

Military Resistance: 718:
[Formerly GI Special]

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



Aug. 19, 2009: Evacuation of a soldier after his was attacked by an IED, Tangi Valley, Wardak Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

The Perfect Day

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: September 03, 2009
Subject: The Perfect Day

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

The Perfect Day

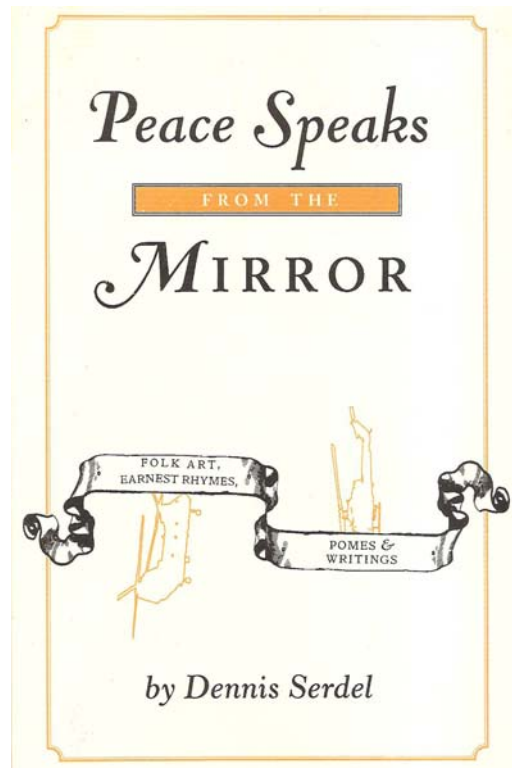
It's another beginning of a young September day
as Alex drives by the funeral home and sees
a hearse and a few cars with funeral flags on them
and he thinks someday that will be him
as Alex dreads the ground but later drives by again
while the sun is making every tree blade of grass
all the ground on earth warm as he changes his mind
and says to himself it feels so good that with
the funeral service beginning in the late afternoon
with many cars now with funeral flags that it would
be alright to see himself for the last time by family
his friends and then carried in a casket to the
hearse by the ones he loves then the drive to the
awaiting cemetery then the priest says what is
in the book then the flag is folded up and
single flowers are placed upon his casket then
the people go and it would be very good to have
warm soil dropping down instead of rain or
cold snow as Alex lays in his new bed to rest
because he knows he has used his life to
explain to anyone what war is & to refuse it
to take the dove in your heart and release it
because a young Soldier boy should not have to
die without living life to the fullest like getting
married having children nurturing each to refuse
war too also laying in bed with his wife feeling
love working & then retirement and traveling
across europe like they both dreamed of
then in a wiser age Alex gives himself a last
judgment and he made mistakes but overall
his life was fulfilled in so many ways
because although wounded he came back from
the war but he was lucky it had nothing to do
with how good he was fighting instead a chance
of not stepping on a landmine or to duck behind
a tree and fire back then afterwards looking
at the tree where bullets just missed above his
head it could have been Alex in the chopper
lying dead but just wounded because sarge
stepped on a landmine and thirty feet away
shrapnel hit him but Alex knew he was going
to make it then the sarge crying I have no foot
as Alex tells him he will hit him if he doesn't
stop and to look at the young Soldiers at our

feet that should not be there so
refuse war and wait until you die
on a perfect day

MORE:

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[You've know the power of the poems by Dennis Serdel from the front pages of GI
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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Amboy Soldier Killed In Iraq



September 1 THE COLUMBIAN

An Amboy man on his third deployment in Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard was one of two soldiers killed Friday by insurgent forces.

Sgt. Earl D. Werner, 38, died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an explosively formed penetrator, an improvised device powerful enough to send lethal shards of metal through even heavily armored military vehicles.

The attack in Rashid, Iraq, also claimed the life of Taylor D. Marks, 19, of Monmouth, Ore., who was posthumously promoted to the rank of specialist. Both soldiers were assigned to the 41st Special Troops Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Oregon Army National Guard, which had been in Iraq since June.

