

Military Resistance 8H16

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



Aug. 5, 2010: The coffin of Marine Lance Cpl. Abram LaRue Howard at the Williamsport Area High School Auditorium in Williamsport, Pa. Howard, 21, was serving in Afghanistan on July 27, 2010 when he died of injuries from a roadside bomb blast in Helmand province. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

Sniper:

**“Every Day He Remains Alive, He
Is Drawing Marine Blood”**

**“Methodical, Well-Aimed Shots, Fired
One At A Time”**

**“A Deadly Reminder That The Taliban
Insurgency Has Its Share Of Well-Trained**

Fighters Capable Of Frustrating The Allied Mission”

AUGUST 19, 2010 By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

SANGIN, Afghanistan—Somewhere in this dusty town, concealed among the cornfields, irrigation canals and mud-walled compounds, is a man the Marines particularly want to kill.

They don't know what he looks like. But they know he is a very good shot with a long rifle, and, every day he remains alive, he is drawing Marine blood.

In the seven days since the men of Lima Company, Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment arrived in town, the Sangin sniper has persecuted them with methodical, well-aimed shots, fired one at a time.

His toll so far: two men killed—one American and one British—and one man wounded.

Two Marines have survived hits they say came from a second shooter, believed to be less proficient and careful than the first.

Sangin has for years been a hotbed of insurgent activity in volatile Helmand province, and, in its first days here, Lima Company has pressed through a belt of farmland between the Helmand River and a main road, Route 611. The Marines have been met with hidden explosives and ambushes.

But the sniper has caused the most damage — a deadly reminder that the Taliban insurgency has its share of well-trained fighters capable of frustrating the allied mission.

“He's hitting people — that's very disruptive,” said 1st Sgt. John Calhoun, 41 years old, from Konawa, Okla. “But it's not interfering with what we're trying to do here.” **[No, of course not. The dead and wounded “interfere” with nothing at all.]**

The sniper struck first on Aug. 13, the day after Lima Company arrived.

A Marine stepped out of his armored vehicle just 100 yards or so from a secure U.S.-British patrol base. He threw away some trash and exchanged a few words with another Marine. The sniper fired a single, lethal shot.

On the same day, a British army engineer — 20-year-old Darren Foster from Carlisle, England — was in a guard post in front of the same patrol base. British troops have built a covered, bunkered pathway so the guards aren't exposed to enemy fire as they walk down from the hilltop base. The post is protected by bulletproof glass, except for small gaps through which the guards fire their weapons. The sniper timed his single shot and killed the engineer as he walked past the opening.

“He hit a moving target in a space this big,” said Capt. Jim Nolan, Lima Company's commander, holding his hands about nine inches apart.

On Aug. 14, a U.S. tank mechanic took a round in the torso as he carried sandbags across a small bridge. The protective plate in his body armor stopped the round.

“We think it’s the same guy,” said Gunnery Sgt. Edward Rivera, 39, of Poway, Calif.

Other Marines believe the evidence suggests a second shooter, less accurate and armed with a smaller-caliber weapon.

Then on Sunday, the snipers hit twice. First, Lance Cpl. Derek Simpson took a round to the head.

One of the Marines’ tank-like mine-clearing vehicles had slipped off of a dirt bridge, knocking the track off the sprocket wheel. The Marines hitched it to a tow-tank and pulled until the track came completely free, then set to work putting it back in place. Lance Cpl. Simpson, of Third Combat Engineer Battalion, was working on the project and talking to some other Marines when he felt a hard blow to his head.

The sniper’s bullet had apparently hit the tank and ricocheted into the front right side of Lance Cpl. Simpson’s helmet. It punched into the Kevlar shell, but didn’t penetrate all the way.

Lance Cpl. Simpson, who was raised in Gary, Texas, can’t recall if he was knocked to the ground or threw himself there to avoid another shot. Another Marine dragged him to cover. He lay on his back as a friend pulled off his helmet to reveal a bloody welt on the right side of his forehead. Two Navy corpsmen, the Marine equivalent of Army medics, decided against stitches.

“I feel blessed,” he said. But he also felt guilty for leaving his comrades. “I want to be out there with everyone else,” he said. “It’s not fair that I’m alive and in here, and they’re still out there.”

Fifteen minutes after Lance Cpl. Simpson arrived at the patrol base, another Marine went down near the same spot.

Again, just one shot.

The other Marines pulled him, too, behind an armored vehicle, where a corpsman treated his wounded leg. The men called frantically for an armored ambulance, but were relieved that the corpsman found the bullet had missed the femoral artery. The wound wasn’t life-threatening.

Back at the patrol base, Sgt. Johnny Bailey watched a live video feed of the scene at the bridge and tried to find out which way the Marine had fallen. “That way I’ll know the direction of the shot,” he said.

