

## GI SPECIAL 2#C26

NO MORE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



(DPA)

***An Open Letter To The 343<sup>rd</sup>:***  
**“Keep Your Heads High:**  
**“You Are All Heroes In**  
**My Book;**  
**Semper Fi!”**

This comment is to the 343rd.

Keep your heads high, because you were in the right to refuse that mission.

You may get kicked out of the military with a dishonorable discharged, but in my opinion and in my heart, you honored me, your fellow troops and your families by

speaking your mind because you did not want to die because of a stupid irresponsible, immoral order as the one you refused. You are all heroes in my book.

**Semper Fi!!**

**From:** [ArchAngel1BL@aol.com](mailto:ArchAngel1BL@aol.com)

**To:** GI Special

**Sent:** November 18, 2004 12:16 PM

**Subject:** Responding to 343rd article

***Out of service Marine wishing to post a comment about the 343rd.***

Being former military myself, I must say this in regard to the Soldiers who refused orders to take a convoy out on a mission and I also must comment on the part of **deadline**, that is **broken military vehicles**.

**During my time in the military, USMC, my military occupational skill (MOS) was a vehicle operator, and was trained to drive heavy equipment vehicles loaded with fuel, ammo, water, etc....**

**Anyway, I have been asked by some people if I have ever refused to drive a vehicle, and why.**

**My reply was yes, I have refused a few, and one that I most remember involved an overloaded lowboy trailer that had no brakes, not to mention a truck that had no Jacob's Brake.**

**Because of that, they told me that I had to drive it and that it was an order.**

**Now before I go any further, vehicle operators were taught not only how to drive these vehicles, but there is also paper work that must be filled out.** One of these documents is called a trip ticket, sort of like what our big rig civilian drivers have today. On this trip ticket the driver walks around the vehicle and checks down the list on minor to major things that is wrong with the vehicle that is to be driven, i.e., lights, tires, fluids etc.... If anything was found, it was to be noted on the trip ticket. **Now if anything is found that should deadline a vehicle, then the driver is to report it so that another vehicle can be substituted in.**

But, if that driver was ordered to take the vehicle anyway, down at the bottom of a trip ticket is a remarks column, where the driver would make his/her remark then respectfully request to the ordering officer or high ranking authority giving the orders, to sign on the remarks column that they take full responsibility because they were advised by the driver that the vehicle or even the equipment was not safe to drive/transport.

**Usually, when this is requested, the higher ranking authority would back down, and seek a resolution by either canceling the mission, or finding another suitable truck.**

**Now back to my experience of refusing a mission.**

**As I said above, I was ordered to drive a truck pulling an overloaded trailer that both had practically no brakes, down a mountain side on a very narrow road. When I informed my staff NCO of the situation, they told me that I had to and that there was nothing I could do about it.**

**Well, I respectfully requested that they write on the trip ticket that they would take responsibility. Once I requested it, the SNCO told me never mind that they would get another driver.**

**Well, like with any company, there is always a crazy, gung-ho Marine that volunteers to do the job. Now, this Marine knew that the truck and trailer had no business on the road, but he drove it anyway. Well, guess what?? He wrecked that truck.** Going down hill on a mountain, the load was too heavy, and caused the truck to speed up so fast, that with what little brake he had, he could not control the truck.

I could go further into detail about this accident, but to make a long story short he wound up crashing the vehicle into a deep bar ditch that when the truck hit, it buried itself into the wall of the ditch. The Soldier and his assistant driver were not harmed severely, they were lucky, they got away with just bumps and bruises, but you know what saved their lives? The load on the trailer and the trees that the truck bounced off of, kept the truck from flipping over.

But, if that truck and trailer were in proper working order, and the trailer had not been overloaded, it would have made it down the mountain, and the mission would have been accomplished.

**This leads me to making a comment on deadline or broken down vehicles.**

**Do you want to know why we are constantly hearing about troops complaining about broken vehicles that they are being forced to drive?? I can tell you why and I know that my fellow troops in the MOS field involving mechanics and operators will agree with what I will tell you.**

***When it comes to a broken truck, and parts have to be ordered, the fastest way to get those parts is by sending the broken truck to the field, or to war in this case. Every time my company had gone to the field we would always take the trucks that needed parts. These parts mostly involved the engine.***

***As long as the truck could get transported to the field site, its parts would get ordered, and within a few days, they would arrive. Now in the rear, or that is back on base, the truck that needed these parts, would be on the deadline lot, awaiting parts that would take weeks to months before ever arriving. Heck, I have even seen a deadline vehicle stripped of parts causing its waiting period to be fixed to be even longer.***

**By this, I am saying that this is the reason why we hear so much about troops complaining about broken trucks, or trucks that are ill equipped.**

**I have a question for our military.**

### **Have the vehicles on the MPF ships been off loaded?**

The reason why I ask, is because I have been on these ships, and know what is on them.

No, most of them don't have the armor plates on them, but most are brand new, perfect running vehicles.

**If they haven't been used, then why have we, my fellow Marines and I, been informed that they are only used during the time of war, but sometimes they are used during training missions. If they can be used during training, and are there in case of war, then why are we not using them? In case you haven't noticed, we are at war!!!**

**This comment is to the 343rd.**

**Keep your heads high, because you were in the right to refuse that mission.**

**Vehicles that are ill equipped, broken down, have no business hauling fuel, let alone your fellow troops.**

**You may get kicked out of the military with a dishonorable discharged, but in my opinion and in my heart, you honored me, your fellow troops and your families by speaking your mind because you did not want to die because of a stupid irresponsible, immoral order as the one you refused. You are all heroes in my book.**

**Semper Fi!!**

### **MORE:**

## **Families Say 343rd Soldiers Face Three Tiers Of Punishment; "The Army Doesn't Want The Information To Get Out."**

11/19/04 By Andrew Dys, The Herald, Rock Hill, South Carolina

**"I guess that's why they are keeping it so secret," John Coates said. "They know the parents are going to speak out."**

Punishment deals offered to as many as 18 soldiers from a Rock Hill-based Army Reserve unit who refused orders in Iraq in October have been offered in three tiers, the mother of one soldier said Tuesday.

