

## Military Resistance 9L3



# Lets Move Out

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: December 02, 2011  
Subject: Let's Move Out

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

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### Lets Move Out

His bulging eyes with red veins  
looking forward from left to right  
up and down this land  
the veins on his neck and past his ear  
are like Afghanistan mountains  
while his heart pounds in his chest  
calls danger because there could  
be a mine ahead as his legs arms  
and back feel like a dog Soldier  
with much needed rest

In this desert with open spaces lies  
a waste land from a twenty year  
plus drought where only poppies  
can survive

In this house that they walked  
all day into, causes him and other  
Soldiers to sit and lean back  
against their rucksacks and go to  
sleep from exhaustion while one  
pulls guard as the wind screams  
dust and then they awake to  
let's move out and his heart  
thumps in his chest like it's ready  
to jump out and then there's rifle  
cracks that causes them to swim  
in the dirt but it's only harassment  
that drives him psychotic as he  
shoots back and the shooting stops  
disappears only leaving sand  
on his uniform and then the call  
let's move out, he hears there's coal  
by the mountains, natural gas  
and lithium mines that leaves  
freedom out like a blown up Buddha  
that he's fighting for, let them have  
it all, he was burned out after  
his second tour, to be wounded  
on the inside is just as bad  
he asks himself how much more  
can he take and then he hears  
again, let's move out as he  
hallucinates.

Shock Poetry written by Dennis Serdel for Military Resistance

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

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 and economic  
injustice, 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**

### **IED Kills Three Foreign “Servicemembers” Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced**

Dec. 03, 2011 The Associated Press

A roadside bombing killed three foreign service members Saturday in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led coalition said.

The coalition recently shifted its focus from southern Afghanistan to the east, where militants are fighting Afghan and coalition troops along the long, porous border with Pakistan.

The exact location of the bombing was not disclosed, nor were the nationalities of the dead.

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### **Boyne City Solider Killed In Action**



Army Pvt. 2nd Class Jackie L. Diener II (courtesy photo)

23 Nov 2011 AP

BOYNE CITY, Mich. - A 20-year-old soldier from northern Michigan known as an independent student who spent part of high school studying in Denmark has died just two months into his deployment to Afghanistan, family and friends said Tuesday.

Army Pvt. 2nd Class Jackie L. Diener II died Monday in Kandahar province from wounds sustained in a small-arms attack by insurgents, according to a Defense Department statement Tuesday night.

He was part of the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Flags were lowered to half-staff as word of Diener's death spread through Boyne City, where he went to high school and played several sports. The news was hitting the community hard, said Karen Jarema, principal of Boyne City High School. Diener was a 2009 graduate.

"Jack was a very independent student and had strong desires. He was able to be successful at anything he wished to be," she told the Petoskey News-Review

Diener wrestled and played football and baseball while in school, and he spent his junior year as a foreign exchange student in Denmark, Jarema said.

Wrestling coach Don Nohel said he was proud of Diener's growth both as an athlete and a student.

"He was not afraid to work for something he set his mind to," Nohel said. "As a wrestler, I saw him overcome many difficult moments and bounce back and put himself out there again."

The experience living in Scandinavia was particularly formative for Diener, his former coach said.

"Jack was a unique individual, not really caught up in what other people did, but more interested in making his own way and mark in the world. It is sad that Jack's adventure ended so soon. We will miss him," Nohel said.

Family members and friends gathered in Boyne City, about 40 miles northeast of Traverse City, as information about Diener's death trickled in, according to the newspaper.

"He was a sweetheart, very quiet and a good kid," said his grandmother, Donna Diener.

Survivors also include his parents, Jack and Val Diener, and sister Marcie Diener

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

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

# **“Foreign Troops Did Not Provide Us Security Over A Decade, Instead They Prolonged The War” Street Demonstration In Kabul Against Allowing U.S. Troops To Stay In Afghanistan**

1 December, 2011 by Muhammad Hassan Khetab, Pajhwok.com

KABUL CITY (PAN): Hundreds of people on Thursday staged a protest in Kabul against the second Bonn conference and a proposed strategic agreement with the US allowing foreign troops to remain in Afghanistan.

