

Military Resistance 8E13



Stolen Land

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: May 18, 2010
Subject: Stolen Land

Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Stolen Land

**Americans love Mexican Americans
when they are used as cannon fodder
to fight in American wars
but they can't stand their relatives
when they cross the border
back into the stolen land**

But there are plenty of jobs in Mexico
at Ford, General Motors and more
but the slave wages haven't gone up
even with Nafta
like they were supposed to do
\$1.40 an hour for production
\$1.80 an hour for skilled trades
\$15 an hour would keep them
in a beautiful Mexican home
with Mexican national health care
Instead they pick the American
fruits and vegetables
like they have done for generations
with a relative pounding the ground
in the American Afghanistan war

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

May 21 AFP & BBC & May 23, 2010 DPA & by Nasrat Shoib, AFP

A truck bomb attack on an Afghan border police station killed an officer on Friday. The attacker drove his explosives-laden truck into the post in Urgun district of eastern Paktika province, killing a border police officer guarding the gate, provincial spokesman Mukhlis Afghan told AFP. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Muhahid, claimed responsibility for the attack and said the truck was loaded with 7,000 kilograms (around 15,500 pounds) of explosives.

In Kandahar, at least two people were killed when a car belonging to Afghanistan's intelligence agency was attacked.

Two Afghan army troops were killed and five others were wounded when their patrol were hit by roadside bombs in southern provinces of Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The road between Kabul and Kandahar was the scene on Sunday of a Taliban ambush on a police convoy that killed the police chief of a district of Ghazni province, the provincial governor, Mohammad Musa Akbarzada said. Mohammad Nabi Patang, police chief of Andar district, was travelling to the provincial capital, also called Ghazni, when his convoy was attacked, Akbarzada told AFP.

The Taliban were blamed for a bomb attack on an Afghan police vehicle on Saturday in the Manogay district of Kunar province, in which four police officers were wounded, the interior ministry said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Yap Soldier Falls In War



May 9, 2010 By Dionesis Tamondong, Pacific Sunday News

A 26-year-old soldier from Yap is the latest war casualty from the Micronesia region.

Army Spc. Eric M. Finniginam died May 1 of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province, according to a Department of Defense announcement yesterday.

He is the 35th service member from the Micronesia region to die while supporting U.S. wars since 2003, according to Pacific Daily News files.

Finniginam was in his base camp, Forward Operating Base Blessing, when it was attacked with mortar fire, said his father, citing Army officials who informed him of his son's death.

Robert Finniginam said his son is survived by his wife, Annie Tilig and their 1-year-old girl.

Eric Finniginam last visited his family in Yap in February, and he was scheduled to see them again next month, his father said.

The family was getting ready for his welcome back party. Instead, they have begun preparing for funeral services.

Robert Finniginam, who spoke by phone from Yap, described his son as a friendly guy who was fun to be around. In the water, he was an excellent fisherman. On the field, he was an outstanding soccer player, his father said. "He made it to the national soccer team when he was 15," Robert Finniginam said. "He was one of the youngest players ever to make the Yap team."

Robert Finniginam said he and his wife were a bit hesitant when their son shared his plans to join the military. "Knowing that the death mortality rate for (Federated States of Micronesia) citizens is pretty high, we were very concerned about his safety," his father said. "We always worried about him. We were always praying for him."

Eric Finniginam was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colo. He joined the Army in 2008 and left for his first deployment last June, according to the Department of Defense.

Last year, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for valor that he displayed while he and fellow soldiers were attacked with rounds of rocket-propelled grenades. After being thrown by the blast, Finniginam assisted his fellow soldier to safety and effectively suppressed enemy fighting positions to result in two enemy kills, the DOD record stated.

Carson Soldier Dies Of Injuries From Attack In Afghanistan



April 29, 2010 CARLYN RAY MITCHELL, THE GAZETTE

A Fort Carson infantryman has died after more than a month of trying to recover from wounds suffered in battle in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

Sgt. Grant A. Wichmann, 27, of Golden, died Saturday at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. He was injured in a March 12 gunfire attack at Out Post Bari Alai, Afghanistan, the Department of Defense said.

Wichmann joined the Army in September 2007 and was in his first deployment with Fort Carson's 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He was a recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, awarded for acts of valor in war.

