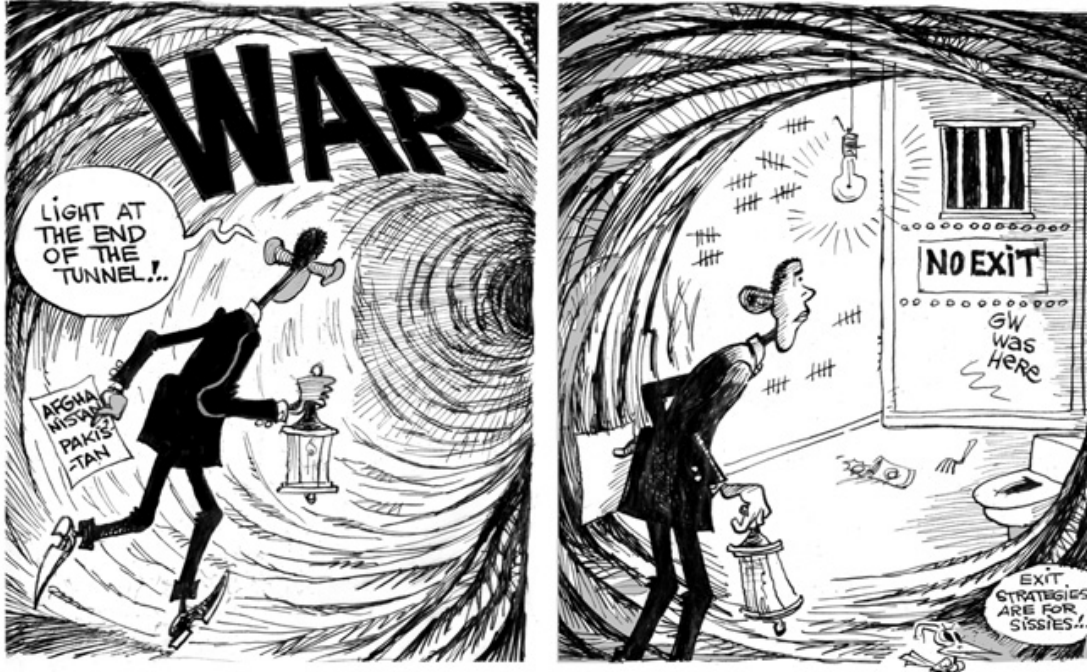


GI SPECIAL 7H7:



“New GI Newspaper At Fort Hood”

[“Please Pass The News On”]

INSTALLATION STATUS: **FUCKED** Welcome to Fort Hood's upd

THIS WEBSITE IS CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED FREE SPEECH. IT IS A PARODY AND IS NOT THE 'REAL' FORT HOOD WEBSITE. FTA!

NotSoGreatPlace.com

FUCK THE U.S. ARMY **HOOD.ARM.Y.MIL** **FORT HOOD**
THE GREAT PLACE
Bullshit!

WELCOME TO FORT HOOD, TEXAS ...The Not So Great Place

From: [xxxxx]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 05, 2009
Subject: New GI newspaper at Fort Hood

Info on this anonymous project can be found at: www.notsogreatplace.com

Please pass the news on.

MORE:

Fort Hood Soldiers Find A Refuge: Under The Hood Outreach And Café: “It’s People Who Agree With What I’m Doing, And Definitely Disagree With The War”

7/27/2009 By: Brandi Powell, News 8 Austin

Under the Hood Outreach and Cafe is a place where soldiers can speak freely about whatever they want, according to managers of the café.

And soldiers say the 5-month-old cafe has been a second home for them.

“I don’t have to address anyone as private, or sergeant or specialist here. We’re all the same people, we’re all soldiers, bottom line,” Spc. Michael Kern said.

Stationed at Fort Hood, the 22-year-old said Under the Hood has been a lifesaver. “I had a mental breakdown and wanted to kill myself, and I believe, if I wasn’t here, I would have,” Kern said. “So, I can firmly say that this place has saved my life.”

Kern said he asked for help with mental health issues overseas. When he didn’t get it, he turned to café for help.

“We do encourage all of the boys to go through the chain of command, and say ‘I want to be tested,’” Under the Hood Director Cynthia Thomas said. “And they don’t even have to go to their chain of command, we tell them just go to their primary care physician, and say look, ‘I want to be tested for traumatic brain injury,’ and if they tell you ‘no’, come and tell us and we’ll figure something out.”

Kern, who said he is trying to get out of the Army, said the café connected him with a counselor.

Sgt. Travis Bishop, who’s also on active duty at Fort Hood, said he’s also trying to get out of the Army.

“It’s a support network,” Bishop said. “It’s people who agree with what I’m doing, and definitely disagree with the war. I disagree with all war. It’s really good to know that there are people who care, who support your decision.”

Bishop said he's pending court martial, because he won't deploy again. He said Under the Hood is helping him deal with his transition.

“This isn't an anti-military kind of a place,” Bishop said. “This is a pro-soldier kind of a place.”

