

## Military Resistance 11G5

JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH  
DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD EVER USE IT.



**An Uphill Climb:  
Afghan Forces “Beset By A Lack  
Of Working Equipment And Big  
Gaps In Military Readiness”  
“See All Those Humvees? Broken.  
Broken. Broken.... All Broken”  
“A Province Where Taliban Fighters  
Dominate The Countryside Outside  
Maidan Shahr, The Provincial Capital”**

**The Afghans' Ford Ranger pickups, the backbone of Afghan military mobility, were in only slightly better shape. Forty percent were out of service, awaiting parts and trained mechanics.**

July 10, 2013 By David Zucchino, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

MAIDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan —

Congress has appropriated \$51 billion to build and sustain the Afghan army, but Lt. Col. Kohadamani Hamidullah can't get his Humvees repaired.

“See all those Humvees?” he said inside his military base here in east-central Afghanistan, pointing to a ragged line of dusty Humvees. “Broken. Broken. Broken.... All broken.”

The United States has supplied 46 Humvees for Hamidullah's battalion here in the rugged, snowcapped peaks of Wardak province in the last couple of years. Only 16 are still running.

A shortage of spare parts, plus a lack of trained mechanics, is among Hamidullah's headaches as he struggles to wean his troops from dependence on the U.S. military.

Hamidullah, 38, already plans 90% of his unit's operations against the Taliban in the villages and farm fields of this strategic province on Kabul's southwestern shoulder.

But U.S. Army Lt. Col. Curby Scarborough, a tall, rangy artillery officer, continues to huddle with Hamidullah almost daily.

He and other U.S. advisors mentor Hamidullah's several hundred troops in a province where Taliban fighters dominate the countryside outside Maidan Shahr, the provincial capital.

Scarborough is trying, inch by inch, to end Hamidullah's dependence — to become what he calls a “shadow advisor.”

But right now, he says, the Afghan army has holes that desperately need filling.

“They struggle with logistics and enablers,” Scarborough said, referring to evacuating and treating the wounded, obtaining supplies and ammunition, and maintaining and repairing equipment.

“So they are at times more dependent on us than we'd like.”

Hamidullah says his forces could fight the Taliban on their own if only the U.S. would provide him with enough tools.

**Wolfing down breakfast one morning, he barked out his requirements in rudimentary English: “I need armored Humvees, route-clearance package, motor pool, repair shop, good mechanics, air support, medevac, artillery ... “**

**He paused to swallow, then added that the quality of Afghan military uniforms remains poor. So too the army's logistical system, beset by incompetence and theft.**

At the ramshackle Afghan base, a former U.S. special forces compound made of concrete, plywood and prefab structures, Scarborough and Hamidullah commiserated about the broken-down Humvees.

**The Afghans' Ford Ranger pickups, the backbone of Afghan military mobility, were in only slightly better shape.**

**Forty percent were out of service, awaiting parts and trained mechanics.**

The Afghans' reliance on American backup forces is another issue.

Asked why Hamidullah had requested U.S. help on some occasions rather than send his own quick-reaction force, Scarborough paused and said, "Good question."

He thought for a moment, then said: "It's not a matter of their capability. It's showing we're here in support of them.... He's going to call whoever he knows will come in heavy and help him."

**Hamidullah has a wife, a son and two daughters in nearby Kabul. He has brothers in Canada and cousins in San Francisco. He said he wants to help build a stable, secure Afghanistan for his wife and children.**

"For now, I am staying in Afghanistan," the colonel said. "But later, if the situation in Afghanistan is bad for me and my family, maybe I'll go to Canada too."

## **TROOPS INVITED:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Female Soldier From South Carolina Killed In Afghanistan**



Ember Marie Alt. (Source: US Army)

Jun 20, 2013 By WBTW News Staff

COLUMBIA, S.C. -

The Pentagon says a female Army soldier from South Carolina is one of four soldiers killed near Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Officials said Thursday that 21-year-old Spc. Ember Alt of Beech Island was among the soldiers who died Tuesday from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with indirect fire.

Alt's death comes nearly a year to the day that 3 SC National Guardsmen were killed by a suicide bomber in the country. Those men were killed on June 20 and were from the Upstate and the Columbia area.

