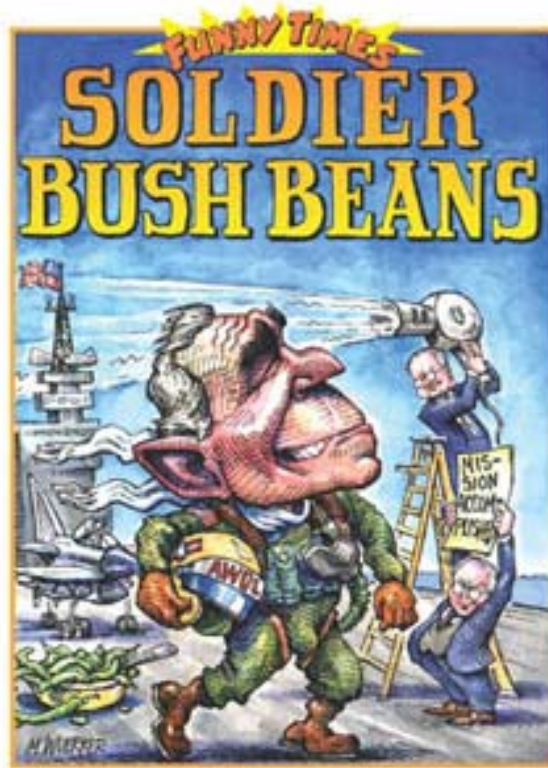


GI SPECIAL 2:7



“Flight, Form Up On Me”
(<http://funnytimes.com/features/soldier/>)

TROOP NEWS

Two More Lives Destroyed By Bush Imperial Bullshit

Chaplin (Capt.) Gian-Stefano Martin
Army Times 1.12.03

Sgts. Jake and Kyle, balding and gray-haired, both are over 50 years old. They, like most of their company, come from a small town in the hills close to the Tennessee border. Many members of their unit have grown up together, and some are even related to one another.

Both enlisted in the National Guard to help make monthly car payments. That was 18 years ago, when joining the Guard was about going out in the woods with your buds once a month and shooting off a bunch of someone else's ammo.

Jake left his farm, expecting to be gone no more than six months. After the word came down that it was going to be "365 days, boots on the ground" he started to worry. He tried to get local help to plant and bring in the crops, but it didn't work. The family farm has failed, and the bank has issued its foreclosure notice.

Jake is sure to get a hardship discharge but knows that it will be too late to save the family from crushing debt and financial ruin. He started to sob, and Kyle put his arm around him.

Kyle's wife of 22 years has filed for a divorce, and he has received a certified letter from her lawyer demanding the house, the cars and the kids.

Before being mobilized for duty in Iraq, Kyle had owned his own trucking business making more than \$50,000 a year. As an E-5, his base pay is \$2,283 a month.

His wife first sold his truck to keep the family afloat financially, and when that wasn't enough, she ended up taking a second part-time job. It was while she was working that second job that she found comfort and assistance in the arms of another man.

Kyle and Jake have had their camp mortared night after night, their convoys shot at, blown up and ambushed, and never flinched or shed a tear. But on Christmas Eve, they held each other and wailed like little boys.

When a young soldier becomes a casualty in war, it is tragic because he loses his future. **When an old soldier becomes a casualty, it is sometimes tragic, as well. Even if he isn't maimed or killed, he loses his past. All that he has worked his whole life to attain, which he hoped would endure, can swiftly evaporate before he can get back home and save it.**

Jake offered Kyle his handkerchief and Kyle presented Jake with a lifesaver.

They looked at each other and smiled; Jake brushed away a tear. "Dunno how I'd manage without this guy."

After they walked off into the night, I recalled one of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's more macho and memorable sayings about old soldiers and how they "never die, they just fade away," and it occurred to me that there might be a third option: *Some are sent to Iraq.*

After Rolling Coffins Deployed In Iraq,

Sgt. Worries Strykers Not “Combat Worthy”

I am writing about the recent attack upon a Stryker vehicle in Iraq.

I am skeptical about the combat worthiness of the Stryker. It was developed to address the problem of insufficient sea and airlift transporting our personnel and equipment for worldwide deployments. Instead of making the difficult and expensive decision to procure sufficient aircraft and sealift assets to move our Bradley Fighting Vehicles, which are more efficient and effective reconnaissance and battle platforms, we adopted the Stryker.

