

SUFFER NOT THE LITTLE CHILDREN

“Then were there brought unto him little children; that he should put his hands on them and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus, said, ‘Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” St. Matthew 19: 13&14

Young men with dreams of glory have lied, cheated, and altered birth certificates to serve their country in time of war. Most are discovered and sent home; many are not, and some paid the ultimate sacrifice.

During America’s Civil War, an 8 year old child named Edward Black joined the 21st Indiana Volunteers on July 24, 1961 as a drummer boy. Captured during the Battle of Baton Rouge in August of 1862, Edward was released after Union forces won the battle. Sent home and discharged, Edward reenlisted with the 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery in early 1863 and fought until the end of the war. He is most likely the youngest kid to ever serve in the U.S. military.

The youngest Confederate soldier was a boy named Charles C. Hay. Charles was only 11 years old when he joined an Alabama regiment. Another kid named William Black was the youngest soldier wounded during the Civil War when an exploding shell shattered his left hand and arm. He was 12 years old.

Historians estimate that at least 100,000 Union soldiers were under the age of 15 and that 20% of all Civil War soldiers were under the age of 18. Most young boys lied about their age, but as the casualties mounted disreputable recruiters avoided any proof of age. Ironically, the boyish-looking men in the military encouraged young women disguised as men to also sign up as soldiers.

JOHNNY



A drummer boy named Johnny Clem picked up a rifle and shot a Confederate officer during the Battle of Chickamauga. He was awarded a silver medal and later promoted to sergeant. Johnny was 11 years old. In 1871, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served his country until 1915. He retired as a Brigadier General.

In the Battle of Antietam, bugler John Cook put down his bugle and manned an artillery piece. He received the Medal of Honor for his bravery. John was 15 years old. A young teenager, 14 year old drummer boy Orion Howe, was severely wounded during the Battle of Vicksburg while retrieving much-needed ammo. He was awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1865 President Lincoln

appointed Orion to the Naval Academy. Approximately 48 boys under the age of 18 received the Medal of Honor.



15 YEAR OLD JOHN COOK & 14 YEAR OLD ORION HOWE

During WWI boy soldiers from many countries joined the fight. A British soldier, 12 year old Sidney Lewis, fought in the Battle of the Somme. By the age of 13 he was manning machine guns. Sidney fought in the Battle of Deville Wood before his enraged mother sent his birth certificate to the War Office demanding her underage son be returned home. Still in his 13th year of life, Sidney when home a battle-hardened combat veteran. During

WWI, the child-soldier of The Great War served his country a second time, as a bomb disposal expert.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.,
and the following number quoted.

War Office,
London, S.W.

8928. A.G.2b.(S).

23rd August, 1916.

Madam,

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant relative to your son, No. 14645, Private S. G. Lewis, Machine Gun Corps, I am directed to inform you that telegraphic instructions have been issued ~~that he is~~ to be at once withdrawn from the firing line and sent home for discharge.

On his arrival in this country he will be discharged from the Army forthwith.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. Steeger Major

J.P. Director of Recruiting.

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In a corner of Poelcapelle Cemetery, Row F, Plot 56, is the most visited grave on the Western Front. Still too young to shave, at age 12 John Condon joined the British Army. Sent to the trench warfare in France, John was killed in the Second Battle of Ypres on May 24, 1915. He was the youngest British soldier killed in action during WWI. John was 14.

In America, a 14 year old kid named Michael Joseph Mansfield lied about his age and enlisted in the Navy during WWI. As a crewmember aboard the USS Minneapolis, he convoyed across the ocean several times before the Navy found out his real age. Discharged from the Navy, he joined the Army then later served with the Marines. After his military service, he would serve his country again in the political arena, as US Ambassador to Japan and a member of Congress. He is best remembered as Senator Mike Mansfield.

GEORGE LAWSON KEENE



The town of Crockett, TX has a bone to pick with Tennessee over which state had the most decorated veteran of WWI. Sergeant Alvin York of Pall Mall, TN, portrayed by actor Gary Cooper in the movie “Sergeant York”, was indeed a national hero. Albeit, George Lawson Keene has been recognized as the most decorated American soldier of WWI and his heroics match or exceed that of Sergeant York. George, however, did not resist serving as York did on religious grounds. George joined at the age of 14 and was in heavy action by age 16 with the 28th Infantry. He served for 26 months, fought in 5 major battles,

wounded 7 times, plus survived poison gassing in the Battle of Argonne Forest. Among his copious awards and decorations is the Medal of Honor.



12 YEAR OLD CALVIN LEON GRAHAM

America's first major offensive in the Pacific during WWII was an island called Guadalcanal, which in some obscure islander dialect must mean 'Malaria Guaranteed'. Naval battles raged for months as ground troops on both sides fought to the death holding island turf. On the night of November 14 & 15, 1942, the battleship USS South Dakota absorbed 42 hits from at least 3 enemy ships. A sailor on the South

Dakota, Calvin Leon Graham, was wounded while serving as a loader for a 40mm anti-aircraft gun. Ignoring fragmentation wounds, Calvin assisted in rescue efforts by aiding and pulling other wounded sailors to safety. He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for bravery and a Purple Heart for his own wounds.

When the South Dakota returned stateside for repairs, Calvin went AWOL and traveled to Texas to attend his grandmother's funeral. He ended up in the brig for 3 months. Only then did Calvin's mother reveal his true age plus his sister threatened to

contact the newspapers. To avoid negative publicity, the Navy released Seaman First Class Calvin Leon Graham from jail. He was 12 years old.

Calvin tried to rejoin his ship, but the US Navy had had enough. The Navy canned Calvin on April 1, 1943 with a dishonorable discharge and stripped the young man of all his medals.

