

## **Military Resistance 8D13**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?**



The casket of Marine Corp. Jacob H. Turbett at Arlington National Cemetery March 9, 2010. Turbett, from Canton, Mich., died Feb. 13 during fighting in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

**Bosnian Veterans Attack After  
Government Cheats Them And  
Families Of The Fallen:  
They Storm Government Building  
“Smash All The Windows, Set Fire  
On Some Of The Ground Floor  
Offices And Forced The Police To  
Withdraw”**

**“This Is Our Last Warning And I Hope That The Authorities Will Eventually Understand Who Defended This Country And Who Enabled Them To Have An Easy Life”**

**“Benefits Mostly Reach The Richest Fifth Of The Population While The Poorest Remain Left Out”**



**The protests come two months after the Croat-Bosniak parliament passed a set of laws reforming and cutting cash transfers to war veterans and families of fallen soldiers.**

**The adoption of the laws was a condition for the release of the second installment of the International Monetary Fund’s €1.2 million three-year loan for Bosnia and a World Bank budget support loan of some €32 million.**

About seventy people have been injured in Sarajevo on Wednesday in clashes with police during a protest by several thousand war veterans against measures by the government of Bosnia's Croat-Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) entity to cut their welfare payments.

"This is our last warning and I hope that the authorities will eventually understand who defended this country and who enabled them to have an easy life," Dzevad Razo, a representative of an association of war veterans, told the crowd.

The spokeswoman for Sarajevo's Kosevo hospital, Biljana Jandric, said that 66 people sought medical assistance during the day, most of them with slight injuries to the head and eyes. Some complained of respiratory problems caused by tear gas. However, Jandric said one man had suffered a skull fracture and was hospitalized.

Clashes first broke out at noon when police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd as several thousand Bosniak and Croat veterans of the country's 1992-5 war attempted to storm the government building.

The situation calmed temporarily as protesters waited for the prime minister to address them.

**After he failed to appear the demonstration again turned violent as protesters stormed the building for a second time, smashed all the windows, set fire on some of the ground floor offices and forced the police to withdraw.**

**The police officers were evacuated from the building in ambulances through the thick smoke of tear gas.**

The rampage lasted for about an hour and while some protesters are still in front of the government building they have quieted down considerably.

According to local reports, the crowd wanted the prime minister of the region, Mustafa Mujezinovic, to personally sign a document that will guarantee the implementation of their demands.

**Mujezinovic gave an interview to Radio Sarajevo late this afternoon, and said that he is not in the city and that he cannot say where he is "for security reasons".**

He added that the riots were violent and that he did not want to negotiate while the riots are going on. In addition, Mujezinovic said that it is not possible to meet the protesters demands currently, but that the government is doing all it can to address the situation.

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Under pressure from veteran groups which opposed the law, the government agreed to apply austerity measures regulating veteran payments to all budget beneficiaries.

**However, the protestors said the government had failed to adopt necessary by-laws to deliver on their pledge and was instead considering measures that would leave two-thirds of their group without welfare payments.**

The Croat-Bosniak federation last year paid over 40 per cent of its budget in social transfers.

**Critics have long called for a reform of the social transfers system, arguing that the benefits mostly reach the richest fifth of the population while the poorest remain left out.**



## **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**

# **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

## **2 U.S. Soldiers Killed In Pul-E-Alam**

Apr 23 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

U.S. and Afghan forces came under heavy fire while searching a compound in eastern Afghanistan, sparking a gunbattle that killed two U.S. soldiers and five insurgents, NATO said Friday.

Despite the official statements, hundreds of residents protested in the Pul-e-Alam district, saying they were not convinced the victims were Taliban fighters.

The casualties came during a joint military operation in the district, where coalition forces had gotten word of insurgent activity in the compound.

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## **Airman Remembered As Dedicated Father**



Senior Master Sgt. Lackey (United States Airforce)

4/12 Newport Television LLC |

GREEN COVE SPRINGS, Fla. --Nearly half of James Lackey's life was spent defending our country. And that's how he lost his life on Friday.

Senior Master Sgt. Lackey was flying in a CV-22 Osprey when it crashed in Afghanistan. The Taliban claims it shot down the aircraft but the Pentagon says the crash is still under investigation.

Lackey's family took the news of his death especially hard. The pastor at his church, Roger Peadro, says the family is mourning in private.

