

GI SPECIAL 3B99:

HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR? BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Staff Sgt. Tricia Jameson, Omaha, Neb., a Nebraska Army National Guard medic, was killed July 14 near Trebil, Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded near her ambulance as it approached wounded Marines. (AP Photo/Dave Weaver July 23, 2005)

SOLDIER CALLED “BITCH” FOR C.O. APPLICATION GETS HELP!

From: Jim, Military Counseling Network
To: GI Special
Sent: July 22, 2005
Subject: GI SPECIAL 3B85: Soldier called bitch

Dear GI Special,

I live in Germany and am an associate of Military Counseling Network, an organisation offering cost-free GI-rights counseling --especially conscientious objection-- to soldiers stationed in Germany.

We are presently working with four soldiers in various stages of their application and an additional four just getting started.

Military Counseling Network is now in contact with the soldier (Soldier called a bitch) whose story you told. He is presently restricted to base on an A15, but two of us visited with him yesterday for three hours.

We'll be supporting him as best we can from here on.

Please pass this on:

Soldiers in Germany with GI-rights issues are welcome to call the office of Military Counseling Network at 06223 47506 or check out www.mc-network.de to get an impression.

Maybe we can help.

We run on a shoe-string budget but have a staff of two and there is also a group of soldier COs and supporters --mostly US citizens-- happy to do what they can to support soldiers who need it.

Keep up the good work,

Jim

James M. Miller
Lilienstrasse 40
69245 Bammental, Germany
Mail to: j.miller@tiscali.de

Reply: The Military Counseling Network is doing the good work. GI Special can report, but when people like you take action to defend the troops, that's what makes the difference. And the same goes for ArchAngel, which made the situation known. See GI Special 3B85: Soldier Called A "Bitch" <http://www.militaryproject.org/article.asp?id=615> for the ArchAngel report.

[If readers can spare some \$ for the Military Counseling Network, looks like they earned it. T]

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

Ledyard Soldier Injured; Collins Hoping His Son Injuries Will Keep Him Stateside For A While.

July 23, 2005 by News Channel 8's Tina Detelj, Ledyard-WTNH

The continued violence in Iraq is hitting home once again. A Ledyard soldier protecting the streets of Baghdad couldn't protect himself from the insurgents. He was caught in a car bombing and there are bits of shrapnel still in his arm.

Mark Collins found out Sunday his son, Army Pfc. Adam Collins had been hurt in a bomb blast in Iraq. "When he initially called me he said 'yeah, they blew me up good.' So he's got good spirits. He still got his sense of humor."

The 19-year old soldier, a gunner in a military police unit, had rushed to help victims of a car bomb when another bomb went off just fifteen feet from his Humvee.

"He's got some shrapnel in his left arm and some burns to both his hands and he says a couple of blisters on his face."

Adam Collins is a 2004 graduate of Ledyard High School where he was a member of the varsity wrestling team. Shortly after graduation he married his high school sweetheart and joined the Army. He hopes to someday become a police officer.

As word spreads about Collins injury those here at home are wishing him well.

"And I'm thinking of you. Bye now," says a voice on the telephone answering machine. "I figured I'd get a lot of those today."

Collins says knowing his son has been hurt is a nightmare, but knowing he will recover is a big relief. The weekend wave of violence in Iraq left more than 130 dead and hundreds injured.

"Fifteen feet from a bomb is close, but could have been worse."

Adam Collins was treated at a hospital in Germany and transferred to an Army medical center in Texas where he will receive treatment for the burns on his face and shrapnel left lodged in his wrist.

"As soon as I can I'm gonna fly out and go be with him for however long as I can," Mark says.

Collins is hoping his son injuries will keep him stateside for a while. There is no word yet on whether or not he will be sent back to Iraq.

World Class Absurdity Marches On: Another Silly “Wall” Built As Resistance Holding In Tal Afar

[See how military stupidity follows from political lies. The lie is that “foreign fighters” and other outsiders are the problem, although enough military officers and intelligence reports have pointed out this is another White House stack of bullshit, and the resistance is Iraqi and nationalist.

[But, since the Pentagon has to kiss Bush ass, the commanders act like the lie has some basis in reality, and start building these silly “walls,” really minor berms, to keep out those evil foreign fighters.

[It's good for the war profiteers who get involved in the building, and its great for the Iraqi resistance movement, which sees supplies and effort so brilliantly misdirected to such a trivial, easily circumvented annoyance, and its going to be material for late night comedy shows for years to come. Duh.]

July 21, 2005 From Jane Arraf, CNN

As U.S. soldiers construct a wall around the troubled city of Tal Afar to keep out fighters and weapons, residents are fleeing in fear of an imminent military attack by American and Iraqi forces against insurgents still in the city, according to a senior military commander.

Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez of the U.S. Army's Task Force Freedom said he was discussing with Iraqi leaders how best to handle the continuing violence in Tal Afar, **where parts of the city are still controlled by insurgents.**

"We're still working through that," he told CNN. **[Build another berm? Or two?]**

He said a U.S. military offensive there in June appears to have had only "a temporary disruptive effect" on the insurgency.

