

GI SPECIAL 3B86:



**Behind the mask of betrayal, Iraq veterans coming home from war.
V.A. Hospital, Portland, Oregon, May 2005**

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

Anti-War Soldier Arrested In Iraq

From: James Starowicz, USN '67-'71 GMG3 Vietnam '70-'71
To: GI Special
Sent: July 10, 2005
Subject: Thomas, They've Got Leonard

Just visited his Original Site URL because Spidel was keeping it up and to see if anything New had come in from him. **This Was The Only Posting On The Blog:**

Leonard Clark Stationed just outside Baghdad, Iraq

<http://www.leonardclark.com/blog/>

July 10th, 2005

Leonard has been arrested

More later. Keep him in your prayers.

Thinking hopefully you might have some connections close to where he was stationed that also might know more about the situation.

This is gonna go like WildFire as he was getting Attention from Air America and others before they started to put the Heat On, which Probably Brought the Heat he was Asking For only Sooner. He knew eventually the Best Voice was the Open Public Voice!!

I was expecting it but boy was I Shocked when I went to the Site and That was All That Was There!!!

Peace
James Starowicz

Leonard Clark:

For those who don't know, Leonard Clark, serving in combat daily, has written some of the most powerful messages yet against this war for oil and Empire. They were featured in GI Special 3B82: Shutting Leonard Down, see <http://www.militaryproject.org/article.asp?id=612> The title came from his message that he feared that he would be arrested, "or worse," and wanted people to read what he had written before the assholes grabbed him. Anybody who has any further information, please send! T]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Iowa Native Is Killed On Duty

July 10, 2005 By CLARK KAUFFMAN, REGISTER STAFF WRITER

A U.S. Army medic who grew up in Urbandale died Saturday in Iraq, according to the man's family.

Pfc. Eric Paul Woods , 26 , of Omaha reportedly died while assisting another soldier somewhere in Iraq. He is the second soldier from Urbandale and the 31st lowan to be killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Woods called home early Friday - at about 7:40 a.m. CDT - that he died.

Woods graduated from Urbandale High School in 1997, and moved to Omaha three years later.

He is survived by his wife, Jamie; their 3-year-old son, Eric Scott Woods, and his parents, Charles and Janis Woods of Urbandale.

Five U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Dura IED

July 10, 2005 (AFP)

Five US soldiers were wounded in Baghdad's southern Baghdad district of Dura when their convoy of six humvees ran into a roadside bomb, the US military said Sunday.

**THIS IS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH:
TIME TO COME HOME, NOW**



U.S. soldier carries away unexploded munitions after soldiers detonated a car rigged with explosives in Kirkuk July 10, 2005. (AP Photo/Yahya Ahmed)

TROOP NEWS

We Will Fight, Blair, Bush Till The Troops Are Home

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



From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: July 10, 2005

we all have to get this. and i will fight

blair all the way, till i get this...

**mfso, from the u,s, and, GB have linked up all this week in GB,
in london. and at the g8, and we will fight, blair, bush
till the troops are home,**

**by nex week, i should no if we can get the
legal aid to go to court,**

let me see my day in court with this
killer, i would love to see him eye, to eye, and i will not look
a way, but will he look at me, [no he can not look at me now.
pray we get it,
love
rose gentle

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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)

Law Of Land Warfare

From: Don Bacon: smedleybutlersociety@msn.com
To: GI Special
Sent: July 04, 2005
Subject: Law of Land Warfare

In a recent column, Stan Goff made the following statement as a guide for troops in the field:

"Question every order, and base those questions on the Geneva Conventions and the Law of Land Warfare."

The Law of Land Warfare is derived from the Geneva Conventions, and it's not easy to read. In an attempt to facilitate understanding, the following excerpts, referenced to Geneva Convention (GC) Articles, are provided. The full text of this law -- published by the US Army -- may be found at http://www.combatindex.com/law_of_land_warfare.html.

The stated purposes of the Law of War:

The conduct of armed hostilities on land is regulated by the law of land warfare which is both written and unwritten. It is inspired by the desire to diminish the evils of war by:

a. Protecting both combatants and noncombatants from unnecessary suffering;

b. Safeguarding certain fundamental human rights of persons who fall into the hands of the enemy, particularly prisoners of war, the wounded and sick, and civilians; and

c. Facilitating the restoration of peace.

The following are some excerpts which apply to Civilian Persons.

Where in occupied territory an individual protected person is detained as a spy or saboteur, or as a person under definite suspicion of activity hostile to the security of the Occupying Power, such person shall, in those cases where absolute military security so requires, be regarded as having forfeited rights of communication under the present Convention.

In each case such persons shall nevertheless be treated with humanity, and in case of trial, shall not be deprived of the rights of fair and regular trial prescribed by the present Convention. They shall also be granted the full rights and privileges of a protected person under the present Convention at the earliest date consistent with the security of the State or Occupying Power, as the case may be. (GC, Art. 5)

The wounded and sick, as well as the infirm, and expectant mothers, shall be the object of particular protection and respect. As far as military considerations allow, each Party to the conflict shall facilitate the steps taken to search for the killed and wounded, to assist . . . and other persons exposed to grave danger, and to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment.(GC, Art. 16)

Civilian hospitals organized to give care to the wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, may in no circumstances be the object of attack, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict. (GC, Art. 19)

Persons regularly and solely engaged in the operation and administration of civilian hospitals, including the personnel engaged in the search for, removal and transporting of and caring for wounded and sick civilians, the infirm and maternity cases, shall be respected and protected.

