

GI SPECIAL 2#C27

**UNWELCOME
VASTLY OUTNUMBERED
AND THEY'RE NOT AFRAID:
TIME TO GET OUT AND COME HOME;
IT'S THEIR COUNTRY**



A U.S. soldier walks backwards as a group of Iraqis advance chanting anti-government and anti-US slogans in downtown Baghdad Nov. 20. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

Holiday In Falluja

“Since all these traits are the conventional power’s unavoidable mistakes, the guerrilla campaign will surely succeed.

“In Iraq’s case, complete destruction of the United States military is impossible, but through perseverance the insurgency will drive us out. This will prove to be the inevitable outcome of the war.” [Soldier, Iraq]

From: [Soldier, Iraq]

To: GI Special

Sent: Friday, November 19, 2004 2:03 PM

These are ugly times for the US military in Iraq. It seems everywhere you turn, more and more troops are being killed and maimed in vicious encounters with determined rebel fighters.

The insurgency is mounting incredibly in such places as Baghdad, Mosul, and Baquba; using more advanced techniques and weaponry associated with a well-organized guerilla campaign. Even in the massively destroyed city of Falluja rebel forces are starting to reappear with a callous determination to win or die trying. Many critics and political pundits are starting to realize that this war is, in many aspects, un-winnable.

And why should anyone think that a complete victory is possible? Conventionally, our US forces win territory here or there, killing a plethora of civilians as well as insurgents with each new boundary conquered. However, such as the recent case in Falluja, the rebel fighters have returned like a swarm of angry hornets attacking with a vicious frenzy.

I was in Falluja during the last two days of the final assault.

My mission was much different from that of the brave and weary infantry and marines involved in the major fighting.

I was on an escort mission, accompanied by a squad whose task it was to protect a high brass figure in the combat zone.

This particularly arrogant officer went to the last battle in the same spirits of an impartial spectator checking out the fourth quarter of a high school football game.

Once we got to the marine occupied Camp Falluja and saw artillery being fired into town, the man suddenly became desperate to play an active role in the battle that would render Falluja to ashes. It was already rumored that all he really wanted was his trigger time, perhaps to prove that he is the toughest cowboy west of the Euphrates.

Guys like him are a dime a dozen in the army: a career soldier who spent the first twenty years of his service patrolling the Berlin Wall or guarding the DMZ between North and South Korea. This sort of brass may have been lucky to serve in the first Gulf War, but in all actuality spent very little time shooting rag heads.

For these trigger-happy tough guys, the last two decades of cold war hostilities built into a war frenzy of stark emptiness, fizzling out almost completely with the Clinton administration.

But this is the New War, a never ending, action packed “Red Scare” in which the communist threat of yesteryear was simply replaced with the white knuckled tension of today’s “War on Terrorism”.

The younger soldiers who grew up in relatively peaceful times interpret the mentality of the careerists as one of making up for lost opportunities. To the elder generation of trigger pullers, this is the real deal; the chance to use all the cool toys and high speed training that has been stored away since the '70s for something tangibly useful...and its about goddamn time.

However, upon reaching the front lines, a safety standard was in effect stating that the urban combat was extremely intense. The lightest armored vehicles allowed in sector were Bradley tanks.

Taking a glance at our armored humvees, this commander insisted that our section would be fine. Even though the armored humvees are very stout and nearly impenetrable against small arm fire, they usually don't hold up well against rocket attacks and roadside bombs like a heavily armored tank will. The reports from within the war zone indicated heavy rocket attacks, with an armed insurgent waiting on every corner for a soft target such as trucks.

In the end, the overzealous officer was urged not to infiltrate into sector with only three trucks, for it would be a death wish during those dangerous twilight hours. It was suggested that in the morning, after the air strikes were complete, he could move in and "inspect the damage".

Even as the sun was setting over the hazy orange horizon, artillery was pounding away at the remaining twelve percent of the already devastated Falluja.

Many units were pulled out for the evening in preparation of a full-scale air strike that was scheduled to last for up to twelve hours.

Our squad was sitting on top of our parked humvees, manning the crew served machine guns and scanning the urban landscape for enemy activity. This was supposed to be a secured forward operating area, right on the edge of the combat zone. However, with no barbed wire perimeter set up and only a few scattered tanks serving as protection, one was under the assumption that if someone missed a minor detail while on guard, some serious shit could go down.

One soldier informed me that only two nights prior an insurgent was caught sneaking around the bullet-ridden houses to our immediate west. He was armed with a rocket-propelled grenade, and was laying low on his advance towards the perimeter. One of the tanks spotted him through its night vision and hastily shot him into three pieces. Indeed, though it was safe enough to smoke a cigarette and relax, one had to remain diligently aware of his surroundings if he planned on making it through the night.

