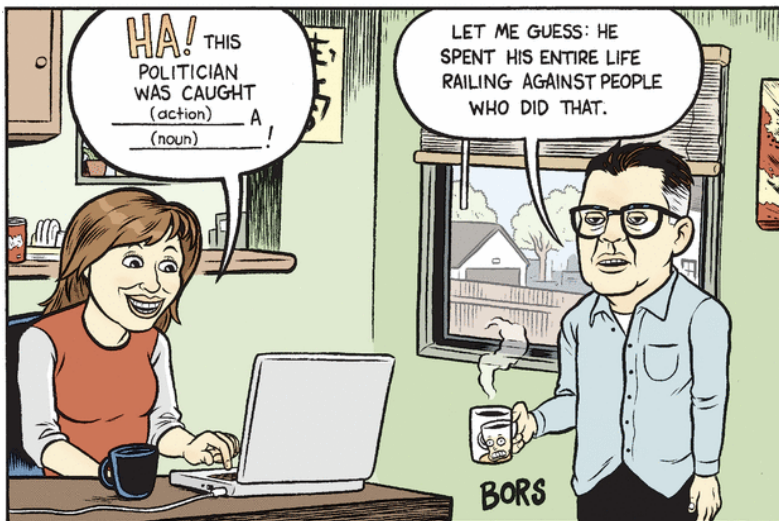


Military Resistance 8G18

EDITORIAL CARTOON FOR EVERY WEEK EVER:



**U.S. Rebuilds Power Plant,
Taliban Reap A Windfall:
“The More Electricity There Is, The
More Money The Taliban Make”
“We Don’t Cut Power To Their Areas,
And We Let Them Collect All The
Money There”
“The Unfortunate Reality In Helmand Is
That There Are Two Governments, The
Official One And The Taliban One, And
Both Of Them Have Electricity
Departments”**



Taliban commanders have every right to collect bills and manage the electricity system, says the rebel movement's chief spokesman in the south, Qari Yusef Ahmadi: "We are the government there — not the puppet government of Kabul."

JULY 13, 2010 By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV & Habib Zahori, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan—The U.S. has poured more than \$100 million into upgrading the Kajaki hydropower plant, the biggest source of electricity in south Afghanistan. And it plans on spending much more, in an effort to woo local sympathies away from the Taliban insurgency.

Yet, one of the biggest beneficiaries of this American-taxpayer-financed project are the Taliban themselves.

Since U.S.-funded repairs of a turbine at the Kajaki plant doubled its capacity in October, nearly half of the total electrical output has flowed to districts in Helmand province where the Taliban administer the grid, Afghan officials say. In those districts, residents pay their monthly electricity bills directly to the insurgents, who use the proceeds to fund their war with American and British troops.

"The more electricity there is, the more money the Taliban make," says Hajji Gul Mohammad Khan, tribal-affairs adviser to the government of Helmand.

"It's very easy for the Taliban to control electricity because the transmission cables cross the districts where they are in total control," says Ahlullah Obaidi, the Helmand government's director of electricity and water.

"We don't cut power to their areas, and we let them collect all the money there."

Unlike Afghanistan's state power utility, the Taliban don't use meters. Instead, they charge every household in areas they control a flat fee of 1,000 Pakistani rupees (\$11.65) a month.

All in all, the Helmand government estimates it loses out on at least \$4 million a year in electricity revenue to the Taliban, this in a country where the monthly wages of an insurgent fighter hover around \$200.

Taliban commanders have every right to collect bills and manage the electricity system, says the rebel movement's chief spokesman in the south, Qari Yusef Ahmadi: "We are the government there — not the puppet government of Kabul."

Severing electricity is often a tactic to pressure the enemy. In Afghanistan, the geography of the war makes a power cutoff more complicated: The Taliban don't fully control a single large section of territory that can be disconnected, but rather areas intermingled with those under government control, with power lines crossing both.

Mark Sedwill, NATO's senior representative in Kabul who serves as the civilian counterpart to Gen. Petraeus, adds that some compromises are inevitable in such a complex conflict.

Located in the mountainous northern part of Helmand, the Kajaki dam was initially built with American aid money in the 1950s, as part of a vast irrigation project. The USAID-funded hydropower plant went online in 1975, with two turbines of 16.5 megawatts each and built-in capacity for adding more.

USAID returned to the Kajaki plant, which had been damaged after decades of war, following the Taliban regime's downfall in 2001. One turbine was refurbished in 2005, and the other, which broke down in 2008, was fixed last October.

In the fall of 2008, thousands of coalition troops escorted a new, Chinese-built 18.5 megawatt turbine through enemy territory on a 100-vehicle convoy to Kajaki — in one of the largest operations in the Afghan war.

