

Military Resistance 8F2

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



The casket of Spc. Jason D. Fingar in Memorial Park Cemetery, Columbia, Mo. May 31, 2010. Fingar was killed May 22, 2010 when an improvised explosive device blast struck his military vehicle near Durai, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Columbia Daily Tribune, Matthew Cavanah)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

McChrystal Calls Marjah A 'Bleeding Ulcer' In Afghan Campaign:

**“Lt. Col. Christmas’ 3rd Battalion, 6th
Marine Regiment, In Northern Marjah
Recently Ceded Direct Control Of An
Outlying Rural Area” To The Taliban:**

“By Day There Is Government. By Night It’s The Taliban”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

“You would have to put about five brigades in to achieve the effect you’re talking about and, even then, I bet the Taliban would get through, because it’s in the minds of people.”

May 24, 2010 By Dion Nissenbaum, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

MARJAH, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top allied military commander in Afghanistan, sat gazing at maps of Marjah as a Marine battalion commander asked him for more time to oust Taliban fighters from a longtime stronghold in southern Afghanistan’s Helmand province.

“You’ve got to be patient,” Lt. Col. Brian Christmas told McChrystal. “We’ve only been here 90 days.”

“How many days do you think we have before we run out of support by the international community?” McChrystal replied.

A charged silence settled in the stuffy, crowded chapel tent at the Marine base in the Marjah district.

“I can’t tell you, sir,” the tall, towheaded, Fort Bragg, N.C., native finally answered.

“I’m telling you,” McChrystal said. “We don’t have as many days as we’d like.”

There aren’t enough U.S. and Afghan forces to provide the security that’s needed to win the loyalty of wary locals.

The Afghan government hasn’t dispatched enough local administrators or trained police to establish credible governance, and now the Taliban have begun their anticipated spring offensive.

“This is a bleeding ulcer right now,” McChrystal told a group of Afghan officials, international commanders in southern Afghanistan and civilian strategists who are leading the effort to oust the Taliban fighters from Helmand.

“You don’t feel it here,” he said during a 10-hour front-line strategy review, “but I’ll tell you, it’s a bleeding ulcer outside.”

Progress in Marjah has been slow, however, in part because no one who planned the operation realized how hard it would be to convince residents that they could trust representatives of an Afghan government that had sent them corrupt police and inept leaders before they turned to the Taliban.

Marines are running into more firefights on their patrols, however.

The U.S.-backed Marjah governor, Marine officials said, has five top ministers. Eight of 81 certified teachers are on the job, and 350 of an estimated 10,000 students are going to school.

In an attempt to contain the creeping Taliban campaign, Lt. Col. Christmas' 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, in northern Marjah recently ceded direct control of an outlying rural area, collapsed its battle space and moved a company back into the population center, which had been neglected.

"There was no security," said Haji Mohammed Hassan, a tribal elder whose fear of the Taliban prompted him to leave Marjah two weeks ago for the relative safety of Helmand's nearby provincial capital, Lashkar Gah.

"By day there is government," he said. "By night it's the Taliban."

"What we have done, in my view, we have given the insurgency a chance to be a little bit credible," McChrystal said in one meeting.

"We said: 'We're taking it back.' We came in to take it back. And we haven't been completely convincing."

Still, no one proposed sending more troops to Marjah.

McChrystal's top commanders in southern Afghanistan did weigh a suggestion from the top U.S. Marine general in the country, who said the time had come to gamble on turning over some areas to Afghan control more quickly than planned.

"I think if we want to shorten the timelines, then we are going to have to assume more risk in certain areas," said Marine Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills.

In the final briefing of the tour last week, one American civilian strategist told McChrystal that it would be hard to force Marjah residents to shed their skepticism quickly.

"The vast majority of people are going to be on the fence, and they're going to wait," said the U.S. official, who asked not to be identified because the meeting was meant to offer candid advice to McChrystal.

"The hard question for us is: Can we push them off the fence or do we have to wait for them? It will take time, and even if you throw two more battalions in there, it is still going to take months and months."

"It was a long way gone; therefore I think patience is necessary," said Mark Sedwill, NATO's senior civilian representative in Afghanistan.

"But I can quite understand why the sheer amount of attention created a sense of expectation that is hard to fulfill."