"You know that it's a possibility for this type of incident to happen but you never really expect it," Peadro told Action News.

Lackey spent several years living in Green Cove Springs before joining the Air Force. That's when he moved to Fort Walton Beach, where his wife and three sons now live.

A memorial will be held for Lackey and another serviceman on Friday, near Fort Walton Beach.

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## **'Destined' For Military Service, But Time Cut Short**

April 14, 2010 KRIS SHERMAN; Staff writer; The Olympian

Joey Caron hadn't wrestled before he got to Washington High School in Parkland as a freshman.

"He got beat up a little bit," head wrestling coach Jason Wiklund said Tuesday.

But Caron was determined, and bit by bit, his skills improved.

The 2007 Washington High graduate took that dedication to Afghanistan as a paratrooper in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, family and friends said Tuesday.

It's what many will remember about the soldier who was killed Sunday by an enemy explosive in Kandahar province.

Spc. Joseph T. Caron, named for his Vietnam veteran grandfather, was 21 years old.

The young man who took part in the Air Force JROTC as a Washington High School Patriot always knew he was destined for military service. "For him, there was no other choice," Wiklund said. "What he wanted to do in life was to serve his country."

Caron, a member of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Bragg, N.C., was on foot patrol in the Arghandab River Valley when the explosion occurred, the Defense Department said Tuesday.

It's a particularly violent area of Afghanistan – a place where several members of Joint Base Lewis-McChord's 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division have been wounded or killed, mostly in bombings.

The soldier's father, Jeffrey Caron of Gresham, Ore., met his son's casket at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware early Tuesday. Joey Caron's grandfather, Joseph, a resident of Roy, made the trip too, along with a family friend.

His family last saw him when he was home on leave just before Christmas.

"He was scared, but he knew he had a job to do and a mission to do," said his stepmother, Karen Caron. "He loved his country."

He also adored his little sister, Cassie, and he returned to Washington High School to watch younger brother Josh and other students wrestle.

Family and friends said he harbored the heart of a jokester who loved to imitate Forrest Gump, make people laugh and make them smile.

He was “always there with a joke when you needed it most and always putting forth 110 percent with fiery intensity,” said Bravo Company commander Capt. Adam W. Armstrong in a news release.

“We knew we could depend on him in times when he was needed most,” he said.

Joey Caron was born July 29, 1988, in Tacoma. He enlisted in the Army as an infantryman right out of high school. Following completion of airborne and other training, he reported to Fort Bragg.

His unit deployed to Afghanistan in September. His dedication to country was rivaled only by his love for family.

He spent hours entertaining his sister, who’s now 8, and watched her every day for years while Karen Caron attended school, his stepmother said. “He helped us raise her; he was just so good with her.”

“And he loved to talk,” she added. “He was always keeping in contact with family, always talking to them. He would call my mom from Afghanistan.”

Joey Caron’s father also served in the Army and spoke proudly of his son. “He believed wholeheartedly in what he was doing, and his concerns were for his fellow soldiers and the difficulty of the mission that they’re performing,” Jeffrey Caron said.

Joey Caron always “knew what he wanted, worked hard, and he got there,” wrestling coach Wiklund said.

By the end of his junior year, Caron set a goal to compete in the state tournament. He attended summer practice sessions and earned a spot in the 2007 competition as a senior. With that determination, he won a match in the 215-pound class.

“It’s a tragic loss,” Wiklund said of Caron’s death. “He was such a good kid.”

In addition to his father, stepmother, brother and sister, the soldier’s survivors include his mother, Tani Hubbard of Glenoma, Lewis County.

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***Good News For The Afghan  
Resistance!!***

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. Army puts his hands on the body of an Afghan citizen without consent. The man was stopped at gunpoint while riding a motorbike in the Arghandab River Valley in Kandahar Province April 15, 2010. Reuters/Tim Wimborne

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?]

