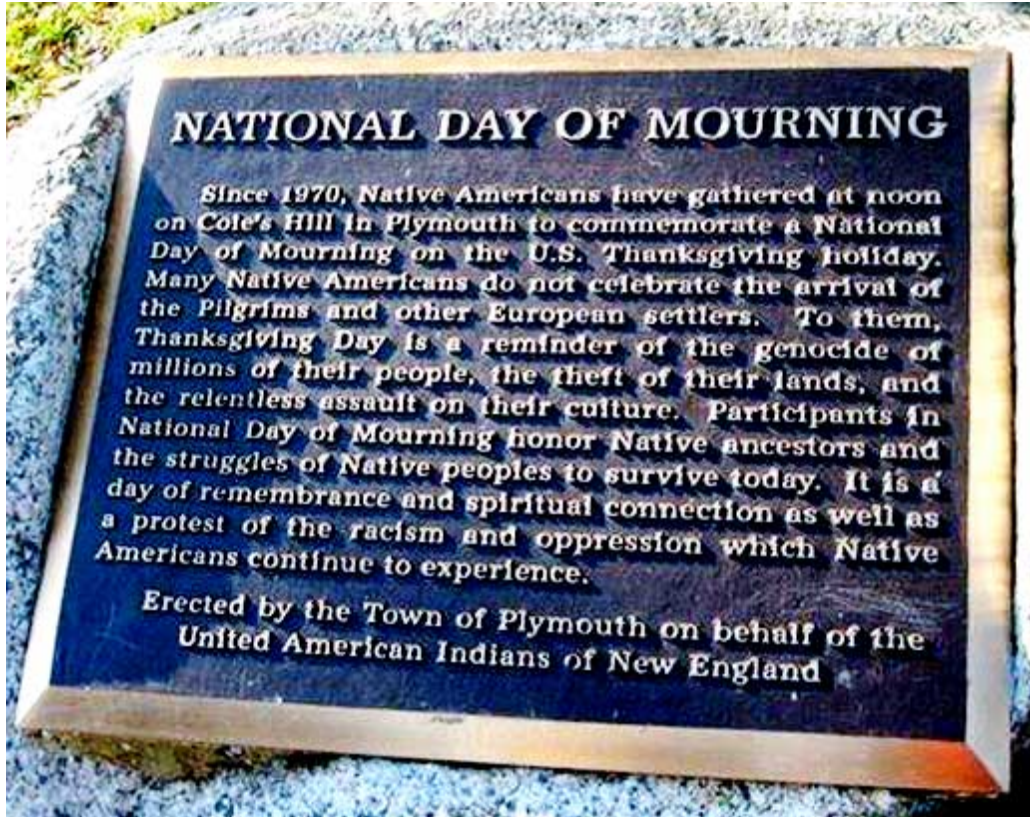


Military Resistance 8K23



Thanks

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 26, 2008
Subject: Thanks by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Thanks

Let's thank Columbus for finding India
thank the Indians for giving us their country

sure, some of them didn't, so we had to kill them
Let's give thanks to the Puritans for giving us
crazy Evangelists like today
Thank the British for giving us their colony
as we gave up on Vietnam too
much later in time
Let us give thanks to Washington
and the Revolutionaries
as the Elite took control afterwards
Let us give thanks for a Paradise
that we plundered cutting down
virgin lumber, gold and silver and coal
as the immigrants came over with the slave ships
to build plantations and pick cotton
as their Masters threw them pig guts to eat
Let us give thanks for the North
who fought in the Civil War
killing Johnny Rebel killing thousands
in just one day
Let us give thanks for the Louisiana Purchase
from the French which was not theirs to sell
give thanks for the Mexican land
killing Mexicans like we still do today
Let us give thanks to the Mormons
those gay haters who live by the salt cult
Then let us give thanks for Industry
as the steel mills stink their orange lava flows
as Henry Ford made the Model T
Then there was World War I that a lying President
said we'd never see there is peace
then there is war.
Let us give thanks for Wall Street crashing down
then the Depression like today
when everybody was broke except the rich man
who drove his expensive car
and let the dust blow all over
Then there was WWII that we made money on
selling the British war supplies
until they were almost broke
so we jumped in as the Japanese
bombed Pearl Harbor so we dropped
2 atom bombs and we dropped so many
regular bombs on Europe
destroying ancient cities hundreds and
thousands of years old
Then Korea and you have to wonder
what we are so grateful for
There is just peace and then war
there is just peace and then Vietnam
there is just peace then there is war
there is peace then there is Iraq

