

# FORT POLK GI VOICE

## YOU HAVE RIGHTS

The Fort Polk GI VOICE is a newsletter produced by and for GI's at Fort Polk. We are not part of the official military establishment. Just the opposite. We want to become the voice of the anonymous private or PFC who never seems to get heard from. You can pick up the newspapers every day and read what General So-and-So, Admiral Such-and-Such, or Senator Butterball has to say about the war --- but who ever asks the opinion of the men who have to do the fighting and the dying? And yet we are the ones who should have the most right to be heard from!

### Where We Stand

Our view is this: we are in the Army, and must obey all lawful orders given to us. But, we are also citizens of the United States, and we have not given up our Constitutional rights just because we have become soldiers. If we're old enough, we can vote. Therefore, we also have the right to read and discuss the issues, even if our view happens to disagree with that of the military. Many GI's don't know about their democratic rights and are intimidated into silence.

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IN FUTURE ISSUES...

A Letter from Vietnam.

"How to Survive Basic Training."

"Eight Hours of Uninterrupted Sleep?"

THE NEW LEGIONS, By Don Duncan:  
Book review.

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GI VOICE is going to work to inform GI's of their rights, and to aid

anyone who is victimized because of his ideas. We are going to prove that in spite of all the harassment, the skin-head haircuts, the low-crawling, everything that's done to make us feel like shit -- we remain men, with dignity and minds of our own.

### The War in Vietnam

The most important question facing us today is the war. We believe that the U.S. should get the hell out, now. The war in South Vietnam is a civil war, a fight between Vietnamese which the U.S. has no business interfering in. The side supported by the U.S. has no popular support -- it is, pure and simple, a gang of crooks, landlords and pimps which can't get its own army to fight for it and has to call in the Americans to defend it. Why should we fight and die for the Vietnamese Mafia?

### Some Lost History

Not many people know about it, but some of the biggest "protest marches" in American history were pulled off by GI's. When WW2 end-

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"This is a war of national independence, not a case of Communist aggression....I think we ought to get out the way we went in -- unilaterally." Brigadier General

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Hugh H. Hester (Ret.)

ed in September 1945, most GI's expected to be returned home. But the politicians were thinking about sending the Army to China, to get involved in the civil war going on there. In December, big protest demonstrations broke out among soldiers in the Philippines, followed by similar protests in

(Continued on page 2.)

Europe. Thousands of GI's in Paris participated in a "Bring Us Home" torchlight parade. In the U.S. pressure from civilians, especially from the labor movement, supported the GI's. And they did come home.

Needed: Organization

The idea of a rank and file soldiers' organization has been raised in several areas. We think it's a good idea. The Negro people have organizations to fight for their rights. Students have organizations to help handle their problems on campus. Working men and women, including government, employees, have labor unions to deal with their employer. GI's need an organization, too. The VOICE will publicize developments in this direction around the country.

The Critical Factor: You

This issue of GI VOICE has been put out by a few of us at Polk, with the help of friends on the outside. We know that there are many, many more GI's who feel the same way we do. GI VOICE is your newsletter, too. Let us hear from you.

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NEWSLETTER POLICY

The pages of the GI VOICE are open to all servicemen on active duty. Your contributions will be kept anonymous unless you desire otherwise. Although the VOICE will be edited and controlled only by GI's, we welcome the interest and help of anyone on the "outside" who supports GI rights.

The principal editor of this issue was Pvt. E-2 Doug Hainline US 54511921. All signed articles express only the viewpoint of the author.

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Read THE RAG, bi-weekly Movement newspaper from Texas. \$2.00 for 12 issues, \$1.00 to servicemen. 609 W. 23rd, Austin, Texas. 78705.

BLACK POWER AT FORT SAM HOUSTON

A group of Black Soldiers at Fort Sam, Houston have put out a pamphlet containing statements and a poem supporting Black Power and opposing the war in Vietnam. They began distribution of the pamphlet to fellow GI's on January 19th.

Since then members of the group have been subjected to various kinds of harassment by Army authorities, but all of them are determined to continue their fight.

Following are extracts from their pamphlet:

"What happens when, or rather if, a brother comes back from Vietnam? He still has to be bothered by the same old honkie racism. On Christmas leave a train of GI's stopped in Texas. Some Black troops went into a restaurant to eat but were made to sit in the 'Black Section' or to take the food outside and eat. One brother sat at the 'white' counter for 45 minutes to an hour and wasn't served. He was wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army, but he was still black.

"Thus, GI brothers, we feel as brother Rapp said: 'White America should not fool itself into be-

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believing that if it comes down harder on us....that will keep us from doing what we believe is right. History has shown that when a man's conscience is aroused, when a man really believes what he is doing, threats of jail and death do not turn that man back. The threat of jail or death will not turn back me, nor others like me, from the path we have taken."

Ronald Saunders, US52856162  
Kenneth Calloway, RA 11884891  
Zachary P. Scott, RA 11864953

(CONTINUED on p.3.)

(Black Power, continued.)  
Alton Jones, US 5166905  
Chip Maxwell, US 51833071  
Robert Meek, Jr., US 56832064  
Tyrone Exum US 54821369  
John Lewis, Jr., US 54817240

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VIETNAM -- A SOLDIER'S VIEW

by Larry Osborn  
RA 15784303

My views of Viet Nam today are mainly that if we must be over there, it should be thru voluntary basis. Why should people who don't even want in the Army in the first place have to fight for something which they really care nothing about?