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## Welcome To Afghanistan: Have A Nice Day



Taliban insurgents in front of a burning German military vehicle in Isaa Khail village of Char Dara district of the northern Kunduz Province April 3, 2010. Three German soldiers were killed and five others seriously injured in fighting in Kunduz. REUTERS/Wahdat

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

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

## **THE LONELY SIDE OF HELL: ALL HOME NOW!**



US soldiers from 101 Airborne patrol in Yosef Khel district of Paktika province on April 3.  
(AFP/File/Massoud Hossaini)



U.S. Marines from 6th Marines walk back to their vehicles after patrolling in the area of Karez-e-Sayyidi, near Marjah district, Helmand province April 19, 2010.  
REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



A U.S. Air Force doctor helps to carrier a wounded soldier from a C-17 airplane to an ambulance at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. April 20, 2010. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

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## **800 From Fort Bragg Off To Obama's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

Apr 23, 2010 The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Paratroopers from Fort Bragg who recently returned to North Carolina from Haiti are headed to Afghanistan to serve as trainers.

Army officials say about 800 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, received orders Thursday to deploy to central Asia in May. They will be based all over Afghanistan as trainers.

The soldiers are in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which is part of a reserve of troops that policymakers can call on in an emergency. Most recently, the 2nd BCT was sent to Haiti to help in the recovery after a January earthquake.

**This is the ninth deployment for a 2nd BCT unit since Sept. 11, 2001.**

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# **“Hearing Loss Will Affect 800,000 Veterans By 2011”**

## **“Once Damage Occurs, It Can Be For Life”**

### **Defective Hearing “The Most Common Service-Connected Conditions Diagnosed Among Veterans”**

April 26, 2010 By Kelly Kennedy and Jon R. Anderson, Army Times [Excerpts]

Army Capt. Mark Brogan lay motionless, bleeding out of both ears, one arm nearly torn from his body. An Iraqi suicide bomber, dashing from behind a corner, had just detonated next to him.

Four years later, Brogan’s still trying to recover.

Doctors had to open his skull to insert an acrylic plate, and most of his tricep is gone, but after many long months of hard work, he has relearned how to walk, talk and live.

Yet, of all his injuries, he told a recent gathering in Washington, his hearing loss remains among his most troubling problems.

“I knew that I couldn’t hear well, but we had no idea just how bad it was,” he said.

He’s not alone. Defective hearing and tinnitus are the most common service-connected conditions diagnosed among veterans, according to Veterans Affairs Department data examined by the Institute of Medicine.

Some 50,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan have reported hearing loss.

For many, the damage is permanent — and not just from incidents like Brogan’s.

Long doses of anything louder than 85 decibels, say a lawn mower or a hair dryer, can do damage. A single burst of anything tipping 140 decibels — a jet engine, for example — can be just as bad, according to the ear special-ists as the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Reality check: A rifle produces 160 decibels of sound.

Once damage occurs, it can be for life. For many, the only option is to turn up the volume with hearing aids.

More than 58,000 people have reported ringing in their ears after returning from deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan, and VA says hearing loss will affect 800,000 veterans by 2011.

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## **“Blame The Banks, Of Course, For Predatory Lending At The Expense Of Service Members” Big Banks “Completely Ignore The Law’s 36 Percent Interest Rate Cap”**



April 26, 2010 Army Times Editorial

A couple of years after Congress passed a law to crack down on payday lenders, it turns out banks are still offering products that skirt the law.

The only difference: The banks say their loans are legal.

Wells Fargo and U.S. Bank, the two banks in the game, offer “pay-day advances” — renewable loans of up to 35 days that look every bit like a payday loan except they don’t violate the Defense Department’s narrow implementation of the Military Lending Act of 2007, which caps the interest rate on payday loans at 36 percent.

**These “payday advances” are far more pricey: The annual percentage rate is 120 percent if the money is repaid within a month, and 261 percent if repaid within 14 days.**

Blame the banks, of course, for predatory lending at the expense of service members.

But blame the Pentagon, as well, for undermining Congress’ intent by limiting the laws’ protections to just three types of closed-ended loans: payday loans, vehicle title loans and refund anticipation loans.

These “advances,” on the other hand, qualify as “open-ended lines of credit,” a definition that allows the banks to completely ignore the law’s 36 percent interest rate cap.

The banks must stop the practice. If they won’t do it on their own, service members and their families should withdraw their business as a means of persuasion.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, must revisit its regulations to close the loopholes that continue to allow high-priced lenders to prey on service members.

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## **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

## Don't Ask, Don't Tell [World War II]



**ARMY DAY — CROCODILES KEEP OUT!**

*Illustration as described by the Army Medical Corps*

... ever have to put a net across your bathtub — and share a crocodile? Sometimes, according to this medical corps report, you have to do that for a bath — in the South Pacific Islands, “crocks” have fairly palatial, with a marked partiality to, the kids put two nets across a stream and weight them down. After the “crocks” are on the outside — looking in!

