

Military Resistance 9H17



[Thanks to Don Bacon, Lt Col, US Army (Ret), Vietnam & Smedley Butler Society:
<http://www.warisaracket.org/>, who sent this in.]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

How Bad Is It? This Was Buried In A Long Story About Mistreated Foreign Workers

August 25, 2011 By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT, New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — For months, they have sat here, half a block from the prime minister's palace in the Green Zone, essentially captives with little food, drinking water or electricity.

Humble laborers, they came to Baghdad in January from Eastern Europe and Asia seeking better wages. They had the important-sounding assignment of building a dozen

villas to house heads of state for the annual meeting of the Arab League, which was scheduled to take place here.

All of them listen for rockets and mortar shells aimed at the Green Zone, the highly protected area that houses the United States Embassy and many important Iraqi government buildings and that is a favorite target of insurgents.

Resistance Action

21 Aug Reuters & Aug 23 (Reuters) & Aug 25 (Reuters) & BBC

GARMA - Five policemen were killed, including an officer, and five others were wounded when insurgents attacked a police station. A bomber detonated his explosives and a short time later a car bomb driven by another attacker exploded in the town of Garma, 30 km (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

MOSUL - Insurgents threw two hand grenades at a police checkpoint and wounded two policemen in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a car carrying a security guard for the oil minister wounded him when it went off in Baghdad's west-central Utaifiya district, a police officer at the scene said.

BAGHDAD - Two roadside bombs exploded in quick succession in Baghdad's northwestern Hurriya district late on Saturday, an Interior Ministry source said. The source said the first bomb targeted an Iraqi army patrol and wounded two soldiers while the second exploded when a police patrol arrived at the site of the first bombing, wounding two policemen.

FALLUJA - A car driven by an attacker exploded at a police checkpoint, killing four policemen and wounding five others in southern Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, a local police source said.

FALLUJA - Three Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb targeted their patrol in Falluja, a local police source said.

BAGHDAD - A parked car bomb wounded 10 Iraqi soldiers, when it exploded near an Iraqi army patrol in Palestine Street in northeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol and wounded two policemen, in Baghdad's central Alawi district, an interior ministry source said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing a soldier, in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

KIRKUK - A rocket wounded an employee of the state-run oil products company when it landed late on Wednesday at his house in the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

QAIYARA - A sticky bomb attached to the car of an oil policeman killed him and wounded his father when it went off in Qaiyara, 290 km (180 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

HIT - A roadside bomb exploded late on Monday, killing municipal council member Nofal al-Hity and his son and seriously wounding a third person, in the city of Hit, about 130 km (80 miles) west of Baghdad, a local police source said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

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

August 22, 2011 Reuters

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

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

August 23, 2011 Reuters

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

Foreign Occupation “Servicemember” Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan Wednesday:

Nationality Not Announced

August 24, 2011 Reuters

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

Australian Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

08/23/11 Defence.gov.au

It is with deep regret the Australian Defence Force confirms that Private Matthew Lambert was killed in action during operations in Afghanistan on 22 August 2011. Private Lambert was a member of the Mentoring Task Force - Three and was from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) based in Townsville, North Queensland.

Private Lambert is survived by his spouse, parents and family.

Private Lambert was born in Kogarah, NSW in 1985. He joined the Army from southern Queensland enlisting in the 9th Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment in August 2005, transferring to the Australian Regular Army in February 2007 and posted to 2RAR in Townsville.

Marine From Vernal Killed In Afghanistan



Daniel Gurr, a U.S. Marine from Vernal was killed in Afghanistan. His mother was notified of his death Friday, Aug. 5, 2011 Photo: United States Marine Corps

Aug. 6, 2011 By Geoff Liesik, For the Deseret News

VERNAL — Looking at the photo Tracy Beede held of her son Friday afternoon, it's hard to imagine that he was always a mama's boy.

In the image, Sgt. Daniel Gurr is resolutely standing guard as fellow Marines move away from a helicopter that has just dropped them on the deck of a ship. He's clad in full battle gear, his assault rifle muzzle down.

"He always worried about me," Beede said, sitting in the front room of her Vernal home surrounded by a growing circle of family and friends.

"He'd call all my friends and ask, 'How's mom doing?' " she added.

Of course, Beede feared for her son's safety, too.

Less than five hours earlier the worst of those fears became reality when the mother of four answered a knock on the door and found two Marines and a sailor standing on her porch.

