

Military Resistance 8K11

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



Oct. 10, 2010: U.S. Air Force pararescue use an American flag to wrap the bodies of U.S. soldiers who were killed in a roadside bomb attack in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. The attack killed two American soldiers and wounded three others. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

Subject: Sgt. King Jeremy

[From GI Special, 11.11.2007]

[NOTE: Information that would identify the writer is removed, which is the standard practice to protect members of the armed forces, and their loved ones. T]

From: [xxxxxx; Ft. XXXXX]
To: GI Special
Sent: November 05, 2007
Subject: Sgt. King Jeremy

I am a soon to be wife of a soldier, NCO, that served in Iraq with King.

He is held in the hearts of many and did more than most in his life time.

I found your story while doing research. I am an artist being asked to come up with ideas, and many a tattoo is wanted in honor of King out of 8-10 CAV.

It was just as hard to read your account of that day as it is to hear the words of that day being retold from the man I love more than anyone.

I remember talking on the phone with my fiancé the day it happened, he was close to King.

I pray for Kings wife and daughter.

As I sit here while my love sleeps, and I read this, I thank god I can crawl in bed with him, kiss him, letting him know how much I love him.

I can't help but feel guilty, and very lucky at the same time.

Not everyone understands, I think you know what I mean by that.

Thanks again

[XXXXX]

Ft.[XXXXX]

REPLY From GI Special: Excerpts]

On reading your letter, I was immediately reminded of another from a long time ago.

It's reprinted below. [Following the article on Sgt. King. T]

Your letter, and the one below written 140+ years ago, have in common a clarity and directness of expression, and a fundamental honesty and goodness, that confirms the view expressed from time to time in GI Special that those who serve in the armed forces, and those close to them, are the finest people in America today.

It's an honor beyond measure to receive what you wrote.

Your letter gives good reason to publish again the article in memory of Sgt. King by Iraq veteran Justin C. Cliburn, 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG, which you found in GI Special, along with your letter.

What you wrote is the finest letter of this war, so far, bar none. There are many troops and loved ones who will find their hearts lifted by your words.

Everyone who has served, or been close to someone who has served, will understand, and thank you.

Limitless respect,

T

MORE:

The Radio

“This August 24th, Remember Jeremy King”



[From GI Special 5H29, August 24, 2007]

07/25/2007 by Justin C. Cliburn
[Iraq Veterans Against The War] [www.ivaw.org/]
Branch of service: Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)
Unit: 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG
Rank: SPC
Home: Lawton, Oklahoma
Served in: LSA Anaconda: MSR Patrol, one month. Camp Liberty, Baghdad: PSD/IP
Training, ten and a half months.

When I was in Mrs. Riner’s junior English class at MacArthur high school, we were required to read a short story titled “The Radio.”

The premise was simple.

A couple in the 1930s were given a special radio that allowed them to hear all their neighbors’ conversations.

At first they were elated, but, ultimately, they were haunted by the miracle of their ability.

They could hear all the horrors of society that usually go unnoticed or are covered up and sterilized . . . and they couldn’t turn it off.

They couldn’t change the channel.

It took seven years, but I eventually went back to that story in my head and felt their horror.

August 24th, 2006 was a routine day for my squad in Baghdad.

We had gone to Traffic Headquarters and I had gotten to visit with Ali. Business taken care of, we started to make the familiar trek back to Camp Liberty.

It was a hot day, over 120 degrees, and I stood up just a little higher than usual with my sleeves unbuttoned to let the air circulate inside my body armor and clothing. It had been a good day.

Back on Route Irish, we were on the home stretch when the call came out over the radio:

“Eagle Dustoff, Eagle Dustoff, this is Red Knight 7* over”
“This is Eagle Dustoff, over”
“Eagle Dustoff, I need MEDEVAC; my gunner has been shot by a sniper.”

The voice went on to recite the nine line MEDEVAC report and I marveled at how cool, calm, and collected he sounded.

My squad leader plotted the grid coordinates and found that this had occurred only a couple blocks away from one of our two main destinations on Market Road.

“Cliburn, go ahead and get down; someone might be aiming at your melon right now”, CPT Ray said.

