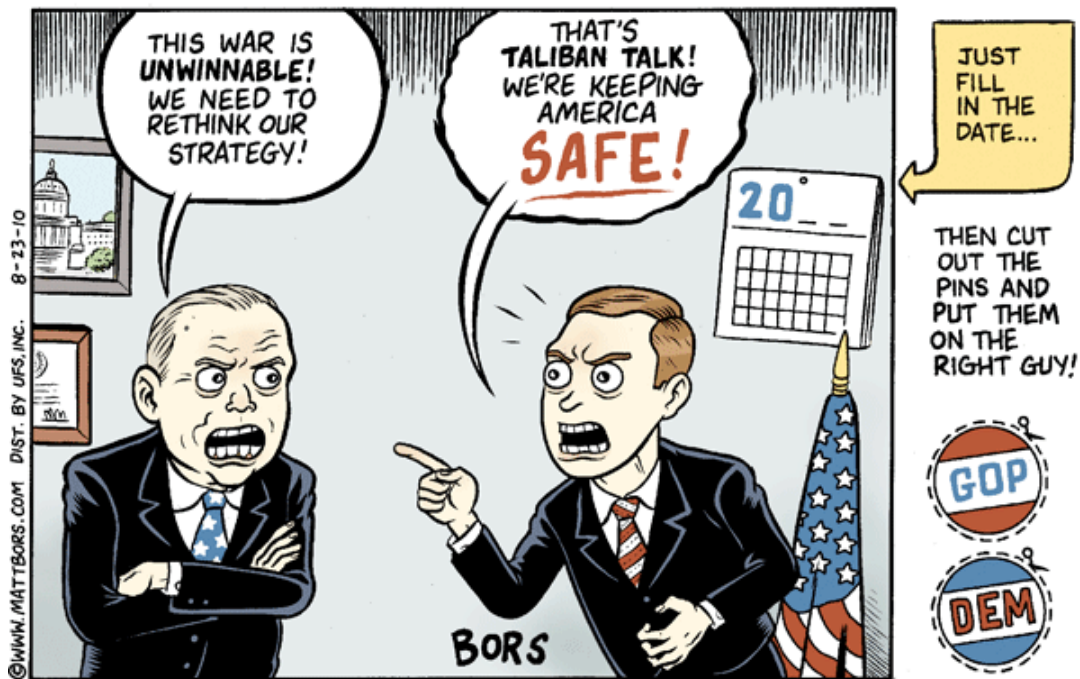


Military Resistance 812

WE'LL BE IN AFGHANISTAN FOREVER. HERE'S A CARTOON YOU CAN REUSE WITH EACH NEW ADMINISTRATION!



**Depositors Panic Over Bank Crisis In Afghanistan:
After President Karzai's Brother And Other Scum Loot The Kabul Bank, Little Is Left For Depositors:**

“The Government Is Corrupt, And That Corruption Is Spreading”
“Loans Made To Powerful People Exceeded Legal Limits Or Were Unsecured, According To Afghan Officials”
“Denying Salaries To Men With Guns Is Not A Winning Policy In Any Country”

“Depositors are not going stand around drinking lattes and waiting for their money,” laughed Najib, a young scholar who has recently returned from a year in the United States.

“These guys have Kalashnikovs.”

September 3, 2010 By GlobalPost's Jean MacKenzie & By DEXTER FILKINS,
September 2, 2010, New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — One of the principal owners of the Afghan bank at the center of an accelerating financial crisis here said depositors had withdrawn \$180 million in the past two days.

He predicted a “revolution” in the country’s financial system unless the Afghan government and the United States moved quickly to help stabilize the bank.

Khalilullah Frozi ... predicted that if Afghan depositors continued to withdraw their money at the current rate, Kabul Bank would almost certainly collapse, undermining confidence in the nascent financial system the Afghans have been trying to build with American help.

“If this goes on, we won’t survive,” Mr. Frozi said in an interview.

President Hamid Karzai has tried to reassure his worried countrymen that their deposits in the troubled Kabul Bank are safe, blaming any panic on the Western media.

Kabul Bank, one of the country's largest, is in deep trouble. With just over \$1 billion in assets, according to its latest audited statement from 2009, it has more than \$990 million in liabilities. It is also facing potential losses of close to \$300 million, according to government officials.

