Military Resistance: ***thomasfbarton@earthlink.net*** ***7.17.10*** **Print it out: color best. Pass it on.**

Military Resistance 8G14

July 15, 2010: Via Lt. Mark Larson; The New York Times

A display of bomb making materials outside the dinning facility at Wilson Forward Operating Base, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 16, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Fresh Attacks Target High-Voltage Pylons In Several Areas In The Country

July 10, 2010 By Fatima Kamal, Azzaman

Temperatures in Baghdad hit 51 centigrade in the shade on Saturday and the heat wave is forecast to continue for a few more days, Iraqi meteorologist Mahmoud Latif said.

The heat wave comes amid reports of fresh attacks targeting high-voltage pylons in several areas in the country. At least six such pylons have been destroyed, according to Adel Hameed of the Ministry of Electricity.

Hameed said the ministry has mobilized its resources to repair the damage and that two pylons have already been reconstructed.

More Resistance Action

July 16 (Reuters) & July 17 (Reuters)

Two mortar rounds landed in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone government and diplomatic district, an Interior Ministry source said. There was no information on casualties.

Insurgents on a motorcycle opened fire with silenced weapons on Brigadier Emad-Adeen Mohammed, an official in the military office of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Iraq's commander-in-chief, in the northern Baghdad district of Kadhimiya, an Interior Ministry source said. Mohammed was shot in the neck and shoulder but his condition was not serious, the source said.

A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol, wounding two soldiers and one civilian on Friday in northern Mosul, 390 Km (240 Miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded one soldier on Friday in western Mosul, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Saturday: Nationality Not Announced

July 17 AP

Two foreign servicemembers died as a result of separate IED strikes in southern and eastern Afghanistan today.

---

2 Minnesota Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan This Week

Minnesota National Guard Spc. Matthew Johnson of Maplewood, Minn. Johnson was killed by a homemade bomb July 13, 2010 in Lagman, Afghanistan. He was a member of the 618th Engineer Company, part of the 18th Airborne Corps based at Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/Minnesota National Guard)

07/16/2010 By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS—Two Minnesota soldiers were killed in separate attacks in Afghanistan this week, a lieutenant from Apple Valley who was sixth in his class at West Point and a specialist from Maplewood, the Army said Friday.

1st Lt. Christopher Goeke, of Apple Valley, 23, was killed Tuesday while responding to an attack on an Afghan National Army facility in the key southern city of Kandahar, his family said in a statement issued through the Army.

Spc. Matthew Johnson, 21, of Maplewood, was killed by a homemade bomb Tuesday in Lagman, Afghanistan, his family said in a separate statement.

Both belonged to units based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Royal Marine And Soldier Killed In Helmand

17 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a marine from 40 Commando Royal Marines was killed in Afghanistan, yesterday, Friday 16 July 2010 and in a separate incident, a soldier from The Royal Dragoon Guards, was killed there today, Saturday 17 July 2010.

The marine, serving as part of Combined Force Sangin, was killed in an explosion while on foot patrol in the Sangin District of Helmand Province.

The soldier, serving as part of Combined Force Nahr-e Saraj (North), was killed in an explosion in the Nahr-e Saraj District of Helmand Province.

Australian Soldier Killed In The Chora Valley

July 10, 2010 The Sydney Morning Herald

The soldier, a member of the First Mentoring Task Force, was killed in a roadside bomb blast just before midnight (AEST) on Friday, taking the Australian death toll in Afghanistan to 17. Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said a second Australian soldier suffered minor wounds and remained in a satisfactory condition in hospital in Tarin Kowt.

The 23-year-old is the sixth Australian soldier to die in Afghanistan in a little over a month, increasing pressure on the government to withdraw troops from the war-torn nation.

The name of the latest Australian casualty has not yet been released. Air Chief Marshal Houston said the soldier, who was from NSW and based in Brisbane, had undertaken three tours of Afghanistan in his five years with the army. His body will be returned home in the coming days.

The soldiers were part of an Australian patrol conducting operations in the Chora Valley in the Oruzgan province. The incident occurred in an area known as the green zone.

