

GI SPECIAL 3A1



Vietnam Veterans: Grief Is Uncensored Truth

THIS ISSUE OF GI SPECIAL IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO ROSE GENTLE AND CINDY SHEEHAN, WHOSE SONS, MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY, WERE BETRAYED AND DIED IN IRAQ. TODAY, THEY FIGHT TO END THAT EVIL WAR FOR OIL AND EMPIRE, AND BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW.

Photo and caption above 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 examples of his outstanding work. T)

**SPC. BARRON:
MEDICALLY UNFIT SOLDIER
BEING FORCED TO GO TO
IRAQ**



ArchAngel Update 12-31-04

ArchAngel has a question to ask.

How many of our troops who have fallen, were medically unfit for service?

We will probably never know and can only guess, but know that we know that the government is sending these troops; how many more of them are we willing to loose?

ArchAngel

From: ArchAngel1BL@aol.com

To: GI Special

Sent: Friday, December 31, 2004

Subject: ArchAngel Update

This is an update on Spc. Barron, a medically unfit Soldier being forced to go to Iraq in the coming week if not sooner.

During the first weeks of this month, Spc. Barron's command was training at Fort Polk, La. for 3 weeks. During the time there, he still had to suffer through knee pain in both knees.

To make matters worse, he slipped in the back of a Hummer hyper-extending his right knee and during the fall, a medic was there to catch him from a complete fall and heard a very distinguish popping sound from the right knee and replied to him that it did not sound good.

In pain, Spc. Barron was only giving a small pain killer. He was not taken to the hospital for evaluation whatsoever and had to go through the night in pain and his knee swollen. **The medic did say that he should go to the hospital, but his command did not take him.** Instead they told him to just go to sick call the next morning.

All through the time he was at Fort Polk, he limped with great pain everyday and was not able to do any of the training that his fellow soldiers endured. Spc. Barron was told that he would be seen by a doctor back at Fort Hood when they return from Fort Polk.

Once he returned to Fort Hood, he was seen by an orthopedic doctor who was outraged when he heard he was not getting the proper medical attention that was needed at Fort Polk.

He ordered an MRI within the following month, but there was only one problem, his command is due to leave with a week if not sooner.

Why does this soldier have to wait a month before he could have an MRI to evaluate the damage? This really shows how much our Soldiers who are medically unfit for service are being treated.

He has had numerous Temporary profiles which he still carries today, all indicating that he is not physically fit for service.

The thing is, once a Soldier is given his third Temporary Profile, he is to be re-evaluated to determine if a Permanent Profile is needed. Instead, the Army is jerking him around and is now on his 5th Temporary Profile.

He was told before his Christmas break that he could report to his personal medical doctor for medical treatment. Is the Army saying that they cannot treat him medically now?

While on his Christmas break home, the pain in his knee was so bad that his wife had to drive him to the hospital for medical help. The hospital took x-rays and found that he had torn ligaments in his right knee and a sever case of osteoarthritis.

They told him that he should not be walking on it at all. He was given crutches and a leg brace was placed on his right leg to immobilize the knee.

After reporting back to Fort Hood from the Christmas break, he was ordered to go through another SRP but his command still is ordering him to go to Iraq.

Why is this command risking not only this Soldier's life, but the life of his fellow Soldiers who will have to carry his weight?

They tell him that he will be safe in a bunker where no harm will come to him.

How can they tell a Soldier that no harm will come to him? How can they tell him that he will have a bunker when we hear so many stories of Soldiers being told the

same thing but yet find themselves behind the wheel of a military vehicle or in the front line of an attack?

There is no such thing as a safe place in Iraq yet the Army tells these Soldiers that they will be safe.

Spc. Barron has said that if he was not medically unfit he would be willing to go because that is his job as a Soldier, but why must he be forced to go after being found that he is medically unfit for deployment, which has been found by four doctors plus a civilian hospital.

What's worse besides his medical situation, is that he has received none of the 4 months of training that his command has gone through. *All he has been able to do is drive officers and fellow Soldiers from point A to point B.*

His Temporary Profiles has kept him from doing any of the training that he needed for the mission his command will face in Iraq. God forbid if something was to happen not only to him but another Soldier or Soldiers, due to the lack of training.

Spc. Barron has been in service for 12 long years, and has served his country proudly.

So why is this country turning it's back on him by forcing him to go to War when he is medically unfit to fight for it.

Must ArchAngle remind his command of the order from the Army Surgeon General that any Soldier found medically unfit for service will not be deployed? This was promised to a retired 1st Sgt Gerry Mosley who went before a Congressional Committee to inform Congress of the situation involving medically unfit Troops being deployed when found that they were non deployable.