Sergeant Bruesch concurred and I sat down, listening intently to the radio transmissions that I couldn't turn off if I wanted to.

Five minutes in, the voice on the radio was losing his cool.

“Have they left yet?! He's losing a lot of blood; we need that chopper now!”

In the background, you could hear other soldiers yelling, screaming, trying to find anyway to save their friend's life. At one point, I swear I heard the man gurgle.

Ten minutes in, the voice on the radio was furious.

“Where's that fucking chopper!? We're losing him! He's not fucking breathing! Where the fuck are you!?”

Every minute to minute and a half the voice was back on the radio demanding to know what the hold up was.

Every minute to minute and a half the other voice on the radio, a young woman's voice, tried to reassure him that the chopper was the way from Taji. She was beginning to tire herself; I could hear it in her voice. She was just as frustrated as he was.

All the while, there I sat.

Sitting in the gunners hatch, listening life's little horrors with no way to turn the channel.

No one in the truck was speaking.

The music was on, but no one heard it. There was just an eerie silence.

All I heard was the radio transmissions; I watched as the landscape passed me by in slow motion.

I didn't hear wind noise or car horns or gunfire or my own thoughts. I was only accompanied by the silence of the world passing me by, interrupted only by the screams of the voice on the radio.

At this point, I was as frustrated as I had been all year. Where the fuck was that goddamn chopper and why was it taking so long?! What if it were me?

Would I be waiting that long? Would this pathetic exchange be included in the newscast if the guy dies?

I was angry, upset, frustrated, and anticipating the next transmission in this macabre play by play account. Forget about TNT, HBO, and Law and Order: THIS was drama. This was heart wrenching.

Seconds seemed like hours; minutes seemed like days.

Finally, after several more non-productive transmissions where Eagle Dustoff attempted to reassure the voice, after twenty minutes and a few more frantic, screaming transmissions by the voice, the man's voice was calm again.

"Eagle Dustoff, cancel the chopper. He's dead."

. . . and that was that. The voice had gone from being the model for the consummate soldier (cool, calm, collected, professional) to the more human screams and frantic pleading for help to solemn resignation.

Now, the voice was quiet.

"Eagle Dustoff: requesting recovery team. We can't drive this vehicle back; we need someone to come get the vehicle and body. Over."

"Do you have casualty's information?"

"Yes. SGT King, over."

I sat in that gunners sling in a fit of rage that I couldn't let out.

I had to be a soldier; I had to keep my cool.

We all did.

I was so angry, I still am, about being an unwilling voyeur, forced to listen to the gruesome play by play of another soldier's life and death.

We had been told that the insurgency was in its last throes, that they were just a bunch of dead enders. No, not this day.

Today, SGT King was in his last throes, and I was there to listen to the whole thing, whether I liked it or not.

A soldier's death isn't anything like the movies. There was no patriotic music; there was no feeling of purpose. It's just . . . death.

I wasn't there physically; I didn't see him, but I was there.

Any sane person would have wanted to turn the channel. No one wants to hear the screams of a man losing his friend, but I couldn't turn it off. We were required to monitor that channel.

Either way, it didn't take long to become emotionally invested in it; was he going to make it? I hung on every word until I got the final, sobering news.

My truck was the only one in the convoy monitoring that net. When we got back to base, no else had heard it, and SSG Bruesch, CPT Ray, and I didn't discuss it. I don't think we ever did.

A few days later, I felt like I had to find out more about his soldier. I felt like I had lost a friend, yet I didn't know anything but his name and rank.

Looking back on it, I should have just let it go, but I didn't. Using the miracle of the Internet, I found out all I needed to know about the young man.

SGT Jeremy E. King was 23 years old. He was from Idaho, where he played high school football. He had joined the army to get out of Idaho and see the world.

He was one year younger than I was, and he was dead. He sounded like any of a number of teammates I played high school football with.

I've replayed that scene in my head more times than I'd ever want since that day.

I don't believe in fate or karma or any type of pre-destined events, but I often wonder what made that sniper hole up on North Market Road instead of South Market Road, where I often found myself.

I was fortunate enough in my time there to never have to call in MEDEVAC.

