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Calgarians on hunt for Harry, Cherie; Eatery reports reservation for prince

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Calgary Herald, CanWest News Service File / Prince Harry, reportedly flirted with Calgary bartender (Cherie Cymbalisty) last Thursday. ; Colour Photo: Calgary Herald, CanWest News Service & Reuters, File / Prince Harry, reportedly flirted with Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalisty last Thursday. ;

KEYWORDS: MONARCHY; VISITS; ANNIVERSARIES; MEDIA
DATELINE: CALGARY
BYLINE: Jamie Komarnicki and Peter Green
SOURCE: Calgary Herald; CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 435

CALGARY – The hunt for Harry continues.

Prince Harry and Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalisty had a reservation for a private room in a local lounge Saturday evening, said the establishment's manager. But it's not yet clear if the pair ever appeared.

"At this point, he has a private area (reserved) in the Geisha room," said Wild Ginger manager Steve Tokos early Saturday evening.

"It's a closed, completely reserved area. I want to keep his privacy as best as possible."

Cymbalisty made the reservation earlier this week, he said.

Contacted later Saturday evening, Tokos said he was asked to not comment any further on the prince, and wouldn't confirm or deny if the pair showed up at the downtown lounge.

The reservation comes on the heels of a racy story published by an English tabloid about the young bartender's visit with the prince in Calgary last Thursday.

The lengthy story appeared online on the News of the World's website Saturday, and included numerous pictures of the prince posing with and kissing women at Cowboys late Thursday.

The story goes on to say the prince spent the night drinking and flirting with the bar's staff.

"He said there were so many beautiful women in Cowboys," Cymbalisty told News of the World. "But for the most part, he kept looking at me, shaking his head and going, 'Wow!' I started to get embarrassed."

The pair were supposed to attend a party together afterwards, but Cymbalisty was too tired and went home.

Previous reports said the prince arrived with friends late and stayed until closing, marvelling at the lack of media scrutiny — particularly photographers.

Many Cowboys staff didn't recognize the prince at first, including the popular bar's bouncers, who checked the prince's passport to make sure he was old enough to enter.

Cowboys owner Paul Vickers declined to comment Saturday on the prince's visit or the media interest surrounding it.

The Cowboys visit is the only confirmed Calgary–area sighting of Harry so far.

Penny Lane Entertainment Group lawyer Christopher Chan claimed the prince visited Tantra nightclub the day before, and Barb Taks thought she saw the prince riding a bike on Highway 22 near Cochrane Friday, complete with police escort and bodyguards.

Harry's visit to Alberta has attracted international attention in the past week, feeding a growing frenzy for any information about the young prince's whereabouts while he participates in British Army exercises at CFB Suffield, located about 250 kilometres southeast of Calgary. About 5,000 British soldiers train at Suffield on a rotating basis.

Recent reports out of England have said Harry's training in Alberta is a precursor to deployment in Afghanistan.

The Sunday Times reported army officials are hoping Harry's current location in Suffield will make a quiet transfer to the wartorn country possible. The prince was recently prevented from serving with British units in Iraq due to the increased risk his presence would have brought on both himself and fellow soldiers, government officials said.

The Times went on to state that Harry told senior officers he would leave the army if he was not allowed "to do his job" by serving in combat.

Baptism of fire changed lives, and the Forces; Canadian combat a year ago, first since Korea, a milestone for modern military

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Supplied / Maj. Bill Fletcher won Canada's second-highest battlefield honour, the Star of Military Valour, partly for his efforts at Seyyeden. It was presented by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean in Ottawa on Feb. 19. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; CANADIANS

DATELINE: EDMONTON

BYLINE: David Staples

SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal

WORD COUNT: 701

EDMONTON – One year ago, a Canadian infantry company fought the Taliban in an Afghan village.

It was the first battle for the Canadian military since the the Korean War.

After 55 years of peacekeeping operations in countries from Cyprus to Rwanda, Vietnam to Somalia, the Canadian army faced a different kind of test that day and came out victorious.

On June 12, 2006, C Company of the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry defeated a Taliban unit at the village of Seyyeden, Afghanistan, 40 kilometres west of Kandahar.

The Battle of Seyyeden got only a brief mention in most Canadian newspapers mainly because no Canadian soldier was killed. At the time, news coverage was dominated by stories of Canadian fatalities from skirmishes and ambushes in Afghanistan, and the political debate over those deaths.

"From Canadians' perspective, the most dramatic thing is when a Canadian soldier loses his or her life, and there's a good reason for that," says Edmonton MP Laurie Hawn, a former fighter pilot and Cold Lake squadron commander.

"Those are our sons and daughters, and it is tragic, but there is no balance to those stories. When all you hear about is the sacrifice and you

never hear what it meant, what it accomplished, you've only got half the story."

Canadian soldiers are known as the best fighters in the 37-nation force in Afghanistan and are making it possible for the country to rebuild, Hawn says, adding that C Company's commander, Maj. Bill Fletcher, won Canada's second-highest battlefield honour, the Star of Military Valour, partly for his efforts at Seyyeden.

"We need to celebrate it," Hawn says.

Baptism of fire changed lives, and the Forces; Canadian combat a year ago, first since Korea, a milestone for

The Battle of Seyyeden was a baptism of fire for C Company, says Warrant Officer Ron Gallant. Many of the soldiers had spent years preparing for such a fight, but they were still dogged by questions of how they would perform when bullets started to fly.

"We all think that we will do our piece, but you never do know," Fletcher says. "This was the ultimate test."

Capt. Ryan Jurkowski says the battle "was the crucible for the company, the first major action, the first major reactions under fire."

Cpl. Keith Mooney says he "was proud to be part of it. I think it was important to Canada. It was the first time that Canadian troops had been in combat since Korea. So it's a big stepping stone."

At Seyyeden, the three platoons of C Company engaged in a lengthy firefight with Taliban fighters before Fletcher called in a 450-kilogram bomb to be dropped on the enemy, which had no escape route. As many as 20 Taliban fighters were killed. Two were taken prisoner.

The C Company soldiers were a changed group after the fight, says Anne Irwin, a University of Calgary anthropology professor who was embedded with the troops.

"They knew they could rely on each other," Irwin says. "They knew they would be there for each other, that they could do it, that they were professional."

Many soldiers, including Sgt. Gerard Moores, put themselves under direct fire as they struggled to get two wounded Canadian soldiers off the battlefield that day.

"I was actually quite happy over the fact that I didn't choke," Moores says.

Fletcher says there's "no doubt this was a life-altering experience.

"I'm not the same guy I was when I left. ... I think I have a more mature outlook on a lot of things, and I also know that when the bullets start cracking around me, I can do what the army asks me to do and, more important, what my soldiers need me to do."

The Taliban also proved themselves to be strong fighters, Jurkowski says. "They were very brave, courageous, in their attempting to hurt us, and they all died for their courage."

After the fight, Fletcher questioned whether he had done the right thing by sending a platoon to assault a fortified Taliban position. It was then that two of Fletcher's soldiers were badly wounded by a machine-gun burst.

However, after he and his soldiers made an informal review of the fight, he was reassured he made the right call. As one soldier at the review put it: "Nothing was wrong. We are not victims. We were attacking the enemy, and they are shooting real bullets at us, and sometimes they get lucky."

Adds Fletcher: "There's an adage that the enemy has a vote ... but until you actually see him cast this vote for real, you don't really understand that, I think."

Before its Afghanistan tour ended in August 2006, C Company fought in several more intense battles. In total, seven of its soldiers were killed in action and 18 were wounded.

The survivors are bound together, Mooney says.

Baptism of fire changed lives, and the Forces; Canadian combat a year ago, first since Korea, a milestone for

"Forever, for the rest of our days on this planet, we are tied to each other. Whenever I run into this guy or that guy, he'll be like, 'Remember that day?' I'll be, 'Yeah. I remember it.' Because you were there. You guys weren't there, but we'll tell you all about it."

dstaples@thejournal.canwest.com

Baptism of fire changed lives -- and the Forces; Canadian combat a milestone for modern military

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Supplied / Maj. Bill Fletcher won Canada's second-highest battlefield honour, the Star of Military Valour, partly for his efforts at Seyyedeen. It was presented by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean in Ottawa on Feb. 19. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR

DATELINE: EDMONTON

BYLINE: David Staples

SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal

WORD COUNT: 689

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Baptism of fire changed lives -- and the Forces; Canadian combat a milestone for modern military 7

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dstaples@thejournal.canwest.com

Calgarians wild about Harry, Cherie; Private dining room booked -- manager

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Calgary Herald, CanWest News Service File / Calgary bartender (Cherie Cymbalistry), gave an account of her meeting with Prince Harry, to British tabloid the News of the World. ; Colour Photo: Calgary Herald, CanWest News Service & Reuters, File / Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry, gave an account of her meeting with (Prince Harry), to British tabloid the News of the World. ;

KEYWORDS: MONARCHY; VISITS; ANNIVERSARIES; MEDIA

DATELINE: CALGARY

BYLINE: Jamie Komarnicki and Peter Green

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 434

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"It's a closed, completely reserved area. I want to keep his privacy as best as possible."

Cymbalistry made the reservation earlier this week, he said.

Contacted later Saturday evening, Tokos said he was asked to not comment any further on the prince, and wouldn't confirm if the pair showed up at the downtown Calgary eatery.

The reservation comes on the heels of a racy story published by an British tabloid about the young bartender's visit with the prince in Calgary earlier this week.

The lengthy story, which slams the prince for partying while British soldiers are dying in Iraq, appeared online on the News of the World's website. The report includes numerous pictures of the prince posing with, and kissing, women at Cowboys, a popular Calgary nightspot.

Cymbalistry described her initial meeting with the son of Prince Charles and the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

"I told him, 'You look like someone.' He laughed and said, 'Really, who do I look like?' It was then I realized he was Prince Harry -- but he joked his name was Gary," Cymbalistry told the News of the World. "He was obsessed about my outfit."

"He said there were so many beautiful women in Cowboys," Cymbalisky told the News of the World. "But for the most part, he kept looking at me, shaking his head and going, 'Wow!' I started to get embarrassed."

The pair were supposed to attend a party together afterward, but the story says Cymbalisky was too tired and went home.

Previous reports said the prince arrived with friends late and stayed until closing, marvelling at the lack of media scrutiny.

Many Cowboys staff didn't recognize the prince at first, including the bouncers, who checked the prince's passport to make sure he was old enough to enter.

Cowboys manager Doug Donald said the British tabloid greatly exaggerated the entire encounter.

"They're sure mean to that kid," Donald said Saturday. "He was a gentleman the whole time. He wasn't slobbering over girls — that's pretty unfair.

"I would just absolutely hate to have to live in that fishbowl that I'm sure he does," he said.

The Cowboys visit is the only confirmed Calgary sighting of Harry.

Penny Lane Entertainment Group lawyer Christopher Chan claimed the prince visited Tantra nightclub the day before, and Barb Taks thought she saw the prince riding a bike on Highway 22 near Cochrane on Friday.

Harry's visit to Alberta has attracted international attention, feeding a growing frenzy for any information about his whereabouts while participating in British army exercises at CFB Suffield, 250 kilometres southeast of Calgary.

Recent reports out of England have said Harry's training in Alberta is a precursor to deployment in Afghanistan.

The Times of London reported that army officials are hoping Harry can make a quiet transfer to Afghanistan possible.

The prince was recently prevented from serving with British units in Iraq due to the increased risk his presence would have brought.

Canadians forsaking us: officer; Force is 'canary in a coal mine,' afforded least protection and suffering highest casualties

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: National Post, CanWest News Service / Policecommander Abdul Hakim says his officers, are a ragtag, outgunned bunch, seen by the Taliban as easy targets. ; Photo: Abdul Hakim ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM

DATELINE: ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Tom Blackwell, with files from Taimoor Shah, CanWest NewsService

SOURCE: National Post

WORD COUNT: 946

ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan – On the dusty front lines of Canada's latest battle with the Taliban, Abdul Hakim is smarting, and not just from the suicide bomber who blew up inches away from him.

The commander of a beleaguered Afghan National Police detachment in Kandahar province's Zhari district is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Canadian Forces in the area. The foreign soldiers, he charges, have repeatedly ignored police calls for help in fighting the insurgents and overlooked tips on where to find and destroy Taliban nests.

In fact, Hakim contends, a lack of co-operation between the police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops has helped insurgent strength in the district grow to 300 or 400 fighters from 100 six months ago.

"This is the problem: We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," he said in an interview on the floor of his mud-walled headquarters. "We give information to the Canadians and they are not acting upon it. That is why the enemy is getting stronger and stronger."

Hakim heads two checkpoints in the district, with about 30 officers under him. They're a ragtag bunch who, for the most part, lack uniforms, let alone body armour. Nevertheless, he offered a frank, unofficial assessment of the battle from his desert-level perspective.

While he does not suggest the Canadians are afraid to engage the insurgents, he says the police and NATO seem to be waging their own, independent wars. The Canadian offensives against the Taliban, like Operation Hoover a few weeks ago, are largely "useless" because the militants hear in advance of the large-scale missions that often involve tanks. They hide to avoid confrontation and sometimes lay down improvised explosive devices to sabotage the Canadian advance, Hakim observed.

His account is supported by Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman. In a telephone interview, Ahmadi said the insurgents can see the Canadian operations coming and avoid a direct conflict.

Canadians forsaking us: officer; Force is 'canary in a coal mine,' afforded least protection and suffering high

"We are moving and launching a hit-and-run war against them," said Ahmadi. "Then we are able to go around and plant mines and attack the Canadian or foreign troops," he said.

Ahmadi said insurgents focus on destroying police checkpoints in Zhari, since they are an easier target.

"It's harder to bring the Canadians down," he said.

Hakim said more unity is needed between the police, Canadians and Afghan soldiers. "Without the co-operation of these three groups, there will be no security," Hakim said.

A Canadian Forces spokesman declined to comment on the officer's assertions, calling him a minor figure with a limited perspective on the strategic situation.

In the past, at least, trust has been an issue between the Canadian army and the Afghan police. Tribal prejudices and corruption among some of the underpaid officers — like the chief in neighbouring Panjwaii district who sold uniforms on the black market, and the officer arrested for theft during a village search — have made the Canadians skeptical of the local advice.

Regardless, one thing is clear. The under-equipped, out-gunned Afghan National Police are bearing the brunt of the fighting in Zhari.

"The police are in really bad, bad conditions down there," said Col. Mohammed Hussain, the national force's liaison officer at the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction team. "They are fighting 24 hours, every hour, every minute, every second of the day."

Hakim had pulled himself out of his sickbed for an interview at his headquarters and bunkhouse, which lacks running water and electricity. His face was covered in blackened sores from the bombing a week earlier.

"We have so many difficulties," the policeman said listlessly. "It's terrible for us."

He warned a visiting journalist to drive as fast as possible on the way out of the official Zhari district centre because the insurgents sometimes lie in wait on the other side of the highway, ready to take potshots at departing vehicles.

His men offered up another unsettling symbol of Zhari's dangers, too: a landmine, 30 centimetres across, which they plunked in the middle of the dirt floor. Hakim said it had been rigged with an antenna and battery for remote control. He had defused it, though he admitted to having no training in de-mining.

Experts say that policemen like Hakim are taking a beating everywhere in southern Afghanistan. With just 10 days of training and equipped with a minimum of firepower, they are used as a military force, a sort of "canary in the coal mine," or tripwire to flush out the Taliban, said Supt. Dave Fudge, the RCMP officer who runs a police training program for the provincial reconstruction team.

For every Afghan army soldier killed, 27 police officers lose their lives to insurgent attacks.