I hope my fears of their insufficient armor protection prove to be unfounded. That they are wheeled rather than tracked vehicles limits their maneuverability, especially in difficult terrain.

We must make careful decisions to ensure we provide the best equipment, rather than what seems to be politically expedient. (Unfortunately, the politicians are in charge and they only thing they care about is being “politically expedient” no matter how many soldiers die in this corrupt, useless, pointless Imperial political show Bush decided to stage in Iraq.)

Command Sgt. Maj. John R. Vidrine Sr.
Branch, La.
Army Times 1.12.03



UNWANTED, OUTNUMBERED, STANDING DUCK

A U.S. Army soldier stands guard near a sign reading 'we compliment our army on its 83rd anniversary', during Iraq Army Day holiday in Baghdad, Jan. 6. (Akram Saleh/Reuters)

BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!

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/>

Iraq "Non-Hostile" Deaths Raise Alarm; Growing Number Of Accidents Troubles Military Officials.

By Tom Bowman, Sun National Staff, January 11, 2004

WASHINGTON - When his two sons left for the war in Iraq, Chuck Norman worried more about Chris, a 24-year-old Marine Reservist who was part of the first wave of attack. His other son, Bobby, 21, rolled in with the Army's 1st Armored Division after Baghdad fell and the Iraqi army was melting away.

Yet it was Chris who returned safely home last fall, while Bobby died Nov. 22 at Baghdad International Airport, not under enemy fire but in a nighttime traffic accident involving his Humvee and an Army M-1 tank.

"I would never imagine in a million years that's the way my son would have died," said Norman, of Hendersonville, N.C., saying that his son, though patrolling in a Humvee, was trained as a tanker. "It's ironic that my son was killed by what he was supposed to be driving."

While U.S. soldiers continue to die by hostile fire each week in Iraq, a troubling number are succumbing to "non-hostile" deaths, and about half of those are vehicle-related, involving other soldiers or Iraqi civilians.

During major combat operations, which began March 19 and were declared at an end May 1 by President Bush, 120 American service members died in hostile action, and 23 deaths were ascribed to non-hostile causes.

Since that date, 227 have been killed in hostile action and 129 have died in incidents classified as non-hostile, according to Pentagon statistics. The majority of the deaths are from Army units, which account for most of the U.S. ground force, but the figure includes Marine, Air Force and Navy personnel.

Among Army units in Iraq, **soldiers from the task force that includes the 1st Armored Division, responsible for the teeming city of Baghdad, have suffered the**

highest rate of non-hostile deaths, 44 hostile deaths and another 27 non-hostile deaths.

The percentage of non-hostile deaths among U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan is even greater, accounting for about 70 percent of the 99 fatalities as of Wednesday, according to Pentagon statistics. U.S. forces went to war there in October 2001.

Norman and John "Skip" Bushart of Pontiac, Mich., whose son, Damian, 22, died in the Nov. 22 Humvee accident, say they have little information from the Army about the crash, which is under investigation. Were adequate safety measures being taken? they asked.

Bushart said Army officials told him the tank and Humvee were approaching from opposite directions on a narrow road when the collision occurred. He said he wonders if the drivers of both vehicles were wearing night-vision goggles and if their vehicles were equipped with adequate lights or markings.

"Can you prevent this? I don't know. I'd like to see the official investigation," said Bushart, who recalled that the first serviceman from his Michigan county killed in Iraq died in a vehicle accident. That was Marine Maj. Kevin Nave, who suffered fatal injuries in March when a Marine amphibious assault vehicle drove over him in his foxhole, the Pentagon said.

Non-hostile deaths are common in a combat zone and sometimes account for a large percentage of those killed. **During the Vietnam War, 47,413 servicemen were killed in action and another 10,785 perished in non-hostile ways.** In the 1991 Persian Gulf war, there were 147 hostile deaths and 235 non-hostile deaths.

During the two-year "Restore Hope" mission to Somalia, 29 U.S. servicemen were killed in hostilities and another 14 were listed as non-hostile deaths.

