

GI SPECIAL 2#B15



Army Times

Resistance:

This issue of GI Special will focus on resistance.

First, on resistance by Iraqis to the U.S. invasion and occupation of their country, and

Second, resistance inside occupying armed forces to imperial war, with special emphasis on how U.S. troops rebelled against and stopped the war in Vietnam.

The articles are all in the section FORWARD OBSERVATIONS. They are, in order:

THE IRAQI RESISTANCE

A Message From The Other Side: "Get Out Of Iraq...Now"

The Right To Resist

In Anger, Ordinary Iraqis Are Joining The Insurgency

U.S. Troops Kill Unarmed Iraqi, Drive Off; Father Vows To Join Resistance

Fallujah Fighters Swear To Continue War

Facts Nail Stupid Bush Lie About Resistance Being "Foreign Fighters"

ANTI-WAR RESISTANCE IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

Keep Those Weapons Away From Soldiers!

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE



BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE!

Three Marines Killed

7.6.04 By RAVI NESSMAN, The Associated Press

Three U.S. Marines assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed while on duty in Western Iraq. Two died in action Monday in the Anbar province, while a third died of his wounds later Monday.

**Patrol? Get Hit With IED's;
Don't Patrol?--Get Hit With
Mortars;
Fucked Either Way**

7.24.04 By CHRIS TOMLINSON, Associated Press Writer

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq - **The most feared weapon in the arsenal of Iraqi insurgents is simple to make, easy to set off, impossible to trace and deadly effective: an old artillery shell with a detonator and a door bell attached to it.**

The U.S. Army has put up posters around bases to help soldiers learn how to spot the bombs, but **the most effective prevention is to cut the number of U.S. patrols on the streets.**

The insurgents, though, then take advantage of the absence to fire mortars at U.S. bases. Sheik Wadah Maliek el-Sayed described one attack at the U.S. base at Baghdad's main airport.

"Three cars came into the market, masked gunmen cleared out the area and then the mortarmen got out and fired four rounds." he said. "They got back into their cars and drove away. It's over in a few minutes." Now, the IEDs are taking a higher toll.

"We can pull back," Ryan said. "But then they come with the mortars. It's usually one or the other."

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER:

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

TROOP NEWS

“Danger. Enemy In Area”--

Army Times 6.21.04

The prerecorded voice, a female's, that sounds in a Stryker combat vehicle when it nears an area that has been identified as having come under attack.

(But It's Washington DC)

Army Times 6.21.04

Deployed troops used to write letters and asked to be sent cake or candy or a picture," said Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., a House Armed Services Committee member. "Now they're writing letters back home saying send me a bulletproof vest, send me something for my radio, send me some duct tape, send me an extra pair of pants."

In a June 2 speech about federal budget priorities, *Meek argued that Congress should insure troops have what they need before cutting taxes for the rich.*

Republicans can spend "two or three hours talking about how much they love the troops but it is not reflected in the budget and it is not reflected in the equipment they need on the ground" he said.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Baquaba: US Allies' House Attacked

2004-07-05 Middle East Online

Two relatives of a district head in the troubled city of Baquba were killed by unknown attackers on Sunday evening, a spokesperson for the governorate said.

"Yesterday, at about 8:00 pm (1600 GMT), three unknown assailants attacked the office of the district chief, Uday Adnan al-Kharn, killing his brother and hurting his father. Another relative was also killed and one wounded," said Falah Mehdi, head of public relations for the governorate.

Collaborators Bombed In Khalis Attending Wake For Collaborators

Jul. 06, 2004 Associated Press, BAGHDAD, Iraq

A car bomb exploded in the town of Khalis on Tuesday, killing 13 people attending a wake for the victims of a previous attack, hospital officials said.

The attack occurred two days after gunmen fired at a building belonging to a city council official, killing two people and wounding two. Tuesdays attack targeted the wake for those killed Sunday.

The car bomb detonated about 4:15 p.m. said Maj. Neal O'Brien of the 1st Infantry Division. Iraqi **civilians were among** the dead and wounded, he said.

Guerillas have been targeting local officials, who are seen as being collaborators with coalition forces.

Rebels With A Cause Madhi Resistance Army Rules Sadr City



(REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz)

June 21, 2004 By Jim Sciutto, ABC News

Many parts of Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood are not under the control of American troops or Iraqi police, but the well-armed fighters of the al-Mahdi Army.

Sadr City's nearly 2 million Shiite residents were singled out for the most brutal treatment under Saddam Hussein, who favored the country's Sunni Muslim minority. **Many in the neighborhood welcomed the U.S. invasion, but since then, the al-Mahdi army — not U.S. troops — have earned their respect.**

Numbering in the thousands, the men pledge loyalty not to the new Iraqi government, but to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, a man the United States considers an outlaw. But his soldiers say they will defend him to the death.

"U.S. forces are forbidden here," a member of the al-Mahdi Army told ABC News on a recent visit. "We're here to protect the city from the Americans."

It has become so dangerous, with nearly daily firefights with insurgents, that U.S. forces are increasingly leaving day-to-day patrols to Iraqi police. They, in turn, let the al-Mahdi Army act as vigilantes.

"We promise to be al-Sadr's loyal soldiers, to protect Sadr City and the holy cities," another member said. "We will be al-Sadr's striking hand."

Members of the al-Mahdi army take on the role of traffic police in Sadr City, sometimes firing a few shots in the air to coax drivers along and make sure the traffic keeps flowing.

When several trucks carrying international food aid were stolen yesterday, the al-Mahdi army caught the thieves.

"They call us thieves and drug addicts," a militiaman said. "But look what we're doing now."

Even the police ABC News talked to said they welcome the help.

"This is not the first time we've cooperated," said Iraqi Police Col. Maroof al-Lami. "They arrest criminals all the time."

