

**EXTENSION OF DEADLINE
ENDS SATURDAY MIDNIGHT**

Emails from overseas have requested a few more days to get snailmail donations in. OK, but that's it. Raffle entries MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED AT PAYPAL NO LATER THAN 10.4. Drawing 10.10.

GI Special Outstanding Prize Loaded Fund Raising Raffle A Dead Duck In 34 Hours:

[See Photos Of Prizes Below]

***But First:
"Why Bother Shelling Out My Cash?"***

#1:

9.3.08

From:

Lt. Fabian Bouthillette, USNR, Iraq Service
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War
U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2003

Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army, Iraq Service
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War

Neither the Republican nor Democratic candidate for president will end the occupation of Iraq. And both have vehemently expressed plans to escalate the occupation of Afghanistan.

As the occupations continue to rage on, the importance of reaching out to the members of our armed forces becomes more and more apparent. Our troops have the power to do what our government lacks the will to do... end the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

GI Special has been with us from the beginning, supporting the voice of troops who are against the occupations.

In it you have read letters from troops condemning the misuse of our military.

You have read first hand accounts of our brave servicemembers who feel betrayed by their commanders and their government.

These brave servicemembers who risk their careers in order to speak their mind deserve our support, and GI Special continues to be a leader in providing that support.

GI Special also continues to be a leader in providing news of what is actually happening on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Our main media sources do very little to actually show what is happening in Iraq, and they have all but forgotten Afghanistan.

Support for GI Special is support for our anti-occupation troops.

It is also support for the reporting of the true nature of these two devastating occupations.

#2:

From: [XXXX, Soldier, Iraq] [Excerpt from longer message.]

To: GI Special

Sent: November 27, 2007

Subject: thank you

My name is [XXXXXX], Im a [XXXXXX] with [XXXXXX] , [XXXXXX] Division, currently deployed to [XXXXX], Iraq.

I just wanted to thank you for putting out GI Special.

Its nice to know that a lot of other people who are deployed, or have previously deployed think being in Iraq is completely counter-productive.

I, personally, dont believe in fighting for the profit of a handful of people.

I also dont believe in fighting for a government that is willing, if not eager, to fuck its own people over.

I fully support all the men and women deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan but, Im already at the “fuck the army” point, Ive never been a supporter of this war, and i thank you for doing what you do.

Keep it up.

#3:

From: [XXXXX]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 09, 2008
Subject: Newsletter request

I am deployed in Iraq and receive and fully support your newsletter.

Could you please include my fiancée on your email distribution list too:
[XXXXXX]?

#4:

From: David McCreynolds
Cc: Thomas F Barton
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2008 12:34 AM
Subject: GI Special 6G1: From Baghdad

Friends,

Almost every night Tom Barton gets out pages and pages of material in the GI Special.

If you want solid info on the GI movement, the resistance to the military from within the military, drop Tom a note and ask him to add you to his list.

Invaluable.

David

Why Is GI Special Running On Empty?

You know we don't hit you up often [last GI Special Raffle was 12.07] -- never more than twice a year, but now we can't not.

Examples:

Cost of a very high security mail box that allows anybody in the armed services to address mail to GI Special anyway they want, using any name they want, ranging from Military Project to Presbyterian Pen Pal Club, provided the Box # is correct: \$650 last month for a year. Ouch.

Computer problems in August crashed the system several times, flooded the work areas with endless pop-ups, and came within an eyelash of wiping out files wholesale.

Fees to an excellent computer technician saved the system, but cost us, as did a new backup system that's in constant operation, and the cost of installation of new MacAfee security suite security systems to protect GI Special and the troops who read it from assorted disasters, hackers, sneak-peekers and other Bush Buddies who do not wish them well.

Quality security systems are not free, nor is the yearly retainer for an-on call computer emergency service, nor the costs of using it to fix annoying stuff that goes wrong a couple times a month associated with very heavy computer use and, unfixed, would cripple production of GI Special.

These are some of the big ones. Then, routinely:

Internet service provider fees, producing copies of printed materials for outreach to active duty troops and National Guard members, reams of paper, buckets of ink and on and on.

It never ends, but the money that comes from the pay checks of working people who help GI Special come out has gone as far as possible, and now bills are piling up.