Hakim said his checkpoints are attacked almost daily and he actively avoids firefights with the Taliban. "We are not strong enough. Our people are just trying to avoid their attacks."

When the police do come under fire, help can be hard to find. He described several examples, none of which could be independently verified.

In one recent case, Hakim said, insurgents surrounded his deputy and several men, killing two officers and

Canadians forsaking us: officer; Force is 'canary in a coal mine,' afforded least protection and suff12ng high

destroying two police vehicles. When they requested support, the Canadian military called in an aircraft that dropped a flare over the scene, Hakim said.

A month ago in Malangan village, he said, a Canadian officer with whom they were on patrol encouraged the police to attack a Taliban position. They fought a three-hour battle, but the foreign troops never came to their aid, he charged.

Hakim recommends that Canadian troops station themselves for long periods at checkpoints like his, where they will be sure to engage with the Taliban.

In the meantime, the guerrilla war continues with harrowing attacks, such as the suicide bomber who nearly cost Hakim his life a little over a week ago.

Hakim described how a man approached his vehicle in a Zhari town.

"He looked at me and I looked at him, so I thought maybe I had met him before," he recalled. "I slowed down my car and he approached. When we were passing by him, he just grabbed the door of the car. I looked at him and he blew himself up."

The bomber failed in his intended task, but left four policemen injured and a civilian dead.

'For 30 years, I have seen only death'

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KEYWORDS: POLICE
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Tom Blackwell
SOURCE: National Post; CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 287

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Police offers one of the most dangerous jobs on earth, but the recruits keep coming.

"For 30 years, I have only seen death," says police Col. Mohammed Hussain. "I don't see any other thing. I can't take it anymore."

The liaison officer with the Canadian–run provincial reconstruction team for Kandahar province said that in the six months that ended last September, 127 of 4,000 policemen were slain.

Some officers are killed on their off–duty days when they return to home villages, Hussain said. It happened six times in the past week: A knock, the policeman opened the door, "and they were shot."

To expose themselves to that kind of risk, officers are paid the equivalent of about \$70 a month, significantly less than soldiers earn. A pay raise is in the works, but some officers near Kandahar already quit this spring to pick poppies for \$20 a day.

RCMP Supt. Dave Fudge, who heads a team of Canadian police who help train the Afghans, said a big part of the problem is that police in Afghanistan are treated like soldiers and become soft targets for Taliban bombings. Yet, they are equipped only with light weapons, chiefly the AK–47 rifle.

Meanwhile, with their sometimes boorish behaviour and corruption, the officers don't always win the hearts and minds of the civilians. In Kandahar's Panjwaii district, for instance, elders complained that police officers were demanding credit for goods they bought from local merchants, then not paying their debt.

Corruption "destroys confidence," Fudge said. But it is hardly surprising in light of the low wages policemen are paid, he said. "It's born out of survival."

If funds flow from Canada's Foreign Affairs Department, the Mounties plan to create a \$5–million police academy.

In the meantime, why do young Afghans keep lining up for such dangerous work?

"They love their country," Hussain explains. "They love their profession, and they love to protect their families."

Assassins gun down Afghan police chief; Top-ranking officer shot leaving barber shop; British soldier killed in combat on same day

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PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

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PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Afghan police patrol in the southern province of Helmand on Friday. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM; BOMBINGS

DATELINE: KABUL

SOURCE: Agence France-Presse

WORD COUNT: 304

KABUL – A British soldier was killed in combat in Afghanistan on Saturday and a police general was assassinated amid a wave of attacks that left 11 other police and a dozen Taliban dead.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldier was killed and four others wounded in a clash with enemy fighters in the south of the country, ISAF said.

The latest death takes to 80 the number of foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year, most of them in combat. ISAF extends across Afghanistan but its soldiers in the south are mostly British, Canadian, Dutch and U.S. nationals.

Meanwhile, a deputy police chief in the southern province of Kandahar was shot dead after leaving a barber shop, police said.

General Mohammad Daud Saleh was attacked by gunmen on a motorbike in Kandahar city, provincial police chief General Ismatuallah Alizai said.

He is the most senior police officer to be assassinated in the province.

Alizai blamed the attack on the "enemies of the country," a term Afghan officials use to mean Taliban fighters involved in a growing insurgency that has been joined by other rebels, including from al-Qaida.

The Taliban rose from Kandahar in the early 1990s to take control of government by 1996. They were removed in 2001 by a US-led coalition that remains in the country today, hunting down militants.

The police are on the front line of the insurgency, with more than 200 killed this year in attacks, according to an AFP estimate.

Five police officers were killed late Friday when a group of Taliban fighters attacked a district headquarters in Kandahar's small town of Ghorak, Alizai said earlier Saturday.

A dozen of the attackers were also killed, he said.

Assassins gun down Afghan police chief; Top-ranking officer shot leaving barber shop; British soldier killed

Elsewhere in Kandahar, rebel fighters ambushed a police vehicle with rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire early Saturday, Alizai said.

"Five police were killed and four more wounded," he said.

A spokesman for the Taliban confirmed that his group was behind both attacks.

In another attack on police, a remote-controlled bomb killed a police officer and wounded three others late Friday in the province of Laghman, adjacent to Kabul, a governor's spokesman said.

The U.S.-led coalition also reported that several al-Qaida and Taliban fighters were killed in a gun battle early Saturday in the southern province of Zabul.

C Company's showdown at Seyyeden: Part I; The soldiers of C Company, 1 PPCLI had trained long and hard for combat, but one question lingered: would their courage wilt in the blistering desert heat under Taliban fire? On June 12, 2006, they found out

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Anne Irwin / Soldiers of 8 Platoon, C Company, 1 PPCLI prepare to sweep through the Afghan villages of Alizi and Seyyeden, looking for Taliban fighters, on June 12, 2006. ; Colour Photo: Anne Irwin / A grape field and grape-drying hut in the area of Alizi and Seyyeden. The fields were row upon row of hard, mud furrows — natural trenches for hiding in. ; Map: (See hard copy for map.) ; Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for graphic.) ;

BYLINE: David Staples
SOURCE: The Edmonton Journal
WORD COUNT: 5106

Beneath the withering sun, the soldiers travelled forward to do what they had never done before, what no Canadian soldiers had done in generations.

The armoured troop carriers bumped and rumbled down the uneven dirt road, the vehicles' air conditioners either broken or blowing hot and dusty. The soldiers, packed together on benches in the bellies of the carriers, had on underwear, T-shirts and fatigues, helmets, safety goggles, heavy boots and protective vests with ceramic armour inserts.

Each man carried a rifle, grenades and 10 to 12 magazines of ammunition, holding 30 cartridges each. They wore camelbacks, three-litre canteens slung on their backs like knapsacks. In every spare pocket, they had stuffed water bottles. More water bottles were packed into every cranny of the troop carriers, known as LAVs, short for light armoured vehicles.

The Afghan sun bleached the desert with a blinding light. It was only 8 a.m., but already closing in on 40 C. The soldiers felt as if they were bathing in their own sweat. They tried to drink 10 to 12 litres of water each day, but no matter how much they sucked back, their thirst was rarely quenched. The water was hot and unsatisfying. The rations weren't much better. Soldiers could heat up their bagged meals by placing them for a few minutes on the scorching metal of the troop carriers. Chocolate bars melted into a hot mush in their wrappers.

The soldiers, members of C Company, First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, had been on their latest mission outside the relative safety of the Kandahar Airfield (KAF) base for more than a week. The previous night, they had been able to grab four to six hours sleep in their camp in the desert. The LAVs had been parked on the outside to protect the camp perimeter.

Some of the soldiers had peeled off their drenched clothes and hung them to dry on the LAVs. In only a few hours, the heat had scorched the clothing dry, but their fatigues were still so crusty with dirt and salt from sweat that they could stand up on their own.

At first light, 4 a.m., the soldiers climbed into the LAVs for a rendezvous with two groups of Afghans, one from the army, the other from the police. They then travelled southeast for 15 kilometres towards an area of lush grape fields, a birthplace of the Taliban in the 1990s. Taliban forces were now believed to be operating out of Alizi and Seyyeden, settlements of a dozen odd mud compounds and huts.

C Company's commander, Maj. Bill Fletcher, wanted his troops on the road early so they could get most of their work done before the fiercest heat of the day hit. The plan was to sweep through Alizi and Seyyeden, making contact with the local farmers, but also seeking out Taliban fighters.

The company had carried out many such operations without much trouble. The risk looked to be low today as well. Anne Irwin, a University of Calgary anthropology professor who was embedded with the company and riding in one of the LAVs, was thinking that, in many ways, C Company's mission still felt like a military exercise.

Irwin, then 52, a former military police officer, had gotten to know the soldiers well. Some felt they had come to the filthiest, most parched and wretched place on Earth. Others revelled in the chance to see a new part of the world, to help the people there, or to engage the Taliban in battle, finally putting to use the skills they had acquired through years of training. Irwin herself had come to love the desert, feeling a kind of magic in the big sky and stunning vistas.

The soldiers had pulled close together during their time outside of KAF, Irwin noted. They had been moving and working relentlessly for four months now, sleeping sporadically, existing in a state of enforced intimacy. In such close quarters, the soldiers used humour to cope, cracking dark and profane jokes about one another and everything around them. There was no shortage of material, as they knew everything about their mates: what they ate, how much they slept, when they last used a baby wipe to clean their stinking bodies, when they had their last bowel movement.

The officers and the enlisted men in C Company were separated by age and education. Most of the officers had finished university and were 25 to 35 years old, while the enlisted men were high school graduates, 18 to 25 years of age. Nonetheless, the two groups were close, with voices rarely raised in anger. An atmosphere of teaching and nurturing prevailed, Irwin had come to realize.

The soldiers talked little about the Taliban, but fighting was on their minds. Attitudes varied greatly here as well. On one side were men like Lt. Craig Alcock, 31, married, and on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Alcock didn't hate the enemy, even after he had taken shrapnel in the neck during a rocket-propelled grenade attack on his LAV. His attitude was: the Taliban are getting paid, I am getting paid. We're both doing the same thing, just against each other.

But others hungered for battle, including Fletcher's radio operator, Cpl. Keith Mooney, a 28-year-old enlisted man from the fishing village of St. Mary's, N.L., who had joined the infantry right out of high school. Mooney was a short, stocky fellow; a work-hard, play-hard warrior; skilled with a rifle; and with a gift for dropping the f-word once or twice into almost every sentence.

"This is going to be history," Mooney told the others when they were still back in Canada. "We're going to be part of it. And when we get there, it's going to be a totally different ball game altogether. We're going to do stuff that hasn't been done in 60 years."

"Nah," some of the others had replied. "It's not going to happen. It's going to be boring."

C Company's showdown at Seyyeden: Part I; The soldiers of C Company, 1 PPCLI had trained for 16 and had

"Oh man, you wait!" Mooney shot back. "It's going to happen. And before I leave this fucking job, when I'm old and grey, I want to say, 'I did my fucking job as a fucking soldier.' "

To prepare his men before departing for Afghanistan from the Edmonton Garrison, Maj. Fletcher had brought in U.S. army Lt.-Col. Dave Grossman, an expert in battle stress. Grossman told the soldiers that as much as they had trained, the stress of life-and-death combat was going to bring out many perceptual distortions. They could expect to have tunnel vision and to shut out many sounds, such as an order from an officer. But other sounds, such as gunfire, might seem much louder. They might go temporarily blind, although it was possible their vision might become much sharper. Time might slow down or speed up. Many of them would experience their hearts pounding at more than 175 beats a minutes, at which point they might empty their bladder and bowels and lose the ability to aim their weapons, run or take cover.

The key was to expect such things, Grossman said, so that when they happened, they wouldn't panic, but would realize this was normal, and they should simply carry on with their task as if on autopilot.

Mooney further prepared himself through visualization. If someone opened fire on him and

didn't kill him, he saw himself turning towards the fire, locating the enemy and shooting back until they were dead. He always told his mates: "If someone wants to fight me, you better kill me, because I guarantee you I'm going to hurt you really fucking bad."

Mooney did a mental inventory of every horrible thing that might happen to him so he wouldn't be taken by surprise and could respond in the appropriate manner when things did go wrong. Before departing, he had also told his wife to get ready. "Don't be fuckin' surprised if I come home dead," he had said.

T

he first two weeks at KAF, in early February 2006, had been uneventful, with little to do but train under the boiling sun. Most of the men were itching to get out and get fighting. The officers tried to temper the testosterone overload. Fletcher, 34, — who grew up on military bases, enjoyed a rough game of rugby and wanted to test himself in combat as well — tried to caution them: "There will come a point in time where all you want to do is get back here and have a coffee."

When the soldiers did get out in the field, contact with the Taliban was minimal at first, but what few engagements that did occur had left a big impression. After a few skirmishes, the soldiers felt they had killed a great many Talibs, but when they went to count the bodies, they saw that the Taliban had cleared out any dead and wounded. "These guys are ghosts!" a few soldiers told Mooney. "They are there and then they are gone."

Not ghosts, Mooney thought, just good at what they do. They are organized. They have got standard operating procedures to remove casualties and retreat.

The gung-ho attitude towards combat started to change after Pte. Robert Costall was killed in late March, cut down during a skirmish when Taliban fighters attacked an outpost. Costall was the first Canadian to die in combat since the Korean War.

This was no joke, the soldiers now realized. The Taliban were coming back strong. Their ranks had been bolstered by opium farmers, who had turned on the Americans and their allies because of the U.S. anti-drug policies that saw the American-led groups bulldozing poppy fields. In battle, the Taliban now worked in co-ordinated units, eavesdropping on radio transmissions, talking to one another on cellphones and walkie-talkies, holding soldiers in reserve to attack when the enemy was weak.

Mooney admired their courage. The Taliban had to know that as soon as they attacked a Canadian unit, the

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gates of hell would open up on them, with much bigger weapons, including artillery and aerial bombardment, coming down on them. Yet still they attacked. "You got to respect these guys," he told the others. "They're dangerous. These guys fought the fuckin' Russians, for fuck sake. They know all about war. They were fighting wars long before we got into it."

T

he convoy of C Company LAVs and Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) trucks headed south, then turned east to travel along the dry and rocky bed of the Arghandab River. There was no hiding the convoy's movement, but the Taliban never knew where the convoy might suddenly stop and search, which gave some advantage to the three mechanized platoons of C Company.

The 30 soldiers of 7 Platoon were the first to deploy, parking on the riverbed and heading out at 8:30 a.m. The platoon's task was to move two kilometres to a position northeast of Seyyeden. 7 Platoon would be there to block any flight from the village, should 8 and 9 Platoons manage to flush out any bad guys.

7 Platoon's commander, Capt. Hugh Atwell, looked out towards Seyyeden over grape fields bounded by mud walls and irrigation ditches. The fields were row upon row of hard, mud furrows and berms from which the thick, leafy vines grew, each furrow a natural trench for a soldier to hide in.

Mud walls surrounded the grape fields, with dirt paths in between, but as far as Atwell could see at first, there was no path big enough for the LAVs to navigate. The soldiers would have to travel on foot.

He and his soldiers headed out, accompanied by 15 ANP officers, who were dressed in combat fatigues and berets and carried AK-47 machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades, the same weaponry as the Taliban. The ANP tended to be locals. They had inside knowledge of the people and the terrain, but they also might have family ties to Taliban fighters, loyalties that could outweigh any attachment to the Canadians or the Kabul government.

At first, the ANP officers were hesitant to move out with Atwell. He wondered if they knew something might be up that day. He also noticed the area seemed empty of people.

Just then, villagers appeared, walking out onto the river bed, heading south towards other villages. Atwell called in the information to Fletcher, who was now stationed one kilometre away on the river bed, just south of Alizi. Soon, several hundred villagers were on the move.