More than 500 people, including women, marched on roads from the Sinam-i-Pamir area toward the Jada-i-Maiwand locality.

The demonstration carried out under the aegis of the National Solidarity party lasted 1:30 hour.

The protestors issued a resolution, asking foreign troops to leave Afghanistan. They also burnt US flags and chanted slogans against the US, the Afghan government, the traditional Loya Jirga and the strategic cooperation pact.

They carried a symbolic coffin covered with white sheet with slogans related to “independence, freedom and national pride” written on it.

Party leader Hafizullah Rasikh told Pajhwok Afghan News the second Bonn conference would allow foreign troops to stay in Afghanistan. “Foreign troops did not provide us security over a decade, instead they prolonged the war,” he said.

He said the US had been trying to give a legal cover to its troops’ presence in Afghanistan by sponsoring jirgas and holding conferences.

Another protestor, Nilofar, said allowing the establishment of US military bases in Afghanistan was meant selling the homeland.

She said Afghanistan needed a strong government which could prevent foreign interference and facilitate the withdrawal of foreign troops.

She called the second Bonn conference a gathering of undesirable Afghans and westerns to occupy Afghanistan.

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

**Senate Pushes To Hurry Up  
Afghanistan Pullout:  
“The Chamber’s Vote Was Above All A  
Message To The Democratic President  
That It Was Time To End The U.S.  
Combat Role”**

Nov 30, 2011 Reuters [Excerpts]

**The Senate voted on Wednesday to require President Barack Obama to devise a plan for expediting the pullout of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, signaling growing impatience in Congress.**

Obama in June called for about a third of U.S. forces, or 33,000 troops, to leave Afghanistan by the end of next summer. The remaining 66,000 U.S. troops are to be slowly withdrawn until a final transition to Afghan security control in 2014.

The Democratic-controlled Senate’s vote for accelerating that drawdown came on an amendment to an annual defense bill, but the chances of the requirement becoming law are slim.

A similar demand for an accelerated transition of military operations from U.S. to Afghan authorities was narrowly defeated in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives in May.

**The sponsor of the version that passed the Senate on Wednesday, Democrat Jeff Merkley, said the chamber’s vote was above all a message to the Democratic president that it was time to end the U.S. combat role.**

“Our American forces have successfully pursued the two main goals set when we went to Afghanistan: stamping out the al Qaeda training camps and hunting down and bringing to justice those responsible for 9/11,” Merkley said in a statement, referring to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

“It is time to bring our men and women home. The Senate sent that message to the President today in unequivocal terms,” Merkley said.

The amendment passed on a voice vote. Republican John McCain, who opposed it, declared that senior U.S. military commanders were already uncomfortable with the

drawdown Obama announced in June, and said stepping it up would be “reckless and wrong.”

Unease in Washington over the decade-long war in Afghanistan has escalated amid rising worries about tight budgets and high unemployment.

**During debate on the amendment, Merkley said the conflict in Afghanistan had cost the United States nearly a half-trillion dollars, and that it was time to “bring our troops and our tax dollars home”.**

His amendment had 20 co-sponsors in the 100-member Senate, including two Republicans - Mike Lee and Rand Paul, both members of the chamber’s conservative Tea Party caucus.

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## **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers of the 125 BSB Medical Company surgical team of Task Force Mustang and Afghan National Army soldiers carry a U.S. Army soldier injured by gun shots on a stretcher in Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shank in Logar province, eastern Afghanistan December 1, 2011. REUTERS/Umit Bektas

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# David Hickman Of Greensboro Was Killed While Serving In Iraq

Nov 16, 2011 Written by Devetta Blount, Digtriad.com

Greensboro, NC -- A Greensboro family is mourning the loss of their son who was killed in Iraq. Friends are also dealing with the news.

Family members say 23-year-old David Hickman was killed Monday while serving in U.S. Army operations in Iraq.

Late Wednesday, the US Department of Defense (DOD) confirmed that Spc. David E. Hickman died in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries suffered after encountering an improvised explosive device (IED).

DOD said he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, out of Fort Bragg, NC.

Friends have planned a vigil for Hickman at his former high school in Greensboro. The candlelight vigil is schedule for Sunday, November 19 at Northeast High's football stadium. Candles will be provided.

