

GI SPECIAL 3A10:

THE FACE OF THE ENEMY



Rumsfeld at the Pentagon (12.19.04 AFP/File/Stephen Jaffe)

“My 3rd And Final Request To Rummy” From A Gold Star Mother

One of our questions for you would be: if this is true, after the sham elections and after you all have your puppet government installed in Iraq are you going to bring our troops home?

After the elections, what's going to be the reason to keep our young people in danger. Not to mention the millions of Iraqis the reckless, arrogant and ignorant policies of your department have put at risk.

January 9, 2005

To the Secretary of Defense:

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at a recent news conference made a plea for understanding of his concern for the lives of U.S. soldiers in Iraq. He stated that, "I hope and pray that every family member of those who have died so bravely knows how deeply

I feel their loss," and that he "stays awake at night for concern for those at risk." And that the grief of their loved ones "is something that I feel to my core." Letter to the editor: Vacaville Reporter: Jan. 9, 2005.

You claim that you deeply feel our loss and you are trying to appear very compassionate and caring.

It is my feeling since my son, Spc Casey Austin Sheehan, was killed in Sadr City in an ambush on 04/04/04, that the soldiers that have been sent over there to die for your administration's lies and betrayals, are the least of your concerns.

If you really cared about our brave young men and women who have been put into harms' way for no reason, you would have brought them home months ago when it was proven that Iraq had no WMD's; no connection between Iraq and 9/11; Saddam captured; etc.

If you cared about them before the falsehoods were exposed to the light, you would have sent them over to fight a war with the proper planning, training, armor, and supplies.

Now the big story that you and yours are telling is that America has troops over in Iraq to bring Iraqis freedom and to give them control of their country.

One of our questions for you would be: if this is true, after the sham elections and after you all have your puppet government installed in Iraq are you going to bring our troops home?

After the elections, what's going to be the reason to keep our young people in danger. Not to mention the millions of Iraqis the reckless, arrogant and ignorant policies of your department have put at risk.

My son was told that he would be going to Iraq to rebuild schools, sewer systems and relationships with the people of Iraq...he was lied to, also.

He was told that he would be welcomed as a liberator with "chocolates and flowers." Well, he was killed 2 short weeks after he arrived and he wasn't killed by chocolates and flowers...it was RPG's and small arms fire.

Since you all have tried to equate Saddam and Osama and make us citizens of the USA believe that they are the same 2 people, are you trying to convince us that chocolates and flowers are the same as RPG'S and bullets?

Mr. Rumsfeld, you tried these "politics of fear" in the Ford administration, and you are playing them again with us.

I just want to let you know that there are some people who aren't afraid...we are fighting to bring our children home from this illegal and immoral war and we are fighting to bring peace and democracy back to our country.

There is a group of Gold Star families who are going to be in Washington, DC for the Inauguration between January 19th and January 21st.

We have requested a meeting with you and we haven't received one.

My challenge to you would be for you to meet with us if you care so much for and feel so deeply for our losses.

It would be another chance for you to prove that you have compassion for our children and for us families.

We, as families, have many other questions for you, too. The DOD still says that my son's death is "under investigation." When I request information, I do not even get a reply. My son was killed due to the lack of proper training, proper armor, proper equipment and proper planning...why? Your public answers to these questions have been inadequate and very sarcastic and it hurts us families immensely.

In requesting our meeting, we the families gave you a deadline to respond to us...that deadline is January 10, 2005. We come from all over the country and we all have numerous media contacts. As I stated last week, if we do not hear from your office regarding this meeting, we are going to the press. I think your attitude about the safety of our troops has been a very big news story and I think the press would be interested to know that you won't meet with us. I think the media would also be interested to know that you will meet with us if a meeting is set up.

Mr. Secretary: In the above quote you stated that you "stay up at night" with concern for those at risk.

Well, I haven't had a good night of sleep, free of nightmares since 04/04/04. My nights are full of grief and my days are full of pain. We just passed our first Christmas without Casey and it was so depressing. I couldn't even bring myself to get my decorations out. I couldn't bear to see Casey's stocking which has been hung for the last 25 years. We just passed the 9 month anniversary of his death: he was in my womb for his first nine months and the last nine months he has been in the womb of our mother earth.

I wish I could convey the pain and devastation you and the others have brought to my life: it is so profound and primal that it can't be easily conveyed by words.

At this point, I have the feeling that you think that my son was a dispensable resource for you, like a bullet or a bomb...but my son was an indispensable part of our family and my heart and soul. Your policies have created a hole in my heart that can never be filled.

I think it is your responsibility to meet with us and our right as families of heroes to receive this meeting. I know it would ease our minds to have the answers to our questions and the assurance that you really do feel our losses deeply. **This will be my 3rd and final request to your office for a meeting.**

31% Of Junior Enlisted Want Troops Out Of Iraq Now

Anger and discontent in the Army and Reserve rank and file today may very well be more widely spread than they were among rank-and-file soldiers in 1966.

Asked whether they think "the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there" or "the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible," 31% of junior enlisted personnel said, "Bring Troops Home," and a whopping 47% of them believe that it is not the proper thing for the Pentagon to order "some people in the military to stay on active duty beyond the time their enlistment expired"

Pluralities of "commissioned officers and their families" (43%), "non-commissioned officers and their families" (41%), and "junior enlisted personnel [ranks E-4 and below]" (44%) think that the National Guard and Reserve forces sent to Iraq were not "properly trained and equipped for service there" (Adam Clymer/Annenberg Public Policy Center, "Service Members, Families Say Pentagon Sent Too Few Troops to Iraq, Stressed National Guard and Reserves, Should Allow Photos of Coffins at Dover, Annenberg Data Show," October 16, 2004, Table B, p. 7).

