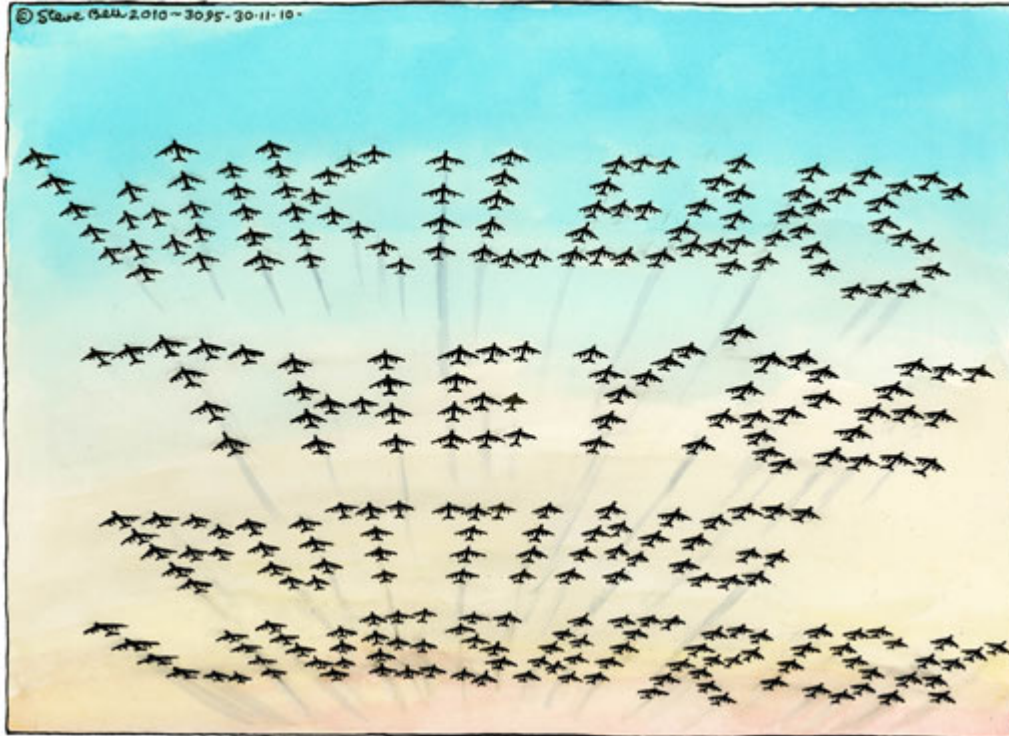


Military Resistance 9A4



**The Bad News:
101st Airborne Suffers Heavy
Losses In Afghanistan:
“At Fort Campbell, Where Most Of
The 101st Airborne And Their
Families Live, The Steady Trickle
Of Casualties Has Remained A
Grim Fact Of Life”**

“Death Notices Have Become A Regular Feature In The Local Papers”

“The Division’s Deaths Have Nearly Tripled Since Early Summer, With 105 Soldiers Killed Last Year”

Jan 3, 2011 By Chris Kenning - The (Louisville, Ky.) Courier-Journal [Excerpts]

Nine months into its deployment to Afghanistan, the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Ky., is enduring a steady rise in casualties as it continues to shoulder a large portion of America’s combat surge in the insurgent-riddled country.

The division’s deaths have nearly tripled since early summer, with 105 soldiers killed last year in Afghanistan, including six who died when a van packed with explosives detonated last month at an outpost in Kandahar province.

Most casualties have come in skirmishes and ambushes and from bombs buried under dirt roads and footpaths, 101st Airborne officials said.

Most of 101st is operating within Afghanistan’s Regional Command East, an area the size of Pennsylvania that is home to 400 tribes near the Hindu Kush mountains bordering Pakistan and its tribal regions, according to the U.S. Army.

More than 7,000 miles away at Fort Campbell, where most of the 101st Airborne and their families live, the steady trickle of casualties has remained a grim fact of life.

The post holds “Eagle Remembrance” ceremonies for its slain soldiers, and death notices have become a regular feature in the local papers, according to Fort Campbell officials.

