

GI SPECIAL 2#38

**THE SOLDIERS KNOW
THE TRUTH
NO, THE WAR ISN'T OVER;
NO, THERE IS NO "VICTORY" IN
IRAQ**



Sgt. Jesse Lanter and Cpl. Barry Lange

Photo & Quotes: <http://www.bushpresident2004.com/troops.htm>

The way we have been treated and the continuous lies told to our families back home has devastated us all," in a letter to Congress. Anonymous Soldier, U.S. Army, in Iraq

"I came into this war hoping to rid the world of an evil man, Saddam Hussein. Once accomplished, I now find myself confined and surrounded by the post-war chaos and anger of a people without direction and begging for leadership. I see their pain and realize that at this time I am part of their pain." Major Matthew Jennings, 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Army, in Iraq

"If Donald Rumsfeld were here, I'd ask him for his resignation," as told to ABC's Good Morning America. Anonymous Officer, U.S. Army, in Iraq

"It pretty much makes me lose faith in the Army ... I don't really believe anything they tell me. If they told me we were leaving next week, I wouldn't believe them," as told to ABC News. Private First Class Jason Punyhotra, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army in Fallujah, Iraq

"Somewhere down the line, we became an occupation force in [Iraqi] eyes. We don't feel like heroes any more ... We are outnumbered. We are exhausted. We are in over our heads. The President says, 'Bring 'em on.' The generals say we don't need more troops. Well, they're not over here." Private Isaac Kindblade, 671st Engineer Company, U.S. Army, in Iraq

"I've got my own 'Most Wanted' list ... The aces in my deck are Paul Bremer, Donald Rumsfeld, George Bush and Paul Wolfowitz," as told to ABC News. Anonymous Sergeant, U.S. Army, in Iraq

"For the last six months I have participated in what I believe to be the great modern lie: Operation Iraqi Freedom ... I once believed that I served for a cause: 'to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.' Now I no longer believe that; I have lost my conviction, as well as my determination. I can no longer justify my service for what I believe to be half-truths and bold lies." Tim Predmore, 101st Airborne Division near Mosul, Iraq

"[Soldiers] vent to anyone who will listen. They write letters, they cry, they yell. Many of them walk around looking visibly tired and depressed.... We feel like pawns in a game that we have no voice [in]." Anonymous Officer, U.S. Army, in Iraq

"I wasn't particularly impressed with anything he came up with," referring to President Bush's September 23, 2003 speech to the U.N. regarding progress in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Jason Dungan, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army in Tikrit, Iraq

"We've been out here for six months, and it looks like we're going to be here for another six months more ... That's it. It's a done deal, so nothing he says makes a blind bit of difference to us," referring to President Bush's September 23, 2003 speech to the U.N. regarding progress in Iraq. Anonymous Soldier in Tikrit, Iraq

"Make no mistake, the level of morale for most soldiers that I've seen has hit rock bottom." Anonymous Officer, 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army, in Iraq



A family celebrates the "victory" In Iraq.

Comment:

The next time some blathering pro-Bush pro-war politician talks about how Bush won “victory” in Iraq, point out the simple logic.

1. In war, “victory” means one side has won the war.
2. While a war is continuing, nobody has won. Duh.
3. When one side or another wins, the war stops, and one side or another has then won a “victory.”
4. The war in Iraq goes on.
5. Therefore, there is no “victory” yet, for either side in the war that is going on.
6. If that doesn’t cut it, perhaps you can arrange for whoever to have a discussion with a member of the family pictured above, or some soldiers home on leave from Iraq. They will be most interested to hear the news about this “victory” in Iraq.

Of course, one side or another may win a battle, or campaign, during the course of a war, and that individual event may be boasted of. In such instances, the word “victory” is preceded by “a” as in “a victory.”

It’s as preposterous to refer to a US victory in Iraq as it would have been to refer to a US victory in Vietnam anytime at all during the 1960’s. And yes, there were some politicians who did. And nobody remembers them anymore.

