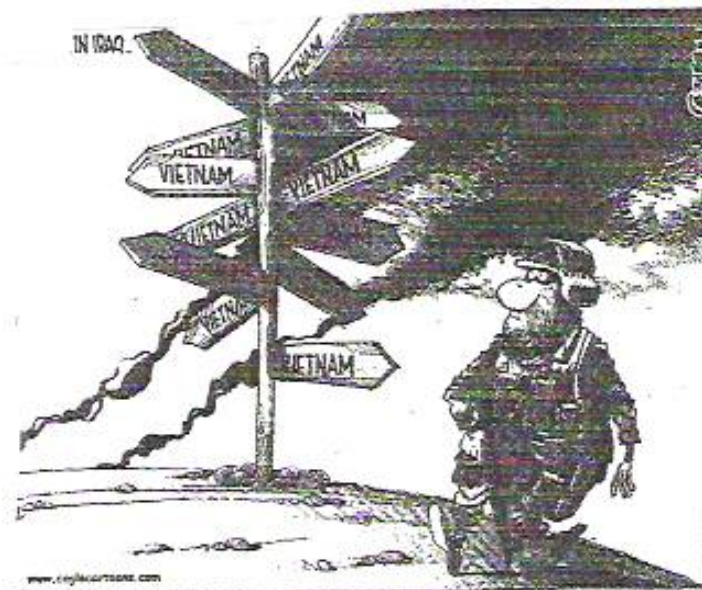


GI SPECIAL 2#53



“I Wish I Had Known What I Know Now When I Was In Iraq” An Open Letter To The Troops

To The Troops In Iraq Via GI Special
From MH, Veteran, 11th Marines
4.5.04

I wish I had known what I know now when I was in Iraq.

I wish I had known that one of the biggest forces behind the ending to the Vietnam War was the revolt of the American troops.

They revolted for many reasons. Because they where sick of killing people in a country that they had no stake in. They where sick of being killed for some bullshit that they barely understood, let alone believed in. The troops in Vietnam knew that their war

wasn't really about containing communism--that instead it was about money and which super power had the biggest balls.

Sounds familiar doesn't it.

You're on the ground in Iraq right now, just as I was a few months ago, so you can see the truth.

Have you found any weapons of mass destruction yet? I didn't think so.

Look around at the people that are fighting you. If someone did to you what we are doing to them wouldn't you be doing the exact same things? I know that if someone busted into my home at zero dark thirty, started screaming at me in a language I didn't understand, and stuck a gun in the face of my family I would be pretty fucking pissed off.

So what do you do now? I know you sure as hell don't want kill anybody and you don't want to get shot at anymore. You might think this doesn't leave you with any options but you might be surprised. YOU CAN RESIST.

I'm not there with you now, so I'm not telling you to do this or that. But there is a hidden history of what soldiers have done in similar situations in the past.

For example, Vietnam.

You heard about the "glory" of combat in Vietnam, but what you didn't hear is that so many units mutinied that the department of defense stopped keeping count.

Almost every single military base and naval ship produced their own anti-war newspaper, such as the Fort Polk Puke, Attitude Check from Camp Pendleton, All Hands Abandon Ship out of Newport, Rhode Island, and my favorite FTA (fuck the army), from Fort Knox.

Many units sent out on patrol would sit a half mile from base and sent back a string of false radio reports. At the end of the war some units negotiated individual truces with the enemy forces and wore red scarves on their arms to let the Vietnamese know that they had no intention of getting into a fire fight.

The soldiers stopped the war in Vietnam. For thirty years, until Bush, no American President dared launch another war for Empire.

If you check out this history your options are probably becoming clearer. Learn the lessons now that it took the troops in Vietnam almost a decade to learn. Save your humanity, your life and the life of thousands of Iraqis. Be careful, be smart, and do what you have to do.

Come home in one piece and bring your friends along with you.

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

At Least Seven US Marines Dead In Fallujah; Marine Command Reported Hiding Full Casualty Count

April 8, 2004 news.com.au, From correspondents in Baghdad

FIVE US Marines were killed today by gunfire from within the mosque in the Iraqi city of Fallujah that was under attack from US forces, a Central Command spokesman said.

