

Military Resistance 8D12

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



March 2, 2010: A U.S. Marine provides cover during a firefight as two fellow Marines rush a wounded comrade to a waiting U.S. Army medevac helicopter in Helmand province, Afghanistan. AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Support These Troops!
German Soldiers In Afghanistan
Defy Order To Stop Wearing “A
Badge That Protests Their
Country’s Involvement In The
War”**

**“A Low-Key Mutiny That Has Sent
Shock Waves Through The Top
Brass Of The Bundeswehr”**

“80 % Of The Public Want The Troops To Come Home”

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

21st April By Mail Foreign Service, Daily Mail [UK]

German soldiers are wearing their hearts on their sleeves - in the form of a badge that protests their country's involvement in the war in Afghanistan.

Some troops have taken to wearing the cloth accessory that states - ironically - 'I fight for Merkel' in a bid to persuade the German Chancellor Angela Merkel to explain exactly what they are fighting and dying for.

Four more troops were killed, and five badly injured, in Afghanistan last week.

Seven soldiers have died there so far this month, bringing the total to 43 in all since they were first deployed eight years ago.

Unable to engage the Taliban directly on the ground, frustrated by their government's inability to acknowledge they are even engaged in a war and angered by the lack of popular support for their mission, the badges are a low-key mutiny that has sent shock waves through the top brass of the Bundeswehr.

Soldiers were warned this week that it is illegal to sew the cloth patches on to their uniforms.

But that hasn't stopped them from buying the badges in their hundreds, in desert beige or NATO green, at the ISAF camp at Mazar-e-Sharif.

'They want the Chancellor, their ultimate boss, to finally find the clear words to put the war against the Taliban into black and white,' Bild Zeitung, Germany's biggest daily paper, said today.

Chancellor Merkel is to make a statement to parliament tomorrow. Her spokesman said she wants to make clear her 'high-esteem' for the work of the German soldiers in Afghanistan in the light of the recent casualties.

But she will be speaking in the Reichstag after being put under pressure from U.S. General Stanley McChrystal, who arrived in Germany today with a brief from the White House to get the Germans to do more in Afghanistan.

Germany has the third largest presence in Afghanistan after the U.S. and Britain. The German parliament approved the dispatch of a further 850 soldiers in February when it extended the mandate for the military mission.

Yet the political will for German troops to engage the enemy head-on remains lacking.

Cracks are growing in the parties that supported their engagement there up until now.

The trouble for Mrs Merkel is that German involvement is deeply unpopular with some 80 per cent of the public, who want the troops to come home.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Bomb Cuts Iraq-Turkey Oil Pipeline

April 22, 2010 By REUTERS

A bomb attack in the northern province of Nineveh damaged the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline which carries a quarter of Iraq's crude exports, Iraqi oil officials and shipping sources said on Thursday.

An Iraqi oil official at the state run North Oil Co said oil exports via the Kirkuk to Ceyhan pipeline were expected to take about three days to resume after the flow was stopped early on Thursday.

A number of police sources said the blast was caused by a bomb.

Iraqi oil in storage at the Turkish port of Ceyhan was about 650,000 barrels, a Turkey-based source said on condition his name was not used.

The blast which occurred south of Mosul in al-Hadhar district, 280 km (175 miles) north of Baghdad, made a hole in the pipeline, a police source told Reuters.

Nineveh remains a stronghold of activity by insurgents.

The Iraq to Ceyhan pipeline was last attacked in December. Technical problems halted the flow of oil in January for several hours.

The Kirkuk pipeline has a capacity of 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) but normally carries about 500,000 bpd to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, where it is pumped into tankers.

More Resistance Action

April 21 (Reuters) & Xinhua

RAMADI – Three policemen were wounded when bombs planted on the outskirts of Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad destroyed six houses, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb planted in front of a house belonging to two policemen wounded them when they tried to defuse it in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting an army patrol wounded two soldiers, in eastern Mosul, police said.

BAQUBA - A parked car bomb targeted a restaurant popular with security personnel in Baquba, 60 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, killing three people including a security guard from a nearby primary school, police said. Seven others were wounded in the blast, including five bodyguards of the governor of Diyala province.

