

BRAGG BRIEFS

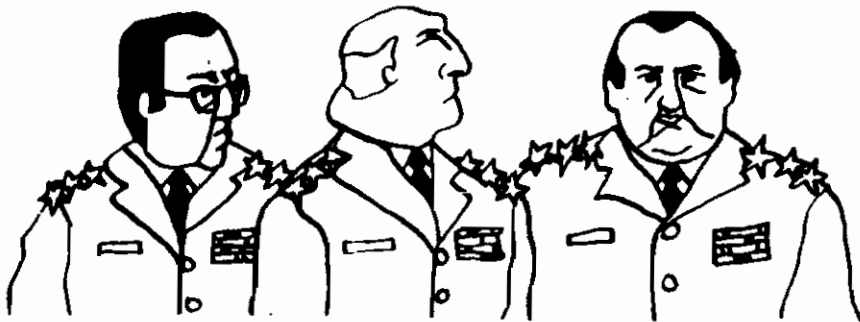
VOL. 5 no. 2

MAY 1972

DONATIONS

THIS IS YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY (AR 210-10)
ANYONE WHO TRIES TO TAKE IT FROM YOU IS COMMITTING A CRIME.

Make Your Own History or



They'll Make It For You

MAY 20 : Armed Farces Day

People's Holiday SEE PAGE 2

POW RETURNS, URGES END TO VIET WAR

**"THROW AWAY YOUR POW BRACELETS
AND STOP WRITING TO HANOI.
ONLY NIXON CAN END THE WAR
AND FREE THE POW'S"**

George Smith

Ex POW, ex SSgt George Smith of the Green Berets returned to Ft. Bragg on March 24-25. He spoke to GI's, GI wives and civilians at the GI Center, 110 N. Main Street, Spring Lake and at Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville.

Smith is the author of POW - Two Years with the Vietcong, reviewed in the last issue of Bragg Briefs. The book describes his capture, life as a POW, and conclusions about the war. He was released by the NLF as a gesture of respect to Norman Morrison, a Quaker who burned himself at the Pentagon in protest of the war in Vietnam.

At a press conference at the GI Center Smith was asked about the POW's who remain captive, and the campaigns to free them organized by the National League of Families and other groups. He made it clear that these efforts were fruitless and could not hope to gain freedom for Americans held POW. "All the letters to Hanoi, and all the engraved wristbands, and all the billboards will not free one POW," he said. "The POW's will come home when the war ends and the longer the war continues the more the POW's will suffer, as the Vietnamese continue to suffer and die from American bombs and electronic battlefields."

Smith continued:

What makes us think that after all the bombs we have dropped on Vietnam, all the people we have killed and mutilated, that letters to Hanoi will gain the release of captured Americans? The way Nixon and his mouthpieces talk you'd think that our POW's were captured playing golf in Georgia, or taken from their homes in Minnesota rather than bombing and strafing the North. Nixon has whipped up this POW campaign as an excuse to continue the war. He is manipulating the hopes and fears of the people with distorted thinking. "We can't end the war while there are still prisoners," Nixon tells us. With this thinking the war could go on forever, all the while with new POW's being captured. Not one prisoner has been released to the governments letter campaign, but before it began some were released to the anti-war movement.



George Smith speaks at the G.I. Center 110 N. Main St., Spring Lake.



**The only chance the POW's have to come home
is for americans to force the war to end.**

Speaking about his own experience as a POW he made it clear that it was not pleasant. But, he said, "I was grateful that the Vietcong were civilized enough to treat us much better than we had treated 'Vietcong suspects' who were often killed."

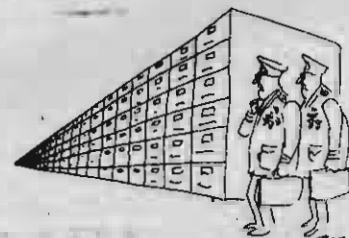
After his release by the VC Smith told a press conference in Cambodia that he would tell the truth about the war. He and Sgt McClure, who was released with him, were held incommunicado for six months on Okinawa. They were threatened with trial for "aiding the enemy", which carries the death penalty. They were asked to testify against one another. Finally Smith was given a General discharge. This upset him but now he says, "I didn't appeal the discharge because by that time I had decided that the Army had no right to judge my character." When he was being discharged Smith was read the National Security Act and told that he should never mention that as POW's they had been bombed by B-52s or that they had received a Red Cross package. "This puzzled me," says Smith, "since the VC certainly knew we were being bombed by something bigger than a pipercub, and they also knew that they had given me my Red Cross package. At that time the people who were in the dark about B52s and POW's were the American people."

At Quaker House, Smith was asked whether news of anti-war groups and protests in America was disheartening to the POW's held captive in Vietnam. He responded, "I didn't know anything about the Peace movement before I went to Vietnam. I guess there wasn't one. I first heard about it over Radio Hanoi. I was puzzled; what was this movement, I wondered? The longer I was held, and the bigger we saw the war becoming, with heavy US bombing, the more interested we became. I began to hope that enough people at home would protest and force the government to end it."

No, it didn't depress us. It was a ray of hope because we didn't see any other way that we could get out of those jungles alive. That's even more true now for the men held in North Vietnam. If you are interested in the welfare of the POW's, act to force your government to end the war."

Of course, Smith was asked if he had been brainwashed. He said yes, but not what people might think. "I was brainwashed in the sense that most of the prejudices I had acquired in ten years in the Army were shown to be false. The VC were not animals. The war was not what we had been told at Ft. Bragg. I was able to see the evidence and to draw my own conclusions. It made me think when I got back. That's why I used to be a Green Beret and now I speak against the war. I saw the evidence and I accepted it."

Smith was asked his opinions on the GI movement. He responded by saying that GIs were one of the most powerful forces for ending the war. "The fact that American GIs are no longer willing to be cannon fodder for any plans the brass think up must be frightening to those planning the wars."



"It does frighten one. It is the special file on dissenters."