The Parties to the conflict shall take the necessary measures to ensure that children under fifteen, who are orphaned or are separated from their families as a result of the war, are not left to their own resources, and that their maintenance, the exercise of their religion and their education are facilitated in all circumstances. Their education shall, as far as possible, be entrusted to persons of a similar cultural tradition.(GC, Art. 24)

Each Party to the conflict shall facilitate enquiries made by members of families dispersed owing to the war, with the object of renewing contact with one another and of meeting, if possible. It shall encourage, in particular, the work of organizations engaged on this task provided they are acceptable to it and conform to its security regulations.(GC, Art. 26)

Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs.

They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity. Women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault.

Without prejudice to the provisions relating to their state of health, age and sex, all protected persons shall be treated with the same consideration by the Party to the conflict in whose power they are, without any adverse distinction based, in particular, on race, religion or political opinion. However, the Parties to the conflict may take such measures of control and security in regard to protected persons as may be necessary as a result of the war. (GC, Art. 27)

No physical or moral coercion shall be exercised against protected persons, in particular to obtain information from them or from third parties.(GC, Art. 31)

MORE:

By Matthew Cox ARMY TIMES STAFF Writer 5.24.04

Instruction on the Law of Land Warfare is required in all Army's Initial Entry Training, including Basic Combat Training and the Officer Basic Course.

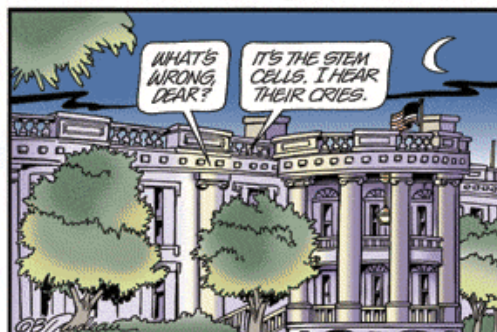
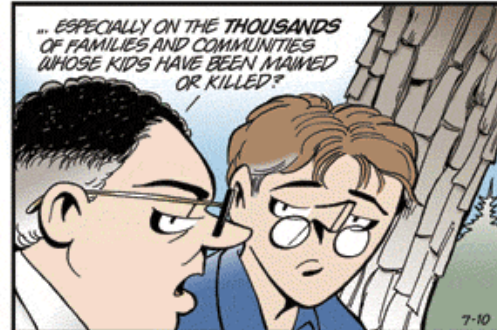
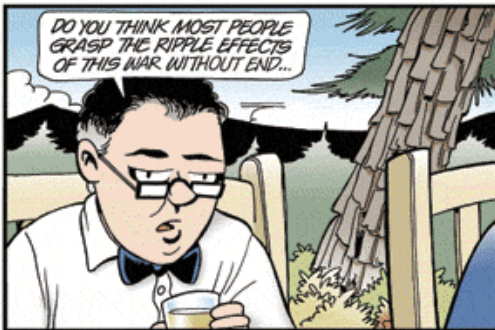
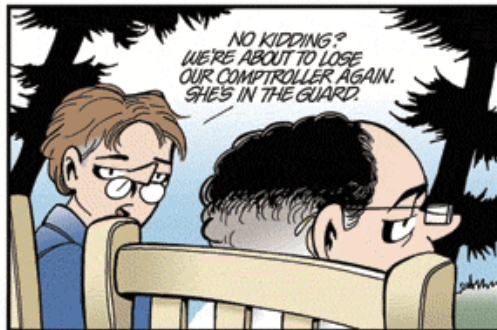
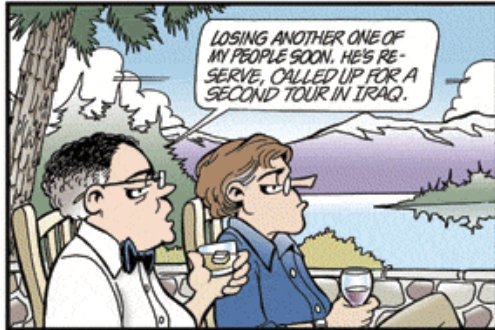
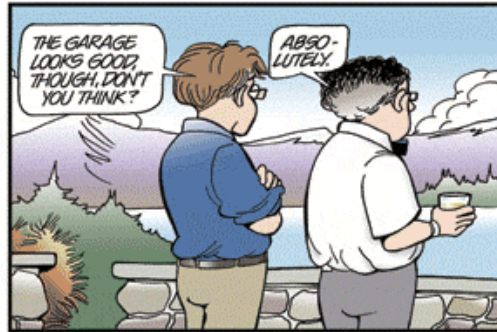
The warfare guide is the basis for the one-hour class new soldiers receive in Basic Combat Training. Drill sergeants must cover humane treatment of POWs, detainees and civilians on the battlefield, as well as how to deal with criminal or unlawful orders, said Lt. Col. Ralph Tremaglio, deputy Staff Judge Advocate General for Fort Benning, Ga.

The training guide stresses that "certain acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever." These include:

B "Violation to the life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment torture."

"Taking of hostages."

"Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment."



[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]



IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



Wreckage following a car bomb attack near the northern city of Mosul July 10, 2005. Four policemen were killed and three wounded. REUTERS/Stringer

July 10, 2005 (AFP) & By FRANK GRIFFITHS, Associated Press Writer

Twenty-five died and 47 were wounded when a bomber wearing a belt of explosives blew himself up in the midst of a crowd of young men seeking to enter an army recruitment centre at Baghdad's Muthana airfield.

