

GI SPECIAL 2#C39



Vietnam: "Agent Orange" Trees

"We are not bombing Cambodia, we are bombing the North Vietnamese in Cambodia."

**Henry Kissinger,
National Security Advisor:
After bombing raids
killed thousands of
civilians in May-June 1970.**

"It is not an attack on the country of Iraq, it is an attack on the Hussein regime."

**Donald Rumsfeld,
Sec. of Defense:
March 21, 2003
After 500 Cruise Missiles
were fired on Iraq.**

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

“We’re Getting Maimed For Bullshit” Soldier Says: Breaking the Code of Silence

[THANKS TO LOU PLUMMER WHO E-MAILED THIS IN:]

By Nan Levinson November 30, 2004

Nan Levinson, a Boston-based journalist, is author of *Outspoken: Free Speech Stories*

“When I went [to Iraq] to begin with, there was a mission,” he says. But when the reasons behind the mission proved to be false, he felt betrayed. “I don’t trust the people sending me over there. I have to stay focused, give it 100 percent. I just don’t agree with it. The war cannot be won. It won’t be won, not now, not ever. We’re getting maimed for bullshit.”

When members of the Army’s 343rd Quartermaster Company refused orders in Iraq last month they considered too dangerous, it didn’t surprise Michael Hoffman. He had expected something like this. Hoffman, 25, went to Iraq with the Marines, then returned to help found Iraq Veterans Against the War this past July.

“When [soldiers] are asked to put their life on the line for no clear reason. ...” he says, breaking off. “They’re still human beings and they still have a breaking point.”

The national conversation about the war largely has taken place absent those who are fighting it. The military makes it hard for its members to speak independently. In a culture that prizes obedience, loyalty and duty, no one is rewarded for breaking rank. Further, the Bush administration over the past three years has sent the message that dissent is un-American.

Because dissent is discouraged, the extent of it is hard to pin down. Yet resistance has been there since the war began, and signs of dissent are now popping up with increasing frequency. Calls to the GI Rights Hotline (1-800-394-9544) also spiked, and now hold steady at about 2,800 a month.

From 2002 to 2003, according to military records, conscientious objection (CO) applications tripled for the Army and quadrupled for the Marines, the two branches most involved in combat in Iraq. The actual number of applications, however, is probably much higher. Official numbers reflect only those applications that make it to headquarters. CO applicants complain they find it hard to get accurate information

about the process and are discouraged from applying once they do. Military counselors estimate that several hundred are in the works.

As hundreds, perhaps thousands, are quietly trying to avoid being shipped to Iraq, at least six soldiers have fled to Canada, where they are petitioning for refugee status. A handful of resisters have made their protest public, and one received punishment harsh enough for Amnesty International to adopt him as a prisoner of conscience.

A number of organizations have been founded that support the soldiers but not the war. One of these, Military Families Speak Out has grown from two families in 2002 to more than 1,800 members.

Nancy Lessen, a Military Families founder, reports that for the first time she is hearing from entire units that say, “We served in Iraq and we don’t want to go back.” One soldier told her, “If any reporter needs to understand how we feel about the war, all they need to do is come to Iraq and read what’s on the walls of the outhouses.”

Much of the evidence of opposition within the ranks comes up in one-on-one conversations. Army Sgt. Fred Bemis (not his real name) a 30-year-old Army sergeant, is among them.

Bemis joined the Army in 2000. His father and grandfather served in the military, and he wanted benefits for his family. Of his first time there, Bemis says, “There was death all around. I damn sure don’t want to go back to that. I was thinking of reenlisting. If it wasn’t for this war, I might have.” His enlistment was supposed to end early next year, but he got, “stop-lossed” and is about to be redeployed to Iraq. Bemis says he’s now considering joining an antiwar group when he gets out.

“When I went [to Iraq] to begin with, there was a mission,” he says. But when the reasons behind the mission proved to be false, he felt betrayed. “I don’t trust the people sending me over there. I have to stay focused, give it 100 percent. I just don’t agree with it. The war cannot be won. It won’t be won, not now, not ever. We’re getting maimed for bullshit.”

Soldiers opposed to the war frequently voice that sentiment, and the word itself, in a kind of all-purpose sneer that in the tradition of underground protest betrays much and little.

