UP AGAINST THE BULKHEAD

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KINSTON, N.C.

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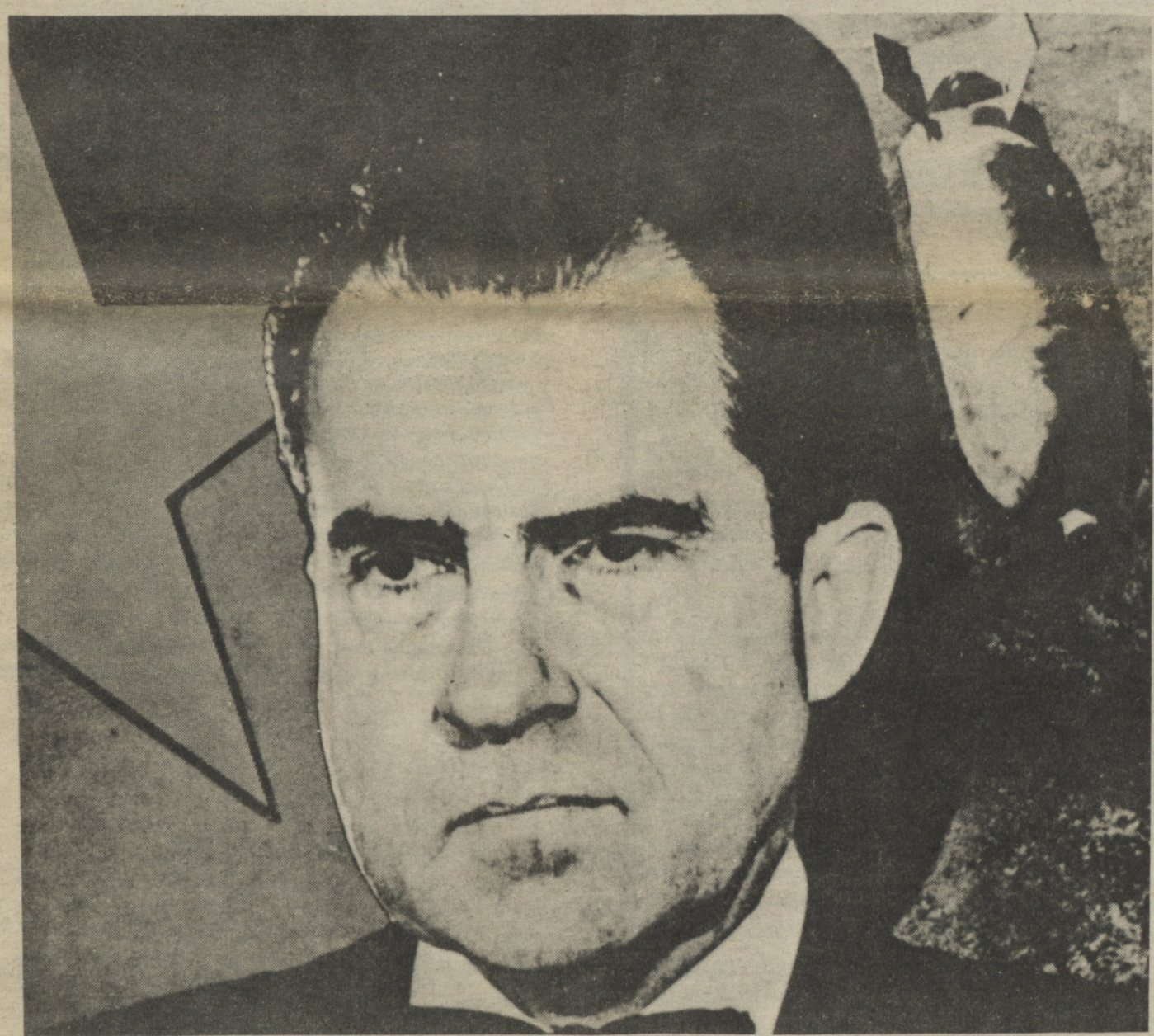
PSYCHOPATHIC MASS MURDERER LOOSE



"SOME OF OUR CITIZENS HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THINKING THAT WHATEVER OUR GOVERNMENT SAYS MUST BE FALSE; AND WHATEVER OUR ENEMIES SAY MUST BE TRUE, AS FAR AS THIS WAR IS CONCERNED."
PRESIDENT NIXON JAN 1972

He's flipped out again. There's been lots of talk about bringing our boys home. Nixon has boasted proudly of Vietnamization and 'winding down the war' while he quietly increased air attacks on North Vietnam. GIs and civilians responded with a new wave of demonstrations parti- cularly at air bases in the first four months of '72. Then suddenly, the Nixon game plan fell apart, overnight, just like that, a paper tiger as the Chinese would say. Viet Cong guerrillas supported by NVA troops in a month of fighting smashed Vietnamization beyond repair and the war was winding down - to the last desperate attempt by the maniacs in power to salvage their 'honor' (sick!) through a military victory. Now Nixon is desperate and dangerous. As usual everyone but he and the aging pigs who feed with him at the public trough will have to pay. Haiphong has been mined and all ports in North Vietnam are under American blockade. American planes have struck the dikes in rice-growing areas of North Vietnam, threatening the lives of millions. Up til now about 30,000 more troops have been dispatched to combat zones, and American casualties, even the official ones, are going up. One hundred and forty-two men alone, by US government count, were lost over Vietnam in April. An undisclosed number of ships firing on Vietnam have been hit by coastal batteries. Marine combat units have been sent from Okinawa on float off Vietnam. Their chopper pilots are already filling in for the US-backed ARVN pilots who have somehow failed to provide air support for their fleeing troops. Who knows what insane mission these brothers will be sent on: Raids into the North? A last desperate attempt to save the few remaining US bases in the South? B-52s have been sent from the states. Marine air squadrons have been moved from Iwakuni, Japan to DaNang. Ships from all over the world sent to blockade the North and pour fire into coastal areas.

Millions of Americans are totally fed up. This is insane! We have to stop them before they kill us all!

As always GIs and veterans are at the forefront taking the heaviest risks:

- The USS MIDWAY left early for Nam on April, but not without protest from members of one of the air

(see back page)

Two ex-junkies rap, p.6

INSIDE: The 'VC', p.9 POWs, p.12

Coral Sea SOS, p.4

LETTERS

"I JUST READ MY FIRST ISSUE OF BULKHEAD. IT WAS SO INSPIRING I'VE DECIDED TO QUIT UNCLE SUGAR."

"IT IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE BETWEEN US AND 'IT' (LIFERS, NEGATIVE FORCES, WHATEVER)."

Hello, *March 19, 1972*

I'm an E-3 presently aboard the Enterprise and it's a complete drag! (That goes without being said.) As you know, the ship is presently at Hunters Point for upkeep and refit. I don't really know how many other brothers aboard want this ship to not go over to Nam in September, but I know I'd rather see this ship sink than participate in the genocide presently being perpetrated by the present administration.

This ship desperately needs to be turned on to SOS! Pamphleteering, and some talks with the crew could possibly get a shipboard movement started. Please don't forget us of the Big "E".

I'm not going to sign this because I have to send it through the ship's mail box and it may get ripped off.

Good luck and love to all of you!!

The Fox
USS Enterprise

Dear Bulkhead *Dec. 15, 1971*

I just read my first issue of Bulkhead. It was so inspiring I decided to quit Uncle Sugar.

I hear about guys everyday that are getting out by just telling everyone to FUCK OFF. Sooner or later the A.F. just dumps them in disgust and with a sigh of relief. Well I want to be dumped too.

Everytime I've been confronted with Art. 15's etc. I've always backed down and surrendered my principals——man that's got to stop!

You've got to send me your paper! And not just for myself I've got to turn other people onto it also. Maybe it will help get some peoples heads together.

So send me 10 Bulkheads so I can turn people on to whats happening around their fucking naive heads.

My donation's small but you know how monetarily deprived and repressed the A.F. (and all branches of the military) try to make its lower grade victims.

Power to the People.
Will
Travis AFB, California

Dear Bulkhead, *December 20, 1971*

So what's going on? Anything? Well, I got your letter, and I got some news, if you call it that. On Dec. 12 we had planned on having a rally at a local park to discuss the possibilities of having a sit-down strike during the Inspector General's visit during Feb. of '72. The outcome was fantastic! 8 people, 1 suspected CID, and 2 super lifers. Duirng the week of the 5th-10th of Dec., we posted over 700 posters on telephone poles, buildings, and trucks to advertise the rally. It was far out, going around following Pigs, putting up signs right behind them, but evidently some pigs were right behind us taking them down. It was a real bummer. We were going to strike for better living quarters, better messing facilities, and less lifer harassment. So I was wondering if you might have any suggestions on how we might be able to pull this gig over. Please let me know. Also I am enclosing $2.00. It isn't much, but it's all I can afford ($20.00 a month don't go far). It should be able to buy a piece of meat for someone.

In Freedom and Peace,
Brother Richard
MCB 29 Palms, California

Brothers and Sisters,

You may have been wondering where we've been these last six months. Why hasn't there been a Bulkhead *? And who are these people anyway, and what do they do? We thought we'd let you know a little about ourselves and the* Bulkhead *in this issue, and then ask you for some help.*

The six of us who work on the newspaper are all involved in other activities also. No one works on the Bulkhead *full-time. Some of us work and we are all involved in the anti-war movement and in other parts of the anti-military struggle. We all worked on the support for the Coral Sea SOS movement, and after the ship left in November and we put out the last issue, we sort of collapsed for a while. It had been a back-breaking Fall. But we're back again now, and hope to be coming out more regularly in the future.*

When we put out an issue we get our information from lots of different sources. The GI newspapers from all over the world are some of the best sources. (There are probably 100 of these papers at different bases now.) We also get news from revolutionary organizations and newspapers in all parts of the world, among them the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG). The civilian underground press also provides us with information for the paper, with Pacific News Service and Liberation News Service being especially good. Another source is the straight press and papers like the Overseas Weekly. We can't always trust what we read in these papers and magazines, but sometimes they'll have stories in them that we can check out in other ways, like by calling a local GI project about a demonstration that the S.F. Chronicle reported happened in their town.

Finally, our most important source of information, but unfortunately the one that's hardest to get, is stories from you. One thing we try to do with the paper is to print news that you won't hear about in other places. And you can bet that when something happens on a base, no one but people on that base are going to hear about it. Unless, of course, you write to us about it, in which case it will appear in 20,000 copies of the Bulkhead *.*

There are probably two other things that you're wondering about. How do we distribute the paper, and where do we get the money to do it all? Well, the distribution's easy. There are subscribers (some of you distributors of 10, 20 or 100 papers); there are GI projects; and there is hand to hand distribution in the San Francisco Bay Area at airports, bus terminals, outside bases, etc.

We left the money question for last because it's the clincher. Another reason that we haven't come out in six months is because we're broke. We get some money from United States Servicemen's Fund in New York City which helps to fund GI papers and GI projects. But that just covers a little. We have some individual contributors, both civilians and GIs, but never enough. So we have to turn to you, the subscribers and readers, and ask you to help support the Bulkhead *, if you dig it. A few bucks a month from everyone would put us in good shape.*

But if you can't give money (we know military pay ain't gonna make you millionaires), still write to us and give us news. If nothing exciting's happening, tell us that. Tell us what your base, or ship, or unit is like. Or what the country you're stationed in is like. You may think that what's happening to you is happening to you alone. It's not. It's happening to everyone.

Bulkhead People

Dear Richard,

Even though we haven't been in the Green Suck we've been to 29 Stumps. It's a great place, looks like a model for the first moon base. We can't do much to change that, but sympathize a whole lot with you.

There's one thing you might use. People on the Coral Sea had the same problem with lifers ripping things down, so they printed messages on gummed paper. It comes in 8½X11 inch reams, so you could put one or several ideas on one sheet. Just lick it and stick it up anywhere.

Keep on Keeping on,
Bulkhead People

"SO FIRE ME"

"I HAVE SEEN FEAR ETCHED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE FACES OF OTHERWISE CONFIDENT PILOTS WHO IN THE STATES TALKED BOLDLY OF BOMBING AND KILLING. IT'S EASY TO BE BRAVE WHEN YOU'RE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM A WAR THAT APPEARS TO BE WINDING DOWN. ALL THAT IS CHANGED...."

April 30, 1972

Greetings From The Proverbial Mysterious East:

We are presently west bound across the South China Sea and reach the 'Line' (ominous sounding, isn't it?) sometime today. Let me begin this letter by thanking you for corresponding... It's kind of like having a window on reality after living in this fantasy of steel and salt water for nearly a month. You have asked me for a commentary on what's happening on the MIDWAY, so I shall begin; and please feel free to use whatever materials I set down in any manner you see fit.

Perhaps I should begin with what's going on with John Powers [see sanctuary story page 16] who shares a similar set of views. John is a perfect example of how the Navy will label someone as a dissident element and use this as a justification to 'shit-can' him for the duration of his so-called Naval career. Being well read, of what I would consider a superior intellect, and quite sincere in his convictions, John, for as long as I have known him, was shit-canned and given the stimulating job of being compartment cleaner. I'm sure this sounds all too familiar to people who are TAD to the laundries, gallies, sculleries. and CPO compartments of the US Navy. Anyway, I need not elaborate on more recent events...I'm sure the news media has taken care of that. But where is he now? I quote from the USS MIDWAY POD: "POWERS,J.D., AN, VF-151

OFFENSES: Viol Art 86 UCMJ - UA for a period of 3 days and 4 hours. Viol Art 87 UCMJ - Missing Ship's movement through neglect.

PUNISHMENT: 10 days correctional custody, 40 days restriction, forfeiture of $100.00 for two (2) months, and reduction to E-2."

Rather strict...Sounds like the Navy's getting in its last licks before his discharge. Vengeance is mine sayeth the U.S. Navy. The last I heard from him, he was in a berthing space rather than the brig, but was sleeping under a cold air duct, with a single and inadequate blanket. One can also see him, under Marine guard, taking his meals. He cannot look to either side or up, nor can we sit anywhere near him. After eating, he must wipe each utensil clean with a napkin...Is this justice, or harassment and cruelty straight out of the Spanish Inquisition? What kind of society is it that teaches us to live and promote its lies and, at the same time, makes most of us afraid to stand up for what we know to be true? John was not afraid...How can the military beast expect acts of gallantry from men that have been taught obedience through fear? Enough, before I become too rhetorical.

Speaking in general terms, I have seen fear etched for the first time in the faces of otherwise confident pilots who in the States talked boldly of bombing and killing. It's easy to be brave when you're thousands of miles from a war that appears to be winding down. All that is changed, and I cannot blame the pilots...Maybe for once it's more important to be afraid than void of human emotion. If only self-concern could be replaced by concern for those who will be murdered in showers of fire and shrapnel.

Before I close for the time being, I do have one request...One of the MIDWAY brothers is thinking seriously about going C.O., and asked if I could get in touch with someone who could give him specifics on procedures, and anything else that might help. I'd appreciate any assistance you could give him. Me, I'll keep in touch...

Yours in Peace,
Doug
U.S.S. Midway

"You're damn right it's serious. . .they took the ship with them!"

February 10, 1972

To Bulkhead Brothers and Sisters,

I received your letter and also the newspapers you sent. Thank you very much. As of now, I have not yet received the package you mentioned in your letter.

To let you in on what's been happening here, politically, the situation is grim. There are many good people stationed here and I am sure you are well aware, it is a constant struggle between us and "it" (lifers, negative forces, whatever).

In the past few months, some of us have been able to escape with General Discharges. Unfortunately, my own attempt was disapproved, twice, and I am now trying for a Conscientious Objector Discharge, which also seems highly unlikely.

There is no organization here other than a Black Expression Group, which appears to be little more than rhetorical or at best an "officially approved" ombudsman between our Black Brothers and the higher echelons on base.

Presently, some very good people are in the Alexandria(city near the base) County Jail serving time for possession of marijuana (all first offenders--as far as the law is concerned, that is). City officials, in anticipation of coming elections have decided to build an impressive law and order record by cracking down on drug users (naturally the most defenseless and easiest to catch), most of whom are GI's from the base, who are, coincidentally, from "up North" (damn Yankees trying to corrupt their children). These people are then railroaded by that particularly unique form of Southern "justice". Kafka surrealism is alive and well down here.

Actually, our suffering is held to a minimum, as most of us realize it's all a giant production anyway, but at times it is frustrating.

Your newspapers were well received and we wish to thank you again for caring. We love you.

Peace,
Michael
England AFB, Louisiana

Hi Bulkhead, *December 20, 1971*

Thanks for the info on the SOS movement. A special thanks for the big info package. It was very heavy and greatly appreciated.

Norfolk isn't exactly a hot spot for dissidents/non-conformists or whatever term is appropriate. The scope of the military/industrial/commercial complex in this area in incredible. This goes much farther than a rip-off alley--this is rip-off city.

But there are signs that some people are aware of the situation around here. While the city can boast of its stable business community and of few civil disorders, the individual crime rate is totally overlooked by promoters of the Norfolk image. The 28 million dollar civic and cultural center opened recently with a show called "Spirit of Amerika" complete with military theme and Air Force drill teams, the works. At the same time a great number of people of the city face housing shortages, poor schools, hunger, and poor public services.

Getting back to the military rap. Norfolk's only well supplied head shop downtown (6½ miles away) does about the largest business of any I've seen anywhere. Nearly 60% I'd say were military customers. Let's hear it for military spending. Downtown's Crazy Horse Bookstore is doing quite well providing alternative literature and instigating many activities around here lately.

Concerned Military, an activist group of officers and enlisted people, has been sponsoring the Commonplace Coffee House which has been moderately successful. Many more projects are in the planning stage. Hopefully Concerned Military will come on strong in the months ahead to become a vital voice for change and action here in Norfolk. As for newspapers,there's The Norfolk Gorilla *aimed at both the community and military. Another paper aimed at the military is struggling to get a first copy out in the near future. Organization and communication continue to be a problem here. Well that's a general idea of how things shape up around Norfolk, Virginia. Peace from the east coast.*

K.B.
Norfolk, Virginia

USS CORAL SEA

SOS ALIVE AND

Early last September thirteen brothers aboard the USS Coral Sea started a Stop Our Ship (SOS) movement on board their aircraft carrier. They weren't into fighting Nixon's war. Three months later after gathering over 1200 names on an anti-war petition and after many rallies, picnics, and demonstrations the Coral Sea sailed for Vietnam. Some people thought that meant the movement was a failure.