OK, Fletcher thought, this is pretty creepy.

The Canadians had seen villagers leave their homes before. They had thought the villagers might simply be frightened of foreign soldiers, but now such an exodus was seen as a sign that a fight might be coming. The Taliban wanted to keep the locals onside, so they gave them warning if a battle was about to happen so non-combatants would not get injured. Almost four weeks earlier, on May 17, 2006, when Capt. Nichola Goddard, C Company's second fatality, had been killed in a skirmish, there had been such an exodus of villagers.

"I think we might get into it today," one soldier now said, eyeing the suspicious exodus.

"Yeah, I hope we don't," said another. "But if we do, we'll do what we have to do."

But Prof. Irwin, from her perch in the open hatch of an 8 Platoon LAV, could only feel heartbroken for the Afghan women and their children. Such a brutally hot day, Irwin thought, but they had to move, leave their own homes, not knowing when they would be able to come back. It was no way to live.

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By

9:20 a.m., Capt. Atwell and 7 Platoon had hiked almost to their destination, a high berm overlooking Seyyeden. Just then, two or three strange men appeared on the berm. They were not fleeing like everyone else; instead, they eyed the Canadians -- then pulled out rifles and started shooting. 7 Platoon returned fire, but then the ANP officers suddenly charged forward, forcing the Canadians to stop shooting.

The ANP's assault greatly complicated everything. Atwell could simply have called in a barrage from artillery stationed 10 kilometres away. The massive shells, one metre long and 15 centimetres in diameter, would have killed anyone on the berm.

That wasn't an option now with the ANP charging ahead. Atwell was frustrated, but part of him admired the ANP and their reckless courage. They

didn't have artillery, so this was how they did it, trying to kill their enemies at close range.

The Taliban fighters quickly disappeared from the berm. The ANP officers slowly trickled back. At last, an hour behind schedule, 7 Platoon was able to take up position on the berm.

With 7 Platoon in place, 9 Platoon, 8 Platoon and the 30 ANA soldiers started their sweep towards Alizi and Seyyeden. Most often the Afghan army officers and soldiers had made strong partners, but this day Fletcher saw he was going to have trouble with his counterpart, the ANA major. When Fletcher asked him to do something, the major would refuse, insisting he do it his own way.

The two Canadian platoons and the ANA troop advanced cautiously, setting up covering fire before making any move. Fletcher led the soldiers from the front. It was where he had to be if he wanted to truly know what was going on and if he wanted his soldiers to follow his orders. They wouldn't respect him, and would be far less likely to listen to him, if he were barking at them from the safety of some LAV back on the river bed, where C Company had set up its communications station.

The soldiers moved into Alizi. The family compounds looked chaotic upon entry, with goats and cows roaming and feces everywhere, including the cooking area. But inside the mud huts, things were invariably orderly and clean. The Afghans had few possessions, usually a teapot and a few cooking utensils, as well as a huge stack of rugs and blankets.

Fresh fruit still sat on the plates, evidence that people had made a hasty exit. The troops came upon an old man and his two sons, who had stayed behind. They were as hospitable as most Afghans, bringing out bread, which the Canadians enjoyed eating, but also a bowl full of milk and cucumbers. The Canadians never drank that.

In these friendly encounters, Fletcher worked to get a few messages through, that he and his troops were here at the invitation of the Kabul government to provide help and get rid of the Taliban. As soon as the Taliban were gone, the Canadians would leave, too. They weren't there to occupy the place.

"Oh, the Taliban were here and they took food from us," the old man said. "We don't like the Taliban. We support the Canadians."

This was a typical response. Rarely did a villager provide useful intelligence about the Taliban, but Fletcher understood their reticence; if it became known that a villager was an informer, the Taliban might burn down their house or kill them.

A

C Company's showdown at Seyyeden: Part I; The soldiers of C Company, 1 PPCLI had trained lo29 and ha

fter clearing Alizi, the troops moved towards Seyyeden along a main dirt road known to the Canadians as Route Montreal. By noon, they were running low on water. Alcock of 9 Platoon thought it might be a good time for lunch. Just then, Sgt. Pat Tower turned a corner and found himself facing a man dressed in standard Afghan robes. Tower studied the villager. The Afghan looked at him, then whipped out an AK-47 and started shooting. Tower returned fire. Bullets ripped mud walls. Dust kicked up.

Tower pulled back around a corner and threw a grenade. For all the shots fired, neither Tower nor his Taliban opponent were hit

"Contact!" Alcock yelled into his radio, then added: "We're giving them what for!"

Alcock gave his soldiers the nod to give chase. They advanced, looking through the sights of their rifles as they headed down a narrow alley between a field and Seyyeden's compounds and huts. One soldier had his head snapped back by a Taliban round as he turned a corner.

When they got out of the alley into a clearing, the soldiers again came under fire. They rushed up to hide behind a thick, 1.2-metre-high mud wall. On the other side of the wall was a large grape field. About 100 metres across the field was a row of trees, and 100 metres past the trees was a massive grape-drying hut, a pillbox-like structure, about 30 metres long, 10 metres wide and six metres tall, with slit windows and thick mud walls. Alcock couldn't see any enemy soldiers, just moving shadows, but fire came from the field, the trees and the hut. At once, 9 Platoon returned fire.

Fletcher and his radio operator Mooney rushed up. When they got to the mud wall, Fletcher was pleased at what he saw. However hard their hearts were pounding and their senses were overloading, his soldiers were still functioning. They worked in teams of two, each taking turns, one sitting and regrouping, the other standing, looking for a target and firing, then getting down. If anyone fired too wildly, Sgt. Tower reminded him to take only aimed shots. "Move and fire, so the next time you pop up over the wall, they can't get a bead on you."

Twenty Canadian and 10 ANA soldiers manned the wall. Their position was strong. It was in the shade and the wall provided strong protection. Enemy fire was coming in, but it wasn't too threatening. Nothing was blowing up.

OK, Fletcher thought to himself. We can do this. We're OK here.

Mooney's primary job was to protect Fletcher and work the radio, but with the firefight on, he wanted in.

"Sir," he told Fletcher. "I'm getting into the fight."

In the next hour, Mooney got off 180 rounds. "Fucking!" he yelled as he blazed away. He was lit up on adrenalin and no buzz had ever felt so exhilarating. Let's fucking do it, he thought. I don't give a fuck. If I'm going to die, I'm going to die.

At times, as he hunkered down to regain his breath, his mind raced. This is what I joined the army to do, he said to himself. This is awesome. This is what the army is about. This is what guys did in the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, and I'm part of it now. I'm looking the enemy right in the fucking face.

But then another thought hit him: I have a godson. My cousin had a baby and I'm the godfather. Well, fuck, I got to meet this kid. I can't die over here. I ain't fuckin' dying over here.

For an hour, the Canadians and ANA let loose with a barrage of rifle and machine-gun fire, as well as M-72

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rockets and ANA rocket-propelled grenades. A mound of empty discarded magazines and water bottles piled up behind them.

The goal was to prevent the Taliban from fleeing. Fletcher knew he had 7 Platoon on the berm to cut off any flight that way. He called in artillery fire to blast the area just northwest of the grape-drying hut. The artillery barrage was sporadic, but enough to keep the Taliban from fleeing in that direction. Once the Taliban were fixed in place, Fletcher knew he could take all day to figure out how to kill them.

They are dead, for sure, he thought. They just don't realize it yet.

In time, the enemy only fired back sporadically. Fletcher pictured them hunkered down in the dark, firing random shots. No one could withstand the firepower his troops had just unleashed, he thought. The Taliban were alive but had their heads down. It was now time to move on them and kill them.

Fletcher thought about calling in artillery directly onto the grape-drying hut, but both 7 Platoon and 9 Platoon were too close. They would have to pull back before any direct artillery barrage could be launched. If they did that, however, the Taliban would likely be able to escape.

On his headset, Fletcher heard the LAVs were advancing, having found a more open road to the east. LAV Capt. Marty Dupuis asked if he should come up and commence firing with his 25mm cannon. Fletcher told him to stay put. It was too risky. The Taliban were smart enough to try and suck Fletcher and his soldiers forward, then outflank them. Without the LAVs to protect their flank, the Canadians could get trapped.

The best bet, Fletcher decided, was to have 9 Platoon keep firing, while 8 Platoon and the ANA soldiers crept up along the right flank towards the hut. They would then assault the hut, throwing grenades inside and killing the enemy at close range.

It looked to Fletcher as if there was a mud wall and a large ditch up the right side of the grape field, which would provide cover for 8 Platoon's advance.

We're good to go, Fletcher thought. We've got them.

Through the interpreter, Fletcher relayed his plan to the Afghan major, but at once the major balked. His men would go up the left side and attack, the major insisted, while the Canadians attacked from the right.

The plan made no sense to Fletcher. "Well, thanks, but if we do that, what's to stop us from hitting each other when we shoot?"

"I will make sure my guys don't shoot at your guys," the Afghan major said.

"We're not going to do that," Fletcher replied. "I just will not shoot at your guys. This is complex terrain."

"Well, if you're not going to use my plan, I'm not going to go."

"Yeah, you are. You are under my command."

"No. I'm not going."

"Look, you guys need to be part of this. I need you."

But the Afghan major would not budge.

This guy is an ass, Fletcher thought. It's obviously against his ego to follow anything a Canadian has to say. But Fletcher had no authority to discipline him or relieve him of his command. The Afghan major and his men retreated from the front line to rest under the shade of a tree.

Fletcher turned to Mooney. "Call 8 Platoon up. They're going to be doing a right flanking."

"What!?" Mooney said. "Fuck, this is a new one. No one has done one of those in about 60 years."

Mooney got on the phone to 8 Platoon's radio operator, Cpl. Matthew Leonard, known as Lennie, and relayed Fletcher's orders to have 8 Platoon lead the attack.

"Do you want to send the ANA instead?" Lennie shot back, only half-joking.

Fletcher had his headset on and heard Lennie's barb. It ignited his frustration — he'd had quite enough of men not following his orders. "You tell that fucker to get the fuck up here!" Fletcher told Mooney. "I don't want to hear no fuckin' excuses!"

W

While Lennie's comment had annoyed Fletcher, Lennie's commanders, Warrant Officer Ron Gallant and Sgt. Gerard Moores, felt the same about the ANA. Both Gallant, 45, and Moores, 38, were small-town Newfoundlanders, longtime army vets and family men, both with two kids and a strong sense that the men in their platoon needed protecting as well. They certainly didn't want their guys to be at the pointy end of the spear when it should be the ANA up there. The idea was to train the Afghans to take over. How could that happen if they were on the sidelines, sitting under a tree?

But Gallant, Moores and their soldiers followed Fletcher's order. 8 Platoon ran up to the mud wall, where Fletcher told them the plan.

Moores's anxiety grew as soon as he caught sight of the grape-drying hut. Oh shit, he said to himself. I feel like I'm on the beaches of Normandy here, assaulting a pillbox.

Pte. Brent Ginther realized that because he carried a machine-gun, the deadliest firepower in his section, he would be at the front of the attack.

Ginther was 20, two years in the army, a quiet, lanky kid from Coaldale in southern Alberta. He had signed up for the infantry right out of high school, not for any big reason, just for something to do. He was no zealot.

See SEYYEDEN / F8

G

Ginther didn't keep up with all the politics of the Afghan mission, but he knew about 9/11, the Taliban and al-Qaida, and certainly felt he and his unit weren't doing anything wrong in Afghanistan. He wasn't one of the guys keening for action, but he had the feeling it was coming whether he wanted it or not.

And here it was.

Ginther was already almost puking in the 45 C heat. Drenched in sweat, burning with thirst, he could barely see straight.

And now these orders.

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I'm screwed, Ginther said to himself. I'm hooped.

He studied the ominous-looking grape-drying hut, its walls barely damaged despite taking a pounding. He tried to move his feet. They would not budge. They were too heavy. Only with an extreme effort did he take the hardest step of his life and start moving forward.

Ginther walked slowly up the muddy ditch, heading up a depression that ran down the middle. Behind him were Sgt. Chris Maven and Cpl. Kory Ozerkevich, soldiers with excellent reputations. To their right, on a slightly elevated part of the ditch, was Fletcher, followed by Mooney.

And then it came. Just past a tree that obscured his view, Ginther passed an unexpected hole in the mud wall. The Taliban opened fire with a belt-fed machine-gun: BRAP! BRAP! BRAP!

Ginther felt as if someone had bashed his legs with a baseball bat, taking them out from under him. Another bullet crashed into his chest, but was stopped by his protective armour.

Holy fuck, he thought. I've been shot.

He looked down. His legs were a horrible, bloody mess. The enemy fire continued. Just then, Ginther noticed Ozerkevich, who everyone called Oz, doing a strange flip. For a moment, Ginther felt Oz was being fancy, doing some kind of ninja roll and was going to pop up and fire again. But Oz didn't move.

"Get me the fuck out of here!" Ginther started to scream. "Get me the fuck out of here!"

He looked up but could see no enemy in the thick trees. He tried to fire, but his machine-gun was plugged with dirt. Bullets kicked up dirt around him. He waited for the bullet that would kill him.

Mooney hit the deck in time to see Maven and Fletcher turn towards the fire and hammer on their triggers, blasting back at the Taliban gunner.

A pitiful coughing sound was heard, then Oz cried out, "Help! Help!"

What the fuck? Mooney thought. Who is that?

He called up to Fletcher. "Sir, are you all right?"

"I'm good. I'm good."

Mooney spoke into his radio. "Contact! Wait. Out." Again came the cry for help.

Mooney got back on the radio: "We need a starlight (a medic), and we need 3-2 sunray minor (Sgt. Moores) with a stretcher."

Mooney and Fletcher crawled forward to find Oz on his back, drenched in blood. Bullets continued to snap in and kick up dust. Mooney moved his hand, only to see a bullet rip into the dirt there a moment later.

"What's wrong with you?" Fletcher asked Oz.

"I'm dying. I'm dying."

"You're not fuckin' dying! You'll be fine."

"I think I got shot in the lung. I got a sucking chest wound."

"Lemme see," Mooney said.

Mooney was so pumped up, he ripped a pocket off of Oz's shirt trying to get it off. Just then, Mooney noticed that he, too, was covered in blood. "Oh God, I'm shot, too," he yelled out.

He checked his own body, but found he was OK.

Maven started work on Ginther. The wounded man's pants were dark with blood, so Maven stripped Ginther's lower body naked. Flesh hung from wounds in both legs. Blood gushed. Maven gagged from the raw smell of the wounds, but managed to get a tourniquet on the right leg. Master Cpl. Peter Chaisson struggled up through the enemy fire to help Maven get a tourniquet on Ginther's left leg. Medic Tim Ferguson arrived and tried to get an IV into Ginther, but had trouble because Ginther was so dehydrated and his veins were too small.

Many times Ginther had wondered how he would react if he was wounded. He was astonished to discover that he wasn't screaming and freaking out. Instead, he felt pissed off that he was wounded and in terrible pain. He could feel the hot burning metal of the bullets still in his legs.

He was relieved about one thing, however. At first he had feared his penis had been shot off, but when his pants were pulled off, he saw he was still intact.

Maven, Chaisson and two other soldiers rolled Ginther onto a body bag, then strained to drag him out on it, the bullets still flying, roots, branches and bushes getting in their way. To provide cover for Oz and Ginther's evacuation, the soldiers threw a few smoke grenades. Fletcher also ordered 9 Platoon to ramp up its fire and for the LAVs to come up and ferry back the wounded soldiers. Not only did Fletcher want his wounded men out, he was pissed off now, more determined than ever to kill the enemy. Still, he tried not to show his anger. Calm is contagious, he knew, and that's what his men needed.