Two separate roadside bombs wounded two policemen, in eastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol and wounded a policeman in Baghdad's southern district of Doura, police said.

Sixteen people were wounded when several mortar rounds struck a residential area in a village near the city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, on Wednesday, a provincial police source said. At least seven mortar rounds landed in the morning on six houses in the village of Abu Farraj. The attack caused severe damages to the houses, three of which belong to police personnel.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier Killed Monday After One Month In Afghanistan; 8 More Wounded By Infiltrator Near Kabul Airport

April 20, 2010 TheBostonChannel.com

BOSTON

An Army National Guard member from Fall River has been killed in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Robert Barrett, 21, died from injuries sustained during an IED explosion on Monday while on a dismounted patrol south of Kabul International Airport.

"You can't be prepared when they come knocking on your door. There were two gentlemen from the Army," Barrett's father, Paul Barrett, said. "And as soon as I opened the door, what can you say? And he said, 'Can we come in?' I said, 'I know what you are going to say, and I won't hear it.'"

His parents said he was killed by a suicide bomber.

"Guy was wearing an Afghani uniform, stolen. They were on patrol. This gentleman who was with them pushed the button. He was wearing a vest, and my son was the only one near enough," Paul Barrett said.

Robert Barrett was a member of 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, of Fall River. Eight other soldiers of the 101st sustained injuries during the incident. Three are being treated for their wounds, and five have returned to duty.

Robert Barrett had been in Afghanistan only since March. In a poem he wrote before shipping off, he spoke of danger and hope.

"I volunteered to put my life on the line for freedom and country. For my fellow soldiers, for my little girl, for my weeping mother and father," Robert Barrett wrote. "I am going to a land where American freedom is just a dream, a hope, a slow reality. I am an American soldier."

"(He was) hoping to make a difference. Not for us but for them to have what we have," Robert Barrett's mother, Carlene Barrett said. During his free time, the soldier was working at an orphanage in Kabul. His parents had just sent him care packages filled with flip-flops and toys for the kids.

A funeral with full honors is planned for next week.

"May the family of Sgt. Barrett find solace in knowing that this brave soldier gave the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter. "We also extend our heartfelt condolences to Sgt. Barrett's comrades in the 101st Field Artillery Regiment, particularly those injured alongside him. The entire Massachusetts National Guard family deeply mourns the tragic loss of this loyal and young patriot."

Robert Barrett was a 2007 graduate of B.M.C. Durfee High School and a father of a 3-year-old girl.

War Hits Home With Death Of South Side Easton Native



U.S. Army Sgt. Sean Michael Durkin died April 9 of injuries suffered in an improvised explosives blast while serving in Afghanistan. Courtesy Photo

April 14, 2010 By Express-Times opinion staff

Maybe it was 10 or 20 years ago. Perhaps it was more. Or maybe it was just yesterday. But every close-knit neighborhood has at least one boy — or girl — who captures hearts.

He probably spent time playing ball in your backyard, swimming in your pool or sleeping in your son's bedroom. She probably bounced on your backyard trampoline, played make-believe city using blankets in your living room or stayed at your house long after the streetlights came on — with her parent's permission, of course.

Chances are you loved him or her like your own flesh and blood.

Along a stretch of Lincoln Street on South Side Easton about 10 years ago, Sean Michael Durkin was one of those youngsters. Family members and his friends from that neighborhood recall how, as a young boy, he got caught up playing war games outside and how everyone knew he was destined for a career in the U.S. military.

His mother, Mary Ann Durkin, who now lives in Surprise, Ariz., said her son always chose military topics for school assignments and enjoyed building model airplanes and ships.

On Friday, the young man turned soldier paid the ultimate price for his family, his old friends on South Side, his church buddies in Phillipsburg, his new friends when he moved to Bethlehem and for his entire country. At the tender age of 24, he died from injuries he suffered March 27 when an improvised explosive device took both his legs

and two fingers. Durkin had already completed a tour with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq and was serving as an Army infantryman in Afghanistan when he was hurt.

His mother was with him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center outside Washington, D.C., when he died.