... might not enjoy the bathing facilities of our boys in the service, we'd heartily approve of their towels. For in their service packs are those same husky, durable Cannon Towels — you're so proud to use in your own home. . . . Now how welcome a bath and a good towel are after a long day. You can imagine how welcome to our boys after long stints of marching or combat!

... need them more than we do. That's why there are more Cannon Towels for us. That's why, too, it's important to take good care of those we have.

**Millions of Cannon Towels** are now going to the Armed Forces. So you may find a smaller selection in the stores — fewer styles and a limited variety of colors. But the durable Cannon quality, the hardy quality that will see you through, remains the same. When the war is over, Cannon will again present the newest styles in the most charming colors.

**FOR VICTORY — BUY U.S. WAR BONDS!**

**HOW TO MAKE YOUR TOWEL LAST LONGER AND STRONGER — DURABLE FOR THE DURABLE!**

Wash before they become too soiled. Fluff-dry, then wash — never if soaps are soaped — cut off, never

# ***April 24, 1917: Anniversary Of A Noble Cause:*** **The Irish Take Arms To Fight A Foreign Imperial Occupation**



**Irish Citizen Army outside Liberty Hall**

The Easter Uprising began when between 1,000 and 1,500 members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood attempted to seize Dublin and issued the declaration of Irish independence from Britain.

Carl Bunin Peace History April 23-29

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By Constantine Fitzgibbon, Users.bigpond.net [Excerpt]

On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, a force of Irishmen under arms estimated at between 1,000 and 1,500 men and women attempted to seize Dublin, with the ultimate intention of destroying British rule in Ireland and creating an entirely independent Irish Republic to include all 32 counties of Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught.

Their leaders, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and the others, knew that their chances of success were so slight as to be almost non-existent.

Yet they fought, and died.

Why?



The circumstances that led to the Irish rebellion of 1916 are of an intense complexity, historical, social, political and, perhaps above all, psychological. The Irish writer, Sean O'Faolain, has written of his country: "Most of our physical embodiments of the past are ruins, as most of our songs are songs of lament and defiance.

**"The Easter Rising was a complete failure, which left large parts of Dublin in ruins; yet without it Ireland might never have been free of English rule.**

**"The leaders, alive, had very few supporters even among the Irish patriots; dead, they became and have remained their country's heroes.**

**It was a great historical paradox, and one that to this day the British have perhaps never understood.**

**Had they understood it, it is conceivable that the British might still have an empire, since the overthrow of British rule in Ireland marked the beginning of the overthrow of British imperial might in Asia, in Africa, and elsewhere**

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**"We Declare The Right Of The People  
Of Ireland To The Ownership Of  
Ireland"**

**"The Long Usurpation Of That Right  
By A Foreign People And  
Government Has Not Extinguished  
The Right"**

[Stephen-stratford.co.uk]

***[Text Of The Declaration Made After The Occupation Of Dublin's General Post Office During The 1916 Easter Uprising]***

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC

TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

**We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.**

**The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people.**

**In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms.**

**Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.**

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God.

Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine.

**In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.**

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

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**“If These Men Must Die, Would It Not Be Better To Die In Their Own Country Fighting For Freedom For Their Class, And For The Abolition Of War, Than To Go Forth To Strange Countries And Die Slaughtering And Slaughtered By Their Brothers That Tyrants And Profiteers Might Live?”**

By Ted Grant, Unknown source, April 1966; <http://www.marxists.org/> [Excerpts]

On 17th April 1916 the Irish Citizen Army, together with the Irish Volunteers, rose up in arms against the might of the British Empire to strike a blow for Irish freedom and for the setting up of an Irish Republic. Their blow for freedom was to reverberate round the world, and preceded the first Russian Revolution by almost a year.

The background to the rebellion was the centuries of national oppression suffered by the Irish people in the interests of British landlordism and capitalism. In this they had the support of the Irish landlords and capitalists, of the Catholic hierarchy, who were linked by ties of interest to the Imperialists, and joined with them in fear of the Irish workers and peasants.