**As many as five alleged "ringleaders" may receive the worst punishment, she said.**

**Soldiers from the 343rd Quartermaster Company have been told they can either accept deals that would reduce their rank, or they can face court-martial and prison time, said Kathy Harris of Vicksburg, Miss., mother of Spec. Aaron Gordon, 20.**

Up to five soldiers "supposed to be the ringleaders" face the worst charges, six more have been offered deals with less punishment, and the rest of the 18, like her son, have been offered deals that are considered the least severe, Harris said.

***"He said, 'I don't want to take it until I talk to a lawyer,'" Harris said. [Got that right!]***

None of the original 18 are from South Carolina, and 24 soldiers total face punishment. Six have been offered a letter of reprimand, considered the lightest punishment, said Robert Hopkins, district director for Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C.

"Certain administrative actions have been initiated as a result of this review and more actions, including criminal charges, are possible in the future," said Maj. Richard Spiegel, public affairs officer for the Army 13th Corps Support Command.

The 13th Corps' general halted 343rd operations after the incident and ordered an investigation into both the refusal and the unit's readiness and equipment.

John Gossett of Clover, a retired colonel with the U.S. Army Reserve, said it is probable the military would offer deals with varying degrees of punishment. "It has got to come down to who the ringleaders are," Gossett said. "I would think that there are some leaders and some followers."

Harris and other family members of soldiers said the military hasn't contacted them at all since the 18 soldiers failed to show for formation Oct. 13.

Jackie Butler of Jackson, Miss., whose husband, Staff Sgt. Michael Butler, is one of the 18, said her husband told her he has been transferred to another unit.

Butler said her husband has not spoken to her in conversations as recent as Saturday about possible punishment, other than hearing that some others might get punished. She, too, says she has heard nothing from the military.

**Beverly Dobbs has said her son, Spec. Joseph Dobbs, is one of the 18 offered a deal that would avoid more than five years' prison time. She said she has received neither information about the probe from the military nor any word from her son after the weekend. Dobbs said she hopes to hear from her son or someone else about the decision.**

**"He gave my number to his buddies," Beverly Dobbs said. "The Army doesn't want the information to get out."**

John Coates of Gaston County, N.C., whose son, Spec. Major Coates, is another of the 18, said he hasn't heard from his son in two weeks. Coates said he has not received an official word from the military since the incident.

**"I guess that's why they are keeping it so secret," John Coates said. "They know the parents are going to speak out."**

Ai Wardlaw, wife of 343rd member Sgt. Danyell Wardlaw from Charlotte, said Tuesday her husband told her by telephone Monday night he had heard some were trying to link him with the 18. Ai Wardlaw said her husband told her he had volunteered to go on the mission after others refused.

"I'm not sure what is going on," Ai Wardlaw said. "Even in the unit, not a lot of information is getting out."

Harris said her son confirmed to her what Dobbs' son told his mother: That he believed fuel they were supposed to deliver was contaminated and the trucks lacked armor.

The military has denied the fuel was tainted but has conceded that the trucks were without enough armor.

Since the unit was put at a standstill Oct. 13, armor has been added and the unit has resumed some duties. Even though Harris said she knows soldiers must obey orders, she doesn't think her son should be punished because he thought the fuel meant for helicopters might make them crash.

**"He feels like he was right," Harris 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](http://www.ivaw.net))

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **Marine From Livingston County Killed Near Fallujah**

November 19, 2004 ASSOCIATED PRESS

A marine from Michigan was killed outside Fallujah in Iraq, his family said. Lance Cpl. Michael Wayne Hanks, 22, of Gregory, was killed Wednesday by small-arms fire, the family told the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus.

**"He called us before he went in last week, saying he was going to go to work, going to be busy," said Hanks' sister, Melissa Gladstone. "I was definitely worried more than usual."**

After being shipped out in February 2003, Hanks fought in Iraq as part of the Marine 3rd Infantry Division, 1st Battalion before he was discharged in June.

**Hanks signed up for a second tour of duty in June and was set to come home just after the new year, his family said.**

"He was always standing up for the guys there," Gladstone said. "He had everyone's back -- that sums it up."

Funeral services have not yet been scheduled.

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## **Fighting Goes On In Falluja: Marine Killed; "A Political Victory For The Insurgents"**

November 19, 2004 By Maggie Michael, The Associated Press & By Dogen Hannah,  
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Gunbattles still flared in Fallujah as troops hunted holdout insurgents **five days after the military said its forces had occupied the entire city**

**One U.S. Marine and one Iraqi occupation soldier were killed, U.S. officials said.**

**A veteran military analyst in Washington asserted that the United States arguably had suffered a political setback.**

**"Fallujah has been a political victory for the insurgents,"** wrote Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"It has further polarized the Arab Sunnis, weakened Sunni participation in the interim government and raised more questions about the independence and legitimacy" of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government.

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# Great Moments In U.S. Military History: The Attack On The Abu Hanifa Mosque



An Iraqi medic cries at the Abu Hanifa mosque in Baghdad following a raid there Friday by Iraqi and U.S. troops in which several people were killed. Mehdi Fedouach / AFP-Getty Images

November 19, 2004 The Associated Press & AFP & 20th November, 2004 Big News Network

Iraqi forces, backed by U.S. soldiers, stormed one of the major Sunni Muslim mosques in Baghdad after Friday prayers, opening fire and killing at least three people, witnesses said. Seven were wounded.

About 40 people were arrested at the Abu Hanifa mosque in the capital's northwestern Azamiyah neighborhood, said the witnesses, who were members of the congregation. Another five people were wounded.

At the Abu Hanifa mosque, which is considered one of the most important Sunni places of worship in Iraq, U.S. troops were seen securing the outer perimeter and sealing it off. Some American soldiers also were seen inside the compound.

Witnesses heard explosions coming from inside the mosque, apparently from stun grenades. Inside the office of the imam, books, including a Quran, and a computer were found scattered on the floor, and the furniture was turned upside down.