Wichmann is the 48th Fort Carson soldier to die in Afghanistan. Two hundred and fifty six have died in Iraq.

The Kandahar Campaign: “A Go-For-Broke Move That Even Its Authors Are Unsure Will Succeed” “There Is No Plan B”

May 23, 2010 By Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The Obama administration's campaign to drive the Taliban out of Afghanistan's second-largest city is a go-for-broke move that even its authors are unsure will succeed.

The bet is that the Kandahar operation, backed by thousands of U.S. troops and billions of dollars, will break the mystique and morale of the insurgents, turn the tide of the war and validate the administration's Afghanistan strategy.

There is no Plan B.

Last week, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, called the offensive “a unique challenge.”

“I actually think the U.S. military would love to find an enemy that was dug in on a piece of terrain, that we could establish a D-Day and we could attack with no civilians around,” McChrystal said, “because that would play to every strength that the coalition has.”

Instead, the Kandahar operation might highlight areas of traditional U.S. and Afghan government weakness.

Avoiding the civilian casualties that have plagued U.S. operations elsewhere will be particularly difficult in and around Kandahar, an urban and farming area of 2 million people.

The offensive requires Afghan police to demonstrate, arguably for the first time, competence and integrity.

It assumes that Americans, both military and civilian, can sort through complex tribal politics to ensure that power and funding go to the right people, and that Kandahar's chieftains will relinquish some control and support U.S. aims.

Statistics in the analysis are grim.

Of 784 uniformed police in Kandahar city and the surrounding area, only 25 percent to 30 percent have been trained, although new forces are scheduled to arrive for the offensive.

Of 87 slots for local judges, nine are filled. Saraposa prison, the main detention facility in Kandahar, is overpopulated and is considered less than secure, and the offensive is expected to produce "far more" prisoners than it can handle.

Among the "significant risks" the strategy poses, the analysis said, huge U.S. expenditures in Kandahar -- including 80 percent of U.S. Agency for International Development resources designated for Afghanistan this year -- could "undermine, rather than create, stability." Citing the "unsettling" results of research being conducted at Tufts University, it noted that little link has been established between aid and stability, and that most Afghans think more aid would simply contribute to the corruption seen as the primary fuel for insurgency.

The strategy envisions quickly "wrap(ping) Kandahar City in a circle of assistance and development projects," some of them up and running by June 1, "followed by an influx of new projects in the city itself," the analysis said. But, it said, "There is a risk that ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) will exacerbate the popular perception that powerbrokers are the only real beneficiaries."

Rather than directly challenge them, U.S. planners will try to boost more representative alternatives appointed to district councils. That, too, presents a significant risk of failure, the analysis said.

"The problem is that the Afghan central government . . . wants to nominate the district positions and staff from Kabul," the report said.

"Experience suggests this will not work," it said.

“Afghanistan Had The Worst Corruption Of Any Country Except Somalia, Which Has No Functional Government”

May 23 by Shaun Tandon, AFP [Excerpts]

Burned by going after President Hamid Karzai, the United States is taking its anti-corruption fight in Afghanistan to a lower level in hopes of rooting out the scourge at base.

The United States and its allies are stepping up training, enforcement and incentives to eliminate corruption among Afghanistan's rank-and-file authorities -- particularly the police, who are notorious for seeking bribes.

Graft watchdog Transparency International in its last annual report found that Afghanistan had the worst corruption of any country except Somalia, which has no functional government.

**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**

**ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT;
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines patrol in the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, on the outskirts of Marjah district, Helmand province, May 2, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih



U.S. Army soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, return to their forward base after a patrol, May 3, 2010, in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



A U.S. soldier with 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, during a patrol in Arghandab valley near Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan May 5, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



U.S. soldier, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, during a patrol in Arghandab valley in Kandahar province, in southern Afghanistan, May 9, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



U.S. soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, patrol in a swamp by the Arghandab river in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, May 11, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



U.S. soldier crawling into a cave while patrolling with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade May 16, 2010, in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

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/)

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket containing Sgt. Denis Kisseloff during his burial service at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery May 22, 2010, in St. Louis, Mo. Kisseloff, 45, died May 14 when his unit was attacked with a rocket propelled grenade and fire from small arms in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

**Same Old Same Old:
Government Still Fucking Over
War Veterans With Brain Injuries:
“They Were Blowing Me Off”
“The Way The System Is Set Up, It’s For
You To Get Started, And Get Frustrated
And Quit”**

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,545th time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

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

5.23.10 BY BARBARA BARRETT - Washington correspondent, The News & Observer Publishing Company [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- Improvised explosive devices rattled former Army Spc. Adam Pittman a dozen times in his three tours through Iraq, most severely when his Bradley fighting vehicle ran over a bomb hidden in the dirt in 2005.