As the evening wore on and the artillery continued, a new gruesome roar filled the sky.

The fighter jets were right on time and made their grand appearance with a series of massive air strikes. Between the pernicious bombs and fierce artillery, the sky seemed as though it were on fire for several minutes at a time. First you would see a blaze of light in the horizon, like lightning hitting a dynamite warehouse, and then hear the massive explosion that would turn your stomach, rattle your eyeballs, and compress itself deep within your lungs. Although these massive bombs were being dropped no further than five kilometers away, it felt like it was happening right in front of your face.

At first, it was impossible not to flinch with each unexpected boom, but after scores of intense explosions, your senses became aware and complacent towards them.

At times the jets would scream menacingly low over the city and open fire with smaller missiles meant for extreme accuracy. This is what Top Gun, in all its glory and silver screen acclaim, seemed to be lacking in the movie's high budget sound effects.

These air-deployed missiles make a banshee-like squeal, sort of like a bottle rocket fueled with plutonium, and then suddenly would become inaudible. Seconds later, the colossal explosion would rip the sky open and hammer devastatingly into the ground, sending flames and debris pummeling into the air. And as always, the artillery—some rounds were high explosive, some were illumination rounds, some were reported as being white phosphorus (the modern day napalm).

Occasionally, on the outskirts of the isolated impact area, you could hear tanks firing machine guns and blazing their cannons. It was amazing that anything could survive this deadly onslaught. Suddenly a transmission came over the radio approving the request for “bunker-busters”. Apparently, there were a handful of insurgent compounds that were impenetrable by artillery. At the time, I was unaware when these bunker-busters were deployed, but I was told later that the incredibly massive explosions were a direct result of these “final solution” type missiles.

I continued to watch the final assault on Falluja throughout the night from atop my humvee.

It was interesting to scan the vast skies above with night vision goggles. Circling continuously overhead throughout the battle was an array of attack helicopters. The most devastating were the Cobras and Apaches with their chain gun missile launchers.

Through the night vision I could see them hovering around the carnage, scanning the ground with an infrared spotlight that seemed to reach for miles. Once a target was identified, a rapid series of hollow blasts would echo through the skies, and from the ground came a “rat-a-tatting” of explosions, like a daisy chain of supercharged black cats during a Fourth of July barbeque. More artillery, more tanks, more machine gun fire, ominous death-dealing fighter planes terminating whole city blocks at a time...this wasn't a war, it was a massacre!

As I look back on the air strikes that lasted well into the next morning, I cannot help but to be both amazed by our modern technology and disgusted by its means.

It occurred to me many times during the siege that while the Falluja resistance was boldly fighting us with archaic weapons from the Cold War, we were soaring far above their heads dropping Thor's fury with a destructive power and precision that may as well been nuclear. It was like the Iraqis were bringing a knife to a tank fight.

And yet, the resistance toiled on, many fighting until their deaths.

What determination!

Some soldiers call them stupid for even thinking they have a chance in hell to defeat the strongest military in the world, but I call them brave.

It's not about fighting to win an immediate victory. And what is a conventional victory in a non-conventional war?

It seems overwhelmingly obvious that this is no longer within the United States hands.

We reduced Falluja to rubble. We claimed victory and told the world we held Falluja under total and complete control. Our military claimed very little civilian casualties and listed thousands of insurgents dead.

CNN and Fox News harped and cheered on the television that the Battle of Falluja would go down in history as a complete success, and a testament to the United States' supremacy on the modern battlefield.

However, after the dust settled and generals sat in cozy offices smoking their victory cigars, the front lines in Falluja exploded again with indomitable mortar, rocket, and small arm attacks on US and coalition forces.

Recent reports indicate that many insurgents have resurfaced in the devastated city of Falluja. We had already claimed the situation under control, and were starting to turn our attention to the other problem city of Mosul. Suddenly we were backtracking our attention to Falluja.

Did the Department of Defense and the national press lie to the public and claim another preemptive victory?

Not necessarily so. Conventionally we won the battle, how could anyone argue that? We destroyed an entire city and killed thousands of its occupants. **But the main issue that both the military and public forget to analyze is that this war, beyond any shadow of a doubt, is completely guerrilla.**

Sometimes I wonder if the West Point graduated officers have ever studied the intricate simplicity and effectiveness of guerrilla warfare.

