

GI SPECIAL 2#B65

BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



British soldier in Basra. (AFP/File/Essam Al-Sudani)

“Bush’s War Is Already Lost” Military Experts Say

September 16, 2004 Sidney Blumenthal, The Guardian

'Bring them on!' President Bush challenged the early Iraqi insurgency in July of last year.

Since then, 812 American soldiers have been killed and 6,290 wounded, according to the Pentagon. **Almost every day, in campaign speeches, Bush speaks with bravado about how he is "winning" in Iraq.** "Our strategy is succeeding," he boasted to the National Guard convention on Tuesday.

But, according to the US military's leading strategists and prominent retired generals, Bush's war is already lost.

Retired general William Odom, former head of the National Security Agency, told me: "Bush hasn't found the WMD. Al-Qaida, it's worse, he's lost on that front. That he's going to achieve a democracy there? That goal is lost, too. It's lost."

Retired general Joseph Hoare, the former marine commandant and head of US Central Command, told me: "The idea that this is going to go the way these guys planned is ludicrous. There are no good options. We're conducting a campaign as though it were being conducted in Iowa, no sense of the realities on the ground. It's so unrealistic for anyone who knows that part of the world. The priorities are just all wrong."

Jeffrey Record, professor of strategy at the Air War College, said: "I see no ray of light on the horizon at all. The worst case has become true.

W Andrew Terrill, professor at the Army War College's strategic studies institute - and the top expert on Iraq there - said: "I don't think that you can kill the insurgency".

According to Terrill, **the anti-US insurgency**, centred in the Sunni triangle, and holding several cities and towns - including Fallujah - **is expanding and becoming more capable as a consequence of US policy.**

"We have a growing, maturing insurgency group," he told me. "We see larger and more coordinated military attacks. They are getting better and they can self-regenerate. **The idea there are x number of insurgents, and that when they're all dead we can get out is wrong. The insurgency has shown an ability to regenerate itself because there are people willing to fill the ranks of those who are killed. The political culture is more hostile to the US presence. The longer we stay, the more they are confirmed in that view.**"

After the killing of four US contractors in Fallujah, the marines besieged the city for three weeks in April - the watershed event for the insurgency. **"I think the president ordered the attack on Fallujah," said General Hoare. "I asked a three-star marine general who gave the order to go to Fallujah and he wouldn't tell me. I came to the conclusion that the order came directly from the White House."**

"If you are a Muslim and the community is under occupation by a non-Islamic power it becomes a religious requirement to resist that occupation," Terrill explained. "Most Iraqis consider us occupiers, not liberators."

"I see no exit," said Record. "We've been down that road before. It's called Vietnamisation. The idea that we're going to have an Iraqi force trained to defeat an enemy we can't defeat stretches the imagination. They will be tainted by their very association with the foreign occupier. In fact, we had more time and money in state building in Vietnam than in Iraq."

General Odom said: "This is far graver than Vietnam. There wasn't as much at stake strategically, though in both cases we mindlessly went ahead with the war that was not constructive for US aims. But now we're in a region far more volatile, and we're in much worse shape with our allies."

Terrill believes that any sustained US military offensive against the no-go areas "could become so controversial that members of the Iraqi government would feel compelled to resign". **Thus, an attempted military solution would destroy the slightest remaining political legitimacy.**

General Hoare believes from the information he has received that "a decision has been made" to attack Fallujah "after the first Tuesday in November. That's the cynical part of it - after the election. The signs are all there."

He compares any such planned attack to the late Syrian dictator Hafez al-Asad's razing of the rebel city of Hama. "You could flatten it," said Hoare. "US military forces would prevail, casualties would be high, there would be inconclusive results with respect to the bad guys, their leadership would escape, and civilians would be caught in the middle. I hate that phrase collateral damage. And they talked about dancing in the street, a beacon for democracy."

General Odom remarked that the tension between the Bush administration and the senior military officers over Iraqi was worse than any he has ever seen with any previous government, including Vietnam.

"I've never seen it so bad between the office of the secretary of defence and the military. There's a significant majority believing this is a disaster. The two parties whose interests have been advanced have been the Iranians and al-Qaida. **Bin Laden could argue with some cogency that our going into Iraq was the equivalent of the Germans in Stalingrad. They defeated themselves by pouring more in there. Tragic.**"

NEED 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/> **And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

MARINE KILLED IN ACTION

September 17, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-09-19C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Sept. 17. Due to force protection consideration, additional details concerning the incident will not be made available. **(Bullshit.)**

U.S. Command Orders More Kids & Civilians Slaughtered In Fallujah: Terror Air Raids Continuing; Mass Graves Dug



Civilians, including children, have been killed in the US air strikes (Aljazeera **Photo**)

Sep 17, 2004 (CBS) & Aljazeera

A fresh US aerial onslaught near Falluja in Anbar province has killed at least 56 people and wounded 40, according to hospital sources.