Police in the city, crippled by defections and allegations of torture and corruption, number fewer than 200.

Soldiers have been moving earth to construct a trench and a berm around Tal Afar, forcing traffic to go through rather than around security checkpoints.

U.S. Army engineers in Mosul have recently completed a 64-kilometer dirt berm around that city to stem the flow of insurgents and weapons.

[Which turned out to be absolutely useless, but since it's about propaganda for the folks back home, to show "we're doing something," who cares? The Vietnamese could repair attacks by B52's on their road and rail transport system in 24 hours. A cut thru one of these earthen berms should take about 30 minutes. Where they aren't so low a pickup truck with good road clearance can roll right over the top, that is. You see, because they're made out of dirt and sand, the ascending and descending interior and exterior approaches are not abrupt, but slopes. Get it? A five year old on a dirt bike wouldn't be challenged.]

[Leaving aside right and wrong, an Imperial power this dimwitted deserves to lose its war.]

The Cell Phone War; "A Source Of Horror For The Occupation Forces"

The company also demand subscribers to sign a note confirming the devices will not be used in "illegal activities".

However, all these measures are too insignificant to prevent Iraqi resistance groups from carrying out attacks to force the US occupation forces out of Iraq, due to the cheap price of lines that makes it easy to replace.

July 20, 2005 By Samir Haddad & Mazen Ghazi, IslamOnline Correspondents

A cellular phone's main job is to connect people for various reasons. But in occupied Iraq, where everything is out of context, mobiles are certainly no exception.

Iraqi resistance groups use mobiles in innovative ways that started to cause real concerns for US forces, so much that the hi-tech device is now topping the agenda of items to be confiscated during search operations.

Iraqi armed groups fighting foreign troops use the device to compile information on US military targets and "collaborators" with the occupation forces, making the tiny device a "source of horror" for the occupation forces.

An Iraqi businessman has revealed to IslamOnline.net how a short message on his mobile forced him to give up cooperation with the US occupation forces.

"I received a message of death threat from an armed group through my cellular phone to halt cooperation with the occupation forces," he told IOL, on condition of anonymity.

"The message carried a photograph taken for me while entering the fortified Green Zone through an entrance called the "the dangling bridge."

The Iraqi businessman had won a tender to supply air-conditioners to hospitals within Baghdad's Green Zone, which houses the US forces command and the Iraqi government.

"As soon as I got the message, I decided to give up the tender to save my life, despite the financial losses I suffered," he said.

Mobiles are also used by resistance groups to trap US occupation forces.

As a case in point, an unidentified person contacted the Iraqi interior ministry to report the presence of a group of armed men in a building in eastern Baghdad, according to witnesses of the incident that happened two months ago.

The caller also claimed that the armed group was holding hostages in the reported building.

In response, a joint contingent of US-Iraqi forces rushed to the reported scene, but as they were approaching the site, they were targeted by a roadside bomb, leaving scores of the US and Iraqi forces killed and injured.

Since then, mobiles have become a "source of horror" for the occupation forces, which search for the tiny devices everywhere during their massive crackdown operations in the country, according to sources close to the Iraqi resistance.

Four Iraqis were arrested by US forces last week while using mobiles – equipped with cameras -- to photograph passers-by near a US military site in the Abu Ghraib neighborhood in western Baghdad.

To avoid such phone-orchestrated resistance attacks, US forces now disconnect phone communications during their patrols in the Iraqi capital as a security measure.

Such a repeated disconnection of communications has motivated many Iraqi subscribers to raise complaints with the Orascom Telecom Iraq Corporation (IRAQNA), the provider of the mobile communication service in the Iraqi capital.

But the Corporation said the service disconnection was out of its control, declining to give further information.

An official at the Corporation told IOL, however, that the disconnection of the communications service was mainly attributed to the security measures taken by foreign forces to protect themselves against attacks by Iraqi resistance groups.

In a further measure to shield themselves against resistance attacks, US forces also force IRAQNA to demand new subscribers to provide all necessary data to the firm before buying a mobile line.

The company also demand subscribers to sign a note confirming the devices will not be used in "illegal activities".

However, all these measures are too insignificant to prevent Iraqi resistance groups from carrying out attacks to force the US occupation forces out of Iraq, due to the cheap price of lines that makes it easy to replace.

MICRO-TERRORIST ALERT NEAR BAGHDAD



Soldiers from the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and an Iraqi collaborator search for micro-terrorists near Baghdad July 22, 2005.

The U.S. occupation command announced that because the Iraqi insurgents are in their "last throes," they have unleashed a new weapon: suicide micro-terrorists. Micro-terrorists are less than two inches high, are armed with an assortment of micro-weapons developed in Syria and Iran, and hide in the weeds awaiting targets of opportunity.

In Washington, the Pentagon announced that Bush Buddies Inc. has been awarded a \$6 billion cost-plus contract to develop a defense system that will neutralize micro-terrorists. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced the project will receive top priority, and will be deployed to the battlefield by 2014. Photo: REUTERS/US Army/Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Rodriguez/Handout

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Australian Government Sends A “Pittance”

July 22, 2005 Christian Science Monitor

A move by Australia to redeploy 150 special forces troops to Afghanistan in time for the September elections has been dismissed by observers in Canberra as a "pittance"—a largely symbolic move designed to mollify the United States.

