

GI SPECIAL 2#B48

THEY'RE NOT SCARED ANYMORE. TIME TO COME HOME



(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

"The War Is Not Worth It Now. We Need To Get The Hell Out Of There." Vietnam Vet Buries Son Killed In Iraq

August 31, 2004 BOISE, Idaho (Reuters)

Tom Titus experienced the shock of watching his best friend die in his arms during the Vietnam War in 1971.

On Monday, the ex-Army Ranger felt the even greater horror of burying his only son Brandon, 20, killed on August 17 by an explosion while patrolling a Baghdad slum.

Pfc. Titus, who served as a gunner on a Humvee, became the first person buried in the new Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

The story of Brandon Titus is especially poignant because of his father's public anguish and an eloquent note the soldier left behind in the case of his death.

"You wanted me to be proud of you," an emotional Tom Titus, wearing his medals on his vest, said in his eulogy. "I just want to say to my child that this is the proudest dad in the whole world."

Tom Titus barely made it out of Vietnam alive after being wounded twice. In a 1971 incident, a mortar round in the jungle left the decorated soldier without sight in one eye. It took six months in a hospital to reconstruct his face.

Many of his "brothers in arms" wore leather biker jackets to Monday's funeral and more than 100 motorcycles rode in the procession.

Paul Revere, lead singer of the 1960s rock band Paul Revere and the Raiders, gave a eulogy and a member of his band sang a song in the service that had Tom Titus sobbing behind his hands. "If you ever think of me, think of all your liberties and recall, some gave it all," sang Omar Martinez.

Brandon grew up with his divorced father from age 13 amid a legacy of military service, a family tradition for many generations.

"He was a proud man that spoke highly of his father Tom, a veteran himself. Brandon just wanted to live up to the Titus name," Spc. Dave Huval, a member of Titus' squad, wrote in a message from Iraq posted to an Internet tribute page.

Before going off to war, Brandon left a computer disk with a message entitled, "My Time has Come," to be read only if he did not return from Iraq. Tom Titus broke down in tears when he read it aloud.

"I learned a lot from my dad and I wanted to be like him. I wanted to do something that would truly make him proud of me," he said in that message.

In many ways, Titus was a typical American kid, a football player and high school wrestler who shared his dad's passion for motorcycles. Resident of a strongly Republican state, he felt the need to give back to his country.

"When I was in high school I was against any type of war or occupation of another country and I was ignorant to think the United States government was a bunch of B.S," Brandon Titus wrote.

"When Sept. 11 happened, my opinion of this country changed very quickly. ... Things hit home when I watched a plane filled with innocent people crash into a building killing them all because of some coward terrorists who live in caves who thought they could divide America by doing this."

Brandon's enlistment two years ago upset his father, who exchanged sharp words with both his son and the army recruiter. Amid his grief, the father has now turned against the war.

"I shouldn't be burying him, he should be burying me," he said in a sometimes tearful interview. "The war is not worth it now. We need to get the hell out of there."

ASSHOLE WHO SHOULD HAVE DIED INSTEAD OF PFC TITUS, BUT DIDN'T



Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Joseph Repya gestures and holds up a 'Support Our Troops,' bumper sticker at the Republican National Convention Aug. 30. (AP Photo/Jacqueline Larma)

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Mississippian Killed In Convoy Attack

Aug. 31, 2004 Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. - A Mississippi native who was medic of the 5th Special Forces Group was killed Monday in an attack on his convoy in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Aaron Holleyman, 27, died when his vehicle hit a land mine, his grandmother, Sylvia Carpenter of Monticello, told the Enterprise-Journal on Tuesday.

Holleyman was the father of three children, ages 5, 3 and 1. Sylvia Carpenter said the children live in Fayetteville, N.C., with their mother.

Wife Tells Of Guardsman's Injury

August 31, 2004 By Howard Yune, Staff Writer, Southwest Oregon Publishing Company

"He told me to sit down," Cheryl Amling said of the telephone call that awakened her in the early morning hours of Aug. 21.

The call came from her husband, Sgt. Harold Amling, an Oregon National Guard member, deployed to Iraq in April with the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion of the 162nd Infantry Division.

He was in a Baghdad hospital bed, wounded over much of his body after being caught in a mortar attack.

Cheryl Amling described the attack that overtook her husband and another Army soldier at their base in Baghdad.

The two were making the rounds of the base, driving a gasoline tanker and refilling the compound's various generators. Suddenly they heard the roar of mortars - then, suddenly, all went dark for Sgt. Amling. Awakening on the ground, he rose and stumbled toward the nearest bunker, filled with other soldiers and three Iraqi base workers, who quickly saw something was not right with him.

"The soldiers saw a pool of blood around his foot," Cheryl said. Ripping away fabric from his pants, they tore their shirts to strips and improvised a tourniquet to save his bleeding leg. Then they hunkered down again, waiting for other infantry members to destroy the enemy mortar before carrying Sgt. Amling to an Army helicopter, which whisked him to an Army hospital nearby.

The mortar assault left him with a broken arm, severed fingertip (later reattached by surgeons) and shrapnel wounds from ankle to hip.

"After the first conversation," she added resolutely, "I knew I couldn't fall apart on him. He knew he was injured; he didn't need a wife crying on the phone."

Sgt. Amling is expected to spend the next one to three months in the hospital, according to Maj. Arnold Strong, an Oregon National Guard spokesman who attended the Friday

conference. Strong added he would petition the Army to have the guardsman, who remains in Germany, transferred to the military hospital at Fort Lewis, Wash., the base nearest the Oregon Coast.

