UP AGAINST THE BULKHEAD

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I AM AGAINST THE WAR AND WILL NOT FIGHT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

Tôi cảm thù chiến tranh xâm lược này. Tôi không chịu chiến đấu nhân dân Việt Nam.

CLIP THIS SAVE YOUR LIFE

Travis AFB Riot & Resistance

J.C. PEELE, M.D.
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Travis AFB, Fairfield, California — May, 1971

Travis Air Force Base exploded near the end of May with fighting, a huge fire, mass arrests, many injuries, and at least one death. Both the officers there and the straight press claim that it was a "race riot". But the men and women stationed at Travis know it was different. It was not a "race war," but an expression of their frustration and anger with the lifers, the oppressive conditions in the military, and the war.

Travis is the West Coast embarkation and returning point for troops going to Vietnam. Every day, planes loaded with soldiers take off bound for Saigon. Every day wounded soldiers are flown into the second largest military hospital in the United States.

All of the 6500 permanent party at Travis are very close to the war. They work at the terminal—seeing men their age and rank take off for Vietnam. They work at the hospital—seeing the same men return without a leg, a testicle or their sanity. And they work with the aircraft—servicing the planes which take those men to Asia.

Late Saturday night, May 22, two incidents occurred in the "1300" barracks area where 2500 men and women of various squadrons are housed. The first involved two black airmen who were giving the power handshake in the mess hall. A group of white airmen interrupted the handshake by repeatedly walking between the two black airmen. The blacks warned if they tried to pass through again, they would be stopped. The whites tried again and fighting broke out. That same night in the WAF barracks, a white WAF asked a black WAF to turn down a radio. She refused, and the white WAF turned it off. Both of these incidents provoked fighting throughout the area.

By Sunday, there was widespread fighting. Security police were brought in with guns, dogs, and gas masks. Two black airmen were arrested and put in the stockade. The charges against the two men, Byes and Mays, were not made public.

On Monday, almost 100 airmen marched to the stockade with the cry "Free Our Brothers!" They were pissed because only blacks had been locked up when both blacks and whites participated in the incidents. When they arrived, they were met by air police armed with gas, automatic weapons, and gas masks. The air pigs with the help of local civilian pigs forced the airmen to return to their barracks.

On the way back to the barracks, fights broke out on the baseball diamond. But this time, whites and blacks fought the pigs. One hundred thirty-five were arrested, and ten injured were taken to the hospital. Many people who were just standing around were arrested, and several were hauled from their rooms and locked up.

A general warning went out to stay in the barracks. Firehoses were used to keep people inside and away from windows.

At about this time, 8pm, a Bachelor Officers' Quarters burned. One local fireman died from a heart attack fighting the fire which caused about $5000 damage. It still hasn't been determined whether it was arson.

General Moore, Commander of the 22d Air Force, and a lifer sidekick, Colonel Blake, decided that they could cool out the situation by talking with the brothers and sisters in the "1300" area. They were jeered and spat at. They split. But another lifer, Colonel Ivers Vollmar, was hauled from his car and put in the hospital for 23 stitches in his head (score one for our side).

That did it. General Blake issued an order to arrest anyone who was in a group of five or more. Police were to shoot at the legs of anyone *suspected* of making trouble! MP reinforcements were called in from San Francisco.

After questioning, 89 of the 135 arrested were held overnight in a detention center designed to hold 20 people, and then shipped to stockades at other bases. The 14 black WAFs who had been detained were all released.

On Tuesday, base command revealed their secret weapon—the high level human relations panel. They opened their doors to hear grievances. No one came. Since airmen and WAFs were excluded from the panel, what was there to talk about? The day was marked by scattered fighting on base and a bomb scare at the passenger terminal, where brothers are loaded on planes bound for Vietnam.

By Wednesday, there were still no charges against the 89 airmen. Neither the PIO nor the legal office would even reveal their names. Anyway you look at it, base command was clearly scared. The PIO wouldn't talk. Base command wouldn't talk. The brass wouldn't allow airmen to talk to press people unless a PIO was present. And arrested airmen were not allowed to talk to the press or to civilian lawyers.

But when our reporters finally got onto the base, this is what the people there told them:

"We will end this racism in any way we can." Another black airman rapped down the built-in racism of the promotion system. *"The system is based on IQ tests which have proven to be a measure of your middle class background, rather than of your ability. This keeps black people out of the good jobs, and we end up cooking in the mess or cleaning up in the hospital."*

Although racism had a lot to do with it, it wasn't just a racial thing. All airmen we talked to, black and white, were angry that the national news coverage had painted the thing as a race riot. One white airman hit it on the nose: *"They (the officers) try to take the*

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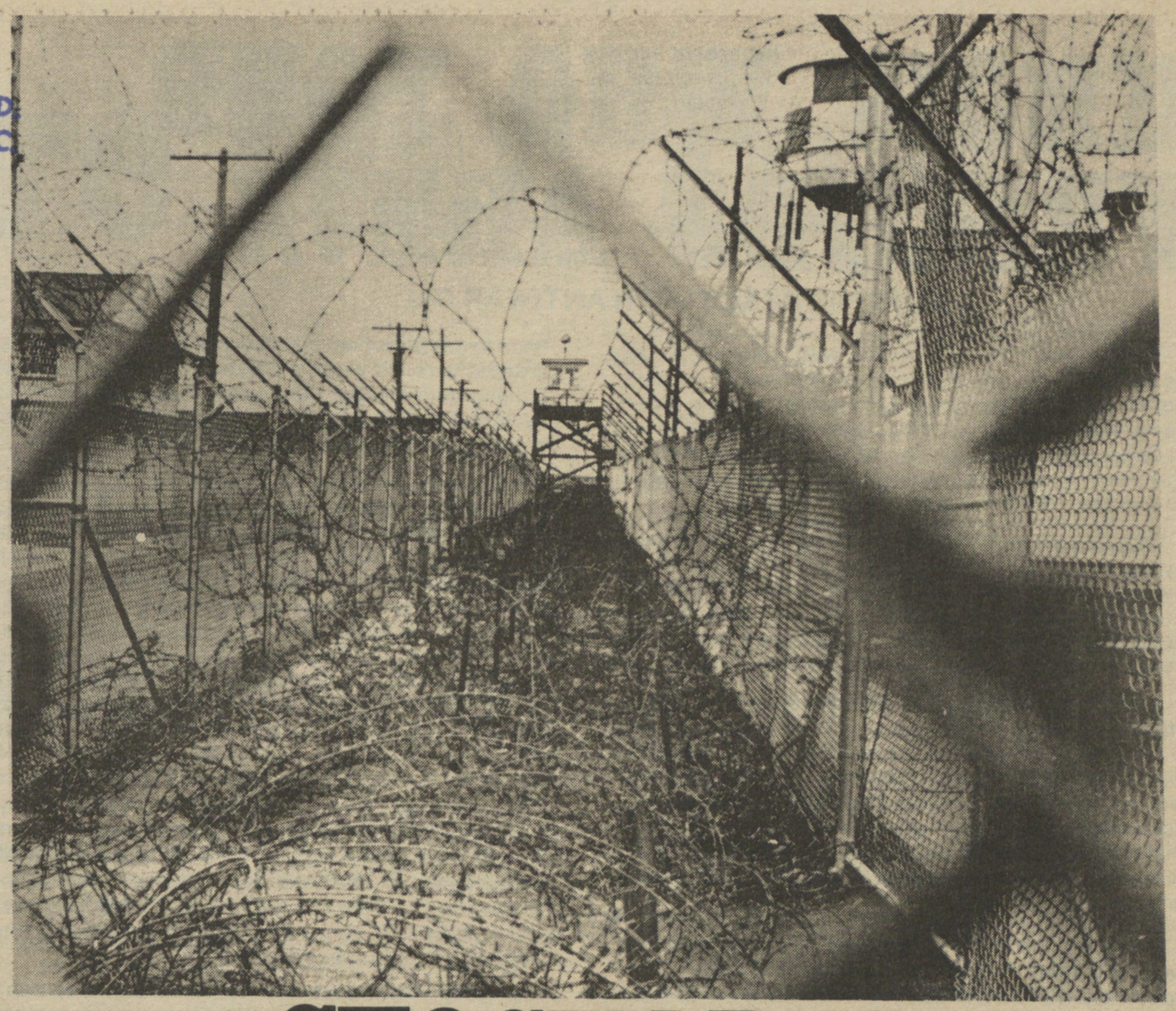


STOCKADES BREAK LOOSE

FT. DIX

Dix is another notorious stockade. Six POWs have died from ptomaine food poisoning since October. In May, 140 inmates staged a three-day hunger strike protesting bad medical care, horrible food, brutal guards, racism, mail censorship, and incompetent legal counsel. They issued a statement which said,

"We know for a fact that people on the outside do not realize what is happening within these barbed wire fences, because each of us here was on the outside once and we did not know. The same applies to all the jails and prisons throughout the US. What we are doing is trying to bring to light the corruption that has existed in our judicial system for sometime.

Angela Davis is an example of the justice most people receive in this country. She and other political prisoners in the US are what we are striking for. We are also prisoners of the military, which is a society in a society. But the basic function is still the same. And that is to suppress anything or action which would lead to change of this society. But there also exists racism and the denial of human rights. Discrimination towards Black and Puerto Rican inmates is one of the most serious problems in state prisons and jails. Most of these inmates do not know one law from another and are forced into making deals with the District Attorneys and find themselves serving time for a crime that they did not commit or, if they had money enough to acquire a proper legal attorney, would not have gone to prison."

FT. ORD

Fort Ord is one of the main processing plants for meat being shipped to the Nam. Thousands of brothers pass through basic and AIT every month on their way to Asia. The Ord stockade and SPD have a special rep for brutal overcrowded conditions—and for the spirited resistance of the POWs. Last year, the brothers in SPD got it on and burned the mess hall and one of the barracks during a long, hot night of fighting the MPigs.

In early May almost 100 black, chicano, and white brothers in the stockade pulled off a sit-down strike timed to coincide with a visit from a Sixth Army inspection team. As soon as the POWs assembled in the yard for 7am formation, the strikers sat down and handed a list of demands to the guards. The demands included: extension of visiting hours from one to four hours; use of the yard on weekends; black and brown cultural programs; an end to harassment by guards; speedier discharges; quicker trial dates; black and brown radio and television stations. The list ended with a call for a senatorial investigation of the entire military penal system.

The guards responded by giving a direct order to move to the training room. Some people moved, but others held tight. When they were told that negotiations on the demands would begin in the training room, everyone filed in.

The MPigs proceeded to lock the doors and singled out Robin Krueger, one of the brothers they thought had helped plan the sit-down. Krueger was warv. He'd been beaten four days earlier by guards. When Krueger stuck with his brothers, the MPigs vamped on the whole group. Krueger and two brothers—Bruce and Cabiya—viciously beaten and thrown in segregation. During the rest of the week the strike negotiators were put in seg.

The brass at Ord has decided that the sit-down should become a non-event. They are calling it "a minor demonstration" over visiting hours. Despite the presence of more than eighty witnesses, nothing has been done about a report filed with the inspector general about the savage beatings. The latest word from Ord is that conditions in the stockade are as bad as ever despite longer visiting hours. The new CO at Ord is trying to give the place a liberal image. But he turns out to be just another lifer pig. The only justice in the military will be the justice handed out by the EMs against the lifers and the pigs. Get them before they get you. □

KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE...

VC OFFERS PEACE WITH ANTIWAR GIs

They all want peace—"peace with honor," "a just peace," etc., etc., blah, blah. But somehow all we have gotten is more war. War in Laos (secretly for a dozen years, now openly since the invasion in February), war in Cambodia (invaded in May 1970 and reinvaded twice this year), and air war again in North Vietnam (called "protective reaction" in Pentagon double talk).

With 73% of the American people for total withdrawal by the end of 1971, we have enough people to make our own peace. We've started with the People's Peace Treaty (check the last issue of Bulkhead). Now the VC has issued an order to its troops describing how to make peace with GIs on the local level in the Nam.

Even though Nixon knows how the American people stand on the issue of the war, he is still committed to a military victory. Before, he and his two biggest official mouths, Spiro and Attorney General Mitchell, worked up the myth of the Silent Majority while millions marched against the war. Now the polls tell us that 73% want out now—no matter what. There is no Silent Majority. The message is coming through loud and clear.

But Nixon and the giant corporations who own him need a military victory to carry out their plans for Southeast Asia. *US News and World Report*, a magazine for businessmen, spelled it out back in 1954 when the US stepped in for the defeated French: **"One of the richest areas is open to the winner of Indochina. That's behind the growing US concern...tin, rubber, rice, key strategic raw materials are what the war is really about. The US sees it as a place to hold—at any cost."**

Add to this the recent discovery of some of the richest oil deposits in the world off the coast of Vietnam and Thailand and you got the answer. Nixon is willing to pay with our blood and the blood of millions of Asian people to rip off the resources of Southeast Asia.

Since the Silent Majority myth backfired, Nixon has been looking around for new gimmicks to stir up hatred against the Vietnamese in order to continue the war. He has told us that he will not withdraw until the North Vietnamese release American POWs. But this is turning out to be another shuck. When an office was opened for POW families in Washington, over half the families refused to join in. They said they didn't want to be used in publicity campaigns that would only continue the war.