The military shares the blame for generating great expectations about how fast the Marjah campaign could turn the tide against the Taliban, expectations that

defense officials in Washington, speaking only on the condition of anonymity, said the Obama administration was eager to embrace.

In February, as the intense battles with Taliban fighters around Marjah were winding down, British Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, the commander of coalition forces in southern Afghanistan, told Pentagon reporters: "Looking downstream, in three months' time or thereabouts, we should have a pretty fair idea about whether we've been successful. But I would be very cautious about any triumphalism just yet."

Nearly three months to the day after making that prediction, Carter was sparring with McChrystal over whether they'd sent too few troops to seize Marjah.

"I think that we've done well, but I think that the pace of security has been slower," McChrystal said in one meeting. "I'm thinking that, had we put more force in there, we could have locked that place down better."

"I don't agree with you about putting more forces in there," Carter argued, reflecting the inherent tension between defeating the Taliban and winning over civilians. "This is about convincing people."

"You're going to feel that way," McChrystal cut in with a deadpan joke. "It's your plan." "I am, sir," Carter replied.

"You would have to put about five brigades in to achieve the effect you're talking about and, even then, I bet the Taliban would get through, because it's in the minds of people."

Like other commanders throughout the day, Carter pleaded for patience.

"I think what's going to make the difference, whether we marketed it right or not at the beginning, is time," he said. "And it's about persuading people."

McChrystal appeared unpersuaded.

"I think we have let too much move along without overwhelming-enough security," McChrystal said, "and I think we are paying the price for it."

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

June 3 AP

A foreign servicemember died as a result of small-arms fire in southern Afghanistan today.

Georgia Soldier Killed In Kandahar

June 02, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 454-10

Spc. Jonathan K. Peney, 22, of Marietta, Ga., died June 1 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when he was shot by enemy forces. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Soldier From Dubberly Killed In Afghanistan



Joshua Tomlinson, of Dubberly, was killed in Afghanistan Tuesday. (Courtesy photo)

May 21, 2010 By John Andrew Prime, Shreveport Times

A soldier from Dubberly has been killed in Afghanistan.

Spc. Joshua Abram Tomlinson, 24, of Dubberly, assigned to the Special Troops Battalion of V Corps out of Heidelberg, Germany, was one of five soldiers killed Tuesday after enemy forces attacked their convoy with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Tomlinson, son of Carl Tomlinson, of Dubberly, and a 2004 graduate of Lakeside High in Sibley, was remembered by best friend George Thornton as “someone who always had a smile on his face, and if you didn’t have one on yours he’d make sure you got a smile.”

“He was a world-class person, a stand-up guy,” Thornton said, recalling how a year or so after graduation Tomlinson surprised everyone by announcing he was joining the Army and soon would be leaving for basic training. Thornton said he was Tomlinson’s friend since the sixth grade.

Lakeside Principal Beverly Smith remembered Tomlinson as a bright, friendly student not overly involved in extracurricular activities but who “was a popular student and well-liked.”

Counselor Ann Holomon recalled Tomlinson as artistic and creative.

“Josh was a young man who was always happy, always smiling, with just a great sense of humor,” said Holomon, who was a math teacher when Tomlinson was at Lakeside. “He was a smart young man: He went to the state literary rally his senior year. He was a top accelerated reader, and was student of the month one of the years he was in school.

“He joined the military to make something of himself and I’m real proud of him. He’s a hero.”

Smith, who went to school with Tomlinson’s mother, Rebecca Adams, said staffers reminisced about Tomlinson, the school’s first loss in the Global War on Terror, after learning of his death.

Tomlinson was married, and his wife, Rowena Cruz Tomlinson, accompanied him to Germany on this tour, Thornton said.

Soldiers killed with Tomlinson were Col. John M. McHugh, 46, of New Jersey, with the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program from Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Lt. Col. Paul R. Bartz, 43, of Waterloo, Wis., and Lt. Col. Thomas P. Belkofer, 44, of Perrysburg, Ohio, both assigned to 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) headquarters from Fort Drum, N.Y.; and Staff Sgt. Richard J. Tieman, 28, of Waynesboro, Pa., like Tomlinson assigned to the Special Troops Battalion of V Corps.

It was the deadliest attack against NATO forces in Kabul since last September. A Canadian colonel also died in the blast.

