

## **Military Resistance 17D3**

**“The Pathway Of Tyrants Lies  
Over Volcanoes”**

**“Oppression, Organized As Ours Is,  
Will Appear Invincible Up To The  
Very Hour Of Its Fall”**

**“Those Who Enslave, Rob, And Torment  
Their Cooks, May Well Expect To Find  
Death In Their Dinner-Pots”**



Your fathers have said that man's right to liberty is self-evident. There is no need of argument to make it clear. The voices of nature, of conscience, of reason, and of revelation, proclaim it as the right of all rights, the foundation of all trust, and of all responsibility. The sun in the sky is not more palpable to the sight than man's right to liberty is to the moral vision.

**Not all the skill of politicians, North and South, not all the sophistries of Judges, not all the fulminations of a corrupt press, not all the hypocritical prayers, or the hypocritical refusals to pray of a hollow-hearted priesthood, not all the devices of sin and Satan, can save the vile thing from extermination.**

**May 1857 By Frederick Douglass, Speech on the Dred Scott Decision [Excerpt]**

**[Dred Scott v. Sandford was a decision by the United States Supreme Court, 1857, written by Chief Justice Taney, ruling that people of African descent imported into the United States and held as slaves (or their descendants, whether or not they were slaves) were not protected by the Constitution, and that “The negro has no rights which the white man is bound to respect.”]**

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While four millions of our fellow countrymen are in chains--while men, women, and children are bought and sold on the auction-block with horses, sheep, and swine--while the remorseless slave--whip draws the warm blood of our common humanity--it is meet that we assemble as we have done to-day, and lift up our hearts and voices in earnest denunciation of the vile and shocking abomination.

It is not for us to be governed by our hopes or our fears in this great work; yet it is natural on occasions like this, to survey the position of the great struggle which is going on between slavery and freedom, and to dwell upon such signs of encouragement as may have been lately developed, and the state of feeling these signs or events have occasioned in us and among the people generally.

It is a fitting time to take an observation to ascertain where we are, and what our prospects are.

To many, the prospects of the struggle against slavery seem far from cheering.

Eminent men, North and South, in Church and State, tell us that the omens are all against us.

Emancipation, they tell us, is a wild, delusive idea; the price of human flesh was never higher than now; slavery was never more closely entwined about the hearts and affections of the southern people than now; that whatever of conscientious scruple, religious conviction, or public policy, which opposed the system of slavery forty or fifty years ago, has subsided; and that slavery never reposed upon a firmer basis than now.

Completing this picture of the happy and prosperous condition of this system of wickedness, they tell us that this state of things is to be set to our account. Abolition agitation has done it all.

How deep is the misfortune of my poor, bleeding people, if this be so! How lost their condition, if even the efforts of their friends but sink them deeper in ruin!

Without assenting to this strong representation of the increasing strength and stability of slavery, without denouncing what of untruth pervades it, I own myself not insensible to

the many difficulties and discouragement that beset us on every hand. They fling their broad and gloomy shadows across the pathway of every thoughtful colored man in this country.

For one, I see them clearly, and feel them sadly. With an earnest, aching heart, I have long looked for the realization of the hope of my people. Standing, as it were, barefoot, and treading upon the sharp and flinty rocks of the present, and looking out upon the boundless sea of the future, I have sought, in my humble way, to penetrate the intervening mists and clouds, and, perchance, to descry, in the dim and shadowy distance, the white flag of freedom, the precise speck of time at which the cruel bondage of my people should end, and the long entombed millions rise from the foul grave of slavery and death.

But of that time I can know nothing, and you can know nothing. All is uncertain at that point.

One thing, however, is certain; slaveholders are in earnest, and mean to cling to their slaves as long as they can, and to the bitter end.

They show no sign of a wish to quit their iron grasp upon the sable throats of their victims.

Their motto is, "a firmer hold and a tighter grip" for every new effort that is made to break their cruel power.

The case is one of life or death with them, and they will give up only when they must do that or do worse.

In one view the slaveholders have a decided advantage over all opposition.

It is well to notice this advantage--the advantage of complete organization.

They are organized; and yet were not at the pains of creating their organizations.

The State governments, where the system of slavery exists, are complete slavery organizations.

The church organizations in those States are equally at the service of slavery; while the Federal Government, with its army and navy, from the chief magistracy in Washington, to the Supreme Court, and thence to the chief marshalship at New York, is pledged to support, defend, and propagate the crying curse of human bondage.