Eric Byron Shaw Killed In Afghanistan

Jul 05, 2010 VillageSoup

Augusta — Staff Sgt. Eric Byron Shaw, 31, of Clarksville, Tenn., was killed in action Sunday, June 27, 2010, while serving in Afghanistan. He was born June 23, 1979, in Massachusetts and was raised in Exeter, Maine, by his now-deceased father, Gerald Shaw and Alta Gould, his late grandmother.

He was a graduate of Dexter High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 2003 from the University of Southern Maine.

Eric joined the United States Army Infantry in the fall of 2004. During his six years of service, Staff Sgt. Shaw held numerous positions, including M249 Squad Automatic Rifleman, Rifle Squad Fire Team Leader and Infantry Squad Leader. His awards include Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Air Assault Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. He will receive three awards posthumously — Bronze Star, Purple Heart and NATO Medal.

Eric served three tours of duty with the 101st Airborne from Fort Campbell, Ky., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from September of 2005 to September of 2006 and September of 2007 to November of 2009. He was killed while serving his third tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He met his wife Audrey (Moore) Shaw in the fall of 2002 and they were married in March 2005. They have three children, Madison, 5, Victoria, 2, and Julia, one month.

Eric is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins, including cousin, Daniel Plunkett of Milford, N.H.; aunt, Brenda Shaw and uncle, Rodney Shaw of Corinna; aunt Arlene Gould of Stetson; and grandfather, Bob Gould, also of Stetson.

He is also remembered by mother-in-law, Jane Moore of Augusta; father-in-law, Maurice Moore of Winthrop; and sister-in-law, Ericka Deering and her husband, Troy of Gardiner. His biological mother, Michele Campbell resides in Rhode Island.

Eric was predeceased by his father, Gerald Shaw; his grandmother, Alta Gould; and his paternal grandfather, Byron Shaw from Exeter.

Eric was a loving husband, father and friend. He will be remembered for his charming smile, witty sense of humor, love of the outdoors and the Boston Red Sox. His commitment to the Army is a source of great pride for his family, and he will live on forever in the hearts of his wife and children.

Public visiting hours will be 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, at Plummer Funeral Home, 16 Pleasant St., Augusta. A private funeral service for immediate family and friends will be held at a later date. Burial will be in Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Augusta. Memorial contributions to assist the Shaw family may be made to: Maine Education Credit Union, P.O. Box 1096, Augusta, ME 04330. Please make checks payable to: Eric Shaw Memorial Account.

Three Italian Troops Wounded At Bala Murghab

17 July AKI

Three Italian soldiers were injured Friday during a gunfight with insurgents in western Afghanistan. One of the soldiers is considered to be in serious condition. All three were evacuated by helicopter following the clash that occurred at 11:00 am local time.

The gunfight happened near the town of Bala Murghab in the western Afghan province of Herat, near the site where two Italian soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in May. The Italians were acting as support for Afghan troops.

Earlier Friday, a bomber exploded a device early outside the entrance to an Italian military base in southern Afghanistan in the Herat region injuring three Afghan civilians.

The attacker's bomb detonated after his car rammed a police vehicle near the gate of Camp Arena.

The area was subsequently cordoned off and the blast's victims were taken to the camp hospital.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATIONS

Welcome To Kandahar: Have A Nice Day

Occupation staff inside a bomb shelter during an alarm for a rocket attack in Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 16, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

U.S. Contractor Deaths Soaring In Afghanistan:

"While The Number Of DoD Contractors Rose About 52% In The Last Year, The Number Of Contractor Deaths During That Time Rose 175%"

July 16, 2010 By ABC News' Kristina Wong [Excerpts]

New statistics on U.S. contractor deaths in Afghanistan were released earlier this week.

They show that U.S. contractor deaths are soaring, from 189 last June 30th since the war began in 2001, to 521 this June 30th – an increase of 175% in just one year. These numbers include armed private security contractors, as well as those working on development programs, who are American, Afghan and third-country nationals working under a U.S. contract.

