

Military Resistance 8C15



Anti-war march in Portland, Oregon on March 20, 2010: Photograph by Mike Hastie, Vietnam Veteran

Dog Tags And Crosses

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Subject: Dog Tags And Crosses
Date: Mar 23, 2010 8:33 AM

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

Dog Tags And Crosses

**The veins on his forehead
look like mountains
on a map of Jesus
hanging on a cross
The Soldier could see
the sins of humanity
forever or at least a long time
the rain washes away
just the dirt from walking
up and down Afghanistan
in the south or the north
in the east or the west
it doesn't matter anymore
because he died as his boot
touched the ground
for the last time as bullets
fired through both hands
as another struck him in the head
He died on a slope and rolled
down the rocks until one of them
caught him and offered him
to the sky and asked for a reason
that Christians go to buildings
every Sunday but between
act like monsters to their
fellow man
The other Soldiers watch as
his body twitches stops
as their dog tags and crosses
hang from their necks
as they look down
and wonder when it
will be them**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

March 20 (Reuters) & March 21 (Reuters) & March 22 (Reuters) & March 23 (Reuters) & AFP

A hand grenade hurled at an American army patrol, wounded two Iraqi civilians in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, wounding five soldiers, police said.

One policeman was wounded in Mosul after a hand grenade was thrown at a police patrol, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded two soldiers in western Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded two others in southern Baghdad, a source at the Interior Ministry said.

Insurgents fired at a government official wounding him and his driver in central Baghdad, a source at the Interior Ministry said.

A commander of a U.S.-allied neighbourhood guard unit was killed along with his wife in their home by insurgents in a city northeast of Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol, wounding two soldiers in western Mosul, police said.

An off-duty soldier was killed by insurgents in an industrial area in eastern Mosul, police said.

A car bomb exploded as a police bomb squad tried to disarm it, wounding one policeman, in the town of Hawija, outside Kirkuk, 210 km (130 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a car carrying the director general of Baghdad Investment Commission, wounded four people in Karrada district, police said.

Two policemen were shot dead in a watchtower in the south Baghdad neighbourhood of Radhwaniyah.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Two Foreign “Servicemembers” Killed
By IED Monday Somewhere Or Other In
Afghanistan;**

Nationality Not Announced

March 22 IJC Public Affairs Office & AP

Two ISAF servicemembers were killed in separate improvised explosive device attacks in southern Afghanistan today.

Foreign “Servicemember” Dies Tuesday After IED Attack Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced

March 23 IJC Public Affairs Office & AP

A foreign servicemember died following an IED strike in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

British Soldier Killed Near Sangin

22 Mar 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from A Company, 3rd Battalion The Rifles (3 RIFLES), serving as part of the 3 RIFLES Battle Group, was killed in Afghanistan today, Monday 22 March 2010.

The soldier died as a result of an explosion which occurred in an area 3km south of Sangin district centre in Helmand province this morning.

Hungry Horse Soldier Was Killed By Insurgents In Afghanistan

11 March, 2010 AP

HUNGRY HORSE - The Department of Defense said Wednesday a Montana soldier was killed in Afghanistan over the weekend when insurgents opened fire on his unit.

Defense officials said 19-year-old Pvt. Nicholas S. Cook of Hungry Horse was killed in Konar province on Sunday. His body arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Tuesday.

Kathy Taylor said her grandson joined the Army in April and had been in Afghanistan for just over two months when he was killed. He was set to come home on leave in about two weeks.

She said the Army had not given her any more details about her grandson's death, including whether any of Cook's fellow soldiers were killed or injured in the attack.

"All I know is they were out on patrol," said Taylor, who with her husband raised Cook since he was just 3 years old. "They had finished whatever they were doing and were coming back out of the area when they were ambushed."

Cook, a 2008 graduate of Columbia Falls High School, loved excitement, whether it came from jumping out of airplanes, off of bridges or cliffs, or snowboarding in the Alps.

"He was quite a daredevil," Taylor said. "He liked to hunt, skateboard, bike, ride dirt bikes and four-wheelers. And he lived and breathed snowboarding."

In a posting on his MySpace page, Cook jokingly listed his hometown as "Afghanistan, Montana," and wrote that "not many people can say they are as stoked about life in general and what they are doing right now."

"I sure as hell can," he continued. "I'm doing more now and have seen more already than I ever thought I would."

Cook was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Camp Ederle, Italy.

