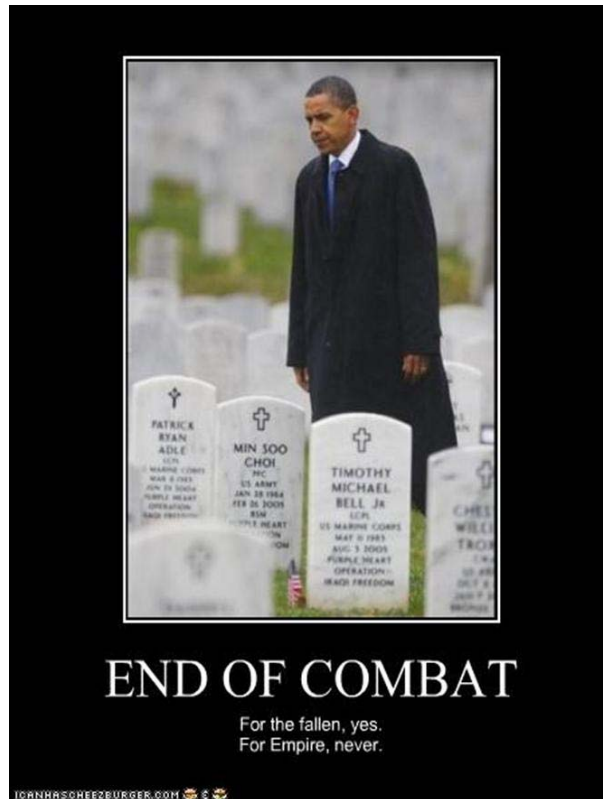


Military Resistance 9F2



“It’s Impossible For Them To Lose”

“The Taliban Are More Active In The City Than At Any Time Since 2001”

“Mr. Toorjan Says He’s Certain Of An Eventual Taliban Victory”

“‘The Enemy Is Smart. The Enemy Is Always A Step Ahead,’ Says Kandahar Governor, Tooryalai Wesa”

In neighborhoods just off the city’s main roads, the Taliban routinely erect mobile checkpoints, examining the contents of residents’ pockets and searching their cellphone address books for signs of links with the infidels.

JUNE 4, 2011 By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—The Taliban insurgency in southern Afghanistan is turning urban, as the American military surge in their rural heartland drives militants into the maze of Kandahar, the nation’s second-largest city.

The U.S. offensives that began in August in the countryside around Kandahar were meant to secure this city of nearly a million people by eliminating Taliban strongholds in surrounding districts.

Instead, the insurgents have staged a string of high-profile attacks within the city.

“The Taliban are more active in the city than at any time since 2001,” says Hajji Atta Mohammed, a former police general who heads the Kandahar council of former mujahedeen commanders.

“They’ve brought the war inside Kandahar.”

“The enemy is smart. The enemy is always a step ahead,” says Kandahar governor, Tooryalai Wesa.

In previous days, the Taliban assassinated Kandahar’s police chief in his own headquarters, and spirited some 500 militants from the city’s main prison. In both cases, the insurgents relied on inside help from turncoat officials.

Almost every day, Taliban squads on motorbikes assassinate Kandaharis suspected of collaborating with the government or the U.S. military.

In neighborhoods just off the city’s main roads, the Taliban routinely erect mobile checkpoints, examining the contents of residents’ pockets and searching their cellphone address books for signs of links with the infidels.

“We’re hit when the insurgents are shooting, and we’re hit when the government is shooting. We’re always afraid,” says Mohammed Ismail Agha, a grocer who spent much of May 7 cowering behind his shop’s refrigerator as Taliban fighters who took over a nearby shopping mall tried to seize the neighboring police station, peppering the adjoining buildings with bullets.

“It’s worse than it’s ever been,” echoed street vendor Hajji Agha.

The Kandahar municipal administration, up against Taliban pledges to kill anyone working for the government, has been able to fill only 52 out of its 119 budgeted positions, says deputy mayor Hajji Mohammad Nassim.