If you'd like to learn more about the history behind Under the Hood Outreach and Cafe, or how you can donate to the nonprofit, visit UnderTheHoodCafe.org.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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 wars, 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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

51 US Soldiers In Iraq Diagnosed With Swine Flu

8.9.09 By CHELSEA J. CARTER (AP)

BAGHDAD — Fifty-one American troops in Iraq have been diagnosed with and treated for swine flu, while another 71 soldiers remain in isolation suspected of contracting the potentially deadly virus, the U.S. military said Sunday.

The figures were released as Iraqi health officials confirmed Sunday the country's first swine flu death.

All the 51 U.S. troops diagnosed with the flu have fully recovered, while the 71 suspect cases are in isolation, said Col. Michael D. Eisenhower, the chief of clinical operations in Iraq.

It was not immediately known whether the diagnosed and suspected cases were confined to a single U.S. base, or whether they were spread across Iraq.

In May, 18 U.S. soldiers on their way to Iraq were diagnosed with swine flu in Kuwait. They recovered after treatment on an American base in Kuwait and left the country.

Resistance Action

Aug 7 (Reuters) & (KUNA) & Aug 8 (Reuters) & Aug 9 (Reuters)

MOSUL - Insurgents opened fire on an Iraqi police checkpoint killing two policemen southeast of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents shot dead an off duty policeman in central Mosul, police said.

Three policemen were killed when a motorcycle bomb exploded targeting a police patrol west of Baghdad late on Friday. A security source said the bombing occurred in a market in the neighborhood of Khadra adding that three policemen were among the wounded.

Insurgents in a speedy car wounded an off duty policeman in northern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on Friday, police said.

Insurgents opened fire on a police checkpoint killing a policeman in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded four policemen in southern Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded two policemen in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

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

**Just One More Betrayal:
The Traitor Obama And His Iraqi
Collaborators Agree Perfectly;
Democracy Is Bullshit:**

They Cancel Bush's Promise To Let Iraqis Vote June 30 On Getting Rid Of The U.S. Occupation

05 August 2009 by: Maya Schenwar, Truthout Report [Excerpts]

When Iraq's Parliament ratified its security pact with the US last year, allowing the presence of US troops until the end of 2011, it built in a provision for a public referendum vote to take place.

This would let the Iraqi people decide the ultimate future of the pact.

If the public voted to negate it, the US withdrawal deadline would have been shifted up to next summer.

The vote, scheduled to take place by July 30, never happened.

American interests likely played a significant role in the missed vote.

The postponement came a week after Maliki's White House visit, during which both he and President Obama reiterated the December 2011 deadline for withdrawal.

Neither mentioned the referendum.

Moreover, a mid-June New York Times article stated, "American diplomats are quietly lobbying the government not to hold the referendum," and suggested that any delay in voting might be "in deference to American concerns."

The pro-occupation elements of Iraq's government had reason to be scared of a referendum. If Iraqis had cast their votes last Thursday, they may well have rejected the security pact (otherwise known as Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA).

In an extensive March ABC/BBC poll, a plurality of Iraqis said they'd prefer a quicker timetable for US withdrawal than the one specified in the SOFA.

A rejection of the SOFA would have accelerated the US withdrawal deadline to a year from the vote's date: July 30, 2010.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY**

UNFIT FOR COMMAND UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE



(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier From Mercian Regiment Killed In Helmand

9 Aug 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a British soldier from The 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment was killed in Afghanistan, yesterday, Saturday 8 August 2009.

The soldier died following an explosion while on patrol, just east of Gereshk in Helmand Province, yesterday afternoon.

Cashion Marine Killed in Afghanistan



Jonathan Stroud, Lacie Stroud (center). Photo: Debra Boyd

Jul 31, 2009 News9

OKLAHOMA CITY -- A 20-year-old Marine from Cashion was killed in line of duty in Afghanistan.

A family friend said Jonathan Stroud was killed Thursday morning during a fire fight.

Stroud's close friend, Sam Boyd, said he's proud of Jonathan's service and sacrifice.

"He already had a high view of the United States as it was. Becoming a Marine was just, Jonathan was so spontaneous there was no reason behind it other than he wanted to do it," Boyd said.

Stroud joined the Marine Corp in May 2008 and was stationed in Afghanistan since June 1.

Stroud leaves behind his wife Lacie who is pregnant with the couple's first child. The baby is due in December.

Stroud graduated from Cashion High School and faculty said he was exceptionally intelligent. His former counselor said God gifted him with superior skills in reading and writing, enough that she said she didn't mind when he occasionally snuck into the teacher's lounge to grab a pop.

Those who remember Stroud in high school said he was goofy and gangly, and that's the way they liked him.

“Probably one of the most honest, dorkiest, nicest guys you could possibly meet,” Boyd said.

A family friend said Stroud’s mother and sister will meet his wife in North Carolina. They’ll bring his body back to Cashion for burial.

Body Of Slain GHS Grad, Marine Returns To US

July 28, 2009 By Lise Fisher and Lillian Guevara-Castro, Staff writers, Gainesville.com

The body of Gainesville resident Donald Wayne Vincent, a U.S. Marine who died over the weekend while serving in Afghanistan, was returned to the United States Tuesday.

