

GI SPECIAL 2#C15



“The only thing worse than death, is betrayal.”
Malcolm X

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, U.S. Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (Please contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) for more examples of his outstanding work. T)

**Resistance Now “Tens
Of Thousands”
More Troops Will Rush From U.S. If
Situation “Deteriorates”**

November 4, 2004 Ann Scott Tyson, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Iraq's growing insurgency has no shortage of funds, and **it is waging ever more lethal and sophisticated attacks against a US-led coalition still hampered by a paucity of on-the-ground intelligence.**

Indeed, the insurgency has gained both tactically and numerically, with Pentagon estimates of core fighters rising as high as 12,000. Tens of thousands part-time backers may join in on any given day.

The tenacious resistance highlights the persistent difficulties the US military faces in identifying and tracking down insurgent networks in what senior military officials are increasingly calling an "intelligence war."

Army officials have said in recent days that additional infantry brigades in the United States could be tapped on short notice if security in Iraq deteriorates.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

**NO MORE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A US Marine of the 1st Division writes his zap number on his bullet proofed vest as he gets ready at his base outside Fallujah Nov. 6 , 2004. **The zap number gives information about the Marines blood group, name, rank and social security number in case he gets injured or killed.** (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

20 US Soldiers Wounded In Ramadi

11-06-040733ET Dow Jones Newswires & By Fadel al-Badrani (Reuters) & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & Reuters November 7, 2004

Twenty U.S. soldiers were wounded Saturday "while conducting security operations" in the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi west of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

A statement by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force didn't say precisely how and when the soldiers were injured or describe their condition, citing security reasons. [More of this lunacy. As if the resistance doesn't have millions Iraqis giving their loyal soldiers every bit of news they need.]

A police source said it had been a car bomb blast using an Iraqi police car that rammed the Marine convoy. **A police source in Ramadi told Reuters it exploded near a U.S. at 2 p.m. on the main road east from the city. The source said a truck carrying troops was damaged in the blast.**

Residents reported a mortar attack early Saturday on a U.S. installation in the Ramadi area as well as scattered clashes throughout the day

A Marine spokesman said an attack on a U.S. convoy wounded 20 Marines in Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad.

Explosion In Western Baghdad Wounds Three Soldiers

11/06/04 cjt7: Release #041106i & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & Aljazeera

Baghdad, Iraq **Three Americans were wounded at about 2:40 p.m. when a car bomb exploded near the entrance to Baghdad International Airport.** One Iraqi was killed and another injured, the U.S. military said. **Three Humvees were heavily damaged, witnesses said.**

The blast was only a few hundred metres away from the main checkpoint on the way into the sprawling airport compound. The three injured Soldiers were medically evacuated to a Multi-National Forces medical facility.

Three U.S. Military Vehicles Hit At Abu G

2004-11-06 Aljazeera

West of Baghdad three US military vehicles were damaged in separate attacks in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad.

Three More Wounded In Falluja Fighting

VERY NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENT



US Marines of the 1st Division fire outside Fallujah Nov. 6, 2004. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer. **Two Marines were injured by a car bomb near a Fallujah checkpoint, and a U.S. soldier was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded south of Fallujah.**

Medics At Falluja Ready For Worst Casualties “Since Vietnam”

DNA Will Identify Mangled Bodies

2004-11-06 The Weekend Australian & Biloxi Sun Herald & November 5, 2004 The Associated Press

AS coalition forces last night continued the countdown to an attack on up to 5000 rebel fighters in the insurgent bastion of Fallujah, US officials warned the casualty toll would reach levels not seen since the Vietnam War.

THIS IS NOT GOOD



US Marines of the 1st Division line up with their packed gear at their base outside Fallujah Nov. 6, 2004. **Trucks have been loaded and final letters have been sent.** (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus & EDWARD HARRIS, Associated Press)

Marine surgeon Lach Noyes made the grim prediction yesterday.

The hospital added a Marine Mortuary Affairs team last month, a unit charged with identifying dead troops, cataloguing their personal effects and preparing their bodies for the flight to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The morgue team counts 16 reservists trained in handling corpses of U.S. troops as well as Iraqi civilians and fighters that arrive at the hospital here, said Commander Lach Noyes, a Navy surgeon. The morgue team also travels to bomb scenes to recover body parts and corpses that need to be extracted from vehicles, Noyes said.

In hospital parlance, those killed in action are known as angels. In last weekend's suicide bombing of a truckload of Marines traveling south of Fallujah, the eight killed and nine injured came to the hospital.

"We took care of angels and wounded on that one," Noyes said.