Tuesday, his mother, Veronica Hickman, said they were informed by the Army David had died Monday morning. "I am proud of him," said Veronica. "He died for his country."

David Hickman was a 2006 graduate of Northeast Guilford High School. He played outside linebacker for the football team and was team captain and All-Conference.

"David was just a real good all around person that we really thought a lot of," said coach Tommy Pursley, who has coached many students over the years. "Some of them you really have to think hard to remember who they were and what they look like and exactly who you're thinking about, but David's definitely not that."

David's parents said he attended Ferrum College with the hopes of playing Division 3 football. They said he joined the military after being "red shirted".

He served two years in the Army and obtained the rank of E-4.

Veronica said she got the opportunity to talk with David on Sunday. She is thankful for that last call and gives a message to all families.

"People out in the world that have kids, family, just tell each other that you love each other. You never know what might happen."

David was also an accomplished black belt. He trained for several years with Mike King, who runs the Greensboro Black Belt Academy.

"You hear a lot of times people were genuine but I mean truly, just, if he asked you how you were doing, he want to know how you were doing," said King. "There are certain



people we teach and we train that over time you somewhat let them slip out of your mind but David is just one of those people that you always have a good thought about.”

They have a memorial garden outside the martial arts facility and plan to plant something in David’s honor.

David’s good friend, Logan Trainum, said, “He’s just the most genuine person I ever met.”

“He wasn’t typical, you know. He was a true original which you don’t find very often now,” he added. “I find myself picking up the phone and there’s nobody to dial anymore.”

David was supposed to come back to the U.S. December 1.

Trainum said, “It’s not fair. He was so close to coming home.”

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## **“U.S. Forces At Camp Echo Still Face One Or Two Attacks A Week”**

Nov 30, 2011 By Patrick Markey, Reuters [Excerpt]

U.S. forces at Camp Echo still face one or two attacks a week, usually roadside explosives. The base was last mortared a few months ago.

Patrols from Echo head out daily scouring highways or nearby fields for suspicious piles of trash, dead animals on roadsides - clearing anything that could be used to hide explosives targeting convoys.

“We know they can’t destroy us, but they do want to try to show they are the ones who forced the Americans out,” Captain Mark Barnes, an army intelligence officer.

### **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?**

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**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 and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.**

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## MILITARY NEWS

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



The body of California Army National Guard soldier Sean Walsh arrives at Moffett Federal Airfield, in Mountain View, Calif., Nov. 30, 2011. Walsh, 21, died Nov. 16 during a combat operation of injuries sustained after encountering indirect fire in Afghanistan's Khost Province. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)...

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# Feds Withholding Evidence Favorable To Bradley Manning, Lawyer Charges; “The Filing Also Sheds Light On Other Likely Avenues Coombs Will Use To Mitigate Or Challenge The Charges Against Manning”



[www.bradleymanning](http://www.bradleymanning)

November 28, 2011 By Kim Zetter. Wired.com

**The civilian lawyer for Bradley Manning, the Army private who allegedly leaked tens of thousands of classified U.S. government documents to WikiLeaks, is seeking to question the severity of the leak by requesting the government’s own internal damage assessments that reportedly contradict statements that Manning irreparably damaged national security.**

Manning’s defense attorney, David E. Coombs, is attempting to get evidence from the government to defend Manning in his upcoming pre-trial hearing on Dec. 16, but says the government is stonewalling him.

“The defense has repeatedly requested the below discovery in this case, but the government has consistently responded with a blanket denial of the defense request,” Coombs wrote in the partially redacted filing.

The evidence Coombs seeks includes copies of internal reports conducted by task forces assessing the damage from and the classification levels of the 250,000 State Department diplomatic cables and 500,000 classified Iraq and Afghanistan war field reports allegedly leaked by Manning to WikiLeaks.

Published information about the various reports put them at odds with each other, Coombs notes.

**One assessment conducted by the Defense Intelligence Agency concluded that all of the information allegedly leaked was dated, represented low-level opinions, or was already commonly known due to previous public disclosures, while an official at another government office indicated that the leaks had caused damage to national security.**

Coombs wants to use the DIA report, along with another unpublished one apparently commissioned by the White House, to ban witnesses from describing the leaks as more damaging than these official reports found them to be.

