

Military Resistance 8H1

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WAR?



July 29, 2010: Landing after a helicopter rescue mission, Air Force Pararescuemen drape an American flag over the first of two U.S. soldiers killed minutes earlier in an IED attack, in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

The Noose Closes In Bloody Sangin:

**“At Night, The Taliban Sneak Up
To The Road And Plant Bombs”
Since April “16 Britons And Six
Americans Have Been Killed Or
Mortally Wounded”**

**“Tomorrow There Would Be One Fewer
British Base Keeping Watch”**

Despite midday temperatures that pass 120 degrees Fahrenheit, the troops are limited to six liters of water per day. It is too difficult to move more supplies in on Sangin's bomb-laced roads.

Supply and evacuation by helicopter are dangerous too; last month, the troops here watched as an American Pave Hawk went down from enemy fire.

July 29, 2010 By WESLEY MORGAN, The New York Times [Excerpts]

Sangin, Afghanistan — To those who spent time in Baghdad during 2003-2009, the phrase “Green Zone” conjures up a walled sanctuary on the Tigris, with Americans in uniforms or suits occupying gaudy Baathist palaces and only the occasional interruption of war from the city beyond.

In Afghanistan's Helmand Province there is another place that goes by the same name, but for very different reasons.

Baghdad's green is the opposite of red, or danger. Helmand's actually is green. It is a stretch of fertile, cultivated ground along the Helmand River Valley.

Here in Sangin District, at the northern end of the valley, it is essentially insurgent territory — a haven of difficult terrain from which the Taliban mount daily attacks on British troops.

Of the more than 300 British military fatalities in Afghanistan, one-third died in Sangin.

In the past year, British troops have pushed out from a few larger camps in Sangin to two dozen smaller patrol bases scattered along Route 611, the seam between the lush Green Zone to the west and the drier but more heavily populated areas to the east.

The last unit here, Three Rifles Battle Group, lost 30 soldiers over six months — the highest tally of any Western battalion in the war.

Since the Royal Marines' 40 Commando Battle Group arrived in April, another 16 Britons and six Americans have been killed or mortally wounded.

Like many of Sangin's little outposts, Patrol Base Blenheim sits on a hill, overlooking Route 611 and the Green Zone.

In June, there was barely a platoon's worth of Marines and soldiers here, and the highest-ranking officers were a trio of lieutenants.

Despite midday temperatures that pass 120 degrees Fahrenheit, the troops are limited to six liters of water per day. It is too difficult to move more supplies in on Sangin's bomb-laced roads.

Supply and evacuation by helicopter are dangerous too; last month, the troops here watched as an American Pave Hawk went down from enemy fire. There are no toilets; the troops deposit waste in metallic bags and burn it.

Guard towers (“sangars,” in parlance left over from the British military’s days in India) overlook dusty residential compounds — the “population center” that, according to counterinsurgency doctrine, needs protecting. Machine gunners and snipers watch over fields, irrigation ditches, and wood groves of the Green Zone, from whose concealment insurgents fire.

At night, the Taliban sneak up to the road and plant bombs.

Sometimes they shoot to unsettle the men on guard. “Like Apache Indians,” said one artilleryman from South Africa.

There aren’t enough men to push very far into the Green Zone or the populated residential areas, either.

It’s a problem throughout Sangin, according to Lt. Col. Paul James, the British Marine commander in the district. “I have a finite force and I’m pretty much stretched to my maximum,” he says.

“We don’t control the population centers yet. We patrol into them, but we don’t control them.”

The mission of the troops at Blenheim is mainly provide security for convoys of big armored trucks that slowly sweep Route 611 for bombs. The idea is simply to keep the 611 open.

“The Green Zone is like the jungle: difficult to soldier,” said Maj. Ed Moorhouse, whose Charlie Company operates to the south of Blenheim.

“We watch it, we look into it, but we don’t go into it very far.”

One Wednesday last month, Lt. Nicholas Hill led a section of Five Troop on a dawn patrol just outside Blenheim. Their task was to take up a position on a little hillock over the route to provide covering fire while an American route clearance team rolled through.

The British Marines moved with painstaking care, in single file. Some watched the Green Zone through their weapons’ sights. Others scanned the firing ports, or “murder holes,” that insurgents had knocked in the walls of a nearby compound. The point man scanned every rock and pothole with a minesweeper. No one strayed from the footsteps of the man in front of him, following the minesweeper’s narrow path.

“Even if it’s just a few hundred meters away, you put your men at a really high risk just going out,” said Lieutenant Hill.

For about an hour, the patrol watched quietly. An Apache attack helicopter circled overhead. As the sun rose and farmers headed into their fields, the lieutenant and his noncommissioned officer, Cpl. Max Parker, took note of every antlike movement, trading observations about groves and buildings from which they had taken fire before.

The American convoy rolled up and deployed a bomb-finding robot. Some of the British Marines speculated about detecting an I.E.D. Finding one was pretty likely, they

thought; whether that would be done without detonating it was the question. Finally, an hour and a half after descending from the gate of their post, the Marines got up and walked slowly back, trailing behind the minesweeper.