Roadside Bomb Kills Danish Soldier In Helmand; Five More Wounded

02 June 2010 Copenhagen Post

In two separate incidents, one Danish soldier was killed and five wounded in Helmand province

Shortly before noon on Tuesday, a Piranha personnel carrier was hit by an improvised explosive device close to Bridzar military base, located six kilometres north east of Gereskh in Helmand province.

According to a military, one soldier was killed instantly and two more lightly wounded. The injured soldiers were transported to Camp Bastion, the main Danish base in Afghanistan, by helicopter.

Four hours later, three more soldiers were wounded – one seriously – by a mine close to the place where the first attack took place.

Waynesboro Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



May 20, 2010 The Associated Press

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - A soldier from Franklin County was among those killed in an attack on NATO forces in Afghanistan earlier this week.

Defense officials say 28-year-old Staff Sgt. Richard James Tieman, of Waynesboro, died Tuesday in Kabul.

Tieman was one of five American troops killed by a car bomb. A Canadian soldier and 12 Afghan civilians were also killed.

Tieman's father, Richard, says his son took pride in serving his country and followed in his footsteps as a soldier.

Tieman had served two tours of duty in Iraq before being sent to Afghanistan. His family says he was two months away from completing a deployment that began in August.

Tieman's family says he was married last month. He planned a large wedding for December when he and his wife, a soldier assigned to Fort Riley, Kan., were both in the states.

Royal Marine Killed In Sangin

2 Jun 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a Royal Marine from 40 Commando Royal Marines, serving as part of Combined Force Sangin, this morning, Wednesday 2 June 2010.

The Royal Marine was killed in an explosion in the Sangin district of Helmand province.

He was undertaking a joint foot patrol with soldiers from the Afghan National Army in order to reassure the local population when the incident took place.

Family Mourns Marine Killed In Afghanistan

May 15, 2010 By LINDSAY WISE and MOISES MENDOZA, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Cpl. Jeffrey Johnson came from a long line of military men. His grandfathers served in the Navy and Air Force. Four of his uncles were in the National Guard.

So it was only natural that the young Tomball man with startling blue eyes would want to join up, too.

He enlisted in the Marines in 2007 and was trained to fire anti-tank guided missiles. On Tuesday he was killed in Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol. Johnson was 21.

Another Marine from Texas, Sgt. Kenneth B. May Jr., 26, of Kilgore, also died in the attack. The pair was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

As a student at Waller High School, Johnson decided he wanted to enlist in the Marines. He wanted to be the strongest of the strong, said his father, Jerry Johnson.

He had a tremendous impact on people, his father said.

"He walked into a room and was the center of attention. He kept everyone going," he said.

Johnson was deployed in Asia, including Japan and the Philippines. He then spent time in the United States and was sent to the Middle East about a month ago.

He was in Afghanistan only about a week before his death.

Waller superintendent Richard McReavy sent an e-mail to inform employees of the tragedy.

The e-mail included photos of Johnson and details about some of his dreams, noted in a high school yearbook. "Jeffrey's death reminds us all that life can be brief and of the importance to live our lives to the fullest each day," McReavy wrote.

Johnson was supposed to be back home for Thanksgiving. Within a year he was due to be released from active duty, and he planned to take classes at the University of Texas before pursuing his dream of becoming a game warden.

Johnson loved hunting and NASCAR and had a whip-smart sense of humor, said his aunt Lynn Murphy.

“Sometimes it was hard to find the serious side of him. He always had a smart remark, witty, sassy, whatever you want to call it,” Murphy said.

After hearing of Johnson's death, his family traveled to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to witness the arrival of his casket from overseas.

They arrived back in Texas hurting but treasuring their memories of Johnson's laughter, his love of Ford trucks, his passion for family. They know he loved being a Marine and believed strongly in the country's war effort, said Jerry Johnson.

Jerry Johnson will also long treasure a voice mail his son left for him last Sunday morning — the last time he heard his son's voice.

“He left me a message and said he'd call me back. I was looking forward to the call, every time the phone rang,” Jerry Johnson said.

It never came. Two days later, Jerry Johnson learned his son had been killed.