During ABC News' visit, it appeared the al-Mahdi army seemed to be calling the shots. They handed the trucks over to the police, only after borrowing an ABC News producer's cell phone to check with their head office.

And they will deal with the thieves themselves. In Sadr city, the al-Mahdi army is often judge and jury, as well.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

A Message From The Other Side: "Get Out Of Iraq...Now"

("Sovereignty" going to make it all better? No joy here. Definitely pissed off. It would appear the Iraqi resistance writer sees the U.S. invasion and occupation the way U.S. patriots saw the British army in 1776.)

July 03, 2004 by Abu Assur, Al-Moharer (Excerpts)

US racketeers and thugs.

You have sullied the blessed land of the Two Rivers. You have dirtied the cradle of Civilization. You raped every honest human in the world when you maculated (**means defile, pollute, new one to me too. T.**) the land where the first song of love was sung, the first prayer was said, the first schools were established, and the first civilized society was organized.

We know that you can destroy this whole planet many a time, but realise that you are sooooo hated all over this planet. You hide everywhere you go, you are not proud of your deeds and your bloodstained short past. Will you ever learn? Just meditate, if you can at all do.

Origins are necessary to knead a country; roots are required to model a man and to blend a society. Iraqis are fighting you with 10 thousand years of history. Iraqis taught the world values, laws, culture, humanity, that the strong might not injure the weak (The code of Hammurabi, Epilogue, 2nd millennium BC).

Iraqis do believe. In this holy land, religions were born. You are scared to death...to die! Iraqis welcome martyrdom to safeguard their land. You were born in violence. Do you remember the American Indians you slaughtered? Do you remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Are you the army of clones? Do you remember Abu Ghraib? You don't control yourselves, when you are hit or rather when a cat meows or when a child tells you boo, you shoot in every directions killing and massacring innocents and passers by.

You live in hell in Iraq!

Now I remember this noble Iraqi old women saying: Even the graveyards will combat them.

And now the climate. Just imagine yourself, ridiculous as you are with your armor, helmet, killing machines you carry or the equipment you wear, 30 kilos of loads and lead worth thousands of blood stained dollars, that even a mule can't bear in this Mesopotamian burning heat. Imagine your mental health and morale.

Your morale is low. That is the point .. M o r a l e. Iraqis know that your morale is ZERO and a fighter without morale, is a burden for his army.

Listen you torturers at Abu Ghraib, for once draw the reins of your sadistic behavior, give a break to your innocent victims, leave aside your digital cameras for a few seconds, and you mercenaries staying in ultra-protected and terror-struck ghettos awaiting your certain death in the Mesopotamian plains, abandon your electronic games and meditate this:

In the 6th century the pagan Persians were the mightiest power of that time. They had sophisticated weaponry, catapults, heavy armors, and harnessed elephants and were occupying Iraq. Then came the Arabs on horses and were poorly equipped but their invisible weapon was the shining iron will which shaped their heart and the daunting faith which blew in their guts. They fought with their dishdashas but they had a mission and they had faith in their mission. They defeated Khosroe's mighty army. Frightened by the Arab agile and swift cavaliers, Khosroe's elephants bolted back, went berserk, and started to squash their own riders...in a friendly fire saga.

Khosroes's army cut and run, Persia left its paganism and Zoroastrism and joined the Islamic revolt, and adopted the Arabic language. You know the end of the story.. Baghdad became the center of the World.

O sacrosanct Baghdad engulf in fire and death the Yankee invaders and mercenaries by the hundreds..amen amen.

You are in Iraq for a defined and determined election agenda. You crossed thousands of miles to come and loot and attack a country with no reason, but stupidity and greed.

Iraqis are at home, Iraq is their home, they are patient, and they have no deadlines, they have all the time, their only objective is to expel you from their land. This is a legitimate resistance, agreed upon by all heaven and earth rules and laws.. Just understand them. Yankees you are in the wrong, you can't possibly succeed.. Your lies won't help -- Zargawi, WMD,etc etc.

Iraqis don't forget, they are fighting you and also in their mind the US and UN imposed 13 years of embargo that killed 1,5 million Iraqis, mainly women and children. Today the whole world know that you killed and still killing thousands of Iraqis. And because your fright has no limits, you kill even the smile in the lips of the bridegroom.. you scare even the fetuses in their mother's wombs..

It is still time to get out. It is not too late. You came to this sacred land on the basis of a lie. Don't listen to your idiot self-declared emperor Bush who came to the throne in a fraud.

Iraqis call him Bosh--the hollow. Yankee mercenaries: an advise, don't jump from the frying pan into the fire. Instead of committing suicide or getting killed, just rebel and join the Iraqi Resistance. Refuse to be used as slaves to defend Zionists and corporate US interests. **I know that many of you have already fled the boiling cauldron of Iraq and quit your aggressive army.**

Iraqis will fight you and combat you until the end. Until the land of the Two Rivers is cleaned of the last US invader. **Your leader's comical sovereignty handover and PR gesticulations will be of no use.**

Your country is losing billions of dollars. You will never ever get the Iraqi oil to pay for your wars. It is impossible to guard thousands of miles of oil pipelines. It is impossible, absolutely impossible, to win this war in Iraq. So Yankees either you get out now or be killed and consumed by Iraqi hell.

The Right To Resist

July 2, 2004 Socialist Worker: http://www.socialistworker.org/2004-2/505/505_06_RightToResist.shtml

A U.S. defeat will save countless lives--including the lives of U.S. soldiers who are used by Bush and his corporate backers to fight wars where they risk everything and gain nothing.
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IN THE days before the June 30 deadline for the U.S. occupiers of Iraq to "hand over" power to their handpicked interim government, Iraqi resistance forces attacked U.S. and pro-occupation Iraqi troops in one city after another. The wave of attacks--in Falluja,

Ramadi, Baquba, Mosul and Baghdad--killed more than 100 people and injured hundreds more.

