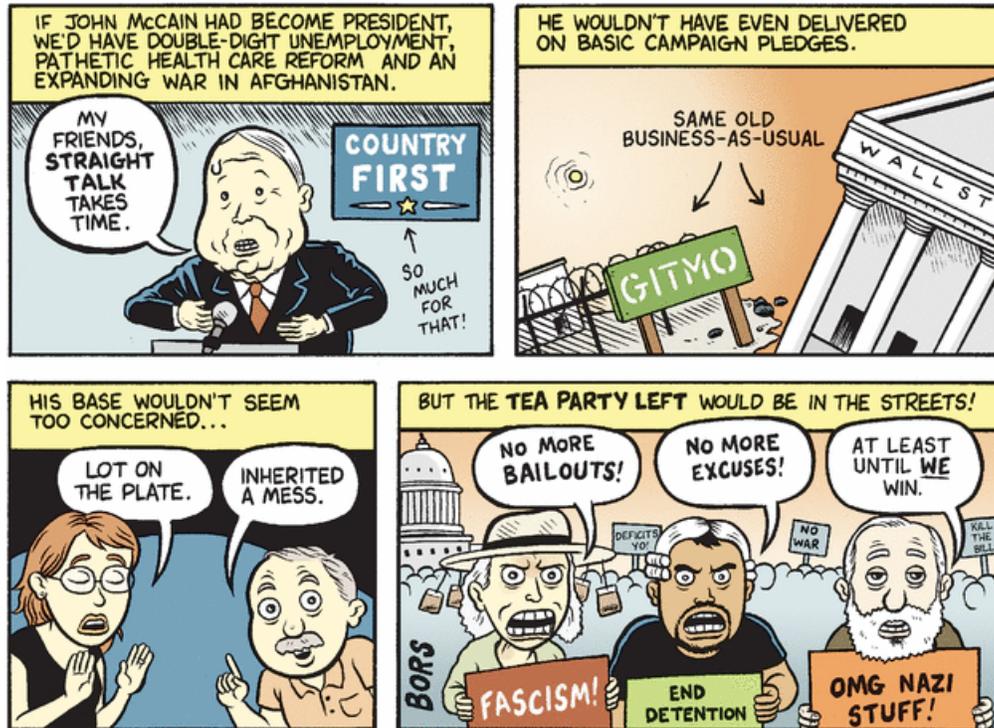


Military Resistance 8A19



“We Need Help Now!”
**“They Are Far More Accurate In
Their Firing Here Than In
Helmand”**
**“We Were Never Pinned Down Like
We Were Yesterday”**
**“The Worst Experience We Have Had
Here”**

[Thanks to Sandy Kelson, Military Resistance, who sent this in.]

27 January 2010 Jon Boone in Bala Murghab, The Guardian [UK] [Excerpts]

It was meant to be a routine patrol.

But when a group of 28 American paratroopers and Afghan soldiers found themselves pinned down by the Taliban it almost ended in a bloodbath.

As many as 90 insurgents almost completely surrounded the platoon from the 82nd Airborne as they walked across open ground. With machine gun and sniper fire coming from almost all sides, the only place to hide was a ditch a foot deep.

Enemy rounds ripped into piled mud sending dust into their eyes. The insurgents trained their fire on anything that came into view – kit, radios and helmets.

“We need help now!” Kell Anderson, the platoon’s leader, bellowed into his radio, going on to warn that they were fast running out of ammunition and about to take casualties.

Unable to clearly identify the insurgents’ firing positions, the men could not call in mortars and had to wait for a pair of aircraft to arrive and perform swooping gun runs to provide cover for the men to dash to safety, rounds hitting the ground between their feet.

None of this happened in the southern badlands of Afghanistan where the Taliban are exacting a seemingly relentless death toll from mostly US and UK forces, but in Bala Murghab, in Badghis province in the far north-west.

A backwater in the war in Afghanistan, nine miles south of the border of Turkmenistan, it has been neglected for years by both NATO and the Afghan government. But it is places like Bala Murghab, in a supposedly more secure corner of the country, that expose the immense difficulties the country has ahead of it in building self-reliant -security forces and persuading a new breed of increasingly competent Taliban fighters to lay down their arms.

“They are far more accurate in their firing here than in Helmand,” said Jason Holland, squad leader of the patrol. “In Helmand we had more air coverage and indirect fire. We were never pinned down like we were yesterday.”

Major Todd Grissom, battalion operations officer, described it as “the worst experience we have had here” since they arrived in October.

The fighting in Bala Murghab has been fierce ever since 4 November when the 82nd Airborne began painstakingly winning back an area where insurgent control began almost at the gates of the valley’s small forward operating base.

