

GI SPECIAL 6G18:



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

Dinky Dau

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: July 25, 2008
Subject: Dinky Dau by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Dinky Dau

Kyle feels like he's going to explode

that his heart is going to fly from his chest
like a rocket propelled grenade
he is enraged at the society
that agreed to send him to war
and voted for the government
Kyle hates conservatives, he hates liberals
he hates Republicans, he hates Democrats
he hates Congress, the Supreme Court
hates the President, Kyle hates so hard
that his eyes turn black
his ears bleed with corruption and money
he hates the whole Country, the whole USA
and everybody in it, he hopes the terrorists
set atomic bombs off and destroy the Empire
destroy the huge lump of cancer on the earth
Kyle would love to kill them by himself
for making him live on pills and pain
while they fly their flag that Kyle doesn't even
care about but there are so many of them
to kill and they buy guns to kill animals
or defend themselves against criminals
that give them wet dreams
or target practice where it is safe
if only the targets were M-50 machine guns
that could shoot back
blow their heads off or wound them
so bad they would have to shit
in a bag for the rest of their life
and feel the pain when the weather
is about to change from dry to rain
or from cold to hot or hot to cold
as electricity runs up and down
his wounds until there is no sleeping
and it's midnight as Kyle rambles around
the house trying to find where he left
his pain pills that take an hour to work
for him, Yes if all the "Follow the Leaders"
could experience just half of that,
it would make Kyle ecstatic, he could laugh
as it would be "Go ahead, make MY day"
and "Bring 'em on HA HA" would help
his hate as he dreams of going
to a football game and throwing
hand grenades into the crowd
as they stand for "Oh say can I SEE"
blind monkees they are not humans
because human beings
would not send their young boys
to slaughter and to be slaughtered
just for oil in the sand
so they can drive their Big Trucks,

Suv's and 18 Wheelers
that say Semper Fi
so they will not have to
change their lifestyle driving
bumper to bumper to bumper
and going nowhere in a society
that says "It's the Economy
Not the War Stupid"
the pols say
as the Elite still want it all
and show the people their prize
thoroughbreds to vote for
like Click and Clack
they will fix it
the only problem with hate
is that it eats Kyle up inside
and distorts some of the world
around him.

AFGHANISTAN

**Your Mission In Afghanistan?
Die For Drug Dealers:
Bush Buddy Karzai Has Been
Stymieing Anti-Opium Efforts, "As
Many Of His Political Supporters Are
Amassing Wealth Through The Drug
Trade"**

**"Karzai Appointed A Convicted Heroin
Dealer, Izzatulla Wasifi, To Head His
Anticorruption Commission"**

A former high-ranking US State Department official has accused Afghanistan's government of undercutting anti-opium efforts in the country for its own political gain, in an article for Sunday's New York Times Magazine that was released early online.

In the article, "Is Afghanistan a Narco-State?", former State Department antinarcotics official Thomas Schweich wrote that Afghan President Hamid Karzai has been stymying US anti-opium efforts in southern Afghanistan, as many of his political supporters are amassing wealth through the drug trade.

A lot of intelligence - much of it unclassified and possible to discuss here - indicated that senior Afghan officials were deeply involved in the narcotics trade.

Narco-traffickers were buying off hundreds of police chiefs, judges and other officials.

Narco-corruption went to the top of the Afghan government.

The attorney general, Abdul Jabbar Sabit, a fiery Pashtun who had begun a self-described "jihad against corruption," told me and other American officials that he had a list of more than 20 senior Afghan officials who were deeply corrupt - some tied to the narcotics trade.

He added that President Karzai - also a Pashtun - had directed him, for political reasons, not to prosecute any of these people.

Back in January 2007, Karzai appointed a convicted heroin dealer, Izzatulla Wasifi, to head his anticorruption commission. Karzai also appointed several corrupt local police chiefs.

There were numerous diplomatic reports that his brother Ahmed Wali, who was running half of Kandahar, was involved in the drug trade.

Some governors of Helmand and other provinces – Pashtuns who had advocated aerial eradication – changed their positions after the "palace" spoke to them.

Karzai was lining up his Pashtun allies for re-election, and the drug war was going to have to wait. "Maybe we taught him too much about politics," Rice said to me after I briefed her on these developments.

Afghanistan is one of the world's leading opium producers, the drug trade accounting for 30 percent of its gross domestic product, according to Bloomberg.

Bloomberg adds that "Afghanistan's 2007 opium harvest rose 38 percent to a record 8,200 metric tons from 6,100 tons a year earlier, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Land cultivated to grow the drug increased by 17 percent to 193,000 hectares (476,700 acres) and cultivation in 2008 will be 'broadly similar,' it said."

MORE:

**P.S.
Hey, You Don't Mind Dying For An
Afghan Oil Pipeline Too -- Do
You?**

**“The U.S. Stayed On, Built Bases –
Which Just Happened To Be
Adjacent To The Planned Pipeline
Route – And Installed Former Unocal
‘Consultant’ Hamid Karzai As
Leader”**

**“The US Military And Its Allies Have
Become An ‘Energy Protection Force’”**

[Thanks to Louise, who sent this in.]