The explosion occurred as about 400 would-be recruits were crowded outside the gate of the center,

"At 9:00 am we were all together waiting to enter the camp. Some people were outside, others were going in. The guards were checking everyone. Then we heard a huge explosion," said Saad Mejid, 19, one of the would-be recruits speaking from Yarmuk hospital.

"We saw body parts flying through the air. There was smoke everywhere. I was hurt in the leg. I couldn't believe what happened. My clothes were covered in blood," he said.

He was still looking for his brother who had gone with him to join Iraq's newly-formed army.

Outside the camp entrance, municipal workers collected body parts in black plastic bags. A nearby wall was covered with blood and specks of flesh.

One, who did not give him name, said he heard shouts and shots just before the explosion as the crowd of volunteers pushed and shoved to enter the camp where they were being frisked by guards.

Four policemen were killed and three injured when the driver of a pickup truck loaded with freshly-cut hay blew himself up alongside a convoy escorting Brig. Gen. Salim Salih Meshaal, near Mosul, in northern Iraq, police colonel Saed al-Juburi told AFP.

Two policemen were injured and four police cars destroyed when a mortar bomb fell on a police station in northern Baghdad.

One Iraqi soldier was shot dead while on patrol near Baquba, north of Baghdad, and three more Iraqi servicemen were wounded by a booby-trapped tractor on a road near Tuz, in northern Iraq.

Three Iraqi truck drivers, who were believed to have worked for US forces, were found murdered near Dujail, north of Baghdad.

Two car bombers killed at least seven Iraqi customs officials along the Syrian border, the U.S. military said, forcing the temporary closure of the checkpoint.

The explosions occurred around 2:20 p.m. at the Walid border crossing point, said Marine Capt. Jeffrey Pool, a spokesman for U.S. troops in the western region of Anbar.

U.S. troops closed the border checkpoint on the Iraqi side after the blasts and authorities turned back 300 Iraqis trying to enter from Syria, according to a Syrian source who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

A police colonel was shot in Baghdad, two other policeman killed in the capital and a security official in Kirkuk.

The Resistance Sends Bush A Message

July 09, 2005 Albasrah net

We had a nation, which you have destroyed, and an army, which you have left out on the streets, and resources to life which you have strained, will you give us back our country, army and weapons?

You and your Father, dropped on us every kind of weapon in your arsenal, and a million depleted uranium shells, poisoned the land of god to kill our children for a million years, will you clean our land for us? And will you cure your 106,000 soldiers who have the Desert storm syndrome?

You and your Father, killed over one million Iraqis in the Sanctions since 1991 and 200,000 innocents in your occupation, will you bring them to life again?

You have destroyed mosques, killed the praying, the religious men, destroyed the churches, desecrated the holy places, torn the holy books, do you know of a way which may erase all these crimes? For you do not even have a religion (meaning not even true Christian by any standard)

You have destroyed our national projects & industry, our refineries, the sources of our survival and well being, that cost us billions of dollars to construct. Will you revive them?

You have stolen our oil for two years, will you return the amounts?

You stole over 20 billion dollars from our banks, will you give them back?

You have collaborated with Iran which gave you the religious gangs which destroyed our nation, killed and stole what was left with our people, will you hand them over to us so we can punish them?

You have sent those who stole 20 thousand pieces of artifacts of our history, our memory, will you return them unharmed?

Destroyed Universities, Burned libraries, killed scientists, will you rebuild all of it and give life to the scientists and books?

You have assembled pyramids of our nude prisoners and sons, will you agree that we do the same to your officers and have them also nude and without their insignia?

You have let loose your coward dogs, to rape what woman prisoners you have, would you like us to do the same to your women in uniform?

You have sent our people rotten, expired, and unfit food for human consumption, wheat with powdered steel, to eradicate our people slowly and gradually, would you accept to buy from us this food and sell it to poison your own people?

Women you have widowed, children you have orphaned, Men you have buried, resources you have dried up, water you have infected, the electric current you have cut on our people. And every dirty trick in the book you have utilized to kill us, will you after all of this, ask the Security Council to consider putting you on trial for war crimes?

Fellow Resisters:

(Let us simplify this even more)

You and your family are in your house and land, thieves attack you and occupy your house, kill your brother, imprison your father, kidnap you son or daughter, rape your sister, steal your wealth, sell your water, live in your house, tie your hands and throw you starving in a dark room, put their boots on your head every now and then in front of your family and photographed you as a news exclusive for the television!

Then when the thieves start to leave the house to the surrounding area, they don't come back to the house because your uncles are hunting them outside in the fields, then they ask to negotiate with your relatives? This is the question? Will you accept to negotiate the thieves who raided your house and land, raped your honor, and slit your dignity?

The ignorant, the greedy, those who rejoice at the misfortune of others, the cowards, and the traitors would accept to negotiate!!

The True Iraqi believers, the true sons of the two rivers, will carry on and fight till they retrieve what is rightfully theirs and take their revenge!!

Today Bush, is on the stages of his performances, he blabs and trembles in weakness, even the Hollywood actors will feel sorry for him. For he was misguided, and is now isolated from his generals and half his people. He is on his way to the pit.

Why should we now negotiate when he is most probably reading a book by the title of "How to escape in 7 days without a teacher!"

If Bush shouts we will not leave Iraq till we drain the last oil well, then what shall we negotiate about?

He rots in Abu Graib, awaiting the miracle that will kneel the high heads of the resistance so he can negotiate. But he still cannot grasp the reality that the resistance will soon free the prisoners in Abu Graib, and kneel Bush's head to be on trial along with his gang of war criminals for his endless wars with the nations of this world, especially the Islamic ones.