Suddenly automatic weapons fire crackled, and bullets hit the ground near Corporal Parker.

For a moment the men dropped to the ground.

Then, amid shouts of "Peel left! Peel left!" they returned fire into the Green Zone and, shielded by a smoke grenade, bounded toward the gate, sheltering behind the American armored trucks. In quick dashes, the Marines sprinted up into the relative safety of Patrol Base Blenheim. None of the Britons was hurt; there was no way of telling the toll of their return fire.

Inside the patrol base, Corporal Parker reviewed. "Do we need to practice peeling left?" he asked.

Lance Cpl. Lee Evans tried to pinpoint on a map just where the firing had come from. Another Marine said he had seen a group of people running from a building that seemed like a likely firing point but hadn't had time to say so before the shooting started.

"It feels like 5 p.m.," a Marine said. It was 8 in the morning.

Over the next hours, news from the rest of Sangin trickled in by radio, and I.E.D.s boomed occasionally in the distance.

At breakfast, word came that in another company's sector, a British Marine had been caught by a bomb, losing three limbs. Some of the men knew him, and the news put a pall over the meal.

Next, the radio relayed that another outpost, called Pete's Post, was going to be abandoned: the Taliban had snuck a bomb right up to its perimeter during the night, and when it detonated in the morning one of the sangars had partially collapsed, leaving a gaping hole in the defenses.

Then there was another boom. The radio said that an American Marine with the route clearance team had been wounded farther up the 611. (The injured man, Cpl. Jeffrey Standfest, died of his wounds.)

Apaches buzzed overhead; one fired into the Green Zone in bursts. Marines clad only in shorts rushed up to the sangars to get a better look.

An hour before sunset, Scottish advisers rustled up a squad of Afghan troops and led them out on another foot patrol, this one into the Green Zone. Drawn from Charlie Company, First Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the advisers are spread out across Sangin in teams ranging from two "Jocks," as the Scottish soldiers are called, to 10. Beyond advice, they explained, they provide the Afghan company at Blenheim with a conduit to Medevac and air support.

They often have to provide leadership, too, added Lt. Graeme Smith, the team commander, when Afghan officers don't.

“As an officer, they don't feel it's necessary to go out,” the lieutenant said. “They think that's for the sergeants.”

That the Afghan troops are not bound by NATO's restrictive rules of engagement has its upside and its downside, the advisers observed. A British or American soldier can shoot only under a particular set of circumstances — if he is under attack, for instance, or can clearly see an enemy weapon.

But if an Afghan soldier thinks he has a target, he'll open up, said Lance Cpl. Kevin Hope: “With them it's one round, all their rounds, or nae rounds.”

In the evening light, the Scottish-Afghan patrol clambered past trees and an irrigation ditch and entered corn and poppy fields. A fighter jet passed overhead.

Trailing single-file behind the minesweeper, the troops seemed exposed.

If they took fire, they wouldn't even be able to roll into one of the water-filled irrigation ditches — the risk of hidden bombs was too high.

A few hundred meters away, unarmed men and boys watched the patrol in silence. Some came and went on motorbikes.

Some, the soldiers said, were likely the “dicking screen,” paid by nearby Taliban to keep tabs on the patrol's movements. At one point the whoosh of an R.P.G. could be heard, and as the patrol climbed back onto the 611 a radio intercept caught insurgents talking about mounting an attack.

But by then the troops were almost back inside the wire. The Taliban, Corporal Hope speculated, were still busy to the east, where the route clearance teams had rolled off to.

Safely on base, the British marines soldiers brewed tea, bringing cups to the men in the sangars, and heated up ration packs.

After dark, two huge explosions thundered from the east. Allied jets had dropped a pair of 2,000-pound devices on Pete's Post, the outpost that had been abandoned earlier in the day.

They were “denying it to the insurgents.”

But tomorrow there would be one fewer British base keeping watch on the Green Zone.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

US Chopper Down In Kunar; U.S. Command Hasn't Released Casualty Information: Taliban Claim No Survivors

31 Jul 2010 Press TV.

A US helicopter has crashed in northeastern Afghanistan as the death toll of foreign forces in the volatile country continues to set new records.

The US Air Force chopper went down in the Afghan province of Kunar on Saturday, a Press TV correspondent reported.

The US military's press office in Kunar said the helicopter made an emergency landing in the area due to technical failures.

It added that a number of soldiers have been injured in the incident.

The US-led alliance did not provide further details about the crash and it still remains unclear how many people were aboard the chopper.

Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed they shot the helicopter down by an RPG rocket.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said all forces onboard have been killed.

Marine From Crystal Lake Killed In Afghanistan

Jul 13, 2010 By BJ LUTZ, NBC Chicago

A United States Marine from northwest suburban Crystal Lake was killed this week while serving in Afghanistan, the Pentagon reported Tuesday.

Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Antonik, 29, was killed Sunday while in combat in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

The Antoniks had come home from church Sunday and were getting ready to go out to eat when the doorbell rang.

Three men were there to tell them that their son had been killed while serving in Afghanistan.

He was assigned to the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion of the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Antonik, a reconnaissance specialist, had served two tours in Iraq.

Antonik is survived by his wife, Erin Antonik, also from Crystal Lake, whom he'd just married seven months ago. The couple was living in San Clemente, Calif., where Antonik was stationed prior to being deployed to Afghanistan.

He was the second member of the Armed Forces from Illinois to die in Afghanistan in the past week.

Murphy Soldier Sgt. Donald Rocky Edgerton Killed In Afghanistan

July 13, 2010 By Nanci Bompey, Ashville Citizen Times

MURPHY — Patsy Edgerton liked to tell her son he could be a politician or a comedian when he got out of the Army.

But Sgt. Donald Rocky Edgerton couldn't think of doing anything else other than protecting his country and the men serving it.

"He said 'no, mom. I love my men'," Patsy Edgerton said Monday night. "I'm staying with them. I have to take care of them."

Edgerton died July 10 doing just that. The day after his 33rd birthday, he was leading his men near Char Dara, Afghanistan, when he stepped on a land mine.

Edgerton was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

"He died a hero," Patsy Edgerton said.

Edgerton had lived in Murphy only six months, selling granite for his father, before he joined the army at age 28. A high school and college football player, Edgerton had always loved his country, his father, Don Edgerton said.

Edgerton had just been nominated for a bronze medal in Afghanistan and had quickly moved up the ranks after previously serving in Iraq, his parents said.

"Ever since Sept. 11 he felt like he was out of place," Don Edgerton said.

Patsy Edgerton said her son, who is also survived by a wife and 12-year-old daughter, was a funny, loving man who never met a stranger.

"He was the bravest man," she said. "He just didn't let anything bother him. His main focus was to keep those kids safe."

Tallahassee Soldier Killed In Afghanistan-Funeral Arrangements Set

Jul 12, 2010 Lauren Searcy, WCTV.TV

Funeral services for Private First Class Anthony Simmons are now underway in Tallahassee.

The loss of the local hero has drawn support from the entire community and Governor Charlie Crist.

Almost 400 people showed up Tuesday morning to Northwoods Baptist church to pay their respects to PFC Simmons.

The 25 year old fallen soldier died July 8th during his first tour of duty in Afghanistan with the United States Army. The Tallahassee native was remembered today by family, fellow military members, and friends in an hour long ceremony.

For some, this tearful goodbye was the first they'd seen of Anthony in years.

At one this afternoon Simmons' body will be buried at Roselawn Cemetery with full military honors.

Governor Crist has asked that all state and local flags in Leon County be flown at half-staff today in honor of PFC Simmons.

Private First Class Anthony Simmons had quite the personality.

"He's funny. He always had crazy little gestures. He's the loud guy, you always hear the loud guy. You could hear him talking a mile away," said Tony Williams, Simmons' long time friend.

"Ant" - as most of his friends call him, was known as the life of the party, the jokester, and always looking for a good time.

"He didn't have any problems making friends. He'd make a friend in a heartbeat. Never afraid to talk to strangers, he was wide open to anybody he met," added Williams.

The Tallahassee native is a graduate of Godby High School and took classes at TCC before enlisting.

Simmons, who was 25, died while serving his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. He was part of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. His younger brother, Nick Simmons, is part of the same battalion and escorted his brother's body back to Florida.

While family and friends await more information on how their hero died, they're taking solace in the memories of his vibrant personality and the way he brought out so many smiles.

"He will be missed, but he won't be forgotten. Never," said Williams.

Whitehall Man Killed In Afghanistan

July 16, 2010 By Matt Assad, OF THE MORNING CALL

Jesse Reed and Adam Keys graduated from Whitehall High School together in 2002, shared a passion for Tom Petty concerts and endured several years of bad New York Jets football together, so it surprised no one when they enlisted in the Army together in 2008.

The two Army specialists were together again Wednesday when their convoy hit a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan. Reed, 26, was killed and Keyes, 25, was seriously injured.

"It was always a comfort that they were over there together. I knew if there was a problem, they would lean on each other," said Keys' wife, Rosie Keys of North Whitehall Township.

"Now my husband is in critical condition and I feel like I've lost my best friend."

That was the thing about Reed, friends say. He was everyone's best friend, and that's why he was in Afghanistan searching for roadside bombs on a route-clearing mission, said his wife, Heather Reed.

Reed and Keys -- inseparable friends who played football together at Whitehall High -- were heavy equipment operators fortunate enough to end up together at Fort Bragg, N.C., in the 618th Engineer Company. But Reed was in the 2nd Platoon and Keys in the 3rd Platoon, Heather Reed said.

So when the 3rd was scheduled for deployment last December and the 2nd wasn't, Reed asked to be transferred to the 3rd so he could fight alongside Keys.

