

GI SPECIAL 3B74:

IRAQ: GONE BLACK: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



US Sergeant Robert Wilson from Swainsboro, Georgia looks from a small window as he sits inside a Bradley tank during a patrol in the area of Karrada in central Baghdad. (AFP/Yuri Cortez)

“This Publicity Stunt Is An Obscenity” Bush Speaks, With Troops As His Stage Props

I find it offensive that the very people he would send to death, disfigurement and despair in the service of this administration's lengthening list of lies, are now

required, – when they could be home tonight with the loved ones they have missed so much in the last two years – to serve as stage props so George W. Bush can add one more bit of cheerleading hype, one more publicity stunt, to his resume.

6.28.05 By Stan Goff, stangoff.com

My opening remarks for the press conference at Quaker House, Fayetteville, NC, organized in response to George W. Bush's speech on June 28, 2005, at Ft. Bragg:

I retired out of 3rd Special Forces ten years ago, right up the road here when the out-processing one-stop was still over by the Main PX. My son's first assignment after jump school was there in the 82nd Airborne Division, and it was with them that he went to Iraq the first time.

Dozens more soldiers and hundreds more Iraqis have been killed over the past couple of weeks... and not just killed – crippled, burned, blinded, amputated, consigned to colostomy bags and medication for their rest of their lives, and countless others will be driven a little bit mad by their experience. And we have no idea how many will be damaged by the ticking time-bomb in their bodies that is depleted uranium.

Not only are the troops suffering, but the families of those who are on their second and third deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan are living with unremitting fear, and I am one of those families. My grandson has seen his father for only a few months of his two and a half years.

Yet, tonight the President of the United States is going to come here to Fort Bragg and tell everyone in the country that this war is making people safer. In fact, since the Bush administration opportunistically used the terrible shock of 9-11 to advance what we now know to have been a pre-determined agenda, the number of terror attacks in the world has dramatically increased.

Let me say this very clearly, because the empirical evidence is very clear. Bush's war has not made anyone safer. It has, however, destroyed the lives of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, and according to international polls, the United States is now held in lower public esteem in the world than China.

The United States is already suffering higher casualties than we were at the same stage of the Vietnam War. So, okay, Iraq is NOT Vietnam. It could, in fact, get worse. Rumsfeld is now telling us that the war could last for 12 more years.

And just two years ago George Bush pulled his little airplane stunt on the USS Abraham Lincoln, and had a big MISSION ACCOMPLISHED sign as his backdrop.

Tonight he will use a captive audience of soldiers, who he commands, and who will be ordered to smile and cheer and shout hooahs at the appropriate points in this latest Karl Rove production, and I find that offensive. More than offensive, it is obscene.

I find it offensive that the very people he would send to death, disfigurement and despair in the service of this administration's lengthening list of lies, are now required, – when they could be home tonight with the loved ones they have missed so much in the last two years – to serve as stage props so George W. Bush can add one more bit of cheerleading hype, one more publicity stunt, to his resume.

And in Iraq, every time the poll numbers spook the White House, they add one more so-called counter-offensive, each promising that there is light at the end of this tunnel, and each dispatching more military sedans to the homes of those who wait to hear the terrible news that someone they loved is no longer in the world.

George W. Bush is using troops as props, but he doesn't show up for the funerals of the troops who have been killed in his war. This is about as clear as things get.

This publicity stunt is an obscenity.

It is an insult to the intelligence of the nation, that is now waking to the reality that this war had nothing to do with 9-11, nothing to do with weapons of mass destruction, nothing to do with liberation, but everything to do with establishing permanent military bases on the earth's biggest oil patch.

Americans are waking up, and members of Congress who let themselves be stampeded into this war need to put their wind meters back out, because while Bush doesn't have to run for anything again, every member of the House of Representatives and a third of the Senate are running in 2006.

Americans are waking up, and they are in a very bad mood about this war, and as Bob Dylan once sang, it don't take a weatherman to know which way the wind blows. I'll tell my Democrat right now from the platform, if he doesn't fight to bring them home now, I'll vote a Republican who says he or she will. People are dying, and we will not respect on election day those who sat on a fence while the coffins arrived at Dover, and the cries of pain echoed off the walls at Landstuhl and Walter Reed.

Bush says if we declare a withdrawal date, the insurgents will wait us out. But we haven't even declared the "intention" to leave Iraq – in fact, it looks like we are building permanent bases there – and the Iraqi resistance seems to be growing stronger, more sophisticated, and more audacious with every day.

This could not be happening if the resistance did not enjoy substantial popular support. And if our presence strengthens the resistance, how is this better than having them "wait the US out"?

WE, who wasn't all of us after all, WE... had no business in Iraq in the first place. That's why this administration doctored evidence, attacked its critics, purged its own public servants, intimidated the press, and repeated 9-11 and Iraq in the same breath like a never-ending mantra for months, in order to get the American public to acquiesce to this crime.

Bush will get up there tonight and say that this is the first anniversary of newly-won Iraqi sovereignty. But sovereignty is defined as supreme and independent political authority.

How can anyone make the claim of independence, when they live in the Green Zone surrounded by foreign troops and a occupation authority that has veto power over any political action, the ability to order any press closed, and the ability to arrest and indefinitely detain that country's citizens without showing cause?

How can any country be sovereign, when its entire security apparatus is under the control of a foreign military? There is no sovereignty in Iraq... any more than there was an al Qaeda connection or yellow cake uranium.