Jeffrey Johnson is survived by a younger brother and two younger sisters. He is also survived by his biological mother, Dawn Hardwick, his father Jerry Johnson and his step-mother, Kelly Johnson.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Slain Marine From Pembroke Pines Was 'True Warrior'

May 21, 2010 By Robert Nolin, Sun Sentinel

With a mixture of grief and pride, a Pembroke Pines father Friday recalled his son, killed earlier this week in Afghanistan, as an aspiring doctor who loved sports, books and the military.

Marine Lance Cpl. Patrick Xavier Jr., 24, was killed Tuesday in the volatile Helmand Province of Afghanistan. A Marine Corps spokesman from Camp Lejeune, N.C., where Xavier was stationed, said the death resulted from a “hostile incident.”

Patrick Xavier-Kemp said a bullet took the life of his son, a rifleman, during a firefight. “They told me he was a fierce fighter, a true warrior,” Xavier-Kemp said. “He had no fear.”

Xavier, a 2003 graduate of Miramar High School, had been in Afghanistan less than four months when he was killed.

Days before his January deployment, he posted one last message on his MySpace page: “I'm nervous and excited at the same time, but I'm very confident that I'll be back.”

Xavier was born in Queens, N.Y., and moved to Florida at age 9 with his father and mother, Elizabeth Barolette. As a young man on his own, his father said, he dropped Kemp from his last name. He was the oldest of three boys, leaving younger siblings Didi Xavier-Kemp, 21, and Chad Xavier-Kemp, 18, who will travel to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to accompany his brother's body home.

Xavier-Kemp said his son played basketball and enjoyed watching sports, especially football.

Xavier was always drawn to the infantry and embraced that branch of the service enthusiastically.

"He was the first one on the front line," the father said. "He's not someone who's going to cop out when they ask for volunteers."

But Xavier also had an intellectual bent. "He was an avid reader, he loved philosophy books, he liked to write," his father recalled. "He was very disciplined, his room is spotless."

After the service, Xavier planned to take advantage of military benefits and attend medical school. That dream extinguished, Xavier's father clung to the memory of his son as a "brave young man" battling nobly in the desert of Helmand. "He gave his life for his country and for his comrades," Xavier-Kemp said. "I'm proud of him."

A memorial and burial will be planned for South Florida National Cemetery west of Lake Worth.

Rocket Attack Greeted Karzai Kabul Conference: "Meeting Suspended For About An Hour As Karzai And Foreign Diplomats Left The Venue"

June 2 Bloomberg [Excerpts]

Afghan Taliban guerrillas fired rockets at a "peace conference" convened by President Hamid Karzai.

At least three guerrillas fired rockets from a construction site in western Kabul, the government said, several of which struck near the giant tent erected on the Kabul University campus for the three-day meeting of about 1,600 politicians, tribal elders and members of civil groups.

A spokesman for the rebel movement, Zabihullah Mujahid, said by telephone that the attack was a sign they rejected Karzai's U.S.-backed government.

Shortly after Wardak opened the conference, the first rocket exploded outside the tent as Karzai prepared to give his address.

Some delegates ran out, while speakers appealed for calm.

Explosions and distant gunfire continued as Karzai spoke.

The meeting was suspended for about an hour as Karzai and foreign diplomats left the venue.

“1,059 IED Incidents In April, One Of The Highest Monthly Numbers On Record”

06/03/10 By Michael Georgy, Reuters [Excerpts]

Last month General George Casey, U.S. Army chief of staff, said more than 60 percent of the roughly 400 attacks in one week in Afghanistan were the result of roadside bombs.

Data released by the Pentagon showed 1,059 IED incidents in April, one of the highest monthly numbers on record and more than double the amount in April 2009.

A shortage of bomb disposal experts -- made famous in the Oscar-winning film *Hurt Locker* set in Iraq -- has added to the problems of NATO and Afghan forces.

The British army's top bomb disposal officer resigned last month, a decision the *Sun* newspaper said was triggered by concern that a shortage of trained experts was putting troops in Afghanistan under strain.