ARMED FARCES DAY MAY 20

PEOPLE'S HOLIDAY

Ever since President Eisenhower made the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day, the American people have been treated to displays of militarism and weaponry yearly during "open House" at military bases all over the country. As resistance to the government's war policies grew within the ranks of the military in the late sixties, GIs felt that this day, traditionally set aside for the public display of Army bullshit was an opportune time for the public to see what GIs really feel about the military, and especially the war in Vietnam. Since the first Armed Farces Day demonstrations in 1970, thousands of GIs have participated in anti-military displays instead of the Army's hoax on Armed Forces Day.

In 1970 five thousand people participated in a demonstration here in Fayetteville -- and over 2000 of these people were GIs. People marched down the main street of Fayetteville, heard Jan Fonda at a rally, and went on base to pass out leaflets and talk with more GIs about armed Farces Day. Fort Bragg Officials canceled their display in 1970.

Despite plans being screwed up by Fayetteville authorities, and bad weather in 1971, several hundred people participated in Armed Farces Day demonstrations here at Bragg. At that time people got themselves together for other activities which went on throughout the rest of the spring and early summer.

This year the GI Union is beginning to formulate plans for a People's Holiday on Armed Farces Day. No longer can we sit around while the government escalates the war with more and more air strikes in Vietnam. No longer are we going to participate in the Army's showcase extravaganzas on May 20. This year we are getting together to celebrate a holiday on Armed Farces Day. We are going to show our strength, our support for each other, and we are going to show that we will not be silenced by the government's propaganda about withdrawal or VOLAR. Armed Farces Day is just that -- a farce, and we are going to celebrate the fact that we as GIs are together and strong fighting the bullshit fed us here at Bragg.

Armed Farces Day plans are being made now at GI Union meetings every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm in the GI Center, 110 N. Main Street, Spring Lake. We are planning ways to celebrate the people's holiday on May 20. But most importantly we are organizing ourselves to continue the struggle against the brass on Bragg. Armed Farces Day is just one day out of the year -- every day we have to put up with the machine at Bragg, so every day we must continue the fight. Join us in planning the People's Holiday on Armed Farces Day -- May 20. Organize your company to come to the People's Holiday celebration. Come Together. All of us can have a better time and do more than any one of us.
ARMED FARCES DAY -- MAY 20

EDITORIAL

Bragg Briefs is written and produced by active duty GIs at Ft. Bragg. It has been published for over four years. It began as a mimeographed sheet of a few hundred copies and has grown to an eight page paper with a printing of 6000 copies at each issue. Naturally, over this period of time many GIs have come and gone on the staff, but new people have always picked up and carried on.

Why do we do it? We do it because we reject the Army's definition of the American GI. This definition is one of men and women who think only when they are told to think and act only on orders from above. We believe that GIs and WACs do not lose their rights as citizens because they join or are drafted into the military machine. These include the rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly. We know the Army does not want us to practice these rights, but we will.

We know that despite all the publicity about "The New Army" and MVA that the Green Machine has not changed its true colors. Every GI sees it every day: illegal harassment by lifers, restrictions and pre-trial confinement, living and working conditions that are an insult to human beings, racism and the exploitation of women and families. Every GI who says "FTA" is aware of these things. But sitting on our bunks mumbling FTA accomplishes nothing. The brass wouldn't mind at all if we said "I'll just do my time, then everything will be OK when I get out.", and kept getting drunk or stoned so we wouldn't remember how much we hated it.

We can't allow our minds to be shut off for a few years with sweet dreams of tomorrow.

We do not exist alone. The 360,000 dead or wounded GIs from Vietnam and the millions of Vietnamese killed

or injured by America's war in Indochina won't let us believe that. You know it could have been you or it might be you tomorrow. The voice of GIs against the criminal war in Viet Nam has been heard all across the country and in Viet Nam. We must continue to speak out and act until all U.S. troops, bombers and death machines have been withdrawn from Indochina.

GIs don't exist in isolation from the rest of America either. There are more unemployed people in this country today than there have ever been. Working people are being forced to work longer and faster, just to live, while inflation continues and profits rise faster than ever. Unions and the right of workers to strike are under attack by Nixon's Government and the giant corporations behind him. People on welfare are reduced to starvation and squalor and threatened with forced

labor. Blacks, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans are forced to live in the ghettos of a segregated society. The struggle of GIs for justice and better conditions is a part of a larger struggle of the American people to control the country they have built, and which is presently under the rule of the giant corporations, the military and the likes of Nixon and Johnson.

GIs on Bragg Briefs do not agree about everything. What we write is our own and we invite GIs and WACs to join us. Send news of your units and hassles, opinions about anything from dope to nuts to politics. Letters and stories can be sent to Bragg Briefs Box 437 Spring Lake, N.C. 28390 or dropped off at the GI Center 110 N. Main St. Spring Lake.

"The Spirit of the People is greater than the Man's Technology." We believe that Unity is the answer. Unity among GIs against the Green Machine, and Unity of GIs, workers, and poor people against the bigger machine.

Editorial Staff: Steve Lewis, 519th Sig. Co.; Ed Murray, 15th MI Bn.; Gene Inch, WAHSTC; Harry Scott; Ron. Our thanks to the many people who contributed ideas, articles, and time to the paper. All are welcome. Join us!



G.I. UNION BUILDS

A good soldier will hop when he hears "Get up out that bed m'fer" in the morning. When the order is given to fix bayonets, he does. When the order is given to "fire", he does. When the order is given to charge, he does. When the order is given to get killed, he does. Meanwhile, the good soldier shows due respect to his "superiors". They always have to ask to be respected. Is respect the correct word? "Say Sir when you speak to an officer, soldier!" "Don't you know how to salute?!" why don't the officers simply bring it out in the open and tell people that they expect them to kiss their ass. This is one of the rules of their game.

The law in the military is just an excuse to punish those men who don't play the game by the rules of the brass. The UCMJ is definitely law and it is definitely legal; it is also definitely UNJUST. Right from the start of your military career, it is made clear what is in store for you if you don't do exactly as you are told: extra duty -- restrictions -- court martial -- stockade -- and last but not least -- bad discharges that will screw you up in civilian life.