As foreign ministers meet in London tomorrow, the effort to create a patch of government control nearly 2 miles wide and 4 miles long highlights the power of the counter-insurgency techniques the Americans have been vigorously implementing, but also the difficulties.

Last Sunday one of the 205 Afghan soldiers working in the area was taken away by helicopter (the roads in and out being under insurgent control). He had been arrested on suspicion of helping the Taliban fire mortars on to the main US base.

While non-US Nato allies have pledged many additional thousands for northern Afghanistan, they are often of limited use – particularly in Bala Murghab where a contingent of 235 Italians are hamstrung by national caveats imposed in Rome that prevent them from taking part in offensive operations.

While the US platoon were watching bullets whistle over their heads their Italian colleagues with whom they share a house were unable to help, and spent the time paving their section of the compound garden.

Some local officials are believed by the Americans to be passing on “taxes” and information to the Taliban’s shadow district governor, while others have close ties to insurgents. At least one government official has not been seen for months, such is his fear of being arrested by the Americans for what they say is his corruption.

In the town of Ludina, at the northernmost edge of the US security bubble, children may wear orange and blue anoraks with the logo of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force, but there is little willingness among the town’s men to help the Americans, despite gifts of cash and small reconstruction projects.

This week a man passing the checkpoint outside the nearby platoon house had his hands sprayed with a chemical. They turned bright pink – a clear indication he had been handling explosives.

To the anger of the Americans, some of whom narrowly missed serious injury from a bomb they encountered while on patrol, the suspect was freed after a delegation of Ludina elders argued his case with the local government.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Bomb Wounds U.S. Soldier In Zummar

Jan 27 (Reuters)

A man wearing a police uniform was shot as he tried to enter an Iraqi police station in the small town of Zummar, northwest of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement.

The man’s vest detonated after the shooting, wounding three Iraqi policeman and a U.S. soldier.

“Staff At The Rasheed, Baghdad’s Biggest Hotel And Host To Politicians, Diplomats And Foreign Businessmen, Have Gone On Strike”

“We Are Asking For A Risk Bonus Because We Are Frequently Targeted By Mortars And Rocket Attacks”

1.27.10 AFP

Staff at the Rasheed, Baghdad’s biggest hotel and host to politicians, diplomats and foreign businessmen, have gone on strike demanding a “risk bonus” as compensation for the dangers they face.

Some 200 staff, who are employees of the ministry of culture, gathered in front of the hotel on Wednesday, holding banners that read: “Where are our rights?”

“We are asking for a risk bonus because we are frequently targeted by mortars and rocket attacks. The Rasheed hotel is a dangerous place,” Rahim Karim, a maintenance worker, told AFP.

Two hotel employees have been killed since August, staff say, one in a bomb attack on the nearby foreign ministry and another when a mortar round struck right in front of the hotel.

The hotel, which employs around 800 people, is located in Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone where Iraq’s parliament and main ministries are located, as well as the British and US embassies.

“The prime minister (Nuri al-Maliki) must respond to our demands,” said Mohammad Ibrahim, who works in the accounting department.

“We have been under attack since 2003, and we never stopped working. But today we’re saying we’ve had enough. We’re fed up,” said another visibly agitated member of staff.

Complaining that no negotiations have even begun with the hotel manager, the staff who have now been on strike for four days are also demanding his resignation.

“We want him to go because he has no respect for us,” said Tufik Abdel Reza, another disgruntled employee.

The staff are also unhappy about being subjected to daily body scans, which they say are bad for their health.

The hotel has stayed open, but the rooms have not been made up for four days and the restaurant is closed.

In the hotel lobby, some of the guests said that, while irritated by the inconvenience caused, they sympathised with the demands of the staff.

“The strike is particularly annoying for us, given that MPs and ministers stay at this hotel,” said Azhar al-Sheikhi, minister of women’s affairs between 2004 and 2006.

But the strike also demonstrates that Iraq is rediscovering “the democratic path,” she added.

“We are seeing more and more demonstrations in Iraq and that is a good thing. We’re finally beginning to use the tools of democracy, like strikes and street protests,” said the former minister.

But she stressed that “the problem in this country is not the right to strike, but the problem of being heard.”

Resistance Action

Jan 22 (Reuters) & Jan 24 (Reuters) & January 25, 2010 Xinhua

A roadside bomb wounded seven policemen when it struck their patrol in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A mortar bomb hit a police station wounding four people including two policemen south of Kirkuk, police said.

Insurgents shot and wounded a policeman in southern Baghdad, hospital sources said.