Yet each loss is like a fresh cut, and a reminder that danger and uncertainty are everywhere for the soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Currently at Fort Campbell, about 2,500 soldiers with the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade are preparing to leave for Afghanistan, and once they arrive, almost all of the 101st Airborne’s nearly 20,000 personnel will be deployed there.

“I don’t think you can ever get used to casualties, and when we do get one, the whole community grieves,” said Suzy Yates, who heads Survivor Outreach Services, which has seen a rise in demand for services such as grief counseling and financial advising.

About half of the families who lose a spouse leave the post, opting to move home with relatives. But the rest stay around Fort Campbell, where they have friends and support, officials said.

“Around the holidays, it’s a really hard time for families,” Yates said. “During that first year, there’s what many refer to as the ‘survivor fog.’ They don’t remember a lot of things.”

When deployed, Fort Campbell’s 159th Combat Aviation Brigade will be based in Regional Command South, a desert area that is rife with insurgents.

Soldiers will ferry troops, conduct combat raids and train the tiny Afghan air force.

For some soldiers, it’s the third or fourth time they’ve deployed since 2001, said Col. Todd Royar, the brigade’s commander.

Debbie Bush, 42, is preparing to see her husband, Sgt. Michael Bush, begin a second tour to Afghanistan and third overall deployment. She and their two teenage daughters will lean on base get-togethers and support groups and keep up with news from Afghanistan, she said.

“It’s always in the back of my mind that he could be hurt,” Bush said. “But you just can’t think about it. ... My girls, they have friends who had a parent hurt or lost a parent. We just keep the communication open.”

While some family members might normally take solace in the fact that the frigid Afghan winter usually means a lull in the fighting, this winter so far is different.

MORE:

**The Good News:
The New Year Starts Off Right!
“Opposition To The War In
Afghanistan Is At An All-Time High,
With 63% Of The Public Now
Opposed”**

**“70% Of People Making Under \$50,000
Annually Said They Oppose The War;
Only 54% Of Those Making More Than
\$50,000 Annually Said The Same Thing”**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

12-30-10 By Amanda Terkel, HuffPost [Excerpts]

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- Opposition to the war in Afghanistan is at an all-time high, with 63 percent of the public now opposed to U.S. involvement there, according to a new CNN/Opinion Research Corporation survey. Just 35 percent of survey respondents say they still support U.S. involvement.

The increase in opposition to U.S. involvement comes as pessimism about how the war is going is rising. According to a poll done Dec. 17-19, 56 percent of the public believes that "things are going badly for the U.S. in Afghanistan."

"The war has not always been unpopular -- back in March, when a majority thought that the war was going well, the country was evenly divided. But by September, the number who said that things were going well for the U.S. in Afghanistan had dropped to 44 percent, and opposition to the war had grown to 58 percent," said CNN Polling Director Keating Holland.

"Today, with Americans remaining pessimistic about the situation in Afghanistan, they also remain opposed to the war."

Income level also seems to play a significant role: 70 percent of people making under \$50,000 annually said they oppose the war; only 54 percent of those making more than \$50,000 annually said the same thing.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed By IED In Taji:

January 2, 2011 By The Associated Press & January 06, 2011 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 009-11

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military says two American soldiers have died in central Iraq.

They died Jan. 2 in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device. They were assigned to the 1013th Engineer (Sapper) Company of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

The death raises to at least 4,431 the number of U.S. military personnel who have died in Iraq since the war began in March 2003.

The U.S. ended combat operations in Iraq in September. **[Hello? Earth to clueless Associated Press? Anybody there? When a resistance movement kills two occupation soldiers, combat has not “ended in Iraq in September.” T]**

Resistance Action

Jan 1 (Reuters) & Jan 2 (Reuters) & AP & Jan 3 (Reuters) & Jan 4 (Reuters) & Jan 5 (Reuters)

Suspected insurgents killed four members of Iraq's security forces and a city engineer in separate attacks across the Iraqi capital on Sunday evening, officials said. The similar nature of the attacks — all were shootings by assailants armed with silencers — and the fact that they all occurred within less than an hour of one another suggested a coordinated campaign against security officials and government workers.