No matter what your views on the war, Durkin's death is another painful reminder that we continue to lose strong, dedicated, brave Americans in this conflict. And that it can hit close to home. Thank you for your service, Sean Michael Durkin. May you rest in peace.

***The Guardian Brings News Of
Fresh Disasters:
“Ministers And Officials Have
Made It Clear They Are Concerned
About The Lack Of Visible
Progress In Afghanistan And
Growing Scepticism About The
Role Of British Forces There”
“British Troops May Also Give Up
Their Role Defending The Area
Around The Kajaki Dam”
“NATO Commanders Were Having ‘Great
Trouble’ Finding 500 More Trainers, He
Said”***

Nato commanders, meanwhile, are far from confident about the long-term success of Operation Moshtarak, designed to clear the Taliban out of central Helmand, in particular the district of Marjah.

21 April 2010 By Richard Norton-Taylor, Guardian News and Media Limited [UK]
[Excerpts]

The role of British troops in Helmand, the province in southern Afghanistan where they have been deployed for four years, is coming under unprecedented scrutiny as US commanders draw up plans for what they hope will be a final and conclusive push against Taliban-led insurgents.

Contingency plans include the possible wholesale withdrawal of the 9,500 British troops from Helmand to neighbouring Kandahar, the Taliban heartland, where US-led commanders are finalising plans for the largest counterinsurgency and “hearts and minds” operation since 2001.

Canada, which has provided the bulk of Nato troops in Kandahar, says it will withdraw all its forces there next year.

Though there is broad Conservative and Liberal Democrat support for the government’s strategy in Afghanistan, there has been tension over the role played by the British in Sangin, the area of Helmand where 800 soldiers are deployed.

It has been described by commanders as one of the most dangerous places in Afghanistan – eight British soldiers were killed there last month alone.

The death toll has led the Tories to question the value of keeping troops there.

A senior source said when [Conservative leader David] Cameron visited Afghanistan in December, he sent a message via the ambassador to Kabul, Mark Sedwill, that the party would not criticise the government if it pulled out of areas of Helmand such as Musa Qala and Sangin where the army was overstretched.

Musa Qala has been handed over, but when Cameron raised the issue of withdrawal from these areas in parliament, he was rebuffed and told that “these are judgments for generals”.

After Barack Obama’s surge, there are now more US troops in Helmand than British. But the removal of British forces from the province, where commanders say they have built strong relations with local governors and tribal elders, will not be popular with UK defence chiefs. “There would be huge resistance from the MoD all the way to the chief of defence staff (Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup) given there has been huge British investment in Camp Bastion,” a senior and well-placed official told the Guardian.

“A large amount of British blood and treasure has been invested in Helmand,” another official said.

Britain’s presence there is costing about £5bn a year. A total of 281 personnel have died in Afghanistan since 2001, 248 as a result of hostile action.

Ministers and officials have made it clear they are concerned about the lack of visible progress in Afghanistan and growing scepticism about the role of British forces there.

A survey today of more than 2,000 defence analysts conducted by the Royal United Services Institute showed just 57% agreed that current operations in Afghanistan played “an intrinsic part in maintaining the UK’s security”.

Ministers and officials privately concede they have had difficulty in getting their message across, partly because they do not seem convinced that current operations are the only bulwark against further al-Qaida-sponsored terrorist attacks.

The precise role that British troops will play in the future has been an issue for some months now.

US marines may take over specific districts and towns where overstretched British troops have been vulnerable to roadside bombs and small arms fire.

Control of Musa Qala, a key town in northern Helmand twice captured by British troops where 23 were killed, was handed over to US marines last month.

The 500 British troops who were there will be redeployed to “thicken and deepen” the British presence in central Helmand, closer to areas where thousands have been engaged in Operation Moshtarak with US and Afghan troops, defence officials said.

British troops may also give up their role defending the area around the Kajaki dam, a US-led aid project.

A key question is whether they will also leave Sangin.

All British defence officials would say was that the 800 UK troops there could be reinforced by US soldiers.

US commanders are now hoping that British troops will make up the shortfall in the number of Nato soldiers available to train Afghan forces. “Nato forces until now have not seen training as a main military operation. It requires a unique skill set,” James Appathurai, chief Nato spokesman, said on a visit to London last week.