ArchAngel keeps in touch with the 1st Sgt. and below is a letter from him addressed to some major contacts at Fort Hood including the Garrison Commander.

"I was notified that SPC Barron was seen in the Emergency Room of a civilian hospital while home for the holidays. In the notification, I was told that SPC Barron had an injury while at JRTC, Ft Polk, and was denied medical care and that upon his return to Ft Hood, the PA that saw him at Darnell Hospital was upset that he had not received medical care at Ft Polk nor was there a Line Of Duty completed.

"When we (Mark Benjamin-United Press Int'l, Larry Margasak-Associated Press, Doug Sullivan- U S Senator Thad Cochran's office, George Pitchford- U S Senator Kit Bond's office, Steve Robinson-Nat'l Gulf War Resource Center, Gerry Mosley-Retired First SGT, and Laurie Urie- CNN) arrive at Ft Hood on Tuesday we will want to interview SPC Barron, as well as soldiers in Medical Holdover.

It appears that the MEB process is unusually lengthy at Ft Hood as well as the appearance that medical care is sub-standard. Senator Kit Bond's office is wanting to find out why an injured soldier (especially with the injury occurring in front of a medic that

stated to SPC Barron's command that he should be seen by an Ortho physician) was denied medical treatment. I bring this to your attention so you will not be blind sided.

"It is a shame that we are making this trip. Ft Hood has had a couple of months to investigate this and make a conclusion. For some of the group, it is at taxpayers expense. It is a shame also that SPC Barron has not received any training since mobilizing due to his profiles and it just totally mystifies me how he is being validated.

"Please advise me what you expect of us upon arrival, other than signing in and reporting to Mr. Green at Public Affairs.

I have discussed with the media accompanies that there will be a restriction on talking with any civilian care givers. If you would, give me the bldg number for Garrison Command Hq. Also, would you provide me with the Troop Medical Clinic that MedHold soldiers are treated at?

***Thanks
Gerry Mosley
First SGT (RET)
U S Army Reserves***

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ArchAngel

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Resistance Still Fighting In Falluja

[Thanks to John Gingerich, Vets For Peace, who sent this in:]

Dec 31, 2004 FALLUJA, Iraq (Reuters) & AP

U.S. forces are still fighting insurgents in parts of Falluja.

The sound of explosions could be heard from the eastern part of Falluja Friday.

An Iraqi National Guardsman was found shot dead near Falluja Friday with a note on his body warning others against working with U.S.-led forces, in the latest such attack on Iraqi security forces.

The body, wearing the dark brown uniform of the U.S.-backed Guards, was dumped on the main road northeast of Falluja, a Sunni Muslim city where U.S. forces launched a major offensive in November to try to drive out guerrillas.

A note attached to the bullet-ridden body read: This is the fate awaiting anyone who collaborates with the occupier."

In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, U.S. troops came under mortar attack Friday.

TROOP NEWS

Pentagon Murders Recruits To Save Money On Vaccine: Drill Sgt. Told Him To Keep Running, He Falls Down Dead



Stacey Patterson received a flag and her deceased husband's military beret from the Army.

December 31, 2004 Michael J. Berens, Seattle Times staff reporter

Army recruit Dale Patterson lost consciousness less than a mile into a required run and collapsed on a dusty road at Fort Sill, Okla. When he came to, he was cradled in the arms of another recruit.

"I don't know what's wrong with me," Patterson managed to whisper. Then he stopped breathing.

Within an hour, Patterson, 25, a former college runner in his third week of boot camp, was declared dead.

"He had just entered boot camp," said Patterson's widow, Stacey, of Tucson, Ariz. "I thought it would be the safest place on earth."

Army investigators found no explanation for the November 2003 tragedy. They promptly closed the case, terming it a natural death, "cause unknown" — even though the base was plagued by a respiratory virus and Patterson recently had sought treatment for flulike symptoms.

Patterson's death and its swift closure is an example of broad, deep-rooted health-care problems inside the nation's boot camps, a Seattle Times investigation found.

At a time when the Iraq war puts each recruit in high demand, at least 1 in 9 are treated for acute pneumonia, adenovirus or other respiratory diseases during their short but intense training stints, according to a Times analysis of military records.

Infection rates at boot camps have risen each of the past five years — often to epidemic levels, military medical-surveillance records show. Today, military boot-camp barracks dwarf nursing homes, dormitories and all other close-quarter institutional settings for the number and ferocity of such outbreaks.

Up to 3,000 recruits each month are treated for acute respiratory illnesses, which flourish in overcrowded barracks where beds are stacked head-to-toe with stressed and fatigued troops.