But according to the Department of Labor website, these numbers do not constitute the complete or official casualty statistics of civilian contractor deaths -- just the ones

insurance claims have been filed for, so the percentage could be higher. Also, they do not count contractors hired directly by the U.S. government (not just under a U.S. contract), and it is unclear whether they include Afghans who participate in cash-for-work programs.

To date, there is no reliable way of tracking how many U.S. contractors there are in Afghanistan, according to experts at the Commission for Wartime Contracting, and SIGAR.

The Department of Defense is the only agency that regularly tracks and publishes its count each FY quarter. By the end of March 2010, it had 112,092 contractors in Afghanistan.

Going by the DOD's contractor statistics alone, there was an increase from 73,968 last June to 112,092 this March – a 52% increase, accompanying the rise in U.S. and coalition troops in the past year.

Thus, while the number of DOD contractors rose about 52% in the last year, the number of contractor deaths during that time rose 175%.

A U.S. official told ABC News last week that the Taliban targeting U.S. contractors " is very clear tactic of the Taliban."

The official said in Kandahar city, where Operation Hamkari is taking place, vulnerable contracting companies are being given the option to locate their headquarters on a forward operating base, co-located with the International Security Assistance Force or the U.S. military.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW

U.S. Army soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division patrol in Arghandab District, north of Kandahar July 5, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

July 8, 2010: A United States soldier from the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne on patrol in Arghandab Valley, outside Kandahar City. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

A United States soldier from the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne, climbs on patrol in Arghandab Valley, outside Kandahar City, July 10 ,2010. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS

Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army search a man during a patrol through the village of Kowallin Arghandab District, north of Kandahar July 13, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 94,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA.

[They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, bomb and butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in a military prison endlessly without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives.

[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship killing them wholesale, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.

[What a bunch of silly people.

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE

The casket of Connecticut National Guard Staff Sgt. Edwin Rivera at Jordan Cemetery in Waterford, Conn., June 5, 2010. Rivera died at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on May 25, 2010, five days after he was wounded during a firefight in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

Army Suicides Hit Record Number In June

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

Jul 16 By Liz Goodwin, Yahoo News

Thirty-two soldiers took their own lives last month, the most Army suicides in a single month since the Vietnam era. Eleven of the soldiers were not on active duty. Of the 21 who were, seven were serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, the Department of Defense said.

Last year, a record-breaking 245 soldiers committed suicide.

The Army seems on track to surpass that number this year, as 145 soldiers have taken their lives in the first half of 2010.

CHECK OUT THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING SOLDIER JUST POSTED

http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS31.pdf

THIS ISSUE FEATURING:

ARMY LIFE: "THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AND THEIR GENERAL SELFISHNESS AND HABITUAL EXPLOITATION OF THE LOWER ENLISTED"
By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent Reporting from Germany

"EVEN BEFORE I HAD LEFT THE NAVY I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT PROTECTING FREEDOM OR DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITES STATES"
By F. Bouthillette (USNR, Veteran, Iraq Theatre)

MORE ARMY LIFE: "INTELLIGENCE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE A SENIOR IN THE MILITARY"

By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent Reporting from Germany

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/

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

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

A Progressive Prayer

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

O Lord, please give us this day
Some inconsequential distraction
By a powerless right-wing jerk
That we may divert our eyes
From the perpetual-disappointment machine
That is our own party
Which in thine infinite wisdom
Thou hath placed at the nation’s helm
To do absolutely none of the things
We’d like to believe it stands for
Amen

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

July 17, 1927: Dishonorable Anniversary: A Bloody Day In A 24 Year U.S. Occupation [No, There's Nothing "Neo" About The U.S. Empire]

After taking office on January 1, 1925, Solórzano requested that the United States delay the withdrawal of its troops from Nicaragua. Nicaragua and the United States agreed that United States troops would remain while United States military instructors helped build a national military force.

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

In a significant early use of close air support, a U.S. Marine squadron of seven airplanes dive-bombed rebels and peasants surrounding Marines and Nicaraguan military (then under direct U.S. control) in Ocotal, Nicaragua, killing more than 100.

