

GI SPECIAL 2#B53

**GET THE MESSAGE?
TIME TO COME HOME, NOW!**



August Sees Biggest Toll Of Wounded U.S. Troops Since War Began: Huge Increase In Brain Damaged: New Killer Helmets Doing Their Job

September 5, 2004 By Karl Vick, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Sept. 4

About 1,100 U.S. soldiers and Marines were wounded in Iraq during August, by far the highest combat injury toll for any month since the war began and an indication of the intensity of battles flaring in urban areas.

U.S. medical commanders say the sharp rise in battlefield injuries reflects more than three weeks of fighting by two Army and one Marine battalion in the southern city of Najaf. At the same time, U.S. units frequently faced combat in a sprawling Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad and in the Sunni cities of **Fallujah, Ramadi and Samarra, all of which remain under the control of insurgents two months after the transfer of political authority.**

"They were doing battlefield urban operations in four places at one time," said Lt. Col. Albert Maas, operations officer for the 2nd Medical Brigade, which oversees U.S. combat hospitals in Iraq. **"It's like working in downtown Detroit. You're going literally building to building."**

The sharp rise in wounded was, for the first time, accompanied by a far less steep climb in battlefield fatalities. Since the start of the war in March 2003, 979 U.S. troops have died in Iraq and almost 7,000 have been wounded. Until last month, however, the monthly tallies of fatalities and wounded rose and fell roughly in proportion.

In August, 66 U.S. service personnel were killed in Iraq, according to the Defense Department. The toll was the highest since May, when 80 fatalities were recorded.

Commanders said they had no immediate concrete explanation for why the number of wounded increased so sharply without a comparable rise in combat deaths.

(Let's remember that officer who told the press late last month that lying about casualties is part of warfare designed to confuse the enemy.)

"All I know is I've got more patients here," said Col. Ryck Beitz, commander of the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, which admitted 425 patients last month, a new high.

There were also indications that troops might have suffered more severe wounds in August than in previous months.

At the Baghdad hospital, staff members are accustomed to seeing the most severely injured soldiers and Marines.

The hospital, the only one in Iraq where the military's brain and eye surgeons work, handles the worst head wounds.

Normally, perhaps half the patients who come to the emergency room qualify as "acute" cases, a term that indicates severity and urgency.

"A soldier who comes in and is almost bleeding to death will require more care than someone who is just shot with a bullet," Beitz explained.

In August, however, the rate of acute cases jumped to three of four ER patients.

"It was intense," said Lt. Col. Greg Kidwell, who oversees the emergency room at the hospital.

(In case you missed it, check out GI Special 2#B52: New Army Helmet Kills 30% More Soldiers. The new helmets leaves more of the brain exposed. So, the big jump in "the worst head wounds" you just read about it is hardly a surprise---brought to you by your real enemy combatants: the politicians running the government in Washington DC.)

Capt. Neil Taufen, an emergency room physician, said the pace was all the more striking because it came after a quiet stretch.

"July was just dull, and it was like: Everything's going to be all right. And then Najaf fired up, and it was just like nothing had ever changed," said Taufen, of Fort Sill, Okla.

Twenty-six Marines were killed during August in Anbar province, which takes in Fallujah and Ramadi and extends across the western desert to the Syrian border. Insurgents hold sway in both cities and routinely attack U.S. patrols.

"It's always kind of a smoldering fight out there," Kidwell said.

Parts of Baghdad also remain combat zones.

Propped on pillows in a ward of the Baghdad combat hospital Saturday afternoon, Spec. Christopher Riang, 19, wore a zipper of surgical staples up his abdomen after a nasty surprise the night before off the capital's hostile Haifa Street.

"I yelled 'grenade!' and made sure the Iraqi translator took off," he said, describing the overnight ambush that left him with a belly full of steel shards. "Then I took off. I guess I couldn't outrun the grenade."

The interpreter was also injured, as were four other 1st Cavalry soldiers caught in the alley when grenades began raining down.

"Almost everybody took shrapnel," said Capt. Chris Ford, the company commander. Three soldiers were injured lightly enough to return to duty after treatment, as are about 45 percent of U.S. forces wounded in Iraq. Two others needed medical evacuation. The interpreter went home.

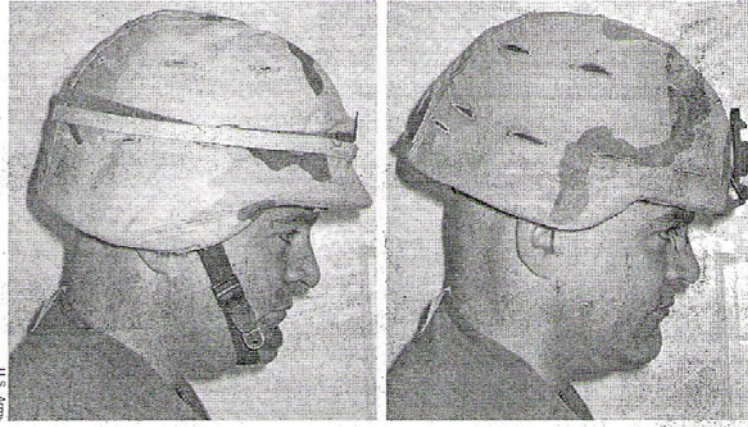
"Basically, we had to fight our way out of that alley," Ford said. Bradleys came to help, he said, but **most of the patrolling in the largely hostile neighborhood is conducted on foot.**

"It's a labyrinth," Ford said. "And it's conducive to their kind of fighting."