"I knew," Beede said.

Gurr, who enlisted in the Marine Corps before entering his senior year at Uintah High School, was shot and killed Friday by enemy small-arms fire during a foot patrol near Malozai, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. The 21-year-old had recently been promoted to sergeant, his mother said, and was assigned to 3rd Recon Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

Gurr is the fourth soldier from Utah to be killed in Afghanistan since July 5, when Army Spc. Preston J. Suter, 22, from Sandy, was killed when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device, according to the Defense Department.

On July 10, Lance Cpl. Norberto Mendez-Hernandez of Logan died while conducting combat operations in Helmand province. And on July 16, U.S. Army Cpl. Raphael Arruda, 21, of South Ogden, was patrolling the Kandahar province in a mine-resistant vehicle when the truck was hit by an IED, family members said.

Gurr had declared as a child that he would join the military when he was old enough, family and friends said. He had played "soldier" as a kid, Beede said, and revered his father, who had been in the armed forces.

At age 17, Gurr convinced his parents to allow him to enlist in the Marine Corps. He choose that branch of the service, his mother said, because "the uniform was better, so he could pick up more chicks."

"That's a 17-year-old kid," she said.

But Beede didn't find that 17-year-old kid when she traveled to Camp Pendleton, Calif., to watch her son graduate from boot camp just months after he finished high school.

"He'd gone from the little boy I'd sent to boot camp to a man; a through and through man," she said.

"I had probably never been so proud of him, and not as just a mom, but as an American," Beede added. "To watch that many Marines graduate and that many young men and women be ready to take the oath and make that sacrifice for our freedom, for our country — to give up everything for that — it was amazing."

Army Corporal From Michigan Killed In Afghanistan



Aug 16, 2011 The Associated Press

DETROIT — Following his father and grandfather into the military wasn't what Joseph VanDreumel initially planned as a career, until being laid off from a western Michigan furniture company prompted him to reconsider.

His father, Dennis VanDreumel, said his son found a fit in the Army as a corporal who recovered broken-down vehicles. During a recent visit to see his son and family in Germany, Dennis VanDreumel said his son, who grew up in western Michigan and graduated from Jenison High School in 1997, told him "he loved his job, he loved the Army."

Joseph VanDreumel, 32, was helping recover a disabled mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP, in Afghanistan when he was killed by a roadside bomb, relatives said. Another soldier, Sgt. Matthew A. Harmon of Bagley, Minn., also died in Sunday's blast, the Defense Department confirmed Tuesday.

Both men were part of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade based in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

"Joe just took me by surprise," Dennis VanDreumel said of his son's decision to join the Army last year after he lost his job. The married father of two had been building office systems for Zeeland-based office furniture and accessories maker Herman Miller Inc.

“He was laid off with the big downturn in 2008,” the elder VanDreumel said during a phone interview from his home in Raleigh, N.C. “He was ... going to support his family all costs. He called me up one day and said, ‘Dad, I’m going to join the Army.’”

His second career choice pleased both his father and father-in-law, Allen Greiner. The elder VanDreumel retired from the Navy after 24 years, and Greiner served 20 years with the Michigan Army National Guard. Joseph VanDreumel’s grandfather, Ken Phillips, served in the Air Force’s Presidential Flight Crew.

“Joseph served his country and his family with the highest level of honor and admiration,” his family said in a statement released by Greiner. “He will be truly missed by all whom have had contact with him.”

Before enlisting, Joseph VanDreumel lived with his wife, Sarah, and two children, 10-year-old Angel and 8-year-old Skyler, in the unincorporated community of Standale in Ottawa County’s Georgetown Township.

U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, the Republican congressman whose district includes the area, said the community would rally around and assist the family. “It always brings a sinking feeling when I hear of the loss of one of our own brave servicemen,” Huizenga wrote in an email to The Associated Press. “We will continue to pray for our troops that fight to protect our freedoms every day.”

Funeral arrangements were incomplete Tuesday but Greiner said services are planned at Holy Spirit Church in Grand Rapids.

22-Year Army Veteran Dies In Afghanistan



08.16.2011 by Jaryd Wilson, Barrington Broadcasting Group

FORT CARSON, COLO. -- A soldier who has been in the Army for almost 22 years and was most recently stationed at Fort Carson died in Afghanistan Wednesday.

Master Sgt. Charles Price III died last week, but Fort Carson officials did not say how.