**The pen, the purse, and the sword, are united against the simple truth, preached by humble men in obscure places.**

This is one view.

It is, thank God, only one view; there is another, and a brighter view.

David, you know, looked small and insignificant when going to meet Goliath, but looked larger when he had slain his foe.

The Malakoff [a fortress in Russia stormed by French soldiers] was, to the eye of the world, impregnable, till the hour it fell before the shot and shell of the allied army.

**Thus hath it ever been.**

**Oppression, organized as ours is, will appear invincible up to the very hour of its fall.**

Sir, let us look at the other side, and see if there are not some things to cheer our heart and nerve us up anew in the good work of emancipation.

**Take this fact--for it is a fact--the anti-slavery movement has, from first to last, suffered no abatement.**

**It has gone forth in all directions, and is now felt in the remotest extremities of the Republic.**

**It started small, and was without capital either in men or money. The odds were all against it.**

**It literally had nothing to lose, and everything to gain.**

There was ignorance to be enlightened, error to be combatted, conscience to be awakened, prejudice to be overcome, apathy to be aroused, the right of speech to be secured, mob violence to be subdued, and a deep, radical change to be wrought in the mind and heart of the whole nation.

This great work, under God, has gone on, and gone on gloriously.

Amid all changes, fluctuations, assaults, and adverses of every kind, it has remained firm in its purpose, steady in its aim, onward and upward, defying all opposition, and never losing a single battle.

Our strength is in the growth of anti-slavery conviction, and this has never halted.

There is a significant vitality about this abolition movement. It has taken a deeper, broader, and more lasting hold upon the national heart than ordinary reform movements. Other subjects of much interest come and go, expand and contract, blaze and vanish, but the huge question of American Slavery, comprehending, as it does, not merely the weal or the woe of four millions, and their countless posterity, but the weal or the woe of this entire nation, must increase in magnitude and in majesty with every hour of its history.

From a cloud not bigger than a man's hand, it has overspread the heavens.

It has risen from a grain not bigger than a mustard seed. Yet see the fowls of the air, how they crowd its branches.

Politicians who cursed it, now defend it; ministers, once dumb, now speak in its praise; and presses, which once flamed with hot denunciations against it, now surround the sacred cause as by a wall of living fire.

Politicians go with it as a pillar of cloud by day, and the press as a pillar of fire by night. With these ancient tokens of success, I, for one, will not despair of our cause.

Those who have undertaken to suppress and crush out this agitation for Liberty and humanity, have been most woefully disappointed.

Many who have engaged to put it down, have found themselves put down.

The agitation has pursued them in all their meanderings, broken in upon their seclusion, and, at the very moment of fancied security, it has settled down upon them like a mantle of unquenchable fire.

Clay, Calhoun, and Webster each tried his hand at suppressing the agitation; and they went to their graves disappointed and defeated.

Loud and exultingly have we been told that the slavery question is settled, and settled forever.

You remember it was settled thirty-seven years ago, when Missouri was admitted into the Union with a slaveholding constitution, and slavery prohibited in all territory north of thirty-six degrees of north latitude.

Just fifteen years afterwards, it was settled again by voting down the right of petition, and gagging down free discussion in Congress.

Ten years after this it was settled again by the annexation of Texas, and with it the war with Mexico.

In 1850 it was again settled. This was called a final settlement. By it slavery was virtually declared to be the equal of Liberty, and should come into the Union on the same terms. By it the right and the power to hunt down men, women, and children, in every part of this country, was conceded to our southern brethren, in order to keep them in the Union.

Four years after this settlement, the whole question was once more settled, and settled by a settlement which unsettled all the former settlements.

**The fact is, the more the question has been settled, the more it has needed settling.**

The space between the different settlements has been strikingly on the decrease.

The first stood longer than any of its successors.

This last settlement must be called the Taney settlement. We are now --the second, ten years--the third, five years--the fourth stood four years --and the fifth has stood the brief space of two years.

This last settlement must be called the Taney settlement.

We are now told, in tones of lofty exultation, that the day is lost all lost and that we might as well give up the struggle. The highest authority has spoken. The voice of the Supreme Court has gone out over the troubled waves of the National Conscience, saying peace, be still.

This infamous decision of the Slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court maintains that slaves are within the contemplation of the Constitution of the United States, property; that slaves are property in the same sense that horses, sheep, and swine are property; that the old doctrine that slavery is a creature of local law is false; that the right of the slaveholder to his slave does not depend upon the local law, but is secured wherever the Constitution of the United States extends; that Congress has no right to prohibit slavery anywhere; that slavery may go in safety anywhere under the star-spangled banner; that colored persons of African descent have no rights that white men are bound to respect; that colored men of African descent are not and cannot be citizens of the United States.