I didn't bury any of my comrades, but I will always remember what it was like listening to the miracle of modern communications, the radio, and for the first time in my life being terrified, much like the couple in the story over eighty long years ago.

This August 24th, remember Jeremy King:



Jeremy King

Wednesday, August 30 2006 @ 04:20 AM EDT

Contributed by: River97

Views: 621

Star Telegram -- KILLEEN, Texas - A Fort Hood soldier from Idaho has died in Iraq of injuries sustained when troops came under fire during combat, the Department of Defense said Friday.

Sgt. Jeremy E. King, 23, of Meridian died Thursday in Baghdad.

He was assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood.

MORE:

From Major Sullivan Ballou, Second Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteers, To His Wife, Sarah

Major Sullivan Ballou of the Second Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteers, wrote the letter July 14, while awaiting orders that would take him to Manassas, where he and twenty-seven of his men would die one week later at the Battle of Bull Run.

July the 14th, 1861

Washington DC

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days - perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write you again, I feel impelled to write lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

Our movement may be one of a few days duration and full of pleasure - and it may be one of severe conflict and death to me. Not my will, but thine O God, be done. If it is necessary that I should fall on the battlefield for my country, I am ready. I have no

misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter.

I know how strongly American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing - perfectly willing - to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt.

But, my dear wife, when I know that with my own joys I lay down nearly all of yours, and replace them in this life with cares and sorrows - when, after having eaten for long years the bitter fruit of orphanage myself, I must offer it as their only sustenance to my dear little children - is it weak or dishonorable, while the banner of my purpose floats calmly and proudly in the breeze, that my unbounded love for you, my darling wife and children, should struggle in fierce, though useless, contest with my love of country?

I cannot describe to you my feelings on this calm summer night, when two thousand men are sleeping around me, many of them enjoying the last, perhaps, before that of death -- and I, suspicious that Death is creeping behind me with his fatal dart, am communing with God, my country, and thee.

I have sought most closely and diligently, and often in my breast, for a wrong motive in thus hazarding the happiness of those I loved and I could not find one. A pure love of my country and of the principles have often advocated before the people and "the name of honor that I love more than I fear death" have called upon me, and I have obeyed.

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our sons grow up to honorable manhood around us.

I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me - perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar -- that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed.

If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have oftentimes been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness, and struggle with all the misfortune of this world, to shield you and my children from harm. But I cannot. I must watch you from the spirit land and hover near you, while you buffet the storms with your precious little freight, and wait with sad patience till we meet to part no more.

But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the garish day and in the darkest night -- amidst

your happiest scenes and gloomiest hours - always, always; and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath; or the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again.

As for my little boys, they will grow as I have done, and never know a father's love and care. Little Willie is too young to remember me long, and my blue eyed Edgar will keep my frolics with him among the dimmest memories of his childhood.

Sarah, I have unlimited confidence in your maternal care and your development of their characters. Tell my two mothers his and hers I call God's blessing upon them. O Sarah, I wait for you there! Come to me, and lead thither my children.

Sullivan Ballou

WARNING:
AOL IS CENSORING THE
MILITARY RESISTANCE
NEWSLETTER BY
1. REFUSING TO TRANSMIT TO YOU BY
EMAIL AND, OTHER TIMES:
2. DUMPING ISSUES IN YOUR SPAM
FOLDER WHERE YOU MUST SEARCH
FOR IT

Please change/add on an email service, or if you already have another one, send us the alternate address that does not use AOL, which has a long, sordid history of censoring publications critical of Imperial wars.

You have no way to know what other emails to you AOL is also refusing to send to you, because they don't tell you.

They do not tell you Military Resistance Newsletter has been censored: that information is only sent back to Military Resistance Newsletter, or whoever else is not allowed to email you, by means of a notice of a failed attempt to send you email that has been blocked by AOL.

Repeat to AOL subscribers: please send a non-AOL email address and receive Military Resistance Newsletter free of AOL censorship! Military Resistance email address is top left.