Price had been with the Army since Aug. 29, 1989 and joined the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson in November.

The 40-year-old had previously been stationed in Saudi Arabia, The Balkans, Kuwait, Kosovo and Iraq, and had been in Afghanistan since June.

Price has won a total of 50 medals and awards during his 22 years of service, including a Bronze Star and nine achievement medals.

Oregon Serviceman Killed In Afghanistan 'A Patriotic Guy From Day One'



The remains of Ryley Gallinger-Long Saturday at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.
ROLAND BALIK/U.S. AIR FORCE

August 14, 2011 By Kelly House, The Oregonian

The 19-year-old Navy hospital corpsman from Oregon who died in Afghanistan last week was a newlywed, an avid fisherman, and a born patriot with a trademark crooked smile.

Ryley Gallinger-Long of Cornelius died Thursday while conducting a dismounted patrol in the Helmand province. The 2010 Forest Grove High School graduate was less than a month into his first overseas deployment.

He is the 148th service member with strong ties to Oregon or Southwest Washington to die in the Mideast wars and the 29th Oregonian to die in Afghanistan.

Gallinger-Long's brother, 26-year-old Zack Gallinger-Long of Hillsboro, said his brother was shot in the lower back while tending to a wounded Marine.

Navy corpsman are military medics. While Gallinger-Long was deployed, he wore a Marine uniform.

Zack Gallinger-Long said his brother was a Forest Grove fire cadet in high school and hoped the military would prepare him for a future as a fire chief or emergency medical technician.

"He was born on the Fourth of July, so he was already a patriotic guy from day one," Zack Gallinger-Long said. "He wanted to go there; he wanted to do that job."

In addition to his older brother, Gallinger-Long is survived by his wife, Hope Gallinger-Long; identical twin, Wyatt Gallinger-Long; mother Susan Blanchard, of Cornelius; and father Jeff Gallinger, of Seaside.

Gallinger-Long's twin brother, stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois, expects to be deployed to Afghanistan after he finishes training, Zack Gallinger-Long said. On the day his brother died, Wyatt Gallinger-Long was celebrating his graduation from the second of three required training programs.

By Sunday afternoon, nearly 400 people had joined a Facebook group dedicated to Gallinger-Long's memory.

Cody Brown, 19, a Hillsboro resident and close friend of Gallinger-Long, described him as a natural peacekeeper who was always happy and always surrounded by friends.

"I can't think of a single time he got into a fight or argument," Brown said. "He was very upbeat."

Brown said Gallinger-Long loved the outdoors and spent nearly all of his free time fishing in Hagg Lake or Gales Creek. "If we weren't in class, we were fishing pretty much all the time," Brown said.

Gallinger-Long joined the Navy in August 2010 and was assigned to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He married Hope, his high school sweetheart, in March. The pair lived at Camp Lejeune until Gallinger-Long was deployed in July.

Once Gallinger-Long's body is transferred from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, a viewing will be held at Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Forest Grove, followed by a funeral at the Forest Grove Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and burial in Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, Gallinger-Long's family is requesting donations to the Wounded Warrior Project, which helps severely injured service members during their transition to civilian life.

Mourners Remember Helicopter Pilot Killed In Afghanistan

8.20.11 By Trevor Hughes, Fort Collins Coloradoan, USA TODAY

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — After the helicopters flew by, the guns fell silent, the flags folded and the prayers offered, Kaitlen Carter touched her hand to her lips and then brushed her fingers along the gleaming wooden casket in a final kiss goodbye to her father.

David Carter, a Colorado National Guard helicopter pilot killed in Afghanistan, was buried in Fort Collins' Grandview Cemetery on Friday in a military ceremony.

Carter, 47, was one of two pilots flying a Chinook transport helicopter in Afghanistan on Aug. 6 when it was apparently hit by an insurgent's rocket-propelled grenade, according to the Defense Department.

The 38 dead included 17 Navy SEALs, five Navy special operations troops who support the SEALs, three Air Force airmen, a five-member Army air crew that included Carter, seven Afghan commandos, an Afghan interpreter and a military dog. The crash was the single deadliest loss for U.S. forces in the nearly decade-long war, according to officials.

Mourners on Friday celebrated Carter's life at a memorial service in Aurora before traveling north to Fort Collins for burial services. Carter's family did not speak at the burial, which was led by Colorado National Guard Chaplain David Nagel.

