

GI SPECIAL 3B82:

Good News and Bad News in Iraq



They're Shutting Leonard, Serving In Iraq, Down With Threats: (Shades Of 'Nam AGAIN): Anti-War Soldier At Risk

From: JIM STARO, Veterans For Peace
To: GI Special
Sent: July 04, 2005

Messages From Website Of Leonard Clark, 860th MP CO, AZ Army National Guard, Stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

Don't blame low morale on me! Hell, have you ever seen somebody blown in half? Have you ever wondered why in the hell do you have to die fighting for a F*****G lie?!

You are correct: I volunteered for my National Guard to fight for such trivial things as the defense of my nation, not this F*****G lie!

I love my fellow brothers and sisters who are my fellow soldiers. Why the f**k should they die for a F*****G lie! You and your fascist, theocratic, Orwellian-think, jack-booted thugs will never shut me up!

I just visited his Blog and this Recent Post had just been put up:

July 4th, 2005

Last Message From Leonard Clark...

He has been called in and threatened in a way that not only worried about a court marshal at this time, he also is fearful of his personal safety.

Thus I will begin to take down this site per his ranking officers request.

I will post his final voicemail later today. I will continue to keep this site open for those who want to speak out. I will also post stories from vets that have returned from there. I will post stories like that later on today or tomorrow.

From now and then, pray for Leonard. Keep him in your thoughts. You will be seeing changes to this site over the next week.

Peace and solidarity,
Kevin Spidel
(a friend of Leonards, and the site administrator)

[The following are excerpts from postings on his website. Full the full postings, go to: <http://www.leonardclark.com/blog/> T]

July 4th, 2005

Happy 4th

Well, happy days are here again! Our great Attorney General Gonzales flew into the Ultra-Safe Green Zone and gave a speech at the embassy.

You remember our Attorney General, the one who is a chief counsel to the President, said it was quite alright to use certain torture methods that might get by the Geneva Convention: washboarding, beating, etc. It's all there folks, and our great maniac executive strongly supports him.

I'm reading the Stars and Stripes and I'll feel so much more comforted when I'm standing up in the turret of my Humvee or driving it because of these very comforting words by our A.G. : "As we approach the Fourth of July weekend, I suspect there's some of you that are here that sometimes feel lonely and you sometimes wonder whether you are not alone, " and I'm here to tell you that you are not alone, that the American people are very much with you."—Stars and Stripes, 7-4-05.

Oh, I can rest peacefully when the next bomb goes off because the man who approved torture by the United States of America and deeply shamed this nation has told me I am not alone.

Well, he's right about one thing I know I'm not alone – whether it's the spooks or agents that are monitoring me or my journals or those of you out there reading these words, I am certainly not alone.

I know that many of those Iraqi people who wish to kill me and my fellow soldiers and are constantly waiting for their opportunity are making sure my fellow soldiers and I are not alone.

Well, I just wanted to thank the brave A.G. for flying into the Green Zone and having to endanger himself behind all of his heavy security just so he could tell me I'm not alone. My heart is truly warmed.

Now, fellow activists, let us keep up the non-violent fight against the terrorists and the tyrants at home who are needlessly endangering my fellow soldiers and causing many of them to die needless deaths in this lie we call the Occupation of Iraq.

We need to let the three-piece-suited politicians and their crooked lackeys know that we're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore! Immediately, fellow activist (even if you have to do it on your own, although working through one of the organizations linked to this site might also be the best way) find out how you local city, state, and federal politicians stand on the occupation of Iraq.

I'm damn tired of my Democratic leadership in Washington D.C. that refuses to publicly call for an immediate timetable for a withdrawal from Iraq. To those Democratic and Republican leaders who have done so I apologize in advance for the questions you are going to start receiving from your constituents on this issue, but you can no longer sit on the fence – our American soldiers are dying

needless deaths over here and dammit, you've got to take a stand or we'll vote somebody else in your place!

Not One More American Soldier Should Die Over Here in this Lie We Call the Occupation of Iraq!

N.O. M.A.S. !

Written by Leonard Clark (the damn liberal who patrols the mean streets of Iraq everyday) and Kindergarten teacher in the public schools of America, Candidate for the U.S. Senate against John Kyl in Arizona

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Fellow Soldier Injured

July 3rd, 2005

This is a quick update on the fellow soldier from my 860th MP CO. He took 5 pieces of shrapnel to his hand. Two of these pieces of shrapnel have been removed but 3 have been left in for now because of concerns over nerve and muscle damage when removal of these fragments is attempted.

A strong cheer for that whole Humvee crew. The driver did as he was supposed to do in that situation when driving through the danger area, then exposed himself to danger by getting out of his vehicle and helping to set up a 360 perimeter, and then finally helping the other Humvee crew hook a tow strap to his vehicle. The medic with that squad Humvees also sprinted from the last Humvee up to the injured soldier. During this whole time the Humvee squad was under small arms fire.

It is truly an honor to serve with such fine men and women, the soldiers of the 860th MP CO.

Please, don't stop praying for my fellow soldiers because it seems that all of the other MP Companies around us have all had multiple fatalities by now.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

**Remember: NOT ONE MORE SOLDIER SHOULD DIE HERE IN THIS LIE AND QUAGMIRE WE CALL THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ !
NO MAS !**

Written by Leonard Clark (the damned liberal who patrols the mean streets of Iraq every day)

We Shall Overcome.

July 1st, 2005

Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement.

I remember sitting and watching the news show every Sunday morning in the States and becoming very emotional every time I saw the faces and names of soldiers who were killed over here in this disastrous fiasco called the Occupation of Iraq.

I grew very angry at the terrorists who killed them but angrier at the maniac who put them there and caused their unnecessary deaths.

I could not understand, nor do I understand even now, how an American leader can be so callous as to sacrifice American soldiers' lives just so he won't have to be embarrassed or look bad politically.