That precious cargo, however, is still sitting in crates at the dam. The Taliban renewed control of the roads after the coalition convoy withdrew. That has blocked the arrival of cement and other material and equipment needed to install the turbine—and prevented the construction of a new road.

The Chinese contractor fled the area. So far, only some seven kilometers of the 35-kilometer road have been built, in part because the Taliban fear it would give coalition troops easier access to the area.

Since the second turbine's repair, some 12 megawatts of Kajaki's output are flowing to Kandahar, 6 megawatts to Lashkar Gah, and the remaining 15 megawatts to the districts of Sangin, Kajaki and Musa Qala where the Taliban control most of the territory, says Mr. Obaidi, the provincial electricity director.

A coalition spokesman in Afghanistan, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Todd M. Vician, estimates that about 40% of Kajaki's power is now "lost to transmission problems and unauthorized access."

British troops that had attempted to secure these three districts of Helmand have incurred heavy casualties — with Sangin alone accounting for roughly one-third of Britain's 314 fatalities in Afghanistan. The British now are transferring responsibility for the area to the U.S. Marines.

In the pockets under allied control in these districts, Mr. Obaidi says, the Afghan government collects virtually no revenue because of Taliban edicts that anyone paying government electricity bills must pay the same amount to the insurgents.

Through an array of lines strung haphazardly atop bamboo poles, the Taliban have extended power to villages across that area, often earning local allegiance for bringing electricity to the remote countryside.

"Electricity is important not only for us," says Jalil Shams, CEO of the Afghan government power utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat. "The Taliban also want to have lights for their supporters. It is also their lifeline."

Locals in Sangin, Kajaki and Musa Qala say they have been paying the Taliban for electricity since 2006, the year the insurgents asserted their influence across southern Afghanistan.

"The unfortunate reality in Helmand is that there are two governments, the official one and the Taliban one, and both of them have electricity departments," says Hajji Abdulaziz, a tribal elder from the Kajaki district.

"At the end of the month, the Taliban department sends someone to knock on the doors to collect the payments. Every collector has wire cutters, and if you don't pay up they cut you off on the spot."

Mr. Obaidi, Helmand's director of electricity and water, says he has never met his Taliban counterpart, the insurgent electricity director who goes by the nom de guerre "Doctor."

But Helmand's government has to seek indirect talks with him whenever the transmission line from Kajaki is disrupted, which has happened six times this year.

The worst cutoff was in May. While some of the previous disruptions were accidental, this time the Taliban commanders in the Sangin district deliberately blew up a pylon, Helmand government officials say, and refused access to engineers for repairs. The Taliban deny they intentionally severed the line, saying it was collateral damage from fighting in the area.

In Lashkar Gah, "it was like judgment day" after the cutoff, Mr. Obaidi says, with hospitals no longer functioning, industries idle and the locals unable to dispel the summer heat with fans.

The Taliban-held areas enjoyed abundant electricity. "There was power 24/7 in Sangin," says Shamsullah Sarai, a tribal elder from the district.

The situation continued for 11 days. Then, Helmand Gov. Gulab Mangal says he decided to “put pressure” on the Taliban by ordering the Kajaki plant, located in a small enclave under government control, to retaliate by shutting down supplies to Taliban-held zones between the dam and the blown-up pylon. That had an immediate effect.

“The government cutoff put people in big trouble: If you have no electricity here, you can’t pump water and your life is in danger,” says Hajji Allahdad, a tribal elder from Kajaki district.

A delegation led by the chiefs of the region’s main Pashtun tribes—the Alizai, Alokozai and Ishakzai — quickly arrived at the provincial headquarters in Lashkar Gah to seek a compromise between the government and the Taliban, Gov. Mangal says.

A day later, yielding to popular pressure, the Taliban agreed to let engineers repair the pylon, and the two sides worked out a deal under which the insurgent-held areas would cut their power consumption, government officials say. Mr. Ahmadi, the Taliban spokesman, denies there is any accord with the government, but adds: “The Taliban will never cut cables in the future because we don’t want to create any problem for the people.”

The Lashkar Gah marble factory is busy again, its half-century-old Italian machines, powered by energy from Kajaki, humming as they cut slabs of local stone and carve them into shiny plates, ashtrays and vases. But it isn’t clear how long the electricity truce here will last.

“With the Taliban,” Gov. Mangal says, “there are no guarantees.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action

July 19 (Reuters) & July 20 (Reuters) & July 21 (Reuters)

A sticky bomb attached to car of an anti-insurgent militia leader killed him in western Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber ploughed into a convoy carrying employees of a British company, killing four of them and wounding five in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraqi security officials said.