At least 10 U.S. armored vehicles were parked at the mosque, along with two vehicles carrying about 40 Iraqi National Guards, witnesses said.

Around 300 national guardsmen are reported to have stormed the mosque.

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## **15 Occupation Cops & Guards Killed In Mosul; Brave Anti-Iraqi Forces Capture Hospital & Tea House; “Thousands” Of Police Uniforms Captured By Resistance**

November 19, 2004 The Associated Press & (SA) & telegraph.co.uk

**Iraqi occupation commandos, backed by United States forces, raided a hospital in northern Mosul** allegedly used by insurgents, and detained three people overnight, the US military said on Friday.

**The commandos entered a mosque on a side street and detained a number of people.**

**They also rounded people in a nearby tea house who appeared to be unarmed and were playing dominoes and cards when the troops showed up.**

**Three policemen also were killed Thursday when masked gunmen set up a checkpoint in eastern Mosul and shot them when they displayed identification, Gouran said. The US military says it has received unconfirmed reports that 12 members of the Iraq's paramilitary National Guard had been kidnapped and possibly executed.**

The raid on the al-Zaharawi hospital in Mosul Iraq's third-largest city was conducted by Iraqi commandos with the Ministry of the Interior's Special Police Force, backed by U.S. troops.

Forces cordoned it off after getting information that insurgents were treating their wounded there, said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings with Task Force Olympia.

U.S. forces from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment secured the area around the hospital, while Iraqi troops raided the building, detaining three suspected terrorists.

U.S. forces came under some "indirect fire."

During a routine patrol, U.S. forces also found burned ballot materials inside a Mosul warehouse after a tip by an Iraqi security officer.

**Insurgents have acquired thousands of police uniforms after officers deserted their posts when rebels attacked stations in Mosul.**

**About 3,200 of the Iraqi town's 4,000 police officers dropped their weapons and ran off, intimidated into submission by groups of armed insurgents during a 48-hour period, it has emerged. (Ass-kissing pro-occupation reporter again. A couple hundred insurgents couldn't "intimidate" 3,200 armed men unless, of course, the armed men supported the resistance. But then, Iraqis do support the resistance. Duh.)**

American-led troops will now potentially face rebels wearing police uniforms making it extremely difficult to distinguish them from policemen.

At least seven police stations were overrun and liberated of their weapons, radios, uniforms and vehicles, before being set ablaze or, in at least one case, destroyed by dynamite.

**Lt Col Michael Gibler, commander of the 3-21 Infantry Battalion, based in Mosul, said: "We are in a various, precarious security environment." [Another graduate of the world famous U.S. Army School For Lt. Col. Idiot Clones.]**

**The police force was set up by US authorities last year and promoted as a symbol of the new Iraq. The police were supposed to be the backbone of Iraq's new security forces, reinforced by the national guard and the army.**

## **'CAMP INCOMING' UNDER FIRE**

November 19, 2004 BSKyB

**Hundreds of British soldiers have come under fierce rocket fire at their camp outside Baghdad**

**Camp Dogwood has been targeted by at least five missiles packed with explosives in one of the heaviest days of shelling since British forces arrived in central Iraq.**

Royal Engineers were caught in the open when the first rocket fell but managed to flee to safety in brick buildings on the site.

Sky News correspondent Peter Sharp was in the camp.

He said: **"Rockets from up to ten miles away were dropping on to the camp** but the launchers were well beyond the range of the battalion's mortars.

**"Dogwood has been hit by dozens of incoming rounds but this attack was the most intense** with six rounds slamming into the camp in just over an hour."

The rockets are being fired from the desert in the west and from the banks of the Euphrates river in the east where high-ranking members of Saddam Hussein's regime had homes.

Sgt Parsley, 33, said: "It could be former Special Republican Guards firing them from their back gardens. There's been a lot of them. You get to know the sound of one coming in."

Soldiers in the camp have renamed it 'Camp Incoming'.

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## TROOP NEWS

# Ross County Soldier Wounded "It's Not Like The Movies"

November 19, 2004 WorldNow and WBNS-TV

Before the fighting began in Fallujah, Helen and Denny Norris got an email from their son, Joe, serving with the Army in Iraq.

**"If you read between the lines you could almost read into it he was saying goodbye just in case," Helen Norris said.**

Army Specialist Joseph Seyford faced a violent battle ahead in Fallujah. And then his parents received a call that Joe had been wounded in action.

"A guy popped up, and Joe said he was five feet from them, and he started firing at them," his mother described.