We are not over here propping up a corrupt government just for democracy – the leadership has us here for any of three reasons: 1) for the U.S. to have an excuse to just occupy a piece of territory in the Middle East as a future beachhead against Iran, 2) for the blood money of oil, and 3) to prevent the embarrassment of the maniac (you know who) who would have to admit he made a mistake.

Meanwhile, my brother and sister soldiers do their best to show that we are not like our leadership but that we care about the people of Iraq and that while we are here we will do our best to treat them with kindness, and dignity and the respect that all human beings should be shown.

I know that I and my fellow soldiers will immediately report any soldier who violates the human rights of an Iraqi citizen. If this means that other soldiers would want to kill me, so be it, because I am going to have to live with myself if GOD lets me get back to the states and my family.

But unfortunately, we have overstayed our welcome here in Iraq.

Most of the normal Iraqi citizens are thankful that we deposed their evil dictator but now they are starting to wonder why we are staying here for so long after the victory.

Of course some of their leaders, as I alliterated in an earlier email, are saying they need us here because they are embezzling billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer dollars and their own Iraqi citizens' money and making many Swiss bankers very happy.

This corruption runs from the top of the Iraqi government right down to many of the local police chiefs because this is considered the normal way of doing business in this part of the world. Nepotism is rampant and we may view it, and all these things, in horror as compared to our own government (oops, I forgot about no-bid Halliburton, KBR, oil lobbyists, etc. in the White House) but this is their culture.

Our leadership has now lost much of its credibility with the world community. The world community says they are going to help us by contributing a drop here and a drop there,

but they are just giving us lip service. The current leader is a lightning rod for the United States and it will be very difficult to work with the world as long as this maniac is in charge.

But, as you probably know this leadership has its own hidden agenda.

The Downing Street Memos and many other pieces of evidence are now, in my opinion, showing conclusively that impeachable offenses have been committed against our great country, the United States of America. Over 1,740 American soldiers have now lost their lives for a lie, and, tragically, this figure will probably go over 2,000 if current trends continue (I just pray that none of my fellow soldiers or I myself become part of these statistics).

Again, your words and prayers have strengthened me and my fellow soldiers.

It is, in all truthfulness, very scary to know that I have not only terrorists trying to kill me every day over here but a leadership that is certainly monitoring all of these messages to the world that I am sending, and with its own ideas about how to silence me.

But the cause is a just and noble one: that Not One More American Soldier should die over here in this great lie we call the Occupation of Iraq!

Keep up the good fight and don't let the Orwellians get you down!

N.O. M.A.S.!

Sí Se Puede! Viva Cesar Chavez, Viva Martin Luther King Jr., and Viva Mr. Ghandi!

Don't Bring the Soldiers Down? Gooood Moooorning Iraaaaaaaq!

June 30th, 2005

Well, well, it seems that the "support Big Brother" mail is starting to come in, which is no surprise because I fully expected it.

One entity commented: "Why bring your unit down? Keep your head on straight."

Well, in response to the first question, I and most (not all, by any means) of my fellow soldiers are already 'down,' as you call it. Don't blame low morale on me! Hell, have you ever seen somebody blown in half? Have you ever wondered why in the hell do you have to die fighting for a F***G lie?!**

You are correct: I volunteered for my National Guard to fight for such trivial things as the defense of my nation, not this F***G lie!**

I love my fellow brothers and sisters who are my fellow soldiers. Why the fk should they die for a F*****G lie! You and your fascist, theocratic, Orwellian-think, jack-booted thugs will never shut me up!**

When GOD takes me then he will take me. Let me tell you why I joined the National Guard: I knew that many of my fellow soldiers, young and old, were suffering. I never got the fellowship of the U.S. Army out of my system. When my family is suffering I can't just stand by. Now, that might be incorrect thinking, but like General Lee couldn't turn his back on his beloved Virginia, I couldn't turn my back on my beloved soldiers.

Yes, I am sure that there are soldiers who have read my words and hate me and hope that I die by the hands of our enemies, but I can tell you that my brothers and sisters that I know love me and I love them, and they agree with the basic premise of my messages: that we are dying for a lie and fat cat three-piece-suited politicians who make sure they and their loved ones never have to face being mutilated or decapitated by a bomb.

I would be a liar if I said that I wasn't afraid every time I got out of the friggin' wire, because I am, but dammit this friggin' liberal goes anyway. For the last two days I have gunned up in the turret; my fellow gunner was feeling pretty bad and I friggin' volunteered and let him drive, so just know one thing: I am (using) my friggin' right to free speech almost every day in this hell.

The United States, by its very presence in the Middle East, is helping the bad guys win! The tyrants all over the Middle East are now thanking us for our presence (not least of all the tyrant in Syria) because we have now enabled them to gain more strength.

Witness the general in Washington saying that there are more terrorists coming into Iraq than six months ago and that the terrorists are just as strong if not stronger than they were a year ago!

When they take towns from the terrorists and then have to leave they acknowledge that this is one of the worst things you can do in guerilla warfare, because the terrorists come right back in and terrorize the very townspeople who supported our troops.

In short, the "Big Talk" is made by the liars in Washington D.C. that we are winning and that we soldiers are given all the means at our disposal to protect ourselves, when in reality the suicide car bombers and many more terrorists are flowing like water into Iraq, where they then kill my fellow soldiers. It is a lie to say that we soldiers are being given all means at our disposal to defend ourselves when we are not.

We have been told by the leadership at the top that if we make a mistake and accidentally shoot at someone we think is trying to kill us we may be court-martialed. **But rest assured those leaders that give us these rules to cover their asses and who hardly leave the protected bases in which we stay will roast us enlisted soldiers.**

Unfortunately, we soldiers now are in a 'Catch 22' – either fire on a vehicle that we feel is going to ram us and blow us to smithereens, knowing that it might not be a

terrorist suicide bomber, or don't fire and possibly die knowing that we let our brothers in our Humvee die because we didn't fire and it was a suicide bomber.

In this way, the leaders will not be court-martialed – we will be, and to top matters off we will be labeled as war criminals.

Our leaders have put us in this terrible situation.