At the April 24 march in San Francisco, Delia Alvarez, sister of the first POW (captured over four years ago) said that the way to get her brother out was to "end this damn war!"

Recently Nixon has added the survival of the Thieu-Ky dictatorship, the so-called government of South Vietnam, as a new condition for total US withdrawal. This is ridiculous. The Thieu-Ky clique can't survive for a moment without the almighty US dollar, US air power and US troops. They wouldn't have been there in the first place if it hadn't been for the US.

Our government does not represent us. They can't deal with our demands for peace. The government that the US imposed on the people of Vietnam after they kicked out the French doesn't represent them. The people of Vietnam support the guerrillas, the so-called Viet Cong, who are fighting for the independence of their country.

ORDER OF THE COMMAND OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES

In keeping with the Vietnamese people's long-standing tradition of humanitarianism, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam have stated on repeated occasions that its policy is to welcome the anti-war US servicemen and to give a humane treatment to the US servicemen captured or wounded on the battlefield.

In the present situation and pursuant to this policy, the Command of the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces orders:

1. Not to attack those anti-war US servicemen—individuals or groups— who demand repatriation, oppose orders of the US commanders, and abstain from hostile actions against the People's Liberation Armed Forces, from supporting or coming to the rescue of the Saigon Army, encroaching on the freedom, property and lives of the South Vietnamese people, interfering in their internal affairs, hindering their struggles against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique.

2. To give a proper treatment to those US servicemen—individuals or groups—who in action refrain from opposing the People's Liberation Armed Forces, and *those who carry with them anti-war literature.*

3. To stand ready to extend aid and protection to those anti-war US servicemen who have to run away for their opposition to orders of operations, to harsh discipline and to the discriminatory policy in the army.

4. To welcome and give good treatment to those US servicemen who cross over to the South Vietnam people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces; to stand ready to help them go home or seek asylum in another country if requested by them.

5. To welcome and to grant appropriate rewards to those US servicemen—individuals or groups—who support the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam.

The Command of the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces calls on the officers and men in all services of the US army in South Vietnam to make their best efforts to demand their repatriation, to refuse to go submissiviely to a useless death in the unjust war in Vietnam and Indochina, to try by every means to enter into contact with and to inform the South Vietnam people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces of their anti-war actions in order to receive assistance.

The People's Liberation Armed Forces must seriously carry out this order while constantly enhancing their vigilance and meting out exemplary punishment to those who continue stubbornly to follow the US imperialists in opposing the Vietnamese people.

South Vietnam, April 26, 1971

The White House and the Pnetagon know what the score is in Vietnam. Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri laid it out: **"It has been my impression, after visits to Vietna, that one of the problems is that a majority of the people support the guerrillas in the countryside but do not support the Thieu government."** There it is, but who are the VC?

Who's the VC?

Well, to start with, they aren't the north Vietnamese because there ain't no such thing as north Vietnamese. Vietnam was, is, and will be one country. It was divided **temporarily** in 1954, after the Vietnamese defeated the French, according to the Geneva Accords which were signed by all the major powers. (Russia, China, France, etc. signed the agreement; the US wouldn't sign but said that they would support it in a separate statement. Now it is clear that the US had already made plans to break the agreement.)

The country was divided into two parts at the 17th parallel—known as the DMZ (demilitarized zone)—in order to end the fighting until national elections were held. The Accords said specifically that the DMZ "Should not be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary." But the US wouldn't allow the country to be reunited through elections. They knew that Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Vietnamese people in their war against French colonialism, would win. Check it out. President Eisenhower didn't hesitate to admit this: **"Had elections been held at the time of the fighting possibly 80% of the population would have voted for the Communist Ho Chi Minh as their leader."**

So the US, *in violation of an international agreement which it said it supported,* created the "government" of South Vietnam. Then when the Vietnamese began to resist the repression which was carried out by the new US puppet government, the US accused the Vietnamese now called North Vietnamese of invading their ow country!

For six years, 1954-1960, the puppet government, following US orders, built a huge army (ARVN) and tried to wipe out all of those who had fought for Vietnam's independence from France. After tens of thousands of patriots were slaughtered, the people of the south organized the National Liberation Front in 1960 to throw the US and its puppets out. The NLF is a coalition of **all** organizations, parties, and individuals who agree with the basic program of peace, independence, neutrality, land reform, and gradual reunification of the country. After the NLF won a huge military victory during the nationwide Tet offensive of 1968, they united with several new organizations formed during the fighting in the big cities and formed the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG). The PRG represents the majority of the population of southern Vietnam and is organized into people's committees at the village level. The PRG governs most of the country with the exception of the large cities like Hue and Saigon and the areas right around big US bases.

For twenty years, the brass, the government, and the press have turned out lie after lie, hoping to fool us all into fighting their war. We knew better. As one Nam vet in Washington said, "It's the people's struggle against the aggressor. But we're the aggressor." A lot of GIs in the Nam who understand what is happening have made their own peace with the VC by going UA, refusing to go into action, avoiding fire fights, fucking over equipment, offing officers, and just generally dragging their asses.

Our anti-war amovement has had a lot of contact with the NLF and PRG over the last year, working out new ways to make peace. Together we drew up the People's Peace Treaty which was in the last issue of the Bulkhead.

Now the Vietnamese have taken the idea one step further. On April 26, two days after 800,000 people marched against the war led by thousands of GIs, the NLF (Peoples Liberation Armed Forces) issued an order of the day to their guerrilla and regular forces so that GIs and the VC can begin working out their own ceasefires on the local level.

The main points of the order (see box for the whole thing) are as follows:

1. No attacks against GIs who oppose the war, want to leave Vietnam, are resisting orders from the brass, and respect the lives and property of the Vietnamese;
2. Assistance to GIs who go AWOL in Vietnam;
3. Welcome and assistance to GIs who go over to the side of the Vietnamese. Assistance to return to the US or to split to another country.

This is heavy, but we no longer can wait for the war makers to end the war. If we do it, it will get worse and worse. They have proven to us time and time again that they have no intention of stopping the fighting no matter how many deaths it takes to conquer Indochina. We have to rely on ourselves, on our own power which comes from our numbers, our organizations, and most important, our determination to end the war. □

No More War Toys

Armed Forces Day—May 15/16—used to be a big thing for the right-wingers and brass. They could wheel out their "toys" to show the public how their tax dollars are being ripped off to line the pockets of the big defense contractors and the generals. Last year the GI movement decided that we couldn't let this kind of rinky—dink militarism go un—challenged while Asians and Americans were dying so that superpigs could get rich. We started Armed Farces Day. The lifers got so up tight with their visions of "hordes of invading hippies" on base getting it on with anti—war GIs that they closed down 9 scheduled Armed Forces Day shows.

This year the second Armed Farces Day, now an international event, was bigger and better. With all the reports not yet in, we know of demonstrations at at least 22 bases. The brass shut down six bases because of demonstrations. At two bases, Travis Air Force Base (Calif.) and Fort Carson (Colo.), civilians and/or GIs demonstrated on base. At Fort Carson the brass finally gave up and stopped the show two hours early after 50 car loads of people set up a "cheering" section ("FTA," etc.) in the bleachers.

Almost all the planning for demonstrations was met with harassment, particularly at Ft. Campbell (Tenn.), Great Lakes Naval Air Station (Ill.), and Ft. Hood (Texas). But that kind of petty shit doesn't stop anyone anymore. All planned events took place despite very bad weather at two bases, Ft. Lewis (Wash.) and Ft. Bragg (N.C.). That's more than the brass can say!

With the spirit of resistance growing among GIs, the brass are showing more and more openly their fear and hositility toward "their own" men. Lifers and permanent party were put on riot duty at several bases, EMs on riot duty were not issued ammo, and many of our brothers and sisters were given extra duty or were restricted to base while demonstrations were on.

Here is what we've heard so far:

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station—Our Japanese brothers and sisters got it on a little early celebrating Childrens Day (May 5) by flying kites in the flight path at the end of Iwakuni's main runway. The brass called the Japanese cops, but the cops couldn't figure out what to do since no one was breaking the law. When the cops started pulling down kites, a couple of people got an old fisherman to take them out in his boat on a river at the end of the runway. The pigs, with an American officer on board, went after the fishing boat with a patrol boat, but the patrol boat went aground. When they put a small boat over the side, it almost capsized. They finally got all the kites down, but not until the demonstrators, most of whom were from a Japanese anti-war group called Beheiren, had interfered with air traffic.

Clark Air Force Base (The Philippines)—GIs wearing black arm bands handed out a leaflet saying, *"NO to war, genocide, fascism, racism, imperialism, and to all forms of exploitation and oppression."* They specifically *called for "respect for the sovereignty and right to self-determination of the Filippino people,"* and demanded that *"all US Armed Forces be withdrawn from the Republic of the Philippines."*

Ft. Bliss (El Paso, Texas)—Over 600 GIs and about 700 local people joined in a festival and rally at McKlelligan Canyon. Three rock bands, guerrilla theatre, and speakers were presented. The rally stressed the importance of the People's Peace Treaty. Up til now, over 250 GIs at Bliss have signed the Treaty.

Ft. Devens (Massachusetts)—Over 1000 civilians got into the base to talk with GIs. Afterwards, a GI/civilian solidarity dinner was held at the Common Sense bookstore.

Portsmouth Brig (Portsmouth, N.H.)—The Portsmouth brig is known as one of the worst hell-holes in the country. Under the banner, "Free All Political Prisoners," Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Service People for Peace and Justice led a march of 300 people to a rally in a park near the brig.

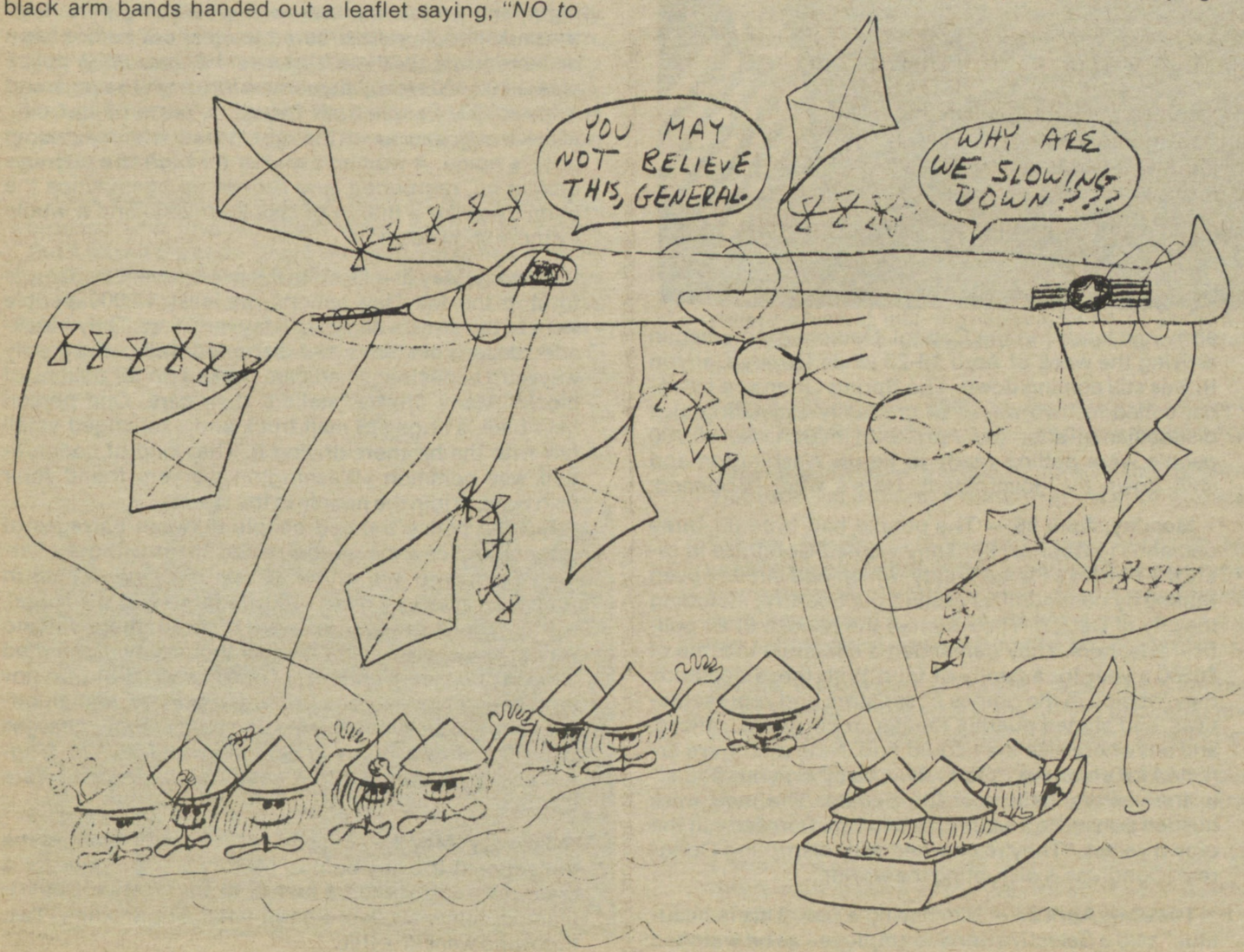
Newport Naval Base (Newport, R.I.)—Sailors and civilians from the Potemkin Bookstore were planning some on-base actions when the brass closed the base for the day. Instead, a crowd gathered at the bookshop to see anti-war films. Potemkin has been working on the People's Peace Treaty gathering hundreds of signatures.

