

Military Resistance: 7/12: **[Formerly GI Special]**

With General McChrystal at the Little Big Horn



Preparing For War

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: September 25, 2009
Subject: preparing for war

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

preparing for war

it is best to paint the enemy

in colors traditionally not our own,
paint them in war paint like savages
from another world.

it is best to paint them red
or yellow or brown or black,
if they are "flesh" color
paint them with eccentric armor
like machined swastikas
goose-stepping in black motorcycle boots.

make sure they are not human.

it is easier to kill animals
like it is easier to pick choice beef
in better lighting
through cellophane packages.

it is easy to kill with a rifle,
harder in the cross hairs of a scope,
but better yet to kill
a silver jet plane
hissing across the blue,
or a clanking tank,
computerized with missilery.

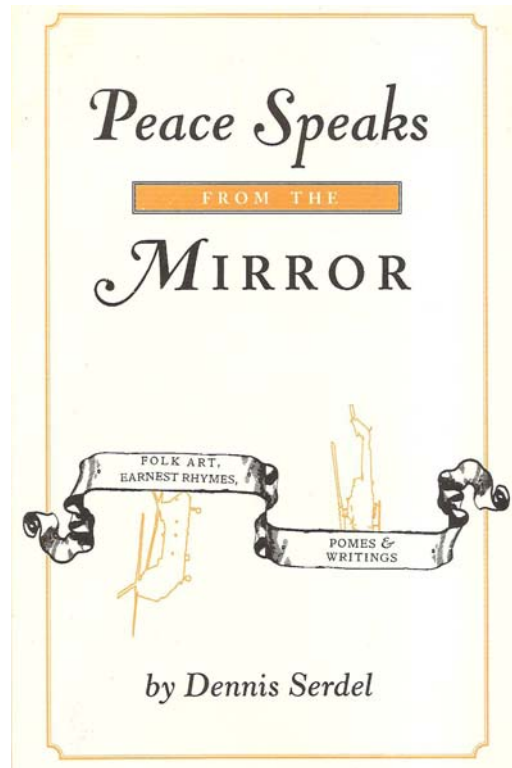
but to really kill, one must grasp
the throat of the enemy,
feel his sweaty neck,
feel his muscles tense,
control his writhing body
and witness flush in the face
as his eyes bulge
and he blasts his last warm
breath
in your face.

[written by Dennis Serdel, Military Resistance]

MORE:

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[You know the power of the poems by Dennis Serdel from the front pages of GI
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DENNIS SERDEL:

Shipped to Vietnam in November 1967.

Returned home in October 1968 to Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Joined Veterans For Peace in January 1990.

Joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War when Iraq and Afghanistan War started.

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T

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Family Remembers Their Son For His Humor And Honor

September 13, 2009 By KURT MOORE, The Marion Star

MARENGO - A few lines of a poem could help sum up his life.

It's a poem that Shannon Smith wrote as a second grader, words he spoke about wanting to be a drug-free wrestler. "I hear the chanting of the crowd. I want to be a champion."

Shannon's mother Debbie Smith read the words on Saturday, picking up a poem that she likely hadn't read for years, fighting back tears. "I say that good luck looks like something that you earn."

Shannon's family lost their champion Tuesday when Army Staff Sgt. Smith, Pfc. Zachary Myers of Delaware and Pfc. Thomas Lyons of Fernley, Nev., became U.S. casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The three soldiers were part of a convoy traveling from Tikrit to Baji when their vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Shannon, 31, a 1997 Marion Harding High School graduate, is the first soldier from Marion County killed in action in Iraq.

Capt. Matt McCreary, a 1996 Harding graduate and commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment based at Arlington Cemetery, will accompany Shannon's body back from the United States when it is released from Iraq. Shannon's father Jim Smith said Saturday that funeral services will be held in Sunbury but have not yet been finalized.

Jim, Debbie and Shannon's wife Cassie Smith planned to take part in an annual ceremony to be held Saturday at the Ohio Fallen Soldiers Memorial in Sunbury where both local soldiers were to be recognized.

