

GI SPECIAL 2#B60



Art Wasserman WW II vet (Veterans For Peace)
George McAnanama Viet Nam era Vet (Veterans For Peace)
Major Bjornson Viet Nam medic (Veterans For Peace)
Rob Sarra Iraq War vet & member (**Iraq Vets Against the War**)
Michael Hoffman co-founder of (**Iraq Vets Against the War**)

**"He Wasn't Defending
Our Country. We
Invaded Iraq. Iraq Didn't
Invade Us."**

September 9, 2004 NBC San Diego.com

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. -- The mother of a Marine killed in a suicide car bombing in Iraq said she didn't understand why he was sent there.

Lance Cpl. Derek L. Gardner, 20, was among seven Camp Pendleton-based Marines killed near Fallujah on Monday in the volatile Anbar province.

"I feel that he died for what? For what? We have no business being over there," a tearful Vickey De Lacour told KCAL-TV on Tuesday.



Her son, who joined the Marine Corps in July 2002, came from a military family. His great-grandfather served in World War I, one of his grandfathers served in Korea, the other in World War II, and his father was a Marine who served in Vietnam.

"He was a proud Marine," De Lacour said. **"He walked like a Marine, he talked like a Marine. He was just doing his job. And other people decided to ship him over there.**

"He wasn't defending our country. We invaded Iraq. Iraq didn't invade us."

Gardner was assigned to Headquarters Battalion of the 1st Marine Division, part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton. **He planned to return home in three weeks.**

Gardner's family remembered him as friendly, strong-willed and sometimes mischievous. A 2000 graduate of Laguna Hills High School, he liked amusement park rides, pro wrestling and rap music.

For the past year, he had been living with his girlfriend, April Ornelas, in Mission Viejo. On Christmas Eve, he asked her if she would marry him when he returned from his deployment.

"One of the things he said before he left was, 'This isn't goodbye sweetheart, this is hello to our new beginning,'" Ornelas, 18, told the Orange County Register.

Gardner's father, Ken, said his son drove a truck to take ammunition to other troops. "There was quite a danger in what he did," he said.

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Resistance Opens Offensive: Homicidal Maniac In U.S. Copter Kills Kids, Unarmed Civilians And Reporter In Baghdad; 6 U.S. Troops Wounded



Shihab Abid Abdullah cries at a hospital after receiving the news of his brother's death in Baghdad Sept. 12, 2004. **His brother, Hosham Abdullah was fatally injured when, according to witnesses, a U.S. helicopter fired at children, civilians and reporters near a burning Bradley fighting vehicle at Baghdad's Haifa street.** (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

9.12.04 By HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press Writer & Agence France-Presse & Aljazeera.net & Nancy A. Youssef and Patrick Kerkstra, Knight Ridder & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Militants pounded central Baghdad on Sunday with one of their most intense mortar barrages ever in the heart of the capital, targeting the Green Zone and **destroying a U.S. vehicle along central Haifa Street as security appeared to spiral out of control. Two Bradley crewmen were wounded in the attack and four more were injured by grenade and small arms fire as they fled the vehicle, the military said.**

Haifa Street has become a "no go" area for U.S. forces. At least 25 people were killed and more than 100 were wounded — **some of them when a U.S. helicopter fired at crowds around the burning vehicle.**

The scope and intensity of the attacks raised serious questions about the state of security, which has deteriorated since the transfer of sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government June 28.

Maimed and lifeless bodies of young men and boys lay in the street

Rockets and mortars began raining down before dawn on the Green Zone, which houses Iraqi and U.S. offices, and other parts of central Baghdad. As the shelling continued after sunrise, U.S. troops backed by armored vehicles moved into the streets searching for the attackers.



Hassan Khodor is pushed in a wheelchair by his aunt at a hospital in Baghdad Sept. 12, 2004. Khodor was injured when, according to witnesses, a U.S. helicopter killed children, civilians and reporters in Haifa Street. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

A Bradley fighting vehicle rushing down Haifa Street, a major traffic artery near the Green Zone, to assist a U.S. patrol disabled by a car bomb about 6:50 A.M., the U.S. military said. **Two Bradley crewmen were wounded in the attack and four more**

were injured by grenade and small arms fire as they fled the vehicle, the military said.

Jubilant young boys swarmed around the burning vehicle, dancing, cheering and hurling firebombs. Several young men placed a black banner of Tawhid and Jihad in the barrel of the Bradley's main gun.

Suddenly, a U.S. Kiowa helicopter fired machine guns and missiles at the crowd.

Maimed and lifeless bodies of young men and boys lay in the street as the stricken U.S. vehicle was engulfed in flames and thick black smoke.

Witnesses said several people milling around the Bradley, including a correspondent for the Arabic language Al-Arabiya television station, were killed. An Iraqi cameraman working for the Reuters news agency and a freelance photographer for Getty Images were also wounded slightly by flying shrapnel.