But many brothers did not sail on November 12. The Navy said that only 30 didn't show, but SOS sources aboard ship put the number as high as 300. Seven crewmen turned themselves in after 28 days UA and said: **"Just as we left the Coral Sea, we know that increasing numbers of brothers and sisters in the military will find the courage to resist the intimidation of their COs and refuse to fight."**

On the day our ship, the Coral Sea, sailed, close relatives were on the pier saying good-bye to their sons and husbands. The Navy band was also there playing such great tunes as "Anchors Away." The whole scene was very depressing.

But at the same time that Captain Harris [the ship's commanding officer] was telling both reporters and his own crew that the Stop Our Ship (SOS) movement was dead, approximately 2000 civilians, vets, and GIs assembled outside the East Gate at NAS Alameda to support our movement and oppose deployment. This account will cover the activities of the SOS movement on board the aircraft carrier Coral Sea after we left the States.

"WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ALL SORT OF EXTRA WORK, AND WORKING PARTIES. I GUESS THE REAL HASSLES STARTED WHEN THEY FOUND THAT WE WERE MEMBERS OF SOS. THEY NOW MAKE US WORK ON BOMB LOADING PARTIES FOR THE REASON THAT THEY KNOW WE ARE AGAINST THE WAR. I HAVE REFUSED TO WORK ON THEM AND THEY WRITE ME UP. I NOW HAVE THREE REPORT CHITS ON ME..."

The wives and girlfriends of several of the men organized a demonstration in support of them when they were confined to correctional custody at Treasure Island. The women wrote a release for the press saying, **"We have had to live with their despair and discouragement in the months prior to the ship's movement. Since then we have had to wait, not really knowing what was happening to them, and now we are faced with the fear that they may be sent back to the ship to participate in a mass murder which they cannot morally support."**

Because of the pressure that the women and SOS supporters put on the Navy, none of the men was returned to the Coral Sea. And so from the many brothers who missed ships movement and from the many more who sailed, we get a different picture. SOS is alive and well!

Jeff is an SOS brother who was recently discharged from the Navy and wrote the following article to fill us in on the progress of the SOS movement on board ship.

FROM CALIFORNIA TO HAWAII

For the first time, the fact that we were actually sailing for Vietnam became a reality. The brothers in my division talked about how we should have been more active in the SOS movement. We had gone to the marches and rallies but we now felt we should have done something more, anything.

That period between Alameda and Hawaii was perhaps the lowest period of our lives. We knew we had to do something but we had not organized in any sense and had no contacts with brothers in other divisions. We knew, also, that the majority of people connected with the SOS movement had been discharged or transferred so that we had no idea of how to organize or what to do.

During that two week period before arriving in Pearl Harbor, there were several hundred cases of food poisoning. One pilot was killed in plane crash and there were two serious injuries sustained by brothers working on the flight deck. The only news that reached the press was the story about the pilot's death. The medical officer covered the food poisoning story up by saying that it was just a virus. I knew better, having had food poisoning twice before. All of the reported cases could be connected to three different meals that were served on board the ship.

HAWAII, FTA SHOW, NEW ENERGY

When we got to Hawaii, a dozen or so brothers from my division decided to visit a GI coffeehouse called the Liberated Barracks. We were greeted at the door by two brothers from San Francisco, one ex-crewman and SOS brother, and the other a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. They'd come to help us get our movement alive again. As it turned out, the FTA Show gave us just the spark we needed.

That night at the Liberated Barracks, we had a rap session with Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland, and the other entertainers with the FTA Show. There was also a movie company there which wanted to record and film what we had to say. The rap session brought us together with other brothers from the Coral Sea who we hadn't known before. This was the first time we made contacts with people in other divisions. This session gave us our first chance to reorganize the SOS movement.

The following night the FTA Show was performed. At the show were approximately 4500 active duty GIs, many from the Coral Sea. The show was a huge success and made us more determined than ever to get together.

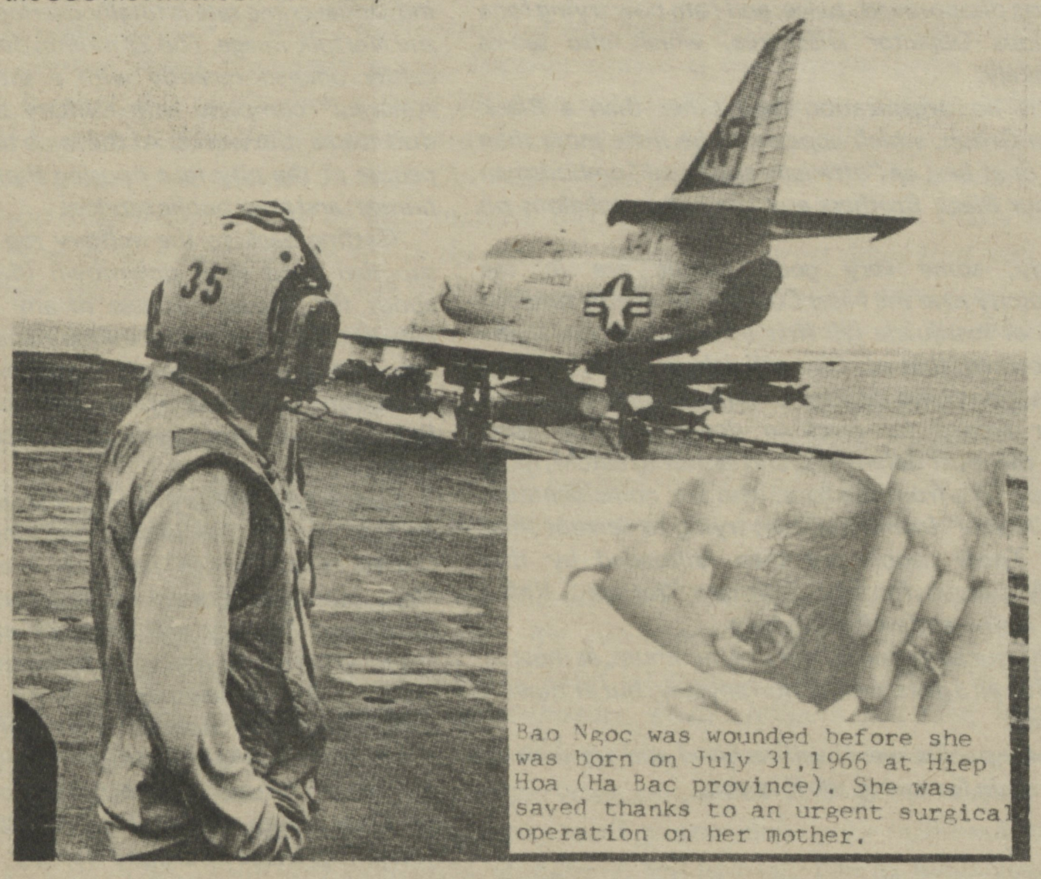
SUBIC

From Hawaii to Subic Bay, Philiipines, we had SOS meetings in various places around the ship. At these meetings we tried to encourage other brothers to get involved and organize. These gatherings also brought about a feeling of solidarity among new-found brothers.

But after we left Hawaii enroute to Subic, we were told that our arrival date at Subic was to be delayed one week. The FTA Show planned to meet us again in Subic Bay and scheduled their shows to match our arrival date. Capt. Harris found out about this and took extra days in transit time so that we would miss the show. We all wanted to see the show again and meet with the FTA people, but it was a victory because a US warship had to reschedule because of us.

A letter from a brother on the ship said

'the Chief Master-at-Arms of the ship (head pig) made all the men E-3 and below wait for an hour or so before letting them off the ship the first day in port. Finally, he decided to let them off, but first he told them all to fall into ranks for a haircut inspection. This really blew it so a few voices in the back of the crowd of 300 shouted, 'Walk



Bao Ngoc was wounded before she was born on July 31,1966 at Hiep Hoa (Ha Bac province). She was saved thanks to an urgent surgical operation on her mother.

The SOS movement has helped cripple the efficiency of the ship. At one point on the line as few as 37% of the planes were flying. The usual maintenance rate is 70%.

SOS brothers freaked out pilots by pretending to work on planes until flyers approached. They then would throw down their tools and say, "Fuck it, if it works, it works, if it doesn't, it doesn't."

WE ARE

Despite protest that focused national attention on the CORAL SEA, the ship departed on schedule Nov. 12. The official propaganda hailed this as evidence that the crew stood behind our commander-in-chief and his aims in Indochina.

We the people of the Coral Sea find this to be incorrect. Just as 73% of the American civilian population, we as a majority oppose the war and seek an immediate end of U.S. intervention in Southeast Asia.

We can see no justification for the continuance of this war. A war that has claimed 895,000 Vietnamese victims, 60% of these children, and 80% of the total figure as a result of American FIREPOWER.

The damage suffered in our own country far outweighs any hollow "gains" claimed by the reactionary Nixon Administration. 335,000 American servicemen killed or wounded. Our economy crippled by the beast that devours $2,880,000 an hour.

All in the name of FREEDOM. We have come to realize that the tyranny perpetrated against our Asian sisters and brothers is not what we feel in our hearts, it is not the national goal of our country, but the goal of the

WELL

over him,' and they did. The whole bunch rushed the gangplank and pushed him off to the side. This ended the haircut inspection.'

ON THE LINE
NIXON ESCALATES THE BOMBING
WE ESCALATE THE SOS MOVEMENT

After a two-day stay in Subic we proceeded to our first line period. While we were on the line we put out our first underground newsletter, "We Are Everywhere," which was met by brothers with great enthusiasm and met by the brass and lifers with great resistance.

Also during that time we had an opportunity to meet and talk with the press who visited the Coral Sea. The first to come were Iver Peterson and Nancy Moran from the *New York Times.* It's interesting to note that the Brass didn't announce that the *Times* reporters were coming on board. We found out from them that they were escorted around the ship and that the Brass let them talk only to pro-war officers and lifers. We had to intercept them in order to talk about the SOS movement.

At any rate, we arranged to have them meet us the next day. The Brass were going crazy because this just wasn't what they had in mind for the reporters.

One brother wrote from the ship,

'Next day at eleven, about a hundred anti-war sailors and Marines overwhelmed the fantail passageway by the ASE shop, the prescribed meeting spot. The crowd was beautiful! Headbands, POW stencils on their T-shirts, peace symbols. clenched fists! WOW! I didn't even know half of the brothers there. What a grapevine! Chicanos, blacks (though not in large numbers) and straights. The group was militant and acted quickly when suggestions were made, or songs started to be sung. The lifers freaked and the pigs were powerless. The CMAA (Chief Master-at-Arms), Satchell (a real fascist) blew his first day on the job for sure!'

Finally the reporter and his photographer showed up. We talked with them for close to an hour. Mainly the subject discussed was our feeling against the war, the SOS movement and various hassles that we had to put up with because of our views on the war.

Two days later we also intercepted a reporter from *Life* magazine, John Saar. He wanted to talk with a few SOS brothers, so we arranged a meeting with him and three SOS brothers including myself. The same subjects were discussed as with the *New York Times* reporters.

NEW REPRESSION AND NEW SUPPORT

Right after the interviews, several SOS people were busted for anything and everything. The brass were using any excuse to put us in the brig, including frame-ups. In general it made us all very paranoid. Another brother wrote,

'All those brothers, eight approximately, that were written up under Article 92 (for setting up the interview with the reporters from the New York Times) have been sent to Captain's Mast and have received an assortment of injustices. They include restriction time, brig time, forfeiture of pay, reduction in rate, and extra duty. These men are presently serving their time and are anxious for another chance to express themselves. Bob and Henry are into their second day of brig time. We've been informed from reliable sources of their noncooperation which includes a hunger strike. We were also informed of Captain Harris's threats to extend their brig time if they refuse to cooperate. That was the last we received on them.'

We arranged to have an SOS rally at an outdoor theater. Two local Philippine bands donated their time and brothers from Clark Air Force Base, Subic Bay, and the Coral Sea gave talks about their various movements, about the war, and about our feelings on the presence of US military in the Far East. Approximately 200-300 active duty GIs were present at this rally and even more local Filippinos. The rally was a huge success and once again gave us a chance to meet more brothers from the Coral Sea.

WE INTERCEPT THE SEC. OF THE NAVY

Also, Secretary of the Navy John Chaffee came aboard the Coral Sea during the first line period. We drew up a list of demands and grievances, intercepted his tour, and presented Secretary Chaffee with this list.

We as citizens of the U.S.A. and as crew members of the USS Coral Sea do hereby present a list of demands and grievances to Secretary of the Navy John Chaffee.

DEMANDS

1. Immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Southeast Asia.
2. Acceptance of the Seven Point Plan by the North Vietnamese in order to gain release of American POW's.
3. Release all political prisoners in the USA.
4. An end to the draft and amnesty for all Americans who were forced to leave the USA because of their beliefs.

GRIEVANCES

1. We wish to have restored our rights and protections as afforded by the constitution, including:
The right to petition Congress
Freedom of speech
Right of peaceful assembly
And to exercise these rights without continued harassment and reprisals.

In conclusion we must stress the urgency of these demands and greivances. If democracy is to prevail in America, the government must respond to the will of it's people. The violence and oppression aimed at the people of southeast Asia is too often felt by individuals in the military who dare to oppose current policies. Despite the very real hazard we the undersigned implore proper consideration be given this statement.

The petition was signed by 26 brothers.

A veteran of 300 combat missions reviews his flight plan.

Cobra Pilot 5

Plastic blue eyes
and hair
the color of toggle switches.
He flies his cobra-shark
with the precision
of a god
or a gunfighter.
(Hickok
with a 38 in his armpit)
His Nebraska smile
is a mini-gun
and his bowels
are full of rockets.
He hunts
the Indian-gooks
in the Wild West
of his mind

–Don Receveur

From that point on the Brass came down on us often and as hard as they could.

LEGAL AID DENIED

We tried to get civilian legal help on board the Coral Sea to talk with the brothers who were in the brig, mostly for political reasons. We contacted lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild in the Philippines and they agreed to see what they could do. What happened was that Capt. Harris and his fellow pigs ran us through miles and miles of red tape and only agreed to let a lawyer on board the last day we were in port. The whole thing was a blatant effort on the part of the Navy to deny legal help for people who requested it.

"FLASH AND I ARE OFF THE RADIO FOR READING THE NEWS ONE NIGHT. *THE CROSSWINDS* (THE SHIP'S OFFICIAL DAILY PAPER HAD AN EDITORIAL PROCLAIMING THE DEATH OF THE SOS MOVEMENT. WE READ IT, AND ADDED THAT AS REPORTERS WE HAD ATTENDED AN SOS MEETING OF SOME THIRTY OR SO PEOPLE, INCLUDING THREE OFFICERS THAT VERY NIGHT, SO WE BELIEVED *THE CROSSWINDS* TO BE IN ERROR."

LOOKING BACK

It was surprising to us all that no matter where we went in the Far East there were people, brothers and sisters, who were always willing to talk with us, help us organize, and in the event we needed legal help, to supply us with lawyers. In all cases these people were wonderful. Each had a good understanding of the military, and the GI struggle.

During all the time I spent on the Coral Sea and in the SOS movement, we were always trying to keep a record of what we were doing, and keep our people stateside informed. Our actions, we felt, must be known. Our best outlets were the various GI newspapers and underground press.

Looking back over all that has happened on the Coral Sea, there are certain things we learned: (1) to make as many different contacts as possible on the ship and off; (2) to keep the press informed of all our actions, especially the GI movement papers and other underground press; (3) to have a meeting of anti-war brothers as often as possible; (4) to be careful but not to be intimidated by the Brass and the Pigs.

It seems like the SOS brothers were thinking the same way Jeff was, because here are parts from the first letters Jeff got from the ship after his discharge:

'...We are really trying to get things going on the ship. Today we had a power check; we gather on the hanger bay and at 8am about 28 people were together at one time and about 40-50 brothers came by all together. We are going to do this every day. We hope and try to get everybody together. The pigs don't even bother us this time. Maybe people will get over their paranoia and stand up together for what's right.'

'Bombs? Fifteen thousand pounds are consumed every other day. Everything from 500 lb. bombs to missiles. Here's one- they have a bomb called anti-tank but it's really an anti-personnel bomb. Can't let the troops know the truth or their morale might (will) go down. If all of us can get together enough we're going to try to have a day of Memorial in respect to all the people killed in Vietnam, Reds included. We're planning to go as far as to go up on the Flight Deck before flight operations an stand and stop any aircraft from taking off. In my squadron all the planes have been downed due to engine trouble. Two A7Es blew up on the Kitty Hawk and no one knows why yet. Far out!'

EVERYWHERE

RIGHT-WING ADMINISTRATION currently in power.

We must face the facts if we are responsible American Citizens, dedicated to the concepts of our Constitution. We must regain control of our country's goals. WE must stop the war!

Upon arrival on Yankee Station, the Coral Sea stopped playing games. The direct result of all work done on this ship is the destruction of Vietnam and its people.

Whatever your job on this ship, YOU will be joining hands with the man who fires those rockets into hamlets and villages.

From now on the World and history hereafter will judge us by our deeds. Will we continue to be counted as the supporters of this atrocity? Or will we exercise our right to dissent?

We must let them KNOW that we are against the killing!

This is extremely difficult on board ship. However, many Coral Sea men have taken steps to follow what they believe is right and just.

JUNKIES ARE MADE

In the last issue of the Bulkhead we carried an article on heroin, where it comes from and how it's used to keep people down. Now we want to rap a little about junkies in the military and how the military amnesty programs work, and what alternatives and solutions are all about.

We did a couple of interviews with friends. One brother, Rich, is in the Marine Corps and got hooked on junk while stationed stateside. He has since gone through the Navy's amnesty program and been reassigned to duty. The other, Jack, is a Navy vet who got out in '68. He was stationed in Vietnam during some of the heaviest fighting during the Tet offensive. He was a medic and got addicted to morphine while in Nam. He is now working with Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW).

