

Between the Lines

Nuremberg Actions, P.O.Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006

June 1991 #10

IN MEMORY OF WHAT?

by Jennifer Viereck

Recently, at a small town Memorial Day Parade, I helped staff the 'Peace' table. This was preceded for a week or so by heated debate over the propriety of a tank that was scheduled to be part of the parade. All the anguish, confusion and knee-jerk barbarism that is ripping this nation's citizens apart in the wake of the Oil War was illustrated by the varied responses to our presence, both at the table, and behind a banner carried in the parade immediately following the tank: 'Thou Shalt Not Kill'.

Someone remarked that some passersby seemed to regard our table as quicksand: if they looked too hard, they might get sucked right in. Others appeared to need something to dive into, needed comfort, soothing, hope renewed. So many thanked us for our presence, and even fell in behind the banner, ultimately about 100 strong.

I spoke at length with a deeply troubled couple whose Marine son has just come home for a few days. He was proud of his role in the Gulf, showing them exploding grenades that fit in the palm of the hand, and could each take out every child in a schoolyard. His parents recoiled in horror when he admitted that he had killed with an enormous knife he carried on his belt.

I try to imagine how many of these grenades would fit in a boxcar, how many boxcars we may have seen headed to the piers at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Knives are probably sent out through Alameda, with the mouthwash, deodorant and canned food. Concord specializes in things that blow up or ignite.

The father said, "What can we do? We love him. He bought the whole thing. He did say, at one point, 'Dad, we were killing people that didn't even have any shoes on.' Now he's gone again, this time on a secret mission that will last 6-8 months. We don't know where he is. Those are the wars you really have to worry about. You never even hear about them."

At one point, the tank stopped in mid-parade, and observers leapt to the conclusion that we had done something to disrupt the event. Hair-trigger emotions erupted from seemingly regular folks; we were shoved, screamed at and cursed, told to go home. I wished there was some place left to go. A shirtless tough-looking man pushed his way through the crowd. As I watched his approach with apprehension, he took my hand and thanked me for being there. He said that he had been feeling that the four years he spent in Canada to avoid killing in Vietnam had become meaningless in the face of such vast lessons unlearned.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE: JAPANESE ACTIVISTS TAKE US NAVY TO COURT

In an unprecedented attempt to apply National Environmental Protection Act standards and procedures to US military bases abroad, fed-up Japanese citizens are suing the Navy in US Federal Court. See page 3.

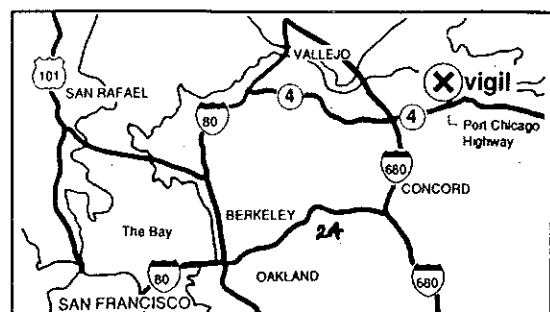
NUREMBERG ACTIONS CELEBRATES 4 YEARS!

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, AT 10 AM

- 10:00 Potluck brunch: bring food & drink to share
- 10:30 Featured speakers:
Walter Huguet, coordinator for CRECE on the current situation in El Salvador
Karen Parker, international law attorney on upcoming Middle East War Tribunals
- 11:00 Music with **Daniel Zwickel**, and **Maxina Ventura and Friends**

Bring photos, poems, artwork, articles, etc. to include in banner/birthday card
Shared Visions of Peace & Justice.
Some art materials will be provided.

12:30 Procession to the base to present banner.



The site of the ongoing vigil is 35 miles northeast of San Francisco, near Concord. From Route 4, take Port Chicago turnoff (about four miles east of Highway 680). Go north one mile on Port Chicago Highway to the track-crossing.

Memorial Day, continued from page 1...

A shy young woman with a month-old infant strapped to her chest and a two year old by the hand came back sobbing. Earlier she had asked what she could do to help, and I suggested she join the parade. She said no one had ever spoken to her with such hostility. She was shaken and confused.

AND WHAT OF THOSE FROM THE LAST WAR?

On May 28th, I happened to see a surprising mainstream TV retrospective on the Vietnam War (sponsored in part by Sominex). It was composed of heart-breaking footage and letter after letter written home to the US about the barbarity, the senselessness, the insanity of fighting that war. As I looked at all those haunted young faces, I wondered where they are now.

