

GI SPECIAL 6D19:



**“Soldiers Come Home”
“Poor Men Fight And Die For
What Rich Men Only Believe”
“Get 1,000,000 People Together
And Walk Into The White House,
The Pentagon, The CIA, The
Banks, The Defense Contractors,
And Congress, And Drag All The
Criminals Outside And Put Them
In Prison”**



04/24/2008 by Liam Madden [Iraq Veterans Against The War]

Branch of service: United States Marine Corps (USMC)

Home: Boston, Massachusetts

Served in: Iraq, Kuwait, Okinawa, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Virginia

Liam Madden served as a Communications Electronics Specialist in the Marine Corps from January 2003 to January 2007. While enlisted he was deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Thailand, Okinawa, Japan, and Korea. During his last year in the Marines, Sergeant Madden co-founded the Appeal for Redress, a campaign of service members demanding that congress halt the war in Iraq.

He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of IVAW. He is a junior attending Northeastern University.

I was asked to write an Op-Ed for the Financial Times as an assignment for my International Relations class. For over an hour I sat uninspired to write anything that fit into their paradigm.

Instead I wrote this: I got an A. Then I laughed.

“Here is an Op-Ed You Will Never See in the Financial Times”

The G7 met in Washington DC over the weekend. The world’s most powerful men, who control the direction of the world’s largest sums of currency, met to discuss the problems with the world’s economies.

It is clear to me that these fellas have been in power for too long and every day that passes without massive social movements across the world is another day closer to a global police state.

This weekend’s meeting marks a first time that the G7’s finance and treasury leaders have invited leaders from private banks and institutions to the conference.

Wow, big surprise!

Powerful private bankers are involved in public official's decision making?

Good job FT, wouldn't know what to do without you.

While the Financial Times was busy regurgitating the useless information given to its repeaters (reporters) by public relations, financial and government propagandists the information worth knowing goes one more day marginalized and buried.

Why doesn't the FT report the biggest financial success recipe the world has to offer, all the big wigs are cashing in on it. ..

1. Own a bank,
2. Loan people money that you do not actually possess
3. Earn interest on money you never actually owned
4. Become filthy rich
5. Enslave the majority of humanity in debt. (cars, school loans and homes, if you ever finish paying them off, you are too old and entrenched in the system to ever threaten it)
6. Finance wars and other forms of murder and mayhem
7. Buy politicians and the media to keep up the illusion that everyone lives in an open, free, and democratic society.
8. Fund schools, writers and artists who advance your agenda and indoctrinate more people into the cults of consumerism, racism, militarism and the idea that human beings MUST live in a world devoid of equity, sustainability, and justice.
9. Keep people scared so they think they need big brother
10. LIE to people constantly so they never know what to believe, make the truth obscene and dangerous

There you have it, ten easy steps to controlling the world. Well, that is the news. The truth is that it is not new at all, but it certainly is unfamiliar to most.

I have an outstanding idea, let's stop this insanity.

It is THEIR insanity imposed on us; we can stop it at any time.

The wars they want can not be without ordinary people to fight them, the debts they want can not be without our ignorance of their criminality, and the fear they want can not be without a people willing to stay afraid.

1. Soldiers come home, "poor men fight and die for what rich men only believe."
2. Teachers start teaching about the 10 steps above.

3. Get 1,000,000 people together and walk into the white house, the pentagon, the CIA, the banks, the defense contractors, and congress, and drag all the criminals outside and put them in prison.

Just walk in with a million people.

4. Start working to fix our communities, our schools, our prisons, our drug problems, our transportation systems, our energy systems our health care, our food, our minds, our bodies and our spirits.

5. Make the world a dream instead of a nightmare.

Feed everyone; give everyone health care, electricity, clothes, homes, and a clean planet.

Let the people be free to do what they want with 80% of their time, let technology do the dirty and boring work and smile about the little things.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Clearwater Soldier Recalled As ‘One Of Our Heroes’



Spc. Arturo Huerta-Cruz

April. 16, 2008 By CARLOS MONCADA of The Tampa Tribune

CLEARWATER - A soldier killed in Iraq was remembered today as a bright and ambitious young man who loved to play soccer, studied architecture and planned to pursue a career and start a family after his military service.