Shannon is also survived by a brother, Cory, and a sister, Krista.

Shannon graduated from Marion Harding High School in 1997. He joined the military a few months later and has served in missions in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq before arriving in Alaska in April 2008.

The soldiers were assigned to the 545th Military Police Company, Arctic Military Police Battalion stationed out of Fort Richardson, Alaska. Cassie said Shannon was deployed to Iraq in May.

Talking by phone on Saturday from their home near Marengo, Shannon's family called him a leader who enjoyed training younger soldiers and loved a challenge.

Shannon wrestled at Harding High School where, his father said, he learned the skills that would later serve him well in the military. "Wrestling is a very demanding sport. You

got to be focused," said Jim, who said it taught Shannon to develop both his mental and physical skills. "That is a sport where he couldn't blame anyone else."

Cassie said her husband loved training new soldiers, "not only developing them warrior-wise but in general, as a friend, being a brother." It was one of the things that made him love the military. "He was definitely a protector," she said. "He loved helping people. It was his passion."

Their anniversary fell on the day he was deployed. Cassie said she had fallen in love with his sense of humor and how he always liked to have fun, was always ready to have a new adventure.

He was an Ohio State Buckeyes fan who, with Lyons, once shot up a Michigan Wolverines baseball cap worn by another soldier. At their Alaska home they have a room designed entirely with Buckeyes memorabilia.

Debbie said her son was a prankster, a joker whose personality matched the tattoo of a joker that was his first tattoo.

"He had a sense of humor all right," she said as she remembered frantically calling him when the United States was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001. She was worried because he was serving with the military and had called him, out of breath and nervous and barely able to say his name when he answered the phone.

"It scared me to death," she said. "He's like, 'Hello.' I'm like, 'Shannon, it's mom.'" "His answering machine says, 'Just kidding. Leave a message.'"

Shannon's uncle, also named Jim Smith, said Shannon was a "fun, soft-spoken man and you just enjoyed talking and being around him." "We were all so proud of him and he always gave 100 percent in everything he did," he said. "How could you not feel safe and proud knowing these are the kind of people protecting our country?" Friends were mourning the loss after learning about it through news reports and from social networking sites like facebook where they left messages on his page.

Shannon Willinger, whose husband Ryan served with Shannon Smith in Bosnia, said he had an enormous heart and an incredible sense of humor.

"My husband went to Korea and I stayed in Texas when he was deployed," she said. "Smitty basically adopted me while my husband was gone because he knew that I hardly knew anyone in Texas. By the time my husband came home from Korea, I had my fill of Monday Night RAW (wrestling)."

"There was always a good time when Smitty was around," she said.

The AP reports that at least 4,343 U.S. service members have died since the war started in March 2003.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Armored Vehicle Blown Up By IED Near Eber



An armored vehicle from the U.S. Army's Alfa Company, 3rd brigade of 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, damaged by an IED laid by the Taliban, is seen along the road near the village of Eber in Logar province September 26, 2009. No one was seriously injured in the incident. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

Gaffney Marine Dies Of Injuries



Chris Fowlkes

September 11, 2009 By Gary Glancy, GoUpstate.com

Lance Cpl. Chris Fowlkes, the U.S. Marine from Gaffney who battled for his life for a week after being critically injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, died Thursday morning at an American hospital in Germany, his family said.

Fowlkes, 20, died about 9:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center because of complications from the injuries he sustained in battle Sept. 3 in Helmand province, Afghanistan, according to a statement released by the family.

Fowlkes' parents, Steve and Donna, were in Germany and by their son's side when he died, said LeighAnn Turner, a close family friend and longtime neighbor who also has a son in the Marines.

"Chris fought a long, hard battle and is a true American hero," the statement said. "We are a family of deep faith, and through our pain and loss we are steadfast in God's love and plans." Ruth Fowlkes, Chris' grandmother, said: "Right now we've got a real hero in this family. I always figured he was one anyway, but we just love him. And now, too, he's home. He's got his leg back; he can see real good, and God is with him."