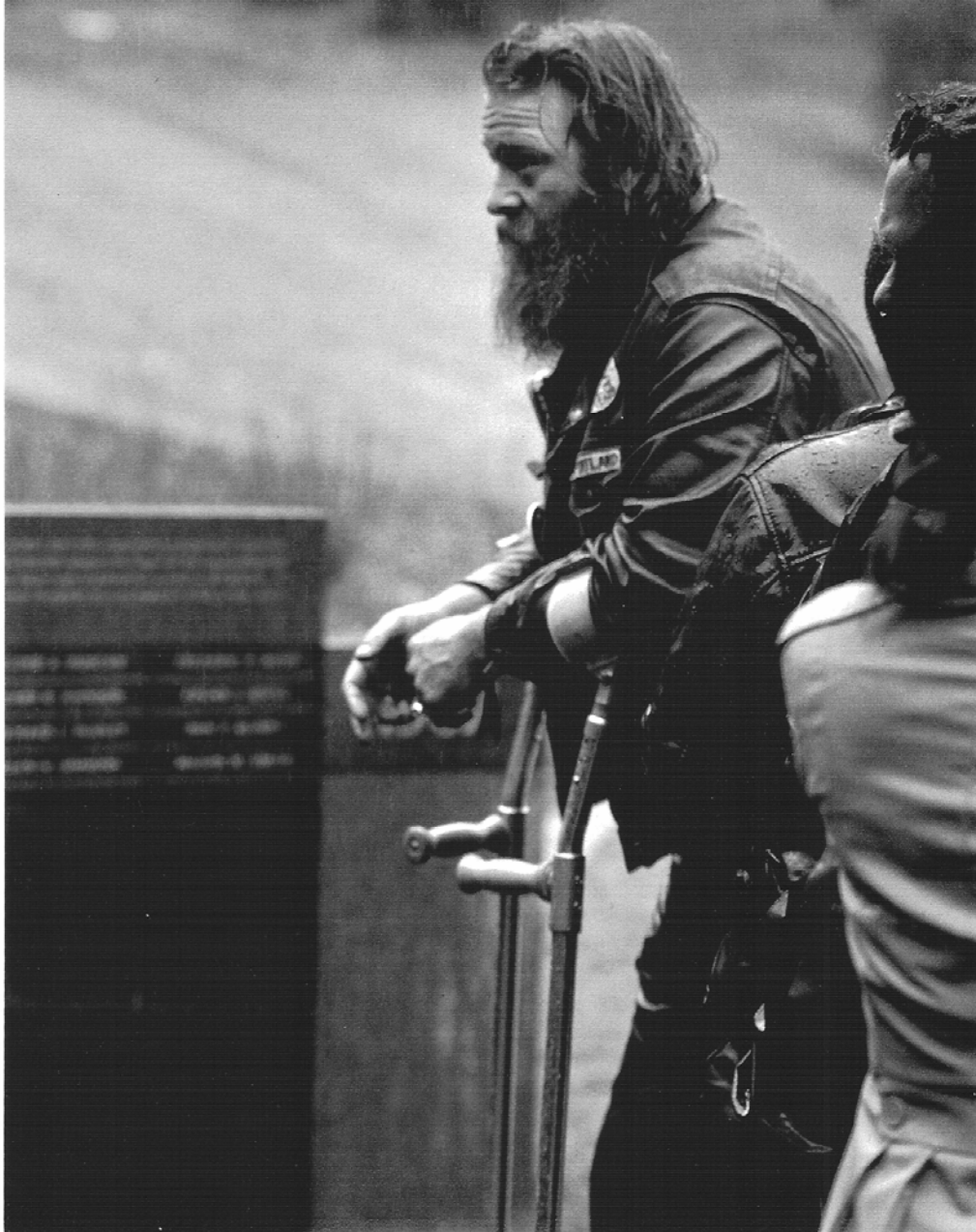
Specialist Seyford was shot in the shoulder. He believes the bullet that went through him also killed his commanding officer.

**"I have a big gunshot wound to the left shoulder. So I'm getting it cleaned every other day or so. They don't know how they're going to heal it up just yet,"** Joe said over the phone from an Army hospital in Lundstuhl, Germany.

He also described a first-hand account of the battlefield in Fallujah.

**"It's not like the movies," Joe began. "It's worse than the movies. There's booms, bangs and bullets everywhere at all times of the day."**

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Picture of Vietnam Veteran at Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Portland.

**"The only thing worse than death, is betrayal." Malcolm X**

***For a number of veterans, the feeling of having been disowned by their county was the greatest and most profound insult, causing deep wounds in the self-as-a-whole. Most felt they had given up their innocence, their physical; mental; and spiritual wholeness, for no meaningful reason. And to have to defend themselves for responding to America's call to protect its democratic values and ideals, compounded the hurt. Few can comprehend***

*and cope psychologically with such rejection and violence to their pride and humanity. It is thus not very difficult to understand why it has been extraordinarily taxing for these men and women to regain their psychological and social equilibrium.*

*Joel O. Brende M.D.  
Erwin R Parson Ph.D.  
Vietnam Veterans  
The Road to Recovery*

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](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) for more examples of his outstanding work. T)

## **"When You Get Hurt, You Don't Come Home With Anything" Wounded Soldier Begs For Charity**

**"When you get hurt, you don't come home with anything," Kelly told the students. "You guys are putting clothes in the hands of these soldiers."**

**[Billions for Bush buddies at Halliburton, and all the other war profiteers, and a soldier with a missing leg has to go around begging for scraps for wounded troops!**

**[This one story sums up everything twisted, sick and disgusting about this government of, by, and for corporate interests, who don't give a fuck about the troops and never have. The real enemy is running the government in Washington DC, not the Iraqis fighting for their independence from Bush & Co. Time to bring the troops and the weapons home, where they can be put to some useful purpose.]**

When the students walked into the cafeteria, they saw a young man in an Army uniform nervously clutching a microphone as he stood on stage.

Then he said hello, told the kids about himself, and raised his right pants leg to reveal his "robot" foot.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly, a 24-year-old from Texas, had their full attention.

Kelly, who lost part of his right leg while serving in Iraq, spent Monday morning with students of Zuni Hills Elementary School in the Peoria Unified School District.

**His mission was to talk to the kids about his experiences in Iraq and collect a check for \$6,100 from the students for the Wounded Warrior Project, a national initiative created to help wounded service members adjust to life as civilians.**

***To raise money for the project, the students did what they could: broke piggy banks, took tooth-fairy dollars, and donated money awarded them for good grades.***

"These kids did a great job," said Krissy Pirehpour, whose fourth-grade class spearheaded the school's fund drive. "This is wonderful."

**The project gives the soldiers a backpack filled with items ranging from a CD player to a toothbrush and is a symbol for what Kelly said was the emotional support organizers are trying to provide. [What it's a symbol of is everything that's rotten about this Imperial government.]**

**"When you get hurt, you don't come home with anything," Kelly told the students. "You guys are putting clothes in the hands of these soldiers."**

## **Iraq War Topping \$5.8 Billion A Month**

November 18, 2004 United Press International

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon is spending more than \$5.8 billion a month on the war in Iraq, according to the military's top generals.

That is nearly a 50 percent increase above the \$4 billion-a-month benchmark the Pentagon has used to estimate the cost of the war so far.

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## **Husband Of Greenback Woman Wounded By Mortar Fire**

2004-11-19 by Thomas Fraser, The Daily Times Staff

The husband of a Greenback woman was seriously wounded in Iraq Friday when a mortar barrage struck his residential trailer in Camp Victory in Baghdad.