Also, those who are deferred from Viet Nam end up getting sent to Korea simply because it is not declared a combat zone. The only difference between them is Korea is colder.

First, we should all ask why are we in Viet Nam anyway? Well, the answer is that we were asked. This is another reason why it should be voluntary.

I have spent the last 9 weeks at a training center for Viet Nam. Here you will find some men with wives and a family. Why are these men here, when they are a means of support for their families? What will a man's wife and kids do when he's no longer there?

Another thing is the way people are brought in the Army. First, the draft completely skips those who should belong in the service, and swallows those who have no desire for it at all, and in fact would be better off out of the Army.

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MARINE GENERAL BLASTS WAR

"I believe that if we had and would keep our dirty, bloody, dollar-crooked fingers out of the business of these nations so full of depressed, exploited peo-

ple, they will arrive at a solution of their own, and not the American style, which they don't want and above all don't want crammed down their throats by Americans."

Gen. David M. Shoup,  
Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1961-1963, winner of the Distinguished Service Medal and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

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The 2-S Hawks Are Behing Us:  
Way Behind

"Senator Robert Kennedy was addressing the student body of a West Coast University. He told them that he was opposed to the student deferment system, which favors those who could afford to go to college. He was almost hooted off the platform. Startled at the outburst, Kennedy then asked the students whether they favored greater escalation, and they roared their approval. Such twisted thinking can be summed up: More War Without Us -- or escalation without participation."

---From "Vietnam: The Case for Extrication," by David Schoenbrun in Christian Century, 6 Feb. 1967.

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'DEAD GI SAYS TROOPS OPPOSE WAR'

There was an important side to the story of Pfc. John W. Guinn that received sparse coverage in the American press. Guinn is the GI mistakenly reported killed in Viet Nam. He was allowed to go home to Tennessee for Thanksgiving after the Army had sent his family the body of another GI, which was buried in his place.

Ed Rabel, of CBS TV, interviewed Guinn at the airport near Elizabethton, Tenn. Guinn declared: 'When my three years are up I'm coming out, and I'm not going to re-enlist. All the United States boys should be brought out....It's no war of ours.'

Rabel tried to prompt him, asking 'You don't think we ought to be

there?' He was answered with a decisive 'No, sir!'

He said most of the GI's he knew in Vietnam agreed with him."

from THE MILITANT

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Two GI's Face Trial  
For 'Pray-In' on War

Twenty-five soldiers at Fort Jackson, S.C. took part in a "pray-in" service questioning the war in Vietnam at the base chapel Feb.13. A large group of MP's broke up the meeting, and the Army is instituting court-martial proceedings against Pfc Robert Tater of New Hampshire, and Pfc Steven Kline, Jr. of New Jersey, two of the organizers of the pray-in. Three more were arrested and 20 others dispersed in the blacked-out chapel area.

The GI's distributed a leaflet on the base to build the prayer meeting and most GI's at Fort Jackson reportedly accepted the leaflet and were friendly to the effort. The leaflet read:

"Is God on our side? We are soldiers who -- like millions of Americans -- have doubts about the war in Vietnam. It's time we made those doubts known. We'd like to invite those who share our concern to join us in Chapel 1 at 7:30 pm Tuesday for an hour of meditation."

Late Tuesday afternoon, Army officials closed Fort Jackson to public access. The area in the immediate vicinity of the Protestant chapel, usually well-let, was blacked out. A large contingent of MP's was moved into place around the chapel, and police vans were parked nearby. The doors of the chapel were locked.

At 7:30 pm Sp./4 Martin Blumsack, reputedly one of the original organizers of the pray-in, approached the

chapel and reported dutifully, 'I am officially instructed to inform you that there will be no meeting tonite.' Other soldiers in uniform began to move up to the steps of the chapel and kneel in prayer. As each knelt, a small contingent of MP's moved in swiftly and carried him away.

'Don't we have the right as citizens to express what we think about this war?' asked Stephen Kline, Jr., of Northern New Jersey as he was taken into custody.

The GI's facing court-martial are being defended by ACLU attorney Charles Morgan, who defended Capt. Howard Levy at Ft. Jackson last fall.

From LNS and the MILITANT

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VIET-VET NEWSPAPER

VIETNAM GI, a new anti-war newspaper for GI's being put out by Vietnam veterans, is looking for distribution and information contacts in the US and Vietnam.

Needed are persons willing to receive and distribute bulk mailings of the paper. Also needed are contributors who will send in information, stories, articles, letters, etc. about former and current experiences in Vietnam and the US. Although some sort of identification is preferred, anonymous information and articles will be accepted.

VIETNAM GI is currently being distributed free to servicemen and Vietnam veterans.

Address all correspondence to:  
VIETNAM GI COMMITTEE  
POST OFFICE BOX 9273  
CHICAGO, ILL. 60690

Join the growing number of GI's who are speaking out on Vietnam. Subscribe to and write for GI VOICE!

For news of developments in GI rights at Fort Polk and elsewhere, get  
GI VOICE

FREE to servicemen. \$1 for 5 issues to others.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(GI's will receive the VOICE in a plain, sealed, first-class envelope.)

Clip and mail to the VOICE, C/O Hainline, Box 18434, Houston, Texas 77023.