A bomber blew up a truck near an Iraqi army base on Thursday, wounding an Iraqi army officer, in Baaj, 375 km (235 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol, killing one policeman and wounding two in the town of Garma, 30 km (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said. The blast destroyed a police vehicle.

A sticky bomb attached to a car killed an off-duty army officer on Saturday in the town of Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 U.S. Service Members And 1 Civilian Occupation Staff Member Killed Somehow Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

Jan. 29, 2010 AP

Two U.S. service members and one U.S. employee were killed Friday in eastern Afghanistan, pushing the American death toll this month to 29.

NATO announced the deaths in a brief statement that did not say whether the three were killed by hostile fire or an accident.

U.S. Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan

Jan 28 AFP

A homemade bomb killed a US soldier in southern Afghanistan on Thursday.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) did not give the exact location.

"An ISAF service member from the United States was killed today in an IED strike in southern Afghanistan."

Norwegian Soldier Killed By IED Attack On Storm Tank In Ghowrmach, Two More Wounded

26.01.2010 Forsvaret

It was the Norwegian soldier Claes Joachim Olsson (22) who was killed by a roadside bomb in Ghowrmach district Monday morning. Two other soldiers were slightly wounded.

Olsson was from Gressvik outside Fredrikstad in Østfold County. He came to Afghanistan with the stabilization force PRT-14 in December 2009. Olsson belonged Telemark Battalion where he had served since September 2008. He began his service in the Armed Forces in January 2007.

Olsson was in a CV9030 storm tank. Two other soldiers on board were slightly wounded in roadside bomb explosion. The bomb went off while the unit was on his way to meet soldiers from the Afghan army to conduct joint patrols in the area. The incident occurred about four kilometers southeast of Ghowrmach.

About 40 Norwegian soldiers took part in the operation.

Ghowrmach district is characterized by much activity from insurgents and criminals.

It was with great sorrow I received the message that today we lost a soldier on mission in Afghanistan, writes the defense chief Harald Sunde in a separate greeting for Defense website.

Sunde says that the CV90 storm tank is the best armored vehicle the military has in Afghanistan.

He also stressed that the unit very well trained department.

Four Romanian Soldiers Wounded By Attack On Kandahar Air Field

January 26, 2010 Tribune Chronicle

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the rocket attack that struck the Kandahar Air Field late Sunday.

The base had been hit by rockets before, though rarely with enough precision to wound people. NATO spokeswoman Flight Lt. Wendy Wheadon said the last time a rocket struck inside the base was early December when no one was hurt.

She said four Romanians were wounded.

Obama's Death Squads Murder Civilians By Night: "Did They Have To Kill My Cousins? Did They Have To Destroy Our House?"

“I Used To Go On TV And Argue That People Should Support This Government And The Foreigners” “But I Was Wrong. Why Should Anyone Do So?”

January 28, 2010 By Anand Gopal, Altnet.org [Excerpts]. The research for this story was supported by the Fund for Investigative Journalism

One quiet, wintry night last year in the eastern Afghan town of Khost, a young government employee named Ismatullah simply vanished. He had last been seen in the town's bazaar with a group of friends.

Family members scoured Khost's dust-doused streets for days. Village elders contacted Taliban commanders in the area who were wont to kidnap government workers, but they had never heard of the young man. Even the governor got involved, ordering his police to round up nettlesome criminal gangs that sometimes preyed on young bazaar-goers for ransom.

But the hunt turned up nothing. Spring and summer came and went with no sign of Ismatullah. Then one day, long after the police and village elders had abandoned their search, a courier delivered a neat, handwritten note on Red Cross stationery to the family.

In it, Ismatullah informed them that he was in Bagram, an American prison more than 200 miles away. U.S. forces had picked him up while he was on his way home from the bazaar, the terse letter stated, and he didn't know when he would be freed.

Sometime in the last few years, Pashtun villagers in Afghanistan's rugged heartland began to lose faith in the American project. Many of them can point to the precise moment of this transformation, and it usually took place in the dead of the night, when most of the country was fast asleep.

In the secretive U.S. detentions process, suspects are usually nabbed in the darkness and then sent to one of a number of detention areas on military bases, often on the slightest suspicion and without the knowledge of their families.

This process has become even more feared and hated in Afghanistan than coalition airstrikes.

It was the 19th of November 2009, at 3:15 am. A loud blast awoke the villagers of a leafy neighborhood outside Ghazni city, a town of ancient provenance in the country's south.

A team of U.S. soldiers burst through the front gate of the home of Majidullah Qarar, the spokesman for the Minister of Agriculture. Qarar was in Kabul at the time, but his relatives were home, four of whom were sleeping in the family's one-room guesthouse.