Quonset Naval Air Station (Quonset Point, R.I.)—Member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War tried to enter Quonset to rap with sailors and airmen but were turned away at the gate. Apparently the only Armed Forces Day activities in Rhode Island were some National Guard manuevers in a swamp.

Philadelphia Naval Base (Philadelphia, Pa.)—Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the Philadelphia Resistance, and people from *The Destroyer* (a GI paper) sponsored a picnic and then an all-night vigil outside Independence Hall. After that about 30 vets tried to visit their brothers in the Naval Hospital but were stoppped by the shore patrol. They finally got in when some hospital staff came out and gave them names of people to visit. Despite restrictions and threats, many people from the base attended the picnic and vigil.

Ft. Dix (Wrightstown, N.J.)—Anti-war groups in New York and Philadelphia organized a GI/Civilian Solidarity Day march outside the base while the brass held their show inside. About 600 people turned out.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Fairborn, Ohio)—When several hundred civilians and vets showed for the first demonstration ever in Fairborn, they got a good reception from local people. All base personnel were locked up and the CO put out a press release saying that the show had been called off due to budget cutbacks in Washington.



Ft. Bragg (Fayetville, N.C.)—About 500 people, more than half GIs, marched across Fayetville to a rally at a park. It was interrupted by a heavy downpour. Some brothers were kept on base for riot control duty.

Ft. Campbell (Clarksville, Tenn.)—In the midst of some of the heaviest repression at any GI project—arrests of paper distributors, people banned from base, night rider attacks on their house—more than a hundred GIs and several hundred civilians marched to the main gate of the base and then to a nearby park. They say that Clarksville will never be the same.

Ft. Lewis (Tacoma, Wash.)—Hundreds of soldiers, airmen and sailors turned out for a whole series of different activities which were carefully planned in advance. But before long, rain drove the whole bunch including a couple of thousand civilians into three barns. The number one attraction was a dart board sporting Tricky Dick's face. People felt that, despite bad weather, GIs really got a chance to meet each other.

Great Lakes Naval Training Center (North Chicago, Ill.)—With support from thirty organization, Movement for a Democratic Military and Chicago Area Military Project won a court battle to get a rally permit. Before the big day, MDM had already carried out a week of activities including filing crazy request forms for everything from pass-fail grades in service school to all US troops out of Southeast Asia, a mass stickering of the base, a mess hall boycott, etc. Despite closed gates, hundreds of GIs turned out for the march and rally.

Ft. Carson (Colorado Springs, Colo.)—When only about 40 GIs turned up for a morning rally, organizers decided to send a car caravan on base to attend the brass' show. The motorcade was escorted through town by the local pigs, but then told that there was a parking problem. After abandoning their cars where they were, everyone headed for the bleachers. When cheers went up like "FTA", the brass closed down the show only 15 minutes after it started.

Ft. Sam Houston, Kelly Air Force Base, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base (San Antonio, Tex.)—Armed Farces Day was celebrated in a local park but we haven't heard the details yet.

Ft. Hood (Killeen, Texas)—Four days before the big event the local pigs arrested 24 civilians and GIs who are associated with the Oleo Strut, an anti-war coffeehouse, and a GI paper, *The Fatigue Press*, on a raft of petty charges. Despite hassles with the pigs, 500 GIs supported by a couple hundred civilians marched down the main street of Killeen. Army choppers tried to drown out the speakers and entertainers at the rally without much success.

Ft. McClellan (Anniston, Ala.)—About 25 WACs and GIs celebrated Armed Farces Day by joining a picket line of black hospital workers at Anniston Memorial Hospital. It was the first interracial picket line in this part of Alabama in recent history.

Camp Pendleton, Norton AFB, March AFB, Edward AFB, El Toro MCAS, and several San Diego bases (Southern Calif.)—Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland, other Hollywood folks and several local theatre and musical groups performed for a sell-out crowd of 2400 in San Diego, After some heavy partying on Saturday night, a picnic was held at a park in San Diego the next day.

Ft. Ord (Seaside, Calif.)—A new GI organization, United Soldiers Union, shut down Ft. Ord with their first planned action. After a rally at a local high school, close to one hundred GIs marched along the main highway to the main gate of the post tying up traffic for miles. When the GIs tried to enter the post, 67 of them were detained on minor charges and herded into cattle trucks. One small child was also held until pleas that the hot weather and crowded conditions were making her sick got under the thick skin of the pigs. Charges were dropped and the official story now is that there were never any arrests.

Hamilton Air Force Base (San Rafael, Calif.)—Air Force lifers think they're clever. They held an air show on May 12 to avoid possible demonstrations. There was one anyhow.

Travis Air Force Base (Fairfield, Calif.)—A hundred civilians attended the brass's show at Travis where they put on some guerrilla theatre skits and leafletted GIs and WAFs. Later in the day, a rally was held at a local park. Almost a hundred airmen showed for speakers and music. The day was a first for Travis and ongoing activities are now being planned.

WAR SUCKS MILLIONS MARCH 12,000 BUSTED

It was beautiful. Everywhere people, beautiful people, in the streets were telling the whole world that the war sucks, and were demanding an end to it. A half a million people gathered in Washington, D.C., 300,000 in San Francisco (the largest peace march in West Coast history), and thousands more who couldn't make it to either coast were in the streets of their home towns telling Nixon to get his ass out of Asia.

Thousands of Nam vets and active duty GI's led the marches in San Francisco and Washington. Groups like "City College Physics-10 Faculty and Students for Peace" and "Another Neighborhood for Peace" and hundreds of others followed with their banners. Small children chanted "Peace now!" as grandmothers, teachers, mothers, fathers, vets of other wars, and a whole lot of us "clean-cut" types that Nixon claims are too American to protest poured into the streets for hours with songs and banners attacking the war.

In San Francisco, a gray-haired woman standing on the curb read off each sign as it passed and cheered for each new contingent. She was met by smiles and riased fists. "I'm turning people on!" she said.

One contingent was a group of over 100 black men and women from Oakland singing, "No more brothers in jail, no more sisters for sale!"

About noon San Francisco marchers began to spill into Golden Gate Park. They spread blankets on the grass, opened bottles, cut cheese and bread, and looked for old friends while they waited for speeches. Everyone sensed the power of a quarter of the population of the Bay Area acting together against the war.

In Washington, the rally site could hold only one-tenth of the demonstrators. Twelve miles northeast of the Capitol building, on the expressway between Baltimore and Washington, all lanes were filled with buses and cars bringing demonstrators into the city, but the traffic was hopelessly jammed. So several miles of demonstrators never made it to the largest anti-war demonstration this country has ever seen.

The marches were peaceful as most in the past, but the tone was different. Marchers no longer carried American flags to disassociate themselves from those carrying National Liberation Front (NLF) flags. The only American flags to be seen were flying upside down, or had peace signs or white skulls for stars on a black field. NLF flags were everywhere. Pete Seeger had led the demonstrations in '69 singing, "Give peace a chance." This spring he refused to, saying that the song was "too polite." Someone tried to start the chant, 'All we are saying is give peace a chance." But vets drowned them out with "One, two, three, four, we don't want your fucking war!"

The new tone matched the new tactics of the Spring Offensive. If the government won't make peace, we will make it with the People's Peace Treaty. If the government won't stop the war, we'll stop the government. That meant staying in Washington and working together for the next two weeks. It would take more than a day in the streets to bring the war home.

Even those who couldn't stay after Saturday's march contributed. On Sunday, about 1000 motorists headed home on the Jersey Turnpike staged an impromptu stall-in that backed up cars for hours—in a preview of MayDay actions to come. About 100 people were busted when the highway patrol finally got over their shock, but not before the singing, laughing crowd told troopers that they wouldn't give the turnpike back until the war was ended.

MAYDAY IN WASHINGTON

The MayDay Offensive began in a peaceful encampment at West Potomac Park. A city of tents sprouted along the river where fires glowed late into the night and people danced or huddled for warmth—an enemy army had landed in the Capitol. Demonstrators began arriving the week of April 19-23 while Dewey Canyon III was still coming down. The Spring Offensive calendar called for two weeks of gradually-escalating civil disobedience after the April 24th march. So 60,000 people were getting ready to tie up Washington and shut down the government. Here's what happened:

Monday, April 26 — The people had brought three demands to Capitol Hill. They wanted Congress to ratify the People's Peace Treaty, which had already been ratified by communities around the country, including the city of Detroit. They wanted the release of all political prisoners. They demanded a minimum income of $6500 a year for a family of four. With these demands they lobbied in the offices of senators and representatives, and staged guerilla theater in corridors, offices, and anywhere else they could find. Nine men were arrested for shouting, "God have mercy on your souls!" in the visitors' gallery of the Senate. The men were hustled outside to a waiting police van. Someone in the crowd yelled, "They're charged with disrupting Congress. Congress is disrupting the world!"

Tuesday, April 27 — "I'm having a ball. This is beautiful," said a Selective Service employee as he watched the crowds of chanting demonstrators sitting-in on the lawn of the national headquarters of the Selective Service system. He was one of 53 employees who didn't return to work as the crowd of 500 people gathered shortly after the noon break.

Wednesday, April — In the morning 200 protestors joined the 65 who had held a night-long vigil at the Selective Service Headquarters entrance. When refused admittance, the demonstrators lay face down in front of the building and told employees they could enter only by walking over the "carpet of bodies symbolizing war dead." 221 brothers and sisters were arrested.

Thursday, April 29 — 600 people at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare demanded new legislation to help poor and black Americans, plus total withdrawal from Vietnam. They tore down a barrier that was put up to keep them out of offices and away from employees, and took parts of it with them as they marched to the White House. In this action 224 were ripped off by police.

Friday, April 30 — Over 2000 protestors surrounded the Justice Department and blocked all entrances with a sit-in. "I think we've arrested the FBI," shouted one demonstrator. "It's called preventive detention. Now we set bail. What's Hoover's bail?" "The end of the war," someone shouted back.

Saturday, May 1 — Now the pressure was building. Over 60,000 protestors—freaks, street people and vets—crammed into West Potomac Park for the rock festival which kicked off MayDay activities. The government massed 10,000 troops for deployment in the nation's capitol. When people heard it was the 82d Airborne, they cheered.

Sunday, May 2 — The government freaked during the night, and at dawn withdrew the camping permit for the park. People were ordered to clear out before noon or face arrest. With tear gas and clubs, 2600 police cleared 60,000 sleepy demonstrators from the park and arrested 90. People split for other parts of the city, while the government thought it had won by driving people home. A women's march through the city was broken up, regrouped, and broken up again since the permit was for a march of less than 2000 and a whole lot more showed up.

Monday, May 3 — Despite the government's attempts to stop the MayDay actions, at least 17,000 people were in the streets early Monday morning. They blockaded dozens of streets and disrupted traffic. Purposely wayward pedestrians had cars backed up for dozens of blocks. Many drivers "stalled" their cars. One person held back a huge US mail truck and exchanged small talk with the brothers driving it. That kind of cooperation was common—Washington workers found their own ways to join the people in the streets.

But the police trapped people between barrages of gas and police vans, and arrested them without charging them with any crime. It was the largest bust in American history—over 7000 people—and all illegal. Normal arrest procedures were ignored; there was no way to tell where, when, or how thousands committed alleged offenses. Hundreds of non-demonstrators—government employees, housewives, reporters, and an off-duty cop—were also arrested and held without charges or bail for several hours in detention centers. Washington courts determined that nearly all the arrests were illegal.

Tuesday, May 4 — In spite of the tactics used by the government the day before, 5000 protestors met for a noon rally and started a march to the Justice Department to demand release of all political prisoners. Two thousand were arrested.

Wednesday, May 5 — With total arrests near 10,000, several thousand more people massed on marble steps outside the House of Representatives to demand that Congress ratify the People's Peace Treaty, signed already by at least 100,000 Americans and countless Vietnamese. By late afternoon, nearly 1200 more were jailed for unlawful assembly on the Capitol grounds.

By now, 12,000 had been arrested, many for the second time since people were being released on $10 bail. But the peoples' spirits couldn't be broken, even in jail. Jail conditions were horrible—little food or water, cramped quarters, and inadequate blankets for outdoor sleeping. People passed their time singing, chanting rapping. They made friends with the GIs assigned to guard them. These GIs let it be known whose side they were on by collecting bail money, sharing food, playing frisbee, and by turning their backs while some brothers and sisters liberated themselves with wire cutters.

WAS MAYDAY SUCCESSFUL?

Washington and its government didn't stop, but it suffered. Naturally, government officials weren't into saying how many employees didn't work on the main target days of Monday and Tuesday. But a spokesman for the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade admitted to us that stores suffered a "substantial decrease in business." Mr. Rich, President of Rich's Shoes, said the demonstrators dealt a "terrific economic blow to the whole city." Garfinkel's (a large dept store) sales were off 40%, pretty typical of all businesses. So economically Washington was hurting.

But more important, the war was brought home to people not only in Washington but across the country during MayDay. How did people feel about it?

"No," a woman said smiling. "I'm not going to work. Neither is anybody on this street. There's all this happening around the city...And you know we don't want this war."