It is impossible to understand the Easter Rising without understanding the ideas of its leader, James Connolly, who considered himself a Marxist and based himself on the ideas of Internationalism and the class struggle. Like MacLean in Britain, Lenin and Trotsky, Liebknecht and Luxemburg and other Internationalists, Connolly regarded with horror the betrayal by the leaders of the Labour movement in all countries in supporting the Imperialist War.

**Dealing with the betrayal of the Second International, Connolly declared in his paper *The Workers Republic*: “If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for freedom for their class, and for the abolition of**

**war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”**

Protesting against the support by the British TUC of the war, Connolly wrote: “Time was when the unanimous voice of that Congress declared that the working class had no enemy except the capitalist class – that of its own country at the head of the list!”

Connolly stood for national freedom as a step towards the Irish Socialist Republic. But while the Stalinists and reformists today – 50 years after 1916 still mumble in politically incoherent terms about the need for the “national revolution against imperialism”, Connolly was particularly clear about the class question that was at the basis of the Irish question.

Without being in direct contact with Lenin and Trotsky he had a similar position. “The cause of Labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of Labour”, he wrote. “They cannot be dissevered. Ireland seeks freedom. Labour seeks that an Ireland free should be the sole mistress of her own destiny, supreme owner of all material things within and upon her soil”.

Connolly had no illusions in the capitalists of any country, least of all Ireland.

**On International capitalism he wrote: “If, then, we see a small section of the possessing class prepared to launch into war, to shed oceans of blood and spend millions of treasure, in order to maintain intact a small portion of their privileges, how can we expect the entire propertied class to abstain from using the same weapons, and to submit peacefully when called upon to yield up forever all their privileges?”**

And on the Irish capitalists, “Therefore the stronger I am in my affection for national tradition, literature, language, and sympathies, the more firmly rooted I am in my opposition to that capitalist class which in its soulless lust for power and gold would bray the nations as in a mortar”.

**And again, “We are out for Ireland for the Irish. But who are the Irish? Not the rack-renting, slum-owning landlord; not the sweating, profit grinding capitalist; not the sleek and oily lawyer; not the prostitute pressmen – the hired liars of the enemy. Not these are the Irish upon whom the future depends. Not these, but the Irish working class, the only secure foundation upon which a free nation can be reared.”**

Writing on the need for an Irish insurrection to expel British imperialism he wrote in relation to the World War: “Starting thus, Ireland may yet set the torch to a European conflagration that will not burn out until the last throne and the last capitalist bond and debenture will be shrivelled on the funeral pyre of the last War lord.”

As an answer to the demand for conscription which had been imposed in Britain and which was supported by the Irish capitalists for Ireland too, where the employers were exerting pressure to force Irish workers to volunteer, Connolly wrote: “We want and must have economic conscription in Ireland for Ireland. Not the conscription of men by hunger to compel them to fight for the power that denies them the right to govern their own country, but the conscription by an Irish nation of all the resources of the nation – its

land, its railways, its canals, its workshops, its docks, its mines, its mountains, its rivers and streams, its factories and machinery, its horses, its cattle, and its men and women, all co-operating together under one common direction that gather under one common direction that Ireland may live and bear upon her fruitful bosom the greatest number of the freest people she has ever known.”

He looked at the employers who were opposing conscription too from a critical class point of view: “if here and there we find an occasional employer who fought us in 1913 (the Great Dublin lock-out in which the employers tried to break union organisation, but were defeated in this object by the solidarity of the Irish workers and their British comrades too) agreeing with our national policy in 1915 it is not because he has become converted, or is ashamed of the unjust use of his powers, but simply that he does not see in economic conscription the profit he fancied he saw in denying to his followers the right to organise in their own way in 1913.”

**Answering objections to the firm working class point of view which he expounded he declared: “Do we find fault with the employer for following his own interests? We do not. But neither are we under any illusion as to his motives. In the same manner we take our stand with our own class, nakedly upon our class interests, but believing that these interests are the highest interests of the race.”**

It is in this light that the uprising of 1916 must be viewed. As a consequence of the struggles of the past Connolly who was the General Secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union had organised the Citizens Army for the purpose of defence against capitalist and police attack and for preparing for struggle against British imperialism.

The Citizens Army was almost purely working class in composition: dockers, transport workers, building workers, printers and other sections of the Dublin workers being its rank and file. It was with this force and in alliance with the more middle class Irish volunteers that Connolly prepared for the uprising.

