

GI SPECIAL 2#55

**THIS SHIT HAS GOT TO STOP:
GET OUT OF IRAQ:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Memorial service, Kirkuk Air Base, honoring Pfc. John D. Amos II.
(AFP/USAF/File/Jeremy Smith)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Late Breaking News:

**Resistance Controls Abu Gharib-
Falluja Highway;**

Falluja, Ramadi Cut-Off

April 9, 2004 news.com.au

ARMED insurgents today seized control of the highway linking the predominantly Sunni Muslim town of Abu Gharib with the besieged city of Fallujah further west of Baghdad, an AFP correspondent said.

Hundreds of militants armed with rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikov assault rifles were running along the highway, the correspondent said.

An AFP photographer reported earlier that fierce clashes pitted US army troops against insurgents in Abu Gharib

MORE:

TO: GI SPECIAL

4.10.04

I'm not quite sure if the US has other supply lines but losing that highway is very bad because that was their most secure route into the city.

Think about it: if they can barely keep order in the country do you really think they have troops keeping watch on alternate supply routes?

So now they are going to have to pull troops from another area to clear and reinforce the supply routes. As my drill instructors said, "It's bad juju."

M.

“The Lid Of The Pressure Cooker Has Come Off,” Brit Foreign Sec Says

BAGHDAD, April 9 (Reuters) By Alistair Lyon

Bloody turmoil reigned in Iraq on Friday, the first anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall, with Sunni and Shi'ite rebels battling U.S.-led forces.

Fierce fighting that has convulsed the Sunni cities of Falluja and Ramadi reached the western outskirts of Baghdad.

Teenage fighters with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles lurked on bridges or in derelict lots near the main highway leading west towards the embattled town of Falluja.

The insurrection is sapping a reconstruction drive, hampering oil exports to pay for it and frightening off foreign investors.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the situation was the most serious yet faced by U.S.-led occupation forces.

"The lid of the pressure cooker has come off," he told BBC radio. "There is no doubt that the current situation is very serious and it is the most serious that we have faced."

At Least Nine Dead In Attack On US Fuel Convoy

9 April 2004 (Reuters) & The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Insurgents attacked a US convoy carrying fuel west of Baghdad on Friday, killing at least nine people, witnesses said. At least one U.S. soldier was killed.

Resistance soldiers carrying automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades struck a tanker truck in a convoy in Abu Ghraib on the main highway entering western Baghdad.

Officials said 12 others also were wounded in the attack, including an Iraqi civilian believed nearby when the attack set off fires.

"These were fuel trucks," Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said at a Baghdad news conference. "When they were attacked by the enemy, they probably had a collateral effect on other vehicles on the road."

A Reuters photographer on the scene said he saw bodies burning inside the vehicles, which were still on fire near Abu Ghraib. He said the convoy included US military vehicles and fuel tankers.

Huge clouds of black smoke hung over the area, visible from several kilometres away. **There was heavy fighting between US troops and guerrillas in Abu Ghraib on Thursday.**

Truckloads of people from the area have also tried to head further west to help other insurgents battling US forces in Falluja and Ramadi.

MORE:

Two US Soldiers And US Civilians Missing After Fuel Convoy Attack

4.9.04 WASHINGTON (AFP)

Two US soldiers and several US civilians were missing following a raid by Iraqi insurgents on a fuel convoy west of Baghdad.

A senior Pentagon official was quoted as saying that it was not immediately known if the missing Americans had been captured and that a search had been launched, CNN television reported.

US Central Command announced earlier that a member of the 13th Corps Support Command had been killed and 12 wounded in an attack on their convoy near Baghdad International Airport.

Resistance “Freely Roams” Baghdad Main Highway

04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer & BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) & BAGHDAD, April 9 (Reuters) By Alistair Lyon

A year to the day after Marines toppled a statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Firdos Square, a poster of Muqtada al-Sadr -- the radical Shiite cleric whose militia has rebelled across the south -- was attached Friday to an unfinished bronze monument at the site. U.S. soldiers climbed up and tore it down.