Turner said Fowlkes' body will be escorted by another Gaffney Marine, Maj. Russ Wright, as it is flown back to the United States. Chris' parents are expected to return to the U.S. today, after which funeral arrangements will be made.

The explosion occurred when Fowlkes and four other soldiers exited their military vehicle as they were attempting to return fire. One of them stepped on a ground bomb, military officials told Fowlkes' family members.

All five soldiers were injured. One other Marine and a Navy corpsman died of their injuries last week.

Sunday, Fowlkes was transported to Landstuhl -- the largest military hospital outside the U.S. and about three miles south of Ramstein Air Base -- where he underwent several hours of surgery performed by what his father called "the best surgeons in the world."

On Sunday evening, Steve Fowlkes said the family was a "little bit uplifted" by news of his son's condition, compared with initial reports they received, but that there were still concerns following surgery that included blood pressure, kidney problems and the removal of shrapnel from Chris' eyes.

Fowlkes also lost a large amount of blood as a result of the explosion.

Chris' parents traveled to Germany this week to see their son.

The family wishes to express thanks for the continued prayers and "overwhelming support" they have received, Turner said.

"So many people already are coming through," Turner said, "and technology is a wonderful thing -- we've received a million messages and prayers in a million different ways from all across the world, (including) from his commanding officer, who is still out in the battlefield. The family really appreciates it, but we also ask that people continue to

pray for all the servicemen and women that are still over there, and their families as well."

Ark City Soldier Killed



Sgt. Tyler Juden was killed Saturday when enemy forces attacked his unit with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire near Turan, Afghanistan

September 14, 2009 By The Associated Press

ARKANSAS CITY - A Kansas soldier known for his shooting expertise has been killed during an attack in Afghanistan during his second tour of duty.

The Department of Defense announced Monday that 23-year-old Sgt. Tyler Juden was killed Saturday when enemy forces attacked his unit with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire near Turan, Afghanistan.

Juden's family in Arkansas City, in south-central Kansas, said the soldier was known in and out of the military for his shooting ability. His father, Bob Juden, told the Arkansas City Traveler that his son was selected to be a sniper and was a squad leader in Afghanistan.

"Tyler was a great, dedicated young man. He was an all-American kid," Bob Juden said Monday. "He was passionate. He was passionate with his friends, his family and the things he loved. He loved the things he loved and hated the things he hated.

"There wasn't much middle ground."

Juden joined the Army in 2005. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C. He was

expecting to leave the Army in 2010 once his four-year enlistment was complete and wanted to be a teacher afterward.

Bob Juden said that while his son was athletic, including starting as a freshman on the Arkansas City High School football team as a kicker, it was shooting that was his passion and where he excelled.

"When he was 13 years old, he attended a shooting camp in Raton, N.M. They asked him to return the following year and be a camp counselor. He did so well he came back an instructor when he was only 14 years old," Bob Juden said. Juden took pride in his service in Afghanistan, his father said, feeling his efforts against the Taliban were saving the lives of other Americans.

The family didn't announce funeral plans.

Cox Was 'Always First To Volunteer' Former Coach Says



September 15, 2009 By COLLEEN SURRIDGE, Parsons Sun

Escalating violence in Afghanistan in recent weeks associated with Taliban forces has claimed the lives of a number of American soldiers in recent days, including one of Parsons' own, E-4 Daniel Cox.

Cox, 23, died Saturday in Afghanistan. He was headquartered out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan with the United States Army.

Born July 19, 1986, in Winfield, to Kim and Sharon Cox, he and his family moved to Parsons when he was in the fifth grade. He graduated from Parsons High School in 2005.

The news came as a shock to locals, as word spread of the young man's death.

Standing by the football field, Parsons High School assistant football coach Mark Pound choked back his emotions Monday as he recalled the young man who exhibited qualities that made him not only a great football player, but a great soldier.

"He was just a good kid. He practiced football right out here," Pound said, pointing to the field where he had helped coach Cox for all four years of his high school career.

One of the things that came to Pound's mind Monday was when Cox served on the scout offense and defense teams, playing as the opposition for the varsity in preparation for an upcoming game.

