BC Fort Bragg

UP AGAINST THE BULKHEAD

INSIDE: Self-Retired Army Medic Speaks For Amnesty, What To Do When The Brass Comes Knockin' On Your Locker Door, Chile: It Could Be Your Next Duty Station, Could Your Kid Brother Be Drafted In 1974?

98 Chenery Street, San Francisco, CA 94131 Number 16 / August-Sept 1973 Free to GIs

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

Daniel Planty, one of six Marines arrested for passing out the Declaration of Independence

Marine Corps Outlaws Declaration of Independence

IWAKUNI, JAPAN (July 4) – Six Marines stationed at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air station were busted for distribution of the Declaration of Independence July 4th. They tried unsuccessfully for 15 days to get the base CO to approve the "Distribution of the Declaration of Independence to any freedom-loving Americans interested enough to want to know what the 4th of July was all about." The six decided to pass it out without OK.

Three of the men were arrested by MP's while passing the Declaration out to families leaving base for the holiday. The other three were arrested while distributing the leaflet at a track meet on base. The Lt. Col. who arrested the second three men was uptight enough to call the document drawn up by Thomas Jefferson, "a Communist Declaration of Independence." The short mention of the incident in Stars and Stripes quoted a Marine spokesman as saying the leaflet "advocated the overthrow of the government." It was not reported exactly which government he thought it advocated overthrowing.

Rear Admiral W. Haley Rogers, Commander of US Naval Forces Japan, must not have known that the Declaration of Independence is a communist document. In his 1973 Independence day message to Navy and Marine troops in Japan, he said, "The Declaration holds as true today as it did the day it was written...(It) is a cherished document through which all Americans are obligated to preserve our heritage of freedom." Meanwhile, back at the brig...

The Corps said it was going to charge the six men with Article 134, UCMJ, the Catch-22 general article, for conduct unbecoming Marines. It never actually filed those charges. Instead, the six men were offered discharges. Four have been given honorable discharges, or general discharges under honorable conditions. One is still waiting for his discharge (seems his record is too good), and one man refused his discharge, promising to "fly right". (Source: SEMPER FI)

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

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

Uprising at Fort Bragg

NORTH CAROLINA (July) – On Sunday, July 22, at about 6:30 pm, an uprising by about 2,000 active duty enlisted men took place that carried on well into the night.

Fort Bragg is the home of the 82d Airborne Divison, an elite division whose dual purpose is intervention in foreign wars and riot control at home. The 82d saw early service in Vietnam, had the highest per capita rate of heroin addiction of any in the Army, and did riot duty in Washington, D.C. in May 1972, and at the Republican Convention in August 1972. But there has been morale problems for years, and on July 22, the EMs showed how they felt.

The lights and all electricity went out around 6:30 in the evening. Almost immediately, GIs started pouring out of barracks and other buildings yelling, singing and shouting. In preparation for such an opportunity, GIs had stashes of flares, firecrackers, and artillery simulators which they brought out and put to good use to provide sound effects.

The EMs were able to keep the MPs at bay with a barrage of bottles and bricks, and by rigging barricades with wire. Trash fires were lit, but no buildings were burned. Black, white and brown GIs were involved in the uprising, and no one saw them fighting each other. They were protesting the brass and the Army!

The rebellion seemed to have been a spontaneous reaction to the general oppression at Bragg. One of the main factors was Bragg's concept of "Division Ready Forces." Some units for two months at a time are required to be ready to leave base at any time. They must keep their gear packed at all times, often have leaves restricted or cancelled, and are often dragged out of bed for surprise musters at odd hours of the night or morning. Many of the participants of the riot were on DRF status.

When it was clear the EMs were in control, General Kroesen, commander of the 82d, figured it was time to talk. When he got to the scene, EMs sat him down, though, and made him listen to their demands: bad food, inhuman working conditions (DRF status), and base conditions. They complained about the number of jumps (the 82d requires jump training), and the constant saluting of the brass (the base is top heavy with officers). Kroesen, of course, denied everything, and said their complaints were unjustified. Meanwhile, several colonels had sought out the more militant GIs and pulled them aside to talk, taking some spark out of the uprising. At 11:30 a heavy thunderstorn broke, driving everyone to seek cover.

The total damage has been estimated at $2,000. There were no arrests and no injuries, thanks largely to the ingenuity of the GIs in keeping the MPs away. The GI underground paper at the base, BRAGG BRIEFS, is following up on the rebellion by discussing the issues that led to the uprising and distributing leaflets about it. They can be reached at: PO Box 437, Spring Lake, NC 28390 or (919) 497-8062.

"When you cut the power, You've got the power!"

DETROIT (July 24) – Two young black workers "hijacked" control of an entire auto plant, closing down the assembly line for 13 hours. The action was in response to a long string of outrageous firings and threats by a gung-ho supervisor. The wildcat was also in defiance of the normal grievance procedures of Chrysler Corporation and the United Auto Workers.

