

Military Resistance 8E17



**Widows Of The KIA:
“People Treat It Like A
Disease,’ Say Some Still Living
On Base”
“Joann Yost Sometimes Feels As If
She Is Wearing A Giant ‘W’ On Her
Chest”**

“If We Sit At Home And Don’t Do Anything, We Get The Calls. ‘She Is Crazy. She Is A Hermit.’ If We Go Out, We Get The Comments”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

May 30, 2010 By JULIE WATSON, KEVIN MAURER, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

RAEFORD, N.C. - Joann Yost still feels the stares of the other military wives five years after her husband was killed in Iraq: It happens at ceremonies honoring fallen soldiers or when she’s grocery shopping with her son.

It is unsettling, but Yost understands.

In this North Carolina community a half-hour from Fort Bragg, where homes are draped with American flags and where it’s not uncommon to see men in buzz cuts, the 44-year-old Yost is a reminder of everything that can go wrong in war, how lives can change overnight.

“These women look at me and know how close it could have been their husband,” said Yost, mother of a 6-year-old boy.

It is hard to be a young military widow.

Yost and others say they feel out of place in both civilian life and in their military communities. They have lost their husbands, but also their very identities, and their connections to towns that once provided a critical support system.

To be sure, it is difficult for anyone who has lost a spouse to move on with life. But military wives feel an even greater weight, said Michelle Hernandez, founder of the Soaring Spirits Loss Foundation, a national support network for the bereaved.

Hernandez said the pain is compounded because military wives immerse themselves in a different world.

They learn the acronyms sprinkled in soldierspeak, attend a calendar filled with military-hosted social events and adopt the schedule of long leaves and weekends between deployments. They also share a similar world view: They are sacrificing their family life and lives defending freedom.

As a result, their struggle to move on is also harder. They often feel that if they start to date again, they are betraying not just the memory of their deceased husbands but also that of fallen national heroes.

“That separates them a little bit from civilian widows,” said Hernandez, whose organization this August will hold Camp Widow, a national conference in San Diego,

which will include talks for military widows. “They have paid the price for the greater common good. They point to a purpose that they were widowed. My husband was hit by a car so it’s a totally different type of experience.”

Many surviving spouses try to continue living near bases to maintain a connection to their previous life. Some send care packages to their husbands’ units — even if they did not know many of the new troops. They go to military-sponsored balls.

But many find themselves trapped in a state of restless uncertainty. They don’t feel as comfortable as before in military life, but they don’t want to totally leave it, either.

Joann Yost sometimes feels as if she is wearing a giant “W” on her chest.

“It’s not OK for us to laugh. It’s not OK for us to smile. They don’t understand how we’re doing it. I find myself consoling people,” she said.

Yost sees military wives counting the number of drinks she orders at a bar or whispering when she speaks to another man.

In some ways, she understands. She remembers doing the same to another military widow before her own husband died.

Master Sgt. Tony Yost was killed in 2005 after an explosion went off in a building where he was searching for insurgents in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul. He was 39.

Three weeks after her husband’s death, Yost buried him in Arlington National Cemetery. The coffin was closed and she never saw his body.

At night, when the house was quiet, she cried.

“They say time heals all wounds, but for a widow I don’t think it does. We can get through the first year in deployment mode,” Yost said.

“But the longer away it gets, the more I know he isn’t coming back.”

Now, she is acutely aware of the peculiar status of widows in the community.

“If we sit at home and don’t do anything, we get the calls. ‘She is crazy. She is a hermit.’ If we go out, we get the comments,” Yost said. “Where do we fit in?”

A widowed friend of Yost’s is moving away from Fort Bragg because she is tired of the scrutiny.

“Some of us feel like we have to get away to become ourselves again. You’re under the spotlight constantly. They see you as so-and-so’s widow,” Yost said. “She can’t take it anymore, so she is moving away.”

Christine Petriken said even living away from Bragg did not help.

She arrived in the United States seven years ago with two suitcases and her 8-year-old daughter, Rhiannon, after her husband was killed in a Humvee accident near As Samawah, Iraq.