In Baquba, a city 30 miles northeast of Baghdad, resistance fighters succeeded in driving U.S. forces to the outskirts of the town--an outcome reminiscent of the defeat of U.S. troops in Falluja in April. "There was so much fighting here this morning," said Abdel Humam, a resident of Baquba. "The freedom fighters took control of everything here and kicked the Americans out of the city."

ERIC RUDER answers your questions about the growing opposition to the U.S. occupation of Iraq--and explains why anyone interested in justice and freedom in Iraq should support the right of Iraqis to resist.

WHAT'S BEHIND the recent offensive?

THE IRAQI resistance is targeting U.S. troops, and also Iraqis who are collaborating with the U.S., in order to discredit the June 30 transfer of power from the U.S.'s Coalition Provisional Authority to another government handpicked by the U.S. But the June 30 date is only a symbolic target.

The resistance is fed by resentments against the U.S. that have been growing since the beginning of the occupation. First, there's the torturously slow pace of reconstruction that has left Iraqis worse off than under the rule of Saddam Hussein.

This partly explains why some of the fiercest fighting recently was centered in Baquba. "Since the fall of the regime, not a single penny was allocated to this town," said Awf Abdul Rida Ahmad, the mayor of a suburb of Baquba.

Second, the U.S. drive to contain, capture or kill the Iraqi resistance during the last year has stoked anger among Iraqis. Revelations of the Abu Ghraib torture scandal enraged people across Iraq--but so have the day-to-day operations of U.S. forces. House-to-house military sweeps, body searches of Iraqi women conducted by male soldiers and the killing of civilians at checkpoints are just a few of the injustices suffered by many Iraqis.

When the U.S. does meet resistance, its use of indiscriminate lethal force--such as the strafing of large areas of Baquba by Apache helicopters--has only spurred more people to join the resistance.

WHO MAKES up the resistance?

U.S. OFFICIALS variously blame the armed opposition in Iraq on "foreign fighters," "Saddam loyalists" and "Islamic terrorists." The idea that foreign fighters are responsible for the bulk of the resistance--or even a fraction of it--is easy to dispel.

There are roughly 25,000 resistance fighters participating in actions at least occasionally, according to Juan Cole, a professor of Middle East history at the University of Michigan and an expert on the Iraqi resistance. Cole suspects that, at most, 400 to 500 fighters are from outside Iraq--a tiny number compared to the homegrown Iraqi fighters.

Of those 25,000, a handful may profess loyalty to the now-captured Saddam Hussein. Under Saddam, Sunni Muslims, who make up roughly 20 percent of Iraq's population,

were the most powerful group--while Iraq's Shiite population, which accounts for 60 percent of the population, was largely cut out of economic and political power.

But many resistance fighters in Sunni strongholds such as Falluja aren't really pro-Saddam as much as they are Iraqi nationalists who also identify with other victims of U.S. imperialism, such as Palestinian Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who was assassinated by Israeli forces on March 22.

In fact, the resistance fighters who ambushed and killed the four American mercenaries employed by Blackwater on March 31 in Falluja said their attack was retaliation for Yassin's assassination. The U.S. responded ferociously, surrounding Falluja with barbed wire and laying siege to the city, bombing buildings and sniping at anyone who dared to go outside.

U.S. forces massacred at least 600 people in Falluja--half of them women and children. But the resistance wasn't beaten, and within two weeks, it forced U.S. troops to withdraw to the outskirts of the city.

When U.S. military officials handed power over to a former general in Saddam's army, they tried to act as if the new arrangement was a favorable development. But the truth is that Falluja has become a no-go zone for U.S. troops, and the very resistance fighters who drove out the U.S. now control the city.

This episode--more than any other since the U.S. occupation began--enhanced the prestige of the Iraqi resistance and showed that it was possible to stand up to U.S. forces and win. What's more, the brutality of the U.S. assault on Falluja fostered growing unity between Sunnis and Shiites--something that would have been unthinkable a year or so earlier.

"The [Shiite] neighborhood of Kazimiyah in Baghdad had an old rivalry with its neighbor, the relatively upscale Sunni Azamiyah quarter," Cole wrote in the May issue of *Le Monde Diplomatique*. "But they put their enmity aside to raise a convoy of 60 trucks of relief supplies and headed for Falluja on April 8. Accompanying crowds waved posters of Sheikh Yassin and Moqtada al-Sadr. Hapless U.S. Marines had to let them through."

Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has emerged as the chief resistance leader among Shiites, but--as in the case of Falluja--it was the U.S. assault on Sadr's Mahdi Army that enhanced his prestige and profile, raising him to the level of a national figure. Sadr, whose base of support is in the poor slums around Baghdad, represents one wing of the religious-oriented opposition to the U.S. Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani represents more moderate Shiite opposition forces.

The U.S. has tried to woo Sistani's support with promises of power in the new Iraq, Meanwhile, Washington shut down Sadr's newspaper, issued an arrest warrant for him and ruthlessly tried to kill and isolate his militia. The U.S. decided on a strategy of open confrontation with Sadr the day after Sadr declared on April 2 that "the fate of Iraq and Palestine is the same."

In response, Sadr, who had earlier ordered his militia not to fire on U.S. troops, launched his uprising. This earned Sadr a great deal of respect, even among those who don't favor his brand of Islamic fundamentalism.

"I don't like Moqtada personally," Haidar Abbas, a resident of Sadr City, told the *Washington Post*. "Look at what he's done--gotten a lot of people killed by sending them out against American tanks. But of course, what he says, it's true. What have the Americans brought us? We are worse off than ever. Moqtada wants them out, and who can argue with that?"

WHAT ABOUT the presence of al Qaeda in Iraq?