The problem is not that the Iraqi people can't take care of themselves, because they are very intelligent. You should see all of the automobiles over here. These cars don't run on their own and are not fixed on their own – when they break down they are fixed by many thousands and thousands of mechanics.

Another thing, there is a lot of construction going on here, not by American-contracted workers but by Iraqi companies; they know electronics like the back of their hands, perhaps that is why a lot of them are so good at building bombs to kill me and my fellow soldiers.

The point is that they don't need us here like some patronizing big brother or parent to babysit them.

Their leaders tell you, the American people, this so that the many billions of dollars flowing into Iraq out of the United States treasury will keep flowing.

Do you know that the Iraqis cannot account for hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer dollars, and that they also cannot account for billions of their own oil money that we held for them before the war?

Surprise, surprise! There are a lot of happy Swiss bankers in Europe right now. Hell, if I was a crooked Iraqi politician (like many of them are) I could be getting fat, lazy and rich right now.

Oh, and now it has been revealed by our leaders that they have been negotiating with the very terrorist they say we have to fight. They say 'well we haven't been negotiating with Al Qaida or Zarqawi' but what they don't say to you is that they tried to negotiate with Al Ansar, the group behind the bombing of the Dining Facility in which 22 people died, many of which were our soldiers!

So what's it gonna be: are we gonna really fight 'em or are you going to negotiate with them while they are murdering my fellow brother and sister soldiers?

So here we are, myself and my fellow soldiers. Like I said, the hate mail is already starting to come, but these beliefs are mine and of many of my fellow soldiers; these words and feelings that I state spring from conscience: if the military wants to court martial me they will not deter me in my sincere and heartfelt belief that not one more American soldier should die! N.O. M.A.S.!

If you do not hear from me again just assume that they have killed me or sent me on a suicide mission where I was killed, or that I was arrested. Also, be prepared for the "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" scenario, in which, like the Soviet Union used to do, they labeled their opponents as insane and had them

institutionalized, and finally, don't believe them if I mysteriously die and they claim I killed myself. (How many times has that old one been used by autocratic and tyrannical governments?)

In the meantime call me what you will, but I will go out of the wire every day with my brothers and sisters in the 860th M.P. Company. Please, pray for my fellow soldiers and me, because right now we are just pawns in a political game to enrich oil companies and crooked politicians who do not want to explain why we are not pulling out after over 1,700 American soldiers have died.

"What does it profit a man to gain the world but lose his soul?"

Don't give up the fight! ¡Sí Se Puede! ¡Viva Caesar Chavez, Viva Martin Luther King Jr., Viva Mr. Ghandi!

Leonard Clark (the damned liberal patrolling the mean streets of Iraq every day)

We're Gonna Win This Thing

June 28th, 2005

Be prepared, fellow activists and concerned Americans: the speech you will hear or have already heard will be one of : We're gonna win this thing, we just gotta hang on a little longer or we're going to make the terrorist stronger if you continue to question my and Karl Rove's decisions.

Yes, the major media will probably go for it hook, line, and sinker – and why shouldn't they? The major media outlets are now controlled by just a handful of major corporations who owe their allegiance to you know who. If you have any old fashioned notions about journalists getting the real story out just look no farther than Dan Rather and how they skinned him alive.

But, nonetheless, when we are faced with great evil and negligence at the same time we have no choice but to fight on. We will not let those who strive to make political points off the blood of our soldiers (like Karl Rove who seems to imply that only conservative soldiers are over here doing the fighting) prevail.

We are fighting for a just and righteous cause: to expose the liar who is keeping our men and women over here in Iraq for his own political gain, and to bring back our men and women of the Armed Forces who serve so bravely.

Remember, when the speech is given, that the liar who gives it never served a day of his life in a combat zone and used political connections to keep his sorry ass out of combat.

Well, I'm sorry about the short letter but I'm getting pretty tired and I want to get enough rest so that when I'm patrolling the streets somewhere in Iraq tomorrow maybe I'll get lucky and spot the sniper or bomber before he spots me.

Not One More American Soldier! N.O. M.A.S. should die over here in this cruel lie we call 'the Occupation of Iraq'.

Leonard Clark (the damned liberal who as an M.P. patrols the mean streets of Iraq everyday)

Inner City Kindergarten Public School Teacher

P.S. Please tell my wife, daughter and my kindergarten angels that I love them if this should be my last letter.

Si Se Puede! Don't let up the fight!

MORE:

Bloggers In Iraq Under Attack By Command; Defiance Of "Punitive Policy" Expressed

<p>He plans to keep blogging, but not register. "I'm taking a risk by doing it, but I don't think that I can be objective if the Army knows who I am and can censor me at any time," he wrote in an e-mail exchange.</p>

July 04, 2005 By Joseph R. Chenelly, Army Times staff writer

Commanders want to know who is blogging from Iraq, and a new rule says soldiers have to 'fess up.

A policy for all service members under command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq states that anyone who owns, maintains or posts to a Web site or Web log must formally notify his chain of command.

All service members who fall under MNC-I must register their sites or blogs or risk facing punitive action, under the policy signed in April by Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, MNC-I commander.

The new rules have had an effect on some military bloggers. At least a few have shut down, saying they'd rather stop blogging than reveal their full identity.

"I could keep going but under these circumstances, it would be a lie," wrote a soldier blogger who goes by Red2Alpha on www.thisisyourwar.blogspot.com, suggesting the soldier wouldn't be able to post his true feelings if he had to tell his higher ups about his blog.

Although policy states that soldiers don't have to submit each post for review before it goes online, the rules require commanders to regularly review each site maintained by a soldier under their charge.

“Registering would eliminate my anonymity and thus my candor,” one blogger who doesn't want to be identified wrote from Iraq to Army Times. “I would be tactful and continue to maintain (operational security), regardless, but constantly wondering if my chain of command is reading my words and misinterpreting them would ruin the whole experience and affect my writing.”

This blogger said he will stop posting immediately to avoid violating the policy.