Werner is survived by his wife of two years, Casey, and son, Justin, 19. They live near Amboy just inside Cowlitz County.

“This was the second tour of his marriage, so they didn’t have a heck of a lot of time together,” said Eunice Royer of Vancouver, Casey Werner’s grandmother. “It’s just so sad for us to see that Casey has to go through this.”

“The military was one thing that was very important to his life,” said Duane Royer of Vancouver, Werner’s father-in-law. “He had such a great caring for the other people he worked with in the National Guard. He felt very responsible for them. That was a driving force of him wanting to do it again. He wanted to take care of people.”

When not on active duty, Werner worked as a truck driver. He’d driven long-haul trucks, heavy equipment and gravel trucks.

“He was a very talented young man who knew how to do his job,” said Duane Royer. He said that when a landslide blocked a road near Amboy, Werner rounded up equipment to clear the road and deliver gravel for his neighbors.

Werner raised horses, loved his pets and was an avid fisherman. “He actually went fishing in Baghdad,” Royer said. “It wasn’t any fish he’d want to keep, but he did it.”

Werner’s first deployment was as part of the 2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry in 2004. Later he deployed with the 234th Engineer Company in 2007 before transferring to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team for deployment.

During his time with the Oregon National Guard, Werner was awarded the Bronze Star, two Army Commendation Medals and the Combat Action Badge.

Oregon Soldier Killed In Iraq Remembered By Friends, Family

September 04, 2009 By John Killen, The Oregonian

INDEPENDENCE -- For months, Taylor Marks knew he wanted to enlist in the National Guard. He bugged his mentor constantly: “Find me a good recruiter.”

Marks was 19 when he died as his convoy was struck in a roadside bombing Aug. 28 in Rashid, Iraq.

Another soldier, Sgt. Earl Werner, 38, from Amboy, Wash., also died in the attack. Theirs were the first deaths in the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team since the 2,600-member unit deployed to Iraq in July.

More than 500 people showed up to mourn Marks on Friday in the same barn where he attended his senior prom.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski, reading from a William Butler Yeats poem, spoke of the time when young men dream, when they fall in love and make plans for their future. “This was Taylor’s time of life,” Kulongoski said. “And it should have lasted longer than it did.”

But it was a life well-lived. Marks' friends said he loved adventure, that he pursued everything -- from ballroom dancing to rock wall climbing -- with gusto. He was puckish, but compassionate, they said, and he never lost his idealism.

A few years ago, he found his calling.

As a student at Central High School in Monmouth, he volunteered with an OPFOR, short for opposing force, a group that poses as insurgents for military training weekends. Soldiers use the volunteers to prepare themselves for war.

His mentor, military writer John Bruning, remembered the first weekend Marks volunteered with the group in January 2008.

"We were roughed up, working in the worst weather conditions possible," Bruning said at the ceremony. "They slammed Taylor's face into the concrete, where there was broken glass, and I thought for sure he would be done with this."

But, Bruning said, "He got up, grinning."

After that first weekend, Marks dedicated his life to OPFOR. He used money he earned working at a local Chevron to pay for supplies to take part in weekend training exercises. He researched new weapons that Iraqis were using and taught himself to build them. He'd take the weapons to the training exercises so soldiers could learn to protect themselves from them. One potato gun he built worked so well that local law-enforcement officials came down to see it.

"They were fascinated," his pastor, the Rev. Bob McMillian, remembers. "They said, 'This is awesome! How far will it shoot?'"

Through those weekends, Marks "saw the war from the enemy's perspective," Bruning said. "He knew the fragility of being a soldier."

Bruning tried to persuade Marks not to enlist. He gave him copies of books he had written detailing the horrors of war.

Still, Marks wanted to go.

When he left, Bruning remembered, Marks sent a text message saying he had made the right decision.

He planned to be a linguist, specializing in Cantonese and Japanese.

"And now, today, we're here to grieve him," Bruning said before breaking into tears. "Thank God I don't have to do it alone."

After the service in Independence, a motorcade followed his body to Willamette National Cemetery in Portland where he was buried with full military honors.

