

GI SPECIAL 2#C20



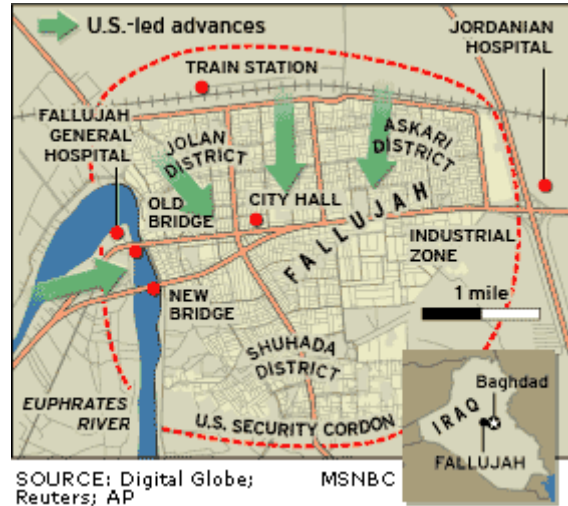
Homeless military veteran in city park – because it's a free country.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

**Falluja: Resistance
Counterattacks In Force
Heavy Pressure On Perimeter Of
Marine Hq, Air Strikes Called In;**

Attacks In Rear Of U.S. Forces Spreading



11 November 2004 BBC & Aljazeera & November 10, 2004, by Kim Sengupta, Independent Newspapers Ltd.

US marines in Falluja have come under sustained attack from several different directions in the headquarters they have set up in the Iraqi city.

The BBC's Paul Wood, who is at the scene, said there was sniper fire from four or five points on the horizon.

The insurgents may have regrouped, he says, after US-led troops took over large parts of the city.

Another BBC correspondent says troops have pulled back from the city hospital, captured on Sunday night.

Our correspondent says the US marines have had to call in four air strikes as they came under heavy fire in central Falluja.

Insurgents appear to have got to the perimeter of the headquarters, he says.

At the same time, a rifle company of marines has been pushing out into the city, going literally house to house to try to clear out the insurgents.

But the company came under continuous fire as soon as it left the base.

The BBC's Paul Wood, who is embedded with US marines in Falluja, says pockets of resistance remain even in areas the US and Iraqi forces have captured.

Troops are coming under sniper fire all over the city, he says. Villages to the west of the city, thought by the US to be clear of insurgents, are also reporting sniper, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

With US marines backed by Iraqi troops moving from building to building, a US officer said they expected to take command of the city before the weekend.

"If everything goes as planned we will take full control of the city in the next 48 hours," he said on condition of anonymity, adding that it would take "at least 10 days to clear the city". **[Famous last words.]**

But Abu Shams al-Fallujy, a member of the National Islamic Resistance in Falluja, told Aljazeera that US forces had entered the city's centre rapidly because they were surrounded in the Julan neighbourhood and were being targeted by snipers.

"The US troops say they have controlled the town. In fact, they are only in control of the town centre where there are no resistance fighters. The town's centre is resided by the civilian population who had escaped the outskirts of the town to avoid a crossfire as a result of the intense US bombing and resistance.

"With respect to Julan, al-Askary, Nizal, Jibail and the industrial quarter, they are still under control of the resistance which vows not to allow the US forces to control the town unless it is turned into dust," al-Fallujy said.

"The situation in the town is very critical. **The US forces began a retreat under intense resistance fire.** They are conducting a ferocious aerial bombing and artillery barrage. **They have not accomplished any advance towards the edges of the town,**" al-Fallujy added.

Intermittent fighting was under way in the northern sectors of Fallujah, with at least two American tanks reported to be engulfed in flames.

There was also political unraveling, with one of the main Sunni groups, the Iraqi Islamic Party, resigning from the Iraqi government in protest at the assault. "The American attack on our people in Fallujah has led and will lead to more killings and genocide without mercy from the Americans," said its leader, Mohsen Abdel Hamid.

The Association of Muslim Scholars, an influential group of Sunni clerics, called for a boycott of next January's planned elections which were, it said, being held "over the corpses of those killed in Fallujah and the blood of the wounded".

Insurgent Attack Retakes Mosque; Marines Beaten Back—AP

Members of Charlie Company of the First Marine Division, 6th Regiment, regroup inside a Mosque in Fallujah, only hours after taking it, Nov. 11, 2004. ***Routed insurgents***

soon regrouped and rained heavy fire on the mosque, prompting the Marines to leave. (AP Photo & Caption: Los Angeles Times, Luis Sinco)



Command Caught By Military Hospital In Stupid Lie About Falluja Casualties

Nov. 11, 2004 MSNBC News Services & Arabic News.com & Daily Mail

FALLUJAH, Iraq - Using the cover of darkness as night fell Thursday, U.S. forces punched farther into southern Fallujah, hoping to corner insurgents.

