

GI SPECIAL 3B95:

**NO MORE;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Two U.S. soldiers are seen through a vehicle destroyed by a car bomb attack in Baghdad June 15, 2005. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

**“We Need To Get Out Of
There”
“They May Have To
Come Home And Fight”**

From: X, Soldiers Mom
To: GI Special
Sent: July 19, 2005
Subject: Re: Soldiers Having Seizures

My son first came to Fort XXX in pain, (which paperwork was not followed up on by NCO -- he was to go to Walter Reed Spinal Unit).

Instead made to do PT. Afterwards one day he had a seizure while driving his car - then another day he had a seizure - and another one.

They thought he had a stroke but he didn't - he has 4 ruptured discs, shoulder, hip, knee, and ankle injury due to roadside bomb - but the seizures stopped but they are checking him for chemical exposure or could be the shots they are given.

Another soldier after coming back -- she started having seizures too, then another one and couldn't run and another one and then she did have a stroke and being treated in XXXX City for this now.

The doctors are saying could be the shots or chemicals in Iraq.

So there are more and more coming home having seizures never had them before.

And this is an outrage and no one is listening really. I hope someone really speaks out.

So there will be more come out about the dirty little secrets of the war.

We need to get out of there - they may have to come home and fight.

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

Ft. Irwin Soldier Slain: “Extremely Reliable And Always Kept His Word”

July 19, 2005 By KELLY DONOVAN, Staff Writer, DailyPress:

A soldier remembered for his ability to keep his cool in stressful situations became the latest casualty for Fort Irwin's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on Saturday.

Staff Sgt. Jorge Luis Pena-Romero, 29, of Fallbrook, died after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, Maj. John Clearwater, Fort Irwin's public affairs officer, said.

Pena-Romero was a machine gunner in Bravo Troop of the regiment's 1st Squadron.

A friend of Pena-Romero's, Sgt. Jason Morris, the rear detachment commander for Bravo Troop at Fort Irwin, said the news of his death was heart-wrenching.

"You couldn't ask for a better non-commissioned officer," Morris said. "As an individual, this guy was incredible — easy to talk to, always had some kind of a smile on his face, always knew how to lighten people's moods."

Pena-Romero had a calming effect on those around him, Morris said.

Lindsey Keys, whose husband, Capt. Ryan Keys, is Bravo Troop's commander, said Pena-Romero was very well-respected by his fellow soldiers. "He was well-liked, and he was a mentor to many of the guys in the troop," she said. "He was a great asset to the troop."

Morris also said his friend was extremely reliable and always kept his word.

Pena-Romero had been in the Army since 1995 and had a wife, Melissa, and three children at Fort Irwin.

A memorial service is planned for Friday at the post.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. Army soldiers walk past a destroyed car in the small highway town of Musayyib, July 17, 2005.. REUTERS/Ali Jasim

U.S. Soldier Found Dead in Kuwait Base

July 19, 2005 The Associated Press

A U.S. soldier has died in a noncombat-related incident at an American base in this Gulf state, and an investigation is under way, the military said Tuesday.

The soldier's body was found Tuesday at Camp Arifjan, south of Kuwait City, and his identity was being withheld pending notification of relatives, the military said.

Pissing In The Wind; Sweeps: During

While the three days of attacks haven't surprised Ivezaj, they have told him that insurgents here are able to pass information back and forth quickly between attacks.

"I think they've got a lot of eyes on us," he said. "Their network is strong."

July 19, 2005 By Matthew Cox, Army

RAWAH, Iraq – U.S. forces destroyed a suspected terrorist safe house with a 500-pound bomb today after shooting dead two insurgents during a brief gun battle.

This is the third day of violent clashes between insurgents and soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (SBCT), since the U.S. troops set up a camp Sunday outside this remote city in west-central Iraq near the Syrian border.

Insurgents have attacked soldiers here every day, planting roadside bombs and steering explosives-packed cars into U.S. patrols.

Today was no exception.

At 9 a.m. this morning, an insurgent detonated his car bomb near a Stryker combat vehicle with B Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment. The explosion punctured two of the Stryker's eight tires, but no soldiers were hurt.

Thirty minutes later a burnt-out car, packed with explosives, blew up near another Stryker in the same unit but caused no damage.

This city of some 20,000 was quiet for about 90 minutes, until B Company commander Capt. Mark Ivezaj's Stryker surprised a handful of insurgents sitting in an idling van.

Ivezaj had been patrolling the streets when he saw four men jump out of the van and run.

A fifth man then leaped out of the passenger side and opened fire on the approaching Stryker with a BKC machine gun.

Ivezaj almost fell backwards as he tried to duck down from his position in the front hatch.

“Fire straight ahead!” he told his gunner, Sgt. Todd Usack, pointing toward the target displayed on the video screen inside the Stryker.

Usack fired several bursts from the .50-caliber machine gun at the insurgent machine-gunner, who tried to hide behind a wall.

Ivezaj opened fire with his M4 carbine, hitting the man in the upper body. A burst from Usack’s .50 cal then severed the man’s right leg below the knee.

Ivezaj and three other soldiers dismounted from the back of the Stryker and sprinted the 50 meters to the now dead insurgent.

“Hey we are still looking for four other guys!” Ivezaj shouted to his men securing the area.