He is survived by his father, Morey Marks of Salem; his mother and stepfather, Michelle and Don Mack of Monmouth; and sisters Courtney Marks of Monmouth and Mary Alexandria Mack of Keizer.

This Time A Shoe Thrower Was Shot - 2

September 19, 2009 By Sahar IIS, Inside Iraq

The man from Fallujah who was driven to madness by the war, picked up his sandal and threw it at an American military convoy, Wednesday - and they "returned fire in self defence", injuring him seriously.

He died, Thursday, in hospital.

His brother looked on, "Maybe now he is at peace."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Fallen Soldier Thought Afghan Mission 'A Bit Useless' "They Were Wasting Their Time There"



Pte. Jonathan Couturier, 23, died in an IED strike southwest of Kandahar city on Sept. 17. (DND/Canadian Press)

[Thanks to Sally Davidson, Military Project, who sent this in.]

September 18, 2009 CBC News [Excerpts]

Family members of the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan told a Quebec City newspaper that the young soldier considered the mission “a bit useless.”

Nicolas Couturier, brother of Pte. Jonathan Couturier, told Le Soleil that the 23-year-old soldier had mixed emotions about being in Afghanistan.

“That war, he thought it was a bit useless, that they were wasting their time there,” he was quoted telling Le Soleil.

“He didn’t talk about it,” Nicolas told the newspaper. “He was positive, but at certain moments, let’s just say he was fed up.”

Jonathan Couturier died Thursday morning when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb while returning from a mission in the Panjwaii district, southwest of Kandahar city.

The soldier’s sister-in-law and his brother’s spouse, Valerie Boucher, also told the newspaper Jonathan “didn’t want to go” and was very much looking forward to coming home.

Nicolas Couturier was also critical of the Afghanistan mission, saying it “is not serving anything.”

The family’s comments, coming on the same day Couturier’s body was flown from Kandahar on its way to Canada, sparked a reaction from political leaders, with the Bloc Québécois’s defence critic saying he agrees with the family.

“I endorse the comments of the young man and I endorse the comments of his family,” said Claude Bachand.

Comments against the mission are rare for family members of fallen soldiers, but they echo the complaint of Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, who, in a commentary published Sunday in the Montreal Gazette, said the war was futile.

“If there were significant signs of progress, then maybe our huge investment would make sense,” he wrote. “But that isn’t the case.”

In a ceremony Friday, more than 2,500 Canadian and international soldiers were present at Kandahar Airfield as Couturier’s body was carried in a flag-draped casket to a military transport aircraft.

His colleagues lauded him for his sense of humour and ability to display it even during difficult times.

Couturier was the 131st Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

An American Soldier Died In Fighting On Saturday

Sep 20 AP

Military officials say an American soldier died in fighting on Saturday.

Family Mourns Columbia Soldier



Abraham Sherrod Wheeler III

8/30/2009 Columbia (WLTX)

A Midlands family is mourning the loss of a hero tonight. Twenty-two-year-old Abraham Wheeler died in the line of duty while serving in Afghanistan.

“He’s a good boy. He was a good boy and I know that God knows what he’s doing,” says Wheeler’s aunt, Catherine Thomas.

For Thomas and other family members, that idea has come to the ultimate test. Her nephew Abraham, known to them as Rod, was killed just two days ago.

“I was sitting there and my brother called me and he told me he had bad news. When he told me, I was trying to hold myself together, but I couldn’t, so I just fell apart,” she says, “What was in my head was his being so young. His life is gone and he’s just getting started.”

The army was how Rod had planned to start his adulthood. “He had it together, what he wanted to do. He wanted to go to school, but he said he was going in the service and then when he came out, he would be able to go, knowing that he father couldn’t send him,” says Thomas.

His father, along with his mother and younger brother Travis, are leaning on extended family like Thomas. "We're a loving family. We love each other very much," she says.

Of course, their memories help too, especially those from just a few weeks ago when he was home on leave. Thomas says of her nephew, "Everybody loves him. He laughs all the time, the biggest pretty smile."

"We was expecting him back in October and so we were all looking forward to that and we was praying that he would be able to make it back," says Thomas.

