

1 Agrees Rally Climaxes War Protest March ase-Fire By 150 Veterans at Valley Forge

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By WILLIAM K. MANDEL
Of The Bulletin Staff

Up on a sun-dappled ridge, beside the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge State Park, 150 khaki-clad members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War yesterday looked down the gentle slope of a green meadow to the goal of their 90-mile, four-day hike for peace.

In the bowl of the meadow about 1,500 persons waited quietly around that goal: an empty stage and a mute sound truck.

The marchers, who left Morristown, N.J., last Friday, were lined along the ridge. On the command of "move out," they advanced slowly toward the waiting group.

From the barren stage, made out of a flatbed truck-trailer, the marchers appeared as green dots, shaping into discernible figures as they drew closer.

Four-Hour Rally

Applause rippled through the crowd as the marchers' chants of "peace now!" became audible.

The 150 veterans and 1,500 sympathizers held a four-hour rally to climax the march, which organizers said was meant to "bring the reality of war home to the people."

The marchers entered the park at 11 A.M. yesterday, a half hour behind schedule. They were met there by the only heckler of the day — 10 members of the Douglas MacArthur Post 1507, Veterans of Foreign Wars in Broomall.

As the marchers filed past, the VFW members raised placards which said "Why Lose When You Can Win?" "Duty, Honor, Country," and "Only the Mentally Depraved Want Peace at Any Price."

Marchers Salute Flag

The VFW members held

American, VFW and Confederate flags. The marchers saluted the American flag as they passed the hecklers.

George F. Johnson, commander of the Broomall VFW post, said his group was there "to show there are still some people who believe the war can be won if the government wants to win it."

"I don't want to name any names," Johnson said, "but I believe the lack of support our troops in Vietnam are getting is part of a conspiracy to weaken the U.S. domestically and internationally."

No Guilt Feelings

Don Keefe, a 23-year-old student from Arlington, Va., and a veteran of Vietnam combat with the 101st Airborne Division, said the marchers didn't mind hecklers, "if that's their trip."

He added that being veterans, the protesters had no guilt about demonstrating against the war.

"It has more validity," he said, "We've been there and we know what it's like. We've got to get out. The killing has to stop."

Speakers at Rally

The rally featured speeches by U.S. Rep. Allard K. Loewenstein (D.-N.Y.), actress Jane Fonda, Massachusetts reform politician John Kerry, the Rev. James Bevell and actor Donald Sutherland, one of the stars of M-A-S-H.

Loewenstein attacked the 1967 elections which brought the present Thieu-Ky regime to power in South Vietnam.

Hits Elections

"How can we call those free elections," he asked, "when we know that before the contest all neutralist and Communist candidates were removed from the ticket, all neutralist and Communist voters were removed from the voting rolls

and then the Thieu-Ky ticket won with just 33 percent of the vote? We can't."

Jane Fonda

Actress Jane Fonda asked the crowd who "the real war criminals" are.

With the audience cheering each name, she mentioned Johnson, Nixon, Rusk, Laird, McNamara, Stennis, General Electric, Dow Chemical Co. and the American Legion.

"They should all be tried like Hitler, Goering and Himmler should have been tried," she said.

After Miss Fonda's speech, the same ten VFW members took up positions around a flag pole about 250 yards from the rally.

Although state police and 24 plainclothesmen were ready to deal with any incidents, none occurred as the VFW members stayed at their flag pole and the protesters stayed at their rally.

Veterans Smash Guns

About 3 P.M., the veterans stood and grasped the plastic toy rifles they had been issued Friday at the start of their march.

Each man was wearing regulation Army dog tag blanks, which had been stamped with the Y-shaped peace symbol.

With chants of "peace now!" the men, many with deep emotion showing in their faces, smashed the guns over their knees as the final act of their four-day testimony for peace.

The Even

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of the year with 114 more to follow.

PHILADELPHIA

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