Dr Ahmad Khalil also said two Iraqi women were killed and eight other people wounded in another raid on Falluja.

Several strikes on the village of Zoba, some 7km south of the town of Falluja, demolished 13 houses, the sources and witnesses said early on Friday morning.

Residents of Fazat Shnetir were seen digging mass graves Friday to bury the dead in groups of four.

Blood covered the floors of the Fallujah General Hospital as doctors struggled to cope with a flood of casualties, many brought to the hospital in private cars with ambulances overwhelmed. Relatives pounded their chests in grief and denounced the United States.

Health Ministry spokesman Saad al-Amili said at least 44 people were killed and 27 injured in the Fallujah strikes. He said 17 children and two women were among the wounded. Hospital officials in Fallujah said women and children were also among the dead, but exact figures were not immediately available.

Religious leaders switched on loudspeakers at the Fallujah mosque to call on residents to donate blood while chanting "God is great."

The US military in Iraq has persisted in its claims that it is targeting the "safe houses" of al-Zarqawi and/or his supporters.

However, Iraqi medical sources and independent journalists in Falluja say that most of those wheeled into local hospitals are civilians, often including many women and children.

Earlier, Ahmad Hardan, member of the Local Council in Falluja, told Aljazeera that of the three killed, two were an elderly couple.

Five people were also injured in the air strike which targeted the Dhubat (officers) neighbourhood in the city, Hardan said.

"Three bodies were taken from the rubble," said one rescue worker. Another three people - among them two women and a child - were injured, ambulance workers said.

The attacks came even as Iraq's influential Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS) denounced the air strikes as "terrorist acts".

Dr. Muhammad al-Hamadani, a political analyst, said in an interview with Aljazeera, he strongly resented US claims that its air strike near Falluja targeted a site where 90 supporters of al-Zarqawi were meeting at the time.

Al-Hamadani said almost all the victims of the air strikes were women and children, most of them less than 10-years old.

<p>He wondered how these children could be considered followers of al-Zarqawi or that their houses belong to "terrorists" as claimed by the US.</p>
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Dr. Hamadani pointed out that Shaikh Abu Shenater, whose house was the target, was a prominent and well known tribal leader in the area and it was customary for people to congregate around him and his house especially on a Friday.

"The fact is that the US is pursuing a scorched earth policy that destroys everything on the ground. What has happened in Najaf, Falluja, al-Sadr City and Tel Afar is clear proof that this policy has failed," Dr. Hamadani said.

A cleric in Baghdad, Shaikh Abd al-Ghafur al-Samarrai, lashed out at the US military for the bombings.

"If you have intelligence on the location of al-Zarqawi and his elements why don't you surround and capture them?" he asked during his weekly sermon on Friday.



Some 13 houses were destroyed

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

Baghdad Cops Attacked; Three Dead



Three police were killed when a car-bomb targeted a police patrol. (AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

Sep 17, 2004 (CBS) & BBC & AFP & By Hamza Hendawi, Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CBS) A car packed with explosives rammed a six police cars blocking off a bridge in the Rashid Street district, killing three policemen and injuring 37 people.

A spokesman for the ministry says many of the injured are policemen.

A large crater was gouged in the road and US troops and Iraqi police tried to clear the area, as ambulances rushed to treat the wounded.

A witness said shrapnel rained down on his stationery shop in the central Al-Mutanabbi Street.

Police fired shots to disperse the crowd and thousands of shoppers streamed from the area.

The police vehicles had been helping to seal off the area around Haifa Street, where U.S. and Iraqi forces had raided suspected insurgent hideouts in the morning, sparking a gunbattle.

American and Iraqi forces raided suspected insurgent hideouts in the Iraqi capital on Friday, sparking a gunbattle on a main Baghdad thoroughfare. More than 50 suspects were detained during the sweeps on Haifa street, a virtual "no-go" area for U.S. forces. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The site of the blast is in the heart of one of Baghdad's busiest commercial areas, a short distance away from the storied al-Moutanabi street, whose outdoor book market attracts thousands on Fridays.

