

GI SPECIAL 3B72:



Here rests in silence another Vietnam Veteran known but to God. He did not die in Vietnam, but as a result of being there.

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

**“Almost Every Soldier I
Talk To Says We're
Losing...”**

“Every Soldier That Dies Now Is A NEEDLESS DEATH”

From: A Military Family
To: GI Special
Sent: June 26, 2005
Subject: **Re; Leonard Clark, 860th MP CO, AZ Army National Guard**

Soldier in Iraq, sending live recordings for Americans to continue to press on in the fight to bring home the troops; Iraq a quagmire; press we are getting at home is not truth; to disseminate his recordings and emails widely; and that he knows the repercussions to him as a soldier for speaking out and is willing to take the consequences. Do listen to it all. It's devastating in its clarity. And, at leonardclark.com/blog, you can read Leonard's e-mails back home.

Jun 25th by susanhu, Booman Tribune

Leonard Clark, 860th MP CO, AZ Army National Guard, has been leaving voicemails for his friends back home.

Typed hurriedly while I listened:

"The leadership says we're winning the war, that Hagel and others are wrong. I hate to tell you this. Mr. Hagel and Mr. Kennedy are right. We are losing. This IS a quagmire.... Almost every soldier I talk to says we're losing ...

Every soldier that dies now is A NEEDLESS DEATH ... Including very conservative soldiers who are diehard Republicans ... About those who say that objections lower the morale of soldiers: We are calling our families back home and telling them...this is a fundraiser for Halliburton, KBR...."

Leonard Clark Says:

BY Leonard Clark, 860th MP CO, AZ Army National Guard

I have been talking to my fellow soldiers about this whole situation and I have told them about how the leadership in Washington is trying to get the American people to silence their criticisms of the continued lunacy we call the occupation of Iraq.

I tell them that they are saying to the Congress: Well, ya know our poor soldiers wanna stay and finish the fight in Iraq but you people in Washington D.C. are under cutting their morale by bringing up this “time table stuff” and “what the hell are we doing in Iraq do we have a plan ? stuff.

When I tell this to my fellow soldiers they immediately begin to laugh and then they get pissed off that such bull shit is being spouted back home because we are the ones who are calling home and telling our families what a bunch of lies and crap they are telling the American people.

There are to be sure some soldiers (fewer and fewer day by day) who are naively still blinding believing the lies in fact if they could have been around in 1968 they would have fit in real well you know what I mean :

What do you mean should we stay in Vietnam ? We're gonna win this thing. Were killing 50 to a 100 of those Viet Cong and their only killing 3 of us. And then the next question to them would be : Well, what about all the American soldiers who are going to die for this so called Police Action in Vietnam? Their response: Well, it's for democracy and if it takes more American soldiers to die well then so be it.

I told some fellow soldiers who still blindly the crap being spoon fed to them about the Vietnam scenario and their response was: Vietnam and Iraq are not alike its like comparing apples and oranges because Vietnam's communist were well funded and supplied by the Chinese and I then asked them about the report from the CIA that was in the press that stated the terrorist are well funded and they just ignored what I said.

You know what fellow activist?

5 to 10 years from now we are going to be debating these same people after 5,000 to 10,000 American soldiers are killed only to see another undemocratic theocratic church state probably led by another dictator of our choosing ruling Iraq was it worth it?

And they'll probably say: gee, ya know what? Maybe it wasn't worth it, we should have kicked Saddam Hussein out and then left Iraq and let the Iraqi government we set up run their own country but instead we just stayed on and on and on and the American soldiers continued to die on and on and on and the funerals and the mother and fatherless children continued on and on.

We will have another wall for Iraq like we do for Vietnam?

You see Federal 3 piece suited politicians are not really different from City politicians they'll wait until enough people die before they put in a stop light at the local intersection in their city to them one life is not worth the \$100,000 for a stoplight but ah, yes maybe 8 to 10 lives when the voters start to notice.

It doesn't matter to them if the right thing would be to put in a stop light, and it doesn't matter if people beg them for the safety of their children to put in the stop light because decency and compassion will not get them elected only money and votes. We all know that these hypocrites value money more than they do human life.

Well I'm not gonna wait for another damn wall for Iraq to be filled with the names of my fellow soldiers and I hope your not either.

The cause we fight for is noble and just it is : to save the lives of American soldiers who tragically dying over here needlessly.

If we can save just one more American soldier's life who knows we might just end up saving humanity itself. There are those who say that one life is not worth much but I say every human life is the gift of GOD and to destroy one of those lives for the greed and corruption of hypocrites who do not have to fight wars nor whose children do not have to fight wars is a great sin.

To lie and say we are dying over here to ensure democracy in the Middle East when what we really are doing is fighting for Exxon and Halliburton is impeachable.

Remember this: not one more American soldier should die over here for it is a needless death that didn't have to happen but only for the occupation of Iraq.

One last note: Today, after my 3 vehicle patrol passed through a certain stretch of highway an hour to 2 hours later another patrol was hit by a bomb on that same stretch and ANOTHER AMERICAN soldier was killed and at least 3 of his comrades were wounded hopefully they will all live.

