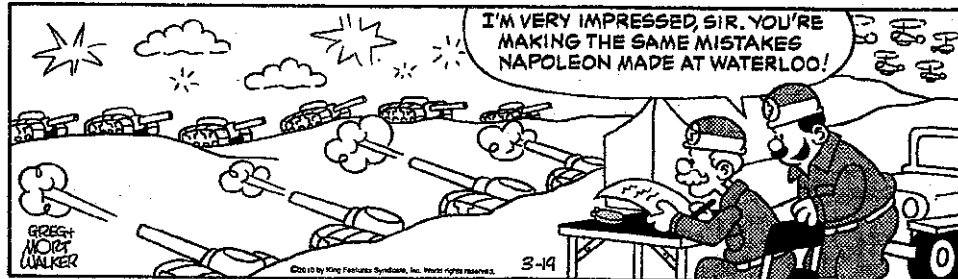


Military Resistance 8C14



**“I Think They Should
Bring Those Boys
Home”**

“All Of Them”

**Kenosha Soldier Killed By
Grenade Attack In Iraq:**

**“His Grandmother Said Americans
Shouldn’t Be Dying Over There, And
The U.S. Should Bring Its Troops
Home Now”**

**“If They Want To Fight, Let Them Fight
Amongst Themselves”**

03/20/2010 By DINESH RAMDE Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE—A Kenosha soldier was killed in Iraq after a rocket-propelled grenade hit the watchtower where he was on guard duty, the soldier’s family said Saturday.

Military officials told relatives that Army Spc. Robert Rieckhoff, 26, died Thursday in Baghdad, his family said. The Defense Department hasn't officially confirmed the death.

"They told us it happened at 9:11 (a.m.) local time," his grandmother, Judith Nelsen, told The Associated Press. "Of all the times, it was 9:11."

Rieckhoff, who has an 8-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter, recently re-enlisted as part of Battery Bravo Second Battalion of the 15th Field Artillery Unit out of New York. He began talking about joining the military in high school, said his mother, Barbara Garwood of Kenosha.

"I told him whatever he decided, I was behind him 100 percent," she said.

Rieckhoff graduated from Tremper High School in 2002 and served two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Kuwait.

He knew how much his family worried so he e-mailed them almost every day to let them know he was safe, his grandmother said. The morning he died, Nelsen asked Garwood whether she checked for an e-mail that day.

"She said she'd check as soon as she finished her coffee," Nelsen said. "Before she finished, there was the military at the back door."

Nelsen paused, then added, "She didn't get the e-mail that day."

Rieckhoff wasn't rich, but he was more interesting in spending his military salary on his family than on himself, his mother said. One of the last gifts he gave her was an expensive Christmas tree, she said.

"Another time he took me to a local casino," Garwood said, chuckling softly. "He said he learned his lesson, that he's never going to do that again."

His grandmother said she cherishes a costly decoration he gave her, a snowman that plays music.

"I cried and his mother cried," she said, her voice cracking. "He said, 'God, guys, it's just a snowman.' I said, 'Robert, this costs too much.'"

He said, 'Grandma, these are the things I always wanted to buy for you, but I never had the money.' That's the kind of person he was. He'd give you the shirt off his back, the last dollar to his name."

It was hard not to worry about him, even with his regular e-mails, his family said. When he decided to re-enlist it was because he wanted to make sure his kids had health benefits and access to good education, Nelsen said, but he still called his relatives to get their opinions.

"He called and said, 'What do you think?'" his grandmother said. "I said, 'Son, do whatever you want to do.' He said, 'I want you to be proud.' We said, 'We are proud, pal, we couldn't be more proud.'"

Rieckhoff died one day before the seventh anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

He was the 92nd Wisconsin resident to die in the conflict, according to an AP count. Twelve others have died in Afghanistan since 2004.

His grandmother said Americans shouldn't be dying over there, and the U.S. should bring its troops home now.

"If they (Iraqis) want to fight, let them fight amongst themselves," Nelsen said. "Our boys go over there and lose their lives. I think they should bring those boys home. All of them."

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Lewis-McChord Ranger Killed In Afghanistan

March 20, 2010 By Scott Fontaine, The News Tribune

TACOMA — — An Army Ranger from Joint Base Lewis-McChord has died after being critically injured last week in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Joel D. Clarkson, a 23-year-old Alaska native, died Wednesday. The Pentagon has not officially made the announcement, but Clarkson's mother, Karen Williams-Clarkson, alerted friends to her son's death in a posting on a Facebook page set up after Clarkson was shot during a patrol in southern Afghanistan.

Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell confirmed Clarkson's death in a statement late Friday evening and ordered the state's flags lowered to half-staff.

The member of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment was on his fifth overseas deployment when he was shot March 12 while on patrol in Helmand province.

His family told the Whidbey News Times of Oak Harbor that Clarkson was shot in the head, underwent two surgeries in Afghanistan and was later evacuated to Germany. Doctors pronounced him dead on Wednesday morning, paper reported.

Clarkson attended Oak Harbor High School for several months during his senior year in 2004, according to the paper.

He is survived by his wife, Cassandra, and their 9-month-old son, Orion. The couple lived in Puyallup.

Eleven soldiers from 2nd Ranger Battalion have been killed during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Clarkson is the first member of the Special Operations unit to die in combat since June 2008.

A memorial service will be held at Lewis-McChord on March 27 and a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery on April 5, according to a Facebook page set up for friends and family.

Slain Paratrooper Was to Return Home From Afghanistan In A Few Weeks

March 10, 2010 WTVD-TV

HILLSBOROUGH

Friends and family paid their respects to 27-year-old Spc. Josiah Crumpler of Hillsborough Wednesday.

He died in Afghanistan on March 1 after his patrol unit was attacked by insurgents in Bala Murghab, Afghanistan.

Crumpler was a member of Fort Bragg-based 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, which had been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since August 2009.

The funeral service was held at Abundant Life Church in Hillsborough with burial at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Princeton.

He is survived by his wife, Shana and two children, Hannah and Seth Smith, of Hope Mills.

Memorials may be made to the IPHC Royal Rangers Ministry, P.O. Box 208, Franklin Springs, Ga., 30639, or to the Josiah D. Crumpler Memorial Fund at Branch Banking and Trust Co. (BB&T), 351 S. Churton St., Hillsborough, N.C., 27278.

Donations to this fund will be directed to organizations dedicated to ministering to the needs of spouses of slain members of the United States military.

Online condolences may be made to Walkersfuneralservice.com.

Funeral Today For Soldier With Haven Ties

3/10/2010 By Clara Kilbourn, The Hutchinson News

HAVEN - The funeral for a soldier killed in Afghanistan whose grandparents and other extended family members live in Reno County will be today in Haven.

A U.S. Army news release reported that Spc. Matthew D. Huston, 24, of Athens, Ga., and a fellow soldier, Spc. Josiah D. Crumpler, 27, of Hillsborough, N.C., died March 1 in Bala Murghab when insurgents attacked their unit using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Huston and Crumpler were members of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and were stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C., prior to their deployment to Afghanistan.

Huston's father, Phillip Huston, grew up in Haven; his grandparents, Earl and Kay Huston, formerly of Haven, now live in South Hutchinson.

Huston and his wife, Whitney Shaffer Huston, were married in June 2005 in Marietta, Ga. In respect for her wishes, Huston's father and grandparents declined to talk more about him.

Huston enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in February 2007. After training at airborne school at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg. The Athens (Ga.) Banner Herald reported this was Huston's second deployment to Afghanistan. His first was five months, beginning in December 2007. His 3,300-member brigade left for a 12-month overseas deployment last August from their base in Fort Bragg.

An Army news release, cited in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, quoted the squad leader of the two soldiers, Sgt. Ryan Mahoney, saying, "Spc. Huston was every bit as committed by going above and beyond to step up and take on the role of a team leader."

Huston was previously awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Basic Parachutist Badge.

His is survived by his wife, Whitney, of Raeford, N.C.; his parents, Ronda and Phillip Huston, Henderson, Nev.; a brother, Kyle Huston, of Las Vegas; a sister, Whitney Huston Sellards, of San Clemente, Calif.; and nephews, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.

The funeral for Huston will be at 2 p.m. today at Haven Baptist Church, with Pastor Gary Cox presiding. There will be no visitation. Burial will follow in Laurel Cemetery, Haven, with Jaron Shaffer presiding.

Memorials may be sent to the Matthew D. Huston Memorial Fund in care of Hutchinson Credit Union, P.O. Box 454, Haven, KS 67543-0454, or in care of Ott Funeral Home, P.O. Box 217, Haven, KS 67543.

Heads Cut Off Three Men Who Killed “Taliban And Ordinary People”

Mar 21 AFP

Taliban militants in Pakistan's restive tribal area Sunday beheaded three men they accused of spying for US forces stationed across the border in Afghanistan, police said.

The bodies of three men were found near Mir Ali town in the North Waziristan tribal district that borders Afghanistan.

“Notes found with the bodies said the men were killed for spying for the US,” tribal police official Nisar Khan told AFP.