Alt was originally from Texas and enlisted in the Army in the spring of 2011.

Since Tuesday, there have been hundreds of messages on social media about Alt and how she affected others.

"She's always had my back from the day I was born. She's my HERO, my everything my backbone and I know I need to keep pushing and keep my head up," wrote Kayla Alt-Landrum, who was Alt's sister.

"Words can't explain how much u mean to me. you made me who I am today you're the reason I strive every day. You were there when no one else was, sissy you're my world."

Doni Parker-Dunn, Alt's grandmother was very saddened by the loss.

"This pain is deep, not only have I lost an adopted daughter, I'm watching my daughter and friend (Ember's mom) go thru the pain of losing her best friend and daughter!" Parker-Dunn wrote on Facebook.

“And I can't do anything to ease their pain but pray!! Please keep us and her family lifted in prayer during this hard and difficult time.”

Alt died along with 21-year-old Spec. Robert Ellis, of Kennewick, Wash., and 30-year-old Spc. William Moody of Burlason, Texas. The three were with the 4th Infantry Division of Fort Carson, Colo.

The fourth soldier killed was identified as 25-year-old Sgt. Justin Johnson, of Hobe Sound, Fla. He was assigned to the 7th Sustainment Brigade of Fort Eustis, Va

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

## **Helicopter Makes ‘Hard Landing’ In Afghanistan**

July 12, 2013 The Hindu

A U.S. helicopters made a “hard landing” in northern Afghanistan but that there were no injuries.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed militants had fired on an American Chinook transport helicopter in Baghlan province on Thursday night.

But coalition spokesman Capt. Luca Carniel said on Friday that there was no report of insurgent activity in the area at the time of the incident.

Afghan provincial police chief Assadullah Shirzad says the helicopter made an emergency landing but then flew back to its base on its own.

Mr. Carniel says the coalition is investigating the incident to determine the cause of the “hard landing” a term that can mean anything from a crash to an emergency landing.

He says the “aircraft has been recovered.”

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## **Resistance Action**

July 11, 2013 (AP)

Officials say a twin bombing in southern Afghanistan has killed five people, three civilians whose car struck a roadside bomb and two police officers who had rushed to the scene to help the victims when the second bomb went off.

A provincial government spokesman, Ummar Zawaq, says the attack occurred on Thursday morning in Helmand province.

Zawaq says the officers who died were members of the elite Afghan National Civil Order Police — the so-called ANCOPs who get special training from NATO forces.

The spokesman says a third officer was wounded in the blast.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**A revolution is always distinguished by impoliteness, probably because the ruling classes did not take the trouble in good season to teach the people fine manners.  
-- Leon Trotsky, History Of The Russian Revolution**

## **\$ Doughboys \$**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: July 11, 2013  
Subject: \$ Doughboys \$

**\$ Doughboys \$**

**Killed by the tens of thousands,  
so the corporate rich could make  
a killing.**

**It's about the dough, boys.**

**It's always about the goddamn dough.**

**Such is the nature of war whores,  
who sell a bill of lies to the masses,  
who were never there to breathe the gases,  
and see the corpses of the poor and  
working classes.**

**In 1932, thirteen years after World War I,  
the " Bonus Army " was burned down  
and routed in Washington, D.C.**

**by some West Point asses.**

**Nothing has changed,  
as Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will once  
again be betrayed by the same upper classes,  
who trashed the Vietnam generation for the  
same blood money that is made from wars  
of profit in the land of the so called free and the  
home of the so called brave.**

**Got to remember that only a select few deserve  
being called brave, as the majority of the folks  
stayed home and behaved, and pretended we  
were fighting for democracy.**

**Never realizing that lying is the most powerful  
weapon in war.**

**Never forget that W A R stands for:**

**WEALTHY ARE RICHER,**

**who never send their own kids to war.**

**Duped by the oldest Con game in the business,  
as war profiteering by your own government  
is the madness of fiscal fitness.**

**It's all about the dough,  
and the doughboys who were slaughtered  
by Big Business.**

**Waving the flag for the wealth of war.**

**And the rockets red glare,  
the bombs bursting in air,  
gave proof through the night  
that our profiteering was still there.**

**Mike Hastie**

**Army Medic Vietnam**

**July 4, 2013**

**If the thing they were fighting for was important enough to die for  
then it was also important enough for them to be thinking about  
it in the last minutes of their lives. That stood to reason. Life is  
awfully important so if you've given it away you'd ought to think  
with all your mind in the last moments of your life about the thing  
you traded it for. So did all those kids die thinking of democracy and**



freedom and liberty and honor and the safety of the home and the stars  
and stripes forever? Your goddamn right they didn't.

