

## Military Resistance 8G1



# July 4 Special

## #1

## BETWEEN THE OOH'S AND AHH'S

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 10, 2006

### BETWEEN THE OOH'S AND AHH'S

By Dennis Serdel: VFP #50, VVAW, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Purple Heart Americal Div. 11th Brigade, UAW GM retiree, Perry, Michigan

The night was as black as charlie's pajamas.  
But flares were being sent up  
into the Southern Cross  
and tracer bullets were crossing the sky  
and twirling around like a child's sparkler  
on the 4th of July.  
It was the 4th of July in Vietnam 1968

and almost everybody was celebrating,  
smoking pot, drinking beer and whiskey.  
Every so often, there would be a "mad minute"  
where everybody flipped her on automatic  
and unloaded clips for a minute or a little longer.  
One bunker was going ape with machine gun tracers,  
"Who the hell is that?"  
asked one of our guys to his buddies.  
"It's Sarge," one answered, "he's all messed up  
on pot and whiskey."  
Another answered in the dark,  
"he's been just hooking tracer rounds together  
and just shooting tracer rounds."  
On the LZ that night, the celebrating went on  
until everybody was calling it good,  
except for Sarge with the machinegun's  
noise and tracer rounds.  
Finally, someone said,  
"Look, a couple of us better go down there  
and tell Sarge to quit.  
Two walked down there  
and after a while, Sarge stopped.  
A little girl was hugging her daddy's leg  
and looking up to the Starry black sky.  
Then a firework burst like a star  
and wiggly red travelled down  
like an umbrella, then a blue star burst  
and a wiggly blue umbrella fell  
and a white star boomed  
with a big thumping boom  
that shook the air  
and all the children would go  
"Ooh" and "Aah."  
Sarge stood in the crowd and watched  
as all the parents became little children too  
and began to "Ooh" and "Aah"  
and point with their fingers  
while holding their little ones.  
Old Sarge wondered what day  
charlie picked as their Independence Day.  
Then he realized he had been shooting  
at God that 4th in Vietnam  
under the Southern Cross  
and feelings rose from the heart of his chest  
flowing up into the emotions in his head,  
his eye's watering up.  
After all these years,  
the war still bothered him  
and he didn't know why.

**MORE:**

# July 4 Special

## #2

**“If I Were An American, As I Am An Englishman, While A Foreign Troop Was Landed In My Country, I Never Would Lay Down My Arms — Never — Never — Never”**

November 18, 1777: William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; Spoken in the House of Lords, London, England

**My lords, this ruinous and ignominious situation, where we can not act with success, nor suffer with honor, calls upon us to remonstrate in the strongest and loudest language of truth, to rescue the ear of majesty from the delusions which surround it.**

**The desperate state of our arms abroad is in part known.**

**No man thinks more highly of them than I do. I love and honor the English troops. I know their virtues and their valor.**

**I know they can achieve any thing except impossibilities; and I know that the conquest of English America is an impossibility.**

**You can not, I venture to say it, you can not conquer America.**

Your armies in the last war effected every thing that could be effected; and what was it? It cost a numerous army, under the command of a most able general (Lord Amherst), now a noble lord in this House, a long and laborious campaign, to expel five thousand Frenchmen from French America.

**My lords, you can not conquer America.**

What is your present situation there?

We do not know the worst; but we know that in three campaigns we have done nothing and suffered much.

Besides the sufferings, perhaps total loss of the Northern force, the best appointed army that ever took the field, commanded by Sir William Howe, has retired from the American lines.

**As to conquest, therefore, my lords, I repeat, it is impossible.**

**You may swell every expense and every effort still more extravagantly; pile and accumulate every assistance you can buy or borrow; traffic and barter with every little pitiful German prince that sells and sends his subjects to the shambles of a foreign prince; your efforts are for ever vain and impotent—doubly so from this mercenary aid on which you rely; for it irritates, to an incurable resentment, the minds of your enemies, to overrun them with the mercenary sons of rapine and plunder, devoting them and their possessions to the rapacity of hiring cruelty!**

**If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms — never — never — never.**

**Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:  
“In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom.... Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.”**

**“If New England was occupied by Canadians, I'd still want 'em to leave.”  
On how Iraqis feel about 130,000 American troops in their midst: From 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based in northwest Baghdad: Quoted by Mike Tharp, July 03, 2009, Baghdad Observer**

**MORE:**

# **July 4 Special**

## **#3**

### **Poem For The 4th Of July: America, America**

July 04, 2007 Via Phil G

Saadi Youssef is a well-known Iraqi poet, an expatriate living in London. The translator is Khaled Mattawa, poet, president of RAWI, and professor at University of Michigan. The poem was sent to me by D. H. Melhem.