One of them, Hamidullah, who sold carrots at the local bazaar, ran towards the door of the guesthouse. He was immediately shot, but managed to crawl back inside, leaving a trail of blood behind him. Then Azim, a baker, darted towards his injured cousin.

He, too, was shot and crumpled to the floor. The fallen men cried out to the two relatives remaining in the room, but they -- both children -- refused to move, glued to their beds in silent horror.

The foreign soldiers, most of them tattooed and bearded, then went on to the main compound. They threw clothes on the floor, smashed dinner plates, and forced open closets.

Finally, they found the man they were looking for: Habib-ur-Rahman, a computer programmer and government employee. Rahman was responsible for converting Microsoft Windows from English to the local Pashto language so that government offices could use the software. He had spent time in Kuwait, and the Afghan translator accompanying the soldiers said they were acting on a tip that Rahman was a member of al-Qaeda.

They took the barefoot Rahman and a cousin of his to a helicopter some distance away and transported them to a small American base in a neighboring province for interrogation.

After two days, U.S. forces released Rahman's cousin. But Rahman has not been seen or heard from since.

"We've called his phone, but it doesn't answer," says his cousin Qarar, the spokesman for the agriculture minister. Using his powerful connections, Qarar enlisted local police, parliamentarians, the governor, and even the agriculture minister himself in the search for his cousin, but they turned up nothing.

Government officials who independently investigated the scene in the aftermath of the raid and corroborated the claims of the family also pressed for an answer as to why two of Qarar's family members were killed. American forces issued a statement saying that the dead were "enemy militants (that) demonstrated hostile intent."

Weeks after the raid, the family remains bitter.

"Everyone in the area knew we were a family that worked for the government," Qarar says. "Rahman couldn't even leave the city because if the Taliban caught him in the countryside they would have killed him."

Beyond the question of Rahman's guilt or innocence, however, it's how he was taken that has left such a residue of hate and anger among his family.

“Did they have to kill my cousins? Did they have to destroy our house?” Qarar asks. “They knew where Rahman worked. Couldn’t they have at least tried to come with a warrant in the daytime? We would have forced Rahman to comply.”

“I used to go on TV and argue that people should support this government and the foreigners,” he adds.

“But I was wrong. Why should anyone do so? I don’t care if I get fired for saying it, but that’s the truth.”

Night raids are only the first step in the American detention process in Afghanistan. Suspects are usually sent to one among a series of prisons on U.S. military bases around the country.

There are officially nine such jails, called Field Detention Sites in military parlance. They are small holding areas, often just a clutch of cells divided by plywood, and are mainly used for prisoner interrogation.

In the early years of the war, these were but way stations for those en route to Bagram prison, a facility with a notorious reputation for abusive behavior. As a spotlight of international attention fell on Bagram in recent years, wardens there cleaned up their act and the mistreatment of prisoners began to shift to the little-noticed Field Detention Sites.

Of the 24 former detainees interviewed for this story, 17 claim to have been abused at or en route to these sites. Doctors, government officials, and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, a body tasked with investigating abuse claims, corroborate 12 of these claims.

Some of those taken to the Field Detention Sites never make it to Bagram, but instead are simply released after authorities deem them to be innocuous. Even then, some allege abuse.

Such was the case with Hajji Ehsanullah, snatched one winter night in 2008 from his home in the southern province of Zabul. He was taken to a detention site in Khost Province, some 200 miles away.

He returned home 13 days later, his skin scarred by dog bites and with memory difficulties that, according to his doctor, resulted from a blow to the head.

U.S. forces had dropped him off at a gas station in Khost after three days of interrogation. It took him ten more days to find his way home.

In the dust-swept province of Khost one day this past December, U.S. forces launched a night raid on the village of Motai, killing six people and capturing nine, according to nearly a dozen local government authorities and witnesses.

Two days later, the bodies of two of those detained -- plastic cuffs binding their hands -- were found more than a mile from the largest U.S. base in the area.

A U.S. military spokesman denies any involvement in the deaths and declines to comment on the details of the raid. Local Afghan officials and tribal elders, however, steadfastly maintain that the two were killed while in U.S. custody.

American authorities released four other villagers in subsequent days. The fate of the three remaining captives is unknown.

The U.S. Special Forces also run a second, secret prison somewhere on Bagram Air Base that the Red Cross still does not have access to. Used primarily for interrogations, it is so feared by prisoners that they have dubbed it the "Black Jail."

One day two years ago, U.S. forces came to get Noor Muhammad, outside of the town of Kajaki in the southern province of Helmand. Muhammad, a physician, was running a clinic that served all comers -- including the Taliban.