In a career that has included eight years with the National Guard and a decade on active duty with the Navy, Amling's current tour has been by far the most dangerous from the very first day in Iraq, when a fellow soldier from Hermiston lost a leg after insurgents attacked the battalion with rocket-propelled grenades. Five members of 2-162 have died and 19 others have been injured during the war, according to Strong.

Nonetheless, Cheryl Amling predicted her husband, a Menasha firefighter and tree planter in civilian life, will sign up next spring for another one-year term with the National Guard and possibly stay at least until 2007.

Despite his injuries, she added, Harold's spirit remains unbowed, resilient enough to indulge in some humor even at the hospital.

"His spirits are so high, he's even joking," she said. "Even got himself out of bed and hobbled down to the Burger King (on the ground floor of the hospital)."

Suddenly chuckling, she added: "Said he hadn't had a burger in so long and it sounded good!"

Nobody Mentioned That Before

Aug. 31, 2004 By PATRICK PETERSON, Mississippi Herald-Sun.com

Seabees in Iraq have been busy working to build fortifications and improve the quality of life for Marines stationed near the city of Fallujah. **Their most recent project was repairing Camp Fallujah's water pump, which was damaged for the third time by an enemy rocket.**

Sovereign Iraq Just As Deadly To U.S. Forces: Attacks Increasing, Resistance Taking Control; 120,000 In "Hard-Core" Resistance Now

(Although loaded with pro-Bush bullshit, like the silly nonsense in the headline and story about ‘Sovereign’ Iraq, a careful read between the lines reveals the story of a failed occupation and a lost war. Iraqis are winning their battle against Bush’s efforts to turn their country into the private property of the corporations that own and control the U.S. government.)

August 31, 2004 By Patrick J. McDonnell, LA Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD -- Two months after the U.S. handed sovereignty back to Iraq amid hopes of reduced violence, more than 110 U.S. troops have been killed **and much of the country remains hostile territory. The toll of U.S. dead since the war began last year is fast approaching 1,000.**

Although attention in recent weeks has focused on Najaf, where U.S. forces battled Shiite Muslim militiamen, most of the deadly confrontations for American troops in newly independent Iraq have occurred in the Baghdad area and the so-called Sunni Triangle to the north and west.

Nationwide, U.S. forces are being attacked 60 times per day on average, up 20% from the three-month period before the hand-over.

Ubiquitous graffiti denouncing the continued occupation indicate that insurgents see little change in their enemy — U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies.

Although U.S. authorities did not expect casualties to plummet immediately after the transfer of power June 28, American, Iraqi and international officials expressed optimism that restoring sovereignty and officially ending the U.S. occupation would curb the violence. **(Gee, maybe the problem is there was no restoration of sovereignty and the U.S. occupation goes on and on and on.)**

But many of the underlying grievances that have stoked the insurgency, such as the presence of U.S. troops and the slow pace of reconstruction, remain. The number of fighters — including loyalists of former President Saddam Hussein, religious militants and others dissatisfied enough to take up a gun or plant a bomb — shows no sign of decreasing.

"There was a government in South Vietnam all those years ago, and we lost a lot of people back there," noted U.S. Army Col. Dana Pittard of the 1st Infantry Division in Baqubah, a zone of conflict northeast of the capital.

July and August rank among the deadliest months for U.S. forces in Iraq this year.

In August so far, 63 U.S. troops have died, and 54 died in July, the first complete month after the hand-over of power. In June, 42 American troops died, according to Associated Press and the Pentagon.

"We're losing more people because the resistance is just firing more shots at us," said Michael O'Hanlon, a military analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington who supported the decision to go to war. "They are just hitting us

hard and everywhere. The reason they are effective is because they just have more people shooting at us."

Pittard in Baqubah, like many field commanders, is openly skeptical of official U.S. estimates of the insurgency's size. He puts the hard-core support at about one half of 1% of the Iraqi population of 24 million — or about 120,000.

(Note well: accepted insurgency doctrine calls for a ratio of 10 to 1 to put down an insurgency with popular support. That means short of putting 1,200,000 troops into Iraq, more than were in Vietnam, there is not the slightest possibility of the U.S. winning. And that means that every death of every U.S. troop is utterly pointless, useless, and completely in vain. And the politicians know it. And they just keep it going to save their political hides. The real enemy combatants run the government in Washington DC.)

Government ministers must travel with bodyguards and vary their daily routes. The government itself meets inside the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad, protected by U.S. tanks and machine-gun nests.

"Not to be callous, but this is war. People get hurt," said Maj. Douglas Ollivant, operations officer of the Army's 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, in Najaf. **"Once you start a war, you don't know where it's going to end. The enemy has a vote."**

Much of the goodwill once enjoyed by U.S. forces among Iraq's Shiite majority — which was repressed during the rule of Hussein, a Sunni — has evaporated.

The city of Samarra, north of Baghdad, has joined Fallouja as basically a no-go zone for U.S. troops and a sanctuary for insurgents.

In the northern city of Mosul — a longtime stronghold of Hussein's Baath Party once heralded as an occupation success story — there are almost daily attacks and frequent bombings.

"Of course, the hope is to put the Iraqis out front — we're just not there yet," a senior Army official in Washington said. "This is going to take a really long time."

(No, it's not going to "take a really long time" because the troops won't stand for much more of this bullshit. Like in Vietnam, where the troops rebelled, killed their officers wholesale, and stopped the war, the troops also have a vote. So far, it's not been cast. Keep this shit up and it will be, bigtime.)