Mr. Nassim's own position, filled this spring after a monthslong hiatus, is especially precarious: his two predecessors were killed by the Taliban last year.

Yet, military officials also acknowledge the Taliban's success so far in intimidating Kandahar's residents, and in diminishing the sense of security inside the metropolis.

The Taliban have made a deliberate decision to center their war effort on Kandahar city after finding it hard to counter the U.S. military onslaught in the rural districts, says Hajji Toorjan, a senior Taliban commander from Arghandab who decided to reconcile with the government earlier this year.

In the thickly populated metropolis, he says, the U.S. can't easily use air power, artillery and airborne surveillance, and insurgents face fewer difficulties in hiding their fighters or evacuating the wounded.

Despite his own embrace of the government, Mr. Toorjan says he's certain of an eventual Taliban victory: "It's impossible for them to lose."

One of his former fighters, 19-year-old Najibullah, recently had a first-hand taste of just how thoroughly the city is infiltrated by the Taliban. He left the safe house to pick up fresh clothes from his home in Kandahar's sprawling Loya Wilayah neighborhood.

As he was heading back, two masked Taliban on a motorcycle blocked his way; one opened fire with a Kalashnikov assault rifle. Luckily for Mr. Najibullah, the gun jammed after the first bullet tore through his left leg.

"It's easy for them to know who we are and where we are," Mr. Najibullah says.

ACTION REPORTS

Fleet Week Outreach New York City; Sailors And Marines

From: Alan S
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Subject: [Fleet Week Report]
Date: May 31, 2011 4:17 PM

FLEET WEEK – MIDTOWN, NY – 2011

It's possible there were fewer ships this year than previous as fewer sailors and marines were seen in the Times Square area.

Nevertheless, liberty participants were approached on the Memorial Day weekend and all, save one or two, responded favorably to attention paid them and were especially courteous.

Handouts comprising the latest Traveling Soldier [see below], GI Rights pamphlet, Military Resistance/IVAW introductory cards [see below] plus reprints of the Military Resistance home grown publication of an IVAW message fronted by the world famous photo "Times Square Kiss" of a sailor celebrating the end of World War II with a passerby (as later testified to by the participant).

The captions for this issue was "More of This" (the kiss photo) and "Less of This" (a gun battery aboard an aircraft carrier).

On count 36 handouts plus 16 DVDs of "Sir! No Sir!" were passed out during the outreach which began Friday, 5/27 and ended 5/30, all distribution time taking place during the middle p.m. hours.

Almost all troops encountered were clearly less than 30 and were neatly divided between 36 marines and sailors.

One marine, after hearing how we feel about politicians being behind their unnecessary sacrifice said "That's probably what it's about, yeah."

Also, 30-40 of the Fleet Week and GI Rights flyers plus intro cards were given to a VFP member for distribution at their memorial service at The Battery on Sunday, 5/30.

Many thanks to EB for copying and burning DVDs that made the outreach possible.

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:

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING
SOLDIER**

**Issue 34
Special Issue: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya
Soldiers in Revolt 2011**

Click here to download and view a PDF of issue 34:
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS34.pdf>

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

**FYI:
Traveling Soldier Is Published By 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

**You Can Take Action That Makes
A Difference:
Join The Military Resistance
Organization:
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.

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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

Resistance Action: Attack On “The Tightly Secured Area Of Central Tikrit That Is Home To Provincial Government Offices” Kills 24



A bomb attack on a government building, seen a day after three blasts near the provincial government offices occurred in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad June 3, 2011. REUTERS/Ali al-Mashhadani

June 1 (Reuters) & June 2 (Reuters) & June 3 AFP & Jun 4 AFP & Reuteers

TIKRIT, Iraq – Bombers killed 24 people in attacks on a mosque in central Iraq frequented by provincial officials and later at a hospital where the victims were being treated, officials said on Saturday.