"They would get knocked around a lot out there by the varsity pretty good. Not a lot of freshmen wanted to get out there, but Daniel was always first to volunteer," Pound said. "He was always willing to do what he could to help the team get better. He never worried about his own stats or glory for himself; it was always about the team. I think that is one reason why he wanted to go in the Army. He felt he wanted to be a part of something bigger than himself."

Diana Brenn, who works at PHS and whose son was friends with Cox, said Monday that Cox had always wanted to go into the military.

"It is what he worked hard for," she said. "He even had a special workout plan the coaches put together for him because he wanted to go to boot camp in shape."

The young man, who played offensive/defensive lineman for PHS, joined the Army before he was even out of high school. Cox's sights were set on entering the 10th Mountain Division, a mountain warfare infantry division based in Fort Drum, N.Y. Pound said Cox knew it would not be easy, but that was his goal, and it was a goal he reached.

"When he came back from training with the 10th Mountain Division, he said he knew he was going to Afghanistan, but he said he was ready to go. He was the type of kid that wanted to stand up for what he felt was right, like the thousands of others there," Pound said.

The daily grind can obscure thoughts of what is going on day to day in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere U.S. soldiers are fighting the war on terror, but Brenn said the shocking news of the tragic incident brings the reality of the war home again.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his family," Brenn said. "I'm very proud of Daniel, and I know he was very honored and proud to serve our country. I know he was doing what he wanted to do and what he was proud to do."

The tragedy has left many who knew this young man reeling.

"My heart goes out to his family," Pound said. "I'm proud to have known him."

Cox's parents are in the midst of handling arrangements for their son and will speak about the matter at a later date.

U.S. military officials could not be reached late Monday afternoon to detail the circumstances surrounding Cox's death. However, attacks on U.S. forces have been reported throughout recent weeks. Significant casualties were reported Saturday, including two American soldiers, when a World Food Program convoy, escorted by Afghan military personnel, came under insurgent attack in the Bala Baluk district in Farah province.

The Associated Press reported the convoy, including 14 contracted trucks carrying 500 metric tons of food rations, was targeted by roadside bombs and mortar fire.

"A roadside bomb killed three American service members in the west of the country, and another killed two in the east," a press officer for U.S. and NATO-led troops said in a report to Reuters.

Cox was not the only Kansas soldier to lose his life in the war this weekend. The Department of Defense announced Monday that 23-year-old Sgt. Tyler Juden of Arkansas City was killed Saturday when enemy forces attacked his unit with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire near Turan, Afghanistan. Juden joined the Army in 2005. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home will announce further obituary details and a service time later.

Family Mourns Soldier Killed In War

September 16, 2009 Victoria E. Freile, Staff writer, Democrat And Chronicle

A former Gates man who loved the outdoors and idolized his family was one of two soldiers killed Saturday during fighting in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Nekl B. Allen, 29, was killed in Wardak province, Afghanistan, when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised-explosive device and small arms fire, according to a U.S. Army spokesman at Fort Drum in Jefferson County.

"He always put others before himself," said Allen's sister Rana Allen, 27, of Gates. "He was the most lovable person I know. He was a people person and could always make friends anywhere he went."

Spc. Daniel L. Cox, 23, of Parsons, Kan., was also killed in the attack.

Both infantrymen served with the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade combat team, which deployed out of Fort Drum in January. Allen, who was also known as Nick or Nicky, was scheduled to return to New York in January, Rana Allen said.

Allen graduated from Churchville-Chili High School in 1999, where he played football and was a wrestler. He worked for several years before joining the Army in May 2002, according to his family. He arrived at Fort Drum in May 2008.

Rana Allen said her brother was on his third deployment when he was killed. He served his first two deployments in Iraq.

During his years in the Army, Allen received more than 30 awards, including the Army Commendation Medal. Rana Allen said it was expected that her brother would be promoted once he returned home in 2010. He had planned to be a career soldier, she said.

In his spare time, Allen loved fishing, bow-hunting and paintball.