Q. What's a junkie?

Jack: I don't know if you're just talking about smack, but a lot of guys I've been dealing with are just as fucked up behind alcohol as some are behind smack. I really don't make a differentiation between an alcohol junkie or a smack junkie, especially if they're Vietnam vets.

My estimate is at least 70% of the people in Nam have tried it. That's ranging all the way up to smack. At least 50% have tried smack. And 90% have done one form of junk or pot or whatever you want to call it. That's going all the way up into the ranks.

Q. Why do people get into junk? Whatever kind?

Jack: How do you ask a person that? Shit, there's 8 million reasons why people do junk. There's no specific reason. I was a morphine junkie. I used it because of being in the medical field and seeing the shit that I saw [in Vietnam]. That was my way of alleviating some of my own hate trips that I was going through. Other guys use it, if they're in the rear and there's nothing to do. Most of the problem is complete boredom. That's why there are so many junkies in Nam now.

But you also have to realize that the problem isn't just among the ground troops—that there's junkies aboard ships, junkies flying the aircraft.

Rich: You got three drill instructors you know. And by the time you meet them you think they're the biggest and baddest in the valley, and they act like it, too. They force you to do everything the way they want it. When somebody barks an order you jump and *then* ask how high! The people are sick of it!

Jack: It's the first time for a white person, when you're put in a situation like Vietnam, that you as an individual with a name have felt oppressed. And thats all you go through. You go out in combat and back to the base camp for supposedly three days on R&R. They say, "Shine your boots! Get a haircut!" using your name, they're identifying you. Shit. You start identifying with your third world brothers and sisters that have been living this struggle. To them being in Nam was nothing. It was just another form of oppression—they're the ones that make up most of the casualties. But for the white guy over there it's distinctly the first time in his life that he's felt individually oppressed.

I grew up in Philadelphia which is predominantly very poor and Italian, and that's a whole class thing. Sure I called rich people $20 sunshine kids-their father would give them $20 for a pair of socks. But I never really felt oppressed as me, as an individual. When I went to Nam, I did. And I came back with it and I felt it more and more.

Q. How does junk affect guys in combat?

Jack: There's no such thing, whether you're on junk or straight, as putting down your rifle in the middle of a battlefield and saying you're for peace. You're going to get blown away. You're there basically to survive. If it means killing somebody, you're going to kill them. And your mind gets into such a trip that you cannot differentiate between a woman, a man, and a child. You kill anybody that's in your way. And it's only when you withdraw from the situation, when you can reflect on what you've actually done, that it bothers you. The nightmares begin occurring and for the nightmares to go away, you just shoot up again.

Q. Does the military condone [approve] the use of junk?

Jack: I used to give out amphetamines to Marines that used to go out on night patrols so that they wouldn't fall asleep. To me that's just as much junk—straight caffeine-as heroin or anything else is. In fact, it's worse—speed. And I used to give that. I've seen pot more or less accepted over there. Junk itself, I've never seen anybody push it on another person except in a sort of buddy-buddy situation. If you have a guy that's coming back from patrol that's been out in the bush for 45 days or who's bored by pushing a pencil, or by pushing a gear around that lands in Da Nang, or if he's in the rear area, he's bored. One way to deal with that boredom is to alleviate it at night. So if somebody's smoking, if somebody's on junk, they're really not worried about the boredom anymore. An escape mechanism. So I think the ranks are very much aware of it, yet they also see it as sort of a lid on a situation that could blow up in their faces anytime.

AMNESTY PROGRAMS

Q. What do you think of the service amnesty program?

Jack: In the drug ward at Travis AFB are either guys who turned themselves in or guys who flunked the urinalysis. They were in Long Binh jail, they were thrown in jail in Vietnam. They were brought back to the states shackled. They were put in this ward, completely isolated. They were forgotten about, weren't allowed to call their families. Some of their ETS dates were already past. They were told in Nam that they would only spend at the most two weeks back in the states before they were shipped to hospitals or drug programs in the vicinity of their home town. It wasn't true. These guys were scattered all over the country, held 60 days past their ETS. This is part of your services' amnesty program. You're supposedly given amnesty for doing junk over in Nam or smoking or anything, and this is the treatment you get.

When you're dealing with a service mentality, you have to realize that mentality is directed by the government, and the government has said that they don't recognize any narcotics problem in the military. Then you know what kind of treatment these people are getting.

Rich: The commandant of the Corps said we don't need an exemption program because we don't have a drug problem. All the dude has to do is look out the window and he'd see the drug problem in the Marine Corps.

Q. Why'd you turn yourself in?

Rich: It was just like getting down on me. I couldn't stand it any more and I didn't care what they did to me, just so I got off the drugs and got away from them.

Q. What was your program like?

Rich: Well, the program was in the hospital, and we were locked up in a ward. It's up to the doctors at your station. If they think you're really strung out they'll send you to the hospital. But there's only one small ward at the hospital that holds 32 people. There's so many people turning themselves in that they can't put everybody in a ward so they shove them aside.

The hospital is detoxification and psychoanalysis and what they call introduction to group therapy. I was at the hospital for four months; the usual stay was two weeks. For the first while I was there they had the doors locked; it was like a cage. They sit there and preach how they trust us, then they lock the doors. I don't see any reason for keeping me locked up for 2½ months because I was upstairs with hepatitis for two weeks and wasn't locked up then.

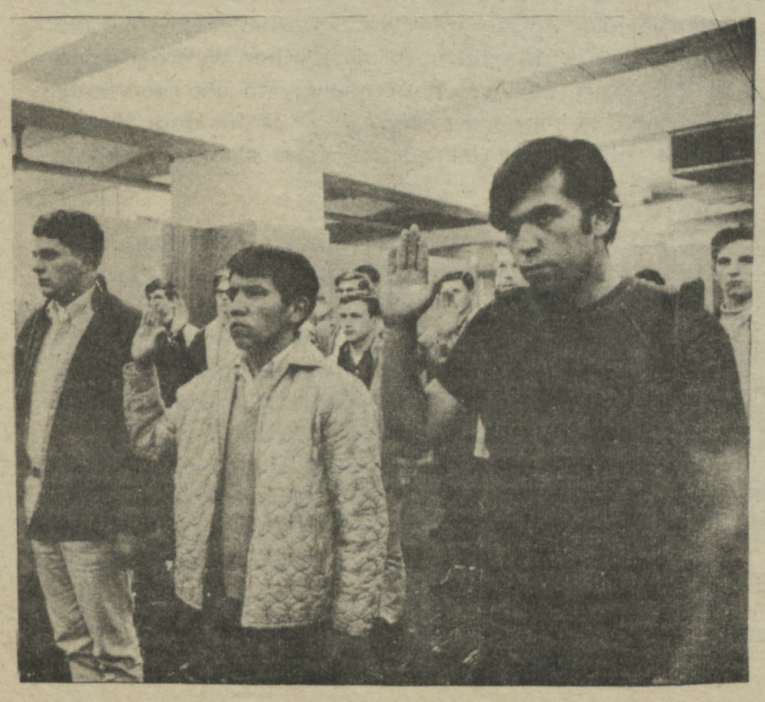
Jack: They go through a group therapy thing where everybody sits around and does an "I stole a dinner roll tonight" type thing. That's bullshit. If the guys say they started junk because of the experiences they saw or because of boredom or because of the system, they're told they're liars. They started it because they were psychologically fucked up, and that their service experience had nothing to do with it. This is the type of treatment they're getting. When they are finally, according to the services, dried out, they're released. That's it. The service no longer has any responsibility for them. What you'll do if you're in a city is go down to the nearest street corner and score junk again.

Rich: The doctors in the rehab programs try to pound it into your head it's just like the outside: It isn't the services or the hassles in the services. But I can't agree with that at all. On the outside you can compromise with people. In the military it's completely one-sided—you're on the bottom and he's on the top and that's it.

Jack: After you've been in isolation, after you go through their group therapy sessions, after you go through their reassociation processes where they get you to readjust to the society that's caused the problems to begin with. Once they feel that you want to be released, and of course you want to get out as soon as possible, you shine them on and get out. They're still not dealing with the reasons.

Q. Who runs the programs?

Jack: They're straight shrinks, service people. They're lifers. That's where they're coming from. To me the



NOT BORN

person who can deal most realistically with that problem is somebody that's been through it. Another ex-junkie.

Q. What kind of guy turns himself in?

Rich: A lot of the guys who turn themselves in just want to get out of the service. They have no intention of quitting the drug so there's a lot of smack around the programs.

Q. We understand that the names of guys who turn themselves in are turned over to civilian authorities, even though they call it an amnesty program.

Rich: Yeah, when I was on convalescent leave I was with three buddies of mine. I wasn't even driving. This cop stopped the car and told me to get out and roll up my sleeves and pants legs looking for tracks. He said they had a report down on the desk says you're an ex-service heroin addict.

Q. What do you think about methadone detox?

Rich: I think it's wrong to do it. I cold-turkeyed and I'll remember that all my life. Somebody coming down on methadone you know it's just like getting better from any other sickness. It stops the pain. I don't think it's doing them any good cause if everything else in my mind broke down and I wanted to go back I'd still have that thought in my mind. It was seven days of hell I think if nothing else could stop me that would.

All it is is synthetic heroin—I mean its the same thing you get out of heroin, it completely relaxes your body. It's just as habit forming as heroin.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Q. What do you think can be done?

Jack: My solution is to legalize junk. Really that's the only way you can deal with it. And when you do, when he is not out hustling, but still needs to maintain that high, to live with himself maybe, you can then be able to deal with him and what you do is you get him to readjust to himself and not get him to readjust to the shit that's come down on him and that drove him to do what he did in the first place.

Q. What about other programs like the Veterans Administration?

Jack: When we've gone down and talked to the programs that are set up, they don't want to listen to us. It may be because of our name. Why they don't let us talk to guys I really can't fathom, except that we'll be able to do more for these guys than they could ever do.

Q. How did you get off dope?

Jack: I can't say to you print up all these solutions and alternatives because I don't see any. When I got off junk I did it myself with cough medicine. When I heard about Cambodia I hadn't been involved in the movement. I was isolated. I was going through some really hard head trips, not relating to anybody and having nightmares and all that bullshit. When Cambodia happened, the first thing I did was I went out and shot up. And I couldn't relate to that because I had gone through some head changes by that time. It was the first time in a year, and I got involved in the movement, but sort of on the outside of it. I started meeting other people on the sidelines that were wearing fatigue jackets that I would begin to rap with and find out that they were veterans. And I started working exclusively with vets and active duty people. It's been a substitute for junk for me.

Q. What do you think happens to most guys?

Jack: I see guys splitting from their houses or their women not being able to understand where they're coming from and splitting from them. Unless they can get with other people that understand where they're coming from, they're going to isolate themselves. They are going to go back on junk because that's the only way that they know of how to deal with it. They become little isolated people. Forget it, man. They don't exist anymore. The government doesn't care about them. Society back here sure as hell doesn't care about them. And they have all that in their heads and then after awhile they begin to feel that they don't care about themselves.

Q. How does VVAW try to answer the problem?

Jack: We've set up programs in VVAW. I do one Wednesday nights not only for junkies, but for people with what they call the post-Vietnam syndrome. The isolation period. And in the programs VVAW sets up there ain't no psychiatrists, ain't no psychologists, even though people may have those labels. Like I'm doing an internship in radical psychology, but when I come in and do my Wednesday night shit, some guys just take the meeting and take it where it goes. I think it's really essential that that happen.

It's sort of a feeling of liberating yourself. When we see that shit was coming down on our heads, the people that we got together with were people who've been through the same thing. Once we identified with them it was much easier for us to take the next step and to identify with that community that we lived in. I see this happening in the clinics and in the drug programs that we're doing.

Q. We've heard something about farms that have been set up by VVAW as therapeutic centers?

Jack: Yes. We're setting one up in Fresno in the near future. There is one set up in the state of Washington and there's also one in the state of Massachusetts that I know of. There's nothing there except veterans that are chopping wood, that are growing things, that are getting their heads together. There's no sort of one definite program. The people who live permanently on these places are ex-junkies and they're all Vietnam veterans. They've all gone through that. And this is where they want to put their energy. It's an individual choice for them. Usually the VVAW chapters in that area know about them if people are drifting through and it gets around to movement groups. There's no bullshit of going up there like you don't have to stay for three weeks or two days or one night. They come up and if they want to stay and if they want to donate all the rest of their lives to it they can. It's really a loose thing.

Q. Could you tell us a little bit more about your Wednesday night rap sessions?

Jack: The guys that I'm dealing with Wednesday night and that are dealing with me Wednesday nights—I'm not worried about us. We've taken that first step. I'm worried about the millions out there that can't even bring themselves yet to take the first step. I'm worried about their individual solutions or the guy that will never get off junk.

Q. What can we do in the Bulkhead?

Jack: Tell guys in your paper, they can start it themselves wherever they're at by just getting together with other people. Also let them know VVAW exists and that we have been dealing with it. When a person reads that, another person whose not directly connected with it, but knows the same thing's happening to him, that's the first time he's able to connect it directly to himself. And it starts off from there. You know, and then he's going to start looking around and say, "Yeah, I'm not isolated anymore. Like this shit isn't just happening to me. This is happening to a lot of my brothers that I'm stationed with. I am not an isolated case. I'm not exceptional. I'm common, man, and nobody's helping me." So he's going to turn to the guy who's in that bunk next to him or shared his foxhole. And he's going to start rapping about the same shit that they've always rapped about, but in a different light and with a different perspective.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War have offices and chapters all over the country. In S.F., they are at 1380 Howard, Telephone 861-7700. For information on chapters near you, write the National Office at 25 West 26th Street, NY, NY 10010.

angela billy red sun rap

North County Jail
Palo Alto, California

Sisters and Brothers

During the past year, scores of letters from men and women chained to America's military apparatus have been delivered to my cell. Although I have attempted to answer as many as these conditions permit, I have not been able to reach all those who have personally reached out to me. Those of you who have written should know that your messages of support and solidarity have been an endless source of strength. Because of you and many other sisters and brothers outside, the almost total isolation which the jailers have imposed on me has hardly done its job of eroding and breaking my will to fight.

Wherever there is an American military base, wherever there is a prison, the will to fight is fiercely asserting itself. In both places, there are growing enclaves of resistance—resistance to the war in Indochina and to the war on the home front against people of color and other working people.

In recent years, the people in this country have learned a great deal from prisoners and from men and women in the military. The long concealed brutalities woven into the normal routine of prison life have been laid bare. Prisons have been exposed as central tools in maintaining racism. Because of what prisoners have done, people are beginning to talk not only about reforming the prisons, but about abolishing them altogether.

From those who have experienced it first-hand, people have learned how the military is used to maim and kill people in Indochina who are desperately trying to be free. And at the same time, that monstrous military system and the prison system (together with the network of police and courts) play critical roles in maintaining a political and economic balance that favors the wealthy who rule this country. These systems are the life-nerve of the American government's oppressive power. Through their functions, both the prisons and the military touch almost every section of the people in this country who have no power—Black people, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, working people and the poor. It is only natural that in both these structures, many of the ills which afflict American society as a whole will be reflected.

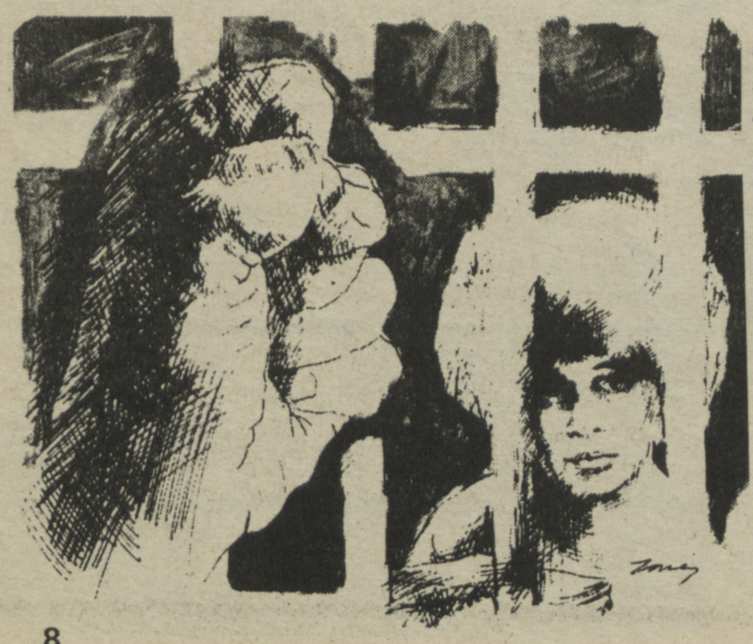
And thus because sisters and brothers in these movements have sought and discovered creative and demonstrative ways of conveying new levels of understanding to the people, the repression we have felt has grown even more intense. George Jackson has been murdered; the Soledad Brothers and the San Quentin 6 are being assaulted under the guise of legal justice. The case against Billy Smith is an attempt to intimidate others in the military who might have been drawn into the struggle.

The stockades and prisons are full of beautiful, committed, strong, struggling people. Their beauty, their committment, their strength are a threat to the interests of the rich, to racism, to wars which sacrifice human lives for profit and power.

Repression will not turn us away. But we need unity to combat repression. Those of us fighting it out in the prisons and those of us fighting it out in the military must try to bring our movements closer together. We need effective lines of communication, more mutually supportive activities. We need to intensify our efforts to reach our sisters and brothers out there in the streets—in the ghettos, the barrios, the factories, in the welfare and unemployment lines. Once we place freedom on the agenda in this way, no force can eradicate it.

Love, Strength, Solidarity,

Angela Y. Davis



Billy Dean Smith is a black GI from Watts, now awaiting court-martial at Fort Ord on charges of murder. As a warning to political activists within its ranks, the Army has falsely accused him of "fragging"--killing with a fragmentation grenade--two white officers at Bien Hoa, Vietnam.

Fort Ord Stockade
Monterey, California

My Beloved Sister Angela:

Power, Sister! I am sitting here on my hard bunk in solitary confinement, thinking about you and all of our brothers and sisters who are in prison and some who are semi-free in this sour nation.

It makes me feel better to know that you are free. [Just before Billy wrote this letter, the news hit the papers that Angela had been released on bail] *Power to the People!*

I'm twenty-three years of manhood now. I've been in this Army now for twenty-three agonizing months and out of those twenty-three months, I've been in solitary for eleven crushing months.