They had been living at the U.S. Army base in Germany. She moved to North Carolina to be near family and now lives near Jacksonville, hours from Fort Bragg. But she still feels judged by other military wives at the nearby Marine Corps base.

"I feel like I always have to explain myself," she said. "We're the orphans of military society. There is no widow's manual."

There are more than 54,000 survivors of spouses who served in conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan. Fort Bragg has almost 2,000 surviving spouses, parents and children in its database and formed a group to help widows find a community where they feel comfortable.

Rachelle Vaughn says she feels like one of the lucky ones. It's been two years since soldiers came to her door with the news that dropped her to her knees, screaming: A sniper had killed her 22-year-old husband Richard in Iraq.

When her husband died, she was only 11 days pregnant. Their marriage was less than a month old and their entire relationship had only lasted 15 months. Vaughn moved back immediately to their hometown of San Diego.

"It was such a weird feeling losing your husband and knowing that your friends' husbands were still out there," the 24-year-old said. "I was so afraid to tell the rest of the wives. I didn't want to."

Instead of being shunned, she was embraced. The few military wives she had come to know at Fort Hood, where her husband was stationed, flew to San Diego to be with her. They helped make her food and consoled her.

Then she was contacted on MySpace by a young widow who wanted to let her know she was not alone. Soon after she received a DVD of the testimonies of other young widows like herself through the American Widow Project, an organization started by Taryn Davis after her husband was killed by roadside bombs in Iraq in 2007.

The organization collects the stories of young military widows and offers a hot line so they can talk to other widows. They also organize events, like skydiving, to help the women enjoy life again.

"It was amazing to know somebody else was out there dealing with this, sharing the same emotions," Vaughn said.

Vaughn said friends who are military widows "have told me they were shunned, that people treat it like a disease, like they'll catch it too," she said. "Thankfully I didn't get that."

For Vaughn, staying connected to her husband's unit feeds her soul.

She sends care packages of candy, lip balm and magazines to Richard's unit and receives news from the new commanding officer each time the troops are deployed. Next month, she is flying to Colorado to attend an Army pre-deployment ball "to hang out with some of the kids."

"There's something about being a military wife that makes it different, and it makes you want to do something to honor the military because now he's a part of history," she said.

Vaughn has a cabinet filled with pictures and memorabilia of her husband's Army career. She had a photographer Photoshop her husband's image in her son's portraits. She has saved his razor, cell phone, gun holder and military ID. She still buys things at the Army store, like an Army bib for their son, Richard, who is now 18 months old.

Jay Boulter, a grief counselor who has worked with the military, said it is common for a widow to remain in the house she shared with her husband, keep her husband's old car or uniforms at hand, or keep in contact with her husband's unit.

"Just as in the old days when there would be a loss of a family member, the community would come around," he said. "You stay there because you are getting what you need."

For years, Joann Yost kept Tony's uniforms in the closet and her office was a tribute to her fallen husband. Pictures clogged the shelf, and a framed portrait of him cradling a sniper rifle in Iraq looked down on her as she worked on the computer.

But over time, the room became too much.

If he were alive, Tony probably wouldn't recognize their house today. Gone is his old recliner. All the furniture is new and every room has a woman's sensibility.

"I made it that way because I want to do what I want. I can be me," she said.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed
Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan:**

Nationality Not Announced

May 30 AP

A foreign servicemember died following a small-arms attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Texas Marine Killed In Helmand

May 29, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 444-10

Cpl. Jacob C. Leicht, 24, of College Station, Texas, died May 27 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Seven Police Officers Killed In “Comparatively More Peaceful” Badakhshan

May 30, 2010 DPA

Kunduz, Afghanistan - Seven police officers were killed and one more injured Sunday in northern Afghanistan when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle, a police official said.

The officers were travelling in a vehicle in Darayam, a remote district in the northern province of Badakhshan, according to the deputy provincial police chief, Shamsulrahman Shams. The injured officer was evacuated to a provincial hospital, where his condition was reported to be critical, Shams said.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack, saying all the occupants of the vehicle were killed in the blast.