The Afghan Horror Show

21 July 2005 By Sidney Blumenthal, Salon.com [Excerpt]

Afghanistan is now the scene of a Taliban revival, chronic Pashtun violence, dominance by US-supported warlords (who have become narco-lords, exploiting the exploding traffic in opium poppies), and a human rights black hole.

"Afghanistan is going better than Iraq," James Dobbins said. "That's not much of a standard." Dobbins was Bush's first envoy to Afghanistan.

From the start, he said, the effort in Afghanistan was "grossly under-funded and undermanned."

The military doctrine was the first error. "The US focus on force protection and substitution of firepower for manpower creates significant collateral damage." But the faith in firepower sustained the illusion that the mission could be "quicker, cheaper, easier." And that justification fit with Afghanistan's being relegated to a sideshow to Iraq.

What's more, lack of accountability began at the top and filtered down.

On the day of Afghan President Hamid Karzai's inauguration in December 2001, Dobbins met Gen. Tommy Franks, the CentCom commander, at the reopened Afghan airport. As they drove to the ceremony, Dobbins informed Franks of press reports that US planes had mistakenly bombed a delegation of Afghan tribal leaders traveling to Kabul for the inauguration and killed perhaps several dozen people.

"It was the first time he heard about it. When he got out of the car, reporters asked him about it. He denied it happened. And he denied it happened for several days. It was classic 'deny first, investigate later.' It turned out to be true. It was a normal reflex."

Democracy was at best an afterthought for the Bush administration, which believed that it had little application to Afghans. At the conference in Bonn, Germany, establishing international legitimacy for the new Afghan government, "the

word 'democracy,'" Dobbins points out, "was introduced at the insistence of the Iranian delegation."

Donald Rumsfeld's Pentagon and the White House removed restraints on torture - in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq. "These were command failures, not just isolated incidents, in that we dismantled systems designed to protect us from these kinds of events. You didn't have the checks and balances. They've had consequences in terms of public image," Dobbins said.

In April, the United States succeeded, after refusing to cooperate for two years with the United Nations rapporteur on human rights for Afghanistan, in abolishing the office altogether.

The U.N. representative, Cherif Bassiouni, a distinguished expert on international law who has helped train hundreds of judges in Afghanistan, told me, "Karzai was in favor of keeping the mandate. But the US was quite adamant. The US came to the conclusion they needed to kill the messenger with hope the message would die. The tactics are contrary to any valid strategy. If the strategy is to stabilize Afghanistan, have a democratic regime, cut narco-trafficking and terrorism, what is being done is precisely the opposite."

For all the problems there, "most of the violence is not al-Qaida type, but Pashtun sectarian violence. It's not international terrorism."

"We're taking the fight to the terrorists abroad so we don't have to face them here at home," Bush declared in June - and repeated endlessly - finally appearing vindicated with the London attacks.

His apparent doublethink relieves any anxiety of cognitive dissonance. London, like Iraq and Afghanistan, is "there," not "here."

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

TROOP NEWS

Anti-War Soldier, Leo Clark, Accepts Plea Bargain, Is Silenced

[Thanks to James Starowicz who sent this in. He writes: This was just posted up on the Daily Kos Site by a Steven D, who along with myself were keeping the story of Leonard Alive there and elsewhere prior to your printing. Here's the URL to Steven's Update: <http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2005/7/23/143829/996>. This contains some E information, Charges and other links. **Looks Like Leonard Has Been Completely Shut Down!!!!!!!!!!!!**]

Jul 23rd, 2005 by Steven D, dailykos.com

As you may recall, I have written a number of diaries about Leonard Clark, the liberal National Guardsman serving in Iraq whose emails and voicemails were previously posted at his blog before it was scrubbed (you can still read many of them in my diaries regarding Leonard).

This is the diary I never wanted to have to write. Leonard Clark has been silenced. He will no longer be allowed to express his opposition to Bush's War in Iraq.

Threatened with up to twenty years in a military prison he accepted a plea bargain in exchange for his future silence.

Earlier this week, I was forwarded email which had originally been sent to Kevin Spidel, Leonard's friend and the Political Director for Progressive Democrats of America. Here is the contents of that email (sender's name deleted):

From: [deleted]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2005 12:02 PM
To: Kevin Spidel . . .
Subject: Leonard seeing judges

"Leonard is telling his wife that he has seen a judge, twice now.

"He has requested that people not send through the internet anything that he as written in the past. GAG ORDER.

"He mentioned that he could get 10 to 20 years in prison. That was sunday, monday (i.e., July 17th and 18th) he said he had seen the judge again and would be seeing him again.

"If he is not under arrest or charged with any offense, why is he having to go before a judge. Maybe you can find out from military what is going on."

This was ominous news, and today we learned why.

Leonard, in order to avoid prison, and on advice of his military counsel, took a plea bargain that will keep him out of prison but which will also effectively silence his voice of protest.