Another soldier, who goes by “Six” on his blog, www.watchyoursix.blogspot.com, isn't in Iraq yet. But he is slated to deploy soon. He plans to keep blogging, but not register.

“I'm taking a risk by doing it, but I don't think that I can be objective if the Army knows who I am and can censor me at any time,” he wrote in an e-mail exchange. “I work hard to make sure that I don't compromise operational security, but I know the Army won't trust me to make that judgment.”

According to the new rules, major subordinate commands are responsible for maintaining and providing their division with a list of soldier bloggers in their command.

The final point on the policy states “this is a punitive policy. Service members in violation to this policy may be subject to adverse action or punishment under the UCMJ.”

It is unclear how well MNC-I will be able to police the regulation.

“That depends on how many resources the (MNC-I) has to throw at the issue,” said the blogger behind www.blackfive.net. This blogger goes only by his first name, Matt. “For example, the policy calls for MSC commanders to review blogs every quarter for appropriate (or nonappropriate) content. That seems like a long time to wait between reviews when you're dealing with information that's immediately accessible.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

More Than Two US Soldiers Killed Every Day In June

WASHINGTON (AFP) Jul 06, 2005

More than two US soldiers were killed every day in June in Iraq; most were under 25 years of age and they came from all over the United States, according to information provided by the Pentagon.

A casualty toll summed up by AFP from US defense department data established that 77 American soldiers lost their lives in Iraq in June.

In the same month, 23 US soldiers were killed in Afghanistan.

158 Texans Gone



Spc. Rafael A. Carrillo Jr., killed in Iraq on June 28, 2005, when an enemy mortar detonated near his military vehicle. Carrillo was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. **At least 158 Texas service members have died in Iraq since the war began in March 2003.** (AP Photo/Cal Farley's Boys Ranch)

Shiprock Native Killed

07/06/2005 Todd Dukart, KOB-TV

An Army soldier from Shiprock, N.M., was killed this week in Baghdad.

Cpl. Lyle Cambridge of Shiprock was killed at 9:30 Tuesday morning, Baghdad time. That was 11:30 Monday night Mountain time.

His family learned of his death Tuesday night.

Cambridge had been serving in Iraq since March. It was his second tour overseas.

A prayer service was scheduled for 5:00 Wednesday evening at the Shiprock Chapter House.

Nine Of 48th Injured: “We’re Tired Of Getting Shot At” “Another Soldier Was Killed That He Could Not Talk About Yet”

July 05, 2005 By BARBARA L. PARSONS, The Post-Searchlight

Since arriving in Iraq in May of this year, nine citizen-soldiers in the 48th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) have been injured in mortar attacks near Baghdad, including a local man, a member of the Army National Guard’s 1230th Transportation Unit in Bainbridge before volunteering to serve with the 48th.

Spc. Clyde Miller was seriously injured over a month ago when he was hit with shrapnel from mortars fired at troops at Baghdad International Airport on May 31 shortly after 4,300 troops of the 48th BCT arrived in Iraq.

Miller was treated at a temporary military hospital in Baghdad’s heavily fortified “Green Zone,” then flown to Germany, and he is now at Fort Gordon, fellow 1230th member Spc. Monty Bullock said.

Bullock, a trained paramedic who is employed by Decatur County Emergency Medical Services when he’s not in the guard, called The Post-Searchlight from Iraq last Friday to request newspapers from Bainbridge and to let friends know how things have been going since the brigade left Fort Stewart in mid-May.

Despite the fact that he thinks things are slowly “getting better,” in Iraq, Bullock probably summed-up the feelings of a lot of other soldiers when he added, “We’re tired of getting shot at.”

“About every three of four days, we’re getting shelled,” Bullock said, “so it’s not an everyday thing. But just the other day, an IED went off in front of our convoy. The bomb missed us, barely, but then they started shooting at us using small-arms fire.”

“We just try to get through each day without getting shot and hope we don’t lose anymore troops,” Bullock said. “We’re moving a lot of equipment, supplies, ammunition and food and we’re living in tents. It’s really hot here but they are taking good care of us and we hope to see you all again next year.”

According to a June 9 news release posted on the 48th Brigade’s web site, 15 other soldiers were injured—five of whom, including Miller, were from the 48th BCT—during a mortar attack on Camp Liberty near a military shopping complex at the airport on May 31, and one soldier was killed.

But Bullock said seven or eight more have been hurt recently and another soldier was killed that he could not talk about yet.

On Sunday, June 2, a second attack occurred at Camp St. Michael near the Iraqi town of Mahmudiyah, 15 miles from the Baghdad Airport, early in the morning when soldiers were still in their sleeping tents or close by.

Four members of the 108th Armor brigade, part of the 48th BCT—along with four civilians—were injured. An unnamed medic in camp was credited with saving their lives. Brigade spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Selena Owens said three of the injured brigade soldiers are being treated at the 86th Combat Support hospital in the Green Zone near Baghdad.

Camp St. Michael is a “forward operating base” where members of the 108th Armor regiment are stationed. Those soldiers are tasked with securing an area that is considered particularly dangerous for coalition forces.

The release also noted that soldiers from the 48th BCT are not stationed at Camp Liberty since their orders were changed a few weeks ago.

Hawaii Soldier Wounded By IED Blast

July 6, 2005 By William Cole, The Honolulu Advertiser

FOB O’Ryan, Iraq — First Lt. Haz Anguay was on another patrol on another hot day when the ground exploded behind his Humvee.

"I saw a flash immediately followed by a lot of dust, a lot of debris," said the Army reservist from 'Ewa Beach who is with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment.

Two 152 mm artillery rounds planted in the packed dirt had exploded. The blast tore off a 60- to 80-pound plate steel shield in front of Spc. Stephen Brown's turret-mounted machine gun and whipped it over his head.

"I didn't even know at the time, it happened so fast," said Brown, 43, a National Guard member from Puyallup, Wash.