Vincent, 26, deployed to Afghanistan in May. He died Saturday while supporting combat operations in the country’s Helmand province, according to the U.S. Department of Defense and other military sources. His body was flown to the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Services for Vincent are pending, his father said Tuesday.

Vincent is the sixth casualty from Alachua County since the 2001 start of the Iraq and Afghanistan war and the first local death to occur in Afghanistan, said Jim Lynch, the Veterans Services Director for Alachua County.

Lynch said he had a foreboding when U.S. military involvement increased in Afghanistan recently that the local death toll would rise. He said he had just commissioned a monument for the Iraq-Afghanistan war dead from this area to be unveiled at Kanapaha Veterans Park on Veterans Day.

“Unfortunately, we’ll have to add another name to it,” he said. “It’s the ongoing cost of war.”

Vincent joined the Marine Corps in January 2008 and, the same month he deployed, had earned the rank of private first class.

Friends and family had been sending Vincent items to help his stay overseas. Recently, friends had forwarded him a solar charger to use with an iPod loaded with movies, said Andrea Walters, whose son was a good friend of Vincent and who taught him when he was in elementary school.

Walters doesn’t think the packages ever made it to Vincent. Over the weekend, people who knew Vincent began hearing the news he had died overseas.

“He was just a sweetheart,” Walters said.

Linda Awbrey, director of student activities at Gainesville High School, remembered Vincent, who was a member of the school’s 2001 graduating class. “I remember him being a very kind person, the type of student who would stop and help another person,” she said. “He always was very helpful and nice to be around.”

Vincent's death was a loss to the GHS community, she said.

Vincent's family had military ties, Walters said. "When he went into the Marines, he just grew a foot taller."

Vincent was an assaultman assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, according to the military.

An assaultman handles weapons such as the shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon and the Dragon medium assault anti-tank weapon and provides anti-bunker and anti-armor fire.

One of an assaultman's jobs is to shoot holes into buildings and allow other members of the team to enter the site, said Capt. Timothy L. Patrick, a Marine spokesman. Vincent would have deployed with a battalion that typically includes about 1,000 Marines.

Vincent's personal awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Georgia Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

July 23, 2009 WSBTV

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. -- A soldier from Georgia was killed in Afghanistan Monday, according to the Department of Defense.

Channel 2 Action News reporter Diana Davis sat down with the mother of 20-year-old Army Spc. Anthony Lightfoot.

"I would never have thought I would have to bury my son. I would have thought my children would bury me," said LyVonne Lightfoot, an Army veteran herself who now lives in Lawrenceville.

The Department of Defense said Lightfoot, a member of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division Soldiers, died as a result of injuries from an explosive device that detonated near the combat vehicle he was traveling in. Three other soldiers died as well. After the device detonated, officials said an attack followed from enemy forces using small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fires.

"I was always scared because being in the military ... you know something has happened when you get the knock at the door," said LyVonne Lightfoot.

Garland Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Remembered For His Kindness To Others

August 2, 2009 By MATTHEW WALLER, The Dallas Morning News

Sgt. Gregory Owens Jr. was scheduled to be home this weekend, on leave from Afghanistan.

He decided to help a fellow soldier and swap shifts – and instead be stateside in mid-October to surprise his father on his 50th birthday.

On July 20, Sgt. Owens, 24, of Garland, and three others died in the central eastern province of Wardak in a roadside bombing and attack.

His family will hold a memorial service at 12:30 p.m. today at Restland Funeral Home. He will be buried at 2 p.m. Saturday in Mooringsport, La., alongside other family members.

His sister, Shelena Owens, of Atlanta, said the shift switch was “just an example of how he sacrificed to put others before him.”

The Department of Defense says an improvised explosive device detonated near Sgt. Owens' vehicle. Enemy forces then attacked with firearms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Spc. Anthony M. Lightfoot, 20 of Riverdale, Ga.; Spc. Andrew J. Roughton, 21, of Houston; and Pfc. Dennis J. Pratt, 34 of Duncan, Okla., were also killed in the attack. All were with the 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

Ms. Owens said the family is keeping their spirits up by remembering the good times with their brother and son.

“We're being strong,” Ms. Owens said.

She remembered how her brother kept her company the summer she had her appendix removed, staying through each day for an entire week. She also fondly remembered road trips the two took.

LaDonna Owens, Sgt. Owens' mother, said he excelled at “bringing joy to other people. He always put others before himself. He made time to spend with other people and to listen to them.”

Sgt. Owens was born in Germany but attended high school in Dallas. His father, Gregory Owens Sr., is retired from the Army, and the family moved often while he was serving.

Sgt. Owens attended Hillcrest High School and kept a full schedule.

“He did everything to keep my mom busy 24/7: band, Boy Scouts, church,” his sister said.

Sgt. Owens graduated from Hillcrest with honors in 2002. He was a drum major for the school and an Eagle Scout with Troop 709, she said.

Ms. Owens said she will remember her brother rough-housing with his younger brothers and playing sports with them.

Sgt. Owens’ mother said her son became “more loving as he grew older.”

Following in his father’s footsteps, Sgt. Owens joined the military in January 2007.

