

Vietnam Veterans Against the War
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February 9, 1973

General Information

Newsletter Format - With this mailing we are inaugurating a new format for the newsletter. There will be four sections to each mailing. They are:

1. General Information
2. Regional News
3. National Office Reports
4. Information Requests

Section #3 will consist of reports written by the different departments within the National Office. These departments are listed below. Section #4 (Requests) will consist of information that we are gathering, whether it be on membership or on specific projects. This section will also be open to chapters that would like information from other chapters. The Newsletter will be published every other Friday. This newsletter will be the main source of information coming out of this office. We hope that all the regions carefully read it and respond to the requests and submit information for insertion into regional news and general information. Strong communications is vital to the growth and effectiveness of VVAW.

Indochina Developments - By now your chapter should have received the statement of the National Collective on the cease-fire agreements and our position on it. If you have not received this paper, let us know and we will send you a copy. In each newsletter we will have a section on the latest developments on the Indochina situation.

National Office Job Functions -

National Coordinators

- Brian Adams - External Liaison, Political Prisoners
- Ed Damato - Internal Liaison, Membership, Press Liaison, Buttons-Films-Books
- Steve Hawkins - Research, CAMP Liaison
- Barry Romo - External Liaison, First Casualty, Filing
- Bart Savage - Internal Liaison, Finance, Buttons-Films-Books, Filing, Sanity Control
- Sam Schorr - Fund Raising, Finance, Legal, Machines

National Staff

- Bill Branson - Research, Machines, Rising Up Angry Liaison, Speaking Engagements Coordinator
- Charly Gray - First Casualty, Office Manager, Membership, Sanity Control
- Pat Parker - Fund Raising (NY based)

Inauguration Day Analysis - Attached to this newsletter is a report by the National Coordinators who worked on the Inauguration Day activities of VVAW in Washington. We would like feedback on this report. Please read it and let us know what your chapter thinks; if there are any additions, etc.

Paris and Rome Conferences - There are two international conferences next week that VVAW has been invited to attend. The International Conference of Exiles for Amnesty will be held in Paris. The VVAW representatives will be John McGarrity (Oregon), John Musgrave (Kansas-W. Mo.), and Ed Damato (National). This conference is being called so that all exiles, both draft resisters and military deserters can conduct a public forum in which to consolidate efforts and positions on the question of amnesty. Another purpose of this conference is to help create movement in this country that can work to successfully resolve the problem of total amnesty so that exiles can, if they choose, return to the United States without recrimination, which is just and proper.

The International Emergency Conference on Indochina is being held in Rome from February 22nd to the 24th, immediately following the ICEA. This series of meetings will deal with developing world-wide cooperation with the Vietnamese to assure the correct implementation of the agreements and to find ways in which to assist them in reconstruction of their country. Ed Damato and John Musgrave will represent VVAW at this conference, as part of a thirty member delegation from the United States.

The selection of delegates were made for the following reasons. John McGarrity was requested by Amnesty groups for his continuing work on amnesty and we felt that he would make an excellent delegate for that reason. John Musgrave was asked to attend both conferences because of his understanding of the political situation in Indochina and because John would be an asset to any VVAW delegation. Ed Damato was chosen by the National Collective to represent VVAW because the Vietnamese specifically asked for a member of the national office to attend.

Reports on both these conferences will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Safeway and A&P Boycott - The United Farm Workers, in their continuing efforts to organize migrant farm workers, are calling for a boycott of A&P and Safeway. Both of these chain supermarkets continue to buy non-union lettuce. If you shop at either, please honor the boycott. Don't Shop at Safeway and A&P. The boycotts are working fairly well. If we can lend our support and spread the word, we can help our brothers and sisters who have been exploited by Big Business for years.

Regional News -

Okinawa VVAW - Forty people demonstrated by the runways to Kadena AFB on January 20th in protest of the war and in dishonor of Nixon's Inauguration. The demonstration was designed to interfere with the flight patterns of the KC-135 tankers and F-4 Phantoms based at Kadena which has been critical to the escalation of the bombing in Vietnam. Kites and balloons were used by the demonstrators to be flown in the path of in-coming planes. One kite caused the diversion of several KC-135s to the base's secondary runway and landing strip, and also brought out a large number of Japanese police. Despite police orders, the demonstrators refused to move and stayed for several hours with no arrests.

Sponsored by VVAW, Women's House (women's movement center re-

lating particularly to US servicewomen and the wives and dependents of servicemen), and People's House (a local GI movement center), the demonstrators included GIs, military wives and children, Okinawans, and American activists working with the GI and women's movement in Okinawa.

Ohio VVAW - The following reports from the chapters in Ohio have been sent in to the office here.

Dayton Chapter - Dayton is experiencing an increase in the membership due to the reinstatement of weekly chapter meetings. They are beginning to get their programs off the ground because of this.