First Sgt. Joseph Alexander arrived with a handful of soldiers and they quickly fanned out to hunt for the other insurgents.

Minutes later, Alexander let loose a controlled pair of shots from his M4, killing one of the four men behind a one-story building.

The search party caught the other three inside the house next door. They zip-tied detainee’s hands behind their backs and made them lay face down on the floor.

A woman living in the house told Ivezaj, through an interpreter, that the men had shot at her earlier when she tried to tell them to leave the area.

A search of the Hyundai van revealed a large cache of small arms including two additional BKC machine guns with about 700 rounds of ammunition, an 82mm mortar tube with its tripod and base plate, two dozen 82mm mortar shells, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers with five warheads, two homemade rocket launchers with 17 rockets and three AK47 rifles.

Soldiers also found an SVD sniper rifle inside a silver Chevrolet Optra that was parked outside the house next to the van.

The suspected safe house consisted of multiple rooms, including a 20-foot by 45-foot meeting-style room. Soldiers also found a 20-foot by 20-foot bunker extending out of the back of the building. The bunker had a concrete slab roof. Three hours after the fighting began, an Air Force jet dropped a Joint Direct Attack Munition bomb on the site, demolishing the bunker and suspected safe house.

B Company, 3-21 and 2-14 are part of a battalion-size task force under 1st Brigade of the 25th, based in Mosul, roughly 230 kilometers north of here.

Elements of the battalion arrived here Saturday around midnight to set up a permanent combat outpost.

The move is part of a joint mission by Army, Marine, Air Force and special operations forces to prevent terrorists from crossing the Syrian border into Iraq. [Magnificent stupidity. Only millions of pissed off Iraqis, and, by U.S. estimates, 20,000 resistance troops behind you, while you spend your time looking at the Syrian border for the famous waves of foreign fighters that have been invented by the Imperial politicians at home to explain why the war is going in the toilet. Talk about dying in vain, or, as was said during Vietnam, "Who wants to be the last man to die for a lie?" You want to see the foreign fighters? Look in the mirror.]

"We are here to project combat power into an area where there hasn't been much in the past," said Lt. Col. Mark Davis, commander of 2-14's task force.

Soldiers have tried to make it clear to the citizens of Rawah that they need their help finding foreign fighters operating here.

Many citizens appear to be leaving the city, though. A Tuesday evening patrol spotted a long line of cars crossing the bridge that leads out of town. They waved white flags at the Stryker patrols.

While the three days of attacks haven't surprised Ivezaj, they have told him that insurgents here are able to pass information back and forth quickly between attacks.

"I think they've got a lot of eyes on us," he said. "Their network is strong." [But if they're "foreign fighters," how can they have a strong network *inside Iraq among the local Iraqi population*? Gee, can it be that Iraqis are fighting a foreign invasion and occupation of their country by George W. Bush? If so, they are, of course, right to do so.]

MORE:

“They Made A Desert And They Called In Peace” Sweeps, After

17 July 2005 (IRIN)

Nearly all residents from the town of Karabila, in Iraq's western Anbar governorate have returned, but are now in need of humanitarian assistance.

They fled a heavy US-led attack four weeks ago against insurgents, aid agencies said.

Some 65 percent of buildings in the town have been damaged following battles between US forces and insurgents, according to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

The operation left around 7,000 families displaced in the nearby desert, close to the city of al-Qaim. Now they have gone back to their homes and are trying to piece their lives together again, following the five-day military operation.

According to a report released by the IRCS on Wednesday, the situation in the town is critical for many families especially those whose properties have been destroyed are now forced to live in tents inside the town.

Others are making do in dangerous, partly destroyed buildings, some confined to only one room. Others have been forced to camp in the gardens of their wrecked former homes.

"When you ask families there if the situation is better they will answer that it has improved – but simply because there is no fighting. Security has become the most important issue for Iraqis and food and supplies come second," Mazem Sallon, general secretary of the IRCS, said in Baghdad.

Sallon added that only 30 families are still displaced in an area near the town called Akashat mineral compound.

The Iraqi government has not said whether residents will be compensated for the losses they have sustained.

Repairs to essential public utilities, such as water and power, have not yet started.

"We are studying the case of Karabila and we will soon find a solution. We have not started work inside because we are checking if the situation is calm there," Salah Hussein, a senior official in the Iraqi government, said.

The town has been suffering from a lack of purified water and local health clinics and hospitals face a chronic shortage of medicines.

"Some families are going to the capital to get their medicine because we do not have enough drugs. The health situation in all the western cities is critical," Dr Hamed al-Alousi, director of the nearby al-Qaim general hospital, said.

The IRCS said it was in the process of sending a convoy into the area carrying thousands of medical kits, including emergency equipment. These were donated by the Syrian Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Greek Doctors' Association (GDA).

Following constant battles in Anbar province between US forces and insurgent groups, the IRCS is running low on supplies and has called for assistance from international aid organisations.



Karabila (IRIN)

For More On Sweeps:

See GI Special 3B94, <http://www.militaryproject.org/article.asp?id=624> 7.19.05, including this:

“[The first two items are news stories describing traditional Vietnam-style sweeps, proving command has learned nothing and forgotten nothing in the last 40 years: still the same old stupid, self-defeating, lumbering, bring-up-the-armor kick-in-the-door sweeps revealing the same old blind ignorance of counter-insurgency warfare.]”