I'm being framed with three capital offenses. I feel as you do about our struggle, because your case and my case are the people's cases – we need all free-minded people to aid us – at all times – in the people's trials for justice and liberty. I also feel that capitalism is a self-destructive system. Right on!

Sister Angela, will you send your Brother some bona fide Black liberating literature. You see, I am locked up in a four-by-six cell and I don't have too much to read here.

I recall when I was in Vietnam – all of the Black brothers and myself were always rapping about our Beloved Sister, Angela. We would say that our Black Sister, Angela, must be liberated now or there will be no tomorrow. FREE ALL OF US!

Sister, I find it very hard to say and write the things I want to but nevertheless I am still learning. I know that I will acquire the knowledge that I need to aid my people in this struggle. "But if they come in the morning," I will be ready to struggle some more – can you dig it! FREE ALL OF US!

I feel that I must close for now. Power to you, Angela, and Power to all of us. Write if you can find the time, Sister.

TOGETHER WE SHALL CONQUER WITHOUT A DOUBT!!

From a Freedom Fighter,

Brother Billy D. Smith

[Editor's Note: The following letter from a Native American, Red Sun, currently serving in the Air Force in Japan was originally sent to the Yokota Pacific Counseling Service. PCS works with Japanese people counseling against the military. To write to Red Sun, contact him care of The First Amendment, P–12, 2099, 3-5, 1 Chomes/Musashi-no-dai, FUSSA, Tokyo, Japan.]

To my Brothers and Sisters

My American name is Michael Smith but the name I wish to be called is "Red Sun" for this is the way it was when I was born and my mother gave it to me before she passed. You may call me which is either pleasing to you for a name is only the little finger of a man.

I am a Sioux Indian presently in Japan in the US Air Force. I have been in the service approximately one year and have come to the conclusion that the Indian people should have no part in nor have to put up with the Atrocities of the Armed Forces.

The military does not recognize our customs, beliefs, or religious factions; this point can be illustrated in many different ways. I shall use a very small but relevant example. The Blackman has stated his Afro haircut is essential to his need for self-indentification, especially in the military. But if I were not to follow military regulations on haricuts, and grow my hair in the traditional way of Indian People I would be put in jail regardless of the fact that my people have had this means of symbolism for many centuries. I have now taken it upon myself to expose discrimination and moral injustice towards the Indian Nation.

Unfortunately, I'm fighting alone and I do not know how much longer I can stand true. I am in great need of hearing from my Brothers and Sisters in other services no matter where you are. Let me know what you think if I am wrong or right.

For in order for us to survive not only in the Armed Forces but in living on our own, "We need communication." This communication has been lacking for so many years. I sometimes think it is almost too late to begin our campaign, but the answers and questions I know I'll receive from you will surely justify the necessity of this letter. We must contact each other so that although we are separated by a great many miles we can communicate to make the basis of our revolution and regain our souls that have been suppressed by the military.

I am truly in need of your assistance and am hoping to hear from you soon.

Red Sun
Michael Smith

US advisors catch last train from Quang Tri.

'VIET CONG' YOUR ENEMY?

(May 15)

On April 3 Vietnamese liberation forces launched a gigantic four-pronged offensive which is sweeping from the DMZ to the Mekong Delta. In battle after battle, the US-backed puppet troops (ARVN) have fled before the advancing Vietnamese. Repeatedly entire units have stripped off their uniforms, thrown aside their American weapons, and faded into the countryside while thousands of troops have gone over to the 'enemy' weapons and all.

Retreating without reserves, ARVN has produced nothing but a list of defeats.

...**Quang Tri,** a provincial capital just below the DMZ, fell on May 1 after puppet officers and US advisors abandoned thousands of Saigon troops in besieged Quang Tri city. One American newsman described the fleeing brass,'With horns blaring and headlights glowing in the midday sun they raced down the center of the road, pushing other vehicles out of the way.' Thousands of ARVN troops streamed down Highway 1 to Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam, where they looted the city and fought among themselves. Hue is expected to be attacked at any moment. It is the last line of defense between the advancing Vietnamese and the huge US air base at Danang, one of the few bases in Vietnam still in American hands.

...In **central Vietnam** the Vietnamese have liberated the whole area from the central highlands to the coast with the exception of Kontum and Pleiku, the site of another American base. US correspondents in the area agree that the Saigon regime has already written off Kontum. Referring to the coming battle, one American advisor at Pleiku said, "I'm afraid we would have to make a horrible decision and shoot them [ARVN troops] down" if they retreat toward the American base. In Binh Dinh province on the coast, the most populous in Vietnam, the puppet troops scattered into the hills. An American advisor summed up the situation, "Some broke and ran, just ran and didn't know where to go. Some deserted to the VC."

...In the **Saigon** area liberation forces are drawing a tighter and tighter noose around the city. An Loc, a provincial capital 60 miles north of Saigon, is 80 per cent captured. A relief column sent to break the encirclement of An Loc has come under repeated attack and is stalled more than 20 miles from An Loc. **The Mekong Delta** has been abandoned for all practical purposes while hundreds of small attacks by liberation forces have destroyed ARVN bases and strategic hamlets. In Saigon itself, President Thieu has declared martial law desperately lashing out at anyone opposed to the unnecessary slaughter.

ARVN, the Saigon puppet army commanded, supplied, and financed by the US since the Vietnamese defeated the French in 1954, is just about finished. Nixon's Vietnamization policy is on the brink of total collapse. And the small clique of reactionaries, militarists, dope peddlers, and profiteers surrounding President Thieu, Vice-President Ky, and Premier Khiem are fighting for their lives. These are facts that no one can dispute.

But how do you deal with our beloved leader, Richard Nixon, when he goes on Nationwide TV, his jowls twitching, and tries to justify his latest murderous air and naval attack on the Vietnamese people by claiming that 'the communist armies of North Vietnam launched a massive invasion of South Vietnam?'

When he claims that he ordered the escalation to keep from 'turning 17,000,000 South Vietnamese over to Communist terror and tyranny?'

When he claims that the US will not give in to 'the enemy's demand to overthrow the lawfully constituted government of South Vietnam and to impose a Communist dictatorship in its place?'

Just who are the so-called enemy that the US has been fighting for so long with so little success? Why did President Eisenhower, a Republican, write in his memoirs, **'Had elections been held at the time of the fighting [1954] possibly 80 per cent of the population would have voted for the Communist Ho Chi Minh as their leader?'**

Why did Senator Stuart Symington, a Democrat, say, **'It has been my impression, after visits to Vietnam, 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?'**

Why did **US News and World Report** (October 27, 1969), a very conservative magazine, describe the Viet Cong as **'the most developed political structure in South Vietnam?'**

And why did Major George Watkins, an advisor in Binh Dinh province, tell a US correspondent, why did a lifer WHO WAS THERE say, **"When the Communists were here before, from 1945 to 1954, the people didn't have much to eat or good clothes on their backs, but morally they were happy, because the Communists brought justice to this land, not the corruption we have here now?"**

Cont'd next page...

In early 1967 Katsuichi Honda, a Japanese correspondent from one of the three Tokyo dailies, became one of the few reporters from any country to visit extensively in a liberated zone, an area controlled by the 'Viet Cong'. He made contact with the 'VC' in Saigon where Honda said they "moved around quite openly and easily in broad daylight." In an area supposedly secured by ARVN posts, Honda met a 24-year old Viet Cong company commander (above). This young 'officer' (there is no ranking system in the Viet Cong), a Saigon high school graduate, displays US-made weapons, an M-1 carbine, Ranger dagger and grenade. He explained to the reporter that "these friends [in ARVN] pass along, without fail, 2 out of every 10 grenades supplied by the Government." At this time areas between liberated zones and areas held by ARVN were considered safe recreation areas for Viet Cong guerrillas. Honda wrote that the guerrillas enjoyed the closest relationship with the peasants in the countryside since almost all of them were recruited from the areas in which they fought. *Le Monde,* authoritative French daily, reported (April 25) that the Viet Cong's 230,000 soldiers outnumber North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam by two to one.

NGUYEN HUU THO, 62-year old lawyer and chairman of the National Liberation Front ('Viet Cong'), has fought for Vietnamese independence since 1949. During the anti-French resistance he spent two years in jail for organizing a demonstration against US support for the French colonialists. During the early years of US intervention he was kept under arrest and moved from place to place until he was liberated by guerrillas in 1961. An independent noncommunist nationalist, he was born in the south.

By one estimate 895,000 Vietnamese have died, 60% of them children and 80% by American firepower, since the US intervened. Through massive air attacks and search and destroy missions (above) approximately 4 million peasants have been rounded up or driven into refugee centers near a few major cities still controlled by the Saigon regime.

SAIGON RIP-OFF...

To Nixon the US-backed Saigon regime of President Thieu is 'the lawfully constituted government of South Vietnam.' To anyone in their right mind, they are a notorious bunch of reactionaries, landlords, militarists, dope peddlers, and profiteers dependent for their survival on the US dollar and US military might.

Take, for example, the family of Tran Thien Khiem, the prime minister of South Vietnam:

- *Tran Khien Khoi, Khiem's brother, for three years was director of the Office of Fraud Repression in the Customs Bureau. His job was to stop drug smuggling through Saigon's airport. Once a destitute tax official, Khoi now has three wives and a huge Swiss bank account. Needless to say drug smuggling increased while Khoi watched over the airport. Last July, Khoi was removed from his post 'under strong American pressure' and made chief of the customs station in Cholon, Saigon's twin city, giving him control over another important part of the drug and black-marketing business.*
- *Colonel Tran Thien Thanh, another brother, has been appointed deputy commander of the Capital Military District and assistant to the military government of both Saigon and the nearest province. His credentials include being in charge of the Saigon municipal bus company in 1964 when it collapsed under the weight of massive corruption. He now controls all traffic in and out of the capital.*
- *Colonel Tran Thien Phuong, a third brother, is director of the port of Saigon, another post which puts the Tran Thien family in virtual control of smuggling operations in and around Saigon.*

And there's more. A relative of Khiem's wife recently became head of the national police. Another brother-in-law is mayor of Saigon and this brother-in-law brother is head of the Fraud Repression section of the national police.

All of this information came from a report put together in the Provost Marshall's office of US MACV. For some reason, the report was never published. Funny thing. (San Francisco Chronicle, May 1, 1972)

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE ONE

"WE WILL EAT GRASS AND ROOTS THE EARTH ITSELF IF NEEDS BE, BUT WE WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS SOIL OF OUR ANCESTORS. WE WILL FIGHT AND OUR SONS AND GRANDSONS WILL FIGHT UNTIL THE INVADER TAKES HIMSELF OFF."

The true nature of the so-called enemy is probably one of the most closely kept secrets in a war in which 'our' government has systematically lied to us for almost twenty years. We have read millions of words and seen thousands of feet of TV film, but still we only know of the peasant army of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam as the Viet Cong, a slang term roughly equivalent to Vietnamese commie. Our heads are filled with racist stereotypes of stealthy, fanatical guerrillas who have somehow slipped by the tens of thousands across 'an international boundary' into the territory of 'the lawfully constituted government of South Vietnam' (Nixon) to terrorize the people.

But any Vietnamese who is not on the American payroll will tell you that Vietnam was, is, and again will be one country. That Vietnam's greatest heroes and heroines have been its liberation fighters;. And that unlike the Americans who fought two relatively brief wars against England for independence, the Vietnamese have fought war after war for me than a thousand years - against China, France, Japan, and finally the US - to win their freedom.

For the Vietnamese there is no country of North Vietnam that is invading South Vietnam. This division between north and south is a cruel hoax imposed on the Vietnamese by the US after the Vietnamese fought a long, bloody war of independence against the French from 1945 to 1954.

For six years, 1954-1960, the puppet government, financed by US dollars and controlled by the US military mission in Saigon, built up a huge army (ARVN), also in violation of the Geneva Accords, and tried to wipe out all of those who had fought against the French. After tens of thousands of patriots were slaughtered because their army and their weapons had been regrouped in the north, the people of the south organized the National Liberation Front (NLF) in 1960 to throw the US and its puppets by armed force.

At the Geneva Conference which ended the war, the country was divided temporarily by international agreement so that the Viet Minh guerrillas of Ho Chi Minh who came from all Vietnam could regroup in the north while French troops were evacuated from the south and free elections could be organized. The Geneva Accords said specifically that the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the north and the south 'should not be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary.' But the US prevented free elections which were also called for by the Geneva Accords and established a political boundary between the north and the south by creating the the illegal puppet government of South Vietnam.

The NLF is a coalition of political parties, religious sects like the Buddhists and the Cao Dai, and the various minority tribes of southern Vietnam, all of whom agree with the basic program of peace, independence, land reform, and the gradual reunification of the country. Three political parties are represented on the central committee of the NLF. One of them is the People's Revolutionary Party, the communist party in South Vietnam. Of the 32 people on the central committee of the NLF, according to CIA sources four are communists and three were born in the northern part of the country.

The core of the NLF are the people of the countryside, the peasants who have been organized since the days of the anti-French resistance. Building on elements of traditional village democracy, the NLF has helped the peasants organize themselves on a village by village basis into democratically elected people's committees. Each village has its own military force and also contributes soldiers to the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF) known as main-force Viet Cong. Won to the NLF because the NLF sided with them in their age-old struggle against tax collectors, landlords, and absentee owners, the peasants have carried out extensive land reform in the liberated zones of Vietnam.

After the NLF won a huge military victory during the Tet offensive of 1968, they united with several new organizations formed in the cities during the fighting and formed the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG). The PRG will be the basis of any new coalition formed after the collapse of the Saigon regime.

Hidden in the jungles, caves, swamps, and urban slums of Vietnam is a vast network of organizations tied to the NLF. This parallel government, the real government of South Vietnam, reaches right into the puppet army and into the puppet government itself. In 1970 the CIA revealed that 30,000 NLF agents were at work in the ARVN and Saigon government. Even the man who worked as liaison between President Thieu and Nixon was discovered to be an NLF agent.

Nixon and the CIA have known all along that they face in the NLF one of the most sophisticated political-military organizations ever put together. That is why Nixon's strategy is aimed at destroying the popular base of the NLF by totally wiping out rural life in Vietnam. Massive air strikes, search and destroy missions, and Operation Phoenix, the CIA's plan to assassinate 80,000 NLF organizers, are designed to turn the Vietnamese into rootless refugees herded together into concentration camps where they will be at the mercy of the Saigon regime. The Vietnamese, however, have faced the most horrible display of military power ever assembled with cool determination, and THEY ARE WINNING!

Wilfred Burchett, and Australian journalist who has spent more time than any other reporter with the 'Viet Cong.' wrote the following about the famous guerrilla fighters (above) in Vietnam Will Win! (1968). *"Thuong Chien, the regiment's political officer, explained that in discussions before an operational plan, discussion must continue until he was satisfied. During the operation, discipline was total, the rank and file were expected to carry out allotted tasks and execute every command of their superiors without fail. But after the action was over, commanders and men were back on the same equal basis in the critical summing-up sessions which followed each operation.*

'In that way we combine democracy with leadership,' Thuong Chien said. 'Commanders and rank and file are of the same social class origin, mainly peasants. We are united by hatred of the oppressors and foreign aggressors. We live, study, and fight together. Morale is high primarily because of complete democracy within our armed forces....The rank and file know that nothing is being imposed from above, that every suggestion to avoid losses while keeping the main aim in view is welcomed...'

...Starting in 1941 with the Kuomintang troops during the Sino-Japanese war, and with troops of many other armies since, I have never experienced the quality of relations that exist within the ranks of the NLF forces in South Vietnam."

A Harvard sociologist interviewing Marine Nam vets in the spring of 1971 found that they had greater respect for the Viet Cong than for ARVN and US lifers.

Armed peasants work in rice paddies (above). Burchett wrote of another conversation with a 'Viet Cong' organizer:

"When we take over a village," Le Van Chien explained, "we ask people to bring everything related to the Saigon regime, photos of Diem and American bigwigs, banners and flags etc., into the village square and burn them. This has a big political effect. We virtually never attack unless the political base inside has first been prepared. We always know who are the worst enemy agents and these are arrested. We get the villagers to nominate their own administration and then encourage them to confiscate the land of the worst of the agents and absentee landlords, distributing it to the peasants, starting with the poorest. This creates a good atmosphere from the start. We announce, in the name of the Liberation Front, the abolition of all taxes and debts and that rent will be reduced following discussions with any local landlords still around.

We announce an amnesty for the families of agents, even of the worst of them. We make a point of never touching or even accusing the family members. Volunteers are accepted into the self defense corps and we usually give them a few weapons to start them off, and before our forces leave, we show them how to manufacture arms and prepare traps. We explain that the new local administration is an organ of the NLF, not linked to any central administration, competent in local affairs only. Some of the people are usually a bit scared as to what may happen when our forces pull out. They worry that their weapons are not sufficient....When they realize they are part of a huge movement sweeping the countryside, then even the most timid gain confidence. We help them to start up their vegetable gardens and orchards again, help them to dig fish ponds, plant bamboo and trees, build pigsties and chicken coops and recreate the sort of physical surroundings they had before they were herded into the 'strategic hamlets'. The new administrative committee immediately forms subcommittees for education, public health, economic affairs, defense and security, and people really feel they are running their own lives."

POW

Nixon has often said that the problem that concerns him most
is how to get the captured servicemen home.
His concern is why we wear these striped pyjamas.
The more concerned he is about us,
the more my friends will end up here!
--POW Capt Lynn Gunther, USAF

George Smith joined the Army at 17, mostly to get away from home. Then he re-upped into the Special Forces, was promoted to sergeant, and went to Vietnam early in the war. He was one of the first Americans taken prisoner by the National Liberation Front ("Vietcong") of Vietnam. It was pretty simple. His camp was overrun one night in 1963 by a guerrilla team. During the confusion Smith said, "All I could do was wonder if they knew how we'd treated our prisoners at the camp and remember what they taught me at Bragg: 'Guerrillas don't take prisoners.'"

From his training he expected to be tortured and humiliated. "The vision of the Vietcong before the attack was the vision I had got at Ft. Bragg. I connected them with being something strange and remote that was impossible to deal with, people you couldn't reason with, people who would shoot you if you came in contact with them."