**He had no illusions about its immediate success. According to William O’Brien, on the day of the insurrection Connolly said to him: “We are going out to be slaughtered.” He said “Is there no chance of success?” and Connolly replied “None whatsoever.”**

**Connolly understood that the tradition and the example created would be immortal and would lay the basis for future freedom and a future Irish Socialist Republic. In that lay his greatness.**

What a difference from the craven traitors of the German Socialist and Communist and Trade Union leaders who despite having three million armed workers supporting them, and with the sympathy and support of the overwhelming majority of the German working class (ready to fight and die, capitulated to Hitler without firing a shot.

**The British occupying troops suppressed the insurrection and then savagely executed its leaders, including the leader of the insurrection James Connolly, who was already badly wounded.**

Connolly was murdered, but in the last analysis, British imperialism really suffered defeat.

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## April 24, 1971: Magnificent Anniversary



Peace History April 23-29

500,000 demonstrated against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. It was the largest-ever demonstration opposing U.S. war in Southeast Asia. 150,000 marched at a simultaneous rally in San Francisco.

### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550**

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If you prefer PDF to Word format, email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org)

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

STALKER.  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH. 2010.



# CLASS WAR REPORTS



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**Capitalism At Work:**

**“Wellpoint Has Specifically Targeted Women With Breast Cancer For Aggressive Investigation With The Intent To Cancel Their Policies”**

**“Congressional Investigators And Consumer Advocates Say That In Only A Tiny Percentage Of Canceled Health Insurance Cases Was There A Legitimate Reason”**

**“It Is Important For These Companies’ Profit Margins That They Get Rid Of Policyholders With Expensive Diseases”**

Apr 22 By Murray Waas, Reuters [Excerpts]

Los Angeles

**Shortly after they were diagnosed with breast cancer, each of the women learned that her health insurance had been canceled.**

There was Yenny Hsu, who lived and worked in Los Angeles. And there was Patricia Reilling, a successful art gallery owner and interior designer from Louisville, Kentucky.

Neither of these women knew about the other.

**But besides their similar narratives, they had something else in common: Their health insurance carriers were subsidiaries of WellPoint, which has 33.7 million policyholders -- more than any other health insurance company in the United States.**



The women paid their premiums on time.

Before they fell ill, neither had any problems with their insurance.

Initially, they believed their policies had been canceled by mistake.

**They had no idea that WellPoint was using a computer algorithm that automatically targeted them and every other policyholder recently diagnosed with breast cancer.**

**The software triggered an immediate fraud investigation, as the company searched for some pretext to drop their policies, according to government regulators and investigators.**

**Once the women were singled out, they say, the insurer then canceled their policies based on either erroneous or flimsy information.**

Insurance companies have used the practice, known as “rescission,” for years.

And a congressional committee last year said WellPoint was one of the worst offenders.

But WellPoint also has specifically targeted women with breast cancer for aggressive investigation with the intent to cancel their policies, federal investigators told Reuters.

The revelation is especially striking for a company whose CEO and president, Angela Braly, has earned plaudits for how her company improved the medical care and treatment of other policyholders with breast cancer.

The disclosures come to light after a recent investigation by Reuters showed that another health insurance company, Assurant Health, similarly targeted HIV-positive policyholders for rescission.

That company was ordered by courts to pay millions of dollars in settlements.

**In his push for the health care bill, President Barack Obama said the legislation would end such industry practices.**

**But many critics worry the new law will not lead to an end of these practices.**

**Some state and federal regulators -- as well as investigators, congressional staffers and academic experts -- say the health care legislation lacks teeth, at least in terms of enforcement or regulatory powers to either stop or even substantially reduce rescission.**

“People have this idea that someone is going to flip a switch and rescission and other bad insurance practices are going to end,” says Peter Harbage, a former health care adviser to the Clinton administration.

“Insurers will find ways to undermine the protections in the new law, just as they did with the old law. Enforcement is the key.”

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**In April 2008, Patricia Reilling also was diagnosed with breast cancer. Anthem Blue Cross of Kentucky, a WellPoint subsidiary, paid the bills for a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery.**

**But the following January, after Reilling suffered a life-threatening staph infection requiring two emergency surgeries in three days, Anthem balked and refused to pay more.**

**They soon canceled her insurance entirely.**

**Unable to afford additional necessary surgeries for nearly 16 months, Reilling ended up severely disabled and largely confined to her home.**

As a result of her crushing medical bills, the once well-to-do businesswoman is now dependent on food stamps.