Since The Bush-Rumsfeld Soldier-Killing Team Wont Issue Protective Vests, Writer Says Use Left-Overs From Dead Troops

During "the troubles" between the United Kingdom and Ireland, their military routinely would recycle bulletproof vests from men who were killed in explosions or were hit by special guns that can shoot through engine blocks.

These "Better Than Nothing" vests still had a lot of protection left in them to save lives despite having holes in them.

The thing is, our troops overseas were shortchanged in the protective, armored vests supply. This is a morbid idea, but what if the living soldiers could effectively recycle the damaged vests from soldiers killed in explosions and missile attacks?

They got this new stuff called “Gorilla Glue,” the strongest glue on earth. What if we took these damaged armored jackets with holes in them and used duct tape, steel plates from junked cars’ under-suspension, discarded car tires and power saws, to “MacGyver” a new vest out of the junked one?

You would use the duct tape to secure an overlapping steel plate cut to cover the vest’s inner side hole. Then use layers of sections from junked tires to fill the hole as a high-density shock-wave absorber, and another overlapping contoured steel plate on the exterior, while using lots of Gorilla glue to secure the pieces into a fully-integrated plug for the vest’s holes.

The “MacGyver” vests would not be as good as the originals, but there just weren’t enough made.

Bob Schreib Jr.
Toms River, N.J.
Army Times 1.12.03

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.

Lost History: GI Resistance In Germany **1972:**

THE BALLAD OF DAVID MCCAMPBELL, A THINKING SOLDIER

By Max Watts, who worked with GI resisters in Europe during the Vietnam War.

The “Ballad of David McCampbell, A Thinking Soldier” was first printed in “FTA WITH PRIDE”, a mimeographed GI newspaper published in Mainz-Wiesbaden, Germany, in early 1973. Extracts also appeared in Berlin (in English) and- apparently - Prague. [in translation?]

Specialist 4 David McCampbell, at the time 20 years old, was stationed at Wiley barracks, in Neu Ulm, Bavaria, in 3 (Bravo) Battery, 81st Field Artillery, in 1972.

He was an "Azlay" man, i.e. he determined the azimuth (direction) of firing of a Pershing (1) rocket. **During one of the Battery's field tours (of six weeks) the GIs decoded their firing coordinates and found that their particular rocket, carrying a 50 kiloton (2 1/2 times Hiroshima) warhead was aimed at Prague.**

Sometime after returning to Neu Ulm, McCampbell bought a (picture) book: "Golden Prague." He asked his Battery Commander, Captain Cochrane, why they should fire at (destroy) Prague.. Cochrane answered: "Because they're Communists". McCampbell's further query: "The women and children, too?" was considered smart-alecky..and received no reply.

McCampbell tried to discuss the matter with the Battalion chaplain Captain Wade, but was first told that Wade had no time for him and later, on insisting, that (conscientious objectors) were 'cowards'.

Sometime in September, 1972, he threw down his rifle on formation (Company line-up, in the morning) and stated that he would no longer "point his rocket" or wear his uniform.

He was given an Article 15 (non-judicial punishment) - a fine, reduction in rank from Spec/4 to Pfc. (1 grade) and 7 days restriction to barracks. (Mild punishment)

A fellow-soldier, in D (delta) Battery, contacted the "Blue Door" GI counseling service in Minneapolis, which asked Lawyers' Military Defense Committee, a newly established American Civil Liberties Union affiliate in Heidelberg, West Germany, to offer assistance to McCampbell.

LMDC helped McCampbell file for "C.O." (Conscientious Objector) status, and persuaded the local command not to continue with a planned court martial.

Many other GIs in Wiley and Nelson Barracks, Neu Ulm, supported McCampbell, And started to put out a local GI paper, first called "The Wiley Word," later: "The Word".

A growing number of young Germans in Neu Ulm, later Ulm and neighboring towns, learned of this struggle and helped with the printing and distribution of The Word. At least one issue of this GI paper was bilingual, a rare example of GI-German cooperation.

During a visit of ?General Abrams? (some high brass).the Army freaked out and closed off all barracks to civilians. 60 plus Germans demonstrated FOR the resister GIs at the gates of Wiley barracks.

In December 1972 the army granted McCampbell (who had been subject to various harassing hassles and intimidation attempts in the meantime) "C.O." status and an honorable discharge.