The rebels were opposed the presence of U.S. forces, essentially continuous since 1909.

United States Occupation 1909-33:

Countrystudies.us/nicaragua/15

United States interest in Nicaragua, which had waned during the last half of the 1800s because of isolationist sentiment following the United States Civil War (1861-65), grew again during the final years of the Zelaya administration.

Angered by the United States choice of Panama for the site of a transisthmian canal, President Zelaya made concessions to Germany and Japan for a competing canal across Nicaragua.

Relations with the United States deteriorated, and civil war erupted in October 1909, when anti-Zelaya liberals joined with a group of conservatives under Juan Estrada to overthrow the government.

The United States broke diplomatic relations with the Zelaya administration after two United States mercenaries serving with the rebels were captured and executed by government forces.

Soon thereafter, 400 United States marines landed on the Caribbean coast.

Weakened and pressured by both domestic and external forces, Zelaya resigned on December 17, 1909. His minister of foreign affairs, José Madriz, was appointed president by the Nicaraguan Congress. A liberal from León, Madriz was unable to restore order under continuing pressure from conservatives and the United States forces, and he resigned on August 20, 1910.

Conservative Estrada, governor of Nicaragua's easternmost department, assumed power after Madriz's resignation. The United States agreed to support Estrada, provided that a Constituent Assembly was elected to write a constitution. After agreeing with this stipulation, a coalition conservative-liberal regime, headed by Estrada, was recognized by the United States on January 1, 1911.

Political differences between the two parties soon surfaced, however, and minister of war General Luis Mena forced Estrada to resign. Estrada's vice president, the conservative Adolfo Díaz, then became president. In mid-1912 Mena persuaded a Constituent Assembly to name him successor to Díaz when Díaz's term expired in 1913.

When the United States refused to recognize the Constituent Assembly's decision, Mena rebelled against the Díaz government. A force led by liberal Benjamín Zelaydón quickly came to the aid of Mena.

Díaz, relying on what was becoming a time-honored tradition, requested assistance from the United States.

In August 1912, a force of 2,700 United States marines once landed again at the ports of Corinto and Bluefields. Mena fled the country, and Zelaydón was killed.

The United States kept a contingent force in Nicaragua almost continually from 1912 until 1933.

Although reduced to 100 in 1913, the contingent served as a reminder of the willingness of the United States to use force and its desire to keep conservative governments in power.

Under United States supervision, national elections were held in 1913, but the liberals refused to participate in the electoral process, and Adolfo Díaz was reelected to a full

term. Foreign investment decreased during this period because of the high levels of violence and political instability.

Nicaragua and the United States signed but never ratified the Castill-Knox Treaty in 1914, giving the United States the right to intervene in Nicaragua to protect United States interest.

A modified version, the Chamorro-Bryan Treaty omitting the intervention clause, was finally ratified by the United States Senate in 1916.

This treaty gave the United States exclusive rights to build an interoceanic canal across Nicaragua. Because the United States had already built the Panama Canal, however, the terms of the Chamorro-Bryan Treaty served the primary purpose of securing United States interests against potential foreign countries--mainly Germany or Japan--building another canal in Central America.

The treaty also transformed Nicaragua into a near United States protectorate.

Collaboration with the United States allowed the conservatives to remain in power until 1925.

The liberals boycotted the 1916 election, and conservative Emiliano Chamorro was elected with no opposition.

The liberals did participate in the 1920 elections, but the backing of the United States and a fraudulent election assured the election of Emiliano Chamorro's uncle, Diego Manuel Chamorro.

A moderate conservative, Carlos Solórzano, was elected president in open elections in 1924, with liberal Juan Bautista Sacasa as his vice president.

After taking office on January 1, 1925, Solórzano requested that the United States delay the withdrawal of its troops from Nicaragua.

Nicaragua and the United States agreed that United States troops would remain while United States military instructors helped build a national military force.