It's that activity that's been continuous through it all. "We can question Him, but He's in control, so we're just praying that we can hold it together," she says.

Mom Says Carson Soldier Killed In Convoy Attack 'Was A Sweet Kid'



Pfc. Matthew E. Wildes

August 28, 2009 TOM ROEDER and CARLYN MITCHELL, THE GAZETTE

A Fort Carson soldier died when insurgents bombed a convoy in Afghanistan, the Pentagon announced today.

Pfc. Matthew E. Wildes, 18, of Hammond, La., was killed Thursday by the roadside bomb that struck a convoy from the 4th Brigade Combat Team. The brigade, part of Fort Carson's 4th Infantry Division, went to Afghanistan in May to patrol a four-province area along the Pakistan border.

"He was a sweet kid," his mother Mary Wildes said. "He didn't like me saying that, but he was a kid. I treated him like a baby. But he was my baby."

Mary Wildes last spoke with her son the day before his death. They chatted on Myspace instant messenger, and Wildes told her she loved him but she didn't want to waste his allotted 30 minutes on the computer.

Matthew Wildes joined the Army in April 2008. It was a decision his parents tried to sway him from, but he was determined. He took his GED in order to enter the Army as soon as possible, his mother said.

Halfway through basic training, Matthew Wildes was sent home with stress fractures in his legs. He spent his month of recovery anxious to get back and disappointed he wouldn't be graduating with the soldiers he started with.

He carried that loyalty to the battlefield, Mary Wildes said.

Fort Carson has lost 264 soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 10 killed since June in a rash of Afghan attacks.

Wildes arrived at Fort Carson in October after basic training where he learned to be an infantryman, the Army said.

Jacksonville Soldier Among 2 Dead In Afghanistan



Jason Dahlke as he receives a purple heart. Photo courtesy of the Dahlke family

Sep. 2, 2009 By Timothy J. Gibbons, The Florida Times-Union

The last time Roger Dahlke saw his son Jason, the two men sat on the porch overlooking Julington Creek and talked about "life stuff."

Army Staff Sgt. Jason Dahlke, 29, was a few days away from going to Afghanistan for what would be his sixth deployment.

His father didn't know that, however, during the early August visit. Jason Dahlke, an Army Ranger, didn't talk much about where he was going or what he did there.

Those late-night conversations were the last for Roger Dahlke and his son.

Jason Dahlke was killed Saturday in Afghanistan province of Paktika, as was 19-year-old Pfc. Eric W. Hario of Monroe, Mich. Both men, soldiers with the 1st Battalion of 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia, were shot by enemy forces, the Department of Defense said.

The men were part of a Ranger task force that attacked an enemy command and control node and logistics base in a rugged, remote, contested mountainous area, according to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. After fighting for nearly 20 hours, the Ranger task force killed more than 30 enemy fighters.

Dahlke had confronted the enemy before — although, again, it wasn't something he spoke much about. His parents only found out he had received a Purple Heart after being wounded in action while idly searching for his name online several years ago.

The Mandarin High School student left school his senior year, feeling he didn't fit in because he was older than his classmates. He had missed a year of school earlier in life as he struggled to deal with the death of an older brother hit by a drunk driver.

He left Jacksonville to head to Orlando, following the woman who would become his wife, Niki Norvell Dahlke.

"Jason was my best friend," she said Tuesday. "He was my hero as a person and as a soldier. He lived his life as it should have been lived."

He refocused when he moved to Orlando, his father said, earning his high school diploma and associate's degree at a community college and then enrolling at the University of Central Florida, where he majored in criminal justice.

"He turned into the person we knew he could be," his father said.

Jason Dahlke joined the Army shortly after graduating from UCF, determined to become a Ranger.

"He just wanted to be the best of the best," said Roger Dahlke. "And he just loved it. He absolutely loved his job."

Always physically fit, the future Ranger was competitive throughout his life, running track and wrestling. When he'd come back home, he'd mountain bike and scuba dive. At work, he'd jump out of airplanes, eventually earning the jumpmaster rating.