The speech rights of soldiers are limited by regulation and tradition. Punishment for breaching that limit can range from ostracism to court martial. **“There’s rights and then there’s the climate,” says a military counselor. Or, as a GI e-mailing from Kuwait last year noted wryly: “There’s this invisible line. If you cross it, you could do a lot of dishes.”**

Military men and women making political statements while in uniform are particularly vulnerable. Drew Plummer, a young petty officer in the Navy, attended an antiwar demonstration while home on leave as the war began. He was convicted of making disloyal statements and demoted for telling a reporter there that he was in the military and that he opposed the war. Plummer has been absent without leave since August, and his father says he has no idea where his son is.

Punishment and threat of punishment aren't the only reasons soldiers' voices often go unheard. While in combat zones, they speak to the American public through the filter of journalists, if at all. Before being sent to Iraq, Bemis says, GIs attend a mandatory "media awareness" session where they're taught to avoid saying much of anything to reporters.

"Military people feel their opinion doesn't matter," John Hustad said in March 2003, explaining why he and fellow Army reservist Todd Arena wrote "An open letter from the troops you support." Published on punkplanet.com and various blogs, they urged "citizen-soldiers" to question the war and to speak out.

Soldiers bellyache all the time, but only a minority turn complaint into defiance.

Maybe what's most noteworthy about resistance within the military is that, against the risks and inertia and considerable odds, it exists.

["Fight to Survive," Soldiers' Blog <http://www.ftssoldier.blogspot.com/>
Check it out.]

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)

Defend The 343rd!

Army Gears Up To Punish Soldiers Who Refused Mission

21 November 2004 Statement in Support of the 343rd Soldiers Who Refused Iraq Mission Issued by the Campus Antiwar Network Coordinating Committee -

"The Army doesn't want the information to get out." -Beverly Dobbs, mother of Spec. Joseph Dobbs

Well, we want the information to get out. We want everyone to know what the military is trying to do to these soldiers who stood up against unsafe orders. They were right to refuse, and no charges should be brought against them.

Sign the petition in support of the 343rd Quartermaster soldiers who refused to follow dangerous orders at:
<http://www.campusantiwar.net/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=60&Itemid=#petition>

The Army has recommended punishment for 24 members of the South Carolina-based 343rd quartermaster company who refused orders to drive a fuel convoy on a route hundreds of miles long without armor, air or ground support, and carrying helicopter fuel they believed to be contaminated, and therefore dangerous to other soldiers.

The military is trying to keep the situation as quiet as possible. Without the soldier's families bravely speaking out on the situation, much less would be known about their fight.

Families say the punishment being considered ranges from a letter of reprimand, fines, reduction in rank and pay, to possible court martial and prison time.

The military has tried to portray this as an isolated incident, and not part of a larger breakdown in discipline or a symptom of a widespread shortage of proper equipment for troops.

They obviously fear the soldiers' refusal will find popular support among civilians, and more importantly, those in the military who can sympathize with the 343rd's plight--and who might consider following their example.

The widespread discontent in the military can be seen in the numbers of reservists who are fighting calls to return to active duty.

Over the last few months, the Army has called 4,000 former soldiers to report for active duty, and 1,800 have requested exemptions or delays. Of the 2,500 that were supposed to report for duty by Nov. 7, 733 haven't shown up. Some soldiers have sued the military and won their cases.

In Vietnam, widespread combat refusal paralyzed the military and was crucial to ending the war. That's why the military is trying hard to keep people from seeing the actions of the 343rd as a symbol of resistance.

"I'll say it over and over, I do not understand why they're having to go through this", said Beverly Dobbs. "They joined because that was a dream for all of them. It can be ruined because they're not willing to listen to what they're trying to say. To my mind they saved lives by not going out."

The military disillusioned many soldiers in Vietnam, and is doing the same today. We will see more incidents like the 343rd's. In fact, another, largely unreported, protest occurred when three National Guard members at Camp Shelby, refused to conduct training exercises after their anger at poor pay and conditions at the base spilled over.

When these soldiers stand up and resist, we have to be ready to do the same.

In solidarity,
The Campus Antiwar Network www.campusantiwar.net

For background visit:

Platoon Refuses Orders in Iraq <http://www.heraldonline.com/local/story/4187300p-3972909c.html>

Mississippi Guards Rebel, Refuse to Conduct Training
<http://www.militaryproject.org/article.asp?id=391>

Soldiers Flee Training Camp <http://www.militaryproject.org/article.asp?id=410>

Strains Felt By Guard Unit on Eve Of War Duty, Entire National Guard Battalion Put on Lockdown <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31689-2004Sep18.html>

Army encounters resistance from 2,000 former soldiers ordered back to military work
<http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20041116/ZNYT02/41116040>

"Fight to Survive," Soldiers' Web Blog <http://www.ftssoldier.blogspot.com/>

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Marines Killed In Car Bomb Attack

December 3, 2004 Associated Press, BAGHDAD, Iraq

A car bomb has exploded near a unit of U-S Marines on the Iraqi side of the border with Jordan.