Dalton Trumbo

Johnny Got His Gun

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam  
1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:  
[hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head.  
The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a  
so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen  
of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie

U.S. Army Medic

Vietnam 1970-71

December 13, 2004

**“The Capitalist Production  
Process Is Therefore A Process  
Which Absorbs Unpaid Labour,  
Which Makes Of The Means Of  
Production Means For The  
Absorption Of Unpaid Labour”**

**“The Necessary Labour Time  
Materialised In A Pair Of Trousers  
Is Equal Let Us Say To Twelve  
Hours, While The Wage Received  
By The Journeyman Is Equal To  
Six Hours”**

# **“The Service Which The Journeyman Employed By A Master Tailor Provides For This Capitalist Does Not Consist In The Transformation Of Cloth Into Trousers”**

## **“The Service With Which He Provides The Capitalist Consists Therefore In The Fact That He Works Six Hours For Nothing”**

From Karl Marx, *Theories Of Surplus Value*; International Publishers; New York, 1952

In order that it may produce a commodity, labour must be useful labour; it must produce a use value, be manifested in a use value.

And consequently only labour which manifests itself in commodities, that is, in use values, is labour with which capital is exchanged.

This is a self-evident premise. But it is not this concrete character of labour, its use value as such — that it is for example the labour of a blacksmith or a cobbler, spinning weaving, etc. — that constitutes its specific use value for capital and hence stamps it as productive labour in the system of capitalist production.

What constitutes its specific use value for capital is not its definite useful character, any more than it is the particular useful properties of the product in which it is materialised; but its character as the creative element of exchange value, that it is abstract labour; and not indeed that it represents simply a definite quantity of this general labour, but a greater quantity than is contained in its price, that is, in the value of the labour power.

**The capitalist production process is therefore also not merely the production of commodities. It is a process which absorbs unpaid labour, which makes of the means of production means for the absorption of unpaid labour.**

It follows from what has been said that the designation of labour as productive has absolutely nothing to do with the definite content of the labour, with its special usefulness, or with the particular use value in which it manifests itself.

**The same kind of labour maybe productive or unproductive.**

**For example, Milton, who wrote *Paradise Lost*, was an unproductive worker.**

**On the other hand, the writer who turns out factory-made stuff for his publisher is a productive worker.**

**Milton produced *Paradise Lost* for the same reason that a silk worm produces silk. It was an activity of his nature.**

**Later he sold the product for £5.**

**But the literary proletarian of Leipzig who fabricates books (for example, *Compendia of Economics*) under the direction of his publisher is a productive worker, for his production is subordinated to capital in advance and takes place only because it increases that capital.**

**A singer who sells her song on her own is an unproductive worker. But the same singer, commissioned by an *entrepreneur* to sing in order to make money for him, is a productive worker.**

**For she produces capital.**

Here there are various questions to be settled.

Whether I buy a pair of trousers or whether I buy the cloth and get a journeyman tailor to come to my house to make up this cloth into trousers for me, and pay him for his *service* (that is, his tailoring labour), is a matter of absolute indifference to me, in so far as what I am interested in is the pair of trousers.

If I buy the trousers from the capitalist tailor ("merchant tailor") instead of taking the latter course, I do that because the latter course is more expensive; and the trousers cost less labour, and are cheaper in consequence, if the capitalist tailor produces them than if I have them produced in the latter way.

**But in both cases I transform the money with which I buy the trousers not into capital but into trousers; and in both cases what I am doing is using the money as mere means of circulation, that is to say, transforming it into this particular use value.**

Here therefore the money is not functioning as capital, although in one case it is exchanged for a commodity, and in the other it buys labour itself as a commodity.

