

GI SPECIAL 7C7:



“‘Oh, I’m Against The War,’ A Young Guardsman Said Quietly, Matter-Of-Factly”

“An Older Soldier Greeted Us Enthusiastically”

“She Took An Entire Bag Of 25 Literature Packets And Several Packs Of Cookies”

“I’ll Be Out Here With You Guys As Soon As I Retire” She Said, Defiance Creeping Into Her Even Voice”

[Military Project New York National Guard Outreach]

To: GI Special & Military Project
3.6.09 by LP
Military Project Harlem Armory Outreach

On Friday night, we did outreach at the [xxxxx] Armory to the National Guard troops.

Because there were only two of us, we stayed at the approach on one side for most of the time. A first time outreachers came by and was able to help out for about 45 minutes. For the last 20 minutes or so, we moved to the other side as the Guard started leaving the armory to board buses for their weekend drills.

We distributed about 70 packets of literature, and 42 DVD copies of Sir! No Sir! as well as many delicious cookies (as it was evening, many people welcomed the snack).

People were friendly across the board. The weather was warmer than usual, so a few people stopped to talk.

“Oh, I’m against the war,” a young Guardsman said quietly, matter-of-factly. He had been deployed to Iraq twice.

In that moment, though his face remained stoic, he seemed to be carrying a burden greater than the two large duffel bags that were slung over his shoulders.

Towards the end of the outreach, an older soldier greeted us enthusiastically.

She took an entire bag of 25 literature packets and several packs of cookies.

“I’ll be out here with you guys as soon as I retire” she said, defiance creeping into her even voice.

(ALL: The author is not (yet) a member of the Military Project but will be, I expect, soon enough.)

MORE:

**“One Way Was To Go Into
Supermarkets Where GI Families
Shopped”**

**“We Surreptitiously Put The Fliers In
With The Merchandise On The Shelves”**

[This is an excerpt from an email by Sandy Kelson, Military Project and Veterans For Peace, about how Veterans For Peace worked a tour of Military Bases to do outreach to active duty troops in 2007. T]

From: Sandy Kelson
Sent: February 09, 2009 9:46 AM
Subject: Re GI Special

[S]ome of the ways we distributed fliers in our outreach during our bus tour.

One way was to go into supermarkets where GI families shopped. We surreptitiously put the fliers in with the merchandise on the shelves.

One of our group, a mid-twenty year old, very personable woman vet, positioned herself near shoppers who were reading fliers. She'd engage these people in conversation.

One of the most effective fliers, based on these conversations, was about the Appeal for Redress.

Spouses were really excited and many said they'd get the word to their husbands in country.

We witnessed many shoppers reading and speaking with their fellow shoppers about the fliers. Appeal for Redress reported a spike in soldiers signing the Appeal during that time from people at the base towns we engaged in outreach.

We did the same type of thing here in Meadville PA on the day the 3000th soldier was killed. We printed up 3000 cards with printed 3000 on it and below it an image of a toy plastic soldier lying on its side. We had about 15 people placing them in with merchandise on sale in Wal-Marts, super markets, on windshields, inside newspapers and magazines for sale, on sinks and on top of toilet paper rolls in the bathrooms, all over the place.

One sympathetic school teacher was gathering stuff from the community to take to a center for shipment to soldiers in Iraq for Christmas. We gave him fliers and he hid them the best he could in the stuff.

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

All identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Salahudin

03/07/09 Reuters

A U.S. soldier was killed after an attack on a military patrol in Salahudin province north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

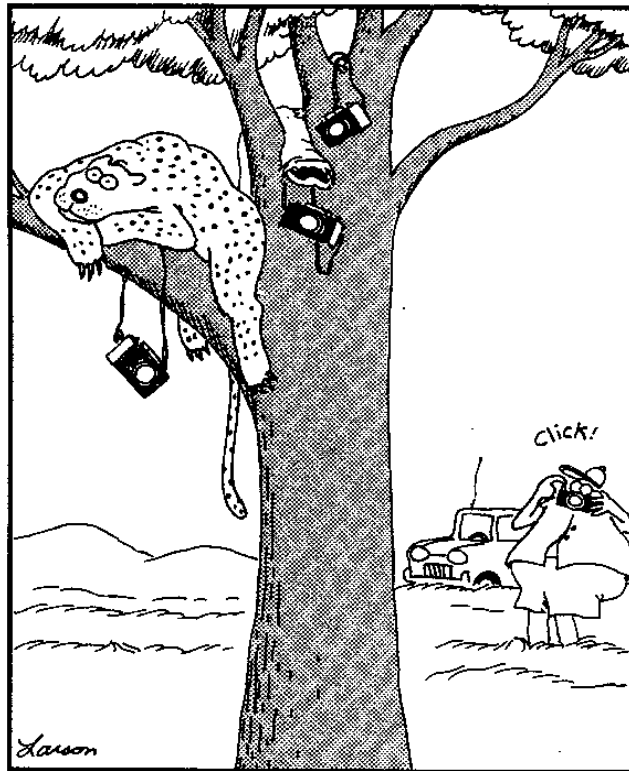
IED Kills Foreign Occupation Soldier; Two More Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

March 8, 2009 Associated Press

A member of the NATO contingent has been killed in a roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan that also wounded two U.S. coalition members.

