J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N.C.

UP AGAINST THE BULKHEAD

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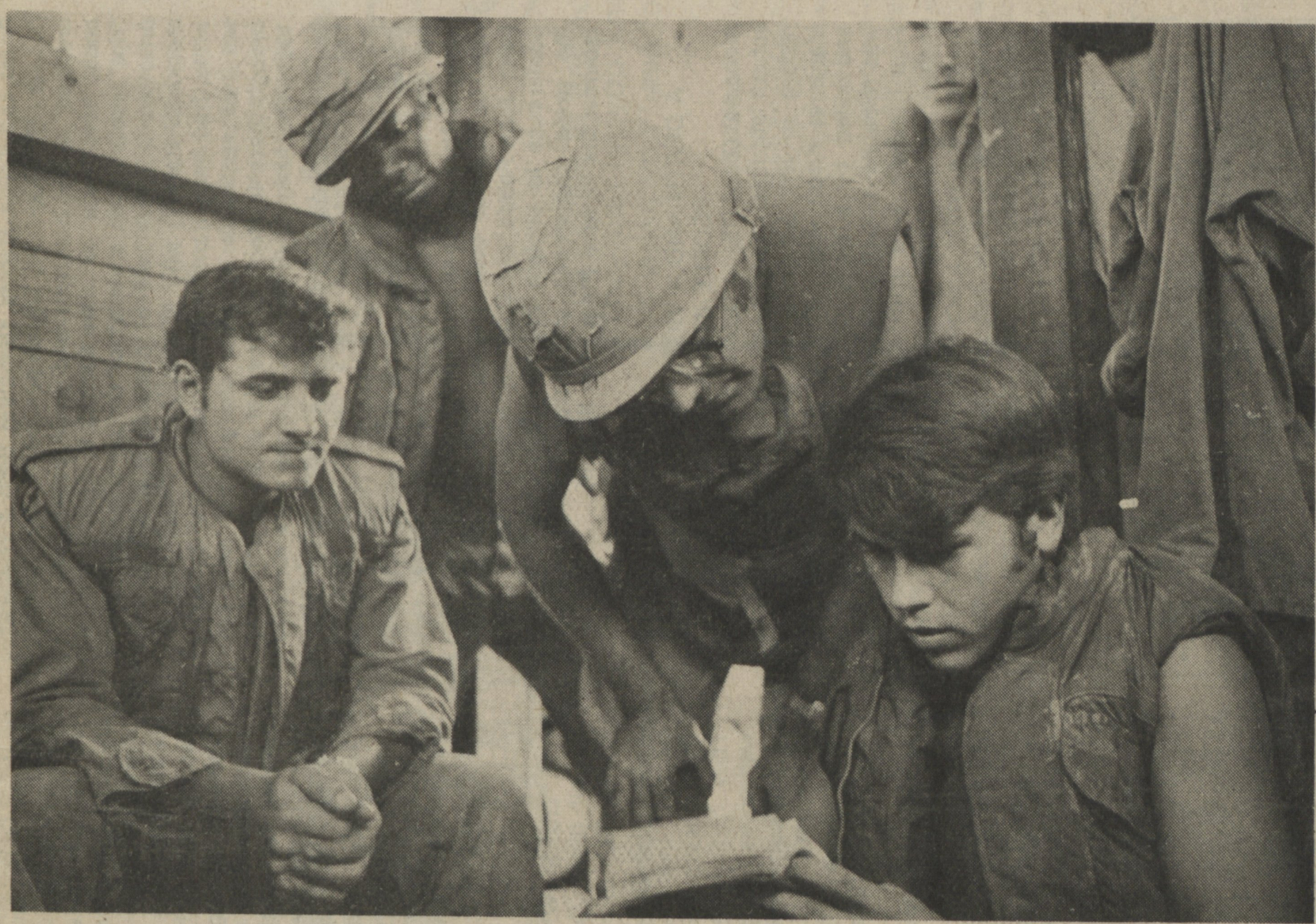
Lefs work

Mutiny!



"Tonight the 2d Platoon is supposed to go out on night ambush. I'm not going. The 2d Platoon is not moving from their bunker. They will be staying." Firebase Pace, Bravo Company

GIs in a bunker at Firebase Pace pass around a petition in support of six other men in Bravo Company who just refused orders to move out on a suicide mission. After this photo was taken, two other units also refused to move out in solidarity with the six. When another company was flown in to replace Bravo Co., they, too, refused to move out.

J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

FIRE BASE PACE

GRUNT POWER

"When we first got here, they told us their mission and that was to get on defensive. But night ambush is an offensive role. And it'a plain suicide going out there in the middle of the night."

"Does anyone back in the world know that Melvin Laird said our combat role has ended? Fact is, we're still out in the bush. Seven people got hit in an ambush, and that was the day it was in the newspaper."

These men spoke to a reporter at Fire Base Pace about two miles from the Cambodian border near the city of Tay Ninh. The night before, 15 mean had been ordered out to set up an ambush in an area dominated by regimented NVA and local forces. They had seen the US-backed ARVN troops go out in groups of 200-300, only to come back really messed up. There wasn't any medevac for hit men, and the only medical aid they had for the ambush was one guy who'd had a one-hour quickie course in first aid. When the higher highers ordered a 15-man platoon to do the same job, they used their common sense. They refused to move out.

Fire Base Pace is in the Parrots Beak, where Nixon sent US and ARVN troops in May last year to wipe out those "sanctuaries." It turned out the sanctuaries were never found, and probably never existed. Now the area is controlled by Vietnamese and Cambodians resisting US invasion forces who've been pulled into their own sanctuaries, a string of fire bases. From these bases, GIs support ARVN units in Cambodia with artillery fire and more.

At least that's the official story. But in spite of all the talk about troop withdrawals, there are still grunts forced to carry out insane orders while the top pigs insist the men aren't there at all. GIs are really bitter about military hypocrisy in the campaign to convince Americans that the war is ending. One guy asked, **"We're kind of wondering whether anybody back in the world knows that we're out here. Like they say that only two batteries of artillery are supposed to be here, and no grunts are here. We don't even exist. We're just meat."** Another man in Bravo Company, 1/12th of 1st Air Cav, pointed out, "People go home on leave and get asked, 'How's things back in the barracks in Vietnam? What barracks, man? We sleep out on the ground."

Delta Company arrives at Firebase Pace to "releive" Bravo Company, which had just refused orders to move out on a suicide mission, It would have meant following ARVN troops at night into Cambodia at a time when no MEDEVAC helicopters were able to land due to heavy small arms fire. The next day, these guys also refused to move out.

WHO'S GONNA FIGHT FOR NIXON AND THIEU?

All of them feel that "nobody knows why we're here. If people don't want you over here, then what's your purpose. **We're not just rebelling against going out on that ambush, we're rebelling against this whole situation. How can it be a democracy when you have a one-man election? Everybody knew what that was about."** Every day more Vietnamese join to fight against Pres. Thieu, and he used heavy police and US protection to get himself elected. If the US pulled out, his regime would collapse. No one in Bravo Company wanted to be the last man to die defending a corrupt dictator whose only support is the Joint Chiefs of Staff and American war profiteers.

Nixon plans to continue his support of Thieu and win a military victory. One half of his strategy is to deceive the people by saying that no GIs are on offensive duty. And the other half is to cover up GI resistance and rebellion. Bravo Company was told they'd be rescuing some grunts who were cut off, or that they'd be on permieter defense, or some such bullshit. When they found out what was really happening, they told the lifers to shove it. After their first refusal, the Captain picked out six guys as agitators and threatened them with court martial.

That's where he made a mistake. In a period of about an hour, 66 men from Bravo Company signed a petition that supported the men in the 3d Platoon. The whole company refused orders to go on night ambush. So the Captain was in a jam. There wasn't any way to court martial the whole company and keep it out of the press.

Richard Boyle, the reporter who brought the petition and tape out of Pace, picked up on the Captains fears about the press. A dude told him, "The Capt. said not to talk to the press because things were backward. He said the strike wasn't called off because we refused to go. It was because ARVNs were out there. Now he wants us to go out today."

MORE REPLACEMENTS—MORE REFUSALS

By Tuesday, October 12, the whole company was transferred out to "prevent possible harm to company morale." Delta company replaced Bravo, and also refused night ambush patrols. When Captain Kenneth Smith told everyone in a Delta Co. platoon to step to the other side of the bunker if they refused to go, 20 out of 28 crossed the line. The Alamo in reverse. They agreed to go only after Major Dye, Pace's senior officer, offered to go out with them.

Morale is the military's term to describe how well GIs follow orders. But Bravo and Delta companies defined it for themselves. Real morale comes from unity and resistance against fighting in a war we don't want. And the Pentagon can't court martial everyone.

The source for this story is Richard Boyle, now a writer for Ramparts Press and an ex-writer for Overseas Weekly. He was at Pace the whole time, and was asked by the men of Bravo Company to bring back their petition to Senator Edward Kennedy, and to tell their story to the rest of the world. The quotes are from interviews taped with the men of Bravo Company.

WHISKEY MOUNTAIN

Brothers Revolt

The military likes to say that its racism is just a reflection of the problem in America, intensified by conditions in combat and other heavy duty. And a group of fifteen black GIs stationed at Whiskey Mtn with the 35th Engineering Group know that lifers are more than ready to smash any signs of unity among black brothers.

On September 25, a group of brothers asked permission to attend a memorial service in Cam Ranh Bay for a two-year old black girl killed by a white two years ago in Los Angeles. PFC Willie Norwood said, "There'd been a lot of rain, and when we got to the gate, we were told all the bridges were flooded and we couldn't go. They told us we could have the service in our hootch."

So fifteen black and four or five white GIs holed up in their bunker. Later in the morning, a sergeant came in and talked the white guys into leaving. The scene was set up—fifteen blacks in the bunker surrounded by Charlie Company (299th Eng Bn) with loaded weapons and three APCs.

Sp/4 Bobby Williams was one of the people inside: "One guy said he smelled smoke. That was it. An explosion went off. We staggered outside and two of the guys collapsed. One guy went into a state of shock."

On the outside, Sp/4 Herlin Lee saw "Guys come out and drop on the ground like they were dead. It seemed like the whole of Charlie Company was already on the scene with their loaded weapons pointed at the brothers as they came out."

Reporters talked with three of the brothers as they were being transferred. The Army charged fourteen of the guys with mutiny, and held them in Long Binh for a week before they were persuaded to cop to lesser charges. The men got demotions, fines, and pay cuts of more than $100. Two of them were still in the stockade three weeks after the mutiny. And, not surprising, no one was charged with setting off the mysterious explosion.

Racism isn't the only problem at Whiskey Mtn. Smack is widely used, and there are frequent frags and other "occurrences," as the *Washington Post* calls them. These are all directly related to the fucked up conditions at the base, like most places in the Nam. And then the lifers pull their racist tactics out when people begin to combat these conditions. As Whiskey Mountain showed, they'd rather kill their own men than deal with the real problem: that GIs, black and brown and red and yellow and white, shouldn't be there at all.

The Skag Offensive

Junk is like war. It keeps people in line while a few get rich. The whole drug business in this country is like that. Got a headache? Buy Bufferin. Tense? Buy Valium. Run down? Buy Ritalin. Just trying to survive now puts so much pressure on people that they've got to keep themselves together by taking chemicals. The result is a pacified people and a thriving business for drug profiteers.

Popping pills for social ills. Already 10% of this country's adult population is chronically alcoholic, drowning its sorrows away. In the midwest this winter, kids in elementary schools were drugged with amphetamines to "adjust" them to schools that were making them dumber, not smarter.

Harlem pushers deal smack to eight-year-olds from white Caddies, turning ghetto prisons into a black paradise. And in the Nam, the misery and madness of the Vietnam GI is turned into temporary bliss by the same thing that leaves kids falling out of chairs in Detroit schools and Puerto Rican sisters nodding in New York subways. Heroin.

"It's easy. You can put it in a cigarette and smoke it, you can snort it, you can shoot it, you can stick it up your ass, you can drop it under your eyelid, you can put it under your tongue, you can eat it, you can do anything with it. It will stone you and it will lay you back. It is beautiful smack. It is probably the best smack there is in the world." Ex-Sgt Jim Jaqua, formerly of Hq TRAC, Long Binh.

Jim Jaqua was in Nam from early 1969 to early 1970, the time when heroin discovered the Vietnam GI. As one of the GIs who started Pioneer House, Long Binh's first rehab center, Jim knows the story from the inside out.

"Because individuals began using heroin, it became more noticeable. The command naturally thought it was marijuana; at that time grass was at about an 85% usage across the board.... So they tightened up on the grass; the more grass they got rid of, the more heroin was sold."