June 23, 2008 By Eric S. Margolis, contributing foreign editor for Sun National Media Canada, Eric Margolis Archives [Excerpts]

[A]ccording to Pakistani and Indian sources, Afghanistan just signed a major deal to launch a long-planned, 1680 km long pipeline project expected to cost \$ 8 billion.

If completed, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline (TAPI) will export gas and, later, oil from the Caspian Basin to Pakistan's coast where tankers will transport it to the west.

The Caspian Basin located under the Central Asian states of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakstan, holds an estimated 300 trillion cubic feet of gas and 100-200 billion barrels of oil.

Securing the world's last remaining known energy Eldorado is strategic priority for the western powers. China can only look on with envy.

But there are only two practical ways to get gas and oil out of land-locked Central Asia to the sea: through Iran, or through Afghanistan to Pakistan.

For Washington, Iran is tabu.

That leaves Pakistan, but to get there, the planned pipeline must cross western Afghanistan, including the cities of Herat and Kandahar.

In 1998, the Afghan anti-Communist movement Taliban and a western oil consortium led by the US firm Unocal signed a major pipeline deal.

Unocal lavished money and attention on Taliban, flew a senior delegation to Texas, and also hired an minor Afghan official, one Hamid Karzai.

Enter Osama bin Laden. He advised the unworldly Taliban leaders to reject the US deal and got them to accept a better offer from an Argentine consortium, Bidas.

Washington was furious and, according to some accounts, threatened Taliban with war.

But Washington still kept up sending money to Taliban until four months before 9/11 in an effort to keep it 'on side' for possible use in a war or strikes against Iran.

The 9/11 attacks, about which Taliban knew nothing, supplied the pretext to invade Afghanistan. The initial US operation had the legitimate objective of wiping out Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

But after its 300 members fled to Pakistan, the US stayed on, built bases – which just happened to be adjacent to the planned pipeline route – and installed former Unocal 'consultant' Hamid Karzai as leader.

Washington disguised its energy geopolitics by claiming the Afghan occupation was to fight 'Islamic terrorism,' liberate women, build schools, and promote democracy.

Ironically, the Soviets made exactly the same claims when they occupied Afghanistan from 1979-1989.

Work will begin on the TAPI once Taliban forces are cleared from the pipeline route by US, Canadian and NATO forces.

As American analyst Kevin Phillips writes, the US military and its allies have become an 'energy protection force.'

From Washington's viewpoint, the TAPI deal has the added benefit of scuttling another proposed pipeline project that would have delivered Iranian gas and oil to Pakistan and India.

Energy is more important than blood in our modern world.

The US is a great power with massive energy needs.

Domination of oil is a pillar of America's world power. Afghanistan and Iraq are all about control of oil.

Afghanistan: And The Stupid Bullshit Award Of The Week Goes To.....

Stupid Bullshit:

29 July 2008, t r u t h o u t | Perspective

“Although opposition to the occupation of Iraq has mounted, few Americans question the occupation of Afghanistan.”

Reality:

“A Startling 45% Of Americans Do Not Think The War In Afghanistan Is Worth Fighting”

From reports by EMILY FRIEDMAN, ABC News Internet Ventures July 18, 2008 & 19 July 2008 By Jeff Zeleny, The New York Times

The Pentagon and presidential rivals Barack Obama and John McCain all seem to agree on the need to send more troops to Afghanistan, but they are at odds with much of the country these days on the need to send more Americans into the lawless Afghan mountains.

The latest ABC News/Washington Post poll found that a startling 45 percent of Americans said they do not think the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting, despite the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which provoked the war in the first place.

Fifty-one percent of Americans now say that the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan has been unsuccessful, up from 24 percent in fall 2002.

Only 44 percent of Americans consider the war in Afghanistan a success, down from 70 percent in 2002.

**“It Was Outrageous To Me To Put
Those Boys Out There; They Were
Just Sitting Ducks”
Seattle Soldier Was One Of 9 Killed In
Afghanistan**

July 16, 2008 By MIKE BARBER, P-I REPORTER

Outnumbered by nearly four to one, 25-year-old Cpl. Jason Bogar and the eight other American soldiers he died with Sunday were among the small group of nearly 60 American and Afghan troops who fought a hellish battle, resorting to hand-to-hand fighting to prevent at least 200 Taliban militants from overrunning their small remote outpost in Afghanistan.

Bogar's parents, the Rev. Michael Bogar, pastor of the Spiritual Enrichment Center of West Sound on Bainbridge Island, and his mother, Bogar's ex-wife, Carlene Cross of Seattle, an author, college counselor and former KCTS/9 television producer in Seattle, learned of their son's death and heroism Sunday.

Wednesday, they heard more stunning news.

The base the soldiers had lost their lives to hold was being abandoned as indefensible, already quickly occupied by the Taliban, The Associated Press reported, citing military and government sources.

