

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
827 West Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657

Newsletter #3

March 16, 1973

GENERAL INFORMATION

Wounded Knee 1973 --- The Struggle Continues!

(Eighty three years ago, December 29, 1890; 300 American Indian people are slaughtered by the U.S. 7th Cavalry - men, women, and children. Pictures of death come to mind from our high school textbooks - Chief Big Foot's frozen body lying in the snow, fixing its haunting gaze on the nation's conscience. Eighty three years ago, a part of American history standing out like a bloody smudge on our "American heritage." Written off in our history books as a sad incident, regrettable - written out of our history books as if it never really happened. Yet in its fitful sleep, America still dreams of the crime. Eighty three years later it begins again. In truth it never ended; it never could have ended. The Indian people had always been free. A century of captivity in corporate America does not so easily wipe away a heritage of thousands of years. The land had always been their land. A century of bowling alleys, burger delights, and mobile homes does not change that. The land and the people will be free! Wounded Knee, South Dakota - 1973, the American Indian people have never forgotten.)

Wounded Knee marks the location of the last recorded battle between the American Indian people and the U.S. government. On Tuesday, Feb. 27th, that battle began again as members of the American Indian Movement, (AIM), seized the town of Wounded Knee and proclaimed an end to the oppression of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Govt. Now, two weeks later, the entire world watches as the U.S. tries to crush their resistance. The demands of AIM are just, yet the government has no intention of meeting them of its own free will. After being betrayed in treaty after treaty, the American Indian people are no stranger to the injustices and lies of the government. Beginning with the seizures of Alcatraz, going to the October takeover of the BIA in Washington DC, AIM has begun a movement that it calls the Trail of Broken Treaties: a name that symbolizes what their movement stands for, and why they have now returned to the burial ground of their murdered ancestors. In an AIM spokesman's words, "it is symbolic that we have seized Wounded Knee, and there is a definite threat another massacre could occur here. We are not going to give in without a fight... the government has two choices: either they attack and wipe us out as they did in 1890, or they negotiate our reasonable demands."

The demands of AIM that the federal government is so loathed to meet are totally reasonable. Yet rather than meet these fair demands, the government has surrounded Wounded Knee with over 300 U.S. marshals, armed to the teeth, with 15 armored personnel carriers and with a blockade that prevents any food and medical supplies from being shipped in. Even now the government is preparing for the massacre of hundreds of AIM followers just as it did to their ancestors 83 years ago. VVAW feels that these demands only speak for what is rightfully their's in the first place.

The Native American people have a right to build their own sovereign nation without any federal interference. They have a right to determine their own destiny. They have a right to their freedom. Our Indian brothers and sisters are preparing to die for these

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demands in the city of Wounded Knee. Whatever the eventual decisions of the BIA and the government, for American Indians, the Trail of Broken Treaties has come to Wounded Knee.

VVAW Mounts Support for Wounded Knee

The members of AIM, besieged in Wounded Knee, are in desperate need of food, money and medical supplies. If their action is to be successful, it is imperative that we give them as much concrete support as is possible. In addition, it is equally important that we build as much public support in our own regions for their action as is humanly possible. Already a number of VVAW chapters are sending supplies and money to the Indians at Wounded Knee. Buffalo VVAW is collecting blankets and money in their area and giving it to members of the Seneca Tribe of New York State, who are then trucking it out to South Dakota. St. Louis VVAW has already sent in two truckloads of food and medical supplies, while a number of other VVAW chapters are still involved in collecting supplies in their respective areas. Support demonstrations, marches, collecting money and supplies, or whatever, are all valid and necessary activities that can be enacted locally.

In conjunction with this effort, a support demonstration for Wounded Knee will be held Saturday, March 17, at Mt. Rushmore National Park. The demonstration is in support of AIM's demands for recognition of national sovereignty and to support them in their demand that they be allowed to build their nation in peace, without federal interference. Even though this letter will reach most of you after the demonstration is over, there is still much that can be done in support of Wounded Knee. If supplies are being sent there, please contact us when they are ready to be shipped out, and we will give you the latest information on where to bring the items.