Al-Arabiya broadcast videotape showing its employee, twenty-eight year old Palestinian television journalist Mazen al-Tumeizi, preparing to make a report. Suddenly, an explosion occurred behind him. He doubled-over and began screaming "I'm dying, I'm dying" and colleagues tried to help him.

Al-Tumaisi worked for Saudi television Akhbariya and as a fixer for the Arab satellite channel al-Arabiya.

Health Ministry official Saad al-Amili said 13 people were killed and 61 wounded on Haifa street,

Scattered shoes, pools of fresh blood and debris littered the street.

All the casualties were civilians, the journalist said, adding that bodies were left in the street for more than half an hour before an ambulance was able to remove them.

"We were standing near the destroyed vehicle when the helicopter started firing, so we rushed to safety in a nearby building," Alaa Hassan, 24, said from his hospital bed. "I went back to the scene to help the wounded people when the helicopter fired again and I was hit in the chest."

(The premeditated murder of civilians in war is punishable by death, in this case the sooner the better. This gunner is a menace to all concerned. By his actions, he has given the resistance excuse for equally savage treatment of U.S. civilians and captured soldiers in Iraq. Next time one gets beheaded, remember the asshole in the copter who gave the go signal to do it.)



Ammar Omar, right, and his brother Yasser Omar look after their father Omar Mahmoud at their apartment in Haifa street in Baghdad Sept. 12, 2004. Mahmoud's trousers are soaked with the blood of his brother who was seriously injured when a U.S. helicopter killed at children, civilians and reporters at a burning Bradley fighting vehicle. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)



Brave copter gunner gets a terrorist cleverly disguised as a small child: An unidentified father carries his injured child to a hospital in Baghdad, Sept. 12, 2004. The child was injured when a U.S. helicopter fired at children, civilians and reporters near a burning Bradley fighting vehicle. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

FIGHTING ACROSS IRAQ:

The police chief in the west Baghdad district of Yarmouk was killed Sunday in a bomb attack while on patrol in the district, the Interior Ministry said. Col. Alaa Bashir and another officer died on the spot, said ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman.

Clashes occurred in the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 20 others, hospital officials said. **A U.S. Humvee was ablaze, parts of it scattered across the street, witnesses said.**

A bomb also exploded along a road just west of Ramadi as a U.S. military convoy was passing by, witnesses said. They said U.S. troops opened fire after the attack, wounding several people in the area. It was not immediately clear whether there were any American casualties.

Resistance soldiers attacked a group of policemen in the northern city of Mosul, killing one and wounding seven, police said.



An U.S. Bradley Fighting Vehicle burns at Haifa Street Sept. 12, 2004. **This is the scene where a U.S. helicopter killed civilians, children and a reporter.** Fighting broke out early in the morning between U.S. troops and insurgents and lasted for nearly 90 minutes as U.S. soldiers fired from positions behind walls and trees along Haifa Street. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

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.**

Three Polish Soldiers Killed At Hilla; Occupation Locals Blown Up At Jibla

September 12, 2004 From correspondents in Warsaw, News Limited & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & Aljazeera.Net

WARSAW, Poland - Three Polish soldiers were killed in Iraq Sunday when they were attacked with grenades and machine-gun fire as they returned to their base from a demining operation, a Polish military spokesman said.

At least three more Poles were injured in the attack, some four miles east of Hillah, said Lt. Col. Artur Domanski, a spokesman for the Polish-led multinational security force in central Iraq.

In the same area, two powerful bombs exploded simultaneously today in Jibla city north of Hilla near Hillah in central Iraq, killing at least three Iraqi National Guard members and seriously wounding seven others, a Polish military spokesman said.

A patrol made up of National Guard members and troops serving in a Polish-led multinational security force drove into the ambush at about 10am (local time) on a road 30km northeast of Hillah, spokesman Major Krzysztof Plazuk said.

"It was a very strong explosion," Maj. Plazuk said from Iraq.

"Three soldiers died, three were seriously wounded and one is missing in action."

3 US Armored Vehicles Destroyed On Baghdad Airport Road; At Least Three U.S. Troops Wounded

BAGHDAD, Sept. 12 (Xinhuanet) & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

Insurgents attacked a US military convoy on Baghdad's airport road, destroying three Humvees, a Xinhua photographer at the scene said Sunday.

Three American soldiers and two Iraqi civilians were injured

The attack took place Sunday morning southwest of the capital. **The US armored vehicles were still ablaze at around 11:30 am (07:30GMT), he said.**

Several vehicles in the convoy caught fire during the attack which occurred on a highway overpass in the Yarmuk neighbourhood.

"US helicopters flew overhead as US troops blocked the road of Baghdad's international airport. **Several four-wheel drive cars were at the scene as armed foreigners spread in the area and started to search civilian cars,**" the photographer said.