In the six weeks that Commander Noyes has worked at the Fallujah camp, his team has operated on marines with eyes gouged by shrapnel and limbs torn by explosions. **He said some bodies were so badly mangled, they had to be sent home for DNA identification.** "The first patient I had was six hours after I got here," Lovell said. "His heart was out of his chest. I said 'Whoa, that's a shaker. Welcome to Fallujah.' But I'm more confident now."

Recovering in a rear wing were six of the nine Marines wounded in Saturday's suicide bombing, in which the bomber drove his explosives-laden car into a truckload of troops.

Staff Sgt. Jason Benedict was on a convoy heading to the Fallujah camp last Saturday when a suicide bomber rammed a vehicle into the truck Benedict and his

platoon mates were traveling on. A few minutes later, mortars and rifle fire rained down on the survivors. As he rolled toward the safety of a ditch, Benedict saw one of his friends crawling on all fours, with blood pouring from his face.

Benedict, 28, of West Milford, N.J., said the truck was lifted by the titanic blast, which tossed Marines into the road. Benedict said he climbed out as a guerrilla ambush ensued and the Marines' own ammunition began exploding in the inferno.

A rocket strike outside the hospital killed two staff members and left deep pockmarks across the white concrete walls.

As Noyes was speaking Thursday, two Marines and a female American photojournalist were rushed into the hospital. A roadside bomb had hit their vehicle. The Marines had shrapnel cuts and burns, and the photographer's teeth had been pushed back into her mouth. The bomb was attached to a tank of gasoline, meant to create a fireball that didn't ignite.

Capt. Melissa Kaime, another Navy surgeon at the hospital, said that seeing trauma wounds in medical school is one thing; seeing them come off the battlefield is something altogether different.

"To treat a patient when (his) brain is coming out...," she said, before her voice trailed off. "There are things that I will never understand."

**NO JOY HERE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



US Marines return from a mission in Ramadi. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

Oh Shit:

Iraqi Company Commander Missing With Falluja Battle Plan

November 6, 2004 CNN

An Iraqi company commander who had received a full battle briefing on the expected Falluja assault has deserted a military base where U.S. and Iraqi troops are preparing.

Officials discovered the commander, a Kurdish captain, was missing on Friday. Marine officials believe the man took notes from the battle briefing Thursday and are worried he may pass the information to insurgents.

Falluja Resistance Prepares Defenses

November 7, 2004 By Fadel-Al-Badrani, The Age (Australia)

Within Fallujah on Friday, insurgents who were hiding themselves by day among a dwindling and embittered populace set up a multilayered defensive perimeter around the city and said they would defeat the Americans or die in a cause they called just.

One man, who identified himself as Abu Muhammad, said the fighters were more numerous and better prepared than the last time they battled the Americans, in April.

Wearing a T-shirt and track-suit pants, on a motorcycle and carrying a bag of ammunition clips, the man said he thought the insurgents were strong because "We trust in God".

"We have two choices - victory or martyrdom," he said.

Marines gathering outside the city practised house-to-house fighting, **while some American crews fitted their armoured vehicles with front-loading shovels designed to unearth explosives buried in the roads on the way in.**

Supplies Running Short Again?

[THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: The Army is stretched so thin that they're giving GIs swords, horses, and chariots instead of guns, Humvees, and tanks.]



Waiting for orders to attack: US Marines of the 1st Division with confiscated Iraqi horses at their base outside Fallujah Nov. 6 , 2004. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

(THE HORSE LOOKS FIT, BUT THIS “SPARE” IS A REAL PIECE OF SHIT. Marine re-supply bad as usual.)



A US Marine of the 1st Division wheels a spare tire as his unit packs their gear at their base outside Fallujah Nov. 6 , 2004. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

Shot At From All Sides

Richard A. Oppel Jr. The New York Times

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RAMADI, Friday, November 5, 2004

For most American soldiers and marines here, it was hard to tell which was louder: the 10 enemy rockets and mortars that rained down just before dinnertime

with ear-splitting detonations that wounded two people and sent others diving to the ground, or what came next.

Less than a minute after the enemy barrage, a battery of Paladin howitzers began "counterfiring" a burst of eight shots that required the rare use of a "red bag" of propellant. This, according to the men who operate the big guns, is the largest sack of the powder that can send a 40-kilogram, or 90-pound, shell out of the Paladin's 155-millimeter, or 6-inch, barrel at nearly 1,125-kilometers, or 700 miles, an hour for up to 29 kilometers.

The shots were so uncharacteristically loud that a group of marines who had taken cover on a second-floor barracks near where rockets and mortars had landed assumed it was another incoming enemy volley.