Last Wednesday's blast caused hand injuries for Spc. Greg Moore of Pearl City, and the 29th Brigade soldier was medevaced to Germany. Konohiki commander

Lt. Col. Steve Hawley said Moore "already was ready to come back." But he'll need continued medical treatment. An interpreter also was injured in the blast, which caused some damage to the rear of the vehicle.

Anguay credits Moore with doing a great job driving the Humvee. "Even though he was in great pain, he was able to drive us out of the kill zone," Anguay said.

It was the second close call for Anguay, 33, a 1990 Campbell High School graduate who worked as a customer service representative for Circuit City before the Iraq deployment.

A vehicle with Wisconsin National Guard soldiers in front of his got hit by a roadside bomb early in the deployment.

Anguay said luck didn't enter into it. "That doesn't begin to describe how I feel," he said. "You've got the grace of God, that's how I feel. I think he had his hand on every single one of us that day."

He added that in Iraq "they have a saying, 'Insha'Alah' (God willing). I truly believe that."

U.S. Military Vehicles Attacked: Casualties Not Announced

7.6.05 Aljazeera.Net

US military vehicles have come under attack during the day. South of Kabala a US vehicle was damaged by an explosive device, and a truck near al-Khalis was set ablaze by a second explosive device.

FAIRFIELD SOLDIER WOUNDED



Tim Hines and his family (WCPO/WCPO.com)

07/06/05 By Michael D. Pitman, Fairfield Echo

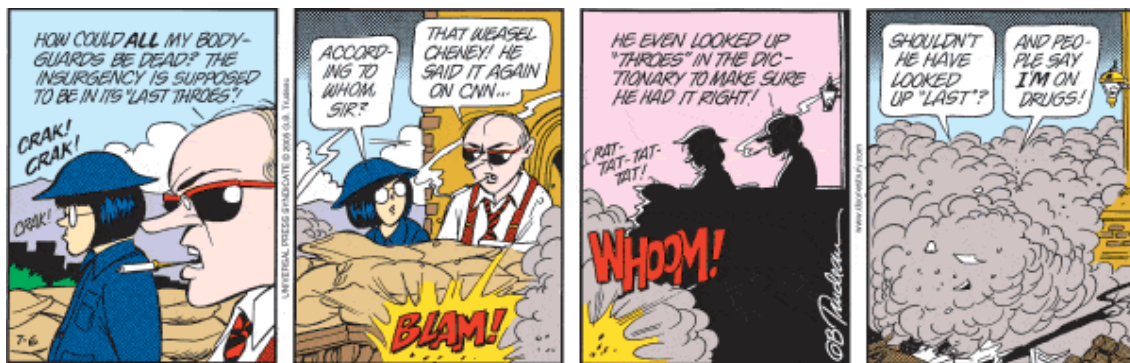
Army Pvt. Tim Hines was critically injured after a Humvee he was in blew up when it drove by a road-side bomb in Baghdad three weeks ago, according to a family member.

Hines, 21, of Fairfield, needed 218 pints of blood during his first night at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., said his aunt Teresa Fuller.

Fuller said Hines, a 2002 Cincinnati Christian School graduate, was on patrol during a Military Police exercise. The explosion cost Hines his right leg and severely damaged his left leg and a kidney, she said.

Hines' wife, Kati, is at Walter Reed with her husband. She is eight months pregnant. The couple's daughter, Lilly, 2, is staying with a family locally.

"If everything goes well, he will be in (intensive care) for four more weeks," Fuller said. "If everything goes really well, he won't be out of the hospital for another eight months."



[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Occupation Slaughters More Civilians

July 6, 2005 New York Time

Afghanistan's government condemned a U.S. air raid that killed upwards of 17 civilians in the province of Kunar.

Political Idiocy Vs. Military Reality

July 6, 2005 Fayetteville Observer, July 6, 2005

Spring in Afghanistan brings with it violence, as fighters drift down from their mountain hideouts to take part in whatever battles are being fought. U.S. forces are feeling the brunt of that spring thaw.

Some say the increased violence in Afghanistan is because al Qaeda and the Taliban are regrouping to stop September's parliamentary elections. ["Some"? The "some" babbling this bullshit are Bush, Cheney & The Imperial Idiots, plus the Command Generals who love to kiss their ass, and repeat every stupid thing they say. But, wonder of wonders, the "military analysts" of the 82nd have discovered the obvious:]

Military analysts and 82nd Airborne Division troops blame the new violence on the improved fighting weather.

TROOP NEWS

One Marine's Third Iraq Tour; "I've Been There Twice, And No, I Don't Want To Go Back" "I'm Not Going To Come Home"

July 5, 2005 By Sylvia Moreno, Washington Post Staff Writer

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. -- Shaded by a towering blue spruce in Wheeler Park stands a gray granite monument that honors this city's men and women who have died in combat from the Spanish-American War to, as the memorial reads, "Iraqi Freedom."

The name of Lance Cpl. Marty G. Mortenson was etched into the stone on the eve of Armed Forces Day in May. A month earlier, on April 20, Mortenson had been killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Just a few months before he died, Mortenson sent his mother an e-mail:

I am really sorry about your birthday . . . I am so stressed out that it is really bring me down. . . . I have had so much on my mind . . . going off to war 4 the 3rd time isn't easy.

Mortenson was on his third tour -- his third pump, in Marine jargon -- in Iraq. He had spent his 20th, 21st and 22nd birthdays in Iraq.

Before he left on his last tour, he told a friend in California: "It's like three strikes, you're out. I have a feeling I'm not going to come home."

A generation ago in the Vietnam War, grunts had to survive 13 months and then knew they were going home for good.

With the military's numbers at their lowest level in modern history, no draft to bring in new recruits and no end in sight to the U.S. deployment in Iraq, more American troops are likely to be going on multiple tours. The Army has sent multiple units to Iraq for second tours. The Marines, which deploy units for shorter stints, are embarking on third tours. Three infantry battalions and three rotary wing squadrons of Marines are on their third pump in Iraq.

At least 13 troops on their third tours, most of them Marines, have been killed.