Nato commanders were having “great trouble” finding 500 more trainers, he said.

Nato foreign ministers will meet in Tallin, the Estonian capital, tomorrow amid uncertainty about whether there will be sufficient trained Afghan forces to start taking over responsibility for security in local districts by the end of the year – a key part of Nato’s exit strategy.

Nato commanders, meanwhile, are far from confident about the long-term success of Operation Moshtarak, designed to clear the Taliban out of central Helmand, in particular the district of Marjah.

More Cheery News:

“Only Hatred For British Troops In Afghan Town”

“The Taliban Do Not Even Have A Bakery That They Can Give Bread To The People, But Still Most People Support The Taliban”

“That’s Because People Are Sick Of Night Raids And Being Treated Badly By The Foreigners”

22 April 2010 Jon Boone in Kabul, The Guardian [Excerpts]

As with so many of the Helmand towns where the British are present the bazaar in Sangin is officially “thriving”.

Indeed, recent visitors have to admit that there are signs of commerce in the long thin strip of shops.

But the rest, says David Gill, a photographer who visited Sangin three times last year, is like “a ghost town in Death Valley where you drive through and all you see is a sign flapping in the wind”.

In some of the more benign areas of Helmand children may offer the occasional wave to passing soldiers, but in Sangin all you can feel is the “intense hatred of a people who hate everything you stand for”, Gill says. Development work has been glacial.

The new “traditional courthouse” is little more than a room with six plastic chairs.

When the British arrived in June 2006 they had to fight while filling sandbags and constructing their base at FOB (Forward Operation Base) Jackson. Sometimes the base came close to being overrun.

The figures for British deaths in Sangin and its immediate surroundings make stark reading: of the 281 servicemen and women who have died in Afghanistan, 88 lost their lives there.

For some soldiers the notoriety of the posting brings out grim humour. They wear T-shirts with the motif “Wishtan you were here?”, in reference to the notorious FOB Wishtan, with a mixture of pride and irony.

It took months to clear all the alleyways around Wishtan that had been intensively seeded with homemade bombs. No wonder Jerry Thomas, the brigadier in charge of British forces in Helmand when they first moved into Sangin, was said to be deeply sceptical about the wisdom of the move.

Today fighting is still intense, and in army spokesman Gordon Messenger's words, Sangin is "the most challenging area in which British troops operate".

Now the district is officially the country's most lethal place for foreign forces, responsible for more than 10% of daily casualties of the entire Nato mission, as a result of its particularly poisonous mix of drugs and tribal warfare. With lots of water and fertile land, Sangin is perfect for growing the poppies currently being harvested for their opium sap.

Sangin is also well suited as a trafficking hub because of its proximity to the national ring road, putting cities such as Herat and Kandahar in easy reach.

The drugs industry has every reason to fight against attempts to assert government control, making natural allies of the insurgents in the district.

The Afghan government is in no position to assert itself against such powerful narco-traffickers who hopelessly compromise what little government capacity does exist.

According to a Kabul-based diplomat last year the district had only 50 Afghan policemen and about 350 soldiers.

The abusive and corrupt police force, whose members think nothing of beating and stealing from local people, has been a constant problem, with the British seen as the enforcement mechanism for deeply corrupt Afghan authorities.

Drugs and weak government are further complicated by a complex tribal situation. The fighting between armed factions during Afghanistan's civil war in the 1990s helped to fragment and weaken traditional tribal authority.

"The picture that emerges is one where a minority tribe controls the government and the majority, which is not in government, control the heroin.

"Everyone else gets angry and joins the Taliban," says one Kabul diplomat with knowledge of Helmand.

The people of Sangin blame inter-tribal fighting and the drug trade for the dire security situation, but also hold the foreign soldiers responsible for the chaos.

According to two farmers currently staying in Lashkar Gah who were contacted by the Guardian but did not want to be named, the behaviour of the British is by the far the biggest problem.

One said: "The Taliban do not even have a bakery that they can give bread to the people, but still most people support the Taliban – that's because people are sick of night raids and being treated badly by the foreigners."

