UP AGAINST THE BULKHEAD

Left wing NC 84

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

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DIKES BOMBED

VIET VETS MEET 'ENEMY'

PARIS (JUNE, 1972)

A meeting between 15 members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and veterans of the national liberation movements of Cambodia, Laos and North and South Vietnam. American Vietnam vets and veterans of the Indochinese liberation struggle had met before in Chile, Cuba, Canada, and Paris. Some had met on the battlefield. But this was the first time a meeting had taken place on an official diplomatic level.

The meetings lasted three days in late June. At formal discussions, the VVAW delegation was given information on secret CIA bases in Laos and Cambodia, CIA involvement in heroin traffic, and US bombing of the dikes of North Vietnam. They were also given a letter from 15 POWs to deliver to Congress, along with photographs and evidence of the bombing of the dikes.

One member of the delegation, Sgt. John Boychuk (second from left) was an active duty airman from Mt. Home AFB, Idaho, when he left. By the time he reported back to duty, they'd already drawn up his honorable discharge papers. John, who spent a year in Vietnam as a weapons specialist, was asked how he felt about meeting with the "enemy." He replied, "I have no doubts at all that the real 'enemy' exists in Washington, D.C., and not in Indochina."

John's suspicions proved to be right. When members of VVAW went to deliver the letter from POWs to members of Congress they were turned away.

The delegation also received the cold shoulder from the American press. Newsmen and camera crews from the major wire services, newspapers, and radio and television networks were at all four of their press conferences. Questions were asked. Interviews given. Stories filed. But the stories were buried by the higher ups, and most people never heard a word about the meeting. Makes you wonder who the "enemy" really is.

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Nixon's Policy: War Crimes

On April 18, 1945 the German High Commissioner for Holland, Seyss-Inquart, destroyed the Zuiderzee dikes, flooding 10% of Holland's arable land (½ million acres), leaving 3 million people homeless and 25,000 to die of starvation. On October 15, 1946 Seyss-Inquart was hanged. The Nuremberg Tribunal set up by the Allies after World War II to try Nazis for war crimes sentenced him to death for his acts and labeled him "one of the worst war criminals." Only 22 other Germans were given the death sentence.

Since mid-April the US has been deliberately bombing the dikes of North Vietnam. The vast dike system of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is a foundation of the economy and a necessity for the survival of millions of people.

"Without its system of dikes, the Red River delta at the time of the river swellings would be one immense stretch of water. Everything would be submerged, rice fields, cities, villages, from the middle region to the sea. In the areas submitted to invasion by sea waters, all cultivation would be impossible, and it would take several years of treatment to render the soil arable again." (Tran Dang Khoa, director of the Institute of Scientific Research on Agricultural Hydraulics of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, *Nhan Dan*, June 26, 1972.) A French geographer, Yves Lacoste, warned in June that **"it is highly likely that this catastrophe [the systematic bombing of the dikes] would cause more deaths than the explosion of several atomic bombs on the Tonkin Plain."**

The Nixon administration knows all of this and has studied the problem. In a Department of Defense study, John McNaughton said **"Destruction of locks and dams offers promise. It should be studied. Such destruction does not kill or drown people. By shallow flooding the rice, it leads after a time to widespread starvation."** And that, apparently, is what Nixon is aiming at with his "smart bombs."

The North Vietnamese have charged that in the two months from April 10 to June 10, 1972, US aircraft made 68 attacks against 32 dike sections and 31 hydraulic works in North Vietnam. They claim that 665 bombs of various sorts have been dropped on the dikes, not counting the hundreds of shells from the US Navy. Serious damage has resulted from these bombardments.

Many newsmen and diplomatic people visiting Hanoi during June, July and August have seen bomb damage to the dikes. Eyewitnesses to the damage include Sweden's ambassador to North Vietnam, Jean Christophe Oeberg, NY Times reporter Anthony Lewis, Agence-France Press reporter Jean Thoraval, Jane Fonda, and an international team sent by the International Commission of Inquiry into US War Crimes in Indochina. This team included Sean MacBride, an Irish lawyer and former Foreign Minister of Ireland and former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Reporter Jean Thoraval from Agence-France Press saw the dikes about 60 miles from Hanoi: **"One of the embankments was completely cut. Several were gutted, with gaps in the dike itself and hollows alongside. Deep cracks were visible everywhere."** In another place, **"We came to the dike with its system of sluice-gates designed to hold back the muddy waters and prevent them from flooding the ten districts of Nam Ha province....The system of gates no longer worked. The reinforced concrete**

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LETTERS

Brothers,

How goes it? Sorry it took me so long but I just got back yesterday from a TDY at Ninh Hoa. I'd appreciate it if you didn't print my letter. On second thought go ahead and use it. Fuck it.

You know what pisses me off about Tricky Dick is that he drops all these people from Nam but like he doesn't say how many people are TDY from Taiwan and Thailand. These people aren't counted as troops in Nam cause they're only TDY.

Like I was reading about that uprising at Wright-Patterson and like they found out about a regular gambling casino. At the same time can you check that out and find out what happened to the officers that were caught. I'm sure probably nothing. But out of curiousity I'd like to know. Well, that's about all I gotta rap about. So be cool and keep me informed.

Later,
Joe Thailand

Brothers,

I just saw your paper and couldn't believe it. It was beautiful. Out here on this hole I'm beginning to think I'm alone in my opinions of peace and love toward everyone. When I joined the Navy I heard that the Navy was a bunch of draft-dodgers. I thought, "Right on!" If there was any way to go this would be it. Thru boot camp I met some real good heads but then I came up. All I've run across is probable lifers who think me strange because of my opinions. I was beginning to think I had maybe come into the wrong organization. But then I saw your paper and I breathed a sigh of relief. I wasn't alone any more. When I read about our brothers out in the fleet organizing against the war I felt so much easier. I would like to get your paper on a regular basis. You're beutiful people.

Peace be with you all,
T.M., Treasure Island

"Oh, they took our milk out of the refer and put Rear Admiral Robinson in there. Don't worry, though. He's being guarded. No one's gonna steal him."

Dear People of Bulkhead,

That package you sent me was a real mind-blower. Thanks for putting it together. It's nice to know that you people are thinking about me and all the other guys in my situation.

Twice I've clipped a notice from the P.O.D. and twice I've lost it. It went something like this

INCENSE: Due to the fact that incense is used as a cover-up for marijuana and hashish — and because its odor is offensive to many people — incense will not be burned on the Coral Sea.

Personally, I find the odor of jet exhaust offensive. Do you think Capt. Harris will stop the flight ops if I tell him? Not to mention the fact that a good number of the crew leave the ship with high and low frequency hearing losses.

Did any of you hear about the death of Rear Admiral Robinson last month? He paid us (the Coral Sea) a short, rather humorous (in my opinion) visit. Anyway, his body was brought to the Coral Sea — where it was kept for about a day. They put him in our milk refer [refrigerator] right in the middle of the mess deck area and put a Marine guard with a rifle outside the refer. Everybody was asking what the Marine was doing and he'd say, "I'm guarding the Admiral." I thought it was a riot watching all the guys walk by with their breakfast trays looking at the refer.

"Hey, man, what's going on?"

"Oh, they took our milk out of the refer and put RAdm. Robinson in there. Don't worry, though. He's being guarded. No one's gonna steal him."

"Good, I just hope we don't have Rear Admiral Soup or Navy Beans with Admiral bits for chow tonight."

"Me, too. The meals have been bad enough as it is. '

I'd better be going. I've got other letters to write. Thanks again for your interest. I'll keep in touch.

Peace
Mike USS Coral Sea

Brothers,

At the present time we are a small group on the Kitty Hawk that are trying to get it together. We have done a lot of rapping and have decided that talking about this insane war is not going to stop it. We are going to start some action moving and would appreciate some advice and if possible a few papers to start passing around the ship.

We have been over here since the middle of February and have already caused so much destruction that it is entirely out of hand.

We feel that the American people deserve the truth about what is happening over here. Spreading the truth can only help to stop this act of violent aggression. So many people are against the war, it is difficult to understand why it is still going on.

We would like to help to stop the war by doing some articles and taking some pictures that you might be able to use in your publication. We know that it isn't much, but if we can do a little bit to help, it would make us feel better.

All of us are in an attack squadron, so we are in direct contact with the pilots that fly the Navy's combat missions into Vietnam. It seems insane to see the planes being catapulted off of the flight deck with 6,000 pounds of ordinance and when the pilots return they laugh and joke about the people that they dropped bombs on, or how they had fun straffing people with their guns.

The brass may threaten us with disciplinary action, but we feel that we have a moral obligation to the people of the world. It is a lot more important than any military duty can be.

A quick reply would be very much appreciated as each day more bombs get dropped and the more depressing this whole war monger atmosphere gets.

Keep the faith,
J.C., USS Kitty Hawk

The Bombing of the Dikes [continued]

pillars had been destroyed or cracked." He discovered that on three days--June 2, 12, and 21, American fighter-bombers attacked the dikes and gates there. Aside from this, the only targets anywhere in sight were houses near the river.

The international team investigating US War Crimes concluded that the US had **deliberately** bombed dikes and civilian targets in North Vietnam. Their conclusions were:

"1) These bombardments were intentional and deliberate

2) The points which have been selected for bombardment would significantly affect the hydraulic system and could cause heavy flooding in the flood season.

3) The regions subjected to those bombardments are vast food producing and densely populated areas.

4) The methods of destruction used were such as to make effective repair difficult.

5) The damaged dikes observed by the team do not form part of a road network and were not capable of being used as roads. They are situated in isolated areas and no military objectives could be noted in their neighborhood."

Added to this bombing is the usual mix of anti-personnel bombs. When people work to repair breaks in the dikes, planes try to kill and maim them with anti-personnel bombs which now use plastic pellets that don't show up on X-rays.

But why has the Nixon administration chosen the people of North Vietnam as his targets? All we have to do to find out the answer is tune in on pig-think and listen to Nixon's pals who make these murderous policies.

Before Nixon took office he ordered Henry Kissinger to make a secret study of the Vietnam situation. This study, which is known as National Security Study Memorandum-1 (NSSM-1), has been revealed recently by columnist Jack Anderson. It came up with the following conclusions about the LBJ bombing policies of 1965-68. Three years of bombing, reported the Central Intelligence Agency, **"Did not seriously affect the flow of men and supplies to Communist forces in Laos and South Vietnam. Nor did it significantly erode North Vietnam's military defense capability or Hanoi's determination to persist in the war."** The State Department agreed with the CIA's conclusions, and noted that **"There is little reason to believe that new bombing will accomplish what previous bombings failed to do, unless it is conducted with much greater intensity and readiness to defy criticism or risk of escalation."**

Thus the ineffectiveness of massive saturation bombings under Johnson, and now under Nixon, combined with the victories of NLF and NVA forces in South Vietnam have pushed Nixon up against the wall. He must use new, more devastating tactics, or be defeated.

And his targets must necessarily be the civilian population of Indochina. To Nixon and his kind there are no distinctions between military and civilian targets. **"A military target is any person, thing, idea, entity, or location selected for destruction, inactivation, or rendering nonusable with weapons which will reduce or destroy the will or ability to the enemy to resist."** (USAF ROTC Manual, 5/61) And that's what it's all about. Because there are still millions of Vietnamese people who have the idea that Vietnam is their country, not Nixon's.

WE ARE EVERYWHERE!

The Movement Grows In The Fleet

A new wave of protest, triggered by Nixon's all-out air war against the people of Indochina, is sweeping through the Navy. While one CO after another is claiming that morale is high and SOS is non-existent, groups of sailors throughout the fleet are raising the SOS [Stop Our Ship] cry, "We are everywhere!" The idea of SOS was inspired by nine brothers from the attack carrier **CONSTELLATION**, and then was boosted on by men on the **CORAL SEA**, who organized on board to oppose deployment to Vietnam. Since the sailing of the CORAL SEA in November 1971, the movement has been given new life by sailors, Marines, their loved ones, and their civilian supporters. Attack aircraft carriers, the backbone of Nixon's air war strategy, are seeing the most militant action.

Brothers from the USS Oriskany at press conference before turning themselves in to the Navy

Groups of sailors on the attack carriers **USS ORISKANY** and **USS AMERICA** and the destroyer **USS DENNIS J. BUCKLEY** have refused to sail to Vietnam recently. In the narrow Hood River Canal which runs to the Bangor Ammunition Depot at Bangor, Washington, a small fleet of kayaks and canoes have launched a summer-long campaign to stop ammo ships headed for Southeast Asia.

SABOTAGE

A few dramatic acts of sabotage have made the news despite the Navy's attempt to cover up the increasing number of incidents which daily plague the US fleet. On August 5, Navy officials in Norfolk, Virginia, charged seaman apprentice Jeffery Grant Allison, 19, with setting a fire on the nuclear carrier **FORRESTAL** which did between $7.2 and $25 million (!) damage. Allison, who was attached to an admiral's staff, has been charged with 25 counts, one of which carries the death penalty.

