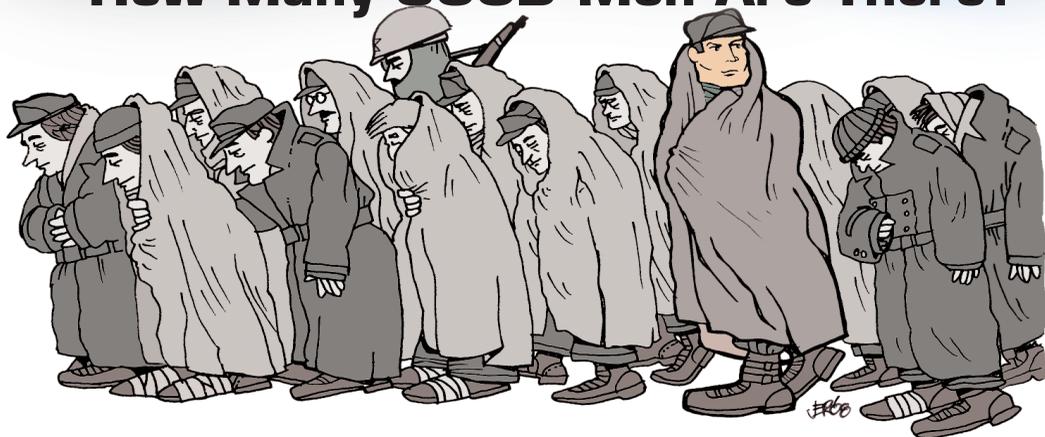


42 How Many GOOD Men Are There?



By Barrett Tillman

The late Jeff Cooper wrote widely and well during his half-century in print. But perhaps his most instructive tale was not about himself. In fact, it was not primarily about guns. It was about the will to survive. Unsurprisingly, the story was titled "Survivor." It appeared in two Cooper anthologies: *Another Country*, and *To Ride, Shoot Straight, and Speak the Truth*.

In the 1980s, enrolled in one of Jeff's European classes was a German identified as "Gerhardt." He had been a *Waffen SS* trooper captured by the Soviets at the end of WW II. One evening, discoursing upon philosophies, Gerhardt looked at Jeff and asked, "How

many good men are there in the world, per hundred?"

Jeff, seldom optimistic about human nature, replied, "Maybe one."

"Wrong!" Gerhardt replied. Then he proceeded to make his point.

In 1945 Gerhardt had found himself with 30,000 other *Soldaten* held in a frigid labor camp in northwestern Russia. It was plain that the Germans were there to be exploited: worked and/or starved to death.

Faced with the near certainty of extinction, the Germans took stock. As experienced warriors, they recognized their keepers as low-quality troops: gatekeepers rather than true soldiers. Gerhardt and a

FOUR MASSACRES: COLUMBINE, 9-11

By Barrett Tillman

The Columbine massacre. The Virginia Tech massacre. The Mumbai massacre. The 9-11-01 attacks. A high school; a college; a major city; four airliners.

Students, teachers, and campus "security" were unable to prevent the first two. A huge city's police were largely ineffective in the third, and an entire nation's transportation and air defense systems totally failed in the fourth.

What's the lesson? It's painfully obvious: *you* are responsible for defending yourself. But governments generally object to citizens' self defense. Consider the following:

Murder-Enabling Zones

At Colorado's Columbine High School in 1999, two boys, feeling put upon, murdered a dozen schoolmates and a teacher. Responding police were ineffective or too late to stop the 22-minute spree, instead surrounding the place and pointing guns at the building even as the teenage-mutant-ninja-wannabes killed themselves.

In 2007 a suicidal student used two pistols to kill 32 people at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the largest mass murder in U.S. history. It occurred just months after the state declined to permit guns on campus. A school spokesman named Larry Hincker had declared the action "will help parents, students, faculty and visitors feel safe on our campus." The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police shared that huggy-feely view.

"*Feel safe on campus.*" The liberal philosophy in a nutshell: social engineers prefer *feeling* safe to citizens being armed.

Then in November 2008, 10 Muslim extremists attacked the huge city of Mumbai, India (population 13.6 million with 40,000 police). The attackers prevailed for nearly three days, murdering 164 people. Eventually nine of the terrorists were killed; one captured.

How was that possible?

The population was unarmed, and reportedly some police declined to shoot at the killers. Columnist Shikha Dalmia told of an incredibly brave hotel employee who positioned himself to absorb bullets meant for tourists. Dalmia asked, "If the hotel staff could take bullets, why couldn't they return them?"

The reason is disgusting. Even pacifist Mahatma Gandhi stated that Britain's disarming the crown colony represented "the blackest" of all misdeeds. However, having achieved independence, the Indian government then adopted similarly onerous laws, making firearms ownership all but impossible.

The vastly different circumstances in the three massacres had one thing in common: the victims were unarmed and the local uniforms proved irrelevant.

Guns on Campus

The practical problem with guns in colleges has to do with booze. In fact, it has a lot to do with booze.

Forget local laws and university rules. Anyone who's passed within sniffing distance of a frat house knows that students consume controlled substances. That includes a permissive environment tolerating underage kids having "a few beers" or "a little pot." Occasionally a well-publicized date rape or a death from alcohol poi-