GIs have to exist in this prison-like environment. All this won't be changed with "VOLAR" and other schemes of the brass. Change will come and the prison bars of military existence will crumble when GIs fight back -- not individually, but through a union.

Justice is a sham in the military. If as a civilian you murder someone or assault someone, then you are punished as a criminal; in the military, you get a medal and a pat on the back for these deeds. As a civilian you may speak your mind or quit your job. These freedoms are guaranteed -- "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"; in the military -- these freedoms become crimes. The stockade is filled with so called "criminals."

At Fort Bragg, the GI Union is going through its infant stage. We are here. We do exist. We will grow stronger when you join our numbers. We can fight the brass with unity. The people in the Union are fed-up with slavin' for the man. We are ready for change. -- Are you? The Union Meets Tuesday nights at 7:30 in the GI Center, 110 N. Main St. Spring Lake, NC STAND!

The War Escalates

In the past two weeks heavy fighting has begun again in Vietnam. The US controlled and commanded Saigon army is retreating and mutinying despite massive American air and naval support. "Vietnamization" is falling apart. More Americans and thousands more Vietnamese are being killed.

American escalation of the war against the Vietnamese people has reached massive new proportions. The systematic bombardment of North Vietnamese cities by planes and big guns from US warships has been launched. On April 15 it was announced that massive air raids, including B-52s, had struck the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong, with its port, ordered by Nixon.

Meanwhile, Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine units all over the world are on alert. Over 500 tactical fighter bombers are in action, plus over 60 B-52s. More than 33 ships, 638 planes and at least 50,500 men have been mobilized and are on their way to Vietnam.



"Dick, I think they're on to us!"

WHY?

WHY?

Pentagon and Saigon officials are again trying feebly to revive the ten year old theme of interdicting supplies coming from North Vietnam. But it has always been liberation forces habit to accumulate supplies necessary for long term offensive actions long in advance, lessening their dependence on quick replacements from distant North Vietnam. Bombing North Vietnam can therefore have little military impact on the offensive now under way. What are the real reasons for the resumption of air raids on the North, especially the B52 saturation bombing raids? Nixon is launching a campaign of terror bombing in response to an impending battlefield defeat. He is telling us that in order to save the country he is going to destroy it. That is, if Thieu is defeated at last, the price the Vietnamese will pay for their victory is total destruction.

We are going back 7 years in the Pentagon time machine, when in 1965 to prevent The South Vietnam puppet government from "going down the drain" "punishment" bombing of North Vietnamese civilians was begun in retaliation for liberation forces' victories in South Vietnam.

The military and political aims of the liberation forces are clear. They are determined to smash the Thieu army as a viable military force. They are calling on many officials of the Saigon regime to oust Thieu and set up a government of national concord. They are calling on Washington to recognize the bankruptcy of the Thieu regime, negotiate, and bring peace to Vietnam and all of Indochina. They are offering Nixon a chance to avoid the humiliation of a final defeat that no amount of White House jitterbugging can hide from the world.

The USS Midway carrying 75 planes armed with nuclear weapons, 4000 sailors and 200 marines left for Indochinese waters on April 10.

Vietnamese liberation forces are active in all areas of South Vietnam, from the city of An Loc north of Saigon, in the Mekong delta, in Quang Tri province near the DMZ, the central highlands, and in Saigon. All over South Vietnam ARVN troops, large in number, low in morale are suffering defeats despite all the air and fire power America can muster. This is the reason Nixon has had to drop the mask of ending the war. "Vietnamization" is failing as the National Liberation Front is maintaining the biggest offensive since Tet 1968, beginning on March 30.



Why won't Nixon accept this offer which would allow him to make believe he is building "A generation of peace"? No rational explanation can be found. American power in the world has been weakened by 11 years of war. Socially and politically America at home is falling apart. Nixon himself gave a clue in April 1970 when he said he would not let the world see America as "a pitiful helpless giant." But what does it look like now, already defeated by a small nation's desire to determine its own destiny? Nixon and his flunkies refuse to see what everyone else has already seen. They are in a panic. No one can predict what amount of death, terror and destruction Nixon will let loose on the world before his final defeat.

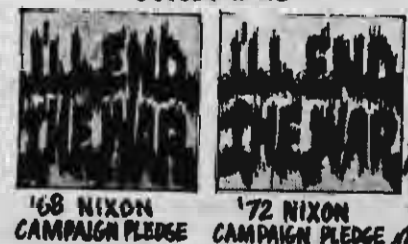


Besides the strictly military aspects of the Vietnamese drive are many political aspects. In the Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts people have revolted and driven out the representatives of the Thieu government. Thousands of ARVN troops have joined the liberation forces. A large part of the ARVN 56th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division rebelled against its command and rallied to the liberation forces. Revolts have broken out in concentration camps at Mai Loc and other camps and many political prisoners have escaped.

The 75,000 American ground troops have seen more and more action. At a base near Phu Bai 50 men of Charlie Company, 196 Light Infantry refused to go on patrol in the hills around the base.

Nixon has been trying to fool people with his "Vietnamization", phoney peace plans, POW campaigns, "withdrawal" and secret plans to end the war. It is clear now that the rulers have no plans to end the war. But they cannot win it. Does this mean it will go on forever? Only until the people get it together to make it end.

VOICEPRINTS



"As an expert in the field of voiceprint, I'm reasonably certain that these two recordings are the same voice!"

P.O.W. Whitewash

Fort Bragg recently witnessed a typical storm of bullshit. This time it concerned P.O.W.s. A political campaign directed by the White House and carried out by its civilian and military flunkies hit Ft. Bragg full blast. There were funny hats, wrist-bracelets and bumper stickers all over the place. Newspapers, radio stations conducted activities on Ft. Bragg. Radio Smiles interviewed the returned P.O.W.s willing to spout the party line at the Main Post Exchange. General May wore a funny hat at a rally and regurgitated some nonsense about how bad the Vietnamese were for keeping our P.O.W.s captive, and how we should all pray, write letters and support the current government. It made us sick.