One American military source in Iraq said that the American forces arrived in al-Golan quarters, noting it is premature to talk about controlling all parts of Falluja amid fierce resistance shown by the armed men in certain quarters of the city.

In the past 24 hours of fighting, three American troops were killed while another 17 were wounded in Fallujah

The battle for Fallujah pushed the U.S. military death toll to 18 according to Central Command. Another 69 Americans and 34 Iraqi troops had been wounded.

The U.S. number was far lower than those cited by a spokeswoman at the U.S. Military Hospital in Germany, who said 102 wounded soldiers were being flown in on Thursday, joining 64 who had arrived from Iraq on Wednesday. [And that does NOT include Monday and Tuesday. For the truth, as distinct from what the liars in command want you to believe, see the hospital story below.]

The Fallujah campaign has also sent a stream of American wounded to the military's main hospital in Europe. **Planes carrying just over 100 bloodied and broken troops were arriving Thursday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. They join 125 wounded soldiers flown there already this week.**

The large number of wounded sent to Germany suggests that fighting may be more intense, at least in some areas, than the military had initially indicated. Only seriously wounded troops are flown to Landstuhl.

U.S. troops skirmished Wednesday night in the Wihdah and Muhandiseen neighborhoods, according to Iraqi journalist Abdul Qader Saadi, **who said he saw burnt armored vehicles and tanks and bodies in the streets.**

Loud explosions rocked the city Thursday morning and gunfire reverberated across town. Smoke rose above Fallujah as helicopters hovered overhead and Marines perched on rooftops.

Once in a while, the buzz of a tiny unmanned spy plane could be heard overhead.

In one of the most dramatic clashes Wednesday, snipers fired on U.S. and Iraqi troops from the minarets of a mosque, the military said. U.S. Marines called in an airstrike, and an F-18 dropped a 500-pound bomb on the mosque, destroying both minarets.

Pool footage showed U.S. forces battling insurgents in a neighborhood surrounding the mosque. Troops were pinned down by gunfire on a rooftop, forced to hit the deck and lay on their stomachs.

An Iraqi journalist told Aljazeera "Almost half of the city's mosques have been destroyed after being targeted by US air and tank strikes."

Landstuhl Hospital Flooded With Fallujah Casualties: 227 So Far

Nov. 11, 2004 The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany - A steady stream of American wounded from the Fallujah offensive in Iraq have been arriving at the U.S. military's main hospital in Europe, prompting staff to expand bed capacity, officials said Thursday.

A planeload with 53 wounded from Iraq, most of them from Fallujah, arrived Thursday morning and another with 49 more was due in later in the day at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center — totaling 102 for the day, spokeswoman Marie Shaw said.

The increase started Wednesday — two days after the Fallujah offensive started — when 64 wounded were brought in.

She said 38 injured soldiers arrived on Monday, 23 more on Tuesday, and 64 on Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Richard Jordan, a physician at the hospital, said the majority of injuries were “significant, but not major.”

“We’ve had more cases of bullet wounds than usual, though some have also suffered blast wounds from rocket-propelled grenades,” he said.

There were several intensive care cases involving brain or spinal injuries or traumatic amputation of limbs, he said. Four such patients were brought in Thursday morning on the first plane and four more are expected from the second plane later Thursday, he said.

He called Thursday “probably one of the busiest days in quite some time,” since he began working at the hospital in 2002. “We are on contingency mode, a 60-hour work week,” he said.

Two more planeloads of wounded were expected to arrive Friday.

Shaw said the hospital was expanding capacity to cope with the additional numbers of patients. “We have expanded our intensive care unit here with about 10 more beds, and we have expanded our medical surgical wards with about 40 more beds,” she said.

All the wounded who have come so far from Fallujah are U.S. soldiers, although Americans are fighting alongside Iraqi forces there.