In June, the Navy arrested Patrick K. Chenoweth, 21, a fireman on the attack carrier **RANGER** for allegedly dropping a paint scraper and bolts into the reduction gears. Estimated damage: $550,000. Seventeen other sailors on the Ranger are also under investigation. The RANGER has a long history of "incidents." During the summer of 1970, one-third of the engineering division walked off the ship, delaying it in San Diego harbor for a couple of days. This little known mutiny was followed by another "incident" which crippled an engine.

REFUSALS

When the **USS ORISKANY** left for Vietnam in early June, a lot of its crew stayed home. On July 14, 1972, ten of those men, surrounded by dozens of civilian supporters, faced the press in a parking lot across from Alameda Naval Air Station, California. *"Each one of us has voluntarily decided to lay our ass on the Navy's line," read their spokesman nervously, "by saying that the only way to end the genocide being perpetrated now in Southeast Asia is for us, the actual pawns in this political game, to quit playing."* The ten were Michael E. Wood, James K. Frazier, Douglas D. Counard, Denton Dixie, Jr., Ronald K. Smith, Anthony A. Koopman, Michael D. Koch, Jerry T. Ford, Terry D. Hanson, and Edward Richards.

After being transferred to Treasure Island, the ten began a fight for either administrative or conscientious objector discharges. While stuck at Treasure Island, "home" for 2200 sailors in technical schools, the ten took advantage of the situation and rapped to as many guys as possible about their action.

On the destroyer **USS DENNIS J. BUCKLEY**, three sailors – Daniel Harris, Marc Hornstein, and John Murphy – left the ship in the Philippines after returning from the gun line off North Vietnam. Harris explained his experience: *"One day in June, I was standing a watch on the bridge and we were called to general quarters. I just stayed where I was on the bridge, looking out with my binoculars while we started firing. I saw these people running out of their huts that live on the beach and use the beach and water for their life. They're running around everywhere, and the shells were hitting and just slaughtering them. Immediately I just said NO! This just can't be happening. I'd never seen war like this before and that is what made me realize . . ."* When the BUCKLEY left June 20, the three stayed in the Philippines.

The June 5th departure of the aircraft carrier **AMERICA** for Vietnam from Norfolk, Virginia, was blocked by a sea-going protest which turned into a battle between sailors and Coast Guardsmen who tried to break up the protest. Thirty-one people in a motley armada of thirteen kayaks and canoes surrounded the America at its berth. After most of the "People's Navy" was swamped by Coast Guard cutters, several people, cheered on by the sailors on the AMERICA'S bow, swam up and grabbed hold of the ship. When the Coast Guard pulled demonstrators from the water, sailors on the AMERICA pelted the cutters with eggs and garbage. The Coast Guard responded by turning a high pressure hose on the sailors massed on the bow. Inspired by the "battle," two sailors – Alfred Stancel and Danny Teer – left the ship ten minutes before the gangplank was pulled up.

PEOPLE'S BLOCKADE

At the Bangor Ammunition Depot in Bangor, Washington, water-borne protestors attempted to stop four ammo ships as they moved out through the narrow Hood Canal. In their most successful attempt, George Walker, a 31-year-old Navy vet who once sailed on the CORAL SEA, maneuvered a kayak past three Coast Guard boats and put himself squarely in the path of the **USS JOSEPH E. MERRELL.** The MERRELL kept coming at 6-8 knots and sailed right over Walker! Walker, who was struck by the MERRELL'S bow, was dunked but uninjured. He and a skindiver who attempted to swim in front of the MERRELL, were arrested for violating a 500-yard security zone established around the MERRELL under the 1917 Espionage Act.

"This is just the beginning," said Walker after being released by the Coast Guard. "It's the super technology of the world pitted against people fighting with bare hands." The anti-war group known as the People's Blockade is looking for a minesweeper to bolster their fleet.

What has made actions like the People's Blockade so effective is the energy it brings to sailors and Marines who are the actual backbone of the fleet. Opposition to the war from within the fleet isn't new, though. What's new is that this opposition has grown from individual resistance to collective action. For example . . .

The **USS HULL** is a destroyer which has been shelling areas around the DMZ and Quang Tri. Recently guys have written to Congressmen and women and newspapers protesting the use of white phosphorous shells against populated areas. This shelling is in violation of the Geneva Accords.

The **USS HUNLEY**, a sub tender out of Guam, has its own underground paper, the *Hunley Hemorrhoid*. It's written, drawn, designed, and financed by crewmen, and printed by friends off the ship. It's stated purpose is to "preserve the pain in your (lifer's and brass) ass."

The **USS TICONDEROGA** is a carrier which sailed from San Diego in May. Of the many brothers who refused to deploy to Nam, three took public sanctuary – Tony Powers, John Elliott, and Bruce Rumer. They were picked up, sent back to the ship, and busted. After a week at sea, more than 75 guys at a time were holding anti-war, anti-Navy meetings. The Tico brothers took on a symbol: a red dot with the letters "S.I.N." on top. It stands for "Stop It Now." And the red is for the blood that's been shed.

In mid-April, the ammo ship **USS NITRO** sailed out of Leonardo, New Jersey with crewmen jumping into the water and small boats paddling into its path. Seven men jumped off. More tried but were held back by lifers. A letter from the NITRO dated June 8 gives you some idea

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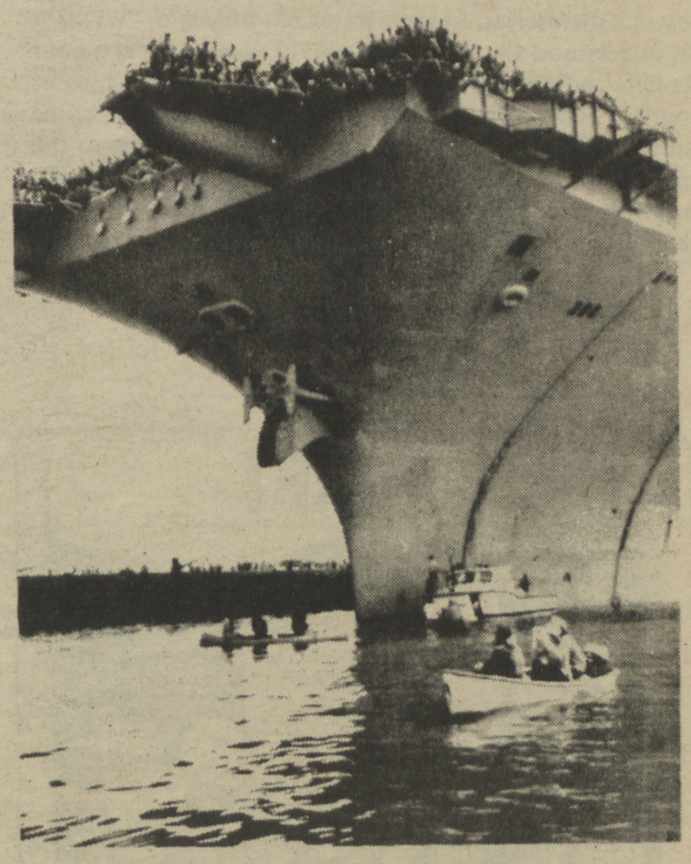
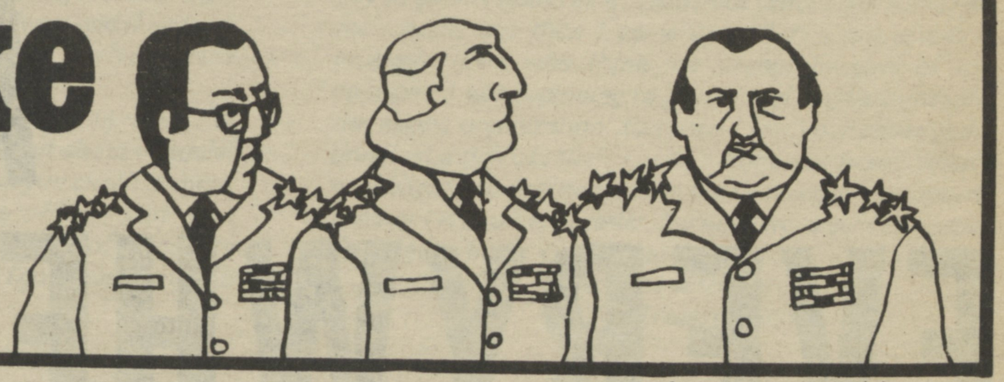


Sailors on USS AMERICA cheer People's Blockade

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



GI COFFEEHOUSE PUT OFF LIMITS

Iwakuni, Japan (June 22)-On June 22, the commanding officer of the Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station declared an anti-war GI coffeehouse "off limits." The Hobbit Coffeehouse has for two years been the off-base center of SEMPER FI, an underground GI paper put out by Marines at Iwakuni. As the GI movement at Iwakuni has grown, so has the Hobbit. It now includes a bookstore, a library, and law offices. According to Col. Van Campen, the Hobbit "...deleteriously affects the welfare of (Armed Forces) personnel and is inimical to the security of this command..." Funny. He's never said that about the bars and clip joints in town.

GIs at Iwakuni replied within a week with their own declaration: "The presence of Armed Forces personnel at the establishment of the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, deleteriously affects the welfare of such personnel, the welfare of Japan, and the welfare of the people of Vietnam. Effective immediately, we declare Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, 'off-limits' to all human beings."

This statement was issued to representatives of the international press. They also stressed that the "off-limits" order was unconstitutional, violating their rights to freedom of assembly, speech, and press, as well as their right to legal counsel. "We believe the Hobbit was placed off-limits because the GI movement is growing in strength and unity. The brass is afraid of us because we know that what the United States is doing in Vietnam is genocide."

The press statement was only one part of a four-pronged counterattack against the Marine Corps. The second part was a legal action against Van Campen's order. A people's lawyer from the National Lawyers Guild filed a law suit in Washington, D.C. federal district court to have the "off-limits" order lifted. The suit was turned down, and immediately another suit filed. If that one is denied, the decision will be appealed.

The third part of the front was Congressional action. Congressman Ron Dellums (Dem. California) and Congresswoman Bella Abzug (Dem. N.Y.) protested the illegal actions of the Corps to Melvin Laird and the Commandant of the Marine Coprs, R.E. Cushman. Dellums wrote, "...the Hobbit is considered by many of the minority servicemen as one of the few places in Iwakuni where there is no racial discrimination and where they are able to meet with white Marines in a relaxed atmosphere to share common concern." Both Dellums and Abzug contrasted the on-base discrimination against black people and women with the lack of discrimination at the Hobbit, and called for the "off-limits" order to be lifted.

The fourth part of the counterattack was direct action by GIs themselves. In their statement they said, "We want it understood that this order will in no way suppress our beliefs and actions - nor will it prevent the publishing of our GI newspaper." SEMPER FI has continued to come out regularly. More Marines are getting involved in the movement on-base and Japanese friends of the GI movement continue to keep the Hobbit open. (National Lawyers Guild and Pacific Counseling Service)

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW

Washington, D.C. (May)—The government is spending twice as much to hide information from the people as it spends on public information programs. Representative Moorehead from Pennsylvania revealed figures, which may not be complete since there is so much secrecy, showing that the government spends $126.3 million for classification, and $64 million for information programs. (LNS)

PERSONNEL CARRIER ATTACKS A GI CENTER

Angeles City, Philippines (May 12) – In the last *BULKHEAD*, we reported that the GI center outside of Clark AFB in Angeles City, Philippines, had been raided twice in April. Now a third raid has occurred, and this time they used a tracked armored personnel carrier with a 50mm machine gun mounted on it. GIs and PCS (Pacific Counselling Service) people who relate to the GI center are now afraid that they may well be killed by this combination of American and Philippine police. It is clear that such actions have been OKed by both the US embassy in Manila and the Clark AFB command. (CAMP News)

