

Frontiersman

Facing the truth, however great the cost.

May 2013

From Asses to Horses in One Easy Lesson

Sam Aurelius Milam III

Fascism, 1941

fascism any system of government in which property is privately owned, but all industry and business is regulated by a strong national government. *n.*

—Thorndike Century Senior Dictionary, 1941

Monte Cassino, 1944

It became U.S. 34th Division's task (joined by 142nd Regiment of 36th Division) to fight southward along the linked hilltops towards the intersecting ridge on the south end of which was Monastery Hill. They could then break through down into the Liri valley behind the Gustav Line defences. It was very tough going: the mountains were rocky, strewn with boulders and cut by ravines and gullies. Digging foxholes on the rocky ground was out of the question, and each feature was exposed to fire from surrounding high points. The ravines were no better since the gorse growing there, far from giving cover, had been sown with mines, booby-traps and hidden barbed wire by the defenders. The Germans had had three months to prepare their defensive positions using dynamite and to stockpile ammunition and stores. There was no natural shelter, and the weather was wet and freezing cold.

—Wikipedia

Battle of Monte Cassino

II Corps in the mountains north of Cassino

On February 11, after a final unsuccessful 3-day assault on Monastery Hill and Cassino town, the Americans were withdrawn. U.S. II Corps, after two and a half weeks of torrid battle, was fought out. The performance of 34th Division in the mountains is considered to rank as one of the finest feats of arms carried out by any soldiers during the war. In return they sustained losses of about 80% in the Infantry battalions, some 2,200 casualties.

—Wikipedia

Battle of Monte Cassino, Aftermath

Bastogne, 1944

The American soldiers were outnumbered approximately 5-1 and were lacking in cold-weather gear, ammunition, food, medical supplies, and senior leadership.... Due to the worst winter weather in memory, the surrounded U.S. forces could not be resupplied by air nor was tactical air support available due to cloudy weather....

—Wikipedia

Siege of Bastogne, Battle

The 101st Airborne Division's casualties from 19 December 1944 to 6 January 1945 were 341 killed, 1,691 wounded, and 516 missing. The 10th Armored Division's CCB incurred approximately 500 casualties....

—Wikipedia

Siege of Bastogne, Aftermath

Iwo Jima, 1945

The fighting on the beachhead at Iwo Jima was very fierce. The advance of the Marines was stalled by numerous defensive positions augmented by artillery pieces. There, the Marines were ambushed by Japanese troops who occasionally sprang out of tunnels. At night, the Japanese left their defenses under cover of darkness to attack American foxholes, but U.S. Navy ships fired star shells to deny them cover of darkness. Many Japanese soldiers who knew English would deliberately call for a Navy corpsman, and then shoot them as they approached.

—Wikipedia

Battle of Iwo Jima, The amphibious landing

.... According to the official Navy Department Library website, "The 36-day (Iwo Jima) assault resulted in more than 26,000 American casualties, including 6,800 dead." To put that into context, the 82-day Battle for Okinawa lasted from early April until mid-June 1945 and U.S. (5 Army and 2 Marine Corps Divisions) casualties were over 62,000 of whom over 12,000 were killed or missing; while the Battle of the Bulge lasted 40 days (16 December 44 - 25 January 45) with almost 90,000 U.S. casualties; 19,000 killed, 47,500 wounded, and 23,000 captured or missing.

—Wikipedia

Battle of Iwo Jim, Aftermath

Fascism, 2013

The more I learn, the worse it seems. Monte Cassino, Bastogne, and Iwo Jima are only three examples from hundreds. It isn't acceptable that so many men endured so much only to have us lose our liberty through stupidity or negligence. It's an insult to the memory of those men. We should do something about the fascist police state that the United States has become. We shouldn't compromise with it. That's only another form of surrender. We could try to destroy it but, usually, revolutions only replace one police state with another one. Maybe the best option is to abandon it. For that, we don't need a revolutionary army. We can do it as individuals. So, let's "get off of our asses and onto our horses", and get started. 🦅

The Diary of Cyber Sleuth: Day Eight

Fiction by Sam Aurelius Milam III

The bosses wanted me to get into the LAN of a large brokerage firm. The less identity I mention the better so I won't say it was Scottrade or Fidelity or TD Ameritrade. Maybe a different one. Maybe one of them. Anyway, NSA wanted to know some stuff about them. That was one of the times when my NSA workload interfered with what I wanted to do but I managed to get some fun out of it anyway. I'm good at turning things to my own advantage. Anyway, the bosses sent me over to the brokerage firm, to look around. Visited the place just the once, posing as an auditor from SEC, all the arrangements had been made at the brokerage firm although SEC didn't have a clue.