The United States Federal Reserve Bank shows no signs of coming to our aid, either. Too bad we weren't out there selling fraudulent bonds and worthless "securities," so we could qualify for a few billion.

Your assistance is respectfully and very urgently requested.

**T
GI Special**

All proceeds will be used for work giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposing today's Imperial wars.

OK, Here's How The Raffle Works

[See Photos Of Prizes Below]

Anybody who sends at least \$5 is in the raffle. The deadline is now 10.4. 2008.

There are 13 prizes, so 13 names will be pulled out of a hat.

The first name pulled gets to pick his or her choice, and then the second name will get to choose from the remaining prizes, and so on. We'll contact winners by email or phone if you send a phone #.

There will be no charge for shipping the items to you unless you are overseas and do not have APO.

NOTE; ANY ENVELOPES POSTMARKED OCTOBER 4 OR EARLIER WILL BE CONSIDERED GOOD FOR THE RAFFLE, BECAUSE SOME ARE COMING FROM OVERSEAS. So, the drawing will be done 10.9.08 to give those letters time to arrive.

YOU CAN SEND YOUR SUPPORT BY MAIL OR CREDIT CARD:

**IF YOU SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER BY
MAIL,
MAKE PAYABLE TO:
THOMAS F BARTON.**

Mail to:

**G.I. Special
C/O Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657**

**WE CAN ALSO ACCEPT CREDIT CARD OR
PAYPAL PAYMENTS THROUGH OUR PAYPAL
ACCOUNT.**

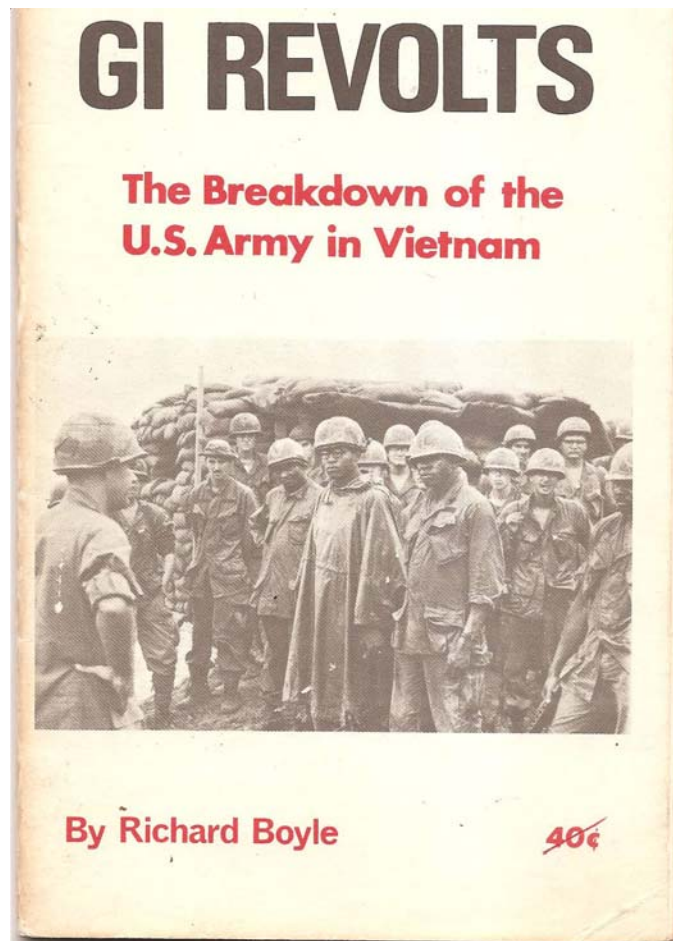
CLICK THE PAYPAL LINK BELOW OR COPY IT INTO YOUR BROWSER ADDRESS FIELD:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=xclick&business=thomasfbarton%40earthlink%2enet&item_name=GI%20Special%20Fund%20Appeal&no_shipping=0&cn=Additional%20Comments&tax=0¤cy_code=USD&lc=US&bn=PP%2dDonationsBF&charset=UTF%2d8

[NOTE: If you send gold or silver bullion, diamonds, or large amounts of foreign or domestic currency, use registered mail. We are unable to accept delivery of barrels of oil.]

