

Military Resistance 8B8

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



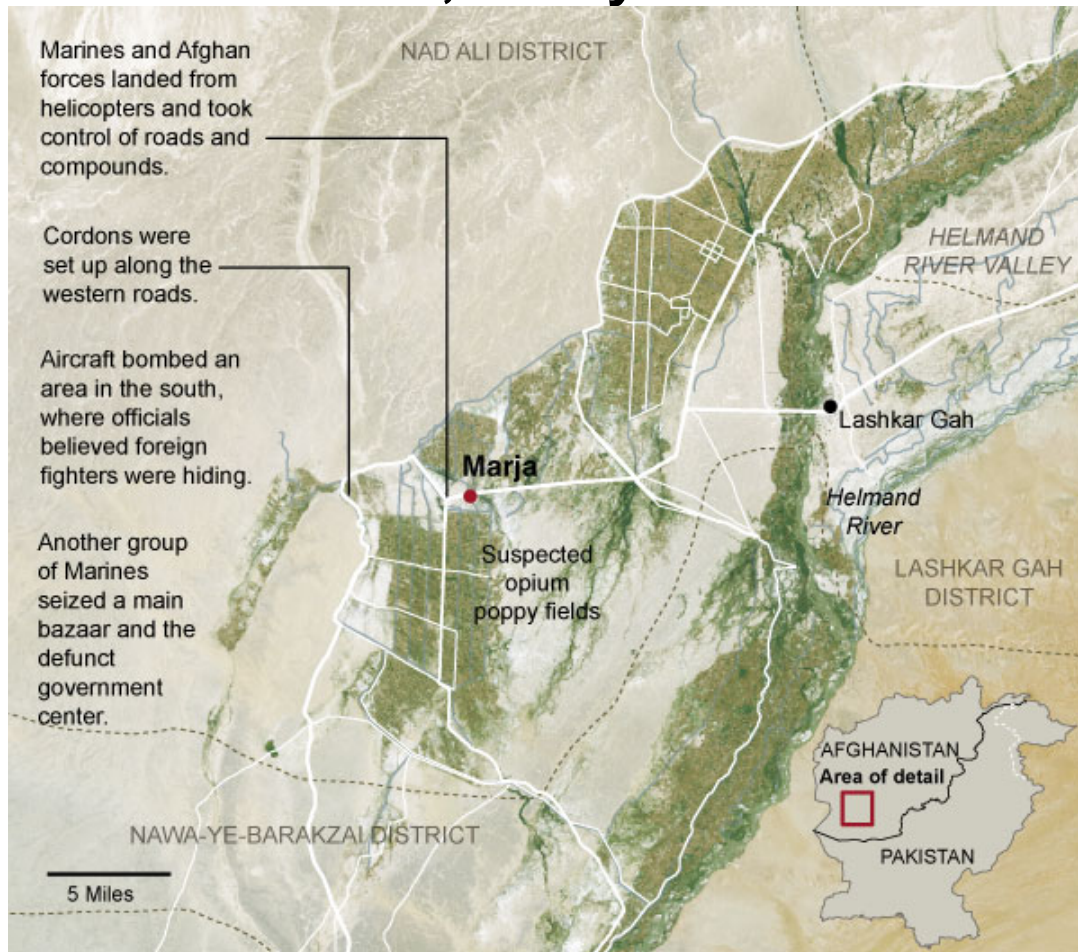
U.S. Army flight medics attend to a wounded U.S. Marine aboard a Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopter en route to a field hospital, in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Feb. 9, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**“The Company Made Less
Headway Into Marja Than It Had
Hoped”**

**“There Are Enormous Areas That
Haven’t Been Cleared Yet”**

**“Each Time They Ventured Into The
Field, Taliban Fighters Opened Fire”**

“Every Time They Try To Go Out,” He Said Of His Men, “They Get Hammered”



February 13, 2010 By DEXTER FILKINS, The New York Times & February 14, 2010 By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

MARJA, AFGHANISTAN -- U.S. Marines and Afghan soldiers encountered pockets of stiff resistance and extensive minefields as they sought to press into this Taliban sanctuary in southern Afghanistan on Saturday.

One Marine from the brigade was killed Saturday and several suffered injuries, most of them minor.

It was not clear how many insurgents were killed by Marine ground units and by a series of Hellfire missile strikes from unmanned Predator and Reaper aircraft that commanders employed to pursue fighters shooting at coalition forces.

American, Afghan and British troops seized crucial positions across the Taliban stronghold of Marja on Saturday, encountering intense but sporadic fighting as they began the treacherous ordeal of house-to-house searches.

More than 6,000 American, Afghan and British troops came in fast early on Saturday, overwhelming most immediate resistance. But as the troops began to fan out on searches, fighting with Taliban insurgents grew in frequency and intensity across a wide area.

