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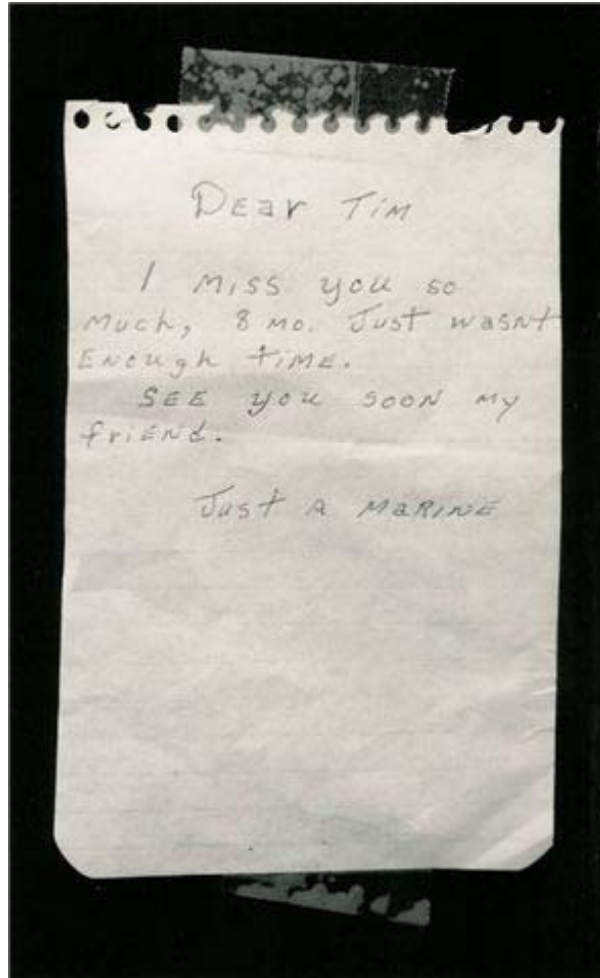


Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (Contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net for more of his outstanding work. T)

Soldier Says "I Do Not Support This War In The Slightest"

[The three items below are from a website, Take The Fight To Karl [Rove] located at <http://takeittokarl.blogspot.com/>]

I'm writing you from (Location Withheld) Iraq, about 35 miles NW of Baghdad..

And I'm too tired to give Karl the verbal beating he deserves for his insults. I'm too tired because we're just a bit shorthanded over here, fighting his war for him.

A war that has made nearly every country in the world fear and distrust America, a war fought for a knowing lie dreamed up by Karl and his buddies, none of whom have ever heard a shot fired in anger, or helped pick up the parts of another human being after an IED blast.

I enlisted after the war began and after I'd gotten my degree. I could easily have stayed home and watched the war on TV, and Karl does.

I do not support this war in the slightest, but I will not sit at home and lecture others on their insufficient patriotism when the nation is in need. I joined because I believe in giving back some measure of service and devotion to my country.

To hear a man like Karl insinuate that only conservatives are really patriotic is a knife in the back to every man and woman in Iraq who serves here. At least a third of us voted against Bush and pals. The number increases every day that we stay here, forced to make bricks without straw for months on end.

We've been here for 6 months. We're going to be here for at least 6 more.

And next week we're moving to a more 'active' sector because the unit there is rotating home and the area is still too hot to entrust to the IA or IP, most of whom are still not fit to guard a traffic light, despite two years of efforts on our part.

For some of us, this is our second tour through Iraq. My unit, (Withheld) was the tip of the spear in OIF I. At least half of us are combat veterans of a major battle and liberals. Can any of your gang say that, Karl?

Never insult me and my fellow liberals again, Karl.

Watching a fat, hateful thing like you that has never faced any greater danger in your life than a long golf shot denigrate every liberal who has put on a uniform is more demoralizing than ten thousand speeches that uphold America's highest ideals from Sen. Biden or Byrd.

[Name Withheld]

[Comment On Soldiers' Letter Above]

I am a civilian truck driver in Iraq and I know this soldier's views are more common than we think.

I have had 'shooters' ride alongside me in the truck and expressed the same views.

And this was even before the 2004 Presidential election. Please keep speaking up, as I do to my co-workers.

Mitch
06.26.05
1:36 pm |

[From the same website]

Sgt. Says “We Are Occupiers” “Liberators Liberate And Then Leave. “We Seem To Be Having A Problem With The Latter”

Iraqis must fight for freedom

How does the current war in Iraq relate to the freedom of the Iraqi people? Well, simply put, it doesn't.

I'm serving in Mosul, Iraq, so I've seen what the Iraqi people do with the American brand of freedom.

When early Americans wanted freedom from English rule, they fought for it. When early Mexicans wanted their freedom from Spain, they fought for it. When early Scots wanted their freedom from the English, they fought for it. When blacks and other minorities wanted freedom from slavery and other racist policies, they fought for it.

Other than the Kurds in the north, who fought for the freedom of the Iraqi people? Yes, America did.

The Iraqis will not know what to do with freedom until they have to fight for it. You can't just give it to them on a silver platter. America should be the helping hand of freedom, not the rock. The rock comes from the people seeking freedom.

Look at the situation in the country now. At best, it's mild chaos.

The Iraqi people don't see us as liberators. We are occupiers.

Liberators liberate and then leave. We seem to be having a problem with the latter.

The Iraqi people may have hated Saddam, but they hate us more. That's why my fellow soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines are dying.