[They are followed by more from [military historian] Asprey about how the sweeps are brilliantly designed to help the armed resistance to occupation grow and strengthen.]”

TROOP NEWS

ROADSIDE BOMBS #1, #2

#1:

From: Mother Of A Soldier Wounded By Roadside Bomb
To: GI Special
Sent: July 19, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B94: Lessons Unlearned, Con't.

STOP THE ROADSIDE BOMBS IS ANYONE LISTENING????

#2:

[This is a message from Rose Gentle. Her son Gordon 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 19, 2005

ROBOTRUCK, THE BOMB PROOF BUS

***A NEW POLICE VEHICLE IS BEING DRIVEN,
INTO THE FRONTLINE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS
IN THE UK, SCOTLAND YARD HAS TAKEN DELIVERY OF 13 HEAVILY
ARMOURED JANKEL GURDIAN TRUCKS TO HELLP COMBAT BOMB
ATTACKS, HIJACKINS AND GUN VIOLENCE,
IT HAS,
BARS ALLOWS VEHICLE TO CRASH THROUGH BARRIERS
CHASSIS WITHSTANDS BOMB AND MINE BLASTS
TYRES, RUN EVEN WHEN PUNCTURED,
ARMOURD PANELS, CAN RESIST 60LB BOMB BLAST
20FT AWAY,
LENTH 2OFT. WEIGHT 7 TONS. ENGINE 6 LITRE DIESEL
CREW, 8. PLATFORM 4X4 TRUCK
COST £128,000.***

WELL HOW THE HELL CANT THE TROOPS IN IRAQ GET THIS
TOO. HOW MENY TROOPS HAVE BEING KILLIED BY ROAD SIDE
BOMBS, HOW MORE WILL GET KILLIED.

WILL THE TROOPS GET
THEM SENT TO IRAQ, NO WAY, THIS GUVETMENT DUS NOT
GIVE A SHITE FOR THEM,

IF OUR TROOPS HAD THIS GORDON
COULD STILL BE HERE, IT ALSO HAS A BULLET PROOF
WINDSCREEN,

PROTECT, OUR TROOPS. BETER STILL
BRING THEM HOME,

ROSE GENTLE, M,F,S,O

“Dying In Iraq - For Nothing”

From: D
To: GI Special
Sent: July 18, 2005
Subject: KIA

Comment from Vietnam Vet, Veterans For Peace member in Georgia:

“Folks in D.C. could care less that our sons and daughters are dying in Iraq - for nothing.”

While Bush Buddies Rake In Billions In War Contracts,

Soldiers Families Have To Beg For Charity To Visit The Wounded

[Yeah, all this has been reported before. It was a despicable situation then, and it still is. Having a family member near a wounded soldier speeds recovery. Everybody who works in health care knows that. Just like everybody knows the same government that started this war under cover of a pack of lies, for nothing more than corporate greed, doesn't give a shit about helping soldiers or their families after they're too fucked up to fight for the Empire any more. The enemy isn't in Iraq. The enemy is in Washington DC, running the government, and killing soldiers for private profit. Their own private profit. Is anybody really surprised about that?]

July 18, 2005 By Thanh Tan, CBS, Emmett, Idaho -

At least three Idaho soldiers from Alpha Company are back in the United States recovering from injuries they suffered in Iraq-- all from roadside bombs, according to volunteers from the Alpha Company Readiness Group.

Local 2 News spoke with one of the injured soldiers, Staff Sgt. Thomas Butler, from his hospital bed in San Antonio, Texas, where he re-counted the incident. "My fellow soldier said I was standing about five feet from (the explosion)," he said.

With more than fifty pieces of shrapnel removed from his body, shotgun wounds and an infection, Butler says he is expected to make a full recovery.

"I'm very lucky. I'm very fortunate, considering being in this hospital. I've seen a lot of other guys walking around with missing legs and missing arms," Butler said.

Butler says he's also lucky to have his wife Kimberly by his side at the hospital, and fortunate to have his in-laws, Art and Joan Moen, watching over their home and five children in Emmett.

"We're just happy to be here to help. Help them in any way we can," said Joan. "It'd be pretty difficult for Kim to travel to Texas and leave this place unattended," Art added.

With three soldiers from Alpha Company alone injured in the last several weeks, Alpha Company Readiness Group volunteer and Army wife Lisa Thomas says she and other wives have learned not everyone has been so lucky and able to have a family member with them during their recovery.

As more injuries occur, she says it's inevitable families will face financial hardship. [Bullshit. There's nothing whatsoever "inevitable" about it. Can you spell P-O-L-I-C-Y? It's the policy of this government that families have to beg and borrow to stay with the wounded. That is a conscious choice made by those in power.]

"Those soldiers really need their families with them," Thompson said. "It's an integral part of their recovery."

So Thomas, whose husband is still serving in Iraq, has partnered with another soldier's wife to create a new fund to help the families of wounded Idaho soldiers in the future.

