

Military Resistance: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net 8.16.11 Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

Military Resistance 9H11

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



Relatives of a U.S. soldier who is deploying to Afghanistan with the District of Columbia National Guard come to say goodbye at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, August 12, 2011.

REUTERS/Mike Theiler

**“Toxic Leaders Continue
To Let Bad Leaders Stay
In Charge Of Soldiers
And Continue To Help
Those Terrible Leaders
Excel”**

**“We Have Plenty Of Them Out
There Who Are Like Snakes In
The Grass”**

**“Since All The Good Ones Have
Left, The Only Ones To Promote
Are The Toxic Ones”**

**“When Over A Hundred Soldiers
Wish (Someone) The Worst, That
Really Shows A Lot”**

**“Enlistees Are Not Stupid; They Watch
Us Very Closely”**

Reading your article "Banning bullies, tyrants and jerks" in the Aug. 1 Army Times, I just have a few things to add in this subject.

Toxic leaders continue to let bad leaders stay in charge of soldiers and continue to help those terrible leaders excel.

They are also the ones who have the rank and are in a position to correct the problem, but instead sit on the side-lines and let it continue.

Even when noncommissioned officers who work for those leaders inform them of the wrongdoing, the toxic leader sits there and agrees that the situation is misconduct, but offers no way of handling or dealing with it. It all falls back to the same thing: Good soldiers and leaders will leave military service because of things such as this, which keeps all the toxic leaders around.

Since all the good ones have left, the only ones to promote are the toxic ones, so they move up because they are the majority.

We need to be fair across the board, not let one person be punished for something another person does and receives no punishment for because of their standings within the unit.

Staff Sgt. Mike H. Williams
Baumholder, Germany

MORE:

**"We Have Plenty Of Them Out There Who Are Like
Snakes In The Grass"**

**"When I Served Under A Toxic Leader, The Morale Was
At The Lowest Point I Had Seen In Years"**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
August 15, 2011

We have plenty of them out there who are like snakes in the grass.

When I served under a toxic leader, the morale was at the lowest point I had seen in years. Soldiers regretted coming to work. The trust and respect for this leader was gone. When over a hundred soldiers wish (someone) the worst, that really shows a lot.

Don't be a toxic leader who always has a smirk when they come around certain people. Soldiers these days can feel someone out in minutes if someone is a person they feel comfortable talking to.

Toxic leaders are like a drug. They can harm your organization.

Former 1st Sgt. C. Robinson
Fort Lewis, Wash.

MORE:

**“The Mentality Is ‘I’m Major (Whatever) Or I’m
Command Sergeant Major (Whatever) And I Can
Do What I Want’”**

“Enlistees Are Not Stupid; They Watch Us Very Closely”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
August 15, 2011

Better late than never that we address what an impact a toxic leader has on a unit.

From my experience, it complicates (how) company grade officers and NCOs enforce standards when seniors blatantly do whatever they want without consequence. I see this more in the support side of the Army.

The mentality is “I’m Major (Whatever) or I’m Command Sergeant Major (Whatever) and I can do what I want.”

I know that the Army’s message about rank is “Rank is a privilege, not a right.”

Enlistees are not stupid; they watch us very closely.

How can I, my peers or my NCOs enforce the standard when our integrity is compromised by bad leaders?

I think a start should be leaders checking down much more.

Capt. Ross Kaplan
Fort Polk, La.

MORE:

**“Many Times What Motivates People In Other
Employment Sectors Are Thoughts Of ‘I Want
More Money’ Or ‘I Want To Take That Person’s
Job’”**

**“In The Military, We Know That This Is Exactly The Type
Of Behavior And Thinking That Could Render Any Of Us
Seriously Wounded Or Even Killed”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
August 15, 2011

I found the article on toxic leaders extremely powerful and long overdue. When I look back over the past two decades of my service, I always come back to that fundamental question: What has kept me in the Army this long and keeps me serving?

It is all of those great leaders who made the difference in my life. I definitely don't claim to be the best leader. I, like all, have my own vices, and made mistakes, but the best thing about the Army is whenever those vices manifested, I was either counseled or moved out of my job.

The Army is unlike any organization in the world because many times what motivates people in other employment sectors are thoughts of "I want more money" or "I want to take that person's job."

In the military, we know that this is exactly the type of behavior and thinking that could render any of us seriously wounded or even killed.

We believe this because we serve on the battlefield together.

After being a platoon leader in Iraq and a company commander in Afghanistan, I learned extremely fast that our service members, when facing the thought of possible death, are not motivated by what punishment you can slam them with.

They are motivated by three simple factors: Their desire to serve our great nation through the execution of their assigned tasks or missions, the pressure of not letting their fellow team members down, and finally, yet most importantly, they know that their leaders profoundly care about them, their families and their future goals.