A U-S military spokesman says there are deaths among the troops, but there's no word on how many.

He says a Marine guard fired on the vehicle as it "closed in on a military position." But he says the car continued forward, then detonated. **The blast damaged one military vehicle.**

The troops are part of the First Marine Expeditionary Force.

ONE SOLDIER KILLED, THREE WOUNDED IN BAGHDAD IED ATTACK

December 3, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-12-05C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – **One Task Force Baghdad Soldier died Dec. 3 after an improvised explosive device detonated at about 4 p.m. in northern Baghdad.** Three other Soldiers were wounded in the attack.

ONE TASK FORCE DANGER SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED NEAR KIRKUK

December 3, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-12-04C

TIKRIT, Iraq -- One Task Force Danger Soldier was killed and two other Soldiers were wounded when their combat patrol was attacked by anti-Iraqi forces near Kirkuk using an improvised explosive device Dec. 3. The attack happened about 9:50 a.m.

The wounded Soldiers were evacuated to a Multi-National Forces medical facility for treatment.

Falluja: Resistance Returns To “Cleared” Areas; Toll On U.S. Troops Growing

December 03, 2004 By Scott Peterson, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor &

The battle Monday killed one marine and wounded three others - a high cost against three insurgents, who had moved into a house 50 feet across the street from a newly established marine position at a Fallujah fire station. That house and several others nearby had been cleared just two days earlier.

In Fallujah, US forces are going through 50,000 houses one by one. But Iraqi insurgents are coming back.



STREETS OF FALLUJAH: US Marines fired Monday on three insurgents holed up in a house in Fallujah that had been cleared of rebels two days before. One marine died in the battle. SCOTT PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES

FALLUJAH, IRAQ – The embers in the house were still hot from the fire of battle when Cpl. Joshua Richard went in to view the remains of the insurgents who killed a fellow US marine.

At the base of the stairs - the same dark place where Lance Cpl. Blake Magaoay of Pearl City, Hawaii, had fallen in a burst of rifle fire - Corporal Richard harangued the burnt Iraqi corpse. "You got what you wanted, didn't you?" he sneered, referring to the Marine casualties.

While their fight is no longer a front-page story, the physical and mental toll is growing, as the marines here continue to hunt an enemy that rarely seeks them out. Instead, pockets of insurgents lie waiting until teams - like that led by Corporal Magaoay - come crashing through their door.

Iraqi civilians are not expected to be permitted to begin returning to the badly damaged city until mid-December

But the original problem persists: US forces sweep through one neighborhood after another, only to find insurgents popping up in "cleared" areas.

The battle Monday killed one marine and wounded three others - a high cost against three insurgents, who had moved into a house 50 feet across the street from a newly established marine position at a Fallujah fire station. That house and several others nearby had been cleared just two days earlier.

The ensuing fight revealed an enemy that has hardly given up

"They are in survival mode, and they're just waiting until someone comes to them [to fight], rather than going out and initiating attacks," says Lt. Col. Dan Wilson, the deputy current operations officer for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in charge of western Iraq.

"We have to go through close to 50,000 structures in the town of Fallujah," Colonel Wilson says, **"to make sure that when someone comes home [an insurgent] doesn't jump out from a hidden wall or a spider hole, kills them,** and continues to operate

from that house." [This Colonel reads too many bad comic books. Or maybe it's watching too many horror movies on TV that produced this delusional fantasy.

[His "thinking" really clues in the reader about why the war was lost. To this officer, "Know thy enemy" means make up weird stories. He's completely clueless to the most basic of all basic facts about this war. *The Iraqis themselves are the resistance.* And they are very unlikely to jump out of some hidden wall and shoot themselves. They fight to free their country from a foreign occupation, and they are right to do so.]