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# Poem For The 4th Of July: America, America

by Saadi Youssef

I too love jeans and jazz and Treasure Island  
and John Silver's parrot and the balconies of New Orleans.  
I love Mark Twain and the Mississippi steamboats and Abraham Lincoln's dogs.  
I love the fields of wheat and corn and the smell of Virginia tobacco.  
But I am not American.

Is that enough for the Phantom pilot to turn me back to the stone age?

America:  
let's exchange gifts. Take your smuggled cigarettes  
and give us potatoes.  
Take James Bond's golden pistol  
and give us Marilyn Monroe's giggle.  
Take the heroin syringe under the tree  
and give us vaccines.  
Take your blueprints for model penitentiaries  
and give us village homes.  
Take the books of your missionaries  
and give us paper for poems to defame you.  
Take what you do not have  
and give us what we have.  
Take the stripes of your flag  
and give us the stars.  
Take the Afghani Mujahideen beard  
and give us Walt Whitman's beard filled with butterflies.  
Take Saddam Hussein  
and give us Abraham Lincoln  
or give us no one.

We are not hostages, America  
and your soldiers are not God's soldiers ...  
We are the poor ones, ours is the earth of the drowned gods,

the gods of bulls  
the gods of fires  
the gods of sorrows that intertwine clay and  
blood in a song...  
We are the poor, ours is the god of the poor  
who emerges out of farmers' ribs  
hungry  
and bright,  
and raises heads up high...

America, we are the dead.  
Let your soldiers come.  
Whoever kills a man, let him resurrect him.

**We are the drowned ones, dear lady.  
We are the drowned.  
Let the water come.**

**(translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**



Destroyed police vehicle in Baiji June 29, 2010. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee



A destroyed police vehicle after a bomb attack occurred in Hit, 130 km (80 miles) west of Baghdad June 30, 2010. Two bombers killed three police officers, the police said. REUTERS/Ali al-Mashhdani

Jul 1 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & July 3 (Reuters)

At least three policemen were wounded while trying to defuse a roadside bomb in central Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on Friday evening, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded a policeman in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

On Thursday morning, a member of a government-backed militia died when a roadside bomb exploded next to his four-man patrol in southwestern Baghdad. Two were injured in the attack.

In Samarra, another member of the government-backed militia was killed when a bomb exploded near his house. Two of the victim's brothers were injured in the blast, police said.

In western Baghdad, a soldier was killed when a roadside bomb hit his patrol, police said. Four more soldiers were injured in the blast.

In the northern city of Kirkuk late Wednesday, an Iraqi army officer was killed in a drive-by shooting while he was walking on the street in civilian clothes, police said.

Militants using weapons equipped with silencers shot dead on Wednesday an off-duty police captain in front of his house in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, wounding four policemen late on Wednesday in Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad.

Two roadside bombs wounded three Iraqi soldiers, in Baghdad's western Yarmouk district, police said.

A roadside bomb killed a member of Iraq's government-backed Sahwa militia and wounded five others in the Doura district of southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Record Number Of Foreign Troops  
Killed In June:**

# Record Number Of U.S. Troops Killed In June

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, N.Y. Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.

July 1, 2010 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times

At least 102 coalition troops were killed in June in Afghanistan, according to the independent website icasualties.org, far surpassing the previous highest monthly total of 76 military fatalities in August 2009.

At least 60 of those killed were U.S. service members, including a soldier killed by small-arms fire Wednesday in eastern Afghanistan.

The previous highest monthly death toll for American forces was in October 2009, when 59 were killed.

**As the pattern of fatalities shows, it is a war with a widening geographical reach.**

**The country's east and south, the traditional Taliban strongholds, predictably saw the heaviest fighting, but a swath of the north became increasingly restive as well.**

A day in which a Western military death does not occur somewhere in Afghanistan has become rare.

And fatalities in clusters of four or more in a single incident have become increasingly common.

On two days in June, the daily tallies reached nine and 10.

In a far-flung country with relatively few passable roads, the war effort relies heavily on helicopters. Two crashed in June, killing a total of eight troops.

One of the helicopters was shot down by Taliban fighters in Helmand province, a rare feat but a tactic that may be assuming a more prominent place in the insurgents' arsenal.

**Nearly nine years into the war, the NATO coalition is showing signs of strain, and in troop-contributing nations, an increase in the number of military deaths invariably fuels public debate.**

**In Britain, the most important U.S. partner in Afghanistan, skepticism about the necessity of the war is becoming entrenched.**

The country marked a grim and much-noticed milestone in June when a Royal Marine killed in Helmand province became the 300th British military fatality in Afghanistan.