Isaac Shorter, 25, and Larry Carter, 24, scaled a ten foot fence and climbed into the power control area of the plant. They cut off power to the assembly line and the rebellion began. The company was powerless to remove the men from the power cage because a hundred other workers had gathered around it in a protective barrier.

Carter and Shorter being carried out of the East Jefferson Chrysler plant by jubilant fellow workers.

After 13 hours, which cost the company $5 million dollars' worth of non-produced Imperials, the strikers' demands were met. They focused on speed-ups of the line, and the heavy handed tactics of a racist white supervisor, Thomas Woolsey. His prejudice against the black workers in the plant, and his conern only for "keeping the line going," led Woolsey to fire people who complained, to threaten workers with lead pipes, to fire workers for being two minutes late after a break, and to remove benches from the plant so that workers couldn't sit down on break.

Chrysler officials brought the strikers a signed statement saying that Woolsey had been fired, and that no reprisals would be taken. The sweet victory found the two men being carried out of Chrysler's East Jefferson plant on the shoulders of their fellow workers. Shorter commented: "Every minute we were in there was costing the company money – and we weren't going to leave. When you cut the power, you've got the power."

Both men were back on their jobs the next day. But a week later, Isaac Shorter was fired because he continued to organize within the plant. He is presently taking legal action against Chrysler to get his job back, saying, "They haven't heard the last of this." (Source: Yoba News Service)

Self-Retired Army Medic Speaks Out On Amnesty

"Like many GIs, I at one time supported the war in Vietnam. I believed the President and military leaders when they said our mission in S.E. Asia was to protect the Vietnamese from aggression. So in 1966, I volunteered for Vietnam duty." So spoke Army Medic Eddie Sowders when he returned publicly to military control afterhaving been absent without leave for three years.

Eddie Sowders has spent his entire adult life under the shadow of the military. In 1965, at age 18, he enlisted in the Army to escape the frustration and poverty of home. He was trained as a medic and sent to Germany. He volunteered for Vietnam, and arrived there in July 1967. During his year in Vietnam, where he was stationed in an evacuation hospital which treated "fresh" casualties from the field, he treated thousands of wounded Americans and Vietnamese. He left there opposed to the war and determined to help bring it to an end. He started to do this within the military, even re-enlisted and requested a second tour in Vietnam, to go there and work visibly against the war. But Eddie was soon forced to face the decision of remaining in uniform or "deserting."

"Like thousands of other vets, I learned the truth about Vietnam first-hand. In April 1970, I made my decision to refuse further participation in a military system which had forced me to help carry out its policies in Vietnam. For the past three years, except for a period in Canada, I've lived underground in America, cut off from my family and friends. It has meant drifting from one low-paying job to another, often going without food or shelter."

Eddie continued with his statement: "I make no apology for my act of resistance. I could do nothing else at the time. But underground life has become intolerable to me. So I'm here today to draw attention to the true facts concerning my case and the cases of tens of thousands just like me. We are not criminals to be hunted and imprisoned. Over half a million of us have "deserted" from the military since 1965. Most have already returned to military control, to be punished with jail and bad discharges."

Because Eddie had the support of his family, friends, and an organization called SAFE RETURN, he won an undesirable discharge on June 12. Although he was never court martialed, Eddie spent some time in the Fort Meade stockade. There he met other Vietnam vets awaiting trial for AWOL or desertion. There have been over 450,000 "desertions" like Eddie's since the beginning of the war. Over 560,000 men have been given less than honorable discharges as a direct result of their opposition to the war, racism, and the dehumanization which is part and parcel of the American military system. When you add to that figure those draft resisters and civilians who have been arrested and convicted for anti-war activities, it totals one million people whose lives have been set back because of their opposition to the Indochina war. These are the one million people who would benefit from an unconditional amnesty.

When Eddie finally turned himself in after three years on the run, he said, "Only by winning a universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters can we begin the long process of changing our country and learning from the decade of blood and bitterness in Indochina."

For more information, contact: SAFE RETURN, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, or phone them at (212) 242-7440.

Mrs. Lora Sowders, of Detroit, is Eddie's mother. This is what she had to say about Eddie's actions: "I didn't raise sons to be fed into and pushed around by the military simply because I haven't the money needed to keep them safe. My son Eddie, and the thousands of men like him, need and deserve an amnesty without conditions because they are not criminals. They have all left the military or refused the draft in opposition to a war that none of us stood anything to gain from, but everything to lose."

SEARCH & SEIZURE

or . . . What To Do When The Brass Comes Knock, Knock, Knockin' At Your Locker Door

[Taken from "Turning the Regs Around" –A Manual On Your Legal Rights]

'The right of the people to be secure in their person and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probalble cause...and particularly describing the persons or things to be seized.'