Spc. Arturo Huerta-Cruz, 23, was killed Monday when a roadside bomb exploded while he was on patrol in a vehicle near Tuz, about 100 miles north of Baghdad, military officials said.

Huerta-Cruz moved to Clearwater from Mexico when he was 7 but loved both countries, his grieving parents and relatives said from the living room of the family's home in a quiet Clearwater neighborhood.

"He loved everything about this country, and I think that's why he went over to Iraq and fought for what he believed," said Roger Cruz, a cousin. "He had a lot of dreams he wanted to accomplish. We loved him so much. It's going to be a big loss in our family."

Huerta-Cruz, who had six sisters and three brothers, played soccer while he attended Countryside High School. He later studied architecture at St. Petersburg College, earning an associate degree. He planned to continue his studies.

"He wanted to come back and have a career before he had a family," said Cruz, who called his cousin an excellent student who never got in trouble or used drugs.

Pascual Huerta, father of the fallen soldier, said he last spoke with his son eight days ago.

"We talked to him, and he said he never left the base because he was in charge of inventory and maintenance," the father said in Spanish. "Now I don't know if he said that because he didn't want to worry us."

Huerta-Cruz enlisted in the Army in May 2006. He was assigned to the 10th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, in October 2006, the Fort Drum public affairs office said.

Pascual Huerta said family members tried to persuade his son not to enlist, but that he had made up his mind.

"He told us he would come home in September," Pascual Huerta said. "And he couldn't wait to come home to see us and eat his favorite Mexican foods."

Carmen Huerta said her son was "a good boy, an example. He never gave us any problems. He was a wonderful son."

Roger Cruz said his cousin never confided why he decided to enlist. Cruz described him as a private person who kept things to himself.

"He will always be remembered as one of our heroes," Cruz said. "He fought for this country. He gave it all, ... and he gave his life for our freedom. I want to thank him so much where he is."

Fallen Soldier's Mom: 'He Is Who Made Me Into The Woman I Am Today'



04/16/08 By Lindsay Field, Rome News-Tribune Staff Writer

Sgt. William Elliott Allmon was more than a soldier in the U.S. Army.

He was a first-born son, father and grandson whose crooked smile made anyone he ever met fall for him, his family said.

"He was my confidence. ... He was the one that changed my life when he was born, and he is who made me into the woman I am today," said Donna Fortune, Allmon's mother. "He was always a strength for me. ... We had it rough, but just knowing he was there for me, that's what made life easier."

Allmon, born and raised in Floyd County until age 12, died Saturday in Baghdad of wounds received when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device, according to the Department of Defense.

Allmon, 25, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart.

Fortune, who lives in Guyton, was notified of her child's death Sunday while talking to her stepdaughter, Miranda Hancock Zachary of Midland, Texas. "There was this sudden emptiness, and it felt like someone had shoved a knife into my chest and emptied everything in me," she said.

Fortune, who lived with her son from August 2006 until his deployment in May 2007, said they were very close.

"I watched his life flash before my eyes in that one moment," she said. "The pain was so devastating. It was like a shock of electricity. ... It was terrible, the despair."

Fortune said she was helped through the pain by a lesson she taught her children when they were young: "I tried to teach my children about death, that it doesn't come to somebody unless they've served their time here on Earth. I could actually hear (Will) saying to me, 'You need to practice what you preach, Mom.'"

At 17, Allmon joined the National Guard with his mother by his side.

"He wanted to further his education, and I encouraged him to join the military because of the benefits," Fortune said. "He was a very intelligent, smart man from a very young age. I was so proud of him when he graduated from high school."

Allmon joined the Guard in 2000 and went full active duty in 2003 in Ardmore, Okla., before being stationed at Fort Stewart near Hinesville, Ga.

"He was a leader who was looked up to by other soldiers," she said. "He was a loyal soldier who went beyond the call of duty."

During Allmon's tour in Iraq he kept in close contact with his grandparents, Billy and Joann Phillips of Cedartown.