In countries with smaller troop contingents, the shockwave from war deaths tends to be magnified.



Norway, which has about 500 troops in Afghanistan, suffered its largest single-day battlefield loss since World War II on Sunday when four of its soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in the north. Until then, the Norwegian death toll in the war had been five.

Another ally, Australia, was disproportionately hit by four troop deaths in June, three of them elite commandos killed in a helicopter crash in Kandahar. Those losses represented one-quarter of Australia's total war dead in Afghanistan.

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## **Two Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

Jul 2 AFP

KABUL – Two foreign soldiers had been killed while fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The soldiers died in separate insurgent attacks, one in the east, the other in the south of the country, NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement.

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## **Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

July 3 AP

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

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## **Nevada Soldier Killed In Tangi Valley**

July 01, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 565-10

Spc. Matthew R. Hennigan, 20, of Las Vegas, Nev., died June 30 at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered earlier in Tangi Valley, Afghanistan when enemy forces attacked his unit with machine gun fire. He was assigned to 173rd Special Troops Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Bamberg, Germany.

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# **Royal Marine Killed In Southern Afghanistan**

2 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a Royal Marine was killed in southern Afghanistan yesterday, Thursday 1 July 2010. Next of kin have been informed.

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## **Foreign Military Chopper Shot Down In Nangahar: Nationality Not Announced; No Report Of Survivors**

01 July 2010 Quqnoos.com

The Taliban claim they have shot down a foreign military chopper in Shiwa, an eastern Afghan district in Nangarhar province.

A spokesman for the Taliban said all the people on board were killed in the crash, but NATO officials have said they will comment after an investigation.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **Taliban Storm Occupation Office In Kunduz; Mercenaries And Staff Killed: Twenty-Three Wounded Including**



Development Alternatives Inc. building attacked by Taliban insurgents in Kunduz July 2, 2010. Taliban bombers and gunmen stormed the U.S. contracting company office in northern Afghanistan on Friday. REUTERS/ Stringer

Jul 2 by Gul Rahim, AFP & By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., New York Times & 3rd July 2010 PA

**Three foreigners were among five killed when Taliban militants stormed the compound of a US aid contractor, Development Alternatives Inc (DAI), in Afghanistan Friday.**

The Taliban quickly took credit for the attack, which began around 3 a.m. when the first bomber exploded his car at the gate of the compound.

Five other bombers raced inside the building, where they began firing rifles, said the governor of Kunduz Province, Mohammed Omar.

**He said at least 23 people were wounded, including police officers, guards and civilians.**

Black smoke poured from the windows of the four-storey building. The bodies of the dead were found inside amid rubble, pools of blood and broken glass. Stunned aid workers were led from the scene as troops carried bodies wrapped in black plastic out on stretchers.

D.A.I. said several Edinburgh International and D.A.I. employees were wounded.

"In total three foreigners have been killed. One Briton, one Filipino and one German. Two Afghans have also been killed -- a guard and one policeman," Kunduz governor Mohammad Omar told AFP.

The German citizen was a security guard, said a US embassy official. NATO said seven other foreigners were injured, while the British embassy in Kabul confirmed one of its citizens was also injured.

US-based DAI spokesman Steven O'Connor said four security contractors were killed. "One was British, one was German and two were Afghan nationals," the spokesman said.

The US State Department said two of the injured were Americans.

Smoke billowed from the building, which was surrounded by foreign and Afghan troops after the ambush.

DAI is a so-called "implementing partner" of Washington's international aid arm USAID. It is believed to have opened its Kunduz operation about four months ago.

"The actions taken by the EI security staff in defence of the compound and project staff were nothing short of heroic," DAI president and chief executive James Boomgard said in a statement.

He was referring to Edinburgh International, the security subcontractor.

The five other attackers all eventually died inside the building, according to the governor, but he did not make it clear whether they had been shot during a six-hour firefight or had blown themselves up.

"The building has been destroyed," Mr. Omar said.

He also said six American employees trapped inside along with four security guards had been rescued by Afghan forces.

There were unconfirmed reports that some employees fled to the roof of the building during the battle.



The body of a foreign mercenary inside the Development Alternatives Inc. compound in Kunduz, northern Afghanistan, July 2, 2010 after it was stormed by militants. (AP Photo)



U.S. soldiers carry a body away from the Development Alternatives Inc. compound in Kunduz July 2, 2010. (AP Photo)

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## **Jalalabad Occupation Military Base Attacked**



Smoke rises as militants set off a car bomb and stormed the entrance to the Jalalabad airfield used by Afghan and international forces in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, June 30, 2010. (AP Photo)

Rising smoke at the site of a car bomb in on a foreign military base in Jalalabad on June 30, 2010. Militants set off a car bomb and fired rockets at the base in eastern Afghanistan. (AFP)

6.30.10 Associated Press & New York Times

U.S. and Afghan troops repelled an attack Wednesday on one of the biggest NATO bases in eastern Afghanistan by militants who used a car bomb, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons.