Here are the details according to the official CENTCOM (i/e/, U.S. Central Command) press release about Leonard's case:

Private First Class Leonard Clark: Press Release

On July 19, 2005, Lieutenant Colonel James F. Switzer, Commander, 504th Military Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, notified Specialist Leonard A. Clark, 860th Military Police Company, of his intent to dispose of alleged misconduct under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

After consulting with a Trial Defense Counsel, a military defense lawyer, Specialist Clark elected to accept disposition of the alleged offense using Article 15 proceedings. Specifically, Specialist Clark was charged under Article 15 with the following violations of the UCMJ:

Article 92 (Failure to obey order), 11 specifications; by releasing classified information regarding unit soldiers and convoys being attacked or hit by an improvised explosive devices on various dates, discussing troop movements on various dates, releasing Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures and Rules of Engagement used by the unit on various dates, in violation of a lawful general order prohibiting the release of such information.

Article 134 (Reckless endangerment), 2 specifications; by releasing specific information, on various dates regarding Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures and Rules of Engagement used by his unit and encouraging its widespread publication, such that the enemy forces could foreseeably access the information, such that with that information it was likely that the enemy forces could cause death or serious bodily harm to U.S. forces engaged in the same or similar mission.

On July 19, 2005, at a hearing before Lieutenant Colonel Switzer, Specialist Clark was found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of all Specifications. As a result, Specialist Clark received the following punishment:

Reduction to Private First Class (E-3), forfeiture of \$820 per month for two months, 45 days restriction, and 45 days of extra duty. Both the restriction and extra duty were suspended for five months.

Private First Class Clark has appeal rights, but he has chosen not to exercise those rights.

(END PRESS RELEASE)

As you can see, CENTCOM's press release is not very specific about which items in particular on Leonard's blog constituted the release of "classified information" that may have endangered his unit.

However, I have copies of some of his emails, so I have reviewed them to try to ascertain which writings of Leonard's justified the above charges.

Most of his emails deal with his opposition to the War and his political opinions.

Here are some excerpts of items which I assume were part of the charges against him. They're a little lengthy but I urge you to read them and see if you believe they support the gravity of the charges brought against Leonard:

From an email dated April 11, 2005, 2005:

Apparently, the men and women soldiers over here are starting to sense that the American politicians back home are starting to decide that we will be out of here sooner than later. Today at the chow hall on television CNN announced that President Talabani had announced that American forces could be out of here within two years. We have now been drastically limited in what we can do, as our commander has stated that Iraq now has a sovereign government.

Basically, we are support to go out on patrols as M.P. on the same routes over and over, looking for bombs or other suspicious activity.

The problem is, I fear, that since the enemy knows that we will not pursue them due to the shrinking role, they will start to use us as moving targets, as one would do in a "Turkey Shoot." My unit has already been hit multi-times with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

. . . Our Captain is beginning to be felt by the men to be a glory seeker. He wants us to start going out on night missions and is volunteering us to go do more dangerous work than even the other MP units stationed here. Most of us believe it is because he is trying to look good when he gets back so that he can brag about what a big hero he is and he gets promoted to Major.

FOR MY MUM

From: Maxine Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: July 22, 2005
Subject: mum

[This is from Maxine Gentle. Her brother was killed in Iraq. Her mother, Rose Gentle, leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

FOR MY MUM

women come in all shapes sizes and colours
they ll drive, fly walk run , or email you to show how much they care
about you, the heart of a woman is what makes the world keep
turning/ they bring joy .hope and love, they have compassion
they give moral support. to their family, and frends,
women have vital things to give, however if there is one flaw.
in woman they forget their worth,

mum you are one of these woman the poem describes
you in every way,
you are standing up 4 what you belive in, I am so proud of you
and so is all the family. and gordon is too. dont give up when you
think its not going any where. remember wat you have acheved,
and if you did give up, you would be letting down a lot
of people. and gordon too. keep up the good work, and keep the
campaine goine,

love you lots. maxine gentle.

i know, you....you will niver give up;

bring the troops home, x x

PS FROM ROSE GENTLE:

i think i am geting to
them

from rose

Australian Government Says No To Iraq Troop Request

July 22, 2005 (AEST)

Prime Minister John Howard has told the British Government that Australia will not send any more troops to Iraq.

There has been speculation that Britain would withdraw its troops next year and Australia could be asked to increase its commitment.

“Raging Grannies” Try To Enlist, Get Arrested Instead

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

July 22, 2005 (AP)

A group of anti-war senior citizens calling themselves the "Tucson Raging Grannies" say they want to enlist in the U.S. Army and go to Iraq so that their children and grandchildren can come home.

Five members of the group -- which is associated with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom -- are due in court Monday to face trespassing charges after trying to enlist at a military recruitment center last week.

"We went in asking to be sent to Iraq so our kids and grandchildren can be sent home, but rather than listening to us, they called the police," said 74-year-old Betty Schroeder. "It was their place to tell us the qualifications, but they wouldn't even speak to us. They should've said, 'You're too old.'"

Schroeder said her group may approach the Pentagon to see if they could be sent to Iraq.