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)

**Many Killed In Fallujah Are U.S.
Reservists;
Dead Set New Records**

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
NO MORE: GET OUT & COME HOME**



U.S. Marines carry an injured colleague after a mortar explosion close to their position in of Falluja, November 10, 2004. (Eliana Aponte/Reuters)

[THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: **B WRITES: MYERS CALLS 9 DEAD RESERVISTS "SUCCESS." WE SHOULD SETTLE FOR FAILURE AND BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW ALIVE BEFORE ANY MORE SUCCESSES.**]

Nov 11, 2004 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON - At least nine Army and Marine reservists died in Iraq on the first full day of the Fallujah offensive, **the highest single-day death toll for part-time troops since U.S. forces entered Iraq in March 2003.**

Of the nine reservists killed Monday, six were members of the Marine Corps Reserve, two were Army National Guard and one was Army Reserve.

Nine is the highest number of part-time soldiers and Marines to have died in Iraq on a single day.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he was pleased with progress so far. "From our viewpoint this is very, very successful," Myers said.

The Pentagon's reporting of casualties since the Fallujah offensive began Monday has been slower and more incomplete than normal.

Command Worried Falluja Could Be A “Disaster”

November 10, 2004 By EDWARD WONG and ERIC SCHMITT, NY Times

Military officials in Baghdad and Washington are expressing concern that the operation could end up being both a public relations disaster and strategic setback if some top leaders are not captured.

"This is causing some concern because if Falluja comes up a 'dry hole,' after all the operations, we will have to explain it," said a military official in Baghdad. "We will have to address it if this happens. If we don't retain any senior leadership, it may cause backlash."

Two Marine Helicopters Shot Down

Nov. 11, 2004 NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP)

The U.S. military said Thursday two U.S. Marine attack helicopters were shot down in separate incidents near Fallujah and their crews were rescued without injuries.

Both Super Cobra helicopters were hit with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire and were forced to make hard landings, the military said.

One of the choppers was hit 9 miles northwest of Fallujah, the other was hit a mile southeast of the city.

The pilots were not injured, and other helicopters rescued them from the area, the military said. Military quick reaction forces were sent to secure the sites. The helicopters normally carry two-man crews.

“They Don’t Look Like They Are Going To Cave In” Gunny Says

10 November 2004 ALJAZEERA

Marines said their opponents showed no signs of giving up.

A tank platoon that moved along Falluja's main street saw fighters who had just come under mortar fire climb onto rooftops and fire rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and machineguns.

"There are lots of them. We took heavy fire," Gunnery Sergeant Ishmail Castillo told Reuters. "They opened up on my tank. They don't look like they are going to cave in."

Castillo said his tank had killed six guerrillas and that two marines were wounded in fighting. "One of the marines was hit in the head by RPG shrapnel," he said.

"They hit us from one area and then another right afterwards. There is in-depth organisation. There were small-arms attacks all night," he said.

Iraqi journalist Al-Badrani said US forces had taken some casualties. "Two US military tanks have been so far destroyed in Julan neighbourhood where the most violent clashes are taking place," he said.

"Three US armoured vehicles have been also destroyed in other parts of the city. The clashes are very violent. Fighters have showed up from other neighbourhoods and streets the US forces are unfamiliar with.

Residents told al-Badrani the crews of two US tanks deserted their vehicles in Julan leaving them to be seized by fighters.

While Idiots In Command Obsessed With Falluja, Resistance Attacking Everywhere Else: Offensive Gains As Baghdad Stripped Of Occupation Troops

11.11.04 By Maher al-Thanoon, Reuters & By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times & November 10, 2004 By EDWARD WONG and ERIC SCHMITT, NY Times

As U.S. forces battle to suppress insurgents in the rebel city of Falluja, it appears many fighters may have fled to other cities where they are launching new attacks.

In the past three days, there has been a step up in guerrilla activity in Samarra, Baiji, Baquba, Tikrit, Ramadi, areas of Baghdad and in the holy city of Kerbala to the south.

Guerrillas fired mortars at police stations in downtown Baghdad.

Once again the US has been caught in a giant spider's web. Fallujah now is a network: it's Baghdad, Ramadi, Samarra, Latifiyah, Kirkuk, Mosul. Streets on fire, everywhere: Hundreds, thousands of Fallujahs - the Mesopotamian echo of a thousand Vietnams.

The Iraqi resistance has even regained control of a few Baghdad neighborhoods.

Baghdad residents say there are practically no US troops around, even as regular explosions can be heard all over the city. Baghdad sources confirm to Asia Times Online that the mujahideen now control parts of the southern suburb of ad-Durha, as well as Hur Rajab, Abu Ghraib, al-Abidi, as-Suwayrah, Salman Bak, Latifiyah and Yusufiyah - all in the Greater Baghdad area.

This would be the first time since the fall of Baghdad on April 9, 2003, that the resistance has been able to control these neighborhoods.