Hacking involves research. Most outsiders don't know that. They think hackers just try a few passwords, make some lucky guesses, and we're in. Not usually. It takes research. That old movie *War Games* was a good example. The kid learned enough about the original programmer so that he could guess the man's own back door password, skids as I like to call them. That movie was part of my early inspiration. Anyway, NSA has the best access to the most information in the entire world. Congressional Research Service? People think they work for Congress. They work for us. Hell, Congress works for us. All of those guys really work for us. People just think otherwise. Anyway, no matter how much information you can review in print, sometimes it's good to see things for yourself. The more you know about your target, the more likely that you'll get in. So, I visited the brokerage firm.

They had a damn big room full of desks, people, computers, no partitions. Everything out in the open. Hundreds of people all figuring out ways to get money from suckers while making the suckers think they were getting money from the brokers. Worse thieves than NSA. They had some damn good security, too. At the back of the room they had an employee break area, not a break room, just some stuff along the back wall. They had stuff like a microwave oven, a coffee maker, a refrigerator, that sort of thing. All in line-of-site of a half dozen or so of their computers in the back row. I wouldn't even mention it except that it turned out to be important later. Could have been important if things had worked out different. Anyway, the stuff was there.

Back at the office I worked at it for a while and I'd probably have gotten in anyway, eventually, but I suddenly had a flash of an idea. I thought of something that would be faster, if it worked, and it would be a hell of a lot more fun. I like to have fun, play around, experiment, and that's what I did. I did it just like they do on the TV programs. Used a utility van, grubby electricians coveralls, a big tool box. Got the whole shebang from some rental agencies, even had it delivered to the NSA back lot. The bosses never knew. The agencies all thought they got paid. Great fun. I drove right up to the back of the brokerage. Nobody gave a damn. Those TV shows must be right because nobody asked me what the hell I was doing there. I fumbled around, made some noise, dropped a few things, cussed a lot, acted like I was getting paid by the hour, anybody watching couldn't tell me from a union electrician. So, I clipped onto the power line that went into the place. I had a laptop sitting in the passenger seat hidden under a sheet of racing forms, hovering over their internet connection, ready to pounce just in case my bright idea worked. I had another computer hooked through my clips into their power line. Needed a little filtering, of course, to protect the computer from the power line. No problem if you know how to do it.

I started sending binary code into the power line. With all their stuff out in the open like that, in that big open room, I figured all I needed was for one of their computers to have an IR port that was pointed toward a light, to have the light be incandescent, and to have it be powered from the power line that I was using. Remember I mentioned that hacking requires research first? This was one time when I goofed. I didn't do the research first and I discovered that I didn't know as much about power lines and light bulbs as I should have known. The idea didn't work. It was fun to get out and clomp around like an electrician but I had to find some other way to get into the brokerage firm.

I'd already visited the place as an SEC guy and I was uneasy about going in again. I needed something different. They had a cable TV in the place and I thought about trying to get into the IR ports on the computers through the IR port on the cable box. It might have worked but this thing with the power line →

had turned on my stubborn streak. I just wanted to bypass everything with something unconventional. Any decent hacker could get into the cable company and mess around with a cable box.

I did some research. Found out when the people at the brokerage firm were expecting some office supplies to be delivered and from where. Don't like using other guys, like to work alone, but, hell, I work at NSA so sometimes I use NSA guys. I got the NSA tech guys to build me a gizmo. The hardest part was arranging to get the gizmo included in the next delivery of office supplies. It was just routine arranging of purchase orders, deliveries, and so on. Not worth putting here. Anyway, the shipment included my gizmo, a coffee maker that they hadn't ordered. I figured they'd just set it up in their little employee break area, at the back of the office. The coffee maker had an IR port and my code in it. As soon as they plugged it in, my Inside Man would be inside of their computers right quick. Who'd ever have expected the people at a brokerage firm to be honest? They're a gang of thieves. Against all the odds, they sent the thing back. Damn.

I did some more research and discovered that one of the women who worked there was due

for a birthday. Hell, maybe something simple. I had the NSA tech guys make another gizmo, one of those talking birthday cards. It had two IR ports, front and back. I loaded my code into it and sent it to her from a secret admirer. I figured that if she opened it at her desk, in front of her computer, maybe it would work. I had my computer at my office hovering, waiting for the birthday card to send my Inside Man into her computer and, believe it or not, it worked. My Inside Man was in their system quicker than you can say Jack Robinson. He created a set of skids for me, a back door as the wannabe hackers like to call it. After that, I could have access to the whole place any time I wanted it. Later that day, I looked around the place with some of their webcams. I found one where I could see the birthday girl in the background. The talking birthday card was sitting on the edge of her desk. She kept showing it to people. She looked like the happiest woman alive. I felt like a complete jerk.