THE U.S. has recently issued a steady stream of accusations that al-Qaeda operatives loyal to Osama bin Laden are active in Iraq. But the evidence doesn't support this claim. "Bin Laden has a general policy of not putting resources into situations that are already in turmoil," Cole told *Asia Times Online*. "My information is that bin Laden is not interested in Iraq."

Historically, Saddam Hussein's secular regime fiercely opposed bin Laden's Wahhabist current of Islam. If today there are any al-Qaeda forces in Iraq, it's only because U.S. intervention created a fertile terrain for recruitment.

WHAT IS the character of the resistance?

DESPITE THE recent wave of attacks, the level of coordination and centralized command of the resistance is still at a low level. At this stage, the resistance is generally made up of small cells operating independently of one another.

"We're talking about people who are the equivalent of the Minutemen," said Bruce Hoffman, an adviser to U.S. officials in Baghdad--referring to the militias during the American Revolution made up of civilians who could be mobilized on a minute's notice. They pick up their weapons and join the fight, and then go back to their homes and farms. It makes it so fluid. And the media functions as the town crier, like the calls from the minaret."

The U.S. has the best-equipped military in the world for carrying out a frontal assault on a conventional military force, which explains why Saddam's military was defeated so quickly in the weeks after last year's invasion. But fighting a guerrilla force is an entirely different matter.

Combined with the inherent difficulties of battling a resistance that enjoys support from the local population--and that can easily melt away into the population if met with overwhelming force--U.S. officials have also been hobbled by their ignorance of Arab culture and a string of strategic blunders, such as underestimating the Falluja resistance.

Like in other conflicts where an occupying force attempts to crush a homegrown resistance, the U.S. is frustrated by its inability to pinpoint a target. "We can't find...a particular command-and-control structure that leads to one or two or three particular nodes," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz. "But I'm confident there are some leaders who have the wealth to continue...paying people to do business."

The problem for the U.S., however, is that the political goal of privatizing Iraq's economy and making it a showcase of U.S. power has pushed many Iraqi business leaders to back the resistance--in turn, worsening the military problem.

Wealthy Sunnis in Falluja, for example, have funded the resistance because the lifting of restrictions on foreign capital spells economic ruin for them. They realize that the more fierce the resistance is, the less willing that foreign corporations will be to invest in Iraq.

SHOULD WE support Iraqis when they resist the occupation using armed force?

ONE WAY of addressing this question is to recognize that Iraqis have had little choice but to resist using armed force--because the U.S. military has responded to unarmed demonstrations and other forms of political resistance with such brutality. Falluja was the site of one of the first massacres of unarmed demonstrators, when U.S. troops opened fire on people chanting "No to Saddam! No to the U.S.!" killing 17 and wounding 70 more within a few weeks of the invasion.

The right to struggle for self-determination using armed force is a part of international law and widely recognized as a legitimate right for people living under foreign domination. So U.S. officials have tried to demonize Iraqis who resist.

They claim that Iraqi "savages" have no respect for human life and only understand the language of force. Therefore, the U.S. has no alternative but to escalate the violence. "The nature of this culture is you can't win a war of attrition with them," said Col. Robert Abrams. "It's a circle of violence--there will always be someone in the family who will pick up arms. Unless you want to kill too many people, which of course we never want to do."

What a hypocrite! The U.S. has already killed tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians in just the latest stage of a U.S. military and economic war that stretches back to 1990. The total number of Washington's victims in Iraq is well over 1 million. How many more would be "too many"?

In the U.S., July 4 is Independence Day, a celebration of the U.S. war to overthrow British colonial rule. Of course, the American revolutionaries--so beloved of the Bushes and Cheneys and Rumsfelds--used guerrilla resistance methods to drive out the British. In 1775, British Brig. Gen. Hugh Percy wrote to the king that he was, "exasperated at the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels, who scalped and cut off the ears of some of the wounded men who fell into their hands."

Every guerrilla struggle waging a war to drive out a foreign power has tried to sap the will of the would-be occupiers with a combination of speed, mobility, ferocity and the ability blend into the civilian population. U.S. forces can't claim to be acting in self-defense. Their very presence in Iraq is the first blow.

If the Iraqi resistance drives the U.S. out of Iraq, it would be a major setback for Bush's agenda and the agenda of U.S. imperialism. This would be a tremendous victory for our side--making it much more difficult for the U.S. to choose a new target in the Middle East or elsewhere in trying to impose its will.

A U.S. defeat will save countless lives--including the lives of U.S. soldiers who are used by Bush and his corporate backers to fight wars where they risk everything and gain nothing.

The Iraqi resistance to the U.S. is growing in numbers and experience with every passing day. The only question is how long the U.S. will stay before it decides the price is too high--and on what terms it will leave. For the sake of the lives of Iraqis and U.S. soldiers alike, the time to end the occupation and bring the troops home is now.

(Comment:

The reason anti-war soldiers I worked with during the Vietnam War were for the military defeat of the US in Vietnam was because they knew that when a war is lost, the defeated army, theirs, would go home. Simple as that.

The choices were:

1. For the US "winning," which they could see was impossible.
2. Not to favor one side or the other (abstain), which could mean eternal war, since they also could see the Vietnamese would never stop fighting for national independence, or
- 3. For the U.S. being defeated and kicked out as quickly as possible, which meant that huge numbers of Vietnamese and smaller but significant numbers of American soldiers would stop getting maimed and killed.**

They were also very well aware that a U.S. defeat in Vietnam would mean it would be a long time before they or other soldiers would get sent off to another Imperial war, and so it was.

They were right on both counts. The movement against the war at home, and the mass rebellion of the soldiers (see the chapter The GIs Revolt in Jonathan Neale's book The American War) did indeed lead to a crushing U.S. defeat in Vietnam, they did indeed all get to go home, and it took about twenty years to launch another major Imperial adventure.