In June, Solórzano's government contracted with retired United States Army Major Calvin B. Carter to establish and train the National Guard. The United States marines left Nicaragua in August 1925. However, President Solórzano, who had already purged the liberals from his coalition government, was subsequently forced out of power in November 1925 by a conservative group who proclaimed General Emiliano Chamorro (who had also served as president from 1917 to 1921), as president in January 1926.

Fearing a new round of conservative-liberal violence and worried that a revolution in Nicaragua might result in a leftist victory as happened a few years earlier in Mexico, the United States sent marines, who landed on the Caribbean coast in May 1926, ostensibly to protect United States citizens and property.

United States authorities in Nicaragua mediated a peace agreement between the liberals and the conservatives in October 1926. Chamorro resigned, and the Nicaraguan

Congress elected Adolfo Díaz as president (Díaz had previously served as president, 1911-16). Violence resumed, however, when former vice president Sacasa returned from exile to claim his rights to the presidency.

In April 1927, the United States sent Henry L. Stimson to mediate the civil war. Once in Nicaragua, Stimson began conversations with President Díaz as well as with leaders from both political parties. Stimson's meetings with General José María Moncada, the leader of the liberal rebels, led to a peaceful solution of the crisis. On May 20, 1927, Moncada agreed to a plan in which both sides--the government and Moncada's liberal forces--would disarm. In addition, a nonpartisan military force would be established under United States supervision. This accord was known as the Pact of Espino Negro.

As part of the agreement, President Díaz would finish his term and United States forces would remain in Nicaragua to maintain order and supervise the 1928 elections.

A truce between the government and the rebels remained in effect and included the disarmament of both liberal rebels and government troops. Sacasa, who refused to sign the agreement, left the country.

United States forces took over the country's military functions, and strengthened the Nicaraguan National Guard.

****

Sandino Begins Nationalist Guerrilla War Against The U.S. Occupation

A rebel liberal group under the leadership of Augusto César Sandino also refused to sign the Pact of Espino Negro.

An illegitimate son of a wealthy landowner and a mestizo servant, Sandino had left his father's home early in his youth and traveled to Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

During his three-year stay in Tampico, Mexico, Sandino had acquired a strong sense of Nicaraguan nationalism and pride in his mestizo heritage.

At the urging of his father, Sandino had returned to Nicaragua in 1926 and settled in the department of Nueva Segovia, where he worked at a gold mine owned by a United States company.

Sandino, who lectured the mine workers about social inequalities and the need to change the political system, soon organized his own army, consisting mostly of peasants and workers, and joined the liberals fighting against the conservative regime of Chamorro.

Highly distrusted by Moncada, Sandino set up hit-and-run operations against conservative forces independently of Moncada's liberal army.

After the United States mediated the agreement between liberal forces and the conservative regime, Sandino, calling Moncada a traitor and denouncing United States intervention, reorganized his forces as the Army for the Defense of Nicaraguan Sovereignty (Ejército Defensor de la Soberanía de Nicaragua-EDSN).

Sandino then staged an independent guerrilla campaign against the government and United States forces.

Although Sandino's original intentions were to restore constitutional government under Sacasa, after the Pact of Espino Negro agreement his objective became the defense of Nicaraguan sovereignty against the United States.

Receiving his main support from the rural population, Sandino resumed his battle against United States troops.

At the height of his guerrilla campaign, Sandino claimed to have some 3,000 soldiers in his army, although official figures estimated the number at only 300.

Sandino's guerrilla war caused significant damage in the Caribbean coast and mining regions.

After debating whether to continue direct fighting against Sandino's forces, the United States opted to develop the nonpartisan Nicaraguan National Guard to contain internal violence. The National Guard would soon become the most important power in Nicaraguan politics.

The late 1920s and early 1930s saw the growing power of Anastasio "Tacho" Somoza García, a leader who would create a dynasty that ruled Nicaragua for four and a half decades.

Moncada won the 1928 presidential elections in one of the most honest elections ever held in Nicaragua. For the 1932 elections, the liberals nominated Juan Bautista Sacasa and the conservatives, Adolfo Díaz. Sacasa won the elections and was installed as president on January 2, 1933.