"We're not expanding numbers, and we're not reducing our commitments around the world," said University of North Carolina history professor Richard H. Kohn, a former chief of Air Force history at the Pentagon. "We're taking it out of the hide, as they say in the military."

"If they have to go back a second or third time, particularly a third time, is it really fair?" he said. "I would call that an extraordinary burden."

Said Maj. Jason Johnston, a Marine Corps spokesman. "As time goes on, we will see more and more of this." [Wrong. "As time goes on," you edge ever closer to the rebellion in this armed force that ends the war, just as the magnificent troops' rebellion in Vietnam ended that dishonorable, worthless, stupid, deadly Imperial disaster. You're on borrowed time right now.]

For Mortenson and the members of the 1st (infantry) Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., the orders for Iraq came in January 2003, in March 2004 and in February of this year.

"I remember before we went in, nobody's ever been in combat and we didn't know exactly what to expect. But we were all motivated that we could do it. We were really eager to go," said Lance Cpl. Eric J. Young, 22. Like Mortenson, he was a squad automatic weapon (SAW) gunner in Alpha Company.

A year later, the second tour was greeted with a certain amount of confidence, he said. "We had an idea of what to expect this time: the heat, everything bad about Iraq."

But learning about a third tour was tough.

"Those of us who had gone through (the first and second deployments) were pretty convinced we weren't going to go back," said Young, whose enlistment ends in August.

"Honestly, I was kind of pissed off about going back."

Cpl. Matt Buchanan, 22, a machine-gun squad leader in Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, agreed.

He was shot in the arm during his third tour this spring and was sent back early to wait out his September separation from the service.

"I thought, 'You have got to be kidding me.' I could not believe they were doing that," Buchanan said. "I can accept that because it comes with the job. But the worst part was telling my family."

Mortenson enlisted in May 2002 and was in the first large U.S. ground force to go into Iraq on the first night of the war in March 2003. The battalion secured a facility in the Rumaila oil fields along the Iraq-Kuwait border and pushed more than 300 miles north to Baghdad. Before returning stateside in August, they had engaged in fierce fighting with the Fedayeen and had taken over a mosque where Saddam Hussein had been sighted.

By fall 2003, Mortenson knew his battalion was headed overseas again, this time to Okinawa by mid-December and perhaps on to Iraq. The training cycle in Okinawa, however, was curtailed by February 2004.

"We were discouraged that he was going to miss another Christmas, and then he was only in Okinawa a month and he called and said, 'They're moving up Iraq,' " said Mortenson's mother, Ruth.

By March 2004, Mortenson and Alpha Company were in Fallujah. They commandeered an old potato chip factory they nicknamed FOB (Forward Operating Base) Wounded Knee and ran security patrols out of it.

It was during that first battle for Fallujah in April 2004 that Mortenson bailed out his entire platoon. A SAW gunner, Mortenson sprinted more than 300 feet under intense enemy fire to set up his machine gun to provide cover fire for his unit. He earned the nickname "Mad Dog" and was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for Valor in Combat.

Mortenson was back at Camp Pendleton in late summer 2004. He told a National Public Radio reporter who was interviewing Marines upon returning from their second tour: **"I've been there twice, and no, I don't want to go back."**

His mother recalled what he told her: "I've had it."

But by Christmas, Alpha Company knew it was headed back to Iraq. "You're thinking, we've had two pretty rough times. Is he going to have to go back?" Ruth Mortenson recalled. "And he said 'yes.' "

Mortenson spent his pre-deployment time off at home in January, snowboarding the mountains outside Flagstaff in a T-shirt. He wanted to soak up all the cold he could before going back to Iraq, his family said. He baby-sat his nephews and built them forts in their living room. He took his "dream girl," a former classmate he knew would never agree to a real date with him, to lunch. He said he wanted a grilled steak, so his father, Ken, put up a tarp in the back yard and shoveled the snow out of the barbecue pit.

"We realized we had to make the most we could of when he was home," Ruth Mortenson said.

By March, Mortenson and the rest of his unit were in Ramadi -- just kind of doing a lot of patrols looking for the enemies, and guarding iraqi political centers, Mortenson wrote his parents on March 13.

He asked his parents to send phone cards and batteries, and he tried to calm their fears.

"the ieds or . . . road side bombs, they happen all the time and arent very effective, the enemey only uses them because they can detonate them from far away from the safety of us . . . i am fine dont worry," Mortenson wrote on March 27.

In Flagstaff, the Mortensons immersed themselves in their work and in their prayer and Bible study groups. "We went on with our lives, trusting we would hear from him eventually and he would be all right," his mother said.

In April, Mortenson began writing home about life after the Marines, and by the middle of the month he knew his third tour was to end in mid-October. He wrote that he was interested in joining the National Guard, working as a firefighter or attending community college to learn auto body work .

"i am trying to put out ideas because on may 19th I only have a year left. that only leaves me with 6-7 months when I get back . . . not a lot of time," Mortenson wrote on April 18.

Early on the afternoon of April 20, Mortenson and Cpl. Kelly M. Cannan, another third-timer in Iraq, were on their way to catch reported terrorists at a cafe in Ramadi when a roadside bomb went off beside their Humvee. Cannan was killed instantly. Mortenson sustained a massive head wound and died hours later at a military medical facility in Baghdad.

In Arizona, two Marines arrived early on the evening of April 20 at the Mortensons' blue-and-white tract home in Flagstaff. They asked for Ruth, the beneficiary listed on her son's \$250,000 military life insurance policy.

Five hundred mourners packed Flagstaff Christian Fellowship for Mortenson's funeral on April 27. The family's scrapbook is six inches thick, with hundreds of sympathy cards and e-mails from friends and public officials such as Flagstaff's mayor and City Council members, President Bush, and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Ruth Mortenson recalled those days before Christmas when she first heard that her son might have to go back a third time and her worries were renewed.

"If they go back, can they put him someplace easy?" she remembered thinking. "But Marines don't go to easy places."