War Reports; Resistance Point Of View

Translated and/or compiled by Muhammad Abu Nasr, member editorial board The Free Arab Voice

Thursday, 26 August 2004.

**Four Americans killed in Resistance attack on fuel tankers west of Baghdad
Thursday morning.**

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a US column on Thursday morning west of Baghdad on the road to Abu Ghurayb, according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam. The attack, which occurred at exactly 10:00am, destroyed two fuel tank trucks destroyed and killed four American soldiers who had been aboard the vehicles.

Two US soldiers killed in Resistance bombing in al-Qa'im.

Three Iraqi Resistance bombs exploded next to a US patrol in the city of al-Qa'im on the border with Syria, according to a Thursday afternoon report from the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam. One of the bombs exploded towards the rear of the American column of footsoldiers and killed two of them.

Second bombing in al-Qa'im Thursday kills three US troops.

According to the local correspondent for Mafkarat al-Islam, at least three American soldiers were killed on Thursday when an Iraqi Resistance bomb exploded as their foot patrol was passing near the gasoline station located across from the customs post in al-Qa'im on the border with Syria. The blast followed the earlier bombing that killed two other American troops in the same city.

Eight American troops killed in Resistance ambush of US patrol guarding the highway to Abu Ghurayb.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked an American aggressor patrol guarding the highway to the Abu Ghurayb area on Thursday evening. The local correspondent for Mafkarat al-Islam reported that immediately after the rocket-propelled grenade assault by the Resistance, a gun battle broke out between them and the US forces. In the course of the fighting one US armored vehicle and a Humvee were destroyed.

A source in the puppet police of Abu Ghurayb told the correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam that eight US soldiers were killed in the Resistance attack – three of them aboard the Humvee and five in the armored vehicle.

Resistance bombards US base south of Baghdad.

Iraqi Resistance forces mounted a violent barrage on the US as-Suqur ("Hawks") camp located south of Baghdad and north of al-Yusufiyah on the al-Mahmudiyah highway. A Baghdad correspondent for Mafkarat al-Islam reported Thursday afternoon that more than 20 mortar shells and five Katyusha rockets slammed into the American base.

Jaysh al-Mahdi still holding firm in an-Najaf despite US offensive.

Despite a ferocious US offensive on their positions, the Jaysh al-Mahdi militia defending an-Najaf was still holding together late Thursday afternoon according to reports reaching Mafkarat al-Islam. The Jaysh al-Mahdi has been fighting fiercely despite an overwhelming sense that the impending visit by the US-inclined Shi'i religious authority 'Ali as-Sistani to the city will bring dire consequences for them.

News reports coming from an-Najaf indicated on Thursday night that representatives of Muqtada as-Sadr and 'Ali as-Sistani appeared to be close to an agreement in the talks they have been carrying on since mid-day Thursday. The local correspondent of

Mafkarat al-Islam revealed that differences remained over secure passage for the departure of the Jaysh al-Mahdi militiamen from the area of the shrines in the as-Sahn al-Haydari area.

Nevertheless, the US troops despite the massive use of air strikes and illegal weapons were unable to make any substantial advances towards the area of the shrines before fighting came to a halt in the early afternoon, upon the arrival of pro-US Shi'i authority 'Ali as-Sistani in the city. The Americans were only able to score some advances in the area of the old city.

In a press conference Thursday night, in Baghdad, the puppet so-called "minister of state," Qasim Dawud, announced that the US-installed "Iraqi" regime had accepted the plan to end the siege of an-Najaf agreed upon by representatives of Muqtada as-Sadr and 'Ali as-Sistani. constituted the puppet regime's permission for that movement to go ahead.

US intelligence files on Saddam Hussein, on Iraqi collaborators, and on US spies in Iraq stolen from "green zone."

In a report posted at 9:10pm Mecca time Thursday night, the correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam wrote that the employees of a department in the so-called "green zone" – the nickname given by the American aggressors to the Iraqi Republican palace that they have occupied as their headquarters – awoke with a shock last Tuesday to find that their building was on fire.

The fire affected an area containing all the files and papers pertaining to the work of the US intelligence services inside Iraq. Curiously, however, the Americans discovered that several specific collections of documents had disappeared or were stolen just before the outbreak of the fire. These consisted of the materials relating to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the files that concerned Iraqi agents working for the US occupation, and files that reveal the work of US intelligence inside Iraq.

The correspondent reported that following the disappearance of the vitally important files and until the time of writing, American intelligence officers have been intensively investigating the employees of the "green zone" to find out who may have carried out the operation.

Friday, 27 August 2004.

Resistance fire downs Chinook transport helicopter over al-Fallujah.

Iraqi Resistance forces in al-Fallujah Friday night shot down a huge American Chinook helicopter, according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. The downing took place at 11:45pm Baghdad time. The helicopter was carrying US equipment – Humvees or armored vehicles – and was about to land these vehicles in the industrial zone of al-Fallujah when the Resistance rocket knocked the craft out of the sky.

In his report posted at 11:50pm Mecca time, the correspondent wrote that fire was still blazing in the wreckage of the massive helicopter. Such aircraft can carry three vehicles.

Fierce fighting in al-Fallujah Friday night.

Violent fighting erupted Friday night between the Iraqi Resistance in al-Fallujah and the US aggressor troops. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the fighting broke out at about 11:35pm Baghdad time and spread to the al-'Askari neighborhood and the industrial zone.