More and more often, children are lobbing the grenades, Ford said.

"For the longest time, we've had a good relationship with the children," Ford said. "Now this. **Who enjoys putting a bead on a kid? Nobody.**"

(Wrong. The Pentagon assholes enjoy putting a bead on a kid. That's exactly what this new helmet does, and sorry, but soldiers 17-19 are still teenagers, no disrespect intended, and they are our kids doing the dying because of this absolutely criminal payoff to some asshole defense contractor.)



The old helmet, (left) provides more protection to the back and sides of the head than the new helmet (right). **(No shit.) (For more, see GI Special 2#B52 at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>)**

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.**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Seitz Mortar Barrage Kills 2 U.S. Soldiers, 16 Wounded

9.5.05 AP

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A mortar attack Sunday killed two U.S. soldiers and left 16 wounded — one critically — at a base west of the Iraqi capital.

Maj. Richard Spiegel of the Army's 13th Corps Support Command said the mortar barrage slammed into Logistical Base Seitz, on Baghdad's western outskirts, around 6 p.m. local time.

Eight of the injured were evacuated by air to the Army's 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, where the two later died of their wounds, Spiegel said.

One wounded soldier was listed in critical condition, and four others returned to duty.

The soldiers killed and wounded all belonged to the Army's 13th Corps Support Command, which oversees distribution of military fuel, food, water and other supplies to U.S. forces across Iraq.

DoD Identifies Marine Casualty

September 5, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 858-04 & 857-04

1st Lieutenant Ronald Winchester, 25, of Rockville Center, N.Y., died Sept 3 due to enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Winchester was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Dujail Car Bomb Wounds Soldier



What is left of a car that exploded near a US military convoy in area of al-Dujail. (AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

05 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net & The Associated Press

Two blasts north of Baghdad left at least six Iraqis and one US soldier injured.

A car bomb exploded near a US military patrol on Sunday in the town of Dujail, some 40km north of Baghdad, wounding a US soldier and two Iraqi civilians, the US military said. Witnesses said a Volkswagen exploded near the base, setting fire to an American Humvee.

"The soldier was evacuated to a coalition medical centre and is in stable condition," said Sergeant Robert Powell, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division.

Tampa Marine Killed Near Syrian Border

Sep 5, 2004 By KEITH MORELLI, Tampa Bay Online

A U.S. Marine from Tampa, who had enlisted because he was outraged by the Sept. 11 attacks, was killed in Iraq last week while en route to his position near the Syrian border, according to his family.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Wilt was 23 and was planning on serving four years in the Marines before leaving and attending law school at Stetson, said his widow, Mercedes.

“He was fun loving,” she said. “He loved the outdoors, concerts and being on the lake. “Anything I wanted to do, he would go for it.”

Nicholas and Mercedes grew up in Tampa and met in preschool, she said.

Now, the family is trying to come to terms with the death of the young man who was on his second tour of duty in war-torn Iraq.

“Two Marines showed up here yesterday and said he had been killed in action,” Mercedes Wilt said Saturday. “There was some kind of explosion,” she said.

That was all the information available, she said.

The Marines did not tell Mercedes Wilt when her husband's body would be returned, and the family is unable to make funeral arrangements.

Mercedes Wilt, 23, said her husband served eight months in Iraq in 2003 before returning in October. Nicholas Wilt had been a Marine for 2 1/2 years, she said.

“He's just a real do-gooder type,” she said.

Nicholas Wilt attended Tampa Catholic High School, and Mercedes Wilt went to Gaither and then Sickles high schools, she said. The couple met again while attending college, she said.

He was taking courses at University of Central Florida in Orlando while she was attending classes at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa.

The couple married twice, she said.

The first time was in Las Vegas in January 2003, and then “a big wedding” in October.

“He was an amazing person,” she said.

G.I. Killed; Eric Knott Was Grand Island Senior High Grad

Sep 5, 2004 By Tracy Overstreet, The Grand Island Independent

The one paragraph letter that Grand Island grandparents Lyle and Arlene Knott got in the mail last week from grandson Eric Knott was the last they will ever receive.

"Things here have changed a lot since I was last here a year ago," Eric printed in all caps in black pen on the lined stenographer's paper. "Don't worry about me. I will keep my head down and return home safely."

Eric, a 21-year-old Navy Seabee, was killed Saturday morning in a bomb attack in Iraq.

"You never think it's going to happen to you, you think it's going to happen to someone else," said Eric's father Randy Knott as he sat quietly at his dining room table Saturday afternoon. Friends stopped by the Grand Island home dropping off pizza and prayers.

Just hours earlier, military officers had walked up Knott's driveway, past the Toyota Corolla with the yellow "Support Our Troops" magnet personalized with Eric's name, past the United States Navy window sticker, past the paper American flag displayed in the front window, to tell him his youngest son was dead.

