

## GI SPECIAL 2#49



The bodies were dragged in the streets and then hanged from a bridge over the Euphrates River.  
Associated Press

# U.S. Command Offers Falluja Resistance A Truce & Withdrawal; “Falluja Will Be The Cemetery Of The Americans”

April 01 2004, By Karim Saheb, lol.co.za

Burn marks on the surface of the main street were the only evidence of the gruesome deaths of the four mercenary employees of the private US firm Blackwater Security Consulting, AFP correspondents said.

One witness said that what remained of the charred bodies after they were dragged from their cars, mutilated and strung from a bridge had been "cut up into pieces, with parts thrown into the river or to the dogs".

**US marines, who were seen on Wednesday at the eastern entrance of Fallujah, were nowhere in sight** while Iraqi police and paramilitary defence units manned a checkpoint to search cars entering the town and control identities.

**The previous evening, hours after the killings, crowds were still celebrating in the streets, with people firing in the air and distributing candies.**

They shouted "down with the occupation, down with America" and "long live Islam".

**"The Americans may think it is unusual but this is what they should expect. They show up in places and shoot civilians so why can't they be killed?" Falluja shop worker Amir said.**

**"The death of each one of these people is worth 10 Iraqi lives. This is our only deterrent to the (US-led) occupation of Iraq,"** Nayef, a car merchant who declined to give his surname, told AFP on Thursday.

**The previous day a man at the scene, his face hidden by a scarf, vowed that "Fallujah will be the cemetery of the Americans".**

Falluja was relatively quiet on Thursday, but residents said more bloody killings should be expected.

**Meanwhile the US-backed paramilitary Iraqi Civil Defence Corps urged restraint in Fallujah in a statement handed out to residents late on Wednesday.**

**"An agreement has been negotiated with the occupation forces to lift the siege of Fallujah and to withdraw. We are hoping you will cooperate to protect Fallujah and guarantee its security,"** the message said.

## **The Story Unfolds:**



A vehicle burns in Fallujah March 31, 2004. (AP Photo/Abdel Kader Saadi)

# Four Bremer Armed Guards Killed, Burned & Hung In Falluja

**(While the Imperial U.S. press keeps referring to “U.S. Civilians,” the BBC April 1 reported these were NOT “civilians, but armed mercenaries who were part of Bremers' “security team” used to defend the U.S. Occupation Dictator. Not only are they legitimate targets of war, but Occupation armed forces, when wearing civilian clothes, rather than uniforms, and carrying arms, by the rules of war, are subject to summary execution by the opposing force.)**

By Neil King Jr. and Greg Jaffe, Wall St. Journal, 4.1.04 & news.com.au From correspondents in Washington & By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer 3.31.04 & By Michael Georgy, Reuters 3.31

The gruesome killing of four American civilians near Baghdad, and subsequent abuse of their corpses by a mob, cast a chill over Iraq's foreign contractors and raised fears that a spike in violence against civilians could further impede an already troubled rebuilding effort.

The four worked for Blackwater Security Consulting of Moyock, N.C., which provides training and guard services to customers around the world.

The four were killed when the resistance in Fallujah, ambushed two four-wheel-drive vehicles, touching off violence that saw at least two charred bodies mutilated.

**Chanting "Fallujah is the graveyard of Americans," residents cheered after the grisly assault on two four-wheel-drive civilian vehicles left both SUVs in flames.**

**On Wednesday, a man held a printed sign with a skull and crossbones and the phrase "Fallujah is the cemetery for Americans" beneath the blackened corpses after they were pulled from the vehicles.**

One body was tied to a car that had a poster in its window of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the Palestinian militant group Hamas who was assassinated by the Israeli military in Gaza City.

<p><b>One resident displayed what appeared to be dog tags taken from one body. Residents also said there were weapons in the targeted cars. APTN showed an American passport near a body and a U.S. Department of Defense identification card belonging to another man.</b></p>
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Afterward an AFP correspondent saw two bodies, one of them headless, hanging by their feet from a bridge over the Euphrates River as locals stoned them.