The immediate vicinity of the blast was partially covered with blood and strewn with debris, including at least five artillery shells that police said came from the suicide car. One shell sat inside the 6.5-foot crater left by the blast.

Parts of the car were found more than 100 yards away from the blast site, according to witnesses.

"The bomber was driving a Chevrolet Malibu. He smashed his car against the police vehicle," interior ministry spokesman Adnan Abdul Rahman was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency. "Iraqi police and American soldiers are there now."

A second blast shook the city less than an hour later. The cause of that explosion was not immediately known.

Mahdi Army Takes Basra Streets: British Attack Sadr HQ;

At Least One British Soldier Wounded



Mahdi Army resistance troops take position in Basra. Clashes erupted between Sadr's men and British troops. (AFP/Essam al-Sudani)

17/09/2004 Thomas Crosbie Media

Al-Mahdi Army militiamen took up positions on main streets and intersections near al-Sadr's office in Basra today.

British forces stormed the offices and deployed around the building. Reinforcements backed by tanks moved to the area and a helicopter hovered overhead.

A British military spokesman said one British soldier was wounded in the clashes, but he was unable to confirm the building had been seized.

"There have been several incidents in central Basra city," Squadron Leader Steve Dharamraj said.

The fighting between the troops and al-Mahdi Army militiamen was centred near al-Sadr's offices in the al-Tuwaisa neighbourhood in the city centre.

Sporadic explosions and gunfire echoed through the area. Flames could be seen leaping out of the second floor of the two-story building which houses the offices. A fire also erupted in a nearby house.

There was no immediate word on militia or civilian casualties, but at least one fighter was covered in blood.



Mahdi Army resistance troops take position in Basra. (AFP/Essam al-Sudani)

TROOP NEWS

In Their Own Words: Letters From U.S. Casualties

2004 The Associated Press

Writings from U.S. troops who have died in Iraq

09/08/04 "AP" -- Army Staff Sgt. Dale Panchot, 26, of Northome, Minn., in a letter to his family. "I was reading my Bible the other night and in the book of Genesis ... it said when God created the heavens and earth, he made four rivers, two of which are here in Iraq, the Tigris and the Euphrates. So after I found that out, I had to go down by the river and touch the water. I tell you, it was something else. Pretty cool, huh?"

Army National Guard Sgt. Roger Rowe, 54, of Bon Aqua, Tenn., in his last letter to his wife, Shirley. "Love has always gotten us through and it will do so again."

Army Pfc. Rachel Bosveld, 19, of Waupun, Wis., in a letter home. "More and more people want us to go home. Believe me, we want to go home."

Army Pfc. Diego Rincon, 19, of Conyers, Ga., in his last letter home. "Whether I make it or not, it's all part of the plan. It can't be changed, only completed. Mother will be the last word I'll say. Your face will be the last picture that goes through my eyes. ... I just hope that you're proud of what I'm doing and have faith in my decisions. I will try hard and not give up. I just want to say sorry for anything I have ever done wrong. And I'm doing it all for you mom. I love you."

Marine Lance Cpl. Aaron Austin, 21, of Sunray, Texas, in the last letter to his fiancée, Tiffany Frank. "When the pastor says you may kiss your bride that will probably be the happiest moment next to the next time you are able to lay your head on my chest ... There is no one or nothing that will stop me from getting back to you baby. So don't worry. Just wait."

Army Sgt. Micheal Dooley, 23, of Pulaski, Va., in a letter home to his wife, Christine, who was six months' pregnant when he died. "I want pictures of you, to see how big your belly is getting. How much my baby is growing inside of you. Not being with you makes me weak. You are the link that makes my chain strong. You complete me in every way."

The final journal entry of Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Smith, 41, of West Liberty, Iowa. His wife, Oliva, received the necklace in the mail two days after his funeral, with a short note: "Oliva, Happy Birthday Early. Love Bruce." "I sent Oliva a b-day present yesterday. A nice necklace. She will get it a couple of weeks early but that is good."

Mother Of GI Killed In Iraq Arrested For Asking Bush Wife Why Her Kids Aren't Serving

9/17/04 By SHARON WATERS, STAFF WRITER, Asbury Park Press & (CBS/AP)
HAMILTON, N.J.,

The mother of a South Brunswick man killed in Iraq was arrested yesterday after interrupting a speech by first lady Laura Bush during a campaign event in a Hamilton firehouse.