Manning is charged with 22 violations, which could get him up to life in prison if convicted.

The filing also sheds light on other likely avenues Coombs will use to mitigate or challenge the charges against Manning, including questioning the actions of President Barack Obama and Manning's betrayer, Adrian Lamo.

For instance, Coombs seeks "known evidence tending to diminish credibility of any government witness including, but not limited to, prior convictions under Military Rule of Evidence (M.R.E.) 609, evidence of other character, conduct, or bias bearing on witness credibility under M.R.E. 608. Specifically, the defense requests the name and contact information for any law enforcement agent working with —."

The name is blacked out in the document, but could be an indication that the defense will seek to discredit Lamo, a former hacker and prosecution witness who turned Manning in to authorities after Manning allegedly confessed to Lamo in chat logs that he leaked thousands of government documents to WikiLeaks.

In a section of the document that refers to the White House, the document seeks information about any assessment "given by any member of the government to —". Although the identity of the person receiving the assessments is redacted in the document, a subsequent sentence seems to indicate it refers to President Barack Obama.

"The defense requests any e-mail, report, assessment, directive, or discussion by — to the Department of Defense concerning this case in order to determine the presence of unlawful command influence," the sentence reads.

At a press conference last week, members of the Bradley Manning Support Network, which has raised money for Manning's defense, argued that public comments that President Obama made earlier this year suggesting that Manning is guilty constituted illegal command influence on the military court from the nation's commander in chief.

Obama told an audience in April, "If I was to release stuff, information that I'm not authorized to release, I'm breaking the law."

"I can't imagine a juror who wants to have a future in the military ... going against the statement of (guilty) made by his or her commander-in-chief," said Kevin Zeese, a legal advisor to the Bradley Manning Support Network. Zeese was referring to the military judge and jury who will preside over the hearing and subsequent court martial of Manning and could be swayed to convict based on Obama's statements.

Coombs' filing also addresses issues around Manning's alleged mistreatment in prison, asking the government to hand over copies of all audio and video surveillance of the visitation booths at the Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia, and at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, where Manning was moved earlier this year. Coombs requested a video the military apparently took of Manning when he was ordered to surrender his clothing while in custody earlier at Quantico.

"When PFC Manning was being ordered to surrender his clothes as part of the unnecessary suicide risk, the Brig made the decision to videotape this event along with an interrogation of PFC Manning by — and others," Coombs writes. "The defense believes the video will support PFC Manning's claim of unlawful pretrial punishment. The government has yet to respond to the defense request."

The request also appears to solve some of the mystery behind two of the charges against the former Army intelligence analyst related to unauthorized software he's accused of installing on classified government networks during the time he allegedly siphoned hundreds of thousands of documents off that classified network. Manning allegedly installed the software twice on Army computers connected to SIPRnet, the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network that has been identified as the original source of WikiLeaks' large-scale U.S. releases.

The charges never identified the nature of the software, but last April, an Army spokeswoman clarified the charges for Threat Level. "The allegations ... refer to data-mining software," spokeswoman Shaunteh Kelly wrote in an e-mail, noting that the two allegations related to "the same data-mining software used on two different dates."

Kelly, however, declined to identify the exact data-mining program that was used, writing that "Identifying at this point the specific software program used may potentially compromise the ongoing criminal investigation."

If Manning installed data-mining software on his SIPRnet workstation, it could potentially strengthen the government's case against him if it can be shown that the software helped him search for and steal documents. But "data-mining software" is a broad term for any number of different kinds of software programs that collect data.

In order to make the case that Manning wasn't the only soldier to install unauthorized programs on classified networks, Coombs requested forensic images of each computer from the Tactical Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (T-SCIF) and the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at Forward Operating Base Hammer in Iraq, where Manning allegedly downloaded the data that was passed to WikiLeaks. Coombs is hoping to prove "it was common for soldiers to add unauthorized computer programs" to government systems, that apparently helped the soldiers do their work.

Among the programs soldiers commonly installed, he writes, were mIRC (an Internet Relay Chat client for Windows); Wget (a web crawler that improves activity on slow or unstable network connections); GEOTRANS (an application that allows a user to collect and use geographic coordinates from a variety of systems, maps and data sets); and Grid Extractor (an executable program that extracts MGRS grids from text documents and imports them into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet).

