

GI SPECIAL 3C10:

**ENOUGH:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE!**



Members of the 2nd ID at the casket of American-Filipino soldier Maurice Keith Fortune, Pampanga, Philippines, Nov. 19, 2004, KIA Ar Ramadi. Fortune, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat team, died on Oct. 29, 2004 when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Iraq. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila) *[This photo respectfully dedicated to E, Bellevue Hospital staff, New York City; his son, serving in Iraq; and his family. T]*

A Sister To Be Proud Of

From: BDT
To: GI Special
Sent: August 02, 2005
Subject: My view

I am Bart Tucker's little sister (The Siouxland Soldier who was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq) and I am currently staying with him in Walter Reed Army Medical in Washington DC..

i agree with what was said about stop making excuses n get to know some of the soldiers and talk to them.. Thats what i have been doing...

its very sad to see them struggle and try and fight to live, after almost sacrificing themselves for there country.

Bush came to visit my brother but all he did was come in for 2 minutes or less n give him a pat on the head saying how you doing there sport, he felt like he was 2 years old..

John Kerry came in for almost a half an hour and sat and talked with him and discussed his past in Sioux City, Iowa and where he was stationed in Iraq. John Kerry has at least served his time for his country..

My brother was just one of the few who has lived from this pointless war.

The support from his friends and family and Home town have helped tremendously!

A lot of soldiers may not have all that Bart luckily has...

So yes i agree when "L" says to talk with a soldier it does make a difference..

Support Our Troops, Not The War

Sincerely,
BDT

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

SIX OHIO MARINES KILLED NEAR HADITHA

August 2, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-08-02C & KOMO Staff & News Services & BBC & WorldNow

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Six Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team-2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action August 1 near Haditha.

Insurgents posted handbills in Haditha, claiming to have killed 10 U.S. troops, seizing some of their weapons.

One unofficial report says they were a six-man sniper team.

Five of the victims are from northeast Ohio. One is from out of the area.

That is a reserve unit out of Brook Park. The unit also has companies in Columbus, Akron, Moundsville, W.Va. and Buffalo, N.Y.

MARINE KILLED BY CAR BOMB NEAR HIT

August 2, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-08-03C & Aljazeera

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team-2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action Aug. 1 by a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Hit, Iraq.

Iraqi police in al-Ramadi also said a number of US soldiers were wounded.

Marine From Coweta Killed

August 02, 2005 By: Kevin King, KTUL, LLC.

Tulsa - A Marine from Coweta is one of seven marines who were killed in two separate attacks in the western part of Iraq Tuesday.

25-year-old Marine Sergeant James Graham III was killed in a suicide car bombing near Hit, about 85 miles northwest of Baghdad. It happened at about nine o'clock Tulsa time Tuesday morning.

Sergeant Graham was assigned to the Marine Reserve Unit in Broken Arrow, where he was well-liked by his fellow Marines. He is survived by a wife and two small children.

Sergeant Graham's unit was about a month away from finishing its tour of duty.

Funeral arrangements for Sergeant Graham are still pending.

Ohio Marine Killed

08/02/05 AP

An Ohio Marine was killed while on a mission with a sniper unit in Iraq, his family said Tuesday. Sgt. Nathaniel Rock, 26, was one of at least five Marines killed Monday in action, the military told his family.

Roadside Bombing Friday Injures Swanton Man: “He's Looking Forward To Going Back To School”



Specialist Aaron Bergman

August 2, 2005 The Toledo Times

A Swanton soldier seriously wounded by a roadside bomb in Iraq is recovering and is expected to return to American soil soon.

Specialist Aaron Bergman, 21, suffered shrapnel injuries to his neck Friday when the bomb exploded near his armored vehicle, his stepfather, the Rev. John Schlicher, said.

He is off a respirator and out of intensive care, his stepfather said. "They told us it's going to be a lengthy recuperation," he said.

The family has been busy making arrangements to travel to Washington ever since Mr. Bergman's mother, Michelle Schlicher, got a phone call from the military on Friday afternoon.

A member of the Ohio Army National Guard's 612th Engineering Battalion based in St. Marys, Ohio, Mr. Bergman was a gunner on the armored vehicle about 3:15 p.m. Baghdad time when the bomb exploded.

His stepfather said the family was told no one else was hurt.

"Almost every mission, they found a roadside bomb," Pastor Schlicher said. "This was the first one ... they had go off."

The unit, activated in October, trained in Indiana last fall.

Mr. Bergman was home for a week at Christmas before he left for Kuwait. He had been in Baghdad since mid-January, his stepfather said.

"In an ideal world, they'd be doing reconstruction," he said.

Mr. Bergman described conditions in Iraq when he was home on leave in March and in e-mails.

Pastor Schlicher said Mr. Bergman told them of sandstorms and incredible heat that made every breeze feel like opening an oven door.