"It was outrageous to me to put those boys out there; they were just sitting ducks," Cross said Wednesday. "They fought for hours, and then got some air help, and turned them back. It is amazing. Jason died a hero, he fought hand to hand and I was told it was just unbelievable. And when (other troops) finally got to them, they were all dead."

She added: "One of the things I hope there will be is an investigation, and I hope they never do that again to any of our guys."

"We are really proud of him, and it's heartbreaking. We have to remember them the way they were and the way they would have wanted us to remember them. "

It was the deadliest attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan in three years.

Bogar and those killed with him served with the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, based in Vicenza, Italy.

The post was only two days old and occupied by 45 U.S. soldiers and 25 Afghan soldiers when it was attacked, The Times of London reported. Taliban fighters reportedly breached the outer defenses but were prevented from overrunning the base only after fierce hand-to-hand fighting and warplanes drove them back, it said.

Just over half of the U.S. garrison was killed or injured, with 15 wounded in the battle, in addition to the nine soldiers killed, The Times said.

Those who died with Bogar were: 1st Lt. Jonathan P. Brostrom, 24, of Hawaii; Sgt. Israel Garcia, 24, of Long Beach, Calif.; Cpl. Jonathan R. Ayers, 24, of Snellville, Ga.; Cpl. Jason D. Hovater, 24, of Clinton, Tenn.; Cpl. Matthew B. Phillips, 27, of Jasper, Ga.; Cpl. Pruitt A. Rainey, 22, of Haw River, N.C.; Cpl. Gunnar W. Zwilling, 20, of Florissant, Mo.; and Pfc. Sergio S. Abad, 21, of Morganfield, Ky.

In addition to his parents, Bogar is survived by two sisters, Micael Bogar, and Carise Martindale, and a brother-in-law, Jesse Martindale, a former Marine who served in Iraq.

Cross said her son often volunteered for dangerous missions in part because he was single and felt he could spell married troops from potential hazards.

“He said ‘I don’t have a wife and I have a real camaraderie with those guys,’” she said.

Bogar attended Bothell High School but, having an independent streak in his teens, joined the Job Corps in Mount Vernon and earned a graduate equivalency diploma while becoming an electrician apprentice.

Though he had been a bit of “a wildcat” in school, Cross said, after going to Iraq and experiencing the death of friends or near-death himself, he grew closer to faith.

“His spirituality was profound,” she said.

Bogar was the 24th member of the U.S. armed forces with ties to Washington to die in Afghanistan since the war began nearly seven years ago, shortly after 9/11.

Five have been killed this year as violence in Afghanistan has increased, while casualties in Iraq have decreased.

While a date and time have not been set, memorial services and burial with military honors for Bogar will be held at St. Mark’s Cathedral and Lake View Cemetery on Capitol Hill in Seattle.

The many who knew her son, who served with him in the National Guard and in the Army, have poured in messages of condolence with a common thread, Cross said.

“They all said he was a man of valor, and they were honored to serve with him,” she said.

Florissant Soldier Dies In Action In Afghanistan

July 22, 2008 By Elizabeth Perry, North County Journal

Family and friends are mourning the death of a Florissant soldier killed in action earlier this month.

Army Cpl. Gunnar Zwilling, 20, was one of nine soldiers killed in Afghanistan after their outpost was attacked July 13, according to the Department of Defense.

Zwilling was assigned to an airborne brigade combat team based in Italy. His father, Kurt Zwilling, is a resident of O’Fallon.

The soldier's uncle, Gary Zwilling, spoke to the media on behalf of his family last week. He said Kurt Zwilling is recovering from throat cancer.

Gunnar Zwilling's death is the second recent tragedy for the family. The young man's mother, Laura, also died this year, Gary Zwilling said.

Gary Zwilling said his nephew was a "wild child" who wanted to join the military like his older brother.

"(Gunnar) was the musician and troublemaker of the group," he said. "He wanted to go in the Army and do what his brother was doing."

The soldier's brother, Alex Zwilling, also in the military, planned to escort his brother's body back home over the weekend, Gary Zwilling said.

He said the late corporal's father just finished chemotherapy, going from 280 pounds down to 150.

"I don't know how much he can take," Gary Zwilling said. "When Gunnar gets back here, I know that's going to be the roughest." Gary Zwilling said he and his brother are Vietnam veterans, and his own son is in the National Guard.

"This has always been my fear," he said, "that I was going to get the phone call."

Gunnar Zwilling attended Hazelwood West High School in Florissant, district spokeswoman Diana Gulotta said.

A scan of the late soldier's MySpace page turns up a collection of cheerful photos, including some of himself with other soldiers in fatigues. Among his listed interests are guitar playing and "jumpin' outta planes."

In memory of Gunnar Zwilling, the city of O'Fallon lowered all flags on city property to half-staff.

In addition, the city and the O'Fallon VFW have donated to a collection to pay for a family luncheon following the funeral.

