



Global Assignment Americans Abroad

THE ADAMS REPORT

The Devil's Wind India in Torment, 1857

Regional dispute against insensitive commanders or first shot in a war of independence? The Indian Mutiny remains a delicate subject for historians. What is without doubt, says Hugh Purcell, is the extreme brutality shown by both sides.

When the historian of the Indian Mutiny PJO Taylor joined the Indian Army in 1944 he was told: 'we don't talk about the Mutiny. It is something everyone, British and Indian, is ashamed of.' He soon found out why. The Indian Mutiny, as the British called the uprising of 1857-8 against the rule of the East India Company in north India, was the most appalling bloodbath; savage, cruel and treacherous. Indian sepoy (infantry recruited for the East India Company's army) slaughtered defenceless British women and children. In reprisal, British soldiers hanged countless Indians from trees or tied them to the mouths of cannon and blew them to smithereens. About 6,000 Europeans, mostly British, lost their lives and around 20 times that number of Indians. The rebellious sepoy called it 'the devil's wind', a barbaric, uncontrollable fury that swept across the hot plains of India as if blown by the Devil.

Today all is forgiven and mostly forgotten. Recently I took a British tour group round Mutiny sites. They are overgrown with the mess of

modern India, including the notorious well at Cawnpore down which the bodies of 120 British women and children were thrown in July 1857. It is now covered by a cricket pitch and Indian teenagers innocently use a slab of the memorial as a wicket.

A taxi driver in Delhi offered to show us an old Raj building and took us to a Moghul ruin. To him one fallen Empire was much like another. As Shelley's *Ozymandias* put it, 'Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'

What caused the uprising? British history students have been taught that the cause was a grease-covered cartridge that sepoy had to tear open with their teeth before inserting it in the barrel of the new Enfield rifle. As this grease was made with pig or cow fat, the act was a calculated insult to Muslim or Hindu alike. This, it is said, was proved on the Meerut parade ground on 24 April 1857, when men of the Third Light Cavalry refused to load their rifles and were marched off to prison in shackles and ignominy: this was the spark for the mutiny. The truth is that the offending cartridges were a pretext, not a cause of the mutiny, for the sepoy used them in the subsequent fighting without complaint. Their significance was that it showed how much suspicion and hatred were directed towards the British. They were *firinghi* (an insulting Hindi word for foreigner) who should be driven from the Indian land—or exterminated.

Why? Many British in India considered themselves 'superior beings by nature to the Asiatic' and hated

being there; hated the food, the climate, the boredom. As a result they behaved with an arrogance, insensitivity and incuriosity that invited trouble. Two groups who did not arrive until the 19th century have always been singled out for blame: missionaries and *memsahibs* (European wives). The former seemed oblivious to the intense religiosity of Indians who deeply resented attempts to convert them to Christianity. The latter, while in many cases admirable women, drove a wedge between *sahib* and *bablogue* (the British officer and his 'beloved men') by the very nature of family life. An old sepoy, Sita Ram Pande, said just before the uprising: 'Many officers nowadays only speak to their men when obliged to do so...and treat the sepoy as an inferior creature. The sahibs always knew what to say, and could speak our language, when I was a young soldier.'

Ironically, the liberal Governor General of India, Lord Dalhousie, has much to answer for.

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He was a reformer whose actions caused resentment and riots: prison reform for instance.

Should he have foreseen that his introduction of efficient communal cooking, would break sacred rules of the Hindu caste system? That his requirement to shave beards, for cleanliness, would deeply offend Muslims (shades of Camp X-ray)? That his substitution of the brass drinking pot by an earthenware jar, for safety, would be considered disgustingly sacrilegious? Even more provocatively, he reduced the status of the sepoy of the Bengal Army who had just won bloody campaigns for the British in the Punjab and Afghanistan.

Then he passed the notorious 'law of lapse' that entitled the Company to annex territories where there was no natural but only an adopted heir. This and other land grabs united rulers like the Begum of Oudh, the Rani of Jansi and the Maharaja of Bithur, Nana Sahib, in determination to restore their kingdoms.

'We have no kisses for cowards'

At Meerut the men of the Light Cavalry, indignant that 85 of their comrades lay stripped and shackled in prison, were insulted by the prostitutes of the bazaar. The 'frail ones' were organized in their taunts of 'we have no kisses for cowards' by Mees Dolly, the widow of a British Army sergeant who had become a brothel keeper. On 10 May, a stifling hot Sunday, they mutinied, murdered their British officers and families and rampaged down the road to Delhi. The uprising had begun.

