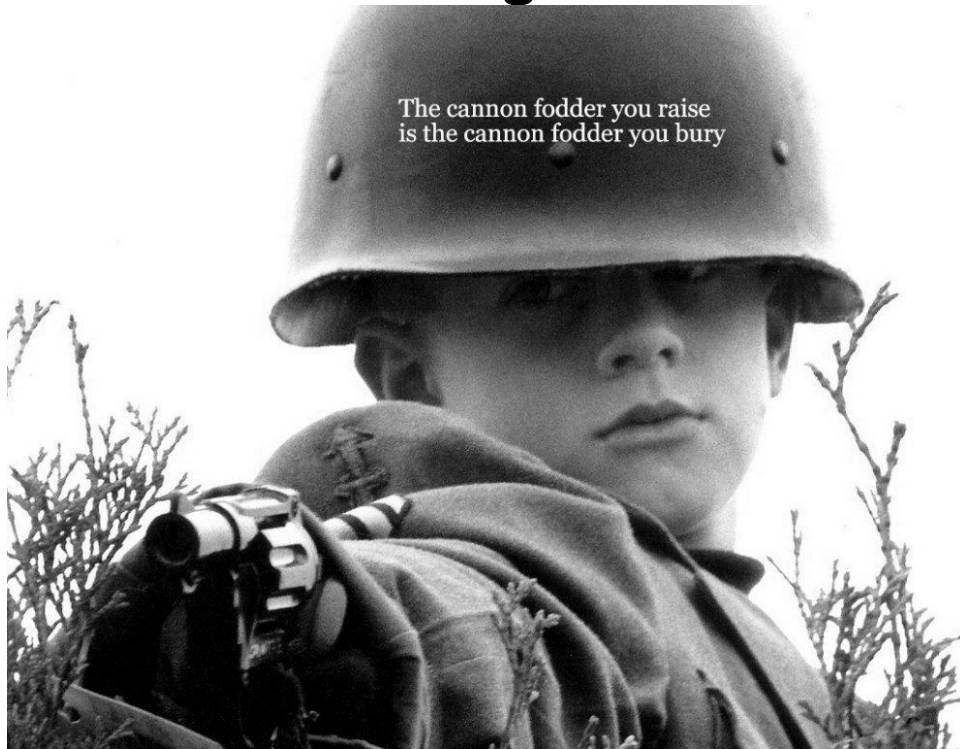


Photo by Mike Hastie: Veterans Day Parade. Albany, Oregon 1992

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: September 13, 2017
Subject: Graves Registration

Graves Registration

**When the helicopters landed,
the Aero-rifle platoon got off
the choppers with their heads
down.**

No one spoke to each other.

The deuce-and-a-half truck
was waiting to take the dead
soldier to the morgue.

His name was

Clifford Eugene Bench.

Specialist Four, D Troop,

1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry

1st Field Force.

Born May 28, 1952

Died March 16, 1971.

He was 19.

From the senior prom
to Vietnam.

Eugene,

as his D Troop buddies called him,

joined the Army right out of high
school.

His father was a WWII combat veteran,
who was extremely proud of his service.

Throughout his son's childhood, his father
bought him countless war toys.

There were plenty of pictures of him
in the family photo albums displaying
those plastic guns.

Eugene wanted to be a hero,
and serve his country.

He received a Purple Heart for
dying in Vietnam.

Dying for his country.

To keep America free and safe.

When his mother was at her son's
grave site three weeks later, an Army
Lt. handed her the folded American flag
that covered his casket.

This is what that decorated Army Lt.
said to her:

" This flag is presented on behalf of a
grateful nation and the United States
Army as a token of appreciation for your
loved one's honorable and faithful service."

Clifford Eugene Bench

died in Vietnam from a sniper round that
penetrated his head, resulting in immediate
death.

His mother was told that he did not experience
any pain or suffering.

She appreciated the token comment.

When she got home after the funeral,
she took those photo albums and put
them in the attic.

Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
Full Disclosure

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



[Thanks to David McReynolds for posting]

“There Is A Compelling Case To Be Made That Both Poverty In An Absolute Sense And Inequality Have Increased In The Face Of Globalization”

Selected Journalism of Karl Marx;
Dispatches From The New York Tribune
Penguin Books, 2007

From the forward by Francis Wheen [Excerpts]

According to its many adherents, free trade meant that tariffs would come down, that trade would flourish, and thus that the secret to widespread prosperity had been unlocked

That was---and to some extent still is---the official view of history; but it was not the world that Marx saw.

He saw a political system dominated by hypocrisy and illegitimate power. He saw, perhaps more dearly than anyone else of his time, that increasing wealth did not eliminate poverty and human suffering even in the world's most prosperous countries, and indeed appeared to make the problems worse.