The men pulled Ginther to a less-exposed position, where they came upon Mooney.

"Fuck, this sucks," Ginther said.

The left leg looked like mush to Mooney. He also noticed that Ginther's penis was exposed.

"I think they blew my dick in half," Ginther said, trying to joke.

"Geez! You fuck with that cock or what!?" Mooney shot back.

"Fuck you, Mooney," Ginther said, but without much bite. It felt to him like his life was draining away.

Oz was doing somewhat better. He had been shot through his armpit, the bullet exiting out his back. He insisted he was fine. "I'm good to go," he said.

"No, you've been shot," Moores said. "Sit down and shut up and let's figure out how to get Ginther out of here."

T

he LAVs had to break through a mud wall to get close to the wounded men. Inside one of the LAVs was Prof. Irwin and an Afghan interpreter. When the LAVs arrived, their back hatches came open. Sgt. Moores appeared and started to cut down a stretcher tied to the top of the LAV, putting himself in the line of fire.

Rounds bounced off the troop carrier. Moores expected to get shot at any moment.

But Moores, with help from Cpl. Leonard, got the stretcher down. Oz was slid into the LAV on it. Irwin could see Oz had been shot, but all he did was wince now and then. "I'm OK, Anne," he said, "Don't worry about me."

Harry's encounters panned back home

IDNUMBER 200706100163
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A3
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Prince Harry is in Alberta reportedly undergoing training. ;
KEYWORDS: MONARCHY; VISITS; ANNIVERSARIES; MEDIA
BYLINE: Jamie Komarnicki and Peter Green
SOURCE: Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 375

The hunt for Harry continues.

Prince Harry and Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalisy had a reservation for a private room at a local lounge Saturday, said the establishment's manager. But it's not yet clear if the pair appeared.

"At this point he has a private area (reserved) in the Geisha room," Wild Ginger manager Steve Tokos said early Saturday evening.

"It's a closed, completely reserved area. I want to keep his privacy as best as possible."

Cymbalisy made the reservation earlier this week, he said.

Contacted later Saturday evening, Tokos said he was asked to not comment any further on the prince, and wouldn't confirm if the pair showed up at the downtown lounge.

The reservation comes on the heels of a racy story published by an English tabloid about the young bartender's visit with the prince in Calgary earlier this week.

The lengthy story, which slams the prince for partying while British soldiers are dying in Iraq, appeared online on the News of the World's website. Their report includes numerous pictures of the prince posing with, and kissing, women at Cowboys.

Cymbalisy described her initial meeting with the son of Prince Charles and the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

"I told him, 'You look like someone.' He laughed and said, 'Really, who do I look like?' It was then I realized he was Prince Harry -- but he joked his name was Gary," Cymbalisy told the News of the World. "He was obsessed about my outfit. . . . He said there were so many beautiful women in Cowboys," Cymbalisy told the News of the World.

"But for the most part, he kept looking at me, shaking his head and going, 'Wow!' I started to get embarrassed."

The pair were supposed to attend a party together afterward, but the story says Cymbalisy was too tired and went home.

Cowboys manager Doug Donald said the English tabloid greatly exaggerated the entire encounter.

"They're sure mean to that kid," Donald said Saturday.

"He was a gentleman the whole time. He wasn't slobbering over girls -- that's pretty unfair.

"I would just absolutely hate to have to live in that fishbowl that I'm sure he does," he said.

The Cowboys visit is the only confirmed Calgary sighting of Harry.

Harry's visit to Alberta has attracted international attention, feeding a growing frenzy for any information about his whereabouts while participating in British army exercises at CFB Suffield, 250 kilometres southeast of Calgary.

Recent reports out of England have said Harry's training in Alberta is a precursor to deployment in Afghanistan.

The Times of London reported that army officials are hoping Harry can make a quiet transfer to Afghanistan possible.

The prince was recently prevented from serving with British units in Iraq due to the increased risk his presence would have brought.

The Times went on to state that Harry told senior officers he would leave the army if he was not allowed "to do his job" by serving in combat.

jkomarnicki@theherald.canwest.com

So, what's the scoop on Prince Harry?; Jamie Komarnicki and Peter Green

IDNUMBER 200706100161

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.06.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Reuters / Prince Harry is in Alberta reportedly undergoing training. ;

KEYWORDS: MONARCHY; VISITS; ANNIVERSARIES; MEDIA

SOURCE: Calgary Herald

WORD COUNT: 356

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The reservation comes on the heels of a racy story published by an English tabloid about the young bartender's visit with the prince in Calgary on Thursday.

The lengthy story appeared online on The News of the World's website and includes numerous pictures of the prince posing with and kissing women at Cowboys.

The story goes on to say the prince spent the night drinking and flirting with bar staff.

"He said there were so many beautiful women in Cowboys," Cymbalisty told the News of the World. "But, for the most part, he kept looking at me, shaking his head and going, 'Wow!' I started to get embarrassed."

The pair were supposed to attend a party together afterward, but Cymbalisty was too tired and went home.

Previous reports said the prince arrived with friends late and stayed until closing, marvelling at the lack of media scrutiny.

Many Cowboys staff didn't recognize the prince at first, including the bouncers, who checked the prince's passport to make sure he was old enough to enter.

Cowboys owner Paul Vickers declined to comment Saturday on the royal visit or the media interest surrounding it.

The Cowboys visit is the only confirmed Calgary sighting of Harry.

Penny Lane Entertainment Group lawyer Christopher Chan claimed the prince visited Tantra nightclub the day before, and Barb Taks thought she saw the prince riding a bike on Highway 22 near Cochrane on Friday.

Harry's visit to Alberta has attracted international attention, feeding a growing frenzy for any information about his whereabouts while participating in British army exercises at CFB Suffield, 250 kilometres southeast of Calgary.

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jkomarnicki@theherald.canwest.com

Afghan torture allegations increase; Discrepancy leads to charge Tories misled House

IDNUMBER 200706100148
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.06.10
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SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Denis Coderre; Colour Photo: Peter MacKay ; Colour Photo: Stockwell Day ;
KEYWORDS: BYELECTIONS; POLITICAL PARTIES; POLITICIANS; AFGHANISTAN
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Juliet O'Neill
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 277

OTTAWA – Canadian officials have received allegations of torture or abuse from six Afghan detainees, two more than reported by cabinet ministers during testimony at a Commons committee a few days ago.

The change of facts prompted Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre on Saturday to accuse Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day of "misleading the House and the people of Canada."

The higher number was cited by MacKay at a news conference Friday, after two days of inquiries by opposition MPs and reporters about discrepancies in testimony he and Day gave at a joint meeting Wednesday of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees.

Both had used the lower number, but Day said the complaints covered a period beginning in February.

In April, Day had said Corrections Canada officials received reports of abuse from two detainees.

On Friday, MacKay clarified that in addition to those two, four more detainees who had been transferred to Afghan detention facilities by Canadian Forces had registered claims of torture or abuse. The four complaints had come since a new prisoner transfer agreement was put in place May 3.

"There is no discrepancy," MacKay said. "There are six in total. Two complaints by suspected Taliban detainees prior to the new agreement and, since May 3 when the new enhanced arrangement was put in place, there were four."

The agreement was put in place after many weeks of controversy.

"They never were able, since Day 1 to come clean," Coderre said in an interview Saturday. "We're asking them once and for all to come clean because the way they're acting, it's bad for Canada's reputation."

MacKay said the four complaints received since the new agreement was put in place were received just this past week. One occurred at a prison in Kandahar and the other three at a facility in Kabul.

Negotiating with the Taliban is not an option for Canada

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DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: The Editorial Page
PAGE: A14
KEYWORDS: RELIGION; CLERGY
BYLINE: Patrick Donnelly
SOURCE: For the Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 1260

What do Henry Kissinger, Dr. Mohammad Mohamedou and apparently, 63 per cent of Canadians share in common? They all believe that the West should engage its enemies through some form of rapprochement.

In mid-May, a poll conducted by The Strategic Counsel for CTV and the Globe and Mail found that 63 per cent of Canadians said it was "a good idea" to negotiate with the Taliban as means of resolving the violence in Afghanistan.

Even more surprising, the poll showed that 57 per cent of Conservative Party members supported this idea. Peter Donolo of The Strategic Counsel opined that "it was a very Canadian thing to believe that nothing can't be solved by sitting across a table and talking".

One might expect nothing less from a former Jean Chretien communications director, but one would have hoped for rank-and-file Conservatives to respond more robustly to endless hand-wringing about Canada's role in confronting global terrorism.

Nearly six years have passed since the 9/11 murder of 3,000 civilians. While al-Qaeda has (mostly) lost its Afghanistan base, it fights on through its proxy, the Taliban.

Al-Qaeda is almost certainly active in Pakistan, parts of Asia and within failed states in the Horn of Africa. Further acts of terror directed against Western targets have been planned, most notably last summer's attempt to bomb several British airliners enroute to North America, and the al-Qaeda-inspired plot to destroy the CN Tower in Toronto and decapitate Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Within the West, there is increased criticism directed at our efforts to defeat al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Some suggest al-Qaeda and the Taliban may never be defeated.

In an article from Harvard University, Dr. Mohamedou, associate director of Harvard University's Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, argues that, since 2001, al-Qaeda has mutated into a decentralized political entity, "an industrious, committed and power-wielding organization waging a political, limited, and evasive war of attrition — not a religious, open-ended apocalyptic one."

It should not be surprising that al-Qaeda is a political actor with political goals. Yet politics merely gives form and expression to an ideology.

Mohamedou states that, unlike a "traditional" war where one side defeats the other, no one can win this war.

"What is certain," he writes, "is that neither side can defeat the other. The United States will not be able to overpower a diffuse, ever-mutating, organized international militancy movement, whose struggle enjoys the rear-guard sympathy of large numbers of Muslims."

Instead, he suggests that "historical precedents abound as to the inevitability of a political settlement to a conflict pitting state and non-state actors".

Where have we heard this before?

Like al-Qaeda, communism posed a global threat for much of the 20th century. The spread of communism accelerated after 1945, when Soviet-sponsored coups toppled democratically elected, post-war governments in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Romania.

But the ideology of communism had many adherents throughout the West, including politicians, students, and academics. (It is doubtful there were many true believers among those condemned to actually live under a communist regime).

Communist agent-provocateurs and sympathizers actively sought to destabilize various democratic governments throughout the world. Communist regimes engaged in atrocities against their own people --- such as Stalin's gulags and the Cultural Revolution of China's Mao and his Red Guard.

Abroad, communists utilized terrorism as a means of promoting their agenda. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, terrorist groups, such as the Bader-Meinhof Gang and the Red Brigades, sponsored by the Eastern Bloc, engaged in campaigns of violence against targets throughout western Europe, including the 1978 kidnap and murder of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro. Recent scholarship also implicates the Bulgarians, and their Soviet masters, in the 1981 attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

In dealing with the Soviet threat, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger advocated "realpolitik," a foreign policy where choices were based on a pragmatic assessment of the world, as it was thought to be.

Conventional wisdom held that America would never win a shooting war with the Soviets. Indeed, throughout the 1970s while America neglected her armed forces, the re-armed Soviets were pursuing an aggressive expansion, culminating with their invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. All that the West could do was "contain" the communists. This approach dovetailed nicely with the left's arguments for moral equivalence between East and West. There was no lasting resolution to the Cold War until the communist ideology underpinning the totalitarian Soviet regime was thoroughly discredited.

Self-appointed pundits scoffed at former U.S. president Ronald Reagan's suggestion that the Soviet Union was an "evil empire," but Reagan understood there was no moral equivalence between the repressive, totalitarian regimes of the communist bloc and the liberal democratic states of the West.

Reagan certainly engaged the Soviets diplomatically, but at the same time, he never surrendered his principles nor his conviction that freedom and democracy could ever be compromised.

Those who support negotiation with the Taliban must ask themselves who, exactly, would they talk to?

The Taliban appears to be a disparate and decentralized group of fighters, including Pakistani tribesmen, native Afghans, Arabs and other Muslim mercenaries.

When it controlled Afghanistan, the Taliban engaged in the brutal suppression of women and ethnic minorities, including mass public executions for those who disobeyed its interpretation of Sharia law; forbade any kind of education for females and executed anyone who violated this edict; engaged in wholesale

destruction of Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage; and provided safe harbour for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda following their 1998 terrorist attacks on the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the 2000 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen, and of course, the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001.

With apologies to Donolo and The Strategic Counsel, it is unlikely that such an enemy would sit down across the table from anyone. Nor should we.

Canada and our allies are in Afghanistan at the request of the legitimate Afghan government and the United Nations. Any negotiations with the Taliban would not only compromise our own war effort, but could fatally undermine the Afghan government.

Negotiation would be perceived as a sign of our weakness and wavering resolve, and would further embolden the Taliban (and their al-Qaeda allies) in their efforts to retake Afghanistan and continue their terrorist activities throughout the world.

Our troops are not only engaged in rooting out the Taliban and protecting ordinary Afghans from terror, they are also active in reconstruction efforts including building vital infrastructure such as highways, digging wells for potable water, providing medical aid, and distributing school supplies.

Today, whether Islamist, fascist, or communist, the enemy is still totalitarianism. There can be no rapprochement with such an enemy, only total victory. To abandon Afghanistan now would be akin to the betrayal of Czechoslovakia in 1938 or the 1975 American pull-out of Vietnam.

John O'Sullivan, a former adviser to British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, in his splendid book *The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister* recounts how the communist threat was overcome by Reagan, Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II.

O'Sullivan notes how former Cambodian prime minister Siri Matak was offered asylum in the United States following the collapse of anti-communist forces in south-east Asia.

Matak, who refused the American offer and was subsequently murdered by the Khmer Rouge in Phnomh Penh, offered this reply: "I cannot, alas, leave in such a cowardly fashion. As for you, and in particular, for your great country, I never believed for a moment that you would have this sentiment of abandoning a people which has chosen liberty."

If nations have destinies, then let this be ours — to never falter, never fail, and never abandon another people striving bravely for their freedom.

Patrick Donnelly is a Calgary-based lawyer. He can be reached at:

donnelly101@gmail.com

Women against medievalism

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SECTION: Q: Queries – Quibbles – Quirks
PAGE: A15
KEYWORDS: WOMEN; WOMEN'S RIGHTS
SOURCE: Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 421

The greatest heroes in Afghanistan won't be leaving when the war is over. Afghan women will be risking their lives to fight injustice for years, probably decades, to come.

Zakia Zaki is the latest victim. She died in bed, as her infant son slept beside her. The reports say three men burst into the bedroom and shot Zaki seven times.

It isn't hard to identify a motive for this cowardly murder. Zaki was a teacher and a journalist and, whether she identified herself as such or not, a feminist. It's a wonder she lived to 35. She had criticized the Taliban and the former mujahedeen, and she had run a radio station since 2001. She was a symbol of change, of democracy and of the power of women.

As for who killed her, well, it could almost be anyone. The government suspects a group of men with ties to Hezb-e Islami, a guerrilla group headed by a warlord. In Afghanistan, misogyny is the norm, and by no means limited to outright enemies of the government. Even many supporters of democracy have less-than-enlightened attitudes about women.

Some parts of Afghanistan are more dangerous for women than others, but no part of the country is entirely safe. A few days before Zakia Zaki's murder, a young female television presenter was killed in Kabul.

Women such as Zakia Zaki know they are risking death. Every day they wake up and confront that fear and go to work anyway. They also confront constant disapproval from male relatives who would prefer that their women stayed behind walls and burkas, mouths shut. The struggle for gender equality is not only deadly but often lonely.

Despite all this, bright and cheerful young women are learning to operate cameras and report on their country. One of the documentaries made by a young woman, *If I Stand Up*, profiled Zakia Zaki.

