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**Weather**

**Baghdad**

SA, 30/07  
 +45..+47 °C  
 NW, 6 m/s

**Basrah**

SA, 30/07  
 +47..+49 °C  
 NW, 3 m/s

**Calendar-Filter**

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**Today**

## 5 US troops killed in 'vehicle accidents' after returning from Iraq in last week

By: Various on: 20.05.2005 [17:50 ] (752 reads)



(10258 bytes)



### East Grand Forks combat vet dies in motorcycle crash

#### Decorated for bravery in Iraq, Cpl. Riley Pape was weeks away from discharge

By Rona K. Johnson

Herald Staff Writer

Marine Cpl. Riley Pape, 22, of East Grand Forks, died Thursday in a motorcycle accident in San Diego while stationed with 1st Reconnaissance Bravo Co. at Camp Pendleton.

Pape was a decorated combat veteran who survived a tour of duty in Iraq and was less than 30 days from being released from active duty.

In May 2001, Pape graduated from East Grand Forks Senior High and Sept. 14, 2001, three days after terrorists attacked his country, he completed Marine Corps boot camp.

In November 2004, Pape sat down with a Herald reporter and talked about his experiences in the Middle East.

As a member of the Alpha Co. 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Pape spent seven months in the Fallujah and Ramadi areas in Iraq. Some of that time was spent gathering information that the military used for a major offensive on Fallujah in November.

Pape described how he and four other marines were dropped off in the middle of the desert to observe and take photos without being "seen or smelled or heard."

During the actual attack Pape was home on leave watching news of the offensive

on the television, wishing he were back in Fallujah fighting alongside his brothers.

"They are all my brothers over there, every single one of them, and watching it on the news is tough, not being there," he said in the interview.

### **The few, the proud**

Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Kuyper described Pape as a Marine's Marine.

"Even though I'm a staff sergeant and outrank him, I idolized everything he did," Kuyper said.

Pape was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a "Combat V" for valor while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

He earned the medal for his heroics during an ambush. Pape was part of a Humvee convoy that was traveling on a road south of Kharma. The convoy came under attack. The enemy was firing at them with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire.

Pape spotted what turned out to be the primary machine bunker and, using his .50-caliber machine gun, blew it up. His action allowed his platoon to escape without any injuries.

"He was a true American warrior, a fearless and deadly Marine on the battlefield and compassionate leader to his subordinates," said Maj. Mike McNamara, who met Pape while he was deployed to Iraq with Headquarters Battalion 1st Marine Division in Ramadi.

### **Friend in Iraq**

McNamara, a KNOX Radio talk show host, would periodically call the radio station while he was in Iraq. During one of those calls, Pape's father, Ron, called and asked McNamara if he would look in on his son. McNamara called the base where Pape was stationed, told them who he was and asked for Pape, who was out in the field and couldn't be reached. So McNamara told them to have Pape return his call.

"Corporals don't routinely call majors, so when he called I could tell he was a little bit nervous," McNamara said. "I said, 'I have a message for you. It's from your mommy and she said she loves you.'"

Then McNamara told Pape to look him up if he ever got to Ramadi. Pape did get to Ramadi and he and McNamara got to know one another.

"It was my privilege to know him, to go to war with him in Iraq and to call him my homey there," McNamara said. "His smile and sense of humor in the midst of sustained combat operations still brings a smile to my face."

Although Pape's parents, Ron and Shar, spent a lot of sleepless nights worrying about him when he was in Iraq, they were proud of their oldest son.

Thursday, the Papes were trying to get in contact with their son Ross, who is in the U.S. Army currently stationed in Iraq. Their son Ryan, who graduates from high school in May, has enlisted in the Marine Corps and leaves for boot camp in October.

Ron's advice to other parents is to always take the opportunity to tell their children that they love them.

"When we talked on the phone we always ended it in a special way, and it goes like this: I'd say, 'I love you son,' and he'd say, 'I love you dad,' and we'd hang up."