You will readily ask me how I am affected by this devilish decision--this judicial incarnation of wolfishness?

My answer is, and no thanks to the slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court, my hopes were never brighter than now.

I have no fear that the National Conscience will be put to sleep by such an open, glaring, and scandalous tissue of lies as that decision is, and has been, over and over, shown to be.

The Supreme Court of the United States is not the only power in this world. It is very great, but the Supreme Court of the Almighty is greater.

Judge Taney can do many things, but he cannot perform impossibilities. He cannot bale out the ocean, annihilate the firm old earth, or pluck the silvery star of liberty from our Northern sky. He may decide, and decide again; but he cannot reverse the decision of the Most High. He cannot change the essential nature of things--making evil good, and good evil.

Happily for the whole human family, their rights have been defined, declared, and decided in a court higher than the Supreme Court. "There is a law," says Brougham, "above all the enactments of human codes, and by that law, unchangeable and eternal, man cannot hold property in man."

**Your fathers have said that man's right to liberty is self-evident. There is no need of argument to make it clear. The voices of nature, of conscience, of reason, and of revelation, proclaim it as the right of all rights, the foundation of all trust, and of all responsibility.**

**Man was born with it. It was his before he comprehended it. The deed conveying it to him is written in the center of his soul, and is recorded in Heaven.**

**The sun in the sky is not more palpable to the sight than man's right to liberty is to the moral vision.**

To decide against this right in the person of Dred Scott, or the humblest and most whip-scarred bondman in the land, is to decide against God. It is an open rebellion against God's government. It is an attempt to undo what God has done, to blot out the broad distinction instituted by the Allwise between men and things, and to change the image and superscription of the everliving God into a speechless piece of merchandise.

Such a decision cannot stand. God will be true though every man be a liar. We can appeal from this hell-black judgment of the Supreme Court, to the court of common sense and common humanity. We can appeal from man to God. If there is no justice on earth, there is yet justice in heaven. You may close your Supreme Court against the black man's cry for justice, but you cannot, thank God, close against him the ear of a sympathizing world, nor shut up the Court of Heaven.

All that is merciful and just, on earth and in Heaven, will execrate and despise this edict of Taney.

If it were at all likely that the people of these free States would tamely submit to this demoniacal judgment, I might feel gloomy and sad over it, and possibly it might be necessary for my people to look for a home in some other country.

But as the case stands, we have nothing to fear.

In one point of view, we, the abolitionists and colored people, should meet this decision, unlooked for and monstrous as it appears, in a cheerful spirit.

This very attempt to blot out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the downfall and complete overthrow of the whole slave system.

The whole history of the anti-slavery movement is studded with proof that all measures devised and executed with a view to ally and diminish the anti-slavery agitation, have only served to increase, intensify, and embolden that agitation.

This wisdom of the crafty has been confounded, and the counsels of the ungodly brought to nought.

It was so with the Fugitive Slave Bill. It was so with the Kansas-Nebraska Bill; and it will be so with this last and most shocking of all pro-slavery devices, this Taney decision.

When great transactions are involved, where the fate of millions is concerned, where a long enslaved and suffering people are to be delivered, I am superstitious enough to believe that the finger of the Almighty may be seen bringing good out of evil, and making the wrath of man redound to his honor, hastening the triumph of righteousness.

The American people have been called upon, in a most striking manner, to abolish and put away forever the system of slavery. The subject has been pressed upon their attention in all earnestness and sincerity.

The cries of the slave have gone forth to the world, and up to the throne of God.

This decision, in my view, is a means of keeping the nation awake on the subject. It is another proof that God does not mean that we shall go to sleep, and forget that we are a slaveholding nation.

Step by step we have seen the slave power advancing; poisoning, corrupting, and perverting the institutions of the country; growing more and more haughty, imperious, and exacting. The white man's liberty has been marked out for the same grave with the black man's.

The ballot box is desecrated, God's law set at nought, armed legislators stalk the halls of Congress, freedom of speech is beaten down in the Senate. The rivers and highways are infested by border ruffians, and white men are made to feel the iron heel of slavery.

This ought to arouse us to kill off the hateful thing. They are solemn warnings to which the white people, as well as the black people, should take heed.

If these shall fail, judgment, more fierce or terrible, may come.