In the United States, popular opposition to the Nicaraguan intervention rose as United States casualty lists grew.

Anxious to withdraw from Nicaraguan politics, the United States turned over command of the National Guard to the Nicaraguan government, and United States marines left the country soon thereafter.

President Sacasa, under pressure from General Moncada, appointed Somoza García as chief director of the National Guard. Somoza García, a close friend of Moncada and nephew of President Sacasa, had supported the liberal revolt in 1926.

Somoza García also enjoyed support from the United States government because of his participation at the 1927 peace conference as one of Stimson's interpreters. Having attended school in Philadelphia and been trained by United States marines, Somoza García, who was fluent in English, had developed friends with military, economic, and political influence in the United States.

After United States troops left Nicaragua in January 1933, the Sacasa government and the National Guard still were threatened by Sandino's EDSN.

True to his promise to stop fighting after United States marines had left the country, Sandino agreed to discussions with Sacasa. In February 1934, these negotiations began.

During their meetings, Sacasa offered Sandino a general amnesty as well as land and safeguards for him and his guerrilla forces. However, Sandino, who regarded the National Guard as unconstitutional because of its ties to the United States military, insisted on the guard's dissolution.

His attitude made him very unpopular with Somoza Garcia and his guards.

Without consulting the president, Somoza Garcia gave orders for Sandino's assassination, hoping that this action would help him win the loyalty of senior guard officers. On February 21, 1934, while leaving the presidential palace after a dinner with President Sacasa, Sandino and two of his generals were arrested by National Guard officers acting under Somoza García's instructions.

They were then taken to the airfield, executed, and buried in unmarked graves.

Despite Sacasa's strong disapproval of Somoza García's action, the Nicaraguan president was too weak to contain the National Guard director.

After Sandino's execution, the National Guard launched a ruthless campaign against Sandino's supporters. In less than a month, Sandino's army was totally destroyed.

President Sacasa's popularity decreased as a result of his poor leadership and accusations of fraud in the 1934 congressional elections. Somoza García benefited from Sacasa's diminishing power, while at the same time he brought together the National Guard and the Liberal Party (Partido Liberal-PL) in order to win the presidential elections in 1936. Somoza García also cultivated support from former presidents Moncada and Chamorro while consolidating control within the Liberal Party.

Early in 1936, Somoza García openly confronted President Sacasa by using military force to displace local government officials loyal to the president and replacing them with close associates.

Somoza García's increasing military confrontation led to Sacasa's resignation on June 6, 1936. The Congress appointed Carlos Brenes Jarquín, a Somoza García associate, as interim president and postponed presidential elections until December. In November, Somoza García officially resigned as chief director of the National Guard, thus complying with constitutional requirements for eligibility to run for the presidency. The Liberal Nationalist Party (Partido Liberal Nacionalista--PLN) was established with support from a faction of the Conservative Party to support Somoza García's candidacy.

Somoza García was elected president in the December election by the remarkable margin of 107,201 votes to 108.

On January 1, 1937, Somoza García resumed control of the National Guard, combining the roles of president and chief director of the military.

Thus, Somoza García established a military dictatorship, in the shadows of democratic laws, that would last more than four decades.

MORE:

July 17, 1979: Honor Restored:
22 Years Later To The Day, Sandinistas Overthrow The Traitors So Beloved By The U.S. Empire

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

Fighters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front overthrew the U.S.-supported dictatorial regime of Anastasio Somoza in the Central American republic of Nicaragua and forced him to flee the country.

The notorious and feared U.S.-trained National Guard crumbled and its surviving commanders negotiated a surrender, despite their superiority in armaments.

****

THE SANDINISTAS TAKE POWER

Countrystudies.us/nicaragua/15.htm [Excerpts]

The new government inherited a country in ruins, with a stagnant economy and a debt of about US$1.6 billion.

An estimated 50,000 Nicaraguans were dead, 120,000 were exiles in neighboring countries, and 600,000 were homeless. Food and fuel supplies were exhausted, and international relief organizations were trying to deal with disease caused by lack of health supplies.