There are two things they hate most in this part of the world. The first is Jews, and the second is the West. America is the poster child of the West. **[Most hate Zionists, not Jews who are not Zionists. T]**

How can you liberate that? You can't.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Washington
Mosul, Iraq

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)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Wounded In Ramadi

7.3.05 By FRANK GRIFFITHS, Associated Press Writer & (KUNA)

Two U.S. soldiers were wounded in a car explosion near a checkpoint in the volatile western city of Ramadi.

Eyewitnesses told KUNA that the booby-trapped vehicle exploded when the US army patrol was driving through Al-Jahouri road at Al-Ramadi in Al-Anbar province.

Chinook Destroyed In Ramadi

7.3.05 By FRANK GRIFFITHS, Associated Press Writer

In Ramadi, a U.S. military helicopter caught fire Saturday night, destroying \$13.5 million CH-47 Chinook and injuring one crewman, the U.S. military said Sunday.

Fallujah: The Resistance Is Back:

“The Security Situation Gets Worse”

June 29, 2005 By Phillip Robertson, Salon.com

Phillip Robertson was embedded in Fallujah with elements of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 2nd MEF, at the time of the attack he describes.

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- At 7:30 on a dusty evening June 13, a convoy of U.S. Marine vehicles headed east on Fallujah's main road and signaled for a vehicle in front of them to pull over.

In Iraq, U.S. convoys always direct Iraqi traffic away from them as a security measure, and like thousands of other Iraqi drivers, this driver obeyed and pulled over to the side of the road.

The driver waited for two Humvees to pass by, and then, as a lightly armored, seven-ton truck full of 20 Marines rolled past him, he accelerated and detonated his explosives, igniting the fuel tank and setting the truck ablaze. Five Marines and one sailor were killed, and 13 wounded, but the bombing made international headlines because three of the dead and 11 of the wounded were women. It was the deadliest attack on female U.S. soldiers in American history.

"I set up security around the truck. The truck was still burning," said a Marine who responded immediately at the scene, and who was only a few hundred feet to the east when it happened. The man requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the incident. "We went back to Entry Control Point 1 and grabbed 10 fire extinguishers. We attempted to put out the fire, but the fire burned until it wanted to stop. Twelve fire extinguishers couldn't put it out. We weren't able to get into the vehicle at all."

Members of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, had arrived at the scene within minutes of the attack, and encountered a scene of carnage and twisted metal. The ground was littered with scattered equipment and torn bodies. As the men of India Company rushed to put out the fire in the burning truck, squads fanned out through the area and cleared nearby buildings, following security rules for a convoy attack.

When the Marine who gave the account of the bombing was asked what went through his mind when he saw the aftermath of the bombing, he looked away, at a loss for words.

Within India Company, which fought to secure the bomb site, many dismissed distinctions between men and women in the military.

Lance Cpl. Alex Pak of Bellbrook, Ohio, is a fire team leader who was at the scene of the bombing. "I totally commend women. There's a lot of opposition for them to join the military, and it takes a lot of balls for a woman to come out here. Guys have it easy -- they are expected to be in combat, fight for their country and die -- but women have opposition from the get-go. It takes a hard person to join an elite force like this one."

Pak is only 20 years old, but he has experienced more combat than many members of the military have in two decades. Pak gives the impression of being at least 10 years

older than he is. **Like many other members of India Company, he is also on his third tour of duty in Iraq.**

All residents of Fallujah are now retina-scanned and fingerprinted and must carry a special I.D. card that allows them entry to the city through one of the checkpoints, a kind of technological replacement for an old city wall.

But it seems likely that insurgents, too, have managed to pass through the checkpoints, or found other routes into the city. Recently, the new Iraqi government has been issuing its own I.D. cards, which allow ministry officials to cross the checkpoints, and Marines have been finding dozens of forgeries.

Months earlier, a resident had to carry an I.D. issued by the first Marine division to enter the city. "Now they're coming through with teacher badges and Ministry of Oil badges, and all these (other) crazy badges. We've been here long enough to filter through them, but about half the badges we get are fake," said one Marine on condition of anonymity. "The last couple of months, these new badges have been showing up, and they've been letting the Iraqis use them."

The bomber struck the convoy June 13 inside the secured part of the city, on Route 10. Because vehicle traffic into the city is tightly controlled, there is a strong possibility that insurgents assembled the bomb inside Fallujah.

Another striking aspect of the account is the description of the way the bomber waited for the first two armored Humvees to pass and then chose the crowded seven-ton truck as his target.

U.S. Marines often travel in the seven-ton trucks, many of which have steel armor that will stop a bullet from an automatic rifle. But the thin steel plate turns into shrapnel when hit by more powerful weapons. Many of the Marine seven-ton transports are lightly armored, however, and because they can carry as many as 18 people they're a prime target of suicide attacks and large roadside bombs.

It is also true that the bomber could not have easily approached the truck from the back of the convoy, since he likely would have been killed by turret gunners on the rearmost Humvees. It seemed that he had carefully picked his approach to coincide with the seven-ton.

U.S. commanders are trying to walk a delicate line between allowing Iraqi citizens back into the city and giving Iraqi officials more say in the city's affairs, **but as the security situation gets worse, they are likely to err on the side of caution and limit Iraqis' autonomy in deciding who gets back in.**

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Special Ops Member Rescued

July 3, 2005 (CNN)

One member of a U.S. special operations reconnaissance team missing in Afghanistan since Tuesday has been rescued, a U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity told CNN.

The team member "evaded the enemy and was successfully rescued by U.S. forces," the official said.

No other details are being released because the search for other missing members of the team continues, the official said.

Recruiting For The Resistance: U.S. Occupation Kills Afghan Ally

June 26, 2005 Chicago Tribune

Shayesta Khan, a 75-year-old village elder, liked Americans and once helped U.S. troops search an Afghan villager's home for weapons.