The number of the casualties among the US soldiers was not immediately known.

Humvee Hit In Baghdad



A U.S. soldier stands guard near a destroyed Humvee after attack detonated a car bomb near it in Baghdad Sept. 12, 2004. The crater made by the impact of the explosion is visible in the foreground. **U.S. casualties were not known although at least three civilians in a nearby car died.** (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

Iraqi Leaders, Vice-President Condemn U.S. Attack On Tal Afar; “An Enormous Crime”

TALL AFAR, Iraq, Sept 11 2004 (AFP) Mujahid Mohammed

Hundreds of Iraqis fled the trouble spot of Tall Afar, as regional heavyweights initiated contacts with the government Saturday in a bid to end a US-led operation that has killed at least 50 people.

Clutching bare essentials, families were driven out of the northern town, which was sealed off by US troops for the third consecutive day, in national guard pick-up trucks, said an AFP correspondent.

The massive and indiscriminate use of US firepower in built-up areas, leading to heavy civilian casualties in cities like Tal Afar, Fallujah and Najaf, is coming under increasing criticism in Iraq. The US "came into Iraq like an elephant astride its war machine," said Ibrahim Jaafari, the influential Iraqi Vice President.

A group of tribal leaders, political parties and independents from across Tall Afar's Nineveh province has appointed a five-man committee to mediate between the government and town officials, said member Talaat al-Wazan.

Tribal leaders from the majority Turkmen Shiite town of 150,000 want all detainees to be released and for the Iraqi National Guard, which backed the US-led operation in the early hours of Thursday, to leave.

Former governing council member Shangul Shapuk, of the Iraqi Turkmen Front also said she would join the negotiating efforts.

"I am against the use of force on innocents. Tall Afar is a border town, home to Turkmen and Arab farmers, and I don't believe they are connected to terrorist groups," she told AFP.

"These savage bombardments make no distinction between unarmed civilians and those equipped with weapons," Sheikh Salah al-Jaburi said in the nearby city of Mosul, accusing the US-led coalition of committing an "enormous" crime.

As US-led operations to rid Tall Afar of "terrorists" continued, Sheikh Abdel Ghaffur al-Samarrai told worshippers the assault on the small mainly Shiite Turkmen northern town qualified as genocide.

"What have the residents of Fallujah and Tall Afar done to deserve these atrocities? The occupation forces are committing genocide," he said.

"They came to Iraq to kill, destroy and strip its resources. Where is the UN Security Council?" the leading cleric asked.

The US army account of its aims in besieging Tal Afar is largely at odds with that given by Turkmen and may indicate that its officers are at sea in the complex ethnic mosaic of Iraq.

"Tal Afar is a tribal city and its people were not patient with the presence of American forces," said Farouq Abdullah Abdul Rahman, the president of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, in Baghdad yesterday. He agreed that there was friction with US forces but denied that anything justified the siege, with many Turkmen close to the front line fleeing into the countryside. "More than 60 people have been killed, including women and children, and 100 wounded."

Both Arabs and Turkmen fear ethnic cleansing in reverse. In Tal Afar, a poor city with high unemployment, there was friction from the beginning. Days after the fall of Saddam the Kurdistan Democratic Party appointed its own mayor called Abdul Haleq in the city. He ran up a yellow Kurdish flag outside his office. He was told by local people to take it

down or die. He refused and was killed the following day. His office, along with the yellow flag, was burned by an angry crowd.

Calm returned to Tall Afar Friday after a 13-hour air and ground assault the previous day, which medics said left 45 people dead and that US commanders said killed up to 57 "terrorists."

"Many of the residents of Tall Afar are leaving the city due to the increased activity by terrorists in recent days," the U.S. military command said in a statement. (Absolutely right! The foreign terrorists are George W. Bush, Donald Rumsfeld and the rest of the murderous assholes in command trying to keep for themselves by armed force a country that doesn't belong to them. And that is a perfect definition of a terrorist.)

MORE:

Turkey Reacts With Fury To Massive U.S. Assault On Tal Afar: Turkish Army General Staff “Watching Developments”



An Iraqi Turkmen boy waves a Turkmen flag as several hundred Turkmen march to the U.S. embassy in Ankara Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004, to protest against the U.S. army's operation in the Iraqi Turkoman city of Tel Afar. (AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

12 September 2004 Patrick Cockburn, The Independent & TALL AFAR, Iraq, Sept 11 2004 (AFP) Mujahid Mohammed

The US military assault on Tal Afar, an ethnically Turkmen city in northern Iraq, has provoked a furious reaction from the Turkish government which is demanding the US call off the attack.

In Ankara, Turkey urged Washington to halt its "disproportionate" use of force and said the government was following events with "great concern."