Associated Press Television News pictures showed one man beating a charred corpse with a metal pole. Others tied a yellow rope to a body, hooked it to a car and dragged it

down the main street of town. Two blackened and mangled corpses were hung from the green, iron bridge spanning the Euphrates River.

In the television pictures, a member of the jubilant crowd was seen kicking the head of one incinerated body and stamping on its head, while others in the crowd dragged a charred and blackened body by its feet.

As one corpse lay burning on the ground, an Iraqi came and doused it with gasoline, sending flames soaring into the air. At least two bodies, their skin burned away, were tied to cars and pulled through the streets, witnesses said.

**"This is the fate of all Americans who come to Falluja," said Mohammad Nafik, one of the crowd surrounding the bodies.**

Some body parts were pulled off and left hanging from a telephone cable, while two incinerated bodies were later strung from a bridge and left dangling there.

A young boy beat one of the incinerated bodies after it was pulled down with his shoe as a crowd cheered.

**"I am happy to see this. The Americans are occupying us so this is what will happen," said Mohammad, 12, looking on.**

**"The people of Fallujah hung some of the bodies on the old bridge like slaughtered sheep," resident Abdul Aziz Mohammed said.** Some corpses were dismembered, he said.

The contractors were passing through central Fallujah when they were stopped by an armed group, who opened fire and set the cars ablaze before fleeing.

**Privately owned Blackwater USA's range of services include providing firearms and small-groups training for Navy SEALs, police department SWAT teams and former special operations personnel and guard services to customers around the world.** It is one of five subsidiaries of Blackwater USA, based in northeastern North Carolina about a half-hour's drive from the world's largest naval base in Norfolk, Va.

"We're very proud of the work that we do. We feel that we support a just cause," assistant training director Chris Epperson said during a visit last month.

On a typical day, a Navy SEALs team practiced shooting in odd positions through doors and windows and cadets from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy learned how to storm through doorways during a room-by-room search.

**Plainclothes operatives practiced how to escape from a disabled sport-utility vehicle while under fire from attackers. (Not enough practice, apparently.)**

**"To my mind, the insurgency is only getting worse, but we're there and we're staying there,"** said Robert Band, president of Massachusetts based Perini Corp., which is doing electricity work across southern Iraq.

**Epperson said the company's contractors provide protection to Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq.**

Even before the latest attack, security fears in Iraq were so acute that they had fueled a surge in world-wide demand for armored SUVs and professional bodyguards. Big contractors such as Bechtel Group Inc. have cut back or eliminated travel to large parts of the country, depending on the perceived threat. Contractors working on infrastructure projects have hunkered down in fortified on-site encampments to reduce exposure to attacks on the road.

Just this week—and before yesterday's attacks—the State Department warned that it couldn't ensure the safety of U.S. citizens attending a major trade-and-investment exposition in Baghdad next week. **(And on April 1, the Occupation was forced to announce the exposition was cancelled. It seems Baghdad is "not secure.")**

## **The NY Times Reports A City Celebrating A Victory; And A "Deteriorating Situation"**

March 31, 2004, JEFFREY GETTLEMAN, The New York Times

The violence was one of the most brutal outbursts of anti-American rage since the war in Iraq began more than a year ago. **And the steadily deteriorating situation in the Falluja area, a center of anti-American hostility west of Baghdad, has become so precarious that no American or Iraqi forces responded to the attack**

It is not clear what the four Americans were doing in Falluja or where they were going. But just as they were passing a strip of stationery stores and kebab shops around 10:30 a.m., masked gunmen jumped into the street and blasted their vehicles with assault rifles.

**There are a number of police stations in Falluja and a base of more than 4,000 marines nearby, but even as the security guards were being swarmed and their vehicles set on fire, sending plumes of inky smoke over the closed shops of the city, there were no ambulances, no fire engines and no assistance.**

Instead, Falluja's streets were thick with men and boys and chaos.

Men with scarves over their faces hurled bricks into the blazing vehicles. A group of boys yanked a smoldering body into the street and ripped it apart. Someone then tied a chunk of flesh to a rock and tossed it over a telephone wire.

**"Viva mujahedeen!" shouted Said Khalaf, a taxi driver. "Long live the resistance!"**

Nearby, a boy no older than 10 ground his heel into a burned head. "Where is Bush?" the boy yelled. "Let him come here and see this!"

