

GI SPECIAL 2#C50



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“Mutiny” On Gulf Warship

December 14, 2004 By JOHN KAY and TOM NEWTON DUNN, "The Sun" (England)

THE captain of a [British] Navy warship has been booted off amid allegations of bullying and intimidation.

Cmdr David Axon was relieved from duty after complaints from crew as HMS Somerset returned from the Gulf. A source said of the “mutiny”: “A dangerous situation was brewing.” [Trying to get more on this. T.]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

TWO MARINES KILLED IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE

December 14, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 04-12-17C

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq -- Two Marines assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action Monday, December 13.

Fight For Fallujah Ain't Over Yet; Marines Still Dying

December 13, 2004 Associated Press & By Gordon Trowbridge, Army Times staff writer

After the deadliest day for U-S forces in Iraq in more than a month -- commanders are making it clear that the work in Fallujah isn't yet coming to an end.

One Marine died Saturday and one Sunday in clashes with insurgents inside the city.

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| <p>Yesterday, another eight Marines lost their lives in the area around Fallujah. And Marines continue to confront insurgents in the city as well.</p> |
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Lieutenant Lyle Gilbert with the First Marine Expeditionary Force says troops have found tunnel networks and spider holes, very much like the one in which Saddam Hussein was found one year ago today.

Gilbert says one of the reasons combat operations continue in Fallujah is the high level of mobility the insurgents continue to enjoy. Gilbert says Marines and Iraqi forces may clear a building -- and then a day or two later, insurgent stragglers may be hiding out there again.

Gilbert says it's impossible to say when residents will be allowed to return to the city, or whether they will be there in time for next month's elections.

"I wouldn't pay attention to any particular date," said Maj. Jeff Lipson, a Marine civil affairs officer. "There may be dates that are thrown around, but there are other criteria. We are trying to convince the (interim Iraqi government) of why a later date would be better."

Car Bomber Hits Another Green Zone Checkpoint



A car bomb exploded near an entrance to Baghdad's Green Zone..(12.14.04
AFP/Marwan Naamani)

Dec 14, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters) & AP & Aljazeera

A car bomber struck at an entrance to Baghdad's Green Zone government compound on Tuesday, 24 hours after an almost identical attack on the same checkpoint, a U.S. military spokesman and Iraqi police said.

"There's been a VBIED (car bomb) at Checkpoint 12," the spokesman said, adding that, as was the case Monday, there had been no U.S. casualties.

The attack killed seven people.

The blast, which sent a large plume of smoke over the city, occurred at a different entrance to the zone than that targeted on Monday.

Ziyad al-Samarrai, an Iraqi journalist, told Aljazeera "US forces, Iraqi police and the national guards cannot control such attacks any longer, particularly the suicide operations targeting them. They cannot even face these attacks. They only set up checkpoints."

"Such attacks take place almost daily. Iraqi resistance fighters are able to turn the country into a battlefield whenever they want to," he added.

The blast, which sent a large plume of smoke over the city, occurred at a different entrance to the zone than that targeted on Monday

"I saw a Kia car drive through the checkpoint and it exploded," said bus driver Muhammad Kadhim as he lay wounded at the civilian Yarmuk hospital.

"I'm sure two National Guards next to it were killed," he added, although the US spokesman said he knew of no Iraqi military casualties.

Two mortar rounds landed in the Green Zone, which houses the interim Iraqi government and embassies Monday.

Notes from a lost war:

US Battalion Condemned To Total Isolation In Ramadi

**THE OCCUPATION BESIEGED;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. Marine inside a guard post on the roof of the Governorate in Ramadi Dec. 13, 2004. (AP Photo / Brennan Linsley)

14/12/2004 Pierre Celerier, Middle East Online

In this hostile environment, the battalion lives in a kind of fortified bubble, the daily target of somewhat inaccurate mortar fire and victim of random harassment as soon as they leave their compound.

"Everything we use... is brought from the outside, and we burn all our trash," said Snook. Even shower water is brought in, and drinking water comes all the way from Saudi Arabia. Electricity comes from generators.

RAMADI, Iraq, December 13, 2004 - The US battalion that has set itself up in the western Iraqi insurgent bastion of Ramadi lives in total isolation thanks to the city's insecurity and the local population's refusal to cooperate.

The 1st Battalion, 503rd Regiment is "in the process of building a relationship with the local population", said Captain William Snook, whose responsibilities include media relations.

But the process is taking some time if you think that the army has been in this mainly Sunni Muslim city, a hundred kilometres (60 miles) west of Baghdad, for more than a year.

Since he arrived a week ago, Snook's only contact with city authorities has been with the man in charge of the technical college that serves as the battalion's headquarters.