**The lightning, whirlwind, and earthquake may come.**

**Jefferson said that he trembled for his country when he reflected that God is just, and his justice cannot sleep forever.**

**The time may come when even the crushed worm may turn under the tyrant's feet. Goaded by cruelty, stung by a burning sense of wrong, in an awful moment of depression and desperation, the bondman and bondwoman at the south may rush to one wild and deadly struggle for freedom.**

**Already slaveholders go to bed with bowie knives, and apprehend death at their dinners.**

**Those who enslave, rob, and torment their cooks, may well expect to find death in their dinner-pots.**

The world is full of violence and fraud, and it would be strange if the slave, the constant victim of both fraud and violence, should escape the contagion.

He, too, may learn to fight the devil with fire, and for one, I am in no frame of mind to pray that this may be long deferred.

Two remarkable occurrences have followed the presidential election; one was the unaccountable sickness traced to the National Hotel at Washington, and the other was the discovery of a plan among the slaves, in different localities, to slay their oppressors.

Twenty or thirty of the suspected were put to death. Some were shot, some hanged, some burned, and some died under the lash.

One brave man owned himself well acquainted with the conspiracy, but said he would rather die than disclose the facts.



He received seven hundred and fifty lashes, and his noble spirit went away to the God who gave it.

The name of this hero has been by the meanness of tyrants suppressed. Such a man redeems his race. He is worthy to be mentioned with the Hoffers and Tells, the noblest heroes of history.

**These insurrectionary movements have been put down, but they may break out at any time, under the guidance of higher intelligence, and with a more invincible spirit.**

**The fire thus kindled, may be revived again; the flames are extinguished, but the embers remain; one terrible blast may produce an ignition, which shall wrap the whole South in wild conflagration.**

**The pathway of tyrants lies over volcanoes; the very air they breathe is heavy with sorrows; agonizing heart-throbs convulse them while sleeping, and the wind whispers death as over them sweeping.**

**By all the laws of nature, civilization, and of progress, slavery is a doomed system.**

**Not all the skill of politicians, North and South, not all the sophistries of Judges, not all the fulminations of a corrupt press, not all the hypocritical prayers, or the hypocritical refusals to pray of a hollow-hearted priesthood, not all the devices of sin and Satan, can save the vile thing from extermination.**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Car Bomb Kills 3 U.S. Troops In Afghanistan**

4.9.19 By: Kyle Rempfer, Military Times [Excerpts]

Three U.S. service members were killed by an improvised explosive device Monday near Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Three other U.S. service members were wounded in the blast, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said in a press release Monday afternoon.

A contractor, who is an Afghan citizen, was initially treated along with injured civilians. The contractor was later identified and moved to be treated at Bagram Air Base, Resolute Support officials said in a clarifying statement Tuesday.

The wounded U.S. troops were evacuated and are receiving medical care, officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack through the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. The insurgent group claimed the attack was conducted by a suicide vehicle-borne IED.

The identities and units of those killed are being withheld until 24 hours after their next of kin have been notified.

Bagram Air Base is one of the largest U.S. military bases in Afghanistan. The airfield is located in the country's northern Parwan province.

Despite its large size and long-term U.S. presence, Bagram has still been the site of insurgent attacks throughout the years.

The U.S. presence in Afghanistan stands at roughly 15,000 troops.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

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

## **POLICE WAR REPORTS**

**Marine Vet, Wearing Brace For  
Injury From Bomb Explosion In  
Afghanistan, Wins Case After  
California Enemy Combatant Kicks  
His Damaged Leg And Arrests  
Him:**

# **“Despite Displaying An Appropriate Handicapped Marker, A Park Ranger Didn’t Believe He Was Disabled” “I’m Combat Wounded, And You’re Kicking My Salvaged Limb”**



Sgt. Dominic Esquibel stands to be recognized for his service at the 32nd Annual Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation West Coast Campaign Celebratory Gala, in Dana Point, California, 2014. (Lance Cpl. Garrett White/Marine Corps)

4.4.19 By: Shawn Snow, Marine Corps Times

In 2012, a disabled Marine veteran was visiting the Sequoia National Park in California, where he says a National Park Service ranger used excessive force against him over his use of a handicapped parking spot.

Dominic Esquibel said that despite displaying an appropriate handicapped marker, a park ranger didn't believe he was disabled. Esquibel wears brace on his leg for an injury from a 2011 bomb explosion in Afghanistan.