So who started pushing skag as the number one high and where was this shit coming from? 83% of the world's total opium, the plant from which heroin is made, is grown in the Fertile Triangle (northwestern Burma, northern Thailand, and Laos) by hill tribes people. But most of the raw opium is refined in the US-controlled parts of Laos.

Vietnam and Cambodia, the US is just barely hanging on after ten years of fighting. In Laos itself, the Pathet Lao guerrillas (Pathet Lao means Laotian nation) control two-thirds of the territory where about half the people live.

Opium and US collars prop up a small elite of parasites who live in big villas, drive Mercedes, and deposit their profits in Swiss banks. Opium is taken in from the hills of the Fertile Triangle to cookers where it's refined into morphine and then heroin. Most of these cookers are located in Laos and are run by the Laotian elite: princes, government ministers, generals, politicians, police chiefs, you-name-it. There's even a cooker just two blocks from the King's Palace in Vientiane.

FROM THE COOKER TO THE STREET
COMPLIMENTS OF THE CIA

The problem is how to move the finished product quickly and safely to the junkies of the world. The answer: fly it. And who's got the planes? Only the Royal Lao Air Force (supplied by US aid of course) and (you guessed it) the CIA's own airline, Air America.

The CIA is the main agency controlling US activities in Laos. For years they have been paying hill tribesmen to fight against their own people. The price: a bigger and better dope trade. Long Chen, a secret CIA base built in 1962, is the center of this huge racket. Here smack is collected from the cookers with US helicopters, stored at the base, and then flown out in C-47s or T-28s. A lot of these planes land at Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon where they are unloaded at a special part of the airport under police guard.

EVERYONE'S GOT A PIECE OF THE ACTION

The path from the airport is filled with middle men. The network is so huge and so complex that you can find junk profiteers on every level, from Pres. Thieu on down to the district police chief. In mid-July, Phil Brady, an NBC correspondent in Saigon, filed a report that charged Thieu and Vice President Ky with financing their election campaign with profits made by hustling heroin. Specifically, he said Ky had been flying opium since 1955, for the CIA in Operation Haylift, and for the Dragon Lady (Madame Nhu, ex-president Diem's wife) ever since. And he still makes regular runs between Dak To, Kon Tum, Pleiku, and Saigon. Brady also said his sources fingered the National Police Chief, Maj. Gen. Tran Thanh Phong, as one of Saigon's major pushers. Also named were Lt. Gen. Dang Van Quang, now Thieu's closest adviser, and Gen Ngo Dzu, military commander in the central highlands.

Just think. Straight from the hills of Laos to you compliments of the CIA, Laotian warlords and government ministers, Air America pilots, Thieu, Ky, Mafia middlemen, and thousands of Vietnamese officials in every level of the government, the army, and the police force. And with special thanks to Pres Nixon, whose war has been built up a network for junk dealing that's unrivalled by the best of James Bond, and much more profitable.

"Clearly the CIA is cognizant of, if not party to, the extensive movement of opium out of Laos. One charter pilot told me that 'friendly' opium shipments get special CIA clearance and monitoring on their flights southward out of the country . . . two or three flights without this 'protection' crashed under mysterious circumstances."
John Hughes in the Christian Science Monitor, May 29, 1970

LAOS: THE HUB OF THE HEROIN WHEEL

In these areas, two things keep the economy running: the almighty US dollar and opium. The US needs Laos: it's a buffer zone on the Chinese border and only 250 miles from Hanoi, located right in the heart of SE Asia. East and south of Laos in

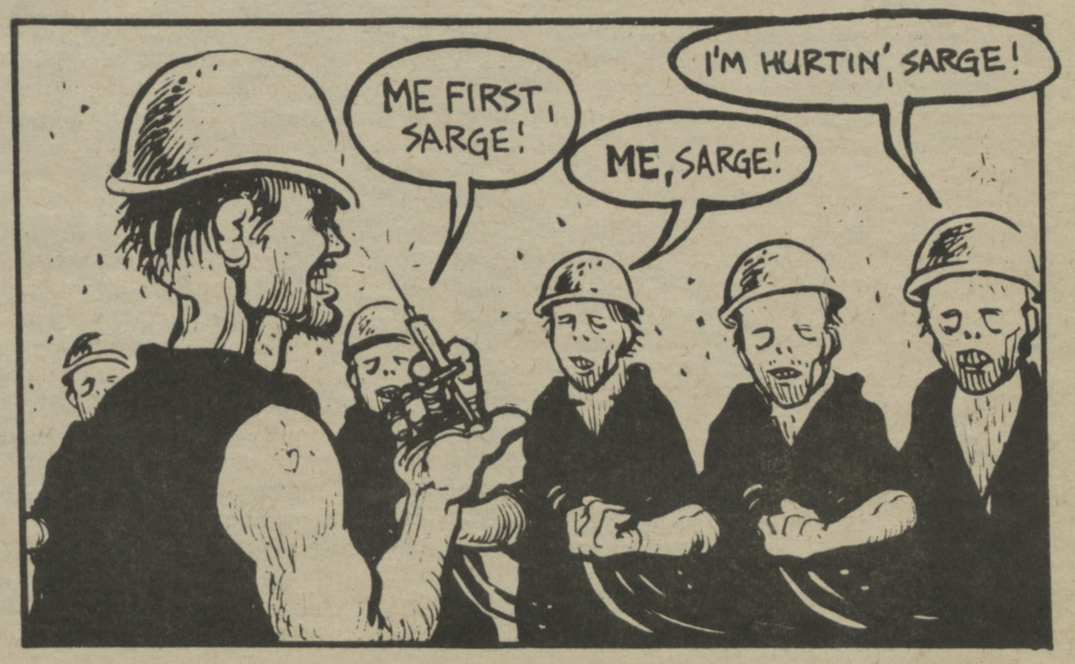
WHY NOW? WHY THE VIETNAM GI?

Money is only a part of the answer. After all, there are other markets: New York, Detroit, Manila, Hong Kong, Tokyo, San Francisco, Marseille. But the Vietnam GI is like a bomb. Only heroin can defuse it. And Nixon's sitting right on top of the whole shebang.

Here's the powder keg as described by Marine Col Robert Heinl in an article called "The Collapse of the Armed Forces": *"By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and noncommissioned officers, drug-ridden dispirited where not near mutinous."* In eight pages of facts and figures, Heinl describes the GI resistance and the strength of the revolt. Nothing can stop this revolt. But heroin can delay it. Junk sucks life, and the military command is using junk to suck away the life of the GI movement.

IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE

Heroin has been used many times before by an oppressor to head off an uprising of the oppressed. When the Portuguese went for the riches of India in the 16th century, they used opium to lull the Indians to sleep while they pilfered their land. In the 19th century, the British used opium to pacify the Chinese while ripping off the wealth of China. By the 1920's, it was said that one-fourth of the adult population was addicted to opium.



HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A GUY HAS OD'D?

For a while, an overdose and a nod look the same. The head droops. The eyes close. The body goes limp. But when a person ODs, his pulse will slow down, he will stop breathing, and his skin color will change. This is how to check for an overdose. **Breathing:** a man exhales through his nostrils. Hold something below his nostrils to see if air is coming out. A piece of paper, a feather, or a finger will do. A piece of glass or a mirror will cloud up if he's still exhaling. Also, the chest will rise and fall if breathing is regular. **Pulse:** you can feel someone's pulse if you hold your index and middle fingers over the vein where the hand joins the wrist. Check his heartbeat. You should get about 90 beats a minute. **Skin Color:** white dudes will turn green, while black dudes and dark brown brothers will get grey.

OVERDOSE

HOW TO FIGHT AN OVERDOSE

1. Keep your partner breathing. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is the only way. Even if your friend has stopped breathing, you can breathe for him as long as eight hours. Learn this technique well. First, lay him on his back, and clear any food or gum out of his throat. If his tongue has gotten stuck in his throat, just move it out of the way. Second, tilt the head back by lifting under his neck and pushing down on his forehead. Third, pinch the nose closed as you take a breath. Fourth, breathe deeply and slowly into his mouth. Fifth, turn your head and watch for his chest to fall as a sign that your breath is getting into his lungs.

2. Keep your partner awake. Walking helps. So does slapping his face. A cold shower helps, too. If he's at all conscious, make him angry. A pissed-off human doesn't want to die.

3. Get your partner to a medic as soon as you can. They may have breathing equipment and/or certain drugs which cancel out the heroin's effect. These are Nalline, Lorfan, and Dopram.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF HE'S MADE IT?

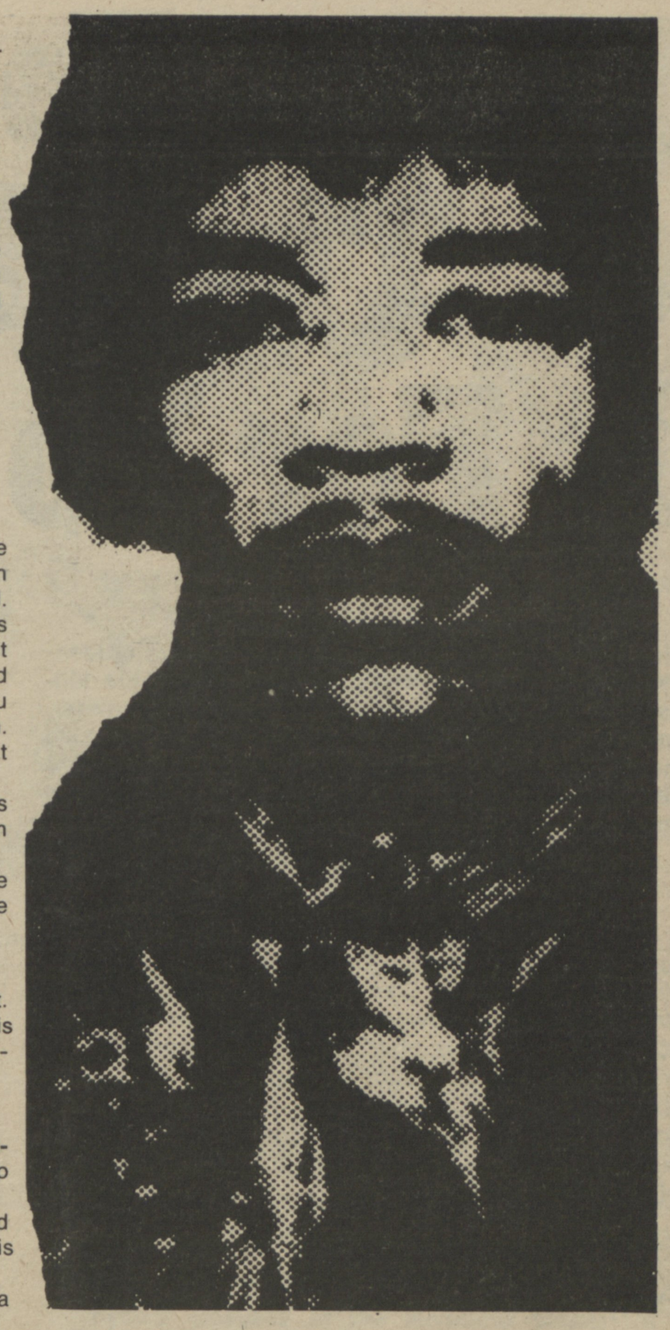
If you can get him awake and breathing normally, you've made it. Be sure to stay with him for several hours more, just to be sure. This is because your friend may go into withdrawal. Even though withdrawal is hell for the user, it means he's going to live.

WHAT NOT TO DO

1. Don't try to shoot him up with any weird shit like milk or saltwater. This is very dangerous, and is no more effective than a slap in the face.

2. Don't force him to drink anything. An unconscious person could choke and suffocate on liquids. But if he can hold a cup firmly in his hands, he's able to drink something warm.

3. Don't panic. Good information and a level head can save a brother's life.



Today, nonwhite communities in cities all over the US have watched the Mafia and criminal syndicates hustle heroin into the veins of their communities. In New York City, it's known as the plague. Black youth get it bad, because under the influence of junk, the oppressive, nauseous ghetto prison melts away. That is, until that dreamy numbness wears off, leaving the junkie face-to-face with the reality of tenement dungeons and wailing sirens. And the fastest way out is to shoot up again. Soon, reality, everything ceases to matter. Except the reality of heroin, the plague.

Again the same play. Different stage. The Haight-Ashbury began to change after the Summer of Love. Speed came to dominate the dope scene, and heroin followed soon after. Smiles on the street were replaced by nervous glances. More and more people were copping, but no one had the bread. Rip-offs became common. Over 20 people were murdered in the first six months of 1968 as the Mafia fought for control of the drug traffic. While some people in power felt threatened by the new life in the Haight, others went after the profits to be made from hooking white youth on high-powered junk. The politicians with the Tactical Pigs and the big smack dealers made the Haight another ghetto jungle.

