

SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

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Meeting I	Dates
July	7
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Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?

By Dave Chaddock

The Ukrainian government refers to its opponents in the east as "terrorists." And many U.S. "talking heads" like to refer to what they call a "Russian disinformation campaign." Russian leader Putin, recently grilled by French reporters, referring to the military operations being conducted in eastern Ukraine adjacent to Russia, declared: "I think Mr. Poroshenko, (recently elected president) who has no blood on his hands so far, has a unique chance to halt this punitive operation and start a dialogue with people in SE Ukraine" (RT.com., 6-5).

It would seem that such a dialogue is very much in order. As a retired teacher in Slovyansk declared to a Western reporter: "No one comes here and asks us what we want. Instead they send tanks" (NYT, 4-26).

Unfortunately, Poroshenko, so far, has not indicated any attraction for his "unique chance." In fact, he has compared the rebels to Somali pirates and has vowed to crush them (NYT, 6-5). This puts him in tune with Hilary Clinton who recently declared that "what Russia is doing in Eastern Europe resembles what Hitler was doing in the 1930's" (RT, 6-5).

Now it is true that there were Russian troops in Crimea. There is a Russian naval base there and Russia had an agreement with Ukraine to maintain the base for several decades. It is also true that when Crimea was made part of Ukraine, Ukraine itself was part of the Soviet Union, and it was not anticipated that the

Soviet Union would dissolve. Putin has declared that the breakup of the Soviet Union was a "geopolitical disaster" and his French interviewers pressed him on this point. He replied that he had no intention to revive the Russian empire, but when the Soviet Union disappeared, "25 million Russians suddenly became foreigners." Also "families were divided...People lost their jobs."

Putin flared up against the charge that he had "annexed" Crimea. Actually the English word "annex" is a rather neutral term describing a small thing being added to a bigger thing. But what he intended to convey was that Russia had not seized Crimea. It was the people in Crimea who voted in a referendum to be part of Russia. They did not ask the permission of the Ukraine to do this. But neither did the American colonists ask the permission of King George to secede from England!

As for the "families divided" there is ample evidence of the artificial division between eastern Ukraine and Russia. In its effort to "prove" Russian aggression, U.S. reporters are constantly on alert to smoke out hidden Russians. Here are two typical examples (1) An eastern Ukrainian native but who is a former Soviet special forces commander. He is described as someone who could be a "capable Kremlin proxy." (2) A man from Russia who several years ago received Ukrainian citizenship after moving to Donetsk to be

near his mother (NYT, 5-4).

I read how Secretary of State Kerry has spent time with Poroshenko "urging him to provide evidence of Russian involvement with separatists" (NYT, 6-5). But a rebel commander at Slovyansk "chuckled at the claims in Kiev and the West that his operations had been guided by Russian military intelligence officers" --- claims that "Russians have led, organized and equipped the fighters." He explained: "We have no Muscovites here." (NYT, 5-4). To U.S. claims of having proof that Russia sent troops and supplied weapons, Putin declares: Proof? Why don't they show it? The entire world remembers the U.S. Secretary of State demonstrating the evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, waving around some test tube with washing powder in the UN Security Council (RT,6-5).

Yes, Kerry would like hard evidence, better than the trumped up tales of "Curveball" and other fraudsters trusted by the Bush administration. But where is he going to find it? In the meantime the absence of evidence doesn't faze anti-Russian agitators who think they are up against a massive Russian plot to seize more territory. Moscow must be "orchestrating the disorder" they believe (NYT, 4-13). Even as Putin fails to invade he gets the blame: "Putin would rather feed the insurrection from afar" (NYT, 4-27).

The rebels in the southeast don't need to get weapons from Russia. Weapons at Ukrainian bases are easily obtainable by pilferage or by direct transfer from sympathetic government troops. These rebels have public support. A western reporter observed locals coming to donate food (NYT, 5-4). So far, military raids by the government have "done little more than harden local sentiments" against Kiev (NYT, 4-26). Many rebel fighters interviewed by a reporter explain how they volunteered after being angered by air strikes (NYT, 6-5).