Free VVAW's Wounded Knee Two!!!

It is important that no one from VVAW attempts to enter Wounded Knee itself. As of this writing it is totally sealed off by federal marshals and FBI agents. Any people attempting to enter it are liable for arrest. Bart Savage and Bill Branson of the National Collective were arrested by FBI agents in the vicinity of Wounded Knee on Tuesday, March 13th. They were held for three days in the jail in nearby Pine Ridge, under federal charges of interference with a federal officer during a civil disorder. They have now been moved to a jail in Rapid City where they will be arraigned before a Federal District Court. Whether or not additional charges are going to be made will not be known until our attorneys can get to South Dakota and check the situation out more thoroughly. In any case, the charges are pure nonsense. No illegal acts of any sort were committed by Bart or Bill; rather they were arrested purely because the government does not want any demonstration of public support or solidarity with the people in Wounded Knee that might hamper the attempts by the government to crush AIM's resistance with armed force. As sketchy as the information is at this point, it is all that we know. As soon as the situation is clarified, we will send out a news bulletin.

Japan - Bikini Day: A Report by Steve Hawkins

In August, 1971 at the invitation of Gensuikyo, (Japan Council Against A & H Bombs), Joe Urgo attended the Hiroshima day activities as an official representative of VVAW. In March, 1972, Al Hubbard attended the Bikini Day activities as VVAW representative and testified about his participation in bringing nuclear weapons into Japan, which is a violation of the Joint U.S. - Japan Security Treaty. It marked the first time that an

American veteran had come forth to testify about the illegal transportation and storage of nuclear weapons on Japanese soil and had a tremendous impact on the Japanese people, press and government. In August, 1972, Brian Adams attended the session on Hiroshima Day. All traveled and spoke extensively while in Japan.

On February 20, Gary Staiger and I represented VVAW at this year's Bikini Day activities. My primary mission was to officially represent us, but I also testified about my munitions training and the use of nuclear weapons at Kadena AB, Okinawa, where I was stationed from August 1969 to February, 1970. Gary's main goal was to meet with the GI movement in Japan and Okinawa because of his ties with them through his work with NOSCAM.

Our first press conference was scheduled for 45 minutes but lasted over 2 1/2 hours. The news coverage was excellent. International and Japanese press were present, as were the wire services. Three stories appeared in the Ashai paper, which has a daily circulation of 4.5 million. They were very interested in my testimony on nuclear weapons, and on the GI movement in Japan.

I also testified before the Japanese Diet (upper and lower, houses of Parliament) in sessions that are similar to our Congressional investigative subcommittees in the U. S. I gave a special briefing about nuclear weapons and special illegal weapons I used in Vietnam. There were two of these sessions; one in Tokyo and one in Naha. Each lasted over an hour in which I presented all the supporting documents that I had.

After the session in Naha, I made an appeal to Parliament to try to obtain official amnesty for GIs who were willing to testify about nuclear weapons, but feared repercussions from the U. S. military. The Japanese were deeply interested, but it is highly unlikely that this will ever happen.

It was an extremely successful trip in regards to strengthening our relationship with the Japanese and GI movements, which inevitably strengthens VVAW. Some of the specific accomplishments were:

- Because of the furor created by my testimony on nuclear weapons, permission was gained from the Japanese and U. S. authorities to allow for civilian inspection teams to examine Iwakuni and Missawa bases for the presence of nukes. The Japanese movement had been trying to do this for several years. This was therefore, a major success.

- A joint action at Yokota AB by VVAW, PCS and Gensuikyo was held. This was the first time that these groups participated in a joint action.

- A joint action at Fuji AB with VVAW and Gensuikyo, where an appeal was made to GIs to exercise their legal, moral and political rights. GIs came outside and waved or gave the fist salute to show their support.

- We developed a much better understanding of the political situation of the Japanese and GI movement.

- We found out from several GIs about the existence of nuclear weapons on at least two bases on Okinawa. Now that Okinawa has been reverted to the Japanese, the U. S. -

Japan Security Treaty applies to the storage of nuclear weapons there also.

