

Vietnam GI

May, 1970

Free to Servicemen

PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM!

In the September issue of VGI we said Nixon was planning a long war in Vietnam. That's the way it looked then with him just pulling out a few token troops. Now he's sending 6,000 of us into Cambodia and already has troops in Thailand and Laos. They don't call him Tricky Dick for nothing and if the same fits, was it all just to make us get us out of the war, a war which nobody wants. Even though he hasn't said how long, and at the rate he's going it looks like it will take forever. I guess he wants all of Southeast Asia to be another Vietnam. That's the way to get his rocks all dachin around with our lives.

What the hell is his excuse? By saying that the VC in Cambodia are a threat to the existing troops in Vietnam. That doesn't seem to hold much water, since he is the only threat to the troops that are in Vietnam now, by keeping us there as long as he wants us and getting us killed. Even though nobody wants us there, neither us or the people of Vietnam. By saying that the North Vietnamese have not honored the 1954 Geneva agreement. The US has not honored that agreement since it first got its dirty little paws to South Vietnam. That wasn't until 17 years later and there seems to be some shade as to whether they were free, since the opposition to the election is more or less the order of the winter. After 17 years was enough time for them to get over 50,000 of us killed.

He's saying that the US has respected the neutrality of Cambodia and that we have not had a diplomatic mission in Cambodia for the last 8 years. The reason for this is that Cambodia didn't want that to do with us. But now the military has taken over and we all know what good guys they are. So now he's put another country that uses eye to eye about fucking people. And he's going to do all he can about making sure they stay in power, like giving them guns, money and troops. Seems we have already heard about this, "giving assistance to threatened countries" before.

Saying that his only choice is to send troops into Cambodia and destroy their neutrality is just a big joke like the whole war. For one thing,



"Dear President Nixon . . . what really tickled my funny bone was when you said you were sending troops to Cambodia to save lives. . . ."

these neutrals or bases are mobile, just like the ones in South Vietnam. The Pentagon was saying this to Johnson, and he was saying this to us in the beginning of the Vietnam war. The Pentagon and Johnson kept telling us that if they had just a few more troops in the South or more bases dropped in the North, they'd win. It just didn't work. The more of us they got killed and the more bases they dropped, the more we hit the fax. Besides tiny South Vietnamese officials have already said that these bases have been moved deeper into Cambodia, even days before the push started.

Nixon's idea of peace efforts, how does he plan for peace by expanding the war into Cambodia and getting more of us killed. He talks about mindless attacks are great invitations. By calling the people in the Army and on the outside pipeline, because we oppose the war in Vietnam and Cambodia. Nixon thinks he can stop us by

saying this shit. Fuck if he can! He talks about protecting eight million South Vietnamese from slaughter. Who is the slaughtered? He talks about protecting freedom in Southeast Asia. The only ones who are free in Southeast Asia are the rulers, and they are not the ones who die.

Nixon's whole plan is to shit on people in Asia and free at home. He sent the National Guard into Kent State University and for what? Some

that the students didn't like the way he was running things lately. So they held a demonstration. For the fear of them were shot down. This is just a start with more angry shit to come from your Journalist Government. Cambodia and the Kent State Killings are all just a start to see how far they can push us, and push us, and push us.



Viet Vet Interview See p.4



Postal Strike See p.2

BATTLE OF NEW YORK

Is it the servicemen's job to break labor strikes, defeat wage increases and do Washington's dirty work when working people demand a better deal? That's what the White House tried to tell us when they sent thousands of servicemen into New York City to break up the postal workers' strike.

The issue was pretty clear. For years Post Office workers have gotten the shaft on payday. After 21 years a mail carrier or letter sorter gets the top pay of about \$8,000 a year, which even the Government admits isn't enough to decently raise a family on. And since most postal workers get a lot less than that, moonlighting on second and third jobs is the price they pay for getting along.

For 16 months before the wildcat strikes broke out, these postal workers had waited for promised raises from Washington. The 4.5% mini-raise that they did get wasn't even close to recovering the wages lost by inflation just in the last year. But while Nixon and Congress were stalling around (every month of delay was just that much more dough saved for the Government), they gave themselves big raises without wasting any time. Congress voted itself a 41% pay hike, while our Commander-in-Chief modestly gave himself a 160% raise. Funny how these millionaire politicians always need more raises out of our tax money!