Sorry Bush, we, will not save you!

We have the promise of God almighty!

Rafidan-The political Committee

The Mujahideen Central Command
Baghdad, The Republic of Iraq
The 29th Jamadi first 1426 H
The 7th of July 2005 M

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Rules Of War Apply: (Bush-Blair In Fantasy Land)

Is there really somebody out there that doesn't realize that when you bomb and occupy a country, especially if the attack and occupation were "preventive" and "imperialistic", AND illegal, that that country has a RIGHT to do to us, exactly what we are doing to them?

The Rules of warfare apply. That is the most basic rule of war. Defend yourself. And this is guerilla war. The only war they've got. The "war" we gave them. The "war" we forced on them.

7-8-2005 By Ward Reilly.

Ward Reilly is the SE Nat'l. Contact for Vietnam Veterans Against The War and Veterans For Peace. He was a volunteer Infantryman, serving overseas from 1971-1974 in the First Infantry Division as an 81mm Mortar Gunner

Let's pretend for a moment that "al Qaeda" IS responsible for the London bombings. That is what George and Tony are claiming. So let's assume it's true. Just for the sake of argument.

What is more disgusting than seeing Bush and Blair lament about the tragedy of "innocent civilian victims" being killed? Nothing, that's what.

Bush said this morning "And the contrast couldn't be clearer between the intentions and the hearts of those of US who care deeply about human rights and human liberty, and those who kill---those who have got such evil in their heart that they take the lives of innocent folks."

"...take the lives of innocent folks." he said. It is "evil" he said.

Earth to un-Curious George....can you say "100,000 dead Iraqi's"? All dead because of you, since March 19th, 2003? ALL INNOCENT. Can you say 1780+ dead U.S. troops, all of whom would be alive if it were not for your actions.

So I ask the President, which of the above described groups do you put yourself into? Human rights, or killer of innocent folks?

And how do you think the relatives of the slaughtered Iraqi people feel about you and your "democracy and liberation"? Imagine "London" happening every day, day after day after day... like it DOES in Baghdad. Except take away the electricity and water that they have in London, because in Baghdad, that is what life has been like every day for over 800 straight days. Our "liberation".

"Mission Accomplished", Capt. America?

Is there anyone out there that really thinks that attacking a wartime enemy is unjustified? Are we at war with al Qaeda or not? We told "them" the fight was in Iraq, and they have just begged to differ.

Is there really somebody out there that doesn't realize that when you bomb and occupy a country, especially if the attack and occupation were "preventive" and "imperialistic", AND illegal, that that country has a RIGHT to do to us, exactly what we are doing to them?

The Rules of warfare apply.

It's called defending yourself. If what happened in London yesterday was "terrorism", what exactly is the definition of what we have done in Iraq?

That is the most basic rule of war. Defend yourself. And this is guerilla war. The only war they've got. The "war" we gave them. The "war" we forced on them.

Is there really somebody out there that doesn't think that the tax-paying citizens of any country at war are also at war? I believe that we (the U.S. and England) define the innocent dead citizens in Iraq and Afghanistan, as "collateral damage". Never "innocent victims."

Right?

An estimated 100,000 Iraqis, all INNOCENT of any crime, have suffered the EXACT same fate from our bombs, artillery, and bullets, as was suffered by the British citizens that were just killed on the streets of London.

And that goes for our own troops too. They are being wasted in an un-winnable war, in a land where nobody really wants them to be. Kicking in every door in Iraq was NOT a good strategy, Mr. CIC. Using soldiers as a police force is a misuse of our military.

It's called WAR. Do you really think that it is only an act of war if the bombs are dropped in Iraq? Ask the British about the German rocket bombings in WWII.

Indiscriminant bombings all over London...they weren't called "terrorist attacks", because every civilian that died was considered to be a victim of the open-warfare of WWII.

And guess what? As far as the rules of war are concerned, in that WE attacked two innocent nations, in reality, their retaliation is justified, while the killings we have committed ARE NOT. By invading those two nations, we have granted them permission to hit us ANYWHERE, and it is legally justified. WE INVADED THEM ILLEGALLY, not vice-versa.

Iraq had NOTHING to do with 9-11. Remember? You told the troops "bin Laden"....you told the troops "wmd's"....you told the troops "Saddam"....you told the troops..."we will NOT occupy"....the troops are tired of your lies.

And again, this is just assuming that "al Qaeda" placed these latest bombs-of-war in London. Who is it that we're fighting? bin Laden, right?.... Saddam, right?... al Sadr right?...nope...wrong again...NOW it's al Zarqawi..."Iraq's biggest terrorist leader of al Qaeda of Iraq", or so I hear this week.

Our tax dollars commit war-crimes by way of the policy of the "Commander In Chief", our CIVILIAN boss of the military (even if our CIC does like to put on his GI Joe flight suit and strut around on deck) He is a civilian, and his policy is OUR policy, by default.

We, being the United States and England, started this mess by illegally attacking Iraq, and now we know for a FACT that Bush and Blair started bombing in Iraq in July of 2002, 4 months BEFORE the Congressional vote giving them the "authority" to use military force, and until the day the last U.S. and British occupation troops are gone from the Middle East, we are all "fair game".

NOTHING will ever be able to justify our attack on Iraq, because of the (now documented) actions of Bush, Cheney, Blair, etc. Nothing, never. No matter how many times the administration changes the reason for the "war" or changes who the enemy is.