**The end of the confrontation allegedly ended with the parking ranger kicking the Marine veteran's injured leg and handcuffing him.**

**“I'm combat wounded, and you're kicking my salvaged limb,” Esquibel said he told the ranger and his nearby partner, according to the Washington Post.**

A charge against Esquibel for failing to follow a lawful order was dropped, but he filed a lawsuit against the federal government over the excessive force that could result in the loss of his leg.

On Tuesday, the Washington Post reported that Esquibel won a \$250,000 settlement from the federal government in March, as it was trying to avoid a trial.

**Esquibel told the Post that he was “grateful” the ordeal was over, but that he plans to have the foot totally amputated, calling the injured foot a “total loss.”**

Esquibel was awarded the Navy Cross for braving machine gun fire to rescue two Marines and carrying out the body of another Marine during operation Phantom Fury, also known as the Second Battle of Fallujah, in Iraq in 2004.

Esquibel declined the award, citing personal reasons. His lawyer, Butch Wagner, told the Post that his client “didn’t feel right about the award” and that other Marines would have done the same for him.

It was in Afghanistan in 2011 on a final patrol in Sangin when his life-changing explosion happened, according to the Post.

The Fresno Bee first reported the settlement.

It is unclear if any of the park staff were disciplined over the incident, according to the Post.

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## **MILITARY NEWS**

# **Fallen Soldier Honored At His Hometown Funeral**

4.7.19 By: The Associated Press

LANCASTER, Ohio — A soldier killed last month during a combat mission in Afghanistan has been honored at a funeral outside Columbus.

Sgt. Joseph Collette was remembered Friday at Faith Memorial Church in Lancaster as a loving father, husband and son and as a well-regarded member of 242nd Ordnance Battalion, 71st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group at Fort Carson, Colorado, The Columbus Dispatch reported.

“A uniform does not make a hero. The person wearing the uniform makes a hero,” Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said at the funeral service. “Sgt. Collette was a hero.”

He was promoted and awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star after his death March 22.



Sgt. Joseph P. Collette, 29, of Lancaster, Ohio, died March 22, of wounds sustained when his unit encountered enemy fire while serving in Afghanistan. He was promoted posthumously. (Army)

Collette married his wife, Caela, shortly before being deployed to Afghanistan. He hid 30 love letters around the house for his new wife and planned a more formal wedding in Florida after his deployment.

He is survived by two children from a previous relationship and two stepdaughters.

His remains arrived Wednesday morning at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus. A motorcade then carried him to his hometown of Lancaster. Onlookers lined the streets to honor Collette as the motorcade passed through the city about 30 miles southeast of Columbus.

Collette and Sgt. 1st Class Will Lindsay, 33, were killed March 22 during combat operations in Kunduz province, Afghanistan. They died of injuries from enemy fire during a combat mission, the Defense Department said.

Lindsay was with 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group.

His remains arrived at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Wednesday afternoon. Police escorted the motorcade through the city and firefighters saluted as it drove past.

Gov. Jared Polis ordered that United States and Colorado flags on state buildings be lowered to half-staff to honor Lindsay through Tuesday, when a memorial service will be held at Fort Carson.

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# **House Votes To End U;S;. Support For Yemen War: Congress For The First Time Invoked The Decades-Old War Powers Resolution To Try And Stop A Foreign Conflict**

4.4.19 By: Susannah George, The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday voted to end American involvement in the Yemen war, rebuffing the Trump administration's support for the military campaign led by Saudi Arabia.**

The bill now heads to President Donald Trump, who is expected to veto it.

The White House says the measure raises "serious constitutional concerns," and Congress lacks the votes to override him.

By a 247-175 vote, Congress for the first time invoked the decades-old War Powers Resolution to try and stop a foreign conflict. The Senate vote was 54-46 on March 13.

"The president will have to face the reality that Congress is no longer going to ignore its constitutional obligations when it comes to foreign policy," said Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He said the humanitarian crisis in Yemen triggered by the war "demands moral leadership."

The war in Yemen is in its fifth year. Thousands of people have been killed and millions are on the brink of starvation.

The United Nations has called the situation in Yemen the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The top Republican on the committee, Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, acknowledged the dire situation in Yemen for civilians, but spoke out in opposition to the bill, saying it was an abuse of the War Powers Resolution.

**Democrats overcame a GOP attempt to divide the majority party through a procedural motion involving Israel just minutes before the Yemen vote.**

**Republicans wanted to amend the Yemen bill with language condemning the international boycott movement and efforts to delegitimize Israel. Democrats argued the amendment would kill the Yemen resolution, and most of them voted against the Israel measure.**

"This is about politics, this is about trying to drive a wedge into this caucus where it does not belong," Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Fla., said to applause from Democrats. Deutch

described the boycott movement as “economic warfare,” but called on lawmakers to vote against the amendment.