In a report posted at 11:20pm Mecca time Friday night, the correspondent wrote that fighting was still raging in the area and that the sound of artillery shells exploding behind US lines could be heard, apparently the result of Resistance mortar fire.

US halts offensive on al-Fallujah as of Thursday morning.

US aggressor troops halted their assault on the defiant city of al-Fallujah on Thursday morning after receiving painful counter blows from the Iraqi Resistance defenders of the city, according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. In a report posted at 12:45pm Friday afternoon Mecca time, the correspondent wrote that there had been no more US attacks on the city since Thursday morning. The only exception to this was one rocket that the Americans fired at a private house in the al-'Askari neighborhood. Other than that, the correspondent wrote, the situation is calm and no concentrations of US forces can be seen except in the area of as-Saqlawiyah.

Resistance forces had in fact been anticipating some sort of US offensive for several weeks and had begun to prepare for it by striking at the Americans' supply lines for two weeks.

Two US troops killed Wednesday when al-Fallujah Resistance shoots down Apache helicopter.

Iraqi Resistance fighters in al-Fallujah shot down a US Apache helicopter over the agricultural area north east of the city on Wednesday morning. The al-Fallujah correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Friday afternoon that on Wednesday morning the Resistance had fired a rocket at the chopper bringing it down and killing two Americans aboard.

The ease with which the al-Fallujah Resistance brings down helicopters has prompted the US side to rely more and more on fixed-wing F-16 and F-18 fighterbombers in their assaults on the defiant city.

Iraqi police: US lost 53 dead in failed assault on al-Fallujah Wednesday.

More than 53 US troops were killed on Wednesday afternoon, 25 August 2004, in the fierce battle that raged between them and the Iraqi Resistance south of al-Fallujah, **according to sources in the local Iraqi police** who spoke to a correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* in the city.

The reporter himself saw that an Iraqi Resistance bomb destroyed one tank and a rocket-propelled grenade fired by the Resistance destroyed an American armored vehicle. Three transports loaded with US troops were set ablaze in the course of the fighting.

Resistance sharpshooters pick off four US troops near al-Fallujah on Wednesday.

Iraqi Resistance sharpshooters killed four US troops on Wednesday after they emerged from the US base in al-Habbaniyah, northwest of al-Fallujah, according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. Iraqi Resistance snipers played a major role in throwing back the US offensive on that city.

Iraqi Resistance blows up US weapons storage depot near al-Fallujah.

Iraqi Resistance forces in al-Fallujah destroyed an American storehouse for heavy weapons and light arms in the US “Tariq” Camp east of al-Fallujah, according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*, whose reports are now able to get out of the city after the Americans called off their intended assault. The attack inflicted a major setback on US aggressor troops since the storage facility was intended for use in the offensive against al-Fallujah. The correspondent reported eyewitnesses as saying that the fires blazed continuously in the storage area for some 10 hours after the Resistance attack.

Resistance bomb kills three US troops near al-Fallujah Thursday night.

An Iraqi Resistance bomb exploded next to a US foot patrol accompanied by a Humvee in the al-BuSaddah area of al-Fallujah on Thursday evening, according to the al-Fallujah correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. The blast killed three US footsoldiers and wounded eight others in addition to knocking the Humvee out of commission.

Massive Resistance ambush north of al-Karmah leaves 30 Americans dead.

Thirty US aggressor troops were killed when the Iraqi Resistance ambushed their column of Humvees Thursday morning north of al-Karmah. **The correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Karmah reported that local residents who saw the attack said that about 150 Resistance fighters attacked the US column, destroying eight Humvees and killing 30 US soldiers. The fact that the Resistance massed a relatively large number of fighters for the attack made the Americans relatively easy prey, particularly since at the beginning of the engagement, the US troops drove into a mine field on the side of the road, allowing the Resistance to shower them with rocket-propelled grenades.**

Three US troops killed in Resistance bombing in al-Qa'im.

An Iraqi Resistance bomb exploded under a US foot patrol on the road west of al-Qa'im near the Customs post area at 6:00pm Baghdad time Friday night. Al-Qa'im is located on the Iraqi-Syrian border. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that a massive explosion resulted from the detonation of the bomb, killing three US troops and wounding six others.

Resistance bomb destroys Humvee, kills five US troops in Hit.

An Iraqi Resistance bomb exploded near the US base in Hit, west of Baghdad, at about 10:30pm Baghdad time Friday night. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that a US Humvee exploded after it passed over the bomb near the US base. The force of the blast flipped the vehicle over. The Humvee was totally destroyed and five US troops aboard it were killed in the direct hit.

US arrests puppet police force chief in Hit.

US occupation forces on Friday arrested Major General Hamid Salam ‘Abdallah, the chief of the puppet police force in the city of Hit, western Iraq. Al-Jazeera

satellite TV reported that a number of policemen from the city came out to demonstrate in protest against the arrest and to demand his release.

US forces failed to disclose any reasons for the police chief's arrest, and it is reported that the US has arrested numerous of the local commanders of the puppet police force out of doubts regarding their loyalty to the US invaders. **In many cases the police forces installed by the US have wound up supporting the Iraqi Resistance.**

Iraqi Resistance destroys US military plane at Saddam International Airport. Iraqi Resistance forces fired two powerful Grad rockets at the US base at Saddam International Airport at 12:30pm Friday, Baghdad time. One of the rockets struck and destroyed a US aircraft parked on the runway and damaged two others, according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. Immediately following the attack, US forces deployed quickly and in strength throughout the area around the facility. The American aggressor forces fired several heat-seeking rockets, each one 1.75 to 2 meters in length at positions from where they thought the Resistance had launched the Grads.