Massive US military might is useless against a mosque network in full gear. In a major development not reported by US corporate media, for the first time different factions of the resistance have released a joint statement, signed among others by Ansar as-Sunnah, al-Jaysh al-Islami, al-Jaysh as-Siri (known as the Secret Army), ar-Rayah as-Sawda (known as the Black Banners), the Lions of the Two Rivers, the Abu Baqr as-Siddiq Brigades, and crucially al-Tawhid wal-Jihad (Unity and Holy War) - the movement allegedly controlled by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The statement is being relayed all over the Sunni triangle through a network of mosques. The message is clear: the resistance is united.

When a few snipers are capable of holding scores of marines for a day in Fallujah - an eerie replay of the second part of Stanley Kubrick's Full Metal Jacket - and when eight of 10 US divisions are bogged down by a few thousand Iraqis with Kalashnikovs and grenade launchers, the fact is the US does not control anything in Sunni Iraq. It does not control towns, cities, roads, and it barely controls the Green Zone, the American fortress in Baghdad that is the ultimate symbol of the occupation.

U.S. Command Admits Mosul Falls To The Resistance; "The Insurgents Are Everywhere" Silly U.S. General Babbles Again

Nov. 11, 2004 MSNBC News Services & Middle East Online & By Maher al-Thanoon, Reuters & November 12, 2004 The Associated Press & Aljazeera

A reporter working for Reuters drove through areas of Mosul on Thursday morning and saw virtually no U.S. forces on the city streets.an American official acknowledged it could take "some time" to secure the city.

In Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, insurgents on Thursday raided police stations and political offices. U.S. and Iraqi forces were still battling guerrillas hours later, and **an American official acknowledged it could take "some time" to secure the city.**



Armed fighters took control of various parts of Mosul (Middle East Online)

One Kurdish official in Mosul said **Iraqi police had proven ineffective and some were cooperating with the insurgents.** Saadi Ahmed, a senior member of the pro-American Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party, said there were attacks on at least nine police stations in Mosul and that **"Iraqi police turned some stations over to the terrorists".**

Smoke rose from several areas as U.S. warplanes streaked overhead. Mosul authorities warned residents to stay away from the five major bridges across the Tigris River because of fighting in the area.

A US statement said the local governor, Duraid Kashmoula, was "working with other regional governments to identify measures to restore and maintain a police presence in local police stations".

U.S. military spokeswoman Capt. Angela Bowman said some attacks on police stations overwhelmed "the capabilities of the existing police force" and that five police stations were ransacked. "The insurgents continue to fire at the Iraqi National Guard and the multinational forces," Captain Bowman said later.

The puppet governor is seeking police reinforcements from neighboring provinces.

A cameraman for Reuters filmed gunmen raiding weapons and flak jackets from a police station before setting it on fire.

Residents saw masked gunmen roaming the streets, setting police cars on fire. The local television station in Mosul went off the air.

"It's crazy, really, really crazy," said Abdallah Fathi, a resident who witnessed the attack. "Yesterday, the city felt like hell, today it could be the same or worse."

Masked insurgents stormed into six Iraqi police stations in the city, 370 kilometres (230 miles) north of Baghdad, seizing weapons and torching buildings, an AFP correspondent in the city said.

WELCOME TO MOSUL; HAVE A NICE DAY



A masked insurgent fires a rocket propelled grenade during clashes with U.S. and Iraqi forces in the northern city of Mosul, November 10, 2004. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

In what appeared to be a coordinated attack, gunmen pulled up in front of police stations in various parts of the city, forcing policemen out.

Dozens of gunmen were seen fanning out on the city streets and some hunkered behind sandbags and were seen firing mortar rounds on US and Iraqi forces stationed on four of Mosul's five main bridges.

Insurgents attacked a group of Iraqi National Guardsmen blocking a bridge in the city centre, killing five of them and destroying three vehicles, witnesses said.

Large groups of armed men, many wearing traditional scarves around their heads, attacked police stations and a convoy of civilian contractor vehicles.

Armed men attacked a police station in the al-Zuhur neighbourhood on Wednesday, killing three policemen and injuring four including a senior officer, Aljazeera has learned.

It was not immediately clear how many people were killed in the attacks, but the photographer took pictures of an Iraqi army officer lying dead in the street, a group of five armed men standing over his body celebrating.

Insurgents drove around the city centre at will, freely wandering through traffic and brandishing their weapons aloft.

"It doesn't feel like the police or any local government officials are in charge at all," one resident said. "The insurgents are everywhere."

