

[Click here to print](#)

MailOnline

Gays in the military 'led to Srebrenica massacre' claims U.S. General

By [Mail Foreign Service](#)

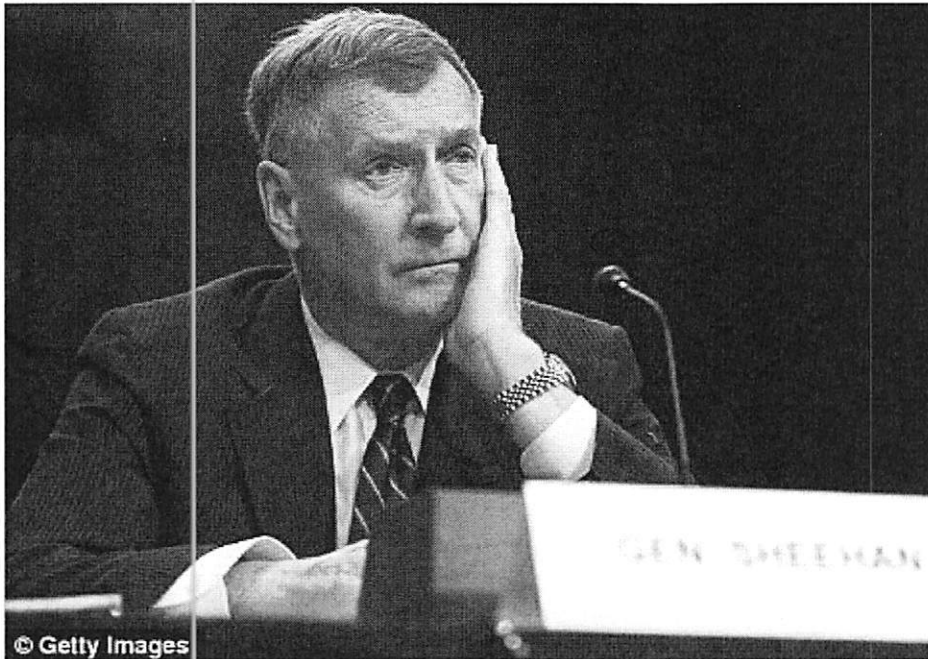
Last updated at 9 45 PM on 19th March 2010

Gay soldiers were to blame for Dutch troops being overrun during the Srebrenica massacre, a retired general has claimed.

John Sheehan said allowing homosexuals to serve had led to a collapse in morale.

The massacre in the Bosnian war was one of the worst in Europe since the Second World War. Some 8,000 Muslims were killed after Bosnian Serb forces overwhelmed the Dutch in a UN 'safe area' in 1995.

Mr Sheehan, a former U.S. and Nato general, blamed European nations' efforts to 'socialise' their forces by, among other things, letting gay people join.



Gen. John Sheehan at yesterday's Senate Armed Services Committee meeting in Washington. The hearing was to examine the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy in the U.S. armed forces



Foreign dignitaries visit recently discovered mass grave near Potocari, outside Srebrenica on the 10th anniversary of Srebrenica massacre in 2005. Nearly 8,000 Muslim men and boys were slaughtered in the killing

'Safe haven' massacre: What happened at Srebrenica?

In 1995 the Bosnian town of Srebrenica was a UN safe haven under the protection of Dutch peacekeepers.

That year, tens of thousands of civilians had taken refuge there, seeking shelter from the destruction of the Bosnian-Serbian war.

By July of 1995 the town was under siege, with 600 lightly-armed Dutch peacekeepers facing off against the Serbian forces. Food was running out.

As pleas to Nato for help failed, Serbian forces overran the town.

Up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys are believed to have been killed in the five days of the fall of Srebrenica.

'That led to a force that was ill-equipped to go to war,' he told a Senate armed services committee in Washington.

'The case in point that I'm referring to is when the Dutch were required to defend Srebrenica against the Serbs.

'The battalion was understrength, poorly led, and the Serbs came into town, handcuffed the soldiers to the telephone poles, marched the Muslims off, and executed them.'

Carl Levin, chairman of the committee, then asked: 'Did the Dutch leaders tell you it was because there were gay soldiers there?'