The central bank, known as Da Afghanistan Bank, stepped in on Tuesday to try and bring some order out of the deepening chaos, removing the bank's chairman, Sher Khan Farnood, as well as its chief executive officer, Khalilullah Ferozi. Both men were major stakeholders in the bank, each holding slightly more than 28 percent of the stock.

Afghan and American officials say the two men presided over the bank in a reckless and freewheeling manner, doling out millions to allies of President Hamid Karzai and pouring money into risky investments that crashed.

Third on the list was Mahmoud Karzai, brother of the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, who held 7 percent.

Karzai late on Thursday did not deny that Kabul Bank had its difficulties, but insisted that the government was able to control the situation.

But his remarks are unlikely to quell the growing fears among his countrymen, hundreds of whom were lined up in the hot sun outside the main branch of Kabul Bank on Thursday, patiently waiting their turn. Inside, the crush was almost suffocating - there was barely room to push between the crowds desperately trying, first to get a number, then to be served.

"We do not trust this bank any more," said a young man who identified himself as a researcher at a local think tank.

"The government is corrupt, and that corruption is spreading."

Some lucky few could be seen walking away with bags filled to the brim with dollars and afghani, the local currency. One man in a grey suit had wrapped both of his arms around his precious package, while beside him a uniformed bodyguard swaggered.

Much more casual was a young man in the characteristic Afghan pirohon-tunbon, loose pants topped by a buttoned tunic. He had no bodyguard, just a large, heavy-looking, yellow plastic bag, which he placed nonchalantly on the sidewalk as he spoke.

"I work for a USAID project," he explained, referring to the U.S. Agency for International Development, which runs multi-million dollar programs inside the country. "Our bosses told us to take all of our money out of Kabul Bank. The bank gave me everything I asked for."

He had been there since early morning, he explained.

Aini, 22, said he had arrived at 10 a.m. and had already been waiting for an hour and a half. "I am Number 688," he said wryly. "It will be at least another two hours before I can get money."

But the bank closed its doors at 2 p.m. because of the Ramadan fast. Many customers will walk away unsatisfied.

Kabul Bank's problems were most likely due to the same close political connections that had ensured its success.

Protected by high-ranking connections, and spreading money freely among the political elite, Kabul Bank engaged in practices that soon landed it in hot water.

According to numerous reports, Farnood used bank funds to purchase up to \$160 million in property on Dubai's lavish Palm Jumeirah, an artificial island on the Persian Gulf built in the shape of a palm tree and catering to the super-rich.

Mahmoud Karzai had been living in a seaside villa belonging to Kabul Bank for about a year and a half. He told Al Jazeera television on Tuesday that he did not own any of the properties, but had been renting his villa from Farnood. He promised that he would relinquish the property and seek another address.

But the bottom dropped out of Dubai's property market two years ago, making Farnood's villas a liability rather than an asset. Once he signs over the deeds to the Kabul Bank, as he has promised to do, the financial institution is likely to find itself facing a hefty loss.

Other loans made to powerful people exceeded legal limits or were unsecured, according to Afghan officials.

And the bank was renowned for oiling the political machines of those close to the center of power. Kabul Bank reportedly bankrolled Karzai's presidential campaign last year, and has, by all accounts, been spreading the wealth among this year's crop of pro-government parliamentary candidates.

"There is a distinct linkage between business and politics," said Haroon Mir, head of the Afghanistan Center for Research and Policy Studies. He was speaking just hours before the scandal broke.

"We all know that Kabul Bank is bribing ministers. But no one goes after Kabul Bank. Instead they go after the politicians."

But the central bank has been at some pains to downplay the scandal, hoping to avert wholesale panic. With more than \$975 million on the books in customers' deposits, a run on the bank could force it to close its doors.

In volatile Helmand province, where the news of the crisis sparked a major run on the small branch, a uniformed guard had to hold off angry depositors at gunpoint.

Farhod Ahmad, a soldier with the Afghan national Army 5th battalion, who has been stationed in Helmand for six months, said he would withdraw whatever he could once he managed to get inside.

"I am going to put it in my jacket bank," he laughed, patting his pocket."

Even in the more cosmopolitan Kabul, the crisis could do serious and long-term damage to the Afghan banking industry. Many of those waiting to withdraw their money on Thursday said they would not put it back in any other bank.

"I don't trust any Afghan bank," said a young woman in black, wearing braces on her teeth. She gave her name as Mutahar.

"I will take all of my money out, and I won't go near any bank associated with this government."