He said that while Thursday had begun slightly more calmly than Wednesday, there was still a blanket of tension and insecurity hanging over the city. "There seem to be battles going on in several places," he said.

U.S. forces responsible for security in the city issued a statement on Wednesday saying "the current situation is developing", but did not elaborate. [Translation: "We're fucked."] They did not immediately respond to requests for information on Thursday.

A reporter working for Reuters drove through areas of Mosul on Thursday morning and saw virtually no U.S. forces on the city streets.

There were, however, groups of U.S. soldiers and Iraqi National Guardsmen blocking access to the bridges.

In a separate incident, attackers set alight two Turkish oil tankers in the city.

"HEY, I GOT SOME GOOD SHIT!"



An insurgent carries a police flak jacket and rocket propelled grenade launcher after a police station was attacked in Mosul November 11, 2004. Insurgents captured weapons and roamed the streets of Mosul as Iraq's third largest city. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/ Reuters)

A US general also hinted at further offensives after the battle for Fallujah - the largest military operation since last year's US-led invasion - **as the insurgency spreads** elsewhere.

"It probably will, and when it does we'll crush it," said General John Batiste, First Infantry Division's commanding general. [This is the same silly man who boasted

of how he had crushed the resistance in Samarra last month. After the troops left for Falluja, the resistance came back again. Duh.]

In September, US and Iraqi forces seized control of Samarra, showcasing it as an example of how the Americans and Iraqi interim authorities can restore order in restive towns and cities from the insurgents.

But the city, along with others across the country, has lately become the scene of stepped up attacks by militants.

The resistance assassinated a senior government official in Samarra Tuesday.

MORE:

Attack On Supply Highway At Mashahdah Cuts Off Mosul

November 12, 2004 The Associated Press & Aljazeera

Insurgents launched attacks today against an Iraqi National Guard base along the main highway between Baghdad and Mosul near Mashahdah, about 40km north of the Iraqi capital.

The fighting cut the highway, a main supply route for coalition forces, local residents said.

Also on Wednesday, violent clashes erupted between tens of armed men and Iraqi and US forces on the highway near al-Dura area south of Baghdad, Aljazeera has learned.

Expert Mortar Team Nails Brit Camp

2004-11-11 theherald.co.uk

Four rockets in quick succession hit Camp Dogwood. **The first three exploded on to the ground, a vast expanse of sand and rock, but the fourth struck what was believed to be the intended target, the helicopter pad. Another helicopter was hit and a serviceman injured by shrapnel.**

Helicopters took off to find the firing points of the rockets, followed by armoured Land Rovers and Warrior cars.

The insurgents waited for those taking shelter to emerge and two hours later launched another round of rockets, causing more damage. One third of the battle group had crossed the river, and the base was conducting an emergency exercise against a ground attack.

**COMPLETELY POINTLESS EXERCISE;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier at the scene of a car bomb attack in central Baghdad November 11, 2004.
(Akram Saleh/Reuters)

**U.S. Convoy Attacked, Two Drivers
Killed Near Ishaqi;
Occupation Cops Killed, Gas Station
Blown Up In Hilla**

11.10.04 Aljazeera

A convoy of trucks protected by US forces came under attack from fighters near the village of Ishaqi, police said.

Two lorries were set ablaze in the attack and their Iraqi drivers killed.

In other developments, Aljazeera has learned that four Iraqi policemen were injured as a result of an explosion of a booby-trapped car driven by a bomber in central Hilla city. Another car also exploded inside a petrol station along the highway between Hilla and Musiab.

US Air Raid On Fallujah Clinic Kills Dozens: Witnesses

FALLUJAH, Iraq, Nov. 9 (Xinhuanet) -- **Dozens of Iraqi people, including at least 20 medics, were killed in a US air raid on a government clinic in the center of Iraq's western city of Fallujah overnight, witnesses said Tuesday.**

"Over 20 medics were killed in the air raid and dozens others, including wounded people, were killed as a result of the US raid on the city early Tuesday," local residents told Xinhua.

The sources said the one-storey Community Clinic, which had been receiving wounded insurgents and civilians, was totally destroyed.

The building was one of the three Community Clinics erected in the city to substitute the main hospital, which was seized by US and Iraqi forces Monday night, just hours before a full-scale offensive began.

Dept. Of Propaganda In Action



Caption: "Protecting the Islamic cultural center in Falluja was one the Marine's objectives today."

Psy-Ops Strikes Again: "Attention, Attention, Terrorists Of Fallujah"

Our Psy-Ops sure are talented folks:

A psychological operations unit broadcast announcements in Arabic meant to draw out gunmen. An Iraqi translator from the group said through a loudspeaker: "Brave terrorists, I am waiting here for the brave terrorists. Come and kill us. Plant small bombs on roadsides. Attention, attention, terrorists of Fallujah."