It's reassuring to me to know our Army is spending quality time on this issue. It will force our leaders, including myself, to have some acute introspection.

Capt. James D. Ryan
Monterey, Calif.

MORE:

“In Some Units, Sometimes These Toxic Leaders Spread Negative Rumors Just To Hurt A Soldier’s Career”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
August 15, 2011

When we talk about toxic leaders, make sure we look at the big picture. I've been in the Army for almost 14 years and the only reason I'm still in the service is because I had good leaders during the beginning of my career.

But what happens when you are already an NCO and you need support?

In some units, sometimes these toxic leaders spread negative rumors just to hurt a soldier's career, and if that soldier asks for help, he or she would be already considered a weak leader.

Sometimes you don't even see these toxic leaders. They may hold a position that helps other soldiers and you never get them to help you.

I had an issue with a permanent-change-of-station move from Germany.

I just needed to move my report day to a later day because I was just coming back from a deployment and didn't want to move to another duty station in the middle of my kids' school year.

The 92G branch manager told me no, even after I explained my case.

My branch sent me to a duty station where there was no chance for any promotion or advancement in your career, no way to get a decent evaluation, my kids had a hard time just trying to get on track in school.

The sad part about it: I was not the only one on my battalion.

There were at least four from the same branch with the same issue.

Staff Sgt. Ruben Gonzalez
Fort Polk, La.

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

Coordinated Resistance Attacks Sweep Across Iraq On Monday: “No Place In Iraq Is Safe” “The Fact Is, The Insurgents Have Acted Like Our Security Forces Don’t Even Exist”



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

August 15, 2011 By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT, New York Times & Reuters 8.13 & 8.14 & 8.15

BAGHDAD — A chilling series of fatal attacks across Iraq on Monday sent a disheartening message to the Iraqi and American governments: after hundreds of billions of dollars spent since the United States invasion in 2003, and tens of thousands of lives lost, insurgents remain a potent and perhaps resurging threat to Iraqis and the American troops still in the country.

The 42 apparently coordinated attacks underscored the chilling reality that no place in Iraq is safe.

The number of American troops killed this year has jumped, ahead of their planned withdrawal. Monday's strikes against security forces across the country made it the deadliest day of the year for Iraqis, and it came in many forms: car bombs, homemade bombs and armed fighters.

By sundown, when Iraqis broke their fast in observance of the holy month of Ramadan, the death toll had reached 89, including 3 bombers, and another 315 people were wounded.

“Our forces are supposed to have the intelligence capabilities to prevent these types of breaches,” said Shawn Mohammed Taha, a Kurdish member of Parliament who serves

on its security committee. "The fact is, the insurgents have acted like our security forces don't even exist."

The attacks began around 3:30 a.m. on Monday in the city of Ramadi, when two improvised bombs exploded near a police patrol, killing three officers and wounding two others.

A half-hour later in the city of Baquba, insurgents attacked a checkpoint, killing one police officer.

About 5:45 a.m., three policemen were killed and six others wounded when two bombers attacked an Iraqi counter-terrorism unit in Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad.

Fifteen minutes later, gunmen with silencer weapons attacked a group of Iraqi Army officers in Baquba, killing five.

A parked motorcycle bomb targeting the convoy of Abdulla al-Hiyali, a local provincial official, wounded two of his family members, when it exploded in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police sources said.

An hour and a half after that attack, two car bombers struck a police checkpoint in the city of Taji, just north of Baghdad, wounding seven officers.

Saad Ahmed, 38, a policeman who was wounded in Taji, said he opened fire on a bomber who was driving toward him.

The car struck Mr. Ahmed and knocked him to the ground. He said he stood up and fired again. Seconds later, the attacker detonated the car bomb.

"I looked at my body, and I was drowning in blood," he said at Kadhimiya Hospital in Baghdad, where he was being treated for wounds to his legs, arm and neck. "I just thought about my friends and if they were O.K., because it was 9:15 in the morning and there was a change in shifts."

Another policeman being treated at the hospital, Amir Khazal, 33, said that he was leaving work at the time of the attack.

"I was just about to leave the checkpoint for vacation," he said. "All I wanted was to get home to my kids. I heard gunfire at the beginning and then I heard shouting saying 'Car bomb, car bomb.'" "After that there was a boom," he said. "I heard my friend calling me 'Help, help, I lost my leg.'"

Around 8 p.m., gunmen dressed in military uniforms stormed into a mosque in the city of Yusufiyah, just south of Baghdad. The insurgents read off the names of seven people who had been loyal to the United States and joined the Awakening movement, took them outside the mosque and executed them.

