

GI SPECIAL 7E15:

**Fort Stewart:
A Priority For Establishing Contact
With And Providing Support For
U.S. Soldiers Opposing Wars Of
Empire**



Mission Briefing By:

Monica Benderman, Citizen, Hinesville, Georgia; location of Fort Stewart

Jeff Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War, Denver

Jason Hurd, Iraq Veterans Against The War; Savannah, Georgia

Camilo E. Mejia, Chair, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**May 21, 2009 7:00 PM
UFPJ Office
630 9th Avenue: 2nd Floor
[BETWEEN 44th and 45th Streets]
New York City, New York**

Fort Stewart, Georgia is home to the 1st Brig., 3rd ID, tasked to be available for emergency duty within the continental USA. "They may be called upon to help with civil unrest and crowd control."

We should get to know them better.

Further comment unnecessary.

An activity of Military Project:
contact@militaryproject.org

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Remembering 21-Year-Old Soldier James Pirtle

May 5, 2009 By Stephanie Wurtz, WorldNow

COLORADO SPRINGS - A young soldier is remembered for his humor and kindness. The 21-year-old was born and raised in Colorado Springs and killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. Sergeant James Pirtle was a little brother to two sisters and went by "Jimmy."

One of his former teachers says Jimmy surprised everyone when he chose to join the Army. She says he's unforgettable. "It's like a parent," says former teacher and friend Dina Wood, "you teach them what you can and then you want them to stand on their own and Jimmy stood on his own, he really did."

Wood taught Jimmy at Globe Charter School. At first, she says he stood out because of his hairstyles. "There must've been about 15 spikes that would come out of his head," Wood says. But she says once you got to know Jimmy, it wasn't the crazy green hair that made him unique.

“He was extremely kind, and not a lot of teenagers are kind,” Wood says, “he hated if he would see kids being mistreated.” Jimmy joined the Army right after high school. “He was afraid,” Wood says, “he said that was healthy to be afraid.”

Wood says serving in the military helped him grow and also stay true to himself. “Jimmy was a soldier and he wore a soldier’s uniform, but he still had his green spikes underneath it,” Wood says, “and that made me happy.”

Condolences are coming in from around the country through the Patriot Guard. Wood says Jimmy’s friends are coming together now to talk about memories and times spent together with Jimmy. She says people always gravitated to him.

“We always do feel like they’re protected, the ones we love,” says Wood, “that our love is enough to protect them, but that’s not always true.” Pirtle was scheduled to return home in June. He will be buried at Fort Logan Military Cemetery in Denver.

Wood says a memorial will also be held in Colorado Springs because there are so many people there who will want to attend.

Soldier From Inverness, 22, Killed In Iraq

May 6, 2009 Michael Taylor, Chronicle Staff Writer

PDT INVERNESS -- A 22-year-old soldier from Inverness was killed in Iraq when a man wearing what appeared to be an Iraqi military uniform burst into a house where U.S. soldiers were taking a break and shot him, his family said.

Army Spc. Jake Velloza and another soldier from Northern California, Spc. Jeremiah McCleery, 24, of Portola (Plumas County), were killed Saturday in the attack, which took place in Mosul, about 225 miles north of Baghdad. Three other soldiers were wounded.

At least one of the surviving soldiers then shot the Iraqi gunman dead, according to Velloza’s grandfather Richard Velloza, 83, of Point Reyes Station.

He said the family learned of Velloza’s death at 6 a.m. Sunday when Maj. Marlina DeCelle, a member of the California National Guard, accompanied by Carolyn Osborn, minister of the Point Reyes Community Presbyterian Church, arrived at the Inverness home of the soldier’s parents, Robert and Susan Velloza.

DeCelle said in an interview that she had recited to the Velloza family the words, familiar to anyone who has experienced them, “On behalf of the secretary of the Army, I regret to inform you ...”

“My son (Robert) called me about 6:30 a.m.,” Richard Velloza said. “He was devastated. He said you kind of expect this, but you don’t think it’s going to happen to you.”

Velloza’s parents flew to Delaware on Sunday night, Richard Velloza said, to be at Dover Air Force Base when the casket bearing their son is returned to the United States.

Velloza was a graduate of Tomales High School, where he excelled as a football player. After graduation, he told his grandfather he wanted to serve in the armed forces because “he liked to help people out,” Richard Velloza said.

He joined the Army three years ago, his grandfather said, and was schooled in armored warfare at Fort Knox, Ky. He served a tour in Iraq for about a year, then was reassigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Last fall, he returned to Iraq, Richard Velloza said.

Osborn said this was the first time she had accompanied a military officer on such a visit - to be the first people to tell a family that a son or daughter has died.