But above all, he loved spending time with his three children, Christopher, 10, Michael, 7 and Grace, 5.

Although they lived miles apart, Rana Allen said she and her brother had grown quite close as adults and chatted online often.

"I was getting a package ready to send to him, and I am still going to send it, but to his friends instead," she said.

Besides his sister and children, Allen is survived by his wife, Amy Allen, of Carthage, Jefferson County; and his parents, Daniel and Debra Allen of Gates. Funeral arrangements have not been set.

Family members said they expect to hold services in the Rochester area.

FUTILE EXERCISE: ALL HOME NOW!



US Marines from 2/3 Fox company on patrol in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, on September 21, 2009. (AFP/David Furst)



Sept. 25, 2009: U.S. soldiers patrol in the Jalrez Valley in Afghanistan's Wardak Province: (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Resistance Action

9.26.09 AFP & Reuters

In the province of Nimroz a nine-hour battle sparked by a Taliban attack on a border police post in Kang district on the Iranian frontier ended early Saturday with eight militants killed, the provincial police chief said. Abdul Jabar Pordili said police casualties were two killed and three wounded.

In Herat, police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi said four civilians had been found dead in Injil district with notes on their bodies accusing them of collaborating with government and foreign forces. They included three brothers, and a man of 26 who had been hung from an electric pylon.

One policeman was shot dead and another wounded when Taliban gunmen attacked a police checkpoint in western Herat province, some 100 metres from the border with Iran, a security official said. A Taliban spokesman confirmed the group were behind the attack.

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

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation troops from the USA publicly humiliate an Afghan citizen on the road in Nawa district, Aynak village, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Sept. 22, 2009. Occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of humiliating Afghan citizens. This encourages self-respecting Afghans to plan ways to kill them. (Photo: AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan 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 Afghans 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 Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Fighters Conduct Operations Southern Somalia

25 September 2009 Shabelle Media Network & (Garowe Online)

Wanlawayn — The Islamist fighters of Harakat Al-shabab Mujahideen have Friday conducted operations clearing bandits in the street that connects between Bay and Lower Shabelle regions in south of Somalia.

High officials of the Islamist forces in Wanlaweyn town said that they started their operations in parts of the both regions Bay and Lower Shabelle regions to assure the security of the roads to clear the thieves who often commit actions against the passengers and traffic who use that road.

More fighters could be seen in several villages of both regions like Wanlaweyn, Lego and Burhakabo town where there had been bandits who used to rob the people there earlier.

Aden Muse Hassan, the commander of the Islamist forces in Wanlaweyn town said that they decided to start their operations as the residents informed them a group of armed men committing banditry actions in the street between Bay and Lower Shabelle regions in south of the country adding that they will continue their operations to keep the security.

There was no comment from the Islamist fighters whether they had captured some thieves in their operations or not and it is not the first time that the Islamist administration forces conduct such operations there.

MOGADISHU, Somalia: A violent clash between Al Shabaab fighters and security guards at a telecommunications company in Mogadishu killed at least four people and wounded two others last week, according to various sources in Mogadishu.

Somali insurgents maintain a strong presence in Bakara Market, which is often the target of retaliatory attacks whenever AMISOM peacekeepers or Somali government forces are attacked by insurgents.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



A soldier from 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, N.Y. comforts a wounded soldier after their armored vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in the Tangi Valley of Afghanistan's Wardak Province Aug. 19, 2009. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

“What Makes The Guard Or Reserve Personnel Who Put Their Lives In Harm’s Way, I.E., Iraq Or Afghanistan, Any Different Than Those In The Active-Duty Service?”

Forums
Army Times
9.28.09

Any guardsman or reservist who has been called to active duty for more than 30 days or longer and has 20 years of service should be able to retire and collect retirement immediately.

What makes the Guard or reserve personnel who put their lives in harm's way, i.e., Iraq or Afghanistan, any different than those in the active-duty service?

There is no difference, yet, those in active service who do 20 or more years collect immediately after they get out.

Guardsmen and reservists have to wait until age 60?

Their pay is prorated based on points accrued for retirement anyway.