Early in May armored vehicles sent into action by Kiev attacked a police station in Mariupol "reducing the building to smoldering rubble and killing at least 7 people." The acting interior minister explained that 60 pro-Russian militants had seized the headquarters but 20 of these "terrorists" had been killed. However, local residents who gathered around soon set a reporter straight about what really happened. The city police "were sympathetic to the pro-Russian side and had mutinied against an out-of-town chief" installed by Kiev. Thus the armored vehicles were confronting the rebellious police (NYT, 5-10).

In a broad swath of territory right up against Russia, where Ukrainians and Russians are accustomed to treating each other as brothers, hostile Kiev invaders are not welcome. Keep in mind that until recently, one quarter of all Ukrainian exports have gone to Russia. The closer you get to the border the more isolated are the interlopers. Bases near the border have been falling to the rebels one after another. The central command headquarters in Luhansk has been over-run. And at Chervonopartizansk border guards simply fled their posts. "A convoy of about 20 trucks, minivans and cars containing border guards and their families . . . stood exposed in a long line on the side of the road, unsure of their direction or destination." For hours they had been searching in vain for friendly forces. Officials in Kiev are said to be contemplating the imposition of martial law in the border area (NYT, 6-5). But I'm afraid they will need much more than that. Perhaps their U.S. advisers could help them out. They have had a lot of experience keeping apart people who do not want to be separated, as they have done for over 60 years along the DMZ in Korea! (To some of you, this may seem a bit startling. I have just finished writing a book about the day the Korean War began, and it delves into this matter of how Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Syngman Rhee engineered this war, which I invite all of you to peruse.)

But I digress. A much better idea for Ukraine would be to work out a friendly solution that would allow all the parties in the area to live together in peace. Russia, Eastern Ukraine, Western Ukraine, and the European Union. It is not impossible. The first step would be to grant some sort of autonomy to the eastern region. In fact, this is one of the notions being kicked around at the tent city in Kiev where several hundred protesters have yet to disband.

Continued on page 5



Loading The North Star III

By Jon Halgren

Can you imagine a longshore job that would last for three weeks? Each year before Easter the men would maneuver to try and make the NORTHSTAR III.

Orders for the gangs would show "Reefer, coal, and some hides," on the dispatch slip. Reefer cargo was generally stowed in the freezer lockers. The small door to the locker made it necessary to hand handle the cargo.

Why was it such a long job? The NORTH STAR made two sailings each year. This was the supply vessel for the Indian villages in Alaska. In the lower hold over sized (storage) tanks could be loaded. As the food stuffs arrived and were boarded up for loading the longshoremen would hand stow the tanks. Space was very valuable, and hand stow could fill the big spaces created by tanks.

It was interesting to read the ports: Platinum, Kodiak, Chignik, Homer, Unalaska, St. Michael, Point Hope, Barrow, Prudhoe Bay, Pilot Station, Seldovia, Tanana, Koyuk, Scammon Bay, Toksook Bay, Galena, King Salmon, Naknek, Cold Bay, Bethel, and Nome. These villages had less than 1,000 residences' in the 2011 Census.

The villagers had to plan for six months in advance for all the goods that they could consider. Fresh fruit and produce was out of the question.

We might start in the lower hold loading heavy building materials like cement, lumber, roofing material, windows, and put heavy canned goods on the platforms built with the building materials. Ports of discharge had to be planned so if weather prevented planned sequence of discharge the ship would go to an optional port. The time at anchor was short and the ship's crew would help sometimes stevedoring or piloting the landing craft to go onto the beach.

The cargo moved from the vessel to shore, by WWII landing craft. There were no piers or docks to discharge the cargo. The landing craft would load and then maybe go up a river to a village and unload. Then return to the ship for another load.

We would prepare for a heavy lift, of a fishing boat, scheduled for Monday. Both wings had to be loaded and be level with the square of the hatch. The heavy lift would span a very long area. To mix and match the lumber lengths and widths took some calculations. The last lift we took at #4 was a bundle of random length dunnage that would be used as filler when we were landing the boat. A ½, or ½ inch would make a difference, and if the ship

was in rough seas it would be important that everything was secure and had no slack.