But on Friday, Baghdad was tense, and a curfew was imposed in Firdos Square.

At the western entrance to the capital, resistance soldiers freely roamed the main highway, and a burned tanker truck sent a huge pall of smoke over the city.

In Baghdad, new razor wire barriers blocked streets around Firdaws Square where U.S. Marines and Iraqis dragged down Saddam's statue a year ago. Loudspeaker messages warned the public to stay away. **The measures appeared designed to foil possible anniversary protests against the U.S.-led occupation.**

Troops had imposed a curfew in the area, with armored cars circulating in the traffic circle around the square, warning that anyone seen in the streets carrying a weapon would be shot.

Posters of Sadr fluttered on a green sculpture symbolising a new Iraq erected on the plinth where Saddam's statue once stood. A U.S. soldier later climbed a ladder to pull down the Sadr pictures in an eerie echo of last year's iconic images.

"America is the big devil and Britain and Blair are the lesser devils," a preacher at Baghdad's Um al-Qura mosque told an angry congregation.

Reflecting a growing Iraqi hostility to outsiders, one worshipper said: "When we get the order for jihad (struggle), no foreigner will be safe in Iraq."

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad; Three Marines In Falluja

April 09, 2004 The Associated Press

A soldier was killed in an attack using roadside bombs and small arms on Camp Cooke, a U.S. base in northern Baghdad, the military said.

Three Marines were killed a day earlier in Al Anbar province, west of Baghdad, the military said on Friday. It wasn't clear if they died in Fallujah, where Marines have been battling insurgents since Monday.

**DISASTROUS PLACE TO BE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Marines, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Fallujah (AFP/Cris Bouroncle)

Local Soldier Killed In Fallujah Fighting

April 8, 2004 KHOU.com

The escalating violence against U.S. troops in Iraq has hit home for one Houston-area family.

A local soldier is among the more than 30 killed since this weekend. A family spokesperson said the soldier died in a firefight near Fallujah Sunday night.

He's Specialist Scott Larson, a 22-year-old graduate of Cy-Creek High School in northwest Harris County and he was supposed to come home for Easter weekend. Messages of love scribbled on pink balloons show support for a family whose son wore a smile just as bright.

He was an Army scout specialist, a soldier and son, whose friends say was man of great strength and integrity.

After graduating from high school Larson tried his hand at college, but that only lasted a couple of semesters. That's because he believed the military and the ministry was his calling.

Larson was scheduled to come home in about two weeks.



Scott Larson (KHOU TV)

The Battle Of Falluja; Marines Bugged Down

4.9.04 (Reuters) & LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer

At least 450 Iraqis were killed and more than 1,000 wounded in fighting in the city of Falluja this week, the director of the main hospital, Rafi Hayad, told Reuters.

There was sporadic shooting. Marines were hunkered down around the city and in an industrial zone just inside, without entering residential neighborhoods. **Before the halt was called, there was fighting around a mosque that was the center of battles for three days. (Meaning the Marine attack has been stalled at the mosque for three days.)**

Insurgents armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades have put up stiff resistance, but **Marines have said they are winning the battle, holding at one**

point about a quarter of the city. (“At one point” means they don’t hold “a quarter of the city” any more.)

The security firm that employed the four Americans who were killed in Fallujah, Blackwater USA, told The New York Times that they were lured into an ambush by members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.

The Iraqis promised the Blackwater-led convoy safe passage through the city, but instead, they suddenly blocked off the road, preventing any escape from waiting gunmen, Patrick Toohey, Blackwater's vice president for government relations said in Friday's editions.



An Iraqi resistance soldier with a rocket launcher fires at US forces in Fallujah. April 8, 2004. (AP Photo/LBC via APTN)

Shia Army Holding Kufa, Najaf; “Bush...You Are Fighting The Entire Iraqi People”

04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer

Al-Sadr forces kept control of Kufa and the center of the nearby holy city of Najaf, despite a vow by U.S. commanders Wednesday to crush the militia.

Any U.S. operation to oust the militiamen would be hampered by the hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims who are in southern cities and roads this weekend for al-Arbaeen, which commemorates the end of the period of mourning for a 7th-century martyred saint.