The moment that Bush/Cheney/Blair say "cease fire", will be the moment our citizen-soldiers and Iraqi citizens will stop being slaughtered. Until then, it doesn't really matter who puts bombs in the subway, because we started a war against "them". They have the RIGHT to defend themselves against an aggressor nation.

Civilians die in war, not just soldiers, except in "John Wayne land"...and there is no "John Wayne land", except in George's head and George's bible. Ask the Iraqi's about "innocent victims".

Cease Fire NOW Mr. CIC. Stop the "war" NOW, Mr."Last Throes" CIC wanna-be. Repair the damage done in Iraq and Afghanistan with CIVILIANS and money, if we have any money left, and apologize for your horrifying war crimes, NOW. The bombings will stop shortly thereafter, IF we are lucky, and the Islamic world forgives us our crimes.

Iraq had NOTHING to do with 9-11, folks, so please, once and for all, put that propaganda BS away forever. We have attacked two innocent nations, giving

birth to a whole new generation of hate. George did it. Dick did it. Tony did it, and the bombings yesterday are THEIR FAULT, and our fault, until WE THE PEOPLE stop them. Period.

Again, this is assuming that "al Qaeda" placed the bombs, and that is a pretty wide assumption. But that is the immediate "official line" of George and Tony. So guess what? It's ALL of our fault. I did it. You did it. Every citizen of the USA and England did it.

The Rules of War apply here.

Bring on the war-crimes tribunal NOW! Only then will we be forgiven for the Bush war-crimes, and only then will "insurgents" stop killing us. You can not invade an innocent nation without justification, ever. We did. Now we are paying the price for Bush's crimes.

The rules of war apply to us, too. It's not impeachment time. It's Nuremberg time.

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.

The Era Of Arrogance Is Over

From: Mike Hastie, Vietnam Veteran
To: GI Special
Sent: July 10, 2005 4:54 PM
Subject: The Era of Arrogance is Over

To G.I. Special:

Let me see if I got this right, or maybe wrong.

The British and U.S. military have killed tens of thousands of Muslims in Iraq over the past 28 months, and Tony Blair and George Bush have no idea why anyone would want to kill innocent people in London on July 7, 2005.

Iraq is in absolute total chaos, their history and culture are being destroyed on a daily basis, Post-Traumatic-Stress Disorder will affect millions of Iraqi people for generations to come, and Tony Blair and George Bush have absolutely no idea why terrorists from all over the world would want to retaliate and kill people from the Western World.

If governments from exploiting rich countries do not understand this, I feel dreadfully sorry for the people living in these countries.

If Great Britain and the U.S. do not withdraw their troops from Iraq, the Vietnam War will look like a skirmish in comparison.

You cannot destroy a country like Iraq, and get away with it anymore.

When the little guy can now carry a Bottle Bomb, with no worries about getting out alive, aircraft carriers become obsolete. Anyone who does not believe this, is living in a gingerbread house.

The era of big battles is over.

When two people are pointing guns at each other at point-blank range, the era of arrogance is also over.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran

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.

From Bunker Hill To Baghdad

From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, we have evolved from colonial rebels to empire builders. It's enough to make King George III snicker from his grave.

It seems lost on most Americans that ninety per cent of the military mission in Iraq is currently focused on 'force protection' and securing supply lines to our military bases. In effect, we have a situation in which the primary task of the Pentagon is to insure the safety of the troops – until such time that the policy makers in Washington acquire the spine to admit mission failure and formulate a rapid exit strategy.

July 8, 2005 Ahmed Amr, Editor, NileMedia.com

Under a brilliant blue sky, on June 17, 1775, a ragtag army of American rebels took on the British Army at Bunker Hill, on the north side of Boston Harbor. Both the British and Americans fought the good fight and when it was over – in a matter of a few hours – the Yankees had inflicted heavy casualties on King George's imperial army and then melted away into the surrounding countryside.

Technically, the battle was a victory for the British army – but the history books take a different view. Bunker Hill was the first major battle of the war for American independence. It proved that irregular lightly armed colonial rebels could make a stand against the mightiest army of the day. Six summers later – after a series of British ‘victories’ - Americans turned the tide and gained their independence.

When Bush stood on the podium at West Virginia University on July 4th, he saw another opportunity to continue his campaign to re-package and re-sell his war of choice. Once again, the president warned that Iraqi insurgents “seek to drive America out of the region.” And he invoked the memory of battles “from Bunker Hill to Baghdad” to stir the crowd.

One part of his speech really caught my attention. “We remember the band of patriots who risked their lives to bring freedom to a new colony. They kept their resolve, they kept their faith in a future of liberty.”

Did Americans fight at Bunker Hill to ‘bring freedom to a new colony’ or to stop being a colony and start being an independent nation?

Mind you, if the president meant that we are now fighting for ‘a new colony’ in Iraq – I would not argue with the man.

In fact, I also agree with the president’s remark that the rebels in Iraq aim to drive America out of the region. They probably want the Chinese and Belgians to stay out of the region too – since they consider it their land and their oil.

Even in the darkest hours after Pearl Harbor and 9/11, very few Americans had serious concerns of losing even a tiny sliver of land to invading armies. Enemies might be tempted to strike America – but they would be insane to believe that they could hold American territory for more than a few hours.