Gary will give a more detailed report on the GI movement and there will be a full page story on the trip in the next issue of 'Winter Soldier'. We took many pictures and much film. We intend to use these pictures to make a slide show for use in VVAW.

The purpose of my testimony on nuclear weapons is to aid the struggle for total disarmament of nuclear weapons. The first step in this process is documenting where and how many nukes are stored in Japan. Then we must demand that these weapons be removed from their locations. The third step is to see that these nuke bases, nuclear capable weapons are removed. Fourth, we must work to see the removal of all U.S. military installations from foreign soil. It will be a long struggle, but ultimately, we will win!

Paris and Rome Report

There are two articles in 'Winter Soldier' that cover the two conferences held in Paris and Rome during the week of February 18th. Therefore, we will print here the statement that was drawn up in Paris by the exiles, active-duty GIs and vets.

Statement of Delegates of Exiles, Active-duty GIs, and Veterans to a Working Session on Amnesty - Europe, February 19-21, 1973

At a time when we are told the war is coming to an end, American troops, materiel and advisors still remain in Indochina and U.S. intervention in the affairs of the Indochinese peoples continues. We, war resisters in exile, active-duty GIs, and veterans demand that the U.S. government withdraw all its troops from Indochina and strictly adhere to the January 27 agreement to end the war.

The American government's illegal intervention in Southeast Asia has been opposed by a majority of the American people. Hundreds of thousands of men and women in the U.S. have suffered a loss of civil rights, liberty, and jobs because they have been in opposition to the war or subjected to the racism and oppression of the American military and draft systems. Contrary to Nixon's deliberate distortion about the 'few hundred' anti-war exiles, there are in fact 60,000 to 100,000 of them. But the majority of war resisters are inside the U.S. where an estimated 200,000 live underground. Thousands are behind bars; many have court records; and over 500,000 veterans have less than honorable discharges.

We demand universal, unconditional amnesty (with no alternative service or other punitive measures, or case-by-case judgment) for:

1. All military resisters (so called 'deserters!') and draft resisters in exile or underground in the U.S.;
2. All people who are or have been in civilian and military prisons, or those who are sought for prosecution because of their opposition to the war - this includes a clearing of their records;
3. The more than half million veterans with less than honorable discharges.

War resisters are not criminals; the real criminals are the American Government leaders who have violated the U.S. constitution and International Law in waging this war. It is the people who are responsible for the death and destruction in Indochina and for the hundreds of thousands of Americans killed or wounded in combat.

The perpetration of this illegal war by the United States has violated the honor that should surround one's service to one's country. Only an amnesty which is universal and unconditional will truly mark an end to the U.S. government's disastrous policy in Indochina and at the same time serve to prevent all such future wars.

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On Talking to the FBI -

(The following article is reprinted from the Kent State Chapter of VVAW's newsletter.)

The FBI's job is to gather information, and not all of it comes from bugs and agents. Sometimes movement people supply it. Ben Spock, for example, invited the FBI in, sat them down, ran down his politics for an hour, and at the end said kiddingly, "I've probably given you enough information to hang me." This information, including this last statement, was used in a distorted way at his trial. MORAL OF ALL FBI STORIES: DONT TALK.

This is how it happens. Some of us get scared when an FBI agent appears at the door. We answer a few 'simple' questions because we are afraid not to, afraid of committing some crime by not talking. Our fear in this situation distorts our judgment. Sounds simple? Before you can say, "go away," they start in: "there's a warrant out. Where is Ted Jackson?" Warrant? Ted? Oh, Jesus, they're going to arrest Ted. Wrong. There is a warrant for someone - they don't say who - and maybe want to talk to Ted and they maybe want to see your reaction, and maybe want to see if you know where he is.

There is no law requiring us to talk to an FBI agent. No crime against the State is committed when the agent is brushed off and the door shut immediately. The Fed's do not have the power to make arrests for crimes like disorderly conduct and therefore do not have the same power to retaliate against these brush offs. The only way you can be made to talk is through a subpoena to a federal grand jury.