A student at the University of Cincinnati, Mr. Bergman plans to continue his studies at Bowling Green State University. He joined the National Guard "basically for the compensation to help with college," his stepfather said. "He's looking forward to going back to school."

Mr. Bergman, who primarily grew up in the Lima area, graduated from New Knoxville, Ohio, High School three years ago. He is engaged and has two younger siblings.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army infantry soldiers from the Stryker brigade watch a street from behind a corner after hearing gunfire during a patrol in Mosul, in northern Iraq, July 28, 2005.
REUTERS/Andrea Comas

York Twp. Man Injured

August 2, 2005 By MICHELE CANTY, Daily Record/Sunday News

A York Township man was injured late Saturday night or early Sunday morning while serving in Iraq, his mother said.

Kathy Allue said her family was contacted around Sunday afternoon with news about Andy Welsh, 21. He was injured when a roadside bomb exploded near the vehicle he was in, she said.

He has shrapnel in the right side of his body and other injuries to his right leg and shoulder, she said.

"It's been a scary time for us," Allue said. "'He's going to be OK. We're very fortunate."

Welsh is expected to make a full recovery. He will be in rehabilitation for at least four to six weeks, his mother said. Welsh won't get to come back to the United States, but will be treated and in recovery for several weeks at the base where he is stationed overseas, she added.

Welsh isn't her only son whose been to Iraq. Her two other sons have also been on tours of duty in the war.

Hunt Son Injured

08/02/2005 Eufaula Tribune

Marine Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Hunt Jr., son of Ken and Jaunita Hunt of Eufaula, was severely injured July 23 during an attack by insurgents while on duty in Iraq.

Hunt, who received both shrapnel injuries and burns to more than 50 percent of his body, was treated locally, flown to a military hospital in Germany July 25 and transferred to a critical care burn center hospital in San Antonio, Texas last Tuesday.

According to Ken Hunt Sr., his son's doctors expect his recovery and rehabilitation program to last several months. On Monday, Hunt, who has been heavily sedated, was reported to be responding to his family members.

Hunt was injured while responding to help two Marines who were under attack. Those Marines had been sent to disarm an Improvised Explosive Device on a road in the Sunni Triangle area about 100 miles from Baghdad. As the Marines approached the IED, it exploded and insurgents on foot attacked using automatic rifles.

Immediately behind the vehicle used by the two Marines was a second vehicle equipped with a gun turret and five Marines, including Hunt.

As the second vehicle approached the fighting, it hit a land mine that exploded sending shrapnel into the vehicle as well as a wall of fire. Four of the marines in the vehicle escaped to help fight the insurgents. Hunt, who was manning the turret, was not able to escape.

Hunt, who is undergoing several surgeries and skin graft procedures, is listed in serious but stable condition.

A Marine for more than 22 years, Hunt was on his second tour of duty in Iraq and was scheduled to return to his home base in Yuma, Ariz., to be reunited with his wife and children in September.

One of the other Marines involved in the battle was injured in the arm. He was treated in Germany. Five of the Marines received minor burns and shrapnel wounds. They were treated in Iraq and returned to their assigned commands.

Humvees Destroyed In Baghdad; Casualties Not Announced



A US military Humvee burns close to the scene of a car bomb in central Baghdad. A car bomb was set off as a US military convoy was driving by, an Iraqi interior official said.(AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

8.2.05 KOMO Staff & News Services & Agence France Presse & Independent Online

A roadside bomb targeting a U.S. military convoy exploded Tuesday at the entrance to a tunnel in central Baghdad, and at least 29 civilians were wounded, officials said.

The blast, which occurred at around 1pm in the central Bab Alsharq area of the capital, an AFP correspondent reported.

The blast hit as the convoy was about to enter the tunnel in Bab Shargi, near Tahrir Square, said police Capt. Abdul-Hussein Munsif.

Two Humvees appeared to have been damaged, he said.

One US humvee was set ablaze.

U.S. troops took away some items from the damaged armored vehicle, including two flak jackets. The correspondent saw a US soldier take a helmet and guns out of the burning humvee.

Charred parts from the armored Humvee littered the site and seven civilian cars were also badly damaged.

The bomb left a 3-foot-wide crater in the ground.

An hour after the blast thick smoke could still be seen rising from the site of the explosion.



Destroyed U.S. Army Humvee in Baghdad August 2, 2005. Photo by Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters

West Baghdad IED Hits Tank; “A Number” Of U.S. Troops Wounded

02 August 2005 Aljazeera

A number of US soldiers and civilians were also reported wounded when a US tank veered off the road after an explosive device targeting it blew up in the al-Adl neighbourhood in west Baghdad.