there is peace then there is war
there is peace then there is Afghanistan
and one wonders what we
are so grateful for

MORE:

THE EAGLE DIED

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 26, 2009
Subject: THE EAGLE DIED
Written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance 2009

**Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th
Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against
The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan**

THE EAGLE DIED

AMERICA IS A TURKEY
AN IED THAT POPS UP
BLOWS UP AS A MOTHER
JUST WAS TOLD HER SON
DIED IN AFGHANISTAN
AMERICA IS A TURKEY AS
THE WAR DEBT POPS UP
INTO TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS
AS A MOTHER CHECKS HER
TURKEY AND IS BLOWN UP
WHEN SHE LEARNS HER SON
JUST DIED IN IRAQ FROM
AN IED THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON IN IRAQ AND
AFGHANISTAN NO MATTER
HOW BIG THEY BUILD THE
ROLLING TURKEY DEATH TRAPS
THE TALIBAN JUST BUILDS
BIGGER ROADSIDE BOMBS
HELL BUILD YOUR ROLLING
COFFINS A HUNDRED FEET
LONG THEN THE TALIBAN
WILL BUILD AN IED AS BIG
AS A MILLION TURKEYS
AS ANOTHER MOTHER
CHECKS OUT TWO MEN

WALKING TO HER DOOR
POPPING UP
BECAUSE AMERICA IS A
TURKEY AND WILL BLOW
ITSELF UP SOON AND NOW
WITH HOMELESSNESS
JOBLESSNESS LIFELESSNESS
DEATH TURKEY DRESSING
FLOWING LIKE PUKE
DOWN MAIN STREET INTO
A GIANT POOL OF GARBAGE
THAT AMERICA IS A TURKEY
EATING ON AMERICA IS A
TURKEY DAY

MORE:

Poet and Veteran for Peace (For Dennis Serdel)

From: Greg Shotwell
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 23, 2010
Subject: Poet and Veteran for Peace

Poet and Veteran for Peace (for Dennis Serdel)

By Gregg Shotwell

He picks up a pen
the way he picked up an M-16,
slogged his way through saw grass,
thicker than whiskers, sharper than razors.
He picks up a pen like a man
seeking an enemy he hasn't met.

He picks up a pen
the way he picked up a pry bar,
forced his will to convince steel
he had the leverage and superior strength.
He picks up a pen like a man
determined to separate deception from fact.

He picks up a pen
the way he picked up a soldier wounded in action,
carried him out of the line of fire,
and made promises to him God couldn't understand.
He picks up a pen like a man

risking his life for a loyalty he believes in.

He picks up a pen
the way he picked up a hammer,
pounded nails through wood hard as facts,
sunk in two strokes, his standard of measure.
He picks up a pen like a man
building shelter to outlast the next generation.

He picks up a pen
the way he picked up his infant,
gazed into his eyes and begged forgiveness
for every time he would fail him hereafter.
He picks up a pen like a man
fully committed to vulnerability.

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

November 24 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

“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**

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

General Betrayus “Can’t Even Tell The Difference Between A No- Name Faker And A Senior Member Of The Taliban”

**“The West Was Putting Planes And
Assets At The Poseur’s Disposal,
And Paying Him A Sum In The Low
Six Figures”**

**“As Far As Our Intelligence Experts Are
Concerned, A Turban And Beard Are
Just A Turban And Beard”**



**General Betrayus shows a Congressional committee how far his head is up his
ass.**

**Those familiar with the greatest Afghan con yet say that the British had spent a
year developing the fake Taliban leader as a source and, despite a heated debate
and C.I.A. skepticism, General Petraeus was buying into it.**

November 23, 2010 By MAUREEN DOWD, The New York Times [Excerpts]

And we wonder why we haven't found Osama bin Laden.