Friday’s violence in Tikrit, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Baghdad, also 75 wounded people including two members of Salaheddin provincial council, a senior policeman and a judge.

“The first attack killed 19 people and we treated 72 wounded,” said a doctor at Tikrit hospital, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A bomb attack on the hospital, timed to coincide with an MP’s visit with the victims, killed a further five and wounded three, he said, adding the lawmaker was unscathed but two of his bodyguards were among the dead.

The first bomb, hidden inside a fuel canister, detonated as worshippers were leaving the mosque in the tightly secured area of central Tikrit that is home to provincial government offices on the main Muslim day of prayer at around 12:45 pm (0945 GMT).

The second attack occurred about eight hours later in the evening, as lawmaker Mutasher al-Samarrai visited victims at the hospital.

FALLUJA - A roadside bomb targeted a joint Iraqi/U.S. military patrol in Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad. The U.S. military in Iraq said there were no casualties or damage to equipment.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, wounding two policemen in Baghda's northcentral Bab al-Muadham area, an interior ministry source said.

JURF AL-SAKHAR - Gunmen in a car opened fire at a government-backed Sahwa militia local leader, killing him and wounding his bodyguard in Jurf al-Sakhar, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad on Tuesday evening, police said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents using silenced weapons killed civil defence force Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Karim in western Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four Foreign Occupation “Servicemembers” Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

June 4 2011 Reuters

Four foreign servicemembers died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today.

Soldier From 4 SCOTS Killed In Lashkar Gah

4 Jun 11 Ministry of Defence

It is with sadness that the Ministry of Defence must announce that a soldier from The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS), was killed in Afghanistan, yesterday, Friday 3 June 2011.

The soldier was fatally wounded by insurgent gunfire while on a security patrol in the Lashkar Gah District of Helmand Province.

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

June 3, 2011 Reuters

A foreign servicemember died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today.

Plainwell Mourns Death Of Army Private Thomas Allers, Killed In Afghanistan



Thomas C. Allers: Courtesy photo

May 25, 2011 By Gabrielle Russon, The Kalamazoo Gazette

PLAINWELL — Tammy Austin knocked on her neighbor’s door Wednesday afternoon to see if what she had heard was true.

Pvt. Thomas Allers — the sweet-natured 23-year-old who lived down the street in Plainwell — was killed Monday while serving in Afghanistan.

Allers, an infantryman in the U.S. Army, and three other soldiers in his battalion were killed by a blast from an improvised explosive device in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

According to a news release from the 27th Infantry Division, Allers received the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart and Overseas Service Ribbon.

It was Allers' first deployment, and he was just sent to Afghanistan a few weeks ago.

In his 2006 Plainwell High School senior yearbook, a photograph shows a bearded Allers smiling and wearing a black-hooded sweat shirt.

Allers was an only child who loved to go fishing with his parents, Austin said.

"They just did everything together," said Austin, who knew Allers since he was a little boy. "He was a great kid, very sweet."

Denise Allers was fearful when her son left for Afghanistan earlier this year, Austin said.

"I can just remember how shaky she was," said Austin, as she stood in front of the Allers' empty yellow house off a dirt road outside the city of Plainwell. "What is she going to do now? He was her only child."

Throughout the day in this close-knit community in Allegan County, news spread about Allers' death, which occurred a week before Memorial Day.

"That's what going to be on people's minds, come Monday. It will bring a whole new meaning to it," said David Rantz, a fire command sergeant with the Plainwell Department of Public Safety. "It's not a holiday to celebrate (now)."

On Tuesday night, about 20 of Allers' former classmates and friends lit candles at the city's Veterans Memorial, Rantz said. Traces of candle wax still remained on the red bricks in the rain Wednesday.

"They lost a friend," Rantz said. "It's hard for them to put it into words."

Local Marine Injured By Shrapnel In Afghanistan

June 3, 2011 WSOCTV.com.