Stryker Knocked Out In Al Bu Harden; Five Wounded



Soldiers from B Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment remove debris from around Stryker armored vehicle that was hit by a bomber on Monday in western Iraq. Photo By James J. Lee / Army Times

August 02, 2005 By Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writer

AL BU HARDEN, Iraq — I heard the two shots from a soldier's M16 rifle, but I had no idea he was firing at a suicide car-bomber steering straight for us.

It was about 4:30 p.m. Aug. 1 and Army Times photographer James Lee and I were standing near the rear ramp of B Company commander Capt. Mark Ivezaj's Stryker combat vehicle.

I heard the "Pop, pop" of the soldier's weapon and then a deafening roar before a tremendous force knocked me to my hands and knees. The suicide bomber had detonated his white Suburban packed full of explosives fewer than 25 feet away from the front end of the Stryker.

It was hard to see anything. Dust, earth, gravel and car parts flew everywhere.

I knew something had exploded, but I was in a daze. My first instinct was to crawl for cover, but I was so disoriented I didn't know where to go.

A sharp, tingling pain bit into my lower left leg. And I kept hearing a shrill ringing noise in both ears.

The next thing I remember was standing up and looking at James, who also had been knocked off his feet but now in the Stryker waving me inside.

I got inside. Ivezaj, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment company, stopped on his way out the door make sure James and I were OK. It seemed like everyone was yelling.

Outside the Stryker, blackened vehicle parts littered the road. James yelled for me to check the back of his neck for burns. It looked OK, I told him.

Then the soldier who had been firing on the attackers while standing in the left rear “air guard” hatch, began holding his bleeding hand outstretched and yelling something.

“He needs a bandage!” James shouted, handing me a cravat he’d been using as a sweat rag.

I grabbed the rag and started wrapping it around the soldier’s fingers. My hands were shaking.

James and I got off the Stryker. I was trying to figure out what happened, when B Company’s medic, Cpl. Michael Wachowicz, came up and told me to come with him so he could look at my leg. I looked down and saw blood on my left pants leg and decided that was a good idea.

James continued photographing images of the aftermath.

My wounds looked worse than they actually were – three small pieces of shrapnel, two in my shin and one in my upper thigh.

That soldier and I weren’t the only ones wounded that day.

That was the second car bomb attack on U.S. forces that day in this small town about two miles from the Syrian border. The first blast detonated about 3:30 p.m. near another Stryker, wounding three soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment.

The 15 Strykers from 2-14 and 3-21 had been patrolling west of the recently established combat outpost just on the fringes of Rawah, just above the Euphrates River in western Iraq.

The Strykers were part of a battalion-size task force under 1st Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, based about 150 miles north in Mosul.

The task force established the outpost July 16 as part of a campaign to halt the infiltration of terrorists from Syria.

For the first four days, insurgents launched daily assaults in Rawah, attacking U.S. patrols with suicide car bombs, road-side bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

But over the past week, a relative peace descended over the town of roughly 20,000. Residents who had fled the violence were returning to their homes.

U.S. troops, believing insurgent forces are using the entire region as a staging area for future attacks on Mosul or Baghdad, were patrolling west toward the Syrian border and soon found what they were looking for.

Strykers entered this small town around 2:30 p.m. and had just finished searching some cave openings on a nearby cliff when a parked car-bomb exploded near one of 2-14's Stryker vehicles.

One of the wounded soldiers suffered a deep cut to his upper left arm. Another showed symptoms of a concussion and a third was had possible fractured ribs.

A medevac helicopter soon arrived and airlifted the three to a combat hospital in Tikrit.

The damaged Stryker had to be towed back to Rawah.

About an hour later, B Company's 1st platoon surprised four men digging a hole into the ground.

"They all had pickaxes," 1st Platoon leader 1st Lt. Matthew Uremovich said, who knew they were digging in bombs to use in an ambush.

The men fled on foot. The soldiers found two home-made bombs inside their white pickup, each made of five 155mm howitzer artillery shells wrapped together.

After a quick search of the area, the soldiers detained two men, and believe they wounded a third who escaped, Uremovich said.

Soldiers took the two detained men back to their Stryker vehicles.

It was about 4:30 p.m. when the soldier spotted the white Suburban taxi moving rapidly toward Ivezaj's Stryker.

"I saw him coming fast," recalled the 32-year-old infantryman. "I fired a warning shot, but he didn't stop, so I engaged the vehicle."

The soldier said he aimed at the driver and fired. "I know I hit him because I saw the driver slump.

"Then it blew," he said, describing what happened next. "It went black. The next thing I knew, I was I was at the bottom of the air guard hatch, my head started throbbing, and I just knew I had to get back in the hatch because I didn't know if a second one was coming."

In addition to the deep cut on his left index finger, a tiny piece of shrapnel lodged into his forehead just beneath his helmet rim. Another tiny sliver of shrapnel drove into the rim of his goggles that were mounted on his helmet.