Joann Phillips e-mailed Allmon often during the past three months.

"He told me he was about to get promoted to be a sergeant," Joann Phillips added and in a recent e-mail remembered telling him, "Sweetheart, keep your mind alert."

Allmon was to return to the United States this summer with his company. Fortune said she plans to be at Fort Stewart when they arrive, welcoming his brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

"I consider all of them to be my children now," she said, "and I plan on staying there because it's like my home. I'll be around all the people who knew Will."

Fortune said though she doesn't understand the reasoning behind the war, family and friends should not abandon soldiers just because of this incident. "We need to love them, and it wouldn't hurt to walk up to one and just shake their hands if you see them on the street," she said. "They are our true heroes, whether they live or die over there."

Fortune also asked anyone who knew Will and who may have photos or memories they want to share to call her at 912-728-5738.

"He has two beautiful boys (Damien Allmon, 3, and Jason Luke Johnson, 11), and I want those kids to know who their father was from every perspective possible," she added.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. Henderson & Sons Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrive at a forward operating base in southern Afghanistan April 26, 2008. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

NOTICE TO GI SPECIAL READERS

Some elective, non-emergency surgery delayed GI Special issues most of this past week, including keeping up with anniversaries that merit remembrance. So now, this is catch up. Thanks for your patience. T

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
April 19, 1943: Solemn Anniversary:

In Memory Of Those Who Died Courageously Resisting An Imperial Army Of Occupation, Arms In Hand

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began when Nazi forces attempted to clear out the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, and were met by unexpected gunfire from Jewish resistance fighters.

The Warsaw Ghetto, the largest ghetto established by Nazi Germany and in existence for three years, was the site of one of the first mass uprisings in Nazi-occupied Europe. The Nazis sealed the ghetto in 1940.

Through disease, Nazi-created starvation diets and deportations to concentration camps and extermination camps, the population diminished from 450,000 to 37,000.

The Nazis conducted mass deportations from July to September 1942.

An underground resistance movement rose up in response. Then came the second wave of deportations, resulting in hand-to-hand resistance.

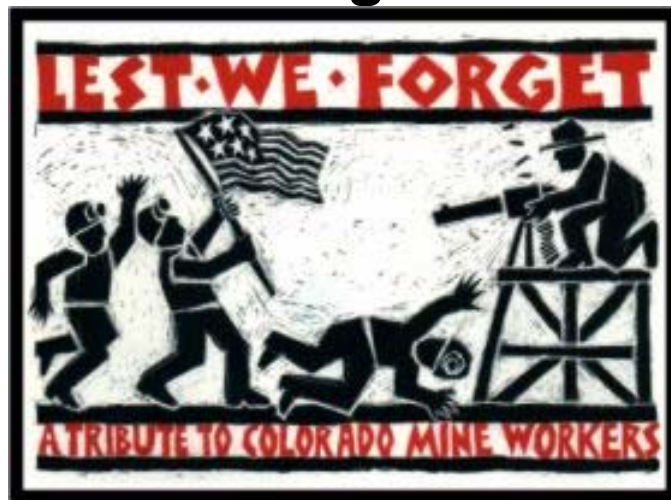
The deportations continued for a few more days, then ended, after which resisters, weakened from disastrous conditions, united for the ultimate uprising, which was a pivotal event in the history of Jewish resistance to Nazi tyranny.

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

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.

***The Ludlow Massacre* April 20, 1914: Infamous Anniversary:**

**Soldiers Dishonor Their Uniforms
Slaughtering Women And Children
To Serve The Rich:
Except For A Few Honorable Soldiers
Who Resist, 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.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22 & PBS.org

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.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 917.677.8057

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



Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

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.

April 22, 1992: Honorable Anniversary Serbs Stand Up Against A Politician's Plan For War

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

50,000 attended an anti-war rock concert in Belgrade, Serbia.

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.

April 24, 1971: Magnificent Anniversary



Peace History April 23-29

500,000 demonstrated against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. It was the largest-ever demonstration opposing U.S. war in Southeast Asia.