The Vietcong weren't anything like what he'd expected. They were well organized, and managed to move easily through villages supposedly under the control of the Saigon regime. Smith and another prisoner were displayed everywhere, but not humiliated. "We ate what the guards ate, they weren't holding any trials, and the people weren't spitting on us or beating us with sticks. Sometimes the people were clearly upset, but the guards made it clear that we were prisoners of the Front and they shouldn't hurt us."

Later Smith was "interrogated" by a frail middle-aged representative of the NLF. Smith described how he learned the Vietnamese version of the war: "The reason they were fighting was to gain back what they had won from the French; they wanted to have elections; they wanted to have a free country rather than the 'neocolonialism' that US involvement was. He explained the thing in great detail." His interrogator said, "This is how it is. You can believe it or not believe it. If you believe it, I'd like to know about it."

Nguyen Van Troi, a 17-year-old Saigon electrical worker, was accused of attempting to kill Defense Secretary McNamara in August 1964. The NLF said they would retaliate against American prisoners if he was executed. The US, knowing this, refused to "interfere,"and Troi was shot without trial. The event POW Smith said, "caused me to lose faith in the US government." It was also clear that the Saigon/US regime treated prisoners differently than the NLF did.

It wasn't long before Smith saw that all the bullshit he'd learned from the Army was just that. He tried to explain what he believed when he came to Vietnam--that the Vietcong were invaders from someplace else.

"Where do you think I'm from?" his interrogator asked.

"Well, you're from Vietnam, huh?" said Smith.

"Yes, this is my country."

He began to understand and respect the Vietcong, wrote a statement, and hoped he'd be released. He wanted to work in the American anti-war movement. And he didn't really dig being prisoner, even though the treatment wasn't too bad.

But the US government wasn't into helping him out. Smith realized that he was a "soldier in an army not at war, captured by an organization that did not exist in the eyes of my government, which was fighting that organization. It was straight out of Catch-22. The US couldn't negotiate over release without recognizing that the NLF was quite real,--something it wasn't about to do."

The NLF was getting ready to release him, though, after he'd been with them for a year. But when the Saigon government executed Nguyen Van Troi in October, 1964, Smith saw his situation differently. [see photo] He wrote "I stopped blaming my captors so much at that point. I wasn't mad at the Vietnamese for not releasing us. They weren't going to have men executed and then go ahead and release Americans. The US would go around executing the hell out of everybody if they thought it would persuade the NLF to *release* its prisoners.

"As far as I was concerned, the United States and Saigon became directly responsible for our captivity from that point on."

For the next year as the war escalated, life as a prisoner was more dangerous. Their camps were bombed and strafed by US pilots. More prisoners were executed by the US/Saigon regime, and one of the Americans in the group was executed. Finally, in November 1965 he was released in honor of an American who'd burned himself to death to oppose the war. But his troubles had just begun.

For the next six months he was 'debriefed' by the Army on Okinawa, charged with treason for his statements against the war. He was forced to repair a model Vietnamese village used for Special Forces training. He was held long past his ETS date. His real "crime" was that he didn't tell tales of torture, that he was in good health, and didn't hate his former captors.

The Army tried to force him to testify in a treason trial against his buddy who was with him all that time. Smith refused. And meanwhile people outside were demanding Smith's freedom from the Army. Washington couldn't afford to press charges and open the truth to the American people Finally Smith was quietly discharged and ordered not to talk about his year with the Vietcong because it was "secret information"--not to the Vietnamese, but to the American people

[Six years after he came home, George Smith wrote a book. We got the story and quotations from it. **POW: Two Years with the Vietcong** (Ramparts Press, 1971) is available for ½ price, $2.95, through the Bulkhead, 968 Valencia, San Francisco, CA 94110. Try it, you'll like it.]

ACES IN THE HOLE

By the fall of 1969 it was clear to most of the world and the people of the US that Nixon had lied about ending the war. So Nixon found an issue he thought would put anti-war pressure on North Vietnam and take it off him. This issue was POWs. The only problem was that released pilots (the great majority of POWs now) didn't have horror stories of mistreatment. In fact, the Vietnamese have been surprised to see that prisoners go through a sort of breakdown, since their expectations about the enemy they're massacring turn out to be incredibly unreal.

Then in August Lt. Robert Frishman and two other prisoners were released who cooperated with Nixon's deception. They condemned the Vietnamese who had taken care of them, and said that their captivity was a nightmare and they were forced to make statements against their will.

In private, Frishman told a different story to pilots who wanted some idea what treatment was like. He told Lt Commander David Hoffman in April 1971 in San Diego that "there is nothing to worry about. I was wounded and was taken care of. My seriously broken arm was healed instead of being amputated. I cannot avoid being grateful to them." Over two years after he was released, Firshman hadn't gained his weight back, and travels around the country trying to look like the picture he paints.

And now Hoffman is among more than 350 airmen downed while bombing the North. He was shot down on December 30, 1971. Less than a month later, he talked to an American journalist who wrote, "Hoffman was in good health and was amazingly cheerful considering that he was a prisoner." Hoffman sent a message to his family: "I think they should try and do all that they can and try and bring peace so that we may be reunited as soon as possible."

One of several buildings of the Thanh Hoa Provincial Hospital compound which were destroyed by US bombing Dec. 26, 1971. Nine people were killed and 11 wounded in the December raids. The Thanh Hoa Hospital was attacked again April 26. Twelve people were killed according to initial reports.

FLASH: This is a statement made by eight recently downed US pilots in Hanoi. They point out the contradictions in Nixon's thinking that bombing will free the POWs. They're also pretty hip to the fact that they may get wiped out by US bombs.

To the people of the United States and the Congress of the United States from American pilots captured in North Vietnam.

Despite the bombing halt announced in 1968 the President ordered the resumption and authorized continuation of the bombing of North Vietnam and a variety of excuses to justify the raids. On Sunday morning, April 16, 1972, the peace of Hanoi and Haiphong were shattered by American bombs. Many innocent people died a totally needless and senseless death. We, the detained Americans *in Hanoi*, could not help but be struck by the futility of such actions. We have come to know the Vietnamese people, and we know that no bombing, or no threat of death, is going to still the spirit that lives in them. We believe that widespread bombing of North Vietnam serves only to turn world opinion more strongly against the United States, and risks the death and capture of many more Americans, as well as endangering the lives of those already held captive. No bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong will cause the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, or the Government of North Vietnam, to come begging for peace short of freedom and independence. No bombing of North Vietnam serves to make the withdrawal of American forces any safer, and only makes it more likely that they cannot be withdrawn at all, and serves only as an admission of the failure of the Vietnamization policy.

We appeal to the American people to exercise your rights and responsibilities, and demand an end to the war now! We appeal to the Congress to take firm, positive action to go with the words already spoken against the war. The resumption of the Paris peace conference, and serious negotiations based on the 7 Point Proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government are obvious first steps. We require these steps and much more. Americnas! The hope of the world is in your hands. Bring us home now!

Very Respectfully,

David Hoffman, Lt. Commander USN
San Diego, California

Walter E. Wilbur, Commander USN
Troy, Pennsylvania

Norris A. Charles, Jr., Lt(jg) USN
Tampa, Florida

Kenneth J. Fraser, Captain USN
Brooklyn, New York

Lynn E. Gunther, Captain USAF
Dalles, Oregon

Edison W. Miller, Lt.Col. USMC
Quinton, Iowa

James D. Cutter, Captain USAF
Stillwater, Florida

Edward A. Hawley, Jr.
Birmingham, Alabama

Conditions for release of the POWs are clearly laid out in the first point of the 7 Point program the pilots mentioned:

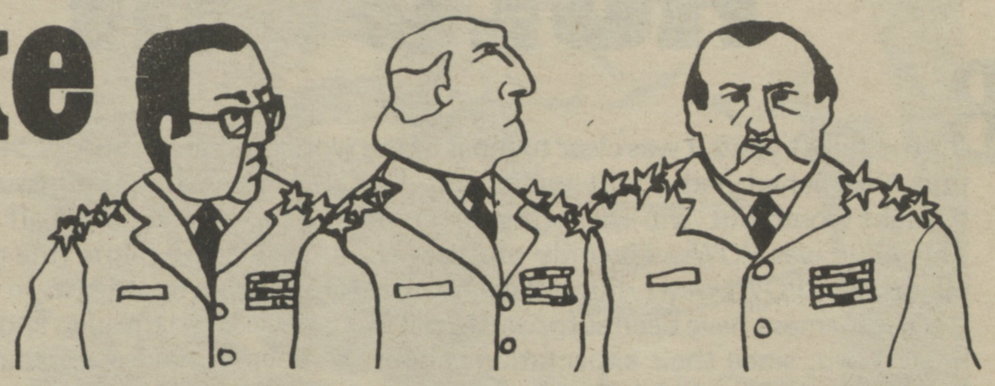
"The US government must set a terminal date for the withdrawal from South Vietnam of the totality of US forces and those of other foreign countries in the US camp." Then there would be an agreement for insuring the safety of US forces and release of all captured US military personnel, including pilots captured over North Vietnam.

Nixon refuses to negotiate on this point. He expects us to distrust the Vietnamese' declaration that they'll release the pilots. He is stupid enough to think that they wouldn't be glad to release prisoners who have required a lot of attention and time.

But his real interest is not in American pilots. His real intent is to support the only people in Vietnam who'll take orders from the US — the Thieu regime (see page 11) — and keep it open for American investments and rip-offs.

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

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



THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!

ANYWHERE, USA (April) — According to an article in the New York Times, in 1970-71, over ¼ of the Army split for awhile, some for good. That means that 265,000 guys AWOL and 111,000 deserted. A lot of these dudes haven't been caught. An officer at Ft. Lee, Virginia said that there were so many deserters that "if the Army went around trying to pick them up, they'd just have to shut down all their operations." He said that very little is done to find people, and that unless a guy is found in a traffic check, "he could stay away until kingdom come." (source: LNS)

YANQUI JUSTICE
PUERTO RICAN REVOLUTIONARY CONVICTED

NEW YORK CITY (March) — It was the usual scene at the recent trial for draft refusal of Pablo "Yoruba" Guzman, Minister of Information of the Young Lords Party. The Young Lords Party is a revolutionary nationalist organization in New York City, well-known for its community service programs. Two hundred people attended the first day of the trial saying that "We came to court because we too feel that we should not be forced into the army of a nation that has oppressed and exploited us and kept our island as a colony for the last 73 years." But when the defense moved that the trial be held at night so that working people could attend and testify, Federal Judge Charles Metzner refused. When the defense asked that both English and Spanish be used so that those testifying could speak the language that they felt they could express themselves best in, the judge denied the motion. When the defense submitted 53 questions to the judge so that prospective jurors could be questioned particularly about their racial attitudes toward Puerto Ricans, the judge threw 36 of them out. When Yoruba asked that dozens of people from his community who volunteered be allowed to testify, the judge restricted the defense to character witnesses. When Yoruba's lawyers called on Yoruba's mother and father to testify, the judge prevented the testimony because of their prejudice (Get that, their prejudice). According to plan, Yoruba was convicted by an all-white jury. The only prospective Puerto Rican juror was thrown off the jury panel. After the trial Yoruba said, "I knew I was breaking the law. I was breaking the law of the US ruling class, not of the American people . . . I was going against the Rockefellers, the Morgans, the Kennedys . . ." Two days later a crowd of two hundred marched through the Bronx in support of Yoruba chanting "Free Puerto Rico — Right Now!" When molotov cocktails were thrown at the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank, riot police fired on the crowd. Two people were arrested and no one was reported injured. (source: LNS)

PLASTIC TREES PLANTED IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES (February) - In China, crops sprout from land that was once just rock. But in Los Angeles, city workers have been ordered to plant 900 plastic plants along the highway to "beautify the roadside."

The beauty of it, says the county, is that while the plastics cost $74,504 to install, the trees will not have to be watered or pruned. And the leaves won't shed, even when heavy pollution has leaves dropping off all the other plants in the city. (source: LNS)

WESTMORELAND TAKES INCOMING ROUND

FT. BLISS, TEXAS (April) - The wonder general was reviewing troops here when he got caught in a barrage of tomatoes thrown by about ten people. They were arrested, then released on $400 bail, saying it was strange that they were arrested while war criminals like Westmoreland got promoted. (source: Overseas Weekly)

THERE'S DOPE HERE SOMEWHERE!

SAN DIEGO (April) - Crewmen from the USS SAN BERNADINO wrote an open letter to California Senators Tunney and Cranston requesting a congressional investigation of the command on board. The letter cited 8 specific cases of harrassment and intimidation by the CO and XO, including charges against 47 crewmembers for having possessed a "small amount of marijuana at some time during the months of April - December 1971."

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY (IRA)
BULLETS AND PERSUASION

IRELAND (Spring) — Liam McMillan, head of the official Irish Republican Army in Belfast, British-occupied Northern Ireland, said in a recent speech in San Francisco that three soldiers had defected there from the British Army. The British, like the US in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and the Philippines, to name a few, is occupying Northern Ireland in an effort to prevent the Irish people from finally freeing and uniting their country after hundreds of years of struggle. The IRA is conducting an urban guerrilla war aimed at British military targets and right-wing anti-Catholic politicians in the north. McMillan said that the IRA had addressed British soldiers in thousands of leaflets asking them not to fight their brothers and sisters, the working people of Ireland, and to stop being the pawns of the British financial interests who control both northern and southern Ireland. (source: San Francisco speech of Mr. McMillan)

VIETNAM VET, SELF RETIRED
FIGHTS DESERTION

NEW YORK (April) — John D. Herndon was in the Nam for over 15 months, and began to understand he was fighting the wrong enemy. He retired himself in 1970 and lived in Paris helping GIs with anti-war work and put out a paper called ACT. This March he was arrested as he tried to re-enter the US, was charged with desertion, and thrown in the Dix stockade. His case has a lot of support, and he's not shining on anything to save his skin. Herndon deserted for political reasons, and intends to use his case to test the government's threats against deserters and self-retired GIs. He accused the military of systematic destruction of civilians in Vietnam; under the laws established at Nuremburg after WW II, high officers of the German army were sentenced to death for similar crimes.

"I don't want amnesty, if that means asking for forgiveness. I don't need to be forgiven by this government—the question is, will I forgive them?" (source: SafeReturn, New York)

INDIAN MURDERED IN NEBRASKA
1300 MARCH IN PROTEST

GORDON, NEBRASKA (March) — In February, a 51-year-old Oglala Sioux Indian named Raymond Yellow Thunder died of cerebral hemmorhage caused by beating on his head a week earlier by a group of five drunk white people. This was the last straw for the Indians who lived in the area, in the town and on the two nearby reservations (Pine Ridge and Rosebud). By the first week in March, 1300 Oglala Sioux had come down from the reservations to investigate what really happened. In the meantime, five people (four men and a woman) were finally brought in, but merely charged with manslaughter and false imprisonment—not murder. This had happened many times to Indians in that area, but this time was different. The Sioux, some wearing their traditional costumes, others wearing upside down American flags, took over the town hall for a night. They decided to call their own Grand Jury to find out what happened. They testified about Yellow Thunder's murder as well as what it was like for them to be confined to small plots on reservations, when their ancestors were the original inhabitants of the land. They testified, too, about houses made of tar paper with dirt floors.

The Sioux presented seven demands to the prosecutor, the mayor and the Governor's office. They demanded that the city of Gordon ask for a Congressional and Justice Dept. investigation, that they convene a grand jury, that there be a complete autopsy of Yellow Thunder, that a Human Relations Council be established made up of equal numbers of whites and Indians, that two Indians held in jail be released, and that a particular racist policeman be suspended. All seven demands were granted. (source: LNS)

LIFER GETS BOOT

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. (March) — Staff Porker Barker of Casual Company, Camp Pigleton, California was the staff duty NCO for building 1364 one night. At 10:45 PM he decided to make a harassment patrol in the 4th Platoon squad bay. After a few minutes of bullshit he was hit in the head with a size 12 combat boot followed by a barrage of other government property. Parker attempted to hang it all on one brother, but the men of Casual Company were not intimidated. Seventy-five brothers followed Parker and his prisoner to the company office and no one was busted. (source: Camp News)

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

POWS REVOLT AT STATESIDE BRIGS

NORTH CAROLINA (March) — Marines in the brig at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, organized a silent protest at morning inspection calling for better food, more TV, and less lifer harassment. When a table got torn apart to make a flag pole for their new flag, a fist and the word "revolution," 15 brothers were busted and transferred to the brig at Portsmouth, Virginia. . . . Sailors in the brig at Newport, Rhode Island, have been protesting lousy conditions there, too. One lifer made the mistake of saying that he would eat the first cockroach they found. After one brother was charged with riot, the straight press, alerted by the local GI paper, All Hands Abandon Ship, picked up on the story and charges were dropped. The uprising spread to Boston Navy Yard Brig when prisoners were transferred there from Newport. (source: All Hands Abandon Ship)

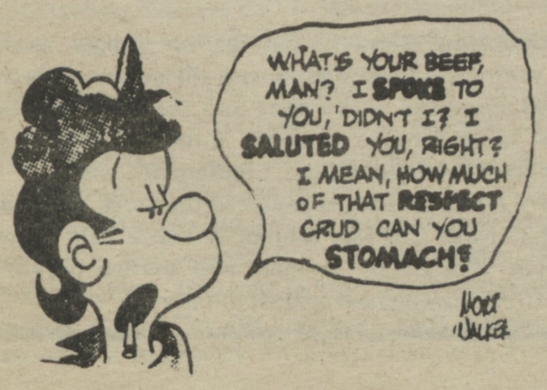
ROACHES RUN RAMPANT IN THE CAPITOL BUILDING

WASHINGTON (January) — "We can't seem to get rid of them," says George Hays, a Capitol official. "They" are cockroaches, and they've reinfested the place after being exterminated in the '40's. In 1962, the roaches had a big comeback and $6000 was spent to kill them. According to officials, the roaches came through the mail in packages and letters. So that's what people are writing to their congressmen . . . (source: LNS)

NO MORE GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY

NEWPORT, R.I. (April) - The William R. Rush is a tin can gunboat with a very pissed off crew. Things came out as the ship readied for deployment to Africa on a "Good Will" mission.