Meanwhile an ex-P.O.W. who can think for himself and speaks with facts and reason was banned by the Big Bragg Bananas from speaking to GIs at Service Clubs. They also laid down the word that none of the men he had been held captive with were to meet or debate with him. This is justified because the Army does not allow "political" activity on post. What this means obviously is that only political opinions which fit the gears of the machine will be printed, distributed, and broadcast under their sanction. Others who speak their own mind, like Bragg Briefs and George Smith will have to do it underground.

AMNESTY!

In an election year, the air is polluted with political bullshit. One of the biggest turds of 1972 is the Amnesty issue.

At this point, 250 out of every 1000 men in the U.S. military have split the scene. About 14% of every 1000 men are deserters; more than ever before in U.S. History. These are men who are fed up with the war in Southeast Asia; they are tired of being slaves in a hostile environment - forced to work to support U.S. wrong-doing in Viet Nam. Far from the Army's image of deserters, (misfits, people who couldn't make it), these are men who know the difference between right and wrong and are willing to act out of that knowledge.

Amnesty is a pardon for a crime; but, who are the real criminals? Are the criminals draft-dodgers and deserters or the U.S. Government that presently continues this genocide against the Vietnamese people and their land? 46,000 American soldiers are now dead in a losing battle waged for the vultures of American business. This senseless war is continuing despite years of "promises" from Washington - and more soldiers are dying.

And these soldiers, are they the ones that voted for the politicians that send them to Viet Nam to die? No! Are these soldiers part of the richer class whose money is at stake in Viet Nam? No! Do the soldiers who die in Viet Nam come from the have or have-not part of our society? Anyone who cares to take a look around will see the answer.

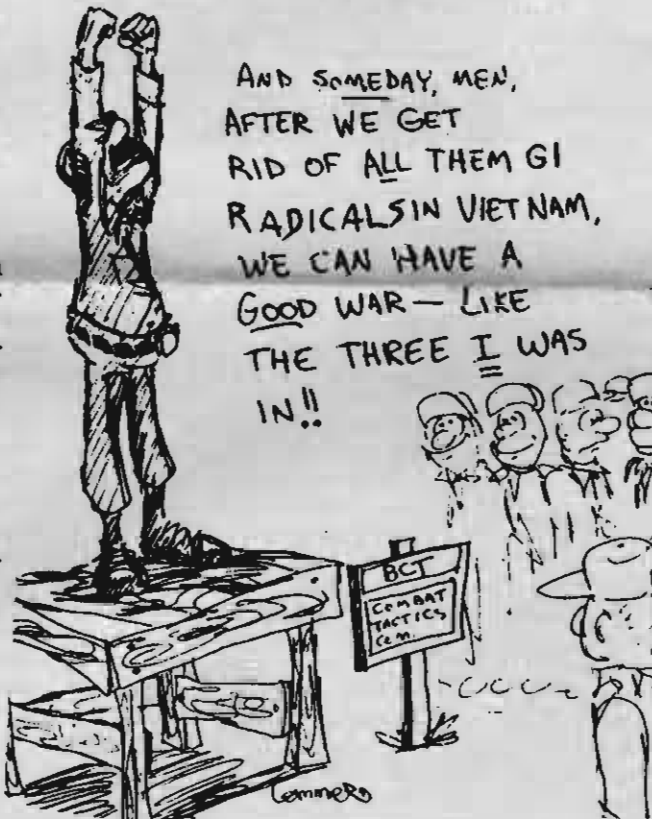
Every day, more and more Americans realize that the war is wrong and has been a crime ever since the first Americans went to Viet Nam. The war was not a mistake. It is now and always will be a willful crime committed against the Vietnamese and American people by the small but powerful alliance of politicians, Generals, and Business kings - in short - the American ruling class. This minority, the ruling class, relies on everyday people to do their dirtywork. Orders always come down from the top never up from the bottom. Thus, when an everyday person, the military deserter or draft-dodger, decides to split because he knows the war is wrong, because he would rather be a man on his feet rather than a slave on his knees - he is considered a criminal. The law says so. But when was the last time you had a say in what the laws will be? The ruling class makes the laws, not everyday people. You have to play the game by their rules or go to jail. In light of this situation, many everyday people have left the country. The real criminals are still in the U.S.A. - in Washington,

in the Pentagon and in the board rooms of giant corporations.

The idea of amnesty is based on the presumption that deserters and draft-dodgers are criminals. The voice of the exile community, the draft-dodgers and self-retired veterans in Canada and elsewhere, has been heard and it bounces off the ears of the politicians with their talk of Amnesty. The exiles will not return under Amnesty. They know who the real criminals are. The real question is - Can the exiles forgive the government?

The way the proposed Amnesty bills line up now: Draft-dodgers will return to do "alternate service" for the government and deserters will return to face military courts and boards. In short, the politicians are calling the exiles "criminals" and asking them to return and take their punishment. The exiles have already made it clear that they will not accept amnesty.

Amnesty is a tool of the politicians to get votes of the families who have been victimized by the exile problem. Generally, Amnesty only serves to cloud the minds of people in regard to the real issues. The problem will be solved when the government admits that it has been the real criminal. The problem will be solved when draft-dodgers and deserters return without reprisal and punishment; return without being bonded by the government and its military. **POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**



GENERAL HAY SPEAKS:

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH!

In late March, General John J. Hay, Ft. Bragg commander appeared in civilian clothes at the Fayetteville Unitarian - Universalist Fellowship which meets at the Public Library at 7:30 PM Sundays.

He was tall and positively dashing, in a light blue suit with pale silk wide tie (dig it!) to match his flashing blue eyes. He spoke softly and came out with a line about how nice he wanted the Army to be, and how much he hoped people would forget nasty things like Vietnam and poor conditions and no rights for GIs. He said they were trying to find solutions. He artfully dodged most of the tough questions by changing history or leaving out the facts.

About Vietnam he almost made us sick. He went on about how proud he was about all he had accomplished there. We wonder how hard he had to scrub to get all the blood off his hands?

Asked about amnesty for draft resisters and GIs who left the country to avoid being pawns in his game he said they couldn't be let back free or "law and order" would perish.