The final kiss-off came when Nixon took the wraps off his new 1971 Budget. Thanks to his leadership, the Government was going to have a \$1.3 billion surplus for the year. But buried in the small print was the fact that \$1.4 billion of this surplus — in other words, all of it — was going to come from Government employees, who would finally put off their pay raises until next year (except for the top politicians, of course).

That did it! While their union leaders were begging for delays, negotiations, conferences and all the other crap, the postal workers were getting ready to wildcat. And when the men and women in the N.Y.C. branches went out in March, the strike spread like wildfire across the country. For the first time in 161 years, the postal workers were out on strike, pushing Washington to produce or else. Damn cool!

That's why Nixon and the other big shots started pulling the trick bag on us, talking about no matter how screwed around these postal workers were they still had no right to strike, because they were an "essential service". Nixon declared a "state of emergency" in New York. Well, it was an emergency all right, but not for us! The postal workers had already agreed to handle what they considered "essential" mail — social security, pension and welfare checks, letters to and from servicemen overseas, and so on. As for the rest... well, it broke everyone's heart that all the monthly bills were getting hung up in the monster mail jam!

Nixon's answer — it's getting to be his only answer to anything — was to send in the troops (we sure hope Tricor Nixon doesn't get knocked up, because the huckster bastard that does it will probably be brought to justice by an airborne division). Truckloads of dudes from Ft. Dix and McGuire AFB started arriving at New York post offices. 22,000 guardmen and reservists were also activated and sent to the front.



"Special delivery from the President."



Now, when Washington announced that the military was going in to straighten out the post office mess, it cracked everyone up. From our experience, the Armed Forces would have trouble running a water fountain! And we're not even going to say anything about the Guard and the Reserves. You know the old saying, "We are the unwilling, led by the incompetent, to do the unnecessary." That sums it all up.

One network news show interviewed some P.O. supervisor, who was giving out the line. This jerk told millions of viewers how they didn't need the strikers at all, since the troops were handling the mail much more efficiently than the regular workers. Unfortunately for this Government lifer (he's probably delivering mail to the D.E.W. line now), while he was yakking the TV camera was showing us a GI trying to sort out one letter. After several minutes he still hadn't found the right spot to put this letter (regular mail sorters must sort a minimum of 40 letters per minute). GIs and reservists couldn't replace skilled mail workers, and most didn't even try. Some men refused to do anything at all.

But the whole Armed Force did what it was supposed to. The whole troop thing was Nixon's threat, and it pressured the strikers back to work. Even so the Government had to cough up something to put it across in return for ending the strike the postal workers won an immediate 6% raise for all Government employees. Nixon promises another 8% raise just for postal workers when the Postal Reorganization Bill becomes law. That's nowhere in sight as yet.

The Post Office crisis is a good example of what's basically wrong here. Business mail — much of it junk circulars — is swamping the postal system. But they still get cut-rates and privileged treatment. Even when CINC sent the troops in to deliver the mail in N.Y., it wasn't your letters or mine that got processed. The troops were sent to the stations that handle mail for the business districts of Wall St., upper Manhattan and Brooklyn. Nixon's new postage increases are more of the same: 5% rate increase for 3rd class business mail, 15% increase in parcel post rates, and a 67% kick in the ass for first class letters! The Post Office has one big problem — it's run to serve business at a cut rate by soaking the rest of us, both through tax money and inflated postage rates.

Is this what we're supposed to defend? By having the guts to strike against the Government, those postal workers won all US employees — including GIs, airmen, sailors and marines — a 6% wage increase. So we're supposed to break a strike that's helping us and millions of other people? That's crazy.