No FBI agent asks idle questions; there is no such thing as small talk with a Fed. A long answer, a truthful answer, a lying answer - any of these will supply some sort of information which is of use to the State. The FBI visitor may be out to make a case on you, or a sister, or a brother; and you have "sung" if you say anything more than, "Get out. Goodbye."

Sometimes when we open the door unafraid and ready to brush the Fed off, we get caught. They try to snow us with how much they know: come on with a whole list of names of who lives in our house, works in our office. Or they say they won't go away, they know other people who live in the house and they'll wait till they all come home and ring the doorbell every fifteen minutes to check on it, or they get us on the old interrogation trick. The FBI agent says, "We have some information which tends to implicate you in (such and such) a bombing. If you could answer a few questions, I'm sure we can straighten things out." Your

mouth drops; your mind boggles; "Shit, I didn't do that."

Suddenly you've lost your cool and you're only too glad to tell the Fed where you were on Thursday night and who you were with. Maybe that's all he wanted to know - where you were and if X was with you. And you've given him the information. Even two-bit gangsters in grade B movies don't fall for that one.

Some others of us are not afraid when the FBI comes - in fact, quite the reversé. We are so arrogant about our wits and the Fed's stupidity that we invite him in to ask his questions, and find out what the enemy is up to. Fat chance. Our very questions give him information which he might never stumble over. Behind each question is a body of information which may well be revealed in the question itself or in a series of questions. Some of our brothers and sisters have reported on an interview, "Was he dumb! He didn't know what he was looking for." There are several names for that kind of arrogance.

What should we do when the FBI comes to call? It's really simple. Just say, "I have nothing to say to you," and shut the door. If you can't do that, say, after you have checked his I.D., "That's nice and if you have any questions, call my lawyer; her name is..." and then shut the door. Some people, particularly parents and people holding sensitive or government jobs, may not want to talk to the FBI, but would at least like a record to show that they said they were willing to talk with the FBI in the presence of an attorney. The FBI will rarely agree to this, especially if you ask to have a stenographic record of the interview.

Don't let the FBI agent in. Don't be afraid. Don't be tricked. Don't be arrogant. Any talking you do may sound like singing.

Veterans Manuals

The National League of Cities/U.S. Conference of Mayors publish two manuals on veterans that could be helpful to chapters that have counselling services for vets. They are: VETS Program Technical Assistance Manual, which contains useful information on how to use the GI Bill, counselling and outreach. It suggests guidelines for setting up projects and possible funding. The other manual is titled A No-Sweat Guide to a Better Deal for Ex-GIS.

Chapters must remember that these pamphlets are put out by a quasi-governmental organization and should keep it in that perspective. For copies of these pamphlets write to: Robert Hill, National Project Director, National League of Cities, 1612 K Street, Washington DC 20006.

Bumper Stickers

The Kansas City Chapter of VVAW is selling bumper stickers that say "I Support Amnesty" or "Vietnam Veteran for Amnesty" or "Veteran for Amnesty". They can be obtained in different colored backgrounds and with different colored inks. The price for these stickers is 15 cents each. For more information, write: KC VVAW, 306 W. 39th St., Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

REGIONAL NEWS

Coventry, Connecticut - Jake Jacobson, a member of the Connecticut Chapter of VVAW, was arrested on June 7, 1972 for allegedly possessing a dangerous weapon (grenade simulator) in a motor vehicle with the implication that he was going to assassinate Vice President Agnew at the Coast Guard Academy where he was to appear. His bail was originally set at \$30,000 but was later reduced. This outrageous bail was set so high because the arresting officer stated that Jacobson had in his possession a grenade launcher and a live grenade. The trial begins on March 21 and Jake is confident that he will be found not guilty. For more information contact: VVAW, RFD #1, Depot Rd., Coventry, CT 06238. We will keep you posted on the proceedings.