Others said they would put their cash in one of the foreign banks operating in Afghanistan, such as Alfalah, owned by the Abu Dhabi Group.

"Nobody is really worried," said one burly, mustached man who said his name was Mahmoud. "The money in Kabul Bank is guaranteed by the central bank. It was just a switch of directors."

He then added, confidently if erroneously, " My money is insured by the central government."

The central bank does not, in fact, insure individual deposits.

Denying salaries to men with guns is not a winning policy in any country.

"Depositors are not going stand around drinking lattes and waiting for their money," laughed Najib, a young scholar who has recently returned from a year in the United States.

"These guys have Kalashnikovs."

Kabul Bank, one of the biggest private financial institutions that sprang up after the fall of the Taliban, stands at the very center of Afghanistan's political and economic elite.

One of Mr. Karzai's brothers, Mahmoud, is a major shareholder, as is Haseen Fahim, the brother of the Afghan first vice president.

The bank lent Mr. Fahim, a prominent businessman, as much as \$100 million, officials say.

His brother, Muhammad Fahim, the Afghan first vice president, has been calling bank officials repeatedly this week from Germany to try to save whatever he can of his family's money, two Afghans close to the bank said.

The bank helped finance President Karzai's re-election campaign last year, giving him as much as \$14 million, according to a former senior Afghan official.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

Sept. 2 Reuters & DPA & Sept 3 (Reuters)

Al-Hilla, Iraq - One Iraqi soldier was killed and another was injured while trying to defuse a roadside bomb in the city of al-Hilla Thursday. The bomb exploded while the soldiers were attempting to defuse it. The incident took place in the area of Jarf al-Saghr in al-Hilla, some 100 kilometres south of Baghdad.

MOSUL - A policeman was killed by a bomb when it exploded near a mosque in southwestern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb wounded an Iraqi army officer and a soldier when it exploded near their patrol in western Mosul, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded two policemen and a government-backed militia member, when it exploded near a police checkpoint in Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a police officer's car wounded him and killed his brother in Baghdad's western district of Amiriya, on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb near an Iraqi army patrol wounded three soldiers in Baghdad's western district of Khadra, on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - Nationalist militants shot dead Jameel Shihab Ahmed, head of financial administrative affairs in the Higher Education Ministry, in Baghdad's western district of Amiriya, police said.

TUZ KHURMATO - Nationalist militants attacked a government-backed militia checkpoint and shot dead one member in Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb wounded an Iraqi soldier when it exploded near his patrol in western Mosul, police said.

FALLUJA - Nationalist militants sprayed municipal officer Farouq al- Gertani's car with bullets, wounding him and killing two of his bodyguards, including his brother, near the town of al-Mashahda, north of Baghdad, police said.

BAIJI - Nationalist militants attacked a government-backed militia checkpoint late on Wednesday, killing two members and wounding five others in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Seven Fort Carson Soldiers Reported Killed In Afghanistan



From left, Pfc. Chad D. Clements, Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Kessler, Staff Sgt. Jesse Infante, are shown. These Fort Carson soldiers were killed when their unit was attacked with an improvised bomb in Afghanistan. Killed in Monday's attack were Staff Sgt. Jesse Infante, 30, of Cypress, Texas; Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Kessler, 32, of Canton, Ohio; and Pfc. Chad D. Clements, 26, of Huntington, Ind. (AP Photo/Fort Carson Public Affairs)

09/02/2010 By Tom Roeder, The Gazette

The Pentagon said that five Fort Carson soldiers were killed Monday by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, and two other deaths have been confirmed by family members.

The five died Monday when their unit was attacked while on patrol in the Arghandab River Valley, near Kandahar.

They were identified as Capt. Dale Goetz, 43, of White, S.D.; Staff Sgt. Jesse Infante, 30, of Cypress, Texas; Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Kessler, 32, of Canton, Ohio; and Pfc. Chad D. Clements, 26, of Huntington, Ind., of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and Staff Sgt. Matthew J. West, 36, of Conover, Wis., of the 71st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group.

Two other deaths confirmed by family members haven't been announced by the Pentagon.

Fort Carson Staff Sgt. Casey J. Grochowiak died in Afghan combat Monday, his father, Ed Grochowiak, confirmed Wednesday.

Family members told The Gazette that 1st Lt. Mark Noziska, 24, of Grand Island, Neb., also died in Afghanistan on Monday.

