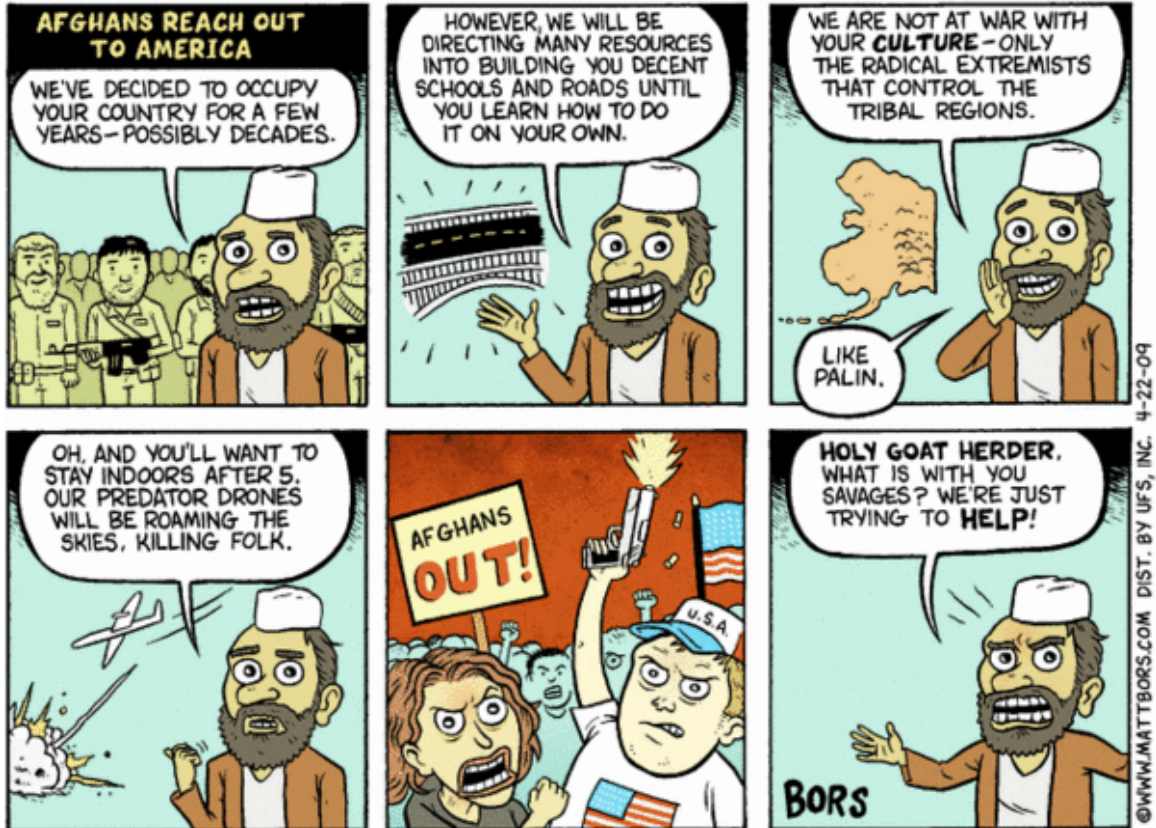


GI SPECIAL 7D15:



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "The sad thing is he wouldn't be welcomed if he came as a tourist, either."]

Blindfolded

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: April 21, 2009
Subject: Blindfolded

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

Blindfolded

**I was born in March of 1947
when my Father came home from WWII
and married my Mother who worked
as a Secretary in Kalamazoo.**

**Yes, I am a true “Baby Boomer” or
in other words a “War Baby” born
from the “Greatest Generation.”**

**I now know how they are going to handle
the influx of all the “Baby Boomers”
who are beginning to retire.**

**The Companies are going bankrupt,
They Say, and will Not pay me any
Retirement pay or Health Care.**

**But in the 1960's, it was my turn to serve
in the Army in Vietnam because
I was fighting Against the Idea
that a Country's wealth should be
evenly spread to All the Citizens
as fair as possible.**