There's a new mood going on in America. People are tired of taking it — they want to dish it out, too. It's time those bastards on top got cut down a few notches. That's why strike fever is sweeping industry after industry. That's why Nixon is going to call GI's out again to do his dirty work. We say, *shove it! To hell with breaking strikes. Let's break the Government!*

Vietnam GI

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"They got uniforms on, he stood up to wave at"



This interview is with a Marine gunner who spent two tours in Vietnam as a weapons expert. He spent most of his time over there out on patrol as a point man. This should tell you a little of what to expect from our great leaders and those "beautiful" guns, that the Army says can wipe out half of your home town in one pull of the trigger. Here are some true facts that they won't tell you before you land in the boonies.

Q. Your MOS as a weapons expert, you went to school for that?

A. Yeah, I also went as machine gun, 331, my last tour over there, M-60's, 30's, 50's, plus regular weapons, 16's and 45's.

Q. At school, did you learn what the hell you were supposed to learn?

A. We had instructors who were for the most part pretty good, but they had these crash programs where they'd hold up one weapon and say, this is the M-14, and another one and say, this is the M-16, and another weapon and say, this is the M-60, and if you got it, fine. If you didn't, well, too bad.

Q. When you got to Nam did you come across any weapons that you didn't learn about in school that you were expected to operate and repair?

A. Not myself, but guys out of basic. We had a lot of guys there that never fired like M-79's, M-60's, we had some guys that didn't know where the safeties were on the M-60's. It was really bad, they'd cut down boot camp from 11 weeks to 8 weeks, and part of what they cut out was time on the rifle range.

Q. This is a real hassle in combat, you have one job and all of a sudden the machine gun operator will get hit, and nobody's there.

A. Yeah, technically you're supposed to be able to pick up any weapon in the field and operate it, you always pick up the next heaviest weapon, like if you're carrying a regular rifle and the machine gunner goes down, you pick up the machine gun. If somebody that has an M-79 goes down, pick up the grenade launcher, this sort of thing. Most of these guys couldn't do it.

Q. It takes a while to learn how to use the 79, you have to practice to learn how.

A. There are sights on it which nobody ever uses, so to get good with it you have to practice at least once in a while to learn how to fire it. You go through, you fire in practice, maybe 10 rounds in the States, and a couple say you stop in Okinawa or somewhere.

Q. Once you got to Nam, you didn't get any training over there did you?

A. They had supposed schools over there, you had to have them or you would have had no machine gunners at all. They'd send someone back to armor school. This guy came back after he was sent down to Da Nang, he couldn't put a selector on an M-14, so it didn't do any good. He had two weeks of fun down there but that was about it, he had a little in-country R&R.

Q. With the M-16, you had a lot of trouble with that I thought?

A. The main trouble was jamming up. Another big problem here was defective ammo. It would misfire or something. The primers were bad. It wouldn't fire at all, weak casings, we had a lot of ruptured cartridges.

Q. Did you ever see the ammunition blow up in the chamber?

A. That's a fact, I had a brand new M-16, they take them out of these cardboard cartons with the plastic shields in it, brand new magazines, brand new ammunition, put it in and the first round that fired, it blew up. So, it couldn't possibly have been dirty, I cleaned the cosmoline out of it and everything.

Q. What about the AK-47 the Viet use?

A. Well, it's a lot more dependable, but it's heavier. It has a wooden stock, and the moving parts, the tolerances aren't as close. So you get a lot of le-

Power corrupts, eh?
That does it! Off with your head!



way on it. It's like our old M-1, there's enough play in it so that you can get sand in it and grease and dirt. The thing would still operate, it'd be sluggish but it would fire. Once you can get as much as two, three grains of sand in the chamber, the 16, it'll completely cease firing.

Q. They say that this happened with the 16, 'cause it had that trap door in the chamber that stops the sand and shit.

A. Yeah, but that trap door pops open every time you fire it.

Q. After a while it wears away, too.

A. Wears a hole right through the seal.

Q. Machine guns and that, you didn't have much trouble with them?

A. No, the M-60's we had were always pretty good. If you got good ammunition it was all right.

Q. How long before it would be bad?

A. This depends on how you carried it, if you carried it out bandolier style across your chest, you'd get a lot more moisture, it would corrode and the brass wouldn't rust but the links would rust. Even so, the 60 was an entirely different design of weapon; it was more in the line of what you'd call your M-1's or M-14's. You could pull back the bolt constantly, and if you had rusted links, you could eject them out immediately, it didn't have that close tolerance. It would take a lot more punishment than the M-16. And it fired the same round as the M-14, which was the big advantage.