Ms. Owens said her brother was in high spirits about his military service when his family last saw him, Christmas 2008.

Mr. Owens said the family was apprehensive about his son’s first tour, in Afghanistan, which he left for in January.

“We didn’t like it, but we knew he had to follow the orders that were given to him,” his father said.

Family members said they have been overwhelmed by the support since Sgt. Owens’ death.

“People we don’t even know have been offering all kinds of help,” Ms. Owens said.

They were especially thankful for the military escorts provided by the Office of Casualty Assistance.

“They’ve done an excellent job. They’ve been extremely helpful and compassionate to our needs,” Ms. Owens said.

In addition to his parents and sister, Sgt. Owens is survived by two brothers, Lamar, 21, and Jonathan, 18, both of Garland.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be mailed Sgt. Gregory Owens’ battalion:

HHB 4/25 FA
3BCT
10th MTN DIV
FOB AIRBORNE
APO, AE 09354

Spring Township Mother Mourning Her Soldier Son, But Beaming With Pride

8/5/2009 By David Mekeel, Reading Eagle

Army Cpl. Jonathan M. Walls was born to be in the military.

"The Army was in his soul from day one," his mother, Lisa K. Rowe, said Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Walls, a 2001 Wilson High School graduate, was killed Saturday with two fellow soldiers in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked them with improvised explosive devices and rocket-propelled grenades, according to the Defense Department. The soldiers were on foot patrol, Walls' family said.

Rowe, who lives in Spring Township, spent Monday night and Tuesday morning at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, awaiting a military plane carrying the flag-draped coffins of her son and five other soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

At 6:15 a.m., as the sun rose behind the tarmac, the coffins, each accompanied by a color guard, were removed from the plane one by one and slowly carried to a waiting truck.

Standing off to the side, Rowe and her family joined the families of the other fallen warriors as they paid tribute to their heroes.

"We were all family," Rowe said of the others at the air base. "We would have our bouts, we would have our laughs, we would have our stories, we would have our prayers."

Rowe said the brief ceremony was elegant and respectful, and that the Army treated everyone like family. She said her son would have been happy about that - after all, he looked at his fellow soldiers like brothers.

His body is being taken to an Army base in Fort Carson, Colo., and later will be released to his wife, Meghan, who lives there. A funeral will follow in Colorado, Rowe said, and a memorial service in Lower Heidelberg Township is planned for Monday.

Rowe said she and Walls had lived in Spring Township since he was in first grade. Rowe's name was incorrect in a story Tuesday in the Reading Eagle.

Walls' path to the military was set at a young age, his mother said Tuesday, as she sat in the living room of her home, a scrapbook filled with photographs of her son on her lap.

He always talked about the Army and Marines, she said, and began in the 10th grade to seriously consider joining up.

He ruled out the Navy because he thought he'd get seasick, and his uneasiness on amusement park rides that soar high in the air left the Air Force out of the picture, Rowe said.

Following high school, Walls wavered for a while, unsure if he was ready to make the leap, she said. Then, on Christmas 2004, he gave his mother a teddy bear dressed as a soldier. It was his way of telling her he had decided.

Rowe said she worried, but knew she couldn't do anything to stop him.

"He found a place where he belonged," she said. "It was where his heart and soul were. He would have been a lifer."

Walls loved the camaraderie of the Army, and he loved getting a chance to help others - a trait he showed from an early age.

Rowe recalled a time when Walls was still in elementary school and came home one winter day without his coat.

"There was a girl who was cold, so he gave it to her," she said, her face glowing with a proud smile. "I never did get that coat back."

Walls' first tour of duty went well. He was in Iraq and communicated often with his family through the Internet.

But during a visit home shortly before he left for Afghanistan a few months ago, Rowe said she sensed this tour would be different.

"I wasn't comfortable with him going there this time," she said. "And I felt he was uneasy about it. He didn't say anything, but there was a look in his eyes. He was more or less saying, 'This is going to be a rough one.'"

Contact with her son was less frequent from Afghanistan, and Rowe kept tabs on him mostly through the occasional communications he was able to have with his wife.

But when Meghan called over the weekend, it wasn't for the normal update.

Rowe's son was dead.

A group of soldiers who arrived at her door a short time later made it official, despite Rowe's hopes that it was a mistake.

"All I remember saying is, 'Are you sure it's him?'" she said.

The hours and days since then have been a whirlwind for Rowe.

First the trip to Delaware and back, without more than an hour or so to sleep. Then there's the planning for the memorial, and a steady stream of visitors knocking on her door.

And the phone. It hasn't stopped ringing for days.

"The tape on my answering machine actually filled up," she said.

But Rowe doesn't seem to mind. The energy to talk about her son comes naturally, her smile only occasionally broken by bursts of tears.

That's the way her son would have wanted it, she said. He wouldn't want anyone to be upset or sad. He died doing something he loved.

"If he were here he'd tell us all to knock it off," Rowe said after she and a few family members shared a brief cry.

So she tries to be strong, and talks proudly of her son and what he's done.

"My son made a very valiant and honorable choice in his life," she said.

And when things start to get too tough, she grasps the dog tags around her neck, the ones he gave her after his first tour in Iraq.

