



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2008-06)

GM 544

20 March 2008

British Columbia Regiment (DCO), Vancouver, B.C.

Moment of Silence

United States Military Casualty Reports

Received since 05 March 2008

Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Frost, 24, of Waukesha, Wis., died March 3 near Bayji, Iraq in a crash of an Iraqi Army Mi-17 helicopter. He was assigned to the 377th Air Base Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. The circumstances surrounding the crash are under investigation.

Spc. Steven R. Koch, 23, of Milltown, N. J. Koch died Mar. 3 in the Sabari District of Afghanistan, of wounds suffered during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N. C.

Sgt. Robert T. Rapp, 22, of Sonora, Calif. Rapp died Mar. 3 in the Sabari District of Afghanistan, of wounds suffered during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N. C.

Sgt. Gabriel Guzman, 25, of Hornbrook, Calif., died March 8 at Orgun E, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Gholam Haydar Kala, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Cpl. Jose A. Paniagua-Morales, 22, of Bell Gardens, Calif., died March 7 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered in Samarra, Iraq, when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Sgt. Phillip R. Anderson, 28, of Everett, Wash. Anderson died Mar. 10 in Balad Ruz, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Donald A. Burkett, 24, of Comanche, Texas. Burkett died Mar. 10 in Balad Ruz, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

Capt. Torre R. Mallard, 27, of Oklahoma. Mallard died Mar. 10 in Balad Ruz, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Laurent J. West, 32, of Raleigh, N.C., died March 11 near Kishkishkia, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Staff Sgt. Juantrea T. Bradley, 28, of Greenville, N.C. Bradley died March 12 in Tallil, Iraq, of wounds suffered when her vehicle was hit by indirect fire. She was assigned to the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Spc. Dustin C. Jackson, 21, of Arlington, Texas. Jackson died March 12 in Tallil, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle was hit by indirect fire. He was assigned to the 350th Adjutant General Company, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Pfc. Tenzin L. Samten, 33, of Prescott, Ariz. Samten died March 12 in Tallil, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle was hit by indirect fire. He was assigned to the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Eustis, Va.

Sgt. 1st. Class Shawn M. Suzch, 32, of Hilltown, Penn. Suzch died March 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Staff Sgt. Ernesto G. Cimarrusti, 25, of Douglas, Ariz. Cimarrusti died March 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Staff Sgt. David D. Julian, 31, of Evanston, Wyo. Julian died March 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Cpl. Robert T. McDavid, 29, of Starkville, Miss. McDavid died March 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Cpl. Scott A. McIntosh, 26, of Houston, Texas. McIntosh died March 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Staff Sgt. Collin J. Bowen, 38, of Millersville, Md., died March 14 at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, of wounds suffered Jan. 2 in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, Maryland Army National Guard, Towson, Md.

Spc. William D. O'Brien, 19, of Rice, Texas, died March 15 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when he was attacked by small arms fire during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

Casualty Count is now 4525

Since 10 November 2001

Compiled by the VVIC S-2, Menga Station, Valley of the Cauca River, ROC

Woman Earns Silver Star in Afghanistan

Associated Press | March 10, 2008

CAMP SALERNO, Afghanistan - A 19-year-old Army medic from Texas is set to become the first woman in Afghanistan -- and only the second female Soldier since World War II -- to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor.

Army Spc. Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow Soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees in the eastern Paktia province in April 2007, the military said.

After the explosion, which wounded five Soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through enemy gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell less than 100 yards away, the military said.

"I did not really think about anything except for getting the guys to a safer location and getting them taken care of and getting them out of there," Brown told The Associated Press during a March 8 interview at a U.S. base in the eastern province of Khost.

Brown, of Lake Jackson, Texas, is scheduled to receive the Silver Star later this month. She was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the Humvees.

"We stopped the convoy. I opened up my door and grabbed my aid bag," Brown said.

She started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded Soldiers had scrambled out.

"I assessed the patients to see how bad they were. We tried to move them to a safer location because we were still receiving incoming fire," Brown said.

Pentagon policy prohibits women from serving in front-line combat roles - in the infantry, armor or artillery, for example. But the nature of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no real front lines, has seen women Soldiers take part in close-quarters combat more than previous conflicts.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of Nashville, Tenn., received the Silver Star in 2005 for gallantry during an insurgent ambush on a convoy in Iraq. Two men from her

unit, the 617th Military Police Company of Richmond, Ky., also received the Silver Star for their roles in the same action.