Inside the Stryker medical vehicle, Wachowicz removed a jagged little piece of shrapnel; about one half inch long, from the side of my lower leg. The two other tiny pieces will stay in for now.

My leg is sore, but I feel pretty lucky.

The car bomb that exploded near our Stryker vehicle left a crater in the road that measured about five feet deep and about nine feet in diameter.

Later that night, I looked at a picture of my wife, Heather holding our new son, Jameson, who was born in December.

Yeah ... I felt incredibly lucky.

The Fallen Soldiers Of The 48th: Platoon Loses 25% KIA

“The hardest part is when you don’t have the answers to their questions, (like) ‘Where do we go from here?’” Latella said.

08/01/05 Gray Beverley/Georgia News Service

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq — Tent 6-512 used to be filled with laughter.

Bouncing inside the canvas shell next door was once the excited banter of soldiers letting off steam after a hard day’s work.

That was then.

“Now it’s just an ordinary, dark, gloomy place,” said Sgt. Calvin Barthell of Americus. “The person that slept (on the cot) beside me: He’s gone. A bunk or two over: He’s gone. I look across the room. Another guy slept there. It’s empty space. It will never be the same.”

In just under a week, a single infantry platoon in the 48th Brigade Combat Team lost about a quarter of its men.

Last weekend, four soldiers were killed by a massive underground bomb. On Saturday, four more died the same way.

“We went from accepting death to expecting it,” said Spc. Rodney Davidson of Thomaston. “We’re pretty numb right now.”

The infantry soldiers of 2nd platoon, Alpha company, said good-bye today to Sgt. 1st Class Victor Anderson of Ellaville, Sgt. David Jones of Augusta, Spc. Jonathon Haggin of Kingsland and Spc. Ronnie Shelley of Valdosta.

Spc. Jeff Anderson, 36, of Gainesville said he switched shifts with Jones on Saturday so that Jones could go to a doctor’s appointment the next day.

"Words cannot describe (the grief)," Jeff Anderson said. Whitmire said the 26-year-old Haggin was a former Marine and a "very, very good marksman" who was filled with energy, whether in the field or in the tent.

"This kid would run," he said. "If you called from one side of the room to the other, he'd run over to you."

Whitmire said Haggin suffered three broken ribs in a bomb attack about a month ago and was sent to a hospital in Germany for treatment. He said he was surprised to see Haggin back in Iraq about two weeks later.

"He found a way back from Germany on his own, because he just wanted to be with the guys," Whitmire said. "Lo and behold, he showed up one day."

Haggin finished his rehabilitation here, and Saturday was his first day back on a mission outside the camp walls, Whitmire said.

Sgt. Dave Grimes, in whose Kingsland home Haggin stayed, said Haggin loved playing "Ring Around the Roses" with his 3-year-old daughter, who was "his life."

Spc. Matthew Heffner said Shelley, 34, loved his family "more than anything in the world" and "was one of those guys that anybody in the platoon could go talk to."

Heffner said Shelley was always "honest and straightforward" but "had a way of putting it" so as not to hurt feelings.

"He just did the right thing whether it was the popular thing or not," Heffner said. "Right now I'd probably be crying if I wasn't still in shock."

Specialist Anderson, who slept in the bunk next to Shelley's, said "I'm honored to be able to have served with somebody like him."

Jeff Anderson said Shelley was one of the most "squared away" soldiers and best people "you'd ever want to meet."

He said his friend was excited to go home on leave in about two weeks and see his son, his "Little Man." On the way out of the tent on Saturday, Jeff Anderson recalled, Shelley said to him, "Last 15 days, Dog."

"And (he) gave me a big smile and turned around and walked out," Anderson said.

Whitmire said he struggles knowing that, as platoon sergeant, he makes the schedule. He said Jones was concerned about going out that day and had been given the choice of staying behind.

"I take it personal, because I'm the one who makes up the rotation," Whitmire said. "It's just real hard to keep putting these guys down to go outside the wire. I just want to get in the truck and go in their place every time."

Both Latella and Whitmire have been outside the wire every day since last week's tragedy.

On Saturday, Latella's group investigated a site where another platoon had just been hit by a mortar, the lieutenant said. His soldiers then conducted their scheduled objective and were headed back to the camp, he said.

"Everyone had that sigh of relief that it's not that bad," Latella recalled.

They were about 100 meters from a major road that, while not completely safe, seems less likely to be tunneled under, provides more of a buffer from the road's edge, where many bombs are placed, and is heavily patrolled.

"I heard it," Latella said of the explosion that followed. "I initially thought my gunner had dropped an (ammunition) can."

Following procedure, Latella's crew drove about 200 meters away, in case the convoy was being ambushed. He said when one of the crews did not answer his radio call, he figured their truck had been merely disabled. They rushed back to lend assistance.

"That's when I saw the wreckage," Latella said, recalling that there was nothing he could do.