On one street people started to open the hoods of passing cars, forcing their drivers to stop and close them. One scared, middle-aged driver had his hood opened. But after he stopped, he smiled and offered a lift to the three people who'd opened the hood. They hopped in.

Passers-by would shout to the people, "Keep up the good work!" or wave, or gave a V sign or a fist.

A bank teller said, "Let me tell you about what I saw yesterday. There were all these groups of young people, just walking in the streets and stopping traffic. All of a sudden a group of policemen charged and arrested a lot. They grabbed one boy and beat him and beat him. I DON'T KNOW IF I'll ever be able to trust a policeman again."

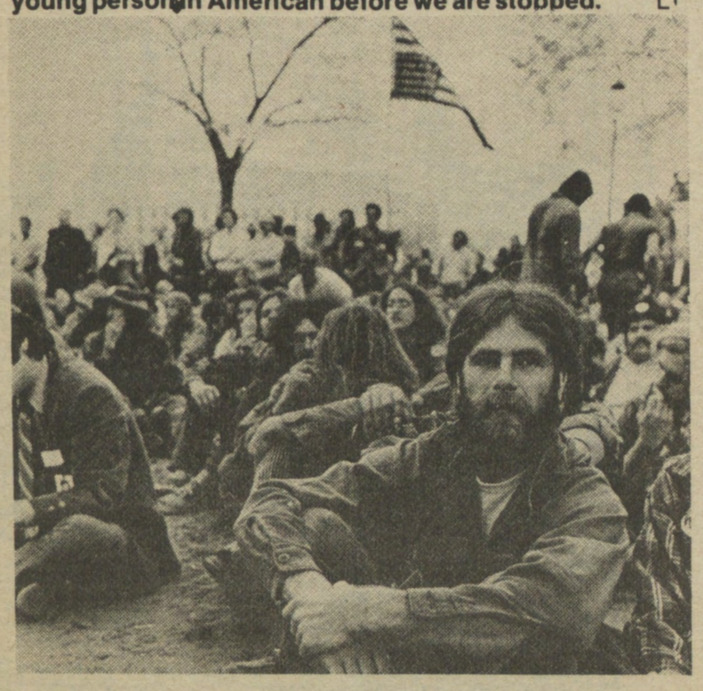
Another teller, an older woman, when told that 73% of the American people want withdrawal by the end of the year said, "Only 73%? I'm sure it must be much more than that."

Some demonstrators were put up by Creighton Abram's nephew (Abrams is commander of MACVN). One person who was put up said, "He was freaked by the way he had seen cops beating on people the day before."

Hundreds of organizations in the Black and Puerto Rican communities had demanded action to halt the street sweeps, gassings, beatings and illegal detentions of thousands of demonstrators and others. Complaints were sent in by the hundreds.

At a press conference, Mrs. Treadwell, program director of Youth Pride, Inc., said the black community supported the objectives of ending the war, racism, and repression. She also said that the black community was providing food, housing, legal services, blankets, and cars for the people in the streets. After the press conference a motorcade left for one of the detention camps with food.

After Wednesday's actions, most of the sisters and brothers who invaded Washington headed for home. But it wasn't the end—only the beginning of new actions against the war everywhere. One of the MayDay leaders Rennie Davis, said pretty much what most people were feeling: **"They are going to have to jail every young person in American before we are stopped."** □



may day usa

Washington wasn't the only city with MayDay actions. Across the entire country people were in the streets protesting the Indochina War and remembering the deaths of a year ago at Jackson State (Mississippi) and Kent State (Ohio). Here's a partial list of what happened:

New Haven, Connecticut — *Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins freed! Charges were dropped after a jury returned voting ten to two for acquittal. After the hung jury, the judge dropped charges since the government just could not prove its case.* One thousand gathered on the New Haven green to hear speeches and songs that demanded an end to the war. There were smaller gatherings in Hartford and Bridgeport, too.

Bowling Green, Ohio — 400 students camped out in front of an ROTC building and demanded it be thrown off campus. The camp-in began after two days of antiwar protests which started when 3000 students commemorated the Kent and Jackson killings with a candlelight march.

Kent State, Ohio — There were vigils, speeches, and a sit-in at ROTC's temporary quarters. At least 2000 students occupied ROTC's new home. Last year, protesting Kent State students burned down the original ROTC building a few days before the National Guard fired into a crowd of demonstrators, killing four.

San Francisco, California — 2000 circled the Standard Oil Building in the financial district after a morning of leafletting the downtown area with the Peoples Peace Treaty and talking to downtown workers. Street fighting broke out with pigs in the afternoon and nearly 150 were busted.

Santa Barbara, California — Thousands of students protested at the General Motors Defense Plant. Nearly 100 arrested.

Berkeley, California — 500 students marched on the main business district. Bank windows were trashed and files and equipment at a local draft board office were totally destroyed. The next day, a sign tacked to the boarded-up store front announced that the board had moved to Oakland. Also, five PG&E cars were totalled.

San Jose, California — Five National Guard Weapons carriers and a 2½ ton personnel carrier were destroyed and seventy other vehicles were damaged.

Carbondale, Illinois — Demonstration at the home of Southern Illinois University and the Center for Vietnamese Studies which trains Saigon government province chief and does counter-insurgency research. Over 3000 people tried to close down the center. Twenty-four hours later, 400 students and teachers still occupied the center.

New York City — 20,000 students and working people rallied at Bryant Park at the end of the day on May 5th. Many students stayed at the university for rallies and picketing. At NYU's downtown campus, firemen were called in to put out trash fires. There were smaller demonstrations in each of the five boroughs.

Upstate New York — High school students were suspended at Saratoga Springs and Albany High Schools when they refused to end May 5th rallies and return to classes. At Albany High, students pulled down the flag and hoisted an effigy of Nixon in its place.

Madison, Wisconsin — University of Wisconsin officials faced the start of the Spring Offensive with a new law: all assemblies are outlawed. But from May 4th on, there have been dozens of gatherings on the campus and in town. Students and street people, sometimes 3000 strong, were holding antiwar rallies.

Waukegan, Illinois — A high school antiwar rally turned into a rock and bottle throwing battle when police tried to break it up. 40 students were arrested, and over 200 others marched to a new rally site.

Boston, Massachusetts — 130 busted as demonstrators were brutally attacked when pigs attempted to clear away 3500 sitting in at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building. The sit in ended two days of antiwar protests which brought 30,000 to the Boston Commons on May 5. The sit in was peaceful until pigs began sweeping without warning into the large groups of people sitting on the sidewalks. At the end of the first charge, thousands of the demonstrators and city and state workers on lunch break began singing "America the Beautiful."

Detroit, Michigan — 3500 people marched on the Chrysler Artillery Tank Plant. They make 80% of all U.S. tanks. The following day, a smaller group marched on a Ford plant in nearby Dearborn.

Columbus, Ohio — Several hundred demonstrators threw eggs, mud and marshmellows at ROTC cadets. This took place during a military review at Ohio State University.

Eugene, Oregon — In this small town of 65,000, MayDay's big event was a rally attended by 3000 at which speakers included both the mayor and women who had been to a conference in Canada with revolutionary Vietnamese and Laotian women. May 4 was Angela Davis Day in the town, and on May 5, some 200 people were teargassed by police during a march on a ROTC building. The next, 15 people managed to solder locks shut before they were maced and busted for occupying the local draft board office.

Seattle, Washington — People closed the Selective Service Office by sitting in for an hour and a half and locks were soldered shut at the offices of Boeing and other large corporations. Downtown traffic was blocked for two hours, and the First National Bank building was filled with milling demonstrators.

Tuscon, Arizona — On April 24th, one thousand people marched against the war. Marchers ranged from vets against the war to the Tuscon Mothers for Peace. About 40 GIs from Ft. Huachuca participated despite problems of publicity and transportation.

There were also protests in Denver, Minneapolis, Alberquerque, and Buffalo as well as countless others which didn't even make it in the papers we read. President Eisenhower got one thing straight during his years in office when he said, "People want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of their way and let them have it."

VETS in DC

For six days in April, over 2200 Vietnam vets moved from the streets and parks of Washington into the offices of government and the halls of justice. They were there to tell anyone who would listen, "We who have fought this war demand that this war end—NOW!" All they met were closed doors, closed gates, and closed minds.

They came from every state and from every walk of life. Some came alone, others as part of their state delegation of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). They were Black,Chicano, Puerto Rican, White, Indian, and Asian; students, workers,freaks, guys off the block. They came from cities, suburbs, small towns, and farms. They called the days "Dewey Canyon III—a limited incursion into the city of Washington, D.C." What those 2200 brothers did during those six days turned more people against the war than anything else that's happened here in a long time.

"This is the only war where there is no concrete plan for returning veterans. All the money is being spent on the war." a young vet in a VA hospital who's trying to kick a heroin habit, interviewd by a Washington Post writer.

On Sunday the 18th, guys set up camp on the well-trimmed mall that stretches from the Capitol building to the Washington Monument. Picture 2200 stone freak Nam vets with tents, sleeping bags, plastic rifles, dope, wine, and beer, pitching tents in front of Capitol sightseers and government office workers. Everyone helped everyone. *"Here brother, share some dope with us." "Let me help you carry that." "We have to stick together, man, it's our last chance." "Don't forget the brothers in Nam."* It was easy to tell our side from theirs.

On Monday the 19th, they moved out from their base camp and headed to the Arlington National Cemetery to lay wreaths to honor their American and Indochinese brothers and sisters who died in the war. As they arrived, the cemetery director swung the wrought-iron gates shut. Behind those gates and behind the tombstones stood Washington riot police. Someone pleaded, "Our brothers, our sons, our friends are buried in there. Why can't we go in?" One brother broke down at the gates as the group turned to march back to the campsite. As his brothers pulled him away, he shouted back, "Does a vet have to be dead to get into Arlington?"

The next morning, the newspapers hit the streets all across the country with huge headlines: "Viet Vets Barred From Arlington!" National sympathy was behind the vets. The brothers sensed this, and so returned to the cemetery with half their people, leaving the other half to keep things cool at their already-threatened campsite. Under the pressure of TV cameras, the director of Arlington gave in. The vets entered the cemetery one at a time, slowly and silently. They knelt with their fists in the air, while a wounded vet and the mother of a GI killed in Vietnam laid two wreaths—one for the Indochinese dead, one for the "allied" dead.

At this very moment, a Washington district court judge named Hart ruled that the vets had to abandon their campsite. No sooner had he okayed the pig's eviction plan, than the Court of Appeals overruled him and said that the vets could stay where they were. Not about to take this decision, Nixon's aides took the question to their man, Chief Justice Warren Burger. Burger signed the order of eviction.

When the brothers' lawyer came to the park that Tuesday afternoon and told them of the government's decision, the brothers spoke with one voice: "Hell no, we won't go! Hell no, we won't go!"

That strength was the glue which held them together. While the government waivered this way and that, the vets knew exactly what they wanted. That evening, the vets called a meeting to vote on the issue. The decision: hold camp and face arrest without resistance. If arrested, the brothers voted to consider themselves prisoners of war, and to march into police vans with their hands held behind their heads. They celebrated the vote with a huge party—and everyone got good and mellow digging on each other and what was to come.

• The eviction order was set for 4:30pm Wednesday. So when guys started moving Wednesday morning, they knew that the more public sympathy they could capture, the less likely it was that Nixon would risk arresting them at their campsite. Two groups of vets moved out, leaving another group behind to defend their campsite. One headed for the Pentagon. They were stopped at the first floor office of Pentagon mouthpiece Daniel Z. Henkin. Before television cameras and the eyes of the world, the brothers explained, "We all want to be arrested along with Lt. Calley. We are just as responsible as he is. We're all war criminals. We want to turn ourselves in to the Pentagon." A black Air Force General named James replied, "We don't take Americans as prisoners." That was it. The group marched back to the mall campsite.

That afternoon, the second group appeared at a Senate subcommittee hearing on Vietnamese refugees. Testifying was Ambassador William E. Colby, and heading the hearings was Sen. Edward Kennedy. When Colby lied that the number of refugees and casualties had been reduced from 1969 to 1970, the brothers drowned his lies with shouts of "That's a lot of bull!"

Since no one wanted to miss the 4:30 showdown, guys left the hearings early in order to get back to the campsite. The press was there. Congressmen and Congresswomen were there. Liberals were there to offer verbal support and money. Street people were there to put their bodies on the line with the brothers. Everyone was there but the police. Time passed, and still no police.

"I want to know who designed free fire zones, who is responsible for harassment and interdiction fire, for defoliation. These men are war criminals."

What had happened was this. The Justice Dept. said, "Evict the vets," and then waited for the park police to do it. Judges would no more enforce their own laws than Nixon would fight his own war. **And just as GIs have said no to the war, the park police said no to the Supreme Court. As it turned out, a lot of vets work for the park police and you can believe they weren't to arrest their brothers. When the good news arrived, another party got going on the mall.**

Thursday. Since the war began officially in 1965, the Supreme Court had never challenged its constitutionality. The vets held an early morning rally on the steps of the Supreme Court building to ask the Court do just that. It lasted 90 minutes before police moved in to make arrests. They said the brothers were "interfering with the administration of justice (read *"the war"*) and picketing or parading near a U.S. court building."