The Fallujah assault "is not good for the families and marines who have suffered and died, putting their lives on the line for the freedom of Iraq. **But it has been good in terms of dealing a blow to the insurgency," says Wilson.**

That message hadn't gotten through to the three insurgents who killed Magaoay. [Even the inbed reporter ain't buying what Wilson's selling, and that's very near a miracle.] The insurgents, armed with assault rifles and pineapple grenades, had set up one sleeping area on each floor. Upstairs, they blocked the window with a bedding material and created a small, dark cubbyhole. A book lay on one mattress on the floor.

The marines estimate the insurgents had been in the house less than 12 hours. A bar of soap in the bathroom was still wet with use, immediately after the firefight.

One burst from the rebel rifle - and the toss of a hand grenade heralded the start of battle. Lance Cpl. Chris Anderson, a Marine scout from Tucson, Ariz., watched the grenade roll before it exploded. Shrapnel struck his left hand and shoulder.

"They knew where to place themselves in that house," Lance Corporal Anderson said later at a combat hospital. Magaoay's fate was not immediately clear, so marines used nonlethal stun and flash-bang grenades to fight their way back into the house to find him. Another team was led, in a split-second decision when others hesitated to enter, by Lance Cpl. Edward Lonecke, from Manchester, Ga. He was shot in the thigh, the moment he stormed in from the kitchen door.

"I knew if we could get Magaoay [out], we could blast the place," Lance Corporal Lonecke said later, as he waited for an evacuation flight to Germany. Once the marines pulled out, the house was pummeled with rockets and 25mm explosive rounds.

Upstairs, an intelligence officer gingerly picked through the pockets of the bodies for evidence. **His fingers came to rest on a steel pin, and a familiar shape: a final surprise left for the Americans by the suicidal insurgent. [This is so fucking lame. How is a dead Iraqi resistance soldier "suicidal?" Hello? He's dead? Get it? D-e-a-d? Possibly tried to booby trap himself in death, which takes considerable commitment to the side one is fighting for, to be sure. And you can bet your ass that if a U.S. Marine, surrounded and dying, left a grenade behind to blow up somebody the reporter thinks is a "terrorist," the reporter would be pissing his pants in eagerness to write a big story about an "American hero." No wonder people despise the mass media.]**

"Grenade!" shouted the officer, leaning over the corpse. The marines dashed for the doorway.

FALLUJAH, Iraq, Dec. 3 (Xinhuanet) **Sporadic clashes between insurgents and US-Iraqi forces erupted in and around the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah on Friday.**

Columns of smoke were seen rising above Jolan and Shuhadaa districts inside the city.

Sporadic clashes also took place in the refugee camps near al-Saqlawiya, west of Fallujah, witnesses told Xinhua.

Around Saqlawiya, a roadside bomb was detonated, damaging a US Humvee, but casualties could not immediately be known.

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME



A wounded U.S. soldier, northern outskirts of Falluja. (Reuters TV/Reuters)

WAR IN BAGHDAD: Resistance Storms Two Police Stations: 50 Prisoners Set Free; 16 Occupation Cops Dead

Dec 3, 2004 —By Mussab al-Khairalla, Reuters News Service & By Scott Wilson, Washington Post Foreign Service & 4 Dec 2004 Sun Network

Insurgents launched two major attacks today against police stations in widely separated areas of Baghdad. One of the attacks was a car bomb, police said.

The attacks occurred in the western Amil district and in the Sunni Muslim stronghold of Azamiyah, where police said a car bomb exploded during a clash between Iraqi government security forces and armed rebels around the police station.

In Azamiyah, insurgents fired on the police station with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

As columns of black smoke filled the morning sky, a U.S. warplane swooped over the neighborhood and fired several missiles at targets on the ground. **Apache helicopters also fired into the neighborhood during a firefight that witnesses said lasted roughly 90 minutes.**

In the chaotic aftermath, Iraqi police struggled to keep the people away from the scene by cracking shots from AK-47s into the air **and along the pavement.** Local merchants fled inside shops whose shutters were riddled with bullets in near-panic.

"My house was destroyed during the war by the Americans," said Mohammed, 27, who sells CDs and cassette tapes nearby and declined to give his last name for security reasons. "From that moment until now I have hated the Americans. I support the resistance," he said. But "I don't want the people to be hurt."

In Adhamiya, witnesses said armed insurgents began firing through the streets on the police station around 6:45 a.m., at a time when people in the neighborhood were waiting in long gasoline lines that have become common around the capital in recent weeks of fuel shortages. Much of the neighborhood was severely damaged in fighting that followed the Nov. 20 U.S. military raid on the Abu Hanifa mosque, a revered Sunni shrine nearby.