A *Mafkarat al-Islam* correspondent was told by an employee at the airport that he saw "with his own eyes" at close range one American plane totally burned up with smoke rising from it and two others heavily damaged. He could confirm that all three planes were American, but could not say for certain what type of aircraft they were.

Nine Mossad agents killed

Nine members of the Zionist Mossad secret police were killed when the Iraqi Resistance attacked them with light arms. The Resistance fighters, riding a GMC vehicle, drove past the Zionists on the Airport Road in the al-'Amil neighborhood in the south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad. The Baghdad correspondent of **Mafkarat al-Islam** reported that only one of the Mossad agents survived the attack and he was wounded severely.

Mafkarat al-Islam reports that **apparently someone working inside the US headquarters in what the Americans call the "green zone" tipped off the Resistance as to the identity of the Zionist agents.** Most Zionist Mossad agents in Iraq work out of the "green zone," as the US aggressors make use of the Zionists to assist them in their actions against the Resistance, since the Americans believe that the Mossad has useful experience in suppressing the Palestinian Resistance.

Resistance attacks fuel tanker near al-Yusufiyah killing two personnel.

Iraqi Resistance forces on Friday attacked and destroyed a fuel tank truck belonging to the US aggressor forces on the International Highway north of al-Yusufiyah. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the attack was carried out at about 2:15 Baghdad time, and left the truck driver and his companion in the vehicle dead in addition to totally destroying the oil truck.

Jaysh al-Mahdi withdraws from Shi'i shrine area in an-Najaf, a few US vehicles move away.

Early Friday Shi'i religious leader Muqtada as-Sadr ordered his followers inside the Mausoleum of the Imam 'Ali ibn Abi Talib in an-Najaf to lay down their weapons and to join up with thousands of Shi'i believers who had gathered in the area of the shrine,

according to a peace plan to which he and representatives of Shi'i religious authority 'Ali as-Sistani worked out on Thursday.

Later on Friday, a spokesman for 'Ali as-Sistani announced that Muqtada as-Sadr's forces had handed over the keys to the tomb of the Imam 'Ali in an-Najaf. As-Sadr spokesman Ahmad ash-Shaybani said, however, that the Jaysh al-Mahdi would hide their weapons, not turn them over to the puppet police or puppet "Iraqi" army, according to Agence France Presse (AFP). He said that the Jaysh al-Mahdi remains.

A puppet police spokesman in an-Najaf said that three places had been designated for weapons to be turned over, but that no one had come to those places to do so.

Saturday, 28 August 2004.

US air raid kills one, wounds 13 others in al-Fallujah.

Five US troops killed as Resistance blows up three US tank trucks near al-Fallujah.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Fallujah reported Saturday night that Resistance fighters in the area had been attacking US supply lines on Saturday and in one instance set three American oil tank trucks and one US military truck ablaze. All were bringing supplies to the US forces north of the al-'Askari neighborhood of the city. At least five US troops were killed in the attack.

Resistance bomb kills four US troops on al-Furat Street in Baghdad Saturday.

Iraqi Resistance forces destroyed one Humvee and knocked another out of action on al-Furat (Euphrates) Street in the al-Jihad neighborhood in Baghdad on Saturday according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. Four US troops were killed in the attack in which the Resistance used a high-explosive bomb.

Resistance kills two US troops in ambush on Hayfa Street in Baghdad.

Two American troops were killed along with their Iraqi collaborator translator, and seven other American invader soldiers were wounded when the Resistance attacked their convoy and left one Humvee a burning wreck. Another vehicle was knocked out of commission in the attack that took place on Hayfa Street according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*.

Fierce fighting in al-Yusufiyah south of Baghdad.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that fierce fighting erupted Saturday evening in the al-Yusufiyah area between the Resistance and US aggressors, after the Resistance ambushed US troops returning from an-Najaf.

The correspondent reported that the Resistance fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades and BKC rockets as well as mortars at the Americans. In his dispatch posted at 11:03pm Mecca time Saturday night, the correspondent wrote that the fighting was still underway. Earlier, six US troops were killed when a number of Resistance bombs exploded as American vehicles were passing through the area.

TROOP NEWS

Hurt Soldiers Trapped By Army Bureaucratic Bullshit

8.31.04 ANDREW KRAMER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LEWIS -- About a dozen Oregon National Guard soldiers say they languished for months at Fort Lewis because the Army lacked a protocol to allow them to return to Oregon to convalesce.

The soldiers also waited hours for doctor appointments, were forced to fill out confusing paperwork and faced months of delays with benefits, they told Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, acting adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard, on Monday.

"I feel that the system is lacking all common guidance," said Sgt. William Harris. "I don't have anything to fall back on. There's nothing for me here on the inside, and nothing on the outside."

Guard officials concede the soldiers, some of whom had only slight injuries, could have returned to their families, perhaps commuting to a base or a clinic for care.

The problem arose from an oversight in the Army's war planning, which failed to anticipate the large number of wounded soldiers returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Col. Douglas Eliason, chief medical officer with the Oregon Guard.

From Oregon, 49 National Guard soldiers are convalescing from wounds at Army bases around the country -- some because they need specialized care for severe injuries, but **many because the Army had no system to allow them to return home.**

Of the Oregon soldiers treated at active duty bases, 39 were wounded in Iraq. Twenty-six of them are at Fort Lewis.