The bulk of Fort Carson soldiers in Afghanistan are serving with the 1st Brigade Combat Team. The 3,800-soldier unit is assigned to southern and western Afghanistan where its troops are responsible for training Afghan military and police units.

The 71st Group soldiers are Fort Carson's bomb-disposal experts who are trained to track down hidden roadside bombs and destroy them.

The deaths come as combat heats up between U.S. forces and the resurgent Taliban. The Pentagon has reported 56 Americans killed in Afghanistan in August.

The bombing that killed five Fort Carson troops is the deadliest incident for the post since eight soldiers fell in a Afghanistan firefight last fall.

The Defense Department said Wednesday that Goetz is the first American chaplain killed in the 9-year-old Afghanistan war. He is the first Fort Carson chaplain to be killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Friends say the Baptist minister was an Air Force veteran who joined the Army's chaplaincy because he desired to help others.

"He was definitely a fun-loving man, an energetic kind of fellow," said the Rev. Jason Parker, Goetz's pastor at High Country Baptist Church in Colorado Springs.

Parker said Goetz had joined his church the day before he left for Afghanistan. "His goal as a chaplain was not to be a social worker, but to be a spiritual guide," Parker said.

Goetz had served in Iraq. The married father of three feared fighting in Afghanistan, but had high goals for his year at war, said the Rev. Stuart Schwenke, an Iowa pastor who went through ministerial training with Goetz.

He worked through the summer teaching soldiers how to strengthen their marriages and to prepare their families for the long separation. In Afghanistan, Goetz wanted to bring 300 soldiers to know Jesus and had told friends that three GIs had accepted Christ in his first month overseas. Friends said they knew Goetz would see combat alongside the soldiers who made up his flock. Goetz had a calm demeanor that helped soldiers find strength in the darkest of times, Schwenke said. "He brought peace in the midst of turmoil," Schwenke said. Goetz had earned the Meritorious Service Medal and was a three-time recipient of the Army Commendation Medal.

Infante, a 10-year veteran of the Army, served a year in Iraq before deploying again in late July. He was a bomb disposal specialist who served with the 1st Brigade's 4th Support Battalion, and planned to spend his career in the Army, his family told the Houston Chronicle.

His stepmother, Nancy Infante, told the newspaper that Jesse Infante was hoping to be home for the birth of his son in November and that he planned to name child Jesse. He also had a 6-year-old daughter, Cassandra.

Jesse Infante was born and raised in Houston and graduated in 1999 from Sam Houston High School, where he joined the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Chronicle reported.

“He was a great man, a great soldier,” Nancy Infante told the newspaper. “He was out there fighting for all of us and we’re all going to miss him.”

He was a three-time recipient of both the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Clements joined the Army in 2009 and was trained as a truck driver. The Indiana native went to Afghanistan in July on his first war deployment. He served there with the brigade’s support battalion, driving vehicles along dangerous roads where bombings and ambushes are increasingly common.

Clements hadn’t been in the Army long enough to earn high honors, but his reason for service was clear, family members said.

“Chad had a big heart,” Danielle Clements said in a Facebook message sent to The Journal Gazette of Fort Wayne, Ind. On Facebook.com, Clements’ friends reacted to his death with shock, grief and anger. “I will get them for you, bro,” one friend wrote.

Kessler, 32, also was a truck driver. He served two tours in Iraq before deploying to Afghanistan in May.

He was honored with the Army Commendation Medal for valor for his work in combat and is a seven-time recipient of the Army Achievement Medal. He was with the 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

His uncle, Barney Kessler, said he was the oldest of four children and had been married to his wife Adrian for more than five years. The couple, who lived in Colorado Springs, has been trying to have a baby for years and found out Adrian was pregnant just before his deployment.

“He was happy no matter how bad a mood he should have been in,” Barney Kessler said. “He never talked negative.”

He said his nephew joined the Army in 2004 when he needed a job and thought it would be a good career move. “He was proud of being in the Army. He was proud to serve his county.”

West, a bomb disposal expert and Bronze Star recipient, left for Afghanistan in late July, after serving earlier tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, Fort Carson service records show.

He was a 1992 graduate of Gaylord High School in northern Michigan and received a bachelor’s degree in 1997 from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich., according to news reports.

His wife, Carolyn, and three children live in Colorado Springs, according to a report in the Gaylord News Herald in Michigan.