"He loved all that adventure stuff," his father said.

Details have not yet been finalized as to when Dahlke's remains will be brought back or where he will be buried, although it will be in the Jacksonville area.

Trenton, Mo., Area Soldier Killed In Afghanistan



Aug 28, 2009 Daily Express

AFGHANISTAN – A Laredo, Mo., soldier was killed in southern Afghanistan Tuesday, according to a release from the U.S. Department of Defense.

According to the release, Sgt. 1st Class Ronald W. Sawyer, 38, of Trenton, Mo., was one of four soldiers killed when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device.

Laredo is located approximately 12 miles southeast of Trenton, Mo.

Sawyer was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash., along with the three other soldiers killed: Cpt. John L. Hallett III, 30, of California; Cpt. Cory J. Jenkins, 30, of Arizona; and Pfc. Dennis M. Williams, 24, of Federal Way, Wash.

According to unit records from the Fort Lewis Public Affairs Office, Sawyer enlisted Dec. 30, 1992 and reported to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training March 8, 1993. He then reported to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for Advanced Individual Training as a health care specialist.

Sawyer served in many locations during his military career, including Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Hood, Texas; Kaiserslautern, Germany; Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion; Camp Kasey, Korea; and Fort Lewis, Wash. His overseas service time includes three years in Germany, a one-year tour in Korea, and deployments to Kosovo and Cuba.

Sawyer's civilian and military education include a high school diploma, two years (60 or more semester hours) of college credit, the Health Care Specialist qualification course (1993), Warrior Leader Course (1996), Defense Language Institute "Gateway to Germany" course (1997), Hazardous Materials transport course (1997), Basic NCO course (1998), Unit Prevention Leader course (1999), Equal Opportunity Program Manager course (2000), Recruiting Management course (2002), Advanced NCO course (2003), Emergency Medical Technician- Ambulance course (2005), Tactical Combat Medical Care course (2007), and the FBCB2: Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below course (2007).

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (six awards), Army Achievement Medal (eight awards), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal (five awards), National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Korea Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (three awards), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, US Army Recruiter Badge-Gold with two Sapphire Achievement Stars, Expert Field Medical Badge, and the Drivers and Mechanics Badge.

According to the Trenton Republican-Times, Sawyer was a graduate of Grundy R-5 High School.

His father, Ron, resides in Laredo, and his mother, Judy Thompson, is a resident of Commerce, Okla.

His grandfather, Dale Sawyer, lives in Trenton, and his grandmother, Grace Parsons, is of Chillicothe, Mo.

Jordan Brochu, 20; Soldier Was Top Athlete, Cook



JORDAN BROCHU

September 3, 2009 Associated Press

OAKLAND, Maine - A soldier from Maine who was killed in Afghanistan was remembered as an outgoing high school student who excelled as an athlete and loved to cook.

Private First Class Jordan Brochu and another soldier died Monday in Shuyene Sufia from wounds they suffered in an improvised explosive device attack, according to the Department of Defense.

Mr. Brochu's family moved to Maine for his senior year in high school. His coaches at Lake Region High School, where he graduated in 2008, told the Morning Sentinel in Waterville that he played football and qualified for the state track meet as a discus thrower. He also was involved in culinary arts, with a fondness for baking cookies.

In one season, Mr. Brochu went from not knowing how to throw a discus to having the best form of anyone that Lake Region track coach Chip Morton had ever coached.

"He was very dedicated and determined to succeed," Morton said. "It's hard to look at so short of a life as a success, but he lived life with a passion and he was loved by those who knew him."

Mr. Brochu had been through some tough times in his life, but he was involved in school and fit in well, said principal Roger Lowell. "To have a kid who goes through that and gets back into school and back on track and has a good senior year isn't all that common," Lowell said.

Mr. Brochu, 20, was serving with Company C, 1-17th Infantry Battalion of Fort Lewis, Wash. Additional details about his death were not available.

Mr. Brochu was the second man from Maine killed in Afghanistan in August.

A Marine from New Portland, Lance Corporal Joshua Bernard, died Aug. 14 of injuries sustained during combat operations in Helmand Province.