Since December, the two have bunked together in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, Reed became the 31st , person with ties to the Lehigh Valley region to die in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and Keys only narrowly avoided becoming the 32nd.

So far this month, 45 coalition troops have died in Afghanistan, 33 of them Americans. Wednesday was a particularly deadly day -- eight Americans died.

As of late Thursday, the Department of Defense had not confirmed Reed as being among the deaths, but had released information about an attack in which four American soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb Wednesday in southern Afghanistan.

Family members were notified of Reed's death late Wednesday, and Rosie Keys learned early Thursday that her husband, who is godfather of Reed's 10-month-old son Dylan, suffered broken bones, lacerations and a serious eye injury. Initially in critical condition, he was upgraded to stable condition Thursday, Rosie Keys said.

While Keys said she expected her husband to be moved to a hospital in Germany, Heather Reed was heading to Dover Air Force Base, Del., where her husband's body was due to arrive early Friday morning.

"Jesse thought he could make a bigger difference in Afghanistan and he wanted to be with Adam," Heather Reed said. "They're so much alike. It's probably why they're such close friends."

After living in Berks County until he was 10, Reed moved to Whitehall Township with his mother, Dolores, said Dolores Reed, who now lives in Allentown. Friends say he was the kind of guy people tended to like instantly -- someone who seemed to become the adopted son of a half-dozen families.

If someone needed a ride home from a night of too much partying, Reed would drop everything without thinking. And when his friend Brent Harding's mother said she couldn't afford to repair the deck to her Whitehall home, it was Reed who showed up with tools and wood, and then worked for weeks to help rebuild it.

"He'd have laid in traffic if he thought he was helping a friend," Harding said. "When I told my mom what happened, she broke down as if he was her son."

After high school, Reed drifted between construction jobs, often jokingly wearing a hard hat with the words "I'm a mess" stenciled on it.

Friends from the Hokendauqua Fire Company say he'd sometimes party too much, and they laughed as they recalled the 2 a.m. phone call they got a few years ago, in which Reed said he got lost while walking through a cornfield.

Though he was always the life of the party, the one guy in the group of about eight close friends who seemed to have a knack for making everyone laugh, Reed would suddenly get serious when he talked about how he'd yet to find someone to share his life with the way most of his friends had.

"He was this happy guy with a big laugh. There was never a dull moment with him around," said friend Adam Glose of Whitehall. "But all he really wanted was to be a family man."

After years in which he said he was admittedly drifting, friends say Reed said he finally found his direction two years ago when he met Heather.

By the summer of 2008, he'd decided to enlist in the Army. His mother was worried, but he did his best to calm her fears.

"This is what I was meant to do," Dolores Reed recalled him saying, as she was overcome by emotion Thursday. "Don't worry, Mom, I've finally found my place in life."

In September 2009, Heather gave birth to Dylan, and along with Heather's 5-year-old daughter, Briana, Reed finally found the family he wanted. They lived in a home at Fort Bragg.

Soon after Reed was deployed in December, he learned that Heather was pregnant again, and he was looking forward to taking a two-week leave Aug. 26 so he could witness the birth of his second son.

On Tuesday, the day before his convoy hit that roadside bomb, Reed and his wife talked and decided the new baby's name would be Connor.

It's a decision Heather Reed says she will not honor.

"I changed my mind yesterday," Heather Reed said. "His name will be Jesse David Reed."

Monterey Soldier Dies In Afghanistan

07/12/2010 By DANIEL LOPEZ, Herald Staff Report

A Monterey soldier was among three killed this week in Qalat, Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced Friday.

Army Spc. Roger Lee, 26, died Tuesday after the vehicle he was riding in was attacked by insurgents with a bomb, officials said.

Staff Sgt. Marc A. Arizmendez, 30, of Anaheim, and Pfc. Michael S. Pridham, 19, of Louisville, Ky., were identified as the other men killed.

"They were driving from one base to another," Lee's family was told, his niece Catherine Lee, a North Monterey County resident, said Friday.

Lee enlisted in the Army about three years ago, choosing the military over the family restaurant business to fulfill a lifelong goal, according to his family. "He loved the country and he wanted to fight for freedom," said his brother, Linstun Lee.

Despite knowing the dangers soldiers face, the family supported Lee's decision, his brother said. "Nobody really questioned it," he said. "We knew the dangers involved with Roger's profession."

Lee was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, based out of Hohenfels, Germany.

He was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan and kept in touch with his family in Monterey by phone and through e-mail, Linstun Lee said.

"I would tell him to be real careful, be safe, to always think a step ahead," his brother said.

Lee was last in Monterey for Christmas, and it was then that he told his family he would return to Afghanistan.

“That really scared me,” his brother said.

During his first tour, Lee survived a bombing of a Humvee. Several other U.S. soldiers were killed in that attack, his family said.

“He was completely unscathed,” his brother said. “I said to myself, 'Things happen. That's going to happen once and that's it. He climbed over the mountain. He made it.' I didn't think that would ever happen again.”