The mountainous Badakhshan province, which borders Tajikistan and China, is comparatively more peaceful than other northern provinces, where Taliban militants have become stronger in the past three years.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
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Notes From A Lost War:

**Resistance Attack In Battalion
Strength Captures Barg-E-Matal
District:**

**“Afghan Officials Said The Taliban
Force Outnumbered Their Own,
Which They Put At 450”**

**“The Americans, Who Provided Limited
Air Support Over The Past Few Days In
Clashes With The Taliban, Provided
None On Saturday”**

May 29, 2010 By DEXTER FILKINS, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban fighters took control of a remote district near the Pakistani border on Saturday, scattering the forces of the Afghan government, who said they had run out of ammunition.

A force of Taliban attackers entered the district of Barg-e-Matal around 8 a.m. Saturday, after the local police retreated, Colonel Sherzad, the deputy police chief, said in an interview.

“Our forces retreated because they did not have enough ammunition,” he said, echoing other officials in the area.

Only 24 hours before, Afghan officials had claimed that they had driven the Taliban from the district into neighboring Pakistan.

The district sits on an isolated valley in Nuristan Province, one of the most inaccessible places in the country.

The Americans, who provided limited air support over the past few days in clashes with the Taliban, provided none on Saturday.

Last year, a group of American soldiers spent two months in the valley to help the Afghan government clear and hold the area and pulled out in September.

Afghan officials said the Taliban force outnumbered their own, which they put at 450. Gen. Zaman Mamozai, the head of the Border Police in eastern Afghanistan, tried to put the best face on the flight of the police.

Military Supply Convoy Attacked In Ghazni



Vehicles carrying military supplies for foreign armed forces burn after an attack by Taliban in Ghazni, Afghanistan, May 30, 2010. (AP Photo/Rahamatullah Naikzad)

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

**“Insurgents Here Are Using Cunning
New Tactics Capable Of Crippling
The Army’s Newest Tactical Vehicle
And Outsmarting Its Counter-IED
Equipment”**

“Taliban Forces Also Have Started To Plant Directional Fragmentation-Charge IEDs”



Lance Cpl. Dominique Draper, of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, seconds after his M-ATV was hit by a roadside bomb May 15 in Marjah, Afghanistan. Draper suffered a mild concussion from the blast. Photo: THOMAS BROWN/STAFF

“When they notice a lot of vehicles, they go to large IEDs. When they notice a lot of troops on the ground, they go to DFCs. They’re looking for kills.”

5.31.10 By Dan Lamothe, Army Times [Excerpts]

MARJAH, Afghanistan — Insurgents here are using cunning new tactics capable of crippling the Army’s newest tactical vehicle and outsmarting its counter-IED equipment.

The Taliban is adjusting to the use of mine rollers, heavy trailer-like devices mounted on the front of armored transports to trigger roadside bombs before the vehicles roll over them, by setting home-made explosives farther away from the pressure plates used to activate them.

This helps ensure that the detonation occurs under the vehicle when the mine roller hits the plate.

A Marine convoy comprising several Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicles, or M-ATVs, was traveling on one of Marjah’s many dirt roads May 15 when an IED ripped through the lead vehicle, sending a plume of dust, smoke and twisted metal 50 feet in the air.

No ambush followed the attack, but the attack highlighted a growing problem facing U.S. forces in Afghanistan: adaptive insurgents.

Marines in the May 15 convoy, experienced this firsthand. The mine roller was practically untouched by the explosion, but the M-ATV attached to it was teetering at a 45-degree

angle and sitting in a 4-foot hole. The front right tire was missing and engine fluids were pooling beneath it.

Noone was killed, but the turret gunner, Lance Cpl. Dominique Draper, suffered a minor concussion and deep bruise to his arm after getting tossed around in the turret.

“The entire west side of the vehicle is gone,” an unharmed Staff Sgt. Dominic Freda informed his Marines by radio, while sitting in the passenger seat of the destroyed vehicle.

“This thing isn’t going anywhere.”

The new IED tactics don’t end with vehicles. Taliban forces also have started to plant directional fragmentation-charge IEDs, or makeshift anti-personnel mines. Typically built in a coffee can or another small, metal device, they are packed with nuts, bolts or spark plugs and attached to 10 to 20 pounds of homemade explosives. Most are detonated remotely by an insurgent, but a few have been set with trip wires, said Staff Sgt. Ryan Clay, a Marine platoon sergeant.