Khan said the three dead men had themselves killed “several Taliban and ordinary people”.

Anybody Find My 200,000 Rounds? Or Those 80 Vehicles?

3.14.2010 By Alan Gomez, USA TODAY [Excerpt]

The Afghan army and national police have lost 13,000 weapons, 200,000 rounds of ammunition, 80 vehicles and one pair of night vision goggles, members of a U.S. task force told USA TODAY.

All the gear was bought for the Afghans by Americans, part of \$330 million in weapons purchases.

**“Crooked Afghan Cops Supply
Much Of The Ammunition Used
By The Taliban”
“Bullets And Rocket-Propelled
Grenades Sold By The Cops Are
Cheaper And Of Better Quality”
U.S. Occupation Training Program
For Afghan Police “Has Been A
Disaster”
“We Are Still At Zero”**

The audit says State Department officials “did not conduct adequate surveillance for two task orders in excess of \$1 billion.” More than \$322 million worth of invoices for police training were approved even though the funds were poorly accounted for

March 20, 2010 by T. Christian Miller, ProPublica, Mark Hosenball and Ron Moreau, Newsweek [Excerpts]

Mohammad Moqim watches in despair as his men struggle with their AK-47 automatic rifles, doing their best to hit man-size targets 50 meters away.

A few of the police trainees lying prone in the mud are decent shots, but the rest shoot clumsily, and fumble as they try to reload their weapons. The Afghan National Police (ANP) captain sighs as he dismisses one group of trainees and orders 25 more to take their places on the firing line.

“We are still at zero,” says Captain Moqim, 35, an eight-year veteran of the force. “They don’t listen, are undisciplined, and will never be real policemen.”

Poor marksmanship is the least of it.

Worse, crooked Afghan cops supply much of the ammunition used by the Taliban, according to Saleh Mohammed, an insurgent commander in Helmand province.

The bullets and rocket-propelled grenades sold by the cops are cheaper and of better quality than the ammo at local markets, he says.

It's easy for local cops to concoct credible excuses for using so much ammunition, especially because their supervisors try to avoid areas where the Taliban are active.

Mohammed says local police sometimes even stage fake firefights so that if higher-ups question their outsize orders for ammo, villagers will say they've heard fighting.

America has spent more than \$6 billion since 2002 in an effort to create an effective Afghan police force, buying weapons, building police academies, and hiring defense contractors to train the recruits—but the program has been a disaster.

More than \$322 million worth of invoices for police training were approved even though the funds were poorly accounted for, according to a government audit, and fewer than 12 percent of the country's police units are capable of operating on their own.

Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, the State Department's top representative in the region, has publicly called the Afghan police "an inadequate organization, riddled with corruption."

Police commanders have been implicated in drug trafficking, and when U.S. Marines moved into the town of Aynak last summer, villagers accused the local police force of extortion, assault, and rape.

The public's distrust of the cops is palpable in the former insurgent stronghold of Marja.

More than a year after Barack Obama took office, the president is still discovering how bad things are.

At a March 12 briefing on Afghanistan with his senior advisers, he asked whether the police will be ready when America's scheduled drawdown begins in July 2011, according to a senior official who was in the room. "It's inconceivable, but in fact for eight years we weren't training the police," replied [Lt. Gen. William] Caldwell, taking part in the meeting via video link from Afghanistan.

"We just never trained them before. All we did was give them a uniform."

The president looked stunned. "Eight years," he said. "And we didn't train police? It's mind-boggling."

Patrolmen were recruited locally, issued weapons, and placed on the beat with little or no formal training.

It's practically impossible to produce competent police officers in a program of only eight weeks, says a former senior DynCorp executive, requesting anonymity because he continues to work in the industry.

But that was the time frame State and Defense set for the course.

“They were not going to be trained police officers. We knew that. They knew that,” the former executive says.

“It was a numbers game.”

In fact, the course has now been cut from eight weeks to six in order to squeeze in more trainees.

Whether or not recruits have mastered their subjects, almost everyone graduates. Even if they fail the firearms test, they’re issued a weapon and put on the street.

A former midlevel DynCorp official calls the program “dysfunctional.”

Requesting anonymity because he doesn’t want problems with his former employer, he displays dozens of weekly reports sent to State and military officials; almost all include some mention of an Afghan police officer or commander as “corrupt.”

And what has become of all the billions of dollars this program has cost America? Government investigators aren’t entirely sure.

Fundamental questions are raised in an audit of the Afghan police-training program released in February by the State and Defense departments’ inspectors general.