Family Mourns Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Family mourns soldier killed in Afghanistan

March 07, 2010 By Karen Robinson, NEWS STAFF REPORTER

WHEATFIELD — The Dickis family is bearing the weight of a war.

Alan Dikcis died Friday, the casualty of a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

His older brother, Stanley Dikcis, still suffers from the wounds and head trauma he sustained when a roadside bomb nearly killed him in the same country 12 years ago.

A stepbrother, Thomas A. Cannuli, is serving in the Army in Iraq.

Stanley Dikcis cried tears of despair Saturday afternoon, struggling to find words to describe his 21-year-old brother.

“My brother was so dedicated to the Army,” said Dikcis, 23, who served in the 101st Airborne Division before his medical retirement. “He was my best friend, and he looked up to me so much. I’m still numb, trying to hold it all together. I’ve seen a lot of death.”

The Dikcis family, of Wheatfield, learned about their son’s death Friday afternoon. He had been scheduled to come home for a two-week leave next month. His service was to end in July, although family members said he had just re-enlisted for seven more years, with plans to switch jobs to become a helicopter mechanic.

A 2006 Niagara Wheatfield graduate, Alan was remembered as a loving father with a polite disposition and “knockout” smile. He enjoyed riding his yellow and black motorcycle with friends. Everyone knew of his endless devotion to the Army.

Alan, one of six boys in his family, was part of the 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum.

Saturday, two American flags were displayed outside the Dikcis family’s cream-colored house on Walmore Road, where a yellow ribbon was tied around a large tree in the front yard. Inside, relatives gathered around the kitchen table to console one another. The refrigerator was covered with favorite photos of Alan, his daughter, Sophia Brown, 3, of Niagara Falls, and his family.

“This is just going to be very, very hard,” said his father, Robert Dikcis, in a telephone interview from Dover, Del., where he was waiting for his son’s body to be returned. “He will be very missed. I had a lot of plans for us together to do things. This will be very hard. I’m kind of at a loss.”

“He was a good son and loyal to what he was doing,” said his stepmother, Gricela “Gigi” Dikcis, wearing a gray Army sweatshirt. “He was a good father to his daughter, and a good friend to all his friends, and his father is very proud of him.”

Robert said Alan was looking forward to a different assignment within the Army. His job — fixing equipment that breaks down while being used to clear roadside bombs — is among the most risky.

“He had one of the worst things to do there. It was like Russian roulette — a mechanic and route clearance,” the elder Dikcis said.

The Dikcis family is waiting to learn more details of Alan's death, but so far has learned that he was riding in a vehicle near the Taliban stronghold of Marjah, Afghanistan, when it hit an improvised explosive device. He died en route to the hospital.

Stanley suffered a traumatic brain injury and paralysis in his left leg — requiring hospitalization and rehabilitation for a year before he returned home July 7. Stanley had just two days to see Alan before Alan was deployed on July 9 to Afghanistan.

“(Alan) joined the Army because of me. He was so proud of me,” said Stanley, wiping tears from his eyes, sitting in the Gate Coffee Shop on Lockport Road with some of his brother's friends, just a short distance from his family's home.

After Alan visited his brother about three years ago at Fort Knox, Ky., where Stanley underwent basic training, he came home and immediately went to the recruiting office to enlist.

The last time the family heard from Alan was on Thursday, when he communicated via Facebook with his stepmother.

“He had been on his way to a mission and their equipment had been so badly damaged,” Gigi Dikcis recalled Saturday. “He was concerned they weren't ready. He knew someone would get hurt.”

Jason Evrard, 25, grew up with Alan and Stanley and attended school with them.

“(Alan) was a good father and would take the shirt off his back for you. He was smart and ambitious,” Evrard said. “Every man has a fear. He put his fear aside for his country and family.”

Jason's grandmother, Jan Evrard, who lives next to the Dikcis family, remembered him as kind.

“He was a very nice, polite, mannerly boy, who thought he should fight for his country,” she said.

The family had been thinking of installing a lighted flagpole on their front lawn to symbolize when “the boys would come and go,” Gigi said. “My husband is so proud of all of them. They all enjoyed what they were doing.”

Canadian Soldier Injured In Afghanistan Dies In Edmonton

March 22, 2010 By Ryan Cormier, Edmonton Journal

EDMONTON — An Edmonton-based soldier died in an Alberta hospital on Sunday after being wounded in an explosion while on foot patrol in Afghanistan earlier this month.