Q. The M-14 was a good weapon, heavy though.

A. Yeah, it was originally made to replace the BAR. And the advantage it had over the BAR was that it was much lighter. Then they found out that because it was so much lighter, it couldn't hold a steady group; feed automatically, so they made a modification on it and put a heavy barrel on it, heavy stock. They made it to weigh exactly as much as the BAR did, and then they complained that it was too heavy. So they discontinued that, that was the M-15, and they tried the M-16. They got off on the kick of small cartridges with high velocities.

Q. You have much trouble with guns, like guys pick up in the field, guns that they get off the South Vietnamese and they pick up off of dead VC and NVA, and that?

A. Generally the AK's you picked up were usually in a lot better condition than the 16's, for the most part they were more dependable. Most of the guys over there preferred if they could to latch on to the AK than the M-16's, even though it wasn't as easy to get the ammo for them.

Q. What about hand guns, they're fairly useless, aren't they?

A. Yeah, unless you're real close in, unless you're going to be crawling, you're a tunnel rat, most people can't handle the hand gun they have over there anyway. With a hand gun you have to practice pretty regular, even then in a combat situation, these guys, you know, play quick draws, fire off five or six rounds and never hit anything.

Q. What about carbines?

A. Well, a carbine's a good light weapon. Most of them have the M-1 carbine. It's fairly dependable. Some have the M-2's, fully automatic carbines. On the newer models they have, half

they must be ARVN,'... hem and they shot him.

the parts aren't made in the United States anyway. The stocks are made in the Philippines. Some of the stocks and receiver groups don't mesh, they don't even line up properly and the result is no accuracy at all.

Q. What about the modifications of the M-16 and the rate of fire, that is, if it fires?

A. The original rates of fire were even higher than the old M-14, like 700, 750. Okay now, the M-16's supposedly went up to about 850 ideally but the problem when they got out in the field under sustained fire, it had a buffer group, and it was firing so fast that the bolt was coming back and the rounds were going in and they weren't in line any more. Pretty soon the rounds were starting to go in before the bolt was back, and vice-versa, it

kept jamming up. So the main advantage of it, the high rate of fire, had to be reduced, they had to put a new buffer group in, which slowed down the rate of fire again to slower than what the M-14 had been originally. It still had the advantage of the light weight, but it was also much flimsier, things broke, I don't know how many stocks I've broken off mine, flash guards, all sorts of little things falling off, sights. And the sights weren't that accurate either. They were hard to adjust.

Q. What about the steel they use?

A. It's an alloy, supposedly it doesn't rust. They brought out that it's non-corrosive, but the parts do corrode. Even a slight coating of rust, especially on any of the internal parts would cause it to malfunction, cause stoppages.

Q. They tell people to use steel wool, light sand paper and this shit, to get the rust off. This can be dangerous, especially on the internal parts.

A. Yeah, sand paper on steel always leaves a slight residue. Sand paper leaves little bits of sand, steel wool leaves little bits of metal, and this does build up, especially on the inside parts.

Q. It also tends to alter the shape of the part.

A. Yeah, every time you rub something it starts to wear down. Every time you clean it, you're wearing down the weapon.

Q. Also the finish, you're rubbing the coat away on the inside and outside.

A. This is your protective blueing, as soon as you wear that away it starts to corrode immediately.

Q. And there's nothing you can do about it.

A. Yeah, unless you could possibly send it back to be re-blued each time which you can't do.

Q. How many pound packs were you supposed to carry? Were they the new type of packs?

A. We had the old World War II packs, we carried, like with weapons, anywhere from possibly 80 pounds on up. Like we had to carry all the ammo, gun ammo in cans, we'd carry maybe two, three cans of ammo, plus our stuff. You're supposed to carry enough stuff for at least about a week, all the time with you. So as a result, anywhere from about 100 pounds, like that, which gets tiring after a full day of travelling around. Plus carrying a machine gun.

