

GI SPECIAL 3B63:

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



The casket of Army Spc. Louis E. Niedermeier is carried by members of the Old Guard during a funeral service June 17, 2005 in Arlington Cemetery. Niedermeier, from Largo, Fla., was killed in Iraq June 1, two weeks before his 21st birthday. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

“I Owe The Army One”

From: Soldier X
To: GI Special
Sent: June 17, 2005
Subject: The Light and Dark

It has been a spell since I wrote you. I am in [xx] County visiting my daughter and having a grand time of it. She is my apple tree and my shooting star. She was born in the Chinese year of the Golden Dragon, the big 2000.

It will be interesting to see what role she will have in world peace and a progressive future. What tyranny will she encounter? What will we leave her with when we have ravaged the world and abused its people? We shall see. For now she is interested in wooden dolls and sneaking candy when I am not looking.

I am taking her to the park, to the movies and down to Black Canyon to fish. I guess the things dads are supposed to do with their children, but it is so much more special to me.

The war has created a strong contrast of light and dark in the world. The wonderful things seem that much better. But also a taint of my soul slips in now and again. A doom and fear of what I have done and the direction I have helped push our society towards is too black to bare.

That is why I travel to Scotland soon. To protest the G8 and the policies of the major nations.

I go because that is where I belong. I can go so I must.

I encourage all people everywhere to join me and if you can't than find a way to make a stink in your own back yard.

Raise hell during fourth of July.

Do it for the Ron Kovics of yesterday, today and the ones of the future.

If you sit and do nothing than curse yourself and take fault for all the world's problems. We are only taken advantage of because we sit by and allow it.

I mean to stay more in touch but the real world is a sweeping distraction.

Soon I will find focus.

I owe the Army one.

I owe one to George W Bush and I owe one to the corporate scum fucks whose greed makes me vomit.

But, I am no weak complainer.

If words are ignored I will thrust my pen in between their eyes.

***"I am the living death
The memorial day on wheels
I am your yankee doodle dandy
Your john wayne come home
Your fourth of july firecracker
Exploding in the grave"-Ron Kovics***

The Heretic, aka Soldier X

<p>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</p>
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resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

AR RAMADI IED KILLS TWO MARINES

June 17, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE: 05-06-23C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action June 16 when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. The incident took place during combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Cadillac Native Injured: "He Will Have Four Purple Hearts And I Believe That Is Enough"

06/17/05 Cadillac News

CADILLAC - Iraqi insurgent attacks drew blood for the fifth time of a Cadillac native serving as an officer in Iraq.

Cadillac resident Roland Sayer said his son Brian, serving with an engineer unit, recently was injured by a mortar round that targeted his forward operating base.

An e-mail from Deborah Sayer, Brian's wife, reported that Brian Sayer had just entered the base when a mortar shell hit and sent shrapnel into his leg.

"He will have four Purple Hearts and I believe that is enough," his wife wrote.

Roland Sayer said he talked to his son when he called earlier this month after he was injured June 3 from an improvised explosive device that was set off while his unit was helping construct an Iraqi checkpoint.

Pave Low Down

6.17.05 Reuters

A modified U.S. Black Hawk helicopter, known as a Pave Low, made an "unscheduled landing" near Qusayba, 20 km (12 miles) west of Qaim, the military said.

Italian Military Convoy Ambushed Near Nassiriya

06/16/05 Repubblica:

An Italian military convoy was ambushed yesterday (wednesday) near Nassiriya (50km north of) with improvised explosive device (IED) and small arms fire. No wounded between italian soldier. One of VM90 vehicle has been struck.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan Dies In Texas

6.16.05 AP & U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 619-05

Staff Sgt. Christopher N. Piper, 43, of Marblehead, Mass., died on June 16 at the Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, from injuries sustained on June 3 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy military vehicle in Orgun-E, Afghanistan. He was assigned the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Two other American soldiers also died as a result of the attack.

TROOP NEWS

After Fighting In Vietnam, They Fought To Oppose War:

Please Join Us For The World Premiere Of *Sir! No Sir!*

In the 1960's an anti-war movement emerged that altered the course of history. This movement didn't take place on college campuses, but in barracks and on ships. It flourished in army stockades, navy brigs and in the dingy towns that surround military bases.

It penetrated elite military colleges like West Point. And it spread throughout the battlefields of Vietnam. It was a movement no one expected, least of all those in it. Hundreds went to prison and thousands into exile.

And by 1971 it had, in the words of one colonel, infested the entire armed services.

Yet today few people know about the GI movement against the war in Vietnam.

June 17 Los Angeles Times Calendar

By Anne-Marie O'Connor, Times Staff Writer

Donald Duncan is a familiar kind of man, his face lined and weathered, his husky voice flavored by a regional American accent. His eyes are thoughtful as he tells a familiar American story, of how he dreamed of being a war hero, until the brutality he witnessed in Vietnam destroyed the convictions that made him willing to fight and die.

"Everything I grew up with," the former Green Beret begins haltingly, as if he still can't believe it. "This is just not the way you treat human beings."