Bullet holes pock many walls, and graffiti spray-painted on the neighborhood bus stops proclaims, "Down with the pagan guard," referring to the U.S.-trained Iraqi National Guard.

"From what I hear, the mujahadeen are moving freely here and sometimes they hide in the cemetery near my house," said Haj Omar, a tailor in the neighborhood. "This is not the first time this has happened. We've gotten used to it."

AIRPORT ROAD ATTACK; PRISONERS FREED

In another attack at dawn in the capital, guerrillas fired mortars at a police station near the notorious airport road in the southwest of Baghdad and then stormed the building, hunting down and shooting the occupants.

Sixteen police officers were killed after dozens of armed militants overran the police station in the southern neighborhood of Saydiya after an hours-long gun battle.

During the assault on the police station, the attackers set free around 50 prisoners, and set two police pickup trucks ablaze, and emptying a police arsenal in a demonstration of the militants' strength in the heart of the country.

Clouds of thick, dark smoke poured into the air.

Before morning, insurgents established a checkpoint a few blocks from the Saydiya police station and cut off all traffic into the area, neighborhood residents said. The area of three-story apartment buildings, called the Saddam district during the dictatorship, sits near the treacherous road that leads to the international airport.

Witnesses said gunfire began crackling around the neighborhood about 3:30 a.m., intensifying as dawn approached. "We couldn't sleep all morning because of the heavy shooting," said Adel Jabouri, 31, a school teacher.

Jabouri said several officers posted to the station's rooftop fought for hours to hold off what police officials estimate was 50 armed men. "These guys were so brave," said Jabouri, who added that the station has come under attack before but not so intensely.

Once inside the station courtyard, the militants freed an estimated 50 or more prisoners being held there and captured the police arsenal of small arms, mostly assault rifles, pistols and ammunition.

Street vendors said they saw two Kia minivans carrying the covered bodies of dead police officers from the scene. "If you go to this station now, you will not see any of our friends and colleagues," said Raheem Ali, 22, a police officer who manned a checkpoint outside the station Friday morning.

Insurgents Rise Up In Mosul

December 3, 2004 Associated Press & By Scott Wilson, Washington Post Foreign Service

Insurgents rose up in Mosul, overrunning many points in the western sector of Iraq's third-largest city.

Iraqi military officials say insurgents attacked two police stations in the city, killing one officer.

Khasro Goran, the deputy governor of Mosul, said insurgents attacked several U.S. and Iraqi military installations Friday morning with mortar and rocket-propelled grenade fire from sites in western Mosul, the Arab sector of a city with significant Kurdish and Turkmen populations.

Many insurgents could be seen in the streets, Koran said.

"We had helicopters in the sky, and I think the insurgents have now disappeared," Koran said. **"They don't have any control of buildings, but you can see them in groups of five to 20 men with weapons in the streets or making checkpoints. Just showing themselves."**

TROOP NEWS

With Deepest Lack Of Sympathy: Letter For Relatives Of KIA Done By A Machine

11/29/2004 By: David Hackworth, Military columnist, Hinesville Coastal Courier

His beloved shock-and-awe whiz-bang wonder weapons worked well enough initially in Afghanistan and Iraq, but as we saw on the tube last week, we're once again back to the age-old struggle of man against man - with grunts, not machines, taking and holding ground.

And now, apparently, Rumsfeld's obsession with machines and their efficiency has translated into his using one to replace his own John Hancock on KIA (killed in action) letters to parents and spouses. Two Pentagon-based colonels, who've both insisted on anonymity to protect their careers, have indignantly reported that the SecDef has relinquished this sacred duty to a signature device rather than signing the sad documents himself.

When I went to Jim Turner, a good man saddled with a tough job as one of Rumsfeld's flacks at the Pentagon, for a confirmation or a denial, he said, "Rumsfeld signs the letters himself."

I then went to about a dozen next-of-kin of American soldiers KIA in Iraq.

Most agreed with the colonels' accusations and said they'd noticed and been insulted by the machine-driven signature.

One father bitterly commented that he thought it was a shame that the SecDef could keep his squash schedule but not find the time to sign his dead son's letter .

Several also felt compelled to tell me that the letter they received from George Bush also looked as though it was not signed personally by the president.