Two roadside bombs targeting a convoy carrying a deputy of the Agriculture Minister wounded a bodyguard of the official, in central Baghdad, police said.

KIRKUK - A roadside bomb wounded a soldier when it struck an Iraqi army patrol southwest of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

KIRKUK - A roadside bomb wounded three policemen when it exploded near their patrol in southern Kirkuk, police said.

BASRA - A roadside bomb wounded three soldiers when it hit a military convoy in central Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on Monday, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol and wounded two policemen in the Doura district of southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two British Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan

21 Jul 10 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from The Royal Dragoon Guards and a soldier from 1st Battalion Scots Guards were killed in Afghanistan today, Wednesday, 21 July 2010.

The soldiers, serving as part of Combined Force Lashkar Gah, were killed by small arms fire during a cordon operation as they sought to evacuate a casualty.

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

July 21 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Canadian Soldier Killed By Panjwa'i Improvised Explosive Device

July 20, 2010 CEFCON NR – 10.016

OTTAWA — One Canadian soldier was killed after an improvised explosive device detonated during a foot patrol in the Panjwa'i District, about 15 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City, at approximately 9:00 a.m. Kandahar time on 20 July 2010.

Killed in action was Sapper Brian Collier from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, based in Edmonton, Alberta. Sapper Collier was serving with 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group.

Illinois Sgt. Dies Of Kandahar City Wounds



U.S. Army Sgt. Jesse R. Tilton (AP Photo/82nd Airborne)

July 20, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release July 20, 2010

Sgt. Jesse R. Tilton, 23, of Decatur, Ill., died July 16 at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany, of wounds sustained July 13 when insurgents attacked his unit in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, with rifle, rocket propelled grenade, and small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Danish Soldier Killed And One Wounded Near Budwan

21-07-2010 Hærens Operative Kommando

AFGHANISTAN Helmand: Two soldiers were hit by an improvised explosive device as they were on patrol. The families are informed

Shortly before 9 am local time Wednesday morning was a single from Charlie Company hit by an improvised explosive device when it was on patrol at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Budwan.

One soldier was badly wounded and one slightly wounded. There was immediately given first aid on site and there was summoned a helicopter that brought the wounded to the field hospital at Camp Bastion. Upon arrival at the field hospital was badly wounded soldier declared dead.

The lighter wounded soldier remains at field hospital. He has even been able to call home to notify relatives

The slain soldier and wounded more from Charlie Company, which belongs to Gardehusarregimentet in Slagelse.

The relatives are informed.

Afghan Soldier Kills 2 American Mercenaries Training Afghan Army At Mazar-I-Sharif; Foreign Occupation Soldier Wounded

July 20, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., The New York Times [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan — A seemingly routine training practice in marksmanship went fatally wrong on Tuesday when an Afghan Army sergeant turned his weapon on an American trainer and a gunfight began. When it was over, the sergeant, two American trainers and an Afghan soldier who had been standing nearby lay dead.

The fight, which also wounded a NATO soldier, occurred near the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif at a training center for Afghan soldiers named Camp Shaheen, according to a statement from the NATO command and an Afghan defense official.

The camp is used to instruct Afghan recruits in weapons use and other basic military skills, said Brig. Gen. Gary S. Patton, the deputy commander for the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. He said the gunfight was under investigation by a joint American-Afghan team.

If the sergeant's actions proved to be deliberate, however, it would be the second time this month that an Afghan soldier purposefully killed members of the foreign forces here in the nearly nine-year-old war.

An Afghan Ministry of Defense official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the news media, said that the fight began with

an argument between an Afghan sergeant and trainer named Jaffar and one of the American trainers.

According to the defense official, the Afghan sergeant shot two American trainers; then a third American trainer shot and killed the Afghan sergeant as well as another Afghan soldier, who was an innocent bystander. The NATO soldier was wounded in the cross-fire.

General Patton's account was more cautious, and he said that he was not sure who shot whom beyond the initial shots fired by the Afghan sergeant. He confirmed that the sergeant had been a trainer himself and that he had been involved in running the shooting range.

The training center is one of several operated by NATO, which usually has about 20,000 Afghan soldiers in training. Other centers are in Kabul, Herat and Gardez. The Mazar-i-Sharif site accommodates about 1,400 trainees, General Patton said.

The two dead Americans were civilian contractors with military experience, he said. He said he was not yet at liberty to release the name of their employer.

"The Afghan sergeant — the shooter — he was shooting people he was partnered with to train fellow soldiers; he initiated the shooting," the general said.

The area was locked down afterward. While training was scheduled to resume Wednesday, the general said, "we are going to proceed with some prudent precautions at some of the ranges for everyone's safety."