When Bush mentioned the troops abroad, Niederer shouted, "When are yours going to serve?" referring to Bush's 22-year-old twin daughters, who aren't in the armed services.

Sue Niederer wore a shirt with a photo of her son, Army Lt. Seth Dvorin, that read "President Bush You Killed My Son." Dvorin died in February.

"At that point, it became chaotic and I was pushed and shoved," said Niederer, of Hopewell. "They engulfed me. It wasn't plain, ordinary folks, but people in suits with earphones."

The crowd chanted "Four more years" as Secret Service agents surrounded Niederer and escorted her outside. **Once outside, Niederer said she was handcuffed and placed in a police van after trying to speak to reporters.**

Outside the hall, she said she had a ticket and asked why she was being arrested. She was told by police she had entered a private event and had refused to leave, the Trenton Times reported.

"I had a ticket to get in," said Niederer, adding that Hamilton police kept her ticket as evidence. "I was in there legitimately."

Niederer said she obtained a ticket by going to Republican campaign headquarters Tuesday, as a local newspaper had advised readers to do. **She said some campaign workers recognized her as an outspoken anti-war activist, but still gave her a ticket. No one stopped Niederer when she checked in by name at yesterday's event.**

Some people standing near her commented on her shirt, expressing sympathy, Niederer said. **After her shouted question, Niederer said at least one person spoke in her defense, saying, "She has a right to speak. She's a mother."**

A man standing near her noticed the Dvorin shirt and told her his son had served with the soldier in Iraq, Niederer said.

Niederer was later charged with defiant trespass and released. The charge could lead to a fine and a jail term of up to 60 days but jail time rarely results from such offenses, said a police spokesman.

Dvorin graduated in 1998 from South Brunswick High School. He was the son of East Brunswick resident Richard Dvorin, Niederer's ex-husband.

Niederer has an Oct. 12 court date in Hamilton.

Officer Who Rallied UK Troops To Attack Iraq Now Condemns War

17 September 2004 Independent Digital (UK)

Colonel Tim Collins, the British commander whose stirring speech to his troops on the eve of the Iraq invasion was reportedly hung on a wall in the Oval Office by George Bush, has criticised the British and US governments over the war.

The officer, who has now left the Army, condemned the lack of planning for the aftermath of the conflict **and questioned the motives for attacking Iraq.**

"Either it was a war to liberate the people of Iraq, in which case there was gross incompetence, or it was simply a cynical war that was going to happen anyway to vent some form of anger on Saddam Hussein's regime with no regard to the consequences on the Iraqi people. In that case it is a form of common assault - and the evidence would point towards the latter," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

He added: **"The evidence would show, in hindsight, that the preparations for a free and fair Iraq were not made and therefore one must question the motivation of the powers that went to attack it.** There was very little preparation or thought given to what would follow on from the invasion.

Asked about the claims of abuse of Iraqi prisoners, Col Collins said: **"The abuse of any individual is to be condemned without qualification. However, I would observe that if the leaders of a country, or the leaders of an alliance, talk in terms of 'them', 'the enemy' rather than treating them as people, how can they expect the lowest common denominator, the basic soldiery, to interpret it in any other way?**

"Leadership comes from the top and soldiers at the lowest level will interpret their need to act from the guidance given by leaders. They are either well led or badly led.

"Ultimately the responsibility for the actions of soldiers must come back to the leaders."

A Mother Laments As Her Son Goes To An Unjust War: If You're For The War, Go "Sign Up Now"

September 17, 2004 by Pauline Erlick, North Lake Tahoe Bonanza (Nevada) Pauline Erlick lives in Incline Village.

It seems like yesterday when my son phoned to say he was to be deployed to Iraq and now he has gone from us to be stationed somewhere near Baghdad with no exit date. I can only hope his stay will pass as quickly as did these last few months.

Friends and family met at the National Guard Armory for a small ceremony where a contingent of 50 Guardsmen prepared for a parade of the colors.

What surprised me was the mature ages of those weekend warriors about to be deployed, my son being one of the youngest pilots at 37 years old. Doubtless, many of them had seen years of service to their country and now, nearing retirement, were part of our National Guard, never thinking that they would be called away from their duties for an unspecified amount of time to serve in what Bush has called his unwinnable miscalculation in Iraq.

Families visited with their loved ones, children ran and played all around us, one soldier cradled his three week old baby in his arms; there was even a family dog wagging his tail and nudging a reassuring pat on the head from his owner.