Anyone waging war with American troops might want to listen carefully to the largely untold story of David Zeiger's new documentary, "Sir! No Sir!," of how some of the most dedicated troops became some of the most damaging supporters of the movement to end the war in Vietnam.

The documentary, which examines a small piece of the complex puzzle that was Vietnam, is in competition during the Los Angeles Film Festival, with screenings on Saturday and Sunday.

The doubts of men like Duncan would eventually evolve into outright rebellion, with active-duty American troops refusing Vietnam duty, inciting stockade riots, joining off-base protests and going AWOL. In Vietnam, the film links this opposition to the hundreds of battlefield shootings by American troops of their own commanders in a notorious practice that became known as "fragging."

"There is nothing you can do that requires you to answer the question - 'Is this right or is this wrong?' - than war," said Zeiger, 55, who left UC Santa Cruz in 1970 to work with antiwar GIs stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. "Vietnam was the first war in the history of this country in which the soldiers themselves not only debated that question, but large numbers of soldiers concluded that the war was wrong, and played a big role in ultimately ending it."

Opposition to the war within the military began to surface publicly in 1965. A West Point-educated special forces officer refused a combat assignment in Vietnam. Two GIs released as Viet Cong prisoners of war announced they would "quit the Army and get the United States out of Vietnam." Punishment was usually swift and severe - an Army lieutenant who marched in an El Paso antiwar protest was sentenced to five years hard labor with a dishonorable discharge.

The documentary traces how opposition within the military grew as the war deepened the social and racial tensions building in the barracks and American society at large.

Many troops were disturbed at the use of American troops to quell domestic riots and protests. Countless unwilling troops were forced into the war by the draft, while more fortunate sons found their way into the National Guard.

Black troops were disturbed by Confederate flags in barracks and a racial slur commonly used to refer to Vietnamese.

Terry Whitmore, an African American Marine from Memphis, Tenn., who is interviewed in the film, still has the smooth-faced looks of the day he was awarded a Purple Heart by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967. But he has an old man's eyes as he describes the doubts that grew in his mind as he lay in a hospital bed in Japan in April 1968, with multiple gunshot and shrapnel wounds he sustained in combat in the "demilitarized zone" between North and South Vietnam.

"When you're laying on your back and you can't move, day in and day out, you had a lot of time to think about the things that you had done, the people that you killed and the people who died," Whitmore recalls in the documentary.

On April 4, the television in his hospital room aired the news of the assassination of Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis. Riots and disturbances broke out across America.

"I saw more tanks on the streets of Memphis than I saw in Vietnam," Whitmore said. "All of a sudden, men with the same uniforms I wore had dogs and tanks in my own neighborhood, where I had a baby daughter I'd never seen. Seeing dogs and troops chasing black people up and down the streets of Memphis, I knew something was wrong. Suddenly, nothing made sense anymore."

Instead of going back to his base, where he was scheduled to receive another medal and a new tour in Vietnam, he went AWOL and made his way to Sweden. There, he felt uncomfortable when he was greeted as an icon by other American troops who had become antiwar activists.

"I was still patriotic," Whitmore said. "As a matter of fact, I still am."

Other troops like him remained in the military, but gravitated to cafes near the bases where Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland staged antiwar alternatives to the standard Bing Crosby-serenading-the-troops revue. The numbers of troops at antiwar protests near their bases grew with the revelation of the My Lai massacre of Vietnamese villagers by U.S. troops, and news of the shootings of students by National Guardsmen at Kent State University.

In "Sir! No Sir!," military men from their generation reveal the difficult path to their decision to oppose the war - and why many of them still consider themselves patriots.

"They went into the military believing they were doing the right thing," director Zeiger said. "They were gung-ho. There's a high price to pay for doing what these people did. It changed everyone's life. It kind of forced you to come to terms with your conscience."

**Please join us for the world premiere of
Sir! No Sir!
At the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival
Sunday, June 19, 7 pm
Directors Guild Theater
7920 Sunset Blvd
Second screening Thursday, June 23, 5:00 pm
Tickets at <http://www.lafilmfest.com>
Info at <http://www.sirnosir.com>**

There is no more appropriate time than now to tell the riveting, incendiary story of the GI Antiwar Movement during the Vietnam War. Help us launch this crucial film into the world by spreading the word and attending the premiere.

In the 1960's an anti-war movement emerged that altered the course of history. This movement didn't take place on college campuses, but in barracks and on ships. It flourished in army stockades, navy brigs and in the dingy towns that surround military bases.

It penetrated elite military colleges like West Point. And it spread throughout the battlefields of Vietnam. It was a movement no one expected, least of all those in it. Hundreds went to prison and thousands into exile.

And by 1971 it had, in the words of one colonel, infested the entire armed services.

Yet today few people know about the GI movement against the war in Vietnam.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. 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)

Capitalism At Work:

Wounded Troops Have Cars Repossessed

June 17, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is investigating a tip that some wounded combat veterans being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington had their cars repossessed for falling behind on payments.