Was it a planned uprising timed for a particular day all over British India? A most likely date may have been 23 June, the centenary of the battle of Plassey in Bengal, won by Robert Clive when the British first became rulers. If so, then it was preempted by the taunts of the Meerut whores. There is some evidence that it was, in which case Mees Dolly was

a cause of its failure, for the uprising was ragged and badly led. The British hanged her in any case.

Early the next morning, King Bahadur Shah II, a descendant of the proud line of Moghul emperors but himself a feeble opium junkie, was disturbed in his Red Fort residence at Delhi by the sepoy and *sowars* (native cavalry) of Meerut shouting up at his window; 'Help, O King, we pray for assistance in our fight for the faith.' Reluctantly he became their titular leader, unnerved at their frenzied murder of all the British in sight. Around 200 people, bank managers, merchants, clerks, doctors, clergymen, soldiers, all were killed who could not escape. Almost simultaneously other British communities along the Grand Trunk Road between Delhi and Calcutta (then the capital of British India) were besieged, overwhelmed and massacred. In almost every case the British officers were taken by surprise, believing that whatever happened in other regiments their own men would remain loyal. 'They're all bad,' one officer said, 'but I can trust my fellows.' He was wrong.

At Lucknow, the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, Sir Henry Lawrence, was more prescient. He gathered the European community of around 3,000 people (including native servants) into the compound of the Residency. Heroically they withstood a grueling siege that lasted for five months and cost about ten lives every day from injury or illness, including that of Lawrence himself, who was town apart by a shell. On 19 November, the survivors staggered out, the women to be greeted by the relieving army under General Sir Colin Campbell with 'God bless you, Mum.' But they looked better than the 'haggard, worn men' and 'pale, blanched children.' A few days earlier, a rebel army had been cornered in a large building, the Sikandar Bagh. To the skirl of bagpipes, Highland and Sikh

soldiers massacred 2,000 rebels, leaving the corpses in piles five feet high. The pockmarked ruins of the Residency compound still stand, the only official memorial of the uprising.

Seventy miles away on the banks of the river Ganges lay Cawnpore (now Kanpur). Here between May and July the 1,000-strong European community – and a few American missionaries – was almost entirely wiped out in atrocities that became the worst nightmare of the Mutiny. 'The Devil's Wind' seared the British mind; 'Remember Cawnpore' became an oath prejudicing attitudes to Indians for years to come. The British under General Wheeler were besieged in a shallow entrenchment, exposed to the burning sun and non-stop bombardment. They surrendered after the promise of safe passage down the Ganges but were then massacred on the riverbank, whether by treachery or accident is still hotly debated. Satichaura Ghat remains a haunted place

Here the surviving 120 or so women and children were slaughtered, to leave no survivors to tell their tale to an avenging British army only miles away, and their bodies thrown down a well. When the news reached Britain, Cawnpore caused a storm of national outrage. The East India Company had failed to protect its women and children, the 'angels of Albion.' In a national mood of guilt and revenge Queen Victoria declared a Day of Humiliation.

The reprisals exacted by the British regiments marching up the Grand Trunk Road, which perhaps fatally delayed the reliefs of Cawnpore, cowed the Indian population nearer Calcutta into submission. In October, Delhi was recaptured. Until now the rebels lacked leadership and organization though they fought bravely, but in November the most talented rebel leader, Tatya Tope, defeated a British army at Cawnpore. The next

year he joined forces with the legendary Rano of Jhansi, the Boudicca of India, and their army marauded across the plains of Oudh and Bundelkand winning victories against tired and dispirited British troops. It was not until June 1858 that the Rani was killed in battle, reputedly with her child strapped to her back and a sword in each hand. Tatyá Tope was captured. Fearsome reprisals continued for many a month. At Cawnpore, mutineers were forced to lick the caked blood of massacre victims from a filthy floor before being executed.

In November 1858, almost immediately after the ‘mutiny’ was finally quelled, the East India Company was abolished and direct rule of India taken over by the British Government. In 1870, as a symbol of conciliation but also of imperial majesty, Queen Victoria became Empress of India. It was not long before India became known as ‘the jewel’ in her crown.

