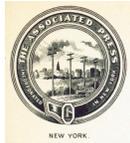

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AP's Simone Camilli: Consummate story teller



By ZEINA KARAM, The Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) - Simone Camilli was a consummate storyteller - a passionate, talented newsman with an eye for detail and the ability to convey events with powerful video images that touched people around the world.

As an Associated Press video journalist, he covered popes in the serene splendor of the Vatican and the horrific violence on battlefields from the former Soviet republic of Georgia to the Middle East.

But he could also capture the simple joy of a smiling child.

Camilli once said a favorite story of his was about a group of clowns performing for young Syrian refugees, bringing moments of happiness to the lives of the boys and girls who fled the civil war.

The 35-year-old newsman was killed Wednesday in the Gaza Strip while reporting on the aftermath of Israel-Hamas war - the first foreign journalist to die in the Gaza conflict that began last month.

He was killed in a blast as police were defusing unexploded ordnance. The explosion also killed a freelance Palestinian translator, as well as four Gaza police engineers trying to neutralize the explosives. Four people, including AP photographer Hatem Moussa, were badly injured.

"He was a very good cameraman and editor and a lot of his best work was not from the battlefield. He was passionately interested in art and music, and it was in these areas that he turned in some of his best work," said Chris Slaney, former senior producer in Jerusalem.

His father, Pier Luigi Camilli, the mayor of the Italian town of Pitigliano and a former journalist himself, told the newspaper Corriere della Sera: "He had this work in his blood."

Simone Camilli's death came at the peak of a thriving career full of promise.

An Italian national, he had worked for the AP since being hired as a freelancer in Rome in 2005 while taking Islamic studies and learning Arabic at Sapienza University. One of his first assignments was covering the illness of Pope John Paul II.

He covered major stories across Europe, including the independence of Kosovo, the war in Georgia and the arrest of Bosnian Serb military leader Radko Mladic. He also had assignments in some of the world's most violent conflict zones in Lebanon, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"Simone was well known throughout Europe, and especially to our video team in London, where his death has hit AP deeply," Gary Pruitt, the AP's chief executive, said in a memo to the staff.

Camilli relocated to Jerusalem in 2006, and often covered assignments in Gaza, and moved to Beirut in early 2014.

He was a welcome face in Gaza and loved the story so much that he recently turned down an assignment in Iraq to cover the seaside strip, said Najib Jobain, the AP's chief producer in Gaza. He said Camilli was like a brother.

"He was so happy to be with me working in Gaza," Jobain said. "He was asked, 'Do you want to go to Irbil or Gaza?' He said, 'I'll go to Gaza.'"

Other colleagues around the world remembered Camilli as a warm, charming and sensitive man who wanted to be where the news was.

"From the moment he arrived in the Rome bureau, he wanted to learn everything, falling in love with the job," said Maria Grazia Murru, senior producer in Rome.

"He wanted to learn everything and be the first," she said. "I had the greatest admiration for him and what he was doing. I will miss his enthusiasm, his Roman accent and his smile."

Camilli arrived in Jerusalem in the summer of 2006, amid a surge in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

While in Jerusalem, Camilli became involved with two Palestinian partners in running an exhibition space and workshop for young artists, Slaney said.

"Simone was largely self-taught in the visual sense, and whenever I was faced with some tricky problem that with 30 years of professional experience I couldn't solve, he was my go-to guy in editing and image manipulation," he said.

While in Beirut, Camilli produced warm and heartbreaking pieces about the more than 1 million Syrians who have fled to Lebanon in the past three years from a war that has ripped apart their homeland.

His work had "an incredible eye for detail and was able to personalize stories and portray human drama," said Tomislav Skaro, the AP's Middle East regional editor for video.

Camilli's pieces in Gaza told "the narrative of a destroyed Strip trying to get back to life," Skaro said.

"He was incredibly calm, mature beyond his age, gentle and the friend that everybody wants to have," he added.

Camilli is survived by a longtime partner and a 3-year-old daughter in Beirut, as well as his parents and two sisters.

