

(live open) A home video of the ambush, obtained by ABC News, shows the US troops guarding the convoy disappear once the trucks are disabled.

The video was made by one of the survivors, a former Halliburton truck driver named Preston Wheeler.

(tape) It was September, one year ago, as the convoy headed out of Camp Anaconda, near Balad, Iraq.

Twelve big trucks and five military vehicles that make a wrong turn.

Residents pelt the convoy with rocks.

***Preston Wheeler (Video) : Knocked the hell out of us. Told ya'll we was gonna get rocks.***

In a few minutes, Preston Wheeler says the drivers realize the road is a dead end and they have to turn around.

***Preston Wheeler: I was scared. There's no doubt about it, I was scared.***

***Preston Wheeler (Video): We just missed our turn. We gotta go through that hell hole again.***

Wheeler says Halliburton does not provide its drivers with maps and the military convoy leader misread his map.

***Preston Wheeler: We made a wrong turn. Our military took us the wrong way. We're goin' back through hell.***

***Brian Ross: So all the people you drove by at first were throwing rocks, they knew you were gong to a dead end?***

***Preston Wheeler: Yes, they knew, definitely where we was going.***

***Brian Ross: So they knew you'd be coming back sooner or later?***

***Preston Wheeler: Oh yes, they knew, now we're starting to push back out again.***

A roadside bomb is coming up.

***Preston Wheeler (Video) : (first bullet hits) God Damn! Jesus Christ, help us all, Lord.***

***(whistling)***

***Preston Wheeler (Video): They, sh, fired a shot!***

The attack only intensifies.

The lead truck, truck number one, is hit and rolls over.

***Radio: Truck down, truck down, truck went down. Keep goin! Keep rolling!***

Wheeler is truck number five.

***Preston Wheeler: My truck's fixin to get hit with an RPG round right here.***

***( shooting -radio com )***

***Preston Wheeler (Video): I'm down.***

The military vehicle in front keeps moving, and does not come back.

***Preston Wheeler (Video): Truck 5 cannot move. Please help me.***

***Preston Wheeler (Video): I'm taking fire. Ten Four, Come Back. (radio com) I'm fixing to get killed goddamit!***

***Radio: Truck 5 move out of the way if you can.***

***Wheeler: I cannot move.***

***Brian Ross: You were abandoned?***

***Preston Wheeler: Yes, sir. I do not know who the driver was of that Humvee, but he abandoned us.***

***Preston Wheeler: (Video) Somebody get their ass back here, please. Sir, Truck 5 is down, I am trapped in my truck, and I need some help.***

Wheeler says it would be almost 40 minutes before help arrives.

***Radio Voice: Anybody out there? Truck 3 needs a ride.***

Wheeler tries to hide in the cab of his truck, under the dash board and then in the very back of the cab.

***Preston Wheeler (Video): Sir, I have no gun back here. In Truck 5, I am by myself.***

***(shooting)***

***Radio Voice: Truck 3 is down, Truck 3 is down.***

Truck 3 was driven by another Halliburton driver Keven Dagit of Jefferson, Iowa. Wheeler says he watched as Dagit and a second driver were murdered.

***Preston Wheeler (Video): They just killed em! Oh Jesus. They just killed him, Oh my God.***

As an unmanned predator aircraft with a camera flew overhead, the insurgents could be seen stripping the body of one of the dead American drivers and throwing rocks at him.

All that was left of the convoy was disaster and death.

(live close)

Wheeler took two AK-47 rounds in his arm and was later fired by Halliburton for what was called "a company injury."

Wheeler says the military vehicles that left the convoy were units of the Virginia National Guard.

Officials at the Virginia National Guard said the incident had been investigated by the Army, which told us it was aware of the incident but could not comment.

Nor would Halliburton, other than to say all of its

employees know the risk before  
they go to Iraq.