He saw Britain--- ostensibly one of the world's most democratic countries---twist and conceal the diplomatic record in order to launch disastrous wars abroad, both in the Crimea and in China.

He saw autocratic powers in France and Austria manipulate the fragile workings of democracy in order to preserve their own power and enrich their cronies.

And, perhaps most of all, he saw that the prosperity of the West depended in no small part on the enforced trade of opium and the increased trade in slavery---and that Western powers were all too willing to engage in lethal force to protect those trades.

Indeed, there is a compelling case to be made that both poverty in an absolute sense and inequality have increased in the face of globalization.

According to United Nation figures, the average African household consumed 20 per cent less at the end of the twentieth century than it did a quarter of a century earlier.

Falling commodity prices---a direct result of enforced free trade---and billions of dollars in protectionism from First-World countries---an example of the limits of Western commitment to genuine free trade---mean that farmers in Africa and Latin America must increase production every year just to make the same amount of money---a treadmill Marx would have recognized all too well.

1915: World War I

“The Struggle Against The Government That Conducts The Imperialist War Must Not Halt In Any Country Before The Possibility Of That Country’s Defeat”

March 29, 1915, V.I. Ulyanov, Sostial Demokrat [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family. Excerpts]

Some of the means employed to fool the working class are pacifism and the abstract preachment of peace.

A propaganda of peace at the present time, if not accompanied by a call to revolutionary mass actions, is only capable of spreading illusions, of demoralizing the proletariat by imbuing it with confidence in the humanitarianism of the bourgeoisie, and of making it a plaything in the hands of the secret diplomacy of the belligerent countries.

In particular, the idea of the possibility of a so-called democratic peace without a series of revolutions is deeply erroneous.

The struggle against the government that conducts the imperialist war must not halt in any country before the possibility of that country’s defeat in consequence of revolutionary propaganda.

The defeat of the governmental army weakens the government, aids the liberation of the nationalities oppressed by it, and makes civil war against the ruling classes easier.

“Whilst Large-Scale Industry Preached Freedom And Peace Between Nations It Also Turned The World Into An Armed Camp As Never Before In History”

Comment: T

As may be seen in the article below, the enemy of every American soldier is the Imperial Government in Washington DC.

The class of capitalists who command the political power of this society have heaped up the wealth on top, and keep grabbing for more, using their government to do it, while the rest of us try to scrape buy, unable to buy what capitalism could produce.

Thus we see the present mountain of idle productive capacity worldwide, while trillions of \$ of the wealth our labor produces are appropriated by their class and sits hoarded in their banks, finding no profitable investment for them anywhere, as they will only produce what we need if there is profit in it for them.

Those who are not rich and powerful have nothing to gain from Imperial wars of invasion and occupation, earnestly work for their defeat, and offer every possible assistance to the soldiers organizing against Imperial war.

There are many U.S. soldiers today who understand who their enemy is: the Imperial domestic enemy headquartered in Washington DC.

Americans who have nothing to gain from Wars of Empire -- civilians and troops together -- will strike down the Imperial regime that infests Washington DC, thereby regaining our liberties and wellbeing.

That storm will come.

From: KARL MARX; The Story of His Life
By Franz Mehring, 1918
Translated from the German by Edward Fitzgerald

The capitalist mode of production, an embodied contradiction, both produces and destroys modern states.

It intensifies all national antagonisms to the utmost and at the same time it creates all nations in its own image.

So long as the capitalist mode of production exists, these contradictions are insoluble, and therefore the brotherhood of man about which all bourgeois revolutions have sung so sweetly has suffered defeat again and again.

Whilst large-scale industry preached freedom and peace between nations it also turned the world into an armed camp as never before in history.

However, with the disappearance of the capitalist mode of production its contradictions will vanish also. It is true that the proletarian struggle for emancipation must develop on a national basis because the capitalist process of production develops within national limits, and in the beginning therefore the proletariat in each country finds itself face to face with its own bourgeoisie.

Despite this, however, the proletariat need not submit to the merciless competition which has always destroyed all bourgeois dreams of international peace and freedom.

As soon as the workers realize that they must get rid of competition in their own ranks if they are to offer effective resistance to the superior power of capital — and this realization coincides with the first awakening of their class-consciousness — then it is only a step to the deeper realization that competition between the working classes of the various countries must cease too, and still further that the working classes must cooperate internationally if they are to overthrow the international dominance of the bourgeoisie.

Very early in the history of the modern working-class movement therefore, a tendency towards internationalism made itself felt.

What the bourgeoisie, thanks to the narrowing of its horizon by its profit interests, regards as unpatriotic, as ignorance and lack of understanding, is in reality a vital condition for the very existence of the proletarian struggle for emancipation.