Fourth Amendment of the Constitution

GI's have full rights under the Fourth Amendment, rights protecting them from illegal search and seizures. But the military systematically misuses its own search and seizure laws. People should learn their rights and resist any limitation of them. For example, if someone is searched out of the clear blue sky and with no reason and no warrant, this would be an ILLEGAL SEARCH and the evidence COULD NOT be used in a court martial or Article 15 (Office Hours, Captain's Mast). Or if your cube or wall locker is searched in the middle of the night with no warrant, obviously not at the time of a routine inspection, and not in hot pursuit of a criminal, THIS IS AN ILLEGAL SEARCH.

WHAT TO DO WHEN SEARCHED

There are a lot of intracacies to the laws concerning searches and attempts to outsmart the authorities can easily backfire. These instructions have been drawn up by lawyers to present the safest ways for you to act under the pressures of a search or seizure. If you follow this pattern , almost any foul-up by your first shirt, CO, or police agents can result in the search being inadmissable in court.

1. NEVER CONSENT to allow anyone to conduct a search of your car, your wall locker or your quarters. This doesn't mean that they won't search anyway, but you have everything to lose and nothing to gain by consenting to a search. A search might otherwise be illegal, but if you give somone permission to ransack your goods it might stick in court.

2. If a search is conducted without your permission, PROTEST LOUDLY AND VIGOROUSLY. Make your objections known. Later you may need to call witnesses to testify that you did not consent to the search.

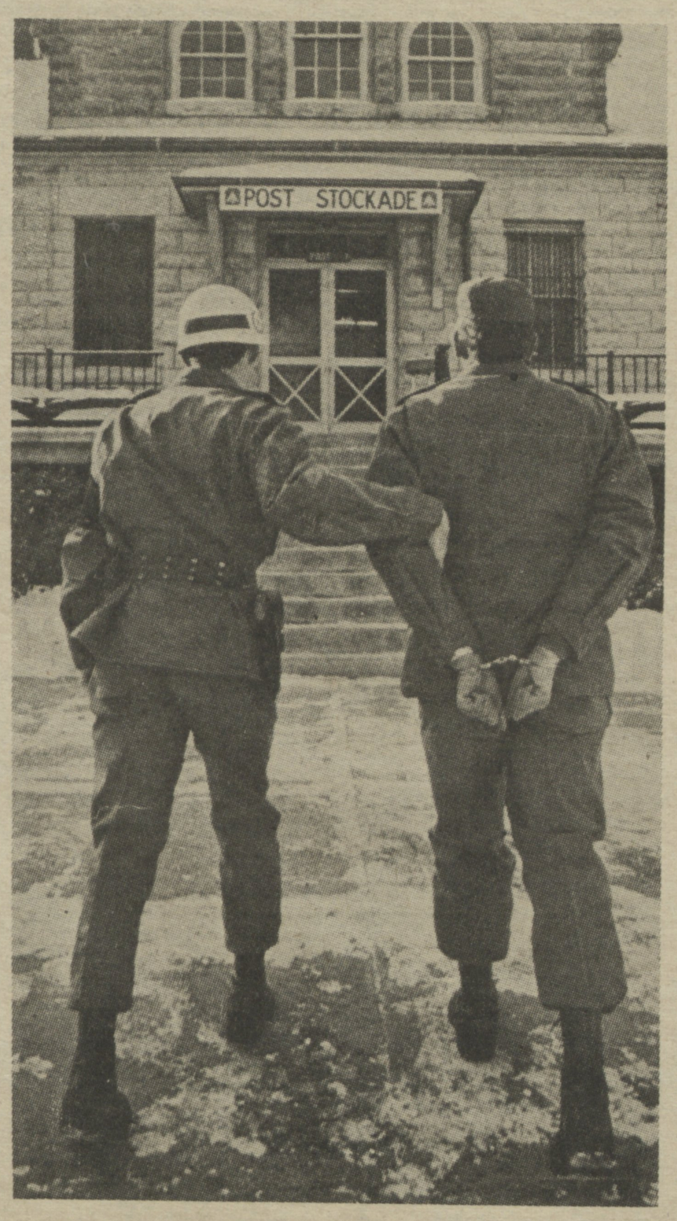
3. DEMAND TO KNOW THE AUTHORIZATION for the search. Find out who authorized it and for what purpose. Ask to see the warrant.

4. REMEMBER, or better yet, TAKE NOTES of all that happens and everything that goes down. It may be helpful in court later.

5. NEVER OFFER PHYSICAL RESISTANCE if an MP, CID, or brass tries to search your belongings. It will only mean additional court martial charges.

6. If arrested, NEVER MAKE ANY STATEMENT TO ANYONE without first talking to a lawyer. You may very innocently screw yourself.

7. NEVER FALL FOR THE 'NICE GUY' GAMES that CID agents often pull. These men are trying to screw you, not help you.



SEARCH & SEIZURE OF UNDERGROUND LITERATURE

There is no way that the military can legally take a personal copy of a paper or book away from a member of the military. Even if the literature is not allowed to be *distributed* on base, DoD Directive 1325.6, para. IIIa(2), states that "mere possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." The only way they can legally take papers away from you is if you have more than one copy, and they can determine that you are going to distribute them. You have a right to have one copy of a paper or book in your possession at any one time. Don't let some chief, officer, first shirt, or CID tell you different.