The tip came from a volunteer group that is trying to help the four soldiers get back the cars, said Jeff Schrade, a spokesman for the committee.

Under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, deployed active-duty personnel, mobilized members of the National Guard and reserve and military families members are protected from foreclosure, eviction and civil action. Schrade said the law would shield troops from foreclosure on property or repossession of a privately owned automobile without a court order.

Such orders also are difficult to get because troops are protected from civil action when they cannot be present in court.

Former Soldier Sues Stryker Manufacturer; Rolling Coffin Went Over Cliff

June 16, 2005 Associated Press

SEATTLE — A former soldier who was injured while test-driving the Army's lightweight armored Stryker vehicle is suing its makers General Motors and defense contractor General Dynamics.

Spc. Genaro Jesus Diaz said in a complaint filed Tuesday in federal court in Seattle that the Stryker's seat belt failed to restrain him after he drove up a hill and fell over a more than 10-foot cliff.

Diaz, who has returned home to Texas, suffered herniated vertebrae in his back and neck damage and remains in pain. He was discharged from the Army after the 2002 accident. The complaint seeks unspecified damages.

The Stryker has been a subject of controversy from its inception in 1999. Critics contend the troop-carrying vehicle inadequately protects soldiers. The \$4 million Strykers have also had problems with armor and a mobile gun system.

The Army has defended the vehicle's performance, but its own think tank has found numerous problems including design flaws.

Congressional Crook Takes Bribe From War Profiteer

June 16, 2005 Los Angeles Times

A profitable real estate deal in which Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-San Diego, Calif., sold his home to a defense contractor whose firm he has supported in its bid to get federal contracts has led Democrats to demand an investigation into whether the deal constituted a bribe. [What, they have doubts?]

Georgia's Guard: The 48th: In Iraq: Forward Base Grim

June 15, 2005 Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Unlike U.S. officers in Iraq who dine on catered meals, live in air-conditioned trailers, have unlimited showers and constant telephone and Internet access, members of Bravo and Charlie companies from the Georgia National Guard eat pre-packaged meals, get to shower only every three days and sleep in a windowless former vegetable storage room.

The Latino Community Welcomes Army Staff Sergeant CAMILO MEJIA: War Resister And Conscientious Objector

Listen to Camilo speak about what he saw in Iraq, about his refusal to be part of an occupying force and why he chose prison instead of committing war crimes.

**Friday July 1, 2005
Saint Pius Church basement
1919 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago
7:00 pm**



**This event is FREE with English translation.
Parking at the SW corner of 19th & Ashland**

Sponsored by The Committee Against the Militarization of Youth, AFSC, Casa Aztlán, Mestizarte. For more info call 312-226-6161.

400 Vermont Troops Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse

17 June 2005 By Robin Toner and Marjorie Connelly, The New York Times

On Thursday, another 400 Vermont troops are scheduled to leave for Iraq as part of a brigade combat team. Their base is not identified ahead of time for security reasons, Saffo said. But "they will be in the combat areas, definitely in the villages and working with the Iraqi police as part of a significantly sized brigade combat team," she confirmed.

British Armed Forces: All Used Up

Almost a quarter of Challenger 2 tanks and a third of the Royal Artillery's AS90 guns had to be cannibalized to make the rest of the force operational for Iraq, the report said.

2005-06-15 (Xinhuanet)

More than a third of the British military forces are experiencing serious weaknesses and would struggle to go on operations within the time set by planners, a report from the National Audit Office (NAO) said on Wednesday.

The government's commitments abroad have used up a vast amount of equipment and led to serious curtailment of training, the report said.

Under the Ministry of Defense (MoD) traffic light system, overall readiness of the forces for operations is now "amber", meaning that there are serious shortcomings, one level below "red" or "critical".

Among the chief criticisms in the report published on Wednesday is the practice of "cannibalization", whereby equipment is plundered for spare parts. It has become so prevalent that the instances of ships being raided for spare parts have risen from five a month to 30.

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The MoD was also "unable to sustain the majority of its helicopter fleets" beyond current peacetime activity "without heavy cannibalization of equipment".

The auditors criticize cannibalization as "inefficient and manpower intensive", saying that it reduced equipment that might be needed in future conflicts.

“Old Soldiers Never Die” But These Are Suing Rumsfeld For Cutting Their Health Care

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

A spokesman for the group, Homer C. Rutherford, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant who has lived at the home for three years, said he had personally appealed to staff members of the House and Senate armed services committees to address the problem, but to no avail.

May 24, 2005 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON: Residents of a historic retirement home for war veterans filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday against Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, asserting that the Pentagon chief has imposed excessive and illegal cutbacks in on-site medical and dental services.

The suit was filed in federal court on behalf of the nearly 1,000 residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, one of two such institutions managed by the Defense Department.

The budget for operating the home has fallen from about \$63 million last year to \$58 this year.

The lawsuit also named as a defendant the Pentagon official who manages the home, Timothy Cox.