The Iraq Sovereignty Scam was a Bush election-year stunt. And tonight is a publicity stunt. It is an offensive publicity stunt, using our troops as his personal stage props. He couldn't deliver this phony missive from the White House and leave these people alone to spend precious time with their families?

Don't sell us any more fake milestones, George Bush, that major combat is over, that Saddam is captured so the resistance will stand down, that sovereignty exists under a military occupation, that a constitution is being written under the careful eye of the US Ambassador, or that the insurgency is in its last throes, as Dick Cheney continues to insist in the face of all this blood and fire.

Here are our milestones. They are numbers.

500 is a milestone, when we count returning bodies. 1,000 is a milestone. We will soon enough see 2,000, after 250 more families blanch at the sight of a military sedan pulling up in front of their houses.

Our milestones are names, like Abu Ghraib, like Fallujah, like the Downing Street memo.

Can even the most careful journalist continue now to award the presumption of honesty to this administration? If we had half the analysis of the Michael Jackson trial devoted to the Downing Street memos, there would already be an impeachment under way.

Bush will stand up there tonight and talk about brave soldiers, and he damn well better say something nice after what he has put them and their families through. What he won't say, though, is that the bravery of the troops has nothing to do with whether that bravery should be placed in the service of an immoral, illegal, and un-winnable war.

There were plenty of brave soldiers who went to Vietnam, but it didn't change the outcome. We don't have to question the character of these troops to question the character of the commander-in-chief.

In fact, there is something obscene about people like George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld riding around in limos and expensive clothes issuing orders like they are playing Risk, when the folly and criminality of those orders are felt as

consequences on the bodies and spirits of soldiers and their families, and on the countless bodies of the Iraq people.

He damn well better say something nice, because just the other day, we watched not just our sons but our daughters killed in clusters, and when I saw that news report, I thought of the same thing I have thought of every day when I get on the internet and review the day's news about this war.

I think about his cavalier little aside to the press two years ago, when he said, "Bring 'em on!"

He said it. And they did. They brought it on. And we say, "Bring 'em home... and do it now."

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED, ANOTHER WOUNDED NEAR BALAD

June 28, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-06-38C

TIKRIT, Iraq –A Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed when a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near a Coalition Forces base near Balad at about 11:40 a.m. June 28.

The name of the Soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

One wounded Soldier was taken to a Coalition Forces medical facility for treatment of non-life-threatening wounds.

TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED NEAR TIKRIT

June 28, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-06-39C

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near a combat patrol west of Tikrit at about 4:15 p.m. June 28.

Two Soldiers were wounded in the attack and are being treated for non-life-threatening wounds at a Coalition Forces medical facility.

Roadside Bomb Claims Life Of 20-Year-Old Fairchild Man

June 28, 2005 The Associated Press, FAIRCHILD

Spc. Charles A. Kaufman, of Fairchild, died Sunday, according to the Department of Defense. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry in Eau Claire.

Kaufman is the 40th Wisconsin soldier or Marine killed in Iraq.

Dauphin County Marine Injured By Bomber: “He Looked Over And Smiled”

June 28, 2005 BY CHRIS A. COUROGEN Of The Patriot-News & The Associated Press

CAMP HILL, Pa. -- A Marine from Dauphin County is hospitalized in Germany with extensive burns from a suicide car bomb attack on her convoy near Fallujah, Iraq.

Pfc. Diane Cardile, 23, told family members the bomber drove up beside the Marines' truck, before detonating his bomb on Thursday.

Cardile, 23, a 1999 graduate of Cedar Cliff, was riding in the back of a truck in the convoy when the attack occurred, according to her grandmother, Diane Cardile of Upper Allen Twp.

Cardile was blown off the vehicle and suffered first- and second-degree burns to her arms, face, legs and one side of her body, her grandmother said. She also suffered third-degree burns to her hands.

A basketball and softball player in high school, Cardile attended Harrisburg Area Community College and worked odd jobs before deciding last year to enlist in the

Marines. A knee injury from her days as a high school athlete initially prevented her enlistment, but she convinced the Marines she was physically capable, said her father, Salvatore Cardile of Upper Allen Twp.

"I'm proud of her. She wanted to do it and she fought to get in," he said.

"But I am a dad, too. I worry about her. I thank God my baby is alive. I'm glad she made it out of there. A lot of her friends did not," he said.

She will be flown to a military hospital in Texas after treatment in Germany.

"Trust Us, We Don't Want To Be Here"

The crew was puzzled. The US had toppled a dictatorship and was now fighting terrorists. Why were Iraqis not supportive? Not interested in oil or occupation, the four discussed putting a sign on the rear bumper: "Trust us, we don't want to be here."

[Thanks to Z, who sent this in.]

June 28, 2005 By Rory Carroll, The Guardian

The hatch slams shut and the metal monster trundles from the base into a Baghdad night, another roll of the dice for a crew which, all things being equal, would rather be in Ohio.

Through smeared windows the four soldiers eye a landscape of rubble, anti-American graffiti and impassive faces. No Iraqi aged over three returns their waves.

The six-wheel, 23-tonne "Buffalo" is designed to absorb blasts but with roadside bombs becoming bigger and more sophisticated it is a potential coffin, another smouldering wreck to appear on CNN.