It was the third ground assault against a major coalition base in Afghanistan in the past five weeks - a sign that the insurgents have not been cowed by U.S. efforts to ramp up the war.

Eight militants were killed in the attack, which occurred at the airport base on the outskirts of Jalalabad about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Kabul on the main road between the Afghan capital and the Pakistan border.

The attack began with a car bomber detonating his explosives near the gate to the base, followed by a half-hour gunbattle, Afghan officials said.

An Afghan soldier and one international service member were wounded, NATO said.

The Jalalabad attack followed a May 19 ground assault against the giant Bagram Air Field north of Kabul and another three days later against Kandahar Air Field in the south.

Those attacks - though militarily ineffective - have raised concern in the NATO mission about the audacity of the insurgents in the face of overwhelming NATO firepower. In all three assaults, insurgents launched what the military calls complex attacks - those that employ multiple types of weapons.

The attack, similar to one carried out at Bagram Air Base near Kabul in May, began at 7:30 a.m. when a bomber driving a car detonated his explosives at the eastern gate of the base. The explosion was followed by militants launching grenades and firing other weapons.

The attack appeared to be intended to generate publicity and remind people of the Taliban presence.

Although the insurgents did not enter the main air base, which is set back substantially from the main road, the firefight disrupted traffic for several hours on the road, the main route to the Pakistan border crossing at Torkham.

The Taliban took responsibility for the attack in a telephone interview.

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## **15 [!] Rockets Hit Government District Building In Wazi Zadran: “Insurgents Claim They Have Killed 11 Policemen And Have Wounded Eight Others In The Attack”**

01 July 2010 Quqnoos.com

At least, 15 Rockets hit a government district building in Wazi Zadrán, a southern district in Paktia province, on Thursday, provincial officials said

A provincial spokesperson, Rohullah Samoon, said that two cars were destroyed in the missile attack.

No casualties have been reported, but the Taliban insurgents claim they have killed 11 policemen and have wounded eight others in the attack.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Insurgents “Now In Control Of Former Police Vehicle Compound Which Was Once Used By The Somali Parliament”**

Jul 1, 2010 GAROWE ONLINE & July 2 (Mareeg)

Al Shabaab militants burned a tank of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) [translation: U.S. government-backed occupation troops] in fierce fighting in the Mogadishu on Thursday, witnesses and officials said on Friday.

An official from al Shabaab said they burned the tank in the front line and showed reporters the burned tank.

At least 20 people, mainly combatants have been killed and over 35 others, including journalists injured in heavy shelling and gunbattle that pitted pro-government forces against rebel fighters in Somali capital Mogadishu within the last twenty four hours.

Clashes erupted on Tuesday between pro-government militia Ahlu Sunnah Wal-Jama and fighters from insurgent.

Shelling also rocked rebel-held northern districts of Shibis, Abdiasis and Bondhere, where reports said 8 civilians were killed and over 20 others injured.

Civilians and government soldiers who injured in the latest fightings have been admitted in Mogadishu's Medina Hospitals.

In one incident, barrage of artillery shells landed at a former police compound in Abdiasis district, where some senior Al-Shabaab officials were briefing journalists about their gains in the latest clashes. Eight journalists, among those who attended the press briefing got minor injuries, according one of them.

Al-Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Ali Mouhammad Raghe aka Ali Dhere led journalists in tour around the former police compound that his group captured in the last few days.

“Thanks to Allah, we are now in control of former police vehicle compound which was once used by the Somali parliament. We have achieved a lot in this latest fighting,” he said while addressing the journalists.

**Ali Dhere was accompanied by Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Abu Mansur, who in recent past was reported to have been badly injured in clashes with government forces. He however refuted those claims, saying he is well and in good health.**

A power-sharing agreement signed between Somalia’s weak transition federal government and Ahlu Sunnah Wal-Jamaa, a moderate Sufi Islamist movement has officially collapsed, says the Sufi leaders.

The fragile western-backed government is faced with internal wrangles between top leaders, which is threatening to lead it into the lane of disarray and ultimate collapse.