Yet this city of 400,000 is not lacking in officials, including a mayor who is also governor since his predecessor, Mohammed Awad, fell ill and was reportedly hospitalised in Baghdad.

"Since November's assault on Fallujah no local leader has stood up as a go-between," between US forces and the local population, said Lieutenant Colonel Justin Gubler, who commands the battalion and half the city.

Lacking partners of any sort, American soldiers try to learn about the influence of tribal and religious authorities in the city as they conduct hundreds of house searches.

In this hostile environment, the battalion lives in a kind of fortified bubble, the daily target of somewhat inaccurate mortar fire and victim of random harassment as soon as they leave their compound.

"Everything we use... is brought from the outside, and we burn all our trash," said Snook. Even shower water is brought in, and drinking water comes all the way from Saudi Arabia. Electricity comes from generators.

As for using local manpower to look after the base, that seems to be out of the question.

"All I know of is the interpreters," Snook said of locals employed by the US army.

In any case, it seems unlikely that local businesses will run the risk of being accused of collaborating with the occupying forces.

Even the interpreters, who come from all over the country, wear balaclavas to hide their faces as soon as they have anything to do with the local population.

As for Ramadi's police force, they chose to resign en masse rather than have to enforce martial law decreed by interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi ahead of the US-led offensive in Fallujah.

**RAMADI:
ENVIRONMENT EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH:
TIME TO COME HOME, IMMEDIATELY**



A U.S. Marine, left, and an armed Iraqi, right, in front of the bullet-marked Governorate building for Al Anbar Province, in Ramadi Dec. 13, 2004. (AP Photo / Brennan Linsley)

Hello Vietnam! Occupation Command Reduced To Airlifting Supplies To Bases; Resistance Controls Highways



The deadly attacks against U.S. forces on Iraqi highways have prompted the Air Force to airlift cargo to American troops on the most dangerous routes. A U.S. soldier walks past the remains of a car bomb after an explosion on the motorway north of the town of Baquba, Sept. 29. Photo by Reuters

Tank Factory Repair Bosses Killed

Dec. 14, 2004 Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - An Orlando builder who managed construction projects in Iraq for a Pennsylvania company has died after he and his boss were shot and killed outside Baghdad, officials said.

Joseph Wemple, 49, a project manager for CLI USA, an engineering-construction contractor, was returning from a new job site on Wednesday when he and Dale Stoffel, the company's vice president for international development, were ambushed and killed, said William Irey, president of Frank Irey Construction.

Irey is the brother of Robert Irey, chief executive of the Canonsburg, Pa.-based company. Information on Stoffel was not immediately available.

Wemple was beginning work on CLI's latest project, retrofitting a facility in Taji, north of Baghdad, so it could refurbish Soviet-era armored vehicles for the Iraqi civil-defense force. He had also helped "westernize" the Iraqi Ministry of Defense annex facility and worked on an Iraqi police training facility.

"I said, 'Joe, why do you want to do this?'" Irey said. "He said, 'September 11. (President) Bush did a good job clearing the terrorists out of Afghanistan. **This is the next step.**'" [Wrong. This was the last step.]

TROOP NEWS

McCain Has 'No Confidence' In Rumsfeld

Dec. 13, 2004 Associated Press, ABC News

Dec. 13, 2004 - U.S. Senator John McCain said Monday that he has "no confidence" in Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, citing Rumsfeld's handling of the war in Iraq and the failure to send more troops.

Asked about his confidence in the secretary's leadership, McCain recalled fielding a similar question a couple weeks ago.

"I said no. My answer is still no. No confidence," McCain said.

"I believe we'll be in Iraq militarily for many years, which would not be a problem to the American people," he said. "I think what is not acceptable to the American people is an increasing flow of dead and wounded." [Huh? Hello? Earth to McCain? Hint: Being there and dead troops go together. Duh.]

NOW:

"You *will* go to Iraq. You *will not* ask what for. You *will not* ask when you are coming home. You *will* use whatever vehicle I say you will use. You *will* be blown up. You *will* be maimed or killed. *Dismissed.*"



THEN:

"War isn't about dying for your country. War is about making the other poor son-of-a-bitch die for his country." Gen. George Patton

Looking For The Right Gift For That Special Someone? Donald Rumsfeld Talking Action Figure!

[Thanks to Mark S. who sent this one in:]

<http://www.talkingpresidents.com/products-af-rummy.shtml> (Also suitable for target practice.)

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 inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

Poland To Cut Military In Iraq By One-Third

WARSAW, Dec. 14 (Xinhuanet)

Poland will cut its military contingent in Iraq to 1,700 from 2,500 now from February, Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said on Tuesday.