50% had no problem with gays serving openly in the armed forces.

The full report in PDF is to be found at:

http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/naes/2004_03_2military-data_10-16_pr.pdf

Scroll down to the findings for "Junior Enlisted," which excludes the brass.

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.

Majority Of Americans Reject Bush Iraq War Policy

Jan 7 By WILL LESTER, Associated Press Writer

People take a dim view of his handling of Iraq, with 44 percent approving and 54 percent disapproving, according to the poll of 1,001 adults. It was taken Jan. 3-5 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Soldier Killed In Baghdad IED Attack

01/09/05 cjt7Release #050109i

Baghdad, Iraq -- A Task Force Baghdad Soldier was killed at about 9 a.m. on Jan. 9 after a patrol was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Another Marine Killed In Anbar

Jan 09, 2005 By NICK WADHAMS, Associated Press Writer

A Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force also was killed in action Sunday in the western province of Anbar, which is home to the city of Fallujah, according to a military statement released Monday.

Soldier Drowns In Canal

January 9, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 027-05

Pfc. Daniel F. Guastafarro, 27, of Las Vegas, Nev., died January 7 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when his military vehicle left the road and went into a canal. Guastafarro was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Casey, Korea.

7 Ukrainian, 1 Kazakh Soldier Killed In Explosion

1/9/2005 KIEV, Ukraine By BASSEM MROUE (AP)

Seven Ukrainian soldiers and one Kazakh soldier serving in Iraq were killed in an explosion while loading bombs that could be used by warplanes, the Defense Ministry said Sunday. Eleven soldiers were wounded — seven Ukrainians and four Kazakhs, he said.

The ministry said soldiers were loading aviation bombs when one of the devices exploded. A spokesman said he had no further details.

Ukraine Defense Minister Oleksandr Kuzmuk, who visited the troops to celebrate Orthodox Christmas last week, has said that Ukraine planned a complete withdrawal by year's end. **The deployment is unpopular in this former Soviet republic.**

U.S. Troops Kill Occupation Cops, More Civilians

Jan 9 2005 ITV Network & ALJAZEERA & By NICK WADHAMS, Associated Press Writer & By Matt Spetalnick, Reuters

US troops targeted by a roadside bomb opened fire, killing two Iraqi policemen and civilians south of Baghdad late on Saturday.

The American convoy came under attack near Yusufiya.

Troops escorting the vehicles struck back but at the wrong target, Interior Ministry spokesman Adnan Abdul-Rahman said.

Dr. Anmar Abdul-Hadi of al-Yarmouk hospital said eight people died in the attack and 12 were wounded.

The spokesman, Adnan Abd al-Rahman, said on Sunday one Iraqi died from a heart attack during the incident.

TROOP NEWS

Republican Leader, Friend Of Bush, Proposes Troop Withdrawal From Iraq; *So What The Fuck Are You Still Going Into Combat For?*

[Thanks to Ward R. for pointing this out.]

Jan. 09, 2005 Associated Press, GREENSBORO, N.C.

U.S. Rep. Howard Coble, a Greensboro Republican and close ally of President Bush, says the United States should consider pulling out of war-ravaged Iraq.

Coble is one of the first members of Congress to suggest a withdrawal publicly.

The 10-term congressman said in an interview with the News & Record of Greensboro that he's "fed up with picking up the newspaper and reading that we've lost another five or 10 of our young men and women in Iraq."

Support among Coble's 6th District constituents has also waned, his office said.

The dean of the state's congressional delegation said he arrived at his position only after many months of searching in vain for evidence that the Bush administration had a post-invasion strategy to deal with the transition to Iraqi self-government.

Coble, who has represented the 6th District since 1984, says he voted to give Bush sweeping war-making powers assuming the administration had a post-invasion strategy.

"If there was, I wish someone would tell me what it is or show it to me," he said. "I'd like to see it."

But a troop withdrawal should be an option if the Iraqi government is unable or unwilling to "shoulder more of the heavy lifting" for its own security, Coble said.

There has been little or no indication that the Iraqi government can do that, he said.

"What we have are Iraqis killing Iraqis and American troops," Coble said. **"All I'm saying is that a troop withdrawal ought to be an option. It ought to be placed on the table for consideration.**

"I'm going to keep talking about this," he said.

Coble, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, said he may broach the idea to the panel.

Although many Democrats in Congress have sharply criticized the Bush administration's decision to invade Iraq, as well as its conduct of the war, most say the United States must stay until the Iraqi government is strong enough to defend itself.

Danger: Assholes At Work: Missing Equipment Keeps Soldiers In Barracks; Pre-Deployment Holiday Leave Trashed

January 10, 2004 Army Times

Block leave for hundreds of soldiers gearing up for deployment overseas was marred, and almost canceled, over missing equipment.

More than 100 were confined to their barracks at Fort Bragg, N.C., for nine days over a pair of missing night-vision goggles'

At Bragg, about 130 paratroopers — members of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment — had been confined to their unit area since Dec. 9 while military investigators searched for the goggles. Most were released Dec. 18.

The goggles were discovered missing Dec. 9 after the unit returned from a training exercise. It is standard procedure for units returning from the field to make sure all "sensitive items," such as night-vision goggles and weapons, are accounted for.

The 700-paratrooper battalion was restricted Dec. 9 for a few hours. Most were released, but the company was confined for nine days. Soldiers who live off post were allowed to return home to get extra clothes and uniforms. The battalion is headed to Afghanistan in the spring for a yearlong deployment.

Stop-Loss Tours "A National Shame"

"It is a national shame to do this to these soldiers," said Robert Lundquist, a Tucson attorney.