Kent Chapter - Because of massive student demonstrations, including VVAW, James Fyke, the infamous University Director of Security, was forced to resign, effective June 30th of this year. Fyke was responsible for, (among other fascist tactics) the attempted infiltration of Ron Mohr into the student movement and VVAW by offering to sell weapons. Mohr was arrested by Kent City police, who were tipped off by VVAW members who strongly suspected Mohr's motives, when he showed up with an AK-47 and an RPG. The resignation of Fyke represents another victory of the people.

Columbus Chapter - Is doing much work on the Gainesville Conspiracy case and on all political prisoners. Columbus is the headquarters of the Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky Regional Defense Committee.

Kansas-Western Missouri - The following reports were received from this region.

Kansas City - UMKC has agreed to help finance the regional newspaper which will save the region much money and which will enable the membership to receive the paper much more frequently.

Ft. Riley - An active-duty GI, who joined VVAW through NOSGAM is starting a new chapter at the Fort Riley army post.

Forbes AFB - On January 16th, about 30 members demonstrated at the air base, leafleting and rapping to the GIs about the refusal of Captain Heck to fly B-52 missions over Hanoi and Haiphong during the Christmas bombings. The reaction of the airmen was "extremely positive."

Regionally - On January 20th, Inauguration Day, there were demonstrations in Wichita, Ottawa, Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City with total participation at around 2,000. Kans-W. Mo. also sent a number of people to the Washington DC action.

Regional Meetings - This weekend, February 10 and 11, regional meetings were held in New York, Northern Illinois-Iowa and Kansas-Western Missouri. Reports on these meetings will be included in the next newsletter. If similar meetings are being held, advise this office and we will report it.

Operation County Fair - The Boca Chita, Alabama community has recently begun to assume responsibility for the clinic set up there. Dr. KA Maddox was named as director of the clinic and a coordinating committee has been set up with four people from the community serving on it. Clellon Baeder, a lawyer from Auburn VVAW is presently drawing up the incorporation papers for the clinic. The clinic needs to purchase land for the site; land

costing approximately \$200.00 and acre. At this point, the amount of acreage needed is not known.

The blueprints have been drawn up and the clinic has been projected as follows: total dimensions of 32' x 64' and will include two consultation rooms, two examination rooms, a laboratory, a pharmacy, a combination waiting and child care room, a reception and records room, an office, and four bathrooms.

There are now 35 persons from the community enrolled in clinic training classes being conducted by VVAW medics. A van-type vehicle will be needed sometime in the near future to provide transportation to community members who lack the means of going to the free clinic, and also to allow clinic personnel to make house calls to the community.

The following list of equipment and supplies are PRIORITY items, and are needed immediately:

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Table (for examinations) | 16. Feces Sample Jars |
| 2. Eye Chart | 17. Sample Ointments |
| 3. Swabs | 18. Thermometers-Rectal, Oral (1 doz) |
| 4. Tongue Depressors | 19. Mineral Oil |
| 5. Cotton Balls | 20. Paper towels |
| 6. Strong Light (goose or flash) | 21. Soap |
| 7. Sponges | 22. Cod Liver Oil |
| 8. Band-Aids | 23. Baby Vitamins |
| 9. Gauze | 24. Disposable Lancets |
| 10. Adhesive Tape (all widths) | 25. HB Meters (2) |
| 11. Scotch Tape | 26. Blood Pressure Apparatus (2) |
| 12. Bandage Scissors | 27. Stethoscopes (2) |
| 13. Alcohol | 28. Bathroom Scales (2) |
| 14. Zephiran or Merthiolate | 29. Tape Measures (2) |
| 15. Small (shallow) wide-mouth jar
for cotton swabs in alcohol | 30. Betadine |

And very important - Medics and Doctors are NEEDED!

Selma Bloody Sunday - There will be a march in Selma on March 11 commemorating Bloody Sunday at which four community people were killed in a civil rights march in Selma in 1965. For more information contact:

Operation County Fair California VVAW
c/o 314 16th St. E. 3503 W. Pico Blvd
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 or Los Angeles, Calif. 90019
(205) 345-6773 (213) 734-2136

Remember: If you can get any of the above medical supplies, a van-type vehicle, or money for the purchase of the land for the clinic, doctors to work in the clinic or medics for the same, please forward to the Alabama address listed above. ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Political Prisoners - Free the Gainesville 8!

Despite rumors of a trial date in late March, there is still no date set for the trial. Although the defendants met with Judge Arnow on Feb. 8th for a clarification of the pre-trial motions, the actual hearing on pre-trial motions will be on March 6th, at which time a trial date is finally expected to be set. Aside from not knowing when the trial will be, it is not even certain where it will be. The government would clearly prefer to shift the trial from Gainesville to Pensacola, Fla. Since Gainesville can and will provide a lot of community support for the defendants, and Pensacola is totally dominated by active duty and retired military personnel, it's not too hard to figure out the government's logic. A court martial always was a lot simpler than a fair trial. As superstar Guy Goodwin will probably act as prosecutor, it's for sure that he'll try to make things as simple as possible.