US marines pressing an offensive Fallujah, west of Baghdad, bombed a central mosque earlier and killed up to 40 insurgents holed up inside, a marine officer in Iraq said.

Earlier, The Associated Press reported the military as saying two US marines had been killed in fighting in Fallujah over the past two days.

But it said the marines had not given a full casualty count.

Resistance Using Artillery In Falluja; Gets At Least One U.S. Tank, One Humvee

Wall St. Journal 4.7.04 & News.scotsman.com & Dow Jones Newswires, FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) & (AP/kfwb)

As Marine forces cordoned off the city on Monday, **Iraqi units ranging from 10-60 fighters attacked them with small arms, mortars and artillery**, according to a

Pentagon official with access to the field reports. **“Make no mistake, this is a battle,” the official said.**

Messages from mosque loudspeakers called for "jihad," or “struggle.” Some resistance soldiers in the street were seen carrying mortars, and some women carried automatic weapons.

On the Fallujah front, marines pushed toward the centre of the Sunni city today.

Marines and gunmen were engaged in heavy battles in the Dubat neighborhood on the eastern side of Fallujah and in other part in the center of the city, witnesses said. U.S. warplanes opened fire on groups of Iraqis in the street.

Rocket-propelled grenade fire set a U.S. Humvee ablaze, injuring soldiers inside, witnesses said.

Heavy explosions and machinegun fire were heard in the northern part of the city. **During the fighting, insurgents struck a US Abrams tank, wounding three marines.**

Dozens of insurgents carrying RPGs and automatic weapons, their faces wrapped in scarves, dug in around an eastern entrance to the city, setting up sandbags.

U.S. Marines in the third day of a battle fired a rocket and dropped a 500-pound, laser-guided bomb on a mosque compound Wednesday, and witnesses said dozens were killed.

Witnesses said the strike came as worshippers had gathered for afternoon prayers.

An Associated Press reporter saw cars ferrying out dead and wounded. Witnesses estimated that as many as 40 people were killed.

During fighting elsewhere in Fallujah, U.S. forces seized another mosque, the al-Muadidi mosque, and a Marine climbed its minaret and fired down on gunmen, witnesses said. Insurgents hit the minaret with rocket-propelled grenades, causing it to partly collapse, the AP reporter said.

Insurgents also blew up two highway overpasses into the city to prevent U.S. troops from using them. A helicopter rocketed three houses, and the reporter saw at least five wounded people, including a young boy, being pulled out of one them.

Marine Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne said the Marines controlled about a quarter of Fallujah.

The militants, who have wide popular support, fiercely resisted the U.S. raids into the city center and attacked American troops encircling the city of 200,000.

The intensity of the resistance apparently prompted U.S. forces to bring in helicopters, tanks and AC130 gunships that have pounded suspected militant sites in the densely populated neighborhoods.

U.S. Military Helicopter Shot Down In Baqouba

April 7, 2004 The Associated Press & (AP/kfwb)

BAQOUBA, Iraq - A U.S. military helicopter crashed Wednesday and was seen burning on the ground in central Iraqi city of Baqouba, where Shiite militiamen and U.S. troops were battling, a witness said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The crash came immediately after an explosion was heard, said an AP photographer at the site. He saw the helicopter on the ground in flames. U.S. troops closed off the site.

The OH-58 Kiowa chopper was damaged and forced to land, but the two crewmembers were unharmed.

Occupation Fucked As Sunni, Shia Resistance Soldiers Join Forces In Baghdad To Attack Humvees; Sadr Says Iraq Will Be "Another Vietnam" -- Silly Gen. Kimmitt Babbles More Empty Threats

4.7.04 (AP/kfwb)

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt vowed to CNN to "destroy" the militia of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, which has been behind the wave of attacks and street fighting with coalition troops in southern cities and Baghdad this week.

Al-Sadr said Iraq will become "another Vietnam" for the United States unless it transfers power to Iraqis who are not connected with the U.S.-led occupation authority.

"I call upon the American people to stand beside their brethren, the Iraqi people, who are suffering an injustice by your rulers and the occupying army, to help them in the transfer of power to honest Iraqis," al-Sadr said in a statement from

his office in the southern city of Najaf. "Otherwise, Iraq will be another Vietnam for America and the occupiers."