"The Jewish community also has a history of standing up against atrocities like the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. My colleagues are trying to block us from standing in support of human rights," he said.

Opposition to the Saudi-led war in Yemen gathered support last year in the aftermath of the killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The Washington Post columnist was killed in October by agents of the kingdom, a close U.S. partner, while he was in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. U.S. intelligence agencies and lawmakers believe that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the murder of Khashoggi, who had written articles critical of the kingdom.

Lawmakers from both parties have scrutinized U.S.-Saudi ties and criticized Trump for not condemning Saudi Arabia strongly enough.

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# **Pentagon Breaking A Law Designed To Help Sexual Assault Victims: Failing To Ensure They Are Asked Where They Want Their Cases To Be Prosecuted: Victims Have A Better Shot At Justice In A Civilian Courtroom Than In A Military Setting**

March 29 By: Geoff Ziezulewicz, Military Times

**The armed forces is failing to ensure that sexual assault victims are asked where they want their cases to be prosecuted, according to the results of a Defense Department Inspector General audit released last week.**

Investigators reviewed 82 cases at the Army's Fort Hood, Naval Station Norfolk, the Air Force's Joint Base San Antonio and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, which recorded the highest number of unrestricted sexual assault reports in fiscal 2016.

**Nearly all of those cases involved officials failing to ask the victims or document if they would prefer their assailant tried by court-martial or in the civilian criminal**

**justice system, something they are supposed to have been doing since the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, according to the IG.**

“It’s really disappointing when Congress is trying to get the military to a better place with sexual assault and the military leadership doesn’t take it seriously,” said Don Christensen, a retired Air Force colonel, military attorney and president of Protect Our Defenders, a nonprofit group that helped get the victim preference regulation passed into law.

The audit was mandated as part of the 2019 defense policy bill.

In 77 of 82 cases reviewed from the four bases, officials either did not ask the victims for their preference or did not document that sexual assault victims had been asked about their preference, according to the audit.

For 56 of those 77 cases, officials said the victims were asked but could provide no evidence of the victim’s preference, according to the IG.

“DoD officials should consider what the victim wants when deciding whether to prosecute by court-martial or in civilian court, although they are not required to comply with the victim’s preference,” the report states.

Oftentimes, victims have a better shot at justice in a civilian courtroom than in a military setting, Christensen said.

Sentencing is more consistent and there are restitution opportunities, he said.

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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**

<p><b>A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners. -- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution</b></p>
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# **The Gravedigger**

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

From *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*, Dennis Serdel

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**It's cold in the morning  
and he shivers,  
he kicks up the furnace  
he turns down at night  
these heating bills are killer  
he puts some coffee on  
trying to remember  
who he buries today  
these Michigan winters  
freeze the ground on down  
he needs some gas  
in the truck  
and the digger too  
it's a hell of a way  
to make a living  
but it's steady pay  
After a cup and a half  
of coffee and three cigarettes  
it dawns on him who's grave  
he has to dig today**

it's Mary and John's son  
from across the tracks  
the paper had his picture  
he was just a boy  
played football  
at the old high school  
a stand out star  
joined the Army after that  
cause all the jobs are gone.

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## **The Laws Of Capitalist Anarchy: “Increasingly Threatening The Existence Of Society With The Spread Of Anarchy, And Forming A Chain Of Devastating Economic And Political Catastrophes”**

From: Rosa Luxemburg; Introduction To Political Economy; Ms. 1909-1910 [Excerpt]

The year 1848 was to see both the culmination and the crisis of socialism in all its varieties.

The Paris proletariat, influenced by traditions of earlier revolutionary struggle and roused by various socialist systems, passionately clung to the vague ideas of a just social order.

As soon as the bourgeois monarchy of Louis-Philippe was toppled, the Paris workers used their position of power to demand from the terrified bourgeoisie the realization now of the "social republic" and a new "organization of labor.

For the achievement of this program, the proletariat afforded the provisional government the celebrated timeframe of three months, during which time the workers starved and waited, while the bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie quietly armed and prepared the subjection of the workers.

The period ended with the memorable butchery of June, in which the ideal of a "social republic achievable at any time was drowned in the streaming blood of the Paris proletariat!