"Eric could get along with everybody," his grandmother, Arlene, said.

Both she and her husband began to cry as they recalled the joy that Eric received from riding in his Jeep and going four-wheeling. **An American flag with the names of their four grandchildren serving in the military hangs over their kitchen table.**

Besides his father, grandparents and brothers, Eric leaves behind his step-mother, Teri Knott, of Grand Island and mother, Vera Thorpe, of Hastings.

War Reports: The Resistance Point Of View

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

Friday, 3 September 2004.

Resistance attacks leave 12 US troops dead in al-Fallujah area Friday night.

Resistance fighters fired two anti-tank weapons at a US Abrams tank, scoring a direct hit on the vehicle. At least five US troops who were aboard were killed. Fighting erupted between the Resistance and the occupation forces between 9:30 and 10:05 Baghdad

time in the area, which is located between the an-Nu'aymiyah neighborhood and the ash-Shuhada' neighborhood in the south of al-Fallujah. In the course of that fighting, the Resistance destroyed one American Humvee, killing the seven US troops who were aboard it.

US air raids and shellings kill, wound numerous Iraqi civilians in al-Fallujah Friday night.

US aircraft and artillery pounded the city of al-Fallujah Friday night, targeting the an-Nu'aymiyah area in the south of the city. F-16 fighter bombers and tank cannon contributed to the barrage on the neighborhood, according to the al-Fallujah correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*.

Later in the evening, the same correspondent reported that US snipers were in positions atop high buildings in the an-Nu'aymiyah area and were shooting at emergency personnel trying to extract wounded people from the houses damaged in the bombardment.

Resistance bomb kills four American soldiers west of Baghdad.

Four American soldiers were killed on Friday when an Iraqi Resistance bomb exploded at 1:00pm Baghdad time after a US patrol had passed the last American control point west of Baghdad on the road that runs from al-Ghazaliyah to Abu Ghurayb and on to al-Fallujah in the west. The blast destroyed one Humvee and killed the four American troops who were aboard it.

The correspondent wrote that when on patrols or riding as escorts of columns, the number of men aboard a Humvee is usually four or five. When Humvees are used in raids, attacks, and house searches, they frequently carry more men – up to nine.

American killed Friday evening west of Baghdad.

One American soldier was killed at 8:00pm local time Friday night when the Bradley fighting vehicle in which he was riding was damaged in the ar-Ridwaniyah area west of Baghdad. The correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the soldier had been manning the machine gun on the Bradley vehicle and that he was thrown out. Local residents observed his companions as they picked up his dead body. The correspondent wrote that the soldier's helmet was still in the possession of the local children who were playing with it.

US clamps down on villages near Syrian border after 15 Americans are killed in Resistance roadside bombing before sunrise Friday.

US forces tightly sealed off a number of villages east of the city of al-Qa'im on the Syrian-Iraqi border after 15 US soldiers were killed at dawn in that area on Friday when Iraqi Resistance bombs exploded as a US patrol was passing through the village of al-Qunaytrah east of al-Qa'im. Three Humvees were also destroyed in the blast.

Residents of the area who witnessed the incident reported that the Resistance fighters used their automatic weapons to finish off any Americans who remained alive after the bombing. In response to the attack and the killings, US troops imposed a blockade on several villages in the area, specifically: al-'Atitah, 19km east of al-Qa'im; Sa'dah, 10km

east of al-Qa'im; ad-Daghimah, 30km east of al-Qa'im; and al-Qunaytrah, 20km east of al-Qa'im.

In a report posted at 10:10pm Mecca time (11:10pm local time) Friday night, the local correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* wrote that US aircraft had also bombed al-Qunaytrah and al-'Atitah, and US forces blew up the ar-Rummanah bridge between al-Qa'im and the village of ar-Rummanah.

The correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Qa'im reported that US forces were continuing to bombard a number of villages located east of the city of al-Qa'im in apparent revenge for a Resistance bombing that left 15 American troops dead in al-Qunaytrah village. The correspondent wrote that the bombardment had begun at 11:45 Baghdad time and was still in progress at the time of writing.

Four American troops killed in ambush on fuel tankers south of Baghdad early Friday afternoon.

Four US troops were killed when Iraqi Resistance forces destroyed two fuel tank trucks transporting gasoline south of Baghdad. The correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Yusufiyah reported eye witnesses as saying that a US column consisting of a number of fuel tank trucks came under Resistance attack on the International Baghdad Highway north of al-Yusufiyah (which is located south of the Iraqi capital). The witnesses reported that the attack took place at 1:15pm Friday afternoon, local time, and that two tankers were totally destroyed, killing the four US troops who were aboard them.

Every US military tanker is supposed to have a crew of at least two persons: a driver and another soldier who rides shotgun, manning the 500 cannon through an opening in the surface of the front of the vehicle, according to the *Mafkarat al-Islam* correspondent. The Resistance most commonly uses rocket-propelled grenades to strike at the tankers, a weapon that totally destroys the flammable vehicles.

US C-130 transport plane hit by rocket, makes forced landing at Saddam International Airport.