Patty Egan/McCampbell, his wife, remained in Neu Ulm for several months, supporting the continued appearance of "The Word" while working as a cleaner for the German railways.

Other GIs in the 81st Field Artillery expressed their opinions in more violent terms: B Battery's billets were burned down in December 1972. In the spring of 1973? Pershing missiles of D battery were disabled before a field tour when the hydraulic circuits of the launcher platforms were cut.

Two Black GIs were accused of the "destruction", but the prosecution was dropped as no witnesses could be found against these soldiers.

BALLAD OF DAVID MCCAMPBELL, A THINKING SOLDIER

Let me tell you of a soldier, Dave McCampbell is his name..
An honest volunteer, whom the army tried to tame..
He came from Minneapolis, came half the world around,
To wind up in South Germany, in Ulm-on-Danube town.

Oh, the Seventh Army's worried, General Davison is scared..
What can they do with David? They don't know
When the soldiers, they start thinking, oh the Lifers, they get drunk!
And thinking is a thing that's gonna grow!

2. David's number, it was eighty, David didn't know what to do..
The recruiter said: "The draft will get you, too."
They will send you to Vietnam, Eleven B, Infantry..
But sign with me you'll go to Germany.."

Oh, the Seventh Army's worried, the Army it is scared..
What do they do with volunteers who think?
About atomic mushrooms, about the job they do..?
Oh, Dave and others like him, drive Lifers into drink

3. Dave volunteered for Pershings, Dave volunteered for three,
Dave went to Leonard Wood, M.O., Fort Sill, and Germany,
He married Patty Egan, she came on over, too,
They settled down in Neu Ulm town, beside the Danube blue..

Oh, your life can be so simple, your life can be so free..
Free? What'd'you mean? — Oh, free from thought!
In Ulm in Germany!
Just point your Pershing missile; and never, never think..
For thinking's bad for soldiers, you'll wind up in the clink

4. The Pershing is a rocket, it flies up in the sky,
Its war-head is an A-bomb.. You ever wonder: "Why?"
And some place in the distance, some hundred miles away,
The Pershing lands, the place blows up, if ever comes "the day."

Dave McCampbell was a soldier, a Specialist, class four
An Azlay man, who points the Pershing true..

And every day a count-down, a practice firing run..
Dave started thinking: "What does this thing do?"

Oh, thinking is a danger! Oh, thinking is a bore!
Why don't you drink, like all the Lifers do?
And-if you don't like alcohol-stay stoned the whole day long!
Just never think! That's one thing you will rue!

5. Dave McCampbell points this Pershing, in southern Germany,
They don't tell you where it does land.. but: "The Truth shall make you free!"
The GIs get together, they figure out the town..
It's Prague, in Czech'slovakia, for which they count it down..

Oh, the Army, it gets worried, when the soldiers start to think...
But right then David thought: "I am alone".
His buddies said: "A bummer, but...man, just take a drink,
and wait for ETS, and then go home!"

6. B Battery's tour was finished, they came back to Neu Ulm,
To Wiley barracks, that is where they stay..
The home of "Pershing's finest!" The pressure, it was off;
But Dave McCampbell still thought night and day.

"Libertitas, Justitia" - that motto's at the gate,
And it goes on, and says: "Humanity," too..
But in the Battery's billets, General Davison, he states:
"The Field Artillery kills! And that means - You!"

McCampbell thought of Pershings, McCampbell thought of towns..
Of Prague, of Minneapolis, of Ulm..
And how that Atom Warhead, that he is counting down,
Some day a town — "They're people !" - it would doom.

7. Dave went to see the Chaplain, Captain Wade, he had no time..
And now Dave said: "I've thought. Henceforth I'll do!
won't put on this uniform, I wont pick up my gun,
won't, no more, point Pershing missiles true!"

Oh, McCampbell, he was busted, first just down to Pfc.
But morale, it started up, no more was down!
For the GIs got together.. "Spread 'The Word', and you'll be free!
And the Seventh now has worries of its own

Now McCampbell is restricted, Dave McCampbell's under guard,
He is facing many charges in a court..
But the GIs come together, Wiley, Nelson, in Neu Ulm,
And the Germans are supporting -Ask they should

8. Oh, McCampbell was a soldier, a Volunteer, Spec. Four,
Captain Cochrane said he was a soldier good..

Until he started thinking ... Now he's put in for C. O.
And Resists Inside The Army.. That he could!