BAGHDAD - Two roadside bombs killed at least five Iraqi soldiers in Baghdad's northern Adhamiya district, military and hospital officials said. Hospital sources said three soldiers and were wounded in the attack.

BAGHDAD - A parked car bomb targeting a police patrol wounded three policemen, in Baghdad's southern Ilaam district, an Interior Ministry source said.

SAADIYA - Insurgents in a car shot dead Kurdish politician Abbas Hassan in front of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party headquarters in the town of Saadiya, 100 km (70 miles) northeast of Baghdad, a local police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded three soldiers, when it went off near an Iraqi army patrol in Baghdad's west-central Utaifiya district, an Interior Ministry source said.

KHAN BANI SAAD - At least eight people were killed and 14 wounded when a car bomber attacked a municipality building in the town of Khan Bani Saad, about 30 km (20 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police sources said.

NAJAF - At least six people were killed and up to 79 others wounded when two car bombs exploded near a police building in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, health and security officials in Najaf said.

HINDIYA - A car bomb killed four people and wounded 41 others when it exploded near a police station in Hindiya, near Kerbala, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Baghdad, Jamal Mahdi, spokesman for the health department in Kerbala, said.

AL-WAJEHIYA - A parked car bomb near a government building killed one person and wounded 13 others when it went off in the town of al-Wajehiya, northeast of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police sources said.

ISKANDARIYA - A car bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen, in Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, a local police source said.

BAGHDAD - A parked car bomb wounded five people when it exploded near a Higher Ministry official convoy in Baghdad's west-central Mansour district.

BALAD - A bomb placed near a municipal council building wounded six people when it exploded in Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, local police said.

MOSUL - A bomb placed inside a bag wounded a policeman when it went off in eastern Mosul, a police source said.

KANAAN - Insurgents using silenced weapons wounded Ali al-Karkhi, a local government-backed Sahwa militia leader, and one of his guards late on Sunday in Kanaan, 70 km (45 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police sources said.

MOSUL - Insurgents threw a hand grenade at an Iraqi police checkpoint and wounded one policeman in western Mosul, a local police source said.

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

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME
THIS IS NOT A PRODUCTIVE USE OF TIME**



ISKANDARIYA, IRAQ - JULY 14: A soldier with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment prepares for patrol in Iskandariya, Babil Province, Iraq. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)



ISKANDARIYA, IRAQ - JULY 15: U.S. soldiers with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment search a truck on July 15, 2011 in Iskandariya, Babil Province, Iraq. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

August 14, 2011 Reuters

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

A foreign service member died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan.

Solder Killed By Taliban Just Yards From Afghan Base; Five More Wounded

August 15 2011 By Sam Marsden, Independent.ie

A young British officer was killed by a Taliban bomb just yards outside the gate of his base in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Daniel Clack, 24, of 1st Battalion The Rifles, was leading a 10-man patrol to meet locals in a nearby village in Helmand Province when he was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED).

Five of his comrades were also injured in the blast, which took place 150 metres (164 yards) from the front gate of their checkpoint.

Lt Clack, from north London, leaves behind his mother Sue, father Martin, brother James and fiancée Amy Tinley.

The soldier deployed to Afghanistan in April as a platoon commander in charge of Check Point Shaparack in the district of Nahr-e-Saraj in Helmand.

He was leading a patrol to the neighbouring village of Dactran to discuss a "shura", or meeting of elders, planned for the next day, when he was killed on Friday.

A total of 379 British troops have died since operations in Afghanistan began in 2001.

Navy Seal From Napa County Killed In Afghanistan



Twenty-nine-year-old Derek Benson, an Angwin native, was killed in Afghanistan
(Angwin Reporter)

August 8, 2011 CBS SF

ANGWIN (CBS SF) – A native of Angwin in Napa County was one of 25 U.S. Special Operations forces killed Saturday when a helicopter was shot down by enemy fire in the Wardak province of Afghanistan.

The Chinook helicopter was fired on by insurgents using a rocket-propelled grenade. It was carrying 38 coalition members—including eight from other countries and five U.S. aircraft personnel—who were on a mission targeting a Taliban leader in eastern Afghanistan.

Twenty-nine-year-old Darrik Benson was part of the mission and was on board the helicopter when it crashed. He was born in Angwin and has served in the Navy for the past 12 years, said his grandfather, Carlyle T. Benson, of Angwin.

He was a Navy SEAL, part of an elite group tasked with special military operations that require extensive training and discipline.

“He’s a fine boy, we’re extremely proud of him. He was one of the top men in his group,” his grandfather said.

Benson grew up in Angwin and attended local schools and a private high school, where he was a good student and enjoyed extracurricular sports, his grandfather said.