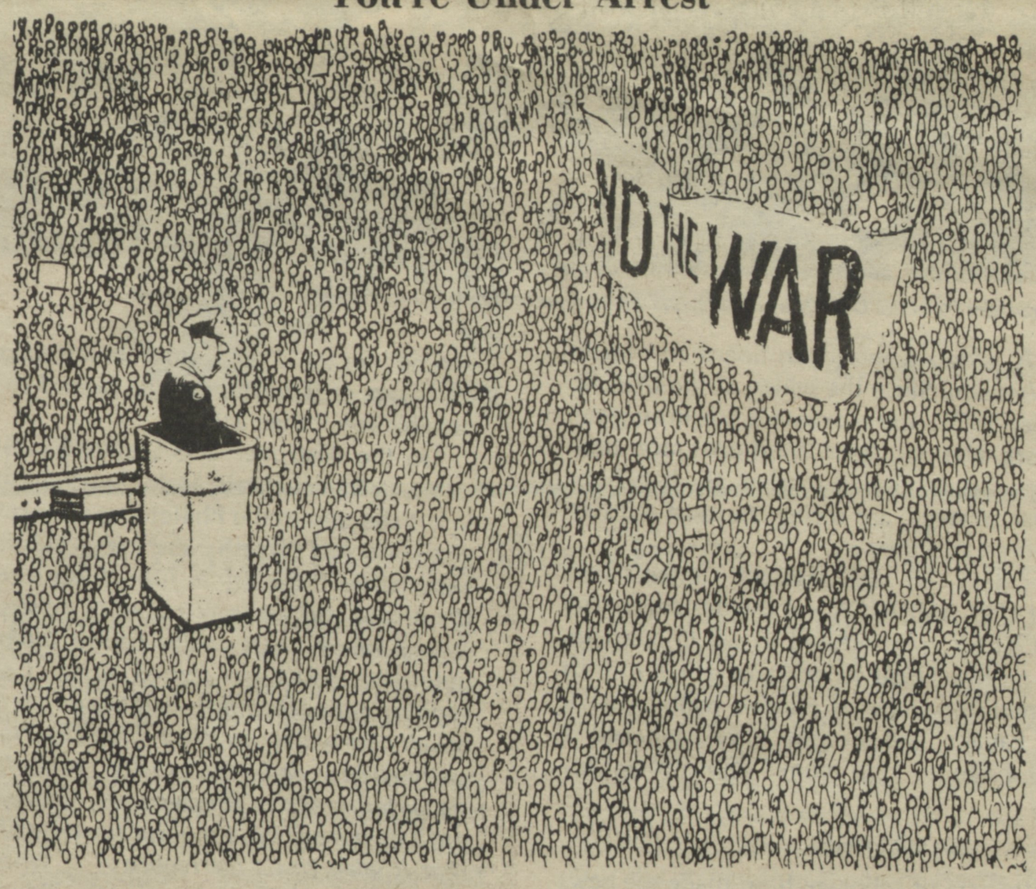
JAPANESE STOP US PLANES WITH KITES

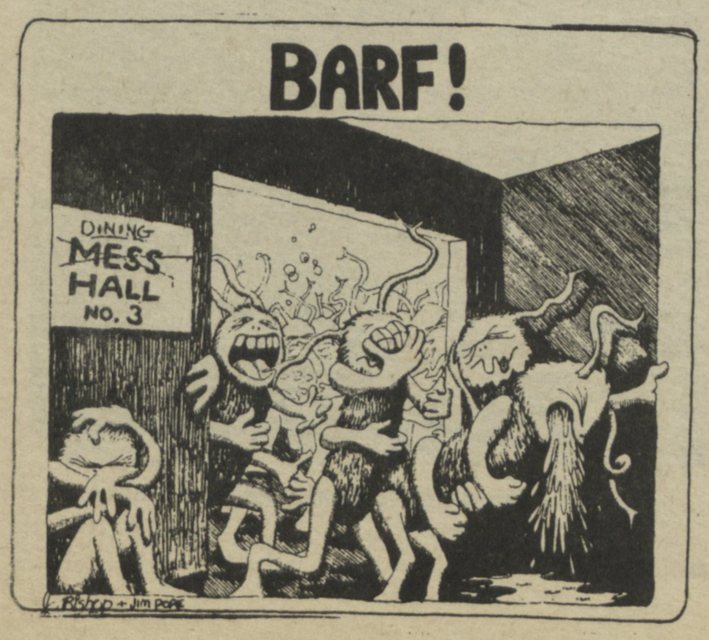
Yokota, Japan (May 5)—On May 5, the Japan Peace for Vietnam Committee (Beheiren) staged a demonstration at Fussa against Yokota AFB. The demonstrtation climaxed with 40 Japanese people using " people's technology"—kite flying—to stop the air base for half an hour!

Since May 5 is Children's Day in Japan, the theme of the demonstration was "Vietnamese have children too." A rally was held before the demonstration, and despite strong military and Japanese police surveillance several GI brothers from Yokota attended. One spoke to the 400 Japanese saying that if he weren't arrested by the MPs, he would join with them in their demonstration. He also said that there were many GIs inside the base who strongly supported the Japanese in their struggle against the American military.

After the rally, the people marched the entire length of massive Yokota AFB and ended in a conveniently located field at the end of the runway. Then, while hundreds of riot police watched, about 40 of the people flew kites in the air over the runway. This application of the ancient sport of the kite flying was not the first at Yokota, but this time a giant C5A was forced to wait, engines running, in the taxi area because of the kites. The demonstration ended with more plans for kite flying on a regular basis through the summer. GI brothers inside the control tower report that indeed kite flying is very efficient against the base and that the brass is really pissed. (CAMP News)

"You're Under Arrest"





LEJEUNE PIGS TRY TO SILENCE "RAGE"

Camp Lejeune, N.C. (April)-GIs at Camp Lejeune have been getting together, putting out a paper (RAGE), and setting up a bookstore, counseling center and meeting place for anti-war, anti-military Marines, called United We Stand. This became a little too much for the pigs at Lejeune to take so on April 1 at 4:30 AM the local police raided the project house. Paul Cox, an active duty Marine who was asleep was busted. The police ransacked the house. After an hour or so they claimed to have found--in an empty suitcase in the back of a closet--"traces" of "suspected marijuana." But the pigs were probably after something else. They called Naval Intelligence to inspect the files and records of the project.

RAGE is written by and for Marines. It has published 5 issues of 5000 to 7000 copies. The Marines have been active counseling brothers and sisters hassled by the military, supporting strikers at a local plant, and in general developing an awareness of how to fight back against the war fever and mind wrecking discipline of the USMC. (Bragg Briefs)

McCHORD GIs PROTEST AIR WAR

Tillicum, Washington (May)—Active duty airmen at McChord AFB have organized to fight the air war and madman Nixon's policies in a number of ways. They have circulated petitions, written a pamphlet on the air war, and organized demonstrations.

A petition to Congress circulated by the airmen read:

We the people of McChord AFB, Washington, and concerned citizens of the surrounding communities oppose the involvement of this base in the bombing of Vietnam and the killing of the Vietnamese people. C-141 Starlifter cargo planes from this base are being used to transport ammunition and equipment to support the bombing. This petition will be sent to Congress in accordance with our constitutional right to petition.

The brothers at McChord also wrote an excellent pamphlet on the air war which contains factual information as well as analysis. Copies of the pamphlet you can get from AIR WAR, P.O. Box 411, Tillicum, Washington 98492. They're 25 cents each, and funds will be used to finance this and other publications. (CAMP News)

ARMED FORCES DAY May 20, 1972

Armed Forces Day used to be the kind of day lifers love – full of super patriotism and displays of the "newest" and "best" killing machines. Now it has become a day the lifers dread, because the GI Movement has changed it into Armed Farces Day. It is now filled with anti-war rallies, pro-EM guerrilla actions, and marches and picnics outside of bases.

The brass has had two prior Armed Farces Days to deal with. In 1970, they reacted by stepping up security on all bases where demonstrations were planned. Demonstrators were greeted with every kind of armament but the kitchen sink. In 1971, the security was kept at the same levels and in some cases tightened. In both years many bases cancelled the Armed Forces Day events, and there were busts in an attempt to squash the demonstrations. Often GIs were put on riot control or restriction so they could protect their bases from the "hordes of invading hippies."

This year was a little different. The New Action Army, the Air Force Team, and Today's Navy kept up with their "fun-military" images by trying to co-opt the demonstrations. At Fort Hood, they offered 3-day passes for that weekend to any GI who wanted one. At Portsmouth, the Marines were offered a free steak and beer picnic, while at Bragg the brass offered free bus rides to the nearby resort area of Myrtle Beach. Not all bases experienced this type of attempt by the brass to draw off GIs, however, and many GIs were restricted (at Wright-Patterson AFB, Fort Dix, and Fort Bliss) and some busted (Kirtland AFB).

Some of the high points of Armed Farces Day 1972 came at:

CHERRY POINT MCAS, NORTH CAROLINA – About 120 people, including about 40 GIs staged the first GI demonstration in the history of the base outside its gates. They then went out to have a picnic. Everyone on base had extra duty, but at the official air show one GI paratrooper stepped to the door of his plane and let loose thousands of leaflets about the GI anti-war demonstration. The leaflets reportedly scored a direct hit on the pro-war crowd below him.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND – On AFD morning, Newporters awoke to find their harbor "mined" with what appeared to be red and black round objects. Three newspaper offices received identical notes signed by the Newport Liberation Front (NLF). The note said that the mines would be deactivated if the following conditions were met:

1. Stop the war in Vietnam.
2. Get the Navy out of Newport.
3. Release all prisoners of war (Newport sailors second class and below).

If these conditions are met, there can be an immediate ceasefire and the implementation of the following two-point peace plan.

1. Withdraw all American forces from Southeast Asia.
2. An internationally supervised plebiscite to insure free elections in the United States.

HAPPY ARMED FARCES DAY!

At noon, an explosion occurred aboard a 280-foot barge, the Chester A. Poling, carrying a cargo of 900,000 gallons of gasoline. The police freaked out and ordered a search of the area. It turned up about 30 medium-sized red and black toy baloons anchored to the bottom with bricks and string. There were no explosives, and all the "mines" were reported. The Coast Guard reported that the explosion apparently was caused by an electrical malfunction which ignited gasoline in a forward motor room.

ALAMEDA NAS, CALIFORNIA – Over 100 sailors and Marines from the aircraft carriers Enterprise and Oriskany gathered for a picnic in a park near the base sponsored by Stop Our Ship (SOS). The picnic was not on Armed Forces Day but a week later since the Enterprise was out on sea trials until May 26. SOS presented entertainment, bands, guerrilla theater and speakers, including Len Chandler, Jane Fonda, and a Vietnamese student, Nguyen Tang Huyen. Sailors from the various ships also spoke.

Demonstrations, rallies, picnics, and other AFD activites also occurred at: Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Ft. Dix/McGuire AFB, New Jersey; Pease AFB/Portsmouth Naval Base, New Hampshire; Westover AFB, Massachusetts; Norfolk, Virginia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; MacDill AFB, Florida; Fort Eustis, Virginia; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Lockbourne AFB, Ohio; Fort Carson/Lowry AFB, Colorado; Fort Ord, California; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; Travis AFB, California; Iwakuni MCAS, Japan; Mt. Home AFB, Idaho; Long Beach Naval Station, California; El Toro MCAS, California; Honolulu, Hawaii,

AIRMEN AND SAILORS TURN IN THE US MILITARY FOR US–FILIPINO TREATY VIOLATIONS

Manila, The Philippines (May) – Five GIs, turned off by US aggression in Vietnam and turned on by the Filipinos resistance to the giant US rip-off of their country, blew the whistle on the illegal use by the US of Filipino territory for attacks on Vietnam. On May 17, two GIs, Air Force Staff Sgts. Thomas Andrich and Wayne Evans, both from the 405th Avionics Maintenance Squadron, testified before the Filipino Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Clark Air Base is a forward staging area for US attacks on Vietnam.

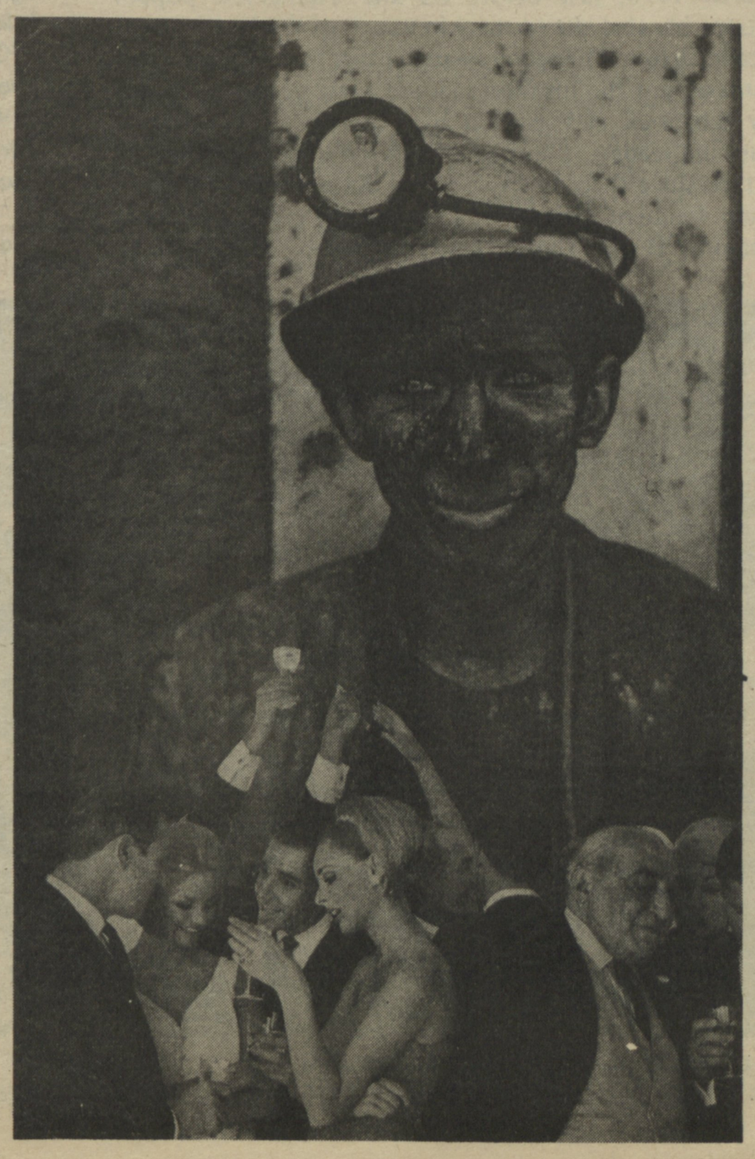
Three sailors, E4 Bob Wardell, E4 Dennis Tressa, and E4 Alexander Sanchez, Jr., who were scheduled to testify next about the role of Subic Naval Base in the war, were taken into custody by the Navy, restricted to base, and after two weeks shipped back to the states. Wardell was actually kidnapped from a private residence at 1:30 AM to keep him from testifying. Sanchez, who disappeared for a while, is now stationed in Antarctica. The Navy didn't even bother to inform his wife who was living near Subic that he was being shipped out.