**The impoverished Horn of Africa nation has been mired in civil war for 18 years, and the fragile administration controls only small pockets of the seaside capital Mogadishu with most of the country’s south and central regions controlled by insurgents.**

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## TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of Army Spc. Matthew Hennigan, of Las Vegas, July 2, 2010, at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Hennigan was killed in combat in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)



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## **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**

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

# **Bitch**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: July 01, 2010  
Subject: Bitch

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

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## **Bitch**

**Sarah won't answer the telephone  
all Tim gets is email  
if this is what you call marriage  
then I want a divorce  
I'm tired of doing everything  
while you play Soldier in the rear  
must be nice for the Army  
to take care of you  
while I take care  
of the three children  
I don't want to be an Army wife  
anymore  
I'm tired of being a mother  
and father  
I'm tired of not having a lover  
Stay married to the Military  
if that's who you love  
this third tour is too much  
Look Sarah, Tim says,  
being an Army Cook is a job  
don't you like the money  
that you get all the time  
don't you like the brand new SUV  
OK Honey, I understand  
Sarah says, you're right again  
but by now you know  
how I get  
but it hurts when you miss  
all the children's birthdays  
and are not with us at Christmas**

or the 4th of July  
Our lifestyle is like the ocean  
keeping us separated  
you see, we are already there  
and a divorce just makes  
it legal Goodbye

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# FTA Is Back!

## The Film Provides A Rare Glimpse Into The Revolt From Below That Ultimately Forced The Pentagon To Withdraw In Defeat From Vietnam



FTA Trailer

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HlkgPCgU7g&eurl=http://imgineaworldof.blogspot.com/&feature=player_embedded)

**FINALLY, AFTER 35-YEARS IN EXILE  
FTA IS BACK! AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 24  
EXCLUSIVELY ON DVD  
FROM DISPLACED FILMS AND  
NEW VIDEO/ DOCURAMA**

**FTA:**

Ultra-Rare! F.T.A. (aka FREE THE ARMY aka FUN, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE), 1972, Displaced Films, 97 min. Dir. Francine Parker.

F.T.A. was originally released by American-International but pulled from distribution after only one week, with rumors of pressure from the Pentagon.

– Phil Hall, Film Threat

**To Get Your Copy Of FTA:**

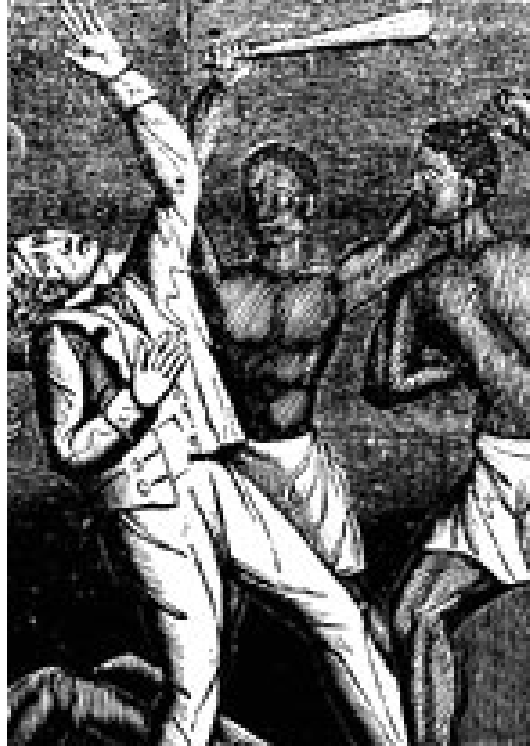
<http://www.sirnosir.com/FTA.html>

**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 Afghanistan, 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

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!  
Mutiny On The Amistad:  
July 2, 1839**

# “53 Slaves Recently Abducted From Africa, Revolted”



Peace History June 26-July 2 By Carl Bunin [Excerpt] Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.

(July 2, 1839)

Amistad Mutiny: slave rebellion that took place on the slave ship Amistad near the coast of Cuba and had important political and legal repercussions in the American Abolitionist movement.

The mutineers were captured and tried in the United States, and a surprising victory for the country's antislavery forces resulted in 1841 when the U.S. Supreme Court freed the rebels. A committee formed to defend the slaves later developed into the American Missionary Association (incorporated 1846).

**On July 2, 1839, the Spanish schooner Amistad was sailing from Havana to Puerto Príncipe, Cuba, when the ship's unwilling passengers, 53 slaves recently abducted from Africa, revolted.**