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

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

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

Resistance Action



A towing vehicle is used to secure a damaged vehicle after a roadside bomb hit an Afghan national army convoy in Khogyani district of Jalalabad, Afghanistan, June 2, 2010. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

Jun 3 Associated Press: A roadside bombing hit an Afghan army truck in eastern Nangahar province on Wednesday, killing two soldiers and wounding two, said Ghafoor Khan, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, during a patrol in Arghandab valley in Kandahar province, in southern Afghanistan May 9, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



A U.S. Army soldier with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, is helped by comrades into a Black Hawk helicopter during a medical evacuation operation by the Arghandab River in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, May 11, 2010. Lembo injured his ankle jumping over a ditch during a 9 mile patrol in the area. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



U.S. Army soldiers with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, in a swamp by the Arghandab river during a security operation in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, May 11, 2010. REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



U.S. Marines from 6th Marines during a firefight with Taliban fighters in Karez-e-Sayyidi, in the outskirts of Marjah district, Helmand province, May 15, 2010. REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih

TROOP NEWS

A Majority Of Americans Say “The War In Afghanistan Is Not Worth Its Costs”

May 9, 2010 By Jennifer Agiesta, The Washington Post Company [Excerpts]

Afghan president Hamid Karzai’s visit to the White House this week arrives as the public’s take on the war there has tilted back to negative, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

A majority says the war in Afghanistan is not worth its costs, marking a return to negative territory after a brief uptick in public support in the wake of the announcement of the administration’s new strategy for the conflict.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.

-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

-- Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

The Social-Democrats ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the tribune of the people who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression no matter where it appears no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalize all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth before all his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for all and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat.”

-- V. I. Lenin; What Is To Be Done

“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

***June 2, 1863: Glorious Anniversary:
“Col. Montgomery And His Gallant Band
Of 300 Black Soldiers, Under The
Guidance Of A Black Woman, Dashed
Into The Enemy’s Country, Struck A Bold
And Effective Blow, Striking Terror Into
The Heart Of Rebeldom”***



Harriet Tubman

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, “led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted”.

Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

June 2, 1863

Abolitionist and former slave James Montgomery led 300 African-American troops of the Union’s 2nd South Carolina Volunteers on a raid of plantations along the Combahee River. Meanwhile, backed by three gunboats, Harriet Tubman’s forces set fire to the plantations and freed 750 slaves.

The following dispatch, quoted in part, appeared on the front page of The Commonwealth, a Boston newspaper, on Friday, July 10, 1863:

HARRIET TUBMAN

July 10, 1863:

Col. Montgomery and his gallant band of 300 black soldiers, under the guidance of a black woman, dashed into the enemy’s country, struck a bold and effective blow, destroying millions of dollars worth of commissary stores, cotton and lordly dwellings, and striking terror into the heart of rebeldom, brought off near 800 slaves and thousands of dollars worth of property, without losing a man or receiving a scratch.

It was a glorious consummation.

After they were all fairly well disposed of in the Beaufort charge, they were addressed in strains of thrilling eloquence by their gallant deliverer, to which they responded in a song. “There is a white robe for thee,” a song so appropriate and so heartfelt and cordial as to bring unbidden tears.

The Colonel was followed by a speech from the black woman, who led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted.

For sound sense and real native eloquence, her address would do honor to any man, and it created a great sensation...

Since the rebellion she had devoted herself to her great work of delivering the bondman, with an energy and sagacity that cannot be exceeded. Many and many times she has penetrated the enemy's lines and discovered their situation and condition, and escaped without injury, but not without extreme hazard.

The Combahee River, in South Carolina, was the first one visited by the Spaniards in the year 1520. Vasque de Ayllon, having discovered it, gave it the name "River Jordan."

Although subsequently renamed the Combahee, the stream now became a River Jordan literally for more than seven hundred and fifty Negroes who, under the leadership of Harriet Tubman and the auxiliary command of Colonel James Montgomery, delivered this number of blacks into the free lines.

The River Jordan has been in biblical history a reality, and in modern Negro allusion a symbol of the barrier between bondage and freedom, and it is an interesting coincidence, therefore, that the Combahee campaign should so parallel the ancient situation.

It is significant as the only military engagement in American history wherein a woman black or white, "led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted".

The N.Y. Tribune " says that the Negro troops at Hilton Head, S.C. will soon start an expedition, under the command of Colonel Montgomery, differing in many respects from any heretofore projected.

The Combahee strategy was formulated by Harriet Tubman as an outcome of her penetrations of the enemy lines and her belief that the Combahee River countryside was ripe for a successful invasion.

