

A talk about the indescribable horrors of war and the associated political cover ups thereof

I will cite different examples of how WW2 fiascos and things that took place were sanitized during as well as after the war. During the evacuation of France in 1940, and before the Germans army arrived in Paris, a British passenger liner, the Lancastria, was taking civilian evacuees and soldiers on board to return them to Britain. The captain was instructed by his superiors to take on board as many as he could. It is believed that there were in excess of six thousand but the full numbers could not be determined. There were no records kept of those embarking. A German aircraft dropped a bomb down the Lancastria's funnel and when it exploded the ship rolled over and sank almost immediately. The British leadership placed a news embargo on the incident and the relatives never did know exactly what happened. Furthermore there was a 100-year embargo placed on the event under the Secrets Act until 2040. There were certain other aspects of the incident that remained classified for only thirty years. From my reading there seems to be a couple of reasons for this. One was that the war was going badly for Britain at the time and the English leadership set out to not inform the general public about such disasters as the Lancastria incident because it would be bad for British morale, and the second reason was that the ship was grossly overloaded and there was a great fear of the British Government that it could have been found negligent. In other words the potential for massive claims by relatives of the victims was not only real at the time, but possibly for later generations to prosecute the Government as well. Naturally enough, there is far more to this story than I have outlined here.

For readers who may be interested in similar sorts of WW2 government cover-ups, I suggest you google the Leopoldville ship incident. I see this one example as being like the granddaddy of all wartime cover-ups. There was gross incompetence at all levels in this story. Around 2000 Canadian troops lost their lives when this ship was torpedoed just off the French coast. The ship was not too far from a nearby shore. The captain ordered the engines to be stopped. I have read that its engines and rudder were still functional. The Flemish crew could not speak English. The ship was locked down so no one could get out and the vessel took two hours to sink. Furthermore, its SOS distress calls to a nearby radio facility were ignored at the time. The radio operators were attending a Christmas party. The matter was hushed up for many years and the relatives of the dead were also never told exactly what happened that evening. Similar stories exist surrounding other ships lost at sea such as the Wilhelm Gustloff (4000 lost), Goya (7000 lost) and Steuben (3500 lost), and there are many more like these but they are not confined to shipping. Most incidents were allowed to be conveniently banned from the media and subsequently largely forgotten after the war. The irony is that unless I had specifically gone looking for this type of material, I would never have known about such hugely significant events, nor would future generations unless they had gone specifically looking for such incidents. Unfortunately this is the nature of history. Furthermore wartime history is well known to be largely determined by the victors. This is simply how it is.

It is against this background that I fear those who have not been directly exposed to full-scale war along the lines of the examples above could drift into ignorant apathy about war. War is not some remote sort of adventurous fantasy with a few lives lost along the way as I once believed it to be. It is heartless, grim and grotesque at every

conceivable level. I am arguing that individuals should not assume another world wide military conflict is not possible. I think the great volatility of the present day Ukraine crisis is a good example of this. Keep in mind it was the zealous fanaticism of one single person on a busy city street in Austria that ignited the first world war. The second world war commenced with what many would probably see as a minor military skirmish between the Polish and German military. From a political perspective it was far more than this. It was plotted by politicians for reasons of security.

The mistreated cat story I cited earlier emanated from a Life Magazine in America in February 1943. In the same issue, it showed a picture of the severed head of a Japanese soldier placed immediately below the turret of an army tank in action. Life Magazines received letters of protest about the insensitive nature of its decapitated head item. However, more than double the number of readers wrote protest letters about the photographic image of a mistreated cat. It is against this background that I have assembled the material in the attachments. They embrace different generations of conflict. Somewhat primitive original film footage (in video format) is included of how disrespectfully human bodies were treated. This includes Japanese soldiers' bodies being plunged into 300 litre kerosene drums and burned whilst bystanders stood and watched, as well as skeletal remains of Japanese soldiers being picked over for anything of interest or value.

I am not suggesting that such circumstances do not deserve to be handled in such a macabre way, but it is the starkly indifferent manner such events were occurring in that I am drawing your attention to. In short it was, and continues to be, not a very romantic environment at all, unless you have been already well hardened to such things. Let me say that it is probable that the Japanese adopted a similar attitude towards dead allied soldiers, but I have not deeply researched this possibility. However, I am very aware of reports of the Burma Railway atrocities. It is said that one allied soldier died for every sleeper laid. It is the ruthless nature of all forms of war to which I am drawing your attention.

I believe that each and every person on the planet has a duty of care to stand up against all forms of war. This is more especially so for those who have probably little idea as to how devious and devastating a universal conflict could be. This includes them standing aside from any form of organizations promoting undue nationalism as it is occurring by the Russian government (and others) at this time (2014). In an attachment you will find the quotation from the seventeen year old young man who cried out the battle field profanity that in turn became the title of this blog. I dare say that if the teenager was fired up with a high degree of nationalism before he headed off to war, he most likely would have none whatsoever after he arrived home again.