“On Several Occasions, Jon Told His Mother He Didn't Want To Take Part In The Mission That Ended Up Costing Him His Life” Family Struggles With Loss Of Soldier Son



Army Corporal Jonathan R. Ayers

07/17/08 By RACHEL POMERANCE, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Perhaps it was fitting that, in describing his son, Jonathan, killed in service Sunday in the gravest attack against U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan in three years, Bill Ayers gave humor its due.

"I'm a more serious Christian," he said, but "I still think the perfect funeral" would open with a country song and an act by Jeff Foxworthy.

"Even though (Jon) grew up on rock 'n' roll, he liked country," Ayers said, coyly. "We tried to raise him right."

It's not just that Jon loved Foxworthy, of whom he did a mean impersonation, or any of the blue-collar crew of comedians. He focused on joy and bringing it to others. "He didn't like sadness. He didn't like people to be unhappy," Ayers said, offering soft smiles when the ripples of pain appeared to momentarily leave him.

Army Corporal Jon Ayers was 24 when he was killed and due to leave Afghanistan in one week. The attack felled eight others, including one other from Georgia.

This was the period his father was most worried about – the "first month and the last month of tour is when things happen," he said, speculating that the rookies can get killed in the beginning and, by the end, people are mentally occupied with heading home.

On several occasions, Jon told his mother he didn't want to take part in the mission that ended up costing him his life. This was a larger mission than he'd undertaken before, with a group of 70 building a new operations base, and Jon was on the periphery, standing guard, Ayers said.

Stationed in the 173rd Airborne, he was based in Italy and deployed to Afghanistan on May 22, with an early Christmas break last August.

“It’s been the longest 15 months of our lives,” he said.

“He was able to call home a lot, and that’s been the best thing of all of it,” Ayers said. “But every time it would get past a normal weekend or a normal time he would call,” Mom and Dad would rush to the “Family Readiness Group” Web site, where they’d get updates about his battalion and check out pictures of their son and his Army buddies.

Jon had looked happy. He’d be stationed behind his group’s large gun, sometimes, with a smile and a childlike expression that read: “Hey, look at me!” Ayers said.

The Web site would go down when someone had been killed, while officials notified the family members of the fallen soldier, Ayers said. When the site came back up, they knew Jon was all right. It was the no-news-is-good-news rule.

Ayers was by himself at his Snellville-area home when he finally did get news — the way it’s always imagined — by way of two uniformed reps at the door.

It’s the “nightmare” of Army parents — to “hear the doorbell and look out and see two Army people standing there. You don’t have to go to the door, you know, and it doesn’t get any better from there,” he said.

That was Sunday afternoon. By Wednesday, Ayers was seated in his living room, surrounded by family members, with a copy of the military’s “Guide for Surviving Family Members” and a focus on getting Jon’s body home.

They’d just met with the Army liaison designated to help the family through the ordeal.

They had planned a Saturday funeral service but were told they “might be rushing,” he said. It’s the Army’s “hurry-up-and-wait,” approach, said Christina Ayers, Jon’s sister-in-law, who was preparing food in the kitchen.

The military wanted to properly honor Jon, whose efforts helped to save the lives of other men on the mission, Jon’s father said. For his service, they’d promoted him from specialist to corporal and would be performing a 21-gun salute at the funeral.

“They were attacked on three sides” and “they weren’t prepared for it,” he said, relaying the report from Jon’s commander who called him from Afghanistan on Tuesday morning, explaining that a coordinated group of 500 trained insurgents attacked in a three-hour-long battle. His commander had called him “very mature,” a take-charge type — “he could lead the people around him.”

Does he think his son’s group should have been prepared? “When you’re at war, things happen,” Ayers said. “Sometimes it takes something like this to make us prepared.”

Now they realize they’re fighting a serious army, not hillsmen and tribesmen, he added. Jon’s parents realized his death was “a possibility,” said his mother, Suzanne. “We thought when he got deployed to Afghanistan, that that was a whole lot better than Iraq at the time.”

In any case, Army service was something Jon felt he needed to do.

“He was military,” Bill Ayers said. “He liked spit-and-polish type things. He would fuss at us if our shoes weren’t cleaned just right,” he said, with a smile at the memory.

Jon had many interests — bowling, ice skating — and he loved the Atlanta Thrashers, even worked at the rink where they practiced, Ayers said.

But pride in country seems to have been paramount.

At Shiloh High School, he became commander of Junior ROTC, earning in 2002 Georgia’s “most impressive commander” honor and that same year, shepherding his group to win the state championship.

His family teased him, calling him “General JonJon.”

It started as a nickname from his soccer days — there were so many other kids named Jon on the team that his family decided to set him apart with a sobriquet. He played soccer as a young kid and continued through high school. When he was only 4 years old, the coach took him out on the field and outlined the area that he was supposed to defend.

“Jon was very, very strong, and he would not let anyone through that box,” his father recalled. “He pretty much always played defense, which is pretty much what he was doing till the day he died.”

2 Guam Guardsmen Killed: One Soldier Seriously Injured In Afghanistan



July 12, 2008 By Gaynor Dumat-ol Daleno, Pacific Daily News

Two Guam sons were killed and a third Guam soldier was seriously injured in action in Afghanistan Thursday, the Guam National Guard confirmed yesterday.