January 10, 2005, Army Times, The Associated Press

An armor crewman from Tucson, Ariz., says he believes soldiers are being given “a blind eye and a deaf ear” when it comes to their concerns about extended tours of duty in Iraq.

Cpl. James Lundquist, 24, has served nearly three years in the military; 11 months were spent in combat.

He received his discharge orders in November and made plans to finish his bachelor’s degree at the University of Arizona. Instead, he was called back for 15 more months’ active duty.

“Everything was done. They even gave me my separation award. And then the orders came down,” Lundquist said.

His new separation date is April 2006, and it’s five more years on active-ready reserve after that.

“I was very disappointed. First off, I just didn’t want to go back there again. It’s not a whole lot of fun,” Lundquist said. “And second of all, I don’t feel like it’s very fair. I feel like I’ve already filled my end of the contract.”

Lundquist arrived home Dec. 22 from Fort Stewart, Ga., and had a handful of days to spend with family before reporting back Jan. 1.

He will head to Iraq on Jan. 20.

When the Iraq war began in March 2003, troops were mainly active-duty military.

Today, National Guard and Army Reserve units make up about 40 percent of the force while many soldiers on active duty are being required to stay longer.

To Lundquist’s father, the idea that his son has to again risk his life in Iraq after already serving for months there is not reasonable.

“It is a national shame to do this to these soldiers,” said Robert Lundquist, a Tucson attorney.

“These men and women volunteered and they’ve been in harm’s way and they’ve sacrificed. We have no idea how much they’ve sacrificed already.”

“I Cannot Support Our Cause Any Longer In Iraq, If This Is What We Are Doing To Our Soldiers.”

Letters To The Editor
January 10, 2005 Army Times

Normally I do not say much about Iraq; however, the recent article ["Scrounging for spare parts brings felony conviction," Dec. 27] leads me to write this.

Soldiers were court-martialed and their careers were ruined, simply because they carried out an Army mission the best they knew how. They were short on equipment and apparently had resorted to means not normally condoned in the Army. They obtained equipment that was abandoned by other units so they could complete a fuel delivery mission to soldiers needing fuel.

If this is how our military is going to treat the soldiers in Iraq, then this is the straw that has broken my back. I cannot support our cause any longer in Iraq, if this is what we are doing to our soldiers.

Sure, they took the equipment, but it was simply to complete a mission that they felt compelled to complete. They should have been commended for completion of the mission.

Other soldiers refused to do an identical mission not more than a couple of months ago, and they were not court-martialed.

These soldiers would have been better off to have refused the order.

I retired from the Army with 20 years active service (Vietnam service from 1969 to 1973), and I have never seen any conduct like this by the military chain of command.

This is deplorable and despicable and a total embarrassment to me and the uniform I wore.

As far as I am concerned, the colonel who pressed the charges should be drummed out of the military. He could have chosen something other than court-martial.

Was he attempting to make a name for himself? He certainly made a name for himself with me.

I have supported the Bush administration; however, this case has broken my faith. If Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld allows this to happen, then Rumsfeld needs to be canned.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Henry Geib (ret.)
New Freedom, Pa.

MORE:

Letters To The Editor
January 10, 2005 Army Times

The Army sentenced soldiers from the 656th Transportation Company to six months in prison for being overzealous in procuring unauthorized equipment to push forward in a combat zone.

As a former infantry battalion commander, give me the soldiers from the 656th Transportation Company and their former commander to support my soldiers anytime.

They didn't sit on their "single point of contact" whining about a lack of armor plate. They pushed their commodity forward.

I think it relevant to study the history of the 83rd Infantry Division in World War II. Today's Army would have court-martialed the entire division.

I had the privilege to know a Medal of Honor winner from that division. The 656th embodied their spirit.

By all means, lock their heels, chew them out and correct them. But to imprison soldiers for trying to support their combat-arms brethren, while doing nothing about soldiers who refuse a combat order, is a travesty.

Reserve Lt. Col. Steven Rucker (ret.)
Marion, Iowa

Soldiers Ordered To Risk Lives For KBR Profits: Sent Out With No Protection, Wife Reports

Letters To The Editor
January 10, 2005 Army Times

My husband is a truck driver in Iraq. When he first arrived, the vehicles were not armored. After several months, the vehicles were armored.

The soldiers are able to complete missions with a better peace of mind knowing that there is some armor to protect them.

Well, now, the leaders are sending these troops in KBR convoys. Not just driving with contractors, but actually sitting in the truck with the civilians.

These KBR trucks are not armored. These soldiers leave their armored trucks behind to ride in nonarmored KBR trucks.

What sense does that make ?

Jamie Wilson
Yorktown, Va.

Marine Stripped Of His Purple Heart

January 9, 2005 (Merrillville -- January 9, 2005) (AP)

A marine who earned a Purple Heart after he nearly died in a humvee crash in Iraq has been stripped of the medal because the military determined his injuries were not combat-related.

First lieutenant Dustin Ferrell learned last month that his Purple Heart had been revoked because the March 2003 crash has been ruled a simple traffic accident. The 27-year-old says service men and women wounded in combat zones deserve the medals.

In March 2003, the Notre Dame graduate was riding with two Lance Corporals in a humvee driven by a 22-year-old army sergeant when the vehicle hit another humvee on a dark desert road, killing the driver and seriously injuring Ferrell and the corporals.

Ferrell, who nearly died, ended up losing 14 teeth, almost half the vision in one eye and still has pain in his hip.

Soldier-Killer Officer Gets Award From The Queen

[Thanks to artisan, who sent this in.]