Do we remember as a nation that twice as many veterans later took their own lives as died in actual combat? Does that count the overdoses, the drunken car wrecks, the wives and children beaten when violence seemed like the only way out of conflict? We see the survivors every day: homeless on our streets, pushing carts, sitting on their sleeping bags in parks, one eye out for the cop that will tell them they still don't belong. Under Reagan, I was told that 80% of our homeless neighbors were Vietnam vets. Now there are many families as well.

I remember Barry, whom I used to drive out to deserted roads in the middle of the night, so he could cry, tell his story over and over and shoot his gun out the window in the dark. He said it was the only thing that kept him from going home and shooting himself.

I remember Spider, a tall, fearsome-looking combat vet from the Midwest. Last year at the Nevada Test Site, in the midst of a loud crowded protest with drumming and costumed trespass actions, he quietly strode to the front in his dog tags and tattered Vietnam uniform, blindfolded himself, and strode across into the Sheriff's arms carrying a US parade flag at attention. He touched us all.

Will these young vets, these 'turkey shooters' and bomber pilots who've used the cradle of civilization for a test range carry their memories any easier? Will we be able to help them any better? Vietnam was a war we at least saw on the news, had to viscerally absorb the horror. In this war, except for glimpses, we saw only the video game. Perhaps it is our alienation from reality that is making us feel so crazy.

WHO PAID THE PRICE FOR GEORGES'S GLORY?

- * 304 American soldiers dead, 213 wounded
- * 47 Allied dead, unknown wounded
- * 135,000 Iraqi civilians dead, 2/3 of them children, unknown wounded
- * 170,000 Iraqi children under 5 alone expected to die in the next year, from malnutrition and cholera
- * 150,000 Iraqi soldiers dead, many of them children, unknown wounded
- * 2,500 Kuwaitis dead, unknown wounded
- * 200 Kuwaiti Palestinians and others tortured and killed, sometimes under US supervision
- * 13 Israelis dead, 200 wounded

- * All Palestinians in occupied territories confined indoors for 40 days, their crops dead, jobs gone, schools closed, 10 killed, hundreds shot and beaten, 5,000 imprisoned
- * 70,000 Iraqi Shiites, fleeing and hungry in Southern Iraq and Iran
- * 2,500,000 Kurdish refugees, one thousand a day dying in Iran and Turkey

WHO PAYS THE PRICE AT HOME?

- * 80% of the poor in the US are women and children
- * 25% of the homeless in US cities are children
- * 30,000 children could be educated for the price of one tank
- * The Children's Defense Fund estimates that the price tag for eliminating poverty in the US would be 5.3 billion dollars, far less than the cost of the war.
- * Many military resisters now serving time or awaiting trial for refusing to kill
- * The beneficiaries of every social program that has been cut back while billions were found to finance death and destruction abroad. ●

N.A. SURVEY RESULTS

Last month, when Nuremberg Actions sent out it's quarterly mailing, recipients were asked to rate a series of issues facing the Peace Movement, add their own, and make suggestions as to how Nuremberg Actions might best address these issues. The results so far are listed below.

- 1) Strengthening the UN and International Law: 90% very important, 10% not important.
- 2) Identifying and preventing future interventions: 70% very important, 30% important.
- 3) Link the domestic crisis to the military budget: 60% very important, 30% important, 10% not important
- 4) Support Native American and Puerto Rican rights against US: 50% very important, 30% important, 20% not important
- 5) End covert operations and the black budget: 50% very important, 30% important, 20% not important
- 6) Join with other groups to form an effective broad based coalition: 50% very important, 30% important, 20% not important.
- 7) End all occupations in the Middle East: 40% very important, 50% important, 10% not important
- 8) Link the military to environmental and nuclear disaster: 30% not important, 60% important, 10% not important.

Other priorities listed were: The Nuclear Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Educating children about nonviolent conflict resolution, closing US foreign bases and converting and cleaning up bases at home for peacetime use.

Suggestions for how to act on these issues, in addition to praise for the ongoing vigil and newsletter, included public education, focusing public attention on these issues at other demonstrations, and helping to maintain the practice of nonviolence at all demonstrations.

If you have not responded to the survey and wish to do so, please send your reply to the above questions to Nuremberg Actions, PO Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006. ●

JAPANESE CITIZENS SUE U.S.

An open letter to the world Peace community, from a citizen's group in Yokasuka, Japan.

Last summer we started the 'NEPA Coalition' after we came to know about the National Environmental Policy Act in the United States. NEPA requires the US government to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement whenever the government proposes a major action that could have a serious impact on the quality of the human environment. The US follows procedures proscribed by NEPA in their home country, but never on foreign soil. We cannot accept this. We have decided to sue the US government for violations of NEPA at the Acustica Navy Base, and have been preparing with US attorney Edward Lee Rogers. Whether NEPA applies to US projects abroad has never been tested.