Although this struggle can solve the antagonism between nationalism and internationalism, whilst the bourgeoisie is condemned to writhe under it as long as it lives, the workers possess no magic wand in this respect any more than in any other, and they are not able to turn the hard and difficult climb into a level and easy path.

The modern working class has to fight its battles under conditions created by historical development.

ANNIVERSARIES

**September 20, 1830:
Honorable Anniversary:
“A Group Of 38 Free Black Americans
From Eight States, Met In Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, With The Express Purpose
Of Abolishing Slavery”**

Carl Bunin Peace History September 17-23

The National Negro Convention, a group of 38 free black Americans from eight states, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the social status of African Americans.

They elected Richard Allen president and agreed to boycott slave-produced goods and encourage free-produce organizations. The most active would be the Colored Female Free Produce Society, which urged the boycott of all slave-produced goods.



Richard Allen

The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage, by Susan Altman, Copyright 1997, Facts on File, Inc. New York [Excerpt]

September 20, 1830

On this date in 1830, the National Negro Convention met in Philadelphia, PA. This group gathered for the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the status of African Americans.

This first meeting of the National Negro Convention would initiate a trend that would continue for the next three decades.

The formation of another organization had been recommended one which would be called the "American Society of Free Persons of Labor." This group would branch out to several states and hold their own conventions.

These, in turn, would lead to the formation of other organizations. The number of conventions, held at local, state, and national levels, blossomed to such a level that, in 1859, one paper would report that "colored conventions are almost as frequent as church meetings."

September 28, 1917:

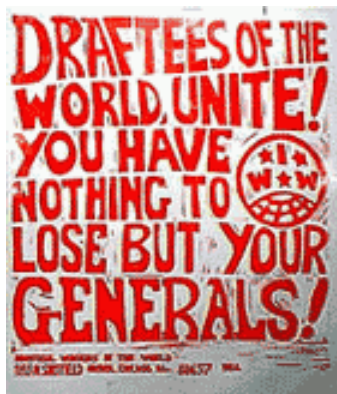
IWW Members Indicted For Doing The Right Thing: “Trying To Cause Insubordination, Disloyalty, And Refusal Of Duty In The Military And Naval Forces”

Carl Bunin Peace History Sept 27 - Oct 3

166 people who were (or had been) active in the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World, whose members were also known as Wobblies) were indicted for protesting World War I.

They were accused of trying to “cause insubordination, disloyalty, and refusal of duty in the military and naval forces” in violation of the Espionage Act. One hundred and one defendants were found guilty, and received prison sentences ranging from days to twenty years, with accompanying fines of \$10,000-\$20,000.

This was part of a successful U.S. government campaign to cripple the radical union movement. **[Successful, that is, until the revolutionary Russian working class took power a month later, in October 1917, got their soldiers out of Imperial World War I, and lit a fire that spread over the world, including here in the USA. T]**



The Jerry Rescue: Most Honorable Anniversary: October 1, 1851:

“A Group Of Men Forcibly Overpowered The Guards With Clubs And Axes And Freed Jerry A Second Time”

Carl Bunin Peace History October 1-7

In the “Jerry Rescue,” citizens of Syracuse, New York, broke into the city’s police station and freed William Henry (called Jerry), a runaway slave working as a barrel-maker.

The federal Fugitive Slave Law required “good citizens” to assist in the return of those who had fled “ownership” by another.

A group of black and white men created a chaotic diversion and managed to free Jerry but he was later re-arrested.

At his second hearing, a group of men, their skin color disguised with burnt cork, forcibly overpowered the guards with clubs and axes and freed Jerry a second time; he was then secretly taken over the border to Canada.

NYHistory.com

Among the more interesting events in Syracuse history is the story of the Jerry Rescue.

The event occurred on October 1, 1851, while the anti-slavery Liberty Party was holding its New York State Convention.

Leaders of the local Abolition movement, including Underground Railroad Stationmaster Jermain Loguen and others, had organized a local committee to thwart enforcement of the recently adopted Fugitive Slave Law.

The previous May, then Secretary of State Daniel Webster repeated his previous criticism of the Abolitionists and their promise to thwart the law.

Webster proclaimed from a balcony facing Syracuse City Hall that the law “will be executed in all the great cities - here in Syracuse - in the midst of the next Anti-Slavery Convention, if the occasion shall arise.”

And so it did.

Around noon on October 1, federal marshals from Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, and Canandaigua, accompanied by the local police, arrested a man who called himself Jerry. also known as William Henry.

Jerry was working as a barrel maker, and was arrested at his workplace. He was originally told the charge was theft until after he was in manacles.

On being informed that he was being arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, he put up substantial resistance, but was subdued.

Word of the arrest quickly reached the Convention, then in session at a nearby church. There are reports that the wife of Commissioner Sabine, who would hear the case, had already leaked plans of the arrest.

