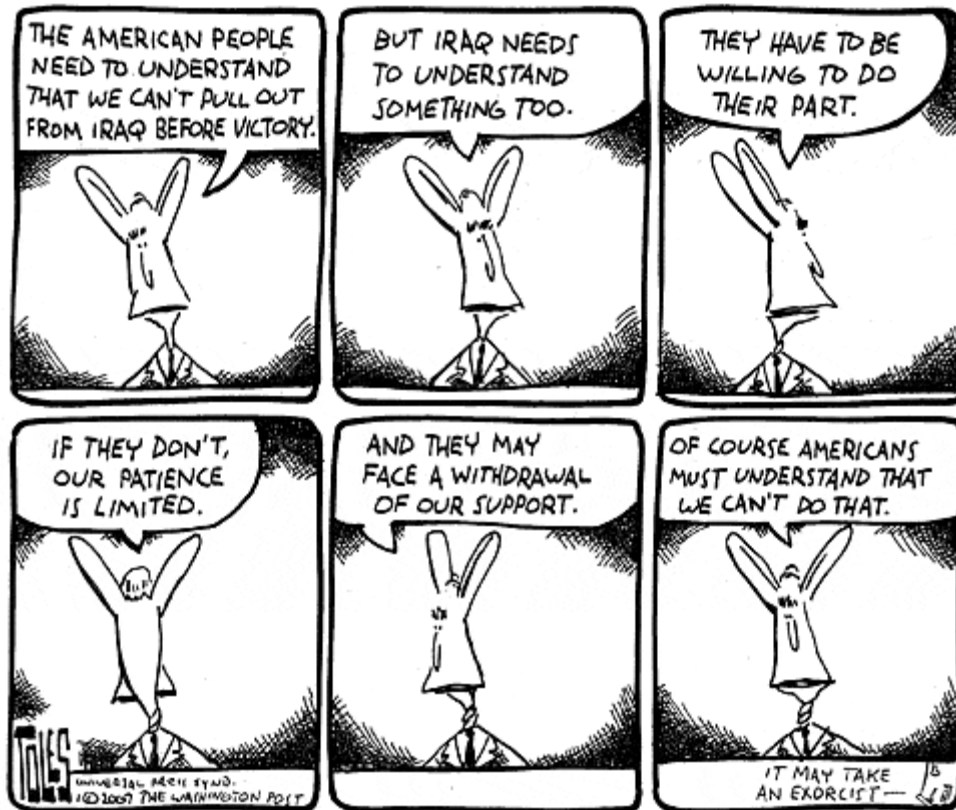


GI SPECIAL 5H16:



ON GUARD:

Comment: T

While you're off in Iraq, armed government terrorists are butchering Americans on the streets of our cities. Black and Hispanic catch most of the hell, but if you think poor and working class white folks are safe, you're out of your mind.

We need you home to put a stop to this shit and the terrorist domestic enemy politicians who encourage and approve of it, as you will read.

We need you here to defend us by force of arms against the terror being unleashed against us right here at home, and those on top responsible for it.

Welcome To The Occupied USA:

“We Have Terrorism Right Here On The West Side Of Chicago At The Hands Of The Police”

Oscar, who has an older son serving in the U.S. Navy, went on to say, “We’re supposed to be fighting this war on terror against bin Laden, but we have terrorism right here on the West Side of Chicago at the hands of the police. These cops are out of control.”

The officers made sure to handcuff Harrison as he lay in the alley bleeding to death--and, according to witnesses, failed to call an ambulance until after he was dead.

This guy was beaten to death--naked, crippled in his own house, taken out of here shackled and handcuffed.”

August 17, 2007 By Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Socialist Worker

ON A humid evening in early August, the Chicago Police Department rolled up on Aaron Harrison and his friends as they stood in front of a corner convenience store on the city’s West Side.

According to police, Harrison was “suspiciously” tugging on his belt, and they wanted to “question” him about it. When officers approached, Harrison and his friends took off running.

Four white cops chased after Harrison--and one of them shot Harrison in the back as he ran, according to witnesses at the scene.

The officers made sure to handcuff Harrison as he lay in the alley bleeding to death--and, according to witnesses, failed to call an ambulance until after he was dead.

Aaron Harrison was 18 years old and a resident of the North Lawndale neighborhood in Chicago, which gained its only infamy 41 years ago when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. took up residence there during his 1966 campaign for fair housing, to highlight the slum-like conditions produced by poverty, unemployment and racism.

On the night Harrison was murdered by police, the same cauldron of conditions brought hundreds of North Lawndale residents into the streets to demand justice. Hundreds marched to the area police precinct, chanting, “No justice, no peace--no racist police!”

According to news reports, some in the march pelted police cars with rocks and bottles, in an obvious expression of anger at the epidemic of police harassment and brutality that has plagued the city for years.

Aaron Harrison was the second Black man killed by the Chicago Police Department (CPD) in the first week of August.

A few days earlier, Gefrey Johnson was Tasered to death by police in his own home. According to civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson, "This guy was beaten to death--naked, crippled in his own house, taken out of here shackled and handcuffed."

This combination of tragedies produced several days of protest and speakouts in the North Lawndale neighborhood. At a press conference to announce a rally against police brutality, several community activists and neighborhood residents expressed their outrage at how the CPD remains above the law.

"There have been 20 shootings of Black men by Chicago police since the beginning of the year," said Rev. Paul Jakes. "Ten of those shot have died.