YORK, S.C. -- A Marine from York who was injured while fighting in Afghanistan said he will go back to join his unit to fight.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Chris Propst, 24, arrived in Afghanistan in February and was caught in gunfire about a week ago.

Propst's family told the Rock Hill Herald that he left his safe position to rescue an injured Marine.

After that, someone noticed he was bleeding from his leg.

A piece of shrapnel the size of a stick of butter was removed.

His mother, Shari, told Channel 9 that when Propst called from the hospital, he used a code word they came up with to tell her he loved her.

Marines can't always say, "I love you, Momma," over the phone when there are guys in a hospital fighting for their lives just feet away. So "elephant ear" meant Chris loved his momma and she knew it.

Lance Cpl. Chris Propst shares all packages with the men of his unit. To donate or help with the cost of postage, send items to Shari and Jamie Propst, 617 S. Beersheba Road, Clover, S.C. 29710, or to the York Electric Cooperative Offices, 1385 Alexander Love Highway, York.

Dropped Signal In Ghazni



A destroyed communication mast belonging to Emirates Telecommunication Corporation (Etisalat) after it was burnt by Taliban militants in Ghazni, west of Kabul, Afghanistan June 1, 2011. (AP Photo/Rahmatullah Nikzad)

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

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

The Taliban's New Afghan Plan: Take Nuristan:

**“For The First Time In Almost A
Decade The Taliban Are
Administering An Afghan District
Unmolested”**

**“Waygal Has Been Almost Completely
Abandoned By Foreign Forces For The
Past Three Years”**

June 01, 2011 By Julius Cavendish, Jalalabad, Time Magazine [Excerpts]

Every morning at 8, Maulawi Zahir heads into Waygal district center, a remote mountain village of stone houses stacked almost vertically up granite slopes. As the undeniable man in charge of the Afghan village, the Taliban leader is there to hear and settle disputes.

But despite his group's ascendancy, he struggles to burnish his credentials among his constituents, even in an area where loathing for foreign troops and the Afghan government runs deep.

Zahir's attempt at daily dispute resolution is important in one respect: for the first time in almost a decade the Taliban are administering an Afghan district unmolested.

In fact, Waygal has been almost completely abandoned by foreign forces for the past three years.

NATO is quick to point out that the sustained fighting in Nuristan is a testament to the toughness of the Afghan police on the front lines.

That is undoubtedly true, but it misses the point that the Taliban attacks are part of a rolling effort to drive the government out of Nuristan altogether.

“The number of attacks has been shooting up,” says a Western security analyst. “Bases are getting smashed, there are checkpoints on the road every day.”

The 1978 uprising by landowners and clerics, which led to civil war, the virtual collapse of the government and ultimately the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, began in eastern Nuristan and spread quickly to Kunar.

“Trouble here can break the central government,” said Qari Ziaur Rahman, a regional commander for the Taliban who is also a leader of the Punjab-based militant group Jaish-e-Muhammad, in a 2008 interview.

“Whoever has been defeated in Afghanistan, his defeat began from Kunar.”

If the Taliban can seize Nuristan’s western fringes, they’ll have a free run from the Pakistani border all the way to Laghman, where provincial officials are already said to be glancing nervously at their unruly neighbor.

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

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.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

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

RACHEL

“For Her, The Injustice Done To The Palestinians Was Intolerable”



6.4.11 Uri Avnery’s Column

I HAD the unqualified blessing of living with Rachel Avnery for 58 years.

Last Saturday I took leave of her body.

She was as beautiful in death as she was in life. I could not take my eyes off her face.

I am writing this to help myself accept the unacceptable. I beg your indulgence.

IF A HUMAN BEING can be summed up in one word, hers was: empathy.

She had an uncanny ability to sense the emotions of others. A blessing and a curse. If someone was unhappy, so was she. No one could hide their innermost feelings from her.