Even so, the military often does not effectively treat recruits or inform them about these hazards, interviews and records show.

Many times the sick recruits received superficial examinations and were sent back to barracks with over-the-counter medications and told to monitor their own conditions, records show.

The military has not revealed the full extent of these problems to the public or the victims' families.

In Spanaway, Pierce County, for instance, the grandparents of 18-year-old Army National Guard recruit Matthew Nish struggle for answers after being told their grandson died in July of heat exhaustion at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Guardians of Nish, they do not believe that explanation and have received few details other than a \$7,100 bill for his medical treatment.



Joan and Alvin Whipple Sr. of Spanaway mistakenly were billed \$7,100 for medical care for their grandson Matthew Nish, 18, after he died in a boot camp in South Carolina. They do not believe he died of heat exhaustion, as the lying Army investigators explained.

Patterson's family also believes the Army has given it an incomplete account. What family members weren't told was that, four days before Dale Patterson collapsed, another Fort Sill recruit was hospitalized with nearly identical symptoms — coughing, sore throat and difficulty breathing, records show.

At the moment that Fort Sill commanders were telling Stacey Patterson that they had no clues to her husband's death, 18-year-old Pfc. Sean Fitzgerald clung to life. Then he died, too.

While Patterson's military autopsy was inconclusive, Fitzgerald's autopsy, overseen by civilian doctors because he died at a hospital off-base, identified what killed him: adenovirus.

At the time, adenovirus, which mimics the flu, was raging at the Oklahoma boot camp.

For a quarter of a century, the Pentagon controlled the virus by inoculating each service member with a vaccine it developed and owned. But the Defense Department, seeing the disease under control, abandoned the vaccine in 1996 as too expensive, The Times reported in October. [So, to save money, the Pentagon decides to let troops die of an easily preventable, common boot camp infection that everybody knew about. And that is cold blooded, premeditated murder. The scum responsible should be hunted down, one by one, and treated exactly as any other armed, dangerous enemy is treated. The troops' enemy isn't in Iraq. The enemy is in Washington DC running the government. How much more fucking proof is needed of that simple fact? Slaughtered in a war that was a lie from beginning to end, sent without necessary defense equipment and armor, even killed in boot camp, so politicians and those that buy them can stuff their pockets. Every dollar they grab is dripping with blood. Payback is way overdue.]

The military now admits its blunder and is racing to create a new vaccine, **possibly by 2006**. The Pentagon cannot simply resurrect the 1972 vaccine because its manufacturing process is slightly different and clinical trials are required for safety.

At least six recruits have died from the virus since 2000.

At Fort Sill, adenovirus gripped the base in late 2002 and early 2003, and spiked again during the month Patterson and Fitzgerald died.

Fort Sill commanders never told either family about the outbreak.

Stacey Patterson said she grew suspicious during her husband's memorial service at the base. "There were dozens of recruits," she said. "Everyone was coughing."

"Sick as all hell"

On the morning of his death, Nov. 4, 2003, Dale Patterson woke at 5 a.m., as required, and prepared for the morning run. **He notified a drill sergeant that he wasn't feeling well.**

A former competitive runner at the University of Arizona, Patterson was a muscular 175 pounds with six-pack abs, his wife says. In boot camp, he usually ran in Group A, the fastest runners. This day he asked to run with Group D, the slowest.

A week earlier, he sought care at a base medical clinic. After a cursory exam, he returned to his barracks under the Army's "self-care program" with a small bottle of over-the-counter cough syrup and Tylenol, according to medical records.

Afterward, he wrote to his wife, Stacey, "I went to sick call because I was near death." In a letter a few days later, he wrote, "I'm sick as all hell."

He remained silent as his symptoms worsened, toughing it out in a culture that instills a fierce pride to endure and overcome. But such stoicism also makes it difficult for commanders to tell the malingerers from the truly ill, Army investigative documents show.

Not long after the run began, 17 recruits doubled over in pain. In the jaundiced eyes of drill sergeants, all of them looked at first like slackers. One of the 17 was Patterson.

More than 100,000 recruits will pass through the gates of the nation's eight largest training centers this year. On average, 10 recruits die each year from disease or accident. There have been at least 305 training deaths since 1979, a Times analysis of defense and public records shows.

The big outbreaks get attention, such as the 2002 pneumonia epidemic at Camp Pendleton in San Diego that hospitalized at least 323 Marines and killed one recruit, Pvt. Miguel Zavala. The isolated, individual cases often go unnoticed.