The crew are edgy, aware that improvised explosive devices (IEDs), account for more than half of this year's US combat deaths. Wearing earplugs, goggles, helmets and body armour, their job is to drive very slowly in one of the most hostile parts of Baghdad, looking for IEDs.

Aged 20 to 25, the four friends are ambivalent about the war but upbeat about their role in it and have no regrets about volunteering. The feedback from home, however, is unsettling.

Later today, George Bush will address an increasingly sceptical nation about Iraq, where sentiments have changed since the invasion two years ago. In a recent Gallup poll 56% said the war "wasn't worth it".

Enthusiasm for action that has already claimed 1,730 American lives has turned to disquiet, and this is trickling down to the troops.

Sgt Brad Wilson, the radio controller, shuddered at the latest batch of letters from well-meaning primary school pupils. "It's all, 'Please don't die in that place.' My God, it's so depressing."

The driver, Sgt Marcus Smith, laughed. "My mom just got a passport so she can go to Germany in case I get injured and end up evacuated there. I'm not sure if it's sweet or demented."

About 40% of the 135,000-strong US force in Iraq are reservists and National Guards, part-time soldiers who have civilian jobs and are not wedded to a military career. The Buffalo crew are National Guards from the 612th Engineering battalion from Norwalk, Ohio. Back home they are a policeman, a waiter, a student and a church youth director. In the Buffalo they are targets.

"Sure, I'm homesick," said Specialist Sean Hollinger, the waiter. "It's 9pm. I could be out with my buddies watching hockey and ordering some wings."

Instead he was peering at a sack by the road with a suspicious bulge.

Spc Hollinger used an orange control box to probe the bag with a 30ft mechanical claw. The four Humvee escorts blocked traffic and kept their distance.

The Buffalo's V-shaped hull deflects blasts but insurgents are getting better at penetrating armour with bombs - often hidden in sacks, animal carcasses or fake concrete blocks - which are detonated by remote control.

This sack was harmless and the crew exhaled as one. Sgt Smith opened a packet of M&Ms and launched into another joke. "A duck goes into a bar ... "

Minutes later a black Mercedes emerged from an alleyway and stopped alongside the Buffalo.

The crew froze. "Fuck! Fuck!" someone shouted. "Put a round in his hood. Oh man I'm just waiting for that to blow." It was not a suicide bomber but the adrenaline took its time to ebb away.

Scouring roadside debris for bombs which killed Iraqis as well as Americans earned the crew no smiles from those rushing home before curfew. "People here don't like us very much," said Sgt Wilson.

The crew was puzzled. The US had toppled a dictatorship and was now fighting terrorists. Why were Iraqis not supportive? Not interested in oil or occupation, the four discussed putting a sign on the rear bumper: "Trust us, we don't want to be here."

They were unsure about whether Saddam Hussein was linked to the September 11 attacks but knew all about WMD. "Weapons of moderate destruction, that's what we're looking for," said Sgt Smith.

"No one wants to get blown up but this is a good mission. Everybody has to do their turn."

His comrades nodded. The year-long tour was also an adventure with a chance to save up to \$2,000 (£1,090) a month.

All four had been blown up at least once. The Buffalo, shared with another crew, was scarred and dented. After six hours of false alarms but no bombs the convoy headed back, weaving and accelerating through a particularly hazardous street known as "RPG Alley".

The vehicle shuddered to a halt. Sgt Smith, drenched in sweat, opened the hatch and took a bow. "Thank you all for flying Buffalo Airlines."

His mother's passport could stay closed for another day.

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)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Downs U.S. Chinook Helicopter

June 28, 2005 Associated Press & Aljazeera

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. CH-47 Chinook transport helicopter, which a military official said may have been carrying 15 to 20 people, crashed today while ferrying reinforcements for operations in eastern Afghanistan. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

The fate of those on board the helicopter, which crashed near Asadabad in Kunar province, was not immediately known.

Provincial Gov. Asadullah Wafa told The Associated Press that the Taliban downed the aircraft with a rocket.

Purported Taliban spokesman Mullah Latif Hakimi called the AP before news of the crash was released and claimed that the rebels shot the helicopter down.

Today's crash comes after three months of unprecedented fighting that has killed about 465 suspected insurgents, 29 U.S. troops, 43 Afghan police and soldiers, and 125 civilians. [**"Unprecedented"? Bullshit. Ask the surviving Russian troops what happened when the Russian Empire thought they could take Afghanistan in the 1980's.**]

The violence has left much of Afghanistan off-limits to aid workers and has reinforced concerns that the war here is escalating into a conflict on the scale of that in Iraq.

Afghanistan: "Complete Strategic Failure"

June 27, 2005 BRIAN BRADY, scotsman.com

BRITAIN is coming under sustained pressure from American military chiefs to keep thousands of troops in Iraq - while going ahead with plans to boost the front line against a return to "civil war" in Afghanistan.

Tony Blair was warned that war-torn Iraq remains on the brink of disaster - more than two years after the removal of Saddam Hussein - during his summit with President Bush in Washington earlier this month.

Scotland on Sunday revealed last month that Blair is preparing to rush thousands more British troops to Afghanistan in a bid to stop the country sliding towards civil war, amid warnings the coalition faces a "complete strategic failure" in the effort to rebuild the nation.

TROOP NEWS

Security Agency Chief Says British Troops Join Iraqi Insurgents

2005/06/27 IRIB News

June 27 - British soldiers die in Iraq more because of "blue on blue" fire than hostile fire.