It functions only as money, and more precisely, as means of circulation.

On the other hand the journeyman tailor (who works for me at home) is not a productive worker, although his labour provides me with the product, the trousers, and him with the price of his labour, the money.

It is possible that the quantity of labour which the journeyman performs is greater than that contained in the price he receives from me. And this is even probable, since the price of his labour is determined by the price which the productive tailors receive.

But it is a matter of absolute indifference to me.

Whether, once the price is fixed, he works eight or ten hours, is of no interest at all to me.

What I am concerned with is the *use value*, the trousers; and naturally, whatever way I buy them, I am interested in paying as little as possible for them — but in one case neither more nor less than in the other — or in paying for them only their normal price.

This is an outlay for my consumption; there is no increase, but a diminution of my money.

**It is absolutely not a means to enrichment, any more that any other kind of outlay for my personal consumption is a means to enrichment.**

**A disciple of Paul de Kock may tell me that without buying the trousers, as without buying bread, I cannot live and therefore also cannot enrich myself; that the trousers are therefore an indirect means or at least a condition for my enrichment.**

**In the same way the circulation of my blood and my breathing would be conditions for my enrichment.**

**But neither the circulation of my blood nor my breathing, in and by themselves, make me any the richer; on the contrary, both of them presuppose a costly assimilation of food, without which no poor devil could exist.**

**Consequently, the mere direct exchange of money for labour does not transform the money into capital and the labour into productive labour.**

What is it then that gives this exchange its special character?

Wherein is it different from the exchange of money for productive labour?

On the one hand, in that the money is spent as money, as the independent form of exchange value, which is to be transformed into a use value, a means of subsistence, an object of personal consumption.

The money therefore does not become capital, but on the contrary, it loses its existence as exchange value in order to be dissipated and consumed as use value.

On the other hand, the labour interests me only as use value, as service, through which cloth is transformed into trousers; as the service which its concrete useful character provides.

**In contrast to this, the service which the same journeyman employed by a master tailor provides for this capitalist does not consist in the transformation of cloth into trousers, but in the fact that the necessary labour time materialised in a pair of trousers is equal let us say to twelve hours, while the wage received by the journeyman is equal to six hours.**

**The service with which he provides the capitalist consists therefore in the fact that he works six hours for nothing.**

**That this takes place in the form of tailoring trousers only conceals the real relationship.**

**As soon as he is able to, the capitalist tailor therefore tries to transform the trousers again into money, that is to say, into a form in which the concrete character of tailoring labour has completely disappeared, and in which the service performed expresses itself in the fact that instead of six hours of labour time, expressed in a definite sum of money, there is now twelve hours of labour time, expressed in double that sum of money.**

**I buy the tailoring labour for the service it provides me with as tailoring labour, to satisfy my need for clothing, and therefore to serve one of my needs.**

**The capitalist tailor buys the labour as a means to making two thalers [a unit of German money] out of one.**

**I buy it because it produces a definite use value, provides me with a definite service.**

**He buys it, because it produces more exchange value than it costs, as a mere means to exchanging less labour for more labour.**

Where the direct exchange of money for labour takes place without the latter producing capital — that is, when it is not productive labour — it is bought as *service*; which in general is nothing but an expression for the particular use value which the labour, like any other commodity, provides.

It is however a specific term for the particular use value of labour which provides this service in the form not of a *thing* but of an *activity* — which however in no way distinguishes it from a machine, for example a clock.

*Do ut facias, facio ut facias, facio ut des, do ut des* (I give that you may make, I make that you may make, I make that you may give, I give that you may give) are here forms that can be used completely indifferently of the same relationship; while in capitalist production the *do ut facias* expresses a quite specific relation between the objective value which is given and the living activity which is accepted.

For this reason, because the specific relation between labour and capital is in no way involved in these purchases of services, being either completely obliterated or altogether absent, they are naturally the favourite form used by Say, Bastiat and their consorts to express the relation between capital and labour.