In fact, the blasts were being produced by Staff Sergeant Terry Cornwell and the three others in his artillery crew. **Most of the time, their shots miss the attackers no matter how quickly and accurately they return fire, because the insurgents who attack this camp each day have a reliable routine: They fire a quick volley, throw their mortar tubes and rocket launchers into the back of their truck and drive away fast.**

They move fast enough, that is, to escape before radar operators at the Ramadi base feed the attackers' coordinates, gleaned from tracking their launches, down to the Paladin crews near the edge of the base.

This day was different. "They said we got two of them," Cornwell said.

For the soldiers and marines here suicide car bombers, street gunfights and ambushes at traffic checkpoints are only part of the threat.

On the base, they dodge mortars, rockets and an unusually talented sniper who has killed three men in the past month from hidden lairs on the western fringe of this city of 400,000.

The Americans fight back with varied success: The enemy mortar and rocket attacks are fewer and much less accurate, the soldiers believe, because of a two-pronged defense: artillery teams that immediately shower attackers with shells, and ground-borne assault teams in armored Humvees that hide until they are radioed the location of insurgent mortarmen nearby.

Even if the mortarmen are not hurt - which is usually the case - this strategy works. As Sergeant Anselmo De La Cruz, who oversees one of the Paladins during a 12-hour overnight shift, put it, "They know what's coming."

As a result, the insurgents are denied vital minutes in which they could adjust fire and take deadlier aim at the base.

But the sniper, who remains at large, is another matter. Base officials and soldiers say the shooter is highly accurate and may be operating at a range of as much as 800 meters, or 2,600 feet. Cornwell said one soldier wounded by the

sniper told him later that he believed he had survived only because he had just turned his head to look at something.

Hiding in buildings on the outskirts of Ramadi, near the eastern end of the base, the sniper remains a threat for anyone who ventures out of Ogden Gate. Teams have tried to take down the sniper, to no avail, a base official said.

The roughly 5,500 men and women of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team have suffered 22 fatalities since they arrived at this base two months ago. In addition to the three sniper victims, Captain Eric Allton, 34, died from mortar fire. All four were part of the 2nd Battalion of the 17th Field Artillery, one of several battalions based here.

One recent morning, Floyd helped lead a team of soldiers on an ambush mission to take out mortarmen caught firing at the base. Before the mission he admonished the younger soldiers: "Hostile intent, kill them dead, O.K.? Don't try to detain them. Kill them dead. Any questions?"

The mortarmen still active around Ramadi are very good, said Captain Andre Takacs, who commanded the mission. "You're probably looking at military Darwinism," he said. "The guys that didn't know what they were doing are probably dead by now."

The enemy mortarmen, the soldiers say, have figured out that the Americans are unlikely to launch retaliatory shots if they set up near civilian buildings.

But this is not always the case, and it was not for the insurgents killed and wounded by the Paladin's afternoon broadside Monday, targeted at insurgents some blocks away from a school, Cornwell said.

"They tried to use the school as cover," he said. "They were hesitant in giving us clearance, but they figured we'd hit the target."

OOPS



Humvee on a highway on the south side of Baghdad Nov. 6, 2004. Witnesses reported that some soldiers were slightly injured, but no further information was made available. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

TROOP NEWS

Frightening The Generals

[From the book “Unlawful Concert: An Account Of The Presidio Mutiny Case,” Fred Gardner, New York, The Viking Press, 1970. Note: Many used copies are available of this excellent account of one of the fights for GI rights during the Vietnam War. (Amazon at very low prices.)

[The book is dedicated to Jeff Sharlet, founder of Vietnam GI, the anti-war newspaper of, by and for soldiers, dead at 27.]

“Doesn’t history—including the history of our own militia and citizens’ armies—prove that a grasp of a cause and its validity makes better soldiers than blind obedience to orders?”

The real questions raised by GI dissent go deeper than questions of civil liberties.

To the civil libertarian, the horror of the Presidio mutiny case was that General Larsen and his aides were able to obscure the line between dissent and disobedience by defining a nonviolent petitioning as the gravest of military crimes.

But to organizers in the GI movement, Larsen was right. The line between dissent and disobedience is insignificant it vanishes with time. If GIs in a stockade can demonstrate for better conditions, why can’t basic trainees insist on eight hours’ sleep at a post where meningitis is endemic? Or for the removal of some particularly sadistic NCO? Or for the right to refuse a duty station, service in which would violate one’s conscience?

This scenario haunts the generals and gives hope to the men and women in the GI movement.