Osborn said that as a minister, she has helped families cope with deaths that were imminent. But this was different, she said. “To participate with people when they are experiencing such pain,” she said, “is an honor that you are allowed into that heartbreaking space. The major whose duty it was to present this information did it with great compassion and care.”

Richard Velloza, who served in the Navy’s Seabees in the Pacific during World War II, said relatives and neighbors came by the home of Velloza’s parents throughout Saturday to offer condolences.

“It was terrible all day long,” he said. “Not too good. Jake was an only son. That’s what makes it kind of rough.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier of 10th Mountain Division at the wreckage of a vehicle of Afghan Public Protection Force in Nerkh district of Wardak province, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, May 1, 2009. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



April 26, 2009: A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. forces Afghan villagers to kneel down in the dirt while other armed foreigners search their homes in Tangi valley of Wardak province west of Kabul, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives.]

[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people.]

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of Army Corps Sgt. James D. Pirtle, of Colorado Springs, Colo. May 3, 2009 upon its arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Pirtle and two other Americans were killed on Friday in Afghanistan as they were attacked with rocket-propelled grenades. Sgt. Pirtle was stationed out of Fort Hood in Texas and was scheduled to return from duty in Operation Enduring Freedom in June. Pirtle's family is planning his burial at the Fort Logan Military Cemetery in Denver. He is survived by his mother Patricia Pirtle and his aunt, Pam Ashworth who lives in Texas. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

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

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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”

-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”

-- Camille Desmoulins

THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR REBELLION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN VIETNAM



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War: Honor And Respect To Them All

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

Excerpts from an article by Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr., North American Newspaper Alliance, Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971

THE MORALE, DISCIPLINE and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at anytime in this century and possibly in the history of the United States.

By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous.

Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious.

To understand the military consequences of what is happening to the U.S. Armed Forces, Vietnam is a good place to start.

It is in Vietnam that the rearguard of a 500,000 man army, in its day and in the observation of the writer the best army the United States ever put into the field, is numbly extricating itself from a nightmare war the Armed Forces feel they had foisted on them by bright civilians who are now back on campus writing books about the folly of it all.

“They have set up separate companies,” writes an American soldier from Cu Chi, quoted in the New York Times, “for men who refuse to go into the field. Is no big thing to refuse to go. If a man is ordered to go to such and such a place he no longer goes through the hassle of refusing; he just packs his shirt and goes to visit some buddies at another base camp.

Operations have become incredibly ragtag. Many guys don’t even put on their uniforms any more... The American garrison on the larger bases are virtually disarmed. The lifers have taken our weapons from us and put them under lock and key...There have also been quite a few frag incidents in the battalion.”

“Frag incidents” or just “fragging” is current soldier slang in Vietnam for the murder or attempted murder of strict, unpopular, or just aggressive officers and NCOs. With extreme reluctance (after a young West Pointer from Senator Mike Mansfield’s Montana was fragged in his sleep) the Pentagon has now disclosed that fraggings in 1970(109) have more than doubled those of the previous year (96).

Word of the deaths of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units.

In one such division -- the morale plagued Americal -- fraggings during 1971 have been authoritatively estimated to be running about one a week.

Yet fraggings, though hard to document, form part of the ugly lore of every war. The first such verified incident known to have taken place occurred 190 years ago when Pennsylvania soldiers in the Continental Army killed one of their captains during the night of 1 January 1781.

Bounties, raised by common subscription in amounts running anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000, have been widely reported put on the heads of leaders whom the privates and Sp4s want to rub out.

Shortly after the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in mid-1969, the GI underground newspaper in Vietnam, “G.I. Says”, publicly offered a \$10,000 bounty on Lt. Col. Weldon Honeycutt, the officer who ordered (and led) the attack. Despite several attempts, however, Honeycutt managed to live out his tour and return Stateside.

“Another Hamburger Hill,” (i.e., toughly contested assault), conceded a veteran major, is definitely out.”

The issue of “combat refusal”, and official euphemism for disobedience of orders to fight -- the soldier’s gravest crime – has only recently been again precipitated on the frontier of Laos by Troop B, 1st Cavalry’s mass refusal to recapture their captain’s command vehicle containing communication gear, codes and other secret operation orders.

As early as mid-1969, however, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused -- on CBS-TV -- to advance down a dangerous trail.

While denying further unit refusals the Air Cav has admitted some 35 individual refusals in 1970 alone. By comparison, only two years earlier in 1968, the entire number of officially recorded refusals for our whole army in Vietnam -- from over seven divisions - was 68.

“Search and evade” (meaning tacit avoidance of combat by units in the field) is now virtually a principle of war, vividly expressed by the GI phrase, “CYA (cover your ass) and get home!”