Saturday we loaded general cargo: Canned milk, Pilot Bread, flour, sugar, bags of rice and beans, and many other foodstuffs the natives wanted. Sunday, we did have something unique. It was pieces and parts of a communication station. It was not so difficult but we had to figure the lifting points, so as to not damage the structure. We had to use dunnage to make platforms for landing the next piece. On occasion we would rehandle the pieces to give a better stow. Space was still at a premium and we wanted to get a good stow. We used rolls of insulation to fill the space above the communication station, as we did not think that heavy general cargo would make for a proper stow.

At #3 hold we were planning to bull stow goods surrounding the square so a lift truck could work the parameter when the square was opened up. Things were looking good as we had been ordering, and calling for items to make a great stow. The square was a good straight face on all four sides. The space was getting crowded for working in and after a few more items, we would start landing the square.

A semi load of motorized snowmobiles was just coming into the "Old Ford Plant." This would be great to use for landing the square. Leaving slings on the lifts would make it easier for discharge and allow the lift truck to be put in the hatch sooner. After we finished the lower hold we stood and enjoyed the job well done. Time to cover the lower hold and start on the tween deck. We will come back on Monday and load the fishing boat.

The last port to load down South was Point Wells, it was the Standard Oil, Chevron pier. The first time I was there, I was asked if I smoked. Yes, I did. Turn in the cigarettes and matches, you will get them back when leaving.

The ship sails for Point Wells on Wednesday. The crews sailing board says Departure 1900 hours, Wednesday.

On Wednesday when we turn to, the fishing boat is still being repaired. Hatches #1, #2, and #5 are finished. Cargo is still being loaded at #3 and #4. Two gangs had been called back to finish at the Old Ford Plant. Extra stevedores had been brought to secure cargo.

After lunch the gearman set out the equipment to be used at Point Wells. Lists are being checked for forgotten items. Is everything planned for? Is all cargo on?

The fishing boat is almost finished. With 24 hours before sailing to Point Wells the repair will be completed.

We have done all we can do here. Let's go home. One gang is called back at Point Wells.

Conversations With Harry

By Ian Kennedy

As I was in San Francisco for the Caucus, I kept going by the Bar to see if I could meet up with Harry. You know the old saying, "three's a charm," well, it's not true. And I returned to Seattle without making contact. Thus I'm unable to pass on to you any of Harry's wisdom.

In it's place, seeing Bloody Thursday is just around the corner, I'd like to provide you with the words of Shaun Maloney on Bloody Thursday.

Remember July 5th

On this the day the waterfront honors its dead

Remember Bloody Thursday:

The men from the waterfront rose in bitter revolt against 13 years of degradation and slavery. They fought 85 days for unionism against employers, city police, and the National Guard.

Remember Bloody Thursday:

On that day San Francisco police shot dead Nicholas Bordoise and Alfred Sperry in front of the Longshoremen's Hall at the corner of Mission and Stuart. On the waterfronts of Seattle, San Pedro, Hong Kong and Portland other strikers were killed or seriously injured. The memory remains.

Remember Bloody Thursday:

At noon on July 5, 1935 sailors stood reverently in the foc'sle to commemorate Olaf Helland and Bruce Lundberg. Ships flew flags at half mast. Dockside in the holds of ships and on the piers unionists stopped work to pay homage to the martyrs.

Remember Bloody Thursday:

Years pass swiftly and change the form of things. Strife and infective begin to brew from the inside. Contention breaks and destroys the unionism the Bloody Thursday men died creating. They tear at the solidarity that arose from blood and agony on the picket line of July 5, 1934.

Remember Bloody Thursday:

Remember how hungry you were? Remember the herding and being driven? Remember living like a beast in a filthy kennel? Remember enslavement and blacklisting? Remember clubbing, gassing, and shooting for wanting to be free?

Remember above all else you fought together for unionism.

Remember.

The ILWU is not yours to break or destroy today. Generations of hardship and loyalty by the rank and file built this union. Fighting courage and toughness maintain this union in the strike we fight today.

Yours is a sacred trust, yours to fight for, that those who come after you are gone will live and work as free human beings.

We Will Never Forget: Richard Parker John Knudsen Alfred Sperry Shelvy Daffron Nicholas Bordoise Olaf Helland Bruce Lundberg

This statement was read by ILWU Local 19 President Shaun Maloney July 5, 1971 in the midst of the 135-day strike at the graveside of Shelvy Daffron.