Schroeder said she hopes the trespassing charges will be dropped and an apology given to the group from the Tucson Police Department and from the recruiters.

"This was not a performance, a joke or civil disobedience," she said.

"This was an enlistment attempt."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

7.23.05 WAVY & KIRK SEMPLE, The New York Times Company & AFP

Three Fallujah police officers have been found shot to death in the nearby town of Karma.

Police in Baghdad say gunmen in two cars opened fire on an Interior Ministry police colonel last night, killing him. Police also say guerrillas have ambushed several Iraqi police patrols throughout Baghdad today, injuring at least three officers.

Guerrillas killed two members of an Interior Ministry antiterrorism task force in the capital.

A Turkish engineer working at an electric plant at Baiji, north of Baghdad, was the target of a successful kidnapping on Saturday as he travelled further north to Kirkuk, police said.

In other violence, an official from the transport ministry, Jassem Mohammad Jassem, was shot dead in central Baghdad, an interior ministry source said, while an Iraqi civilian was killed in a mortar attack on a joint US-Iraqi military base at Ishaki, north of the capital.

An Iraqi soldier was killed and three wounded when their patrol was hit by a roadside bomb in the town of Samarra, north of Baghdad, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Hot Summer Of 2005--Paint It Black!

From: Mike Hastie
Sent: Jul 21, 2005

More explosions in London. Great Britain has got to be the worst place when it comes to a quagmire.

The more Middle Eastern people they round up, the worse it is going to get. Tony the Tiger needs to pull his troops out of Iraq.

The arrogance of Empire always amazes me.

The Little Guy now has a big stick. The playing field is now level, and the "Tipping Point," just got a little more tipsy. Orwell was British, wasn't he?

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran

P.S. We forget, "The Guns of August."

Twenty U.S. Troops Desert: Join Philippine Resistance To Fight U.S. Occupation

One African-American resolves his moral impasse. David Fagen, coloured beacon, bless his soul – Fagen leads 20 other Blacks who desert the US Army. Many join Fagen and enlist with the Filipino guerrillas, an act 'unprecedented in Black military history'.

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

April 2005 By Renato Redentor Constantino, the Philippine national newspaper Today

Black is the blood of pipelines, the preferred shade of Washington's flammable mural called the Middle East – an oil painting that combines the high art of irony with the science of spontaneous combustion.

Trace the blood and connect the dots.

Pale memory, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

'I walked the floor of the White House night after night until midnight,' confessed the corpulent US president William McKinley in 1898. Long tired of a pesky prickle, the United States decides it's time to scratch the itch: America covets new territories. America annexes the Philippines. What a relief.

'I went down on my knees and prayed to Almighty God for light and guidance. One night it came to me. First, we could not give (the Philippines) back to Spain – that would be cowardly and dishonourable; second ... we could not turn them over to France or Germany – that would be bad for business; and third, we could not leave them to themselves – they were unfit for self-government ...

'There was nothing left for us to do but to take them all ... and uplift and civilise and Christianise them ... And then I went to bed, and went to sleep and slept soundly.'

The god of empire grants McKinley's wish – for god is empire and empire is god.

Less than a decade after McKinley's entreaty, America's benevolent rule sends hundreds of thousands of Filipinos towards Jesus and the afterlife.

Blessed is the imperialist among he-men and blessed is the vile fruit of his genius.

America's annexation of the Philippines contains many firsts. Many say it was America's first imperial adventure. Certainly it was Asia's first republic that the US slew. It was also 'the first time Black troops were ordered to fight a colonial war in Southeast Asia'.

From 1899 to 1902, 'an estimated two thousand Black women, men, and children' die from racial attacks in America's deep South.

From 1899 to 1901 – a mere three years after US troops began firing on Filipino revolutionaries – an American general estimates the death toll of Filipinos at the hands of their US liberators to number well over half a million.

'To the coloured American soldier,' implored a public communiqué issued in the Philippines on 17 November 1899 and penned, some say, by the crippled coloured Filipino revolutionist himself, Apolinario Mabini, 'it is without honour that you shed your precious blood. Your masters have thrown you in the most iniquitous fight with double purpose – to make you the instrument of their ambition, and also your hard work will make the extinction of your race.'

Fight for the flag! Under what colours?

One African-American resolves his moral impasse. David Fagen, coloured beacon, bless his soul – Fagen leads 20 other Blacks who desert the US Army. Many join Fagen and enlist with the Filipino guerrillas, an act 'unprecedented in Black military history'.

'I fear that the future of the Filipino is that of the Negro in the South,' wrote US Gunnery Sergeant John Galloway, a soldier-journalist who wrote down in his journal the sentiments of Filipino civilians regarding independence and their relations with Black and white troops.

A short period later, Galloway joins the ranks of the Filipino resistance.

On Punishing The Politicians That Led The Disastrous British Invasion Of Iraq, 1917

July 21, 2005 Patrick Cockburn, Counterpunch

Rudyard Kipling, "Mesopotamia"

Shall we only threaten and be angry for an hour?
When the storm has ended shall we find
How softly but how swiftly they have sidled back to power
By the favour and contrivance of their kind?
Their lives cannot repay us - their death could not undo -
The shame that they have laid upon our race.
But the slothfulness that wasted and the arrogance that slew,
Shall we leave it unabated in its place?