**Instead, I was fighting for the Idea
that a Few people should own
the Wealth of a Country
and the rest of the Citizens
should be poor.**

**But when I came home from the War
I joined a Union and I was Not poor
but “Middle Class.”**

**However, it looks like I shall return
to my proper place again
that being poor as the Unions are
being stabbed in the back by
Obama who represents the Few.**

**Did I mention that my Son is a
“War Baby” from America's
“Worst Generation ? “**

**So let him be especially
laid off fired let go and poor.**

**The Iraq and Afghanistan Soldiers
and Veterans are another
“Greatest Generation” who do
what they are told to do by the Few
but it looks like they will be poor
anyway because that is the way
America wants them to be.**

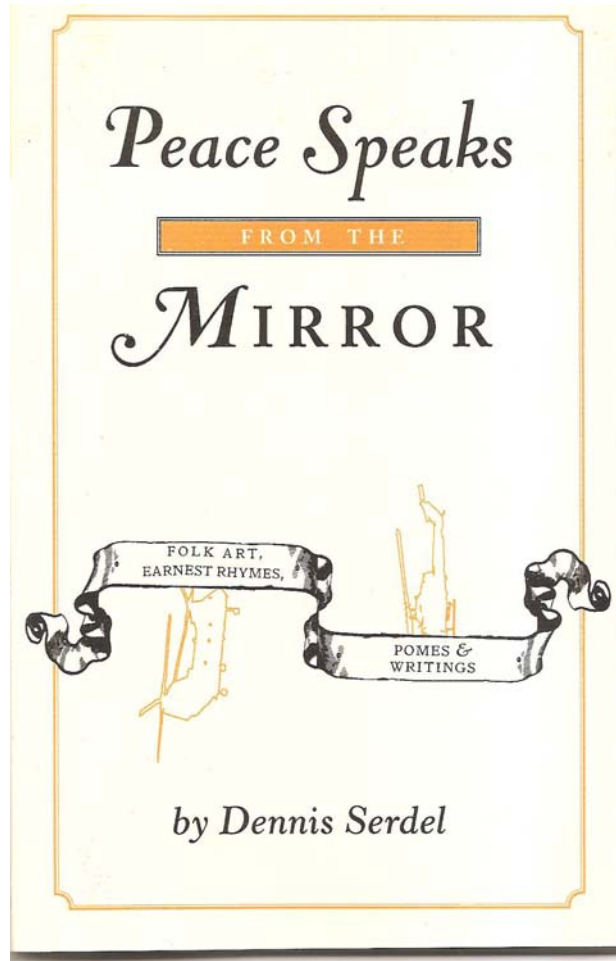
A Few people have all the money

and the rest of the Citizens are poor.
So I have taken on the job of
convincing our new "Greatest Generation"
that when the Wars are over,
they will be tossed aside like
used toilet paper and their reward
will be to work hard at slave Worker
wages to raise their "War Babies."
The government blindfolds them
now with yellow ribbons,
parades with all the trimmings
all the welcome backs
and elaborate funerals to assure
them that their Country really
appreciates them for fighting
and dying for the Idea of America.
The greatest fear that the Few have
who own all the wealth have
is giving guns and ammo to the poor
people like our Iraq and Afghanistan
Soldiers.
I mean, gee whizz Uncle Sam Few,
you really do fear that after you
keep stepping on their poor Mothers
and Fathers, Aunts and Uncles,
Brothers and Sisters
Cousins and Neighbors
and Friends that the Soldiers
just might get together
and march on Washington
DC and NY City
to eliminate the Few.

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

**Do NOT Order
Peace Speaks From The Mirror
By Dennis Serdel:
All Gone:**



The good news is all copies have been taken and there are none left. The bad news is that all copies have been taken and there are none left.

Dennis Serdel is putting together a new edition of his work now.

Speed the day.