— SFC Ret

No Help For Wounded Soldier's Mom, She Says: He Was Suicidal; She Couldn't Get Her Call Returned

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,539th time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

9.28.09 By Rick Maze, Army Times [Excerpts]

The mother of a severely wounded Army veteran choked back tears Sept. 16 as she told attendees of a seminar on veterans health care that she believes the government has let down her and her son.

Leslie Kammerdiener quit her job to take care of her son, Cpl. Kevin Kammerdiener, a 173rd Airborne Brigade soldier who suffered severe burns and brain injuries in a 2008 roadside bomb explosion in Afghanistan.

She said a low point came earlier this year when her son indicated by hand movements that he wanted to hang himself. She said she called the Veterans Affairs Department asking for help because her son was suicidal; she waited days but got no return call.

She got help only after tracking down a doctor at a military event and pleading for help, she said.

Kammerdiener said she didn't know anything about the military when her son was injured. Only later did she realize additional help and benefits might have been available had she known about them.

“The system is very harsh for a lot of us,” she said. “We did not have a good experience.” Kammerdiener told her story at an Alexandria, Va., conference sponsored by the Military Officers Association of America and the U.S. Naval Institute that focused on what the government is doing and should be doing to help combat veterans with invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

Many people at the conference cited good programs to help the wounded and their families, but nobody seemed to have a single list of everything available — nor could they explain how they interact.

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

Zelaya Returns With Soldiers' Help, Says Honduran Ambassador: “A Sector Of The Honduran Armed Forces Begins To Shift Their Loyalty To Zelaya”

Sept. 24 (Xinhua)

Ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya's surprise return Monday was made possible with help from certain sectors of the armed forces, the country's ambassador to Panama, Juan Alfaro Posadas, said here Thursday.

A sector of the Honduran armed forces begins to shift their loyalty to Zelaya, who appeared in Brazilian embassy in Honduras Monday, the ambassador told a press conference.

"They are young officers, captains, mayors and lieutenant colonels, who have supported president Zelaya," said Alfaro.

Zelaya's delegation was able to enter Honduras with the collaboration of these sectors from the armed forces who support his restitution in power, he said.

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 Douglass, 1852

**“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace**

**“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.**

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

Britain's Disastrous Retreat from Kabul: In 1842 Afghanistan Massacre, Only One British Soldier Survived



Afghan tribesmen waiting to attack the Kabul Brigade during the agonising retreat to India: Britishbattles.com

By Robert McNamara, About.com [Excerpts]

In the 1800s, the British controlled India, and the Russians, to the north, had their own designs on southern Asia. Between these two imperial powers sat the rugged land of Afghanistan.

In time the periodic collisions of empire in that unforgiving landscape would become known as "The Great Game."

One of the earliest eruptions in this epic struggle was the first Anglo-Afghan War, which had its beginning in the late 1830s.

To protect its holdings in India, the British had allied themselves with an Afghan ruler, Dost Mohammed. He had united warring Afghan factions after seizing power in 1818, and seemed to be serving a useful purpose. But in 1837, it became apparent that Dost Mohammed was beginning a flirtation with the Russians.

The British resolved to invade Afghanistan, and the Army of the Indus, a formidable force of more than 20,000 British and Indian troops, set off from India for Afghanistan in late 1838.

After difficult travel through the mountain passes, the British reached Kabul in April 1839.

They marched unopposed into the Afghan capital city.

Dost Mohammed was toppled as the Afghan leader, and the British installed Shah Shuja, who had been driven from power decades earlier.

The original plan was to withdraw all the British troops, but Shah Shuja's hold on power was shaky, so two brigades of British troops had to remain in Kabul.

Along with the British Army were two major figures assigned to essentially guide the government of Shah Shuja, Sir William McNaghten and Sir Alexander Burnes.

The men were two well-known and very experienced political officers. Burnes had lived in Kabul previously, and had written a book about his time there.