That's why it is hard to figure why U.S. troops burst into Khan's home recently and left him shot dead. Afghan officials say his death was mistake and the U.S.-led coalition called it "an unfortunate incident." Either way, it could spark more resentment among locals for the U.S. effort in Afghanistan.

TROOP NEWS

Bush Speech Flies In The Face Of Reality In Iraq: Iraq Combat Veterans Describe Occupation Of Iraq As A "Runaway Train"



Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) believe that bringing the troops home now is the only solution to the deteriorating situation in Iraq.

“Bush says, ‘stay the course,’” says Kelly Dougherty, IVAW member and a former military police sergeant who served in Iraq last year. “If you are driving home, staying the course might be a good idea. If you are on a runaway train, that seems like a really bad idea.”

July 2, 2005 Iraq Veterans Against the War www.ivaw.net

“President Bush mis-led the American public last night,” says Mike Hoffman, Iraq combat veteran and founder of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

The President’s speech delivered at Fort Bragg (NC) yesterday attempted to shore up the flagging support of the American public, who are growing doubtful that the U.S. will have success in Iraq.

Delivered before a disciplined captive audience of 82nd Airborne troops, serving as hand-picked stage props, the presidential address emphasized the supposed connection between the war in Iraq and the events of September 11, 2001, despite recent revelations brought about by the Downing Street memo, that claims the Bush Administration was “fixing” the facts to justify an Iraq invasion.

Patrick Resta, a medic who served in Iraq says, “Let’s be clear - the Iraq War has nothing to do with 9-11. The so-called Iraqi insurgents are not the terrorists who bombed the World Trade Center.”

The President’s assertion last night that “our commanders tell me they have the number of troops they need to do their job,” flies in the face of military commanders’ advice to both Bush and Sec. Rumsfeld that a “successful” occupation would require a minimum of 500,000 troops, not the 140,000 who are currently there.

However, the military is currently overstretched forcing many soldiers to return to Iraq for two and three tours of duty against their will thru its Stop Loss policy. Troops are being cycled through Iraq with increasingly short breaks in between deployments, family crises are multiplying, divorce rates are rising, desertion rates are mounting, and recruitment standards are being scaled down.

There is a dire recruiting and retention crisis developing in the military, with many refusing to fight in a war they see as a quagmire.

“The Iraqi resistance is only growing stronger,” says Charlie Anderson, a Navy Corpsman who also served in Iraq. “The insurgents are mostly Iraqi citizens who are taking up arms, determined to drive us out. I don’t blame them. We are occupying their country.”

Among U.S. troops in Iraq, there is a psychological shift from mission-focus to self-protection, and the singular goal is to get home alive.

Many troops on the ground in Iraq believe the war is “un-winnable.”

Sec. Rumsfeld admitted two days ago that this war could go on for another 12 years.

The President asserted in his speech last night that the Iraqi resistance is mostly foreign, but U.S. troops and their commanders know that the resistance is home-grown and cannot be militarily defeated.

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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.

Gold Star Mother For Peace Meets George Bush Up Close And Personal:

**"The Best Way To Honor My Son's Death
Would Be To Bring The Troops Home"**

**“We're Spreading Imperialism And Death
And Destruction Everywhere We Go”**



“The Number One Terrorist In The World”

“Like Karen said, he cares nothing about us. We tried to show him pictures of Casey. He wouldn't look at them. He wouldn't even acknowledge Casey's name. He called me “Mom” through the entire visit. He acted like we were at a tea party, like it was something fun, that we should just be so pleased that we got to meet with the President who killed our son.”

June 29th, 2005 Democracy Now.

As President Bush refuses to set a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, we speak with Cindy Sheehan, her son, Casey, was killed in Iraq in 2004.

She is the co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.

AMY GOODMAN: President Bush also directly addressed service men and women and their families. He told them that the best way to honor those who have died in the war is to keep fighting. Your response to President Bush addressing U.S. service men and women and what his message was.

CINDY SHEEHAN: Well, first of all, I think the best way to honor my son's death would be to bring the troops home, and that's what we in Gold Star Families want our children to be remembered for: peace and not war and hatred.

For him to use my son's blood to continue the killing, to me, is despicable.

I don't want one more drop of blood spilled in my son's name or in my name.

We never should have been there in the first place. It was a mistake. It was a mistake when we invaded. It's a mistake now, and I want my son's sacrifice and the sacrifices of the other brave Americans to stand for peace and to bring peace to the world and not to spread more hate.

You know, he said that my son died to spread freedom and democracy in that region. We're spreading imperialism and death and destruction everywhere we go.

And, no, not one more drop of blood in my son's name or the names of any other of our brave young people who have made the ultimate sacrifice for basically nothing.

AMY GOODMAN: Cindy, what were your feelings when your son Casey went to Iraq? Are they the same as now? And what were Casey's feelings about the invasion and occupation?

CINDY SHEEHAN: Right. Our family was against it from the beginning. Casey was against it, but he felt it was his duty to go because he was in the Army. And he felt that he had to go to protect his buddies, to be there for his buddies, to be support, and they are brainwashed into thinking that even if they don't agree with the mission, they're brainwashed into just blindly following it. I begged Casey not to go. I told him I would take him to Canada. I told him I would run over him with a car, anything to get him not to go to that immoral war. And he said, "Mom, I wish I didn't have to, but I have to go."

AMY GOODMAN: How did Casey die? What was the mission he died on?