“A Population In Kandahar That Remains Broadly Sympathetic To The Taliban”

“Five Of Six Kandaharis Viewed The Taliban As ‘Our Afghan Brothers’”

“In Five Districts Of Kandahar, The Taliban Have More Influence Than The Government”

April 20, 2010 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and TAIMOOR SHAH, New York Times
[Excerpts]

Late on Monday night, Azizullah Yarmal, Kandahar’s deputy mayor, walked into a large mosque in his city and faced toward Mecca. He knelt down in unison with the others, leaning forward so his head touched the floor in ritual prayer.

That was when gunmen, unseen by the bent-over worshipers, shot him to death.

The Taliban offered a terse explanation. “We have killed him because he was working for this puppet government,” a spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, said in a telephone interview.

“We will target all those who are working for the government.”

Taliban spokesmen deny any interest in talks with the government as long as foreign troops remain.

As American and NATO troops prepare for a summer offensive in Kandahar — what could be their most critical push in more than eight years of war — any sense of safety in the area is being worn away by assassinations, bombings and other attacks on American and Western contractors, political officials and religious leaders.

The violence has further eroded support for the government and foreign forces among a population in Kandahar that remains broadly sympathetic to the Taliban and that more than anything seems to fear continuing conflict.

In a recent survey, Kandaharis favored negotiations with the Taliban by a margin of 19 to 1 over continued fighting. Five of six Kandaharis viewed the Taliban as “our Afghan brothers,” while four of five also said most members of the Taliban would stop fighting if given jobs.

The survey was commissioned by the United States Army's Human Terrain System, a program intended to help the military better understand the social and cultural underpinnings of regions where troops are deployed.

In five districts of Kandahar, the Taliban have more influence than the government, the study found.

Kandahar was the birthplace and power center of the Taliban before the United States-led invasion in 2001, and in the years of occupation it has gained strength by feeding off a feckless and corrupt government that has favored a handful of politically connected and powerful tribes.

But the Kandahar study, first reported on the Danger Room blog of Wired magazine, illustrates just how tall an order that will be for a generation of Afghans conditioned — with good reason, many NATO officials concede — to believe that a Taliban government is a better deal than the official Afghan administration.

While Kandaharis blame the Taliban and other militants for insecurity, slightly more than half say the Taliban are “incorruptible.”

That is a stark contrast to the local government, whose corruption, the study found, had forced two of three residents surveyed to seek help elsewhere, including from the Taliban.

Resistance Organization Sends A Message To Germany: “Germany Should Not Sacrifice The Historical Relations With The Afghans For The Interests Of America”

**“No Doubt, The Current Jihad
Against The Americans Invasion Of
Afghanistan And Of Their Allies, Is
An Islamic Nationalist Resistance”**

“Sooner Or Later, They Will Force The Invading Troops To Flee This Country”

21 April 2010 Islamic Emirate Of Afghanistan Weekly comment [Via Uruknet]

In World War II, The Allied Countries, American and U.K. being part of them, were waging war against Germany and Japan. They pressed Afghanistan to side with them in the war and urged to give them the German diplomats based in Afghanistan. But the honor and dignity-loving traditions of the Afghans and the close relations of the Afghan people with the people of Germany did not permit kowtowing before might and material incentives and going back on values and close ties. Afghanistan declared its neutrality in the war and ensured safe passage of the diplomats to their country.

After the World War II, Afghanistan and Germany enjoyed close relations. German engineers and other German nationals were living in Afghanistan without fear and security problems. particularly in Khust where they had technical projects. Generally speaking, they were more safe there than in Germany. Afghans regarded them with due respect.

But unfortunately, after October 2001, when America launched its colonialist aggression against Afghanistan under the unjustified name of fighting terrorism, the government of Germany joined hands with the Americans— contrary to the aspirations of the Afghans.

They preferred might and material incentives and did not reciprocate the Afghans' favor.

In the past nine years, the German soldiers have been fighting against the Afghan people for the advancement of the American colonialist interests and goals.

They have martyred many Afghans.