During the course of this war, I have occasionally asked a random lieutenant or a captain if he at any time has even browsed through Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare*. Almost half of them admit that they have not. This I find to be amazing! Here we have many years of guerrilla warfare ahead of us and our military's leadership seems dangerously unaware of what it all means!

Anyone can tell you that a guerrilla fighter is one who uses hit and run techniques to attempt a breakdown of a stronger conventional force.

However, what is more important to a guerrilla campaign are the political forces that drive it. Throughout history, many guerrilla armies have been successful; our own country and its fight for independence cannot be excluded.

We should have learned a lesson in guerrilla fighting with the Vietnam War only thirty years ago, but history has a funny way of repeating itself. The Vietnam War was a perfect example of how quick, deadly assaults on conventional troops over a long period of time can lead to an unpopular public view of the war, thus ending it.

Che Guevara stressed in his book *Guerrilla Warfare* that the most important factor in a guerrilla campaign is popular support. With that, victory is almost completely assured.

The Iraqis already have many of the main ingredients of a successful insurrection. Not only do they have a seemingly endless supply of munitions and weapons, they have the advantage to blend into their environment, whether that environment is a crowded market place or a thickly vegetated palm grove.

The Iraqi insurgent has utilized these advantages to the fullest, but his most important and relevant advantage is the popular support from his own countrymen.

What our military and government needs to realize is that every mistake we make is an advantage to the Iraqi insurrection. Every time an innocent man, woman or child is murdered in a military act, deliberate or not, the insurgent grows stronger.

Even if an innocent civilian is slain at the hands of his/her own freedom fighter, that fighter is still viewed as a warrior of the people, while the occupying force will ultimately be blamed as the responsible perpetrator.

Everything about this war is political...every ambush, every bombing, every death. When a coalition worker or soldier is abducted and executed, this only adds encouragement and justice to the dissident fervor of the Iraq public, while angering and demoralizing the occupier.

Our own media will prove to be our downfall as well. Every time an atrocity is revealed through our news outlets, our grasp on this once secular nation slips away. **As America grows increasingly disturbed by the images of carnage and violent death of her own sons in arms, its government loses the justification to continue the bloody debacle.**

Since all these traits are the conventional power's unavoidable mistakes, the guerrilla campaign will surely succeed.

In Iraq's case, complete destruction of the United States military is impossible, but through perseverance the insurgency will drive us out. This will prove to be the inevitable outcome of the war.

We lost many soldiers in the final battle for Falluja, and many more were seriously wounded. It seems unfair that even after the devastation we wreaked on this city just to contain it, many more troops will die in vain to keep it that way.

I saw the look in the eyes of a reconnaissance scout while I talked to him after the battle. His stories of gore and violent death were unnerving. The sacrifices that he and his whole platoon had made were infinite. They fought everyday with little or no sleep, very few breaks, and no hot meals.

For obvious reasons, they never could manage to find time to email their mothers to let them know that everything turned out ok.

Some of the members of his platoon will never get the chance to reassure their mothers, because now those soldiers are dead.

The look in his eyes as he told some of the stories were deep and weary, even perturbed. He described in accurate detail how some enemy combatants were blown to pieces by army issued bazookas, some had their heads shot off by a 50 caliber bullet, others were run over by tanks as they stood defiantly in the narrow streets firing an AK-47.

The soldier told me how one of his favorite sergeants died right in front of him. He was taking cover behind an alley wall and as he emerged to fire his M4 rifle, he was shot through the abdomen with a rocket-propelled grenade.

The grenade itself exploded and sent shrapnel into the narrator's leg. He showed me where a chunk of burned flesh was torn from his left thigh.

He ended his conversation saying that he was just a dumb kid from California who never thought joining the army would send him straight to hell. He told me he was tired as fuck and wanted a shower. Then he slowly walked away, cradling a rifle under his arm.

hEkLe

Falluja, Iraq

p.s. -pass this on to all your friends, especially your republican friends. thanx.

BRING THEM HOME NOW!



WWW.BRINGTHEMHOME NOW.ORG

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

BETRAYAL

THIS PHOTO IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO EVERYBODY OUT THERE WHO SPENT THE LAST 4 MONTHS CAMPAIGNING FOR THIS OR THAT ASSHOLE CANDIDATE WHO OPPOSED BRINGING THIS MAN AND ALL THE OTHER TROOPS HOME NOW, INSTEAD OF PUTTING IN YOUR TIME BUILDING THE MOVEMENT ON THE GROUND AND IN THE ARMED FORCES THAT CAN STOP THE WAR AND GET HIM HOME ALIVE.