The question how the value of these services is regulated and how this value is itself determined by the laws of wages is not relevant to the examination of the relation we are considering, and belongs to the treatment of wages.

It has been seen that the mere exchange of money for labour does not transform the latter into productive labour, and on the other hand that the content of this labour makes no difference at all.

The worker himself can buy labour, that is, commodities supplied in the form of services, and the expenditure of his wages on such services is an expenditure which is absolutely no different from the expenditure of his wages on any other kind of commodities.

The services which he buys may be more or less necessary, for example the service of a doctor or of a parson, just as he may buy bread or schnapps.

As buyer — that is, representative of money confronting commodities — the worker is absolutely in the same category as the capitalist where the latter appears only as buyer, that is to say, where there is no more in the transaction than the conversion of money into the form of a commodity.

How the price of these services is determined and what relation it has to wages proper, how far it is regulated by the laws of the latter and how far it is not, must be considered in a treatment of wages, and are not relevant to our present enquiry.

If thus the mere exchange of money for labour does not transform the latter into productive labour, or what is the same thing, does not transform the former into capital, so also the content, the concrete character, the particular usefulness of the labour, makes absolutely no difference — as we have seen above, the same labour of the same Journeyman tailor is in one case productive, in the other not.

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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**July 16, 1877**

**“One Hundred And Twenty-Five  
Years Ago, American Workers  
Exploded With Rage — And The  
Rulers Of The Nation Feared The  
Fury Of The ‘Terror’ From Within”  
“The New York World Told Its Readers  
That Pittsburgh Was ‘In The Hands Of  
Men Dominated By The Devilish Spirit Of  
Communism’”**



A contemporary artist's rendering of the clash in Baltimore between workers and the Maryland Sixth Regiment during the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. The governor had called out the troops on behalf of the railroad company.

Via Carl Bunin Peace history July 15-21

UE News:

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers of the nation feared the fury of the “terror” from within.

A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists' anxious outrage: “Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats.”

After three years, the nation still suffered through a major economic depression. A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities.

The foreign born were widely blamed for the unprecedented, collective expression of rage against economic hardship and injustice.

The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway. The New York Sun prescribed “a diet of lead for the hungry strikers.”

When the fires turned to cold ash and working-class families buried their dead, no one — neither labor nor capital — would be the same again.

**If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike. It was an explosion of “firsts.”**

**The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America's industrial revolution.**

**It was the first national strike, stretching from Atlantic to Pacific. In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation's first general strikes.**

**This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military. Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.**

### **BORN OF DEPRESSION**

The Great Strike was a creature of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history.

A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. "Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased," wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor's Untold Story*. The winter of 1873-74, especially in large cities, was one of great suffering for the tens of thousands of unemployed workers and their families who were starving or on the brink of starvation.

As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. But the depression itself became a powerful weapon in smashing unions.

Millions suffered through months upon months of mounting misery. "By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed [roughly 27 percent of the working population]," according to Boyer and Morais.

"Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than six to seven months a year and less than one-fifth was regularly working. And the wages of those employed had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day." Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

### **FIXED ELECTION**

Political crisis seemed to mirror the economic mess.

Many Americans in 1877 believed their new president had reached the White House through fraud. Certainly Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots the previous year. Democrat Samuel Tilden overcame the Ohio governor in the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida and other states threw the election into House of Representatives.

**Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes.**



**As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans.**

**Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden, handing the election to Hayes.**

**President Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of political equality for former slaves. The troops would soon have other uses.**

## **PAY CUTS**

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10 percent when it cut wages by another 10 percent in June 1877. The following month that railroad company, the nation's largest, announced that the size of all eastbound trains from Pittsburgh would be doubled, without any increase in the size of crews. Angry railroad workers took control of switches and blocked the movement of trains.

Meanwhile, on July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day, also by 10 percent. The company also reduced the workweek to only two or three days, a further pay cut.

On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work. The company tried to bring on replacements — many experienced men were unemployed because of the depression — but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction.

The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, W. Va., where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them.

**The railroad company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia. Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains.**

The strike swiftly followed the rails to Wheeling and Parkersburg. As Harper's Weekly reported the following month, "Governor Matthews evoked the aid of the national government. President Hayes responded promptly."

**Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived in Martinsburg on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars bottled up in Martinsburg.**

**But the strike was far from over.**

**"Indeed, it was barely begun," reported Harper's Weekly.**

"As fast as the strike was broken in one place it appeared in another," wrote Boyer and Morais. The revolt against the powerful railroad companies spread into western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio.

Believing that strikers in Cumberland were stopping the eastbound trains from Martinsburg, Maryland's governor ordered out the state militia.

**Thousands of the jobless and underpaid in Baltimore clearly saw whose interests the governor's proclamation served.**

**Within a half hour of the call, "a crowd numbering at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the (Maryland Sixth Regiment) armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers," according to Harper's Weekly.**

**The crowd added bricks and stones to the curses hurled against the armory. The police were powerless.**

**Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, shots were fired — and shots were exchanged. The militia killed at least 10 and wounded many others, among them curious onlookers. The Fifth Regiment was also attacked, although no shots were fired.**

## **BATTLE IN PITTSBURGH**

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh. Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against Tom Scott's Pennsylvania Railroad "had the support even of businessmen, angry at the company because of extortionate freight rates."

The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so the authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia.

**When the militiamen arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with the cries of an angry crowd — and, according to Harper's, "a shower of stones." They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29. "The sight presented after the soldiers ceased firing was sickening," reported the New York Herald; the area "was actually dotted with the dead and dying."**

A newspaper headline read: "Shot in Cold Blood by the Roughts of Philadelphia. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents."

**As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene.**

**Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms.**

Wrote Boyer and Morais, "Miners and steel workers came pouring in from the outskirts of the city and as night fell the immense crowd proved so menacing to the soldiers that they retreated into the roundhouse."

By midnight, Harper's said, some 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed.

Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building.

### **'A NIGHT OF TERROR'**

A Civil War veteran among the besieged troops told a New York Herald reporter that he had seen some "wild fighting" in that conflict, but "a night of terror such as last night I never experienced before and hope to God I never will again."

**The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town.**

Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers. The angry crowd then torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars.

The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was "in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism."

Meanwhile, on July 21, President Hayes had issued a proclamation warning strikers and their sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. The next day, Pennsylvania's governor had ordered every regiment in the state to report for duty. Clashes between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

### **CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS**

The strike continued to spread. Reported Harper's, "On the morning of the 25th the strike had reached its height, when hardly a road was running, from the Hudson to the Mississippi, and from Canada to Virginia."

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan's cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more.

The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen's Party coordinated a general strike. The Workingmen's Party had several thousand members.

**At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, "a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: 'Will you stand to us, regardless of color?' The crowd shouted in response: 'We will!'"**

**Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, flour mills, foundries and other shops stopped operating as well.**

As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages.

Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses.

Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day.

### **‘SHOT BACK TO WORK’**

Business leaders became better organized, rallying their political allies, who mobilized the might of the military. Tom Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad had recommended giving strikers “a rifle diet for a few days and see how they like that kind of bread;” in the end, the government’s ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again. As one worker put it, “We were shot back to work.” By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

It had been an unforgettable event, and many railroad workers seemed to have been justifiably proud. “Without any organization they had fought with bravery and skill and the country had been behind them,” wrote Boyer and Morais. “The strike had been as solid as it was spontaneous. There had been few desertions and few scabs.”

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed workers in numerous cities had joined the strikers in protests against intolerable conditions. Farmers, who hated the railroad companies and their extortionate practices, fed the strikers.

More than half the freight on the nation’s 75,000 miles of track stopped moving.

More than 100 had died and 1,000 had been jailed, although those imprisoned were not the ones directly responsible for the deaths.

The results of the Great Strike were mixed.

### **GUNS AND PROMISES**

Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never again allow workers the upper hand.

“The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their ‘Coal and Iron Police,’” writes van Ophem. “In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns.”

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government.

Not all drew the same conclusions from this lesson. For some, the experience justified the development of a conservative business unionism that would not challenge the boss or promote social change.

For others, it meant organizing the all-inclusive Knights of Labor on a national basis and building labor parties that would reorient government.

America's Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

## DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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