Lee's mother, Jong Lee, was devastated when she was told her son died, Linstun Lee said.

Lee grew up in Monterey, where his family owns the Chef Lee's Mandarin House. After attending Monterey High School, he moved to Arizona, where he graduated from an auto mechanic trade school.

It was there that he met his future wife, Elvina, who was attending the same school, his niece said.

The couple had a daughter, Jazmyne, who is 5 years old. They were married shortly after Lee enlisted in the Army.

Catherine Lee said her uncle was devoted to his wife and daughter, and they were partly why he joined the military.

“He wanted a better life for his wife and child, some stability,” she said.

Lee's wife and daughter were living in Germany while he was in Afghanistan.

The Lee family was already coping with the illness of the soldier's father, Yen Chih Lee, who is undergoing treatment for liver cancer, the family said.

Roger Lee had many friends and was well-liked, said his stepmother, Kim Lee.

“We loved him so much. He was a great person,” she said. “We are very proud of him.”

After his military service, Lee planned to return to Monterey, his family said.

At least 853 U.S. military personnel have died in combat in Afghanistan, according to the military. “Roger didn't die in vain. He died serving his country and doing what he was destined to do,” his niece said.

The Lee family is awaiting the return of Lee's remains. Funeral arrangements are pending

Afghans Rally Against The Occupation In Kabul



Afghans carry posters of Afghan civilians killed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, during a demonstration in Kabul, Afghanistan on Aug. 1, 2010. More than 400 demonstrators have marched toward the presidential palace in Kabul to protest the killing of 52 civilians by a rocket strike in the south. (AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)

Resistance Action:

July 27 AP & 7.30.10 ISAF & 07/31/10 Reuters & Miami Herald

On Saturday, three people, including a former militia commander who supported the Afghan government, were killed by a bomber at a soccer game in the northern city of Kunduz, provincial officials said.

They identified the former commander as a man who used one name, Selab, a former local warlord who had fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s and the civil war that followed.

An Afghan policeman and a relative of Selab who worked as his bodyguard were also killed.

“He was a supporter of the Afghan government,” Haqtash said. “This is why he was targeted by the militants.”

He said the Taliban planted a mine near Selab's house about four months ago.

Selab survived that explosion, but one person was killed and two others were wounded in the attack.

Insurgents killed six Afghan construction workers, wounded two more and captured an Afghan government official in the Siahgird district of Parwan province yesterday. The insurgents attacked vehicles carrying workers from an Afghan construction company with small-arms fire. During the attack, the insurgents captured the attorney general for the district. He was released the same day through negotiations with insurgents.

While building and repairing roads in the Ab Band district of Ghazni province, six Afghans were killed by insurgents' small-arms fire, according to Afghan officials.

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

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



A US soldier from the 4th Brigade Combat Team keeps patrols near Combat Outpost Kowall in Arghandab District, north of Kandahar July 13, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong



A US soldier from the 4th Brigade Combat Team keeps patrols near Combat Outpost Kowall in Arghandab District, north of Kandahar July 13, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong



A U.S. soldier moves to another fighting position after coming under attack at Combat Outpost Nolen in the Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar, July 19, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

MILITARY NEWS

Dutch Troops Stop Fighting War On Afghanistan: Taliban “Wholeheartedly Congratulate The Citizens And Government Of The Netherlands”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

1 August 2010 BBC

The Netherlands has ended its military mission in Afghanistan, after four years in which its 1,950 troops have won praise for their effectiveness.

Nato has played down its significance, but analysts say this is a sensitive time for the alliance, with growing casualties and doubts about strategy.

Dutch command was formally handed over to the US and Australia in a small ceremony on Sunday at the main military base in Uruzgan - where most Dutch soldiers have been deployed.

The Dutch ministry of defence told the BBC that while its military mission in Afghanistan had ended, a redeployment task force would stay on to oversee the return of vehicles, military hardware and equipment to the Netherlands. Four F16 jets, three Chinooks and five Apaches from the Dutch air force were expected to remain in Afghanistan until the end of the year.

NATO had wanted the Netherlands to extend its mission, but the request triggered a political row which brought down the country's coalition government in February.

This sent shock waves through other European countries, particularly Germany, where public opposition to the war is growing.

Having supplied just a small percentage of Nato forces, the Dutch pull-out will not make a significant military difference, says the BBC's David Loyn in Kabul, but it will have a symbolic impact far beyond the troop numbers themselves.

Uruzgan is a poor mountainous region north of Helmand and Kandahar, and the Dutch lost far fewer troops than the UK, US and Canada, the main forces further south.

Gen Van Uhm said 24 Dutch troops died during the four-year mission and 140 were wounded. His 23-year-old son was killed by a roadside bomb in April 2008.

A Taliban spokesman told the Volksrant newspaper that the group wanted to “wholeheartedly congratulate the citizens and government of the Netherlands” for pulling out its troops and urged others to follow suit.