More than 500 pounds of explosives were used in the attack, officials said Sunday.

"The hardest part is when you don't have the answers to their questions, (like) 'Where do we go from here?'" Latella said.

Whitmire said there's always apprehension about going outside the wire, but that his men have been eager to do so — especially, he said, knowing that somebody must continue the mission.

"Part of healing is getting back in the saddle," Davidson said.

Rousseau, who like Davidson was on both of the doomed convoys, said he had been "excited to roll" on Saturday to build back confidence.

"When this happened," he said about the latest blast, "it pretty much shattered the confidence that we had hoped to get."

These are not weak men. But lately they've had trouble sleeping, and it's been hard to find an appetite, several soldiers said today.

"I lost my first crew last week and, to be honest with you, I don't know how much more I can take," said the 41-year-old Barthell. "It's killing me."

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Steve McCorkle said his battalion has captured about 300 suspected insurgents, including about 50 during the past three days.

He said the catastrophic size of the attacks against his men proves the enemy has been rattled by their accomplishments. "He struck in desperation," McCorkle said. "Why else would he use 700 or 800 pounds of explosives just to blow up a

Humvee? We're obviously making an impact." [After the honesty above, here comes the Lt. Col; with a mouthful of silly, lame, absurd bullshit. What, he's saying the smaller the weapon the opposition uses, the more successful they are, but when they're losing they use larger weapons? Which finger did he suck that theory of warfare out of?]

McCorkle said he's been hurt by the recent loss of soldiers and friends. But he said the surviving members will continue to bring the fight to the enemy.

"These men will not die in vain," he said. "I can guarantee that." **[How many more relatives of the war dead have to say their deaths were in vain, before the message sinks in. The war was begun with lies, continued with lies, and still goes on with stupid lies in the mouths of the Imperial politicians in Washington who designed it. The troops are dying for oil, Empire and corporate greed. A majority of Americans know that now, and say so. The only "guarantee" is that the war was lost before it began, the people in DC who schemed to bring it on were soldier-killing incompetents, and as Gold Star Mothers For Peace have repeatedly said, every death is in vain.]**

MORE:



John Thomas, 83, holds a photo of his grandson, Spc. John Thomas, 33, Tuesday Aug. 2, 2005, in Valdosta, Ga. The younger Thomas, a former Marine, was among eight Georgia National Guardsmen killed recently by roadside bombs in Iraq. (AP Photo/Elliott Minor)

MORE:

“War Is Not A Business Trip”

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Aug 2 By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press Writer

Just two months after the 48th Brigade arrived in Iraq, the pair of fatal bombings in the past week have already made the brigade's yearlong tour one of the deadliest deployments for U.S. citizen-soldiers in Iraq.

Some families on the homefront reacted to the latest explosion with stunned disbelief. Brigade spouse Wendy Brown of Stockbridge said she first thought she was hearing a repeat of last week's news.

"Reality sets in that war is not a business trip," said Brown, whose husband, Spc. Sean Brown, has been home on rest leave. "It's been easier taking the news with him at home. When I got the e-mail, he was home and it saddened him terribly. But we had each other to lean on."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Rats Abandon The Stinking Ship

August 2, 2005 New York Times

The U.N. mission in Kabul said that international donors have failed to keep their pledges of \$31 million to support Afghanistan's parliamentary and provincial elections set for Sept. 18.

TROOP NEWS

Special Ops Troops Getting Out

7.30.05 Winston-Salem Journal

More special-operations troops left the military last year than at any time since the Sept. 11 attacks.

US Army Deserter Fled Iraq for New Life In Canada: Joshua Key “Felt That The Iraqis Were Just Fighting For Their Country”

They were in Ramadi for three weeks before it got violent. Key’s job was to patrol streets and raid homes. “We’d use explosives to blow up the front door, then six of us would run in, grab the males and send them off for interrogation and hold the women and children at gunpoint while we completely destroyed their home. Soldiers could steal whatever they wanted.”

August 2, 2005 By Rebecca Craigie, theyee.ca

“All we want is to find a home so our kids can grow up in a stable environment and go to school and make friends,” Brandi Key says as she towels off her six month old baby in the front seat of the Dodge Caravan which has recently become the family’s temporary home.

Brandi is the wife of Joshua Key, a 27-year-old former soldier who deserted the US Army. The pair, in Nelson last week, are driving across Canada with their four kids in search of a home, and Canadian refugee status.

The Keys are living in a van because of Joshua Key’s opposition to the US-led war in Iraq. While many opponents of the Iraq war base their opposition on media reports, Key’s opinion is based on what he witnessed when he fought for eight months in Iraq’s Sunni Triangle.

Key never thought he’d end up in Iraq in the first place. When he first enlisted, he signed up to be a bridge builder in a non-deployable unit. Despite this, the Army trained him in explosives and landmines, and sent him to Iraq in April of 2003.