"I carry his dog tags with me now," she said. "They're the only way I can survive right now."

Who Would Believe It? Drugs And Alcohol Reaching British Base In Afghanistan

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

August 2, 2009 By JOHN HIGGINSON, Associated Newspapers Limited

Drugs and alcohol are routinely being smuggled into Britain's biggest military base in Afghanistan, Metro has learned.

Heroin, amphetamines, steroids and alcohol are brought on to Camp Bastion in Helmand province by Russian contractors, military commanders claim.

Apart from fears that the contraband will get into the hands of British troops, it could also expose the hypocrisy of attempts to stamp out the drug trade, which funds much of the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Wing Commander Shaun Ryles said: 'Everywhere on Camp Bastion is dry but they are smuggling it in.'

The problem was highlighted during a briefing for armed forces minister Bill Rammell on a visit to the region.

Alcohol is banned on all British bases in Afghanistan, except in Kabul.

But Wing Cdr Ryles said drugs and alcohol had turned up during searches.

Mr Rammell, who appeared shocked by the revelation, said: 'This is a serious issue that we will continue to tackle.'

U.S. Attack Copters Help The Resistance; Open Fire On Collaborator Cops

08.08.2009 DVIDS

KABUL, Afghanistan – Several Afghan national police were wounded when two U.S. AH-64 Apache helicopters responded to small arms fire from insurgents in the early morning hours in Ghazni province, Aug. 8.

The Afghan National Police wounded were treated by International Security Assistance Force service members. One has been released from treatment. Four ANP are still being treated, including one who is in critical condition, and three who are in stable condition.

**BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
POINTLESS WAR:
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines inside Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan's Helmand province June 8, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

President George W. Obama At It Again:

“Obama Regime Announces A New ‘Surge’ Of Direct American Involvement In The War”

“U.S. Military ‘Advisors’ To Help ‘Train’ The Forces Of The Ever-Collapsing Transitional Government”

The gall of these gilded poltroons -- denouncing foreign interference while standing on mountains of corpses produced by the endless American “interference” in other countries -- is truly sublime.

07 August 2009 By Chris Floyd, Empire Burlesque [Excerpts]

There is apparently no path blazed by George W. Bush that Barack Obama will not eagerly follow.

Surges, assassinations, indefinite detention, defense of torture, senseless wars and rampant militarism -- in just a few short months, we've seen it all.

To this dismaying record of complicity and continuity, we can add an increasing direct involvement in the horrific, hydra-headed conflict in Somalia, whose latest round of fiery hell was instigated by the American-backed invasion of Somalia by Ethiopia in late 2006.

Under Bush, U.S. forces were deeply and directly enmeshed in the murderous action, dropping bombs on fleeing refugees, “renditioning” other refugees to the tender mercies of Ethiopia’s notorious prisons, and even sending in death squads to clean up after missile strikes and bombings.

So what do we see from the administration of “hope and change”? We see -- wait for it - - a new “surge” of direct American involvement in the war, with Obama’s most ferocious war hawk -- sorry, his top diplomat -- Hillary “The Obliterator” Clinton leading the charge.

Clinton has pledged to double the recently announced supply of American weapons to Somalia's "transitional government" -- a weak reed cobbled together by Western interests from various CIA-paid warlords and other factions, and now headed, ironically, by the former leader of the aforementioned fledgling state overthrown by Washington.

Clinton, bellicose as ever, accompanied the shipment of 80 tons of death-dealing hardware with a heavy dose of the wild fearmongering rhetoric we've come to know so well in this New American Century.

As AP reports, she declared that the radical faction al-Shabab, now leading the insurgency against the transitional government, has only one goal in mind: bring in al Qaeda and destabilizing the whole entire world.

Yes, dear hearts, once again the survival of the planet -- not to mention the sacred American way of life -- is under imminent threat from a gang of evil maniacs; a threat requiring the urgent enrichment of the U.S. arms industry -- sorry, I mean the urgent intervention of American know-how.

The interim Somali president, Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed -- an Islamist who only a few years ago was considered by Washington as, well, an evil maniac in league with al Qaeda -- agreed with Clinton, saying that al-Shabab aims to "make Somalia a ground to destabilize the whole world."

This would be the same al-Shabab that Ahmed has spent most of his presidency trying to negotiate a power-sharing agreement with. (Where's that scorecard again?)

As usual, the AP story buries some of the most blazing, salient facts way down in the uncritical regurgitation of official rhetoric.

But credit where it's due, the story does finally note that the new American assistance is not confined to stuff that can kill more Somalis; it also includes - wait for it again -- U.S. military "advisors" to help "train" the forces of the ever-collapsing transitional government.

Clinton also shook a sword at neighboring Eritrea, accusing it of supporting al-Shabab and "interfering" in Somalia's internal affairs.

This, while she was announcing the delivery of 80 tons of American weapons to be poured into Somalia's internal affairs.

This line is of course just an echo of the continual Bush-Obama warnings against "foreigners" interfering in Iraq.

The gall of these gilded poltroons -- denouncing foreign interference while standing on mountains of corpses produced by the endless American "interference" in other countries -- is truly sublime.