NATO says the blast hit a combined patrol today.

Fresh U.S. Troops Deploying To Afghanistan



“Major Morley Told The Daily Telegraph That Operations In Afghanistan Were ‘Worthless’”
“This Is The Equivalent To The Start Of The Vietnam Conflict – There Is Much More To Come”
“The Government Has ‘Blood On Its Hands’ Over The Deaths Of Four Soldiers Killed By A Roadside Bomb”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

March 7, 2009 Kaya Burgess, The [London] Times

A former senior SAS officer in Afghanistan has said that the Government has “blood on its hands” over the deaths of four soldiers killed by a roadside bomb.

Major Sebastian Morley, who resigned last October from his post as the most senior reservist SAS officer in Afghanistan, said that army commanders and Whitehall officials ignored his warnings that “unsafe” vehicles would lead to the deaths of soldiers.

Major Morley, 40, stood down after what he called the “unnecessary deaths” of four soldiers when their Snatch Land Rover hit an anti-tank mine in Helmand province in June last year. Among the dead was Corporal Sarah Bryant, the first servicewoman to be killed in Afghanistan.

Major Morley accused Quentin Davies, the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, of telling an “unacceptable lie” when he said after the deaths that commanders could choose which vehicles they used in combat.

“I had to resign,” he said. “I had warned (the Ministry of Defence) time and time again that there were going to be needless deaths if we were not given the right equipment, and they ignored this advice. There is blood on their hands.”

Mr Davies later expressed regret if he had caused offence by his comments that casualties had resulted from commanders choosing the “wrong piece of equipment”.

But Major Morley said: “A government minister is on record telling a lie about four deaths, and this is unacceptable. For him to reverse his position now is too little too late.

“To accuse an operational commander of having a choice, and for that man to have made a choice that led to death, is to accuse him of negligence.

“There was no other vehicle to use. The simple truth is that the protection of these vehicles is inadequate and this led to the unnecessary deaths.”

He also referred to the Snatch Land Rover as a “mobile coffin”.

Major Morley told The Daily Telegraph that operations in Afghanistan were “worthless” and said: “This is the equivalent to the start of the Vietnam conflict – there is much more to come.

“We hold tiny areas of ground in Helmand and we are kidding ourselves if we think our influence goes beyond 500 metres of our security bases.

“It’s just crazy to think we hold that ground or have any influence on what goes on beyond the bases.

Resistance Action

March 5 (Xinhua) & Mar 7 (AFP) & March 8 (Reuters)

Five missiles fired by insurgents hit Faizabad, the provincial capital of peaceful Badakhshan in northeastern Afghanistan early Thursday, causing panic among the locals, provincial governor Abdul Majid said. “It was wee hours of Thursday that five missiles were fired from Dushakh Mountain in south direction landed around a police base but caused no damage,” Majid told Xinhua.

A bomber attacked a police station in southwestern Afghanistan early Saturday. The attack took place in Nimroz province at around 9:50 am in front of the first police station in Zaranj city. So far, one policeman and a civilian are dead and three policemen were also wounded in the attack.

A roadside bomb killed three Afghan police and wounded three more in Dah Yak district, 130 km (80 miles) southwest of Kabul, the Interior Ministry said.

Afghan soldiers clashed with insurgents in Alah Say district, 60 km (40 miles) northeast of Kabul, the Defence Ministry said. Two soldiers were also killed and one more was wounded during the fighting.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
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**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. Army soldiers near the border with Pakistan during a patrol close to Nawapass village, Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan February 6, 2009. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

TROOP NEWS

“I Have A Bunch Of Uniforms In My Closet That I Have No Clue What To Do With”

“If This War Is Going To Continue, I Don’t Want It To Be Because I Was Afraid To Speak”



MARCH 6, 2009 BY RICHARD WHITTAKER, Austin Chronicle

As the economy collapses, one industry is booming – one of the few sectors that consistently lowers its hiring criteria.