8. DEMAND TO SEE A LAWYER as soon as possible if you are arrested or it looks like you might be. Definitely see one before you make any kind of statement, either written or verbal. You only have to identify youself. Your hat size, where you live, and who your friends are—are none of their business.

9.Contact a SYMPATHETIC CIVILIAN LAWYER if possible. Most GI Movement centers have access to good lawyers and people well versed in military law. Often the military lawyer you may have been assigned is interested in golf and promotions far more than he is interested in your defense. That isn't always true, but beware.

SEARCHING PROCEDURES

There are four types of legal search and seizure.

PAT-DOWN AUTHORIZED FRISK' A pat-down is legal without arresting the person the authorities want to search, but it is limited to making sure that you have no concealed weapons. They may remove hard objects in the belief that they are weapons. However, if they feel something soft (like a baggie), they may not legally remove it from your pocket. When you are being patted down, never throw anything away and never remove anything soft from your pockets.

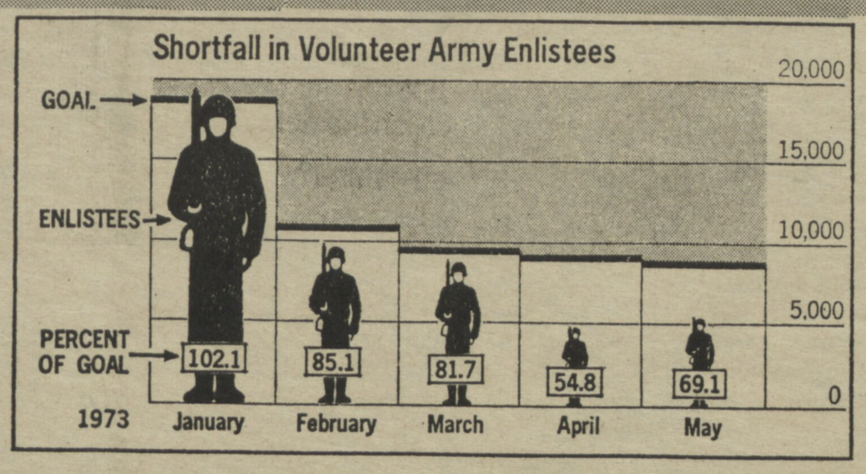
ARREST SEARCH. If they arrest you for a crime (like U.A., burglary, etc.) they DO have a right to search you, and if contraband is found, they can use it as evidence (providing the arrest was legal).

SEARCH WARRANTS. If the 1st shirt or someone else has reason to believe that an offense has occurred (he smelled something at the door, saw 'something' as you closed your locker door, etc.), he must go to your CO and ask that a search warrant be granted. The person with authority to order a search (usually your CO) can authorize someone else to actually conduct it. Once permission is granted they can search for the contraband and make and arrest if they find it. Ask to see the warrant--but be aware that written warrants are not always required in the barracks. If the 1st shirt smells dope and busts into your cube or wall locker without a warrant, and the military tries to court martial you, that was an illegal search. Get a lawyer and fight it. If a person is being investigated for a crime and the military feels they have enough information to pick them up for questioning, they can only search you if you are under arrest, or your gear only if they have a warrant. ASK TO SEE THE WARRANT!

INSPECTIONS. During any regular cube and/or wall locker inspection, any contraband found can be used as evidence for charges. However, the brass cannot legally use a shakedown inspection as a cover to get evidence of a crime from certian people whom the already suspect. In other words, if in the course of a genuine and routine shakedown inspection--or scheduled inspection--marijuana is found in the locker of a particular person, it may be used against him at a later court-martial or discharge hearing.

On the other hand, if your commanding officer has reason MERELY TO SUSPECT that you have pot in your locker, but there is not enough information to provide 'probable cause', then an inspection used as a cover to look in your locker is illegal. The evidence obtained in that way could not be used against you.

Will Your Kid Brother Be Drafted?



WASHINGTON (June) – The volunteer army may be on the way out. Enlistment bonuses of $2,500 (the first since the Spanish-American War), pick of duty and duty station, and "promises" of schooling are not getting enough young Americans in uniform fast enough according to two separate studies by the government.

Between February and July of this year, the number of enlistments fell an average of 30 percent below the Pentagon's quota. They are so short of doctors that they are thinking of offering them $17,000 to sign up. And by the middle of 1974, the Reserves will be undermanned by 96,531 men, or almost 10%. you in front of

Some recruiters, under heavy pressure to meet their quotas, have doctored recruit's records, and forged high school diplomas. Over a 100 of these characters are already under criminal investigation.