<http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/11691845.htm>

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## **Two soldiers killed in motorcycle accident mourned at Hanau**

By Jessica Inigo and Russ Rizzo, Stars and Stripes  
European edition, Friday, May 20, 2005

HANAU, Germany — The Hanau military community mourned two soldiers Wednesday and Thursday who both died in a motorcycle wreck last week on a highway near Büdingen, Germany.

Military police officials said Sgt. Dale L. Neal, 33, of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment and Staff Sgt. Darnell D. Wiggins, 31, of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 565th Engineer Battalion, were traveling at a high rate of speed when they were killed Friday. They died instantly when they struck a guardrail.

A memorial for Neal, the driver and owner of the motorcycle, was held at the Fliegerhorst Casern Chapel Wednesday.

Neal's wife, Gayle, broke out in tears as his battalion commander recalled approving the sergeant's application to become an Army recruiter. When Lt. Col. Robert Baer asked Neal why he wanted the duty, Neal did not offer the typical reply that it was a good career move, Baer said.

"After 12 months in South Korea and 15 months in Iraq, he just wanted to be with his family," Baer said.

They were to move to Ohio on June 1.

During the final roll call, a tradition of calling out the name of the dead at military memorial services, Neal's 8-year-old son, Devlen, asked, "What's happening?"

After the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Paul Arends explained that Neal researched buying his first motorcycle on the Internet while in Iraq. He bought a purple Harley Davidson Buell and unpacked it when he returned to Germany in July 2004, Arends said.

Sgt. Amanda Loveless, who said Neal was like a brother to her, said his friends gave him a hard time about buying a purple sport motorcycle.

Neal and Wiggins were riding on the purple Harley the night they died.

During Wiggins' memorial service on Thursday, attendants cried together and laughed together during the Pioneer Casern Chapel ceremony.

The service had to begin without the presence of Wiggins' immediate family. Then, 45 minutes later, after the last of the 21-gun salute rang out, a fragile woman worked her way through the crowd.

Crippled with grief, Wiggins's wife, Chaka, fell into the arms of friends and family and sobbed. Their sons, DeQuan and DeKarri, did not make it to the service.

Community members said their final farewells to a comrade who was known for his Army infantry skills and his heart of gold in life.

Wiggins's friends Sgt. Roxane CruzCortez and Spc. Felix Thurman said the operations sergeant worked hard and played hard. They both expressed their love for their friend.

Then the gathering was led through a tearful version of "Amazing Grace."

Lt. Col. Jose Ramos, the HHD commander, choked up while telling some of his favorite stories about his soldier.

"That rock is getting pretty thick in my throat," he said.

<http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=29206>

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## **Driver killed on State Road 53, Alcohol and Speed a Factor**

CIBOLA COUNTY - According to Cibola County Undersheriff Johnny Valdez, a man was killed in a single-car, single-person vehicle accident Saturday at around 8:30

p.m.

Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Jeffrey Scott Palmer, 52, of Oso Ridge Road in the Zuni Canyon area, and also of Red Bluff, Calif., was driving eastbound on New Mexico State Road 53 at about mile marker 60 when he lost control of his car and flipped it, possibly twice. The force of the impact ejected Palmer from the vehicle.

Emergency Medical Services transported Palmer to Cibola General Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Valdez said the Sheriff's Office is awaiting toxicology results, but preliminary findings indicate that alcohol as well as high speed may be factors in the accident.

SSGT Palmer recently returned from Iraq where he served as a 63c heavy wheel mechanic with the 1115th Transportation Company out of Taos. Palmer is survived by his daughter, Holly Palmer of Chico, Calif.

Deputy Adrian Lazos of the Cibola County Sheriffs Department investigated the accident.

By Deby Dixon

<http://www.cibolabeacon.com/articles/2005/05/20/news/news8.txt>

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## **Troop trainer dies in crash**

Car pinned beneath truck

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HATTIESBURG - An Army sergeant who helped train troops at Camp Shelby has been killed in a traffic accident on Interstate 59 in Forrest County.

Master Sgt. Albert Clark Jr., 40, died Wednesday when his car was struck from behind by an 18-wheeler and pinned underneath a tractor-trailer truck in front of him.