Now listen all you GIs, all you who volunteer,
To beat the draft, or only to leave home:
Just follow all the A.R.s, and - never, never, think!
Unless you want to RITA... Not alone!

Glossary:

Seventh Army: the major US force in Europe, approx 185.000 strong.

Lifers: long-term enlisted soldiers, usually high—ranking sergeants

Number eighty: on draft lottery. (Low, highly likely to be drafted in 1972)

Eleven B: infantry rifleman.

(Fort) Leonard Wood (MO) Missouri: Army training Camp.

Fort Sill (Oklahoma): Army artillery (training) camp.

Specialist 4 - rank equivalent to corporal

Pfc - Private first Class

E3: equivalent of lance corporal

ETS: Estimated time d' separation, term of service: discharge date.

Tour: Standard operational practice was a 6 week field tour for each of the 4 batteries, followed by 2-3 months or more "in the barracks".

"Libertitas, Justitia, Humanitas": The motto of the 81st Field Artillery. On Escutcheon at Wiley gates.

General Davison: At he time, commander of the 7th Army. Previously commanding in Vietnam. In Wiley barracks hung a sheet signed by Davison, "The Infantry fixes the enemy; you, the Field Artillery, kills him." The general had apparently not yet noted that the 81st FA used 50 kiloton warheads..

A.Rs: Army Regulations.

RITA: Resist inside the army; also: Resisters, Resistance..

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:

Iraqi-Born US Resident Working For Occupation Killed In Basra

11 Jan 2004 Dow Jones Newswires

BAGHDAD (AP)-- An Iraqi-born U.S. resident working with the U.S.-led Coalition Authority was shot and killed in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, a coalition statement said Sunday.

It said the man's body was found Saturday together with that of another man not associated with the coalition. Their identities were not released pending notification of next-of-kin.

US Soldier Wounded In Annah RPG Attack

BAGHDAD - Guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) at US troops in western Iraq, leaving one US soldier injured.

In Annah, in western Al-Anbar province on Thursday, US troops from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment came under RPG fire, leaving one soldier with a broken leg and shrapnel wounds.

Canadian Killed In Ambush

Jan. 10, 2004 Christian Cotroneo, Toronto Star Staff Reporter

A Canadian teacher was killed this week in Iraq, federal officials say.

Richard Flynn, who taught at an American school in Kuwait, was riding in a vehicle with four Iraqis when it either struck a land mine or drove into an ambush, sources told the Star yesterday.

But a Foreign Affairs department spokesperson couldn't confirm the exact location and it was not known why Flynn was in Iraq.

Flynn was not an embassy employee, he added. "For privacy reasons, we're not saying more."

Resistance Takes Out Collaborator Oil Cops

By MICHELLE FAUL, AP BAGHDAD, Iraq (Jan. 8)

In the northern city of Kirkuk, insurgents struck an Iraqi police vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade Tuesday night. One officer was killed and two were wounded in that attack, one seriously, police said. Rebels regularly target police and other Iraqis who cooperate with the U.S.-led occupation authorities, as well as the oil installations that victims of the attack were assigned to protect.

U.S. Forces Kill More Iraqi Collaborator Cops

BBC NEWS: 2004/01/10

US soldiers shot and killed two Iraqi police officers after intervening in an apparent family feud in the northern city of Kirkuk.

A military spokeswoman in Kirkuk said the Iraqi policemen who were killed there did not identify themselves to an American patrol,

Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade had been sent to the Rahima neighbourhood to respond to reports on Friday that two families were fighting, the spokeswoman said. When they arrived, they saw two men firing at a house, the spokesman said, and as they approached the two tried to flee.

"The soldiers pursued them, shouting and firing warning shots, but the men did not respond. They killed one outright and another died before reaching hospital," she said. **Last month, three Iraqi policemen were killed and two wounded in Kirkuk when US soldiers mistook them for bandits.**

Early Morning Blasts Jolt Baghdad

January 11, 2004 AFP

Three loud blasts have been heard across Baghdad in Iraq early on Sunday local time over the course of an hour.