Turkey's Foreign Ministry said: "We have asked the US authorities to stop the offensive in Tal Afar as soon as possible and avoid indiscriminate use of force." ***The Turkish General Staff said it was also watching developments.***

The Americans claim that Tal Afar is a hub for militants smuggling fighters and arms into Iraq from nearby Syria. **Turkish officials make clear in private they believe that the Kurds, the main ally of the US in northern Iraq, have managed to get US troops involved on their side in the simmering ethnic conflict between Kurds and Turkmen.**

"The Iraqi government forces with the Americans are mainly Kurdish," complained one Turkmen source. A Turkish official simply referred to the Iraqi military units involved in the attack on Tal Afar as "peshmerga", the name traditionally given to Kurdish fighters.

The attack on Tal Afar shows how the US must pay a high political price for using its great firepower in the middle of heavily populated areas.

Fallujah Air Strike Kills Garbage Man

Sept. 11, 2004: AFP

A refuse collector was killed when a US warplane fired a missile in the Sunni insurgent bastion of Fallujah.

The US military said coalition forces had destroyed "earth-moving equipment" being used by insurgents to construct fighting positions. **(More like "garbage removing.")**

And Now For The Good News....

September 09, 2004 By Jim Krane, Associated Press

"Everyone in our unit has had their vehicle hit by a (roadside bomb), or watched the vehicle in front of his get hit," said Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Lewis of Elk Grove, Calif., a reservist with the Army's 324th Psychological Operations Company.

"Survivability is very high around here."

Lewis pointed to one reason: **Many soldiers are trained as combat lifesavers. There are plenty of medevac helicopters and combat hospitals are well-placed in the toughest parts of Iraq.**

TROOP NEWS

Veterans Administration Launches Exciting New Campaign To Torment, Abuse, Impoverish, And Destroy Past War Veterans' Lives While Denying Medical Treatment To The Newly Wounded

by Doris Colmes, MSW <http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2004/09/296699.shtml>

Under new laws pending in Congress, VA will be able to revoke combat related compensation to all vets retroactively. The VA is also denying treatment to PTSD victims by not acknowledging symptoms.

Chuck sits in our restaurant booth, looking down at his untouched plate, elbow on table, hand shielding his eyes.

Last night, Chuck and a buddy went to an After Hours Club. He had a few drinks and then began yelling at the Disk Jockey:

"I wanna hear music about people blowing people's brains out, cutting people's throats," he screamed. People around them began to stare, and his buddy whispered pointedly, "Shut up, Chuck." But this made him angrier. Louder. "No! I wanna hear about shit I've seen." Threw his glass on the floor and stalked out, shoulders shaking.

"Well, I don't remember that," he mutters, "But, yeah, I was involved in eleven firefights, seven of them "major." And it didn't stop. And then, pretty soon, we were doing roadblocks, and wound up killing a lot of people. A couple of times it was women and children, and I don't know why."

This is the first time I've heard him say stuff about blowing people's brains out. Most of the time, he just sits still and stares.

Are you reading yet another sad story about some substance-abusing, guilt-absorbed Viet Nam Veteran who can't seem to get over it, can't seem to get a life? Nope, you are not. You are reading about Chuck, who just came back from Iraq, who obviously has a rough case of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and who has not yet been able to get assistance or counseling from the VA.

And, he is so not alone in this dilemma. On July 28, 2004, James Sardo, a clinical psychologist at the Portland, Oregon, Veteran's Administration stated that personnel returning from Iraq are already exhibiting symptoms of PTSD by the hundreds.

As for Chuck? His story is not unique. Vets from as far back as the Korean war have struggled for years simply to get basic treatment and coverage, and -- as happened with Chuck -- were apparently deliberately misdiagnosed.

Chuck, you see, when he went to the VA with his obvious PTSD symptoms -- including, but not limited to, sleep disorders including insomnia and nightmares, depression, emotionally distancing himself from his loved ones, and constantly experiencing "fight-or-flight" rushes from his stressed-out, highly-tuned adrenal glands -- was, in fact, seen by a doctor. And was told that he undoubtedly had pre-enlistment anxiety disorder, stemming from a traumatic childhood. But, except for an occasional zit, having to nag his folks about getting a driver's license, and one forlorn adolescent crush, there had been no trauma.

How can that be? On one hand, the VA states that seventeen percent of Iraqi vets will return with PTSD, and on the other hand, the VA muddles, lies, deliberately changes diagnoses and even -- as you shall see -- hides records. And this has been happening since Korea, accelerating with the Viet Nam vets, and not yet losing momentum. It's all about money, folks.

At this point, three new bills have been introduced in the House: H.R.3800; H.R. 3925; H.R.3973. **These bills impose mandatory and discretionary spending caps and force deep cuts in veterans programs. If approved, such cuts will be devastating to an already overburdened Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System and will impose cuts in compensation for disabled veterans and their survivors.**

Currently, if an injury is diagnosed officially as due to combat, the trooper cannot be kept in the military. He/she must be discharged as 100% disabled directly due to service related injury. Financially, this means a \$2239.00 monthly allocation for VA health care, which costs five to eight times more than for persons disabled via non-service related injuries.