Tellico Plains native Spc. Toney Strickland, of the Headquarters and Headquarters Command of the III Corps of the U.S. Army, was among five people injured when two mortar rounds struck their living quarters, said his wife, Melissa Strickland.

**After the first detonation, Strickland re-entered the trailer to remove wounded comrades, said his wife, and a second mortar round hit the trailer. He suffered**

**injuries that included multiple fractures, a collapsed lung and shrapnel wounds, and underwent surgery immediately after the attack.**

A second surgery followed at a military hospital in Germany, and a third round of surgery is planned upon his return to Fort Hood, Texas, the home base of the III Corps.

Melissa Strickland, a 1988 graduate of Greenback High School, was on her way to Fort Hood Thursday to be with her husband of three years. To make the trip, financed by the Sweetwater Veterans of Foreign Wars, she had to forego the final exams necessary for her Dec. 9 graduation from the University of Tennessee with a master's degree.

“I just wanted to go and be with my husband,” she said. “He's priority over everything.”

The couple have four children, Dustin, Toney II, Amber and Hannah.

Prior to enlistment in the U.S. Army, Toney Strickland served eight years in the Tennessee Army National Guard and was stationed at the armory on West Lamar Alexander Parkway in Maryville. **He was deployed to Iraq about eight months ago, his wife said. She and the children have seen him only twice in the past year.**

She spoke to her 33-year-old husband via satellite phone when informed of his injuries Saturday.

“He just wanted to tell me he loved me, and he said he couldn't talk, but he wanted me to know before everyone started calling me.

“I'm blessed he's still here. I've been blessed in so many ways,” said Melissa, the director of the Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

She said her husband is a tough man, and she is confident of his full recovery. “I never lost faith one time,” she said. “I'm very confident he's going to be OK. “I'm going to bring him home next week.”

Appropriately enough, she noted, his homecoming will be Thanksgiving Day. The husband and wife expect to return to McGhee Tyson Airport at 10 p.m. “He had angels all over him. That's the only reason he's alive,” said Brenda LeQuire, Melissa Strickland's mother.

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## **On Capitol Hill, Military Warns Of Being Under Strain**

[Los Angeles Times, November 18, 2004]

**Fighting in Iraq is stretching U.S. forces nearly to the breaking point. [Wow! There's some real news!]**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# Occupation Cops Blown Up In Baghdad; Five Dead

20th November, 2004 Big News Network & AP

**At least five Iraqi police were killed Friday by a suicide car bombing in Baghdad.**

Police say a bomber rammed a Mercedes through a checkpoint in the eastern Zayouna neighborhood and exploded the vehicle, killing at least five officers and wounding four officers and six civilians, CNN reported.

Witnesses said the suicide car bomber drove into two police cars before setting off the blast.

Smashed window glass and debris were strewn over the asphalt as dozens of policemen from a nearby station gathered around the charred carcass of the car.

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## Resistance Takes Haditha

November 19, 2004 The Associated Press, By Maggie Michael

**In Haditha, northwest of Fallujah, militants blew up the mayor's office and the police command center with four thunderous explosions. Leaflets distributed by insurgents warned anyone who "wears a police uniform or reports to a police station will be killed."**

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## Attack On Diyala Occupation Gov. Kills Four Bodyguards

November 19, 2004 The Associated Press, By Maggie Michael

The governor of Diyala province northeast of Baghdad escaped assassination when a bomb exploded near his convoy, injuring four bodyguards.

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## Resistance In Maysan Poses Problems For British Troops

[Los Angeles Times, November 18, 2004, Pg. 1]



Iraq's Maysan province is largely a Shiite Muslim-dominated region, which should make it amenable to Baghdad's eventually rule of Iraq. Not so. The locals there resent outsiders and contend that they can rule themselves, without Baghdad's help. **[Imagine that. They just don't see how living under a U.S. occupation dictatorship can be soooo good for you.]**

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

Now it is not good for the Christian's health  
to hustle the area in brown  
for the Christian riles and the Aryan smiles  
and it weareth the Christian down.

And the end of the fight  
is a tombstone white  
with the name of the late deceased --  
and the epitaph drear:  
"A fool lies here  
who tried to hustle the East!"

-Rudyard Kipling

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## **Blind, Deaf & Stupid In The Pentagon Bunker**

19 November, 2004 By Lin Noueihed (Reuters)

**"They have been saying that Falluja is the source of and therefore the solution to their problems. The violence in Mosul has shown that to be a crassly stupid thing to say,"** said Toby Dodge, an Iraq analyst at Queen Mary University of London.

**"Insurgency is a national phenomenon fuelled by alienation. I don't think this war is winnable because they have alienated the base of support across Iraqi society."**

**A U.S. unit that was deployed from Mosul to Falluja for the assault has already been rushed back.**

Persistent violence in Samarra, which Iraqi officials said was pacified in an October offensive, has shown **a large part of the insurgency is fuelled by homegrown opposition to the U.S. military presence in Iraq.**

"The victory in Falluja has highlighted the bankruptcy of the military strategy," Dodge said.

"The fight against insurgency is 90 percent political and no one in the Pentagon is listening."

## ***Notes From A Lost War:***

# **Running On Empty: Not Enough Troops To Go Around**

November 19, 2004 **Christian Science Monitor**

**The U.S. cannot substantially increase ground forces in Iraq for the long term without accepting risk in other parts of the world or making Iraq tours longer or closer together - a step sure to lower morale.**

"I'm committed to providing the troops that are requested, but I can't promise more than I've got," the Army chief of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, told a Congressional hearing Wednesday in which military service chiefs detailed soaring demands on manpower and equipment.

"The demand on the force has increased exponentially," the Marine Corps commandant, Gen. Michael Hagee, told the House Armed Services Committee, saying Marines now spend about twice as much time deployed as two years ago.