Truth

The armor the Marines receive is "usually leftovers from the Army, the Army usually gets the better stuff," Sgt. Aaron D'Amico said. December 09, 2004
Associated Press, Katarina Kratovac

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)

Marine Son Of Ridgway Residents Shot

December 14 The Ridgway Record

U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Will Duffield, 28, son of the Reverend Craig and Jeanne Duffield of Ridgway, was shot by insurgents in Fallujah on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Duffield was conducting hostile searches with his unit when he encountered four insurgents. The insurgents fired on U.S. forces, hitting Duffield in the back of the thigh.

Doctors could not remove the bullet and do not plan to remove it. Duffield spoke to his parents Monday morning. **[Why not? We're not talking heart transplant here. Are they that hard up for warm bodies?]**

"He was in pretty good spirits," his father said.

Duffield's family has received notice from Lt. Col. Owen Lovejoy of Duffield's base in Hawaii that Duffield is being ordered to return to duty once he is on his feet. Duffield was treated at Bravo Hospital in Camp Fallujah.

"Our assumption is that he's still at the hospital," his father said. **"These things are hard to learn for sure."** ["These things" should never be "hard to learn for sure" about any wounded troop anywhere, ever. Inexcusable bullshit. If it was fucking Rumsfeld the whole world would know in 15 minutes.]

Duffield has served in the Marines for three years.

Twice Wounded Soldier Finally Coming Home: "At Least He's Out Of It Now"

December 14, 2004 By: Dan Anderson - staff writer, The Daily Times

ADAIR - A Mayes County Marine Lance Corporal Kyle Layer was wounded during a U. S. led assault of Fallujah on Sunday.

The 2001 Adair High School graduate suffered a bullet wound that broke the femur of his left leg, said his father, Leroy Layer, Tuesday morning.

Layer said his son enlisted in the Marine Corps over two years ago while a student Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Cpl. Layer was injured previous to Sunday's action when shrapnel ripped through his neck during an attack in November, also at Fallujah, the elder Layer said.

"They (Marine Corps, medics) patched him up and sent him back in," Layer said.

This time, Layer said, they won't be sending him back. Although his wounds are not life threatening, he said, the Corps will be sending him home.

"I'm glad he's alive. It could have been much worse but at least he's out of it now," Layer said referring to his son's combat tour in Iraq.

Cpl. Layer's mother, Donna Willyard is a school teacher at Adair Elementary Schools.

Retired Army Colonel, 70, Sent To Afghanistan

December 11, 2004 By R. NORMAN MOODY, Gannett News Service

Dr. John Caulfield thought it had to be a mistake when the Army asked him to return to active duty. After all, he's 70 years old and had already retired - twice. He left the Army in 1980 and private practice two years ago.

"My first reaction was disbelief," Caulfield said. "It never occurred to me that they would call a 70-year-old."

In fact, he was so sure it was an error that he ignored the postcards and telephone messages asking if he would be willing to volunteer for active duty to "backfill" somewhere on the East Coast, Europe or Hawaii. That would be OK, he thought. It would release active duty oral surgeons from those areas to go to combat zones in Iraq or Afghanistan.

But then the orders came for him to go to Afghanistan.

Today, Caulfield, a colonel from Satellite Beach, Fla., is an example of how the continuing demands of keeping ground troops in Afghanistan and Iraq are forcing the military to go to extraordinary measures to keep its ranks filled. He's attending to patients - U.S. troops, Afghan soldiers and civilians - at the Army's 325th Field Hospital in Bagram, Afghanistan.

He is one of about 100 over the age of 60 known to be serving. The Department of Defense couldn't provide exact figures.

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army spokesman, said "It's the continuing demand in the service."

Amputation Rate For US Troops Twice That Of Past Wars: The VA "Cannot Handle The Load"

December 9, 2004 Raja Mishra, Boston Globe

US troops injured in Iraq have required limb amputations at twice the rate of past wars, and as many as 20 percent have suffered head and neck injuries that may require a lifetime of care, according to new data giving the clearest picture yet of the severity of battlefield wounds.

The data are the grisly flip side of improvements in battlefield medicine that have saved many combatants who would have died in the past: Only 1 in 10 US troops injured in Iraq has died, the lowest rate of any war in US history.

But those who survive have much more grievous wounds. Bulletproof Kevlar vests protect soldiers' bodies but not their limbs, as insurgent snipers and makeshift bombs tear off arms and legs and rip into faces and necks. More than half of

those injured sustain wounds so serious they cannot return to duty, according to Pentagon statistics.