A horse-drawn hearse carried Carter's casket into Grandview Cemetery, accompanied by dozens of Patriot Guard motorcycle riders who then lined the paths with American flags. Following a 21-shot volley, mourners listened silently as "Taps" was played. Nagel reminded the audience, including hundreds of uniformed service members, that "Taps" signals the end of a day's duty.

"Here, it represents Dave's last, long sleep, expressing assurance, confidence and hope in the ultimate reveille to come," Nagel told mourners.

Accompanied by several smaller helicopters, a Chinook flew over the burial site, its twin rotors thumping as several people sobbed.

Colorado National Guard Adjutant General H. Michael Edwards presented Carter's widow, Lauren, with the flag that had covered the casket. Gov. John Hickenlooper and Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia also presented Carter's family with American flags that had been ceremonially touched to the casket.

Afterward, Edwards said the loss of so many American servicemen was hitting hard. Carter was a chief warrant officer 4 and a full-time National Guard instructor pilot whose home station was the Army Aviation Support Facility at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora.

"This brings it home, that we are a nation at war and we do suffer loss," Edwards said.

Carter was posthumously promoted to chief warrant officer 5, and Lauren Carter received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Legion of Merit commendation on his behalf.

During the ceremony, Colorado Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Dana Capozzella presented Carter's children with a folded American flag and offered them a few quiet

words. Capozzella called Carter the "cornerstone" of the aviation component of the 4,000-member guard.

"We're all feeling his loss today," she said.

Willits Navy SEAL Officially Listed As Killed In Afghanistan

08/12/2011 Ukiah Daily Journal Staff

The U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday released the names of the 30 American troops who died in the Aug. 6 helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

Among them was U.S. Navy Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman, 27, of Willits.

The 30 service members, seven Afghan commandos, an interpreter, a US. Army aircrew and U.S. Air Force para-rescue and combat controllers were aboard a CH-47 Chinook helicopter when it was shot down over the Wardak province of Afghanistan early Saturday morning. They were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the USDOD.

"Naval Special Warfare suffered a tremendous loss of 22 men while conducting critical special operations combat in Afghanistan," said Rear Admiral Sean A. Pybus, commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command. "They cannot be replaced. We will honor their service and sacrifice, and embrace their families as our own in this time of immeasurable grief."

Of the American troops who died in the crash, 22 were Navy SEALs, including Pittman, a former firefighter who lived in Willits.

Pittman was also a decorated service member, according to a Thursday statement from the U.S. Navy's Special Warfare Group One for the West Coast. His awards include a joint service commendation medal with a "V" device for valor; two Navy commendation medals; a combat action ribbon; an Afghanistan campaign medal; an Iraq campaign medal, a Global War on Terrorism expeditionary medal; a Global War of Terrorism service medal; a good conduct medal; a national defense service medal; a sea service deployment ribbon; a rifle marksmanship medal; and a pistol marksmanship medal.

Pittman graduated from Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Ill. in October 2005, then reported to the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md. After completing that training, Pittman went on to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training in March 2006. He graduated from SEAL training and reported to the Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training Center at Coronado, Ca. From there, he went to the Naval Special Warfare Training Center Detachment at Kodiak, Alaska, then returned to the NSW Advanced Training Center at Coronado, Ca. in January 2007. In April of the same year he reported to a West Coast-based SEAL team.

"We grieve for all of them and admire their teamwork, commitment and courage," Pybus stated. "I have great hope for the future knowing that extraordinary men dedicate themselves completely to the idea and the actions of freedom and security, not only for ourselves but for others.

"We are truly blessed that such men answer a call to military service at the highest levels of professionalism and capability, but also deeply saddened by their loss. In the days and weeks ahead, I would ask for your thoughts, prayers and support for NSW, our families, the special operations community and all of our armed forces."

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

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

Resistance Action

24 August 2011 TOLONews

Two Afghan policemen were killed in a roadside mine blast in Chemtal district of Balkh province on Wednesday morning, local officials said. The incident happened while a caravan of Afghan police passing the areas and a vehicle was struck by a roadside mine, officials said.

A local government official has been assassinated in southern Helmand province on Tuesday evening, local officials said. Insurgents on a motorcycle fired at Sherin Agha, a member of the Nawa district council on Tuesday evening in Lashkargah, the provincial capital. The councilman was rushed to a hospital, but died of his wounds.

In two incidents on Sunday, militants killed a councilman and chief prosecutor from Gereshk district.