When State finally sent an “invoice-reconciliation team” to review expense receipts submitted under one particular contract, it discovered that \$322 million in invoices had been “approved even though they were not allowable, allocable, or reasonable.” What’s more, the auditors said, half those invoices included errors.

The lapses don’t stop there. The audit says State Department officials “did not conduct adequate surveillance for two task orders in excess of \$1 billion.”

According to the auditors, State’s contract supervisors didn’t adequately oversee the use of government-owned property, failed to maintain contract files properly, and sometimes neglected to “match goods to receiving reports”—meaning, evidently, that they didn’t verify that the U.S. government had actually received the goods it had paid for.

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

**“Who Proved That These Men Were
Guilty?”**

“Invisible War, Where No One Is Sure Who Is Lying And Who Is Telling The Truth”



Cmdr. Dawood Zazai, center, objected on Monday to a clause justifying detentions by the United States. “Who proved that these men were guilty?” he asked. Photo: Moises Saman for The New York Times

March 19, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — The tribal elders had traveled many hours to reach a windswept Afghan military base on the capital’s outskirts to sign their names to a piece of paper allowing them to bring their countrymen home from American detention.

As an Afghan general read the document aloud, Cmdr. Dawood Zazai, a towering Pashtun tribal leader from Paktia Province who fought the Soviets, thumped his crutch for attention.

Along with other elders, he did not like a clause in the document that said the detainees had been reasonably held based on intelligence.

“I cannot sign this,” Commander Zazai said, thumping his crutch again.

“I don’t know what that intelligence said; we did not see that intelligence. It is right that we are illiterate, but we are not blind.

“Who proved that these men were guilty?”

No one answered because Commander Zazai had just touched on the crux of the legal debate that has raged for nearly a decade in the United States: Does the United States

have the legal right to hold, indefinitely without charge or trial, people captured on the battlefield?

His question also exposed a fundamental disagreement between the Afghans and the American military about whether people had been fairly detained.

This is the latest chapter in America's tortuous effort to repair the damage done over the last nine years by a troubled, overcrowded detention system that often produced more insurgents rather than reforming them.

The problems were similar in the huge sweeps of suspected insurgents in Iraq.

The releases that took place at a recent ceremony at the 201st Afghan Army Corps headquarters, as well as the release or assignment to Afghan detention of 70 to 80 detainees earlier this year, are part of a new effort to free detainees who are no longer thought to be an imminent threat to the government of Afghanistan or the international forces.

Once the review board has approved a release, the Afghan military, in conjunction with the Americans, asks the detainee to sign a pledge to stay away from the insurgency, from the Taliban and from Al Qaeda. The elders are asked to sign a similar pledge that they will help them.

There are now about 800 detainees at the American-run Detention Facility in Parwan, the new detention center that opened at the end of 2009 to replace the notorious holding facility at Bagram Air Base, which is associated with abuses that resulted in the deaths of at least two detainees.

The American plan is to hand control of the detention center to the Afghan Ministry of Defense by January 2011, but Americans will still be deeply involved in the detention operations.

But as the recent ceremony showed, beyond the cake and fruit and formal speeches lies a reservoir of resentment about how the United States has handled detentions since 2001.

In interviews, former detainees and their families said the Americans were routinely misled by informants who either had personal grudges against them or were paid by others to give information to the Americans that would put the person in jail.

In addition, many Afghans have experienced the detentions as humiliating, and found almost unbearable the depths of poverty borne by their families during their internment.

"The information you had about these men was wrong in the first place," said Hajji Azizullah, 54, a leader of the Andar tribe in Ghazni, who had come to sign for two detainees. "We are confident they were not involved with insurgents. If they were, we wouldn't be here to sign for them."

One detainee, Pacha Khan, 29, an illiterate bread baker from Kunar Province, said he was still puzzled about why he had been detained in the first place, let alone held for three years. "I was innocent," he insisted. "Spies took money and sold me to the

Americans. The Americans treated us very well, but as you know, jail is a big thing — to be away from your family, your relatives.”

His brother, Gul Ahmed Dindar, was less forgiving. He had to support his brother’s family of eight children and a wife on the meager salary of a local police officer. “They were about to sell their children,” he said. “They had very little to live on. They sold their one goat, their one sheep and their cow. Then they sold the furniture — it was not much. They have had a very tough life.”

Admiral Harward insisted that the American intelligence was good and that these were insurgents, but on hearing the elders’ protests about signing a document that made it sound as if the tribal leaders agreed with the American view, he offered to change the language to say that in the eyes of American forces these detainees were insurgents.

The elders nodded their assent. The new language will be used on future sponsor forms. “We learn something every time we do this,” Admiral Harward said.