One hundred ten were arrested. They'd written the letters "POW" on their fatigue jackets. and all held their hands behind their heads as Vietnamese prisoners had been made to do. As they were being arrested and led into waiting buses, they shouted, "Chieu hoi!" (Vietnamese for "I defect."), and sang, "Bring 'em home, bring our brothers home!" Since public sympathy was against the government and for the vets (a Washington poll revealed that 80% of the people backed the vets), they were out in 2½ hours after paying $10 bail each.

That evening, as millions of people all over the world watched the arrests on television, another action was already in motion. At least 3000 sisters and brothers—vets and supporters—marched through downtown Washington to protest the continuation of the war. The march, which stretched five city blocks, passed in front of the White House where all the window shades were drawn. According to a Presidential spokesman, Nixon was having dinner in the mansion and didn't want to be disturbed!

On Friday, the last day of the operation, there was nothing left for the brothers to do but gather up their awards, ribbons, and citations and return them to the government which had sacrificed their buddies, lied to them, used them, and stolen years of their lives and parts of their bodies. Six hundred vets, and wives and parents of GIs killed in the war, lined up to throw their medals over the police barricades onto the Capitol grounds. One of the brothers explained that words like genocide, racism, and atrocity can no longer be dismissed as rhetoric. He went on to say this speech.

"...We have asked this Congress for action, and they have responded with empty words. We spoke of shattered lives, and they spoke of committee rules. We spoke of commitment now, and they spoke of the next election. We looked for leadership and found closed doors and closed minds. Stripped of the hope we had in the response of this government to truth and the principles upon which this nation was founded, we now strip ourselves of those medals for courage and heroism, those decorations for wounds we suffered and the limbs we lost, those citations for gallantry and exemplery service. We cast these away as symbols of dishonor, shame, and inhumanity, and dedicate ourselves now to the peace and brotherhood this nation once held as its heritage."

The line began to move. As each person took the microphone, he said his name, listed the shit he was throwing back, and then said why.

"I'm William Branson from California. I have an Army Commendation Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. I wish I could make them eat it!"

"Bruce Brimer, Southern California. I hope the war dies with these medals."

"I'm Ron Ferrise from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My wife divorced me for turning in these medals. She wanted me to keep these medals so my son would be proud of me. But I'm not proud of these medals because my brothers shed their blood....The Silver Star, the third highest medal in the country. It doesn't mean anything. Bob Schmiel died for these medals! Lt. Cammerill died, so I got a medal! Sgt. Johns died, so I got a medal! I got a Silver Star, a Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, eight Air Medals, National Defense and the rest of this garbage. It doesn't mean a thing!"

Joseph H. Triglio: "It was 3½ years of wasted time. It was a disservice to my country, as far as I'm concerned, I'm now serving my country."

Other guys didn't even bother to say their names.

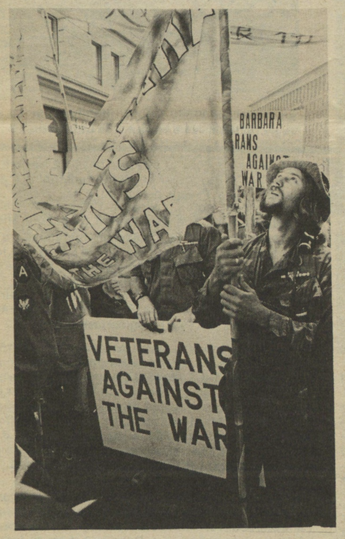
"We don't want to fight anymore, but if we have to fight, it will be to take these steps."

"I got a Presidential Unit Citation, and now I got a place for the President to put it."

Joe Bangert said he first wanted to turn his medals back in while still in Vietnam "When I found out that the 'political force' we were fighting was the people. We were taught, 'Don't trust the kids.' 'Don't trust the old women. They'll kill you.' It's the people's struggle against the aggressor. But we're the aggressor."

When the ceremony was over, the Capitol plaza was covered with Distinguished Service Crosses, Navy Crosses, Gold Stars (contributed by wives and mothers), Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts, Air Medals, a drill sergeant's badge, Commendation ribbons, certificates of promotion, commissions, i.d. cards, pieces of uniforms, and discharge papers.

"What now?" is the question. If Congress won't end the war, if the Supreme Court won't do it, If Nixon won't do it, then we must do it. All of us, all the people who turn the little wheels that turn the big wheel round and round, have to stop turning. □



"We don't want to fight any more. But if we have to fight, it will be to take these steps."

...in Congress

Keep in mind that all during the week there was also a lot of spontaneous activity. One morning, for example, ten vets dressed in combat fatigues, their faces painted white, their purple hearts and silver stars pinned to their chests. their toy guns in hand, marched solemnly through the streets of Washington, crying, *"Where are our dead brothers?" "We're looking for our dead brothers. Have you seen them?"*

People were really hit hard by this—people like Girl Scouts from Pennsylvania, fourth graders from Virginia, and tourists from Massachusetts. Guys relived their worst experiences in Nam in the streets of Washinton—interrogation, zippo patrols, questioning villagers. It hit onlookers hard.

But they also took their experiences and demands in to the halls of Congress. Just about every day you could find Nam vets knocking on Congressmen's doors, guys trying to convince their Congressmen that this war was fucked any war you looked at it, and that they had to stop it. The following exchange between Sen. Hart from Ohio and a vet from Chesterland, Ohio, named Garry Battles, was pretty classic.

(WBAI newsman to Hart): *"Senator, how would you characterize the meeting in general?"*

(Hart to newsman): *"I would say the meeting was, uh, one in which, the young men in general came in with a specific opinion, that we ought to withdraw immediately from Vietnam. I wish we could withdraw immediately. But I unfortunately feel that a responsible course is to pursue the President's irreversible and responsible withdrawal policy . . ."*

(Gary Battles to WBAI newsman): *"He's just like all the rest, just like all the rest. That's all there is to it. We've got testimony that American troops are not there to benefit the South Vietnamese people....They are there committing atrocities left and right. It's the policy of America, the policy of the Army...He believes in Nixon, whatever Nixon's supposedly doing...He just seems to be a sheep...I'm from Ohio. I was born and raised on a farm in Ohio. I don't care what you call me. I'm not a radical. I just don't understand..."*

(newman to Gary): *"You think it did no good talking to him?"*

(Gary to newsman): *"It did absolutely no good in my opinion. Absolutely no good at all. I don't even understand his language."*

(newsman to Gary): *"What did he say when you told him about Winter Soldier Investigation?"*

(Gary to newsman): *"He said he didn't know about it. He said that he wasn't even aware that it was put in the Congressional Record. He said he would look into it."*

(newsman to Gary): *"But he doesn't plan to do anything about it?"*

(Gary to newsman): *"The fact is, the war's been going on for thirteen years. What's it gonna take to get him to do something about it, man?"*

There's no way to get across to you with words the heavy anguish, anger and frustration of Gary Battles. His voice was broken, his replies machine-gun fast and full of feeling. For him, talking to his Senator—supposedly his voice in the decision-making process of government—was like talking to a lifer, a man with different values, a different life, a different language. Just as the lifer knows only the world of the military, the Senator knows only the life of the politician, which in this country means a life of dishonesty, graft, corruption, money, power, competition and greed. No wonder Gary didn't understand his language. Gary and the Senator live in two different worlds.

...in Saigon

Only nine months ago, in the fall of 1970, another group of veterans found themselves fighting against the government they'd only just finished fighting for. Like the vets in Washington, they had been forced into the military either directly by the draft, or indirectly by having to choose between being broke/going to jail/hustling on the block and serving time in the Armed Forces. Like the vets in Washington, they had been forced to fight a war they didn't want to fight at all. Like the vets in Washington, they felt abandon and uncared for by the government which had used them and then thrown them away. Like the vets in Washington, they organized demonstrations against the war and many were arrested. These vets are ex-soldiers of the Saigon regime (ARVN), and some of their people are still being held in Saigon prisons today.

Here's a short rundown of what the Saigon vets have been through. For years and years the Thieu-Ky dictatorship hasn't even bothered to respond to the Saigon vets' request for a roof to live under. So the vets set up a city of cardboard houses just outside Saigon, and called it Minh Mang village. By the summer of 1970, they had built 800 houses. Thieu-Ky decided that Minh Mang village had to go, and ordered Saigon police to knock down the houses. On September 3, war invalids, veterans and their families demonstrated in the streets of Saigon against this inhuman treatment. Thieu and Ky called up a number of Ranger and MP units, fights broke out, and several people were injured. The next day, a thousand Thieu-Ky police, backed up by armored vehicles, broke through the cardboard village, knocking down houses, shooting those who resisted, and arresting the rest. On September 6, more police raided the area where the now-homeless people had gathered, and arrested many more. These actions by the Saigon government led members of the families of war dead in Saigon to pledge publically to burn themselves to death or disembowel themselves if the dictatorship's brutality continued.

As the fall wore on, resistance in Saigon to the Thieu-Ky regime increased. Workers, students, reporters, lawyers, engineers, women, teachers, as well as war invalids and vets now opposed the Saigon government. On October 24, members of vets and war-wounded organizations began a 96 hour hunger strike to protest repression and the war. On October 28, seven war-wounded vets whose patience had run out slashed their wrists to get blood to write three letters of protest with. They warned Thieu-Ky that unless they stopped pulling down their houses and set free all ex-soldiers illegally arrested, that they would cut off one of their fingers each day and present them to them.

That winter, the vets joined together with many different groups in Saigon which also opposed the Thieu-Ky regime, and formed the "People's Front to Secure Peace in Vietnam." The group had one demand—that all American and allied troops pull out of South Vietnam to let the Vietnamese settle their own affairs.

After Nixon remarked to newsmen that only 30% of the guys were vets, a 20-year-old vet from Ohio named "Tick" presented his credentials. *"I was retired from the Marines when I was 19. I have no discharge papers, so I offered to put my glass eye in. It was all I had, but they said no. They didn't want it."*

THE RAPE OF OKINAWA

KEYSTONE OF THE PACIFIC RESISTANCE

Since World War II, Okinawa has been a floating Amerikan military base—and no one tries to keep it a secret. When you take the two hour bus ride from Naha Port (the capital) to Kadena Air Base in Koza for example, you could swear you were on Route 99 in Central California; once you leave the Japanese city of Naha, all you can see are A&W Root Beer stands, Used Ford Dealers, and high wire fences warning "All non-U.S. Military Personnel KEEP OUT!".

This is only the surface of the rape of Okinawa and the repression of the Okinawan people. In WW II, 98% of the island homes were destroyed, the city of Naha was levelled, and 65% of the people's farmland was forfeited to the Amerikans to build military bases. Since then, the Okinawan people have been living under the dictatorship of the US military. Any decision made on the island, from passports to sewers is subject to the veto power of Lt. General Lambert, US High Commissioner for the Ryukyuan Islands. The island is used for storage of deadly poisonous nerve gas and farmers' fields are used as artillery ranges. The air and water of the islands have been used as garbage dumps for poison gas and deadly chemicals in complete disregard for the inhabitants. For example, in one village junior high, the students ran frightened out of their classrooms, eyes smarting and streaming with tears. A US Commander strolled in later to apologize because his men had been conducting training maneuvers and had been using gas in mock battles. In another village, farmers found frogs with 9, 11, and 13 legs. Villagers worry, remembering the day last summer when children swimming at the beach were taken to the hospital for pains in the eyes, nose, chest and genitals. People don't swim in the beautiful beaches anymore.

And Okinawan workers, now landless, are forced to work on bases in the most menial jobs for slave wages. Even though they do all the work, they are not allowed PX privileges, and can't even go on the base while not on duty. Thousands of Okinawan women have been forced into prostitution to support their families: they work in the Red Light District, planned by US General Sheets and financed by the military. Okinawans are treated as low level intruders and outcasts in their own country.

But this is only one side of oppression in Okinawa. The other goes on inside the wirefences. There the lifers get fat and stay cool in their air-conditioned split level homes, complete with suburban lawns, swimming pools and several Okinawan servants, while GIs bust their ass doing meaningless shitwork in the hot sun. For their efforts, they face constant harrassment from the brass for growing their hair too long or wearing a peace symbol. The racist lifers come down especially hard on black brothers—so much so that many have gone AWOL and live in "The Bush", a black section in Koza. Those that stay on base put out **Demand for Freedom,** the GI's answer to **Stars and Stripes,** and go down to the Bush to be with their brothers and escape the man's harassment when they can. The brothers are very together, and the brass know they can do nothing about it. A few months ago, when some MPigs tried to track down an AWOL in the Bush, their MP station was trashed. They *know* not to come back.

The brass have always encouraged racism to keep the GI's isolated from the native people. They tell GIs not to associate with the "gooks", that they're all sneaky and are only out to rob and cheat. They try to use GIs to harass and arrest "uppity" Okinawans and put down their demonstrations. GIs who refuse to take part in this racist oppression are punished for it with coincidental Article 15's and transfers. The brass try to do anything to keep their "slaves" divided.

But things are changing: The GIs and the Okinawans both recognize their common enemy—the Amerikan lifer pigs and the imperialist racist system they're trying to force on the world. GIs and Okinawans are beginning to unite and fight together—and it is scaring the shit out of the brass.