Jan 9 2005 By Rupert Hamer, Defence Correspondent, telegraph.co.uk

RELATIVES of the six Royal Military Police men murdered in Iraq last night reacted with fury after an officer linked to the scandal was awarded the MBE.

Senior quartermaster Major Peter Lodge was ultimately responsible for the unit that supplied the Red Caps with ammunition, grenades and morphine. But the six were left virtually defenceless after his department asked them to return grenades and left them with just 50 rounds of ammunition each.

The military policemen were killed after being surrounded by a rampaging mob of Iraqis in the town of Major al Kabir 18 months ago.

Last night Reg Keys - father of Lance Corporal Tom Keys, who died in the tragedy and who has campaigned for an independent inquiry into the deaths, said: "Had this been a civilian company, those involved would have been immediately suspended

pending an investigation. But because it is the Army this officer is given an MBE. I am disgusted.

Mike Aston, whose son Russell was also one of the six killed, said: "It would seem that people who really have questions to answer have either been promoted or given awards. I really feel that such awards should not be forthcoming until the whole issue of what happened has been settled once and for all."

Last year a Ministry of Defence Board of inquiry revealed a catalogue of errors led to the murder of the six soldiers - LCpl Keys, 20, Sgt Simon Hamilton-Jewell, 41, Cpl Aston, 30, Cpl Paul Long, 24, Cpl Simon Miller, 21, and Lance Cpl Ben Hyde, 23.

The report said: "Having spoken to all members of the RMP PI (the soldiers' unit) it is apparent they felt uncomfortable with the amount of ammunition they had been allocated and that they did ask for more."

The inquiry concluded that no individual was to blame for the deaths.

Sassaman Nailed At Last; Corrupt Thug In Uniform Publicly Exposed

[Way back in 2003, GI Special reported on this worthless piece of shit, when he boasted to the media about how bloodthirsty he was and how many Iraqis he was going to kill. Like all cowards, he tried to get his men to cover up for his psychopathic tendencies. GI Special pointed out back then that people like Sassaman make up the ranks of child molesters and serial killers, total head cases who are unfit for human society. Well, now he's gotten caught. But his troops are paying the price. He's the one who boasted of how many Iraqis he would butcher, and he set the example they followed. Unfortunately, the army, with its present leadership, is unlikely to turn him over the surviving relatives of the Iraqis he slaughtered for a really appropriate punishment. But there are a lot of years left.]

FORT HOOD, Texas, Jan 6, 2004 Jon Herskovitz (Reuters)

A senior U.S. Army officer ordered soldiers to lie to investigators probing an incident in which two Iraqi civilians were pushed from a bridge and one may have drowned in the Tigris River, an army major testified on Thursday.

At the first of two military trials at Fort Hood this week over alleged abuse of Iraqis by U.S. occupation forces, Maj. Robert Gwinner said **Lt. Col. Nate Sassaman had ordered soldiers to lie about the bridge incident to the Army's Criminal Investigation Command, or CID.**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Slain IFTU “Labor Leader” Was Occupation Stooge For Allawi

07 Jan 2005 By Sami Ramadani

Dear editor,

While strongly condemning the brutal murder of Mr Hadi Salih in Baghdad (A Trade Unionist is Murdered, Johann Hari, 07 Jan), it is highly relevant to inform your readers that Mr Salih was a leading cadre in the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP).

After the occupation of Iraq, the ICP changed its line of opposing the US administration's policy, and its secretary-general, Mr Hamid Majid, joined the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council (IGC). Today the ICP plays a vocal role in Mr Iyad Allawi's government.

Mr Salih's murder, and that of another ICP leader few weeks ago, were widely reported in Iraq and seen as part of a campaign against "collaborationists." Hardly any in the Iraqi media, both pro and anti occupation, paid much attention to his role as an organiser of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU).

Mr Hari is misled into believing that the IFTU is a free, strong trade union. In its present form, the IFTU was founded and controlled by the ICP after the occupation. Within few months of its formation, the IGC appointed the IFTU as the only officially-blessed federation in Iraq, thus allowing it to "legally" take over the assets and branches of the Saddam regime's Federation of trade unions.

Yours,
Sami Ramadani

Department of Applied Social Sciences,
London Metropolitan University, City Campus,
Calcutta House,
Old Castle Street,
London, E1 7NT

MORE:

Sami Ramadani, Guardian, October 27, 2004

Abdullah Muhsin, the IFTU's international representative, led the campaign to invite Allawi (to the U.K. Labor Party Conference) and pleaded with trade union

and Labour delegates not to support the call for an early withdrawal of Britain's forces.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION

General Running Collaborator Party Shot

January 09, 2005 UPI

The manager of the Iraqi National Accord party, headed by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, was assassinated Sunday near his home in Baghdad.

Sources close to the party said masked gunmen tailed the car of General Jassem al-Obaidi, who was accompanied by his daughter, and riddled him with bullets.

Senior Occupation Cop Killed In Samarra

09 Jan 2005 KUNA & ITV Network & By Matt Spetalnick, Reuters

A senior Iraqi police officer was killed by unknown fighters Sunday in the town of Samarra, north of Baghdad.

Eyewitnesses told KUNA on the phone the fighters opened fire at Lieut. Col. Mohammed Muthaffar near Al-Malwiyah Minaret in the town of Samarra, killing him instantly before fleeing the scene.

Earlier on Sunday, US troops said they found the body of an Iraqi police officer and two others near Samarra.

US troops said they took control of Samarra in a major offensive in October but rebels are still mounting attacks in and around the town, 62 miles north of Baghdad.

A suicide car bomb rammed into a police and army checkpoint in Yusufiya, killing two policemen and two civilians.