Over 70 British army troops have joined Iraqi insurgents in fight against the US-led forces, it was reported Monday.

Four British soldiers were killed over the past days in Iraq in clashes with US marines, forcing the British officials to launch an investigation into the incident.

Over seventy armed men with British ID cards identified have teamed up with anti US-UK troops in Iraq, British MI5 security agency chief Eliza Boulter said in her report to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

British soldiers also assist Iraqi insurgents in suicide attacks, which have grown concerns as the daily suicide blasts are on rise, Boulter said.

West Point: “Bogus Medals And Self-Important Lies”

June 28, 2005 By Lucian K. Truscott IV, New York Times

[.]

The U.S. military is on the verge of an exodus of officers. The annual resignation rate among Army lieutenants and captains rose to nine percent last year, the highest since before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Cadets at West Point adhere to an honor code that other universities can't understand--- it is all that stands between an army and tyranny.

That honor code has been sullied with a teaching staff that contains Vietnam veterans who have covered their uniforms with bogus medals and made their careers with self-important lies. The Army has yet to solve the problems developed during the Vietnam era. That dilemma is being passed on to cadets who quickly find out that they have been lied to.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“The Resistance Will Not Stop Until The Americans Go Away”

Many Iraqis interviewed said they believe U.S. officials have too much influence in the nation's important decisions and the government is far too dependent on the Americans for Iraqis to place much stock in their sovereignty.

"This is not a democracy," said Sarah Abdul Kareem, 21, a Shiite. "This is chaos."

Jun. 28, 2005 Chicago Tribune, Aamer Madhani

BAGHDAD - When the U.S. occupation authority transferred power to the interim Iraqi government a year ago, Dhiya Nour al-Deen could not have been more optimistic about the future of his country.

With the injection of billions of U.S. dollars into the Iraqi economy, his small restaurant in southwestern Baghdad was one of many to benefit from the American invasion. Police officers from a nearby station and workers from an industrial park, flush with disposable income, spent money at his kebab and falafel stand.

His older brother, Alaa, was earning a good salary as a bodyguard for a high-ranking Education Ministry official. At the time of the handover, Deen recalled that he and Alaa thought the Americans had put Iraq on the right path toward forging a lasting democracy

In the past 12 months, his brother was killed in an assassination attempt on the Education Ministry official, his restaurant was badly damaged by three car bombings targeting the neighboring police station, and he has lost confidence in the U.S. military to effectively fight the insurgency.

"Nothing will change until the Americans leave," Deen, 33, said at his home in Baghdad's Saydiyah neighborhood.

"The resistance will not stop until the Americans go away. Once they leave, we can then only figure out if there is any hope of the Sunnis and Shiites coming together."

Many Iraqis interviewed said they believe U.S. officials have too much influence in the nation's important decisions and the government is far too dependent on the Americans for Iraqis to place much stock in their sovereignty.

"This is not a democracy," said Sarah Abdul Kareem, 21, a Shiite. "This is chaos."

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

Kirkuk Car Bomb Attack



6.27.05 AP & Reuters

A car burns in the streets of Kirkuk after a remote-control car bomb attack that targeted Kirkuk's traffic police Chief Brigadier General Talar Ahmad Fakhri, killing two bodyguards. (AFP Photo: Marwan Ibrahim)

Four others, including Ahmed and three of his bodyguards, were wounded in the city 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Prominent Collaborator Killed

6.28.05 AFP News

The Iraqi parliament's oldest member, Dhari al-Fayadh, 87, died with his son Hassan and three bodyguards in a bombing north of Baghdad,

They were killed when "a vehicle packed with explosives and driven by a suicide bomber was detonated alongside his two-car convoy in Al-Rashidiyah," an interior ministry source said.

Chief of the Albuamer, a powerful predominantly Shiite tribe, Fayadh had presided over the first sessions of Iraq's new parliament before a speaker was elected.

Fayadh was also lord of the mud huts around his gated villa complex in the orange and palm groves of his rural fiefdom in Diyala province just north of the capital.

Assorted Resistance Action:

Attack In Force Hits Samarra



Iraqi police gather around an overturned police truck after unidentified gunmen opened fire from another vehicle killing one and injuring at least two others north of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday June 28, 2005. (AP Photo/Mohammed Hato)

27 June 2005 Aljazeera.Net & June 26, 2005 Energy Security & 6.28.05 AFP News & By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, AP & Reuters & (UPI)

Two policemen were killed and two wounded in an attack by around 70 gunmen on the headquarters of security forces on the outskirts of Samarra, Major Latif Shaab said. Three police cars were destroyed.

Three police commandos were killed and five wounded in Samarra, north of Baghdad, when a homemade bomb blast ripped their patrol apart, according to army Captain Hassan al Juburi.

Two soldiers died and one was wounded when attackers fired rocket propelled grenades at them south of Samarra, Major Jumah Mohammed said.

Aljazeera has reported that an Iraqi contractor working with the US Army was killed by unknown assailants in the Dora area, south of Baghdad.

Attack on oil pipeline linking the southern fields around Basra to Daura reported. The attack took place near Yusifiyah.

South of Baghdad, police say an attacker wearing a bomb belt killed a policeman at a checkpoint.

A bomber dressed in a police uniform blew himself up in a hospital in the town of Musayyib, 40 miles south of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing three people and wounding 13, police said.