The Afghan military made its own effort to solve the problem when it heard the elders’ protests, by simply writing in the word “no” in front of the phrase saying the detainee had a “link to the insurgency.” The version the elders signed said the detainee had “no link.”

In the shifting shadows of this often invisible war, where no one is sure who is lying and who is telling the truth, it seemed a reasonable way to resolve the day’s discord.

Comment Unnecessary



American Marines in an opium poppy field in Marja, Afghanistan, last month. The military decided not to destroy the fields. Photo: Tyler Hicks/The New York Times, March 20, 2010

Now-It-Can-Be-Told Dept: Last April, Collaborator Officials Ran Away From Kandahar: Canadian Troops Were Abandoned To Fight The Resistance Alone: “We Were Scared And It Seemed The Government Was Weak”

The censored reports were obtained by The Canadian Press under access to information laws and stand in contrast to the measured, sanitized quarterly reports released by the Conservative government.

Mar 18 2010 By Murray Brewster, THE CANADIAN PRESS [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—Governance in Kandahar was pushed to the brink by Taliban bombs and assassinations last spring, an onslaught that at one point saw provincial council members temporarily abandoning the region, newly released documents reveal.

An extraordinary set of quarterly campaign reviews, prepared by Canadian Forces Expeditionary Command over several months, paint a startling picture of the civilian administration in Kandahar province, where Canadian troops operate.

The censored reports were obtained by The Canadian Press under access to information laws and stand in contrast to the measured, sanitized quarterly reports released by the Conservative government.

Casualties among Canadian and NATO forces always grab headlines back home, but what often goes unappreciated is the carnage that took place on the streets of Kandahar as the Taliban systematically attempted to decapitate the local government.

They came perilously close last spring.

“Most provincial committee members have left (Kandahar city) due to security,” said a memo dated April 28, 2009.

The previously unreported exodus came two weeks after Sitara Achakzai, a provincial councilwoman, was murdered and at the same time a senior Kandahar transportation official was gunned down.

Only days before – on April 1, 2009 – councillors had survived an attack by four bombers, disguised in army uniforms, who detonated a truck bomb and stormed the provincial council office. The attack killed 17 people and wounded 17 others.

Haji Agha Lalai, a member of the council, downplayed councillors fleeing the city, saying they had many “meetings in Kabul” to attend.

The crescendo of violence in April last year came ahead of the first wave of U.S. troop reinforcements in much the same way the Taliban attempted to set the agenda with last weekend’s attacks in Kandahar, which left 35 people dead. NATO has said it will launch a major offensive in the province this spring.

Lalai and Kandahar Mayor Ghulam Hayder Hamidi said they’re worried that the Taliban are about to switch tactics and drag NATO into fighting in the city itself, rather than the countryside as has happened for nearly four years.

“I am sure that this summer (the) Taliban will fight with NATO in Kandahar streets,” said Hamidi.

Hamidi said the Taliban were preying on the perception the provincial administration was in disarray.

“We were scared and it seemed the government was weak,” he said.

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



A member of the U.S. Air Force bomb squad collects pieces of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armored vehicle hit by road side bomb while providing a route clearance for a convoy delivering supplies to the remote U.S. Marine base in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 6, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



A U.S. Marine gestures during the recovery of a broken vehicle in a convoy delivering supplies to the remote Forward Operating Base (FOB) Cafferata in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, March 8, 2010. REUTERS/Shamil Zhumatov



March 15, 2010: In Marjah, marines of the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment build a barrier around their base. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

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

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



March 2, 2010: Fairview, N.J. funeral for U.S. Army Sgt. Marcos Gorra, 22, of North Bergen, N.J., who was killed Feb. 21 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT THE NEW ISSUE OF
TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Just posted at: <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS28.pdf>

This issue features:

1. Against The Giant: “I Really Enjoy Reading The Paper And Knowing There Are Others Out There Who Agree With Us”
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.giant.php>
2. “If The Regular Civilian Population Could See The Shit That Goes On At Drum, People Would Flip Shit”
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.drum.php>
3. “When I First Came (Into) The Army, I Didn’t Want To Think About Having To Fight Back ... With My Leaders”
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.leader.php>
4. “I Did Not Expect To Have Traveling Soldier’s Presence In Afghanistan Corroborated By A Man In Prison In Illinois” [It Gets Around]
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/3.10.prison.php>
5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS28.pdf>

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/)

**POLITICIANS CAN’T BE COUNTED
ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO
STOP THE WARS**

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

Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth.
-- George Washington

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”
-- Lenin; What Is To Be Done