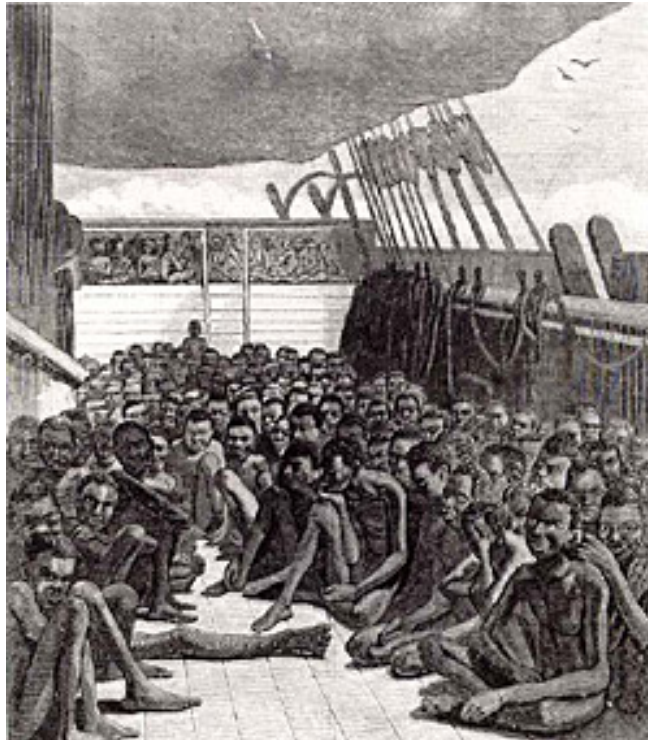
**Led by Joseph Cinqué, they killed the captain and the cook but spared the life of a Spanish navigator, so that he could sail them home to Sierra Leone.**

The navigator managed instead to sail the Amistad generally northward. Two months later the U.S. Navy seized the ship off Long Island, N.Y., and towed it into New London,

Conn. The mutineers were held in a jail in New Haven, Conn., a state in which slavery was legal.

The Spanish embassy's demand for the return of the Africans to Cuba led to an 1840 trial in a Hartford, Conn., federal court. New England Abolitionist Lewis Tappan stirred public sympathy for the African captives, while the U.S. government took the proslavery side. U.S.

President Martin Van Buren ordered a Navy ship sent to Connecticut to return the Africans to Cuba immediately after the trial. A candidate for reelection that year, he anticipated a ruling against the defendants and hoped to gain proslavery votes by removing the Africans before Abolitionists could appeal to a higher court.



Prosecutors argued that, as slaves, the mutineers were subject to the laws governing conduct between slaves and their masters. But trial testimony determined that while slavery was legal in Cuba, importation of slaves from Africa was not.

**Therefore, the judge ruled, rather than being merchandise, the Africans were victims of kidnapping and had the right to escape their captors in any way they could.**

When the U.S. government appealed the case before the U.S. Supreme Court the next year, congressman and former president John Quincy Adams argued eloquently for the Amistad rebels.

The Supreme Court upheld the lower court, and private and missionary society donations helped the 35 surviving Africans secure passage home. They arrived in Sierra

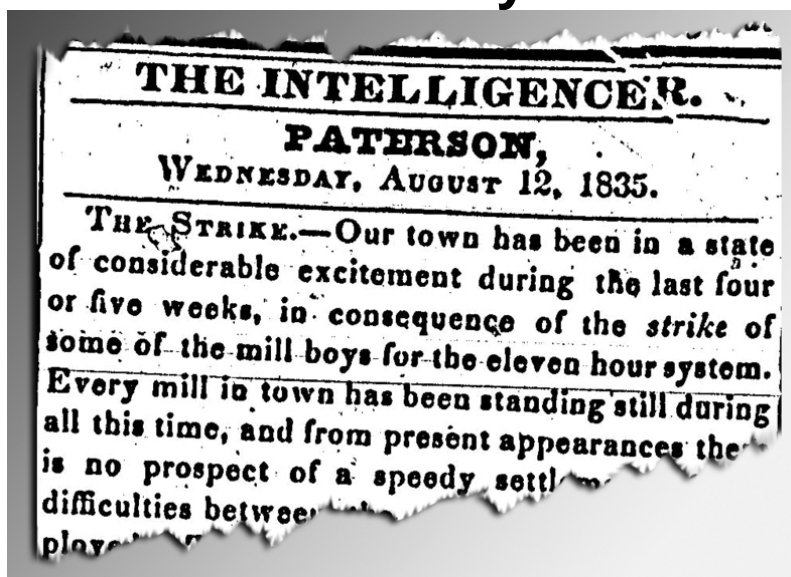
Leone in January 1842, along with five missionaries and teachers who intended to found a Christian mission.

Spain continued to insist that the United States pay indemnification for the Cuban vessel. The U.S. Congress intermittently debated the Amistad case, without resolution, for more than two decades, until the American Civil War began in 1861.



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## July 3, 1835: Honorable Anniversary; Children Go On Strike For An 11-Hour Workday



Carl Bunin Peace History June 29 - July 5

Progressivehistorians.com:

On July 3, 1835, in Paterson, New Jersey, nearly 2,000 textile workers walked off the job.

The strike was notable for several reasons.