Though we're pouring billions into intelligence in Afghanistan, we can't even tell the difference between a no-name faker and a senior member of the Taliban.

The tragedy of Afghanistan has descended into farce.

In the sort of scene that would have entertained millions if Billy Wilder had made a movie of Kipling's "Kim," it turns out that Afghan and NATO leaders have been negotiating for months with an imposter pretending to be a top Taliban commander — even as Gen. David Petraeus was assuring reporters that there were promising overtures to President Hamid Karzai from the Taliban about ending the war.

Those familiar with the greatest Afghan con yet say that the British had spent a year developing the fake Taliban leader as a source and, despite a heated debate and C.I.A. skepticism, General Petraeus was buying into it.

The West was putting planes and assets at the poseur's disposal, and paying him a sum in the low six figures.

"It's funny but not funny because the consequences are so staggering," said a Western diplomat. "Put it this way: It was not well handled."

We've heard a lot about the shadow world of Afghanistan, but this is ridiculous. We're bargaining with the shadow of a shadow.

Even President Karzai may have been fooled.

The man taking us for a ride may have been taken for a ride.

Indeed, sometimes it feels as if the entire region is taking us for a ride.

Everybody is lining up for Western cash, treating America, the British and NATO like suckers.

President Karzai and his brother toy with us for their immense personal profit, even as they corrupt their own elections.

Karzai undermines the American military plan by going up against General Petraeus on night raids. And the Taliban and the Pakistan intelligence service are playing us as well.

America is stomping around the moonscape of Afghanistan trying to do the right thing, but we can't because we're clueless about the culture to the point where we can be faked out by an imposter masquerading as Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansour, a high-level Taliban commander.

As Dexter Filkins and Carlotta Gall revealed in *The Times* on Tuesday, the Afghan faker attended three meetings with NATO and Afghan officials, traveling across the border from Pakistan, where Taliban leaders are hiding with the help of the ISI, the Pakistani intelligence service (even though we give Pakistan billions of dollars in aid every year).

The Times's article said that the phony was even ushered into a meeting with Karzai at the presidential palace in Kabul. Something the crafty Karzai denied.

He may have been dispatched as an agent by the Taliban — whose leaders still deny there are any peace talks — or the double-dealing Pakistani intelligence service. “The Taliban are cleverer than the Americans and our own intelligence service,” a senior Afghan official told The Times. “They are playing games.”

Bizarrely, the Afghans let the fake Mansour retreat over the border. In a further huge embarrassment for the Western intelligence community, he was not held to determine whether he was an enemy agent.

Nor is this the only confusion about our war. First, we were leaving in 2011. Then maybe we weren't. Then we weren't leaving until 2014. Then maybe we aren't.

In trying to please all his many wartime constituencies, President Obama has provided a confusing plethora of plans and semiplans for withdrawal.

On the duration of our commitment to the war in Afghanistan, we seem to be faking ourselves out.

It should have been a sign that the Russians, who are a lot more vicious than us and have a much closer cultural attachment to the Graveyard of Empires, got whipped after 9 years and 50 days — which we're now exceeding.

Just as with Saddam and W.M.D., or groping and the T.S.A., we get no satisfaction for the \$80 billion a year we spend on intelligence. Or we get fake information like Curveball that leads us into spending trillions more on a trumped-up war.

Last year, seven top C.I.A. officials were fooled by a Jordanian double-agent who got onto an American base in Khost and blew all of them up.

Our agents in the “wilderness of mirrors” may not be up to le Carré, but can't they learn to Google, or at least watch “The Ipcress File”?

Who knows? Maybe we've been dealing with bin Laden all along.

Maybe he's been coming and going under a different moniker. As far as our intelligence experts are concerned, a turban and beard are just a turban and beard.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON
TO HALT THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO
STOP THE WARS**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Sarah Palin Says “We Gotta Stand With Our North Korean Allies”



Campaign Poster For Palin In 2012?