"We are demanding a federal investigation into this murder of Aaron Harrison."

Karl Brinsom, president of the West Side NAACP, said, "Everyone always wants to talk about gun control, but what we need to talk about is 'police control,' because they're out of control."

Oscar Thomas came out with his wife Donna and his 17-year-old son Deonte to tell how Deonte was abused by police in the aftermath of Aaron Harrison's murder. Police accused the younger Thomas of throwing a bottle at a police cruiser and arrested him for "aggravated assault."

"Deonte is a straight-A honor student who has never been in trouble with the police," Oscar said in an interview. "We have several witnesses who said Deonte didn't throw the bottle, but that the police were going after whoever they could get. When they got my son, they beat him, they maced him, the handcuffed him and they kicked him.

"Deonte is a juvenile but they took him to 26th and California (the Cook County Jail for adults) and put a \$10,000 bond on him.

"That's not bail, that's a ransom. The police never told us that he was in custody. We spent an entire day trying to track Deonte down in the system."

Oscar, who has an older son serving in the U.S. Navy, went on to say, "We're supposed to be fighting this war on terror against bin Laden, but we have terrorism right here on the West Side of Chicago at the hands of the police. These cops are out of control."

THESE LATEST episodes of police misconduct and murder in Black Chicago have put the Chicago police under the microscope--again.

The CPD has been reeling from months of scrutiny because of several high-profile cases of brutality, as well as City Council hearings into detectives, working under the notorious Commander Jon Burge, implicated in the torture of Black men for more than 20 years.

Asked if the CPD was out of control, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley responded with one of his usual incoherent rants. "People don't like to go see their mother, father, brother or sister at a police station," he told reporters. "You blame police for everything. Everybody blames the police...If your kids don't go to school, you blame the police. Everybody can blame the police for everything, but we all have to look internally in a mirror and say, 'How can we provide a better way of life for our own children.'"

But the statistics bear out the undeniable truth that the CPD is out of control. A study by the Chicago Sun-Times found that more than 10,000 citizen complaints were filed against the CPD from 2002 to 2004 -- but only 18 resulted in an officer being disciplined.

Moreover, more than 662 cops had 10 or more complaints on their records, and had received no discipline.

Rev. Al Sharpton--who is launching a chapter of his National Action Network in Chicago--led a rally of more than 300 near where Aaron Harrison was shot by police and declared that if the city won't do something about police brutality, "we will be forced to march, and we may be forced to engage in civil disobedience, because we want justice."

Given the track record of the CPD and its unwillingness to police its own, marching and civil disobedience are in order.

***Welcome To The Occupied
USA:
Police Cowards Attack A Peaceful
Demonstration For Labor Rights;
"They Were Putting Extreme
Pressure On Her Left Leg, Which
Snapped At The Knee After Two
Officers Put Enough Of Their Weight
On It"***

August 17, 2007 By Brian Chidester, Socialist Worker

NORTH PROVIDENCE, R.I.--Police attacked a peaceful demonstration for labor rights August 11, pepper-spraying several protesters, arresting two and seriously injuring one of those arrested.

The protest of 40 people was called by the Providence chapter of the Industrial Workers of the World and included members of Students for a Democratic Society from Providence and Boston.

The demonstrators were targeting Jacky's Galaxie restaurant, a pan-Asian restaurant that is supplied by HWH/Dragon Land Trading, a sweatshop operation based in New York.

Protesters were marching up Mineral Spring Avenue when police ordered them onto the side of the road or the sidewalk. Though the group complied, the police attacked some of the marchers without warning.

One, 22-year-old Alex Svoboda "was pinned down by the police during her arrest and suffered a broken and dislocated leg, and ruptured blood vessel in the knee.

These injuries will require at least two surgeries and extensive rehab, and even then, may not completely repair the damage," wrote SDS activist Michael da Cruz in an e-mail.

As Green Party member Steve Lamarre described the scene, "Police say she was resisting, but aside from wanting to avoid broken glass, the only other 'resistance' I could discern was they were putting extreme pressure on her left leg, which snapped at the knee after two officers put enough of their weight on it."

North Providence police used an exaggerated estimate of 100 protesters to claim that they were outnumbered. They charged Svoboda with three counts of assaulting a police officer, and arrested her roommate Jason Friedmutter, charging him with obstruction of a police officer.

Activists plan to continue pickets at the North Providence restaurant and other locations. In addition, they are organizing a protest march in response to the violence of the police.

Messages of support and donations for Alex's medical and legal costs can be sent to: IWW Providence General Membership Branch, P.O. Box 5795, Providence, RI 02903. Pictures of the protest: jonathanmcintosh.smugmug.com/gallery/3293537.

**HERE ARE THE FACES OF THE
ENEMY:
BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**



Alex Svoboda down: They have broken her leg, shattered her knee, ripping muscles and tissue as well. Note the angle of the left leg: All images by freelance photographer Jonathan McIntosh.





Shit-eating terrorist rats try to blind witnesses to attack on Svoboda by spraying chemicals: All images by freelance photographer Jonathan McIntosh

Welcome To The Occupied USA: The Murder Of Pedro Gonzales Jr. “I Am Sure That Mrs. Gonzales Is Happy To Know That The Police Force That Killed Her Husband Used ‘Innovative’ Methods To Do So”

August 17, 2007 By Karen Burke, Austin, Texas; Socialist Worker

ON JULY 22, a little after 2 a.m., the Pasadena, Texas, police dealt Pedro Gonzales Jr. a fatal blow to his ribs. He would later be pronounced dead in his jail cell at around 7:30 a.m.