“It’s not like these companies don’t like women because they are women,” says Jeff Isaacs, the chief assistant Los Angeles city attorney who runs the office’s 300-lawyer criminal division.

“But there are two things that really scare them and they are breast cancer and pregnancy. Breast cancer can really be a costly thing for them. Pregnancy is right up there too. Their worst-case scenario is that a child will be born with some disability and they will have to pay for that child’s treatment over the course of a lifetime.”

Isaacs is a former federal prosecutor who spent much of his time with the U.S. Justice Department investigating corporate wrongdoing. Among state and federal regulators, he is now considered one of the toughest and most experienced foes of the health insurance industry. He has hired retired FBI agents to investigate full-time the practices of WellPoint and its Anthem Blue Cross subsidiary in California.

Still, Isaacs feels outgunned: “The industry just has these tremendous financial, legal and political resources that others don’t,” he said. “In my own state, regulators are often afraid or unwilling to go up against them. It is hard to figure out what the future brings.”

In July 2008, Isaacs’ office sued Anthem Blue Cross, alleging that more than 6,000 people in the state of California had their insurance canceled due to its “illegal rescission practices.” The litigation is ongoing.

**Last February, the insurer agreed to pay a \$1 million fine and an additional \$14 million in restitution to alleged victims to settle another lawsuit.**

**This one was brought against it by the California Department of Insurance, which said the company violated state laws by improperly rescinding the policies of 2,330 people.**

**A year earlier, Anthem Blue Cross agreed to pay a \$10 million fine to settle similar charges brought by a second agency in the state, the California Department of**

**Managed Health Care, alleging that WellPoint had illegally rescinded more than 1,100 policyholders.**

As part of his investigation, Isaacs has sought information from WellPoint about its use of algorithms to single out women with breast cancer or who are pregnant. The company has fought him vigorously and so far largely kept information from him, Isaacs said.

**But in response to an inquiry last year from the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, which was investigating rescission, WellPoint said that it initiates a claims review every time policyholders receive medical treatment for certain conditions.**

**The company listed diagnostic codes that could trigger investigations. One was for breast tumors.**

During an audit of Anthem Blue Cross by the California Department of Managed Health Care, company employees showed regulators internal records revealing that pregnant women also automatically had their medical histories examined. But state regulators, congressional investigators and consumer advocates say that in only a tiny percentage of canceled health insurance cases was there a legitimate reason.

A 2007 investigation by the California Department of Managed Health Care bore this out. The agency randomly selected 90 instances in which Anthem Blue Cross of California dropped the insurance of policyholders after diagnoses with costly or life-threatening illnesses to determine how many were legally justified.

None were.

**“In all 90 files, there was no evidence (that Blue Cross), before rescinding coverage, investigated or established that the applicant’s omission/misrepresentation was willful,” the DMHC report said.**

WellPoint has worked to encourage mammography for at-risk women. Personalized letters -- followed up by phone calls -- are sent to more than 80,000 women between the ages of 52 and 69 if they have not had a mammogram in the past year. The company conducts automated calls for women ages 40 to 69 to make sure they are getting mammograms.

And in May 2009, WellPoint’s charitable foundation, the WellPoint Foundation LLC, provided a grant for the American Cancer Society for its “Hope Lodges,” which allow cancer patients and family members free lodging and support while receiving care far from home. The grant funded Hope Lodges in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, where Patricia Reilling resides.

To Reilling, charitable giving does not mitigate the harm done to her and other cancer patients who have had their health insurance canceled after a breast cancer diagnosis.

“I can’t pay for my medicine,” she said. “I haven’t been able pay for surgery that I need for two years. It doesn’t make any sense.”

**Reilling adds: "I laud people who give money to charity -- but not at the expense of cancer patients and people who have paid health insurance premiums for 20 years and never missed a payment -- and then get canceled when they most need their coverage.**

**"What about the thousands of people who have their policies canceled by their company for no good reason? When are they going to make that right?"**

**Why would WellPoint on the one hand work to improve health care for women with breast cancer while automatically investigating every single woman diagnosed with breast cancer for possible cancellation of their policies?**

Karen L. Pollitz, a research professor at the Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University, offers one possible explanation: "It is important for these companies' profit margins that they get rid of policyholders with expensive diseases," she said.