[Thanks to contact from an AOL subscriber who reported this disgusting but typical AOL censorship. T]

ACTION REPORTS

“The Three Troops Were Decidedly Anti-War” [Outreach To New York Army National Guard]

From: Alan S, Military Resistance Organization
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: October 29, 2010
Subject: Outreach To New York National Guard

10/28/10 OUTREACH

I found three responsive soldiers earlier today at one of the commuter terminals here in New York City.

One, a private, recognized me from this past Friday's (10/22) National Guard armory outreach and replied willingly to my question as to what he thought of the materials received.

He felt not only was the publications we distribute to troops interesting but correct in its intentions and content.

“It wasn't the first time I've read your stuff,” he said. Further, “each time is different than the last.”

All three soldiers were informed that the Military Resistance Organization is for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

The sergeant, who recently refused to volunteer for deployment to Afghanistan (he's been there and Iraq), said he's had enough although he knows others who have volunteered to redeploy.

When asked why they would he shook his head and said "crazy."

The other private wanted to know if we could provide job possibilities/guidance. We don't but there was no harm in directing the young soldier to IVAW (advertised on one side of our contact card [see below]). The private was pleased with the information, knowing there were other young vets from Iraq/Afghanistan involved and seemed willing to contact them. Maybe they can help.

The three troops were decidedly anti-war.

I made sure they received our cards and the soldier who recognized me took the rest of my cards (20-25) for further distribution. They were all I had left.

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to Military Resistance for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so.

If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out. Reporting what went wrong and/or got screwed up is especially important, so that others may learn from you what to expect, and how to avoid similar problems if possible.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs identifying information be published in reporting on the action.

MORE:

Military Resistance

Traveling Soldier
Newsletter



www.traveling-
soldier.org

(888) 711-2550

contact@militaryproject.org

Box 126, 2576 Broadway New York, NY 10025

SUPPORTING GI RESISTANCE

[front]

If you are a veteran who supports an immediate end to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- the Military Project recommends you contact:

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR



www.IVAW.org

[back]

[Cards designed by Richie M, Military Resistance Organization]

MORE:

You Can Take Action That Makes A Difference:

Join The Military Resistance Organization

Military Resistance Mission Statement:

1. The mission of Military Resistance is to bring together in one organization members of the armed forces and civilians in order to give aid and comfort to members of the armed forces who are organizing to end the wars of empire in Afghanistan and Iraq. The long term objective is to assist in eliminating all wars of empire by eliminating all empires.

2. Military Resistance does not advocate individual disobedience to orders or desertion from the armed forces. The most effective resistance is organized by members of the armed forces working together.

However, Military Resistance respects and will assist in the defense of troops who see individual desertion or refusal of orders as the only course of action open to them for reasons of conscience.

3. Military Resistance stands for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Occupied nations have the right to independence and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation by force of arms.

4. Efforts to increase democratic rights in every society, organization, movement, and within the armed forces itself will receive encouragement and support.

Members of the armed forces, whether those of the United States or any other nation, have the right and duty to act against dictatorships commanding their services, and to assist civilian movements against dictatorship.

This applies whether a political dictatorship is imposed by force of arms or a political dictatorship is imposed by those in command of the resources of society using their wealth to purchase the political leadership.

5. Military Resistance uses organizational democracy.

This means control of the organization by the membership, through elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels.

Any member may run for any job in the organization. All persons elected are subject to immediate recall, by majority vote of the membership.

Coordinating bodies report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them, and may be overruled by a majority of the membership.

6. It is not necessary for Military Resistance to be in political agreement with other organizations in order to work together towards specific common objectives.

It is productive for organizations working together on common projects to discuss differences about the best way forward for the movement.

Debate is necessary to arrive at the best course of action.

Membership Requirements:

7. It is a condition of membership that each member prioritize and participate in organized action to reach out to active duty armed forces, Reserve and/or National Guard units.

8. Military Resistance or individual members may choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan, but do not support a candidate opposed to immediate, unconditional withdrawal.

9. Members may not be active duty or drilling reserve commissioned officers, or employed in any capacity by any police or intelligence agency, local, state, or national.