Marine Pfc. Bret Moran, 18, was found dead in his sleeping bag Nov. 18 at Parris Island, S.C. In his 10th week of training, he was in the last stage of a 54-hour endurance exercise called the Crucible. A recruit told The Times that Moran had been sick but tried to tough it out.

Matthew Nish of Spanaway entered the Army at age 17, intending to use it to bootstrap himself into college.

On July 14, he collapsed about 10:30 p.m. during a 72-hour field-training exercise called Victory Forge, a rite of passage at Fort Jackson, S.C. That night, as the temperature hovered at 85 degrees, Nish died. It was only four days after his 18th birthday.

Nish's grandfather, Alvin Whipple Sr., a retired Air Force officer, doesn't believe his grandson dropped from heat exhaustion. Nish had been hospitalized with a respiratory infection a week earlier.

Whipple said the Army has not provided more details. Infection-tracking records obtained by The Times show Nish died as the respiratory-infection rate spiked to epidemic levels at Fort Jackson. Nish described his illness in a June 19 letter:

"I have found my way to a hospital bed. I have been fighting off a fever for three days because I couldn't miss training and by the time we had a few days of non-mandatory training I had 102.1 degrees, fever, bad diarea [sic] and severe dehydration. It has taken me 24 hours of sleep and drugs to get to the point of feeling well enough to write."

A month ago, the Whipples received a medical bill for \$7,100 for their grandson. "I couldn't believe it," Joan Whipple said. She prayed that the Army would take responsibility.

The Army told The Times that the bill had been sent in error by a subcontractor and that Nish's grandparents owed nothing. The Army apologized to them.

An Army training manual summarizes, "As week three begins, the recruits must rely on sheer determination to meet the mounting physical and mental challenges of the simulated combat scenarios." **[Got that right. And the enemy is running the show.]**

Dale Patterson was about three-quarters of a mile into the 2-mile run when he dropped to the back of the D group, jogging at a slow 11-minute-mile pace. He told Spc. Kristopher Rodgers that he felt lightheaded.

"He asked me to stay with him if he fell out," Rodgers told Army investigators. "This was my first major clue that he had a problem, because he was one of the hardest-working soldiers in 2nd platoon. He never slacked no matter what we were doing."

Head down, chest heaving, Patterson began to walk.

Sixteen stragglers also stopped running, but they were corralled, berated and ushered back to the pack, military interview records show. Senior Drill Sgt. Clinton Chandler *encouraged* Patterson to keep running. [Yeah, right, as in, "Pardon me, but would you please resume your effort if you feel well enough?"]

Patterson staggered 50 feet and fell.

"I then *encouraged* Spc. Patterson to get back on his feet," Chandler told investigators. "Approximately 10 seconds later he sat down on the railing and I again *encouraged* him to keep running. [Why don't you tell us a little more about your words of "encouragement"? What exactly did you say? How, exactly, did you express your deep concern for this man under your command, who was your responsibility, and who was just about to die?]

"Spc. Patterson began walking again. Two or three steps later Spc. Patterson fell to the ground and rolled off the road and under a guard railing. Patterson was acting incoherently. He was moving his arms *and not responding to commands*. His eyes rolled back. Short choppy breaths."

As he promised, Rodgers did try to stay with Patterson when he first fell. Rodgers held his friend, softly calling his name, his statement said. After about 30 seconds, Patterson opened his eyes and whispered repeatedly that he didn't know what was wrong with him.

Then a drill sergeant stopped and told Rodgers he had fallen too far behind the pack.

He was ordered to leave and continue running, records show.

"That was the last time I saw and spoke to Spc. Patterson," Rodgers wrote.

By all accounts, Patterson was promptly transported to the medical clinic, where emergency procedures failed. He was pronounced dead. [And whose "accounts" might those be? Surely not the same deeply caring Sgt. who provided so much unrelenting "encouragement" to a dying soldier? What, exactly, were the last words you said to him? Why not let the world know? Wouldn't it be some words you could be proud of, the last words he would hear on this earth? Did you hold his hand? Help him rest easier on the ground? There may be people who would like to know, and thank you some day, one way or another.]

"Some of the medics were shaken because this was their first death experience," reported Maj. Bruce Lovins, a base doctor.

Pfc. Ryan Johnson, a fellow recruit, explained to investigators why Patterson tried to tough it out. "He didn't want to be stigmatized by drill sergeants and he didn't feel he received good treatment" from the medical clinic.

Stacey Patterson, 26, opened a cardboard box and spread records of her husband's life onto the living-room floor at her Tucson, Ariz., apartment: love letters, a posthumous recognition from college, snapshots of family and the memorial service, the American flag that draped his coffin.