Memorial To Be Held Saturday For Yorba Linda Soldier

September 3, 2009 By JESSICA TERRELL, The Orange County Register

YORBA LINDA – A memorial will be held Saturday in Irvine to remember Army Spc. Jonathan Welch, a 19-year-old soldier from Yorba Linda who was killed in Afghanistan on Monday.

Welch was hit by a roadside bomb while on foot patrol in Shuyene Sufia. He was on his first deployment, and had been in Afghanistan since July.

“He was in such good shape and was such a good soldier, we thought he’d survive,” Welch’s aunt, Maggie Blevins said.

Welch attended Esperanza High School in Anaheim before obtaining his GED. He joined the Army in 2007, when he was 17, and was stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash.

“He wanted to be in the army since he was 6 years old,” Blevins said. “It was something that he was happy to do.”

While stationed in Washington, Welch took regular trips to Seattle, where he went to punk rock shows.

Blevins said she remembers Welch excitedly calling his family from Fort Lewis to tell them he had seen snow for the first time.

“When you see pictures of him, he’s smiling. He was just plain happy,” Blevins said.

I expected him to get out of the service, get married and have a family. I just can’t believe that won’t be happening.”

Flags at the Capitol building in Sacramento are being flown at half-staff in honor of the young soldier.

The Associated Press is reporting that at least 49 U.S. troops died in Afghanistan last month, making August the deadliest months for troops since the American-led invasion in 2001.

Welch’s body was brought home to his family yesterday.

His parents, Gina and Ben Storll, had moved to Northern California last year, along with Welch’s younger brother, Daniel, and sister, Mary.

He leaves behind a large extended family that has been using Facebook to connect and share memories about their fallen hero.

“He was a hero,” Blevins said. “He was doing probably the most dangerous work in the world right now. Going in those villages to try and route out terrorists and terrorism activity. He was strong and quick, but when someone’s got a bomb, that’s going to win.”

Pfc. Jordan Brochu, a 20-year-old from Cumberland Maine, died with Welch in the attack.

Saturday’s memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. at Powerhouse Christian Fellowship, 17781 Mitchell St., Irvine.

Lorain Parents, Sisters Mourn Lance Cpl. David Hall Who Was Killed In Afghanistan



Marine Lance Cpl. David R. Hall in a Humvee. Courtesy Hall family

September 02, 2009 By Bill Benedict, Plain Dealer

LORAIN, Ohio — Three somber Marines stood in Lulu Hall's living room Monday. She knew what they had to tell her. But they kept silent. They said they must wait until her husband, Delmar, arrived.

The 58-year-old mother asked them to sit. Politely, they declined.

The next 45 minutes felt like an eternity.

Finally, her husband arrived from his job at the Avon Lake Ford plant, and the Marines told her what she had known since she saw them approach her front porch.

Her son, 31-year-old U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. David R. Hall, was killed Monday while serving in Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

"One of his duties was to go ahead of his unit and use a detector to check for bombs," said his sister Lora Hall, 37, of Lorain.

Hall had been on a foot patrol in Helmand province, where U.S. forces have been battling the Taliban, when he was killed by an improvised explosive device.

Hall and his three older sisters grew up in Lorain. He played football for Southview High School in Lorain where he graduated in 1996, his family said.

Former Southview football coach Brian Joyner, who coached Hall during his senior year -- the only season Hall played -- remembered him as a “mentally tough” kid who had a good heart. He said Hall threw a 60-yard pass during a tryout.

“He was a kid who never threw a football, and he became our quarterback,” Joyner said. “I still don’t know what to say. I’m shocked.”

For six years, Hall worked on the line at the Lorain Ford plant.

“He hated every day of it,” Lulu Hall said.

He loved children as much as his two older sisters who are teachers in the Lorain school district. He wanted to get married and start a family.

But first, he wanted to return to school to become a registered nurse. A friend convinced him to join the Marines, his mother said.

“I tried everything to talk him out of enlisting. But he said it’s something he had to do,” his sister Lora said.

She recalled one of the last times her brother called from Afghanistan.