**FOR MORE SOLDIERS’ QUOTES: 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? HAITI? SAME
BULLSHIT!
SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE?**



Supporters of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide march asking for his return near US Marine patrolling near the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti March 5, 2004. (AP Photo/Walter Astrada)



A supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide shouts anti U.S. slogans at American soldiers guarding the U.S. consulate in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Friday March 5, 2004. (AP Photo/Tom Hanson)

(For more on Haiti see the front page article "Bush's Coup In Haiti" at www.socialistworker.org.)

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

One Dead In Kuwait Accident

UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND March 5, 2004
Release Number: 04-03-02C

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait – One service member was killed and three others were injured in a vehicle accident at around 5 a.m., today near the Kuwait Naval Base.

Preliminary reports indicate service members were traveling in a mini van when they were rear-ended by a second vehicle occupied by two Third Country Nationals causing the minivan to roll over.

The service members were taken to the Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital where one service member was pronounced dead at approximately 7 a.m. The other three service members are being treated at the hospital and they are in stable condition.

US Soldier Wounded In Baquaba; Cops Killed In Kirkuk, Mosul

March 5, 2004 AFP

In a string of attacks across the country a **police officer died in Kirkuk and a bomb attack near Baquba in central Iraq has injured an American soldier.**

Three Iraqis were killed and at least five wounded in a rocket attack by unknown assailants in south-west Baghdad, near an American military base.

Violence also dogged the northern city of Mosul, where three policemen and two civilians were killed in a rocket and rifle attack.

Another Pole Wounded

3 March 2004 The Warsaw Voice

On the evening of Feb. 29 a Polish soldier was seriously wounded during an attack on a checkpoint situated in the Polish stabilization zone, 15 kilometers from Karbala. The soldier underwent two operations—one in a Polish field hospital in Karbala and another in an American hospital in Baghdad. His general condition is serious, yet stable.

REAL BAD PLACE TO BE



BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!

Photo thanks to Ewa Jasiewicz

Resistance Saying Goodbye To First Infantry; Mortars For Supper

3.3.04 By PAUL GARWOOD, Associated Press Writer

TIKRIT, Iraq -- Insurgents launched four mortars at the 4th Infantry Division's base in Tikrit on Wednesday, including one that landed near a dining hall during supper time. No one was hurt.

In Tikrit, the 4th Division's commanding officer, Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, told The Associated Press mortars were fired at the riverfront base from the opposite side of the Tigris River.

One of the mortars landed yards from the base's crowded dining facility but didn't explode. The other two exploded in unoccupied areas.

Bomb disposal soldiers defused the unexploded shell, along with another that failed to explode.

Soldiers saw three men running from the vicinity the mortars were fired from and into a house in a village near Ajiel, a town about a mile from Tikrit, according to Lt. Col. Steve Russell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division.

The 4th Infantry Division, which has operated in Tikrit and throughout most of northern Iraq for about a year, has launched an aggressive campaign to root out insurgents and destroy stockpiles of weapons believed to be used in attacks against coalition soldiers. (Odious Odierno used to brag about how due to his brilliant leadership, the resistance was crushed. Obviously his “aggressive campaign” didn’t amount to shit.)

The division is in the process of redeploying to the United States and is being replaced by the 1st Infantry Division, in Germany.

Multiple Rocket Attack Takes Out New Baghdad Telephone Exchange; No Comment From Phone Co.: Phones Not Working

By Matt Moore, Associated Press, Boston.com 3/3/2004

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) Three rockets struck a major telephone exchange Wednesday, knocking out international phone connections for much of the country only days after the system was put back in service, officials said.

One Iraqi worker was killed and another injured.

Qassim Hadi, an undersecretary with Iraq's Communication Ministry, said the attack happened just after 7:30 a.m. local time at an exchange in the Mansour district west of the Tigris river.