THE VIETNAMIZATION OF THE USA —OR— THE BUSINESS IS INTERNATIONAL

Wherever dope is dealt, profits run into billions. And like most businesses, the heroin trade couldn't work without the support and cooperation of the policeman, the businessman, and the politician.

With the police, it's the same story in Hong Kong, New York, or Fort Bragg. Police give certain dealers immunity from arrest in exchange for a cash or dope pay-off. Often a dealer gets busted, his dope seized, and come court time 90% of his shit is gone. The *New York Times* of February 26, 1970 read: "...last year the Federal Bureau dismissed 49 of its agents and got indictments against 14 of them for traffiking in drugs." And last year, the entire New York State Narcotics Control Bureau was dismantled because of corruption, and their responsibilties laid on the State Police. From the beat cop to the bureau chief, the pay-off is complete.

People wouldn't take such heavy risks unless the risk were worth it. And in this case it is. $350 gets you ten kilos of raw opium. That refines to one kilo of pure heroin. By the time it gets to the wholesaler in Saigon, the dealer is paying upward of $20,000 for that same kilo. And when that kilo reaches the streets of New York, after it's been cut with speed or strichnyne or God-knows-what, it'll bring more than $225,000.

The businessmen who have a corner on the junk market are the Cosa Nostra, the Mafia. Since the Mafia profits from heroin dealing are poured back into Mafia-controlled legal businesses like restaurants and laundries, the laundromat you're working for could be paying your wages with the money you laid on your contact the week before.

Politicians support the junk business by keeping the heat off organized crime and making only token efforts to set up detoxification and rehabilitation programs.

So here you've got a situation where the men who are in a position to cut off all heroin traffiking are really the ones who profit by it. Caught between an angry people who want heroin out of their lives, a plague of addiction which has spread like a prairie fire to their own sons and daughters, and their own greed for the dollar, government officials and Mafia traffikers have come up with a solution which is no solution at all: methadone. It's a drug similar to skag. More addictive but without the kick. You don't get high and you don't get low. You just stay on it.

"Colonel," I said, "You just can't believe the incredible aggravation you feel when you come down from amphetamines. That time at Plei Me I was so pissed off at the world that I would've shot children in the streets and not even flinched. I know, because when I wasn't on them, I once asked to be removed from an operation in which an unusually large number of civilians had been killed. . . . I was usually under the influence of dextrine diamphetamine sulphate, fifteen milligram pills which were issued by the Army for combat fatigue."

a vet interviewed in Murray Polner's No More Victory Parades

"So I don't know where it's all going to end. I really don't, it's such a heavy problem. I think the only way to end it is to get everybody back to where they should have been all the time, back home. . . ."

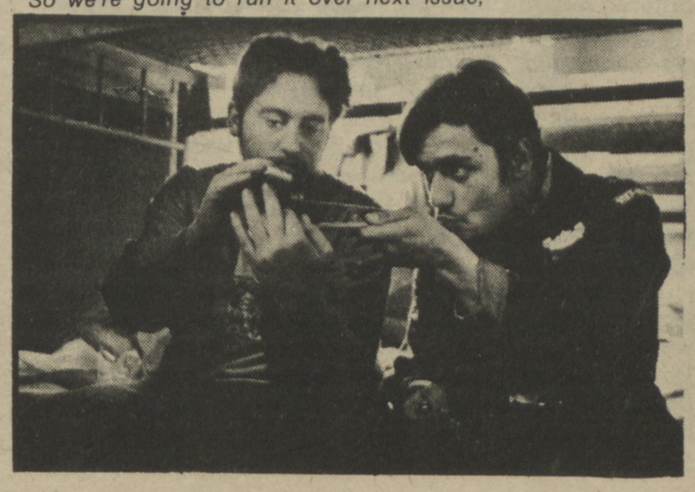
HOW CAN THE PROBLEM FIND A SOLUTION?

One example of that tokenism is the Veterans Administration program. Knowing that there are at least 35.000 guys strung out in the Nam alone, the VA program nationally has only 200 beds available for heroin addicts. In New York City, only about 7% of the city's addicts have any contact with treatment programs.

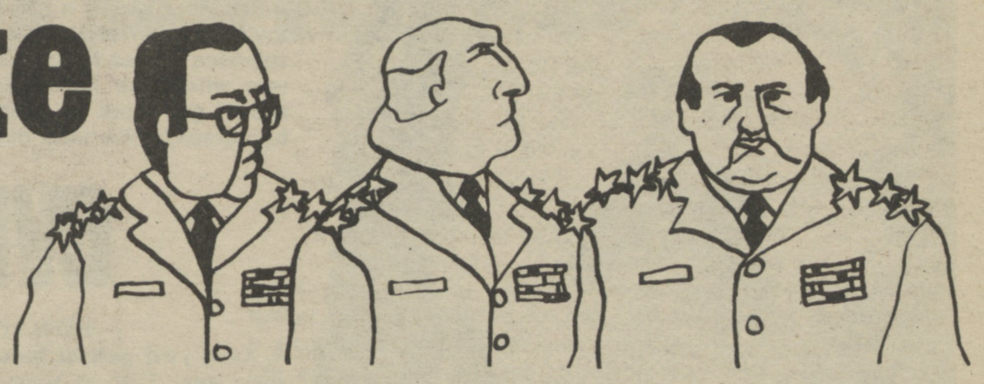
Heroin: The Plague. 900 deaths in New York City alone in 1969. 210 of those deaths were young people between the ages of 12 and 19. Better than 80% of those dead were black and Puerto Rican. But only in the last two years have treatment programs, rehabilitation centers, and Congressional inquiries hit the front pages. Why so much commotion all of a sudden? Sons and daughters of higher ups have started to fall victim to the plague. Black junkies? That was okay. Puerto Rican junkies? That was tolerable. But white middle class high school junkies? Never. And when 13 or 14-year-old Embassy official's kids started nodding out in psych wards in Vientiane, that was it.

So with methadone dispersed through government programs, you've still got junkies. Only this time Uncle Sam's the pusherman. And the entire network of heroin profiteering remains in tact.

There's no neat way to end this article, to tie it all together. So we're going to run it over next issue.



Make Your Own History or They'll Make It For You

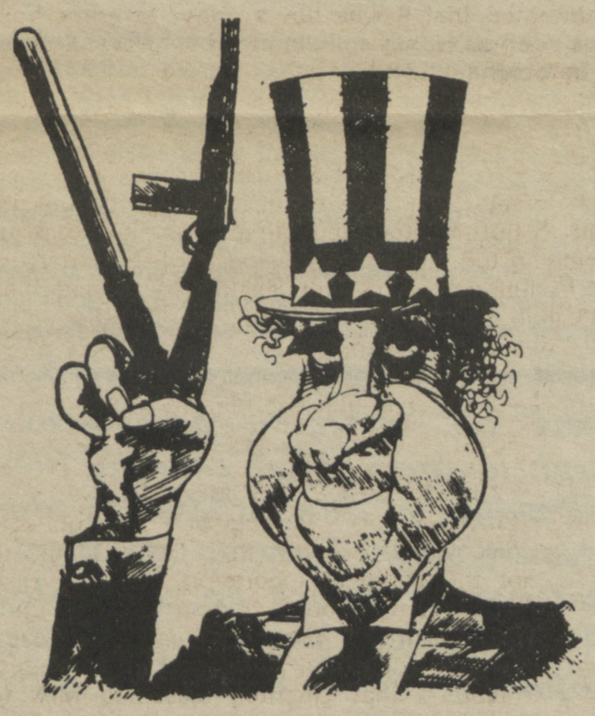


BRING ME HOME NOW!

Vietnam (November) - According to UPI, an unidentified sgt who was a medical corpsman at Hue kidnapped Col. Donald Zubriggen, a senior US adviser, and then ordered a chopper pilot at gunpoint to take them to Da Nang. The sgt said he was on his way to his home in Billings, Montana. He changed his mind during the flight and turned himself in. (SF Exam.)

NAZIS FOR NIXON IN 1972

Los Angeles (October) - Dr. Joseph Pauco, one of Hitler's main men in Czechoslovakia during World War II, is now a power on the Republic National Committee. Pauco is chief Slovak-American adviser to the Republican National Committee and is a Nixon appointee on the Small Business Advisory Council. The guy who is supposed to keep track of ex-Nazis, Asst. Attorney General Robert Mardian, told Pauco at a Slovak World Congress that he felt "...especially akin to you and your organization." He declared sitrringly, "It is a common heritage that binds us together here today." You betcha. (LNS)



ANOTHER RIOT CONTROL REFUSAL

Ft. Bliss, Texas (October 13) - In El Paso, the 13th was an anti-war Moratorium Day. Working as one group, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), student groups, Women's Liberation, and community groups planned a memorial service at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. A motorcade would leave a downtown rally and drive to the service on post.

The Army first approved the permit, and then the day before the service, pulled it. This double cross brought things to a real head on post. In HHB Battery, 6th Bn, 61st Artillery Brigade, sergeants ordered guys to take the peace signs off their hands (to support the Moratorium, Bliss GIs drew peace signs on their hands). Anyone who attended the memorial service was threatened with court martial. In order to keep guys from going, the entire 500 man 6th Bn, 61st Artillery Brigade was mobilized for riot duty. This backfired when 8 men in "D" Battery refused to do it. So far, support for them has been very strong, so no action has been taken against the 8.

The motorcade made it on post, but reached locked cemetery gates. The only GIs let in that day were dead GIs. People at the gates saluted riot duty troops with fists and peace signs. When smiles and fists came back from the GIs, you could tell who had it together. And it sure wasn't those stone-faced sergeants. (GIs For Peace. El Paso, Texas)

STOCKADE REBELLION AT FORT GORDON

Ft. Gordon, Georgia (October) - At least 100 soldiers rebelled in the Ft. Gordon stockade Tuesday night on October 26. Eleven soldiers, including two prison guards, were hospitalized and a two-story prison barracks, valued at $30,000 was burned to the ground.

The soldiers were acting in a solidarity protest against the denial of home leave to a prisoner whose wife had just suffered a miscarriage. Pvt. Jesse Simmons of Memphis has not yet even been tried, but is being held under the Army's "preventive detention" law, awaiting court-martial for alleged assault. When word spread that Pvt. J. Simmons was denied emergency leave to see his wife, soldiers gathered in the stockade yard and refused to disperse. MPs and stockade guards used tear gas, and fired at least one shotgun round to put down the uprising, which lasted five hours. Soldiers attending classes at an Army school close by were rushed away from the area in fear they might move to support the rebelling prisoners.

Despite attempts of the authorities to minimize it, the tension at the fort is greater than it has been in many months. It is not yet clear what actions will be taken against those involved. (SPD News Service, Ft. Gordon)

JUDGE PREPARES FOR COURTROOM SHOOT OUT

Salinas, Calif. (Aug) - Judge Stanley Lawson showed his true colors in August when he pulled a pistol in court and pointed it at the two men on trial, who were both inmates of Soledad prison. Lawson said that he began keeping the revolver after the August 7, 1970, Marin County Courthouse shoot-out in which Judge Harold Haley and three others were killed. Angela Davis is now on trial for that event. "I do not intend to go the way of...Judge Haley without a battle," he said. (LNS)

WHAT IF THEY GAVE A WAR AND . . .

New York (October) - During March, April, and May, the Selective Service system issued 110,387 induction orders. But only 36,195 men were drafted. The other 74,000 (two-thirds) either never showed, showed up and refused induction, failed their physicals, or jived their way out. The result: the Pentagon only filled 77% of its quota. (LNS)

HUGE PROTESTS IN CANADA—AMCHITKA BOMB

Canada (November) - Massive protests swept Canada just before the Nixon administration set off the largest nuclear blast ever 6000 feet underground on Amchitka Island off the coast of Alaska. The protests received almost no attention in the American press. In British Columbia, most of the major unions supported a general strike which brought close to 150,000 workers off the job. Thousands of young people and students blocked the bridges between Canada and the US at Detroit, Port Huron, Michigan, and Niagra Falls. Canadian police refused to break up the demonstrations. In Toronto, 3000 surrounded the US Consulate shouting "Bomb Nixon, not Amchitka" while in St. Johns, Newfoundland, demonstrators attacked the consulate when they heard the bomb had exploded. (SF Chronicle)

GI PROTESTS ABOUT AMCHITKA BOMB TEST

Ft. Ord/Hawaii (November 6) - At Ft. Ord on the California coast, seven GIs armed with weapons tried bravely to rip-off a light military plane and fly it to Amchitka to make a bomb test impossible. They were stopped by air marshalls before they got their plane off the ground, and then immediately transferred. They weren't busted because that would have meant press coverage. Meanwhile at Pearl Harbor, six men off a destroyer went UA and took sanctuary to protest the blast. (The Grapevine)

COAST GUARD OPPOSES AMCHITKA A-BLAST

Anchorage, Alaska (October 12) - Eighteen crew men of the Coast Guard cutter 'Confidence' have been busted for expressing support of the protest ship 'Greenpeace'. The 'Greenpeace' had sailed toward Amchitka, sight of Nixon's five-megaton nuclear blast, to protest this nuclear/military madness. The 'Confidence' was assigned to head off the 'Greenpeace'. When the two ships met, the crew of the 'Confidence' passed this message to the 'Greenpeace': "Due to the situation we are in, we, the crew of the 'Confidence', feel that what you are doing is for the good of all mankind. If our hands weren't tied by these military bonds, we would be in the same position you are in if it were at all possible. Good luck. We are behind you 100%. (This one we dug out of the Anchorage Daily News).