Last quarter, the U.S. military exceeded its recruitment quota, as people are signing up for the only jobs available.

At Austin’s Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan public hearing, held Feb. 28 at the Central Presbyterian Church by Iraq Veterans Against the War, there was a different argument: that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan aren’t an economic solution but a big part of the problem.

The event was part of a national series of Winter Soldier events and a weekend of local peaceful protest, continuing with a march to City Hall and culminating with a trip to Killeen for the opening of the new GI resistance coffee shop, Under the Hood.

The sometimes raw and passionate hearings gathered together seasoned local anti-war campaigners, such as Iraq veteran and IVAW Austin chaplain Hart Vigés, national figures such as ex-marine and IVAW board member Adam Kokesh, and newer protesters such as Marie Combs, who left the Navy two weeks ago after eight years of service.

"I have a bunch of uniforms in my closet that I have no clue what to do with," she said.

She talked to the packed church about how overstretched the whole U.S. military has become, even for basic medical provisions, because of the war.

"Funds are taken away, and treatment is not available when we need it," she said.

"If this war is going to continue, I don't want it to be because I was afraid to speak."

Aside from the testimonials and personal experiences, there was discussion of peaceful anti-war and counterrecruitment techniques, as well as fundamental criticism of U.S. military adventurism and the continuing absence of real troop drawdown under President Barack Obama.

However, Gold Star father John Scripsick, who had earlier told the story of how he was misled by the military about the details of his son Bryan's death, summed up a common feeling when he reminded everyone who had started the Iraq war.

He even had a peaceful suggestion for what to do with them. He said, "Let's take up a collection, buy Dick Cheney and George Bush a half-acre of land by the Euphrates, give 'em a handful of seeds, and tell 'em to have a good life."

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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 wars, 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

Incompetent Electric Wiring By War Profiteer KBR Could Kill Troops In Afghanistan, Contractors Say: "Disregard For Quality Work Was Pervasive"

“KBR’s Carelessness Unnecessarily Put People’s Lives In Danger”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Ya buy 'em books, Ya buy 'em more books, and what do they do? They laugh at the pictures, eat the pages, and tear off the covers.

[We had electricians in my unit who could wire up a shower SAFELY. And these were PFCs and Spec 4s.]

March 4, 2009 From Abbie Boudreau and Scott Bronstein, CNN Special Investigations Unit [Excerpts]

Faulty electrical wiring is already suspected in the deaths of several U.S. troops in Iraq.

Now contractors who worked in Afghanistan are reporting similar problems at American bases there.

“In general, the electrical power systems in the camp can be described as a disaster waiting to happen,” electrician Noris Rogers wrote to his bosses at military contractor KBR about conditions at one base in 2005.

The letter warned of “extreme dangers” of electrical shock and fire hazards at the facility.

Rogers, who left Afghanistan shortly after writing that letter, told CNN that the work done by KBR at one U.S. base in Kabul was “by far” the worst he has seen in 20-plus years in the trade.

“As a complete whole, the electrical work at the camp was very dangerous,” he said. “And I don’t think it would be an exaggeration to say that I don’t believe any of it was done safely.”

Jeff Bliss says he saw similar electrical hazards when he worked as an electrician in Afghanistan. Bliss, also a former KBR electrician, told a Senate Democratic Policy Committee meeting in 2008 that “the carelessness and disregard for quality work at KBR was pervasive.”

In one case, Bliss said, a soldier at a field command post received a 400-volt shock from wiring that other soldiers told him had been installed by a plumber and a security guard.

The 20-year veteran of the trade said KBR hired many unqualified or unlicensed electricians, and relied heavily on non-American workers who were unfamiliar with U.S. standards and spoke little or no English.

“I saw firsthand how KBR’s carelessness unnecessarily put people’s lives in danger,” he testified.

Bliss, Rogers and three other experienced electricians who worked for KBR in 2005 and 2006 told CNN that their warnings to supervisors were ignored. The electricians showed CNN photographs they say show dangerous wiring, and overloaded or badly wired circuit panels that have caused fires at U.S. installations.

And several U.S. soldiers who were stationed in Afghanistan said they received electrical shocks themselves or knew soldiers who suffered them. The soldiers said they preferred to not be identified because of possible retribution from the Army.

The Pentagon would not say whether there were any fatalities or serious injuries from electrocutions in Afghanistan, telling CNN it would not comment on an ongoing investigation by the Defense Department's inspector general.

Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, who leads the Democratic Policy Committee, said the accounts from Afghanistan show "some of the same problems exist in both war theaters."

Dorgan said he was "outraged" at the Defense Department for not moving faster to fix electrical hazards.