“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

My Lai Drone



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: March 13, 2010
Subject: My Lai Drone

My Lai Drone

**Push button insanity.
Mental hospital warfare.
America,
you will reap what you sow.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
March 13, 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**

Deserters Or Unsung Heroes? The St. Patrick Battalion

From: <http://www.hispanianews.com/archive/2000/March17/01.htm>]

[As Abraham Lincoln and others pointed out at the time, the Mexican War of 1846 was begun by slaveholders, who controlled the U.S. government, to add more slaveholding territory to the United States. Many Americans opposed to slavery opposed the war, refused to vote money for it in Congress, and some called for the military defeat of the U.S. invasion of Mexico. This story is about a group of Americans who took up arms to fight for Mexico, and against the slaveholders' invasion and occupation.]

The St. Patrick Battalion (El Batallón de San Patricio) was a unique unit of the Mexican Army during the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848. Some say they were heroic men, some say they were just deserters.

What made this outfit exceptional was that it was composed almost entirely of deserters from the United States Army who, after defecting, fought on the Mexican side in five major battles.

In Occupied America, Rodolfo Acuña states that “there is ample evidence that the United States provoked the war...Zachary Taylor’s (General of the US Army of Occupation) artillery leveled the Mexican city of Matamoros, killing hundreds of innocent civilians with la bomba (the bomb)...

The occupation that followed was even more terrorizing. Taylor’s regular army was allegedly kept in control, but the volunteers (about 2,000 in Matamoros) presented another matter.

Taylor knew about the atrocities, but...little was done to restrain the men, of which Taylor himself admitted ‘there is scarcely a form of crime that has not been reported to me as committed by them.’

“An interesting sidelight is that many Irish immigrants, as well as some other Anglos, deserted to the Mexican side, forming the San Patricio Corps (El Batallón de San Patricio)...due ‘to the inborn distaste of the masses of war, to bad treatment, and to poor subsistence.’ Many of the Irish were also Catholic, and they resented the treatment of Catholic priests and nuns by the invading Protestants.

According to Miller’s book, Shamrock and Sword, renegades who crossed the Rio Grande formed the nucleus of the unique San Patricio unit of the Mexican Army. The Irish-born deserter, John Riley, later claimed credit for organizing the outfit. In a letter to the Mexican president he stated: ‘Since April 1846 when I separated from the North American forces...I have served constantly under the Mexican flag. In Matamoros I formed a company of 48 Irishmen...’ By July of 1847, the number of San Patricios had increased to more than 200.

During the two years of war, Mexicans called this unique outfit by various names; some designations were official, others coined by the people. Unofficially, the group was called the Irish Volunteers, or the Colorados - or Red Guards - so named because of the many redheaded and ruddy-complexioned men in it, or the San Patricio Guards. Officially, the unit began as the San Patricio Company, an artillery outfit that later expanded to two companies. In mid-1847, the Mexican war department reassigned the men as infantrymen and merged the San Patricio companies into the newly-created Foreign Legion (Legión Extranjera), which some Britons and Americans called the Legion of Strangers. In 1848, the Mexican president expanded the companies and formed the Saint Patrick’s Battalion.

The San Patricios served under a distinctive military banner. John Riley said the emerald green ensign had an image of Saint Patrick emblazoned on one side, with a shamrock and the harp Erin outlined on the other. A Yankee soldier commented of the San Patricio’s standard: “A beautiful green silk banner waved over their heads; on it glittered a silver cross and a golden harp, embroidered by the hands of the fair nuns of San Luis Potosí.”

A wartime newspaper correspondent from New Orleans described the San Patricio flag captured at the battle of Churubusco: The banner is of green silk, and on one side is a harp, surmounted by the Mexican coat of arms, with a scroll on which is painted, 'Libertad para la República Mexicana.' Underneath the harp is the motto 'Erin go Bragh' (Ireland for Ever). On the other side is painting...made to represent St. Patrick, in his left hand a key and in his right a crook or staff resting upon a serpent. Underneath is painted San Patricio."

The San Patricios fought in five major battles with the Mexican Army: On May 3, 1846 in Matamoros; on September 21, 1846 in Monterrey; on February 22, 1847 at the Battle of Buena Vista (Angostura, for the Mexicans); on April 17, 1847 at Cerro Gordo, and August 20, 1847 at Churubusco.

Its name being derived from an Aztec word meaning 'place of the war god,' Churubusco became the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the Mexican war, an engagement that also marked the military zenith of the San Patricios and their last battle in the war as a unit.