The usual prayers were routinely offered up upon which I turned my back in silent protest at the illegality of this war and wasteful use of taxpayer money and lives lost. Surely our God of love could not have told George to wage this preemptive strike and carnage in His name.

Worried families were reassured that their loved ones were going to build a better Iraq and that we should not listen to CNN, which persistently showed us the negative side of the war. We were told that progress was being made and that there were lots of positive things not spoken about on CNN. Remind me to tune into Fox News.

We said our farewells and returned home. I did not sleep well that night and waking early, turned on the TV just in time to see the news SkyCam helicopter zoom in on the eight Black Hawks ready for take off on the flight line. Their rotors spinning and engines roaring as the lead helicopter hovered, dipped slightly and then rose, followed by the other seven, into the brilliant red and gold sunrise of the eastern sky. I silently wished them all God speed.

What manner of war is this that we have to employ 50 mature Arizona National Guardsmen, reservists, the economically disadvantaged, mercenaries and young women to fight enraged Arabs, yet neither our Congressmen nor our Sunshine Patriots have many of their loved ones serving in the war they created. Why is it their sacrifice alone and not ours, as we continue our lives untouched by the chaos we have caused?

If you support Bush's oil wars, then sign up now, your country needs you.

The game plan has changed and we are now the invaders surrounded by hostiles only too happy to supply the growing Iraqi insurgents with the means to expel us for however long it takes or until hell freezes over, whichever comes first.

I feel so ashamed that I wasn't able to pull strings to get Rob into a cushy Champagne Unit as Poppy Bush did for George W. during the Vietnam debacle.

I am not proud of what we have done, but I will wear a yellow ribbon and wait and watch the skies for those eight black birds to come skimming over the desert mountains, backlit by another glorious Arizona sunrise, unharmed and home safe where they belong.

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.

Maryland Soldier Burned

Sep 17, 2004 Worton, MD (WJZ)

A soldier from Kent County is recovering at a Texas hospital after he was burned in a roadside attack in Iraq.

Twenty-three-year-old Sergeant Travis Manning was burned over 40 percent of his body. He was also burned on his face.

Manning was injured during a nighttime patrol last month in Baghdad, as he and two other military policemen in a convoy stopped to check on a disabled U-S military truck.

Family members were told a diesel fuel tank on the truck exploded when an Iraqi insurgent fired a mortar round.

Manning is expected to be in the hospital for another month. He will need skin grafts to both legs.

He was a standout athlete at Kent County High School and graduated in 1999. His family lives in Worton.

800 Rochester N.Y. Reserves Called Up For Bush's Slaughterhouse: General Says Troops "Unprepared For War"

09/17/04 (Washington, DC) AP

The Army Reserve is sending a unit to Iraq that has never been deployed overseas before.

The 800 or so troops of the 98th Division out of Rochester normally train reserve and active-duty soldiers in the United States. Next month they'll begin a year-long mission training Iraq's army.

The head of the Army Reserve says **the call-up of the non-combat unit that doesn't even have its own weapons or vehicles**, illustrates how all part-time soldiers must get used to the idea they can be called to active duty.

In the words of Lieutenant General James Helmly: "this is a hard war and we, frankly, inside the Army Reserve have been not properly prepared for it."

Vietnam Veterans Against The War: The Real Story

September 17, 2004 http://www.socialistworker.org/2004-2/512/512_08_VVAW.shtml

FOLLOWING THE Democratic National Convention, John Kerry came under sustained attack by a group of pro-Bush Vietnam veterans who call themselves Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. The group charged that Kerry's war record was a fraud and that his activities as a spokesperson for the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW)--particularly his famous speech before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1971--had "dishonored" the memory of Americans who died fighting the war in Vietnam.

Kerry has faced similar charges--especially about his antiwar activism--in previous political campaigns. Yet he seemed blindsided by the attacks and tried to keep his response focused on his combat record.

The immediate goal of the Swift Boat veterans is to re-elect George W. Bush. But their campaign against Kerry also represents the latest effort by right-wing groups to erase from history the role that U.S. soldiers--both active-duty GIs and veterans who returned to the U.S.--played in ending the war in Vietnam.

JOE ALLEN tells the story of the soldiers' resistance to the U.S. war on Vietnam.