Pasadena is a city just east of Houston usually known for its chemical plants and oil refineries. A cursory search will tell you that Pasadena is one of the fastest-growing

cities in Texas, with a population of 145,000. It is also touted by its official Web site as “one of the safest places to live.”

The site describes its police force as “innovative.”

I am sure that Mrs. Gonzales is happy to know that the police force that killed her husband used “innovative” methods to do so.

Early Saturday at 1 a.m., Mr. Gonzales was released from jail with 64 cents in his pocket.

An hour later, he was spotted by officers Jason Buckaloo and Christopher Jones, who said in interviews that Mr. Gonzales appeared to be intoxicated while sitting in the bed of a truck about a mile away from the Pasadena Jail.

They proceeded to arrest him on the grounds of public intoxication. In none of the information released to the press do the police claim to have administered a breathalyzer test to prove their assumptions.

Rick Dovalina, spokesperson for the League of United Latin American Citizens Council (LULAC), said, “There is no way he would have been able to buy alcohol because he only had 64 cents in his pocket when he left the jail.”

It was 1 a.m., which means stores in the area had stopped selling alcohol, and he could not have gone to a bar as he was in a “dry” part of town.

The original story the police put out was that Mr. Gonzales tripped and fell as he was escorted to the police car.

The officers claimed that he was “combative” during the arrest, as reported on Houston’s Channel 2 News.

What was left out of the original story was that there was a witness to Gonzales’s “combativeness.”

At 2:09 a.m., Evelyn Moreno called 911 to report that she had seen the officers beating a motionless Gonzales for two minutes. As reported in the Houston Chronicle, “The 20-year-old woman was driving home when she noticed the officers hitting Gonzales.”

On the recording of the call it is difficult to hear Moreno, as she called from a pay phone, since she originally wished to remain anonymous. The 911 operator indicated that she understood Moreno was reporting an incident of police brutality.

Moreno was then given a non-emergency number to call, though she did not.

She did not think she would be taken seriously. Would the police come to police themselves?

The police incident report states: “We administered several knee strikes and elbow strikes to Pete’s back and thighs, and ordered him to stop resisting. Pete grabbed hold of my legs and pants, and attempted to knock me over, and spun around and kicked me in the leg. I continued to administer knee strikes to Pete and ordered him to stop resisting and place his hands behind his back.”

However, in her 911 call, Moreno reported that the officers were beating a motionless Gonzales. A preliminary autopsy report states that Mr. Gonzales died because a bone fragment from a fractured rib punctured his lung.

Officer Buckaloo had previously been indicted on charges of using excessive force on a 15-year-old South Houston High School student in 2001. A jury found him not guilty in a 2002 trial of official oppression.

The murder of Pedro Gonzales Jr. is one of many examples of the unbridled police brutality occurring in the Texas criminal injustice system.

It is, of course, a reflection of institutionalized racism and the politics of brutality in this country.

It will take a strong movement to put an end to these atrocities.

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Here’s Your Anbar “Progress”
“The Enemy Is Patient. This Is His Land. He’s Got All The Time In The World. . . . They’re Going To Continue To Fight In Anbar”

“The Battle Of Donkey Island Left 11 U.S. Troops Wounded And Two Dead”

“Soldiers Who Fought In The Battle Say They Feel Extremely Lucky To Have Happened Upon The Insurgents -- And To Have Survived”

Spannagel, the scout leader, said the fighting revealed “a false sense of security that we’d won the battle in Ramadi.”

In fact, he said, “this shows the enemy is patient. This is his land. He’s got all the time in the world. . . . They’re going to continue to fight in Anbar.”

August 19, 2007 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

Staff Sgt. Norman Stark had never seen combat. Nor did the 32-year-old soldier from Baltimore expect it, after many uneventful months in Iraq’s Anbar province, as he jostled over the rough terrain of brush, fields and irrigation ditches in the lead Humvee of a routine patrol on the night of June 30.

Stretching before him under a full moon were the flat lands near the village of Tash, south of the city of Ramadi. Violence had plummeted in recent months in Ramadi -- long one of the deadliest cities in Iraq for U.S. troops

For Stark and the eight other soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, it seemed like just another tedious night in the desert, they later recounted.

But ahead lay a vicious battle, which would not only reveal their enemy’s determination to retake Ramadi but also throw into question the region’s long-term stability if the Americans were to leave. It suggested, moreover, that preserving the city’s fragile, hard-won calm would call for heavier fighting than anticipated.

The account that follows is based on interviews with three dozen U.S. soldiers and Iraqis with direct involvement in or knowledge of the battle and its aftermath, as well as official U.S. military accounts and maps detailing the fighting, insurgents’ videos later obtained by the U.S. military, and a Post reporter’s survey of the battlefield.

Stark and his men exchanged few words as their Humvees turned east, progressing with more difficulty along narrow and sometimes swampy trails as they neared the Nassar canal, looking for possible weapons smugglers using wooden boats. Just after 9:15 p.m., the heat was still sweltering, and the armor-clad soldiers were soaked with sweat.

About 200 yards from the canal, Stark's Humvee crested a small dirt berm, and his driver, Spec. Kevin Gilbertson, saw something odd: two large semitrucks parked just to the left of the road ahead.