Her mother and stepfather, Sue and Tom LaVoie, contacted The Times after reading an Oct. 13 article that detailed, for the first time, the fatal swath of adenovirus in boot camps. They believe the virus killed Dale, too.

Midway through an interview, Tom LaVoie got so emotional he left the room, saying, "How can one little girl lose the two most significant men in her life?"

Stacey Patterson's father died in 1981 in a fighter-jet crash near Las Vegas, her mother explained.

"She's watched me my whole life and that's what has given her hope now," Sue LaVoie said.

Stacey Patterson wants to move on, too. But she also wants to shine a spotlight on those who volunteered to serve but never made it to the battlefield.

"I'm hoping that public awareness of the infection problem can help save just one other life," she said.

After her husband's memorial service, base commanders allowed her to retrace his final day — the road where he fell, his barracks and bunk. In his locker she found a note to her on a ruled yellow tablet, apparently written the night before he died.

"Another end to a boring day. Tomorrow is a running day. An injury could cost so much. 44 days left, baby. Until tomorrow, I love you."



Stacey Patterson, next to her stepfather, Tom LaVoie, reads one of the last letters her husband, Army recruit Dale Patterson, wrote to her a few days before his death while training at Fort Sill, Okla. **Lying Army investigators termed the November 2003 tragedy a natural death, "cause unknown."**

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 Faces Deportation After Iraq Combat

12/29/04 Haitian Lawyers' Leadership Network

Philippe Louis-Jean (25years old) a native of Haiti immigrated to the US with his parents 20 years ago (three weeks before his fifth birthday) and has never returned to Haiti. Mr. Louis-Jean joined the United States Marines in March 1999.

In August 2002, Corporal Louis-Jean was involved on the base with a lady who claimed to be 21 years old and apparently was not. He was court marshaled and sentenced to 45 days in jail (the Brigg). **However, he was released after 37 days on good behavior. He was then reinstated and deployed to Iraq from January 2003 until May 2003.**

In March 2004 he was called to the office (on base) to sign some papers instead a (immigration) Homeland Security agent arrested him. He has been incarcerated since at the San Diego Correctional Facility awaiting deportation to a country that he does not know.

His parents are both US citizens along with his five younger siblings.

Corporal Louis-Jean applied for US citizenship in April 2002. DOHS rejected his application because he spent time in jail in the Marines and does not portrait the moral character to be a US citizen. (he served in Iraq afterwards)

This young man and his family need your assistance.

Please contact your elected officials to stop this unjust deportation. He has been punished long enough and has paid for the crime. Heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeelp!!!

From: Jean-Robert Lafortune
Haitian-American Grassroots Organization
Phone 305 347 4684

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Theresa Poulin follows the casket of her son, Maine Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Lynn Poulin, Notre Dame Church in Waterville, Maine December 30, 2004. Sergeant Poulin was among 22 soldiers and civilians killed in an explosion in their dining hall December 21 in Mosul. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

The Cowards Who Blame The Soldiers

It has been encouraging to observe, in recent months, the emergence of an apparent awareness among many American soldiers of the insanity of the war system, particularly as it has been playing out in Iraq.

26 Dec 2004 Butler Shaffer, LewRockwell.com

One thing I found annoying during the Vietnam War years was the hostility directed by some anti-war activists to individual soldiers.

I was opposed to that war - as I am to all wars - but I thought there was something cowardly about those who focused their anger on the soldiers rather than upon the politicians and the political establishment that manipulated the atrocities of warfare.

Clearly, many war critics did direct their attentions to the system itself, but too many chose to concentrate their animosities upon the veterans rather than the architects of such villainy.

Such people are akin to the "animal rights" advocates who berate Beverly Hills matrons for wearing fur coats, instead of confronting "Hells Angels" motorcyclists for wearing leather jackets.

The "pecking order" of an institution works in both an "up" and "down" direction. A sergeant will be sacrificed for the good of a general, a general for the benefit of a secretary of defense, and the latter for the sake of a president. If the initial level of scapegoating is not sufficient to end the criticism, one proceeds upward to successive levels in the hierarchy until it is perceived that the wrong has been rectified.

My words should not be misinterpreted as a suggestion that the soldiers of any war are not responsible for their acts. Neither am I ignoring the fact that many American soldiers have engaged in unpardonable atrocities against unarmed civilians, whether in Vietnam or Iraq. Each of us is responsible for the consequences of our actions for one simple reason: we are individually in control of our energies. A soldier who participates in the systematic killing of others is accountable for what his behavior has produced because he is the one who acted.