Cincinnati, Ohio - On March 24, the Cincinnati chapter of VVAW will organize and sponsor a March for Amnesty, with a rally at Fountain Square. The focus of this march will be on unconditional amnesty for all exiles and for those who went to jail in resistance to the draft. For more information contact: Cincinnati VVAW, PO Box 19302, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

San Clemente, California - There will be a demonstration at the Western White House to greet President Nguyen Van Thieu when he arrives in The U.S. to map out his strategy for rapid withdrawal from Vietnam when he is disposed of by the people of Vietnam!! The action will begin on April 1 (Fool's Day) at San Clemente National Park, directly adjacent to the Western White House, with an all night vigil. On April 2nd, the demonstration will move to the gates of the WWH. For more information contact: VVAW, 3503 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90019. Or call, (213) 734-2136.

Cairo, Illinois - As part of VVAW's continuing effort to aid the people of Cairo, from the brutal, racist oppression inflicted upon them, the Mid-west chapters of VVAW will send another convoy of supplies there on April 7th. For more information contact: KC VVAW, 306 W. 39th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call (816) 753-1619.

Newly-elected Regional Coordinators - The following people were recently elected as regional coordinators at meetings in their regions.

New York
Ray Winters
135 Fayette Ave
Buffalo, NY 14223
(716) 837-8687

E. Pa - S. N.J. - Del.
Greg Doll
VVAW
106 S. 13th St.
Phila., Pa. 19107
(215) 546-2428

Oregon
Allen Tlusty
525 E. 11th Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Report from Columbus, Ohio - We're in the process of educating all of our membership to be military counsellors for active-duty, reservists, N.G. and ROTC. ROTC is developing into a large project here. We're formulating an intensive campaign for this spring with other radical groups in this community to work toward having the ROTC programs removed from the campuses. To date, People's pressure and lack of interest have resulted in two campus ROTC programs folding. This brings the total closings to five in the past year.

The regional newspaper will begin to publish here as was voted on by the membership at the last regional meeting. Each of the chapters in this region will assist us in the publishing of this paper. The paper will be ready to roll as soon as we get enough copy.

Legally, things are looking pretty good. The Columbus 4 were freed on the city's inability to provide any evidence for their case. They were charged with disorderly conduct in connection with a demonstration against the appearance of Agnew at a fund raising dinner.

VVAW brothers, Ernie and Jerry Seavers, have been freed from custody. They were both in jail for various charges ranging from carrying a black flag at a demonstration to first degree riot. Jerry's case is pending appeal to a higher court. Five more trials in the continuing series, which started on Oct, 1972 will come to court in the next two months.

The regional defense committee is still working on the Gainesville case and area publicity, though limited, is good.

We're also entering into a united front to facilitate the lettuce boycott of the Farm Workers and we are also trying to win a majority in the OSU student assembly elections with the aim of being able to release more funds to community projects and radical groups. We're also negotiating with the campus union workers to establish a community-student-worker coalition in order to work together on the impending Union strike against Ohio State University.

We've initiated a veteran's self-help support group in conjunction with the University Counselling Service, but plan to reorganize on a community basis since the university seems to be primarily concerned with Behavior Modification rather than people.

The chapter is planning to do work on the Operation County Fair project, but need more information, which we are now obtaining.

In all, the work and progress of the chapter is encouraging.

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

Winter Soldier -

Enclosed is WINTER SOLDIER, the first of our monthly national newspaper. We think we've done a pretty good job on it and we are waiting to hear from you as to what criticisms you have or what you like about it. The paper cost us \$500.00 or thereabouts, to print. We don't have enough money to send it to anyone as a result. Therefore, you must let us know how many copies you want and how you want it mailed to you C.O.D. We suggest Greyhound C.O.D. Fifteen thousand copies have been printed so when you order your amount remember that this paper has to be sent to all the chapters.

The next issue of the paper will be coming out on April 15! In order to get the articles layed out we must ask that if anyone has a piece to submit that the deadline is April 1st. This may come as short notice but we can assume that the first of every month will be the deadline date. We will be particularly looking for copy relating to regional programs and activity concerning amnesty. Any graphics or photos are always going to be needed, so they should be sent in with articles, etc., whenever possible.

We hope you enjoy it!!!!