Reference 1

Lets be real about war

Quote:

“Another example of mutilation was related by Ore Marion, a U.S. Marine who suggested,

We learned about savagery from the Japanese ... **But those sixteen-to-nineteen-year old kids we had on the Canal were fast learners** ... At daybreak, a couple of our kids, bearded, dirty, skinny from hunger, slightly wounded by bayonets, clothes worn and torn, wack off three Jap heads and jam them on poles facing the 'Jap side' of the river ... The colonel sees Jap heads on the poles and says, 'Jesus men, what are you doing? You're acting like animals.' A dirty, stinking young kid says, 'That's right Colonel, *we are animals. We live like animals, we eat and are treated like animals—what the fuck do you expect?*'^[9]...

“On February 1, 1943, *Life* magazine published a photograph taken by Ralph Morse during the Guadalcanal campaign showing a severed Japanese head that U.S. Marines had propped up below the gun turret of a tank. *Life* received letters of protest from people "in disbelief that American soldiers were capable of such brutality toward the enemy." The editors responded that "war is unpleasant, cruel, and inhuman. And it is more dangerous to forget this than to be shocked by reminders." ***However, the image of the severed head generated less than half the amount of protest letters that an image of a mistreated cat in the very same issue received.***^[10]”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_mutilation_of_Japanese_war_dead

Reference 2

An official war time report on American atrocities against the Japanese

<http://personal.psu.edu/faculty/c/a/caw43/behrendwriting/Weingartner,%20James%20J..pdf>

Reference 3

Mass army atrocities in Vietnam war

By Nick Turse and Deborah Nelson Special to LA The Times

August 6, 2006

The men of B Company were in a dangerous state of mind. They had lost five men in a firefight the day before. The morning of Feb. 8, 1968, brought unwelcome orders to resume their sweep of the countryside, a green patchwork of rice paddies along Vietnam's central coast.

They met no resistance as they entered a nondescript settlement in Quang Nam province. So Jamie Henry, a 20-year-old medic, set his rifle down in a hut, unfastened his bandoliers and lighted a cigarette.

- Also
- Supporting Documents

Here is a selection of materials used in preparing this report.

- Memorandum from John W. Dean III, counsel to President Nixon
- Press statement by James D. Henry
- Excerpt of Henry's 10-page sworn statement
- Gregory Newman's sworn statement on Sept. 21, 1972
- Robert D. Miller's sworn statement on Aug. 5, 1972
- Johnny Mack Carter's sworn statement on Mar. 3, 1970
- Investigator's statements concerning Donald C. Reh
- Agent's statement concerning Gary A. Bennett
- William W. Taylor Jr.'s first statement when asked about the wrong date
- Summary fact sheet for the final report of investigation on the "Henry Allegation"
- Verified Civilian Slayings
- About this report

Just then, the voice of a lieutenant crackled across the radio. He reported that he had rounded up 19 civilians, and wanted to know what to do with them. Henry later recalled the company commander's response:

Kill anything that moves.

Henry stepped outside the hut and saw a small crowd of women and children. Then the shooting began.

Moments later, the 19 villagers lay dead or dying.

Back home in California, Henry published an account of the slaughter and held a news conference to air his allegations. Yet he and other Vietnam veterans who spoke out about war crimes were branded traitors and fabricators. No one was ever prosecuted for the massacre.

Now, nearly 40 years later, declassified Army files show that Henry was telling the truth — about the Feb. 8 killings and a series of other atrocities by the men of B Company.

The files are part of a once-secret archive, assembled by a Pentagon task force in the early 1970s, that shows that confirmed atrocities by U.S. forces in Vietnam were more

extensive than was previously known.

The documents detail 320 alleged incidents that were substantiated by Army investigators — not including the most notorious U.S. atrocity, the 1968 My Lai massacre.

Though not a complete accounting of Vietnam war crimes, the archive is the largest such collection to surface to date. About 9,000 pages, it includes investigative files, sworn statements by witnesses and status reports for top military brass.

The records describe recurrent attacks on ordinary Vietnamese — families in their homes, farmers in rice paddies, teenagers out fishing. Hundreds of soldiers, in interviews with investigators and letters to commanders, described a violent minority who murdered, raped and tortured with impunity.

Abuses were not confined to a few rogue units, a Times review of the files found. They were uncovered in every Army division that operated in Vietnam.

Retired Brig. Gen. John H. Johns, a Vietnam veteran who served on the task force, says he once supported keeping the records secret but now believes they deserve wide attention in light of alleged attacks on civilians and abuse of prisoners in Iraq.

"We can't change current practices unless we acknowledge the past," says Johns, 78.

Among the substantiated cases in the archive:

- Seven massacres from 1967 through 1971 in which at least 137 civilians died.
- Seventy-eight other attacks on noncombatants in which at least 57 were killed, 56 wounded and 15 sexually assaulted.
- One hundred forty-one instances in which U.S. soldiers tortured civilian detainees or prisoners of war with fists, sticks, bats, water or electric shock.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-vietnam6aug06,0,2056752.story#ixzz2z46G9Azz>