Her empathy touched everyone she met. Even in her last months, her nurses were soon telling her their life stories.

Once we went to see a film set in a small Slovak town during the Holocaust. A solitary old woman did not understand what was happening when the Jews were summoned for deportation to the death camps; neighbors had to help her to the assembly point.

We arrived late and found seats in the dark. When the lights came on at the end, Menachem Begin got up in front of us. His eyes, red from weeping, locked with Rachel's. Oblivious to everybody around, Begin walked straight up to her, took her head in his hands and kissed her on the brow.

IN MANY respects we complemented each other. I tend to abstract thought, she to emotional intelligence. Her wisdom came from life. I am withdrawn, she reached out to people, though she valued her privacy. I am an optimist, she was a pessimist. In every situation, I sense the opportunities, she saw the dangers. I rise in the morning happy, ready for another day's adventures, she got up late, knowing the day would be bad.

Our backgrounds were very similar - born in Germany to Jewish bourgeois intellectual families, who believed in justice, freedom and equality, coupled with a profound sense of duty. Rachel had all these in abundance, and more. She had an almost fanatical sense of justice.

The first words Rachel ever spoke, when her family had fled the Gestapo to Capri, were "mare schön", Italian for sea, German for beautiful.

She never read nor wrote German, but learned the language perfectly from speaking with her parents - she even corrected my German grammar.

Rachel, alas, lacked Prussian punctuality. It was a constant source of friction between us. I feel physically ill if I am not on time, Rachel was always, but always, late.

THREE TIMES I met her for the first time.

In 1945, I founded a group to propagate the idea of a new Hebrew nation, integral to the Semitic region like the Arabs. Too poor to rent an office, we met at members' homes.

At one such meeting, a 14-year-old girl, the daughter of the landlord, came in to listen. I noticed fleetingly that she was beautiful.

Five years later I met her again when I was running a popular magazine aimed at revolutionizing everything, including advertising: girls instead of the usual dull text.

We needed a pretty girl for an ad, but there were no professional models in the new state. One of our editors ran a theater group. He introduced me to a member called Rachel.

We took some pictures by the sea, and I took her home on my motorcycle. We fell off in the sand and just laughed.

The third time was at the same experimental theater. There she appeared again, and at some point she tried to guess my age, pledging a kiss for every year she was wrong. She guessed I was five years younger than I was, and we made a date for settling the account.

We continued to date on and off. Once I was to meet her at midnight in a cafe. When I did not arrive, she went to look for me. She found a crowd outside my office, and was told I was in hospital. Some soldiers had attacked me and broken all my fingers.

I was helpless. Rachel offered to help me out for a few days. They lasted 58 years.

We found that living together suited us. Since we despised religious weddings (there being no civil marriage), we lived happily in sin for five years. Then her father fell seriously ill. To set his mind at rest, we married in a hurry, in the private apartment of a rabbi. We borrowed the witnesses and the congregation from another wedding, and the ring from the rabbi's wife.

That was the last time either of us wore a ring.

FOR 58 YEARS, she inspected every word I published. That was not easy. Rachel had strict principles, and stuck to them. She covered some of my pages in red ink. Sometimes we had bitter arguments, but in the end, one of us usually conceded – generally me. On the rare occasions we could not agree, I wrote what I felt like (and more than once regretted it).

She struck out all personal attacks she considered unjust. Exaggerations. Every weakness of logic - she would spot contradictions that had escaped me. She improved my Hebrew. But mostly she added the magic word “almost”.

I tend to generalize. “All Israelis know...”, “Politicians are cynical...” – she would change that to “Almost all Israelis ...”, “Most politicians...” We joked that she was sprinkling “almost”s on my articles as a cook sprinkles salt on food.

She never wrote an article herself. Nor gave interviews. To such requests she would respond: “What did I marry a spokesman for?”

BUT HER real talents lay elsewhere. She was the ultimate teacher, a calling she pursued for 28 long years.