November 24th, 2010 by Mark Joyella, Mediaite

Sarah Palin’s choosing sides in the conflict between North and South Korea—and picking Kim Jong Il?

Couldn’t be.

But there she is on Glenn Beck’s radio show saying just that: “This speaks to a bigger picture here that certainly scares me in terms of our national security policy. But obviously we’ve gotta stand with our North Korean allies.”

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**At Least 10,000 In The Streets
Of London Condemn The
Government:
Broken Election Promise To
Abolish University Tuition Brings
Nationwide Outrage;
Now Government Wants To Raise
Fees Up To As Much As £9,000-Per-
Year (\$14,000 U.S.):
Demonstrators Fight Police And Attempt
To Storm Government Buildings**



Students expressing their anger in Newcastle and attacking wealthy Cabinet ministers



British demonstrators express proposal for punishment of Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister, who promised not to raise university tuition. Daily Mail



Surge: Police battling to hold back protesters trying to break through to the Foreign Office and Treasury buildings



Protesters tried to use a barrier to smash through the police cordon defending the Prime Ministers' residence.



Captured police van covered with anti-government slogans



A protester at the wheel of a police van captured during the protests



A protester wearing a captured police helmet and holding a riot shield taken from police in central London today



© Julian Makey / Rex Features
A demonstrator urinates on a captured police van.

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

24th November 2010 By Daily Mail Reporter & By BENJAMIN TIMMINS and GILLIAN SMITH, AP & By Dominic Casciani, BBC

College and university students across the country held marches and sit-ins to oppose the decision to increase university fees to 9,000 pounds (\$14,000) a year, a key plank in the government's deficit-cutting austerity measures.

Around 10,000 students and protesters flooded London for a new demonstration just a fortnight after angry demonstrators smashed into the Tory Party headquarters.

"Education is not a rich kid's game," said Tash Holway, 19, a student. "If this keep up, the entire industry will change. It won't be about talent, but only about who can pay."

Another 16-year-old, describing himself as "Kieran from Camden", had been reading up on Marx.

He gave every journalist who would listen a passable essay on the theory of class.

Police officers were seriously injured today as angry demonstrators protesting against the hike in tuition fees again took to the streets.

One constable suffered a broken arm and a second officer was knocked unconscious as he battled to contain protesters outside the Foreign Office.

Lines of police guarded the headquarters near Parliament of junior government partner, the Liberal Democrats. The Lib Dems have drawn particular anger because the party campaigned on a promise to abolish tuition fees, then abandoned it once in power.

Huge crowds had attempted to break the security cordon outside the building but the line of police was quickly bolstered to ensure the barricades were not breached.

More police were rushed in after protesters tried to batter their way to Downing Street [the Prime Ministers' residence] using a barrier. [See photo]

Earlier, a Metropolitan Police van parked in the middle of Whitehall was targeted by youths who leapt on the roof, smashed the windscreen, hurled sticks and sprayed graffiti.

Witnesses said a smoke bomb was thrown inside the van as protesters, some covering their faces with scarves, hit the windows with wooden sticks.

Fireworks were let off nearby, greeted by cheers and whistles, as lights were smashed.

The van was abandoned a short distance from the Royal United Services Institute where Met boss Sir Paul Stephenson has been giving a speech on terrorism.

Students eventually managed to break inside the vehicle and took away police uniforms and equipment, including body armour.

Tom Lugg, 23, studying mental health nursing at Kingston University, Surrey, said: 'It shows the young people of Britain are pretty angry.'

'I don't agree with what some of them are doing but we have to empathise. Why should the next generation have to pay more? The Tories are hitting working families, just like they did with the Poll Tax.'

The clashes came as newly elected leader of Unite [the biggest union in Britain], Len McCluskey, hailed the 'poll tax spirit' and called for a growing 'resistance' to spending cuts.