For one thing the strikers weren't demanding more money, despite the fact that they only made \$2 a week (adjusted for inflation, that would be \$44 a week today).

Their central demand was an 11-hour day (as opposed to the 13.5-hour days they were currently working), and only 9 hours on Saturday instead of a full day.

That in itself was significant enough. The first strike in American history to limit hours had happened only 7 years earlier, and was also in Paterson, New Jersey. That strike had been crushed after a week when the militia was called in.

What made this strike worth remembering was who the strikers were - they were children, aged 10 to 18. Many of them girls.

Before the month was out the parents of Paterson had joined together to form the "Paterson Association for the Protection of the Working Classes of Paterson". Through the Association a "vigilance committee" was formed to organize support. In 1835 there was no such thing as a labor union. Back then there were only guilds for skilled workers. Nothing like that existed for textile workers, much less for children.

The management flat-out refused to negotiate with the Association, or any worker's organization. In response, the Association appealed to help from other workers. Women textile workers in other mills around Paterson walked out. Mechanics from Newark set up a committee to raise funds and investigate the working conditions in Paterson. This is what they found:

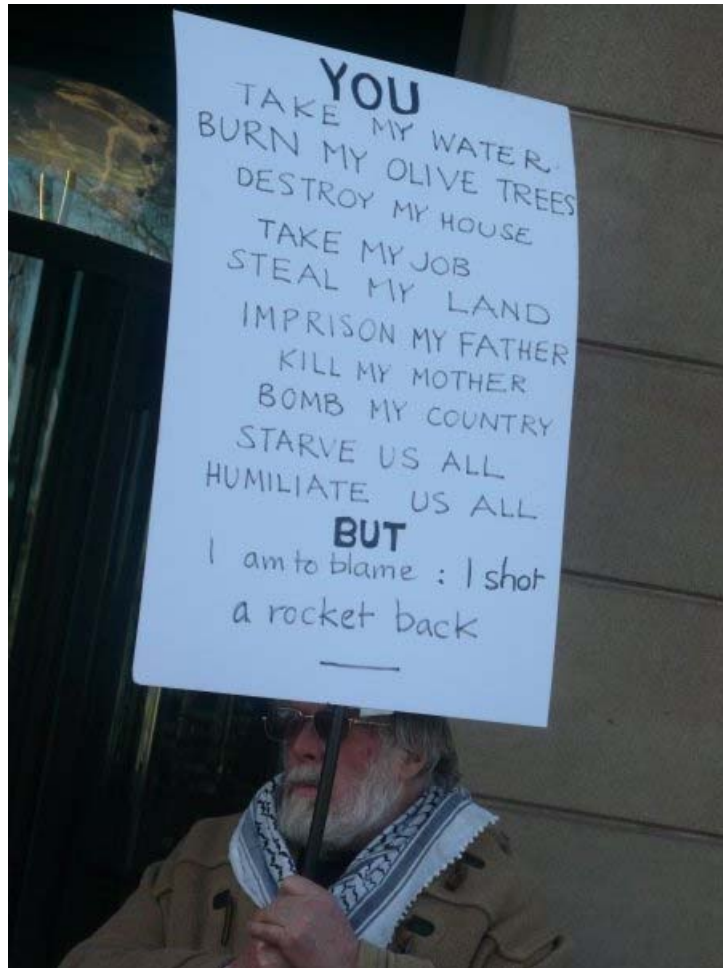
"(conditions in the Paterson mills) belong rather to the dark ages than to the present times, and would be more congenial to the climate of his majesty the emperor and autocrat of all the Russians, than "this land of the free and home of the brave," this boasted asylum for the oppressed of all nations."

After six weeks a deal was struck between the Association and the management. They would split the difference: the children of Paterson would only have to work 12 hours a day during the week, and 9 hours on Saturday; a 69-hour week. The children who continued to hold out for the 11-hour day were fired and blacklisted.