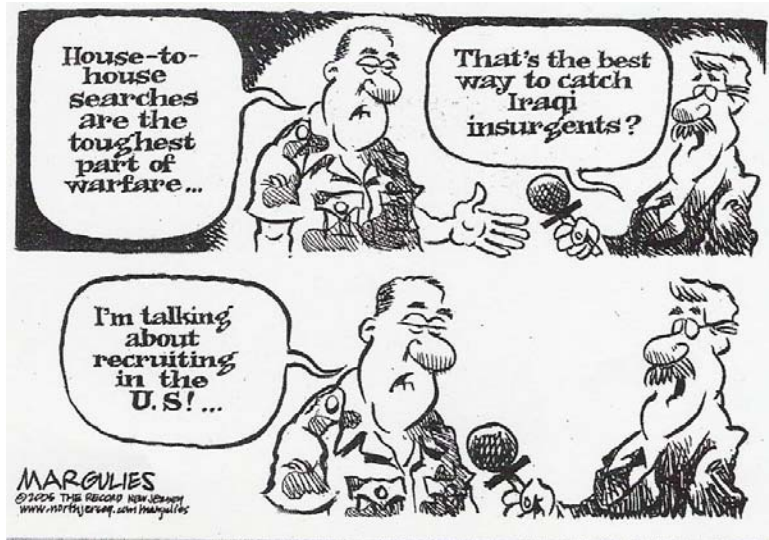
"Really, the only way we can help them is financially. We can't go to the hospital and be there with their loved one. We can't take their place. But we can perhaps take the financial hardship off of their plate for them," Thompson said.

Thompson says it could take months for wounded soldiers to recover, and so they've set up 'The Injured Soldier Relief Fund' at U.S. Bank. She says donations will help pay for bills, airfare, and lodging near hospitals so that family members can visit their wounded soldier.

[Organizing a March On Washington by the families of the wounded, and troops themselves, could put an end to shifting the burden to the families and friends and put it where it belongs: on the backs of those profiteers raking in the billions from the war. The profiteers want the soldiers to play in their game, and pay for it on top of that. And it won't change until they are forced to do otherwise, by very pissed off people in the streets. T]

To make a contribution to the fund, please visit any U.S. Bank branch. For information on how to access the funds, soldiers' families are asked to call Lisa Thompson at 376-6817 or 602-0692.

Uncle Sam Wants You – Even If You're 42 Years Old



Army Times 7.18.05

July 19, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

The Defense Department quietly asked Congress on Monday to raise the maximum age for military recruits to 42 for all branches of the service.

Under current law, the maximum age to enlist in the active components is 35, while people up to age 39 may enlist in the reserves. By practice, the accepted age for recruits is 27 for the Air Force, 28 for the Marine Corps and 34 for the Navy and Army, although the Army Reserve and Navy Reserve sometimes take people up to age 39 in some specialties.

The Pentagon's request to raise the maximum recruit age to 42 is part of what defense officials are calling a package of "urgent wartime support initiatives" sent to Congress Monday night prior to a Tuesday hearing of the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee.

A Perfect Record For Fucking Over Troops; Government Against Helping Deployed Guard & Reservists

July 19, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is enlisting military associations in her attempt to find \$1.8 billion to help National Guard and reserve members and their employers.

Landrieu needs the money to pay for S 1142, a bill she introduced earlier this year that would make federal workers called to active-duty for 90 or more days eligible to receive their full military and federal civilian salaries. It also would alter the tax code to provide credits for employers who continue to pay workers who are either on active-duty or to hire replacement workers when employees are mobilized.

She introduced the bill in May, but there are several similar bills pending before Congress.

So far, none has a chance of passage because there is no money available to pay for the tax credits and because the Bush administration opposes paying full military and civilian wages to federal workers who are in the National Guard or reserve.

[Well, of course "there is no money available." There is only money available to make sure Congressional and White House elites get the best free medical care in America and to pay their fat salaries; to give billions to Bush buddy war profiteers, like Halliburton; to put through the biggest tax cuts on corporations and the

super-rich in American history; and to hand over billions to Israel for killing more Palestinians, to name just a few truly important expenses.

[Deployed troops who lose their job incomes? Just citizen soldiers, and who gives a shit about them when there's money to be ripped off from the Federal Treasury for your friends and upper class allies?

[Don't think so? Check the story below "Those Lucky Plutocrats" about how income taxes have shifted to benefit the rich, and fuck over everybody else.]

10,000 Protest Against Army Exercises In Okinawa



Some 10,000 people rally against military exercises of U.S. Army in the town of Kin, Okinawa Prefecture, July 19. (AP Photo /Kyodo News)

July 19, 2005 Kyodo, Associated Press

NAHA, Japan — Some 10,000 people staged a protest Tuesday against U.S. Army exercises using live ammunition in the town of Kin, Okinawa Prefecture.

The protesters, including Okinawa Gov. Keiichi Inamine, highlighted the danger posed by the exercises at a new combat facility at the Marine Corps' Camp Hansen, which is only 300 meters away from residential areas.

Marching up to the front gate of Camp Hansen, the demonstrators called on the U.S. Army to stop the exercises and remove the facility, claiming that people living in the vicinity risk the danger of being hit by stray bullets.

"I will do my utmost to have the facility shut down so that residents can enjoy their peace and quiet," Inamine told the participants.

The U.S. Army started the exercises July 12 amid protests by the local residents.