U.S. Marine at checkpoint under mortar attack in Falluja, November 18, 2004.
REUTERS /Thaier Al-Sudani

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.

TWO MARINES KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED IN FALLUJA FIGHTING

11.20.04 AP & By EDWARD WONG, New York Times

Fighting raged in the rubble of Falluja, a city largely decimated by American troops during a week-long offensive.

Two Marines were killed and four wounded in a guerilla ambush, military officials said. Guerillas still roam the devastated streets, sniping at American troops and scaring away military engineers brought in to try to reconstruct the city.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities are concerned about a public backlash against the Fallujah offensive among the minority Sunni community, especially as word spreads of the widespread devastation there.

Attack On Baghdad Convoy Kills One U.S. Soldier, Nine Wounded

11.20.04 AP & By EDWARD WONG, New York Times

One American soldier was killed and nine were wounded in an ambush on an American military convoy in central Baghdad, the military said.

Nine others were wounded in what appeared to be a highly coordinated attack, with insurgents using explosives, automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

U.S. Military Vehicles Burns In Baghdad With Body Inside: Anti-Iraqi Cops Attacked, Six Killed As Fighting Spreads Over Capital

20 November, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters) & AlJazeera Publishing Limited & By KATARINA KRATOVAC, AP & United Press International

Another Iraqi journalist Ziad al-Samarrai told Aljazeera that fierce clashes were spreading to other districts of the city including al-Dura.

"Fighters have pushed their way to streets and roads and are using rocket-propelled grenade launchers. US forces responded with artillery fire."

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Guerrillas have attacked Iraqi security forces in Baghdad in daylight.

The widespread clashes in Baghdad -- which broke out early Saturday in at least a half-dozen areas -- and other areas of central and northern Iraq underscored the perilous state of security in this country after 18 months of American military occupation -- and just more than two months before vital national elections.

A dawn assault with rocket-propelled grenades on a police station in the Sunni district of Aadhamiya by a resistance force of 30 killed at least three officers on Saturday and wounded two more -- one day after Iraq's U.S.-backed National Guard raided a mosque revered by the Sunni Muslim minority.

"The Iraqi police is still in control, (but) we are fighting," said Khalid Hassan, police chief at the Azamiyah police station.

Smoke rose from smashed and burning shops along a commercial street and firefighters struggled to put out the blaze. U.S. helicopters circled overhead and ambulances were driving to the scene of the clashes.

U.S. tanks and helicopters helped beat off the insurgents **after a three-hour battle** near the Abu Hanifa mosque, where four worshippers were killed and 17 arrested on Friday.

Thick columns of black smoke rose over the area. Apache helicopters buzzed overhead. Tanks rolled through the streets. **An armoured convoy carried away two wrecked U.S. vehicles.** The police compound was badly damaged and cratered by bullet holes.

Witnesses reported that there was heavy fighting around dawn in al-Adamiyah neighborhood, and that *three U.S. armored vehicles were set on fire.*

Footage by the Associated Press Television News showed a burning U.S. Humvee with what appeared to be the remains of a body in the driver's seat.

An Iraqi journalist in the area, Ziad Badrudin, told Aljazeera that he saw the al-Aadhamiya police station up in flames.

Clashes, the reporter said, had also occurred in Antar Square. Other confrontations occurred in al-Gazaliya, al-Amariya and Haifa Street.
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"Fighters have pushed their way to streets and roads and are using rocket-propelled grenade launchers. US forces responded with artillery fire."

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb exploded as an Iraqi National Guard convoy drove past, destroying one vehicle and killing three Iraqi soldiers, police officials said. The explosion took place around 9:15 a.m. (0615 GMT) Saturday in Al Amiriyah

neighborhood. **Shortly before the attack, there were fierce clashes between Iraqi fighters and U.S. troops and Iraqi National Guards in the same area.**



US soldiers inspect the site where an US Humvee was destroyed by a road side explosive device in Baghdad Saturday Nov. 20, 2004. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

Five Baghdad Soldiers Wounded In Car Bombing

11.20.04 AP & By EDWARD WONG, New York Times

Five U.S. soldiers were injured in a car bombing on the road to Baghdad's airport -- considered by U.S. authorities among the most dangerous routes in the country.

Authorities say the blast also damaged two armored vehicles.

Two Marines Wounded In Khadra

11.20.04 AlJazeera Publishing Limited

In the Khadra neighborhood, two U.S. Marines were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their convoy, said policeman Ali Hussein of the Khadra police station.