Al-Sadr on Friday demanded U.S. forces leave Iraq, saying they now face "a civil revolt."

"I direct my speech to my enemy Bush and I tell him that if your excuse was that you are fighting Saddam, then this thing is a past and now you are fighting the entire Iraqi people," al-Sadr said in a sermon, delivered by one of his deputies at the Imam Ali Shrine, Shiite Islam's holiest site, in Najaf.

In Najaf, a policeman watched helplessly Thursday as a pickup truck carrying a dozen heavily armed Shiite militiamen went past his police station -- already in the militia's hands.

"Look, how can we control such a situation?" he asked an Associated Press reporter.

Police in several cities have abandoned their stations or stood aside as the gunmen took to the streets, raising concerns about the performance and loyalty of a force that U.S. administrators are counting on to keep security in the future Iraq.

Coalition forces also have moved in to block the road between Kufa and Najaf, a senior aide to al-Sadr, Sheik Qays al-Khaz'ali, told the AP.

Al-Sadr is thought to be in his office in Najaf, protected by scores of Shia soldiers. He has said he is willing to die resisting any U.S. attempt to capture him.

Fighting with Polish troops in the southern city of Karbala, scene of battles nearly every night this week, killed four Iraqis and wounded 15 others, according to Karbala General Hospital.

(Al-Sadr is wrong. Bush isn't fighting the entire Iraqi people. He's sitting on his fat ass safely at home raking in the millions for his political campaign. He sent the soldiers to fight "the entire Iraqi people" and die for oil and empire. He and the dimwitted murderous clowns around him had no clue they couldn't hold down 20 million pissed off Iraqis, who have the strange notion that they want their own country for themselves.

They will keep on fighting until the Occupation is gone and they are right to do so. They can't be defeated. They live there. The only question is many more lives will be thrown away before that truth becomes self-evident. Excluding the Kurds, there are about 15 million Iraqis capable of bearing arms vs. 130,000 Occupation troops. Do the math. Even if every Occupation soldier is doing direct combat, and none doing support, and assume every soldier is in combat 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, that means 65,000 total to hold down all of Iraq. Forget about it.)

Shia Forces Attack U.S. In Baqouba & Mosul;

Hq & Tank Burning

04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer & BAGHDAD, (Reuters) By Alistair Lyon

Al-Sadr followers attacked a government building where U.S. troops are based in Baqouba, north of Baghdad, after Friday prayers. **A tank was seen burning.** Also, a mortar hit a house near a police station, killing two people, police said.

Insurgents fought U.S. troops and attacked buildings, witnesses said.

They said smoke was rising from the governorate building housing U.S. forces and from buildings surrounding the police station. The sound of explosions was also heard near the main U.S. base in the town, 40 miles north of Baghdad.

Shooting also broke out after a demonstration in the northern city of Mosul, witnesses said, after overnight clashes in the shrine city of Kerbala between Shi'ite fighters and Polish and Bulgarian troops killed 15 Iraqis.

Occupation Retakes Kut

04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer

U.S. forces Friday retook a southern city seized by Shiite militia.

U.S. troops drove into Kut, driving out members of al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army who seized the textile and farm products center this week. The operation represented a major foray by the American military in a region where U.S. allies have struggled to deal with the uprising.

U.S. forces moved into Kut two days after Ukrainian troops abandoned the city in the face of heavy fighting with al-Sadr followers. Before dawn, U.S. troops seized police stations, **forcing out both Iraqi police and militiamen** and confiscating police weapons stores in the city, witnesses said. There was little resistance.

A U.S. helicopter struck al-Sadr's main office in Kut, killing two people, witnesses said. During the day, Americans were patrolling the streets.

Shiite Militia Down Drone In Amara; Drive Off British Unit Killing British Soldier

4.9.04 channelnewsasia.com

AMARA, Iraq : Shiite Muslim militiamen have killed a British soldier after shooting down a drone over the southern Iraqi town of Amara, Iraqi police told AFP.