That “search-and-evade” has not gone unnoticed by the enemy is underscored by the Viet Cong delegation’s recent statement at the Paris Peace Talks that communist units in Indochina have been ordered not to engage American units which do not molest them. The same statement boasted - not without foundation in fact - that American defectors are in the VC ranks.

Symbolic anti-war fasts (such as the one at Pleiku where an entire medical unit, led by its officers, refused Thanksgiving turkey), peace symbols, “V”-signs not for victory but for peace, booing and cursing of officers and even of hapless entertainers such as Bob Hope, are unhappily commonplace.

Only last year an Air Force major and command pilot for Ambassador Bunker was apprehended at Ton Son Nhut air base outside Saigon with \$8 million worth of heroin in his aircraft.

The major is now in Leavenworth.

Early this year, an Air force regular colonel was court-martialed and cashiered for leading his squadron in pot parties, while, at Cam Ranh Air Force Base, 43 members of the base security police squadron were recently swept up in dragnet narcotics raids.

All the foregoing facts – and mean more dire indicators of the worse kind of military trouble – point to widespread conditions among American forces in Vietnam that have only been exceeded in this century by the French Army’s Nivelle mutinies of 1917 and the collapse of the Tsarist armies in 1916 and 1917.

Sedition – coupled with disaffection within the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable – infests the Armed Services:

At best count, there appear to be some 144 underground newspapers published on or aimed at U.S. military bases in this country and overseas. Since 1970 the number of such sheets has increased 40% (up from 103 last fall). **These journals are not mere gripe-sheets that poke soldier fun in the “Beetle Bailey” tradition, at the brass and the sergeants.**

“In Vietnam,” writes the Ft Lewis-McChord Free Press, “the Lifers, the Brass, are the true Enemy, not the enemy.” Another West Coast sheet advises readers: “Don’t desert. Go to Vietnam and kill your commanding officer.”

At least 14 GI dissent organizations (including two made up exclusively of officers) now operate more or less openly. Ancillary to these are at least six antiwar veterans’ groups which strive to influence GIs.

Three well-established lawyer groups specialize in support of GI dissent. Two (GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee and new York Draft and Military Law Panel) operate in the open. A third is a semi-underground network of lawyers who can only be contacted through the GI Alliance, a Washington, D.C., group which tries to coordinate seditious antimilitary activities throughout the country.

One antimilitary legal effort operates right in the theater of war. A three-man law office, backed by the Lawyers’ Military Defense Committee, of Cambridge, Mass., was set up last fall in Saigon to provide free civilian legal services for dissident soldiers being court-martialed in Vietnam.

Besides these lawyers’ fronts, the Pacific Counseling Service (an umbrella organization with Unitarian backing for a prolifery of antimilitary activities) provides legal help and incitement to dissident GIs through not one but seven branches (Tacoma, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey, Tokyo, and Okinawa).

Another of Pacific Counseling’s activities is to air-drop planeloads of sedition literature into Oakland’s sprawling Army Base, our major West Coast staging point for Vietnam

On the religious front, a community of turbulent priests and clergymen, some unfrocked, calls itself the Order of Maximilian.

Maximilian is a saint said to have been martyred by the Romans for refusing military service as un-Christian. Maximilian’s present-day followers visit military posts, infiltrate brigs and stockades in the guise of spiritual counseling, work to recruit military chaplains, and hold services of “consecrations” of post chapels in the name of their saintly draft-dodger.

By present count at least 11 (some go as high as 26) off-base antiwar “coffee houses” ply GIs with rock music, lukewarm coffee, antiwar literature, how-to-do-it tips on desertion, and similar disruptive counsels. Among the best-known coffee houses are: The Shelter Half (Ft Lewis, Wash.); The Home Front (Ft Carson, Colo.); and The Oleo Strut (Ft Hood, Tex.).

Virtually all the coffee houses are or have been supported by the U.S. Serviceman’s Fund, whose offices are in new York City’s Bronx.

While refusing to divulge names, IRS sources say that the serviceman’s Fund has been largely bankrolled by well-to-do liberals.

One example of this kind of liberal support for sedition which did surface identifiably last year was the \$8,500 nut channeled from the Philip Stern Family Foundation to underwrite Seaman Roger Priest’s underground paper OM, which, among other writings,

ran do-it-yourself advice for desertion to Canada and advocated assassination of President Nixon.

“Entertainment Industry for Peace and Justice,” the antiwar show-biz front organized by Jane Fonda, Dick Gregory, and Dalton Trumbo, now claims over 800 film, TV, and music names. This organization is backing Miss Fonda’s antimilitary road-show that opened outside the gates of Ft. Bragg, N.C., in mid-March.

Describing her performances (scripted by Jules Pfeiffer) as the soldiers’ alternative to Bob Hope, Miss Fonda says her case will repeat the Ft Bragg show at or outside 19 more major bases.