CINDY SHEEHAN: We were told that he was going to rescue a group of soldiers that had been ambushed on April 4th in Sadr City, Baghdad. It was when L. Paul Bremer inflamed the Shiite militia into rebellion, first in Fallujah, then it spread to Sadr City, which is a Shiite slum in Baghdad. And so we were told he volunteered to go rescue a group of soldiers that had been ambushed, and on the way there, his convoy was ambushed, and seven soldiers were killed in that ambush.

AMY GOODMAN: Cindy Sheehan, there was no mention last night at the Fort Bragg speech of the Downing Street minutes, the minutes that were taken July 23, 2002, before the invasion, of a meeting of Prime Minister Tony Blair and his top advisors, saying that the U.S. was fixing the facts and intelligence around the policy to go to war. But you were at the hearing on the Hill in the Capitol, even if it was in the basement, that was held by Congressman Conyers. Of the significance of these minutes, can you talk about that?

CINDY SHEEHAN: Well, like I said, we didn't agree with the war, we didn't agree with the invasion of Iraq. It looked like we were rushing into something that was unnecessary. You know, it was not necessary to protect America. And I could see that the sanctions were working. We had years of devastating sanctions against Iraq. The U.N. weapon inspectors were saying there were no weapons of mass destruction. So I believed all along that this invasion was unnecessary and that there was some other agenda behind it besides keeping America safe.

And when the Downing Street memos came out, and I read them, I just thought, "Well, this confirms my suspicion that this invasion was premeditated and prefabricated for a different agenda."

And it looks like my son's murder and the murder of almost 1,800 other Americans and tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis whose only crime is that they were born

in Iraq at the wrong time, are dead -- are dead for the agenda of the neo-con war machine.

I really think that somebody in our government needs to be held accountable, and just because George Bush gets up and tells us that things are getting better, they're not getting better, and he needs to present some kind of facts to back up his position, and he needs to answer the Congressmen. I think it's 128 Congress people have signed John Conyers's letter asking for explanation into this Downing Street memo, and it needs to be investigated. Congress needs to do it's Constitutional duty for once and investigate the memo because we families that have paid the ultimate price, who will be grieving and mourning and in pain for the rest of our lives, we deserve to know the truth.

AMY GOODMAN: Cindy I did want to ask you right before the Fort Bragg address of President Bush, he met with family members who lost loved ones in Iraq. Have you been able to meet with Bush administration officials?

CINDY SHEEHAN: Actually, I met with the President in June of 2004, a couple of months after my son was killed. We were summoned up to Fort Irwin, Washington state, to have a sit down with the president.

So my entire family went. And I was on CNN last night with Larry King talking about this, and there was another mother who had met with him, and she said that she supports the war and the President, and she said he was so warm and everything and gentle and kind, and when my family and I met with him, I met a man who had no compassion in him.

He had no heart.

Like Karen said, he cares nothing about us. We tried to show him pictures of Casey. He wouldn't look at them. He wouldn't even acknowledge Casey's name. He called me "Mom" through the entire visit. He acted like we were at a tea party, like it was something fun, that we should just be so pleased that we got to meet with the President who killed our son.

The first thing, he came up to me, and he goes, "Mom, I can't imagine your loss. I can't imagine losing a loved one, you know, whether it be a mother, a father, a sister or brother."

And I stopped him, and I said, "You have two children. Try to imagine them being killed in a war. How would that make you feel?" And he got a little bit of -- just a little bit of human flicker in his eye, like he might be connected for a minute, because this is a man that's disconnected from humanity.

And he had just got a little flicker in his eye, and I said, "Trust me, you don't want to go there." And you know what he told me? He goes, "You're right, I don't." And so I said, "Well, thank you for putting me there."

And then he moved on to the next person, and then a little while later we were talking, and he went up to my oldest daughter, and he said, "I wish I could bring back your loved one to replace the hole in your heart." And she goes, "Yeah, so do we."

And he gave her the dirtiest look and turned his back on her and ignored her for the rest of the meeting.

And then a little later on in the meeting, I said, "Why were we invited here? We didn't vote for you in 2000, and we're certainly not going to vote for you in 2004." And he said, "It's not about politics," which is just bologna, because he went through the campaign trail, and last night he said he meets with families, and we say that we're praying for him and stuff like that.

You know, that's not -- that wasn't our experience. And everybody else I've talked to who have met with him have about the same experiences I do.

He comes in, says I want to extend the gratitude of the nation and express my condolences, but he says it, and his eyes don't convey that, his heart doesn't convey that. We felt -- we left our meeting with him feeling worse than when we walked in, feeling more determined to stop the madness in Iraq than before.

"Freedom Don't Come Free"

June 27, 2005: This is a piece written by a member of Gold Star Families For Peace: Amy Branham. Peace soon, Cindy Sheehan

June 25, 2004 By Amy Branham, Mother of Fallen Hero Sgt. Jeremy R. Smith

When I see bumper stickers with that sentiment I just want to scream.

I think the people who display them probably haven't had to pay the ultimate sacrifice for our country and don't know what it means. Freedom Don't Come Free. Come on, give me a break. It makes me sick.

How many of the people who proudly display this bumper sticker have had that knock on the door that brings the message of death? How many of them have had to bury their son or daughter who died while serving their country? How many of them have walked the floors night after night, unable to sleep, asking themselves why? Why did this have to happen?

Well, I did receive the messenger of death in my home via the United States Army on Friday, February 13, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., I was home alone.

My husband and I had been home sick all week long, unable to leave the house. Finally, Jim had to run out to the grocery store and pick up a few things we needed. He had been gone less than five minutes. Jim probably passed the Army vehicle carrying the messenger on his way out of the apartment complex we were then living in.

I was standing outside on my ground floor patio when the messenger came walking past. I saw him and mistook him for my neighbor, who was also in the Army. I sent him a friendly hello, to which he responded by asking if I was Amy

Branham. At that moment, I knew why he was there. At that moment, my heart fell and my life immediately changed forever.