If the above bills get voted in by the legislature when it re-convenes, the following will occur: A disabling injury to a trooper will have to be graphically related to the specific combat duty to which this person was assigned. This would mean that **the VA will be able to eliminate all non-combat related compensation without having to answer to anyone. And, the appeals process would be different for each individual. This leaves itself open to such a wild and wide range of interpretation by the VA that removal of compensation would not only be completely arbitrary, but retroactive to boot, reaching all the way back to WWII.**

Veterans with retirement pay as well as disability compensation will be revisited under this pending legislation. Under the bills in consideration by Congress, it would have to be one or the other -- although, legally, vets have a right to both!

However, with this proposed new definition of "service related" disability, retroactive compensation cuts would be enacted with all disabled veterans who were not specifically engaged in the combat duties they were commanded to perform. Payments in these cases would be reduced 50%, with one third of disabled veterans totally eliminated. Since all of this would be retroactive -- going back as far as there have been records kept -- **such strategy will make financial room for the incoming flood of the Iraqi disabled returning home.**

And, this applies not only to physical disablement, but also to PTSD. No wonder they don't want to diagnose folks with that particular disorder. Costs a lotta moolah, folks, for enough counseling to get Chuck and his buddies back on their emotional feet.

And what do the Viet Nam vets have to say about all this? More than several of them have stated that they were diagnosed as having pre-enlistment anxiety attacks, or ignored altogether. Representative Examples:

It took "Amanda" of Oregon thirty years --Yep, count 'em: Thirty-- to get the VA to recognize that her brother, Richard was suffering from PTSD but she is still unable to prove his Agent Orange disease. Last year, after filing a one hundred page appeal and enlisting the help of her Senator, Amanda was finally able to get Richard compensation for combat related disability PTSD, and begin counseling. As for the Agent Orange diagnosis, **No, folks, he was turned down. Why? Well, although he exhibits "official" Agent Orange symptoms such as severe skin lesions, diabetes, numerous hernias, as well as renal dysfunction and liver disorder, he does not have cancer. Period. No cancer, no Agent Orange. Believe it. We've been keeping track.**

It took another vet, "Ezra," thirty six years to get benefits, although he was discharged with service-connected disability in December, 1967. He subsequently spent two months at a mid-west VA hospital with acute renal and other internal organ dysfunction, as well as with permanently disabling severe skeletal injuries. Finally, when he temporarily stopped vomiting, he was simply sent home with no diagnosis. By 1969, he was back in the hospital, but, then was told his disability was not service connected. **At last, after all those years of active and insistent wrangling, Ezra received his first disability payment in October, 2003, and that was because a federal investigator -- appointed, using our tax dollars, to investigate the ruckus this man was creating -- finally located his records stamped "Classified" in the Pentagon. Ezra is still in a wheelchair.**

When this particular vet went into surgery to correct battle-related injury to his right shoulder, the surgeon in charge not only operated on the wrong shoulder, but botched the surgery so completely that all connections between his muscles, tendons, clavicle and shoulder joint were severed and permanently destroyed.

Resultant severe pain has been chronic ever since, and all movement restricted. But: The Feres Doctrine, a legality in place at the highest official level of the Veterans Administration, prevents any Veteran from suing any Veterans Administration physician for malpractice. Any vet can emerge from treatment a bodiless cripple, much worse off than when he entered treatment, and, under the Feres Doctrine, no suit will be accepted. Period. Even class action suits are rejected. Nothing. Nada. Go fix your own shoulder, buddy, don't come whining to us!

So, what are we going to do to prevent this from happening to the guys now in Iraq?

PTSD is going to be epidemic. Why? Because the war in Iraq is as manufactured a conflict as was Viet Nam, and when these troopers wake up to the fact that they have been engaged in mortal combat for no other reason than procuring oil and satisfying corporate greed, then they will not be able to bear the pain of what this cost them, cost their families, cost thousands of innocent Iraqis.

Based on research done by various independent researchers with access to VA statistics, 30% of troops returning from Iraq will need help, and 27% of overseas troops already have PTSD cropping up. And, in a CBS report, aired August 7, 2004, this figure was adjusted to one in six!

Of course, when these vets come home, they'll be diagnosed as having pre-enlistment anxiety disorder, and will have to prove unequivocally that they incurred their disabilities while actually on specifically assigned duty, and not shot by a sniper while smoking a butt outside the barracks. After all, treatment costs money.

And, just in case you think any of this news is new, let's conclude with Roy Vanderhoof, a local historical researcher on Congressional Medal of Honor awardees.