The Pentagon has already reduced the number of people in uniform to the lowest number since the Korean War. Yet even the carrot of a $2,500 combat enlistment bonus isn't brining them the recruits they need. Those who do sign up seem to be driven by the stick of low pay and no jobs. 80 percent of this year's recruits reported that their civilian pay, if they had any, was only equal to or less than their military pay. Half of the recruits this year have come from the most economically depressed parts of the country: the South. And 25% of the Army's recruits were those hardest hit by a shortage of jobs: black people. This is more than twice the percentage of black people in the population at large.

This is hardly the professional military the Pentagon has dreamed of. It's an army of the unemployed, and it's quickly getting smaller. (Source: Camp News, New York Times 7/1/73)

Subscribe!

rank and name *military number*

military address/unit

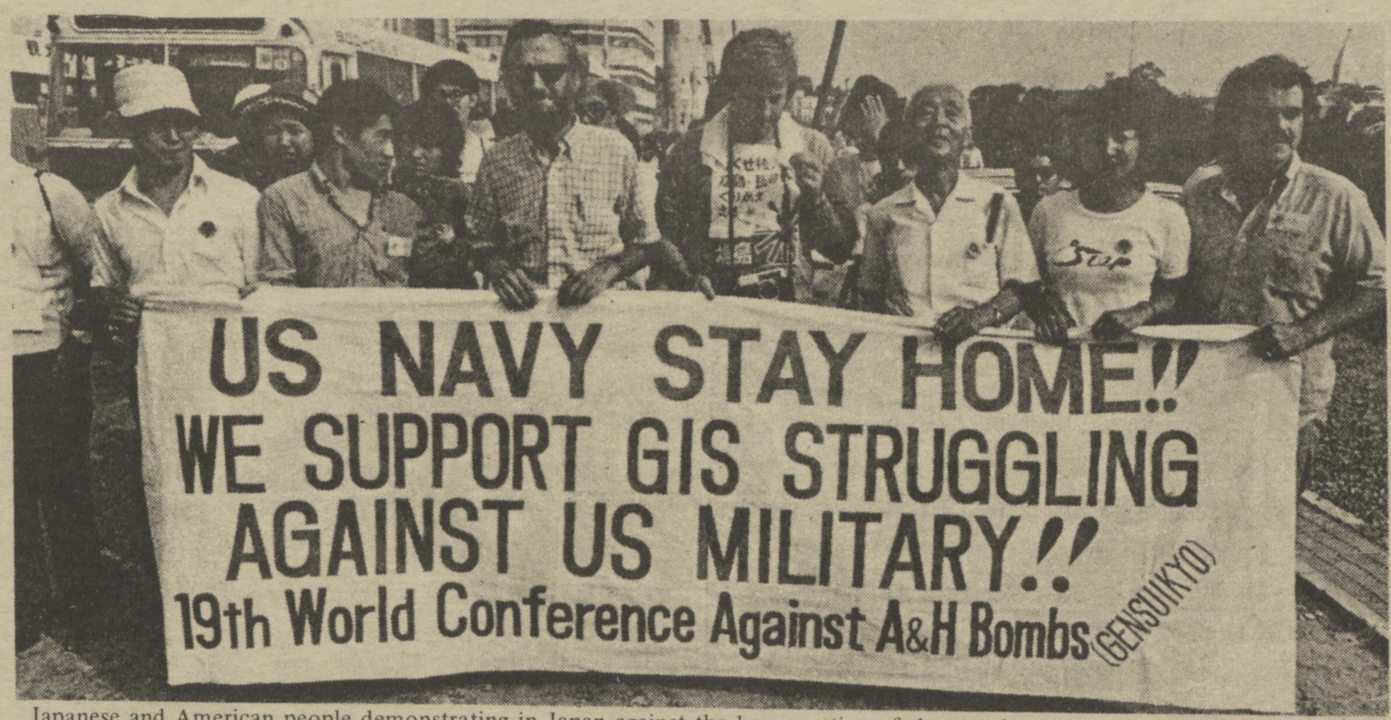
branch of service *release date*

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

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

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

98 Chenery Street, San Francisco, California 94131



Japanese and American people demonstrating in Japan against the homeporting of the attack carrier Midway in Yokosuka

LETTERS

[USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY]

Dear Bulkhead / Right now my ship is in Yokosuka, Japan. I am working with the New People's Center here in Yoko. The Center is a chapter of the VVAW [Vietnam Vets Against the War] and recently I have joined the ranks of these freedom fighters. Though I am basically against any organizations because they limit the individual's freedoms and can grow into a monster. Also over here are two people from The Bulkhead. They are great people willing to go out of their way to help others.

I received my first NJP [Article 15] recently and it was a bummer. Two days before I went to NJP I went to the hospital for withdrawals from smack. I voluntarily turned myself in but refused Drug Exemption because I thought that drug exemptions were for hard users or junkies. You see, I was doing smack for about a week and then got scared and didn't want to become dependent on it. So I went to the hospital and told them exactly that. I went with nothing but good intentions and honesty. But those two qualities don't mean anything to the Navy. I should have known better than to incriminate myself. But I thought for some reason that the Navy would understand and because I was honest and truthful with them, let me ride with just a reprimand.