Mosul Fighting In Third Day: U.S. Soldier Wounded; Nine Occupation Guards Bodies Found

20 November 2004 Aljazeera.Net & AP

The bodies of nine purported members of the Iraqi National Guard have been found in Mosul, where clashes between the troops, supported by US forces, and armed fighters continued for a third day.

On Friday, a statement posted on an Islamist Web site in the name of Jordanian terror leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group said it had "slaughtered" two Iraqi National Guard officers "in the presence of a big crowd" in Mosul.

"These are not my men. They all have IDs from outside Baghdad. It seems they had been on leave and were returning to their barracks," said Iraqi national guard Lieutenant Colonel Ammar Abd al-Hadi.

"Some of the guys from an army unit recently moved to one of the US bases to take part in the operation. They have some guys missing," said Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kurilla of the 1st Battalion 24th Regiment of the Stryker Brigade.

A witness said he saw gunmen execute some of the men who were found dead.

"A group of five young men pulled up in front of the nearby veterinarian hospital, shot four men and dumped the bodies on the railway tracks," said Abu Abid.

A car bomb attack Friday on a U.S. patrol in Mosul injured one American soldier, the U.S. military said.

The city's fighters appear to be hitting back at soft targets with the US military saying it received unconfirmed reports that 12 members of the Iraq's paramilitary national guard had been kidnapped and possibly executed.

WELCOME TO MOSUL: HAVE A NICE DAY



(Aljazeera)

Three Missiles Hit Camp Dogwood

20 November BBC

British Black Watch troops in central Iraq have come under rocket attack for the second time in 24 hours.

Three missiles flew into their base at Camp Dogwood, 20 miles (32km) south of Baghdad, at around 0600GMT on Saturday.

All three weapons exploded on impact inside the camp, but the Ministry of Defence (MoD) reported no injuries.

The missiles, believed to be mortars or rocket-propelled grenades, are about 5ft long and carry up to 40 pounds of explosive.

They can be fired at the camp from up to 12 miles (8km) away on all sides.

Pte Glynn Davidson, an 18-year-old soldier from Perth, said "I'm really not going to miss these at all," as he hid from the explosions in the back of an armoured vehicle.

Resistance “Roams Freely” In Ramadi

11.20.04 By EDWARD WONG, New York Times

On Saturday, Marines set up roadblocks around Ramadi and broadcast messages calling on the residents to turn over any "terrorists," Reuters reported.

The Marines are engaged in a holding action in Ramadi, the provincial capital of Anbar. They have a presence at the government center and several outposts downtown, but they do not have real control of the city - insurgents roam freely

Qaim Mosque Raided, Relief Food And Money Stolen

11.20.04 By KATARINA KRATOVAC, AP

U.S. troops also raided a Sunni mosque in Qaim, near the Syrian border, a cleric said Friday, calling it retaliation for opposing the Fallujah offensive. Imam Maudafar Abdul Wahab said his mosque was gathering food and supplies for Fallujah, and that the Americans took about \$2,000 worth of Iraqi currency meant for mosque repairs.

TROOP NEWS

Army Screws Up, Tells Mom Wrong Info About Wounded Son; He Calls To Tell Her 'Mama, I'm Fine'

November 20, 2004 By RENA HAVNER, Staff Reporter, Mobile Register

Cindy Naylor -- the teacher who sued the Mobile County school board over her right to speak -- learned Friday that her Marine son is doing well after being wounded in Fallujah, Iraq.

While in class Thursday, Naylor received a phone call from a Marine lieutenant who told her that her son, Pvt. Nick Naylor, had been injured in his right arm and right leg, possibly from shrapnel.

During a short telephone conversation Friday, Pvt. Naylor told his mother that the lieutenant was talking about a fellow soldier, not him.

"Mama, I'm fine. I just got shot in the forearm," Pvt. Naylor told his mother around 1 p.m. Friday.

"I'm not happy that they gave me the wrong information yesterday," she said Friday. "But I'm happy that my baby is OK."

Cindy Naylor was teaching her third-grade class at Dixon Elementary School in Irvington Thursday when she learned of her son's supposed injuries. She quickly left the school for home and didn't hear anything more for 24 hours.

She stayed home Friday because she was worried about her son, and the Marines notified Pvt. Naylor that he needed to call his mother. She said he didn't understand why she was so upset.

"Mama, I'm fine. I was busy treating my buddy. I was OK," he said. **"Why aren't you at school?"**

Cindy Naylor said friends have been calling her almost nonstop to express their concerns. Some offered prayers, others airline miles, to help. The teacher said that she will fly wherever she needs to fly in order to see her son when he returns to the United States. He will likely come to either North Carolina or California, she said.