Now For The Prizes: Winners Choice

Prize #1: Booklet



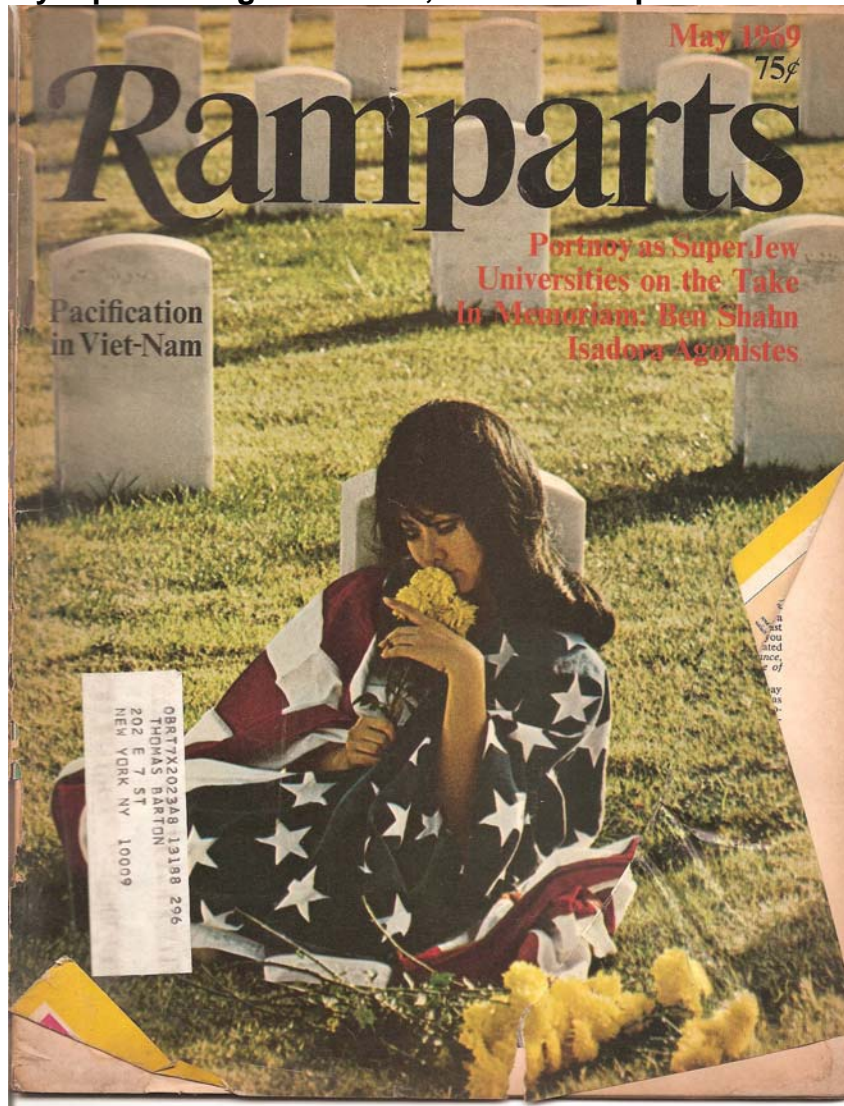
By the reporter who had the courage, intelligence, heart and honor to go personally to Vietnam and spend time with the soldiers, and write about the GI movement against the war, long before the topic became fashionable.

This is the original United Front Press pamphlet , May 1973

Prize #2: Ramparts Magazine, May 1969

**Pacification In Vietnam: The Destruction Of An Think:
“Well, American advisor, what now?”**

By reporter Roger Williams, with the troops in Vietnam.



[The cover is messed up, attacked by New York City air, but the inside is just fine.]

Prize #3: Folding Table By Alycia A. Barr, 2005





Alycia A Barr, mother of an Iraq War veteran, has not only campaigned against the war for years, she has contributed her outstanding skills as an exceptionally talented artist to GI Special & The Military Project.

This folding table, with her inlaid top, is about 30" wide by table high.

NOTE: This can't be sent **outside the fifty states** without full payment of shipping charges.

Prize #4 & 5: May 1917: Russia The War Bonds That Brought On A Revolution [Two Available]

In February 1917, Russian workers and soldiers rose in revolution to overthrow a feudal government that had dragged them into an Imperial War, World War 1, where Russians died, at home and in the Army, for the glory and greed of the Czar, Emperor of Russia.