Now, part of Pittman's brain has gone dormant, and on most days, he can't think straight.

He leaves the room and forgets what he was searching for. He gets migraines so piercing that his right eye wanders. Anger comes easily, inspiring rages that sometimes have his wife terrified for herself and the couple's 3-year-old daughter.

Although Pittman, who lives in Lillington, left the military in July 2008 complaining of headaches and memory loss, it took nearly a year to get a brain scan and another five months to receive temporary disability benefits because of his injury.

"They were blowing me off," Pittman, 30, said of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "I feel like things that have to happen, they're dragging their feet on."

Nearly 30,000 veterans have suffered some kind of traumatic brain injury in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq - an estimated 2,000 of them severe enough to put warriors into comas or leave them with severe disabilities.

Yet eight years into the wars, testimony before Congress shows veterans still suffer yawning gaps in coverage for what has become the conflicts' signature wound. "It requires someone screaming and fighting on behalf of that soldier," said U.S. Sen. Richard Burr of Winston-Salem, the top Republican on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

"For the average service member or family member that asks, 'Can we do this?' the automatic answer is 'No,'" he said. "Can we get that service locally? No. Can we go to an outside rehabilitation facility? No."

Among the complaints, from advocates, veterans, family members and testimony to Congress:

Critics say the military has yet to provide an accurate baseline measurement of individuals' brain function in order to determine later when that same person has a brain injury. For now, troops fill out online questionnaires.

Veterans say it can take more than a year for service members to transition from the Department of Defense to the Veterans Affairs department, which delays both treatment and the disability ratings that veterans need to receive financial benefits.

The VA does not routinely refer patients to private providers who might have offices closer to the veteran or be more expert in treating traumatic brain injuries.

Veterans and their families say the VA has denied therapy to veterans who aren't continuing to make progress, when brain injury patients need consistent therapy just to keep from sliding backwards.

"They're just not getting what they deserve and what's available," said Karen Bohlinger, whose son suffered a severe traumatic brain injury as a Special Forces officer in Iraq.

The VA repeatedly denied Bohlinger's request to get a brain scan for her son, who now lives in a rehabilitation facility in Seattle. She eventually paid the bill herself.

"If it's available, why aren't our veterans getting it?" asked Bohlinger, who is married to Montana Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger. She testified to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs earlier this month.

Harder to diagnose are soldiers and Marines suffering from the more common mild or moderate traumatic brain injuries. Those come from concussions or repeated blasts, can often be mixed with post-traumatic stress syndrome, and leave veterans unable to complete basic tasks because of memory loss, disorientation or intense pain.

The military has said it is offering pre-deployment and post-deployment cognitive screenings for Marines and soldiers headed to war zones.

But congressional staff have found the screenings amount to little more than filling in bubbles in online questionnaires.

Shannon Pittman said her husband made little progress with the VA until a friend recommended the couple contact U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, a Democrat from Greensboro, who then paved the way for Adam Pittman first to receive an MRI and then temporary benefits.

Still, she would like to see more services for Adam, who has been told by the VA that he must return for another MRI in late 2011 to measure progress. "He's not being given the tools to be taught how to live with it," Shannon Pittman said. "They act like it's going to go away. It's not going away."

Burr said he has seen little improvement in services since Congress gave the Veterans Affairs Department new authority in 2008 to begin contracting with private care providers for patients with brain injuries.

The VA said it has more than 300 agreements in place with private providers across the country, but it could not provide the number of veterans who have been referred to private care.

“People who have this terrible situation want the best care immediately available to them and ideally close to home,” said Bruce Gans, vice president and chief medical officer at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in New Jersey. Gans testified before Congress this month and said the VA could be doing much more to take advantage of private medical providers.

The 2008 defense bill also authorized the creation of federal recovery care coordinators - VA workers who try to help veterans find the type of specialized care they need.