This happened quite unplanned, after she was sent on an army course for teachers.

Before the course finished, she was practically kidnapped by an elementary school principal. Long before she received her teacher's certificate, she was a legend. Parents with connections pulled strings to get their children into her class. There was a joke that mothers planned their pregnancies so that the child would be 6 years old when Rachel taught the first grade. (She agreed to teach only the first and second grade, as the last chance of shaping a child's character.)

Her pupils included the children of illustrious artists and men of letters. Recently, a middle aged man called to us in the street "Teacher Rachel, I was your pupil in first grade! I owe you everything!"

How did she do it? By treating children as human beings and nurturing their self-respect. If a boy couldn't read, she put him in charge of tidiness in the classroom. If a girl was rejected by prettier classmates, she would be the good fairy in a play. She drew satisfaction from seeing them open up like flowers in the sun. She spent hours explaining to backward parents their children's needs.

During the school holidays, her children were raring to get back to class.

SHE HAD a purpose: to instill human values.

There was the story about Abraham and the burial site for Sarah. Ephron the Hittite refuses money. Abraham insists on paying. After a long and beautiful exchange, Ephron winds it up: "The land is worth four hundred shekels of silver. What is that betwixt me and thee?" (Genesis 23). Rachel told the children that this is still the Bedouin way of doing business, leading up to the deal in a civilized manner.

After the lesson, Rachel asked the teacher of the parallel class how she explained this episode to her pupils. "I told them that this is typical Arab hypocrisy! They are all born liars! If he wanted money, why didn't he say so directly?"

I like to think that all of Rachel's children – or almost all of them – have turned out as better human beings.

I followed her experiments in education closely, and she my journalistic and political exploits. Basically we were attempting the same: she to educate individuals, I the public at large.

AFTER 28 YEARS, Rachel felt that she had lost her edge. She did not believe a teacher should continue after their eagerness has been blunted.

The final push came when I crossed the lines in Beirut in 1982 and met Yasser Arafat. It was a world sensation. With me were two young women on my editorial staff: a correspondent and a photographer. Rachel felt left out of one of the most exciting events in my life, and decided to change direction.

Without telling me, she took a course in photography. Weeks later, pictures of an event were laid before me. I chose the best – which just happened to be hers. The secret was

out. She became an enthusiastic photographer, with a remarkable creative talent – always focused on people.

IN EARLY 1993, when Yitzhak Rabin deported 215 Islamic activists across the Lebanese border, protest tents were erected opposite his office. We camped out for 45 wintry days and nights. Rachel, the only woman who was there the whole time, struck up a beautiful friendship with the most extreme Islamic sheikh, Ra'ed Salah. He really respected her. They joked together.

In these tents, we founded Gush Shalom. For her, the injustice done to the Palestinians was intolerable.

She was the photographer at all our events. She took pictures of hundreds of demonstrations, rushing around, taking shots in front and behind, sometimes in clouds of tear gas – despite her doctor's warnings. Twice she collapsed in the burning sun, crossing harsh terrain to protest against the Wall.

When the Gush needed a financial manager, she volunteered. Although it was completely against her nature, she became a meticulous administrator, with a Prussian sense of duty, working on the kitchen table late into the night. She much preferred her unofficial function – maintaining human contact with activists, listening to their problems. She was the soul of the movement.

SHE COULD be very abrasive, too. Far from being a starry-eyed do-gooder, she detested liars, hypocrites and people who did wrong.

She never liked Ariel Sharon, even during the years when we visited each other's homes to talk about the 1973 War.

Lili Sharon loved her, Arik liked her too. There is a photo of him spoon-feeding her with his favorite dish (food was unimportant for her). Rachel did not let me show anyone the picture. After the 1982 Lebanon invasion, we broke contact.

Once, Sharon's confidant, Dov Weisglas, whom she could not forgive his nasty remarks about the Palestinians, spotted me in a restaurant, came over and shook my hand. But Rachel left his hand dangling in the air. Embarrassing.