'The government ought to be asking US for amnesty.'

VVAW MEETS

The North and South Carolina chapters of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War held their spring regional meeting April 15 in Greensboro. Besides a little reorganizing the vets marched with the War Tax Resistance and heard an Army Propagandist speaking at a college group.

New members was the first thing discussed. It was decided that all: 1. active or ex-military personnel who served in Southeast Asia, 2. veterans of all wars 3. Conscientious Objectors performing alternative service 4. resisters who were indicted and served terms 5. POW families 6. Gold star families 7. civilian personnel who were in Southeast Asia could join. Almost everybody is a veteran of this war in some way or another.

After this initial meeting the vets joined the War Tax Resistance for a march on the Federal Building and the Post Office. The march was in protest to the outrageous amount of taxes going for the war (61%).

After a vigil around the post office, the Vets went to a local college to listen to a Pentagon spokesman (ex-Cav. General). He really couldn't fool anybody with the same old lines. Vets started asking about "free-fire zones", electronic devices, prisoner treatment, devastation of the countryside, etc. The General rapped the same stuff over again that they all rap.

When news was heard of the Haiphong bombing, (later that night) the VVAW sent a telegram to Nixon deploring the bombing, saying he was risking mankind for re-election. Veterans (or any of the above) can come down to the GI Center, 110 N. Main Street, Spring Lake for more information on the VVAW.



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN...



Then a retired U.S. Army SFC told him that his son had gone to Canada to avoid Vietnam, with his blessings. He pointed out that enough data exists to prosecute the entire American high command for war crimes. The he said that the real issue was whether or not the resisters and GIs in Canada would ever forgive Hay and his bosses. Right on Sergeant!

General Hay spoke about how he hoped that the "New Army" would have soldiers that would be "involved". That didn't turn out to mean anything. The General was asked about Bragg Briefs and the unconstitutional order banning its distribution on post. He said that this order would continue, and that Bragg Briefs was dangerous, that it advocated anarchy, which we don't. We advocate unity. He was worried that things like Bragg Briefs might lead to violence, when we advocate the end to the violence that he directed in Vietnam. And as for the four letter words, who is he kidding?

Keep on General, we're watching you.

G.I. CENTER OPENS AFTER VICTORY

The GI Center at 110 N. Main St., in Spring Lake opened as planned on March 25th, despite hassles from the town Board of Aldermen. (the governing body of Spring Lake). In order for the GI Center to sell books in our bookstore, we needed to get a Business Privilege license from the town of Spring Lake. Normally this is a two week process. However, when the Board of Aldermen found out that we were opening an anti-war, anti-military center for GIs and their dependents, they decided to take a few extra weeks in granting our license "because we need to complete our (routine) investigation". Needless to say this meant that we couldn't sell books at our grand opening on the 25th. Rumor also had it that we were opening a "dirty" bookstore, but that turned out to be a diversionary tactic, made up to cover up their concern about us. Although this was a slight set-back, we got a people's lawyer from Fayetteville on the matter, and he made it clear that the town had no basis for refusing our permit. As the date for a decision came closer, legal forces supporting us posed ready to take action should our license be delayed further. Fortunately the Town of Spring Lake realized that we knew our rights about opening a business, and they granted our permit two days after our grand opening.

While the Town of Spring Lake was dragging its heels on our license, a group of GIs, women, and civilians chipped in to get the place painted and set-up. The center has a non-profit bookstore (the profits from the sale of books goes right back into the center -- either for new books, equipment, or to help cover the costs of activities in the center.), a reading area, meeting room, and office. The bookstore carries a wide variety of titles on everything from fiction, history and economics to books about Vietnam, China, and Latin America. Books on Black Liberation, Women's Liberation, and the GI Movement are also available. There are also GI newspapers from bases all over the world, as well as a variety of underground papers.

Every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm the GI Union meets in the center to plan activities, and get together Bragg Briefs. Tuesday, April 25 is a special meeting of the Union to put together plans for Armed Forces Day -- A People's Holiday on May 20.

Thursday nights at 7:30 pm is film night. Starting with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War film "Only the Beginning" on April 27 the program will include films on a wide variety of subjects. In May the films will include: "Paths of Glory", "Grapes of

"Wrath", "The Inheritance", "On the Water Front", "Cheyenne Autumn", "All the Kings' Men", and "The Informer".

In the near future there will be entertainment of all sorts, every weekend. The GI Center is always available as a place to read, relax, rap, and just to get away from the hassles of Fort Bragg. Come by and stay a while. Bring ideas--the Center is here to provide activities and programs that people want.

Military Counseling Program --
The GI Center is getting it together to provide a counseling program to people who need help or advise about Article 15's, techniques for fighting harassment, and AWOLs. Right now one or two of us are studying regs, etc in order to get this program off the ground. Come help us get it together.

DOONESBURY

Page Five
By Garry Trudeau



HAYMARKET CLOSED

For nearly two years, Haymarket Square, in downtown Fayetteville, served as a center for the GI Movement at Fort Bragg. Many people dropped in there every few weeks to sit and read the latest issue of Bragg Briefs, relax, rap, or attend GI Union meetings. However, on February 6 the Haymarket was closed. Since then the staff of the Haymarket, and members of the GI Union have talked with a lot of people who wondered why the Haymarket was closed. Often it has been people's only source for getting Bragg Briefs, books, or getting into contact with other GIs who want to struggle against the military machine. So here is an attempt to try to explain some of the reasons that the Haymarket was closed.



Everyone in Fayetteville knows about the rip-off artists who own and operate the joints on Hay street. The major occupation of these people is to sit around thinking up new ways to attract and rip-off GIs, in order to make their own personal fortunes. Obviously, the Haymarket Square, a non-profit, non-rip-off place was a threat to these people (remember the pay day last July when the Tyrell's boycott kept all business out of that rip-off jewelry store?). Not only that, but because of the non-profit nature of the Haymarket, the place was constantly broke, and hunting for money. Last fall we started hearing rumors that our landlord (Sol Wahba -- one of the biggest rip-off artists on Hay Street) was not going to renew our lease this spring when it ran out. Not only was Haymarket a threat to his rip-off businesses, but also Sol could make more than the \$300. a month rent Haymarket paid by opening up another business in the place.