Freshman Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) runs a somewhat different kind of antimilitary production.

As a Congressman, Dellums cannot be barred from military posts and has been taking full advantage of the fact. At Ft Meade, Md., last month, Dellums led a soldier audience as they booed and cursed their commanding officer who was present on-stage in the post theater which the Army had to make available.

MORE:

THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR REBELLION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN VIETNAM

[Part 2]

“Unpunished Seditious, And Recalcitrant Antimilitary Malevolence”

Elected Enlisted Men’s Councils “Made Up Of Privates And Sp 4s (NCOs Aren’t Allowed) Which Sits At The Elbow Of Every Unit Commander Down To The Companies”

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

By Col. Robert D. Heintz, Jr., Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971 [Excerpts]

The Action Groups

Not unsurprisingly, the end-product of the atmosphere of incitement of unpunished sedition, and of recalcitrant antimilitary malevolence which pervades the world of the draftee (and to an extent the low-ranking men in "volunteer" services, too) is overt action.

During 1970, large armory thefts were successfully perpetrated against Oakland Army Base, Vets Cronkhite and Ord, and even the marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, where a team wearing Marine uniforms got away with nine M-16 rifles and an M-79 grenade launcher.

Operating in the middle West, three soldiers from Ft Carson, Colo., home of the Army's permissive experimental unit, the 4th Mechanized Division, were recently indicted by a federal grand jury for dynamiting the telephone exchange, power plant and water works of another Army installation, Camp McCoy, Wis., on 26 July 1970.

The Navy, particularly on the West Coast, has also experienced disturbing cases of sabotage in the past two years, mainly directed at ships' engineering and electrical machinery.

It will be surprising, according to informed officers, if further such tangible evidence of disaffection within the ranks does not continue to come to light. Their view is that the situation could become considerably worse before it gets better.

Part of the defense establishment's problem with the judiciary is the now widely pursued practice of taking commanding officers into civil courts by dissident soldiers either to harass or annul normal discipline or administrative procedures or the services.

Only a short time ago, for example, a dissident group of active-duty officers, members of the concerned Officers' Movement (COM), filed a sweeping lawsuit against Defense Secretary Laird himself, as well as all three service secretaries, demanding official recognition of their "right" to oppose the Vietnam war, accusing the secretaries of "harassing" them, and calling for court injunction to ban disciplinary "retaliation" against COM members.

Such nuisance suits from the inside (usually, like the Laird suit, on constitutional grounds) by people still in uniform, let alone by officers, were unheard-of until two or three years ago.

Now, according to one Army general, the practice has become so common that, in his words, "I can't even give a /34/ directive without getting permission from my staff judge advocate."

Other reports tell of jail-delivery attacks on Army stockades and military police to release black prisoners, and of officers being struck in public by black soldiers. Augsburg, Krailsheim, and Hohenfels are said to be rife with racial trouble.

Desertions And Disasters

With conditions what they are in the Armed Forces, and with intense efforts on the part of elements in our society to disrupt discipline and destroy morale the consequences can be clearly measured in two ultimate indicators: man-power retention (reenlistments and their antithesis, desertions); and the state of discipline.

In both respects the picture is anything but encouraging.

Desertion, to be sure, has often been a serious problem in the past. In 1826, for example, desertions exceeded 50% of the total enlistments in the Army. During the Civil War, in 1864, Jefferson Davis reported to the Confederate Congress: "Two thirds of our men are absent, most absent without leave."

Desertion rates are going straight up in Army, Marines, and Air Force. Curiously, however, during the period since 1968 when desertion has nearly doubled for all three other services, the Navy's rate has risen by less than 20 percent.

In 1970, the Army had 65,643 deserters, or roughly the equivalent of four infantry divisions.

This desertion rate (52.3 soldiers per thousand) is well over twice the peak rate for Korea (22.5 per thousand).

If desertions continue to rise (as they are still doing this year), they will attain or surpass the WWII peak of 63 per thousand, which, incidentally, occurred in the same year (1945) when more soldiers were actually being discharged from the Army for psychoneurosis than were drafted.

The marines in 1970 had the highest desertion index in the modern history of the Corps and, for that year at least, slightly higher than the Army's. Meanwhile, grimly remarked one officer, "let the bastards go. We're all the better without them."

But letting the bastards go doesn't work at all for the Army and the Navy, who do need a lot of recruits and whose reenlistment problems are dire.

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., chief of naval Operations, minces no words. "We have a personnel crisis," he recently said, "that borders on disaster."

The Navy's crisis, as Zumwalt accurately describes it, is that of a highly technical, material oriented service that finds itself unable to retain the expensively-trained technicians needed to operate warships, which are the largest, most complex items of machinery that man makes and uses.

“Discipline,” George Washington once remarked, “is the soul of an army.”