He argued: 'The very fabric of our society is being dismantled before our very eyes and we have a duty to lead a resistance against this attack. It is slaughter by stealth.'

'I am delighted that people are talking about the poll tax spirit because there we had a prime minister at the top of her power, with a big Commons majority, who was brought down by people power.'

'We need to demonstrate to people that we are dealing with a Government that does not have a mandate, that is living a lie and has deceived the people.'

The protest has been dubbed Day X, with parents, teachers and trade unionists invited to join students.

Many of the rallies have been organised by the Education Activist Network and the campaign group Youth Fight For Jobs.

A delegation of students were due to present a letter to Nick Clegg expressing their disgust over the Lib Dem U-turn on fees and his office in Sheffield is also likely to be targeted.

The letter reads: 'No amount of twisted reasoning from either you or Vince Cable can hide what everyone can see: you have lied to us.'

'We call on you to withdraw LibDem support for Conservative cuts to our education system, or face the disappointment and anger of a generation that has been betrayed.'

Protesters had also shown their anger last night by hanging an effigy of the Deputy PM on the gallows and chanted: 'Nick Clegg, shame on you, shame on you for turning blue.'

Such is the fury at the Lib Dems change of heart that Mr Clegg has been warned not to cycle to work in case he is attacked.

By mid-afternoon, police had given up trying to disperse the crowds and decided to contain them in Whitehall.

Jenny Jones, a member of the Met Police Authority, questioned their methods. She wrote on Twitter: 'Police have kettled demo. Mad. Just makes crowd distressed.'

University workers have organised simultaneous rallies in Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester and Cambridge.

In an early sign of trouble elsewhere, around 50 students stormed the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham this morning after security had tried to force them out.

In Sheffield, around 1,000 students gathered in the city centre, many from schools as well as the two universities.

There were reports of pupils walking out of a number of secondary schools before gathering at Sheffield University Students' Union.

Many in the crowd appeared to be of school age, some as young as 13 or 14. A line of police guarded the front of the Victorian town hall as the crowd chanted and waved placards.

In Manchester, where several thousand protesters had gathered, a group of several hundred broke away from the main demonstration and headed towards the town hall.

Around 3,000 protesters had made their way from Manchester University student union shouting 'No ifs, no buts, no education cuts'.

In Cambridge, more than 200 students scaled a fence of the Senate House - a building reserved for graduations - and marched into the grounds of King's College shouting and waving placards.

Bystanders reported a huge police presence and said officers were using batons and their fists to push back the students.

Around 3,000 people staged a noisy but peaceful protests in Liverpool.

There were some minor scuffles between protesters and police in Bristol, where around 2,000 people joined a demonstration.

About three dozen police officers were blocking the entrance to the town hall, where protesters were sitting down reading books. Horses being ridden by mounted police were spooked by a firework.

Youth Fight for Jobs spokesman Paul Callanan claimed the fees hike will create a two-tier education system. 'Education will become a privilege for the few that can afford it,' he said.

Mark Bergfeld, of the Education Activist Network, said: 'We're there to build a mass movement, we're there to build a movement which can overcome the divisions between the different people, between the different sections of society and actually start to generalise the fight against austerity.'

Government plans to raise fees up to as much as £9,000-per-year from 2012 have caused outrage, particularly to the Lib Dems who had promised to oppose any hike during the election.

Parliament is due to vote on the increase before Christmas, with several top Lib Dems still likely to vote against despite Mr Clegg supporting the Tories over the change.

The Lib Dem leader insisted again today that he 'massively regrets' his U-turn after pledging to stop fee rises but urged students to examine the fine print.

He said: 'I regret of course that I can't keep the promise that I made because - just as in life - sometimes you are not fully in control of all the things you need to deliver those pledges.'

MORE:

**“A Wordless Cry Went Up
Somewhere In The Crowd And
They Were Off, Moving As One,**

**With No Instructions, Towards
Parliament”**
**“Thousands Of Schoolchildren And
Young People Who Streamed Into
Whitehall In Protest At The
Government’s Attacks On Further
And Higher Education Were Working
Completely Off Script”**
**“The Biggest Cheers Came When
Several Troupes Of Schoolkids Joined
Us Right At The Starts”**



A student protester in London. Photograph: Matt Dunham/AP

24 November 2010 by Adam Gabbatt and David Batty, Guardian UK [Excerpts]

PA has a roundup of some of the banners seen during the protests across England.