I never did tell any of this stuff to the bosses, just kept it for my own little secret. Once I was in the brokerage LAN, I did what looked like a standard hack, since I was already in it was easy. That's all the bosses ever knew about it.

Gotta go.

⌵

The Diary of Cyber Sleuth: Day Nine

Fiction by Sam Aurelius Milam III

I mentioned somewhere in this diary, a couple of years or so ago, that my NSA workload was beginning to interfere with the things that I really wanted to do. Some time after that, I created a set of orders, from the very highest level, to have me transferred to temporary liaison duty with MI5, in the UK. Of course, MI5 never heard of it but the proper replies were received from the proper levels at MI5. Just in case, there's a record that MI5 had me transferred to overseas work with SIS (MI6, as some people like to say), on assignment to Mossad.

Stray Thoughts

Sam Aurelius Milam III

- Any educated person whose education wasn't "managed" carefully by the government is potentially a threat to the government. That might give you a clue about the schools.
- Closure is what people get when neither justice nor revenge is available.
- Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and they'll deplete the fisheries.

At Mossad, I had myself assigned to undercover work in Lebanon. Nobody will ever be able to find me unless I want to let somebody know that I'm still in the conference room at the end of the hallway in the basement. I had my assigned office reserved for when I'm re-assigned back to the local area. If ever, like never.

After I finished all of that stuff, which took me about a year to accomplish safely, I was satisfied about my new status. Officially, I'm still working at NSA, National Security Agency. Actually, I'm nsa, no such agency.

Gotta go.

⌵

- A man should never love anybody or anything so much that it makes him vulnerable to manipulation.

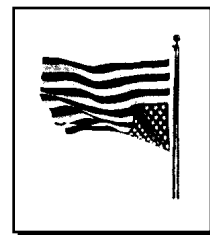
Music Humor

Original Source Unknown. I heard it on *A Prairie Home Companion* on Saturday, March 3, 2012.

A B flat, a D flat, and an F walked into a bar. The bartender said, "Sorry, but we don't serve minors here."

So, the D flat left and the B flat and the F had an open fifth between them.

∞



Nation in Distress

Compromise is a valid engineering concept. In politics, compromise means lose tomorrow instead of losing today.

—Saturday, December 28, 1991
Milam's Notes

Acknowledgments

My thanks to the following: SantaClara Bob; Lady Jan the Voluptuous; my mother; Dewey and Betty; Eric, of Ione, California; Robert, of Soledad, California; Robert, of Murphys, California; and FL, of Corcoran, California.

—editor

Words of Wisdom

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Lady Jan the Voluptuous.

- Marriage is like a violin. After all the beautiful music is over, the strings are still attached.
- Women in short skirts have a tendency to make men polite. Have you ever seen a man get on a bus ahead of one?
- It's hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and then blamed it on the cost of living.
- We're born naked, wet, and hungry, then things get worse. ∞

The Last Word: Hers

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Sir Donald the Elusive.

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede the point. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws." ∞

The Last Word: His

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Sir Donald the Elusive.

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use per day, 30,000 as compared to 15,000 for men.

The wife replied, "The reason must be that we always have to repeat everything to men."

The husband turned to his wife and asked, "What?" ∞

Frontiersman

Subscriptions and Past Issues — Printed copies of this newsletter, either subscriptions or past issues, are available by application only.

Cancellations — If you don't want to keep receiving this newsletter, then return it unopened. When I receive it, I'll terminate your subscription.

Reprint Policy — Permission is hereby granted to reproduce this newsletter in its entirety or to reproduce material from it, provided that the reproduction is accurate and that proper credit is given. I do not have the authority to give permission to reprint material that I have reprinted from other sources. For that permission, you must go to the original source. I would appreciate

receiving a courtesy copy of any document or publication in which you reprint my material.

Submissions — I solicit letters, articles, and cartoons for the newsletter, but I don't pay for them. Short items are more likely to be printed. I suggest that letters and articles be shorter than 500 words but that's flexible depending on space available and the content of the piece.

Payment — This newsletter isn't for sale. If you want to make a voluntary contribution, then I prefer cash or U.S. postage stamps. For checks or money orders, please inquire. For PayPal payments, use editor@frontiersman.org.uk. In case anybody's curious, I also accept gold, silver, platinum, etc. I don't accept anything that requires me to provide ID to receive it.

—Sam Aurelius Milam III, editor