A US C-130 airplane survived an Iraqi Resistance rocket by making a forced landing west of Baghdad. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* wrote that Resistance fighters fired an anti-aircraft C5K missile at the plane, causing its left wing to catch fire. The plane then made a forced landing at Saddam International Airport near Baghdad. An airport worker told the correspondent that the fire that had blazed in the wing was put out on the ground.

The correspondent wrote that the C-130 and C-131 were regarded as among America's better massive aircraft since they can drop heat rings to thwart heat-seeking missile attacks. The aircraft are also equipped with armament that enable them to defend against attacks. **Nevertheless, the Resistance maintains that "with great difficulty" the airplanes can be hit as they take off and land using Strela or C5K rockets.**

Six American troops killed in attack south of Ba'qubah Friday evening.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a US convoy made up of a number of armored vehicles and Humvees south of Ba'qubah according to the correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* in that city Friday night. The Resistance attack occurred at about 6:00pm Friday night (Baghdad time) and left one Humvee destroyed. Five American soldiers, who had been aboard the vehicle, died in the attack. One US armored vehicle was also knocked out of action, killing one soldier who was on it.

US forces hold wounded woman hostage in al-Khalidiyah.

On Friday night US forces in al-Khalidiyah west of Baghdad still refused to release Fadilah Kassar as-Salih, "Umm Nur," the wife of a man whose house they raided the night before. In the course of the raid, US troops shot dead the woman's daughter and then shot and severely wounded Umm Nur herself, before taking her into custody.

The al-Khalidiyah correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Friday night that US troops seek to keep Umm Nur in custody in order to entice her husband Jabbar Mahdi Salih, whom they believe to be involved with the Resistance, to turn himself in.

Tall Afar



(AFP/Mujahed Mohammed)

9.4.04 AFP & Aljazeera.Net

Iraqi children celebrate near a burned U.S. military vehicle following heavy fighting between US troops and insurgents in Tall Afar, west of the main Iraqi northern city of Mosul.

US troops battled rebels in the northern town of Tall Afar for a second day. **Resistance fighters are patrolling the streets** and occupation helicopters are hovering over the city.

Explosions Heard In Iraqi Capital

Baghdad, Iraq, Sep. 5 (UPI)

Loud explosions and bullet fire were heard Sunday in southern Baghdad, but U.S. and Iraqi security sources would not give details.

TROOP NEWS

Veterans Rally Aims To Bring Soldiers Home



Iraq and Vietnam Veterans Against The War, Union Square, NY City 9.2.04
(http://www.anywhichway.net/gallery/Veterans_Vigil_for_the_Fallen)

2004-09-03 By Michael Wagner, Staff writer, The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

NEW YORK - Jorge Medina held a candle in one hand and placed his face in the palm of the other. In front of him was a tarp covered with the names of soldiers who have died in Iraq.

As he scanned the list, he leaned in toward one: Spc. Irving Medina, 22.

Irving Medina was killed Nov. 14 when a roadside bomb blasted a piece of shrapnel into his head. He was part of a convoy in Baghdad.

The soldier was one of three children in the Medina family who are in the military. Jorge Medina said he served in the Mexican army and told his children that serving in the armed forces in the United States could help get them into college.

"They make a lot of promises to young people," he said somberly, holding an oversized photo of his son above his head.

Now Medina's perspective has changed. He is against the war in Iraq.

"I pray to God to give me some comfort," he said. "Every day, there's pain. Every day, I am thinking about my son. It's very hard."

Medina joined more than a dozen military families at a rally at Union Square on Thursday to show their anger over the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq. The rally was held hours before President Bush would address the Republican National Convention.

Michael McPhearson was one of the speakers at the rally, which organizers called the Vigil for the Fallen.

McPhearson was born and raised in Fayetteville. He served in the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga. He fought in the first Gulf War and returned to Iraq in December as an ambassador for an organization called the National Conference for Community and Justice.

McPhearson's son is in the Army at Fort Campbell, Ky., and is scheduled to be deployed in six to 12 months.

"I don't want him to be one of them," McPhearson said, pointing to a grid of Army boots honoring soldiers who were killed in action.

Organizer David Cline, head of the national group Veterans for Peace, said the rally was not intended to endorse one presidential candidate or the other. The intent, he said, was to draw attention to what he called an unjustified and needless war.

Republicans this week have criticized anti-war protesters as conspiracy theorists who think the war is about protecting corporate interests. But Michael Hoffman, a Marine from Pennsylvania who served in Iraq, called that "a completely false spin."

He said pulling troops out of Iraq might cause some harm in the short term, but leaving them there would almost certainly be disastrous.

"Can anyone imagine a good outcome if we stay?" he asked. "If we leave, there may be civil war, unrest. But what's happening there now?"

Rob Sarra, a nine-year veteran of the Marines from Chicago, said he's been to Iraq and has seen how the U.S. occupation has been received. He's led the hunt for weapons of mass destruction, and, he said, they're not there.

As he spoke, he said three of the boots behind him had the names of his buddies written on them.

"I support those guys 110 percent," he said. **"But we just need to bring them home."**

(Comment from Ben Chitty, Vietnam Veterans Against The War: "Haven't seen anything like this week for more than 30 years.")