Much attention has focused on the 1,000-plus soldiers killed in Iraq, but **the Pentagon has released little information on the 9,765 soldiers injured as of this week.**

"The death rate isn't great compared to Vietnam, Korea, and World War II. But these soldiers are coming back to their communities and people are seeing just how high the price is that these young people are paying," said **Dr. G. Richard Holt**, a head and neck surgeon at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and a retired US Army surgeon who served as a civilian adviser in Iraq earlier this year.

According to Brown Medical School's Dr. Roy Aaron, the current VA medical system "literally cannot handle the load" of amputees.

In addition to amputations, many soldiers making this journey have head and neck injuries, frequently injured by improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, essentially remote-controlled bombs planted in the ground.

"The angle of the force of these IEDs is right for the neck and face. That's been devastating to folks over there," said Holt, explaining that Kevlar helmets do not protect the underside of heads and necks, where crucial nerves and blood vessels lie.

These injuries, surgeons said, have long-term implications, with many involving irreversible brain damage, breathing and eating impairments, blindness, or severe disfiguration. The study prompted the military to add a full-time head and neck surgeon to a Baghdad field hospital.

"These folks are just starting to come back, and they may require care for a long, long time," said Holt.

Iraq Veteran Says Government Betrayed The Troops; Citizens Threatened With Arrest For Wearing A Sticker

December 12, 2004 Catherine Gabe, Plain Dealer Reporter

Braving Saturday's snappy winds and wet snow, about 100 marchers protested the war in Iraq, spreading their message from Cleveland's West Side to downtown. Among them were professors, students, a pediatrician, a judge, a Jesuit priest, a mother of a soldier and veteran Chad Salamon, who returned from Iraq in August.

"The bottom line is that our government has betrayed us," said Salamon of Ravenna, who served as a mechanic in a medical unit for six months as a member of the Ohio National Guard. "They have betrayed the men and women in uniform by sending them into harm's way without proper protection or just cause."

Salamon, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, walked with the marchers from a park near the West Side Market, through Ohio City and over the Detroit-Superior (Veterans Memorial) Bridge for a speech at Public Square.

The event was organized by the Northeast Ohio Anti-War Coalition. Sheri Banks of Sagamore Hills watched the protesters after shopping at the market with her husband, Gary.

"I agree with them," she said. "A lot of people never open their mouths and nothing changes."

Lakewood residents Liz Conway and Elizabeth Wood were nearly arrested after trying to re-enter Tower City to board the RTA rapid home. Police ordered them to leave immediately and take off stickers that read "End the U.S. Empire."

[While you've been in Iraq fighting for the Empire, this is what's happening at home. We need you back here to protect us from scum like this. Here, in your face, are the "enemies domestic," doing their thing, threatening to arrest people for wearing stickers they don't like. So much for all the bullshit about "democracy." They hate it, won't have it, and you're halfway across the world while this shit is going down behind your backs. T]

"I can't believe that anything you say against Bush or that's not patriotic is an arrestable offense," Wood said. [Believe it now?]

The Army Sees Soldiers As "Inventory"

[Thanks to Diane R. who sent this to the vets for peace list. She writes on 12.11.04: I especially found the following excerpt rather disgusting:

[".. issue of insufficient male soldiers in inventory to fill forward support companies .."]

[Ah, yes - just as there is insufficient inventory of humvee armor, body armor, and lately I've heard, bullets.]

According to a Washington Times report, last May the Army told Pentagon officials in a special report that if it was forced to keep the vital FSCs all-male, it would simply not have enough soldiers.

"Army manpower cannot support elimination of female soldiers from all units designated to be unit of action elements," the Army report concluded.

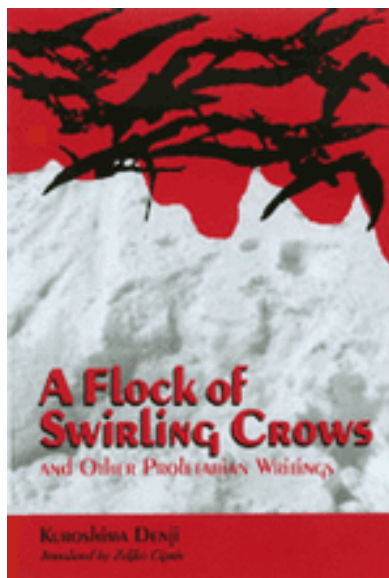
Excluding women "creates an immediate personnel readiness impact: issue of insufficient male soldiers in inventory to fill forward support companies ... Creates potential long-term challenge to Army; pool of male recruits too small to sustain force."