The Hero Soldier Manning Ordered Held In Solitary Confinement

August 1, 2010 From Barbara Starr, Laurie Ure and Terry Frieden, CNN [Excerpts]

Washington (CNN) -- The Army private charged with leaking an airstrike video and downloading documents remained in solitary confinement Saturday.

Military officials told CNN that Pfc. Bradley Manning is also the prime suspect in the latest leak of documents to the WikiLeaks website.

Manning was routinely processed Thursday at the Quantico detention facility, a military spokesman said Friday.

Manning arrived at 9:30 p.m. Thursday and was given a physical exam and medical screenings, according to Lt. Col. Rob Manning (not related) of the Military District of Washington.

The suspect is in solitary confinement and is being observed in accordance with normal operating procedures, the spokesman said.

Manning could go before a military judge in August in Washington, but given the complexity of the case it could likely be delayed, the military official said. Investigators are gathering evidence on the initial charges, which they will present to a military judge who will approve a court martial if the case adds up, the military official said.

Manning, the military spokesman, said no hearing dates have been set, as the uniformed code of military justice is a “very deliberate process.”

Requests for comment from Manning's attorney, Capt. Paul Bouchard, were not returned.

The investigation has also been expanded, with the help of the FBI, in the wake of the new leak. The FBI is assisting the Defense Department in the Wikileaks investigation of Manning but remain tight-lipped on what or who they're looking at or interviewing.

On background, one FBI official acknowledges the Bureau is involved in the investigation of potential civilian co-conspirators who may have played a role in the leaking of the classified material.

Send Your Letter Of Solidarity To Pfc. Bradley Manning

Letters must be addressed as follows in order to be delivered:

Inmate Bradley Manning
3247 Elrod Avenue
Quantico VA 22134
USA

Slime From Army Criminal Investigation Division Tried To Bribe Computer Expert To “Infiltrate WikiLeaks” Friend Says Bradley Manning “Was Definitely Interested In Making A Positive Impact On The World”

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

30 Jul 2010 By Heidi Blake, John Bingham and Gordon Rayner, Guardian [UK] & August 1, 2010 By Ellen Nakashima, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

Before the online site WikiLeaks published a trove of classified documents about the Afghanistan war, government investigators interviewed Boston-area acquaintances of a military analyst charged with providing other documents to the site in an effort to prevent additional leaks, according to one person interviewed in the probe.

The man, a computer expert who met Pfc. Bradley E. Manning in January, said he told the investigators in mid-June that he knew of no such documents.

The investigators from the Army and the State Department seemed to be “looking for classified documents that they thought to be in the Boston area,” said the acquaintance, who would discuss the sensitive matter only on the condition of anonymity. “I got the impression they were still in the process of containing a leak.”

The computer expert also said the Army offered him cash to, in his word, “infiltrate” WikiLeaks. “I turned them down,” he said. “I don't want anything to do with this cloak-and-dagger stuff.”

Army Criminal Investigation Division spokesman Chris Grey declined to comment on the claim. "We've got an ongoing investigation," he said. "We don't discuss our techniques and tactics."

Manning, who lived in Potomac and was stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., before shipping out to Baghdad last year, had hoped he would serve his time and then use the G.I. Bill to go to college.

"He was definitely interested in making a positive impact on the world," said Danny Clark, a friend of Manning's who runs a small tech firm in Cambridge and has declined to be interviewed by military investigators.

Mr Manning's family, who live in Pembrokeshire [UK], said he had "done the right thing".

Scott Lewis, a former classmate, said: "He was a bit hot-headed. If there was something he didn't agree with, he spoke up about it."

Pictures on Mr Manning's Facebook page include photos of him on school trips during his time in Wales and at a gay rights rally, where he is holding up a placard demanding equality on "the battlefield".

Up To His Neck In The Blood Of Thousands Of "Young Soldiers" & "Afghan Families," The Traitor Mullen Dares Accuse Others Of His Own Crimes



TIM SLOAN/AFP/Getty Images

Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the US military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the leakers "might already have on their hands the blood of some young soldier or

that of an Afghan family” because, he said, the leaked documents included the names of Afghan informants. -- 30 Jul 2010 Guardian [UK]

Never Doubt The Soldiers Know The Truth

July 28, 2010 by Simon Moyle, Waging Nonviolence [Australia] [Excerpt]

During the Talisman Sabre joint US/Australian military exercises in 2009, my friends and I had many conversations with soldiers from Australia and the U.S., many of whom had spent time in combat roles in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To my surprise, almost without exception, they expressed the futility of the task there.

Some had lost good friends. But they were under orders, they said, and their families relied on the income they generated from the army.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

Poverty of War



Photograph by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance
Sent: July 30, 2010
Subject: Poverty of War

Poverty of War

**22% of the children in America live in poverty.
33 billion more dollars for the war in Afghanistan.
Millions of children in Iraq and Afghanistan are
living in destitution because of America.**

Over a million people have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Multiple that number by ten for those who have been wounded.
The so-called greatest country in the world is responsible for utter madness.
Charles Manson would never think of such a crime.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam veteran
July 30, 2010

If the United States cuts and runs in Vietnam, we will have a temporary peace and then a certain world war.
Richard M. Nixon
Former Vice-President of the United States
Durham, N.C.
April 30, 1966

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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

August 1, 1944: Dishonorable Anniversary; Stalin's Russian Empire Betrays The Polish Resistance Movement And Helps Hitler Destroy It

Carl Bunin Peace History July 30-Aug 5

The Polish Underground Army began its battle to liberate Warsaw, the first European city to have fallen to the Germans in World War II.