On August 8, 2004, Mr. Vanderhoof revealed in the Portland Oregonian that **Jacob Volz who won a Congressional Medal of Honor during the Philippine Insurrection war of 1911, was refused treatment by the Portland, Oregon, Veterans Administration Medical Center in the 1960's when he was dying of cancer, because: "The 1911 Philippine Insurrection was not classified as a war."**

And this guy, Jacob Volz had earned the highest award our country gives its military heroes when he "fiercely attacked an enemy ambush team that had mowed down an American scouting party." Go figure....

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.

Fact

6 September, 2004 By Robert Hodierne, In Arlington, Virginia, BBC News

In the civilian job market, American feminists point to the progress women have made. Why, 20 years ago women earned only 65 cents for every dollar a man earned.

Today that has inched up to 75 cents for every dollar.

But get this - in the military, women are paid the same as the men. Except at the very highest ranks, they get promoted at the same rates and they re-enlist at the same rates. In many ways, the military is a good deal for women.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

5 Occupation Oil Guards Shot

9.12.04 Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Five officers were wounded in two separate insurgent attacks Sunday against security forces guarding Iraq's oilfields, a security official said.

In the first attack, insurgents fired on a group of security officers guarding the Dibis oilfields, 25 miles northeast of Kirkuk.

Three were injured, said the head of national guard force in Kirkuk, Maj. Gen Anawr Mohammed Amin.

Also, two officers on patrol were wounded in a drive-by shooting near Jambouz oilfields, 30 miles west of Kirkuk, Amin said.

More Occupation Cops Blown Up

12 September 2004 Aljazeera.net

Three Iraqi policemen were killed and four others injured after the driver of a vehicle the policemen were pursuing blew himself up.

The explosion took place on a road near the main highway in Amiriya, west of Baghdad.

An Iraqi journalist told Aljazeera Iraqi police explained that as the patrol approached the vehicle, the driver blew himself up.

“DON'T FUCK WITH FALLUJAH”



Armed fighters of Shura Council of Mujahedeen show a remote controlled drone belonging to the U.S. army that they shot down in Fallujah Sept. 12, 2004. The banner behind reads 'there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is the Prophet'. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Dying In Vain In A Pointless War

10 September 2004 By Bob Herbert, Vietnam Veteran, New York Times

The insurgency in Iraq will never end as long as the U.S. is occupying the country. And our Iraqi “allies” will never fight their Iraqi brethren with the kind of intensity the U.S. would like, any more than the South Vietnamese would fight their fellow Vietnamese with the fury and effectiveness demanded by the hawks in the Johnson administration.

The Iraqi insurgents – whether one agrees with them or not – believe they are fighting for their homeland, their religion and their families.

The Americans are not at all clear what they’re fighting for. Saddam is gone. There were no weapons of mass destruction. The link between Saddam and the atrocities of Sept. 11 was always specious and has been proven so.

At some point, as in Vietnam, the American public will balk at the continued carnage, and this tragic misadventure will become politically unsustainable. Meanwhile, the death toll mounts.

President Bush never prepared the nation for the prolonged violence of this war. He still hasn't spoken candidly about it. If he has an idea for hauling us out of this quagmire, he hasn't bothered to reveal it.

The troops who are fighting and dying deserve better.

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

The Watchman

(THANKS TO MIKE H. WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: HE WRITES: The writer served with a tank battalion during last years invasion. He is still active so don't reference his name.)

"I listened to the recording of me recounting my traumatic events from Iraq today. When I finished I was left with a feel of anger and sadness. I then wrote this poem (song really, but I can't email a melody) I wanted to share it with all of you."

The Watchmen

My boots sit in the corner
covered in sand
They've set foot on the soil
of many foreign lands
Spread freedom like seeds
and the truth of democracy
Come on boys let's go
let's make other men free
Come on son let's go
our cause is just
we must follow the orders
of the leaders we trust
Our leaders say they are the watchmen
who stand at the gate
beating the drums off to war
before it's too late

But, who watches the watchmen
to see that justice is not lost?
Who will stay awake at night
and help us count the cost?
How many mothers will pierce
the night with their cries?
How many men will lay down
their lives for a lie?

The questions abound
but the answers will not come
When will we learn that freedom
does not come from a gun?

It's hard to forgive
When my boots reek of blood.
The leaders speak of justice
and democracy
but the people do not understand
when they say freedom is not free
That we will always
stand up and fight
How many young soldiers
will not sleep at night

Who watches the watchmen
to know our cause is just?
What good is our freedom
if we have no choice
but to trust?
War is perhaps easiest
on the heroes who die
Their pain has ended
but the living still cry

We watch the watchmen
their hands all covered in blood
who still do not know
freedom cannot
come from a gun.