150,000 marched at a simultaneous rally in San Francisco.

April 25, 1974: Portugal Most Honorable Anniversary The Army Rises And Overthrows A Fascist Dictator



Socialist Worker.co.uk

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

A peaceful uprising by army and civilians, known as the carnation revolution (Revolução dos Cravos), ended 48 years of fascism in Portugal.

The regime killed four before giving into the popular resistance.

25 April 2004 By Manny Thain, Socialist World.net [Excerpts]

It started at 12.25 am on Thursday 25 April 1974 when the rebel song, Grandola Vila Morena, played on the radio.

By early evening the end of dictatorship was announced.

The Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA), radical mid-ranking officers, had executed the plan devised by Captain Otelo de Carvalho. Troops secured Lisbon and the second city, Porto. Key installations were taken, ministers arrested.

THE news of the regime's downfall spread like wildfire.

People flooded the streets.

MFA vehicles were mobbed by adoring crowds.

Thousands of school students marched, shouting "Down with fascism".

Red carnations, the symbol of the revolution, blossomed in rifle barrels and festooned the streets in this festival of freedom.

The ex-dictator, Marcello Caetano, cowered in National Guard barracks.

He was the successor to the fascist regime consolidated in the early 1930s by António Salazar. Paramilitary groups terrorised left-wing and industrial militants. Independent trade unions and the right to strike were illegal.

The secret police had a massive network of agents and informers.

Torture was systemic.

But it was the armed African liberation struggles - especially Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique - begun in the early 1960s, which drove the final nails into the coffin of the fascist regime.

Many mid-ranked officers had been influenced by the Marxism they read in counter-insurgency training.

Radicalisation continued in Africa with the brutal repression meted out to the people fighting for their freedom. A policy of fast-tracking new officers fuelled the anger.

The MFA set up a 'junta of national salvation' to rule until a provisional government was formed. Elections were promised within a year. It announced freedom of association and expression, and an amnesty for political prisoners.

Having suffered at the hands of bosses and landowners linked to the regime, workers drove them out of the factories and off the land. The editor of the daily, *Diário de Notícias*, was forced out on 7 June after print workers seized the presses, publishing a front-page article exposing his fascist connections.

Homeless people occupied empty properties. Shipyard and underground workers went on strike for a 50% pay rise. Car workers won a 40-hour week. Bakery and textile workers struck. Train and tram conductors refused to collect fares.

General António de Spínola was made acting president. The son of a friend of Salazar, Spínola had impeccable fascist credentials. He had, however, called for the easing of direct colonial rule, which gave him a certain amount of support.

Spínola made one more pathetic bid for power, on 11 March 1975.

But the paratroopers he mobilised mutinied.

The fact that six members of the Espírito Santo banking family were implicated in the coup fiasco fuelled further outrage.

April 24, 1917: Anniversary Of A Noble Cause: **The Irish Take Arms To Fight A Foreign Imperial Occupation**

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29



Irish Citizen Army outside Liberty Hall

The Easter Uprising began when between 1,000 and 1,500 members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood attempted to seize Dublin and issued the declaration of Irish independence from Britain.

By Constantine Fitzgibbon, Users.bigpond.net [Excerpt]

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a force of Irishmen under arms estimated at between 1,000 and 1,500 men and women attempted to seize Dublin, with the ultimate intention of destroying British rule in Ireland and creating an entirely independent Irish Republic to include all 32 counties of Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught.

Their leaders, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and the others, knew that their chances of success were so slight as to be almost non-existent.

Yet they fought, and died.

Why?

The circumstances that led to the Irish rebellion of 1916 are of an intense complexity, historical, social, political and, perhaps above all, psychological. The Irish writer, Sean O'Faolain, has written of his country: "Most of our physical embodiments of the past are ruins, as most of our songs are songs of lament and defiance.

"The Easter Rising was a complete failure, which left large parts of Dublin in ruins; yet without it Ireland might never have been free of English rule.

"The leaders, alive, had very few supporters even among the Irish patriots; dead, they became and have remained their country's heroes.

It was a great historical paradox, and one that to this day the British have perhaps never understood.