Washington should know.

In January 1781, all the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops in the Continental Army mutinied. Washington only quelled the outbreaks by disarming the Jersey mutineers and having their leaders shot in hollow square – by a firing squad made up of fellow mutineers.

(The navy’s only mutiny, aboard USS Somers in 1842, was quelled when the captain hanged the mutineers from the yardarm while still at sea.)

If Washington was correct (and almost any professional soldier, whether officer or NCO, will agree), then the Armed Forces today are in deep trouble.

What enhances this trouble, by exponential dimensions, is the kind of manpower with which the Armed Forces now have to work.

As early as three years ago, U.S. News and World Report reported that the services were already plagued with “... a new breed of man, who thinks he is his own Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Attorney General. He considers himself superior to any officer alive. And he is smart enough to go by the book. He walks a tightrope between the regulations and sedition.”

Yet the problem is not just one of trouble-makers and how to cope with them.

The trouble of the services – produced by and also in turn producing the dismaying conditions described in this article – is above all a crisis of soul and backbone.

It entails – the word is not too strong – something very near a collapse of the command authority and leadership George Washington saw as the soul of military forces. This collapse results, at least in part, from a concurrent collapse of public confidence in the military establishment.

Elected Enlisted Men’s Councils

General Matthew B. Ridgway, one of the Army’s finest leaders in this century (who revitalized the shaken Eighth Army in Korea after its headlong rout by the Chinese in 1950) recently said, “Not before in my lifetime ... has the Army’s public image fallen to such low esteem ...”

But the fall in public esteem of all three major services – not just the Army – is exceeded by the fall or at least the enfeeblement of the hierarchic and disciplinary system by which they exist and, when ordered to do so, fight and sometimes die.

Take the case of the noncommissioned and petty officers.

In Rudyard Kipling’s lines, “the backbone o’ the Army is the noncommissioned man!”

In the 4th Mechanized Division at Ft. Carson, Sp 4 David Gyongyos, on his second year in the Army, enjoys an office across the hall from the division commander, a full-time secretary, and staff car and driver also assigned full time. He has the home phone numbers of the general and chief of staff and doesn't hesitate to use them out of working hours when he feels like it.

Gyongyos (with a bachelor's degree in theology and two years' law school) is chairman of the division's Enlisted Men's Councils, a system of elected [councils] made up of privates and Sp 4s (NCOs aren't allowed) which sits at the elbow of every unit commander down to the companies.

"I represent, electively, " Gyongyos expansively told this reporter, "the 17,000 men on this post."

The division sergeant major, with a quarter-century in the Army, who is supposed to be the division's first soldiers and – non-electively – father and ombudsman of every soldier, has an office with is on even on the same floor with the general (or Sp 4 Gyongyos either). He gets his transportation, as needed, from the motor pool.

The very most that Gyongyos will concede to the sergeant major, the first sergeants, the platoon sergeants – the historic enlisted leadership of armies – is that they are "combat technicians." They are not, he coldly adds, "highly skilled in the social sciences."

The soldiers' [councils] of the 4th Division represent an experiment in what the Army calls "better communications".

Conditions throughout the rest of the Army do not quite duplicate those at Carson, but the same spirit is abroad. And experienced NCOs everywhere feel threatened or at least puzzled.

Most major units of the Army, Navy, and Air force have some form of enlisted men's councils, as well as junior officer councils.

Even the trainee companies at Ft. Ord, Calif. have councils, made up of recruits, who take questions and complaints past their DIs to company commanders and hold weekly meetings and post minutes on bulletin-boards.

General Pershing, who once said, "All a soldier needs to know is how to shoot and salute", would be surprised.

As for the officers, said a four-star admiral, "We have lost our voice."

The foregoing may be true as far as admirals are concerned, but hasn't hampered short-term junior officers (including several West Pointers) from banding together into highly vocal antiwar and antimilitary organizations, such as the Concerned Officers' Movement (COM).

At Norfolk, the local COM chapter has a peace billboard outside gate 2, Norfolk Naval Station, where every sailor can profit by the example of his officers.

The Dual At The OK

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: May 17, 2009
Subject: The Dual At The OK

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

The Dual At The OK

King Crimson's "21st Century Schizoid Man"
music long ago in nineteen sixty nine,
America kills everyday
but it's still the Greatest Country in the World.
So which is it, a Killer or a Greater
a Mind-o at the Same Time-o
a Killer on the loose that should be locked up
and put to death
or Hogan's Heroes on Nickelodeon TV,
a Walt Disney Fantasia film, a Barbie Doll at 50,
teenagers having sex in the back seat
of a See the USA in Your Chevrolet
or a ruthless Killer dropping thousands
of landmines from the air
blowing foreign people's foots off
a menagerie of mirrors flipping images
back and forth like changing channels
on TV, Warning, some pictures are graphic
violence strong language for the kiddies
high on medicine cabinet drugs,
Isn't it so Funny ?
while Mommy and Daddy are drunk
with power who sit with friends
on the patio drinking beers
and seven sevens sapping mosquitoes
in the night and a sap sap killing
foreign people everywhere sap
in the Greatest Country in the World

or the Worst at the same time a Hypocrite
Why does the Truth Lie ?