Last winter, civilian organizers, black GIs at Kadena, and members of Zengunro (the Okinawan Base Workers Union) got together and talked about racism and the US military. Black GIs learned that Okinawan women who work on the bases as housekeepers make less than 30¢ an hour, and are not allowed to join the Union. Okinawans learned how racism in the military is used against GIs who aren't white. Black GIs wrote, **"The Black GIs are willing to help and talk to the Okinawans in order to form better relations between the oppressed groups, because we have so much in common. So why not get our heads together and come up with a solution to destroy the problem?"**

Soon these discussions led to actions of mutual support in each other's struggles:

• When the Zengunro struck the military bases last fall to protest the firing of baseworkers, GIs and Amerikan civilians posted signs all over the base area asking their brothers to "Support Zengunro" and not break the strike. The demands they listed included: "Stop the dismissal of baseworkers, Free Oppressed GIs, and All Power to the People!"

• Last December, Okinawans angrily protest when an Amerikan officer ran over an Okinawan housewife and was immediately released. In a spontaneous uprising, the people burned more than 80 MP and US pig cars at Kadena Air Base. Both the GIs at Kadena, as well as the Okinawans themselves, were behind this action. There was no looting and no GIs were attacked. Black GIs issued a statement of solidarity with the Okinawan action and circulated more than 3000 copies. They said, **"The Black people's struggle has been going on for over 400 years and it is still going on. The same with Okinawans. Black people have been fighting for Liberation for a long time. So have the Okinawans. Who can stop you from having what is rightfully yours? No one!" The Black GIs are aware of the situation that brought on the riot. And this was truly a RIGHT-ON MOVE. That's the only way they'll bend."**

• Okinawans, in turn, issued a statement which said in part, "We Okinawan people are concerned with the way the brass informed you of the riot. We do hate America, but we understand that in the base there are GIs who are oppressed and discriminated against. When we shout, *Yankee Go Home,* and burn your cars, we are aiming not at the oppressed GIs but at the system which oppresses us. We hate the military base and the power that puts and keeps it here, not individual GIs.

"Isn't Okinawa , except for the bases, a beautiful island? We want to welcome you to the beautiful beaches, and fields of sugar cane, peaceful in the moonlight. We want to welcome you as a friend, not as a tool of your system.

"We should realize that there are communication barriers and misunderstandings between us. That is the Pig's intention; to prevent us from having real contact. They are frightened that oppressed people on both sides of the fence will unite."

• A few weeks later in response to the riot, the military announced that firing was to begin on a fire range near farmland in northern Okinawa. About 700 farmers stormed the base in protest, armed with pitchforks and poles. During this rebellion, many Black marines separated from the troops and refused to fight. The situation was so uncertain that the military had to bring in turncoat Okinawans to protect the base.

• On June 16, there will be the Okinawan version of the People's Peace Treaty. Two marches are planned to start this day: one from north, one from south, collecting signatures from villages and bases. GIs and Okinawans will march together against US imperialism.

A strong united front is growing between GIs and Okinawans. If Okinawa is the keystone for the US counterrevolutionary strategy in Asia, it can also be turned into a keystone for the disruption of that strategy. The Okinawans write in a message to the GIs, *"Let us talk and move in solidarity so brothers will not be fighting brothers and those who oppress us will feel our anger."* **UNITE AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY.** □

an American sister throws underground GI papers over concertina wire barricade in Okinawa

MINDFUCK

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE (PSYOPS) SGT CHARGES OFFICERS WITH WAR CRIMES

David Poplin is a United States Army Staff Sergeant, and he used to work for 7th Psychological Operations. Seems Dave's been going through some changes.

On May 12, 1971 Poplin filed charges of war crimes against Capt. Nathaniel Cliett (U.S. Army, Korea Desk), Col. Harold Bentz (U.S. Army, Commanding Officer of the 7th Psychological Operation Group), and Lieut. Col. Neal Brayton (U.S. Army Commanding Officer of the K5 Psychological Operations Detachment. While filing, Dave was ordered by phone to report to his commanding officer. Obedience led him to be apprehended and placed incommunicado on suspicion of revealing classified information. Two days earlier, he explained in a press conference why he did it:

"Psychological operation, simply stated, is influencing the behavior of people so that they act in such a way as to support us." (quote from manual)

"The goals of psyops are absolutely irreconcilable with goals of world peace." (quote from manual)

Here's what Dave told the huge assembly of newsmen from all over the Asian world:

"Toys, radios that pick up only American Psyops broadcasts, propoganda soap that reveals seven layers of slogans as you wash, propoganda balloons, fountain pens, 7 billion propoganda leaflets, and commercial products difficult to find in target areas such as finishing lime, and ping-pong balls are dropped over Asian countries...Leaflets aim to subvert the people's minds and to subvert the stability of their governments."

"These charges state that needless deaths and injury have been inflicted on civilians of North Korea through the efforts of US psychological operations. They try to induce both civilians and military personnel to flee across a three mile strip of land where soldiers from both sides are armed and fire at anything that moves. *I feel that these psychologically induced suicides should* be stopped along with the complete psychological effort of the United States in Asia. The United States has no more right to attempt mental warfare on the people of Asia than it does to conduct physical warfare. Recently the 7th Psyops succeeded in penetrating Indonesia with its first Psyops personnel. It has already penetrated Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, and several other countries. Psychological Operations are banned against the people of the United States and to my knowledge, every other country in the world except those of Asia. Our government, feeling that Asian people are less deserving of the right to form their own opinions without intense Psychological Operations, uses Asia as a vast Psychological testing ground."

Dave was court-martialed on April 14 for a 15 day AWOL charge. He received restriction to base and was reduced to an E-1. Following the court-martial, he began to refuse to salute anyone, put on his uniform, or go to work on the grounds that he would not condone the military system. At one point the brass, in an effort to control Dave, offered him a general discharge if he'd only renounce the peace movement and condemn his lawyers as the cause of his troubles. Dave refused.

All this led to another court-martial, this one for five counts of disobedience, four counts of failure to repair, and one count of disrespect. He was put in the stockade for pre-trial confinement. Dave told them to forget it, and went on a hunger strike. He lasted eleven days, even though he was forced to sit in the mess hall during meals. He was also threatened with solitary because he tried to organize in the stockade.

Most recently, on May 15th at about 3am, Dave woke up as he was being slashed from his shoulder to his chest. Oddly enough, the guard, who was always on duty, must have stepped out for coffee or something cause no one was around. Another prisoner was also attacked. Both were taken to Camp Kue Hospital for treatment, but afterward were returned to the stockade. At this point, Dave requested to be put in segregation where he thought he'd be safer. All they did was drug him senseless and throw him back where he was before.

The Army is very uptight about Dave blowing their game. We feel that his case should be as public as possible. Letters of support and protest should be mailed to Congressman Ron Dellums and Congresswoman Bella Abzug (Longworth Building, Washington, D.C.), as well as to Dave's friends the Hobbits (Box 447, Koza, Okinawa). Write on! □

Make Your Own History

LONDON GI DEMONSTRATION

London (June 1) — One thousand GIs gathered in Hyde Park in London to protest the war. After the rally 300 brothers brought a petition to the US embassy which said in part: "We, the undersigned members of the US Air Force and Navy, stationed in England, are opposed to the American war in Indochina. Because Vietnamization is increasing the Air Force and Navy role in the war, it is more important than ever before that we voice our opposition." GIs have been working with American students in England to put out a paper called "PEACE", People Emerging Against Corrupt Establishments. (source: SF Chronicle)

MEDALS DON'T HACK IT IN DETROIT

Detroit (May 1) — Dwight Johnson was a 24-year-old black Nam vet who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1968. He was shot dead while trying to hold up a Detroit store. When you're hungry, you can't eat medals. (source: SF Chronicle)

ARMY RAIDS OWN HOSPITAL

San Francisco (April 29) — Two hundred men of the Medical Company of Letterman Hospital at the Presidio (6th Army Hq) and an unspecified number of patients, many of them war-wounded Nam returnees, were hit by a midnight drug raid on their barracks. About a dozen armed MPs and CIDs in civilian clothes forced men into halls, tore up their rooms, and kept them up most of the night without clothes in cold weather. "The people never identified themselves. They didn't tell us our rights. They threatened us and they broke into our rooms. It's just not justice," one Vietnam vet said. (source: SF Chronicle)

BLACK WORKERS STRIKE IN ALABAMA

Alabama (May) — Three years ago, the Huntsville city government recognized a newly formed union for sanitation workers. Since then the mayor has refused to negotiate. In the past weeks, after the strikers started a work slowdown, harassment of the black community by the police and fire departments has led to several major fires, one causing a half million in damages to a furniture warehouse. Residents of the black community have been burning their garbage to prevent disease. This brought the pigs down on the community with arrests, beatings, and the macing of a child. The strikers are mobilizing support outside of the city. (Guardian & LNS)

BATTALION COMMANDER PUSHES HEROIN IN SPB

Fort Knox (May) — The commanding officer of Knox SPB, Capt. Smoot, was busted on an interesting charge recently: possession of heroin. Two EMs were caught with him. He'd been supplying some of the men in SPB for some time, and apparently was dabbling in other drugs as well. Could Ft. Knox be trying to recruit subjects for its groovy drug rehab program? Does the Army want its men strung out behind junk? And how did the CO of an entire battalion get away with using and supplying heroin as long as he did? Maybe Knox is trying to top Bragg's addiction rate. (Camp News)

ARMY DISCHARGES 6 BLACK WACS—ORGANIZERS

Fort Meade (May 31) — Six black women who are active in a group called "Brothers & Sisters for Equality," are being hustled out of the Army. Their crime:they gave the post commander a list of grievances. Since Colonel Brinson couldn't deal with the demands, he's getting rid of the organizers. Looks like the Travis uprising is going to be rerun at Meade. (source: SF Chron)

TWO BLOWOUTS IN KOREA

Seoul (May) — GIs wearing civilian clothes had a demonstration and sit-in in Myongdong, a busy section of the capital city of Seoul, on May 17. The thirty-five guys did this to protest the US government's war against the Asian people. Thirty-one were arrested by Korean police, and then turned over to MPs. The Republic of Korea is a virtual police state, and that fact makes a downtown sit-in a very heavy and courageous act. Even heavier was the action taken less than ten days later by about 150 black GIs. In memory of the birthday of Malcolm X, and in resistance to their oppression as black soldiers in a racist military machine, they held a militant demonstration in downtown Seoul. But then they marched onto a nearby military installation, right into the post commander's office, and right out again after he refused to deal with them honestly. Still together, the brothers marched into the base cafeteria (reported to be a white-only establishment), demanded service, were turned away, and then busted things up. It took a unit of riot-equipped MPs to break them up. (source: KPFA News and SF Chronicle)

MARINES SAY "FUCK YOU" TO PARRIS ISLAND CO

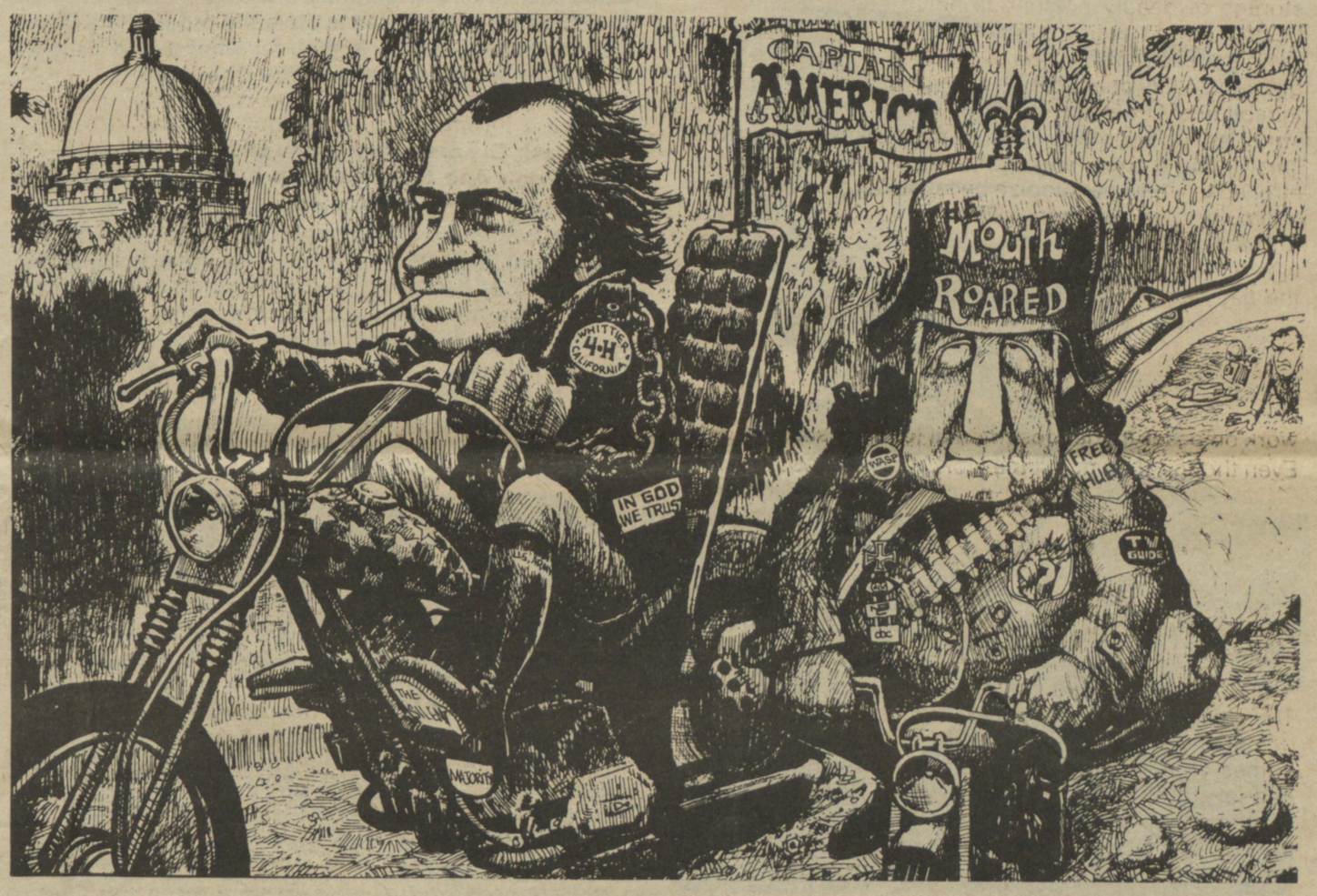
Fifty Marines gathered with 150 civilians at the first anti-war rally in Beaufort, South Carolina. Beaufort is the home of Parris Island, the Corps' training center where a gung-ho drill instructor marched trainees to their death in a swamp several years ago. The Marines, along with GIs from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, were first denied entrance and then admitted to a military cemetery where they placed a black wreath on the grave of a Nam vet. (source: Guardian)