A police spokesman said the bomber blew himself up at the police guard station inside the hospital. One of those killed and four of the injured were police officers, he said.

He said it was not clear whether the bomber was a policeman or used the police uniform as a disguise.

Three Iraqi employees in the North Oil Co. were killed when an explosive charge went off near their car on the road linking Kirkuk to Hawijah, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

George Orwell On The Iraq War Or Vietnam Or The American Revolution: Take Your Pick

"We are all capable of believing things which we know to be untrue, and then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right.

"Intellectually, it is possible to carry on this process for an indefinite time: the only check on it is that sooner or later a false belief bumps up against solid reality, usually on a battlefield."

George Orwell in his essay In Front of Your Nose

“Colonial Dictatorship Dressed In Fraudulent Elections”

June 26, 2005 Ghali Hassan, Global Research.ca

The US aim in Iraq is to prolong the Occupation, control Iraq's vital resources and rob Iraq's of its wealth and sovereignty at the expense of the Iraqi people.

The form of "democracy" the US pretends building in Iraq is a form of colonial dictatorship dressed in fraudulent elections in order to re-colonise Iraq economically.

The US strategy in Iraq is to rule Iraq by the proxy of an "Arab façade", serving Washington and Western interests, and suppressing any alternative popular movement that opposes US design.

As pointed out earlier, democracy is never part of US imperialist agenda. If it is not so, then the US should let the Iraqi people decide on the presence of the Occupation forces.

“Will Imperialism Survive 2017?”

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: June 27, 2005
Subject: Will imperialism survive 2017?

News item:

Twelve More Years

Pepe Escobar (Jun 27, '05)

Conceding that the "throes" of the Iraqi insurgency could go on for another 12 years, Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld admits that the US is talking with insurgent leaders. Rumsfeld has finally admitted that the Iraq war is unwinnable.

Comment By Z

With all due disrespect to His Assholiness Rumsfeld, the year 2017--the 100th anniversary of the Russian revolution--is a highly unlikely date for any insurgency to end, and a far more likely date for it to expand into an international uprising of the downtrodden against the fatuous and brutal plutocrats whose interests that pompous thug represents.

Solidarity,
Z

[From Vietnam Days]

***About Face:
July 4, 1970***

[Thanks to Max Watts]

JULY 4, 1970

About Face

PUBLISHED BY GI'S FOR GI'S

UBS -- UNSATISFIED BLACK SOLDIERS

MY BROTHERS IN THE MILITARY

How much longer are you going to stand by and see your NCO's and company commander fuck over you. Now is the time to take a stand and get what is legally due to you as a soldier in the American Army.

Day after day we see Whitey's taking care of their own, now is the time for our Black NCO's to start taking care of their own. Yes the whites are getting their rank, but are you? Are you one of those Blacks that stayed 10 months in the service as a PFC or E-2? Have you ever asked? Are you interested?? Now is the time for you to get what you want. Not only what you want, but what you deserve. You have worked from the sweat of your brow as hard or I'm tempted to say harder than the others.

Your blood was shed in the building of America. So why shouldn't you demand your right in the military? Because Uncle Sam isn't going to give it to you as he would his own.

That's why I write this article to let you know there is someone concerned even so as you are. We not only want you to let us help you, we want you to help us, by participating in the activities we think are vital to our organization, things that we think are helpful to us and to our other brothers.

Support us through your appearance at our meetings, thru your thoughts, and thru your voice singing the song of freedom to other brothers elsewhere.

"Peacemaker"

Tid - bit of News

To the racist dogs CPT Winkler and 1SGT Crowley of 503rd Transportation company, your crimes against brothers Smith and Doldrum have not gone unnoticed.

Why in the hell did you "germs" give Pro. Doldrum a #15 the day before he left for Vietnam? Why are you trying to 212 brother Smith? Pig, if you and that dumb stumble-bum Capt. Sang from Big.Cen. would pool what little brains you have and vomit up an acceptable plan to abolish K.P. in that shithouse you call a mess hall.

You and other pigs are always badmouthing about "boosting morale" well then eliminate K.P. and boost it then. Do you both so completely lack imagination? Dig that, and you're supposed to be "leaders". You both (Cpts. Sand and Winkler)

couldn't lead me to a whorehouse. Cpt. Sang, it is said you would love to know my identity; well here is the first clue, I'm the air you breathe and one day I'm going to choke the hell out of you.

So the head WAC sew in Co.b., all the eyes of the brothers and sisters realize that thru stupidity or racism or both you have failed to have in your command a sister barrack sgt. We realize also that there are very very few sisters living off-post - why? If you haven't realized your crimes against the sisters you are stupid and negligent. If you have, you are a racist in constant heat and you will fall off your wall too.

So the head pigs "personnel" at Campbell, you had better put in a request for some Blacks to erase your lily-white image. The brothers are hot!! That place is running over with low-scum bigots and every night I send up a prayer so that someone will set fire to your "rest".

"POP"

ALL POWER IN THE STATE TO THE PROLETARIATE!

.....

Tid – bits of News

Cpts. Speer and Howell the twin racist dogs of Big.Cen., your raving and ranting has not fallen on deaf ears. SFC Foos of 503 trans.messhall, the shit you call food is inviting a congressional. Tell that E-6 Rico that works for you to lay off the EM.