MORE:

Bring Them Home Now

(Delivered in Raleigh, NC as part of a demonstration against Bush held at the same as Bush delivers his acceptance of the Republican nomination.)

By Lou Plummer Military Families Speak, Out Bring Them Home Now!

When George Bush was relaxing in the "champagne" unit of the Texas Air National Guard that his connections got him into, my father was bleeding in a rice paddy in South Vietnam.

When George Bush was failing in business for the third or fourth time, I was a nineteen year old father of two attending National Guard drills on weekends and working construction for minimum wage with no health insurance during the week.

When George Bush was busy enacting tax cuts for the rich in 2001, my teenage son was enlisting in the Navy, taking the gamble that in this, the richest country in the world, he wouldn't have to lose his life in order to get educational benefits and health care.

The men and women in the US military who are spread around the world, in over 120 countries, but concentrated in Iraq and Afghanistan are not tools to be used by a bloodthirsty president and his bloodthirsty party to ensure political success and a stranglehold on power.

The men and women serving in the Armed Forces are our children, our spouses, and our fellow workers. They are human beings who are dying and being maimed while being asked to kill and maim in return for a cause based on lies, based on profit for a selfish few, and based on the mad dreams of even madder men.

No matter what the recruiters and TV commercials say, the military is not a jobs program. Unemployment is higher among veterans than among non-veterans. Nor is the military a way for many to go to college. **Over 60% of those who pay into the current GI college fund end up getting no money from the government and often they don't even get their own money back.**

It is not OK with me that they asked my father, that they asked me and that they are asking my child to prepare to risk it all for a country that has new fighter jets and old schools, that has million dollar political conventions and old women living on pennies, **that has free speech for elected liars and New York City jail cells for passionate young activists who confront those liars.**

It is not OK with me that the military punishes those who speak out against the hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy of the generals and Pentagon hacks. Our troops are supposedly fighting for our freedom while they have none themselves.

In the summer of 2003, a man in a business suit, sitting behind a desk, protected by body guards in the safest building in the entire world, sneered at a group of assembled TV cameras and dared those in Iraq fighting to liberate their country to "Bring It On". He dared them to attack our troops and attack they have.

We will soon lose our thousandth soldier to die for the mistake of Iraq. I have something to say to you tonight. It's not "bring it on". It's Bring Them Home and Bring Them Home Now.

Peace.

Report On The Demonstration:

To: GI Special:
9.5.05

Interestingly, quotes from the above speech and some comments afterward were among the only quotes used in the media coverage of the event. The public is alienated in a lot of ways from both parties at this point, but they are connected with the reality that faces military families and GIs.

The anti-Bush demo drew around 250 people: students and a professor from Duke, UNC and NCSU students, a Vets for Peace contingent, families with children, seniors and area activists.

Peace,
Lou

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT 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/>

Rolling Coffins Slammed

Jack Kelly (Washington Times, September 2, 2004, Pg. 20)

"They say a camel is a horse designed by a committee. **The Army must have consulted that same committee in coming up with the Stryker, which lacks the speed and agility of an armored car, but also lacks the firepower and armor protection of a Bradley. It is, however, very expensive, fulfilling what seems the chief requirement of new weapons systems.**"

Abu Ghraib Investigation Report Cites Sanchez Command Failure

September 06, 2004, By Vince Drawley, Army Times staff writer

In particular, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo **Sanchez, chief of U.S. forces in Iraq, "failed to secure sufficient resources for his subordinates to successfully conduct their mission."**

Rep. Tillie Fowler of Florida said Sanchez "created a command structure that resembled a labyrinth of confusion," she said. "It was shocking to find that during the time of the worst abuses that were occurring, it was not clear who, if anyone, was really in charge at Abu Ghraib."

MORE:

General Blames Prison Abuse On Command

Sep 4, By JIM KRANE, BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

The Army general who once ran detention operations in Iraq said a "conspiracy" among top U.S. commanders has left her to blame for the abuses of Iraqi inmates at Abu Ghraib prison.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who commanded the Army's 800th Military Police Brigade, said she fears more senior Army generals may escape punishment, even though they issued or approved guidelines on the interrogation of Iraqi prisoners.

Karpinski said she was snared in a Catch-22 situation. Allowing the tougher methods of prisoner interrogation to go ahead as recommended by Miller and approved by Sanchez landed her in trouble. But, she said, if she had disregarded those guidelines, she would also be in trouble.

"Can't win," she said.

MORE:

Army Will Learn Nothing From Iraq Prison Whitewash

Joseph L. Galloway (San Jose Mercury News, September 2, 2004)

What should come out of the soul-searching over the Abu Ghraib prison scandal is not what we have seen to date: an Army and an officer corps bobbing and weaving and ducking for cover. No institution can learn from or fix what it tries to cover up. The net effect of a cover-up is corrosion and corruption, a cancer that will eat out the heart if not excised.

MORE:

Guantanamo Farce

(Los Angeles Times, September 2, 2004)

"The Bush administration is ignoring, if not defying outright, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that all terror suspects must be able to challenge their imprisonment. The opening round of detainee military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay last week resembled something between a Mel Brooks farce and the kangaroo courts of former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Maybe Captain Kangaroo courts."

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.