Two years later, there are about 30 federal recovery care coordinators working across the country, according to the Veterans Affairs agency. The VA could not tell the Senate Veterans Affairs committee what each coordinator’s caseload is now.

A report to the committee about the VA’s progress in treating brain trauma indicated that of three individual cases in the report, only one had a federal recovery coordinator.

In its report to the committee, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said the agency paid \$21.4 million last fiscal year for public and private medical services for 3,708 veterans with traumatic brain injuries. That averages less than \$6,000 a patient.

The VA also has begun a pilot program to develop assisted living facilities for veterans with traumatic brain injuries. So far, the VA has identified five veterans in need and has placed three of them, the agency says.

But former soldiers such as Pittman say more needs to be done. In a recent interview, he offered advice for other veterans:

“For everybody else that’s going through this, to not give up,” Pittman said. “Because the way the system is set up, it’s for you to get started, and get frustrated and quit. Keep trying.”

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

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 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*

Coppertone Denial



Photograph by Mike Hastie:
Anti-war rally in Portland, Oregon in 2003.

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: May 20, 2010
Subject: Coppertone Denial

Coppertone Denial

During a news conference, David Halstead, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, showed off a picture of a bottle of Coppertone on the beach.

“What’s the only oil on the beaches? Suntan oil,” he said.

Then there’s the statement by U.S. Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass:

“What you see are real-time images of a real-world disaster unfolding 5,000 feet below the surface of the Gulf. These videos stand as a scalding, blistering indictment of BP’s inattention to the scope and size of the greatest environmental catastrophe in the history of the United States.”

I think the statement by David Halstead is probably what most people in the United States think about Global Warming. It is the kind of denial I hear from so many people in the news concerning just about everything. Wall Street lying to Congress about everything, and Congress pretending to be tough with their razor sharp finger pointing. It just seems like everyone is screwing each other in the same bed, pretending there are moral rules against doing such things.

In my opinion, it seems like America is dying from a lack of truth. When I came back from Vietnam in 1971, I finally realized that America as a country, committed mass murder against the people of Vietnam. It’s the same kind of murder that is going on in the Middle East. And, nobody in America wants to talk about it. It makes you want to stab yourself in the palm of your hand to make sure it really hurts. I think this oil volcano in the Gulf of Mexico is a symbol of so many other things in America that we are trying desperately to cover up. Well, the tall glass of oil has just spilled in the ocean. And, you can’t put it back in the glass. 36 American soldiers have committed suicide at Fort Carson, Colorado. 400,000 children in the state of Oregon do not have adequate health care. People in America are losing their homes and jobs faster than a speeding bullet. Anyone reading this can add to the long list.

And, while all of this is going on, David Halstead is talking about the only oil on the Florida beaches is

Coppertone oil. When this is all done and said, I predict millions of Americans are going to experience a lot of emotional growth. Sober thinking may be the message in the bottle found on the beach.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
May 20, 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)

A Contemptible Betrayal

Comment: T

On Tuesday, May 18, The New York Times, part of the much sneered at Major Media, devoted a huge article to the occasion of the 1000th U.S. servicemember to be killed in the war on Afghanistan. Included were personal reports on the lives, and deaths, of some of those killed in action.

Among the self-proclaimed anti-war organizations, especially those which puff themselves up so grandly as representing troops and veterans, the silence was deafening.

That's especially peculiar, because many of those same organizations loudly announced and made much of the death of the 1000th troop in Afghanistan many, many weeks ago, at a time when such a report was without foundation in fact.

Of course it was embarrassing for organizations which claimed to be so close to troops and veterans to be so ignorant of how many had been killed in the war on Afghanistan.

But it would have been honorable to admit the mistake those many weeks ago and go on.

None can be found who publicly admitted their mistake and expressed regret.

So, for those organizations to call attention to the death of the 1000th servicemember now, when it has really happened, would merely call attention to the earlier blunder they hoped back then would not be noticed.

So, they choose again to protect their own self-inflated public images, rather than mourn those 1000 KIA now, condemn the Bush and Obama regimes who killed them, and make it clear that nothing comes before commitment to stopping the butcherly of the troops and the Afghans.

By choosing to turn their backs on the 1000th KIA, they show us all what they are:

Despicable cowardly sleazy dishonest dishonorable opportunists pukes.