The soldiers raided his clinic and his home, killing five people (including two patients) and detaining both his father and him.

The next day, villagers found the handcuffed corpse of Muhammad's father, apparently dead from a gunshot.

The soldiers took Muhammad to the Black Jail. "It was a tiny, narrow corridor, with lots of cells on both sides and a big steel gate and bright lights. We didn't know when it was night and when it was day." He was held in a concrete, windowless room, in complete solitary confinement.

Soldiers regularly dragged him by his neck, and refused him food and water. They accused him of providing medical care to the insurgents, to which he replied, "I am a doctor. It's my duty to provide care to every human being who comes to my clinic, whether they are Taliban or from the government."

Eventually, Muhammad was released, but he has since closed his clinic and left his home village. "I am scared of the Americans and the Taliban," he says. "I'm happy my father is dead, so he doesn't have to experience this hell."

The American troops that operate under NATO command have begun to enforce stricter rules of engagement: they may now officially hold detainees for only 96 hours before transferring them to the Afghan authorities or freeing them, and Afghan forces must take the lead in house searches.

"Sometimes we detain people, then, when the 96 hours are up, we transfer them to the Afghans," says one U.S. Marine, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "They rough them up a bit for us and then send them back to us for another 96 hours. This keeps going until we get what we want."

A simpler way of dancing around the rules is to call in the U.S. Special Operations Forces -- the Navy SEALs, Green Berets, and others -- which are not under NATO command and so are not bound by the stricter rules of engagement.

These elite troops are behind most of the night raids and detentions in the search for “high-value suspects.” U.S. military officials say in interviews that the new restrictions have not affected the number of raids and detentions at all.

The actual change, however, is more subtle: the detention process has shifted almost entirely to areas and actors that can best avoid public scrutiny: Special Operations Forces and small field prisons.

An officer who has worked in the Field Detention Sites says that it takes dozens of raids to turn up a useful suspect. “Sometimes you’ve got to bust down doors. Sometimes you’ve got to twist arms. You have to cast a wide net, but when you get the right person it makes all the difference.”

To question this, he says, is to question whether the war itself is worth fighting. “That’s not my job. The people in Washington can figure that out.”

If night raids and detentions are an unavoidable part of modern counterinsurgency warfare, then so is the resentment they breed.

“We were all happy when the Americans first came. We thought they would bring peace and stability,” says former detainee Rehmatullah. “But now most people in my village want them to leave.”

A year after Rehmatullah was released, his nephew was taken.

Two months later, some other villagers were grabbed.

It has become a predictable pattern: Taliban forces ambush American convoys as they pass through the village, and then retreat into the thick fruit orchards that cover the area. The Americans then return at night to pick up suspects.

In the last two years, 16 people have been taken and 10 killed in night raids in this single village of about 300, according to villagers.

In the same period, they say, the insurgents killed one local and did not take anyone hostage.

The people of this village therefore have begun to fear the night raids more than the Taliban.

There are now nights when Rehmatullah’s children hear the distant thrum of a helicopter and rush into his room. He consoles them, but admits he needs solace himself. “I know I should be too old for it,” he says, “but this war has made me afraid of the dark.”

“When Foreign Troops Come To My House They Bang And Kick The

Door, They Shout At Every Person, They Point Guns At Even Kids And Women”

“A Helmand Man Said The Taliban, By Contrast, Treated Him With Respect”

28 January 2010 BBC

British Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth has defended the behaviour of foreign troops in Afghanistan in response to questions from local BBC listeners.

Afghans accused international forces, including British army personnel, of ignoring cultural and religious sensitivities during operations.

A Helmand man said the Taliban, by contrast, treated him with respect.

“When the Taliban come to my house they knock on the door, they request politely to stay, they drink tea or have something to eat, they ask about the wellbeing of myself and my family and then they go away,” one Helmand listener wrote.

“When foreign troops come to my house they bang and kick the door, they shout at every person, they point guns at even kids and women, they break every lock without asking for the key, look at us like we are from Mars, and leave us upset.”

Listeners accused foreign troops of “entering our houses at night and killing” civilians, and failing to understand local culture and religion.

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

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

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

FUTILE EXERCISE:

ALL HOME NOW!