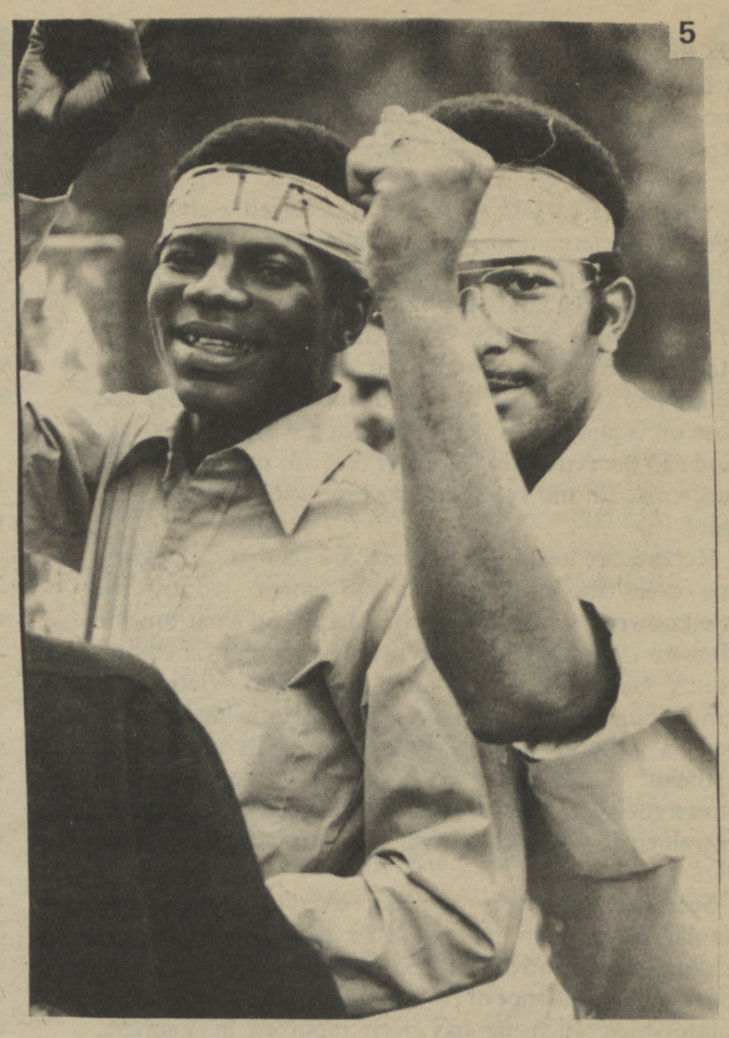
The US is prevented by treaties with the Filipino government from using its bases for offensive actions against a third country. Andrich and Evans testified that their squadron of F-4 Phantoms was involved in air attacks on Vietnam. Tressa, Wardell and Sanchez were going to explain how Subic is a forward base for US attack carriers and the largest naval magazine - for storing bombs, etc. - outside the US.

The GIs' testimony came at a time when opposition to US exploitation of the Philippines has been fanned by stepped-up US air and naval attacks on Vietnam. (See article on page 7 for further information on the Philippines) Liberal opposition senators are investigating the role of US bases in an attempt to influence the renewal of the bases agreement in the near future. Three days after the controversial Senate hearings, 14,000 Filipinos attempted to rally peacefully in front of the US embassy to support the Vietnamese struggle against the US. The police and Filipino World War II veterans hired as thugs by the US embassy had attacked an earlier demonstration on May 11.

The May 20 action, which coincided with Armed Farces Day anti-war picnics held by US GIs at Subic and Clark, turned into a free-for-all when police set up barricades and then attacked the demonstrators with clubs and automatic rifles. Thirty-four persons were injured, seven seriously. One eighteen-year-old was shot in the back.

The Philippines constitutes the US's second line of 'defense' to which the military will have to fall back when the US is driven out of Southeast Asia. But with the increased tempo of the national liberation struggles throughout all of Southeast Asia this year, there is no such thing as a secure rear area, even in the US's oldest overseas possession.





BLACK GI ACQUITTED AT FT. HOOD

Ft. Hood, Texas (Spring)-Pvt. Wesley Williams was acquitted of charges of possession of marijuana at Ft. Hood, Texas by a jury that deliberated only five minutes. Even a brass- infested military jury couldn't stomach the military judge, one Col. Adair. Refusing to disqualify himself when charged with being a racist, Col. Adair replied, "Why, just last month I tried a colored boy and found him innocent." (Fatigue Press)

WAF FILES C.O. AS BRASS FREAKS

Westover AFB, Mass. (April)-A1C Pat Turner has been discharged as a conscientious objector from Westover AFB. She is the first WAF C.O. that anyone knows about. Bella Abzug (Dem. N.Y.) initiated a congressional investigation to get her papers off base. Pat went through 3 jobs and was told that she was being court-martialed for "dereliction of duty." She was hassled continuously by the WAF commander for not being "lady-like" because she doesn't shave her legs or wear her hair in an approved fashion. And also because she was fighting back by talking about the war, the military, and the role of women in the Air Force with everyone.

During her interview for her C.O. application, the officer, a man, told Pat that she should talk to a woman friend of his who would help her straighten out her appearance and, undoubtedly, also her attitude. With her new look she would fit in and be more popular and thus would probably not want the C.O. anyway. Her squadron commander, it was later revealed, had to take 4 "nerve pills" after each time he saw her. They were so glad to get rid of Pat that they gave her a police escort off base and forbade her from ever coming back on base. All power to sisters in the struggle!! (99th Bummer)

COAL MINERS ORGANIZE AGAINST UNION LIFERS

Wheeling, W.Va. (May)–In 1969, Jock Yablonski ran against Tony Boyle for the presidency of the United Mine Workers union. Boyle, the Man's man, won the election. Yablonski, who spoke and acted against high-level union sellouts on safety and wages, was murdered three weeks later along with his wife and daughter. Boyle has been inplicated in the murder, and also convicted of embezzling union funds. Finally the courts decided to overturn his election. A new election has been ordered for December 1972.

Miners and thier families are organizing into Miners For Democracy to shut down the Boyle machine for good. On May 27&28, 600 reform miners met to draw up plans for defeating Boyle's hatchetmen. Their platform says: "The myth that coal miners must continue to be maimed and killed because mining is inherently dangerous is not acceptable to us. The superior safety records in other countries makes it clear that coal mines can be made safe, if people are put before profit... Too often our leadres and the coal operators have been content to discard these brothers as if they were worn-out pieces of machinery instead of human beings."

Although the courts have dealt blows to the machine headed by Tony Boyle, the Miners For Democracy have a fight coming. But as their candidate for union president said in Wheeling, "I am aware that there are dangers in my candidacy, but I wouldn't want to live if I couldn't stand up and speak out against what is wrong in our union. You can't spend your life looking over your shoulder."(LNS)

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

ONE WAR, MANY FRONTS

SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

As we go to press, the Nixon administration is still putting out the official lie that the war is winding down. Careful investigation by the Bulkhead staff and on the scene reports confirm just the opposite. For example:

- **Thousands of GIs are being transferred a short 200 miles from Vietnam to nine US air bases in Thailand. The number of troops there has gone from 32,000 to 49,000 US troops in Thailand plus 42,000 sailors in the 7th Fleet off of Vietnam and GIs in Vietnam (43,000) bring the total number of US troops, not including those in the Philippines (Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base) and those on Guam, to 133,000 US troops. No one in his right mind can deny that they are carrying out one of the most murderous air and naval attacks ever. (See story on front page).**
- **Reports are beginning to reach the US that for the first time ever the Thai guerrilla movement, led by the little-known Thai Patriotic Front, launched a nationwide offensive timed to coincide with the National Liberation Front's (so called Viet Cong) and North Vietnamese Army's huge spring offensive. The nationwide wave of guerrilla actions included attacks on US B-52 bases in northeast Thailand. US advisors are directing counterguerrilla measures being carried out by the US-trained and financed Royal Thai Army (See story page 8) .**
- **Seasoned guerrilla armies, enjoying widespread popular support in no less than seven countries, are fighting for control of Southeast Asia against a US-dominated alliance of corrupt and inefficient military dictatorships. Fighting has been reported in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, and the Philippines.**

Despite Nixon's claims, the real situation is more like this: what was once called the Vietnam war, and later the Second Indochina War after the US invaded Cambodia (1970) and Laos (1971) is now raging across all of Southeast Asia.

The two key forces in the US-controlled Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, which does not include Malaysia and Burma, are the huge US-financed military establishment of Thailand and Vietnam. With the right-wing military forces of Laos and Cambodia almost completely immobilized by local guerrillas, the US has become increasingly dependent on Vietnam and particularly Thailand for ground forces. Despite billions of US aid dollars and the efforts of thousands of US advisors, these military regimes have never been able to gain more than token popular support. Instead, they have become increasingly dependent on the massive firepower of the US Navy and Air Force to keep them in power.

In Vietnam, for instance, representatives of eight Buddhist organizations have called on their followers not to join the Saigon army. United Press International (July 20) estimates that these organizations represent ten million Vietnamese. The Thieu regime has already drafted close to five million young Vietnamese who face either the incredibly hard life of the NLF guerrillas, prison, or the puppet army.

For now US ground forces have been withdrawn after a disastrous attempt to contain the fighting with half a million US troops. Nixon, instead, has turned to building up the 7th Fleet and sending thousands of Air Force personnel to Thailand. But remember that the US spent almost ten years (1955-1965) building up the Saigon puppet army only to be forced to send in US GIs to bail out the Saigon regime. And even now the Saigon army is being slowly ground to pieces by the NLF and NVA despite massive US air support while the Royal Thai Army has proved ineffective as a counter-guerrilla force.

The question is at what point will the US again be forced to commit ground troops in Southeast Asia. With troop levels rapidly approaching 50,000 at nine major US bases in Thailand what will the US do as the Royal Thai army fails to stop the guerrilla movement?

To help you understand the growing crisis in Southeast Asia we have prepared a map and a county-by-country summary of recent events.

VIETNAM — The two large scale battles initiated by the NLF and NVA around **An Loc** and **Quang Tri** continued to dominate the US version of what was happening in Vietnam. The US-backed Thieu regime claimed a major victory after reoccupying the center of An Loc. The NLF, however, has pointed out all along that its primary military task is to destroy the Saigon army, not to seize and hold territory. All observers in Vietnam have pointed out that it would be suicidal for the Vietnamese to attempt to hold territory under US air attack. Many US advisors have testified to the deadly effectiveness of what the Vietnamese call "a high stage of development of guerrilla warfare." From their perspective An Loc was a costly victory, if a victory at all. According to US advisors, the ARVN 5th Division suffered 2,500 casualties out of 6,000 men while trapped in An Loc for over two months under NLF mortar and artillery attack. A second division, rushed in from the **Mekong Delta** has still failed to reach An Loc. The division suffered as high as 50% casaulties while bogged down on the road to An Loc.

At Quang Tri the story is pretty much the same. The NLF and NVA have remiained highly mobile vacating areas under ARVN ground or US air attack while forcing ARVN to pay an incredibly high price for offensive moves. In early May, for example, an entire Saigon division, 11,000 men disintegrated overnight as the offensive swept toward Quang Tri.

By focusing attention on the air war and the two large scale battles at An Loc and Quang Tri, the US has managed to hide one of the most important military developments in South Vietnam, the systematic destruction of the pacification program, particularly around Saigon and in the populous Mekong Delta to the south.