How have historians viewed the uprising? It was obviously more than an army mutiny as Indians of all kinds joined it from prostitutes to princes, but was it ‘the First War of Indian independence’ as Karl Marx called it at the time and Indians have called it since? It was not a war for national independence as, according to the official Indian historian Dr. Surendra Sen, Indians at that time did not have a concept of national identity and the uprising was confined to the north, although there were ‘signs of restlessness’ elsewhere.

The first challenge to British rule Moreover, wars of national revolution are usually accompanied by a reforming social agenda, whereas the leaders of the uprising were reactionary, wishing only to kick out the British and regain their lands. Some Bengali Marxist historians view it as partly a class war because most of the ‘perfidious feudal gentry’ (Marx)

failed to join the uprising. However, the prevailing view now is that it was, says Indian historian RC Majumdar, ‘the first great and direct challenge to the British rule in India which furnished an historical basis for the independence struggle.’

This careful phrasing shows, as PJO Taylor discovered over half a century ago, that the ‘mutiny’ is still a sensitive subject. There was a wish of the new Indian Government at the centenary in 1957 to see it as the start of a lengthy war for freedom. This was resisted by Indian historians, but now there is a fear that the governing BJP Hindu nationalist party, may ‘saffronise’ (politicize according to their Hindu colour) the history of the uprising as they have done other events. Essentially we must view the uprising from the perspective of an ancient banyan tree still standing at Cawnpore, from the branches of which the British hanged 133 rebels. At its foot is a poem in Hindi: ‘I have seen uncounted springs and autumns; also the day when the spark of independence turned to flames in Cawnpore. I was moved to such tears but my throat choked; the tears dried. Now when I relive that terrible story I cry out in pain.’

English Countryside

With the summer travel season almost upon us, an interesting side trip not far from London is to the Kent countryside. You might consider a trip to Chiddingstone and the Castle Inn for luncheon or dinner. I was there to enjoy a wonderful luncheon along with friends on a beautiful spring afternoon in April. Be sure to stop and see Chartwell, Churchill’s home which is close by. The management tells us more.



You will find us about one and a half miles south of the B2027, the Tonbridge to Edenbridge road at Bough Beech, between

Hever Castle and Penshurst Place. Children are welcome, as are dogs. We have no smoking areas, closed on Tuesday.

The unique row of timbered houses, known as Chiddingstone, contains a village shop, a lovely church, and a thriving school and, tucked away in one corner in the lea of Chiddingstone Castle, is the Castle Inn.

The first reference to this ancient village occurs in 814AD in a grant of land to the Archbishop of Canterbury, still the patron of St Mary’s to this day. During the 14th century Chiddingstone was connected with the Burghersh family who played a distinguished role at Crécy and Poitiers.

It is possible that Katherine Parr’s first husband, Sir Edward Burgh, lived in the present village shop and the Porch House.

The Castle Inn is first mentioned in 1420 and was known as Waterslip House. One Thomas Weller, who gave his name to the two rows of cottages about a mile away, called Wellers Town, bought the inn in 1712. Weller and his brother started the inn about 1730, calling it The Five Bells.

It is believed there were at least two inns in Chiddingstone before this, started as they were in the parlours of private houses. From the middle of the 16th century the history of the village is intimately connected with the Streatfeild family. The first Richard Streatfeild made his fortune as an Elizabethan ironmaster and the family has been, over a period of 450 years, the squires and patrons of the village.

In 1939 The National Trust bought the village street for £25,000. On the death of the late Denys Eyre Bower, Chiddingstone Castle was offered to the Trust who short-sightedly turned it down, losing the opportunity to rid the village street of parked cars.

Originally the street of houses continued past the Castle Inn, and on to Chiddingstone Castle, then known as High Street House, thus called before the original manor house was made into a mock castle. At this time half the village was demolished, and the Navvies, who were over here building the railways, dug out the lake that had previously been the kitchen garden. The village street was diverted round the lake, which in turn required the removal of another house on the opposite side of the street to the Castle Inn. The remaining houses, with their mullions and casement windows, picturesque roofs and projecting upper storeys are attractive examples of 15th and 16th century domestic architecture.

All around Chiddingstone, which is a little over an hour from central London, there is a wealth of beautiful and historic properties. Hever Castle, Penshurst Place, Chartwell, and Knole Park, are all less than ten miles distant.