“I said, ‘I just want you to know you’re our hero.’ He said, ‘Yeah, but heroes die.’”

Lora Hall understood what he said.

“They don’t want to be heroes. They want to make a difference, serve their country and come home alive,” she said. “More than anything else in the world he wanted to come back alive and get married and have a family.”

He did a tour last year in Iraq. The 6-foot-4 man dropped from 232 to 188 pounds.

He last returned home in April. Delmar and Lora Hall went to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to see him off. His mother did not.

“I couldn’t do it again. It was so hard to see him go to Iraq,” his mother said.

The Marine tried to comfort her: “I’ll be home at Christmas, mom,” she recalled him saying. “You gotta buy me a Christmas present.”

He was scheduled to return Dec. 17. His final year in the military was to have been spent out of combat.

At Camp Lejeune, he posed for pictures with his father, his sister and members of his unit.

“He said one of the hardest things to do was to every time he leaves make peace with the world because he may never set foot on American soil again,” his sister said.

Asked whether she thought he had made peace before leaving, she did not hesitate. “Yes,” she said. “Yes, I’m sure he did.”

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



United States Marines, 2nd MEF, in the midday heat while on operation to clear the town of Dahaneh, Aug. 13, 2009, Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



Winded U.S. Marine climbing up a mountainside with a 27-pound machine gun along with members of 3rd MEF, Aug. 22, 2009, in Helmand Province of Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



U.S. Marines 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion inside their base before patrolling near the town of Khan Neshin in Rig district of Helmand province, southern Afghanistan September 10, 2009. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic



Sept. 11, 2009: 25th Infantry Division soldier from Fort Richardson, Alaska during convoy operation in Zerok District, East Paktika province in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



Sept. 13, 2009: paratroopers from the U.S. Army's 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, preparing to patrol through Zerok District, East Paktika province in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



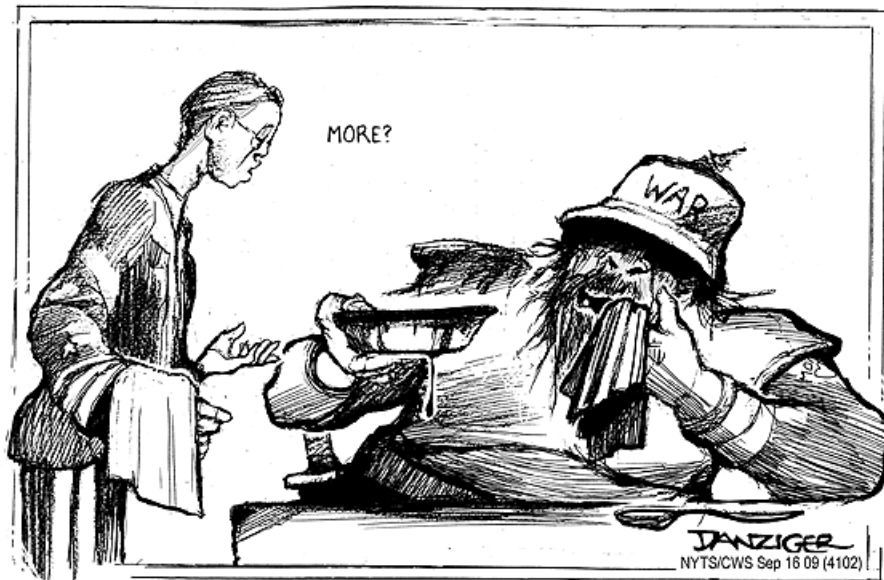
Sept. 13, 2009: Soldier from U.S. Army's 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, prepares to patrol through Zerok District, East Paktika province in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)



Sept. 15, 2009: A soldier from the U.S. 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, during a patrol in Zerok district, East Paktika province in Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Dima Gavrysh)

TROOP NEWS

Admiral Mullen Will Be Your Waiter



DANZIGER
NYTS/CWS Sep 16 09 (4102)

“Many Soldiers Are Simply Pushed Past The Breaking Point With No End In Sight And Nothing To Look Forward To But Another Year In The Desert”

“Many Times Soldiers Who Are Deployed See Their Work, Their Sacrifice And Their Being Away From Home As A Total Waste”

Forums
Army Times
9.7.09

It is obvious that many soldiers are simply pushed past the breaking point with no end in sight and nothing to look forward to but another year in the desert.