So it seemed our lease wasn't going to be renewed. The Haymarket staff also realized that because of our economic situation (constantly broke), we couldn't make it by staying in the place. It seemed that fewer GIs were using the Haymarket, and that the need for a humongous barn like that was diminishing.

The other problem that made us decide to close down was the problem with the dope traffic on Hay street and in the Jesus Freak parking lot across from the Haymarket. As people who frequented the Haymarket know, the staff kept a constant lookout for dope traffic in the place, and were constantly kicking pushers out. But the fact that so much dope traffic existed across the street and up and down Hay street, meant that we were constantly having to hassle with pushers, instead of being able to put our full energy into helping the GI Union get off the ground with its program. We, the staff, feel that the atmosphere existing on Hay Street, became less and less conducive to GI struggles against the brass on Ft. Bragg.

Despite the closing of Haymarket Square, the GI Union has continued to be determined in its struggle to get GIs and WACs together to fight the brass at Bragg. Haymarket has closed, but that doesn't mean that the movement of GIs and WACs against the war and the military has closed down. DARE TO UNITE -- ORGANIZE!

ps. On February 6 we closed the Haymarket. Since then we have found out that Sol (our old landlord) is going to put in a "new kind of lounge" in the old Haymarket. It looks to be like just another attempt by Sol to increase his already huge bank account by ripping off GIs.



CONTEST

The GI Center might do better with a new name. So here is your chance to win the book of your choice from the bookstore. Think up a name (or two, or ten or however many you come up with). Send it into Bragg Briefs, or bring it to the center. (Bragg Briefs, PO Box 437, Spring Lake, North Carolina 28390 -- GI Center, 110 N. Main Street, n Spring Lake) Then come to the GI Union meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at 7:30 PM and HELP PICK THE NAME! When before have you ever heard of a contest you can both enter and be a judge as well?

The Military Counselor

Dear Military Counselor, I'm a two-year RA who enlisted late in 1971. Since I've been in, I've heard of a lot of early-out programs, but they seem to keep changing and no one seems to know the details of how you can qualify for one. Would you please explain these early-out programs, and how I go about applying for them?

A. Generally, in the Army the former 90-day early-out programs for school, teaching, and seasonal employment have been extended to become six-month early-outs. To apply for any of these you will need documentation from the school or employer that you have been accepted as of a certain date within the six months. Apply through your company, as is usual with requests for personnel action.

The other programs you might have heard about may not be of much interest to you: men who have had combat zone duty and have been on active duty at least 18 months can be released to serve in a National Guard or reserve unit for a year; and men without combat duty may be released to the NG or the reserves after being on active for 24 months.

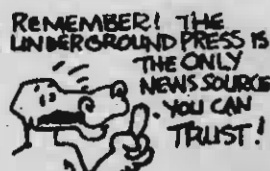
But, as you mention, these programs keep changing and you should keep checking with the personnel office at your base. The weekly Army Times keeps pretty good track of these programs, too. It may be that things will tighten up again after June (which is the end of the fiscal year), and it seems unlikely, since you've only been in for a few months, that you will be eligible yet for discharge or transfer, but there is no harm in trying. The Army has the most extensive early-out programs, but all the other departments have some programs, at least for school and seasonal employment.

If you have not spent 30 days in a combat zone, you can be ordered to a reserve unit and be required to attend monthly meetings as well as two-week summer camps. Assignment to a unit depends on whether there is a shortage in reserve enlistments. There has been publicity lately about a reserve shortage, chances for assignment to a unit may be great. This unit obligation lasts two years, and then the remaining two years are spent in stand-by status.

Dear Military Counselor, I'm just about ready to get out after two years in the Army as an enlisted man, and I am confused about what happens from here. I know I'm not really out since I now have to do some reserve time. But what kind of time do I have to do and for how long? They never really give up, do they?

A. No, they won't give up on you for a while. The total time you have to spend as a military man is six years. Since you have already done two years of active duty, you have four years left in the reserves.

After you have been separated from active duty, your name will go to administrative headquarters in the Army reserves in St. Louis. This "paper headquarters" is called a control group. The first 90 days you are out is your readjustment period, and you can not be hassled then. After that the control group will decide what to do with you. If you have served more than 30 days in a combat zone, you cannot be assigned to a reserve unit with monthly meetings but you can be assigned to a two-week summer camp any time within three years after your separation from active duty. Usually guys are not assigned to more than one summer camp during their reserve obligation. If you are employed, your employer must by law let you go for that period without penalty, but most employers count it as your vacation time. Your last year in the reserves will be in stand-by status with no real obligations unless Congress declares another war.



Dear Military Counselor, I'm facing a court-martial for disrespect to an officer. I was told that it is possible to have enlisted men sit on the jury instead of officers. This sounds like it might be a good idea, especially in a case like mine. What do you suggest?

A. It is true that at least one-third of a military court-martial panel can be made up of EMs if the accused requests it, but it's not necessarily a good idea to request it. The military never intended GIs to have trials by juries of their peers. Normally they will appoint only lifers to the panel because Article 25(d) of the UCMJ says that in selecting members their "age, education, training, experience, length of service, and judicial temperament" should be considered. About 90% of the EMs who serve on panels come from the three highest grades--E-6, E-7 and E-8.

"The Military Counselor" knows of only a few cases where first term EMs were allowed to serve. The most interesting instance took place in Vietnam, where the commander of Long Binh allowed the panel to be selected at random from a large list of officers and enlisted men. The final panel selected was made up entirely of EMs--two sergeants, one SP5 and two SP4s. They acquitted the accused, a SP4, of charges of assaulting a sergeant major and failing to obey an order. The trial judge noted that "the verdict was supported by the evidence."

Before you make a decision on your own case, talk it over with your military lawyer and your civilian lawyer, if you have one. They will best know the situation at your local base.