“Ma’am, the Army regrets to inform you...” he said once I had let him in my front door.

I remember how dark my front room felt at that moment, how I lost my legs and had to sit down. My only son, my first-born child, was dead. The officer politely informed me that Jeremy had been in a car accident that morning, but he had no further details at that time. Later, the Army was not very forthcoming with information regarding Jeremy’s car accident, what happened or even the immediate cause of death, which turned out to be blunt force trauma to the head. Five days later, Jeremy’s unit left without him headed to Iraq.

I won’t go into any further detail than I have. It’s too painful to remember, to relive. It’s hard to speak about my son to people who are not family members or close friends.

After 9/11 I supported my President and my country in their pursuance of the terrorists who struck our country, who killed so many innocent people and destroyed the families of the victims. I still support the war effort in Afghanistan.

I believed my President when he claimed Saddam Hussein and Iraq were eminent threats to the United States, claiming they had weapons of mass destruction and would not hesitate to use them. I believed George Bush when he told the American people that Iraq was a breeding ground for terrorists. Like many others, I argued his case to my friends who didn’t believe.

I watched with anticipation and eagerness when Colin Powell went before the United Nations to present our case to the world. I was angry with the French and the other countries who scoffed at us.

Some time before Jeremy’s Army Reserve unit was called to active duty in late November of 2003, I started to have doubts. Something just didn’t seem right, didn’t make sense. But I couldn’t quite put my finger on it. It was a nagging doubt that I kept shoving off to the back of my mind.

A few short weeks after the war in Iraq began, George Bush stood on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln and declared victory in Iraq, saying that the war was over. Huh? The war had only begun! Our troops were being attacked on a daily basis by insurgents.

Finally, one day, I got a clue. Where were those WMD’s we had been told about? Where were all the people that were supposed to greet our troops with open arms and flowers? Why were our troops constantly under attack? The whole infrastructure of the Iraqi nation had been torn apart. Every day we heard reports of new bombings, insurgents, innocent people killed and lives destroyed.

The evening news did not even mention Osama Bin Laden anymore. They quit reporting on what was happening in Afghanistan. All the media reported about was Iraq. I thought the whole purpose of this war was to find the leader of the terrorist group that struck the U.S. Trade Center, who masterminded that terrible attack on American soil. Why hadn’t he been caught yet and why didn’t anyone know where he was?

There were no answers to my questions until one day a man named Michael Moore made a very controversial documentary called Fahrenheit 9/11. Finally, someone had an explanation for this war, an explanation that made sense to me. I watched this documentary with tears streaming down my face, weeping throughout the entire thing. And, when I left the movie theater, there were armed sheriff's deputies standing outside the door. I've never in my life seen that before.

Then, around the time of the Republican National Convention in the fall of 2004 word began to leak out that the war in Iraq was a mistake, that there were no WMD's. Excuse me, the war was a mistake? My son and thousands of other American sons and daughters were sent to Iraq to fight and die for a mistake?

Bill O'Reilly of Fox News was asked during an interview by Michael Moore at the RNC what he would say to the families of American soldiers who had died for a war that was a mistake. He made some flippant comment about being sorry their loved one had died for a mistake, but that he still believed the war was necessary. He was not willing to send his own child into harm's way; he was not willing to go fight himself. So, my son and so many other of American's sons and daughters died for a mistake? What makes Bill O'Reilly's child better than mine? Why should my child have to go but not his? In the past I had been a loyal listener and fan. Since that day I have not tuned my TV to Fox News or to O'Reilly's show. Frankly, Mr. O'Reilly, you can kiss my butt.

Freedom isn't free. However, the war in Iraq is not about defending the freedom of America or its citizens. It is my opinion that the war is about George Bush's vendetta against Saddam Hussein and Bush's own personal agenda.

It is about big business and oil. George doesn't give a damn about the people he is sending into harm's way every day, the soldiers who are wounded or dying, although he claims that he "thinks about them every day. Every single day." The American people are nothing but pawns in George Bush's elaborate chess game. He cares little about us or his country. We are his tools.

George Bush will not meet with the family members who have lost their loved ones in the service of this country, especially not the ones who disagree with him and want answers. During inauguration week in January of this year, members of Gold Star Families for Peace went to Washington D.C. to meet with the President. For weeks beforehand, they had attempted to contact him and were ignored. Efforts to meet with him were met with a police force to keep them away.

In June of this year the Downing Street Minutes came into the public spotlight, mostly through the efforts of After Downing Street Dot Org and other organizations they work with. Gold Star Families for Peace and Cindy Sheehan have had a great impact in bringing this document and the others that go along with it to light. We have worked to encourage the media, who previously ignored these documents saying they were "old news" and "we all knew about them" into the public spotlight. What do you mean you knew about them? Why didn't you bring them to the attention of the American people when you first knew about them and let us decide?

The Downing Street Minutes and other documents say that Bush and his administration were "fixing" policy. Formal inquiries need to be made to

determine the truth and voracity of these documents. If they are true, our President and his cronies need to be impeached, thrown out of office. They should be tried for war crimes.

I don't know everything. I'm just a heartbroken, humble mother who had to bury her only son. I am a patriotic American citizen who is tired of watching her country be torn to shreds by an administration with their own personal agenda.

Next week, on the 4th of July, there will be no fireworks or barbeques, no celebration of freedom or parades in our family. There will only be a quiet visit to the cemetery to honor Jeremy, who believed that his Commander in Chief would not lie to him and would not needlessly send him and thousands of others into harm's way without good reason.