10. I understand and am in agreement with the above statement. I pledge to defend my brothers and sisters, and the democratic rights of the citizens of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

----- (Signed)

(Date)

----- (Application taken by)

Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550

MORE

MILITARY RESISTANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (please print): _____

Armed Forces? (Branch) _____

Veteran? Years: _____

Union: _____

Occupation: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Landline): _____

Phone (Cell): _____

\$ dues paid _____
(See next: Calendar year basis.)

Armed Forces Members	@	Dues waived
Civilians	@	\$25
Students/Unemployed	@	\$10
Civilian/Military Prisoners	@	Dues Waived

Comments:

NOTE: Civilian applicants will be interviewed, in person if possible, or by phone.

**Military Resistance: Contact@militaryproject.org
Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
888-711-2550**

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Five Mortar Rounds, Or Maybe Two Rockets, Wound Seven In Green Zone

Nov 10 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - Five mortar rounds landed in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone district of government offices and embassies, wounding at least seven civilians, two security sources said.

An Interior Ministry source said two Katyusha rockets landed in the Green Zone.

Obama's Lying Bullshit Reeks On: U.S. Combat Troops Who Are No Longer In Iraq Go Into Action In Kirkuk



U.S. soldiers secure an area during a visit by Fletcher Burton (not pictured), the chief of the Kirkuk province reconstruction team (PRT), to a market in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, November 10, 2010. REUTERS/Ako Rasheed

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Maine Soldier Killed In Khost



20-year-old Spc. Andrew Hutchins, of New Portland, Maine, was killed Nov. 8, 2010 while on tower duty in Khost Province in eastern Afghanistan near Pakistan. Hutchins was a 2008 graduate of Carrabec High School in North Anson, Maine and was serving as a military policeman assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

November 10 AP

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

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

November 10 AP

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in Southern Afghanistan Wednesday.

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

KABUL, Afghanistan (Nov. 10, 2010) – An International Security Assistance Force servicemember died following an insurgent attack in Eastern Afghanistan Wednesday.

Family Remembers Belmont Solider Killed In Afghanistan



(credit: CBS)

November 3, 2010 By Paul Burton, WBZ-TV

BELMONT (CBS) — John Curtis stood his guard. His parents describe him as a soldier in the purest sense.

“He found the Army, the Army didn’t find him. I think his passing will change a lot of lives. And I hope we take it as an example we should all strive for,” John’s father Phil Curtis said.

On Monday, Curtis, along with a fellow soldier Andrew Meari, of Illinois, was on guard duty in Afghanistan when a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device.

Ever since he was little boy growing up in Belmont Curtis wanted to serve his country.

Little did he know he would pay the ultimate price, but because of what he did seven of his comrades are alive today.

“John and Andy intercepted the suicide bomber and did not allow him to enter the base where far more people would’ve died,” Phil Curtis said.

Curtis was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Keystone National High School. Immediately after graduation he joined the Army.

“He sometimes talked a good game but his personality was not Rambo. He was very sweet and innocent in some ways,” his mother Pam Curtis said.

In 2009, Curtis and his sweetheart Samantha wed and gave birth to their first born child Tessa-Marie.

“John was a humble guy, but he had a very strong sense of mission and purpose. He was someone loyal to the mission and he did it well. I just going to miss him,” Phil Curtis said.

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/>

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
ALL HOME, NOW**



October 26, 2010: A U.S. Marine from the Eighth Marines yells for back-up during a patrol that came under fire from Taliban insurgents in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



October 31, 2010: A Marine Sgt., standing, confirms that another Marine from Eighth Marines has discovered an improvised explosive device during patrol in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, October 31, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



A concussed Marine staggers into a compound offering cover after a rocket propelled grenade exploded near his position during a battle against Taliban insurgents in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 1, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



A U.S. Marine from 8th Marines runs along a wall while under fire from Taliban insurgents in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, November 1, 2010. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



November 1, 2010: A U.S. Marine returns fire while under attack from Taliban insurgents in the town of Nabuk in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



November 4, 2010: A U.S. Army medic treats a U. S. soldier wounded by an explosion during a Medevac flight in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

MILITARY NEWS

“I Have Been Diagnosed With A Terminal Disease That Is Slowly And Painfully Destroying My Body”

“Soldiers Like Myself Will Be Ridiculed And Harassed For Having The Audacity To Die On The Army’s Time”

“The Highest-Ranking People In My Battalion Have Made Fun Of Me In Front Of Peers And Subordinates About My Illness And Complained About The Number Of Medical Appointments I Have And Ordered Me To Cancel Some Of Them”

This attitude from my leadership makes me feel all my years of service, including three years of combat service and even more years away from my family, and even the blood I shed for my country, are meaningless.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
November 1, 2010

I have been diagnosed with a terminal disease that is slowly and painfully destroying my body.