T

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. troops on a major street of Fadhil in Baghdad, Iraq, March 29, 2009. U.S. and Iraqi troops are exchanging gunfire with militants. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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

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

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

More Afghan Occupation Supplies Burned In Peshawar By “Dozens Of Militants”



April 23, 2009: Burning Afghanistan occupation fuel supplies in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Thursday. AP Photo: Mohammad Sajjad

April 23 MSNBC

Militants attacked a NATO truck terminal in the outskirts of Peshawar, the capital of the restive North-West Frontier Province, burning vehicles and sending a very visual message of their presence.

In the attack on NATO, dozens of militants armed with guns and gasoline bombs burned seven tanker trucks carrying fuel to NATO troops in Afghanistan, police said.

Gunmen attacked the truck depot near Peshawar before dawn on Thursday, hurling gasoline bombs that set fire to the five tankers.

Security guards fled, and the assailants escaped before police arrived.

NATO and the U.S. military insist that their losses on the transport route remain minimal and have had no impact on their expanding operations in Afghanistan. However, they have been seeking alternative routes through Central Asia. **[Purely for the fun of it.]**

Great Moments In U.S. Military History:

The Kunduz Massacre:

“The Americans Could Have Simply Surrounded The House And Knocked On The Door. Why Did They Have To Kill Five Innocent People?”

“When We Used To Hear These Stories Of Civilians Killed By US Forces And Villages Bombed In The South, We Always Thought It Was Taleban Propaganda”

“But Now We Know That It Is All True!”

16-Apr-09 By IWPR reporters in Kunduz (ARR No. 319); Institute for War & Peace [Excerpts]

An IWPR investigation has challenged the American military's account of a recent raid by its forces on a town close to the border with Tajikistan, in which a number of men were either killed or taken away for questioning.

Over the past few weeks, local and international media reports have speculated about the motive for the March 22 dawn attack on Imam Sahib and the identity of those killed and detained.

The United States military has insisted that its forces stormed what it describes as a militant stronghold in Kunduz.

It claims the troops battled insurgents, killing five and detaining four.

But an IWPR probe, based on extensive interviews with local people, questions key aspects of the US army's version of events.

The principal IWPR findings suggest the five men killed had no connection with extremists and cast doubt on the American claim that the victims had opened fire on the troops.

Our reporters' enquiries indicate that only one of those killed owned a weapon and that two were asleep when they were shot.

It was the middle of the night, about 3.30 am, when the two Chinook helicopters landed in Imam Sahib, residents told IWPR, and approximately 60 soldiers zeroed in on a compound belonging to the mayor of the town, Sufi Abdul Manan.

They blew in the gate, and then, equipped with night-vision goggles and guns with silencers, advanced into the courtyard and surrounded a guesthouse where visitors to the town often stayed, locals claim.

"I was awoken by the sound of these large helicopters and saw Americans approaching the gate of the guesthouse," said the owner of a fuel station nearby. "They had things on their helmets. I hid, so I could not be seen. I heard a sound from shots – like a 'phhht-phhht'."

A baker in an adjoining compound said, "I could not see anything, but I heard a big bang, I think it was the Americans blowing up the gate."

Townfolk say there were nine men in the guesthouse that night. Judging by the position of the bodies, seen by an IWPR reporter in an amateur video shot by a local right after the incident, the soldiers shot two men as they lay sleeping in their beds: Hassan Jan and Almed Imam.

Residents say the former made tea for guests and enjoyed listening to his music in the garden; while the latter, a long-time resident of the guesthouse, did some cleaning and washed vehicles parked inside the compound.

The soldiers also shot the mayor's driver Obaidullah, who – from the video evidence – appeared to be trying to run away, and the mayor's bodyguard, Nasrullah, along with his cousin Naqibullah, who had been living in the guesthouse for several weeks while he looked for a job in Imam Sahib, locals say.

They insist Nasrullah was the only one of the victims to possess a gun - his Kalashnikov was registered with the local authorities and was used to protect the mayor.