VIETNAM VETERANS are "quite different from veterans of earlier wars," observed Ralph Nader in 1973--then at the height of his fame as a consumer advocate. No prior war, Nader pointed out, had "witnessed such a moral dissent by soldiers and new veterans." **What was it about the Vietnam War that produced this high level of opposition within the military? And what role did this resistance and organizations like VVAW play in ending the war in Vietnam?**

The war that the U.S. fought in Vietnam was a war against a people who had been trying to free their country from foreign domination for many decades. A powerful movement--

known as the Vietminh and led by Ho Chi Minh--defeated the Japanese occupation of Vietnam during the Second World War.

In 1945, the Vietminh declared Vietnam independent from its colonial master France. The French tried to re-colonize Vietnam, but they were defeated by the Vietminh movement after a nine-year war.

By the time large numbers of U.S. troops arrived in Vietnam, the country had been partitioned, and in South Vietnam, a new revolutionary nationalist movement had arisen called the National Liberation Front (NLF)--known to the Americans as the "Viet Cong." By 1965, the NLF had been waging a war for several years against the corrupt, dictatorial South Vietnamese government in the southern capital of Saigon.

The U.S. invaded to prevent the NLF from coming to power. Washington sent a huge army, eventually reaching more than 500,000 troops, and it employed the most destructive weapons to destroy the bases of the NLF in the countryside. **For the mainly working-class soldiers who the U.S. sent to fight the Vietnamese people, the war was a huge shock.** The young troops had been told that all struggles for national liberation were "Communist conspiracies," emanating from the ex-USSR or China. They were trained for a war like the Second World War, involving set-piece battles between great armies.

Instead, U.S. GIs found themselves fighting a peasant guerrilla army of young men and women. Washington's strategy was for a "total war"--so soldiers were ordered to burn down villages, destroy large areas of the countryside and kill as many NLF fighters as possible. The war sickened many U.S. soldiers, seeming to be a pointless exercise in destruction.

Others began to realize that they were fighting on the wrong side.

Bill Ehrhardt, a Marine in Vietnam, said the reality of the war produced a "staggering realization." "In grade school, we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom," he wrote. "Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat."

GI RESISTANCE to the war began much earlier than people realize today. In June 1965, Capt. Richard Steinke, a West Point graduate stationed in Vietnam refused to board an aircraft that was supposed to take him to a remote Vietnamese village. "The Vietnamese war," Steinke said, "is not worth a single American life." He was court-martialed and dismissed from the Army.

In February 1966, ex-Green Beret Master Sgt. Donald Duncan, who had served in Vietnam, published a powerful indictment of the war titled "The whole thing was a lie!" in the left-wing Ramparts magazine. Duncan was a militant anti-Communist, but his experience in Vietnam transformed his view of the war. Duncan became convinced that the majority of the South Vietnamese were "either anti-Saigon or pro-Viet Cong or both." The Fort Hood Three, a trio of U.S. Army privates--James Johnson, Dennis Mora, and David Samas, all members of the 2nd Armored Division stationed at Fort Hood, Texas--

refused to serve in Vietnam. The three were from working-class families, and they denounced the war as "immoral, illegal and unjust." They were arrested, court-martialed and imprisoned.

In 1967, U.S. Army Dr. Howard Levy refused to train Green Berets at Fort Jackson, S.C. Levy argued that the Green Berets were "murderers of women and children" and "killers of peasants." He was court-martialed and sentenced to 27 months in a military prison.

The colonel who presided at Levy's court-martial said: "The truth of the statements is not an issue in this case."

As left-wing historian Howard Zinn wrote, "The individual acts multiplied. A Black private in Oakland refused to board a troop plane to Vietnam, although he faced 11 years at hard labor. **A navy nurse, Lt. Susan Schnall, was court-martialed for marching in a peace demonstration while in uniform, and for dropping antiwar leaflets from a plane on navy installations.**"

These individual examples of resistance would crescendo into mutinies and desertion, as whole groups of soldiers, sailors and pilots refused to fight the war. One U.S. colonel described the collapse of U.S. forces as equivalent "to the breakdown of [Russia's] Tsarist armies during World War I."

In 1967, the growing antiwar movement at home led to the founding of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) by Jan Barry. Barry was an army veteran who had been stationed in Vietnam in 1963. He was disturbed by what he saw there and later dropped out of West Point to pursue a writing career.

During 1967 and 1968, hundreds of veterans joined the VVAW, but the organization virtually disappeared into Eugene McCarthy's campaign for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1968. The group revived over the next two years as a result of a political awakening of Vietnam veterans--around such issues as their ill treatment at Veterans Administration hospitals, public exposure of the war crimes committed at My Lai, and the killing of student antiwar demonstrators at Kent State University following Richard Nixon's invasion of Cambodia in 1970.