The US military said it had no immediate information on the cause of the blasts.

Guerrillas Attack Baghdad Hotel

Reuters, January 09, 2004

Baghdad: Guerrillas fired rockets at a Baghdad hotel on Friday.

No one was hurt in the dawn attack on the Burj al-Hayat hotel in central Baghdad, which is used mainly by foreign businessmen and US army contractors. **Three rockets hit rooms around the fourth floor, smashing windows, security guards said.** The guards said they exchanged fire with men in a car as the hotel came under attack.



A man looks out a window at Baghdad's Burj al-Hayat hotel, used mainly by foreign businessmen, following a rocket propelled grenade attack January 9, 2004. (Ali Jasim/Reuters)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**Shi'ite Leader Balks At U.S. Plan ;
Uppity Iraqi Insisting On Elections!!!**

January 11 By Haider Saladdin (Reuters)

In the holy city of Najaf, a delegation from the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council visited Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the country's most revered Shi'ite leader, **in a vain effort to overcome his objections to America's plans for returning sovereignty to Iraqis.**

After the meeting, Governing Council member Mowaffak al-Rubaie said Sistani was "listening to all the available proposals and choices, *but still insists on elections.*"

(And there, in a few words, is the end of the last lie Bush has left, that the invasion and occupation of Iraq had something to do with "democracy.")



MORE OCCUPATION LIES

A boy waiting at dawn January 8 outside the gates of the notorious Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad hoping relatives might be released under a new U.S. amnesty. **By mid-afternoon, no one had been freed.** (Akram Saleh/Reuters)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“Support Our Troops” Slogan “Another
Of The Flags Waved By The Patriots”**

By Bill Shunas, Member of Chicago Chapter, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, “Fraggin” column, Fall 2003 Issue, *The Veteran*.

“Freedom” is one of the words and concepts that gets misused for political purposes. Another one is “support our troops.” The common usage of that phrase has something to do with supporting the right to conduct this war. Anti-war people usually counter with the idea that the best support would be to bring them home. That may be true, but in this era of short wars and intransigent leaders, it’s like talking apples and oranges.

When someone asks me if I support the troops, I usually ask for a definition of what that means. You might get an answer sort of like sending over good vibrations or the more common idea of wishing that they get home safe and sound, or don’t spit on them when they get back. **There is no concreteness to the concept. It’s another of the flags waved by the patriots.**

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation Finds Clever Way To Reduce Unemployment Rate; Five Jobless Killed At Jobs Rally

BBC NEWS: 2004/01/10

British troops have been involved in a violent confrontation with protesters in the southern Iraqi town of Amarah.

At least five people are reported to have been killed when troops and Iraqi police fired on crowds demanding jobs.

Amarah, a Shia Muslim town under UK control, has seen much less unrest than Sunni Muslim areas around Baghdad. (Yeah, well, kiss that goodbye.)

Witnesses in Amarah say the crowd had been demonstrating against the recently elected governor and the lack of jobs in the region.

They began throwing stones

British soldiers moved in to try to restore order and also opened fire.



"It is our understanding that there have been six casualties - five fatalities and one injured," a spokesman said.

"We believe that [coalition forces] killed one and injured another. We do not have any further information on the other four fatalities."

An eyewitness said there were big bangs and shockwaves, but it was confused and not clear whether it was Iraqi police or protesters who began firing first.

The hospital in Amarah earlier reported six people killed and a spokesman said 11 had been injured.

On Tuesday, four Iraqi army veterans were wounded in the main southern city of Basra when police opened fire during a demonstration about unpaid stipends.



Demonstrators run for cover after Iraqi police opened fire on soldiers of the former Iraqi army as they staged a protest demanding payment of salaries, witnesses said. Jan. 6, Basra (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

MORE:

Demonstration Condemns Slaughter Of Unemployed Iraqis By Occupation Cops, Troops

January 11 By Haider Saladdin

AMARA, Iraq (Reuters) - **Scores of angry protesters gathered Sunday in Amara, 230 miles southeast of Baghdad, demanding compensation for at least five Iraqis killed when police and British troops opened fire to quell a demonstration by unemployed Iraqis.**

All the dead were Iraqi civilians.