NOT ONE MORE AMERICAN SOLDIER! N.O. M.A.S. !

Please pray for us soldiers and we will pray for you
and
the Peace of GOD will see us through.

Leonard Clark (Damned Liberal serving in Iraq)
National Guard soldier serving and patrolling the mean streets of Iraq every day
Civilian occupation : Kindergarten teacher (inner city school) Public Schools
Candidate : for United States Senate in Arizona against John Kyl

At leonardclark.com/blog, you can read Leonard's e-mails back home.

Today 6/26/05 at 3:30am PST he left these two recordings.

Click [here for the first voicemail](#) today.

Click [here for the second voicemail](#) today.

MORE FROM LEONARD CLARK:

I don't know how much longer it will be before they cut off my communications to you and before they possibly arrest me.

If this happens I only ask that you please take my case to the American people and declare me a political prisoner and a prisoner of conscience to the American public.

Don't believe their lies--I am not a traitor, I am only gambling everything because I love my country and my fellow soldiers.

I will continue to call and leave messages for as long as possible. You can record them and replay them and also put them in journal form; in fact, I might just start sending phone journals, because it's easier and less stressful than having to stay up late and write them.



[Thanks to Ashley Smith, who sent this in.]

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

One Task Force Liberty Soldier Killed, Two Wounded In Baghdad

06/26/05 MNF

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed and two were wounded by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad June 26.

The wounded Soldiers were taken to a Coalition Forces medical facility for treatment of non-life threatening wounds.

NO FISHING! SUBJECT TO MORTARING FOR VIOLATION!



U.S. Marine Sgt. Shawn Bryan of Albuquerque, New Mexico casts his fishing rod off the Haditha Dam, where he is stationed, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad, June 26, 2005. **While Bryan was fishing insurgents began firing mortars at the Dam, with around six shells falling nearby in rapid succession forcing Bryan to abandon his fishing, and the mortar attack continued into the night.** (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded; DBED Used

6.26.05 AFP News

Four Iraqi police and three US soldiers were wounded in four roadside bombings in and around the northern oil city of Kirkuk, security sources said. One of the attacks involved insurgents blowing up a dog strapped with explosives as a convoy drove by.

TROOP NEWS

NAMING THE DEAD

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: June 26, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B71: 2nd Lt. Says War Is Lost

ON THE 3RD OF JULY

IN G.B. I WILL BE NAMING THE DEAD. IT

WILL BE FOR ALL THE US TROOPS. G.B. TROOPS/

AND FOR ALL THE IRAQI, WHO HAVE BEING KILLIED

FOR BUSH, AND BLAIRS LIES. I WILL BE AT THE G8.

HOPE NOT TO ADD MORE NAMES ON, BUT I WILL GIVE

THEM TWO MURDERURS HELL. ..BLAIRS BOY IS CUMEING TO

AMERICA. DADDY GOT HIM A JOB, IS HE TO GOOD

FOR THE ARMY, OR JUST A SHITE BAG, HE WILL NOT

GET PAID AT THE JOB. MY ARSE THE BLAIRS DONT DO

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING, JUST LOOK AT MUM AND DAD, THEY

GET PAID FOR EVERY THING THEY DO

NO SON YOU CANT GO INTO THE ARMY

YOU MIGHT GET, KILLIED. AND MUM WILL GIVE ME HELL.

BECOISE THIS WAR IS ILLEGAL, AND SHE IS A LOYER.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME FOR XMAS, GIVE A KID A GOOD ONE

ROSE GENTLE.



While Troops Died: War Profiteer, Pentagon Brass & Politicians Played Blame Game



During a visit to Iraq last year, Rumsfeld rode in a Rhino Runner, a steel-reinforced vehicle that its maker says is designed to withstand 7.62 x 39-millimeter and 5.56-millimeter ammunition, overhead airbursts and explosive devices up to 1,000 pounds. David Hume Kennerly/Getty Images

The Pentagon has repeatedly said no vehicle leaves camp without armor. But according to military records and interviews with officials, about half of the Army's 20,000 Humvees have improvised shielding that typically leaves the underside unprotected, while only one in six Humvees used by the Marines is armored at the highest level of protection.

June 26, 2005 By MICHAEL MOSS, The New York Times Company

When Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited Iraq last year to tour the Abu Ghraib prison camp, military officials did not rely on a government-issued Humvee to transport him safely on the ground. Instead, they turned to Halliburton, the oil services contractor, which lent the Pentagon a rolling fortress of steel called the Rhino Runner.

State Department officials traveling in Iraq use armored vehicles that are built with V-shaped hulls to better deflect bullets and bombs. Members of Congress favor another model, called the M1117, which can endure 12-pound explosives and .50-caliber armor-piercing rounds.

Unlike the Humvee, the Pentagon's vehicle of choice for American troops, the others were designed from scratch to withstand attacks in battlefields like Iraq with no safe zones.

Yet more than two years into the war, efforts by United States military units to obtain large numbers of these stronger vehicles for soldiers have faltered - even as the Pentagon's program to armor Humvees continues to be plagued by delays, an examination by The New York Times has found.