The Plot To Seize The White House **“Praises Retired Marine General Smedley Butler For Exposing The Plot And Scattering The Conspirators”** **[Book Review]**

THE PLOT TO SEIZE THE WHITE HOUSE:
The Shocking True Story of the Conspiracy to Overthrow FDR.
By Jules Archer, Skyhorse Publishing, 2007, 256 pages; \$15

Review by JOE ALLEN, International Socialist Review May-June 2008

WAS THERE a plot by leading American businessmen to overthrow the U.S. government in the early days of Franklin Roosevelt’s presidency and to establish a fascist dictatorship?

Jules Archer, in his recently republished book, *The Plot to Seize the White House*, answers with an emphatic yes and praises retired Marine General Smedley Butler for exposing the plot and scattering the conspirators.

The “Business Plot” or “Wall Street Plot” is absent from public memory and has been largely ignored by historians of the New Deal or scoffed at by the likes of New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, who called it a “cocktail putsch,” despite a congressional investigation that confirmed the existence of the conspiracy.

Why is this?

To a large degree, the answer lies with how one views Smedley Butler, one of the most controversial military figures in American history, who was labeled a crank by the political establishment for his outspoken antiwar and pro-veteran views in the early 1930s.

Archer divides his book roughly into two sections, the first devoted to Butler’s military career and his forced retirement from the Marine Corps, and the plot and how it was exposed.

The historical amnesia concerning the “Business Plot” also lies with the effort in the years following the Second World War to whitewash the support that fascism had among “respectable” people (the rich and their cronies) in the U.S. during the 1930s.

In the four years following the stock market crash of 1929, the U.S. experienced the greatest economic and political crisis in its modern history. By 1933, nearly one-third of the American workforce was unemployed, another third was underemployed, and millions roamed the country homeless.

The big political question was: “Would the U.S. go ‘communist’ (Stalin’s Russia) or fascist (Mussolini’s Italy, and soon Germany under Hitler)?”

Some leaders of the veterans’ organization the American Legion, industrialists like Henry Ford, popular “heroes” like aviator Charles Lindberg and countless businessmen saw fascism or aspects of fascism as a solution to their problems.

Most of these people were also intensely hostile to Franklin Roosevelt’s election to the presidency in 1932. This is the general background to the plot.

Who were the plotters?

Archer relies heavily on Butler’s 1934 testimony before the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, popularly known as the McCormack-Dickstein Committee (predecessor to the notorious HUAC), named after its chairs, representatives John McCormack (Democrat from Massachusetts), the future speaker of the House, and Morris Dickstein (Democrat from New York), a future justice on the New York State Supreme Court.

Butler pointed to Jerry MacGuire, the former leader of the American Legion in Connecticut and an employee of a Wall Street securities firm, who approached him in the summer of 1933 and throughout that fall about raising an army of military veterans to topple Roosevelt’s presidency.

When pressed by Butler, MacGuire claimed that tens of millions of dollars were available for this adventure, and that he was acting on behalf of other Wall Street magnates such as Colonel Grayson Murphy, who underwrote the founding of the American Legion, and Robert S. Clark, a wealthy banker who inherited a large fortune from a founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Butler also testified that the recently formed American Liberty League, which represented a large array of anti-New Deal corporate interests, from the DuPont family to Standard Oil, was the primary means of funding the plot.

Documents and letters subpoenaed by the McCormack-Dickstein Committee revealed that MacGuire traveled to Europe to study the fascist movements and the role that veterans played in the fighting organizations that brought them to power. MacGuire believed that veterans would also be central to creating a fascist USA.

That is why they approached Smedley Butler, which also reveals the amateurish quality to the plotter’s conspiracy.

Butler is not a name that is familiar to most Americans, but to military historians and antiwar activists he is an extremely important historical figure.

Major General Smedley Butler was one of the key figures in turning the U.S. Marines nearly a century ago into the military force that it is today.

Yet after he retired, he renounced a large part of his military career in the classic antiwar tract *War Is a Racket*, which described his role as a marine as being a “high-class muscle- man for Wall Street.”

Military historians embrace the former part of Butler’s life, while antiwar activists embrace the latter.

Butler was essentially forced to retire from the Marine Corps in 1931 after he publicly denounced Benito Mussolini.