"He was an outstanding soldier," said Col. Daniel Zajac, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 87th Training Support Division. "He was one of the key developers of our ground assault convoy training. He was slated to become the senior noncommissioned officer of his battalion."

Clark was assigned to the brigade's 1st Battalion, 305th Regiment under the command of Lt. Col. William Wolfarth.

"He was like the model noncommissioned officer, extremely professional, values and integrity beyond reproach," Wolfarth said. "He was a leader in the truest sense of the word. He never asked his guys to do anything that he hadn't done or wasn't willing to do with them."

Clark, a native of Chicago, had been assigned to the 1st/305th since June 2002. His wife and four children live in Hattiesburg.

Clark worked with soldiers of the 278th Regimental Combat Team and the 155th Brigade Combat Team on ground assault convoy training before they deployed to Iraq.

The 53rd Separate Infantry Brigade is currently going through training at Camp Shelby for duty in Afghanistan. The training continued as scheduled Wednesday, Zajac said.

A memorial service will be held at Camp Shelby but details haven't been worked out, Wolfarth said.

<http://www.sunherald.com/mlid/thesunherald/news/local/11691558.htm>

*sent by Deathtodubya*

7 comments

<input type="radio"/> Only comments	Comments per page <input type="text" value="50"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Article and comments	<input type="button" value="Send"/>

**Good job**

by Zoraida on 20.05.2005 [20:02 ]

Thanks, Deathtodubya!!!

**Oh Well,.....**

by kabulbrazil on 20.05.2005 [21:27 ]

Perhaps these boys had some things to say about the war ,Don't they ?

**4/5 suicides**

by WarehouseEyes on 20.05.2005 [23:39 ]

My guess is all but the last one were suicides. Dying on the highway is a way of committing suicide without burdening your family with the fact that you intentionally killed yourself, putting them through extra turmoil. 4/5 of these guys wanted to die, probably for things they did in Iraq that they figured out they should not have done.

**Well it correlates with an article I saw here**

by Deathtodubya on 21.05.2005 [01:37 ]

a few weeks back about how the accident rate among vets is much higher due to all the psychological effects of combat. I agree with WarehouseEyes in that it seems like they were abandoned like the US abandons all its killers and they fell into a drugged, drunken depression and couldn't face what they have done.

BTW Thanks Zoraida, good to be appreciated:)

**And it's 5 more the US needs to find as fresh fodder!**

by Deathtodubya on 21.05.2005 [01:40 ]

Four of those killed were also experienced, qualified sergeants. Harder to replace than pure fodder troops.

**The ghostly thought of roadside bombs**

by Syrian on 21.05.2005 [07:27 ]

Finally got them, they probably swerved out of fear and crashed.  
The long arm of justice will follow them where ever they go.

**T.E. Lawrence ...**

by hellsbells on 21.05.2005 [14:58 ]

("Lawrence of Arabia") also died in a motor cycle crash. He was disgusted by the British betrayal of the Arabs after WWI. They had fought on the British side against the Ottoman Empire on the understanding that they would be united in one pan-Arabian nation. Afterwards the Arabs were divided into small states and Palestine was promised to the jews.

It's very likely that Lawrence deliberately endangered his life and died as a consequence.

These yankee grunts apparently did likewise. Motorcycles are risky for someone in a depressed state of mind. Returning from a horrible battlefield and awful atrocities, plus chemical poisoning from DU, vaccinations, anti-malarial drugs, and nervous damage from seeing & doing things no-one should see & do, makes motor-bikes dangerous for such riders.

You should be registered AND logged in user to post comments here.



Jul 14: 1-2 by suicide attacks, Green Zone, Baghdad

Min	Max
23006	26052



Jul 08: Bodies of four men found in Mosul

Jul 08: Four in taxi shot dead in Mosul

Jul 08: University professor in Basra

Jul 06: Head of Salahuddin council in Tikrit

Jul 07: 5 bodies found between Rawah and Ramadi

Jul 07: Shiite cleric in Dora, Baghdad

Jul 07: 3-6 by mortars in Mosul

Jul 07: Egypt's ambassador-to-be executed, Baghdad?