BBC.co.uk/onthisday:

The battle for control of Warsaw lasted 63 days and ended with surrender by the Poles on 3 October 1944.

A German counter-offensive began on 5 August 1944. Orders were given to round up civilians and shoot them. Women were used as human shields for the German tanks.

During the uprising, the civilian population of Warsaw was kept in touch with newspapers published mostly by the Home Army and a local radio station.

General Bor had planned for the liberation of Warsaw to take about a week. But he received no help from the Soviets, who ceased their offensive towards the capital.

They also refused to allow the Allies to use Soviet bases to take-off and land. So the pilots were forced, instead, to fly up from Italy. Without fighter escorts many were lost and many of their supplies ended up in the wrong hands.

Final casualties were over 15,000 dead or missing, 5,000 wounded, and 200,000 Polish civilians dead. On the German side there were an estimated 16,000 dead and 9,000 wounded.

[Although close enough to come to the aid of the Polish Resistance, Stalin ordered the Russian Army to do nothing for weeks so the Nazis could wipe out the Polish resistance. The last things Russian imperialists wanted was a fighting force in Poland able to stand up to the occupation of Poland by Stalin's Russian empire. T]

[From the BBC, 1944:]

“To the north of the city, Soviet troops are advancing north-westward to Warsaw, with the River Vistula on their left flank.

“Soviet troops are now said to be fighting within 10-12 miles of Praga, the suburb on Warsaw's right bank.”

“What Are, Generally Speaking, The Characteristics Of A Revolutionary Situation?”

Comment: T

Whatever you may think of the politics of this writer, he was rather skilled at figuring out when a revolutionary situation was present:

He describes the essential ingredients:

1. A ruling class split and at war within itself about what to do: “a crack through which the dissatisfaction and the revolt of the oppressed classes burst forth”
2. An economic crisis hammering the working class
3. A war that breaks the passivity of “peacetime” politics.
4. He might have added, had this been written later, a ruling class so blind and stupid it can’t conceive of a whole population rising in revolution against it, and an army happy to join the mass movement from below.

1915, Excerpts from Collapse Of The Second International & IMPERIALISM AND SOCIALISM IN ITALY, Kommunist, Nos. 1.2, 1915, By V. I. Ulyanov. [The writer used the pen name “Lenin” to keep the government from terrorizing his family. Excerpts]

For a Marxist there is no doubt that a revolution is impossible without a revolutionary situation; furthermore, we know that not every revolutionary situation leads to revolution.

What are, generally speaking, the characteristics of a revolutionary situation?

We can hardly be mistaken when we indicate the following three outstanding signs:

(1) it is impossible for the ruling classes to maintain their power unchanged; there is a crisis “higher up,” taking one form or another; there is a crisis in the policy of the ruling class; as a result, there appears a crack through which the dissatisfaction and the revolt of the oppressed classes burst forth.

If a revolution is to take place it is necessary that “one is incapable up above” to continue in the old way;

(2) the wants and sufferings of the oppressed classes become more acute than usual;

(3) in consequence of the above causes, there is a considerable increase in the activity of the masses who in “peace time” allow themselves to be robbed without protest, but in stormy times are drawn both by the circumstances of the crises and by the “higher-ups” themselves into independent historic action.

Without these objective changes, which are independent not only of the will of separate groups and parties but even of separate classes, a revolution, as a rule, is impossible.

The co-existence of all these objective changes is called a revolutionary situation.

This situation existed in 1905 in Russia and in all the periods of revolution in the West, but it also existed in the seventh decade of the last century in Germany; it existed in 1859, 1861 and in 1879-1880 in Russia, though there was no revolution in these latter instances.

Why?

Because a revolution emerges not out of every revolutionary situation, but out of such situations where, to the above-mentioned objective changes, subjective ones are added, namely, the ability of the revolutionary classes to carry out revolutionary mass actions strong enough to break (or to undermine) the old government, it being the rule that never, not even in a period of crises, does a government “fall” of itself without being “helped to fall.”

“Much Has Been Left In The World That Must Be Destroyed By Fire And Iron For The Liberation Of The Working Class”

Take the present army. It is one of the good examples of organisation. This organisation is good only because it is flexible; at the same time it knows how to give to millions of people one uniform will.

Today these millions are in their homes in various parts of the country. Tomorrow a call for mobilization is issued, and they gather at the appointed centres. Today they lie in the trenches, sometimes for months at a stretch; tomorrow they are led into battle in another formation.