By the way, since nobody in their right mind wants to get shot in a bad cause, what they did was cut deals below command level with the VC and NVA to pretend to go out on search and destroy, camp out in some high weeds, and sit around all day. It was called "search and evade." Worked just fine. Also contributed mightily to the eventual defeat.

There were people in England who totally were for the US winning 1776-1783 and lots of people in the South who hated slavery and were for the North winning 1861-65. There were Russians who hoped the Hungarians would win in 1956.

Ain't no big thing to be for the right side in a war. The sooner the wrong side loses, the better for all concerned, including the soldiers on both sides as well as the rest of humanity. The problem is getting straight which side that is. T)

"I don't begrudge them. We'd do the same thing if some foreign dudes rolled into San Diego and set up shop." Marine officer on the Fallujah resistance.

In Anger, Ordinary Iraqis Are Joining The Insurgency

June 28, 2004 by Edward Wong, New York Times, BAQUBA, Iraq

At a teahouse in this palm-lined city, jobless men sit on wooden benches talking about killing American soldiers.

"Tell us one benefit they've given us since they've come here," Falah, a 23-year-old man in a shabby checkered shirt, said to an Iraqi reporter.

He boasted about driving a friend to stage attacks on American patrols. The two wait in a farm field by the main road. When the Humvees roll by, his friend fires a rocket-propelled grenade, Falah said. The two hit the ground. The soldiers open fire, but the Iraqis lie still until the patrol leaves.

"I really didn't ask my friend whether they have a boss or not and whether they organize their work or not," he said. "I really don't care as long as I can take part and drive the Americans out of our country. We are all resistance."

As Falah spoke, about a dozen men gathered around him. They nodded vigorously. This was Sunni-dominated Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where the resistance burns as fiercely as anywhere in Iraq.

American commanders concede that they are far from quelling a stubborn and increasingly sophisticated insurgency. **It has extended well beyond Saddam Hussein supporters and foreign fighters, spreading to ordinary Iraqis seething at the occupation and its failures. They act at the grass-roots level, often with little training or direction, but with a zealotry born of anti-colonial ambitions.**

American commanders acknowledge that military might alone cannot defeat the insurgency; in fact, the frequent use of force often spurs resistance by deepening ill will.

"This war cannot be won militarily," said Maj. Gen. John R. S. Batiste, commander of the First Infantry Division, which oversees a swath of the northern Sunni triangle slightly larger than the state of West Virginia. "It really does need a political and economic solution."

American officials say Hussein supporters and foreigners like the Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi are directing some cells and are suspects in the major car bomb attacks and recent beheadings. American officials say Hussein supporters and foreigners like the Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi are directing some cells

But much of the insurgency reflects street-level anger.

Hard-line clerics are attacking the occupation in their sermons and are more popular than ever.

At the teahouse here, a muscular 40-year-old who gave his name as Abu Meshaal said: "We have experts in explosives and bomb making, ex-officers who have experience with such missions. We are everywhere, and we will not stop our work until the last soldier leaves Iraq.

"Each day, I get more enthusiastic when I hear that explosions are taking place here and there, in Baghdad and other provinces," he added.

The total number of insurgents remains unclear, largely because American officials sorely lack reliable human intelligence.

During the broad uprising across Iraq in April, a rare confluence of Sunni Muslim and Shiite Muslim insurgents took place in Baquba, as the Shiite followers of Mr. Sadr tried overrunning government buildings while Sunni fighters battled American forces.

Other groups appear to have moved in since, and the city now harbors a caldron of cells working together, officers say.

The April uprisings woke commanders up to the fact that the nature of the resistance had morphed into a more widespread movement than they had previously thought.

That transformation began in November. As the insurgency appeared to grow in strength that month, the military cracked down hard on supporters of Mr. Hussein. Their role in the insurgency waned, and the nature of the resistance became "a fusion between nationalist and Islamist sentiments among the Sunnis" that allowed leaders to recruit a broader pool of fighters, wrote Ahmed Hashim, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College, in a recent paper on the insurgency.

Professor Hashim, who has interviewed American commanders and insurgents in Iraq, said the anti-occupation movement has "benefited tremendously" from its new populist orientation.

"There is really no way to be charitable about this," he wrote. "From the vantage point of spring 2004, the U.S. has failed at all levels except the tactical military level; which, ironically, is the least important of all the levels in a counterinsurgency campaign."

Here in Baquba, commanders with the First Infantry Division say they face a more formidable foe than the one that confronted their predecessors from the Fourth Infantry Division, which left in March.

"The complexity has changed," said Lt. Col. Steve Bullimore, commander of Task Force 1-6 Field Artillery, responsible for controlling Baquba proper. "The Fourth I.D. was finishing a war, cleaning up the bad guys. While that was happening, the infant insurgency was starting. Now it's more robust."

Commanders in Baquba said they have seen fighters operating recently in squads of about 20 each.

If Americans retaliate with overwhelming firepower, the insurgents simply melt away into the alleyways and farm fields.

In a pitched battle here on Thursday, insurgents set off roadside bombs to paralyze American patrols, then fired on them with AK-47's and rocket-propelled grenades, officers said.

Interpreters for the military regularly receive threatening letters at their homes, and insurgents hand out fliers in the crowded bazaars threatening collaborators.

"They're very good at information operations," said Capt. Travis Van Hecke, an artillery commander here. "People are reluctant to help us."

In short, the insurgents understand that the center of gravity in this war is the support of the people. In Baquba, fighters usually distribute fliers in town hours before an attack, telling people to stay off the streets and close their shops.

"Is there a country that is subjected to occupation, abuse, looting and the stealing of his fortunes and killing of his people, but that when he raises his voice and says, 'No!' it's called terrorism?" Sheik Shehab Ahmed al-Badri, the imam of the main Sunni mosque in Baquba, said in an interview on Friday.