Denying The Troops A Secret Ballot

(New York Times, September 3, 2004)

Members of the military will be allowed to vote this year by faxing or e-mailing their ballots-after waiving their right to a secret ballot. Beyond this fundamentally undemocratic requirement, the system has far too many problems to make it reliable, starting with the political partisanship of the contractor running it. The Defense Department, which is making matters worse by withholding basic information about the service, should suspend it immediately.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Mahdi Army Becomes Potent Political Force

(Christian Science Monitor, September 3, 2004)

While talks have stalled between the Iraqi government and leaders of a Shiite rebellion, some analysts say that **a corner has been turned for the radical movement.**

Militarily depleted by the Najaf standoff and yet politically energized by growing disenchantment among Shiites, the Mahdi Army has in many ways turned into a potent political force that cannot be easily defeated without substantial military cost.



9.4.04 A key Iraqi oil pipeline to Turkey is still ablaze following an attack that halted exports. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

Turkish Company Withdrawing From Iraq

Sep. 05, 2004 Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey - **A Turkish company said Sunday it was withdrawing from Iraq a day after Iraqi militants threatened to behead its employee unless it ceased operations in the country, the Anatolia news agency reported.**

The group, calling itself the Islamic Resistance Movement - Al-Noaman Brigades, released a tape showing a bearded man, purported to be the Turkish truck driver, sitting in front of a black banner bearing the group's name in gold Arabic characters.



Mr. Bush

Al-Moharer 192, 2004

Mr. Bush is talking about "Democracy", "liberation and progress", for the "Middle East." This "Middle East" we rejected long time ago because we are one Arab Nation, not Middle Eastern nations, as our adversaries like to call us. We believe in one Arab homeland that we hope to achieve.

Mr. Bush talks about those people who strap themselves with explosive belts to kill "innocent" people but he never questioned the killing of the Palestinian people by the forces of racist Zionist entity with American guns.

He never inquires why those young people strap themselves and do martyrdom operations.

He who sends young Americans to be killed in Iraq for "oil and Israel" does not give a damn about the Palestinians and Iraqis or "freedom' and "democracy".

Our hope for democracy is different, the freedom that we seek is based on our struggle to liberate Palestine and Iraq, to achieve the reunification of the Arab Nation and to get rid of the rulers that were imposed upon us, dedicated to be the servants of Imperialism and Zionism.

Mr. President what would you do if some group of people come to your ranch, expel you and your family by force and claim it for themselves?

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Iraqis are fully aware of American intentions. The people that birthed Western civilization refuses to go quietly into colonial subjugation. (9.2.02 Jim Mullins, South Florida Interactive, Inc.)

OCCUPATION REPORT

'We Are Not Moving The Elections": Iraqi Official:

(USA Today, September 3, 2004, Pg. 11)

An Iraqi elections official expressed confidence that voting will go ahead as scheduled in January, even if it means using Saddam Hussein-era records to draft voter lists and bringing in equipment from abroad. **Insurgents "can do whatever they want with their bombs,** but we are not moving the elections," said Farid Ayar, a member of Iraq's Independent Electoral Commission. **(UNNECESSARY INVITATION)**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Arrested At Ground Zero: One More Reason To Bring The Troops Home Now

"Opinion surveys suggest the military has become the most respected American secular institution--- more esteemed than the Congress, the courts, or the schools." (From the book "Homefront" by Catherine Lutz, Beacon Press, Boston, 2001)

(Reason #173 to Bring All The Troops Home Now: *we need your protection* against the police and the politicians trying to stamp out what democracy is left at home while you're stuck over in Iraq. This is your mission. Please do not betray this respect.)

By Ted Glick, Submitted to Portside 9.3.04

It is hard not to believe that yesterday's illegal and repressive arrest of approximately 200 peaceful sidewalk walkers across the street from Ground Zero

was not ordered from the top. And by top I don't mean Chief Ray Kelly or Mayor Bloomberg. I mean the honchos of the Republican Party.

Maybe they wanted to send a message: stay away from that location during our convention. That's our prop to use as we see fit.

They obviously didn't see the tragic irony in what happened. Ground Zero is a sacred piece of land for many Americans, a place where we should rededicate ourselves to the struggle for justice and democracy for all. Ultimately, this is the only defense against the terrorism of the dispossessed or those angered by the USA's increasingly militaristic and repressive go-it-alone role in the world.

And yet yesterday it was the backdrop for one more demonstration project of 21st century police state tactics.

I was one of those swept up by these arrests. I had gone to Ground Zero with no intention of getting arrested. Fifteen minutes before I was, I had spoken with a friend explaining to her that I just wasn't moved to do so on this occasion, although I've been arrested 10 times in the past for nonviolent civil disobedience actions of some kind.

What I was prepared to do was to walk peacefully on the sidewalk in support of this War Resisters League- initiated action. And when a white-shirted policeman spoke over a bullhorn about 4:00 p.m. telling us that although this demonstration did not have a permit, everything would be OK if we walked in ones and twos on the sidewalk and obeyed traffic signals, the walk began. About 200 of us crossed Church St. headed across Fulton towards Broadway, where we intended to head uptown.