Cpl. Darren James Fitzpatrick, 21, was with members of the Afghan National Army in the Zhari district of southern Afghanistan on March 6 when he was injured by the improvised explosive device.

Fitzpatrick, a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was on his first tour of Afghanistan since joining the Canadian Forces in 2006. Since October, he had served with the Operational Mentor Liaison Team, which helps train members of the Afghan National Army.

Three Rockets Strike Foreign Occupation Locations In Kabul: Casualties Not Announced

March 20, 2010 Xinhua

Two rockets hit the military annex of Kabul's international airport on Sunday, with a third landing outside the perimeter.

A fourth rocket landed in the Pul-e-Charke district of eastern Kabul, an area of military bases, it said, adding it had no reports of casualties at the airport.

Turkish Soldiers Injured By Afghan Copter Crash



23 March 2010 Reuters

A helicopter carrying Turkish troops crash landed southwest of the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday, injuring two soldiers, a Turkish military spokesman said.

Major Ismail Meric, a spokesman for the Turkish contingent in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), said nobody was killed in the incident. He said the helicopter was operated by a contractor.

The international force described the aircraft as an ISAF helicopter.

"An ISAF helicopter crashed today in Wardak province. According to initial reports, there were no fatalities and all ISAF service members on board were medically evacuated to nearby ISAF medical treatment facilities," the ISAF said in a statement.

The spokesman for the governor of Maidan Wardak province, Shahidullah Shahid, said one Turkish soldier had been killed and three injured when the helicopter crashed into a mountain.

Occupation Raiders Execute An Old Man For Not Getting Out Of His Home When Ordered To Do So

Mar 22 AFP

A patrol shot dead an elderly Afghan man after he refused to leave a house during a search for Taliban leaders.

The man was shot in Wardak province, southwest of Kabul, during the operation by Afghan and foreign soldiers on Sunday, NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

"Despite repeated requests in Dari, Pashtu and Urdu by the joint security force for all individuals to exit their residences, an individual was found inside one of the buildings," it said in a statement.

"The assault force reacted to what they thought was hostile intent and shot the individual," it said, adding: "It was subsequently determined the individual was an elderly man.

"No individuals were detained during this operation."

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
--

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus flight medic takes cover as a firefight occurs while he evacuates a wounded U.S. Marine, in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 2, 2010. Pegasus crews provide the fast medical evacuation of seriously wounded combatants and civilians. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



March 4, 2010: U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus Crew Chief leads Marines who carry one of two wounded comrades to a medevac helicopter, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The other of the two wounded Marines died later of his wounds, incurred when their armored vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Soldiers of the Army National Guard 162 Engineer Company attached with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion of U.S. Marine Corps stay next to a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armored vehicle which was hit by a roadside 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



U.S. Marines of the First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Alpha company, take offensive position as they are involved in a battle during a patrol in Marjah, Afghanistan, Friday, March 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The casket of Marine Lance Corporal Eric Ward, 19, at Arlington National Cemetery, March 19, 2010. Ward died Feb. 21, 2010 in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

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

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/)**

Camp Buehring: Stupid In Command “Whoever Thought Up This Rule Needs To Be Hung Up By Their Thumbs”

Letters To The Editor

Army Times

3.22.10

I just received an e-mail from my son whose unit is headed for Iraq. They’ve got a brief stopover at Camp Buehring in Kuwait before going into country.

My son came out of the chow hall, lit up a cigarette and was walking back to his quarters when an officer told him he couldn’t walk and smoke at the same time — camp rules.

The Army spends millions a year on building up morale, then they come up with something as stupid as this.

Whoever thought up this rule needs to be hung up by their thumbs.

Stupid.

I wonder if it's OK at Buehring to chew gum and walk at the same time?

Sgt. 1st Class William King (ret.)
Owensboro, Ky.

Pentagon Devises Fiendish New Process For Tormenting Wounded Troops

“The New Board Does Not Allow Veterans Any Option For Further Appeal”

“‘To Me, That’s Extremely Rogue,’ Said Retired Army Col. Mike Parker, Who Spends Much Of His Time Advocating For Disability Rights”

3.22.10 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

When retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rindorf heard about the new Physical Disability Board of Review, he thought his problems were over.

Diagnosed by the Veterans Affairs Department with chronic post-traumatic stress disorder and given a disability rating of 30 per-cent, he figured the Pentagon’s new board, which began its work in January 2009, would look at his separate military medical retirement rating of 10 percent and realize it had been a mistake.