The first thing the doctor did at the hospital after I had told him I had experimented was to run to the phone and call my command. After I found out that my command was going to give me NJP I applied for Drug Exemption but I wasn't eligible. It was after the 24 hour deadline, though I was never told that I had only 24 hours to turn myself in. Though my punishment at mast was small I am seeing a JAG lawyer for an appeal.

These pigs also wanted me to work with NIS (Naval Investigative Service) and go on the beach and help bust pushers. If I co-operated I would only have to do this for four or five days and then I would be out of Yoko within a week after working with them. I said no way. The pushers that sold me dope trusted me and without even knowing who I was, sold it to me. Though pushers are an outgrowth of a sick society, indirectly, no one forced me to buy any dope. It was my decision. Because of my moral beliefs, that trust should not be betrayed. I told my command to forget it and find themselves another boy. I do hope to get some legal advice from one of the movement lawyers. Though there are none in Yoko right now, my companions at VVAW say there will be two arriving soon to take over the maintenance of this chapter.

By the way, the book "Turning the Regs Around" was used by me constantly. I found it to be very helpful and concise. As a matter of fact the book is slowly being passed around the ship.

The wrongfully oppressed of the world will someday unite and attain freedom from the oppressor. Peace and Solidarity . . . J & W

[GUAM – HOME OF THE B52s]

Dear Bulkhead / I'd like to subscribe to "Up Against the Bulkhead." In fact, I'd like to distribute them among my people on this God-forsaken rock, Guam!

I think your paper is really right on! But not enough people have seen it. If more people in the Armed Services thought like you and I do, we could get some things changed that really need to be changed drastically. The only problem is the media. They only want to tell one side of the story, THEIR side! I think you've got the right idea and I'd like to participate, so please send me as many copies of "Up Against the Bulkhead" as possible on a regular basis.

There are two Naval facilities and one Air Force base, Anderson AFB, "Home of the Enchanted B-52s," plus one Naval magazine, that need to hear our side of the story. Power to the people . . . M.H.

[THE WORD FROM YOKOSUKA]

Dear S / Things have gone to complete shit on Yokosuka base. Every single petty grooming regulation is being enforced right now. The Marine guards and shore patrol have been instructed to write up every violater of any grooming regulation. It is really ridiculois...there's a list a mile long of what you can wear and not wear...if it keeps up pretty soon everyone will look like everyone else and apparently that's what those asshole lifers want. People are being put on report at an astoinding level...I didn't think that there were that many report chits available. It is going to be very interesting to see what happens when the Midway pulls in with 5,000 people aboard and this command attempts to enforce it's horseshit regulations.

The Japanese radical factions are starting to get some very big demonstrations going against the Midway. There is no stopping the Midway now...but it is good to see that so many Japanese are against the stationing of the Midway here. Next week there is supposed to be a 50,000-people demonstration against the Midway right outside Yokosuka Naval base. I hope that it comes off. The main trouble with the Japanese radical movements is that ther is a lot of ideological fighting between the different radical parties, which really weakens all of them. If the Japanese radicals could really get together, I think that it would be an amazingly powerful movement in this country.

This will be my last letter to you. I'm getting out in November. I'd like to thank you now for all the help and encouragement that you've given me. So goodbye for now...Peace, C.G.
Chrise K

[USS PROTEUS]

Dear Brothers / I'm in need of a little help in a problem I have. See every year on November 10th, the Marine Corps has this celebration of its birthday. And all Marines have to go. But I don't want to go. It's not a Marine Corps order. It's a custom I guess. Well, the other day I asked my 1st Sgt why everyone had to go. He said, "Because I said so!" I told him I didn't want to go and then he said, "I'm not going to make you go, but if you don't, you'll wish you had." By this I found out later he meant you'll have to stand duty while the rest of the Brass kissers are kissing ass. You also have to pay about ten bucks a piece to go. I don't want to go through that shit. And a few others feel the same as me. Write and let me know if you can help me. Thanks . . . S.R.

[Editor's Note to S.R.: Extra duty as punishment can only be given by a court martial or office hours. Any other way is illegal. Two things you can do: First, if three, four, or twenty-four of the brothers in your unit don't want to go, there is no way your 1st shirt can put all of you on the duty roster—and he probably won't try. The second way is if you can get him to admit to you in front of friendly witnesses that his putting you on duty November 10th is punishment for your desire not to attend the 'celebration' you have grounds for either refusing the order or requesting mast. If you get no help from your CO, write him up on Article 138, UCMJ. Power to you...Bulkhead.