He is survived by his wife, Kara, and their 3-year-old son. He met his wife while he was training in San Diego, according to his grandfather.

Benson was stationed in Virginia, and his wife and son moved there to be closer to him. After receiving news of his death they returned to Angwin to be with family.

Benson obtained a commercial pilot's license a few months ago, and was considering becoming a pilot after leaving the military, his grandfather said.

"Not necessarily for the airlines, but as a firebomber or something like that," Carlyle Benson said.

The deaths of Benson and his fellow soldiers mark the deadliest single incident for the U.S. since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan in 2001. Their passing has been mourned throughout the country, and has prompted condolences from U.S. and world leaders. President Obama expressed his admiration for the soldiers killed in action during a speech on the economy today. "Their loss is a stark reminder of the risks that our men and women in uniform take every single day on behalf of their county," the president said. "Day after day, night after night, they carry out missions like this in the face of enemy fire and grave danger."

Funeral Held For Wilson Marine

August 08, 2011 WNCT Staff

CAMP JOHNSON, N.C. – A U.S. Marine from the east was buried today after being killed in action in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Leon Lucas Jr. was fatally wounded by an RPG attack earlier this month.

A funeral was held today at the Grace Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

Hundreds of people gathered there to honor the Marine who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Family and friends gathered together to remember the life of Staff Sgt. Leon Horace Lucas Jr.

The room was filled of mixed emotions, deep loss yet even deeper pride.

Staff Sgt. Lucas or "Junior" as he was known by his loved ones was serving in the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

On August 1st his unit was attack by an RPG.

Lucas was severely injured and died shortly after.

"He answered the call of duty giving his life at the very last, that men might live in peace, and freedom from fear be past," said Willie Lucas. His uncle said ever since junior was young, he was a man of integrity. "He was a man that was polite. He had the most firmest handshake I've ever known and he could hug the stuffing out of you"

Lucas leaves behind his two sons and his wife, who is pregnant with their third child.

His father, Leon Lucas Sr., who is a pastor and also served in the military, said junior's faith is what kept him going, "Not only did he keep my son here in life, but let me tell you also, that God will keep my son in eternity."

He said that although his son will be missed, he knows that it's not goodbye forever, "By you seeing us here today you have no idea the depths that we sank to momentarily when he heard God had taken our son. But God's grace is sufficient that he's pick us up."

"Lucas' father said that when someone asked him how he can deal with the loss of his son, he said 'it's because I know where he is. That it wasn't the one with the RPG that took his life, but it was God.

Staff Sergeant Leon Lucas was buried at Coastal Carolina Veteran Cemetery at Camp Johnson.

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

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

MILITARY NEWS

27 Rifles Stolen From Fort Irwin

August 15, 2011 Army Times

More than two dozen assault rifles have been stolen from Fort Irwin, Calif., and investigators have sought the public's help as they looked to arrest suspects and recover the weapons, federal officials said on July 30.

Twenty-six AK-74 assault rifles and one Dragunov sniper rifle were stolen from a supply warehouse at the post on July 15, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said in a statement.

Some arrests have been made and one rifle has been recovered, but the agency is offering a reward up to \$10,000 for information leading to further arrests, the statement said.

ATF spokesman Special Agent Christian Hoffman did not say why word of the theft did not become public for two weeks, but said his agency decided to issue a news release because of the potential danger the loose weapons posed.

California Park Rangers Protecting Marines From Nudists

August 15, 2011 Army Times

California park rangers are protecting the Marines — not from terrorist threats or wild critters, but nudists.

The Associated Press reports that a group of California “naturists” have migrated from San Onofre State Beach to a nearby beach that is part of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

They moved because the state cracked down on people completely disrobing on the state beach after complaints of lewd behavior.

The park rangers followed and eventually told them to put their clothes back on and get off the Marine base, the report says.

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

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| <p>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</p> |
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Egypt:

“Forced Into The Defensive By Demonstrations And Strikes, The Generals And Bosses Are Playing The Religion Card”

“Big Demonstration In Tahrir Square Organized By The Muslim Brotherhood, A Religious Political Organization Which Is An Ally Of The Generals”

“The Brotherhood Also Has A Long History Of Sending Thugs To Strikes And Protests To Attack Workers –

Especially Women Workers – In The Name Of ‘Morality’”

August 1 - 22, 2011 The Spark, Issue no. 897

On Friday, July 29, tens of thousands of people filled Cairo’s Tahrir Square, calling for an “Islamic state.”

It was the first time that this slogan has led such a large demonstration in Tahrir Square – and it was, no doubt, a response to earlier demonstrations.

In recent weeks, tens of thousands of people have been demonstrating in Cairo, Alexandria and Suez against the military and police.