“He’s a decent shot—not a great shot,” one Marine sniper said as he headed out the patrol base to try to kill the insurgent. He had heard the thump and crack of each of the sniper’s shots. He estimates from the sound that the Sangin sniper is less than 600 yards away from his targets. Still, the Sangin sniper appears careful and clever.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

New Jersey Soldier Killed By Insurgent Grenade Attack

August 17, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 732-10

Spc. Jamal M. Rhett, 24, of Palmyra, N.J., died Aug. 15 in Ba Qubah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle with grenades. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Baghdad Bomber Targets Iraqi Army Recruits, Kills At Least 51



8.17.2010: The scene where a bomber blew himself up among hundreds of army recruits who had gathered near a military headquarters in the capital, Baghdad. (AP Photo)

August 17, 2010 By Liz Sly and Raheem Salman, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Baghdad — A bomber blew himself up among a crowd of army recruits early Tuesday, killing at least 51 and wounding 121, police and health officials said.

The massive explosion happened as the men were lining up outside a recruitment center in the Bab al Muadham neighborhood of central Baghdad shortly after 7:30 a.m. Initial reports indicated the bomber was wearing a vest that concealed explosives.

Witnesses said the recruits had been told to gather in an unprotected area outside the walls of the guarded building, even though army recruitment centers have frequently been targeted by attacks in the past.

Courthouse Attack In Tikrit

August 18, 2010 By AP

BAGHDAD: A bomb planted near a courthouse in Saddam Hussein's hometown killed two security guards on Wednesday, Iraqi police and hospital officials said.

Security officials at the civil court in Tikrit, located some 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad, discovered pair of bombs near the main entrance to the building early Wednesday morning as people were arriving for work.

Authorities evacuated the courthouse, but one of the bombs went off around 7:40 local time, killing the two guards and wounding three civilians, police and hospital officials said.

It was not immediately clear whether the first bomb was timed to detonate or whether it was mishandled. Police said they defused the second bomb.

Resistance Action Spreads & Intensifies

Aug 15 (Reuters) & August 16, 2010 & Aug 17 (Reuters) & Aug 18 (Reuters) & KUNA & AFP & Aug 19 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - Insurgents launched a coordinated assault against Iraqi judges, attacking eight of them in Baghdad and Diyala provinces with bombs and silenced weapons and killing two, judicial sources said.

MOSUL - Insurgents killed a policeman near a gas station in western Mosul, police said.

MOSUL - Four policemen were wounded when three roadside bombs went off in the centre of Mosul, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded

Armed men in a car attacked the headquarters of the Kurdish intelligence services in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, wounding one guard. Guards returned fire, killing one attacker and wounding a second, police said.

KIRKUK - Armed men killed an off-duty Iraqi soldier in the centre of Kirkuk, police said.

Insurgents in a car killed three off-duty members of the government-backed Sahwa militia and wounded two others on Saturday as they were leaving a mosque in the town of Jurf al-Sakhar, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, a source in the Babel province military operation centre said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents in a car shot at a police patrol, killing one policeman and wounded two, on Saturday night in Baghdad's western Ghazaliya district, an Interior Ministry source said.

MOSUL - Insurgents attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing one soldier and wounding another, in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol went off in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding three others, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb killed one policeman when it went off in southern Mosul, police said.

Insurgents shot dead a policeman manning a checkpoint in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded two soldiers in southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol, wounding three policemen near al-Shaab National Stadium in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A handgrenade thrown at a police patrol wounded three policemen when it exploded in southern Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, a police source said.

Militants in a speeding car opened fire on and killed a relative of a provincial councilman from the western province of Anbar just outside the city of Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - Guerrilla fighters shot dead a government employee working at Badosh prison in western Mosul, police said.

Guerrilla fighters in a speeding car opened fire on a police foot patrol using silenced weapons, killing two policemen, in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Men in a car threw a hand grenade into the street, wounding one policeman in Baghdad's western district of Mansour, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - The head of the Trade Ministry's supreme audit department, Hasan Abdul-Lateef, was killed when guerrillas using silenced weapons shot him in Baghdad's western district of Amiriya, police said.

HAMMAM AL-ALIL - An off-duty police officer was shot dead in Hammam al-Alil near Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A policeman was killed when a roadside bomb exploded in central Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A sticky bomb attached to the car of a government-backed Sahwa militia leader killed him and wounded his brother when it exploded in eastern Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - Gunmen using silenced guns opened fire at an Iraqi military checkpoint, killing a soldier in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded two soldiers when it went off in eastern Mosul, police said.

Gunmen in a speeding car opened fire at a government-backed Sahwa militia checkpoint, killing one and wounding two others in Madaen, 30 km (20 miles) southeast of Baghdad, an interior ministry source said.

Iraqi Police sources told KUNA the motorcade of undersecretary of trade Walid Al-Hilow was attacked with an explosive device. The resulting blast in Beirut Square in Baghdad left two bodyguards seriously injured. The undersecretary was not in his car at the time of the explosion.