Among other setbacks, the M1117 lost its Pentagon money just before the invasion, and the manufacturer is now scrambling to fill rush orders from the military. The company making one of the V-shaped vehicles, the Cougar, said it had to lay off highly skilled welders last year as it waited for the contract to be completed. Even then it was paid only enough to fill half the order.

And the Rhino could not get through the Army's testing regime because its manufacturer declined to have one of its \$250,000 vehicles blown up. The company said it provided the Army with testing data that demonstrate the Rhino's viability, and is using the defense secretary's visit as a seal of approval in its contract pitches to the Defense Department.

Nearly a decade ago, the Pentagon was warned by its own experts that superior vehicles would be needed to protect American troops.

The Army's vehicle-program manager urged the Pentagon in 1996 to move beyond the Humvee, interviews and Army records show, saying it was built for the cold war. Its flat-bottom-chassis design is 25 years old, never intended for combat, and the added armor at best protects only the front end from the heftier insurgent bombs, military officials concede.

But as the procurement system stumbled and the Defense Department resisted allocating money for more expensive vehicles, interviews and records show, the military ended up largely dependent on Humvees - a vast majority of which did not yet have any armor - in both combat and noncombat operations in the war.

Last winter, 135 convoys were attacked on the Baghdad airport road alone, and even the most fully armored Humvee is no longer safe from the increasingly powerful insurgency bombs.

Still, thousands of Humvees in Iraq do not have this much protection.

The Pentagon has repeatedly said no vehicle leaves camp without armor. But according to military records and interviews with officials, about half of the Army's 20,000 Humvees have improvised shielding that typically leaves the underside unprotected, while only one in six Humvees used by the Marines is armored at the highest level of protection.

The Defense Department continues to rely on just one small company in Ohio to armor Humvees. And the company, O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt, has waged an aggressive campaign to hold onto its exclusive deal even as soaring rush orders from Iraq have been plagued by delays. The Marine Corps, for example, is still awaiting the 498 armored Humvees it sought last fall, officials told The Times.

In January, when military officials tried to speed production by buying the legal rights to the armor design so they could enlist other vendors to help, O'Gara demurred, calling the move a threat to its "current and future competitive position," according to e-mail records obtained from the Army.

Because the Humvee's hull is flat, its underbelly absorbs the force of blasts more readily than combat vehicles with angled bodies.

Moreover, the chassis can carry only so much armor, leaving the rear more exposed.

That means the armored Humvee is vulnerable to a timed attack that focuses on its underbelly or rear, Mr. Weaver said. Its box shape also makes it less able to deflect low-flying bullets.

In February 2004, Mr. Brownlee visited the O'Gara plant and asked the company to increase production, gradually pushing its monthly output to 450 from 220 vehicles. The Defense Department also wanted to contract with other companies to make armor.

Determined to hold onto its exclusive contract, O'Gara began lobbying Capitol Hill. Among those it drew to its side was Brian T. Hart, an outspoken father of a soldier who

was killed in October 2003 while riding in a Humvee. Early last year, as a guest on a national radio show, Mr. Hart urged the Pentagon to involve more armor makers. Two weeks later a lobbyist for O'Gara approached him.

"He informed me that the company had more than enough capacity," Mr. Hart says. "There was no need to second-source."

Mr. Hart then redirected his efforts to help the company push Congress into forcing the Pentagon to buy more armored Humvees. With support from both parties, the company has received more than \$1 billion in the past 18 months in military armoring contracts.

Robert F. Mecredy, president of the aerospace and defense group at Armor Holdings, the parent company of O'Gara, acknowledged that the company was protecting its commercial interests. **But, he said, the company has proved it can do the Humvee work and he blamed the Defense Department for delays.**

Military officials concede that it sometimes took months for requests made in Iraq to filter through the Defense Department. O'Gara says it has armored nearly 7,200 Humvees since the war began, and while there is a persistent need for more in Iraq, the company stresses that the Pentagon keeps changing its orders: from 3,600 in the fall of 2003 to 8,105 last year to more than 10,000 today.

Asked why the Marine Corps is still waiting for the 498 Humvees it ordered last year, O'Gara acknowledged that it told the Marines it was backed up with Army orders, and has only begun filling the Marines' request this month.

But the company says the Marine Corps never asked it to rush.

The Marine Corps denies this, but acknowledges that it did not get the money to actually place the order until this February.

Officials now say they need to buy 2,600 to replace their Humvees in Iraq that still have only improvised armor.

To get Congress's attention last year, Michael Aldrich, an executive with the Cougar's maker, Force Protection, compiled maps that showed the number of troops from each state who had died in Iraq in vehicles that were inadequately armored.

"I got some very open pupils and a couple of gasps and a couple of questions on who I had showed this to," said Mr. Aldrich, who presented his findings during the fall election campaign when the issue of equipping troops became a focus of intense debate.

"The Republicans wanted to know if I showed it to the Democrats, and the Democrats wanted to know if I showed it to the Republicans."

The Defense Department says some military personnel are using the privately owned Rhinos that run the gantlet of bombs on the airport road.