"At 10:15 pm (1815 GMT) Thursday, rebels opened fire on a pilot-less aircraft and shot it down over a public park in the Hay al-Hussein area of Amara," said warrant officer Mohammad Attiya Obeid, who witnessed the incident.

The rebels rushed to pick up pieces of the downed drone and took them as a trophy to the local headquarters of Shiite radical leader Moqtada Sadr, Obeid said Friday.

Shortly afterwards, a unit of about 20 British soldiers arrived on the scene of the crash and the rebels opened fire "killing one British soldier and wounding two others," the police officer said, adding that the unit immediately pulled back.

Marine In 'Fall of Baghdad' Photo Injured

April 09, 2004 station WJLA-TV

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A Marine from Indiana whose smiling, cigar-smoking image helped symbolize the fall of Baghdad a year ago suffered severe head injuries in fighting this week in the besieged Iraqi city of Fallujah.

Gunnery Sgt. Nick Popaditch, 36, of Terre Haute, marked Friday's one-year anniversary of the fall at a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. Surgeons removed a piece of shrapnel that lodged near his optic nerve when a rocket-propelled grenade slammed into his tank Tuesday in Fallujah, his wife said Friday.

"He had to have his right eye removed. He's very concerned about that," April Popaditch said from Twentynine Palms, Calif., where her husband is based.

She said they spoke for 45 minutes after his surgery ended.

"I cried to him like anyone would to their loved one. Everything just came out," she said.

The two, who were married 13 years ago Thursday, also exchanged anniversary greetings. They wed a few days after Nick Popaditch returned from his first tour of duty in Iraq during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and now have a 10-year-old son.

April Popaditch spent their wedding anniversary a year ago watching video footage of her husband's tank in Baghdad. An Associated Press photograph captured him smiling and holding a cigar in his hand with a statue of Saddam Hussein looming in the background shortly before it was toppled.

Popaditch probably will be moved to a hospital in the United States within a few days, said Maj. Daniel Smith, executive officer of the 1st Tank Battalion based in Twentynine Palms. Losing an eye will end Popaditch's tank career, Smith said.

"He's been in the tanks enough, so he will be fine with that," April Popaditch said, but she added she hopes her husband can continue in the service.

Beulah Soldier Wounded In Grenade Attack

Apr. 09, 2004 Associated Press

Cal Wagner said his son, Lance Cpl. Robbie Wagner, 22, suffered shrapnel wounds to the right side of his face, shoulder and forearm, and right hip areas when enemy grenades were thrown at him and three other Marines on foot patrol April 2.

Cal Wagner said Marine Corps officials told him his son was being treated at a medical facility at Ar Ramadi, Iraq, and that he was doing fine.

Cal Wagner said a Marine spokesman at Camp Pendleton, Calif., told him his son had three small grenade fragments to his right cheek, three to the hip and 12 to the right shoulder and forearm.

"Everything was removed and there probably won't even be any scarring, except maybe the three on his hip," Wagner said.

"The only thing the Marine Corps spokesman told me is with this type of wound they watch for infection, and if there's no type of infection, he's probably back out with his unit already," Wagner said.

Yet, every time his phone rings, Cal Wagner said he crosses his fingers, hoping it's his son on the other end of the line. He talked to Robbie last Saturday, the day after the attack.

"When I talked to him, he said, 'Dad, don't worry, I'm going to be fine,'" Cal Wagner said.

Robbie Wagner, who works in reconnaissance, is stationed with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines in the Ar Ramadi and Fallujah areas in the Sunni Triangle. "That's a hell hole right now," his father said.

"He's only been in Iraq since February so he's just part of the rotation that just got there. But he's just starting his fourth year with the Marine Corps," Cal Wagner said.

Robbie Wagner is a 2001 graduate of Beulah High School. He left for the Marines just five days after high school graduation, his father said.

Robbie was home on leave for Christmas. His father said Robbie feels the Marines are doing a good job in Iraq, though he sounded tired and stressed.

Cal Wagner said his son told him: "Dad, I need to be with my brothers - our mission's not complete."