The rockets damaged one of six exchanges that are housed in trailers, said Iraqi police Brig. Gen. Samer Saadoun. There were no arrests.

Hadi said thousands of people with phone service weren't able to make international calls. Domestic calls did not appear to be affected. (Nice target selection!)

He said the exchange would be repaired, but didn't have a timeframe.

Twelve new telephone exchanges in Baghdad were set up last month, replacing the ones destroyed in the U.S.-led invasion, enabling the Iraqi Telephone and Post Co. provide service for 240,000 lines in and around Baghdad.

An estimated 280,000 lines remained out of service, but that was not related to Wednesday's attack.

A call seeking comment from ITPC by The Associated Press wasn't able to go through.

The new switches were installed by the ITPC and Bechtel, through its subcontractor Lucent Technologies, while Globecom installed an international gateway that will permit long-distance phone calls.

Most Iraqis use cell phones with prepaid cards to communicate or satellite phones.

Another Attack On Phone Exchange; “America Is The Enemy Of God”

Mar 4, 2004

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - A rocket slammed into a Baghdad street near a telephone exchange on Thursday, killing at least three people, Iraqi police at the scene said.

Police at the scene of Thursday's attack said the rocket had skidded along the ground after the initial impact, hitting a car and killing its occupants. A large crowd of Iraqis stood around the mangled remains of the car.

"Three were killed and two were wounded," policeman Luay Majeed said. Some of the crowd that gathered after the attack shouted anti-U.S. slogans, chanting: "America is the enemy of God."

Mosul Police Station Hit By Mortar Attack

4 March, 2004 MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters)

Guerrillas have launched at least five mortar rounds on a police station and mosque in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, injuring three people including a police officer, police say. Officers at the station in central Mosul said the attackers fired a volley of rounds, hitting the station, the street in front and an adjacent mosque, before fleeing by car.

Police cordoned off the area and began searching vehicles, witnesses said. One of the injured was in serious condition, a police officer said.

Five Large Explosions Rumble Baghdad

March 3, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Five large explosions rumbled through the center of Baghdad late Wednesday, and sirens sounded from the green zone where the headquarters of the U.S.-led occupation authority is located.

The blasts, which happened in quick succession just after 8 p.m., came nearly two-and-a-half hours after two explosions were heard. **The blasts were followed by a siren and a warning in English to "take cover."**

The U.S. military press office said no planned detonations of confiscated weapons had been planned but officials had no information where the blasts occurred.

Four Powerful Blasts Rock Khanagin

4th - 5th Mar 2004 Arab Times (Kuwait)

TEHRAN (AFP) - Four powerful explosions occurred early Thursday in the area of Khanaqin, an Iraqi town close to the border with Iran, the Iranian state news agency IRNA reported. **"Four powerful explosions were felt only seconds apart and columns of smoke rose into the sky,"** IRNA said, quoting its correspondent in the nearby Iranian border post of Khosravi.

"These explosions were probably in Khanaqin," the report added, without giving further details. Khanaqin lies 140 kilometres (87 miles) northeast of Baghdad and is less than 10 kilometres from the border.

Three More Explosions Roll Baghdad

March 5, 2004 AP:

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Two roadside bombs went off in Baghdad on Friday morning, hours before the planned signing of Iraq's interim constitution.

A third explosion was heard about two hours later, but there were no immediate details on the location or cause.

The first explosion occurred about 9:40 a.m. local time (1:40 a.m. EST) in the al-Jihad district on the road leading to Baghdad's airport, about seven miles southwest of the U.S.-led occupation authority's headquarters.

A second roadside bomb went off on the highway in the al-Adil district, witnesses said. It was unclear if there were any injuries.

Both roads are used regularly by coalition troops.