“The intent of the new board met exactly what I was going through,” Rindorf said.

The PDBR was created by Congress in the wake of criticism that the services were applying significantly different standards to medical retirement ratings.

A Military Times analysis of Pentagon data showed, for example, that Air Force officers consistently got the highest disability ratings, while enlisted Marines and soldiers tended to get much lower ratings.

VA also gave higher ratings than the Defense Department for the same injuries, even though they used the same ratings schedule.

Later reports showed that even though the military is required by law to grant people discharged for PTSD a disability rating of at least 50 percent, as well as time on the temporary disability retirement list to try to recover, most troops were not given that option.

Rindorf had been in the Army since 1991, but while in Iraq in 2004, he had identified and recovered the remains of a close friend killed in a rocket attack. He also held responsibility for 48 military police officers in his platoon who were under constant mortar attack. Almost immediately, he began having problems sleeping. Soon after, memory issues and angry behavior surfaced.

In 2006, his heart stopped beating because of a sinus condition, and Army doctors fitted him with a pacemaker. As he went through a medical evaluation board, the Army found that he was unfit for service not only because of his heart condition, but also because of PTSD and a depressive disorder.

But his separate Army physical evaluation board ruled that only the heart condition was reason for separation — and rated him at 10 percent and booted him out with only separation pay.

VA initially rated him at 10 percent for his PTSD, but then changed the rating to 30 percent, retroactive to his disability retirement date. Later, VA increased his rating to 70 percent, saying that his condition had not stabilized.

Rindorf figured the new PDRB also would boost his rating to at least 30 percent, the threshold for permanent disability retirement benefits.

Instead, a letter signed by board president Air Force Col. Michael LoGrande informed him that the board had retroactively placed him on the temporary disability retirement list and given him a rating of 60 percent based on his most recent VA examination.

That is not normally cause for alarm; usually, placement on the temporary list means six months of care with full examination at the end of that period, the possibility of returning to service if the member has recovered, the beginning of a new medical board process and the ability to appeal the findings board if the member disagrees with the rating.

Rindorf's retroactive temporary retirement placement, however, was entirely administrative.

In the same letter, he learned that the board had in fact raised his permanent rating — to only 20 percent, still not enough to qualify for lifetime disability retirement and medical care for him and his family — and had determined he was now “stable” even though VA said he was not.

The new board does not allow veterans any option for further appeal, so Rindorf will not be able to go through the review process again.

“I don’t have the right to it,” he said.

“To me, that’s extremely rogue,” said retired Army Col. Mike Parker, who spends much of his time advocating for disability rights.

“They should kick him back to the (temporary disability retirement list) system. The (new board) takes that all away — you can see how this train just went off the track.”

Retired Air Force Col. Mike Hayden, deputy director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America, agreed.

“I would say he wasn’t provided due process,” Hayden said.

Parker and Hayden raised other concerns about the board.

For example, of the 282 cases that have gone through the review process, 61 percent have had their ratings increased, according to an Air Force press release — but it took an average of eight months to process those cases.

“It is taking a long time to adjudicate a case,” Hayden said. “I think it’s the amount of resources DoD is putting toward it.”

Moreover, more than 70,000 veterans are eligible to have their ratings reviewed, but only 804 people have applied so far. Hayden said he is working on a letter to be signed by 34 advocacy groups urging the Pentagon to do more to locate those 70,000 people to inform them about the new board.

“There was really no effort that we saw from DoD to get the word out,” Hayden said. “That 60 percent overturn rate shows that, yes, there’s a problem, and here is an avenue to get it fixed.”

Army Uses World’s Hottest Chilli As A Weapon



[Thanks to Felicity Arbuthnot, who sent this in. She writes: "Demented 'war on terror' now 'war with chillis' stuff really does happen .."]

3.23.10 Sky News

The Indian military has cooked up a new weapon in the fight against terrorism: the world's hottest chilli.

The thumb-sized "bhut jolokia", which is usually used to cure stomach troubles, will be employed to pepper suspects with the tear gas-like grenades.

Researchers have trialled the flaming hot chilli and found a way to harness the power of a vegetable which is more than 125,000-times spicier than a jalapeno.

Troops will now use the bhut jolokia - also known as "ghost chilli" - to smoke out insurgents.