Spanish Troops Ambushed In Diwaniyah

2004-04-09, Middle East Online, KUFA, Iraq & AP

Three Spanish soldiers were injured overnight in the southern town of Diwaniyah, 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Kufa, the Spanish defence ministry said in a statement in Madrid.

The soldiers were ambushed while crossing a bridge in the town on patrol and one of them was seriously wounded when he was hit in the eye and neck, the ministry said,

The other two were lightly injured. The captain and two soldiers were hit by shrapnel in a grenade attack.

Two Iraqis were killed and 12 wounded Friday in clashes pitting Shiite radicals against Spanish and Salvadoran coalition troops near the central Iraqi cities of Kufa and Najaf, officials said.

Earlier Major Carlos Herradon, a spokesman for the Spanish-led Plus Ultra Brigade, said there were no injuries in the clashes.

"The Andalus base where Spanish and Salvadoran soldiers are deployed was pounded with mortars, rockets and automatic weapons fire but no one was hurt," Herradon said.

The road between the twin shrine cities was closed to traffic, and a coalition helicopter was flying overhead, a correspondent said.

Mehdi Army militiamen could be seen darting in and out of the area.

One of them later said that he participated in three simultaneous attacks against the coalition forces earlier in the day during which the militants lobbed mortars at the base.

WOUNDED ITALIAN SOLDIERS GIVE THEIR ACCOUNT

(AGI) - Rome, 9 April

The two 'bersaglieri' who were injured in the shoot-out on one of the two bridges on the Euphrates under Italian control arrived in Italy last night with another soldier and three more wounded soldiers arrived in the afternoon.

At a meeting with journalists, they stated that the clashes which led to the exchange of fire in Nassiriya involving the Italian contingent broke out "unexpectedly".

They confirmed that "armed conflict was inevitable in order to respond to fire from Shiite guerrillas led by al Sadr. What they wanted to do was create a volume of fire and they launched some Rpg rockets without proper aim. I finished the action without knowing if there were any Iraqi victims. We cannot exclude that some of the Iraqis killed were victims of friendly fire".

Second lieutenant Massimo Pupo was wounded in the foot and in the wrist.

Corporal major Daniele Vadrucci said, "our groups was under fire from guerrillas under the bridge where we were aboard an open vehicle. We had to get out as they were shooting at us, they had put our vehicle out of actions with a Rpg rocket which fortunately did not detonate otherwise we would not be here to tell this story, then we found cover".

4 Italians Captured By Insurgents In W Baghdad

9 Apr 2004 Dow Jones Newswires

Four Italians have been seized by insurgents in Iraq on the western outskirts of Baghdad on Friday, Kyodo News reported, citing a U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) spokesman.

Dan Senor, a senior CPA adviser, made the remarks at a news briefing in Baghdad, according to Kyodo

2 American Mercenaries Taken Prisoner By Insurgents Near Baghdad

9 Apr 2004 Dow Jones Newswires & 04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer

Two Americans were seized by Iraqi insurgents on the western edge of Baghdad, the Reuters news service reported Friday.

Resistance soldiers on the highway outside Baghdad were seen stopping **a car carrying two Western civilians -- apparently private mercenaries -- since both had sidearms.** The resistance soldiers pulled the men from the car, firing at the ground to warn them to obey.

The Americans were said to have been taken to a mosque, where four Italians who were also reported seized in a separate incident were being held, Reuters reported.

U.S. soldiers in a tank in the area near the village of al-Dhahab al-Abyad told Reuters they had been told Americans had been taken but had no details.

U.S. Patrol Ambushed In Muqdadiyah

04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer

U.S. troops also came under heavy attack in Muqdadiyah, 55 miles northeast of Baghdad. Up to 80 insurgents ambushed a U.S. patrol late Thursday, prompting an overnight battle. At least three insurgents were killed and up to 20 wounded, said Lt. Col. Peter A. Newell. (And not one U.S. soldier so much as scratched? Panic produces really clumsy liars, and right now the Command in Baghdad is in total panic.)