The day before he left Beirut for Jerusalem and what would be his final assignment in Gaza, Camilli spoke happily over coffee about visiting his father during a recent vacation in Pitigliano, a Tuscan town of about 4,000 people between Florence and Rome.

He sported a new haircut, which made him look younger and more mischievous. But then he gave his signature timid smile, eager to get to his new story.

Diaa Hadid, a longtime colleague who worked with Camilli most recently in Irbil, Iraq, described him as "warm, lovely, funny."

"I can't think of the past tense and Simone," she said.

The photo above taken in August 2014, shows Associated Press video journalist Simone Camilli on a balcony overlooking smoke from Israeli strikes in Gaza City. Camilli, 35, was killed in an ordnance explosion in the Gaza Strip, on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014, together with Palestinian translator Ali Shehda Abu Afash and three members of the Gaza police. Police said four other people were seriously injured, including AP photographer Hatem Moussa. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

Pope prays for reporter, translator killed in Gaza

By **NICOLE WINFIELD, The Associated Press**

ABOARD THE PAPAL AIRPLANE (AP) - Pope Francis has offered prayers for an Italian video journalist working for The Associated Press and his Palestinian translator who were killed in the Gaza Strip.

Francis held his head in his hands and stood for a minute of silent prayer before more than 70 journalists traveling with him to South Korea aboard the papal plane.

He said "these are the consequences of war."

Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, told Francis about the deaths of Simone Camilli and Ali Shehda Abu Afash, saying reporters take tremendous risks.

Francis, who came to the back of the plane to greet the press, was clearly moved.

He said: "I have to make a silent prayer for Simone Camilli, one of yours, who today left us in service. Let us pray in silence."

AP might have blown a call in Wisconsin on Tuesday night

With all of the precincts reporting in the Republican primary for Wisconsin's 6th congressional district, it appears that state Sen. Glenn Grothman might have won. Or, at least, he leads by just over 200 votes in a result that will lead to a recount. But here's the thing: He's already declared victory and at least one competitor conceded defeat -- almost certainly thanks to a very early and very risky call by the Associated Press -- a call that AP has since apparently rescinded.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Truman and actress Lauren Bacall at National Press Club

Connecting colleague [Mark Hamrick](#) shared this famous AP photo of then-Vice President Harry Truman and actress Lauren Bacall in



the wake of Bacall's [death](#) Tuesday at the age of 89.

The photo was taken in February 1945 when Truman played the piano during one of many war canteens at the National Press Club. Young Hollywood starlet Bacall had not yet achieved widespread fame when this photo was taken. Nearly 70 years later, this same piano still proudly stands in the National Press Club's "Truman Lounge".

Hamrick, a 26-year AP veteran, served as president of the Press Club in 2011 and is now Washington bureau chief for Bankrate, Inc.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

To

[Ed Tobias](#)

[Mike Hendricks](#)

Stories of interest

[Reporters arrested in Ferguson](#) (Doug Pizac, Bob Daugherty)

Reporters from The Washington Post and the Huffington Post were arrested in Ferguson, Mo., on Wednesday night while covering the protests that have rocked the St. Louis suburb.



Wesley Lowery, a Washington Post political reporter, and Ryan Reilly, a Huffington Post justice reporter, were arrested in a McDonalds shortly before 8 p.m. ET. Police entered the restaurant and told patrons there to leave, the reporters wrote on Twitter after their release. The police then asked Lowery and Reilly for their identification and, according to the reporters, arrested them because they weren't packing their bags fast enough.

Lowery also said the police officers "assaulted" him. "Officers slammed me into a fountain soda machine because I was confused about which door they were asking me to walk out of," he wrote on Twitter. Lowery also said that he and Reilly were released without paperwork or charges, and that the officers refused to provide the reporters with their names.

Ferguson has been the site of protests since the death of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African-American who was shot several times by an officer. The chief of police there has refused to disclose the identity of the officer in question, citing safety concerns. According to The Associated Press, the officer "has received numerous death threats, and the chief worries that disclosing his name would endanger [him]."