"Our soldiers shouldn't be taking risks by taking showers," he said. "They ought to be able to expect that the electrical work at their military base is not going to result in their death or injury because of shoddy workmanship."

After 10 Years AWOL, An Administrative Discharge: "She Tried Twice To Turn Herself In At Navy Bases But The Army Neglected To Pick Her Up"

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

February 21, 2009 (AP)

An El Cajon woman who was arrested last week for deserting the Army a decade ago has returned home after being administratively discharged from duty.

Her attorney Jeremiah Sullivan says 37-year-old Giselle Flynn arrived from Fort Sill, Okla., Friday night and was reunited with her two children.

Flynn deserted her post at Fort Gordon, Ga., in 1999 to care for her young son, who was sick, and her daughter. She tried twice to turn herself in at Navy bases but the Army neglected to pick her up.

She was arrested Feb. 14 by El Cajon police then taken to Fort Sill.

Sullivan says negotiations with Army officers went well, though he says the Army never explained why a warrant for her arrest was issued after so long.

World War II Pioneers Help First Coast's Homeless Veterans

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Sometimes I read this stuff and bawl my eyes out. I guess I'm not the only one who never found the expiration date on that oath."]

Mar. 5, 2009 By Bridget Murphy, The Florida Times-Union

Six decades after her wartime service, the Army trumpeter's fingers glide across a new instrument.

This time it is a Smith Corona Personal Word Processor, something Louise Byrd has been using in a different kind of concert for some of her own.

During World War II, the Jacksonville woman performed at war bond rallies up and down the East Coast, helping to recruit and entertain troops as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

Today, the 87-year-old military pioneer's oath of service remains strong even after her husband has died, her children have grown and her home for the past eight years has been in a retirement community.

The word processor is in a spare bedroom in her villa there, where she's been busy typing letters to area business managers.

Byrd tells them how she is part of a local group of 16 female veterans - most in their 80s and 90s - who are trying to help homeless vets.

Then she appeals for businesses to do what they can for those struggling to return to regular life after military service.

It all started last summer. Byrd and neighbor Martha Burt, another 87-year-old vet and widow, saw the health care facility for homeless veterans a few blocks from their retirement village.

Being pioneers, they had no problem marching up to the door and asking if they could help.

Donna Liggins, a social worker at the nearby Health Care for Homeless Veterans, told them she was happy to accept whatever assistance they and other members of Chapter 56 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association could offer.

That's when Byrd's letter-writing began.

"Since we have limited funds," she wrote to business managers, "we are appealing to you for assistance in aiding these veterans who have served our country."

She asked for everything from underwear and other clothing to wallets, shaving supplies and toothpaste.

Many found it impossible to say no and sent Byrd gift cards for the vets up the road. She passed on the \$420 worth of gift cards to Liggins, along with 40 shirts and 10 pair of pants that businesses also donated for the veterans.

Many are fighting addictions or mental health problems as they work to transition into lives where steady employment and a permanent address are realities.

Case managers at Health Care for Homeless Veterans refer clients to doctors, substance abuse programs and employment services. They also help place veterans in housing.

Liggins said donations that Chapter 56 collected went to dress about three dozen veterans, including one who wore his outfit to a job interview.

But the former Cpl. Byrd - Chapter 56's secretary - and the former Cpl. Burt - 56's president - didn't stop there. The ladies organized a sock drive around the holidays last year, collecting 52 pairs they sent along with toiletries for their fellow service members.

Working with another local grass-roots charity, the ladies arranged for five veterans to get bicycles in February.

Each month, Burt also brings 5 pounds of hard candy to the facility, a small aid in the battle some of the vets face breaking away from drug and alcohol abuse.

Now the ladies are aiming to collect household items like linens and dishes for veterans who are moving into empty apartments after living on the streets.

When you ask the ladies why they are doing this at a time in their lives when they rightly could be eating chocolates in their village's lawn gazebos or playing poker in the community room, they answer like this:

Cpl. Burt: "Because we're all service people."

Cpl. Byrd: "And they need help now."

Cpl. Burt: "And we're sitting here in the lap of luxury. ... There's something close and something small we can participate in."

And so key stroke by key stroke, the letter-writing continues on the Smith Corona, a finale for the veterans among them who perhaps need their service the most.

WANT TO HELP?

Donations to Chapter 56's drive for Jacksonville's homeless veterans

Who to call:

Louise Byrd at (904) 737-1470

History note:

In May 1942, Congress voted to create the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

A year later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill that made it possible for women to enlist in the Army, which led to the formation of the Women's Army Corps. Its ranks grew to nearly 100,000 before World War II ended.