Dr. Ted Smith, whose son Eric was among the first 100 killed in Iraq, notes that the letter he received "from the commander in chief was signed with a thick, green marking pen. I thought it was stamped then and do even now. **He had time for golf and the ranch but not enough to sign a decent signature with a pen for his beloved hero soldiers. I was going to send the letter back but did not. I am sorry I didn't.**"

Sue Niederer, whose son Seth was also killed in Iraq, sums it up: "My son wasn't a person to these people, he was just an entity to play their war game. But where are their children? Not one of them knows how any of us feel, and they obviously aren't interested in finding out. None of them cares. And Rumsfeld depersonalizing his signature - it's a slap in the face, don't you think?"

Probably.

I have devoted so much of my later life crusading to save soldiers from uncaring generals and politicians and bureaucrats, who tend so easily to view these kids - who are rarely their own flesh and blood - as abstract pawns in a virtual game of chess, because I was there. I stood and was counted, and I will never forget the pain when I signed KIA letters in Korea and Vietnam. I would choke up as I signed them - I could see the boys' faces, their cocky smiles, their muddy soldier suits. Each signing reinforced the awesome responsibility I carried as a leader to be as protective as possible about the young lives entrusted to me.

After I talked with the nearest and dearest of the KIA, I called Turner back and told him there was evidence that Rumsfeld's signature was in fact machine-produced. I asked him to double-check, and he promised to get me the straight skinny by my deadline. But late (last) Friday I received a typical Pentagon duck-and-dodge e-mail: "Regret to say I have not been able to get a response as of COB (close of business) today ..."

Throughout World War II, Army Chief of Staff George Marshall made sure that President Franklin Roosevelt was briefed in detail on the number of soldiers who had fallen. FDR, incidentally, probably wanted to know. He had sons who were serving.

I suspect that Sue Niederer and the other kin are on target about how not signing the KIA letters helps keep the commander in chief and the SecDef detached from the consequences of a nasty war and its messy human fall-out.

Indiana Marine Killed

December 3, 2004 Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ind. -- A 22-year-old Marine who grew up in western Indiana's Warren County was killed in Iraq, his wife said.

She was informed of his death when Marines came to her door on Thursday. "I was hoping they'd tell me he was injured and in Germany," she said. "But I just knew."

Cpl. Bryan Wilson was fatally injured when his Humvee overturned on Wednesday, Samantha Wilson said. He later died of internal injuries, his mother-in-law, Linda Klinger, said.

Wilson joined the Marine Corps in August 2001, just two months after graduating from Seeger Memorial High School about 30 miles west of Lafayette.

Bryan Wilson and his 23-year-old wife have a 20-month-old daughter, Breanne.

Wilson was the 34th person from Indiana to have died after being sent to the Mideast since the buildup for the invasion of Iraq began in early 2003.

Samantha Wilson said she and her husband had been able to speak on the phone only three to four times since his departure nearly three months ago. He also wrote two letters.

"He said it was bad there, but he said he would never have changed his mind about going," she said. "The only thing was, he said he was scared."

Bryan Wilson took the American Indian name Many Wars during a ceremony a few days after he and his wife were married in 2002.

"We're both Cherokee ... and decided we wanted to do a traditional Lakota wedding," Samantha Wilson said.

Her parents own the Double K Cafe in Independence, where Bryan Wilson's photo hangs as part of a salute to troops in Iraq.

1.800 More For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse: Georgia Guard Call-Up Starting

12/03/2004 Hinesville Coastal Courier

About 1,800 members of the National Guard unit will be mobilized for training in a few days and the rest of the brigade will be required to report in January, said Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver, commander of the 48th Brigade Combat Team. Rodeheaver added he does not know when the unit will leave for Iraq. **Some unit members already have been mobilized to visit and assess the situation there. [By parachute? Or that marvelous airport road?]**

The 48th Brigade has units in about 40 armories scattered around the state, including one in Hinesville. The brigade is made up of units that include infantry, artillery, armor, intelligence and other assets.

In addition, Guardsmen from six other states will join the brigade for training and deployment to provide more capabilities such as construction engineers to help rebuild damaged utilities, houses and buildings in Iraq.