Stop-Loss Soldier Hospitalized For Stress

[USA Today, December 14, 2004, Pg. 3]

A soldier who was supposed to return to Iraq after losing a legal battle against stop-loss has been hospitalized for "intense stress."

Unknown History; A Japanese Soldier Turns Against War; His Book Was Banned By Japanese War Government *And* The U.S. Occupation



From: Zeljko Cipris
To: GI Special
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2004 11:04 PM

Today (12/12) is the birthday of one of my favorite writers, Kuroshima Denji, a staunch antimilitarist.

Kuroshima was drafted into the Japanese army and sent to Russia in 1921 to fight the 'Reds.'

The experience radicalized him, and led to some fine antiwar literature.

An English translation of some of his key narratives, entitled 'A Flock of Swirling Crows and Other Proletarian Writings,' will be coming out in March (from University of Hawaii Press).

Incidentally, there's also a book called "Soldiers Alive," produced by a different writer, that GI Special readers might find of interest. Though its author was not an antimilitarist, he does present war in the raw (and gets in trouble for it). The English version was brought out last year by University of Hawaii Press.

Here's the book cover copy about "Soldiers Alive":

"When the editors of Chuo koron, Japan's leading liberal magazine, sent the prize-winning young novelist Ishikawa Tatsuzo to war ravaged China in early 1938, they knew the independent-minded writer would produce a work wholly different from the lyrical and sanitized war reports then in circulation.

"They could not predict, however, that Ishikawa would write an unsettling novella so grimly realistic it would promptly be banned and lead to the author's conviction on charges of "disturbing peace and order."

"Decades later, Soldiers Alive remains a deeply disturbing and eye-opening account of the Japanese march on Nanking and its aftermath. In its unforgettable depiction of an ostensibly altruistic war's devastating effects on the soldiers who fought it and the civilians they presumed to "liberate," Ishikawa's work retains its power to shock, inform, and provoke."

Back to Kuroshima-- here's a brief description of the book:

One of the most consistently antimilitarist intellectuals of modern Japan, the proletarian writer Kuroshima Denji (1898-1943) produced numerous literary works potently expressing his passionate opposition to armed force as an instrument of imperialism.

Best known for his "Siberian stories" of the late 1920s--vivid depictions of agonies suffered by the Japanese soldiers and Russian civilians in the course of Japan's invasion of the newly emerged Soviet Union--Kuroshima also wrote a number of powerful narratives dealing with the hardships, struggles, and rare triumphs of Japanese peasants.

His only full-length novel, a shocking description of economic and military aggression against China by Japan and other powers, was censored both by Japan's imperial government *and by the US occupation authorities.*

The present collection marks the first rendition into English of much of Kuroshima's most highly acclaimed work.

The first writer, Ishikawa (1905-1985) remains well known in Japan. As for Kuroshima, few have heard of him--unless they happen to be on the left.

And finally here's one writer who did not get caught by censors:

Japanese poet Kaneko Mitsuharu (1895-1975) published his subversive poem 'Todai' (The Lighthouse) in the December 1935 issue of Chuo Koron (Central Review), a leading and still flourishing magazine.

It was a brave feat to carry off at a time when authoritarianism, militarism, and emperor worship were in the ascendant. Two years later, just after the outbreak of full-scale war with China, Kaneko reprinted the poem in a collection entitled 'Same' (Sharks). **The cover calligraphy for the book was done by his friend Yu Dafu, a brilliant Chinese writer killed eight years later by the Japanese military police for his anti-imperialist activities.**

That Kaneko himself did not suffer a similar fate for writing seditious poetry is probably thanks to the symbolist and ironic camouflage he employs, transparent as it is.

The censors were too stupid to understand the poem; the militarists, the plutocrats, and the members of the imperial court evidently did not read it, and so the poet survived into happy old age (incidentally helping his son to evade conscription).

The Lighthouse

1.

It is forbidden to peer into the depths of the sky.
The depths of the sky
Are swarming with gods.

They drift about in syrupy ether.
Angels' armpit hair.
Hawks molted feathers.

The fearsome smell of godly skin, like burning bronze.

It is forbidden to gaze into the depths of the sky.
Eyes that do will be burned out by the light.
Descending from heavenly depths is the everlasting power.

It punishes those who defy heaven.

A single white candle
Stands erect in the middle of the sky
To which only the faithful souls ascend
--The lighthouse.

2.

This is indeed the heavenly beacon, guidepost of the seas.
(How fortunate for the fainthearted). Phimosis.
Baldheaded Socrates.
Sliding along the white wall of the lighthouse
Lit by morning sun that smells of roses
I circle round it. These gummy eyes regard the summit from afar.