Masked men gathered around him, punching their fists into the air. The streets filled with hundreds of people. "Falluja is the graveyard of Americans!" they chanted.

Many people in Falluja said they felt like they had won an important victory on Wednesday. They insisted that the four security guards, who were driving in unmarked sport utility vehicles, were working for the Central Intelligence Agency.

"This is what these spies deserve," said Salam Aldulayme, a 28-year-old Falluja resident.

"The insurgents in Falluja are testing us," said Capt. Chris Logan, a marine. "They're testing our resolve. **But it's not like we're going to leave. We just got here.**" (What do you suppose the rest of the Marines think of that?)

## **Blind, Foolish, Incompetent Officers In Command**

By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer, March 31 & April 1, 2004

U.S. Marines recently took over authority in the Falluja region from the departing U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

**In an effort to forcefully establish their presence, the newly arrived Marines have conducted numerous patrols in Fallujah and have engaged in fierce firefights with rebels. In recent months, U.S. soldiers were not seen as often in the center of town. (The Army troops didn't have some terminally dimwitted grandstanding glory-hog in command.)**

"We will pacify that city," Kimmitt said, pledging to hunt down those who carried out the killings. "We will be back in Fallujah. It will be at the time and place of our choosing." **(Silly Kimmitt is so totally ignorant he hasn't a clue that the famous maxim of guerrilla war is that *the resistance force strikes "at the time and place of our choosing," at the Occupation Force. This is why the German army lost in Yugoslavia and Northern Italy in World War II, the French army lost in Algeria, Johnston-Nixon lost in Vietnam, and the Bush regime has lost this war in Iraq.)***

He said the military had tried to send Iraqi police to the scene, but **the police reported they couldn't get close enough in time.**

"The event happened very, very rapidly, and by the accounts of the Iraqi police, by the time they got there the situation was pretty well complete at that point," Kimmitt said.

**(Yeah, right. Falluja police are part of the resistance. Months ago they were interviewed by U.S. reporters and promised to help kill any Occupation forces that set foot in the town. "Couldn't get close enough in time"? They were likely part of the attack force.)**

Iraqi Interior Minister Nori al Badran vowed to send forces into Fallujah, but did not say when that would happen. **(And definitely did not say he would be leading them.)**

At a U.S. base about three kilometers (two miles) east of the city, 1st Lt. Wade Zirkle said Wednesday's attack was carried out by a **"few bandits and terrorists."** **(Falluja has nearly 300,00 people. Organized armed forces there are estimated at 5,000, with full support of population. There are 1,000 Marines. Thanks to Marine vet MH for pointing out that means a lot less than 1000 combat-hard. Do the math.)**

"It is our job to go there and maintain security in the city and we are making sure that something like that will not happen again," he said, when asked whether U.S. forces would enter Fallujah. **(Hopefully, there is a Sgt. making sure this fool doesn't actually give any commands. He says is going to "go there" and make "sure that something like that will not happen again." He is completely clueless that "going there" is the best known way to insure that "something like that" does "happen again," to his unit. See the next story about what did happen. In Vietnam, the life expectancy of the average 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. was reputed to be about 15 minutes. From various causes. Officers who hated the war and had no intention of ordering their men to actually fight the Vietnamese resistance lived much longer.)**

Iraqi police manned roadside checkpoints in and around Fallujah, but no U.S. troops could be seen inside. Shops and schools were open. (Duh. Imagine that!)

**"We will not let any foreigner enter Fallujah," said resident Sameer Sami. "Yesterday's attack is proof of how much we hate the Americans."**

**Another resident, Ahmed al-Dulaimi, said: "We wish that they would try to enter Fallujah so we'd let hell break lose."**

## **Hell Does Break Loose--Again Three U.S. Troops Injured In Fresh Falluja Attack**

By SAMEER N. YACOUB, April 1, 2004, Associated Press & (Reuters)

FALLUJAH, Iraq - A roadside bomb injured three American troops in a U.S. military convoy on Thursday near Fallujah, a day after the grisly killing and mutilation of four American contract workers in the city.