SFC sweet, head Uncle Tom at Patton Bks EM club, your latest transgression was a honey. The reason the brother refused to shake your hand is because your hand is full of white man's shit. You're a pig and a slut and you're not fit to tell your family that you are a man. Dog, everybody knows about that married blonde slut that you have been lining her pockets with the taxpayers' money.

We have evidence that you're stealing from the club and PX!! A few brothers have committed themselves to kicking your ass in the near future. You're a suck-egg dog and a CID informer.

To that relatively new fair-weather brother who attempted to spoil the character of one of us by back stabbing whispers and ugly innuendos.

Will somebody tell these CID informers (MA's?) at the club that we know their game.

WHEN ALL THE FORCES OF GOOD AND RIGHT CONFRONT THE RESISTANCE OF FOOLS,

THE WALLS OF BABYLON WILL COME TUMBLING DOWN!

Especially yours

"The minstrel."

BLUEPRINT FOR REVOLUTION

I'm a full-grown, full-time Black revolutionary. My business is freedom and I deal in realities. Reality to me is sacrifice, its blood, its falling and stumbling through an undergrowth of hardship and turmoil until freedom slaps you in the face. Its right and necessary, its legal and its one of the basics, in the difference between man and animal.

The desire for freedom forces the realists to recognize the importance and utter necessity of organization.

Brothers, we of UBS have envisioned a sort of "United Nations" of Black liberation military groups in Germany. We are freedom groups organized with a council or decision making body responsible for policy and providing leadership. Rotate the members of the council or committee so that if the pigs ship out a few the leadership will still be intact. This governing body should determine tactics, goals, and when and where meeting should be held.

Two rules that must be carefully observed is 1) not to get involved in finance aside from "donations" and 2) keep no written records.

All records must be kept in the head. In addition it is very important that your organization has self-discipline. Petty personal hassles should be downplayed, because if a dude is restricted or put on extra duty for some bull, he is of no use to the ORGANIZATION.

The council should have officers responsible for specific areas and should all have secret clearances for organizational work. It should be understood by the leaders that the general membership (for security reasons) should not know all of the info. **Targets? the PX, the chapel, snack bars, civilian clubs who discriminate and have quotas, and the military clubs.**

Seize the time, seize the initiative to start a movement at your casern, do it now and establish contact with neighboring cities and caserns. Join the "United Nations" of Black soldiers in Germany. IF you need help in organizing and if you need rappers contact BDG at SmileyBKs in Karlsruhe or UBS at Patten here in Heidelberg.

All will not be soft and easy, you'll have growth pains like anything else. You'll have power struggles, dissension, quarrels etc. But all will work out. It's especially important that you have a recruiting officer who will recruit new brothers on their arrival at your place. An officer of security is especially valuable in tracking down CID or MI infiltrators, and checking out potential troublemakers and security risks.

There it is and you should be able to go from there if someone will stand up and say "I'll take the responsibility of leadership, of organizing at being a leader in the fight for the

freedom of my people. The pigs will threaten nave and rank but hold steady course and victory will not be too far distant.

Leaders must especially be adept in the art of crowd control and crowd psychology. You must produce concrete results and victories, you must sacrifice socially and financially in order to taste the sweet fruits of victory and offer goodwill and brotherhood to all men.

News of the fight has spread like wildfire -- even the children have taken up the call for freedom! Let us remain true to the teachings of our fathers --

"Lion of Kenya"

GI REPORT FROM KLEBER KASERNE, KAISERSLAUTERN

1. The Army has been reported to be "liberalizing" its regulations in order to make itself a nice place for happy soldiers. The reporting of all this "liberalizing" comes from the Army itself by way of the Stars & Stripes and Army Times.

2. Kleber Kaserne in K-town has gotten its share of the new action Army's liberal-minded leaders and they're candy-coating everything. Such new innovations as brightly painted mess halls with artificial flowers and pictures on the wall. No more reveille formations for some units and no work on Saturday for others. The 94th MPs don't ever pull KP and the whole unit is on separate rations.

3. A pretty mess hall doesn't cancel levies to Vietnam or it won't find us any better jobs when we get back to the world! It doesn't clean grease traps, wash dishes, mop floors or empty trays. It doesn't even shut the KP pusher up. A pretty mess hall doesn't have any relation to any of the problems but it makes a good story in the Stars & Stripes. (They ran a full page story with pictures of our pretty mess hall).

4. Doing away with reveille formations sure sounds nice but it has done more to divide the guys than anything else. What it actually has done is created fights and arguments because now the burden of getting the dead heads out of bed is placed on us and not on the lifers. Everyone still has to have his room squared away and have himself ready for the work call formation but most of the bitches are directed at each other instead of at the lifers. It is the same game they played in Basic to make us take our frustrations out on each other. One guy screws up and everyone suffers.

5. No work was ever done on Saturday mornings and by doing away with that the Army has admitted years of unnecessary harassment. They admit that they have been screwing around and we're supposed to thank them for wising up. I say it took too long. The 94th MPs don't pull KP and they're all on separate rations. They have to do all the brass' dirty work and are treated like favorite sons, just so they will stay loyal to the man.

6. The Army is not offering these tid-bit pacifiers because they appreciate the dedicated work of super-troopers. They offer these pacifiers because they see how strong the movement is getting in the Army. It is an attempt to buy us off, nothing but pacification.