Three farmers were killed and leaflets pinned to their bodies Wednesday, warning against cooperation with American and Iraqi forces in the village of Rabiya, northeast of Baghdad in central Diyala province. 10 masked insurgents carrying machine guns and silenced pistols raided the houses of three men, dragged them outside and shot them dead. "They brought them outside of their homes and then shot them," said police Major Mohammed al-Karkhi. "Then they left leaflets on their bodies which said: 'This is the future for all those who cooperate with the US military and Iraqi security forces'."

In the provincial capital of Baquba, a pro-government militiaman was killed and his brother wounded when a magnetic "sticky bomb" was attached to their car, local police said.

On Wednesday, two people were killed and two wounded by a roadside bomb in front of the courthouse in Tikrit, north of Baghdad, at around 7:30 am (0430 GMT), a police colonel said.

In the western town of Ramadi, a bomb inside a police station killed two policemen and wounded three others, an officer said.

A communications ministry official was shot dead in Harithiyah, a western district of the capital, an interior ministry official said.

Look At What They Buried In A Ton Of Bullshit: “Milicias Have Stepped Up Attacks Against U.S. Bases In Southern Iraq In Recent Weeks”

August 19, 2010 By Ernesto Londoño, Washington Post Foreign Service

[This is from a long long article about U.S. troops going from Baghdad to Kuwait.]

Commanders spent weeks studying the perils of the 360-mile nighttime drive through the sweltering, dusty desert of southern Iraq.

Powerful roadside bombs lined the two-lane road. And Shiite militias have stepped up attacks against U.S. bases in southern Iraq in recent weeks.

Obama’s Lying Bullshit Reeks On: U.S. Combat Brigades Put On Lipstick And A Pretty Dress

August 19, 2010 By Ernesto Londoño, Washington Post Foreign Service

By the end of this month, the United States will have six brigades in Iraq, by far its smallest footprint since the 2003 invasion.

Those that remain are conventional combat brigades reconfigured slightly and rebranded “advise and assist brigades.”

Obama’s Lying Bullshit Reeks On: Navy Combat Force Will Not Leave Iraq By Sept. 1:

“The Children Made Their Feelings Clear: They Began Throwing Rocks As The Americans Motored Away”

August 16, 2010 By Corinne Reilly, The Virginian-Pilot [Excerpts]

BASRA, IRAQ

The Navy riverines of Squadron 1 can tell a lot by the looks on the faces of the children standing along the shoreline.

If they're smiling, the village will probably be friendly. Scowls generally mean the opposite.

So, when the riverines pulled their boats up to land at the first stop on their patrol Thursday morning, they were unsure what to make of all the blank stares.

In the end, though, the children made their feelings clear: They began throwing rocks as the Americans motored away.

Squadron 1, which is headquartered in Virginia Beach at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, is halfway through a six-month tour. Traditionally, the mission of riverines is to secure inland waterways such as rivers and swamps.

They are known for their integral role in the Vietnam War, and they come well-equipped for combat. As thousands of American troops prepare to leave Iraq by Sept. 1, the riverines are staying on.

At their first stop, a bustling neighborhood where they planned to pass out a few soccer balls and off-load the researchers, the patrol was met by blank-faced children.

More than a dozen riverines stepped ashore to provide security for the researchers, who came to interview locals about violence in the area and the availability of government services.

Then the ground team recounted what the others on the boats had missed: As the researchers were wrapping up their interviews, a car carrying four Iraqis stopped nearby. All four people got out and quickly disappeared. Something about it didn't feel right to the riverines, and there have been car bombings in the area lately.

So they took some photographs and wrote down the car's license plate number - information to be passed up their chain of command.

“I'm glad we're outta there,” one gunner said. “I definitely don't feel like getting blown up today.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Makeshift-Bomb Attacks In July Wounded A Record Number Of U.S.-Led Troops In Afghanistan”

“In July 2010, IEDs Wounded 399 Servicemembers — A 68% Increase — And Killed 53”

“More Than 1,300 IEDs Were Detonated Or Defused In July — A New Record”

8.19.10 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Makeshift-bomb attacks in July wounded a record number of U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan, and experts say even more would have died without widespread use of armored vehicles.

More than 1,300 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were detonated or defused in July — a new record, said the Pentagon’s Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). That’s a 42% increase over July 2009. In July 2010, IEDs wounded 399 servicemembers — a 68% increase — and killed 53.

More troops are surviving blasts in part because of the substantial increase in the number of armored trucks designed to help troops survive bomb blasts, said John Pike, a military analyst at Globalsecurity.org.

“We continue to create a target-rich environment for the enemy,” Pike said. “We’re having more IED casualties because we have more troops in harm’s way. And the Taliban are not growing any weaker.”