On 4 September 2009, American fighter's planes, on information from German commanders, blindly bombarded civilians who were taking fuel from tankers stuck in mud in a river. 140 people were killed; some of them burnt up completely. The American planes had used phosphorus bombs which are banned at world level. Even the surrogate administration in Kunduz on instructions from the Americans, did not allow the injured victims to go to Kabul for medical treatment. They feared, the world will know about their crimes.

It was more becoming and expected of Germany to have announced postponement of their military cooperation with the Americans after this carnage.

They should have withdrawn their troops from the country, but contrarily, they pledged 500 more troops for Afghanistan as a gesture to please the Americans.

This is in a time that majority of the people of Germany are against the presence of German troops in Afghanistan, according to fresh surveys and have staged several demonstrations as a protest.

No doubt, the current Jihad against the Americans invasion of Afghanistan and of their allies, is an Islamic nationalist resistance.

Sooner or later, they will force the invading troops to flee this country.

The government of Germany should respect the wants and aspirations of the German and Afghan people.

They should not taint the splendid historical chapter of Afghan-German relations with the dark clouds of their partnership in the current unjust and unfair American war against Afghanistan.

It is a rationale to do early what is anyway necessary to be done later--then with heavy losses.

We expect the government of Germany to take people-friendly decisions regarding Afghanistan instead of colonialism-friendly decisions and it is more appropriate for them to pull out of Afghanistan.

The sooner, the better-- because, it is key to sustaining the trust and dignity of Germany and strengthening bonds of relations between the two people.

Resistance Action

04.18.10 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press & 4.19 AKI & Apr. 20, 2010 The Associated Press & April 22, 2010 Xinhua

Insurgents killed a vice mayor of the southern city of Kandahar while he was praying at a mosque, an official said Tuesday. The assailants escaped and no arrests were made.

Militants killed a government official in Taliban birthplace Kandahar in south Afghanistan, spokesman for provincial administration Zalmay Ayubi said Thursday. "Two armed men riding a motorbike opened fire on Hussain Walasi the Director of cooperative assisted farmers and killed him on the spot while he was shopping in Kandahar city on Tuesday evening," Ayubi told Xinhua.

An Afghan policeman was killed during mine clearance operations in the southern province of Kandahar, the Interior Ministry said.

A battle erupted after Taliban fighters stormed a police checkpoint near Khasadar, on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Qala-i-Naw.

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A U.S. Marine puts his hands on the body of an Afghan citizen after stopping him at gunpoint as the occupation troops patrol around the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, Helmand province, April 16, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 80,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA.]

[They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, bomb and 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 a military prison endlessly 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 killing them wholesale, 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?]

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: PACK UP GO HOME



A U. S Marine from 6th Marines during a patrol in the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, in Helmand province, April 8, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

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

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The funeral of Marine Lance Cpl. Kielin T. Dunn of Chesapeake, Va., killed during combat operations in Afghanistan, March 4, 2010, at Arlington National Cemetery. Dunn was part of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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

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

**“Senior Leaders, The Parents
Say, Are Responsible For A
Pattern Of Mistakes That Left
Their Sons Mortally Exposed On
The Battlefield”**

**“Why Are They Still In Command?
Where The Hell Are These
Officers, And Why Did They Get
Just A Slap On The Wrist?”**

**“They Said ‘Screw It’ And Left. Well,
Why Did You Go In There In The First
Place?”**

**“To Parents Of The Dead Soldiers, The
Accountability Seems Too Little, Too
Late — And Too Low On The Chain Of
Command”**

April 18, 2010 By Brendan McGarry, Army Times [Excerpts]

They were “sitting ducks.”

“Why are they still in command?”

“Where are the generals?”

Such are some of the pleas of the parents of 22 soldiers, Marines and a Navy corpsman killed in three separate — but eerily similar — battles in Afghanistan when their units were put in indefensible positions or left without sufficient support when attacked by overwhelming forces.

In each case, commanders have been found responsible for the battlefield mistakes that contributed to the dangers faced by the troops. Each of the unnamed officers has been officially reprimanded, according to Army releases.

But these reprimands display a familiar pattern of Army accountability: Field commanders were disciplined, but their high-ranking superiors were spared.

That’s true following separate investigations into the three battles in Afghanistan.