By law the Armed Forces Retirement Homes, in Washington and in Gulfport, Miss., must provide "on-site primary care, medical care and a continuum of long-term care services."

In an April 27, 2004 letter to the residents group that was pushing for a reversal of cutbacks, Cox asserted that the reduced level of services was in compliance with the law, according to the lawsuit.

A spokesman for the group, Homer C. Rutherford, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant who has lived at the home for three years, said he had personally appealed to staff members of the House and Senate armed services committees to address the problem, but to no avail. [Of course “to no avail.” Why should the enemy help the troops.]

"This is why we're following through with this class-action suit," he said in an interview Monday. "We feel we have nowhere else to go, and we feel that it is something that is

vitaly necessary for the health and welfare of the American veterans who are here at the home."

Among the cutbacks cited by Rutherford and other residents are the closing in 2003 of the home's main clinic and an on-site pharmacy, elimination of on-site X-ray and electrocardiogram services and reductions in annual physicals as well as the number of on-site dentists.

The retirement home, previously known as the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, was opened in 1851 for wounded and disabled war veterans. Four of the original buildings are still standing and are registered as national historic landmarks.

Veterans can live there if their active duty service in the military was at least 50 percent enlisted or warrant officer. They must have served on active duty for at least 20 years and be at least 60 years old.

Also eligible are veterans unable to earn a living due to a service-related disability or whose disability is not service related but who served in a war zone. All female veterans who served before 1948 are eligible.

San Francisco Labor Council Condemns War

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

(Resolution adopted unanimously by San Francisco Labor Council Delegates' Meeting on June 13, 2005)

Whereas the SF Labor Council strongly supported Proposition N, the policy statement on behalf of San Francisco residents in firm opposition to the Iraq War; and

Whereas, economic circumstances and active government policy make the young people of San Francisco and this nation potential cannon fodder for the war machine and the misadventures in Iraq and elsewhere; and

Whereas the San Francisco Labor Council supports real economic opportunity for young people and thus supports opposition to this predatory economic draft;

Therefore be it resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council give early endorsement to the initiative "College Not Combat"; and

Be it finally resolved that the SFLC will aid in the circulation of the College Not Combat initiative in its attempts to qualify for ballot status.

Predators In Action: **Recruiters Break Law:** **Ignore “Opt Out” Requirement**

[Thanks to PB who sent this in.]

Jun 17 By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press Writer

Nancy Carroll didn't know schools were giving military recruiters her family's contact information until a recruiter called her 17-year-old granddaughter.

That didn't sit well with Carroll, who believes recruiters unfairly target minority students. So she joined activists across the country who are urging families to notify schools that they don't want their children's contact information given out.

"People of color who go into the military are put on the front line," said the 67-year-old Carroll, who is black.

A provision of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act requires school districts to provide military recruiters with student phone numbers and addresses or risk losing millions in federal education funding. Parents or students 18 and over can "opt out" by submitting a written request to keep the information private.

But critics say schools do not always convey that message. In New Mexico, the American Civil Liberties Union chapter sued the Albuquerque Public School District last month, charging it does not adequately inform parents of the opt-out provision.

Andrew Rinaldi, a senior at Edison High School in Edison, N.J., filed an opt-out letter but said he was contacted by a recruiter anyway. He said the recruiter mocked his pacifist views. "They're becoming more aggressive," he said.

“Military Labor History Footnote”

From: Ben Chitty, Vietnam Veterans Against The War
To: GI Special
Sent: June 17
Subject: Military labor history footnote

In the New York Daily News June 14, there is a special section which reprints pages from the Illustrated Daily News of Thursday, June 26, 1919. Page 3's upper left story with headline across the page is "Naval Officers Organizing A Union For More Pay"!

Story goes on ...

"Atlantic Fleet Men Work Out Plans Secretly: "Hope To Include Pacific, Asiatic And European Squadrons In Body

"Organization of a labor union of navy officers for the purpose of obtaining increased pay and other concessions from the government has been begun in the United States Atlantic fleet. It is planned to affiliate the body with the American Federation of Labor and to extend its scope to the Pacific fleet and Asiatic and European squadrons.

"The organization, under way for several months, has been carried out in secret because of the clause in navy regulations which, in effect, prohibit such plans. Pay of officers has not been increased, although the cost of living has more than doubled. Also, much dissatisfaction has been expressed with the contemplated demotion of temporarily promoted officers which began with Vice Admiral Sims.

"It is pointed out that through organization the Seaman's Union has been able to obtain for its members, officers and men, pay considerably in excess of that of the corresponding grades in the navy. Sponsors for the new organization also assert they are actuated by the example of railway employees who have obtained wage increases and better working conditions through unions.

"Numbers of officers joined the new organization immediately after the recent announcement of the action of the House committee on naval matters, which, acting on the recommendation of Secretary Daniels, reported a clause cutting off commutation of quarters to officers at sea.

This allowance, made during the war, permitted officers afloat to maintain their families ashore and was made to compensate officers for the increased living cost. It amounted to approximately forty dollars a month for an ensign and increased about fifteen dollars with each higher rank.