"We were in a room near the courtyard of the guesthouse, and we could hear the shots – those 'phhht' sounds of guns with silencers," said the mayor. "We could hear Nasrullah, my bodyguard, who was probably standing in front of the gate to our house. He was begging the Americans not to enter, he kept saying 'there are women and children there.' Then there was another shot, and we did not hear Nasrullah any more."

The mayor said the troops then left.

He maintained that he had no knowledge of four guests taken away by the troops for questioning. He said the guesthouse was often used by travellers, since there is no hotel in Imam Sahib.

“But even if those guests were terrorists, the Americans could have simply surrounded the house and knocked on the door. Why did they have to kill five innocent people?” he said.

At 4.30, residents say the soldiers were airlifted out, carrying, or dragging, the four prisoners. A short time later, locals entered the compound and found the bodies, some of them barely recognisable. They say all of the rooms around the courtyard had been searched, car windows had been smashed, but nothing was missing except for Nasrullah’s Kalashnikov and the four guests taken away by the soldiers.

The identity of the four men who were taken away is unknown – no one in Imam Sahib is missing any friend or relative. All those who had seen them were dead.

Dr Amir Barakzai, an Afghan-German agrarian scientist who works for Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst, a German development agency operating in Kunduz, visited the area the day before the attack.

“I knew all five people very well, because I stayed in the guesthouse for two and a half months when I came back to Imam Sahib from Germany,” he said. “There is no hotel in Imam Sahib, so everybody stays there.

“Four of the men had been working there for years – the tea cook, the driver, the bodyguard, and someone who was always washing cars. The fifth man was the cousin of the bodyguard.”

The US military rejects any suggestion that the men who were killed in the early morning of March 22 were anything other than dangerous militants.

“We stand by our information and the report that the individuals killed were armed militants,” said Colonel Greg Julian, spokesperson for US Forces-Afghanistan, responding to queries from IWPR. “The Coalition force used multiple sources of intelligence to confirm the presence of the targeted individual.

“The force surrounded the target building and called out to the occupants to come out unarmed – when five individuals began firing on the Coalition force, they assaulted the building and killed them. They were armed combatants, not civilians.”

Locals insist they heard no loud gunfire, only the sounds of the US soldiers’ silenced firearms.

The spokesman could give no further information on the identity of the “targeted individual”, nor could he either confirm or deny reports that the US soldiers involved in the attack were part of an elite unit tasked with the search for Osama bin Laden. “Unfortunately, the answers to your questions are not releasable,” said Julian.

He went on to reject reports that the guesthouse was a common stopping-off place for travellers. "The presence of unknown foreigners as guests of the mayor should raise some serious questions," he said. "As well as the drug connections."

Drugs were something that had been mentioned only tangentially in reports about Imam Sahib. The German news magazine Der Spiegel quoted unnamed intelligence sources as saying that the US military had been "tricked" into disposing of a rival drug lord.

While insisting that the men killed and apprehended were terrorists, not drug traffickers, Julian insisted that there was little distinction between the two.

"The linkage between narcotics trafficking and the insurgency is a security and force protection threat and, therefore, a legitimate target," he said. "New guidance from NATO directs (the International Security and Assistance Force) to support the Government of Afghanistan in taking action against drug labs and traffickers supporting the insurgents. Although, in this case, they were targeting a terrorist network."

But the residents of Imam Sahib reject this version completely. They told IWPR that those killed were all well-known in the small community and were quite sure that they were not part of any insurgent groups.

Locals say the mayor himself has a reputation as a fierce opponent of the Taleban, who are rarely seen in the area.

The mayor has called for an investigation. So too has the interior ministry in Kabul

Such raids have created tensions in relations between Afghanistan and the US, and have resulted in the NATO command issuing new directives on dealing with situations where civilians might be present.

But US special forces have often disregarded NATO strictures, operating under a separate command structure.