God: Trinity. Love. Immortal truth. The nursery of such sublime words.
Amid the flow of lapis lazuli, a drop of milk.

In the depths palpably rattling with godly cough and panting,
The lighthouse floats.

The lighthouse quivers, like an ear.

3.

The heavens, said to be a bright mirror reflecting the heart,
We formerly loathed and dreaded.
--There is no god
We foolishly blurted out.
What then of god's stern warnings all around us now?
Being born was above all being sold to gods.
Our lives are gods' riches, and if time to sacrifice them comes,
We must joyfully fling these lives away.

To hide from gods' domain cannot be done.
To flee from gods' retainers can't be done.

From a height no stones, wings, spit, bullets, nor anything can reach,
Gods are inertly looking down on earth.
Pointing at sadness, hatred, heavenly darkness,
I shout
--That one. That's the one. Drag that one down.

But on us insolent blasphemers, seekers of freedom,
Heavenly punishment swoops in a flash.
Thunder.
No, those are
Stubborn flies buzzing round the lighthouse.
Menacingly flying in formation,
They bare their icy fangs and roll over
One by one
Armed with oracles
Five seaplane bombers.

[This is from the notice for the book mentioned above, located at http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/cart/shopcore/?PHPSESSID=99d1069f1b70e46314ecee529c1cc185&PHPSESSID=99d1069f1b70e46314ecee529c1cc185&page=shop%2Fbrowse&db_name=uhpress&search_type=Specific+Search&sfield=author&subject_keyword=Cipris . T]

A Flock of Swirling Crows and Other Proletarian Writings

by Kuroshima Denji

trans. by Zeljko (Jake) Cipris

Why is education potentially subversive? How does ethnocentrism facilitate an oppressive status quo? Who actually benefits from war? Questions such as these were integral to the work of writer Kuroshima Denji (1898-1943), one of modern Japan's most dedicated antimilitarist intellectuals.

Kuroshima was wholeheartedly committed to fundamental change and produced numerous literary works expressing his passionate opposition to armed force as an instrument of imperialism. His only full-length novel, superbly translated here as *Militarized Streets*, was censored by both Japan's imperial government and the U.S. occupation authorities. The present volume comprises much of Kuroshima's most highly acclaimed work for the first time in English.

[For more, check out: <http://www.counterpunch.org/cipris04122003.html>]

High Air Force Officers Probed In Rape Scandal

Dec 8, 2004 By Andrea Shalal-Esa, WASHINGTON (Reuters)

The Pentagon's inspector general on Tuesday blamed leadership failures by top Air Force officials for a decade of sexual assaults against female cadets at the elite Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

"We consider the root cause of the sexual assault problems at the Air Force Academy to be the failure of successive chains of command over the last 10 years to acknowledge the severity of the problem," the report by Pentagon Inspector General Joseph Schmitz concluded after two years of investigation.

The long-awaited report from the Defense Department's internal watchdog was sent to Congress and pointed an accusing finger at eight Air Force officials and two Air Force legal officers, but did not identify them.

Schmitz told Reuters in a brief interview that additional Air Force leaders could be implicated in investigations that remained underway, including three into reprisals against female cadets who reported sexual assaults.

Asked if those investigations included Air Force Secretary James Roche, Schmitz cited an ongoing inquiry of Roche related to a failed tanker deal with Chicago-based Boeing Co.

"I'm investigating Secretary Roche already regarding the 767 issue ... and I just can't get into the substance," he said.

Defense Deputy Undersecretary David Chu said possible actions against the 10 individuals would be decided after a detailed case-by-case review, adding such actions could be taken even if the people had since retired.

The IG report found a pattern of "leadership failures" in reviewing the actions of 31 present and former officials, including Air Force secretaries, military chiefs of staff, legal officers and superintendents of the academy.

Of those, eight "shared responsibility for creating, contributing to, or abiding the unique sexual assault reporting program at USAFA and the resulting problems," it said.

The earlier report said allegations of 142 sex assaults against women had been made at the school over 10 years and little had been done to halt the pattern or punish those responsible until the issue became public in January 2003.

Evidence that some unnamed senior officials may have been notified of sexual assaults as early as July 2002 was still being assessed, and could "affect the conclusions regarding one or more of those senior officials," it added.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Occupation Cop Bodies "Litter" Street

December 15, 2004 News Limited & Reuters

INSURGENTS attacked buses carrying Iraqi police from the southern city of Basra to Baghdad today and between four and 10 of them were killed, a senior source said.

The source said the police were ambushed near the town of Salman Pak, about 30km south-east of Baghdad, and said a number were dead.

"The street is littered with bodies," he said. "Fighting is still going on."