NO ASYLUM IN SWEDEN FOR NIXON

Stockholm (September) - For the first time ever, the Swedish government has granted "humanitarian asylum" to a fugitive from the American government. In this case, it was Michael Lee Bransome, who in May 1969, destroyed draft board files and equipment. After serving seven months of a three year sentence, Michael split to Canada while on a seven day leave. From Canada he flew to Sweden where again he went underground while waiting for a decision. The case is important for GIs on the run. (LNS)

THE FIRE NEXT TIME

Ft. McClellan, Alabama (Sept) - The new CO of the 83d Engineers tried to shape up his command by giving 43 Article 15s in two months. And there were only 180 guys in the brigade. The command was not in shape for the IG inspection, though, since the motor pool office was burned down and everything lost except the "348" forms. (Left Face)

THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST
THE HEROIN PLAGUE HITS DEPENDENTS KIDS

Vientiane, Laos (Sept) - In the Spring of this year, two American teenage dependents of USAID employees were caught mailing 20 kilos of pure heroin through the APO. They were headed for Saigon, where the junk would have been dealt by other dependents. Since junk has found dependent's kids, no one under 18 can now mail anything larger than a letter through the APO. Strange how their parents may fly opium out of Laos for Air America. But when their kids get a Jones, it's a different story. (LNS)

NIXON HIDES AT AIR FORCE BASE IN OHIO

Dayton, Ohio (Sept 3) - Nixon came to Wright-Patterson AFB on Sept 3 to dedicate an Air Farce museum, and met some resistance. Up to 300 folks —vets, people on welfare, and more marched outside the base with a coffin decorated with the medals and ribbons of Nam vets. The people said the casket represented the lives of over a million brothers and sisters who have been killed in SE Asia.

Imagine how uptight Nixon got. Anyone under 25 years old, or who had long hair, or who confessed to being a student, was kept out of the base and had to face fire hoses and MPs at every gate. But some of these brothers on perimeter duty turned their weapons toward the demonstrators to show that their clips weren't in place. About 60 people were detained on base before the security got tight, and now the brass face heavy press criticism and a Congressional investigation. Nixon can't go anywhere except some military bases. He's about as popular here as Pres. Thieu is in the Nam. (CAMP)

PRISON REBELLION AT ATTICA
POLICE KILL 37 BUT THE MOVEMENT GROWS

New York (Sept. 9) - Over half of Attica Prison's 2,237 prisoners rioted and took over four of the prison's five cells blocks. After five days of negotiations, over 1300 State troopers from 14 counties, National Guardsmen and Sheriff's deputies, armed with CS and Pepper Gas, machine guns, and new AR-15 army rifles, attacked on Monday. When the dense smoke and gas cleared, 28 prisoners and 9 guards were dead, over 150 prisoners were wounded and 8 were missing.

All the guards who work in Attica are white! But 85% of the prisoners are black or Puerto Rican! It is a maximum security prison. "I've been in prisons all over the state. There's no place like Attica; you have to be there to believe it," said one former con who got out two weeks before the uprising.

The guards have three-foot long oak clubs—which they call 'niggersticks'—which they use to beat inmates. "Men are thrown into solitary confinement—called the box—for 60-90 days—whatever the guards want," remarked the former inmate.

"Medical care is terrible or non-existent. One guy didn't have an examination in nine years—when he went to the clinic he was told they didn't have to treat him. A Spanish-speaking inmate went to the infirmary and the doctor told him to 'wait until you get out—learn English so when you come back we can understand you.'"

The prisoners presented their demands to Corrections Commissioner Oswald and the press. The demands included complete amnesty and freedom from physical, mental and legal reprisals, true religious freedom, and an end to censorship of reading materials, adequate food, water and shelter for all inmates, freedom to be politically active without punishment, transportation out of confinement to a non-imperialistic country, the right to communicate with anyone at their own expense, adequate medical care and Spanish speaking doctors, coverage by State minimum wage laws (current wages: 25¢ a day), and removal of Warden Mancusi.

L.D., a tall young black man with wire rimmed glasses, read a statement following the demands: "We are all men. We are not beasts and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such....we call upon all the conscientious citizens of America to assist us in putting an end to this situation that threatens the life of not only us but of each and every person in the United States as well."

"What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed." (Eliot James Barkeley, known as "L.D.", on the right with the wire-rimmed glasses. He was killed *after* the massacre.)

RIP-OFF ARTISTS CORNERED, OR, "HEY GI, YOU WANNA BUY A DIAMOND FOR YOUR LONELY MOTHER?"

Chicago (September) - Rip-off jewelers are finding tough times in the diamond trade. Tyrell's near the Great Lakes Naval Training Center stopped their sidewalk high pressure sales tactics when faced with pickets and a boycott. Tyrell's branch stores in San Diego, Camp Pendleton, Long Beach, Newport, Ft. Sill, Ft. Bragg, and Ft. Hood are also under attack by GIs who're tired of people making money off their loneliness. It seems that other stores are pressuing Tyrells' to meet these demands: drop the Vietnam Honor Roll (men who've died in the Nam owing them money), stop high pressure sales tactics, end Army cooperation in collecting payments, stop exploiting GI homesickness. (CAMP)

AWOL GI CHARGES HONEYWELL CORP. WITH WAR CRIMES

Honolulu (Sept. 10) - Eight anti-war activists had their charges dropped in Hawaii after their jury was unable to reach a decision. They had sat in at the offices of Honeywell Corporation, a war contractor which makes a wide variety of anti-personnel weapons for use in Indochina. The eight, including AWOL GI Rodney (Jake) Marley, were accused of physical trespass at the Honolulu branch of the Corporation last May. Their defense was based on international law, including Nuremberg principles pertaining to war crimes and complicity. They maintained that it was not a crime to enter buildings such as Honeywell "in order to prevent murder in Indochina." (LNS)

RESERVISTS FUCK UP—NOT BUSTED

Massachusetts (October) - Reservists continue their resistance to training designed to keep them fit for domestic duty against their own people. Thirty men from a Massachusetts unit refused to go into the bivouac area to play war games. No one was punished for fear of "embarrassment" to the Army. Ten men from another Massachusetts unit refused to work and ship any arms or supplied to Vietnam during their two week duty at a defense plant. (source: Redline)

ADVANCED PIGGERY FOR BRAZILIAN LIFERS

Washington (September) - What would a Pentagon sponsored "orientation tour" of the US for future Brazilian military officers include? According to the recent hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Latin America, it includes night club shows in Las Vegas, trips to Disneyland, pool side luaus and accommodations in plush hotels. In three years, the bills for these jaunts ran up to $1 million. Next time you get your paycheck, next time you hear about another wage freeze, think about this shit. (LNS)

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

New Jersey (Sept 25) - At least 40 high school athletes in northcentral New Jersey got sick from just breathing the air and exercising hard. New Jersey's Air Pollution Control and Health Depts said there was little doubt that air pollution was the cause. This sort of thing happens a lot in California where schools shut down the physical education program when the smog level gets too high. (LNS)

JAILBREAK IN URUGUAY

Montevideo, Uruguay (Sept 6) - In one of the most spectacular prison breaks on record, the Tupamaros (Uruguayan guerillas) freed 106 of their most important leaders from the maximum security Punta Carretas jail. The escape came just five weeks after 38 Tupamaros crawled out of the women's prison through a drainage pipe and—like their male counterparts—vanished into the city of a million and a half people. (LNS)

BLACK SERVICEMEN'S CAUCUS FORMS IN THE COAST GUARD

New York (Sept 30) - The US Coast Guard Cutter Galatin was the stage for a play seen millions of times before over the last 400 years. White Coast Guardsmen threatened blacks on board the cutter, and a fight broke out when other black Coast Guardsmen boarded the ship to back up their brothers. The next day, black servicemen on Governor's Island refused to work, and instead presented the demands of the Black Servicemen's Caucus to the base CO. The demands were:

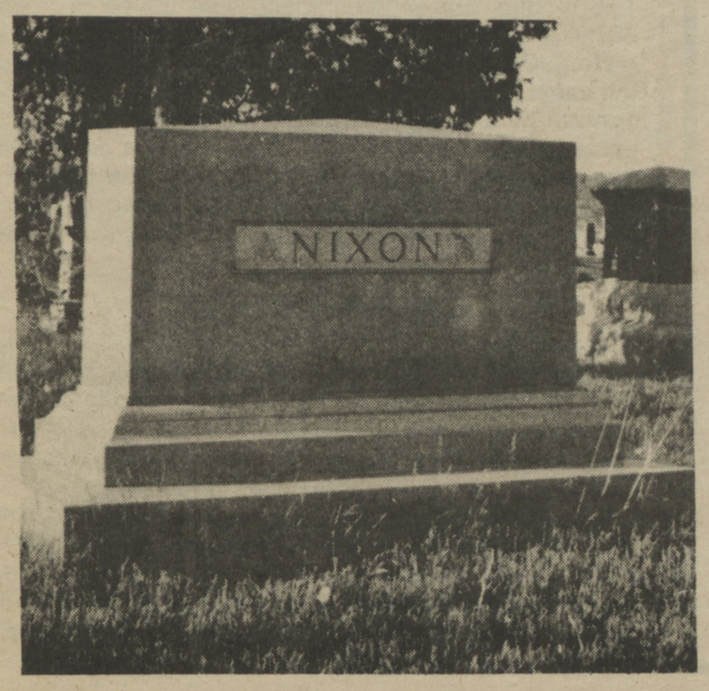
An end to the exploitation and oppression of Third World people in the US; an end to all rules that prohibit black servicemen in engaging in the struggle for liberation in their communities; an end to the use of the military in the streets and on the campuses of the US; and the right to form self-defense squads for protection against assaults on base.

The BSC also listed some typical instances of racism on the base. In one case, a brother was held for a month in pre-trial confinement after being AWOL for five months. At his court-martial he got 6 months hard labor. A white dude who'd been gone AWOL 8 months wasn't locked up before trial, and got his charges dropped. White Coast Guardsmen rarely get sent to the island's brig. BSC also charged that base command cooperates with white racist groups on base. This has come up before in Germany, where Ku Klux Klan cells were allowed to meet openly and burn crosses on base.

As the case stands now, several blacks will soon be charged for inciting to riot, and the base command is ignoring the demands, adding fuel to fire. (LNS)

NIXON FORGETS SOME POWS

Washington (October) - Parents of POW Sgt. John Sexton discovered recently that the US government, not the National Liberation Front (the so-called Vietcong), has been ripping off the letters he had written them. The NLF recently released John in good health. And parents of W.O. Quentin Beecher learned that Quentin, classified MIA for four years, really crashed in the China Sea when his chopper ran out of gas. The Army tried to blame the NLF. Many families of POWs/MIAs have had it, though, with being used by Nixon to rip off other sons. They are fighting back and have formed Families For Immediate Release to force Nixon to negotiate in good faith in Paris. That's why you won't hear Nixon talking about saving our POWs anymore. (Washington Post, Wall Street Journal)



THEY GAVE A WAR AND NOBODY CAME
BUT THEY STILL KEPT FIGHTING

USA (November) - Two studies of the war, one by Cornell University and the other by the Quakers, were released recently to offset the latest public relations smoke screen from Washington. One shows that Nixon and Co. are continuing the war by remote control through the use of technological horrors like the automated battlefield. The other shows how the air war has become all-important for the US as it cuts back the number of ground troops. The air war will be continued especially against Laos and Cambodia, using 50 B-52s from five bases in Thailand and about 300 fighter-bombers from carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin. By the end of this year the US will have dropped six million tons of bombs on an area the size of Texas. The study concluded that despite incredible destruction bombing in no way brings the US closer to its goal in Indochina. Of course, when you understand that the Nixon's goal is destruction, things make a little more sense. (San Francisco Chronicle)

USS CORAL SEA

The USS Coral Sea is an attack aircraft carrier, home station Alameda Naval Air Station, California. At all times, three carriers cruise the Gulf of Tonkin launching raids into Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The Coral Sea was scheduled to sail for the Gulf on November 12. On its last cruise it flew over 4000 bombing missions over Indochina.