If soldiers in training could weigh the needs of their country, could talk about and read about the war, they might indeed refuse to fight it. They might conclude that the only war worth fighting is a war in defense of their country.

Real civil liberties for GIs—the right to act on the dictates of mind and conscience and not be punished—would mean that the United States might never again fight a war that seemed meaningless to the majority of its citizens.

Orders would have to make sense.

Dying would require a cause worth dying for.

Wars of aggression, wars that serve no purpose for the vast majority of Americans, could never again be launched.

It is ironic that this prospect should frighten the military. It could hardly be worse, after all, than a *losing war*.”

MORE: Same book:

Basic Training

(Excerpts from a paper read by Dr. Peter Bourne, a decorated veteran of combat in Vietnam, at the 1969 meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association)

What the military reveres in the individual, democracy rejects; what democracy demands, the military expressly and vigorously forbids. . .

“Coincident with the start of learning to become a soldier is the process of mortification of the self. . . . By a series of stripping processes the military seeks to divest the individual of all of the attributes of his past identity and self concept. He is isolated from contact with the society. He is denied awareness of events going on in the outside world, and even the right to think, not because it is forbidden but because he is kept too busy or too exhausted for it.

The turning point in Basic Training comes with the instruction in the handling, care and use of the rifle. . . . At last the Army gives the trainee recognition as having some inherent worth.

Military training and military organization are and must be the concrete realization of attitudes and activities that are diametrically opposed to the practice and spirit of democracy. Obedience, the keystone of military order, is incompatible with the candid expression of opinion and the right to question and critically examine courses of action, prerogatives that are inherent in the role of the mature citizen in a democracy.

Responsibility, even for one’s own welfare, must be relinquished because it habitually remains in the hands of superiors. At the same time there is no reward for foresight or interest in the long range consequences of actions or policy, only for servility, acquiescence and the silent acceptance of the decisions of superiors.

By contrast, the central thesis of a democratic society is to develop and encourage in its citizens active participation in the decision-making process.

What the military reveres in the individual, democracy rejects; what democracy demands, the military expressly and vigorously forbids. . .

GI Resistance:

[From the book:

LEFT FACE

Soldier Unions and Resistance Movements in Modern Armies

BY DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX WATTS, Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107, GREENWOOD PRESS, New York • Westport, Connecticut • London

“Armies are highly vulnerable to antiauthoritarian movements, far more so than universities or even factories.

Media reports tend to give a contrary impression. There was more fuss in 1968 about the occupation of Columbia University led by Mark Rudd than about the month-long takeover of LBJ (Long Binh Jail) in Vietnam by imprisoned GIs.

Youth revolts may attract greater attention. in Berkeley or the Sorbonne than in Mannheim or Fort Bragg, but the latter are far more threatening to the social order.

Armies are the ultimate defenders of state power and authority. They are, as the Prussian kings inscribed on their cannon, the “ultimo ratio regis”, the court of last resort.

As long as society remains divided into classes, that is, into distinct social groups with sharply different access to wealth and ownership, governments will face a continuing need for the force of the military.

But governments will also face a troubling contradiction: The armies that defend the interests of the rich and powerful take the vast majority of their soldiers from the poor and working class.

In order to ensure that privates will march, act, and if necessary kill and be killed for the interests of the ruling classes, armies must, in the last resort, be rigid and authoritarian.

There are narrow limits to the degree of permissiveness allowable within such armies.

It was perfectly possible for the red flag to fly from the ASTA (Student Union) of the University of Heidelberg for four years, but when it was hoisted over the U.S. Am Turley Barracks in neighboring Mannheim for ten minutes it created a major furor. The very logic of the army’s purpose required its immediate removal.”

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. Send requests to address up top.

Captain Who Refused Iraq Orders Wins!

Nov 5 AP & By Greg Brosnan (Reuters)

NEW YORK - The Army has agreed to honorably discharge an Army captain who challenged his assignment to Iraq in court, saying he had properly resigned.

Jay Ferriola, 31, emerged smiling from U.S. District Court on Friday after his lawyer, Barry Slotnick, told a judge that Ferriola was withdrawing his legal challenge because the Army on Wednesday had formally and honorably discharged him. "I'm very happy," Ferriola said.

Ferriola, a New Yorker who had served in South Korea and Bosnia, said he brought his lawsuit two weeks ago because he was assigned to Iraq even though he had told the Army in June that he was resigning because his eight-year term was finished.