A bus they were travelling in and two cars marked Basra Police were destroyed, he said.

Basra police confirmed that what they called a Tactical Support Unit had been ambushed south of Baghdad, although no officers from the Basra force itself were involved.

Set Fire To Iraq Oil Pipeline

Dec. 14, 2004 Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq - Unknown assailants set off a fire near a vital oil pipeline in northern Iraq, raising concerns that the heat could damage the line, an official said Tuesday.

Firefighters were trying to put off the fire which began late Monday after someone set ablaze a hole in the ground filled with oil that had leaked out during previous attacks, said a Northern Oil Co. official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said the fire, in an area about 43 miles southwest of Kirkuk, could cause nearby pipelines to explode. They include the line leading from the northern oil fields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, a principal export route.

Mahdi Army Commander Killed

Dec. 14, 2004 Associated Press

In Baghdad on Tuesday, unidentified gunmen shot to death Mousa Jabar, a commander in the al-Mahdi army of firebrand anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, officials said. Jabar was killed in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad's Sadr City, a stronghold of the militia group.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

A Message From “The Heartland” Victory Will Not Be Won Until U.S. Leaves Iraq

December 12, 2004 **Pantagraph Editorial, (North Central Illinois)**

By John B. Quigley

President Bush cannot gain a victory that would allow him to withdraw U.S. troops from a peaceful Iraq by the mid-term elections.

At this point, the major destabilizing factor in Iraq is the presence of the United States. We are the lightning rod that brings death and destruction on a daily basis.

Instead of being part of the solution in Iraq, we are the problem.

Chances are remote that we can bring about a situation of stability and progress in Iraq in the short term. Either we stay and try, probably to no result, to make the country a beacon of democracy, or we leave.

A pullout with no Iraqi government in place carries risks. The Shiites might take control to the detriment of the Sunni. The Kurds might try to separate.

But with no good exit strategy available, an early pullout may be the least bad alternative.

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

For Displaced Falloujans "The Whole Country Has Become A Prison."

December 8, 2004 By Edmund Sanders, L.A. Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — At nightfall, when temperatures here drop into the 40s, Fallouja laborer Hatam Allawi and his veiled wife, Nadia, gather their seven small children into a 10-by-10-foot canvas tent, where the youngsters jostle for position close to a kerosene heater.

They sit on the ground under a naked lightbulb hanging from a cord that runs to a nearby mosque. The only chair is a red plastic child's seat reserved for their oldest son, 10, who has a disability that makes his arms and legs shake. Two other children, ages 5 and 2, have physical and mental disabilities that require their parents to constantly coddle them.

Life was difficult enough a month ago, when the family shared an apartment in Fallouja and Allawi eked out a living making mattresses by hand.

"At least we had a home," said Allawi, one of more than 500 people now living at a makeshift camp in Baghdad for displaced Falloujans. They left another encampment two weeks ago when food and supplies ran out. "Now we are refugees," he said.

For thousands of the displaced, the struggle continues.

More than 200,000 civilians fled the city before the U.S.-led invasion last month, moving in with relatives, filling up hotels or leaving the country.

Like the Allawi family, thousands with no place to go sought shelter in temporary camps, schools, mosques and vacant commercial buildings in Baghdad and surrounding cities.

Nearly 12,000 Iraqis living in a vacant tourist complex west of Fallouja have been protesting in recent days for the right to return home. In the capital, tent cities have sprung up at the Baghdad International Fair, Baghdad University and other sites.

"These people were forced to leave comfortable homes and now find themselves living in tents at the start of winter," said Sheik Hussein Zobai, imam of the Baghdad University mosque. "We thought the only prison in Iraq was Abu Ghraib, but because of what the Americans have done, the whole country has become a prison."

Much of the burden for taking care of the displaced Falloujans is falling to private aid groups and a handful of humanitarian organizations still operating in Iraq, including the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, which has been distributing mattresses, blankets and clothing. "The government really should be doing more to help," said Saleem Ghari Abdul-Baqi, chairman of the Human Aid Society, an Iraqi group set up after the war's initial heavy combat subsided last year.

The group played host to about 25 families at the Baghdad fairgrounds until supplies ran low and the families were relocated.

"Some of these people will never be able to go back home because their homes have been destroyed," said Jasim Bahady, an attorney for the group. "We will be dealing with these people for a long time."

At the Baghdad University mosque, Zobai invited families to live inside the powder-blue domed structure and set up tents on surrounding farmlands. More than 100 families have moved in, sharing an outdoor hose for water and digging up lettuce and other crops for food.