Insurgents in a car opened fire and wounded a police officer in northeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - Armed men using silenced weapons opened fire on the car of Ihsan Fadhel, an Iraqi police lieutenant colonel, killing him and his driver in eastern Baghdad, police said.

FALLUJA - Insurgents attacked a police checkpoint, killing one policeman and wounding three west of the city of Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

TARMIYA - A bomb planted near the home of a member of a government-backed militia, or Awakening Council, wounded four members of his family in Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, according to an Interior Ministry source.

BAGHDAD – Insurgents in a speeding car wounded a police captain in eastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen in the Zayouna district of eastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

Insurgents using silenced handguns killed a government employee working for the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction in the Waziriya district of northern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier at the location of two bomb attacks in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq, Dec. 27, 2010. Two bombers blew themselves up on Monday, killing and wounding scores of people at the government compound in the provincial capital of Ramadi, officials said. (AP Photo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

January 5, 2010 Reuters

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

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

January 5, 2010 Reuters

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

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

January 7, 2010 CNN

Two foreign service members died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

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

January 7, 2010 Reuters

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

Fallen Marine’s Family Plans To Help Others

12.25.2010 KSDK

A devastating Christmas for a Bethalto family. The family of Lance Corporal Kenny Corzine is dealing with his death, after his passing on Christmas Eve. The Marine was serving in Afghanistan when he was hit by an explosive device.

NewsChannel 5 first told you the story of Lance Corporal Kenny Corzine earlier in December. His family had high hopes during his recovery, and despite losing both legs, the Marine was in good spirits--even talking--before taking a turn for the worst.

Black ribbons mark a southern Illinois home to match the grief the family inside is feeling. The Corzine's family is now discussing about how his legacy will live on.

"I hung out with my brother in Japan. Not a lot of people can say that, but we were really close," said Lance Corporal Nicholas Corzine, Kenny's younger brother.

Nicholas Corzine went off to boot camp just months after his older brother, more than three years ago.

Nicholas tells NewsChannel 5 his brother was injured in Afghanistan on December 5 while on foot patrol.

Kenny Corzine and his nine-man unit were confronted by enemy fire and then an IED.

Four Marines were killed in action. Kenny was one of several who survived, but sustained serious injuries.

"His legs were gone," said Nicholas Corzine.

Kenny managed to make it to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, where things were looking up.

"He was just like he always is. He was joking. He was really upbeat about it," Nicholas said.

Nicholas says Kenny was anxious to come home until he ran into complications with his lungs and liver. Nicholas says his brother's passing came as a surprise.

"I honestly thought he was going to make it. I kept telling the family, 'Oh, he's going to make it. He's going to make it,'" Nicholas said.

Nicholas says he initially opened an account to accept donations to help out his brother once he made it home. Now the money will be used to aid other wounded warriors, by donating to the Semper Fi Fund.

"We're going to take any money that anybody would like to wish, to donate to Kenny or his donation fund and give to that organization to help out future families because they come in four or five a day. It's ridiculous. People don't see that," said Nicholas.

If you'd like to donate to the fund, you can visit any U.S. Bank and tell them you'd like to contribute to the Kenny Corzine Fund. Relatives say all other collections being taken are not authorized.

Lance Corporal Kenny Corzine was awarded a Purple Heart before his death. His body is not expected to arrive in Bethalto until January 4.

**Occupation Command Says
Winter Fighting Will Lead To
Success:
“Troops Would Fight Through The
Bitterly Cold Winter Months In
Afghanistan”
“Our Casualties Are Not A Proof Of Any
Failure Of Our Strategy”**

January 3, 2011 AFP

Violence levels in Afghanistan had to get worse before they got better, a spokesman for the US-led NATO force in the war-torn country said, after its bloodiest year yet in the war.

Brigadier General Josef Blotz said that troops from the 140,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) would not let up in their battle against the Taliban despite the winter, when fighting has previously lessened.

“Our casualties are not a proof of any failure of our strategy. On the contrary,” he told a regular press briefing in Kabul, highlighting a US strategy announced in 2009 that boosted American troops by 30,000.