The chilli-powered grenades were declared "fit for use" by defence officials after trials at the country's Defence Research and Development Organisation.

"This is definitely going to be an effective nontoxic weapon because its pungent smell can choke terrorists and force them out of their hide-outs," said RB Srivastava, the director in charge of the research.

Trials are also on to produce bhut jolokia-based aerosol sprays to be used by women against attackers and for the police to control and disperse mobs.

The bhut jolokia, which is grown and eaten in India's northeast for its taste, was crowned the world's hottest chilli by Guinness World Records in 2007.

The judges measured more than 1,000,000 Scoville units, the scientific measurement of a chilli's spiciness. Classic Tabasco sauce ranges from 2,500 to 5,000 Scoville units, while jalapeno peppers measure anywhere from 2,500 to 8,000.

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA. 888.711.2550

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

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**

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

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

A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.

-- Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution

"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

Remembering My Lai

#1:

The Ditch At My Lai



The Ditch at My Lai: Photo by Mike Hastie, March 1994

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: March 16, 2010
Subject: The Ditch at My Lai

The Ditch at My Lai

**Today is March 16, 2010.
It is the 42nd anniversary of the
My Lai Massacre on March 16, 1968.
When I went back to Vietnam in
March 1994, I took this picture of
the infamous ditch at the massacre site.
Over 150 innocent Vietnamese civilians
were herded into this ditch and shot at
point-blank range.
It took less than a minute for the locust of
bullets to take the lives of 150 people.
America was on a rampage.
You drain the swamp to kill all the fish.
You carpet bomb to kill everyone.
And while this ditch was filling up with
blood and body parts,
the rest of the U.S. Government troops
were under orders to kill the other 350
civilians who were in the village that day.**

A total of 504 innocent civilians were slaughtered.

The U.S. Government troops where there about four hours, long enough to commit other unspeakable war crimes before people were shot.

During the first stages of the massacre, high ranking military officers where flying overhead in helicopters directing the massacre. These people were never found guilty of war crimes. Obviously.

You always protect the chain of command when it comes to these kinds of war crimes.

It is an unwritten rule in the call of duty.

The brass are always kept clean.

Very clean.

The code of silence is never broken.

It's the law.

The shooters are always the scapegoats.

The Military Orders disappear in the U.S. Government archives of insanity.

It's always about bad apples.

Never who ordered the apples, that became bad apples when ordered to commit unfathomable crimes against humanity.

Everything is a cover up.

Misinformation, disinformation, and just plain point-blank murder.

My Lai was a U.S. Government calling card.

It was a message to the VC in Quang Ngai Province.

You continue to kill American soldiers, and we will scorch your soul.

The VC knew about calling cards.

A "Total War," experience could be called up by the U.S. Government in a matter of minutes.

If it was air power, or mass quantities of artillery rounds, it was an earthquake of destruction that the Vietnamese knew all too well.

When it was over, the insects were dead.

It was pure horror that affected generations to come.

The Vietnamese were absolutely terrified of retaliation.

The Vietnamese were absolutely terrified of the Americans.

You don't fuck with the United States Government.

And when they did, which is called self defense, generations of Vietnamese were never born.

This is what the My Lai Massacre was all about.

It was a U.S. calling card.

It happened all the time in Vietnam.

The only difference is, the U.S. got caught at My Lai.

But in the end, it didn't matter,
because the whole world would eventually find out about
the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam.
It scared the hell out of people all over the world.
You mess with the U.S. Government,
and America will make you pay for it.
All those calling cards are now in the Middle East.
You continue to kill American soldiers,
you continue to defend yourself,
and we will scorch your soul.
And except for a few chosen people,
the reason the U.S. Government gets away with it,
is because the American people will do nothing to resist.
Obedience is like a bounty hunter.
The truth is executed at point-blank range.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
March 16, 2010

In memory of all those 504 names I
touched at the My Lai Massacre site.
When you take your last breath,
your eyes open to a new world.