When she liked people, she showed it. She liked Yasser Arafat, and he liked her.

We went to see him many times in Tunis and later in Palestine, and he treated her with utmost courtesy, allowing her to take pictures of him at any time, showering her with presents. Once he gave her a necklace and insisted on putting it on her himself. With his poor eyesight, he fumbled for a long time. It was a wonderful sight, but his official photographer did not react. Rachel was furious.

When we served as a human shield for the besieged Palestinian President, Arafat kissed her on the brow and led her by the hand to the entrance.

FEW PEOPLE knew that she carried an incurable disease – Hepatitis C. It lay like a sleeping leopard at her doorstep. She knew that it could wake up any minute and devour her.

The unexplained infection was discovered more than 20 years ago. Every doctor's appointment could have meant a death sentence. She collapsed five months ago. There were many signs of this approaching, which I ignored but she clearly saw.

During these five months, I spent every minute with her. Every new day was like a precious gift for me, though she was inexorably sinking. We both knew, but pretended that everything was going to be alright.

She had no pains, but increasing difficulty eating, remembering, and, towards the end, speaking. It was heart-rending to see her struggling for words. For two days she was in a coma, and then she slipped away unconsciously and painlessly.

She had insisted that nothing be done to prolong her life artificially. It was a terrible moment when I asked the doctors to stop their efforts and let her die.

In accordance with her wishes, her body was cremated, against Jewish tradition. Her ashes were scattered on the Tel Aviv seashore, opposite the window where she had spent so much time gazing out. So the words of William Wordsworth, which she loved and often repeated, do not strictly apply:

"But she is in her grave, and oh, The difference to me."

ONCE, in a moment of weakness exploited by a film-maker, she complained that I had never said "I love you". True enough: I find these three words incurably banal, devalued by Hollywood kitsch. They certainly are not adequate for my feelings towards her – she had become a part of me.

When she was fading, I whispered "I love you". I don't know if she heard.

After she died, I sat for an hour with my eyes fixed on her face. She was beautiful.

A GERMAN friend sent me a saying which I find strangely comforting. It translates as:

"Don't be sad that she left you, Be glad that she was with you for so many years."

ANNIVERSARIES

**June 4, 1989:
Anniversary Of One More Massacre
By One More Dictatorship Of, By And
For The Rich**



evilism.wordpress.com



Carl Bunin Peace History May 30-June 5

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Huge Anti-Government Demonstration In Syria: “More Than 50,000 Demonstrators Flooded The Streets Of Hama”

June 3, 2011 AFP/NOW Lebanon & Reuters

More than 50,000 anti-regime demonstrators rallied in the Syrian city of Hama on Friday, a rights group said, as activists called for protests over the dozens of children reportedly killed in anti-government demonstrations.

Activists and residents said thousands of people marched in the northwestern province of Idlib, the Kurdish northeast, several Damascus suburbs, the cities of Homs and Hama and the towns of Madaya and Zabadani in the west.

In the southern city of Deraa, where protests first broke out 11 weeks ago, hundreds defied a military curfew and held protests, chanting “No dialogue with killers”, two residents in the city told Reuters. The protest later broke up.

Near the southern protest hub of Daraa, security forces opened fire to disperse a crowd in Jassem, a rights activist told AFP, as protestors also gathered in nearby Dael and in Kurdish towns of northern Syria.

Overnight, in several cities including Aleppo in the north and Deir az-Zour in eastern Syria residents took to rooftops to chant “God is Greatest,” said the group’s head, Rami Abdel Rahman.

A government crackdown which is now focused on the flashpoint Homs region has left at least 75 civilians and military personnel dead since Sunday, according to Abdel Rahman.

Rami Abdulrahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights told Reuters he expected the death toll to rise because many people at the demonstration had serious injuries.