BACKGROUND

Yokasuka, Japan, a former military port of the Japanese Imperial Navy, was confiscated by the US occupation force immediately after Japan's defeat in World War II, and has continued to be used by the US Navy under the Japan-US Security Treaty.

Since 1966, the US nuclear-powered vessels have forcibly made 362 calls to Yokasuka despite opposing cries from the local residents, scientists and workers, as of July 18, 1990.

In 1973, the US Navy designated Yokasuka as the homeport of the aircraft carrier Midway, "for only three years". Yokosuko became a de-facto homeport of the US Seventh Fleet. For 17 long years since that day, we have lived with the humiliation of being the only overseas homeport for a US aircraft carrier.

In 1988, two Tomahawk-capable vessels were deployed. Residents took to the streets in protests, and signatures were collected from 130,000 residents, 1/3 of the population. This summer, two additional Tomahawk vessels are about to be deployed.

Also, this coming summer, a newer and larger aircraft carrier, the USS Independence, is replacing the Midway, and our agony will be further aggravated.

LIVING IS UNBEARABLE

In our rough survey, we count 29 accidents involving the Midway. On June 6, 1990, there was an explosion on board with two crew members dead and many injured. The accident occurred in Japanese waters close to the densely populated area, and close to the nuclear storage on board. Crash accidents of aircrafts are frequent, including one where an American jet crashed on a residential area and killed a woman and her small children.

Jet noise pollution is unbearable. During a 35 day Night Landing Practice in 1987, unbearable noise was recorded 9119 times, averaging 261 times a day. School classes are interrupted, phone conversations are impossible. Physical and mental disorders are on the rise among elders and children.

Yokasuka accommodates at least 5,000 crew of the Midway. A housing project is underway for them, cutting down trees and leveling a hill. The forest is the only remaining substantial forest in the Tokyo metro area and is a sanctuary

of precious wild birds, and holds archaeological ruins from ancient times.

NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS

On average, the port of Yokasuka houses nuclear reactors on nuclear vessels every other day. Most likely, the Midway has over 50 nuclear weapons on board, in violation of the Japanese Constitution. And there are nuclear Tomahawks on the Tomahawk vessels.

In 1988, Dr. Jackson Davis of the University of California visited Japan and made a shocking revelation of his analysis. He said, if there were a fire on a nuclear-armed vessel or an accident with a nuclear reactor on board nuclear-powered submarines in Yokasuka, under certain conditions, tens of thousands of people would be killed and parts of Tokyo and Yokohama would not be habitable due to radioactive fallout carried by the wind.

The likelihood of such an accident in Yokasuka is higher than anywhere else in the world. The entrance to Tokyo Bay, where Yokasuka is situated, is a notoriously narrow and hyper-congested waterway. It is only 700 meters wide, and 900 giant oil tankers and other ships make passage every day. Two years ago, there was a collision between a Japanese submarine and a large fishing boat, killing 30 people.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please help us. Do whatever you can to mobilize public opinion on the issue. Please write to us. Give us a chance to speak to the American people when we visit your country this June. We do believe that our small action will have positive repercussions for peace throughout the world. ● Midori Hattori, NEPA Coalition, 4-1-2-303, Mabori Kaigan, Yokosuka -shi, Kanagawa 239, Japan. FAX 81-468-44-3069

RADIOACTIVE PRISON PLANNED

Seven years after the permanent lockdown began at the US Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, the Bureau of Prisons announced its plan to open a 'new and improved' Marion in Florence CD. Marion, which replaced Alcatraz as the end-of-the-line prison, incarcerates prisoners who have participated in work stoppages, written 'too many' lawsuits, pursued their religious freedom or otherwise stood up for their human rights. Notably, Marion imprisons more political prisoners than any other US prison. Many of these same prisoners will be sent to the proposed prison in Florence. Florence prison will be the first Federal prison to be built as a permanent locked down facility.

As if the brutality were not enough, the location of Florence is about four miles from the notorious Cotter Corp., a uranium milling company which has contaminated the surrounding area with nuclear waste pollution. The Committee to End the Marion Lockdown views the placement of the Florence prison as one more attack on the human rights of prisoners. Concerned people are urged to contact them to help stop construction. ●

Reprinted from Leonard Peltier Newsletter In the Spirit of Crazy Horse. CEML, PO Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657-8172. (312) 235-0070.