Gunnery Sgt. Benjamin Lepping, an explosive ordnance disposal technician said the anti-personnel IEDs are more common now than the larger ones targeting vehicles.

They’re cheaper to make, and since so many troops patrol on foot, they are more likely to cause injuries. They have been mounted in trees, walls and buildings, but are most commonly buried on trails traveled by troops. Marines even saw an IED set floating in a canal during the initial push into Marjah, although it was ineffective.

“Ever since they did the push into Marjah, (the Taliban) has done a lot of them,” Lepping said of the anti-personnel IEDs. “They adjust to our (tactics, techniques and procedures).

“When they notice a lot of vehicles, they go to large IEDs. When they notice a lot of troops on the ground, they go to DFCs. They’re looking for kills.”

**“In Escalation Of Force Incidents, We
Have Never Killed An Insurgent Or A
Suicide Bomber”**

**“Now The Insurgents Number 30,000 To
35,000”**

Comment: T

No doubt unintentionally, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall also confirms that every member of the U.S. armed forces killed in Afghanistan dies in vain.

He says there are “30,000 to 35,000” insurgents there.

Counterinsurgency 101, for first grade children, teaches that 10-1 superiority is necessary to defeat a local insurgency. Thus, a requirement for 300,000 to 350,000 foreign troops to stop the Afghan insurgency. And that will never happen. Every death of a U.S. armed services member serves no useful purpose whatever, serving merely to make the traitors who run the U.S. government look “strong” until the election this Fall is over.

May 31, 2010 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times [Excerpts]

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The rising number of civilian casualties inflicted by coalition forces in Afghanistan is threatening the entire war effort, said Gen. Stan McChrystal, the senior U.S. commander here.

ISAF senior leaders believe reducing civilian casualties is essential if they are to avoid defeat. “CivCas is how we lose strategically,” said a line in [Command Sgt. Maj. Michael] Hall’s slide briefing, in which he alluded to “insurgent math,” wherein every civilian casualty creates an additional 20 insurgents.

At the beginning of 2005, there were an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 insurgents in Afghanistan, Hall said. But then, in the 2005 to 2006 timeframe, “we went very, very kinetic,” he said, meaning coalition forces ramped up the violence.

Now the insurgents number 30,000 to 35,000, he said.

Breaking the numbers down further, Hall said that when ISAF inflicts civilian casualties, the result is a 25 percent to 65 percent increase in violence in that area during the next five months.

The escalation of force standard operating procedure was rewritten with this in mind. “Escalation of force to me was a terrible SOP ... because it didn’t protect our forces,” Hall told the audience.

“It was an SOP that did not allow soldiers to think.” In an interview, he said, “The old escalation was a process that you went through — step one, step two, step three — you had a card that you were supposed to use.

“If the enemy really wanted to blow you up he could, because the escalation of force I don’t think really prevented that, because it didn’t allow you to think.”

“In escalation of force incidents, we have never killed an insurgent or a suicide bomber,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Darrin Bohn, the senior enlisted adviser at ISAF Joint Command, the three-star headquarters that runs coalition operations day-to-day.

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format
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WELCOME TO AFBAGHVIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



A U.S. soldier with the 82nd Airborne Division in a pomegranate orchard during a patrol in Arghandab valley near Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan May 5, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



A U.S. soldier with the 82nd Airborne Division patrols in the outskirts of Mainjui in Arghandab valley some 10 km (6 miles) northwest of Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan May 6, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



A U.S. soldier on a foot patrol with 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade, May 8, 2010, in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



A US soldier on a patrol in Shahwali Kot district of Kandahar on May 11. (AFP/Tauseef Mustafa)

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The remains of Marine Cpl. Nicholas Parada Rodriguez at Arlington National Cemetery May 27, 2010. Cpl. Parada Rodriguez, 29, of Stafford, Va., was killed May 16, 2010, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

20,000 From Fort Campbell Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

The 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., is in the final stages of deploying to Afghanistan this summer to take over military operations in the country's eastern region.