Two U.S. Soldier Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

August 19, 2010 BNO

On Tuesday, 21-year-old Pvt. Charles M. High of Albuquerque, New Mexico and 24-year-old Pfc. Benjamin G. Chisholm of Fort Worth, Texas were killed following an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan, which caused their vehicle to roll-over.

U.S. Soldier Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

August 19, 2010 BNO

24-year-old Staff Sgt. Derek J. Farley of Nassau, New York died in western Afghanistan after an IED detonated as he attempted to disarm it.

Another U.S. Soldier Killed By IED Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

August 19, 2010 BNO

On Wednesday, an American service member was killed as a result of an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in southern Afghanistan, military sources said.

Lejeune Marine Killed In Helmand



Pfc. Vincent E. Gammone III

August 11, 2010 By HOPE HODGE, Jdnews.com

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — The fiancée of a Camp Lejeune Marine said he was trying to help a comrade when he was killed during an attempted prisoner escape in Afghanistan.

The military said 19-year-old Pfc. Vincent E. Gammone III, of Christiana, Tenn., and 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Cornelius of Ashtabula, Ohio, died on Saturday in Helmand province.

“We were told that Vincent was one of the first to go to the aid of another Marine who had been wounded by the escaped prisoner, who was able to arm himself during his attempted escape,” fiancée Jessica West told The Daily News Journal of Murfreesboro, Tenn. “We found out he was shot in the collarbone.”

Both were assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune.

NATO said that two Marines were killed when they tried to subdue a prisoner trying to escape from an undisclosed prison. The prisoner slipped out of a room where he was praying, got hold of a rifle and opened fire before he was shot dead, NATO said.

West said the Marine’s mother, Lorraine Gammone, and his grandmother, Ellie Gammone, went to escort his remains back from Dover, Del., on Tuesday.

“His mom has been in shock,” West said. “She cried a little and is trying to stay strong. Vincent was very special to his mom and his grandmother.”

West said his father, Vincent Gammone II, has multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects the ability of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord to communicate with one another.

Neighbors in the small community where the family lives have posted flags on their mailboxes, houses and yards to honor the fallen Marine.

“We have had a full house the past three days,” West said.

West said Gammone’s passion to join the military service became stronger after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He also had aspirations to join the Navy once his contract with the Marines ended.

“I’ll remember his kind heart,” West said. “He was very forgiving and very loving. I’ll remember his love and passion for band and the Marine Corps and his love for me, his family and everyone he met.”

Marine Killed After Successful Mission in Afghanistan

August 10, 2010 Dave Nethers, Fox 8 Reporter

ASHTABULA, Ohio - Those who knew 20-year-old Lance Corporal Kevin Cornelius say there was never any question what he wanted to do.

“He wanted to be a marine,” said Lakeside High School Football Coach Bill Lipps, who coached Cornelius in 2007. “He wanted to serve the country and that’s what he really wanted to do.”

Cornelius’ mother is a teacher at the high school where many on the staff watched him grow to become a man.

“In talking to his mother on Sunday she reminisced that Kevin played army when he was you know three, four, five years old and carried it all the way through. He ended up in the marine corps but was always interested in the military,” said Lakeside High Principal Sylvia Atkinson.

“Kevin was doing what Kevin wanted to do. He felt the calling to serve his country and to serve others and he was very very honored to be able to serve his country in the marines,” Atkinson added.

“He was interested in that,” Assistant Principal Patty Craft tells Fox 8 News, “And once he decided that’s what he wanted to do to serve our country he went full force for it and he would always come in and tell us what step of the way he has been in in the process.”

On Saturday, Cornelius and his unit had successfully completed a mission in Afghanistan. It was his father’s birthday. Cornelius called home to share that the mission went well, and shared details of it with his family on his Facebook page.

Following the call he was shot and killed by a gunman identified by the U.S. Marine Corps as an “enemy detainee.” Details of the attack were not available.

In high school Cornelius joined the wrestling team and was on the football team. He developed a close relationship with his coach, Van McWreath, who had served four years in the U.S. Army. McWreath, who is now in the Pymatuning School District, says Cornelius never backed down from a challenge.

“He came out to start wrestling in high school which is a hard feat to accomplish because it is a skill you should learn younger,” McWreath told Fox 8, adding, “I told him it would be a challenge and it would be difficult and he said I just wanted to participate and I could say the challenges were vast for him but he was a great kid to have at practice.”

“A lot of young men, Kevin included, and my nephew included, they are sacrificing so that guys like these guys can play high school football, so we can do those things, so you have to tip your hat, salute them, high five them, whatever you got to do. Those guys over there have sacrificed a lot just for us,” Lipps said.

At Cornelius’ old high school the flag flies at half staff in his memory.

“Kevin gave everything he had, no matter what he did,” Atkinson said on Tuesday, “And he did that with his service to his country as well, so we are honored to have known a hero and that hero is Kevin Cornelius.”