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# OCCUPATION PALESTINE



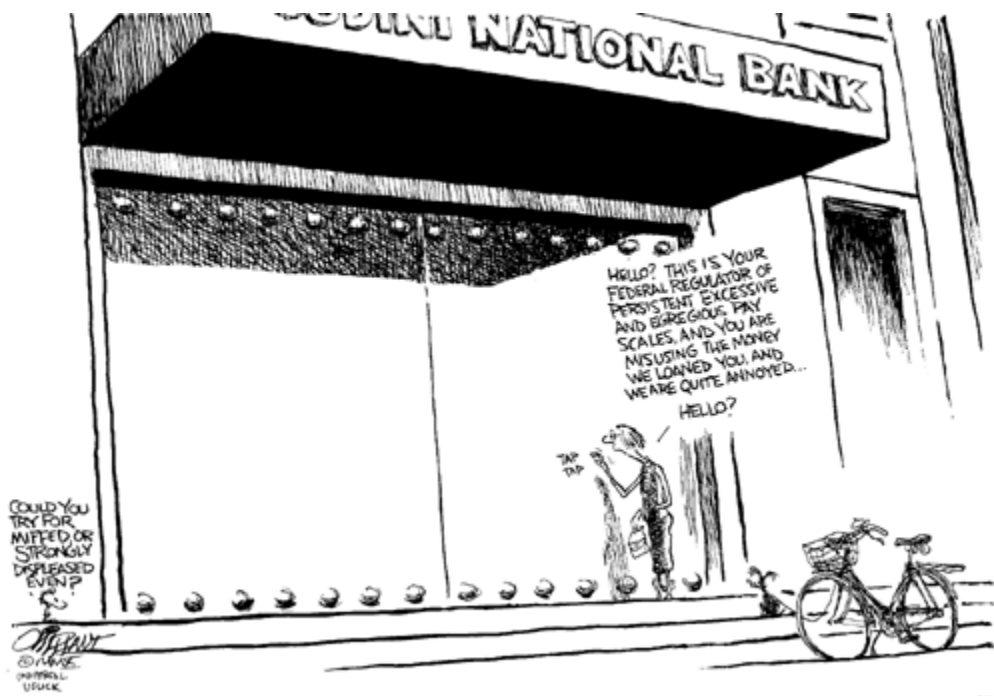
[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

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

## **Troops Invited:**

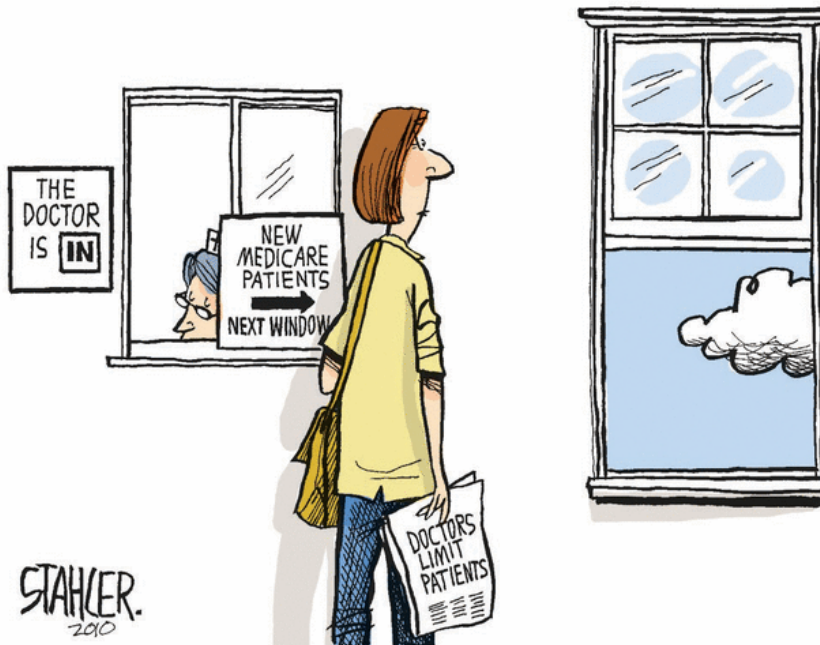
**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



6/10

# CLASS WAR REPORTS



## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## **RECEIVED:**

### **“Another 4th Will Pass With American Troops Dying In A Lost War”**

From: Sharlet, Robert  
To: Military Resistance  
Sent: July 01, 2010  
Subject: RE: Rolling Stone McChrystal

Good call in your comment on the Rolling Stone piece [Military Resistance 8F16: 6.30.2010]. I happen to have a sub since Jeff's [refers to Jeff Sharlet, author of The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power] a contributing editor and as soon as I read the piece vs. hearing about it, I realized the mainstream media missed the main thrust about the Afghan war in the midst of the fireworks over McChrystal.

At the G-20 meet, we got a clear indication of the President's long term intentions in Afghanistan from the remarks of the British PM after the two met.

Cameron said he was committed to having the last British soldier out of Afghanistan by 2015. Good god and surely the Brits will be out before we leave.

Another 4th will pass with American troops dying in a lost war.

**Reply: T**

Robert Sharlet's brother, Jeff Sharlet, the uncle of the Jeff Sharlet mentioned above, edited Vietnam GI newspaper, which played a huge role in organizing U.S. troops to rebel against and thereby stop the U.S. war on Vietnam.

**Full set are available here:**

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**Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.**

**The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.**

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All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposed to today's Imperial wars.

**"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**



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