She was asked by General Hunter "if she would go with several gunboats up the Combahee River, the object of the expedition being to take up the torpedoes placed by the rebels in the river, to destroy railroads and bridges, and to cut off supplies from the rebel troops.

She said she would go if Col. Montgomery was to be appointed commander of the expedition...

Accordingly, Col. Montgomery was appointed to the command, and Harriet, with several men under her, the principal of whom was J. Plowden...accompanied the expedition".

Actually in this raid it was Montgomery who was the auxiliary leader. The whole venture owed its success to the complete preliminary survey made by Harriet Tubman's espionage troops.

Captain John F. Lay, the Confederate investigating officer, discussing the movement afterwards, said, "The enemy seems to have been well posted as to the character and capacity of our troops and their small chance of encountering opposition, and to have been well guided by persons thoroughly acquainted with the river and country.

It was a commentary, however indirect, on Harriet's work and the labor of her subordinates.

About ten miles north of Port Royal Island, Harriet's station, was St. Helena Island, and between this island and the mainland of South Carolina was the water known as St. Helena Sound. The Combahee River, a narrow, jagged stream that ran about fifty miles into the interior of the State, began at the Sound: and on its banks were rice fields and marshes.

During the night of June 2, 1863, Harriet and Colonel Montgomery, with a party of about 150 Negro troops in three gunboats, started up the Combahee River. Pickets located at stations near the mouth of the stream spotted the oncoming boats and dispatched word to the Confederate commander, Major Emanuel, located deeper inland at Green Pond...

Every plantation on both sides of the river was aroused; the Union soldiers, in small detachments, raced from one to another, creating a general devastation of the zone.

In the Combahee Ferry region the Blake, Lowndes, Middleton and Heyward plantations were in ruins. The Negroes fled to the gunboats and the slavemasters skedaddled inland. The bridge at Combahee Ferry was burning too "but not badly.

As the gunboats passed up the river, the Negroes left their work and took to the woods, for at first they were frightened.

Then they came out to peer, "like startled deer." But scudding away like the wind at the sound of the steam-whistle.

The word was passed along that these were "Lincoln's gunboats come to set them free."

From that moment on, the overseers used their whips in vain, for they failed to drive the slaves back to the quarters.

They turned and ran for the gun-boats; they came down every road, across every field, dressed just as they were when they left their work and their cabins.

There were women with children clinging around their necks, hanging onto their dresses, or running behind, but all rushed at full speed for "Lincoln's gun-boats."

Hundreds crowded the banks, with their hands extended toward their deliverers, and most of them were taken aboard the gun-boats to be carried to Beaufort.

This is about what happened all through the night and morning of June 2 when Harriet, Montgomery and the colored soldiers overran the Combahee.

June 4, 1989 Dishonorable Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History June 4-10

Hundreds of civilians were shot dead by China's People's Liberation Army during a bloody military operation in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Students and workers had become part of a growing pro-democracy movement, gathering there continuously for weeks. The Chinese government still officially denies any deaths occurred; thousands arrested "disappeared" and remain unaccounted for.

**If Only....A Fable For Our Time:
"They Agreed That The True Enemy Was
Not Each Other But The People They
Ruled Over"**

From: Lesley Docksey
To: Military Resistance
Sent: May 24, 2010
Subject: a story of quiet rebellion

By Lesley Docksey

A long, long time ago, or perhaps it is yet to come, there were two nations that quarreled.

No one remembered – or will remember – what the beginning of the quarrel concerned. Perhaps one was too careful of its borders, or the other too easily offended.

Whatever the reason, as the years and tens of years passed, each became the other's greatest enemy. Whatever one nation possessed, the other saw that resource as having been stolen from them. Whatever one wished to sell, the other felt it had the right to take without payment, except in dead bodies - their own dead or the other's mattered not.

They lived for war, those two states.

Their children were bred to bear arms; those that is, that had not been slaughtered most cruelly in the battles that raged across the land. There were some who struggled to cultivate the damaged earth and feed the hungry armies, but the more battles fought, the less good land remained for growing.

All the people suffered and were made poor, except for the leader of each nation, who sat in his castle with his generals, warm and comfortable, and feeding richly on food captured from the other side.