After a congressional investigation of conditions which turned into a whitewash, nine members of the crew protested the ship's scheduled stops at two Portuguese colonies in Africa. They sent a telegram to the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa: *"We the following protest the April 5 deployment of the USS WILLIAM R RUSH on the cruise which includes stopping in ports in the countries of Angola and Mozambique in Africa. The people in these countries are in revolution against the racist Portuguese colonial governments there. We want a complete investigation of American involvement in the Portuguese colonies in Africa. We want this cruise stopped. NO MORE VIETNAMS!"*



STATUE OF LIBERTY SEIZED
VETS TAKE ACTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NEW YORK (December) — As Nixon ordered bombing raids over North Vietnam right after Christmas, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) staged their own raids, these against the Nixon administration and its war in Indochina.

In New York, 15 veterans barricaded themselves inside the Statue of Liberty. They said, "We, as a new generation of men who have survived Vietnam, are taking this symbolic action at the Statue of Liberty in an effort to show support for *any* man who refuses to kill." National press picked up on this one—it was too dramatic to ignore, and the vets wrote to Nixon, "You set the date . . . we'll evacuate!"

The Statue of Liberty got the headlines and the front page pictures (with an upside down American flag flying from her crown) but it was far from an isolated event. Vets all over the country reclaimed several monuments of the American Revolution—pitching their tents at Valley Forge and invading the Betsy Ross "Freedom House" in Philadelphia.

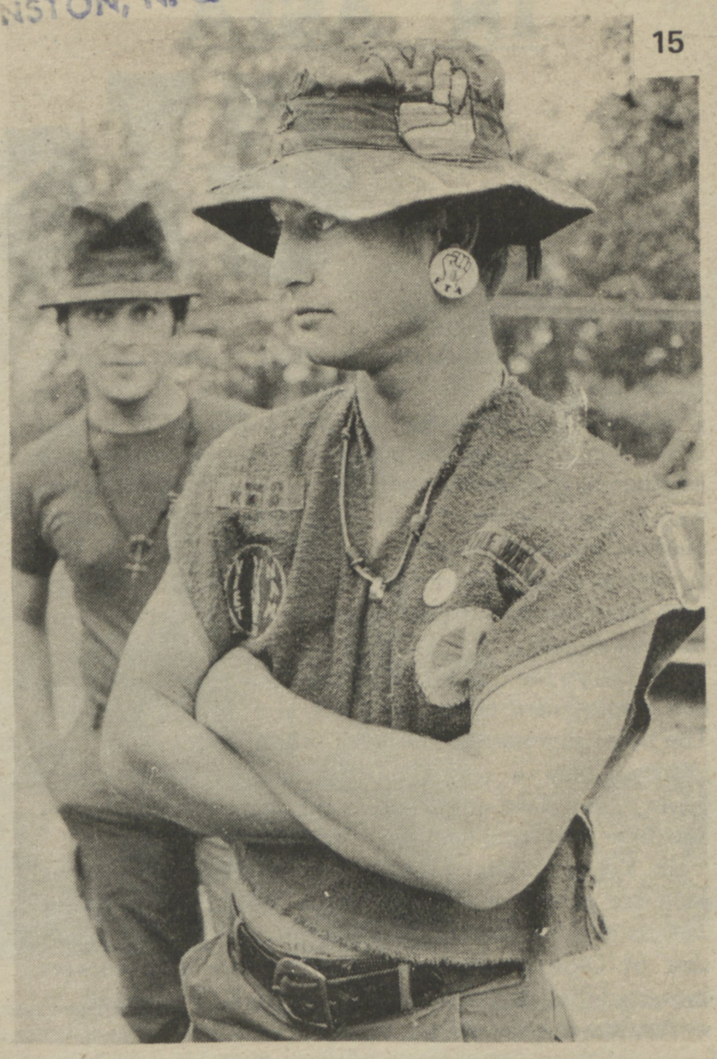
There were also actions at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, Ft. Hood, Texas, and Travis Air Force Base, California. At Dix, a group of vets who had sat down just inside the perimeter had to be dragged off base by MPs. At Travis a group of 25 GIs who had recently returned from Vietnam with a promise that they would be sent to hospitals (as a result of positive piss tests), found themselves spending the Christmas holidays locked illegally in the Travis hospital. Other veterans joined them in occupying the second floor of the hospital for almost 14 hours, destroying much of it, and giving it up again without any charges being placed against them.

In Dorchester, Massachusetts, nine VVAW members sat in at the Dorchester Army Recruiting Station and were tear gassed when police took over. The police also overturned desks and broke down doors in order to "get things under control" again. Some vets were bitten by dogs.

In San Francisco, another group seized the South Vietnamese consulate and used the Telex equipment there to send off a message directly to the South Vietnamese government. These vets were busted by city police, and charged with trespassing. At their trial they put the war on trial and testified as to war crimes they had witnessed when they were in Vietnam. The jury was won over, and they were acquitted of the charges. (source: LNS)

NATO CHIEF RESIGNS TO CAMPAIGN AS FASCIST

ROME (March) - Admiral Gino Birindelli, 61, has resigned his position as commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization naval forces in the Mediterranean. But he did not act out of disillusionment with the US backed alliance. He says that he found something else to do that will be in NATO's interest. Birindelli is seeking election to the Italian parliament on the Neo-Fascist ticket. (source: LNS)



USS LEARY UNFITNESS REPORT

NORFOLK, Rhode Island (November, 1971) — Brothers on the USS Leary (DD879) tell us that their 27 year old ship may not be long for the high seas. Seems that a while back in Newport, RI, the ol' boat was rammed by a tug that went through the double hull. A half-ass repair job has made it look good—from the outside, but it isn't sound. The ship will be in the Mediterranean this winter, and the brothers figure that a 40 foot wave will do them in. On top of that, only two or three compartments on the whole ship are water-tight. That's not all, folks! The bricks in the boiler were put in backwards, and that could go at any time. The alternate communication system (sound power phones) from the bridge to after steering doesn't work, there's six inches of water in the signal shack when it rains, and the ship's radio is always going down (this is the first yard period in two years). Not all is bad news, though. They've gotten rid of the maggots in the ventilation, so now all they have to worry about are the cockroaches on the mess decks. (source: The Norfolk Gorilla)

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT..."

NEW YORK (February) - Pamela Gross, who is nine years old, recently wrote a letter to Pres. Nixon complaining that she could "smell sewage" and suggested that he do something about it. She got back this answer from the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare: "Pay attention to your own learning activities and let the President take care of decisions on national and international affairs." (source: LNS)

SAILORS ABANDON SHIP — RATS TO FOLLOW

RHODE ISLAND (March) — Twenty men from two destroyers based in Newport granted themselves emergency leave before their ships, the Cecil and the Fox, sailed for the Mediterranean. Sailors from the Cecil threw part of the helm over for good measure before leaving. A sailor from the Fox explained why he and his brothers joined the growing movement to stop the Navy. "Everyone I talked to shared the same regret of participating in the Middle East paradox. I wonder if our Executive Officer and 'Old Man' ever think of the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt in US-made tents, being displaced by US-made tanks and getting bombed by US-made bombs."

The US is supplying both the Israelis and the Jordanians with weapons and other forms of military assistance. Since the state of Israel was founded in 1948, millions of Palestinians have been displaced from their homes by refugees from Hitler's concentration camps. Jordan is cooperating with Israel under the direction of the US in a campaign to wipe out Palestinian guerrillas who are fighting to regain their homes in Israel and on the west bank of the Jordan River. Jordan hasn't hesitated to bring its campaign of terror into the refugee camps with artillery, rocket and tank attacks. (source: All Hands Abandon Ship).

IN ASIA

GIs ESCALATE

TOKYO (APRIL 22)

While tens of thousands of Americans turned out in the states to support the Vietnamese people in the final offensive of their struggle against the US and to protest Nixon's escalation of the war, GIs from every major base in Japan held a press conference in Tokyo to condemn the war. At the same time 12 GIs, representing Okinawa-based marines who were in Japan for firing practice at Camp Fuji as well as naval personnel at Atsugi and Yokosuka, met with three hundred Japanese workers in the Labor Union Hall in Yokosuka.

In Tokyo the GIs voiced strong opposition to Nixon's new deployment of ships, planes, and men to Vietnam. The bases represented (Iwakuni, Yokota, Yokosuka, and Misawa) play a special role in supporting this new deployment. Two entire air squadrons with full support have been sent from Iwakuni to Danang in particular.

In Yokosuka GIs called for a common front with the Japanese people against American aggression in Asia as well as growing Japanese militarism, particularly in the case of Okinawa (see below). The Japanese workers expressed their complete support for the GI movement.

At other bases in Asia...

IWAKUNI (SPRING, 1972)

We received the following letter from a brother at Iwakuni about a recent discovery of illegal nuclear weapons there:

"Today was the first time that I have ever read your paper and in my opinion it is the best one that I have ever read. You people really tell it like it is.

I am stationed here at Iwakuni, Japan, and there is an underground newspaper here and it is printed by marines stationed here. It is called the Semper Fi. *The* Fi *does everything it can to print the truth about the things that happen here, that the pigs try to keep quiet about. This paper is a great help to the GIs here and a great number read and support the paper.*

On October 3 three GIs participated in a demonstration at People's Park. They were put on indefinite restriction for this. Still another GI was charged with being out of uniform because he was wearing a cross on a string of beads and with talking to and lowering the morale of his fellow GIs. He was also put on restriction for an indefinite period of time.

On November 25th the pigs were so uptight about hearing that the Japanese people found out about their bombs on base, and knowing that their charges wouldn't hold up, decided to ship the men back to the states, this being illegal because two of the men had applied for Conscientious Objector discharges. (No one has ever received a CO discharge from Iwakuni.) The pigs were afraid that if these men remained here they would demonstrate with the Japanese against the base.

On November 25th the four men [Cpl. Paul Neighorn, L/Cpl. Don Spreuer, Pfc. Vince Brew, and Navy Hospital Corpsman Jim Yeakley--ed.] were given 24 hours to check out of their units. On the morning of Nov. 26th at 5:00 A.M. they were given a military escort to their plane. This was 2½ hours before their orders said that they had to be there. Supposedly all charges were dropped against them. All these people were editors or members of the paper. The pigs are really getting scared of the GIs here, but for every four GIs shipped out 10 will replace them. As long as there are bases overseas the movement will continue to resist the government.

That is, shall we say, my coming out in the resistance. Mostly this was brought around by the FTA Free the Army show presented here last night. This show was outstanding. It really made me see how things are. I guess that I have just had my eyes closed to the truth for so long it took something like this to open them for me. I am glad that this happened because now I will do everything in my power to support and help GIs to see the truth and join the movement.

Power to the People,
Greg

A socialist member of the Japanese parliament blew the story about the nuclear weapons because storing nuclear weapons at Iwakuni is *an illegal act* according to the Mutual Defense Pact imposed on Japan by the US after World War II.

Denying the charges, the US moved quickly to hide the evidence. A flight of heavy-laden planes which are designed to carry nukes was reported to have taken off for Okinawa while the nuclear weapons storage area was redecorated overnight so that color coding no longer matched nuclear storage dumps at other US bases in Asia.

The four brothers who were kidnapped and shipped out left saying, "We feel there are underlying reasons for the charges against us. We write and publish *Semper Fi*, an off-base GI publication. Through this paper we demand an end to the war in Southeast Asia and complete withdrawal of US forces from Asia, human rights for GIs, an end to racism and imperialism in the military system and complete overhaul of the military system. We keep the Iwakuni base GIs informed as to what is happening to other GIs around the world. And we openly support GI movements and actions such as on the US ships Connie and Coral Sea."

More than a month later the brass launched another attack against the movement at Iwakuni. This time by singling out black GIs for persecution the brass tried to use racism to divide and confuse the movement.

On New Years Eve all the pent up frustrations of life in the pig military broke loose in fighting. During the several days of fighting that followed there were reports that

SAILORS SPLIT

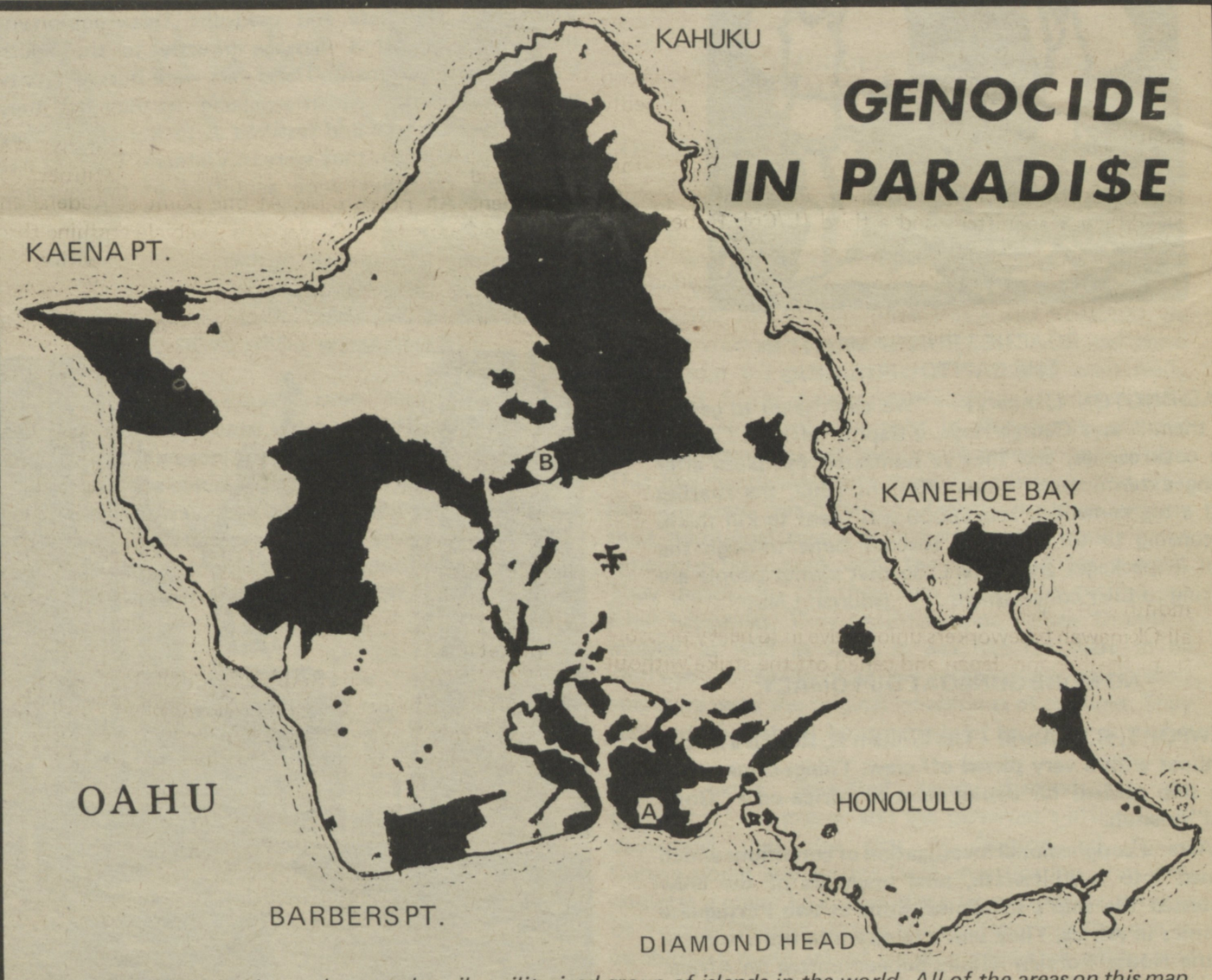
CARRIER CREWMEN SEEK SANCTUARY ALLOVER THE EMPIRE (Winter-Spring) – The USS Kittyhawk, attack aircraft carrier, left for Vietnam on February 17, one month earlier than scheduled and without at least seven of its crewmembers. Nixon personally ordered the carrier out early, hoping to cut short the Stop-The-Hawk campaign before it got up a good head of steam. Seven crewmen took sanctuary in local San Diego churches, rather than sail with the beast. In December, men from the carrier started putting out a paper, "Kitty Litter" which called for crewmembers to stop the Hawk from going to Vietnam. 150 crewmen showed up at a rally with Joan Baez in downtown San Diego on February to protest the ship's departure. The seven surrendered themselves to the Navy after the Hawk had pulled out . . . and were flown back to the ship the same day.

• In February, a crewman from the USS Midway, Rick Larsen, sought sanctuary in a church in Palo Alto, California. Federal authorities arrested him after he spent four days there, and he was later discharged as a conscientious objector.

• In March, a crewman from the USS Hancock, Todd Looney, stayed with Japanese anti-war activists in Yokosuka rather than sail back to the line. "I oppose the Vietnam war and the killing of countless Vietnamese people. By voicing my opinion I hope to support the people of Japan and throughout Asia that are also opposed to the killing of Vietnamese people." Looney surrendered himself to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo after a press conference at which he condemned the air war as "murder" that he wanted no part of.

• In April, the USS Midway left NAS Alameda for Vietnam, months earlier than scheduled as part of the build-up of American airpower. It was also minus hundreds of crewmen. One of them, John Powers, took sanctuary in a Berkeley church. John was also welcomed to Berkeley by the city's mayor, Warren Widener. Men on the Midway had only one weekend's notice to prepare for departure. And they were so short of men that they had to get replacements from the Enterprise and the Ranger, as well as put a call for crew over local radio stations.

GENOCIDE IN PARADI$E



The Hawaiian Islands are the most heavily militarized group of islands in the world. All of the areas on this map that are blacked out are either owned or controlled by the US military. The military provides the greatest source of income for the islands, $150 million more per year than tourism. Oahu is not a paradise, but the main staging ground for genocide in Indochina. GIs and civilians in Hawaii have been working together to expose the true business of the islands.