Key describes himself as a patriotic citizen who grew up learning “all-American values.” Raised by his grandparents in a small town in Oklahoma, Key became a welder and was earning \$7.25 an hour before he joined the Army. With a rapidly growing family, he desperately needed a better job to make ends meet. After a visit to the local military recruiting office and then a score of 50 percent on an aptitude test, Key was told he could pick between three different jobs.

“I decided on a bridge builder in a non-deployable unit,” he explains with a slight southern drawl. “This was my incentive to join the Army. I wanted to be close to my family. Other guys were offered money incentives.”

Key felt that his situation was so desperate that he signed a contract with the US military even though his wife was pregnant with their third child. “They don’t usually let guys in

who have three kids. They told me they were hiding the fact that my wife was pregnant. After I signed the paper it didn't matter anymore. The Army was the only option we had."

During basic training in May 2002, Key learned that his legally binding contract could be changed by the military at any time. "In the first few days of basic training, you learn that you are just a number and to keep your mouth shut unless spoken to. We were told that we were going to learn how to be the worst damn killers in the battlefield. I was already thinking; what the hell are you talking about?"

Key's first duty station was in Fort Carson, Colorado where he was put on a rapid deployment unit. "This meant I could be sent anywhere in the world in just a day's notice. This wasn't what I had signed up for. I was mad and decided to ask my platoon leader what was going on."

According to Key, even after going through the proper procedure to ask a question, the response from the platoon leader was to "get the hell out of his office. For two weeks after that I was punished severely. They call it 'breaking you down' so they can rebuild you to military conformity," he explained.

This was the first experience of many that made Key want to quit. "I knew that if I quit I would be sent to jail and the Army would take all my money. When you've got a wife and kids to support, you just stick with it and keep going."

In February, 2003 all the equipment from Key's unit was being loaded onto trains to send to Iraq. "We were told that Saddam Hussein was an evil tyrant and he had to be crushed. I believed there were weapons of mass destruction and war was justified. I felt like I better get it over with now so that my kids don't have to deal with him (Hussein) in the future."

Key's unit was the second to enter Iraq after the invasion. Soon after arriving, Key saw evidence of an extremely disorganized U.S. military. "There wasn't enough food or water for the troops. We were told to steal water from other troops before we left on a mission so we'd have enough."

They were in Ramadi for three weeks before it got violent. Key's job was to patrol streets and raid homes.

"We'd use explosives to blow up the front door, then six of us would run in, grab the males and send them off for interrogation and hold the women and children at gunpoint while we completely destroyed their home. Soldiers could steal whatever they wanted."

It was an adrenaline rush at first, but after a while Key couldn't figure out why they were raiding homes. "I started seeing the mothers faces screaming and hollering; they don't look at it as though it's your government who is doing this to them, they see you as being the enemy. They look at you as though they would slit your throat at any minute if they could," he explains.

When Key's unit moved to Fallujah, he saw the enemy fighting back for the first time. "We went from not knowing what a mortar attack was to being under attack every single

night.” Even though he was being shot at, Key felt that the Iraqis were just fighting for their country.

People criticize Key for abandoning the war and not honoring his contract with the military. Key’s response to this is that he was sent to fight an illegal war for his country and that it was the military who didn’t uphold their side of the contract.

“I thought I was there to promote democracy, but I think I was there to prevent it.”

[And still kicking in doors: check the photo below:-]

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



A U.S. soldier of the third battalion of the seventh infantry division kicks a door inside a house in Baghdad August 2, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

There’s nothing quite like invading somebody else’s country and busting into their houses by force and violence to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

But your commanders know that, don’t they? Don’t they?

Military Retirees Not Getting Some

August 2, 2005 Miami Herald

Military retirees will soon have to pay more for two popular erectile-dysfunction drugs.

Beginning in October, men who get prescriptions filled outside of a military pharmacy will have to pay \$22 for a 30-to-90-day supply of Viagra and Cialis. The price for retirees had been \$9.

Cops Say U.S. Troops In Iraq Eating Steroids

August 2, 2005 Los Angeles Times

Police in Rome seized 215,000 doses of prohibited substances as they broke up a ring that supplied steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs to customer around the world, including U.S. troops in Iraq.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Fallujah: The Resistance Lives

8.1.05 Aljazeera

Aljazeera.net spoke to a Falluja citizen who acknowledged efforts to bring Falluja residents back to the city. He complained that refugees are stuck in the middle between US forces and anti-US military fighters.

"People have been living in tents since more than a year. The US forces insist that no family returns to the city before it is 100% has no link to the fighters" Abd al-Qadir Zeidan told Aljazeera.net.

"How long are they going to take until they are able to take all the city's inhabitants back?" he said.

"Proving no link to fighters is something very tricky, because there are a lot of fighters who fight secretly without even their families knowing about them."