Four Foreign “Servicemembers” Wounded By Maidan Wardak Grenade Attack; Nationality Not Announced

Aug 18 (Reuters)

Four foreign servicemembers were wounded in a grenade attack launched from a mosque in Maidan Wardak province, west of Kabul, on Tuesday, the alliance said.

Swedish Patrol Attacked; No Foreign Casualties

18 Aug 10 TT/The Local

A Swedish patrol was involved in a firefight in Afghanistan on Wednesday morning while the soldiers were towing a vehicle west of the town of Mazar-e-Sharif.

According to the Swedish defence forces no Swedish soldier emerged from the incident with any injuries.

It is as yet unknown if any of the Afghani officials working with the Swedes were hurt in the attack.

The attackers were able to escape without incurring any losses.

Foreign Military Helicopter Down Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Eight “Servicemembers” Injured: Nationality Not Announced

August 19, 2010 CNN

In Kandahar province on Thursday, a foreign military helicopter made a hard landing in Southern Afghanistan. Nineteen people were on the chopper and eight service members were injured.

Occupation Drone Plane Down In Paktika

PAKTIKA - An unmanned drone air craft crashed in southeastern Paktika province, ISAF said. The crash was caused by mechanical failure and the wreckage was recovered, it said.

Occupation Drone Plane Down In Kunduz

August 19, 2010 CNN

In Kunduz province, an unmanned aerial vehicle made an emergency landing in Kunduz province Wednesday. The craft is used for reconnaissance and surveillance and had no material that could be “exploited by enemy forces.”

The Taliban Sweep North: “Right Now, The Taliban’s Scale Is Heavier”

“Insurgents Have Spread To Nearly
All The Districts In The Province”

“I Think The Situation Under The Taliban
Will Be Better Than This Government”

August 15, 2010 By Joshua Partlow, Washington Post [Excerpts]

QAYSAR, AFGHANISTAN -- In squads of roaring dirt bikes and armed to the teeth, Taliban fighters are spreading like a brush fire into remote and defenseless villages across northern Afghanistan.

The fighters swarm into town, assemble the villagers and announce Taliban control, often at night and without any resistance.

“How did the Taliban get into every village?” Israel Arbah asked from his mud hut in the Shah Qassim village of Faryab province. “They are everywhere. And they are moving very fast. To tell you honestly, I am really, really afraid.”

Each new northern base is becoming a hive of activity, with fighters rotating in and out, daily planning meetings and announcements at the mosque.

For the first time this year, the U.S. military sent 3,000 troops to the north, based in Kunduz.

One of those places is Faryab, a swath of rolling desert hills along the Turkmenistan border where a lone U.S. battalion of about 800 soldiers arrived this spring.

Starting in the Gormach district and moving through a belt of Pashtun villages that have tribal links to Kandahar and the south, insurgents have spread to nearly all the districts in the province, according to Afghan officials.

They execute those affiliated with the government and shut down reconstruction projects.

"This is the new policy of the Taliban: to shift their people from the south to the north, to show they exist everywhere," said Faryab Gov. Abdul Haq Shafaq. "They're using the desert, where there are no security forces at all."

Before the Taliban invades a village, its arrival is sometimes preceded by a letter.

"Hello. I hope you're healthy and doing very well," Mullah Abdullah Khalid, a Taliban deputy district shadow governor, wrote recently to four tribal elders in a Faryab village. "Whatever support you could provide, either financially or physically, we would really appreciate that.

"We hope that you will not deny us."

In early November, the villagers of Khwaji Kinti awoke to the rumble of motorcycles. The next morning, they discovered that 30 to 40 Taliban, armed with Kalashnikovs and rocket-propelled-grenades, had taken charge.

The Taliban was welcomed by a sympathetic mullah and set to work quickly. From the shepherds, it expected "zakat," or charity: one sheep out of every 40; and it took "usher," an Islamic tax, from the wheat farmers: 10 percent of the harvest, according to villagers.

Taliban members executed a man known as Sayid Arif, who they said worked for the Afghan government, by pulling him from his car and shooting him. They left him in the road with a note on his chest that said for whoever works with the government, "this is the punishment," said a tribal elder named Abdullah.

The Taliban began to settle disputes with arbitrary punishments -- which some consider its main public service.

In one case, a dispute between a pair of brothers and another man escalated until the third man was shot.

The Taliban assembled dozens of people, handed the wife of the victim a Kalashnikov and ordered her to shoot him, which she did.

"I stood there and watched that," one villager said.

Not everyone is unhappy with this. The headmaster of the boys' school in Khwaji Kinti, Agha Shejawuddin, said the Taliban is restoring order based on Islamic law. "The Koran says there should be public punishment," he said.

"I think the situation under the Taliban will be better than this government."

On Aug. 5, members of the U.S. battalion, from the 10th Mountain Division, along with Afghan police and soldiers, fought the Taliban in Khwaji Kinti. This sparked an exodus, with hundreds of families fleeing town, villagers said.