293rd Military Police Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, U.S.A., during a clearing operation in farm land in Kandahar City, southern Afghanistan, Jan. 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)



293rd Military Police Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, U.S.A., searches a farm during a clearing operation in Kandahar City, southern Afghanistan, Jan. 19, 2010. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)



Members of a U.S. Army mortar team look for the impacts in the nearby hills after firing on Taliban positions with a 120mm mortar, at Combat Outpost Michigan, in the Pech Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 21, 2010. The soldiers from the 2-12 Infantry, Task Force Lethal at COP Michigan regularly receive small and large-arms fire from Taliban militants who operate in the hillsides overlooking the base. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



U.S. Army soldiers during a patrol in Ghalbalay, a village in the Pech Valley, Kunar province, northeastern Afghanistan, Jan. 23, 2010. The soldiers of Task Force Lethal regularly receive small and large-arms fire from Taliban militants who operate in the hillsides of the Pech. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A Marine with the U. S. occupation force takes photos of the eyes of an Afghan citizen stopped at gunpoint at a checkpoint at Delaram district in Nimroz province, southern Afghanistan January 21, 2010. REUTERS/Marko Djurica

Foreign occupation soldiers from the USA make a daily practice of publicly humiliating Afghan citizens.

This encourages self-respecting honorable Afghans to kill them.

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 80,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA.

[They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, bomb and butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in a U.S. military prison in the invaded nation without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives.

[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship killing them wholesale, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.

[What a bunch of silly people.

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Bomber Blows Up Clinic Inside Foreign Occupation Troops Base

26 Jan GAROWE ONLINE

At least seven people have been killed and 11 others injured in a bomb blast that targeted a clinic operated within African Union base in Somalia's restive capital Mogadishu.

The blast occurred on Monday night at Halane clinic located near the entrance of Mogadishu's main airport, which also serves as the AU peacekeeping mission headquarters.

According to witnesses, a bomber reportedly wearing explosive jacket disguised himself as one of the patient on the cue and blew himself up, killing most of the other patients.

"The blast occurred unexpectedly in the cue, every thing turned into messy and we became rowdy. I saw some people laying on the ground with some screaming for help," said one of the survivors.

Somalia's Al-Shabaab insurgent group claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We killed some of the senior medical officers and soldiers in the mercenary base ... it is part of our retaliation attack against the occupiers' massacre of our people," al-Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Ali Mahamoud Rage was quoted in reports

However, AU troops' spokesman Major Barigye Bahuko only confirmed the injuries of three soldiers.

This is the second blast targeted on AMISOM base which Al-Shabaab, which is waging war against the foreign troops and Somali government, has claimed responsibility.

In September, a twin bombs struck the AU headquarters in Mogadishu, killing at least 17 people, mostly of them AU soldiers including deputy force commander.

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



An Air Force team carries the remains of Tech. Sgt. Adam K. Ginett Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Ginett, 29, of Knightdale, N.C., died Jan. 19 near Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan of wounds from an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/ Steve Ruark)

The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out This Issue Features:

**“I Don’t Even Know If Our
Generals Or Commanders Even
Believe That We Can Win This**

War... What Would I Be Dying For?"

1. "If The American Public Knew Half Of What's Going On In Iraq And Afghanistan, We'd Be Out Of There Already"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.public.php>

2. Movie Review: Brothers

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.movie.php>

3. "I don't even know if our generals or commanders even believe that we can win this war... What would I be dying for? What did my unit members die for?"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.generals.php>

4. "The President Knows Perfectly Well That Afghanistan is Vietnam All Over Again"

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.10.VN.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS27.pdf>

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**

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.

-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”

Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

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**

Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples’ liberty’s teeth.

-- George Washington

Notice To Historians And The Curious

For years, the first issues of GI Special newsletter, forerunner to Military Resistance Newsletter, were lost.

They have been found and are now posted online at: <http://www.militaryproject.org>

Because they were not saved as emailed, they have been scanned from surviving paper print outs and appear in PDF format.

When the website opens, click on "Volume 1" top left.

When that page opens, scroll clear down to the bottom, because the issues are posted in reverse order.

Issue #1 is dated 4.18.2003, not too long after the March 20 invasion. Headline on what didn't look much like a publication read: "Bush Builds Iraqi Resistance To Bush"

Issue #2 is dated 4.19.2003. Headline: "Iraq: The Resistance"

In those days, an incredible number of self-styled radicals were proclaiming there was no resistance in Iraq and could be no resistance, because, as one said, "It's not like Vietnam, there is no jungle for them to hide in."

That was the kind of stupidity that impelled the production of GI Special.

It took another two years before the same types admitted there was an active resistance in Afghanistan.

There are none so blind as those that will not see.

True then, true now.