Behind the Inn there is a vine-hung courtyard garden, with a Garden Bar, and beyond that, and over a bridge, a lawn with beautifully tended flowerbeds. On sunny days refreshments may be enjoyed anywhere outside. Naturally a village inn has Real Ales, the most popular being Larkins, which is brewed about half a mile up the road just outside the village. The carefully selected Wine List contains over a hundred wines.

As well as welcoming travelers for drinks and refreshments, from a bowl of soup to an informal 'Fireside' dinner in the heavily beamed Saloon Bar, there is also a small, and acclaimed, Restaurant with waiter service, where Luncheon is served from 12noon with last orders at 2pm and Dinner from 7:30pm with last orders at 9:30pm. The Streatfeild Room, seating up to twenty or so, is the perfect setting for a small business meeting or a celebration lunch or dinner. The Bars and Garden are

open all day from 10:30am for coffee and soft drinks – then 11am to 11pm for alcoholic drinks Monday to Saturday. Sunday 11:00 for soft drinks and coffee, then midday to 10:30pm. Refreshments, snacks, and clotted cream teas are served all day until 6pm. Since no dishes are ever prepared there will be occasions, usually between 1pm and 2pm, when delays are inevitable.

The Fireside menu is served in the Saloon Bar from 7pm, with last orders at 9:30pm.

We have Children's Menus, and our Children's Certificate operates during normal opening hours in the Fireside Bar and Garden. Children are automatically welcomed in the Restaurant. We assume that children will be properly supervised at all times. They may not be taken into the Public Bar.

Do you like walking? We have produced four walks for you to enjoy, all four are circular, and they will take you to Penshurst, Bough Beech Reservoir, and Hever. The first three walks are about $4^{1/2}$ – 5 miles, so should take no more than two hours, and combine some road walking as well as taking you through fields and footpaths. Our latest, and longest, circular walk linking Chiddingstone, Penshurst, Charcott & Chiddingstone Causeway (Penshurst Station) is about 8 miles – $2^{3/4}$ hours – with refreshment break points possible at Penshurst – about $2^{1/2}$ miles, Charcott – about $5^{1/2}$ miles and Chiddingstone Causeway / Penshurst Station – about $6^{1/4}$ miles. Please ask us for details. You can also download the walks from our website www.castleinn.co.uk.

Whatever you do, we hope you enjoy your visit to Chiddingstone.

The Inner Circle

I had the opportunity to meet Joan, now in her 90s and still very sharp, at Kew a few months ago. I received a copy of her book from Malcolm

Harradine who is acknowledged in Joan's book and also was a former track and field star in the UK. Excerpts from her book in Joan's words follow. Small world department – my friend's Aunt Margaret Jackson worked with Joan during the war and they still keep in touch.



any women played a remarkable part during the Second World War, but certainly few more remarkably than Mrs. Astley. Her many friends in the allied countries knew her as Joan Bright in those days—for they preceded her marriage. She performed two outstanding tasks for Britain and the anti-Nazi combination. First working in the office of General Ismay, who as Chief of Staff to Churchill as Minister of Defence was the lynch-pin of the British military effort, she organized and maintained a highly confidential service of information to the Commanders in the field, which enabled them to keep themselves 'briefed' on the secrets of what was happening or to happen. She was able to observe at close range the men taking part in the great debates—Americans and Russians as well as her own people: to become their friend and discover their strengths and weaknesses as human beings: to see the Conferences at Washington, Quebec, Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam from the inside and at first hand.

Excerpt from the book...

'Winston is in!' On 10 May idealistic 'peace in our time' Neville Chamberlain resigned and Winston Churchill became Prime Minister, his government a coalition of the three major political parties, his cabinet a War Cabinet. Where sat those critics of the past who had called Mr. Churchill 'a warmonger'? With head bent, we hoped, thanking God that the man and his destiny had met and that, now, they might have a chance of being alive when twelve o'clock struck.

In speeches of immortal phrase the new Prime Minister made it clear that, so far as the British were concerned, this was the aim. For the immediate present, all depended 'on winning this battle, here in Britain, now, this summer'.

The battle for Britain began on 10 July when the Germans launched the first of many large-scale daylight air attacks aimed at destroying docks, shipping, airfields and centres of communication. One after another, each wave as it came across the Channel was met and fought by young pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes of the Royal Air Force. Repeatedly, day after day, with little rest, they beat off and crippled the enemy until the sky was clear. After that daylight raids were sporadic and could be dealt with in a normal order of battle.