"In connection with the new organization it is stated that more than 250 officers of the regular navy of the grades of lieutenant- commander and above have tendered their resignations, many of them to accept positions with industrial corporations, several of which, prior to the war, made standing offers to graduates of the Naval Academy at sums greatly in excess of their naval pay."

1919 was a banner year for organizing (and repression too) but this is new to me. I doubt that the AFL would have been enthused about the proposal, but the Seamen's Union did some remarkable work.

And "comrats" were still (or again) being paid to officers when I was enlisted 1965. The pay equity issue reminds me of Iraq. The text is not online but I could photocopy the reprint.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



An undetonated ordnance lies in front of a burning petrol tanker which caught fire from the blast of a car bomb in Baghdad June 17, 2005. The driver of the truck was killed in the blast but no other injuries were reported. The car bomb attack occurred in the Kamaliya district. (Kareem Raheem/Reuters)

17 June, 2005 BBC & Patrick Quinn, Associated Press & (Xinhuanet) & KUNA

In Baghdad, a car bomb has gone off near a truck carrying fuel, injuring at least four people. Two oil tankers were set ablaze

A patrolling car of the Wolf Brigade, an Interior Ministry squad, was said to be the target.

The blast happened near a Shia mosque in the capital's south-eastern Kamaliya suburb. Fuel from the tank leaked onto the street and set a house on fire.

Police sources said the driver appeared to have rammed the fuel lorry.

A car bomber rammed into an Iraqi army convoy in northern Iraq, injuring at least seven people, including three soldiers and a policeman.

The bodies of two Iraqis working for American forces were found near the town of Beiji, north of Baghdad. They had disappeared Monday.

An attacker failed in an attempt to kill the Iraqi army commander in Tuz Khormato, 210 kilometres north of Baghdad. The blast left 12 Iraqis injured, including three army officers, when a bomber detonated his car upon the passing of an Iraqi Army patrol.

Sources said the explosion, at eight am local time, caused serious material damage to civilian cars in the area and shops' windows. Damage was also reported to the headquarters of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

Interior Ministry Targeted In Fallujah



6.17.05 Associated Press & Reuters

Iraqi police look at the wreckage of a car bomb which targeted Iraqi interior ministry forces in the town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad June 17, 2005. The blast killed two and injured four police officers, according to witnesses. Photo by Mohammed Faisal/Reuters

Police officer Samir Ali said the target was Maj. Gen. Mahdi Sabih, police brigade commander for the Interior Ministry's new public order unit, who escaped unharmed.

Sabih, also Fallujah's mayor, had just attended a ceremony and was leaving when the attacker rammed a white sedan into the crowd, Ali said.

General Strike Called To Resist Attack On Qaim

17 June, 2005 BBC

The US military has launched a major offensive involving some 1,000 troops.

The US operation in western Iraq began before dawn, with witnesses reporting fierce gun battles in the towns of Qaim and Karabila.

The leader of Qaim's Muslim Clerics Association called on businesses to remain closed in protest at the US attack, which, he says, is endangering civilian lives.

"The US forces are escalating the situation and we will declare a general strike after Friday prayers," Mudhafar al-Ani was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying.

RAMADI: THE RESISTANCE RULES



A masked resistance fighter, right, from the al-Haq Army, helps to surround the main mosque in Ramadi, Iraq as an Iraqi policeman walks by June 16, 2005. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

June 17, 2005 By Frank Griffiths, Associated Press

Dozens of hooded insurgents surrounded and blocked the entrance to a downtown mosque in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, to prevent a meeting Thursday of local politicians and tribal leaders with coalition forces.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Why We Will Lose The War In Iraq

Not surprisingly, most of us are aghast at bloodthirsty Iraqis who massacre fellow Iraqis who've collaborated with the American "Coalition." Yet these Iraqis wage war as the Vietcong waged it, as WE would wage it if we were the occupied country and turncoat Americans collaborated with the occupying army. We wouldn't fight fair; many Americans--conservative, liberal or anarchist--would fight just as fiercely.

6.16.05 by Douglas Herman, USAF veteran, Strike-the-root.com.

Before the war in Iraq began--the covert black operation known as Operation Iraq Freedom--then-Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill predicted a cost of approximately \$200 billion for the operation. The media storm that greeted his forecast cost O'Neill his job.

Unfortunately, the meter's still running, while the war machine idles at the curb, like an overheated Abrams tank. Now the estimate is \$300 billion and rising.

We will lose the war in Iraq. Let us count the ways.

Time Is Not On Our Side

By now, had the mass of Iraqis bought into the idea we were "freeing" them, the guerilla war would have ended.

Iraqis, Sunnis and Shiites, do not want us there, just as Colonial Americans did not want the British troops here, occupying our towns and villages. Historian David McCullough's book 1776 makes that abundantly clear. Still, American opposition to the British measured less than half the population, with Loyalists and Tories rallying opposition to the nascent Revolution.