And, when Bill O'Reilly kisses his child goodnight every night, I hope he thinks about the 1700+ parents who will never be able to do that again.

Freedom Don't Come Free? My family knows this first hand.

Amy Branham
Houston, TX
Member Gold Star Families for Peace

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

"What Sovereignty Are You Talking About?"

"Iraq Is Nothing But An American Base."

June 29, 2005 By JOHN F. BURNS and EDWARD WONG, The New York Times Company

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 28 - When Shaker Assal was approached in his butcher's shop on Tuesday and asked what he thought about life in Iraq a year after it resumed formal sovereignty, he responded with a blast of invective as heated as the sunbaked sidewalks in his Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliya.

"What sovereignty are you talking about?" he asked. "How can you even call it sovereignty? We have thousands of occupation troops in this country and you talk about sovereignty? Enough! Iraq is nothing but an American base."

And what about the two Iraqi governments that have taken office since the head of the American occupation authority, L. Paul Bremer III, handed a leather-bound folio marking the formal transfer of power to Iraqi leaders on June 28 last year?

"Both of those governments have been rubbish," Mr. Assal said. "How can you call them governments when they were imposed from abroad?"

Thamir Muhammad, 41, a computer operator, said the most pressing need was for Americans to allow Iraqis to take real control of the country's affairs. "With the changes that have come in the past year so small and so slow, I don't feel there is an Iraqi government," he said.

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

Assorted Resistance Action

7.3.05 By FRANK GRIFFITHS, Associated Press Writer & Aljazeera

An Egyptian envoy expected to become Iraq's first Arab ambassador since its new government took office was kidnapped in Baghdad, weeks after arriving in the country, diplomats said Sunday.

Witnesses said guerrillas accosted Ihab al-Sherif as he stopped to buy a newspaper late Saturday. The kidnapping could undermine U.S.-backed efforts to encourage Iraq's Arab neighbors to send high ranking diplomats to Baghdad.

Al-Sherif, 51, has been in Iraq since June 1.

Last month, the Egyptian government said it would upgrade its mission in Iraq to full embassy status headed by an ambassador, which would have made al-Sherif the first Arab ambassador to Iraq's new government although the timing of the move was uncertain.

The posting of more senior diplomats to Iraq is seen as a key step to restoring confidence in the country's transitional government,

Three Iraqis who claimed they witnessed the attack said al-Sherif was driving alone in a vehicle with diplomatic license plates when he stopped to buy a newspaper from a store on the Rabie Street in Baghdad's western al-Jamaa neighborhood.

About eight guerrillas surrounded him, the witnesses said on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals. One of the guerrillas struck the diplomat on the head with a pistol butt as others shouted that he was "an American spy," the witnesses said.

On Sunday, a car bomb exploded hit an Iraqi police patrol near the northern city of Kirkuk, killing three policemen and wounding one civilian, army Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin said.

In Baghdad, guerrillas fired on a car carrying police Brig. Gen. Abdul Hussein Hamid Khalaf, wounding him and killing his son, police said.

Industry Minister Osama Abdul Aziz Najafi escaped an assassination attempt Saturday night when gunmen fired on his convoy in western Baghdad, but four bodyguards were wounded.

In Hillah, a mostly Shiite city 60 miles south of Baghdad, two attackers struck Saturday night. Six policemen were killed in addition to the attackers and 22 people were injured, police said.

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

Condemning The U.S. Occupation Of Iraq And Demanding The Release Of Detainees Being Held In U.S. Prisons



An Iraqi policeman stands watch during a protest in Tikrit July 3, 2005. Thousands of angry demonstrators took to the streets condemning the U.S. occupation of Iraq and demanding the release of detainees being held in U.S. prisons in Iraq. REUTERS/Amer Salman

Oil Sabotage Costs Iraq \$11 Billion

07.03.2005 AFX News Limited

Iraq has lost around \$11.35 bln from damage to its oil infrastructure and lost revenue since crude exports resumed following the downfall of Saddam Hussein, an oil ministry spokesman said.

Assem Jihad told AFP that 300 acts of sabotage had been committed against Iraqi oil installations between June 2003, when Iraq resumed exports, and May 31. Seventy acts of sabotage took place in the first five months of 2005.

The Collaborator

By Al-Sayyab, Iraq

I am what you want: I am the despicable
invaders shoeshiner, seller of blood and conscience
For the oppressive, I am the crow
eating from chickens bodies, I am the ruin, I am the destruction

Protest Over The Arrest Of A Tribal Leader By Occupation



Protest over the arrest of a tribal leader in Baghdad July 3, 2005. Wahied al-Homaidi, the secretary-general of the Mesopotamian Tribes Union of Iraq, was arrested and his offices were searched by coalition forces on Saturday, witnesses said.
REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Iraq 2005: Patrick Henry Would Understand Perfectly

The weapon-bearing farmers who attacked the orderly rows of uniformed soldiers from hidden positions behind trees and rocks were described as cowardly and immoral for not fighting on an open field as prescribed by the conventions of war.

The guerilla tactics of the colonial minutemen awakened the same revulsion and fear among the British troops 230 years ago as suicide bombers and IED-attacks do today among American troops.

June 30, 2005 Joel Miller, ICH

Some people cannot be defeated. They may be opposed by a far stronger force, but weapons, wealth and might do not always determine the course of events. People do. And some people will not and cannot be defeated.

The people behind the following statements, for instance, have the power to resist and defeat their seemingly stronger enemy:

- 1. We are not weak if we make a proper use of the things which God has placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of victory in this country are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.**
- 2. For the sake of our nation, our aim is either victory or death. And god is witness to our oath!**

These are no empty words, not the rantings over zealous warriors. They express the invincible determination of a people defending their homes against a foreign army and avenging the wrongs perpetrated against them.