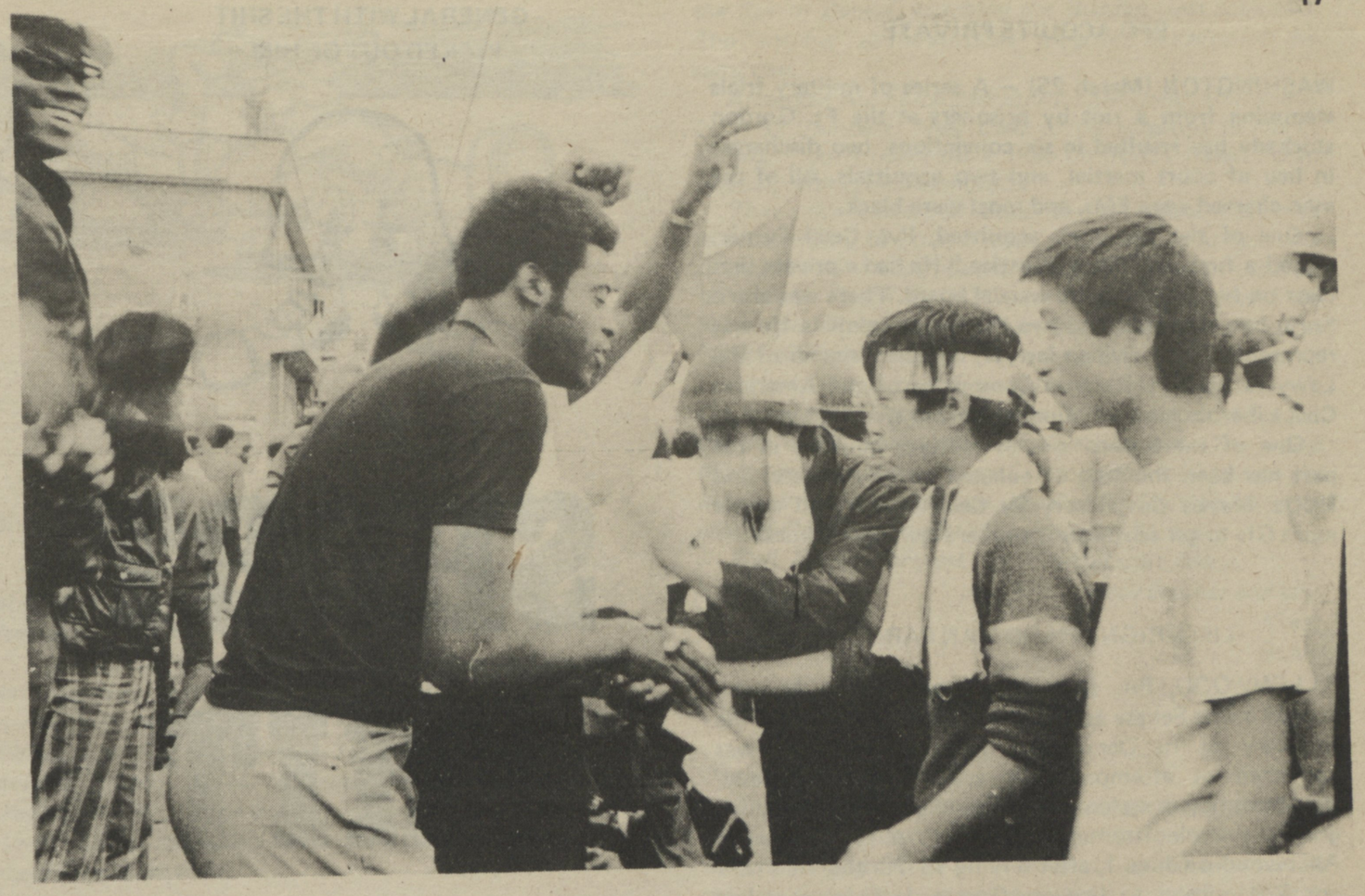
On march 27, the Liberated Barracks and catholic Action and their friends distributed larger posters of this map, with all the gruesome details, to tourists leaving 11 US cities and Tokyo for vacations in Hawaii. And for 4 months starting in January, they have made blows against the empire.

(A) Hickam Field-- At the main gate, a model plane suspended in the air launched strikes against people dressed like Vietnamese peasants. Recorded screams of children and women, and people being killed by anti-personnel bombs, and smoke grenades, made the battle real enough to startle the people going in and out of Hickam.

Six weeks later, seven people from catholic Action managed to get into Hickam. While five people leafletted, James Douglass and Jim Albertini, teachers, got to the high-security Planning and Programs Division of the Directorate of Electronic Warfare. One of them covered two file drawars marked "top secret" with human blood.

(B) Schofield Barracks--famous for jungle warfare training with a mock-up Vietnamese village complete with slant-eyed dummies to be shot and stabbed. Schofield Barracks' most famous graduate is mass murderer and close friend of President Nixon, Lieutenant Calley.

In early April, 20 people captured the mock village and renamed it Nkat Chi Mai Memorial Peace Park after a 20-year-old Vietnamese woman who burned herself in Saigon in 1967 as a protest against the war.



Brothers, one partially hidden giving both the peace sign and power, meet with Okinawan students supporting base workers strike during a strike in 1971. At that time a Special Forces private who refused riot control duty laid it out this way, "I didn't want to go out and club lots of Okinawan people because that's what the Pig is doing to Black people back in the states. I feel that the Okinawan people's struggle is the same struggle as all oppressed (or Third World people) - against one foe - the fascist, Amerikan military regime..."

• • •

some, but not all of the fighting had racial overtones. At some point 2 white majors were beaten up by several black brothers. The racial incidents aren't surprising since the brass at Iwakuni has the reputation of including some of the most vicious racists in the US military.

"THAT MINORITY GROUP OF PIGS"

The pigs decided that what went down was a race riot and according to the definition of race riot in the racist mind of the racist pig, the blacks had to be behind it. One black brother, Sonny Williams, explained it this way, "Any time a group of blacks gets together, it seems to the brass like they're 'organizing a riot'...It is not our fault. And we've got a lot of white brothers. It's not their fault. It's just that minority group of pigs that make it bad for everybody else."

Well, the pig minority group got to work and, after ignoring their own incredible everyday racism and a cross-burning by some whites during the 'riot', proceeded to question *all* the black brothers on the base about the so-called race riot. At least five blacks were busted on a variety of assault and possession of weapons charges.

The real motive behind this tactic was explained by a white sergeant, Brother "Cap" Caporelli, **"My view on Naval Intelligence calling in only the blacks for questioning is that they're trying to keep us separated because they're really afraid that we might get together and become a powerful political force."**

The brothers' civilian lawyers faced the usual situation: a kangaroo court prepared to dispense (white) lifer justice. There are only two black officers eligible to sit as members of courts-martial and neither of them made it in the 'race riot' cases. Instead the board was made up of friends and acquaintances of the white majors who were allegedly assaulted.

So far in three cases, one brother (L/Cpl. Clifford Hunt) has had his charges dropped, another (Pfc. Stanley Headd) was acquitted, and a third (L/Cpl. Robert Lee) copped a plea and got three months and a kick.

We are glad to report that despite repeated attempts by the pigs to break the movement at Iwakuni, many GIs turned out to support the men on trial and the struggle is still going on. We are still getting *Semper Fi* and hearing from our brothers and sisters in Japan.

OKINAWA (SPRING, 1972)

The last baseworkers strike before Okinawa changes status from an American protectorate to become a part of Japan has been sold out by its leaders. After baseworkers virtually paralyzed activities at all 69 US bases during the month of March, the leaders of Zengunro, the all-Okinawan baseworkers union, gave in to heavy pressure from the US and Japan and called off the strike without even consulting the union membership.

The US used every tactic possible including armed attacks on picket lines with MPs and Okinawan riot police to break the strike. The US was desperate to restore order on the island in order to continue its escalation of the war in Vietnam. As soon as the strike ended, the bases were put on a 24-hour work schedule.

This latest in a series of violent strikes that have swept the island for two years was principally over the issue of rehiring base workers who have been systematically fired in order to break the union. The strike began March 7 and the leaders called it off on April 9 after the US and Japan refused to deal with the baseworkers demands. Ten out of sixteen locals have decided to continue the strike while trying to replace the present leadership with militants.

MILITARY DOMINATES OKINAWA

Okinawa has been under US domination since 1945. Almost one-third of the population was killed off when the US fought Japan for control of the island. Since 1945, Okinawans have wanted to live in peace free from military domination by either the US or Japan. But the US built up the island as one of its most important military bases in the Pacific, forcing the Okinawans to become dependent on the US military for a living while destroying one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific.

Reversion of Okinawa to Japan, scheduled for May 15, means a new master for the Okinawans. Rather than symbolizing a decrease in US military domination in the area, it means that the Japanese 'Self-Defense Forces' are being sent to occupy the island along with the Americans.

GI response to the strike was inconsistent. Some GIs threw their support behind the striking workers realizing that the same pigs, i.e. the military, who are holding them hostage and forcing them to participate in US aggression in Vietnam , have also made them pawns in the game of ripping off Okinawans. Others, confused by being caught between the brass and the Okinawan people, have sided with the brass in their attacks on the strikers.

MPs and Okinawan riot police concentrated their attacks on pickets at the Yafuso Gate of the Army's Second Supply Base, at the Naha port facilities, and at Kadena Air Force Base. At one point at Kadena an Air Force Commander Carver sent a vehicle crashing through the picket line at 6 A.M. and followed it up with an attack by three truckloads of armed MPs and Okinawan riot police. Six hundred pickets counterattacked, retaking the area. During the fighting Carver was seen playing a fire hose on the strikers until he was hit in the face with a rock from a slingshot.

In the worst instance of fighting between GIs and Okinawans, white GIs attacked a picket line after the pickets prevented supplies for an on-base party from getting through. While the party for EMs was called off, the officers continued their festivities until their party was attacked by a number of black GIs. The black brothers then moved to the gate where they fought with the baseworkers against white GIs who were attacking the picket line.

GIs RALLY SUPPORT

The day before the strike was cancelled, April 8, several hundred anti-war GIs held a rally to support the strike. The rally was addressed by Okinawan students. Earlier, GIs who call themselves the Freedom Family put together a festival to raise money and to show support for the baseworkers. On April 28, Okinawa Day, GIs handed out a Statement of Conscience in support of the Okinawan struggle against US and Japanese imperialism at a massive rally in Naha.

THE PHILIPPINES (SPRING, 1972)

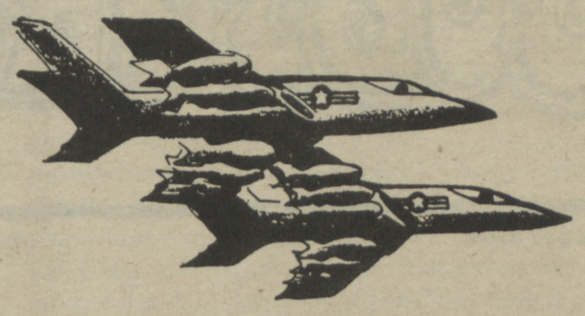
Reports from Pacific Counseling Service and two new GI newspapers replacing THE WHIG - CRY OUT! from Clark Air Force Base and SEASICK from Subic Bay - indicate that there has been an upsurge in anti-war activity in the Philippines. We have heard from several brothers on carriers going to and from Nam that when they return to Subic, their ships often lie offshore rather than enter Subic to be resupplied. Must be those nasty subversives at the base who have held parties for the brothers off the carriers and are working on a petition campaign against the war for the Seventh Fleet.

At Clark, Philippine Constabulary, OSI, and Air Force pigs have raided the project in Angeles City twice in March and April. They have managed to fill the base paper, THE PHILIPPINE FLYER, and the local press with an unbelievable assortment of lies in an attempt to frighten GIs away from the project house at 1240 San Jose Street. After the March raid they claimed that they had been looking for 'an escaped American convict,' that they found dangerous drugs (really penicillin tablets), and that they had 'razed' the building during the raid — all lies.

At the same time the base commander, Col. William Truesdale, has pressured the Philippine government into trying to prevent PCS lawyers from helping GIs. After PCS exposed these maneuvers at a press conference and got some backing from a Filippino lawyer, the government dropped their attempt to get the lawyers deported.

AGANA, GUAM (May 4)

An estimated 75 people protested US bombing raids over the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (so-called 'North Vietnam'). It was the first demonstration ever witnessed on Guam. The people gathered outside Anderson Air Force Base, used by B-52 pilots as a jumping off point for the air raids. (source: San Francisco Chronicle)



"Here come our replacements."

SHORT SHIT

PFC ACQUITS PRIVATE

WASHINGTON (March 25) — A series of military trials stemming from a riot by prisoners at the Ft. Gordon stockade has resulted in six convictions, two discharges in lieu of court martial, and two acquittals. All of the men charged were EMs, and most were black.

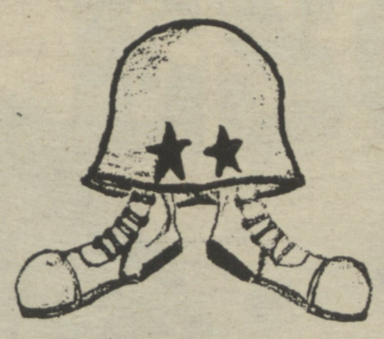
One of the two men acquitted, Pvt. Cecil Turner, scored a first in military "justice." He had a private first class on his general court martial board. There was also a Sp/4, two sergeants, and two lieutenant colonels. He was represented by a civilian lawyer, Joseph Remcho of the Lawyers Military Defense Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation from Washington.

One of the foundations of military injustice in the past has been the trial of enlisted men by officers and NCOs. Maybe this victory by Cecil Turner will enable more GIs to get fair trials. (source: New York Times)

LBJ'S RIGHT HAND MAN PAROLED

ALLENWOOD, PA. (April) — Bobby Baker, 43, who started in the Senate as a page boy and rose to become the secretary of its Democratic majority before he was convicted of attempted tax evasion, grand larceny, transportation of stolen money, fraud and conspiracy, was granted parole from the Federal prison camp at Allenwood on June 1, after serving 18 months. He's now got $20 million to live on. George Jackson, shot last August at San Quentin, was doing ten years for a $70 gas station hold-up. (source: SF Examiner)

GENERAL WITH THE SHIT KICKED OUT OF HIM



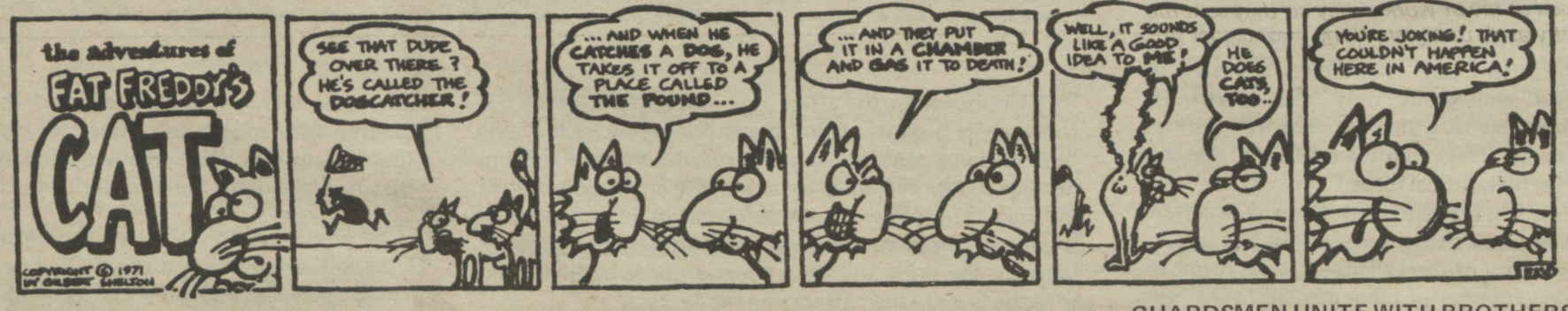
TWO BLACKS, TWO COPS KILLED IN BATON ROUGE

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA (January 10) — Two blacks and two cops were killed when Baton Rouge police attacked a Black Muslim street meeting attended by 1000 people. City police from every beat including undercover cops were called in to join the attack.

The first reports came straight from the mouths of the police chief, the mayor, the sheriff, and the governor. Mayor Woodrow W. Dumas was quoted as saying, "They're talking about taking over our city. We're clearing the deck, and we're ready to take them on." Gov. John J. McKiethen said, "... a bunch of damned maniacs ..." started the trouble.

He was right. Apparently what really happened was closer to this: the Muslims were holding their meeting in the middle of the Baton Rouge ghetto. Traffic was blocked off and Muslims rapped from the top of a parked car. Down the street a scuffle broke out between a black reporter and some young blacks. Police ordered the meeting to break up. When the Muslims held their ground, Chief of Police Eddy Bauer led the charge into the crowd. Although the Muslims were unarmed, some of them were trained in self defense. When the police attacked, people disarmed them. Although police claim the blacks shot first, they weren't able to produce any weapons. The four dead men were killed by .38 caliber weapons, while the police at the scene all carried .38 service revolvers and shotguns.

After the shooting was over, police continued to brutalize the blacks, dragging them along in the rain or handcuffing them face down in puddles. Eight men have been charged with murder and are being held without bail. All are Muslims. (source: LNS)



SAIGON STRIKERS LOSE TO MME. THIEU (TEMPORARILY)

SAIGON (December, 1971) — In October leaders of the union local at the Eagle Battery Factory were fired for demanding: a pay raise from the 45 cent a day they made, equal pay for women doing the same work, and safety measures. A strike was called and by December, after the courts declared the strike illegal, the leaders and some workers were in prison and scabs were hired to fill places on the line. They were defeated, people in Saigon suspect, because the wife of President Thieu owns 60% of the stock in the company, which for some reason is the only one allowed to sell batteries to the South Vietnamese army. (source: PNS)

EMPTY HOUSE FOR LT. CALLEY

COLUMBUS, GA. (April) — Even though Nixon digs Calley, convicted of murdering at least 27 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in 1969, it doesn't look like many Americans feel the same way. Sponsors of a rally to urge freedom for Calley, who's living comfortably in housing at nearby Ft. Bragg, hoped for 75,000 people. Only about 250 came. (Source: LNS)

SOURCES

LNS — Liberation News Service
CAMP — Newsletter for the Chicago Area Military Project
PNS — Pacific News Service

GUARDSMEN UNITE WITH BROTHERS AND SISTERS

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. (April) — In 1970, 396 Guardsmen/Reservists signed a statement that they would refuse orders to participate in an action like the massacres at Kent State and Jackson, Mississippi, after the Cambodia invasion. Last November, members of Hq Btry, 1st Bn., 144th Field Arty, Calif. Army National Guard took a survey in their unit. More than 93% wanted a total US withdrawal from Vietnam by the end of 1971, and 66% would refuse to be activated for any overseas duty in a crisis. Even if they were being attacked with rocks, 92% would refuse to fire on students. It's not surprising that practically no one planned to re-up. When the guard refuses to kill people fighting for their rights, then the Americanization of America that Nixon needs will be a failure, just as Vietnamization has failed. Right on! (source: LNS)

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Olongapo City
Ph. 5333

PHILIPPINES: CLARK
1240 San Jose Street
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Angeles City
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TOKYO, JAPAN
Ishii Building 6-44
Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku
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IWAKUNI, JAPAN
P.O. Box 49
Iwakuni-shi
Yamaguchi-ken

MISAWA, JAPAN
The Owl
2-4-9 Chuo Cho
Misawa-chi,
Aomori-ken

FUSSA, TOKYO, JAPAN
The First Amendment
Yokota AFB
P-12, 2099, 3-5
1 Chome/Musashe-no-dai

YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
Apt. 3-B Yamaguchi Bldg.
1-1 Hinode Chuo
Yokosuka-shi

MORE LETTERS

Everybody, Dec. 28, 1971

Sorry I haven't written sooner but I've been moving into our trailer and I've been sick for a few days.