"There were too few soldiers and too few guns," wrote reviewer Jon Meachen, of the so-called American patriots. Anyone seeking an overview of the Iraqi resistance might be excused for thinking the same: How can too few Iraqis with too few guns defeat the most powerful army in the world?

Because They Won't They Fight Fair

Fourth Generation War wasn't invented by the Iraqis, nor the Vietcong, nor even the American insurgents fighting the British.

To the British redcoat, an American "patriot" was nothing but a terrorist and a cowardly traitor, fighting behind trees and using sneak attacks, burning the homes and destroying the property of Loyalists.

Not surprisingly, most of us are aghast at bloodthirsty Iraqis who massacre fellow Iraqis who've collaborated with the American "Coalition." Yet these Iraqis wage war as the Vietcong waged it, as WE would wage it if we were the occupied country and turncoat Americans collaborated with the occupying army. We wouldn't fight fair; many Americans--conservative, liberal or anarchist--would fight just as fiercely.

According to William Lind, "We have pointed out over and over that the 4th Generation is not novel but a return, specifically a return to the way war worked before the rise of the state." **In this type of warfare, time is on the side of the guerilla fighter, while the occupying force expends his wealth, squanders his soldiers, and spreads increasing resentment and thus resistance.**

The Hubris of History Ignored

Collectively, the current crop of US leaders--Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz--may be the most amoral, historically ignorant of any in recent times. I cannot imagine any of that clique reading McCullough's book 1776 or understanding what it might mean today. History befuddles those full of bluster and hubris, and Bush may be one of the most befuddled emperors ever.

Certainly, at the height of their empire, the English could subjugate smaller, neighboring countries like Ireland and Wales, as we subjugate Haiti or Honduras.

But against distant enemies the English lost, as we shall lose. Robert Fisk wrote vividly of one doomed column, "On the heights of the Kabul Gorge, they still find ancient belt buckles and corroded sword hilts. You can no longer read the insignia of the British regiments of the old East India Company but their bones, those of all 16,000 of them, still lie somewhere amid the dark earth and scree of the most forbidding mountains in Afghanistan ."

The English lost in Gallipoli; they lost against the American colonists. They learned that foreign wars fought far away, against an impassioned enemy, cost a lot of money. An enormous amount of money, men and material.

No wonder Treasury Secretary O'Neill calculated \$200 billion before the war, a conservative estimate nowadays. America will bankrupt itself (morally it already has), in a vain effort to force a fraudulent freedom on Iraq and the Middle East. The Neocons' fixation with this extremely costly imperial adventure--which costs nothing to them personally--could well become the first trillion dollar war in history.

According to The Art of War, by Sun Tzu, knowledge is power. "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not your enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

In Vietnam, the people practiced ancestor worship, worshiped a blend of Confucism and Buddhism, and believed in a spiritual kinship to the land. We did not know the Vietnamese; a gentle people but fierce fighters. If we had, we might never have fought them. They fought for their land; they fought for their ancestors; they fought because they had no choice. We lost.

Draw Your Own Conclusion

We will lose the war in Iraq, whether in five years time or 50. The longer the postponement, the more costly the delay.

We do not know the enemy; we do not know our own history; we do not know ourselves.

That collective ignorance may lead to knowledge one day, a knowledge too painful to accept at the present, but we're fated to learn some fragments of it one day in the future, more than a few painful lessons.

<p>Lastly Sun Tzu wrote: "If an enemy has alliances, the problem is grave and the enemy's position strong; if he has no alliances, the problem is minor and the enemy's position weak." I think perhaps a billion people are aligned against us.</p>

Pathetic Joke

From: NL
To: GI Special
Sent: June 17, 2005

Here's some spleen for your mates in Iraq.

Marx (that's Karl, who was rightfully grouchy) once made a joke. He said that "history happens twice, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce". There's truth in jest: Vietnam, then Iraq.

Get back home alive, in time to see it for yourselves.

Back then: the industrial revolution was a tragedy - children, widows, the mad, despised, dispossessed and dying slaving for the rich. Now: the technological evolution is a farce: how much faster and better can the rich tell the time, driving V12 Porsches with Versace watches on their wrists?

The ONLY difference between tragedy and farce, is that in farce, the viewers don't notice death. They just have a good time.

I forgot, there's other differences. In farce, lies are taken for granted, they add to the fun. The hero never dies, and follows his dog into the White House. The Wags! And so on... woops -hang on, humbuggery! I nearly forgot the most important difference.

It's this: for a funeral to be funny, there must be lots of original ones. Vietnam, I Remember Another Quagmire (Mike Hastie).

Don't go out tonight, burn the midnight oil. Return, go to whatever kind of home you've got left, NOW. Save yourselves from these farcical bastards.

Learn how to live from your enemies: melt away. Forgive, but don't forget your tragic mistakes, and fight another day.

Your fight hasn't begun yet. It starts when you get home. First you'll have to find (easy), then figure out how to fight your real enemy (hard).

There'll be thousands of dead merchant mariners from WWII, who'll cheer you on. They choked on the stuff, burned, before they drowned. No oil, no Porsche. No fancy Porch? No fun. Game over (as Thomas often says).