This revival brought new members who came from mostly working-class families--and who had witnessed some of the worst combat of the war. The most famous was Ron Kovic, whose life was depicted in the film *Born on the Fourth of July*. Al Hubbard, a Black veteran, raised the need to address the racist treatment of African American soldiers and veterans.

John Kerry also joined at this time. But what made him so different was that he was from a wealthy background and had political connections at the upper levels of the Democratic Party.

THE TWO historic events organized by the VVAW that would catapult the organization into the leadership of the antiwar movement were the Winter Soldier Investigation and protests in Washington, D.C., called Dewey Canyon III.

The VVAW gave the name "Winter Soldier" to its war crimes investigation as a reference to Tom Paine's tribute to the soldiers who stayed the course during the darkest days of the American Revolution in the 18th century. The "new winter soldiers," as they saw themselves, hoped to end the Vietnam War by exposing U.S. war crimes. Al Hubbard said that the purpose of the investigation was to show that "My Lai was not an isolated incident," but "only a minor step beyond the standard official United States policy in Indochina."

The Winter Soldier Investigation (the full transcript of testimony is available online) took place in Detroit in January and February of 1971. During that weekend, more than 100 veterans from Vietnam testified about the atrocities that they participated in or witnessed. Another 500 to 700 veterans came from across the country to listen.

The statements of the vets were painful, gut wrenching and tear-filled, riveting and shocking everyone present. Sgt. Jamie Henry said that he witnessed the murder of 19 women and children during his tour of duty, which he reported to superiors, but got no response.

Henry explained how the racism ingrained in soldiers made such atrocities possible. "You are trained 'gook, gook, gook,' and once the military has got the idea implanted in you that these people are not humans...it makes it a little bit easier to kill 'em," he said.

Hundreds of veterans flooded into the VVAW after the hearings--a sign of how dramatically the Winter Soldier Investigation spoke to their own experiences. Other hearings modeled on the ones in Detroit were held across the country, and members of Congress publicly called for official investigations into the charges that the Winter Soldiers raised.

Next came Dewey Canyon III. The five days of protest in April 1971 were named after Dewey Canyons I and II, Pentagon code names for two "limited incursions"--translation: invasions--of the country of Laos, which bordered Vietnam. The VVAW described the demonstrations as a "limited incursion into the country of Congress."

As many as 2,000 Vietnam veterans came to Washington to protest the war and the treatment they received from the government that sent them to fight. The protesters mercilessly harassed the political establishment in Washington. They sat in at the U.S. Supreme Court to protest the illegality of the war. They humiliated Strom Thurmond, the racist bigot and pro-war senator.

Veterans and Gold Star mothers who had lost a child in the war succeeded on a second attempt to make their way into Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath for the U.S. dead in Vietnam. **Jan Barry presented a Congressional delegation with a list of 16 demands from the VVAW, which included: "immediate, unilateral, unconditional withdrawal" of all U.S. forces from Indochina; amnesty for all Americans who refused to fight in Vietnam; a formal inquiry into war crimes; and improved veterans benefits.**

There were two high points to Dewey Canyon III. One was Kerry's powerful speech before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in which he asked, "How

can you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam? How can you ask a man to die for a mistake?" The moment made Kerry into one of the most recognized figures in the antiwar movement.

The second--and far more important--was a ceremony in which veterans "returned" their medals to the U.S. government, by throwing them over a fence in front of the U.S. Capitol building. Jack Smith, a highly decorated ex-Marine sergeant, was the first to go. He said that his medals were a "symbol of dishonor, shame and inhumanity."

Smith offered an apology to the Vietnamese people "whose hearts were broken, not won," because of "genocide, racism and atrocity." Hundreds of veterans followed him.

The Dewey Canyon III demonstrations were the lead story every night on the television news--and on the front page of newspapers across the country. The face of the antiwar movement--until then associated mainly with college students--had changed for millions of people.

The Vietnam War ended for most Americans in January 1973, when Richard Nixon announced a peace settlement--though, in fact, the fall of Saigon, which marked Washington's final defeat, was still two years away.

The VVAW played an important role in bringing about the end of that war--and to this day, the organization continues, having joined the protest against Bush's latest invasion of Iraq.