If you have questions on GI rights, military counseling, discharges, or organizing, send them to "The Military Counselor, PO Box 390, San Francisco, CA 94101." All questions will be answered via first class mail in a sealed plain envelope, so please include your full name and address. Questions of a general nature will be answered in print, but the name and address of the writer will not appear.

LEJEUNE PIGS TRY TO SILENCE RAGE

Marines being harassed is nothing new. It is more a part of their life than any other branch of the service. But they are fighting back now at Camp Lejeune, publishing a paper called RAGE.

There is a GI organizing project there which has a bookstore, counseling center, and meeting place for anti-war, anti-military Marines, called United We Stand.

The project house was raided at 4:30 AM on Saturday April 1 by the local police. Paul Cox, an active duty Marine, was asleep, and of course he was busted. The police ransacked the house. After an hour or so they found - guess what? That's right! In an empty suitcase in the back of a closet they claim to have found "traces" of "suspected marijuana". But the cops were probably really after something else. They called Naval Intelligence to inspect the files and records of the project.

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



WACs Speak Out

There are about 230 WAC's at Ft. Bragg. Our living conditions are the worst we have seen for WAC's at any post. The buildings we are crammed into are condemned. We live under close quarters, with roaches, and almost no shower facilities. Living in these barracks doesn't make anyone feel good about being in the Army.

Most of us came into the Army because we hoped to get job training, to find out what the Army was like, and simply because there weren't many opportunities on the outside. What we have found is that most recruiters don't tell the truth about schooling. They hardly ever tell us that you need a guarantee to get the program you wanted. Then when you get in and end up somewhere else, that's tough! Many of us joined to get medical training and end up in CTC (Clerk-typist).

There is definitely a lack of consideration in job assignments. We always seem to be at the end of the line for job categories we know we can do well. If you are sick, it is sometimes such a hassle to get to go home for some rest that it's better to just hold on till the day is over. Then there is the matter of courtesy. We are subjected to foul language and smart remarks that Army men would never make around so-called "ladies" (in their minds). They definitely have some strange ideas about women in the Army, like we were some kind of special toys around to keep them amused. We're sorry but most G.I.'s have some very primitive ideas about women and sex.

The Army doesn't help these attitudes among G.I.'s or WAC's. In basic training the Army's idea of sex education was to keep you away from men and sex by scaring you.

There is real harassment of WAC's about their private lives. Whenever they get some "ideas" about a person's private life they keep harassing you, checking on you. At times it can be enough to really drive you crazy. After all, we are adults and have just as much right to privacy as anyone else.

We feel that WAC's and G.I.'s should have the right to resign. Some women dislike the Army so much that they can't function, and they are pushed into things like going AWOL, getting pregnant or using drugs, just to escape from it. After it's too late they say "why didn't you talk to us". Well, if you have real problems they can't really do much about it, so why bother? For example, if a woman is pregnant and desires an abortion, it should be a decision between her and her doctor, in private. But it is usually more like an investigation. There is no privacy.

They tell us we must be what their idea of a "lady" is. But we are ourselves. They tell us we are supposed to do whatever they tell us to do, without asking. Well, you can't do that and be yourself too.

WAC Sisters

Visit the GI Center

110 N. Main Street, Spring Lake

Hours:

Tuesday - 1-9 PM
Wednesday - 4-9 PM
Thursday - 1-9 PM
Friday - 4-9 PM
Saturday - 10 AM - 8 PM
Sunday - 2-7 PM
Monday - Closed

All the time: read, relax, rap
Thursdays, 7:30 PM -- Films
Tuesdays, 7:30 PM -- GI Union meets
SOON -- Military Counseling program
SOON -- Entertainment every weekend

Film Schedule:

April 27 -- "Only the Beginning" by Vietnam Veterans Against the war
May 4 -- Slide show about the Automated Air War

Later in May: "Paths of Glory"
"Grapes of Wrath"
"The Inheritance"
"On the Water Front"
"Cheyenne Autumn"
"All the Kings Men"
"The Informer"



letter

AN OPEN DOOR

Four weeks ago I was a slouchy looking robot for the United States Army. Now I'm a slouchy looking person. Man, I ain't NO robot anymore and it feels good to be somebody. I always want to be somebody. I never want to be a robot again.

I hope that this reaches someone who is a robot. And, man, if my words only help someone to even think about becoming a person, I will be more than happy.

Because, you see, when I went AWOL I did it all on my own. I thought I was different. But, now that I'm a person I find that there are other persons who are just like me -- yeah, man -- no different -- dig it? That means you are too! Far out huh? Did you know that?

Well, now you do! And now that you do why don't you come down and talk to some of them. They're at 110 N. Main Street in Spring Lake. (Well they're really all over the place, but if you're blind you can't see them. But, after you've opened your eyes you'll see what I mean).

Really, man. If you want to talk to a machine, go talk to -- a lifer? But, if you want to talk to a person -- well, talk to him. He'll listen.

-- SP/4 Tom

notes from the slums

GI Wins Haircut Case

A 12th Support GI and GI Union member, Rob LaVoie won a victory over illegal harassment last month at a Special Court Marshal.

At a morning formation 13 out of 19 men were gassed for haircuts by Lt. Watson and Sgt. Alex Thomas. That afternoon LaVoie was given an order to get a haircut. He knew his hair fit under the regs, but not under the new policy of Col. VanHout. He was offered a battalion Article 15, but refused it because he knew he was right. He received a Special CM. Represented by a lawyer, Buddy Tieger, he contended that his hair was legal under Volar regs, which had been removed from display.

Testimony for the prosecution from Sgts. Dannenmueller and Thomas was conflicting about Rob's appearance. The case was dismissed.

At the CM Col. VanHout, former 12th Support C.C., now at the post IG, was called to testify and admitted that he had issued a directive which required each E-8 to O-6 to gig at least one man per day on appearance.

Thanks to brother Rob LaVoie for showing the way to fight illegal harassment.

QUAKER HOUSE

Quaker House of Fayetteville has two new directors -- Ellen and Kenn Arning. The Arnings have been working in Fayetteville since the beginning of February.