Ukrainians Demand All Troops Come Home Now

[In addition to organizing to force out a government of corrupt, brutal thugs, the rebellion by this movement from below has also led to a slap in the face for Bush and his Imperial war. Good for the Ukrainians. Their next job is to make sure a new collection of political hacks don't come in one door while the old ones go out the other door. To do that requires organizing the Ukrainian soldiers to elect their own officers, so they can serve their own people, not the politicians and the rich, who would love to use this movement for themselves and fuck over working class people all over again. **Ukrainia is not some bone to be fought over by corporate Imperial criminal Bush and the just-barely-ex-Stalinist Imperial criminal Putin.**]

Dec 3, 2004 —By Mussab al-Khairalla, Reuters News Service & (Itar-Tass)

In another blow to U.S. efforts to keep other nations involved in policing Iraq, Ukraine's parliament asked outgoing President Leonid Kuchma to withdraw Ukraine's contingent of about 1,600 soldiers from Iraq.

The Ukrainian parliament decided on Friday to recall the Ukrainian army contingent from Iraq. Two hundred and fifty-seven members of the Supreme Rada (Parliament) have voted for this decision.

The decision was passed due to the aggravation of the situation in Iraq, where Ukrainian servicemen are being drawn into the ongoing combat actions, which the parliament had not sanctioned, the document says. Therefore, the Supreme Rada recommends the president to recall the peacemakers from Iraq.

The Ukrainian contingent is went to Iraq as of August 2003. **Nine Ukrainian servicemen were killed and more than twenty were wounded there during this period.**

World War II Vets Condemn Current War

November 11, 2004 By TOM RAGAN, Sentinel Staff Writer

"War is (excrement). ... And the whole world has this major flaw: We tend to follow the leader," said Fitzmaurice, 81, a former Air Corps navigator who was shot down June 21, 1944.

"What we're doing right now in Iraq is a lot like what Hitler did. I don't know if you remember, but Hitler took over Poland, then kept going, invading other countries, without reason, just to build his empire.

SANTA CRUZ — Walter Brown stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day in a bulldozer, eventually using it to widen one of the roads to bring dead American soldiers from inland back to the shore.

Jack Selk earned the Navy Cross in the South Pacific when he took out two Japanese tanks with a bazooka, which he had to wire and load himself after his assistant fled in fear.

Richard Fitzmaurice and his nine fellow crewmen in a B-17 were shot down on a bombing raid over Germany. He spent a year as a prisoner of war in Poland.

All are World War II veterans, in their 80s, living in the Garfield Village Park affordable housing project for senior citizens on Bay Street .

They were heroes — before "hero" became an election buzzword. They were fighting to save the world from Hirohito and Hitler and Fascism.

Yet on this day, their day, a day set aside to honor all those who served, none of them woke up with a salute, a special spring in their step or a round of ceremonies to attend.

None had marked the calendar.

None had American flags hanging outside their rooms.

A few days ago, in fact, Selk had to be reminded that Veterans Day was approaching.

The war in Iraq, which all three adamantly oppose, has soured any thought of celebration. Right now, these veterans may be even more opinionated on the issue than the next person — if only because they've been there.

"War is (excrement). ... And the whole world has this major flaw: We tend to follow the leader," said Fitzmaurice, 81, a former Air Corps navigator who was shot down June 21, 1944.

"What we're doing right now in Iraq is a lot like what Hitler did. I don't know if you remember, but Hitler took over Poland, then kept going, invading other countries, without reason, just to build his empire.

"I get the same feeling that this is where Bush is headed."

Stark talk for what should be a simple day of celebration. But Fitzmaurice figures he's earned the right to an opinion. He fought for it, and his older brother, Donald, died for it. He was shot dead over Tokyo in the Doolittle Raid on April 18, 1942.

Brown, 84, who bulldozed ashore on "Bloody Omaha" on June 6, 1944, still can't figure why his life was spared while so many others dropped around him.

"I had the blade up, so that might have helped," said the former Navy Seabee. "I'm not a very religious man, so I can't say that it was God.

"But I do know that on Veterans Day, people like to wave the flag and make a big deal out of it, and it gets everybody whipped up and patriotic. But they don't know what's going on — that people are getting killed for nothing and presidents are lying to us."

Selk, 84, says before he joined he had always admired the Marines. He went on to serve for seven years, and he agrees with Brown.

"Right now, women and children are getting killed over there," said the former private first class. "In the Second World War, we were attacked by the Japanese and we had to respond, but what's going on right now — well, it isn't right. It's wrong."

In the end, though, this trio of veterans learned something from the war and their brushes with death, which they said they try to incorporate into everyday life.

Live life while you've got it.

"That's the most important thing — to live day by day," said Selk, who volunteers much of his time to hospice care and terminally ill patients.

