

Timeline of Selective Service draft raids – partial listing

If links don't work, then google.

The following relies heavily on <http://www.hippy.com/article-79.html> Though it does not contain much info about draft raids, see *Who Spoke Up? American Protest Against the War in Vietnam 1963-1975* by Nancy Zaroulis and Gerald Sullivan (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1984).

This incomplete listing of draft board and Dow Chemical Company raids shows that they became much more frequent as the Vietnam war dragged on. (The Dow raids were of the same genre and often were conducted by the same people.)

Why draft raids? Why "1-A" files? When classified "1-A" you were on your way to Vietnam. In a paper based age, there were no back-up copies to these files. If you destroyed a 1-A file, more than likely that person never got drafted. A young man would have to intentionally decide to re-register.

~ 1966-1967

There was a kind of freak raid on a Minnesota draft board in 1966, but the one that is generally credited or blamed with starting the movement was the four-person raid at the **Baltimore Customs House** October 27, 1967. Fathers Dan and Phil Berrigan was among the raiders who poured blood on the draft records.

The federal charges were destroying government property and interfering with the Selective Service system's operation. These charges became fairly standard wherever federal prosecution of draft board raids were undertaken.

~ 1968

The next step was the May 17, 1968 raid by the **Catonsville 9**. Catonsville is a Baltimore suburb. This precipitated not only federal but also Maryland state charges, including arson. Most of the state charges eventually were dropped.

<http://c9.mdch.org/>

Next came the September 14, 1968 raid by the **Milwaukee 14**. In this case, two of the raiders pleaded guilty to federal charges but eventually federal charges against all other defendants were dropped because it proved impossible to get an impartial jury.

<http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/nhd2005/htm/milw14pam.htm>
http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term_id=1_0532&letter=M

~ **1969**: The pace was stepped up.

March 22 the **D.C. 9** invaded Dow Chemical's Washington office. They were charged with three federal felony counts of burglary and two counts of property destruction. They came to trial February 3 in a federal court in the District of Columbia.

May 20, the **Pasadena 3** invaded an induction center in that Los Angeles suburb. They took 600 I-A files and burned them in a field. They got three years in federal prison.

May 21, the **Silver Spring 3** invaded a draft board in that Maryland suburb of Washington. They threw paint on the files and destroyed equipment. Two of the three pleaded nolo contendere. One who'd broken bond was sent to jail while a second was sent to a federal youth center at Morgantown, W.Va. The third raider, a 17-year-old, got three years' probation.

May 25, the **Chicago 15** invaded a South Side Chicago draft board. They took files down a fire escape and burned them. Their federal trial began at the end of January 1969. The state did not press charges.

July 4, the **New York 5**, led by Maggie Geddes, invaded a Rockefeller Center draft board and shredded 6,500 I-A files, damaged I-A keys on typewriters and destroyed cross-reference books. Miss Geddes was not arrested but the other four were. The federal case against them was dismissed.

August 2, in the Bronx and Jamaica, Long Island, the **New York 8** invaded draft boards and damaged records. Later in the month they surfaced and accepted responsibility for the acts.

In mid-October the **Cleveland 2** set fire to draft board records in Akron and later surfaced in a Cleveland cathedra. They claimed responsibility for the act.

On October 31, the **Beaver 55** - who were not 55 but only eight and were named whimsically by Tom Trost, one of the group - shredded records of 44 Indianapolis draft boards.

November 7, the Washington Dow Chemical offices were hit again. Files were strewn and ink and chemicals splashed around. A short statement left in the office said it was wrong to "put profit before people." They proclaimed support for the Beaver 55, the D.C. 9 and the Cleveland 2. They signed, **D.C. 541/2**. The person who carried this out surfaced the next day. He was one of the Cleveland 2 who raided the Akron draft board.

November 7, the **Boston 8** entered four Boston locations housing eight draft boards and shredded files. The Boston 8 surfaced the morning and afternoon of November 15 in Washington and distributed Boston draft files around the mall and the reflecting pool between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

November 7, the *Beaver 55* invaded Dow. Chemical's data center in Midland, Michigan, and erased magnetic tapes that were filled with biological and chemical research. They surfaced at a November 16 Washington press conference. Five of the Beavers were arrested in Midland and held on \$20,000 bond apiece under state charges.

November 11, the Silver Spring draft board was revisited by the youngest of the original *Silver Spring 3*, plus the *Cleveland 2* who had worked over the Akron draft board. They took out the files and left them on a railroad track. They were spotted and held on a federal charge and their bond was \$10,000 apiece.

~ 1970

February 28, the *Beaver 55* destroyed over 45 draft board in Saint Paul and a like number in Minneapolis. Being a rural state, most of the rural draft boards were administratively centralized. This group had no direct connection with the previous *Beaver 55* group.

We took the name to fool the feds into thinking we were connected. We placed over twenty people in a top floor of the Post Offices in both cities. We waited almost six hours. Just after midnight, the groups went to work for another six hours destroying files. Ripping. Spray painting. Several alleged Weathermen destroyed the "1" and "A" keys. No one was ever arrested. Later, Brad Beneke, Chuck Turchick, Joan Francis and Nancy Saunders surfaced at the U of Minnesota's Coffman Hall. They stated that they accepted "political and moral responsibility" for the raids. They did not say that they did the action. Later, Frank Kroncke joined them as they began their public speaking rounds.

It is estimated that ten thousand files were destroyed. The head of the MN Selective Service System said that he was shut down for more than six months.

This was the **first time a State Director's office was burgled**. Hundreds of blank draft cards and official stamps were taken to Toronto, Canada. Based upon the personal experience of Frank Kroncke, it is known that these were used by exiled draft resisters to return to the US. It gave them an official draft card. These were stamped with various deferments or the code that said that the bearer had fulfilled his military obligation.

July 10, the *Minnesota 8* walked into FBI ambushes in Little Falls, Alexandria and Winona, MN. One other board was raided, and no one caught. Another was cancelled, as the raiders saw that an alarm system had been installed. They called themselves the "Minnesota Conspiracy to Save Lives" in honor of the "East Coast Conspiracy to Save Lives". Again, to fool the feds into thinking there was a linkage. www.minnesota8.net

The *Minnesota 8* were indicted on "sabotage of the national defense." They were given \$50,000.00 bail apiece. They faced 10 years in prison. The high bail caused them to spend a week in Hennepin County jail. During this time there were large daily rallies at the jailhouse. One defendant was described by the DA as "part of an international Catholic Conspiracy led by the Berrigan Fathers and funded by {Fidel} Castro."

It was to the advantage of the *Minnesota 8* to go to trial on sabotage. It would be hard to define and prove. The DA lowered the bail to \$10,000.00 apiece, and charged us with “interfering with the Selective Service System by force, violence or otherwise.” This was a fairly standard indictment. Eventually, we received five year maximum sentences. We are considered violent felons (delicious iron, there). Due to a curious set of events, two served 14 months, five others 20 months in federal prison. Most were at Sandstone FCI in Minnesota, then a medium security prison. One raider pled guilty and received five years probation.

~ 1971

August 22, the *Camden 28*. <http://www.camden28.org/> Wild story.