On July 13 an Afghan soldier in Helmand Province killed three British soldiers in what Afghan and British commanders described as a premeditated attack.

Strengthening the Afghan Army is critical to the exit strategy of the United States and other Western countries, which on Tuesday endorsed a nonbinding timeline proposed by President Hamid Karzai to turn over primary security duties to Afghan forces by the end of 2014.

But the recent attacks emphasize the vulnerability of Western forces assigned to work with Afghans.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, Maj. Gen. Zahir Azimi — who after the killings of the British soldiers pledged to avoid similar episodes — said Tuesday that he hoped an investigation would "find out how such an event could have occurred to help us prevent any future acts."

Bragg Soldier Killed In Afghanistan 'Had A Big Heart'

Jul 7 THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

A Fort Bragg soldier died in southern Afghanistan from injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device and rocket-propelled grenade fire, the Department of Defense said Tuesday.

Spec. Clayton D. McGarrah, 20, of Harrison, Ark., was killed Monday during a dismounted patrol in the Arghandab River Valley in Arghandab, Afghanistan, according to an 82nd Airborne Division news release.

McGarrah was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

A memorial in his honor is scheduled to be held in Afghanistan.

He had joined the unit in Afghanistan about three weeks ago.

On May 7, he married his longtime sweetheart, Emily. They had been dating since he was in the ninth grade.

"He was definitely about his family," said Elizabeth Hansen, the eldest of four McGarrah children. "He had a big heart. Anybody that knew him loved him. He was all about his wife. He wanted to spend the rest of his life being a family man with her after being in the Army."

Harrison is a small town in northwest Arkansas. Before joining the service, McGarrah had taken college classes and done some roofing work with his father and brother.

Orville "Bo" McGarrah, his father, owns a roofing business in Harrison.

"He wanted something more for himself," his sister said. "He knew he wasn't a roofer, so to speak."

Serving his country was something McGarrah had always wanted to pursue, Hansen said. His uncle, Tom Bell Jr., had served in the Marines. One of his good friends was an Army Ranger and another a member of the Green Berets.

"Just the bad things going on in the world today -- he wanted to be part of making it better," she said.

McGarrah enlisted on Sept. 16, 2009, and attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga. Once he completed the training, he attended Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga.

On April 10, he reported to Fort Bragg, where he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal and the Parachutist's badge.

“Clayton D. McGarrah was a bright young man with a promising future in the Army,” said Capt. David Christmas, McGarrah’s commander, in the release. “He had not been with us more than a week, but was already stepping up as a rifleman to the demanding task in a harsh combat environment.”

McGarrah is survived by his wife, Emily; his parents, Michele and Orville McGarrah; and siblings Elizabeth Hansen, and James and Emilie McGarrah.

“He is loved,” Hansen said, “and going to be missed tremendously.”

Fremont Soldier Was “Great Man”

07/02/2010 By Matthew Artz, Oakland Tribune

FREMONT — Army Sgt. Nathan Cox was remembered Thursday evening as a quiet and caring person, who as a child wouldn’t let his younger brother smush garden bugs and as an adult earned the love and respect of friends and fellow soldiers.

More than 200 people filled Fremont Memorial Chapel to honor Cox, a 27-year-old from Fremont who was killed last month in Afghanistan when insurgents fired on his patrol unit near the Pakistan border.

Several mourners wept during a video presentation made by soldiers with whom Cox had been serving in Afghanistan.

“Nathan Cox was a great man,” one of his comrades said. “He cared about his soldiers more than he cared about himself.” “He never bragged or boasted,” another soldier said in the video. “He wasn’t concerned about badges or medals.”

The video ended with Cox not present to respond to the roll call, followed by a salute and the playing of taps.

Cox, a 2001 Washington High School graduate, will be buried next week at Arlington National Cemetery, where he will be posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Medic Badge.

Thursday’s memorial included eulogies from Cox’s siblings, friends, former coaches and a neighbor. A large photo of Cox surrounded by seven bouquets was situated in the front of the hall.

Greg Harris, a high school buddy of Cox’s, took the photo as part of a photography class assignment for which he had to photograph someone in uniform.

After striking out with other friends, Harris asked Cox if he could drive up to Santa Barbara from Long Beach to pose for him. “The next day there was a knock on my door; Nathan was standing there in his uniform. ‘You think I’d let you down?’ “ Harris said Cox told him.

Cox joined the Army in 2002 and served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan as a combat engineer. He left the Army to attend the College of Oceanering in Wilmington, where he graduated as a commercial diver and studied how to treat injured divers.

In 2008, Cox re-enlisted in the Army, joining the 101st Airborne Division as a combat medic.