Had they understood it, it is conceivable that the British might still have an empire, since the overthrow of British rule in Ireland marked the beginning of the overthrow of British imperial might in Asia, in Africa, and elsewhere

**"We Declare The Right Of The People
Of Ireland To The Ownership Of
Ireland"**

**"The Long Usurpation Of That Right
By A Foreign People And
Government Has Not Extinguished
The Right"**

[Stephen-stratford.co.uk]

[Text Of The Declaration Made After The Occupation Of Dublin's General Post Office During The 1916 Easter Uprising]

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.

The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people.

In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms.

Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God.

Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine.

In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

“If These Men Must Die, Would It Not Be Better To Die In Their Own Country Fighting For Freedom For Their Class, And For The Abolition Of War, Than To Go Forth To Strange Countries And Die Slaughtering And Slaughtered By Their Brothers That Tyrants And Profiteers Might Live?”

By Ted Grant, Unknown source, April 1966; <http://www.marxists.org/> [Excerpts]

On 17th April 1916 the Irish Citizen Army, together with the Irish Volunteers, rose up in arms against the might of the British Empire to strike a blow for Irish freedom and for the setting up of an Irish Republic. Their blow for freedom was to reverberate round the world, and preceded the first Russian Revolution by almost a year.

The background to the rebellion was the centuries of national oppression suffered by the Irish people in the interests of British landlordism and capitalism. In this they had the support of the Irish landlords and capitalists, of the Catholic hierarchy, who were linked by ties of interest to the Imperialists, and joined with them in fear of the Irish workers and peasants.

It is impossible to understand the Easter Rising without understanding the ideas of its leader, James Connolly, who considered himself a Marxist and based himself on the ideas of Internationalism and the class struggle. Like MacLean in Britain, Lenin and Trotsky, Liebknecht and Luxemburg and other Internationalists, Connolly regarded with horror the betrayal by the leaders of the Labour movement in all countries in supporting the Imperialist War.

Dealing with the betrayal of the Second International, Connolly declared in his paper The Workers Republic: “If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for freedom for their class, and for the abolition of war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”

Protesting against the support by the British TUC of the war, Connolly wrote: “Time was when the unanimous voice of that Congress declared that the working class had no enemy except the capitalist class – that of its own country at the head of the list!”

Connolly stood for national freedom as a step towards the Irish Socialist Republic. But while the Stalinists and reformists today – 50 years after 1916 still mumble in politically incoherent terms about the need for the “national revolution against imperialism”, Connolly was particularly clear about the class question that was at the basis of the Irish question.

Without being in direct contact with Lenin and Trotsky he had a similar position. “The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour”, he wrote. “They cannot be dissevered. Ireland seeks freedom. Labour seeks that an Ireland free should be the sole mistress of her own destiny, supreme owner of all material things within and upon her soil”.

Connolly had no illusions in the capitalists of any country, least of all Ireland.

On International capitalism he wrote: “If, then, we see a small section of the possessing class prepared to launch into war, to shed oceans of blood and spend millions of treasure, in order to maintain intact a small portion of their privileges, how can we expect the entire propertied class to abstain from using the same weapons, and to submit peacefully when called upon to yield up forever all their privileges?”

And on the Irish capitalists, “Therefore the stronger I am in my affection for national tradition, literature, language, and sympathies, the more firmly rooted I am in my opposition to that capitalist class which in its soulless lust for power and gold would bray the nations as in a mortar”.

And again, “We are out for Ireland for the Irish. But who are the Irish? Not the rack-renting, slum-owning landlord; not the sweating, profit grinding capitalist; not the sleek and oily lawyer; not the prostitute pressmen – the hired liars of the enemy. Not these are the Irish upon whom the future depends. Not these, but the Irish working class, the only secure foundation upon which a free nation can be reared.”

Writing on the need for an Irish insurrection to expel British imperialism he wrote in relation to the World War: "Starting thus, Ireland may yet set the torch to a European conflagration that will not burn out until the last throne and the last capitalist bond and debenture will be shrivelled on the funeral pyre of the last War lord."