Quaker House of Fayetteville was started by a GI from Ft. Bragg in the summer of 1969, when a GI got the idea to open a Quaker center in Fayetteville; he was enthusiastically supported by a group of Friends Meetings throughout North Carolina. The original idea behind the Quaker House of Fayetteville was to provide a center for the GI Movement, Peace Education, and to creatively further the Friends Peace witness near Ft. Bragg.

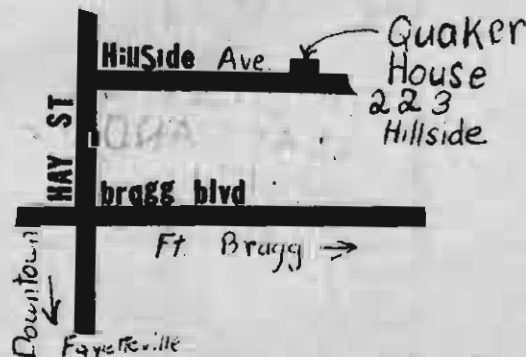
Meeting for Worship is held each Sunday at 1 PM, GIs, local citizens and concerned North Carolina participate in the meetings.

Since the Arnings have been in Fayetteville they have held a weekend workshop on military counseling. George Smith, a former Green Beret and former POW in Vietnam and David Harris, a leader in the Resistance Movement have spoken at Quaker House. Quaker House now has the NARMIC slide show on the Automated Air War in Southeast Asia. Kenn and Ellen are eager to show the slide show to any interested group, and to do military counseling when needed.

Quaker House has a good collection of books dealing with non-violent alternatives to war, Peace Education, GI Newspapers, and Quaker literature.

Quaker House is open from 2-10 PM everyday except Monday. It is located at 223 Hillside Avenue, just two blocks west (towards Bragg) from the intersection of Bragg Blvd. and Hay Street. We warmly welcome all to drop by Quaker House, whether for military counseling, or to just rap and relax!

-- Ken and Ellen Arning



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

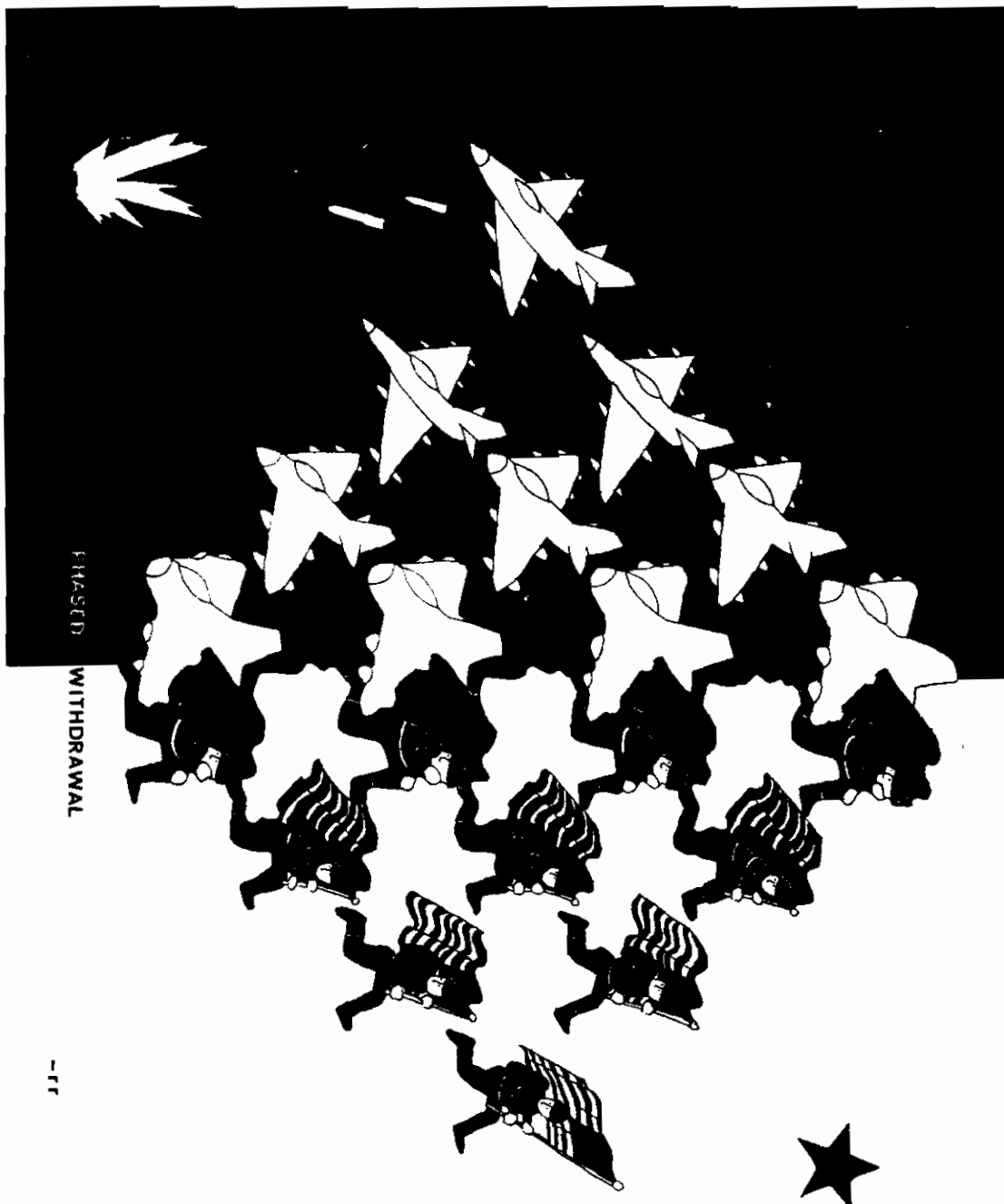
mail to Bragg Briefs, Box 437,
Spring Lake, NC 28390

- ___ I'm a GI; send me a free sub.
- ___ any donations are cool.
- ___ I'm a civilian; here's \$3 for sub.
- ___ Enclosed \$15 for a library or institution sub, for 1 yr.

name _____
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