“He went back to Afghanistan because he wanted to help people, and that’s why he became a combat medic,” his brother Patrick said. Cox’s parents did not speak at the memorial, but his sister, Sara Cox, read a poem and said the family was proud of him.

The family is asking that donations be made to any of the following:

Wounded Warrior Project, 7020 AC Skinner Parkway, Ste. 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Soldiers’ Angels, 1792 Washington Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91104.

Fisher House Foundation Inc., 111 Rockville Pike, Ste. 420, Rockville, MD 20850.

Omaha Soldier Calls Mom 1 Day Before Dying

July 7, 2010 KETV

OMAHA, Neb. -

An Omaha teenager serving in Afghanistan has been killed in action.

Last Tuesday, Eddie Wood, 18, was home on leave. Less than a week later, Wood was driving a truck in the country when it hit an improvised explosive device. The explosion killed Wood and another soldier and injured several soldiers.

Wood was leading a convoy out of Kandahar when the truck hit the bomb, his family said. He had just been promoted to truck driver and was only one day back in the war.

“They’re babies, just babies,” said his heartbroken mother, Jan Boehmer.

Wood’s last call home was on July 4. It was a call Boehmer missed. She replayed the recording.

“Hey mom, just letting you know that I’m doing OK, and just wanted to let you know we had a little awards ceremony the other day. Talk to you later when I get my phone ... love you guys. Bye,” Wood said on the recording.

He died the next day.

"I have it all -- I have every text, every e-mail, everything. I saved it because I knew in my heart he probably wouldn't come home. I knew it. There's a reason I knew it," Boehmer said.

Wood's father is in Delaware awaiting the arrival of his son's body.

Those who knew Wood, a 2009 Omaha North High graduate, said he packed a lot of life into his 18 years. Junior ROTC, Boy Scouts, Sun Dawgs, Camp Pokamoke and military re-enactments were some of his pursuits.

Boehmer said her son left his mark.

"He could be a real pain in the butt, but, you know, he was so full of life he worried about others, worried about safety of everybody and his fellow guys -- he worried about them," she said. "You met him once and you knew him for life."

She said she felt bad for her son's friends and family who lost someone so important.

"They all started crying, and I don't know, you just can't help, but I mean, the friends, the family," she said. "We all suffer the same, if you think about it. Everybody suffers the same, I mean, in our hearts and minds. We don't know how you suffer, being there, when someone passes, but back here, grief is pretty basic."

Said his sister, Isabeau Tholen: "He was my best friend. What can I say? He was there for me and I was there for him."

The owner of a north Omaha coffee shop said Wood and his mother frequented the place. Tom Halstead has already set up a tribute to Wood in Harold's Koffee House.

Halstead described Wood as smart, caring and quiet. Wood became part of the shop's family, Halstead said.

"He was just an All-American kid," he said. "He was one of us. He was an achiever."

Halstead, an Army veteran himself, said that Wood was a longtime fixture in his business and frequently came to eat there with his family.

"He was a meat-and-potatoes boy," he said.

Family Remembers A Local Fallen Soldier

July 08, 2010 WPVI

PHILADELPHIA

The American flag is draped over the railing at 1454 West Sparks Street as relatives gather to remember Private First Class David A. Jefferson, an Army Combat Medic assigned to 101st Airborne, at Fort Campbell.

David Jefferson had been in Afghanistan only one month.

He died last Friday, after his patrol encountered an IED in the intensely violent area of Kandahar.

His older brother, William, remembers him as the “good sibling.” “I was the bad one, he was often the brunt of many practical jokes, that always been the case, as we got older his cool factor, completely exceeded my cool factor,” William said.

David’s grandmother, Mildred, can’t remember anyone meeting him not liking him.

“He was a good-natured person and he would do anything for ya,” Mildred said.

David’s father, James Lyles, served 30 years in the Army and fought in Vietnam. He knew better than most the danger his youngest son faced.

“It hurts. You are at a point that you have never been in your life. This is not a dead-end street or a road that you can turn back off of,” James said.

David’s mother also served in the Army; she died of lung cancer in February, the last time David was home.

That’s when he married the mother of his 2-year-old son, Ian.

She has chosen to grieve in private. The family marvels at the strong resemblance between Ian and David.

David’s dad is thankful for how this most difficult time for his family was handled by the military. “I want to give them high marks from the time I was notified to the time I got to Dover,” James said. “The team the Army has put together has been nothing but fantastic.”

David Jefferson’s father and other loved ones will be happy to learn that Washington is spending \$3-billion for mine-resistant vehicles and surveillance blimps to combat the threat from roadside bombs in Afghanistan.