Mr Sheehan replied: 'Yes, they did. They included that as part of the problem. That the combination was the liberalisation of the military, a net effect was basically social engineering.'

Mr Sheehan was speaking in opposition to a proposal to allow gay people to serve openly in the U.S. military.

Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende immediately hit out the claims, saying they were 'irresponsible' and 'should never have been made'.

A Dutch defence ministry spokesman added: 'For us it is unbelievable that a man of this rank is stating this nonsense.'

And committee chairman Mr Levin said the connection was 'totally off target'.

Comments (83)

- [Newest](#)
- [Oldest](#)
- [Best rated](#)
- [Worst rated](#)

[View all](#)

Being homosexual didn't excuse British men from serving in the two world wars or in carrying out National Service, so there were plenty of gays fighting for this country when we won two world wars.

It may not have been talked about, but there were gays in the Falklands and we didn't lose the war.

Anyone who's served in the British Army has known gay soldiers, but it's never stopped the army doing a good job, and it hasn't suddenly stopped it doing a good job now that gays can be open in the British Army.

- Veteran, W Mid, 19/3/2010 17:50

[Click to rate](#) __ Rating 34

[Report abuse](#)

It has nothing to do, its natural cowardness of the dutch that caused this tragedy.
Things like courage, bravery and duty are not being appreciated in the dutch society and military.

The peace corps guys were drinking beer while observing serbs killing innocent people. There are plenty of videos of this online...

For instance, French had lost 80 of their own personnel protecting civilians in this conflict.

Nobody from that pathetic dutch regiment has been prosecuted for the negligence, nobody.

- sven, rotterdam, the netherlands, 19/3/2010 17:43

[Click to rate](#) __ Rating 21

[Report abuse](#)

What a wholly disgraceful accusation to make..the dutch army may not be the best in the world...but they were under armed, poorly lead and over run...but they are not cowardly...

To make the accusation he does...say more about him than the dutch soldiers he accuses...

The dutch soldiers had a bout the same chance of success as the north american indians had in the mass genocide...lead by the american military...or had he forgotten that...TYPICAL...

The man is a disgrace...a bigot of the finest order...

- ADRIAN, DALBEATTIE, 19/3/2010 17:28

[Click to rate](#) __ Rating 10

[Report abuse](#)

Why are gay people blamed for everything that's wrong in this world? As one myself, I'd like to point out - none of us choose to be this way, it's certainly not a pleasure to have to endure endless prejudice, discrimination, hatred simply because of who we fall in love with? Comments such as this absolutely disgust me. Just because we happen to be drawn to people with the same anatomy as ourselves does not reflect upon our capabilities to uphold human morality and fight for a just cause. A gay person is just as capable as a straight person to defend their country. Perhaps the message here is - stand side by side and fight, not have the bigots talk out of their backsides and use gay people as a scapegoat for their own personal feelings. And more often than not, it's the people with issues over their own sexuality that are the most vehement to those of us who are comfortable with who and what we are. And tend to use the Bible as an excuse too.

- Steven, Brighton, UK, 19/3/2010 17:26

Click to rate __ Rating 14

[Report abuse](#)

Why do people keep saying the Spartans were all homosexual? They weren't. The adult soldiers institutionalised sexual assault on their teenage boys as a kind of "rite of passage". This may well have had the effect of producing angry aggressive fighters but it had nothing to do with innate homosexuality.

- anon, uk, 19/3/2010 17:22

Click to rate __ Rating 6

[Report abuse](#)

Could one assume that the general was never 'asked', therefore never 'told'? Just a thought.