In Sheffield, students took issue with the impending cuts in the teaching budgets for the arts and humanities, with one banner stating: “We have nothing to lose but our humanities.”

And this was from a group of computer scientists in Aberystwyth: “404 Error - Funding Not Found.”

One banner that proved popular on Twitter read: “I wuld be able spel if I culd go Uni”, while “My back hurts where Nick Clegg stabbed me” was another popular slogan.

A sign in Sheffield, Clegg’s constituency, said: “Pick on someone your own age,” while an unnamed protester in Cambridge summed up the mood of the day with his placard: “Mandate, my arse.”

This just in from Guardian reporter Matthew Taylor:

About 1,000 protesters who were charged by mounted police on Whitehall escaped up a side street and have spent the last 30 minutes running through the centre of London chanting: “You say cut back, we say fight back”.

Some protesters tried to smash shop windows as the police lost control, with demonstrators running past bemused tourists and commuters.

Alex Wilson, a Manchester student, has emailed to update us on the protests in the city.

The police charging near the kettle in London sounds like what happened in Manchester earlier. There was a large, spontaneous march from the town hall back to the uni, with the intention of occupying a university building.

When we returned, we found out that every building was locked and guarded. Instead, we staged a sit-in on Oxford Road (the main road going through the uni and, so the uni repeatedly tell us, the busiest bus stop in Europe).

At this point, the police – who had been very facilitative until this point – changed and turned on protesters.

People were forcibly removed, and were charged by police on horseback. Clashes were frequent.

I saw several girls have their hair pulled by police, and an ITV journalist was pushed around by police after taking pictures.

After this, we had a spontaneous march down Oxford Road. The police then blocked off the road near Rusholme, charged the protesters and threatened to arrest anyone who went on the roads.

A lot of people seemed to be arrested over the course of this evening protest, and traffic on Oxford Road must have been stopped for hours.

On Comment is Free, Laurie Pennie has a report from the midst of the protests in London. She writes:

There are no leaders here: the thousands of schoolchildren and young people who streamed into Whitehall three hours ago in protest at the government's attacks on further and higher education were working completely off script.

A wordless cry went up somewhere in the crowd and they were off, moving as one, with no instructions, towards parliament.

But just because there are no leaders here doesn't mean there is no purpose.

These kids – and most of them are just kids, with no experience of direct action, who walked simultaneously out of lessons across the country just before morning break – want to be heard. "Our votes don't count," says one nice young man in a school tie.

Sky TV is showing footage of protesters smashing a window at the Treasury.

6.00pm: Luke – surname withheld – emails to accuse me of neglecting my northern roots.

Thanks for the interesting read. However, there's been very little mention of what happened in Manchester today – shame on you.

At least 4,000 people marched from the universities on Oxford Road into town at 12 today. The route planned with the police seemed to take us back out of town, so most people backtracked and surrounded the town hall.

Biggest cheers came when several troupes of schoolkids joined us right at the start, with some pretty pithy homemade banners. Sixth formers seemed incredibly vocal and enthusiastic, and I spoke to several non-students and ex-students marching alongside.

Some of us got our books out and tried to study outside the council offices in front of police lines.

MORE:

“Schoolchildren, Some As Young As 13 Or 14, Joined The Clamour Against Increases In Tuition Fees

**And The Loss Of Education
Maintenance Allowances”
“It’s Been A Brilliant Day, I Really
Feel We’re Part Of Something”
“We’ll Be Back Soon, And I Reckon Even
More People Will Be Here Next Time”**



Schoolchildren at the demonstration in Bristol today, protesting over the government’s education cuts. Photograph: Matt Cardy/Getty Images

Comment: T

A government that has managed to set into motion against them a growing mass of angry schoolchildren, and decides at some future point the police are insufficient and they must try to control general popular unrest with the army – that government is dead meat.