Rest well and know
the truth is not lost
The old soldiers keep watch
and we'll count the cost

We watch the watchmen
We'll count the cost

Too Late For "If". Done Deal. Time To Go Home

"The insurgency is trying to win the hearts and minds of the people and **if they win the hearts and minds of the people**, no matter what we do here with force is going to be powerful enough" U.S. Army Sgt. Scott Carter, 32, said. (September 12, 2004 EVAN OSNOS AND RICK JERVIS, Chicago Tribune)

U.S. Reporters Ass-Kissing Occupation Again

Have you noticed the increasing number of ass-kissing reporters using the term “international forces” or “multinational forces” when reporting on the fighting in Baghdad?

Too bad they weren’t around in the 1940’s: Hitler or Stalin could have made good U.S. of them, since they obviously have no integrity or interest in reporting anything remotely resembling the truth.

Perhaps this isn’t fair. If not, they will now report on the number of British, Polish, Bulgarian or what the fuck ever forces now fighting in Baghdad.

Otherwise they stand exposed as nothing but skank propagandists for the Occupation.

On the plus side are the reporters who are now writing about “insurgents” or “the resistance” or “The Mahdi Army” instead of “Saddam Hussein remnants” or “religious fanatics” or “die-hard remnants.” Respect to them.

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"The daily press... which in a moment spreads inventions over the whole world, fabricates more myths... in a day than could have formerly been done in a century." (Karl Marx.)

"There is no such thing, at this date of the world's history, in America, as an independent press. You know it and I know it. The business of the Journalist is to destroy truth; To lie outright; To pervert; To vilify; To fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread. You know it and I know it and what folly is this toasting an independent press?

We are the tools and vassals for rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks, they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and or lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes." (John Swinton, former Chief of Staff, The New York Times, 1953.)

MORE:

If Terrorism Isn't Video-Taped, It Doesn't Exist

Fallujah: An Iraqi Beslan

September 11, 2004 **MIKE WHITNEY**,
<http://www.counterpunch.org/whitney09112004.html>

*Everybody talks about mercy,
But they don't know the meaning of the word.*
Mose Allison

Fallujah is an Iraqi Beslan. The only difference is that the cameras aren't rolling.

The city of 500,000 is being held hostage by an American leadership who doesn't mind shedding the blood of innocent civilians to achieve their broader political goals. That is the very definition of terrorism.

Since, the Marines were rebuffed last April in a three week siege that killed an estimated 650 Iraqis, the military has repeatedly bombed sections of Falluja using the spurious claim of targeting terrorist "safe houses." Every incident involved the wanton destruction of personal property and the loss of innocent life.

These attacks are part of larger "psy-ops" (psychological operation) strategy that requires the long-term terrorizing of the population to make them more compliant to American wishes. Certainly, the Chechen rebels should be taking notes if they want to truly grasp the subtleties of a well-managed terrorist procedure.

<p>The reporting has been so meticulously sanitized that it bears no resemblance to the real horror we are unleashing against a defenseless civilian population.</p>

It should surprise no one that Al Jazeera was expelled from Iraq. Their coverage has been a major departure from the Pentagon narrative that fills the pages of the New York Times and Washington Post. Rather than provide apologetics for the hostilities, they have focused their gaze on the suffering of normal people, people dealing with the daily struggle of living in a war zone, people digging their family members out of the ruins of a smoldering building.

Besides, America doesn't perpetrate terrorism. Our efforts in Iraq are purely altruistic. We have come to "liberate"; to bring democracy to unwashed natives of a primitive third world backwater and remove the scourge of WMD from a crazed tyrant.

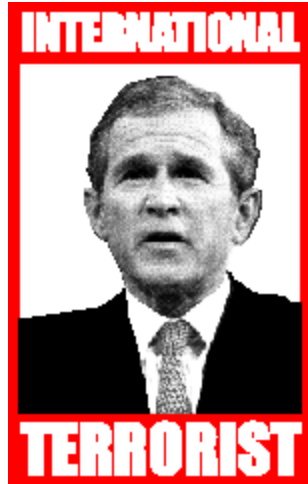
Nonsense. The fear that engulfed Beslan, now cuts a wide swath through Iraq enveloping everyone within its vice-like grip. **Falluja is just the most recent chapter in this campaign of terror. This level of truth is anathema to the objectives of the empire. As Beslan proves, it is impossible to carry on a campaign of terror under the scrutiny of a camera lens.**

OCCUPATION REPORT

Rumsfeld Says Bush Regime Will Try To Prevent Iraqi Elections

TALL AFAR, Iraq, Sep 11, 2004: AFP

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned that "There's no question but between now and the end of the year the terrorists are determined to try to prevent the elections from taking place and from taking place on time.



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Secret Service Thugs For Republican Campaign; Puling Bra-Straps And Hair For Bush

September 11, 2004 By Dana Milbank, The Washington Post

COLMAR, Pa. — Secret Service agents are famous for their willingness to take a bullet for the president. Less famous is their willingness to take out a heckler for the president.