But within a couple of minutes we were stopped by a police line across the middle of the sidewalk and by several rows of police in the street. A few minutes later a four foot high orange mesh fence was rolled out and everyone who happened to be within this half block was trapped, unable to leave.

No warning was ever given that if people did not leave they would be arrested. No opportunities were given to leave despite requests by a number of people to do so. The arrests just started happening as the first paddy wagon rolled up.

Over the course of the next 15 hours that I spent in the holding areas at Pier 57 and 100 Centre St., I would learn of similar, smaller, police state actions. There were the three people who were putting on an anti-Bush skit on the sidewalk on 7th Avenue who were illegally arrested as they exercised their first amendment right to free expression. **I was told about six young people who painted their faces white to symbolize sickness and death and who were arrested while riding the subways. There was the man from Istanbul, Turkey who was arrested with me at Ground Zero as he was distributing religious tracts to us peaceniks. The list can go on.**

It was not fun being transported in the paddy wagon to Pier 57 with my hands handcuffed behind my back. It was not fun being shut in with 40 other men in a 25 by 15 foot pen with three short hardwood benches and a concrete floor to sit or lie on. It was not fun being forced into a small, caged space on a police bus, handcuffed again, with

another arrestee for our bumpy ride from Pier 57 to 100 Centre St. It was not fun being held there in a similar type of holding cell arrangement or getting very little sleep in its bright, noisy and uncomfortable confines.

But it was clear that the dehumanizing and intimidating treatment we received was not having its desired effect. People's spirits were high and the solidarity among us was palpable. Anger was the dominant emotion among almost all of us, anger at the violation of our rights and the treatment we were given.

MORE:

Got That Right!

August 31st, 2004 by Tom Robbins & Jennifer Gonnerman, Village Voice Media, Inc.,

"There's one group that always shows up at demonstrations, committing acts of violence," shouted Dustin Langley, a member of ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism—at one of dozens of press conferences held on the steps of City Hall last week. **"There's one right now,"** he said, **pointing a finger at a cop strolling the plaza.** **"The NYPD. Let's identify the real thugs, the real terrorists!"** he shouted, to the applause of supporters on the stairs.

Bush Regime Forbids Americans To Read Their Own Laws (Bring The Troops Home Now For A Real March On Washington)

September 2, 2004 Molly Ivins, "Charleston Gazette"

The Department of Justice has asked the Government Printing Office "to instruct depository libraries to destroy five publications the department has deemed 'not appropriate for external use.'

Of the five publications, two are texts of federal laws. **They are to be removed from libraries and destroyed, making their content available only to those with access to a law office or law library,"** according to the American Library Association.

All the documents concern either federal civil or criminal forfeiture procedure, including to how to reclaim items that have been confiscated by the government during an investigation.

Bush Challenger Loses His Job

Aug. 23, 2004 By JESSICA VALDEZ, The Washington Post

Glenn Hiller wasn't surprised by the scattered screams and cuss words he heard after he heckled President Bush at a rally in West Virginia on Tuesday.

But the Berkeley Springs, W.Va., resident never expected what happened the next morning, when he was fired from his \$35,000-a-year job as a graphic designer.

He said his boss at Octavo Designs, a Frederick, Md.-based advertising and design company, told him he had embarrassed and offended a client who provided tickets to the rally.

"She told me my actions reflected badly on the company," Hiller said.

Hiller, 35, said he waited for lulls in the president's speech to shout questions and comments challenging what he called "half-truths" in Bush's statements. He said he asked Bush about the benefits of outsourcing jobs, justifications for the war in Iraq and inspectors' inability to find weapons of mass destruction there. **He said that at one point, he shouted, "Would you sacrifice your daughters to liberate Iraq?"**

Hiller said he then was escorted from the event at Hedgesville High School in Berkeley County, W.Va., **and was threatened with arrest by campaign workers.**

Sandy Sponaule, who gave Hiller the ticket for the restricted event, said "All I thought was it's not the time or place to be disrespectful of the president of the United States," said Sponaule, whose public relations company has worked closely with Hiller and Octavo Designs. **She said Hiller's behavior has put her own work in jeopardy.**

Hiller's boss at Octavo, Sue Hough, could not be reached for comment Saturday.

The morning after the rally, Hiller said, he came to work and "there was just tension in the air." Hough told him his behavior was "unacceptable" and asked him to leave, he said.

Hiller said he doesn't regret what he did Tuesday and said he would do it again.

"I didn't do anything wrong," he said. "I wasn't a mindless heckler."

He said he was motivated by how Bush is "pulverizing" society and making people believe "that if somebody disagrees with you, they are bad." He also criticized rallies where tickets are required to attend.

Hiller has two children, ages 15 months and 3 years, and he said he has interviews lined up in his search for a new job.

As for Sponaule, she isn't surprised Octavo fired Hiller.

"In any business, you can't jeopardize client relationships," she said. "You can't be a small business and have your clients wondering what you're going to do next." **(Which is exactly why it would be highly desirable to wipe capitalism off the face of the earth.)**

Young Republicans Support Iraq War, But Not Willing To Join The Fight

Sep. 01, 2004 By Adam Smeltz, Knight Ridder Newspapers

NEW YORK - Young Republicans gathered here for their party's national convention are united in applauding the war in Iraq, supporting the U.S. troops there and calling the U.S. mission a noble cause.