That said, however, I am far less interested in browbeating teenagers who, whether as conscripts or volunteers, decide to partake in the excitement of war. For millennia, politically-structured societies have conditioned their young men to look upon war as a glorious and noble undertaking; an expression of heroic sentiments; a source of meaning to life that allows you to "be all you can be."

It has been encouraging to observe, in recent months, the emergence of an apparent awareness among many American soldiers of the insanity of the war system, particularly as it has been playing out in Iraq.

Soldiers have refused to obey orders that would send them on life-threatening missions; others have spoken out about the lack of adequate armor and protective equipment; still others have questioned the national purpose and/or morality of their participation in the killing of innocent people, particularly children. A number of soldiers have brought a lawsuit challenging the continuation of their service beyond the original commitment. Not surprising, National Guard officials announced that enlistments have fallen well below anticipated levels.

The issue of ineffective armament has become a focal point for the disaffection of so many soldiers, who complain of having to scour dumpsites in search of old armor plate with which to refurbish their combat vehicles. **It is open to question whether the government's indifference to the plight of these soldiers was best reflected in Rumsfeld's aforementioned disdainful response to questioning, or in the Army's court-martialing - and imprisonment - of six reservists for removing scrap metal and bullet-resistant glass from abandoned vehicles in order to augment their own.**

The life-sustaining value to insubordination is most clearly revealed in the face of death. As Samuel Johnson stated, "when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully."

The American political establishment - whose interests transcend Republican and Democratic party lines - seems as intent on pursuing its violent ambitions for world domination as did ancient Rome, prior to its collapse.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Five Occupation Guards Blown Up At Siniya, More In Basra

Dec 31, 2004 BAGHDAD (AP) & Reuters & BASRA, Dec 31 (KUNA)

Five Iraqi National Guardsmen were killed when rebels detonated a car bomb next to the taxi the soldiers were riding in.

At Siniya, west of the oil refining town of Baiji, the bomber drove his car at a checkpoint, Guard Captain Raad Jassim told Reuters. **Two other civilians were shot dead by Guards nearby when they failed to stop at a checkpoint, hospital staff said.**

A bomb blast wounded four people including two policemen at one of the city's roads, said a spokesman for the Basra Police Friday. The blast damaged a police car and another vehicle, he added.

PERFECT FOR THOSE COLD DESERT NIGHTS



Mortar attacks set fire in the Daura refinery area. 12.30.2004, Energy Security

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Even A Professional Army Can Rebel

In Vietnam, the conscript army eventually staged a mute mutiny against the folly of its government.

However, you must not abuse even a professional army.

It too can rebel, and as in the citizen army, disaffection starts at the bottom, where the most pain is felt.

December 29, 2004 William Pfaff: International Herald Tribune

Nobody in the Bush administration seems capable of changing course, and **it is increasingly evident that American policy for the so-called greater Middle East will fail.**

If the failure is a traumatic one, the result is likely to resemble the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

Vietnam destroyed the American citizen army: product of a 200-year tradition that rejected standing armies and held temporary and egalitarian military service to be a duty and experience of citizenship.

In Vietnam, the conscript army eventually staged a mute mutiny against the folly of its government.

However, you must not abuse even a professional army.

It too can rebel, and as in the citizen army, disaffection starts at the bottom, where the most pain is felt.

Iraq is now destroying the professional army the United States recruited to take the place of its citizen army.

The new army was intended to serve as the unquestioning instrument of the policies of the elected administration.

This administration's refusal to supply the manpower and means necessary for its vast military and political ambitions is now having its effect on that army.

Its politically inspired fear of conscription, the merciless combat rotation policy and systematic use of involuntary extensions of duty its policies impose, are devastating to troops.

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.

The Bankrupt Empire Has No More Troops

11/30/04 by Paul Craig Roberts, Information Clearing House

Delusion is still the defining characteristic of the Bush administration. We have smashed Fallujah, a city of 300,000, only to discover that the 10,000 U.S. Marines are bogged down in the ruins of the city. If the Marines leave, the "defeated" insurgents will return. Meanwhile, the insurgents have moved on to destabilize Mosul, a city five times as large. Thus, the call for more U.S. troops.

There are no more troops.

The rapidly collapsing U.S. dollar is hard evidence that the world sees the United States as bankrupt. Flight from the dollar as the reserve currency will adversely impact American living standards, which are already falling as a result of job outsourcing and offshore production. The United States cannot afford a costly and interminable war.