American soldiers said Saturday that firefights with the Taliban began sporadically but grew more frequent and more intense as the day went on. Late in the afternoon, insurgents and a company of Marines fought a two-hour gun battle at Marja's northern edge. It ended when the Marines dropped a 500-pound bomb on the Taliban's position.

After the bomb, the Marines believed that several wounded and dead Taliban fighters lay in the field in front of them.

But each time they ventured into the field, Taliban fighters opened fire.

After a time, the Marines decided to leave the Taliban casualties in the field, said Capt. Joshua P. Biggers, a Marine company commander.

"Every time they try to go out," he said of his men, "they get hammered."

Numerous gunfights with insurgents and painstaking efforts to clear roads of makeshift bombs slowed the advance of many coalition units and delayed them from reaching some key destinations in this farming area of 80,000 people.

The operation was further complicated by the challenge of fording irrigation canals that ring the area and traversing a landscape covered in knee-deep mud.

"We've had some pretty tough fights," said Brig. Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson, commander of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "It's been a tough slog for some of our companies."

The danger and complexity of the mission became evident as soon as Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, approached the southeastern border of Marja at sunrise.

To clear a path from the battalion command post to the outer canal, the Marines employed a tank equipped with metal fangs and a plow -- it looked like something from a post-apocalyptic science-fiction movie -- to lead the way.

The Marines also sought to detonate any bombs by firing rockets that lay a ribbon of explosives ahead of them.

But even with those measures, the troops encountered 15 roadside bombs on a three-quarter-mile route from the command post to the canal. Each had to be defused or destroyed.

"It's painstaking," said Lt. Col. Cal Worth, the battalion commander.

The bombs are equipped with detonators that are set off in a variety of ways: simple pressure plates, remote-control devices or wires connected to switches that are triggered by insurgents lying in wait.

Once they reached the canal, the Marines had to wait until a mobile bridge, which was carried atop a tank chassis, was extended and placed over an irrigation trench. Even with the bridge, a wide band of dense clay muck on both sides of the canal bogged down resupply trucks and other logistics vehicles.

And insurgents repeatedly targeted the Marines with small-arms fire and mortar shells.

As a consequence, the company made less headway into Marja than it had hoped.

Worth's other two companies -- Alpha and Bravo -- were inserted into central Marja by helicopter early Saturday.

They, too, came under regular fire from Taliban fighters holed up in adobe housing compounds.

"We have accomplished what we wanted to do today: get the forces into Marja," Nicholson said.

"There's still a lot of work to do," he said. "There are enormous areas that haven't been cleared yet."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“Barrage” Of Rockets Hits U.S. Military Base Near Amarah After Occupation Forces Kill Many Civilians

February 13, 2010 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS & AlJazeera

Saturday, a barrage of rockets struck a joint American-Iraqi base near Amarah, 200 miles (320 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, injuring two Iraqi soldiers and damaging equipment, said Maj. Myles Caggins, a U.S. military spokesman.

The attack came a day after an Iraqi-U.S. raid searching for weapons smugglers at a nearby village left civilians dead.

At least 10 civilians were killed and many more injured in a clash between joint Iraqi-US forces and anti-government fighters in Iraq's Maysan province near the Iranian border, authorities say.

Maytham Lafta, a local official, said at least 10 “innocent people” were killed, including two women.

A provincial police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to release the information, also said 10 people were killed.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier From Grenadier Guards Killed In Nad-E-Ali

13 Feb 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards was killed in Afghanistan today, Saturday 13 February 2010.

The soldier was killed as a result of an explosion that happened whilst on a vehicle patrol in the Nad-e-Ali area of Helmand Province, this morning.

Soldier Who Grew Up In Decatur Dies In Combat



Since his death, a Facebook group has been created called SSG Thaddeus Montgomery Needs Your Help.

It's designed to get people to call the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia to allow Wong to come to Montgomery's funeral in Arlington, Virginia.

January 26, 2010 By Amber Stuart, WHNT Reporter

DECATUR - A soldier who grew up in Decatur was killed last week in Afghanistan.

Friends and family are remembering Staff Sergeant Thaddeus Scott Montgomery and his wishes to bring his fiancée to the United States.

Lucy Schrimsher taught Staff Sergeant Montgomery as a young boy P.E. at St. Ann's Catholic School.

"He would get in trouble for maybe small little things in school. But as soon as you looked at him or you were going to fuss at him a smile came out, that smile was from ear to ear. It stopped any kind of punishment you were going to give him," said Schrimsher.

Schrimsher stayed in touch with Montgomery through the years as he moved around the country.

She found out on Facebook that he died in combat. "I didn't take anytime for everybody to know," said Schrimsher.