The division cased the colors during a ceremony May 19. The deployment will be the first time the entire division of about 20,000 soldiers will be deployed in Afghanistan at the same time.

Most of the soldiers will be working in Afghanistan's eastern provinces along the Pakistan border.

**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.

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**

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**

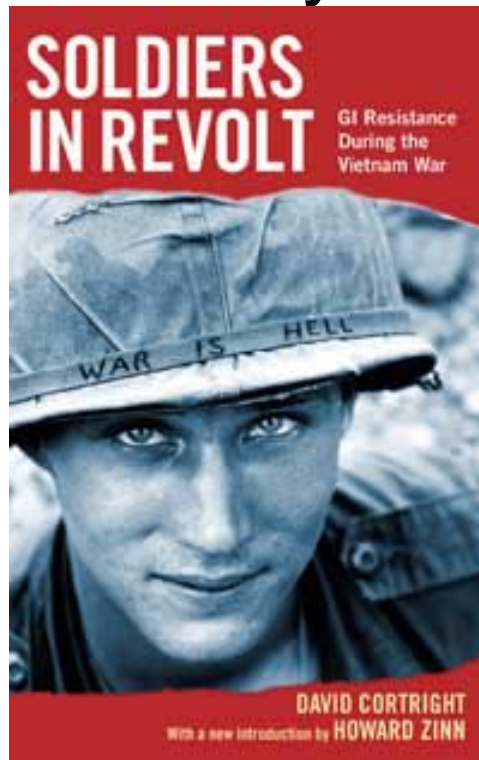
**“The Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

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

**“People Need Not Be Helpless
Before The Power Of Illegitimate
Authority”**

**“By Getting Together And Acting Upon
Their Convictions People Can Change**

Society And, In Effect, Make Their Own History”



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based not on the nation's legitimate defense requirements but on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those who defy military service.

To this end the patriots who resisted the Indochina war should be granted universal and unconditional amnesty, as a sign of our agreement with their acts and as the first step toward restructuring the military and legitimatizing resistance to illegal war.

The central lesson of the GI movement — and, I hope, of this book — is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

May 30, 1937: Massacre Chicago Police Cowards Murder Striking Steel Workers: “All But Four Of The Fifty-Four Gunshot Wounds Were To The Side Or Back And One Victim Was Shot Four Times”



Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

1000 striking steel workers (and members of their families), on their way to picket at the Republic Steel plant in south Chicago where they were organizing a union, were stopped by the Chicago Police.

In what became known as the “Memorial Day Massacre,” police shot and killed 10 fleeing workers, wounded 30 more, and beat 55 so badly they required hospitalization.

The Memorial Day Massacre of 1937

uhigh.ilstu.edu [Excerpts]

The 1930s was a period of economic unrest for the United States. Following the prosperous “roaring twenties”, the Great Depression hit the general population hard. Many employees were fired and those who were not lost much of their former salary.

Then, in 1933, as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, the National Recovery Act was passed. One of its most important concessions to laborers was the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

The number of strikes nationwide grew to the highest amount in American history.

When the National Recovery Act was declared unconstitutional in 1935, Congress was still sympathetic to the young labor unions that had been formed under it. They soon passed the Wagner Act, or National Labor Relations Act, to reassert the rights of the laborers.

By the 1930s the steel industry had survived much adversity, yet there were still changes to come.

The Committee for Industrial Organization, (CIO), was founded in November 1935.

Encouraged by the CIO, the steel industry became one of the first to begin organizing under the Wagner Act. Accordingly, on June 17, 1936 The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, (SWOC), was created.

The industry itself did not accept this movement.

Many companies began to stock up on tear-gas, firearms, and ammunition as well as, refining their espionage and police systems.

After a long struggle for further organization and acceptance within the steel industry, the United States Steel Corporation, (the leading producer of steel, dubbed “Big Steel”), signed an agreement recognizing SWOC. This contract allowed for five dollar a day wages in addition to a 40-hour week with time-and-a-half for overtime. By May 1937, there were 110 firms under contract.

Still, some companies refused to sign. In response, SWOC called its first strike involving 25,000 workmen against Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. Thirty-six hours later, the corporation agreed to a Labor Board election. The union won 17,028 to 7,207.