AND

[Washington Post and HuffPo reporters freed after call by LA Times journalist](#)

Journalists across the US are up in arms about the arrest of two reporters who were covering a demonstration in Ferguson, Missouri.

And it appears that their release followed a call from a concerned [Los Angeles Times](#) journalist, Matt Pearce, to Ferguson's police chief.

Pearce said on Twitter that when he informed the chief, Thomas Jackson, about the arrests of the [Washington Post](#)'s Wesley Lowery and [Huffington Post](#)'s Ryan Reilly, he replied: "Oh God."

The reporters were in the city to report on protests that have followed the shooting dead of an unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown, by a police officer on 10 August.

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[The Obama Administration and the Press](#) (Bill Beecham)

U.S. President Barack Obama came into office pledging open government, but he has fallen short of his promise. Journalists and transparency advocates say the White House curbs routine disclosure of information and deploys its own media to evade scrutiny by the press. Aggressive prosecution of leakers of classified information and broad electronic surveillance programs deter government sources from speaking to journalists. A CPJ special report by Leonard Downie Jr. with reporting by Sara Rafsky

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[The newsonomics of life after newspapers go solo - and new intrigue in L.A.](#)

We'll remember summer 2014 as Splitsville in the U.S. newspaper industry. We've seen both the expected (Tribune) and the unexpected (Gannett, Scripps/Journal Media). The final orphaning of newspaper properties in the U.S. is nearly complete.

But we're just beginning to see the impact of that orphanage, as the quarter-by-quarter results of the standalone newspaper-only companies roll out ("10 takeaways from Gannett's blockbuster announcements"). New rounds of troublesome numbers could precipitate still more sales and combinations of properties. Southern California - ground zero for daily newspaper bankruptcy and turmoil - remains Exhibit A.

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[Photographing Edward Snowden: Platon Finds the Lion Caged in the Lamb](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Edward Snowden was supposed to arrive sometime between Noon and 2pm. Platon and Scott Dadich, the Editor-in-Chief of Wired, along with

Wired's photo editor and Platon's assistant, set up a makeshift studio overlooking Moscow's Red Square earlier that morning. They were going to photograph the most wanted man in the world immediately adjacent to one of the most public places in the world. Snowden hadn't sat for a proper photograph since leaking NSA documents he obtained as an NSA contractor in 2013 that outlined the espionage the US Government was perpetrating against the American people. Snowden left the US shortly before releasing the documents and was tracked by the US from Beijing to Russia. The President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, granted him temporary asylum after Snowden spent 39 days in the Moscow airport and unsuccessfully applied for asylum in 21 countries. He remains in Russia to this day.

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Dick King, longtime Topeka Capital-Journal newsroom leader, dies at 86

Dick King, a Korean War veteran and popular newsroom executive in an era when Topeka had two daily newspapers, died Monday at his home in Brewster Place. The former assistant managing editor of The Topeka Capital-Journal was 86.

King was best known by Capital-Journal readers for his weekly "Let's Ask" column, one in which he took reader-submitted questions, no matter how trivial, and provided a well-researched answer that included insight on the city's history, or how things worked or didn't work.

King continued to write the well-received column even after his retirement in 1993 following a 36-year career as a reporter and later an editor for both The Topeka Daily Capital, the city's morning newspaper, and The Topeka State Journal, the evening edition.



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The Photo That Won World War II: 'Dead Americans at Buna Beach,' 1943



Guadalcanal. Iwo Jima. Okinawa. Bougainville. Saipan. These names, and the names of other battles and campaigns from the Pacific Theater during World War II, serve as a kind of brutal shorthand for scenes of unspeakable carnage and, at times, unfathomable courage.

But for reasons lost to the decades, countless other pivotal battles in the Pacific have been largely forgotten by most of the world—even as they're remembered and commemorated by the dwindling number of those still alive who fought in them, and by those who lost husbands, brothers, fathers and friends to the war. The long, long, three-and-half-year New Guinea Campaign, for example, saw scores of battles as bloody and as strategically vital as any others fought during WWII, but the names and places of many of those battles and the places strike no chord with the

general public.