Silly Myths Of 2004

1. *Somebody powerful gave a big shit whether Iraqi oil was sold in dollars or Euros. Therefore, the war was caused by Iraq pricing oil in Euros.*

This "theory" is an expression of ignorance of how real markets work in the real world. You can sell 100 million barrels of oil for dollars now, and ten seconds later sell the dollars you got to buy Euros in the trillion dollar daily Interbank currency market, and it won't make a ripple. Duh. Furthermore, the lower dollar, and higher Euro, has been and still is Bush regime policy, provided the depreciation of the dollar is gradual, depreciating the value of the U.S. external debt at the same time. Double Duh.

2. *Israel commands U.S. foreign policy.*

All this does is let those who run the U.S. Empire off the hook. It also implies that if only it weren't so, the U.S. Imperial ruling class wouldn't do such naughty things. This preposterous nonsense merely assists those in Washington who prefer to hide their responsibility for the misery their Empire inflicts everywhere in the world, including the fact that propping up the Zionist terrorist state that occupies Palestine serves their interests. The dog made me eat my homework, and it's all Israel's fault.

3. *Under Bush, fascists have taken over the U.S. government.*

If it were so, those who blather about it would be in prison or dead, not blathering about it. This idiocy was used to excuse supporting Kerry, who wanted more dead U.S. troops and more dead Iraqis, but, they argued, at least wasn't a fascist.

People who churn out this bullshit wouldn't know a real fascist if one bit them on the ass. Capitalist societies are perfectly capable of installing the most bloody, violent, repressive police-state regimes without going through the process of building the massive movements in the streets that distinguish fascism from other forms of reaction.

4. In order to defend the right of a nation to self-determination, the regime, or the resistance, of the nation attacked or occupied by an Empire must be led by nice people. Therefore, any regime attacked by an imperial power must be shown to have been good or progressive, and one must only say nice things about whatever resistance emerges.

Horseshit.

Consistent opposition to Imperial war depends on none of the above.

When Italy invaded Ethiopia in the 1930's, Ethiopia was run by a cruel, stupid, self-styled Emperor who maintained slavery and whose regime made feudalism look progressive. And decent people everywhere defended the right of Ethiopia and its government to fight the Italian imperial invasion, on the basis of the simple right of nations to self-determination, along with the obvious fact that an oppressed people have an easier time getting rid of a local murderous thug in power than they do getting rid of an Imperial occupation.

T

Neck Deep In The Shit

The truth no one really wants to deal with is that this war could very easily be lost by the United States. All the insurgents have to do is hang on another year. All we have to do is what the French and the British did in their colonies: Let themselves be exhausted and finally destroyed by their hubris, their delusions and their arrogant lack of understanding of the local people.

Dec 28 By Georgie Anne Geyer, Yahoo

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On the eve of World War II, the French depended confidently upon their huge and famous Maginot Line. Its enormous defensive fortresses, created almost as a necklace of cities in themselves, lined the entire border between France and Germany -- this time, the Germans would never pass!

But all the Germans had to do was to march around through Belgium to invade France. By May 1940, the vaunted Maginot Line was pitifully useless against such innovative resolve.

Today in Iraq, American officials are having to face their own verbal and rhetorical Maginot Lines. Our "answer" has been that we can get out when Iraqi forces are trained, when elections are held, and when Iraqis themselves win back the country from the "insurgents" or "terrorists" or "guerrillas" (or whatever we finally determine they are).

But in only the last two weeks, American generals and civilian officials are, in fact, admitting that they have their own similar Maginot Line problems.

In Mosul, the Iraqi police force has "faded away." **And remember, until now Mosul was one of our success stories!**

American generals speak of a "virtual connectivity" of the insurgents never seen before, as they use the Internet to pass along techniques, tactics and advice to one another. American generals now admit that almost all of them are Iraqis.

Put aside the stunning fact that American officials could not figure out that people anywhere will fight for their families instead of for the foreign invaders; the recent report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies states that the numbers of trained Iraqi army and police are far below what is required.

Only one example: As of Dec. 6, the Pentagon reported that 27,000 trained army troops were needed, but that only 3,428 were listed as "trained/on hand."

Or consider these other warning signs:

American generals now speak in interviews about the "cellular expansion" of the insurgents. They see a constant spread of new, small cells with no clear command and control links that can form quickly, exploit and sacrifice, rather than relying on hard-core or closed, secure cells and forces.

The Independent newspaper in London estimates there were at least 190 suicide bombers in the last 12 months (one might pause to think that they had something they believed in to take such a terminal measure).

Officers and diplomats in the area are now changing their time limits.

Some are saying that all of 2005 will be a very troubled year, that it will take five to 10 years, even under reasonably effective Iraqi rule, to bring any stability at all, and some are noting that insurgencies usually take 10 to 30 years to play themselves out.