- MM, Charles Town, Cherokee, 19/3/2010 17:16

Click to rate __ Rating 5

[Report abuse](#)

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

- [Today's headlines](#)
- [Most Read](#)

- [On the way out, still on the take: Four top Labour MPs trapped in TV sting](#)
- [Google forced to remove pictures of secret military bases from Street View](#)
- [Kidnappers told family of five-year-old Sahil Saeed: 'Do as we say or we will send you part of his body in a bin bag'](#)
- [BA reinstates dozens of flights as airline and union clash over impact of strike action](#)
- [Dozens arrested as English Defence League and anti-fascists clash in violent street protests](#)
- [Darling set to announce new tax on banks... but Tories will get even tougher](#)
- [Paint Potty! Council zealots close down under-fives' art club because children are 'too middle-class'](#)
- [Wife's anguish over British banker held in Qatar for a year](#)
- [Chauffeur quits in row over lost wallet with the Minister dubbed Baldemort](#)
- [Killer meow meow drugs to be banned by end of this year](#)
- [Fury at BBC's 13-hour Saturday sportathon: Bar Lottery and the news, nothing on except rugby and football](#)
- [I am truly sorry: Pope Benedict apologises for decades of child abuse in Irish Catholic Church](#)
- [Boss of Korean firm that gave Tony Blair secret cash was jailed for bribery](#)
- [Daylight coppery as thieves tear up manhole covers and steal £70,000 of phone cable](#)
- [Snuffling in the sun, two tiny signs that spring has sprung \(and we're in for a good week of weather\)](#)
- [Top honour for hero who defied his wounds to blitz Taliban](#)
- [Rise in marriages between cousins 'putting children at risk of birth defects', warns Baroness](#)
- [Our little Sam would be alive today if only his teacher had dialled 999, say parents of asthma boy](#)
- [Revealed: The suicide voyeur nurse who 'encouraged people to kill themselves online'](#)
- [Tony Blair's 'favourite broadcaster' Gloria De Piero selected for safe Labour seat](#)
- [My Tenko Quilt: The 78-year-old reunited with the quilt she made secretly in Japanese camp](#)
- [Diners' fury at Heston Blumenthal's £200k food bug payout](#)
- [BBC under fire for putting Weakest link Anne Robinson in £1,500-a-night Glasgow hotel](#)
- [A webpage for every citizen as Labour plans paperless society](#)
- [Harry Potter lends his magic to Lib Dem's campaign](#)
- [How I blew up the duck house: Heather Brooke on lighting the fuse on the biggest political scandal of our time](#)
- [MORE HEADLINES](#)

- [On the way out, still on the take: Four top Labour MPs trapped in TV sting](#)
- [Chauffeur quits in row over lost wallet with the Minister dubbed Baldemort](#)
- [Fury at BBC's 13-hour Saturday sportathon: Bar Lottery and the news, nothing on except rugby and football](#)
- [Kidnappers told family of five-year-old Sahil Saeed: 'Do as we say or we will send you part of his body in a bin bag'](#)
- ['Green' BA flying empty 'ghost planes' across the Atlantic](#)
- [Paint Potty! Council zealots close down under-fives' art club because children are 'too middle-class'](#)
- [Google forced to remove pictures of secret military bases from Street View](#)
- [BA reinstates dozens of flights as airline and union clash over impact of strike action](#)
- [Dozens arrested as English Defence League and anti-fascists clash in violent street protests](#)
- ['Hogwarts Castle' burns in Potter film set drama](#)

- Paul Burrell slinks back to Britain: After being shunned in U.S. Diana's former butler is living alone above his flower shop
- Boss of Korean firm that gave Tony Blair secret cash was jailed for bribery
- As he gets set to return to our TV screens, Colin Brazier asks: 'Did the Iraq war give me cancer?'
- Victoria & Abdul: The 24-year-old Indian servant the widowed Queen called 'dearest Munshi' and the scandal that drove him out of Britain
- Texting teenager faces surgery on both wrists after sending 100 messages a DAY
- Rise in marriages between cousins 'putting children at risk of birth defects', warns Baroness
- Fury as Google puts the SAS's secret base on Street View in 'very serious security breach'
- Revealed: The suicide voyeur nurse who 'encouraged people to kill themselves online while he watched'
- Fury as 'racist' Scottish university excludes South of England students
- Harry Potter lends his magic to Lib Dem's campaign
- Residents are left powerless to remove illegal immigrants squatting in their back gardens
- A webpage for every citizen as Labour plans paperless society
- Farmer zapped with 50,000 volt power cable saved by his wellies
- I am truly sorry: Pope Benedict apologises for decades of child abuse in Irish Catholic Church
- MOST READ IN DETAIL