Dutch Troops Attacked

9 April 2004 Expatica News

AMSTERDAM — **Dutch soldiers in Iraq were involved in a gun battle around a local government building in the city As Samawah on Thursday night, a Defence Ministry spokesman said on Friday.**

Small-calibre arms fire and a rocket grenade were fired at the government building and Dutch troops returned fire. No injuries or arrests have been reported.

But Dutch troops were deployed to intensify security overnight as three nearby bridges were sealed off. One of the bridges was occupied by members of the Dutch Quick Reaction Force. Patrols were also ordered to track down the attackers.

Calm was restored to the area later that night and the Dutch troops returned to base.

The Dutch deployment of up to 1,300 troops is based in the provincial capital of As Samawah in the thinly-populated southern province Al Muthanna. **The Dutch have, so far been spared the heavy violence seen elsewhere in Iraq.**

But the Dutch troops have been placed on extra alert and activities outside the perimeter will be restricted as a result of the heightened alert.

Spokeswoman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry said the recent kidnappings of foreign nationals by Iraqi militants have not led to tighter security precautions. Security at the embassy is already at a maximum.

The Death Of A Mercenary;

Former Killer For British Army In Northern Ireland Became Private Killer For Occupation

April 09, 2004 The Denver Post

A Winter Park man providing private security in Iraq was killed in a fire on Thursday, hours after sending an e-mail to his friends at the ski resort about the danger and the rapidly closing options he faced.

"We are expecting to be overrun tonight, and we may have to fight our way to a safe haven. Unfortunately all the safe havens are already under attack," Mike Bloss had written Wednesday in his last e-mail to a small group of friends. "I don't wish to alarm you. We'll probably be OK!"

But his friends received the devastating news early Thursday that the 38-year-old had not survived the battle that spared the three Western contractors he was protecting near the town of Hit.

A retired Welsh *special forces officer who once served in battle-torn Northern Ireland*, Bloss also took on contract jobs in security. He signed up for extra training with Custer Battles, a Virginia firm specializing in high-risk private security. He subsequently agreed to go to Iraq in March for various duties. (And the Irish in British-occupied Northern Ireland have gotten some payback.)

Once overseas, the single man frequently would send e-mail missives to his only "family" - primarily colleagues at the sports center - detailing his experiences.

'We're in Baghdad now. It's very calm, very quiet. We're sunbathing on the roof in chairs that have big American flags on them so the pilots won't shoot us.'

"The one that he sent before (Wednesday), he just said he was being dispatched to Fallujah, which set all our hair up straight, because we knew what was going on there."

One of Bloss' closest friends, James Bateman, said he received a satellite-phone call from Bloss last week.

"We had some not-so-serious conversations and some serious ones. And when the serious ones came up, they were brief. But usually they concerned something along the lines of, 'In case I don't come back ...,'" Bateman said.

"I really thought, as a lot of people did, that it very well could be the last time I would see him."

Explosion Rattles Central Baghdad;

Mortar Attack Hits Sheraton Hotel Compound

April 09, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

A projectile, possibly a mortar, hit a shed in a compound surrounding two heavily guarded hotels where Western journalists and civilian contractors stay in central Baghdad. There appeared to have been no casualties.

The projectile hit a concrete shed within the barricaded compound that is guarded by U.S. forces and adjacent to Firdos Square.

Smoke rose from behind the Sheraton Hotel, but it and the Palestine Hotel, also in the complex, were not damaged.

A hole the size of a desk was punched in the roof of the shed, located near a sport club and tennis courts behind the Sheraton. U.S. soldiers examined the damage and talked to witnesses. **(Tennis, anyone?)**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

THIS IS WHAT NATIONAL LIBERATION LOOKS LIKE



Thousands of Iraqis gathered in solidarity with the people of Fallujah calling for revenge outside Baghdad's Umm Qura Sunni mosque. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

Hand-Picked Pro-American Iraqi “Governing” Council Member Condemns U.S. Attack On Faluja As “Unacceptable Mass Punishment”

04-09 LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writer & BAGHDAD, (Reuters) By
Alistair Lyon

The Fallujah operation prompted one of the most pro-American members of the U.S.-picked Governing Council, Adnan Pachachi, to condemn the U.S. assault on the city, which for some Iraqis has become a symbol of resistance.