TROOP NEWS

Bush Lands More Marines Neck Deep In Shit

**ANOTHER GLORIOUS CHANCE TO DIE FOR
BUSH AND THE EMPIRE;
TRAVEL TO EXOTIC PLACES!
OVERTHROW GOVERNMENTS AND TAKE OVER
OTHER PEOPLE'S COUNTRIES!**

Hundreds of supporters of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide protest around US Marines patrolling the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, March 4, 2004. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)





The Last 14 Things Skippy Is Not Longer Allowed to Do In The U.S. Army

Posted by SGT Shawn Stanford
April 16, 2003 01:13 PM (Avalanche Company)
Company A, 2nd Battalion, 103rd Armor, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

Written by: SPC Schwartz aka Skippy aka Princess Anastasia, stationed with the Army at Ft. Bragg before deployment to the Balkans.

SPC Schwartz was either very clever or very bored; but probably both, since he managed to attempt or be warned about 213 things he wasn't allowed to do. He collected those things into a list and posted them to the web.

(Here are the last 14. For the other 200, see the two preceding GI Specials.)

1. My chain of command is not interested in why I 'just happen' to have a kilt, an inflatable sheep, and a box of rubber bands in the back of my car.
2. Must not valiantly push officers onto hand grenades to save the squad.
3. Despite the confusing similarity in the names, the "Safety Dance" and the "Safety Briefing" are never to be combined.
4. 'To conquer the earth with an army of flying monkeys' is a bad long term goal to give the re-enlistment NCO.
5. NEVER nail a stuffed bunny to a cross and put it up in front of the Battalion Headquarters sign as an "Easter Desecration."
6. Don't write up false gigs on a HMMWV PMCS. ("Broken clutch pedal", "Number three turbine has frequent flame-outs", "flux capacitor emits loud whine when engaged")
7. Not allowed to get shot.

8. The Chicken and Rice MRE is **not** a personal lubricant. (Skippy wanted this noted for the record that this is not something he has ever attempted or considered! It was something we heard at dinner on 22 September 2001 and it was just so obscene it had to go here.)
 9. Not allowed to play into the deluded fantasies of the civilians who are "hearing conversations" from the NSA, FBI, CIA and KGB due to the microchip the aliens implanted in their brain.
 10. An airsickness bag is to be used for airsickness **only**. (Also not a Skippy-ism...this was the same dinner.)
 11. Must not make T-shirts up depicting a pig with the writing "Eat Pork or Die" in Arabic to bring as civilian attire when preparing to deploy to a primarily Muslim country.
 12. Don't ask LTC Steele to sign my copy of Blackhawk Down.
 13. Must not go on nine deployments in six years that require a security clearance that I don't have, even if the Army tells me repeatedly that I have one and I have no reason to question them.
 14. Do not convince NCO's that their razorbumps are the result of microscopic parasites.
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IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Blast Wrecks Northern Iraq Oil Pipeline; Silly Bremer Boasted Last Week Of Reopening After Previous Blasts (4,874 So Far)

March 3, 2004 AFP

A large explosion hit an oil pipeline near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk causing a huge fire but no casualties, police chief Turhan Yussef said.

"The explosion happened at 11.15am (0615 AEDT). An explosive device was placed under the pipeline at Al-Riad, 35km west of Kirkuk," he said.

The blast, which hit the main oil line leading to the Baiji refinery 200km north of Baghdad, caused a huge fire that was still burning at the time of Yussef's report.

THE BALLOT



Iraqi Shi'ite men shout during a rally in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, March 1, 2004. **Shi'ite demonstrators demanded a fixed date for elections.** (Ammar Awad/Reuters)

OR THE BULLET



An armed Shi'ite militiaman March 3, 2004. (Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters)

Who Is “The Resistance”? Want Politics? Location? More?

Check out <http://www.jihadunspun.com/articles/18122003-Iraqi-Resistance/ir/>

This web site offers a complete guide to who's who in the Iraqi resistance movement, describing organizations mentioned in the media, or by the Stratfor intelligence summaries, plus a shitload more. According to a regular contributor to GI Special who has extensive first hand experience in Baghdad and Basra, commentary is accurate.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“How Does One Respond To That?”