No, I'm not making this up. It would require a lot more comedic talent than I possess. I suspect it's the same people who came up with "Taliban are Women; They're Bitches" announcements in Afghanistan.

What's next? Raffles for Terrorists? Toaster-oven giveaways for the first five to show up?

Also, why *small* bombs?

Liberating Falluja



11.8.04 Arab Monitor

The US forces have taken possession of the hospital, leaving the incursion into the hospital to be carried out by Iraqi soldiers. The hospital, the largest in the city, is located on the western side of the banks of the Euphrates rivers, which separates it from the centre, leaving just small clinics to deal with any local wounded or dead if full-scale fighting erupts.

According to Salih al-Isawi, the hospital director, the building had been surrounded and "they are telling us over loud speakers that if we leave the building we will be shot at", reporting that an ambulance that tried to exit the facility was fired upon.

As the hospital is situated outside the city in an isolated spot, no resistance fighters had ever been there, only hospital staff and patients.

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

Jacksonville Sailor Dies In Fallujah

11/11/2004 First Coast News

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- A Westside family is mourning the loss of Petty Officer Julian Woods, 22. He died Wednesday while fighting in Fallujah.

The sailor was attached with a Marines Unit.

Woods graduated from Ed White High School in 2000.

His mother, Carolyn Woods tells First Coast News she was notified at 7 a.m.. Thursday.

Julian Woods would have been 23 in December.

He is also survived by his 3-year-old daughter.

DuPage County Marine Killed

November 11, 2004 WHEATON (AP)

A 19-year-old DuPage County Marine was killed by hostile fire around the Iraqi city of Fallujah, his grandfather said.

Patrick O'Sullivan said his grandson, Lance Cpl. Nicholas Larson, always wanted to be a career Marine, enlisting even before he graduated from high school last year. O'Sullivan said the military came to Larson's Wheaton home Wednesday to tell the family he had died but could provide no more information about his death.

Larson was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines based in California and had been in Iraq since June.

TROOP NEWS

“They Don’t Want To Be In Iraq”

September 30, 2004 The Age.com.au

[Filmmaker] Wayne Coles-Janess approached US troops directly after an unsuccessful "bureaucratic paper chase". **Most US soldiers he encountered were "very professional" in their approach, he says. But morale was low. "They don't want to be in Iraq. They're shit scared. They're dying every day. As soon as they go out of their base they're a target and they feel that very much."**

Local Soldier Spends Birthday In Hospital After Attack

11/10/04 ABC Action News

TAMPA - A Sickles High School graduate will spend her 21st birthday in a German hospital, recovering from burns she suffered in an attack in Iraq.

Army Spc. Larisa Diaz was among the survivors of a roadside bombing near Fallujah. The 20-year-old M.P. was driving a Humvee from back to base camp in Baghdad when the bomb went off.

Diaz's left side is badly burned, but she is alive and expected to recover, much to her family's relief.

"They told her that she's going to have a few surgeries. She already had one, and it hurts me that she's going through this alone," her tearful mother Juanita said. "But I'm also thankful that she's out of Iraq and safe; I feel that she's safe now."

Diaz joined the Army straight out of high school to earn money for college. She was back in Tampa as recently as August, when she came home to visit her family on leave.

"[I'm] just hoping I make it back alive every day," she said. "I just pray and go to church whenever I can."

Now, that recent homecoming seems more like a distant dream to her mother, who would like more than anything to be able to be at her daughter's side as she turns 21 on Thursday -- Veteran's Day.

"I never thought she would be spending it like that," Juanita continued. "The pain that she's going through for her injury, I know the pain from leaving her unit behind hurts even more."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Karbala Police Station Attacked, One Cop Dead, 5 Wounded

11.11.04 Aljazeera

On Tuesday night, armed assailants attacked a police station in the city of Karbala on Tuesday night, killing one policeman and wounding five, the US military said.

Two car bombs detonated near the police station in Karbala, 110km southwest of the capital. Fighters then attacked it with mortars and machine guns, the US military said in a statement on Wednesday.

Resistance Takes Baiji

Nov. 11, 2004 MSNBC News Services & Focus 1 News & AFP & Aljazeera

Thursday night, insurgents took to the streets of the oil center of Baiji in north Iraq and clashes broke out with Iraqi security forces, witnesses said.