Throughout a three-week fight with the Mobile County school board, Cindy Naylor often invoked her son's bravery in Iraq as her inspiration.

On Oct. 26, during a prepared five-minute speech, Cindy Naylor told the board that she felt teachers are required to fill out too much paperwork and that they deserve a raise. About 200 teachers in the audience applauded and cheered, prompting the board to cut Naylor off and adjourn the meeting until the next morning, when the teachers were supposed to be in class.

Mobile County Circuit Judge Joseph "Rusty" Johnston ruled that the board had violated Cindy Naylor's right to speak. The board reconvened Monday to allow Naylor to finish her speech.

“I Looked Down And Saw My Foot Was Missing”

November 20, 2004 By KAREN TOLKKINEN, Staff Reporter, Mobile Register

Eventually, he says, he wants to get back to Iraq. He has a mission to accomplish.

"I have to find my foot," he explains. "I know about where it is. I have to give it a proper burial."

The last time Howard Scott Andrews saw his left foot, he was standing behind a Humvee in Iraq, waiting for his buddies to safely explode a roadside bomb.

The 32-year-old Army staff sergeant and Clarke County native had spent six months on the mostly boring task of patrolling roads for bombs with his unit, the 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

In six months, Andrews found 10. It was a lot of searching through road side trash. He had to stay vigilant, he said, because he could never tell when the same trash pile that he had searched every day for a week was suddenly planted with an explosive in a drink can or a shell packed into a cast-off tire.

Of course, once they found one, that's when things got lively. Half the time, the bomb was a trap and snipers would start firing at them, he said. The other half, they'd safely explode the device.

One day in July, there it was: a shell tucked into a tire.

Nobody started firing, so the unit did what they were trained to do. Five soldiers drawn by chance were sent to explode the bomb.

Andrews, who grew up in Clarke County and played backup center on the Thomasville High School football team the year they won the state championship, moved the length of about three football fields away. **He waited behind a Humvee with his unit while the chosen soldiers placed explosives on the device, lit the fuse and ran.**

That was when Andrews parted company with his foot.

A shell fragment traveled 300 yards, flew under the Humvee and hit him 4 inches above the ankle bone, he said.

"I saw my boot go flying off," he said. "I fell down and looked down and saw my foot was missing."

His buddies jumped on him, alert for sniper fire, he said. None ever came. After the shock wore off, the pain arrived. His buddies recovered the boot, which his wife now has, but not his foot. He was flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, and then to Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Washington, where he had been since July 31, learning to walk again with an artificial leg. Twice, surgeons had to remove more bone from his leg.

Andrews, who is back on duty, serving as liaison between wounded soldiers and the officer in charge, isn't lying around whining. Quite the opposite: He cracks jokes.

"I wish I'd been playing the lottery that day," he quips.

"I just lost a leg," he adds. "I didn't lose a life."

After all, some time after he lost his foot, one of his friends was killed by a sniper. Two more guys from his unit died after driving over a land mine.

"Legs are cosmetic now," he said. He said he plans to bronze the boot, or what's left of it.

Eventually, he says, he wants to get back to Iraq. He has a mission to accomplish.

"I have to find my foot," he explains. "I know about where it is. I have to give it a proper burial."

Casualties Flood U.S. Military Hospitals, Still Wearing Filthy Clothes From Iraq; Government Refusing To Issue Them Fresh!

Nov 20, 2004 BY JAMES W. CRAWLEY, MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - Injured Marines and soldiers wounded during the intense fighting in Fallujah and other Iraqi cities are flooding military hospitals, tripling the number of casualties being treated here.

Officials at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center said yesterday that both are at the highest patient loads since April 2003, soon after the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

More than 70 Marines were being treated for combat wounds at Bethesda and another 70 are at Walter Reed, officials said. Hundreds more are recuperating as outpatients while staying nearby.

Because of crowding at Bethesda, some wounded Marines are being shifted to military hospitals in North Carolina and California, often within hours of arriving in the States, officials said.

Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany, the first stop for troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, was caring for more than 400 war-wounded this week, according to news reports.

During much of the summer, Bethesda and Walter Reed each were treating between 20 and 30 wounded on any given day, spokesmen said. Bethesda has 215 patient beds, while Walter Reed normally can accommodate 260 patients.

Yesterday, Walter Reed stopped accepting some ambulance patients at the emergency room because the hospital was nearly full, said Col. James Gilman, who runs the hospital.

As the flow of wounded arrives from Iraq, many Bethesda staff members have been working long hours to treat arriving casualties.