To parents of the dead soldiers, the accountability seems too little, too late — and too low on the chain of command.

Senior leaders, the parents say, are responsible for a pattern of mistakes that left their sons mortally exposed on the battlefield.

“Where are the generals, and how do you hold them accountable?” said retired Col. David Brostrom, whose son, 1st Lt. Jonathan Brostrom, was one of nine soldiers killed during a deadly battle July 13, 2008, in Wanat. Brostrom’s anger grew when the patrol base his son and his soldiers fought so hard to defend was abandoned shortly after the battle.

“My son and those eight other soldiers died and those 27 were wounded for what?” he said.

“What did they die for? ... They said ‘Screw it’ and left. Well, why did you go in there in the first place?”

“I’m still pro-military, but it’s a tragedy if these officers get off so lightly with just a reprimand,” Susan Price said about the officers reprimanded after her son, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, and four other service members were killed in an ambush Sept. 8 at Ganjgal in Kunar province.

“Why are they still in command? Where the hell are these officers, and why did they get just a slap on the wrist?”

Investigations of the three battles found:

- **The troops at Wanat were left at the remote outpost with insufficient supplies to build defenses, and they were also short of water.**

Webb pushed the Pentagon to reinvestigate the battle citing a concern that “command negligence” put the troops in harm’s way.

- Lt. Gen. Guy Swan investigated the COP Keating battle and concluded in his report: “There were inadequate measures taken by the chain of command, resulting in an attractive target for enemy fighters.”

According to The Washington Post, the squadron and brigade commanders overseeing Keating wanted to close it. But closing was repeatedly delayed. Some family members of the deceased soldiers said the officers who postponed shutting the base also should be held accountable.

- Investigators looking into the Ganjgal battle found that “the absence of senior leaders in the operations center with troops in contact in the battlespace, and their consequent lack of situational awareness and decisive action, was the key failure in the events of 8 September 2009.

“The actions of senior leaders were clearly negligent.”

Despite the spate of reprimands, the Army officials insist the service’s established system of investigation and accountability is sound.

“We have a well-established tradition of conducting after-action reviews or administrative investigations to determine the facts, assess performance and take corrective action when necessary,” Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli said in a statement provided to Army Times. “Leaders at every echelon understand that they are accountable for their actions and for those of their subordinates.”

The Army will “hold accountable those who fall below standards expected of them,” Chiarelli said. “We do so based on actions — not position or rank.”

Brostrom is still unsatisfied despite spending “countless” hours every day fighting for answers.

“I’m just as pissed now as I was two years ago, because, really, nothing has been done,” he said. “The Army is still dragging its feet.”

“It Seems To Take Forever Once Something New Comes Out” “Then When It Does, Somebody In The Army Says You Can’t Have It”

April 18, 2010 By Brendan McGarry, Army Times [Excerpt]

Army Staff Sgt. Heath Gadberry, a medic at Fort Bragg, N.C., said the Army has been slow to get troops the best weapons and gear.

A veteran of four combat tours in Iraq, Gadberry said the M4 carbine’s gas system is inferior to versions with a piston-operated gas system, especially in the current operating environments. He also said many off-the-shelf commercial products are superior to standard-issue Army gear.

“When I joined the Army, I came in and went to Iraq with all the things they gave me,” he said.

“My second roll around, I took all my own gear.”

Gadberry acknowledged that the service has since started to field better equipment. Still, he figures he has spent more than \$2,000 on personal war-zone gear, including an Arc’teryx soft-shell jacket, Marmot lightweight sleeping bag, Camel-Bak aid pack and other items.

“It seems to take forever once something new comes out,” he said. “Then when it does, somebody in the Army says you can’t have it.”