A. Yeah, them that's humping mortars are really in a bad way most of the time. Each guy had to carry at least three rounds, three 81 rounds in metal canisters, which were not light weights, plus their own packs, their own weapons, plus usually a portion of the mortar, your base plates and your base plate tubes.

Q. The base plates weigh about how many pounds usually?

A. Parts of the base plate, like 40 pounds. And it's not even the weight that's so bad, it's just that these things are so damn awkward, so clumsy to carry around. Because the only way you can carry like parts to the base plate is to just carry them right in front of you. Like a washtub or something.

Q. The mortar platoons, they had to carry all their shit?

Q. E-6 on up?

A. Supposedly, it's supposed to be a Lieutenant.

Q. Most of your E-1 to E-5's were made in Nam, weren't they?

A. Yeah.

Q. So they know what the fuck they're doing.

A. You got hit, or an ambush came on and what not, it's entirely up to the squad leaders. If you had good platoon leaders, that are running the show, and they by this time should have known what they were doing. And the same with fire team leaders, they work with the fire team in the squad, the fire teams are the smallest, groups of about four guys, you have two to three fire teams per squad. Of course you may have a whole squad that's only four guys.

Q. Go through some of this, will you?

A. We were taking in fire one time, and the Captain says, "don't shoot, those are ARVN." I says, "Well, I don't know if they're ARVN or not, but they're shooting at me."

Q. Did they turn out to be ARVN?

A. Yeah. They shot him. This is how our Captain got shot, he got shot by supposedly ARVN, not the NVA. He says, "look they got uniforms on, they must be ARVN," and he stood up to fire at them, and they shot him, so everybody else is all prepared, right on there, Captain.

Q. Good old coordinates with the Army, keep each other informed as to what the fuck they were doing. The South Vietnamese army is totally fucked up, you know.

A. They sent us out there one night. There was about a whole line of bushes. This was during the summer, the dry season, and they started this ambush alongside these bushes. They



Q. In the Army, they had like these NCO candidates, you know what I mean, like the OCS type deal. Did you have that in the Marines?

A. In the Marine Corps, unlike a lot of services, you're supposed to get promoted by testing, time in grade, and a lot of other things. Principally what goes on back in the States is if the Lieutenant likes you, if you get in good with that, and the Staff Sergeant thinks you're okay, thinks you're good Lifer potential, fine. Your qualifications have nothing to do with it at all. It's who you know, who you blow.

Q. So when these people get to Nam, and they start going out in the field and all of a sudden you realize that the squad leader doesn't know how to fucking use a compass and all this shit...

A. Squad leaders weren't so bad on that, it was mainly our Lieutenants, platoon commander sort of thing, platoon commanders being maybe Staff Sergeants and what not.

A. Just the general incompetence that these guys had as leaders. The attitude of most of the officers was that if you're an enlisted man, you're something less than a normal human being. In other words, you can't reason, you can't have any ideas. If you weren't a moron, you'd be an officer like them, and this is where the attitude got these guys screwed up. They wouldn't listen to squad leaders, team leaders, guys that had been over here six or eight months, guys that it was their second tour.

And even a lot of the Staff Sergeants, the Staff NCO's, they wouldn't listen to these guys, 'cause "I had a class in counter-insurgency, and you're not going to tell me what the war's like." You say, "yeah, but this ain't a good place to set up the gun," and he says, "I know where to set up the gun." And this is general incompetence. You tell them one thing was something that it wasn't.

Q. Yeah, this tends to get a few people killed.

were about two or three feet high. We're slinking along, got there and we're sitting there a while and we hear this snoring on the other side of the bushes. Look over the top of the thing and there's a whole squad of ARVN sitting there on the ambush site and they're all sleeping. Like we could just as easily have walked along on the other side of these bushes, stepped on one of these fools and the guys would have opened up on each other and had a real thing going, wind up shooting each other up.

Q. Yeah, we had things like that.

A. Plus calling all sorts of fire missions, called in on top of you. One company spots you moving in an area and they think you're somebody else and call in an artillery mission on you.

Q. This is all to blame between the Lifers, where they don't keep each other informed, so who the hell catches the shit but you?