T

**“The Government Wants To Drown
The Country In Blood, Forgetting
That The Troops Consist Of Sons
Of The Oppressed People”
“We Demand An End To The War”
[Proclamation Of The Revolutionary
Council Of Sailors: The Battleship
Potemkin]**



The Potemkin (Russian: Князь Потёмкин Таврический, Knyaz' Potyomkin Tavricheski, 'Prince Potyomkin of Tauris') was a pre-dreadnought battleship (Bronenosets) of the Imperial Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet. The ship was made famous by the Battleship Potemkin uprising, a rebellion of the crew against their oppressive officers in June 1905 (during the Russian Revolution of 1905) -- Wikipedia

June 27, 1905, Proletary Newspaper No. 7

Proclamation Of The Revolutionary Sailors In Command Of The Battleship Potemkin

To all civilized citizens and to the working people!

The crimes of the autocratic government have exhausted all patience. The whole of Russia, burning with indignation, exclaims: Down with the chains of bondage!

The government wants to drown the country in blood, forgetting that the troops consist of sons of the oppressed people.

The crew of the Potemkin has taken the first decisive step. We refuse to go on acting as the people's hangman.

Our slogan is: freedom for the whole Russian people or death!

We demand an end to the war and the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly on the basis of universal suffrage.

That is the aim for which we shall fight to the end: victory or death!

All free men, all workers will be on our side in the struggle for liberty and peace.

Down with the autocracy! Long live the constituent assembly!"

January 27, 1847:

Citizens Defeat Slavehunters



SOJOURNER TRUTH.

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

Since 1832, Michigan had had an active antislavery society.

Quakers in Cass County, Laura Haviland in Adrian and former slave Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek were only a few of the many Michiganians who worked on the Underground Railroad—an informal network that assisted escaping slaves.

Southern concern over the Underground Railroad will lead Congress to pass a more stringent Fugitive Slave Law in 1850. In 1854 opposition to the extension of slavery prompted Michiganians to meet in nearby Jackson to organize the Republican Party.

Several hundred citizens of Marshall, Michigan, helped former slaves escape to Canada rather than be returned to their “owner” by bounty hunters. Adam Crosswhite and his family, escaped Kentucky slaves, were tracked to the abolitionist town of Marshall by Francis Troutman and others.

Both black and white residents detained the bounty hunters and threatened them with tar and feathers.

While Troutman was being charged with assault and fined \$100, the Crosswhites fled to Canada. Back in Kentucky, the slavemaster stirred up intense excitement about “abolitionist mobs” in Michigan.

January 27, 1969:

A Strike For Liberation

Carl Bunin Peace History January 21-27

In Detroit, African-American auto workers, known as the Eldon Avenue Axle Plant Revolutionary Union Movement, led a wildcat strike against racism and poor working conditions at Chrysler.

Since the 1967 Detroit riots, African American workers had organized groups in several Detroit auto plants criticizing both the auto companies and the UAW leadership. These groups combined Black-Power nationalism and workplace militancy, and temporarily shut down more than a dozen inner-city plants.

The most well-known of these groups was the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, or DRUM. They criticized both the seniority system and grievance procedures as racist. Veterans of this movement went on to lead many of the same local unions.

Happy Anniversary: January 28, 1989 To The Committee Of Soldiers' Mothers Of Russia: “Hundreds Of Mothers Organised By CSMR Went To Chechnya To Take Their Sons Away From The War”



Carl Bunin Peace History

“...for their courage in upholding the common humanity of Russians and Chechens and opposing the militarism and violence in Chechnya”

CSMR was founded in 1989 and officially registered the same year by 300 mothers of soldiers, whose initial aim was to campaign for their sons to return home early from military service in order to resume their studies.

They succeeded in bringing home nearly 180,000 young men for this purpose.

The mothers had been horrified by what they saw and learned about conditions in the armed forces: the regular beatings, abuse and humiliations, the lack of food or other necessities, the effective slavery imposed in the ‘construction’ battalions which comprised about 30 per cent of military manpower.

Their demands were for thorough reform of military structures, reform of the armed forces on a democratic basis, an end to forced labour in the construction battalions, demilitarisation on the justice system, the establishment of effective civil control over the military and legislation to provide for an alternative civil service.

In 1990 some of these demands, including partial demobilisation of the construction battalions, were conceded by President Gorbachev, but in general the situation did not improve.

CSMR set up a Rehabilitation Centre for soldiers who left the army for health reasons. Its activities expanded and diversified to include the organisation of human rights education for conscripts and their parents, dealing with individual complaints concerning human rights violations, regular inspections of military units, the working out of legislative proposals and the organisation of non-violent public protests.

In November 1994 the war in Chechnya broke out and, as CSMR put it, “the peaceful time for the Committee was over”.

They opposed the war from the start, both in itself and for the threat it posed to the new Russian democracy.

Their new activities included dealing with individual complaints from soldiers and their mothers, running a weekly ‘School for Conscripts’, supervising the special military unit for the rehabilitation of so-called ‘deserters’, which is under the aegis of the CSMR, as well as participating in working groups of the State Duma (parliament).