“Tens of thousands turned up in Hama and Idlib in the biggest demonstrations since the uprising began. This is a natural reaction to the increased killings and lack of seriousness by the regime for any national reconciliation,” he said, adding that one person was killed in Idlib.

Residents, meanwhile, said Internet lines were cut in Damascus and the coastal city of Latakia on Friday, in a repeat of a suspension of services at the start of April.

Syrian activists called the latest protests over the dozens of children killed in anti-government protests such as 13-year-old Hamza al-Khatib whom activists say was tortured to death, a charge denied by the authorities.

More than 1,100 civilians have been killed and at least 10,000 arrested in a brutal crackdown on almost daily anti-regime demonstrations in Syria since March 15, human rights organizations say.

Civil War Yemen: The Dictator Saleh, “The Prime Minister, Head Of The Parliament And Several Other Officials” Wounded By Anti- Government Forces

04 Jun 2011 Al Jazeera and agencies & By HAKIM ALMASMARI And FARNAZ FASSIHI, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Yemeni president, says he is “well and in good health” after suffering injuries in an attack on his presidential palace in the capital, Sanaa. Saleh suffered light head injuries in the attack and was taken to a military hospital, officials said.

Abdu al-Jandi, the deputy minister of information, has said, “There is nothing that affects his health,” while mentioning that a probe on Friday’s violence at the palace has been launched.

Mr. Saleh and dozens of senior government officials were in the presidential compound’s mosque around the time of noon prayers when three or four rocket-propelled grenades hit the area, officials said. One official said the RPGs were fired from a rooftop across the street from the palace and hit the center of the mosque.

More than 50 senior officials, including nine ministers, were in the mosque at the time, said a senior adviser to Mr. Saleh, Ahmed Soufi.

Seven senior officials were injured—including the prime minister, parliament speaker, deputy prime minister and Sana’a governor—said government spokesman Tareq al-Sham.

At least three guards and Sheikh Ali Mohsen al-Matari, an imam at the presidential compound’s mosque, died and “several other officials and officers” were wounded, Yemen’s state news agency SABA said.

Authorities blamed the shelling on dissident tribesmen loyal to Sheikh Sadiq al-Ahmar who have been locked in fierce clashes with government forces in Sanaa since Tuesday.

“The prime minister, head of the parliament and several other officials who attended the Friday prayers in the mosque at the presidential palace were wounded in the attack,” Tareq al-Shami, spokesman for the ruling General People’s Congress, told the AFP news agency.

Abdul Ghani al-Iryani, an independent political analyst in Sanaa, told Al Jazeera that it was “quite reasonable to assume” that al-Ahmar’s fighters were behind the palace hit.

“(The tribesmen) probably wanted him to know that (Saleh) can no longer attack them with impunity, and that they can reach him as he can reach them,” al-Iryani said, of the attack’s possible message.

Friday’s attack came soon after Yemeni troops, who have deployed heavy weaponry in their battle against the tribesmen, sent a shell crashing into the home of Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar, a leader of the biggest opposition party and brother of Sheikh Sadiq.

Three shells also struck near the university campus in the city centre where opponents of Saleh have been holding a sit-in for four months demanding his exit.

After a brief lull at dawn, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire rocked the al-Hassaba neighbourhood of northern Sanaa where Sheikh Sadiq has his base, witnesses said.

They said that during the fighting the headquarters of national airline Yemenia was burnt down and the offices of Suhail TV, a channel controlled by Sheikh Sadiq, destroyed.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the latest fighting as medics said ambulance crews were unable to access the battlegrounds.

Before the attack on the palace, protesters paraded the coffins of people they said were killed by Saleh’s forces.

Heavy fighting also spread for the first time to the southern part of Sanaa, an area held by forces loyal to Saleh, and possibly marking a turning point in the conflict.

Explosions were heard in the southern city of Taiz, where the United Nations has said it is investigating reports that 50 people have been killed since Sunday.

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.

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/)



**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**

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