Both of the last two programs mentioned, GEOTRANS and Grid Extractor, could conceivably be classified as data-mining programs, though it's not known if either of these programs was specifically installed by Manning or if one of them is the basis for the government's charges against Manning. If the defense can show that these programs were commonly used by Manning and other soldiers to aid in their daily work, this could weaken those particular charges against Manning.

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## **DoD Official Promises War Profiteers Their Profits Are Safe And “May Increase” As Defense Budget Gets Chopped**

30 Nov 2011 By ZACHARY FRYER-BIGGS, Defense News [Excerpts]

NEW YORK - Even with the Pentagon looking to make widespread cuts and improve efficiency, profitability is not a target and it may increase, Shay Assad, U.S. Defense Department director of procurement and acquisition policy, told an audience of investors Nov. 30.

Speaking at the Credit Suisse 2011 Aerospace & Defense Conference, Assad said that the Pentagon is concerned with cost reduction, not margin reduction, and that he would be surprised if profitability went down even as spending is decreased.

**“It wouldn’t bother us at all if operating margins go up, so long as we’re paying less,” he said. “We want to spend 90 and have them make 15, we don’t want to spend 105 and have them make 15.” [Meaning the rate/% of profit goes up for the war profiteers. How nice for them.]**

Speaking to reporters after his presentation, Assad said the DoD efforts are not new but rather the implementation of previous practices that have become less prevalent.

“There’s really no acquisition reform going on here.” **[No shit.]**

**The conference, which included presentations from the heads of a number of defense contractors, drew the attention of protesters, several dozen of whom blocked the front entrance to the Credit Suisse offices on Park Avenue.**

Their signs included references to war profiteering, as well as the Occupy Wall Street movement, and hecklers called to attendees.

“It’s not too late to quit your job,” one young woman shouted.

Police and security personnel directed attendees to a side entrance.

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## **War Profiteer Calls Iraq And Afghanistan Wars “A Great Ride” For His Business**

Nov 30, 2011 Reuters

U.S. weapons makers told investors this week they are doing all they can to prepare for leaner and more uncertain U.S. defense budgets, including redoubling their efforts to cut costs, drum up export sales and sell more goods to commercial clients.

Industry executives and Pentagon officials say they are still sorting out the potential impact of an additional \$600 billion in defense cuts over the next 10 years, on top of some \$489 billion in cuts already being absorbed.

Clay Jones, chief executive of Rockwell Collins Inc , a flight-controls supplier and subcontractor on many key weapons programs, said commercial sales would account for a growing share of his company’s revenue as government orders declined.

“It’s been a great ride,” he told the conference. “The ride’s over.”

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## **“Senators Were Irked With The Results Of A Survey Of VA Health Care Providers” “Nearly 40% Said They Cannot Schedule An Appointment In Their Own Clinics Within Two Weeks, As The Government’s Guidelines Require”**

# **“One Witness Said Veterans Sometimes Must Wait For Two Months To Get An Appointment”**

## **“She Told The Panel That She Feared Retaliation By VA Management For Participating In The Hearing”**

November 30, 2011 By Rob Hotakainen, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Senators gave a public scolding Wednesday to the director of mental health operations for the nation’s veterans, saying the federal government must speed up services for those with post-traumatic stress disorder and other afflictions.

Faced with a 34 percent increase in the number of veterans who have sought mental health services since 2006, the Department of Veterans Affairs has not kept pace, said Democratic Sen. Patty Murray.

As a result, too many veterans are waiting far too long to get help, which is leading to a rash of suicides, increased drug abuse and other problems, said Murray, who heads the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Offering an example from her home state of Washington, Murray said veterans seeking psychiatric help in Spokane have had to wait an average of 21 days for an appointment, with a maximum wait time of up to 87 days.

“We need to fix this now,” Murray said at a committee hearing that she called to examine the topic.

Senators were irked with the results of a survey of VA health care providers released last month; nearly 40 percent said they cannot schedule an appointment in their own clinics within two weeks, as the government’s guidelines require.