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

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

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME
THIS IS RIDICULOUS**



An Afghan soldier points his weapon as a US Marine crosses an irrigation canal in Helmand province. (AFP/File/Mauricio Lima)



A United States soldier from the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne, on patrol in the Arghandab Valley, outside Kandahar City, July 9, 2010. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)



A U.S. soldier on a patrol near the village of Jilga in Arghandab District north of Kandahar July 8, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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

Good News For The Afghan Resistance!!

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



A foreign occupation armed forces member from the USA puts his hands on the body of an Afghan citizen during a patrol towards COP Nolen, Arghandab Valley, Kandahar, Afghanistan, July 20, 2010. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

Afghani citizens have no right to resist body touching by occupation soldiers from the USA.

If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

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

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

Villagers complained of indignities imposed by the foreign forces, the arrest and killing of civilians, house searches that violate the ethnic Pashtuns' sense of honor and the sanctity of the home, and checkpoints where they are forced to lift up their shirts, which is deeply shaming for Afghans, to show that they are not carrying explosives. -- May 16, 2010, Carlotta Gall, The New York Times

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 94,000 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 "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 Barack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

TROOP NEWS

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



Missouri Army National Guard Sgt. Robert Wayne Crow's casket July 19, 2010 in Liberty, Mo. Crow, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., died July 10 in Paktika, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive

device. He was a combat engineer with the 203rd Engineer Battalion headquartered in Joplin, Mo. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

CHECK OUT THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS31.pdf>

THIS ISSUE FEATURING:

**ARMY LIFE: "THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AND THEIR GENERAL SELFISHNESS
AND HABITUAL EXPLOITATION OF THE LOWER ENLISTED"**

**By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent
Reporting from Germany**

**"EVEN BEFORE I HAD LEFT THE NAVY I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT
PROTECTING FREEDOM OR DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
STATES"**

By F. Bouthillette (USNR, Veteran, Iraq Theatre)

**MORE ARMY LIFE: "INTELLIGENCE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE A SENIOR IN THE
MILITARY"**

**By Soldier R, Traveling Soldier Correspondent
Reporting from Germany**

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/>

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization

**"It Is Hypocritical For The Military To Be
Involved In Anyone's Romantic Life At
All"**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
April 12, 2010

I believe too much time and energy is being wasted on the “don’t ask, don’t tell” issue when we have better things to worry about.

We are engaging in a two-theater war on terrorism shortly going into its 10th year. I am of the opinion that it is the soldier’s performance that should count first and foremost, and what they do in their off-time is their business.

However, if this ban is repealed, it is hypocritical for the military to be involved in anyone’s romantic life at all.

This means there needs to be reconsideration of the current fraternization and adultery regulations. To allow open homosexuality but still try to regulate relationships that are based on heterosexuality in the military is contradictory.

If this policy is repealed, and homosexual service members can serve without bias or prejudice, I would like to see a complete rewrite of the Army’s policies on fraternization and adultery.

Keep the ban regarding recruiters and enlistees, cadre and initial entry training soldiers and direct chain-of-command relationships.

But if the Defense Department is seriously considering this action, then they need to extend the same courtesy regarding all romantic and social relationships in the military.

Capt. Brian Ellis
Raeford, N.C. -

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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

**July 22, 1877:
American Workers Exploded With
Rage — And The Rulers Of The**

Nation Feared The Fury Of The “Terror” From Within: “Pittsburgh Was ‘In The Hands Of Men Dominated By The Devilish Spirit Of Communism’”

THE GREAT STRIKE OF 1877



REMEMBERING A WORKER REBELLION

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

United Electrical Workers News - 06/02 [Excerpts]

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, American workers exploded with rage — and the rulers of the nation feared the fury of the “terror” from within.

A headline in the Chicago Times in 1877 expressed the capitalists’ anxious outrage: “Terrors Reign, The Streets of Chicago Given Over to Howling Mobs of Thieves and Cutthroats.”

After three years, the nation still suffered through a major economic depression.

A strike by railroad workers sparked a coast-to-coast conflagration, as workers driven by despair and desperation battled troops in the streets of major U.S. cities.

The foreign born were widely blamed for the unprecedented, collective expression of rage against economic hardship and injustice.

The ruling elite, badly shaken by the widespread protests, thought a revolution was underway.

The New York Sun prescribed “a diet of lead for the hungry strikers.”

When the fires turned to cold ash and working-class families buried their dead, no one — neither labor nor capital — would be the same again.

If there ever was such a thing, this was no ordinary strike.

It was an explosion of “firsts.”

The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 was the first major strike in an industry that propelled America’s industrial revolution.

It was the first national strike, stretching from Atlantic to Pacific.

In some cities, especially St. Louis, the struggle became one of the nation’s first general strikes.