Most of the first sergeants I have dealt with have worked with me very well around frequent medical appointments, alternate physical training and work schedules.

But the highest-ranking people in my battalion have made fun of me in front of peers and subordinates about my illness and complained about the number of medical appointments I have and ordered me to cancel some of them.

They also complain that my Medical Evaluation Board is taking too long.

This type of attitude in our ranks, especially from those in command, is the very reason good soldiers often won't back off until it's too late and why our suicide rates refuse to go down no matter how many classes soldiers attend.

All I have ever known and my very identity has been that of a soldier since I turned 17 and had my parents sign an enlistment contract.

My goal until I was diagnosed was to serve 20-plus years and retire.

Now, not only is my entire future and identity in crisis, but I have some nonsupportive and, at times, just plain mean and rude leadership making this difficult and painful transition that much worse.

This attitude from my leadership makes me feel all my years of service, including three years of combat service and even more years away from my family, and even the blood I shed for my country, are meaningless.

The officers of my unit have not given me any trouble about my situation and the requirements for medical procedures and appointments, so it seems they have a more caring attitude about our soldiers than some of the senior NCOs whose job it is to directly work with and supervise us.

The Army can send lower-enlisted soldiers through all the training it wishes, but until those soldiers become senior leaders, nothing will change.

In the meantime, soldiers like myself will be ridiculed and harassed for having the audacity to die on the Army's time.

My apologies for the inconvenience my pain and pending death have been.

My unit is ensuring I am as broken emotionally and mentally as I am physically before I get out.

For those who have been supportive and shown compassion, they have no idea how much of a lifeline they have been.

I wish I could propose a solution to this problem, but unfortunately I cannot think of any way to make leaders care as much about their soldiers as they do themselves.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rapp
Fort Knox, Ky.

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

Inside Job



From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: November 01, 2010
Subject: Inside Job

Inside Job

I was impressed with Alex Horton's article in "Military Resistance," dated October 31, 2010: "Through Darkness We See."

Once soldiers become civilians, and get away from the "Green Machine," they begin to have insights that go beyond their intelligence.

As a Vietnam veteran, who was brain washed every day before I ever went into the military, my return to civilian life was more like a trip from outer space.

I was blind, but now I see.

The greatest revelation that came out of my year in Vietnam, was the realization that the entire Vietnam War was a lie.

Every single fiber of my being was duped by a government that I thought was on my side.

In short,

I was a victim of emotional incest by the U.S. Government.

What I often refer to as, "Political Incest."

Not only was I fucked for profit,
but I was left for dead.
Forty years post Vietnam,
and that profound truth has catapulted
me into a new dimension.
The only way you can recover from rape,
is to do whatever it takes to bear witness
about the criminality of your own country.
It was an inside job G.I.
When you finally realize you fought on the wrong side,
your IQ triples.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
November 1, 2010

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

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

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO
HALT THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP
THE WARS**

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

George W. Bush Praises President Obama's Afghanistan War Plan



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

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

11/6/10 By JAMES HOHMANN, Capitol News Company [Excerpts]