“This actually led to an upturn in violence and we expected this.

“But obviously this is a necessary step, a necessary phase in the overall strategy and before it gets better, unfortunately it has to get worse and that's what we saw towards the end of 2010.”

Blotz insisted that international troops would fight through the bitterly cold winter months in Afghanistan.

“There will be no end of the fighting season from an ISAF perspective. We will maintain the pressure on the insurgency everywhere,” Blotz said.

“There will definitely be no winter pause.”

MORE:

**Occupation Command Says
Winter Fighting Will Lead To
Success:**

**“Troops Would Fight Through The
Bitterly Cold Winter Months In
Stalingrad”**

**“Our Casualties Are Not A Proof Of Any
Failure Of Our Strategy”**

January 3, 1943 Der Stürmer

Violence levels in Stalingrad had to get worse before they got better, Oberkommando der Wehrmacht Kurt Zeitzler said today in Berlin, after the bloodiest year yet in the war.

Generalfeldmarschallsaid Friedrich Wilhelm Ernst Paulus said that troops from the 330,000 German and allied army force would not let up in their battle against the Russians despite the winter.

“Our casualties are not a proof of any failure of our strategy. On the contrary,” he told a regular press briefing at his field headquarters, highlighting a General Staff strategy announced in 1942 that boosted German and allied troops to 330,000.

“This actually led to an upturn in violence and we expected this.

“But obviously this is a necessary step, a necessary phase in the overall strategy and before it gets better, unfortunately it has to get worse and that’s what we saw towards the end of 1942.”

Oberkommando der Wehrmacht Zeitzler insisted that German and allied troops would fight through the bitterly cold winter months at Stalingrad.

“There will be no end of the fighting season from our perspective. We will maintain the pressure on the Russian forces everywhere,” Zeitzler said.

“There will definitely be no winter pause.”

Resistance Action: IED Near Defense Ministry Kills Cop

04 January 2011 AFP & January 7, 2011 CNN

KABUL: One policeman was killed when a bomb exploded in the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday. The blast took place close to the defence ministry, about 200 metres (yards) from a police post, as an officer attempted to defuse the Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

“The explosion was caused by an IED. The explosives were placed in a bag and were left in the area,” interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary said.

One policeman was killed, and two civilians and another policeman wounded in the explosion

“The policeman realised there was an 82mm cannon shell.... To avoid any possible explosion, he tried to defuse the shell and that is when the shell exploded,” Zahir said.

An attack in Afghanistan’s Kandahar province killed at least 17 people and wounded 23 others on Friday, officials said. The explosion took place in the southeastern town of Spin Boldak, a hotbed of Taliban militants. The suicide attacker detonated himself in a public bath where the border police commander was bathing.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

As Government Troops Violently Mutiny, Resistance Attack Kills Many Government And Occupation Soldiers:

**“Mutinying Soldiers Prevented Cabinet
Ministers, Parliamentarians And Military**

Officers From Entering The Villa Somalia Presidential Palace”

Jan 1, 2011 GAROWE ONLINE

At least 19 people were killed during heavy clashes on Saturday, with government forces staging a violent mutiny in a separate incident, Radio Garowe reports.

The fighting sparked overnight Friday after Al Shabaab insurgents attacked bases of Somali government forces and their African Union (AMISOM) allies in Hodan district.

Witnesses reported that many civilians including children were killed during the nighttime fighting. At least 25 wounded persons were admitted to Mogadishu's Medina Hospital.

Al Shabaab military spokesman, Sheikh Abdiaziz Abu Musab, claimed that the insurgents killed 15 AMISOM peacekeepers and 30 Somali soldiers.

At least 3 soldiers were killed and 7 others wounded Saturday in Mogadishu after Somali soldiers mutinied over nonpayment of salary.

The fighting among soldiers sparked after a group of mutinying soldiers prevented Cabinet ministers, parliamentarians and military officers of Somalia's UN-recognized Transitional Federal Government (TFG) from entering the Villa Somalia presidential palace.

The 30-minute gun battle near Villa Somalia ended after senior military officials intervened to stop the bloodshed.