Congress ended WAC in 1978, as a way to end a separate Army structure for women.

Source: Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association at www.armywomen.org

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action; Attack On Baghdad Police Academy Kills 32

03/07/09 Reuters & 8 March 2009 BBC & By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer & (Reuters)

A bomber has killed at least 32 people queuing outside Baghdad's main police academy in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, police say. The attack happened at about 1000 (0700 GMT) in "the middle of a crowd outside the [police] academy on Palestine Street", a police official told AFP news agency.

Reports suggest the bomber detonated a belt of explosives as he crashed his motorbike into a line of people waiting at the side entrance to the training centre.

Nervous Iraqi troops fired in the air to prevent onlookers and reporters from getting too close.

They accidentally shot at a fire engine but no casualties were reported, according to witnesses.

Three medical officials and one police officer in the area where the bombing occurred said 32 people were killed, including 19 recruits, nine policemen and four traffic police, and some 60 others were wounded.

The BBC's Mike Sergeant says that measures have been taken to try to protect the building, such as setting up concrete blocks and checkpoints nearby.

But he says that with the streams of police and recruits coming and going it is difficult to make it secure.

Haitham Fadhel said he was standing in one of three lines of recruits arriving for their first day of special guard training courses at the academy.

"We were feeling secure as we were waiting in a well-guarded area," he said.

"Before the explosion occurred I heard a loud shout saying 'Stop, stop, where are you going?' Seconds later, a huge explosion shook the area."

The 24-year-old recruit from the mainly Shiite neighborhood of New Baghdad was knocked unconscious and was wounded by shrapnel. He said he was lucky because the bomber struck a different line, but two of his friends were killed.

"I am just wondering how a big security breach can occur in such a secured area," Fadhel said.

"I came here to get a job after four years of staying at home even though I graduated from Oil Institute ... but it seems that I have no luck."

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed when guerrillas attacked an army checkpoint in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A militant threw a hand grenade at a police patrol in central Mosul, killing a soldier.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it exploded near a police convoy in western Mosul, police said.

A bomb close to a police checkpoint wounded one policeman in southern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen on Palestine street in north-eastern Baghdad, police said.

Three members of a U.S. backed neighborhood patrol were wounded by a roadside bomb in the Ghazaliya district of western Baghdad, police said.

A bomb attached to a vehicle carrying an employee of Iraq's parliament wounded him and a bystander in Mansour district, western Baghdad, police said.

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

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.”

Frederick Douglas, 1852

State Of the Union

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

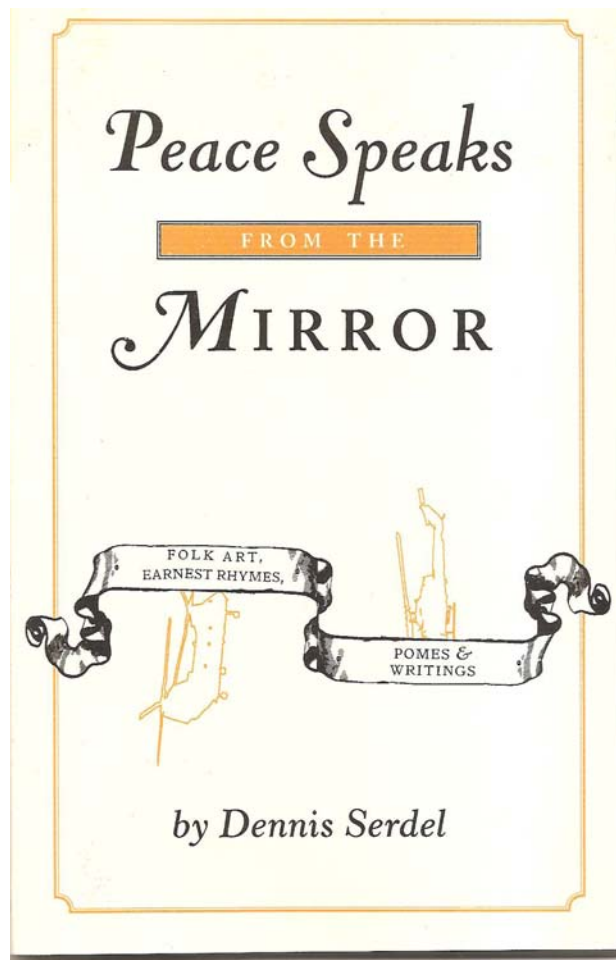
From *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*