For the Americans, their victory at Churubusco was a momentous and dramatic event. Besides its strategic and psychological importance, the battle yielded 1,259 prisoners, including 104 officers...Of special importance were the captured San Patricios, among them Brevet Major John Riley.

Although the San Patricios were defeated at Churubusco, their proficiency and bravery elicited praise from various Mexicans: Santa Anna said that if he had commanded a few hundred more men like them, he would have won the battle.

San Patricio casualties at Churubusco were devastating: when the battle began, the two companies were apparently at full strength of 102 men each. Three hours later 60 percent of the men were either dead or had been captured by the enemy; 85 were taken prisoner, 72 of whom were accused of deserting the US Army and the remaining up to 90 men had escaped.

In *Occupied America*, Acuña states that it is estimated that as many as 260 Anglo-Americans fought with the Mexicans at Churubusco in 1847. Some 80 appear to have been captured...A number were found not guilty of deserting and were released. About 15, who had deserted before the declaration of war, were merely branded with a "D," and 50 of those taken at Churubusco were executed.' Others received 200 lashes and were forced to dig graves for their executed comrades.

With the exception of two prisoners, Ellis and Pieper, the military courts at Tacubaya and San Angel found all (the San Patricios) guilty of desertion and they sentenced 68 men "to be hanged by the neck until dead."

While these sentences were being reviewed by the commander-in-chief, dozens of individuals begged American authorities to spare the lives of the San Patricios. In his General Orders 281 and 283, issued the second week of September of 1847, General Scott confirmed the capital punishment verdict for 50 San Patricios, but he pardoned five men and reduced the sentences of 15 others.

Instead of being hanged, John Riley and 14 others reprieved San Patricios were to be given 50 lashes, "well laid on their bare back," and to be hot-iron branded with a two-inch letter "D" for deserter; 12 were branded on the right cheek, the others of the right hip.

Still dressed in their Mexican uniforms, the Americans hanged 16 other San Patricio traitors, who had white caps drawn over their heads. Their bodies were buried nearby; ordered to do it, John Riley and the other branded prisoners dug graves directly under the gallows for nine of their companions. The other seven were interred by priests in the nearby cemetery of Tlaquepaque (Tlacopac).

The 16 San Patricios who were hanged in San Angel dangled from a wooden gallows erected for that purpose, but two American writers claimed that the culprits were hanged "from limbs of a large tree."

Two days after the San Angel hangings, Colonel William Selby Harney executed with unwarranted cruelty the remaining 30 convicted San Patricios.

With medals, memorial plaques, annual ceremonies and public schools honoring them, clearly the San Patricios are treated as heroes in Mexico.

North of the Rio Grande, by contrast, the story of the Saint Patrick's Battalion is hardly known. Occasionally, there is a passing reference, often erroneous, in United States history books. As for the individual San Patricios- at least those who deserted from the United States Army- they have always been regarded by North Americans as traitors. Yankee writers invariably have maintained that those defectors who were caught deserved their fate.

For most, the story of the San Patricios is a tragedy, as all war stories are.

(from Shamrock and Sword, Robert Miller and Occupied America, Rodolfo Acuña .
Special thanks to Prof. Roberto Treviño, UC-CS.)

Troops Invited:

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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Unconquerable



A Palestinian demonstrator uses a slingshot to hurl stones at Zionist soldiers during in the occupied Palestinian West Bank village of Iraq Burin, near Nablus, March 20, 2010. A Palestinian teenager was killed by Zionist troops in Iraq Burin, medical officials said. (AP Photo/Nasser Ishtayeh)

[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

**Eight Years In Prison For "Shoplifting
A Bag Of Shredded Cheese"
"Law-And-Order Policies Have Filled The
Nation's Prisons With Hundreds Of
Thousands Of Nonviolent Drug
Offenders"**

March 16, 2010 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

ROBERT FERGUSON'S nearly eight-year prison sentence in early March for shoplifting a bag of shredded cheese from a California convenience store made headlines around the world.

How could such a petty crime trigger such a lengthy sentence? Whether from a moral or public policy point of view, the outcome seemed absurd.

But the harsh sentence represents only the final--and perhaps not even the most outlandish--failure of California's criminal justice to deliver justice.

At Ferguson's March 1 sentencing hearing, for example, prosecutors urged the judge to impose a lengthy sentence because of Ferguson's prior convictions.

As far as they were concerned, they had already shown leniency by not seeking a life sentence. Prosecutors had only backed down after a psychologist's report concluded that Ferguson suffers from bipolar disorder, which impairs his ability to control impulses during manic phases.