The words of statement number 1. above rolled off the tongue of a man called Patrick Henry in a speech to the assembly of the Virginia Colony in March 1775. The speech ended with, "Give me liberty or give me death."

The closing words of Patrick Henry are nearly identically with words in the second part of the statement, but 230 years separate the two parts.

The second part appeared just the other day, June 26, 2005, in a communiqué from the Mujahideen Central Command in Iraq refuting Rumsfield's claim that negotiations have been initiated with insurgents.

Although I've changed the wording slightly to make a point, I have remained faithful to the context. The communiqué, for instance, actually reads, "We are Mujahideen for the sake of our nation. And our aim is either victory or martyrdom in it's path. And god is witness to our oath!"

The point is... this style of text that can be characterized as 'imperial defiance' can be found in oratories from Churchill in England to Giap in Vietnam.

The style acts as a compass to the direction of a conflict, and how the balance of power will flow.

The style is braced with a backbone of steel and an unflinching stare in the direction of victory.

It not only represents the opposite of the spineless jingoism and the anemic chauvinism (not to mention the downright lies) of arrogant power, it also clearly indicates a people who cannot be defeated.

It also shows us who are the Patrick Henrys of today and who are the foreign invaders and aggressors; who are the defenders of their homes and who are the pawns of King George.

Of course the aggressors will label the resistance in pejorative terms and describe their actions in bloody-black colors. "Ragged rebels against the crown" sounded a lot like "insurgents" or "terrorist" to the ears of 18th century Englishmen.

The weapon-bearing farmers who attacked the orderly rows of uniformed soldiers from hidden positions behind trees and rocks were described as cowardly and immoral for not fighting on an open field as prescribed by the conventions of war.

The guerilla tactics of the colonial minutemen awakened the same revulsion and fear among the British troops 230 years ago as suicide bombers and IED-attacks do today among American troops.

Some things never change.

Some people never learn.

Some people cannot be defeated.

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.

“Foreign Fighters”

July 2, 2005 Kim Petersen, Dissident Voice

Bush reported the killing or capturing of “hundreds of foreign fighters in Iraq.” Excuse the English, but what the hell are Americans, Britons, Koreans, Japanese, Poles, etc. if not foreign fighters in Iraq? They certainly number in excess of hundreds.

And who are the “foreign fighters in Iraq”?

Bush names Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, and Libya.

Readily apparent is that all these “foreign fighters” are from Muslim states. Aside from neighboring Iran, all these countries are Arab as are the Iraqis.

Pan Arabia is non-existent because the imperialist powers, including the principals in Iraq now, divided the Arab world. So just who are the actual foreigners?

[From Vietnam Days]

About Face: July 4, 1970

JULY 4, 1970

About Face

PUBLISHED BY GI'S FOR GI'S

UBS -- UNSATISFIED BLACK SOLDIERS

The Brass Speak for Themselves

"I see no strategic or other reason for maintaining a base in Vietnam ... Our anti-communist adventures bring us no return, while social programs suffer at home and 20 million of our citizens are in such despair that there is rioting in the streets."

-- Brig Gen Samuel Griffith II

"I think we should go back to the 1954 Geneva Agreements and hold free elections in Vietnam. I have no doubt they would go Communist, but our own political morality demands that we abide by the results of free elections."

-- Brig. Gen William Wallace Ford

"I believe that if we had and would keep our dirty, bloody, dollar-soaked fingers out of the business of these nations so full of depressed, exploited people, they will arrive at a solution of their own."

-- Gen David M. Shoup

"I agree with U Thant that this is a war of national independence, not a case of communist aggression ... I think we ought to get out the way we came in -- unilaterally."
-- Brig Gen Hugh B. Hester

"We are prosecuting an immoral war in support of a government that is a dictatorship by design. In this new era of political unrest, we cannot police the world, we cannot impose our social system on other nations ... We are losing the flower of American youth in a war that could stretch into perpetuity. After four years of fighting, we cannot be sure of the security of villages three miles from Saigon."
-- Brig Gen Robert L. Hughes

"General Ky is naturally willing to fight to the last American soldier and the last American dollar. It is about time that Americans should make their own decisions and stop blabbing about 'commitments' and saying 'it is up to Hanoi'."
-- Rear Admiral Arnold E. True

COMMON SENSE

Personally I say destroy the system in its entirety. I say among adults there should be no need for such thing as an army. However, the realization that we do have them forces me to say that the United States Army is a dying institution, and death is just around the corner.

Pigs, here is some emergency aid. The first adjustment made should be one so that E-4s' and below elect their immediate supervisors whether E-5, E-6 or E-7. The E-4s and below could remove them from that position if necessary. That would have the net effect of working for somebody who's responsible to the people.

Secondly, the IG should be made a civilian paid under the GS system. If this step was undertaken it would put that "office of appeal and redress of grievances" in the hands of the people, and would take all of that power (over our very existence) away from the racist pigs in the military.

Thirdly, why in the hell don't the pigs realize the need for authorizing jungle boots for summer wear in other than places with jungles. It gets hot as hell right here in Heidelberg. Why don't they design short sleeved, summer fatigues for summer wear?

Last but not least, the military pigs haven't yet realized with all of their charts, seminars, statistics and study-groups that the hiring of civilian K.P.s and cooks. (Stop exploiting the German Labor Service, by paying them low wages. This paper supports the German civilians who demand higher wages).

Are all of you pigs fools? No, most of you aren't fools, you "headpigs" especially, are too busy stuffing yourselves fat on honest taxpayers' money.