GUATEMALA — NEXT VICTIM PLEASE

The US is working its little wonders in Central America where it sponsored an invasion in 1954 to depose a popularly elected government which threatened United Fruit Co.'s land holdings. Recently US funds have been used to buy paddy wagons, build a police academy ($400,000 for that one), buy 8 B-26s and 15 F-51D fighters. The ratio of US military advisors to Guatemalan army forces is higher than any other country in Latin America. A guerrilla movement fights on despite incredible repression including the use of napalm against peasants. (source: Guardian)

THE RAMSTEIN TWO MUST BE SET FREE

Germany (May) — In November 1970, revolutionary brothers and sisters were travelling throughout W. Germany to tell people about the arrival of Kathleen Cleaver and a Thanksgiving Day rally in Frankfurt. One information team was leafletting on Nov 19, and by mistake entered Ramstein Air Base. So they backed up the car to get off the base when a German civilian guard stopped them and asked for ID. The brothers explained that they drove on by mistake and were on their way out. Suddenly, the guard snatched the car keys from the ignition, pulled his .38, and fired. One of the brothers returned the fire, wounding the guard. The guard continued firing as the four brothers retreated. Two escaped, but two were captured by 300 German police, a squad of MPs and dogs. The West German government has no evidence (no weapon) and no motive (the four were there to pass out literature, not shoot a German guard at 3:30 in the afternoon). These two brothers want to hear from you. Write to "Voice of the Lumpen", 6 Frankfurt/M, Adalbertstrasse 6, West Germany.



PROFITS UP — PIGS SWARM TO PUBLIC STY

An independent analysis by the General Accounting Office of $4.3 billion worth of defense contracts awarded to private corporations showed a 56.1% profit. It looks like 50,000 GIs didn't die in Vietnam for nothing. To be precise, they died so that $2 billion plus could be ripped off from the taxpayer and put into the pockets of big businessmen. Now your chance "to die for your country" will be coming up soon because an unnamed Pentagon official has assured the defense industry in a closed meeting that profits "will probably increase." (source: SF Chronicle)

ROBIN HOOD RIDES AGAIN

Argentina (May 31) — British Consul and factory owner Stanley Sylvester was released in good health by the Peoples' Revolutionary Army, after the company he owned distributed $57,000 worth of food, blankets, and school supplies to eleven shanty towns and seven schools in the poor sections of Rosario, Argentina. In order to get their owner back, Swift Corporation also had to rehire 200 recently-fired workers, and give them back pay, food, and blankets. One Argentinan man said, "I'm all for this, as long as they don't kill him." (from the San Francisco Chronicle)

MORE VETS NEED HELP — FEWER GET IT

Washington, D.C. (April 24) — The White House has decided to respond to veterans' medical needs by cutting the budget for VA hospitals so that 47,000 fewer guys will get treatment during the coming year. This announcement comes at a time when more than 5000 vets who've been certified for care couldn't get into hospitals because they are too overcrowded. (Source: SF Chronicle)

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

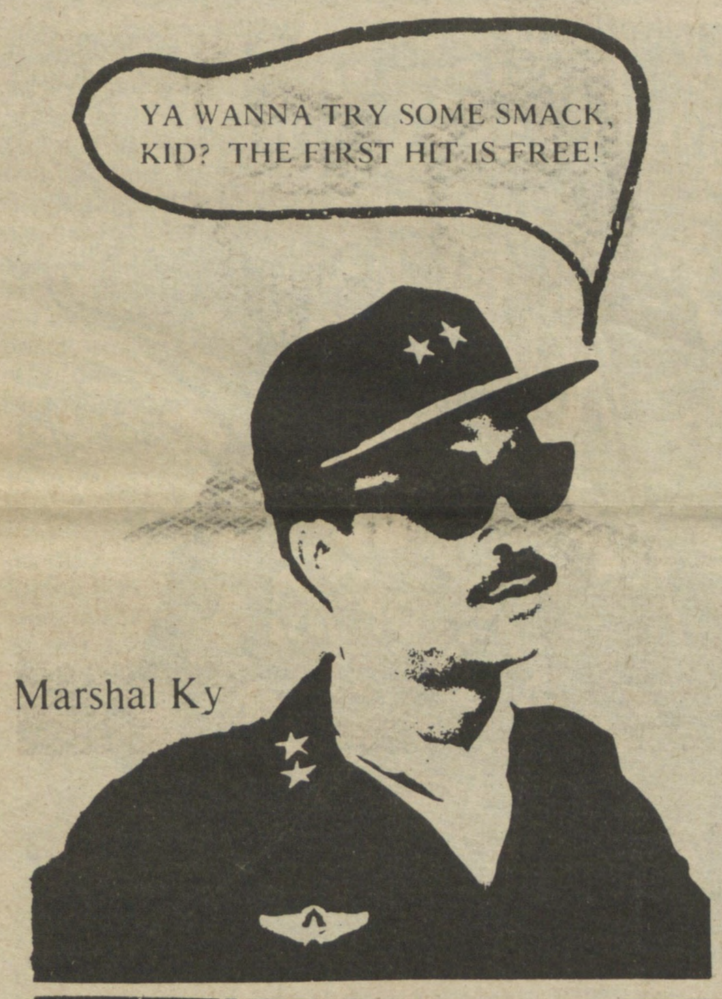
Vietnam (May 9) — 2d Lt. Rory J. Sutton was kicked out of the Army for acting like a human being. Here's what he did. Rory was living with the men in his unit (160th Signal Group at Long Binh) and refused an order to move out. Then he refused another order to stop wearing beads. So he was transferred in early February to Signal School 1 for rehabilitiation. In April, he and some EMs who were also there for the same thing, published a mimeo notice supporting the Vietnam Vets Against the War actions in Washington. They wore black armbands during the six days of protest. When Col. Davis, head honcho rehabilitator, ordered them to remove their armbands, they told him to shove it. So Rory got an Article 15, a $400 fine, and a general discharge. Wonder what happened to his EM friends? (source: Washington Post)

Although we rely as much as possible on the underground press and personal contacts for our information, we end up getting most of it from the mass media. We don't like to do it that way, but we have no choice. Since we don't have millions of dollars for reporter's salaries and airlines tickets and cross-country phone calls, the only way we're going to get the real news about our movement is if you all send us letters and tell us what's happening where you're stationed. Do a little poking around. Talk to guys in other units. Above all, do it! But be sure to tell us about it.

HISTORY cont'd

NIXON EATS ROAST BEEF — PEOPLE STARVE
Chicago (April 18) — A Harris poll shows that 65% of the American people feel that the country is in a recession. That's only a feeling. The fact is that the number of families which have had at least one member laid off went up from 16% in January to 23% in April. Now the Commerce Dept has reported that the number of Americans living in poverty increased 1.2 million during 1970 to 25.2 million. That's about one out of eight Americans, and most informed economists consider that a conservative figure (source: SF Chronicle)

CONGRESSMAN FOR TRYING NIXON
Washington, D.C. (May 11) — Cong. Ron Dellums held a news conference on the House steps, and said that Nixon should be impeached because of his policy on Vietnam. Dellums, along with twenty other Congressmen and women, is now considering how the impeachment resolution should be worded. Just one week earlier, another group of straight politicians, the Americans for Democratic Action, called on Congress to impeach Nixon for "high crimes in Indochina." (SF Chron)



BLACK MARINE ACQUITTED IN FRAGGING CASE
DaNang (May) — It took two months and a right-on civilian lawyer to get Jeffrey Smith off. He was charged with attempted murder and conspiracy to murder a racist lifer major. Jeff's lawyer, Rick Halprin, first moved to change the place of the trial. He then moved to remove all the lifers from the jury and replace them with EMs, espcially black EMs! Each juror was questioned at length. Finally, Rick weakend the Corps' case by exposing the lies of their witnesses: for more details on this case write CAMP, 2214 N. Halsted, Chicago, Illinois

GIANT CHICANO MARCH UNDERWAY
Mexico (May 5) — Brown organizations led by the Chicano Moratorium and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee began a Marcha de la Reconquista in Calexico, Mexico, on May 5. The march will focus on the issues of police brutality, education, welfare, and immigration. Rallies will be held along the way at a dozen or more different cities. The march will end in Sacramento in August with a gathering of up to 100,000 Chicanos. (source: Guardian)

ARMY ASKS ANTIWAR OFFICERS TO RESIGN
Fort Bragg (May 24) — In early May, 29 officers signed an ad in the "Fayetville Observer", a North Carolina paper, calling for withdrawal of all American military personnel and advisers from Vietnam by the end of 1971. All the officers were young, not lifers, and members of the Concerned Officers Movement. Well, the brass freaked, and "suggested" that they all resign since their position conflicted with the oath they all took in which they agreed to obey the order of the Commander in Chief (Nixon). Wonder what would happen to an EM in the same position? (SF Chronicle)

NIXON SHOOTS UP — GIs
Washington (May 5) — CIA and government backing of the heroin traffic in S.E. Asia is being exposed now one piece at a time. Congressman Bob Steele is preparing a report that will document how the CIA airline "Air America" has been transporting opium or opium derivatives from northern Laos into Vientiane. Newspaper writer Jack Anderson got news of the report, and said that it implicates a Laotian Prince, the Laotian puppet Army commander, the CIA, US diplomats, and South Vietnamese Premier Khiem as direct pushers or indirect profiteers. The most complete exposure is in the May 1971 issue of Ramparts (2054 University Ave., Berkeley, California 94704). It's entitled, "Marshal Ky: The Biggest Pusher in the World?"

DELLUMS ROCKS THE BOAT
San Diego (April 18) — Congressman Ron Dellums has been stirring up the military lately with frequent visits to Army bases. In April, he got into a four-hour rap with the skipper and black crew members from the carrier Constellation. The captain was surprised to hear that racism existed—somehow he'd overlooked the different punishments given to blacks and whites, and that black women weren't invited to EMdances. The captain had better keep his eyes open for the rest of the iceberg. (source: SF Chronicle)

"VIETNAMESE HAVE CHILDREN TOO"
HUNDREDS OF JAPANESE MARCH ON AIRBASE
Tokyo (May 5) — Hundreds of demonstrators marched on the huge US air base at Yokota, in solidarity with the spring anti-war offensive in the United States. The march, which wound around the high mesh fence of the air base, was held on May 5, the traditional Japanese children's holiday. A dozen Americans marched along, and later rapped with GIs inside the base over bullhorns. The march itself diverted traffic from the front entrance to the camp, and slowed traffic in and out of the base for hours. Airmen inside the base said that the march really fucked up the brass, and was dug by everyone but the lifers there.

FT. LEWIS & McCHORD AFB SICK CALL STRIKE
Tacoma, Wash. (May 3) — It was not quite a usual day at Lewis or McChord: one unit of basic trainees went on sick call on their first day of training; an entire company's sick call slips were "lost"; a training day was cancelled for an entire company because 35 GIs all went on sick call. All this happened at the May 3d Sick Call Strike, called by the GI Alliance in support of the People's Peace Treaty. The dispensaries handled 3 to 4 times the average number of people on sick call. As one brother put it, "Nobody worked. We either slept, or rapped or got high all day. We really did stop the Army. Next time, we'll fuck them and the Air Force too." (source: Liberation News Service)

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"America is a society where there is no brotherhood. This society is controlled primarily by the racists and segregationists who are in Washington, D.C., in positions of power. And from Washington, D.C., they exercise the same forms of brutal oppression against dark-skinned people in South and North Vietnam, or in the Congo, or in Cuba or any other place on this earth where they are trying to exploit and oppress. That is a society whose government doesn't hesitate to inflict the most brutal form of punishment and oppression upon dark-skinned people all over the world."