Why bother naming them?

You know who did and who did not keep silence this week about the 1000th U.S. KIA in the Afghanistan war.

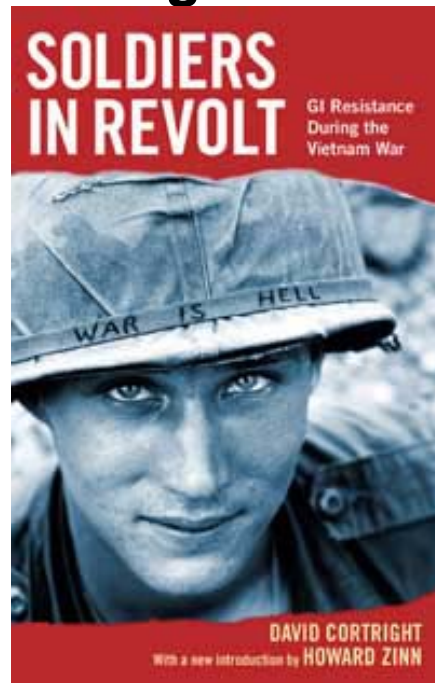
“The End Of Conscription Did Not Halt The GI Resistance Movement”

“The GI Movement Had Always Been Primarily A Movement Of Enlistees, And Filling The Ranks With Volunteers Thus Actually Increased The Likelihood Of Internal Dissent”

“While Disgruntled Ex-College Students May Have Sparked Some GI-Movement Activities, The Bulk Of The GI Resistance Came Not From Draftees But From Volunteers”

“The Evidence Available From An Examination Of The GI Movement Suggests That The Majority Of Dissenters And Organizers Were

Volunteers From Working-Class Backgrounds”



This was best summed up by Sp/ Jim Goodman, former editor of the Baumholder *Gig Sheet* in Germany: “Draftees expect shit, get slit, aren’t even disappointed.

“Volunteers expect something better, get the same shit, and have at least one more year to get mad about it.”

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: David Cortright, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

One of the first acts of the Nixon administration was the appointment of the President’s Commission on the All-Volunteer Force, to recommend proposals for eliminating the draft.

The Gates Commission completed its work quickly, issuing its report in February of 1970, and soon afterward the signs of change began appearing.

In May, the Army announced that appearance regulations would be revised to allow slightly longer hair.

A month later, in a dramatic signal of the new emphasis on personnel problems, the Pentagon shocked the Navy establishment by appointing Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Chief of Naval Operations. Zumwalt was promoted over thirty-three other admirals and assigned the special mission of improving service life and bolstering sagging reenlistment rates

The liberal innovator immediately began shaking up Navy traditions, ordering numerous changes through a series of highly publicized personal messages to the fleet, so-called "Z-grams."

Among the measures announced during Zumwalt's first four months were relaxed uniform regulations, beer in the barracks, the opening of hard rock clubs, allowance of beards and longer hair, a ban on "panic painting" and other forms of unnecessary harassment, and liberalized leave policies.

In December, Army Chief Westmoreland followed suit with a major directive altering the traditions of Army life — among other things, eliminating morning reveille, easing pass restrictions, and introducing beer in the mess hall.

In that same month [January 1971] the Army launched a comprehensive Volunteer Army (VOLAR) experiment designed to test its new liberal policies, focusing on the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, the 3rd Armored Cavalry at Fort Lewis, and the 192nd Infantry Brigade at Fort Knox.

An example of the program was the Fort Benning Plan, which comprised some 106 proposed administrative actions for improving Army life, including such measures as greater variety of food in mess halls, reduction of work schedules to five days a week, replacement of soldier KPs with civilians, scheduling of additional dances at post service clubs, and the improvement of barracks lounge areas.

In addition, the Army conducted an experimental volunteer Army training program for basic trainees at Fort Ord. The program for the first time eliminated the requirement for shaved heads and called for a change in the traditionally abusive manner of drill sergeants.

The experiment also removed such practices as infiltration-course training, midnight inspections, and excessively long working hours

Of course, the end of conscription did not halt the GI resistance movement.

The assumption that a professional military would be free of dissension, that volunteers would be more docile and acquiescent than draftees, proved wrong.