Despite this enormous victory, a combination of "Little Steel" companies including Bethlehem Steel, Republic Steel, Inland Steel, and Youngstown Sheet & Tube, refused to sign.

Their leaders had strong anti-union attitudes and felt that the U.S. steel decision to "surrender" to SWOC was a betrayal. Tom Girdler, chairman of the Board of Republic Steel, was one particularly influential anti-union spokesperson.

The company anticipated a strike so they placed a stockpile of industrial munitions at various plants of Republic Steel.

Then, on May 26, 1937, SWOC decided to strike three of the "Little Steel" companies: Republic, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, and Inland. Most of the plants ceased production during the strike; they were willing to wait it out because the steelworkers' union strike benefits were meager.

Picket lines were set up at these plants to prevent any attempt to reopen them.

However, Republic Steel remained defiant and refused to close all of its plants. They even housed non-union workers in the plant, so they could continue working without the hassle of picket lines outside.

One of these plants was the Republic Steel South Chicago Plant.

One half of this plant's 2,200 employees had joined the strike. When the walkout began on May 26, the police interfered in an attempt to prevent other non-committed workers from joining the cause.

The SWOC organizers attempted to form a picket line in front of the gate.

Police Captain James Mooney, despite the fact that the picketers were peaceful, broke up the line and arrested 23 people who refused to move. The rest were forced to 117th Street, 2 blocks from the plant.

Because of this action, the police no longer played an impartial role in the strike. Instead, they were clearly supportive of Republic.

Strike headquarters were established in Sam's Place, at 113th and Green Bay Avenue.

Chicago mayor, Edward J. Kelley, announced in the Chicago Tribune that peaceful picketing would be permitted.

In response to this article, the strikers attempted to establish pickets, but were turned away.

On the next day, at around 5:00 PM, another attempt was made to picket. The marchers marched from Sam's Place to 117th Street. There were a few policemen present, but the marchers continued west towards Burley Avenue.

Once the marchers reached Buffalo the police line had strengthened a great deal. The workers continued and fighting broke out. The police used clubs to fight the workers back. A few had drawn revolvers without orders and discharged them in the air. No one was killed, but there were several bloody heads.

May 28 was a quiet day, but the marchers were upset with police actions.

Nick Fontecchio, a Union leader, called for a mass meeting at Sam's Place the next day, Memorial Day Sunday. Captain Mooney received an anonymous report that on Sunday an attempt would be made to invade the plant to drive out the remaining non-union workers. He did not check the rumor, but proceeded to station 264 policemen on duty at the Republic Steel Mill.

By 3:00 p.m. on May 30, 1937, a crowd of around 1500 strikers had gathered. It was a sunny, warm day with the temperature at around 88 degrees.

Many of the union members and supporters had brought along their wives and children to join in this almost festive gathering organized by SWOC leader Joe Hunt. Several speakers addressed various labor issues most importantly, the right to organize and picket.

Some resolutions were approved to send to government officials concerning police conduct at the Republic plant. It was then moved to march to the plant and establish a mass picket.

When this was approved about 1000 people went into formation behind two American flags. Instead of marching south down Green Bay Avenue, they turned onto a dirt road across a open prairie chanting, "CIO, CIO!"

When the police, saw this they moved their position from 117th street between Green Bay and Burley Avenue to across the dirt road, just north of 117th on Burley.

The 200 police were in double file and watched the approaching marchers with their clubs drawn. The Republic mill had armed some of the officers with non-regulation clubs and tear gas.

The marchers met the police line and demanded that their rights to picket be recognized by the police letting them through.

They were "commanded in the name of the law to disperse", but the picketers persisted. This continued for several minutes. While marchers armed themselves with rocks and branches, foul language was passed between the two parties. Tension was mounting.

Recording all of this was cameraman Orland Lippert. Unfortunately, he was changing lenses at the start of the actual violence. This has caused some dispute as to which side initiated the fighting. The following account, determined at the hearings under Senator Robert LaFollette, is generally accepted.

Police were trying to prevent marchers from outflanking their line.

As some strikers began to retreat a stick flew from the back of the line towards the police. Instantaneously, tear gas bombs were thrown at the marchers.