The black-garbed gunmen of the al-Mahdi Army also had virtual control of Kufa and Karbala, where Iraqi police lay low, allowing militiamen to move freely and acting only to prevent looting.

Militiamen in Karbala clashed with Polish patrols that moved through their areas, and a cleric who was a senior official in al-Sadr's office in the city was killed.

In a statement Wednesday, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, the most powerful Shiite cleric in Iraq, called for an end to the violence by all sides.

Al-Sistani "condemned the methods used by occupation forces in the current escalating situation in Iraq ... and any action that disturbs order and prevents officials from carrying out their duties," the statement said.

There also were signs of sympathy for the Sadr revolt by Sunni insurgents, who have been fighting the U.S.-led occupation for months and have often chided their Shiite countrymen for not joining in.

Portraits of al-Sadr and graffiti praising his "valiant uprising" appeared on mosque and government building walls in the Sunni city of Ramadi. Peaceful protests in support of al-Sadr occurred in the northern cities of Mosul and Rashad.

Monday night in Baghdad, al-Sadr soldiers went to a mainly Sunni neighborhood to join with insurgents there in firing on U.S. Humvees -- the only known instance so far of Sunni and Shiite militants joining forces.

Anger was also spreading over the U.S. siege of Fallujah, one of the Sunni insurgents' strongest bastions, west of Baghdad. Iraqis protesting the operation clashed with U.S. troops outside the northern city of Kirkuk in fighting that left eight Iraqis dead and 10 wounded.

There was no sign, however, that al-Sadr's forces had eased their attacks:

--Militiamen battled Spanish soldiers in Najaf, and a taxi driver was killed, a hospital official said.

--Clashes erupted overnight in Baghdad's Sadr City, killing four Iraqis and wounding seven others, doctors said.

--Militiamen traded fire with Polish troops in Karbala overnight, killing two Iranian tourists, witnesses said.

Gunmen attacked a police car Tuesday night in Youssifiya, south of Baghdad, killing two policemen.

With confirmation of the latest deaths, the American death toll since the war was at least 630.

Shia Resistance Holding “Several Cities”-- Iraqi Police “Stand Aside”

4.7.04 News.scotsman.com & (AP/kfwb)

Fighting was spreading in several directions at once today, with Shiite militiamen attacking coalition troops and taking control of several southern cities.

Yesterday, the insurgents opened a new front with a bloody attack on marines in the nearby town of Ramadi. **The 12 Marines killed fighting insurgents in Ramadi were all stationed at Camp Pendleton.**

New fighting erupted in the same Ramadi neighbourhood today, witnesses said.

Clashes continued overnight between militiamen from al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army and coalition troops in Kut, Karbala and the mainly Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City in Baghdad.

The al-Mahdi Army appeared to be in control of Kut and Kufa, occupying government buildings and roaming the streets, as Iraqi police stood aside.

“STANDING ASIDE”--- NOT!



A police officer joins Shia soldiers of Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr celebrating on the roof after occupying the governor's residence in Basra April 5, 2004. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

1st Armored Soldier Killed At Baghdad Police Station

One Task Force 1st Armored Division soldier was killed by rocket-propelled-grenade fire at about 6:30 a.m. April 7 as his convoy conducted a relief in place of the security forces guarding the Diala Police Station in Baghdad. The soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Camp Anaconda Soldier Killed, Another Wounded

Combined Joint Task Force 7, 4.7.04, Release #040407c

One 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed and another wounded during a counter-fire mission at Logistics Support Area Anaconda near Balad at about 8:35 p.m. April 6. The wounded soldier was medically evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany and is in stable condition.

Combined Joint Task Force 7, 4.7.04, Release #040407c

Ukrainian Troops Driven Out Of Al- Kut: Shias Capture City & Their Base



Ukrainian soldiers take shelter behind a military vehicle in Kut before fleeing the city south of the capital Baghdad.(AFP/File/Karim Sahib)

4.7.04 (AP/kfwb)

Shiite soldiers drove Ukrainian forces out of the southern city of Kut -- raising concerns over the ability of U.S. allies to control al-Sadr's uprising.

After gunbattles overnight, the Ukrainians withdrew from Kut, and al-Sadr followers swept into their base, seized weapons stores and planted their flag on a nearby grain silo.