"This week has been very intense," said Lt. Paula Godes, a Navy physical therapist. "Everyone has had to jump in and help out."

Godes and 200 other hospital staffers serve on medical evacuation teams that help transport incoming patients from nearby Andrews Air Force Base to Bethesda. **The duty means double shifts for the men and women who also serve as nurses, aides and lab technicians.**

Nearly every night, convoys of ambulances and buses back up to the rear ramp of a transport plane to pick up *injured troops arriving from Landstuhl, where casualties are initially treated after leaving Iraq.*

Many are carried off the jet transport on litters. A few walk down the plane's rear ramp with a corpsman or nurse at their side. ***Some arrive in tattered uniforms still caked with the dust of combat.*** [They come from Landstuhl. So who the fuck is responsible for this shameful piece of news? Why command, of course, and the government of traitors in Washington, that won't spend the money to get them something fresh to wear. May every one of those assholes, without exception, die horrible, slow, agonizing deaths, wallowing in their own shit and piss, and burn in hell for ever after that. There is not one hospital in the U.S.A. that could get away with keeping patients in filthy clothes for days after an ordinary American street accident. And these are soldiers wounded in combat. And the "dust of combat" is loaded with local bacteria!]

The 10-hour flight can be grueling for the injured troops. **Being strapped on to a litter and stacked like cordwood in the belly of a noisy cargo plane is not comfortable.** [How many Generals, Congress members, or Bush political stooges fly “stacked like cordwood” on *their* trips to and from Iraq? If they get to travel like corporate CEOs, at least they should have some honorable battle wounds. Perhaps that can be arranged. A little taste of reality. Those Congress types just loved to go to Iraq before the election. Seen any since? If so, give them a map and drop them off in downtown Ramadi, wearing a real big American flag they love to wave so much.]

"They're very glad to be on the ground," Godes said.

It's emotional work for the corpsmen, many of whom are the same age as the maimed Marines they carry to waiting ambulances, she said. "It's a somber experience," she said. "You see firsthand the result of war. You try to be as strong as you can for these guys."

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)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Attack In Baqouba Kills Occupation Cop Colonel

11.20.04 AP

In Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, police said resistance soldiers killed an Iraqi police colonel and his driver as they headed south to Baghdad.

Important Collaborator Gov't Official And “Aides” Killed In Baghdad

11.20.04 AlJazeera Publishing Limited & AP

In Baghdad, a senior public works ministry official and four of her aides were gunned down as they were on their way to work, a ministry spokesman said on Saturday.

Dr Amal Abd al-Hamid, her secretary, driver and bodyguard were all killed in the attack in the al-Qadisiyah neighbourhood.

Assailants chased down their car and opened fire. Witness Hashim Omran said he saw a car with four masked men drive up and open fire on the Toyota.

“Regular” Explosion Hits Another Pipeline

11.20.04 AP

Saboteurs blew up an oil well near the northern city of Kirkuk -- the sixth such attack in the last 10 days, oil officials said. Insurgents regularly attack Iraq's oil infrastructure.

TAKE YOUR TANK AND SHOVE IT:



Iraqis chant anti-US and anti-government slogans in front of a US tank after a car bomb exploded killing at least one person in central Baghdad Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004. (AP Photo/Mohammed Khodor)

**It's Not Working Any More:
Time To Get Out Alive;
100 Totally Pissed Off People Can
Swarm A Tank In A Tight Street**



Defiant Iraqis confront U.S. tank in central Baghdad on November 20, 2004. (Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Counterinsurgency Run Amok;

“The Vietnam Nightmare All Over Again”

Nov 18, 2004 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times Online Ltd

According to resistance reports, the mujahideen are constantly changing their positions, moving apparently undetected inside the areas they still control and reinforcing different neighborhoods with more cells of five to 20 fighters each.

In *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire* (Penguin Press, New York, 2004), Tony Negri and Michael Hardt, discussing counterinsurgencies, point out how "guerrilla forces cannot survive without the support of the population and a superior knowledge of the social and physical terrain". They could be describing the guerrillas in the Sunni triangle.

Negri and Hardt argue that in counterinsurgency "success does not require attacking the enemy directly but destroying the environment, physical and social, that supports it.

Take away the water and the fish will die. This strategy of destroying the support environment led, for example, to indiscriminate bombings in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, to widespread killing, torture and harassment of peasants in Central and South America."

This - "take away the water and the fish will die" - is exactly what's happening in Fallujah. And it won't work, because "the many noncombatants who suffer cannot be called collateral damage because they are in fact the direct targets, even if their destruction is really a means to attack the primary enemy". Fallujah's population has been the direct target this time - the "water" that was essential to the resistance "fish".