The U.S. soldiers decided to withdraw after three days "to prevent civilian property damage and loss of life and civilian disruption during the holy month of Ramadan," a military spokesman said.

That left the power balance unchanged, according to villagers reached by phone, and 200 to 400 Taliban members remain. The area "is still under complete Taliban control," one villager said.

After a day of road building in January, two Chinese laborers and Saifullah, their 16-year-old driver, rolled up to a Taliban checkpoint on Highway 1.

They did not make it through.

The hostages -- including three other Afghans -- were taken to a village in Gormach, the most Taliban-infested district in Faryab.

"For five days, I had no news of my son," said Saifullah's father, Khairullah. "I decided to go and search for him. I told myself I would find him even if I got killed. I would go to that place."

No taxi driver would take him. He borrowed a car and went alone. In the village, he found a mosque and an adjacent house, with about 40 Afghan-assembled Pamir motorbikes outside. The buildings brimmed with gunmen.

"When I showed up, they were surprised. They said, 'Why did you come here?' " he recalled. "I told them, 'I want my son.' "

For four hours, he argued with the captors, explained his Islamic lineage and paid \$1,300. He received his son, with a warning: "You must promise that your son will never work for the foreigners again."

This is the message the Taliban regularly preaches in mosque speeches and in letters distributed to villagers.

One such letter, passed out on Taliban stationery in Faryab, told villagers that "you are the nation that defeated the British again and again. Once more we want your compassion."

"Come together as one hand to defeat the infidels of the world," it read.

One day, a young Taliban fighter rode up on a donkey. Nek Mohammad, 29, hadn't seen him in years but remembered him as a fellow refugee. They had both lived in Iran during the Taliban government, two Tajiks in search of work and peace.

They sat by the river to talk.

"How is your life?" Mohammad asked.

Since he'd joined the Taliban, the man said, he earned more than \$400 a month. "They are paying me very well," he said. He asked Mohammad to join the insurgency.

The ranks of Taliban have swelled in Faryab because of such men: young and jobless, according to officials and residents.

They profess little allegiance to a government they view as irrelevant, at best, and exploitative, at worst. They trace the insecurity to the presence of NATO forces.

Afghan officials also see a rivalry between Pashtun tribes at play. "If one tribe, like the Achekzai, creates 10 Taliban in their tribe, then the Tokhi says, we need 12 Taliban to defend ourselves," said Mohammad Sadiq Hamid Yar, the Qaysar district chief.

Shafaq, the Faryab governor, estimated that at least 500 Taliban members are in his province, although others put the number far higher. The 1,800 police, he said, "are not enough," and the government hopes to form a 500-man militia to bolster them.

"Afghans are very familiar with this type of situation. We see which side of the scale is heavier, and we just roll to that side easily," Mohammad said.

"Right now, the Taliban's scale is heavier."

Resistance Action: Official Killed By Exploding Cushion

August 15, 2010 By Associated Press & August 19, 2010 By Rahim Faiez, Associated Press

Police in the southern province of Zabul said two Afghan policemen were killed and four wounded when their vehicle struck a hidden bomb in the Surai district.

In Kandahar province in the south, a tribal elder and district council member was killed early Tuesday by a bomb planted in his office in the border town of Spin Boldak, according to the border police chief for the area, Gen. Razaq Khan. The bomb had been hidden under a cushion that exploded when the elder, Zekirya, leaned against it, Khan said.

A bomber rammed a car into a police vehicle in southern Afghanistan yesterday, killing a district police chief, two other policemen and a civilian. The police chief of Daman

district in Kandahar province, where Afghan and U.S. forces are ramping up security, was among those killed on a bridge leading into Kandahar city, according to Dr. Mohammad Rasool at Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar. Five other Afghan policemen and a civilian were wounded.

In a targeted attack in the south, Taliban insurgents on Tuesday night broke into the home of Atta Jan Kajrwal, Zabul province's director of border and tribal affairs, killing him and his wife, said Mohammad Jan Rasoolyar, a spokesman for the governor. Another person was injured in the attack in Shahjoy district.

“Down With Obama” “Down With Foreign Forces” Hundreds Block Main Highway Demonstrating Against Murder Of Civilians: “They Were Innocent Civilians. The Father Was A Farmer, And The Son Sold Vegetables In The Bazaar”



Afghans block the main highway between Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad, to protest two deaths in a night raid, in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan on Aug. 18, 2010. (AP Photo/ Rahmat Gul)

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

“The Americans say that ‘We were looking for a Taliban commander by the name of Yusuf,’ “ she said. “This is just an excuse and in the name of these things, they go to people’s houses and kill innocent people.”

August 18, 2010 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times & Aljazeera & August 19, 2010 By Rahim Faiez, Associated Press

In the east, hundreds of demonstrators blocked a main highway between Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad yesterday to protest two deaths in a night raid. The protesters said the two men killed were civilians, while NATO said its forces killed two insurgents.