Clinton said that if Eritrea doesn't start toeing the imperial line, "we intend to take actions."

(All you future Gold Star mothers and war widows out there better get out your atlases: your loved ones could soon be dying in yet another part of the world you never heard of.)

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Spc. James Wertish, Saint Mary's Church, Bird Island, Minn. July 27, 2009
Wertish killed in Iraq on July 16. (AP Photo/The West Central Tribune, Ron Adams)

**“It Was Not Worth It, It Was Not
Worth One Let Alone All The
Millions”
“For The ‘Last Tommy’ Harry Patch,
Who Watched His Friends Killed In**

The First World War, The Enemy Was Not The Germans But War Itself” “He Condemned War As ‘Organised Murder’”



[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Project & Alobar & Phil G. who sent this in.]

[Phil G writes: “Note the sickening hypocrisy of the British Prime Minister and the royal family.”

25 Jul 2009 By Robin Henry, Times Online & Telegraph Media Group & By ROBERT BARR, Associated Press Writer Robert Barr, Associated Press Writer & 28 July 2007 By NIGEL BLUNDELL, Daily Mail

Private Harry Patch, who died aged 111, was believed to be the last surviving British soldier to have gone into action on the Western Front, an experience about which he retained bitter memories.

For the ‘Last Tommy’ Harry Patch, who watched his friends killed in muddy trenches and battlefields of the first world war, the enemy was not the Germans but war itself.

Patch did not speak about his war experiences until he was 100. Once he did, he was adamant that the slaughter he witnessed had not been justified.

He condemned war as “organised murder” adding: “It was not worth it, it was not worth one let alone all the millions.

“It’s important that we remember the war dead on both sides of the line - the Germans suffered the same as we did.”

“I met someone from the German side and we both shared the same opinion: we fought, we finished and we were friends,” he said in 2007.

“It wasn’t worth it.”

The five-man Lewis gun team had a pact to try not to kill any enemy soldiers but to aim at their legs unless it came down to killing or being killed, he said.

“I didn’t welcome the war at all, and never felt the need to get myself into khaki and go out there fighting before it was ‘all over by Christmas.’ That’s what people were saying, that the war wouldn’t last long,” he said.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the whole country would mourn “the passing of a great man.”

“The noblest of all the generations has left us, but they will never be forgotten. We say today with still greater force, We Will Remember Them,” Brown said.

Queen Elizabeth II said “we will never forget the bravery and enormous sacrifice of his generation.” Prince Charles said “nothing could give me greater pride” than paying tribute to Patch.

“The Great War is a chapter in our history we must never forget, so many sacrifices were made, so many young lives lost,” the prince said.

When the television documentary makers started to interview the small corps of centenarian veterans at the turn of the 20th century they found that several retained vivid memories of the trenches.

But Patch was the one who burned with the strongest indignation - at the constant danger, the noise, the rats, the lice and the biscuits that were too hard to eat at Passchendaele.

He said: “I went 80 years and never mentioned the war, not even to my family. The memories were too vivid. I bottled it all up for so long. I never even watched a war film.

“But the war is something I can now talk about. In 2004 I went back to Flanders for a memorial service and met a German, Charles Kuentz, who had fought against us.

“We shook hands and agreed on so much about that awful war. A nice old chap, he was. Why he should have been my enemy, I don’t know.”

“He told me, ‘I fought you because I was told to, and you did the same.’ It’s sad but true.”

“What the hell we fought for, I now don’t know.”

Paranoid Marine Corps Fools In Command Ban Facebook, MySpace And Twitter: They Condemn Them As “A Proven Haven For Malicious Actors And Content” [So, The JCS Chief Is A “Malicious Actor”?]

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

4 August 2009 By Bobbie Johnson, Guardian News [Excerpts]

The US marine corps have become the latest branch of the American military to ban the use of social networking sites, after officials expressed concern about potential security risks.

An order sent out to marines yesterday informed them that they could no longer use sites including Facebook, MySpace and Twitter in case enemy groups used the information they contained to their advantage.

“These internet sites in general are a proven haven for malicious actors and content, and are particularly high risk due to information exposure, user-generated content and targeting by adversaries,” said the order.

Officials recognise that thousands of active personnel use sites like Facebook to keep in touch with friends and family at home, sharing information and swapping photos while on long tours of duty.

In 2007 the Pentagon blocked its computer networks from accessing sites including YouTube and MySpace in an attempt to keep a tight rein on information about troop activities.

Official documents at the time cited not only threats to safety, but also the increasingly heavy burden being placed on the department’s internet capability while troops were active duty in such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although that ban was eventually lifted, last year the Pentagon used a fresh tactic to try and control the flow of information by launching TroopTube - a military-sponsored version of YouTube that allows serving personnel to share videos with only their friends and family members.

The Pentagon recently launched its own Facebook page in an attempt to entice new recruits into the military, while Admiral Mike Mullen - who serves as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the highest-ranking military officer in the US - is an avowed Twitter user with more than 4,000 followers.