TFG forces are extremely disorganized and often engage in criminal activities, including robberies of civilians to compensate for nonpayment of salaries.

Government Soldiers Kill Civilians When Shooting At Each Other But Not Each Other Again

1.7.10 Mareeg

At least 4 people were killed and 3 others wounded after government soldiers exchanged fires in the capital Mogadishu today on Thursday, reports said.

Government soldiers exchanged fires in El-gelow village in wadajir district mid today killing 4 civilians and injured 3 others, resident said.

Two government forces exchanged the bullets after they disputed though the reason is not yet clear.

The injuries were taken to Madina hospital in the capital Mogadishu.

This is not the first act that forces of Somali transitional federal government exchange inside civilians causing death and injuries.

Resistance Stages Happy Military Show In Lafole

January 3, 2011 Mareeg

Large troops loyal to the Islamist militias of Al-shabab have made military show in Lafole residence south the capital Mogadishu this morning on Monday, 3rd Jan., eyewitnesses told to the media.

These militias have shown the military show in Lafole area, former strong hold of Hisbul-Islam leader Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys and other areas where internally displaced people live.

The forces were well armed and dressed and have been walking to the way that links Mogadishu to Afgoe district of lower Shabelle region this morning, resident said.

Heads of Shabab forces attended the military maneuver that has taken place in Lafole, Arbiska, and other neighborhoods close to these villages south the capital Mogadishu.

Sheikh Mohamed Abu-Abdala spoke to these militias and thanked them for their readiness to what he called holy war and defending the enemy which he meant fighting Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Peacekeeping Forces.

Sheikh Mohamed Abu-Abdalla, is the governor of lower Shabelle region for Al-shabab militias and he also indicated that it was very cheerful for Shabab to control those areas since Hisbul-Islam used to control the area before.

He urged these militias not to harm people and deal with the community with good behaviors.

Al-shabab leaders were recently replacing former Hisbul-Islam administrations to real Shabab individuals in lower Shabelle region including Lafole, Arbiska and Elashabiyaha.

Al-shabab captured those areas after Hisbul-Islam destroyed early last month and it sees the only power and strengthens the war against T.F.G and AMISOM that is part of the military show it displayed today, sources said.

MILITARY NEWS

80 From Colorado National Guard Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse

Jan 3, 2011 The Associated Press

MONTROSE, Colo. — Members of a medical unit in the Colorado National Guard will be spending the new year in Afghanistan.

The 928th Area Support Medical Company is based in both Denver and Montrose, and its approximately 80 members include medical professionals, educators, police officers, construction workers and college students.

Members from the Montrose area are set to leave home Monday, and the Montrose Daily Press reported that residents there plan a parade and fly over to send them off.

A departure ceremony is planned for Tuesday at Fort Carson.

Members will first head to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. for language and cultural training before deploying to Afghanistan for a year.

The unit previously served in Iraq and returned home in early 2004.

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

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

Traveling Soldier:

Posted At:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/ci.php>

THIS ISSUE FEATURING:

"A WAR WITH NO CLEAR OBJECTIVE"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.10.war.php>

"WE SHOULD JUST END IT. BRING THE TROOPS HOME"

"I never wanted my son to be a little old obituary in the paper"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.10.troops.php>

THE POLITICIANS WON'T TALK ABOUT THE WAR:
"But for the Olechnys, avoidance is not an option"
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/12.10.avoidance.php>

[And More.....]

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



"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

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

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 British workers by the Imperial government at Peterloo.

The 1914 Christmas Truce: Correction Of “A Very Misleading Analysis Of World War I”

**“Inspiring As It Was, The 1914
Christmas Truce Endured Only A
Couple Of Weeks”**

**“The Only Possible Solution To The War
Was A Revolutionary Solution, Which
Would Have Required The Use Of Force
Against The Governments And Class
Responsible For The War”**

The fratricidal Great War, in which 10 to 15 million were slaughtered, could only have been brought to an end by turning the guns around and waging war against the officer class and the political and financial elites at home.