Revelations from the Watergate affair have strengthened the likelihood of links between it and the Gainesville indictments. Watergate co-conspirator Alfred Baldwin's testimony seems to indicate that by indicting the Gainesville Eight, the government may have been trying to get itself off the public hook in the Watergate trial. By their implying that VVAW members were conspiring with members of the Democratic Party to violently disrupt the Republican national convention, it could possibly lend credence to their defense of the Watergate conspirators: i. e. that they were fulfilling a patriotic duty. It is damn sure that a lot of filth was swept beneath Nixon's living room rug in his attempt to muzzle information arising from the Watergate trial.

As far as speaking engagements go, Pete Mahoney will be in Oneonta, New York on Feb. 26th, while John Kniffin will be in Milwaukee Feb. 9th-16th when he will go to the National Lawyers Guild Convention in Austin, Tex. Scott Camil may be going to North Carolina but that is still unconfirmed. Finally, there is probably going to be a rally on March 3rd, in Newark, Delaware for the Gainesville 8, that will have Wm. Kuntzler and members of the Harrisburg Defense Committee speaking. That's almost confirmed. If you can lend a hand, don't be shy about it: The defense still needs financial support!!!! For more information write: Gainesville Defense Committee, PO Box 13179, Gainesville, Florida 32601.

Free Gary Lawton! - There's not much left to say as of this writing. The defense and prosecution have rested their cases and the trial has gone to jury. (Friday, 2/9) As soon as we receive word of the verdict we will send out a statement. FREE GARY LAWTON!! FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!!

Research - We are currently researching the following subjects: Nuclear Weapons, Special weapons, Intelligence community, "civilianization" of the war and Global weather modifications. We need any other defense information that becomes available, also. To document information obtained on these subjects, we need persons who are willing to testify who have had first hand experience with them. It would be helpful to have any documents which would help substantiate the testimony such as training records, manuals, orders, etc. Generally the input we have been receiving has been good except on the weather modification. Any information on the US plans to undermine or violate the recently signed peace agreements would be especially timely. Questionnaires and progress reports will be forthcoming from the committees that are working on the various projects.

First Casualty - Despite the slight delay in getting out the paper since its last issue, (some 8 months ago, give or take a few weeks), we are in fact about to resume publication. Seriously, this time we mean it. Deadline for copy, pictures, poems, cookie recipes, etc. is March 1st, (1973!). That means if it's not in by then, you are, so to speak, out of print. We expect to have the paper printed by 15 March 73! and to send it COD Greyhound freight. Regions will have to notify us whether they want the paper shipped directly to chapters or to the regional office. Given the fact that a few have sent us a current membership list, and that we can't afford it anyway, we will not be able to mail the paper directly to individual members. There has been a lot of discussion around changing the name of 1st Casualty. Reasons for this are that it is too often confused with 1st Casualty Press, and secondly because the name is not very clearly understood and often viewed as being out of context with the end of the ground war and the shift to the electronic battlefield. The National Collective would like to propose that the name be changed henceforth to Winter Soldier and that if 2/3rds of the regions agree to this we will do so for the next issue. However, if people either don't want to change the name or perhaps have another name they would like to submit, we will hold off on this until the next NSC meeting.

Security - Philadelphia VVAW recently reported that one of their members, John Sheridan, had stolen from him a certificate issued by the 5th Special Forces Group in April '66. Anyone passing himself off as John Sheridan and using this certificate, get in touch immediately with the national office and the Philly office to verify whether or not this person is really John Sheridan.

John Bazluke, alias John Evans, alias John Carroll - Dig out your old files for the report on June 22 '72 concerning the above person. He is still traveling around ripping VVAW chapters off for money, etc. Places he has ripped off include Boston, Philadelphia, Syracuse, Ypsilanti and the latest, Tuscon, Arizona. He was spotted in Seattle but no reports of rip offs were given. He appears to be traveling around the perimeter of the country in counter-clockwise fashion, so people in the Southwest and Gulf states should especially be alert. Suspect is 5'11", 190 lbs, last seen traveling with a woman and a typical VVAW vehicle (beat-up old junker; no make on the car is confirmed at this point.)