In the first six months of the war, the Committee received letters from up to 200 people a day and in the same period nearly 10,000 people brought their complaints in person.

Hundreds of mothers organised by CSMR went to Chechnya to take their sons away from the war. They negotiated with the Chechen army and obtained the release of ‘prisoners of war’.

CSMR organised a remarkable ‘March of Mothers’ Compassion’, bombarded the Russian government with statements and petitions, and campaigned for the young men who refused to serve in Chechnya, declaring themselves conscientious objectors.

Most controversially, they started a campaign encouraging mothers to support the right of their sons to refuse military service - and they travelled abroad to support the idea of an International Tribunal on Chechnya.

The founders of CSMR were five women - two engineers, a journalist, a teacher and an economist. An all-volunteer organisation with no regular budget, CSMR now acts as the umbrella group for 50 regional organisations of soldiers' mothers and liaises with others.

In 1995, CSMR received the Sean MacBride Award from the International Peace Bureau and an award from the Norwegian Committee on Human Rights.

“The mothers’ love, the mothers’ aspirations to defend their children, turned very soon into conscious human rights activity... The soldiers’ mothers understood that to defend their children they have to change the State and society. Their call for human rights in all the military power structures meant a call for democracy.”
- Ida Kuklina

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Russia

Canonical Murphy’s Laws of Combat 101 - 125

Strategypage.com

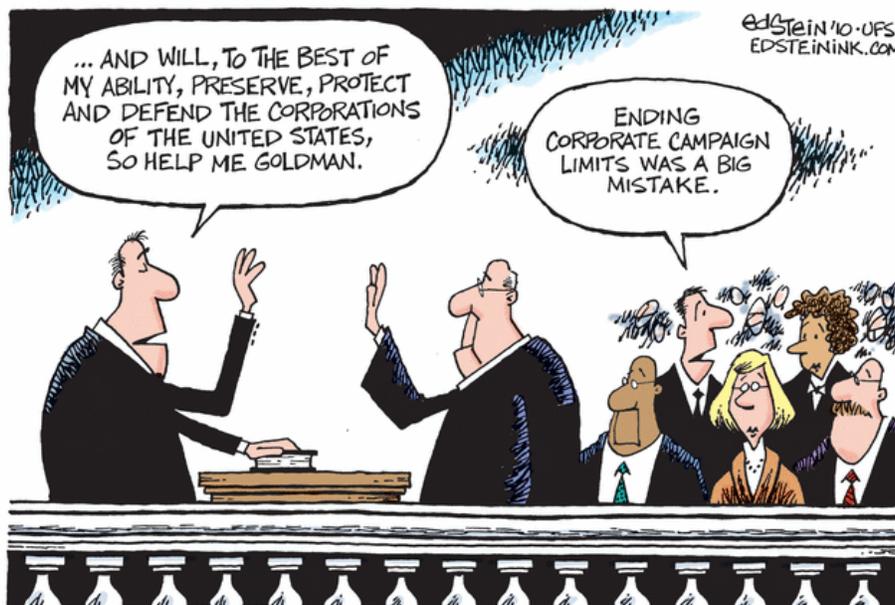
101. Odd objects attract fire - never lurk behind one.
102. The stupider the leader is, the more important the missions he is ordered to carry out.
103. The self-importance of a superior is inversely proportional to his position in the hierarchy (as is his deviousness).
104. There is always a way, and it usually doesn't work.
105. When a front line soldier overhears two General Staff officers conferring, he has fallen back too far.
106. Any ship can be a minesweeper once.
107. The worse the weather, the more you are required to be out in it.
108. Whenever you lose contact with the enemy, look behind you.
109. Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.
110. If at first you don't succeed, then bomb disposal probably isn't for you.
111. No matter which way you have to march, it's always uphill.
112. A clean and dry set of BDU's is a magnet for mud and rain.
113. If only one solution can be found for a field problem, then it is usually a stupid solution.
114. If you find yourself in front of your platoon they know something you don't.
115. What gets you promoted from one rank gets you killed in the next rank.
116. If orders can be misunderstood they will be.

117. Professionals are predictable; it's the amateurs that are dangerous.
118. Your mortar barrage will put exactly one round on the intended target. That round will be a dud.
119. Mine fields are not neutral.
120. The weight of your equipment is proportional to the time you have been carrying it.
121. Things that must be together to work can never be shipped together.
122. If you need an officer in a hurry take a nap.
123. The only time suppressive fire works is when it is used on abandoned positions.
124. Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything.
125. If a politician runs for President as a peace candidate and is elected, write your will.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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