Troops Punished For Refusing To Obey Unlawful Order

[FYI: The army has no lawful authority to order any soldier to take these shots. Giving a direct order to any soldier to take these shots is a criminal act on the part of any officer giving such an order, and that has been settled by a federal court and confirmed by command at the Pentagon.]

July 18, 2005 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

Ocean T. Rose worked as a firefighter in the Marine Corps until he was court-martialed in 2001 and sentenced to a bad conduct discharge for refusing anthrax vaccination.

But he's technically still in the Marines while he appeals his conviction — and thus can't get a civilian firefighting job.

"Since I'm still an active-duty member, I can't be hired by any city, state or federal fire departments," Rose, 25, said in an interview, adding that one local fire department told him: "We can't touch you."

As U.S. troops prepare to decide whether they will voluntarily accept an anthrax shot, Rose is one of a number of service members who were court-martialed for refusing the shots under the old mandatory program and whose cases are still in limbo.

The total number is unclear, but the cases of about a half-dozen Marines and sailors are at the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals awaiting a final ruling. And at least six more cases, including one Army case, are on appeal to the military's highest court, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

These service members are on appellate leave while their cases wind their way through the appeals process. They technically are on active duty but are not paid and do not perform military duties, and their final discharges are pending.

Officially, the troops were court-martialed for disobeying a lawful order. Ultimately, the final disposition of their cases may rest on whether that order was, in fact, lawful — the very issue at the heart of the case now in federal court that led to the shutdown of the mandatory anthrax vaccine program last fall.

Six service members and civilian defense employees successfully sued the government to stop the mandatory anthrax shots when the judge ruled that the vaccine was not licensed to protect against inhalation anthrax, the type the Defense Department said is a germ warfare threat.

Rose's saga has dragged on for more than four years.

He joined the Marine Corps in January 1999. While based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., he received two anthrax shots in 2000, which he said were given to him nearly a month apart instead of two weeks as required by the vaccine label.

He experienced large lumps on his arm after the first two shots, along with flulike symptoms and an irregular electrocardiogram.

Moreover, research he did on his own convinced him the military was not following the shot course required by the vaccine's label and that the vaccine was not licensed to protect against inhalation anthrax.

He refused to take his third shot, and, after declining nonjudicial punishment, was convicted at court-martial in January 2001 for disobeying a direct order.

A lance corporal at the time, he was reduced to the paygrade of E-1, fined all pay at lance corporal rank and was to receive a bad-conduct discharge, which is still pending.

Westmoreland Dead: Blind & Stupid To The End

[The story leaves out what Vietnam soldiers knew too well: cargo helicopters had to haul his air-conditioned trailer hither and yon, risking their lives so he could be comfortable. Then there were the tennis games. You want some truth about Vietnam, check out the next item, Sir! No Sir!]

July 19 By Mark Tran, & By ERIC PACE, New York Times

General William Westmoreland, who commanded US forces in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, died last night. He was 91.

In his memoirs, *A Soldier Reports*, published in 1980, five years after North Vietnamese troops marched into Saigon, Westmoreland argued that with enough resources, the US could have won the war.

In particular, he believed that another 200,000 US troops after the 1968 Tet offensive, when the Vietcong guerrillas suffered heavy casualties, would have been enough to turn the tide.

Westmoreland believed that more bombing, more troops and an extension of the war into Laos and Cambodia would have broken Hanoi.

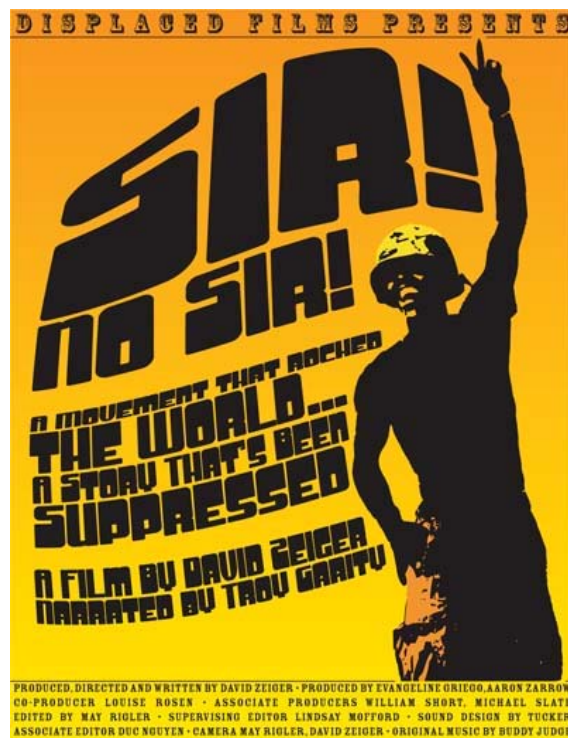
General Vo Nguyen Giap, the North Vietnamese military commander, who saw off the French and the Americans, told the historian Stanley Karnow in 1990: "He was a cultivated soldier who had read many military texts. Yet he committed an error following the Tet offensive, when he requested 206,000 troops. He could have put in 300,000, even 400,000 more men. It would have made no difference."

In 1982, he filed the \$120-million suit against CBS over "The Uncounted Enemy" documentary.

The suit came to trial in 1984 in Federal District Court in Manhattan.

Eighteen weeks of testimony ensued, in which some senior American officers who had served under General Westmoreland in Vietnam contended that he had been influenced by political rather than purely military concerns in reports about enemy strength that were sent to Washington.