(The U.S. command aren't the only liars around. Now read how the Ukrainian Government hid the truth from their own people about getting whipped and surrendering the city.)

Kyiv, April 7 (Interfax-Ukraine) Ukrainian soldiers evacuated a temporary civil administration building in Al Kut, Iraq, after coming under mortar fire from Iraqi insurgents, the Defense Ministry reported on Wednesday.

The ministry said armed militiamen from the Mehdi Army, a force created by radical Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr, attacked Al Kut's temporary civil administration building early on Wednesday. The building, which was being guarded by Ukrainian troops, came under attack by mortars.

Ukrainian commanders in Al Kut on Wednesday morning evacuated the building and withdrew the Ukrainian soldiers.

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/>

South African Merc Killed In Kut

BAGHDAD, April 7 (Reuters) & News.scotsman.com

A South African working for a British security company was killed by Iraqi Shi'ite fighters in the southern Iraqi city of Kut on Wednesday, coalition sources said.

The sources said he had died when the house he was living in with other mercenaries was attacked by Shi'ite militia forces. Kut has been the scene of violent clashes for the past three days between Shi'ite militiamen and forces of the U.S.-led coalition.

A British civilian working for a private security company was also reported to have been killed in Kut. The report was attributed to witnesses and could not be confirmed.

TROOP NEWS

DEADLY PLACE TO BE



BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW

2004-04-01 Middle East Online

44% Of Americans Say Bring Troops Home

Wall St. Journal 4.7.04

Americans seem less convinced than they were earlier this year that U.S. troops should stay for the long haul, with 44% now saying troops should be brought home as soon as possible, up from 32% last September.

Overall approval of Mr. Bush's job performance fell in the new survey to 43% from 55% in September.

The Ignorant And Lazy In Command Can Destroy An NCOs Career

Letters To The Editor,
Army Times 4.5.04

I empathize with Master Sgt. Born concerning his negative NCO-ER. I've been in the Active Guard and Reserve program almost 20 years. **From my experience, I believe the discrepancies found in most evaluations are due mainly to ignorance, lack of good leadership skills and plain laziness on the chain of command's part.**

Most senior leaders don't refer to AR 623-205, Enlisted Evaluation Reporting System. Their lack of knowledge regarding proper counseling and rating procedures can destroy a competent NCO's career or allow a marginal soldier to slip through the cracks, which ultimately results in retention of incompetent leaders.

I've seen supervisors give derogatory evaluations based on personal feelings toward the subordinate NCO. This type of leader spends lots of time and energy complaining about subordinate soldiers to others. Their effort would be better served speaking face to face with soldiers to address issues of concern or to praise them for successes, commonly referred to as developmental counseling.

In some cases, I've seen raters write and fill out all blocks for both the senior rater and the reviewer. The senior raters and reviewers who don't have time to give their own input should not be placed in leadership positions.

Fair evaluations take time and work. Raters are supposed to conduct initial and quarterly counseling sessions at a minimum. By following proper guidance, leaders not only are doing their job, but they're also role-modeling for their subordinates.

In order to fix this problem, I believe it is essential for leaders in the rating chain, to communicate with and get to know their soldiers. Ultimately, if you take care of them, they will take care of you.

Master Sgt. Rosalva Richardson
San Antonio

Vice-Admiral Has Blinding Flash Of Obvious

Army Times April 5, 2004

Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, the Defense Intelligence Agency director, warns that a combination of uneven economic and demographic global growth could create more instability.

The world's poorest nations are the ones with the fastest population growth, he said, calling this a demographic "bubble." **As their economies and governments are unable to meet the demands of more people and the gap between rich and poor grows, Jacoby predicts residents' resentment will increase against their governments and those in other better-off nations, especially the United States.**

Bush War Buddies Looting Billions From The Treasury; Command Worries Soldiers Will Get A Little Too

Army Times 4.12.04

Declassified files reveal U.S. aircrews supplemented their military incomes by smuggling bottles of champagne and perfume during World War II, according to a Reuters report. This was not just a few bottles, but rather a large-scale enterprise that raised concerns because senior military officials worried other aircrews would find out and either become jealous or start their own competing smuggling rings. The report is based on a confidential memo found in Great Britain's national archives.