Brothers and Sisters, as we approach the end of a contract and we are in the midst of negotiations, it's important that we remember those who have fought and died for us. Remember and honor Bloody Thursday.

We will be laying a wreath at the grave sight of Shelvy Daffron on Bloody Thursday at 10am, Please join us.

(Lake View Cemetery, 1554 15 Ave E, in the north west corner.) We look forward to seeing you.



Longshoremen march in a funeral procession for strikers killed by police officers, July 1934 San Francisco, CA. The event is commemorated every year in every West Coast port.

Working Logs in Everett 1965

By Jon Halgren

Work was such that we realized that the work in Seattle would not be enough for us to get a job. If we wanted to have a payday, which we did, work in Everett was the solution. So here we are in Everett loading lumber bound for the East coast of the US.

I had never seen this type of operation. Lumber was put on small trailers or carts by a lift driver. This looked like a small train having three or four carts hooked to the pulling unit. When a lift of lumber was wanted, the first trailer was pulled under the hook.

The load looked like two small size bundles, one on top of the other. The front men or more often called slingmen, would take the wire slings, one towards the front and the other toward the back. Putting the slings on the hook and then the winch driver would lift the load into the hold. Returning to the dock for the other load from the trailer. This would be repeated for the balance of the shift or until the job was finished.

Fast forward to about 1980; In Everett a ship is loading lumber for a country in Asia. A barge with lumber had been placed next to the ship on the waterside. The barge was loaded to expedite the ship loading. The first lift from the barge was four full size bundles. Two wide and two high, for a total of eight bundles in one lift, and landed in the hold of the ship.

The slings on this job were of greater capacity, than what was used in 1965. The lifting crane of ships gear also had a greater capacity than 20 years earlier. I was thinking that we would be going home early, as the barge was almost empty. I had not noticed, beyond the breakwater, the barge with lumber. It had been planned that we be kept working all day.

Thinking of all the jobs related to the export of lumber gave me a pleasant feeling. Loggers in the woods, mechanics for all the equipment, sawmill workers, and truck drivers going to or from. I perhaps have overlooked some workers as I only had contact with the ship operation.

With mechanization and modernization came a terrific increase in tonnage and a decrease in labor costs per unit of measure.

To look over my shoulder at the end of the day, seeing lumber stowed tight forward and aft, port to starboard game me a feeling of satisfaction. The one better feeling was knowing all hands finished the day, were on their way home, with no injuries. What would the future bring for export of wood and wood products? Containerization could take almost any commodity that had a buyer and a seller, would the Port of Everett change so the Port would continue to have workers?

Final Dispatch

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Real Terrorist Continuation from page 2

They want local Ukrainian governing bodies to have more authority. One of them declares: "Poroshenko is part of the system we rose up against" (NYT, 5-25). Even Putin has nodded in the direction of these protesters, noting that having "grown used to seeing one set of thieves being replaced by another" they are demanding "radical change" (NYT, 3-5).

Peace is possible but Poroshenko must be dissuaded from his foolish attempt to conquer the East by force. He cannot succeed. And the U.S. must stop egging him on.

(My thanks to the *New York Times*, whose intrepid reporters have helped me to understand what is going on in the world, ever since the days of the Vietnam War. In this instance, they have helped to reveal that the so-called "Russian disinformation campaign" is a lot closer to the truth than the revived Cold War rhetoric being spread in the U.S., and that it is Kiev's airstrikes that constitute the real terrorism in Ukraine. I would also like to thank RT for providing full spectrum "Russian disinformation" 24-7. I don't understand why Comcast lets it into my house!)

Correspondence

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CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
47th Annual Convention—September 15, 16, 17-2014
Vancouver B.C.

Mail to: ILWU Pensioners Organization Vancouver
Attn: Barry Campbell
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Men	ibers name				
				Spouse a memb	
Gue	sts name				
Num	ber attending the ber attending the ted by Local 500	e Chili and Chic	rd Meeting on S ken dinner Sund	Sunday, Sept. 14 day evening	
There will be afternoon for	a tour to Howe the Delegates to	Sound and lunc choose.	h or a Casino ar	nd lunch outing a	available on Monday
Nur	nber attending the nber attending the nber attending the	ne Casino and Li	unch Monday at	flernoon	
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