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)

“Cleared” By FBI, U.S. Navy Vet Held In Iraq Occupation Prison; Other Citizens Held Also: "Saddam Hussein Has Had More Due Process Than Cyrus Kar"



Cyrus Kar

He attended college in California, received a master's degree in technology management from Pepperdine University, worked for years in Silicon Valley and served in the United States Navy and the Naval Reserve.

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

July 6, 2005 By TIM GOLDEN. The New York Times Company & JOHN J. LUMPKIN, AP

The U.S. military in Iraq has detained five Americans for suspected insurgent activity, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The five have not been charged or had access to a lawyer, and face an uncertain legal future.

Three of those being detained are Iraqi-Americans, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said. The fifth is a Jordanian-American the Pentagon previously had acknowledged holding.

One of the Iraqi-Americans allegedly had knowledge of planning for an attack and a second possibly was involved in a kidnapping, Whitman said.

The third was "engaged in suspicious activity," Whitman said, declining to be more specific. They were captured, one each, in April, May and June.

LOS ANGELES, July 5 - Like a lot of aspiring filmmakers in Los Angeles, Cyrus Kar was obsessed with his project, a documentary about an ancient Persian king who championed tolerance and human rights even as he built an empire that stretched across the Near East.

But Mr. Kar, 44, a naturalized American born in Iran, followed his dream where few others might have gone. In mid-May, he traveled to Iraq with an Iranian cameraman to film archaeological sites around Babylon.

After a taxi they were in was stopped in Baghdad, the two men were arrested by Iraqi security forces, who found what they suspected might be bomb parts in the vehicle.

Since then, Mr. Kar has been held in what his relatives and their lawyers describe as a frightening netherworld of American military detention in Iraq - charged with no crime but nonetheless unable to gain his freedom or even tell his family where he is being held.

Four other people — three Iraqi-Americans and a Jordanian-American — with U.S. citizenship are in custody in Iraq in connection with suspected insurgent activities, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said.

Mr. Kar, the son of an Iranian physician, came to the United States when he was 2 and was raised partly in Utah and Washington State, where he played high school football. He attended college in California, received a master's degree in technology management from Pepperdine University, worked for years in Silicon Valley and served in the United States Navy and the Naval Reserve.

Nonetheless, Mr. Kar's relatives and their lawyers said they had been utterly stymied in trying to learn his fate despite repeated inquiries at the Defense Department, the Justice Department, the State Department, the allied forces in Iraq and the offices of two United States senators.

The relatives said the only detailed information they had received came from one of the F.B.I. agents who searched Mr. Kar's apartment in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles on May 23. They said that after analyzing his personal files, computer drives and other materials, the agent, John D. Wilson,

returned the seized items on June 14 and assured them that that the F.B.I. had found no reason to suspect Mr. Kar.

"He's cleared," one of Mr. Kar's aunts, Parvin Modarress of Los Angeles, quoted Mr. Wilson as saying, "They were waiting for a lie-detector machine, but they finally got it. He passed the lie-detector test."

A Defense Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of that Pentagon policy said Mr. Kar, his cameraman, Farshid Faraji, and a taxi driver were arrested by Iraqi security forces in Baghdad on May 17, when a search of the taxi turned up "dozens" of washing machine timers - devices that Iraqi insurgents have used to make improvised explosive devices.

The three men were turned over to allied forces that the same day, the official said, and have since been treated humanely and in accordance with United States policy. All three men continue to be held in different American-run detention facilities while their cases are investigated.

Lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, who are representing Mr. Kar's relatives, filed a lawsuit on Wednesday in Federal District Court in Washington, seeking his release through a writ of habeas corpus.

The ACLU's suit, filed in Washington, contends that Kar's detention violates his constitutional rights, federal law, international law and U.S. military regulations.

"He's just sat there in limbo. Whatever the government's authority, it certainly doesn't allow them to do that," Steven R. Shapiro, the ACLU's legal director said. He pointed to rulings that allow prisoners held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to challenge their detention.

"Our position is that if the government has any evidence against him, bring him home and charge in a court and then proceed accordingly."

"Mr. Kar is now imprisoned by the United States military in Iraq without the slightest hint of legal authority," said Mark D. Rosenbaum, the ACLU's Southern California legal director.

"Saddam Hussein has had more due process than Cyrus Kar." "This is a detention policy that was drafted by Kafka."

Colonel Skinner, the Pentagon spokesman, said any American civilians detained as a possible threat to the allied forces would eventually go before a board of three American officers, who would assess their cases and decide what to do with them. **He said he did not know whether there was any specific time period by which such a review would be done.**

Mr. Kar's sister, Anna, described her brother in a telephone interview from Nairobi as "the last person who could ever be a threat." She said her brother "really believed in Bush's foreign policy," adding, "He believed sincerely that exporting

***American democracy would make the world a better place."* [Well, so much for that idiotic notion.]**

Ms. Kar, who works for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Africa, said she had discouraged her brother from going to Iraq and was pleasantly surprised when she received a call on May 24 from a Red Cross colleague in Iraq, who said she had just seen Mr. Kar.

"I said: 'Oh, great! What a coincidence that you met him over there,' " Ms. Kar said. "Then she said, 'No, I just visited him - in detention.' "

That visit, however, was about the only hard evidence Mr. Kar's family has received about where or how he is held. He has made three brief, furtive telephone calls to his relatives in Los Angeles, but has not told them anything more than that he is being held "by the Americans" and that he fears for the fate of his cameraman, from whom he was separated.

Mr. Kar's aunt, Ms. Modarress, said she had asked him in one of the calls if he had been tortured.

"He said: 'Not now. At the beginning. Where I am now is like a country club compared to where I was,' " she recounted.

The Defense Department official disputed that suggestion, saying, "We have absolutely no indications of any mistreatment." **[They did not "dispute it." They just said they "had no indications" of it. Weasels at work.]**

Anna Kar, Mr. Kar's sister, said she had spent some time with her brother in Tehran, where their mother lives, about six weeks before he traveled into Iraq. She warned him about the dangers of such a trip, she said, but her fears were no match for his determination to complete filming for a documentary he had been trying to make about the Persian ruler Cyrus the Great.

