

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I decided that I had been spending too much time just turning the pages, so I solved the problem by attaching my textbook to the wall."

Convicted spy will testify against his ex-Navy buddy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — John A. Walker takes the witness stand in federal court Monday to publicly describe for the first time his 17 years as a Soviet spy master, and to accuse ex-Navy buddy Jerry Whitworth of espionage.

The government, admitting Walker is a traitor, will ask jurors to believe his testimony and convict Whitworth as a spy. The defense will argue that Walker's accusations are self-serving lies.

For Whitworth, a retired Navy radioman who faces the prospect of life in prison if convicted, this is the first confrontation with Walker since both men were arrested nearly a year ago.

Whitworth, 46, who had a spotless service record, is accused of being the chief supplier of classified codes and communications data that Walker sold to the Soviets. The government alleges that he received

\$332,000 and has charged him with 13 counts of espionage and tax evasion, seven of which carry potential life sentences.

Whitworth says he is innocent and his lawyers say he is being offered as a sacrificial lamb by Walker, who won leniency for himself and his 23-year-old son, Michael, by agreeing to be the star witness against Whitworth.

The prosecution, while conceding Walker has a credibility problem, is relying on him to provide key evidence against Whitworth in the trial that began March 24.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William Farmer told jurors in his opening statement, "In this case, you're going to have to decide whether you're going to believe the testimony of John Walker... or whether you're going to reject it out of hand because he is a traitor."

'Veteran a victim of Vietnam'

LAKE WORTH, Fla. (AP) — David L. Funchess was a victim of Vietnam, just as surely as if he had died in a jungle firefight instead of Florida's electric chair, say fellow veterans and those who study the war's lingering psychic wounds.

Tuesday's execution of Funchess, 39, was the first of a veteran diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. It rekindled deep emotions among Vietnam veterans and debate about the 6-year-old stress disorder defense by veterans accused of crimes.

Ron Hanna, a 34-year-old Army veteran still trying to deal with the emotional damage from two years of combat 15 years ago, said, "They could have helped him; at least let him live in prison."

Peter Erlinder, a Minnesota law professor who has researched crimes by veterans afflicted with the stress disorder, said its symptoms weren't recognized by the American Psychiatric Association until 1980.

Funchess stabbed a man and woman to death in 1974 at a Jacksonville lounge where he had been fired. He was convicted in 1975. During a 1982 clemency hearing before Florida's governor and Cabinet, expert testimony stated that Funchess suffered from the newly recognized post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gov. Bob Graham refused to recommend mercy. Last week, he said he believed PTSD exists but it did not justify clemency for Funchess.

Testimony showed Funchess was a battered child from a poor Jacksonville family but had no history of violence. He enlisted in the Army in 1967 and was absent without authorization during training after his brother was murdered.

He stepped on a land mine in Vietnam 2½ months into his war tour and was discharged after going AWOL two other times. When he got home, Funchess became a heroin addict and bounced through several jobs before the murders.

William Weitz, an Army veteran and clinical psychologist who heads the Vet Center here, said PTSD doesn't excuse all crimes. Weitz, who has testified in numerous criminal cases, said a key factor should be the veteran's pre-Vietnam behavior.

Veteran pushes for Korean War memorial

BERWICK, Pa. (AP) — Three decades later, America still doesn't have a national monument honoring those who fought in Korea.

Tony Zdanavage, a 53-year-old retired insurance agent who won the Purple Heart in that war, wants to change that.

According to Zdanavage, "Korea is the forgotten war, and about 6 million of us who were sent to Korea are the forgotten warriors. I want to get the word out."

An Army medic who landed in Korea with the 2nd Division in 1950, Zdanavage today wages a single-handed mail campaign for a Korean War memorial that is quickly attracting nationwide attention.

Armed with broad sheets of postage stamps and thousands of "Forgotten War" bumper stickers he designed and pays for, Zdanavage began his campaign on

his kitchen table, and it "mushroomed" into a spare bedroom in his ranch-style home here.

It has produced requests for nearly 20,000 stickers he freely distributes across the country and overseas, along with a note encouraging a grass-roots letter-writing effort to Congress in support of a Korean monument.

He also wants those who write to drive with headlights on until national leaders make his hopes a reality.

Based on the number of veterans who served in Korea from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, Zdanavage figures it would cost the government about 69 cents to honor each one by erecting a \$3.5 million memorial.

That is the amount of taxes the government lost through the \$10 million in tax-deductible donations raised for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, he says.



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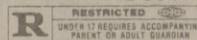


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