The US ground war has been defeated in Indochina: First in Vietnam (the Tet Offensive of 1968), then in Cambodia (the invasion of May 1970), and finally in Laos (the invasion of 1971). Repeated defeats have sparked rebellions among GIs in Nam and at home. As a result the burden of fighting has been shifted to the Navy and Air Force.

Carriers are playing a key role in these new plans. Unable to conquer Vietnam on the ground, Nixon's strategy is to destroy it from the air. Now 50% of the raids over Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam are launched from carriers.

"The feeling on the ship, the general feeling of the people when they're working. When you're busting your ass sixteen, twenty hours a day, you get to wondering why the hell you're doing that cuz you're sure not doing it for yourself. It seems you're doing it for an awful stupid cause. A lot of people really get together and talk about that too. One time in the Tonkin Gulf they had a show on closed circuit TV put on by Flight Ops. They explained everything they did over there—like how many bombs they dropped and where they dropped them. This guy explained how they were bombing the Ho Chi Minh trail and destroying the trucks, people, and ammunition dumps. He really seemed to get into that, really enjoy telling people they destroyed so many supply dumps, digging that there was a secondary explosion. The dude got up to show a point on the map and when he turned around, in big block letters on his back was written "Murder, Inc." When he did that, man a lot of people were really uptight. He wasn't there thirty seconds before the Captain came running in and threw him out. He was afraid that people would all of a sudden think about what was going on. And it worked because everybody on that ship did."

Carrier duty has always been one of the worst in the Navy.

"Most people don't want to come to a bird farm. There were fatalities on the Hancock, two crashes. One was a cold cat. It just lobbed the plane off the front and the guy drowned. Another was a crash on the fantail. The pilot hit the ejection button and landed in the superstructure. The radar was going around with him. He was up there an hour before anybody even noticed that he was there. Like half of his neck was gone.

When they [on the Coral Sea] were coming back in and launching all the planes for Alameda, they were catapulting one plane and the front landing gear collapsed. Both of them ejected. One landed in the water, one landed on the ship. . . . Two people died in the yards. They were dropping the anchor chain from the focsle and one man got wrapped around the anchor chain and got pulled right thru a pad eye. The other, a chief, both his legs were severed.

There is a long history of resistance on carriers. Sailors off the Coral Sea helped organize Movement for a Democratic Military. Six months ago there was a black movement aboard the same ship calling for an end to racism and demanding that the Coral Sea not be sent to Vietnam because of the racist nature of the war.

There had already been refusals to work, acts of sabotage like chicken bones in the intakes of planes, and dozens of other individual actions against the war and the Navy on the Coral Sea. So when 9 sailors from the USS Constellation took sanctuary in a church after there had been a huge anti-war vote in San Diego, sailors and Marines on the Coral Sea were ready to start their own movement to SOS, Stop Our Ship.

Several guys drew up a petition to Congress, asking them to keep the ship from deploying to Vietnam. Within a day they had over 200 signatures. The first petition was confiscated by the executive officer and sent to Washington for investigation. The sailors responded immediately by printing up new petitions. They gave them to their friends in each division, left them in stacks on tables, in passageways, on the mess decks, in berthing compartments and anywhere else where people would be.

The first day on that sea trials (Sept. 27) three of our brothers were busted for carrying anti-war newspapers. The executive officer gave them a direct order not to pass out any more literature or pass around the petition. We thought that order was illegal because it was our constitutional right to petition Congress. That night we did pass around petitions and we got busted and the three brothers who were given a direct order were put on report for disobedience of a direct order. The next day in protest of that we took more papers and petitions around from one end of the hanger bay to another passing out all this literature right underneath the Captain's nose. Twelve of us. The captain came over, busted us, and took our names and sent us up to his cabin. On the way to his cabin we all walked with clenched fists."

"All of a sudden when SOS comes on board no buttons are allowed anymore. Any person passing anything out would be written up under Article 82, willful disobedience of a direct order. Gathering in a number or in small numbers we couldn't get more than three in a group without the pigs coming by and telling us we couldn't have meetings. Sitting in the chow hall they have some big round tables, you fit eight people at it. We would usually get six or seven of us to sit at one of these tables some of us with our buttons and probably non-SOS people. Every meal we noticed that we were being watched by the Master At Arms. Almost a meal didn't go by without some form of harassment, somebody walking by and saying hurry up and finish eating, people need your trays and table. Or this isn't a place for a meeting. Or they would come over and tell us, you need a haricut or quit smoking. If you were walking down the hallway and saw two people that you knew —the hallways are pretty big, some of them are ten feet across—a Master At Arms or a lifer would come up and say, you can't congregate here. You're blocking the hallway.

Harassment from lifers increased but the movement kept growing. Out of 160 Marines, for instance, in the Air Squadron, '80 signed the petition. When ship returned from sea trials in early October, there were approximately 1000 names on the petition.

Everyone on the ship knew about SOS. Sides were being taken. Lifers were getting freaked out and freaks were getting turned on. Within a couple of weeks a right-wing group first calling itself SOB (for Sail Our Boat) and then LOC (Love Our Country) got together to harass SOS people and break up their meetings on the ship. They could never rally much support and within a few days they faded from the scene.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
FROMTHE BROTHERS OF THE CORAL SEA:

IN OUR OPINION THERE IS A SILENT MAJORITY ABOARD SHIP WHICH DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT IN VIETNAM. IT IS ALSO THE OPINION OF MANY THAT THERE IS NOTHING WE CANDO ABOUT PUTTING AN END TO THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. THAT BECAUSE WE ARE IN THE MILITARY WE NO LONGER HAVE A RIGHT TO VOICE OUR INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS CONCERNING THE VIETNAM WAR. THIS IS WHERE WE FEEL THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE CORAL SEA HAS BEEN FOOLED BY MILITARY PROPAGANDA. AS AMERICANS WE ALL HAVE THE MORAL OBLIGATION TO VOICE OUR OPINIONS. WE THE PEOPLE MUST GUIDE THE GOVERNMENT AND NOT ALLOW THE GOVERNMENTTO GUIDE US! IN OUR OPINION THIS ACTION IS EVEN MORE JUSTIFIED FOR THE MILITARY MAN BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE WHO IS TAKING PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR.

THE CORAL SEA IS SCHEDULED FOR VIETNAM IN NOVEMBER. THIS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A FACT. THE SHIP CAN BE PREVENTED FROM TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE CONFLICT IF WE THE MAJORITY VOICE OUR OPINION THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE VIETNAM WAR. IF YOU FEEL THAT THE CORAL SEA SHOULD NOT GO TO VIETNAM VOICE YOUR OPINION BY SIGNING THIS PETITION.

ONLY THE BEGINNING

During October the sailors and Marines began to work with a group of sympathetic civilians. Every ship's movement during sea trials was greeted by demonstrations of solidarity outside the gates of Alameda. A couple of hundred people leafletting at the gate during rush hour caused impressive traffic jams.

"We pulled back in through the Golden Gate from sea trials. About seventy of us, Marines and sailors, were right on the bow of the ship and going underneath the bridge we formed SOS." (October 7)

The brass responded to the growing support for SOS among sailors and civilians by discharging men that they had singled out as leaders. Others were restricted to the ship. At one point there were 5 SOS crewmen in a brig built for six. In all, 9 guys ended up with general discharges and two with punitive transfers.

"The SOS people were thrown in the brig and they were refusing to cooperate. The Captain saw that the brig was an ineffective means of stopping people from organizing. Instead of being on display anymore—you are forced to march around and stuff-the men could see that we still had our spirits and we weren't conforming to the regulations."

In the last three weeks before deployment the crew intensified their work on the ship as the campaign to stop the ship became the primary focus of the anti-war movement in the Bay Area. Crew members held meetings on a regular basis off-base. Two picnics with entertainment were pulled off, one of them within a stone's throw of the base. Stickers and leaflets appeared all over the ship announcing the latest events and spreading the word about SOS. The ship's disc jockey plugged SOS and added to the growing paranoia of the lifers when he dedicated the song "Death Walks Behind You" to the Captain. An issue of the Plan of the Day was forged and distributed on the ship in piles of the Navy's Plan of the Day.

BERKELEY SANCTUARY

The week before the ship sailed the Berkeley City Council passed a resolution offering shelter for men refusing military service and ordering its policemen not to assist in the arrest of these men. At the same time 12 Bay Area churches offered sanctuary for GIs.

The designation of Berkeley as sort of liberated zone for men who chose to leave the ship became symbolic of the kind of public support the sailors built in the week before the ship left. A contingent from the Coral Sea led the November 6 anti-war march. And the appeal by spokesmen for the crew at the day's rally for civilians to get behind a movement that was real, not symbolic, a movement that could stop the war machine, was powerful.

SOS was like a shot in the arm to a failing anti-war movement. Two days after the march, more than 2000 people gathered before dawn at Alameda's main gate for one of the most spirited gatherings seen in the Bay Area in a long time. Several thousand men from three carriers—the Hancock and the Midway recently back from Vietnam—passed thru lines of cheering civilians as leave ended near 9am.

Up to the last minute everyone felt that it was an open question whether the ship would sail or not. Everyone knew that there were a number of men solidly behind the movement and that there were hundreds of others who were waiting, waiting to see if some dramatic event would sway them one way or the other. Only on Friday at the critical hour would it be clear how many would not make the sailing and whether there would be enough men from key divisions to stop the ship.

Most men had planned to leave the ship quietly and disappear. It was generally felt that the bust of men off the Constellation during their sanctuary wasn't a good thing. It was better to get out of sight than to be rounded up by the military pigs and flown back to the ship.

NAVY PUBLIC RELATIONS BULLSHIT

When Bay Area churches and the Berkeley City Council moved behind the SOS campaign, the Navy and the federal government responded with a well-organized public relations effort designed to show how high morale was on carriers and to intimidate men who were considering public sanctuary. Suddenly the mass media, which had hesitantly covere SOS, was giving precious time to reports of how calm things were on the Constellation when it reached Nam and how little was going on on the Midway when it returned to Alameda from Nam. On the day before the ship was scheduled to sail, the federal attorney threatened to prosecute anyone, including members of the Berkeley City Council, who "willfully concealed a deserter," a ten year rap.

Friday, November 12. Cold wind and rain greeted the 1500 people who gathered outside the base before dawn for a last minute gesture of support. The pigs freaked and prepared for a mass attempt to enter base and block traffic onto Alameda Island. Cars that attempted to enter the base were allowed in and if people got out on the base, they were booked for illegal trespass. Eighteen were busted.

SANCTUARY

The sanctuary in Berkeley at the University Lutheran Church was maintained for several days. About two dozen sailors came by but none decided to stay. Just before sailing time the Captain announced that morale on the ship was high and that about 35 men, the usual number, were missing from the ship. It was rumored that about 250 men left the ship. Brothers are checking out the scene on the ship in Hawaii and will report in the next *Bulkhead*.

At a press conference the day after the sailing, former members of the crew discussed the future of SOS. Though the men were critical of their movement (see below), they felt that several important things had been accomplished:

- **The men on the ship had learned that they could speak and act against the war;**
- **They were able to build a strong, lasting bond of unity with civilian brothers and sisters;**
- **The movement on the ship and its growing civilian support focused public on the continuing genocidal war in Indochina and helped educate the anti-war movement about the critical importance of the GI movement;**
- **Important new commitments against the war were made by Bay Area churches and the Berkeley City Council;**
- **Most important of all, they felt, the sailors and Marines had laid the basis for an ongoing project to stop the future deployment of attack carriers to Vietnamese waters.**

TODAY THE CORAL SEA TOMORROW THE FLEET

SOS received messages of support from GIs and civilians from all over the world. The most important message was that SOS was spreading throughout the Pacific Fleet. There had already been a sanctuary established in Hawaii by four sailors off a destroyer, the USS Cochrane. (The four brothers also denounced the Amchitka test, the destination of their ship.) Brothers have sent petitions to stop their own ships from the attack carriers Enterprise, Oriskany, Midway, Ranger, and Hancock. The Hancock is scheduled to leave the Bay Area on January 12 and will be the next target of SOS. The destroyer USS J.C. Owens sent in a petition with 57 names while steaming toward San Francisco. It arrived Nov. 15. SOS also heard from the USS Okinawa, stationed at Long Beach. Let us know what is happening on your ship.

The following was typical of the letters of support:

Coral Sea Brothers:

I'm glad someone finally got the guts to do something. This constant WESPAC deployment that the 7th fleet has been doing is wasting our money in taxes and ruining the economy. . . . In my opinion, as far as accomplishing any thing in Vietnam, we're doing nothing more but wasting money, people's lives, people's land, and American lives. . . . I'm behind you and so are many of the other human beings here on the Enterprise. So don't feel like the Lone Ranger. You've got my vote for the petition.