RIYADH CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CAPTURED

January 9, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-01-42

TIKRIT, IRAQ – A Riyadh City Council member was kidnapped near Riyadh, January 8, at about 9:00 a.m.

First Infantry Division Soldiers conducted an investigation and reported that individuals abducted the Council member and placed him in the trunk of their car, along with one more individual who was traveling with him.

The abduction occurred at an intersection where the council member's vehicle was involved in an accident. The kidnappers were following the council member at the time and abducted him and the other vehicle occupant when the accident occurred.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: The U.S. Army 1971

Following a weekend of growing friction and frustrated attempts to negotiate with officers, black and white GIs threatened to blow up the entire base.

Their warnings were not idle threats, for two fire bombs had already gone off in the early morning at an MP station near the base gate.

Frightened commanders responded by mobilizing truckloads of MPs and imposing a 6:30 P.M. curfew. At about 9 P.M. that evening, however, approximately one hundred GIs deliberately broke the curfew and marched through the base shouting "Revolution" and "Join Us" to fellow GIs.

Several hours later, the men returned to their barracks—but only after a pledge by provost marshal Lieutenant Colonel R. McCarthy that no action would be taken against them.

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975

While military commanders often portray rank-and-file convulsions as solely the result of racial divisions, in fact the roots of enlisted resistance go much deeper, with whites often sharing the same bitterness and outrage as blacks.

The spread of anti-war, anti-military feelings and the oppressive conditions of GI life in Germany led to militance among whites as well as blacks—as strikingly illustrated by events at Nellingen in the summer of 1970.

The arrival of a zealous new commander and an increase in harassment and disciplinary measures in the 903rd HEM Company created a virtual war within the unit. On July 21, after a soldier was unjustly placed in pretrial confinement, a Molotov cocktail exploded outside the company orderly room.

When the new captain responded by jailing two men as suspects, the GIs fought back with two additional fire-bombings, on August 10th and 24th, which damaged the commander's office.

Similar unrest developed in most of the other units at Nellingen as well, as evidenced in an increasing number of incidents of minor sabotage, such as flattenings of officers' tires and telephoned bomb threats.

After months of mounting dispute over racism and harassment, resistance at the base reached a climax on September 21. **Following a weekend of growing friction and frustrated attempts to negotiate with officers, black and white GIs threatened to blow up the entire base.**

Their warnings were not idle threats, for two fire bombs had already gone off in the early morning at an MP station near the base gate.

<p>Frightened commanders responded by mobilizing truckloads of MPs and imposing a 6:30 P.M. curfew. At about 9 P.M. that evening, however, approximately one hundred GIs deliberately broke the curfew and marched through the base shouting "Revolution" and "Join Us" to fellow GIs.</p>

Several hours later, the men returned to their barracks—but only after a pledge by provost marshal Lieutenant Colonel R. McCarthy that no action would be taken against them.

Although repression and reprisals against leading activists continued, the events at Nellingen set an important precedent for black-white unity. As one black soldier told a reporter for *Overseas Weekly*: "There is no racial problem among E-5s and below . . . that's one thing our demonstration proved."

Similar examples of resistance took place at numerous other bases.

On September 1, 1970, *The Wall Street Journal* published a startling tale of drug use, black militance, and dissent in one of the Army in Europe's elite nuclear missile units, the 1st Battalion/81st Artillery, at Neu Ulm.

On August 20, the unit was wracked by a serious sabotage attack in which four five-ton trucks were fire-bombed, causing fifty-five thousand dollars damage. In late September, white soldiers joined Puerto Ricans and blacks in a series of united protests against command harassment and discrimination at Bad Hersfeld. Approximately fifty of the men, on one occasion, staged a no-work strike and demanded that commanders listen to their grievances.

A few weeks later, blacks and whites again joined together, in the 3rd Medical Battalion at Aschaffenburg. At a meeting on October 9, some one hundred soldiers agreed to

boycott work unless their demands concerning command harassment and unbearable living conditions were accepted.

An actual strike was averted only after the base commander agreed to meet with the men and discuss their complaints.

At the Mannheim stockade, similar demands ended in open confrontation, with inmates forced to actually carry out a threatened strike. When names were called for morning work formation on October 6, more than one hundred GIs refused to move; the action reportedly resulted in speedy improvements in stockade conditions.

On December 22, 1970, yet another uprising occurred, this time among troops of the 36th Infantry at Ayers Kaserne, Kirch Goens.

Fed up with harassment and the command's refusal to acknowledge their grievances, nearly two hundred men went on a violent rampage, setting off artillery simulators near the battalion headquarters building, assailing the officer of the day, and smashing windows at the base officers' club.

These incidents, and dozens of others, signaled an Army on the verge of collapse, rent by virtually open rebellion among large numbers of black and white troops.

By the beginning of 1971, the GI movement in Europe had grown to massive proportions.

Dozens of GI organizations were in operation, including at least ten underground newspapers and a large number of black study groups; sabotage and rebellion were occurring at bases throughout Germany.

Even top military officials in Washington were beginning to take note of the Army's deterioration. Senator Stuart Symington reported to the Senate Armed Services Committee in 1971 that he had seen signs of serious disintegration during his visit to bases in Germany earlier in the year. Commenting on widespread drug usage and anti-war protest, Symington remarked: "My impression is that the morale of the armed services in Europe is in very bad shape."

Representative Dan Daniel (D-Va.) of the House Armed Services Committee gave a similar assessment to his colleagues following a journey in the summer of 1971. Daniel spoke of a "noticeable decline in discipline and morale since I was there two years ago" and relayed reports from officers in the field of "threats against enforcement of disciplinary rules."