The next few moments were total chaos.

More objects were thrown at the police by the marchers.

Acting without orders, several policemen in the front drew their revolvers and fired point blank at the marcher's ranks, many of whom were beginning to retreat.

The actual shooting only continued for fifteen seconds, but the violence did not end there.

Using their clubs, the police beat anyone in their paths, including women and children.

During this time, arrests were also made. Patrol wagons were filled to twice the mandated capacity of 8 prisoners. The injured were not even taken directly to local hospitals.

As a result of this atrocity, four marchers were fatally shot and six were mortally wounded. Thirty others suffered gunshot wounds.

Thirty-eight were hospitalized due to injuries from the beatings and still thirty more required other medical treatment.

It is noteworthy that all but four of the fifty-four gunshot wounds were to the side or back and one victim was shot four times.

There were minor police casualties with thirty-five reported injuries, (no gunshot wounds), but only three needed overnight hospital care.

After the riot, sympathetic strikers fervently protested the police brutality. On the other hand, the press, especially the Chicago Tribune, portrayed the marchers as communist conspirators who had essentially attacked the police and attempted to throw out non-union workers.

The LaFollette Committee investigated this tragedy and came to four conclusions.

First, the police had no right to limit the number of peaceful pickets and that the march was not aimed at freeing remaining plant workers.

Second, the police should have halted the march with limited violence, if this action is even justifiable.

Third, the force used by the police was excessive and the marcher's only methods of provocation were abusive language and throwing of isolated missiles.

Fourth, the police could have avoided the bloodshed.

In addition to those killed in the Memorial Day Massacre, 6 other union members lost their lives in pickets of the “Little Steel” strike of 1937.

In fact, the “Little Steel” strike is surpassed by few in the areas of viciousness, press distortion, suppression of rights, and police brutality.

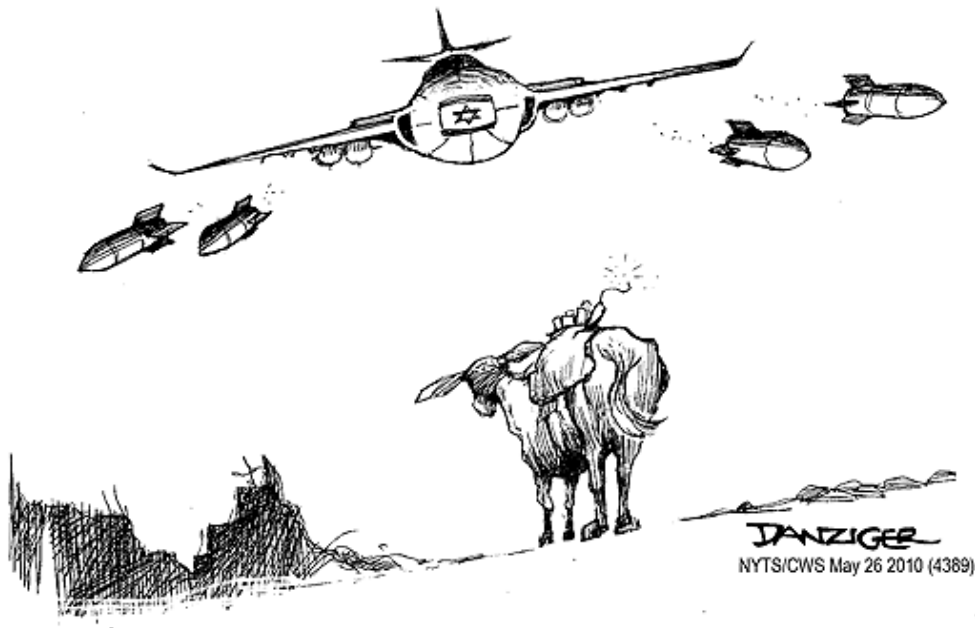
The strike was called off when the many hardships suffered began to demoralize union workers. However, in August of 1941, under legal pressure, the Little Steel companies agreed to cease the committing of unfair labor practices.

A year later, they signed their first contract recognizing the new union, United Steelworkers of America.