Having gotten rid of him, they thought the new government, led by Prime Minister Kerensky, would stop the war.

Instead, in May 1917, he floated the Kerensky War Loan, gold backed bonds to borrow \$188 million, to pay for keeping Russia in the war.

Seeing that nothing less would do, 6 months later the elected soldiers' and workers' councils organized a second revolution that wiped Kerensky's government of generals, war profiteers, crooked politicians, and capitalists off the face of the earth.

These are the Kerensky bonds. The blue is for 500 gold rubles, the red for 1000 gold rubles. If you win one, feel free to go to Moscow and see if they will honor the debt.

P.S. They were purchased on 9.1.64 from (no joke) Carl Marks & Co., Inc., New York. And yes, if you win one, you'll get a copy of the bill of sale that says so.



Prize #6 Vietnam GI: Complete

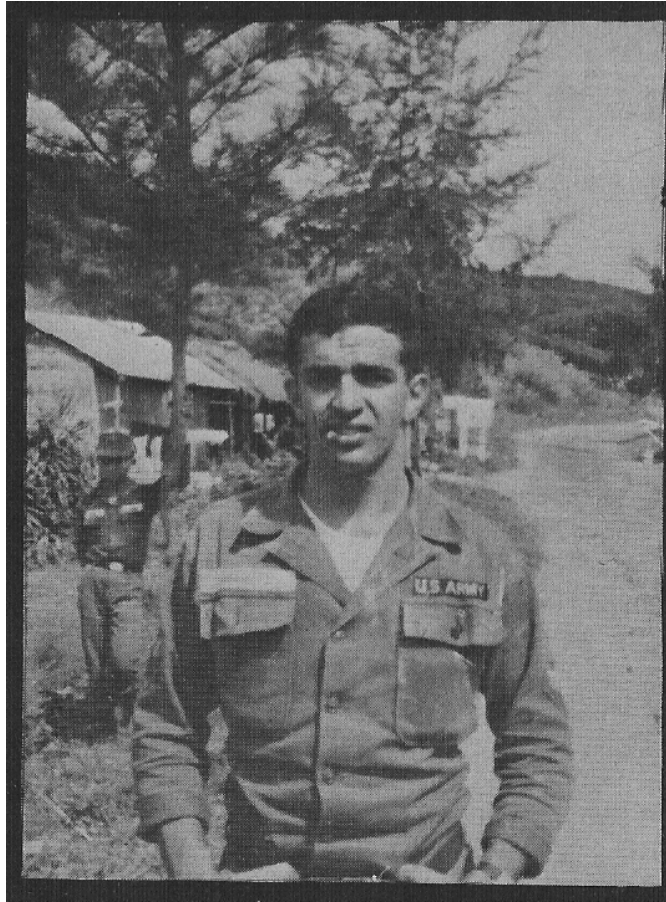
A complete set of Vietnam GIs. The originals were a bit rough, sometimes a line at the bottom gone, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Jeff Sharlet until his death (see below), this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Full set Vietnam GI reprints are not available anywhere else.

Vietnam GI



Jeff Sharlet Dies

VIETNAM GI
August 1969

Many good men never came back from Nam. Some came back disabled in mind. Jeff Sharlet came back a pretty together cat--and he came back angry. Jeff started VGI, and for almost two years poured his life into it, in an endless succession of 18-hour days trying to organize men to fight for their own rights.

On Monday, June 16th, at 2:45 pm, Jeff died in the Miami VA Hospital. He died of a sudden heart failure, brought on by the uncontrollable growth of the cancer that had earlier destroyed his kidney. There was no way to save him. He was only 27 years old.

Rather than wait for the draft, like so many others Jeff went RA. With dreams of seeing Europe, he applied for "translator-interpreter", and found himself at the US Army Language School at Monterey, California. But instead of French, Czech or German, he was assigned a strange language called "Vietnamese"--. spoken in a country he couldn't even find on the map. For eleven months in 1962 he was drilled in Vietnamese.