By pre-arranged signal, church bells began ringing, and a crowd gathered at Sabine's office, where Jerry had been taken for arraignment.

An immediate effort to free the prisoner was unsuccessful, and though he escaped to the street in irons, he was rapidly recaptured.

The arraignment was put off until evening and relocated to a larger room. A large crowd gathered in the street, this time equipped for a more serious rescue attempt.

With a battering ram the door was broken in and despite pistol shots out the window by one of the deputy marshals, it became clear that the crowd was too large and determined to be resisted.

The prisoner was surrendered, and one deputy marshal broke his arm jumping from a window to escape the crowd.

The injured prisoner was hidden in the city for several days in the home of a local butcher known for his anti-abolitionist sentiments, and later taken in a wagon to Oswego, where he crossed Lake Ontario into Canada.

The following day, Gerrit Smith introduced the following resolution, adopted at the Liberty Party convention:

“WHEREAS, Daniel Webster, That base and infamous enemy of the human race, did in a speech of which he delivered himself, in Syracuse last Spring, exultingly and insultingly predict that fugitive slaves would yet be taken away from Syracuse and even from anti-slavery conventions in Syracuse, and whereas the attempt to fulfill this prediction was delayed until the first day of October, 1851, when the Liberty party of the State of New York were holding their annual convention in Syracuse; and whereas the attempt was defeated by the mighty uprising of 2,500 brave men, before whom the half-dozen kidnappers were ‘as tow’, therefore,

“Resolved, That we rejoice that the City of Syracuse- the anti-slavery city of Syracuse- the city of anti-slavery conventions, our beloved and glorious city of Syracuse- still remains undisgraced by the fulfillment of the satanic prediction of the satanic Daniel Webster.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Military-Industrial Complex Recalls Coming Together In Aftermath Of 9/11



1234

9.11.17 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Marveling at how the government and defense contractors united in response to the tragic events, leaders of the nation’s military-industrial complex on Monday recalled coming together in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks.

“In the wake of the horrific tragedy, we knew we had to join together behind a single purpose,” said Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg, recounting the days after the September 11 attacks in which weapons manufacturers and the nation’s armed forces fortified an alliance to further the cause of military interventions around the world.

“We knew there would be difficult times ahead, but we worked side by side to advocate for an aggressive wartime doctrine and massively increased defense spending. It’s a small consolation, but an unprecedented tragedy brought the military-industrial complex closer together and inevitably made us stronger than ever before.”

At press time, Muilenburg told reporters that the nation’s military-industrial complex was rallying once again to create new defense contracts around a possible U.S. military response to North Korea’s nuclear program.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK

Top 10% Now Own 77% of American Wealth

29 September 17 By Jake Johnson, Moyers & Company [Excerpt]

As President Donald Trump and the Republican Party unveiled their “cruel joke” of a tax plan that would provide an enormous boon for the rich disguised as a “middle class miracle,” an analysis by the People’s Policy Project (3P) published Wednesday found that the top 10 percent of the income distribution now owns a “stunning” 77 percent of America’s wealth while those in the bottom 10 percent are “net debtors,” owning -0.5 percent of the nation’s wealth.

In response to the analysis, conducted by 3P president Matt Bruenig, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) wrote on Twitter: “Meanwhile, the Walton family of Walmart has a net worth of \$144 billion. This is what a rigged economy looks like.”

“We do not live in a democracy. We live in an oligarchy,” added the progressive group Digital Left.

3P’s examination of newly released Federal Reserve data also found that “[t]he bottom 38 percent of American families have an average net worth of \$0.”

By contrast, the top one percent — set to benefit massively from Trump’s tax agenda — owns 38.5 percent of the nation’s wealth. In 1989, that number was 29.9 percent.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bombshell Revelations From Hillary Clinton’s New Memoir

9.12.17 The Onion

What Happened, a new memoir detailing the trials and tribulations of Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign, was released today, with Clinton supporters and detractors already divided on its contents.

Here are some of Hillary’s bombshell revelations:

Never really understood what the “H” arrow campaign logo was going for

Respected her opponent Bernie Sanders but simply believed a presidential election is not the time to push progressive policies

Still receives fan mail from little girls asking for her advice on how to appeal to wealthy centrists

Regrets not killing James Comey

Briefly toyed with the idea of campaigning under the pseudonym H.R. Clemens to avoid misogynist critics

Concedes that she might be partially responsible for 15 months' worth of her actions, words, and policies on the campaign trail

Quietly ran for president in 2012

A 45-page diatribe excoriates DNC intern Jason Whitcomb for his failure to stuff election mailers correctly

Calls Donald Trump "creepy" but admits he can throw one hell of a wedding

Has clearly already forgotten who her VP pick was



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