New York Times reporter Fox Butterfield reported from Saigon (June 20) that the NLF took advantage of the major battles at An Loc and Quang Tri to quietly reassert control "over many of their once powerful bases in the provinces around Saigon." **Chuong Thien** province, called by the *Times* "the hub of the lower Delta," was virtually in NLF hands. One month later, on May 28, the *Times* acknowledged that 77 government outposts had been taken over in Chuong Thien alone and the pacification program was destroyed.

With ARVN troops being cut off from the rear as they press their attack on Quang Tri, Saigon's defenses seriously weakened, and the VC promising more 'surprises,' the US and their puppets were bracing for a new offensive — probably timed to coincide with this fall's election campaigns.

CAMBODIA — Cambodian guerrillas led by former premier Prince Norodom Sihanouk have gained control of most of the countryside except **Pnom Penh**, the capital city, which is controlled by a small clique of military officers backed by the US. Sihanouk was deposed in March 1970, just before US and Vietnamese puppet troops invaded the country in search of the NLF's secret headquarters. The secret headquarters turned out to be a fantasy, but the invasion sparked a war of resistance, led by Sihanouk and assisted by experienced Vietnamese guerrilla leaders. Cambodia has been under constant air attack since then by the US and during the spring there were frequent reports of fighting and anti-government demonstrations in and around Pnom Penh. Sihanouk, long at odds with the US, was deposed for refusing to side with the US in its attempt to subjugate Vietnam.

LAOS — Sgt. John Boychuk, one of the few active duty GIs ever to meet officially with guerrillas led by the Pathet Lao, reported from Paris that the Laotians had told him that three tons of bombs have been dropped since 1964 for each of the one million civilians living in guerrilla-controlled parts of Laos. Laos' total population is close to three million. The US air war has forced about 700,000 refugees into detention camps in the small areas held by the US-backed Royal Lao government. From 1968 until just before the present offensive in Vietnam, most of US air power was concentrated against the countryside of Laos.

The Pathet Lao's spring offensive which was timed to coincide with the Vietnamese', left the US with almost no Laotian puppet troops capable of or willing to fight the Pathet Lao. In place of the Royal Laotian army and the CIA-controlled secret army of General Vang Pao, the US has brought in an estimated 25 battalions of Thai troops (between 6,000 and 10,000 men) to replace the Laotian troops. Thousands of other Thai troops plus their US advisors commute regularly to Laos by helicopter from bases in neighboring Thailand in order to hide the fact of last year's US sponsored Thai invasion of Laos.

The collapse of the Royal Laotian army and Vang Pao's secret mercenary force is an ominous sign for the US. The Royal Laotian army was built up secretly by the US after 1955 to counter the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu the year before. The US saw Laos as a "finger thrust right into the heart of Southeast Asia" and was anxious to control the country both as the best site for a major military base on China's southern border and as a buffer zone between the victorious Vietnamese revolutionary forces and the rest of Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand. Even though Laos became one of the largest recipients of US aid in the world, the army remained what Roger Hillsman, Undersecretary of State for Southeast Asia under President Johnson, described as "a focal point for graft, the principal lever for ambitious men plotting coups and a symbol of government repression in those villages to which it did intermittently penetrate."

Today with government officials wary of straying more than twenty miles from the two major cities of **Vientiane** and **Luang Prubang**, the Royal Laotian army remains a military joke dominated by five regional commanders who are more concerned with internal power struggles and opium trafficking than fighting.

When it became clear ten years ago that the Royal Laotian Army would never develop any fighting ability, the US assembled part of the Meo hill tribes of Laos into one of the most motley military forces in the long history of US intervention in the affairs of other countries.

The Meo, many of whom fight under another tribal leader with the Pathet Lao, are an important opium growing hill tribe found in the northern parts of Southeast Asia from Thailand to North Vietnam. In the early 1960's, the US brought part of the tribe together with remnants of an anti-communist Chinese army which has been in Laos raiding across China's southern border and awaiting a US invasion of China since 1949. For good measure the US added remnants of small mercenary forces from other countries, including Cambodia, the Philippines and Burma.

Based in the mountains surrounding the huge CIA complex at **Long Chen**, this 18,000 man army was given the job of conducting raids in Pathet Lao-held territory and defending the strategic **Plaines des Jarres** — once coveted by the US for a major military base. For the past three years offensive forays by Vang Pao's army into Pathet Lao held territory have been met with strong counteroffensives. By 1971, US-backed Meo mercenaries had suffered such high casualty rates that Vang Pao was ready to call it quits. But Vang Pao's US superiors cynically warned him, "No boom-boom, no rice." And since the Meo had long ago given up farming in exchange for US rice supplies, this year they once again took up arms to defend Long Chen.

The results were disastrous. Long Chen was surrounded and then overrun by Pathet Lao. The Meo mercenaries responded by looting the base of its supplies before fading into the mountains. With the collapse of its military force in Laos, the US was forced to bring in Thai troops to end the rout.

The US has repeatedly defended its actions in Laos by claiming that the North Vietnamese have invaded the country. Nixon claimed in his most recent defense of US intervention, for instance, that 50 to 60,000 North Vietnamese are fighting in Laos. Fred Branfman, a writer who has lived in Laos since 1963 reports, however, that a Royal Laointelligenceofficer told him that there were only 5 to 10,000 North Vietnamese in Laos, half of them engaged in maintaining supply routes between Pathet Lao territory and North Vietnam.

MALAYSIA British efforts to destroy the legendary Chin Peng's Malaysian guerrilla army right after World War II provided British Colonel Robert Thompson with a counter-insurgency strategy which he later sold to the US for use in Vietnam. Twenty-five years later, with insurgency spreading across Southeast Asia, Chin Peng still leads guerrilla forces in Malaysia. The governments of Thailand and Malaysia are presently coordinating land and sea action along their mutual border in an effort to suppress both Chin Peng's forces and Thai guerrilla activity. Malaysia also reported an anti-guerrilla campaign in *Sarawak* in eastern Malaysia along the Indonesian border. MAP SHIT

PHILIPPINES — One of the US's first colonies, the Philippines remains under total US domination twenty-six years after its so-called independence in 1946. Between 1956 and 1965, the US milked the Filipino economy for a cool $380 million in profits, more than six times what the US invested during the same period. US investment presently totals over $1 billion dollars. Six US bases, including *Clark Air Base* and *Subic Naval Base* have been used since World War II as important staging grounds for US intervention in Korea and Indochina and a control center for US-directed attacks on the Filipino national liberation movement. (See article on page XX).

The Filipinos have a long tradition of revolutionary nationalism dating back to their war for independence fought first against the Spanish and then against their American "liberators" (1896-1911). After World War II the Huks, former anti-Japanese resistance fighters who continued fighting after the US reoccupation in 1945, came close to winning real independence for their homeland. Three years ago the Philippines Communist Party of the Philippines, leader of the nationalist movement, reorganized the guerrilla forces into the New Peoples Army. The New Peoples Army claims the support of 400,000 people, mostly poor peasants, organized into local organizations in 800 villages in 4 different areas of the country. The Filipino government reported 30 clashes with the NPA this year including a full-scale land-air-sea attack directed at a 1000-man guerrilla force in *Isabela* province.

The Filipino armed forces like their counterparts in Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand, are completely controlled at the command level by a parallel structure of US military advisors. In fact, the military set-up in the Philippines, where the US has trained, organized and financed the armed forces since 1945 became a model for the later extension of US military power all over Southeast Asia.

THAILAND — For the US, Thailand once seemed secure rear area; a peaceful sanctuary from which waves of B-52s could attack Indochina without fear of reprisal; a staging ground from which Thai troops could be deployed to back depending on the situation in other countries where the US was intervening; and above all a receptive market for US businessmen seeking cheap labor and raw materials in the name of profit. Now as Peter Smith points out, all that has changed. Thailand is quickly going the way of Vietnam. With $200 million invested already and millions more on its way plus a string of nine Air Force bases and a major naval base (*Sattahip*), the US in a way is more heavily involved in Thailand than it ever could be in Vietnam.

Recent attempts by the US-trained and financed Thai army to contain the growing guerrilla movement led by the Thai Patriotic Front have been almost completely unsuccessful. By the end of 1971 the Thai government was reporting guerrilla activity in 150 districts in more than one half of the country's provinces. In **Nakhon Phanom** province near the border of Laos, for example, almost all of the provinces' 100 villages were giving full support to a guerrilla force made up of local people. No military vehicle or person in uniform was allowed in the area.

In the spring offensive which was coordinated with the offensive in Indochina, for the first time fighting broke out all over the country with reports of attacks coming from areas as separate as the Northeast, the Thai-Cambodian border, and the Thai-Malaysian border. Several GIs reported frequent attacks on US bases apparently aimed at B-52 activity against the people of Indochina. The US base at Utapao reported two B-52s damaged in January.

see next page

6

After the Cambodia invasion of 1970, more of the country was lost by the US backed government. The Mimot, a minority group in Cambodia, exchange gifts with soldiers defending them from US/Saigon invasion.

Laotian people work when they can between bombings.

Because of U.S. bombing raids, many Laotians live in caves. These children rarely see the sun.

7

This is the October 12 weaving plant run by women of various ethnic minorities. October 12, 1945 was the day of proclamation of Independence of Laos.

Thailand: Another Vietnam

losing hearts and minds

By Peter Smith

Peter Smith was a Special Forces Sgt. in Vietnam and trained for a year in Thailand. He is now back in Thailand working for Pacific News Service.

When I first came to Lom Sak five years ago, there was no sign of war in this remote northern part of Thailand. Since that time, the Bangkok government's fight against the Meo guerrilla insurgency [part of the Thai Patriotic Front. See page7] has grown from isolated skirmishes into full-scale combat involving both ground troops and air support from US-supplied helicopters and fighter-bombers.

Most of the Royal Thai Army troops have just been withdrawn to Bangkok, their "mission having been accomplished." Yet the effort, which cost the Thai Army hundreds of casualties, resulted in almost no losses for the guerrilla forces; fewer than 20 bodies were found in the area when it was cleared. The base built for the suppression campaign has quieted down considerably, but its mere existence, combined with the memory of the roar and confusion of the Thai Army operations, are testimony of the changing scene in the area.

Lom Sak is a town of about 15,000, on the eastern side of the contested mountainous area. In 1967, a six-man US Army Special Forces team was set up to train police and Thai Special Forces in counter-insurgency work. Today Lom Sak is a large Thai Army base, complete with airstrip and all the equipment necessary to support two divisions of the Thai Army. Since the Thai Army is modeled on its American counterpart, with emphasis on heavy equipment and firepower rather than on high quality troops, the base at Lom Sak mushroomed overnight into a very substantial installation covering 30 or 40 acres.

Also new is the presence of ethnic Thai farmers in this once exclusively Meo region. The new super-highway going south through Phetchabun connects Lom Sak with the main southern markets and has brought with it the machinery of industrialized civilization. Tractors, a rarity five years ago, now are commonplace, used by the Thais for both clearing operations and for plowing.

THAIS MOVE IN

No place is the impact of the influx of large numbers of Thai farmers with new machinery more evident than at Kek Noi, a rapidly expanding village on the Mitropab (Friendship) Highway which runs due east-west out of Lom Sak to Phitsanulok. Settlement along this highway, which was built about 10 years ago, did not begin in earnest until the southern highway out of Lom Sak was completed in 1969. But since that time, the village of Kek Noi, situated in a beautiful high plateau areaabout15 miles west of Lom Sak and in the heart of what traditionally was Meo living space, has blossomed into a community of about 1000 Thai families. Hundreds of acres of once heavily forested mountain region has been cleared and turned into vegetable farms.

Just north of Kek Noi are some of the ruggedest mountains in the region. These mountains were the scene of some of the most concentrated action in the recent Bangkok 'communist suppression operation.' The villagers in Kek Noi say they could see the helicopters and airplanes flying nearby, and hear the explosions of heavy bombs and artillery as the Thai Army worked its way through the communist infested areas.

Looking at the situation in light of the rapidly-expanding Thai presence in this area, one wonders if the Meo Dangs (Red communist Meos as they are called) who are causing so much trouble are doing so as part of an "international communist conspiracy" masterminded by Hanoi and Peking, as so many Thai and American officials here claim, or if they really are just reacting in a clearly predictable way to severe encroachments on their traditional way of life.

In 1965, Henry Cabot Lodge, from one of New England's oldest and wealthiest families and ambassador to Saigon under Johnson, talked about how the future of Vietnam was tied to the whole question of continued US control of Southeast Asia:

> "Geographically, Vietnam stands at the hub of a vast area of the world -- Southeast Asia. He who holds or has influence in Vietnam can affect the future of the Philippines [$1 billion in US investments] and Formosa to the East, and Thailand [$95 million in US investments] and Burma with their huge rice surpluses to the West, and Malaysia and Indonesia with their rubber, ore and tin to the South ...Vietnam thus does not exist in a geographical vacuum -- from it large storehouses of wealth and population can be influenced and undermined."