The Army had not acted on his resignation request until he sued the government. **"It wasn't a fear of going over," Ferriola said. "I didn't want to lose 18 months of my life whether I was going to Iraq or Paris."**

Ferriola's lawyer, Barry Slotnick, who had called the Army's order an illegal "back door" draft, said he dropped the suit on Friday after the Army gave his client an honorable discharge.

"We won. The case is over. He is a civilian," Slotnick said.

The suit charged that the Army's deployment order, dated Oct. 8, violated Ferriola's constitutional rights against "involuntary servitude" and breached his military contract.

Slotnick said the case would set a precedent. "Those that are called to serve improperly have a remedy and will be able to go to a federal court to be relieved of an onerous and improper request," he said.

NEED 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/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

BLACK WATCH SOLDIER CALLS BLAIR “AN ASSHOLE”: SGT. WARNS HIM TO STAY OUT OF TOWN; A War For “Money And Oil”

Nov 6 2004 By Richard Smith And Jane Kerr, mirror.co.uk

BLACK Watch bomb victim Paul Lowe believed the Iraq war was a cynical US drive for money and oil, his heartbroken brother said yesterday.

Craig Lowe, 18, spoke out as the proud Scottish regiment and its families mourned the deaths of Private Paul, 19, Sergeant Stuart Gray, 31, and Private Scott McArdle, 22.

Scott was due to become a father for the first time in January. His girlfriend Sarah McLaren was so overcome with grief when she learned he was dead, she collapsed.

Fighting tears, Craig - also a serving Black Watch soldier - said at the family home: "We think Bush is an asshole for starting a war over nothing, trying to get money and oil. That's what Paul thought.

"I think they should just get the boys out of there now. If not we're going to lose a lot more than this".

Scott's stunned relatives also hit out at the politicians. **Scott's uncle Martin accused President Bush and Tony Blair of sending the men into a "death trap".** He said: "The boys were prepared to defend their country but not to go and fight other country's wars."

The soldier's aunt Lorna Bett, of Lochgelly, added: "Tony Blair should not be sending laddies into this region. He's gutless. The quicker we get them home the better."

Scott had been desperate to come home before Christmas so he could support girlfriend Sarah through her pregnancy. The devoted young couple, who had been together for two years, were recently engaged.

Sergeant Gray's daughter Kirstin, 12, broke down in tears yesterday as she placed a tribute of red roses to her father at the Black Watch's garrison church in Warminster, Wilts.

A handwritten note read simply: "To Dad, Love and miss you, Kirstin."

Her mother Wendy and younger brother Darren, 10, are devastated.

Uniformed soldiers were among a steady procession of those paying their respects. Another message said: "One of the best. Sleep well Stuartry. Sadly missed, never forgotten."

Former Black Watch sergeant James Duff, 78, of Kelty, said: "Mr Blair would be ill advised if he decided to step foot in this town. He'd be booed out of the place. "

Scotland Declares Independence: Army Rebels; 300 Years Of Imperial Rule Over



"Who us, Brits? Ach, ye'sv gang aglay!" A soldier from the Black Watch regiment holds a flyer which will be handed out to Iraqi civilians. **The flyer, showing a Scots soldier giving candy to Iraqi children, uses only Scots nationalist symbols. All traces of British command influence or political control of the troops have been carefully omitted.** The Black Watch command heatedly denied the poster was only a tawdry psy-ops effort to trick Iraqis into not attacking British occupation forces.

British imperial politicians invaded and occupied Iraq after World War I, and the Iraqis fought a bitter war to get rid of them. Hard feelings remain. **Many Iraqis recall Winston Churchill and other politicians of the day sanctioned the use of poison gas to kill Iraqis resisting colonial rule.** (Photo: AFP/POOL/Maurice McDonald)

Myers On The Loose Again; Almost Forgets “Sovereign” Iraq

November 05, 2004 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times staff writer

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, tried to dispel any notion that officials in Washington were micromanaging the war in Iraq.

“The decisions are in the hands of the Abizaid and Caseys of the world ... **and the Iraqi government.**”

“Bringing Them Back Now Is Already Too Late”

Nov 4 By WILLIAM J. KOLE, Associated Press Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary - **President Bush's "coalition of the willing" isn't quite so willing any more.**

In a blow to U.S. efforts to keep countries from deserting the multinational force, Hungary said this week it won't keep troops there beyond March 31. **The Czechs plan to pull out by the end of February, the Dutch soon afterward.** And Japan is feeling pressure to withdraw.

"We should never have sent troops to Iraq. Bringing them back now is already too late," said Janos Fekete, a Budapest shopkeeper.

Battered In Basra; “Nothing Like The Films”

5 November 2004 Cheshire News

A RUNCORN soldier kept the true horror of Iraqi conflict from his mum because he 'didn't want to worry her'.