One day soon you will have to explain to the world why the army needs approx. 10-15 generals, and 50-100 full colonels in one city. You're racist, corrupt, leeches, and you are guilty of war crimes and fraud. You're reactionary dogs, and we're going to expose your criminal activities to the world.

"Pigs, the manure has hit the revolving blade -- translation -- the shit has hit the fan."

"Prince of Africa"



Black Volcanoes

On the outside you appear cool and calm
your society says you are free but
you smile and think really?
Could it be there is a war within thee?

You can be seen in college or as a
draftee in the army and perhaps for
two, three or more years you actually live
in complete harmony
but brothers and sisters could it be
that there is a war in thee?

Signs, signs you love those signs
unity, peace, brotherly love, or whatever
you give them to everyone you meet
your neighbor, whether you like him or not
his niece, even to your little brothers parakeet
why, please explain, do tell me???
Could it be my dear friends that
there is a war within thee??

--KAYIA

MAKING IT CLEAR, FOR ALL TO SEE

Speaking of people there is a certain Maj. Richard B. Luethje over at AG DPC who is hated by the Black and white troops.

This man has repeatedly embarrassed the troops by cursing them out, in front of anyone who is around. He also does this to the civilians. He browbeats his NCC's. They have none of the responsibilities they should have.

No one but the Maj is in charge and he has delusions of being GOD. He works his people six days a week even though the section is overstrength. I know of

several people who went to the chaplain about this man. Nothing has come of it (Editor's note: nothing ever will).

The man (Maj. Luethje) is unfit to be an officer.

I suggest that the new Col. Monroe gets off his ass and talk to the troops and ask them certain questions like, Has he ever cursed you? Called you out of your name?

Do you like him? Is he fair? Would you re-enlist under him?

Has he lied to you or about you?

And then if you don't believe it, ask the civilians. This man has people who work for him at the verge of a mental and nervous collapse! REMOVE HIM!

"Daughter of Africa"

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FREE GI PUBLICATIONS

Shakedown, PO Box 68, Wrightstown NJ
VIETNAM GI, PO Box 9273, Chicago Ill. 60690
Task Force, 2001 Milvia St., Berkeley, Cal. 94704
THE BOND, 56 5th Ave., Room 63, New York, NY 10010
GI Voice, Box 825, Stuyvesant Station, New York, N.Y. 10009
FED UP, Box 414, Tacoma Wash. 98409
Bragg Briefs, Box 437, Spring Lake, N.C.

THIS IS OUT OF FREDERIC DOUGLASS'S ORATION ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, 1852

What do the American slave is your Fourth of July?

I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim.

To him your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy License; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety and hypocrisy -- a thin veil to cover up crimes that would disgrace a nation of savages.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Crisis Looming In Iraqi Desert

July 1, 2005 Los Angeles Times

As U.S.-led offensives on insurgent strongholds continue, Iraqi humanitarian officials are expressing concern about increasing problems for civilians in cities across the country's vast western desert. **The Iraqi Red Crescent Society says that 6,000 families have been displaced in Al Anbar by the fighting and that they are suffering in temperatures that regularly surpass 110 degrees.**

U.S. Command Unveils New Strategy For Recruiting Iraqis To Armed Resistance: Arrest More Women!



A young Iraqi woman and a child cry after their mother was taken away by the U.S. military in Mosul June 12, 2005. Thirty four, seven of which were women, were

arrested during a U.S. army raid at a district in Mosul. Picture taken June 12, 2005.
REUTERS/Namir Noor-Eldeen

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Democrat Party Leaders Want Bush To Send More Troops To Iraq

6.30.05 AP

Sen. John Kerry, Bush's Democratic opponent in last year's presidential election, told NBC's "Today" show that the borders of Iraq "are porous" and said "we don't have enough troops" there.

Sen. Joseph Biden Jr., appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America," disputed Bush's notion that sufficient troops are in place.

"I'm going to send him the phone numbers of the very generals and flag officers that I met on Memorial Day when I was in Iraq," the Delaware Democrat said. "There's not enough force on the ground now to mount a real counterinsurgency."

Some Democrats said they thought Bush strengthened his credibility. "I think he told the American people why it's important," said Biden.

Said Sen. Christopher Dodd (news, bio, voting record), D-Conn.: "The president needs to do more of what he did last evening. This is a beginning."

Bush Says Americans Will Not Excuse Him

26 June 2005 Reuters

"All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: The United States will not ignore your oppression or excuse your oppressors." George W. Bush, 6.26.05

Bush Buddies' Thievery: More Disgusting Details

6/27/2005 By Andrea Stone, USA TODAY

Whistle-blower testimony and a previously undisclosed Army audit found Halliburton and its subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) inflated cost estimates, billed for unnecessary equipment and personnel, submitted millions of dollars in duplicate charges and was repeatedly given preferential treatment over other contractors.

The report cited these examples of inflated costs:

- **\$617,000 for double-billed soft drinks.**
- **\$1 million in excessive laundry charges.**
- **More than \$560,000 for unneeded heavy equipment, including tractors and trailers.**
- **\$2.2 million for cargo aircraft and \$7.6 million for freight costs that "appeared to be duplicate."**
- **\$1.4 million to pay 146 workers at a facility that had only 62.**

The Army audit blamed lax Defense Department oversight, saying Pentagon officials often discarded lower government cost estimates in favor of the contractor's inflated ones.

While the government estimated it would take \$1.9 million to run Baghdad's airport, Halliburton charged \$12.8 million. A contract to run Camp Arifjan in Kuwait cost \$10.8 million instead of the government \$2.8 million estimate.

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>

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