By Billy Kelly, Vietnam Veterans Against The War & Vets For Peace

I was with Michael McPhearson and John Grant (VFP) in Iraq last December.

I never thought I would say such but, after seeing the reality, I think the situation in Iraq is worse than Viet Nam. Both for the GIs and for the Iraqis.

We had a great, sparkling young Iraqi kid helping us with translation and getting about town. We kept in touch via E-mail. After a spell of silence and a few horrific bombings in Baghdad, I wrote and asked for a few words of reassurance. Her reply:

hey uncle billy
surprise i am still alive. yes i am ok outside but barley alive inside i have 2 of my friends' brothers killed and 2 of my friends' brothers have their legs and arms cut so how should i feel i feel nothing do you know i know that some thing very bad will happedn ... i can not say any more .. maybe later...
bye
ator (her photo below)

How does one respond to that?

Would our leadership have heeded that old doctors' maxim, "First, do no harm!"

I am a proud Veteran For Peace. To be anything else would be an oxymoron.

If not a veteran of war, who else has the moral position to speak out? And with our knowledge of the reality, who else has the greatest duty?

I served as an infantry officer in Quang Ngai province. That is where My Lai is situated. I will be there on the 16th of March, the anniversary, as I have been for the last 7 years. Befitting my Irish heritage, with its romanticism and sentimentality, I always bear 504 multi-hued roses to honor the helpless victims.

My Lai was by no means the rule but neither was it an anomaly. EG, Kerrey in Thanh Phong and the recent revelations of the Tiger Force of the 101st Airborne in the Highlands.

The American citizenry must be made to understand that once the dogs of war are unleashed, bad things will follow.

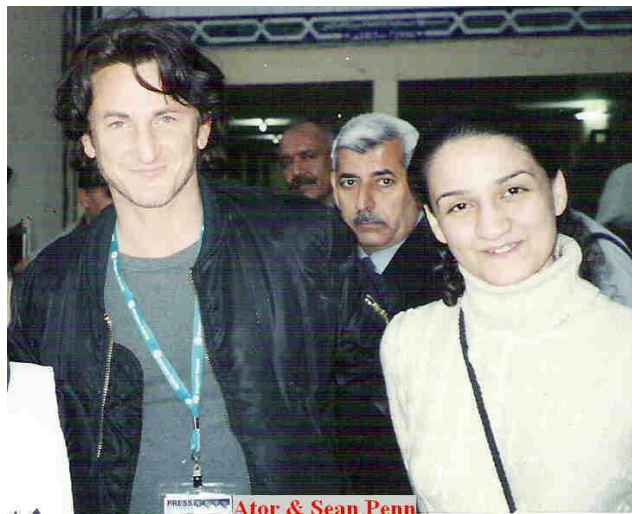
When the 'greatest' generation had its chance at leadership, it failed us in Viet Nam. I'll be damned if I sit by idly and fail our kids in Iraq.

Best,

Billy Kelly

USA:: PO Box 307; Stockholm, NJ 07460

Viet Nam:: 12/5A Truong Quoc Dung; Q. Phu Nhuan; Tp. HCM; (011-84-8) 997-1967



Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the

war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

A Convenient Carnage All This Talk of Civil War, Now This

March 2, 2004 By ROBERT FISK, The Independent

Odd, isn't it? There never has been a civil war in Iraq. I have never heard a single word of animosity between Sunnis and Shias in Iraq.

Al-Qa'ida has never uttered a threat against Shias - even though al-Qa'ida is a Sunni-only organisation. **Yet for weeks, the American occupation authorities have been warning us about civil war, have even produced a letter said to have been written by an al-Qa'ida operative, advocating a Sunni-Shia conflict. Normally sane journalists have enthusiastically taken up this theme. Civil war.**

Somehow I don't believe it. No, I don't believe the Americans were behind yesterday's carnage despite the screams of accusation by the Iraqi survivors yesterday. But I do worry about the Iraqi exile groups who think that their own actions might produce what the Americans want: a fear of civil war so intense that Iraqis will go along with any plan the United States produces for Mesopotamia.