In a cement structure next to the mosque, Zobai sat recently in front of a small table with a pile of blank slips of paper as several dozen anxious Falloujans lined up to seek his help. **Most of the displaced are low-income residents who don't have relatives to take them in. One distraught woman in a head-to-toe black abaya clutched a**

tissue while tearfully explaining that her family of 17 had no place to go. She received a slip from the sheik for some mattresses, but asked, "Where am I going to put them?"

Zobai laughed when asked whether the U.S. or Iraqi government had offered supplies or other assistance. He said the only visits he had received were two 4 a.m. raids by Iraqi national guardsmen searching for insurgents among the families.

During the day, scores of children pass the time playing soccer or digging in the farmlands. Most have missed more than a month of school.

Many Falloujans said they were eager to go home. "Even if we had to live on the sand in Fallouja, it's much better than staying here," said Firas Saud, 31, an unemployed laborer.

Allawi said he too was eager to return home with his family but, like many Falloujans, was uncertain whether his apartment building survived the November battles between U.S.-led forces and guerrillas.

"I try not to think about it," Allawi said. "For now, it's better not to know."

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**BUSH ARRESTED FOR MURDER;
STRANGLES GEORGE TENET**



Moments after this photo was taken of what was supposed to be a ceremony awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to former CIA Director George Tenet in the White House, December 14, 2004, George W. Bush suddenly tightened the ribbon seen in the photo, above, killing Tenet. According to police sources, the ribbon concealed a razor-sharp piano wire.

"It nearly cut the fuckers head clean off," said Washington D.C. police Lt. Clint Westwood.

Before Bush was led away, he yelled to reporters, "How's this for a slam dunk?" and "God told me to punish the unrighteous and lay low the whited Sepulchers." This apparently refers to Tenet having promised Bush the invasion and occupation of Iraq would be "a slam dunk." (Photo: REUTERS/Larry Downing)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Raining Mortar Rounds

December 13, 2004 Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents rained mortar rounds on a U.S. base in Afghanistan, wounding three Afghan government soldiers.

Eleven mortar rounds fell near the base in southeastern Paktika province in the past 24 hours, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The wounded soldiers from the new U.S.-trained Afghan National Army were evacuated to a field hospital at a larger U.S. base in neighboring Khost province and were in stable condition, said the spokesman, Maj. Mark McCann.

Kabul Golf Club

July 2003 as Kabul: The Bradt Mini Guide & [Reuters] & BBC 26 November, 2004

The Kabul Golf Club is up by the Karga Dam just outside Kabul on the road past the Intercontinental Hotel and the University. The English speaking Pro is Mr Afzal Abdul (079 02 9011). He was the club's last pro in 1978. He had a zero handicap. The course opened in 1967, closed in 78 and has reopened. 18 holes (actually twice round!). Two sets of clubs.

They assure me that the course is all safe. It used to be a demining training area.

Highlights of the course, after teeing off on the first hole, include a bombed-out army barracks, the lack of any fairways, greens that are actually black (made from a mixture of sand and oil) and a collapsing clubhouse with no walls.

It may provide new challenges to any modern player, but it used to be a lot worse. **The entire area has had to be cleared of mines in recent months and three Soviet tanks and a multiple rocket launcher have been removed.**

Ten foreigners have come to play at the newly opened course, and Abdul hopes many more from Kabul's burgeoning community of aid workers, diplomats and journalists will join them.

The green fee for two rounds of the nine-hole course is 500 afghani, or \$10.

MORE:

Afghanistan has been hosting its first golf tournament for more than 30 years.

Some 40 golfers entered the competition on a course in a picturesque valley, once a battlefield, outside the capital, Kabul.

Security fears have meant that many of those who took part in the tournament were accompanied by Kalashnikov-carrying caddies.

But the owners have high hopes for the club, whose annual membership costs 7,500 Afghanis (\$160).

"In the past there was a lot of killing going on here," club pro Mohamad Afzal Abdul told Reuters news agency.

Received:

Al Messalla - Iraqi Human Rights Organisation in Baghdad

From: "Ewa Jasiewicz"
To: GI Special
Sent: 12.07.04

Attached are details of a progressive and support-needing human rights organisation recently set up by Ismail Dawood, a forthcoming guest of Iraq Occupation Focus www.iraqoccupationfocus.org.uk

Ismail has been working hard with another organisation until now, called The National Association for the Defense of Human Rights. He is now the president of Al Mesalla.

The link below leads to an audio interview with Andrea Schmidt from the Canadian-based Iraq Solidarity Project

<http://newswire.indymedia.org/en/newswire/2004/05/802725.shtml>

All the best
Ewa

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:

<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/> ; www.qifightback.org ;

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

www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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