From: David Stratman
To: Military Resistance
Sent: December 20, 2010
Subject: from Dave Stratman re Soldiers' Truce

**Military Resistance made a great presentation with "The Soldiers' Truce."
[Military Resistance 8L9: 12.19.10]**

The only problem is that author Stanley Weintraub accepts a very misleading analysis of World War I.

Weintraub quotes President Woodrow Wilson to the effect that the Great War was "a commercial and industrial war," a fight between Germany, Great Britain, France, and others for colonies and commercial influence.

This is the standard analysis, and it is not true.

The real goal of political leaders in provoking World War I was to destroy the international working class movement of the time, which threatened to overwhelm the governments of Western Europe and Russia. The leaders' goal was to redirect workers' anger from their own governments and Big Business and induce workers instead to murder each other.

The owning classes and politicians were all too successful in their quest.

The Marxist working class parliamentary parties--with the exception of the Bolsheviks--voted to back the war.

The fight of worker against worker largely destroyed the working class movement, at least for a time.

Inspiring as it was, the 1914 Christmas Truce endured only a couple of weeks.

Soldiers were forbidden to fraternize with the enemy and could be shot if they did.

George Bernard Shaw had written a letter to the Times of London in August, 1914 two weeks after the conflict began, advising soldiers that the way to end the war was to shoot their officers and go home.

The only way that the Xmas Truce could have been extended and made permanent would have been for the men to follow Shaw's advice.

The fratricidal Great War, in which 10 to 15 million were slaughtered, could only have been brought to an end by turning the guns around and waging war against the officer class and the political and financial elites at home.

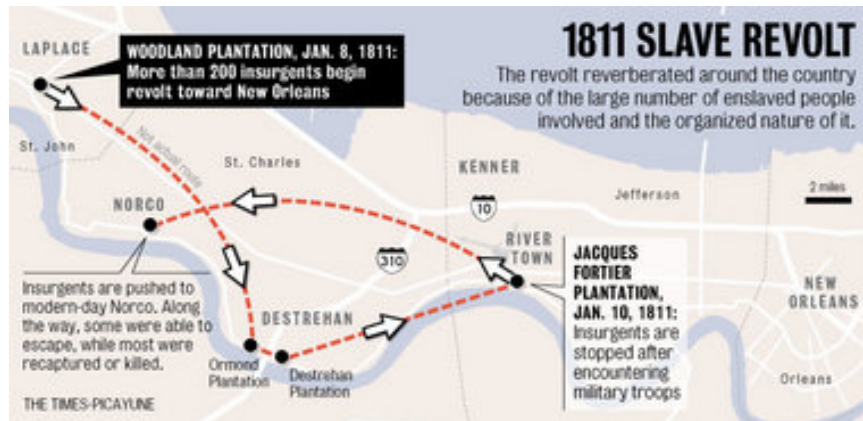
The only possible solution to the war was a revolutionary solution, which would have required the use of force against the governments and class responsible for the war.

Dave Stratman
newdemocracyworld.org
Boston, MA 02130

**Jan. 8, 1811:
Magnificent Anniversary:
The Largest Slave Revolt In U.S.
History:
“There Were People Willing To Make The
Ultimate Sacrifices To Better Not Just
Themselves But Other People”**



Art by renowned River Parishes artist Lorraine Gendron depicts the revolt by enslaved people in 1811 in St. John and St. Charles parishes that reverberated around the country. The art hangs in the Destrehan Plantation exhibit commemorating the 200-year anniversary of the revolt. David Grunfeld, The Times-Picayune



January 03, 2011 By Littice Bacon-Blood, The Times-Picayune [Excerpts]

More than a century before the first modern-day civil rights march, there was Charles Deslondes and his make-do army of more than 200 enslaved men battling with hoes, axes and cane knives for that most basic human right: freedom.

They spoke different languages, came from various parts of the United States, Africa and Haiti, and lived miles apart on plantations along the German Coast of Louisiana.

Yet after years of planning at clandestine meetings under the constant threat of immediate death, they staged a revolt on Jan. 8, 1811, that historians say is the largest uprising of enslaved people in this country.