Camping out in Tahrir Square, protesters have been demanding that those responsible for killing more than 900 demonstrators and injuring another 6000 last January be held accountable.

The protesters have been demanding a cleaning up of the police and military, and that Mubarak’s generals, who are still in power, be removed from their posts and be tried with him.

Some demonstrators have also been calling for social justice – for putting “the poor first.”

And this is a reflection of an ongoing strike movement which, in recent weeks, has touched the workers of the Suez Canal Zone – where private subcontractors pay workers as low as 23 dollars a month! At the Suez Canal Shipyard Co., strikers have been demanding a 40 per cent pay raise, decent living conditions and sanitary measures.

Here and there, striking workers have also been demanding that protesters who were arrested during recent demonstrations be set free.

In fact, Egypt’s industrial workers have organized, demonstrated and struck their companies over the last few years.

In doing so, the workers effectively loosened the grip of the dictatorship and paved the way for the demonstrations in Tahrir Square.

And after Mubarak’s fall, strikes have continued despite the generals’ open threats.

Forced into the defensive by demonstrations and strikes, the generals and bosses are playing the religion card.

Are protesters calling for a democratic state, where the generals could be punished for their crimes?

Call for a religious state, in which any brutal military man – or crooked boss, for that matter – can have his place by professing “piety”!

Are workers demanding better wages?

Call for charity for the poor, which every organized religion in history has used to gain the allegiance of the poor!

And sure enough, the big demonstration in Tahrir Square was organized by the Muslim Brotherhood, a religious political organization which is an ally of the generals.

Since Mubarak's fall, the Muslim Brotherhood has consistently called for "order," just like the generals themselves, and it took part in writing the new constitution that the generals hastily pushed through last spring.

And the Brotherhood also has a long history of sending thugs to strikes and protests to attack workers – especially women workers – in the name of "morality."

If the Muslim Brotherhood decided to bring tens of thousands of people to Tahrir Square in the name of religion, it's because the generals gave it their OK.

And if the Muslim Brotherhood is capable of mobilizing so many people, it's because, despite being called "illegal" on and off during all the decades of military dictatorship, it was helped to take root in the population, especially in the middle class.

The Brotherhood has a solid, even controlling, presence in practically every organization of professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, university professors.

And it controls the biggest organization of university students.

For the millions of Egyptians who are condemned to abject poverty today, liberation means, above all, decent jobs and decent wages.

So the strike movement represents a great hope for the poor.

To the extent that there is a pro-democracy movement in Egypt today, its fate too is tied to the workers' movement.

The organized workers, with the crucial part they play in the economy, represent the only social force capable of bringing the combined forces of the military and bosses to their knees.

The big Muslim Brotherhood rally in Tahrir Square is another reminder that the Egyptian Revolution is under attack.

The only hope for the revolution to move forward is for the ongoing fight of the Egyptian working class to succeed.

MORE:

The Muslim Brotherhood: A Long Loathsome History Of Service To Foreign Empires And Local Tyrants

August 1 - 22, 2011 The Spark, Issue no. 897

The Muslim Brotherhood has had a long and tangled history as an extremely fundamentalist religious and right-wing political organization, aligned with different imperialist powers.

It was set up in 1928 with money from Britain's Suez Canal Company, and continued to be paid by British secret services.

After World War II, it got funding regularly from the U.S., funneled to it through the reactionary regime of Saudi Arabia, which often added its own oil money.

Both before and after World War II, the Brotherhood mobilized gangs to carry out attacks on strikes and it pushed a vast anti-communist campaign in Egypt, carrying out assassinations of communist and worker militants.

During the early years of Nasser's regime – in the 1950s, after the coup of the colonels helped throw out the vestiges of British rule in Egypt – the Brotherhood conspired with Britain in plots to assassinate Nasser, and did actually assassinate lower-ranking members of Nasser's regime.

Finally, the Brotherhood was expelled from Egypt by Nasser, only to base itself in Saudi Arabia, where the Saudi regime funded it and where it worked to reinforce that regime's reactionary version of Islam.

The Brotherhood was brought back to Egypt after Nasser's death in 1970, sometimes to be considered illegal, sometimes not.

But even when illegal, as in 2005, it was given a place in the Egyptian parliament.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

**August 16, 1819:
Horrible Anniversary:
THE PETERLOO MASSACRE
“The Government’s Attitude Was
Made Clear By Its Total Endorsement
Of The Massacre”**



[spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk]

**‘Rise, like lions after slumber.
In unvanquishable number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fallen on you!
Ye are many- they are few!’**

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

When all the contingents had arrived and assembled in the centre of Manchester, something like 12 per cent of the population of the county of Lancashire, and over half that of its industrial South East were present. It was the largest assembly England had ever seen.