"I wonder what they're doing?" Gilbertson called to Stark. Then they spotted a few men fleeing across the field to the south and accelerated toward the trucks.

Stark recalled that he turned and to his disbelief saw clustered behind the trucks -- only a few feet away -- at first 10, then 20, then as many as 70 heavily armed men.

"Traverse left, open fire!" he yelled instinctively to his gunner. Startled, Pfc. Sean Groves unleashed a rapid burst from his M240 machine gun.

In the same instant, the insurgents returned a barrage of fire with AK-47 assault rifles, heavy machine guns and hand grenades. Bullets shattered the ballistic glass on Stark's Humvee, breaking the driver's window and cracking the windshield like a spider's web. Shrapnel tore into Groves's face and hands. He dropped down inside the vehicle. Gilbertson jumped into the gunner's sling, and Groves took control of the Humvee, now limping with two flat tires on the left side. Stark tried to radio the two vehicles behind him but had lost communication.

"Red 8, what the hell is going on?" Sgt. 1st Class Feliciano Young, the platoon sergeant in the next Humvee, recalled shouting into the radio, using Stark's call sign. There was no reply.

In the last Humvee, 2nd Lt. Thomas Nagelmeyer, a new platoon leader fresh from the United States, had no idea what was happening, he said. As the bullets started bouncing off his windshield and he realized that his nine-man patrol was badly outnumbered, he recalled, the first thought that gripped him was: "How can I get out of here alive?"

Wearing matching white dishdashas, or traditional robes, and toting black backpacks filled with first-aid kits, rations and grenades, the insurgents marched down a path concealed by tall reeds, chanting jihadist songs, according to captured videos and other intelligence gathered by the U.S. military.

After months of planning, according to U.S. military intelligence, the well-armed and highly trained contingent of as many as 70 fighters set up a hasty camp beside a canal to make final preparations for their mission three miles to the north. It would be the first major counterattack targeting Ramadi.

"They are not giving up on Ramadi," said Col. John Charlton, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, which oversees the city.

The fighters targeted tribal leaders and police in Ramadi, according to U.S. military intelligence and video footage shot by the insurgents before the planned attack. In one video, an Islamic State of Iraq fighter dives into a lake, waves his fist and threatens Sheik Abdul Sattar Buzaigh al-Rishawi, who founded the main pro-U.S. tribal alliance, known as the Anbar Awakening. Sattar is "a dog of Anbar," the fighter said.

Trained in a lake district north of Ramadi, the fighters approached by a circuitous route carefully planned to bypass checkpoints, Charlton said. They rode in two

semitrucks with false compartments covered with hay. The trucks were packed with suicide vests, pressure-plate bombs, grenades, machine guns and sniper rifles -- enough to wage attacks in Ramadi for months, U.S. military officers said.

Facilitators prepared the area for the fighters' arrival, stashing weapons caches to defend their camp, located among prickly brush in a Bedouin area south of Ramadi. Once there, the fighters posed as shepherds and used nomad tents. When the U.S. patrol stumbled upon them, the insurgents were within days or hours of launching their attacks and were ready, as one U.S. officer said, "to fight to the death."

"Red 6, move . . . on line!" Young shouted over the radio to Nagelmeyer, using an expletive.

A 16-year Army veteran, Young knew the situation was dire. "We had to kill as many of these guys as we could before they overwhelmed us," said Young, 35, of Oklahoma City. He, Stark and Nagelmeyer backed up their Humvees 100 yards, taking cover behind a low dirt ridge. Then they lined up three abreast facing the semitrucks, guns blazing.

"Bullets were pinging off the windshield, the tires, the side," said Young's driver, Spec. Jason Willette, 33, of Honolulu.

The insurgents' marksmanship was extremely accurate, aided by the moonlight, which diminished the advantage of the U.S. troops' night-vision goggles.

Young's gunner, Sgt. William Fellows, had nearly exhausted the 1,800 rounds he carried for his M240 machine gun. So the 24-year-old from Springfield, Mo., grabbed a Vietnam-era M-14 rifle and fired off five magazines. With only 100 rounds left, he was minutes from running out, he recalled: "We all basically went black on ammo."

At a mud-brick outpost a few miles southwest of the battle, a scout platoon set off in seven Humvees loaded with machine gun rounds. They arrived about 11 p.m., just in time to resupply Stark's patrol, and together the soldiers advanced toward the trucks. "Spray it down!" ordered Capt. Jimm Spannagel, the scout platoon's leader. The trucks caught fire, munitions inside shooting off like fireworks, then exploded in gigantic red balls. Meanwhile, the insurgents, who outnumbered the Americans throughout the battle, were repositioning. Some swam across the canal to set up machine gun nests midstream on a small piece of land known as Donkey Island. Others dug in on the canal's beaches or behind its four-foot-high banks.

Capt. Ian Lauer, commander of the 1-77's Charlie Company, sped to the scene from the U.S. base in Ramadi and instructed his men to "assault to the south" along the canal.

As tank gunner Sgt. Vicente Nicola, 28, of Brentwood, N.Y., walked south along the beach with two other soldiers, he recalled, he noticed something in the moonlight that perplexed him: a pool of blood with no body at the end of it.

They passed a burned-out car. A bigger spot of blood. Still no body. Then suddenly, white muzzle flashes and gunshots. The insurgents -- apparently wounded but lying in wait -- had opened fire from behind a dirt berm 25 yards ahead.