The British forces staying in Kabul could have moved into an ancient fortress overlooking the city, but Shah Shuja believed that would make it look like the British were in control. Instead, the British built a new cantonment, or base, that would prove very difficult to defend. Sir Alexander Burnes, feeling quite confident, lived outside the cantonment, in a house in Kabul.

The Afghan population deeply resented the British troops. Tensions slowly escalated, and despite warnings from friendly Afghans that an uprising was inevitable, the British were unprepared in November 1841 when an insurrection broke out in Kabul.

A mob encircled the house of Sir Alexander Burnes. The British diplomat tried to offer the crowd money to disburse, to no effect.

The lightly defended residence was overrun. Burnes and his brother were both brutally murdered.

The British troops in the city were greatly outnumbered and unable to defend themselves properly, as the cantonment was encircled.

On January 6, 1842, the British began their withdrawal from Kabul.

Leaving the city were 4,500 British troops and 12,000 civilians who had followed the British Army to Kabul.

The plan was to march to Jalalabad, about 90 miles away.

The retreat in the brutally cold weather took an immediate toll, and many died from exposure in the first days.

And despite the treaty, the British column came under attack when it reached a mountain pass, the Khurd Kabul. The retreat became a massacre.

Slaughter In The Mountain Passes



Afghans attacking the retreating British and Indian army: Britishbattles.com

A magazine based in Boston, the North American Review, published a remarkably extensive and timely account titled “The English in Afghanistan” six months later, in July 1842. It contained this vivid description (some antiquated spellings have been left intact):

“On the 6th of January, 1842, the Caboul forces commenced their retreat through the dismal pass, destined to be their grave. On the third day they were attacked by the mountaineers from all points, and a fearful slaughter ensued...

“The troops kept on, and awful scenes ensued. Without food, mangled and cut to pieces, each one caring only for himself, all subordination had fled; and the soldiers of the forty-fourth English regiment are reported to have knocked down their officers with the butts of their muskets.

“On the 13th of January, just seven days after the retreat commenced, one man, bloody and torn, mounted on a miserable pony, and pursued by horsemen, was seen riding furiously across the plains to Jellalabad. That was Dr. Brydon, the sole person to tell the tale of the passage of Khourd Caboul.”

More than 16,000 people had set out on the retreat from Kabul, and in the end only one man, Dr. William Brydon, a British Army surgeon, had made it alive to Jalalabad.

The garrison there lit signal fires and sounded bugles to guide other British survivors to safety, but after several days they realized that Brydon would be the only one.

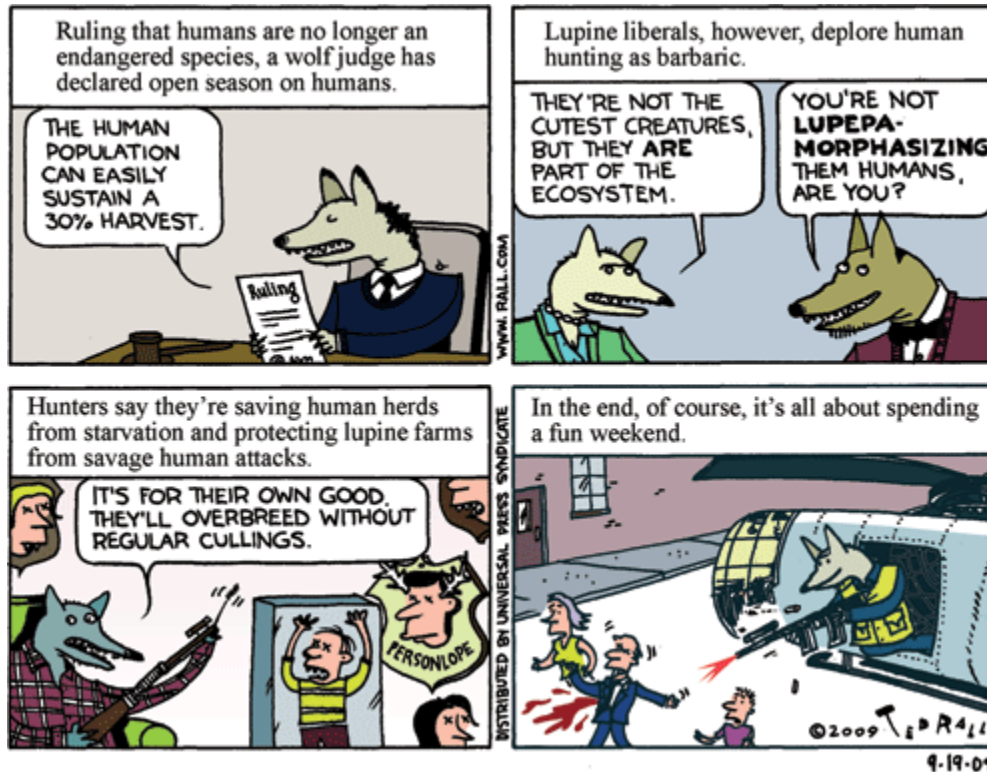
It was believed the Afghans let him live so he could tell the grisly story.