I think of the French OAS in Algeria in 1962, setting off bombs among France's Muslim Algerian community. I recall the desperate efforts of the French authorities to set Algerian Muslim against Algerian Muslim which led to half a million dead souls.

And I'm afraid I also think of Ireland and the bombings in Dublin and Monaghan in 1974, which, as the years go by, appear to have an ever closer link, via Protestant "loyalist" paramilitaries, to elements of British military security.

It's not that I believe al-Qa'ida incapable of such a bloodbath. **But I ask myself why the Americans are rubbing this Sunni-Shia thing so hard. Let's turn the glass round the other way. If a violent Sunni movement wished to evict the Americans from Iraq - and there is indeed a resistance movement fighting very cruelly to do just that - why would it want to turn the Shia population of Iraq, 60 per cent of Iraqis, against them? The last thing such a resistance would want is to have the majority of Iraqis against it.**

So what about al-Qa'ida? Repeatedly, the Americans have told us that the suicide bombers were "foreigners". And so they may be. But can we have some identities, nationalities? The US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has talked of the hundreds of "foreign" fighters crossing Saudi Arabia's "porous" borders.

The US press have dutifully repeated this. The Iraqi police keep announcing that they have found the bombers' passports, so can we have the numbers?

We are entering a dark and sinister period of Iraqi history. But an occupation authority which should regard civil war as the last prospect it ever wants to contemplate, keeps shouting "civil war" in our ears and I worry about that. Especially when the bombs make it real.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

More On Erinys; The Company That Specializes In Guarding Halliburton With Former (?) South African Racist Killers

TO GI SPECIAL

FROM: Ewa Jasiewicz freelance@mailworks.org March 01, 2004

Anyway, regarding the Erinys piece. I interviewed the head of the Basra contingent, Gary Whitty, and he informed me that Erinys were 'angels', his word (quote: 'You came here expecting to find devils but actually we're angels'), because they were paying life-jeopardizing security guards \$95 per month rather than the Occupation set \$65.

These men guard Halliburton's latest privatization prizes and the property of foreign corporate profiteers, risk their life for it; they guard convoys of their economic entrenchment promoting equipment up from Basra to Baghdad and they get No Extra Pay for that, just 15,000 ID (\$10) for food and cigarettes, and its a fuck off dangerous road, with convoys getting constantly sabotaged.

I spoke to private security guards who spoke of their disgust at their derisory wages, saying, 'This is our country, and there's no respect you know?', and 'When the new Iraqi police force is formed we will join that instead and get 320,000 ID (almost \$200 per month). **They felt totally exploited and angry at the thousands of dollars more that white foreign guards were getting paid.**

\$95 per month is nothing. Save The Children were paying their guards \$400 per month and every time they go outside of the governorate they get \$75, told me the Erinys guards I spoke to.

The other shit thing about Erinys is that they are recycling former intelligence and high ranking military officers into positions of influence and power (like their employers, the US Department of Defense, on a domestic, Iraqi and international scale, business as usual), in particular in the closely guarded Oil Sector, site of many wildcat strikes in the past six months and a successful threat of an armed strike for higher wages by the Occupation dictates usurping SOC Union. I was in the HQ of the SOC when I heard that a high ranking military intelligence officer was now head of security and a key strategic location in the company. The union were furious.

Erinys will have a short lifespan in Iraq. From the Baghdad bomb attack to guards compensating themselves for their slave wages (Whitty did concede that theft had been a significant issue for them) and from what Guards have said about the arrogance of their superiors telling them they can get out if they don't like their wages and hurling verbal abuse at guards regularly (**both Whitty and another manager were accused of this by workers, resulting in one case of a non Erinys employee pulling a gun on the ranting offender and forcing him to shut his mouth and get in his car if her wanted to live**).