This was the first major strike broken by the U.S. military.

Probably in no other strike had so many working people met a violent death at the hands of the authorities.

BORN OF DEPRESSION

The Great Strike was a creature of one of the periodic economic downturns that have caused misery for working people throughout U.S. history.

A bank panic on Sept. 18, 1873 disintegrated into depression. “Weekly the layoffs, wage cuts, strikes, evictions, breadlines and hunger increased,” wrote Richard Boyer and Herbert Morais in *Labor’s Untold Story*. The winter of 1873-74, especially in large cities, was one of great suffering for the tens of thousands of unemployed workers and their families who were starving or on the brink of starvation.

As the depression stretched into 1874, the unemployed demanded work and unions fought wage cuts. But the depression itself became a powerful weapon in smashing unions.

Millions suffered through months upon months of mounting misery. “By 1877 there were as many as three million unemployed (roughly 27 percent of the working population),” according to Boyer and Morais. “Two-fifths of those employed were working no more than six to seven months a year and less than one-fifth was regularly working.

“And the wages of those employed had been cut by as much as 45 percent, often to little more than a dollar a day.” Newspapers reported cases of starvation and suicide.

FIXED ELECTION

Political crisis seemed to mirror the economic mess.

Many Americans in 1877 believed their new president had reached the White House through fraud.

Certainly Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican, was not the man for whom a majority of voters had cast their ballots the previous year. Democrat Samuel Tilden overcame the Ohio governor in the popular vote but 20 disputed electoral votes from Florida and other states threw the election into House of Representatives.

Thomas Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad reached a deal with Hayes: in exchange for a federal bailout of his troubled investment in the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the millionaire industrialist would deliver Congressional votes to Hayes.

As a further inducement, the Republicans promised to end Reconstruction, a blatant betrayal of African Americans. Southern Congressmen deserted Tilden, handing the election to Hayes.

President Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction and its promise of political equality for former slaves. The troops would soon have other uses.

PAY CUTS

The Pennsylvania Railroad had already slashed wages by 10 percent when it cut wages by another 10 percent in June 1877. The following month that railroad company, the nation's largest, announced that the size of all eastbound trains from Pittsburgh would be doubled, without any increase in the size of crews.

Angry railroad workers took control of switches and blocked the movement of trains.

Meanwhile, on July 13, the Baltimore & Ohio cut the wages of all workers making more than a dollar a day, also by 10 percent. The company also reduced the workweek to only two or three days, a further pay cut.

On July 16 firemen and brakemen refused to work.

The company tried to bring on replacements — many experienced men were unemployed because of the depression — but the strikers assembled at Camden Junction, three miles from Baltimore, would not let trains run in any direction.

The word quickly spread to Martinsburg, W. Va., where workers abandoned their trains and prevented others from operating them.

The railroad company appealed to the governor, who called out the militia.

Militiamen and workers exchanged gunfire. The scabs ran off, the militia withdrew — and the strikers were left in control of their idled trains.

The strike swiftly followed the rails to Wheeling and Parkersburg.

As Harper's Weekly reported the following month, "Governor Matthews evoked the aid of the national government. President Hayes responded promptly."

Federal troops armed with Springfield rifles and Gatling guns arrived in Martinsburg on July 19. The show of force got the trains running, releasing the 13 locomotives and 1,500 freight cars bottled up in Martinsburg.

STRIKE SPREADS

But the strike was far from over. "Indeed, it was barely begun," reported Harper's Weekly.

"As fast as the strike was broken in one place it appeared in another," wrote Boyer and Morais. The revolt against the powerful railroad companies spread into western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio.

Believing that strikers in Cumberland were stopping the eastbound trains from Martinsburg, Maryland's governor ordered out the state militia.

Thousands of the jobless and underpaid in Baltimore clearly saw whose interests the governor's proclamation served.

Within a half hour of the call, "a crowd numbering at least 2,000 men, women, and children surrounded the (Maryland Sixth Regiment) armory and loudly expressed their feelings against the military and in favor of the strikers," according to Harper's Weekly. The crowd added bricks and stones to the curses hurled against the armory. The police were powerless.

Once the troops emerged for their march to Camden Station, shots were fired — and shots were exchanged.

The militia killed at least 10 and wounded many others, among them curious onlookers. The Fifth Regiment was also attacked, although no shots were fired.

BATTLE IN PITTSBURGH

Sympathy for the strikers was even stronger in Pittsburgh.

Here, said Boyer and Morais, the strike against Tom Scott's Pennsylvania Railroad "had the support even of businessmen, angry at the company because of extortionate freight rates." The police and local militia sided with the strikers, so the authorities had to appeal for troops from Philadelphia.