A MEO "VOLUNTEER" IN CAMP SON

Four miles down the road from Kek Noi, on the other side of the ridge, is a Meo resettlement village, Camp Son. In stark contrast to Kek Noi, where the Thais are spread out on rolling hills, with most families owning their own farm, the Meos have been crowded together into this dirty hot village next to a Thai Army volunteer encampment. talked with a young Meo who was a volunteer in the Army. He spoke at some length about how things reached the present state of affairs.

The ethnic Thais used to live in the lowlands, where they were predominantly rice farmers, and the Meos lived up in the mountains, where they hunted, practiced slash and burn agriculture, and sold small amounts of opium to itinerant Chinese merchants. Relations between the two groups were friendly as each had its own area where it preferred to live, while a certain amount of trade was carried on between them when the Meos came down from the mountains to barter for supplies.

Then, the Thai government in Bangkok attempted to increase its control over the Meos by bringing in police and civil administrators. This process was sharply accelerated when the Mitrapob highway was built, since it went right through the heart of traditional Meo land, and provided access to their villages for the Thai police. The police started arresting Meos for growing opium, their traditional cash crop, without instituting adequate measures for alternative crops with the Meos could depend on. At the same time as the Thai government was cracking down on the Meos for growing opium, there was every indication that they were letting certain Chinese merchants traffic freely in the commodity. The police also started arresting Meos for cutting down trees in the area when they made clearings for their fields, while at the same time allowing Thais who had "proper licenses" from Bangkok to cut down trees for lumber or to clear areas such as those around Kek Noi for farming.

In these cases Thai government actions had the appearance of rank discrimination, and many Meos started fighting with the police. In view of the traditional Thai opinion of Meos as savages from the forest, it is not surprising that the clash of the two societies should have evolved as it did. The Meo "volunteer" said that the Meo Dangs now live high in the mountains, where they eke out a meager existence and train for battles against Army and police outposts. He said about *50% of the Meo Dangs are actually ethnic Thais, mostly young men and women who have identified with the Meo cause and joined forces with them.*

CRUEL DILEMMA

Once the shooting started, the Thai Army, following US Army practices in Vietnam, decided that any Meos living free out in the forests were either communists or potential supporters of the communists, and consequently must be removed and resettled in camps such as this one at Camp Son. Thus the classic reaction to an insurgency situation of removing the sea (people) from the fish (revolutionaries), and the creation of what amounts to free-fire zones, has found a home in Thailand.

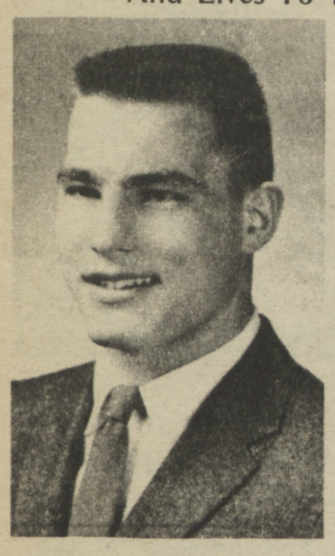
Traditional Meo villages are quite small, about 20 or 30 families, but Camp Son is large, with approximately 200 families, intensifying the normal problems of hygiene in Meo villages. There is no school here. Meos are not allowed to own land, as the Thais do down the road at Kek Noi, or to travel after dark. They farm land around the village, but do not have access to the farm machinery as the Thais do, so their land is improperly cleared and difficult to manage. As a result of this cruel dilemma, the majority of the Meo men have done the only thing really left open to them, namely to "volunteer" as a soldier in the Royal Thai Army camp adjoining (and protecting) their village.

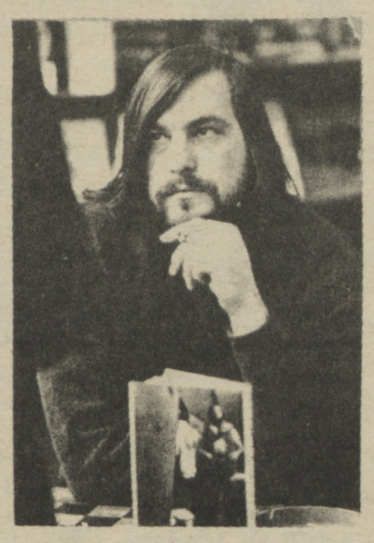
VIETNAM AGAIN

Thus, in this circle of circumstances, has the tactic of using brown men to fight brown men--by declaring free-fire zones, by luring rural people into re-settlement villages which will not be bombed, and by paying high wages to those same villagers to take up arms against their "communist" brothers--been fully adopted by the Thai Army. Equipped as it is by the United States, with all the tools necessary to make free-fire zones work, the Royal Thai government is attempting to eliminate a minority group standing in the way of "progress" because of its "backward" society and culture.

The Sports Page

Dave Meggyesy Quits The League And Lives To Talk About It





Dave Meggyesy's OUT OF THEIR LEAGUE is an expose of professional football. Dave played pro football with the St. Louis Cardinals for six years, starting out as a fanatic young rookie and ending up as a radical athlete. By the time he quit the league in 1969, he'd come to understand how he'd been messed by the violence, pay-offs, dope, racism, and superman mentality that go to make professional football the favorite sport of our favorite President. To understand why he quit, you have to understand what football does to the people who play it.

Dave's high school near Cleveland, Ohio, separated students into two groups early in their second year: those who were hustled into college preparatory classes and those like the "poor, dumb Meggyesy kids" who were tracked into vocational classes. Dave's track was football.

When a kid is raised by a father who hits his kids when he's drunk, and by a stepmother who never pays much attention, it means a lot when someone tells you you're good at something. The football coaches at Solon High School were the first people Dave knew who ever told him he was good. It was so important to him to hear praise that he worked like crazy to live up to their expectations. "The more approval they gave me, the more fanatically I played," Dave writes.

In the spring of his sophomore year, Dave left Solon and moved to Detroit. His father was about to divorce his second wife, his brother had just enlisted in the Navy, and his sister had just gotten married. Dave needed to get away.

College scouts found Dave in his senior year. He wanted into college badly, but had little money. His ticket in was his fanaticism on the football field. After being wined and dined by the college coach, and after being seduced by a college coed loyal to the football team, Dave joined Syracuse University. In his four years at Syracuse, he learned how to pass classes without attending them, take pay-offs, outhustle his teammates, kiss up to the coaches, and break the bodies of his opponents 37 different ways.

But there were two lessons he always resisted. One was that coaches' careers and the won/lost record of the team were more important than the players themselves. Meggyesy writes about one incident where a close friend of his with an injured knee was sent into a punt return team, one of the most dangerous assignments in football. "Mark caught the ball and started up field. One of Army's big tackles got a clean shot on his bad knee and just tore it up. Mark was carried off the field on a stretcher. He never played football again. The way he was injured made me acutely aware of the incredible brutality of the game and of the power those who control the game have over the players."

The second lesson Dave refused to swallow was that "somehow it was healthy and manly to go out and get drunk, pick up some girl, sleep with her and maybe even rough her a bit." When Dave and his wife-to-be Stacey Kennedy, broke through the usual man-woman games and began to develop a genuine relationship, Dave was told he was immoral and that Stacy was a slut for living with a man she wasn't married to. One teammate even told Stacy that he would kill her if she didn't stop seeing Dave.

What Dave saw at Syracuse primed him for the Big League. Knock down, drag out, drugged up college football was so demanding that it left Dave with time for only football and Stacy, in that order. He never had a chance to study. So at the end of his senior year, Dave found himself broke and prepared for only one career: pro football.

When he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1963, he resigned himself to hustling for the Cardinals like he used to hustle for Solon: fanatically. His first experience with benzedrine was part of that fanaticism. After popping some bennies on the way to a game, he began to feel ". . . as if I were Clark Kent slipping into the phone booth to become Superman. I was tense and ready to explode with energy, yet I felt total control over myself."

This wasn't the first time he'd been drugged for a game. At Syracuse he'd wrenched his neck, and before the game the trainer promised to fix him up so he could play. "He stuck a long needle into the big muscle in my neck. When he tried to pull the needle out, the muscle spasmed. The needle broke from the base of the syringe and I was left with it sticking in my neck. The doctor took a pair of pliars out of the drawer and pulled it out. I was so psyched about playing, though, it didn't matter at all to me. I didn't realize it, but he was shooting me up with Novocain for the game. He assured me everything would be all right, and sure enough, much of the pain was gone by the time I left his office. . . . When the numbness wore off after the game, my head felt like it was on backwards. It was weeks before I got it turned around."

Dave's fanaticism on the field was more than matched by "the military madness of the game itself . . . not only in obvious things like football stars visiting troops in Vietnam, but in the language of the game – 'throwing the bomb,' being a 'field general,' etc., and in the unthinking obligation to 'duty' required of the players. In short, the game has been wrapped in red, white and blue. It is no accident that some of the most maudlin and dangerous pre-game 'patriotism' we see in this country appears in football stadiums. Nor is it an accident that the most repressive political regime in the history of this country is ruled by a football freak, Richard M. Nixon."

Football and the military look similar from the inside, too. Soldiers and players are both reduced to just so much meat to be used for someone else's pleasure and profit. Football clubs and the Armed Forces both encourage their men to rely on them for everything: a place to stay, a car to drive, medical attention, security, happiness. Both encourage the lifer mentality. Both demand conformity to the system's rules and regulations. But both also encourage self-centered individualism and disunity among their men in order to control them. Devotion to duty is always rewarded.

Dave began to see, in time, what that devotion did to the players themselves: "Just before we went out on the field, for instance, Ernie Clark, one of our linebackers, would disappear. The rest of us would be in the locker room, down on one knee going through the Lord's Prayer, and above our mumbling, you could hear this steady, pounding noise, It was Ernie with his helmet on, beating his head against the concrete walls of the training room."

Tim Rossovich, who now plays with the Eagles, is one of the best middle linebackers in the game. He is also out and out crazy. He opens bottles with his teeth, bangs his head into lockers, eats glass, sticks pins in his chest, and for fun lights himself on fire at parties. In an interview in SPORT MAGAZINE, Rossovich said, "It sounds bad, but it's pretty satisfying to hit someone, to feel him grunt, bounce him off the ground and see his eyes rolling around. . . . That's the reason I play football, to make my opponent feel that way."

For many players like Rossovich, football is everything. Meggyesy observed that for many players, sex was no different. "Players seem to see sex as something close to athletics. That is, they worry a lot about 'staying power' and 'performance' and dream of being able to inspire a string of orgasms in a woman the same way they dream of single-handedly making a long series of tackles." But for those players who were married, the double standard ruled. "Wives are virginal creatures keeping the home and the kids; other women are meat on the rack."

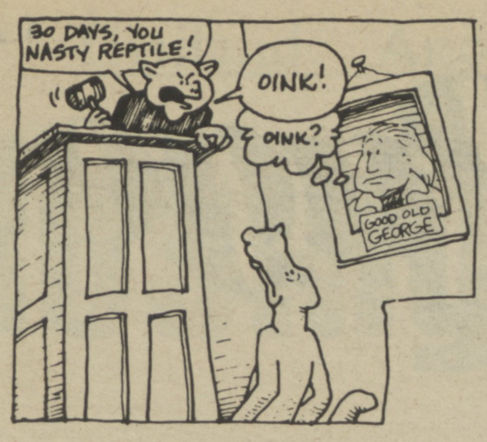
In 1965, Dave made his first solid move against one of the most damaging aspects of football: racism. With Stacy's support and encouragement, Dave became a co-sponsor of an NAACP fund raising drive at a time when racial tensions in the club were building. Club managers were assigning black and white players to separate dorms. White players were race-baiting black players. White players took to hanging out at segregated bars. Black players were being channelled into competing for the same tough slots.

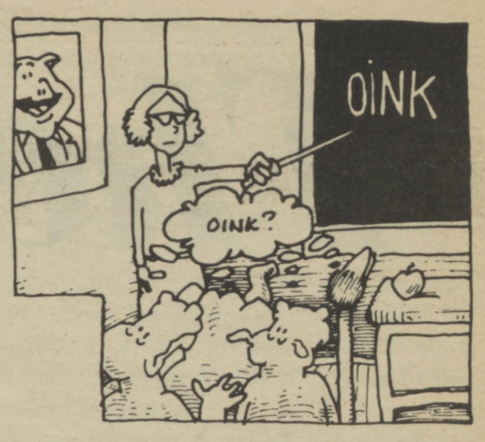
A white player, Bill Koman, told Meggyesy during training camp that he had a good chance to make the club because his competition was "two dumb nigger linebackers who are so stupid they have trouble tying their shoes." Black players who buckled under to this racist treatment by players and management were "decent niggers." It was not uncommon for star black players to be dumped during training camp for not having the "correct attitude." Ed McQuarters, a defensive tackle from Oklahoma, refused to keep his mouth shut when white players talked about blacks' "inherent ability to run fast" or their "congenital insensitivity to pain." When McQuarters was cut, he was told that it was due to his "aloofness" and his "inability to laugh and joke along with the other players."