Afghan women are writing opinion articles and hosting radio programs and appearing on television. They are running for office and going to school and starting businesses. They do all this while looking after their own children (Zakia Zaki had six).

While all of those activities are extremely difficult still, most weren't even possible under the Taliban.

If Canada withdrew its troops from Afghanistan tomorrow, life for women there wouldn't improve, and it would certainly get worse.

The real barometer of change is not in the activities of the bravest women, but the attitudes of their husbands

and brothers and fathers and sons.

As a donor country, Canada thinks a lot about the education of girls, but perhaps we should be thinking even harder about the education of boys, so that the next generation of Afghan men doesn't grow up to be woman-killers.

From grad to dad, half a world away; Live to Afghanistan: 'That was a great speech,' says Patrick O'Hara, chief petty officer second class. Posted in Kandahar, he watched his son Shawn give a preview of his valedictory speech to Colwood students.

IDNUMBER 200706100088

PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)

DATE: 2007.06.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Debra Brash, Times Colonist / Dressed in his grad outfit, Shawn O'Hara reads his valedictory speech yesterday — with the use of a video link — to his father, Chief Petty Officer 2nd class Patrick O'Hara, in Kandahar. Later in the day, Shawn delivered his speech to Belmont Secondary graduates. ;

SOURCE: Times Colonist

WORD COUNT: 652

By Jeff Bell

Times Colonist staff

Shawn O'Hara, valedictorian for Belmont Secondary School's Class of 2007, gave his speech to close to 500 fellow students yesterday. But no none appreciated his wit and wisdom more than a preview audience of one who listened intently in a hot, sticky room halfway across the world.

Thanks to new video-linking technology, Chief Petty Officer 2nd class Patrick O'Hara — posted in Kandahar, Afghanistan — was able to see and hear his 18-year-old son Shawn give his valedictory address in a family-only rendition from the capital region's Military Family Resource Centre in Colwood.

Shawn even wore the requisite cap and gown for the occasion, the same one he wore for Belmont's two official graduation sessions later in the day.

His sister Karyn, 17, and brother Chris, 15, also listened in, while his mother Patricia stepped around the corner to save the speech experience for Shawn's performance at the school ceremonies.

Shawn, who is accustomed to appearing in local stage productions and who aspires to be an actor, had his father alternately shaking with laughter and drying his tears.

His dad took it all in during the sweltering 45 C heat in Kandahar, where he has spent the last two months.

"That's great, that was a great speech," Patrick said. "I think that will go over really well with the crowd."

Noting that his father was tearing up a little, Shawn was quick to lighten the mood. "Are you sweating from the eyes, dad?" he asked.

From grad to dad, half a world away; Live to Afghanistan: 'That was a great speech,' says Patrick O'Hara, chief petty officer second class. Posted in Kandahar, he watched his son Shawn give a preview of his valedictory speech to Colwood students.

Later, he expressed concern that the heat might melt off dad's tattoos.

Shawn's sense of humour was sprinkled throughout his speech, but he also made room for a tribute to his dad and a nod to the important step that graduation represents in a young person's life.

"In some cases, someone you love may want to be here, but they can't and that is enough," he wrote. "My father ... couldn't be here today, being stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, with the Canadian navy.

"He's always been there for me, and just because he can't be here at this very moment, I still know no matter what he'll always be there for me.

"So don't worry," he said in an aside to his father. "We might not talk all the time, or always look happy, but we know that you're always going to be there when we need you."

And to his schoolmates: "I think a couple of you may be worried for my father, what with the war zone and everything, but I assure you he's completely safe, and the most dangerous thing that he's shot at is a large jalapeno pizza.

"Seriously, he told me."

In his own way, Shawn acknowledged the work and dedication that goes into a Grade 12 education.

"High school is hard," he wrote. "It's been a long, hard arduous journey, and I don't even know what arduous means. I'm under the impression that it's a South American root vegetable, but I digress."

He congratulated the Belmont faculty for being able to prod him to the status of graduate. "The teachers at Belmont have been an undeniable guiding light, wellspring of information and emotional scapegoats."

Sarah Daviau of the Military Family Resource Centre said the new video link for families and servicepeople has been in place for about two months.

"It allows them to see each other on a regular basis, and it's good for morale."

Yesterday's video gathering with the O'Haras allowed a special occasion to be a real family event, Daviau said.

"If the dad couldn't be part of something like that, it's a loss in their life that they'll never be able to see."

Patricia agreed, saying that e-mailing pictures of Shawn's grad event to Afghanistan "just wouldn't be the same."

Shawn had the last word. "It's just cool to see dad and talk to him."

Similar videoconferencing units have been used to allow other Canadian parents serving Afghanistan to see their newborn children back home.

Patrick returns to Victoria in about three weeks for a 10-day visit before heading back to Afghanistan to complete his deployment. He could be there for six months or more, tasked with organizing itineraries and travel details for officials arriving in the country.

CANADA'S MISSION

- Canada established its military presence in Afghanistan in 2001, not long after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks against the United States.
- Diplomatic relations were renewed with Afghanistan in January 2002, after a new government was formed.
- Along with its military function, Canada is assisting with reconstruction efforts, clearing mines left behind from previous years of fighting in the country, and training Afghan soldiers and police.
- The Canadian government has allotted \$616.5 million to cover efforts in Afghanistan from 2001 through 2009.
- The death of Darrell Jason Priede in late May brought to 56 the number of Canadian military personnel killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

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DATE: 2007.06.10
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PAGE: A8
DATELINE: LONDON
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 65

LONDON (AFP) — A member of the NATO forces killed in fighting in southern Afghanistan yesterday was a British soldier, Britain's Ministry of Defence said. The soldier from the 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards was fatally wounded outside Sangin in Helmand province when his patrol came under a Taliban attack, the ministry said.

Army has plans to keeping Harry from quitting

PUBLICATION: The Sunday Herald
DATE: 2007.06.10
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
BYLINE: Michael Smith The Sunday Times
WORD COUNT: 269

Army chiefs are planning to deploy Prince Harry quietly to Afghanistan in an attempt to deter him from quitting the army.

He is training at a remote British Army base in Alberta from where he can be flown into Afghanistan without attracting attention.

The prince, a junior officer in the Blues and Royals, is receiving extra training on armoured vehicles, particularly the Scimitar reconnaissance vehicle used by his unit.

Defence chiefs banned the prince, who is third in line to the throne, from accompanying his squadron to Iraq, where they are now patrolling the Iranian border.

The ban was ordered by General Sir Richard Dannatt, head of the army, last month after a visit to Iraq when he was briefed about the threats to Harry.

Major-General Jonathan Shaw, the British commander, and intelligence officers warned of an insurgent plan to ambush Harry's troop and kidnap him. There had been bomb attacks on the Scimitars then patrolling the Iranian border in an apparent rehearsal for his arrival.

It was also argued that if Harry were given a desk job in the operations centre at the British headquarters in Basra, it would come under increased mortar and rocket fire, seriously impeding operations and increasing the risk to troops.

Harry had repeatedly made clear to senior officers that if he was not allowed to deploy on operations "to do his job," he would leave the army.

Whether a posting to another unit in Afghanistan would satisfy him is unclear, however. If he is forced to do staff work behind a desk, he would be unlikely to be happy. But if he goes on operations, he would again be at serious risk.

The Taliban are no less vicious than the insurgents in Iraq and if he were captured, his fate would be the same as if he were taken hostage in Iraq.

Khadr deserves Canada's protection, say activists; Amnesty International says issue is not guilt or innocence

PUBLICATION: The Sunday Herald

DATE: 2007.06.10

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A7

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Merita Ilo; Abdul Latheef

ILLUSTRATION: Zaynab Khadr in Toronto last week. A U.S. military judge threw out the murder case against her brother, Omar Khadr. Zaynab Khadr, 27, said the family was heartened by the news. (Aaron Harris / CP)

WORD COUNT: 685

TORONTO – Canada may be finally waking up to the fact that it should protect the human rights of one of its citizens held in a U.S. military prison in Cuba on terror-related charges, even though it condemns the crimes he is alleged to have committed, a human rights organization says.

The claim follows the recent dismissal by U.S. military judges of charges against Omar Khadr, the youngest member of a Canadian family linked to al-Qaida, who is accused of killing an American soldier in Afghanistan in 2002, when he was 15 years old.

The dismissal prompted editorials critical of the U.S. government's handling of his case and brought out other public comment that possibly heralds a shift in opinion on his treatment.

John Tackaberry, a spokesman for Amnesty International Canada, said the Khadr family's connections to al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden have made some people reluctant to speak out on principles at stake in his treatment because they did not want to be associated with the family.

"What the politicians have had difficulty doing is differentiating between the rights and responsibilities of themselves in terms of protecting human rights and looking at the mechanisms that are being used – and the individual who is involved."

The human rights group thinks "it's not innocence or guilt, but the issue is that every one deserves to be treated in a way that respects the highest standards of human rights protection," including Khadr, Tackaberry said.

"The fact that they are beginning to speak out and that there is an editorial recognition and a beginning of a change of opinion is a positive sign."

But experts caution that dealing with Khadr and other detainees in Guantanamo Bay poses problems not contemplated in the past.

John Thompson of the Mackenzie Institute, a think-tank specializing on security and terrorism issues, said al-Qaida has exposed "a hole" in the international law, making it difficult to try terror suspects using the existing international conventions.

Khadr deserves Canada's protection, say activists; Amnesty International says issue is not guilt or innocence

"An international terrorist organization was unheard of when the Geneva Conventions were being written up and that's a central problem," Thompson said.

According to article four of the Third Geneva Convention, prisoners of war are members of an armed forces that belong to a party in the conflict, have fixed distinctive signs, carry arms openly, conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war and profess allegiance to a government or an authority not recognized by the detaining power.

But in the case of al-Qaida, "who's the political authority we treat with?," asked Thompson. "Who do you actually release the prisoner to? Do you hold them until the war with al-Qaida is over? How do you release somebody and guarantee that they won't go fight them again?" Thompson suggested the only trial Khadr could face in Canada would be that on high treason charges, and "that has not been tested here since 1946."

This is why the U.S. administration, soon after the 9-11 terrorist attacks, came up with the term – "enemy combatants" – to distinguish terror suspects arrested in Afghanistan and other countries from regular soldiers who, when captured, would become prisoners of war entitled to protection under the Geneva Conventions.

On October 17, 2006, U.S. President George W. Bush signed the Military Commissions Act law. The act, among other things, established a system of military commissions for trials of non-U.S. citizen individuals who have been determined to be "unlawful enemy combatants."

Military judges ruled last Monday that the Pentagon could not prosecute Khadr and another detainee because they had not first been identified as "unlawful" enemy combatants.

Khadr previously had been identified by military panels only as enemy combatant, lacking the critical "unlawful" designation. The Pentagon called the issue a slight difference in terminology that should be settled quickly and is appealing the ruling.

However, the judges' decision dealt a blow to the Bush administration in its efforts to begin prosecuting dozens of detainees regarded by the U.S. as the most dangerous terrorist suspects.

Thompson agreed the military commissions were not working. But until a better system is brought up, he said he believed Khadr and the other detainees would likely remain incarcerated.

Human rights organizations and many governments around the world have blasted the commissions as a blunt violation of international law.

Khadr deserves Canada's protection, say activists; Amnesty International says issue is not guilt or44nocenc

Halifax man serves with Brits in Iraq; Military police officer one of the few Canadians serving in volatile country

PUBLICATION:	The Sunday Herald
DATE:	2007.06.10
SECTION:	NovaScotia
PAGE:	A5
BYLINE:	Jenn Gearey Special
ILLUSTRATION:	Capt. Daniel Dandurand, 31: 'One of our tasks is to support the battle groups by conducting arrest and detention operations of known threats to British forces.' (Contributed)
WORD COUNT:	625

HE CAN DIFFERENTIATE between the sound of an exploding mortar, bomb, rocket or an improvised explosive device. And he does it several times a day, instinctively.

Capt. Daniel Dandurand, 31, is a Canadian military police officer in Iraq, where there are only a handful of Canadians like him.

Canada isn't supposed to have a military presence in Iraq, but Capt. Dandurand is an exception because he's on an exchange with the British military.

Since 2005, Capt. Dandurand, who calls Halifax home, has been part of the three-year exchange program that he volunteered for. While the U.K. is his base, he has been deployed to Iraq along with his British colleagues from 150 Provost Company, 3rd Regiment Military Police.

"The unit I am serving with is filled with exceptional people who are extremely professional soldiers and experienced in operations from a variety of theatres," says Capt. Dandurand.

"The size of their military lends itself to seeing more and experiencing larger-scale operations first-hand."

Capt. Dandurand, who grew up in a military family and has been in the Canadian Forces for 13 years, has a very visible and at times very dangerous job in Iraq, helping a country that only knows chaos to achieve calm and order.

"One of our tasks is to support the battle groups by conducting arrest and detention operations of known threats to British forces. Another important task is to assist the Iraqi police service in achieving a level of competency in order for them to be a credible and capable law enforcement agency."

Capt. Dandurand says the exchange program has allowed him to understand how the U.K.'s Royal Military Police operates, information he says can be used when he rejoins the Canadian military.

"Canada's and the U.K.'s militaries have many similarities, namely the commitment to getting the job done, and doing it well. The differences are subtle, almost too subtle to notice. . . . I will be able to understand their contribution to a coalition much easier if I ever deploy with a Canadian unit where they are also operating."

Capt. Dandurand is giving Canada a good name on the exchange. He is second-in-command in his company

and shares the Canadian Forces' best practices with his British military mates as well.

Despite the good opportunity provided by the exchange, Capt. Dandurand misses his wife Susan, son Matthew, 2, and newborn daughter Mia back home in Halifax.

"I send him pictures of the kids as often as I can," says Susan. "Mostly pictures of everyday activities – bath times, lunch in the garden, Matthew making Mia giggle!"

When the subject of his family is brought up, Capt. Dandurand gets sentimental, and the sting cannot be camouflaged.

"I'm very excited to see how much she has grown and how funny and happy I was told she is," he says of Mia.

"The most challenging aspect of the exchange is adjusting to the amount of time I am away from home. I am sure they must be concerned for my safety in the same way they were when I was in Afghanistan." While Susan admits she worries about her husband, he says he knows how to calm her worries.

"Easing their fears simply involves keeping in regular contact and reminding them that we are exceptionally well-equipped and trained to complete the missions we are given."

Despite her fears, Susan is incredibly proud of her husband, and can't help but boast.

"I am constantly astounded by his pride in being a Canadian soldier and his willingness to selflessly serve his country," she says. "I believe he is going to benefit from an immense amount of operational knowledge and experience that will be invaluable to the Canadian military police branch and the (Canadian Forces) as a whole."

Capt. Dandurand has a year left with British forces and already has his eye on some opportunities with the Canadian military when he returns.

"I hope to return to a position where I will be very busy and have the chance to command and lead troops. However, I will gladly go wherever I am told to go because it will inevitably be for a good reason."

In the meantime, Susan and her children await his return, with a picnic and all of his favourite foods in mind to celebrate the family being together again.

Author chronicles Afghan history through two women's lives; Khaled Hosseini's new book a fine follow-up to 'The Kite Runner'

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.06.10

SECTION: Republic of words

PAGE: B5

SOURCE: AP

BYLINE: Rachel Konrad

ILLUSTRATION: A Thousand Splendid Suns By Khaled Hosseini Riverhead Books; Khaled Hosseini, the Afghan-born author of the bestselling "The Kite Runner," is shown at his home in San Jose, Calif., in this October 2005 file photo. His latest book on his homeland is "A Thousand Splendid Suns." – Photo by The Associated Press

WORD COUNT: 491

Mariam is a loathsome creature – the out-of-wedlock daughter of a wealthy businessman and his uneducated maid.