"The reality is that the new government represents the occupation and its desire to stay here," he said. "We want full sovereignty."

U.S. Troops Kill Unarmed Iraqi, Drive Off; Father Vows To Join Resistance

July 7, 2004 *AFP*

AN Iraqi motorist was shot dead by US troops today as he tried to overtake a military convoy, police and witnesses said.

The unidentified man was shunted into a wall by a Humvee and shot three times at close range, according to a witness.

A policeman at the scene said the US troops thought two Iraqis in a burgundy Nissan Concord car had been trying to attack them with grenades. **However, no weapons were found.**

"They thought they were trying to throw a grenade at them so they shot the driver," said Lieutenant Abdul Nehbi Ibrahim.

US soldiers refused to comment and left the scene.

The victim lay in a pool of blood, his face covered with a square piece of blood-soaked cloth, as his distraught father vowed to join the insurgency against the foreign forces in Iraq.

"God curse the Americans!" he shouted.

Relatives at the scene said the victim had been due to get married on Thursday.

Fallujah Fighters Swear To Continue War

Jun. 27, 2004 HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq - As a U.S. spy drone whirs overhead, a bearded militant lurking on a street corner Saturday gave his vision for the days ahead as Iraq regains its sovereignty: "Jihad will not stop until the last American leaves."

"By God, and by God again, all of us would rather die than let them back into the city," the militant, a 26-year-old cleric who gave only his first name, Abdel-Azeem, said of the U.S. Marines stationed near the gates of Fallujah.

"If we run out of ammunition, we will fight them with knives," he said.

On Saturday, Abdel-Azeem and a handful of other mujahedeen -- or holy Muslim warriors, the phrase Fallujah fighters prefer -- mused to a reporter on the occupation, Iraq's future and whether Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is truly behind a series of horrific bombings as the Americans claim -- or whether he exists at all.

Thin and bespectacled, Abdel-Azeem was in black pants and top, over which he wore a green military-type belt. Others wore similar attire. One, a 24-year-old seminary student who gave only his first name, Baha'a, wore a white turban. Everyone carried an assault rifle.

Speaking with zeal as intense as the midday heat -- 110 degrees -- they cited their faith as the main motivator for fighting the Americans and dismissed claims by the U.S. military that al-Zarqawi or members of his group are in Fallujah.

They vowed to fight the Americans and sharply criticized the new interim Iraqi government, calling it an "American creation."

"Who appointed the government? The Americans, right? We hate the Americans, so you can imagine how we feel about those appointed by America," said Wael Sarhan, a 24-year-old barber-turned-fighter, in a separate interview that began over a meal of kebab, rice and cooked vegetables in a busy Fallujah restaurant and continued in a private home.

A U.S. military presence in Fallujah, a conservative city of some 250,000 people, is often cited by the fighters as the main reason behind the insurgency. **In the 14 months since U.S. forces first moved into the city, the only periods of calm came when the Americans stopped patrolling Fallujah.**

"We are happy and safe so long as the Americans stay out of Fallujah," said Sheik Mohammed al-Rawi, a 25-year-old Muslim cleric who teaches at an Islamic school in central Fallujah.

On Saturday, Abdel-Azeem and his comrades warmly waved to Fallujah Brigade patrols that drove past. The area's mukhtar, or mayor, later took the reporter on a tour of the destroyed house that the Americans said was an al-Zarqawi safehouse.

The U.S. military said Saturday that 15 people were killed in Friday's airstrike, but the area's mayor, Hussein Ali, said the house was empty. Its owner, Youssef Kanash, his wife and seven children vacated the house the previous day to move into a safer part of the city, said Ali.

"If this animal is a member of the al-Zarqawi group, then I congratulate the Americans on their victory," said Ali, pointing at the Kanash family pet, a black rabbit lying dead in the front yard.

"Does al-Zarqawi really exist? Or do they just use the name to bomb our homes?" asked Baha'a, the turbaned fighter.

Facts Nail Stupid Bush Lie About Resistance Being "Foreign Fighters";

Jul. 6, 2004 Peter Eisler and Tom Squitieri, USA Today

WASHINGTON - Suspected foreign fighters account for less than 2 percent of the 5,700 captives being held as security threats in Iraq, one of the strongest indications yet that Iraqis are largely responsible for the stubborn anti-U.S. insurgency.

Since last August, coalition forces have detained 17,700 people in Iraq who were considered to be enemy fighters or security risks, and about 400 were foreign nationals, according to figures supplied last week by the U.S. military command handling detention operations in Iraq. Most of those detainees were freed after a review board found they didn't pose significant threats. About 5,700 remain in custody, 90 of them foreign nationals.

The numbers represent one of the most precise measurements to date of the composition of the insurgency and **suggest that some Bush administration officials have overstated the role of foreign holy warriors, or "jihadists," from other Arab states.**

The figures also suggest that Iraq hasn't become as big a magnet for foreign terrorists as some administration critics have asserted.

In Ramadi, where Marines have fended off coordinated attacks by hundreds of insurgents, the fighters "are all locals," said Lt. Col. Paul Kennedy, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. "There are very few foreign fighters."

In February, Dan Senor, a spokesman for the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority, said, "We have seen an influx of foreign fighters that have come into the country since the war because, we believe, the terrorists have declared Iraq the central front in their war."

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Keep Those Weapons Away From Soldiers!

July 3, 2004 By bob (bobo926@verizon.net) (Excerpts)

A friend who was in the U.S. military during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War told me that before President G.H.W. Bush visited the troops in Saudi Arabia, enlisted men and women who would be in Bush's immediate vicinity had their rifle and pistol ammunition taken away from them. This was supposedly done to avoid "accidents." But it was also clear to people on the scene that Bush and his corporate handlers were somewhat afraid of the enlisted people who Bush would soon be killing in his unsuccessful re-election campaign.