When the militiamen arrived and marched out of the station, they were met with the cries of an angry crowd — and, according to Harper's, "a shower of stones."

They emptied their rifles into the crowd, killing 20 men, women and children and wounding 29.

"The sight presented after the soldiers ceased firing was sickening," reported the New York Herald; the area "was actually dotted with the dead and dying."

A newspaper headline read: "Shot in Cold Blood by the Roughts of Philadelphia. The Lexington of the Labor Conflict at Hand. The Slaughter of Innocents."

As the news reached nearby rolling mills and manufacturing shops, workers came rushing to the scene.

Workers broke into a gun factory and seized rifles and small arms. Wrote Boyer and Morais, "Miners and steel workers came pouring in from the outskirts of the city and as night fell the immense crowd proved so menacing to the soldiers that they retreated into the roundhouse."

By midnight, Harper's said, some 20,000 surrounded the roundhouse, 5,000 of them armed.

Workers and soldiers exchanged gunfire throughout the night. The workers nearly succeeded in burning out the troops by sending a blazing oil car hurtling against a nearby building.

'A NIGHT OF TERROR'

A Civil War veteran among the besieged troops told a New York Herald reporter that he had seen some "wild fighting" in that conflict, but "a night of terror such as last night I never experienced before and hope to God I never will again."

The next morning the troops evacuated the roundhouse and fought their way out of town.

Pittsburgh policemen were among those reportedly taking aim at the strikebreakers.

The angry crowd then torched the railroad station, roundhouse, company offices and scores of railroad cars.

The New York World told its readers that Pittsburgh was "in the hands of men dominated by the devilish spirit of Communism."

Meanwhile, on July 21, President Hayes had issued a proclamation warning strikers and their sympathizers to disperse within 24 hours. The next day, Pennsylvania's governor had ordered every regiment in the state to report for duty. Clashes between troops and strikers in Reading added to the death toll among workers.

CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS

The strike continued to spread. Reported Harper's, "On the morning of the 25th the strike had reached its height, when hardly a road was running, from the Hudson to the Mississippi, and from Canada to Virginia."

The strike reached Chicago, as workers on the Michigan Central followed the example of the men on the other lines. General Sheridan's cavalry, newly recalled from the South, attacked a group of workers there, killing many and wounding many more.

The workers of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad joined the strike in St. Louis, where the Workingmen's Party coordinated a general strike.

The Workingmen's Party had several thousand members.

At one of its huge meetings, writes Marieke van Ophem, "a black man was the voice for those who worked on the steamboats and levees. He asked: 'Will you stand to us, regardless of color?' The crowd shouted in response: 'We will!'"

Not only did the trains cease running, but breweries, flour mills, foundries and other shops stopped operating as well.

As a result of this working-class solidarity, bosses agreed to pay raises and shorter working hours without a reduction in wages.

Then the military arrived — the U.S. Army and state militia, as well as armed vigilantes in the service of the bosses.

Although there had been no violence, St. Louis came under martial law. Strike leaders were thrown in jail. Bosses canceled the wage increases and the eight-hour day.

'SHOT BACK TO WORK'

Business leaders became better organized, rallying their political allies, who mobilized the might of the military. Tom Scott of the Pennsylvania Railroad had recommended giving strikers "a rifle diet for a few days and see how they like that kind of bread;" in the end, the government's ability to inflict violence on strikers and supporters got the trains rolling again.

As one worker put it, "We were shot back to work." By early August the strike had collapsed everywhere.

It had been an unforgettable event, and many railroad workers seemed to have been justifiably proud.

"Without any organization they had fought with bravery and skill and the country had been behind them," wrote Boyer and Morais. "The strike had been as solid as it was spontaneous. There had been few desertions and few scabs."

Some 100,000 workers had gone on strike, and countless unemployed workers in numerous cities had joined the strikers in protests against intolerable conditions. Farmers, who hated the railroad companies and their extortionate practices, fed the strikers.

More than half the freight on the nation's 75,000 miles of track stopped moving.

More than 100 had died and 1,000 had been jailed, although those imprisoned were not the ones directly responsible for the deaths.

The results of the Great Strike were mixed.

GUNS AND PROMISES

Even as they agreed to some worker demands, bosses were determined to never again allow workers the upper hand.

"The railroads made some concessions, rescinded some wage cuts, but also strengthened their 'Coal and Iron Police,'" writes van Ophem. "In several large cities, National Guard armories were constructed, with loopholes for guns."

Working people learned that without strong unions and nationwide organization they could not defeat the alliance of capital and government.

America's Industrial Revolution was underway, and with it, born in the blood of men and women who yearned for a better life, a modern labor movement.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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CLASS WAR REPORTS



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