But these very same patriots who would not concede a square inch of the American homeland seem bewildered that foreigners can also be jealous about their native turf. Was Fallujah our Bunker Hill or their Bunker Hill or their Guernica? **Is it not indecent to celebrate our love of independence and insist on our entitlement to empire in the very same presidential speech?**

For Iraqis, the very essence of the American imperial project in the Gulf was to strip the nation of its sovereignty and its independence. The notion that the United States invaded Iraq to spread freedom to the region is a juvenile hallucination induced by policy makers who can’t come up with anything better to explain the Mess on Potamia.

The struggle for liberty had nothing to do with this war of choice and those who have their doubts are well advised to scrutinize this administration’s cozy relationship with Ariel Sharon and the absolute monarchs and dictators in the region.

The brave men who voluntarily joined the battle at Bunker Hill were rebels fighting for the independence of their country, not the dominance of their currency. Now, we can thank the troops in Iraq for their courage in laying their lives on the line for the almighty buck.

But we certainly ought to tell them that they are fighting an entirely different battle than the three-hour engagement their ancestors fought against the British in 1775. From Bunker Hill to Baghdad, we have evolved from colonial rebels to empire builders. It's enough to make King George III snicker from his grave.

As things now stand, even the president appears to comprehend that sending more troops to Iraq would only aggravate the situation. So far, he has resisted the temptations to succumb to the neo-con hawks calling for escalation. The Pentagon has made it clear that such an increase in our 'foot print' would only increase resistance to our presence. By that logic, a complete removal of American forces might eliminate the whole rationale behind this indigenous insurgency.

It seems lost on most Americans that ninety per cent of the military mission in Iraq is currently focused on 'force protection' and securing supply lines to our military bases. In effect, we have a situation in which the primary task of the Pentagon is to insure the safety of the troops – until such time that the policy makers in Washington acquire the spine to admit mission failure and formulate a rapid exit strategy.

American soldiers went to war based on a pack of lies and dreams of easy glory. They now stand accused of being brutal invaders out to assail the honor and rape the resources of a less fortunate people. The experience of the last fifteen years proves that the costs of the imperial project in the Gulf are simply too high in terms of blood and treasure. To date, over 20,000 Americans have been killed or wounded and a higher toll of Iraqi casualties still remains a state secret. The occupation is running a \$5 billion monthly tab.

The price of oil has tripled, the budget and trade deficits have gone through the roof and the military can't meet its recruiting quotas.

Procrastination is not an exit strategy. Yesterday would have been a very good day to bring the troops home.

At some point, King George III decided to throw in the towel and set America free.

The time has come for Bush to relent and end this farce.

Let the Iraqis have their independence so Americans can celebrate the next Fourth of July without so much confusion about the noble mission of the Yankee rebels who took a stand for liberty at Bunker Hill.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Recruiting For The Resistance Marches On



Iraq men, wearing T-shirts and holding signs with pictures of Shiite cleric Mahmoud Al-Hassani, march in Basra, Iraq, July 10, 2005.

More than 2000 people protested against an arrest warrant and a 50 thousand dollar reward offer issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior against al-Hassani after accusing him of involvement in attacks against Iraqi police. (AP Photo/Nabeel al-Jurani)

The Grim World Of New Iraqi Torture Camps

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes: It's long but needs reading in full. It's from the UK and can explain the killing of so many collaborators. No wonder so many locals think the new government shit and think Saddam was better. There have been a number of people saying all the dead bodies turning up, without explanation, can be laid at the feet of Iraq security. This agrees.]

What is most shocking is that it is done under the noses of US and UK officials, some of whom admit that they are aware of the abuses being perpetrated by units who are diverting international funding to their dirty war.

July 3, 2005 Peter Beaumont, The Observer

Secret torture chambers, the brutal interrogation of prisoners, murders by paramilitaries with links to powerful ministries... Foreign affairs editor Peter Beaumont in Baghdad uncovers a grim trail of abuse carried out by forces loyal to the new Iraqi government.

The video camera pans across Hassan an-Ni'ami's body as it is washed in the mosque for burial. In life he was a slender, good-looking man, usually dressed in a dark robe and white turban, Imam at a mosque in Baghdad's Adhimiya district and a senior official of the Muslim Clerics Association.

When I first interviewed him a year ago he was suspected of contacts with the insurgency. Certainly he supported resistance to US forces.

More recently, an-Ni'ami had dropped out of sight. Then, a little over a month ago, relatives say, paramilitary police commandos from 'Rapid Intrusion' found him at a family home in the Sha'ab neighbourhood of northern Baghdad. His capture was reported on television as that of a senior 'terrorist commander'. Twelve hours later his body turned up in the morgue.

What happened to him in his 24 hours in captivity was written across his body in chapters of pain, recorded by the camera. There are police-issue handcuffs still attached to one wrist, from which he was hanged long enough to cause his hands and wrists to swell. There are burn marks on his chest, as if someone has placed something very hot near his right nipple and moved it around.

A little lower are a series of horizontal welts, wrapping around his body and breaking the skin as they turn around his chest, as if he had been beaten with something flexible, perhaps a cable. There are other injuries: a broken nose and smaller wounds that look like cigarette burns.

An arm appears to have been broken and one of the higher vertebrae is pushed inwards. There is a cluster of small, neat circular wounds on both sides of his left knee.

At some stage an-Ni'ami seems to have been efficiently knee-capped. It was not done with a gun - the exit wounds are identical in size to the entry wounds, which would not happen with a bullet. Instead it appears to have been done with something like a drill.

What actually killed him however were the bullets fired into his chest at close range, probably by someone standing over him as he lay on the ground. The last two hit him in the head.