Private Lee Kelly was one of the Cheshire's 580-strong batallion which returned from Basra this week.

And the 21-year-old told the World: **"We were getting battered and it wasn't even on the news.**

"I used to ring home and never tell my mum and dad what was happening because I didn't want them worrying because they didn't have a clue what it was like.

"I feel sorry for the next lot that goes out there, I wouldn't want to be facing that again. It was very rough - nothing like the films."

Despite the relief at being back on home soil after his six-month posting, the Palacefields soldier revealed it was a bittersweet homecoming for him personally.

"My fiancée is in Black Watch and she's on her way to assist the American troops near Baghdad. I was gutted when she got sent up there," he said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Samarra Rises Again: Resistance Launches Offensive: 23 Occupation Locals Killed, 28 Wounded, 10 Captured

[Remember all those news stories featuring gas-bag U.S. generals bragging about how they captured Samarra and defeated the resistance in Samarra and pacified Samarra? They were even silly enough to babble about how Samarra was "a model" for how things would go in the rest of Iraq.

[In fairness, they were absolutely right about that. Samarra *is* a model for the rest of Iraq. The U.S. command pulls out the troops to go attack Falluja, and Samarra rises for national independence again. No win. Game over. Time to go home.]

Nov 06, 2004 By Fadel al-Badrani (Reuters) & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

U.S. and Iraqi commanders have touted Samarra as model for pacifying restive Sunni Muslim areas of the country.

U.S. and Iraqi forces hope to use the same techniques if they drive Sunni militants from Fallujah.

In Samarra a car bomber rammed into a police station and three car bombs exploded elsewhere in the city. Insurgents also attacked three other police stations, capturing ten. The fourth blast occurred at 12:30 when a suicide bomber

rammed a car into a police station, killing 10 Iraqi police officers and wounding five, police said.

A U.S. spokesman, Captain Bill Coppernoll of the 1st Infantry Division based in Tikrit, said three Iraqi police were killed and six wounded when three mortar rounds landed near one Samarra police station at about 9:30 a.m. Small arms fire was also reported.

Police said the onslaught killed 37 people, including 19 Iraqi police, two Iraqi National Guards, two members of an Iraqi Rapid Reaction Force and 11 civilians. They said 62 people had been wounded, 28 of them members of the security forces.

Formations of insurgents roamed the city, clashing with American and Iraqi forces and firing mortars at government installations.

"I saw a dead National Guard burning on the ground," said one witness after the first bombings. **The local commander of the Iraqi Rapid Reaction Force, Brigadier Abdul-Razzak al-Jarmin, was among the dead in the first two blasts near the town hall and a nearby checkpoint. Samarra's mayor, Major General Tariq Oweid, was wounded.**

"I saw a car trying to reach the town hall," said bookshop owner Mohammed Ahmed. "When police stopped it, it exploded."

A second car bomb exploded near a U.S. base in a residential area.

A third car bomb exploded later, targeting a U.S. convoy that was trying to reach the scene of the first two bombings, police said. They had no word on casualties in that attack.

One of the car bombs, targeting the mayor's office, used a stolen Iraqi police vehicle, the U.S. military said.

Police officer Qahtan Mohammed confirmed that a group of armed militants stormed a police station in the Zera district, **leaving 12 policemen dead and one wounded.**

U.S. military vehicles roamed through the besieged city using loudspeakers to announce an indefinite curfew starting at 2 p.m. Saturday. Witnesses said U.S. troops opened fire amid chaotic scenes in the city center, hitting some cars.

U.S. and Iraqi forces stormed Samarra a month ago to dislodge rebels in what was seen as a prelude to the full-scale assault rebel-held areas ahead of January elections.

The bodies of two Iraqi contractors working for U.S. forces were found in Samarra on Friday, police said. They had been beaten and shot several times in the head and chest.

The body of an Iraqi driver who had been transporting construction material for a U.S. base near Balad, north of Baghdad, was also found on a roadside the same day, they said.

U.S. and Iraqi commanders have touted Samarra as model for pacifying restive Sunni Muslim areas of the country.

U.S. and Iraqi forces hope to use the same techniques if they drive Sunni militants from Fallujah.

Nobody Home

November 06, 2004 By Jim Krane, Associated Press

In Baghdad, a **huge column of black smoke rose over the city's Karrada district after midnight, and residents said they heard heavy gunfire**, presumably between police and militants.

No one answered the phone at the local police station.