The news shocked Schrimsher.

"Oh, I was devastated. That's one young man you thought would be around forever," said Schrimsher.

Now she's trying to fulfill Montgomery's last wish, to bring his fiancée, Erica Wong, to the United States.

"She was coming over to marry him, now she's coming over to bury him," said Schrimsher.

The two met on the internet.

Schrimsher says Montgomery proposed just weeks before his death.

"They corresponded for two years. Finally he said I'm going over there to see her," said Schrimsher.

After a month of being in Malaysia, Montgomery told his friends he was starting the paper work to marry Wong.

Since his death, a Facebook group has been created called SSG Thaddeus Montgomery Needs Your Help.

It's designed to get people to call the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia to allow Wong to come to Montgomery's funeral in Arlington, Virginia.

"We're saying our prayers, yep we are."

Montgomery will be buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Marine From Jacksonville Dies In Afghanistan



Jan. 28, 2010 By Timothy Gibbons, The Florida Times-Union

Lance Cpl. Timothy Poole Jr. always wanted to be a Marine, always liked action.

He accomplished that first goal in 2007, and in the three years he wore the uniform he saw lots of action, including two deployments in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

It was in Afghanistan that he died Sunday. The 22-year-old was conducting counterinsurgency operations with the Afghan National Security Forces.

No one was surprised when the young man, who grew up in Jacksonville and went to Lee High School, decided to enlist.

“He talked about it and he lived it,” said Edwin Moss, assistant principal at Warren East High in Bowling Green, Ky., the school from which Poole graduated.

Poole joined the Marines in July 2007 and reported to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment five months later.

He had wanted to be a Marine since he was 4 years old, his father told Times-Union news partner First Coast News, after the older Poole had taken his son to a Toys for Tots party hosted by the Marines.

When the little boy walked up to a Marine standing at attention, the man broke attention, picked up the boy and held him for a few minutes. That night in bed, the boy said, “I know what I want to be when I grow up. I want to grow up to be a Marine.”

He was proud of being able to serve his country, said Charles Seabolt, a family friend. “He was willing to do what he had to do,” he said.

He came home in November before the deployment to Afghanistan, his father told the television station, and said, “Dad if I die, I’ll die doing what I wanted to do. I’m serving my country, my country I love.”

Sgt. Daniel M. Angus, 28, of Thonotosassa, Fla., and Lance Cpl. Zachary D. Smith, 19, of Hornell, N.Y., were also killed in the attack.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. Army soldier at Forward Operating Base Blessing, in the Pech Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 29, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



2.1.10: US Marines on patrol near Marjah in central Helmand. (AFP/File/Christophe Simon)



US Marines with 1/3 Marines Alpha company check equipment at a company operation base (COB) in Toor Ghar in Helmand province on February 8. (AFP/Patrick Baz)



U.S. soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division carry a cable to pull an armored vehicle out of a canal in the Badula Qulp area, west of Lashkar Gah, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 13, 2010. (AP Photo/Pier Paolo Cito)

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

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

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of Army Sgt. Dillon B. Foxx, left, and Army Sgt. Adam Ray Feb. 12, 2010 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Foxx, 22, of Traverse City, Mich., died Feb. 5 in Bala Murghab, Afghanistan after his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device and Ray, of Louisville, Ky., also died in Afghanistan after an attack with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

**“The Troops Are Over-Medicated.
We See It All The Time”
“Some Look As Though They Are In The
Advanced Stages Of Parkinson’s
Disease”**



February 10, 2010 By Candice Bernd, Truthout Op-Ed [Excerpts]

FORT HOOD, Texas--Activists gathered at the east gate entrance of the Army base here January 15 for a daylong protest drawing attention to the over-medicating of the soldiers and the lack of mental health resources and counseling.

Demonstrators rotated in and out so that about 30 people were there at any time between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the rain and cold.

The event was organized by organized by Pfc. Michael Kern, a member of the Fort Hood chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and Under the Hood Café, a local coffeehouse and outreach center.

Under the Hood counsels soldiers returning from war and offers basic services such as referrals for legal advice and information on GI rights. “If it wasn’t for Under the Hood, I’d be dead,” Kern said after the protest.

Kern explained that he had joined the military with “hopes of doing right for all of humanity.” He said that he didn’t join the Army for the money, but because he believed in the mission of the Army and that when he joined he supported the war.

All of that changed when he killed a child in Iraq. After he returned to the states, he was transferred to the Warrior Transition Brigade, where he saw many soldiers who were missing limbs and who were, he said, “messed up in the head.” Kern then found Under the Hood Café and joined the IVAW.