As soon as all the contingents had filled St Peter's Field, to the point where, according to a contemporary report, people were packed in so tightly that 'their hats seemed to touch', the area was ringed by 1,500 troops with cannon.

1981 By Graham Milner, Unpublished

On August 16, 1819, mounted regular troops and yeomanry of the British army, acting on the instructions of Government officials, attacked without warning a mass meeting of over 100,000 people drawn from the industrial centres of Lancashire in the north-west of England.

The meeting, held on St Peter's Field in the centre of Manchester, the major industrial city of Lancashire, had been organised as part of a national campaign to win a radical reform of the British parliament and to redress the economic grievances of working people.

Over four hundred men, women and children were killed or seriously injured as a result of this 'action'.

One of the cavalry units involved - the 11th Hussars - had been present at the Battle of Waterloo, which had occurred four years earlier. As soon as the massacre became known to the public, the savage sobriquet 'Peterloo' was universally adopted.

The August 16 massacre in Manchester was one outcome of an extraordinarily powerful and determined agitation for social and political justice in England which at times approached pre-revolutionary proportions. The primary social force behind this mass agitation was the new working class.

This new class, the industrial proletariat, emerged from the industrial revolution, a transformation of economic and social relations that began towards the end of the 18th century, primarily in parts of north-west England. The cradle of this revolution was in fact south-east Lancashire, and Manchester in particular.

Here, technological innovations developed in the latter third of the 18th century, such as the steam engine, the power loom and the spinning jenny, were applied to the previously-dispersed, domestic-based cotton industry then existing. The 'putting-out' system, whereby spinners and weavers worked at home at more or less their own pace, was replaced by vast factories employing hundreds or thousands of workers.

The new machine industry was concentrated in these factories. Raw materials and fuel for the machines came from the coal and iron extraction industries then emerging in other parts of England and Scotland. Around the factories grew up large industrial towns such as Rochdale, Stockport, Oldham and Blackburn, as well as the world's first industrial city - Manchester.

The previously-existing social order broke up in Lancashire and other emergent industrial districts, and was replaced by a new one.

Ties of dependence descended from feudalism - a deferential hierarchy linking 'masters' and 'men'; the static, rigid order overseen by landlord and parson; all this was burst asunder and replaced by the cut-throat world of capitalist competition.

In these regions the whole pattern of life was revolutionised.

By 1800, of English cities, Manchester was second only to London in size.

Near to the centre of Manchester, in large opulent houses, lived the new rich - the capitalist factory owners. Surrounding the factories lived the workers and their families. Many of these workers were ruined hand-loom weavers or hand spinners forced to seek work in factory towns like Manchester, as competition from cheap, machine-produced goods forced them out of their traditional occupations.

Many capitalists made quick fortunes raising jerry-built, back-to-back slums to house the workers. Almost without exception these slums were overcrowded, damp, ill-lit, without sanitation, and without running water or gardens.

Many who sought employment were denied it by the frequent slumps that punctuated the evolution of capitalist industry. Those who did find work were faced with ruthless exploitation and appalling working conditions.

Long hours - fourteen hours per day was quite usual - abysmally low wages, child labour and dangerous, unguarded machinery were the norm. Sexual abuse of women by foremen and capitalists was rampant. Immigrant workers, especially those from Ireland, fared particularly badly.

The new working class was by no means a 'dormant, passive mass' in the face of these conditions of life and work. It hit back at its oppressors in an increasingly intelligent, organised and effective way.

Working class radicalism in England was on the rise when the French Revolution broke out in 1789. Jacobin democratic clubs sprang up across the country during the 1790s, inspired by the Revolution in France, and by widely-circulated books such as Tom Paine's 'The Rights of Man'.

The Government's repression of domestic radicalism, which it combined with a reactionary war against the French republic, was strongly and widely opposed by workers.

The historian Edward Thompson, in his book 'The Making of the English Working Class' reveals how the English workers fought back during the period of the French wars, by organising unions and secret societies in defiance of the Combination Acts, and by burning mills and smashing the machines that threatened their livelihoods.

By 1815 the revolutionary ferment brewing underground burst forth in the mass radicalism that was to come to a head in 1819.

At this time Manchester and its surrounding area was, among governing circles, considered to be the most 'turbulent and seditious' in the country. The mass movement as a national force directed itself towards achieving first political rights, and secondly social and economic justice.

Political rights included first and foremost a democratic, representative parliament, and it included the sweeping away of 'Old Corruption'. Under that system bribery and patronage of electors were rife.

Old Sarum, which had been the parliamentary seat of William Pitt the Elder, consisted of a few tufts of grass, while Manchester, with its population of 200,000, went unrepresented. Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, under which religious minorities - Jews, Roman Catholics and Non-Conformists in particular - faced discrimination in public life, was another major issue.