Sir! No Sir!



VARIETY review Posted: Thurs.,

Jul. 14, 2005 By ROBERT KOEHLER, Variety

Because it's bolstered by proud memories of Vietnam vets who turned against the war, "Sir! No Sir!" rings with an exultant, even elated tone.

Documaker David Zeiger ("Senior Year") sacrifices some depth and detail for a panoramic view of the organized antiwar movement among vets, providing a gallery of warriors unlike those associated with combat valor.

Perfectly timed with new doubts about the Iraq war and with the re-emergence of participant Jane Fonda -- who hasn't been so electrifying on screen in years -- pic should do solid specialty biz after nabbing audience doc award at the Los Angeles fest.

John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign revived public discussion about the phenomenon of thousands of U.S. troops openly opposing the war they were being sent to (or, more often, returning from), and while Zeiger's film clearly benefits from this re-opening of the controversial topic, it's also notable that Kerry's name is never mentioned.

Instead, other lesser-known stars of the vets' antiwar movement, such as Donald Duncan and Dr. Howard Levy (the latter a subject of a much-publicized court martial), start off the saga.

According to some of the more than two dozen onscreen participants, soldiers generally backed the Vietnam war until North Vietnam's 1968 Tet Offensive exposed the U.S. mission as fatally flawed. This coincided with a further rise in the already well-developed antiwar movement at home, as well as a wave of domestic and racial unrest and political assassinations.

What "Sir! No Sir!" crucially restores are many specifics of the troops' resistance, even as it dispels myths regarding rifts between vets and civilian protestors. AWOL vets chaining themselves alongside priests and civilians in a San Francisco church, and subsequent acts of civil disobedience and rioting in the Presidio stockade, underline how serious the antiwar mood had become.

Pic partly depends on the recollections of individuals, among them Louis Font (the first West Point grad to ever refuse service), Terry Whitmore (with his much-publicized Swedish exile) and Bill Short (whose tearful recounting of tallying "body counts" is extremely emotional).

Still, it's group actions that best capture the period's collective spirit -- a loose network of vet-published underground antiwar newspapers or accounts of open defiance of authority in the field.

Clips from the "Winter Soldier" hearings organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War (and employing footage from the stunning and long unseen docu of the same name) provide only a glimpse into the hearings' accounts of savagery that far surpass the worst atrocities at Abu Ghraib.

And while the pic tends to jump around from subject to subject without ever exploring any one aspect in depth, still such sidetrips can provide a service, such as author Jerry Lembcke quashing the myth of returning Viet vets being spat upon by antiwar activists at airports.

Fonda's memories of performing the lead in the "FTA Show" in 1971 (an anti-Bob Hope open-air show whose initials were adopted to mean "Fuck the Army") insert a giddiness into the pic that clues viewers in to the counterculture excitement of the era. Fonda is in rare form both in the present-day interview and in a generous range of clips that counter the dour Hanoi Jane stereotype.

Zeiger appears influenced by the swift style of documaker Stacy Peralta, whose taste for grabber sound bites and funky animated graphics is pleasantly all over the film. May Rigler, as co-lensar and editor, plays a major role in keeping things at a smart, entertaining clip. Narration by Troy Garrity is unobtrusive.

Future programmers will be wise to double-bill this, for stark stylistic contrast, with Emile De Antonio's angrier and more bitterly ironic "In the Year of the Pig."

Reviewed at Los Angeles Film Festival (competing), June 23, 2005.

Running time: 85 MIN.

A Displaced Films production in association with Pangea Prods. (International sales: Displaced Films, Los Angeles.) Produced by David Zeiger, Evangeline Griego, Aaron Zarrow. Executive producer, Peter Broderick. Co-producer, Louise Rosen. Directed, written by David Zeiger.

With: Jane Fonda, Donald Duncan, Howard Levy, Keith Mather, Oliver Hirsch, Susan Schnall, Randy Rowland, Louis Font, Dave Cline, Bill Short, Dave Blalock, Greg Payton, Darnell Summers, Michael Wong, Terry Whitmore, Joe Bangert, Richard Boyle, Jerry Lembcke, Terry Iverson, Tom Bernard.

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)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



Iraqi police remove the body of a dead Muslim Sunni collaborator, who was killed along with two other Sunni Arab members of the ICND. (AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

July 19 Financial Times & Reuters & AFP & (Xinhuanet)

Guerrillas shot and killed three Sunni Arab members of the committee drafting Iraq's new constitution as they left a Baghdad restaurant on Tuesday, police sources said.

The killings in the Karrada district of central Baghdad would be a crushing blow to hopes that a nascent political process would undermine Iraq's insurgency.

Mijbil Issa and two companions were shot dead as they drove through Karrada, an ethnically mixed district south of the city centre.

A Reuters television cameraman at the city's St Raphael's Hospital saw three bodies being pulled out of a dark blue car that had been sprayed with bullets. Their wounded driver was loaded into the back of a truck.

Police sources named the victims as Sheikh Mujbil al -Sheikh Isa, Aziz Ibrahim and Dhamin Hussein Ileywi.

15 Sunni members added to the committee last month, in a bid for "inclusiveness" despite the community's severe under-representation in parliament.