The suppressed history of the last big U.S. war of occupation before this one going on now shows that the Commander-in-Chief had good reason to fear and distrust his troops. Our rulers want us to forget what happened during the Vietnam war -- especially what happened inside the U.S. armed forces during the war.

Our rulers remember it all too well. They want us to forget what defeated their war effort, and the importance of resistance to the war by enlisted men and women.

Until 1968 the desertion rate for U.S. troops in Vietnam was lower than in previous wars. But by 1969 the desertion rate had increased fourfold. This wasn't limited to Southeast Asia; desertion rates among G.I.'s were on the increase worldwide.

For soldiers in the combat zone, insubordination became an important part of avoiding horrible injury or death. As early as mid-1969, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, a rifle company from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division flatly refused -- on CBS TV -- to

advance down a dangerous trail. In the following 12 months the 1st Air Cav. notched up 35 combat refusals.

From mild forms of political protest and disobedience of war orders, the resistance among the ground troops grew into a massive and widespread "quasi-mutiny" by 1970 and 1971. Soldiers went on "search and avoid" missions, intentionally skirting clashes with the Vietnamese, and often holding three-day-long pot parties instead of fighting.

By 1970, the U.S. Army had 65,643 deserters, roughly the equivalent of four infantry divisions. In an article published in the Armed Forces Journal (June 7, 1971), **Marine Colonel Robert D. Heintz Jr.**, a veteran combat commander with over 27 years experience in the Marines, and the author of **Soldiers Of The Sea**, a definitive history of the Marine Corps, wrote:

"By every conceivable indicator, our army that remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non-commissioned officers...Sedition, coupled with disaffection from within the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable, infest the Armed Services..."

Heintz cited a New York Times article which quoted an enlisted man saying, "The American garrisons on the larger bases are virtually disarmed. The lifers have taken our weapons away...there have also been quite a few frag incidents in the battalion."

Fragging

"Frag incidents" or "fragging" was soldier slang in Vietnam for the killing of strict, unpopular and aggressive officers and NCO's. The word apparently originated from enlisted men using fragmentation grenades to off commanders. Heintz wrote, "Bounties, raised by common subscription in amounts running anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000, have been widely reported put on the heads of leaders who the privates and SP4s want to rub out. Shortly after the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in mid-1969, the GI underground newspaper Vietnam GI reported that soldiers publicly offered a \$10,000 bounty on Lieutenant Colonel Weldon Hunnicutt, the officer who ordered and led the attack.

"The Pentagon has now disclosed that fraggings in 1970 (209 killings) have more than doubled those of the previous year (96 killings). **Word of the deaths of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units.**"

Congressional hearings on fraggings held in 1973 estimated that roughly 3% of officer and non-com deaths in Vietnam between 1961 and 1972 were a result of fraggings. But these figures were only for killings committed with grenades, and didn't include officer deaths from automatic weapons fire, handguns and knifings. **The Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps estimated that only 10% of fragging attempts resulted in anyone going to trial. In the America I Division, plagued by poor morale, fraggings during 1971 were estimated to be running around one a week. War equipment was frequently sabotaged and destroyed.**

Underground Newspapers

By 1972 roughly 300 anti-war and anti-military newspapers, with names like Harass the Brass, All Hands Abandon Ship and Star Spangled Bumme had been put out by enlisted people. **"In Vietnam," wrote the Ft. Lewis-McCord Free Press, "The Lifers, the Brass, are the true enemy..."** Riots and anti-war demonstrations took place on bases in Asia, Europe and in the United States. **By the early 1970s the government had to begin pulling out of the ground war and switching to an "air war," in part because many of the ground troops who were supposed to do the fighting were hamstringing the world's mightiest military force by their sabotage and resistance.**

Sit Ins and Sabotage

With the shifting over to an "air war" strategy, the Navy became an important centre of resistance to the war. In response to the racism that prevailed inside the Navy, black and white sailors occasionally rebelled together. The most significant of these rebellions took place on board the USS Constellation off Southern California, in November 1972.

In response to a threat of less-than-honorable discharges against several black sailors, a group of over 100 black and white sailors staged a day-and-a-half long sit-in. Fearful of losing control of his ship at sea to full-scale mutiny, the ship's commander brought the Constellation back to San Diego. One hundred thirty-two sailors were allowed to go ashore. They refused orders to reboard the ship several days later, staging a defiant dockside strike on the morning of November 9. In spite of the seriousness of the rebellion, not one of the sailors involved was arrested.

Sabotage was an extremely useful tactic. On May 26, 1970, the USS Anderson was preparing to steam from San Diego to Vietnam. But someone had dropped nuts, bolts and chains down the main gear shaft. A major breakdown occurred, resulting in thousands of dollars worth of damage and a delay of several weeks. Several sailors were charged, but because of a lack of evidence the case was dismissed. **With the escalation of naval involvement in the war the level of sabotage grew. In July of 1972, within the space of three weeks, two of the Navy's aircraft carriers were put out of commission by sabotage. On July 10, a massive fire swept through the admiral's quarters and radar centre of the USS Forrestal, causing over \$7 million in damage. This delayed the ship's deployment for over two months.**

In late July, the USS Ranger was docked at Alameda, California. Just days before the ship's scheduled departure for Vietnam, a paint-scraper and two 12-inch bolts were inserted into the number-four-engine reduction gears causing nearly \$1 million in damage and forcing a three-and-a-half month delay in operations for extensive repairs. The sailor charged in the case was acquitted. **In other cases, sailors tossed equipment over the sides of ships while at sea.**

Rebellion in the Ranks and in the Streets

The House Armed Services Committee summed up the crisis of rebellion in the Navy: "The U.S. Navy is now confronted with pressures...which, if not controlled, will surely destroy its enviable tradition of discipline. Recent instances of sabotage, riot, willful disobedience of orders, and contempt for authority...are clear-cut symptoms of a dangerous deterioration of discipline."