Wartime smuggling is nothing new.

U.S. officials were concerned after a British soldier on leave from Iraq was found last year with a brick of gold apparently taken from a bank in Iraq.

If one service member gets away with a major theft or finds a way of profiting from a conflict, officials fear other troops also will try to get in on the action. The memo from the British archives notes, for example, that while U.S. crews were smuggling champagne and perfume in World War II, British flyers were smuggling watches and brokering black-market currency deals.

(God forbid that anybody but the super-rich who own giant corporations like Halliburton get their hands on some war cash. Troops can live on food stamps and charity handouts and like it. The military is nothing but a giant Walmart.)

The Generals' Daughter

Letter To The Editor,
Army Times 4.12.04

The recent Pvt. Murphy's Law cartoon poking fun at reserved parking spots makes me wonder if cartoonist Mark Baker was in the same parking lot I was this past Christmas when the college-age daughter of a general officer assigned to Fort Huachuca parked Daddy's SUV in a space reserved for general officers.

The vehicle may have had the two-star sticker, but this 20-something-year-old woman isn't a general officer. She certainly hadn't earned the right to park in that space. The cartoon illustrates the extreme abuse of these reserved parking spaces. Post and garrison commanders worldwide can improve this situation by implementing command policies with Army values in mind. **Commanders should step to the forefront in stopping this parking nonsense.**

This cartoon can serve as a challenge. The challenge is this:

- Reserve spaces solely for the service member who has earned the particular rank. If the sponsor is not in the vehicle, the family member is not authorized to park in the space, regardless of whether there is the appropriate sticker or not.
- Make the policy enforceable by referring the matter to community court where the offending driver can have on-post driving privileges suspended.

It may not immediately stop the abuse, but it might give the average person, whether a service member or a family member, the opportunity to report violations to the military police. Proactive enforcement certainly will go a long way to stopping the abuse.

Furthermore, bases that have parking spots for pregnant women or families with small children should place them right after the handicapped parking, which is mandated by federal law.

That would show commanders are looking out for the subordinates and their families first. That is the true mark of any leader. **(Commanders are looking out for their careers and their privileges, and their “subordinates” know it only too well.)**

Matthew Willis
Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Deep Shit

Army Times 4.12.04

A man who protested the U.S. war in Iraq last year by dumping manure on the lawn of an Army recruiting office in northern New York has been fined \$200.

Michael Bedoian, 53, of Willsboro, N.Y., pleaded guilty March 29 in Plattsburgh Town Court to illegal disposal of solid waste, receiving the maximum penalty.

Bedoian dumped about a bushel of manure on the recruiting office lawn and taped signs on the door critical of President Bush. In hindsight, the choice of manure might not have been the best, he said.

Bad Housing Bad For Troops Morale, Prez Admits

Army Times, 4.12.04

The president has conceded that requiring service members to live in inadequate housing is tantamount to breaking an implied promise. The concession isn't from President Bush, although U.S. military officials are years away from eliminating substandard barracks and family housing. The president admitting promises

have not been kept is Russia's recently re-elected Vladimir Putin, who admitted in an interview with the Tass news service that his country "has accumulated an immense amount of obligations" toward Russia's service members that it has "failed to honor."

The Russian military has embarked on a major construction plan to improve military housing. **It is focusing in the beginning on housing for officers. (Now there's a shocking surprise!)**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

The Disaster Deepens

Wall St. Journal 4.6.04, By Kelly George

Pentagon officials say they hope Iraq's fledgling security forces, which were badly beaten by militia forces loyal to Mr. Sadr on Sunday, will take the lead in detaining the cleric. (Dream on.)

Even if that occurs, though, the **U.S. will need support for the arrest from other Shiite leaders including Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani**, the country's leading religious figure, whose support dwarfs that of Mr. Sadr.

A senior military official said that about 3,000 people are in Mr. Sadr's militia, the Mahdi Army, making it a force to reckon with **but not one with the capacity to seriously split the Shia populace. (Another fantasy.)** But a bloody or botched arrest might add to his popularity and radicalize more Shiites. That-group makes up 60% of Iraq's population.