"These operations were a mass punishment for the people of Fallujah," Pachachi told Al-Arabiya TV. "It was not right to punish all the people of Fallujah and we consider these operations by the Americans unacceptable and illegal."

Another Council member, Ghazi Ajil al-Yawar, threatened to resign in protest at the treatment of Falluja. "We are seeing the liquidation of a whole city," he told Al Jazeera television.

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

Basra: Sunnis, Shi'ites Unite In Solidarity

BAGHDAD, April 9 (Reuters) By Alistair Lyon

Sunnis and Shi'ites prayed together in the southern city of Basra, in one of many shows of solidarity seen across Iraq.

British Hostage Rescued By Resistance; “Disciplined, Organized, A Chain Of Command”

April 9, 2004 BBC

A British journalist has been released after being taken hostage in Iraq by two separate groups.

Stephen Farrell, the correspondent for the *Times* newspaper, says he was threatened with death after being abducted near Fallujah.

"The first group who sees this very clearly appeared to be outlaws, bandits, robbers, thieves, who claimed to be part of the resistance, the fighters against the Americans," he said.

"But half an hour later we ran into the people who called themselves the Mujahideen, clearly a very different group.

***Disciplined, organised, a chain of command* and they took us away from our original captors, so we were abducted twice if you like."**

"DISCIPLINED, ORGANIZED, A CHAIN OF COMMAND"



Members of Shiite Army of Mehdi watch US positions in Baghdad's Sadr City. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

How It Is

From: <http://www.bringthemhomenow.com/> Check it out.

The situation in Iraq now is that if the Americans don't wage these deadly offensive operations (which are really a defense), they will be swarmed by the now-generalized armed resistance. But the situation is also that the response to these offensive operations will be an even stronger resistance. So the spiral begins. There is only one way to break it.

Leave.

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/>

OCCUPATION REPORT

Baghdad Oil Conference Cancelled; “Due To Security Fears”

BAGHDAD, April 9 (Reuters) By Alistair Lyon

A major international oil conference due to take place in the city later this month was cancelled due to security fears. (**Recipe For Stewed Rabbit: “First, catch the rabbit.”**)

U.S. Imperial Occupation Appeals To Saddam Hussein Remnants And Foreign Terrorists To Please Come Back

4.9.04: Baghdad: The U.S. Occupation Command appealed today to Saddam Hussein remnants and “foreign terrorists” to once again show themselves in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

For the past week, there has been such a scarcity of both that the Occupation has been unable to point to them as the only “troublemakers” in Iraq and thus prove that all other Iraqis truly love the Occupation and would like to throw flowers at George Bush, if only he would visit.

The remarkable shortage of Saddam Hussein remnants and “foreign terrorists” is beginning to prove an embarrassment to U.S. authorities.



Shia And Sunni Resistance Fighters Join To Resist Occupation
(Middle East Online)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

FLAG DESECRATION #2



(AFP/Getty Images/File/Mark Wilson)

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.

**SOLDIER-KILLER:
CORNERED RAT:
CRIMINAL WHO SENT THE ARMED FORCES TO
WAR FOR PRIVATE PROFIT**



UNFIT FOR COMMAND

(AFP/File/Stephen Jaffe)

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

CLASS WAR NEWS

**PROOF THE MEDIA LIE
(AS IF ANY WERE NEEDED)**



“People shout slogans as they hold a banner demanding the release of the three kidnapped Japanese in Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)). (AFP/Toru Yamanaka)”

(Now read the sign. What does it say? It says, “Koizumi, Why Don’t You Go To Iraq Instead Of The 3 Hostages.”)

Now read the caption from the AFP Press Service again. What does it say? It says that the demonstrators are demanding the release of the three hostages taken prisoner by the Iraqi resistance.

No, they are not. What these anti-war demonstrators are proposing is to send their Bush-loving Prime Minister off to Iraq in exchange for the hostages. A most excellent idea, at that.)

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. “Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited.” DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.