But with the Army not accepting the company's test results, and Labock not wanting to destroy a Rhino on the chance of getting orders, some soldiers in Iraq are doing their own lobbying.

Last month, the company says, an Army colonel and two other soldiers at Camp Victory in Baghdad picked up a satellite phone and called Labock at its Florida office to pepper the company with questions about performance, price and how fast it could deliver.

Mark Dunlap, a company executive, said in recounting the exchange, "They said they would run it up their chain of command."

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:

Payday Loans Predators Target Troops: DoD Looks The Other Way

Congress' investigative arm, the Government Accountability Office, concluded in a report last month that the Defense Department was not using the tools it has in place to curb the effects of predatory lending practices.

[Thank to PB who sent this in.]

Jun 25 By SAM HANANEL, Associated Press Writer

Army Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Burden needed money. He had just been through a divorce, his credit was bad and he couldn't qualify for a conventional loan. So he turned to a payday lender — one of dozens within a mile of his base at Fort Hood, Texas. Thus began a vicious cycle of getting quick cash advances at high interest rates.

His first \$300 loan cost a fee of \$60 every two weeks. More loans and fees at the equivalent of 520 percent interest per year soon swelled the debt to more than \$1,400.

"It just kind of keeps snowballing if you don't have the money to cover it," said Burden, 35.

In 12 of 19 states surveyed, the study found the single greatest concentration of payday loan stores in a county with a military base. Those states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

"Military folks tend to be young, they often come from financially vulnerable backgrounds and tend to have less education," said Christopher Peterson, a law professor at the University of Florida and co-author of the study. "All of these are reasons the military make particularly enticing targets for this type of loan."

Consumer groups have long criticized payday lenders for preying on poor and minority communities. Loan stores often encourage customers to "roll over" debts after the two-week loan period is up, which only compounds the fees.

While it is difficult to know exactly how many service members get payday loans, Defense Department surveys indicate the number is between 9 percent and 12 percent.

Congress' investigative arm, the Government Accountability Office, concluded in a report last month that the Defense Department was not using the tools it has in place to curb the effects of predatory lending practices.

The GAO report said some junior enlisted members were not receiving the financial management training required by service regulations, despite warnings from top defense officials that debt problems can affect performance and unit readiness.

Military personnel are often reluctant to get debt management counseling because service members with severe financial problems risk losing security clearances incurring penalties or facing discharge.

Burden, the Fort Hood officer, eventually ended his debt cycle. After clearing up his credit problems, he got a regular loan from a military loan company and paid off the \$1,484 he owed, which included nearly \$250 in accrued interest.

Some states have limited interest charges or restricted how often customers can get the loans. **In Congress, Rep. Sam Graves (news, bio, voting record), R-Mo., has introduced legislation to cap payday loans at 36 percent interest for military personnel and their spouses. [Wow, this asshole is all heart! Only 36% interest.]**

Marine "Lucky To Be Alive" Survives Rare Disease After Wounded

June 25, 2005 BY DAVID PENN, Staff writer, Observer-Reporter

Two local Marine reservists, one a McGuffey High School graduate and the other an alumnus of Fort Cherry School District, are convalescing from wounds and illness incurred during duty in Iraq.

Sgt. Matt Senkinc, 26, and Lance Cpl. Chris Novick, 36, were involved in a blast that rocked the Humvee they were riding in with three other Marines in al-Anbar province March 25. An exploding land mine shot the vehicle's rear end into the air and killed one of the Marines in Senkinc's platoon, Bryan Richardson, a 23-year-old corporal from Summersville, W.Va.

According to his mother, Kathleen Senkinc of Buffalo Township, Senkinc suffered a non-stress fracture of his pelvis and since has been on light duty in Hit, a town on the Euphrates River.

Novick suffered from back pain following the explosion but returned to regular duty. A few weeks later, however, he became seriously ill and now says he counts himself lucky to be alive.

Brought low by a rare form of pneumonia, Novick has returned to the United States and splits his time between his fiancée's home in White Oak and that of his parents near Hickory in Mt. Pleasant Township. He attends physical therapy sessions three times a week as part of a regimen to restore his devastated body.

Novick contracted acute eosinophilic pneumonia, an apparently idiopathic form whose cause doctors couldn't determine. According to information posted to a Web site maintained by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, AEP is seen in association with fungal and parasitic infections, other disease and drug toxicity, but it also emerges with no apparent cause.

Medical staff in Iraq didn't recognize the nature of Novick's illness and began using antibiotics to treat a nonexistent infection rather than prescribing the steroids that eventually saved his life.

When his condition worsened, Novick was transferred to a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where a physician correctly diagnosed the disorder. He spent several days there breathing only with the aid of a ventilator. Novick was transferred again to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., returning to the United States May 22.

Novick said he was told he was the 23rd member of the armed services serving in Iraq to be diagnosed with AEP.

The regimen of drugs he has received has led Novick to contract another disease, rhabdomyolysis, which breaks down skeletal muscle. The condition primarily attacked the tissue in his legs, and much of his therapy is aimed at restoring tensile strength in his lower body. Novick says he lost between 15 and 20 pounds as a result of the illnesses, through loss of muscle mass, dehydration and an inability to eat solid food.