State Of the Union

State of the killer clown address
brutality of war, says think nothing of it
Do not worry about the dead
there will always be dead
like all wars behind us
and all war ahead
Do not worry about our Soldiers
who are wounded allover
the medical world
can keep them "alive"
without any arms, without any legs
with brain damage funny talking
post stress is a personality
disorder, no disability here,
they were that way before the war
Your squeaky clean white kids
who go to the high schools
and colleges have nothing to fear
because the poor like usual
are fighting the war
Buy more stock in Halliburton
Bechtel and more
war profiteer Companies too
the blood money you make
on Wall Street is killer
I am trying to keep the war going
as long as I can
the money we are making
is just too good to end
The Democrats are with us
they are just giving lip service
they are playing politics
with our Soldiers
like we are in war
Excuse me a minute
while I wipe off these maggots
and worms that roll down
my chin as I speak.

MORE:

Get Some While There Still Are Some To Get:



Books are \$12 plus \$4 for postage and mailer = \$16 due.

Make Money Orders or Checks payable to:
Dennis Serdel
339 Oakwood Lane
Perry,
Michigan 48872

Money Orders sent next day, Personal Checks after 3 days.

Over Seas Orders, please write first and I will send the Postal costs. Let me know if you want USA Postal costs, Western Union Perry Michigan, Money Gram, Fed Ex, Pink Japanese International Money Order.

Or payment can be made by well hidden American dollars in a Registered Mailing.

Let me know.

Dennis Serdel

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

March 8, 1965; Unhappy Murderous Imperial Stupidity Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History

About 3,500 U. S. Marines became the first American combat troops in Vietnam, landing near the coastal city of Da Nang. The USS Henrico, Union, and Vancouver, carrying the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade under Brig. Gen. Frederick J. Karch, took up stations 4,000 yards off Red Beach Two, north of Da Nang.

Two Magnificent Anniversaries In The Fight For Human Liberation:

#1: March 8, 1908: New York City Women Strike For Higher Wages, A Shorter Workday And An End To Child Labor



Carl Bunin Peace History; un.org [Excerpts]

March 8, 1908

Thousands of workers in the New York needle trades (primarily women) demonstrated and began a strike for higher wages, a shorter workday and an end to child labor.

This event became the basis for International Women's Day celebrated all over the world since March 8, 1945.

#2: March 8, 1917 With 2 Million Russian Soldiers Dead In The War, Women Ignore The "Political Leaders" And Lead

A Revolution To Overthrow The Imperial Tyrant Czar Of Russia



*Two old women lament
Old days of sorrow,
When prayers went unheard
And the grave was relief.*

*But no more does the stick
Fall upon women's shoulders.
Free and equal they march,
Comrades of men!*

March 8, 1917

With 2 million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women again chose the last Sunday in February to strike for “bread and peace”.

Political leaders opposed the timing of the strike, but the women went on anyway.

The rest is history:

Four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.

That historic Sunday fell on 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, but on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere.