He was arrested and threatened with court-martial by President Herbert Hoover for “conduct unbecoming an officer.”

Soon after he retired from the marines, he began campaigning on behalf of veterans — focusing on a demand to pay them an early bonus for their military service in the First World War.

Uniformed soldiers, led by General Douglas MacArthur and his aide Dwight Eisenhower, attacked the famous Bonus March in the summer of 1932 in Washington.

This enraged Butler, and he spoke out more for veterans and against what we would call today the military-industrial complex, which got rich off the war while its veterans were starving.

Butler was very popular among vets for the same reasons that would make him oppose fascism, but Wall Street plotters didn’t seem to notice.

After Butler’s testimony before Congress in late 1934, the conspirators all denied Butler’s accusations or made themselves unavailable for testimony.

The following February, the McCormack-Dickstein Committee issued its report declaring, “Your committee was able to verify all the pertinent statements made by General Butler.”

No prosecutions followed.

Why?

Archer writes:

As children all of us were taught about the treason of Aaron Burr and Benedict Arnold, whose betrayals were safely cobwebbed by the distant past.

But school texts that deal with the New Deal are uniquely silent about the powerful Americans who plotted to seize the White House with a private army....

There is strong evidence to suggest that the conspirators may have been too important politically, socially, and economically to be brought to justice after their scheme had been exposed.

This is not a complete answer—it may also be true that Roosevelt wanted to make peace with such powerful forces.

Butler also seems to have helped Roosevelt enormously by stopping the conspiracy in its earliest stages of development.

Archer's book is a fascinating discussion of a deliberately ignored incident, but it suffers from being narrowly focused.

It would be a stronger book if it put the "Business Plot" in the wider context of the political battles of the whole decade.

Read it with other histories of the period.

MORE:

Quotes From Retired General Smedley Butler USMC:

War is just a racket.

A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.

I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.

I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers.

There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" to point out enemies, its "muscle men" to destroy enemies, its "brain men" to plan war preparations, and a "Big Boss" Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism.

It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to.

I spent thirty- three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General.

And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle-man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers.

In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it.

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914.

I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in.

I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street.

The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912.

I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916.

In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints.

The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents."



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

A Contest Between Cruelty And Stupidity: Zionist Regime Forbids Palestinians To Import “Refrigerators And Washing Machines, Spare Machine And Car Parts, Fabrics, Threads, Needles, Light Bulbs, Candles, Matches, Books, Musical Instruments, Crayons, Clothing, Shoes, Mattresses, Sheets, Blankets, Cutlery, Crockery, Cups, Glasses And Animals”



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

5/17//2009 By Amira Hass, Haaretz Newspaper in Israel

Israel allows only food, medicine and detergent into the Gaza Strip. Thousands of items, including vital products for everyday activity, are forbidden.

Altogether only 30 to 40 select commercial items are now allowed into the Gaza Strip, compared to 4,000 that had been approved before the closure Israel imposed on Gaza following the abduction of Gilad Shalit, according to merchants and human rights activists.

The number of items changes according to what is determined by The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories.

COGAT has refused the PA representative's request for an updated list of the items permitted into Gaza in writing, and passes the information only via the telephone.

Gaza merchants are forbidden to import canned goods, plastic sheeting, toys and books, although the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and other aid organizations are permitted to bring them into the strip.

The few items merchants are allowed to trade in are divided into three categories: food, medicine and detergent.

Everything else is forbidden - including building materials (which are necessary to rehabilitate Gaza's ruins and rebuild its infrastructure), electric appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines, spare machine and car parts, fabrics, threads, needles, light bulbs, candles, matches, books, musical instruments, crayons, clothing, shoes, mattresses, sheets, blankets, cutlery, crockery, cups, glasses and animals.

Many of the banned products are imported through the tunnels and can be found in Gaza's markets.

Pasta, which had been forbidden in the past, is now allowed, after U.S. Senator John Kerry expressed his astonishment at the ban during a visit to Gaza in February.

But tea, coffee, sausages, semolina, milk products in large packages and most baking products are forbidden.

So are industrial commodities for manufacturing food products, chocolate, sesame seeds and nuts.

Israel does allow importing fruit, milk products in small packages and frozen food products as well as limited amounts of industrial fuel.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that during the first week of May, 2.2 million liters of industrial fuel - some 70 percent of the weekly supply required to operate the power station - was allowed into Gaza. UNRWA receives petrol and diesel supplies separately.

A daily 270-300 tons of cooking gas - 54 percent of the required amount - is allowed.

Petrol and diesel for private cars and public transportation have not been imported from Israel since November 2, 2008, except for a small amount for UNRWA.

The union of Gaza's gas station owners estimates that some 100,000 liters of diesel and 70,000 liters of petrol are brought through the tunnels daily.