In 1963 he was assigned to Army Security Agency, and left for his first tour in Nam. Stationed in Saigon awhile, Jeff witnessed the ARVN coup that overthrew Saigon dictator Ngo Diem. On his second tour his ASA unit was stationed near Phu Bai. Engaged in top-secret work monitoring, decoding and translating North Vietnamese radio messages, they wore AF uniforms and worked at a small air base. But every time they went into the bars, every bargirl could reel off all the facts about their mission.

Speaking the language well, Jeff could talk to many Vietnamese about what was happening to their country. He spent long hours questioning ex-Foreign Legion men, who'd settled in Vietnam after the French left, peasants, ARVN officers, students, and even suspected VC agents. By the time he ETSed in July, 1964 he'd put a lot of pieces together.

Jeff went back to school, and got his college degree (with honors) from Indiana University in 1967. During his "GI Bill years" he joined the peace movement, and became chairman of his local chapter of Students for a Democratic Society. But he had become increasingly disillusioned about the student movement, and felt that its shallowness and snotty attitude towards other people made it ineffective.

That summer he went to New York City to work with Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and it was there that he decided to try to organize other GIs to fight the brass. Jeff had won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for graduate study at the University of Chicago. He enrolled and" picked up his check. From then on all his time and money were sunk into starting a newspaper for servicemen.

After two years of endless traveling, fund-raising and writing, Jeff's drive started to fade. That restless energy that had brought him countless miles to base after base wasn't there.

After his last trip to Ft. Hood in the Fall of 1968, Jeff complained that he was really beat, burnt out. We all agreed that he should go "on leave" and take a rest.

It was while visiting friends in Boston that the first really severe pains started. Jeff flew home to Florida, and entered the hospital. From there it was steadily downhill all the way. The removal of his left kidney, massive radiation treatments, drugs--nothing stopped the growth of his cancer.

At the end he was weak and emaciated, without enough breath in his lungs to speak for more than a few sentences. He said that he had many new ideas for our fight, but was just too exhausted to talk about them.

Jeff was a truly rare man. He was our friend and comrade, and those of us who came together in this fight will never forget him. VGI, the paper that so many readers called "the truth paper," will go on fighting.

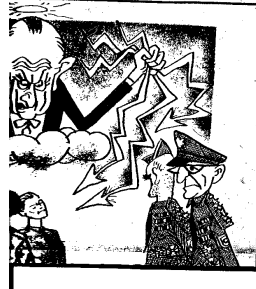
Prize #7: The Bond; Photocopy

ed a UNION!"

American Servicemen's Union can be our voice. Let us organize for the right to collective bargaining and an end to racial discrimination! Let us organize for a minimum wage and freedom of political association! Let us organize a soldiers' union.

Sure, the Brass will squawk, gripe and threaten, but we will never allow ourselves to be cowed by the bluster of the reactionary officer class. They have taught us to walk on our bellies in more ways than one. It is high time we stand up and demand the right to act like real men -- not puppets.

I, for one, pledge my full support to the American Servicemen's Union, its organizers and members. Let us all begin organizing! Let us all dare to struggle! Let us all dare -- to win!



NOTICE:

THIS NEWSPAPER IS YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY. IT CANNOT LEGALLY BE TAKEN FROM YOU FOR ANY REASON

THE BOND

The Servicemen's Newspaper

Vol. 2, No 3

New York, N.Y.

March 18, 1968

Ft. Ord GIs Protest War, Brass' Threats Fall Flat

Fort Ord GIs have issued a leaflet on base protesting the war and backing a union to gain their rights.

The Brass at the California base have, in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution, threatened to court-martial the men. But Pvt. Ken Stolte, a writer of the leaflet, in long distance phone contact with the Committee for GI Rights, has stated that the illegal Army threats will be fought. The Committee has offered its full support. Whether the Army Brass will go ahead with their attempt to deny the men basic freedom of speech remains to be seen.

When their repression can be kept hidden the Brass make up its own law. But when they face firm demands by GIs who know their rights and insist on them and are backed by an able civilian group which can bring to bear the glare of public attention and the necessary legal help -- then it is something else.

On February 21 a leaflet signed by Pvt. Stolte and PFC Daniel Amick proclaimed to fellow GIs at Ord: "We protest. We protest the war in Vietnam. ...Too many of our friends, not to mention the Vietnamese, are being killed for nothing...our government is supposed to represent us, not rule us. Do the American people want war? Do we, who must actively participate, have any desire for this war? Then why do we have it!"