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

Assorted Resistance Action



The car of Iraqi policeman Col. Mizhir Hamad Yousif is seen nose first in a canal, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

8.2.05 KOMO Staff & News Services & Agence France Presse & Aljazeera & BBC & Trinity Mirror Plc & Reuters & CNN

In Samarra, 60 miles north of the capital, an explosion about 5 a.m. Tuesday damaged a pipeline used for shipping fuel from the Beiji refinery to a power station in the Baghdad area, police said.

Police chief Mizhir Mohammed Youssef was shot dead by guerrillas who ambushed his car in western Baghdad as he drove to work at Abu Ghraib police station, officials said. The attack occurred at about 9am in the north-eastern neighbourhood of New Baghdad.

Two employees of the finance ministry were shot dead on their way to work in Baghdad, an interior ministry official said.

A civilian was killed and eight policemen wounded when a car bomber attacked a police patrol in the centre of Baquba, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed when a bomb hidden inside a dead dog hit an army patrol in the northeastern Balad town. Five soldiers were also wounded.

A bomber rammed his car into a police vehicle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least five policemen and one child, hospital and police sources said.

The attack at a police checkpoint on a road leading south from Mosul to Baghdad also wounded eight people, including two policemen, the sources said.

Three other people working at a US base in the northern town of Baiji were killed when the bus they were travelling in was ambushed by armed militants, while a construction worker was shot dead, also in Baiji.

The body of an Iraqi soldier was found in Samarra, while that of a policeman was found in Al-Dawr, 150 kilometers (100 miles) north of Baghdad.

In Baquba, meanwhile, militants on Tuesday killed a Diyala province Health Ministry official and his driver near Diyala Medical College.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

GLOBAL WAL-MART

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 02, 2005

To G.I. Special:

Globalization is a Global Wal-mart. Multi-national corporations sell for less, and in the process of doing that, they put the masses out of business, and out of work. The Big Guys control prices, wages, health care, clean air, clean water, clean sheets, etc., etc., etc.

Final Score: Everyday people around the world are owned and operated by the rich.

Final Diagnosis: Slavery and Death

Final Outcome: Chaos (Continue to have wars and rumors of wars.)

Example of chaos: The United States government STEALING OIL from the Iraqi people. "What is our oil doing under their sand?"

What most American people are doing while all of this is going on: Sleepwalking.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
August 2, 2005

Turning Soldiers Into Beggars

August 1, 2005 By Uwe E. Reinhardt, The Washington Post Company [Excerpt]

We offer a pittance in disability pay to seriously wounded soldiers who have not served the full 20 years that entitles them to a regular pension.

Last year kind-hearted folks in New Jersey collected \$12,000 at a pancake feed to help stock pantries for financially hard-pressed families of the National Guard.

Food pantries for American military families?

Is this what we mean by "supporting our troops"?

When our son, then a recent Princeton graduate, decided to join the Marine Corps in 2001, I advised him thus: "Do what you must, but be advised that, flourishing rhetoric notwithstanding, this nation will never truly honor your service, and it will condemn you to the bottom of the economic scrap heap should you ever get seriously wounded."

The intervening years have not changed my views; they have reaffirmed them.

Unlike the editors of the nation's newspapers, I am not at all impressed by people who resolve to have others stay the course in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

At zero sacrifice, who would not have that resolve?

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)

“Other Nations, Syria In Particular Would Have Been Attacked By Now”

8.1.05 By Ghali Hassan, Global Research

Had it not been for the Iraqi Resistance against US Occupation, other nations, Syria in particular would have been attacked by now.

There is no pretext for US forces to remain in Iraq, and it is the Iraqi peoples legitimate right to force them out of Iraq.

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.

Hiroshima And Nagasaki: Worst Terror Attacks

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: August 02, 2005
Subject: Hiroshima And Nagasaki: Worst Terror Attacks

"The use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender."

Admiral William D. Leahy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Solidarity
Z

New Genocide

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 02, 2005

"New Genocide in this new era of economic interdependence can be facilitated by economic sanctions.

New Genocide means creating conditions that lead to mass death without actually going out and killing people.