The gruesome detail is important. Hanging by the arms in cuffs, scorching of the body with something like an iron and knee-capping are claimed to be increasingly prevalent in the new Iraq. Now evidence is emerging that appears to substantiate those claims. Not only Iraqis make the allegations. International officials describe the methods in disgusted but hushed tones, laying them at the door of the increasingly unaccountable forces attached to Iraq's Ministry of the Interior.

But as the insurgency has grown hotter, so too, it appears, have been the methods employed in the dirty counter-insurgency war.

To add to Human Rights Watch's allegations of beatings, electric shocks, arbitrary arrest, forced confessions and detention without trial, The Observer can add its own charges

These include the most brutal kinds of torture, with methods resurrected from the time of Saddam; of increasingly widespread extra-judicial executions; and of the existence of a 'ghost' network of detention facilities - in parallel with those officially acknowledged - that exist beyond all accountability to international human rights monitors, NGOs and even human rights officials of the new Iraqi government.

What is most shocking is that it is done under the noses of US and UK officials, some of whom admit that they are aware of the abuses being perpetrated by units who are diverting international funding to their dirty war.

Hassan an-Ni'ami may well have been a terrorist. Or he may have had knowledge of that terrorism. Or he may have been someone who objected too loudly to foreign troops being in Iraq. We will never know. He had no opportunity to defend himself, no lawyer, no trial. His interrogation and killing were a breach of international law.

And it is not only the case of an-Ni'ami but others too, all arrested by units of the Ministry of the Interior, many of whom were tortured and subsequently killed. Post-mortem images show a dozen or so farmers from the insurgent hotbed of Medayeen who were apparently seized by police as they slept in one of Baghdad's markets and whose bodies were discovered on a rubbish dump in shallow graves to the north of the city. Like an-Ni'ami, their bodies also bore the marks of extensive torture before execution, most with a bullet to the head.

The face of the first body is blackened by strangulation or asphyxiation. Another has bruises to his forehead where he was been hit repeatedly with something heavy. Yet another, his hands still tied with cord, has been punched in the eye and had his ankle fractured. Yet another shows signs of burning similar to an-Ni'ami's. The last two have identical puncture wounds, fist-width apart, suggesting the use of a spiked knuckle-duster.

Then there is Tahar Mohammed Suleiman al-Mashhadani, seized from the Abu Ghraib neighbourhood from early prayers outside a mosque with a number of other men, again by paramilitary police from Rapid Intrusion. When his body was found by family members in the morgue - 20 days after his arrest - he had been tortured almost beyond recognition.

These are not isolated cases. For what is extraordinary is the sense of impunity with which the torture, intimidation and murder is taking place. It is not just in Baghdad. In the majority Shia south, far from the worst ravages of the insurgency, there are also emerging reports consistent with the abuses in the capital.

If there is a centre to this horror, it is Baghdad's Ministry of the Interior, and the police commando units that operate from there.

The ministry is a strange, top-heavy building, set apart in an area of open ground off the highway. Its entrance is guarded by concrete blast-walls and endless checkpoints on the dusty road that leads to its crowded reception.

I came here almost exactly a year ago, two days after sovereignty had been handed back to Iraq's interim government. The floors were occupied by civil servants and blue-uniformed officers of the Iraqi Police Service. It was easy to wander in.

These days the ministry is a very different place. The dusty hinterland that leads to it is busy with the new paramilitary forces that most often have been accused of human rights abuses - the Rapid Intrusion brigades, most notoriously the Wolf Brigade of 'Abu Walid'. There has been no investigation or official findings over the allegations.

Now it is impossible to reach those officials as they shelter on heavily guarded floors. There are no American MPs to come to the aid of those locked in the cells.

A year ago, the worst violence was meted out in the Guest House. Now officials say the abuse happens on the seventh floor, where those suspected of terrorist connections are brought.

One of those held at the ministry for 'terrorist interrogation' is 'Zaid'. It is not his real name. Since his release, the 25-year-old Sunni from the western suburbs of Baghdad lives in fear of being brought back.

A taxi driver, the college graduate stopped his car in March to buy food in a market. When a bomb exploded nearby, he went to look at the damage. Arrested at the scene by soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard, he says he was handed over to the Ministry of the Interior.

At first, said Zaid, he was put in a room, on the seventh floor, measuring 10ft by 12ft, with 60 others. He was crammed in so tightly he could not sit. In some respects Zaid was lucky. Early in his detention, a Ministry of Justice official appeared and, furious at the conditions, demanded the men be moved. 'He said, "You can't have this many people in a room this size," so they moved us to somewhere with more air and fed us. He asked too whether there had been any beatings and some said yes.'

For his part, Zaid says he was hung by his arms, but not for so long that it caused any permanent damage. His ordeal was largely to be subjected to threats of violence as up to eight guards circled him during his interrogation. But Zaid claims he witnessed what happened to men brought from another detention facility, a barracks run by the Wolf Brigade, who were kept in the same area as Zaid until his parents paid a hefty bribe for his release.

'I saw men from Samarra and from Medayeen. Some appeared to have wounds to their legs,' he recalled. 'There were others who could not use their spoon properly. They had to hold it between their palms and move their heads to the spoon.'

His month in the ministry terrified Zaid. If the police came again for him, he said, he would rather throw himself off a balcony than go back.

Zaid is not the first detainee to accuse the police of taking bribes for the release of prisoners. It is a common charge, as are descriptions of prisoners being brought from other, less accountable, interrogation facilities where the worst of the violence is taking place.