The struggle of U.S. soldiers against the war--and their organization, the VVAW--should be remembered, celebrated and defended. That means challenging the Swift Boat Veterans' version of history. And it also means challenging the John Kerry of today, who wants to run away from this antiwar legacy.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Three Drivers For U.S. Military Killed

9/17/2004 Arabic News.com

A website on the Internet issued a statement for the " al-Sunnah supporters army" confirming that it kidnapped and executed last Monday three Iraqi truck drivers who were transporting supplies to the American forces.

Iraqi Killed For Working With British Troops

17 Sep 2004 "PA"

The resistance attacked two men who had been working with the British military in southern Iraq, killing one and wounding another.

Three men entered the Basra apartment where the two lived and shot them, said police Captain Alaa Khalil.

The wounded man Amer Hamoudi, said from his hospital bed that he works as a translator for British forces. It was not clear what was the dead man's job.

A note left near the victims read: "This is the punishment of anyone who co-operates with occupation forces."

Collaborator Patrol Hit In Baqouba, Three Wounded

9/17/2004 By Associated Press

In Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, insurgents set off a bomb targeting an Iraqi National Guard patrol Friday morning, wounding three guardmen, said Feras Mezahem, a member of the guard.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**"If the troops fail it is the fault of the General"
Sun Tzu- The Art of War**

Gays In The Military: A Comment

To: GI Special
September 17, 2004
From Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

A comment about gays in the military:

I feel there should be no reason to withhold gays from serving in the military. I was friends with a sergeant who was gay, and through him I later found out there were others that were also gay in my unit.

These people performed their job as well as, or better, than anyone else and the majority of people never knew they had a different sexual orientation.

It's time the military comes to terms with the 21st century and extends equal rights to all who are willing to sacrifice their life for their country.

Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

Join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! www.ivaw.net

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.

“Civil War”? Bullshit!

"Civil War"? Puppet govt. vs. the Iraqi people and Iraqis without work joining a U.S. "police" is not civil war, another Washington public relations inventions. Note how Kerry only has to suggest criticism of the war and people swing to him. David Staub, Interpax, 9.17.04

OCCUPATION REPORT

British Workers Flee Iraq As War Spreads

[London Times, September 17, 2004]

British workers in Iraq are anxious to leave the country following the latest kidnappings that occurred in the center of Baghdad.

Boston Globe Out Of Touch With Planet Earth

[Boston Globe, September 16, 2004, Pg. 1]

This week, Marine commanders said Fallujah is "a cancer" that threatens to spread chaos across Iraq. **U.S. Marines have been in Fallujah for six months. (Huh? Cleverly disguised as resistance soldiers?)**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Kerry Dumps Populist Platform When Addressing Fellow Millionaires: Calls Election “A Stockholders Meeting”

By David Staub, Interpax, 9.17.04

"And let me be clear" our plan is pro-worker and pro-business. I'm an entrepreneurial Democrat and I don't believe you can love jobs but bash the people who create them. I know that the private sector will always be the engine of good jobs and new ideas." Multimillionaire John Kerry speaking at the Detroit Economic Club 9-15-04

With Kerry was multimillionaire Robert Rubin, Clinton Treasury Secretary, now head of Citicorp, who enriched top 5% with spectacular 90's bull market that collapsed into theft of worker jobs and savings and pensions.

Introducing Kerry was Jennifer Granholm, Michigan Dem Governor who imposed huge budget cuts, teacher and educational layoffs and schools closings. Detroit is like Flint or worse than Flint, Mike Moore's home town.

Kerry never referred to vast poverty and unemployment blocks away from where he spoke where slums were pervasive. Kerry said he would impose a more austere fiscal policy to assure a balanced budget.

The next day a Kerry op ed appeared in the Wall Street Journal. Kerry said: "American business will do better if we change out CEO."

Kerry called the November election "a national stockholders meeting."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Islamic Militia Mine Wounds Three U.S. Troops

September 17, 2004 Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A mine exploded under a vehicle carrying U.S. troops on patrol in southern Afghanistan, injuring three soldiers, an Afghan official said Friday.

The blast occurred Wednesday near Deh Rawood, a town in the southern Uruzgan province about 400 kilometers (250 miles) southwest of the capital, Kabul, said Jan Mohammed Khan, governor of Uruzgan.

The injured soldiers were moved to a U.S. military base in Deh Rawood.

The mine was detonated by remote control and the explosion disabled their Humvee vehicle, he said.

Uruzgan is considered a stronghold of fighters from the Islamic militia, which a U.S.-led coalition of forces ousted from power in late 2001.

Web Copies

For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>

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>

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