Many of the protesters chanted anti-American slogans, like “down with Obama” and “down with foreign forces,” during the hours-long protest.

Ghafor Khan, chief of the district of Surkh Rod, said a father and his son were killed and three others were wounded in the Tuesday night operation. He said police were trying to control the crowd to keep the demonstration peaceful.

The Nangarhar provincial police complained that they had not been consulted, nor had the Afghan national security forces, and said that there was no evidence that those killed were combatants.

“The dead and captured were not armed members of the governmental opposition,” said Col. Ghafour Khan, the spokesman for the provincial police chief.

“They were father and son,” he said. “They were innocent civilians. The father was a farmer, and the son sold vegetables in the bazaar.”

He added that the NATO forces should be held accountable “for the subsequent consequences.”

Major Cole said that all NATO operations were coordinated with Afghan security forces, but that did not mean that the provincial or district police were informed ahead of time.

The coordination can be with Afghan military leaders at the national level or those who work for another Afghan security agency, he said.

A member of Parliament from Nangarhar Province, Safia Sidiqi, owns a house in the district where an elderly civilian man was killed in a raid on April 28.

She denounced the latest raid as an unwarranted attack on civilians. She also accused the soldiers of beating the two men before they were shot to death.

“The Americans say that ‘We were looking for a Taliban commander by the name of Yusuf,’ “ she said. “This is just an excuse and in the name of these things, they go to people’s houses and kill innocent people.”

In a separate incident, NATO said a civilian irrigating a field in the Arghandab district of Kandahar province was killed Tuesday during a firefight.

Afghans Celebrate Independence Day By Condemning U.S. Occupation



Afghans shout anti-U.S. occupation slogans as they hold posters of injured children at a protest on the occasion of Afghanistan’s Independence Day in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Aug. 19, 2010. Afghanistan marked independence day Thursday as the long war drags on, with foreign troop death at record high. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

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

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

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

**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:
ALL HOME NOW**



Soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division at Combat Outpost Nolen before leaving on patrol to the village of Saidon Kalacheh in Arghandab Valley north of Kandahar July 28, 2010. REUTERS/Bob Strong

MILITARY NEWS

**“When You Have This Government
You Just Fought For, And All Of A
Sudden You Have To Fight Them,
It Makes People Go Rogue”**

**“I Had Better Luck Googling How To
Deal With PTSD Than Going To A
Specialist”**

“Many Of His Fellow Service Members Refuse Even To Go To A VA Hospital”

August 16, 2010 By Michael B. Farrell, Correspondent; The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

Even though it has made efforts to address the issues of today's vets, the VA is still struggling to adapt to the demand created by fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan – as Brian Fuqua knows all too well.

In September 2006, Mr. Fuqua, an Army paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, was in Iraq battling an increasingly deadly insurgency. The war was grinding into its fourth year. The fighting was intense and frantic. At one point in the hostilities, Fuqua found himself too close to a detonation set off by US forces to disarm an unexploded bomb. He lost consciousness and, like many others who suffer possible brain injuries on the battlefield, didn't seek immediate help.

“There really wasn't time to sit there and analyze that,” he says. “It was more like, I had a job to do and I had to be on point – people are getting killed.”

When he got back home to Roanoke, Va., however, Fuqua did have time to think about the experience. Maybe too much time. Doctors had diagnosed Fuqua with both PTSD and probable TBI.

At first, he sought help from the VA. But he soon became frustrated with the agency's slow pace and burdensome bureaucracy.

Fuqua, a big man with tight-cropped hair and a quiet demeanor, says many of his fellow service members refuse even to go to a VA hospital.

“I had better luck Googling how to deal with PTSD than going to a specialist,” he says over a cup of coffee at his apartment in Roanoke.

“When you have this government you just fought for, and all of a sudden you have to fight them, it makes people go rogue.”