TRACK RECORD:

June 1st, 1991, is the 1451st consecutive day of resistance to US war crimes at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. On June 15th, Nuremberg Actions will celebrate their fourth anniversary (see front page).

Munitions movements recorded at the tracks from 4/20-5/17/91 included 144 explosives trucks at the front gate. On 4/22, Twelve TMST trucks arrived, carrying 'rocket ammunition with explosive projectiles'. Ten Navy trucks took the same materiel to the port on 4/28 and 4/30.

Fifteen weapons train movements were recorded, with a total of 113 deadly boxcars. Ninety-six were marked A (will explode on impact), 4 of those missiles, and 16 were marked B (will ignite on impact).

Persons arrested for attempting to enforce International Law were: Caroline Johansson (4 times), Greg Getty (2 times), Ted Thomas, Russ Jorgensen, Woody Schwartz, Betsy Eberhardt, Larry Harper and Betty Black.

On 5/9, Russ Jorgensen was nearly struck by a driver of a loaded weapons truck while blocking its path using established procedures. The driver said, "I'd have run over him if they'd let me." Base personnel have confirmed that he was fired and will not return to CNWS.

In other incidents of American citizens run amok, Gary Wilhelm was shot with a BB gun through his sleeping bag, a tire on the kitchen truck was slashed, eggs were thrown, and Navy personnel went to a great deal of trouble to photograph environmentalist graffiti on a train crossing pole. Other night raids have been foiled by unexpected friendly greetings from the now larger presence of fulltime vigilers.

Jury selection for the trial of Rev. David Duncombe will begin on June 19th at the Mt. Diablo Municipal Court House in Concord at Willow Pass Rd. and Parkside. Please come show your support if possible. Duncombe and Jennifer Viereck will speak in Santa Rosa on June 17th (see Calendar).

BEAT AROUND THE BUSH

Clan Dyken, the music group and extended family who bicycled from the Sierras to the Nevada Test Site this spring and operate a fully solar powered stage, is calling all drummers to circle the White House on August 2, 1991 for the biggest rhythm section ever. Contact them for more info at PO Box 145, Angels Camp CA 95222. (209) 736-6736.

This newsletter is the mostly monthly publication of Nuremberg Actions, and is sent to N.A. supporters who request it. Additional donations make it possible to distribute it more widely for educational purposes.

The goal of the newsletter is to support citizens' rights in calling for just, sustainable non-exploitive policies from government and business alike, through nonviolent, creative and responsible means. Submissions accepted to 20th of month. Editor and Publisher: Jennifer Viereck

N.A. PO BOX 13 BOULDER CREEK CA 95006 (408) 338-9416

CALENDAR

AT THE TRACKS:

6/13--- Redwood Friends, Sonoma County, War Tax Resistors. Nonviolence discussion group with David Hartsough.

6/15--10 am Nuremberg Actions 4th Anniversary celebration at the tracks with Walter Huquet, Karen Parker, Daniel Zwickel and Maxina Ventura and friends. Bring food to share and materials for our banner to the base: Shared Visions of Peace and Justice.

6/16--10:00 am Buddhist Morning of Meditation. Sitting and walking. Rides leave Berkeley Zen Center at 9:15, 1933 Russell St.

Every Thursday: Blockade Training with David Duncombe.



IN THE BAY AREA:

6/1--8:00 pm Concerto for the Dead, in honor of the ancestors and for the sake of world peace. Fellowship Hall of Berkeley UU, 1924 Cedar at Bonita. \$3 415-223-0357

6/17--7:30 pm The War Crimes in Our Back Yard, with David Duncombe and Jennifer Viereck of Nuremberg Actions, at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Santa Rosa, 1630 W. 3rd at Stoney Pt.

Every Friday from 12:30 to 1:30, Women in Black, at Cody's Bookstore in Berkeley and City Hall in San Francisco to protest Israeli occupation of Palestinian people. Wear black.

TAX RESISTANCE VIDEO

Carol Katonik, formerly with both Nuremberg Actions and the Institute for the Practice of Nonviolence, has produced a half-hour video called Paying for Peace, War Tax Resistance in the United States. It features interviews with Earnest and Marion Bronley, Rev. Maurice McCrackin, Juanita Nelson, Brian Willson and others. It is an inspirational look at the lives of some of the most vocal and politically active war tax resisters in the US, with an overview of the whys and hows of resistance and re-direction. You can order the video for \$39.95 from:

PAYING FOR PEACE, PO Box 5946, Takoma Park MD 20913.

___ Please send me more information about Nuremberg Actions.

___ Please send me the monthly newsletter Between the Lines.

I enclose a donation of \$19 ___ Other \$ ___ to cover costs.

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