Army Arrests Seattle Civilian For Desertion Who Was Never In The Military; “He Was Tossed Into The County Jail In Charlotte And Locked Up For One Week” “Parks Was Then Ordered To Report To Fort Knox In Kentucky”

July 26, 2009 By RAY LANE, KOMO-TV STAFF

A local man returning from a trip to Central America was dumbfounded when military officials had him arrested for being a deserter - even though he was never in the military.

“To one day just be arrested, and like - here you go, you’re detained, and not have any idea why ...” said Chris Parks of Seattle, his voice trailing off.

For Parks, 27, the incredible headache began a few weeks ago as he and some friends were coming back to the United States after a trip to Mexico and Central America.

As he went through customs at the Charlotte airport in North Carolina, his name caught the attention of Homeland Security personnel.

Parks’ name was flagged as being a deserter from the military.

“I’ve been in the Army for 10 years, and didn’t even know it,” he says. “Just seems kind of odd.”

He was tossed into the county jail in Charlotte and locked up for one week. When told he was a fugitive, he was floored.

Parks was then ordered to report to Fort Knox in Kentucky - where he sat and waited and waited some more with actual military deserters.

His head was shaved, he was issued fatigues. He was afraid he would be court-martialed.

"I was at Fort Knox for one week - and I almost didn't get out," Parks said.

Parks said that when he was 18, he nearly joined the Army. But at the last minute, he backed out.

Apparently, that message never got through the military's system.

"How paperwork could have gotten messed up enough to say that I was actually in the military and made it there - and it actually says that I was in there for two years before they finally figured out that I wasn't - and started counting me as a deserter," Parks said.

Army records showed that Parks had gone through basic training in South Carolina, then went AWOL from a base in Georgia.

He insists that never happened, and wondered if his military recruiter from 10 years ago hung him out to dry by never processing his paperwork to "de-enlist."

Said Parks: "I think it's probably something they don't want a lot of people to know about. And I don't really blame them."

Parks said he now carries documents to prove to authorities he's not a deserter. But he still hasn't received a full explanation from the Army about how this all happened.

He said being detained cost him about \$1,500 - plus lost time at work.

Sri Lankan Army Has 65,000 Deserters

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

July 16 (Xinhua)

The high number of Army deserters has become a major burden to Sri Lankan prisons as the government arrests those who deserted their services, the local English newspaper Island said on Thursday.

The newspaper quoted Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and Law Reforms Suhada Gamlath as saying that there were around 65,000 army deserters at large while 2,000 were in prison.

Gamlath said the island is facing a problem of space because the number of inmates increases faster than prisons built. Statistics show that a maximum 10,000 prisoners can be housed in all prisons while the total prisoners in all prisons are over 31,653.

He said it is dangerous to put army deserters together with other criminals behind the bars.

"The criminals have the background, know-how of crime and social deviance while the deserters have the training in firearms and many other skills that could be abused for the accomplishment in various crimes. Most of the time, prisons had served as linking grounds for them," Gamlath said.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

US Aid to Pakistan

For jet fighter to blow things up and chase people around in the mountains:
\$100,000,000 per plane.



For decent hospital care and medicine that might prevent death of a mother or her baby or both... you take a guess...

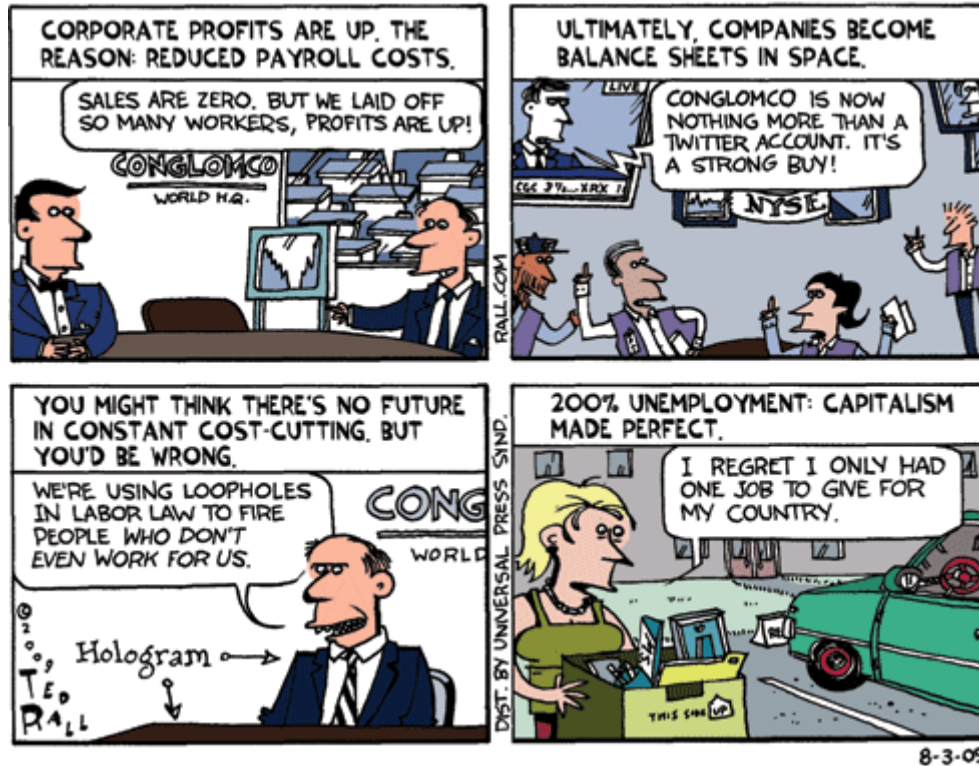


[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Yeah, but how to make money off the sick mother who can't afford the medical system costs ginned up by the for profit insurance scams? This is the war we need to win at home."]