His mother, Roberta Novick, has been addressing that last issue, as well as driving Novick to his medical appointments.

"You know what they say: 'The only thing tougher than a Marine ... is a Marine's mom,'" said Roberta Novick during an interview at her Elm Road home this week. A practicing nurse, she observed quietly as her son related his experiences overseas to a reporter, interjecting every so often to clarify a point about his medical treatment.

Novick and Senkinc each operated their own businesses before going on active duty this year, and they had worked together on occasion in the past. Novick installed patios and retaining walls, and Senkinc is owner of Matt's Landscaping, a company that performs planting and masonry work.

One of Novick's brothers has taken over for him while Senkinc's father, Max Senkinc, is running his son's company in his absence. Kathleen and Max Senkinc both retired this year from teaching positions in McGuffey School District, and Mrs. Senkinc noted that Company K's mobilization played a role in her husband's decision to retire sooner than he might have.

"Not many fathers would do what my husband's done," said Mrs. Senkinc, noting the long days he has devoted to managing the business and doing some of the labor himself.

She said the seriousness of the explosion in al-Anbar sank in as Max Senkinc spoke with their son on the telephone late on the night of Easter. He had called home a couple of times previously but hadn't mentioned Richardson's death or the fact that he'd been wounded. Max Senkinc, a veteran of the Vietnam War, hung up the phone, put his head in his hands and cried, she said.

Novick said the team's Humvee struck the mine as the marines escorted other vehicles across the desert, "in the middle of nowhere," in the dark. He said he usually sat in the seat in which Richardson was sitting, at the left rear of the vehicle, and his life was saved only by chance.

Novick said he spends a lot of time thinking about Iraq, wanting to return and be with his fellow Marines, but he likely has months of physical therapy ahead of him. He only recently stopped using a wheelchair to get around.

"I wanted to go (to Iraq)," he said, "and I finally get to go, and this happens."

Lawmakers Criticize Pentagon On Disputed Billing By Thieving War-Profitier Halliburton

June 22, 2005 New York Times

Republicans joined longtime Democratic critics in Congress to berate the Pentagon for withholding information about the Halliburton Corporation's

disputed billing under a \$2.5 billion contract for Iraqi oil site repairs and fuel imports.

MORE:

Thieving War Profiteer Halliburton Wins New Billion \$ Army Contract

June 22, 2005 Houston Chronicle

The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded Halliburton Co. a new contract valued at up to \$1.25 billion to support American troops in the Balkans and other areas. **Undeterred by the barrage of criticism on Capitol Hill about the Houston-based company's performance in Iraq, the Corps selected Halliburton subsidiary KBR to wash clothes, serve meals, repair roads, build housing and provide other logistical support for troops performing peacekeeping duties in the Balkans.**

Pentagon Poisoning Civilians With Toxic Chemical; Covering Up Problem

June 22, 2005 Arizona Daily Star

The Pentagon at times refused to conduct tests for a toxic chemical when environmental regulators said such tests were needed, the Government Accountability Office said in a new study.

Utah state officials reported, for example, that the Defense Department refused its request to sample at an Army base where perchlorate, a rocket fuel ingredient, had been used for 20 years, saying there was not a clear potential for human exposure.

War-Profiteer Criminals Raided; Faked New Parts For Army Helicopter

June 22, 2005 Chicago Tribune

Federal authorities have launched a criminal investigation into an Illinois defense contractor that has supplied parts for the military's Apache attack helicopter. Federal agents raided the offices of MPC Products in Skokie and Niles on June 4. A

source close to the investigation said they were looking into allegations the company may have supplied used, rather than new, parts for the Apache.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



An Iraqi policeman walks through the rubble of a police station in of Mosul after it was attacked by a car bomber June 26. The attack brought down part of the building and killed at least four officers, police said. The death toll was likely to rise as rescuers were still digging in the rubble of parts of the old, two-storey building. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

Jun. 26, 2005 Associated Press & Reuters & Aljazeera & AFP News

In Mosul, a bomber walked into the teaching hospital and entered a room for police officers guarding the facility and blew himself up, killing five policemen, police Brig. Gen. Wathiq Mohammed Tahr said. Eight policemen also were wounded in the attack.

Another attack happened at a police headquarters, killing 13 policemen and two civilians and wounding six more, said U.S. Army Capt. Mark Walter, a spokesman in Mosul.

The car bomber hid explosives under some watermelons.

The blast struck the Bab al-Toob station in central Mosul as people were beginning their working day about 7 a.m.

All the roads were blocked at the time of the 6:15 a.m. blast except for one that leads to the market, and the pickup truck was allowed to pass through a

checkpoint because it was carrying watermelons, avoiding barriers and defences at the front gate, policeman Mohammed Hussein Ali, 30, said.

"We didn't suspect him. Everyday we see such cars because we're near a market," according to Ali, who said he witnessed the attack. The attacker detonated the pickup truck near a rear wall adjacent to the two-story headquarters, leaving the downtown building partially destroyed.