MALCOLM X
BORN MAY 19, 1925
KILLED FEB. 21, 1965

The wheel of the law turns without pause.
After the rain, good weather. In the wink of an eye
The universe throws off its muddy clothes.
For ten thousand miles the landscape spreads out
like a beautiful brocade
Light breeze. Smiling flowers.
High in the trees, amongst the sparkling leaves
All the birds sing at once.
Men and animals rise up reborn.
What could be more natural?
After sorrow comes joy.

— Ho Chi Minh

HO CHI MINH
BORN MAY 19, 1890
DIED SEPT. 2, 1969

'Thanks Mrs. Dinh'

AN OPEN LETTER TO MRS. NGUYEN THI DINH SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES (PLAF) OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Paris, May 1, 1971

We are a group of American Servicemen who are on unauthorized leave here in the Paris Area. I myself served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. I thought we were there to keep the peace. When I was on R&R in Phugtau, I talked to a lot of Vietnamese. We always thought they were with the National Liberation Front (NLF). You really had to hand it to them. They explained that if all the foreign troops would leave Vietnam, the Vietnamese people would make peace themselves and decide on the kind of government they wanted.

This is the first time that the US Army has had a Revolutionary Army in front of them, and they don't know how to cope with them. A lot of the GIs think more of the NLF than they do of their own commanding officers. If I was asked to go to Vietnam now, I would be glad to do so if there was some way it could help the Vietnamese people. I understand very well that there are GIs now fighting with the NLF.

While some of us resist inside the Army, some of us have gone on prolonged leave until the Vietnam war is over. We are in a weird new unit here in Paris. We really appreciated Duong Dinh Thao's press conference. He picked up all the points we are now working on:

—we send out anti-war literature
—we put out a newsletter "ACT" here in Paris, and we like to think some GIs life may be saved because he is carrying some ACTs around with him.
—we also help soldiers who desert or go AWOL, whether for political reasons, or because of a lot of harassment in the Army, because of racism or some guy pulling rank or both.

We think this open declaration of your support for our struggle inside and outside the Army is great. We really feel we're fighting together with the Vietnamese people to end this war now! We hope you won't mind that we are sending this as an open letter. We think a lot of GIs, in and out of the Army, feel as we do. If there is any way in which our support here in Paris can be of help to you please call on us.

E-5 Sgt. John Herndorn (temporarily self-retired)
RA 13996407
late of the 101st Airborne (Co. G, 2/502), S. Vietnam

TRAVIS AFB cont'd

blame off themselves. They look good if it looks like we're fighting among ourselves."

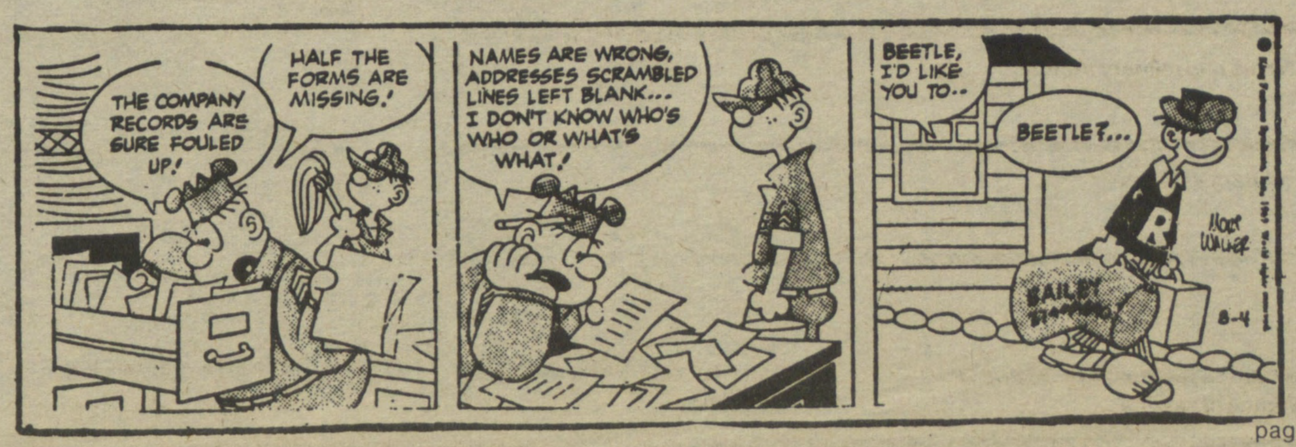
Another airman named specific grievances. He said, *"Whites and blacks, we're all in the same bag. The difference is between us and the officers. For example, the pay raise. They do it by percentage. So that means when we get a 7% raise, and I'm making $200 a month and he's making a thousand—well, who benefits from that? He gets almost as much in a raise as I get in a whole month's check."*

What came out of the thing was that guys decided that the only way changes were going to be made was if they made them. Yes, the Air Force is institutionally racist. Yes the Air Force also oppresses all WAFs and airmen. Yes, the Air Force is used against people who are fighting for their own liberation. But *asking* **the Air Force to stop doing any one of those things was going to make absolutely no difference.**

Airmen and WAFs, blacks and whites, met together off base on May 26. They decided to start a base paper. The beginning of a movement is there. The presence of local radical Nam vets and right-on dependents' kids will help. A lot of people on Travis and in the nearby towns of Vacaville and Fairfield share a real hatred of what the Air Force has done to their lives. So watch towards Travis—shades of things to come. □

HELP!

Well, we've never asked for your help before. But now we need it. We're flat broke, and we need your backing. One dollar from every person who subscribes would bring in enough to carry us through the next three issues. It's not much. But if we get that bill from those of you who've been digging the paper for a while now, we'll be able to keep going. Without you, we're nothing. Support us. □



No More Kent States

We, the undersigned, are National Guardsmen/Reservists.

Last year many of us were called to active duty: the New York mail strike. Black protests. Demonstrations against the war. Kent State.

We are not proud of having taken arms against our fellow Americans.

We do not want to do so again.

We take this day, the anniversary of the Kent State killings, to express our whole-hearted agreement with those who have demonstrated against the ever-expanding war, both then and again in recent weeks.

We do not think armed force is the answer to the demands of war protesters, poor people and strikers. We believe there are better answers: Full employment. Reconstructed cities. An immediate withdrawal of American troops AND planes from the Asian war.

We have all enlisted for six years service in the U. S. military. But what we are doing now—training to shoot down our fellow-citizens—is no service to anyone. However, there is a real service in America we would be glad to do. The National Guard traditionally rescues people from natural disasters such as hurricanes and avalanches; today our nation is in the midst of a social disaster of unparalleled magnitude. We suggest: train our units not to shoot rifles, but to give the medical services millions of Americans without health care urgently need. Train us not to waste time at useless drills, but to rebuild our cities. Train us not to fight other Americans, but to prevent the increasing pollution of our common environment.

That would be service we could perform with honor. Another Kent State would not.

Partial list of signers:
(Full list available on request)

CAPT Peter Sherman, Army Reserve
CAPT Kenneth Frankel, Army Reserve
CAPT Jack Maidman, Army Reserve
LT W. A. Brenner, Naval Reserve
LT James Sartoris III, Army Reserve
LT Ed Benson, Naval Reserve
SP-4 Edward L. Smick, Army National Guard
E-2 Steven D. Frank, Army National Guard
PVT Harry Miller, Army National Guard
SGT Terry Moore, Air National Guard
SGT William Stamnes, Army National Guard
PFC Gary Edwards, Army National Guard
PVT Bill Rounds, Army National Guard
E-5 Pete Cowie, Army National Guard
SPT/4 Scott Sargent, Army National Guard
PFC Joe E. Ward, Army National Guard
PFC Lonnie Snowden, Army Reserve
AMN Donald Harris, Army National Guard
PFC Edward Kunkel, Army National Guard
PFC David Cass, Army Reserve
PFC Charles Johnson, Army National Guard
SP-5 Brendan Lavis, Army Reserve
SP-4 Ed Goodman, Army National Guard
SP-4 Howard M. Loeb, Army Reserve
E-5 Jim Clark, Army National Guard
E-5 John Jenkins, Army National Guard
E-4 Cliff Redmon, Army National Guard
James Kurachka, Army Reserve
SP-4 James Hummer, Army National Guard
SN Brian Hayes, Naval Reserve
SP-4 Jerry Lembcke, Army Reserve
PS2 H. W. Darmsdadt, Coast Guard Reserve
E-4 Thomas Rieke, Army Reserve
SGT Martin Fleisher, Air Force Reserve
PFC Jeffrev London, Army Reserve
PFC John Malone, Marine Reserve
SGT Stephen West, Air Force Reserve
PFC William Gabler, Army Reserve
QM-3 Lawrence Fisher, Naval Reserve
SP-4 Danford Grant Schow, Army Reserve
SGT Michael Ryan, Air Force Reserve
SP-4 William LeBlanc, Army Reserve
SP-5 Kevin O'Keefe, Army Reserve
EN-3 Steven April, Coast Guard Reserve
SGT Michael MacLaurin, Army Reserve
E-1 James R. Williams, Army Reserve

CAPT Sam F. Davenport, Air Force Reserve
CAPT Charles Naness, Air Force Reserve
LT Ernest Notar, Naval Reserve
LT David Lamenzo, Army Reserve
LT James Santana, Army Reserve
AIC Mario Guarneri, Air National Guard
PV2 Robert Sterin, Army National Guard
Bruce Wolff, Army Reserve
E-4 Terry Taylor, Army Reserve
SP-5 Allen Petrich, Army Reserve
Douglass Hilfield, Army National Guard
SP-4 Donald Jensen, Army National Guard
SP-4 Paul Nester, Army National Guard
PFC Dante Venturi, Army Reserve
SP-4 Robert Bernius, Army National Guard
SP-4 James Szyper, Army National Guard
E-6 Michael Goff, Army Reserve
PFC Henry Coudlen, Army Reserve
SSGT Dennis Harford, Army National Guard
E-1 William Shannon, Army Reserve
PFC Richard Stefaniak, Army Reserve
SP-4 Robert Holloway, Army Reserve
E-4 Heinz Stucki, Army Reserve
E-5 Harold Fawthrop, Jr., Army Reserve
E-2 Robert Rothermel, Army Reserve
L/CPL Glenn Seymour, Marine Reserve
E-4 Peter Marvin, Army Reserve
E-4 Ronald A. Hall, Army Reserve
E-4 Timothy Carney, Army Reserve
E-4 Allen D. Israel, Army Reserve
PFC Maurice Wolohan, Army Reserve
E-3 Michael P. King, Army Reserve
L/CPL Scott Novak, Marine Reserve
PFC R. D. Piety, Army Reserve
HM-2 Steve Plath, Naval Reserve
E-3 David I. Siegal, Army Reserve
E-4 Tom Cohen, Army Reserve
E-3 Steve Winn, Army Reserve
PFC Tim Beatty, Marine Reserve
CPL Richard Lloyd, Marine Reserve
CPL John Wright, Marine Reserve
E-2 Thomas Strauss, Army Reserve
PFC Jerry Grunnagle, Marine Reserve
E-3 Harry D. Gois, Army Reserve
SP-4 Mark A. Levy, Army Reserve
SP-4 Stephen O. Rothschild, Army Reserve

MAJ Kenneth Mayers, Marine Reserve
MAJ William Shyne, Army Reserve
CAPT Robert Thomas, Army Reserve
LT Reginald Young, Naval Reserve
LT Daniel Vellucci, Army Reserve
LT Charles, Naval Reserve
LT Matthew Mark Gallo, Army Reserve
2LT Lynn Williams, Army Reserve
2LT Richard Lehmann, Army Reserve
2LT Peter Lokhammer, Air Force Reserve
AIC Ralph Smith, Air National Guard
E-3 Loren W. Brown, Army National Guard
E-3 Chris Reither, Army National Guard
PFC Michael E. White, Army National Guard
L/CPL Roger Wintle, Marine Reserve
E-3 Robert T. Carlson, Army Reserve
E-3 George Strutt, Army Reserve
E-3 Thomas O'Connor, Jr., Army Reserve
L/CPL James Draper, Marine Reserve
E-3 Robert M. Stacy, Army Reserve
PV3 Bruce Andrews, Army Reserve
E-3 Jeffrey L. Amestoy, Army Reserve
SP-4 Michael Jackson, Army Reserve
E-2 David Roiger, Army Reserve
E-3 Frederic Chiles, Army Reserve
E-4 Dale M. Fleck, Army Reserve
E-4 Jere J. Willey, Army Reserve
SP-5 Charles Whatley, Army Reserve
E-4 Larry J. Lacerte, Army Reserve
SP-4 William Maderer, Army Reserve
E-4 Dennis Stevens, Army Reserve
E-4 Donald Kowalewshy, Army Reserve
AIC Douglas Frazier, Air Force Reserve
E-4 George Pfundheller, Army Reserve
E-4 Douglas Hartley, Army Reserve
CPL Gene Edward Burch, Marine Reserve
SGT Richard Ciraillo, Army Reserve
E-4 Ronald B. Davis, Army Reserve
E-2 Joseph Fischgrund, Army Reserve
E-4 Mark J. Fiorentino, Army Reserve
E-3 Robert Kjoller, Army Reserve
E-4 Paul Merrill, Army Reserve
PFC Marc Rosen, Army Reserve
SP-4 Harry Wiland, Army Reserve
E-5 Steve McColbugh, Marine Reserve
E-4 David Surles, Army Reserve