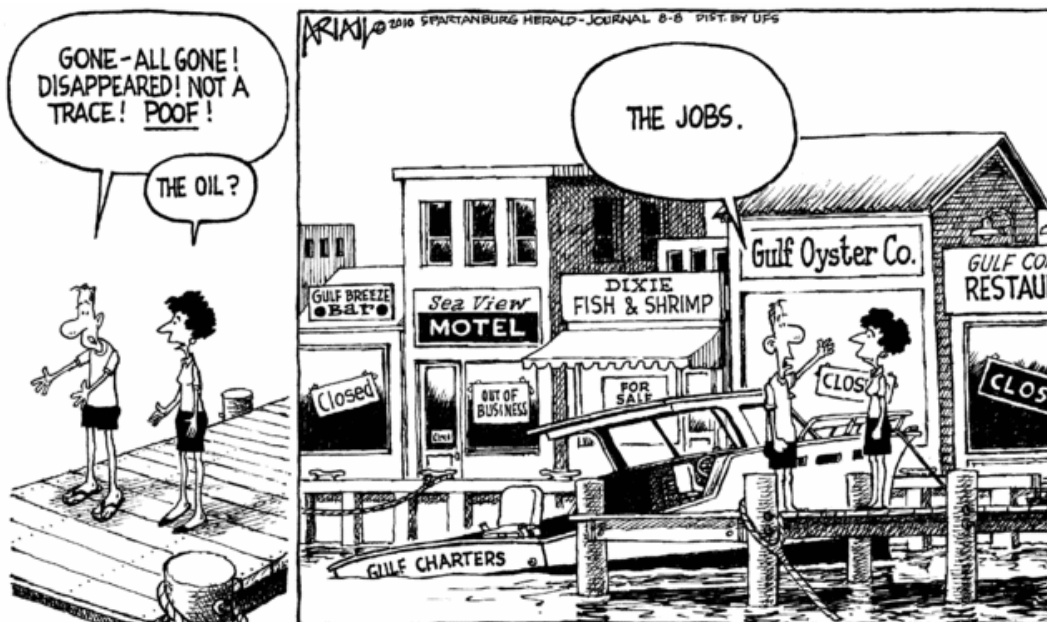
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Indiana Auto Union Workers Defy Governor And Union Bureaucrats: Refuse To Take 50% Cut In Pay And Benefits:

“Now They Know What Power Is When They All Stand Together”



Photo: Drone, Factoryrats Unite!

“While we are talking about the governor and also Mo Davison the Director of Region 3, let’s talk about those two guys. I want to see them take a 50% cut in wages, in benefits. Exactly what they want to hoist on us,” said union member Joe Gaw.

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel; Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree

Aug 15, 2010 Factoryrats Unite!

Comment: Drone, Factoryrats Unite!

What I do is but a small part.

If people don't take a stand, nothing is possible. This local took a stand. Now they know what power is when they all stand together.

They know what UNION means.

And it's NOT what the International was trying to do.

Aug 15, 2010 Kevin Rader/Eyewitness News, WTHR [Excerpts]

Indianapolis - Tempers flared Sunday after a UAW meeting on the west side. Some members are upset about a contract controversy.

The meeting was supposed to lay the foundation for a vote on concessions to take place Monday. But now, the Union Local says there will be no vote, which means there can be no buyer for the GM stamping plant.

UAW Local 23's meeting to review a proposal for another company to buy the downtown plant didn't go as long as first thought.

UAW International Representatives had hoped to tell the membership about the offer that included pay cuts in order to keep the plant open.

"They had their tails between their legs," said union member Todd New. "They didn't say nothing. We outvoted them. We told them to go home."

"They are not the ones handling metal when it's hot. They get their regular pay, why do they want to cut ours?" said union member Amber Taylor.

The offer included pay cuts of \$17,500 a year for skilled tradesmen and \$27,000 a year for workers on the production line. The meeting Sunday was to outline the deal the international hoped the union local could vote on Monday.

"There will be no vote tomorrow," said Local 23 Chairperson Greg Clark.

"No means no and that's it. We said no. We said no again. We don't want no contract. Close it," New said.

JD Norman is offering to buy the stamping plant and keep it open, but that means wage concessions these union employees are not willing to give.

Clark said he was upset over not getting a look at the entire offer.

"We have no initiative to vote on, but highlights with a carpetbagger like JD Norman," he said.

“No matter how many jobs we will have at this facility, they will be poverty level and many families will have to take advantage of government programs,” said union member Carly Burkhart Kirchner.

Some union members voiced displeasure with the international and the governor for working against them.

“While we are talking about the governor and also Mo Davison the Director of Region 3, let’s talk about those two guys. I want to see them take a 50% cut in wages, in benefits. Exactly what they want to hoist on us,” said union member Joe Gaw.

On Friday, the governor defended his efforts to help JD Norman keep the plant open.

“I am not going to apologize to anybody for trying to keep hundreds of jobs in our inner city in Indiana,” Daniels said.

Not every worker was pleased with how things were progressing. Most GM employees believe that they will be transferred to other GM plants and therefore maintain the wages and benefits they have fought for.

“We’d be better off if they close it,” said New. “Would you work if they cut your pay in half? If they cut your pay in half, would you stay and do what you are doing now?”

But Pamela Artis has lived through four of those transfers.

“I’ve done it four times. They are acting like it’s okay to go to another plant, but you know the other side. Yes, you go to another plant, but eight months later, they lay you off again,” she said. “There has got to be middle ground that we can have our transfer rights and our benefits secure and then also sell the plant and the people who want to remain in Indianapolis to work with JD Norman.”

“I think it’s sad that they can’t honor the contract for at least one more year and maybe reopen it and negotiate something that is fair,” said Carol Pottaroff.

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/)

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.



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

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news@uruknet.info; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/

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