Gainesville Conspiracy Update -

After a whole lot of waiting, the Gainesville 8 finally had their hearing on pretrial motions. All things considered, it didn't mean much more than having to wait a lot longer. The defendant's attorneys presented a number of motions to Judge Arnou at these hearings, held on March 6th and 7th in Pensacola, Florida. All but two of them were denied. Perhaps most important was Arnou's decision to wait until the conclusion of the pretrial motions before he sets a trial date. At this point, the final hearings on pretrial motions are scheduled for April 23, 24, 25 and 26 th. Whatever the outcome of these hearings it is certain that the trial itself is still many months off. Where the trial will be held is also still in question, but it is certain that the government is going to try to have it moved to the 'security' of Pensacola and its militarized citizenry. As someone said "Protracted struggle is what its all about", and protracted struggle it will be.

Of the two motions that Arnou consented to review, one dealt with the Constitutionality of the jury system in Florida, and the other with the 'allegations' made by the defense into the illegal use of wiretaps by the government. As jurors in Florida are chosen from state voter registration rolls, they dramatically under represent 3rd World peoples. As this is clearly a method of racial discrimination in selecting juries, its constitutionality is obviously questionable. It is no mere accident that black people rarely if ever serve on juries in Florida. Arnou also agreed to look into the use of federal wiretaps in the case. While he is still at the point of looking into the 'alleged' use of wiretaps by the Federal government, he shouldn't have to try very hard to ascertain that they were in fact used. From there, he might even get into just how 'legal' the wiretaps were. In any case, it is significant that he consented to investigate the matter. Getting the feds to testify in court about their bugging activity in the Gainesville conspiracy would prove very interesting.

Of all the things to come out of the March 6-7 hearings, the most ominous by far was Arnou's ordering of a gag rule in the case. Admonishing both the defense and the prosecution for making public statements about the case, he stipulated that if either of them continues to make such public statements he would hold them both in contempt of court. While it's all well and good that he admonished both the government and the defense, Arnou isn't about to slap any contempt charges on Guy Goodwin or anything. Like Mama didn't raise no fool! What the gag rule will mean in fact, and in effect, is that the court is threatening to slap the Gainesville 8 with contempt citations if they make any public statements about the trial. Something about a citizen's right to freedom of speech and about being innocent until proven guilty seems to contradict this gag rule, but then that's the way things go in the U. S. A. - 1973. Whether the gag rule has any Constitutional basis or not is one thing and whether or not the defendants will get hauled into court on contempt citations is another. Protracted struggle is what it's all about.

The Struggle Continues !!

FREE THE GAINESVILLE 8 !!

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Membership -

(Reprinted from Newsletter #1. The only response we received was from New York State, so we are giving everyone a second chance.)

"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."

NSCM-

The National Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Placitas, New Mexico from April 19-23. In order to develop an agenda, chapters and regions will have to submit their proposals as soon as possible so that the people in New Mexico can disseminate this information to everyone. Remember - in order to facilitate discussion on proposals, these items should be discussed by all beforehand. Send agenda items to: VVAW, PO Box 461, Placitas, New Mexico 87043, and to the National Office.

Drug Film - Film makers in Dayton, Ohio are doing a film on drugs in the military. These film people made the film "Growing Up Female". If anyone has information on this subject please write to: VVAW, PO Box 1625, Dayton, Ohio 45401, Attention: Barbara Roberts.

Amphetamines -

I am trying to locate members of my old unit in Vietnam, (US Special Forces Command Control). This is in connection with the use of amphetamines issued to us on combat missions. I have filed for a service connected disability due to a 4 year drug problem on amphetamines and speed which started in Vietnam. I feel together we can prove a great deal of our drug problems came from military dispensaries rather than the Vietnamese drug market. I have lawyers and doctors who feel this is a very important claim that will benefit many. If you feel you could help, all it takes is a written statement (notorized) to the effect of the unlimited issue of this drug and others. Please notify me directly (Ronald Podlaski, 170 Hawthorne St., Apt 2K, Brooklyn, NY 11226, Telephone: (212) 469-4476) or through the NYC office.

Winter Soldier -

HOW MANY COPIES OF WINTER SOLDIER DOES YOUR CHAPTER WANT?
BE REASONABLE, BE RESPONSIVE, BE PROMPT!!!!!!!