Two other Sunni members had reportedly left the committee after threats from insurgents, who oppose the Shia-led government and US-mentored political process.

Guerrillas attacked a minibus carrying Iraqi workers to a US air base near Baqouba, killing 13, police said.

13 Iraqis were killed when guerrillas in two cars attacked a minibus bringing workers to a U.S. base in Baquba, al-Faris airbase, 40 miles north of the capital, said a police source who asked to remain anonymous. The minibus driver and nine workers from the base were killed in the attack, after the guerrillas blocked the bus and opened fire.

Member of Buhriz municipal council Qasim Shihab Ahmed was killed when gunmen opened fire in the village of Abu Khamees, 5 km (3 miles) south of the town on Baquba's southern outskirts, a police source said.

One policeman and one civilian were killed and three people injured by a roadside bomb targetting an Iraqi police patrol in the centre of the northern city of Kirkuk, said Major Yadikar Mohammed, spokesman for the Kirkuk police. The other fatality was a member of Mr Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Two policemen were killed and four injured when a roadside bomb targeted their patrol on a road between Mahmudiya and Latifiya, to the south of the Baghdad, a source at the Mahmudiya police station said.

One policeman was killed when guerrillas fired on his vehicle in the center of Samarra, north of Baghdad. A police source said that Lieutenant Colonel Allam Mohammed was driving when the attack occurred.

One police guard was killed in a bomb blast explosion in the city of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source said.

"Rabie Faisal Khalaf was killed and his police vehicle destroyed early in the morning by a roadside bomb blast while passing through the intersection of Tikrit Mosque," a police source from the US-Iraqi Joint Coordination Center told Xinhua.

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

Doctors On Strike Against Occupation Terrorist Scum

Jul 19, 2005 By Mussab Al-Khairalla, (Reuters)

More than two dozen doctors walked out of one of Baghdad's busiest hospitals on Tuesday to protest what they said was abuse by Iraqi soldiers, leaving about 100 patients to fend for themselves in chaotic wards.

Physicians said the troubles started when soldiers barged into a woman's wing at Yarmouk hospital, opened curtains and conducted searches as patients lay in their beds on Monday.

A 27-year-old internal medicine specialist said a soldier began intimidating and abusing him.

"Before he left he said, 'Why are you looking in disapproval?' Then he came and punched me lightly on my arm before sticking his rifle into my stomach and loading it," the doctor, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals, told Reuters.

"I stayed quiet but relatives of the patients told him to calm down before pulling him out of the room. Just then, four more soldiers came in and pointed a rifle at my head. At that point I became scared and begged them to leave me alone."

The new Shi'ite-led government has promised Iraqis that security forces will be built up to protect them from guerrillas, who have killed thousands of people with suicide and car bombings. **[What bullshit. The fact is the doctors need the resistance to protect them against the torturers and murderers hired by Bush's occupation government.]**

Yarmouk, a run-down, sparsely equipped building, has treated many of Baghdad's worst cases. Overcrowded with patients and staff, its emergency room hosts a frenzy of activity every day.

Nevertheless, doctors said they would press on with a strike to draw attention to army and security forces, whose wounded comrades are often treated at Yarmouk and other hospitals.

"We know the citizens may be a little upset but we have our rights too and we can't operate and provide a service to people if we feel under threat," said Assad Hindi, standing outside the hospital with other physicians.

Doctors have staged similar strikes before and some patients sympathized with them, despite their medical needs.

"I'm ill and I haven't seen the doctor all day. All I need is a signature from him so I can get an X-ray that I need to see what's wrong with my neck. I think they have every right to strike though, our doctors shouldn't be abused," said Salman Thahir, a frail old man sitting on his bed.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Catastrophic Greed

What the repressive Chinese government has done in Occupied Tibet, is exactly what is happening in U.S. Occupied Iraq.

Two Empire Stallions in the same race for catastrophic greed.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
July 19, 2005

“Demoralizing The Imperial Powers From Within”

July 18, 2005 Jean Bricmont, BRussells Tribunal [Excerpts]

It is no small paradox of our time that opposition to this war is probably more vocal on the right, or among apolitical people, like the families of soldiers, than on the “left”. The mainstream peace movement is scared to death of being accused of “supporting the resistance” (whatever that may mean), as it was scared to death before the war of being accused of “supporting Saddam”.

This argument can only be countered by taking a more global point of view. Indeed nobody knows what would happen in Iraq if the United States left (by the same token, nobody knows how long they would have to stay and how many people they would have to kill in order to create a stable Iraq to their liking).

The crisis of the neo-colonial system is likely to be the main crisis of the beginning of the 21st century.

The goal of a genuine Western left and of the peace movement should be to help this process by demoralizing, as much as possible, the imperial powers from within.

If the latter lack the “moral fiber” to fight, then the rest of world will free itself from the shackles of neo-colonialism, as it did with colonialism in the past.

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Slaughter Continues:

“When The Americans First Came I Was So Happy” “Now I Feel Only Hatred”

19 July, 2005 By Caroline Hawley, BBC News, Baghdad

It is early afternoon in the emergency room of Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital.

Medics are on stand by for a big influx of casualties from a bomb south of Baghdad.

But right now they have a more pressing job.