On 7 September the Germans switched their main offensive to the night bombing of centres of population, mainly London, and this continued with varying intensity throughout the winter, killing and injuring some fifty thousand civilians by the end of 1940.

Vacillation and fear had by September stopped their plans for invasion by sea.

From Washington men of all shades of opinion watched closely the deportment of Britain during these vital months. Those who put America first, the isolationists, were doubtful of her ability to survive and therefore chary of giving aid. Others, among them the men who had formed and supported a Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, fought hard for the conviction that in Britain lay America's first line of defence. Roosevelt, a presidential election due in November, did his political best to hold the balance, to show support for Britain without prejudicing the chances of re-election for his own Democratic party. Among the steps taken towards the

former was the agreement of 3 September whereby the British leased to America, free, certain sea and air bases in Newfoundland, Bermuda and the Caribbean in return for fifty over-age destroyers badly needed to support the battle for her sea communications.

Joan continues with another story...

On Tuesday, 30 November, at the end of the Conference, Marshal Stalin and President Roosevelt came to dinner at the British Legation. Some hours before—luckily not together—we received two visits: the first from a band of Russian officers; the second from a band of Presidential bodyguards. Eyed stolidly by the British guards, they each combed the rooms and the garden, looked behind doors and curtains, under tables and chairs.

Some of us stood in the hall to watch the arrivals. The Prime Minister, whose sixty-ninth birthday it was, paced up and down waiting for them. He stopped and stared at us, asked us whether we were going to wish him 'many happy returns of the day'. We felt foolish and said nothing. The Presidential bodyguard looked foolish too, standing in a row, when they were asked by Mr. Churchill to sing a chorus. They were saved by the President, who came in through the back door and down the ramp which had been built for his chair, a long thin cigarette-holder in his long thin fingers. He disappeared into the drawing-room.

Then came a clatter of sentries presenting arms, the bang of a car door and Marshal Stalin was there. He was shorter and older than I had expected, had graying hair and many fine laughter lines running upwards from the corners of his eyes; his face was heavily pitted and he looked like a farmer, but a shrewd and cunning one. He held himself very straight, and the quiet gesture of slow salute as he raised his right arm in greeting was like a rock coming to life. He

looked keenly round as Mr. Churchill said 'Good evening', and then turned to hang up his coat. The Prime Minister started forward to help and the two fought silently for possession. The Marshal was revealed dressed in a well-cut, tight-fitting, light beige uniform with broad red stripes running down the sides of the trousers.

We left them to their speeches, their dinner and the drama which has been told before but which bears retelling. A Persian servant came in bearing the pudding—a tall lantern of ice with a lamp inside—his eyes popping as he looked at Marshal Stalin and not the way he was going. The pudding began to slide: Persian and pudding flew round the table at an angle which became more acute with every step. The guests sat transfixed, trying to guess where it would fall. Finally it did, fair and square on to the head and shoulders of Mr. Pavlov, who, without hesitation, continued his interpretation: 'Marshal Stalin, he say...'

I went to have dinner with Colonel Frank McCarthy at the US Military Camp at Amerabad where he was staying with General Marshall. We ate roast gazelle and then sat talking in a group round a huge log fire, in easy chairs covered by a sort of sack in gay colours. The walls of the Nissen hut were hung with the same material, and the whole effect was a tribute to someone with imagination and taste.

On returning to my office, where I had a lot of clearing up to do before next day's departure, I found eight Russian security officers sitting around drinking vodka, waiting for the Churchill birthday dinner to end. I sat down at my desk, smiled brightly and pointed to my red box of papers and then at my head. They laughed delightedly and settled down to stare. I gave up, unnerved. With no common language, we spent a couple of hours gesturing, smiling,

nipping at the vodka. I fetched a Wren cipher officer to support me.

America at Risk

Admiral Paul Mulloy (USN Retired) is no stranger to warfare at both home and abroad. One of Paul's functions while on active duty was to run the Navy's substance abuse program. He shares important viewpoints regarding America's position and direction going forward.