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Review Of The GI Press

Graffitti

GRAFFITI
Politische Buchhandlung
Schiffsgasse 3, Heidelberg
West Germany

In the latest issue of Graffitti, an underground paper put out in Europe by GI's, is this editorial entitled, "We got to get our shit together".

"Man, they have their shit together and they have had it that way too long. It's about time we got off our asses and did something. Change can come only with effort."

"We should learn that all we get from a brown nose is a big STINK. Man, we have to get our noses back into the fresh air. Lifer Pigs will f*ck with us if we just sit back and let them."

"We spend most of the day talking about all the shit we get but words need to be put into actions."

"If we were considerate of those who must unfortunately come after us, we would gladly do something. Man, we shouldn't wish this mess on a dead dog."

"We have the numbers and we do all their work. Isn't it funny that they always get the recognition or take it. If their work is not done properly, they cannot function. They must learn that they are very lucky to even have us here."

"Actually we should not complain about the treatment we receive. What are we doing to change this inhuman treatment? The answer in most cases is a big fat nothing. We need to transfer our thoughts and efforts back to our world. Our minds and bodies belong to us not to the US Army. We must change the unreal world that they create for us each day."

"We can sit around and say F*ck the Army forever and it won't make things a bit better. We will just sit around and rot like apples in a barrel. The barrel will keep getting larger and more rotten apples will always keep it full until one day the man who sticks his knif's into the barrel will have complete control over all the apples. Then all we will be able to do is just lay around and think what a fucking drag. F.T.A."

WOMEN, CONT.

Then, at the end of the day, the woman must come home to her second job, that of housekeeper and mother. It's really like working two jobs, but one for no pay. It's true that quite a few men will help around the house, but the bulk of it all is still considered "women's work". From scrubbing floors, and cleaning house to cooking and taking care of all her children's constant needs and demands, she's constantly busting ass emotionally as well as physically. So that even men are forced into playing the role of provider, with women as their servants. They are, in a sense, servants of big industry with servants of their own; one oppressed person oppressing another. Not only that, but because the man is oppressed on the job he can bring his frustrations home and either take it out on her as a scape goat or at least be reassured in a very false way, that he's not so bad off 'cause there's at least one person in his life who's more oppressed than he is.

That's not to say that most men are running, ravaging sex maniacs and perverts, which I suppose is what most men think the women's liberation movement is saying. But, for instance, if you asked most men to cook, iron or scrub floors along with the usual types of work a woman does (and I have), they'd get real pissed off and consider that a blow to their dignity as a man. Yet at the same time they consider it actually charming and an insult if a woman does it. Then it would follow that if it's below him,

Smuggled Letter

This letter has been smuggled out of the correctional custody unit of the 1/29th Infantry at Ft. Benning. It was originally printed in RAP!, the local EM underground newspaper.

Dear Friends,

The time has come for me to be a political prisoner in the Army. I really didn't think it would happen but like others I blew my rap and completely blew the Lifer's minds. I'm in correctional custody - a real farce. Maybe something can be done to stir up the Lifers while I spend my 30 days here. In fact, a congressman would be interested to know how this place is run. People are in here for giving officers peace signs, mentioning revolutions, no name tags, AWOL, and various small offenses. For instance me, I was on Bn. guard and after the first two hours of guard the Sgt. said



but o.k. for a woman, then it's right for her because she's below him to his way of thinking. Not only that, but the demands put on a woman as a wife also make the relationship unequal. Because after expecting the woman to carry the majority of the load, after all the hours she's spent at work and at home, she's still expected to be all fixed up and looking sexy, like she didn't have a care in the world and was ready for her first date. Well, who wouldn't like to look like that, but women sure as hell don't get upset if the old man comes home from busting his ass all day long and doesn't look like he just stepped out of the movies.

It's on the fear of not being able to make the grade in all these areas, that big business harras women, and takes in all the bread. You see it constantly in the advertising on radio, t.v., and in the ads in papers and magazines. Will your furniture pass the white glove test, and will your neighbors and family think your house smells like the great all-out-of-doors. Are your clothes super enzyme bright, or do you feed your family super Wonder bread for wonder growth? The ugliest of them all, though is when they play on a woman's fear that maybe she doesn't look good enough anymore for her husband so she'd buy a cross-your-heart bra, dye her hair and all kinds of other shit so that the old man won't start looking elsewhere.