Under the Hood Café manager Cynthia Thomas said that the coffeehouse concept originated in the 1960s during the GI movement against the Vietnam War. When the U.S. invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, Thomas began working with the IVAW to create a house near Fort Hood, since it's the largest U.S. military base in the world.

"The troops are over-medicated. We see it all the time," Thomas said.

Thomas said that counselors sometimes have to drive GIs to their appointments and to the base because they are so heavily medicated that they can't drive themselves.

Many have chronic migraines that keep them from driving she said.

"On average, most of the soldiers I have talked to take 20 to 25 medications per day, and some look as though they are in the advanced stages of Parkinson's disease--some actually stumble from their meds," Under the Hood counselor Matt Litaker said.

An active-duty soldier came back to the cafe after meeting protesters outside Fort Hood. The 20-year-old had suffered has a traumatic brain injury after injuries he received in Iraq. "They expect you to be the perfect soldier and the perfect civilian," he said. "The government expects us to be bipolar--to separate work life from home life."

After Mick had received his TBI, he tried to "chapter out," or leave the Army. He had a court date for an unrelated crime, and was expecting to get a discharge when his superior told him that he would make sure that Mick didn't go to his court date so that he could stay in the Army. He said that he was hopeful because he could get "med-boarded" for his TBI and get a discharge.

Mick said he knew that another GI had been illegally deployed when he was 17 and that while he was in Iraq during the 2008 election, the absentee ballots for the soldiers vote did not come in until three weeks after they were supposed to be due back in the states.

"I don't think we got to vote in that election," he said. Kern backed up his account, saying that he too did not get his absentee ballot in time to vote in the 2008 election.

Kern is on many meds himself. He pulled out his current medications prescription list. There were a total of 47 different medications that had been prescribed to Kern within the last 180 days before January 15, 2010.

"If the Army asks, yeah I take it all, but I don't really take it all," he said.

Kern said that he believes that the government and pharmaceutical companies are testing drugs on the soldiers in war. He said that soldiers were given an H1N1 vaccine that had not been FDA approved, and that later on after GIs had taken it, it was recalled. He also said that the Army is giving the soldiers Botox injections for their brain nerves and for pain, and that the procedure isn't FDA approved.

Kern is currently working on a piece called "Creating an Activist," which details his struggles overseas and as well as back home, both inside and outside the Army.

“The Army Is Still Sending Troops Into Combat With Broken Equipment”

Feb. 15, 2010
Army Times Forums

The M4 does have some issues. But instead of trying to fix the M4 issue, why not ensure that all active-duty units have them first?

If not everyone, at least the NCOs and officers.

My company still has M16s. On my last deployment to Iraq, my M16 had some pretty bad faults.

The biggest was a magazine, brand new with three rounds at a range, would just fall out. I reported to my armorer but two and a half years later, the issue still exists.

The Army is still sending troops into combat with broken equipment.

— frisk

“The Army Combat Uniform Doesn’t Blend In Anywhere — Iraq, Afghanistan Or Back Home”

Feb. 15, 2010
Army Times Forums

Decisions such as changing the uniforms should include a reality/sanity check.

When the design change is finally approved for the Afghanistan theater, at least 10 trigger-pulling mid-career NCOs should approve it.

After all, it is likely that they will have to use the design to hide from the enemy — not hide from a PowerPoint presentation.

— TROYMCNEELY

Feb. 15, 2010
Army Times Forums

I think the Army Combat Uniform had some good ideas, though the Velcro is loud and seems to get caught on everything. But the color itself ... who are we kidding, it doesn't blend in anywhere — Iraq, Afghanistan or back home.

We have put too much money into changing everything into ACU that it would be too expensive to change to another pattern. Also, the ACU fades quickly; usually you only get six months at maximum before they are unserviceable. Now we have to change our Class A uniform into the blue Army service uniform.

It seems to me that we can find somewhere else to spend this money.

How about lighter body armor for all soldiers or a better aid bag for my fellow medics?

— Doc_Rob

Pentagon Shit-Bags Cheating 2,500 Iraq Combat Vets Out Of \$10 Million In Promised Bonus Pay: Minnesota National Guard Soldiers Have Been Waiting Three Years For Their Money

Feb. 15, 2010 Army Times

Three years after returning from Iraq, 2,500 Minnesota soldiers are waiting for bonus pay promised to them by the government.

KSTP-TV in Minneapolis reports that in 2005, 2,500 Minnesota National Guard soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Guardsmen came back after 22 months of active duty, 16 of them in Iraq, with a promise from the federal government that they would receive bonus pay for their service.

The Minnesota soldiers of the “Red Bull” 34th Infantry Brigade are owed about \$10 million. Minnesota’s congressional delegation has repeatedly tried to get the Pentagon to pay up, officials say.

Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., on Feb. 3 confronted Defense Secretary Robert Gates at a budget hearing, asking when they would get paid. Gates’ staff said they’d get back to him.

Only 13% Of Eligible Vets Have Applied To Get Their Stop-Loss Bonus

Feb. 15, 2010 By Jim Tice, Army Times [Excerpts]

Only 13 percent of the Army veterans believed to be eligible for retroactive stop-loss pay have applied for the special entitlement program funded by Congress with \$534 million last year.

The retroactive pay is belated compensation to former and current service members who were involuntarily extended on active duty because of stop-loss from Sept. 11, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2008.

The program pays eligible applicants \$500 for every month they were involuntarily retained beyond their contracted terms of service. So far, payments have averaged \$4,500 per approved application.

Personnel officials believe as many as 120,000 Army veterans are eligible, a figure that represents most of the 170,000 members of all services that Pentagon officials estimate may qualify.

In authorizing the retroactive stop-loss pay program last June, Congress stipulated that all claims must be received by the services Oct. 1, 2010, even though the processing of many cases will continue well beyond that date.

To apply for retroactive pay, access [www.stoplosspay.army.mil / default.aspx](http://www.stoplosspay.army.mil/default.aspx)

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“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.**

Insanity



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Subject: Insanity
Date: Feb 3, 2010

Insanity

I took this picture at a county fair in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho in 1999. The military recruiters were putting war paint on small boys at the fair. Normally I would have given the recruiters a piece of my PTSD mind, but the photo opportunities were too important.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
February 3, 2010

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a

so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

Killers

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Subject: Killers
Date: Feb 11, 2010

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010

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

Killers

**The fish walked out of the water
on fin legs with an AK-47
soon he had eye teeth
to rip the flesh of another fish
surviving on berries and plants
he had no chance and no match
for the eye teeth gnawing
on his legs and side revealed
he didn't last very long
and soon became extinct
in the survival of mankind
married to another carnivore
babies born with eye teeth
throwing hand grenades at
other children at school
while papa made a jet plane
that dropped napalm
and clanked with tanks
with eye teeth invading
other fish that did not look
like him that lived in another
part of Darwin's world**

unable to evolve into peace.

Outreach To The Troops 1907: “The Work Of The Socialist Youth Is Not In Vain”

**“During The Strikes At Dunkirchen,
Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-Le-Min The
Soldiers Ordered Against The
Strikers Declared Their Solidarity
With The Workers”**

**“The Young Socialist Workers Are
Working With All The Enthusiasm And
Energy Of The Young To Have The Army
Side With The People”**

Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.

October 8, 1907: Vperyod [Forward], Issue #16. By V.I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

It will be recalled that the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart discussed the question of militarism and in connection with it the question of anti-militarist propaganda. The resolution adopted on the point says, in part, that the Congress regards it as a duty of the working classes to “help to have working class youth brought up in a spirit of international brotherhood and socialism and imbued with class consciousness”.

The Congress regards this as an earnest of the army ceasing to be a blind instrument in the hands of the ruling classes, which they use as they see fit and which they can direct against the people at any time.

It is very hard, sometimes almost impossible, to conduct propaganda among soldiers on active service. Life in the barracks, strict supervision and rare leave make contact with the outer world extremely difficult; military discipline and the absurd spit and polish cow the soldier.

Army commanders do everything they can to knock the "nonsense" out of the "brutes", to purge them of every unconventional thought and every human emotion and to instill in them a sense of blind obedience and an unthinking wild hatred for "internal" and "external" enemies.... It is much harder to make an approach to the lone, ignorant and cowed soldier who is isolated from his fellow-men and whose head has been stuffed with the wildest views on every possible subject, than to draft-age young men living with their families and friends and closely bound up with them by common interest.

Everywhere anti-militarist propaganda among young workers has yielded excellent results. That is of tremendous importance. The worker who goes into the army a class-conscious Social-Democrat is a poor support for the powers that be.

There are young socialist workers' leagues in all European countries. In some, for instance, Belgium, Austria and Sweden, these leagues are large-scale organisations carrying on responsible party work. Of course, the main aim of the youth leagues is self-education and the working out of distinct and integrated socialist outlook. But the youth leagues also carry on practical work. They struggle for an improvement in the condition of apprentices and try to protect them from unlimited exploitation by their employers.

The young socialist workers' leagues devote even more time and attention to anti-militarist propaganda.

For that purpose, they try to establish close ties with young soldiers.

This is done in the following way. Before the young worker has joined the army, he is a member of a league and pays membership dues. When he becomes a soldier, the league continues to maintain constant contacts with him, regularly sending him small cash aids ("soldier's sous" as they call them in France), which, however small, are of substantial importance to the soldier.