K.K. and the Enterprise humans

The Coral Sea Brothers Rap About Organizing

"I don't think we really knew what we were getting into when we started that petition, and we did not know the potential that it finally developed. If we'd realized that, other people would see that in us and be more interested right off."

"The petition wouldn't stop the ship. We knew that, but at least the petition gives you something to work with. Say we've got 300 names. Those 300 are somewhat sympathetic with the cause and that gives you 300 people to work with. You may not get 300 solid people out of those 300, but you maybe can make it 20 plus the people it started out with to work on those other 300. And like that was never done. But it was always encouraged."

"Another thing that I think is that there was a lot of personal convictions that everyone was going for too, you know, and the personal convictions were against the war, right? The SOS movement was also against the war and personal convictions was like an individual trip and if we can make the movement it would be more than in individual trip. It would be like a unity trip and that would probably accomplish a lot more than an individual trip would, and I think that's where we fucked up a lot too. I mean instead of just a lot of us saying we're CO's and we want out I mean that's getting us out of the Navy and that's getting us away from the problem. But is it doing anything about the problem?"

"When you start an organization you're going to have to find the people who are capable of educating other people."

"You got to talk to a lot of people and let them know they're getting fucked over. Like I know a lot of people down in the Engineering Dept. They gripe about, yeah, I got to work 18 hours, get 2 hours sleep and wake up for GQ. I'm getting tired of this shit, and you got to tell them just say fuck it, man, don't even make GQ. Stay in your rack, don't muster in the morning. If they bitch, they better do something about it cause the poor beggars down there, they work them to death. They can get them organized and get a group, say fuck it we ain't going to go to GQ. We're going to sleep."

"The first thing—work on the people who are most likely....You're going to have to get a real good rap with the people and it's going to have to be constant rap. Not when you rap with this guy one day and another tomorrow. Go and see what's in his head. See what he's been thinking about and it's going to have to take a lot of work."

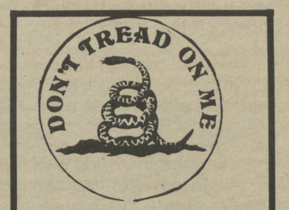
"We've also got to breakdown cliquism because I think a lot of people saw SOS movement people as a clique which was basically the 12 original people. When we first started having meetings, it was those people because we didn't want it to get too disruptive. I think possibly it could have grown where the core group could have been a large number of people who covered a larger area instead of staying with the original twelve."

"We did two things that showed strength, like on the hangar bay that time where we passed out literature in front of the Captain and we showed unity and nothing happened to us. Like if there were more demonstrations on board where we were showing the crew that we weren't afraid and really nothing could happen to us together. Where there was unity then that would get a lot of guys."

"One thing that really came out that was a success is that everybody on the ship knows SOS. Maybe they don't realize right now what SOS meant. But when they're out at sea for awhile and when they're on the line for 20 days, they're going to start realizing what SOS is. What we were trying to do is have quick education. You can't get everybody on education. But you realize through experience and they're going to get the education. That's where a work stoppage and slow down can really come in and maybe stop the ship."

"We didn't know how heavy this thing was when we started. We just started a petition to stop the ship and that's all there was to it. But that's not all there was to it. I mean that's all there was in the beginning. Hopefully in the future the people on other ships won't have that problem cause they'll know. Yeah, I guess that's something that builds with each movemeant. It's getting bigger."

STOP OUR SHIP



If we don't do it it won't get done

Collapse of the Armed Forces

By Col Robert D. Heinl, jr.
North American Newspaper Alliance

THE MORALE, DISCIPLINE and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at any time in this century and possibly in the history of the United States.

By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non-commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near-mutinous.

Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious.

Intolerably clobbered and buffeted from without and within by social turbulence, pandemic drug addiction, race war, sedition, civilian scapegoatise, draftee recalcitrance and malevolence, barracks theft and common crime, unsupported in their travail by the general government, in Congress as well as the executive branch, distrusted, disliked, and often reviled by the public, the uniformed services today are places of agony for the loyal, silent professionals who doggedly hang on and try to keep the ship afloat.

Historical precedents do exist for some of the services' problems, such as desertion, mutiny, unpopularity, seditious attacks, and racial troubles. Others, such as drugs, pose difficulties that are wholly new. Nowhere, however, in the history of the Armed Forces have comparable past troubles presented themselves in such general magnitude, acuteness, or concentrated focus as today.

By several orders of magnitude, the Army seems to be in worst trouble. But the Navy has serious and unprecedented problems, while the Air Force, on the surface at least still clear of the quicksands in which the Army is sinking, is itself facing disquieting difficulties.

Only the Marines—who have made news this year by their hard line against indiscipline and general permissiveness—seem, with their expected staunchness and tough tradition, to be weathering the storm.

To understand the military consequences of what is happening to the U.S. Armed Forces, Vietnam is a good place to start. It is in Vietnam that the rearguard of a 500,000-man army, in its day (and in the observation of the writer) the best army the United States ever put into the field,is numbly extricating itself from a nightmare war...

"They have set up separate companies," writes an American soldier from Cu Chi, quoted in the *New York Times*, "for men who refuse to go out into the field. It is no big thing to refuse to go. If a man is ordered to go to such and such a place he no longer goes through the hassle of refusing; he just packs his shirt and goes to visit some buddies at another base camp. Operations have become incredibly ragtag. Many guys don't even put on their uniforms any more...The American garrisons on the larger bases are virtually disarmed. The lifers have taken our weapons from us and put them under lock and key...There have also been quite a few frag incidents in the battalion."

Can all this really be typical or even truthful?

Unfortunately the answer is yes.

"Frag incidents" or just "fragging" is current soldier slang in Vietnam for the murder or attempted murder of strict, unpopular, or just aggressive officers and NCOs. With extreme reluctance (after a young West Pointer from Senator Mike Mansfield's Montana was fragged in his sleep) **the Pentagon has now disclosed that fraggings in 1970 (209) have more than doubled those of the previous year (96).**

Word of the deaths of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units.

In one such division—the morale-plagued Americal—fraggings during 1971 have been authoritatively estimated to be running about one a week

Bounties, raised by common subscription in amounts running anywhere from $50 to $1,000, have been widely reported put on the heads of leaders whom the privates and Sp4s want to rub out.

Shortly after the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in mid-1969, the GI underground newspaper in Vietnam, "G.I. Says", publicly offered a $10,000 bounty on Lt. Col. Weldon Honeycutt, the officer who ordered (and led) the attack. Despite several attempts, however, Honeycutt managed to live out his tour and return Stateside.

"Another Hamburger Hill," (i.e., toughly contested assault), conceded a veteran major, "is definitely out."

The issue of "combat refusal," an official euphemism for disobedience of orders to fight—the soldier's gravest crime—has only recently been again precipitated on the frontier of Laos by Troop B, 1st Cavalry's mass refusal to recapture their captain's command vehicle containing communication gear, codes and other secret operation orders.

As early as mid-1969, however, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused—on CBS-TV—to advance down a dangerous trail....

While denying further unit refusals, the Air Cav has admitted some 35 individual refusals in 1970 alone. By comparison, only two years earlier in 1968, the entire number of officially recorded refusals for our whole army in Vietnam—from over seven divisions—was 68.

"Search and evade" (meaning tacit avoidance of combat by units in the field) is now virtually a principle of war, vividly expressed by the GI phrase, "CYA (cover your ass) and get home!"

That "search-and-evade" has not gone unnoticed by the enemy is underscored by the Viet Cong delegation's recent statement at the Paris Peace Talks that **communist units in Indochina have been ordered not to engage American units which do not molest them. [See** Bulkhead, **June, 1971]** The same statement boasted—not without foundation in fact—that American defectors are in the VC ranks.

Symbolic anti-war fasts (such as the one at Pleiku where an entire medical unit, led by its officers, refused Thanksgiving turkey), peace symbols, "V"-signs not for victory but for peace, booing and cursing of officers and even of hapless entertainers such as Bob Hope, are unhappily commonplace.

As for drugs and race, Vietnam's problems today not only reflect but reinforce those of the Armed Forces as a whole. In April, for example, members of a Congressional investigating subcommittee reported that 10 to 15% of our troops in Vietnam are now using high-grade heroin, and that drug addiction there is "of epidemic proportions."

Only last year an Air Force major and command pilot for Ambassador Bunker was apprehended at Tan Son Nhut air base outside Saigon with $8 million worth of heroin in his aircraft. The major is now in Leavenworth.

Early this year, an Air Force regular colonel was court-martialed and cashiered for leading his squadron in pot parties, while, at Cam Ranh Air Force Base, 43 members of the base security police squadron were recently swept up in dragnet narcotics raids....

It is a truism that national armies closely reflect societies from which they have been raised.

For this very reason, our Armed Forces outside Vietnam not only reflect these conditions but disclose the depths of their troubles in an awful litany of sedition, disaffection, desertion, race, drugs, breakdowns of authority, abandonment of discipline, and, as a cumulative result, the lowest state of military morale in the history of the country.

Sedition—coupled with disaffection within the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable—infests the Armed Services:

• At best count, there appear to be some 144 underground newspapers published on or aimed at U.S. military bases in this country and overseas. Since 1970 the number of such sheets has increased 40% (up from 103 last fall). These journals are not mere gripe-sheets that poke soldier fun in the "Beetle Bailey" tradition, at the brass and the sergeants. "In Vietnam," write the Ft. Lewis-McChord Free Prees, "the Lifers, the Brass, are the true Enemy, not the enemy." Another West Coast sheet advises readers: "Don't desert. Go to Vietnam and kill your commanding officer."

• At least 14 GI dissent organizations (including two made up exclusively of officers) now operate more or less openly. Ancillary to these are at least six antiwar veterans' groups which strive to influence GIs.

• Three well-established lawyer groups specialize in support of GI dissent. Two (GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee and New York Draft and Military Law Panel) operate in the open. A third is a semi-underground network of lawyers who can only be contacted through the GI Alliance, a Washington, D.C., group which tries to coordinate seditious antimilitary activities throughout the country.

One antimilitary legal effort operates right in the theater of war. A three-man law office, backed by the Lawyers' Military Defense Committee, of Cambridge, Mass., was set up last fall in Saigon to provide free civilian legal services for dissident soldiers being court-martialed in Vietnam.

Besides these lawyers' fronts, the Pacific Counseling Service (an umbrella organization with Unitarian backing for a prolifery of antimilitary activities) provides legal help and incitement to dissident GIs through not one but seven branches (Tacoma, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey, Tokyo, and Okinawa).

Another of Pacific Counseling's activities is to air-drop planeloads of seditious literature into Oakland's sprawling Army Base, our major West Coast staging point for Vietnam.

• On the religious front, a community of turbulent priests and clergymen, some unfrocked, calls itself the Order of Maximilian. Maximilian is a saint said to have been martyred by the Romans for refusing military service as un-Christian. Maximilian's present-day followers visit military posts, infiltrate brigs and stockades in the guise of spiritual counseling, work to recruit military chaplains, and hold services of "consecrations" of post chapels in the name of their saintly draft-dodger.

• By present count at least 11 (some go as high as 26) off-base antiwar "coffee houses" ply GIs with rock music, lukewarm coffee, antiwar literature, how-to-do-it tips on desertion, and similar disruptive counsels. Among the best-known coffee houses are: The Shelter Half (Ft. Lewis, Wash.); The Home Front (Ft. Carson, Colo.); and The Oleo Strut (Ft. Hood, Texas) . . .

• The nation-wide campus-radical offensive against ROTC and college officer-training is well known. Events last year at Stanford University, however, demonstrate the extremes to which this campaign (which peaked after Cambodia) has gone. After the Stanford faculty voted to accept a modified, specially restructured ROTC program, the university was subjected to a cyclone of continuing violence which included at least $200,000 in ultimate damage to buildings (highlighted by systematic destruction of 40 twenty-foot stained glass windows in the library). In the end, led by university president Richard W. Lyman, the faculty reversed itself. Lyman was quoted at the time that "ROTC is costing Stanford too much."

• "Entertainment Industry for Peace and Justice," the antiwar show-biz front organized by Jane Fonda, Dick Gregory and Dalton Trumbo, now claims over 800 film, TV, and music names. This organization is backing Miss Fonda's antimilitary road-show. [Now touring US bases in Asia.]

• Freshman Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif) runs a somewhat different kind of antimilitary production. As a Congressman, Dellums cannot be barred from military posts and has been taking full advantage of the fact. At Ft. Meade, Md., last month, Dellums led a soldier audience as they booed and cursed their commanding officer who was present on-stage in the post theater which the Army had to make available.

From "The Armed Forces Journal," official organ of the Pentagon. (PART I)

Long Binh Meeting

The Army won't admit it, but 60 to 80 GIs got it together outside the service club in the Plantation section of Long Binh on the night of November 6 to discuss means of getting home and ending the war. The meeting, which had been planned for more than a week, was comprised of representatives from at least ten units in the Plantation (so called due to the rubber plantation which used to be there).