"Things can go bad real, real quick" if the arrest is not handled well, Col. Gary Anderson, a Pentagon consultant, said. (Hello? Things have *already* gone bad, "real, real quick.")

Arresting Mr. Sadr, whose Mosque attracts between 3,000 and 10,000 followers each Friday, could be difficult for Iraq's fledgling security forces, who appear to have abandoned their posts when attacked by Mr. Sadr's militia over the weekend.

"He has protected himself very well, and it has been very difficult to follow his moves," said one senior U.S. military official.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

It Didn't Work 2000 Years Ago Either

(From: War In The Shadows; The Guerrilla In History, Chapter 4, By Robert B. Asprey; Doubleday; New York, 1975

(The 600 pages that follow the excerpt reprinted below review guerrilla warfare against Imperial occupations over the following 2000 years. They offer the reader more insights into how President George Bush and President John Kerry lost the Imperial war in Iraq and were forced to withdraw.)

At a time (200 B.C.) when the Roman army was already spreading this, the occupation and further conquest of Spain called for four strong legions.

This commitment was the more serious, and indeed marks a very significant change in Roman policy, because as Mommsen points out, “. . . *the old Roman custom of sending troops only where the exigencies of war at the moment required them, and of not keeping the man called to serve, except in very important wars, under arms for more than a year, was found incompatible with the retention of the turbulent and remote Spanish provinces beyond the sea; it was absolutely impossible to withdraw the troops from these, and very dangerous even to relieve them extensively. The Roman burgesses began to perceive that dominion over a foreign people is an annoyance not only to the vanquished but the victor, and began to murmur loudly regarding the odious war-service of Spain.*”

The troops were also murmuring.

By the time provincial riches filtered through praetors, quaestors, and other satraps, both military and civil, precious little remained for **the ordinary legionnaire, who found himself in a strange and generally hostile land, his day devoted either to tiresome garrison routine or to extended campaigns “up-country.”** Such campaigns called for hard physical labor expended either in hewing elaborately fortified camps out of unfriendly soil or in chasing elusive guerrillas.

Conventionally minded commanders insisted on mass tactics that, inappropriate to the terrain, frequently resulted in dreaded and costly ambush by the lurking enemy.

Moreover, the ordinary soldier's pay was frequently delayed; so was his relief. Casualties and, even worse, the numerous campaigns seemed never-ending in this land “. . . where large armies starved and small armies got beaten.”

These difficulties scarcely deterred either the Roman senate or its praetors in Spain from pursuing an expansionist policy designed to win control of the interior of the country.

Before the coastal regions were even pacified, expeditionary forces began probing inland to launch a war that would last, with interruptions, for nearly 150 years—a war marked by all the errors of the earlier fighting.

The most striking characteristic of the Roman conquest is not Spanish successes, but rather Roman political and military failures—the seeming inability to adjust sufficiently to meet what in time must have become an obvious challenge. The lessons of the earlier insurrection crises must have struck even the most obtuse governor or dim-witted military commander; yet, with the passing of each crisis, the lessons seemingly vanished into the prevailing morass compounded of imperialistic arrogance, personal greed, and professional ineptness.

Although records are somewhat scanty, one reads more often than not of severe setbacks as that in 191 B.C., when the Lusitanians forced a Roman army, after heavy loss, to abandon its camp, and to return by forced marches into the more tranquil districts. (16)

Time and time again, commanders led their bulky columns into costly, often disastrous ambushes.

The [Roman] state suffered from it beyond description. The flower of the Italian youth perished amid the exhausting fatigues of these campaigns.

The public treasury was not only deprived of the Spanish revenues, but had annually to send to Spain for the pay and maintenance of the Spanish armies very considerable sums, which the government hardly knew how to raise.

Spain was devastated and impoverished, and the Roman civilization, which unfolded so fair a promise there, received a severe shock; as was naturally to be expected in the case of an insurrectionary war waged with so much bitterness, and but too often occasioning the destruction of whole communities.

The generals had encountered an opponent far superior in talent, a tough and protracted resistance, a warfare of very serious perils and of successes difficult to be attained and far from brilliant.