Repeal of the anti-trade union Combination Acts, and the monopolistic Corn Laws also were major focuses of organised agitation.

The ongoing economic struggle for improved wages, shorter hours and better working conditions was made more imperative by the acute distress of the post-war years in England.

Industry and trade slumped.

Unemployment rose and was swelled by the return of demobilized troops from Continental Europe.

Wages fell. Actual starvation faced many working-class communities.

Joseph Johnson, a shareholder in the Radical newspaper the 'Manchester Observer', wrote of conditions in Manchester in 1819, the year of Peterloo: 'Everything is almost at a standstill, nothing but ruin and starvation stare one in the face. The state of the district is truly dreadful.'

The Government in power at this time, that of the Tory Prime Minister Lord Liverpool, has been described as one of the most reactionary and repressive in British history. It represented the interests of no more than a narrow ruling class of big landowners, City financiers and merchants.

Liverpool and his closest advisors were firmly convinced that England was on the brink of revolution.

The Home Secretary, Sidmouth, who had control of the police, militia and army units stationed in England, had organised an elaborate network of spies to disrupt the radical movement.

Castlereigh, another of Liverpool's ministers, had been instrumental in the suppression of the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and the subsequent terror campaign and forced Union of Ireland with Britain.

Control of Manchester itself was in the hands of the descendents of the same local landed clique that had ruled this once small market town in pre-industrial times. Landowners and clergymen dominated the local magistracy - this body was to have direct responsibility for instigating the Peterloo massacre.

A local levy of merchants, manufacturers, publicans and shopkeepers, all rabid enemies of the working-class radical movement, formed the backbone of the 'Manchester and Salford Yeomanry Cavalry' - the body that charged into the assembly at St Peter's Field.

Although one of the powerhouses of the mass movement for radical reform was centered in the industrial districts of Lancashire, by 1819 a coordinated national effort was well under way, based on mass mobilisations in all the major cities.

1817 had witnessed a huge meeting of workers, mainly spinners and weavers, assembling on St Peter's Field to see off the famous 'March of the Blanketeers' from Manchester to London. The march sought redress of economic grievances.

1818 had been a year of mass strikes aimed at restoring falling wage levels. These strikes showed a great capacity by workers for discipline and organisation, with meetings, marches and pickets in Manchester and Stockport.

A new feature of these actions was the increasing participation of women workers. Union Societies were founded to develop basic education in the working class and to circulate the ideas of radicalism in an organised way. Women had their own separate Union Societies.

The workers' press advanced the ideas of radicalism with imagination and tenacity. The most widely-read newspapers among radicals and radical sympathisers were William Cobbett's 'Political Register', as well as 'The Black Dwarf'.

A typical issue of the Radical 'Manchester Observer', founded in 1818, included alongside a demand for the impeachment of Sidmouth, coverage of the republican revolution in Venezuela.

Mass meetings for parliamentary reform and for the repeal of the hated Corn Laws, which artificially inflated the price of bread, took place in Stockport and Manchester in the first half of 1819.

By July thousands of workers had begun drilling on the moors and in the fields outside working-class districts in Lancashire. The same thing occurred in other parts of the country. In July as many as 2000 workers paraded in semi-military formation along the High Rd from Manchester to Rochdale.

These preparations were primarily aimed at improving organisation for the planned August mass meeting at St Peter's Field, to which contingents from surrounding towns were to march. The planned assembly in Manchester was part of a broader national effort for July-August 1819, which organised large meetings in Birmingham, Leeds and London.

The reactionary oligarchy controlling the city of Manchester made preparations in league with Sidmouth and the national Government for what amounted to the waging of civil war on the workers expected to pour into Manchester to demand reform of parliament.

In July the magistracy formed an 'Armed Association for the Preservation of the Peace' and enrolled special constables.

Military units in the S.E. Lancashire areas were mobilised as part of a national military alert. As soon as instructions came through, the yeomanry sent its sabres to be sharpened.

On the final weekend before the rally at St Peter's Field the city magistracy sat in almost continuous session to discuss ways and means of dealing with the mobilisation.

In the weeks before the St Peter's Field meeting, which as everyone expected would be the largest meeting ever seen in England, Manchester's streets and buildings were covered with posters and placards, and thousands of leaflets and fliers were distributed.

The publicising and organisation of the assembly was a major achievement of communication and organisation. Assembly points were announced from which people in the towns and districts surrounding Manchester could gather and from there march in disciplined contingents to the rally.

August 16 in Lancashire was a lovely summer day with a cloudless sky and a hot sun shining. There was a confident, cheerful and festive atmosphere as the contingents gathered and prepared to march.