The events in Kunduz may have already done severe damage to relations between the local residents and the foreign community. According to one western diplomat, speaking privately, "This type of incident puts us all in a very difficult position. We work for many months to build relationships, and then it is all undone by something like this."

A US soldier who worked in Kapisa province, north of Kabul, agreed.

"I was in Tagab district, having some success with the local residents," he said, speaking privately. "They can sense your attitude, they know whether or not you respect them. But the special forces came in and in one night undid all our good work. I want to go home to my family, but I want my time here to mean something."

The residents of Imam Sahib, still mourning their dead, are determined to get the truth about the raid.

"We don't want revenge," said the mayor. "We just want an honest investigation into why these five completely innocent men were killed."

But others are not quite as generous.

“When we used to hear these stories of civilians killed by US forces and villages bombed in the south, we always thought it was Taleban propaganda,” said an elderly, well-dressed man near Imam Sahib’s central mosque, where he had just attended a memorial service for the dead.

“But now we know that it is all true!”

TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Dover Air Force Base, Del.: The remains of Army Staff Sgt. Gary L. Woods Jr., 24, of Lebanon Junction, Ky, April 12, 2009. Woods died with four other soldiers April 10, 2009 when their military vehicle was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Mosul Iraq. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

4,000 From National Guard 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Off The Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

April 16, 2009 By Thomas M. Ruyle, Stars and Stripes [Excerpts]

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — An estimated 10,000 family members, supporters and dignitaries gathered at the Crown Center Coliseum to send off 4,000 soldiers of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, which is departing this week for a second tour in Iraq. At least several hundred spectators had to watch the ceremony from a nearby building via video link.

In its return to Iraq, the 30th becomes the first full National Guard brigade to conduct combat operations twice in the same conflict. The brigade, comprising units from North Carolina, West Virginia and Colorado, mobilized in December.

After the ceremony, the soldiers boarded buses back to nearby Fort Bragg. For most, it was the final goodbye before they fly to Kuwait over the next several days.

After training at bases in Georgia, Mississippi, California and Virginia, the brigade consolidated at Fort Bragg for final preparations before moving to Kuwait.

The 30th, nicknamed "Old Hickory" in honor of North Carolina native Andrew Jackson, served nearly a year in eastern and northern Iraq in 2004 and early 2005 under the 1st Infantry Division.

1000 From Minnesota National Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

4.27.09 Army Times

More than 1,000 members of the Minnesota National Guard have begun deploying to Iraq.

The members of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division have been training at Fort Lewis, Wash., for about two months.

The Red Bulls will command a coalition of about 16,000 multinational troops, as well as Iraqi security forces in more than a third of Iraq — a broader responsibility than they've had in the past.

They'll operate in an area stretching from Baghdad south to the border and east to parts of the border with Iran.

Maj. Gen. Rick Nash, who will command the group, says a key responsibility will be to encourage open trade with Iran and to monitor borders for illegal smuggling and insurgent activity.

They are slated to return to Minnesota in February.

Military Families Speak Out Demands Immediate Withdrawal Of All Troops From Afghanistan As Well As Iraq; 80.7% Vote Yes

[Thanks to Katherine G, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Apr 23, 2009 Military Families Speak Out

Dear Members of Military Families Speak Out,

The MFSO Board of Directors would like to share the results of the membership vote on the Afghanistan issue. A total of 420 members voted.

On question one, which called for a change in the actual MFSO mission statement to include Afghanistan, 80.7 percent of respondents voted yes, 19.8 percent voted no. 404 people answered question one.

MFSO's process called for the MFSO mission to be changed if 2/3rds of the voting members supported this change. The 80.7% affirmative response more than meets that goal, thus MFSO's new mission statement is:

“The United States should end the military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, bring our troops home now, and take care of them when they get here. The US should also end the policies of preventive and preemptive wars of aggression that allowed the Iraq war to happen.”

On question 2, which called for MFSO to take the position that the war in Afghanistan end quickly, 87 percent voted yes, and 13 percent voted no. 321 people answered the question. Because the stronger mission statement passed, that statement now becomes both the mission and position of the organization.