"He had always been a little ashamed of being Iranian," she said, noting that the Iranian revolution and the American hostage crisis in Tehran played out just as her brother finished high school.

"Especially in the Navy, he got a lot of racial slurs," she said. "But reading about Cyrus the Great, he had felt a real sense of pride in what he thought was the real Iran - this tolerant, benevolent empire. And he started on this quest."

After growing up in the United States, Germany and Iran as the child of divorced parents, Mr. Kar drifted for a while after high school, his sister said. **He enlisted in the Navy in 1983, partly to earn money for college, and served on the aircraft carrier Ranger, relatives said.**

Completing his obligation in 1986, relatives said, he became an American citizen and graduated from San Jose State University in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He spent a decade working for technology companies in Silicon Valley and moved to Los Angeles after the technology bubble burst in 2000.

Friends and relatives described him as devoutly eclectic: a liberal who strongly supported the Bush administration's fight against terrorism; a vegetarian and student of the Civil War; a man whose bedroom walls were draped with an American flag and banners memorializing the reggae singer Bob Marley.

In 2002, documents in his files show, Mr. Kar began making contact with archeologists and historians for what was initially to be a pamphlet on the Cyrus the Great, a magnanimous ruler who is reviled as a pagan by some Islamic fundamentalists. Later, with encouragement from Philippe Diaz, a longtime film director and producer who was a friend of his sister's, Mr. Kar decided to make a documentary film.

"He was a first-time director, no question about it," said Mr. Diaz, chairman of the independent film studio Cinema Libre, in an interview. "But he was so determined."

Mr. Diaz said he had agreed to finance the postproduction costs of Mr. Kar's film, which he was shooting on mini-DV format, and was helping him learn to edit. He and others said Mr. Kar had shot perhaps 40 or 50 hours of tape, including interviews with various scholars and footage of archaeological sites in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan - all of which he visited in the fall of 2004.

Filming in Babylon, the ancient city south of Baghdad that Cyrus the Great conquered in 538 B.C., became Mr. Kar's final goal for the project.

"I didn't blame him for wanting to go," said Kamyar Abdi, an anthropologist at Dartmouth College who toured archaeological sites in Iran with Mr. Kar last year. "But I didn't think under the present circumstances that it was a very good idea."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Attacks In Fallujah; Collaborator Vehicles Burning

July 07, 2005 GEO & Aljazeera

FALLUJAH: A car bomber struck an Iraqi army convoy, causing military casualties, witnesses and a hospital official said.

Nine other people were wounded as Iraqi soldiers opened fire after the attack late last night, according to medics at Fallujah Hospital.

An eyewitness said a speeding car rammed into the convoy near a mosque in Fallujah's southern Shuhada neighborhood.

He said two trucks carrying troops were seen on fire.

Two Baghdad Drive-By Shootings Hit Iraqi Occupation Cops

July 6 (KUNA)

An Iraqi police officer was killed and 10 others were wounded in two drive-by shootings against Iraqi police in the southeastern part of the Iraqi capital Wednesday morning.

Guerrillas driving a car with a temporary license plate opened machine gunfire at an Iraqi patrol in Milson square intersection, Iraqi police sources said.

The attack killed an Iraqi police officer and wounded five others, they added.

Eyewitnesses told KUNA the shootout went on for about 30 minutes.

Some 10 minutes later gunmen, believed to be the same ones that carried out the first attack in Maislon, shot at another Iraqi police patrol in Al-Mashtal area wounding five policemen.

An Iraqi police officer said on background that the condition of some of the wounded is critical.

Last night, an Iraqi police patrol experienced a similar attack in Al-Khadra neighborhood in western Baghdad where one policeman was seriously wounded.

Collaborator Commander Killed In Baghdad

2005-07-06 Middle East Online

BAGHDAD - A commander with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Badr Shiite militia was killed in Baghdad Wednesday.

Rahim Amin was killed around midday in Baghdad's southern Dura district, a source at the defense ministry said, adding that he carried a badge on him that identified him as a member of Badr.

Yarmuk hospital confirmed Rahim's killing.

The Iranian-trained militia is the armed wing of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

Both SCIRI's head Abdul Aziz al-Hakim and Badr's chief Hadi al-Ameri are senior deputies in parliament from the dominant Shiite bloc.

Badr changed its name last year to Badr Organisation from Badr Brigade and claims to be a political party now.

Many Sunni Arabs accuse Badr of killing their clerics.

Assorted Resistance Action:



An Iraqi soldier inspects a post that was destroyed in a car bomb attack west of the Iraqi northern city of Kirkuk. One Iraqi soldier was killed and one was injured. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

7.6.05 Aljazeera.Net & The Associated Press & CNN

In western and southern Baghdad, four Iraqi policemen, among them an officer, were killed, and 10 others were wounded in two attacks by guerrillas.

In Baghdad, resistance fighters killed Capt. Hazim Jabbar, a member of the police special commando brigade, in the west of the city, police said. Jabbar had worked as a bodyguard for a consultant to former interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, police said.

Three other police, including two commandoes, were killed in separate incidents in another west Baghdad neighborhood, police said.

Nine police, including a brigadier general, were injured in a series attacks throughout the capital, officials said.

An Iraqi civilian who had been "cooperative" with the Americans was shot dead on his way to work north of Baghdad near Tarmiya, police added.

One Iraqi soldier died and four were injured when a car bomber struck their checkpoint late Tuesday 20 miles south of Kirkuk, Iraqi officials said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

You Do The Math

The numbers that matter right now are 174 to 1.

That is the ratio of Iraqis to American troops. New York Times, May 24)

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

The Times They Are A Changing?

[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

"The question in my mind is how many additional American casualties is Saddam worth? And the answer is not very damned many."

Dick Cheney, 14 AUG 92 Speaking in support of the continued bombing of Iraqi targets in the No Fly Zones.

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.

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