Less than two hours later, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a parking lot outside an Iraqi army base, killing 16 and wounding seven more, Walter said. Almost all the victims were civilian workers arriving at the site, he said.

Details were sketchy but Sergeant John Franzen said a further seven people were wounded, according to the reports he had from the Iraqi military base at Kasak, between Mosul and Tal Afar to the west.

Iraqi military officials said it appeared that a bomber wearing an explosive vest had detonated himself and that this was followed by a blast from a car.

Guerrillas killed police Col. Riyadh Abdul Karim, an assistant district police director of emergency services, at his apartment in another neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, police Lt. Col. Hassan Challoub said.

A car bomb struck an Iraqi police convoy by a checkpoint near the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, wounding four police officers, police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadr said.

A firefight between police commandos and an unknown number of attackers in western Baghdad left two policemen dead and three wounded early on Saturday, a Defence Ministry source said.

Six members of a commando unit were gunned down in separate incidents in Baghdad



Iraqi policemen inspect the wreckage of their car that was destroyed in a roadside bomb attack in Kirkuk, June 26, 2005. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

!

June 24, 2005 By Patrick J. McDonnell and Ashraf Khalil, L.A. Times Staff Writers

"Part of the recruitment for this insurgency is fueled by the perception that we are an occupying power and have no intention of leaving," Army Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander of the Multinational Corps, said in a recent interview.

"I think we need to make it clear that we intend to draw down, and we intend to drawn down relatively soon, and we have no aspirations here."

“One Thing Is For Sure”

June 23, 2005 Abid Mustafa, Al-Jazeera

One thing is for sure that while America has failed to turn Iraqis against the resistance, the Iraqi resistance has succeeded in turning the American public and the military against the Bush administration.

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.

Sketch From A Colonial War

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: June 24, 2005
Subject: sketch from a colonial war

Thought you might enjoy skimming through the following short narrative by Miroslav Krleža (1893-1981), one of the great -- though insufficiently known -- modern writers. A Croatian Slav, Krleža was drafted into the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I and sent to Galicia, on the eastern front, to fight against the Russians. The experience radicalized him and turned him into a revolutionary antimilitarist.

The present sketch was originally appended to a collection of antiwar stories that helped bring fame to the young Krleža: 'Croatian God Mars,' (Hrvatski bog Mars, 1922).

Three short explanatory points: 1) The Croatian conscripts were officially called 'Homeguards' (Domobrani), an ironic term since they were certainly not guarding their own homes but rather killing and dying for the interests of the Austro-Hungarian plutocrats;

2) Matija Gubec, referred to in the narrative, led the great peasants' revolt of 1573;

3) the anti-semitic sentiment expressed by two of the characters is most definitely not shared by the author. The sketch is autobiographical, so the 'I' may safely be taken to stand for Krleža himself.

Thank you again for the vitally important work you are doing!

Solidarity,
Z

“Homeguards Gebes And Bencina Talk About Lenin”

It was a warm, late autumn.

The windows of the sickroom ('marodezimmer' at the imperial and royal and Royal Hungarian regiments) were open and the moist smell of early evening fluttered in at intervals through the reinforced steel bars. The fields in front of the barracks were saturated with a gray slush, and since a blast of southern wind had brought on a thaw, rags of snow shone whitely among dry cornstalks as though someone had drawn them in asymmetrically here and there with dirty brushstrokes of Post-Impressionistic technique.

Within the clear acoustics could be heard the clanging of carriages from the southern train station and the squeaking of steam locomotives, and from a nearby smithy echoed an anvil.

An adjutant was chopping wood in the corridor, and I was lying feverish on a hard straw mat, and in that mild and heavy silence of autumnal twilight I was carried away by an inexpressible aching after broad and blue distances. I stared at those steel bars, listened to children shout with delight in the twilight, and daydreamed womanishly about how good it would be if one were a bird and not rotting in these damp and dirty blankets, not

sick, not a colonial soldier, not fighting mindlessly in a war, but flying high over fogged in willows, over a quietly flowing river, and over railway tracks glowing with signal lights.

Amid the heavy and stifling semidarkness, amid helpless efforts to break out of leaden and repulsive spaces, amid a sickly yearning that all our misery and filth be lifted off by a solid and hard lever, there arose the voice of Homeguard Gebes of Stubice--returned days ago via Stockholm and Berlin from Russian captivity--like the voice of a knightly, heroic trumpet!

Mirko Gebes, pockmarked Homeguard features, pale tubercular cheeks, riddled with bullets several times, fell into Russian captivity during the insane Austrian charge at Dniester, tramped around Asian POW camps of Siberia, and returned to the barracks as one of the first harbingers of the Russian storm.

He had attended Russian revolutionary meetings--"went through that revolutionary apprenticeship"--and, as he related it, heard Lenin speak from atop barrels and trunks in some Petrograd warehouse, an event that will remain indelibly marked in his memory...

Gebes presented Lenin to the sickroom's inmates as an ordinary Russian muzhik who speaks to peasant soldiers about peasant uprising, about barracks, about war, and about how it's a shame to hold a rifle in hand and bleed and shoot for the masters, and not at the masters!