Why We Will Lose The War In Iraq

To the British redcoat, an American "patriot" was nothing but a terrorist and a cowardly traitor, fighting behind trees and using sneak attacks, burning the homes and destroying the property of Loyalists.

Yet these Iraqis wage war as the Vietcong waged it, as WE would wage it if we were the occupied country and turncoat Americans collaborated with the occupying army. We wouldn't fight fair; many Americans--conservative, liberal or anarchist--would fight just as fiercely.

June 16, 2005 by Douglas Herman, USAF veteran, strike-the-root.com [Excerpt]

We will lose the war in Iraq. Let us count the ways.

Time Is Not On Our Side

By now, had the mass of Iraqis bought into the idea we were "freeing" them, the guerilla war would have ended.

The Japanese, among the fiercest fighters and suicide soldiers in history, accepted unconditional surrender after World War II. Why won't the Iraqis? **Maybe because these Iraqis have seen things our army of occupation has done--mass arrests, brute force searches, imprisonments and tortures--that would make General MacArthur roll over in his imperial grave, shaking his head in disbelief.**

Iraqis, Sunnis and Shiites, do not want us there, just as Colonial Americans did not want the British troops here, occupying our towns and villages. Historian David McCullough's book 1776 makes that abundantly clear.

Still, American opposition to the British measured less than half the population, with Loyalists and Tories rallying opposition to the nascent Revolution. "There were too few soldiers and too few guns," wrote reviewer Jon Meachen, of the so-called American patriots.

Anyone seeking an overview of the Iraqi resistance might be excused for thinking the same: How can too few Iraqis with too few guns defeat the most powerful army in the world?

Because They Won't They Fight Fair

Fourth Generation War wasn't invented by the Iraqis, nor the Vietcong, nor even the American insurgents fighting the British.

To the British redcoat, an American "patriot" was nothing but a terrorist and a cowardly traitor, fighting behind trees and using sneak attacks, burning the homes and destroying the property of Loyalists.

Not surprisingly, most of us are aghast at bloodthirsty Iraqis who massacre fellow Iraqis who've collaborated with the American "Coalition."

Yet these Iraqis wage war as the Vietcong waged it, as WE would wage it if we were the occupied country and turncoat Americans collaborated with the occupying army. We wouldn't fight fair; many Americans--conservative, liberal or anarchist--would fight just as fiercely.

According to William Lind, "We have pointed out over and over that the 4th Generation is not novel but a return, specifically a return to the way war worked before the rise of the state." In this type of warfare, time is on the side of the guerilla fighter, while the occupying force expends his wealth, squanders his soldiers, and spreads increasing resentment and thus resistance.

Lately, even a few high ranking American officers in the field seem to comprehend this warfare.

<p>US Army Major General Joseph Taluto remarked: "They're offended by our presence . . . Who knows how big these networks are, or how widespread?" Remarks probably spoken by British General John Burgoyne 225 years ago against American colonists.</p>
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Collectively, the current crop of US leaders--Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz--may be the most amoral, historically ignorant of any in recent times. I cannot imagine any of that clique reading McCullough's book 1776 or understanding what it might mean today. History befuddles those full of bluster and hubris, and Bush may be one of the most befuddled emperors ever.

Certainly, at the height of their empire, the English could subjugate smaller, neighboring countries like Ireland and Wales, as we subjugate Haiti or Honduras.

But against distant enemies the English lost, as we shall lose.

Robert Fisk wrote vividly of one doomed column, "On the heights of the Kabul Gorge, they still find ancient belt buckles and corroded sword hilts. You can no longer read the insignia of the British regiments of the old East India Company but their bones, those of

all 16,000 of them, still lie somewhere amid the dark earth and scree of the most forbidding mountains in Afghanistan ."

The English lost in Gallipoli; they lost against the American colonists.

They learned that foreign wars fought far away, against an impassioned enemy, cost a lot of money.

An enormous amount of money, men and material. No wonder Treasury Secretary O'Neill calculated \$200 billion before the war, a conservative estimate nowadays. America will bankrupt itself (morally it already has), in a vain effort to force a fraudulent freedom on Iraq and the Middle East.

"Victory or Death," wrote George Washington before crossing the Delaware and defeating the Hessians at Trenton. George F. Smith, historian, essayist and scriptwriter, observed, "Hessian brutality swung many New Jersey neutrals to the American cause . . . Washington ordered . . . the men to storm the town. As they fell upon the enemy, many of them shouted, 'This is the time to try men's souls!'

With their gunpowder soaked and useless, Sullivan's men relied on the bayonet to roust the Hessians out of the houses. Earlier in New York, Rall's men had mercilessly slaughtered Americans as they tried to surrender."

Make no mistake about it, we've become the punitive British of "The Patriot."

Our allies in Iraq--the Iraq National Guard--have become almost as the Hessians, mercenaries and opportunists aligned with what they perceive as the stronger power, us. Lowly paid gatekeepers, akin to plantation overseers with divided loyalties, they serve the occupation force as the Hessians did the British.