But the "fish" are always able to turn the tables "as the rebellious groups develop more complex, distributed network structures. As the enemy becomes increasingly dispersed, unlocalizable, and unknowable, the support environment becomes increasingly large and indiscriminate." This is exactly the post-Fallujah scenario.

The political infrastructure in Iraq controlled by the Ba'ath Party for many decades has integrated most of the Islamic resistance groups under its command with great efficiency.

It has also managed to infiltrate and smash the Iraqi counterinsurgency force that the Americans were trying to assemble. The new counterinsurgency field manual means that unlike Vietnam, counterinsurgency is now being conducted by marines and GIs. Intuitively, the totally alienated population of the Sunni triangle (the "water") has already identified the threat.

Iraqification mimics Vietnamization in at least one aspect: the logic of collective punishment (once again "take away the water and the fish will die"). **The Fallujah assault proved that for the Pentagon every Sunni Iraqi is the enemy.**

With Fallujah, the guerrilla strategy has changed.

No more occupying a territory that could be organized as a safe haven (the city of Fallujah, for instance).

The guerrillas are now network-centered.

Negri and Hardt: "The network tends to transform every boundary into a threshold. Networks are in this sense essentially elusive, ephemeral, perpetually in flight ... **And, even more frighteningly, the network can appear anywhere at any time.**"

Think of the new Iraqi resistance as small, mobile armies striking in Baqubah, Samarra and Mosul, running away and melting into the local population, which fully supports them. This is pure Vietminh tactics - Saddam Hussein's officers were all keen students of the Vietnam War.

The Americans in Iraq are now confronting a network enemy.

Negri and Hardt say that "confronting a network enemy can certainly throw an old form of power into a state of universal paranoia".

Thus the fiction of "invisible" civilians in Fallujah. Thus the "capture" of Fallujah general hospital. Thus destroying Fallujah in order to "save it". Thus the marine executing a wounded man, on camera, inside a mosque. Thus the Vietnam nightmare all over again.

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.

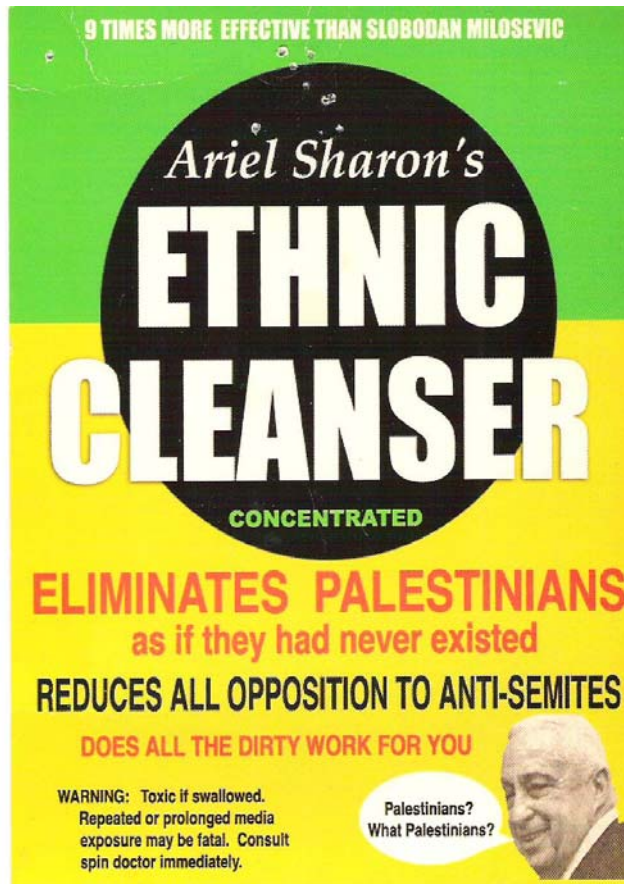
OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation Keeps On Fucking With Sadr; Arrests Another Aide

11.17.04 By KATARINA KRATOVAC, AP

On Friday, U.S. troops arrested an al-Sadr representative near the holy city of Karbala _ **the second arrest of his aides in two days**, al-Sadr's office said. **Both had spoken out against the Fallujah attack, which began last week.**

OCCUPATION PALESTINE



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

Received:

Thank You!

To everyone sending in material to GI Special. The count is now about 350 a day, which means it's not possible to thank you individually, and if all the good stuff were used, each issue would run about 50 pages. Apologies that, with a full time job, it's not possible to acknowledge each contribution personally, and still get the work done. T

Web Copies

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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www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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