Remembering My Lai #2:

**“I Would Say That Most People In Our
Company Didn't Consider The
Vietnamese Human”**

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

From: wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Lai_Massacre

He fired at it (the baby) with a .45. He missed. We all laughed. He got up three or four feet closer and missed again. We laughed. Then he got up right on top and plugged him. —Eyewitness testimony, Peers Inquiry

I would say that most people in our company didn't consider the Vietnamese human.
—Dennis Bunning

Soldiers went berserk, gunning down unarmed men, women, children and babies. Families which huddled together for safety in huts or bunkers were shown no mercy. Those who emerged with hands held high were murdered. ... Elsewhere in the village, other atrocities were in progress. Women were gang raped; Vietnamese who had bowed to greet the Americans were beaten with fists and tortured, clubbed with rifle butts and stabbed with bayonets. Some victims were mutilated with the signature "C Company" carved into the chest. By late morning word had got back to higher authorities and a cease-fire was ordered. My Lai was in a state of carnage. Bodies were strewn through the village. —BBC News

Remembering My Lai

#3:



[Vietnam GI, June 1970]

MY LAI

“C” Company the Goat ?

Vietnam GI

Because when you come right down to it, the wrong people are on trial for atrocities.

Nixon, Westmoreland, Abrams and Mendal Rivers, the very bullshitters who are most eager to see Charlie Co. brought to justice, are finally the men most responsible for My Lai. They were the ones telling us that Ky and Thieu's corrupt government is worth dying for. They are the ones who taught us to kill, who put us over here in this mind-fucking shit hole and told us to go to it. In short, they started the war and they know you never have a war without atrocities.

[Vietnam GI, June 1970]

Laughin', Cryin',
Livin', Dyin'
Hee Haw
Who's the jackass now?

Charlie Co. is the jackass. From Nixon and Abrams on down to all sorts of deluded fat ass lifers and selfrighteous civi-pigs there is a feeling that Charlie Co. really blew it. They didn't give candy bars to the kids of My Lai. They didn't pass out soap to the women. Instead they blew off the village.

So the men of Charlie Co. fucked up. They didn't act like your friendly neighborhood Peace Corpsman. They acted instead like the ordinary sons of ordinary people.

They acted like an outfit of short-timers and Purple Heart winners who'd been in the shit, who'd lived it and breathed it for a long time. They acted like men who

were taught to believe in and respect officers like Lt. Calley, who awarded himself an extra 7 days leave while his platoon was being chopped to shit in a minefield. They acted like men who were given the bullshit line about getting their GED's and going to an Army school and then were dumped into the infantry.

The men of Charlie Co. conducted themselves like men whose personal knowledge of the Vietnamese people came from encounters with whores, pimps, begging kids, black market operators, thieves, and of course the VC. They acted like men, a tight group of men, who for two months had seen their brothers getting mangled in mine fields and ripped off by snipers and who'd rarely seen anybody to shoot back at.

Sound familiar so far?

Then pay attention.

Charlie Co. is ordered by Lt. Col. Barker to hit My Lai 4. He tells Medina there's a crack VC battalion in the village. They are supposed to destroy it, then burn out the village.

Next day they move in. No VC. But a few of the villagers panic and run. The men, fucked over, psyched up, looking for revenge, open fire.

A lot of people fall.

The rest of them are too scared to move.

Next we see Snot Calley ordering his men to herd the people into ditches and to start cutting them down. Some do and dig it. Some get pissed off and sickened by the whole thing.

Calley and Medina make a bullshit body count, find a few imaginary weapons, and pull out. A few days later Westmoreland commends Medina for doing a good job. The real story gets hushed up for the obvious reasons that nobody in the Army wanted the publicity

But after 20 months word does get out. And as the story gets pieced together by the CID, the press takes it up. The Establishment is surprised, shocked and outraged... both because there was a massacre ("How could our boys have done such a thing?"), and because the Army covered it up.

After showing that their hearts were in the right place, they gave up the stage to the Brass with parting remarks to the effect of "well, if you are just men, you will not sweep this under the rug... you will see to it that the guilty are punished."

Enter the Brass, anxious to prove that they are indeed, just men.

How do they do it?

They tell the ex-GIs of Charlie Co. that they want them to come to Washington, all expenses paid, to tell their version of the massacre so they can get the goods on Calley.

Half of the company gets sucked in. Now that the Brass has the whole story of My Lai, what do they do?

The two-faced bastards turn around and announce their intention to prosecute the whole company. But you say most of the guys are civilians now, so they are out of the reach of military "justice"? Well, not exactly... the latest is that the JAG is trying to find a way to extradite them to SVN for trial.

The Brass is really pissed at Charlie Co. But it's not because they give a fuck about the killing of innocent people.

If that were true they'd be a little more careful where they ordered air and artillery strikes. They'd also find it a little harder to just shrug when they hit our own men and say, "Well, accidents happen you know."