Rebels began skirmishes with Iraqi national guardsmen in the town centre on Tuesday afternoon, following a mortar attack on national guardsmen and US troops. Two occupation policemen were killed.

Police chief Ismail Mahmud al-Juburi said he expected the fighting to continue.

The gunmen blocked several streets, they said.

Baiji is home to Iraq's biggest refinery. A pipeline network that includes the Iraq-Turkey export pipeline passes near the Sunni Muslim city. [Oops.]

A roadside bomb exploded at 7.45 am (0445 GMT) in the path of a national guard patrol

Two of the guardsmen were wounded.

Six Occupation Guards Killed In Touz

11.11.04 Arabic News.com & Aljazeera

Six members of the Iraqi national guards were killed in two explosions when their armored vehicles were running in Touz, 60 Km to the south of Karkouk (North Baghdad).

The guardsmen died when two roadside bombs exploded minutes apart targeting two patrols in northern Iraq on Wednesday morning, an Iraqi official said.

Police Stations In Baquba, Baghdad Stormed

11.11.04 Aljazeera

Armed men stormed three police stations in the eastern city of Baquba on Tuesday and another in southwestern Baghdad.

Resistance Holds Karma, Sending Aid To Falluja

November 9, 2004 Financial Times, By Dhiya Rasan in Karma and Steve Negus in Baghdad

Just as they did during the first siege of Falluja seven months ago, residents of the Iraqi town of Karma, most of whom have tribal ties with the embattled city, have rallied to the defence of their kinsmen.

Masked gunmen stand guard on the rooftops of the town, keeping watch over the surrounding countryside as the dull thud of explosions drifts from Falluja, some 20km to the east.

Black smoke drifts into the sky from what residents say are burning US oil tankers ambushed by local fighters, while guards at checkpoints on the roads leading in and out keep watch for anyone who might be an Iraqi government spy.

Karma's insurgents boast that this second offensive will spread their uprising even further. "Every Iraqi town shall become Falluja," declares a masked insurgent called Abu Askar, who that morning returned from a trip to bring armour-piercing rockets into Falluja.

Other fighters load medical supplies on to makeshift wheelbarrows, while a pile of ammunition boxes are stacked outside the town's main mosque.

Residents of the area say they know routes that weave through the fields and orchards of the Euphrates Valley that evade the US military cordon around the besieged town.

Individual Sunni Arab communities put their members and their private arsenals at the disposal of Falluja's defenders.

Tribes in Falluja such as the Dulaim and Janab have branches throughout much of western Iraq as well as in the Sunni enclave of Latifiya south of Baghdad, both of which have become hotbeds of insurgency since the first siege.

Cleric Smacks Down Allawi

11.10.04 Aljazeera

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who on Tuesday imposed a night curfew on Baghdad for an indefinite period, got a personal taste of the clerics' anger at a Ramadan iftar meal the same day.

"You have to stop fighting for four or five hours," Adnan al-Dulaimi, a Sunni official in the Religious Affairs Ministry, urged Allawi before the evening meal, a pool reporter said.

"There are a lot of injured that have to be taken care of. Give them time to rescue the injured. There are civilians getting killed in Falluja. You are responsible for their lives in front of God," Dulaimi declared.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose--especially their lives." - Eugene V. Debs

"The Romans create a desert and call it peace." Tacitus

Words From The Front Lines

09/11/2004 Toby Harnden, Telegraph Group Ltd.

"Given the choice, I would never have wanted to fire a gun," said Cpl Chris Merrell, 21, manning a machinegun mounted on a Humvee. "But it didn't work out that way. I'd like a thousand boring missions rather than one interesting one."

On his wrist was a black bracelet bearing the name of a sergeant from Phantom Troop. **"This is a buddy of mine that died," he said. "Pretty much everyone in the unit has one."**

One fear playing on the mind of the task force was that of "friendly fire", also known as "blue on blue".

"Any urban fight is confusing," Lt Col Newell, the force's commander, told his troops before the battle. **"The biggest threat out there is not them, but us."**

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation Command Bravely Declares War On Baghdad Preachers Who Told People Not To Vote; Hitler, Stalin Would Be Proud Of U.S. Generals

Nov. 11, 2004 MSNBC News Services

U.S.-led troops reportedly stormed a Sunni Muslim mosque in Baghdad on Thursday, arresting a preacher who has urged Iraqi forces not to fight alongside Americans in Fallujah.

"American forces and Iraqi National Guards raided Ibn Taymiya mosque and detained several people, including Sheikh Mehdi al-Sumaid'i," said a spokesman for the Higher Committee for Islamic Guidance and Edict.