I still haven't been able to get in touch with the people from the Chessman II but I'm trying.

They've decided to try and keep me in but they're finding out the hard way that theyshould have let me out.

Have you heard about the 17 VVAW's in the Statue of Liberty out there? Far out!

I was sitting in the legal office the other day and a lieutenant was sitting next to me and we started talking and somehow the conversation got around to G.I. newspapers and he was telling me about all the 'trash' in them and he proceeded to tell me how he was elected 'Pig of the Month' by those 'communist inspired' drug abusers that write those papers. I then proceeded to tell him how much fun it has been to write about idiot pigs like him and that I was proud to be a 'communist inspired' drug abuser rather than a paid killer. By the time I was through he was about ready to kill me. I proceeded to get the hell out of there before he did. It was fun!

I got them pissed at me at work today so they sent me home at 11A.M. I wasn't doing anything wrong, just not the way they liked it to be done. I very subtly told the first sergeant that he was full of shit and didn't know what he was talking about then when he got mad, I told him that the truth always hurt and the easiest way to show it was in anger. Man, he was about as red as a beet when I finally left his office. You wouldn't believe how mad the pigs get when they're holding the shitty end of the stick!

I didn't get to finish this letter last night but I'm finishing now. I talked to Dave up at Cong. Dellums office today and he said that they said in Washington that I will be getting a discharge soon. Ihope so.

I really can't wait to get busy on some kind of anti-military works again. My hate for the service 'overwhelmed' me.

Well, I got lots to do so I better get busy.

Love and Peace to All,
Rich

"I then proceeded to tell him how much fun it has been to write about idiot pigs like him and that I was proud to be a 'communist-inspired' drug abuser rather than a paid killer."

LEGAL AID

THERE'S ALSO SYMPATHETIC RADICAL LAWYERS AROUND WHO DIG ON YOUR FIGHT AND WILL HELP YOU OUT. THEY CAN BE CONTACTED AT:

FT ORD/MONTEREY
Military Law Project
467 Alvarado Street Room 19
Monterey
408/373-2729

SAN FRANCISCO
Bay Area Military Law Panel
558 Capp Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
415/285-5066

PHILIPPINES
National Lawyers Guild
Military Law Office
PO Box 80
Makati Commercial Center
Makate, Rizal

JAPAN
National Lawyers Guild
Military Law Office
Ishii Building, 6-44
Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo

OKINAWA
Box 447
Koza

Greetings,

My name is John, and I'm presently serving a sentence at the United States Disciplinary Barracks (Leavenworth) for refusing to go to Vietnam.

I plan to open a coffee house and possibly start a paper in September. If there are any ideas that you could supply me with on what I have to do to start a paper and coffee house, I could really dig the advise. The word is really getting around thanks to people like you, how about sending a free copy of your paper to a political prisoner? [me!] Could really dig hearing about whats happening outside of these walls.

In Peace,
John

Dear Brother John,

We hope you get to see this. We sent you a Bulkhead and a letter separately. The pigs wouldn't let either in. They don't like people like you and people like us writing to each other.

Power to the Brothers Inside,
Bulkhead

Dear Bulkhead, January 1, 1972

Got your letter this morning. Thanx for writing. Also received the papers about a week ago. They went over pretty big. With any kind of luck at all you should be hearing from a few of the "people" here on Guam soon. Blew some of the lifers out completely, however most of them took the whole thing as a joke. That pissed me off. It's hell having to deal with ignorance.

Have a few suggestions for the paper, although I realize your funds and space are limited. A statement of aims as a regular part of the paper. Regular readers and the people who know the score wouldn't need it, but what about the others?

Also, perhaps some articles on the Pacific Counseling Service, the job they do and the things they are capable of doing. There's a lot of ignorance inthe military in this area.

Maybe something about the power of the vote, on the national, state, and local levels. I mean, they've given us the tools to work with so let's use them for ourselves. If we don't, we all know who'll get the screwing.

About Guam, the Guamanian people were 'liberated' by the military during World War II. As a result, they were pro-military enough to give up a little more than a third of the island for military installations. Things are changing, but very slowly. I think it may have something to do with the old Spanish "machismo" influence. The draft is almost non-existent here, so many of these people enlist.

About the military in Guam. It's all over the place. On the south western end of the island there is a naval station for ships of the fleet. There's also a nuclear submarine base near it at Polaris Point. Don't really know too much about them, except that there is always at least one nukie sub in most of the time.

The naval air station is mid-island, also used for an international airport. There are three squadrons here. On base we have an AUW compound, very hush-hush, Marine guards and all that.

About 15-20 miles SW of NAS, off the coast there is a Russian "freighter" that is there constantly. Every day we send out an aircraft for a position report.

Funny thing happened last month that you might be interested in. When India declared war on East Pakistan, the next, day VP-40 disappeared! Completely. Informed sources here at NAS found out that they were flying over the Bay of Bengal, watching the Russian fleet activities. The "sneaker" as the Russian "freighter" is called left the same day.

Anderson Air Force Base is also a SAC base, with about 20 B-52 bombers. They used to fly missions to North Vietnam, but I don't think they do now. I haven't seen them do that in several months.

That's the military situation here on Guam. They also plan on trying to build a naval ordnance depot here at a place called Sella Bay, one of the most beautiful spots on the island. Thank God, they're meeting resistance from the people. They're trying to get Congress to make it into a National Seashore.

I could dig getting some info on what's happening in the free world. There's only one TV, radio, and newspaper on the island, concerning mostly local news. The world news tapes on the tube are 2-3 days old. We also can get those slanted garbage rags, the Pacific Stars and Stripes and the Overseas Weekly. We are hurting for news.

Well, I'm late for work, so I'd better split. Peace.

Your brother and ally,
Kevin
Guam

Dear Brother K,

Thanks for the letter. We always dig getting suggestions for the paper. Next issue we're going to have a longer editorial telling a little bit more about us and where we're coming from. Other guys have also expressed interest in hearing about the power of the vote and we want to do a spread on it in the next issue.

Keep on feeding us information and ideas.

Keep on Truckin'
Bulkhead

Kamiseya, Japan
March 21, 1972

Dear Bulkhead,

It was good to hear from you and find out that the Bulkhead is still in operation [more or less]. I'm looking forward to the next issue, as are some of the other people here at Kamiseya. That by the way is where I'm stationed, Naval Radio Receiver Facility Kamiseya. After John Henry's bust I'm a bit leery of passing out papers on base. I have no desire to get busted, knowing that I can't possibly fight against a rap such as that. I'm going to submit the paper to my Officer In Charge via the chain of command for permission to distribute the paper on base. I know that I won't be granted permission to do so, but it will blow their heads to know that something like this is going on at Kamiseya. What I will be doing is passing out the paper off of base. I will be going directly to the guys homes and giving them the papers. Most of the people here live in their own houses off base and since I know where most of the guys live I will have no trouble getting the paper to them.

The other reading material that you have sent me is also available to anyone that comes over to my house. We [four of us live together] have a table in the living room with various reading material [some of it you sent] on it and is available to anyone that wants to read it.

You asked for criticisms and suggestions, well maybe you could write something on how GI's overseas can vote in absentee and how important it is to vote. I have had no trouble getting voting information and I'm all registered and everything, but I don't know what the situation may be like on other bases.

That's all I have for now. Thanks for writing and eve more important thanks for caring.....bye....

Peace,
Chris

GIs SAY

FUCK WAR

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

squadrons on board. Sixteen people from VF-151 sent a letter to President Nixon condemning Us involvement in Indochina. (There's a letter from a VF-151 member on page 2.)

196TH MUTINIES AGAIN!

Phu Bai, Vietnam (April)--Just south of Hue in South Vietnam is Phu Bai, a major US communications installation and radar station for guiding strike aircraft from carriers in the 7th fleet. As GIs were pulled out of the northern provinces of the south, and Saigon troops fled and defected, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was sent in to protect Phu Bai. They were ordered out on partol.

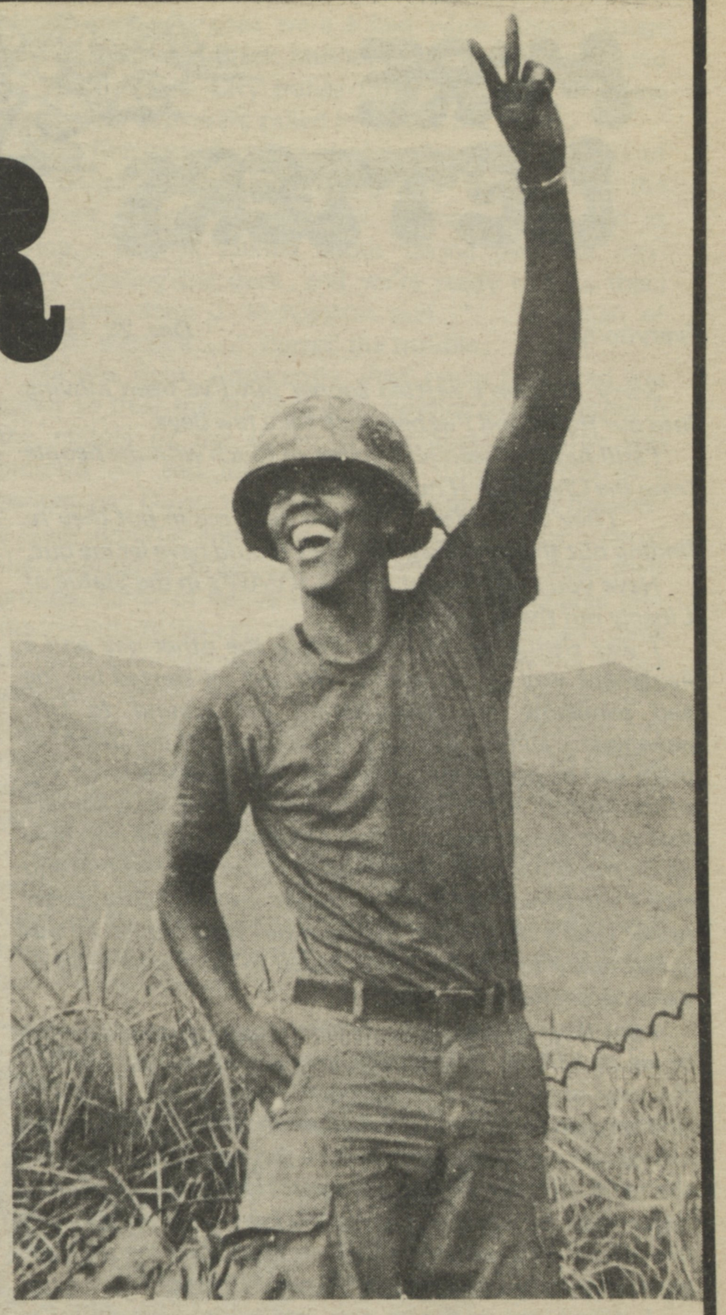
Charlie Company grumbled but went when ordered. But Alpha company refused. Somehow this offensive and dangerous move came out of Nixon's master plan to give maximum protection to GIs still in Nam. The grunts didn't see it that way--getting blown away isn't protection. They argued with their Bird Colonel for 90 minutes, then finally agreed to move out to support Charlie Company.

• Leonardo, NJ--The crew of the USS NITRO, an ammunition ship, was hustled into action for the offensive. The ship needed repair badly-- the evaporators weren't working well, and crewmen had to compete with the boilers for water. One quarter of the unrep equipment wasn't working properly. But work was stopped and the ship went to Naval Ammunition Depot Earle on April 18 for loading.

People from local groups in six canoes tried to keep the ship from docking, and held it up for 1½ hours. One sailor said, "I was really down before we pulled in, but when I saw you guys out there it was like an answer to a dream."

There were meetings all weekend, and by Monday things were really moving. That morning, 18 canoes and an old whaler mixed it up with the Coast Guard. It was a battle of paddles and boat hooks as canoes were towed out of the way, only to return.

Suddenly a brother, one of a crowd on the deck, stood up on the rail, threw a fist salute, and jumped off the ship. Four more quickly followed. As the cutters tried to pick them out of the oily drink, two others jumped. The seven brothers continued to give power salutes as they were taken back to the NITRO.



ANTI WAR ACTIONS

'ROVING BANDS OF GODLESS ANARCHISTS ...'

As we go to press, millions of Americans who have taken to the streets time and time again to end the war are intensifying the anti-war struggle through both violent and non-violent actions.

On April 22, anti-war activists, urged Americans at mass peaceful demonstrations to support the Vietnamese people and their demands that the US set a date for total withdrawal and to stop supporting the corrupt Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime in Saigon.

In San Francisco, 25000 people marched through the Haight-Ashbury under a banner with the words "People of the World, Unite." At the rally students from both north and south Vietnam spoke of how their country was, is, and will be one no matter what the US tries to do to smash their struggle for liberation.

The BULKHEAD, STOP OUR SHIP movement, VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST the WAR, and PACIFIC COUNSELING SERVICE all set up booths to urge civilians to support the GI anti-war movement.

Here's a partial report from other civilian fronts:

• Seven Vietnam Veterans chained themselves to the captains cabin of "Old Ironsides," the USS CONSTITUTION, in Boston harbor.

• For three days running, 2000 people blocked Lakeshore Drive in Chicago. They were driven off slowly by 600 state troopers and police. Even "Boss" Mayor Daley opposed the mining of the harbors.

• In Minneapolis, Minn., police attacked demonstrators, and national guardsmen were called out. At Mancato State University the ROTC armory and the law enforcement school were destroyed by bombs. On Wednesday night, May 10, over 2000 students were in the streets.

• Trains have been stopped all over the country. Two hundred Rutgers University students stalled a Penn Central train in New Jersey. Students from University of California/Davis sat on Southern Pacific railroad tracks all night and forced the rerouting of at least five trains.

• In San Jose, California, an Army reserve station was totally destroyed in a fire that caused over $200,000 damage, while firebombs caused extensive damage at a Navy recruiter's office in Mt. Home, Idaho.

• In Frankfurt, Germany, five bombs exploded inside "Little America," US Army Hdqs, killing a colonel and destroying the Officers club.

• In Manilla, the Philippines, 2000 anti-Vietnam war demonstrators surrounded the US embassy compound, threw bombs and red paint into buildings.

• In Santa Barbara, California, people blocked freeways for hours, shut down the local airport for 5 hours, made attempts to burn down the Bank of America branch that they burned two years ago after the Cambodia invasion, and attacked the ROTC building.

• At Westover AFB in Chicopee, Massachusetts, demonstrators are starting their second month of actions against the bombing. Since April 7, over 1000 people have been arrested for blocking the gates.

Similar actions occurred at many more air bases around the country (Pease, Maine; Mt. Home, Idaho; Wright Patterson, Ohio; and Travis, California; to name a few).

• In Albuquerque, New Mexico, pigs opened up with shotguns on people blocking a freeway and injured three people. One woman is still in serious condition with wounds in the chest and abdomen.

• Police shot at rioting demonstrators in Berkeley with non lethal stun guns. A week later the factory that manufactures the weapons was bombed.

• In Washington, D.C. while Senators and Representatives yakked about the war as they have for eight years, about 300 students from a predominant black Eastern High School forced the house to close its puplic galleries for 3 hours. Congress people started impeachment proceedings against Nixon.

• The National committee of Vietnam Veterans Against the War wrote to all the UN delegations asking that 'the UN accept trusteeship of the US until such time as Nixon is impeached and a sane, representative, viable government is installed.'

• Prisoners at the Danbury, Conn. Federal Correctional Institution climbed to the top of a 175-ft water tower and spent the night there. They refused to come down and shouted to their brothers below 'Power to the people, stop the war!'

If you don't like the news, go out and make your own!

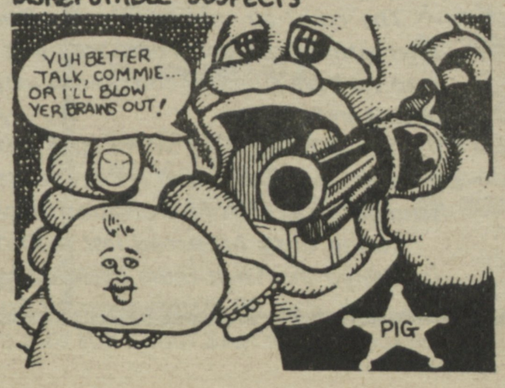
EQUAL TIME DEPT.

Late reports indicate that at least four groups of people in the country supported Emperor Nixon.

• Somewhere in Florida we heard that 10,000 people marched through town escorted by the local sheriff and his deputies. Could it be true?

• In Sacramento, Calif., 5 students arrived late at a scheduled pro-Nixon rally to find that no one else had attended.

• In Washington, D.C. 300 aging bureaucrats prayed for high body counts at a pro-Nixon seance.

• At Nichols College, a business school in Mass. where the NCOs of the military-industrial complex are trained, students sent a letter of support to their CO, Nixon.

• Well-informed sources in high government circles speculated whether J. Edgar Hoover's death should be taken as a sign of approval or disapproval of Nixon policies