I witnessed Erinys guards pull their guns on an Iraqi driver in a driving dispute on the road leading to the Fustka cake and ice-cream parlour in Basra. Foreign guards, Aryan looking (!) told the driver that that they'd make him clean their car. I don't know who was in the wrong but the comment about having an Iraqi Basra resident clean the car of some arrogant machine gun wielding, sneering occupation pimps was unbelievably racist and offensive and no one who saw that incident will forget it.

Anyway ya Thomas, feel free to publish any part or all of the above. I kept meaning to write a proper report on it, like about 9 million other things, but, it got lost in the occupation/neo-Baathi tension ether.

Hey also, re the attacks in Basra. Sounds like it could either be Wahabi nutters, as there are a few in Basra, being so close to Saudi Arabia. **but, if the assailants were said to have alighted from a police vehicle, well, if it was anything to do with the cops, then maybe this wasn't a religious party thing but a personal vendetta or, maybe the SCIRI?**

That's a just a maybe as I know they patrol with the troops in Nassiriyah and are generally know to be closest to the occupation. eee gads. It's all bad news. Maybe its Shaban 15 - they do a lot of killing but they're Iranian Intelligence and usually go for Baathists and WCP.

It really could be any sect behind it. Really, there are over 100 different Islamic parties active in Basra, this is what I heard. Loads. Could be any of them. **Anyone can have their own militia, NGO and religious party in Iraq, that's a reality.**

Anyway, keep up the good work m'love! Well done. Stay well

Ewa J.

Command In Chaos Can't Get Their Propaganda Straight US Occupation Politicians Blame "Foreign Fighters;" Military Says No; Leading Suspect May Or May Not Be Responsible, May Or May Not Be Alive

3.4.04 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Top U.S. military and civilian officials were at odds Thursday over the role of foreign fighters in this week's savage bombings at Shiite Muslim religious shrines

U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer said it was "increasingly apparent" terrorism was coming from outside Iraq,

Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armored Division, which controls Baghdad called the idea that foreign fighters were flooding Iraq "a misconception."

"It's far more than a supposition and far less than empirical evidence" to say Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a suspected anti-U.S. militant with ties to al-Qaida, had a hand in the Tuesday blasts, Dempsey said. "It's a very educated guess."

Al-Zarqawi emerged as the top suspect within hours of the bombings.

Bremer and members of the Governing Council took turns blaming the Jordanian fugitive, the alleged author of a letter calling for a civil war fueled by attacks on Iraq's majority Shiites.

U.S. officials have discounted a statement by 12 insurgent groups that claimed al-Zarqawi was killed by American bombing last year. But in Washington, a military official said he couldn't be sure the Jordanian is alive.

"There is no direct evidence whether he is alive or dead at this point, that we have," Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, deputy director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Pentagon news conference.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, who runs the war in Iraq, said he had evidence al-Zarqawi was behind the massacres on the Shiite holy day of Ashoura. But other U.S. officials later said they could not elaborate because the evidence was still "being developed."

In Najaf, meanwhile, police Maj. Mohammed Dayekh said Thursday an Iraqi member of al-Zarqawi's network had confessed he and four other Iraqis were involved in the Karbala bombing. **The U.S. military command said it was unaware of the purported confession by Mohammed Hanoun Hmood al-Mozani.**

Military commanders examining the aftermath of the bombings say they have dwindling knowledge about who is controlling and funding the insurgency that has been launching attacks in Baghdad, Karbala and elsewhere. Most of the attackers are still believed to be Iraqis, perhaps allied with foreigners.

"We were fighting an enemy motivated by power," Dempsey told Western reporters in Baghdad. **"Now we're fighting an enemy motivated by ideology. That's a far more tenacious enemy." (Say again?)**

Several observers of the devastating attacks in Iraq disagree with the recent emphasis on foreign attackers, a popular theme among Bush administration officials striving to equate the violence in Iraq with the global "war on terror."