The revolution of 1848 did not introduce the realm of social equality, but rather the political rule of the bourgeoisie and an unprecedented upswing of capitalist exploitation under the Second Empire.

At the same time, however, that socialism of the old schools seemed buried forever beneath the demolished barricades of the June insurrection, the socialist idea was placed on a completely new footing by Marx and Engels.

These two sought the basis for socialism not in moral repugnance towards the existing social order nor in cooking up all kinds of possible attractive and seductive projects, designed to smuggle in social equality within the present state.

They turned to the investigation of the *economic* relationships of present-day society.

Here, in the laws of capitalist anarchy itself, Marx discovered the real starting-point for socialist efforts. If the French and English classics of political economy had discovered the laws by which the capitalist economy lived and developed, Marx took up their work half a century later precisely at the point where they had broken this off.

He discovered for his part how these same laws of the present day social order acted towards their own downfall, by increasingly threatening the existence of society with the spread of anarchy, and forming a chain of devastating economic and political catastrophes.

It was thus, as Marx showed, the developmental tendencies of the rule of capital itself that at a certain stage of their maturity made necessary the transition to a planned mode of production, consciously organized by the whole working society, if the whole of society and human culture were not to collapse in the convulsions of unleashed anarchy.

And the rule of capital hastened this fateful hour ever more energetically by bringing together its future grave diggers, the proletarians, in ever greater masses, by spreading itself over all corners of the earth, producing an anarchic world economy and in this way creating the basis for the proletariat of all countries to combine in a revolutionary world power for the abolition of capitalist class rule.

In this way socialism ceased to be a project, a beautiful fantasy or even an experiment of particular groups of workers in separate countries.

As the common program of political action of the international proletariat, socialism is a *historical necessity*, since it is a fruit of the economic developmental tendencies of capitalism.

#### **YOUR INVITATION:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, P.O Box 2604, N.Y., N.Y. 10108 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

## **April 6, 1968: Anniversary Of A Murder By The Cowards In Blue**



Bobby Hutton

Carl Bunin Peace History April 6-12

Bobby Hutton, the 17-year-old first member of the Black Panther Party was gunned down by officers of the Oakland Police Department.

Police opened fire on a car of Black Panthers returning from a meeting. The Panthers escaped their vehicle and ran into a house. Police attacked the house with tear gas and gunfire.

After the building was on fire, the Panthers tried to surrender.

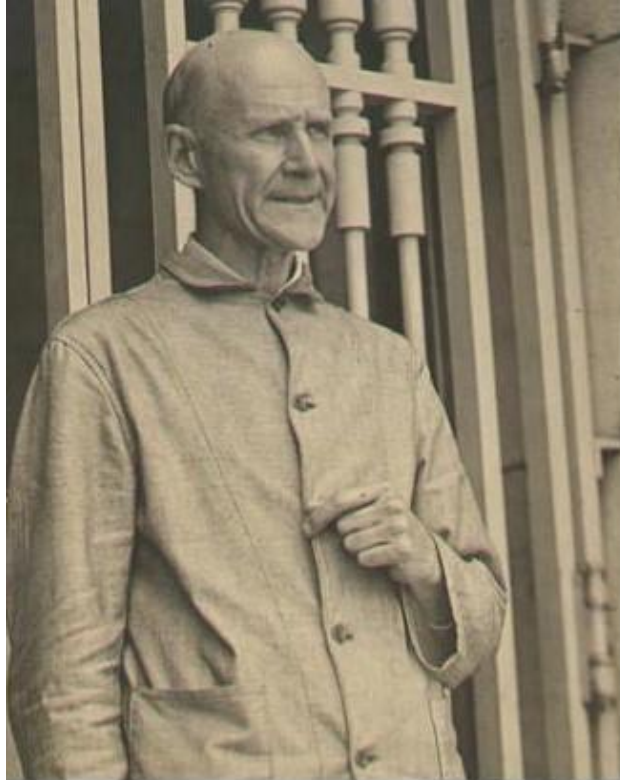
**Hutton came out of the house with his hands in the air.**

**But a police officer shouted, "He's got a gun." This prompted further police gunfire that left Hutton dead and Panthers co-founder Eldridge Cleaver wounded.**

**Police later admitted that Hutton was unarmed.**

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



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

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



Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

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

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

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



**Happy Russian soldiers going home.**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 9-15

April 14, 1988: The Soviet Union signed an agreement to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan after ten years of humiliating defeats at the hands of Afghan resistance forces.

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



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

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

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

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

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

From: Ushmm.org [Excerpt]:

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

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

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

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

After a few days, the troops retreated.