On Nicola's right, Spec. Brian Taylor went down instantly. "Contact!" Nicola yelled, as he and Sgt. Mike Ayrlen fell to their knees and fired back. Nicola turned to check on Taylor, who had been shot in the leg and arm. Just then, he heard a loud bang, felt his neck grow cold and realized that he, too, had been hit, in the head.

Under escalating fire, Nicola dragged Taylor back to a small dip in the beach. The two soldiers lay gazing at the tracer rounds filling the sky, with Nicola half covering Taylor, 23, of Detroit. "You're gonna be all right," Nicola said softly.

Dizzy, Nicola then stumbled and crawled to the nearest Humvee, calling out, "Friendly!"

Sgt. Brian Nethery, of the scouts, turned his flashlight on Nicola's bloody face and gave him a dumbfounded look. A bullet had entered Nicola's head, passed around his skull under the skin and exited the other side, punching a hole in his helmet. "Get your ass to the medic! I'll get Taylor," Nethery said. Nicola survived.

Nethery's Humvee, together with Lauer's, crept along the road. Insurgents on the adjacent beach tossed up homemade grenades -- water bottles filled with explosives and nails -- that exploded in front of the vehicles.

Down the bank from the Humvee, three insurgents fired armor-piercing rounds.

Unable to pivot his machine gun down steeply enough to hit them, Spec. Jeffrey Jamaledine lifted the gun from its mount and reached over to spray them. As he did, he was shot in the jaw.

Jamaledine was later evacuated by an Apache helicopter, one of whose pilots, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Allen Crist, gave his seat to Jamaledine and rode strapped to the aircraft's exterior.

Meanwhile, Lauer, out of his Humvee, had been shot in the shoulder and was pinned down in a ditch.

Nethery left his Humvee and crawled over the beach to find Taylor.

"You good?" asked Nethery, 24, of Englewood, Fla.

"Do I look good?" Taylor responded, adding an expletive.

"Can you walk?" Nethery asked.

"Do you think I can walk!" came the reply, again with an expletive.

"Can you crawl?"

Nethery grabbed Taylor by his gear. "One, two, three, push!" he said, pulling while Taylor shoved with his good leg until they finally reached the Humvee.

While the Americans evacuated their casualties, the insurgents bandaged themselves so they could keep fighting, said soldiers who saw them or found them the next morning.

Fighters in white tunics and running shoes moved like ghosts over the battlefield, displaying tactics that the Americans said mirrored their own. They signaled with flashlights, bounded into position and crawled to try to evade the superior U.S. firepower.

Even when dozens of the fighters lay dead, Stark and his platoon mates discovered that their enemy possessed an unsettling determination. Making a final push toward the canal in his hobbled, bullet-pocked Humvee, Stark saw a wounded insurgent on the ground with a hand behind his back.

“Turn on your stomach!” Gilbertson, the gunner, yelled, intending to detain the man. But the insurgent hurled a grenade at the truck. The pin failed, and Gilbertson shot him with his machine gun.

The Humvee lurched forward, and Stark saw an insurgent curled in the fetal position but still moving. Wary after the grenade incident, Gilbertson recalled, he pulled out his 9mm pistol and shot the man, who then detonated his suicide vest. Flesh and ball bearings splattered the right side of Stark’s Humvee, which was lifted off its wheels and thrown down, causing its third flat tire.

After that, the soldiers said, they decided to kill any wounded insurgents able to move. At 1:35 a.m., as a group of insurgents was evacuating casualties to tents to the north, Young ordered a Bradley Fighting Vehicle that had arrived on the scene to open fire. Eight insurgents and five civilians, three male and two female, were later found dead in two tents, the military said.

At 5:30 a.m., Nagelmeyer, the platoon leader, decided to clear the entire area. Earlier, he said, he had shot a wounded insurgent in the head. But this time, when an insurgent on the ground raised his hand in surrender, he hesitated.

“We made him take off his man dress and shimmy toward us,” Nagelmeyer said. Then soldiers wrapped his wrists together using duct tape and dragged him into a Bradley. “All he would say was, ‘Death to America in al-Anbar.’ “

In the searing heat later that morning, Sgt. 1st Class Raymond R. Buchan of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, escorted a U.S. explosives team to disarm the suicide vests on the bodies littering the ground around Donkey Island.

Buchan, known for his many Iraqi friends, walked north to look at the Bedouin tents. Inside, he found two dead Bedouin women, whom he covered with a blanket. Returning along the road, he noticed a link of PKC machine gun bullets and bent to pick it up to give to the Iraqi police.

Just then, gunfire burst from behind a bush a few feet away. Buchan and the soldier next to him, Staff Sgt. Michael L. Ruoff Jr., 31, of Yosemite, Calif., collapsed.

“Contact front!” yelled Staff Sgt. Damaso Rosa, 28, of Lyndhurst, N.J., returning fire from near Buchan. A Navy SEAL medic said Ruoff was dead. Buchan, 33, of Johnstown, Pa., who had been shot in the left collarbone and jaw, died on the way to Ramadi.

In the end, the battle of Donkey Island left 11 U.S. troops wounded and two dead, while an estimated 32 insurgents were killed.

At his mansion near the main U.S. base in Ramadi, Sattar, the tribal leader, was alarmed to learn that he had been the insurgents' prime target but took comfort in the U.S. tank stationed outside his home.

"We're still expecting attacks similar to this one," said Maj. Andrew Wortham, the 1st Brigade Combat Team's intelligence officer in Ramadi.