"Occupation forces use terrorism to 'fight terrorism' and only create more terrorists. We see this in both the Israeli and US occupations. I don't believe that this is an accident or an oversight of brilliant military strategists, but an intentional strategy used to maintain chaos and justify ongoing occupation.

Occupation becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, using 'security' to exploit, dominate, and colonize," wrote Joe Carr in The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy of Occupation.

"Divide and conquer is a standard practice of colonial powers. In Iraq, the US is following the British example by pitting Sunni vs. Shiite vs. Christian vs. Kurd; they keep them fighting with each other so that they are all easier to control," added Carr, an unembedded journalist in Baghdad, in A Short Taxi Ride, Another Road Block.

Tom Paine wrote in 1776--while American patriots fought a British occupation not half so brutal as ours in Iraq--"By perseverance and fortitude we have the prospect of a glorious issue; by cowardice and submission, the sad choice of a variety of evils--a ravaged country--a depopulated city--habitations without safety, and slavery without hope--our homes turned into barracks and bawdy-houses for Hessians, and a future race to provide for, whose fathers we shall doubt of. Look on this picture and weep over it!"

We will lose the war in Iraq, whether in five years time or 50.

The longer the postponement, the more costly the delay.

We do not know the enemy; we do not know our own history; we do not know ourselves.

That collective ignorance may lead to knowledge one day, a knowledge too painful to accept at the present, but we're fated to learn some fragments of it one day in the future, more than a few painful lessons.

Lastly Sun Tzu wrote: "If an enemy has alliances, the problem is grave and the enemy's position strong; if he has no alliances, the problem is minor and the enemy's position weak."

I think perhaps a billion people are aligned against us.

NO COMMENT NECESSARY



Specialist Johnny Marquez Jr., U.S. army, searching a cement factory in the town of Arij, near Mosul in northern Iraq, July 23, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

Tired Exhortations

21 July 2005 Editorial, The New York Times

Mr. Bush owes Americans a better explanation for what his policies are producing in Iraq than tired exhortations to stay the course and irrelevant invocations of Al Qaeda and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Most days, the news from Iraq is dominated by suicide bombers and frightening scenes of carnage. Occasionally, the smoke clears for a day or two to reveal the underlying picture.

That looks even scarier.

A Rich Man's War And A Poor Man's Fight; **Southern Draft Resistance In World War I**

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

<p>Blood was shed in more than a few of the forays where officials went to apprehend men who were supposed to be in the army, but preferred their freedom instead.</p>

July 22, 2005 by George C. Leef, Freedom Daily

[Excerpts from] book review: *Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Fight: Race, Class, and Power in the Rural South during the First World War* by Jeanette Keith (University of North Carolina Press, 2004); 260 pages; \$55.95 hardcover; \$22.50 paperback.

Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Fight gives the reader a unique view of the United States in its first modern war, the extraordinary lengths to which the government was willing to go to choke off dissent, and the reaction to the war in a region of the country that most people would assume reflexively supported a Democratic president who had done his utmost to generate war fever in the nation. It is a truly original piece of historical analysis.

Draft evasion was surprisingly common.

One key reason that it was possible for many Southerners to escape conscription was the "primitive" state of governmental record keeping in the South. In those days, prior to Social Security and its near-universal tracking of people, government officials often lacked accurate information about citizens' residences and ages.

Referring to James Scott's important book *Seeing Like a State*, Keith contends that Southern states hadn't yet perfected the techniques used by modern governments to "see" their populations and thereby subject them to control. No doubt, some young men in the South survived owing to the fact that "their" officials didn't know as much about them as officials in the Northern states knew about young men there.

Among those who couldn't evade the draft, there was a surprisingly high degree of resistance and desertion.

Federal officials had a difficult time tracking down draft resisters and deserters from military camps, men who were often sheltered by sympathetic citizens.

Desertion rates, Keith's research indicates, ranged from 7 percent in North Carolina to more than 20 percent in Florida. Desertion was not just a southern phenomenon, however; in New York, the desertion rate was higher than 13 percent.

Blood was shed in more than a few of the forays where officials went to apprehend men who were supposed to be in the army, but preferred their freedom instead.

OCCUPATION REPORT

***It's Official:* Collaborator Troops Useless**

21 July 2005 By Eric Schmitt, The New York Times

Washington - About half of Iraq's new police units are still in training and cannot conduct operations, while the other half of the police units and two-thirds of the new army battalions are only "partially capable" of carrying out counterinsurgency missions, and only with American help, according to a newly declassified Pentagon assessment.

Iraqi and American commanders have set up a system that grades Iraqi units in six categories: personnel, command and control, training, equipping, ability to sustain forces, and leadership. Using these measurements, Iraqi battalions are graded on a scale of one (strongest) to four (weakest).

Level 1 units are able to plan, execute and sustain independent counterinsurgency operations. By late last month, American commanders said, only 3 of the 107 military and paramilitary battalions had achieved that standard.