Therefore if women are ever going to be able to bring an end to their oppression, and win an equal position for themselves in society, they must not only fight for equality in jobs and wages, but equality within the family.

to get lost and go anywhere we wanted 'till our next turn. So everyone left and I went to sleep in the day room. The next morning they gave me a field grade 15 and 30 days in correctional custody. That same day I rapped to the Bn. Commander Berry, and called him a weird queer and explained to him a few other things. So now I'm here for passing out RAP! papers, talking to people about the Black Panthers, and on top of that I'm also waiting on a general court-martial on a phony charge. And two weeks ago they busted me to E-1 for stealing a field jacket which I certainly did not do. CPT Boreland, my CO doesn't even talk to me except to read me my rights under Article 31.

This custody is really a farce too. We sleep on sleeping bags, wake up at 5 in the morning and go to bed at 9 or later. If we do anything wrong during this time we are woken up at 1am for extra duty. One man has already been sick due to lack of sleep. Now is this anyway to treat a veteran? All day we do details and can only smoke four cigarettes a day and must stand at only two positions, parade rest and attention. We are shook down every time we enter the barracks and are not allowed to talk to anyone at all. The Sgt's in charge are allowed to use force on us anytime they want and soon they will be issued billy clubs. All night they leave a light on so it is hard to sleep. If you have a hard time getting up they kick you and pull you out of your sleeping bag. And on top of this, at the end of your time, if your Commander or first Sgt. refuses to take you back, you stay here 'till you rot for all they care.

One man here is going to the stockade for saying "All power to the people. The Revolution is coming. And no one can stop it." His CO refused to let him see a shrink too, unless he told him who was peddling dope in the company.

Some of the men have broken their arms and fingers to get a profile. And the food is making everyone sick.

So these are the facts and all of us would be deeply grateful if something can be done or said. We are all fighting in our own way and we are all revolutionaries. There are 25 at this time. And all for such little things.

"Power to the People!"

(There is no signature for obvious reasons.)

GI Forum

GI Forum
2214 Grove St.
Berkeley, Calif.
A GI UNION newspaper put out by GIs at Oakland Army Base.

In their first issue, the editors of GI FORUM call for a union of servicemen through the development of action committees, newspapers, and educational activities.

"The first thing we must do is to discuss problems, issues, and news with the people living and working around us. Once a group of people begin to recognize common problems they can begin to work out ways to solve these problems through group action. Without establishing some pattern of collective action, any organization would be little more than a series of friendly bullshit sessions. Groups must also discuss popular issues and political theories so that they can develop the political perspectives which are necessary to break the isolation of servicemen in our society and provide for the future effectiveness of the organization.

"In order to build an effective organization, we must start with a small group of people with mutual interests and a similar view of how the goals we set for ourselves are to be accomplished. We must build around activities the organization is to undertake and the program it is to advocate. We must not attempt to build a mass organization in a short period of time, because to do so we would need to sacrifice either the soundness of our program or the democratic control of the organization by its members.