The massacre has been referred to as the “blackest day of modern labor history”, but the sacrifices of these workers were not in vain. Little Steel had only delayed the inevitable march of unionism in America.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Israel-Gaza Balance of Power
Israeli War Planes Attack Gaza in Retaliation for Donkey Bomb



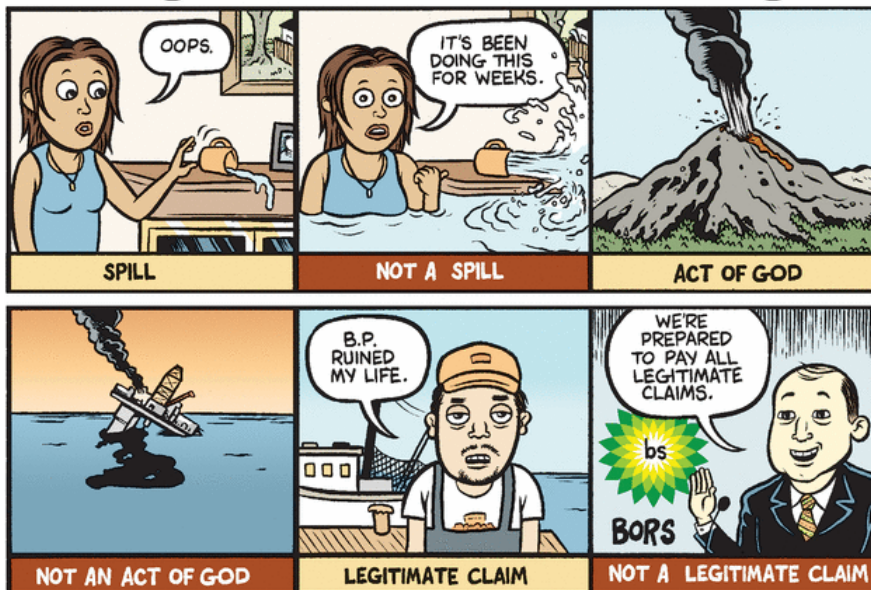
[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

let's get some terms straight.



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**Immigrant Workers Oppose Police Harassment:
“When Police Tried To Shut Down One Speaker After He Called For The People To Arrest The ‘Pigs,’ The Crowd Defended Him And Forced The Officers To Let Him Continue”**

May 28, 2010 By Sarah Wolf. Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

NEW YORK--Shouting “This is not Arizona,” more than 100 street vendors, day laborers and supporters bravely marched to the 115th Precinct in Queens on May 16 in the latest step by immigrant workers to oppose police harassment.

The protest was called after two police officers beat and arrested Ecuadorian ice cream vendor Mariela Lucero on May 1, purportedly for not paying tickets on time. Police routinely ticket vendors between \$200 and \$1,000 without clearly explaining why. They’ve recently arrested several vendors without cause right in front of their children.

“We are on the bottom of the ladder, we’re standing up, and that’s why it’s so important that all of you are here supporting us, because your fight is our fight,” José Pérez told the crowd. “Another world is possible.” Pérez, a bookseller, has been organizing street vendors near Roosevelt Avenue and Junction Boulevard over the past few months.

As they were returning from an immigrant rights protest in Manhattan, vendors and day laborers from the recently formed Independent Workers’ Movement received a call about the arrest of Lucero and two others. They quickly mobilized 30 people--mainly vendors’ families--in front of the precinct, where policed shoved them out after refusing to answer any of their questions.

A few days later, a police officer handed out a new round of tickets, telling vendors, "Here are some more tickets so you can keep marching."

While fear of the police is real, these tactics have made people angrier rather than intimidating them.

Vendors voted to march straight to the precinct, rejecting the more cautionary position of experienced activists.

In the end, more than 20 day laborers turned up at the event, despite this group's vulnerability to police harassment.

And when police tried to shut down one speaker after he called for the people to arrest the "pigs," the crowd defended him and forced the officers to let him continue.

Day laborer organizer Roberto Meneses pointed out afterward, "The rank and file was ahead of us leadership this time. That is what is so important about our movement--we do not wait for anyone to organize for us, but rather organize independently and democratically, from the base."

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