Egypt, which in the past two months has been restricting the trade movement through the tunnels, does not limit the supply of gas and fuel. But since Egyptian fuel is heavier than Israeli fuel, it damages the newer cars in Gaza and causes malfunctions.

In the past, Israel allowed wood for home furnishings to be brought into Gaza for some time, but not wood for windows and doors.

Now Israel has resumed the ban on wood for furniture.

The ban on toilet paper, diapers and sanitary napkins was lifted three months ago. A little more than a month ago, following a long ban, Israel permitted the import of detergents and soaps into Gaza. Even shampoo was allowed.

But one merchant discovered that the bottles of shampoo he had ordered were sent back because they included conditioner, which was not on the list.

Five weeks ago Israel allowed margarine, salt and artificial sweetener to be brought into Gaza. Legumes have been allowed for the past two months and yeast for the past two weeks. Contrary to rumors, Israel has not banned sugar.

COGAT commented that, "The policy of bringing commodities derives from and is coordinated with Israel's policy toward the Gaza Strip, as determined by the cabinet decision on September 19, 2007."

A COGAT forum convenes with representatives of international organizations weekly to address special requests of the international community regarding humanitarian equipment and the changing needs of the Palestinian population, the statement says.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Another Amazing Surprise! The New Democrat Regime Votes "Overwhelmingly" To Kill More U.S. Troops, More Iraqis And More Afghans

14 May 2009 BY DAVID LIGHTMAN AND WILLIAM DOUGLAS, The Miami Herald
[Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Thursday to spend \$96.7 billion largely for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars after lawmakers sparred sharply over how to fight terrorists most effectively.

The House bill would provide \$84.5 billion for the two wars, including \$734.4 million for more than 170,000 military personnel whose enlistments have been involuntarily extended since Sept. 11, 2001, at \$500 a month for every month they've been held under such "stop-loss" orders.

The biggest chunk of Pentagon and intelligence money, some \$47.7 billion, would go for operations in the two wars, while \$23 billion would be used to refurbish or replace equipment damaged or worn out in the two countries.

MORE:

**Obama Regime Shits On Fake
"Anti-War" Whining Ninnies In
Congress;
"I'm Not Advocating For An
Immediate Withdrawal Of Our
Military Forces From Afghanistan.
All I'm Asking For Is A Plan"
"No Deadlines, No Conditions, No
Timelines, Obey Said"
"My Bill Doesn't Withdraw Our Forces. It
Doesn't Set A Definite Timeline. It
Simply Asks The Secretary Of Defense
To Outline What Our Exit Strategy Is"**

May 16, 2009 David Lightman, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

House Democratic leaders urged members to trust Obama, and they quickly debated and passed the \$96.7 billion emergency spending bill that will fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Senate will consider its version next week.

Anti-war liberals [translation: political hacks who pretend to be anti-war] are frustrated by the lack of a clear strategy to end the war in Afghanistan, by supporting a government

there that's widely thought to be corrupt and allied with opium traffickers and by the reluctance of U.S. allies to lend any military help.

They tried to band together. About 30 met on the eve of the Thursday House vote, but they couldn't come up with a united strategy.

"I'm not advocating for an immediate withdrawal of our military forces from Afghanistan. All I'm asking for is a plan," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

"If there is no military solution for Afghanistan, then, please, just tell me how we will know when our military contribution to the political solution has concluded."

McGovern is leading a group of 73 members who are sponsoring legislation to require Defense Secretary Robert Gates to outline a military exit strategy from Afghanistan by the end of this year.

"My bill doesn't withdraw our forces. It doesn't set a definite timeline. It simply asks the Secretary of Defense to outline what our exit strategy is," he said.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis., was sympathetic to the anti-war crowd's concerns, and he likened the mood to the one in Congress when he arrived in 1969.

Richard Nixon had just been elected president, and people urged Obey to give Nixon a chance to end the Vietnam War.

He included in the House spending bill this week a requirement that Obama give Congress by early next year a detailed report on the status of the Afghanistan effort.

"So there are no deadlines, no conditions, no timelines," Obey said.

"But there are clear measurements against which we should be able to judge the performance of the Afghanistan and Pakistani governments."

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

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

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



CLASS WAR REPORTS



THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING SOLDIER IS OUT!

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/)

THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

1. Iraq Veterans Against the War Calls For Immediate Withdrawal From Afghanistan

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/5.09.ivaw.php>

2. Iraq vet explains, "Why I'm Against Obama's Afghanistan"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/5.09.benji.php>

3. Veterans Protest Operation: No Change

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/5.09.nochange.php>

4. Love, Dad - a poem by a Vietnam Vet, Dennis Serdel

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/5.09.dad.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or nearby base.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/ts22.pdf>

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