**To ensure that recaptured cities such as Fallujah and Samarra do not fall back under insurgent control, U.S. commanders are having to commit additional forces to maintaining a presence there, both with U.S. troops and non-local Iraqi forces such as Iraqi National Guard (ING) units from outside areas.**

**Indeed, in recent weeks U.S. commanders have pushed thousands of additional soldiers and Marines into trouble spots in the Sunni triangle such as Fallujah, Samarra, Ramadi, and most recently the northern city of Mosul.**

**Samarra, for example, had no coalition presence prior to a major offensive in October to root out some 400 insurgents, but now 500 U.S. troops and 500 Iraqi forces are stationed there. Even then, insurgent attacks killed 17 Iraqi police in the city on Nov. 6, as *daily strikes in the region tripled.***

In Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province, the U.S. military doubled its forces recently from one to two battalions, and in recent days has engaged in heavy clashes with insurgents including some who fled from nearby Fallujah.

***U.S. Marine commanders say they "control" Ramadi, a city of 450,000 people, but have not "cleared" it of insurgents.*** The increase in troops was needed in part because local Iraqi police and Iraqi National Guard (ING) units were ineffective, if not complicit with insurgents.

**"Many ING and IP posts, compounds, and facilities have been blown up or handed over to the insurgents with nary a shot being fired," says a senior official of the 1st Marine Division, which oversees Anbar Province.**

## **“A Wrecked Nation, A Desert, A Ghost Town. And This Will Be Called Victory.”**

November 17, 2004 Simon Jenkins, The Times and The Sunday Times

**Nothing in Iraq has so illumined the folly of this occupation as the now completed suppression of Fallujah. When Napoleon entered Moscow in 1812 after the Battle of Borodino, he was mystified. He too found a city emptied of people. He found buildings aflame on all sides. There was no enemy to admit defeat and no one to supply his troops. The Muscovites had simply melted away, taking their food and their pride with them. Napoleon had conquered not an empire but a desert, and that desert eventually consumed his army and forced its retreat.**

The assault on Fallujah was billed as the defining battle of the war. The conquest would make possible the January elections, talisman of the entire occupation. This city of 250,000 people, less than an hour west of Baghdad on the main Jordan road, was a base for terror attacks throughout the Sunni triangle. Without Fallujah under control, it was argued, elections would be hopeless.

Yet hopeless too must be the holding of Fallujah.

**Such cities cannot be subjugated by American troops for any period of time.** The new Iraq Army, virtually useless in the assault, cannot take their place. They would desert en masse, as 400 reportedly did during the siege. The only Iraqi troops prepared to fight the Sunnis are their sworn enemies, the Kurdish peshmerga irregulars. To leave them garrisoning Fallujah would be madness. As for the repopulation of the city — from which 90 per cent of citizens are said to have fled — this will bring back the guerrillas and put the Americans under renewed attack.

**The Russian general, Kutusov, called Moscow “the sponge that will suck Napoleon dry”.** Sunni Iraq is taking on the same function for the Americans. The insurgency has now spread west, north and east, to Ramadi, Mosul and Samarra.

Guerrillas supposedly driven from Samarra in a furious battle just two months ago are now back. Aerial bombardment was this week deployed against the small town of Baquba just north of Baghdad, with inevitable civilian casualties. How long before the battle for Baghdad resumes, and its inhabitants again hear the drone of spy planes and the roar of "shock and awe"?

When I visited Fallujah a year ago Westerners could walk in the market and talk to the shopkeepers. An election was not inconceivable, though the local police had been curiously denied weapons or armour.

Today Sunni Iraq is a no-go area for Westerners. The main party has said it will abandon the democratic process. The Mujahidin may have been driven out of Fallujah, but the place is a ghost town and the cost has been appalling, to the Marines, to the town and to local people. Peace, stability and democracy seem as distant as ever. **Forget the invasion. It is the occupation that has failed.**

**No statement about Iraq is more absurd than that "we must stay to finish the job". What job? A dozen more Fallujahs?**

The thesis that leaving Iraq would plunge it into anarchy and warlordism defies the facts on the ground. Iraq south of Kurdistan is in a state of anarchy already, a land of suicide bombings, kidnapping, hijackings and gangland mayhem. There is no law or order, no public administration or police or proper banking. Its streets are Wild West.

**The occupying force is entombed in bases it can barely defend or supply. Occasional patrols are target practice for terrorists. Iraq is a desert in which the Americans and British rule nothing but their forts, like the French Foreign Legion in the Sahara.**

Nobody knows what is going to happen in Iraq, certainly nobody in any government. We can only pray that George Bush will soon tire of the killing and withdraw his troops before his final term of office is blighted by it. Britain can follow meekly in his wake.

Before then the Americans will again have to declare a victory in Fallujah and get out. Otherwise the bloodshed will never stop. Fallujah and the towns round it will be centres of hatred and violence against the West until the West departs. Of course most Iraqis want democracy, like they want security. In 18 months of occupation the West has given them neither. **Insofar as anyone can tell, all but those in the pay of the West want the West to go.**

**The aftermath is not our concern. What Iraqis do next is their business, because we have failed in trying to make it ours.** We are not the subject of the Iraqi verb. The subject is they.

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

# A Guide To U.S. Media Doublespeak

November 19, 2004 By Anthony Arnove, Socialist Worker

[http://www.socialistworker.org/2004-2/521/521\\_04\\_MediaGuide.shtml](http://www.socialistworker.org/2004-2/521/521_04_MediaGuide.shtml)

**(ANTHONY ARNOVE, editor of the book *Iraq Under Siege*, provides a guide for decoding the corporate media's doublespeak about the invasion of Falluja.)**

CORPORATE JOURNALISTS in the United States are generally little more than stenographers for U.S. government propaganda. But in times of war--or alleged war--they tend to abandon stenography for cheerleading as their preferred mode of "reporting" the "news."

Rather than independent analysis, journalists compete over who can give the most enthusiastic coverage for the home team. Reporting on the current bloody assault on the Iraqi city of Falluja--absurdly code-named Operation Phantom Fury by the Pentagon--provides a clear illustration. To help readers of *Socialist Worker* decode this coverage, here is a guide to some of the real meanings of the terms dominating the headlines.