The Washington *Port's* survey of the state of the Army quoted an officer in Nuremberg who succinctly summed up the military's predicament in Germany: "There is no control. The word is, 'Don't harass the troops.'"

Outside of Vietnam itself, the Army probably encountered more internal turmoil in Germany than anywhere else in the world.

The level of resistance climbed steadily during the latter stages of the war, reaching a peak in the summer of 1971.

An official Army report on “group dissent against authority” listed a total of fifty-four instances of insubordination from October 1970 through September 1971, with the rate of such acts accelerating from one every two weeks in late 1970 to two a week in the summer of 1971.

Overseas Weekly aptly captured the atmosphere in Germany at the time with the banner “GIs Declare War on the Army”—part of an April 11, 1971, feature on GI organizing and guerrilla assaults against military installations.

In one episode at Karlsruhe, twenty black and white GIs of the 78th Engineers Battalion launched a co-ordinated raid against the battalion commander’s office and trucks of the highly sensitive Atomic Demolition Maintenance Section.

Using Molotov cocktails and a pickax, the group managed to bum the headquarters of the commanding and executive officers and damage twenty-three trucks, thus delaying the scheduled beginning of field exercises the next morning.

The article also told of an earlier incident at Nuremberg, where men of the 3rd Battalion/17th Artillery incapacitated fourteen self-propelled cannons and forty-five other vehicles by pouring sugar into the fuel tanks.

While such sabotage attacks happened frequently, the resistance movement in Europe also witnessed many examples of mass organizing.

One of the most dramatic - and politically effective protests occurred among troops of the 77th Artillery at Camp Pied, in Wiesbaden. **In March of 1971, approximately seven hundred of the twelve hundred men at the camp signed a petition protesting discrimination, excessive harassment, and intolerable living conditions, and demanding major changes in base policy.**

The petition contained an ingenious provision which guaranteed its sponsors an immediate hearing: a pledge not to re-enlist unless the improvements were made (an idea other GI groups might do well to copy).

Several hundred of the men also attended a gathering in the post gymnasium and cheered a call for a mass GI strike.

Anti-Lumping

From: John O
To: anti-allawi-group@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2005 10:02 AM
Subject: McCarthyism/genocide

I think there is a problem lumping all members of a particular party in together as one homogenous ideological group. This is very true of a party that is founded on contradictory politics, like the Iraqi Baath Party or the Democratic Party USA.

Take the Baath Party: On the one hand, there is a tradition of socialism from above and progressive Arab nationalism. Such political foundations can be attractive to the anti-imperialist left. On the other hand, the elite of the Baath Party were quite willing to rule with a strong arm, and employed thugs of the lowest sort to do so.

Stalinism has a similar history. On the one hand, the state control of the economy propelled the USSR into full industrial development rival to the US, but on the other hand, command economy was accompanied by class rule of the bureaucratic state-capitalist class, who embarked on imperialist adventures such as stock-piling nuclear weapons and invading countries like Afghanistan.

Left support for Stalin and his heirs did not mean transformation into fascist dictators. Many Stalinists want real freedom and democracy, an end to war, money for health care and education, etc. This is not fascism! I don't see why the same cannot be said of the Baath Party.

I look at the world in terms of class. The Democrats, for instance, have ruling-class capitalists who run the party and working-class supporters who are often well to the left of its leaders. So the Democratic establishment wants war for profit, while Democratic voters want peace and social spending. It is important to distinguish our enemy Kerry the war monger from our allies in Kerry supporters who reject Bush's war mongering....

Let's make the same distinction for the Baath Party. Let's identify the progressive content of its principles, recognize its appeal to progressive workers, reject the subversion of those principles by the ruling elite, and finally advance alternative politics free from class contradictions inherent in Third-World nationalism, in Stalinism, and in liberalism.

By the way, I think such politics are socialist politics that put the conquest of worker's power at the forefront.

OCCUPATION REPORT

How Bad Is It?; A Dozens Soldiers In “Three Or Four” Vehicles” To Escort One U.S. Civilian “A Few Miles”

Jan 8, 2005 By Joseph B. Verrengia, The Associated Press

In the Baghdad night, awakened by the rumble of car bombs and the thump-thump of attack helicopters, Peter Smallwood lies in a sandbagged trailer counting his trees.

Smallwood, 43, is one of the more unlikely Americans in embattled Iraq.

He recruits idle scientists and engineers who staffed Saddam Hussein's secret weapons laboratories and factories, and tries to find them peaceful livelihoods.

Like other foreigners, he lives and works inside the Green Zone, a four-square mile downtown fortress encircled by 12-foot high blast walls and wrapped in razor wire.

Smallwood does little personal recruiting. Nor can he visit weapons experts in their homes to make sure they are staying straight. In most cases, it is simply too dangerous for both sides.

He meets regularly with his Iraqi staff inside the Green Zone. Once a week, Smallwood ventures out to visit the program's advisory committee of Iraqi scientists and engineers at other locations in the city.

He straps on body armor and a helmet to ride the few miles each way in an armored Humvee. He is escorted by a dozen troops riding in three or four vehicles commanded by a young officer.

Falluja: The POW Camp

FALLUJAH, Sat, Jan. 08, 2005 -(KRT) TOM LASSETER, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Outside the town, hundreds of Fallujah citizens stood in a long passage created by bales of concertina wire. **At the end of the line, a U.S. soldier sat at a table with an interpreter and asked people for name and marital status, then took all 10 fingerprints. They also were told to look into a box, which scanned their retinas.**

"It is just like POW camps that we've seen in movies," said Ma'an Kamil, who stood waiting with his 9-year-old son, Suhaib, holding on to his leg.