Sunday scores of Iraqis, many of them relatives of those killed the day before, staged another protest demanding compensation. Iraqi police and British troops watched from a distance but did not intervene.

Occupation Classics: How To Recruit For The Force That Will Defeat You

AP ABU GHRAIB, Iraq (Jan. 8)

One of the prisoners freed from the feared Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad Thursday said that he would now take any opportunity to attack American troops.

"I'm free, but now I will attack them," he said, anger and bitterness in his voice.

The man, who declined to give his name, said he was detained in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, several months ago and had been poorly treated by the Americans in Abu Ghraib, the prison where Saddam Hussein once kept his worst enemies.



WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

Blindfolded Iraqi are brought to a make-shift barbed wire pen in Hamreen and Telog Sabeer villages. (Arko Datta/Reuters)

“This Is Democracy? These Corpses?”

By MICHELLE FAUL, AP BAGHDAD, Iraq (Jan. 8)

In Fallujah, enraged neighbors said a married couple was killed and their five children were orphaned. The neighbors insisted the couple was innocent in an attack on the troops that led them to shell the house.

"This is democracy? These corpses?" Raad Majeed asked at the hospital, gesturing at the remains of the couple, on gurneys covered with bloody sheets. "It's a crime against humanity."

The 82nd Airborne Division said its paratroopers acted after receiving "two rounds of indirect fire" around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

"Paratroopers from our Task Force engaged the point of origin with a grenade launcher and small arms, causing two personnel to flee into a nearby building, which was also engaged and destroyed," division spokeswoman Capt. Tammy Galloway said in a statement.

"The building was searched and no weapons or personnel were found. Upon questioning, civilians in the area reported two dead personnel were taken to a nearby hospital," the statement said.

Civilian deaths in the counterinsurgency campaign have enraged many Iraqis at a time when the U.S.-led coalition is trying to win popular support.

In Fallujah, neighbors said U.S. soldiers were on a routine search for suspects and arms when they were fired on. The paratroopers then fired at the house of Ahmed Hassan Faroud.

Associated Press Television News film showed a wall of the house collapsed into a rubble of concrete bricks and two walls splattered with blood that neighbors said belonged to Hassan, 37, and his wife Suham Omar, 28.

They said the couple's five children were in bed in an adjoining room and survived Tuesday night's attack uninjured. Fallujah is about 30 miles west of Baghdad, the capital.

"They just brought in their tank and fired at their house from 200 meters (220 yards) away," Majeed said. "What did these people do wrong?"

Tuesday's attack came as coalition officials said they would become "increasingly aggressive with the die-hards."

(As usual these "coalition officials" won't pay the price. While soldiers do the dying, the officials produce macho sound bites for the media. Meanwhile, the Iraqi resistance grows as more and more Iraqis join the fight against Bush and for their independence. They are right to do so. Time for the troops to stop this disgusting Imperial war the same way soldiers stopped the Imperial war in Vietnam: refuse to fight it any more. The alternative is an endless procession of dead and wounded troops.)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



The Liars' Club: Oct. 16, 2002

Photo op as Bush gets ready to sign the Iraq war resolution passed by the Democrats in Congress (and Republicans too) because Iraq had WMDs that could hit the USA.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Ambush Kills 12: “Deterioration In Security:” Bush Wants Election Good News, Screw Reality

Wall St. Journal 1.9.03 by Ahmed Rashid
Tom Hamburger in Washington contributed to this article.

Tuesday 12 people were killed after their vehicle was ambushed in a neighboring province. Since August, 400 Afghans have been killed in that region amid a resurgence by Afghanistan’s former ruling Taliban militia, which was ousted by U.S.

Afghanistan has undergone a “deterioration in security at precisely the point where the peace process demands the opposite,” U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said this week in a report to the U.N. Security Council.

He said the attacks are imperiling efforts to register 105 million Afghan voters by June. By late December, the U.N. had registered only 150,000 voters, rather than the half-million that should have been registered by then, said Reginald Austin, the head of the U.N. voter-registration unit in Kabul. **The U.N. has pulled out registration teams from southern Afghanistan because of a lack of security.**

Washington is also increasing the number of provincial reconstruction teams, from five now to 12 by March. These are military units of up to 80 men, led by the U.S. or its allies, that help with reconstruction and stabilization in the provinces outside Kabul.