Sgt. Brian S. Leon Guerrero, 34, a father of three from Tamuning; and Spc. Samson A. Mora, 28, a bachelor and car-show enthusiast from Dededo, died of injuries sustained after their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

The explosion seriously injured Spc. Kalani Echang, 25, from Mangilao.

The three soldiers left for Afghanistan in January as members of the Guam Army National Guard 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1/294th Infantry Battalion.

About 180 soldiers from Alpha Company of the Guam Army National Guard are serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Guam and U.S. flags will be flown at half-staff across the island in honor of Leon Guerrero and Mora.

At this morning's Guam National Guard Taotaomona 5K Run, a moment of silence will be observed in memory of the fallen soldiers and to pray for the recovery of Spc. Echang.

The deaths of Leon Guerrero and Mora increased to 28 the number of sons of Micronesia killed since the War on Terror began in 2001.

Sgt. Leon Guerrero was husband to Emely G. Leon Guerrero and father to sons Karl and Brian and daughter Karian, according to the Guam National Guard. He also left behind stepson Julian and stepdaughter Maely.

Sgt. Leon Guerrero's parents, Gill Lujan and Rosita Pangelinan, live in Mangilao. Sam Mora's parents, Abraham and Angelina Mora, live in Dededo.

The Guam Army National Guard specialist was featured in the Pacific Daily News "Cruising" page in 2004 for having transformed his 1997 Toyota Tacoma into a sound-blasting, car-show winner.

Spc. Echang is married to Helory A. Echang and has two sons -- Ethan and Sean. His parents, Clifford Charles and Sabas Senior Echang live in Mangilao.

Dead Soldier Wanted To Teach



Cpl. Pruitt A. Rainey

Jul 17, 2008 Jay Price, Staff Writer; The News & Observer

One of the U.S. nine soldiers killed in the fierce battle Sunday that has refocused U.S. leaders' attention on Afghanistan was from Alamance County, just west of the Triangle.

Cpl. Pruitt A. Rainey of Haw River, a former heavyweight wrestler who hoped to become a teacher one day, was among the dead identified Wednesday in a Pentagon news release.

Rainey, 22, and his Italy-based unit were supposed to be in Afghanistan for only a couple more weeks, his uncle, David Gordon, said Wednesday afternoon. Instead, Rainey was among a small group of U.S. and Afghan soldiers who found themselves outnumbered in a pre-dawn surprise attack so devastating that some of the Taliban insurgents were able to fight their way inside the NATO compound.

According to The New York Times, there were about 200 attackers armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. Defending the small base and a nearby observation post were just 45 Americans and 25 Afghan soldiers. Among those who survived, 15 Americans and four Afghans were wounded.

Rainey was reared by his grandmother, Linda Kearney, though his parents are still alive, said his pastor, the Rev. Larry Redding, minister of Glen Hope Baptist Church in Burlington.

"He was just the sunshine of her life, such a good young man," Redding said. "She's just absolutely devastated."

Rainey was on the wrestling team at Graham High School and graduated in 2004 after a senior season that left him among the state's top-ranked wrestlers.

He attended Campbell University, where he was on the wrestling team, but left after a year and joined the Army in 2005, Gordon said.

He was stationed with the 503rd Airborne Regiment in Italy and deployed to Afghanistan in May 2007. He was expected to visit home in late August in time for his grandmother's birthday, and to eventually transfer from Italy to Fort Bragg, Gordon said.

Rainey was widely loved in the area, Redding said.

"We were just ill when we heard what had happened," Redding said. "Everybody loved him. He touched a lot of lives, and the whole community was just shocked."

Rainey was a sunny giant, and children were drawn to him, Redding said. In turn, Rainey was making plans to become a teacher when he got out of the Army.

Fallen Soldier Reveled In Family;

Pfc. Sergio S. Abad Planned To Be Married On Aug. 24



PROVIDED BY ABAD FAMILY

Jul. 25, 2008 BY ELINOR J. BRECHER, The Miami Herald

Pfc. Sergio S. Abad planned to be married on Aug. 24 at the South Miami Elks Club -- an Oriental-themed affair certain to feature music by the 21-year-old soldier's favorite singer: Frank Sinatra.

Instead, he'll be buried next week at Arlington National Cemetery, as an Army bugler plays taps.

Abad died July 13 in a firefight that killed nine soldiers at Wanat, a remote base in eastern Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

He had been scheduled to head home the next day.

Awaiting his return: His fiancée, Christina Parra, and a huge extended family -- a family not bound by blood but by the love of a young man who had adopted them.

Abad was a bright, funny, hyperactive 7-year-old when the Florida Department of Children & Families removed him from an abusive home and placed him with a relative.

By middle school, he had been absorbed into two unrelated households: the Popkos of Coral Gables and the Pittses of Riviera Estates, each with children his age.

Through him, the families became what Marilyn Popko calls "a kinship group."

Abad called Marilyn Popko and Lori Pitts "Mommy," their husbands "Dad," and his high school ROTC mentor, CSM Oliver R. Hoggard, "Pops."