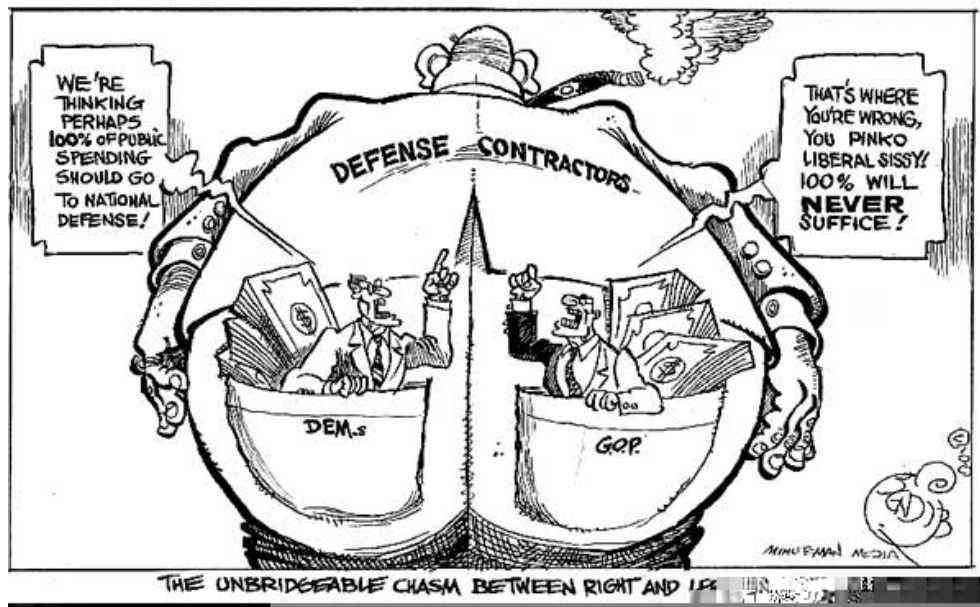
Denis Halliday, who was the U.N. humanitarian co-ordinator in Iraq between 1997 and 1998 (after which he resigned in disgust), used the term genocide to describe the sanctions in Iraq. In Iraq the sanctions outdid Saddam Hussein's best efforts by claiming more than half a million children's lives."

Arundhati Roy

Protest the Iraq War in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 24-26, 2005.
Because, it is a matter of life or death.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK:



OCCUPATION REPORT

**Security Money Pissed Away On Useless
Trash;
War Profiteers Love It**

Aug 2 AP

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been wasted on unnecessary and overpriced equipment for Iraq's new army at a time when the United States and its allies are struggling to get the force in shape to battle insurgents, Iraqi officials say.

A U.S. military officer who used to work with the Defense Ministry said equipment that could have been useful was not being purchased, such as new armored vehicles or good ammunition. (AP)

“Remind Me Again, What The Fuck Is It We’re Supposed To Be Accomplishing Here?”



U.S. Sergeant Roesch (L) and Sergeant Reed of the army infantry from the Stryker brigade look for weapons inside a storage room for grain during a raid in the town of Hammam Al Alil, near Mosul, in northern Iraq, July 28, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

How Bad Is It?

Gas Rationing Imposed

August 2, 2005 Los Angeles Times

Despite sitting on an ocean of oil, Iraq will ration gasoline over the next several months in order to cope with an ongoing fuel shortage.

Shortages stem from higher demand and disabled refineries.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Rabbi: Heaven Will Punish Troops With Cancer And Traffic Death

[Thanks to JM who sent this in. She writes: How's this for inciting troops to resist orders?]

[Comments by JM]

1 August 2005 Haaretz

A rabbi has issued a halakhic ruling warning that heaven may punish police and IDF soldiers who take part in the disengagement with cancer or fatal traffic accidents.

"Taking a Jew by force from his home is a very great sin," Rabbi Moshe Tzuriel said Monday. "This is written in the Torah. When a person commits a sin, he will be punished." **[Note it only applies to Jews. It's not a sin to demolish or steal an Arab's home. The settlements are built on stolen Palestinian land.]**

Referring to a soldier or police officer who takes part or assists in the evacuations, Tzuriel told Army Radio, "Some years thereafter, if he suffers a malignant disease or a fatal road accident, everyone will know where he got it from."

He urged soldiers not to tell their commanders that they were refusing orders, rather to say "I am unable."

Rabbi Tzuriel compared the disengagement to a "gang rape." Moreover, he said, "Gang rape is a one-time act. This will make people poor for their entire lives, people in their forties and fifties." **[These poor settlers are wanting millions in compensation for moving. That's why the US has to provide financial help. See bit added at end]**

Tzuriel added that while it was forbidden for Jews to harm those who carried out the evacuations, "from the heavens, they will see to it that the criminal will be punished."

The ruling urges security forces to avoid participating in the disengagement, even at the cost of imprisonment.

[Below is one bit of an article by Uri Avnery "Arik's horror show". Uri fought in the IDF, with distinction, when young and later served three terms as an Israeli MP. He's now in his eighties and one of the strongest opponents of the occupation of Palestine.]

"The same question is being posed in connection with the economic price of the "disengagement".

The Minister of Finance is now talking about "eight to ten billion Shekels". That means five million (5,000,000) Shekels - or about 1.1 million dollars - per family.

Almost every day, the payoff extorted by the evacuees goes up. A plot of land. A new villa. Until then, a "mobile villa" that will remain their property. Compensation for lost livelihood. Participation in the costs of the move. More land for agriculturists, two or three times larger than the plot they are leaving."

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

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/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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