Yet the attitude of the vast majority of Nicaraguans toward the revolution was decidedly hopeful.

Most Nicaraguans saw the Sandinista victory as an opportunity to create a system free of the political, social, and economic inequalities of the almost universally hated Somoza regime.

One of the immediate goals of the new government was reconstruction of the national economy.

The junta appointed individuals from the private sector to head the government's economic team. They were responsible for renegotiating the foreign debt and channeling foreign economic aid through the state-owned International Reconstruction Fund (Fondo Internacional de Reconstrucción--FIR). The new government received bilateral and multinational financial assistance and also rescheduled the national foreign debt on advantageous terms.

Pledging food for the poor, the junta made restructuring the economy its highest priority.

At first the economy experienced positive growth, largely because of renewed inflow of foreign aid and reconstruction after the war.

The new government enacted the Agrarian Reform Law, beginning with the nationalization of all rural properties owned by the Somoza family or people associated with the Somozas, a total of 2,000 farms representing more than 20 percent of Nicaragua's cultivable land.

These farms became state property under the new Ministry of Agrarian Reform. Large agroexport farms not owned by the Somozas generally were not affected by the agrarian reform. Financial institutions, all in bankruptcy from the massive capital flight during the war, were also nationalized.

The second goal of the Sandinistas was a change in the old government's pattern of repression and brutality toward the general populace.

Many of the Sandinista leaders were victims of torture themselves, and the new minister of interior, Tomás Borge Martínez, tried to keep human rights violations low.

Most prisoners accused of injustices under the Somoza regime were given a trial, and the Ministry of Interior forbade cruelty to prisoners. In their first two years in power, Amnesty International and other human rights groups found the human rights situation in Nicaragua greatly improved.

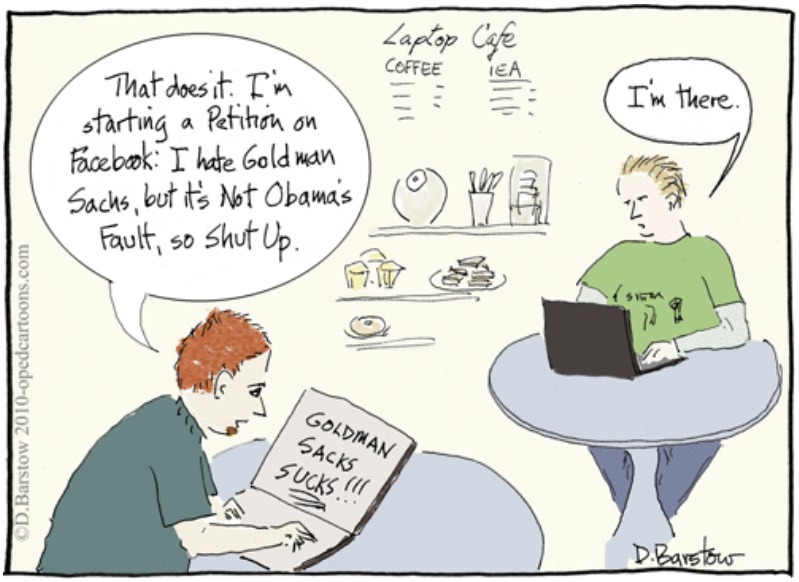
Troops Invited:

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

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalists At Work:

"The Number Of Long-Term Unemployed--People Who Have Been Out Of Work For 26 Weeks Or More--Is At An Unprecedented High"

July 14, 2010 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

MORE THAN 2 million of the longest-suffering victims of the Great Recession have been cut off by Congress' failure to reauthorize extended federal unemployment benefits--pushing them and their families to the edge of destitution.

The announcement that the unemployment rate dropped by 0.2 percent in June came with this grim explanation: More than 650,000 people became so discouraged about the prospect of finding work that they dropped out of the workforce altogether and are no longer counted in official statistics.

The number of long-term unemployed--people who have been out of work for 26 weeks or more--is at an unprecedented high.