She grows up an outcast in a shantytown near Herat, Afghanistan, in the 1960s, forced into marriage at 15 to a misanthrope 25 years older. Rasheed, a churlish shoemaker with an enormous paunch and hideous teeth, beats Mariam when she can't conceive.

By contrast, Laila is the precocious daughter of progressive, middle-class parents. She grows up in cosmopolitan Kabul in the 1980s, quoting poets and mingling with academics, who say the only merit of Soviet occupation is that girls may attend school. Her feminist father organizes a fabulous road trip to the Buddhas of Bamiyan and the snowcapped Hindu Kush.

The sad intersection of Mariam and Laila's seemingly disparate lives is the basis for "A Thousand Splendid Suns," an evocative and engrossing new novel by Khaled Hosseini, the Afghan-American author of the 2003 bestseller "The Kite Runner."

Fans of "The Kite Runner" might fear that Hosseini won't live up to the high bar of his debut novel. At first glance, "Splendid Suns" sounds like a chick-lit knockoff of "Kite Runner" – the tale of two people from different socio-economic backgrounds, whose lives converge amid the tragedy of the collapsing Afghan state.

But the good news is that "Splendid Suns" exceeds every expectation. This tough-to-put-down book leaves even a jaded reader crying, wincing and gasping at Laila and Mariam's agony – and triumphing at their fleeting happiness. If anything, "Splendid Suns" is more visceral and heart-wrenching than "The Kite Runner."

"Splendid Suns" chronicles Afghanistan through Soviet, Mujahideen and Taliban rule.

The story unfolds as invaders and warlords siphon wealth, freedom and humanity out of a once-proud nation.

The book ends shortly after the U.S. invasion of 2001, and the search for Osama bin Laden and fall of the Taliban.

Author chronicles Afghan history through two women's lives; Khaled Hosseini's new book a fine follow-up to

Despite the book's incendiary political backdrop – and the pitched conversations it might ignite in book discussions – the story remains rooted in Mariam and Laila's lives, which become unendurable as Afghanistan deteriorates. Raping, beating, bombing, knifing: "Splendid Suns" is not for the squeamish.

Nearly every character dreams of emigrating. Most end up in squalid refugee camps or communal graves, victims of depraved warlords and artillery that the United States, Saudi Arabia, China and other nations provide.

Those who remain seem cursed. Land mines rip off children's limbs. Women endure misogyny beyond anything Westerners can fathom.

After Laila's relatives are blown to bits, Rasheed rescues her. With no other options for food or shelter, she marries him.

At first, Mariam is resentful of the second wife – an educated, blond teenager who initially captivates Rasheed. Then he begins routinely brutalizing both wives.

The elder wife slowly warms to Laila, particularly after Laila has a baby girl who melts Mariam's calcified heart. Mariam's respect for Laila deepens when Laila stoically delivers a breech baby by emergency C-section – without anesthesia.

(The Taliban forbid virtually all women to go to school or have jobs; the lone female surgeon at a filthy, segregated clinic must wear a burka as she rips the baby from Laila's womb.)

Back home, Rasheed strangles Laila for being sassy. Mariam comes to the rescue, and the women's lives diverge.

One dies miserably. The other takes a voyage that, despite occasional bliss, leaves readers feeling blessed to live elsewhere.

Soldier's journal depicts year spent in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.06.10

SECTION: Republic of words

PAGE: B5

SOURCE: Telegram Sunday Editor

BYLINE: Brian Jones

ILLUSTRATION: Blood Makes the Grass Grow Green: A Year in the Desert with Team America By Johnny Rico Ballantine Books/Presidio Press 318 pages; CDN\$17.95 (softcover)

WORD COUNT: 795

Author Johnny Rico changed his name prior to his 21st birthday. Previously, he had been Stephen Hites, of Davenport, Iowa. It wasn't an attempt to be cool, but was, rather, an "ideological move," he writes – he wanted to choose his own name, and exercise the freedom America endows upon its citizens.

Five years later, at 26, Rico was working as a probation officer in Colorado. One month after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he enlisted in the U.S. army as an infantryman, to go fight his country's enemy.

He had a master's degree and a career, and a very liberal ("left-wing" we would say in Canada) view of the world. But Rico joined up, and headed to basic training and, later, Afghanistan.

While in Ghan, as U.S. soldiers apparently call it, Rico decided to write a book about his one-year stay deep inside Taliban country.

The resulting book, "Blood Makes the Grass Grow Green: A Year in the Desert with Team America," is something of a "Catch-22" for a new generation and a new war.

The essential difference is that Rico's book is non-fiction. The title of the book comes from a U.S. army training chant. And his first-person account is unlike anything you'll have read or heard or seen in the media about Afghanistan – not because of any failings by journalists, but because Rico can provide the perspective of an active participant rather than that of a mere observer.

Irreverent views

He sets the tone early, even before the reader reaches the table of contents: "Dedicated to Sergeant 'Petey' Billy, who, in exchange for this dedication, gave me Ritz crackers when I was hungry."

Rico uses irreverence and a terrific sense of humour to convey the futility of foreign intervention in Afghanistan. U.S. soldiers generally hate the Afghans, and the locals share the sentiment toward their would-be liberators.

It is astounding that the idealism that prompted Rico to take such a drastic redirection in his life does not develop into despair or bitterness. Instead, he wittily conveys his very sophisticated and intelligent view of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, and life as a soldier.

(Some of his chapter titles are "Angry Arabs"; "Satan and his League of Army Recruiters"; "Eating Doritos in the Middle East"; and "The Folly of Well-meaning People from Places with Names Like Ohio.")

When his unit's lieutenant gets into an argument with a "fat Afghan" general about a weapons cache found by the Americans, Rico writes: "Realizing I just might be in the presence of my first Afghan warlord, I produce a big smile. I've always secretly hoped I'd get to meet one. I wonder if he'll give me an autograph and let me take a picture with my arm around him."

Rico spends a lot of pages describing futile excursions in search of Taliban fighters. Even when his story gets violent, and the reader worries about the safety of the author and his colleagues, he can't resist a lighthearted touch.

"(Some) soldiers start singing 'Video Killed the Radio Star.' Aileen, our strange, mysterious, indigenous ally, dressed in a turban wrap covering his entire head except for a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses to conceal his identity, is a self-styled Taliban hunter. His identity is unknown, and for the present circumstances he finds it convenient to work with U.S. forces. And although Aileen has not said much the entire helicopter ride to the objective, suddenly he starts tapping his foot and smiling to the beat of the song. This makes me smile, too.

"Nothing brings my spirits up like Taliban hunters who tap their feet to 'Video Killed the Radio Star.' "

Refreshing commentary

"Blood Makes the Grass Grow Green" is first-rate war reporting, told by someone who lived it. Rico's commentary is a refreshing break from the political experts, of all shades, who regularly pontificate about Afghanistan, Iraq, 9/11, etc.

His descriptions of death in Afghanistan are shockingly graphic, but not of the sort we're accustomed to on the news. His account of what happens when a rocket-propelled grenade hits an armoured personnel carrier will sear itself into your brain, as will his story of kneeling over a dying Afghan teenager who was shot when he fled from U.S. soldiers.

Rico relates that, on numerous occasions, army officers denied their men permission to return fire against Taliban attackers, because that would belie the notion that Afghans generally welcome the Americans, and that there is no violent insurgency against their presence. In other instances, some soldiers continued playing video games even while an attack on their base was occurring.

The lunacy of the situation, the great writing, and the author's insight and wonderful sense of humour regularly bring "Catch-22" to mind.

If you liked that classic book, you'll appreciate "Blood Makes the Grass Grow Green."

You might also wonder, "Can all this really be true?"

I sent Rico an e-mail, and asked him, "Was there really a Taliban hunter named Aileen, and did he really tap his feet to 'Video Killed the Radio Star'?"

He answered, "Yes sir, there really was. I swear on my mother's future grave."

Brian Jones is the editor of The Sunday Telegram. He can be reached by e-mail at bjones@thetelegram.com

Attacks kill NATO soldier, more than 10 police, 9 militants in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.06.09

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 108

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) _ NATO says one of its soldiers died Saturday in southern Afghanistan during a battle with Taliban militants.

However, details such as the soldier's nationality or the battle's location have not been released.

Violent clashes have escalated over the past couple of days in Afghanistan.

Nine Afghan police and 10 Taliban militants, meanwhile, were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, while a two-hour gun battle left several Taliban and al-Qaida militants dead early Saturday.

Also Saturday, a Taliban ambush against Afghan police in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district left five police dead and four wounded, said Esmatullah Alizai, the provincial police chief.

In Kandahar city, gunmen assassinated the chief administrator of the provincial police late Saturday, Alizai said.

Khadr-Activists

DATE: 2007.06.09

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 161

TORONTO -- Human rights activists say Canada is finally waking up to the fact it should protect the human rights of one of its citizens held at the U-S military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

A U-S military judge threw out the murder case against Omar Khadr on Monday because he hadn't been identified as an "unlawful" enemy combatant.

But that doesn't mean he'll be released anytime soon as the Pentagon is appealing.

And this week there's been an apparent shift in Canadian public opinion.

Five years after Khadr was arrested in Afghanistan at age 15 and accused of killing a U-S medic, a series of editorials critical of the Canadian government's handling of his case were published this past week.

Deputy Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff called on the government to take up Khadr's case actively with U-S authorities.

John Tackaberry of Amnesty International Canada says Khadr's family connections to Osama bin Laden have made it hard for people to differentiate between the principle of innocent until proven guilty and the need to maintain international human rights standards.

(BN)

PTH

HFX OUT HQQ

DATE: 2007.06.09

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 381

Two people have been charged with fraud in the mis-direction of 30 thousand dollars in donations to the I-W-K Health Centre in Halifax — the Maritime's largest children's hospital.

A 41-year-old man and 40-year-old woman from Beechville, Nova Scotia, have yet to appear in court.

Their names have not been released.

Officials say the money wasn't deposited in the proper bank accounts.

The missing donations have all been recovered. (BN)

(NB-Firefighters-Cancer)

New Brunswick will introduce legislation later this year that will ensure that firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer as a result of their jobs are compensated.

Labour Minister Ed Doherty says a working group has been formed to review the issue of cancer coverage for firefighters.

He says the province takes the issue seriously and legislation will be introduced in the fall.

The provincial fire marshal, fire chiefs, government officials and associations representing firefighters will form the working group.

They will present recommendations to government by September. (Moncton Times and Transcript)

(PEI-Fatal-Crash)

A Canadian soldier on leave from Afghanistan has been critically injured in a car crash on P-E-I that killed a female passenger.

The 28-year-old man from Oromocto, New Brunswick was driving a car that collided with an S-U-V near Hunter River on Thursday night.

A 29-year-old woman, also from Oromocto, died at the scene.

Their names haven't been released, but the military has confirmed the man was stationed at C-F-B Gagetown.

Three teenaged girls in the S-U-V escaped with cuts and bruises. (Charlottetown Guardian)

(NS-Murders)

Andrea Meagher says she felt sick to her stomach as she laid eyes for the first time on two men accused of murdering her boyfriend and his friend outside a party in East Preston, Nova Scotia in December.

Meagher was among dozens of people in court in Dartmouth yesterday as Nathaniel Sparks and Jerrell Johnston were charged with second-degree murder.

Martaze Provo of North Preston and Brandon Beals of East Preston were shot to death on December 10th outside a drinking spot known as ``Vegas."

The accused men were arrested earlier this week in Western Canada.

They will be back in court on June 22nd. (Halifax Chronicle Herald)

(NS-Injured-Teacher)

For 50 years, Vesta Mosher would have an early-afternoon supper so she could devote hours teaching music theory and piano to students in her New Glasgow home.

Now her former students are expressing shock that the 79-year-old retired teacher is clinging to life following a car crash this week.

Mosher suffered serious head injuries when she was thrown from her car on Wednesday during a crash in Shubenacadie.

Musician Doris Mason, who began taking lessons from Mosher when she was 10 or 11, says she thinks the world of her former teacher. (Halifax Chronicle Herald)

(NS-Cold-Case)

Nova Scotia is offering a 50-thousand-dollar reward for information in the disappearance of a woman 28 years ago.

Lynn Oliver of New Glasgow went on her lunch break on August 25th, 1979, and was not seen again.

The reward is being offered under the province's major unsolved crimes program.

Information surrounding Oliver's case can be found at the provincial Justice Department's website. (BN)

(Atlantic Update by Steve MacLeod)

Afghan–Cda–Detainees

DATE: 2007.06.09

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE JUSTICE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 116

OTTAWA — Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay now says Canadian officials have heard six allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters.

The suspected insurgents had been captured by Canadians but handed over to Afghan authorities.

Four of the claims have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan.

Earlier this week, MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day told a joint meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committees that four allegations of abuse had been reported.

But he corrected the record yesterday.

A foreign affairs official says foreign affairs staff have been keeping track of reports only since Canada signed a new detainee monitoring agreement on May 3rd.

Media reports have said as many as 33 prisoners captured by Canadians and handed over to the Afghans may have been beaten.

(BN)

PTH

Putting on the squeeze; The post-9/11 economic boom is finally stoking inflationary concerns, leading global central bankers to begin tightening the money supply

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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
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If the party isn't over, the lights are dimming.

After several years of easy money, events of the past two weeks will make it more costly to borrow for a new home, cottage or car, to finance tuition or launch a small business. For tycoons, the days of effortless financing of eye-popping takeovers may be drawing to a close.

Suddenly, inflation is a preoccupation with the world's central bankers for the first time in recent memory. And to tame that tiger while it's still a cub, they're raising their benchmark lending rates or signalling a willingness to do so, sending ripple effects through the global economy.

World stock markets, in particular, have been reeling as investors contemplate a new world with fewer of the takeovers by which they reap a windfall in capital gains, and the impact on companies that find it more difficult to finance plant expansion and R

You might not sense it, given the chaotic character of geopolitics since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but we've been living in a time of remarkably cheap money almost from the moment of that tragedy. Now, finally, central bankers worldwide seem intent on suppressing the economic exuberance that cheap borrowing unleashes.

Last week alone, Ben Bernanke, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, cautioned that a long hoped-for cut in the Fed's benchmark rate was unlikely, causing a slide in U.S. stock values.

On Wednesday, the European Central Bank increased its benchmark rate by a quarter-point, raising borrowing costs for the 317 million people who live in the euro zone. No word yet from the Reserve Bank of Australia, which has overseen a 10-year economic boom. But New Zealand's central bank on Thursday hiked rates to a record 8 per cent. And the previous week, Bank of Canada governor David Dodge opened the door to the possibility of rate hikes later this year. Even China has lately shown signs of reining in its torrid economic growth, causing grief for traders at the notoriously volatile Shanghai stock exchange

Indeed, there is likely worse to come for borrowers. Economic growth worldwide has been so much stronger than economists and central bankers anticipated that TD Bank, for one, says the Bank of Canada needs to raise its benchmark rate a substantial 0.50 per cent by year-end, to 4.75 per cent, in order to curb inflationary pressures into 2008.

Rate hikes often have the collateral effect of boosting the value of a nation's currency, of course. And sure enough, the loonie has zoomed to new highs following the Bank of Canada's about-face two weeks ago – reversing a previous forecast in which it underestimated GDP growth.

With trading conditions with the United States already difficult, a stronger dollar that pushes the manufacturers concentrated in Central Canada closer to the edge, and trims the bottom line of Canadian resource exporters by several million dollars for every one-cent increase in the dollar's value, any move that would boost the value of the Canadian dollar would seem counterproductive, to say the least.