America has two pre-eminent conflicts. One is lethal. One is corrosive. In one, we are in a brutal WAR against an implacable enemy. Fanatical, Jihads, terrorist, ideologically motivated, they are sworn to undermine and destroy us as individuals and as a nation, the radical fringe of Islam is ubiquitous and numerous. Their virulent hatred is unlike any combatant foe we have ever faced. Without country, without uniform, no civilized rules of engagement, suicidal, these are the deadliest and most elusive to engage. It is a war begun before they killed 241 Marines in Beirut in 1983, the World Trade Center in 1993, and embassies, barracks, USS Cole, as well as attacks on other nations throughout the world. Until 9/11, our response was feckless and rightly perceived as cowardly. Now defined as WAR by our President, the enemy has been directly and relentlessly engaged and the epicenter battle is in Iraq. There, the new Iraq government is slowly gaining control over the civil carnage. As their military, security, and police gain competently and in numbers and strength, the sectarian violence will diminish and with our sustained help, the government will prevail. Our presence is required to see this to success. Neighbor Iran has a hegemonic strategy to restore the power of their ancient Persian Em-

pire in the region. If armed with nuclear weapons, their ascendancy in the region will be assured and will further alarm the Sunni regimes. Along with other oil potentates, terrorism is funded aided and abetted by Iran globally and especially in the area. Muslim immigration immersion has effectively neutered Europe fearful of further violence.

The other and more pernicious and long lasting conflict is here with the illegal immigrant invasion spawned by the 1965 Immigration Reform Act. Like the Welfare Act, it needs to be overhauled. America never envisioned an uncontrolled entry of people from around the world not the least—terrorists and their lethality. Also especially are the Mexicans who claim sovereignty over our Southwest and defiantly refuse to assimilate (as do some Muslims) and adapt to our language, customs and practices as did our forefathers. A no more clear and present danger exists. Demographically, financially, and cohesively, the adverse impacts to our nation are now and in our future. Sealing and then controlling our borders is a “MUST”. A complete readress of the 12 to 20 million illegals and all benefits starting with canceling automatic citizenship to children born of illegal entrants has to commence now. No one considers deportation of all. Surely through a process of clear identification of all, with categories of legitimate claims for citizenship, guest worker permits with repatriation, and arrest and deportation of felons immediately under full force of the law is needed now. Detention and deportation centers are needed now. Congress must provide enabling legislation for such a massive undertaking to allow use of military, National Guard, state and local law enforcement to supersede any local constraints in the registration and disposition. Deportations should include sanctions against any nation that refuses to accept their na-

tionals so returned. Enforce the laws including employers. Our representatives especially in the Senate need to be told that voters overwhelmingly want meaningful resolution; not further inaction, toothless compromise, or dalliance on this very critical issue facing our country.

Our Oath to the Constitution includes against all enemies foreign and domestic. We have both at hand.

Viet Nam Remembered

The Viet Nam conflict ended over 30 years ago. Medal of Honor recipient, Nick Bacon, shares interesting information regarding facts about the Viet Nam Veterans.



As Americans support the men and women involved in the War on Terrorism, the mainstream media are once again working tirelessly to undermine their efforts and force a psychological loss or stalemate for the United States. We cannot stand by and let the media do to today's warriors what they did to us 35 years ago.

Below are some assembled facts most readers will find interesting. It isn't a long read, but it will...I guarantee...teach you some things you did not know about the Vietnam War and those who served, fought, or died there.

Vietnam War Facts: Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled

- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.
- 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam.
- Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.
- 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.
- The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Sta-

tion. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

- 58,148 were killed in Vietnam.
- 75,000 were severely disabled.
- 23,214 were 100% disabled.
- 5,283 lost limbs.
- 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.
- 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
- Of those killed, 17,539 were married.
- Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.
- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
- As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
- 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.
- 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.
- 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.
- Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
- Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.
- 87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.
- There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study).
- Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
- 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

Isolated atrocities committed by American soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist

atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations.

From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - *Nixon Presidential Papers*

Common Myths Dispelled:

Myth: Common belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

Fact: Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races.

Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war."

Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers.

Here are statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall): Average age of 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years. (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action.)

Deaths Average Age
Total: 58,148, 23.11 years
Enlisted: 50,274, 22.37 years
Officers: 6,598, 28.43 years
Warrants: 1,276, 24.73 years
E1 525, 20.34 years
11B MOS: 18,465, 22.55 years

Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who

fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

Myth: The common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries who won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972.....shown a million times on American television....was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the

ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers. Please give all credit and research to: Capt. Marshal Hanson, U.S.N.R (Ret.)
Capt. Scott Beaton, Statistical Source



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