OCCUPATION NORTHERN IRELAND

Resistance Attacks British Military Base; Two Killed, Four Wounded

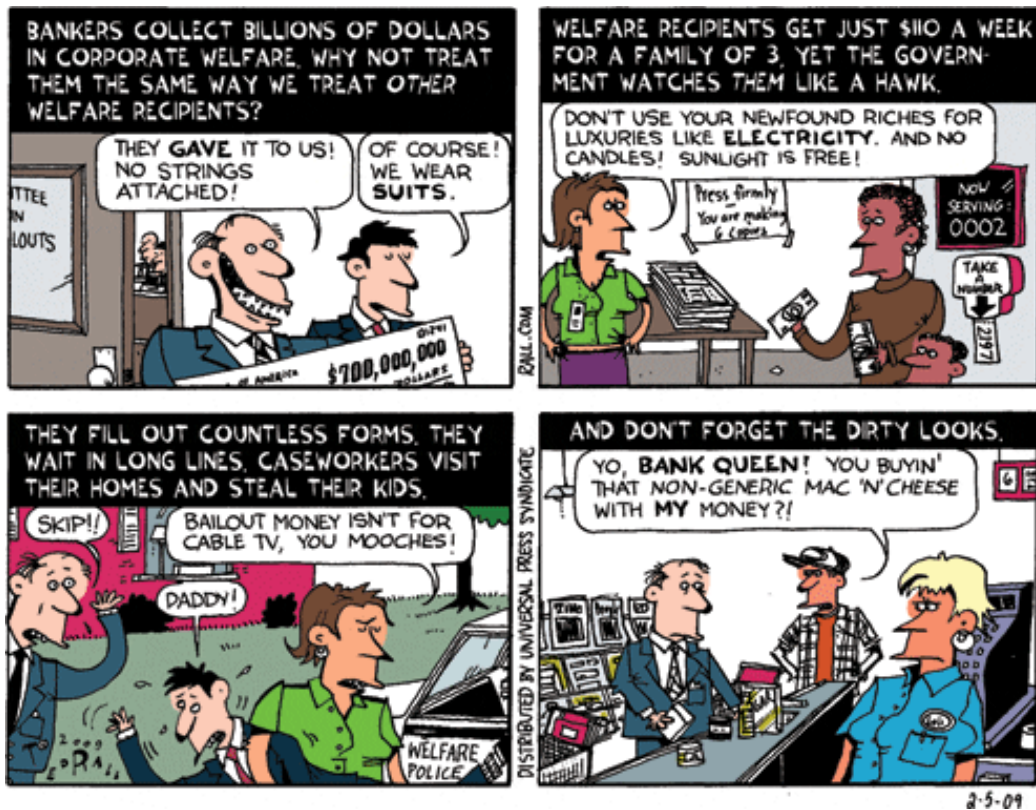


The front of Massereene army base where two British occupation military personnel were killed in County Antrim, near Belfast. Four more were wounded in a small arms attack at the British army base in Northern Ireland. (AFP/Peter Muhly)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

“No More Cuts! No More Cuts!”
“A Massive Budget Backlash Came To Lower Manhattan On Thursday”

“Desperation For An Economic Lifeline Brought Out More Than 50,000 People Along Several Blocks Of Broadway”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Europe has arrived on our shores. This is only the first of many.]

Mar 6, 2009 By Hazel Sanchez, NEW YORK (CBS) [Excerpts]

A massive budget backlash came to lower Manhattan on Thursday. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers marched on City Hall, rallying to stop proposed funding cuts.

The rally cries of labor unions, community groups and families outside City Hall could be heard throughout lower Manhattan.

Desperation for an economic lifeline brought out more than 50,000 people along several blocks of Broadway in a self-described “Rally For New York.”

Their message for Gov. David Paterson came in the form of booming chants:

“No more cuts! No more cuts!”

Everyday New Yorkers had their own personal messages for the governor as well.

“Governor Paterson, I wish you could have an open heart that we are going to suffer if this budget cut goes through,” said China Lankford of Jamaica.

Paterson has proposed closing a \$15 billion state budget gap by making cuts across the board, including \$2.5 billion in education, \$3.2 billion in health care and billions more in cuts to vital programs such as senior services, disability services, housing assistance and crisis intervention programs.

Protestors insisted Thursday that there's a better way.

They're asking for what they call “fair tax reform” -- raising state taxes for New Yorkers making \$250,000 or more on top of the president's proposed hikes.

“For those of you who prosper during boom time, we ask them pay a little bit more. Pay a little more so New York can avoid cutting the services that our most vulnerable need,” United Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said.

“The cut back is putting people out of jobs,” said Ruth Cardona of Local 1199. “No health care and also the education part of it is wrong.”

Workers said they will continue to fight for their part of the economic pie.

Simultaneous rallies were also coordinated in cities around the state on Thursday, including Albany, Buffalo and White Plains.

MORE:

The Billionaire Mayor Of New York City Will Spend \$45 Million On Retraining Unemployed Investment Bankers; But He Refuses To Pay The Money Mandated For Low-Wage Home Child-Care Providers; “The Mayor Cried Poverty”

3.6.09 By DAVID SIMS, The Chief [Excerpts]

New York City

The United Federation of Teachers’ home day-care providers joined City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr. Feb. 25 in protesting the city’s recently-announced program to spend \$45 million on re-training unemployed investment bankers while balking at paying the state-mandated “market rate” to providers, flouting a fast-approaching deadline that would mean the withdrawal of state funds for the Administration for Children’s Services.

“Even in this recession, the State of New York made sure there is an increase in the rate that these providers get paid, from October 2007,” said UFT President Randi Weingarten.

“And every single county in this state except for New York City has paid that increase to child-care providers.

“The state would hold all child-care support from the city. But even that threat was not enough. Because instead of taking care of the city’s providers, the Mayor has decided to be stubborn; the Mayor cried poverty.”

“But then what happened? The stimulus package got passed, and all of a sudden, and I don’t begrudge people this, the Mayor found money to make sure that we can train Wall Streeters to get new jobs,” she continued.

“But they can’t find money for the lowest-wage workers in the city of New York? That is why we are here today.

“If you can find it for Wall Street, you gotta find it for child care providers.