For his part, he undertakes to provide the league with regular information about everything that goes on in his barracks and to write about his impressions. Thus, even after he joins the army, the soldier does not break off his ties with the organisation of which he was a member.

An effort is always made to drive the soldier as far away from home as possible for his service. This is done with the intention of preventing the soldier from being tied with the local population by any interest, and to make him feel alien to it.

It is then easier to make him carry out orders: to shoot at a crowd.

Young workers' leagues try to bridge this alienation between the soldier and the local population.

Youth leagues are connected with each other. When he arrives in a new town, the soldier, a former member of a youth league at home, - is met by the local league as a

welcome visitor, and he is at once brought into the circle of local interests and helped in every possible way.

He ceases to be a newcomer and a stranger.

He is also aware that if any misfortune befalls him he will receive help and support.

This awareness adds to his courage, he gains assurance in his behaviour in the barracks, and is bolder in standing up for his rights and his human dignity.

Their close ties with young soldiers enable the youth leagues to carry on extensive anti-militarist propaganda among the soldiers.

This is done mainly with the aid of anti-militarist literature, which the youth leagues publish and circulate in great quantities, especially in France, Belgium and also in Switzerland, Sweden, etc.

This literature is highly diverse: postcards with anti-militarist pictures, anti-militarist army songs (many of these songs are very popular among the soldiers), "soldier's catechism" (in France it was circulated in more than 100,000 copies), all sorts of pamphlets, leaflets, appeals; weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers and magazines for soldiers, some of them illustrated.

Barracks, Recruit, Young Soldier, Pju pju (a pet name for the young recruit), and *Forward* are very widely circulated. For example, in Belgium the newspapers *Recruit* and *Barracks* have a printing of 60,000 copies each. Especially many magazines are published at the time of the draft.

Special issues of soldiers' newspapers are mailed to the homes of all recruits.

Anti-militarist literature is delivered to soldiers in the barracks and handed out to them in the streets; soldiers find it in coffee-houses and pubs, and everywhere else they go.

Recruits receive special attention. They are given a ceremonial send-off.

During the recruitment, processions are staged in the towns. In Austria, for instance, recruits walk through the town dressed in mourning and to the strains of funeral marches. In front of them rolls a decorated red carriage.

All the walls are plastered with red posters which say in large letters: "You will not shoot at the people!"

Evening parties with ardent anti-militarist speeches are held in honour of the recruits. In short, everything is done to awaken the recruit's consciousness, to ensure him against the evil influence of the ideas and emotions which will be instilled into him in the barracks by fair means and foul.

The work of the socialist youth is not in vain.

In Belgium, there are almost 15 soldiers' unions in the army, which are mostly affiliated with the Social-Democratic Labour Party and are closely allied with each other. In some regiments, two-thirds of the soldiers are organised.

In France, the anti-militarist mood has become massive. During the strikes at Dunkirchen, Creusot, Loguivi, Monso-le-Min the soldiers ordered against the strikers declared their solidarity with the workers....

As time goes on, there are more and more Social-Democrats in the army and the troops become increasingly less reliable.

When the bourgeoisie has to confront the organised working class, whom will the army back?

The young socialist workers are working with all the enthusiasm and energy of the young to have the army side with the people.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Obama Praises \$17 And \$9 Million Paychecks For Bailed Out Wall St. Suits

February 11, 2010, By Robert Reich, Robertreich.org [Excerpts]

Washington is paralyzed by snow and partisanship. Nothing is getting done – even as the Great Recession pulls more Americans into its maw.

In the midst of this paralysis, the President was asked about the giant pay packages of Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan Chase & Co. (\$17 million for 2009) and Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs (\$9 million).

“First of all, I know both those guys,” Obama said. “They’re very savvy businessmen. And I, like most of the American people, don’t begrudge people success or wealth. That’s part of the free market system.”

Free market system?

As I remember it, American taxpayers forked out hundreds of billions to keep JPMorgan, Goldman, and other big Wall Street banks afloat through most of 2009.

Had we not done so, Dimon, Blankfein, and most other top executives on Wall Street would not have earned a dime last year. In fact, some would be out on the street, rather than sitting pretty on the Street.

Obama's Favorite CEO Hates Organized Workers: "He 'Doesn't Intend To Recognize Any Unions At Federal Express'"

February 12, 2010 By John B. Judis, The New Republic [Excerpts]

[E]xcerpts that Bloomberg published Wednesday from its interview with Barack Obama ...

Bloomberg BusinessWeek: Do you want to weigh in on a specific CEO you admire?

Obama: "There are a bunch of them. You know who I really enjoyed talking to at our last lunch was Fred Smith of FedEx (FDX). Very thoughtful. He's an example of somebody who is thinking long-term. His industry is deeply sensitive to energy prices, and he's the first one to say that if we don't start getting an energy policy that's smart, we're going to lose. He's also very thoughtful about trade and talks about the difficulties they've had in some cases with partners around the world..."