What is most important about Zaid's testimony is that it makes clear a link exists between the Ministry of Interior and the torture being conducted out of sight at other centres. Iraqi and international officials named several of these centres, including al-Hadoud prison in the Kharkh district of Baghdad.

A second torture centre is said to be located in the basement of a clinic in the Shoula district, while the Wolf Brigade is accused of running its own interrogation centre - said to be one of the worst - at its Nissor Square headquarters. Other places where abusive interrogations have been alleged include al-Muthana airbase and the old National Security headquarters.

'Abu Ali', a 30-year-old Sunni scooped up in a mosque raid in central Baghdad, was taken to the latter for a week in mid-May where he says he was beaten on his feet, subjected to hanging by his arms and, when he angered his guards by refusing to confess, threatened with being sat on 'the bottle' - being anally penetrated.

It is not just in Baghdad. Credible reports exist of Arab prisoners in Kirkuk being moved to secret detention facilities in Kurdistan, while other centres are alleged in Samarra, in the Holy Cities and in Basra in the south.

'There are places we can get to and know about,' said one Iraqi official. 'But there are dozens of other places we know about where there is no access at all.'

'It is impossible to keep track of detentions, and what is happening to people when they are taken away,' complained one foreign official involved in trying to building Iraq's respect for human rights.

'On top of that we have a whole culture that is permitting torture. The impression is the judiciary are simply not interested in responding to the issue of human rights. It is depressing.'

But it is not simply the issue of keeping track of where detainees are being taken that is a problem. Accountability has also become more opaque since the formation of the Shia-dominated government of Ibrahim Jaffari with ministers and senior officials at the Ministry of the Interior refusing to meet concerned international organisations including Human Rights Watch.

'We have been trying to break through to someone responsible to express our concerns,' said another international official.

'But it is impossible to meet the people we really need to see. What is so worrying is that allegations concerning the use of drills and irons during torture just keep

coming back. And we have seen precisely the same evidence of torture on bodies that have turned up after they have been arrested. There is a dirty counter-insurgency war, led on the anti-insurgency side by groups responsible to different leaders. People are not appearing in court. Instead, what is happening to them is totally arbitrary.'

There is a significance to all this that goes beyond the everyday horror of today's Iraq. In the absence of weapons of mass destruction, the human rights abuses of Saddam Hussein's regime became more important as a subsidiary case for war.

It has been a theme that has been constantly reiterated: it was horrific then, and it is better now. The second may still just be true. In many aspects there may be some improvement, but the trajectory of Iraq now on human rights is in danger of undermining that last plank of justification.

True, there is a question of scale of the abuses. What is also different from Saddam's era is that Iraq is now host to multinational troops, to huge UK and US missions, and is a substantial recipient of foreign aid, including British and EU funds.

British and US police and military officials act as advisers to Iraq's security forces. Foreign troops support Iraqi policing missions. What is extraordinary is that despite the increasingly widespread evidence of torture, governments have remained silent. It is all the more extraordinary on the British side, as embassy officials have been briefed by senior Iraqi officials over the allegations on a number of occasions and individual cases of abuse have been raised with British diplomats.

In Iraq's Ministry of Human Rights, close to the Communications Tower and the location of one of the secret interrogation centres, they were marking the international day for the victims of torture. As officials gathered for chocolate cake and cola under posters that read 'Non to torture', some senior officials are in no doubt that torture in their country is again getting worse.

The deputy minister, Aida Ussayran, is a life-long human rights activist who returned from exile in Britain to take up this post. She concedes that abuses by Iraq's security forces have been getting worse even as her ministry has been trying to re-educate the Iraqi police and army to respect detainee rights.

'As you know, for a long time Iraq was a mass grave for human rights,' she says. 'The challenge is that many people who committed these abuses are still there and there is a culture of abuse in the security forces and police - even the army - that needs to be addressed. I do not have a magic solution, but what I can do is to remind people that this kind of behaviour is what creates terrorists.'

There is a sense of frustration too in the Ministry of Human Rights, for even as the security forces rapidly increase in size, the ministry tasked with checking abuses has only 24 monitors to pursue cases, at a time when officials believe it needs hundreds to keep Iraq's police and army effectively in check.

If Ussayran is robust about her country's problems with human rights abuses, others are convinced that, far from being the acts of rogue units, the abuse is being committed at the behest of the ministry itself - or at least senior officials within it.

'There are people in the ministry who want to use these means,' said one. 'It is in their ideology. It is their strategy. They do not understand anything else. They believe that human rights and the Convention against Torture are stupid.'

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Received:

Help For Troops In Germany

From: Meike Schubert
COPY To: GI Special
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2005 9:16 AM
Subject: GI Special 3B85 Fwd: Soldier called a Bitch..

To: ArchAngel1BL@aol.com

Dear ArchAngel,

I just read your article in GI Special.

I work with the Military Counseling Network here in Germany,
www.mc-network.de

It's a nonprofit , civilian organisation, that provides a service to soldiers who are questioning going to war or want to know more about military discharges and regulations.

We are operating primarily as a source of information, we have located several counselors in different regions throughout Germany. We are ready to respond to questions, provide guidance and supply legal information.

Would you please pass this information to the Soldier.

We are here to help out!

E-mail: mcn@dmfk.de

Tel: (Germany) 06223-47506

You/he can also contact me personally via my e-mail address.

Best regards
Meike

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WANTED



George "Dubya" Bush

Has been charged for the following crimes:

- Murder*
- Treason*
- Theft*
- Obstructing Justice*
- Hijacking a national myth for his own monetary benefit and selfish interests.*