On Friday, a man with a bomb hidden in his turban blew himself up outside the Helmand governor's compound in which one Afghan policeman was wounded in the blast.

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

WELCOME TO VIETISTAN: HAVE A NICE DAY



River Darya ye Kunar valley near Assadabad is seen from a Canadian Molson contractor helicopter in eastern Afghanistan province of Kunar August 20, 2011. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

MILITARY NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



Residents holding flags line the roadway at the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport as a motorcade escorting the body of Nicholas Null, a Parkersburg, W.Va., native, who was

killed in a mission in Afghanistan on Aug. 6, gets ready to leave in Parkersburg W. Va. Friday Aug. 19, 2011. (AP Photo

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**

**The U.K. Riots And The Coming
Global Class War:
Americas Leading Pro-Capitalist
Journal Warns That “Class Rage Isn’t
Unique To England; In Fact, It
Represents Part Of A Growing Global
Class Chasm That Threatens To
Undermine Capitalism Itself”
“It’s Hard To See How Class Resentment
In This Country Can Do Anything But
Grow”**

Chinese working and middle classes confront a hegemonic ruling class consisting of public officials and wealthy capitalists.

That this takes place under the aegis of a supposedly “Marxist-Leninist regime” is both ironic and obscene.

8/15/2011 By Joel Kotkin, Contributor, Forbes [Excerpts]

The riots that hit London and other English cities last week have the potential to spread beyond the British Isles.

Class rage isn’t unique to England; in fact, it represents part of a growing global class chasm that threatens to undermine capitalism itself.

The hardening of class divisions has been building for a generation, first in the West but increasingly in fast-developing countries such as China.

The growing chasm between the classes has its roots in globalization, which has taken jobs from blue-collar and now even white-collar employees; technology, which has allowed the fleetest and richest companies and individuals to shift operations at rapid speed to any locale; and the secularization of society, which has undermined the traditional values about work and family that have underpinned grassroots capitalism from its very origins.

All these factors can be seen in the British riots.

Race and police relations played a role, but the rioters included far more than minorities or gangsters.

As British historian James Heartfield has suggested, the rioters reflected a broader breakdown in “the British social system,” particularly in “the system of work and reward.”

In the earlier decades of the 20th century working class youths could look forward to jobs in Britain’s vibrant industrial economy and, later, in the growing public sector largely financed by both the earnings of the City of London and credit.

Today the industrial sector has shrunk beyond recognition. The global financial crisis has undermined credit and the government’s ability to pay for the welfare state.

With meaningful and worthwhile work harder to come by — particularly in the private sector — the prospects for success among Britain working classes have been reduced to largely fantastical careers in entertainment, sport or all too often crime.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister David Cameron’s supporters in the City of London may have benefited from financial bailouts arranged by the Bank of England, but opportunities for even modest social uplift for most other people have faded.

What’s the lesson to be drawn? The ideologues don’t seem to have the answers.

A crackdown on criminals — the favored response of the British right — is necessary but does not address the fundamental problems of joblessness and devalued work.

There are now at least 1 million unemployed young people in the U.K., more than at any time in a generation, while child poverty in inner London, even during the regime of former Mayor “red Ken” Livingstone last decade, stood at 50% and may well be worse now.

This fundamental class issue is not only present in Britain.

There have been numerous outbreaks of street violence across Europe, including in France and Greece.

One can expect more in countries like Italy, Spain and Portugal, which will now have to impose the same sort of austerity measures applied by the Cameron government in London.

And how about the United States?

Many of the same forces are at play here.

Teen unemployment currently exceeds 20%; in the nation’s capital it stands at over 50%.

Particularly vulnerable are expensive cities such as Los Angeles and New York, which have become increasingly bifurcated between rich and poor. Cutbacks in social

programs, however necessary, could make things worse, both for the middle class minorities who run such efforts as well as their poor charges.

Still, with over 14 million unemployed nationwide, prospects are not necessarily great for white working- and middle-class Americans.

This pain is broadly felt, particularly by younger workers. According to a Pew Research survey, almost 2 in 5 Americans aged 18 to 19 are unemployed or out of the workforce, the highest percentage in three decades.

Diminished prospects — what many pundits praise as the “new normal” — now confront a vast proportion of the population.

One indication: The expectation of earning more money next year has fallen to the lowest level in 25 years. Wages have been falling not only for non-college graduates but for those with four-year degree as well. Over 43% of non-college-educated whites complain they are downwardly mobile.