Oh, how beautifully every simple word of the pockmarked and tubercular Gebes coincided with my passive and sickly musing about exit, about breakout, and about rescue from that sickroom, from that fever, from those moral contradictions which appear to a man in a barracks, when he is warring for the interests of others and against his own conviction, and when nothing else is left to him than to daydream in a sickroom bed about twilight and about birds.

What a devilish minimum is the life of a contemporary human being reduced to when his ideal is to become a sparrow and to chirp in the twilight above the civilization and barrack roofs.

Within this personal misery of mine and that sad depression, the words of Homeguard Gebes thundered in the filthy and stinking room like a mighty drumbeat. As though I had suddenly glimpsed in the semidarkness of the foggy space the colossal outline of the Fiery Matija Gubec as he sets into motion and with a huge scythe in hand strides like a giant above the barracks and the city.

Fiery Matija has arisen, our glorious man from Stubice, and all Gebeses stand with him, from Krski to Sevnica, from Mokrice to Susjed, they have started to move through the smoke of fires and the ringing of church bells, to show that they too exist, to obliterate that stinking, Austrian, Hapsburg, symbolic sickroom and to break all the metal bars, all these frames, treaties, protocols, assembly speeches, majorities, minorities, paragraphs, phrases, lies, stupidity and sadness of our exitless impasse, to break out, to emerge from all that, to win.

I don't recall the details, but only remember that everything in the room dimmed, and that the people in their beds quietly sighed in the dark and fateful silence. The dark weight of the stupidity of our life was palpable, and Gebes's words

rumbled in our souls like an explosion against the concrete parapets of that entire fortress-bound and military life which presented for us our deadly reality, the reality of an Austrian, Hapsburg war, the reality of hideous senseless death for the sake of that manifest stupidity.

"Lenin stood on a barrel in a warehouse and said clearly and loudly so that all of us heard him, that the real war is one that is waged in the streets and stores, and not at the front!"

"Sure! Rebellion! Peasant right! War in the streets against the masters! All that is Jewish nonsense! Shut up!"

That was platoon sergeant Bencina, an old warrior. Twice mortally wounded and decorated, his raincoat drilled through with seven machine gun bullets, which he showed off as a trophy with great pride. He never commanded "Shoulder arms!" but changed the last part affectedly to "huck!" to make it "Shoulder huck!"

Bencina sensed that Gebes was crossing the line of order and discipline, and for that reason intervened as a noncom, telling him he had best shut his trap and quit yapping mindless and senseless gibberish.

"That's all lies and all of it's made up by Jews!" He had read in a newspaper that those are Russian Jews, who will ruin all of Russia and sell it for golden coins to foreigners and millionaires.

Gebes refused to be impressed by the platoon sergeant's intervention. He instinctively sensed that such noncom intervention threatened not only his personal dignity as a Homeguard, but also the prestige of that concept which he called "soldierly liberty and equality."

Noncoms won't be fixing our heads any longer...

Gebes wanted to demonstrate to us all that he had mastered the Russian apprenticeship: it wasn't the Russian Jews who sold anyone anything, it's only the stupid newspapers which Bencina reads that write that, Jews write that out of fear that soldiers might plunder their warehouses!

And with a practiced and persuasive method Gebes strove to explain to Bencina how miserable his life is, how he has been flung at the front five times already, how his raincoat is stitched with twenty three machine gun rounds, how he has been turned into a scarecrow with nine wounds, and how now despite everything and fitted with a mismatched gutta-percha jaw they are driving him off to the front like a dog...

"Standing on that barrel, Lenin said clearly and loudly that the front is foolishness, and that every man who goes to the front is a fool!"

The quarrel grew more and more heedless and sharp, Bencina leapt up from his bed blazing with rage and it came to within a hairbreadth of it all ending in a fistfight, a beating, and Gebes getting arrested by the guard.

I myself no longer know whether it was due to that insolent aggressiveness of the glorious Gebes, whether to my own rotten mood (which disgusted even me), or whether I sensed within Bencina's rudely superior noncom profanities the creaking of spiked boots of our wartime Zagorje-style Vendee, at any rate for the sake of our entire sickroom I did not at any cost want Gebes to give up his position, and so I transferred the quarrel's center of gravity onto my own person, and drew the platoon sergeant's wrath onto myself.

After prolonged clarification the matter ended in bribery and corruption, and so over a bottle of absinthe we forgot that Gebes wanted to incite the sickroom to mutiny and to raise a revolution in the interest of Russian muzhiks. I don't know whence or how, but Bencina began to whistle the well known aria from Albini's "Baron Trenk:" Tiger now, and soon a lamb...

One night the following autumn, a soldier suddenly stopped me. I was already a civilian, and the soldier caught up with me from behind, touching my sleeve like a shadow. It was raining. My freedom of movement hindered by an open umbrella in one hand and books in the other, I started with instinctive helplessness at that touch of an unknown shadow. It was Bencina.

"Oh, that is you, 'Benchins!' Hello! How are you?"

"I was at the Italian front! No end to heavy artillery and gas down there! And how are you?"

"Well fine, thank you! I'm a civilian!"