The survey, requested by Murray, found that 70 percent did not have adequate staff or space to meet the mental health care needs of veterans they serve, and 46 percent said they needed to provide more off-hour appointments to reach veterans.

Noting that the U.S. is already witnessing a record suicide rate among veterans, with as many as 18 veterans killing themselves every day, Murray said: “We need to meet the veterans’ desire for care with the immediate assurance that it will be provided — and provided quickly. We cannot afford to leave them discouraged that they can’t find an appointment.”



One witness, Michelle Washington, a PTSD specialist at the Wilmington VA Medical Center in Delaware, said veterans sometimes must wait for two months to get an appointment.

And she said the center doesn't even have a PTSD treatment team because of lack of staffing.

**Washington said that VA employees at the Wilmington center are overworked and that more than a dozen resigned recently after being admonished for speaking up for patients.**

**She told the panel that she feared retaliation by VA management for participating in the hearing.**

Following Tuesday's announcement that another 33,000 troops will come home from Afghanistan by the end of next year, Murray said, "The demand for care will only swell.

"This should not come as a shock to VA," she said. "And it should not cause the waiting line for care to grow. ... VA has had a decade to prepare."

"I had expected that four and a half months would be enough time for VA to come up with solutions, but it appears that is not the case," Burr said.

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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

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

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

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

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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.

**Military Resistance Available In PDF Format**

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**“Political Economy In Its Classical Period, Like The Bourgeoisie Itself In Its Parvenu Period, Adopted A Severely Critical Attitude To The Machinery Of The State”**

**State Officials, Military People “Are Regarded By The Industrial Capitalists And The Working Class As Incidental Expenses Of Production, Which Are Therefore To Be Cut Down To The Most**

# Indispensable Minimum And Provided As Cheaply As Possible”

Theories Of Surplus Value, Karl Marx, 1863 [Excerpt]

The polemics against Adam Smith’s distinction between productive and unproductive labour were for the most part confined to the *dii minorum gentium* [minor gods] (among whom moreover Storch was the most important); they are not to be found in the work of any economist of significance—of anyone of whom it can be said that he made some discovery in political economy.

They are, however, the hobby-horse of the second-rate fellows and especially of the schoolmasterish compilers and writers of compendia, as well as of *dilettanti* with facile pens and vulgarisers in this field.

What particularly aroused these polemics against Adam Smith was the following circumstance.

The great mass of so-called “higher grade” workers—such as state officials, military people, artists, doctors, priests, judges, lawyers, etc.—some of whom are not only not productive but in essence destructive, but who know how to appropriate to themselves a very great part of the “material” wealth partly through the sale of their “immaterial” commodities and partly by forcibly imposing the latter on other people — found it not at all pleasant to be relegated *economically* to the same class as clowns and menial servants and to appear merely as people partaking in the consumption, parasites on the actual producers (or rather agents of production).

This was a peculiar profanation precisely of those functions which had hitherto been surrounded with a halo and had enjoyed superstitious veneration.

Political economy in its classical period, like the bourgeoisie itself in its parvenu period, adopted a severely critical attitude to the machinery of the State, etc.

At a later stage it realised and — as was shown too in practice — learnt from experience that the necessity for the inherited social combination of all these classes, which in part were totally unproductive, arose from its own organisation.

**In so far as those “unproductive labourers” do not produce entertainment, so that their purchase entirely depends on how the agent of production cares to spend his wages or his profit — in so far on the contrary as they are necessary or make themselves necessary because of physical infirmities (like doctors), or spiritual weakness (like parsons), or because of the conflict between private interests and national interests (like statesmen, all lawyers, police and soldiers) — they are regarded by Adam Smith, as by the industrial capitalists themselves and the working class, as incidental expenses of production, which are therefore to be cut down to the most indispensable minimum and provided as cheaply as possible.**

Bourgeois society reproduces in its own form everything against which it had fought in feudal or absolutist form.

**In the first place therefore it becomes a principal task for the sycophants of this society, and especially of the upper classes, to restore in theoretical terms even the purely parasitic section of these “unproductive labourers”, or to justify the exaggerated claims of the section which is indispensable.**

The *dependence* of the ideological, etc., classes on the *capitalists* was in fact proclaimed.

*Secondly*, however, a section of the agents of production (of material production itself) were declared by one group of economists or another to be “unproductive”.