“Let's be honest, so many on Wall Street helped us get into the situation that we are in now,” said Mr. Thompson, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for Mayor. “We don't begrudge anybody the opportunity to get a new job and get re-trained, but for those that have worked hard to take care of our children, those who have been mandated by the state to receive fair wages, and (even with the raise) they'd still be below the poverty line, they'd still have no vacation, no health-care, and they'd still be struggling to get by and put food on their table.”

The providers, who number about 29,000, voted to join the UFT in 2007 in the hope of securing a contract that could provide them with better pay and benefits.

Currently, they make on average \$19,000 a year, well below the Federal poverty lines.

In October 2007, the state approved a market-rate increase for all providers that would secure them around \$1,200 extra per year, but ACS [Administration For Children's Services] has said that their budget gap is too wide to make such payments, especially retroactively.

The state Office of Children and Family Services is thus threatening to withhold its March payment of state aid to ACS if they do not comply with the raises.

“Where is the fairness and equitable distribution of stimulus money? Why are the Wall Street bankers prioritized over the providers, who should have received a wage increase since October of 2007?” asked Tammie Miller, the UFT Providers chapter leader.

“How is this a sound economic decision; when the city's refusal to pay the market rates is jeopardizing child-care block money as well as stimulus money?”

City Council Member Letitia James of Brooklyn said that the training program was the latest indication of where the Mayor's priorities were.

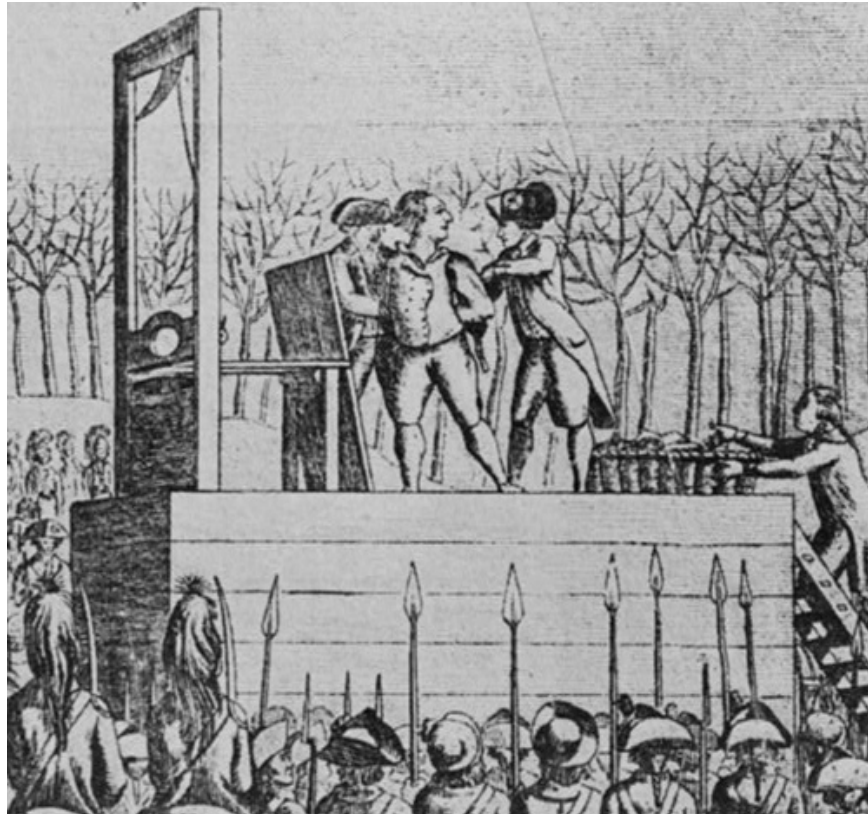
“He continues to demonstrate how disconnected he is. Poverty is growing by leaps and bounds, and what does he do?”

“He finds money to retrain Wall Street,” she said. “(Providers) are the face of the invisible poor in the City of New York ... we will draw a line in the sand against this effort.”

MORE:

**Fed Up With Rich, Aristocratic
Politicians, French Citizens Showed
How To “Draw A Line In The Sand”**

By Doing Some “Disconnecting” Of Their Own



RECEIVED

“Nestles, The Long Standing Capitalist Nasty”

From: JM [Australia]
To: GI Special
Sent: March 07, 2009
Subject: Nestles the long standing capitalist nasty.

“In Maine, we were tired of Nestlé behaving like a colonial power, with a right to our water resources.” [GI Special 7C6]

I refuse to buy anything produced by Nestles because of their unpleasant, money making, techniques in the third (majority) world.

I'm very willing to tell anyone, who will listen, why I behave the way I do. Maybe Americans should start acting like me. If enough people boycott them Nestles will be forced to alter their ways.



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