“Slavery was very harsh and cruel, but the slaves themselves were not mindless chattel with no aspirations and no basis for humanity,” said John Hankins, executive director of the New Orleans African American Museum. “This revolt demonstrates that there were people willing to make the ultimate sacrifices to better not just themselves but other people.”

To mark the 200 year anniversary of that revolt, Destrehan Plantation, in conjunction with Tulane University and the African American Museum, located in Treme, is organizing a yearlong look at the uprising that reverberated around the fledgling nation because of the large number of enslaved people involved, its military strategy and oddly enough, because it demonstrated that all was not well among those held in bondage.

“I don’t think the United States as a whole understood that the enslaved black population were as unhappy as they were,” said Hazel Taylor, the special project coordinator at Destrehan Plantation. “Slave owners had a tendency to say that (slaves) were happy. What this did was put awareness on the people who were being oppressed.”

The revolt, which started in St. John the Baptist Parish about 30 miles west of New Orleans, also raised awareness of the harshness of the slave system and fueled the abolitionist movement, Taylor said.

It occurred just a year before Louisiana gained statehood and 50 years before Louisiana and 10 other southern states voted to secede from the union in favor of forming the Confederacy.

While historians may differ on whether there was one specific catalyst for the uprising, the historical accounts of the events that unfolded on Jan. 8 are generally uniform.

It started in LaPlace on the Woodland Plantation, led by Charles Deslondes, the son of an enslaved black woman and her white owner.

Deslondes, along with more than 200 others known mainly by first names, were headed to New Orleans in the hopes of joining with other revolution-minded free and enslaved black people.

Historian Daniel Rasmussen spent two years researching the revolt as part of his senior thesis at Harvard University and has expanded his initial work into a recently published book, called "American Uprising: The Untold Story of America's Largest Slave Revolt."

According to Rasmussen, the revolt had been planned for years and was "highly organized."

"There were 11 separate leaders of the revolt, representing various different ethnic groups. In my book, I profile a few of these leaders, mainly Charles Deslondes, Kook, and Quamana. Kook and Quamana were Asante warriors brought over from Africa a mere five years before," Rasmussen said.

"Charles Deslondes was the half-white son of a planter who had risen to the rank of driver, but was, actually, the ultimate sleeper cell, plotting revolt. These leaders took advantage of clandestine meetings in the cane fields and taverns of the German Coast, the slave dances in New Orleans, and the vast network of slave communications that extended throughout the Caribbean."

Rasmussen and other historians say the revolt was inspired by the 1791 events in Haiti where the enslaved population took over that island nation and abolished slavery.

These revolutionists had similar dreams as they marched to the beat of drums and under waving banners toward New Orleans.

"These three men, each with different insights and abilities, had planned their insurrection and spread word of the uprising through small insurrectionary cells distributed up and down the coast, especially at James Brown's plantation, the Meullion plantation, and the Kenner and Henderson plantation," Rasmussen writes in his book.

Along the way they burned plantations and crops and collected weapons and ammunition. Two white planters were killed; their wives and children were spared.

"I realized that the revolt had been much larger -- and come much closer to succeeding -- than the planters and American officials let on. Contrary to their letters, which are the basis for most accounts of the revolt, the slave army posed an existential threat to white control over the city of New Orleans," he said. "My biggest surprise as I dug into the sources was . . . just how close they came to conquering New Orleans and establishing a black Republic on the shores of the Mississippi."

But their dreams of freedom were not to be realized.

On Jan. 10 at Jacques Fortier's plantation near present-day River Town in Kenner, the makeshift army was forced to turn back after encountering a detachment of military troops, but found their retreat blocked by a group of local militia organized by planters. The number of insurgents killed when they were forced back to an area close to present day Norco varies: Some say 40 to 66, but the end result was that the uprising was stopped in Kenner.

Historians say some survivors were able to escape into the swamps, while others were returned to bondage.

On January 13, 1811 a tribunal convened at Destrehan Plantation and after three days of hearings, 45 men were either sentenced to death or sent on to New Orleans for further trials. Those sentenced to death, among them Charles Deslondes, Kook and Quamaan, were executed by a firing squad and beheaded.