New England - Another identification rip-off. Edward J. Wallace had his DD214 and DD256AF ripped off. The suspected rip-off is using the name of Steve Lafferty, and is suspected of being a pig informer and claims to be from the I. R. A. While in the Cambridge area, he was trying to recruit brothers to help rip-off weapons from a national guard armory to be used to attack pig stations, military bases, etc. The following information will be contained in the stolen forms: Edward J. Wallace's DD214 and DD256 AF. Wallace's description is: Blue eyes, brown hair, height - 6', weight - 190 lbs. Steve Lafferty matches this description also except that the real Wallace wears glasses and Lafferty does not. Anyone using these papers or the name Ed Wallace or Steve Lafferty should contact, immediately this office and the Cambridge office for verification.

Information Requests -

NARMIC - For a proposed new slide show on the current state of the war, the people of NARMIC need information on discharged US military people in Southeast Asia who are being re-hired or approached with job offers by military contractors. They are particularly interested in military personnel who are approached with offers to perform the same work they formerly did in the military, i. e. maintenance, flying, security, etc. If you have information that could be of help, write NARMIC, 160 N. 15 St, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19102.

VIVA - This organization is responsible for the production of the POW bracelets that have been bought by seven million people. Anyone with any knowledge of VIVA, its origins, operations, etc., please contact by mail, Ed Damato at the National Office. A reporter friend of our's is doing research on this group and would like all the information available.

Press List - We are developing a press list at the National Office. If your chapter has good contacts with the media and you would like them to receive press releases issued by this office, please submit their names to Ed Damato.

Membership - There are three requests from the membership department:

1. A new computer list is being run off soon. We would like updated lists of all new members in the chapters, any changes of address, and names to be deleted from the membership roles. All names sent here MUST HAVE ZIP CODES.
2. When we receive requests from people joining VVAW we send a membership questionnaire that is sent to the regional coordinator by the new member. If your questionnaire is radically different than the one we send, the questionnaire our's will not fit your purposes. We would like each region to send a copy of their membership questionnaire so that if possible, we could standardize the form making the information asked more acceptable to the membership committees.
3. If you want the names of the veterans in your region from the DOD tape lists, please notify us. Be advised that these tapes are not always accurate due to the transient nature of returning veterans. If you do not think you will be using this list please do not ask for it as this added expense is not welcome. In the future DoD lists will be sent out with the newsletter and will be much more recent.

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The longest war is over *
or so they say
again
But I can still hear the gunfire
every night
from my bed.

The longest nightmare
never seems to
ever
Quite come
to
an end. -Jan Barry

Flash!

Flash!

Flash!

President Nixon and his administration have had a long history of neglect toward Vietnam-era veterans. For the past five years veterans have found little that the government has provided in the area of benefits. Veterans attending school have found the GI bill inadequate even with the recent boost in payments. Those of us who have applied for home loans have run into a federal bureaucracy that in many cases has meant that we could not buy the homes we wanted for our new families. But the most impenetrable walls of government have been those of the Veterans Hospitals. The care provided by the hospitals has fallen far short of what we are entitled to. We as veterans do not want to take away from others merely because we feel that we are entitled to more because we are vets of the most racist, criminal army in the world.

There are certain benefits though, that we demand. The Nixon Administration has within the past few days, shown its most callous disregard toward veterans since he took power. On Friday, Donald Johnson, the puppet VA Administrator, and former Nat'l Commander of the VFW, made public a federal proposal that would save the budget \$160,000,000 by cutting physical disability payments for Vietnam vets. The veterans who would be most affected by these cuts would be the war amputees. This proposed budget would supposedly reduce the payments made to all veterans, but Congress has frozen the rates for veterans who have held a disability rating for more than 20 years, which would include vets of WWII and the Korean War. According to the Washington Post, Vietnam vets with their high percentage of amputees would receive "substantially less under the proposed rating schedule."

At this time the maximum monthly payment for 100% disabled vets is \$485. These cuts would affect about 200,000 veterans. The VA saying that this plan comes from a 5 year study into revision of the payments made by them, are using the rationale that by taking this money from the physically disabled they can increase the payments to mentally ill veterans, (approx. 325,000) It is also true that the total cuts made in the budget of the VA would reduce the average yearly payment from \$1,397 to \$1,369, a total drop of \$66,000,000 of money allotted for these payments.

A storm is brewing over Capital Hill, where the ineffective Congress has in the past kowtowed to presidential pressure. William Dorn (D-SC), Chairman of the House Veterans Committee said, "It is incredible" that when "we are trying to bring a war to a conclusion... that the VA would propose to reduce disability compensation for the war veterans".

Nixon's proposed budget for the fiscal year 1974 would cut payment in all federally funded programs except defense. In addition to cutting veteran payments, other programs that help the poor and minority groups would be cut also. We do not want to see these cuts made. There is no reason why the people of this country have to take second place to the machinery of death as has happened too often in the past. We should demand that these cuts in the VA proposed budget be scrapped and that the payments should increase in a ratio that would see other federal programs for others increase also. The Defense Department and the war contractors are reaping the only rewards this year.