Oh, Marx's joke? I think it had something to do with Emperor Napoleon, and his new clothes... or world order, and some old German bloke who thought the world was run by heroes in fancy dress, from their front porch.

Cheers & fuck 'em

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.

Bring The War Home Now: Unleashing the Resistance

We might take a lesson from the growing Iraqi insurgency and the response of that nation nearly destroyed by our pretext-laden invasion and the American neo-Jacobin possession of that country.

How do the Iraqi insurgents do it? How are they defending themselves from the oppressive U.S. managed state in Baghdad? How are they killing it? They know what they don't want, and have made a personal commitment to resist it.

06/15/06 by Karen Kwiatkowski, Lew Rockwell.com. *"Karen Kwiatkowski, Ph.D., is a retired USAF lieutenant colonel, who spent her final four and a half years in uniform working at the Pentagon. She lives with her freedom-loving family in the Shenandoah Valley, and among other things, writes a bi-weekly column on defense issues with a libertarian perspective for militaryweek.com."*

The Downing Street Memo explains in brisk understated English what I didn't fully understand when I worked for Secretary Rumsfeld and Dough Feith in the Pentagon in 2002 and early 2003.

Yet, as Robert Shetterly and others have pointed out, accountability for George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and the rest of the war gamers is not likely.

At this time, impeachment for Bush and Cheney is politically impossible. A successful impeachment, or any accountability for the executive branch requires a certain balance of political power. Optimistically envisioned by the Founders, this balance was tenuous even in the early years of the Republic. George W. Bush said it best after the 2004 elections with "[my] accountability moment has passed."

The mass state, while obscenely expensive, dangerous and even ridiculous, is the present reality of the United States. Imminent federal biometric ID cards courtesy of the REAL ID Act are just one more symbol of this ongoing massification and American totalitarianism.

The Congress won't impeach – to impeach its heart, its hands, or its head is to commit suicide. A pleasant fantasy for the rest of us, but that is all.

Thus, my gentle thoughts are increasingly turning to murder. Murder of the state. In self-defense, of course!

To murder the state you need strong citizens who understand their rights, have honed their abilities and stocked their mental and physical arsenal, and have adopted the quiet determination and moral confidence that often appears as fearlessness, but is not.

We might take a lesson from the growing Iraqi insurgency and the response of that nation nearly destroyed by our pretext-laden invasion and the American neo-Jacobin possession of that country.

The U.S. Army wonders about the robustness and fluidity of the hard to catch and harder to kill insurgents. Clearly, all Iraqi insurgents do not swear allegiance to any single creed or leader. Understanding this and dealing with Fourth Generation warfare is not Washington's forte.

It remains wrong and immoral to demonstrate our government's arrogance, greed and incompetence each dreadful day in Iraq. But it is a helpful demonstration for patriotic Americans at home.

How do the Iraqi insurgents do it? How are they defending themselves from the oppressive U.S. managed state in Baghdad? How are they killing it?

They know what they don't want, and have made a personal commitment to resist it.

They are living at reduced standards, not only within or under their means but often proudly and creatively so, relying upon and strengthening extended networks of family and friends as they do.

They don't trust the central government in Baghdad. They judge the American state's intent solely from the American state's actions, never its words.

They are wary of state efforts at law enforcement, and work hard to stay out of its dangerous and lumbering way.

They love their country, and have no intention of permanently leaving its future in the hands of either the Americans or beholden U.S. allies in the region, be they of Saudi, Kuwaiti, Turkish or Israeli persuasion.

Some resist passively, some actively. They don't understand everything that is happening, but most Iraqis have decided to pursue one or more of the countless paths of resistance to the state. Iraqis, like Russians and East Europeans before them, honed these skills under Saddam Hussein, as we hone our skills today in early totalitarian America.

All are qualified to resist. None are excluded.

French-born composer and musician Nadia Boulanger, a major influence on American music in the 20th century, once said:

Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is a history of resistance. The history of liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it.

"Liberty" is also a concept George W. Bush favors. He said "liberty" fifteen times in his 2005 inaugural speech, second only to his 25 mentions of "freedom." Bush didn't specifically advocate the murder, or even the restraint, of the state. On the other hand, perhaps he did.

The way ahead is clear. We should promote our Great Leader's love of liberty and resist, resist, resist!

“Doing The Same Thing Over And Over, Expecting Different Results”

14 June 2005 By Molly Ivins, Creators Syndicate

AUSTIN, Texas -- Sometimes you look at the people Bush appoints to high public office and the only possible response is, "What were they thinking?"

Zalmay Khalilzad for U.S. ambassador to Iraq? Why not just send Richard Perle? Khalilzad is a second-rank neo-con with all the same credentials as the rest of those bozos -- pre-emptive war, world hegemony, Project for a New American Century... the whole stinking lot of it....not to mention an oil company consultant. Isn't that just jim-dandy?

What this tells us is that the administration has learned exactly nothing from the past three years of insurgency in Iraq.