Soldiers who fought in the battle say they feel extremely lucky to have happened upon the insurgents -- and to have survived.

They're concerned that if U.S. forces leave, the insurgents will return and easily kill local police and officials. "I worry about pulling out of this area early. If we do, these guys are dead meat," Lauer said.

Spannagel, the scout leader, said the fighting revealed "a false sense of security that we'd won the battle in Ramadi."

In fact, he said, "this shows the enemy is patient. This is his land. He's got all the time in the world. . . . They're going to continue to fight in Anbar."

This Is What You're Dying For?



Iraqi members of the Amariyah Volunteers, insurgents who have joined forces with the U.S. and Iraqi troops to fight al-Qaida, guard the street in front of their newly established headquarters as U.S. Army troops of Alpha Company of 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division pass by in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 14, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

Notes From A Lost War:

**“British Troops Have Lost Control Of The Main Southern City Of Basra”
Supply Route To U.S. Troops North Of Basra Threatened;
“The Situation There Gets Worse By The Day. The Insurgents Are Calling The Shots”**



On the defensive: British troops face angry scenes in Basra

As The Sunday Telegraph revealed last week, plans have been drawn up to send thousands of American troops into southern Iraq to take over the supervision of the vital supply route north from Kuwait, a task the British will bequeath when they leave.

19/08/2007 Tim Shipman in Washington, Sunday Telegraph & (AP)

An adviser to the U.S. military said that British troops face an “ugly and embarrassing” withdrawal from southern Iraq in the coming months, a British newspaper reported.

The Sunday Times also quoted a senior British officer as saying that British troops have lost control of the main southern city of Basra.

“I regret to say that the Basra experience is set to become a major blunder in terms of military history,” the officer was quoted as saying by the newspaper. “The insurgents are calling the shots ... and in a worst-case scenario will chase us out of southern Iraq.”

What US generals see, however, is a close ally preparing to “cut and run”, leaving behind a city in the grip of a power struggle between Shia militias that could determine the fate of the Iraqi government and the country as a whole.

A senior US officer familiar with Gen Petraeus’s thinking said: “The short version is that the Brits have lost Basra, if indeed they ever had it. Britain is in a difficult spot because of the lack of political support at home, but for a long time - more than a year - they have not been engaged in Basra and have tried to avoid casualties.

“They did not have enough troops there even before they started cutting back. The situation is beyond their control.

“Quite frankly what they’re doing right now is not any value-added.

“They’re just sitting there. They’re not involved. The situation there gets worse by the day.

Gen Keane, who has the ear of Vice President Dick Cheney and Stephen Hadley, President George W Bush’s national security adviser, told The Sunday Telegraph: “It is disappointing and frustrating to see a situation in Basra that was once working pretty well, now coming apart. The situation there has been getting worse for some time.”

As The Sunday Telegraph revealed last week, plans have been drawn up to send thousands of American troops into southern Iraq to take over the supervision of the vital supply route north from Kuwait, a task the British will bequeath when they leave.

But the senior US officer warned that combat troops may also have to go into Basra itself to “protect the population” from violence between its numerous warring Shia militias - an extra burden as perilous as any in Baghdad.

US Marine Colonel Gary Anderson, who has conducted recent Iraq war games for the Pentagon, said the situation Britain would leave behind in Basra “could be the most bloody part of the transition”.

Fort Dodge Marine Dies In Iraq

08-08-07 DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

A Marine from Fort Dodge was killed in an explosion Tuesday in Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

Sgt. Jon Bonnell Jr., 22, died in the Al Anbar province during his second stint in Iraq, family members said.

"Anything he did he put everything he had into it," said Jon Bonnell Sr., the Marine's father. "That's why he chose to become a Marine in high school."

Bonnell Jr. was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif. His father said the unit specialized in security and bomb detection.

The Marine arrived in Iraq in May and was scheduled to leave in October or November, his father said.

Bonnell Jr. graduated from Fort Dodge High School in 2003 and two years later served six months in Iraq. Afterward, the Marine assisted victims of the 2005 tsunami in southeast Asia, his father said.

Bonnell Jr. left for more bomb detection duty in Iraq in the spring, prompting renewed worry from the elder Bonnell.

"I figured he had done it one time already," Bonnell Sr. said.

"He had made it through doing the one job I wouldn't want him to do. It scared me on the second time, but I'm a proud father knowing he was doing the job he was trained to do -- be a good Marine."

Bonnell Jr. re-enlisted in the Marines earlier this year, his father said, and despite the violence and rising death toll, "he was ready. He wanted to do it."

The father said he spoke with his son around Father's Day, but was not home when the Marine called three weeks ago. Instead, the Marine's grandmother took the call. Donna Bonnell said she asked him what he was doing in Iraq.

"He said his job was looking for bombs, and I said that's very dangerous," Donna Bonnell said. "He said, 'Grandma, that's my job.' I said, 'Watch your back,' and he said, 'We all watch everybody's back.'"

When asked whether her grandson would think himself a hero, she said: "I doubt that. I imagine he thought they were all heroes."

Funeral services will likely be held at First Christian Church in Fort Dodge, the grandmother said.

Fort Lewis Army Ranger Dies In Attack

August 3rd, 2007 MICHAEL GILBERT; The News Tribune

A 29-year-old Army Ranger from Fort Lewis was killed Monday in northern Iraq, the military said Thursday.

Cpl. Jason M. Kessler, a college graduate and veteran of two previous Iraq deployments, died after his tactical vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, according to Department of Defense press releases.