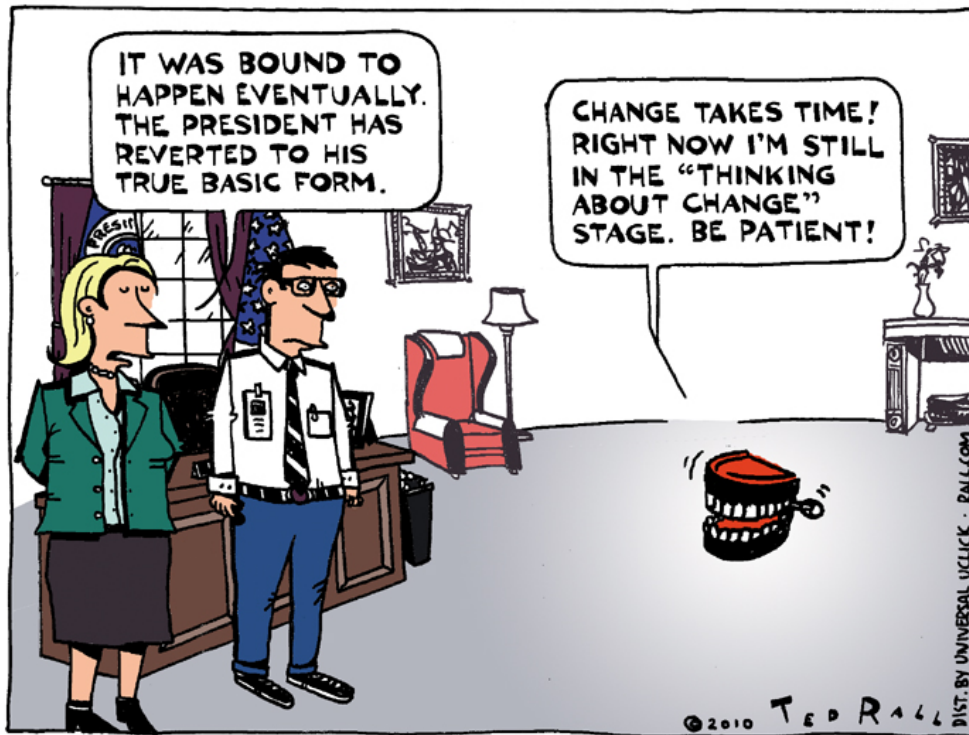
In his memoir, George W. Bush praises President Barack Obama's decision to escalate the war in Afghanistan.

"I strongly believe the mission is worth the cost," Bush wrote in "Decision Points," which comes out Tuesday. "Fortunately, I am not the only one."

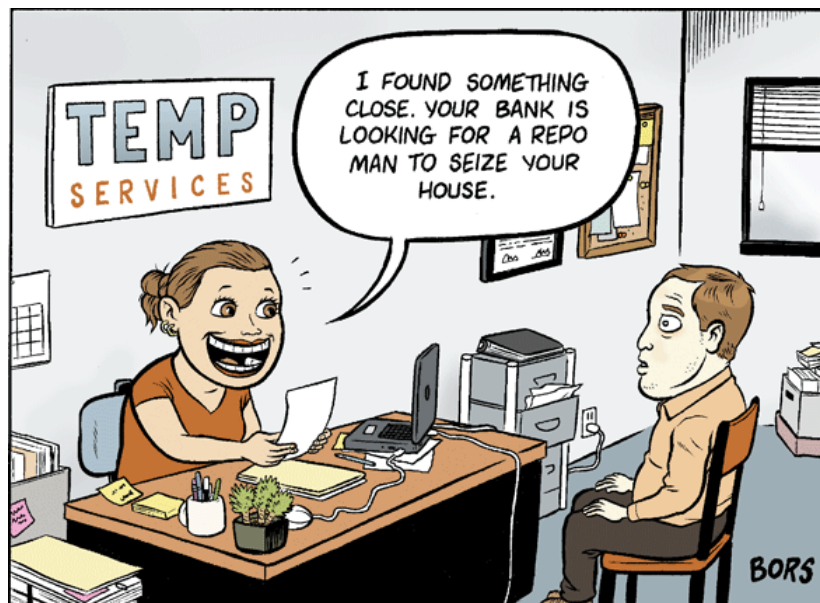
He expresses gratitude that Obama "stood up to critics by deploying more troops, announcing a new commitment to counterinsurgency in Afghanistan, and increasing the pressure on Pakistan to fight the extremists in the tribal areas."

In the 497-page autobiography, Obama comes up in 10 places. Each mention is either a favorable, sympathetic or tangential reference.

There is not a single unkind word about Obama in the book.



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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