[FT LEAVENWORTH PRISON]

Dear Bulkhead / Prisoners are threatened by officials within the United States Disciplinary Barracks. Black and white inmates are receiving more time for no known legitimate reason. The prison population is 70 percent black. The officials are 80-90 percent white. A black inmate can come here with six months and end up with enough time for the officials to give him an illegal transfer to the Leavenworth Federal Prison. The officials go into inmate's cells, jump on them for asking for asprin, and if the inmate protects himself, he will end up getting a Special Court Martial for assault. Five or six cases have already taken place. 50 percent of the black inmates have served in Vietnam.

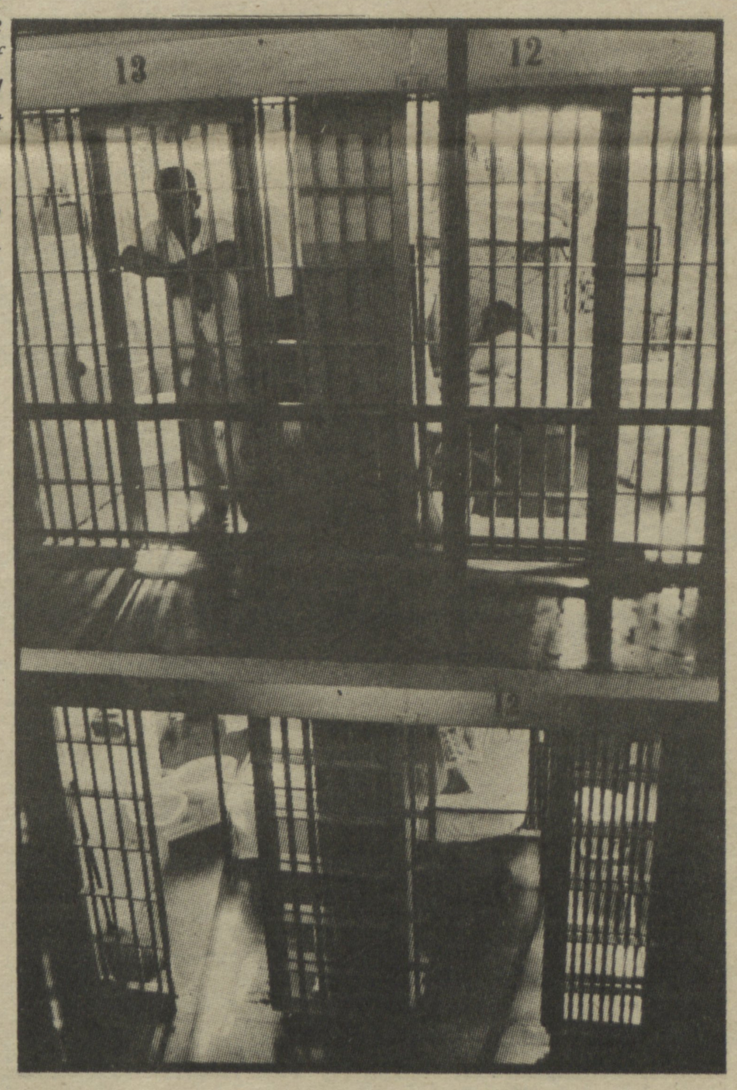
We inmates are mobilizing prisoners into a strong cohesive political force, and are seeking to eliminate the methodical terroristic control prison officials wage on prisoners. And we are demanding an end to forced slave labor at slave wages, and that imprisoned people who desire to further their education be given assistance and every opportunity to do so. We are demanding that prison officials stop experimenting on the minds and bodies of imprisoned people with drugs and surgery.

We are further demanding that prison officials comply with all state and federal codes for the maintenance and hospital care of all imprisoned people. To further protect prisoners from the cruel and inhuman treatment of prison officials, we are teaching prisoners to draw court injunctions against illegal transfers and punishment. And we ourselves are filing class action suits against the atrocious medical malpractices to which prisoners are subjected; the foul and filthy manner in which our food is prepared and served, and the continuing harassment and punishment of union members under false charges.

The inmates here are struggling, and will continue to struggle. But our success is dependent on the active support of the public outside these walls. For without your active support the frustrations and brutal repression of prisoners is likely to explode into violence just like it did at Attica.

Write to:

Rev. Eddie Tucker
Disciplinary Barracks Drawer A
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027



[US NAVAL PRISON, PORTSMOUTH, N.H.]

Hi Brother / I am writing this letter because I am currently incarcerated at the U.S. Naval Disciplinary Command in Portsmouth, N.H. I was charged with Article 134 and would like to see it wholly abolished. Recently I had a chance to talk with a JAG lawyer in Washington and he stated that even though the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that Article 134 was unconstitutional, the U.S. Court of Military Appeals said that they will not honor the ruling of the lower court. I just thought that this info might help you out in the future with the Article 134 question.

Also, if you could maybe print some info to your readers about how Article 31 rights statements should be given and when they should be given. I think that Article 31 is one of the most important articles in the UCMJ today. I would appreciate it if you could send my friend and I your paper since we are both prisoners of the Armed Forces. Power to the People! M.M.