But when you take the central bankers' perspective on how the world's been evolving since 9/11, you begin to appreciate their quandary. The global economy basically took off like a rocket since 2002. And it's actually something of a miracle that inflation, which destroys the value of money, has not become a concern until now.

Consider what the relatively brief current era of easy money has wrought (see "Feeding" above). Every one of those developments has had the potential to release inflationary forces. You might wonder why central bankers are just now waking up to that possibility.

Well, so deep was the global malaise following the 9/11 attacks – which were followed by more terrorist attacks worldwide, wars (in Afghanistan, Iraq and the "war on terror"), an economic slowdown in most of the world's major economies and the near crippling of entire sectors like airlines and tourism – that a resurgence in inflation was at or near the bottom of most economists' worry lists.

Cheap money resulting from lax monetary policy globally and, in the United States, from President George W. Bush's serial tax cuts, has worked all too well in stimulating the buying impulse among consumers and corporations alike. Those measures, in tandem with unprecedented demand from China and India, brought a rapid doubling and tripling in prices for everything from skilled labour to commodities like gasoline, zinc, nickel and other building blocks of the economy. Even corn prices have skyrocketed, as entrepreneurs rush to convert it to ethanol, pushing up food costs for consumers and feed prices for farmers.

Not long ago, the prospect of growth in the Japanese economy – the world's second-largest – was given up for dead after a decade-long funk. And economic stagnation in Germany, the world's third-largest economy, earned it the tired label of "sick man of Europe." America, meanwhile, was running up a \$1 trillion (U.S.) tab in Iraq and Afghanistan, sapping the greenback and playing havoc with fiscal policy. As recently as 2002–03, most of America's steelmakers and a dozen or so major auto-parts makers were in bankruptcy protection, along with five of the continent's major airlines, including Air Canada.

But when consensus opinion in economics shifts, the change often is sudden. Such is the case today, and emotion plays no small part in this particular shift. From Ottawa to Wellington to Brussels, central bankers failed to notice that, for instance, Germany and France were on the brink of an economic revival, and that Japan finally was breaking out of its prolonged stagnation.

The U.S. consumer has shown remarkable resilience, further proving the maxim that economists are talented at predicting seven of the last two recessions. Meanwhile, the emerging status of economic superstars China and India, and the impact their voracious appetite for commodities would have on the global economy, did not begin to sink in with policymakers until about two years ago.

Which is not to dispute certain iron rules of economics. Like the one I learned in high school from a local MP

Putting on the squeeze; The post-9/11 economic boom is finally stoking inflationary concerns, leading global

who happened to be a labour economist. Inflation, in a nutshell, "is too many dollars chasing too few goods."

This newspaper is not alone in having repeatedly reported in recent years on the phenomenon of too many dollars chasing too few reasonably priced stocks, takeover targets and corporate mega-projects. Absent the distraction of an unsettled geopolitical environment, that phenomenon would likely have translated into dangerous levels of "price elevation," or inflation, much earlier than this.

The only question now is how far David Dodge, Ben Bernanke and their peers will go in tightening the global money supply without risking a worldwide credit crunch. The latter would precipitate a recessionary downward spiral in prices, accompanied by massive job loss and evaporating share values.

Because inflation, while heightened, is nowhere near the double-digit levels of the 1970s, Bernanke and his ilk aren't likely to declare lights out on the latest burst of exuberance. Bernanke's nickname is "helicopter," after the Fed chairman's likely apocryphal exclamation that he'd rather throw money from a chopper than cause deflation.

There isn't a central banker drawing breath eager to wear the reputation of choking an economy. Which means that for now, while the reaction of stock and currency traders to central bank pronouncements will continue to be dramatic, the actions of the bankers themselves are sure to be less so as they attempt to guide the global economy to more realistically sustainable growth.

Or, failing that, a soft landing.

Goin' down; There are snakes, but no ladders for both federal and provincial Liberals. Is this a political end game for traditional titans?

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BYLINE: HUBERT BAUCH

SOURCE: The Gazette

WORD COUNT: 1142

It's hard to say how much worse things can get for Liberals in Quebec. But then, it's also hard to recall a time when things have looked worse for them at both the federal and provincial level of Quebec politics at the same moment.

Public opinion surveys published in the past week have been brutal in their rating of both the Jean Charest Liberals, officially the Quebec Liberal Party, and the Stephane Dion Liberals, the Liberal Party of Canada. So brutal as to raise speculation that the most durable of political parties in Quebec may be in the throes of a historic – and long–lasting – decline.

In the weeks since it registered its lowest–ever popular vote share in the March 26 provincial election, the QLP appears to have slipped even in public esteem, particularly in the crucial constituency of francophone voters off the island of Montreal.

A consolation of sorts in a La Presse CROP poll on provincial voting preferences was that the Liberals are only slightly more unpopular than the other two major parties, the Action democratique du Quebec and the Parti Quebecois. Both the ADQ and PQ registered 29 per cent favour to 28 per cent for the Liberals.

But had Quebecers voted in those proportions a week ago, there would have been a reversal of the March election result. It would have produced another shaky minority government, but with the PQ in power and the Liberals kicked down to third–party status.

There was a big difference in leader preference. CROP found the greatest number of Quebecers, 33 per cent, think the best person to be premier is the PQ's Pauline Marois, resurrected from the political boneyard less than a month ago and not yet officially the party leader. Charest, who is in fact premier, scored last among the big three with a painfully low 23 per cent.

Skies are no brighter for Liberals on the federal front.

The latest Leger marketing poll on federal voting intentions in the province found the Liberals running a poor third, with 20–per–cent support to 29 per cent for the Conservatives and 35 per cent for the Bloc Quebecois.

Goin' down; There are snakes, but no ladders for both federal and provincial Liberals. Is this a political end game?

Native son status seems to be doing nothing for a struggling Dion, who clocked in a dismal fourth in prime ministerial preference with an embarrassing 12 per cent. That ranked behind Alberta Conservative Stephen Harper (36 per cent) and even NDP leader Jack Layton (16 per cent) and even the Bloc's Gilles Duceppe (also 16 per cent), who could never be prime minister under any circumstances.

Political scientist Jack Jedwab, who heads the Association for Canadian Studies and also does a considerable amount of polling, thinks it is premature to write down the Liberal parties as dying forces, but says both have a current problem connecting with francophone voters, particularly those outside Montreal.

He said part of the problem for both is that neither has the near monopoly on federalist votes they once enjoyed and now face stiffer competition for the province's decisive soft-nationalist voters, with the provincial Liberals losing them to the ADQ and the federal party to the reborn Conservatives.

"The Liberal brand has always been positioned in the middle, but the middle has got more crowded and it's where they're getting squeezed right now."

Jedwab also said the Liberals tend to be viewed – and held in suspicion – by the province's largely homogenous francophone regional electorate as the party of cosmopolitan Montreal with its Liberal-voting anglo bastion. This divide has been deepened by the "reasonable accommodation" row that broke out this year.

"The Liberals are widely seen as the party of 'les autres' in the regions. That's something Liberals are struggling with both federally and provincially."

Rarely have both the federal and provincial Liberals been in such dumps at the same time. In recent decades, the fortunes of one would tend to be up while the other's were down.

The Trudeau Liberals held power federally for most of the time the PQ was in power provincially under Rene Levesque. Under second time round Robert Bourassa, the Liberals governed Quebec for most of Brian Mulroney's two-term Tory government. The PQ stormed back provincially for most of the Chretien years in federal power. Then Charest brought the provincial Liberals back just as the Martin Liberals began caving federally.

"Now, for the first time in a while, the two Liberal parties are a kind of mirror image of each other," said Concordia University political scientist Andre Lecours.

But he and others reject the notion that the unpopularity of either Liberal branch is dragging the other down. Both have their own particular problems, though they share the disadvantage of having unpopular leaders.

"There's a quite good understanding that the two parties are fundamentally distinct. The provincial Liberals' problems are their own problems and I don't think they're magnified by the federal Liberals. The federal Liberals have been relatively thin on the ground, while the Quebec Liberals still have the best machine in the province and the strongest organization."

CROP vice-president Claude Gauthier said his firm's polling has detected no direct link between the current unpopularity of the two Liberal parties, though it was the case to a certain extent at the height of the Gomery hearings into the sponsorship scandal.

"You could say that the unpopularity of the federal Liberals could have had an impact then. Simply the word Liberal here would be a turnoff at the time. But I don't think we're in the same situation now."

Both federal and provincial Liberals tend to refrain from pointing fingers at each other, and maintain that

Goin' down; There are snakes, but no ladders for both federal and provincial Liberals. Is this a political end g

rough as the current patch may be, the situation is hardly hopeless.

"The QLP is a party that has survived all of the 20th century and is still going, that's a fact," Benoit Pelletier, Quebec's minister of intergovernmental affairs said in an interview.

"This is a great party with many resources. It has overcome difficult times in the past and has a tremendous potential."

He suggested the provincial party has an advantage over the federal Liberals in that it is more of a coalition, one that includes members who are differently inclined on the federal level.

"I don't think our fortunes are tied," he said. "We're two different parties and in the case of the QLP there is a kind of federalist coalition. We have Conservatives and New Democrats as well as Liberals in our ranks. It's a great strength of the QLP."

Pablo Rodriguez, the Liberal MP for the federal riding of Honore–Mercier, said the party is working on

extending its reach into Quebec's regions, where the fight currently is between the Bloc and the Conservatives, and will launch Dion on a tour of the summer barbecue and corn roast circuit.

"We need to get the leader better known. If we can get him touring this summer, letting people see him up close, it should help us in the regions."

He maintained Quebecers are more naturally inclined toward the Liberals than the Conservatives and on the side of the majority on such issues as Afghanistan, environment and gun control. "Quebecers are not conservatives in their blood. They're more liberal, more progressive, and that's what we are."

He believes the worst passed with the last federal election. "It was all about Gomery and that's it. That's over now, and I'm quite optimistic that things are going to go better."

hbauch@thegazette.canwest.com

An Afghan policeman's lot is not a happy one

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DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Insight
PAGE: A11
KEYWORDS: WAR; POLICE; TERRORISM
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 378

The Afghan National Police offers one of the most dangerous jobs on Earth, but the recruits keep coming.

"For 30 years, I have only seen death," said police Colonel Mohammed Hussain. "I don't see any other thing. I can't take it anymore."

The liaison officer with the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction team for Kandahar province said that in the six months that ended last September, 127 of 4,000 policemen were slain. Some officers are killed on their off-duty days when they return to home villages, Hussain said. It happened six times in the past week: A knock, the policeman opened the door, "and they were shot."

To expose themselves to that kind of risk, officers are paid about \$70 a month, significantly less than soldiers earn. A pay raise is in the works, but some officers near Kandahar already quit this spring to pick poppies for \$20 a day.

RCMP Supt. Dave Fudge, who heads a team of Canadian police who help train the Afghans, said a big part of the problem is that police in Afghanistan are treated like soldiers and become soft targets for Taliban bombings. Yet, they are equipped only with light weapons, chiefly the AK-47 rifle.

Meanwhile, with their sometimes boorish behaviour and corruption, the officers don't always win the hearts and minds of the civilians they are supposed to serve. In Kandahar's Panjwai district, for instance, elders complained that police were demanding credit for goods they bought from local merchants, then not paying. Last year, the district's police chief was fired for selling uniforms on the black market.

Corruption "destroys confidence with the police, with the government," Fudge said. But it is hardly surprising, he said, in light of the low wages policemen are paid. "It's born out of survival."

The RCMP teaches basic skills, such as handcuffing, searching and self-defence, and mentor officers working at their posts. A pilot program is also in the works to combat illiteracy levels of about 70 per cent, which make essential tasks like taking notes and writing reports impossible. If funds flow from Canada's Foreign Affairs Department, the Mounties also plan to create a \$5-million police academy.

In the meantime, why do Afghans line up for such dangerous work?

"They love their country," Hussain explained. "They love their profession, and they love to protect their families."

uneasy allies; Canadian troops have a high reputation; But some of their afghan partners question the effectiveness of the relationship

IDNUMBER 200706100074

PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette

DATE: 2007.06.10

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SECTION: Insight

PAGE: A11

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: AFP / Canadian soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment prepare for a foot patrol with Afghan troops in a volatile area in Panjwai district, Kandahar province in November. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM

DATELINE: ZHARI DISTRICT CENTRE, Afghanistan

BYLINE: TOM BLACKWELL; WITH FILES FROM TAIMOOR SHAH

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 1044

On the dusty front lines of Canada's latest battle with the Taliban, Abdul Hakim is smarting, and not just from the suicide bomber who blew up inches away from him.

The commander of a beleaguered Afghan National Police detachment in Kandahar province's Zhari district is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Canadian Forces in the area. The foreign soldiers, he charges, have repeatedly ignored police calls for help in fighting the insurgents and overlooked tips on where to find and destroy Taliban nests.

In fact, Hakim contends, a lack of co-operation among the police, the Afghan National Army and Canadian troops has helped insurgent strength in the district grow to 300 or 400 fighters from 100 six months ago .

"This is the problem: We don't have a connection with the Canadians. Never, ever," he said in an interview on the floor of his mud-walled headquarters.

"We give information to the Canadians and they are not acting upon it. That is why the enemy is getting stronger and stronger."

Hakim is no general in the anti-insurgent war. He heads two checkpoints in the district, with about 30 officers under him. They're a ragtag bunch who, for the most part, lack uniforms, let alone body armour. Nevertheless, he offered a frank, unofficial assessment of the battle from his desert-level perspective.

He does not suggest the Canadians are afraid to engage the insurgents. In fact, they have had numerous firefights with the Taliban over the past several weeks, and a Canadian corporal was killed recently in a major operation.

Rather, the police and NATO seem to be waging their own, independent wars, the commander said. The Canadian offensives against the Taliban, like Operation Hoover a few weeks ago, are largely "useless," because the militants hear in advance of the large-scale missions that often involve tanks. They hide to avoid

uneasy allies; Canadian troops have a high reputation; But some of their afghan partners question the effectiveness of the relationship

confrontation and sometimes use improvised bombs to sabotage the Canadian advance, the officer observed.

"Unity is a must among the police, the Canadians and the ANA," Hakim said, languidly brushing aside flies. "Without the co-operation of these three groups, there will be no security."

A Canadian Forces spokesperson declined to comment on the officer's assertions, calling him a minor figure with a limited perspective on the strategic situation.

In the past, at least, trust has been an issue between the Canadian army and the Afghan police. Tribal prejudices and corruption among some of the underpaid officers – like the chief in neighbouring Panjwai district who sold uniforms on the black market, and the officer arrested for theft during a village search – have made the Canadians skeptical of the local advice.

Meanwhile, Canadian troops have begun using decoy tactics in Zhari to try to deflect the Taliban's attention and make their operations more of a surprise.

Regardless, one thing is clear. The under-equipped, out-gunned Afghan National Police are bearing the brunt of the fighting in Zhari.

"The police are in really bad, bad conditions down there," said Colonel Mohammed Hussain, the national force's liaison officer at the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction team. "They are fighting 24 hours, every hour, every minute, every second of the day."

Hakim had pulled himself out of his sickbed for an interview at his headquarters and bunkhouse, which lacks running water and electricity. His face was covered in blackened sores from the bombing a week earlier.

He warned a visiting journalist to

drive as fast as possible on the way out of the official Zhari district centre because insurgents sometimes lie in wait on the other side of the highway, ready to take potshots at departing vehicles.

His men offered up another unsettling symbol of Zhari's dangers, too, plunking a landmine into the middle of the dirt floor. Hakim said it had been rigged with an antenna and battery for remote control. He had defused it, though he admitted he had no training in de-mining.