Grochowiak, 34, was riding in a convoy Monday that was stopped by suspicious activity on the road. He and his platoon leader stopped and got out to investigate and were hit by a roadside bomb, his father said.

“They were killed instantly,” Ed Grochowiak said from Dover, Del., where several family members were awaiting the return of his son’s body.

Grochowiak was a native of San Diego County in California and was athletic and loved to surf, ski and snowboard, Ed Grochowiak said.

After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Celestina, in 1995, and worked construction jobs before enlisting in the Army in 1999.

“He really excelled in the Army,” Ed Grochowiak said. “He decided to be career Army.”

Casey Grochowiak was selected for infantry school, and served seven years in the 82nd Airborne before volunteering for Ranger school where he ended up teaching at the “swamp school” in Florida for three years.

When he wasn’t showing aspiring Rangers how to catch and eat poisonous snakes, he loved to spend time with his wife and their two children, 14-year-old Matia and 6-year-old Deegan, all of Colorado Springs.

“He and his kids were inseparable,” Ed Grochowiak said. “He was a great father and husband.”

As previously reported, family members said Mark Noziska also was killed Monday by an improvised bomb. He was a graduate of Papillion-La Vista High School in Nebraska and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

“He was kind of a prankster. He liked to have fun, and he did everything with a smile,” said his older brother, Troy Noziska.

2 U.S. Troops Killed Somehow Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Thursday

9.2.2010 AP

Two American troops died in fighting in Afghanistan on Thursday.

NATO said one U.S. service member was killed in the country's east and the other in the south — regions where fighting between the coalition and Taliban insurgents has been at its most intense. No other details were given in keeping with standard NATO procedure.

Local Soldier Injured In Kunar;

Two Others Killed

September 3, 2010 WHIOTV

PREBLE COUNTY, Ohio -- A Whitewater Valley soldier is recovering Friday from an attack he endured while serving in Afghanistan.

Kyle Petry is a 2000 graduate of National Trail High School.

He is an Army Sergeant and squad leader for a unit called Task Force Bulldog, which is helping to provide security in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province.

Petry was seriously injured when the vehicle he was riding in struck a landmine. Two of the three soldiers in the vehicle were killed.

Petry was taken to the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C., where he was listed in stable condition Friday.

Meanwhile, another Randolph County school administrator is headed to the Middle East.

Monroe Central School Board Member Dennis Patty resigned this week to work as a contractor in Afghanistan for the next year. Monroe Centrals superintendent, Shane Robbins, is already there. Hes serving with the Indiana National Guard.

California Soldier Killed In Babur



U.S. Army Spc. Andrew J. Castro, 20, of Westlake Village, Calif., was killed Aug. 28, 2010 when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Babur, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/US Army)

U.S. “Servicemember” Killed Somehow Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

9.2.2010 AP

Friday, a U.S. service member was killed in fighting in southern Afghanistan, NATO said. No further details were released.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: The Slaughter Of The Takhar Election Campaign Workers

September 2, 2010 The New York Times & Reuters [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — Airstrikes by U.S. forces that killed 12 people on Thursday in northern Afghanistan have produced sharply conflicting accounts as to whether the attacks hit a team of election campaign workers, including the parliamentary candidate himself, or a group connected with an Uzbek terrorist network.

Thursday's attack happened in the Rostaq district of Takhar, a relatively peaceful province in the north near Tajikistan, said a spokesman for the provincial governor, unlike areas in the south and east where the resurgent Taliban are mostly active.

Spokesman Faiz Mohammad Tawhidi said the candidate, Abdul Wahid, and some of his supporters were wounded in the air strike, which Tawhidi said included two helicopters and two fixed-wing aircraft.

Afghan officials in Kabul and in Takhar Province said two U.S. jets fired twice on a convoy of campaign workers.

The candidate, Abdul Wahid Khurasani, was among three wounded.

“What reaction can I have?” said Mr. Khurasani by telephone from his hospital bed in Kabul, where he was being treated for minor injuries. “NATO came in, killed my supporters and my campaigners. They are powerful, what can I do? I cannot do anything.”

When told of NATO's claim that the convoy included people linked with the Islamic movement, Mr. Khurasani said, “That is an absolute lie.”

Mr. Khurasani, an ethnic Uzbek, is running for office for the first time. He previously served as the head of information and culture in Takhar and was also the director of state-run radio and television.

Mohammad Hussein, the district chief of Rustaq, where the airstrike happened, said Mr. Khurasani's entourage included a man named Amanullah, a former jihadist commander who had recently returned from an extended trip to Pakistan.