If soldiers are ever forced to choose between opening fire on schoolchildren and opening fire on their officers and a government of, by, and for the rich giving such orders, the response of the soldiers will be honorable, effective, decisive, and lethal. That kind of revolutionary crisis has not yet arrived in England, but beginnings are everything, and the road is open now. T]

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

“The education cuts will have a drastic effect on our whole lives. I am from a working-class family and will be one of the worst affected. Education should be available to everyone regardless of class.”

24 November 2010 Steven Morris, Martin Wainwright, Adam Gabbatt, Helen Carter; Guardian News and Media Limited [Excerpts]

It was the number of placards bearing references to Harry Potter that gave the game away.

“Now we can’t afford to go to Hogwarts”, read one.

“David Cameron is Voldemort,” suggested another.

Of course the veterans of these sort of demonstrations were here: student union representatives, political activists, leftwing teachers, anarchists and stalwarts of the Socialist Workers party.

But a large, excited, very vocal percentage were schoolchildren, some as young as 13 or 14, who had piled out of lessons and joined the clamour against increases in tuition fees and the loss of education maintenance allowances.

“It’s great,” said Sophie, who walked out of her school in south Bristol to join the protest in the city centre and did not intend to return that day. “I’m having a wicked time. I feel strongly that what the government is doing is wrong and I wanted to come out of here and express that.”

She said she had no regrets about leaving her lessons. “The teachers couldn’t say it but you could tell they supported us too. And I had permission from my parents.”

A group of schoolgirls explained how their protest began when they refused to go back into their central Bristol school after morning break. They sat on the school playing field as teachers took up position at the gates.

One girl said: “But we just decided to run for the back gate. There was a pregnant teacher there and she just opened the gate and let us out.

“We feel we’re doing the right thing. We want to go to university but we are not going to have the chance now.

“It’s not fair that generations before us have had free education but we’re going to be denied that.

“We had talked about it on Facebook but the idea just spread through word of mouth. Loads of people were up for it.”

Mollie White, 16, who had skipped lessons at a high school in the east of Bristol, was carrying a sign bearing a more grown-up slogan: “Fine, I’ll be a stripper.”

She had been planning to go to university to study nursing. “But I won’t be able to afford to go,” she said. “Which is really upsetting. I don’t know what my future is any more.”

A classmate had a sign reading: “I will never meet my prince at university now.”

It was not only in Bristol that the youth turned out in force.

Jack Grieve, 14, left classes at Cherwell school to take part in an occupation of the Bodleian library in Oxford.

“Everyone’s going to be in loads of debt when they leave university,” he said. “Why should you have to pay so much money? It won’t prevent me from going, but it’ll mean I’m in loads of debt, and it just makes everything a little bit worse. I left school after lunch, my mum phoned the school and told them I was going to protest.”

Two of the biggest demonstrations in the north of England, at Leeds and Sheffield, were swollen by large numbers of pupils as young as 12 who walked out of at least six high schools.

Several hundred teenagers left Allerton Grange school, in Leeds, in a carefully planned action, picking up placards and banners hidden on the site.

A column of pupils then marched to nearby Roundhay high school, a similar high-performing comprehensive which regularly gets students to Oxford and Cambridge.

Although four Roundhay staff in high-visibility jackets used a loudhailer to deter truancy, dozens of their pupils joined the protesters for a two-mile march to join the main rally outside Leeds art gallery.

One 16-year-old, who gave his name as Liam, said: “The effect of the cuts will mean that only wealthier people will be able to afford uni.”

A 16-year-old girl said the trigger for the walkout was the loss of the education maintenance allowance. Another said: “I’ve been on EMA [education maintenance allowance]. Without it, I’ll never be able to go to university. I want to follow my dream.”

In Sheffield, Nina Fellows, 16, claimed scores of pupils had left her school, King Edward VII, to join the protest. She said: “We’re going to be going to university, hopefully, in the next couple of years and we’re worried about our future.”