Thirty five years later in 1978, President Jimmy Carter reversed Calvin's discharge to honorable plus reinstated all of his medals, except for the Purple Heart. Ten years later in 1988, President Ronald Reagan granted Calvin full disability benefits, increased his back pay to \$4,917 plus allowed \$18,000 for medical bills contingent on medical receipts, of which most were lost and the physicians who treated Calvin had all died. Calvin received a total of \$2,100. His story was made into a movie, "Too Young the Hero," with \$50,000 awarded for the rights. His two agents took 50%, the writer of an unpublished book received 20%, and Calvin and his wife ended up with \$15,000....before taxes.

His Purple Heart was at long last reinstated and presented to his wife, Mary, on June 21, 1994 by the Secretary of the Navy. Calvin had died from heart failure two years before his country returned all his honors.

Gilbert Zamora stood at 6'2", weighed 195 lbs., had celebrated his 13th birthday, and was in the eighth grade. At that size, the California Nat'l Guard believed his lie and allowed him to enlist

during the Korean War, making Gilbert the youngest soldier in the US Army since the Civil War. The unit was activated and Gilbert, now 14, was going to war in Korea. His parents pitched a hissy fit and wrote the Army to reveal their son's age. Gilbert received an honorary discharge; he had served in the Guard for 13 months. But that's not the end to his story.

At the age of 17, Gilbert re-enlisted. He ended up in Korea and fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the war: Pork Chop Hill, Old Baldy, and Alligator Jaws. He received his first Purple Heart in Korea. A second Purple Heart was awarded in Vietnam for wounds he received in the A Shau Valley. Gilbert Zamora served 35 years on active duty and retired in 1988 as a Master Sergeant.

A newspaper article circulating among the Marines in Vietnam stunned the Leathernecks. The article was front page news in The New York Times: "June 13, 1969 – Marine, 15, killed in Vietnam. Enlisted at 14, Lied About Age." This was not just another grunt, but a 15 year old teenager, 'in-country' for only one month.

Private First Class Dan Bullock did 'alter' his birth certificate to indicate he was born in 1949 instead of 1953. Native to North Carolina, at age 13 Dan and his sister moved to Brooklyn, NY to live with their father and stepmother. He was not fond of New

York. Desiring an education and opportunity to better himself, Dan chose the US Marines.

Fourteen year old Dan Bullock reported for duty on Sept 18, 1968. On May 8, 1969, 15 year old Dan Bullock put his boots on the ground in Vietnam. One month later, on June 7, 1969, Dan was cut down by small arms fire running ammo to his fellow Marines during a firefight at An Hoa Combat Base.



US MARINE DAN BULLOCK

The night before, Dan and another Marine named Piscitelli, had been scuffling for the hell of it. Piscitelli broke his thumb while sparring and could not handle his front-line post that evening. Dan took his place. At around 0200 the base was hit by rockets, mortars, and small arms fire. Marine Pfc Dan Bullock and two other Leathernecks perished.

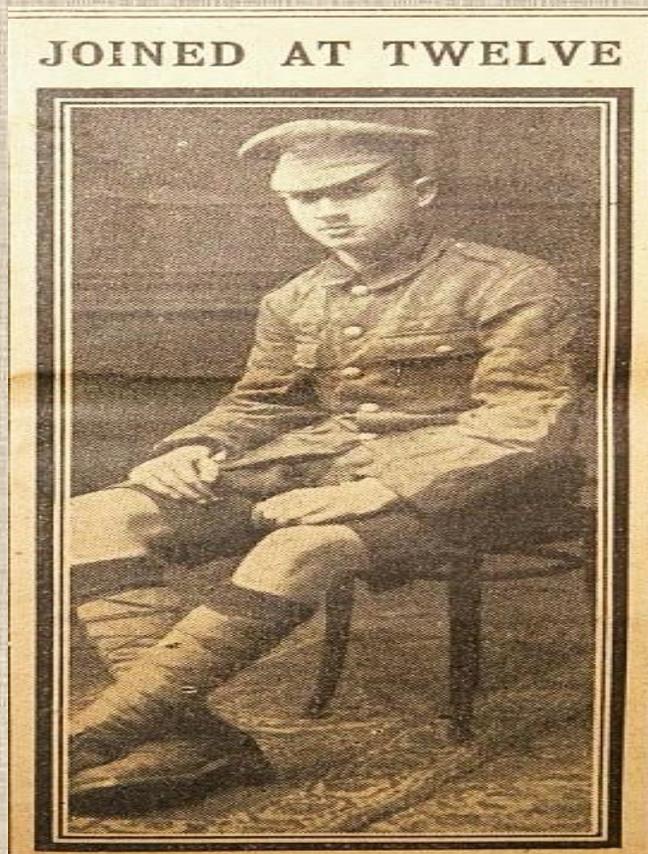
Just one more casualty among many others in Vietnam, maybe nothing more than a footnote in the long history of war, but the name etched on Panel 23W, Row 96 of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC represents the youngest American soldier to perish in Southeast Asia.

The United Nations considers the exploitation of children under the age of 15 in war a 'war crime.' For some mysterious reason

'volunteers' between the ages of 15 and 18 are acceptable for the meat grinder.

Over 50% of the kids in combat are in Africa, between 100,000 and 200,000 on the accurately named Dark Continent alone. In Myanmar (Burma) over 70,000 boys have been hijacked from city streets for the National Army and Bolivia recruits children as young as 14. Boys as young as 7 tote AK-47s in worldwide religious wars. Yemen is a cesspool for child warriors, as is ISIS and other batches of unmanly men sending boys into combat.

The Bible has it right: *SUFFER NOT THE LITTLE CHILDREN.*



SIDNEY LEWIS

***A 12 year old WWI
combat veteran.***