"Yesterday is a memory," Selk said. "Today is important because it's here and you're here, and tomorrow, if it comes, should be treasured and not be taken for granted."

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.

Marine Wounded In Falluja Comes Home; He Hopes He Will Not Have To Return To Iraq

[Somebody honest enough to say it.]

December 03, 2004 By SANDRA E. CONSTANTINE, The Republican (Mass.)

SOUTH HADLEY - A 20-year-old Marine from South Hadley, who was seriously wounded in fighting in Fallujah, Iraq, came home recently to a hero's welcome complete with signs and crowds of friends and well-wishers.

Daly broke his right foot and took shrapnel from an insurgent's grenade to his right leg in Fallujah around 2 a.m. Nov. 12 while helping his squad clear out a private home so the soldiers could get a few hours' sleep.

A rifleman who carries an M-16, Daly had spent the previous four days in heavy fighting in the city.

"There was a lot of resistance," Daly said. "We'd go a block or two and we'd start getting shot at."

At times like that, according to Daly, soldiers take over a private home and go to its rooftop to return enemy fire.

The night he was wounded, Daly said his squad of 12 had to use an explosive to open the locked door of a house. They then started the process of clearing it, which is to inspect it for signs of any people or weapons.

"We were about to go up the stairs. Our squad leader was first. He stepped on some sort of booby trap that set off a grenade," Daly said. "I looked over and I saw him drop. I thought somebody shot him from upstairs."

At that point, the Marine said, insurgents from upstairs threw a grenade into his group, causing him to catch shrapnel in his right leg and break his right foot. Fortunately, the grenades used by insurgents are not as powerful as the ones used by U.S. troops, according to Daly.

"If it were an American grenade, we would probably all be dead right now," Daly said.

Of the 12 soldiers in his squad, seven of them were wounded in the incident.

Daly is expected to be back on active duty Jan. 3 at Camp Lejeune, where he will get physical therapy. He hopes he will not have to return to Iraq.

"I'm lucky," he said, explaining he feels fortunate to still be alive. "I've had a lot of support. I thank everybody for all their support."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

2 Politicians Killed In Central Iraq

Baghdad, Dec 3, SPA

Two municipal councilmen from a town north of Baghdad were ambushed and killed Friday while on their way to a conference on the upcoming elections, officials said. The two men were driving down the highway from their hometown of Khalis, 80 kilometers

(50 miles) from Baghdad, to Baqouba, the capital of Diala province, to attend the regional meeting, said deputy governor Ghassan al-Khadran. He said a third councilman was injured in the attack

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

RUMSFELD DEMONSTRATES NEW IRAQ COMBAT TECHNIQUE



At a press conference in Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld illustrates a new combat technique to subdue insurgents in Iraq.

Rumsfeld told reporters that a \$1 billion study by Halliburton Corporation found that deep down, Iraqis love the dictatorship he and George Bush have brought to their country. The study found the problem is that Iraqis are a simple, childlike, extremely primitive people, easily fooled by more intelligent evildoer agitators from outside Iraq, who have tricked them into believing the American occupation is bad and that they should fight against it.

“So,” Rumsfeld said, “all our soldiers have to do is gesture hypnotically, like this, and the silly simple-minded little Iraqis will put down their guns, throw flowers, and do whatever we tell them to do until someday they become a civilized, educated people worthy of self rule.”

Rumsfeld pointed out that proof of the study’s accuracy is that fact that Iraqis who have lived their lives in the United States, England, and other foreign countries had to come with the U.S. invasion force to run the provisional government appointed by the Bush regime, since Iraqis who did not leave the country to live abroad lacked the skills to manage a government.

“They have a lot of natural rhythm,” he said, “and do have real skills like raising goats, donkeys and picking dates, cooking rice, eating with their fingers, those kind of simple tribal skills, but as for running a government? Let’s get real. They write that funny squiggly stuff nobody can read, and, get this, they think books are read from right to left, not left to right. We have a lot of hard work to do.”

Rumsfeld also pointed out that the new combat techniques would save the Pentagon over \$50 billion yearly in occupation expenses in Iraq, “...since body armor, and all those armored vehicles and weapons and stuff we’ve been wasting on the troops won’t be necessary any more. Just the new hand-job combat technique.”

Rumors could not be confirmed that former Sectary of State Colin Powell has secured a \$100 million contract to provide training for soldiers in how to gesture hypnotically, in exchange for an agreement not to write a tell-all book about his years working for Bush.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

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