He'd stay awhile with one family, then with the other, though sometimes he would withdraw and camp out in Tropical Park.

"He was one of the kids," said Lori Pitts, whose daughter, Krystine Pitts Flagg, befriended Abad at Homestead Middle School.

Pitts' husband, Coral Gables police Lt. Paul Pitts, "would throw him \$20 to go to the movies. He had chores around the house. He had to help out with laundry and feed the dog."

Abad "absorbed love like a sponge," Pitts said. "He never wanted to disappoint us."

Clinical psychologist Stephen Popko said he and Paul Pitts "set down the rules firmly," giving Abad the structure he craved.

He attended South Miami High School with the class of 2003, then earned a GED at the Job Corps center in Morganfield, Ky. The Army mistakenly listed Morganfield as his hometown in the news release announcing his death.

Toward the end of high school, Abad moved in with Marilyn Popko's sister's family on a five-acre horse farm in the Redland -- ideal for a youngster who loved animals and hard work.

Marybeth Klock-Perez, her sister, and husband Diego Perez, run Better Families Though Tae Kwan Do, a Bird Road martial-arts studio. Abad excelled at karate. He had a lot of energy and a knack for teaching children.

"He was really athletic and could knock out hundreds of push-ups with no problem," Marybeth said. "He always had something positive or funny or naughty to contribute."

For a youngster who had "been dealt really unfair cards in life, he was absolutely never bitter," Klock-Perez said. "He never used excuses or acted like the world owed him."

At school, Abad developed a passion for acting, directing and Junior ROTC, where he found another father figure: Hoggard, who ran the program.

Retired from the Army, Hoggard is now working for a defense contractor in Iraq.

Col. Eddie Santana took over the ROTC program shortly before Abad left but remembers him as "an outstanding young leader -- very disciplined and committed. He always knew what he wanted to do: join the Army."

A 2003 Miami Herald story described Abad climbing a 45-foot fire tower during a summer ROTC boot camp:

"Abad practically flew up the 50 steps to get to the top of the tower. . . . About 10 seconds later, Sergio was back on the ground. He took a swig of water and got in line for the next rappel."

He told the reporter: "You gotta die some day, right? You cannot compare this experience to anything else in the world."

After completing the Job Corps program, Abad entered basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. He was then stationed in Vicenza, Italy, for a year.

“It was one of the best times he ever had,” Marilyn Popko said. “He went to Germany, Switzerland, France. And he loved jumping out of airplanes. He came home after a year for a month, then went to the Agham Korengal Valley,” a Taliban stronghold in northeastern Afghanistan on the Pakistani border.

He was apprehensive about combat, Stephen Popko said. “He knew from the beginning that he might not come home, but this was his thing. It was high energy, and he was going to make it. . . . He was sent on classified missions.”

After a month’s leave in March, Abad deployed to Camp Blessing, an eastern Afghan base. By July 13, he and his comrades had gone to Wanat, a new forward-operating base in Kunar province that Stars & Stripes, the Army newspaper, says is the size of a football field.

At 4:30 a.m., a rocket-propelled grenade landed in the base’s mortar pit, the opening salvo of a two-hour battle that proved the deadliest for U.S. troops in Afghanistan since 2005.

Abad’s loved ones say he was hit in the femoral artery.

“This was not a haphazard attack,” Stars & Stripes opined. Some 200 insurgents “fought from several positions. They aimed to overrun the new base. The U.S. soldiers knew it and fought like hell.”

A wounded survivor told the newspaper: “It was some of the bravest stuff I’ve ever seen in my life, and I will never see it again because...normal humans wouldn’t do that. You’re not supposed to do that -- getting up and firing back when everything around you is popping and whizzing and trees, branches coming down and sandbags exploding and RPGs coming in over your head -- It was a fistfight then, and those guys held ‘em off.”

Abad would have become a father in December. He died not knowing his child is a girl.

Fiancée Christina Parra plans to give her the name that Abad chose: Lorelai Rocio Abad -- after Lori Pitts and Christina’s mother.

He wanted a daughter, said Krystine Flagg.

“He wanted to give her the life he never had. A mother and father who stayed together.”

Other survivors include “siblings” Katheryn, Zachery and Leo Pitts, and Catherine Popko.

Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan:

Reporter Arrested For “Insulting” Government Officials

29 July 2008 (AFP)

KABUL - Afghanistan’s intelligence agency has detained a journalist after President Hamid Karzai’s cabinet ordered him to be legally pursued for alleged criticism of top officials, his employer said on Tuesday.

Nasir Fayaz, who hosts a TV programme called “Haqiqat” or “The Truth” on private Ariana TV, was detained on Monday, a day after the airing of part of his show critical of two of Karzai’s ministers, his news editor told AFP.

The late Sunday programme was pulled off the air mid-broadcast on the demand of the intelligence agency which had called into the station, said the head of Ariana TV news desk, Abdul Qadir Noorzai.