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

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

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

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

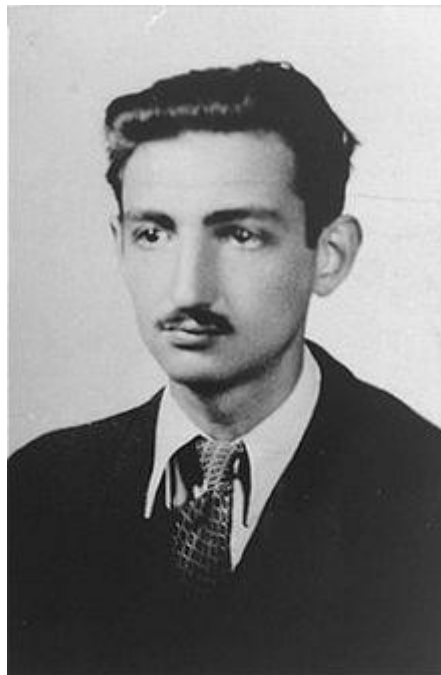
The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance.

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

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

**MORE:**

## Marek Edelman



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

Wikipedia [Excerpts]

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Ludlow Massacre



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And still the miners refused to give in.

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

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

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

**The miners fired back.**

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

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

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

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

This became known as the Ludlow Massacre.

“The news spread quickly over the country.

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

**Railroad workers refused to take soldiers from Trinidad to Ludlow.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“All over the country there were meetings, demonstrations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This accomplished, the strike petered out.

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

**The union had not won recognition.**

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

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

"The Times had referred to Mexico.

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

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

Unemployment, hard times, were growing in 1914.

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

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

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

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

"The bombardment of Vera Cruz was a small incident.

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



The aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914.

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***Tiananmen Square:***  
***April 21, 1989: Honorable Anniversary***  
**Pissed Off People Rise Up Against A**  
**Corrupt Government Of Tyrants,**  
**Exploiters And Oppressors**



Six days after the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed reform-minded leader of the Chinese Communist Party, some 100,000 students from more than 40 universities gathered at Beijing's Tiananmen Square to commemorate Hu, voice their discontent with China's authoritative communist government, and call for greater democracy.

**Ignoring government warnings of violent suppression of any mass demonstration, the students were joined by workers, intellectuals, and civil servants.**

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## ***April 21, 1856: Brilliant Anniversary*** **“The First Organized Workers In The World To Achieve An Eight-Hour Workday”**

Carl Bunin Peace history April 20-26

Stonemasons and other construction workers on building sites around Melbourne, Australia, stopped work and marched from the University of Melbourne to Parliament House.

They advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.

Their direct action protest was a success, becoming the first organized workers in the world to achieve an eight-hour workday, inspiring the celebration of Labor Day and May Day.

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## ***April 22, 1992:*** ***Honorable Anniversary:*** **Serbs Stand Up Against A Politician's Plan For War:** **“When The New Conscript Reached Barracks His Unit Had Already Split In Two – Between Those Who Agreed To**

# Go To The Front And Those Who Were Refusing”

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

June 1994 By Ivan Vejvoda, New Internationalist [Excerpt]

It may come as a surprise to many Westerners that there was a large, spontaneous opposition within Serbia and Montenegro to the war waged by the Milosevic regime.

Mostly it took the form of resisting conscription into the armed forces. In Belgrade only 10 per cent responded to the call-up to what was then, in 1991, still the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA).

**Thousands of young conscripts went into 'internal exile' hiding with friends and relatives. The latter would ignore knocks at the door so as to avoid receiving the call-up orders. Thousands of potential conscripts left the country and headed for Britain, France, Germany, Holland and Greece. Visas were not needed then – as they are today.**

Even among those who did obey the draft, there was resistance. The story of young Miroslav Milenkovic from a small town in Serbia is a poignant example of the dilemma faced by many.

**When the new conscript reached barracks his unit had already split in two – between those who agreed to go to the front and those who were refusing.**

Milenkovic went from one group to another, not knowing which group of friends and relatives to side with. At one point he stopped and, standing between the two groups, took his rifle and shot himself.

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## April 23, 1971: Above And Beyond



1968





Carl Bunin Peace History April 20-26

**In the final event of Operation Dewey Canyon III, nearly 1,000 Vietnam War veterans threw their combat ribbons, helmets, and uniforms on the Capitol steps along with toy weapons.**

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*

*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members  
[www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)*

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