Nevertheless, Deputy District Attorney Clinton Parish still asserted at the hearing that Ferguson is a "career criminal," pointing to his 13 prior convictions that put him behind bars for 22 of the past 27 years.

Today, California spends more to lock people up than it does on the University of California system, once the premier public institution of higher education in the U.S.

BUT ROBERT Ferguson is only the latest in a long history of sentencing outrages stretching back to the 1990s, when voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 184, mandating a life sentence for anyone convicted of a third felony.

Other cases that made headlines were the 1994 life sentence for Jerry Dewayne Williams, who stole a pizza, and a 25-years-to-life sentence for Johnny Quirino, convicted in 1996 of petty theft of razor blades.

What makes such stories all the more preposterous is the gaping hole in California's budget--in part the product of the rise of California's prison population in the wake of tough sentencing rules such as three-strikes.

It costs about \$49,000 a year to house an inmate in California's prison system.

The painful cuts facing practically every social service and public institution in California have yet to convince politicians and public-policy makers of the need for a fundamental reform of tough-on-crime laws.

Between the 1970s and the present, California's prison population more than quintupled--from less than 30,000 to around 170,000.

For three decades now, the logic of "getting tough on crime" has justified harsh sentencing laws, a prison-building spree and worsening police brutality. Defenders of the

system say that such policies are necessary to deal with the scourge of drugs and violent crime. But they can only do so by ignoring the facts about drug use and crime.

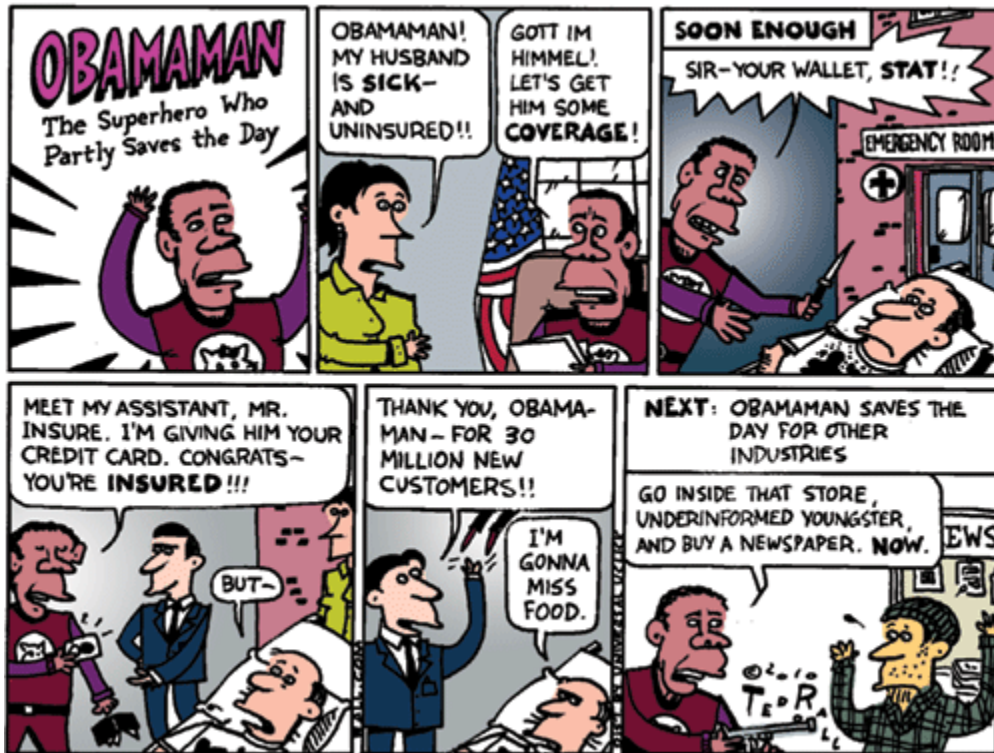
Thus, law-and-order policies have filled the nation’s prisons with hundreds of thousands of nonviolent drug offenders, disproportionately Blacks and Latinos, even though whites use illegal drugs at very similar rates.

In the words of Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*:

“President Ronald Reagan officially declared the current drug war in 1982, when drug crime was declining, not rising. From the outset, the war had little to do with drug crime and nearly everything to do with racial politics.

“The drug war was part of a grand and highly successful Republican Party strategy of using racially coded political appeals on issues of crime and welfare to attract poor and working-class white voters who were resentful of, and threatened by, desegregation, busing and affirmative action.”

In the words of H.R. Haldeman, President Richard Nixon’s White House Chief of Staff: “(T)he whole problem is really the blacks. The key is to devise a system that recognizes this, while not appearing to.”



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