For example, the landowner, by those among the economists who represented industrial capital (Ricardo).

Others (for example Carey) declared that the merchant in the true sense of the word was an “unproductive” laborer.

**Then even a third group came along who declared that the “capitalists” themselves were unproductive, or who at least sought to reduce their claims to material wealth to “wages”, that is, to the wages of a “productive laborer”.**

**Many intellectual workers seemed inclined to share the skepticism in regard to the capitalist.**

It was therefore time to make a compromise and to recognise the “productivity” of all classes not directly included among the agents of material production.

One good turn deserves another; and, as in the *Fable of the Bees*, it had to be established that even from the “productive”, economic standpoint, the bourgeois world with all its “unproductive labourers” is the best of all worlds.

This was all the more necessary because the “unproductive labourers” on their part were advancing critical observations in regard to the productivity of the classes who in general were “*fruges consumere nati*” [born only to eat]; or in regard to those agents of production, like landowners, who do nothing at all, etc.

**Both the *do-nothings* and their *parasites* had to be found a place in this best possible order of things.**

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**December 4, 1969:**

# Black Panther Party Leaders Fred Hampton And Mark Clark Assassinated By Chicago Police



Fred Hampton



Chicago police remove the body of Fred Hampton, slain by police on Chicago's west side, Dec 4, 1969

Carl Bunin Peace History Nov 28 - Dec 4

(Remembrance by someone who worked with Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton)

Black Panther party leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were assassinated by Chicago Police officers with cooperation from the FBI.

Hampton had founded the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party at the age of 20.

He led in establishing the Breakfast for Children program and a free health clinic on the west side of the City.

A main purpose of the Panthers was to resist police violence.

One of Hampton's achievements was to persuade Chicago's most powerful street gangs to agree on a non-aggression pact.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, however, considered the Panthers as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country." The Panther party headquarters had been raided three times with over 100 members arrested.

The Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Frank Church (D-Idaho), revealed in 1976 that William O'Neal, Hampton's bodyguard, was an FBI informant who had delivered an apartment floor-plan to the Bureau with an "X" marking the bed where Hampton died.

About 100 shots were fired by the police, just one from the building.

The survivors, including Deborah Johnson, Hampton's pregnant girlfriend, were arrested and charged with attempting to murder the police.

*"You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill a revolution!"* – Fred Hampton

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



### **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 email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **Dead Man Walking: “The Spending Binge That Pulled China Out Of The 2008 Crisis Left Local Governments Loaded With Debt, Exposed Banks To The Risk Of Surging Bad Loans, And Inflated A Real-Estate Bubble” “Eerily Empty ‘Ghost Town’ Has Come To Symbolize The Excesses Of China’s Property Boom”**



Ordos: The eerily empty “ghost town” that has come to symbolize the excesses of China’s property boom. Reuters

DECEMBER 2, 2011 By TOM ORLIK, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

ORDOS, China—For a sense of the sharp policy shift China’s leaders have to orchestrate to avoid the world’s second-largest economy landing with a hard thud, look no further than this Inner Mongolia desert town, where construction cranes have come to an abrupt standstill.

Just as a European crisis and a weak U.S. recovery are hurting Chinese exporters, the confidence that had sustained China’s property boom is evaporating, causing a double whammy for growth: fading demand overseas and at home at the same time.

**The construction slump could not have come at a worse moment for China's factories.**

**A key manufacturing measure Thursday, the official purchasing-managers index, fell to 49 in November, below the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction and the lowest since the financial crisis in February 2009.**

With both the real-estate and export sectors in trouble, the warning light on China's growth is flashing red.

Like in the last crisis, China's leaders have been quick to react but this time around their options are limited.

A slowdown in China would have far-reaching consequences world-wide, from commodity producers in Australia and Brazil to U.S. exporters that target China's consumers and a crisis-ridden Europe seeking financial backers.

Metals would be among the hardest hit; Chinese construction is among the largest global drivers of demand for iron ore. And Chinese consumption, ever-more important globally, could also be dented as about half of China's household wealth is tied up in property.

Nowhere is China's predicament more visible than in Ordos, the unlikely epicenter of China's real-estate investment frenzy.