Bush Says Families Of Dead Troops Want More War;

Poll Shows Bush A Disgusting Lying Piece Of Shit (But We Knew That)

President Bush has been quietly meeting with families of troops killed in Iraq.

Karl Rove, Bush's chief political strategist, said they want reassurance from the president of the United States that their loved one will not have died in vain," urging the president to "stay the course, finish the mission, don't let my son or daughter be dishonored by coming up short."

A Quinnipiac University survey two weeks ago, meanwhile, indicated that Pennsylvania veterans and military families overwhelmingly oppose the war: 54 percent to 31 percent.

Veterans and military families are generally more conservative than voters at large. But the war in Iraq has changed conventional wisdom about military voting patterns, said University of Florida law professor Diane H. Mazur, a former Air Forcer officer.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

Fresh Victims For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse; Minnesota Guardsmen Get Iraq Orders

8/31/2004 KARE-11

More Minnesota Army National Guardsmen are headed to Iraq.

The First Battalion of the 151st Field Artillery received its mobilization orders over the weekend. About 500 troops are affected.

The first group is set to begin active duty on September 17th.

September eleventh has been selected as the official send-off day for a group of the soldiers. B-Battery is part of the group that will mobilize on September 17th.

Officials say a full day of activities is planned to honor the soldiers and their families. The public can purchase tickets for a banquet and a dance. Tickets are available at the Renville County Veterans Office in Olivia.

The troops will be mobilized at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where they will undergo two to three months of training.

MORE:

Marines Leave for Iraq

8/31/2004 Bay City TV, San Diego, Calif.

About 300 Marines and sailors from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment will leave Tuesday for service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, base officials said.

Friends and family will have an opportunity to say good-bye to the contingent during a ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. at the base, Camp Pendleton officials said.

The contingent is scheduled to be deployed for about seventh months in the Persian Gulf, Camp Pendleton officials said.

Murderous Thug In Marine Uniform Really Just Another Scumbag Prison Guard

(San Diego Union-Tribune, August 31, 2004)

Gary Pittman worked as a jail guard in New York City long before he was sent to Iraq with the Marine Corps reserves. **According to testimony at his court-martial at Camp Pendleton, Calif., he beat prisoners for no reason other than to make sure they knew who was in command. Pittman is charged with assault in the death of an Iraqi prisoner of war.**

Prisoner Scandal May Claim Four US Army Generals' Careers

(wsj.com, August 30, 2004)

The Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal could effectively end the careers of four Army generals who are linked indirectly to the misconduct but face no criminal charges. The four are singled out for varying degrees of criticism -- mixed with instances of praise -- in two comprehensive investigative reports released last week. **The most senior of the four, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, already has been passed over for promotion** to a four-star slot as chief of the Southern Command because of an expectation by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that Sanchez would face trouble in a Senate confirmation hearing.

Air Force Report Finds Widespread Sex Assault At Bases

(Dallas Morning News, August 31, 2004)

The sexual assault problem in the Air Force is more widespread than officials first thought, and addressing it will require major institutional changes, according to a report by an Air Force team that investigated the situation. After studying 85 installations in the United States and overseas, the investigators found that many rapes were not reported because victims feared they would be disciplined and that response programs for victims were inadequate.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Najaf: The Balance Sheet: Mahdi Army Members Say They're Ready To Fight Again

August 31, 2004 By Mariam Fam, Associated Press & August 31st, 2004 by Anne Barnard, Boston Globe & 8.28.04 by Robin Wright and Thomas E. Ricks, The Washington Post

NAJAF: - Al-Sadr's militia is still largely intact and armed, and many worry that its fighters, like Abdul Sahib, are ready to fight another day. The 25-year-old says he would fight again.

Anthony Cordesman, a military analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said the militia emerged from the conflict more experienced and more hostile to the United States and the interim government.

Many militiamen here say, they're ready to fight again.

“Do you think someone who participated (in the fighting) from the start, would stop now?” asked Falah Abdul Hassan, a Mahdi Army member squatting on a dusty step near al-Sadr's office. “It's either victory or martyrdom.”

Sitting cross-legged on his parents' floor, Sahib says he too would fight on.

Though the violence did not drive the Americans out of the country or make life better for the fighters' impoverished families, they don't grumble or complain. “I'm fighting for my country, my land and my honor.”

Getting new weapons isn't a problem.

“If you just dig in the ground anywhere in Iraq, you will find weapons,” said Abdul Sahib.

As for the fighters, there are always more in the impoverished Shiite slums that have been a fertile recruiting ground for al-Sadr, who has turned disaffection over unemployment and damaged infrastructure into anger toward the Americans.

“If you kill 500, millions more will join,” boasted Halima Hamdan, Abdul Sahib's mother. “It's like they're springing from under the ground.”

Abu Hussein al-Hamadany, a fighter for al-Sadr, said the militants had won.

“No power in the world made us submit. The Mahdi Army hasn't been disbanded and the weapons haven't been turned over.”

The militia's next move will depend on the government, he said.

“If they learned from this experience, then there will be peace in Iraq,” he said. “If there are provocations, then they will harvest sharp thorns.”

During a sweltering afternoon of talks at a Sadr City police station Sunday, Sheik Yusuf al-Nasseri, a Sadr aide, said that the government lacked the political muscle to insist on having its way regarding [handing in] the guns.

"The government lost a lot" in the siege of Najaf, because it was seen as ordering attacks on Iraqis without winning control of the situation, Nasseri said yesterday. "If they want a cease-fire they have to do it gently and nicely."