On Monday the journalist was summoned to the offices of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Noorzai said. “Later I received a SMS from him saying, ‘I’m in custody’. Since then we have not heard from him.”

The show was discussed at the regular cabinet meeting on Monday which accused the reporter of “insulting” top government officials, according to a summary released to the media.

“During the cabinet meeting, it was agreed that the mentioned person (Fayaz) be referred to the attorney general’s office and be legally pursued.”

Noorzai said however the programme had been based on interviews with analysts and officials about security, cultural and political issues over the past four years.

A 23-year-old reporter has been detained since October for distributing a texts said to insult Islam. Perwez Kambakhsh was sentenced to death by a primary provincial court but is appealing.

Resistance Action

7.24.08 By Waheedullah Massoud (AFP) & DPA & By Emranullah Arif (AFP) & July 29 (Reuters)

A remote-controlled bomb destroyed a police vehicle in the eastern province of Paktia early Thursday, killing four policemen and wounding three others, said deputy provincial police chief Ghulam Dastageer Azad. A remote-controlled bomb exploded and destroyed the pick-up truck while the police were on patrol in Syed Karam district. The wounded, two of them in critical condition, were evacuated to the civil hospital in the provincial capital Gardez city, he added.

Taliban fighters also ambushed a police vehicle on patrol in the southwestern province of Farah overnight. “Three police were killed and another three were wounded.

In Khost on Sunday, a bomber blew himself up inside a tent of security guards, killing one of them and injuring six more, local officials said. The attacker, who had strapped explosives to his body, detonated after entering the tent used by guards in charge of security for a road construction company in Yaqobai district, district chief Gul Qasim Jihadyar said.

A lawmaker survived a roadside bomb blast on Monday but three of his body guards were killed and three more wounded when the device hit their convoy in the southeastern province of Paktia, a provincial official said.

A roadside bomb killed two Afghan soldiers near Lashkar Gah on Monday, the provincial capital of Helmand, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

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

TROOP NEWS

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



SOLDIERS FROM Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. carry the casket of Pfc. Willington Rhoads, who died July 16 in Afghanistan, to his burial site at Edgar Cemetery. (July 26, 2008: Beacon-News Photo/A. Kennedy)

**ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT;
ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier walks past a front loader at outpost Carver, in Salman Pak, about 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad. The additional outpost is on the outskirts of town. REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud (IRAQ)

**REMINDER:
IVAW's Bases Tour Has 3 Events At
Ft Drum This Weekend!**



July 29, 2008, Citizen Soldier

REMINDER!

The IVAW will kick off its national military bases tour this coming weekend, August 1-3d with three public events adjacent to Ft Drum in Watertown, N Y

Friday, August 1st, 7:00 pm

Fundraiser for IVAW's Bases Tour at the Different Drummer Cafe, 12 Paddock Arcade, Watertown, NY 7:00 pm

Readings by Iraq vets and a DVD of excerpts from the "Winter Soldier" hearings in Washington will be shown.

Saturday, August 2d, 7:30 pm

Concert and Party at the Different Drummer, featuring "Head Roc," "Ryan Harvey," and other performers.

Sunday, August 3d, 1:00 pm,

IVAW picnic, at beautiful Thompson Park in Watertown (designed by Frederick Olmstead of Central Park fame)

Please turn out to show your support for IVAW's outreach efforts to active duty personnel.

We promise that not only will the events be informative but they'll be a good parties as well!

(More info: go to www.differentdrummercafe.org)

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”
-- Camille Desmoulins**

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 War Is In Section A On Page 9



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: July 28, 2008
Subject: The War is in Section A on Page 9

The War is in Section A on Page 9

**This picture was taken in 1989, in Salem, Oregon.
They brought the Moving Wall there for a week-end tour.**

58,000 American soldiers were killed in Vietnam.
300,000 American soldiers were wounded in Vietnam.
50,000 plus Vietnam veterans committed suicide.
Thousands of Vietnam veterans died from
Agent Orange exposure.
Hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans died
from alcoholism and drug addiction.
Thousands of Vietnam veterans died homeless.
Thousands of Vietnam veterans died before their time,
due to inadequate VA benefits.

With all of this said,
millions of people still think the United States Government
really supports the troops.

I need to say something that I wish every American citizen could hear.

I will put it in capital letters to emphasize my point.

**WHEN I CAME BACK FROM VIETNAM IN 1971,
THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE I CAME IN CONTACT WITH,
DID NOT GIVE A SHIT IF I HAD BEEN TO VIETNAM,
OR A FUCKING SPORTING EVENT.
THEY DID NOT CARE.**

Nine American soldiers were recently killed in Afghanistan on the same day,
and the Portland Oregonian put the story in section A on page 9.

nine american soldiers were killed on the same day in afghanistan.

I wrote that in small letters,

because,

the general public has lost interest.

What I am about to say is somewhat vulgar,
at least by some people.

But,

when you send young people to war,
they have a tendency to come back in a rage.

Especially when they find out they have been had.

The last thing I felt before I left Vietnam,
was Dick Nixon's dick withdrawing from my ass.