-- **Suspected terrorist hideout:** Any home destroyed by U.S. troops.

-- **Terrorists:** Any of the 300,000 people who live in Falluja who are killed or who resist U.S. forces in any way.

-- **Coalition:** The name for the U.S. military when it wants to portray its actions as having the support of other nations--for example, Poland. Poland has 2,500 troops in Iraq, though it has announced it will withdraw them in 2005. But, not to worry. Fiji has sent 170 troops to protect the U.S.-controlled Green Zone in Baghdad.

-- **Rebel propaganda:** Any report of a civilian death or human rights abuse by the "Coalition," even if documented by human rights groups.

-- **Propaganda center:** Hospital. This is the reason why the assault on Falluja began by seizing Falluja General Hospital. "Iraqi troops eagerly kicked the doors in," the *New York Times* reported, "some not waiting for the locks to break. Patients and hospital employees were rushed out of rooms by armed soldiers and ordered to sit or lie on the floor while troops tied their hands behind their backs." Why? Because, military spokesmen explained, the hospital was responsible for "inflated civilian casualty figures."

-- **Preparing for elections:** Brutalizing the population. As Naomi Klein wrote in the *Guardian*, "Escape routes have been sealed off, homes are being demolished, and an emergency health clinic has been razed --all in the name of preparing the city for January elections. In a letter to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi explained that the all-out attack was required 'to safeguard lives, elections and democracy in Iraq.'"

-- **Body count:** An obsolete term as far the U.S. media are concerned. Estimates of the number of Iraqis killed in the assault on Falluja stand at 600, "although U.S. officials say

an accurate figure is hard to obtain because of the use of air strikes and other heavy ordnance.”

-- **Terror Town:** Used originally to refer to Falluja, by the *New York Post*. But can be used to describe any city in Iraq with more than 200 people. In the week of the Falluja assault, the *Financial Times* notes, “guerrillas have struck in virtually every big city in central Iraq, including Mosul, Ramadi, Samarra, Tikrit, Baaqouba, Bayji and Baghdad.”

-- **Iraqi security forces:** Iraqis who will be left to do the dirty work once U.S. troops withdraw from their assault.

-- **“Mission accomplished”:** The operation in Falluja has been “very successful,” with “hundreds and hundreds” of insurgents killed or captured, according to chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers. But, he added, “If anybody thinks that Falluja is going to be the end of the insurgency in Iraq, that was never the objective, never our intention, and even never our hope.”

**[Here’s a few more:**

**[“RESTIVE”:** As in “the restive Sunni town of Ramadi,” “the restive town of Mosul’ etc. etc. This adjective is used when the place named, usually in fact a city of 100,000 or more, is taken by the resistance. Contrary to the literal meaning, few buildings or other structures are shaking, moving about, or unable to sleep at night. The word is used since using the term “liberated city of Ramadi,” “liberated city of Mosul,” etc. would give the editor a heart attack.

**[“KIDNAPPED”:** This word is used to deny that a war of national liberation is being fought, and that the resistance are in fact fighting a war. For instance, when a group of 20 or 30 of the collaborator cops or guards are taken, they are never “captured”. They are always “kidnapped.” Resistance fighters, however, are never kidnapped or captured; they are always “detained” or “arrested.”

**[“GUNMEN”:** This term is used less frequently, by reporters with an IQ under 20. For example, “gunmen today looted five police stations in Baquaba.”

**[The problem is that resistance troops include women and teen-agers.**

**[Obviously, the idiot reporter can’t send in copy that says “gunmen and gunwomen today looted five police stations.” But using a more accurate term, “gunpersons” is simply too silly. As would be “a group of gunadults and gunkids today looted five police stations”.**

**[This term is found most often in articles by reporters who spent too long covering the resistance movement in Northern Ireland, and never got over it.**

**[“LOOTED” “STOLE”:** Example: “At least seven police stations were overrun and looted of their weapons, radios, uniforms and vehicles, before being set ablaze.” **Since the idiots among the press reporters have no ability to understand what Iraq is about, once again they use terms borrowed from police reporting and apply them in a war setting. The resistance never captures weapons; they “loot” a police station and “steal” police vehicles, guns and ammunition, as if the Iraqis fighting**

the occupation are a local branch of some New Jersey or Pentagon crime family. The occupation, however, never loots or steals, just "recovers" weapons, or finds "hidden stores" of them. T]

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.

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# SPECIAL TODAY; TRIP TO BAGHDAD AIRPORT ONLY \$5,108

19 November, 2004 BBC

**A 15-mile stretch between Baghdad airport and the city centre is said to be the world's most expensive taxi ride.**

**Small convoys of armoured cars and Western gunmen charge about \$5,108 for the perilous journey.**

The route, known as the Qadisiyah Expressway, has become the scene of regular attacks and kidnappings by insurgents.

The high-speed drive costs four times more than the £670 Royal Jordanian charges for a one-way flight from London to Baghdad via Amman. **It equates to about £183 a mile compared to £4 a mile for the 2,540-mile flight on the only commercial airline flying to Baghdad.** It offers two daily 90-minute flights, although times are subject to changes and cancellations, depending on whether the airport is under mortar attack.

A few thousand pounds will afford you two cars and four Western ex-military bodyguards, usually American, South African or British, packing MP5 submachine guns, M16 rifles and/or AK47 assault rifles.

**The client rides in one vehicle at speeds averaging 100 mph, while the other, called the "gun car", travels close-by, looking out for potential assailants.**

Since the beginning of the resistance, this vital route has come under attack from car bombs, suicide attacks, snipers and rocket-propelled grenades.

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## **Occupation Fucking With Sadr Again; Fools Never Learn**

11.19.04 By Dogen Hannah, CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Thursday, a spokesman for a militant Shiite Muslim faction loyal to rebel cleric Muqtada Sadr said Iraqi police arrested his group's representative in Najaf, Hashim Abu Raghif.