As an answer to the demand for conscription which had been imposed in Britain and which was supported by the Irish capitalists for Ireland too, where the employers were exerting pressure to force Irish workers to volunteer, Connolly wrote: "We want and must have economic conscription in Ireland for Ireland. Not the conscription of men by hunger to compel them to fight for the power that denies them the right to govern their own country, but the conscription by an Irish nation of all the resources of the nation – its land, its railways, its canals, its workshops, its docks, its mines, its mountains, its rivers and streams, its factories and machinery, its horses, its cattle, and its men and women, all co-operating together under one common direction that gather under one common direction that Ireland may live and bear upon her fruitful bosom the greatest number of the freest people she has ever known."

He looked at the employers who were opposing conscription too from a critical class point of view: "if here and there we find an occasional employer who fought us in 1913 (the Great Dublin lock-out in which the employers tried to break union organisation, but were defeated in this object by the solidarity of the Irish workers and their British comrades too) agreeing with our national policy in 1915 it is not because he has become converted, or is ashamed of the unjust use of his powers, but simply that he does not see in economic conscription the profit he fancied he saw in denying to his followers the right to organise in their own way in 1913."

Answering objections to the firm working class point of view which he expounded he declared: "Do we find fault with the employer for following his own interests? We do not. But neither are we under any illusion as to his motives. In the same manner we take our stand with our own class, nakedly upon our class interests, but believing that these interests are the highest interests of the race."

It is in this light that the uprising of 1916 must be viewed. As a consequence of the struggles of the past Connolly who was the General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union had organised the Citizens Army for the purpose of defence against capitalist and police attack and for preparing for struggle against British imperialism.

The Citizens Army was almost purely working class in composition: dockers, transport workers, building workers, printers and other sections of the Dublin workers being its rank and file.

It was with this force and in alliance with the more middle class Irish volunteers that Connolly prepared for the uprising.

He had no illusions about its immediate success. According to William O'Brien, on the day of the insurrection Connolly said to him: "We are going out to be slaughtered." He said "Is there no chance of success?" and Connolly replied "None whatsoever."

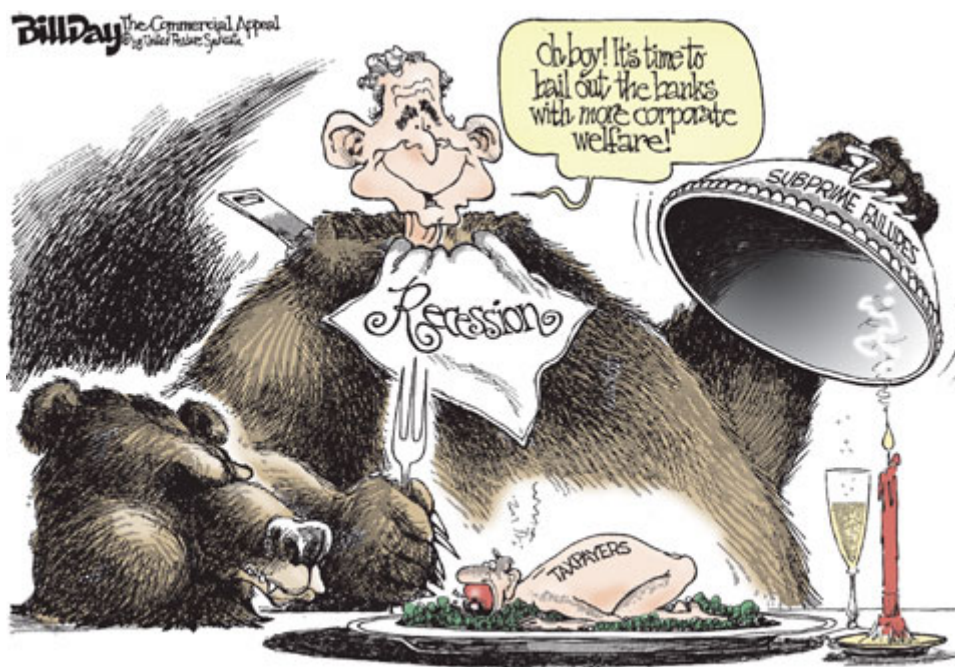
Connolly understood that the tradition and the example created would be immortal and would lay the basis for future freedom and a future Irish Socialist Republic. In that lay his greatness.