A river ran between the two, from the mountains to the sea. It was a source of life to both sides, for both traded down the river to the coastal states. It gave them fish and irrigated what fields were left unscarred from the fighting. It gave generously of its water to quench their thirst, for no man, woman or child can live without that gift.

And it served as a protective barrier from the enemy, although each side saw it as an obstacle to be crossed, for only by crossing it could they kill, and kill, and kill again.

For most of its length it ran deep and fast, but in one place it broadened out into marshy shallows dotted with little islands, and it was here the armies splashed through to reach each other and do battle once again. In the centre of the river stood an isle higher than the rest, and to this each army raced to gain it before the other, for the height, small though it was, allowed them to spy out their enemy.

Each nation had tried damming the river far upstream and diverting the water to run only through their land. But the river knew its path and steadfastly ran between the two, giving its water equally to each side. Each nation's leaders had ordered the poisoning of the water and sat and watched uncaring as their own people sickened and died. So the people went thirsty until the winter snows melted and the river flushed clean.

When it was safe to enter the water again, the leaders ordered their people to war, telling their armies to muster on the river banks ready to cross and invade. 'Let the killing begin,' ordered the leaders.

And on both sides of the river the people said 'No'.

They were tired, empty-bellied and hungry for life. They did not know their hearts ached for peace, because they had never known it, but one or two among them spoke thoughts that they had hidden deep inside, afraid of the punishment speaking out might bring.

Desperation makes men brave.

They asked their fellows, 'Have our leaders ever been killed in battle? Have their children been dashed on stones and thrown alive into the flames?'

When we come back from fighting their battles, weary, wounded and crippled, are they ever anything but healthy, well dressed and well fed?'

And the soldiers started to mutter among themselves, asking why it was they alone who risked their lives.

Surely, they said, the leaders should march in front of their armies.

And all the people said they would only go to war if they were led. For when enough people think a thought, then all think that thought.

But not the leaders, of course. It is part of who they are that they are deaf to the common mind.

So the leaders said 'We are leading you. You must follow our orders.'

And the people replied 'No, we will follow you, not your orders. And the leaders said 'We will send our generals and champions for you to follow,' and the people said again 'No, we will follow you.'

And in both nations the people would not go to war until the leaders took their place at the head of their armies. Only when the leaders moved towards the river and each other did the armies follow.

But here was a curious thing.

The generals, so used to pitching their tents well behind the massed cohorts, found themselves pushed through the ranks towards the front.

The nearer to the river they got, the nearer to the front, so that when each leader stepped out into the water, feeling the cold unforgiving pull of the river against their legs, it was the generals who pressed on their heels.

The leaders, seeing them so close in support, pushed on to the centre isle, an isle whose strategic importance they had only known from maps.

And at last the generals knew the fear of the common man when he faces death, and slowly, slowly, and one by one, they moved sideways, disappearing into the reeds.

The armies let them go. They were of little importance now.

All the armies wanted was for the leaders to reach that isle, climb its small hill and come, finally, face to face with the enemy.

For once the people had learned to say no, they had planned and prepared. Not that the leaders, nor yet their generals knew what waited on that isle, for no leader and none of the generals had ever come this close to their enemy.

So the leaders marched and oh, how good and brave it felt climbing that small hill, with the roar of your army speeding you on!

But as each mounted the summit each saw, spread before him a raging horde, and each felt fear. Each saw also that the enemy was led by a small trembling man.

And at the very moment they saw each other, they heard the clang of bars at their backs.

Each turned and there were no generals and no cheering men, only bars that caged them, the retreating backs of the soldiers and the hillside littered with the weapons they discarded in their haste to go back home, for never had the thought of home drawn them so sweetly as it now did.

But they left behind the cage they had made for their leaders, so the leaders would have to fight their war for themselves, and by themselves alone.

At first the two small men turned their backs on each other, calling out to their retreating armies, ordering, begging, pleading for their men to return and fight. No one came and finally they had to turn and face each other.

Long moments passed. Neither could admit they did not want to fight, and were incapable of fighting. Bombast and self-importance won, and to save face they came to an agreement.

They agreed that the true enemy was not each other but the people they ruled over.

So the two leaders sat, unheard and ignored, in their cage, forgotten by their subjects, each other their only comfort. Together they planned that they two, when they were free, would wage war on both their states, make their subjects learn once and for all, that the people must obey the leaders.