He was assigned to C Company of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment from Fort Lewis.

Kessler was from Mount Vernon in Skagit County. He graduated from Mount Vernon Christian High School and earned a bachelor's degree in biblical studies at The Master's College in Santa Clarita, Calif., the Special Operations Command said in a news release.

He was also studying philosophy at the University of Washington.

He enlisted in the Army in 2005 and completed infantry and airborne training and then the Ranger indoctrination program, all at Fort Benning, Ga. He was assigned to the Fort Lewis Ranger battalion in August of that year.

He is survived by his parents, C. Michael and Pamela Kessler; his brother, Mark; his sister, Katelyn, all of Mount Vernon; and his longtime girlfriend, Erin Jacobson of Kirkland, the Army said.

Kessler is the fourth Fort Lewis Ranger and 141st soldier from the post to be killed in the Iraq war.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Canadian Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

August 19, 2007 Andrew Mayeda, CanWest News Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- Quebec's storied Van Doos regiment is mourning its first loss in Afghanistan after a young private who arrived in the country only three weeks ago was killed by a roadside bomb.

Pte. Simon Longtin, 23, was travelling in a LAV-III armoured vehicle when it struck an improvised explosive device.

Canadian soldiers exchanged fire with Taliban insurgents after the blast, but no other Canadian soldiers were injured and no Taliban casualties could be confirmed.

Longtin was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

He is the first member of the Van Doos to be killed while serving in Afghanistan. The Royal 22nd Regiment, as it is officially known, took command of Canada's operations in Afghanistan on Aug. 1.

Longtin, who hails from Longueuil, Que., was an infantry rifleman with Charlie Company, which forms part of Canada's battle group.

He had trained for two years with the company before arriving in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

He lived with other members of the company at Masum Ghar, a forward operating base located at the border of the volatile Zhari and Panjwaii districts.

Political observers will be watching closely to see how the news reverberates in Quebec, where support for the war is the lowest of any province.

According to some polls, seven in 10 Quebecers oppose the mission.

The attack occurred at about 1:41 a.m. along Foster Road, roughly 20 kilometres west of Kandahar City.

The vehicle was part of a supply convoy headed west toward Masum Ghar.

It is the second time in a week that Canadian soldiers have been wounded or killed along Foster Road, a well-travelled supply route. Five soldiers were lightly injured last Sunday by an IED along the same road. After that attack, the military dispatched engineers to scour the route for IEDs.

The engineers checked for bombs in drainage culverts where insurgents are believed to have planted the bomb used in last Sunday's attack. At one point, engineers discovered a Chinese-made mortar in one of the culverts. They detonated the bomb safely, setting off a thud that echoed through the nearby mountains.

[Col. Christian Juneau, Canada's deputy commander in Afghanistan] said Canadian troops will step up surveillance of the route. "However, with the size of our operation, it's quite difficult to have eyes everywhere... You travel on the road, (and) the next night they can insert themselves and install an IED."

On Saturday, the Taliban released a statement purported to be from their reclusive leader, Mullah Omar. It called on Afghans to wage a jihad against the foreign "invaders." The statement came on the eve of Independence Day, which commemorates Afghanistan's declaration of independence from Britain in 1919.

"Our country is once again occupied by the same forces," Omar said in his statement, which has not yet been verified.

Juneau brushed off the Taliban warning, reiterating the Canadian position that the insurgents are "on their heels." **[Yeah, right. Obviously in full retreat. Get this guy a job with Petraeus: "We're winning."]**

Violence in Kandahar province has surged in recent months, with the rate of roadside bombings and other terrorist attacks reaching its worst level since the war began in 2001. [There it is: victory coming every closer – but not for Juneau.]

“Security In This Town Is A Joke” “People Don’t Tell The Police Because They Are Sure The Security Forces Are Involved And Have A Hand In The Kidnapping”

Aug. 18, 2007 By ARYN BAKER AND ALI SAFI/KABUL, Time Magazine [Excerpts]

A German woman was kidnapped in broad daylight today in Kabul...

This spate of kidnappings in and around the capital heralds an alarming trend for foreign nationals working in Afghanistan.

Christina Meier, who is said to be five months pregnant, was abducted in front of a bakery popular with foreigners; witnesses say they heard gunshots and saw the woman bundled into a blue Toyota corolla by unidentified armed men.

While the abduction of foreigners is a new trend, criminal kidnappings of Afghans have been going on in the capital for several years. But the past year has seen a dramatic rise in such abductions, few of which are ever reported in the media.

“This is going to make news because it’s a foreign woman who was kidnapped, but the reality is that it’s a daily occurrence — not weekly, not monthly — for local nationals,” says a Kabul-based businesswoman who asks to remain anonymous due to security fears.

“Everyone who works in this town will have it happen one way or another, be it a kidnapping, a threat of kidnapping or a hold up,” she adds, saying that in the past month there have been two kidnappings on her street, despite a police presence.

“Security in this town is a joke. The Taliban are talked about incessantly, but no one talks about this stuff — this is the real reason Afghanistan can’t catch its breath — not the insurgency, but the relentless and unanswered spate of criminal activity and corruption.”

Analyst and radio talk-show host Dad Noorani blames a failing and corrupt security force for the increased violence.

“People don’t tell the police because they are sure the security forces are involved and have a hand in the kidnapping. They are worried that if they report something they will have more problems in the future.”