CHILE: Your Next Duty Station

"These less developed . . . under developed nations . . . whatever euphemism you use, if you want to influence them, you don't fly over it, you don't land on it, you put a ship off the coast."
[Norm Polmar, editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the authoritative source book on world navies]

Every year in the fall, Operation Unitas guarantees some American military presence in Latin America. Just because you snuffies, black boots, airdales and Marines don't launch a beach assault or send a Phantom skimming off a carrier deck, doesn't mean that you're not fighting a war. The war you're fighting is a cold war. According to the Nixon Doctrine, your presence is all that's required. As Chief of Naval Operations, Elmo "Zum-Zum" Zumwalt puts it, "We have the mission of manifesting an overseas presence sufficiently powerful and visible to make plain to any possible adversary, as well as to our allies, that any effort to challenge our vital overseas interests or those of our allies could bring confrontation with American armed might."

Last year, for example, Operation Unitas XIII found a group of ships off the coast of Chile during a very unstable period for Chile's socialist government. Without firing a shot, the Nixon government made it clear that it was ready to act to defend its interests if necessary. And this year, Operation Unitas XIV found the USS Vesole, Tatnall, R. K. Turner and Clamagore and a diesel sub steaming from Ecuador to Chile on the very same day that the Chilean military attacked the people's government.

It was on September 11 that a right-wing military dictatorship overthrew the constitutionally elected Popular Unity government of Chile, headed by Salvador Allende. The people of Chile, basically unarmed, fought the military's tanks throughout many parts of Chile. Thousands died, but the struggle continues today in other forms.

CHILE IN CRISIS

Before the Popular Unity government was elected to power in September 1970, the Chilean people were living in a country which was rich enough in resources and people and technical know-how to provide a good standard of living for all Chileans. But instead of living comfortably, most Chileans were poor, hungry, illiterate, and without housing. The wealth of Chile didn't belong to them. Chile's wealth is mostly copper, and the copper belonged to an American corporation, Anaconda Copper.

Foreign corporations also owned Chile's forests, iron ore, nitrates, farm land, banks, and telephone exchange. So those Chileans who worked for a wage got next to nothing, while those foreign interests who sold Chile's resources made billions.

The people of course fought bravely for the right to determine their own destiny. Miners struck and shut down the mines. Peasants took their land back from the landowners. The women marched for food because their families were starving. But the people didn't have the power to hold out against the police, the troops, and the foreign powers.

THE PEOPLE ELECT A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT

In September 1970, the people of Chile elected a new government to power which they hoped would give them the strength to win. This government was the Popular Unity government, and stood for a return of the land to those who farmed it, the return of the wealth of Chile's industry to those who did the work, and the return of the wealth of Chile's copper mines to the Chilean people. In a nutshell, the Popular Unity government stood for socialism, power to the people.

BURNING OFF THE LEECHES
THE CHILEAN PEOPLE KICK OUT FOREIGN INTERESTS

Count the number of foreign corporations with investments in Chile. Read the names: General Motors, International Telephone & Telegraph (ITT), Bank of America, First National City Bank, DuPont, Kennecott, Anaconda, Bethlehem, General Tire. On the average, for every dollar these corporations invest in Chile, they take out two dollars. Between 1924 and 1951, for example, Kennecott Copper invested $2.3 million in the mines, but took out $324 million worth of copper. As one Chilean miner said, "They took the copper but they left us the holes." American corporations were virtual leeches sucking the life blood out of Chile and its people.

When the Popular Unity government was elected, the people finally had the power to burn these leeches off their bodies. Hundreds of factories, banks, mines, utilities, and communications systems were taken over by the workers. This was one of the reasons why Chile was a thorn in Nixon's side.

The other reason is that Chile under the leadership of Allende's Popular Unity government was a model for other Latin American countries. If Chile could throw out foreign interests, then maybe others could too. Cuba's revolution was the first to do so in Latin America. Then came the election of a socialist government in Chile. Nixon and his crew must have been wondering, "What next?"

THE U.S. TRIED TO WRECK CHILE'S ECONOMY

The U.S. was making Chile a dollar junkie. And after the elections of September 1970, the U.S. held back its "stuff", sending Chile's economy into deep withdrawals. Almost all foreign aid was cut, but dollars kept flowing into the mainline of Chile's military. The U.S. sabotaged the world market for copper by "persuading" other countries not to buy Chile's copper, and weakening demand. The U.S. also drove the price of copper down by flooding the market with its own reserves.

As if this weren't enough, the U.S. created shortages of all kinds in Chile by "convincing" other countries to extend no credit to Chile, to sell them no goods of any kind. This meant that trucks sat unrepaired because Chile couldn't buy parts abroad, and didn't have the machines to make them at home. And bread had to be rationed because Chile couldn't buy enough wheat or flour on the world market. This was the chaotic situation which led directly to the military takeover on September 11.

If you're on cruise in South America, write for more information about Chile. You can send your questions to: The Bulkhead, 98 Chenery Street, San Francisco, CA 94131.