The MFSO Board and staff will now begin implementing this change in our press releases, materials and program, and we look forward to working with MFSO Chapters and members as we move through this process. .

We greatly appreciate your patience with this process. Thank you to all who participated in the vote, and to all MFSO members for speaking out to bring our troops home NOW!

In Peace and Solidarity,
The MFSO Board of Directors

Military Families Speak Out Founders and Board of Directors

Jack Amoureux

Rossana Cambron

Adele Kubein

Lisa Leitz

Annie McCabe

Jeff Merrick

Maggie Pondolfino

Nooshin Razani

Larry Syverson

Traci Thomas

Beverly Wiskow

Nancy Lessin

Charley Richardson

Kerry Betrays Troops Again, As Usual: Worthless Burnt-Out Opportunist Hack Refuses To Let IVAW Testify Against Afghanistan Occupation: [He's For Imperial War Now]



Kerry's committee did not invite any witness from the Iraq Veterans Against the War, the modern-day analog of the antiwar group he represented when he testified in 1971. That group, which includes Afghanistan war veterans, has called for an end to the Afghan war.

April 22, 2009 By Farah Stockman, Boston Globe [Excerpts]

Thirty-eight years ago today, a soldier fresh from Vietnam riveted the nation by recounting the horrors of a far-away war, famously asking the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

The speech by 27-year-old John Kerry launched his rise from antiwar protester to presidential nominee to chairman of that very same powerful committee.

Tomorrow Senator Kerry will listen as veterans of the war in Afghanistan shine a spotlight on a conflict that a small but growing number of Americans are beginning to question, even as President Obama increases troops.

But in a sign of how much Kerry - and the country - has changed since 1971, tomorrow's hearings will feature few - if any - dramatic calls for withdrawal.

Kerry's committee did not invite any witness from the Iraq Veterans Against the War, the modern-day analog of the antiwar group he represented when he testified in 1971.

That group, which includes Afghanistan war veterans, has called for an end to the Afghan war.

At least three out of the four Afghan war veterans who will testify tomorrow oppose a US withdrawal.

"I was a little disappointed that there wasn't any outreach made to hear from veterans who are against the war in Afghanistan, given that he played a similar role in Vietnam," said Perry O'Brien, a medic who served in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and belongs to Iraq Veterans Against the War.

But Kerry did not invite O'Brien, who opposes both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, even though Kerry invited O'Brien to stay at his Nantucket home in 2006 during a film festival featuring an antiwar documentary that O'Brien was in.

Last year, O'Brien organized his own Winter Soldier hearings featuring testimony from soldiers about how "extremely loose rules of engagement" and air strikes in Afghanistan kill civilians and alienate the population.

"I think we presented clear evidence that soldiers were being ordered to do terrible things," he said. "But there wasn't much of a response."

Members of the group testified before the Congressional Progressive Caucus, but have never been invited to an official hearing.

<p style="text-align: center;">Troops Invited: Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box</p>
--