The son of a friend, he says, was kidnapped and taken across the border to Peshawar, where he was held for a \$30,000 ransom. It was eventually negotiated down to \$16,000, which was all that the man could scrape together.

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

TROOP NEWS

Fayetteville:

**“Soldiers Doing Anything They Can
To Avoid Further Deployments In
What They Perceive To Be An Unjust
War”**

[Fayetteville: home of Ft. Bragg.]

Late Summer 2007 Quaker House Newsletter, Fayetteville, NC

GI Counselor's Notebook [Excerpt]

After a short period of family leave, Steve & Lenore are back on the Hotline phones, helping keep up with the steady, record-breaking increase in calls coming in. Here is an excerpt from their most recent report:

The current "surges policy continues to put extreme pressure on the troops.

We talked with numerous individuals in a Marine Reserve unit whose command was dishonestly trying to coerce them into switching their military operation specialty to infantry, and then planning to deploy them almost immediately without adequate training.

We were able to counsel these soldiers about their rights to not be involuntarily transferred and about grievance procedures.

Another caller facing his third deployment to Iraq was contemplating separating from his wife and taking full custody of his child in order to avoid going back (if you don't have a family care plan for your dependent the Army supposed to discharge you).

His reasons were telling.

As part of the original invasion of Iraq in 2003, he saw what a miserable state the people of Iraq were in at the time and felt himself opposed to what the US was doing.

"It's pretty much mass murder," he said.

He has suffered from PTSD and found the mental health services at his base in the US completely insufficient.

He is just one example of soldiers doing anything they can to avoid further deployments in what they perceive to be an unjust war, and trying at the same time to protect their own mental health in the absence of adequate care from the military.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The coffin containing the remains of US Army Staff Sgt. Wilberto Suliveras, after it arrived at Muniz Airbase, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 6, 2007. Staff Sgt. Suliveras was killed a week earlier by small arms fire in Hor Al Bash, Iraq. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

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. Frederick Douglas, 1852

“Am I Missing Something Or Am I Crazy???”

[These are excerpts from a letter Stanley Howard, Military Project member in prison, sent to the Military Project 7.21.07. Too fine to keep hidden. T]

How he [Cheney] is still alive is a true mystery, and one day he's going to walk under a telephone line or electrical wire and cause the blackout for 20 states.

One would think that for someone to have died and brought back to life over 5 times would have more understanding and compassion for others.

I have some ideas:

What are we going to do when we find out that the mission is bullshit? When no WMDs were discovered, Bush, Blair and all the rest should have been gathered together to face justice. I'm against execution across the board, but I could think of a million other things we can do to them.

Troop Surge?

Yes, to build homes, battle fires, combat world hunger, create water reservoirs, deploy to places around the world devastated by natural disasters.

I can think of a million things to do with the armies of the world beside kill each other.

Am I Going Crazy?

Bush's generals don't agree with him, so he gets rid of them. The new generals agree with the Troop Surge, then Bush tells the world that he don't care what the People in Washington say or the polls (the American People) and fuck the Iraq study group, he's following the generals on the ground.

WOW!!!

Now, this same general is supposed to issue a report in September?

WOW!!

Am I missing something or Am I Crazy???

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576

Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

OCCUPATION REPORT

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***

**U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid
Terror Tactics Recruit Even More
Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**

BEFORE



US soldiers kick down the gate of an Iraqi citizen's home in the village of Sweb, south Baquba, 01 Aug. (AFP/File/Olivier Laban-Mattei)

AFTER



An Iraqi citizen inspects the wreckage of her house following home invasion raid by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA. (AFP/Wissam Al Okaili)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

Received:

**"And I'll Stand O'er Your Grave
'Til I'm Sure That You're Dead"**

From: Dar
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2007 10:27 PM
Subject: a suggestion

After 5 years at war - why haven't we revived any of the old protest songs?? Music gave our message and brought us all together. Music was music, folk, pop, rock, country - all mixed together to bring our boys home. Hello-o-o-o. We need something to unite us that can be heard!!

Masters of War by Bob Dylan

**Come you masters of war
You that build all the guns
You that build the death planes
You that build the big bombs
You that hide behind walls
You that hide behind desks
I just want you to know
I can see through your masks**

**You that never done nothin'
But build to destroy
You play with my world
Like it's your little toy
You put a gun in my hand
And you hide from my eyes
And you turn and run farther
When the fast bullets fly**

**Like Judas of old
You lie and deceive
A world war can be won
You want me to believe
But I see through your eyes
And I see through your brain
Like I see through the water
That runs down my drain**

**You fasten the triggers
For the others to fire
Then you set back and watch
When the death count gets higher
You hide in your mansion
As young people's blood
Flows out of their bodies
And is buried in the mud**

**You've thrown the worst fear
That can ever be hurled
Fear to bring children
Into the world
For threatening my baby
Unborn and unnamed
You ain't worth the blood
That runs in your veins**

How much do I know
To talk out of turn
You might say that I'm young
You might say I'm unlearned
But there's one thing I know
Though I'm younger than you
Even Jesus would never
Forgive what you do

Let me ask you one question
Is your money that good
Will it buy you forgiveness
Do you think that it could
I think you will find
When your death takes its toll
All the money you made
Will never buy back your soul

And I hope that you die
And your death'll come soon
I will follow your casket
In the pale afternoon
And I'll watch while you're lowered
Down to your deathbed
And I'll stand o'er your grave
'Til I'm sure that you're dead

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