What's wrong with this? Well, Fred Smith is an odd choice for a Democratic president to make. He's a well-known Republican, one of John McCain's chief backers and a member of his kitchen cabinet.

Moreover, he has a longtime record and reputation as an anti-union executive.

Most recently, Smith's company threatened to cancel an order of planes from Boeing if Congress voted to include his company under the National Labor Relations Act, which would allow unions to organize individual FedEx plants, rather than the Railway Labor Act, which requires a union to organize all FedEx workers across the country at once — a near-impossible task.

FedEx's unionized rival, UPS, falls under the NLRA.

When McCain was rumored to be considering Smith to be his running mate, Change to Win issued a statement about Smith that pretty much sums up labor's attitude toward him:

"In the 35 years that Fred Smith has been the CEO of FedEx he has repeatedly fought against workers joining together to have a voice on the job, openly stating that he 'doesn't intend to recognize any unions at Federal Express.'

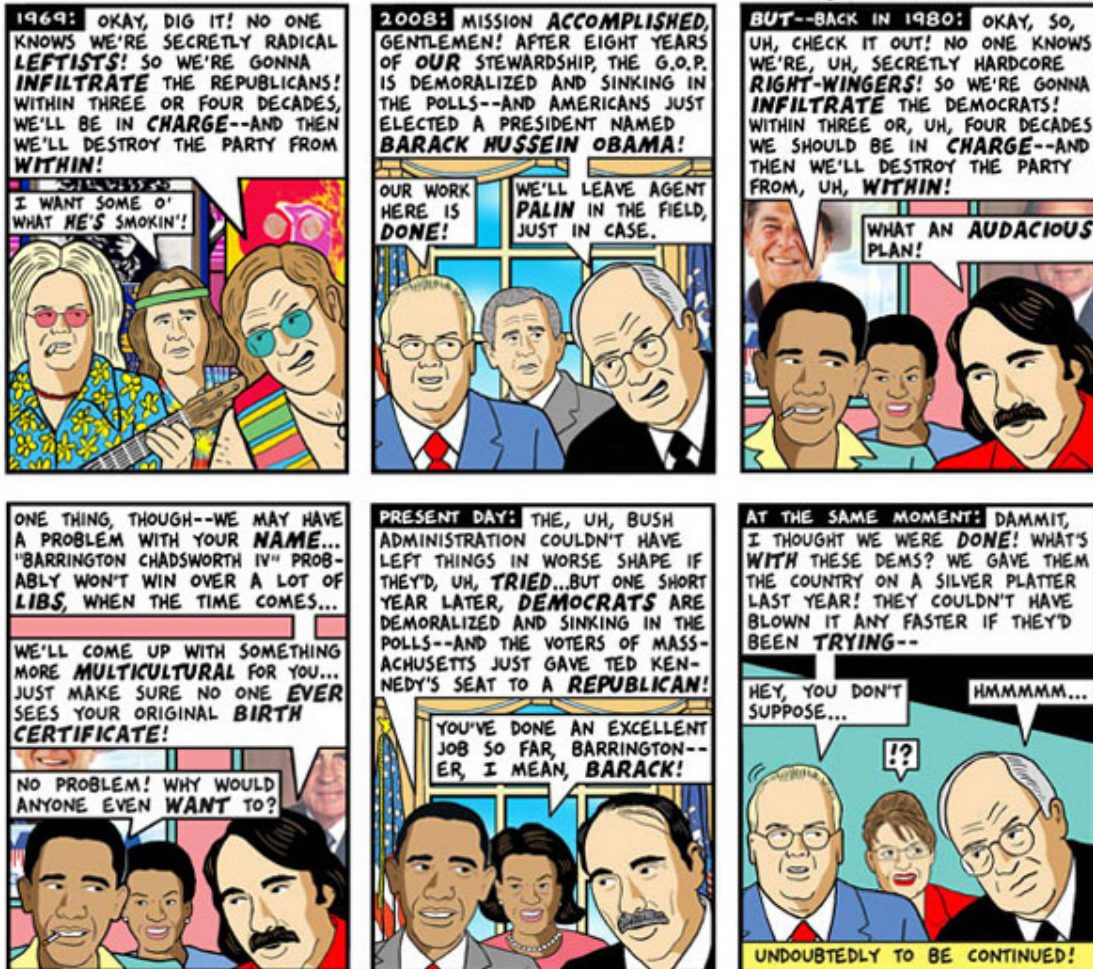
"Less than 2% of the 200,000 American workers at FedEx are in a union.