Today they perform marvels, hiding themselves from bullets and shrapnel; tomorrow they do marvels in open combat. Today their advance detachments place mines under the ground; tomorrow they move dozens of miles according to the advice of flyers above ground.

We call it organisation when, in the pursuit of one aim, animated by one will, millions change the forms of their intercourse and their actions, change the place and the method of their activities, change the weapons and armaments in accordance with changing conditions and the vicissitudes of the struggle.

The same holds true about the fight of the working class against the bourgeoisie.

Today there is no revolutionary situation apparent; there are no such conditions as would cause a ferment among the masses or heighten their activities; today you are given an election ballot - take it.

Understand how to organise for it, to hit your enemies with it, and not to place men in soft parliamentary berths who cling to their seat in fear of prison.

Tomorrow you are deprived of the election ballot, you are given a rifle and a splendid machine gun equipped according to the last word of machine technique:

take this weapon of death and destruction, do not listen to the sentimental whiners who are afraid of war.

Much has been left in the world that must be destroyed by fire and iron for the liberation of the working class.

And if bitterness and despair grow in the masses, if a revolutionary situation is at hand, prepare to organise new organisations and utilize these so useful weapons of death and destruction against your own government and your bourgeoisie. .

This is not easy, to be sure.

It will demand difficult preparatory activities. It will demand grave sacrifices.

This is a new species of organisation and struggle that one must learn, and learning is never done without errors and defeats.

The relation of this species of class struggle to participation in elections is the same as storming a fortress is to maneuvering, marching, or lying in the trenches.

This species of struggle is placed on the order of the day in history very infrequently, but, its significance and its consequences are felt for decades.

Single days when such methods can and must be put on the programme of struggle are equal to scores of years of other historic epochs.

The question has been put squarely, and one cannot fail to recognise that the European War has been of enormous use for humanity in that it actually has placed the question squarely before hundreds of millions of people of various nationalities: either defend, with, rifle or pen, directly or indirectly, in whatever form it may be, the great-nation and national privileges, in general, as well as the prerogative or the pretensions of "our" bourgeoisie, that is to say, either be its adherent and lackey, or utilize every struggle, particularly the clash of arms for great-nation privileges, to unmask and overthrow every government, in the first place our own, by means of the revolutionary action of an internationally united proletariat.

There is no middle road; in other words, the attempt to take a middle position means, in reality, covertly to join the imperialist bourgeoisie.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Stupid Firmly In Command

July 29, 2010 By Nicole Colson, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

The Obama White House was quick to denounce the WikiLeaks release.

At first, it claimed that the documents didn't reflect the reality of the war, since they only run through last December--before the implementation of Obama's "surge" plan announced late last year.

When it was clear that no one bought that one, administration officials turned to criticizing the release for putting "national security" in jeopardy--while also claiming that the documents were "old news" and didn't really reveal anything that wasn't previously known (leading to the question of why the documents were classified in the first place.)

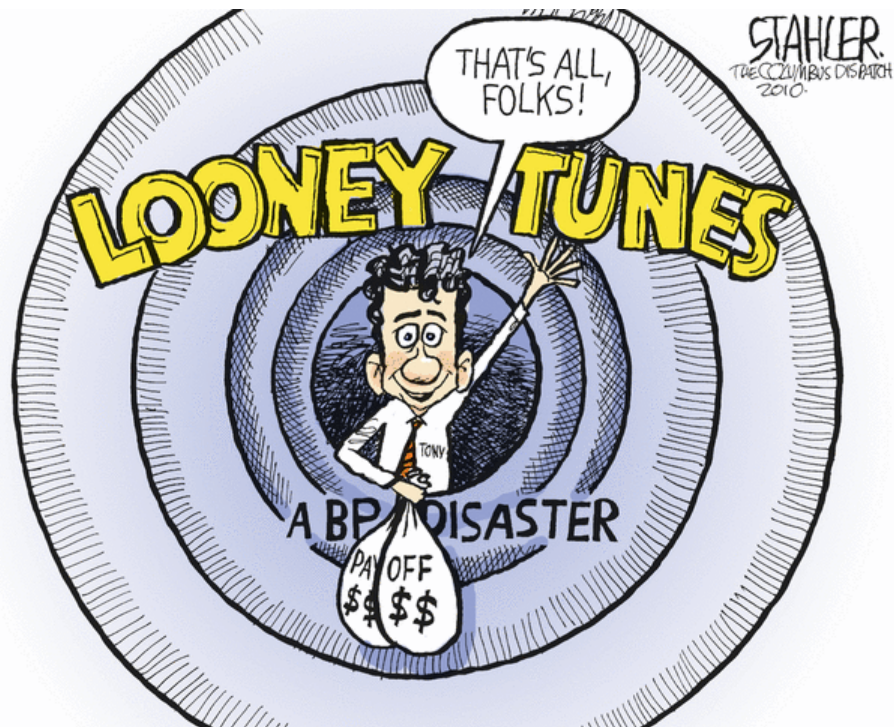
POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)



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