"We're all opposed to the war. We feel it is an unjust war and that we should not be here. We're here tonight to discuss means of making our demands heard," one guy said.

"The people here tonight all trust each other; there is no one here any of us wouldn't smoke with."

According to a typed notice handed out at the meeting, which could hardly be labelled a demonstration, the aims of the group are to: end the war, secure the release of POWs, and to legalize weed.

"In fact," one GI with beads and headband said, "dope is one of the prime reasons for our getting together." Another guy said, "Marijuana used to be real easy to get here at Long Binh, but now they hassle you so much that it is really hard to get. And what happens when you can't get grass? Some people don't like to drink, so they turn to skag. The Army has forced guys into taking skag by making grass so hard to get. We don't think that is right. We don't want to turn on to skag, and want to get our buddies off it. To do that, we have to be able to smoke grass."

Asked how easy it is to get heroin at Long Binh, the group roared, "It's so easy you wouldn't believe it. You just walk down the street, anywhere, skag is no problem to get. But try getting grass!"

What does the group have in mind? "You cut off the body and the head can't go anywhere. If we all sit on the runways at Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa, and stop the jets from coming in with more people, who will do our jobs? They'll have to send us home. For instance, there are only two water truck drivers on Plantation who don't smoke. If we want to call a work stoppage, we will be able to do it. That's the purpose of this meeting, for people to get to know each other, to get together so we can use the power we have."

Every man at the meeting contended that morale on the post is low and pointed to harassment, living conditions, and persecution as the causes. "They treat us like they used to treat soldiers twenty years ago," a representative from an aviation company explained. "And it isn't going to work. We are better educated than the crop then and we won't stand for it."

There had been a fragging at one of the units, in 5/42d Arty Bn a few weeks earlier. A 1st Sgt was seriously injured. A man was arrested, but people from his unit contend he is the wrong guy. "Fraggings are not the answer," a man from the unit said "We want to settle things non-violently, but we don't want to stay here."

"Anyway, we can't get frags. I've seen men get killed in Cambodia because they only had concussion grenades. The lifers are scared of us so don't let us have frags anymore. In fact, we don't even have guns. Everybody's weapon is locked up on Long Binh. Can you see it if we ever got hit, all lining up outside the arms room with the sergeant singing 'pick up your '16 and run?' We'd be picked off from a mile away."

These and other complaints such as EM living in cockroach and bug-infested rooms while senior NCOs and officers live in air-conditioned trailers, routine shakedown inspections, illegal searches, urine tests and harrassment, were discussed.

The meeting lasted for an hour and a half, and guys felt it was successful. **"A lot of us here are thinking about these things, the way we're treated and lied to, the war, the hassles over dope. But now we are coming together, and together we have power. Between the heads on this post we control a lot of important jobs. When these representatives go back to their respective units and pass the word around that we are getting something together, in no time at all we will have hundreds and hundreds of people."**

One man, who was wounded in the field, given morphine and shipped to the rear, then sent to the drug detention center because of morphine in his urine, said, "The man will try to bust us, scare us and break us up. We suspect there are CIDs planted in every company. **The man will try to keep us from stopping the war so he can earn more money and so his mass assassination machines can keep on killing**

innocent people. We can't see that. I'm not a baby killer, and I don't want to be called one when I go home."

"Just getting together was the important thing tonight. As far as doing things, the possibilities are limitless," one man said. He pointed to the crowded motor pool of the 63d Artillery Group just up the road from the meeting place. **"A month ago some heads emptied the air out of all the tires on every truck in that motor pool. It was days before all the trucks were on the road again, because they threw away all the valves. And those trucks carry ammunition out to the firebases."**

"So there's a lot we can do, but first we have to get together, so we can co-ordinate. Then if the war pigs hassle us too much, we can effectively pull off a complete work halt when we want."

About half an hour after the meeting broke up, five military police jeeps raced to the scene. From a nearby hill, guys watched as jeeps, with red lights flashing, sped from one point to another around the post.

This article was not fiction. It was send in to the Pacific News Service by their Indochina correspondent, Thom Marlowe. Tom Marlowe has spent the last three years reporting on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. He's written for Overseas Weekly, Asia Magazine, and Dispatch News Service. And he's also worked as a reporter for Metromedia Radio. If that's not enough stars for you, he also was assistant financial editor at the Hong Kong Star.

FRAG CASE

Billy Smith is a black private from Watts, Calif. Before he was drafted he went to school and worked at a lot of different jobs. When the Watts insurrection broke out in 1965, he was picked up in the city-wide dragnet of curfew violations, and was later found not guilty. In 1969 he was drafted. He was opposed to the war and Army, even then, and wanted to resist induction, but instead respected his family's desire that he not go to jail. He tried to appear too dumb to be drafted, but found that next to impossible and was inducted into the US Army. He underwent training at Ft. Ord, Ft. Sill, and then was sent to Vietnam in October, 1970, where he was assigned to the command of Capt. Rigby.

For many reasons, some clear and some not, Capt Rigby and First Sgt Willie spent a large number of waking hours making life miserable for Pvt. Smith. He had been given three Article 15s by Capt Rigby within a few months for minor infractions, and was being processed for a "212" discharge for unsuitability and unfitness. Rigby said Billy would never make a good solider. "Section chiefs prided themselves on rapid, effective artillery fire!", said Rigby. But he said that Billy was unenthusiastic about "closing with the enemy."

Billy's lack of enthusiasm for the war, the Army, his CO, and his 1st Sgt. were obvious to those who knew him. He often talked to those around him about the racism he'd experienced and how much he hated it, and how to fight it.

On March 15, 1971, at 0045 hours, a fragmentation grenade exploded in an officer's barracks at Bien Hoa, killing two young lieutenants and wounding a third. Capt Rigby and 1st Sgt. Willie, who were to have slept in those barracks, arrived on the scene, and decided they were the real intended victims—and that the logical guilty party could only be one Pvt. Billy Dean Smith.

THE ACCUSATIONS AND THE CHARGES

Without hesitation, they informed the CID officer of their conclusion—or was it a verdict—and together they called a battalion formation. In spite of a complete lack of evidence, and without so much as questioning Rigby's theory, Billy Smith was called to the front and told that he was under apprehension for murder—the equivalent to a declaration of guilt before all the potential witnesses. To this were added two charges of resisting arrest—plus two charges of attempted murder (Rigby and Willis).

FITTING FACTS TO THE THEORY

Once they had a theory, no one ever asked if someone else might have done the fragging or what the reasons might have been. Instead, the entire military effort was directed toward fitting the facts to the theory. After interviews with scores of witnesses, after hundreds of leading questions and answers, the entire case against Billy rests on the following list of direct and circumstantial evidence:

THE EVIDENCE

The direct evidence consists of one item: when arrested, Billy was illegally searched, and a grenade pin was found in his pocket, together with some "black leather gloves" that "looked suspicious". The gloves were never connected to anything. The grenade pin was sent to a laboratory in Japan for tests against a grenade spoon found near the explosion. While the photographs of markings of the two items clearly show there is not the slightest matching between them, the Army claims there is. But the Army has all the evidence it needs, and is not concerned that there is not a single piece of evidence to link Billy with the fragging.

WHY BILLY SMITH?

The circumstantial evidence is even more incredible. It shows basically that Billy Smith hated the Army, hated the war, hated his CO and 1st Sgt, that he'd stated that all these were racist and that he would "get even" with them, that fragging was a good way to do it, and that he had access to a fragmentation grenade. With that kind of evidence about 90% of the EMs in his unit could get convicted of the same crime.

Billy Dean Smith is fighting back. The Army is asking for the death penalty. Even though he is presumed innocent, he has been in the Ft. Ord stockade without bail (locked up in an isolated cell for 23 out of every 24 hours), while Lt. Calley, who was **convicted** of the murder of 26 Vietnamese people, is allowed all kinds of privileges.

WHY WE SHOULD GIVE A SHIT ABOUT BILLY

Billy is being framed for all the fraggings in the Nam. His is the first court-martial in the US for fragging (although hundreds more have occurred in Vietnam). The military command is trying to make an example out of Billy in order to intimidate other GIs from any other kind of dissent/resistance.

People all over are coming to the defense of Billy and demanding his freedom. They all know that if he is convicted, all of us who hate this war and the military machine that keeps it moving, we'll all suffer. But if Billy is freed, that'll be a step towards our own freedom. □

LETTERS

Dear People,

Howdy! What's happening? Just thought I'd drop you a line about one of the largest lifer installations in Vietnam. This place is called Newport. Better named by the junio EM as "Pig port." It's on the edge of Saigon, and its sole purpose is unloading ships from the states loaded with everything from ammo and tanks to PX good and everything else used to support this absurd war....

Five attempted busts on us in less than a week| This is really too much! I guess we're all super drug addicts and criminals according to the lifers. We've all got less than 100 days left and haven't had or been in any trouble since we've been in Nam. Not even an Article 15. But we've been branded here as "bad news" along with others.

There is more going on here also. All the lifers manage to live in air-conditioned hoothces while lower EM does not. We know how they get air conditioners. They do it through black market by selling and trading supplies and equipment they have access to in the warehouses here. Most of them spend days at a time living off post in hotels in Saigon living it up with their booze and whores. We, along with Vietnamese civilians do the work. They even have a boat here, a small cabin cruiser type they use to ride up and down the Saigon River in at their leisure. These lifers include the top brass from the USARV headquarters in Saigon and Long Binh. They ride about enjoying themselves on the weekends, partying with whores on board. They don't fool us, man! They even have a range to drive golf balls on in Long Binh and a mess hall that looks like something you'd see in Beverley Hills. Can you dig that?!

...I don't think there are too many places quite like this in the army. Let's hope not anyway. The Viet Nam capital for blackmarketing, dirty dealing, low-underhanded-backstabbing lifers. Take it easy and I'll be writing...

Sincerely,
Doug U., 5th Trans. Co.
Republic of Vietnam

Dear Bulkhead,

It was really far out to hear from you again and I'v glad to inform you that the Movement is going on well here aboard the Midway....The news about the Connie (Constellation CVA-64) is really exciting. I work in the Electricians Office and the news came in today that the Commanding Officer of the Connie has suffered a "breakdown" and is under medical care. That is the carrier that is supposed to relieve the Midway....I hope that no one has to come over here anymore and when I do get back, I'm going to do all in my power to try to keep the Midway from returning here.

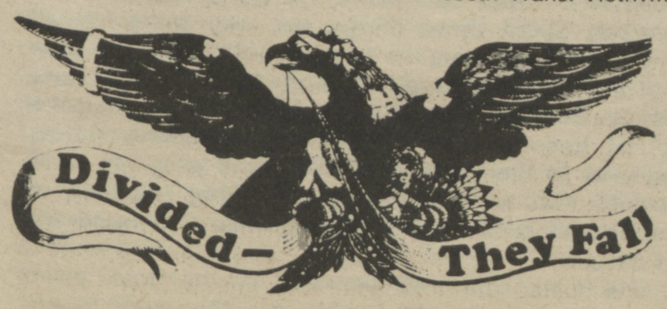
Chipand Brothers
USS Midway

To the Bulkhead,

I'm a captive in the Army in Vietnam, and ever since I've been in this fuckin' mess, my life has been one big hassle after another....Like the other day this friend of mine and me were in talking to our CO and he give us both a direct order to get a haircut and to make formations. Well, needless to say we did neither one, and now he's trying to give us an Article 15. But we won't sign them and I haven't heard another word about the matter but I think we will today or tomorrow.

...I have a major for a CO, and let me tell you he won't cut you no slack. Twon is off limits and since we can't go there we set around in the barracks and do our thing and just last night about seven of us were sitting around listening to some sounds and a few other things and our CO and his 1st Sgt. came in and said they smelled pot. They asked to smell my cigarette, but it was nothing. We got over on them. Ha! Ha! That's one for our side and in the future there will be more.

Peace to the People
Pvt. W. Mc.
388th Trans. Vietnvm



Dear Bulkhead,

I am with the US Army in Germany, and just about 5 minutes ago I finished reading my first Bulkhead. I hate the Army, because they have been fucking over me. I will do everything in my power to hurt the Army. I have not been paid for the last 6 months, and I am sick of being broke.

I have received several Article 15s, for AWOL and also for drugs. If I stay in the Army much longer I will end up in jail. I have 22 months to go. All this hassle and I have a brother who is a major, a lawyer. He is a lifer.

We had an AGI two months ago, and we failed it. This was because of the officers here in the Bat. They fucked up, and we get the shit....We have a little black book with things in it that have fucked up here. When things go wrong, people come to me or David and we write down their problems. Maybe after they read your paper, they can write you instead of me and David.