Officially, the Secret Service does not concern itself with unarmed, peaceful demonstrators who pose no danger to the commander in chief. But that policy was inoperative Thursday when seven AIDS activists who heckled President Bush were shoved and pulled from the room — some by their hair, one by her bra straps — and then arrested for disorderly conduct and detained for an hour.



A demonstrator's hair is pulled as she is forced out of an auditorium where President Bush was addressing a crowd in Colmar, Pa. on Thursday. (JACQUELINE LARMA AP)

After Bush campaign bouncers handled the evictions, **Secret Service agents, accompanied by Bush's personal aide, supervised the arrests and detention of the activists,** and blocked the media from access to the hecklers.

The Bush campaign has made unprecedented efforts to control access to its events. **And the Secret Service has played an unusual role; one agent cooperated with a plan by the Bush campaign last month to prevent former Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., from handing a letter to the agent outside Bush's Texas ranch.**

The seven activists, with the AIDS group Act Up Philadelphia, signed up as volunteers for the event at a warehouse in suburban Philadelphia. They were admitted Thursday to the Bush speech, which they quickly disrupted with chants of "Bush lies, people die," and signs saying, "Bush: Global AIDS Liar."

Bush forced a smile as the seven interrupted his speech in waves. As the crowd drowned them out with chants of "Four More Years," the demonstrators were led roughly from the room by event ushers as a few attendees shouted "traitors." Outside, plainclothes Secret Service agents, joined by Blake Gottesman, Bush's personal aide, circled the demonstrators.

One uniformed Secret Service agent complained to a colleague that "the press is having a field day" with the disruption — and the agents clamped down quickly. Journalists were told that if they sought to approach the demonstrators, they would not be allowed to return to the event site.

One agent said that there was a "different set of rules" for reporters who did not seek out the activists.

In the confusion, even Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., had to cool his heels for 10 minutes before the Secret Service would let him leave the building.

The seven hecklers were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, then kept out of sight until Bush departed. One of them, Jen Cohn, said Secret Service agents interrogated the demonstrators and stood by as a police officer handled the arrests.

Tom Mazur, a spokesman for the Secret Service in Washington, said dealing with hecklers is the job of "the host committee and local enforcement" officers. "The Secret Service normally doesn't get involved."

Mazur referred questions about the event to the Philadelphia field office, where the agent in charge was unavailable for comment.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Violent Protests Grip Afghan City: "Death To Americans"

12 September, 2004 BBC News

Supporters of the sacked governor of the Afghan city of Herat, Ismail Khan, have set fire to local UN offices on the second day of unrest there.

Unconfirmed reports say at least seven supporters of the ousted governor were killed on Sunday in clashes with US and Afghan government troops and police.

A governor backed by Afghan President Hamid Karzai has taken office in a ceremony in the western city.

Mr Khan has ruled Herat for decades and has resisted the president's authority.

Hundreds of demonstrators ransacked the UN compound on Sunday, setting fire to parts of the buildings and throwing stones, reports say. US and government troops helped staff to reach safety and tried to keep back the crowds with tear gas.

The compound houses offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Assistance Mission.

Witnesses reported bursts of gunfire as smoke from burning cars and other wreckage rose over the centre of Herat. Two people are said to have been killed in protests overnight.

A doctor at Herat's central hospital said seven protesters' bodies had been brought in on Sunday, according to Reuters.

The inauguration ceremony for the man Mr Karzai has appointed as his new governor, Mohammed Khair Khuwa, was punctuated by the sound of gunfire outside, the BBC's Andrew North reports. US helicopters patrolled the skies overhead, our correspondent says.

Mr Khan declined a low-profile ministerial post offered by the president after his dismissal on Saturday.

News of his sacking brought protesters into the streets, with demonstrators gathering in the city centre during the afternoon to chant "Death to Karzai, death to Americans". Afghan soldiers are said to have fired warning shots.

Eyewitnesses said framed pictures of President Karzai were smashed in the street.

In a separate clash, protesters pelted a US military vehicle with stones and troops also fired warning shots.

Hundreds of Afghan government troops were flown to Herat in US aircraft to bolster security ahead of the announcement.

One of the best-known former mujahideen leaders, Mr Khan led an uprising there against Soviet troops in 1979. After taking over as governor in 2001, he turned it into a kind of personal fiefdom, our correspondent says.

For the past few weeks, rumours had been growing that Mr Karzai was preparing to replace Mr Khan after his forces clashed with the fighters of another local militia commander, Amanullah.

Although Amanullah was placed under house arrest, Mr Khan was widely seen to have been weakened by the fighting in which he lost control of several areas of the province, our correspondent says.

The US welcomed Mr Karzai's decision to sack him, but also warned anyone involved against taking action which might threaten security in the region.

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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>