Once Dave took a stand on the problem of racism in the club, he had to deal with being called a "nigger lover." Dealing with those racist games made him stronger, more self-confident. But now it was easier for him to speak out on other issues that were important to him. So Dave and Stacy began to work against the war in Indochina. They marched in New York in April 1967. And in the fall of the same year they got together with some friends and formed the St. Louis Mobilization Committee Against the War. The FBI got on their case at this time, questioning friends and grilling club owners. The owners threatened Dave with suspension, and Dave told them to go to hell. When Dave got involved in an attempt to unionize football players two weeks before the end of the 1967 season, it was the icing on the cake.

The '68 season saw Dave doing less football and more anti-war work. He campaigned for Eugene McCarthy, and learned a lot from his defeat and from the street demonstrations in Chicago at the Democratic convention. By the start of next season, he and Stacy had been turned on to weed and psychedelics, and this only separated him more from the game. He continued to do anti-war work and with the support of Stacy and a close friend and teammate, walked away from pro football at the end of the '69 season.

Most unemployed football players sell used cars or golfballs or life insurance. But Dave Meggyesy could not more do that than play football. So he joined with the Institute for the Study of Sports and Society in order to continue working against professionalism and for a more human kind of athletics. If you want to order this book, or get more information on the Institute, write to Dave Meggyesy, c/o Bulkhead, 968 Valencia, SF, CA 94110. Cost of the book retail is $6.95. Special GI price: $3.95.





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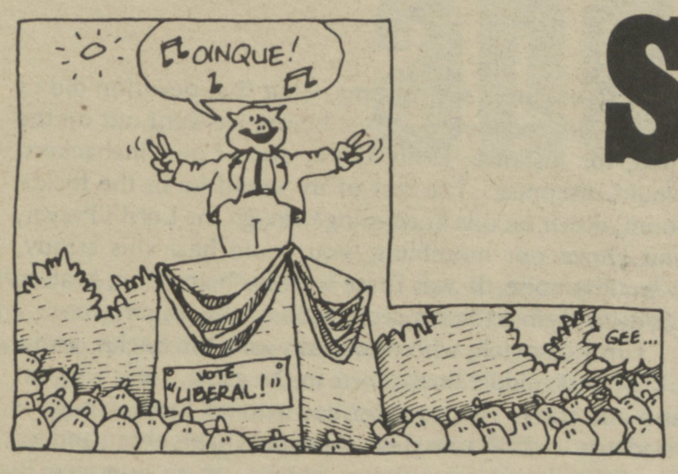

THE ARMY TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN (LIFERS)

Ft. Lewis, Washington (Spring)-SFC Ignacio Batacan was caught with over $13,000 worth of government property in his home, which he had ripped off over a period of time. A year later he was tried before the Federal Court in Tacoma. The judge was considerate enough to hold off sentencing so Batacan could spend Thanksgiving with his family. Batacan was sentenced to two years, but all but 90 days was suspended.

He was never courtmartialed, nor did he face any other type of military punishment. In order to finish his 20 years service for retirement, which he completes in less than a year, the brass has him recorded in the Morning Report as being on leave while he is in jail. Batacan will draw regular Army pay while he is in jail and will be able to retire with all benefits and honors. (Gigline)

DESERTER RETURNS WITH HONOR

Heidelberg, W. Germany—Good old Stars and Stripes, along with a lot of other promilitary newspapers, has been actively attacking the movement for repatriation amnesty for all draft dodgers, deserters, and military prisoners. The paper is running letters from lifers mostly, complaining about people who have refused to participate in the war in Indochina. Recently, some brothers sent the following letter to *S&S* and signed it RITA F. Act (RITA: Resistance Inside The Army). After some argument back and forth the letter was printed:

A FABLE—Once upon a time there was a young man. When his country elected a leader who was hell-bent on bombing small countries to hell in order to save them from communism. this young man ran off to Scandanavia. He dodged, he deserted, he sank lower and lower.-After a while he even fought against his own country.

What was his name? Should he have been amnestied? Answer: The man's name is Willie Brandt, Prime Minister of West Germany, and the leader was Hitler. Opinions differ on whether he should have been amnestied. (RITA Act)

"VOLUNTEER FOR VIETNAM"

Frankfurt/Stuttgart, W.Germany (May)—While Nixon escalated the war, an advertising campaign was mounted on the Armed Forces Radio and Television in Europe--"Volunteer for Vietnam! Higher Pay! No Income Tax! More R&R!" The effort appears to have been a flop because levies for Nam are coming down again. And desertions are going up. (CAMP News)

JAPANESE AND AMERICAN GI'S PROTEST OKINAWA DEAL

Japan & Okinawa (May 15)—Five members of the Japanese Self Defense Forces (JIETAI) came out in open revolt against the Japanese military establishment by refusing to be deployed to Okinawa when it was turned over from American to Japanese control. The US will continue to use Okinawa as a major forward base for intervention in Southeast Asia. Presently chopper pilots from the Marine Division stationed at Okinawa are flying Vietnamese puppet troops into combat in the battle for Quang Tri while thousands of grunts from the same division are "on float" off Danang. This is the first time that Self Defense Forces personnel came out openly against deployment. They issued a set of demands which began with: "Stop the deployment of troops to Okinawa" and "Support the popular demand to put Okinawa in the hands of the Okinawans." Their statement read:

"We refuse deployment to Okinawa. We will refuse to be used as soldiers of aggression. As Japanese imperialism is presently setting out for the second time to overwhelm and slaughter the people of Asia, we soldiers of the JIETAI must make a strong and fast unity with fighting workers, farmers, and students. We soldiers are like all workers and farmers; since history began the barracks of soldiers have been filled with men oppressed, discriminated against, and forced to undergo every kind of injustice."

On May 15, when Okinawa was formally turned over to Japan, a mass rally was held in Naha, Okinawa to protest the terms of the Reversion Treaty with students, labor organizations, teachers, professional people and a group of anti-war GIs and civilian supporters attending. One American GI spoke at the rally and expressed his solidarity with the five JIETAI members.

Three days earlier, about 15 members of the US military stationed on Okinawa burned copies of Nixon's Haiphong speech. (Omega Press and CAMP News)

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

Up Against the Bulkhead 968 Valencia San Francisco, California 94110

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There's also sympathetic radical lawyers around who dig on your fight and will help you out. They can be contacted at:

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VETS RIOT AT CHICAGO JOB FAIR

Chicago (May 9)-Even though Chicago corporations had no jobs to offer, they put on a Veterans Job Fair on May 9 to make it seem like they were trying to find jobs for unemployed vets. But instead of offering jobs, corporations offered guys a smile, a Coke, an application, and a line: "Don't call us; we'll call you." As one vet wrote in a Chicago underground neighborhood newspaper, *Rising Up Angry*, "You can't support a family on an application."

Men were lied to. One vet found the company which laid him off the week before offering his old job to another vet at less pay. People got angry, and started busting up booths. Businessmen split. Riot cops arrived.

The same vet wrote, "A few brothers got up and rapped about how we did all this fighting in Vietnam so the corporations could make millions of dollars and then we get back home and we can't even get a job...Brothers kept saying if we risk our lives fighting in Vietnam for something we don't believe in, we can definitely risk our lives fighting here for something better."

Riot cops were everywhere. People split to the streets. Several hundred vets, mostly black, marched through the black community where the Amphitheatre was located, singing "Jobs now!" and "Power to the People." Energies were high.

The Chicago chapter of Vietnam Vets Against the War (VVAW) is trying to pull this energy together. To contact them, write to VVAW, P.O. Box 3746, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Ill. 60654. (Rising Up Angry)

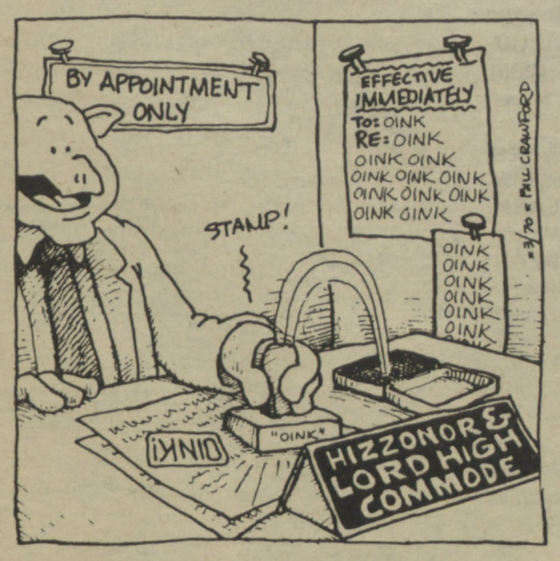
AIRMEN CHARGE GENERAL WITH WAR CRIMES

Idaho (July)-Fourteen active duty GIs from Mountain Home AFB have filed criminal charges against Lt. Gen. John D. Lavelle and Gen. John D. Ryan, Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Gen. Lavelle has admitted, in front of members of Congress, to ordering at least 28 bombing raids over North Vietnam. He ordered these raids between Nov. 8, 1971 and March 8, 1972, directly in violation of orders from the Commander-in-Chief (Herr Nixon) to halt all bombing raids of the North. Lavelle also ordered documents to be falsified in order to cover up the raids. He also stated that given the chance under the same circumstances, "I would do it again."

Gen. Ryan ordered an investigation, determined that the evidence should be heard in court-martial proceedings, but then *never filed charges.*

On Lavelle's charge sheet, airmen requested under Article 135 that the President convene a Court of Inquiry to determine if any person was killed as a result of the raids. If so, the charge sheet specifies that Gen. Lavelle also be tried for murder. (Helping Hand)



BLACK AMERICANS MARCH IN AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

Washington, D.C. (May 27)-Thousands of black Americans took to the streets of Washington on May 27 to demonstrate their support for African Liberation struggles against Portugese colonialism in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and against white minority regimes in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and South Africa. A smaller demonstration was held in San Francisco on the same day.

Approximately 20,000 people attended the march and rally in Washington. They marched to three consulates, the Portugese, Rhodesian and South African and then on to the U.S. State Department with their message that the U.S. must stop supporting the Portugese and white settler regimes of southern Africa.

Among the speakers at the rally was Congressman Diggs of Detroit who said that armed struggle was the only recourse left to black people in southern Africa. Other speakers called for black unity and for increasing political involvement by black Americans. (LNS)

VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN THE US

USA (1972)-Funny thing, but the US seems to be having a hard time finding government leaders for South Vietnam who will be both anti-communist and pro-American. Since he needs puppets to guarantee US political control in the South, they have to be created. What better way to "train" these future leaders of South Vietnam than to bring them to the United States and put them in college. Thieu, the present tyrant-president of South Vietnam, was educated in the States. So was Nguyen Cao Ky, president before him. And so was Ngo Dinh Diem, president before Ky. The leadership machine has produced puppets before.

But the government has been disappointed. South Vietnamese students who have been enrolled in American universities courtesy of the US government-sponsored scholarships, have formed an anti-war organization called THE UNION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN THE US.

Most come from families in the South with a history of loyalty to the US. They have been screened for their political views. They have been told that they will be deported if they participate in political activity. At the very least, deportation means imprisonment and interrogation. At worst, it means death to the deportee and his/her family.

In the face of those risks, the Union has openly organized sit-ins at the New York and San Francisco South Vietnamese Consulates. They have participated in anti-war marches, and speak publicly about their home and the war.

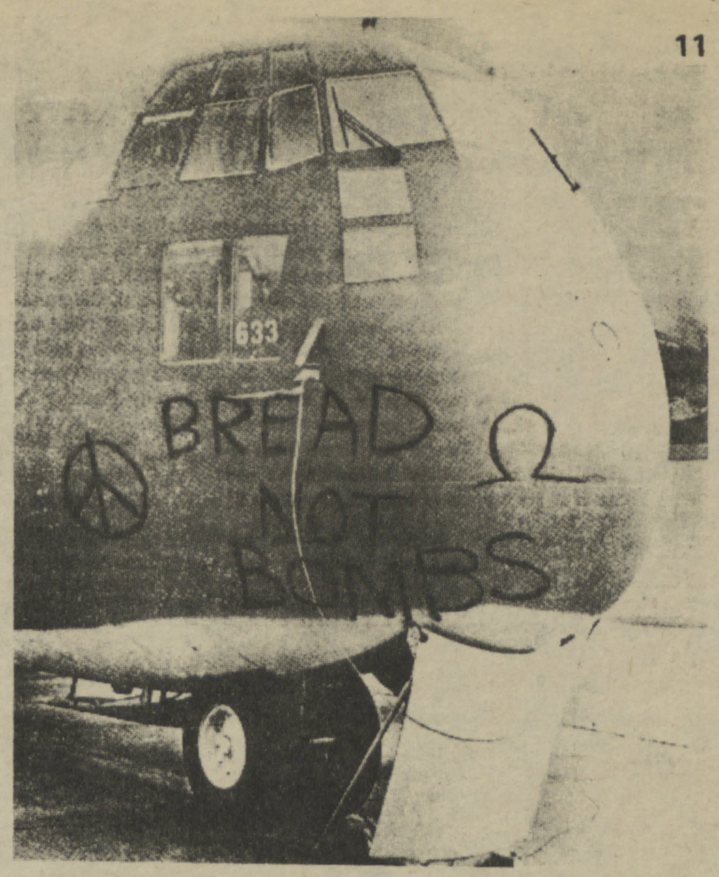
In late June, one of the members of the Union, Nguyen Thai Binh, hijacked a Pan Am jet to Hanoi. He had no weapons, no bomb. He was shot down by an ex-cop and thrown while still alive from the airplane by the pilot.