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

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 Douglass, 1852

Captain Crazy Shot Seven Times

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

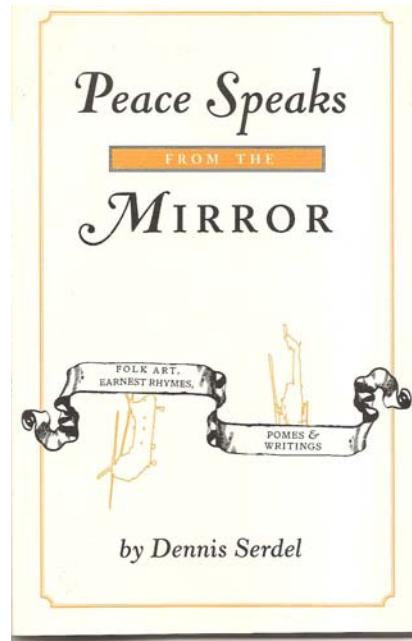
From *Peace Speaks From The Mirror*

Captain Crazy Shot Seven Times

Formation at dawn, hell, it was still night
as the grunts bumped into one another.
“Why are we here so early?”
asked someone in the dark.
Some red butts from cigarettes lite the night.
“Put out those cigarettes
and get into formation:’ barked the darkness.
“What’s going on ?” asked a voice?
Just then, a small PA system said,
“Let us bow our heads and pray.”
The eulogy lasted awhile
until the grunts could make out
the body bags lined up in the faint light
to be dumped in graves in America.
Dismissed, and the formation began to break up.
Suddenly, the Lieutenants
and Sergeants were repeating,
“Hold up, hold up.”
Then the Captain ran up and said,
“Just gather around me.” His eyes
were rolling around full of excitement as he said,
“We’re doing a helicopter combat assault
this morning and it’s hot, very hot.
I had to do some talking,
but I finally convinced them
to let our Company go in first.”
His eyes jumped around like a madman,
“Let’s go kick some ass:’
he said to the grunts,
trying to pump them up
as a coach would before a football game.
But this was not a football game,
this was Vietnam
and his military career
meant nothing to them.

MORE:

**Repeat:
Do NOT Order
All Gone:**



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



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.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

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, in humanity, 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



**Students And Activists Force Central CIA Into A Last-Minute Cancellation Of Its Recruitment Session At The University Of Illinois:
“To Finally Have A Visible Victory Was A Huge Morale Boost”**

April 13, 2009 By Martin Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

URBANA, Ill.--Students and activists won a victory April 9 when they forced the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) into a last-minute cancellation of its recruitment session at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For a third year, members of the Campus Antiwar Network (CAN), Iraq Veterans Against the War and the International Socialist Organization joined forces to protest the CIA, but this is the first year that the agency canceled, after activists exposed the agency's dark history of assassinations, political sabotage and torture.

Outside the recruitment session door, one activist donned a black Grim Reaper cloak and stood with arms extended on a milk crate to greet potential recruits and remind them of the atrocities conducted at Abu Ghraib with CIA complicity. Another used a simple pillowcase as a hood and kneeled with arms clasped behind his back to show how prisoners are commonly treated at Bagram Air Base and Guantánamo Bay.

Other protesters passed out informational leaflets and challenged attendees to consider the lies told by the CIA, which claimed in its campus ad to be "looking for a diversity of people for the important job of keeping America safe."

Campus police showed up at the request of the CIA operative in attendance who, according to the officers, requested to have us removed. However, the policemen checked our campus IDs and then notified us that we could stay as long as we didn't impede traffic.

Five minutes later, after our continued vigilance, we were thrilled when we heard that the CIA would cancel the session, claiming that since the student newspaper had shown up and taken pictures for an article featuring our protest, security had been compromised.

We suspect their true motive for canceling was their embarrassment over our collective message--"Say no to the CIA recruiting on our campuses!"

CIA Director Leon Panetta has reiterated the Obama administration's commitment to continuing several Bush administration policies in the so-called war on terror. Panetta told reporters the U.S. will continue controversial CIA drone attacks in Pakistan that have killed hundreds of civilians.

He also said that while CIA interrogators will have to abide by the Army Field Manual, Obama can still approve harsher techniques using wartime powers, and that the "CIA retains the authority to detain individuals on a short-term basis."

Activists and students should stand up to the CIA whenever they attempt to recruit on college campuses or in your community. With even a small number, you can shut down their recruitment meetings and score an important victory for peace and justice.

"I was pretty shocked when I found out that we managed to cancel the meeting," said CAN member Eric Heim.

“To finally have a visible victory was a huge morale boost. The CIA needs to be opposed whenever and wherever it appears because it is nothing but an agent of empire that destroys democracy and helps establish U.S. hegemony across the globe through force and brutality.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res2&mod=newse&lan=1>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond ‘fair use’, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

GI Special www.militaryproject.org

This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.



GI Special is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.