U.S. troops also raided the homes of senior officials of the Muslim Clerics Association, an influential Sunni group that has urged Iraqis to boycott January elections to protest the assault on Fallujah.

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.

Dumbest This Year, So Far

Sand Barrier Keeps Militants From Iraq
(Washington Times, November 10, 2004, Pg. 14)

In the middle of the desert straddling Syria's border with Iraq, soldiers are using bulldozers to create a wall of sand intended to prevent militants from crossing into Iraq. The berm, which used to run intermittently along the porous border, is being rebuilt, extended and floodlit. The sand barrier ultimately will be 10 feet high and 80 miles long.

Received:

Basra Oil Union President Visits UK

November 8th 2004 For Immediate Release:

Hassan Jumaa al Asaadi, General Secretary of the Southern Oil Company Trade Union and President of the Basra Oil Union is visiting the UK for *10 days from **December 5th**

He will speak at the **Iraq Occupation Focus international teach-in on the 5th** and will then be meeting with trade union general secretaries and activists in order to raise awareness of the SOC Unions' achievements.



In particular, the Union is proud of its' autonomous reconstruction efforts which have spanned every location in the Southern Oil Company, Iraq's largest company. These locations include the Khor Al Omayeh off shore terminal, the Lehees Crude oil Pumping Station, North Rumeilla crude oil pumping station, drilling and gas company, and Majnoon. **Workers declared the SOC a no-go zone for all Kellogg Brown and Root**

employees last autumn. The company's presence has since been 'limited' by the Union to ensure maximum control over the company's reconstruction process.

Southern Oil Company workers also shut down exports during the siege and attack on Najaf, in solidarity with the holy city's inhabitants.

The Southern Oil Company trade union also drew up its' own wage-table in response to the Occupation's wage-table as defined in Order Number 30, passed September 2003. Workers threatened to 'shut down Iraq from North to South' and go on armed strike if their table was not accepted. **The Union succeeded in raising the wages of oil workers in the South from 69,000 ID per month to 102,00 ID per month.**

Writing in an appeal read out to trade unionists at the Tolpuddle Festival in July Hassan Jumaa states '**The trade unions in the Southern oil company are in a very difficult situation and we are asking all international trade unions to help and to co-operate with us, as we are a free trade union, which does not belong to any political party and we are an independent trade union**'.

SOC workers and the Union leadership have repeatedly stated their opposition to the occupation and any privatization of their workplaces and national resources.

For more details/interview arrangements please contact:

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www.iraqoccupationfocus.org.uk

Notes:

* Subject to change

The Basra Oil Union was formed in July 2004 and represents over 30,000 workers from the following companies: Southern oil company, Southern gas company, Southern refinery company, Iraqi excavation company, The Oil carrier company, The Gas packing company, The oil production company, The oil projects company, and The oil pipe lines company.

No To Religious Intimidation!

From: AH
To: GI Special
Sent: November 08, 2004
Subject: Test Case Volunteer Wanted

I have an acquaintance in the military now. They have already been harassed by their command for other issues and they are now just counting the hours until they are out in a couple of weeks. So, this is where I think you should come in.

Since you are more connected with military guys, you should find one out there that has been given a "pep talk" in the name of "God". If a commander relates his personal religion and says he believes in God; or he believes God wants him personally to do something, that is one thing. **It is totally another, completely different thing however, to be telling your subordinates that they are fighting for or that they must fight for God; or any version of that.**

That is called religious intimidation and the trampling of other people's religious rights. It totally is!!! You and I know that we are now living in an oppressive society but, how far are we going to let this go????!!!

Are we going to let them put us in jail because we don't go to their church on Sunday?!.

So, you should find someone over there who has heard and therefore suffered under any inappropriate and abusive use of religion. It shouldn't matter even of how severe they think it was. We have our rights under the constitution and if we are Americans, we will fight for them; regardless if we are fighting for our own immediate rights, or the rights of our neighbors.

The one who is nicest to the crocodile, is the last one to be eaten!

So, find this one guy or girl and I will personally go to the ACLU, try to get this into federal court, and get as much publicity as I can for the issue; in hopes that the publicity will ward off Commander Bully from trying anything funny toward this soldier, when he thinks no one is looking.

Okay - So, I don't have immense resources by myself but, if you can get me started on this, I will make victory a personal mission.

Give me liberty or give me death... Woops; I forgot I could get indefinitely "held" for saying things like that... Bad Thomas Jefferson!

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.

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For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

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<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>,
www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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