The loss of so many troops to mountain tribesmen was, of course, a bitter humiliation for the British.

With Kabul lost, a campaign was mounted to evacuate the rest of the British troops from garrisons in Afghanistan, and the British then withdrew from the country entirely.



The last stand of the survivors of Her Majesty's 44th Foot at Gandamak:
Britishbattles.com



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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Terrorists Open Fire On Funeral Procession Honoring Palestinians Killed By Zionist Terrorists



9.26.09: Several Palestinians were wounded in Gaza, Palestine on Saturday when Israeli soldiers opened fire during a funeral attended by thousands of people for three fighters killed by an Israeli air raid. (AFP/Mahmud Hams)

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

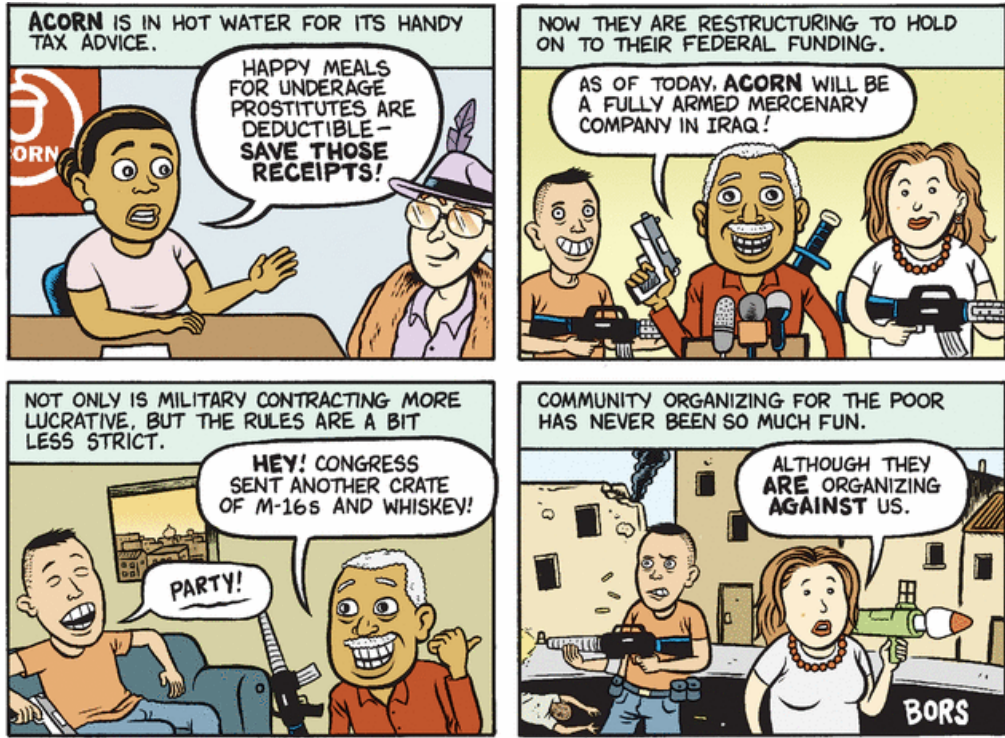
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