Their heads were stuck on poles and placed along the river levee from New Orleans to LaPlace in an attempt to discourage similar rebellions.

““It was really brutally put down,” said Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, a New Orleans author and historian who is now an adjunct history professor at Michigan State University. “It was incredibly bloodthirsty in the way the elite put it down, cutting people into little pieces, displaying body parts.”

“There's been a historical amnesia about anything that showed a really bitter exploitation and violence directed on the slave and former slave population,” Hall said. “A lot of historians didn't want to talk about it and a lot of the public didn't want to hear about it. But that's evidently changing and I'm glad I lived long enough to see it.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Most Americans Say Tax Rich to Balance Budget: “81% Say Tax Rich or Cut Military” “3% Say Cut Social Security”

January 4, 2011 Reuters

Most Americans think the United States should raise taxes for the rich to balance the budget, according to a 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair poll released on Monday.

Sixty-one percent of Americans polled would rather see taxes for the wealthy increased as a first step to tackling the deficit, the poll showed.

The next most popular way -- chosen by 20 percent -- was to cut defense spending.

Four percent would cut the Medicare government health insurance program for the elderly, and 3 percent would cut the Social Security retirement program, the poll showed.

Asked which part of the world they would fix first, the largest proportion of respondents -- 36 percent -- chose Washington, compared with 23 percent who picked the Middle East and 14 percent who chose Haiti.

The poll included a random sample of 1,067 adults across the United States from November 29 to December 2. The margin of error may be plus or minus 3 percentage points, 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair said.

**Quit Whining And Pissing On
Everybody In Sight With Your
Condescending Elitist Bullshit About
How Stupid Americans Are:**

**If You Don't Spend Time In The Real World
Reaching Out To Real Troops, You Have Nothing
Whatsoever To Sneer At Others About.**

**"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**

**Amid Anti-Government Protests,
Hacker Attack Blocks Access To
Tunisian Government Websites:
"Eight Websites Had Been Affected,
Including Those For The President,
Prime Minister, Ministry Of Industry,**

Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, And The Stock Exchange”

“Manifesto Reportedly Posted On The Prime Minister’s Website”

03 Jan 2011 Al Jazeera

Online activists have attacked and at least momentarily disabled several Tunisian government websites in the latest act of protest against the country’s embattled leadership.

As of Monday afternoon, local time, at least eight websites had been affected, including those for the president, prime minister, ministry of industry, ministry of foreign affairs, and the stock exchange.

But reports of civil disobedience and police action filtered out on Twitter on Monday, with some users reporting the use of tear gas by security forces.

The loosely organised hacker group Anonymous claimed responsibility for the cyber attack, which it called “Operation Tunisia”, an apparent arm of the group’s broader effort - termed “Operation Payback” - aimed at taking retribution against governments and businesses viewed as hostile to the similarly amorphous document-leaking group WikiLeaks.

In a manifesto reportedly posted on the prime minister’s website but later removed, the group said that it was “enraged” at the Tunisian government’s behaviour, and that Ben Ali’s administration had “unilaterally declared war on free speech, democracy, and even (its) own people”.

“Anonymous is willing to help the Tunisian people in this fight against oppression,” the statement said.

“Cyber attacks will persist until the Tunisian government respects all Tunisian citizens’ right to free speech and information and ceases the censoring of the internet”.

Sami ben Gharbia, a Tunisian exile living in Europe who monitors online censorship in the country, told Al Jazeera that Monday’s sabotage was the first time he had seen an international group like Anonymous target a Tunisian website.

Gharbia said he had witnessed the hackers planning the “denial-of-service” attack in a chat room arranged by Anonymous and that it appeared Tunisian users were among those participating.

In private, the US has said that Tunisia’s corruption - a contributor to the unemployment driving many to protest - is getting worse.

A 2008 diplomatic cable signed by Robert Godec, the US ambassador, and released by WikiLeaks in December describes both low- and high-level corruption in the country that scares away foreign and domestic investors.

“Whether it’s cash, services, land, property, or yes, even your yacht, President Ben Ali’s family is rumoured to covet it and reportedly gets what it wants,” the cable states.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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“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



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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