So intent on their war plans were they, they forgot to cry out and ask for help.

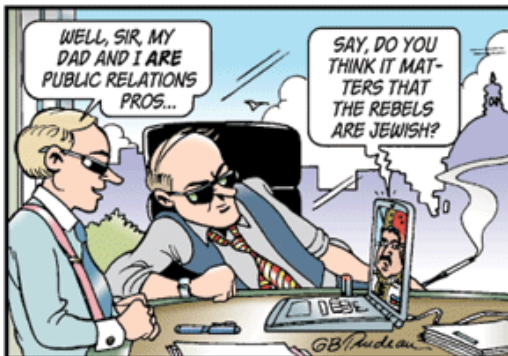
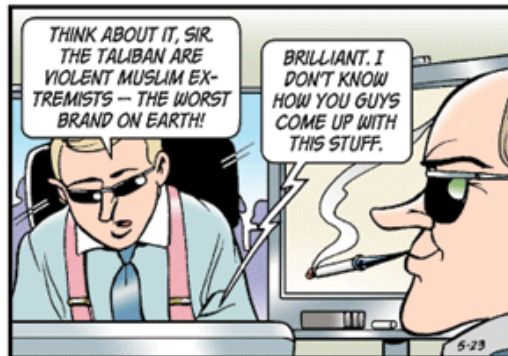
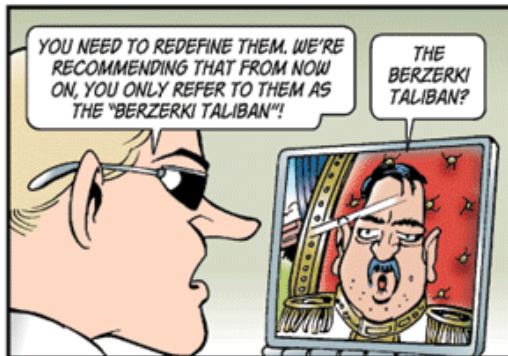
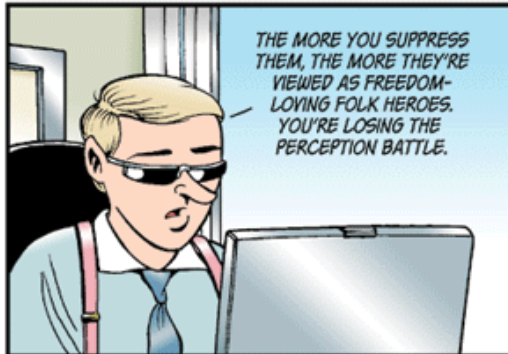
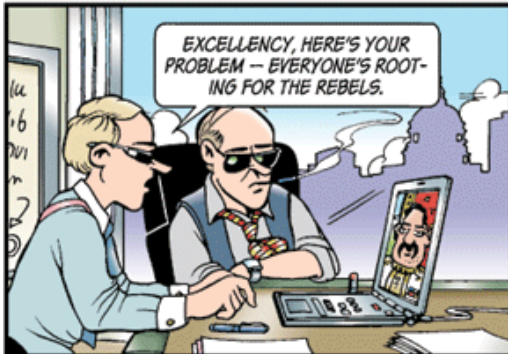
So unseeing were they as they pored over their maps, they did not notice there was no door to their cage. For the cage was built of their own hatred and anger, each stone created from their love of power, each bar formed from their greed to possess, each lock made from their desire to maim and kill. The more they burned in their ill will, the more they forged the bars that held them in.

And all this while, the people of the two nations did away with the borders, cleansed their land of the detritus of war, traded their goods, married each other, became one – and completely forgot that once upon a time they had fought, had been intimately acquainted with war, had tortured, imprisoned and killed each other.

They forgot that their lives had been wasted upon the whims of their leaders, and they forgot what they had been forced to believe – that it was the onerous duty of the leaders to send them to war and the people's patriotic privilege to follow orders.

If only....

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



HOW WE BELIEVE THE CLEANUP WILL GO

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 Afghanistan, 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

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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

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/)

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in

the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

Checks, money orders payable to: The Military Project

Orders to:
Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657

All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposed to today's Imperial wars.



Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out
Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website
<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/wordpress/category/military-resistance/> ;
news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.