Associated Press Television News footage showed smoke pouring from a Humvee that had been abandoned on a roadside just outside Fallujah on Thursday. In Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said insurgents targeted the convoy with a bomb, and the injured troops were flown to a combat support hospital.

### **BEFORE**



**Witnesses said the U.S. soldiers drove away, but later left one empty Humvee, the U.S. all-terrain military vehicle, on the road.**

**Iraqis then looted the vehicle and set it on fire.**

**A few cheered and danced around the burning Humvee.**

### **AFTER**





A US Humvee infantry vehicle lies on a highway at the entrance to Fallujah. (AFP/Karim Sahib)

**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/qj-special/>

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

## **Suddenly The Horror Of The War Comes Home**



**People cheer around burned corpses after they were cut down from a bridge, following an attack in the restive town of Falluja, Iraq March 31, 2004.**

By Alan Elsner, Reuters, 4.1.04

Barbie Zelizer, of the Annenberg School at the University of Pennsylvania, who has studied the impact of media images, said such events could crystallize public opinion that was already moving in a certain direction rather than dramatically changing it.

**"What is striking is that all of the sudden, the headlines are proclaiming that this war is horrific. It's been horrific all along. The only thing that changed was that a cameraman happened to be on the spot this time and captured the pictures," she said.**



Iraqis cheer as a vehicle burns after an attack in Falluja March 31, 2004.. (Mohammed Khodor/Reuters)



Iraqis celebrate in Fallujah. Angry residents armed with shovels mutilated the charred bodies caught in an insurgents' attack and warned the rebel Iraqi town would be the 'cemetery' of US occupation forces.(AFP/Karim Sahib)

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.

# Five Soldiers Killed In Mine Attack Near Falujah: March Proves Second Deadliest Month for GIs

By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer, 3.31.04 & By EMERY P. DALESIO, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - **A burst of violence against Americans in Iraq on Wednesday made March the second-deadliest month for U.S. troops since President Bush declared an end to major combat last May.**

Five U.S. troops and four American civilians were killed on the final day of the month.

**On a road 12 miles northwest of the city of Fallujah, five troops in a 1st Infantry Division M-113 armored personnel carrier were killed by a makeshift bomb.** The area is in the Sunni Triangle — roughly between Baghdad, Ramadi and Tikrit — **that has most fiercely resisted U.S. control. Residents said the bomb attack occurred in Malahma, 12 miles northwest of Fallujah, where anti-U.S. insurgents are active.**

The five soldiers were from Fort Riley, Kan. "It's an incredible tragedy when life is lost and we in Kansas take it even more personally when we're talking about soldiers based in Kansas," Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said.

At least 17 U.S. troops have been killed in that area this month.

**At least 48 U.S. troops died in Iraq during March, up from 21 in February and 46 in January.** Nineteen were killed by roadside bombs, or improvised explosive devices, according to military records. The list of dead does not include two Department of the Army civilians killed in Hilla on March 9 or the four civilian contractors, because the Pentagon counts only military deaths.

November was the deadliest month of the war for U.S. forces, with 82 dead.

**U.S. officials say** they expect the insurgents to intensify their efforts against the American occupation as the June 30 date approaches for the Iraqis to regain their sovereignty. **Once that transition is achieved, however, they believe the insurgency will subside.**

**That is similar to the expectations held by some when Saddam was captured Dec. 13. It was hoped that his arrest would deflate the insurgency and embolden ordinary Iraqis to help the U.S. occupation effort.**

**Instead the killing has continued at roughly a constant pace, and attacks against Iraqi civilians have increased. Since Saddam's capture, 138 American troops have died. That compares with 132 killed over the same number of weeks after Bush declared major combat over last May 1.**

**In all, at least 597 U.S. troops have died in Iraq since the war began March 20, 2003.**

## **Bush Has Other Priorities.**



Imperial Terrorist-In-Chief Bush speaks to guests at the National Republican Congressional Committee **fund-raising dinner in Washington, April 1, 2004.** Bush headlined a **fund-raising gala for U.S. House of Representatives Republicans** on Thursday Photo by Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

### **GET SOME TRUTH; CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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**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.**  
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