What a difference from the craven traitors of the German Socialist and Communist and Trade Union leaders who despite having three million armed workers supporting them, and with the sympathy and support of the overwhelming majority of the German working class (ready to fight and die, capitulated to Hitler without firing a shot.

The British occupying troops suppressed the insurrection and then savagely executed its leaders, including the leader of the insurrection James Connolly, who was already badly wounded.

Connolly was murdered, but in the last analysis, British imperialism really suffered defeat.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more

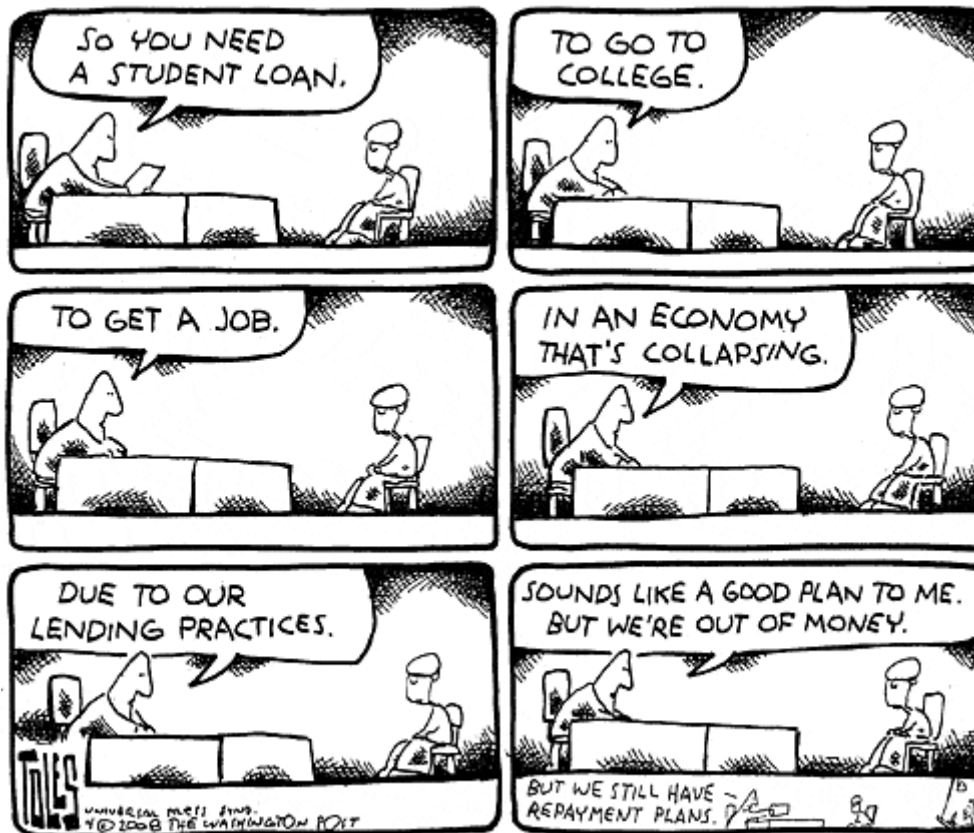
than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