The town grew prosperous on the back of massive reserves of coal, and like the newly rich all over China, its residents piled into property. The result was a new city in the desert — Kangbashi — the eerily empty "ghost town" that has come to symbolize the excesses of China's property boom.

**"Everyone has at least two or three properties and lots of people have seven or eight," says Zhao Yanan, a saleswoman at Heng Sen Property Co.**

"Where's the demand for more?" she asks.

**As Ordos property prices edge down and transaction volumes plummet, sales reps shiver in empty, unheated offices.**

**Developers who borrowed funds at usurious rates are left with unsold inventory and mounting debts.**

Ordos's chill, while extreme, echoes the broader trend.

Mark Williams, China economist at Capital Economics, says that across the country, growth in new housing starts came in at close to zero in October.

One developer, Zhejiang-based Greentown, plans to slash new starts by 40%-50% in 2012. Other major developers are also promising to focus on shifting the swelling backlog of inventory before breaking ground on new projects.



**The government has already pushed the panic (read: stimulus) button.**

On Wednesday, the People's Bank of China moved to reduce the percentage of deposits that banks must keep on reserve by 0.5 percentage point, freeing up new funds for lending.

But the options Beijing has to support growth are more constrained than in 2008, when it leaned on banks to finance a massive stimulus plan.

In Ordos, work on a 20,000-apartment complex is under way. Concrete shells of some buildings are already in place, while work on others has hardly commenced.

The spending binge that pulled China out of the 2008 crisis left local governments loaded with debt, exposed banks to the risk of surging bad loans, and inflated a real-estate bubble.

Further stimulus risks adding to those problems.

**Real-estate investment in Ordos, with a population of around 1.6 million residents and with 9.1 million square meters of property under construction, has averaged growth of 68.8% over the past four years, compared with 27.6% for China as a whole.**

The biggest and most extravagant development so far is Xinghewan—or Star River—on the edge of the city's old town, where 1,925 apartments are under construction.

In the palatial sales center, a 3D animation on a cinema-size screen presents the vision for the finished complex. Shoppers walk past a Louis Vuitton store in an on-site shopping mall. Water spews from the mouth of a golden dolphin statuette into an artificial lake. A 12,000-square-meter garden is covered by a glass roof, protecting the plants from the winter cold.

On Sept. 6, the developer put 300 of the apartments on the market; so far 270 have been sold, according to a sales rep for the company. Zhou Gaizhi, a former sales rep, now working for another developer, is unimpressed. "If the buyers were there they would have taken all the apartments to market at once," she says.

November data from property consultancy Soufun published Thursday show average prices in Ordos down a mere 0.78% month-to-month.

But speculators buy property because it is rising in value.

Even slight falls have been enough to scare them out of the market, putting pressure on developers to offer sharper discounts.

On Wednesday morning in Kangbashi, a group of about 35 migrant workers clustered around the entrance to the showroom of Wenming Property.

Inside their colleagues negotiated with local officials and company management over unpaid wages.

“We’ve come to settle accounts with the boss” said one worker from Gansu province, who did not give his name. Wenming means “civilized” and the dispute appears headed for an amicable resolution.

But it underlines the difficulty developers have covering even their basic costs.

**Locals trace the beginning of market decline in Ordos to Sept. 24, when Wang Fujin, the president of Ordos Zhongfu Property Development Co., committed suicide. Chinese media reported he left unpaid debts of 263 million yuan (about \$41 million), borrowed at a rate of 3% a month.**

**Mr. Wang’s death triggered a panicked response from investors with funds in the underground lending schemes that helped to fund Ordos’s building boom.**

One Beijing-based businessman, who asked not to be named, said he is trying to pull almost 200,000 yuan out of a lending scheme since hearing news of the suicide, with no success.

Ghost towns like Kangbashi are symptomatic of a wider malaise in China’s property sector.

Nationwide there was 3.6 billion square meters of property under construction at the end of October, compared to sales of just 709 million square meters in the first 10 months of the year, suggesting a wave of overcapacity about to hit the market.



“German chancellor Angela Merkel says Europe is experiencing its worst period since the second world war.” -- Steve Bell Toons

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Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties enlisted troops inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help organize resistance within the armed forces.

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