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

**Report Says Collaborator Troops
Useless For Election Protection:
Senator Slams Pentagon Bullshit**

January 8, 2005 By Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff & Jan 6 (AFP)

WASHINGTON In some of the most violent areas of the country, Iraqi forces have been "rendered ineffective," the State Department wrote in the report dated Jan. 5. **Due to intimidation and attacks by insurgents, "large numbers" of police, highway patrol, and border enforcement personnel "have quit or abandoned their stations," it said. And many units are still waiting for key equipment such as rifles and ammunition, the report said.**

Pentagon officials now acknowledge, however, that most of the 121,000 Iraqi security forces that have been trained so far are substandard and have little chance of standing up to insurgents seeking to upend plans for the Jan. 30 vote.

Congressional officials have expressed rising alarm in recent days that they are not being informed on the full extent of the training problems.

In a closed-door briefing from Pentagon officials on Capitol Hill earlier this week, Senator John Warner of Virginia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, "raked them over the coals" about the lack of progress in training Iraqi forces, according to a participant.

US commanders and Iraq specialists say one of the biggest failures has been to focus too much on numbers of troops trained -- portrayed by Bush as a sign of progress during the recent US election campaign -- and not enough on the quality of the training.

According to the State Department report "Recent insurgent activity has tested Iraqi security forces and their efforts to develop and perform," said the report by the State Department. **"In some areas, such as the provinces of Al Anbar and Ninawa, some Iraqi security forces have been rendered ineffective. Due to insurgent intimidation and terrorist activity, large numbers of Police Service, Iraqi Highway Patrol, and the Department of Border Enforcement personnel in the Al Anbar Province have quit or abandoned their stations, along with police in several other cities."**

At the Taji base, south of Tikrit, the army unveiled its new mechanized brigade albeit with refurbished vehicles from the old army under the gaze of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, Defence Minister Hazem al-Shaalán and Qassim Daoud, national security advisor.

But little of the new equipment was on display as a few hundred soldiers paraded with refurbished Russian-made tanks from the old army and even two jeeps that officers said were seized during recent raids on insurgents.

Lt. Col. Tries To Play Imperial Lord

[This is for anybody who fell for those "Iraqi Sovereignty" lies last summer.]

January 8, 2005 By Joseph Giordano, Starts And Stripes

On Wednesday, senior Marine Corps officials brought their message directly to the mayors of Hit and Baghdadi.

The wide chasm was reflected in the meeting: The two mayors sat on one side of the Baghdadi mayor's office, separated from the Marines by 15 feet of green Persian carpet. In the middle stood a translator, alternately explaining each side's comments.

Said Hit Mayor Ali Hamdi, residents of Al Anbar will not vote because they have no local candidates on the ballot.

"There are four opinions of the election here: People will boycott the elections and urge others to do so; people will ignore the elections and not care; people will ask the elections be postponed; or people will threaten anyone who participates or cooperates in any way," Hamdi said.

With a string of attacks — including the bombing of a new city administration complex built with U.S. reconstruction funds — the U.S. military's "patience is at its end," Lt. Col. Greg Stevens, commander of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment said. **[What a coincidence. "My patience is at an end," was one of A. Hitler's favorite comments, just before he slaughtered more people. What, the war is about him and his fucking "patience?"]**

Stevens closed the meeting with a blunt warning to the local officials. Attacks on reconstruction projects and U.S. forces in Hit need to end, he said, or those projects will end and a decidedly more military attitude will be taken.

"I will make it clearly understood to the people that it was the insurgents who caused that to stop. **If the insurgents continue their activities, we will fight them in the streets of Hit,**" Stevens told Hamdi. **[But Iraq is "sovereign," isn't it? How can he announce an attack on a city without orders from the "sovereign" Iraqi government? Why, that would be grounds for arrest and court-martial. If there really were an Iraqi government, which everybody knows there isn't.]**

"The blame will not be on the multinational forces. It will be on the **Iraqis who stand idly by and do nothing for the security of Al Anbar,**" Stevens told the officials. **[Lt. Col. doesn't get it. Iraqis are sparing no effort to do things for the security of Al Anbar. They join the resistance and fight the Occupation. Very successfully, it would appear, since the Lt. Col. is forced to admit his reconstruction workers have been run out of town. And everybody knows neither Lt. Col. Stevens nor any other commander in Iraq has the forces necessary to do more than mount a few costly raids in force and retreat. Worst of all, transparent bluffing by an occupation commander facing a strong insurgency displays weakness, thereby inviting encirclement and attack by the opponent.]**

"Everything is a choice, and with choices come consequences, good or bad. The attacks need to stop, or there will be severe consequences." **[The "severe consequences" will fall on the Occupation troops, if the commander insists on poking the hornets' nest. It really is time to leave Iraq, with all haste. Now.]**



An Iraqi youth leaves the area where 14 of his relatives were buried after they were killed in a U.S. "mistaken" air strike near Mosul, January 8. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

The Election Farce Rolls On; Rebel Fighters "Come And Go, Unhindered" In Baghdad

"When will we vote? When the Americans leave Iraq," said Sheikh Abdul Sittar Abdul Jabbar. "Otherwise whoever is elected will simply be someone who supports the occupation."

Graffiti declares, "No to elections under occupation", while in the Abu Hanifa mosque, rebel fighters come and go, apparently unhindered by police.

9 January 2005 By Colin Freeman and Aqeel Hussein in Baghdad, Telegraph.co.uk

As he battled to persuade skeptical Iraqis to vote for him, Ayad Allawi last week did what any democratic leader with a pre-election popularity problem would: head for the television studios.

Instead of a polite chat about his government's record, Dr Allawi was grilled by the public on The Iraqi Podium show.