To work 12 hours a day in garrison, and to spend 30-60 days of your precious “dwell time” year home at (training) leaves you little left in the bank physically or emotionally when it comes time to deploy.

Many times soldiers who are deployed see their work, their sacrifice and their being away from home as a total waste — a waste of money, of lives and of time away from their family.

They return home after a year, many having lost a comrade or two with nothing to show for their year in a counterinsurgency gone quiet (as in Iraq).

No clear markers of victory or accomplishment. Just the promise of another year at home before coming right back to do it all over again in 12 months.

For a private first class or a specialist who still owes four to six years on a contract, it seems overwhelming.

Overwhelming enough to reject the Army life by violent exit.

Suicide.

— Army Pilot

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

BARACK OBAMA COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS ON NEW YORK BY STAGING REENACTMENTS, COMPLETE WITH ALL THE AGONY AND WANTON LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE OF THE ORIGINAL EVENT, IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.



MR. FISH

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Remember watching 'Shock and Awe' on TV, and all the lights were on? Why are we snuffing them out now?"]

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box

126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 888.711.2550

“The Right-Wing Accusations Against Barack Obama Are True”

If we do not tap into the justifiable anger sweeping across the nation, if we do not militantly push back against corporate fraud and imperial wars that we cannot win or afford, the political vacuum we have created will be filled with right-wing lunatics and proto-fascists.

September 14, 2009 by Chris Hedges, TruthDig.com [Excerpt]

The right-wing accusations against Barack Obama are true.

He is a socialist, although he practices socialism for corporations.

He is squandering the country's future with deficits that can never be repaid.

He has retained and even bolstered our surveillance state to spy on Americans.

He is forcing us to buy into a health care system that will enrich corporations and expand the abuse of our for-profit medical care.

He will not stanch unemployment.

He will not end our wars.

He will not rebuild the nation.

He is a tool of the corporate state.

The right wing is not wrong.

It is not the problem.

We are the problem.

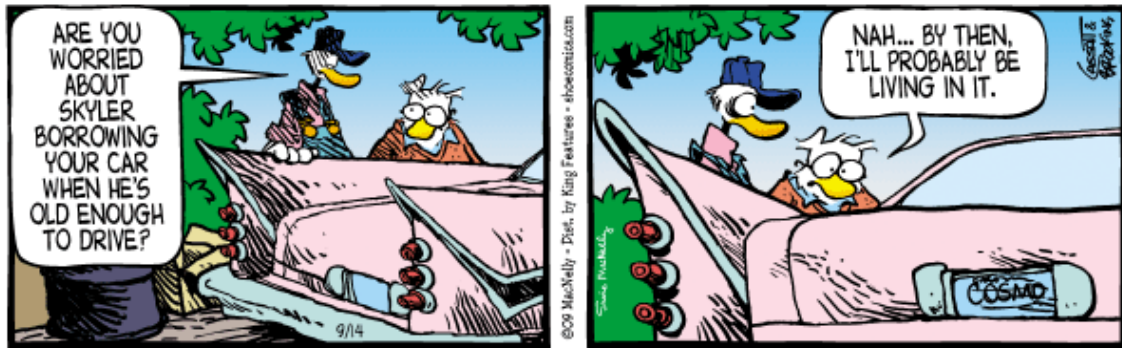
If we do not tap into the justifiable anger sweeping across the nation, if we do not militantly push back against corporate fraud and imperial wars that we cannot win or afford, the political vacuum we have created will be filled with right-wing lunatics and proto-fascists.

The goons will inherit power not because they are astute, but because we are weak and inept.

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

Military Resistance www.militaryproject.org

*This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



*Military Resistance is a near-daily news bulletin for service members
www.militaryproject.org*

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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/gispecial/2008/index.html>; news@uruknet.info;

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

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

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

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