Sadr's aides say they will seize the opportunity to shift gears and launch a campaign of peaceful demonstrations and strikes that they believe will have the power to oust the Americans from Iraq, perhaps even before elections scheduled for January.

On Sunday, outside the police station where the negotiations were taking place, police officer Razak Abdelkarim said he supported Sadr's goals but not his methods. "It's a little bit violent. We don't like violence," he said.

As a result, he said, he and his fellow officers felt trapped between poor options. "We're like a man with a razor blade stuck in his gullet -- he can't swallow it or spit it up," he said. "If we join the Mahdi Army, we could lose our jobs. If we support the Americans, the Mahdi Army will kill us."

He said Sadr could galvanize the neighborhood -- which lacks sufficient sewage, drinking water, and electricity and where 60 percent of men are unemployed -- with nonviolent methods.

"There are wars with arms and there are political, psychological wars. You could make strikes; you could go out in peaceful demonstrations."

But he and his fellow officers backed the Mahdi Army's refusal to turn over all their weapons. That demand is unreasonable, they said, since it is common for Iraqis to keep guns at home and most fighters are wielding their own AK-47s.

U.S. military strategy has also suffered a blow, particularly since Najaf is the third confrontation in five months in which Iraqi insurgents fought American troops until they began to take losses, then agreed to a cease-fire so their fighters could rest and regroup. The fear is that Iraqis now believe they can pick the time and place of their attacks and then beat a safe retreat. (No shit.)

"What we will see here is that the Mahdi Army will just rearm, recruit a new group of fighters and move to another city," said retired Marine Lt. Col. Rick Raftery, an intelligence officer who served in Iraq. "We'll be playing 'whack-a-mole' somewhere else shortly."

"For Moqtada, it is a wash. He did not have Najaf until April anyway and can easily survive not having it. His movement in the slums of the southern cities is intact, even if its paramilitary has been weakened," Juan Cole, an Iraq expert at the University of Michigan, said in an analysis on his Web site.

"The U.S. has rolled the rock up the edge of a decisive military engagement, only to see it roll back down the mountain," Anthony H. Cordesman said in an analysis for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Sadr will be perceived by many Iraqis as the victor and Sistani as the man who had to rush to deal with Sadr in the face of a weak Iraqi interim government whose leaders threatened and blustered and then could not act."

The particulars of the Najaf deal are especially troubling to U.S. military strategists. It calls for the U.S. military and anti-U.S. militias to stay out of the city. The provision will have a disproportionate impact on U.S. forces, which tend to move in large, visible units whereas militiamen can simply take a minibus in and out of the city.

The stop-and-start pattern of the fighting is beginning to irritate some soldiers. "I can tell you that I have witnessed the frustration" that the situation creates, said one Army officer who has operated near Najaf. "Military commanders still plan missions the way they always have, only to have those plans frustrated by local political decisions over which they often have little influence."

"Currently, the insurgents are in charge of both Fallujah and Samarra," said a senior Army commander in Iraq. "The status quo in Samarra is unacceptable, and the final outcome is still in question."

Three Occupation Workers Killed

September 1, 2004 From correspondents in Mosul, News Limited

THREE Iraqi women working on a US military base were killed today in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Mosul, Iraqi police and medical sources said.

"Four women and a male driver were driving in the Al-Karama neighbourhood in eastern Mosul when unknown assailants opened fire," said Zeid Issam Sabri, who heads the police station based inside the Arrazi hospital compound in Mosul.

He said three of the women had died and the fourth had sustained serious injuries. Mr Sabri said one of the women was working at a US checkpoint but no further details on the other victims were immediately available.

Doctor Walid Jassem said the driver was in critical condition after sustaining serious bullet wounds to his head and chest.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Resistance

08/28/2004 Arundhati Roy, Part of a speech delivered at the American Sociological Assn. Meeting on August 16, 2004

It is absurd to condemn the resistance to the U.S. occupation in Iraq, as being masterminded by terrorists or insurgents or supporters of Saddam Hussein. After all, if the United States were invaded and occupied, would everybody who fought to liberate it be a terrorist or an insurgent or a Bushite?

The Iraqi resistance is fighting on the frontlines of the battle against Empire. And therefore that battle is our battle.

Like most resistance movements, it combines a motley range of assorted factions. Former Baathists, liberals, Islamists, fed-up collaborationists, communists, etc. Of course, it is riddled with opportunism, local rivalry, demagoguery, and criminality. **But if we are only going to support pristine movements, then no resistance will be worthy of our purity.**

This is not to say that we shouldn't ever criticize resistance movements. Many of them suffer from a lack of democracy, from the iconization of their "leaders," a lack of transparency, a lack of vision and direction. But most of all they suffer from vilification, repression, and lack of resources.

Before we prescribe how a pristine Iraqi resistance must conduct their secular, feminist, democratic, nonviolent battle, we should shore up our end of the resistance by forcing the U.S. and its allies government to withdraw from Iraq.

After all, when the U.S. invades and occupies Iraq in the way it has done, with such overwhelming military force, can the resistance be expected to be a conventional military one? (Of course, even if it were conventional, it would still be called terrorist.)

The mandarins of the corporate world, the CEOs, the bankers, the politicians, the judges and generals look down on us from on high and shake their heads sternly. "There's no Alternative," they say. And let slip the dogs of war.

As the rift between the rich and poor grows, as the need to appropriate and control the world's resources to feed the great capitalist machine becomes more urgent, the unrest will only escalate.