Experts say that policemen like Hakim are taking a beating everywhere in southern Afghanistan. With just 10 days of training and equipped with a minimum of firepower, they are used as a military force, a sort of "canary in the coal mine" or tripwire to flush out the Taliban, said Supt. Dave Fudge, the RCMP officer who runs a police training program for the provincial reconstruction team.

So, for every Afghan army soldier killed, 27 police officers lose their lives to insurgent attacks.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesperson, said in a telephone interview that insurgents can see the Canadian operations coming and avoid a direct conflict.

"We are moving and launching a hit-and-run war against them," he said. He also confirmed that the militants have focused on destroying police checkpoints in Zhari.

"Then we are able to go around and plant mines and attack the Canadian or foreign troops," he said. "It's harder to bring the Canadians down."

Hakim's account of the conflict agreed. He said his checkpoints are attacked almost daily and he actively

uneasy allies; Canadian troops have a high reputation; But some of their afghan partners question the effect

avoids firefights with the Taliban – even though he could be in the middle of one just by driving 15 minutes from his headquarters. "We are not strong enough. Our people are just trying to avoid their attacks."

When the police do come under fire, help can be hard to find. He described several examples, none of which could be independently verified.

In one recent case, Hakim said, insurgents surrounded his deputy and several men, killing two officers and destroying two police vehicles. When they requested support, the Canadian military called in an aircraft that dropped a flare over the scene, Hakim said. A month ago in Malangan village, he said, a Canadian officer with whom they were on patrol encouraged the police to attack a Taliban position. They fought a three-hour battle, but the foreign troops never came to their aid, he charged.

In a couple of other recent incidents, Hakim said he advised the Canadians about the location of Taliban and suggested an attack, which never occurred.

Hakim recommends that Canadian troops station themselves for long periods at checkpoints like his, where they will be sure to engage with the Taliban. The Canadian commanders should also be in close contact with police, who have the best intelligence about the insurgents' whereabouts, he added.

In the meantime, the guerrilla war continues with harrowing attacks such as the suicide bomber who nearly cost Hakim his life a little over a week ago.

Hakim described how a man approached his vehicle in a Zhari town.

"He looked at me and I looked at him, so I thought maybe I had met him before," he recalled. "There was a bump so I slowed down my car and he approached. When we were passing by him, he just grabbed the door of the car. I looked at him and he blew himself up."

The bomber left four policemen injured and a civilian dead.

tblackwell@nationalpost.com

Taliban kill NATO soldier

SOURCETAG 0706100327
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 20
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 96

NATO says one of its soldiers died yesterday in southern Afghanistan during a battle with Taliban militants.

However, details such as the soldier's nationality or the battle's location have not been released.

Violent clashes have escalated over the past couple of days in Afghanistan.

GUN BATTLE

Nine Afghan police and 10 Taliban militants, meanwhile, were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, while a two-hour gun battle left several Taliban and al-Qaida militants dead early yesterday.

Also yesterday, a Taliban ambush against Afghan police in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district left five police dead and four wounded, said Esmatullah Alizai, the provincial police chief.

In Kandahar city, gunmen assassinated the chief administrator of the provincial police late yesterday, Alizai said. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Dirty Harry Meet the cowgirl who caught Prince Harry's eye in a hot Calgary nightclub

SOURCETAG 0706100503

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.06.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 33

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Jim Wells, Sun Media Prince Harry was seen frolicking with Calgary barmaid — and SUNshine Girl — Cherie on a break from training at CFB Suffield.

BYLINE: SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: CALGARY

WORD COUNT: 333

The cowgirl who caught Prince Harry's eye at a bar last week, Calgary bartender Cherie Cymbalistry — known to Sun readers as a SUNshine Girl — is about to hit the front pages of British tabs.

The News of the World was reportedly publishing exclusive photos today of the barmaid and the prince cavorting at a Calgary hotspot.

Calgary's Cowboys Niteclub managing partner Doug Donald said Cherie negotiated a deal to sell her story for an undisclosed sum to a newspaper across the pond.

Harry, who is training at CFB Suffield in preparation for possible deployment to Afghanistan, visited Cowboys after midnight Wednesday with an army buddy, a pair of Mounties and a couple of British security guards.

In the shooter bar he spied Cherie, 22, and took "quite a shine to her," Donald said.

Cherie told the Calgary Sun that she asked Harry if he was the prince and he showed her his army ID. Before he left in the wee hours, he kissed her on the cheek.

"I wanted more though," she said about the peck.

"It was hot."

Donald yesterday said Cymbalistry has been attempting to contact the third in line to the throne since her encounter with hopes of a reunion.

"She's been sending him a couple of (text) messages," he said.

"She's hoping there'll be a part two." Apparently Harry came back early Thursday after the crowd had left around 2 a.m. to say goodbye to Cherie.

'KNOCKED ON THE DOOR'

"He quietly knocked on the door. He wanted to know if he could come in say goodbye and have a little chat with her," Donald said.

"He had the opportunity to get just a little private time in a little area we call our upstairs cigar bar ... he had a little bit of fun, got to talk to some of the girls, in particular to spend a little time with Cherie," Donald said.

"I know everyone thinks he's a little rascal at times but he was very much a gentleman, just two young kids having some fun," he said.

Dressed in jeans, a white T-shirt and a Boston Red Sox cap, "he actually flew under the radar pretty good," commented Scarlet Lee, sales and marketing manager for Penny Lane Entertainment.

Cherie lists modelling as an aspiration in her biography for the Canada's Hottest Bartender contest.

"I plan to be a Playboy Bunny or Playmate in three or four years! (cross fingers) Haha ..." Cherie, who has appeared numerous times as a SUNshine girl, writes on the contest's web site.

Second Lieut. Wales, as the British army calls the price, is in Alberta to receive additional training on Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles in preparation for possible deployment to Afghanistan.

KEYWORDS=CANADA

NATO soldier killed as clashes escalate

SOURCETAG 0706100400
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
DATELINE: KANDAHAR
COLUMN: World Digest
WORD COUNT: 148

NATO says one of its soldiers died yesterday in southern Afghanistan during a battle with Taliban militants. However, details such as the soldier's nationality and the battle's location have not been released. Violent clashes have escalated during the last couple of days in Afghanistan. Nine Afghan police and 10 Taliban militants, meanwhile, were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, while a two-hour gun battle left several Taliban and al-Qaida militants dead early yesterday. Also yesterday, a Taliban ambush against Afghan police in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district left five police dead and four wounded, said Esmatullah Alizai, the provincial police chief. In Kandahar city, gunmen assassinated the chief administrator of the provincial police late yesterday, Alizai said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

NATO soldier killed

SOURCETAG 0706100739
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 35
BYLINE: AP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 94

NATO says one of its soldiers died yesterday in southern Afghanistan during a battle with Taliban militants.

However, details such as the soldier's nationality or the battle's location have not been released.

Violent clashes have escalated over the past couple of days in Afghanistan.

Nine Afghan police and 10 Taliban militants, meanwhile, were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, while a two-hour gun battle left several Taliban and al-Qaida militants dead early yesterday.

Also yesterday, a Taliban ambush against Afghan police in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district left five police dead and four wounded, said Esmatullah Alizai, the provincial police chief.

In the city of Kandahar gunmen assassinated the chief administrator of the provincial police late yesterday, Alizai said. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Group real troopers Lord Strathcona's rebuilds after most of its members sent to war

SOURCETAG 0706100688

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Sports

PAGE: SM3

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Kevin Udahl, Sun Media Members of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) line up in the International Ring before the ATCO Midstream Challenge event at the Spruce Meadows National.

BYLINE: PABLO FERNANDEZ, CALGARY SUN

TYPE : Supplement

WORD COUNT: 319

In a vivid example of how the conflict in Afghanistan has touched every corner of the Canadian Army, a ceremonial horse troop has had to rebuild after most of its members were pulled from the saddle and sent to war.

The Army's need for tank and armour reconnaissance crewmen culminated in all but five of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) mounted troop riders being re-tasked to the regiment's fighting squadrons last fall to serve in their primary roles as combat soldiers of the fabled armoured regiment.

When a handful of riders was all that was left to carry on the skills and traditions of the troop, no one ever thought the organization would be in full gallop before mid-summer, said the troop's leader Capt. Darryn Gray, himself recently returned from Afghanistan.

But surprisingly, the troop performed the musical ride and tent-pegging displays at the Saskatchewan International Tattoo and Festival less than five months after coming together as a group, said Gray.

"We didn't think we'd do the musical ride before July or August," he said.

"But we got to Regina ... and the soldiers were very nervous.

"But once we got the first performance down, it was pretty smooth sailing from there."

The musical ride requires the horsemen to perform intricate manoeuvres as a group with precision and to music, while tent pegging requires riders to pull pegs out of the ground using lances and sabres as the horse charges over the target at high speed, testing individual rider skill, rather than the team as a whole.

The only reason the troop, which normally numbers 25 to 30 members, was able to surpass expectations was because of the reinforcements it received in January in the form of green troops.

Those soldiers were new to riding and new to the Army, said Gray.

"The soldiers had to be trained from scratch ... none of them had any kind of experience or been on a horse before," he said.

The job to rebuild the troop fell on troop sergeant Wade Alexander, who credited the new soldiers for the troop's success.

"They were keen and eager to learn.

"It's the first time that I've seen troopers fall off a horse during training, hit the ground and run after the horse to try to get back on."

As rotations to Afghanistan and the need for crewmen continue, the new riders may also be asked to trade in their horses for tanks within the year, they said. KEYWORDS=HORSE RACING

NATO soldier killed by Taliban

SOURCETAG 0706100567

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 16

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR

WORD COUNT: 75

NATO says one of its soldiers died yesterday in southern Afghanistan during a battle with Taliban militants.

However, details such as the soldier's nationality or the battle's location have not been released.

Violent clashes have escalated over the past couple of days in Afghanistan.

Nine Afghan police and 10 Taliban militants, meanwhile, were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan, while a two-hour gun battle left several Taliban and al-Qaida militants dead early yesterday.

Also yesterday, a Taliban ambush against Afghan police in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district left five police dead and four wounded. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Calgarian exposes Dirty Harry Barmaid dishes details on night with prince

SOURCETAG 0706100552

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.06.10

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Jim Wells, Sun Media Calgarian Cherie Cymbalistry dishes on her encounter with Prince Harry in an exclusive interview. 2. photo of PRINCE HARRY 'Obsessed with bra top'

BYLINE: TARINA WHITE, SUN MEDIA

WORD COUNT: 301

Prince Harry's night out with a busty Calgary bartender is garnering British media attention, with exclusive photos of her cavorting with the royal hitting a U.K. newspaper today.

The royal party-boy-turned-soldier flew to Alberta about two weeks ago for training at CFB Suffield near Medicine Hat.

Cowboys Niteclub managing partner Doug Donald said barmaid Cherie Cymbalistry sold her story.

Donald said she agreed to the deal to end rumours about her night with Harry.

"The best way to protect her privacy is to speak out," he said.

Cymbalistry hasn't spoken about her brush with royalty since her exclusive local interview with the Calgary Sun last week.

There was no holding back in her candid exclusive interview with News of the World, however, in which the Calgarian dishes about the prince's passion for her ample assets, his flirty ways, how he jokingly introduced himself as 'Gary' and his bid to get her to drop her top.

"We definitely made a connection," the bartender said in the interview.

"He was obsessed about my outfit and bra top (and) he was very forward."

"I told him the top was my uniform. He asked me if it came in different colours and wanted me to change into a different one right then and there.

"Then he told me your skirt is really short and asked if I was wearing underwear — which I was," she told News of the World.

"The only thing on his mind was whether or not I was wearing underwear," Cymbalistry said.

The 22-year-old brunette, who aspires to be a Playboy bunny, caught Harry's eye and he spent much of the evening chatting with her.

She told the Sun the prince, who arrived at Cowboys with fellow soldiers and security, shut down the bar at 2 a.m. Thursday on ladies' night.

But Harry returned with security to hang out with Cymbalistry and fellow bartenders as they finished up for the night, and planted a parting kiss on Cymbalistry's cheek, she said.

"At the end of the night, he asked for my mobile number then he leaned in to me," she reportedly said.

"We kissed on both cheeks first and then on the lips. His lips are very soft," she said.

"He certainly didn't mention anything about having a girlfriend.

"He sure didn't act like he had one."

Cymbalistry's dreamy encounter didn't end there.

She said she awoke the next morning to a text from her princely suitor and was hoping for a royal reunion.

"I'd love to see him again," she told News of the World, which heavily criticized Harry for partying while Britain lost its 150th soldier in Iraq.

"I've texted him and asked him for ... dinner," she said. "I wouldn't mind being a princess."

The prince was held back from serving with his unit in Iraq, but army chiefs are reportedly planning to quietly deploy Harry to Afghanistan so he doesn't quit the army.

Cowboys' Donald said Cymbalistry has been trying to contact Harry.

"She's hoping there'll be a part two," he said. **KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

Britain. Harry to be deployed in secret

IDNUMBER 200706100072
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.06.10
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A9
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 71

Army chiefs are planning to deploy Prince Harry quietly to Afghanistan in an attempt to deter him from quitting the army. He is training at a remote base in Alberta from where he can be flown into Afghanistan without attracting attention. The prince is receiving extra training on armoured vehicles, particularly the Scimitar reconnaissance vehicle used by his unit.

Khadr case merits attention: activists Group detects change in opinion

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.06.10

PAGE: A7

SECTION: Canada Wire

WORD COUNT: 503

CP Wire Merita Ilo and Abdul Latheef TORONTO — Canada may be finally waking up to the fact it should protect the human rights of one of its citizens held in a U.S. military prison in Cuba on terror-related charges, even though it condemns the crimes he is alleged to have committed, a human rights organization says.

The claim follows the recent dismissal by U.S. military judges of charges against Omar Khadr, the youngest member of a Canadian family linked to al-Qaida, who is accused of killing an American soldier in Afghanistan in 2002, when he was 15 years old.

The dismissal prompted editorials critical of the U.S. government's handling of his case and brought out other public comment that possibly heralds a shift in opinion on his treatment.

John Tackaberry, a spokesman for Amnesty International Canada, said the Khadr family's connections to al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden have made some people reluctant to speak out on principles at stake in his treatment because they did not want to be associated with the family.

"What the politicians have had difficulty doing is differentiating between the rights and responsibilities of themselves in terms of protecting human rights and looking at the mechanisms that are being used — and the individual who is involved." The human rights group thinks "it's not innocence or guilt, but the issue is that everyone deserves to be treated in a way that respects the highest standards of human rights protection," including Khadr, Tackaberry said.

"The fact that they are beginning to speak out and that there is an editorial recognition and a beginning of a change of opinion is a positive sign." But experts caution that dealing with Khadr and other detainees in Guantanamo Bay poses problems not contemplated in the past.

John Thompson of the Mackenzie Institute, a think-tank specializing in security and terrorism issues, said al-Qaida has exposed "a hole" in the international law, making it difficult to try terror suspects using the existing international conventions.

"An international terrorist organization was unheard of when the Geneva Conventions were being written up and that's a central problem," Thompson said.

According to article four of the Third Geneva Convention, prisoners of war are members of an armed force that belong to a party in the conflict, have fixed distinctive signs, carry arms openly, conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war and profess allegiance to a government or an authority not recognized by the detaining power.

But in the case of al-Qaida, "who's the political authority we treat with?" asked Thompson.

"Who do you actually release the prisoner to? Do you hold them until the war with al-Qaida is over? How do you release somebody and guarantee that they won't go fight them again?" Thompson suggested the only trial

Khadr could face in Canada would be that on high treason charges, and "that has not been tested here since 1946." -- Canadian Press