But there's no such unanimity when they're asked a more personal question: Would you be willing to put on the uniform and go to fight in Iraq?

"Frankly, I want to be a politician. I'd like to survive to see that," said Vivian Lee, 17, a war supporter visiting the convention from Los Angeles,

Lee said she supports the war but would volunteer only if the United States faced a dire troop shortage or "if there's another Sept. 11."

"As long as there's a steady stream of volunteers, I don't see why I necessarily should volunteer," said Lee, who has a cousin deployed in the Middle East.

In an election season overwhelmed by memories of the Vietnam War, the U.S. military's newest war ranks supreme among the worries confronting much of Generation Y'ers. Iraq is their war.

"If there was a need presented, I would go," said Chris Cusmano, a 21-year-old member of the College Republicans organization from Rocky Point, N.Y. But he said he hasn't really considered volunteering.

At age 16, Chase Carpenter has.

"It's always in the back of my mind - to enlist," Carpenter, a self-described moderate Republican visiting Manhattan this week from Santa Monica, Calif., said Wednesday on the convention floor. He said he's torn over whether he'd join the military if he were 18.

Others said they could contribute on the home front.

"I physically probably couldn't do a whole lot" in Iraq, said Tiffanee Hokel, 18, of Webster City, Iowa, who called the war a moral imperative. She knows people posted in Iraq, but she didn't flinch when asked why she wouldn't go.

"I think I could do more here," Hokel said, adding that she's focusing on political action that supports the war and the troops.

"We don't have to be there physically to fight it," she said.

Similarly, 20-year-old Jeff Shafer, a University of Pennsylvania student, said vital work needs to be done in the United States. There are Republican policies to maintain and protect and an economy to sustain, Shafer said.

Then there's Paula Villescaz, a 15-year-old from Carmichael, Calif. who supports Bush and was all ears Wednesday afternoon at the GOP's Youth Convention in Madison Square Garden. She doesn't support the war, but she supports the troops and thinks the United States "needs to stay the course" now that it's immersed.

If Iraq is still a U.S. issue when she's 18, Villescaz added, she'll give serious thought to volunteering.

"I'm in college right now, but who knows?" said Matthew Vail, a 25-year-old from Huntsville, Ala., who works with Students for Bush. He said he might consider enlisting after he finishes his degree at the University of North Carolina, but not until then.

"The bug may get me after college," he said.

Who, Us? Go *Where*?

September 2, 2004 by Hugh Pearson, Newsday

Barbara and Jenna. Having the audacity to stand in front of the convention like two bored rich girls at a coming out party, they told the audience: "**Since we've graduated from college, we're looking around for something to do for the next few years...**"

How about suiting up and joining the front-line troops your father has sent to fight in Iraq, in his misdirected effort to protect your privileged existence?

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Militants Attack U.S. Base; Fuel Containers Burning

September 02, 2004 By Stephen Graham, Associated Press

A rocket ignited fuel containers at a U.S. base near the Pakistani border. No one was injured, the American military said.

This evening's rocket attack occurred in eastern Kunar, where U.S.-led troops and warplanes fought a four-hour battle with militants on Monday.

A rocket ignited fuel containers at the U.S. base in Asadabad, the provincial capital, spokeswoman Lt. Col. Susan Meisner said.

"Coalition forces are currently fighting the fire and have it contained," Meisner said in an e-mail, more than an hour after the blaze began. "Engineers on the scene are anticipating that the fire will be extinguished tonight."

Kunar Gov. Sayed Fazel Akbar said he thought the rocket hit a truck delivering fuel to the base. U.S. helicopters were patrolling the area, he said, but had not fired on any targets.

Militants armed with guns and rockets attacked Afghan troops manning a checkpoint in a Taliban stronghold, injuring three soldiers before American forces came to their aid, the U.S. military said today.

The squad from the U.S.-trained Afghan National Army were trapped on a bridge near Deh Rawood, 250 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, a military statement said.

"Anti-coalition militia surrounded the ANA soldiers on the bridge and fired upon them with small-arms fire, machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades," the statement said.

The militants "broke contact once coalition reinforcements arrived," it said, without elaborating.

CLASS WAR NEWS

The Bankrupt Empire

9.4.04 Satya Sagar LEFTHOOK <http://lefthook.org/Politics/Znetreprint090204.html>

Record US fiscal deficits...are undermining the US dollar so seriously that the entire current global financial architecture-skewed to US benefit- may actually collapse soon.

The ability of US financial "voodoo doctors" to print lots of color paper and get the world to accept them is diminishing by the hour and with that the days of the "Great American Free Lunch" too are coming to an end. Honestly, from now on, it is going to be Bye, Bye Mr. Free American Pie!

Iraq today is to the US, in sheer military terms, what Afghanistan became for the USSR in the eighties. **The expense, the loss of lives, the sheer resistance from the occupied, the loss of global allies are all taking their toll steadily and it is just a matter of time before the Joker-in-Chief brings the house of cards tumbling down.**

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The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/> ; www.qifightback.org ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>