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

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 Nixon administration claimed and received great credit for withdrawing the Army from Vietnam, but it was the rebellion of low-ranking GIs that forced the government to abandon a hopeless suicidal policy”
-- David Cortright; Soldiers In Revolt**

**It is a two class world and the wrong class is running it.
-- Larry Christensen, Soldiers Of Solidarity & United Auto Workers**

Blindfolded

Written by Dennis Serdel: Military Resistance 2010; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Blindfolded

**I was born in March of 1947
when my Father came home from WWII
and married my Mother who worked
as a Secretary in Kalamazoo.
Yes, I am a true “Baby Boomer” or
in other words a “War Baby” born
from the “Greatest Generation.”
I now know how they are going to handle
the influx of all the “Baby Boomers”
who are beginning to retire.
The Companies are going bankrupt,
They Say, and will Not pay me any
Retirement pay or Health Care.
But in the 1960’s, it was my turn to serve
in the Army in Vietnam because
I was fighting Against the Idea
that a Country’s wealth should be
evenly spread to All the Citizens
as fair as possible.
Instead, I was fighting for the Idea
that a Few people should own
the Wealth of a Country
and the rest of the Citizens**

should be poor.

But when I came home from the War
I joined a Union and I was Not poor
but "Middle Class."

However, it looks like I shall return
to my proper place again
that being poor as the Unions are
being stabbed in the back by
Obama who represents the Few.

Did I mention that my Son is a
"War Baby" from America's
"Worst Generation ? "

So let him be especially
laid off fired let go and poor.

The Iraq and Afghanistan Soldiers
and Veterans are another
"Greatest Generation" who do
what they are told to do by the Few
but it looks like they will be poor
anyway because that is the way
America wants them to be.

A Few people have all the money
and the rest of the Citizens are poor.

So I have taken on the job of
convincing our new "Greatest Generation"
that when the Wars are over,
they will be tossed aside like
used toilet paper and their reward
will be to work hard at slave Worker
wages to raise their "War Babies."

The government blindfolds them
now with yellow ribbons,
parades with all the trimmings
all the welcome backs
and elaborate funerals to assure
them that their Country really
appreciates them for fighting
and dying for the Idea of America.

The greatest fear that the Few have
who own all the wealth have
is giving guns and ammo to the poor
people like our Iraq and Afghanistan
Soldiers.

I mean, gee whizz Uncle Sam Few,
you really do fear that after you
keep stepping on their poor Mothers
and Fathers, Aunts and Uncles,
Brothers and Sisters
Cousins and Neighbors
and Friends that the Soldiers
just might get together

and march on Washington
DC and NY City
to eliminate the Few.

Tiananmen Square:
April 21, 1989: Honorable Anniversary
Pissed Off People Rise Up Against A
Corrupt Government Of Tyrants,
Exploiters And Oppressors



Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

Six days after the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed reform-minded leader of the Chinese Communist Party, some 100,000 students from more than 40 universities gathered at Beijing's Tiananmen Square to commemorate Hu, voice their discontent with China's authoritative communist government, and call for greater democracy.

Ignoring government warnings of violent suppression of any mass demonstration, the students were joined by workers, intellectuals, and civil servants.

April 22, 1992: Honorable Anniversary Serbs Stand Up Against A Politician's Plan For War

Carl Bunin Peace History April 16-22

June 1994 By Ivan Vejvoda, New Internationalist [Excerpt]

It may come as a surprise to many Westerners that there was a large, spontaneous opposition within Serbia and Montenegro to the war waged by the Milosevic regime. Mostly it took the form of resisting conscription into the armed forces. In Belgrade only 10 per cent responded to the call-up to what was then, in 1991, still the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA).

Thousands of young conscripts went into 'internal exile' hiding with friends and relatives. The latter would ignore knocks at the door so as to avoid receiving the call-up orders. Thousands of potential conscripts left the country and headed for Britain, France, Germany, Holland and Greece. Visas were not needed then – as they are today.

Even among those who did obey the draft, there was resistance. The story of young Miroslav Milenkovic from a small town in Serbia is a poignant example of the dilemma faced by many.

When the new conscript reached barracks his unit had already split in two – between those who agreed to go to the front and those who were refusing.

Milenkovic went from one group to another, not knowing which group of friends and relatives to side with. At one point he stopped and, standing between the two groups, took his rifle and shot himself.

April 23, 1971: Above And Beyond





Carl Bunin Peace History April 20-26

In the final event of Operation Dewey Canyon III, nearly 1,000 Vietnam War veterans threw their combat ribbons, helmets, and uniforms on the Capitol steps along with toy weapons.



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550



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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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