European envoys express concern that Afghanistan is increasingly being run according to an agenda made in Washington, rather than a U.N.-led multilateral effort that was worked out among Afghan factions at Bonn. **Some say Washington is pushing ahead with elections because President Bush wants a success story when he faces U.S. voters in November.**

Mr. Khalilzad, for his part, says one reason for the stepped-up pace of nation building is to enable the U.S. to reduce troop numbers in Afghanistan sooner rather than later, although troops are likely to stay at current levels for at least the next two years.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

If History did *not* happen
Or,
If we were to recycle History
Or ,
If History is yet to happen.
Or,
History on the third Monday of August 2004

By Raja I. Chemayel
Dedicated to *Abou Ali*

Imaging for the sake of the argument
that history did not happen and that,
Jesus the Messiah did not yet come.

Imaging for the sake of the argument
that the Messiah will yet have to come,
for example, on the third Monday of August 2004
in the same country in the same city.

Imaging for the sake of the argument,
that the prophecies did not establish which
ethnic/racial/religious identity the Messiah will have .
And we shall leave this detail open or undecided
for the purpose of this article.

Imaging it is so far
and *Youssef and Mariam* will have to travel
from Nazareth all the way to Bethlehem.
Of course they would have to cross
to the *other side* of that Wall.
Of course they would need a Travel Permission
issued by *the occupying authorities*,
exactly like in the Roman times.
Unless if they would be Ukrainian or Romanian
Ethiopian or Peruvian or Russian-Jews
In that case *they would not need* those documents,
nor they would have any problem to cross that Wall
plus, about some 32 other Check-Points including the endless
an inhumane long waiting even for the pregnant women

Youssef and Mariam would travel on a donkey
just like it happened some 2000 years ago ,
whereas the "*others*" will have more modern

and more powerful means of transport.

After the birth of the "Promised-Person" in the "Land of the promises" , Youssef and Mariam would later have to run away to Egypt , as all the refugees did, but this time because it is 2004, they will use the Tunnels of Rafah in Gaza , to avoid the troubles of getting an Egyptian-Visa from the Regime of *Moubarak, the Pharaoh*, and to avoid the Snipers of the IDF on the borders.

From here on, you may continue this story.....

At this point , I would like to have your opinion , just for the sake of the argument :

What Identity would the *Messiah* have ?

Would the *Messiah* be a descendant of those blue eyed Europeans who shoot "rubber bullets" on the children who throw stones ?
Or would the *Messiah* have brown eyes , black hair and ride on a donkey
and sometimes the *Messiah* would also throw some stones on the occupiers/colonialists/oppressors ??

On whose side would stand the (next) *Messiah* ??
Would he go to Camp David (USA) to get himself a Nobel Prize ?
Or would he not stay and feed the population of Jennin with, only "five breads and five fishes"??

Make your choice , make up your mind .
Reconsider and reanalyze the situation as it would be today:
who is the oppressor ?
who are "the needy" ?
who worship *Cesar* ? and who worship God ?

On whose side would the *Messiah* stand , (again)today ?
Who are those people who today would (again) recognize a *Messiah* ??
and who would not ?
who did it before ?.. and who did not ?

If God does take-sides?
on whose side would God be, today ??
Who qualifies today to be called ;
the "Chosen-people".??

those who planted the Olive-trees ?
or those who bulldozered those Olive-trees?

When all Olive-Trees are gone,
from where could we get
any "Olive Branches "?

(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.)

CLASS WAR NEWS

U.S. Employment Worst Since 1945

New York Times 1.10.03

Despite the mild job growth since August, total employment fell last year by 331,000 on top of a 1.5 million drop in 2002. **The last time employment, as measured by the survey of 400,000 establishments, decline for two consecutive years was in 1944 and 1945 as war production wound down.**

Job creation has been slower than in almost any previous recovery, and wage growth has slowed to a crawl. That appears to reflect another big new element that lies entirely outside the president's control: the **enormous increases in productivity, which have made it possible to squeeze more output from each worker.**

(For more, see the front page article "Left Out In The Cold" at www.socialistworker.org.)

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