16. Hargreaves, op. cit.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

MELANCHOLY SADDAM LONGS TO SHUT DOWN A NEWSPAPER

Former Dictator in 'Deep Funk,' French Lawyer Says

The Borowitz Report 3.31.04

The U.S.'s shuttering of an Iraqi newspaper sent Saddam Hussein into a "deep funk," his French lawyer said today, as the former Iraqi dictator increasingly longs to shut down a newspaper himself.

"Shutting down newspapers was an activity that Saddam always enjoyed," lawyer Jacques Verges said. "When he heard that the U.S. had done it without him, it was a bitter pill to swallow."

Monsieur Verges said that when he first told the Iraqi madman that the U.S. had padlocked the Baghdad paper, Saddam was despondent and inconsolable, shouting, "That should have been me, damn it!"

Saddam then demanded to speak to the U.S. interim administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer III, to give Mr. Bremer "a list of helpful tips" on how to shut down newspapers in the future.

"Saddam felt that the shutting down of this newspaper was the work of amateurs," Monsieur Verges said. "For one thing, when you close a paper down, you never explain why you do it – that's a huge no-no."

But so far, Mr. Bremer has rebuffed Saddam's offer of assistance, saying that the U.S. was "perfectly well-equipped to shut down newspapers on our own, thank you very much."

All of this has left Saddam increasingly depressed, M. Verges said: "Telling Saddam Hussein he can't shut down a newspaper is like taking away Tiger Woods's golf clubs: it's just plain cruel."

In other news, Condoleezza Rice announced today that her 9/11 testimony would be scheduled to coincide with the finale of "American Idol," the decisive NCAA championship game, and the reading of the verdict in the Kobe Bryant trial.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Imperial Soldier-Killer Kerry Says No Withdrawal From Iraq

Wall St. Journal 4.7.04 page A4

At the same time though, Mr. Kerry, a Vietnam veteran who later became active in the antiwar effort, has said he **wouldn't support a withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country is full stabilized.** (Which means never, since Iraqis will never stop the fight for their national independence and an end of the occupation.)

RUMSFELD IS RIGHT!
**“The Violence That Raged In Iraq Over
The Weekend Is The Work Of A Few
Thugs, Gangs And Terrorists”**
Donald Rumsfeld, CNN 4.7.04

THUG



(Mike Theiler)

GANGSTER



(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

TERRORIST



(Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

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.

Déjà Vu All Over Again: Democrats Vote For Iraq War March 17, 2004

Army Times April 5, 2004

Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, one of two Republicans to vote March 17 against a House resolution marking the one-year anniversary of the start of the war with Iraq, said he couldn't support it. "An effort to commend our forces should not be used to rubber stamp a policy of folly. ... Very few wars are necessary. Very few wars are good and just," Paul said, adding that he believes this war is not one of them.

The resolution passed by a 327-93 vote.

Paul and other opponents of said they voted against the resolution because of a preamble that gave reasons for going to war with Iraq.

CLASS WAR NEWS

Rich And Powerful Escape Taxes More Than Ever

Wall St. Journal 4.6.04 By John D. McKinnon

WASHINGTON—More Than 60% of U.S. corporations didn't pay any federal taxes for 1990 through 2000, years when the economy boomed and corporate profits soared, the investigative arm of Congress reported.

The disclosures from the General Accounting Office are certain to fuel the debate over corporate tax payments in the presidential campaign.

Corporate tax receipts have shrunk markedly as a share of overall federal revenue in recent years, and were particularly depressed when the economy soured. **By 2003, they had fallen to just 7.4% of overall federal receipts, the lowest rate since 1983, and the second-lowest rate since 1934, federal budget officials say.**

The GAO analysis of Internal Revenue Service data comes as tax avoidance by both U.S. and foreign companies also is drawing increased scrutiny from the IRS and Congress. **But more so than similar previous reports, the analysis suggests that dodging taxes, both legally and otherwise has become deeply rooted in U.S. corporate culture.**

French Fake Socialists Admit Total Ignorance

By Craig S. Smith, New York Times, 3.29.04

The Socialists' gains had less to do with their party's message than with popular frustration over unemployment and anger at the government's economic policies.

A Socialist Party elder, Jack Lang, was caught on camera by a television station during the campaigns making that point to a party spokesman, Julien Dray, when he thought his microphone had been turned off. "The government is going to get beat," he told Mr. Dray. "Tomorrow we govern; what do we do?"