Iraqi children express their love for Bush's occupation of their country in the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad Nov. 6, 2004. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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

**“It's Nothing Personal. We Don't
Want You Here”**

November 6, 2004 (The Guardian), Richard Lloyd Parry of the Times with the British press pool in Ahmad al-Hamadi, Iraq

On any other day but this one, the village of Ahmad al-Hamadi, on the green banks of the Euphrates, would be an idyllic place. In the rich agricultural gardens along the great river, it is easy to understand why this part of Iraq was the original biblical paradise.

Children in brightly coloured clothes play in the fields among fields of potatoes and corn maize. Men in long white dishdashahs climb up from the water's edge carrying fragrant bundles of water cress. But the dozen soldiers of the Black Watch, walking slowly down the road, could be forgiven for seeing this as a hellish place.

On Thursday afternoon, eleven of their regiment were hit by a suicide car bomb at a checkpoint across the river a few miles to the east. Three of them, as well as their civilian interpreter, died instantly - the other eight suffered lesser injuries. And now, fewer than 24 hours after the attack, they are on patrol again.

Their helmets are strapped on hooks to their belts - instead they wear tam-o'-shanters, the outsize berets topped by the quivering red feather or "hackle" which are the mark of the Scottish regiments.

Why are the Black Watch out here so soon, unhelmeted and exposed? The answer is at the heart of the British strategy for its 30-day deployment in this dangerous corner of Iraq.

This is the "softly-softly" theory, the "winning of hearts and minds", and yesterday the Black Watch was once again putting it into action.

In practice, it is almost childishly simple. The patrol walks slowly through Ahmad al-Hamadi and, while soldiers carefully scan the countryside around, a Scottish interpreter of Arabic and an officer say hello to local people.

They hand out fliers to passing motorists, bearing the photograph of a friendly Scottish soldier and a conciliatory text in Arabic. Three young men and a shaggy long-legged sheep sit under a tree, and the soldiers go up and talk to them.

They ask them about the price of potatoes. A boy named Saleh complains that he cannot afford to go to school. The soldiers ask gently about the local people who live around here; slowly, the theory goes, this kind of talk will win trust and eventually valuable intelligence about the insurgents lurking in these villages. Then comes the key question: what do the locals think about the British soldiers?

"They are afraid that you might beat them and shout at them," says Saleh. Is that really what people say? asks the soldier. "Yes," comes the answer. "But they will let you in their houses, if they know that you're not going to hit them."

The British have been out on the ground for little more than a week and plainly, the hearts and minds around here are a long way from being won. Throughout the two hours I spent in Ahmad al-Hamadi, no one offered the Black Watch a rude gesture or word of abuse. **They were polite, indifferent, curious at best - until the very end of the patrol, when an older Iraqi man stepped out of his car to talk.**

He was an engineer and a fluent speaker of English, educated in the US and he, at least, had no interest in discussing potatoes. Point by point, he makes a simple, but devastating argument: that the Black Watch should not be here.

"Where do you come from?" he asked. "Scotland? So what do you do if someone comes to your land, to occupy your country? This is an Arab country, a Muslim country. How would you feel if someone came and destroyed your homes, killed your families?"

"Why does he sit like that?" said the man, pointing at a soldier crouched with his rifle raised. "It would be better for you to go. If you go no one will attack you. If you stay, they'll come from Falluja and Ramadi and they'll fight you."

The Black Watch thanked him, and politely walked on. About the professionalism and sincerity of the individual British soldiers, there is no doubt. But this is no longer about hard hats or soft hats. The message from Ahmad al-Ramadi yesterday was simply this: it's nothing personal - we don't want you here.

Military Fuel Convoy Ambushed



Reuters 11.6.04: Near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, November 6, 2004 a roadside bomb blast killed a Turkish driver and **destroyed two Turkish fuel trucks in an attack on a U.S.-escorted convoy, the U.S. military said.**

Payback In Kufa Collaborator Security Chief Ambushed

6 November 2004 (Reuters)

A car bomb explosion wounded the head of security in the Shi'ite Muslim shrine town of Kufa in southern Iraq on Saturday, witnesses said.

They said several people were wounded when the bomb went off as a convoy carrying the security chief, Abdel-Aal al-Kufi, passed through the town south of Baghdad.

Kufa has been a stronghold for anti-US Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. Iraqi security forces later banned Sadr followers from praying in Kufa, where the young cleric once preached weekly.

Nepalese Mercenary Killed Guarding U.S. Military; Other Nepalese Kidnapped For Cheap Labor

[World News]: Kathmandu, Nov 5 : **A Nepalese soldier formerly employed in the Indian Army was killed in an ambush in Iraq, media reports said Friday.**

Tikaram Gurung, a resident of Morang district in southern Nepal near the Indian border, had been in the Gorkha regiment of the Indian Army, the Kathmandu Post daily said.