EM -- K-town

"All of our people have the same goals, the same objectives. That objective is Freedom, Justice, Equality, to be respected as Human beings." -- Malcolm X

OCCUPATION REPORT

“Shot And Killed When He Didn't Pull Over For A U-S Convoy Passing By”



June 28, 2005 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA The Associated Press (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

The grandmother of Ahmed Wael Bakri, an Iraqi news executive, and other relatives outside the morgue of a Baghdad hospital, June 28, 2005.

According to doctors at the hospital and family members, Bakri was shot and killed when he didn't pull over for a U-S convoy passing by.

Ahmed Wael Bakri worked as a director at al-Sharqiya TV.

Bakri was the third Iraqi journalist killed by U.S. forces in similar incidents in the past week.

So Much For That “Sovereignty” Bullshit: Got It Right X 2

28 June 2005 By Borzou Daragahi, The Los Angeles Times

"What does sovereignty mean to me if I can be shot at by any soldier on the street for any traffic violation without any responsibility on the American soldier?" said Ali Nejam, 37, a Baghdad merchant.

"I doubt very much that anyone -- governments or publics -- in the Middle East thinks for a moment that the Iraqi government is independent of the U.S. or would last five minutes if the U.S. forces were to leave," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A Magnificent Example Of Blind, Stupid Imperial Arrogance Combined With Military Incompetence

June 28, 2005 By Hamza Hendawi, Associated Press

MAHMOUDIYA, Iraq — For weeks, Sheik Adnan Fahd had been avoiding meeting Army Lt. Col. Ross A. Brown. Going to see the officer at his base would be extremely dangerous, given the intelligence network of Iraqi insurgents. To invite him to his home would be courting death.

Finally, Brown came north, traveling six miles in a heavily armed convoy of four Humvees for a June 21 meeting in the fortified Green Zone in Baghdad — a strained get-together that summed up the conundrum facing the U.S. military and Sunni Arabs in Iraq.

For the American officer, the objective was to win Fahd's cooperation in the fight against insurgents in Mahmoudiya in an area south of the capital known as "The Triangle of Death."

But for Fahd, a Sunni tribal leader heading a clan of 30,000, the meeting highlighted his double dilemma: He must keep at bay both the insurgents who watch his every move, and the U.S. military that wants his help in persuading militants to lay down their arms.

Brown sought to tempt Fahd with water pumps, jobs and other aid in an area where most farms have lacked irrigation since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. "With the central government, the police and the army all still weak, the tribal system is the only institution that's working in Iraq," he said.

Fahd, a 64-year-old retired police brigadier, appears to have no genuine wish to cooperate with the Americans — not because he supports the insurgents, but to protect his family and avoid the shame of being labeled a collaborator.

Many Iraqis have been killed for having suspected links to the Americans — a fact Fahd knows firsthand: Insurgents held him captive for several hours May 21.

One of Fahd's six daughters, Jinan, was killed in November by Marines under circumstances that have never been clear. Two other relatives lost their lives in violence, and at least 15 clansmen and relatives are in U.S. or Iraqi custody, some for more than a year, he said.

Their 90-minute encounter, attended by an Associated Press reporter, took place at a small banquet room at the Al-Rasheed, once Baghdad's most luxurious hotel and now sleeping quarters for hundreds of U.S. soldiers.

The goodwill Lt. Col. Brown showed to Fahd at the start of their Green Zone meeting evaporated when it became obvious the sheik wasn't going to give the American what he wanted — information on insurgents.

Fahd pleaded that he did not personally know of any.

"I will come and tell you if I knew any of them, even if it's my own brother," he told an unconvinced Brown.

Then, trying to defuse Brown's anger, he told the officer: "You're attaching too much importance to the influence of clan sheiks like me. Things are not what they used to be." But Fahd seemed evasive and Brown knew it.

"If you're not my friend, you're my enemy in this war," the officer told Fahd sternly.

"I am very disappointed in this conversation. I came here today with hope, but now I will treat you, your family and the al-Ghrirs differently."

"I am so sad that you're disappointed," Fahd answered. "But there is nothing that I can do. I don't have your guns and armor, what can I do?"

The officer replied: "*I don't want you to fight. I want you to organize the al-Ghrirs and take a stand against the insurgents* and your fear." [Whatever the fuck that means -- without fighting. Empty bullshit.]

"Please be sure that I will always be your friend and I will not hesitate to help you if I can. Do you accept my friendship?" asked Fahd.

"No," Brown snapped.

Fahd left shaken by Brown's attitude. Now, he said, he expects the worst.

"He can do whatever he pleases. Allah is my protector," he said.

[And by this brilliant bit of work, the Lt. Col. has demonstrated his complete ignorance of counter-insurgency warfare, and guaranteed that his threat will push Fahd closer to the resistance. Nice work. But why expect any Army officer to know anything at all about the kind of war this is? The Lt. Col. Browns of Vietnam pulled the same kind of brain dead crap, demanding allegiance without taking the time to build networks on the ground that would support it, and turning neutrals into enemies. Arrogant, condescending Imperial fools in charge again. Game over. Time to come home.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Majority Knows Bush Lied

June 28, 2005 By Richard Morin and Dan Balz, Washington Post Staff Writers

Part of the administration's apparently growing credibility problem may be the result of recent disclosures about prewar planning, including what has come to be known as the Downing Street memo, reflecting notes of a July 2002 meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his top advisers. The memo said that the Bush administration had decided to go to war and that "the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

The administration has dismissed the conclusions of that memo, but the memo's wide circulation may have raised new doubts or reinforced old suspicions about Bush's motives for going to war.