As far as mass resistance movements are concerned, the fact is that no amount of media coverage can make up for mass strength on the ground. There is no option, really, to old-fashioned, back-breaking political mobilization.

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.**

A No-Win Situation: Iraq Hawk Says "Prepare For Failure"

August 31, 2004 By PAUL KRUGMAN, New York Times

"Everyone worries about Najaf; people who are really paying attention worry about Ramadi."

Last month a Knight-Ridder report suggested that U.S. forces were effectively ceding many urban areas to insurgents. Last Sunday The Times confirmed that while the world's attention was focused on Najaf, western Iraq fell firmly under rebel control. Representatives of the U.S.-installed government have been intimidated, assassinated or executed.

Other towns, like Samarra, have also fallen to insurgents.

Attacks on oil pipelines are proliferating. And we're still playing whack-a-mole with Moktada al-Sadr: his Mahdi Army has left Najaf, but remains in control of Sadr City, with its two million people. **The Christian Science Monitor reports that "interviews in Baghdad suggest that Sadr is walking away from the standoff with a widening base and supporters who are more militant than before."**

For a long time, anyone suggesting analogies with Vietnam was ridiculed. But Iraq optimists have, by my count, already declared victory three times. First there was "Mission Accomplished" - followed by an escalating insurgency. Then there was the capture of Saddam - followed by April's bloody uprising. **Finally there was the furtive transfer of formal sovereignty to Ayad Allawi, with implausible claims that this showed progress - a fantasy exploded by the guns of August.**

Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies - no peacenik - writes that "there is little prospect for peace and stability in Iraq before late 2005, if then."

And just in case, he urges the U.S. to prepare "a contingency plan for failure."

OCCUPATION REPORT

THE FORGOTTEN OCCUPATION



Supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide hold up pictures during a march calling for his return in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Aug. 31, 2004.(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Dumbshit Bush Says U.S. Can/Can't Win War On Terror; Take Your Pick

By Elisabeth Bumiller The New York Times 31 August 2004

Nashua, N.H. - **President Bush, in an interview broadcast on Monday, said he did not think America could win the war on terror** but that it could make terrorism less acceptable around the world, a departure from his previous optimistic statements that the United States would eventually prevail.

"I don't think you can win it," Mr. Bush said. "But I think you can create conditions so that those who use terror as a tool are less acceptable in parts of the world."

As recently as **July 14**, Mr. Bush had drawn a far sunnier picture. **"I have a clear vision and a strategy to win the war on terror," he said.**

At a prime-time news conference in the East Room of the White House on **April 13**, Mr. Bush said: **"One of the interesting things people ask me, now that we are asking questions, is, 'Can you ever win the war on terror?' Of course you can."**

Dumbshit Bush Babbles About Iraq As "Catastrophic Success"

August 30, 2004 by Roy Eccleston in New York, The Australian

GEORGE W. Bush has admitted the US failed to plan for a speedy victory in Iraq, describing the sudden collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime as a "catastrophic success".

In a rare concession from the President, who dislikes admitting error, Mr Bush told Time magazine that his planners had not considered the prospect of a quick collapse.

Mr Bush said he believed the war on terrorism would be a long-lasting ideological struggle, but he declined to call it a fourth world war, saying: "I'm not the historian -- I'm the guy making history."

New York Marchers Less Than Thrilled By Kerry

August 30, 2004 By Raja Mishra and Tatsha Robertson, Boston Globe Staff

Many protesters said they were drawn to the demonstration because of their dislike of Bush, but they seemed mostly indifferent about Kerry, who has pledged to keep American troops in Iraq, at least in the short-term.

"I think he will get over that," said Igor Bobrowsky, a former Marine who served in the Vietnam War and received two Purple Hearts. "I think he should look back at his testimony in 1971 when he asked, 'How do you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam?' I think he should now ask how many men will be the last to die for a lie."

Kerry's statement in 1971 was, "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

Philip Greenspan, 78, of Spring Valley, N.Y., flashed a thumbs-down when asked whether he would back Kerry. "He's worse than Bush. He wants to bring in more troops," Greenspan said. "I'm not going to vote for anybody. No matter who wins, the same policies will be implemented."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Fires On Village: Hits Danish Relief Workers And Civilians

August 31, 2004 By STEPHEN GRAHAM, KABUL (AP)

U.S. warplanes bombed an Afghan village in the heat of a battle between U.S.-led forces and insurgents, killing more than a dozen people and striking the camp of a Danish relief group.

Afghan officials said the dead included five unarmed civilians.

Kunar Gov. Sayed Fazel Akbar said the incident began when assailants fired at Afghan and U.S. military camps near Mano Gai, 170 kilometres east of the capital, Kabul.

"Then the American planes came and bombarded Weradesh village," where the fire had originated, Akbar said. "Several houses were destroyed."

Akbar said five civilians were killed in the American bombardment - two men, two children and a woman

The Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, or DACAAR, which had a team working in Weradesh, said several bombs were dropped and that its staff believed eight villagers were killed.

The group's 14 staff members fled their darkened camp just before it was caught by one bomb, said Gorm Pedersen, DACAAR's director in Kabul. One worker was slightly injured and much of the group's equipment was damaged.

"Our people decided to take shelter," Pedersen said. "It was while they were running from the camp to the village that they were hit."

The U.S. military said seven children, one coalition soldier and two Afghan soldiers were flown to the main American base at Bagram, north of Kabul. Four required surgery and one child later died, Butler said.

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