"And do you remember, sir, that crazy Gebes, that got us into a fight one evening in the sickroom? They shot him on the Italian front!"

"Oh don't tell me! Poor man! Didn't he know to take care of himself?"

"Well he didn't fall at the front, they shot him! They sentenced him to death at a court martial and shot him. He hit an officer over the head with a gas mask! We later poured lime over him in the limepit. I can still see his knee, sticking out of the lime! There was no putting up with him! I always nicely told him: You'll quit that Jew foolery of yours on the gallows! And now, I ask you, didn't they sing a requiem for him? What's he got out of it now?"

A month later the mercenary condottieri of the National Assembly shot platoon sergeant Bencina too. For him too they sang a requiem.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Calls For Palestine To Take Jordan



June 25 (AP) Associated Press

“My dream is that there be a Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace with Iraq,” Bush said yesterday with Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari. Bush made the comment as he described his hopes for a peaceful, democratic West Asia.

International Terrorists Meet In Washington



Bush and his Iraq branch manager, “Prime Minister” Ibrahim al-Jaafari in the East Room of the White House June 24. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

356 Families Richer Than 40% Of The Human Race

[Thanks to Liz Burbank for posting this one.]

06/22/05 Jeremy Rifkin, The Guardian

Today, while corporate profits are soaring around the world, 89 countries find themselves worse off economically than they were in the early 1990s.

Capitalism promised that globalisation would narrow the gap between rich and poor. Instead the divide has widened.

The 356 richest families on the planet enjoy a combined wealth that now exceeds the annual income of 40% of the human race.

Two-thirds of the world's population have never made a phone call and one-third have no access to electricity.

Received:

[From Phil G]

COLLEGE NOT COMBAT

HELP US GATHER SIGNATURES ON SATURDAY JULY 9TH!

THE CAMPAIGN to get an anti-military recruitment/pro-schools proposition on San Francisco's November ballot is on its way to success! Help us make one last big push to ensure that San Francisco has the opportunity to resoundingly voice "money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation!" in the Fall!

**Final Petitioning Effort: Saturday, July 9th
16th & Mission St, San Francisco**

10:30PM

Rally with SF Supervisor Chris Daly; Aimee Allison, Oakland Green Party; and others TBA*

11:00PM - 2:00PM

City-wide petitioning blitz! Let's capture the hearts and signatures of San Franciscans everywhere!

TO GET A PROPOSITION ON THE BALLOT THAT SAYS:

The people of San Francisco oppose U.S. military recruiters using public school, college and university facilities to recruit young people into the armed forces. Furthermore, San Francisco should oppose the military's "economic draft" by investigating means by which to fund and grant scholarships for college and job training to low-income students so they are not economically compelled to join the military.

A DAY FOR UNION MEMBERS, TOO!

The COLLEGE NOT COMBAT ballot initiative has been endorsed by the San Francisco Labor council, the American Federation of Teachers Local 2121 (AFT Local 2121), SEIU Local 790, the United Educators of San Francisco (AFT Local 61) as well as many other prominent individuals and organizations. On July 9th there will be a final large petitioning effort to ensure that this proposition gets on the November ballot. All union members are encouraged to mobilize their members to come out on this day.

DONATE TO COLLEGE NOT COMBAT

by making a check to Committee for Proposition College Not Combat (or "CPCNC" for short). Then send it to:

College Not Combat
110 Capp Street, Suite 203
San Francisco, CA 94110

ENDORSERS INCLUDE:

Aimee Allison, Oakland Green Party*; Al-Awda - SF; American Federation of Teachers Local 2121 (AFT Local 2121); ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) Coalition - SF/Bay Area; Arjuna Sayyed - President, CCSF Associated Student Council*; Bateria Lucha; Bay Area United Against War; Campus Anti-war Network, SF; CCSF Revolution Youth; Central Committee for Conscientious Objector's Military Out of the Schools Program; Chris Daly, SF Supervisor, District 6; Cindy Sheehan, Gold Star Families*; Code Pink; Free Palestine Alliance; Global Citizen Center; Global Exchange; Green Party of San Mateo County; Green Party, SF; Grey Panthers, SF; Howard Wallace, Pride At Work, AFL-CIO*; International Socialist Organization; Justice in Palestine Coalition; Lesbian And GAY Insurrection, (LAGAI); Loco Bloco; Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM); Matt Gonzalez: Green Party*; Middle East Children's Alliance; Multi-Cultural Center of CCSF; National Lawyers Guild SF/Bay Area; Native American Student Organization (NASO); Not in Our Name (NION); Peace and Freedom Party; Peter Camejo, Green Party*; Queers Undermining Israeli Terror (QUIT); Renee Saucedo, INS Watch*; San Francisco Green Party; San Francisco Labor Council; San Francisco Preservation Society; Sean O'Neill, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)*; SEIU Local 790; Shawn Yee - Senator, CCSF Associated Student Council*; Socialist Action; Socialist Organizer; Susan Green, Breaking the Silence Mural Project; The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-SF Chapter (ADC-SF); United Educators of San Francisco (AFT Local 61)

*Organization listed for identification purposes only.

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