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### **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **BUSH FILLS REMAINING CABINET POSTS WITH SELF Introduces Self Seven Times In White House Ceremony**

November 17, 2004 The Borowitz Report

Breaking with time-honored tradition, President George W. Bush announced today that he would fill all remaining Cabinet positions for his second term with himself.

Aides to the president said that the goal of appointing himself to the seven vacant positions was to achieve greater harmony within his Cabinet, and also to limit the number of people who could possibly write tell-all memoirs at a later date.

In addition to serving as president, Mr. Bush will now occupy many other senior positions in his administration including Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Labor, and Postmaster General.

The president chose himself to head every available Cabinet-level department with the exception of the Environment Protection Agency, a job that the president said "was for losers."

In his historic announcement at the White House, Mr. Bush introduced himself seven times to reporters and said that in his first official act as Treasury Secretary he would change the motto on U.S. coins and currency from "E Pluribus Unum" to "My Way or the Highway."



Dr. Edwin Kragen, a professor of political science at the University of Minnesota, said that the president's decision to hire himself seven times may turn out to be his boldest stroke to date. "While he may not get the diversity of opinion one wants at Cabinet meetings, on the positive side, he won't need as many chairs and glasses of water," Dr. Kragen said.

Elsewhere, at the New York Stock Exchange yesterday Vice President Dick Cheney rose eight dollars a share in active trading.

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## **CLASS WAR NEWS**

# **Thousands Protest Terrorist Bush Before Chile Summit**

Nov 19, 2004 AP

SANTIAGO, Chile - Riot police used water cannons and tear gas Friday to break up a demonstration by hundreds of rock-throwing protesters before more than 20,000 people marched to vent their anger at Pacific Rim leaders, particularly President Bush.

Much of the rage was aimed at Bush and the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

**Marchers held up posters saying: "Bush, you stink," and "Terrorist Bush." Some chanted: "Bush, listen: Chile is not for sale!" and "Bush, fascist, thief, murderer!" Some also expressed sympathy with the Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah. One banner read: "Sorry Fallujah! Stupid Americans, Your Turn Will Come."**

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### **Received:**

## **America's Military Today: The Challenge of Militarism**

*by Tod Ensign*

### **Synopsis:**

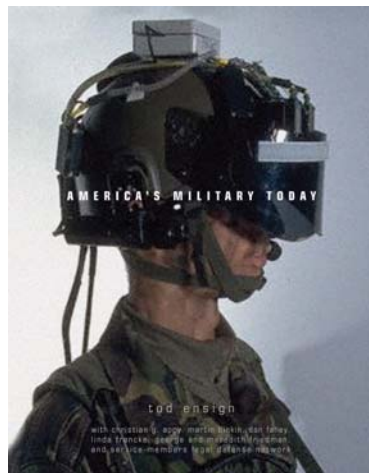
**"I can say from personal experience in Iraq that our commanders often make soldiers carry out orders that have nothing to do with reconstruction efforts or peacekeeping. Their clear purpose is to instigate firefights so that officers can get their combat experience, medals, and the glory they need to climb the military**

**ladder.” — Sgt. Camilo Mejia, an activated Army reservist from the Florida National Guard.**

America's Military Today provides an eye-opening survey of the way the modern US armed forces enlist, train, and deploy their all-volunteer force.

Long-standing soldiers' rights attorney **Tod Ensign** and other examine key issues including:

- \* The techniques used by the Pentagon to recruit and train a required 200,000 volunteers each year
- \* The controversial arguments being advanced for a return to the draft
- \* The military's reputation as an exemplar in the promotion of racial minorities and the ongoing challenge of gender discrimination within its ranks, a problem highlighted by recent cover-ups of widespread rapes of women Air Force Academy cadets
- \* The appropriate role of the armed forces in policing America and the future shape of war fighting, particularly the continued relevance of the ordinary foot soldier
- \* **The book also includes a selection of astonishing testimony from soldiers on active duty in Iraq providing a harrowing picture of daily life at the sharp end of the armed services**

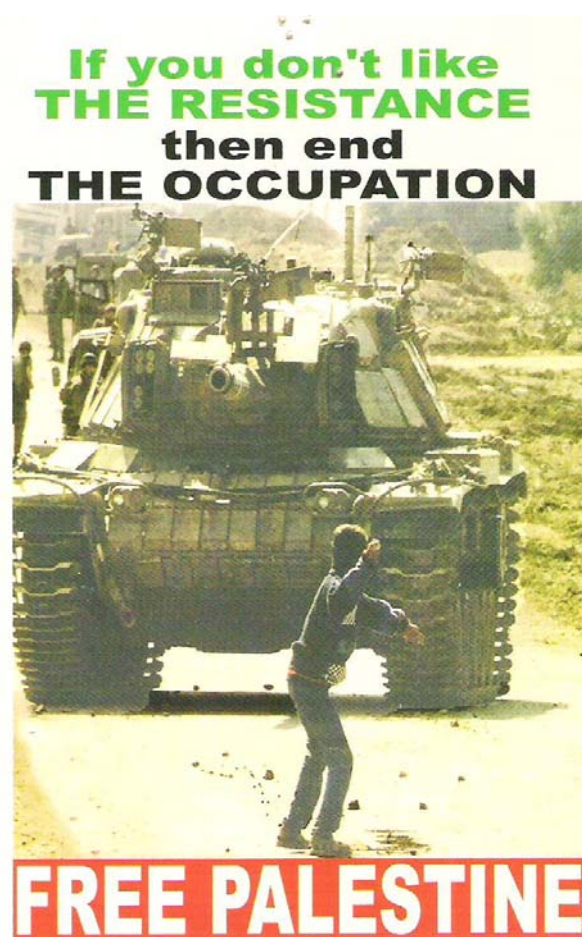


Contributors: Christian G. Appy, Martin Binkin, Dan Fahey, Linda Francke, George and Meredith Friedman, Charles Sheehan-Miles, and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. 448 pages

For anyone interested in purchasing the book, here is the hyperlink:  
<http://www.wwnorton.com/orders/np/084883.htm>

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# OCCUPATION PALESTINE



[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org). The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

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[www.williambowles.info/qispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial)

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