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Do You Know What It Means To Miss
New Orleans?
“A City Still Stands Where New Orleans
Once Was, And Bears The Same Name,
But It Is Not The Same City, And Never
Will Be Again”**

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace

It means knowing that one of the most golden citadels of our shared history - a cradle of multiculturalism, the birthplace of jazz, seed corn of so much that is America - was allowed to die of neglect, disdain, racism, greed and simple stupidity right before our eyes.

03 August 2009 by: William Rivers Pitt, Truthout Columnist [Excerpts]

***Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans,
And miss it each night and day?
I know I'm not wrong, the feeling's getting stronger,
The longer I stay away ...***

- Louis Armstrong

The city of New Orleans will be on the minds of many in the coming days and weeks.

The four-year anniversary of the worst civil catastrophe in American history - one of the worst such catastrophes in all of human history - will soon be upon us.

It was four years ago, the length of one presidential term, that a storm came, and the seas rose, and the levees fell and a city was, for all practical purposes, murdered right before our eyes.

Four years ago, it happened like this.

On August 23, 2005, Tropical Depression Twelve swallowed up the remains of Tropical Depression Ten over the Bahamas and Puerto Rico and began moving towards the United States.

Two days later, the storm was designated a hurricane and named Katrina. It made landfall in Florida and swung to the south-southwest, gathering strength from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

A day later, the storm's track was recalibrated by the National Hurricane Center, with the line pointing straight into the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco declared a state of emergency, and the Louisiana National Guard was mobilized.

By dawn the next day, Katrina had become a Category 3 hurricane.

Ten truckloads of water and meals were delivered to the Superdome, enough to support 15,000 refugees for three days. That night, George W. Bush was briefed by National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield on the status of and potential danger posed by Katrina.

Forty minutes after midnight, Katrina became a Category 4 hurricane.

By 7:00 AM (CDT), Katrina had become a Category 5 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph and gusts up to 215 mph.

George W. Bush participated in a video conference with Max Mayfield and FEMA Director Michael Brown, who warned Mr. Bush that the storm was more severe than Andrew, was headed directly for New Orleans and the city's levees were in grave danger of collapse. Brown emphatically described Katrina as "the big one."

Mr. Bush said exactly 40 words - one sentence promising support - and stayed mute for the rest of the meeting.

That was Sunday, August 28, 2005, the last day the city of New Orleans would exist as we have known it.

At 6:10 AM (CDT) the next day, Katrina made landfall in Louisiana.

By the end of that Monday, virtually the entire city of New Orleans was under more than ten feet of water. Rooftops began to disappear under the incoming tide.

Levee after levee failed, an event later blamed on the Louisiana Army Corps of Engineers, despite the fact that George W. Bush that same year had stripped more than \$70 million in funding for the maintenance of those levees - virtually the entire Louisiana COE budget - to pay for his ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Like a slow-motion nightmare, Americans watched the steady annihilation of New Orleans unfold on television while Bush discussed immigration with Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff, shared a birthday cake photo-op with Sen. John McCain, promoted his Medicare Drug Benefit plan in Arizona and California and went to bed without responding to Governor Blanco's urgent plea for assistance.

"Mr. President, we need your help," read the message she had relayed to Bush that day. "We need everything you've got."

There would be no reply that day.

It was not until the middle of the next day that Director Chertoff became aware that the New Orleans levees had failed and that the city was in mortal peril.

Residents trying to flee across the bridge were turned back at gunpoint.

The city of New Orleans finally collapsed into chaos and drowned in salt water on national television.

A city still stands where New Orleans once was, and bears the same name, but it is not the same city, and never will be again.

The death toll will never be known, because the river and the swamp and the sea took so many and kept them, because those who were lost were mostly the unnumbered poor who lacked the means to flee, because back in those days, we didn't do body counts.

Thousands upon thousands of the city's residents are still gone four years later, either to the grave or to far-flung points on the compass, evacuees with no way to return home and, in many cases, no homes to return to.

Most of the Ninth Ward still remains a sculpture of rubble and destruction to this day.

What does it mean to miss New Orleans?

It means knowing that one of the most golden citadels of our shared history - a cradle of multiculturalism, the birthplace of jazz, seed corn of so much that is America - was allowed to die of neglect, disdain, racism, greed and simple stupidity right before our eyes.

A city stands where New Orleans once was, but it is not New Orleans, not really.

All that was the city, all that it gave this country, and so many of the people who lived there, are gone forever.

Do not forget, do not let your children forget, what it means to miss New Orleans.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)**



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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

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