The 1,700-dead, \$1 billion-a-week mistake will continue to be run in exactly the same way we have already proved doesn't work.

It's like Ben Franklin's definition of insanity -- doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results.

As one who has long argued that George W. Bush is not stupid, I must admit that not learning from your mistakes is a prime signal of stupidity.

But of course, in order to learn from your mistakes, you have to recognize you made them.

The president assured us just last week he is "heartened" by what is happening in Iraq and, "I am pleased with the progress." The vice president says there is "major progress" and the insurgency is in its "last throes." These folks are in such deep denial.

Then And Now

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: June 17, 2005

How things change, eh?
Solidarity, Z

1965: LBJ should pull out like his father should have.

2005: Dubya should pull out like his grandpa should have.

OCCUPATION REPORT

“Escalation Of Force”

6.17.05 Associated Press

U.S. forces killed a 10-year-old boy Thursday while he was walking on a Baghdad street, police said. The U.S. military confirmed Friday that a child was killed during an "escalation of force" incident.

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

Food Shortages Gnaw At Iraqis' Stomachs, Morale

June 16, 2005 Los Angeles Times

The U.N. World Food Program, which monitors the distribution of rations in Iraq, recently reported "significant countrywide shortfalls in rice, sugar, milk and infant formula."

Families in Baghdad have not received sugar or baby milk since January. Newspapers have also begun reporting that the tea and flour handouts contain metal filings and that people have fallen ill after consuming food rations.

Jordan Says U.S. Troops Abusing Drivers

06/13/05 "UPI"

AMMAN, Jordan - - Jordanian local officials alleged that U.S. troops are abusing and humiliating Jordanian drivers, an independent Jordanian paper reported Monday.

Al-Ghad daily quoted Mohammad Abul Ghanam, deputy administrative officer in Ruweished which borders Iraq, as saying that 51 Jordanian drivers have filed official complaints in the past three weeks to the provincial administration that they were attacked and harassed by U.S. troops on the Iraqi side of border.

He said the harassment is still continuing against drivers carrying passengers between the neighboring countries.

Al-Ghad, owned by independent Jordanian investors, last week reported that U.S. troops forced four drivers to wipe human excrement in each other's faces, detained a dozen drivers in toilets for 12 hours and broke the windows of their cars.

OCCUPATION HAITI

Two Occupation Troops Wounded

June 16, 2005 (AP) Guerrillas opened fire on occupation troops patrolling the gritty, sprawling seaside slum of Cite Soleil Thursday, wounding two soldiers, a U.N. official said.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush's Support On Iraq Tumbles In Poll

17 June 2005 By Robin Toner and Marjorie Connelly, The New York Times

On Iraq, months of continued turmoil, insurgent attacks and casualties appear to have taken a further toll on public attitudes.

Only 37 percent said they approved of Mr. Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq, down from 45 percent in February. A strong majority of Americans now say the effort by the United States to bring stability and order to Iraq is going badly - 60 percent, up from 47 percent in February.

D.C. Imperial Rats Looking For Exit Strategy From Stinking Ship

'Exit Strategy' Is More Than A Whisper In Washington

June 16, 2005 New York Times

With opinion polls showing a drop in support for the war, and a British memo asserting that the Bush administration had intended to go to war as early as the summer of 2002, the words "exit strategy" are being uttered by both Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill.

Calls For Iraq Withdrawal Dogging Bush: Including Some In GOP

June 16, 2005 Dallas Morning News,

Iraq is becoming a growing political problem for President Bush, in addition to the military challenges. **New polls show rising support for pulling American troops out of the country, on top of continuing majorities who say the war has not been worth the cost in dollars or lives.**

Pressure Growing To Plan Iraq Exit

June 16, 2005 Boston Globe, June 16, 2005

House Republican leaders are blocking a measure that would require the Bush administration to swiftly produce an exit plan for the war in Iraq, as critics in Congress from both parties step up the pressure on the administration to identify a way for the United States to extricate itself from the conflict.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Fed Reserve Chief Says Capitalism Threatens Capitalism

[Thanks to PB who sent this in.]

Jun 14 By Peter Grier, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

The income gap between the rich and the rest of the US population has become so wide, and is growing so fast, that it might eventually threaten the stability of democratic capitalism itself.

Is that a liberal's talking point? Sure. But it's also a line from the recent public testimony of a champion of the free market: Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

But the fact that Mr. Greenspan speaks about this topic at all may show how much the growing concentration of national wealth at the top, combined with the uncertainties of increased globalization, worries economic policymakers as they peer into the future.

The Fed chief then added that the 80 percent of the workforce represented by nonsupervisory workers has recently seen little, if any, income growth at all. The top 20 percent of supervisory, salaried, and other workers has.

The result of this, said Greenspan, is that the US now has a significant divergence in the fortunes of different groups in its labor market.

"As I've often said, this is not the type of thing which a democratic society - a capitalist democratic society - can really accept without addressing," Greenspan

told the congressional hearing. [Since capitalism is an economic system that concentrates wealth at the top, that should be a neat trick.]

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