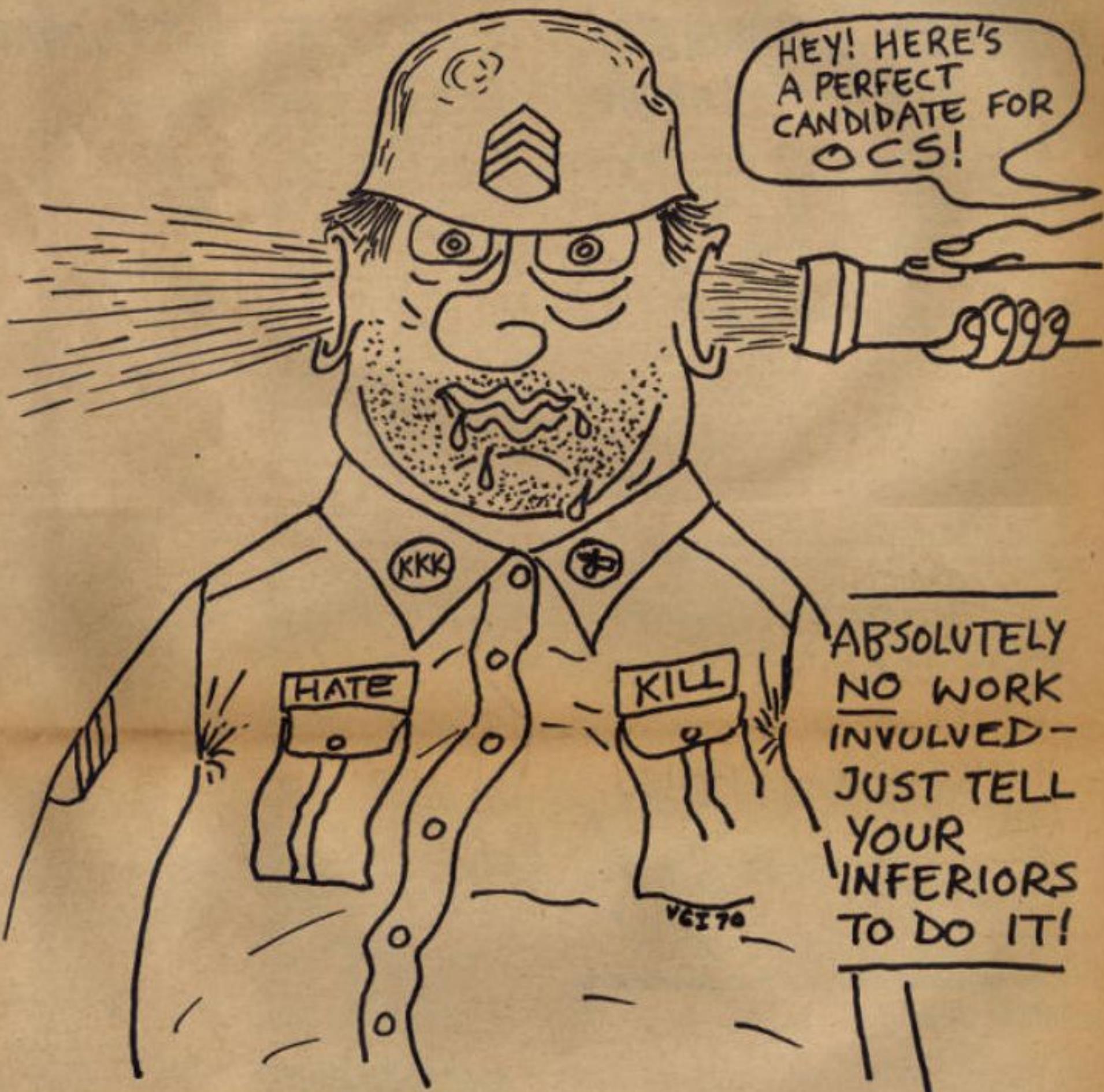
"We need to form ourselves into action committees to decide tactics and take action on the problems and issues raised in open discussion. These committees should establish contact with people in all sections of the base and with as many other groups in the area as possible. Whenever possible, actions should be coordinated among as many groups as possible to give them maximum participation.

"...the political support we will need to accomplish our goal must be developed...we should support the activities, boycotts, and strikes of other unions and wildcat groups as a demonstration of our acceptance of responsibility as a part of the labor movement in general. We should also actively support minority struggles and the fight against racism as an integral part of our own struggle and as a demonstration of the conscious solidarity of the active elements of the working class."

FTA!



CAN YOU PASS



about a few men will hang around the

of home she's still expected to do all

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M*A*S*H

Ever think that the Army brass was trying to get at your mind? You know damn well that they are. Here is an example of what they are trying to do behind your backs.

There was a reviewing of a film by 25 officers from personnel, information and chaplain branches. It was M*A*S*H, an anti-war film about combat surgeons in the Korean war. Seems that they didn't like it and

agreed that you little boys shouldn't see it, although none of us enlisted men were there to review it.

So what did I do but go out and see it and it turned out to be a good flick. Just like everything else the Brass don't like.

Next time you're in your friendly neighborhood GI town, it might be worth the bread to go and see it.