Mr. Khurasani said Mr. Amanullah was a relative and a strong supporter of his candidacy, and not a terrorist.

Mr. Khurasani said the attacks struck six vehicles in his convoy, all draped with campaign posters.

WELCOME TO OBAMAWORLD: WHERE EVERY DEATH IN COMBAT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING AT ALL



Hospital personnel attempt to revive a badly wounded Marine after he was brought in by medevac helicopter at Camp Dwyer near the town of Marjah in Helmand Province, August 20, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

“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

MILITARY NEWS

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



The casket of Lance Cpl. Kevin Cornelius at Arlington National Cemetery Aug. 31, 2010. Cornelius of Ashtabula, Ohio, was killed in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

THE UXO COLLECTIVE & IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR PRESENT

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THE WARS END ON
SEPTEMBER 10TH
11 AM, FREEDOM PLAZA, DC

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.

-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

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

-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt

It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.

-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers

**Liberation Anniversary;
September 3, 1838
“It Is Not Light That Is Needed, But
Fire”**



Frederick Douglass

Carl Bunin Peace History September 3-9

Frederick Douglass made his escape from slavery in Baltimore and went on in life to become an Abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate.

[During the Civil War, he pressed relentlessly for the enlistments of former slaves into the U.S. army, and when this was permitted, they served with honor and played an important role in defeating the slave-owning traitors who formed the Confederacy. T]

Frederick Douglass:

“Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”

“Power concedes nothing without demand. It never has and never will.”

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning.”

“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.”

“I have found that, to make a contented slave, it is necessary to make a thoughtless one.”

“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.”

September 4, 1970: Happy Anniversary: Operation Raw



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10

September 4, 1970

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) began Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal).

Over the following three days more than 200 veterans, assisted by the Philadelphia Guerilla Theater, staged a march from Morristown, New Jersey, to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, reenacting the invasion of small rural hamlets along the way.

MORE:

Operation Raw **From The Days When U.S. Soldiers Rebelled And Stopped A War**

[From GI Special 3D22: 11.22.05]

By Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968
Letters To The Editor
Revolutionary Worker, April 9, 1985

It was Labor Day weekend 1970 — the end of summer when tradition in America is for friends and family to gather in back yards, beaches, and parks.

It was 10:30 a.m. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and a company of infantry swept into town, seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up roadblocks and taking civilian prisoners.

Anyone fleeing was killed, the rest were tortured and then killed just for being there. The younger women were particularly manhandled and abused before being killed. At 10:45 a.m., once again on alert, the company marched south of the town, leaving a trail of bloody bodies and survivors standing in their yards and streets, mute with shock, unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers. Leaflets lay in the streets which said:

“A U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY JUST CAME THROUGH HERE.”

“If you had been Vietnamese:

—We might have burned your house.

—We might have shot your dog.

—We might have shot you.

—We might have raped the women.

—We might have turned you over to your government for torture.

—We might have taken souvenirs from your property.

—We might have shot things up a bit.

—We might have done all these things to you and your whole town.

“If it doesn’t bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are ‘gooks,’ then picture yourself as one of the silent victims. Help us to end the war before they turn your son into a butcher. . . or a corpse. Signed Vietnam Veterans Against the War.”

With No Business As Usual Day fast approaching (and coming by coincidence right before the tenth anniversary of the U.S. defeat in Vietnam), I thought it was just the right time to recount this political action carried out by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

This was Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a four-day simulated, 90-mile search-and-destroy mission through eleven rural towns and villages from Morristown, New Jersey to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

By the end of four days 125 veterans and a few active-duty GIs had formed four platoons and two recon squads to reenact thirteen “incidents” like described above.

It was “theater,” but these reenactments brought home a powerful political statement that shook up the stultifying atmosphere in the middle-America towns which had largely escaped the mass upsurges of the time.

Formed in 1968 to lobby, this was VVAW’s first breakout action to bring the war home. As Scott Moore, a member of its executive committee, said at a press conference: “The time for talk has come to an end for VVAW. We have been talking for three years to no avail. We are now proceeding on a course of action.” The discussion of planning leading up to it had asked the questions of how to break through the normal business as usual protests that had been going on, to shake things up and expose the truth.