The former soldier had paid Nepalese Rs.100,000 to a recruitment agency - Gorkha Manpower Company - for a job abroad and had been sent to Iraq about 14 months ago, the Post said, quoting Gurung's relatives.

Said to have been working as a security guard in a US Army camp, Gurung was killed in an ambush in an unspecified location in mid-east Iraq Oct 27.

The Post also reported that four Nepalese workers had been deceived by a recruitment agency that had told them they were being hired for jobs in Kuwait. But the four men said they were sent to Iraq by Overseas Private Ltd forcibly.

According to government estimates, there are still about 700 to 800 Nepalese working in Iraq illegally, mostly as cooks, drivers and security personnel.

Partisans Kills Occupation Government Official

November 5, 2004 News Limited

The director of the Hebheb district was killed after resistance fighters opened fire on his car in the Jesr al-Ghalbiyah area on the outskirts of Baqouba as he was heading home, General Walid al-Azzawi, commander of Diyala provincial police, said.

The official's name was not immediately available. Gen. Al-Azzawi said the attackers, who were in a black car with dark windows, also wounded the official's driver.

RESISTANCE HORSE TRIES TO BITE MARINE



US Marines of the 1st Division outside Fallujah Nov. 6 , 2004. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

“And the race didn’t come off exactly as planned — one steed turned on its charioteer in the first race and tried to bite the Marine — who fended the horse off with a wooden trident, drawing loud cheers.” EDWARD HARRIS, Associated Press, Nov 06 [THANKS TO D WHO E-MAILED THIS IN]

Who’s Winning? Resistance Acts Openly In Daylight

2004-11-05 IWPR

By an IWPR trainee journalist in Baghdad

On October 26, I left Baghdad with my driver and headed for a munitions dump near Latifiya, 30 kilometres south of the capital, to follow up on a report that 350 tonnes of high explosives had gone missing. That was the story I thought I was going to cover – but it wasn't the one I got.

We were within 100 metres of the entrance gates of the Qaqa dump when two Opel cars, one black, the other grey, stopped on the road in front of us and the men inside got out.

They ordered us into their cars and we drove off, taking a left turn onto the dual carriageway leading away from Latifiya, west towards Fallujah. One of the group followed at the wheel of our own vehicle.

All this was going on at the side of a busy road, in full public view. The resistance didn't seem nervous or afraid they might be stopped. They behaved as *though they were in control* of the area: they were extremely calm, searching us and our vehicle slowly – they really didn't seem to care who saw them do it. [No “as though” about it.]

OCCUPATION REPORT

“Logic” For Occupiers Without Enough Soldiers

October 29th, 2004 by Scott Peterson, Christian Science Monitor

"The logic is: You flatten Fallujah, hold up the head of Fallujah, and say 'Do our bidding, or you're next,' " says Toby Dodge, an Iraq analyst at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

"The reason for such [threats] is because there are not enough troops, which creates a security vacuum, which fuels the insurgency."

<p>What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.</p>
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Collaborators To Rule Falluja “As Soon As It’s Safe”

Nov 4, By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq - The Iraqi government is setting up a shadow administration to run Fallujah if a combined force of U.S. Marines and Army soldiers is ordered to assault the insurgent stronghold, the military said Thursday.

Should the attack succeed, Iraqi troops will be the primary force keeping order inside the city and **Iraqi administrators will be put in control "as soon as it's safe,"** said Maj. Jim West, a Marine intelligence planner. **[Try never.]**

OCCUPATION HAITI

“It’s Going To Be Just Like Baghdad”

November 6, 2004 By Louis Meixler, The Associated Press

Haitian militants allegedly dubbed their attacks "Operation Baghdad."

The headless bodies of three police officers were found in Port-au-Prince early last month, and authorities said the militants had launched a terror campaign called "Operation Baghdad."

Nobody claimed responsibility for the decapitations, but Aristide supporters echoed that thought.

"We'll be in the streets until death or Aristide comes back," protester Milo Fenelon said a few days later. **"We won't stop. If they come in here, we're going to cut off their heads. It's going to be just like Baghdad."**

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marvelous Progress!

November 05, 2004 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times staff writer

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff paid tribute to the Afghan people's determination to shrug off threats from the Taliban, **noting in particular that some women dressed in their best clothes to vote, so that if terrorists killed them as they waited in line at the polling station, they would be dressed "appropriately" for their burial.**

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