Here, LIFE.com recalls one of those pivotal battles, the Battle of Buna-Gona, through pictures made by the master photojournalist George Strock—including one of the most famous and influential photographs ever taken in any war, anywhere: the disquieting image of three dead Americans half-buried in the sand at a place called Buna Beach.

AP Beat of the Week

It was a bloody, monumental day in Egypt's modern history: Aug. 14, 2013, when security forces moved in to crush the main sit-in protest by supporters of ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. Never before had Egypt's rulers turned their guns on their own citizens in this way, with hundreds killed in the course of 12 hours in a main square of Cairo in front of the Rabaah al-Adawiyah Mosque.

For all its loss of life, the event had largely been pushed under the carpet ever since. Egyptian media spoke little of it. World attention moved on, given the upheaval elsewhere across the Middle East in the past year.

But the AP's Cairo bureau refused to turn the page. It launched a four-month investigation that showed police were given "virtual carte blanche to use deadly force" -- a story that made global headlines, earning this week's Beat of the Week award.

In April, bureau chief Hamza Hendawi, correspondents Sarah El Deeb and Maggie Michael and Mideast enterprise editor Lee Keath began a wide-ranging inquiry on multiple fronts.

First, they interviewed surviving protesters. Michael and Hendawi talked with more than a dozen, including young Muslim Brotherhood members who battled police with stones and firebombs, and with medical staff in the multiple clinics set up by the Rabaah protesters. The aim was not just to get what they saw that chaotic day, but to piece together what happened over an area extending blocks in different directions around the mosque. One young protester walked Michael around the square to show her where each event happened, from his first moments behind a barricade under furious machine gun fire, to his last stand in a building under siege by police, to his final escape.

El Deeb focused on the diplomatic front, trying to reconstruct the intensive international mediation between the government and the Brotherhood. At the time, much of it was kept under wraps.

During the envoys' work, El Deeb had met the EU envoy Bernardino Leon at news conferences. Now she used that contact to press for more. Here she scored a breakthrough: For the first time, Leon agreed to tell all on the record. But he

wanted it to be in person, so El Deeb travelled to his office in Brussels.

The interview was scheduled to last a half-hour, but it went on for 90 minutes. Leon spoke about his jailhouse meeting with the Brotherhood's most powerful figure, Khairat el-Shater, saying he had agreed in principle to talk to the government if prisoners were released. But Leon also spoke of how both sides dug in and were ultimately unwilling to make concessions.

It emerged that U.S. Sen. John McCain's final visit to meet with Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who ousted Morsi, was also important, so El Deeb and Keath spoke to the senator in Washington by phone from Cairo.

The third leg of reporting was the security agencies. They had given few public details of how the dispersal operation was planned. The AP team identified several police generals who would have firsthand knowledge, and they spoke in exchange for anonymity. They described the weapons distributed to the police forces, and revealed the orders given to those involved in the dispersal. They also acknowledged that commanders had assured police they would not be prosecuted and they described steps taken to ensure evidence could not be used against the police. The team went back repeatedly to the two generals, seeking clarifications and answers to more questions, from the phrasing of the orders to details on where the first policeman was killed in Rabaah.

Keath led the process of compiling voluminous notes into a cohesive narrative. Discoveries were made while comparing accounts and placing them on a map of the square. Particularly, multiple eyewitness accounts pointed to a heavy, immediate machine gun fire by police at one entrance to Rabaah. A young man who was at the entrance spoke of it, and his account was corroborated by medical personnel who independently spoke of a flood of wounded coming from that area, all with gaping, high-caliber gunshot wounds. The AP concluded that the first firing at police probably took place on the other side of the protest _ and very likely after the protesters had already been shot.

The final result came out four days before the anniversary of the massacre and had an immediate impact. At least one Egyptian newspaper ran the story in Arabic. Two days later, Human Rights Watch released its year-long report on Rabaah, and in a press conference with journalists, it immediately cited the AP story and its revelations of the orders to police.