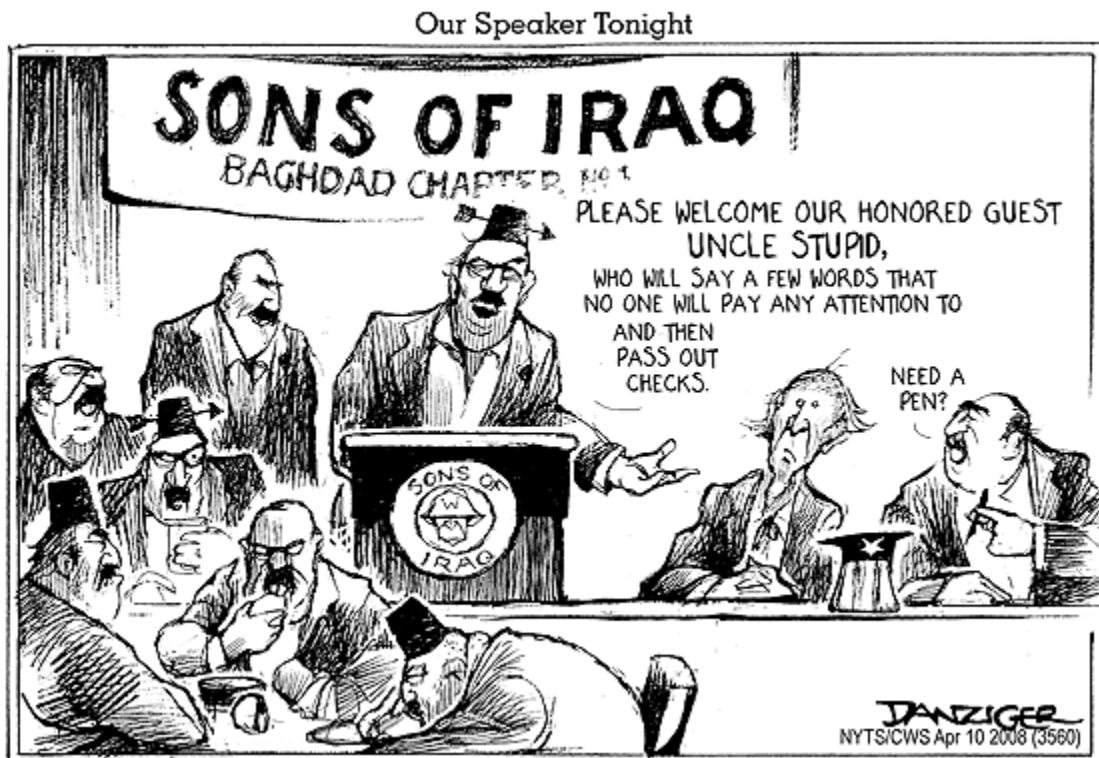


Received:

Comment And Reply

From: JK
To: GI Special
Sent: April 23, 2008
Subject: Re: GI Special 6D14: Shell Shock

I love GI Special, as you know -- but I was disturbed at your reprinting this cartoon; it's a racist caricature of Iraqis, in my view, and blames them for the horror the US inflicts on them.



I was in Iraq before the war, I met so many Iraqis, they don't think the US is stupid, they think the US wants to finish them.

Clear them out of Iraq altogether, to get at the oil.

And then put up a museum for them in Baghdad, like the Native American museums we have for First Nation people here in the US.

Reply: T

The cartoon is too gentle as it portrays the pack of slimy dogs serving the U.S. occupation as leaders of the Iraqi collaborator government, who indeed are nothing but thieves and con-men grabbing all the money they can for their own bank accounts, while U.S. troops die for their enrichment, and for the enrichment of the pack of bi-partisan slimy dogs in Washington DC who keep Imperial wars going.

Here are some of the Iraqi ones, up close and personal:



Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki (L) walks with President Jalal Talabani during a meeting in Baghdad April 24, 2008. REUTERS/Iraqi Government Handout



01 March 2008: Dr. Tahseem Sheikhly, civilian spokesman for the U.S.-backed Iraqi regime.

While some of their own citizens starve, and countless Iraqi children are malnourished, these traitors eat well, don't they? Exactly as the cartoon portrays, they feast in the U.S. protected Green Zone, at U.S. expense, with their hands out for more and more billions of U.S. dollars.

For those who may not have read them, the following recent issues of GI Special present a very different view of very different Iraqi citizens: those resisting George Bush's Imperial occupation of their nation.

Unlike the collaborators accurately portrayed in the cartoon, they are not fat slimy dogs licking the hand of their master in Washington DC.

March 2007:
6C22: Soldiers

April 2007:
6D3: Danger; Nationalists At Work
6D12: Resistance

At <http://www.militaryproject.org>

Res ipsa loquiter.

T

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

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