**The investigation last year by the House Energy and Commerce Committee determined that WellPoint and two of the nation's other largest insurance companies -- UnitedHealth Group Inc and Assurant Health, part of Assurant Inc -- made at least \$300 million by improperly rescinding more than 19,000 policyholders over one five-year period.**

**WellPoint itself profited by more than \$128 million from the practice, and the committee suggested that the figure might be largely understated because the company refused to provide information about cancellations by several subsidiaries.**

During the yearlong debate over health care reform, as the White House and Democrats in Congress savaged insurance industry practices, WellPoint took as much heat as any company. Among other things, it was slammed for trying to raise premiums by as much as 39 percent for some customers. One in nine of all Americans are policyholders with WellPoint or one of its subsidiaries.

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Reilling suffered a horrific staph infection caused by her stay in the hospital. She was rushed back there in the early morning of January 15 and was admitted shortly after 5:30 a.m.

The incision from her reconstructive breast surgery was reopened. Her abdomen was flushed with six full liters of antibiotic fluid until the incision was closed. Two days later, her condition worsened, requiring yet another emergency surgery.

**This second surgery necessitated multiple blood transfusions simply to keep her alive. The infection was so severe her entire umbilicus -- the interior of her belly -- button, had to be removed, as well as many abdominal muscles, because the infection had already eaten away most of it.**

**While recovering, Reilling started having trouble with her insurance.**

**Her medication after the surgery cost \$4,446 a month. But Anthem would only pay for 10 days and then no more, she recalled in an interview.**

Luckily, one doctor gave her free samples and another found a dispensary where could obtain the medication at a reduced price. But other days she would go without.

**In June 2009, she was informed that her insurance was being canceled -- just before she was about to undergo another reconstructive surgery, which she was forced to postpone. She has now gone 16 months without the necessary surgery.**

**As a result, she is severely disabled. The pain and discomfort often only allow her to be able to stand for 20 or 30 minutes a day, sometimes even less. Reconstructive surgery might help her to become mobile again and perhaps go back to work full-time.**

She once enjoyed successful careers as an art gallery owner, interior decorator, and as a writer. She had plenty of money, drove a Mercedes and traveled the world on whim. Not anymore.

Today she is on food stamps.

She has taken her Social Security early, which means that when she is older, she will be eligible for fewer benefits. She buys clothes from consignment stores she once donated to. She recently got some part-time work as a copywriter, which she can do from home, but that barely pays for her drug prescriptions, let alone surgery.

She spends her days calling pharmaceutical companies because many now have programs to assist indigent customers. Reilling waits hours to be seen by a doctor at a clinic, if she can be seen at all.

**“The thing I didn’t understand about going poor is that your time no longer has value to others,” she says.**

She seeks out religious charities to pay the rent. “Some have rules that they will only give to people who belong to that church or of their faith.” One charity she contacted after being informed that it provides financial assistance to breast cancer patients told her that it does so only for women of color and of a certain age. “This is my full-time job now. You go around and around and around,” she says, her voice trailing off.

Technically, rescission was not the reason Reilling lost her health insurance, according to correspondences with the company she provided to Reuters. Rather, it was canceled because she did not answer letters from her insurance company requesting information about her employment history.

Reilling says the letter was sent to an address which she hadn’t lived at it for some time, and she never even saw it until recently. When she brought this information to WellPoint’s attention, she said, the company ignored her.

**“Rescission is just one method to get rid of someone or no longer provide them coverage,” says Isaacs, the deputy Los Angeles city attorney. “They can say forms are not filled out properly; they will just find any pretext.”**

**Congressional investigators for the House Energy and Commerce Committee who have investigated Reilling's claim say they have concluded that WellPoint improperly canceled her insurance.**

The company declined to comment at all on her case, saying that client confidentiality precludes them from doing so, although Reilling says she welcomes the company to talk publicly about the matter. On her living room table still sits correspondence with her former insurance company.

Deb Moessner, the company's president and general manager, wrote Reilling last July 13: "Ms. Reilling, please know that it is never pleasant to deliver unfavorable news to our members. However, there are situations that occur, such as yours, that leave us with no alternatives. Because you or your agent did not provide this vital information, your ... health coverage terminated effective July 1, 2009."

**In the letter, Moessner added: "Please know that we wish you the best in regaining the healthy lifestyle you described prior to your recent illnesses."**

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