What they are pissed about is that news of the massacre has made them and their war look worse than they ever have before. So they know what they have to do. Put the screws to Charlie Co., to make it look to people back home and around the world that they believe in-fighting a good clean war.

At the same time they are making the GI's of Charlie look like bloodthirsty freaks. While everyone is talking about what a terrible thing it is they completely forget who is really responsible.

Because when you come right down to it, the wrong people are on trial for atrocities.

Nixon, Westmoreland, Abrams and Mendal Rivers, the very bullshitters who are most eager to see Charlie Co. brought to justice, are finally the men most responsible for My Lai. They were the ones telling us that Ky and Thieu's corrupt government is worth dying for. They are the ones who taught us to kill, who put us over here in this mind-fucking shit hole and told us to go to it. In short, they started the war and they know you never have a war without atrocities.

If you put men in the shit long enough, you're going to have My Lai's.

It's as simple as that.

If they were really concerned about putting a stop to massacres like My Lai they'd stop the war.

But right now their concerns are very clear; easy promotions, soft civilian jobs for retired Brass, and money for the owners of the arms industry. If by making the men of Charlie Co. into the scapegoat they can keep the ball rolling a bit longer you can bet your ass they'll do it.

Comment: T

And today's civilian massacres? If you're looking for people to blame for the endless evil shit that happens in Iraq and Afghanistan in these dishonorable Imperial wars, blame Bush, Obama, and the rest of the politicians that put the troops downrange, in an impossible situation.

Everything flows from the acts of invasion and conquest ordered up by the greedy Imperial liars and traitors in Washington DC.

They are the enemy.

Bring the war home now.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
SOLDIER-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



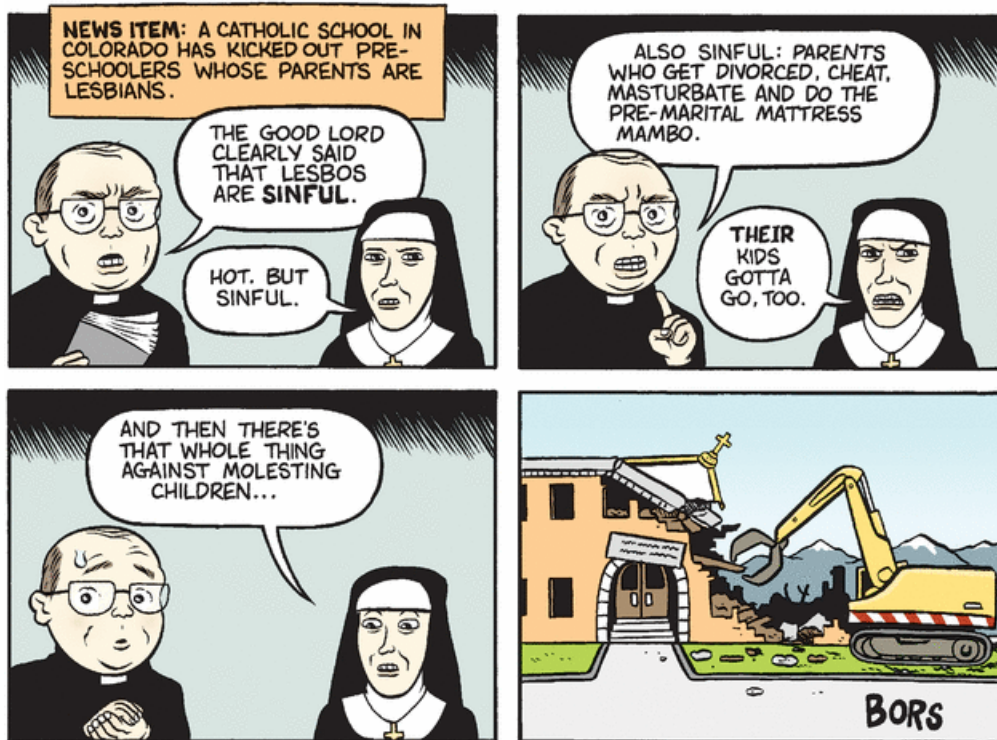
[March 10, 2010. REUTERS/Jim Young]

*Why, I can smile, and murder whiles I smile,
And cry 'Content' to that which grieves my heart
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.*
-- Gloucester, "Henry VI"-Shakespeare

**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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

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



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/military-resistance-archives/> ;

news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

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

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