And now,

it's Dick Cheney's turn.

The empty chair in this picture,
says it all for me.

The entire Vietnam War broke my soul.

It removed everything that was sacred to me.

The only thing that gives me my life back,
is to bear witness to the truth that the ruling class in America,
don't give a damn if you die in their dirty little wars.

And that,

is the epitome of vulgarity.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
July 28, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



An Iraqi woman, carrying a newborn infant, runs away from her house as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army launch an armed home invasion to search her

personal possessions near Qara Tappah, about 75 miles northeast of Baghdad in Diyala province July 21, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[Fair is fair.

[Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

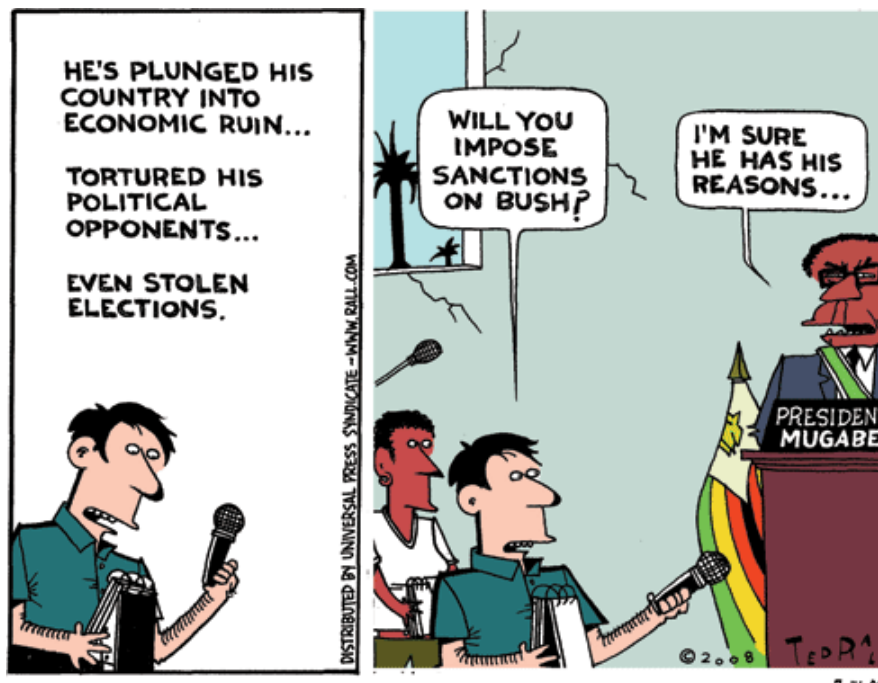
[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people.

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?

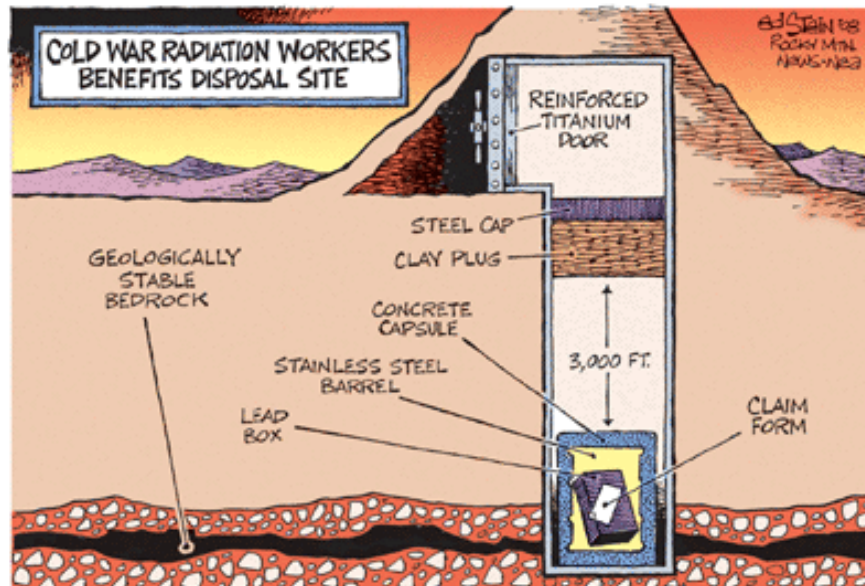
[You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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“The Federal Government Protects The Most Powerful Interests From The Consequences Of Their Plundering”

July 14, 2008 By William Greider, The Nation [Excerpt]

We are witnessing a momentous event--the great deflation of Wall Street--and it is far from over.

The crash of IndyMac is just the beginning. More banks will fail, so will many more debtors.

The crisis has the potential to transform American politics because, first it destroys a generation of ideological bromides about free markets, and, second, because it makes visible the ugly power realities of our deformed democracy.

Democrats and Republicans are bipartisan in this crisis because they have colluded all along over thirty years in creating the unregulated financial system and mammoth mega-banks that produced the phony valuations and deceitful assurances.

The federal government protects the most powerful interests from the consequences of their plundering. It prescribes "market justice" for everyone else.

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/)



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=->

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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