There was a similar picture in the north-east. Gen Heron, 16, a pupil attending Gosforth high school, in Newcastle Upon Tyne, said:

“The education cuts will have a drastic effect on our whole lives. I am from a working-class family and will be one of the worst affected. Education should be available to everyone regardless of class.”

Sophie Thomas, 16, added: “I wanted to move away for university, but because of the cutbacks I am having second thoughts.” Laura Dunnaje, 17, an art student at the

independent Dame Allan's sixth form, in Fenham, Newcastle, explained: "I want to do a foundation course and I cannot afford to pay for it."

Minnie Fraser, 47, a lecturer at Northumbria University, said: "I'm here because I'm a mum of three and I'm very cross that university is going to cost so much. This generation of youth are really in a bad position. The last straw for me was this announcement that they are going to abolish the EMA [education maintenance allowance]. Any pretence that the government was trying to protect the poor has dropped."

Around England there were numerous sit-ins. Students broke through police lines in Cambridge, scaled a metal fence and staged a sit-down protest on the lawn in front of the university's Senate House. Among them was Chris Izatt, 18, who studies at Cambridge Regional College, a further education college. "There was a bit of aggro with people fighting police and police fighting back. It got really violent but that wasn't what we were here for," he said.

In the West Midlands part of the University of Birmingham's Great Hall was occupied by up to 40 students. Protesters also occupied the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford. Meanwhile, in Brighton, eggs and fireworks were thrown as up to 3,000 protesters took to the streets. Another 3,000 or so brought traffic to a standstill in Liverpool.

Back in Bristol the protest remained largely good-natured. Throughout the afternoon, a couple of thousand protesters played a game of cat and mouse with scores of police up and down Park Street. There was the odd flashpoint: a group of youths threw fireworks and there were scuffles with the police when protesters tried to get into the city centre en masse.

As night fell, one teenager, Alex, who had slipped out of an independent school (she refused to say which one) was heading home, pausing only grab a flier advertising a "Snow Rave" for 16-18-year-olds.

"It's been a brilliant day, I really feel we're part of something. We'll be back soon, and I reckon even more people will be here next time," she said.

**"Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number,
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you-
Ye are many — they are few"**

Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819, on the occasion of a mass murder of protesting British workers by the government at Peterloo.

[That quote, repeated with tedious regularity by left publications for the past 20 years, has suddenly come alive, full of fire and hope. T]

Mass Strike Brings Portugal To A Halt: “Another Trade Unionist In Lisbon Told AFP News Agency It Was Unacceptable That Workers Should ‘Make All The Sacrifices’”

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

24 November 2010 BBC

Many of Portugal's public services have ground to a halt as workers strike in a bid to weaken the government's resolve to make deep budget cuts.

The government plans pay cuts (up to 10%) for civil servants, cuts in social benefits (such as unemployment benefits and child benefits), and increasing sales taxes.

Rail services, urban transport, flights, rubbish collection, healthcare and banking were all disrupted by the first general strike in decades.

Parliament is set to vote on a budget meant to tackle the mounting debt crisis on Friday.

Nearly 80% of trains were not running, and bus and ferry links in Lisbon were disrupted, along with the metro service

Both air traffic controllers and airport ground handling operators were on strike, meaning dozens of flights in and out of Lisbon had to be cancelled or rescheduled

All of the country's ports were closed, according to the unions

Fewer than 10% of the workforce at Volkswagen's Autoeuropa plant near Lisburn turned up for work, according to unions

Police in the northern town of Calendario arrested the manager of a hypermarket who allegedly drove his car into a picket line, injuring two women and threatening others. A union official said one of the women had had her leg crushed by the car.

One CGTP [union] leader, Manuel Carvalho da Silva, said there was strong public support for the strike as it expressed “outrage at injustices”.

Another trade unionist in Lisbon told AFP news agency it was unacceptable that workers should “make all the sacrifices”.

“We cannot accept that the first, second and third priority of Portugal is the deficit,” said Joao Proenca.

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.

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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/)

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

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