Only once in the past 60 years have the long-term jobless made up more than 25 percent of the total unemployed--currently, they are 46 percent and rising.

Some 1.4 million of the unemployed, almost 10 percent of the total, have been out of work for 99 weeks, which puts them past the limit for unemployment insurance, even if Congress reauthorizes extended benefits.

And these statistics don't account for the millions who are classified as underemployed--people who have had to take part-time jobs because full-time work isn't available.

MORE:

"Nearly Seven Million Have Been Without Jobs In The Last Year For Six Months Or Longer"

Jul 16, 2010 By ALEXANDER COCKBURN, CounterPunch Diary [Excerpt]

This summer many Americans are frightened. Over 100,000 of them file for bankruptcy every month.

Three million homeowners face foreclosure this year.

Add them to the 2.8 million who were foreclosed in 2009, Obama's first year in office.

Nearly seven million have been without jobs in the last year for six months or longer. By the time you tot up the people who have given up looking for work and the people on part-time, the total is heading toward 20 million.

MORE:

Real Joblessness Grimmer Than Gov't Stats:
"In The Latest IBD/TIPP Poll Conducted Last Week, 28.6% Of Respondents Said At Least One Member Of Their

Household Is Unemployed And Looking For Work”

07/14/2010 By RAGHAVAN MAYUR, Investor’s Business Daily [Excerpts]

According to Labor Department data, the civilian labor force in June totaled 153.7 million people, 14.6 million (9.5%) of whom were unemployed.

But in the latest IBD/TIPP poll conducted last week, 28.6% of respondents said at least one member of their household is unemployed and looking for work. This number for June was 27.8% and for May 28%.

When we project our household job-seekers rate and calculate the share of Americans who are unemployed and looking for work, we get a job-seeker rate of 24.1% for July for a total of 37 million Americans vs. the government’s aforementioned 14.6 million.

The difference between our crude job-seeker rate of 24.1% and the Labor Department’s jobless rate of 9.5% is night and day.

The difference between our job-seekers (37 million) and Labor’s unemployed (14.6 million) is a staggering 22.4 million.

How does one account for 22 million people? Which is the reality?

To come up with its monthly jobless rate, the Labor Department surveys some 60,000 households.

But the popular unemployment measure that results, dubbed U-3, is not a good indicator, because the department counts as "unemployed" only those who report actively looking for work in the past four weeks.

Some 8.6 million Americans responding to a tight job market have taken part-time jobs, though they’d like to be working full-time.

In calculating U-3, the government counts these "underemployed" people as "employed," which helps reduce the unemployment rate.

Another 6.5 million individuals in the government survey say they want a job, but they are counted as not being part of the labor force ("persons not in the labor force but who currently want a job").

This category includes 2.6 million who are marginally attached persons. Of these passive job-seekers, some have other obligations but would take a job if offered.

Heirs Of The Wealthy Escape Estate Tax:

Congress Allowed The Tax To Lapse This Year For The First Time In Nearly 100 Years

July 16, 2010 By Lisa Mascaro, Chicago Tribune Washington Bureau [Excerpts]

If you're rich, 2010 is a great year to die.

This is the year that Congress has allowed the estate tax to lapse, allowing heirs to receive their windfalls without Uncle Sam taking a cut for the first time in nearly 100 years.

A reminder came this week with the passing of billionaire New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner.

The baseball titan's heirs are likely to escape about $500 million in taxes, experts estimate, a fortune that has spotlighted Bush-era tax policies and the long debate over whether government spending or tax cutting is best for a shaky economy.

Other recently deceased billionaires, cited by Forbes magazine, include California real estate developer Walter H. Shorenstein, Houston oil man Dan L. Duncan, and a member of the Minnesota family that founded agricultural giant Cargill Inc.

Some type of inheritance tax has been around since the early days of the nation. The tax has been used primarily to finance wars, including the Civil War, and a more permanent version of the tax was established in 1916, according to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website http://www.militaryproject.org .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:
http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/ ;
news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/

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

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