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

**Iraqi President To Wed U.S.
Ambassador:**

Biggest Terrorist Nuptials Of The Year Planned For Baghdad Pink Zone



Iraq's Collaborator President Jalal Talabani (L) and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad, affectionately known to his friends as The Butcher Of Kabul, where he formerly led U.S. terrorist operations, at a news conference at Talabani's residence in Baghdad July 23, 2005. The happy couple announced their engagement and upcoming wedding. REUTERS/Liu Jin/Pool

[Note to Editors: CORRECTION: We apologize for the earlier uncropped posting of this photo. Please **discard** the earlier uncropped posting showing activity below the waist **not appropriate** for family publications.]

OCCUPATION HAITI

Brazilians Rally To Condemn Their Governments' Occupation Of Haiti & Demand Withdrawal Of Troops

21 Jul 2005 Action Center

In Brazil, unions and high-level leaders belonging to the CUT labor federation have organized a labor delegation to the capital of Brasilia, for an audience with President Lula da Silva on July 21st, to discuss their concern about the actions and presence of UN troops in Haiti, acting under Brazilian command.

They will also rally in front of the Planalto Palace, seat of Brazil's federal government, and present a petition to Lula, signed by a long list of prominent Brazilians, demanding immediate withdrawal of all Brazilian troops from Haiti and respect for Haiti's sovereignty.

The labor delegation's rally and meeting with President Lula is timed to coincide with the coordinated demonstrations in North America, and will kick off a series of meetings and rallies in major Brazilian cities. These actions are being organized by a coalition that includes CUT unionists, the Movimento Negro Unificado (Unified Black Movement) and Campanha Haiti (Brazil Out of Haiti Campaign).

The Brazilian unionists made it clear they were taking up the demands of the Haitian community and solidarity movement in North America, based on the findings of the Labor/Human Rights Delegation to Haiti and eyewitness reports of the July 6th massacre. The CUT is the largest labor federation in Brazil.

Organizers emphasized that UN troops, who have been in Haiti since June 2004, are there as a proxy force doing the bidding of the US government -- replacements for the US, French and Canadian troops who assisted in the February 29, 2004 coup d'etat that overthrew the constitutional government of President Aristide.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

White House Opposes Ending "Cruel, Inhuman Or Degrading Treatment" Of Detainees

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

July 23, 2005 By Josh White and R. Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post Staff Writers

The Bush administration in recent days has been lobbying to block legislation supported by Republican senators that would bar the U.S. military from engaging in "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" of detainees, from hiding prisoners from the Red Cross, and from using interrogation methods not authorized by a new Army field manual.

Vice President Cheney met Thursday evening with three senior Republican members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to press the administration's case that legislation on these matters would usurp the president's authority.

A spokeswoman for Armed Services committee member John McCain (R-Ariz.), Andrea Jones, said yesterday that McCain plans to introduce the legislation next week.

McCain, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, has criticized the way detainees have been treated by U.S. forces and is said by aides to want to cut off further abuse by requiring that the military adhere to its own interrogation rules in all cases.

One McCain amendment would set uniform standards for interrogating anyone detained by the Defense Department and would limit interrogation techniques to those listed in the Army field manual on interrogation, now being revised. Any changes to procedures would require the defense secretary to appear before Congress.

It would further require that all foreign nationals in the custody or effective control of the U.S. military must be registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross -- a provision specifically meant to block the holding of "ghost detainees" in Iraq, in Afghanistan or elsewhere. The provision would not apply to detainees in CIA custody at nonmilitary facilities.

Another McCain amendment prohibits the "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" of anyone in the custody of the U.S. government. This provision, modeled after wording in the U.N. Convention Against Torture -- which the United States has already ratified -- is meant to overturn an administration position that the convention does not apply to foreigners outside the United States.

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 Light Bulb Change, Again

July 23, 2005 From: Artandkathy

How many members of the Bush Administration are needed to change a light bulb?

1. One to deny that a light bulb needs to be changed.
2. One to attack the patriotism of anyone who says the light bulb needs to be changed.
3. One to blame Clinton for burning out the light bulb.

4. One to tell the nations of the world that they are either for changing the light bulb or for darkness.
 5. One to give a billion dollar no-bid contract to Haliburton for the new light bulb.
 6. One to arrange a photograph of Bush, dressed as a janitor, standing on a step ladder under the banner: "Light Bulb Change Accomplished".
 7. One administration insider to resign and write a book documenting in detail how Bush was literally in the dark.
 8. One to viciously smear #7.
 9. One surrogate to campaign on TV and at rallies on how George Bush has had a strong light-bulb-changing policy all along.
 - 10. And finally one to confuse Americans about the difference between screwing a light bulb and screwing the country.**
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Received:

CORRECTION!

From: Theodore Sittler
To: GI Special
Sent: July 22, 2005 12:35 PM
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B97: CORRECTION

Hello. Thanks for your regular e-mails.

I have correction to add to this edition.

[An article reprinted from Socialist Worker newspaper] said Camilo Mejia was the first to go public with his war objection.

Although Camilo is very vocal about his stance, he is not the first to go public.

Stephen Funk was in fact the first to go public, this happened soon after the war started in 2003.

Theo Sittler
Center on Conscience & War

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/qi-special.htm>

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