Several doctors, blood spattered on their white coats, are calmly trying to save the life of a young man who has just been rushed in with a bullet-wound that has punctured his lung.

He appears to have been shot, by mistake, by US troops on the road to Baghdad airport.

There is a steady flow of people coming into Iraqi hospitals who have been injured by US soldiers.

"It's very sad," says Dr Mohaned Rahe, "but things aren't improving."

Across town, in the brutal mid-day heat, simple wooden coffins are being strapped to cars outside Baghdad's main morgue.

Last month, his teams had to deal with over 860 bodies, some of them bound and shot in the head.

A significant number, he believes, have been murdered for sectarian motives.

And several had been wearing handcuffs.

Baker thinks they may have been killed by the Iraqi police.

"From what we're seeing, things are getting worse," says Dr Baker, a forensic pathologist who has studied and worked in London, at Guy's Hospital.

"There are mass killings going on. It is a mess. No-one knows who is killing who. Everything is out of control."

In the Yarmouk hospital men's ward, a young bomb victim, Omar Attiya, lies beside a 50-year old man, Dhia Abbas, who has gunshots to his back and leg.

He says his car was peppered with bullets by US soldiers as he was driving home from visiting his daughter at 2230 local time (1830 GMT).

"I thought I was going to die, they just shot and shot and shot," he says. "The roads were empty and maybe they suspected me of something, but there was no warning, they just opened fire."

In the ward next door, 30-year old Shia Nadhem Farhan is even more seriously injured, his spleen ruptured by gunfire.

He had been in a minibus driving from Najaf to Baghdad, to try to join up to the new Iraqi army.

"I was asleep when the bullets started to hit, but other passengers told me we were shot at by US troops, maybe for getting too close to their convoy".

Most Iraqis drive well back from them, for fear of being shot.

"When the Americans first came I was so happy that we were saved from Saddam Hussein," says Farhan.

"Now I feel only hatred. The way things are now, you don't know when you're going to die and who will kill you, the Americans or the insurgents. And civilians, innocent people are being caught in the middle."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

On Screwing In A Light Bulb

From: Nigel B
To: GI Special
Sent: July 19, 2005
Subject: On screwing in a Light Bulb

John Gingerich has got it only partially right!

The real reason why it took no Bush Administration officials to screw in the light bulb was because the task was outsourced to Custer Battles Inc.

At a mark-up of 164% on the initial cost of purchase of the light bulb.

Sincerely yours,
Nigel B
Portsmouth, Hampshire
England
UK

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Those Lucky Plutocrats”

7.17.05 Jason Miller, OrbStandard

Consider that since 1962, federal revenue from progressive taxes (in which higher income people pay a higher tax percentage than lower income) dropped by 17%. *Federal income from regressive taxes (which place a higher burden on those with lower income) increased by 135%.*

Since 1980, taxes on inheritance and investment have dropped by 31% while taxes on income derived from work have increased by 25%.

Between 2000 and 2003, corporations (the institutions that perpetuate and insulate the plutocracy) saw their contribution to federal revenue through taxes fall by 36%. Bush's corporate tax cuts of 2002 and 2003 made this corporate wet dream possible.

His individual tax cuts between 2002 and 2004 were a propaganda ploy to buy votes and ensure that the financial oligarchy retained a strangle-hold on the US government.

Average working Americans received rebate checks of \$400.00. \$600 billion dollars in tax cuts went to those earning more than \$288,000 per year.

To ice the cake, the wealthiest 1% of Americans received \$197 billion dollars in additional tax breaks.

That means that each of those lucky plutocrats enjoyed a staggering \$56.3 million in tax relief, but don't worry. In theory, they put that money back into the economy and it will "trickle down" to the rest of us.

I have not been trickled upon yet. Have you?

[Now why on earth would the writer just talk about Republicans? As if the Democrats in Congress haven't loyally done their part in passing the Bush tax cuts on the rich.]

Received:

Marine Veterans Wanted For Documentary Film Interviews

From: Laura Nix laura@automatpictures.com
To: GI Special
Sent: July 19, 2005
Subject: Jarhead documentary -

I got your name and email from David Zeiger, the director of SIR, NO SIR!

I am co-producing a 30-minute documentary about Marine Veterans who served in Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom with Tony Swofford who wrote JARHEAD (a book about his experience as a Marine during the Gulf War). David spoke to me about GI Special.

In our piece, we are asking Marines to tell their own stories about what it has been like to leave the corps, hearing about the challenges they face, financially, emotionally, psychologically, while coping with this passage.

We will ask about what services are offered by the military and Veterans Affairs to aid in this transition, and if they believe these services are adequate for their needs, in the interest of creating more public awareness for supporting vets.

We're hoping you might be able to help us locate Marine veterans to appear in our doc.

We are currently doing phone interviews with a number of Marines, and will eventually choose 4 or 5 subjects to be in the documentary who are based in the southern California area.

We need to finish shooting by September 5th when we go into edit.

Because this project will appear on the eventual DVD release of the movie JARHEAD, it will have wide distribution, and be an excellent way to publicize the need for greater support of veterans at all levels.

Warm Regards,

Laura Nix
Producer/Director
213-351-0444 x-104

Christian Heaton
Associate Producer
213-351-0444 x-131

Web Copies:

For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .
The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,
www.williambowles.info/gispecial,
<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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