One caller from Baghdad to the television station al-Iraqiya demanded to know why her three sons were still being held in detention after more than a year. Dr Allawi promised to look into it.

Another berated the interim prime minister and said he would rather be governed by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the al-Qa'eda member. "Al-Zarqawi the terrorist is better than you," he said. Dr Allawi smiled, ignored him and moved on to the next caller.

A bewildering 270 parties have registered to take part in the election but few are visibly campaigning. Prince Sharif Ali, a member of Iraq's long-exiled royal family, did stage one of the few photo-opportunities last week, promising to "bridge the gap" between the rival Shia and Sunni religious groups.

Since his campaign rally was held behind the walls of a palace on the Tigris, however, barely 100 people attended.

Nowhere is anti-election feeling stronger than in Adamiyah, an upmarket Sunni neighbourhood of northern Baghdad.

Graffiti declares, "No to elections under occupation", while in the Abu Hanifa mosque, rebel fighters come and go, apparently unhindered by police.

Mohamed Mo-ami, a 25-year-old fighter said: "Any election under occupation is illegal – only people who like the Americans will vote now."

"When will we vote? When the Americans leave Iraq," said Sheikh Abdul Sittar Abdul Jabbar. "Otherwise whoever is elected will simply be someone who supports the occupation."

"I will vote because I am a policeman and I face danger every day," said Lieutenant Rahman al-Tha'i, an officer stationed at a car bomb-scarred station in Baghdad's shi'ite slum neighbourhood, Sadr City.

"But I will not let my wife or my sisters go to vote because there is far too much risk of explosions. **In any case, what difference will it make who I vote for?"**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**While You're In Iraq Fighting
For A Lie, Here's What The
Enemies Domestic Who Run
The Government Have Been Up
To Back Home**

2005-01-07 Sara Paretsky, Guardian (United Kingdom)

The ideals that welcomed my exiled family to the US have been violated

My grandmother came to America from eastern Europe in 1911, when she was not quite 13. Her father had been murdered in a pogrom in front of his family. Her mother was afraid the mob would turn on her next, so she sent her eldest child, alone, to the new world.

My grandmother often talked about sailing into New York harbour and seeing the Statue of Liberty, like a second mother, welcoming her under its outstretched arm. She never saw her mother or most of her family again: they perished in the Holocaust.

Her education ended when she left Europe. She worked as a finisher in the garment industry for 50 cents a day, became active in the Garment Workers Union, became pregnant and married at 15. **But she knew when she sailed in under the statue that her life would not be in danger again because of who she was or what she thought or said. She had come home to freedom.**

I recently completed a speaking tour in Europe in connection with my novel Blacklist, which is set partly in the McCarthy era and partly in the world of the Patriot Act. The book has generated hate mail from people who accuse me of hating America and loving terrorists. When I walked into the US consulate in Hamburg and saw a sketch of the statue on the wall, I thought of my grandmother and wept.

Grannie, this is what we're doing now:

*** We imprisoned an artist in upstate New York for an installation piece he was creating around genetically modified food. When his wife died suddenly one morning and he called 911, he was arrested for having micro-organisms in the apartment. He was held without charge until a postmortem was completed and showed that the benign, legally obtained organisms in his home had not caused his wife's death. He faces trial in January for having benign, legal organisms in his house, his travel is restricted, and he is subject to frequent drug tests.**

*** We arrested a library patron in New Brunswick for looking at foreign-language pages on the web. We held him for three days without charging him, without letting him call a lawyer, or notify his wife.**

*** We arrested a man at St John's College in Santa Fe for making a negative comment about George Bush in a chatroom from the college library. We put a gag order on all the students and faculty, forbidding them from revealing that this arrest had taken place: the staff member who told me about it could be imprisoned for doing so.**

*** We pressured a North Carolina public radio station to drop a long-time sponsorship from a reproductive rights group, claiming that it is political and therefore not permissible as a donor.**

*** We've seized circulation and internet-use records from a tenth of the nation's libraries without showing probable cause. We're imprisoning journalists for their coverage of a White House vendetta on a CIA agent. We coerced newspapers in Texas and Oregon to fire reporters who criticized the president's behavior in the days immediately after 9/11. We have held citizens and non-citizens alike for more than three years in prison, without charging them, without giving them any idea on how long their incarceration might be, and we have "out-sourced" their torture to Pakistan and Egypt.**

*** When George Bush spoke at the Ohio State University commencement in 2002, we threatened protesters with expulsion from the university.**

*** We imprisoned an 81-year-old Haitian Baptist minister when he landed at Miami airport with a valid passport and visa. We took away his blood-pressure medicine and ridiculed him for not speaking clearly through his voice-box. He collapsed and died in our custody five days later.**

On the plane coming home, I sat next to an Englishman, urbane, fluent in four languages, traveling every month to South America or the Pacific rim, who told me "you Yanks" had done the right thing in giving Bush four more years. "He's protecting you from terror," the man explained.

I told him about the arrests and interrogations of writers, artists, ordinary citizens. He paused, then said: "You Yanks put a lot of your people in prison, anyway." I was bewildered. He said: "It's a necessary price to pay for protection against terrorism. You'll be glad 10 years from now that you did it."

Grannie, you know that's what a lot of people said in Germany in the 30s - that the torture of Jews, communists, homosexuals and the mentally retarded was a necessary price to pay for moving Germany in a better direction.

When I think of you sailing into New York harbour alone, terrified, and seeing "the Mother of Exiles" lift her lamp beside the golden door, I feel my heart breaking.

[We need you back here, to protect us from the enemies domestic. These are the real enemies, not the Iraqis.]

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/gi-special/> ; www.gifightback.org ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>, www.williambowles.info/gispecial

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