In fact, the GI movement had always been primarily a movement of enlistees, and filling the ranks with volunteers thus actually increased the likelihood of internal dissent.

Indeed, the volunteer armed forces have encountered record peacetime levels of AWOL and desertion and are still troubled by widespread political opposition and black unrest.

The volunteer force has faltered in other respects as well. It has created an unprecedented crisis in the defense budget and has contributed to severe manpower difficulties in the reserves.

Many have warned that an Army composed only of volunteers will no longer be subject to the healthy internal questioning evidenced during Vietnam.

Inherent in this position is the view that the GI movement developed primarily because the military was forced to draft middle-class college students.

While disgruntled ex-college students may have sparked some GI-movement activities, particularly certain of its more articulate expressions, the bulk of the GI resistance came not from draftees but from volunteers.

The evidence available from an examination of the GI movement suggests that the majority of dissenters and organizers were volunteers from working-class backgrounds.

While by no means conclusive a number of small-scale surveys conducted in recent years confirm this.

In March of 1970, the National Council to Repeal the Draft looked into the backgrounds of twenty-five members of GIs United Against the War at Fort Bragg. According to Tom Reeves of the Council, seventeen of the twenty-five activists had volunteered and sixteen of the group came from lower-middle-class families.

In November of 1971, the United States Servicemen's Fund sponsored a GI-movement conference in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Of the approximately fifty active-duty GIs and veterans attending from various organizing projects, the vast majority were volunteers, not draftees. At one meeting of active dissenters, an informal poll showed that eighteen of the twenty men present had volunteered.

Additional evidence comes from an independent survey taken among members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War encamped on the Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 2, 1971. The results of 172 returned questionnaires showed that approximately two thirds of the veterans had enlisted in the service, while nearly 49 per cent listed their father's occupation as 'labor.'

Further indication of the volunteer origins of GI dissent comes from the extensive history of protest within the Air Force and the Navy, neither of which uses conscripts, and the continuation of the GI movement beyond 1972, despite the end of the draft.

These findings confirm the opinion of nearly every leading GI-movement figure with whom I had contact in writing this book.

They also corroborate my own experience.

At Fort Hamilton and Fort Bliss, most of the people involved in anti-war work were, like myself, volunteers from working-class families.

To be sure, many had volunteered most reluctantly, and some had been to college, at least for a time; but very few were draftees.

This should not really surprise us, given what we have seen of the oppression of enlisted service and the economic compulsion of volunteering.

It seems certain that lower-middle-class enlistees will not shirk protest against policies and conditions they find intolerable.

This was best summed up by Sp/ Jim Goodman, former editor of the Baumholder *Gig Sheet* in Germany:

“Draftees expect shit, get slit, aren’t even disappointed.

“Volunteers expect something better, get the same shit, and have at least one more year to get mad about it.”

Evil Anniversary: May 24, 1934: Germany “It Is The Aim Of The State Police To Support Zionism And Its Emigration Policy As Fully As Possible”

From: Human Smoke; The Beginnings of World War II, By Nicholson Baker, Simon & Schuster; New York 2008

REINHARD HEYDRICH, head of the intelligence branch of the German secret police, read a position paper prepared for him concerning Jewish policy.

It was May 24, 1934.

“The aim of Jewish policy must be the emigration of all Jews,” the paper said. Jewish “assimilationists”—those who wanted to live their lives as Germans within Germany—should be discouraged; while Zionists—those who wanted to emigrate to Palestine—should be encouraged, according to the memo.

“It is the aim of the State Police to support Zionism and its emigration policy as fully as possible”:

Every authority concerned should, in particular, concentrate their efforts in recognizing the Zionist organizations and in supporting their training and emigration endeavors; at the same time the activities of German-Jewish groups should be restricted in order to force them to abandon the idea of remaining in Germany.

In this way, Germany would eventually become a country “without a future for the Jews.”

Heydrich, a blond man with a high forehead and long, spidery fingers, began helping Zionist organizations set up agricultural training centers, so that Jews would know how to farm when they reached Palestine.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Unconquered Unconquerable



A Palestinian boy uses a sling-shot to defend Palestinian land from Zionist soldiers during a demonstration against the expansion of Zionist settlements in the West Bank village of Iraq Burin, near Nablus. occupied Palestine, May 22, 2010. REUTERS/Abed Omar Qusini

[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."]

Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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