A police captain in Ramadi, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thursday that Iraqi security in the western province of Anbar saw few if any foreign Arab fighters.

Most of the attacks on police in the province were believed carried out Iraqis, he said.

On a trip to Iraq last month, **Abizaid told many U.S. commanders he believed that public reports of large numbers of foreign terrorists entering Iraq were overstated. The commanders on the ground generally agreed with that assessment.**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

War Support Keeps Dropping

Mar 4 2004 By Alan Elsner, WASHINGTON (Reuters)

Public opinion polls show an erosion in support for Bush's Iraq policy. A Pew Research Center poll last month found 63 percent of respondents believed the U.S. military effort was going either fairly well or very well, down from 73 percent the previous month.



(Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters March 3, 2004)

A member of the Iraqi Collaborators “Governing” Council Mowaffaq Al-Rabaie (C) is seen here walking confidently among the friendly and happy Iraqi people, who never cease to express their gratitude to the American appointed “Governing” Council for their support of the invasion and occupation of their country by George Bush’s Imperial Army.

Al-Rabaie thanked President Bush, “the sun and moon of Iraq, the great leader, he whose wisdom is higher than the Pamirs.” “President Bush has only to wiggle his little finger, and all insurgents will disappear,” he said.

He also announced the “Governing” Council had placed an order with Halliburton for 1,000,000 copies of a new book in Arabic, “The Thoughts Of President Bush.” The book will be issued as soon as some thoughts can be found.

US General Abiziad expressed confidence that an intensive search for Bush’s thoughts will soon produce results. He said intelligence sources have learned from captured Saddam Hussein remnants, foreign terrorists, and trolls that a quantity of Bush thoughts were stored by the Hussein regime in an undisclosed location with other toxic weapons.

Bush Says:

It was reported today that at White House staff meeting last week there was a heated discussion about the health of Vice President Cheney and his angina problem.

President Bush interrupted and stated emphatically that men do not have anginas. The president was especially disturbed when a male staffer said that Cheney has acute angina.

Defending God's Word About Marriage

From: David Sweet, Sent: February 27, 2004

VIA Tom Condit tomcondit@igc.org

The Presidential Prayer Team is currently urging us to: "Pray for the President as he seeks wisdom on how to legally codify the definition of marriage. Pray that it will be according to Biblical principles. With any forces insisting on variant definitions of marriage, pray that God's Word and His standards will be honored by our government."

Any religious person believes prayer should be balanced by action. So here, in support of the Prayer Team's admirable goals, is a proposed Constitutional Amendment to codify marriage on biblical principles. Let us be satisfied with nothing less:

A. Marriage in the United States shall consist of a union between one man and one or more women. (Gen 29:17-28; II Sam 3:2-5)

B. Marriage shall not impede a man's right to take concubines, in addition to his wife or wives. (II Sam 5:13; I Kings 11:3; II Chron 11:21)

C. A marriage shall be considered valid only if the wife is a virgin. If the wife is not a virgin, she shall be executed. (Deut 22:13-21)

D. Marriage of a believer and a non-believer shall be forbidden. (Gen 24:3; Num 25:1-9; Ezra 9:12; Neh 10:30)

E. Since marriage is for life, neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any State, nor any state or federal law, shall be construed to permit divorce. (Deut 22:19; Mark 10:9)

F. If a married man dies without children, his brother shall marry the widow. If he refuses to marry his brother's widow or deliberately does not give her children, he shall pay a fine of one shoe. (Gen. 38:6-10; Deut 25:5-10)

(The Presidential team had no comment on reporters' questions about whether President Bush believes that the words of the Prophet Isaiah constitute divine revelation. Isaiah preached that the rich and powerful who "grind the faces of the poor" will be utterly destroyed by the wrath of God and a working class revolution.)

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