Thai Binh was killed, and his father imprisoned in the South for weeks without any charges. Deportation proceedings have been started by the Saigon government against many members of the Union. They have asked for support from Americans who oppose the war against their people.

MEMORIAL DAY DEMO IN GERMANY

Schweinfurth, W. Germany (May)—Over 100 GIs and about 20 dependents, wives and children demonstrated against the war here on Memorial Day. The GIs, black and white, first met in a public park and then marched to Ledwards Barracks, chanting "Peace Now!," "1,2,3,4, We don't want your fucking war!" Panicky MPs closed the gate at the barracks, but the GIs continued their march through the US Army housing area and the town to Conn Barracks. A rally got underway and then Major Langston, CO of the Rocket unit from which many of the brother came, ordered 50 MPs to attack the demonstration. Many GIs were hurt by the clubweilding MPs and several were arrested. It is uncertain what the army intends to charge them with. "Guess peace is subversive," one participant said.

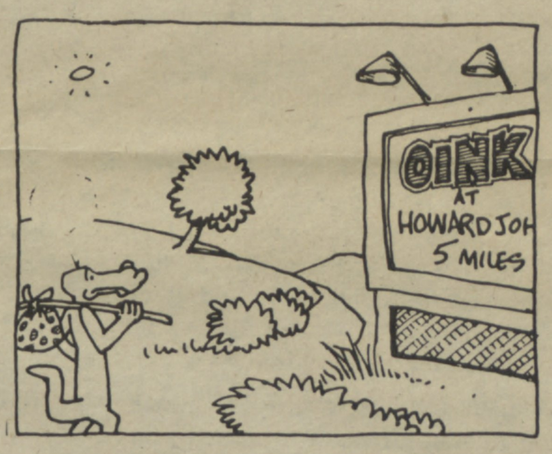
The GIs included many active-duty Vietnam Vets who have formed a chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Schweinfurth has had little "political activity" in the past; it seems that this quiet is over. Right on! (CAMP News)



PLANES GROUNDED AT WILLOW GROVE NAS

Willow Grove NAS, Pennstlvania (May)—On May 30, several US Air Force transport planes were grounded after being damaged as they sat on a runway here. Certain electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical components of the planes were removed while other parts were made inoperative. Also the words "Bread Not Bombs," and an Ω (resistance) sign and a peace sign were painted on the fuselage of a plane visible from outside the base.

The Citizens' Commission to Interdict War Materiel claimed credit for the sabotage. They said: "This action occurs appropriately on traditional Memorial Day, for we best remember those killen in war by protecting the lives and rights of those who are not yet its victims....We will continue to work with many people, in diverse types of actions, not only to impede the US war against Indochina, but also to build a more just and humane society." (CAMP News)

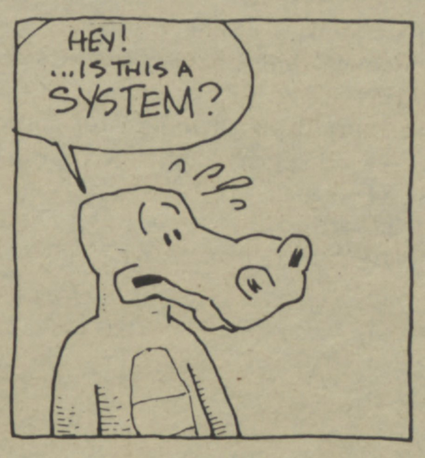


VIET VETS FIGHT GRAND JURY AND REPUBLICAN PARTY

Florida (July & August) – A federal grand jury in Talahassee has indicted six Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) members for allegedly planning an armed attack on the Republican convention. Four other members have been jailed for refusing to talk to the jury. The government got its information from a paid FBI informer who was VVAW regional coordinator for Oklahoma and Arkansas. VVAW has a tape where the informer admits that 95% of the evidence he gave was lies designed to get more money from the FBI [Oink!] The Nixon administration uses grand jury indictments to keep people from the work they are doing.

Plans for caravans of vets headed for the Republican convention went ahead anyway. The "Last Patrol" was three caravans of vehicles traveling in convoy with lights on from the West Coast, Midwest, and East Coast, converging on Miami in time for the convention.

(First Casualty)



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

Showing Their Pride

FLIGHT DECK demonstration aboard nuclear carrier Enterprise saw more than 2500 crewmen unfurl this banner reading, "We on the Enterprise are proud to be Americans. We are equally as proud to do our share and more for our great country, the United States of America." The voluntary demonstration was organized by Aviation Boatswain's Mate First J.R. Mason.

photo by HC-7 Crewmember

The photo and caption above are right from the front page of NAVY TIMES (6/7/72). It claims that 2500 men turned up for a pro-Navy, pro-war demonstration on the USS ENTERPRISE. The photo below is of the same demonstration. Doesn't look like 2500 folks, does it? We even believe that the only reason they bother to lie about the size is because of the strength of the SOS movement.

The Movement Grows In The Fleet

continued from page 3

of the reputation it enjoys in the fleet: "When passing through the Panama Canal, the USS SAVANNAh passed us and guys were out on the main deck holding fists and peace signs at us and cheering and whistling. The Nitro 7 were in the brig at the time and couldn't see the happening on the SAVANNAH. It was beautiful. I hope the NITRO broke the ice and more Navy follows in its wake."

The only news to reach us from the attack carrier **KITTY HAWK** is of two officers who have turned in this wings. They refuse to fly because they oppose the war. Because the news is suppressed, we have received confirmation through the Philippines of only one case, Lt. Jg G. Robbins. a bombardier navigator in an A–6 fighter. Since turning in his wings, Robbins has been released from active duty. We know of groups of EMs on the KITTY HAWK who are active in SOS [see letter page 2]. If you have news, let us hear from you.

The attack carrier **USS CORAL SEA** returned from the line on the 17th of July. The higher-highers of the city of San Francisco sponsored a pro-war demonstration complete with fire boats in the Bay, banners from the Golden Gate Bridge, and a demonstration on the pier. But the Peoples Blockade launched an anti-war armada. And the SOS Civilian Support Group in San Francisco got on base and raised up an SOS banner. Guys on the ship dug it no end, returning the greetings with clenched fists and peace signs. We know of EMs' strong-felt and widespread resistance to the Navy and the war, but have no news as of press time.

The **USS ENTERPRISE**, the Navy's first nuclear attack carrier, is now berthed in the San Francisco Bay Area. With deployment only a couple of weeks away, and with the rising popularity of the SOS movement aboard the ship, the ship's command has felt pressure from above to "weed out dissenters" immediately. A letter from a friend on board the ENTERPRISE seems to indicate that the Captain will have to pull up his whole garden once he starts weeding: " —— and I spent some time talking to people about how they felt, and we found where our support was. People in all departments, Engineering, Reactor, Deck Operations, and Air were all interested in helping. . . ."

The SOS movement first surfaced publicly in mid-May when brothers put out a forgery of the Plan of the Day. It was posted all over the ship before lifers got around to reading it. Stickers soon appeared in heads, berthing compartments, division spaces, bulkheads. Stickers encouraged men to come to an Armed Farces Day picnic on May 20. Men from the ORISKANY and ENTERPRISE came, as well as airmen from Travis AFB GI group, Liberated Hangar. For many crewmen, this was the first chance they'd had to rap with guys from another ship, another branch of the military, or even another division. Soon another forgery "appeared," this once called "SOS Enterprises Ledger," an SOS forgery of the ship's daily paper, the USS Enteprise Ledger. The same friend writes, "We had a little trouble getting out the paper. The MAA's were on our tail once they discovered the nature of the content. But the paper was received well. The guys were anxious to get copies, and were really bent when the pigs took them away."

The Navy has tried to cut off the SOS movement by using shakedown inspections, courting stool pigeons, and confiscating antiwar literature. Most recently, one brother is being investigated for "sabotage." Twelve others are under suspicion, whatever that means. The "new" Navy is behaving in the old predictable way again – implying "sabotage" to try to undermine a popular movement. It's going to take more than that to shake men from their deep-felt convictions about the war. This is one lesson the Navy's never going to learn.

Many guys joined the Navy because they thought it was a way to avoid seeing war duty. Now with the Navy and Air Force sharing primary responsibility for the war against Indochina, it's a whole new ballgame.

Doug Counard and Mike Koch are two sailors who joined the Navy in 1968. The Navy had them thinking that they'd never see the war up close. In an interview with the Bulkhead, Doug said, "My idea of the Navy was what you saw on TV. You know . . . World War II films." Mike told the Bulkhead he saw the Navy as "travel, excitement, education . . . not laying in a rice paddy in the mud, not getting shot at."

But that was 1968. Doug and Mike got assigned to the attack aircraft carrier USS ORISKANY a couple of years later. Doug would see planes leave with bombs. "Then the ORISKANY would pull into port and we'd see the same ones [Asian people] you're doing it to." "It was sick," added Mike. "Once the Captain came on and gave the bomb count and the Chaplain would pray that the bombs would fall on target."

Mike and Doug refused to sail on what would have been their second Asian cruise in June 1972. They said there were two main stepping stones to that decision. One was that "their" ships were responsible for the destruction of many Indochinese people, most of them children and old people too slow to make it to their bomb shelters in time. Even if you couldn't see the mayhem and destruction like the sailor on the bridge of the BUCKLEY, the war was still getting closer.

The second stepping stone was the US ships were coming under attack from shore batteries, NVA gunboats, and MIGs. Three sailors on the destroyer USS BUCHANAN were killed two months ago when MIGs attacked the ship. No longer was Navy duty a guarantee of immunity from combat. When the number of ships on the line off the coast of Vietnam doubled this spring, so did Vietnamese resistance. So the Navy was in combat, all right. And many of its sailors were afloat on some of the worst rust buckets in the entire Navy. These experiences have led to the rapid spread of the SOS movement throughout the Fleet.

If you want to stay in touch with what's happening with SOS on other ships and stateside, subscribe to the SOS Newsletter. It's absolutely 100% free. Write to: 604 Mission Street, room 1001, San Francisco, CA.

An Open Letter From An Oriskany Brother

To Our Brothers Everywhere,

First of all let me explain to you who and what I am. I'm just an average person from a small Southern town who joined the Navy because it seemed like the thing for me to do at the time. I was aware of the war and I knew that the service was fucked, but, just like everyone else, I wasn't capable of fully comprehending the situation. It's something that must be experienced to understand.

Believe me man, I've been through about the same shit that you are going through now. The loneliness, fear, uncertainty, the oppression, and even the bitterness and hatred that you're feeling every day. I've thought I was going insane and I've hated with more feeling than I would have thought possible for a person to feel. But I was always too afraid of what people would thing of me (especially family) and too unwilling to voice my opinions and feelings for fear of reprisals. But I am also sure that I have finally overcome that fear. I can no allow myself to be a murderer in the name of the people and the country that I love. The people of Vietnam are human beings just like us. They have minds just as competent and feelings just as sincere. They are just as capable of feeling pain, love, hatred, hunger, hurt, ecstasy and anything else that we can feel. They can feel love for their wives, children, friends, and even pets just as we can. If they are hurt they feel pain. If they are cut they bleed. All in all they are every bit as human as you or I. For 2½ years I have lived with this and ignored it for the sake of my own sanity and well being, I thought.

But now I will not ignore these things any longer. Tomorrow morning at approximately 10:30, along with 9 other men and supporters, I will voluntarily turn myself over to the Navy for whatever punishment they decide to give me. I refused to sail with the Attack Carrier Oriskany on June 5th for deployment to Vietnam. I will never again allow myself to be forced to participate in this madness. And I am quite certain that someday I can tell my future friends and children that I refused to be a murderer simply because I allowed myself to be ordered to do so. For the first time in my life I am at peace with myself knowing that I am doing what I truly know to be right.

Brothers, we are not alone any more. There are millions of people who support and stand beside us. We are the only ones who can end the oppression and aggression in this world and we owe it to ourselves and our brothers everywhere to stand on our own two feet and bring it to an end.

We are everywhere and we are behind you to the end.
Your Brother, Ron Smith