Four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously last year, according to the Army's Web site.

Brown, of the 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, said ammunition going off inside the burning Humvee was sending shrapnel in all directions. She said they were sitting in a dangerous spot.

"So we dragged them for 100 or 200 meters, got them away from the Humvee a little bit," she said. "I was in a kind of a robot-mode, did not think about much but getting the guys taken care of."

For Brown, who knew all five wounded Soldiers, it became a race to get them all to a safer location. Eventually, they moved the wounded some 500 yards away and treated them on site before putting them on a helicopter for evacuation.

"I did not really have time to be scared," Brown said. "Running back to the vehicle, I was nervous (since) I did not know how badly the guys were injured. That was scary."

The military said Brown's "bravery, unselfish actions and medical aid rendered under fire saved the lives of her comrades and represents the finest traditions of heroism in combat."

U.S. Marines pouring into Kandahar give Canadians a badly needed lift

By James McCarten, The Canadian Press

17 March 2008

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - They have been quietly infiltrating the coalition ranks at Kandahar Airfield for weeks, their tan camouflage uniforms hard to distinguish from those of their Canadian cousins, save for the distinctive peaked cap.

It's a fitting symmetry for Gunnery Sgt. Kyle Brisebois of the battle-hardened 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The 21-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps originally hails from the Kahnawake Mohawk reserve outside Montreal.

"I've had several friends that were in the Canadian army when I was living in Canada, so it's nice to be rubbing elbow-to-elbow with Canadians," Brisebois grinned.

"We're one team, NATO. They have our backs, we have theirs. Anything we can do to help, that's why we're here."

Roughly 1,100 of the 3,200 U.S. marines due in Afghanistan have already arrived for what's scheduled to be a seven-month tour in the war-ravaged country, where they are expected to buttress badly stretched Canadian resources.

"I think everyone has embraced us, the Canadians in particular," Col. Peter Petronzio, the unit's commanding officer, said Monday.

Petronzio's affable, self-effacing demeanour belies his status as the highest-ranking marine in Afghanistan, and that of his unit as one of the most storied franchises in U.S. military history.

"There has been a lot of excitement, and I think that's good," Petronzio said.

"There's been an extended hand from everyone, particularly from the Canadians, and they have done an absolutely phenomenal job integrating us into everything we do."

Canada has issued an urgent call to countries belonging to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which oversees the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, for an additional 1,000 troops to bolster its efforts in Kandahar province, a hotbed of insurgent activity.

A sharp reminder of the region's challenges came Sunday with the death of Sgt. Jason Boyes of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Shilo, Man.

Boyes, 32, became the 81st Canadian soldier to die on Afghan soil when he stepped on an explosive device in the perilous Panjwaii district west of Kandahar city.

"One of the very painful things is that there's a lot of Canadians that have paid the ultimate price here," Petronzio said.

"The folks we meet are really going out of their way to make sure that that doesn't happen to us, and that we learn the very painful lessons that they have had to learn."

Petronzio played down the reputation of the 24th MEU, chalking up his unit's value instead simply to the number of boots it was putting on the ground in Afghanistan.

"I think to a certain extent quantity has a quality all its own, and we're bringing some more quantity," he said.

"We're just a bunch more guys that came here to help and came here to work. That's kind of the ethos we bring - we want to help, we want to get out there, we want to pitch in and do everything we can to make this a better place."

In an isolated corner of the airfield, the marines have already established a sprawling presence, replete with a massive array of American military machinery, including helicopters, Harrier jets and countless ground vehicles.

They're not necessarily any more compatible with Canadian forces than any other country's soldiers, but the geographical and cultural proximity of the two countries, not to mention their history in fighting side by side, doesn't hurt, Petronzio said.

"We've been working together, the Canadians and the Americans, since just after (the First World War)," he said.

He cited the example of Bill Stevenson, the former Canadian soldier and spymaster whose covert activities alongside American Bill Donovan, the founder of what would become the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, formed the basis for the famous 1976 book "A Man Called Intrepid."

"I think the Canadians and the Americans have a long history of doing this together," he said. "I don't know that we're more uniquely suited than anyone else, but I think we'll do a great job together."

The two sides are linked in more than their forthcoming battles.

Brisebois said he's not the only marine from north of the border who will be spending the next seven months in Afghanistan, and admitted his Canadian ways often attract the attention of his fellow marines.

"I have hockey games that I play on the computer, and I get ragged a little, yeah," he said.

"I have loyalty to both countries."