"We are uniting and organizing to voice our opposition to this war."

This is a photocopy of the complete issue, too big [11x17] to scan the entire front page, March 18, 1968; Vol. 2, #3; published by the American Servicemen's Union; opposed to the war on Vietnam.

Prize #8:

Huge 384 Page 8 1/2 x 11 Soft-Cover Edition - Just Cartoons:

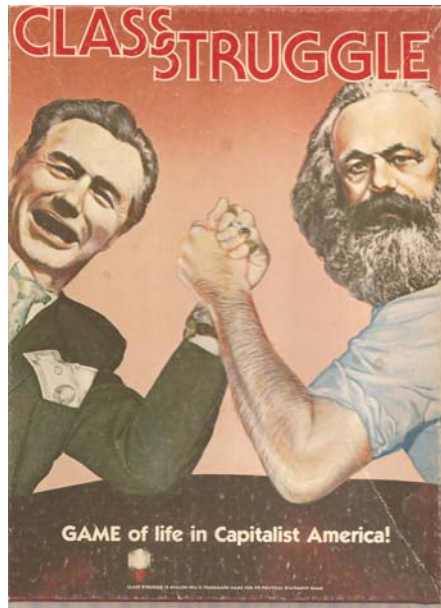
Bill Mauldin's Army



Bill Mauldin's Greatest World War II Cartoons

[Thanks to Comrade Tribune, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in so GI Special could copy cartoons. But there way no way to do that without ripping off the bindings to copy them, and that would be a shame. He sent another Mauldin book, which will go in the next Raffle.] [Presidio Press, 1984]

Prize #9: Mint Condition Class Struggle: The Original Board Game



Yeah, the box is a bit scuffed, after decades, but, for collectors, the boxed game set was never used, one time.

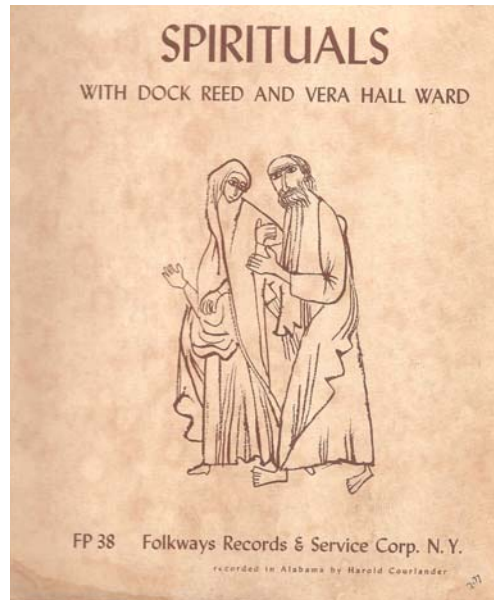
All the pages of playing pieces and chance cards, required to be separated to play the game at all, are intact and untouched. The game board was never opened. The pages of the Rules of Play are clean, and everything undisturbed, like the day they made it.

Prize #10: Folkways Records 10” LP; 1953

Issued in 1953, this was one of the earliest LPs of African-America non-commercial music from the south. Reed and Ward were from Alabama. The plastic is beat up, but playable, and whether played or not, it's a piece of history before that history became fashionable, or even was much known.

Reed and Ward kept and cherished the sound of the songs from the days of the War Against Slavery. Side 1, band 4 is about escaping from slaveholders and going north.

The original booklet by Folkways about the LP is included, and written on.



Prizes #11, 12, 13
Ten Different Issues Of GI Special Printed Out In Full Color.

Because most readers have come on within the last year, many people have never seen earlier GI Specials. None in these prizes will be more recent than 2005. A slice of history.

[Example of front page:]

GI Special: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net 2 12.05 Print it out (color best). Pass it on.

GI SPECIAL 3A43:

**“He Confronted Our Unit
Commander While Naked And
Wielding A Cinderblock---**

“He Stated That He Was Not Going On Any More Missions.”

DEMOCRACY vs. DICTATORSHIP: THE DIFFERENCE



Open Letter to Senator Cornyn

[The article continues in that issue of GI Special. T]

[END PRIZES]

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