"In contrast, UPS unionized workers make nearly 30 percent more than they non-union counterparts at FedEx.

“Despite organizing efforts, FedEx has filed appeal after appeal to deny their workers the right to bargain collectively, and has sought national legislation to thwart union organizing.”

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

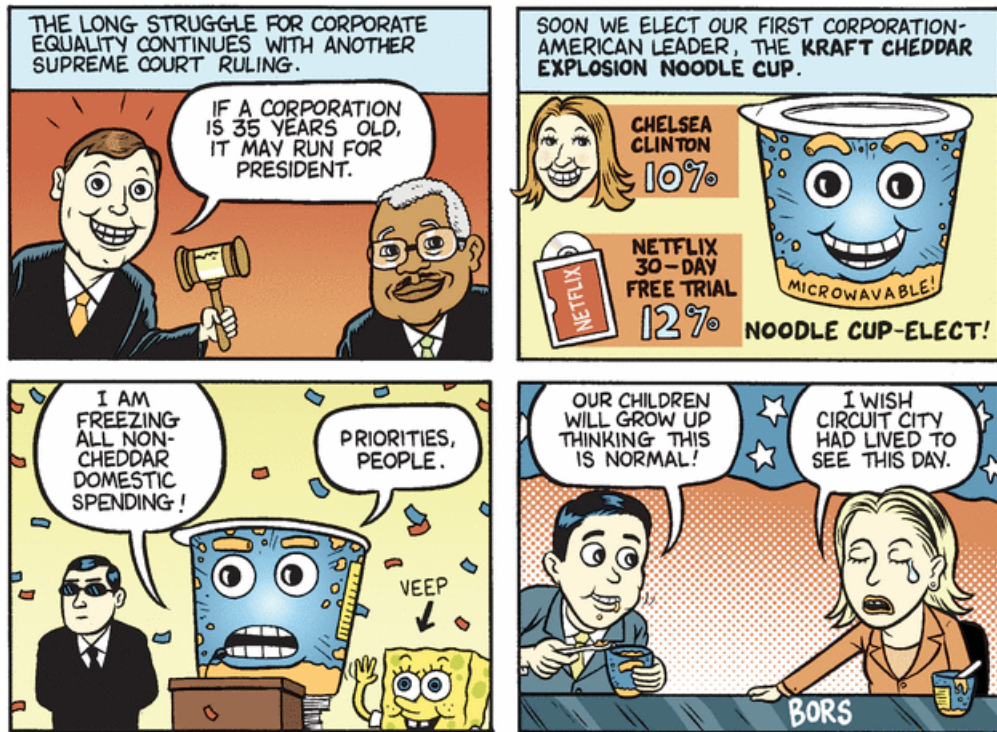
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CLASS WAR REPORTS



“44% Of Families Experienced A Job Loss, A Reduction In Hours, Or A Pay Cut In The Past Year”

“We’re About To See A Big National Experiment On Stress”

“We haven’t seen anything like this before: a really deep recession combined with a really extended period, maybe as much as eight years, all told, of highly elevated unemployment.”

By Don Peck, The Atlantic Monthly, March 2010 [Excerpts]

The broadest measure of unemployment and underemployment (which includes people who want to work but have stopped actively searching for a job, along with those who want full-time jobs but can find only part-time work) reached 17.4 percent in October, which appears to be the highest figure since the 1930s.

And for large swaths of society—young adults, men, minorities—that figure was much higher (among teenagers, for instance, even the narrowest measure of unemployment stood at roughly 27 percent). One recent survey showed that 44 percent of families had experienced a job loss, a reduction in hours, or a pay cut in the past year.

The economy now sits in a hole more than 10 million jobs deep — that’s the number required to get back to 5 percent unemployment, the rate we had before the recession started, and one that’s been more or less typical for a generation.

And because the population is growing and new people are continually coming onto the job market, we need to produce roughly 1.5 million new jobs a year — about 125,000 a month — just to keep from sinking deeper.

Even if the economy were to immediately begin producing 600,000 jobs a month—more than double the pace of the mid-to-late 1990s, when job growth was strong—it would take roughly two years to dig ourselves out of the hole we’re in. The economy could add jobs that fast, or even faster—job growth is theoretically limited only by labor supply, and a lot more labor is sitting idle today than usual.

But the U.S. hasn’t seen that pace of sustained employment growth in more than 30 years.

Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, notes that if the recovery follows the same basic path as the last two (in 1991 and 2001), unemployment will stand at roughly 8 percent in 2014.

“We haven’t seen anything like this before: a really deep recession combined with a really extended period, maybe as much as eight years, all told, of highly elevated unemployment,” Shierholz told me.

“We’re about to see a big national experiment on stress.”

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Exactly Right

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