For their persistence in telling the hidden story behind a pivotal moment in Egyptian history, Hendawi, El Deeb, Michael and Keath share this week's \$500 prize.

AP Best of the States

Twenty minutes before Portland reporter Nigel Duara walked down the aisle to get

married, he got the text message he'd been waiting for for days: "Settlement Monday."

That was the green light for publication of an exclusive story that Duara had been bird-dogging for quite a while, a story with potentially far-reaching implications for hundreds of dams across the nation operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Weeks earlier, Duara had been tipped that the Army Corps and an environmental group were about to announce the settlement of a lawsuit over oil spills at eight dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon and Washington. The tip came from the environmental group, Columbia Riverkeeper.

Duara got to work, studying up on the basics of the settlement. The Army Corps, for the first time in its history, would have to disclose the amount of pollutants its dams are sending into waterways. It would also have to apply to the Environmental Protection Agency for pollution permits, something it has never done for the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. This was a major course shift for the Army Corps, which for decades had rejected demands by the EPA to stop dumping toxic lubricants into U.S. waterways.

Duara prepared a story for the West Desk to send as soon as the settlement was a done deal. It was supposed to be announced on July 28. Duara was getting married on Aug. 2 in Portland. It seemed at first like Duara would be able to break the story before his wedding day. But the lives of two lawyers who needed to sign off on the settlement intervened. One went into labor on July 28. The other had a death in the family. On Friday, the day before Duara's wedding, the announcement was still up in the air.

And then came that text from Duara's source, just before the couple walked down the aisle on a Saturday: "Settlement Monday. Good luck!"

Duara was scheduled to have Monday off, but he went to the Portland bureau to make sure the settlement had been filed in court and to read it, to make sure it all squared with his story. Once that was done, the West Desk moved the story as an APNewsBreak.

Duara's source-building and preparation enabled him to break the story, getting a huge jump on all other news outlets. His story was widely used in newspapers across the Pacific Northwest. It also prompted a discussion of the issue on Think Out Loud, a news program on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

For spotting the importance of this story as soon he heard about it, for grooming the necessary sources, for his dogged pursuit, for his preparation of a story while waiting for the settlement to be official, and for sticking with it as he was about to get married, Duara wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Both shared by Valerie Komor)

And finally...

International left-handers day: 6 struggles of being a leftie (Tom Larimer)



It's international left-handers day, because being a leftie in a right-handed world is so rubbish they had to let this tiny proportion of the population (10 per cent) have its very own annual occasion. Like Christmas where the only presents are special scissors and left-handed golf clubs.

While lefties can count Leonardo Da Vinci, Spike Lee, Jimi Hendrix and, perhaps most importantly, Drew Barrymore in their ranks, there's no denying being left-handed is a daily struggle. Here's why.

1. Ring binders

In the same vein as spiral notepads this office stationery is the leftie kryptonite.

2. Pens

Aside from the biro pens are the devil. Trying to write anything with an inky pen will end in a page full of smudges and a stained hand. Also note, ballpoints are meant to be pulled not pushed so jar when in the grip of a left-hander.

3. Scissors

Left-handed scissors designed for special leftie use are arguable harder to cut with than the standard right-handed version. The solution? Teach yourself how to use

the regular pair.

4. Dying sooner

Righties live longer and there's no way of getting around that fact. It's science.

5. Anger problems

Previous studies, including a 2012 paper published in The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease, have shown lefties are more prone to negative and angry thoughts. It's probably down to the frustration at being sentenced to live in a world designed for the right-handed.

6. Ned Flanders

Ever wondered why lefties have such a bad rep? Their most famous spokesperson is 'Stupid Flanders'.

And if that wasn't bad enough, there is a whole wave of Christians who believe, 'There is much evidence that... people who have chosen to use Satan's hand... will burn in hell for all eternity.'

So, on this day dedicated to those few, eternally damned lefties in the world, spare a thought for their strife.

And maybe lodge a petition with your bank to get rid of those pens on strings, because they're evil too.

Paul Stevens

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