Bands played, and the beautiful banners, woven and embroidered with great care, were unfurled. Oldham's banner was of pure white silk, emblazoned with the inscriptions 'Universal Suffrage, Annual Parliaments - Election by Ballot', and 'No Combination Acts: Oldham Union'.

Saddleworth's was jet black, with the inscription 'Equal Representation or Death' in white over two joined hands and a heart. One of the banners carried by the Stockport contingent read 'Success to the Female Reformers of Stockport'. Many red caps of liberty were carried.

When all the contingents had arrived and assembled in the centre of Manchester, something like 12 per cent of the population of the county of Lancashire, and over half that of its industrial South East were present. It was the largest assembly England had ever seen.

As soon as all the contingents had filled St Peter's Field, to the point where, according to a contemporary report, people were packed in so tightly that 'their hats seemed to touch', the area was ringed by 1,500 troops with cannon.

No-one in the crowd, least of all the organisers, suspected that an attempt to physically disperse the meeting was planned. Meetings such as this, even if smaller and without the same evident discipline and organisation, had been held many times before up and down the country.

The ensuing massacre was completely unexpected and unprovoked, and met with little organised resistance.

The city magistrates had even gone to the lengths in their preparations for the massacre of employing scavengers to remove every stone, brick or possible missile from the Field and surrounding streets, so that the meeting's participants were thus left entirely without defence.

Barely had Hentry Hunt, the main featured speaker, begun to address the meeting when mounted troopers of the yeomanry charged the hustings to arrest him and others on the platform.

At first the crowd, which had not been aware of the presence of the troops, did not panic and Hunt shouted: 'Stand firm, my friends: there are only a few soldiers, and we are a host against them'.

But as the yeomanry, many of whom were drunk, charged with sabres drawn, slashing and cutting their way through the crowd and trampling and crushing many people, chaos and panic gripped the field.

According to witnesses cited in Joyce Marlow's account 'The Peterloo Massacre', the yeomanry, having tasted blood, went berserk. They dragged the speakers and organisers from the hustings and would have killed Hunt had he not been quickly whisked away to jail. The yeomanry continued to slash and cut indiscriminately at men, women and children alike, while smashing wagons and platforms, and tearing the banners and the caps of liberty. The regular cavalry then moved onto the field to complete the work. Hundreds more people suffered serious injuries from the slashing sabres and flying hooves, or were smothered under piles of falling bodies.

Ten minutes from the first charge it was all over. Samuel Bamford, the Lancashire poet, described the scene:

'...the field was an open and almost deserted space. The hustings remained, with a few broken and hewed flagstaves erect, and a torn and gashed banner or two drooping; whilst over the whole field were strewed the caps, bonnets, hats, shawls and shoes and other parts of male and female dress; trampled, torn and bloody. The yeomanry had dismounted - some were easing their horse's girths and some were wiping their sabres'

Many more people were killed and maimed as the troops continued to 'disperse' the crowd through surrounding streets.

That night one person was shot dead and several injured in clashes between soldiers and crowds of angry workers.

The Government's attitude was made clear by its total endorsement of the massacre.

The Prince Regent, then disporting himself on his yacht, made it known, through Sidmouth, what great satisfaction he had derived from the magistrate's 'prompt, decisive

and efficient measure for the preservation of public tranquility'. Despite repeated and widely-voiced demands for one, there was never an official inquiry into the Peterloo Massacre.

An immense wave of anger swept across England in the wake of the massacre.

The mass movement for reform was not appreciably set back by the Peterloo massacre. A huge crowd estimated by the conservative 'Times' at 300,000 lined the streets of London to greet Hunt after his release from jail.

Meetings were spurred all over England by the events at St Peter's Field, especially in the North East counties, where over 50,000 miners marched into Newcastle from surrounding districts.

Loyalist forces in this area began arming, and the pitmen took up arms to defend themselves. In the months of October and November, according to Edward Thompson, workers across the country stocked pikes and other weapons to defend themselves and their meetings.

Drilling and armed demonstrations were reported in Newcastle, Wolverhampton, Wigan, Bolton and Blackburn.

Divisions within the Radical movement's leadership between constitutionalists and revolutionaries were not resolved, and this crisis of leadership, combined with renewed Government repression and an economic upturn brought this early phase of mass working class struggle to a close.

The events in Manchester on August 16, 1819 however, will remain forever inscribed in the collective memory of the international working class.

Shelley's poem 'The Masque of Anarchy' was written just after Peterloo, and its final stanza carries the fighting sentiments of thousands of workers:

**'Rise, like lions after slumber.
In unvanquishable number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fallen on you!
Ye are many- they are few!'**

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