For the first time, a narrow majority -- 52 percent -- said the administration deliberately misled the public before the war, a nine-point increase in three months. Forty-eight percent said the administration told the public what it believed to be true at the time.

Bush Buddies Fraud Cost A Billion \$ While Soldiers Got Rotten Food: Rumsfeld Implicated In Thievery

In a video-taped deposition shown during the packed hearing, Mayberry explained how the company would sometimes supply food that was over a year past the expiration date or had spoiled due to inconsistent refrigeration.

When the United States military occasionally refused the spoiled food, Halliburton truckers were instructed to take them to the next base in the hope that they would escape scrutiny.

27 Jun 2005 By Sue Fleming Reuters, WASHINGTON & By Pratap Chatterjee, CorpWatch & 28 June 2005 By Griff Witte, The Washington Post

A top U.S. Army procurement official said on Monday Halliburton's deals in Iraq were the worst example of contract abuse she had seen as Pentagon auditors flagged over \$1 billion of potential overcharges by the Texas-based firm.

Bunny Greenhouse, the Army Corps of Engineers' top contracting official-turned whistleblower, said in testimony at a hearing by Democrats on Capitol Hill that "every aspect" of Halliburton's oil contract in Iraq had been under the control of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

"I can unequivocally state that the abuse related to contracts awarded to KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root) represents the most blatant and improper contract abuse I have witnessed during the course of my professional career," said Greenhouse, a procurement veteran of more than 20 years.

Her blistering criticism came as Democrats released a new report including Pentagon audits that identified more than \$1.03 billion in "questioned" costs and \$422 million in "unsupported" costs for Halliburton's work in Iraq.

Halliburton's subsidiary KBR is the U.S. military's biggest contractor in Iraq and has been accused by Democrats of getting lucrative work there because of its ties to Vice President Dick Cheney who headed Halliburton company from 1995-2000.

Pressed by lawmakers whether she thought the defense secretary's office was involved in the handout and running of contracts to KBR, Greenhouse replied: "That is true."

"I observed, first hand, that essentially every aspect of the RIO (Restore Iraqi Oil) contract remained under the control of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This troubled me and was wrong," said Greenhouse.

What concerned Greenhouse most was that the oil contract, which had a top value of \$7 billion, was given to KBR without competitive bidding. She irked her bosses by writing her concerns by hand in official documents but said these were overlooked.

In one instance, she said Army Corps officials bypassed getting her signature to grant a waiver for KBR to be relieved of its obligation to provide cost and pricing data for bringing fuel into Iraq.

That waiver was granted after a draft Army audit said KBR may have overcharged the military by at least \$61 million to bring in fuel to Iraq to ease a shortage of refined oil.

A third witness at the hearing was Rory Maryberry, a former Halliburton contractor who worked at the dining facilities in Camp Anaconda. Located just north of Baghdad, near the town of Balad, Anaconda is the largest United States military base in Iraq.

In a video-taped deposition shown during the packed hearing, Mayberry explained how the company would sometimes supply food that was over a year past the expiration date or had spoiled due to inconsistent refrigeration.

When the United States military occasionally refused the spoiled food, Halliburton truckers were instructed to take them to the next base in the hope that they would escape scrutiny.

"For trucks that were hit by convoy fire and bombings, we were told to go into the trucks and remove the food items and use them after removing the bullets and any shrapnel," he said.

Worst affected were the non-American workers. Mayberry says that Halliburton was supposed to feed 600 Turkish and Filipino meals. "Although KBR charged for this service, it didn't prepare the meals. Instead, these workers were given leftover food in boxes and garbage bags after the troops ate. Sometimes there were not leftovers to give them," said Mayberry.

"Iraqi drivers of food convoys that arrived on the base were not fed. They were given Meals Ready to Eat (U.S. military prepackaged rations), with pork, which they couldn't eat for religious reasons. As a result, the drivers would raid the trucks for food," he added.

Mayberry said the company charged for meals it did not serve to troops.

Among the costs that Pentagon auditors questioned were \$152,000 in "movie library costs," a \$1.5 million tailoring bill that auditors deemed higher than reasonable, more than \$560,000 worth of heavy equipment that was considered unnecessary, and two multimillion-dollar transportation bills that appeared to overlap.

The new evidence, released Monday afternoon, shows that Halliburton: overcharged or presented questionable bills for close on \$1.5 billion, almost four times the previous amount disclosed and

--lost 12 giant pre-fabricated bases worth over \$75 million destined for the troops. The bases could have housed as many as 6,600 soldiers and

--billed inconsistently across the board. Video cassette players, for example, were said to cost \$300.00 in some instances, and \$1000 in others. Likewise, the company charged \$2.31 for towels on one occasion and \$5 for the same units on another.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

USA: Prison Nation

28 June 2005 The Associated Press

With 714 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants, the United States remains the country with the highest incarceration rate in the world, ahead of Russia and Belarus, according to figures published by the London University King's College International Centre for Prison Studies.

"In 200 years, the United States has succeeded in creating two million prisoners," frets researcher Anton Shelupanov. "It's a very worrying rate of growth."

Of nine million people imprisoned in the whole world, more than two million (22% of the total) are behind American bars.

Web Copies:

For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

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

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for purely educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. Go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml> for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