The truth no one really wants to deal with is that this war could very easily be lost by the United States. All the insurgents have to do is hang on another year. All we have to do is what the French and the British did in their colonies: Let themselves be exhausted and finally destroyed by their hubris, their delusions and their arrogant lack of understanding of the local people.

Our Maginot Lines today are our satellites, our huge bombers, our willingness to destroy a city such as Fallujah without even knowing who's there.

Our Maginot minds refuse to see that the Germans sneaking around the French through Belgium to destroy them is disturbingly analogous to the insurgents in Iraq moving in cells from city to city and letting us think we are "winning."

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.

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Chiles checks the wounds of a U.S. Marine suffering from injuries from a roadside bomb, after being evacuated to a military hospital in Baghdad, Nov. 9, 2004. Chiles is from Langston, Okla. (AP Photo/John Moore, File)

They Hate Our Fake Elections

Dec 30, 2004 by: Tex

Virtually every single attack by Iraqi insurgents these days is heralded in the media as "an attempt to derail the upcoming elections."

Not once have I heard an attack described as "an attempt to expel the American occupiers" or, perhaps less provocatively, as "an attempt to weaken the American resolve to continue their occupation of Iraq."

Even today, when there were a series of attacks not on elected officials or candidates but Iraqi police and National Guard, a Reuters article links the attacks to bin Laden's message about the elections yesterday.....

I came across this perfect example of where this is coming from today :(December 30, 2004 By KOMO Staff & News Services:

"Insurgents tried to ram a truck with half a ton of explosives into a U.S. military post in the northern city of Mosul on Thursday then ambushed reinforcements in a huge gunbattle in which 25 rebels and one American soldier were killed. Warplanes fired missiles and strafed gunmen during the fight.

"The assault on the outpost, which U.S. soldiers finally repulsed, appeared to be better coordinated than past attacks, with *guerrillas apparently pulling out their strongest assaults in an effort to derail Jan. 30 elections*, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said."

"The terrorists are growing more desperate in their attempts to derail the elections and they're trying to put it all on the line and give it all they can," Hastings said"

Right. It isn't the occupation, it's the elections.

That's why they're attacking the US and anyone collaborating with the US.

After the "elections," which the US has already admitted will do nothing to stop the resistance, what will the next excuse be?

I can already hear it. "They just don't want Iraq to have a constitution," they'll say as they continue to occupy the country, and Americans and Iraqis continue to die.

We just go from one Mission Accomplished moment to the next.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Looking For A Homey Prison Camp? Come To The New Falluja!

December 30, 2004 Edmund Sanders, N.Y. Times Staff Writer

Every resident is required to carry a small card outlining special new rules for the city.

There's a 6 p.m. curfew. No weapons are allowed.

Graffiti and public gatherings are illegal.

Cars and visitors are banned.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Priorities

Cost of the ongoing U.S. war in Iraq--\$228 million/day

Amount the U.S. initially in aid to Indian Ocean tsunami victims -- \$10 million

Amount U.S. offered in tsunami aid after being chastised by UN official -- \$35 million

(December 29, 2004, DAVE LINDORFF, Counterpunch)

"Our only political party has two right wings, one called Republican, the other Democratic. But Henry Adams figured all that out back in the 1890s. 'We have a single system' he wrote, and 'in that system the only question is the price at which the proletariat is to be bought and sold'...: Gore Vidal, *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*. [Via Liz Burbank.]

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Death Stalks The People Of Khan Younis

From: [Mohammed Al Moghayer](#)

To: GI Special

Sent: December 31, 2004 12:47 PM

Subject: The New Year 2005: Death Stalks the People of Khan Younis



Dear friend:

Human shreds, human legs, arms, hand, bones and fingers are spreaded everywhere at Khanyounis refugee Camp.

Words are not enough to express about what has been going on here.. Have a look at what is happening right now at Khanyounis refugee Camp. Have a look at the result of the international silence towards what has been going on here.

The children of Khanyounis refugee Camp appeals to you and all free people to stop what is happening at these moments, in the name of the "democratic countries".

For more information please visit www.rafahtoday.org and let your friends , media and everyone around about what is going on here.

Also, please have a look at the photos that represent "some" of what is going on here.

Sad greetings!
Mohammed

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

Received:

Pass It On

From: T
To: GI Special
Sent: December 30, 2004

Thanks for all your hard work.

I don't agree with everything you say, but overall I think it is an excellent site, filled with so much info. Read it everyday.

REPLY: The hardest work is done by people like the Archangels, who are organizing to resist abuses inside the armed services, and troops who are against the war, doing what they can to stop it. Reach out to them and please pass it on. 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:

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

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

www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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