The rebellion in the ranks didn't emerge simply in response to battlefield conditions. A civilian anti-war movement in the U.S. had emerged on the coat tails of the civil rights movement, at a time when the pacifism-at-any-price tactics of civil rights leaders had reached their effective limit, and were being questioned by a younger, combative generation.

Working class blacks and Latinos served in combat units out of all proportion to their numbers in American society, and major urban riots in Watts, Detroit and Newark had an explosive effect on the consciousness of these men. After the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. major riots erupted in 181 U.S. cities; at that point the rulers of the United States were facing the gravest national crisis since the Civil War. And the radical movement of the late 1960's wasn't limited to the United States. **Large-scale rebellion was breaking out all over the world, in Latin American and Europe and Africa, and even against the Maoists in China; its high point was the wildcat general strike that shut down France in May, 1968, the last time a major industrialized democracy came close to social revolution.**

The crisis that racked American society during the Vietnam war was a grave development in the life of what had been a very stable and conservative society, but it wasn't profound enough to create an irreparable rupture between the rulers and the ruled. In the early 1970's, the U.S. was still coasting on the relative prosperity of the post-World War Two economic boom.

Social conditions faced by working people in the U.S. weren't anywhere near as overwhelming and unbearable as they are now. U.S. involvement in a protracted ground war in Iraq today or Columbia tomorrow could have a much more rapid explosive impact on American society.

Most Effective "Anti-war" Movement in History: WWI

A number of years ago, in a deceitful article in Mother Jones magazine, corporate liberal historian Todd Gitlin claimed that the peaceful and legal aspects of the 1960s U.S. anti-war movement had been the most successful opposition to a war in history. Gitlin was dead wrong; as a bourgeois historian, Gitlin is paid to render service unto capital by getting it wrong, and get it wrong he does, again and again.

The most effective "anti-war" movement in history was at the end of World War One, when proletarian revolutions broke out in Russia, Germany and throughout Central Europe in 1917 and 1918. A crucial factor in the revolutionary movement of that time was the collapse of the armies and navies of Russian and Germany in full-scale armed mutiny. After several years of war and millions of casualties the soldiers and sailors of opposing nations began to fraternize with each other, turned their guns against their commanding officers and went home to fight against the ruling classes that had sent them off to war. The war ended with a global cycle of mutinies mirroring the social unrest spreading across the capitalist world; some of the most powerful regimes on Earth were quickly toppled and destroyed.

Soldiers and sailors played a leading role in the revolutionary movement. The naval bases Kronstadt in Russia and Kiel and Wilhelmshaven in Germany became important centers of revolutionary self-organization and action, and the passing of vast numbers of

armed soldiers and sailors to the side of the Soviets allowed the working class to briefly take power in Russia.

The French invasion of Revolutionary Russia in 1919 and 1920 was crippled by the mutiny of the French fleet in the Black Sea, centered around the battleships France and the Jean Bart. Mutinies broke out among sailors in the British Navy and in the armies of the British Empire in Asia, and even among American troops sent to aid the counter-revolutionary White Army in the Russian Civil War. **Revolutionary unrest doesn't happen every day, but when it does break out, it can overcome the most powerful states with a surprising and improbable speed, and the collapse of the repressive forces of the state is a key moment in the beginning of a new way of life.**

With the U.S. governments' self-appointed role as the cop for global capitalist law and order, it's likely that the crisis that will cause an irreparable break between the rulers and the ruled in the United States will be the result of an unsuccessful war. That day may soon be upon us.

What set of circumstances can compel the inchoate discontentment endemic in any wartime army or navy to advance to the level of conscious, organized resistance? How can rebels in uniform take effective, large-scale action against the military machine?

This effort will involve...an irreversible breakdown in the chain-of-command, and a terminal demoralization of the officer corps. The "quasi-mutiny" that helped defeat the U.S. in Vietnam offers a significant precedent.

"Operation Urban Warrior" in Oakland, California

As rampaging market forces trash living conditions for the majority of the world's people, working class troops will do the fighting in counter-insurgency actions against other working class people. War games several years ago by the Marines in a defunct housing project in Oakland, California, dubbed 'Operation Urban Warrior,' highlight the fact that America's rulers want their military to be prepared to suppress the domestic fallout from their actions, and be ready to do it soon.

But as previous waves of global unrest have shown, the forces that give rise to mass rebellion in one area of the globe will simultaneously give rise to rebellion in other parts of the world. The armed forces are vulnerable to social forces at work in the larger society that spawns them. Revolt in civilian society bleeds through the fabric of the military into the ranks of enlisted people.

The relationship between officers and enlisted people mirrors the relationship between bosses and employees, and similar dynamics of class conflict emerge in the military and civilian versions of the workplace. The military is never a hermetically sealed organization. Our rulers know all this. Our rulers know that they are vulnerable to mass resistance, and they know that their wealth and power can be collapsed from within by the working class women and men whom they depend on. We need to know it, too.

Much of the information for this article has been taken from the book *Soldiers in Revolt: The American Military Today*, by David Cortright & Max Watts, published by Anchor/Doubleday in 1975.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:** <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

War Spending Close To Vietnam Levels

6.21.04 By JOHN YAUKEY, The News-Press Washington Bureau

The \$4.4 billion a month the Pentagon estimates Americans are spending to secure and rebuild Iraq shows no sign of ratcheting down.

By comparison, the monthly cost is approaching that of the Vietnam War, which ran the inflation-adjusted equivalent of \$5.15 billion per month.

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