Given this, it's hard to see how class resentment in this country can do anything but grow in the years.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke claimed as early as 2007 that he was worried about growing inequality in this country, but his Wall Street and corporate-friendly policies have failed to improve the grassroots economy.

The prospects for a widening class conflict are clear even in China, where social inequality is now among the world's worst .

Not surprisingly, one survey conducted by the Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences found that 96% of respondents “resent the rich.”

Chinese working and middle classes confront a hegemonic ruling class consisting of public officials and wealthy capitalists.

That this takes place under the aegis of a supposedly “Marxist-Leninist regime” is both ironic and obscene.

This expanding class war creates more intense political conflicts.

On the right the Tea Party — as well as rising grassroots European protest parties in such unlikely locales as Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands — grows in large part out of the conviction that the power structure, corporate and government, work together to screw the broad middle class.

Left-wing militancy also has a class twist, with progressives increasingly alienated by the gentry politics of the Obama Administration.

Many conservatives here, as well as abroad, reject the huge role of class.

To them, wealth and poverty still reflect levels of virtue — and societal barriers to upward mobility, just a mild inhibitor.

But modern society cannot run according to the individualist credo of Ayn Rand; economic systems, to be credible and socially sustainable, must deliver results to the vast majority of citizens.

If capitalism cannot do that expect more outbreaks of violence and greater levels of political alienation — not only in Britain but across most of the world's leading countries, including the U.S.

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.

Against Imperial War: [1915]

**“Imperialism Is The Progressing
Oppression Of The Nations Of The
World By A Handful Of Great
Powers”**

**“Basing Ourselves On Democracy As It
Already Exists, Exposing Its
Incompleteness Under Capitalism, We
Advocate The Overthrow Of Capitalism”**

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

1915, By V. I. Ulyanov: Excerpts from Right To Self Determination, November 1915 & Imperialism And World Economy, 1915 [The writer used the pen name "Lenin" to keep the government from terrorizing his family.]

The proletariat cannot become victor save through democracy, i. e., through introducing complete democracy and through combining with every step of its movement democratic demands formulated most vigorously, most decisively.

It is senseless to contrast the Socialist revolution and the revolutionary struggle against capitalism to one of the questions of democracy, in this case the national question.

On the contrary, we must combine the revolutionary struggle against capitalism with a revolutionary program and revolutionary tactics relative to all democratic demands: a republic, a militia, officials elected by the people, equal rights for women, self-determination of nations, etc.

While capitalism exists, all these demands are realizable only as an exception, and in an incomplete, distorted form.

Basing ourselves on democracy as it already exists, exposing its incompleteness under capitalism, we advocate the overthrow of capitalism, expropriation of the bourgeoisie as a necessary basis both for the abolition of the poverty of the masses and for a complete and manifold realization of all democratic reforms.

Some of those reforms will be started prior to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, others in the process of the overthrow, still others after it has been accomplished.

The Socialist revolution is by no means a single battle; on the contrary, it is an epoch of a whole series of battles around all problems of economic and democratic reforms, which can be completed only by the expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

It is for the sake of this final aim that we must formulate in a consistently revolutionary manner every one of our democratic demands.

It is quite conceivable that the workers of a certain country may overthrow the bourgeoisie before even one fundamental democratic reform has been realised in full.

It is entirely inconceivable, however, that the proletariat as an historical class will be able to defeat the bourgeoisie if it is not prepared for this task by being educated in the spirit of the most consistent and determined revolutionary democracy.

Imperialism is the progressing oppression of the nations of the world by a handful of great powers; it is an epoch of wars among them for the widening and strengthening of national oppression; it is the epoch when the masses of the people are deceived by the hypocritical social-patriots, i. e., people who under the pretext of "freedom of nations," "right of nations to self-determination," and

“defence of the fatherland” justify and defend the oppression of a majority of the world’s nations by the great powers.

This is just why the central point in a programme of Social-Democrats must be that distinction between oppressing and oppressed nations, since the distinction is the essence of imperialism, and is fraudulently evaded by the social-patriots ...

This distinction is not important from the point of view of bourgeois pacifism, or the petty-bourgeois Utopia of peaceful competition between independent nations under capitalism, but it is most important in the point of view of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

From this distinction there follows *our* consistently democratic and revolutionary definition of the “right of nations to self-determination,” which is in accord with the general task of the immediate struggle for Socialism.