Say Hi to the World for Me
Arnold and David
1/509th Abn Inf., Germany

Dear Bulkhead,

I was down to Frisco for the Peace Rally last weekend (Nov. 6), and was delighted to receive a copy of the Bulkhead. I would only be too glad to distribute copies on base. Mare Island is living in the past. They are constantly hassling the EM with no apparent reason or system. It seems that rules and regulations are made up on the spot for a particular situation and place, and apply only to certain people.

The living quarters are disgusting, and recently they installed a new Master at Arms with direct orders to make it hard on us. Several times on watch I observed rats in the barracks, called the "trouble desk" and logged it in the "trouble log." It was a very long time before anything was done and when you ask staff about it, they'll tell you how quickly and efficiently the rats had been exterminated. They were here for about a year altogether. What I really wrote to say is how about an article on EMs rights.

J.
Mare Island

Peace Brothers of the Bulkhead,

...The USS Rathburne's no different than the others of its class—undependable, slow, with a staff of officers and lifers that would just as soon step on a person than listen to him. The Captain's a Washington desk jockey with his first command has gallantly led his ship into every ship yard in the Western Pacific for some major repairs. As for the brothers on board, we are a closely knit group fighting for our own rights and being bombarded with long working hours and almost unbearable living conditions.

...The freaks on board fairly well control the happenings. There's always some one telling off some lifer and being placed on the dreaded pad and sent to the XO where he's persecuted at the kangaroo court and sentenced to restriction and extra military instruction, as they call it.

The Navy is the part of the military that isn't so much a physical as it is a mental burden. I've known many brothers that were driven into mental wards, states of depression and drug addiction. When will they ever learn we are people, not military robots to do as they bid.

Myself, I fought for many rights and was charged with disobedience, disrespect, and other articles of the Unjust Code of Military Injustice. Along with my brothers we suffered, mentally for our sour military attitudes, but for a just cause. Many have left this ship on drug charges. Many have turned themselves in to the man to get off and out of the Navy. I have a short time left in the service and they will have to suffer with me for I will make it as difficult as possible for them as they did to me.

At this time we're sailing off the coast of Nam on plane guard. We;ll be here for 20-30 days before returning to the Philippines after that we go to Australia, and then home...

From Myself and My Brothers,
Love, Peace, and Happiness,

Jerry

To the Staff,

I have been receiving your papers since Feb. I really dig it and I know the people I distributed it to liked it....We've already got the brass, CID, and a lot of NCOs scared shitless. This week-end we are going to hold a rally outside of the main gate, our friends and the staff of the paper "Last Harass". We have to let these mongreal pigs know that we're sick and tired of their bullshit, all of their fucking games have got to cease. As of now we are lacking money, so whatever you are able to send is far out....I really am a prisoner.

Thank you
Steve, Fort Gordon

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rank and name *military number*

military address/unit

branch of service *release date*

[ ] I am a captive of the US Armed Forces and want to get this free.

[ ] I will distribute Bulkheads on base. Send me (5) (10) (25) (50) (100)

[ ] I'm a civilian who's enclosing $5 for 12 issues (donations are welcome, folks).

Here's the name and address of a friend in the service who ought to be getting this paper:

Pacific Counseling Service

The people at Pacific Counselling Service know military law. They can let you know what your rights are, and back you up when you have to fight to get them. In the States and Asia

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FUSSA, TOKYO

SHORT SHIT

A VICTORY FOR BLACK GIS IN GERMANY

Darmstadt (October) - A group of about 30 white soldiers armed with sticks and iron bars walked into the 93d Signal Bn mess hall on July 18. 'A' Company's Capt. McGrew, who'd been sitting in the mess hall, quitely disppeared. Almost on signal, the whites attacked a group of blacks who were listening to soul music on the juke box. Before the blacks had asked the whites to turn down a country and western tape.

At the end of the riot, 20 GIs were treated for injuries, and one black, Cpl. Larry Dixon, was charged with inciting to riot. The very next day, 53 brothers marched to Battalion Hq to demand that the new CO, Lt. Col. Partin, release Dixon. Darmstadt is a center of GI resistance, and Partin was only the latest in a long string of lifers sent there to "clean things up." Partin refused to talk, ordered the men to split, and when they didn't, called the riot squad.

At bayonet point, the all-white riot squad forced the black GIs into a truck and then took them to a barb-wire compound where they spent the night without food or water.

When the international press got ahold of the story, the Army freaked and offered the Darmstadt 53 a chance to plead guilty to a minor charge that'd mean only a little brig time and a small loss of pay. The brothers told the Army to forget it, and started building their legal defense.

When the Army started the trial on August 30, black and white GIs from nearby installations filled the courtroom. Local support was built, a team of lawyers organized, and by mid-October, the Army's case had been shot down so bad that charges were dropped and the brothers set free! (LNS)

NO VIETNAMESE EVER CALLED ME NIGGER

Philadelphia (September) - The North Vietnamese army has set down a policy of avoiding conflict with predominantly black American combat units, according to the Rev. Muhammed Kenyatta, director of the Black Economic Development Conference. He was announcing the findings of his five week tour of North Vietnam and China. (LNS)

A WARSHIP CAN BE STOPPED

San Diego, California (October) - On Oct. 2 between 40-50 Federal marshalls broke into Christ the King Church and dragged out nine Navy dudes who were stationed aboard the USS Constellation. the men, now known as the Constellation 9, had missed ships movement and sought sanctuary. They couldn't go along with the Connie's mission any longer.

Carl Scott Flanagan, one of the nine, said to the press before they were picked up, "I can no longer support the killing and destruction of war....as a patriotic American and as a human being, I must refuse to take part in my ship's mission."

The nine were flown to the carrier where they refused a request for court-martial, denied civilian counsel, and forced to accept the punishment meted out by the Captain. Their requests to be let off the ship and out of the Navy as COs were ignored, and they were given 30 days correctional custody aboard ship, forfeiture of one-half of two month's pay, and reduction of one rank.

"The USS Constellation under orders, not from the American people, but a few powerful politicans and military people, has taken the right over life and death. I refuse to take part in this murder," said Charlie Andrews, another of the nine.

Having no way to resist or protest without being suppressed by the Navy, the men went on a week long hunger strike. It was especially hard for them, since they were kept super isolated from the rest of the crew.

"To me, being a man is being able to stand up and fight for what you believe in. I must stand up for what I believe in." Daniel Hoag of the Connie 9.

The Harbor Project in San Diego was originally started to "keep the Connie home for peace." They organized a successful referendum in San Diego county, Nixon's own backyard, very military and very right-wing. But of the 54,721 who voted, 82.4% wanted the Constellation to stay home.

"I did this (sanctuary) because of my strong convictions against the war and my refusal to participate in the Vietnam war." Jon C. Obe of the C-9.

"I have been forced into sanctuary by the country in which we live. A country which is waging a cruel and unjust war against the Asian race....I love my country, but they make it hard." Jim Mikell of the Constellation Nine.

NATION-WIDE VETERANS DAY ACTIONS

USA (Oct 25) - Vets all across the country marked veterans' day by marching in fatigues against the war. This was the action in just a dozen of those cities. San Francisco: 150 vets marched. 6 sent to hospital after fighting with police. Denver: 84 vets arrested when they tried to march in a city vets march. New York: When 300 vets applied to march in the offical march, they found the march cancelled the next day. Killeen, Texas: 118 vets and active duty GIs busted during official city march. Two are still in jail on hunger strike. New Orleans: Permit to march denied, and 34 busted when they attempted to march anyway on the sidewalk. If we had the space, we'd list actions as they took place in 42 states. (LNS)

STRONG SUPPORT FORCES ARMY TO DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST HARVEY AND PRIEST

Killeen, Texas (October) - All charges against John Priest and Kelvin Harvey stemming from a stockade riot at Ft. Hood in December 1970, have been dropped. If the two men had been convicted, they could have been hit with 65 years. The stockade "riot" occurred as a result of racism towards black prisoners and the lack of medical attention in the stockade. Harvey, who is black, and Priest, who is white, had been transferred to Leavenworth to serve out their sentences on other charges and were not brought back to Hood to face riot charges until July 1971. The Army says that the charges were dropped as "the result of a breakdown in Army administrative procedures." But that's the Army's way of getting out of a ticklish situation. The Ft. Hood United Front had been publicizing and protesting the case of Harvey and Priest ever since they were brought back to Hood and charged. They had a big rally to demand their release and the FTA Show (with Jane Fonda and Don Sutherland) held a press conference to explain the situation. The day after the press conference all charges were dropped. (source: the Fatigue Press from Killeen)

A DEATH AND A VICTORY FOR BLACK PEOPLE IN ALABAMA

Alabama (Sept 16) - Down in Butler, black high school students have been demonstrating against racism in the schools. On Sept 11, 19-year-old Margaret Knott was run over at a demonstration and killed by a white driver. When the murderer was released on bail, the people took to the streets. Four hundred were arrested during the next week, including Rev. Ralph Abernathy. As a result of the fighting, the white establishment gave in and agreed to hire a black deputy sheriff, black assistant school superintendant, and black policemen, and that the students would go back to classes without reprisals and that a once-fired black teacher would be rehired. (Guardian)

MURDER IN MEMPHIS

Memphis, Tenn. (mid-October) - On the night of Oct. 16, a pick-up truck spun into a ditch. A squad car saw the accident, and put out a radio call. No one knows what was said over that radio, but in minutes 28 Memphis police were there. If the men in that pick-up were white, those 28 cops would've helped the men pull their truck out of the ditch. But the men inside were young and black. The 28 white pigs jumped on Elton Hayes (17-years-old), Calvin McKissack (14-years-old) and George Barnes (15-years-old), and beat them all senseless. Today Elton Hayes is dead.

All but five of the pigs were immediately given leave with pay (a paid vacation). None of the other five were even reprimanded. The shock of Elton Hayes murder had hardly even rocked the black community when a squad car roared screaming through ghetto streets. It never stopped for three-year-old Robert Reed. Now he, too, is dead. Mayor Loeb set a curfew to try to contain the black rage that had now moved into the streets. The curfew was ignored. But rather than strike out as five fingers, the black people of Memphis have hit like one fist, demanding for now the arrest of all 30 murders. Unless the city of Memphis brings these 30 to justice, the people will. (from Memphis local papers and the Black Panther News Service. Note: this incident happens all over this country every day. Too few of us ever hear of it, and too many are already too numb to the anger of so many.)

WESTMORELAND RUNS FROM PISSED OFF GIs

Fort Ord, California (Oct 29) - On the last Friday in October, Gen. Westmoreland was supposed to pay a formal visit to Fort Ord. Instead, he wound up spending only an hour there, and even during that time, his whereabouts were kept a closely guarded secret. When he left, he just about had to slide out the back door.

Here's why. It seems that almost 200 guys were planning a sitdown strike. Rumor had it that they would block the General's car. Word leaked, though and 160 men were given transfers the same day. Another rumor had it that black GIs were going to kidnap two white officers while Westmoreland was on base, and hold them at gunpoint until their brother, Billy Smith, was released from the stockade (Billy's the first GI to be tried for fragging in the United States). What wasn't rumor were the three fires that occurred in the two weeks preceding Westmoreland's visit. The base theater was completely gutted. A dayroom in the Personnel Control Facility was only slightly damaged. And a guest house for visiting VIPs was burned.

But the Billy Smith trial has meant even more trouble for base command than Westmoreland's visit. For the past several weeks, groups of 150-200 GIs have been marching across the base, chanting "Free Billy!" and meaning it. Black GIs have been meeting regularly in the 4th Brigade area. But base command has no idea of what's going on, who attends the meetings, what's discussed, or where they take place.

GUESS WHO'S COMING FOR DINNER?

Detroit (Sept 23) - When Nixon came to an Economic Club dinner in downtown Detroit, he had to wade through 10,000 auto workers, unemployed people, black people, welfare mothers, anti-war freaks, secretaries, high school students, and more. They had turned out just to boo him. Even the waitresses who served the club dinner put the heat on the President, wearing buttons that said, "Freeze the Freeze." If the Dump Nixon movement keeps up at this rate, he's going to have to campaign from bank vaults (Guardian)

SOURCES

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SF Exam	*San Francisco Examiner*
LNS	*Liberation News Service*
Redline	*Newsletter of Reservists and Guardsmen Against the War*
CAMP	*Newsletter for the Chicago Area Military Project*
PNS	*Pacific News Service*
WP	*Washington Post*

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"The thing is that when the Navy sees that people have started awakening to what is really happening in the world, the power structure and the way it works, and how the military is used as a club, it kind of scares them. Something like that could really destroy them.

We want to get our people together with the people from the (attack carriers) USS Ranger, Hancock, and Constellation, people from Travis Air Force Base, and Fort Ord. Everybody together to fight the thing collectively. With everybody together, there isn't much they can do to stop it."