"We don't know what to do," Mr. Dray replied, suggesting that the Socialists had no clear platform in place. "For now, you say nothing except 'Down with Raffarin.'"

(The French Socialist Party has about as much in common with authentic socialist politics as George W. Bush has with bravery in combat. Just a collection of opportunists and third rate political hacks, they love and serve capitalism the same way the U.S. Democratic Party loves and serves capitalism and the U.S. Empire. The election does show the temperature is rising among French working class voters. The coming battles will be in the streets.)

(Check out real socialist politics at www.socialistworker.org.)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



**Caterpillar Presents:
The "Home Wrecker" 2004 Model
For "Export" only**

"Thousands upon thousands of Palestinian homes and trees destroyed"

Israeli soldier, camouflage paint, and bullet proof glass not included. See Sharon and the US State dept. for more details.

By Mike Odetalla

(To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: www.rafah.vze.com. The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.)

Received:

From: M, Veteran USMC
To: GI Special
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2004
Subject: Re: New Traveling Soldier

The quality of traveling soldier and GI special are phenomenal!!!

last weekend, we had a west coast conference, and i did the soldiers' rebellion in vietnam talk for it.

unbelievably, two plain clothes cops were in attendance. i didn't notice them at first, though i noticed that they "looked" a bit straight edge--super short haircuts and worked out--then they asked the give away questions--"what kind of resistance is going on currently amongst the troops in iraq and afghanistan?"-- dead give away.

A speaker announced publicly about traveling soldier and gi special and the cops heard about it--fyi. it was a unique experience!

(If police spys want to know what kind of resistance is going on currently amongst the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, perhaps they would care to join up, volunteer to go there, and find out for themselves? Nothing like first hand experience. Maybe we can take up a collection for their plane fare. And a couple of those defective ceramic vests. T.)

Received:

Veterans' Call for Nuclear Disarmament

Dear Friends:

I am writing to you about a critical change in U.S. defense policy and to ask fellow veterans for their help. As you may know, in 2002 we founded Veterans for Common Sense, an organization devoted to pragmatic approaches to protecting American and global security.

The current U.S. administration has abandoned long-standing treaties, angering our allies and demonstrated that the U.S. will rely on military force to protect its interests around the globe. In fact, since 2001, the United States has strengthened its reliance on nuclear weapons as a key component of our national security strategy – which is a grave mistake on many levels.

During the next few weeks, Congress will debate proposed changes in U.S. policy that will cost us dearly. While U.S. and allied troops are dying in Iraq with inadequate numbers and equipment, the administration is advocating spending billions of dollars on programs which will not protect the troops and make us all more vulnerable. While cutting the budget for Veterans Administration hospitals and medical care, the administration is spending billions on defense contracts designed to enrich executives and stockholders of massive defense contractors;

Among the costly proposed changes are:

- Big spending increases for nuclear bomb production at the new “Modern Pit Facility” and at Los Alamos National Laboratories
- Millions more for research into “bunker buster” weapons and tactical mini-nukes
- Billions for research into a national missile defense system, which our nation’s leading scientists have demonstrated will not work
-

The stakes are enormous. Just last week, the Russian defense minister announced that if current trends continue, Russia will increase the readiness of its nuclear forces. China is also rapidly modernizing its nuclear arsenal. Our increased reliance on nuclear weapons has made the world a much more dangerous place.

For the past year, I’ve worked as executive director of the new Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI) to help change the status quo of U.S. nuclear policy. NPRI is partnering with Veterans for Common Sense to pressure our policymakers to lead the rest of the world by ending our reliance on nuclear weapons.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

Join fellow veterans in signing the [“Veterans Call for Nuclear Disarmament”](#) letter. It will be delivered to members of Congress as they debate funding increases for nuclear weapons. Partner with NPRI and VCS to help make our world a safer place. [Click here to sign the letter.](#)

If you are not a veteran, you may join us by signing the [Commitment to Oppose the New Nuclear Arms Race](#). [Click here to learn more.](#)

With best regards,

Charles Sheehan-Miles, Executive Director, Nuclear Policy Research Institute
Board of Directors , Veterans for Common Sense

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