It is in the name of this right, and fighting for its unequivocal recognition, that the Social-Democrats of the oppressing nations must demand the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, for otherwise recognition of the equal rights of nations and international solidarity of the workers in reality remains an empty phrase, a hypocritical gesture.

Russia is a prison of peoples not only because of the military, feudal character of tsarism, not only because the Great-Russian bourgeoisie supports tsarism, but also because the Polish, Lettish, etc., bourgeoisie has sacrificed the freedom of nations and democracy in general for the interests of capitalist expansion.

The proletariat of Russia, marching at the head of the people, cannot complete the victorious democratic revolution (which is its immediate task); neither can it fight together with its brothers, the proletarians of Europe, for a Socialist revolution, without demanding at once full and “unreserved” freedom of separation from Russia for all the nations oppressed by Russia.

This we demand not as something independent from our revolutionary struggle for Socialism, but because this struggle would remain an idle phrase if it were not linked up with a revolutionary approach to all the questions of democracy, including the national question.

We demand the freedom of self-determination, i. e., independence, i. e., the freedom of separation for the oppressed nations, not because we dream of an economically atomized world, nor because we cherish the ideal of small states, but on the contrary because we are for large states and for a coming closer, even a fusion of nations, but on a truly democratic, truly internationalist basis, which is unthinkable without the freedom of separation.

In the same way as Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland, not for the purpose of splitting England, but for a subsequent free alliance of Ireland with England, not for the sake of “justice to Ireland,” but for the interests of the revolutionary struggle of the English proletariat, so we at present consider the refusal by the Socialists of Russia to demand freedom of self-determination for

the nations, in the sense indicated by us above, as a direct betrayal of democracy, internationalism, and Socialism.

[H]e who rejects the hard tasks of today in the name of dreams about easy tasks of the future becomes an opportunist.

Theoretically it means to fail to base oneself on the developments now going on in real life, to detach oneself from them in the name of dreams.

War is a “terrible” thing? Yes.

But it is a terribly profitable thing.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

The Radio “This August 24th, Remember Jeremy King”



[From: GI SPECIAL 5H19: 8.24.07]

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

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

The premise was simple. A couple in the 1930s were given a special radio that allowed them to hear all their neighbors' conversations. At first they were elated, but, ultimately, they were haunted by the miracle of their ability. They could hear all the horrors of society that usually go unnoticed or are covered up and sterilized . . . and they couldn't turn it off.

They couldn't change the channel.

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

August 24th, 2006 was a routine day for my squad in Baghdad. We had gone to Traffic Headquarters and I had gotten to visit with Ali. Business taken care of, we started to make the familiar trek back to Camp Liberty.

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

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

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

The voice went on to recite the nine line MEDEVAC report and I marveled at how cool, calm, and collected he sounded. My squad leader plotted the grid coordinates and found that this had occurred only a couple blocks away from one of our two main destinations on Market Road.

"Cliburn, go ahead and get down; someone might be aiming at your melon right now", CPT Ray said. Sergeant Bruesch concurred and I sat down, listening intently to the radio transmissions that I couldn't turn off if I wanted to.

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

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

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

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

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

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

All the while, there I sat.

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

No one in the truck was speaking.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seconds seemed like hours; minutes seemed like days.

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

“Eagle Dustoff, cancel the chopper. He’s dead.”

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

Now, the voice was quiet.

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

“Do you have casualty’s information?”

“Yes. SGT King, over.”

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

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

We all did.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This August 24th, remember Jeremy King:



Jeremy King

Wednesday, August 30 2006 @ 04:20 AM EDT

Contributed by: River97

Views: 621

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

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

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

***Noble Anniversary:
August 25, 1969***

The Rebellion Of Company A; “One Of Hundreds Of Mutinies Among Troops During The War”



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Carl Bunin, Peace History Aug 20-26

Company A of the 3rd Battalion the 196th Light Brigade refused to advance further into the Songchang Valley of Vietnam after five days of heavy casualties; their number had been reduced from 150 to 60.

This was one of hundreds of mutinies among troops during the war.

“He (President Nixon) is also carrying on the battle in the belief, or pretense, that the South Vietnamese will really be able to defend their country and our democratic objectives (sic) when we withdraw, and even his own generals don’t believe the South Vietnamese will do it.”

James Reston in the New York Times

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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/)



“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

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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