“Montgomeryville, PA., September 6, 1500 hours: We liberated a shopping center. The platoon surrounded it front and back and we took seven prisoners from the crowd. We interrogated them, then beat the shit out of them. After they’d been executed, we carried one girl who looked like she was fourteen over to the side of the road and mauled her with the butts of our rifles. Blood streamed down her head and soaked her torso. Maybe 150 cars passed by. Everyone looked, then turned aside. They didn’t look again. No one stopped. They couldn’t stand to look at the bloody little kid” (excerpt from the Camden, NJ Courier Post reporting on the demonstration).

A local guerrilla theater company agreed to play the townspeople in the prearranged skits; towns and roads were mapped in advance so that as the company surrounded a home or a village — with walkie-talkies screaming and vets running all over the place, blood capsules bursting on library steps in front of meat stores — there was a sense of realism in the air as America’s safe hamlets were invaded. There could be no business as usual today.

Though their rifles were toy props, most of the vets were not acting.

In a few cases they had been doing this for real only a short time before, and in several “incidents” they went right to the edge of reality in carrying out their mission.

In town after town, and once by a county fair, homes were mock-burned, free fire zones formed, hostages taken for interrogation, and onlookers were given a taste of what the Vietnamese people were forced to live with.

None of the audience liked being called “round-eyed gooks,” offended by the sharp language of the leaflets being handed out. Reactions ranged from disbelief and shock to embarrassed laughter to damning U.S. involvement to some who thought the uniform was being disgraced.

Local communes and peace groups met the vets at different points with banners, signs, cars honking, fists out of windows. On September 5 this march met up with and camped with 60 members of the offshoot of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called MAN, Making a Nation, who were themselves marching to the UN to protest American failure to sign the antigenocide bill.

The tempo picked up as the march neared the end and word spread of this “forced raid into America.” The vets themselves got strong in their determination to see it through.

At night the campsites were not drunken beerfests but preparation of another type — political discussion over what was the next step, what should our objectives be, how to reach out to the millions of vets and GIs out there trying to figure this out also.

This was sharp as there was a wide range of opinion — some were just basically opposed to Americans dying, with much discussion about the nature of imperialism, while others were revolutionaries working for the defeat of America. (All this with rotating night patrols on the perimeter -- — the campsite owners had been threatened by a local citizens committee, a car had tried to run someone down and a shotgun had been pointed out the window of a home along the route of march.)

The two sharpest points agreed to were (1) a series of objectives that drew the links between the racism and sexism to what America did around the world and that VVAW work toward getting all American soldiers and CIA out of every country in the world, and (2) a specific call to prepare for a series of war crimes investigations — the famous “Winter Soldier” hearings — to “place the blame where it properly belongs, on administration and military officials and all those who dictate policy and remain silent or profit from war.”

As one vet summed up his feelings about the weekend: “the spirit that we would never again fight *for* America — America was the enemy that had to be stopped, that we were fighting as part of and for a different world — this became real on the march for me and became a guide for many vets later on.”

By the last day, spirits were high as the vets encountered a last bit of opposition — a pitiful display of what America has to offer — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, and John Birch Society denouncing the vets for not being vets and calling people to god and country.

The vets laughed at this as they reached Valley Forge, Pennsylvania where they formed up on a hilt, single file along the top, “rifles” up for a final assault. They moved down the hill as if back in Vietnam sweeping through a rice paddy — angrily chanting for American withdrawal.

For the crowd of 1,500-2,000 at the rally site below — now standing up and cheering — the scene had a chilling’ scary effect — a final sense of what it must have been like to be Vietnamese in Vietnam in 1970.

“Joe Urgo, GI antiwar activist in Vietnam 1968; former national officer of Vietnam Veterans Against the War; organizer for Winter Soldier Investigation and Dewey Canyon 3, 1971; first Vietnam vet to travel to Hanoi in support of the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people; member of VVAW (Anti-Imperialist).”

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



No Shit?

September 01, 2010 by John Barry, Newsweek [Excerpts]

There is a real risk that President Obama's claim in his Oval Office address that "the American combat mission has ended" in Iraq may come to rank with President Bush's ill-judged boast of "mission accomplished" back in May 2003.

The 50,000 American troops remaining in Iraq have as their mission now the training and support of Iraq's own forces.

But training for combat is a hands-on affair. U.S. troops will be going out on missions with the Iraqi units they are mentoring. American Special Operations Forces will continue their hunt for enemies wreaking havoc with car bombs. Firefights are inevitable.

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